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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

4.1.5 Percentage of children over-age for grade (primary education, lower secondary education)

Definition

Percentage of pupils in each level of education (primary and lower secondary general education) who are at least 2 years above the intended age for their grade.

The *intended age for a given grade* is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade.

Purpose

The indicator measures progress towards ensuring all girls and boys complete a full cycle of quality primary and lower secondary education and achieve at least minimum levels of proficiency in reading and mathematics at each level.

Children may be over-age for a grade because they started school late and/or they have repeated one or more previous grades.

Calculation method

The sum of enrolments across all grades in the given level of education which are 2 or more years older than the intended age for the given grade is expressed as a percentage of the total enrolment in the given level of education.

$$POAG_n = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^{d_n} E_{n,g,AG,2+}}{E_n}$$

where:

$POAG_n$ = percentage of children over-age for grade in level n of education

$E_{n,g,AG,2+}$ = enrolment in grade **g** of level **n** of education who are aged at least 2 years older than the intended age for that grade
 E_n = total enrolment in level **n** of education (all grades combined)
 d_n = duration (in years) of level **n** of education
 n = 1 (primary) or 2 (lower secondary general)

Interpretation

A low value of this indicator will show that the majority of students start school on time and progress with minimum levels of grade repetition. Late school entry and significant grade repetition exacerbate over-age progression and should be discouraged as both are associated with lower levels of student learning achievement.

Type of data source

Administrative data, household surveys.

Disaggregation

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

Data required

Enrolment by single year of age in each grade, 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 and grade; 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 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 (primary, lower secondary), and on enrolment by single year of age in each grade from all types of educational institutions (public and private), are essential for calculating this indicator. The UIS sets standards, develop 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 this indicator. Data from household surveys conducted late in the school year where ages are recorded at the enumeration date may result in over-estimates.