DECEMBER 2025

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ALBANIA

## CENSUS 2023

THEMATIC INSIGHTS REPORT

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ALBANIA: CENSUS 2023 – THEMATIC INSIGHTS REPORT

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It is my great pleasure to present the Census 2023 Thematic Report: Children and Youth in Albania, a publication that offers the most comprehensive and up-to-date portrait of the situation of children, young people and youth in our country. As one of the most significant demographic undertakings in Albania, the 2023 Population and Housing Census offers a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our young population—their lives, circumstances, and the factors that shape their wellbeing and future prospects.

Beyond its statistical value, this publication responds to a broader national need. Albania is navigating a period of demographic transition marked by declining fertility, migration, urbanization and shifting family structures. By focusing specifically on children and youth, this report provides an evidence base that can inform strategic action and ensure that no child or young person is left behind.

The 2023 Census represents a significant milestone for both INSTAT and Albania. It is the culmination of an extraordinary nationwide effort, bringing together the dedication of thousands of field staff and the application of innovative technologies. Combined with our strict adherence to international standards and statistical best practices, this effort has enabled the production of high-quality, timely, and reliable data. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all households and individuals who participated in the 2023 Census—their willingness to provide accurate information has made this report, and many future analyses, possible. I also extend my deepest appreciation to the committed INSTAT staff, whose professionalism, integrity, and tireless dedication ensured the successful completion of this complex and ambitious endeavor.

I would also like to acknowledge UNICEF in Albania for its valuable technical assistance and longstanding partnership in advancing our national data systems for children and youth. This collaboration exemplifies our shared belief that high-quality statistics are not merely numbers—they are instruments to safeguard rights, monitor progress, and shape policies that truly reflect the lived realities of young population.

The findings of this study kindly invite policymakers, researchers, academia, civil society actors, partners, and INSTAT to engage in constructive collaboration aimed at transforming data into sustainable, meaningful, and beneficial change for Albania's future generations.

Murat SAHIN
PËRFAQËSUESI I UNICEF-IT NË SHQIPËRI

It is a privilege for UNICEF to stand alongside INSTAT in presenting this Thematic Insights Report. This report provides a vivid and comprehensive picture of childhood and youth in Albania today. It reflects a society in rapid transition, where the number of children and young people is declining as the population ages. At the same time, it highlights significant progress in areas such as school participation and access to essential services for many children and youth across the country.

For UNICEF, data is never the end point, it is the starting point for meaningful action. These insights will help the Government of Albania, local authorities, Parliament, and many other partners to design stronger policies and monitor progress toward the promise to "leave no one behind," especially as Albania advances toward European Union integration and the Sustainable Development Goas. By going beyond simple numbers and examining factors such as location, household conditions, ethnicity, disability, age, or gender shape opportunities, the report identifies which children and young people require the most urgent support and investment.

This publication reflects the strength of the partnership between INSTAT, UNICEF, and the United Nations in Albania, including through the Joint UN Programme Leaving No One Behind, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. We are deeply grateful to INSTAT's leadership and staff for their unwavering dedication and professionalism.

UNICEF remains fully committed to working with all partners to ensure that this evidence translates into better laws, fairer budgets, and stronger services in every community. Our shared goal is simple yet powerful: that every child and every young person in Albania can learn, to be protected, and to thrive, building the human capital that will drive Albania's sustainable development.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAPI	-	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
COVID-19	-	Coronavirus disease 2019
CRC	-	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS	-	Demographic and Health Survey
EA	-	Enumeration area
EFTA	-	European Free Trade Association
EU	-	European Union
GAR	-	Gross attendance ratio
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
GPI	-	Gender parity index
INSTAT	-	Institute of Statistics
IT	-	Information technology
NAR	-	Net attendance ratio
PES	-	Post-enumeration survey
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goal
SMAM	-	Singulate mean age at marriage
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNECE	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
WG	-	Washington Group on Disability Statistics
WHO	-	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report addresses several key aspects of the situation of the young population under age 30 in Albania, distinguishing three target groups: children (aged 0-17), young people (15-29) and youth (15-24). The 2023 Albania Population and Housing Census (hereafter, Census 2023) provided the basis for the analysis in this report. The census adhered to international standards and European Union (EU) regulations, and quality indicators show that the census can be considered of good quality for a traditional census with door-to-door enumeration. The report uses both basic, descriptive statistics – shown through tables and charts – and more advanced statistical techniques: logistic regression. While basic statistics can sometimes oversimplify or misrepresent relationships between two variables, regression analysis allows for the simultaneous consideration of multiple variables, offering a clearer understanding of how factors like location, household wealth, ethnicity, disability, age and sex interact and shape outcomes of young population.

Demographic change

Albania has experienced significant demographic transformations over the past several decades, with population decline and ageing being the most notable developments. Since 1989, Albania has seen a large decline in its young population. The number of people under 30 fell from nearly 2 million in 1989 to 800 thousand in 2023. Children (0-17) dropped from nearly 1.1 million to 374 thousand; young people (15-24) from 623 thousand to 286 thousand; and youth (15-29) from 921 thousand to 430 thousand. In terms of population share, children, young people and youth segments have almost continuously declined since 1979. The percentage of children dropped from 44.0 to 19.1 percent, that of young people from 21.5 to 11.9 percent and that of youth from 28.9 to 17.9 percent. These demographic changes occur across the country but with marked regional differences. For example, the decline in the share of children since the 2011 census was largest in Gjirokaster and Fier (almost 50 percent decline) and smallest in Berat and Tirana (30 and 19 percent decline, respectively). The 2023 sex ratio of the young population (0-29) was 103.3 males per 100 females. However, disparities exist across age groups: an unusually high ratio of 107.7 for children (which could be considered consistent with sex selection practices), and only 97.7 for young people and 99.3 for youth, highlighting disproportionate male emigration.

Marriage and household structure

Marriage patterns in Albania have undergone significant changes over the past few decades. The share of never-married individuals decreased from 53.5 percent in 1989 to 36.6 percent in 2023, while the proportion currently married rose from 42.8 percent to 52.5 percent. Men are more likely to remain unmarried, and early marriage remains uncommon among youth – only 5.4 percent of those aged 20 are married, with nearly 75 percent of 25-year-olds still single. There is a clear gender gap in marriage timing: by age 25, 40 percent of women are married, compared to less than 10 percent of men. The average age at marriage has increased, with men's median age rising from 28 to 32.4 years and women's from 22 to 26.3 years between 2011 and 2023.

Household structures reflect social and demographic shifts. Only 5.2 percent of individuals aged 15-24 are household reference persons, with slightly more young women than men holding this role. However, among those aged 15-29, young men are more often household reference persons. A notable 12.7 percent of young women identify as daughters-in-law, indicating the tradition of living with their husband's families after marriage. The average household

size has declined over time, currently averaging around 3.2 persons. Households containing children or youth are generally larger than those without. From age 11 to age 17, the percentage of children with an absent father remains the same at around one in 11. The percentage of children with a mother absent is slightly above 1 per cent and increases to 2 per cent by age 13. At the age of 17, 5.5 percent of all children do not have their mother present. This percentage may be higher than at younger ages because, at this age, some children may have left home to attend school. Less than 1 percent of infants have both parents not living in the household. At age three, this percentage becomes 1 percent and it steadily grows to 2.8 percent by age 15. The majority of children (over 75 percent) live in nuclear households, while about 21.5 percent live in extended households that include other relatives. Young men are more likely than young women to live in nuclear households, while young women more often reside in extended households, reflecting marriage and post-marriage living arrangements.

Literacy

Albania has achieved a high national literacy rate of 97.8 percent among persons aged 10 and above, with younger cohorts showing even higher rates (over 99 percent). Among children and youth, illiteracy is rare but non-negligible: some 1,600 children and 4,500 youth are still unable to read or write. National averages conceal significant disparities that affect specific groups. The census data revealed stark inequalities based on ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic status. Youth from the Egyptian and, especially, Roma communities face the highest risks, with illiteracy rates reaching 35 percent among Roma youth – especially high among Roma girls and women. Controlling for the effect of other factors among young persons aged 10-29, Roma/Egyptians are almost 30 times more likely to be illiterate compared to young persons with Albanian ethnicity. However, the most significant risk factor for being illiterate is disability. Young persons living with a disability are almost 100 times more likely to be illiterate than those without disabilities. Parental absence also emerges as a clear disadvantage. The absence of a mother, in particular, is associated with a much higher risk of illiteracy. Other notable effects were found for region of residence, sex and household type.

Educational attendance

Age-specific education attendance rates show near-universal participation during compulsory basic education (primary and lower-secondary education), with a slight attrition of about 1.3 percent across grades 1-9. Attendance declines more significantly in upper-secondary education, dropping from 95.3 percent at age 14 to 87.6 percent at age 17. In the tertiary education ages (18-22), attendance continues to decline but still shows notable engagement. Gender differences in attendance are minimal during basic education but widen at higher levels. Girls have higher continuation and lower dropout rates than boys, especially in tertiary education, where females attend at rates more than 20 percent higher than males. According to the census, a 6-year-old child can expect to experience 14.2 years of schooling, with girls expecting to receive one year more than boys. This 'school life expectancy' has improved: in the 2011 census, the figure was 13.8 years.

When focusing on young persons out-of-school, the census revealed that 3.5 percent of children aged 6-14 – approximately 8.3 thousand – are not attending compulsory basic education, with slightly more boys than girls affected. Out-of-school rates are higher at the lower-secondary level and significantly more so at the upper-secondary level, where 7.3 thousand children (mostly boys) are out of school. Various background factors were identified as determinants of the risk of being out-of-school for young persons aged 6-22. Non-attendance in education is strongly influenced by disability and ethnicity. Young persons from the Roma/Egyptian community and persons with disabilities have risks of not attending education that are around 6 times higher than those of ethnic Albanians and persons without disabilities, respectively. Age and marital status are even stronger predictors of not attending education. Youth of upper-secondary-education age have a risk of not attending education that is 1.6 times higher than chil-

dren of primary-school age. For youth of tertiary-education age, this risk is more than 24 times higher. The very high risk of ever-married persons not attending education (more than 12 times higher than never-married persons) underlines that for many people, irrespective of gender, educational and marital careers are incompatible. Additional risk factors for non-attendance include relative poverty and the absence of one or more parents from the household.

Educational attainment

The census showed that a vast majority of persons aged 15 and over completed at least some form of education. Only 0.6 percent reported having no education, with slightly higher rates among females. Compared to the 2011 census, the percentage of children, young people and youth who have not completed any education was much lower, indicating progress in educational access and completion. In 2011, the percentage of young people aged 15-24 who did not complete any level was 7.8 percent, against only 1.6 percent in 2023. For youth, the difference was somewhat smaller: 5.8 against 1.8 percent. Regarding completed levels of education, most children aged 10-17 had completed only primary (58 percent) or lower secondary education (40.3 percent). Gender disparities emerge among youth: 35.2 percent of women aged 15-29 had completed tertiary education versus 20.2 percent of men. This gender gap widens further among 25-29-year-olds, with 57.6 percent of women attaining tertiary education compared to 34.6 percent of men, highlighting the international trend of increased educational attainment among young women. Regionally, Tirana leads with the highest share of young adults (25-29) holding tertiary qualifications (60.3 percent), while Diber lags behind with lower rates of tertiary attainment and higher proportions completing only lower secondary education. The census showed that Albania made progress in education completion rates, which are indicators for monitoring SDG 4.1. The completion rates among 20-24-year-olds are 98.2, 96.9 and 86.9 percent for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education, respectively.

Disability

Though censuses tend to underreport disability, they provide vital insights for policy development. The 2023 census included a disability module using the Washington Group Short Set of questions, targeting people aged five and older to assess six functional domains (seeing, hearing, walking, remembering and concentrating, self-care and communicating). The analysis showed low disability prevalence among children and youth (around 1 percent), with higher rates among older age groups and females, though young males showed slightly higher prevalence than females. Disability was more common among economically challenged households and correlated with limited access to amenities like bathing facilities and indoor toilets. Education disparities were evident: young people with disabilities had much lower literacy, school attendance and tertiary education rates than their non-disabled peers, especially among boys. The census revealed that most children with disabilities lived in nuclear or extended households, with a notable share in single-parent families. Gender parity varied by age group, showing females had higher school attendance and educational attainment overall, even among the disabled population.

Living conditions

This chapter highlights that 21.6 percent of children belong to the lowest wealth quintile. A logit regression showed that risks vary significantly by region, household type, disability status, ethnicity and parental presence. Children in Diber face the highest risks of being in the lowest wealth quintile, while those with absent (migrant) parents are less likely to be in this category, probably due to remittances. Access to clean water, toilets and bathing facilities is generally high, though small vulnerable groups lack these services. Nearly all children have electricity, but 60 percent live in households heated with wood, posing health and environmental risks.

1. Introduction

1.1 Report background

Children (0-17 years), young people (15-24 years) and youth (15-29 years) comprise a vital and dynamic segment of Albania's population. Out of a population of 2.4 million, 804 thousand are in the age group 0-29, which constitutes one-third of the total population. They can seen as key drivers of development – when equipped with the right skills, their progress accelerates the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Albania ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) through Law No. 7531 on 11 December 1991 and later adopted two Optional Protocols to strengthen protections against child involvement in armed conflict and sexual exploitation. These commitments have positively influenced the development of national laws and policies. However, in October 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published its Concluding Observations on Albania's fifth and sixth combined report, emphasizing the need for stronger action by the Albanian government to improve the situation of children. In particular, the Committee called for the strengthening of data systems to better monitor the implementation of policies on children's rights, including the collection and analysis of reliable and disaggregated data.

Albania's *National Agenda on the Rights of the Child 2021-2026* aligns with the CRC and reflects the nation's commitment to international child rights standards. The Agenda is grounded in the four general principles of the CRC: i) non-discrimination, ii) best interests of the child, iii) right to life, survival, and development, and iv) respect for the views of the child (Ministry of Health and Social Protection, 2021). A series of measures has been included under the first strategic goal of the Agenda, also encompassing the improvement of data publication and analysis with a focus on children.

In addition, Albania's National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 was developed in response to the evolving challenges and opportunities confronting young people across the country. It seeks to position Albanian youth at the heart of sustainable development, ensuring their meaningful engagement in shaping their own futures. The Strategy has several objectives:

- Promote active youth participation in society, enabling young people to speak for themselves and influence decision-making.
- Enhance youth employment prospects through skills development, career counselling and equitable access to labour market opportunities.
- Support the physical, mental and social well-being of young people.
- Foster innovation and ensure access to quality education, enabling youth to reach their full potential.
- Ensure the safety, protection and inclusion of all youth, with particular attention to those at risk or in vulnerable situations.
- Establish coordinated, evidence-based, cross-sectoral youth policies, supported by adequate funding, monitoring and robust evaluation mechanisms at all levels (Government of Albania, 2022).

In addition, the Albanian government has released several policy plans in which the position of children, youth and young persons plays a central role. For instance, one of the strategic goals of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025 was to 'ensure and provide inclusive and qualitative education for all children with disabilities'. Besides the goal

on education, the National Action Plan also emphasizes the importance of providing health services for children with disabilities and developing prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation (Ministry of Health and Social Protection, 2021).

In line with the SDG principles to leave no one behind, National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians 2021-2025 introduced some measures to protect the rights of children from ethnic Roman and Egyptian minorities. The main points related to children in this Action Plan were measures to improve the attendance in education, increase the birth registration of Roma and Egyptian children, increase vaccination and insurance coverage, prevent child marriage and school dropouts because of early marriage and collect disaggregated data on the position of Roma/Egyptian children (Ministry of Health and Social Protection, 2021).

1.2 Organisation of the report

This report examines the current status of children, young people and youth in Albania based on the 2023 Albanian Population and Housing Census. The report is part of a broader initiative to publish thematic reports based on the 2023 census data. It highlights the situation of children, young people and youth in 2023 through various lenses. Throughout the report, 'children' refers to persons in the age group 0-17, 'young persons' to those in the age group 15-24 and 'youth' to those in the age group 15-29.

This introduction chapter includes a section on methodology (section 1.3). It briefly describes the Albania 2023 Population and Housing Census as the main source of information for this report, as well as the research methodology adopted for the report's analysis.

Following this introduction, the report provides an overview of the demographic situation in Albania, highlighting the overall population decline – particularly the shrinking size of the young population and its decreasing proportion relative to older age groups. The third chapter covers marriage among the young population and the household structure of children, young persons and youth. Emphasis is placed on age at first marriage, gender parity in marriage by age, child marriage and the dissolution of marriage among the young population. In the section on household structure, the relationship with the head of household is examined, including household size, the absence of parents and the types of households.

Chapter four deals with literacy and education. After an in-depth analysis of literacy, attention is paid to school attendance and educational attainment. Among others, persons not attending school, those without any educational attainment and the attained level of education are looked at. Chapter five deals with the vulnerable group of the young population with disabilities. Next to the prevalence of disability, the chapter looks into the general characteristics of the young populations with disabilities. The chapter also looks at the domestic conditions of the young population with disabilities. In the final chapter, the living conditions of young populations are examined through the wealth status of the household in which they reside, as well as various amenities such as water supply, toilet and bathing facilities, and electricity and heating in the dwelling.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 The 2023 Population and Housing Census

General background

The 2023 Population and Housing Census marked the 12th census in Albania's history. The

entire census process – including the development of methodology, data collection, processing and dissemination – was carried out by the Albanian Insitute of Statistics (INSTAT), in accordance with Law No. 140/2020 "On Population and Housing Census" (Republic of Albania, 2020). Initially scheduled for 2020, the census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges in procuring necessary materials. Fieldwork eventually took place between September and November 2023, with data referring specifically to the census moment: midnight between 17 and 18 September 2023. INSTAT released the main census results in June 2024, seven months after data collection was completed (INSTAT, 2024).

Census methodology

The 2023 census was a traditional census in the sense that it relied on door-to-door data collection, with enumerators visiting all dwellings and households across the country, to collect information on all eligible individuals within a brief stipulated period of time. However, important innovations were implemented including the use of tablets for computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and interactive digital maps with geo-referenced locations of buildings and boundaries of enumeration areas (EAs).

As with the previous census, the 2023 census followed the *de-jure* principle, in line with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing (UNECE, 2015). This means that individuals were enumerated at their place of usual residence, regardless of whether they were physically present there at the census reference moment. In developing the census questionnaire, INSTAT incorporated the core topics recommended by the UNECE, while also addressing the specific information needs of stakeholders in Albania, such as national and local governments, minority and religious groups, academia and international organisations in the country. To protect personal information, dedicated procedures and advanced IT systems were put in place to ensure confidentiality and data security. The census included questions on ethno-cultural characteristics – ethnicity, religion and language – which, by law, were based on the principle of self-identification. Respondents had the right to choose "Prefer not to answer" as a valid response. To ensure the collection and preservation of correct information, specific procedures were implemented (INSTAT, 2024).[1]

In addition to INSTAT's permanent staff based in the central and regional offices, the 2023 census mobilised more than 6,800 temporary staff to implement the census enumeration in the field. These included 5,240 enumerators tasked with recording information about dwellings, households and individuals within their assigned areas. To ensure the quality and coordination of the fieldwork, the census also engaged 1,048 controllers, 170 supervisors, and 280 IT and GIS[2] support staff, who provided technical assistance and oversight throughout the data collection process.

Census quality

Census quality is a multi-dimensional concept that includes factors such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness, comparability, the use of sound methodologies and procedures, and respondent burden. For EU countries, reporting on these quality dimensions is mandatory, and INSTAT has adopted the same approach for Albania's 2023 census. While no census is without imperfections, the 2023 census is generally considered to be of good quality, especially given that it followed a traditional door-to-door enumeration method. Notably, significant improvements were achieved in several quality dimensions compared to the previous census, particularly through the use of innovative technologies such as CAPI and

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[1] For example, the response options for each of these questions were randomly rotated on the tablet screen to minimise response bias, and each question included the option to specify any answer other than the pre-defined options. Each response had to be confirmed by the respondent on the tablet; once confirmed, the answers were locked in and stored separately, with no possibility of later modification.

[2] Geographic Information System.

GIS-based data collection tools. Reporting by the Technical Assistance project to the 2023 Albania Population and Housing Census (de Bruijn, 2024) showed the following quality assessment.

- On key aspects such as census topics, concepts and definitions, confidentiality and data protection, data collection procedures, the free declaration of ethno-cultural characteristics, and the use of standardised classifications and coding, the 2023 census adhered to international standards. It was fully compliant with the EU Regulation on population and housing censuses (European Parliament and the Council of the EU, 2008), as well as the UNECE Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing (UNECE, 2015).
- The introduction of CAPI brought major improvements to the 2023 census. This technology provided enumerators with built-in instructions and support tools during interviews, enabled automatic quality checks and significantly reduced skipping errors. It also helped shorten interview times, minimised data loss and allowed for near real-time monitoring of fieldwork. As a result, the share of person-level data records without detectable errors rose from 58 percent in the 2011 census to 94 percent in 2023.
- The use of GIS applications and digital EA maps significantly reduced errors such as omissions and duplications during household and dwelling enumeration. These tools also helped enumerators navigate more easily to and within their assigned areas and enabled monitoring of the geographic precision of the enumeration process.
- The refusal rate in the 2023 census was 0.6 percent, compared to 2.2 percent in the 2011 census.
- A post-enumeration survey (PES) conducted immediately after the census estimated an undercount of 3.1 percent, a good result for a traditional census. The PES results were used to update the census results to the 'true population' at the census moment.
- The PES also assessed the reliability of key census data. For age, sex and marital status, a rate of agreement – the proportion of cases where the PES and the census recorded the same response for a given characteristic – was found of 94.7, 99.8 and 98.7 percent, respectively. The Whipple Index for age accuracy is 102, indicating 'highly accurate' age reporting. Similarly, the Myers Blended Index for the 2023 census stands at 0.9, which also indicates good age reporting (authors' calculations).[3] Minor inaccuracies in age reporting are likely concentrated among older respondents and are not expected to significantly affect the analysis of children, young people and youth presented in this report.
- The production time between the census reference day (18 September 2023) and the release of final census data was 9.5 months. The period between the completion of the data collection and the release was 7 months, indicating very timely dissemination for a traditional census.

1.3.2 Research methodology for the report

General approach

This report is based on data from Albania's 2023 Population and Housing Census. Unless otherwise specified, all figures and findings presented here are drawn from the 2023 census. Definitions of key concepts used in this report can be found in Annex I. For a good understanding of the content of the report, it is important to acknowledge the demarcation of the target groups under analysis:

- *Children.* The population aged 0-17.
- *Young people*. The population aged 15-24.
- *Young persons and young population*. The population aged 15-29.
- *Youth*. The population aged 15-29.

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[3] The Whipple Index is a demographic measure to measure the tendency of individuals to inaccurately report their age by rounding to ages ending in 0 or 5. Any value for the Whipple Index below 105 is considered to represent highly accurate age reporting. The Myers Blended Index reflects preferences or dislikes for each of the ten digits, 0 to 10. A value for the index – theoretically between 0 and 180 – below 5 is considered to represent good age reporting (UNDESA, 1956)

It should be noted that the information on these young populations includes all persons, whether living in private or institutional households.[4]

The methodological approach for the present analysis consisted of several phases:

1. Determination of the scope of the report. In consultation with INSTAT and UNICEF Albania, the topics were defined to be covered in the report. Various considerations were taken into account, including the availability of specific census data modules, overlap with other census thematic reports (to be) published by INSTAT and prioritised topics for INSTAT and UNICEF Albania.
2. Preparatory activities, including
   a A literature search on relevant topics for the analyses and consultation of international databases to compare the census results with other countries.
   b Specification of derived variables required for the analysis.
   c Specification of input tables for the analysis, based on a review of the census questionnaire.
   d Development of SPSS syntax files for binary logit regression analyses (see below) on the basis of a sample of the census data.
   e Production of the input tables and implementation of the logit regressions.
3. Analysis of the input tables and implementation of the logit regression outputs, and writing the draft report.
4. External review and final report production.

This report is not restricted to the analysis of simple tables that examine the relation between two or three variables. In reality, many relations are influenced by multiple factors simultaneously, and simple tables may obscure the actual relationship of the included variables. More advanced techniques are important because they allow for a more accurate, nuanced and meaningful understanding of data relationships.

Logit regression

In certain sections of this report, logit regressions are employed. This is a statistical multivariate technique that quantifies the influence of various factors on a specific outcome. Logit regression is used when the item to be examined (i.e. the dependent variable) is a dichotomy, for example, whether someone is literate or not. This method helps understand how likely it is for someone to possess a certain characteristic, depending on factors such as their age, place of residence, sex or disability status. For each factor explaining the dependent variable, one category is chosen as the reference category, which serves as the baseline for comparison. For instance, in the case of sex, females are compared to males, with males serving as the reference category.

What makes this regression technique especially useful is that it examines all the factors simultaneously. This means we can quantify the effect of each one on its own while statistically controlling for the effect of all the other factors in the analysis. For instance, in regression analysis, the statement that disability status is strongly negatively related to literacy holds, even after accounting for other influencing factors such as age, sex and other background characteristics. Since the present analysis works with data from the full population – rather than a sample – the report does not focus on whether the results are statistically significant in the usual sense. Instead, attention is paid to how large or small the differences are between groups.

To facilitate the interpretation of the results, all values are presented as percentage differences from the reference group. The graphs with the outcomes of the logit analysis illustrate the

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4   In the census, a household is defined as a group of persons who live together in a dwelling and who share a partially or fully joint economy. This includes the shared provision of food for principal meals, accommodation and other essentials for living.

likelihood of other groups possessing the characteristic compared to the reference group. So, if a category shows a 60 percent result, it means the group is 60 percent more likely to have the characteristic (e.g. illiteracy) than the reference group. A minus-25-percent result means they are 25 percent less likely to have the outcome than the reference group.

Wealth status

The wealth index is a method used to understand how households differ in terms of living standards. It helps researchers and policymakers understand how the economic situations of households are related to topics such as health, education and access to basic services. In numerous surveys and censuses, it has been shown to be one of the most powerful tools for explaining differentiation in people's wellbeing. The wealth index does not focus on income but instead examines the possessions and amenities that households have, which reflect their economic status. This includes the type of house people live in, the kind of toilet or water supply they use, and whether they own a series of items such as a car, TV or air conditioner.

For this report, the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) methodology was used to calculate the wealth index (Rutstein, 2008). To construct the index, each item is assigned a weight that reflects its degree of correlation with overall wealth. A statistical method (principal components) sorts through all the information to figure out which items are more common among better-off households and which are linked to less well-off households. Every household is then given a score based on their possessions. Once all the households are scored, they are sorted and grouped, from the least well-off to the most well-off. The households are then divided into five equal-sized groups – quintiles – from 'lowest' (for the least well-off) via 'second-lowest', 'middle' and 'second-highest' to 'highest' (for the most well-off), each containing 20 percent of the population. This five-category variable is the 'household wealth status' used in this report. It should be noted that, unlike, e.g. a poverty line, the wealth status variable does <u>not</u> provide a measure of absolute wealth or poverty; it only measures <u>relative wealth</u>.

1.3.3 Research limitations

The analysis in this report was limited by several practical constraints. While census data are particularly valuable for exploring the situation of small sub-populations – such as ethnic minorities, children not in school or young people with disabilities – it has limitations in the level of detail it provides. Moreover, some important census modules were still under review and not available for analysis, including data on labour force participation and migration. These topics are especially relevant for understanding youth, who are often making key life transitions, such as moving from education into the labour market – or into inactivity. In the case of Albania, this life stage also includes critical decisions around migration.

2. A changing demographic landscape

2.1 General demographic change

The population censuses of the past decades have shown a rapidly changing population situation in Albania. Declining fertility, increasing life expectancy and changing migration patterns not only converted the change in population size from rapid growth to rapid decline (Figure 2.1), but also fundamentally changed the population's age composition. The 1979-1989 census interval witnessed a population increase of 590 thousand persons to almost 3.2 million people, on average adding 59 thousand persons per year. Between the 1989 and 2023 censuses, the population declined by 778 thousand persons to 2.4 million people, an average decrease of 23 thousand persons per year, but with an increasingly rapid decline over time.

The older age group 65 and over, which represented 5.3 percent of the population in 1979 (137 thousand people), had almost quadrupled to 19.7 percent (473 thousand people) in 2023. The share of 'oldest old' – persons aged 85 and over – increased even faster, from 0.4 percent in 1979 to 1.5 percent in 2023. On the other hand, the share of children reduced by more than half in this period, from 37.0 percent (958 thousand) in 1979 to 15.6 percent (374 thousand) in 2023.

Figure 2.1: Population, by census year, and by broad age group (in thousands)
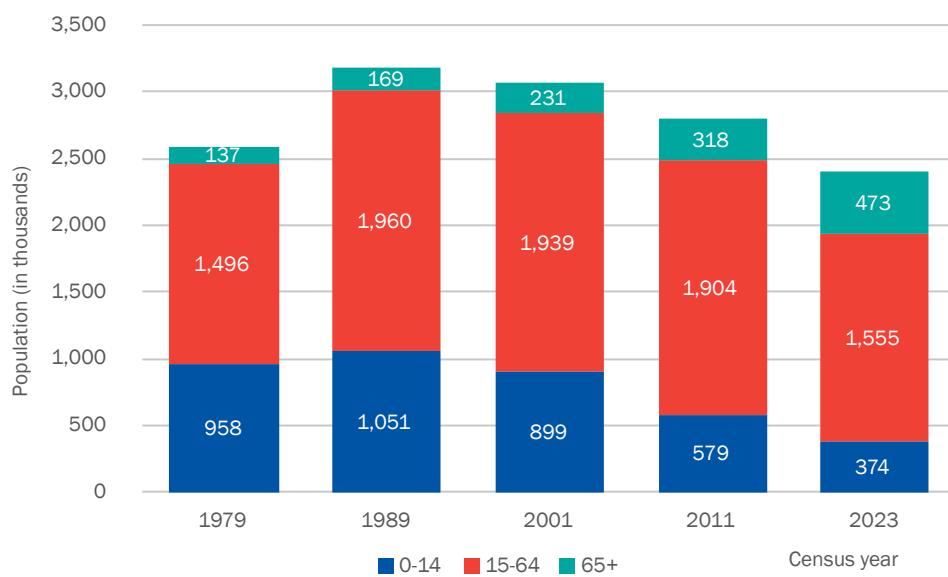
The effect of the Albanian population dynamics is best visualised by the population pyramids of selected censuses (1979, 2001 and 2023), showing the five-year age groups by sex (Figure 2.2). It illustrates the transition from a nearly classic population pyramid in 1979 to an age composition with a prominence of the older age groups and ever-decreasing younger age groups. The effects of increased longevity ('ageing at the top' of the population pyramid) and below-replacement fertility levels since the start of the century (Gjonca, Aassve, & Mencarini, 2008) ('ageing at the bottom' of the population pyramid) are observed in all EU, EFTA and EU-candidate countries (Eurostat, 2025). In Albania, these effects are reinforced by high levels of emigration, which primarily relate to the departure of the population in the reproductive ages (INSTAT, 2014).

Figure 2.2: Population, by sex, and by five-year age group, for three censuses (in %)

a. Census 1979
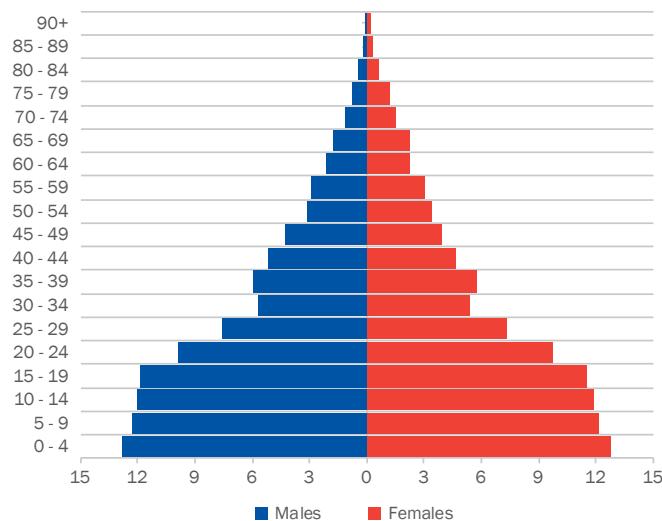
b. Census 2001
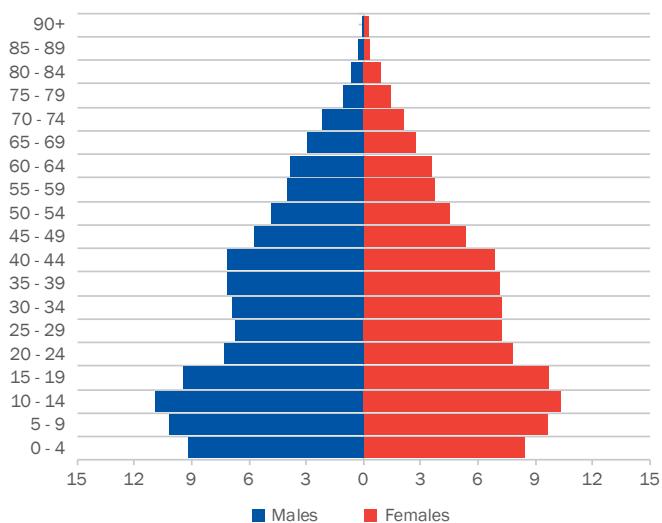
c. Census 2023
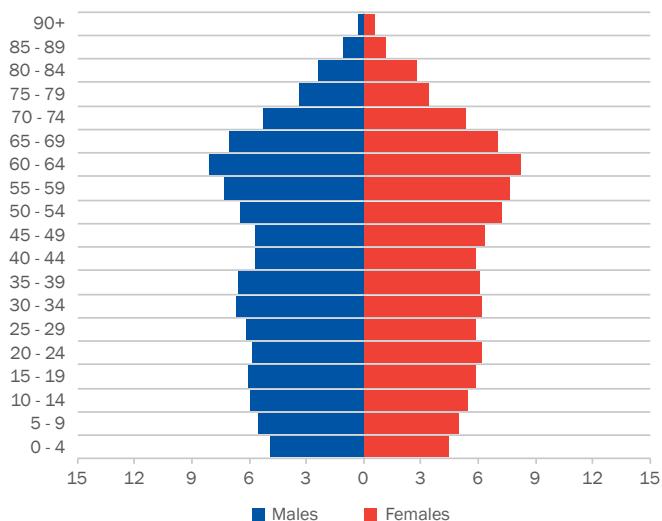
The age dependency ratios provide indicators of the level of support available to younger (aged 0-14) and older (aged 65 and over) people by the population in the economically active age group (aged 15-64) or, conversely, as the relative economic burden of the economically active population. Until the 2011 census, the total dependency ratio[5] showed a steady decline (Figure 2.2), indicating continuously larger support bases for the younger and older populations, both in the economy at large and, especially for the younger populations, in private households. The period between the 2011 and 2023 censuses marked a demographically important point as, for the first time in Albanian history, the older population surpassed the younger population. This is reflected in the old-age and young-age dependency ratios intersecting around 2019. The increasingly rapid growth of the population aged 65 and over also more than compensated for the reduction of the population below age 15, with the result that the total dependency ratio reversed the downward trend after the 2011 census.

Figure 2.3: Total, young-age and old-age dependency ratio, by census year (in %)
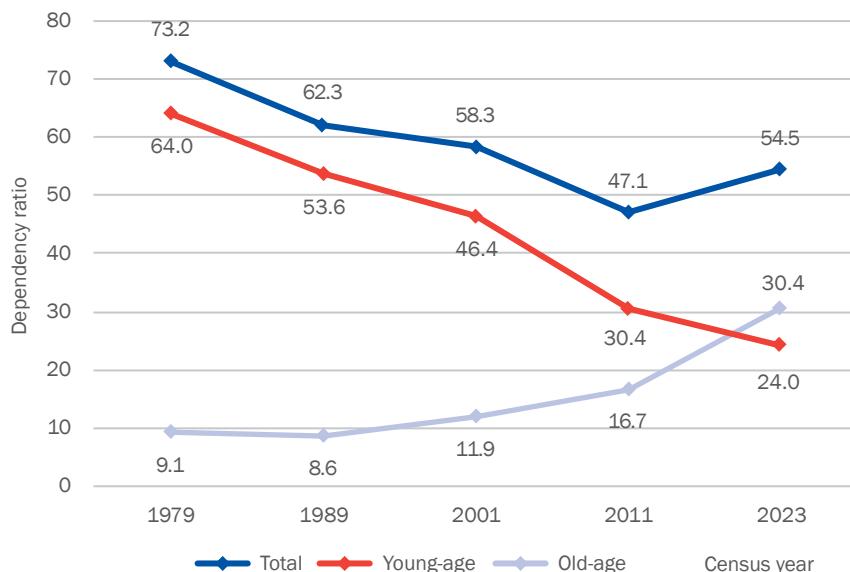
An increasing total dependency ratio means that the population in the economically active age group – who generally produce more than they consume – decreases relatively to the younger and older populations, who generally consume more than they produce. This trend, along with the composite processes of a falling young-age dependency ratio and a rising old-age dependency ratio, implied significant economic and social changes. The increasing older population, associated with the rise in the old-age dependency ratio implies a larger pressure on the pension system, and higher spending on healthcare and long-term care systems, among others. At the household and individual level, it implies more pressure on adults, especially women, to care for elderly family members.

Table 2.1 shows that Albania's dependency ratios are close to the European average. Notably, the country's young-age dependency ratio is lower than that of its direct Western Balkan neighbours, Montenegro, Kosovo and North Macedonia. In contrast, its old-age and total dependency ratios are higher than those of these countries.

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5   The (total) dependency ratio is calculated as the number of persons in the economically inactive age groups (0-14 years and 65 years and over) per 100 persons in the economically active age group (15-64 years). The total dependency ratio can be disaggregated into (a) the young-age dependency ratio (the number of persons aged 0-14 per 100 persons aged 15-64) and (b) the old-age dependency ratio (the number of persons aged 65 and over per 100 persons aged 15-64.

Table 2.1: Dependency ratios for selected countries (2023) (in %)

Country/region	Dependency ratio		
	Total	Young-age	Old-age
Kosovo	44.8	30.8	14.0
North Macedonia	52.8	26.1	26.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	53.5	20.3	33.2
Montenegro	53.7	28.0	25.7
Albania	54.5	24.0	30.4
Europe	55.3	24.1	31.2
Romania	56.0	24.8	31.2
Greece	57.3	20.6	36.7
Serbia	58.5	22.9	35.6
Bulgaria	61.0	22.8	38.2

Source for Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia: Eurostat, 2025

Source for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Europe, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia: UN World Population Prospects (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2025).

The overall sex ratio in Albania showed a notable drop from over 106 men per 100 women in the 1979 and 1989 censuses to around 100 men per 100 women in the three censuses in this century. The 2023 census reported the lowest overall sex ratio, with 98.2 men per 100 women. Sex-specific migration, particularly among the young adult age group 20-39, is the leading cause of the drop in the overall sex ratio (International Organization for Migration, 2020). Despite male-dominated emigration and the decreased overall sex ratio in recent decades, Albania's 2023 figure is higher than that of any EU country (Eurostat, 2024). Part of the explanation for the high overall sex ratio is the relatively high sex ratio at birth (107),[6] which is reflected in the sex ratio of children under five in the 2023 census of 108.4 boys per 100 girls.[7]

2.2 Changes in the young population

2.2.1 Smaller and smaller young populations

Over the period since the 1979 census, the young population – the subject of this report – has been significantly reduced. After peaking in the 1989 census with almost 2.0 million persons, the population under age 30 dropped to 0.8 million in the 2023 census. Table 2.2 presents the development of the numbers of the three young populations – children, young people and youth – between the 1979 and 2023 censuses. Annex II provides a more detailed breakdown by sex, age and census year.

Table 2.2: Young populations, by census year (in thousands)

Young population	1979	1989	2001	2011	2023
Children (0-17)	1,140.7	1,244.7	1,083.6	740.0	458.0
Young people (15-24)	556.5	623.2	527.4	512.4	286.1
Youth (15-29)	749.5	920.9	740.4	704.3	430.3

Figure 2.4 shows the trend in the numbers of the three young populations (2.4a) and their share in the total population (Figure 2.4b). The relatively steep increase in the number of

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6   Referring to 2022 (INSTAT, 2024a).
7   The sex ratios of children aged 1, 2 and 3 years old in the 2023 census (108.1, 106.2 and 108.1 boys per 100 girls, respectively) fit well with the 2022 sex ratio at birth derived from the vital statistics (INSTAT, 2023).

youth in the decade before 1989 (Figure 2.4a) reflects the prevailing high fertility in the post-war period, while the sharp drop in the decade after 1989 likely indicates the large emigration wave of the 1990s, which was particularly related to the age group 20-29 that is part of the youth population. Without the impact of migration, the youth population – and the partly overlapping young-people population – would have increased, given above-replacement-level fertility in the entire period before the turn of the century (Gjonca, Aassve, & Mencarini, 2008).

The second sharp drop between 2011 and 2023 suggests that emigration has picked up again in the decade preceding the 2023 census. The declining trend in the number of children since 1989 most clearly reveals the combined effect of fertility reduction and emigration in the reproductive age group. This reinforced emigration and reduced fertility are the main factors responsible for the population decline from 2.8 million in the 2011 census to 2.4 million in the 2023 census.

The development of the young population means that the number of youth in the 2023 census was only 58.1 percent of the number reported in the 2001 census. These percentages were even smaller for the number of young people and children: 54.3 and 42.3 percent, respectively. The information available about the number of children and households in the respective censuses from 2001 to 2023 also means that the average number of children in a household has drastically decreased. Whereas the 2001 census reported an average of 1.5 children per household, in the 2011 census, this number was reduced to 1.0 children per household and 0.6 children per household in the 2023 census.

Figure 2.4: Young populations, by census year

a. In thousands
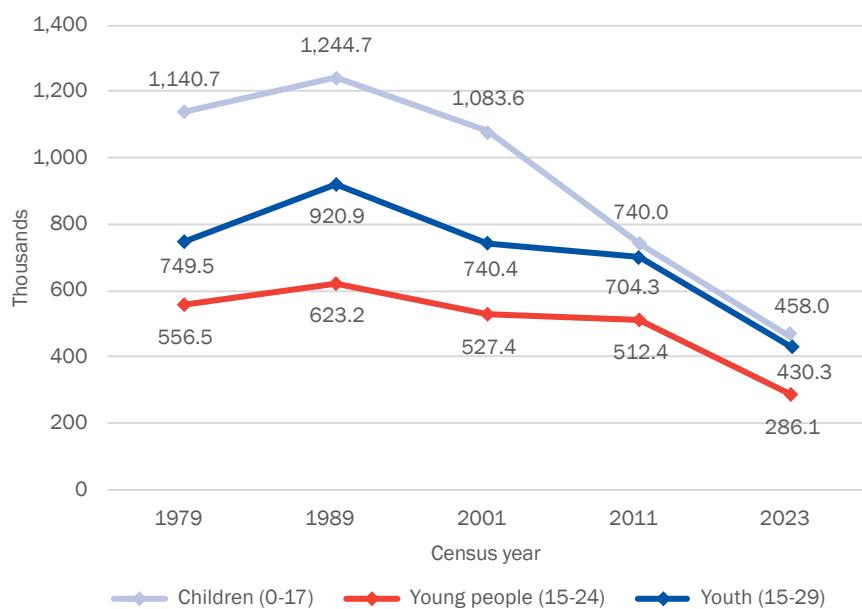
b. In %
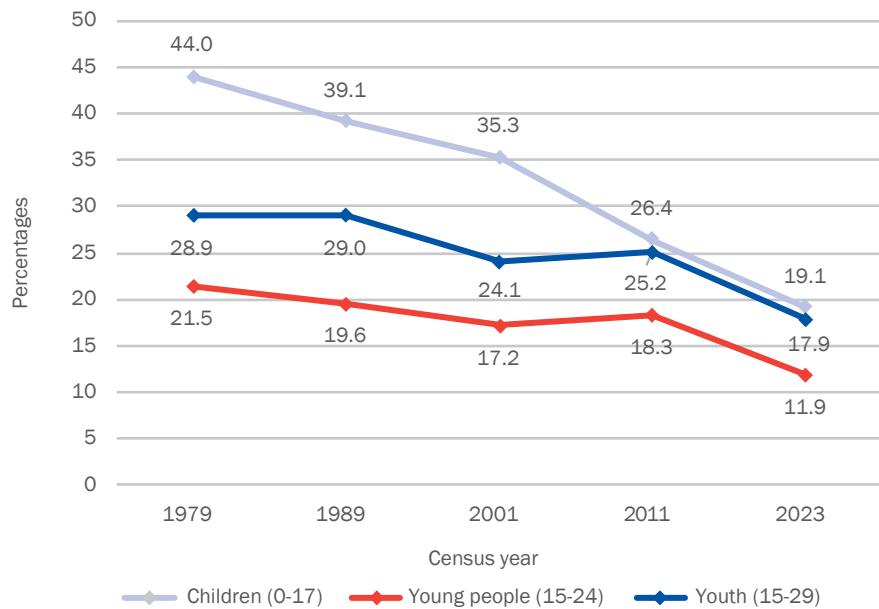
The trends in the absolute numbers of the young population are largely mirrored in trends of their share in the total population (Figure 2.4b). Overall, an almost continuous decline is evident across the entire observation period for all three young populations, with the most pronounced decrease in the share of children in the population. The exception is the stabilisation – and even slight increase – in the share of the youth and young people in the decade between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. This interruption of the overall trend is because the birth cohorts that moved up into the youth and young-people populations – see the age 5-19 bulge in the population pyramid of 2001 (Figure 2.2b) – were large compared to the cohorts that moved out from these populations, and emigration from these populations could not entirely offset the replacement by the larger cohorts.[8] In combination with the pronounced decrease of children, the result was that the share of young people and youth in the total population stabilised between 2001 and 2011 Figure 2.4b), even though their absolute numbers decreased (Figure 2.4a).

2.2.2 Sex ratios in young populations

The 2023 census reported a sex ratio of 103.3 males per 100 females for the total young population aged 0-29, which is a figure that could be expected under standard conditions without substantial sex-specific differences in mortality, migration, abortion and underreporting. A biologically normal sex ratio at birth ranges from 102 to 106 boys per 100 girls (World Health Organization, 2011) and without strong sex-specific factors, this level is largely maintained until the young adult ages. However, the age-specific sex ratios within the young population of Albania varied strongly. For the separate sub-groups, the reported sex ratios were 107.7 (children aged 0-17), 97.7 (young people aged 15-24) and 99.3 (youth aged 15-29), respectively. The reported sex ratio of 107.7 for children is relatively high in international comparison. The latest available information about the sex ratio at birth from vital statistics in Albania is 107.4 boys per 100 girls, which is consistent with the figure reported for the entire child population in the 2023 census. In the EU, the sex ratio of the under-15 population in 2023 was 105.4 boys per 100 girls (Eurostat, 2025). Previous studies pointed out that the high sex ratio at birth in Albania is likely related to a preference for sons and prenatal sex selection (World Vision and UNFPA, 2012; INSTAT, 2014).

The difference between the sex ratio of children (107.7) on the one hand and those of young

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8 See Figure 2.2b (census 2001): the relatively large age cohorts 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19 will partly or entirely have moved up into the age groups of the youth and young-people populations in the population pyramids of the period between the 2001 and 2011 censuses.

people (97.7) and youth (99.3) on the other hand is remarkable. As shown in Figure 2.5, this was caused by the prominent dip in the sex ratio between the ages 15 and 29 (Figure 2.5, dark green line). The graph also shows the sex ratios of the population recorded in the 2001 and 2011 censuses who would have reached the 15-29 age group in 2023, assuming no mortality and international migration, by shifting the figures by 22 and 12 years, respectively. Since mortality at ages 15 to 29 is very low, the gap between the shifted 2001 and 2011 figures and the 2023 figures is almost exclusively explained by sex-specific migration. More specifically, it implies that the net emigration of male youth was higher than that of female youth.

Figure 2.5: Sex ratio of population aged 0-29, by single year of age (2023) and shifted sex ratio of the 2001 and 2011 populations aged 0-29, by single year of age (in %)
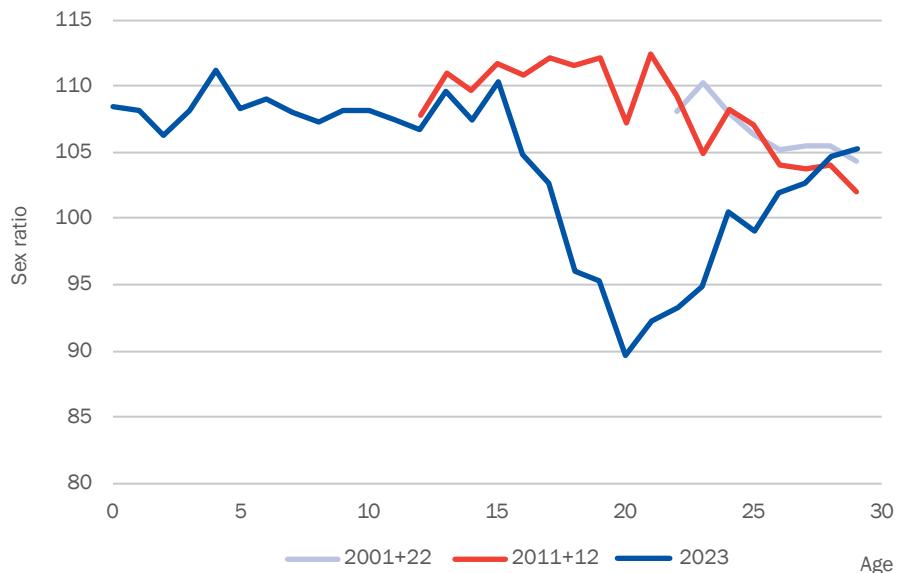
2.2.3 Young populations at the sub-national level

Young populations at the prefecture level

Due to different age structures, the distribution of the young population aged 0-29 across the 12 prefectures of Albania deviates from the distribution of the total population. However, Tirana still stands out as the prefecture with the largest young population by far. With 285.0 thousand persons under age 30, it represents 35.4 percent of the total young population. On the other hand, Gjirokaster, due to a combination of the smallest population and the oldest age structure of all prefectures, has 14.0 thousand young population, representing only 1.7 percent of the total young population. Table 2.3 presents for each prefecture the number of the total young population, their share in the national young population, as well as the numbers of the three sub-populations (children, young people and youth).

Table 2.3: Young populations, by region, and by sex (in thousands); share of the total young population, by region, and by sex (in %)

Region	Young population (0-29)			Share of the total young population (%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	804.3	408.7	395.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Berat	41.5	20.9	20.6	5.2	5.1	5.2
Dibër	39.7	20.6	19.0	4.9	5.0	4.8
Durrës	80.4	41.3	39.1	10.0	10.1	9.9
Elbasan	75.4	39.2	36.2	9.4	9.6	9.2
Fier	67.1	35.5	31.6	8.3	8.7	8.0
Gjirokastër	14.0	7.5	6.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
Korçë	50.5	26.8	23.7	6.3	6.5	6.0
Kukës	25.5	13.4	12.2	3.2	3.3	3.1
Lezhë	33.6	17.5	16.1	4.2	4.3	4.1
Shkodër	51.2	26.1	25.1	6.4	6.4	6.4
Tiranë	285.0	139.0	146.0	35.4	34.0	36.9
Vlorë	40.5	21.0	19.4	5.0	5.1	4.9

Region	Children (0-17)			Young people (15-24)			Youth (15-29)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	458.0	237.5	220.5	286.1	141.4	144.8	430.3	214.4	215.9
Berat	23.0	11.9	11.2	15.8	7.7	8.1	23.2	11.4	11.8
Dibër	22.8	11.9	10.9	14.2	7.1	7.1	21.0	10.8	10.1
Durrës	46.2	24.1	22.0	27.9	14.1	13.8	42.4	21.4	20.9
Elbasan	44.1	22.5	21.5	26.7	13.6	13.0	39.8	20.8	19.0
Fier	42.3	22.2	20.1	21.9	11.6	10.3	33.0	17.6	15.4
Gjirokastër	8.7	4.5	4.2	4.7	2.6	2.1	7.1	3.9	3.1
Korçë	29.6	15.2	14.4	17.8	9.6	8.2	26.8	14.6	12.2
Kukës	15.8	8.4	7.4	8.8	4.5	4.4	12.5	6.5	6.1
Lezhë	19.9	10.4	9.5	11.5	5.9	5.6	17.3	9.0	8.3
Shkodër	29.2	15.1	14.1	18.6	9.2	9.4	27.6	13.9	13.8
Tiranë	152.8	79.0	73.7	103.9	48.1	55.8	158.3	73.3	85.0
Vlorë	23.8	12.2	11.6	14.2	7.4	6.9	21.3	11.2	10.2

The 2023 census reported population declines for all prefectures, except Tirana, which observed an overall population growth of 1.2 percent compared to the 2011 census. All prefectures, including Tirana, reported reduced figures for the age group of the young population (aged 0-29). In absolute numbers, the prefectures with the largest population – Tirana, Fier and Elbasan – observed the most significant drops in the young population, each with 65 thousand persons or more (Figure 2.6a). On the other hand, prefectures with small populations, like Gjirokaster and Diber, also lost fewer young persons. A very different picture is obtained if looking at the relative change of the young population by prefecture (Figure 2.6b). Relative to the total population in 2011, the smallest reduction is observed in the Durres-Tirana axis. Compared to the other prefectures, the percentage reduction in Tirana (19.1 percent) is particularly small and around half of the national figure (37.3 percent). In addition, Berat experienced a small decline in the young population not only in absolute terms, but also compared to its young population in 2011 (30.5 percent).

Figure 2.6: Change of the young population aged 0-29 between the 2011 and 2023 Population and Housing Censuses

a. In absolute numbers (thousands)
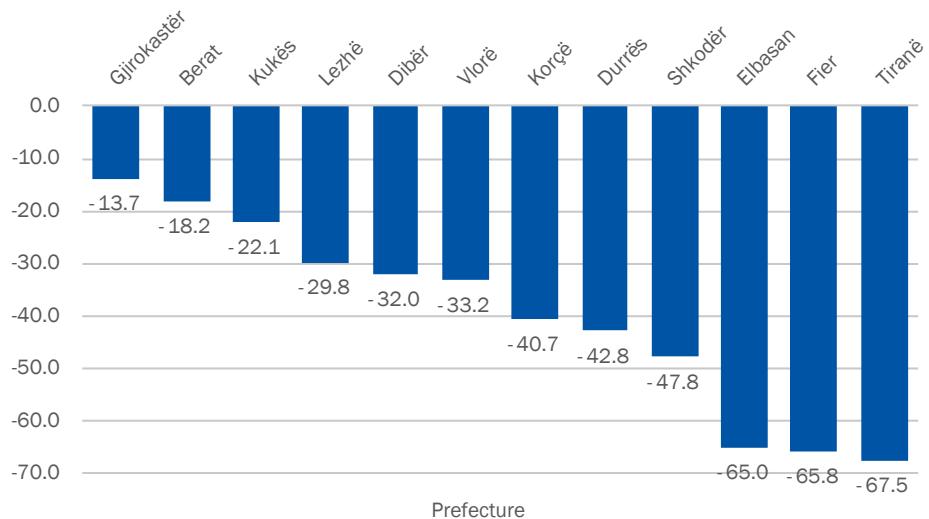
b. In %
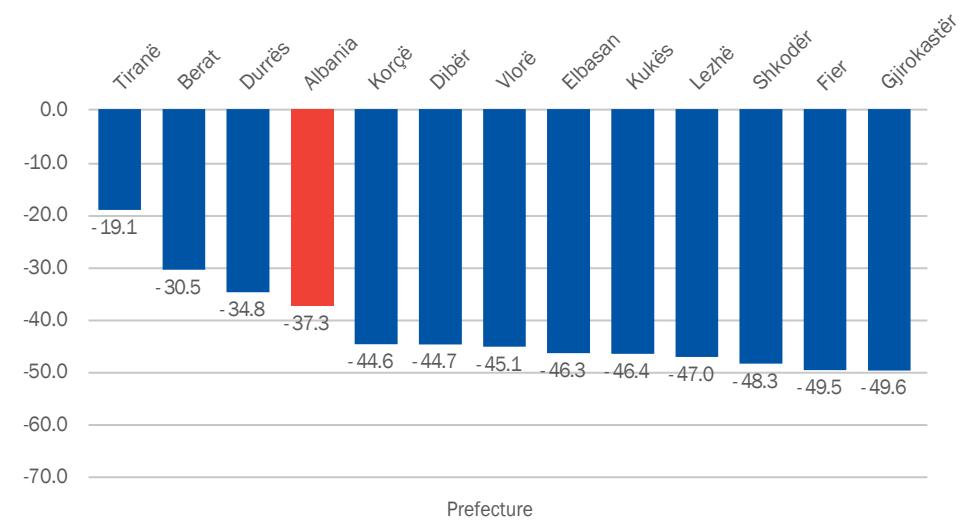
The young-age dependency ratio is another indicator of the weight of the younger part of the population, as it expresses the number of persons under age 15 as a percentage of the population in the age group 15-64.

Figure 2.7 shows the young-age dependency ratio by prefecture for the 2023 and 2011 censuses. According to the 2023 census, this dependency ratio ranged from 31.8 in Kukes to 19.0 in Gjirokaster. The high figure of Kukes is a kind of outlier in the spectrum of the dependency ratio and was related to the relatively high fertility in the prefecture. Together with Diber, it traditionally has the highest fertility in Albania. For instance, in 2019 these were the only two prefectures with a total fertility rate[9] around the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman, compared to the national figure of 1.37 children per woman (INSTAT, 2019).

The figures for the young-age dependency ratio in 2023 are consistently lower than those of 2011. On average, the ratio decreased by 6.3 percentage points or 20.9 percent compared to the 2011 census. The decrease in Tirana is notably smaller, both in absolute terms (3.8 percentage points) and relatively (13.3 percent).

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9   The total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

Figure 2.7: Young-age dependency ratio, by region, and by census year (in %)
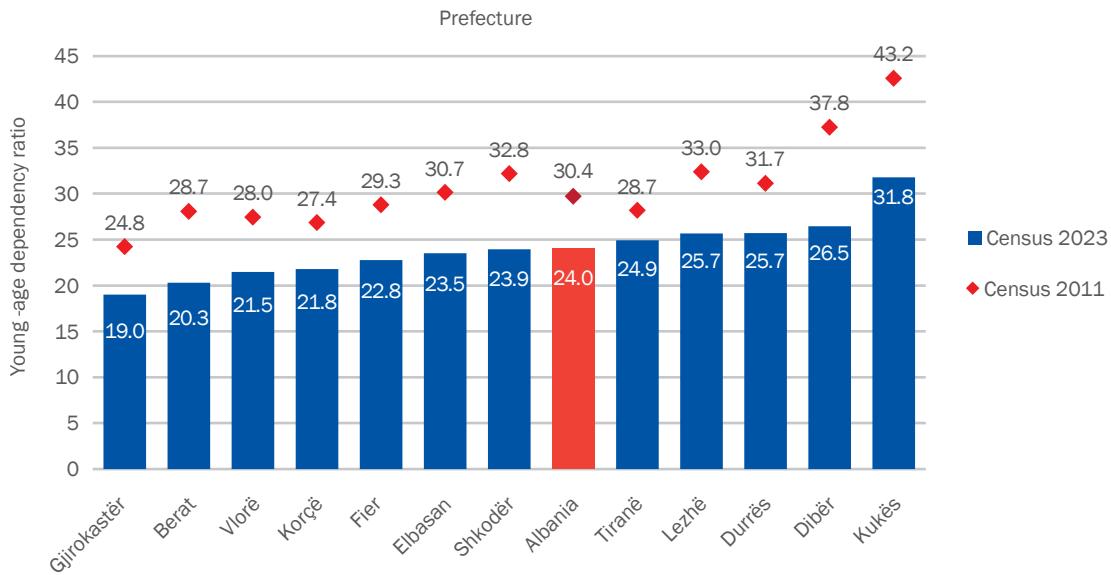
The sex ratio of the young population aged 0-29 varies considerably across the 12 prefectures. All prefectures, except Tirana, have a surplus of male young population, with sex ratios ranging from 101.4 males per 100 females in Berat to over 110 males per 100 females in Kukes, Fier, Korce and Gjirokaster (Figure 2.8). Tirana takes a special position with a female surplus in the young population and a low sex ratio of 95.2 males per 100 females. The overall sex ratios of the young population are particularly influenced by the sex ratios of the youth population (aged 15-29), which show a very large variation. At the upper side, Korce and Gjirokaster have sex ratios of 120 or more male youths per 100 female youths, while Tirana has only 86 male youths per 100 female youths. Whereas international migration may play a role, it is very likely that internal migration is an important factor in explaining the low sex ratio in Tirana. Given the concentration of higher education in the capital and higher female attendance rates in tertiary education (see section 4.3.2), it can be assumed that many young women from the entire country move to Tirana for their further education and associated first jobs on the labour market.

Figure 2.8: Sex ratio of the young population and youth, by region (in %)
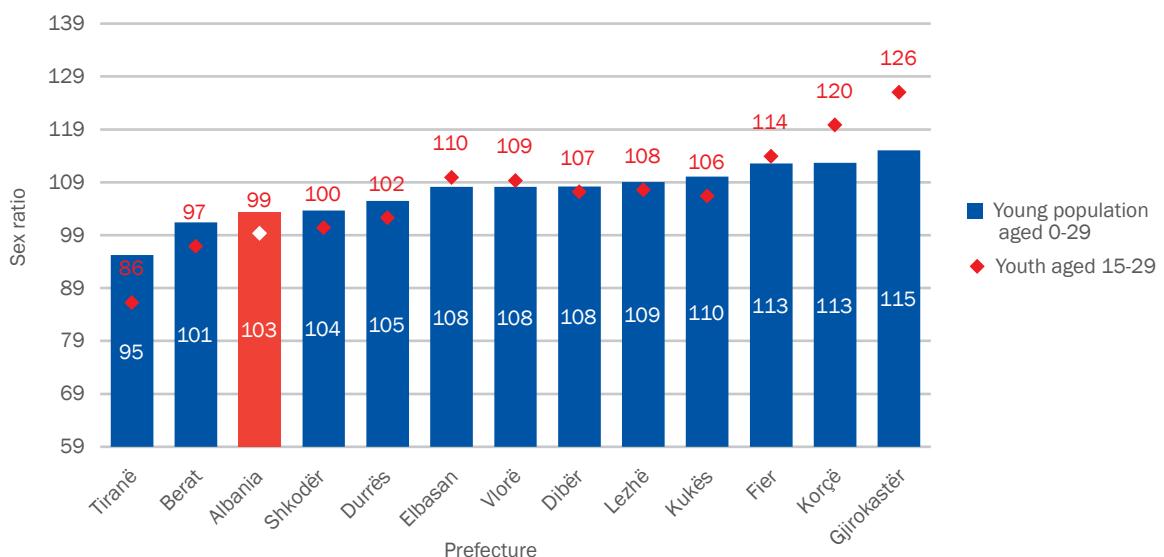
Young populations at the municipal level

The size of the young population varies widely across the 61 municipalities of Albania. With 224.3 thousand persons under age 30, Tirana municipality has the largest young population by far, representing 27.9 percent of the total. Durres (52.9 thousand), Kamez (39.8 thousand), Elbasan (38.9 thousand) and Shkoder (34.4 thousand) follow at a distance. On the other hand, 14 municipalities have a young population of less than 2 thousand persons, six of which are located in Gjirokaster prefecture. Annex III provides the number of the young population and its sub-populations for each municipality, disaggregated by sex.

Figure 2.9 shows the number of children aged 0-17 as a percentage of the total population in the municipality. The share of children in the municipal populations shows a wide range, from 4.6 percent for Finiq to 27.1 percent – more than five times as much – for Has. The share of young people aged 15-24 also varies widely across municipalities, but less than that of children (Figure 2.10). Finiq and Dropull are the municipalities with the smallest share of young people (4.7 percent), compared to Dimal with 17.4 percent, more than three times as much. The young-age dependency ratio, and the shares of youth aged 15-29 and the total young population aged 0-29 for each municipality are given in Annex III.

The variation in sex ratios across prefectures is reproduced at the municipality level, but is much amplified. The differences across municipalities are particularly prominent for the young people and youth populations. In more than half of the municipalities, these populations have more than 10 percent more males than females (sex ratios being over 110). Around one-third of the 61 municipalities reported a youth sex ratio of more than 120, up to a maximum of 153.3 males per 100 females. For the young people's sex ratio, this share of municipalities is around one-sixth. This significant overrepresentation of young males is compensated for in only a few municipalities with female majorities. Some 18 municipalities have more female young people (aged 15-24), and only 14 municipalities have more female youth (aged 15-29), with Tirana, Dimal and Has having the highest female representation with sex ratios below 85 males per 100 females. The sex ratio of the overall young population aged 0-29 ranges from 88.9 to 153.7 males per 100 females. Annex III provides a table of the sex ratios of the different young populations in each municipality.

Figure 2.9: Children aged 0-17 as a percentage of the total population, by municipality

Municipality	Percentage aged 0-17 (children)
Finiq (Vlorë)	4.6
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	6.7
Pustec (Korçë)	10.2
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	13.1
Skrapar (Berat)	13.2
Himarë (Vlorë)	13.5
Kolonjë (Korçë)	13.6
Poliçan (Berat)	13.9
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	14.0
Kuçovë (Berat)	14.5
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	14.5
Selenicë (Vlorë)	14.7
Delvinë (Vlorë)	14.9
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	15.4
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	15.9
Korçë (Korçë)	16.1
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	16.2
Belsh (Elbasan)	16.3
Lushnje (Fier)	16.6
Konispol (Vlorë)	16.6
Mallakastër (Fier)	16.7
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	16.7
Devoll (Korçë)	16.8
Patos (Fier)	17.0
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	17.1
Dimal (Berat)	17.2
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	17.3
Maliq (Korçë)	17.4
Mirditë (Lezhë)	17.4
Vlorë (Vlorë)	17.4
Pukë (Shkodër)	17.5
Cërrik (Elbasan)	17.6
Kavajë (Tiranë)	17.7
Berat (Berat)	17.8
Fier (Fier)	18.1
Peqin (Elbasan)	18.1
Divjakë (Fier)	18.2
Gramsh (Elbasan)	18.8
Mat (Dibër)	19.0
Elbasan (Elbasan)	19.1
Albania	19.1
Pogradec (Korçë)	19.1
Roskovec (Fier)	19.2
Shkodër (Shkodër)	19.3
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	19.3
Tiranë (Tiranë)	19.5
Sarandë (Vlorë)	19.7
Durrës (Durrës)	19.8
Shijak (Durrës)	20.0
Lezhë (Lezhë)	20.2
Librazhd (Elbasan)	20.4
Klos (Dibër)	20.6
Kurbin (Lezhë)	20.8
Tropojë (Kukës)	20.9
Bulqizë (Dibër)	21.5
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	21.5
Krujë (Durrës)	22.1
Dibër (Dibër)	22.1
Vorë (Tiranë)	22.7
Kamëz (Tiranë)	24.6
Kukës (Kukës)	26.6
Has (Kukës)	27.1

Percentage aged 0-17 (children)

Figure 2.10: Young people aged 15-24 as a percentage of the total population, by municipality

Municipality	Percent
Finiq (Vlorë)	4.7
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	4.7
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	6.8
Kolonjë (Korçë)	7.2
Pustec (Korçë)	7.3
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	7.3
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	7.6
Himarë (Vlorë)	7.7
Selenicë (Vlorë)	7.8
Belsh (Elbasan)	7.9
Lushnje (Fier)	8.3
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	8.7
Berat (Berat)	8.9
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	9.0
Devoll (Korçë)	9.1
Fier (Fier)	9.2
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	9.3
Konispol (Vlorë)	9.4
Poliçan (Berat)	9.5
Mallakastër (Fier)	9.5
Patos (Fier)	9.6
Korçë (Korçë)	9.6
Divjakë (Fier)	9.7
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	9.7
Roskovec (Fier)	10.0
Peqin (Elbasan)	10.0
Skrapar (Berat)	10.1
Cërrik (Elbasan)	10.2
Mat (Dibër)	10.2
Kavajë (Tiranë)	10.2
Vlorë (Vlorë)	10.5
Sarandë (Vlorë)	10.7
Delvinë (Vlorë)	10.9
Kuçovë (Berat)	11.1
Mirditë (Lezhë)	11.2
Lezhë (Lezhë)	11.3
Gramsh (Elbasan)	11.3
Pogradec (Korçë)	11.6
Maliq (Korçë)	11.6
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	11.7
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	11.8
Shkodër (Shkodër)	11.8
Albania	11.9
Durrës (Durrës)	12.0
Shijak (Durrës)	12.1
Bulqizë (Dibër)	12.1
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	12.2
Elbasan (Elbasan)	12.3
Kurbin (Lezhë)	12.3
Librazhd (Elbasan)	12.5
Pukë (Shkodër)	12.7
Klos (Dibër)	13.2
Tropojë (Kukës)	13.3
Krujë (Durrës)	13.3
Tiranë (Tiranë)	13.7
Vorë (Tiranë)	13.9
Kukës (Kukës)	14.4
Has (Kukës)	14.8
Dibër (Dibër)	14.9
Kamëz (Tiranë)	15.1
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	15.6
Dimal (Berat)	17.4

Percent aged 15-24 (young people)

3. Marriage and household structure

Childhood and youth represent formative life stages that have profound implications for the rest of an individual's life. During these stages, children grow into young adults, when decisions must be made about family formation that will significantly impact life's trajectory. Understanding these demographic patterns is essential for crafting effective policies in health, education, and social protection.

The timing and context of the decisions about marriage are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms, gender roles, socioeconomic status, and access to education . Research has shown that investing in the health, education and empowerment of young people – particularly girls – can delay the age of marriage , and foster more equitable family dynamics (Bongaarts, Mensch, & Blanc, 2017).

3.1 Marriage

Over the years, the proportion of the population that has never married has decreased substantially (Figure 3.1). While in 1989, 53.5 percent of the population was never married, by 2023, only 36.6 percent of all persons were never married. The percentage of unmarried persons was higher for males than for females. In the 2023 census, among all age groups, 41.2 percent of males were never married, against 32,2 percent of females. Many of the changes that occurred are due to shifts in the age composition of youth and young people and are not necessarily related to changes in marriage dynamics in the country. During the same time, the percentage of people who are currently married has increased significantly. In 1987, 42.8 percent of the population was married. In 2023, this was more than 10 percentage points higher (54.9 percent). In this section, the marriage patterns of youth (15-24 years) and young people (15-29 years) will be examined.

Figure 3.1 provides a general overview of the age and sex pattern of marriage formation in Albania among the young population. The table for total figures is presented at Annex IV.. The graph clearly shows that marriage is not very common among young people in Albania. By age 20, only 5.4 percent of young persons are married; by the age of 25, about three-quarters of all young persons are still single. The fact that young people postpone marriage is evident, as more than half of all persons aged 30 have not yet tied the knot. The graph also clearly shows the difference in marriage patterns between young men and women. By age 20, 9.3 percent of women are already married, whereas for men this is only 1.0 percent. Almost 40 percent of women are married by age 25, while less than 10 percent of men are married by that age.

3.1.1 Age at first marriage

For this report, only information from the census was used to calculate the mean age at first marriage for the total population. As far back as 1953, Hajnal developed a demographic technique to calculate the mean age at first marriage[10], known as the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM). This indicator is calculated as the average length of never-married life for those who subsequently marry before age 50, and is derived from the proportions of never-married individuals in single years or five-year age groups from a census or survey (Hajnal, 1953).

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[10] The mean age at marriage shows the average length of single life expressed in years among those females who marry before age 50.

Figure 3.1: Percentage of the total population never married, by census year, and by sex
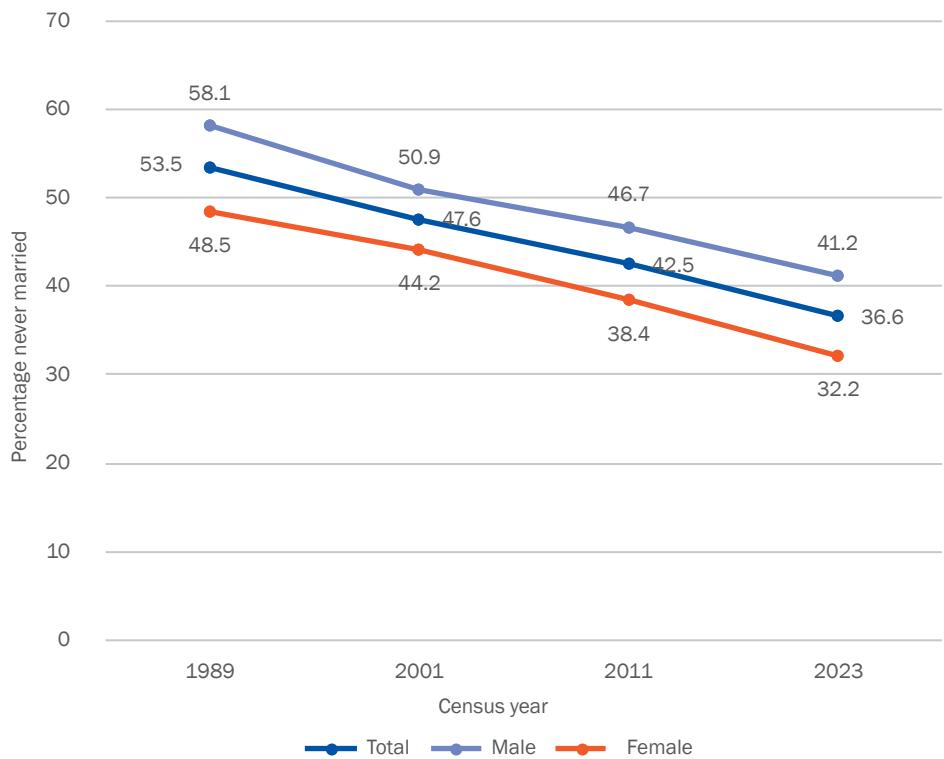
Figure 3.2: Percentage of the young population, married and never married, by age, and by sex
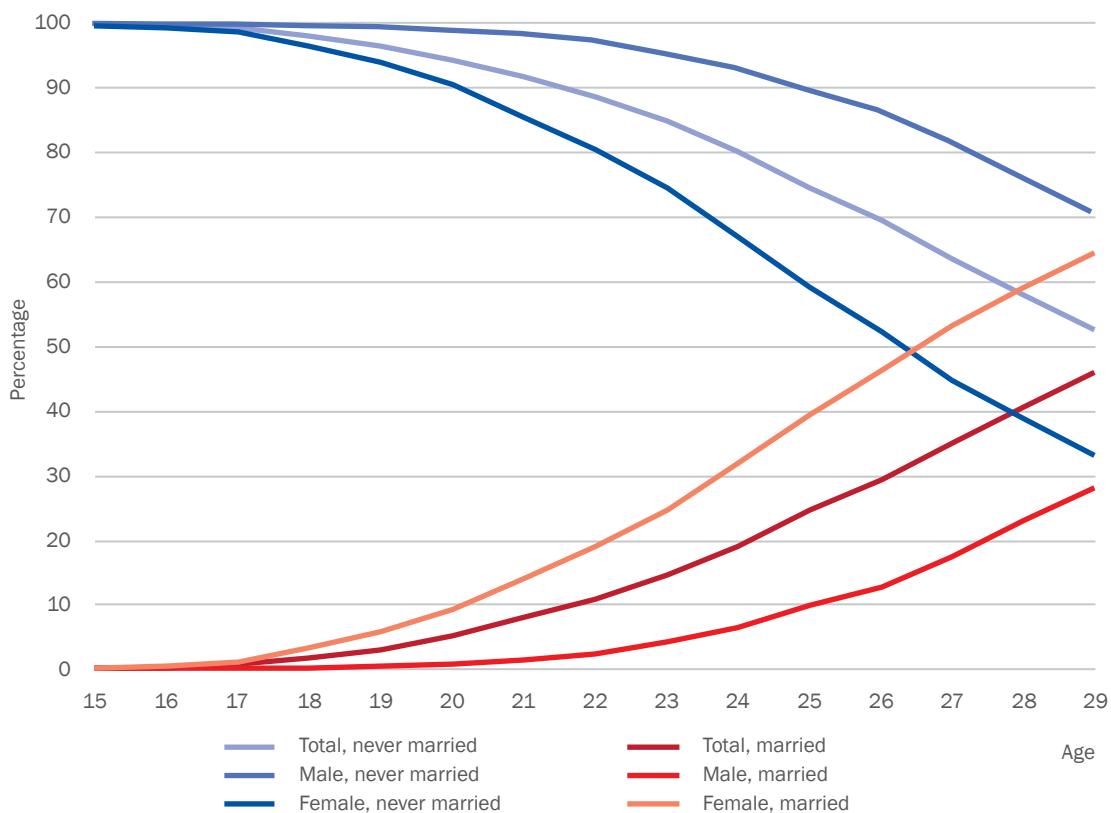
For each census since 1989, the SMAM was calculated for males, females and both sexes (INSTAT, 2014).

Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM)

The formula to calculate the SMAM is:

$$\text{SMAM} = a + \frac{\sum_{x=a}^{b} P_x}{1 - P_b}$$

Where:

- a = the lower bound of the age range (age 15)
- b = upper bound of the age range (age 50)
- P_x = proportion never married at age x
- P_b = proportion never married at the upper age limit (often assumed to be those who will never marry)

$$\sum_{x=a}^{b} P_x$$

- The sum represents the area under the curve of never-married proportions.

Figure 3.3 clearly shows how the SMAM has increased significantly. While the age at first marriage remained relatively unchanged between 1989 and 2002, it has increased rapidly since then. For both sexes, the SMAM increased from 25 years in 1989 to 32 years in 2023, representing a 7-year increase. The age at first marriage increased much faster for men than for women: from 27 to 36 years, compared to 23 to 29 years for women.

Figure 3.3: Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM), by census year, and by sex
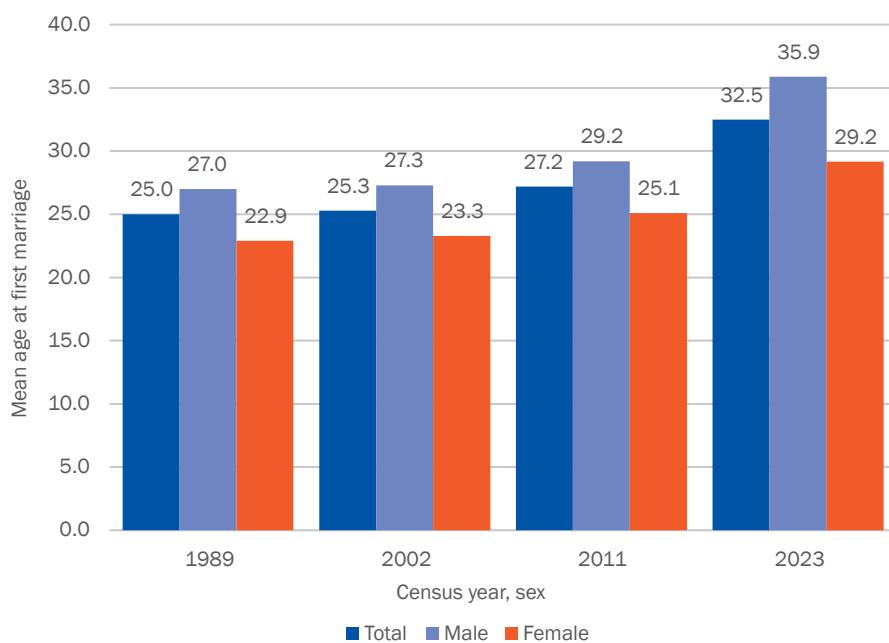
The median age at first marriage is the age at which 50 percent of individuals in a population have married for the first time. It was estimated using linear interpolation that the 50 percent threshold falls between two ages. Unfortunately, the median age at first marriage was only calculated in the 2011 census for men and women, but not for the total population. In previous censuses, it was not estimated. According to the 2023 census, the median age at first marriage was 29.4 years for the total population, 32.4 years for men and 26.3 years for women. In 2011,

the median age at first marriage was 28 years for men and 22 years for women. These figures confirm that the age at first marriage has increased significantly over the last few years. Based on the census, it is not possible to determine what exactly caused this increase. Perhaps during the COVID-19 pandemic, people postponed their marriage, or maybe large-scale international migration interfered with the moment when young couples decided to get married.

3.1.2 Gender parity index for marriage

The gender parity index (GPI) compares a particular measure for females to the corresponding measure for males. When applied to the proportion of ever-married persons, it shows whether males and females are marrying at similar rates at a given age or age group. The GPI is calculated for each age between 15 and 29 as the proportion of ever-married females divided by the proportion of ever-married males, expressed as a percentage. The age-specific GPIs are depicted in Figure 3.4. For each of the single ages between 15 and 29, the percentage of young women ever-married is at least twice as large as for their male counterparts. Between the ages of 18 and 22, the GPI is extremely high, with values well above 700. This means that in each of these ages, the percentage of women who are ever married is at least seven times higher than the percentage of men. At age 29, the GPI is lower, but the percentage of women in marriage remains more than twice that of men.

Figure 3.4: Gender parity index for the percentage married for the young population, by age
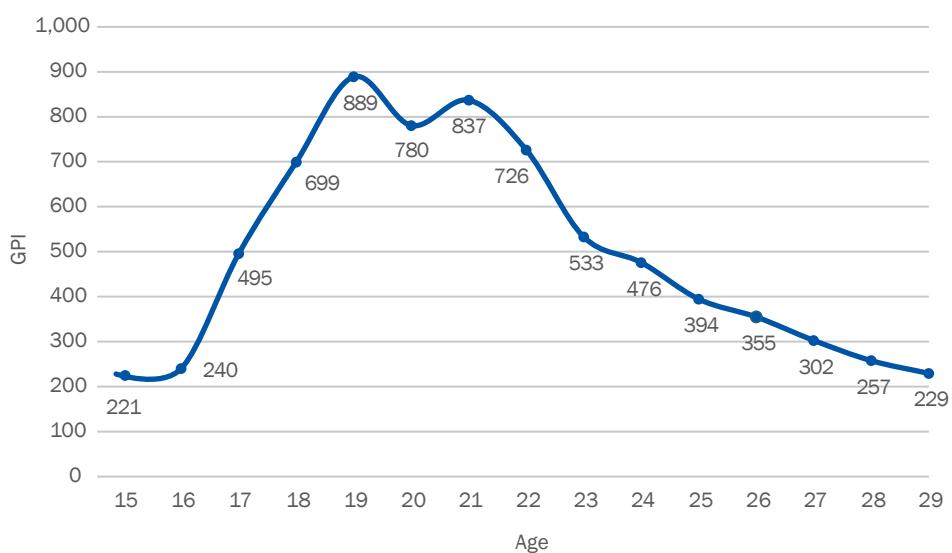
3.1.3 International comparison

Albania is not alone in Europe in its rapid rise in the age of marriage. Since the year 2000, European societies have experienced a steady and widespread increase in the age at which people first get married. In most European countries, the mean age at first marriage has reached or surpassed 30 years for women and is often 32 to 34 years for men. The age at first marriage remains somewhat lower in the Balkan countries compared to those in Western and Northern Europe (Eurostat, 2025). Figure 3.5a and 3.5b show the age at first marriage for men and women in Albania and a series of surrounding countries. Only countries were selected for which data were available for 2023 in the Eurostat statistical database, as changes occur relatively quickly (Eurostat, 2023). It should be noted that the mean age at marriage in the Eurostat database is based on administrative data, while the mean age for Albania is based on the calculated SMAM. It is possible that small differences exist between the two methods.

Figure 3.5: Mean age at first marriage for men and women, selected European countries[a]

a. Men

b. Women
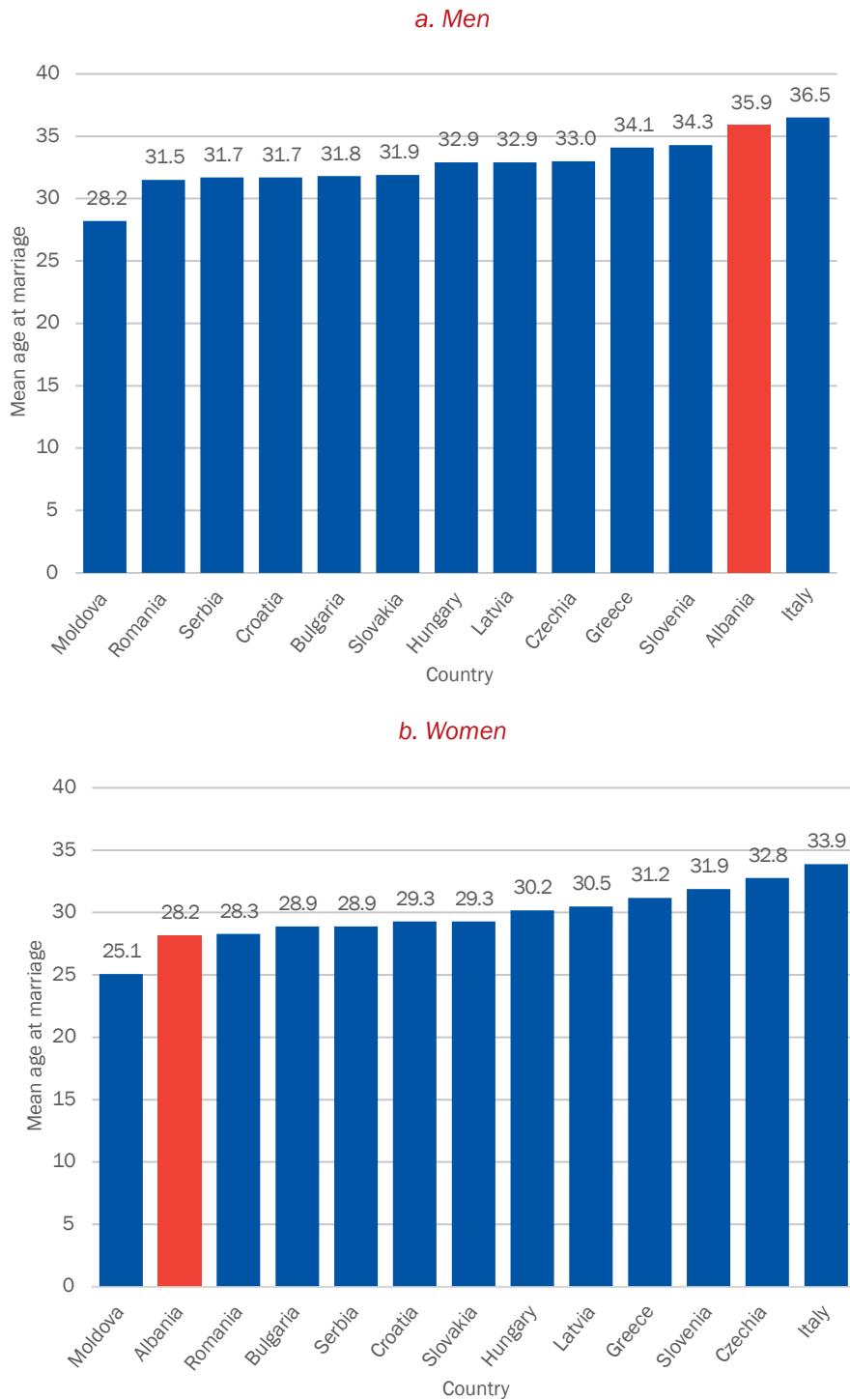
a| Source for countries other than Albania: Eurostat database (Eurostat, 2025)

Figure 3.5 shows the special situation of Albanian marriage patterns, compared to other selected European countries. Among all the selected countries, Albanian men, on average, marry at one of the oldest ages, slightly below that of Italy (36.5 years). In the whole of Europe, Swedish men marry at the oldest age, at 37.0 years. On the other hand, Albanian women marry among the youngest. Among all the countries in Europe, Moldovan women marry at the youngest age, with an average of 25.1 years (Eurostat, 2023). It is unclear what causes this peculiar pattern; perhaps the fact that many young Albanian men spend some years abroad may contribute to this pattern.

3.1.4 Child marriage

Child marriage undermines progress toward the SDGs, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 3 on health and well-being. Ending child marriage is part of SDG Target 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*. The standard indicator to measure the prevalence of child marriage is to calculate the percentage of women aged 20-24 who were first married or in union before age 18 and the percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in union before age 15.

In Albania, the legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women, as stipulated in Article 7 of the Family Code (Law No. 9062, dated May 8, 2003). However, the same article allows for exceptions: a court may permit marriage before the age of 18 if there are "sufficient reasons". Notably, the law does not specify a lower age limit for such exceptions. There is evidence that in the past, child marriage was a social problem in Albania. A study on child marriage in Albania by UNFPA and UNICEF indicated that in 2017, 16.9 percent of all marriages involved girls younger than 19 years old. Among boys, the corresponding percentage was 0.5 percent. However, the report stressed that the real prevalence is higher, as the percentages do not include unregistered marriages (UNICEF and UNFPA, 2018). In the 2008-09 DHS, among all women aged 20-49, 9.4 percent had been married before the age of 18. Among men in the same age category, this was 0.8 percent (INSTAT, Institute of Public Health and ICF Macro, 2010). In 2017, at the time of the next DHS, the percentage of women who had been married before age 18 had increased slightly to 11.4 per cent, while the percentage of men also increased to 1.5 per cent (INSTAT, Institute of Public Health, and ICF., 2018). Among others, the DHS 2017-18 found that early marriage was considerably higher among the lowest (least well-off) quintile of the population. Specifically, 14.5 percent of all women 15-49 who belonged to the lowest quintile were married before age 18, compared to 7.2 percent among the wealthiest quintile.

The census 2023 did not ask any questions about the age at first marriage. Therefore, the SDG indicator cannot be calculated for the 2023 census. A related but far less accurate measure for child marriage is the percentage of youth 15-19 years old who are married.

3.1.5 Dissolution of marriage

Dissolution of marriage can be due to separation, divorce or widowhood. The primary difference between a divorce and a separation is that a divorce is a legal dissolution of a marriage, typically initiated by a court or other competent authority. In contrast, a separation occurs when a couple decides to live apart but remain legally married.

Given the late age of marriage in Albania, it is evident that the number of divorces, separations and widowhoods among the youth population is relatively small. In total, among the 430 thousand youth aged 15-29, 69 thousand are currently married, but only 1.8 thousand are divorced or separated, and 875 are widowed. This means that 16.1 percent are married, while only 0.4 percent are divorced or separated, and 0.2 percent are widowed. A larger proportion of women than men are married (24.8 against 7.4 percent) or divorced (0.7 against 0.2 percent). Even fewer youth are widowed (875). Somewhat more young women than men aged 15-29 are widowed, 480 women against 395 men.

3.2 Household structure

3.2.1 Relationship to the household reference person

In the census, the reference person was the *'household member who generally undertakes the main decisions in the household and who is recognised as such by all other household members'* (INSTAT, 2024). Table 2.1 presents the percentage of children, young people and youth by sex and their relationship to the reference person. As expected, the reference persons in the household are usually older individuals and are not commonly found in the younger population age categories. In the 15-24 age group, 5.2 percent of all persons are identified as the reference person in their household. It is interesting that a higher percentage of women (5.7 percent) than men (4.7 percent) are the reference person in the age group 15-24. In this age group, 55.0 percent of all reference persons are female. Among 15-29-year-olds, the percentage for men (8.6 percent) is higher than for women. This means that the percentage of female reference persons decreased to 45.8 percent. However, one should take into account that in the census, the number of heads below age 20 was less than a thousand.

Table 3.1: Children, young people and youth, by relation to household reference person, and by sex (in %)

Relation to the reference person	Children 0-17			Young people 15-24			Youth 15-29		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Reference person	0.2	0.1	0.2	5.2	4.7	5.7	7.9	8.6	7.2
Husband or wife	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.1	3.1	5.0	0.3	9.7
Partner in cohabitation (not married)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.3	2.0
Son or daughter	72.2	72.5	72.0	73.3	80.3	66.3	66.3	78.1	54.5
Grandchild	23.7	23.6	23.8	7.8	8.3	7.3	5.8	6.3	5.2
Mother or father	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
Brother or sister	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.2	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.3
Nephewor niece	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Brother or sister in-law	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Grandparent	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Son or daughter in-law	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.6	0.0	7.1	6.4	0.1	12.7
Father or mother in-law	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uncle or aunt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other relative	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
Unrelated	2.4	2.4	2.4	4.7	3.8	5.7	4.5	3.6	5.3

The changing family situation of young women is clearly evident in the percentage of persons who indicated 'son or daughter' as their relationship to the reference person of the household. Among children, 72.2 percent indicate they are the son or daughter of the reference person, while 23.7 percent indicate they are a grandchild of the reference person. While the percentage of sons/daughters is almost the same between boys and girls among children (72.5 against 72.0 percent), it drops for women to 54.5 percent in the age group 15-29. Among men, the percentage increases to 78.1 percent for young individuals. This increase may be due to the fact that the rate of the grandchild category drops from 23.6 to 6.3, caused by the death of older grandparents in the household. The fact that 12.7 percent of female youth indicate that they are the daughter-in-law of the reference person shows that many young brides, after marriage, go and live with the parents of the groom.

3.2.2 Household size

Over the years, the average household size in Albania has decreased significantly (Figure 3.6). Between 2011 and 2023, the average household size decreased to 3.2 persons per household . In 1979, the average household size was still 5.6 persons.

Figure 3.6: Average household size, by census year
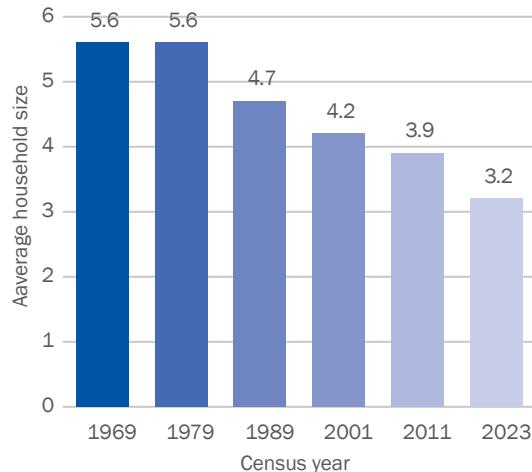
There is a clear difference in household size between households with and without children, young persons and youth (Figure 3.7). Households with children between 0 and 17 years old on average are almost twice as large as households without children: 4.6 on average for households with children against 2.4 on average for households without children. Additionally, households with young persons (15-24 years old) and youth (15-29 years old) tend to have larger households on average than their counterparts without young persons and youth. This trend is understandable, as typically when young persons or youth leave the household, two smaller households are formed, as opposed to the original households from which they came.

Figure 3.7: Average household size by presence of children, young persons and youth
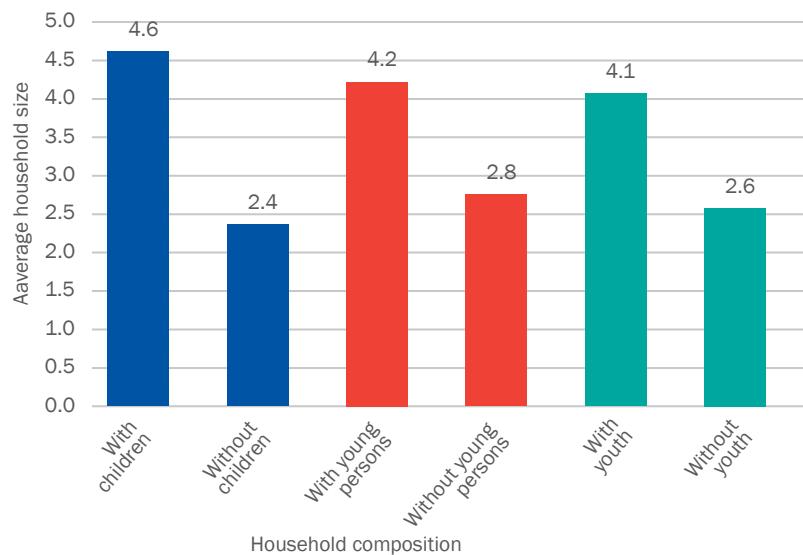
3.2.3 Absence of parents

The absence of one or both parents has a profound effect on the living conditions of children and young people in Albania. While parental migration can bring financial benefits, it often has negative emotional, psychological and developmental consequences for children

left behind in Albania. A study by Giannelli and Mangiavacchi showed the effect of the child experiencing past parental migration on dropping out of school (Giannelli & Mangiavacchi, 2010). In the sections on school attendance (4.3) and literacy (4.2) in this report, the effect of parental absence is also looked at.

The census allows for the calculation of the number of children who live without one or both parents. No distinction was made between children who were without parents because of migration or the dissolution of the marriage of their parents. In the 2023 census, 37.7 thousand children in the 0-17 age group were living with their mother but not their father in the household.[11] Eighth thousand children were living with their father, while their mother was not living in the household, and 1.6 thousand children lived in households with both parents absent.

Figure 3.8 shows a typical age pattern of parental absence. During the first ten years of life, the percentage of children with an absent father increases gradually from around 5 percent to around 10 percent. From age 11 to age 17, the percentage of children with an absent father remains the same at around one in 11. The percentage of children with a mother absent is slightly above 1 per cent and increases to 2 per cent by age 13. At the age of 17, 5.5 percent of all children do not have their mother present. This percentage may be higher than at younger ages because, at this age, some children may have left home to attend school. Less than 1 percent of infants have both parents not living in the household. At age three, this percentage becomes 1 percent and it steadily grows to 2.8 percent by age 15.

Figure 3.8: Percentage of children without one or both parents in the household, by age, and by absence status of parents
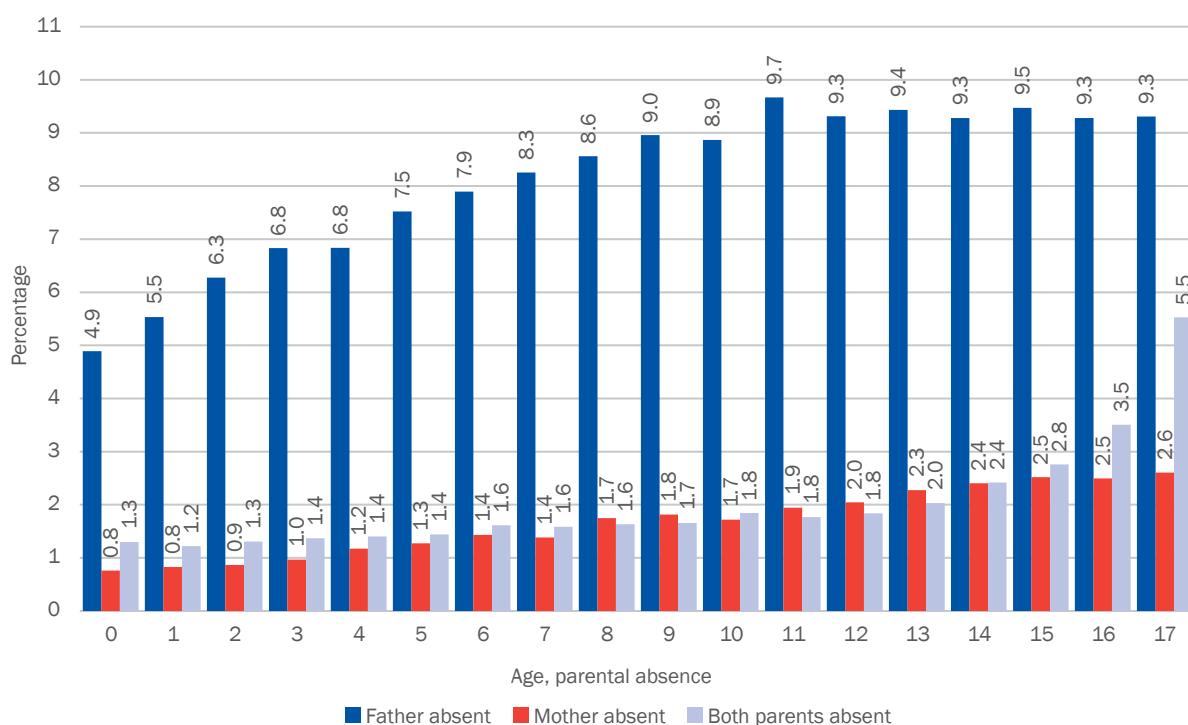
3.2.4 Type of household

Somewhat more than three-quarters of all children live in nuclear households and 21.5 live in extended households (Figure 3.9a). A nuclear household refers to a family unit consisting of a couple – either married or cohabiting – with or without their dependent children, all residing in the same dwelling. In contrast, an "extended household" refers to a household comprising more than just the nuclear family. This includes additional relatives such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins or other kin, who reside together and share household resources. A

[11] The information includes children living in institutional households.

total of 358 thousand children in Albania live in nuclear households, while 98 thousand live in extended households. Note that the percentages for boys and girls 0-17 years are almost the same for both types of household.

Figure 3.9: Children, young people and youth, by sex, and household type

a. Children aged 01-7

b. Young people aged 15-24

c. Youth aged 15-29
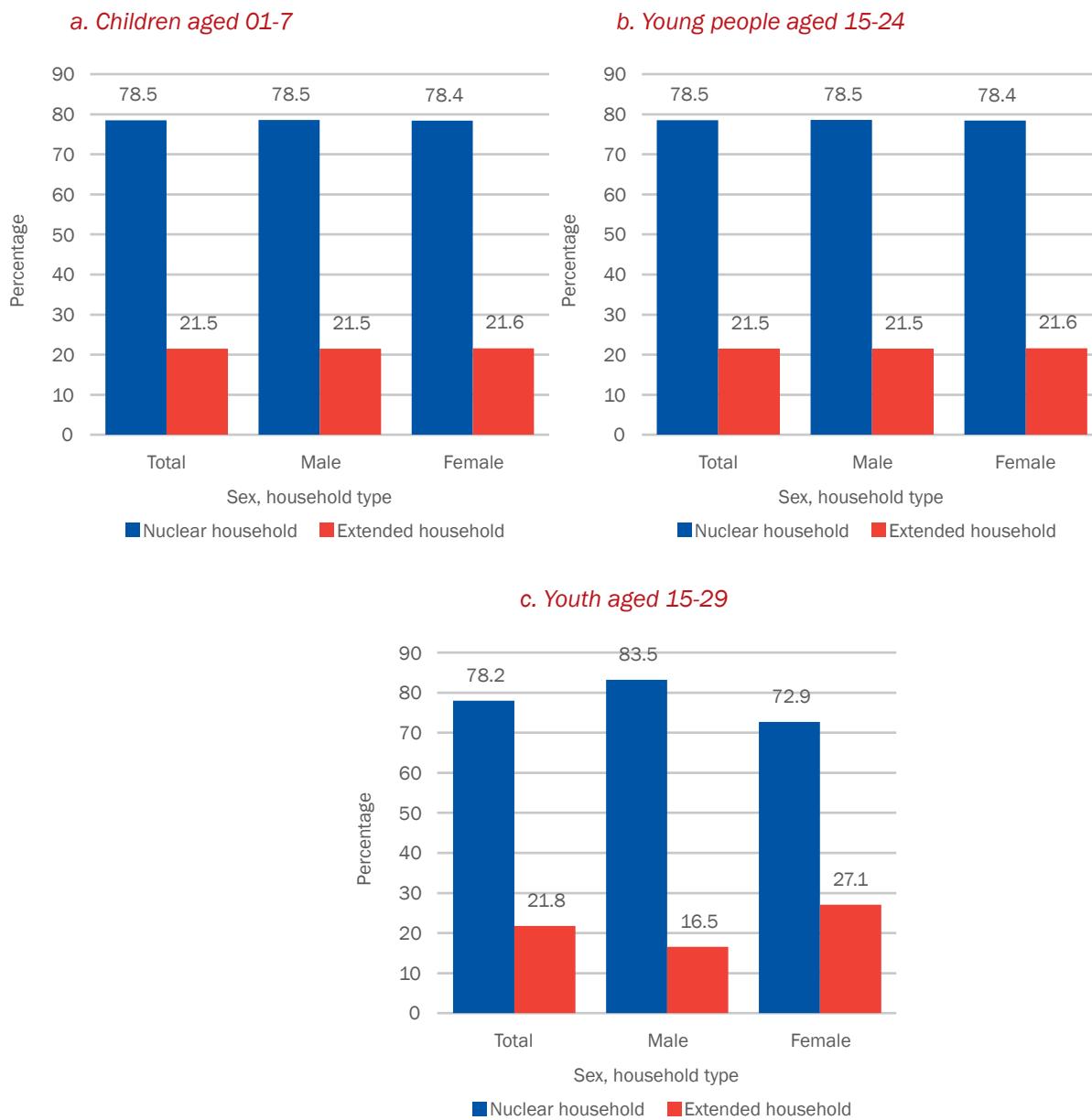
A somewhat higher percentage of young persons than children live in nuclear households (Figure 3.9b). However, compared to children, the difference between the sexes is larger. A much higher rate of men than women live in nuclear households, while more women live in extended households. If women who live in a nuclear household marry and start living with their in-laws, their households change from nuclear to extended. Because of the age differ-ence at marriage between males and females, males may fall outside the age-group 15 -29 which may explain why less males live in extended households than females. More research is needed to determine why a higher percentage of young women reside in extended house-holds compared to young men. Figure 3.9c shows a similar trend for youth aged 15-29. In this age group, 16.5 percent of men live in extended households, compared to 27.1 percent among women.

4. Literacy and education

4.1 Introduction

Literacy and education are universally recognised as foundational pillars for personal development, economic progress and social cohesion. The United Nations has repeatedly emphasised the critical importance of education in global development agendas, most notably through SDG 4,which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. Literacy and education are not only a basic human right but also a powerful enabler of broader educational outcomes. Without literacy and, in the broader sense education, individuals are severely limited in their capacity to engage meaningfully in civic life and access employment opportunities. For instance, in the EU, the 2024 employment rate for people aged 20-64 who had attained tertiary education was 86.5 percent, much higher than the rate for those who had only completed primary or lower secondary education (58.7 percent). A study in The Lancet Public Health provided evidence of the connection between education and life expectancy, illustrating how educational attainment acts as a social determinant of health (Balaj & et al., 2024). For adults aged 18-49, it found an average reduction in mortality risk of 2.9 percent for each additional year of education.

4.2 Literacy and illiteracy

4.2.1 Introduction

In the 2023 census, literacy is based on the self-reported ability to read and write a short statement on everyday life. The age-specific literacy rates are calculated as the number of literate persons in an age group as a percentage of the total population in that age group. Conversely, the illiteracy rate is similarly calculated as the number of illiterate persons in an age group as a percentage of the total population in that age group. The two rates reflect the performance of the primary education system (and any literacy programmes) in a country and the population's potential for intellectual growth and contribution to a society's socioeconomic and cultural development.

Literacy rates are high in Albania. The 2023 census showed almost universal literacy (97.8 percent) for the entire population aged 10 and over. Only in the older age groups over 75 years of age do the literacy rates drop below 95 percent. This may reflect less educational opportunities in the past, but probably more the loss of eyesight or mental abilities at older ages. Gender differences are minimal, again with the exception of the older age groups. While the total population below age 70 does not show a difference in literacy, the literacy rate of women aged 70 and over is 6.1 percentage points lower than that of their male peers. Since the literacy rate in the young population of Albania is well above 99 percent, literacy statistics tend to have little distinctive strength. Therefore, this report focuses on differentiation in illiteracy and identifying pockets of the population with high illiteracy rates.

4.2.2 Literacy and illiteracy in young populations

Table 4.1 shows the literacy status and the literacy and illiteracy rates of the three young population groups by sex. In all populations, literacy is almost universal. The literacy rate for young people aged 15-24[12] is one of the indicators to monitor the achievement of SDG 4 Tar-

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[12] Note that the commonly used name of this indicator is 'youth literacy rate'. Since in this report the age group 15-24 is labelled 'young people' and the term 'youth' is assigned to the age group 15-29, the indicator is referred to as the literacy rate of young people instead of the youth literacy rate.

get 4.6: *By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy* (indicator 4.6.2). It reflects the outcomes of primary education over the previous 10 years or so. According to the 2023 census, this indicator stands at 99.1 percent, with 98.9 percent for males and 99.2 percent for females.

Table 4.1: Young populations, by literacy status, and by sex (in thousands); literacy and illiteracy rate, by sex (in %)

Literacy status and literacy rate	Children aged 10-17			Young people aged 15-24			Youth aged 15-29		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
a. Number (in 1000)									
Total	220.7	114.1	106.6	286.1	141.4	144.8	430.3	214.4	215.9
Literate	219.1	113.2	105.8	283.4	139.8	143.6	425.8	211.9	213.9
Illiterate	1.6	0.9	0.7	2.7	1.5	1.1	4.5	2.6	2.0
b. Literacy and illiteracy rate									
Literacy rate	99.3	99.2	99.3	99.1	98.9	99.2	98.9	98.8	99.1
Iliteracy rate	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9

Despite the almost universal literacy in Albania's young populations, around 1.6 thousand children aged 10-17, 2.7 thousand young people and 4.5 thousand youth were reported as not being able to read and write. This implies overall illiteracy rates of 0.7 percent, 0.9 percent and 1.1 percent for the respective young populations. These figures indicate that there are some population pockets with difficult access to educational opportunities. However, any population has a small number of persons who are unable to read and write because of physical or mental limitations. It is notable that the illiteracy rate of males is consistently somewhat higher than the female illiteracy rate, although the gender gap for children is small. One explanation for the higher illiteracy rates among the male young population is this group's higher disability prevalence compared to the female young population (see section 5.2).

Figure 4.1 shows that since the 2011 census, illiteracy declined for all age groups in the young population. The decrease is progressively smaller from the oldest to the youngest age group, both in absolute and relative terms. While the relative decline for the age group 10-14 was only 1.8 percent, the decline for the 25-29 age group was 18.7 percent.

Figure 4.1: Illiteracy rate of the population aged 10-29 and absolute decrease of illiteracy rate, by census year, and by five-year age group (in %)
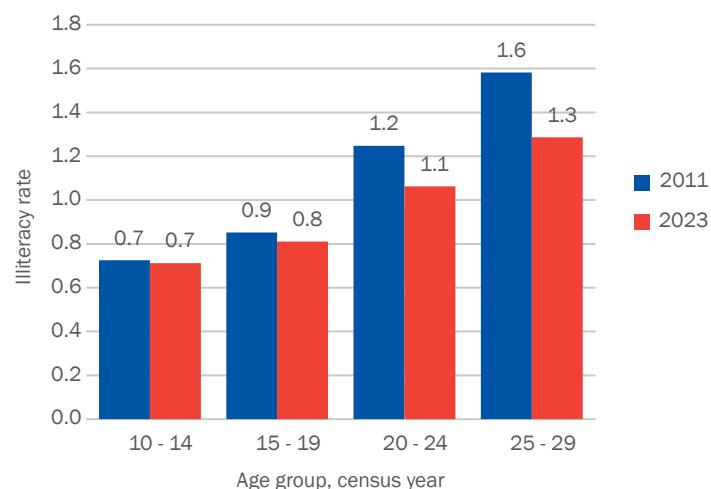
4.2.3 Literacy backgrounds

Figure 4.2 shows the strong association between school attendance and literacy. Whereas the literacy of young persons who have ever attended education is virtually complete, only a

minority of the small group of persons who have never attended education (8.4 thousand persons aged 10 to 29) is able to read and write. Overall, no gender difference can be observed in the literacy rate of young persons without education.

Figure 4.2: Literacy rate of total young population aged 10-29, by ever having attended education, and by five-year age group (in %)
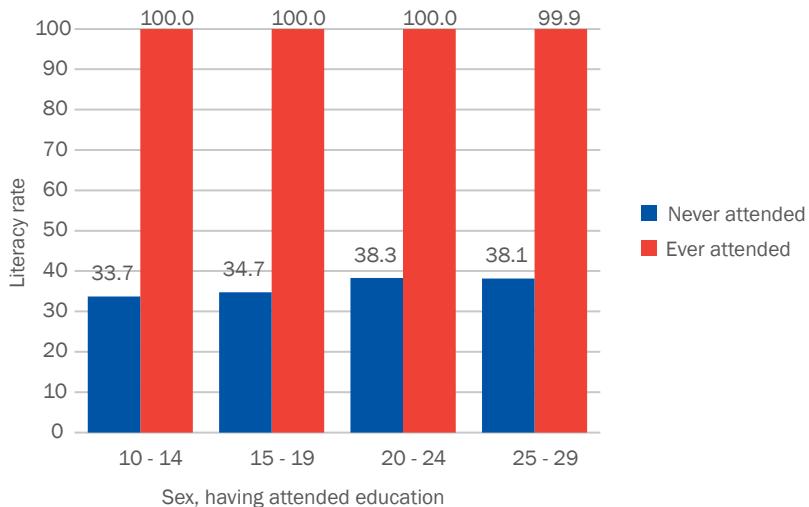
Ethnicity appears to be a strong differentiating factor. As Figure 4.3 shows, illiteracy is higher in the Egyptian young population and particularly high in the Roma population. More than one in four Roma children (27.8 percent) and around one in three young people and youth in the Roma population (33.0 percent and 35.4 percent, respectively) are unable to read and write. Although decreasing illiteracy rates suggest that the situation is improving, the gap with the non-Roma population in Albania is very large. The ethnic Albanian young populations have, by far, the lowest illiteracy rates. Although the differences in Figure 4.3 do not stand out clearly, illiteracy among other ethnic groups and the population for which no ethnicity information is available is around 60 percent higher than that of the ethnic Albanians.

Figure 4.3: Illiteracy rates of young populations, by ethnicity (in %)
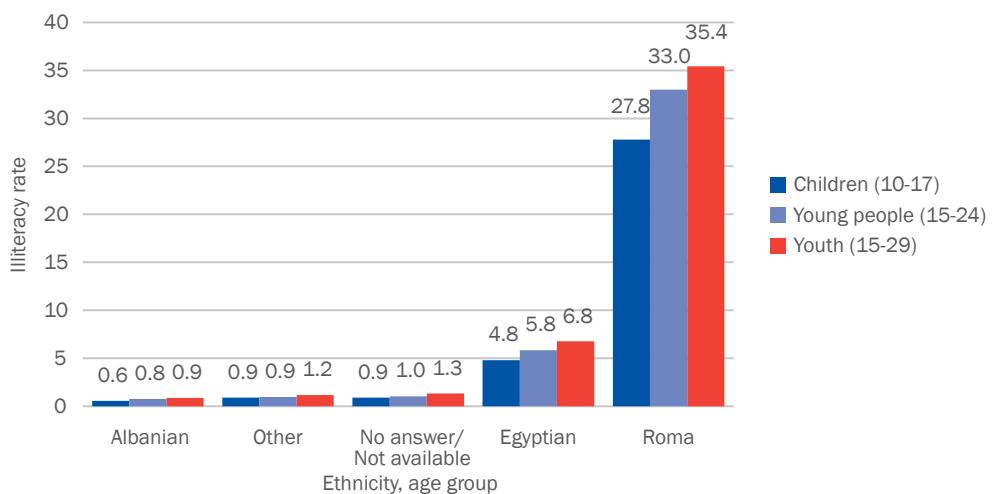
The Roma population also stands out in terms of the illiteracy gender gap . Table 4.2 presents the illiteracy gender parity index (GPI) – calculated as the female illiteracy rate as a percentage of the male illiteracy rate – for the ethnic groups distinguished in this report. In the age group of children, all ethnic minority populations have a parity rate above 100, indicating that girls have higher illiteracy than boys. The disadvantaged situation of Roma girls is the greatest, with girls having a 33.3 percent higher illiteracy than boys. However, also in the 'Other ethnicity' group, girls have significantly higher illiteracy (24.8 percent). On the other hand, in

the ethnic Albanian population, the illiteracy of girls is well below that of boys (78.3 percent). The corresponding illiteracy GPIs for the ethnic groups among the young people and youth populations are more erratic. However, female illiteracy is consistently higher in the Roma population and consistently lower in the ethnic Albanian population.

Table 4.2: Illiteracy gender parity index of young populations, by ethnicity (in %)

Ethnicity	Children aged 10-17	Young people aged 15-24	Youth aged 15-29
Total	86.2	72.8	75.6
Albanian	78.3	67.3	70.3
Egyptian	103.2	107.3	82.4
Roma	133.3	135.6	145.7
Other ethnicity	124.8	69.4	71.8
Prefer not to answer/NA	67.7	57.1	66.0

The wealth status of households is another indicator closely and in a complicated way related to literacy. Less well-off households can invest less in their children's education, including school fees, tutoring, books and learning materials or transport to school, leading to lower literacy rates.

With the construction of a wealth-status variable (see section 1.3), the census data enable the analysis of the relationship between household wealth status and literacy. In the case of children, household wealth will almost exclusively be the causal factor and literacy the outcome. For young people, particularly for youth, the causal relationship may work in both directions. Figure 4.4 clearly shows, as expected, that the quintiles of the highest and second-highest households have very low illiteracy rates for the three young populations. It is a bit surprising that the highest illiteracy rates are found in the second-lowest and middle quintiles, whereas the illiteracy rates in the lowest quintile are around the national average.

Figure 4.4: Illiteracy rates of young populations, by household wealth status (in %)
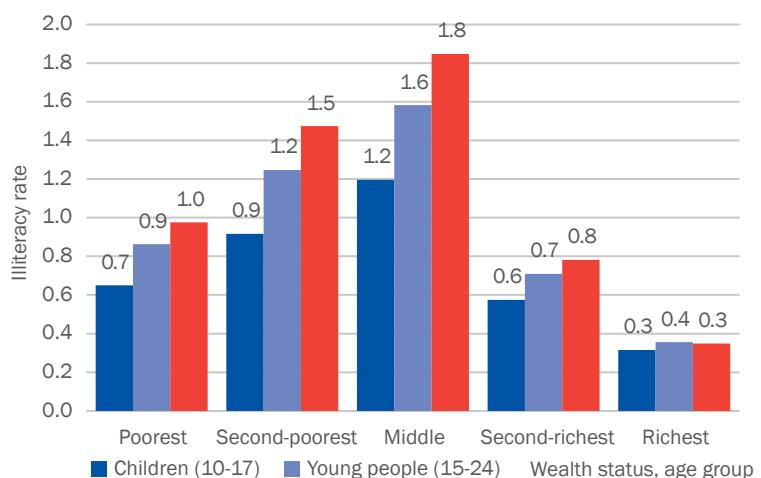
Figure 4.5 visualises the results of a logit regression analysis that identifies which factors increase or decrease a person's likelihood of being illiterate.[13] The chart displays several explanatory variables – such as 'sex' – along with their categories (e.g., 'male' and 'female') that are used to explain the risk of being illiterate. For each variable, one category serves as the reference group (highlighted in grey). All other categories show, with a value and a horizontal bar, the risk of a person of that category to be illiterate, relative to the reference category. If the bar extends to the right and is light blue, it indicates a higher risk of illiteracy than the reference group. If it extends to the left and is darker blue, it indicates a lower risk. Thus,

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[13] Technical backgrounds of logit regressions are given in section 1.3.2.

the figure shows that females have a 15 percent lower risk of being illiterate compared to males. In a regression analysis, this effect reflects the independent impact of being female, after accounting for (or controlling for) all other factors included in the analysis. Some bars are shown in pink. This signals that the associated risk is so large that displaying its full size would distort the graph, making it difficult to distinguish other values. These extreme risks are still noted but truncated to keep the chart readable.

Figure 4.5: Risk of being illiterate for young persons aged 10-29, relative to reference categories, based on logit regression (in %)
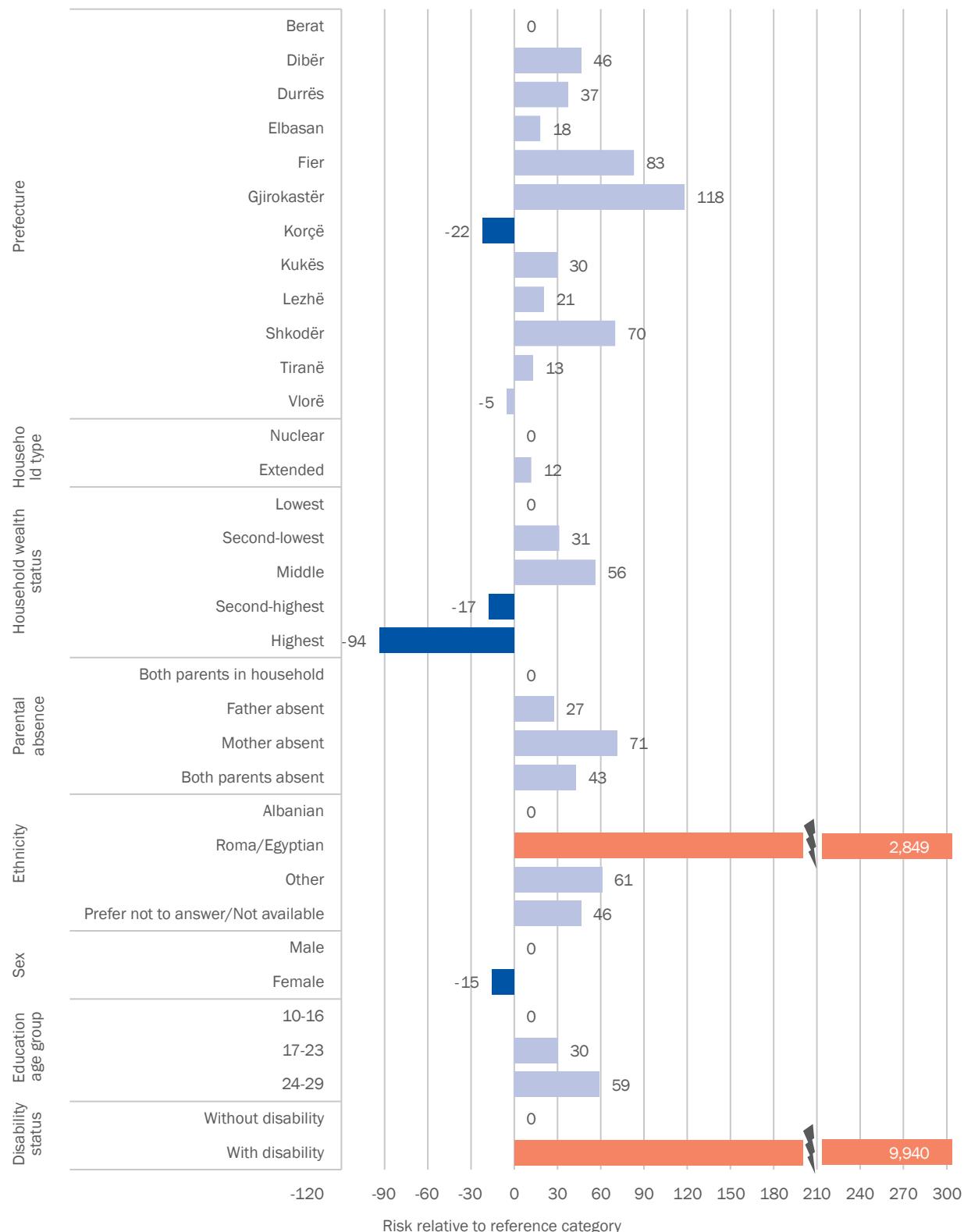
The main conclusions of Figure 4.5 are that living with disabilities[14] and belonging to the Roma/Egyptian community are, by far, the strongest predictors of illiteracy. Young persons with disabilities face a dramatically higher risk: they are almost 100 times more likely to be illiterate than those without disabilities. It should be noted that among young persons, both illiteracy and disability are 'rare events', and small changes in their prevalence could produce different results. Nevertheless, the regression analysis shows that the effect of disability is significantly higher than simple cross-tabulations would suggest, which do not control for other variables. Young Roma/Egyptians also have higher risk, almost 30 times more likely to be illiterate compared to young persons of Albanian ethnicity.

Although the effects of other factors may seem insignificant compared to those of ethnicity and disability, some imply major impediments to being able to read and write. Prefectural differences are marked: individuals living in prefectures like Gjirokaster, Fier and Shkoder face a considerably higher risk of being illiterate compared to those in Berat. Parental absence emerges as a clear disadvantage: the absence of a mother, in particular, is associated with a much higher risk of illiteracy, 71 percent higher than in households where both parents are present. Age is also influential, with older youth (ages 17-29) more likely to be illiterate than children aged 10-16, possibly reflecting historical improvements in education access and quality.

Relatively minor effects are found for sex and household type. Still, after controlling for other variables, girls and young women are 15 percent less likely to be illiterate than boys and young men and those living in extended households are slightly more at risk (12 percent) than those in nuclear households. Contrary to expectations, higher household wealth does not consistently reduce the risk of illiteracy among 10-29 years olds. In fact, only young persons from the households in the second-highest and, particularly, the highest quintiles show a notably lower risk than those in the lowest.

4.2.4 Literacy at the sub-national level

The prefectural pattern of literacy and illiteracy is mostly consistent for all three young populations.

Figure 4.6a-c shows that Fier, Gjirokaster and Diber are consistently the prefectures with the highest illiteracy rates and Tirana and Vlore are consistently among the prefectures with the lowest illiteracy rates. As shown in the figures at the national level, illiteracy among children is substantially lower than that among young people and youth. The child illiteracy pattern also differs from that of the older populations in that the variation across prefectures is much smaller. Whereas the highest illiteracy rate of children (Fier, 1.1 percent) is 2.0 times as high as the lowest (Vlore, 0.6 percent), the highest illiteracy rates of young people and youth (both in Gjirokaster) are 2.8 times as high as the lowest rates (both in Tirana). This is an indication that prefectures where education lagged in the past are catching up with the more developed prefectures in the country.

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[14] Persons with disabilities are defined as those who have a lot of difficulty with or cannot do at all on at least one of the six functional domains included in the census: seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, and self-care.

Figure 4.6: Illiteracy rates of young populations, by region (in %)

a. Children aged 10-17
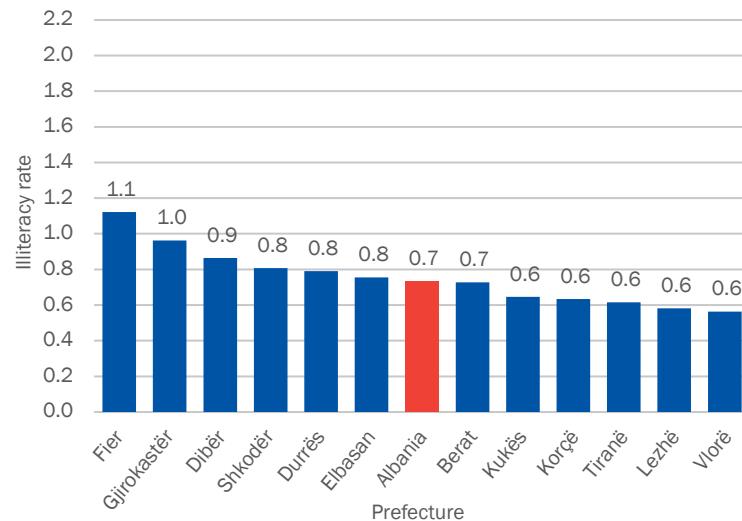
b. Young people aged 15-24
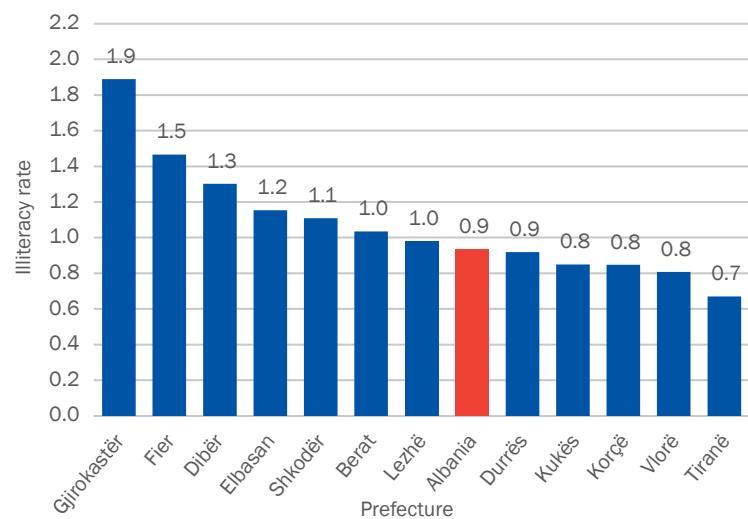
c. Youth aged 15-29
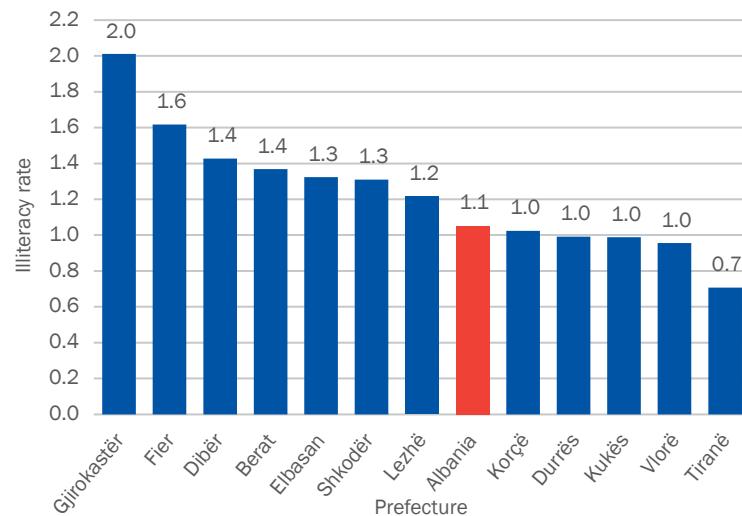
At the municipality level, the variation in (il)literacy is larger. Figure 4.7 shows the illiteracy rate of children aged 10-17 by municipality. The majority of municipalities have rates that centre around the national average of the country (0.7 percent). However, there are a few notable outliers, with illiteracy rates exceeding 2 percent. This can be explained by the very small population in some municipalities, in which a single additional person recorded as illiterate makes a significant impact on the illiteracy rate. Table III.f in Annex III presents the illiteracy rates for all three young population groups by municipality.

Figure 4.7: Illiteracy rates of children aged 10-17, by municipality (in %)
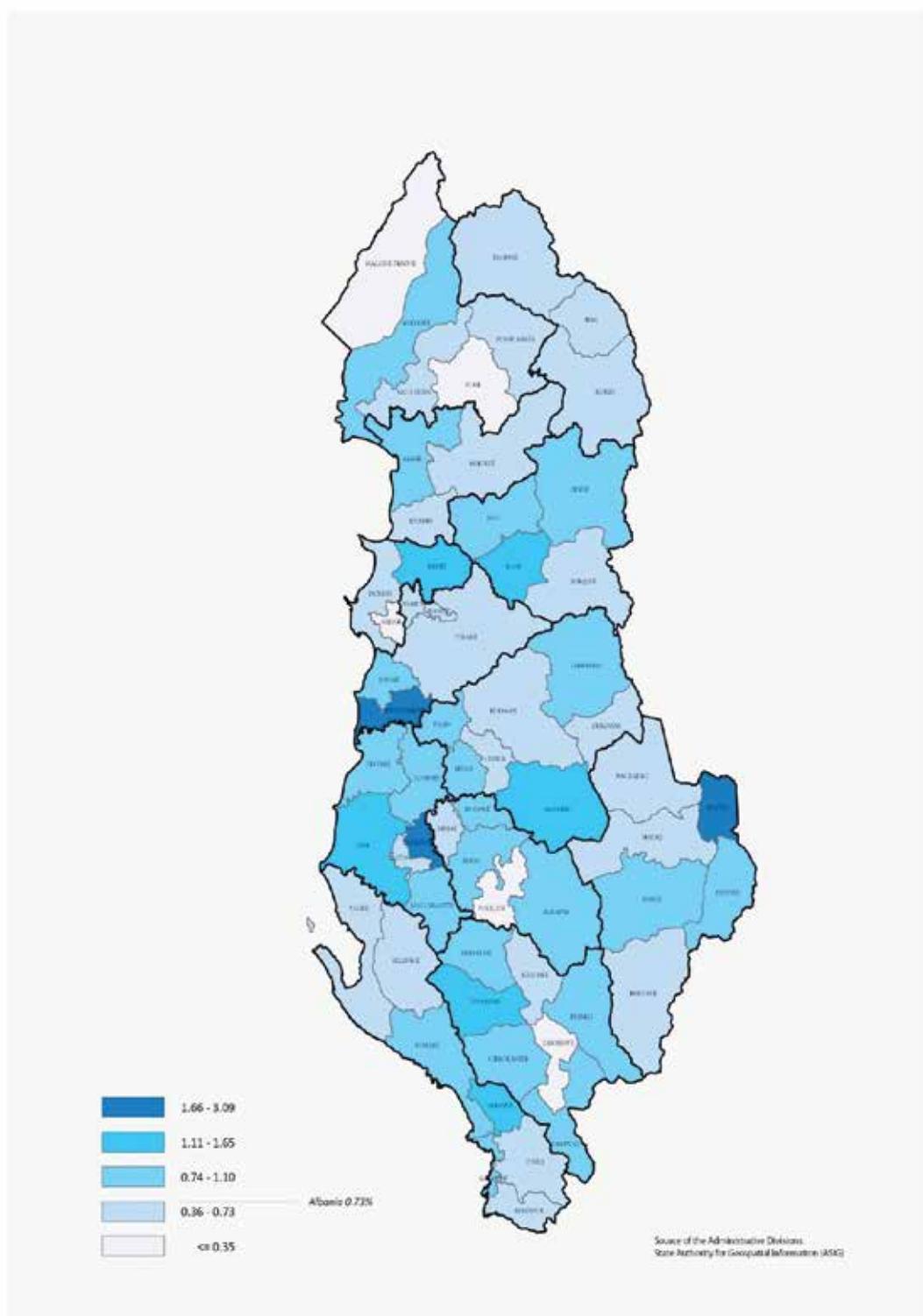
4.3 Educational attendance

4.3.1 The educational system in Albania

Albania's education system is divided into four levels. A – somewhat simplified – description of the education system is as follows:

- *Preschool learning*. This non-compulsory education level includes
- Nursery for children aged 0-3
- Kindergarten for children aged 3-6.
- *Basic education*. This nine-year level of compulsory education, with grades 1-9 for children aged 6 to 14, consists of two cycles:
- Primary education of five years (grades 1-5, age 6-10), which focuses on foundational literacy, numeracy and basic knowledge.
- Lower secondary education of four years (grades 6-9, age 11-14), which expands on earlier knowledge and introduces more specialised subjects.
- *Upper secondary education*. This is a three-year level of non-compulsory education, with grades 10-12 for children aged 15-17.[15]
- *Higher (tertiary) education*. This includes programmes at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

4.3.2 Age-specific attendance rates

The age-specific education attendance rate are calculated as the age-specific percentage of persons who attended education at the time of the 2023 census. Figure 4.8 presents the age-specific education attendance rates (including nursery and kindergarten attendance) for the entire young population aged 0-29. The ages associated with the levels of education are indicated with different colours: darkest blue for preschool age, dark blue for basic education age, middle blue for upper-secondary education age and light blue for tertiary education age and beyond.

The rate rapidly increases for children from 0 to 3 years old, at the age when children can enter kindergarten. For the entire basic-education period, the attendance rates are high and stable, apart from very small fluctuations. However, a downward linear trend line[16] suggests that, over the span of nine years, approximately 1.3 percent of children leave education system. Attrition of attendance is more pronounced in the upper-secondary education age group. The rate drops from 95.3 percent at age 14 (associated with the last compulsory grade of basic education) to 87.6 percent at age 17 (associated with the last, non-compulsory grade of upper-secondary education). Over the ages associated with tertiary education (18-22) and beyond, attendance rates rapidly decline. The low, but significant, attendance levels beyond age 22 indicate persons who start late or again with a university study, or those who want to finish an uncompleted tertiary or even secondary education, for instance, by enrolling in online or part-time programmes.

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[15] Upper-secondary education has parallel curricula for (a) general education (gymnasium), preparing students for university, (b) vocational education and training, equipping students with specific skills for the labour market, and (c) "oriented" secondary education (artistic schools, sports schools, foreign language schools, etc.). Some curricula have four grades.

[16] Trend line is not shown. The trend-line equation is $y = -0.1446x + 97.245$

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Figure 4.8: Age-specific education attendance rate of the young population, by age (in %)[a]
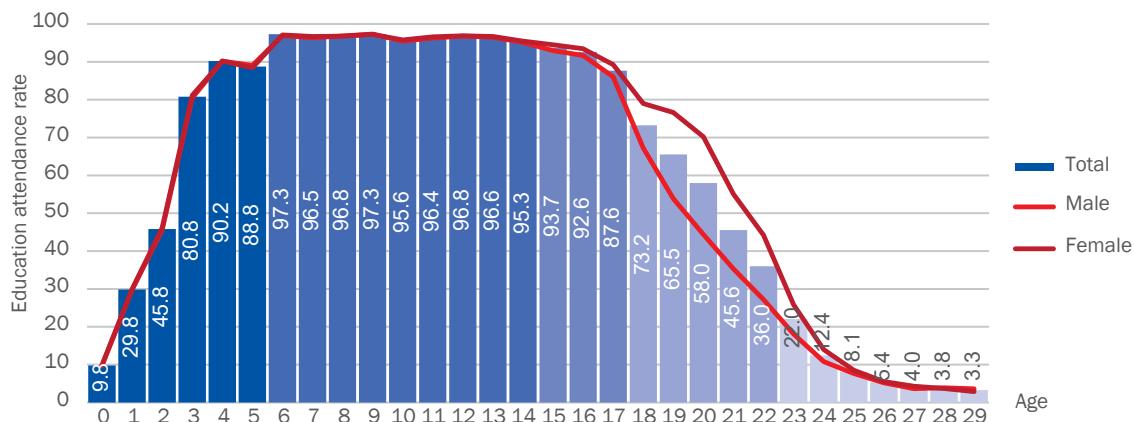
ᵃ Including attendance at nursery and kindergarten.

Gender differences in educational attendance rates are notable in Figure 4.8. During the ages associated with preschool and basic education, differences are hardly visible, but they start diverging during the ages associated with upper-secondary education. The figure suggests that a lower continuation rate from basic to upper-secondary education and/or a higher dropout rate among boys explain the divergence. However, the gender gap particularly widens at the age associated with starting tertiary education (age 18) and even more at the ages associated with subsequent years of tertiary education, when many more women than men continue their education. Beyond the age associated with tertiary education, the gender gap closes again.

The education attendance rate for children aged 6-17 of 95.1 percent shows a very small difference of 0.7 percentage points between boys and girls (Figure 4.9). On the other hand, the gender gap between youth and young people is more pronounced. The absolute differences of 10.7 and 7.8 percentage points, respectively, imply, for both populations, that females have more than 20 percent higher attendance rates than males.

Figure 4.9: Education attendance rate of children aged 6-17, young people and youth, by sex (in %)
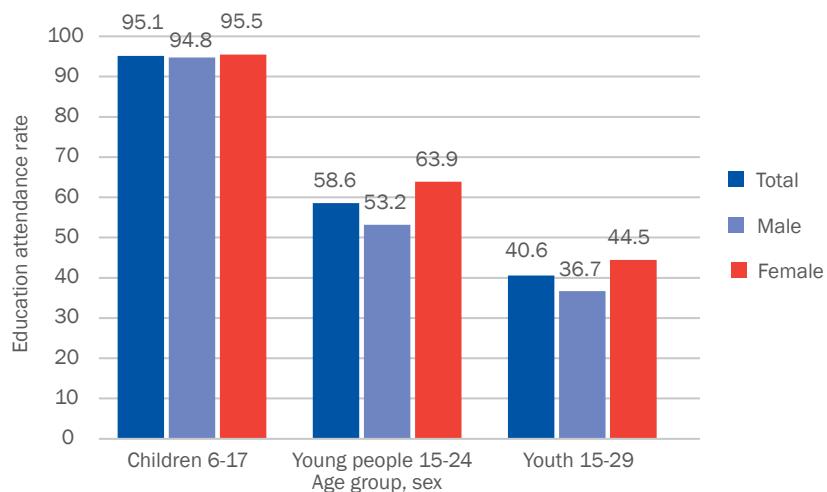
Figure 4.10 and Table 4.3 present the overall education attendance rates at the prefecture level for the three young populations distinguished in this report. They show considerable regional differences, especially for young people and youth. Thus, the attendance rate of children aged 6-17 in the prefecture with the lowest attendance rate (Diber) is almost 9 percent lower than that of the prefecture with the highest attendance rate (Tirana). Diber is also the prefecture with the lowest attendance rates for young people and youth, with rates around 34 percent below the prefecture with the highest attendance rate for these age groups (Gjiro-

kaster). It is notable that the differences in education attendance rates between the prefectures are much larger for females than for males.

Figure 4.10: Education attendance rates of children aged 6-17, young people and youth, by region (in %)

a. Children aged 10-17

b. Young people aged 15-24

c. Youth aged 15-29
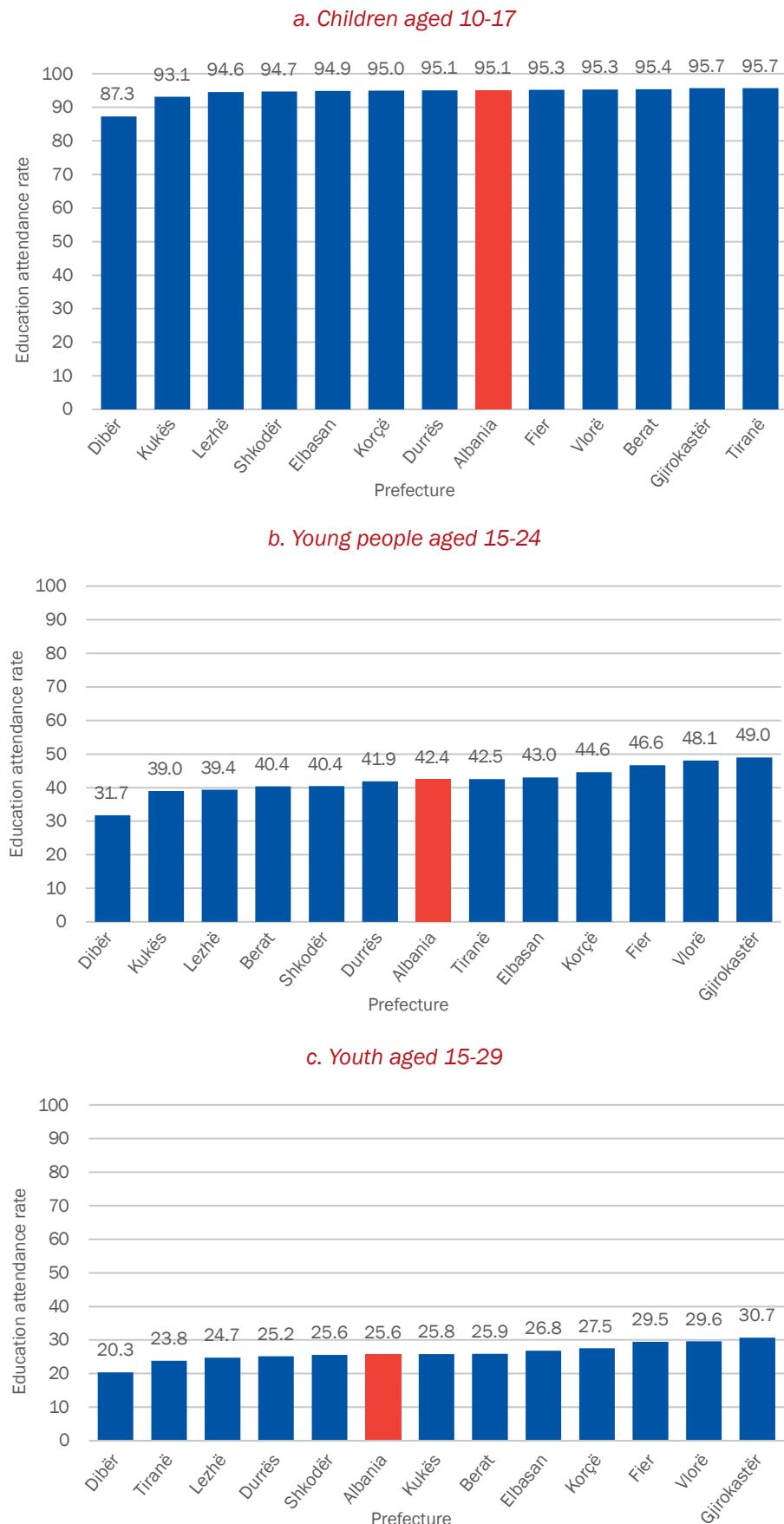
Table 4.3, it can be determined that the prefecture with the lowest rate is 7.3 percent lower than the prefecture with the highest rate for boys and 10.5 percent lower for girls. For young people, the differences between lowest and highest prefecture rates are 32.1 percent for males and 39.3 percent for males; for youth, these are 30.2 percent and 38.2 percent, respectively.

Table 4.3: Education attendance rates of children aged 6-17, young people and youth, by sex (in %)

Prefecture	Children 6-17			Young people 15-24			Youth 15-29		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Albania	95.1	94.8	95.4	42.4	41.2	43.9	25.6	25.7	25.6
Berat	95.4	95.1	95.7	40.4	39.8	41.0	25.9	26.1	25.6
Dibër	87.3	88.6	86.0	31.7	30.8	32.8	20.3	20.2	20.5
Durrës	95.1	94.6	95.5	41.9	41.2	42.8	25.2	25.6	24.7
Elbasan	94.9	94.4	95.3	43.0	39.9	47.0	26.8	25.0	29.0
Fier	95.3	95.1	95.5	46.6	45.1	48.6	29.5	29.0	30.1
Gjirokastër	95.7	95.4	96.0	49.0	45.4	54.0	30.7	28.9	33.2
Korçë	95.0	94.8	95.2	44.6	41.6	48.6	27.5	26.1	29.4
Kukës	93.1	93.0	93.3	39.0	37.4	41.0	25.8	25.2	26.6
Lezhë	94.6	94.2	95.0	39.4	37.0	42.4	24.7	23.8	25.8
Shkodër	94.7	94.3	95.1	40.4	39.6	41.4	25.6	25.6	25.5
Tiranë	95.7	95.5	96.0	42.5	42.8	42.2	23.8	25.4	22.3
Vlorë	95.3	95.2	95.4	48.1	45.0	52.0	29.6	28.4	31.0

Education attendance rates in Vlore and Gjirokaster are consistently among the highest, while those in Diber, Lezhe and Kukes are generally found among the lowest. It is interesting to note that the attendance rates for the young populations in Tirana show a large variation compared to the other prefectures. Whereas children aged 6-17 in Tirana have the highest education attendance rate of all prefectures, the rate of young people in Tirana is only just above the national average, and the attendance rate of youth in Tirana (23.8 percent) is even among the prefectures with the lowest youth attendance rates. Given the presence of the major tertiary education institutions in Tirana, the latter is a bit surprising. One explanation for this finding could be found in the distribution of employment opportunities across the prefectures, with Tirana offering the most. In prefectures with fewer employment opportunities, people may be inclined to pursue longer education or move to Tirana to find a job. Both strategies have the effect of reducing the education attendance rate in Tirana, compared to other prefectures.

School life expectancy

The education attendance rates can be used to calculate the school life expectancy, the number of years of formal education a person of a specific age can expect to receive in the future, assuming that the probability of his or her attending education at any particular age is equal to the current attendance rates for that age.[17] The 2023 census data indicate that a child of six years old entering basic (primary) education can expect to receive, on average, 14.2 years of formal education.[18] A six-year-old girl can expect to receive one more year of education than her male peer, 14.7 years against 13.7 years. These figures imply an improvement from the situation captured in the 2011 census, when the education life expectancy for children

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[17] Preferably, the school life expectancy is based on enrolment rates instead of attendance rates, but that information is not available in the census. Here, the school life expectancy is calculated as the sum of the age-specific attendance rates for primary up to tertiary education.

[18] Note that the expected number of years of education received is not necessarily the same as the expected number of grades of education completed, due to repetition.

aged six in the 2011 census was 13.8 years, and that of boys and girls 13.7 and 14.0 years, respectively (INSTAT, 2015). A child at the age of 15, associated with the start of upper-secondary education, can expect to receive, on average, 5.5 years of education, compared to 5.2 years in 2011 (*ibid*.). At the age associated with the start of tertiary education (age 18), a person can expect to receive, on average, 2.8 years of education. At each of these ages, the gender gap in school life expectancy is one year in favour of girls.

Early childhood education

Early childhood education is important, as it lays the foundation for a child's lifelong learning, development and well-being. Interaction with other children and adults in this life stage develops cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills, and provides exposure to richer language environments that boosts vocabulary. Research across the world has shown that children enrolled in at least one year of pre-primary education are more likely to develop the critical skills they need to succeed in school and less likely to repeat grades or drop out.

Table 4.4 presents the number of children attending or not attending pre-school education, either in nurseries or kindergartens.[19] SDG Indicator 4.2.2 – the participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex – is part of SDG 4, specifically under Target 4.2: *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education*. It is defined as the percentage of children in the given age range who participate in one or more organised learning programmes, including programmes which offer a combination of education and care. For Albania, this refers to the percentage of children of age five who attended kindergarten. With 21.3 thousand children attending kindergarten out of a total of 24.0 thousand five-year-olds, the indicator stands at 88.8 percent.[20] This is a little below the 2023 average rate of the EU and Europe as a whole, but above countries in the prefecture for which information is available (see Figure 4.11). For boys and girls, the percentage is 89.1 and 88.4 percent, respectively.

Table 4.4: Children aged 0-5, by age, and by attendance status (in thousands); attendance rate, by age (in %)

Age	Attending			Not attending	Attendance rate
	Total	Nursery	Kindergarten		
Total	160.7	32.8	49.5	78.5	51.2
0	21.1	2.1	0.0	19.1	9.8
1	21.5	6.4	0.0	15.1	29.8
2	23.2	10.6	0.0	12.6	45.8
3	23.3	13.7	5.2	4.5	80.8
4	22.7	0.0	20.5	2.2	90.2
5	24.0	0.0	21.3	2.7	88.8

[19] It should be noted that nurseries are not part of the education system, but are governed by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and administered by the municipalities.
[20] This is below the figure published for 2022 by INSTAT (92.7 percent) (INSTAT, 2025)and the figure published for 2023 by UNESCO (94.4 percent) (UNESCO, Institute for Statistics, 2025), which are based on administrative data and enrolment information.

Figure 4.11: Attendance rates in organised learning one year before the official primary entry, by country or region (in %)[a]
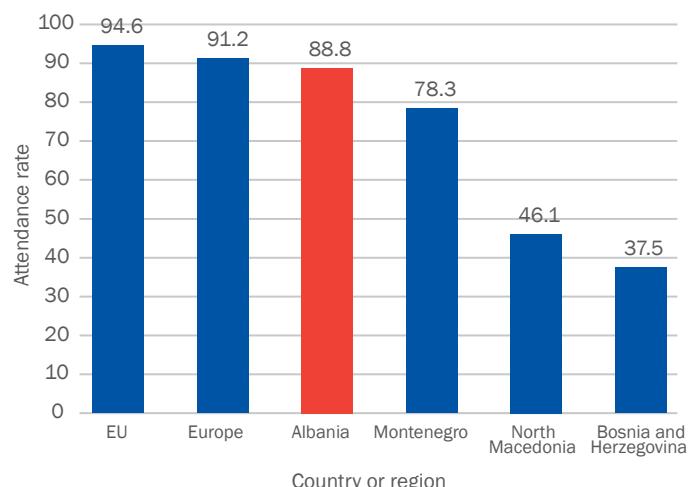
[a] Data sources: EU, Montenegro and North Macedonia – Eurostat database (Eurostat, 2025); Europe and Bosnia and Herzegovina – United Nations (UNDESA, 2025a).

Net attendance rate and gross attendance ratio

The net attendance rate and gross attendance ratio are key indicators for education planning and assessing the performance of the education system in a country. They provide complementary insights into education participation and allow for standardised international comparisons, and together help diagnose challenges and guide targeted education policies for inclusive and effective learning opportunities.

The net attendance rate (NAR) is the percentage of children or youth of the official age group for a given level of education who are actually attending school at that level.[21] A high NAR – close to 100 percent – indicates effective age-grade alignment, suggesting children start and progress through school on time. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) measures the total attendance at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.[22] Compared to the NAR, the GAR captures the broader demand on the education system. It is used to measure overall school participation at a specific education level, regardless of age discrepancies, and indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of a particular age group. It is also particularly relevant to identify infrastructure and staffing needs, since it reflects the total demand on the education system.

Table 4.5 presents the NAR for the different levels of education. The difference between the specified rate and 100 percent indicates the percentage of persons who are not in education at all or attend a lower or higher level than expected due to grade repetition, or early or late entry. For instance, the total NAR for lower secondary education of 87.6 percent suggests that 12.4 percent of children aged 11-14 (lower-secondary school age) are not attending the education level associated with their age. They were either attending primary or upper-secondary education, or were entirely out of school (having dropped out or never started school). As can be expected, the NAR decreases with each level of education, with tertiary education accommodating close to half the persons with tertiary-education age (18-22).[23]

In basic education – including primary and lower-secondary education – the NARs of boys and girls are similar, which is reflected in GPIs close to 100 percent. The GPI for upper sec-

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[21] The NAR is calculated as the number of students of official age for a given education level attending that level, divided by the total population of that age group, expressed as a percentage.

[22] The GAR is calculated as the total number of people attending a given education level, regardless of age, divided by the population of the official age group for that level, expressed as a percentage.

[23] The NER for tertiary education is a less pertinent indicator because of the variation in the duration of programmes at this level of education.

ondary education is somewhat above 100 percent (102.5 percent), indicating that relatively more girls than boys aged 15-17 attend upper-secondary school. The gender balance is further distorted at the level of tertiary education, where almost 70 percent more women than men of the expected age attend education.

Table 4.5: Net attendance rates and gross attendance ratios, by level of education, and by sex; gender parity indices, by level of education (in %)

Attendance indicator, Education level	Sex			GPI
	Total	Male	Female	
Net attendance rate				
Basic	89.1	89.0	89.1	100.2
Primary	90.3	90.4	90.2	99.8
Lower secondary	87.6	87.4	87.9	100.7
Upper secondary	82.3	81.3	83.4	102.5
Tertiary	47.6	34.9	59.4	169.9
Gross attendance ratio				
Basic	97.1	97.7	96.5	98.8
Primary	95.7	96.4	95.0	98.5
Lower secondary	98.7	99.1	98.3	99.2
Upper secondary	102.4	104.9	99.8	95.1
Tertiary	62.6	48.5	75.7	156.1

Most of the GARs presented in Table 4.5 are below 100 percent. A GAR below 100 percent implies that a portion of the school-age population for a particular level of education is not attending school, regardless of whether they are the correct age for that level. The relatively low ratio for primary school (95.7 percent) is partly due to a substantial number of six-year-olds who still attended kindergarten. The gross attendance ratios for lower-secondary school and basic education overall are closer to 100 percent, indicating a high degree of participation and the capacity of the education system to accommodate its school-age population at this level. On the other hand, the ratio of 102.5 percent for upper-secondary education is an indication that a number of students are either repeating grades or entered late or early into the level of education. The GAR for tertiary education can serve as a substitute for the enrolment-based SDG 4 indicator 4.3.2 to measure the progress to achieve Target 4.3: *By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university*. The figure from the 2023 census of 62.6 percent implies a substantial improvement compared to that of the 2011 census (52 percent) (INSTAT, 2015).

The gender parity indices (GPIs) of most NARs and GARs are close to 100, indicating similar attendance patterns for males and females. The exceptions are the GPIs for tertiary education. These again point to a significantly higher attendance of women at this education level, which underlies the higher tertiary, female attainment level, as reported in section 4.4.2.

A high GAR does not mean that all those attending are within the official age group. More particularly, a combination of a high GAR and a low NAR suggests that a significant number of students are either repeating grades or entering late or early into the level of education. Figure 4.12 shows the percentage of students whose age does not correspond to the level of education attended. The vast majority of these have an age higher than the official age of the education level attended. The percentage that is not in the education level corresponding to their age increases with level: roughly one in 20, one in ten, one in five and one in four for the respective education levels from primary to tertiary. The figure also shows that girls and women more often proceed through the education system in line with the official school age than boys and men.

Figure 4.12: Percentage of students with an age not corresponding to the education level attended
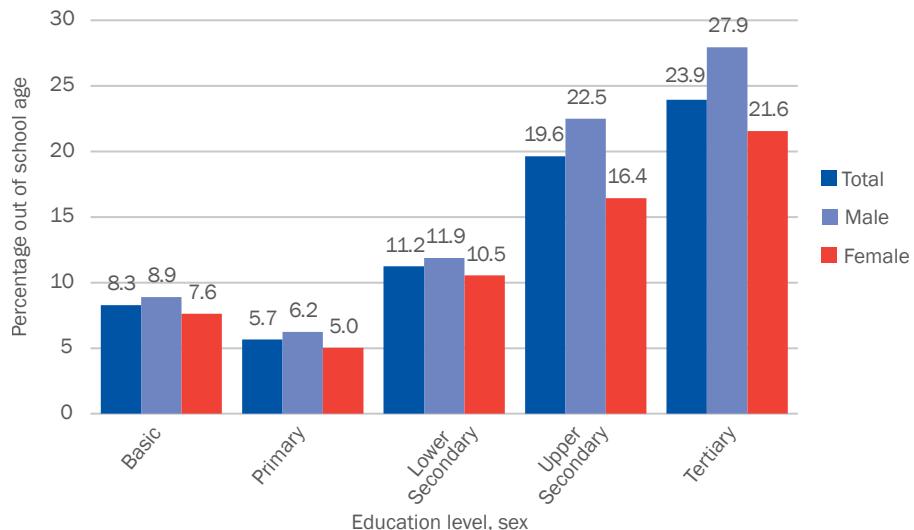
Children not attending education

SDG 4 indicator 4.1.4 for the out-of-school rate measures the progress towards 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*, based on the enrolment information. It highlights the percentage of children of education age who are completely left out of the education system, although they may have attended education before. In this report, the out-of-school rate refers to the percentage of children within the official age group for a specific level of education who were not attending education at any level at the time of the census.

As Figure 4.13 shows, 3.5 percent of children of basic-education school age (age 6-14) are not attending compulsory education. This represents 8.3 thousand children, 4.4 thousand boys and 3.9 thousand girls. Within basic education, the out-of-school rates at lower-secondary education are a little higher than those at primary education. Out-of-school rates at upper-secondary education are more than double as high and higher for boys than for girls. In total, 7.3 thousand children of upper-secondary school age are out of school, 4.2 thousand boys and 3.1 thousand girls.

Figure 4.13: Out-of-school rate, by education level, and by sex (in %)
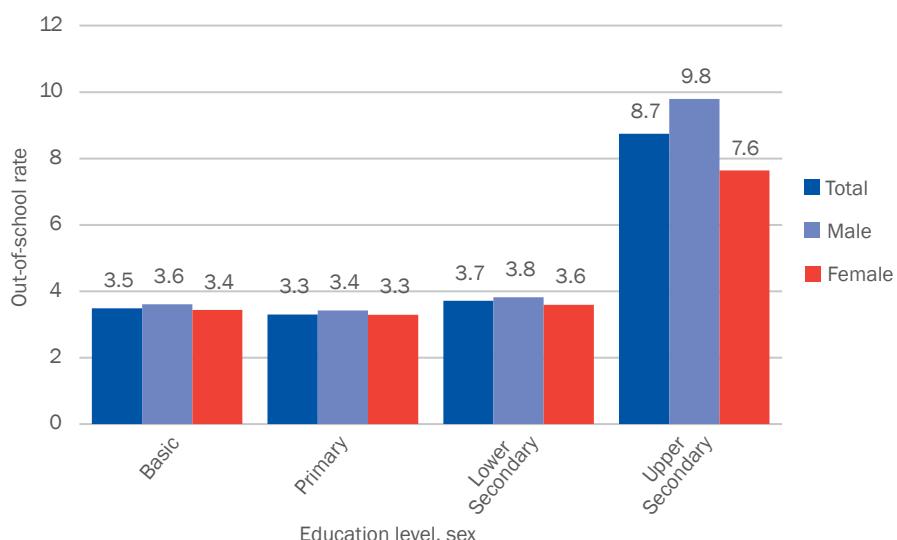
Only a very small percentage of the entire young-persons population have never attended education. The figures for children, young people and youth are 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 percent. This represents 4.1, 4.1 and 7.0 thousand persons, respectively. The increasing percentages for

the subsequently older populations indicate that attendance levels have increased over time. For all young populations, the percentage of males who never attended education is higher than the female percentage.

4.3.3 Backgrounds of educational attendance

Attendance of young persons aged six and over

Several background characteristics seem to play a role in educational attendance of the young population of Albania. The wealth status of the household is positively associated with the attendance rate of all young populations (Figure 4.14). For children aged 6-17, who are in the official age group of primary and secondary education, the effect is small. The largest effect is observed among young people aged 15-24, who are, for the most part, in the official age group of upper-secondary and tertiary education. The percentage of young people attending education from the highest quintile (68.8 percent) is 16.5 percentage points higher than that from the lowest quintile (52.3 percent). It is interesting to note that there is hardly any difference between males and females from the households in the highest quintile, but the difference becomes increasingly pronounced among the less well-off households (sex-specific information not shown). Thus, 58.5 percent of young females from the households in the lowest quintile attend education, but only 46.4 percent of young males from the lowest-quintile households. It is likely that the primary effect of household wealth is situated in prolonged education at the tertiary level, which is more accessible for young people from better-off households. The effect is somewhat less among youth. This includes the additional age group 25-29, who mostly completed their education and entered the labour market.

Figure 4.14: Percentage of children, young people and youth attending education, by household wealth status
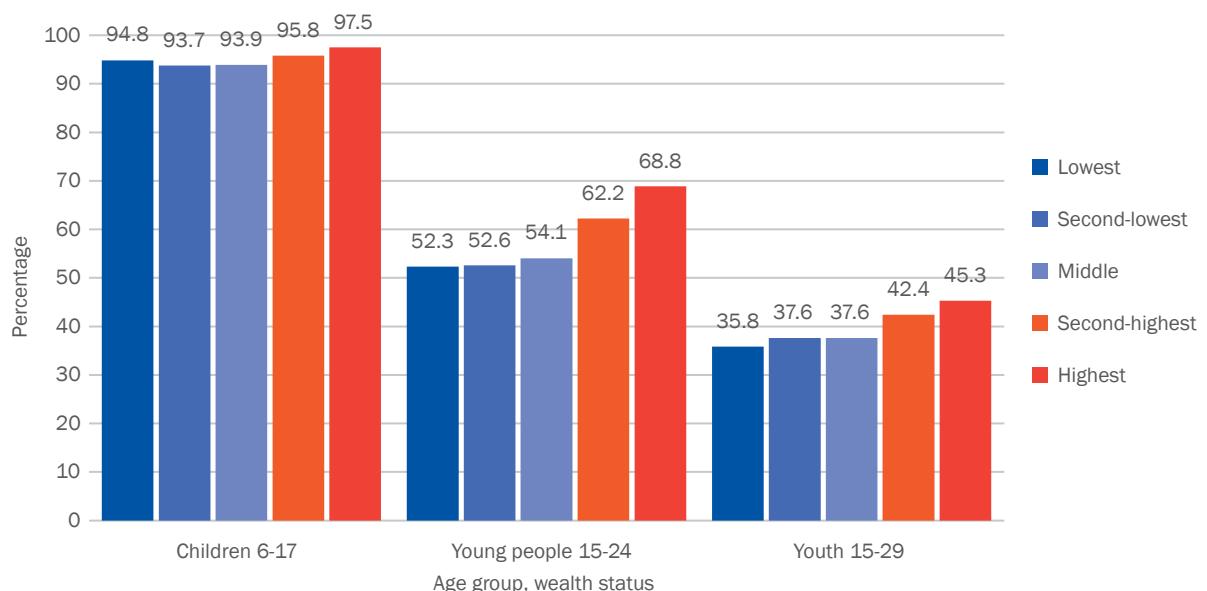
The body of research on intergenerational education performance generally shows a positive effect of the mother's educational attainment on the school performance of their children (Utsinger, 2020). This effect operates through several interrelated pathways, such as the valuation of education, more resources to support education, better child health and delayed marriage. The 2023 census results strongly support a positive effect of maternal education: Figure 4.15 shows that with each higher level of the mother's educational attainment, the percentage of children not attending education decreases.[24] Non-attendance of children is 10 times higher for mothers with no completed education level, compared to those with any level of tertiary education completed. For most levels of maternal education, the effect on

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24   This analysis refers only to children whose mother is part of the household.

girls' and boys' school attendance is similar. The exception is mothers who have primary education as the highest completed level. Here, the percentage of boys not attending education (14.5 percent) is notably higher than that of girls (11.4 percent).

Figure 4.15: Percentage of children aged 6-17 not attending education, by the mother's level of educational attainment, and by sex of the child
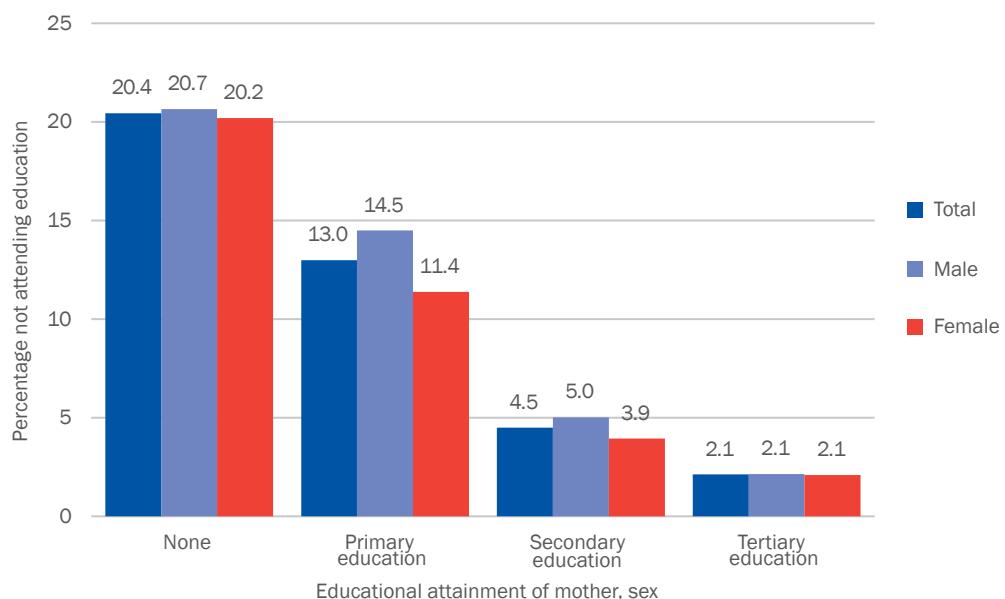
Earlier research on migration from Albania found evidence of a negative effect of parental absence on the school attendance of children (Giannelli & Mangiavacchi, 2010). The 2023 census data support this finding, especially finding lower attendance rates if the mother is absent.

Figure 4.16 shows that the father's absence from the household seems to have a small, but significant, negative effect on the school attendance of children. However, the figure suggests a much larger effect of the mother's absence: children whose mother is absent from the household are twice as likely to be out of school as children in households where both parents are present (9.6 against 4.5 percent). Children with both parents absent are even three times more likely to be out of school (14.0 percent). Perhaps older girls act as caretakers for younger siblings, thus preventing them from continuing their education. More in-depth research is required to understand why the absence of both parents particularly affects girls.

Figure 4.16: Percentage of children aged 6-17 not attending education, by parental absence from the household, and by sex of the child
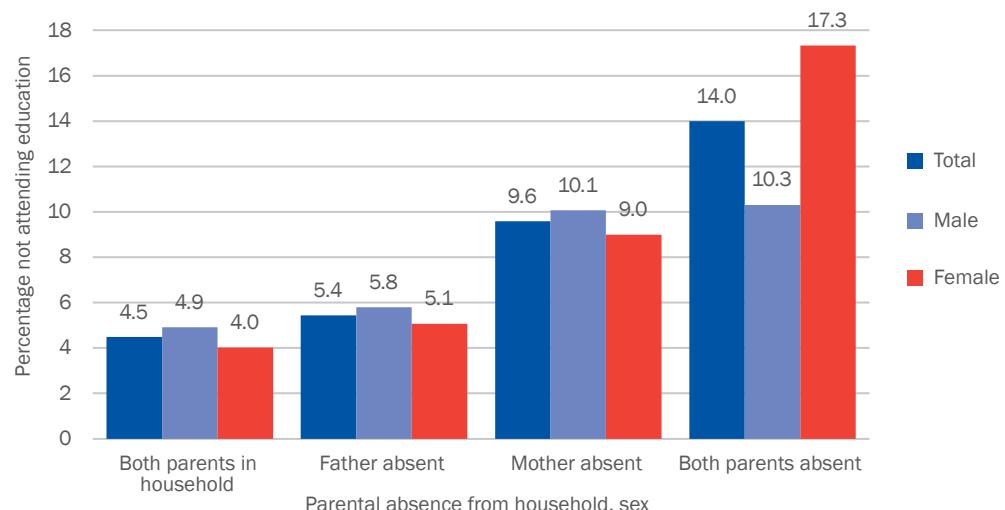
Figure 4.17 visualises the results of a logit regression analysis that identifies which factors increase or decrease a person's likelihood of not attending education.[25] The analysis was restricted to the ages associated with primary to tertiary education (ages 6-22). The age groups for the analysis are chosen to coincide with the subsequent levels of education.

The graph shows that non-attendance in education – as is the case with illiteracy (Figure 4.5) – is strongly shaped by disability and ethnicity. Young persons from the Roma/Egyptian community and persons with disabilities have risks of not attending education that are around 6 times higher than those of ethnic Albanians and persons without disabilities, respectively. This again underscores their vulnerable position in society.

Age and marital status are even stronger predictors of not attending education. The age groups clearly indicate the termination of education after compulsory lower-secondary education and, more so, at the tertiary-education age. Youth of upper-secondary-education age have a risk of not attending education that is 1.6 times higher than children of primary-school age. For youth of tertiary-education age, this risk is even more than 24 times as high. The very high risk of ever-married persons[26] not attending education (more than 12 times higher than never-married persons) underlines that for many people, irrespective of gender, educational and marital careers are incompatible. Marriage may signal a change in life priorities away from long-term investment in schooling toward more immediate caregiving or household responsibilities. Marriage can also coincide with a higher need for income generation, which may reduce the time or motivation for continuing education. However, the relationship between marriage and education is a complex one, and causality can work in both directions (Kalmijn, 2013; Ahn & Winters, 2025; Becker, 1981). That is, marriage can be a barrier to educational attendance, but prolonged education can also delay marriage.

A clear and consistent pattern emerges across household wealth groups: the risk of not attending education declines sharply with increasing wealth. Individuals from the highest quintile are 1.4 times less likely to be out of school than those in the reference group of the lowest quintile. This suggests that poverty remains a major barrier to educational participation. Girls and young women are 1.1 times less likely to be out of school than boys and young men, supporting the findings elsewhere in this report of relatively better female educational engagement.

Other factors appear to have less impact on the risk of not attending education. However, the absence of one or more parents from the household consistently increases the risk compared to children whose parents are present. The findings underscore, on the one hand, the more vulnerable position of children without parents and, on the other, the critical role mothers often play in ensuring children's continued education.

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25 Technical backgrounds of logit regressions are given in section 1.3.2. Refer also to the text before Figure 4.5 for further explanation and interpretation of this type of graph.
26 Almost all of whom are currently married (section 3.1.5).

Figure 4.17: Risk of not attending education for children and young people aged 6-22 relative to reference categories, based on logit regression (in %)
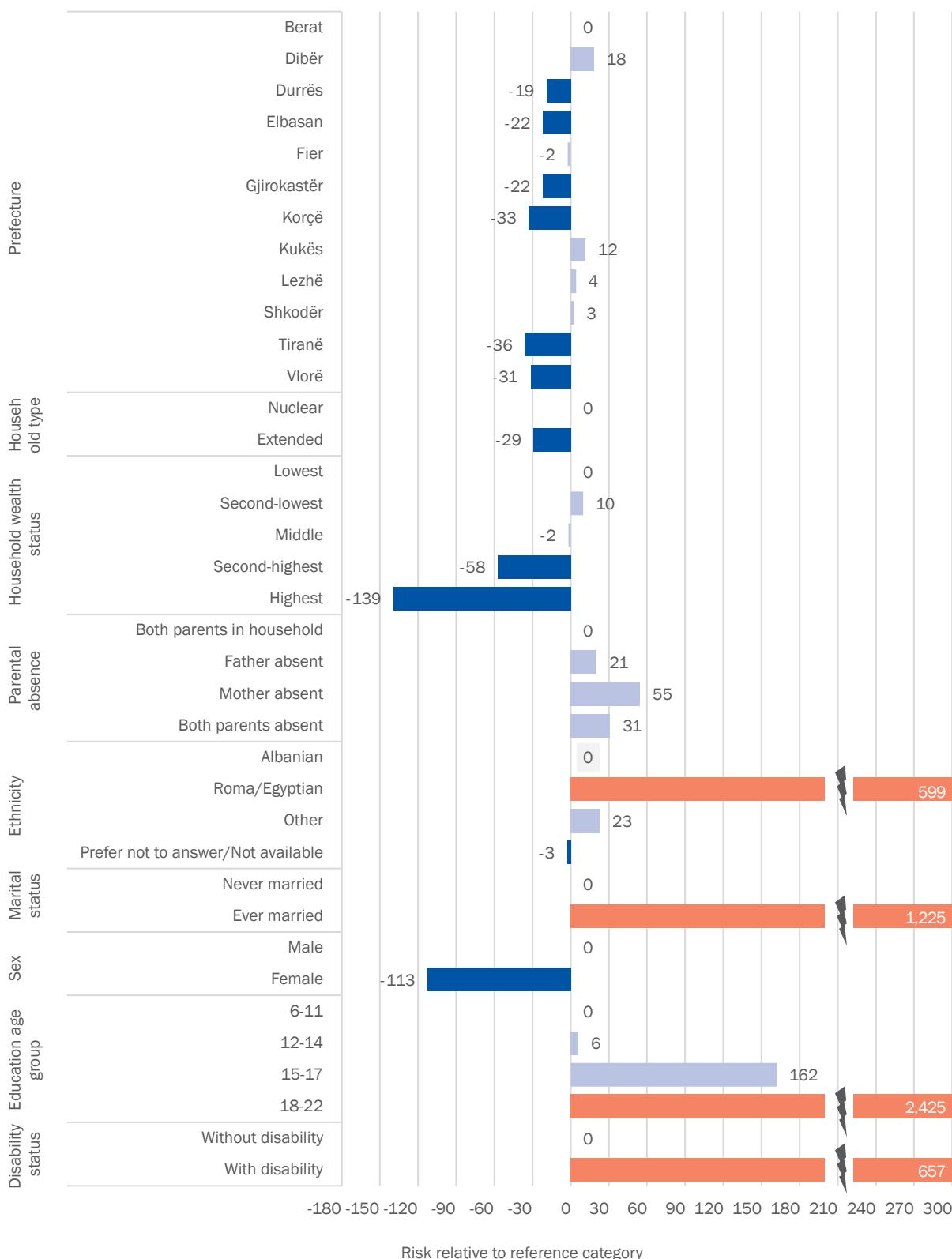
Preschool attendance

The effects of background variables on preschool education – including nursery and kindergarten – are mostly similar to those on later education, but some variation is observed.

Table 4.6 presents details of the attendance rates of children aged 0-6 in nurseries and kin-

dergartens, and non-attendance rates. Regarding non-attendance, the effect of the household wealth status is somewhat less pronounced, but a significantly higher rate is observed for the lowest three quintiles (above 53 percent non-attendance) than for the second-highest and highest quintiles (45.1 and 40.3 percent, respectively). The effect of the mother's educational attainment on non-attendance in preschool education is evident, although the difference between mothers without any education completed and those with primary school is virtually non-existent. The absence of parents appears to have a small effect on attendance, compared to its impact on school attendance. There is also no difference between mothers' and fathers' absence. Egyptian and, especially, Roma children have much higher non-attendance rates in preschool education compared to other ethnic groups: 61.7 and 73.5 percent, respectively, compared to 48.8 percent overall. Very little differences between boys and girls can be observed for non-attendance in preschool education.

Attendance at the nursery level is considerably lower than that at the kindergarten level, with attendance rates for the total age group 0-6 of 20.4 and 30.8 percent, respectively. It is interesting to see that the lower non-attendance rates observed for the two highest quintiles can largely be attributed to higher attendance rates at the nursery level. The attendance rates at kindergarten for all wealth quintiles hardly differ from the overall level. However, at the nursery level, attendance rates of the second-highest and highest quintiles are substantially higher than the overall level, with 23.8 and 28.5 percent, respectively (see also Figure 4.18).

A strong effect on nursery attendance is also observed for maternal educational attainment. Children of mothers with secondary education or less have below-average levels of nursery attendance (see also Figure 4.19). It is only the category of children of mothers with any level of tertiary education that has a high attendance rate at the nursery level (28.5 percent). However, below-tertiary educational attainment of mothers does show an effect on children's attendance at kindergarten, increasing from 24.0 percent for mothers without any level of education completed to 32.5 percent for those with secondary education.

Parental absence from the household does not show much differentiation in preschool attendance levels, nor in nursery attendance, nor in kindergarten attendance. Also, little difference can be observed between girls and boys in attendance levels.

Table 4.6: Attendance status in preschool education of children aged 0-6 and type of preschool education attended, by selected background variables, and by sex (in %)

Background variable	Total			Male			Female		
	Attending		Not	Attending		Not	Attending		Not
	Nursery	Kinder-garden	attend-ing	Nursery	Kinder-garden	attend-ing	Nursery	Kinder-garden	attend-ing
a. Wealth status									
Total	20.4	30.8	48.8	20.3	30.9	48.8	20.6	30.6	48.8
Poorest	15.0	30.8	54.2	14.7	30.9	54.4	15.4	30.7	53.9
Second poorest	15.0	31.1	53.9	14.8	31.8	53.5	15.3	30.4	54.3
Middle	17.1	29.6	53.3	17.3	29.5	53.2	16.9	29.7	53.4
Second richest	23.8	31.1	45.1	24.0	30.4	45.6	23.7	31.8	44.6
Richest	28.5	31.1	40.3	28.2	31.8	40.0	28.9	30.4	40.7
b. Educational attainment of mother									
Total	20.5	30.8	48.8	20.3	30.9	48.8	20.6	30.6	48.8
No level of education completed	14.1	24.0	61.9	14.0	23.9	62.2	14.3	24.1	61.5
Primary education	11.4	27.1	61.4	12.4	27.0	60.6	10.5	27.2	62.3
Lower secondary/ technical education	13.4	32.5	54.1	13.4	32.6	54.0	13.4	32.3	54.3
Higher/upper second-ary education	18.4	30.2	51.4	18.3	30.5	51.3	18.5	29.9	51.6
Any level of tertiary education	28.2	30.3	41.4	27.9	30.4	41.7	28.6	30.2	41.2
c. Presence of parents in the household									
Total	20.4	30.8	48.8	20.3	30.9	48.8	20.6	30.6	48.8
Both parents in household	20.6	30.6	48.7	20.5	30.7	48.8	20.8	30.6	48.6
Father absent	18.1	32.3	49.5	18.0	33.6	48.4	18.2	31.0	50.7
Mother absent	17.2	33.5	49.3	18.0	33.5	48.5	16.3	33.5	50.2
Both parents absent	18.2	29.9	51.9	17.3	31.1	51.6	19.1	28.7	52.2
d. Ethnicity									
Total	20.4	30.8	48.8	20.3	30.9	48.8	20.6	30.6	48.8
Albanian	20.5	31.0	48.5	20.4	31.2	48.4	20.6	30.9	48.5
Roma	9.2	17.3	73.5	9.3	18.7	72.1	9.1	15.9	75.1
Egyptian	12.4	25.9	61.7	11.6	25.9	62.5	13.1	25.9	60.9
Other ethnicity	20.9	30.1	49.0	21.4	30.2	48.4	20.3	30.1	49.6
Prefer not to answer/ not available	21.6	29.3	49.2	20.6	29.3	50.0	22.5	29.2	48.3

Figure 4.18: Percentage of children aged 0-6 attending nursery or kindergarten, by household wealth status, and by sex of the child
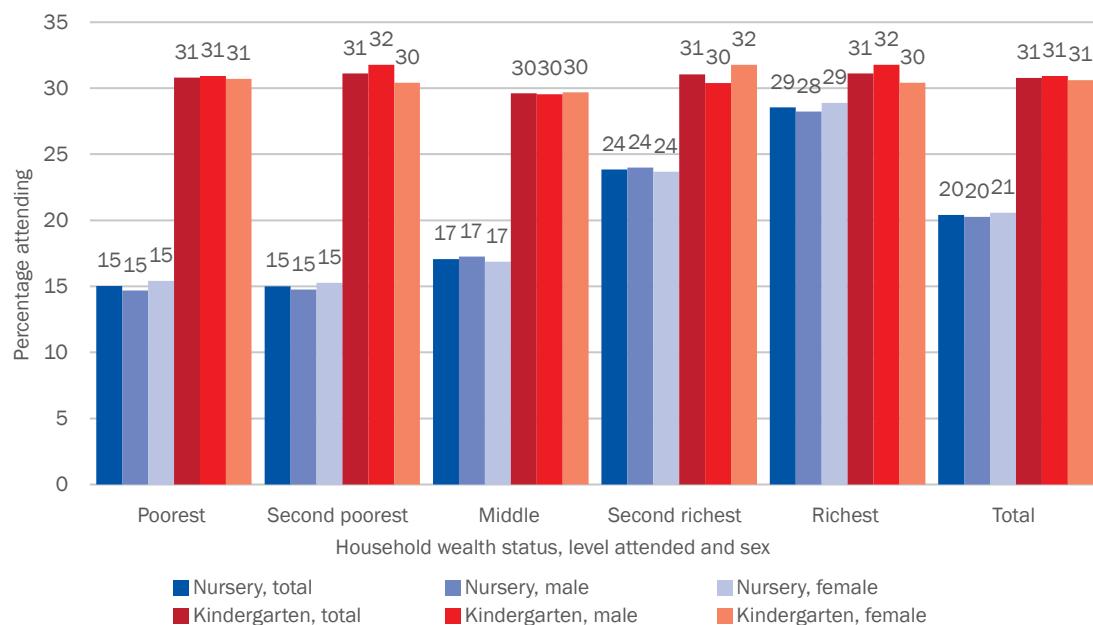
Figure 4.19: Percentage of children aged 0-6 attending nursery or kindergarten, by the mother's level of educational attainment, and by sex of the child
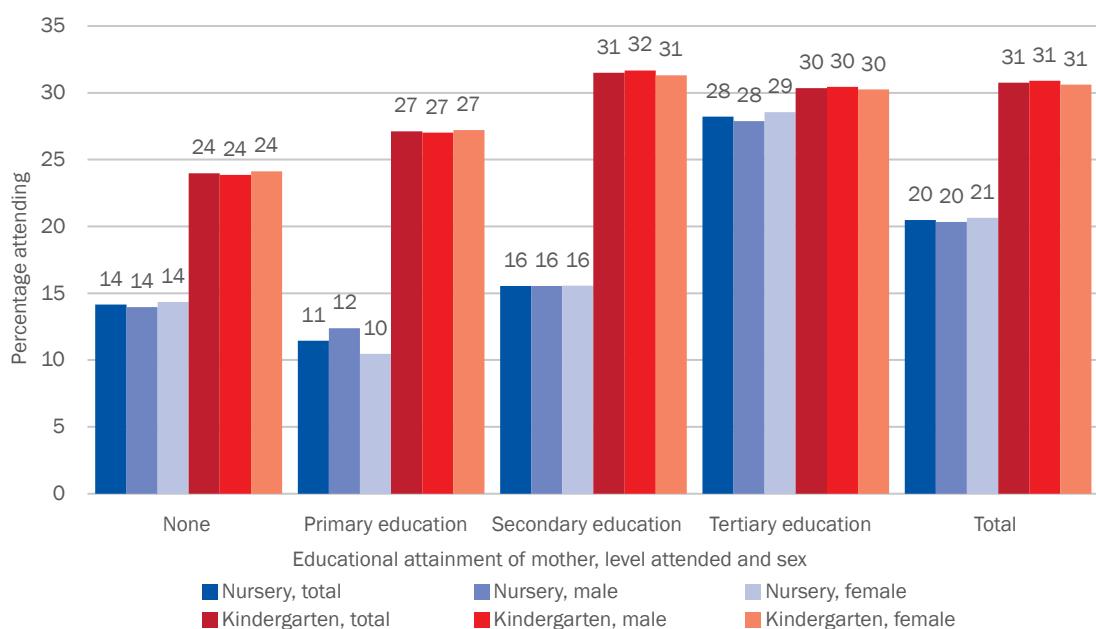
4.4 Educational attainment

4.4.1 Persons with no level of education completed

The vast majority of persons 15 years and over living in Albania have attained at least some form of education. According to the 2023 census, only 0.6 percent of all persons 15 years of age and over had no level of education completed (Figure 4.20). Only a slight difference between males and females was observed: 0.5 percent for males and 0.8 percent for females, respectively. The percentage of persons who did not complete any level of education was highest among children 10 to 17 years old: 13.0 percent. This should not come as a surprise,

as the question in the census about educational attainment asks about the person's highest completed level. Obviously, many of the young population in these age groups are still attending school, especially among children 10-17 years old. It is interesting to see that for both young people and youth, the percentage who did not complete any level of education is somewhat higher than for all people 15 years of age and older. It is unclear what caused this increase.

Figure 4.20: Percentage of population aged 15 and over, children aged 10-17, young people and youth without a completed level of education, by sex
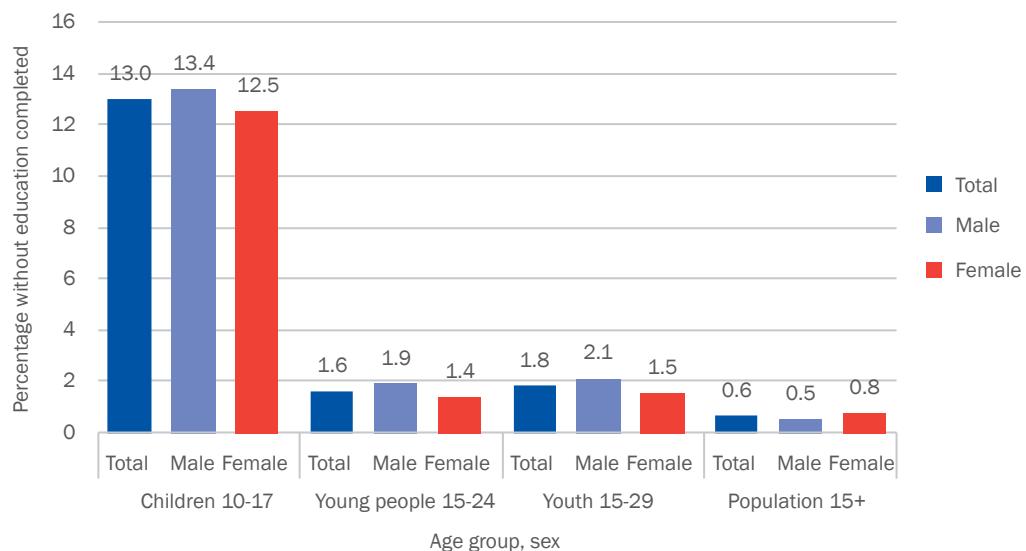
Compared to the 2011 census, the percentage of children, young people and youth who have not completed any education is much lower (Figure 4.21). In 2011, the percentage of young people aged 15-24 who did not complete any level was 7.8 percent, against only 1.6 percent in 2023. The difference between 2011 and 2023 was somewhat smaller for youth (5.8 against 1.8 percent). These figures show that significant progress has been made regarding the completed educational attainment of Albanian youth.

Figure 4.21: Percentage of children aged 10-17, young people and youth without a completed level of education, by census year
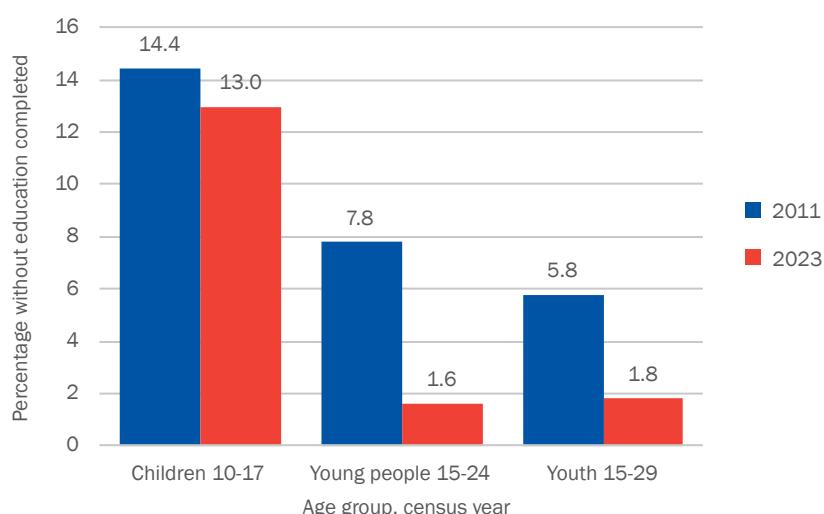
Some differences exist in the percentage of youth 15-29 years old who did not complete any educational level, by the wealth status of the household to which they belong.

Figure 4.22 shows these percentages by wealth status and sex. For all quintiles, the percentage never-attended school is slightly higher for males than for females. One would expect

that the percentage would be highest among youth belonging to the lowest wealth quintile. However, this is not the case. The percentage is highest in the middle wealth quintile. For both sexes, 2.7 percent of persons 15-29 years old never completed any education, which is about one percentage point higher than those in the lowest wealth quintile. Then again, youth in the highest quintile had only 0.7 percent of persons who had no level of education completed.

There is evidence that the percentage of young persons without educational attainment has been low for many years. According to the 2008-2009 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the percentage of females in the age group 15-24 with no education was 0.4 percent, the same percentage as among males. In the same age group, 3.7 percent of females and 2.8 percent of males had only completed some primary education (INSTAT, Institute of Public Health and ICF Macro, 2010). It should be noted that the difference between the levels observed in the 2008-2009 DHS and the levels in the 2011 census is significant. This has to do with how the questions on educational attainment were posed. While in the census, the question is asked for the completed level of education, both the 2008-2009 and the 2017-2018 DHS asked for the highest level of education attended or completed. This question obviously led to lower levels of 'no education'.

Figure 4.22: Percentage of youth without a completed level of education, by household wealth status, and by sex
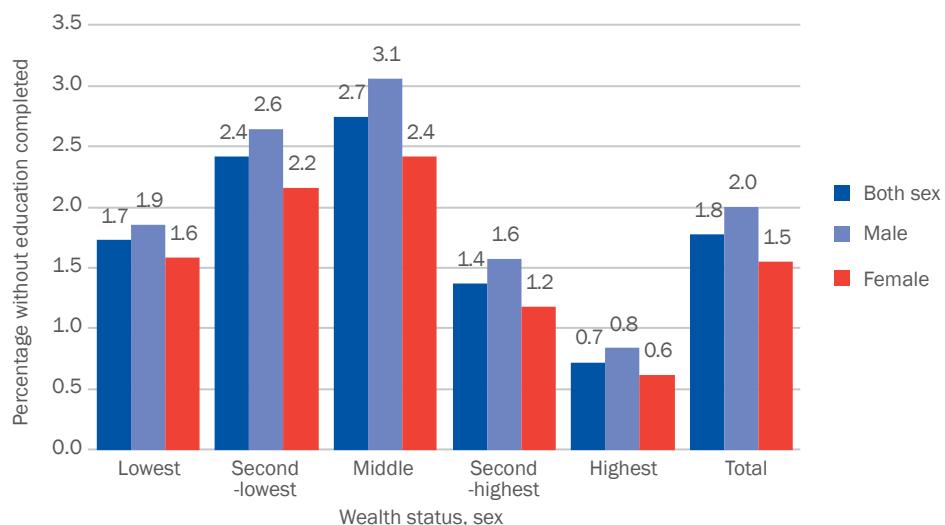
4.4.2 Completed level of education

Figure 4.23 depicts the percentage of the young population aged 10 and over who have ever completed a level of education, by sex and by level of education completed. The graph shows the completed level of education for children aged 10-17, young people (15-20 years) and youth (15-29 years). INSTAT considers four broad levels of education: i) primary education (classes 1-5), ii) lower secondary education(classes 6-9), iii) higher secondary education, which includes gymnasium and professional/vocational education, and iv) any tertiary education.

Obviously, many of the young population in these age groups are still attending school, especially among children 10-17 years old. As such, among the age group 10-17 years old, most children have only completed primary education (58.0 percent), and somewhat fewer children completed lower secondary education (40.3 percent). In this age group, differences between boys and girls are minimal. There is a clear difference in educational attainment between males and females in the age groups 15-24 and 15-29. In the age group 15-29, 35.2 percent of females have completed a tertiary education, against only 20.2 percent among males.

On the other hand, the percentages for higher and lower secondary education are considerably higher for males than for females. According to Eurostat (Eurostat, 2023), in 2022, 48

percent of 25 to 34 year-old women in the EU had tertiary educational attainment, against 37 percent of men. The percentages for Albania cannot be directly compared with those of Eurostat, as the age categories are different and the data only deal with persons who had at least some educational attainment. Interestingly, the European Education Area strategic framework has targeted that by 2030, 45 percent of persons aged 25-34 should have a higher educational attainment (Commission, n.d.). Athough a direct comparison between Albania and the Eurostat data is not directly possible because of different age groups, the data indicate that the trend of tertiary educational attainment for young women is in line with the general educational trend in Europe.

Figure 4.23:Percentage of children aged 10-17, young people and youth who have completed any level of education, by sex, and by highest level of education completed
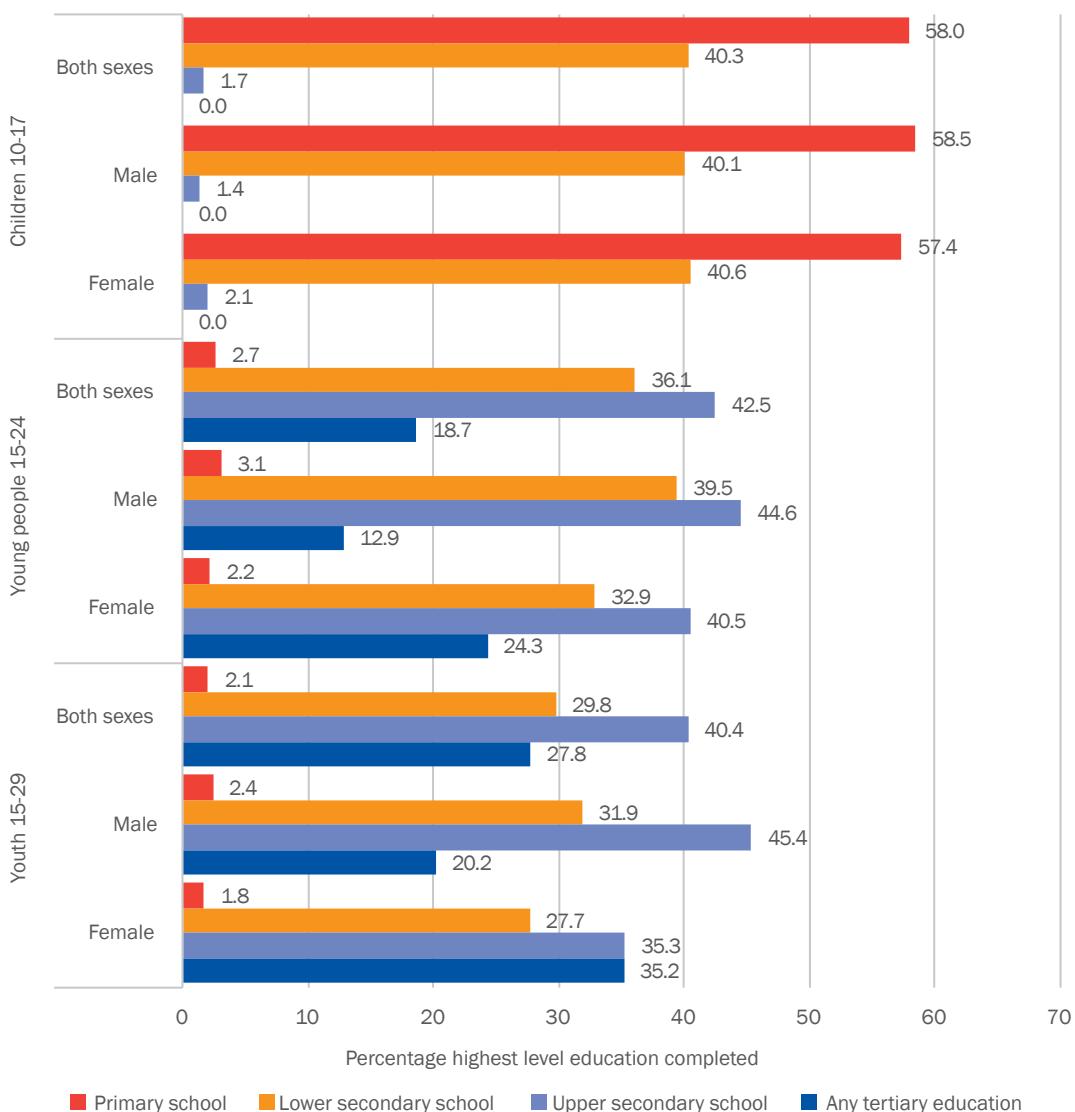
A more detailed picture is given in Figure 4.24. In this graph, the educational attainment is broken down into age categories 20-24, 25-29 and 30-plus years and sex. Age category 15-19 was not considered, as so many young persons in this age group are still in school. The 30-plus group was added to compare the position of younger persons vis-à-vis their older counterparts.

As can be expected, the educational attainment for both males and females among younger persons is much higher than among the group of 30-plus. For instance, while 56.5 percent of women in the age category 25-29 have a tertiary education, this is only 17.9 percent among

women above age 30. Among men, these percentages are 33.8 and 17.0, respectively. Figure 4.24: also shows that the feminisation of education is a more recent trend. Among the 30-plus group, the difference between males and females with tertiary education is minimal, 17.9 percent for females and 17.0 percent for males. However, the group aged 25-29 shows an entirely different picture. In this group, 56.5 percent of women have any form of tertiary education, against 33.8 percent of men. About 117 thousand persons in the age group 25-29 have any form of tertiary education, almost 75 thousand women and 42 thousand men.

Figure 4.24: Percentage of persons aged 20 and over, by sex, and by age group, highest completed level of education
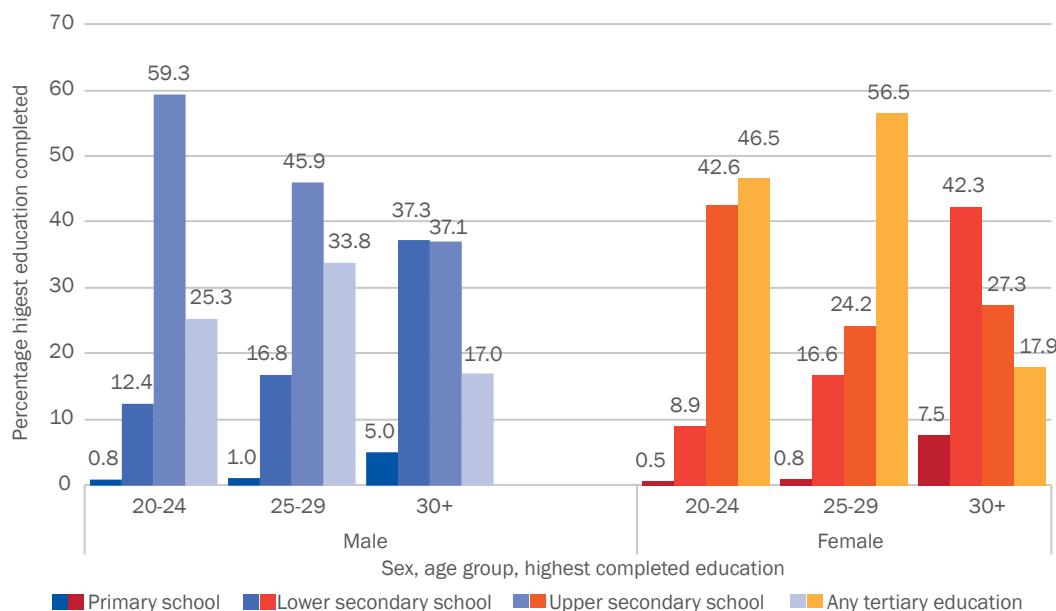
The percentage of young people (20-24 years) completing upper secondary education, by sex, is calculated from the Albanian Labour Force Survey. The 2023 census allows for the addition of indicators based on the entire population. Over the years, the percentage of the age group 20-24 who have completed upper secondary education has increased for both men and women (Figure 4.25). In 2017, the percentages for men and women were 75 and 81, respectively. In the period 2017 to 2021, there was a gradual increase, somewhat more rapidly for men than for women. By 2022, the percentage stood at 82 percent for males and 84 percent for females. According to the 2023 census, the percentage has increased further to 89 percent for women and 85 percent for men.

Figure 4.25: Percentage of persons aged 20-24 who completed upper-secondary education, by sex, and by calendar year[a]
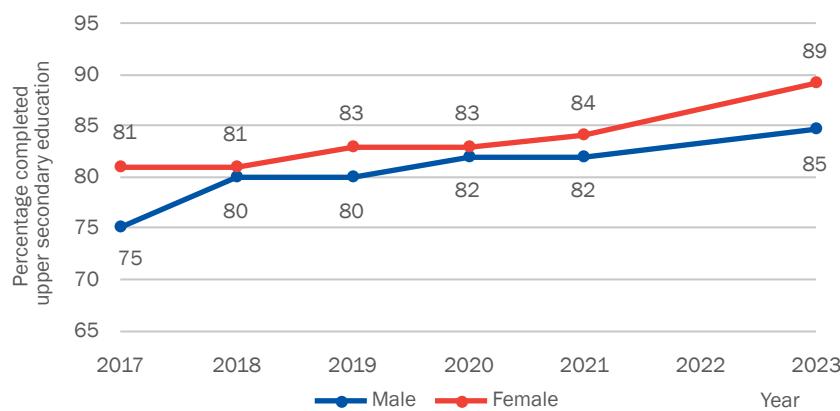
a Source: Report on wellbeing indicators of young persons in Albania (INSTAT and UNICEF, 2022)

In the context of the SDGs, the primary and secondary completion rates are core indicators for monitoring SDG 4.1, which aims to ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. It reflects progress toward inclusive and lifelong learning opportunities and highlights gaps in education access, retention and equity. The completion rate is calculated as the number of persons in the relevant age group who completed the education level, divided by the total number of persons in that age group, expressed as a percentage. The relevant age group is usually a few years later than the official, normal graduation age. This is done to compensate for late completion, which happens frequently in many countries.

Figure 4.26 shows the completion rates for the population aged 20-24. According to the 2023 census, the completion rate for primary education for both sexes combined was 98.2 percent.[27] The completion rates for lower and upper secondary education were 97.5 and 86.9 percent, respectively. For all three levels of education, the completion rates were slightly higher for women than for men. The difference is highest for higher secondary education, with a completion rate of 89.1 percent for women and 84.6 percent for men.

Figure 4.26: Completion rates of persons aged 20-24, by level of education, and by sex (in %)
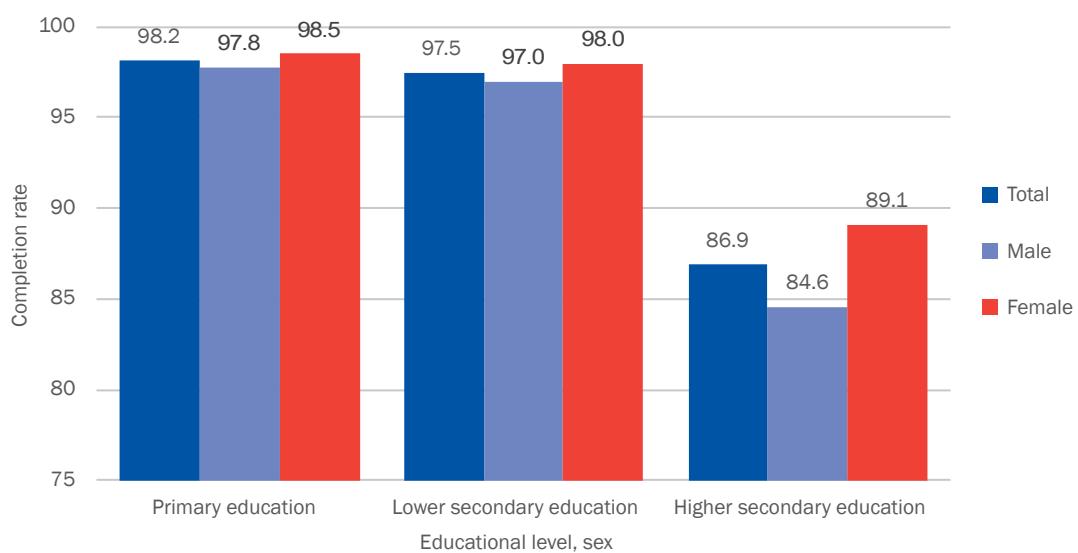
In its publication on SDG-4 indicators, UNESCO shows the completion rates for both sexes for the period 2013-2024 (UNESCO, Institute for Statistics, 2025).[28] Figure 4.27 depicts the completion rates, based on the estimates by UNESCO and the statistics provided by the 2023 census. The graph shows that the completion rates obtained from both sources are very similar, suggesting that the quality of both sources is good. While the completion rate in 2023 for primary education is 97.4 percent based on the UNESCO model data, it is 98.2 percent based on the census. For lower secondary education, the difference is equally small (96.9 and 97.5, respectively). For higher education, the discrepancy is a bit wider, 87.4 percent according to the UNESCO data and 86.9 percent according to the census, but still only a bit more than one percentage point. The time trend between 2013 and 2024 shows that levels of primary and lower secondary education are very high, and have remained more or less the same. Important progress has been made in recent years in the percentage of the young population that has completed higher secondary education. In 2013, only 69.7 percent of young people finished a higher secondary education. In just 12 years, this percentage increased to 88.2 percent.

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27 The completion rate was calculated by dividing the number of persons in age group 20-24 who completed primary education by the total population in age group 20-24, expressed as a percentage.

28 To calculate the completion rates, UNESCO uses modelled estimates for the whole period. To do so, they used figures for a cohort of children or young persons aged 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of each education level who have completed that grade. The census's completion rates are analysed using a slightly different calculation method. The completion level for all three levels of education (primary, lower secondary and higher secondary) is calculated for the population aged 20-24 years. This was done because of the availability of the data.

Figure 4.27: Completion rates of the population aged 20-24, by level of education, and by calendar year (in %)
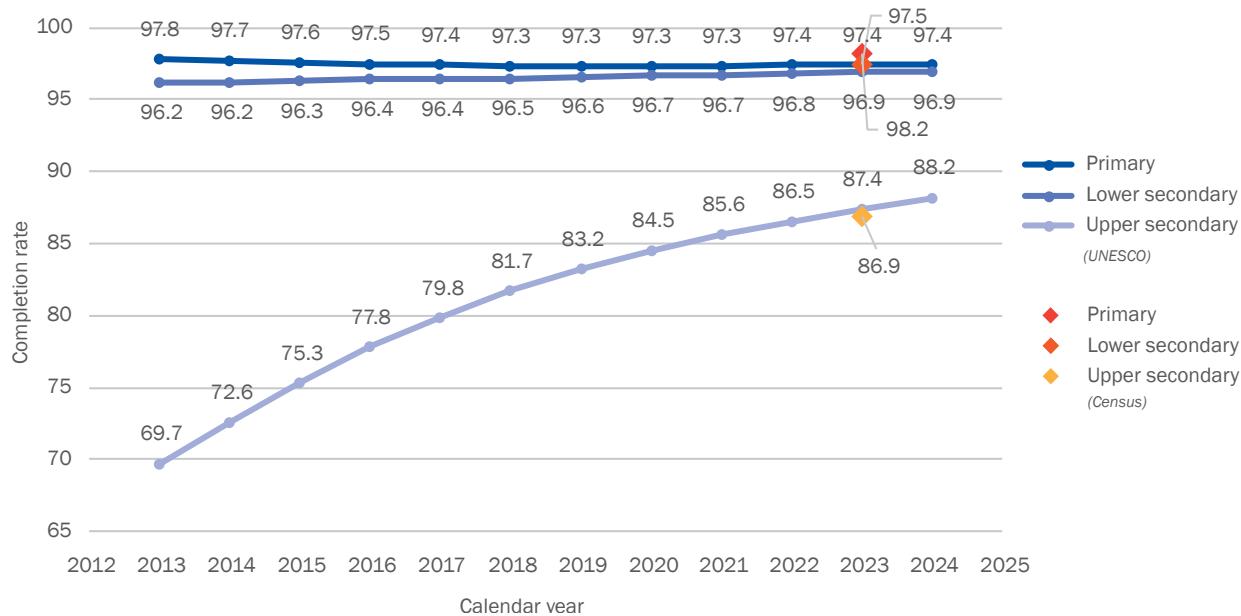
Source for all countries other than Albania: UNICEF Data Warehouse on cross-sector indicators (UNICEF, n.d.).

Some prefectural variety exists in the educational attainment of the young population in Albania. To study this variation, the study concentrated on persons aged 25-29, who had completed at least some level of education. Children and young people were not considered, as many of these would still be in school, which would distort the results. Tirana stands out as the prefecture with the highest percentage of persons 25-29 years of age who completed any form of tertiary education (Figure 4.28). Among all who have at least some educational level, 60.3 percent have a tertiary education. Only 9.5 percent have lower secondary education as the highest completed level of education. On the other hand, the percentage of primary, lower and higher secondary education in Tirana is the lowest among all prefectures. Diber scores lowest, with only about 30 percent of persons 25-29 years of age with tertiary education. This prefecture also scores highest with the percentage of persons with lower secondary education (27.4 percent).

Figure 4.28: Percentage of persons aged 25-29 who completed at least some level of education, by level of education completed, and by region
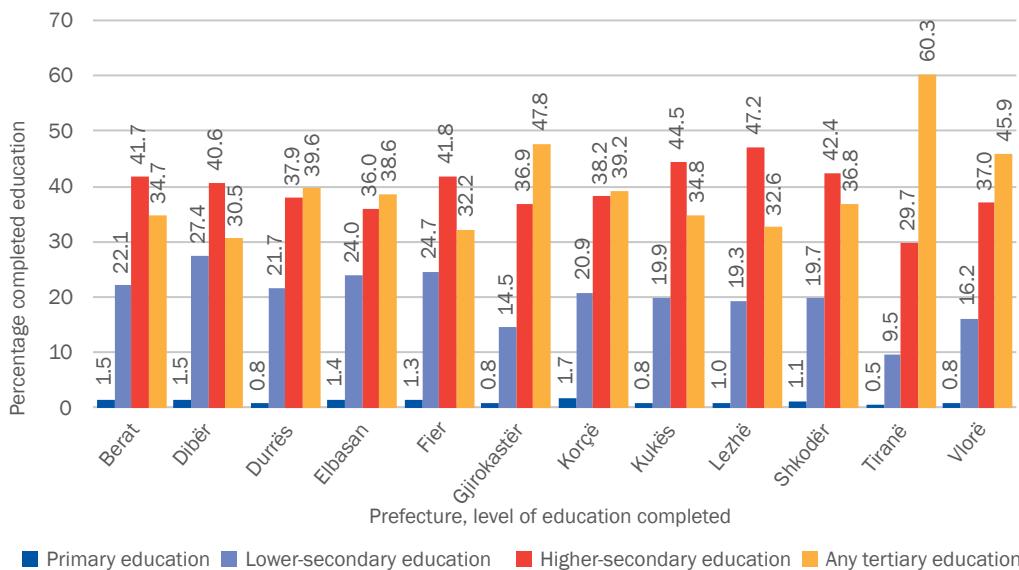
5. Disability

5.1 Introduction

The 2023 census questionnaire included a standardised disability module aligned with international recommendations, particularly the Washington Group (WG) Short Set for persons aged 5 years and over. Respondents were assessed across six functional domains: seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. These domains allow for identifying individuals experiencing difficulties that may limit their participation in everyday activities (Washington Group on Disability Statistics, 2020).

The six WG questions that were asked are as follows:

- Does <Name> have any difficulties in seeing, even when wearing glasses? Do you have difficulty hearing, even when using a hearing aid?
- Does <Name> have any difficulties in hearing, even when using a hearing aid?
- Does <Name> have any difficulties in walking or climbing stairs?
- Does <Name> have any difficulties in remembering, concentrating or making decisions?
- Does <Name> have any difficulties in daily self-care, such as dressing, eating and washing?
- Does <Name> have any difficulties in communicating, that is understanding others or giving and taking information?

In this chapter, several concepts will be used related to the WG framework of disability. Below, these concepts are explained for a better understanding of the findings in this report.

- Functional limitation: In the WG framework, functional limitation refers to difficulties an individual may have in performing basic activities due to a health problem. The WG developed a set of standardised questions – known as the Washington Group Short Set – to identify people with disabilities based on difficulties in core functional domains rather than on medical diagnoses.
- Domain of functioning: the WG uses six basic activity areas – seeing, hearing, walking, remembering/concentrating, self-care and communicating – to identify and measure disability.
- Level/degree of difficulty: Each question in the WG Short Set uses four standardised response categories:

  1. No, no difficulty
  2. Yes, some difficulty
  3. Yes, a lot of difficulty
  4. Cannot do at all

The WG questions and answer categories are designed to be internationally comparable and are focused on identifying functional limitations that can affect full participation in society. In fact, there is no real gold standard for determining who is living with a disability and who is not.

It should be noted that the questions on disability in the 2023 census were only asked for children aged 5 years and older, and that the short set of questions was used, rather than the more extensive version, to measure disability among children. As such, this analysis is restricted to children five years of age and older. Moreover, a census is not a specialised survey on disability, and underreporting and misreporting play a larger role.

To account for the more limited information in the WG's short set of questions and to increase the report's readability for a broader audience, it was decided that, for a large part, a dichotomous classification of disability (with/without disability) would be used in the main body of this report. This dichotomy is based on the internationally recognized Washington Group (WG) criteria. Specifically, a person is considered to have a disability if they experience "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in at least one functional domain (Washington Group on Disability Statistics, 2021). This threshold is consistent with global practices, ensuring comparability across countries, alignment with SDG monitoring frameworks, and compatibility with other international datasets.

The authors recognise the importance of also providing a more detailed classification based on the reported functional limitations rather than the dichotomy of with or without disability. As disability exists on a spectrum, many individuals who report "*some difficulty*" in functioning may still experience barriers to fully participating in society, especially in environments that are not inclusive. To reflect this broader continuum of functional limitations, the report presents disaggregated results in Annex V, using a three-tier classification:

- No difficulties in any domain
- Mild difficulties (at least "some difficulty" in at least one domain, but not more severe)
- Moderate/severe difficulties (at least "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in at least one domain)

The tables and graphs presented in Annex V may help policymakers support inclusive responses that consider a wider group who are potentially at risk – persons with 'some difficulty in the respective domains' and provide stakeholders with a more nuanced understanding of the functional profiles of youth beyond the binary classification.

5.2 General characteristics of the young populations with disabilities

Table 5.1: shows the number of children, young people and youth by disability status and level of disability. Both absolute numbers and prevalence rates are presented. According to the census, in the entire country, 3,4 thousand children (5-17 years old) have moderate or higher functional limitations. These numbers are 3.3 thousand and 5.4 thousand for young people and youth, respectively[29]. It is interesting to see that the total number of persons 5 years of age and older with disabilities is higher for females (83.4 thousand) than for males (66.5 thousand). Still, among the younger population, the numbers are the reverse. Also, the prevalence rates for the total population are higher for females than males, and for the younger population, the prevalence rates are higher for males than for females. Boys and young men may experience higher rates of disability due to a mix of biological, behavioural, socioeconomic and environmental factors. Biological factors include neurodevelopmental issues and genetic predispositions, while behavioural aspects involve risk-taking and higher injury rates. All these factors are linked to higher chances of disability.

Universally, disability prevalence is considerably higher in the older age groups. The effect of higher prevalence in the older age groups can also clearly be observed in Table 5.1, as the prevalence at each disability level is much higher in the age category five years and over than in the age categories of the younger population.

The prevalence rate is calculated as the number of persons indicating they have 'A lot of problems' or 'Cannot do at all', divided by the total population in that specific age group. According to the 2023 census, the prevalence rate was 6.5 percent for persons five and over. The reported prevalence of disability is very low among children, young people and youth. The

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29 These figure (column 4 of the table 5.1) correspond/refer to the WG's classification of people with disability, definig the threshold of disability if a peron experiences "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in at least one functional domain

prevalence is approximately one percent for each group, with males having a slightly higher prevalence, just a few tenths of a percentage point higher than females – Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Moderate or higher disability prevalence rates for persons aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex (in %)
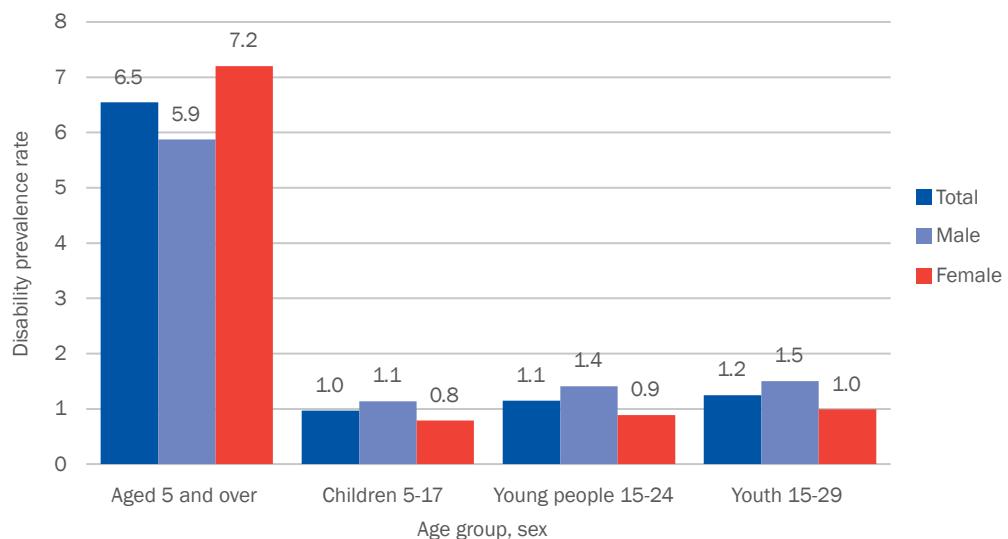
Table 5.1: Population and disability prevalence rates of population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by disability status, and by sex

a. Number

Population group	Level of disability					
	Total			No difficulty		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Aged 5 and over	2,290,219	1,132,247	1,157,972	1,828,343	925,224	903,119
Children 5-17	346,080	179,264	166,816	334,195	172,997	161,198
Young people 15-24	286,123	141,365	144,758	276,198	136,286	139,912
Youth 15-29	430,330	214,434	215,896	414,820	206,345	208,475

Population group	Level of disability								
	Mild or higher			Moderate or higher			Cannot do at all		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Aged 5 and over	461,876	207,023	254,853	149,866	66,507	83,359	23,237	11,674	11,563
Children 5-17	11,885	6,267	5,618	3,359	2,040	1,319	1,094	714	380
Young people 15-24	9,925	5,079	4,846	3,282	1,997	1,285	1,170	714	456
Youth 15-29	15,510	8,089	7,421	5,363	3,224	2,139	1,963	1,181	782

b. Disability prevalence rates (in %)

Population group	Level of disability											
	No difficulty			Mild or higher			Moderate or higher			Cannot do at all		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Aged 5 and over	79.8	81.7	78.0	20.2	18.3	22.0	6.5	5.9	7.2	1.0	1.0	1.0
Children 5-17	96.6	96.5	96.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.2
Young people 15-24	96.5	96.4	96.7	3.5	3.6	3.3	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3
Youth 15-29	96.4	96.2	96.6	3.6	3.8	3.4	1.2	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.4

The prevalence rates in Figure 5.1 are lower than expected. This is a common feature in censuses (Mitra, 2021). There are various reasons censuses undercount the actual number of persons with disabilities. In many societies, disability carries a stigma, which makes individual households hide or underreport disabilities, or which may even prevent the enumerator from asking questions about disability. Also, people may not self-identify as having a disability, even if they face functional limitations, especially if stigma is involved. Despite underreporting, censuses are a valuable tool for describing the living conditions of persons with disabilities, as the data cover a country's entire population, allowing for national, regional and local representative data. As many aspects of people's lives are covered in the census, patterns and disparities between persons with and without disabilities can easily be described. In short, while a census may often be a rather poor source to estimate the prevalence of disability in a country, it provides good baseline data on the living conditions of persons with disabilities that governments can use for policy-making, resource allocation and inclusion strategies.

The overall disability prevalence rate was 6.2 percent in the 2011 census, which also used the WG questions. However, the prevalence rate was calculated for the population 15 years of age and over. As in the current report, a person was considered to have a disability if they indicated to have a lot of difficulty or cannot do one or more of the functional categories (Ferré, 2015). No prevalence rates were calculated for children and youth. For the young persons 15-24 years old, it was found that two percent of men and one percent of women were having a disability.

Among all persons five years of age and over, walking is the most frequent functional limitation, affecting 4.3 percent of all persons (Table 5.2). Again prevalence is based on persons who indicated they had lots of problems or could not do the specified activity. The second most frequent limitation among all persons 5 years of age and older is seeing (2.3 percent). Again, one can see the much lower prevalence rates among children, young people and youth, compared to those 5 years and over. No matter how small, the percentages for males are consistently higher than for females among the young population. At all three age groups among the young population, remembering, problems with self-care and communicating score the highest. But none is higher than one percent. Interestingly, the pattern for the whole population is completely different. Among all persons 5 years of age and over, walking is the limitation with the highest prevalence (4.3 percent), followed by seeing (2.3 percent). Also, among all persons, the prevalence is higher for all six functional categories for women than for men. This is at least partially due to the fact that, after age 65, more women are present than men (INSTAT, 2024), an age group with high disability prevalence.

Disability prevalence rates in the prefectures are quite different for the population 5 years of age and over (Figure 5.2). The highest prevalence rates are found in Lezhe (8.6 percent) and Berat (8.5 percent). High rates can also be found in Elbasan and Fier, both having more than eight percent of their population reporting a moderate or severe disability. The lowest prevalence can be found in Tirana (4.8 percent). It is unclear what exactly causes the lower prevalence in Tirana. A possible reason could be that Tirana has experienced a large influx of individuals moving from other prefectures and rural areas. As the internal migration of persons with disabilities may be lower, it may both decrease the prevalence in Tirana and increase the prevalence in the other prefectures rural areas where they come from. Very little variation between the prefectures exists in the disability prevalence rates among children. All prefectures hover around the national average of 1.0 percent. The same pattern was observed among the group of young persons and youth (results not displayed).

Table 5.2: Disability prevalence rates of persons aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex and by type of functional limitation (in %)

Population group	Sex	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communicating
Population aged 5 and over	Total	2.3	1.7	4.3	1.7	1.8	1.3
	Men	2.0	1.6	3.6	1.6	1.8	1.3
	Women	2.6	1.8	5.1	1.7	1.9	1.4
Children 5-17	Total	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6
	Boy	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7
	Girl	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Young people 15-24	Total	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
	Men	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9
	Women	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Youth 15-29	Total	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Men	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9
	Women	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

Figure 5.2: Disability prevalence rates of population aged 5 and over and children aged 5-17, by region (in %)
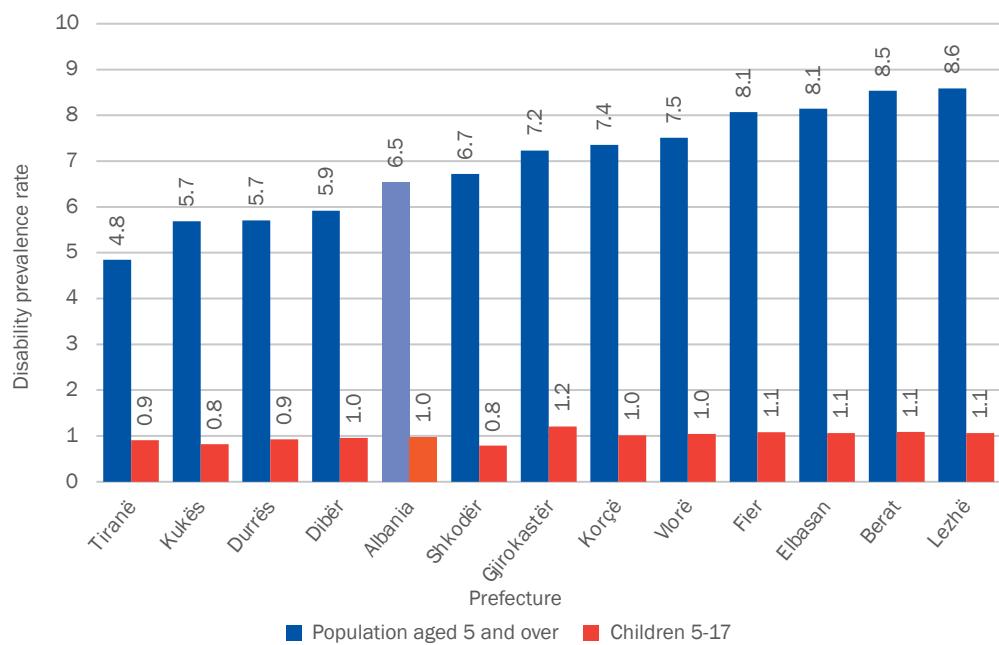
A gender parity index (GPI) for disability was calculated for each prefecture to look at the gender differences in terms of disability prevalence. The GPI for disability measures the ratio of females to males with disabilities, adjusted relative to their respective population sizes. It reflects whether females and males are equally represented among persons with disabilities, taking into account differences in the overall population structure. This is better than simply using the sex ratio of persons with disabilities, which only compares the number of females to males without considering the broader population context, potentially misrepresenting gender disparities due to age differences. A value greater than 100 means a higher relative prevalence of disability among females, suggesting that women are more likely than men to have disabilities when adjusted for population size. A value lower than 100 means that men are more likely than women to have disabilities.

Figure 5.3 shows these gender parity indices by prefecture for the population aged 5 and over and children aged 5-17. It is clear that in all prefectures, among persons five years and over, females have a much higher disability prevalence than males, but that during childhood, this is just the other way around. In the country as a whole, the disability prevalence among persons five years and over is 122.6. For children, it is only 69.5. The highest discrepancy between the male and female population can be observed in Elbasan prefecture, where the GPI for the population five years of age and over (130.6) is more than two times higher than the GPI for children (61.0). GPIs for youth and young persons are not displayed but show similar results as children.

Figure 5.3: Disability gender parity index for population aged 5 and over and children aged 5-17, by region (in %)
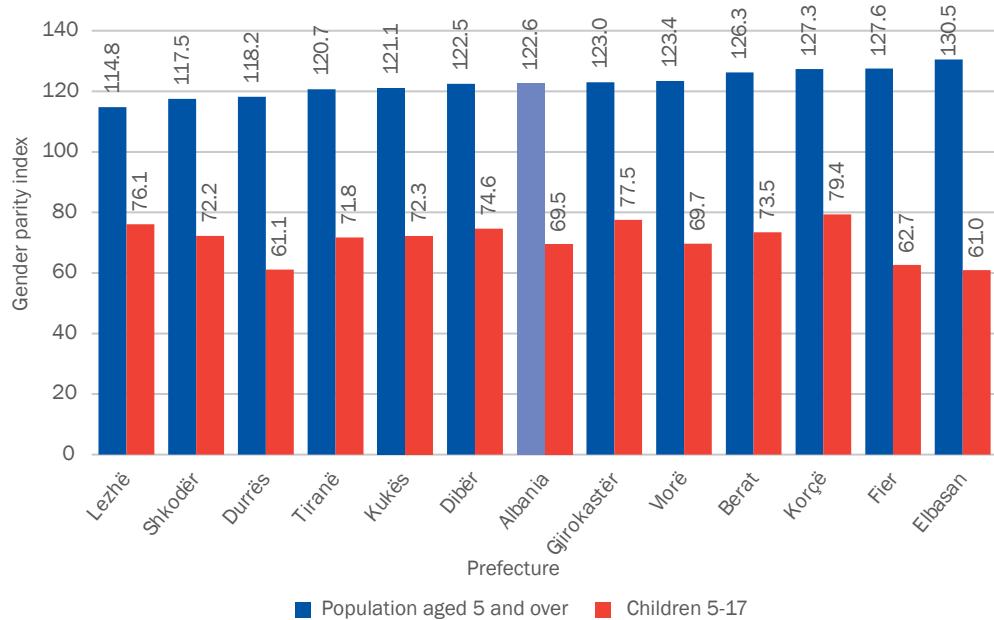
5.3 Domestic conditions of persons with disabilities

5.3.1 Household composition of persons with disabilities

As persons with disabilities often depend on others around them to ensure that their daily needs are met, it is important to understand the type of household they reside in. The type of household in which children with disabilities live significantly affects their well-being, as it affects the level of care, emotional support, and access to resources they are given. Stable, nurturing households – especially those with informed and engaged caregivers – can better accommodate their needs, promote inclusion and support their development. Based on the relationship to the head of household, the type of household in which children, young people and youth live was discerned. Figure 5.4 shows that almost half of all children 5-17 years old with disabilities live in nuclear households with both parents present. The second most important type of household (18.5 percent) consists of nuclear families with children who live in an extended household, i.e. next to the parents with children, other family members are present in the household. A vulnerable group is formed by children with disabilities who live with only one parent. Among all children with disabilities, 11.6 percent live in a one-parent nuclear household. Figure 5.4 also shows that little difference exists between boys and girls regarding the type of household they reside in. The biggest difference is in the category of nuclear households with both parents present; 47.6 percent of boys with disabilities and 51.1 percent of girls can be found in this type of household.

According to a study by Eurofound, based on the 2016 European Quality of Life Survey, a reason for multigenerational living in Europe is daily care for a household member with a disability or an illness (Eurofound, 2019) While 7 percent of parents in nuclear households indicated that they cared for a household member with a disability or illness, this was 26 percent for parents living in a multigenerational, extended household. The data of the census allows to see whether Albania follows this European pattern of relationship between household type and disability.

Figure 5.4: Total, male and female children aged 5-17 with a disability, by type of household (in %)
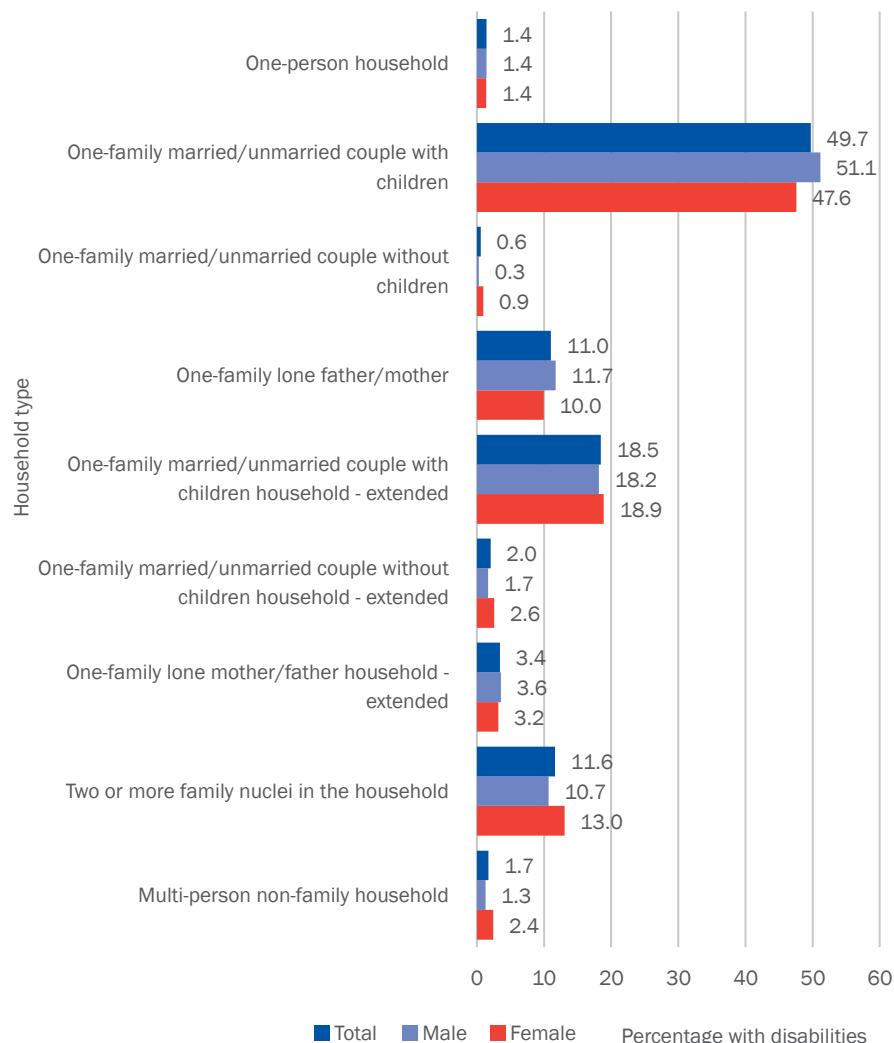
Figure 5.5 shows the percentages of children aged 5-17 by the type of household in which they reside and by disability status. In this graph, a child was considered to have a disability if they indicated having a lot of problems or being unable to do at least one of the functional limitations categories. Children with no disabilities were those who indicated no difficulty or some difficulty with all six WG questions. Figure 5.5 shows no clear difference in terms of more children with disabilities in extended households. The percentage of children with disabilities with two or more nuclei in the household is even smaller for children with disabilities than for others. Also, the percentage of children living with disabilities is higher in one-parent households. Little difference was observed in terms of type of household between persons with and without disabilities in the age group 15-29.

Figure 5.5: Children aged 5-17, by type of household, disability status (in %)

Legend:
- With disabilities
- Without disabilities
- Percentage with disabilities

Household type	With disabilities	Without disabilities
One-person household	1.4	2.5
One-family married/unmarried couple with children	49.7	47.8
One-family married/unmarried couple without children	0.6	2.5
One-family lone father/mother	11.0	6.4
One-family married/unmarried couple with children household - extended	18.5	16.3
One-family married/unmarried couple without children household - extended	2.0	2.1
One-family lone mother/father household - extended	3.4	2.1
Two or more family nuclei in the household	11.6	16.3
Multi-person non-family household	1.7	4.0

5.3.2 Wealth status

Worldwide, it has been shown that children living in poverty are more exposed to health risks such as lower vaccination rates, poor diet, lack of safe sanitation, hazardous environments, poor access to prenatal and postnatal care and preventable diseases, which can all contribute to higher levels of disability (UNICEF, 2013). On the other hand, a child's disability reinforces existing poverty in the household, as families may face high costs due to medical expenses and extra caregiving.

To analyse the economic position of the young population with disabilities in Albania, this study looks at the wealth status of the household to which they belong. Figure 5.6 shows the percentage of children in each wealth quintile for children with and without disabilities. While children without disabilities are more or less evenly distributed among the five wealth categories, this is not the case for children with disabilities. Only 11.8 percent of these children belong to the highest wealth quintile. It is interesting to see that about one-fifth of all children with disabilities belong to the lowest wealth quintile, which is even a bit lower than in the group of children without disabilities. However, they are more represented in the second and third lowest quintile. These findings show that children with disabilities are disproportionately represented in less well off households. However, they are not higher represented in householdsvin the lowest quintile. Some small differences were observed between boys and girls in terms of wealth status. For the lowest quintile, the percentage for girls was somewhat higher: 21.5 percent against 19.5 percent.

Figure 5.6: Children aged 5-17, by wealth status
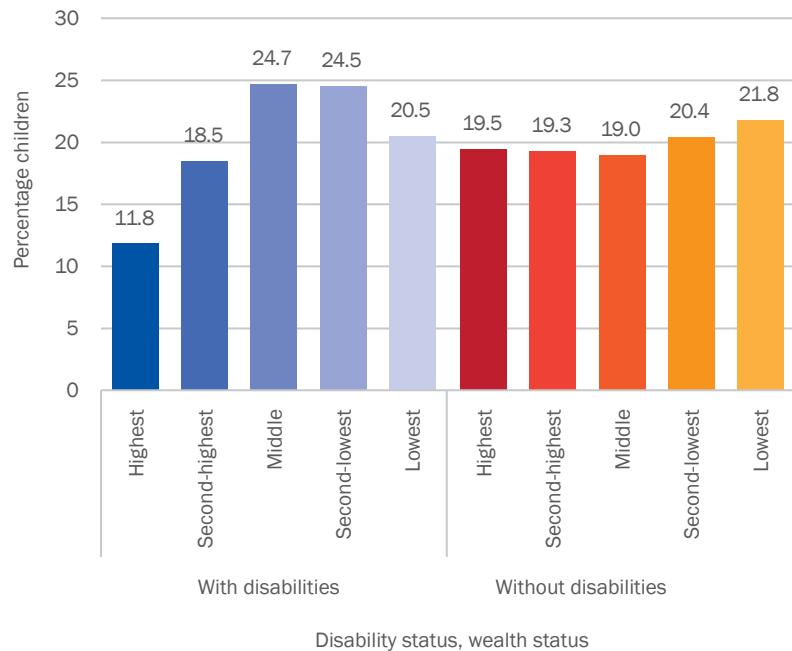
Among youth aged 15-29, a similar pattern arises (Figure 5.7). However, the differences between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities are a bit stronger. Only 10.4 percent of persons with disabilities belong to the wealthiest quintile, while almost 75 percent belong to the lowest three quintiles.

Figure 5.7: Youth, by disability status, by wealth status (in %)
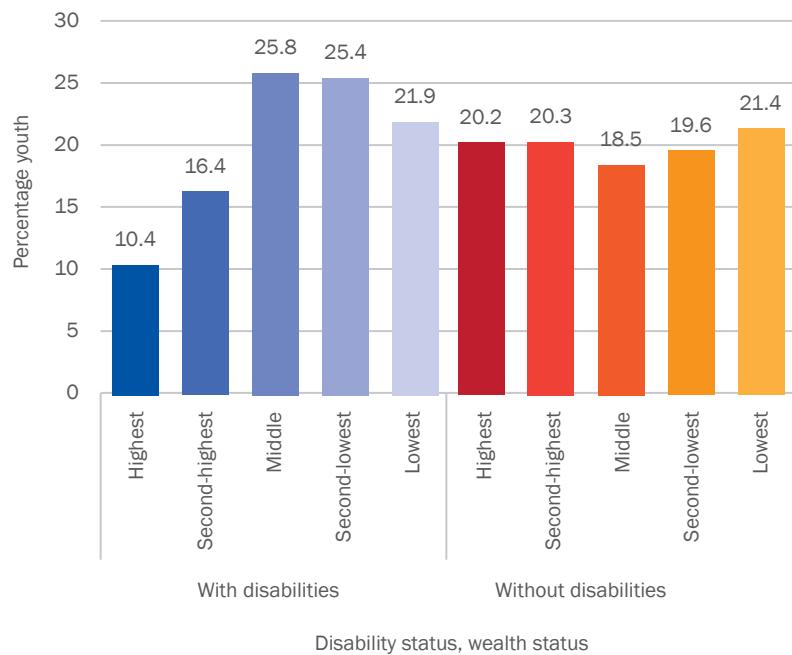
5.3.3 Amenities

Another aspect that defines the situation of households is their access to basic amenities, such as bathing facilities, water supply in the house and hygienic toilet facilities within the dwelling. These facilities are especially important for persons with disabilities. Without them, they may face increased risks of infection, reduced mobility and greater dependency on caregivers.

In the census, questions were asked about the household's access to these basic facilities.

Figure 5.8 shows the percentage of persons aged 5 and over, and the young populations, who do not have bathing facilities in the dwelling by sex and disability status. Little variation exists among the age groups and sex for persons with disabilities. The percentage of people who do not have bathing facilities in the dwelling hovers around 5 percent. The graph clearly shows that for all the age groups, the percentage who do not have bathing facilities in the house is much higher for people with disabilities. For instance, among children aged 5-17 without disabilities, 5.9 percent did not have bathing facilities in the dwelling where they were residing. Among children with disabilities, this was 12.2 percent, which is twice as much. Among girls, the percentage was higher than among boys: 14.1 against 11.0 percent. For youth and young people the difference between males and females is minimal.

Figure 5.8: Percentage of population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth without bathing facilities in the dwelling, by sex, and by disability status
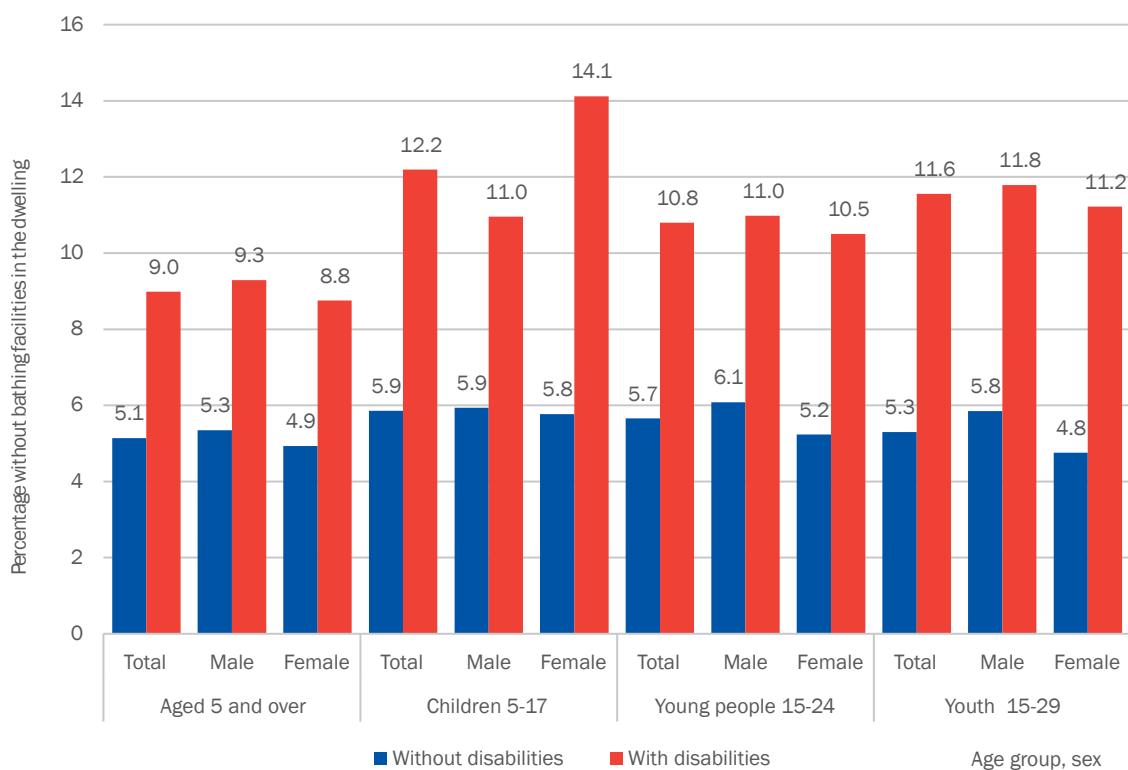
About three-quarters of the young population (5-29 years) live in homes with a water supply inside the dwelling (Figure 5.9). For the young population with disabilities, the water supply inside the dwellings is about five percentage points lower than among the young population without disabilities. Exactly the same pattern can be observed for the type of toilet available in dwellings (Figure 5.10). About 91 percent of children, young persons and youth without disabilities live in dwellings with a flush toilet inside the dwelling. For children, young persons and youth with disability, the availability of a flush toilet inside the building is about 86 percent.

Figure 5.9: Children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by disability status, type of water supply (in %)
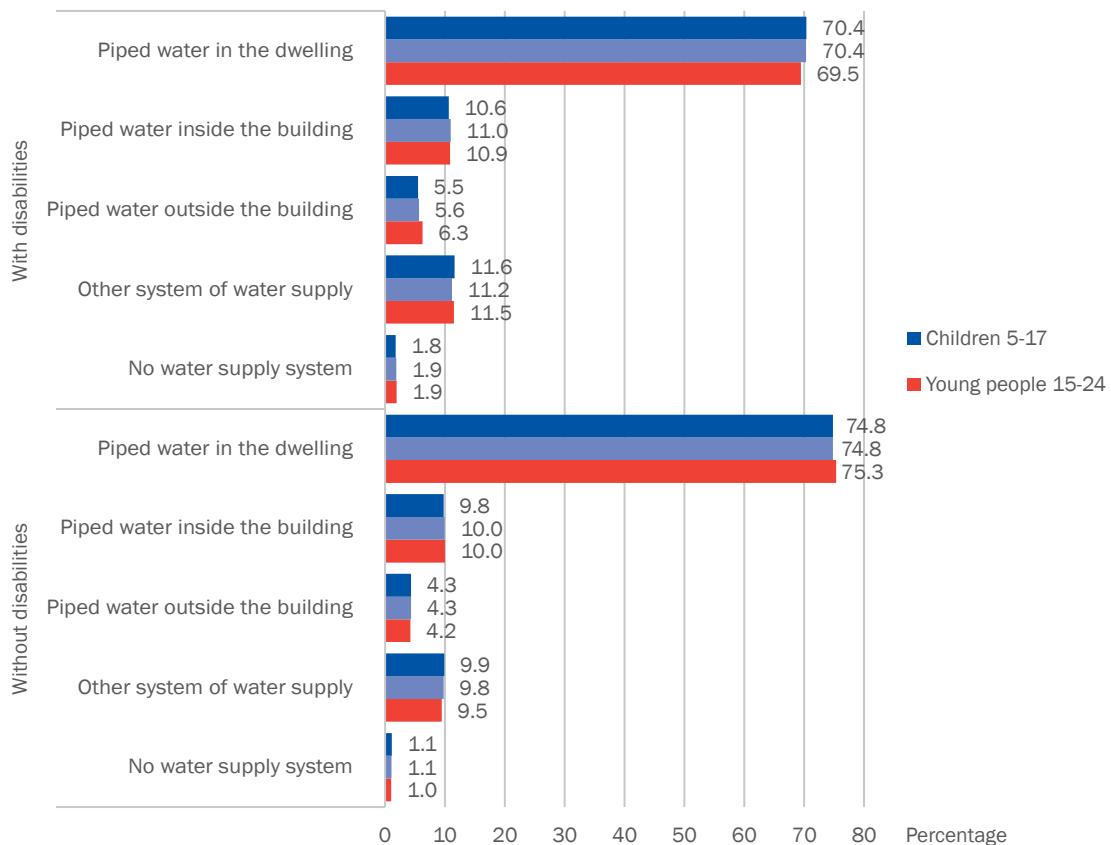
Figure 5.10: Children aged 5-17, young people and youth, disability status, type of toilet facility (in %)
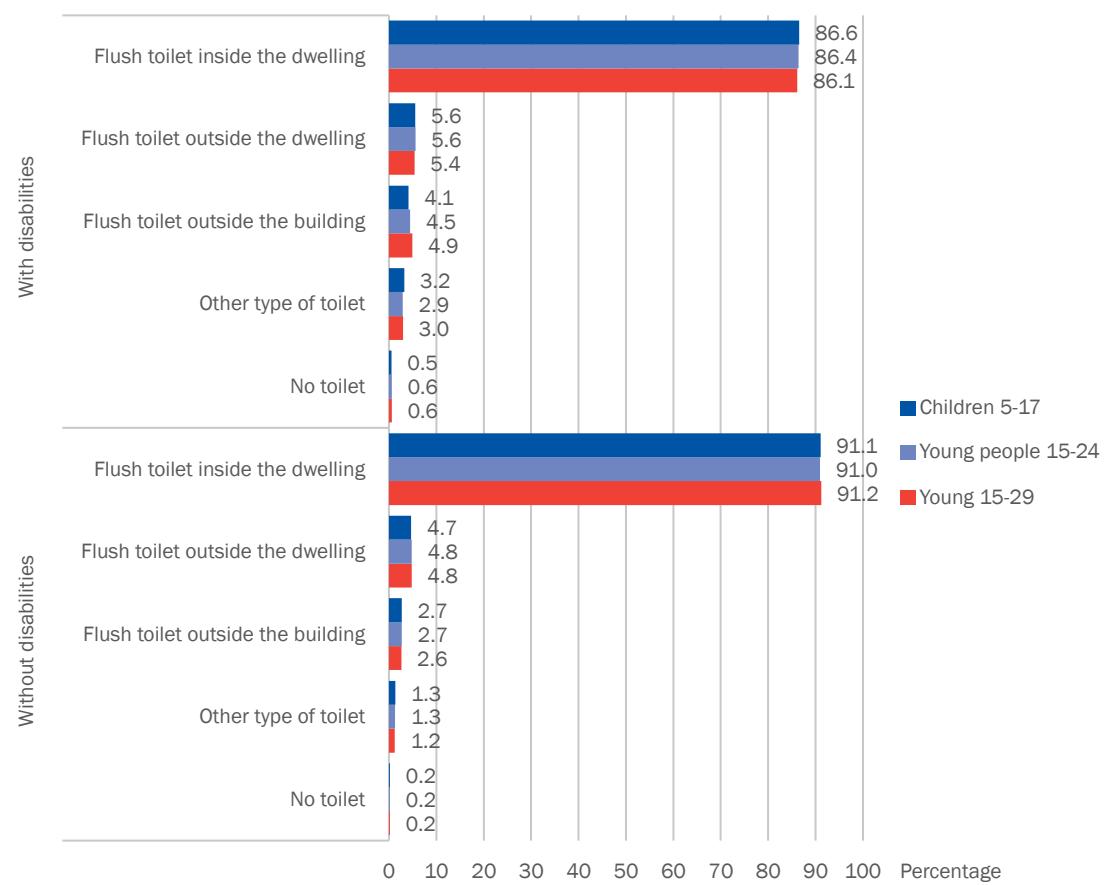
5.3.4 Literacy and education

Education empowers children with disabilities to reach their full potential and participate more fully in the economy and society as a whole. By providing inclusive learning environments, we help ensure equal opportunities and respect for every child's abilities. Access to quality education is a specific target of SDG 4 (quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all). Target 4.5 of SDG 4 focuses on the importance of education for children with disabilities: *By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations*. Target 4.a. aims to improve the educational facilities to make them more disability-friendly: *Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.* The census provides an opportunity to evaluate progress made in achieving Target 4.5.

Literacy

Figure 5.11 depicts the literacy rates for the three young populations by sex and disability status. The graph clearly shows that for all age groups, the young population with disabilities still lag behind persons without disabilities. For instance, while 99.4 percent of all persons in the age category 15-29 are literate, this is only so for 63.3 percent among persons with disabilities, which is less than two out of three. One cannot expect that parity will be reached in terms of literacy between persons with and without disability, but the differences clearly show the disadvantaged position of persons with disabilities. The fact that children aged 0-17 with disabilities have significantly higher literacy levels gives a clear indication that, in recent years, the situation is improving.

Figure 5.11: Literacy rates of children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status (in %)
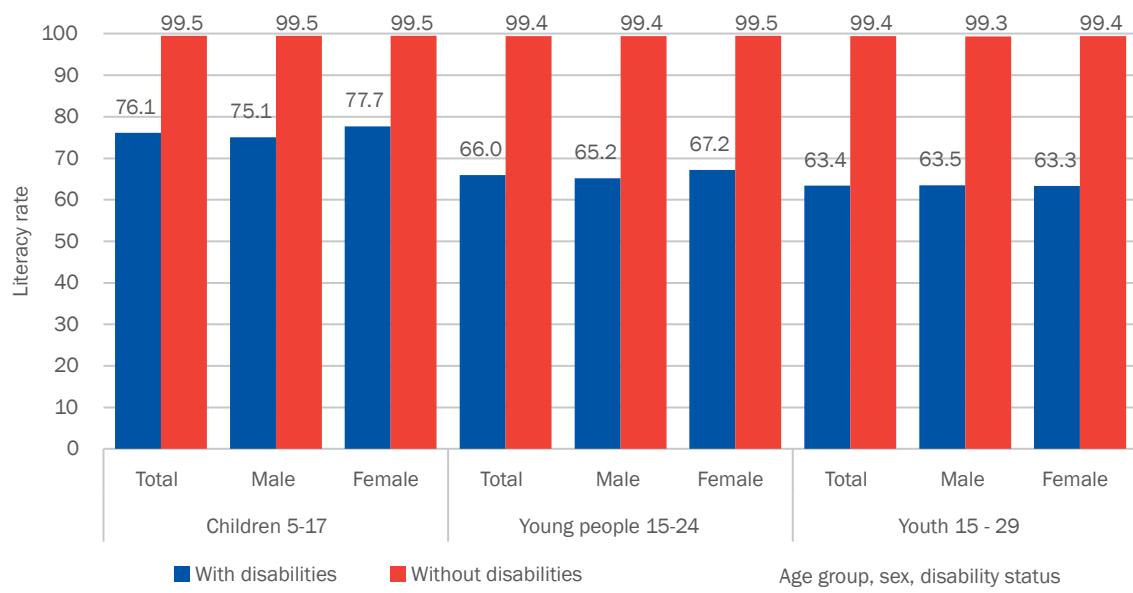
School attendance

The differences in literacy between the young population with and without disabilities are also reflected in the school attendance rates. The school attendance rate refers to the proportion of children or students in a specific age group or education level who are attending school at the time of the census.

Figure 5.12 shows that attendance of children, youth and young persons with disabilities is considerably lower than for their counterparts without disabilities. Among children aged

5-17, 95.4 percent of children with disabilities go to school, against 69.1 percent of children without disabilities. Among young people, these attendance rates are 59.0 and 26.4 percent, respectively. While 40.9 percent of persons aged 15-29 are still attending school, this is only 17.1 percent among those with disabilities. These results show that the young population with disabilities still face a significant disadvantage in terms of school attendance. The graph shows that some difference exists between males and females.

Figure 5.12: School attendance rates of children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status (in %)
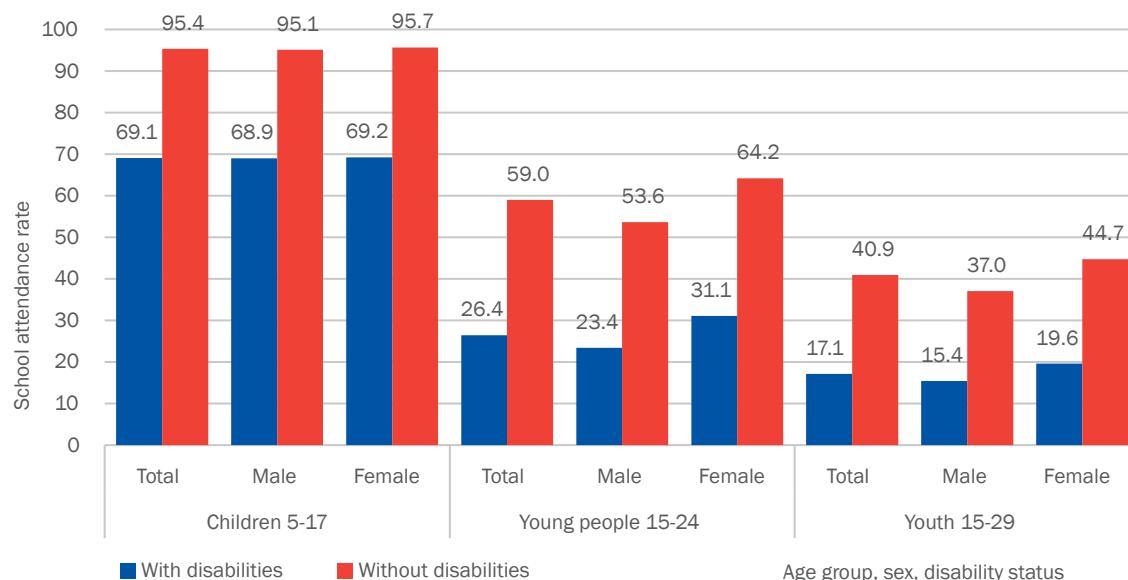
Differences between both sexes in school attendance are best shown through the gender parity indices of the various categories. Figure 5.13 shows that among children aged 5-17, children with and without disabilities have almost identical gender parity indices (GPI close to 100). For young people and youth, regardless of disability status, gender parity indices show that a higher proportion of females attend school compared to males. It is interesting to see that overall, females with disabilities do better than females without disabilities, vis-à-vis males. In the age group 15-24 years, 132.5 females with disabilities are in school for every 100 males with disabilities. Among females without disabilities, the GPI is 119.6. Also in the group of 15-29, the same trend can be seen, however, with less difference.

Figure 5.13: Gender parity ratios for school attendance of children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status (in %)
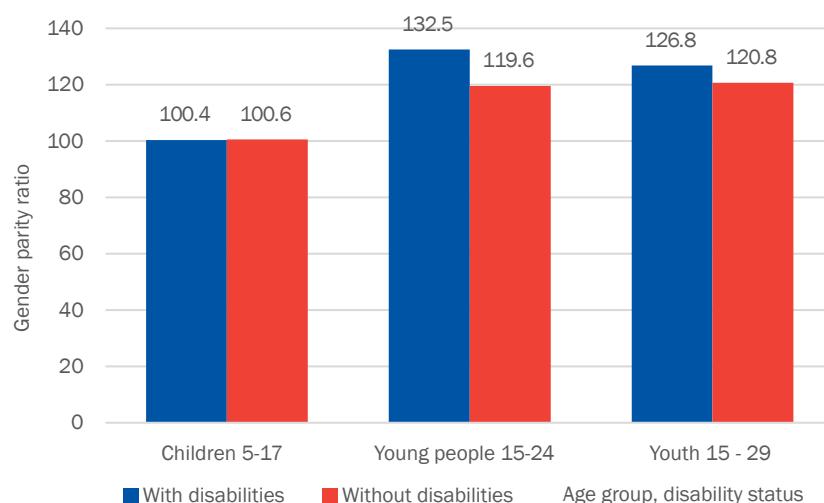
Figure 5.14 shows a detailed picture of the differences in school attendance between the young populations with and without disabilities by age and sex. Note that the age pattern among persons with disabilities is somewhat more erratic due to the relatively small numbers in this category. However, the graph clearly shows that school attendance for children remains high up to age 17 and then starts to decline. For children with disabilities, this decline starts from the very start of their school career and keeps declining rapidly. Up till age 17, for both groups, there is little difference between boys and girls. However, after age 17, the figures show a real advantage for girls compared to boys, both in the group of persons with and without disabilities.

Figure 5.14: School attendance rates of young population aged 6-29, by disability status, sex and age (in %)
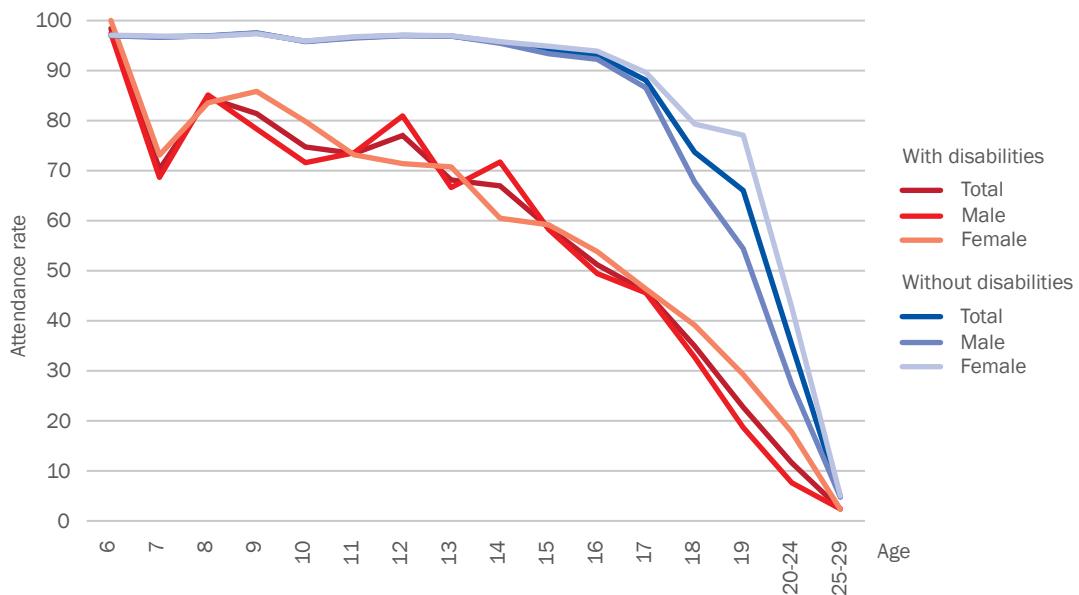
Young persons, with and without disabilities, not only differ in terms of their school attendance, but also in terms of the level of education they are attending. Figure 5.15 shows the relative distribution of the level of education attended by disability status among youth aged 15-24. The graph shows that the timing of education is different between the two groups among those currently in school. While only 3.7 percent of youth without disabilities are in lower secondary education, among youth with disabilities this percentage is 19.8 percent. The percentage in upper secondary education is more similar (49.6 against 51.4 percent), but a much lower percentage of youth with disabilities can be found in tertiary education, 26.3 against 48.6 percent. This shows that the young population not only has lower school attendance but is also concentrated in lower education levels.

Figure 5.15: Young people aged 15-24, by level of education attended, and by disability status (in %)
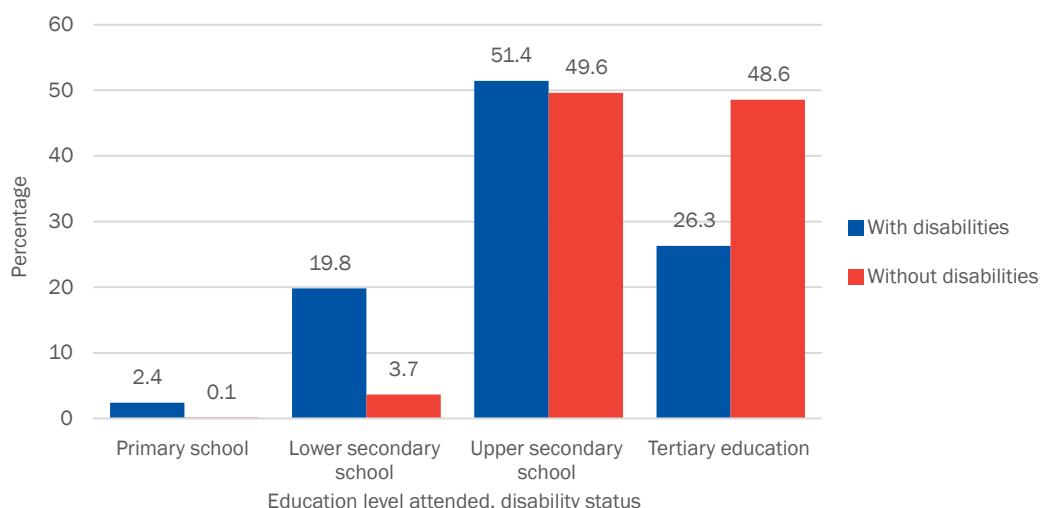
Educational attainment

Figure 5.17 shows the educational attainment for young people and youth by disability status. No results are shown for children, as too many of them had not reached the age to attain any educational level. The graph clearly shows how the young population with disabilities still lags behind their peers without disabilities. Among youth aged 15-29 years old, 22.7 percent of those without disabilities have a tertiary or post-graduate diploma, against 11.8 percent among those with disabilities. Among youth with upper secondary education these percentages are 40.3 percent and 28.5 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the percentage of youth who attained primary or lower secondary education is much higher among those with disabilities.

Figure 5.16: Young people and youth, by disability status, and by educational attainment (in %)
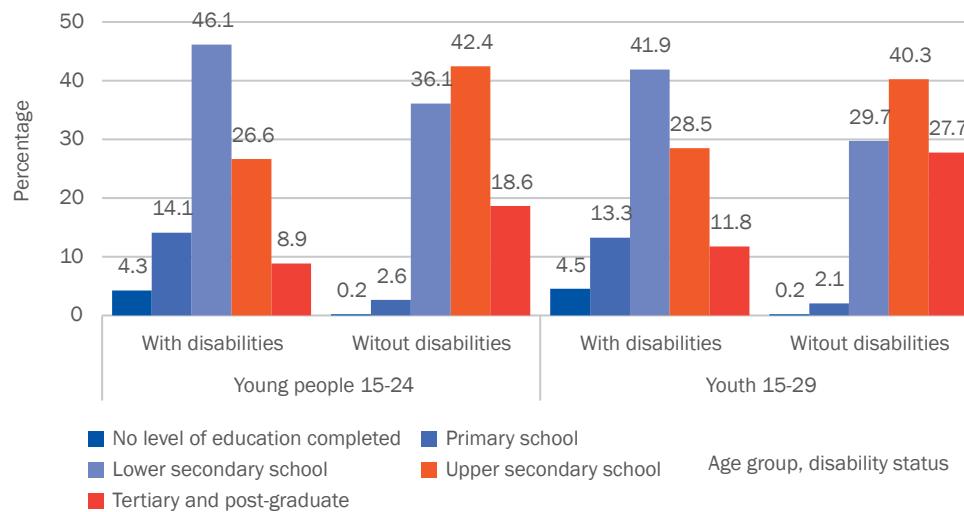
As indicated before, young females score better than young males in education. Figure 5.17 shows that this is not only the case for the general population of youth aged 15-29, but also for youth with disabilities. Among youth without disabilities, 35.2 percent of women attained a tertiary or post-graduate educational level, against 20.2 percent for men of the same age category. Among youth with disabilities, these percentages are 18.1 percent for women and 7.6 percent for men. At lower educational levels, the difference between men and women is very small in both groups.

Figure 5.17: Youth (15-29), by disability status, sex, and by educational attainment (in %)
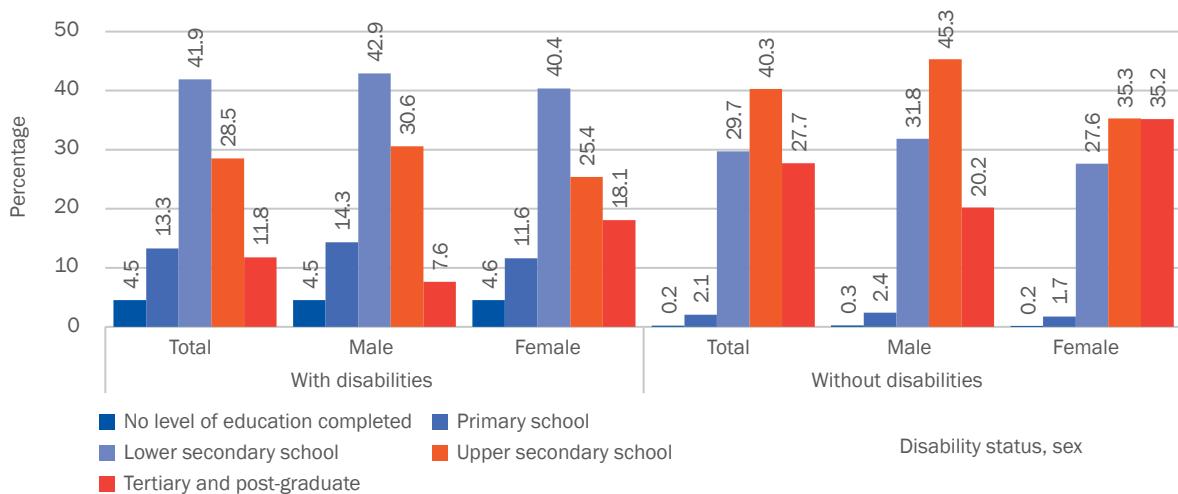
6. Living conditions of young populations

In this chapter, various aspects of the living conditions of children, young people, and youth will be examined. The number of variables directly related to the living conditions of the young population in the census is rather limited.

6.1 Household wealth status

According to the census 2023, 21.6 percent of children aged 0-17 years belonged to the lowest wealth quintile.

A logit regression allows for identifying which factors increase or decrease the likelihood that a child belongs to the lowest 20 percent of the population. The regression model allows for a better understanding of poverty among children. This helps policymakers identify which groups of children are most at risk, enabling the development of improved social protection programmes. It also supports equity-focused development efforts by highlighting disparities and informing strategies to reduce child poverty and inequality.

The logit regression was restricted to children 0-17 years old, as they are the most vulnerable group within the young population. The variable under investigation in the logit regression was whether the child belonged to a household in the lowest wealth quintile or not. The results of the logit regression are depicted in Figure 2.4. The reference categories for each explanatory variable show a '0' highlighted in grey. A light blue bar with a positive value, indicates that the risk of belonging to the lowest wealth quintile of households is higher than the reference category. The value indicates how much larger for a specific category this risk of being less well of is compared to the reference category. For instance, a value of 50 indicates that the risk of belonging to the lowest wealth quintile is 50 percent higher than for the reference category. The negative values on the left side, next to the darker blue bars, indicate the percentages of individuals who have lower risks than the reference category.

Figure 6.1: Risk of belonging to the lowest wealth quintile relative to reference categories, based on logit regression (in %)
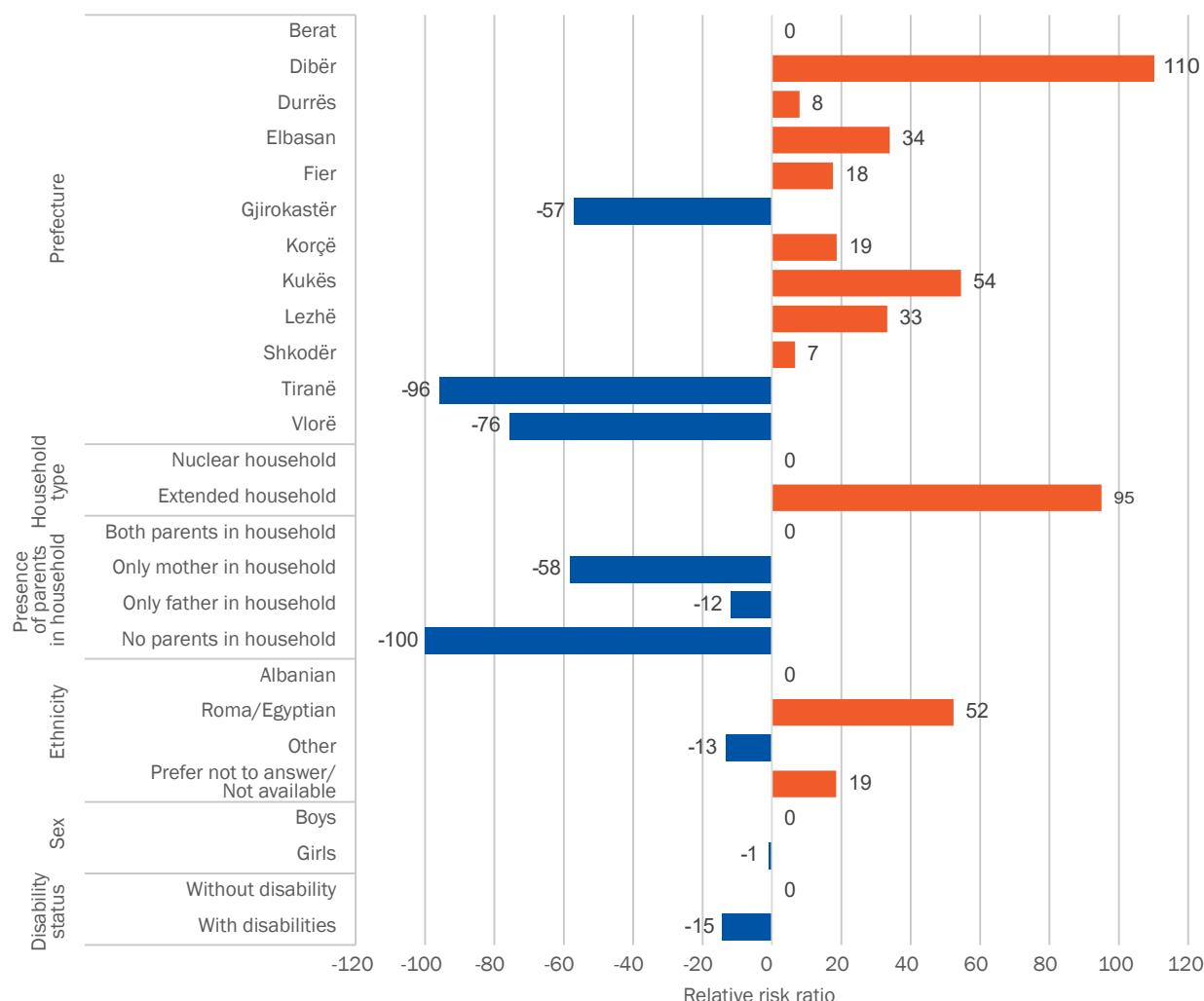
The logit regression shows some interesting results. First, after controlling for other intervening factors, large prefectural differences are observed. Children in Diber prefecture face the highest risk of belonging to lowest wealth quintile. The analysis shows that children in Diber have more than twice the risk of being in the lowest category (110 percent) compared to those in the reference prefecture Berat. Kukes is taking second place with 54 percent higher risks. At the other end of the spectrum, children in Tirana have a 96 percent lower risk than children in Berat of being in the lowest category.

No real difference exists between boys and girls in terms of their chances of being in the lowest quintile. Children with disabilities had, on average, a 15 percent higher risk than children without disabilities. From the results of the logit regression, it is unclear whether children with disabilities are less well off due to their membership in poor households or whether households become poor less well off because of the high costs involved in having a child with a disability.

Children living in extended households have almost double the risk of being in the lowest wealth quintile than children from nuclear households. This finding is in line with worldwide evidence that children living in extended households face higher poverty rates. According to the publication *A Global View of Poverty, Gender, and Household Composition*, 10.3 percent of the world's population lives in extended households. In comparison, 20.9 percent of people experiencing poverty reside in this type of household (Muñoz Boudet, Bhatt, Azcona, Yoo, & Beegle, 2021).

Children who have one or both parents absent in the household have considerably lower levels of being in the lowest quintile than children who have both parents in the household. Chil-

dren who live with only their mother in the household have a 58 percent lower risk of being in the lowest quintile. If only the father is in the household, the effect is significantly smaller (12 percent). Children who have both parents absent are twice less likely to live in the lowest 20 per cent of households. While the absence of a parent can be due to emigration, divorce, separation or even the parent's death, most absences are caused by the mass migration of adults to find employment in other, more affluent countries. The remittances sent by the parents are most likely the reason why their children are better off.

The difficult position of the Roma/Egyptian minority is clearly shown by the higher chances their children have of belonging to the least well off segment of society. The children of Roma and Egyptian parents face a 50 percent higher risk of living in the lowest quintiles in the country than children of Albanian parents. Children with another ethnic background have slightly lower risks of belonging to the lowest wealth quintile (13 percent).

6.2 Water supply

Access to clean and safe water in the home is crucial for the health of children and is directly linked to achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 3 (*Good Health and Wellbeing*) and SDG 6 (*Clean Water and Sanitation*), according to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2023). Children are especially vulnerable to waterborne diseases, and access to improved water sources at the household level significantly reduces their risk of illness and death (*ibid*.). A reliable water supply in the dwelling supports essential hygiene practices, such as handwashing and safe food preparation, which are vital for preventing disease. In the census, information is available on water supply, toilet services and bathing facilities, both not on handwashing.

Figure 6.2 illustrates the types of water supply available to children aged 0-17, disaggregated by sex. The graph indicates that a high proportion (75.1 percent) of this population has piped water in their dwelling, which aligns with the 'safely managed' category in the UNICEF and WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme classifications (WHO/UNICEF, n.d.).

Figure 6.2: Children aged 0-17, by type of water supply, and by sex (in %)
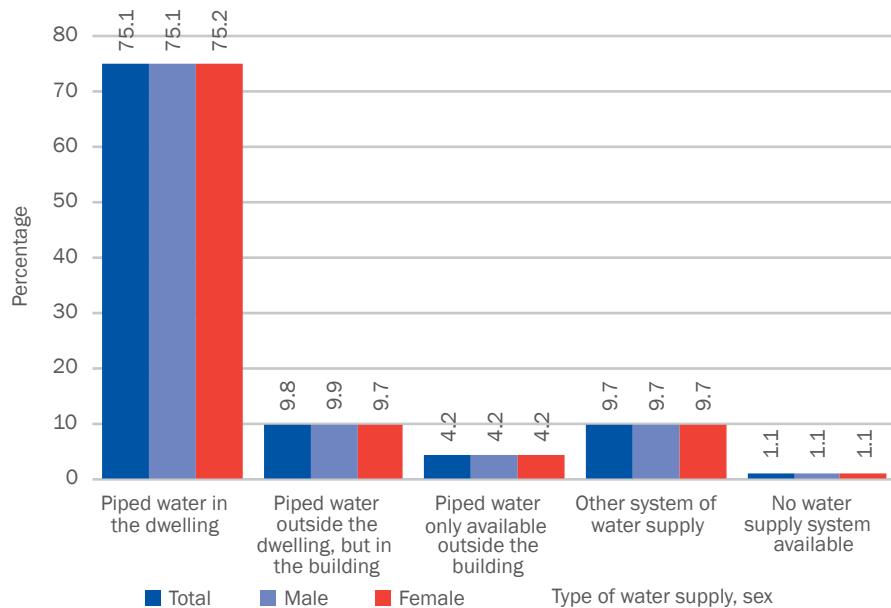
Almost 10 percent of the population relies on piped water within the building but outside the dwelling. While still considered an improved source, this condition is classified under 'basic service'. On the other hand, piped water outside the building may increase the risk of contamination and reduce the ease of access. One in twenty-five children lives in this situation. In the 2023 census, no further specification was asked about other types of water supply, such

as protected or unprotected dug holes, springs, tanker truck water or surface water. All these categories were grouped together in the answer category' Other system of water supply'. In the 2023 Albanian census, nearly ten percent of all children lived in households with other types of water supply. The most vulnerable group of children are those living in households with no water supply system. This was the case for 1.1 percent of all children aged 0-17 years. It should be noted that no differences were observed between boys and girls.

The same analysis was done for young persons 15-29 years old and youth 15-29 years old. The difference between these two groups and children was negligible and is not presented here.

6.3 Toilet facilities

Toilet facilities in a dwelling are considered safely managed if the improved sanitation facility is used exclusively by the household and excreta are properly and safely disposed of on the premises or treated at a designated off-site location. A basic facility is one where an improved sanitation facility is used by the household but not shared with other households. In the census, no question was asked about the disposal of excreta. Therefore, it is not directly possible to distinguish between safely managed and basic toilet facilities. Figure 6.3 shows the percentage of children by type of toilet facilities and sex.

Figure 6.3: Children aged 0-17, by type of toilet facilities, and by sex
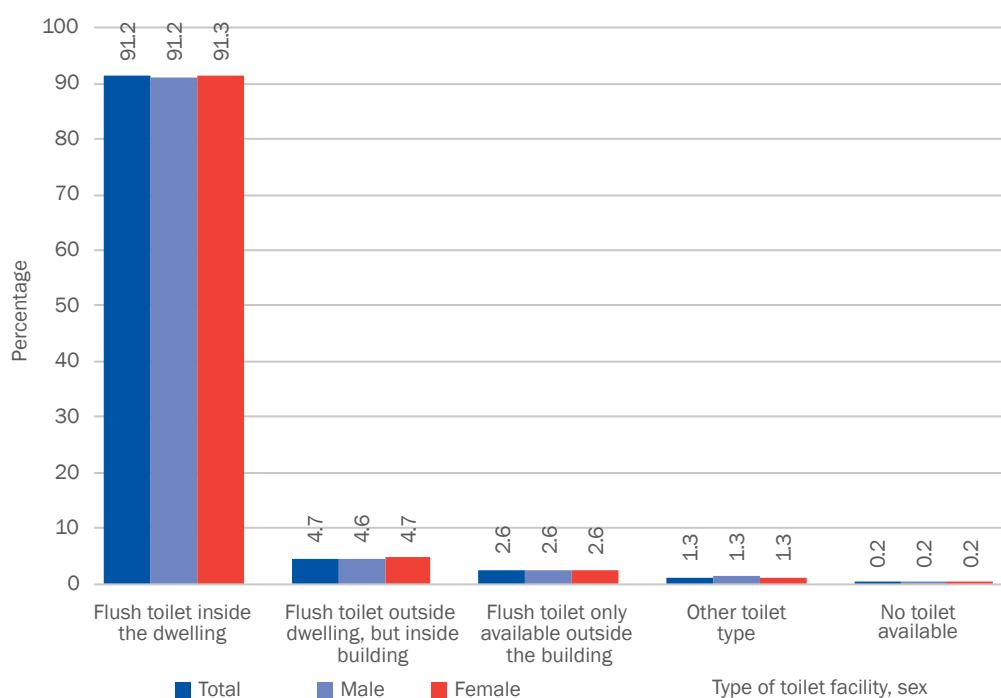
Among children aged 0-17 years, 91.2 percent live in households with a flush toilet inside the home, 4.7 percent have access to a flush toilet outside the dwelling but within the same building, and 1.3 percent have access to another type of toilet facility. The most vulnerable group are the 0.2 percent of children who do not have a toilet available. Figure 6.3 shows almost no gender disparity, which is a positive indicator. Also in this case, the percentages for young persons and youth are almost identical to those of children and, for this reason, are not presented here.

6.4 Bathing facilities

In the 2023 census, a question was asked about bathing facilities in the dwelling:' Does *this dwelling have a fixed bath or shower*?' S decent indoor bathing facility inside the dwelling supports overall hygiene for household members. Figure 6.4 shows the percentage of children by whether they have bathing facilities in the dwelling or not. The large majority of children (94.3

percent) have bathing facilities in the dwelling where they reside.

Figure 6.4: Children aged 0-17, by type of bathing facility, and by sex
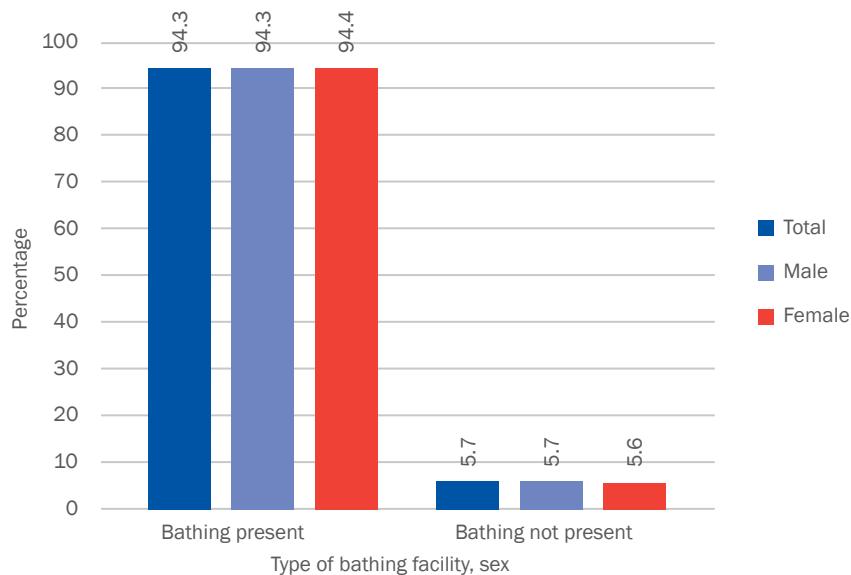
6.5 Electricity and heating

According to the 2023 census, the proportion of the young population (0-29 years) with electricity installed in their dwelling is almost universal in Albania: 99.4 percent of all children, young people and youth live in households with electricity installed.

The type of heating is essential for children in several ways. Figure 6.5 shows that almost 60 percent of children live in households where wood burning is the primary type of heating (Figure 6.5). Using wood for heating can affect indoor air quality, as it may release harmful smoke and air pollutants. Especially babies and young children are vulnerable to indoor pollutants as their lungs are still developing. Prolonged exposure can easily lead to short-term and long-term diseases such as respiratory infections, asthma and chronic bronchitis and may increase the risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Wood burning also creates serious environmental problems, as it leads to air pollution and deforestation.

Next to wood, electricity from another source is the second most important fuel used. It is impossible to determine what type is used, but about three percent of children live in households where electricity from other sources is used (i.e. non-solar sources).

Figure 6.5: Children aged 0-17, by type of heating in the dwelling, and by sex
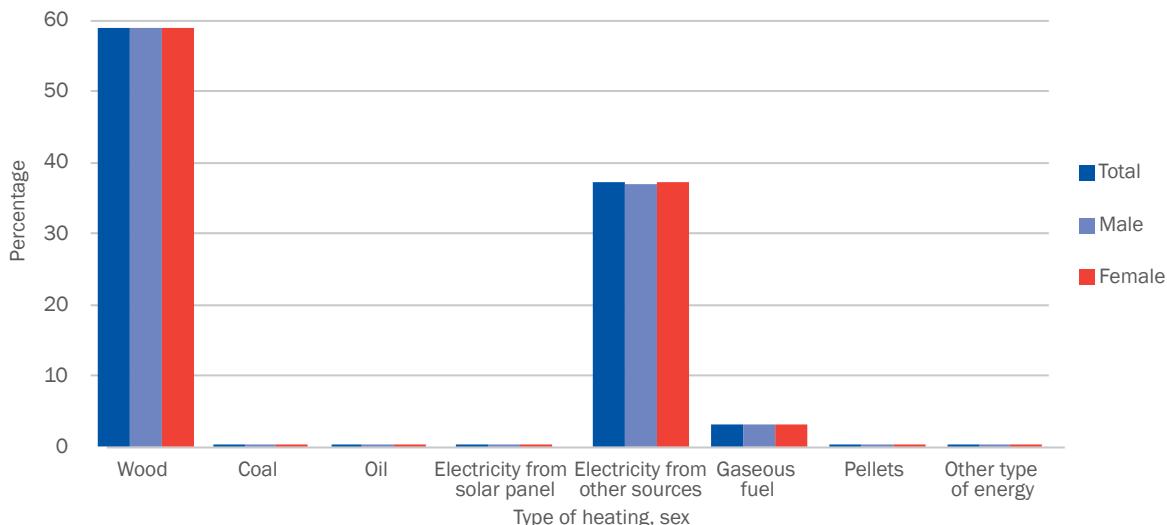
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Annex I Concepts and definitions

Children. The population aged 0-17.

Disability. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health defines disability as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. In this report, a person is considered to have a disability if they answered 'lots of difficulties' or 'cannot do at all', to one or more of the questions on the domains of functioning.

Domain of functioning. The WG uses six basic activity areas – seeing, hearing, walking, remembering/concentrating, self-care and communicating – to identify and measure disability.

Functional limitation. In the WG framework, functional limitation refers to difficulties an individual may have in performing basic activities due to a health problem. The WG developed a set of standardised questions – known as the Washington Group Short Set – to identify people with disabilities based on difficulties in core functional domains rather than on medical diagnoses.

Gross attendance ratio (GAR). The total attendance at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.

Literacy. The ability both to read and to write. A persons who can with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his everyday life is literate.

Household. In the census, a household is defined as a group of persons who live together in a dwelling and who share a partially or fully joint economy. This includes the shared provision of food for principal meals, accommodation and other essentials for living.

Net attendance ratio (NAR). The percentage of children or youth of the official age group for a given level of education who are actually attending school at that level.

Old-age dependency ratio. The ratio is of the population aged 65 and over to the population aged 15-64, expressed as a percentage.

Prevalence of disability. Disability prevalence, using the Washington Group Short Set, is defined as the proportion of individuals who report "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in at least one of six functional domains (seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care, and communicating). The cut-off point is set between "some difficulty" and "a lot of difficulty," meaning only those with at least "a lot of difficulty" in one domain are considered to have a disability.

Sex ratio. The number of males per 100 females in a population.

Total dependency ratio. The ratio of the sum of the population aged 0-14 and that aged 65 and over to the population aged 15-64, expressed as a percentage.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR). The total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

Wealth status. A variable for household economic wellbeing measured using a wealth index, which is a composite indicator of a household's cumulative living standard. It is constructed using data on household ownership of selected assets, housing materials, and access to water and sanitation. Households are ranked by wealth index scores and divided into five quintiles (lowest, second-lowest, middle, second-highest and highest) to compare household and individual characteristics across socioeconomic groups

Young-age dependency ratio. The ratio is of the population aged 0-14 to those aged 15-64, expressed as a percentage.

Young people. The population aged 15-24.

Young-people literacy rate. The literacy rate of persons aged 15-24; corresponding to the international definition of youth literacy rate.

Young population. The population aged 0-29.

Youth. The population aged 15-29.

Annex II Population, by age (group), and by census year, sex

Young persons / young population			Age (group)	Sex			Sex ratio
				Total	Male	Female	
			Total	2,402,113	1,190,448	1,211,665	98.2
Young persons / young population	Children		0	21,119	10,986	10,133	108.4
			1	21,501	11,170	10,331	108.1
			2	23,206	11,954	11,252	106.2
			3	23,337	12,122	11,215	108.1
			4	22,731	11,969	10,762	111.2
			5	24,013	12,483	11,530	108.3
			6	24,812	12,938	11,874	109.0
			7	24,973	12,966	12,007	108.0
			8	25,551	13,224	12,327	107.3
			9	26,041	13,527	12,514	108.1
			10	26,495	13,768	12,727	108.2
			11	27,358	14,171	13,187	107.5
			12	27,712	14,303	13,409	106.7
			13	27,717	14,492	13,225	109.6
			14	27,363	14,172	13,191	107.4
	Young people	Youth	15	27,962	14,671	13,291	110.4
			16	27,283	13,965	13,318	104.9
			17	28,800	14,584	14,216	102.6
			18	29,834	14,609	15,225	96.0
			19	29,064	14,182	14,882	95.3
			20	30,143	14,250	15,893	89.7
			21	26,166	12,556	13,610	92.3
			22	29,668	14,313	15,355	93.2
			23	30,033	14,618	15,415	94.8
			24	27,170	13,617	13,553	100.5
			25	27,952	13,905	14,047	99.0
			26	28,729	14,497	14,232	101.9
			27	28,836	14,607	14,229	102.7
			28	29,952	15,318	14,634	104.7
			29	28,738	14,742	13,996	105.3
			30-34	153,567	79,385	74,182	107.0
			35-39	151,692	78,453	73,239	107.1
			40-44	138,734	67,868	70,866	95.8
			45-49	143,960	67,920	76,040	89.3
			50-54	164,027	77,413	86,614	89.4
			55-59	178,410	86,338	92,072	93.8
			60-64	194,360	95,584	98,776	96.8
			65-69	168,891	83,488	85,403	97.8
			70-74	125,709	61,681	64,028	96.3
			75-79	81,087	39,710	41,377	96.0
			80-84	61,519	28,162	33,357	84.4
			85-89	26,443	12,349	14,094	87.6
			90-94	7,721	2,960	4,761	62.2
			95-99	1,370	395	975	40.5
			100+	364	63	301	20.9

Annex III Population: municipality level tables and figures

Table IIIa. Young population, children, young people and youth, by municipality, and by sex (in thousands); sex ratio, by sex

Municipality	Young population (0-29)			Sex ratio	Children (0-17)			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
Berat (Berat)	17.1	9.0	8.1	110.3	11.0	5.7	5.4	106.3
Kuçovë (Berat)	8.8	4.4	4.4	99.7	4.5	2.3	2.2	107.4
Poliçan (Berat)	2.1	1.1	1.1	100.7	1.2	0.6	0.6	105.2
Skrapar (Berat)	2.7	1.4	1.3	106.2	1.4	0.7	0.7	106.4
Dimal (Berat)	10.7	5.0	5.7	88.9	4.8	2.5	2.3	106.6
Bulqizë (Dibër)	9.6	5.2	4.4	118.4	5.8	3.0	2.7	111.6
Dibër (Dibër)	20.3	10.2	10.1	101.2	11.2	5.8	5.4	106.9
Klos (Dibër)	4.5	2.3	2.2	104.7	2.5	1.3	1.2	104.7
Mat (Dibër)	5.3	2.9	2.4	122.3	3.3	1.8	1.5	115.1
Durrës (Durrës)	52.9	26.8	26.1	103.0	30.4	15.9	14.6	108.9
Krujë (Durrës)	19.7	10.4	9.3	111.7	11.3	5.9	5.4	109.6
Shijak (Durrës)	7.8	4.0	3.8	107.8	4.4	2.3	2.1	112.1
Belsh (Elbasan)	4.3	2.2	2.1	102.6	2.8	1.4	1.4	102.4
Cërrik (Elbasan)	7.4	3.8	3.6	107.4	4.4	2.3	2.2	105.2
Elbasan (Elbasan)	38.9	20.0	18.9	105.7	21.9	11.2	10.7	104.6
Gramsh (Elbasan)	5.3	2.8	2.5	114.0	3.1	1.6	1.5	104.3
Librazhd (Elbasan)	8.1	4.3	3.8	114.2	4.7	2.4	2.3	104.1
Peqin (Elbasan)	4.9	2.6	2.3	113.6	3.0	1.6	1.4	109.8
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	6.6	3.5	3.1	111.5	4.0	2.1	2.0	103.7
Divjakë (Fier)	7.3	3.8	3.4	111.5	4.5	2.4	2.2	108.4
Fier (Fier)	29.2	15.4	13.8	111.8	18.4	9.7	8.7	111.3
Lushnje (Fier)	16.6	8.8	7.8	112.1	10.5	5.5	5.0	108.7
Mallakastër (Fier)	4.0	2.2	1.9	117.0	2.6	1.4	1.3	109.1
Patos (Fier)	5.0	2.7	2.3	115.7	3.1	1.7	1.4	117.1
Roskovec (Fier)	5.0	2.6	2.3	113.5	3.1	1.7	1.5	115.5
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	1.1	0.6	0.6	102.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	107.5
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	6.4	3.3	3.0	110.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	103.9
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	1.0	0.6	0.4	135.9	0.7	0.4	0.3	122.6
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	0.6	0.3	0.3	111.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	99.5
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	1.4	0.8	0.6	122.7	0.9	0.5	0.4	114.7
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	1.6	0.9	0.8	117.3	1.0	0.5	0.5	106.3

Young people (15-24)			Sex ratio	Youth (15-29)			Sex ratio	Municipality
Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female		
5.6	3.0	2.6	114.9	8.3	4.4	3.9	113.2	Berat (Berat)
3.5	1.7	1.8	90.9	5.2	2.5	2.7	94.5	Kuçovë (Berat)
0.8	0.4	0.4	101.2	1.2	0.6	0.6	96.5	Poliçan (Berat)
1.1	0.5	0.5	101.1	1.6	0.8	0.8	103.7	Skrapar (Berat)
4.9	2.1	2.8	77.7	6.8	3.0	3.8	80.5	Dimal (Berat)
3.3	1.8	1.5	122.9	4.9	2.7	2.1	127.4	Bulqizë (Dibër)
7.6	3.6	4.0	89.7	11.1	5.4	5.6	96.2	Dibër (Dibër)
1.6	0.8	0.8	91.3	2.4	1.2	1.2	103.1	Klos (Dibër)
1.8	1.0	0.8	118.2	2.6	1.5	1.1	128.2	Mat (Dibër)
18.4	9.1	9.3	97.8	27.8	13.7	14.1	97.4	Durrës (Durrës)
6.8	3.7	3.2	116.5	10.4	5.6	4.8	116.6	Krujë (Durrës)
2.7	1.3	1.4	97.0	4.2	2.1	2.1	102.5	Shijak (Durrës)
1.4	0.6	0.7	86.7	2.0	1.0	1.0	96.6	Belsh (Elbasan)
2.6	1.3	1.3	97.1	3.8	2.0	1.9	106.3	Cërrik (Elbasan)
14.1	7.2	6.9	103.4	21.1	10.9	10.2	106.4	Elbasan (Elbasan)
1.9	1.0	0.9	113.4	2.8	1.5	1.3	120.3	Gramsh (Elbasan)
2.9	1.5	1.4	109.0	4.3	2.4	1.9	121.9	Librazhd (Elbasan)
1.7	0.9	0.8	113.2	2.5	1.3	1.1	116.4	Peqin (Elbasan)
2.2	1.2	1.0	114.5	3.3	1.8	1.5	118.8	Prrenjas (Elbasan)
2.4	1.3	1.2	108.0	3.6	1.9	1.7	112.9	Divjakë (Fier)
9.4	4.9	4.4	111.0	14.2	7.5	6.7	112.4	Fier (Fier)
5.2	2.8	2.4	115.0	8.1	4.4	3.8	116.1	Lushnje (Fier)
1.5	0.8	0.7	124.6	2.0	1.2	0.9	128.8	Mallakastër (Fier)
1.8	0.9	0.9	105.9	2.6	1.4	1.2	110.9	Patos (Fier)
1.6	0.9	0.8	112.2	2.4	1.3	1.2	109.5	Roskovec (Fier)
0.4	0.2	0.2	94.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	100.3	Dropull (Gjirokastër)
2.1	1.1	1.0	116.5	3.1	1.7	1.4	118.2	Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)
0.3	0.2	0.1	158.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	153.3	Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)
0.2	0.1	0.1	136.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	137.5	Libohovë (Gjirokastër)
0.5	0.3	0.2	123.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	129.7	Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)
0.5	0.3	0.2	138.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	138.3	Përmet (Gjirokastër)

...Continues

...Continued

Municipality	Young population (0-29)			Sex ratio	Children (0-17)			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	1.8	1.0	0.8	123.0	1.1	0.5	0.5	103.4
Devoll (Korçë)	7.1	3.7	3.3	111.1	4.4	2.2	2.1	105.5
Kolonjë (Korçë)	1.6	0.9	0.7	118.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	105.6
Korçë (Korçë)	16.9	8.8	8.1	108.5	9.8	5.0	4.8	103.1
Maliq (Korçë)	9.8	5.3	4.5	116.9	5.4	2.8	2.6	107.3
Pogradec (Korçë)	14.8	7.9	6.9	115.1	8.8	4.6	4.2	107.4
Pustec (Korçë)	0.4	0.2	0.2	111.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	123.8
Has (Kukës)	5.0	2.5	2.6	97.0	3.2	1.7	1.5	109.5
Kukës (Kukës)	15.4	8.2	7.2	113.7	9.6	5.1	4.5	114.7
Tropojë (Kukës)	5.1	2.7	2.4	113.0	3.0	1.6	1.4	111.6
Kurbin (Lezhë)	12.2	6.4	5.8	112.1	7.2	3.8	3.4	112.6
Lezhë (Lezhë)	17.2	8.8	8.3	106.0	10.4	5.4	5.0	109.3
Mirditë (Lezhë)	4.2	2.2	2.0	112.8	2.4	1.2	1.2	105.3
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	1.8	1.0	0.8	124.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	110.1
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	6.8	3.5	3.4	103.0	3.7	1.9	1.8	104.4
Pukë (Shkodër)	2.0	1.1	0.9	119.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	113.3
Shkodër (Shkodër)	34.4	17.4	16.9	103.2	19.8	10.3	9.5	107.5
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	6.3	3.1	3.2	97.5	3.7	1.9	1.8	104.8
Kamëz (Tiranë)	39.8	19.9	19.9	100.0	23.6	12.3	11.3	109.2
Kavajë (Tiranë)	9.0	4.6	4.4	105.8	5.3	2.8	2.6	107.4
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	3.4	1.8	1.6	107.3	2.0	1.0	1.0	105.3
Tiranë (Tiranë)	224.3	108.5	115.9	93.6	116.9	60.3	56.6	106.6
Vorë (Tiranë)	8.4	4.2	4.2	100.9	4.9	2.6	2.3	110.8
Delvinë (Vlorë)	1.6	0.9	0.7	124.1	0.9	0.5	0.4	111.0
Himarë (Vlorë)	1.9	1.0	0.9	112.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	99.8
Konispol (Vlorë)	1.3	0.8	0.6	137.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	124.0
Finiq (Vlorë)	1.3	0.7	0.6	108.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	101.9
Sarandë (Vlorë)	7.1	3.7	3.4	109.4	4.5	2.3	2.2	104.1
Selenicë (Vlorë)	2.2	1.2	1.0	115.8	1.4	0.7	0.7	109.2
Vlorë (Vlorë)	25.0	12.8	12.2	104.5	14.6	7.5	7.1	105.6
Albania	488.1	244.7	243.3	100.6	272.0	140.9	131.2	107.4

Young people (15-24)			Sex ratio	Youth (15-29)			Sex ratio	Municipality
Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female		
0.6	0.4	0.3	138.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	148.2	Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)
2.3	1.2	1.1	111.9	3.6	1.9	1.7	115.7	Devoll (Korçë)
0.5	0.3	0.2	126.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	129.3	Kolonjë (Korçë)
5.9	3.2	2.7	116.5	8.9	4.8	4.1	115.6	Korçë (Korçë)
3.6	1.9	1.7	116.9	5.5	3.0	2.4	124.6	Maliq (Korçë)
5.3	2.9	2.4	119.3	7.8	4.3	3.5	123.3	Pogradec (Korçë)
0.1	0.1	0.1	116.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	98.1	Pustec (Korçë)
1.7	0.7	1.0	74.8	2.4	1.1	1.3	80.0	Has (Kukës)
5.2	2.7	2.5	109.9	7.5	4.0	3.5	112.7	Kukës (Kukës)
1.9	1.0	0.9	113.8	2.7	1.4	1.2	117.2	Tropojë (Kukës)
4.2	2.2	2.0	108.5	6.3	3.3	3.0	111.3	Kurbin (Lezhë)
5.8	2.9	2.9	101.6	8.7	4.4	4.3	101.6	Lezhë (Lezhë)
1.5	0.8	0.7	117.3	2.3	1.3	1.0	121.9	Mirditë (Lezhë)
0.8	0.4	0.3	121.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	131.6	Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)
2.7	1.3	1.4	94.0	3.9	2.0	1.9	103.1	Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)
0.8	0.4	0.4	118.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	124.4	Pukë (Shkodër)
12.1	6.0	6.1	97.3	18.2	9.1	9.2	98.7	Shkodër (Shkodër)
2.3	1.1	1.2	88.2	3.3	1.6	1.7	90.7	Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)
14.5	7.0	7.5	93.5	20.7	9.9	10.8	91.7	Kamëz (Tiranë)
3.1	1.5	1.5	100.5	4.7	2.4	2.3	104.3	Kavajë (Tiranë)
1.2	0.6	0.6	91.4	1.8	0.9	0.9	105.7	Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)
82.1	37.5	44.6	84.2	126.7	58.0	68.7	84.4	Tiranë (Tiranë)
3.0	1.4	1.6	90.3	4.4	2.1	2.3	91.4	Vorë (Tiranë)
0.7	0.4	0.3	118.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	129.9	Delvinë (Vlorë)
0.6	0.3	0.3	110.5	1.0	0.6	0.4	122.9	Himarë (Vlorë)
0.5	0.3	0.2	148.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	145.8	Konispol (Vlorë)
0.5	0.3	0.3	108.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	113.0	Finiq (Vlorë)
2.4	1.3	1.1	112.3	3.6	1.9	1.7	115.8	Sarandë (Vlorë)
0.7	0.4	0.4	110.5	1.1	0.6	0.5	118.1	Selenicë (Vlorë)
8.8	4.4	4.3	102.5	13.2	6.7	6.5	103.1	Vlorë (Vlorë)
175.6	85.0	90.5	93.9	264.9	128.9	135.9	94.9	Albania

IIIb. Young population aged 0-29 as a percentage of the total population, by municipality

Municipality	Percent aged 0-29 (young population)
Finiq (Vlorë)	11.6
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	13.8
Pustec (Korçë)	19.5
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	20.5
Kolonjë (Korçë)	21.1
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	21.5
Himarë (Vlorë)	22.8
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	23.0
Selenicë (Vlorë)	23.1
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	23.2
Poliçan (Berat)	24.2
Belsh (Elbasan)	25.2
Mallakastër (Fier)	25.4
Skrapar (Berat)	25.5
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	26.0
Lushnje (Fier)	26.2
Delvinë (Vlorë)	26.4
Konispol (Vlorë)	26.8
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	27.1
Devoll (Korçë)	27.2
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	27.4
Berat (Berat)	27.5
Patos (Fier)	27.7
Korçë (Korçë)	27.8
Kuçovë (Berat)	28.4
Fier (Fier)	28.6
Cërrik (Elbasan)	29.3
Divjakë (Fier)	29.3
Peqin (Elbasan)	29.4
Vlorë (Vlorë)	29.8
Kavajë (Tiranë)	30.0
Mat (Dibër)	30.3
Roskovec (Fier)	30.4
Mirditë (Lezhë)	30.8
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	31.4
Sarandë (Vlorë)	31.5
Maliq (Korçë)	31.7
Gramsh (Elbasan)	31.9
Pukë (Shkodër)	32.0
Pogradec (Korçë)	32.2
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	32.7
Lezhë (Lezhë)	33.5
Albania	33.5
Shkodër (Shkodër)	33.5
Elbasan (Elbasan)	33.8
Durrës (Durrës)	34.4
Librazhd (Elbasan)	34.6
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	34.9
Shijak (Durrës)	35.3
Kurbin (Lezhë)	35.5
Bulqizë (Dibër)	35.8
Tropojë (Kukës)	35.9
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	36.1
Klos (Dibër)	36.8
Tiranë (Tiranë)	37.5
Dimal (Berat)	38.0
Krujë (Durrës)	38.4
Vorë (Tiranë)	38.8
Dibër (Dibër)	40.0
Kamëz (Tiranë)	41.4
Kukës (Kukës)	42.6
Has (Kukës)	43.1

Percent aged 0-29 (young population)

IIIc. Youth aged 15-29 as a percentage of the total population, by municipality

Municipality	Value
Finiq (Vlorë)	8.0
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	8.4
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	10.2
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	10.3
Kolonjë (Korçë)	10.6
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	11.2
Pustec (Korçë)	11.3
Selenicë (Vlorë)	11.3
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	11.7
Belsh (Elbasan)	11.8
Himarë (Vlorë)	12.0
Lushnje (Fier)	12.9
Mallakastër (Fier)	12.9
Berat (Berat)	13.4
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	13.5
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	13.5
Poliçan (Berat)	13.6
Konispol (Vlorë)	13.8
Devoll (Korçë)	13.8
Fier (Fier)	13.9
Patos (Fier)	14.2
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	14.4
Divjakë (Fier)	14.6
Korçë (Korçë)	14.7
Peqin (Elbasan)	14.8
Roskovec (Fier)	15.0
Mat (Dibër)	15.0
Delvinë (Vlorë)	15.0
Skrapar (Berat)	15.0
Cërrik (Elbasan)	15.2
Kavajë (Tiranë)	15.6
Vlorë (Vlorë)	15.7
Sarandë (Vlorë)	15.8
Mirditë (Lezhë)	16.8
Gramsh (Elbasan)	16.8
Kuçovë (Berat)	16.8
Lezhë (Lezhë)	16.8
Pogradec (Korçë)	17.0
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	17.0
Maliq (Korçë)	17.7
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	17.7
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	17.8
Shkodër (Shkodër)	17.8
Albania	17.9
Bulqizë (Dibër)	18.1
Durrës (Durrës)	18.1
Elbasan (Elbasan)	18.3
Pukë (Shkodër)	18.4
Librazhd (Elbasan)	18.4
Kurbin (Lezhë)	18.4
Tropojë (Kukës)	18.7
Shijak (Durrës)	18.8
Klos (Dibër)	19.9
Vorë (Tiranë)	20.3
Krujë (Durrës)	20.3
Has (Kukës)	20.5
Kukës (Kukës)	20.7
Tiranë (Tiranë)	21.2
Kamëz (Tiranë)	21.5
Dibër (Dibër)	21.8
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	23.4
Dimal (Berat)	24.2

Percent aged 0-29 (young population)

IIId. Young-age dependency ratio, by municipality

Municipality	Value
Finiq (Vlorë)	6.1
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	9.3
Pustec (Korçë)	14.5
Skrapar (Berat)	16.1
Poliçan (Berat)	16.8
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	17.2
Kolonjë (Korçë)	17.4
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	17.9
Kuçovë (Berat)	18.1
Delvinë (Vlorë)	18.5
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	18.7
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	19.5
Himarë (Vlorë)	19.8
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	19.9
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	20.1
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	20.3
Mallakastër (Fier)	20.4
Dimal (Berat)	20.5
Selenicë (Vlorë)	20.6
Pukë (Shkodër)	20.6
Korçë (Korçë)	21.2
Patos (Fier)	21.3
Lushnje (Fier)	21.3
Malësi e Madhe (Shkodër)	21.4
Konispol (Vlorë)	21.5
Maliq (Korçë)	21.7
Belsh (Elbasan)	21.8
Devoll (Korçë)	21.9
Mirditë (Lezhë)	21.9
Cërrik (Elbasan)	22.1
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	22.4
Peqin (Elbasan)	22.5
Berat (Berat)	22.6
Gramsh (Elbasan)	22.9
Vlorë (Vlorë)	23.1
Divjakë (Fier)	23.3
Pogradec (Korçë)	23.5
Kavajë (Tiranë)	23.6
Elbasan (Elbasan)	23.6
Fier (Fier)	24.0
Albania	24.0
Roskovec (Fier)	24.0
Mat (Dibër)	24.1
Tiranë (Tiranë)	24.2
Librazhd (Elbasan)	24.7
Sarandë (Vlorë)	24.7
Shkodër (Shkodër)	24.8
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	25.1
Durrës (Durrës)	25.2
Klos (Dibër)	25.4
Shijak (Durrës)	25.7
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	26.1
Lezhë (Lezhë)	26.2
Tropojë (Kukës)	26.4
Kurbin (Lezhë)	26.4
Bulqizë (Dibër)	27.1
Krujë (Durrës)	27.1
Dibër (Dibër)	27.2
Vorë (Tiranë)	27.8
Kamëz (Tiranë)	29.5
Kukës (Kukës)	32.9
Has (Kukës)	35.0

Percent aged 0-29 (young population)

Table IIIe.   Sex ratio for young population, children, young people and youth, by municipality

Municipality	Young population (0-29)			Sex ratio	Children (0-17)			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
Berat (Berat)	17.1	9.0	8.1	110.3	11.0	5.7	5.4	106.3
Kuçovë (Berat)	8.8	4.4	4.4	99.7	4.5	2.3	2.2	107.4
Poliçan (Berat)	2.1	1.1	1.1	100.7	1.2	0.6	0.6	105.2
Skrapar (Berat)	2.7	1.4	1.3	106.2	1.4	0.7	0.7	106.4
Dimal (Berat)	10.7	5.0	5.7	88.9	4.8	2.5	2.3	106.6
Bulqizë (Dibër)	9.6	5.2	4.4	118.4	5.8	3.0	2.7	111.6
Dibër (Dibër)	20.3	10.2	10.1	101.2	11.2	5.8	5.4	106.9
Klos (Dibër)	4.5	2.3	2.2	104.7	2.5	1.3	1.2	104.7
Mat (Dibër)	5.3	2.9	2.4	122.3	3.3	1.8	1.5	115.1
Durrës (Durrës)	52.9	26.8	26.1	103.0	30.4	15.9	14.6	108.9
Krujë (Durrës)	19.7	10.4	9.3	111.7	11.3	5.9	5.4	109.6
Shijak (Durrës)	7.8	4.0	3.8	107.8	4.4	2.3	2.1	112.1
Belsh (Elbasan)	4.3	2.2	2.1	102.6	2.8	1.4	1.4	102.4
Cërrik (Elbasan)	7.4	3.8	3.6	107.4	4.4	2.3	2.2	105.2
Elbasan (Elbasan)	38.9	20.0	18.9	105.7	21.9	11.2	10.7	104.6
Gramsh (Elbasan)	5.3	2.8	2.5	114.0	3.1	1.6	1.5	104.3
Librazhd (Elbasan)	8.1	4.3	3.8	114.2	4.7	2.4	2.3	104.1
Peqin (Elbasan)	4.9	2.6	2.3	113.6	3.0	1.6	1.4	109.8
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	6.6	3.5	3.1	111.5	4.0	2.1	2.0	103.7
Divjakë (Fier)	7.3	3.8	3.4	111.5	4.5	2.4	2.2	108.4
Fier (Fier)	29.2	15.4	13.8	111.8	18.4	9.7	8.7	111.3
Lushnje (Fier)	16.6	8.8	7.8	112.1	10.5	5.5	5.0	108.7
Mallakastër (Fier)	4.0	2.2	1.9	117.0	2.6	1.4	1.3	109.1
Patos (Fier)	5.0	2.7	2.3	115.7	3.1	1.7	1.4	117.1
Roskovec (Fier)	5.0	2.6	2.3	113.5	3.1	1.7	1.5	115.5
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	1.1	0.6	0.6	102.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	107.5
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	6.4	3.3	3.0	110.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	103.9
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	1.0	0.6	0.4	135.9	0.7	0.4	0.3	122.6
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	0.6	0.3	0.3	111.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	99.5
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	1.4	0.8	0.6	122.7	0.9	0.5	0.4	114.7
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	1.6	0.9	0.8	117.3	1.0	0.5	0.5	106.3

Young people (15-24)			Sex ratio	Youth (15-29)			Sex ratio	Municipality
Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female		
5.6	3.0	2.6	114.9	8.3	4.4	3.9	113.2	Berat (Berat)
3.5	1.7	1.8	90.9	5.2	2.5	2.7	94.5	Kuçovë (Berat)
0.8	0.4	0.4	101.2	1.2	0.6	0.6	96.5	Poliçan (Berat)
1.1	0.5	0.5	101.1	1.6	0.8	0.8	103.7	Skrapar (Berat)
4.9	2.1	2.8	77.7	6.8	3.0	3.8	80.5	Dimal (Berat)
3.3	1.8	1.5	122.9	4.9	2.7	2.1	127.4	Bulqizë (Dibër)
7.6	3.6	4.0	89.7	11.1	5.4	5.6	96.2	Dibër (Dibër)
1.6	0.8	0.8	91.3	2.4	1.2	1.2	103.1	Klos (Dibër)
1.8	1.0	0.8	118.2	2.6	1.5	1.1	128.2	Mat (Dibër)
18.4	9.1	9.3	97.8	27.8	13.7	14.1	97.4	Durrës (Durrës)
6.8	3.7	3.2	116.5	10.4	5.6	4.8	116.6	Krujë (Durrës)
2.7	1.3	1.4	97.0	4.2	2.1	2.1	102.5	Shijak (Durrës)
1.4	0.6	0.7	86.7	2.0	1.0	1.0	96.6	Belsh (Elbasan)
2.6	1.3	1.3	97.1	3.8	2.0	1.9	106.3	Cërrik (Elbasan)
14.1	7.2	6.9	103.4	21.1	10.9	10.2	106.4	Elbasan (Elbasan)
1.9	1.0	0.9	113.4	2.8	1.5	1.3	120.3	Gramsh (Elbasan)
2.9	1.5	1.4	109.0	4.3	2.4	1.9	121.9	Librazhd (Elbasan)
1.7	0.9	0.8	113.2	2.5	1.3	1.1	116.4	Peqin (Elbasan)
2.2	1.2	1.0	114.5	3.3	1.8	1.5	118.8	Prrenjas (Elbasan)
2.4	1.3	1.2	108.0	3.6	1.9	1.7	112.9	Divjakë (Fier)
9.4	4.9	4.4	111.0	14.2	7.5	6.7	112.4	Fier (Fier)
5.2	2.8	2.4	115.0	8.1	4.4	3.8	116.1	Lushnje (Fier)
1.5	0.8	0.7	124.6	2.0	1.2	0.9	128.8	Mallakastër (Fier)
1.8	0.9	0.9	105.9	2.6	1.4	1.2	110.9	Patos (Fier)
1.6	0.9	0.8	112.2	2.4	1.3	1.2	109.5	Roskovec (Fier)
0.4	0.2	0.2	94.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	100.3	Dropull (Gjirokastër)
2.1	1.1	1.0	116.5	3.1	1.7	1.4	118.2	Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)
0.3	0.2	0.1	158.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	153.3	Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)
0.2	0.1	0.1	136.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	137.5	Libohovë (Gjirokastër)
0.5	0.3	0.2	123.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	129.7	Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)
0.5	0.3	0.2	138.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	138.3	Përmet (Gjirokastër)

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Municipality	Young population (0-29)			Sex ratio	Children (0-17)			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	1.8	1.0	0.8	123.0	1.1	0.5	0.5	103.4
Devoll (Korçë)	7.1	3.7	3.3	111.1	4.4	2.2	2.1	105.5
Kolonjë (Korçë)	1.6	0.9	0.7	118.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	105.6
Korçë (Korçë)	16.9	8.8	8.1	108.5	9.8	5.0	4.8	103.1
Maliq (Korçë)	9.8	5.3	4.5	116.9	5.4	2.8	2.6	107.3
Pogradec (Korçë)	14.8	7.9	6.9	115.1	8.8	4.6	4.2	107.4
Pustec (Korçë)	0.4	0.2	0.2	111.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	123.8
Has (Kukës)	5.0	2.5	2.6	97.0	3.2	1.7	1.5	109.5
Kukës (Kukës)	15.4	8.2	7.2	113.7	9.6	5.1	4.5	114.7
Tropojë (Kukës)	5.1	2.7	2.4	113.0	3.0	1.6	1.4	111.6
Kurbin (Lezhë)	12.2	6.4	5.8	112.1	7.2	3.8	3.4	112.6
Lezhë (Lezhë)	17.2	8.8	8.3	106.0	10.4	5.4	5.0	109.3
Mirditë (Lezhë)	4.2	2.2	2.0	112.8	2.4	1.2	1.2	105.3
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	1.8	1.0	0.8	124.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	110.1
Malësi e Ma. (Shkodër)	6.8	3.5	3.4	103.0	3.7	1.9	1.8	104.4
Pukë (Shkodër)	2.0	1.1	0.9	119.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	113.3
Shkodër (Shkodër)	34.4	17.4	16.9	103.2	19.8	10.3	9.5	107.5
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	6.3	3.1	3.2	97.5	3.7	1.9	1.8	104.8
Kamëz (Tiranë)	39.8	19.9	19.9	100.0	23.6	12.3	11.3	109.2
Kavajë (Tiranë)	9.0	4.6	4.4	105.8	5.3	2.8	2.6	107.4
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	3.4	1.8	1.6	107.3	2.0	1.0	1.0	105.3
Tiranë (Tiranë)	224.3	108.5	115.9	93.6	116.9	60.3	56.6	106.6
Vorë (Tiranë)	8.4	4.2	4.2	100.9	4.9	2.6	2.3	110.8
Delvinë (Vlorë)	1.6	0.9	0.7	124.1	0.9	0.5	0.4	111.0
Himarë (Vlorë)	1.9	1.0	0.9	112.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	99.8
Konispol (Vlorë)	1.3	0.8	0.6	137.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	124.0
Finiq (Vlorë)	1.3	0.7	0.6	108.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	101.9
Sarandë (Vlorë)	7.1	3.7	3.4	109.4	4.5	2.3	2.2	104.1
Selenicë (Vlorë)	2.2	1.2	1.0	115.8	1.4	0.7	0.7	109.2
Vlorë (Vlorë)	25.0	12.8	12.2	104.5	14.6	7.5	7.1	105.6
Albania	488.1	244.7	243.3	100.6	272.0	140.9	131.2	107.4

Young people (15-24)			Sex ratio	Youth (15-29)			Sex ratio	Municipality
Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female		
0.6	0.4	0.3	138.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	148.2	Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)
2.3	1.2	1.1	111.9	3.6	1.9	1.7	115.7	Devoll (Korçë)
0.5	0.3	0.2	126.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	129.3	Kolonjë (Korçë)
5.9	3.2	2.7	116.5	8.9	4.8	4.1	115.6	Korçë (Korçë)
3.6	1.9	1.7	116.9	5.5	3.0	2.4	124.6	Maliq (Korçë)
5.3	2.9	2.4	119.3	7.8	4.3	3.5	123.3	Pogradec (Korçë)
0.1	0.1	0.1	116.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	98.1	Pustec (Korçë)
1.7	0.7	1.0	74.8	2.4	1.1	1.3	80.0	Has (Kukës)
5.2	2.7	2.5	109.9	7.5	4.0	3.5	112.7	Kukës (Kukës)
1.9	1.0	0.9	113.8	2.7	1.4	1.2	117.2	Tropojë (Kukës)
4.2	2.2	2.0	108.5	6.3	3.3	3.0	111.3	Kurbin (Lezhë)
5.8	2.9	2.9	101.6	8.7	4.4	4.3	101.6	Lezhë (Lezhë)
1.5	0.8	0.7	117.3	2.3	1.3	1.0	121.9	Mirditë (Lezhë)
0.8	0.4	0.3	121.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	131.6	Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)
2.7	1.3	1.4	94.0	3.9	2.0	1.9	103.1	Malësi e Ma. (Shkodër)
0.8	0.4	0.4	118.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	124.4	Pukë (Shkodër)
12.1	6.0	6.1	97.3	18.2	9.1	9.2	98.7	Shkodër (Shkodër)
2.3	1.1	1.2	88.2	3.3	1.6	1.7	90.7	Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)
14.5	7.0	7.5	93.5	20.7	9.9	10.8	91.7	Kamëz (Tiranë)
3.1	1.5	1.5	100.5	4.7	2.4	2.3	104.3	Kavajë (Tiranë)
1.2	0.6	0.6	91.4	1.8	0.9	0.9	105.7	Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)
82.1	37.5	44.6	84.2	126.7	58.0	68.7	84.4	Tiranë (Tiranë)
3.0	1.4	1.6	90.3	4.4	2.1	2.3	91.4	Vorë (Tiranë)
0.7	0.4	0.3	118.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	129.9	Delvinë (Vlorë)
0.6	0.3	0.3	110.5	1.0	0.6	0.4	122.9	Himarë (Vlorë)
0.5	0.3	0.2	148.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	145.8	Konispol (Vlorë)
0.5	0.3	0.3	108.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	113.0	Finiq (Vlorë)
2.4	1.3	1.1	112.3	3.6	1.9	1.7	115.8	Sarandë (Vlorë)
0.7	0.4	0.4	110.5	1.1	0.6	0.5	118.1	Selenicë (Vlorë)
8.8	4.4	4.3	102.5	13.2	6.7	6.5	103.1	Vlorë (Vlorë)
175.6	85.0	90.5	93.9	264.9	128.9	135.9	94.9	Albania

Table III.f Illiteracy rates of children aged 10-17, young people and youth, by municipality, and by sex

Municipality	Literacy rate								
	Children (10-17)			Young people (15-24)			Youth (15-29)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Berat (Berat)	0.8	1.1	0.4	1.1	1.5	0.6	1.7	1.9	1.4
Kuçovë (Berat)	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5
Poliçan (Berat)	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.3
Skrapar (Berat)	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.4	1.1	1.3	0.9
Dimal (Berat)	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Bulqizë (Dibër)	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1
Dibër (Dibër)	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5
Klos (Dibër)	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.6
Mat (Dibër)	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.6	2.4	0.6	1.7	2.3	1.1
Durrës (Durrës)	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.6
Krujë (Durrës)	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.5
Shijak (Durrës)	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Belsh (Elbasan)	0.8	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.6	2.3	1.0
Cërrik (Elbasan)	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.2
Elbasan (Elbasan)	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.0
Gramsh (Elbasan)	1.2	1.5	0.9	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.5
Librazhd (Elbasan)	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.8
Peqin (Elbasan)	1.0	1.3	0.8	2.0	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.4	1.8
Prrenjas (Elbasan)	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9
Divjakë (Fier)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9	1.2
Fier (Fier)	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7
Lushnje (Fier)	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.1
Mallakastër (Fier)	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.7
Patos (Fier)	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.1
Roskovec (Fier)	2.5	3.4	1.4	2.6	2.9	2.2	3.2	3.4	2.9
Dropull (Gjirokastër)	1.1	0.7	1.4	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Gjirokastër (Gjirokastër)	1.0	0.6	1.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9
Këlcyrë (Gjirokastër)	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.8	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.3	3.1
Libohovë (Gjirokastër)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.5
Memaliaj (Gjirokastër)	1.0	1.1	0.9	4.0	4.2	3.7	5.1	4.9	5.4
Përmet (Gjirokastër)	0.8	1.7	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.2

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Municipality	Literacy rate								
	Children (10-17)			Young people (15-24)			Youth (15-29)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Tepelenë (Gjirokastër)	1.5	1.0	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.8	2.7
Devoll (Korçë)	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.3	1.0
Kolonjë (Korçë)	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.1
Korçë (Korçë)	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Maliq (Korçë)	0.5	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.4	1.2
Pogradec (Korçë)	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.7
Pustec (Korçë)	3.1	1.9	4.5	1.5	0.0	3.2	1.4	0.0	2.9
Has (Kukës)	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9
Kukës (Kukës)	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Tropojë (Kukës)	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Kurbin (Lezhë)	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9
Lezhë (Lezhë)	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.3
Mirditë (Lezhë)	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.7
Fushë Arrës (Shkodër)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.4
Malësi e Madhe (Shkod.)	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7
Pukë (Shkodër)	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
Shkodër (Shkodër)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vau i Dejës (Shkodër)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.6	1.1
Kamëz (Tiranë)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.6
Kavajë (Tiranë)	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.8	0.5	1.2	1.7	0.7
Rrogozhinë (Tiranë)	2.9	2.1	3.8	3.2	2.4	3.9	3.4	2.8	4.0
Tiranë (Tiranë)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5
Vorë (Tiranë)	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.6	2.1	1.3
Delvinë (Vlorë)	1.3	2.1	0.4	2.7	3.3	2.0	2.4	3.1	1.5
Himarë (Vlorë)	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.1	1.6	0.4
Konispol (Vlorë)	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.7
Finiq (Vlorë)	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.5	2.2	0.8	2.1	2.9	1.2
Sarandë (Vlorë)	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9
Selenicë (Vlorë)	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4
Vlorë (Vlorë)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
Albania	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9

Annex IV Population, by marital status, and by census year, sex (in %)

Marital status	1989			2001			2011			2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	53.5	58.1	48.5	47.6	50.9	44.2	42.5	46.7	38.4	36.6	41.2	32.2
Married	42.8	40.7	44.9	48.2	47.6	48.7	51.9	51.3	52.5	54.9	55.1	54.8
Divorced/separated	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.5	1	1.4	1.2	1.7
Widowed	3.2	0.8	5.8	3.9	1.2	6.5	4.9	1.6	8.2	7.0	2.5	11.4

Annex V   Disability tables based on broader functional limitation categories

Table V.a.   Children aged 5-17, by type of household, and by disability status (in %)

Type of household	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/ severe difficulty
One-person household	2.5	2.7	1.4
Multi-person non-family member	4.1	3.4	1.7
One-family married/unmarried couple without children	2.5	1.6	0.6
One-family married/unmarried couple with children	47.8	47.4	49.7
One-family lone father/mother	6.4	8.7	11.0
One-family married/unmarried couple without children household - extended	2.1	2.3	2.0
One-family married/unmarried couple with children household - extended	16.3	17.5	18.5
One-family lone mother/father household - extended	2.0	3.1	3.4
Two or more family nucleous in the households	16.4	13.3	11.6

Table V.b.1:Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status, wealth status (in %)

Population	Sex	No difficulty				
		Lowest	Second-lowest	Middle	Second-highest	Highest
5 years and over	Total	20.2	19.2	19.2	20.3	21.1
	Male	20.9	19.5	19.4	19.8	20.3
	Female	19.5	18.9	19.0	20.7	21.8
Children 5-17	Total	21.9	20.4	18.9	19.3	19.5
	Male	22.0	20.4	18.9	19.3	19.5
	Female	21.7	20.3	19.0	19.3	19.6
Young people 15-24	Total	21.6	20.7	18.8	19.9	19.0
	Male	22.1	21.1	19.1	19.3	18.3
	Female	21.1	20.2	18.5	20.5	19.6
Youth 15-29	Total	21.4	19.6	18.4	20.3	20.3
	Male	22.3	20.4	18.9	19.4	19.0
	Female	20.6	18.8	17.9	21.2	21.6

Table V.b.2:Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status, wealth status (in %)

Population	Sex	Some difficulty				
		Lowest	Second-lowest	Middle	Second-highest	Highest
5 years and over	Total	18.6	23.0	23.4	19.1	15.9
	Male	19.1	23.3	23.5	18.3	15.8
	Female	18.2	22.7	23.4	19.7	16.0
Children 5-17	Total	19.9	22.2	20.8	19.5	17.6
	Male	19.4	21.5	21.3	19.5	18.3
	Female	20.4	22.8	20.3	19.5	17.0
Young people 15-24	Total	19.0	22.1	17.8	20.9	20.2
	Male	18.9	22.7	18.5	20.2	19.6
	Female	19.1	21.6	17.3	21.3	20.6
Youth 15-29	Total	18.6	20.6	18.1	21.6	21.1
	Male	20.3	21.0	18.3	20.8	19.6
	Female	17.2	20.3	17.9	22.3	22.3

Table V.b.3:Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status, wealth status (in %)

Population	Sex	Moderate/severe difficulty				
		Lowest	Second-lowest	Middle	Second-highest	Highest
5 years and over	Total	18.3	24.8	25.9	18.2	12.8
	Male	18.6	25.0	26.5	17.7	12.3
	Female	18.1	24.6	25.5	18.6	13.1
Children 5-17	Total	20.5	24.5	24.7	18.5	11.8
	Male	20.0	24.4	25.5	18.6	11.5
	Female	21.2	24.7	23.4	18.3	12.3
Young people 15-24	Total	21.4	25.5	24.6	17.1	11.5
	Male	20.9	25.5	26.8	15.8	10.9
	Female	22.1	25.4	21.1	19.0	12.4
Youth 15-29	Total	21.9	25.4	25.8	16.4	10.4
	Male	21.6	25.8	27.1	15.4	10.1
	Female	22.3	25.0	24.0	17.8	11.0

Table V.c: **Percentage of population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth without bathing facilities in the dwelling, by sex, and by disability status**

Population	Sex	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/ severe difficulty
5 years and over	Total	4.8	7.6	9.0
	Male	5.8	9.5	9.3
	Female	5.6	8.7	8.8
Children 5-17	Total	5.2	9.2	12.2
	Male	5.1	7.8	11.0
	Female	5.9	9.8	14.1
Young people 15-24	Total	6.0	9.8	10.8
	Male	5.8	10.3	11.0
	Female	4.6	7.4	10.5
Youth 15-29	Total	5.7	9.2	11.6
	Male	5.2	7.6	11.8
	Female	4.7	8.0	11.2

Table V.d: Children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by disability status, type of water supply (in %)

Young population	No difficulty				
	Piped water in the dwelling	Piped water inside the building	Piped water outside the building	Other system of water supply	No water supply system
Children 5-17	74.9	9.7	4.3	9.9	1.1
Young people 15-24	74.9	9.9	4.3	9.8	1.1
Youth 15-29	75.4	9.9	4.2	9.5	1.0
Young population	Some difficulty				
	Piped water in the dwelling	Piped water inside the building	Piped water outside the building	Other system of water supply	No water supply system
Children 5-17	72.3	12.1	5.6	8.9	1.1
Young people 15-24	73.5	12.1	5.0	8.2	1.2
Youth 15-29	73.2	12.3	5.0	8.2	1.3
Young population	Moderate/severe difficulty				
	Piped water in the dwelling	Piped water inside the building	Piped water outside the building	Other system of water supply	No water supply system
Children 5-17	70.4	10.6	5.5	11.6	1.8
Young people 15-24	70.4	11.0	5.6	11.2	1.9
Youth 15-29	69.5	10.9	6.3	11.5	1.9

Table V.e: Children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by disability status, type of toilet facility (in %)

Young population	No difficulty				
	Flush toilet inside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the building	Other type of toilet	No toilet
Children 5-17	91.2	4.6	2.7	1.3	0.2
Young people 15-24	91.0	4.8	2.7	1.3	0.2
Youth 15-29	92.0	4.5	2.3	1.1	0.1
Young population	Some difficulty				
	Flush toilet inside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the building	Other type of toilet	No toilet
Children 5-17	87.7	6.6	3.7	1.8	0.2
Young people 15-24	88.9	6.1	3.1	1.7	0.2
Youth 15-29	89.8	5.6	3.0	1.3	0.2
Young population	Moderate/severe difficulty				
	Flush toilet inside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the dwelling	Flush toilet outside the building	Other type of toilet	No toilet
Children 5-17	86.6	5.6	4.1	3.2	0.5
Young people 15-24	86.4	5.6	4.5	2.9	0.6
Youth 15-29	85.7	6.1	4.8	2.9	0.5

Table V.f: Literacy rate of population aged 10 and over, children aged 10-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status (in %)

Population	Sex	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/severe difficulty
10 years and over	Total	99.1	83.7	85.8
	Male	99.2	85.9	87.2
	Female	99.0	81.8	84.7
Children 10-17	Total	99.5	78.9	76.1
	Male	99.5	73.0	75.1
	Female	99.5	84.6	77.7
Young people 15-24	Total	99.5	69.1	66.0
	Male	99.5	60.6	65.2
	Female	99.5	77.2	67.2
Youth 15-29	Total	99.5	65.2	63.4
	Male	99.4	58.1	63.5
	Female	99.5	72.3	63.3

Table V.g: **School attendance rate of population aged 10 and over, children aged 6-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by disability status (in %)**

Population	Sex	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/severe difficulty
10 years and over	Total	21.9	3.1	1.8
	Male	21.2	3.3	2.4
	Female	22.6	3.0	1.3
Children 10-17	Total	95.4	93.7	69.1
	Male	95.1	93.0	68.9
	Female	95.7	94.4	69.2
Young people 15-24	Total	59.1	54.5	26.4
	Male	53.8	47.5	23.4
	Female	64.2	60.5	31.1
Youth 15-29	Total	41.0	37.7	17.1
	Male	37.1	32.3	15.4
	Female	44.8	42.8	19.6

Table V.h: **Gender parity ratios for school attendance of children aged 6-17, young people and youth, by disability status (in &)**

Young population	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/severe difficulty
Children 6-17	100.6	101.5	100.4
Young people 15-24	119.5	127.3	132.5
Youth 15 - 29	120.5	132.6	126.8

Table V.i: **Young people, by level of education attended, and by disability status (in %)**

Young population	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate/severe difficulty
Primary school	0.1	0.6	2.4
Lower secondary school	3.4	5.7	19.8
Upper secondary school	48.4	46.6	51.4
Tertiary education	48.0	47.1	26.3

Annex VI Tables on degree of difficulty

Table VI.a: **Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty seeing**

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	2,002,235	235,223	47,333	5,428
	Male	1,132,247	1,006,176	102,881	20,330	2,860
	Female	1,157,972	996,059	132,342	27,003	2,568
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	340,307	4,718	874	181
	Male	179,264	176,537	2,172	444	111
	Female	166,816	163,770	2,546	430	70
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	280,534	4,540	839	210
	Male	141,365	138,868	1,937	443	117
	Female	144,758	141,666	2,603	396	93
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	421,930	6,754	1,291	355
	Male	214,434	210,577	2,960	691	206
	Female	215,896	211,353	3,794	600	149

Table VI.b: **Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty hearing**

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	2,084,816	166,589	34,300	4,514
	Male	1,132,247	1,037,193	76,698	16,091	2,265
	Female	1,157,972	1,047,623	89,891	18,209	2,249
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	344,314	1,162	400	204
	Male	179,264	178,252	650	245	117
	Female	166,816	166,062	512	155	87
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	284,151	1,248	451	273
	Male	141,365	140,202	730	285	148
	Female	144,758	143,949	518	166	125
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	427,089	2,031	726	484
	Male	214,434	212,539	1,183	435	277
	Female	215,896	214,550	848	291	207

Table VI.c: Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty walking

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	1,974,822	215,840	86,045	13,512
	Male	1,132,247	1,000,661	91,257	34,075	6,254
	Female	1,157,972	974,161	124,583	51,970	7,258
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	343,445	1,533	693	409
	Male	179,264	177,749	861	405	249
	Female	166,816	165,696	672	288	160
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	283,223	1,523	875	502
	Male	141,365	139,636	912	543	274
	Female	144,758	143,587	611	332	228
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	425,368	2,600	1,479	883
	Male	214,434	211,531	1,519	884	500
	Female	215,896	213,837	1,081	595	383

Table VI.d: Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty remembering

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	2,121,395	130,532	31,098	7,194
	Male	1,132,247	1,056,537	57,609	14,502	3,599
	Female	1,157,972	1,064,858	72,923	16,596	3,595
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	342,240	2,176	1,175	489
	Male	179,264	176,892	1,271	770	331
	Female	166,816	165,348	905	405	158
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	282,862	1,472	1,186	603
	Male	141,365	139,330	872	791	372
	Female	144,758	143,532	600	395	231
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	424,969	2,462	1,877	1,022
	Male	214,434	211,133	1,477	1,204	620
	Female	215,896	213,836	985	673	402

Table VI.e: Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty with self-care

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	2,135,409	112,645	31,455	10,710
	Male	1,132,247	1,062,446	49,614	14,860	5,327
	Female	1,157,972	1,072,963	63,031	16,595	5,383
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	341,509	2,923	1,028	620
	Male	179,264	176,572	1,625	669	398
	Female	166,816	164,937	1,298	359	222
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	283,018	1,415	986	704
	Male	141,365	139,416	886	651	412
	Female	144,758	143,602	529	335	292
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	425,216	2,310	1,662	1,142
	Male	214,434	211,255	1,462	1,051	666
	Female	215,896	213,961	848	611	476

Table VI.f: Population aged 5 and over, children aged 5-17, young people and youth, by sex, and by degree of difficulty communicating

Young population	Sex	Degree of difficulty				
		Total	No	Some	A lot of	Cannot do at all
Total 5 years old and over	Total	2,290,219	2,173,717	85,611	23,212	7,679
	Male	1,132,247	1,078,897	38,215	11,131	4,004
	Female	1,157,972	1,094,820	47,396	12,081	3,675
Children 5-17	Total	346,080	341,807	2,331	1,252	690
	Male	179,264	176,638	1,350	798	478
	Female	166,816	165,169	981	454	212
Young people 15-24	Total	286,123	282,933	1,293	1,151	746
	Male	141,365	139,341	800	748	476
	Female	144,758	143,592	493	403	270
Youth 15-29	Total	430,330	425,140	2,144	1,829	1,217
	Male	214,434	211,189	1,334	1,168	743
	Female	215,896	213,951	810	661	474

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ALBANIA

CENSUS 2023

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