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Institute for Statistics

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

METADATA

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.1.4 Out-of-school rate (1 year before primary, primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

Definition

Proportion of children and young people in the official age range for the given level of education who are not enrolled in pre-primary, primary, secondary or higher levels of education.

Purpose

To identify the size of the population in the official age range for the given level of education who are not enrolled in school in order that they can be better targeted and appropriate policies can be put in place to ensure they have access to education.

Calculation method

The number of students of the official age for the given level of education enrolled in pre-primary, primary, secondary or higher levels of education is subtracted from the total population of the same age. The result is expressed as a percentage of the population of the official age for the respective level of education. For primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education, the official age groups for the respective level of education are used in the indicator calculation. For pre-primary education, the indicator is calculated for children aged one year before the official age of entry into primary education.

$$OSR_n = \frac{SAP_n - \sum_{i=0}^8 E_{i,AGn}}{SAP_n}$$

Where:

OSR_n = out-of-school rate for children and young people of the official age for level n of education

SAP_n = population of the official age for level n of education

$E_{i,AGn}$ = enrolment in ISCED level *i* of children and young people of the official age for level *n* of education

Interpretation

The higher the rate and number of out-of-school children and adolescents, the greater the need to focus on improving access to education. Some children have never been in school or may not eventually enrol as late entrants. Other children may have initially enrolled but dropped out before reaching the intended age of completion of the given level. When disaggregated by sex, location and other characteristics, this indicator can identify excluded population groups.

Type of data source

Administrative data, household surveys.

Disaggregation

By age or age-group and sex (administrative data); by age or age-group and sex, location, and socio-economic status (household surveys) and others as available.

Data required

Enrolment by single year of age in each level of education, population estimates by single year of age and data on the structure (entrance age and duration) of each level of education.

Data sources

Administrative data from schools or household survey data on enrolment by single year of age; population censuses and surveys for population estimates by single year of age (if using administrative data on enrolment); administrative data from ministries of education on the structure (entrance age and duration) of the education system.

Quality assurance

Accurate data on school age population by single year of age, on the structure of each level of education, and on enrolment by single year of age and by level of education from all types of educational institutions (public and private), are essential for calculating this indicator. The UIS sets standards, develops questionnaires and quality control protocols for country data reporting, and maintains the global database on the structure of education and enrolment data. The United Nations Population Division (UNPD) produces and maintains population data.

Limitations and comments

Inconsistencies between enrolment and population data from different sources may result in inaccurate estimates of out-of-school children and adolescents. Data from household

surveys conducted late in the school year where ages are recorded at the enumeration date may result in over-estimates.

For primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education, the official age groups for the respective level of education are used in the indicator calculation. The out-of-school rate for pre-primary education is calculated for children aged one year before the official age of entry into primary education.