2010

POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS REPORT

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE IN GHANA

Ghana Statistical Service
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Preface and Acknowledgement

Activities of the Ghana Statistical Service, like many other national statistical offices, include data collection, compilation and analyses as well as dissemination of statistical information in an accessible and user-friendly manner. This means analysing and interpreting the statistics in a form that makes it easily understood for people to appreciate the value of the statistical information and disseminating it widely.

Ghana like many other developing countries, rely mainly on survey and population census data for planning at the national and sub-national levels. Characteristics of the population such as age, sex, education and occupation are obtained from census data and complemented by other relevant indicators from national sample survey data. The 2010 Population and Housing Census (PHC), which is the fifth post-independence census to be conducted in the country was, therefore, implemented to provide data for effective planning at all levels.

The success of the 2010 Population and Housing Census, including the preparation of analytical reports and monographs, has been a collaborative effort of the Government of Ghana, various Development Partners (DPs) and the people of Ghana. Local consultants from research institutions and universities in Ghana were engaged to prepare the national and regional analytical reports, including six monographs using the 2010 census data. In order to strengthen the report writing capacities of the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) which are engaged in population-related activities, professional staff of GSS and these MDAs were paired up with consultant writers to prepare the reports.

The monograph on 'Children, Adolescent and Youth in Ghana' is one of the six monographs that have been prepared from the 2010 Population and Housing Census data. The aim of this monograph is to assess the youthfulness of Ghana's population resulting from high fertility rates and increasing life-expectancy and its implications for the development of the country.
The Ghana Statistical Service wishes to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNPA) for the lead role it played in mobilizing resources from the UN System and other Development Partners for the 2010 PHC and for providing technical and financial support for the preparation of this monograph. Our appreciation also goes to Professor Stephen O. Kwankye and Kobina Abekah Ansah for the dedication and competence they demonstrated in the preparation of this report.

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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Ghana's population growth rate of 2.4% and 2.5% respectively for the period 1984-2000 and 2000-2010 shows that the country's population is growing rapidly. This rapid growth has implications for the development of the country.

The rapid growth of Ghana's population has resulted in a youthful population, with two in every five people in the country being less than 15 years. This is reflected in all the national censuses conducted in the country after independence. The size of the population less than 15 years, has, however, been declining with time. For example, in 1984, 45% of the country's population was reported to be less than 15 years. This reduced to 41.2% and 38.3% respectively in the 2000 and 2010 Population and Housing Censuses (See Population Census reports of Ghana, 1984, 2000 and 2010). In terms of the population less than 10 years, it made up almost 33% of the population in 1984 but reduced to 29.3% and 26.5% in 2000 and 2010 respectively. Similarly, the proportion of the population up to 35 years has equally been high and has represented more than two-thirds of the total population of Ghana recorded in each of the censuses: 69% in 1984, 75.9% in 2000 and 75.3% in 2010.

The large size of the population of children below 10 years is indicative of a high dependency ratio in the country. This is especially so when a majority of the adolescent population is either in school or unemployed. This has implications for resource accumulation and investment at the individual and household level, a situation that could largely affect poverty reduction efforts of the country.

Quite clearly, children, adolescents and youth in Ghana constitute a huge proportion of the population and are exposed to a number of physical, social and reproductive health risks and challenges. Against this backdrop, this analysis provides answers to some fundamental questions, including how we classify children, adolescents and youth in the country, the varying challenges they face and the relevant policy and programme-specific interventions that could address these challenges.

At the outset, however, it has to be pointed out that for the purposes of this analysis, there are definitional overlaps regarding where childhood ends and when adolescents begins and again at what point youthfulness commences after adolescence. For policy purposes, therefore, there is the need to understand how the three groups are classified in order to address each one with different interventions as their needs may vary depending on their age differences.

1.2 Rationale and Objectives

The needs of children are quite different from those of adolescents which also vary from the interests of the youth although there may be overlaps. This large segment of the population made up of children, adolescents and youth is very important in the social, economic and political decision-making in Ghana today. This stems from the fact that considering their large size and their diverse nature, major decisions cannot but take account of their interests or risk reducing the relevance of the decisions.

Spatially, however, the children and youth population is not uniform and varies by region as well as rural/urban locality of residence. The need to analyse them by their specific characteristics in the context of the 2010 Population and Housing Census cannot be underestimated as the dynamics of the population change. Further to this, young people including children have been actively involved in internal and international migration flows both within and outside the country. It is important, therefore, to analyse the children, adolescents and youth of the country in terms of their characteristics, pointing out what constitutes the challenges they face and the implications for policy action taking into consideration their geographical and gender differences. Areas of critical interest in this analysis include the demographic, economic and social characteristics of children, adolescents and youth, the component often referred to as the future of the population.

Children below 10 years and young persons between 10 and 24 years everywhere are confronted with a number of challenges which call for urgent policy attention. These challenges are not different in Ghana. For example, there are challenges of infant and child mortality due often to high rates of reproduction, access to food and nutrition, descent shelter, education, health, employment and enjoyment of their fundamental human rights. These challenges should be adequately analysed and their implications for the growth and development of the Ghanaian young people presented to guide policy interventions.

Children, adolescents and youth are quite diverse by age and spatial distribution and, therefore, there cannot be one uniform set of policies or programmes that can sufficiently address the challenges they face. This calls for a critical analysis of their variation by gender and geographical location in the country.

An analysis of these three groups is relevant as it attempts to bring out a clearer distinction among them for policy intervention purposes. This is because the analysis presents a vivid description of each group not only by age but by spatial location in the country. Again, considering the obvious overlaps, the analysis would enable us understand how institutions, agencies and departments involved in addressing issues pertaining to the three groups of young people could coordinate their efforts to complement each other while avoiding unnecessary duplication and waste of scarce resources.

Furthermore, the three groups are confronted with diverse challenges and problems and where they are similar, they are of different magnitudes which are not always well

appreciated and understood in order to consider them for policy and programme interventions. In addition, the classification of the three groups and analysis of their associated characteristics and challenges would enable us segment national sensitization and advocacy programmes to make them target-specific to each group in order to achieve expected results.

Government is embarking on several policy initiatives that affect different segments of the population particularly young people differently. The implementation of these policy initiatives such as the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), and those in educational and health sectors would require evidence-based analysis and information to ensure effectiveness. This means that the distribution of the three groups of young people in the country by age and sex, region and type of locality as well as education, marital status and economic activity would be of critical importance.

Against this backdrop, the analysis has the overall objective of presenting a comprehensive socio-demographic and economic description of children, adolescents and youth in the country, pointing out their critical needs and their geographical spread in order to recommend appropriate policy interventions. Under this general objective, the analysis specifically seeks to:

(i) classify children, adolescents and youth in the country and differentiate them based on their respective challenges;
(ii) examine the composition of the three groups of the population in relation to the total population and highlight implications for the socio-economic development of the country;
(iii) assess the variation of the three groups with respect to their demographic, social and economic characteristics in the country;
(iv) study the extent to which the social set-up in the Ghanaian society affects the development of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana;
(v) examine the gaps that exist in the legal framework in relation to the growth and development of children, adolescents and youth in the country;
(vi) present policy recommendations to address the implications of the situation of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana.

1.3 Definition of Concepts of Children, Adolescents and Youth

There are overlaps in the definition and classification of the three target groups: children, adolescents and youth. According to the 1992 Constitution of Ghana (Republic of Ghana, 1992), a child is any person below the age of 18 years i.e., the age of majority at which one is entitled to vote in national and local elections. The term child or children based on the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, therefore, refers to individuals from birth to the age of 17 years which is consistent with international definition in most democracies worldwide. By the time they are 18 years, young persons are expected to have developed sufficient intellectual, emotional

and physical skills and resources to fend for themselves and to make a successful transition into adulthood. Until then they require care from adults, support, guidance and protection.

Demographically, the population is often classified into children, working population and the elderly or older persons in order to compute age dependency ratios. In this context, persons less than 15 years are classified as children and as such are dependent on the working age population 15-64 years. On the other hand, the term "adolescent" is often used synonymously with "teenager" that ranges from 13 to 19 years. In the demographic and health surveys, data are collected on persons 15-49 years with respect to fertility where the 15-19 year-olds are taken as representing the adolescents because persons below the age of 15 years are not surveyed.

From this presentation, and as earlier pointed out, there may not be a neat line drawn as to where the classification of children by age ends and that for adolescents begins. At the same time, the period of transition from childhood into adulthood may not necessarily depend on a person's age.

The definition of youth varies from country to country. Generally, the period between childhood and adulthood is called either adolescence or "Youth". During this period a person prepares himself/herself to be an active and full responsible member of the society. It is also the period of transformation from family-dependent childhood to independent adulthood and integration into the society as a "responsible" citizen.

The United Nations defines the youth to encompass all persons 15-24 years. This appears to be a universal definition. However, due to differences in national policies, this may vary. In Ghana, the National Youth Policy classifies all persons 15-35 years to constitute the youth of the country (Republic of Ghana, 2010). This means, the youth overlap adolescents and children between 15 and 19 years and beyond the 24 year-old cut-off used by the United Nations.

In the light of this foregoing overlap of the groups, and in an attempt to conform to national policy, the analysis in this monograph operationally classifies all persons less than 10 years as children while those aged 10-19 years are defined to constitute the adolescent population. On the other hand, the population considered as youth is classified at two levels: first, 15-24 years, to conform to the international definition and second, 15-35 years, in accordance with the National Youth Policy definition. In the analysis, however, the age categorization is 0-9 years for children; 10-14 and 15-19 years for adolescents and 20-24 and 25-35 years for youth. It should be noted further that this categorization does not overlook the obvious overlap of the 15-19 year-group between the adolescents and youth.

CHAPTER TWO

POPULATION SIZE, AGE-SEX AND HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

2.1 Introduction

The spatial distribution of Ghana's population has since independence been uneven as a result of differences in reproduction, mortality and migration flows. With respect to the population of young people, migration plays a major role determining where their concentration may be due to migration selectivity which usually affects young people more than the aged. This Chapter presents distribution of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana by age and sex as well as by region and type of locality. It also examines the household structure, and household headship and relationship of young people to the head of household.

2.2 Population Size and Age-Sex Composition

As earlier pointed out, Ghana's population has remained youthful and this is reflected in all the national censuses conducted in the country since independence. Table 2.1 presents the distribution of the population of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana as reported in the 2010 Population and Housing Census.

Table 2.1: Population distribution of young persons by age-sex and locality as percent of total national population

Age group	All Localities			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	13.8	14.4	13.2	12.3	13.0	11.6	15.4	15.8	15.0
5-9	12.7	13.2	12.2	11.1	11.6	10.6	14.4	14.9	13.9
10-14	11.8	12.3	11.4	11.1	11.2	11.0	12.6	13.4	11.8
15-19	10.6	10.9	10.3	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.3	11.0	9.6
20-24	9.4	9.2	9.7	10.8	10.7	10.9	8.0	7.6	8.3
25-35	13.8	14.4	13.2	12.3	13.0	11.6	15.4	15.8	15.0
Total %	75.3	76.2	74.5	75.1	75.9	74.4	75.5	76.5	74.6
Total Ghana	24,658,823	12,024,845	12,633,978	12,545,229	6,016,059	6,529,170	12,113,594	6,008,786	6,104,808

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Children: A little more than one person in four (26.5%) in Ghana was a child less than 10 years. This shows how young Ghana's population is, despite the declining fertility the country has seen in recent years. Comparing them by sex and locality, it is clear from Table 2.1 that the proportion of the male population classified as children is higher than that for females in urban areas (i.e., 24.6% versus 22.2%). In the rural areas, a reverse is the case where 31.7% and 38.9% were reported respectively for males and females. This further shows that the proportion of the population classified as children in the rural areas is by far higher than in the urban areas either for the male or female children. This is obviously a reflection of a higher rural than urban fertility in Ghana recorded over the years.

Adolescents: A little less than a quarter of all persons in Ghana in 2010 were adolescents aged 10-19 years. This is made up of about 12% and 11% respectively of the 10-14 and 15-19 year olds and is a further confirmation of how young the Ghanaian population is. It is also noted that the proportion of the male population classified as adolescents is higher than that for females. The urban-rural variation shows that in the rural areas, 24.4% of the male population was represented by adolescents aged 10-19 years compared to 21.4% of the females. This compares with almost 22% of the urban population being classified as adolescents either among the males or females.

Youth: Almost one out of every four people in Ghana was reported to be aged 20-35 years. However, persons 15-35 years, who form the youth according to the National Youth Policy, constitute about a third of the population of Ghana. There is some variation between the youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years irrespective of type of place of residence. For example, from Table 2.1, the proportion of the population classified as male youth aged 20-24 years is slightly lower compared to their female counterparts either in the urban or rural area. The reverse is the case with respect to the youth 25-35 years where the proportion of the population classified as male youth is higher compared to the female group.
The distribution of the population of young persons in Ghana by urban-rural residence classified by sex ratio is presented in Table 2.2.

Children: Table 2.2 shows that a higher proportion of the children's population in Ghana is made up of males relative to females, the sex ratio being 103.5 and 103.3 among the 0-4 and 5-9 years respectively. Similar results are shown for the urban and rural areas. The difference, however, is that in the urban areas, there is a higher sex ratio for the children aged 0-4 years compared to their counterparts aged 5-9 years. The reverse, however, is the case in the rural areas where the sex ratio is higher among the 5-9 year group than those aged 0-4 years. This is, however, contrary to expectation since on account of the higher sex ratio at birth, one expects to have a higher sex ratio among very young children compared to older children. This could be the result of errors in age reporting in the rural areas where the level of literacy is far lower than in the urban areas.

Adolescents: Table 2.2 shows that just like the children, a higher proportion of adolescents in Ghana was made up of males. This translated into a sex ratio of 102.7 and 100.9 respectively for the 10-14 and 15-19 adolescent groups. However, in the urban areas, females out-number males but in the rural areas, the reverse is the case where high sex ratios of 111.7 and 112.4 were recorded among the adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively compared to 93.7 and 91.5 in the urban areas. It may appear, therefore, that there is higher migration of females from the rural areas to the urban areas.

Table 2.2: Sex Ratio and Percent distribution of population of young persons by age-sex and locality

Age group	All localities				Urban				Rural			
	Total population	Percent M	Percent F	Sex ratio	Total population	Percent M	Percent F	Sex ratio	Total population	Percent M	Percent F	Sex ratio
0-4	3,405,406	50.9	49.1	103.5	1,541,391	50.8	49.2	103.2	1,864,015	50.9	49.1	103.7
5-9	3,128,952	50.8	49.2	103.3	1,389,660	50.2	49.8	100.6	1,739,292	51.3	48.7	105.4
10-14	2,916,040	50.7	49.3	102.7	1,391,229	48.4	51.6	93.7	1,524,811	52.8	47.2	111.7
15-19	2,609,989	50.2	49.8	100.9	1,364,124	47.8	52.2	91.5	1,245,865	52.9	47.1	112.4
20-24	2,323,491	47.4	52.6	90.0	1,356,838	47.3	52.7	89.8	966,653	47.4	52.6	90.3
25-35	4,189,947	46.6	53.4	87.2	2,380,388	47.0	53.0	88.9	1,809,559	46.0	54.0	85.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The distribution of the population of youth by rural and urban residence shows that unlike the children and adolescents, a higher proportion of the youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years was represented by females. The same situation is true for the urban or rural areas with sex ratios relatively lower in the urban than rural areas in the country. This could be a reflection of the general population in the country where females out-number males.

2.3 Spatial Distribution: Geo-political Regions

The analysis is presented to compare the results by region of residence as a way to bring out the regional variations in the proportion of the population that is made up of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana. Separate tables are used to discuss each category under study.

Children: The population of children less than 10 years presented in Table 2.3a shows that a substantial proportion of each region was classified as children in 2010. It ranges from a low of 21.6% in Greater Accra to almost a third in Northern Region. The Upper East and Upper West regions also recorded 28.5% and 28.4% respectively of their population to be children. These results are a reflection of the variation in fertility in Ghana where Greater Accra consistently has recorded the lowest fertility in the country while the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions have also recorded the highest fertility in all the demographic and health surveys so far conducted in the country. The results also indicate that children in each region were dominated by males compared to the females. High sex ratios were, therefore, recorded in all the regions with the exception of Brong Ahafo where the sex ratio for children was 99.4. Usually, high sex ratios are expected at very young ages due to the high sex ratio at birth. It is, therefore, quite difficult to explain the situation in the Brong Ahafo Region except to speculate the possibility of the region receiving more female child migrants from the three regions in the north.

Table 2.3a: Distribution of Population of Children 0-9 years by region and sex

Region	Total Population of Region	Population <10 years		% of Population <10 years		% of population <10 years of total Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Western	2,376,921	325,361	314,020	50.9	49.1	26.8	103.6
Central	2,201,863	302,291	293,994	50.7	49.3	27.0	102.8
Greater Accra	4,010,054	436,790	430,560	50.4	49.6	21.6	101.4
Volta	2,118,252	285,381	278,107	50.6	49.4	26.6	102.6
Eastern	2,633,154	351,313	336,177	51.1	48.9	26.1	104.5
Ashanti	4,780,380	623,122	603,629	50.8	49.2	25.6	103.2
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	310,415	312,281	49.9	50.1	26.9	99.4
Northern	2,479,461	415,197	401,421	50.8	49.2	32.9	103.4
Upper East	1,046,545	152,810	144,745	51.4	48.6	28.4	105.6
Upper West	702,110	102,780	98,005	51.2	48.8	28.5	104.9

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: The distribution of the population of adolescents 10-14 and 15-19 years is presented in Tables 2.3b and c. The results indicate that the proportion of adolescents aged 10-14 years is lowest in Greater Accra Region while the highest were recorded in both Upper East and Upper West regions. The other regions reported similar proportions of their population being young adolescents aged 10-14 years. Information presented in Table 2.3b indicates that once again Greater Accra reported the smallest proportion (9.7%) of their population recorded as adolescents aged 15-19 years. The other regions each recorded between 10% and 11% of their population to be 15-19 years with Upper East, Upper West and Central regions recording the highest proportion of around 11%.

In terms of the classification by gender, it is observed from Table 2.3b that males out-number females in all the regions except in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions where the reverse is the case among adolescents 10-14 years. Similarly, the population of adolescents aged 15-19 years has more males than females in each region apart from three regions namely Volta, Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo regions where the male proportions fell below 50% in each case. This is reflected in the sex ratios presented for each region for the two adolescent age groups 10-14 and 15-19 years. Differences in fertility and migration flows among young persons and fertility in the regions could account for these gender variations cross the regions.

Table 2.3b: Distribution of Adolescent Population 10-14 years by region and sex

Region	Total Population of Region	Population 10-14 years		% of Population 10-14 years		% of population 10-14 years of total Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Western	2,376,021	145,176	141,957	50.6	49.4	12.1	102.3
Central	2,201,863	139,658	135,891	50.7	49.3	12.5	102.8
Greater Accra	4,010,054	183,246	203,036	47.4	52.6	9.6	90.3
Volta	2,118,252	128,578	120,759	51.6	48.4	11.8	106.5
Eastern	2,633,154	167,665	155,899	51.8	48.2	12.3	107.5
Ashanti	4,780,380	287,944	289,223	49.9	50.1	12.1	99.6
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	150,551	143,485	51.2	48.8	12.7	104.9
Northern	2,479,461	154,824	139,171	52.7	47.3	11.9	111.2
Upper East	1,046,545	71,453	65,611	52.1	47.9	13.1	108.9
Upper West	702,110	48,430	43,483	52.7	47.3	13.1	111.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 2.3c: Distribution of youth population 15-19 years by region and sex

Region	Total Population of Region	Population 15-19 years		% of Population 15-19 years		% of population 14-19 years of total Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Western	2,376,021	1,311,112	1,298,877	50.2	49.8	10.6	103.2
Central	2,201,863	127,632	123,672	50.8	49.2	11.1	95.3
Greater Accra	4,010,054	119,095	124,925	48.8	51.2	9.7	86.5
Volta	2,118,252	180,173	208,230	46.4	53.6	10.5	108.3
Eastern	2,633,154	115,697	106,856	52.0	48.0	10.6	106.6
Ashanti	4,780,380	144,066	135,168	51.6	48.4	10.8	96.7
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	253,131	261,672	49.2	50.8	11.0	107.1
Northern	2,479,461	131,054	122,395	51.7	48.3	10.6	112.9
Upper East	1,046,545	138,919	123,016	53.0	47.0	11.1	108.4
Upper West	702,110	60,310	55,642	52.0	48.0	11.2	110.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Among the population classified as youth, Tables 2.3d and e show that with respect to the population 20-24 years, all the regions recorded less than 10% of their population in this group except the Greater Accra Region which recorded 11.4% of the region's population to be aged 20-24 years (Table 2.3d). A higher rate of migration of the youth into the Greater Accra Region compared with the other regions could account for this situation. It is also interesting to note that the population of the youth 20-24 years is skewed in favour of females in each of the regions, thus translating in sex ratios below 100 in all regions. Table 2.3e also shows a wide variation among the regions with respect to the youth aged 25-35 years. The proportion of this population ranges from a low of 13.9% in Upper East Region to a high of 21.6% in Greater Accra Region. Once again, differences in inter-regional migration flows where Greater Accra happens to receive the highest number of migrant population from the

other regions may account from these variations. At the same time, the females are more than the males in each region, thus recording a low sex ratio in each region. This could possibly be the result of a combination of internal and international out-migration which could be higher for the male youth in each region.

Table 2.3d: Distribution of youth population 20-24 years by region and sex

Region	Total Population of Region	Population 20-24 years		% of Population 20-24 years		% of population 20-24 years of total Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Western	2,376,021	1,100,727	1,222,764	48.2	51.8	9.6	93.0
Central	2,201,863	110,460	118,795	47.1	52.9	8.9	89.0
Greater Accra	4,010,054	92,178	103,551	47.1	52.9	11.4	89.1
Volta	2,118,252	215,803	242,272	48.0	52.0	8.5	92.1
Eastern	2,633,154	86,049	93,400	47.2	52.8	8.4	89.3
Ashanti	4,780,380	104,571	117,053	46.9	53.1	9.9	88.3
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	222,112	251,410	47.7	52.3	9.2	91.3
Northern	2,479,461	102,007	111,687	46.7	53.3	8.5	87.5
Upper East	1,046,545	98,318	112,364	48.7	51.3	7.9	95.1
Upper West	702,110	40,214	42,298	49.2	50.8	8.4	96.9

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 2.3e: Distribution of youth population 25-35 years by region and sex

Region	Total Population of Region	Population 25-35 years		% of Population 25-35 years		% of population 25-35 years of total Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Western	2,376,021	196,541	210,558	48.3	51.7	17.1	93.3
Central	2,201,863	151,050	181,127	45.5	54.5	15.1	83.4
Greater Accra	4,010,054	423,285	453,636	48.3	51.7	21.9	93.3
Volta	2,118,252	144,255	174,291	45.3	54.7	15.0	82.8
Eastern	2,633,154	186,584	212,764	46.7	53.3	15.2	87.7
Ashanti	4,780,380	388,813	444,654	46.7	53.3	17.4	87.4
Brong Ahafo	2,310,983	174,796	198,733	46.8	53.2	16.2	88.0
Northern	2,479,461	176,635	224,692	44.0	56.0	16.2	78.6
Upper East	1,046,545	64,848	80,819	44.5	55.5	13.9	80.2
Upper West	702,110	45,062	56,804	44.2	55.8	14.5	79.3

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

2.4 Living Arrangements

Analysis of young persons based on their living arrangements includes their relationship to the head of household and by extension, household headship. This examines the young people regarding their status particularly as heads of household or as a spouse or partner to the head of household. Table 2.4 shows the distribution of young persons aged 0-35 years in Ghana by relationship to head of household, sex and type of locality.

Table 2.4: Distribution of population aged 0-35 years by relationship to head of household, sex and type of locality

Relationship to Head of Household	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Head	10.5	14.3	6.8	12.7	16.7	8.9	8.3	12.0	4.5
Spouse (wife/husband)	6.8	0.7	12.7	6.6	0.9	12.0	7.0	0.6	13.5
Child (son/daughter)	53.4	55.7	51.2	49.2	50.7	47.8	57.7	60.7	54.7
Son/Daughter in-law	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.3	1.5
Grandchild	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.0	10.1	9.9	11.2	11.3	11.1
Brother/Sister	4.3	5.0	3.6	4.9	5.6	4.4	3.7	4.5	2.9
Step child	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1
Adopted/Foster child	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other relative	7.6	6.9	8.3	8.5	7.9	9.0	6.8	5.9	7.7
Non-relative	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	1.2	1.5	1.0
Group quarters/Outdoor sleeper	2.5	2.7	2.3	3.4	3.7	3.0	1.6	1.6	1.5
All relationships	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

At the national level, the analysis of Table 2.4 shows that more than half of the young persons in Ghana were living with their parents as sons or daughters, the proportion being higher among the males than females. Also, in the urban areas, the females that were daughters to the heads of household were less than 50%, a situation which could be due to earlier age at marriage for females than males. In line with this explanation, a much higher proportion of the females than the males were recorded as being a spouse or partner to the head of household. Here, the variation is even higher between the males and females whether in the rural or urban localities. It is also important to note that overall, about one in 10 of the households was headed by a young person not more than 35 years old with a higher proportion recorded among the males than the females. This is to be expected because in Ghana, the likelihood of a head of household being a male is higher than being a female. This is because, traditionally, males are often recognized as heads of families and, by extension, households. Furthermore, one in 10 young persons is staying with their grandparents.

It is also noteworthy to point out that about three percent of the young persons were in group quarters or spent the night in the open, suggesting that they did not belong to any specific households in a housing facility. As expected, the proportion of people classified as such was higher in urban than rural areas. It is not uncommon to find some young persons who live their lives entirely on the street in some of the cities and large towns in the country, a phenomenon that has negative implications for the health of the young people involved.

Children: In Table 2.5, children less than 10 years are examined in terms of their relationship to the head of household, comparing them by urban-rural place of residence. As expected, the results indicate that more than two in three of children in Ghana were reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household. Not much variation exists between the urban and rural areas. About 18% of the children were also recorded as grandchildren of the

household head in both urban and rural areas and about six percent of them were classified as other relative, the proportion being slightly higher in the urban than rural areas in the country. As expected, none of the children was a head of household and none of them was also married on account of the young ages.

Table 2.5: Percent distribution of population of children aged 0-9 years by relationship to head of household, sex and type of locality

Relationship	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Head	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spouse (wife/husband)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Child (son/daughter)	70.7	71.1	70.3	69.6	70.1	69.1	71.6	71.9	71.2
Son/Daughter in-law	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grandchild	17.7	17.6	17.9	17.6	17.5	17.8	17.8	17.7	18.0
Brother/Sister	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Step child	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4
Adopted/Foster child	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
Other relative	6.4	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.0	7.6	5.7	5.5	5.9
Non-relative	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.5
Group quarters/Outdoor sleeper	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2
All relationships	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

A further analysis of relationship of young persons to heads of household is presented in Table 2.6 with particular reference to the person being either the head of household or spouse of the head of household. The purpose is to examine the extent to which young persons are in charge of households and how early marriages take place among young people in the country. The analysis is limited to persons aged 15-35 years. This is because none of the adolescents below age 15 years was recorded to be either a head of household or spouse to the head of household.

Table 2.6: Percent Distribution of population of young persons by relationship to head of household, sex and type of locality

Relationship	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15-19									
Head	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.8	4.4	3.4	2.8	3.2	2.3
Spouse (wife/husband)	1.7	0.3	3.1	1.2	0.3	2.1	2.1	0.2	4.2
20-24									
Head	14.6	18.7	10.9	16.0	19.6	12.8	12.6	17.4	8.2
Spouse (wife/husband)	10.4	0.7	19.1	8.0	0.6	14.7	13.7	0.8	25.3
25-35									
Head	36.4	54.1	20.9	38.8	54.3	25.1	33.2	54.0	15.4
Spouse (wife/husband)	23.4	2.9	41.3	21.0	3.2	36.9	26.5	2.5	47.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Table 2.6 indicates that quite negligible proportions of adolescents aged 15-19 years were heads of household. Overall, less than 3% of this group of adolescents was recorded as head of household with a variation by sex and urban-rural place of residence. As expected, relatively higher proportion of the males was head of household compared to their female counterparts in either the urban or rural areas. A comparison of the urban and rural areas, however, shows that adolescents aged 15-19 years are more likely to be heads of household in urban than in rural areas in Ghana for either males or females. These adolescents are most likely single persons who constitute single-person households in the cities and towns.

Youth: Analysis of the youth groups indicates much higher proportions recorded as heads of household and as spouses of the head of household. From Table 2.6, a higher proportion of the males than females were heads of their households in either the urban or rural areas. For example, overall, we have about 19% of the youth aged 20-24 years as heads of household: about 20% of the urban male dwellers verses 13% among the females. In the rural areas, 17% of the males compared to 8% of the females were heads of household. Similarly, among the youth aged 25-35 years, we have 54% of the males in urban areas as heads of household compared to 25% of the females and in the rural areas, the same proportion of males was reported to be heads of household compared to 15% of their female counterparts. It has to be noted also that a higher proportion of female youth are more likely to be heads of household in urban than rural areas perhaps due to their migration status in the urban areas where they may form single-member households. This situation could also arise upon the out-migration or death of husbands resulting in their widows or spouses left behind becoming heads of household in the urban areas.

With respect to spouses of heads of household, the results suggest higher proportions of the female youth being reported as such compared to the males. This is true for either the urban or rural areas in the country as reflected in Table 2.6 where the proportion of females that reported to be spouses to the head of household was far higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas. This is to be expected because women especially in rural areas tend to marry earlier than males and are, therefore, more likely than their male counterparts to be spouses to their respective heads of household.

Table 2.7 presents the results of the analysis of whether young persons are heads of household or spouses to the head of household by region.

Adolescents: The data indicate that a very small proportion of the adolescent population aged 15-19 years was recorded as heads of their individual households in all regions and it is highest in Central Region where about four percent of these adolescents were heads of household. The lowest proportion recorded as heads of household was in the Northern Region with just about one percent as heads of household in the region among this group of adolescents. Indeed, the other two regions in the north (Upper East and Upper West) also recorded very low proportions as being heads of their households. Adherence to tradition

could explain these very negligible proportions being heads of household in the three northern regions in the country. The traditional compound house living arrangements makes it possible for several adolescents to refer to their father as the head of household although they may be married and have separate house-keeping arrangements within their father's compound houses.

In terms of being a spouse of the head of household, the proportions are still low, in most cases below two percent, suggesting that an insignificant proportion of the adolescent population in all the regions is married. Further analysis of marital status among the adolescents in Chapter Five is consistent with the observations made here. Similar but much lower proportions of the adolescents aged 15-19 years are also recorded to be spouses of the heads of household in all the regions.

Table 2.7: Percent distribution of population by relationship to head of household, age and region

Relationship with head of household	Total	Western	Central	Greater Accra	Volta	Eastern	Ashanti	Brong Ahafo	Northern	Upper East	Upper West
15-19											
Head	3.3	3.7	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.6	1.3	1.6	1.9
Spouse (wife/husband)	1.7	2.3	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.1	1.7
20-24											
Head	14.6	16.8	17.0	15.7	14.6	16.5	16.3	14.2	5.5	8.4	9.5
Spouse (wife/husband)	10.4	13.1	10.4	7.9	11.9	10.7	9.5	11.1	11.5	12.3	10.6
25-35											
Head	36.4	40.0	41.1	38.7	36.4	38.9	39.9	36.4	19.9	27.0	25.7
Spouse (wife/husband)	23.4	26.3	23.7	20.9	24.2	23.8	22.4	24.0	24.9	26.2	25.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The results presented in Table 2.7 indicate that overall, about 15% of the youth aged 20-24 years were heads of household in Ghana with one in 10 of them being spouses to the head of household. In terms of regional differences, we find that Central Regions reports the highest proportion (17%) to be heads of household with the least proportion recorded in the Northern Region (about 6%). On the other hand, the highest proportion of the youth aged 20-24 years who were spouses of head of household was found in the Western Region (13%) with Greater Accra recording the lowest (8%). The situation in the Greater Accra Region is to be expected because as the most migrant-attraction region in Ghana, many of the youth in the region may constitute single-person households looking for jobs. For these people, marriage may be postponed until a later date, thereby making a high proportion of them not to be married at the time of the census. This may explain why a very small proportion of the youth was reported as spouses to their heads of household compared to the situation in the other regions.

Turning to the youth aged 25-35 years, we find that more than a third of them were heads of household compared to close to one in four of them being spouses to the heads of household. So far, the Central (41%) and Western (40%) regions recorded the highest proportions of the youth in this age category to be heads of household while the lowest was reported in the Northern Region (20%). In the Northern Region, it could be related to the traditional compound system of living arrangement where a married youth still staying in the compound house of his father may still regard his father as the head of the household. This could affect the proportion of persons like this as heads of household particularly for the males. Furthermore, among the youth aged 25-35 years, the Western Region recorded the highest proportion (23%) of their members to be spouses of their heads of household and the lowest proportion (21%) was reported in the Greater Accra Region.

2.5 Summary and Conclusions

Children: The proportion of the population classified as children in the rural areas is by far higher than in the urban areas either for the male or female. A higher proportion of the children's population in Ghana is made up of males relative to females. There are more male children than females in the Ghanaian population. Also, there is a higher sex ratio for the children aged 0-4 years compared to their counterparts aged 5-9 years. The reverse, however, is the case in the rural areas where the sex ratio is higher among the 5-9 year group than those aged 0-4 years.

The results also indicate that children in each region were dominated by males compared to the females. High sex ratios were, therefore, recorded in all the regions with the exception of Brong Ahafo where the sex ratio for children was the lowest. The results indicate that more than two in three children in Ghana were reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household and not much variation was found to exist between the urban and rural areas.

Adolescents: A little less than a quarter of all persons in Ghana as at the 2010 Population and Housing census were adolescents aged 10-19 years, revealing the youthfulness of the Ghanaian population. It is also noted that the proportion of the male population classified as adolescents is higher than that for females, and it is higher in the rural areas than the urban. This translates into a higher sex for the adolescent groups.

There appears to be higher migration of females from the rural areas to the urban areas. The results indicate that the proportion of adolescents aged 10-14 years is lowest in Greater Accra Region and highest in the Upper East and Upper West regions.

Males outnumber females in all the regions except in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions where the reverse is the case among adolescents 10-14 years. Regional differences in fertility in the general population and migration flows among young persons could account for the gender variations across the regions. As expected, relatively higher proportion of the males were heads of households compared to their female counterparts in either the urban or rural areas and across all the regions in the country.

Youth: Almost one out of every four persons in Ghana was reported to be aged 20-35 years. A higher proportion of the youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years was represented by females. The same situation is true for the urban and rural areas with sex ratios relatively lower in the urban than rural areas. The proportion of the population classified as male youth aged 20-24 years is slightly lower compared to their female counterparts either in the urban or rural area. The reverse is the case with respect to the youth 25-35 years where the proportion of the population classified as male youth is higher compared to the female group. It is also interesting to note that the population of the youth 20-24 years is skewed in favour of females in each of the regions, thus translating into sex ratios below 100 in all regions.

CHAPTER THREE
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Introduction

Housing is a basic need for every household. The 2010 PHC collected data from households on different characteristics of their housing facilities. These include the type of dwelling occupied by households, ownership and tenancy arrangement, materials used for the construction of the structure that houses the household, main sources of lighting, drinking water, bathing and toilet facility used by household and method of disposal of solid and liquid waste. All these characteristics of the household have some effect on the health of the household members especially children and largely depict the poverty situation of each household. This is because the richer households are more likely to dwell in housing facilities with access to better household facilities including potable drinking water, use improved sources of lighting and toilet facilities as well as use modern methods of waste disposal which measure up to sanitation standards.

3.2 Type of Dwelling

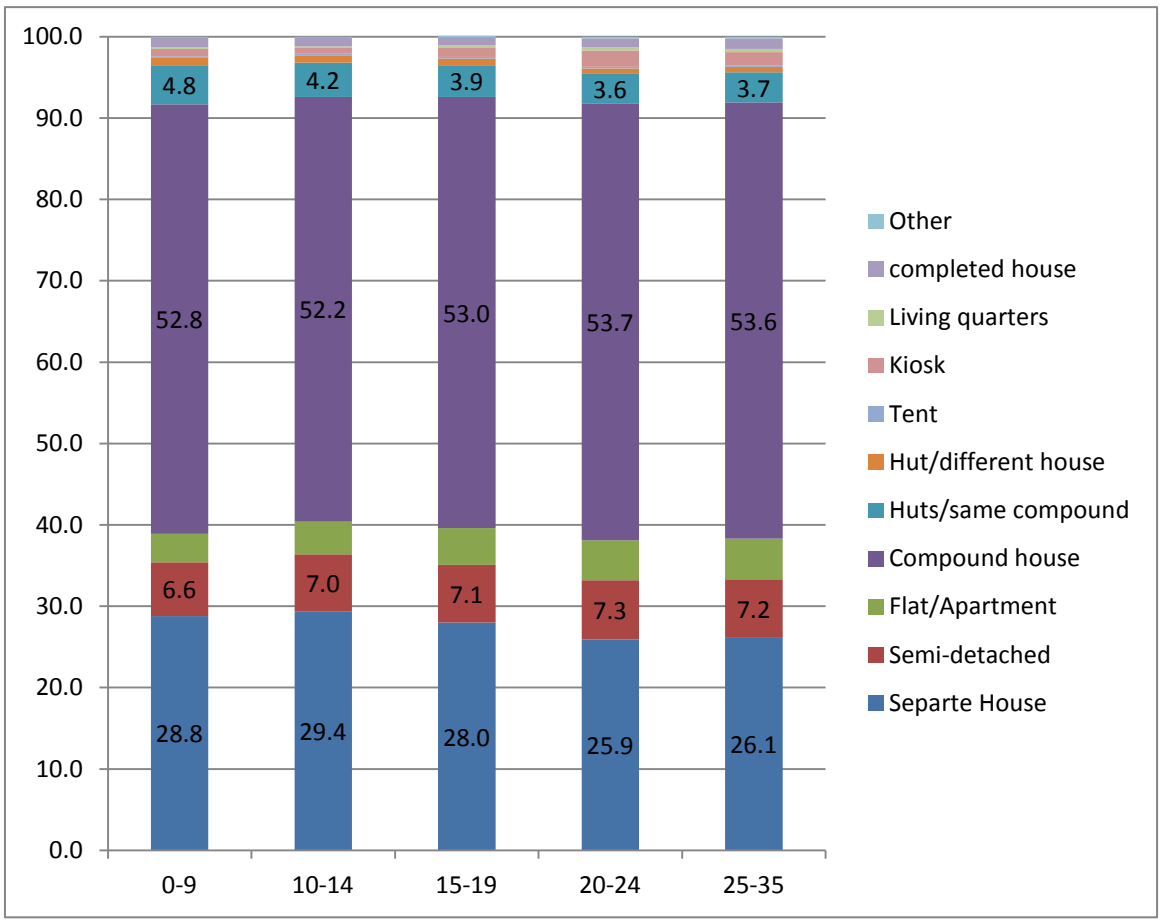
The type of dwelling young people in Ghana were found to be resident in do not vary too significantly by the different age groups of interest in this analysis – children, adolescents and youth. This may be due to the fact that all the three categories of young people in the country live together in the same households. In spite of this, it is instructive to examine the situation not only by the different age groups but also by region to see if at all there are variations.

Children: Children (0-9 years) in the country were recorded to be mainly resident in compound houses with about 53% of all children reported to be in compound houses as is shown in Figure 3.1. It is also to be noted that 29% of the children were resident in separate houses and about 7% were recorded in semi-detached housing facilities. A similar result is shown at the regional level with some interesting variations (Figure 3.2). From the results presented, the proportion of children the census recorded from compound houses varied from a low of about 42% in the Volta Region to a high of almost 68% in the Northern Region. Compound house accommodation is generally more common in the three regions in the north relative to the south.

It has to be pointed out that in the south, Greater Accra stands out in the proportion of children reported to live in compound houses. This could be due to rapid urbanization where accommodation in the cities tends to be more affordable in compound houses. This means there is a lot of sharing among the households with respect to facilities in the compound houses where these children live. While this could be positive in terms of the bigger space that is open to children to learn from, it could breed friction and social cohesion challenges such as in the sharing of water and electricity bills for services provided to the compound house in the absence of separate metres for each household in the compound house.

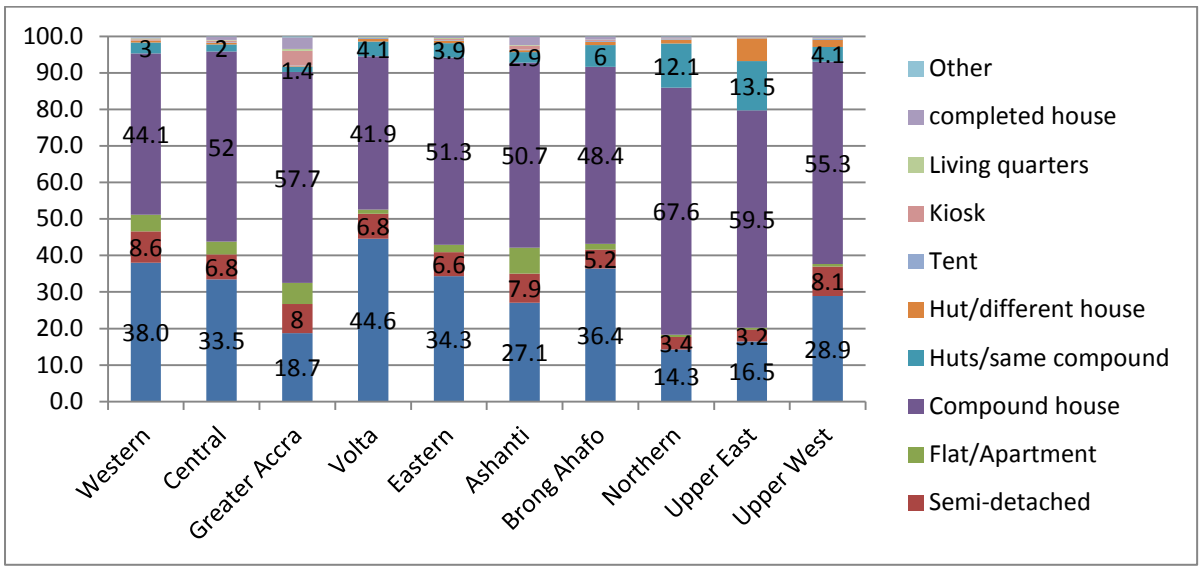
In contrast, the smallest proportion of children aged 0-9 years found to be resident in a separate house was in the Northern Region (14%) compared to the highest proportion of about 45% of the children in the Volta Region. However, it is conspicuous from Figure 3.2 that more than one in 10 children was reported to live in a hut in both the Upper East and Northern regions. Interestingly, only about 4% of their counterparts in the Upper West Region were recorded to be resident in a hut, making this region quite different from the other two northern regions in terms of the use of huts as a dwelling place for children. It would be interesting to find out what accounts for this difference between the Northern and Upper East regions on one hand and the Upper West Region on the other.

Figure 3.1: Percent of young persons by age group and type of dwelling



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

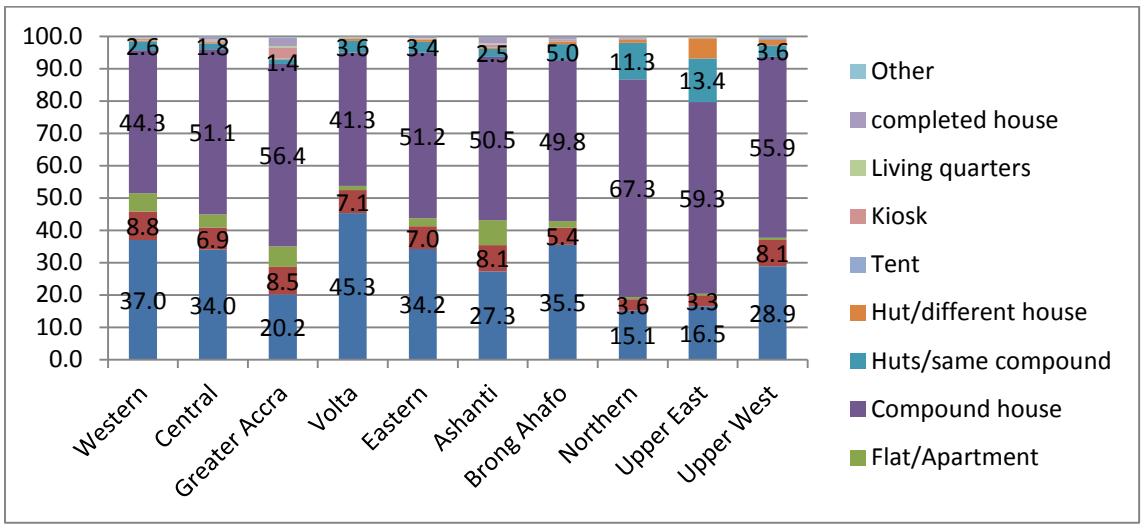
Figure 3.2: Percent distribution of children aged 0-9 years by type of dwelling and region



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: The distribution of the adolescents in the different dwellings does not show much variation from the pattern shown by the children in Figure 3.1. There is also not much variation between the young adolescents 10-14 and older adolescent 15-19 years as depicted in Figure 3.1 by type of dwelling occupied by the adolescents. In terms of regional comparison, Figures 3.3 and 3.4 reveal only small differences between the 10-14 and 15-19 adolescent age groups by region regarding the type of dwelling they were enumerated in. Once again, compound houses are still more prominent as dwelling places for the adolescents just like the children. For either age group, Volta Region stands out as recording the lowest and highest proportion of adolescents dwelling in compound houses and in separate houses respectively. The contrast to the Volta Region is the Northern Region which once again recorded the highest proportion of adolescents in compound houses and the least proportion in separate houses.

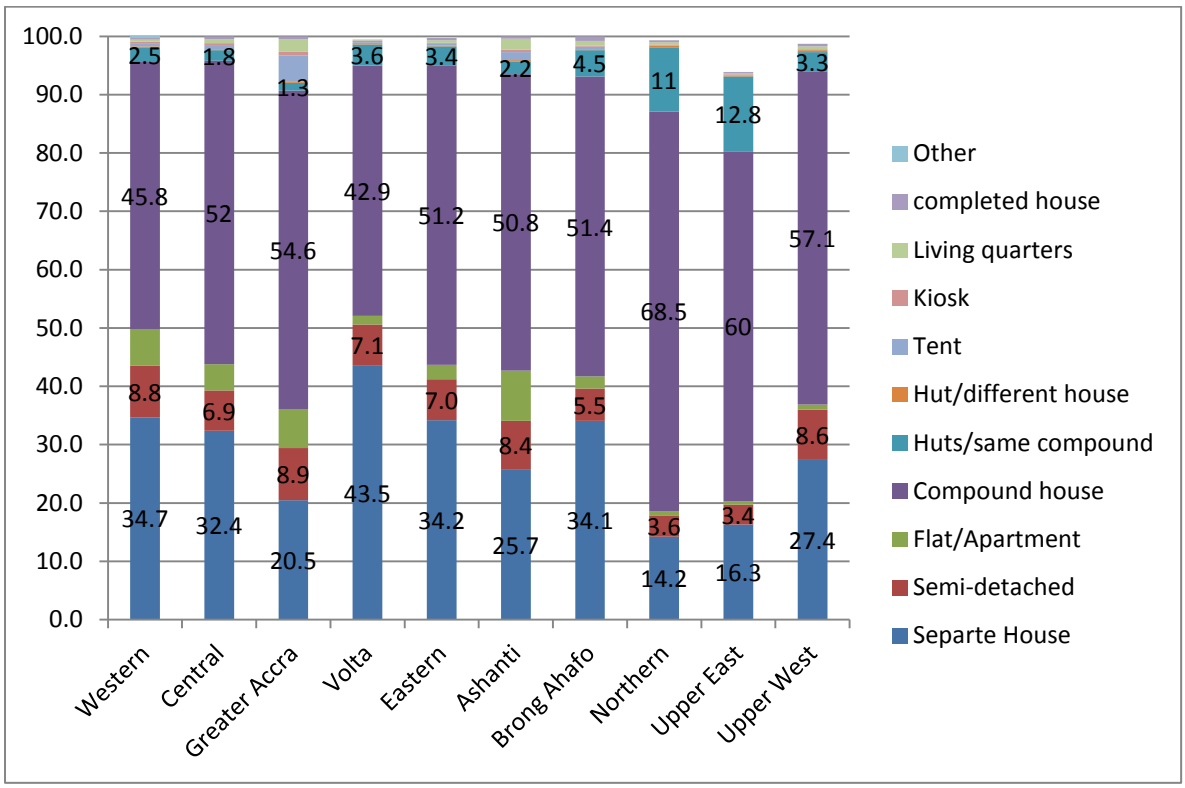
Figure 3.3: Percent distribution of children aged 10-14 years by type of dwelling and region



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

The Greater Accra recorded the highest proportion of 3.2% and 4.5% respectively among adolescents 10-14 (Figure 3.3) and 15-19 years (Figure 3.4). The region that is closest to Greater Accra with respect to accommodation in kiosks is Ashanti but even in that region, the proportion is still less than one percent (0.8% and 0.4% among the 10-14 and 15-19 year groups). It is also to be noted that in all regions, the proportion of adolescents living in kiosks was insignificant (less than one percent). Residence in huts is again showing almost the same as was the case with children where the Northern and Upper East regions stand out more prominently in both Figure 3.3 and 3.4. The results of the analysis further show that residence in uncompleted houses is very low in all regions except in Greater Accra and Ashanti which recorded almost 3% and 2% respectively for the 10-14 age group and about 2% in both regions among adolescents 15-19 years.

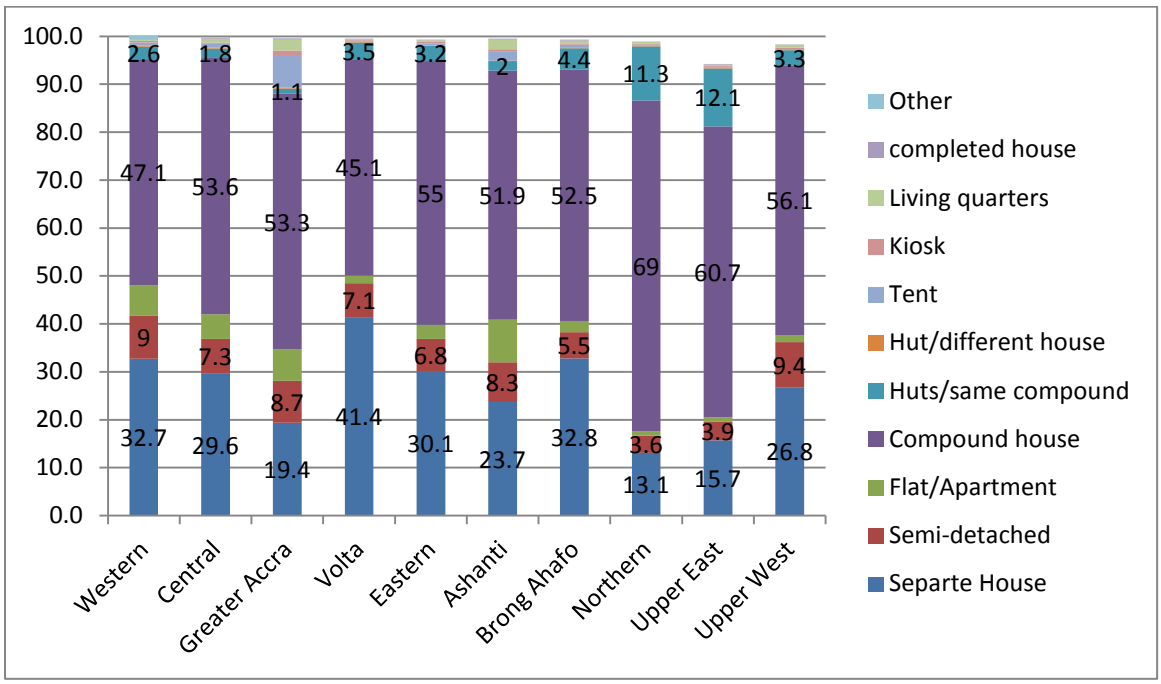
Figure 3.4: Percent distribution of children aged 15-19 years by type of dwelling and region



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

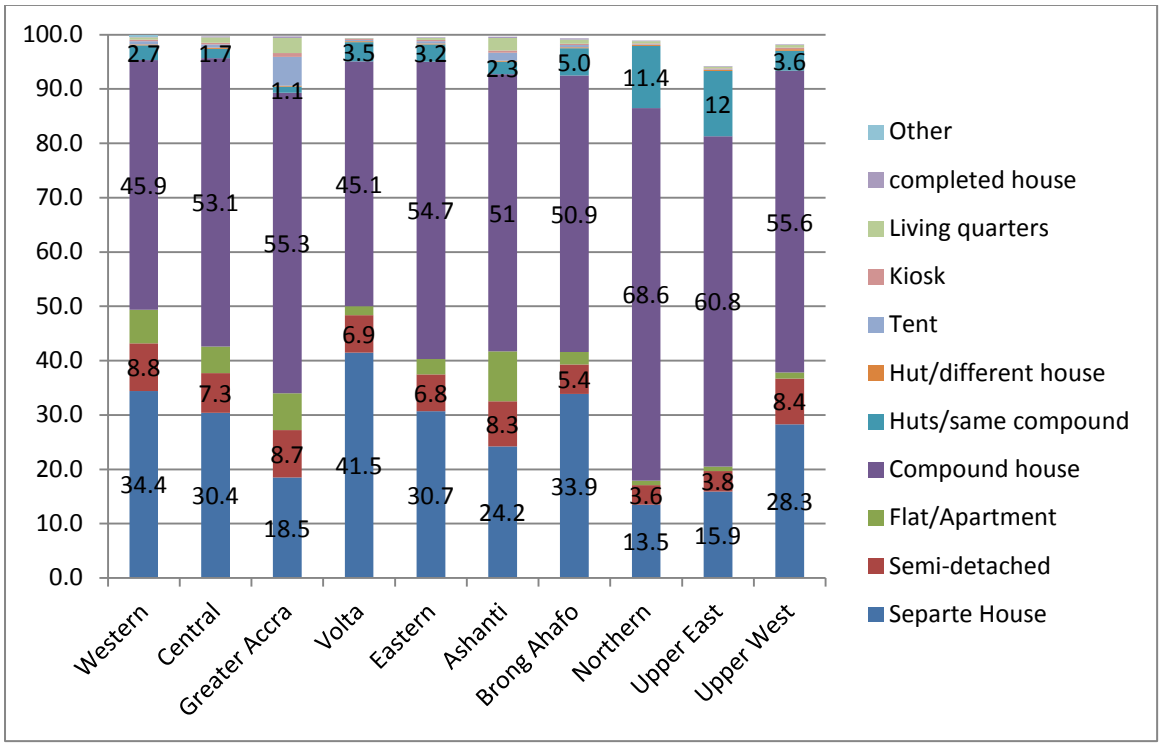
Youth: At the national level, the type of dwelling unit of the youth (15-19, 20-24 and 25-35 years) show only slight variations as shown in Figure 3.1. The comparison by region is presented in Figures 3.5 and 3.6. The pattern of distribution as shown in the two figures is similar and consistent with those of the children and adolescents. Compound houses are the most common dwelling units with some variations across the regions, depicting socio-cultural differences in housing construction or different degrees of economic status of the different households. It must be pointed out that the proportion of persons reported to live in kiosks was much higher in Greater Accra among these age groups (about 7% for the 20-24 and 5% among the 25-35 age groups). It is followed by Ashanti Region but with a much smaller proportion (2% and 1.5% respectively in the two age groups). These two regions are the most urbanized in Ghana with Accra and Kumasi as the leading urban centres where accommodation is a challenge for many unemployed or low-income earning groups who may be forced to find accommodation in kiosks and uncompleted houses.

Figure 3.5: Percent distribution of children aged 20-24 years by type of dwelling and region



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Figure 3.6: Percent distribution of children aged 25-35 years by type of dwelling and region



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.2 Type of Holding/Tenancy Arrangement and Ownership of Dwelling

Children: Analysis of tenancy arrangement and ownership reveals interesting results. As shown in Table 3.1, close to two-thirds of all children aged 0-9 years were living in households whose dwelling places were owned by a member of the household. Thirteen per cent of them were in dwellings owned by a relative who was not a member of the household and close to one in five of them lived in dwellings owned by other private individuals.

Adolescents: The pattern shown with respect to tenancy arrangement for the adolescents is similar to that of children: 66% and 65% respectively among the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups were living in dwelling places owned by a member of their households. Like the children, 13% of either the 10-14 or 15-19 year adolescents were resident in dwellings that were owned by a relative who was not a member of the household and 17% and 18% respectively were living in dwellings owned by other private individuals.

Youth: For the youth groups aged 20-24 and 25-35 years, a relatively smaller proportion were living in houses owned by a member of the household: 58% and 55% respectively for the 20-24 and 25-35 age groups. It is also observed from Table 3.1 that ownership of household dwelling by other private individuals and a relative who is not a member of the household are the other important categories. Compared to the children and adolescent groups, a higher proportion (23% and almost 27% respectively) of the youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years were living in dwellings that were owned by other private individuals. On the other hand, no significant difference is found between the youth on one hand and children and adolescents on the other, with respect to ownership of dwellings by a relative who was not a member of the household.

It has to be noted, however, that the results in Table 3.1 appear to be quite inconsistent with the earlier result that a high proportion of the three groups enumerated in the country in 2010 were resident in compound houses. This is because households located in compound houses do not usually own the dwelling units but occupy them on tenancy arrangement basis. It will, therefore, be quite contradictory to have a majority of each of the three groups reporting that their household dwelling units were owned by a member of their households and at the same time have more than 50% of the households to be located in compound houses as was recorded in Figure 3.1. Data errors, therefore, could possibly account for the inconsistency that has been observed.

Table 3.1: Percent of young persons by age group and ownership of dwelling

Age group	Ownership of dwelling								Total	
	Owned by hh member	Mortgage	Relative not a house member	Other private individual	Private employer	Other private agency	Public/ government owned	Other	%	No.
0-9	63.6	0.7	13.3	19.2	1.2	0.3	1.4	0.3	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	66.0	0.7	12.6	17.3	1.1	0.3	1.8	0.3	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	65.2	0.7	12.7	17.6	1.2	0.3	2.0	0.4	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	58.4	0.8	13.3	23.0	1.6	0.4	2.2	0.4	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	54.9	0.8	13.1	26.6	1.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	100.0	4,078,544

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

In terms of present holding tenancy arrangement, the results are presented in Table 3.2 for children, adolescents and youth.

Children: A higher proportion of the children were recorded to be resident in owner occupied dwellings in Ghana. A little more than a quarter of them were in rented premises while another 18% were in rent-free housing facilities. There were negligible numbers who were reported to be either perching or squatting.

Adolescents: Compare to children, a slightly higher proportion of adolescents (62%) was reported in dwellings identified as owner occupied. Not much difference is visible in Table 3.2 between the younger (10-14 years) and older adolescents (15-19 years). At the same time, about 21% of the adolescent groups were resident in rented premises and about 16% recorded in rent-free dwellings.

Youth: The proportion of the youth reported to be in owner occupied dwelling places was much lower compared with their counterparts who were children or adolescents: about 54% and 49% respectively were resident in dwellings that were owner occupied for the youth 20-24 and 25-35 years. In contrast, higher proportions of the youth were reported to be in rented housing facilities and in rent-free ones compared to the children and adolescents. The difference may be due to the fact that after 19 years, a higher proportion of the youth compared to adolescents may be working and may live independent of parents' residence, thereby increasing the numbers that find rented accommodation, unlike children and adolescents who are more likely to be resident with their parents or other relations.

Table 3.2: Present of young persons by age group and type of holding/tenancy arrangement

Age group	Type of Holding/tenancy Arrangement							
	Owner occupied	Renting	Rent-free	Perching	Squatting	Others	Total	
							%	No.
0-9	59.4	22.4	17.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	62.4	20.9	16.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	61.6	21.3	16.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	53.6	27.4	18.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	49.5	31.5	18.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	100.0	4,078,544

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.3 Main Construction Material for Household Structure

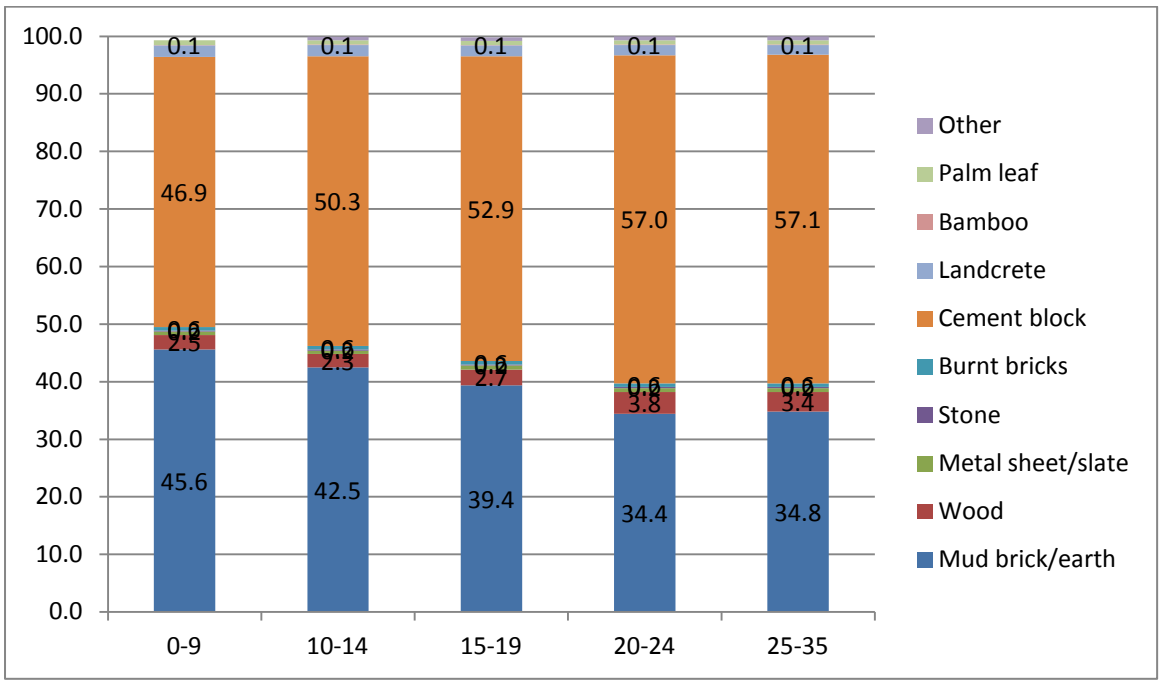
The material used in constructing the structure that houses each of the households in Ghana is of interest in this section. The analysis is done to assess the differences in the quality of material used for the construction of the housing structure of households within which children, adolescents and youth were living. The results of the analysis are presented in Figure 3.6.

Children: The results in Figure 3.6 indicate that the most commonly used material for the construction of the housing facilities are cement block and mud brick/earth and these were used for about 47% and 46% respectively of the dwelling units. The remaining 7% of the houses were constructed using other materials including wood, bamboo and burnt bricks, etc.

Adolescents: A similar picture is presented among the adolescents just like the children. About 43 percent of the adolescent group aged 10-14 and 39 percent of their counterparts 15-19 years were in households whose housing facility was constructed with mud brick/earth. Compared to the children, relatively higher proportions of the adolescents were recorded in households with outer wall of their house constructed with cement block. Like the children, the other materials used for the outer wall of facilities housing the adolescents were not significant.

Youth: Again, a similar result is produced among the youth of the two different age groups of 20-24 and 25-35 years. The difference is that as age increases, the proportion of household dwellings constructed with mud bricks/earth reduces while the use of cement blocks increases. This suggests that there is a higher likelihood that relatively younger persons are more likely to live in households whose outer wall of the dwelling was constructed with mud brick/earth compared to their older counterparts. In contrast, as age increases, there is a higher likelihood that higher proportions of the population of young persons would be housed in structures constructed with cement blocks. This may be due to the fact that the older ones do so by choice while the reverse is the case for the younger ones particularly the children who have no choice but have to make do with housing arrangements of their parents.

Figure 3.6: Percent distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material for outer wall of household structure



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

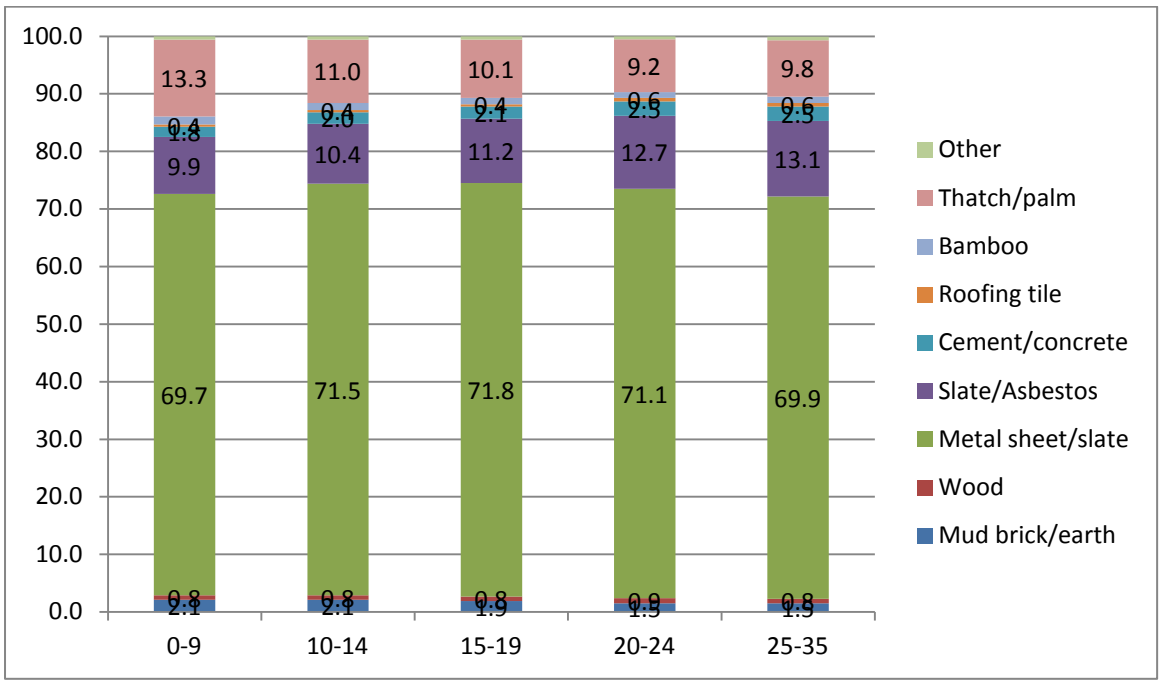
Figure 3.7 shows the type of roofing materials used for the housing structures that accommodated young persons in the country. Overall, metal sheet/slate and slate/asbestos are the main roofing materials used by a majority of the different groups of young persons in the country.

Children: About 70 percent of the children were enumerated in households with metal sheet/slate roofing materials. This is followed by slate/asbestos that is used by almost one in 10 of the households the children belonged.

Adolescents: Figure 3.7 does not reveal too much variation between children and adolescents. About the same proportion (72%) of adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years were recorded in households with metal sheet/slate compared to one in 10 and a slightly higher proportion respectively among the same groups of adolescents.

Youth: Housing arrangement in terms of roofing among the youth groups is similar to children and adolescents. While 71 percent and 70 percent of the youth groups 20-24 and 35-35 years respectively had the roofs of their dwelling roofed by metal sheet/slate, about the same proportion of 13 percent were in households with housing structure roofed by slate/asbestos.

Figure 3.7: Percent distribution of young persons by age group and main roofing material for household structure



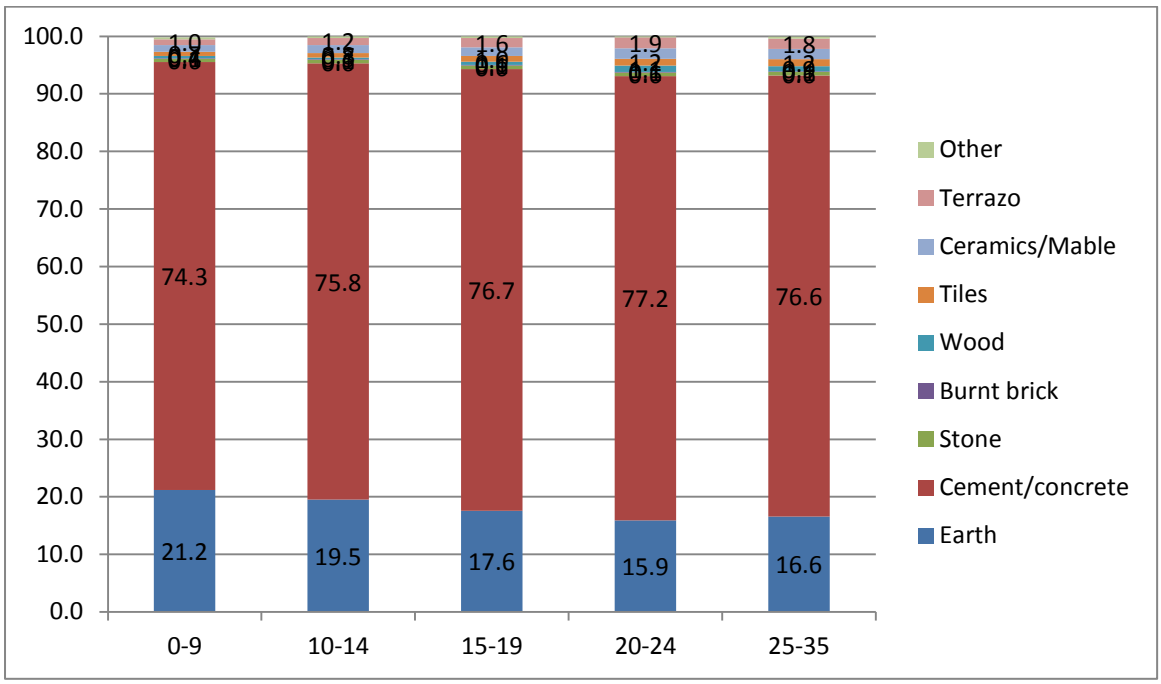
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Children: The results in Figure 3.8 indicate that more than two-thirds of children in Ghana were living in dwellings whose main floor construction was made of cement/concrete. At the same time, one in five of them was reported to be resident in homes with floors constructed with earth. Less than five percent of the children were in households whose dwellings had materials other than cement/concrete and earth used for its construction.

Adolescents: A relatively higher proportion of adolescents were reported to be from households with cement/concrete floors for the dwelling. It is also observed that the proportion of older adolescents (15-19 years) was reported in households with cement/concrete floors was higher than their younger counterparts aged 10-14 years (about 77% and 76% respectively). On the other hand, almost 20 percent of the younger adolescents (10-14 years) were reported to be resident in households with earth as the main material for the housing floor. This compares with about 18% among their older counterparts (15-19 years).

Youth: The distribution of the youth by the main floor material used for construction is not very different from that shown by the adolescents. However, with respect to the use of earth for the construction of the floor of their dwellings, the proportion is much smaller compared to that found among households with adolescents and children.

Figure 3.8: Percent distribution of young persons by age group and main floor construction material for household structure



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.4 Household Facilities and Utilities

3.4.1 Main Source of Lighting for Dwelling

The availability of improved household facilities and utilities at the household level is important for the welfare of children and young persons. The 2010 PHC collected information on the main source of lighting for the dwelling, main source of drinking water, cooking fuel and cooking space as well as type of bathing and toilet facility and method of solid and liquid waste disposal for all households in the country.

Children: Table 3.3 presents the results of analysis of the main source of lighting for dwelling among young persons in Ghana. The main source of lighting for dwelling housing children 0-9 years is electricity (main), which supplies lighting to about 54 percent of the household dwellings hosting the children. The other two major sources of lighting for children are kerosene (24%) and flashlight (21%). Compared to adolescents and youth groups, it appears children are worse off with respect to the main source of lighting for dwelling.

Adolescents: It is clear from Table 3.3 that just like the results for the children, the three main sources of lighting for dwellings housing adolescents in Ghana are electricity, kerosene and flashlights, the other sources forming less than 3 percent altogether. There is however, some variation between young adolescents (10-14 years) and their older counterparts (15-19 years). While 57 percent of the younger adolescents reported to use electricity as the main source of lighting, that for adolescents 15-19 years is about 61 percent. Conversely, the

proportion that was reported to use kerosene and flashlight was lower among adolescents aged 15-19 years than that for their counterparts aged 10-14 years. Comparing adolescents and the children, adolescents tend to have relatively better sources of lighting for their dwellings.

Youth: Table 3.3 further reveals that close to two in three of the youth aged 20 – 24 and 25 – 35 years were living in dwellings with electricity as the main source of lighting, which is higher compared to that recorded among the adolescents and children. On the other hand, a relatively lower proportion of the youth was reported to use kerosene and flashlight compared to adolescents and children.

Table 3.3: Percent of young persons by age group and main source of lighting

Age group	Main source of lighting											Total No.
	Electri-city (main)	Electric (pr. gene)	Kero-sene	Gas lamp	Solar energy	candle	Flash-light	Fire-wood	Crop residue	others	%	
0-9	53.7	0.7	23.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	20.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	57.1	0.7	22.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	18.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	60.8	0.7	20.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	16.9	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	65.6	0.7	16.6	0.2	0.2	0.8	15.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	64.8	0.7	16.9	0.2	0.2	0.7	16.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0	4,078,544

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.4.2 Main Source of Drinking Water for Household

The source of drinking water is particularly important for children. This is because when drinking water is not treated before use, it poses a lot of health risks to children in particular, including diarrhea related infections. Figure 3.9 shows the results of the analysis of the main source of drinking water for young persons in Ghana.

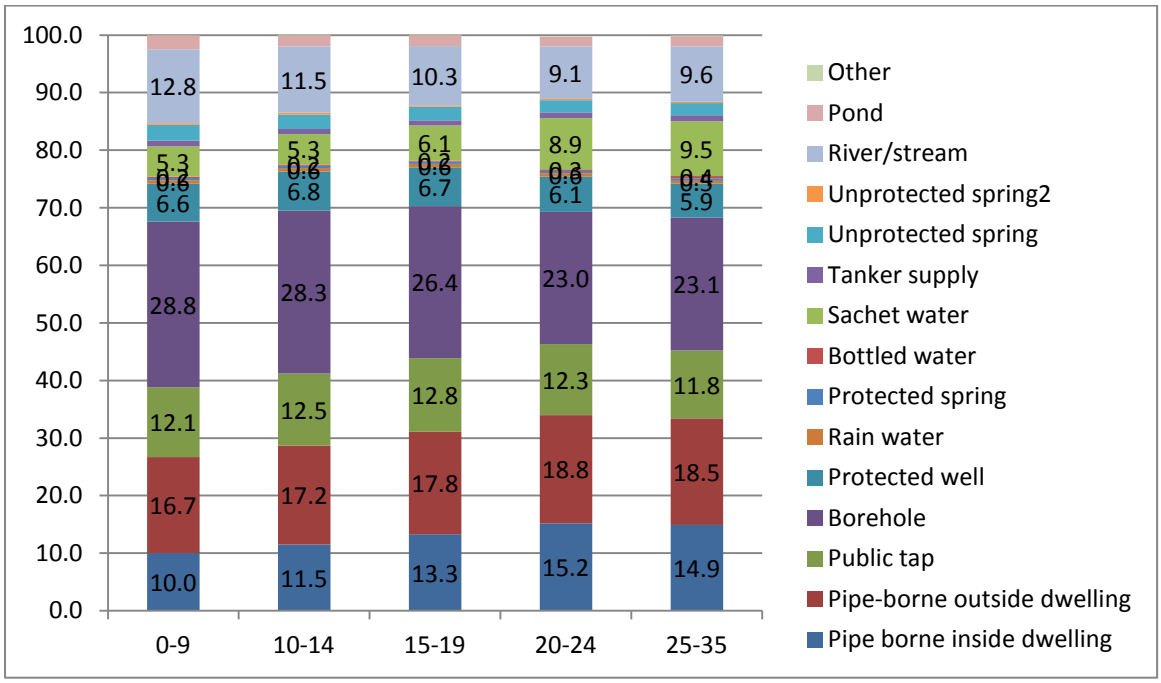
Children: According to the results in figure 3.9, less than 30% of children in Ghana were living in households with pipe borne water as their main source of drinking water. This was made up of about 17% with pipe borne outside dwelling and 12% using public tap. Just one in 10 of the children were resident in households with pipe borne inside their dwelling. By far however, the borehole happens to be the most patronized source of drinking water for the children and it is the main source of drinking water for about 29% of the children. It should also be pointed out that about 13% of the children depend on rivers and streams as their source of drinking water in the country.

Adolescents: It is shown in Figure 3.9 that a higher proportion of adolescents than children were in living in households whose main source of drinking water was piped water either inside or outside dwelling unit.. The proportions were 41% and 44% respectively for adolescents aged 10-14 and those aged 15-19 years. The breakdown of this again suggests that the adolescents are better served with pipe borne water of any kind compared to the children. However, just like among children, borehole is the most common source of drinking water among the adolescents, 28% and 26% respectively for the 10-14 and 15-19

adolescent groups. The stream or river as a source of drinking water is also used by about one in 10 of the adolescents.

Youth: Among the youth groups, a much higher proportion is reported to use pipe borne water as a main source of drinking. Forty six percent and 45% of the youth groups 20-24 and 25-35 years respectively were reported to use pipe borne water from inside the dwelling, outside dwelling or from public tap. These are better results compared to the adolescents and children. In addition, the observation from figure 3.9 is that unlike the children and adolescents, less than 10% of the youth groups were reported to use rivers and streams as their main source of drinking water. It is also noted that the borehole is still a very popular source of drinking water for the youth although compared to the children and adolescents, a much smaller proportion of the youth was using borehole as the main source of drinking water. The analysis, therefore, appears to show that access to portable drinking water is lowest among children and increases with higher age among young persons in Ghana. This may be due to choice adolescents and youth are able to make by virtue of their relatively higher age compared to children who may have no choice of their own regarding their source of drinking water.

Figure 3.9: Percent distribution of young persons by age group and main source of drinking water



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.4.3 Main Source of Cooking Fuel and Cooking Space for Household

Table 3.4 presents the results of the analysis of the main source of cooking fuel for households of young persons in Ghana by age groups. The results reveal three main sources of cooking fuel for each of the three groups. It is clear from the table that overall a higher

proportion of households (more than 70%) depended directly on the environment for their source of cooking fuels.

Children: The results indicate that almost 57% of the children (0-9years) live in households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. This is followed by the use of charcoal as the main source of cooking fuel representing almost 30% of households having children 0–9 years. At the same time, about 12% of households were using LPG as the main source of cooking fuel.

Adolescents: A slightly lower proportion of adolescents aged 10-14 years (55%) and others 15-19 years (51%) were reported to belong to households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. In contrast, a higher proportion of the adolescents than the children were in households that were using LPG and charcoal as the main sources of cooking fuel.

Youth: The results in Table 3.4 do not show great variation from the pattern reported for children and adolescents. The difference, however, is that a relatively smaller proportion of the youth than children and adolescents live in households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. For example, 42% and 41% of the youth groups 20-24 and 25-35 years respectively were in households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. In contrast, a higher proportion of the youth groups are shown to use charcoal and LPG compared with the children and adolescents. This suggests a higher likelihood that as age increases, the use of LPG in particular increases.

Table 3.4: Percent of young persons by age group and main source of cooking fuel for household

Age group	Main source of cooking fuel										Total	
	None (no cooking)	Fire-wood	Gas	Elec-tricity	Kero-sene	Char-coal	Crop residue	Saw dust	Animal waste	Others	%	No.
0-9	0.6	56.6	11.8	0.3	0.3	28.9	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	0.7	55.2	12.2	0.4	0.3	29.6	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	1.9	50.7	13.5	0.5	0.4	31.5	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	4.4	41.6	17.5	0.6	0.4	34.2	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	3.9	40.7	20.6	0.5	0.4	32.7	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0	4,078,544

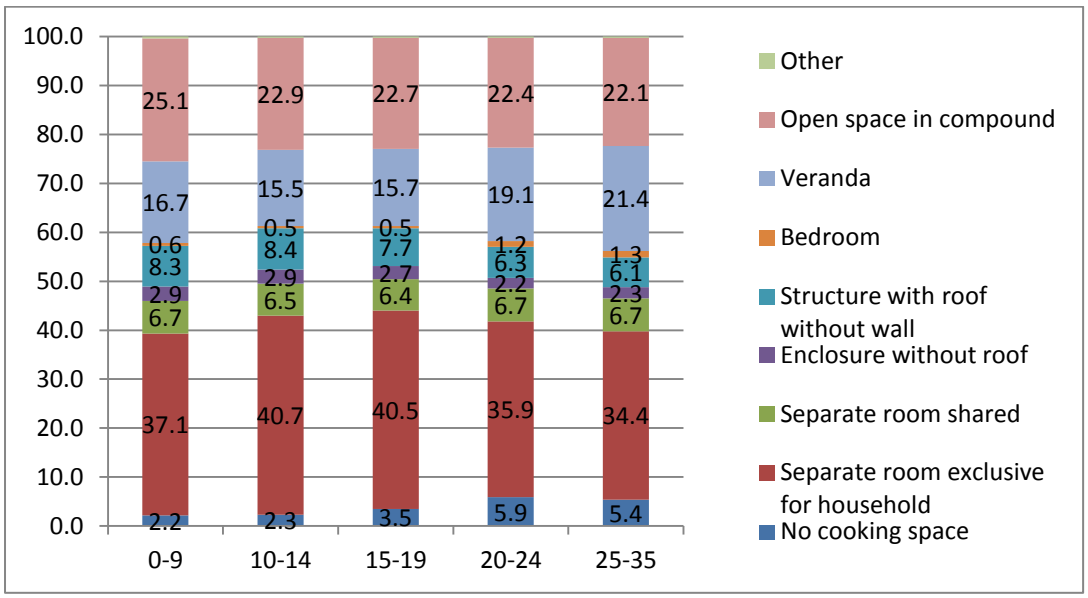
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Children: Regarding cooking space for households, Figure 3.10 shows that it is more common for households to have separate rooms exclusively for use as cooking space. This makes up 37% of all households having children of age 0-9 years. Also noteworthy is the use of open space in the compound which is represented by one in four of the households while about 17% reported to use the veranda. While households using separate rooms are more likely to be resident in self-contained houses, the open space in compound and the veranda used for cooking could be more associated with compound house conditions.

Adolescent: The results (Figure 3.10) show that about 41% of households with adolescent membership aged 10-14 and 15-19 years have separate rooms for their exclusive use as cooking space. This is higher than that recorded among the households with children membership. The use of open space in compound veranda is also quite common among households with adolescents although the percentages as presented in figure 3.10 are lower compared with that for children. Furthermore, about 8% of the adolescents were in households that were using a structure with roof but without a wall as cooking space.

Youth: A similar pattern is shown with respect to households containing the youth groups with some variations in the proportions using the different types of cooking space. The three most common types of cooking space that were used by households with children or adolescents (i.e., separate room, veranda and open space in compound) were still prominent among the households with youth membership. A third of the households hosting the youth were using separate rooms exclusively as cooking space (about 36% among 20-24 and 34% for 25-35 year groups) which is lower compared with that recorded in respect of households with children and adolescents. On the other hand, a much higher proportion of youth households were using the veranda as cooking space than either that of children and adolescents but about the same proportions made use of open space in the compound just like the adolescents. It must also be noted that quite a noticeable proportion of the youth households (6% and 5% respectively among the 20-24 and 25-35 age groups) had no cooking space compared to less than 3% for the adolescents aged 10-14 and children 0-9 years. Perhaps these households depended on food cooked and sold in the streets, restaurants or in the open market.

Figure 3.10: Percent of young persons by age group and cooking space for household



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

3.4.4 Bathing and Toilet Facility used by Household

Table 3.5 shows the distribution of the young persons by the type of bathing facility used by household. The pattern of distribution shows slight variation among the three groups of young persons.

Children: Close to a third of children less than 10 years live in households that use their own bathrooms while almost 30 percent shared separate bath rooms in the same house. Table 3.5 also shows that less than one in five of the households (17%) shared open cubicles as bathrooms. It is also to be noted that about 9 percent and 8 percent of the households respectively were using private open cubicles and open space around the house as their bathing facility.

Adolescents: Compared to children, a little more than a third of the households with adolescents were reported to use their own bath room (i.e. 34%), about 29 percent shared separate bath room in the same house and another 16 percent shared open cubicles. On the other hand, a little less than 10 percent of the households made use of private open cubicles while about 7 percent of them used open space around the house.

Youth: The proportion of youth living in households having their own bathroom facilities was about the same as that for children (Table 3.5). However, the percentage of youth living in households using shared separate bathroom in the same house was slightly higher in comparison with either children or adolescents. Again, quite a sizeable proportion of youth (17% and 18% respectively for the 20-24 and 25-35 year groups) shared open cubicles as bathing facility which is not too different from the percentages for children and adolescents. Furthermore, around 6 percent of youth were resident in households using open spaces around the house to have their bath.

Table 3.5: Bathing facility used by household by type of locality and age group

Age group	Bathing facility used by household									Total	
	Own bath (eluc. use)	Shared sep. bath (same hse)	Private open cub.	Shared open cub.	Public open cub.	Bath in another hse	Open space around hse	River/ pond/ lake/ dam	others	%	No.
0-9	31.2	29.1	8.6	17.3	2.1	3.2	7.9	0.2	0.3	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	33.7	28.6	8.8	16.4	1.9	2.8	7.2	0.2	0.3	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	34.0	29.2	8.3	16.4	2.3	2.7	6.6	0.2	0.3	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	31.3	31.8	7.1	17.2	3.0	2.8	6.3	0.2	0.3	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	30.2	32.4	6.9	17.8	2.8	2.8	6.7	0.2	0.3	100.0	4,078,544

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 3.6 shows the results of the analysis of type of toilet facility used by households for children, adolescents and youth. The results reveal some interesting pattern among the three groups.

Children: About 30 percent of children less than 10 years live in households that did not have toilet facility and thus made use of the bush. Interestingly, this is higher compared with the proportions of adolescents and youth living in such households. Only one in 10 of children live in households which had access to water closet toilet facility; one in five live in households using the pit latrine and a little less than a third used public toilet. Table 3.6 also indicates that about 9 percent of children were in households using the Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit (KVIP) toilet facility. This situation is not good enough since in most cases, the likelihood of the children not washing his/her hands with soap may be higher which could trigger infections and put the health of the children at risk.

Adolescents: One-third of adolescents (32%) live in households that use public toilet. Besides, 26 percent and 24 percent of 10-14 and 15-19 year old adolescents respectively reported living in households that have no toilet facility just like the children. For adolescents in these households, the use of the bush becomes inevitable. Compared to the children, a slightly higher proportion of adolescents (12% and 14% respectively for 10-14 and 15-19 year groups) were living in households that were using the water closet. In addition, about one in five of adolescents used pit latrine and almost one in 10 accessed the KVIP toilet facility. The situation of the adolescents is not too different from the children, except with respect to the use of the water closet.

Youth: The proportion of youth living in households with no toilet facility is the lowest compared to children and adolescents. However, about one in five of youth (22%) live in households having no toilet facility. The proportion in household using the water closet was much higher (16%) among the youth compared to children and adolescents. At the same time, about a third of youth were residents in households that used public toilets, 18% in households using pit latrines and one in 10 of youth accessed KVIP facility. Overall, the analysis shows that quite a huge proportion of housing structures in Ghana do not have toilet facilities which is in contravention of bye laws that enjoin landlords and landladies to make sure toilet facilities are included in their building plans.

Table 3.6: Percent of young persons by age and type of toilet facility used among households

Age group	Toilet facility used by household								Total Number
	No facility (bush)	Water Closet (W.C)	Pit Latrine	KVIP	Bucket/ pan	Public toilet	Others	%	
0-9	28.5	10.0	20.4	8.8	0.5	31.3	0.4	100.0	6,436,281
10-14	25.6	11.7	20.7	9.6	0.6	31.5	0.4	100.0	2,860,976
15-19	24.1	13.6	19.4	9.9	0.6	32.0	0.4	100.0	2,527,298
20-24	21.5	16.1	18.2	10.0	0.7	33.1	0.4	100.0	2,208,351
25-35	22.1	16.3	18.4	10.1	0.7	32.0	0.4	100.0	4,078,544

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

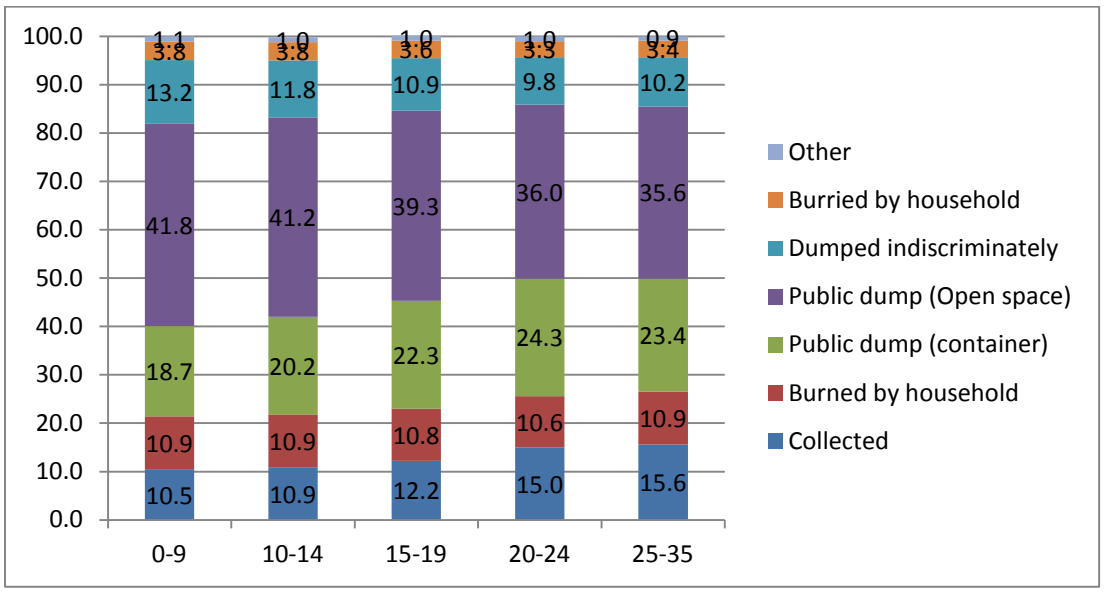
3.4.5 Method of Waste Disposal by Household

The 2010 PHC collected information on waste disposal in two parts: solid (rubbish) and liquid waste. The results of the analysis are presented in Figures 3.11 and 3.12 respectively for solid and liquid waste.

Children: The results shown in both figures 3.11 and 3.12 are not good for children. In terms of method of solid waste disposal, as high as 42 percent of children below 10 years live in households that disposed their solid waste in a public dump or open space while almost one in five were in households that put solid waste in a container at a public dump. An additional 13 percent of children live in households that dumped their waste indiscriminately. It is also observed that only about one in 10 of children reside in households that had arranged for their solid waste to be collected or was burned by the household itself. Such practices of indiscriminate dumping of solid waste and dumping in open spaces obviously have challenges for the health of the households especially the children who in most cases are the ones most likely to be sent to dispose the waste.

In Figure 3.12, another disturbing picture is shown relative to method of disposal of liquid waste. 76 percent of children live in households that dispose of their liquid waste through unhygienic methods. For example, 39 percent of children were in households that throw their liquid waste onto the compound, a third in dwelling units that throw it onto the street and 14 percent in household that throw liquid waste into the gutter. Only small percentages of children live in households that were using the sewerage system and drainage into pit or soak-away. The health risks associated with such practices of liquid waste disposal are quite high most especially when the gutters into which the liquid waste is discharged are most often also choked with solid waste, making them breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other reptiles.

Figure 3.11: Percent of young persons by age group and method of rubbish disposal for household

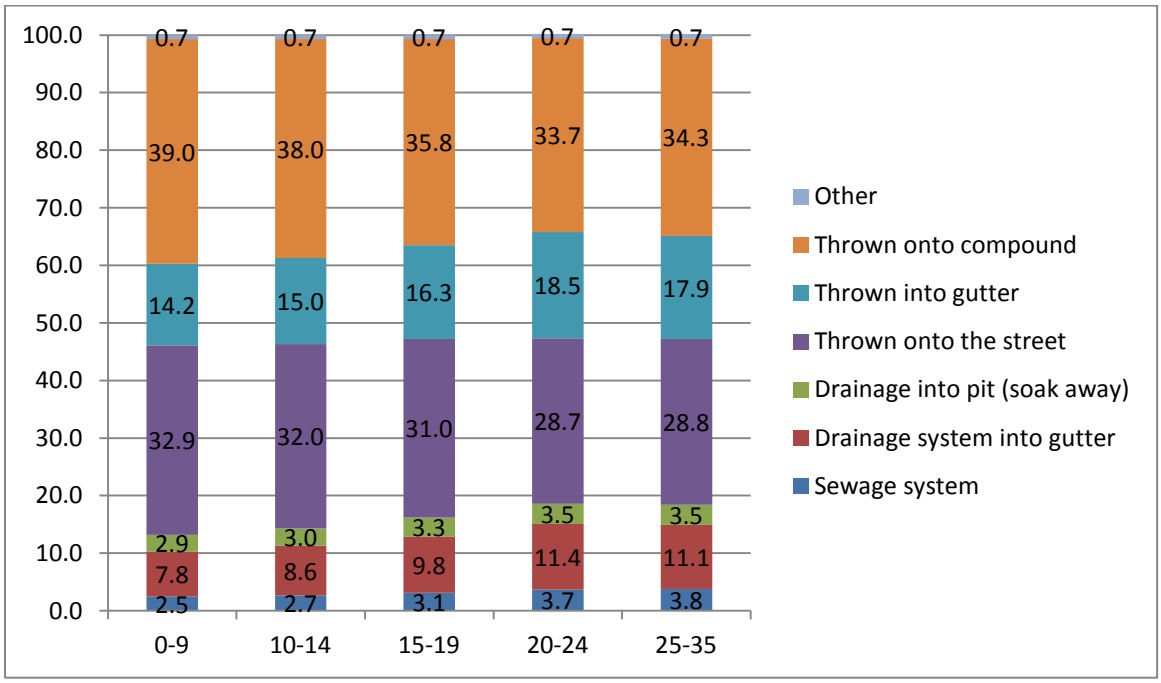


Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: The picture presented for adolescents is not very different from that of the children. Forty-one percent of adolescents aged 10-14 and 39 percent of those aged 15-19 years live in households that used the open space at public dump to dispose of their solid waste. At the same time, one in five of adolescents were resident in households that dumped their solid waste in containers at a public dump while about one in 10 live in households which dumped their waste indiscriminately, although this was slightly lower than the percentage reported for children. Similar to the proportions for children, about 11 percent of adolescents were in households which burned their solid waste and between 10 percent and 12 percent of were members of households which had their solid waste collected.

A more worrying picture is shown in figure 3.12 with respect to adolescents and the method of liquid waste disposal for their households. The results show that as high as 85 percent and 73 percent of adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively were living in households that throw their liquid waste onto the compound, into gutters and onto the street. In contrast, only a small proportion of adolescents live in households using the sewerage system (3%-4%) and drainage into pit or soak-away (3%). Obvious, these practices are not good health wise and need to be discouraged by strict adherence to building policies in the country.

Figure 3.12: Percent of young persons by age group and method of liquid waste disposal for household



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The results in Figure 3.11 show that a much higher proportion of youth than children and adolescents live in households where solid waste was collected (15% vs. 12%). Between 45 percent and 46 percent of youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years live in households that either dumped their solid waste in an open space or dumped indiscriminately. These are environmentally unfriendly methods of solid waste disposal.

In terms of liquid waste disposal, figure 3.12 shows that four in five of all youth live in households that engaged in practices which posed health risks to people. These are households that throw their liquid waste onto the compound, into the gutter or onto the street. The proportion of youth living in households that used the sewerage system was still quite low (about 4%) but slightly higher than the percentage for children and adolescents in such households.

3.6 Summary and Conclusions

Children: Children (0-9 years) in the country were mainly resident in compound houses and the proportion was highest in the Greater Region. At the same time, most children live in owner-occupied dwellings. Also, most children live in dwellings which had metal sheet/slate roofing materials while two in three of children were resident in dwelling units whose main floor was made of cement/concrete. More than half (54%) of children live in dwellings with electricity as the main source of lighting.

Borehole happens to be the most patronized source of drinking water for the children in the country. Almost 57 percent of the children were in households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel and about a third of children were reported living in households that use their own bathrooms and another 30 percent shared separate bath rooms in the same house. Interestingly, a little less than a third children live in households that did not have toilet facility and made use of the bush. In addition, three in four children resided in households that did not dispose their liquid waste by hygienic means.

Adolescents: Compound houses were still more prominent as dwelling places for the adolescents just like the children and youth. Apart from the Greater Accra and Ashanti regions, living in kiosks was quite insignificant among the adolescents. Also, the percentage of adolescents residing in uncompleted houses was very small in all regions except in Greater Accra and Ashanti. Majority of adolescents live in households with electricity, kerosene and flashlights as the main sources of lighting. The main source of drinking water for adolescents was the borehole just like among children. . Furthermore, most adolescents irrespective of their age live in households using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. About a third of adolescents belonged to households that use their own bath room.

Youth: The percentage of youth living in households using kerosene and flashlights as the main source of lighting is lower than the percentage of children and adolescents living in such households. Just like in the case of children and adolescents, the borehole was the main source of drinking water for the youth. A higher percentage of youth than either children or adolescents were resident in households that use LGP as the main source of cooking fuel.

CHAPTER FOUR
LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

4.1 Introduction

Education and literacy levels are important characteristics of the population and reflect the human resource development potential particularly among young persons in the country. An analysis of education and literacy, therefore, throws light on the challenges that affect the capacity of the population as a vital human resource for the country's socio-economic development. This is because the level of education of young people is an indication of the quality of the population in terms of their knowledge, skills and expertise in the production of goods and services in the country. This chapter, therefore, presents the analysis of young people by levels of literacy which is the ability to read or write in any language. In addition, it analyses the level of education attained among children, adolescents and youth. Throughout the analysis in this chapter, a comparison is made by sex and region to show the variations in order to highlight gaps as a basis for directing policy action in addressing possible challenges that may be observed. The 2010 Population and Housing Census collected information on literacy of respondents 10 years and above and educational attainment for persons three years and above. The data on literacy, thus, exclude children less than 10 years and as a result, the analysis is limited to adolescents and youth but includes children 3-9 years with regard to educational attainment.

4.2 Literacy Levels

Table 4.1 presents the distribution of the population of young persons in Ghana by literacy level, age and sex. Literacy level was categorized by literacy in English only, Ghanaian language only, English and Ghanaian language, English and French, English, French and Ghanaian language and other languages. As it was earlier explained, the 2010 Population and Housing Census (PHC) collected information on literacy levels of only persons 10 years and above and so Table 4.1focuses only on adolescents and youth.

Adolescents: As is reflected in Table 4.1, half of all adolescents (male or female) was found to be literate in English and Ghanaian language. The percentage is slightly higher among older adolescents (15-19 years): (59% and 55% respectively among males and females compared to 52% and 50% among young adolescents aged 10-14 years). As expected, it is recorded that among either age group of adolescents, the proportion that indicated that they were literate in English and Ghanaian language was relatively higher among males than females. We also find that literacy in English only is higher among younger adolescents (10-14 years) compared to their older counterparts aged 15-19 years. This shows that the younger generation of adolescents is relatively more likely to be literate in English language other than Ghanaian languages.

It must also be pointed out that a relatively higher proportion of the adolescent females reported to be literate in English only compared to their male counterparts who were aged either 10-14 or 15-19 years. Literacy in English only could arise from the practice of some parents especially in the middle class in urban areas, interacting with their children only in the English language. Such a practice when continued could deny quite a substantial proportion of young persons a good knowledge of their traditions and practices since they cannot interact with the older generation in their local Ghanaian language. For example, a third of the adolescents aged 10-14 years are reported in Table 4.1 to be literate in no other language apart from English. This compares with one in four of older adolescents 15-19 years either among the males or females. This suggests a likelihood of English as the only language of communication increasing among younger adolescents in the future, a practice which may make many children lose their Ghanaian identity as far as knowledge in any local Ghanaian language is concerned.

It is, however, refreshing to note that less that 10 percent of the adolescents (in some cases less than five percent) are literate only in a Ghanaian language. This may have risen from the fact that many children are increasingly attending formal schooling where at least one foreign language is used as the medium of instruction in addition to a local Ghanaian language. It is also seen that with respect to literacy in Ghanaian language only, the proportion was relatively higher among the females than the males. It is again noteworthy to point out that the proportion of adolescents that are not literate is lower among those aged 10-14 years than their counterparts of 15-19 years. A relatively higher proportion of the females in either age group were, however, non-literate compared to the males although at younger ages (10-14 years), there appears to be virtually no differences between the males and females.

Table 4.1: Percent distribution of young persons by age-sex and literacy level

Literacy Level	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-35	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
None (Not literate)	7.6	7.5	10.0	12.2	13.7	21.6	20.9	32.8
English only	33.2	34.0	25.5	25.7	21.9	21.9	20.4	18.9
Ghanaian language only	6.6	7.0	4.3	4.9	4.5	6.4	6.5	9.1
English & Ghanaian language	51.6	50.4	58.8	55.4	58.1	48.6	50.7	38.4
English & French	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3
English, French & Ghanaian language	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Number	1,104,629	1,079,801	1,311,112	1,298,877	1,100,727	1,222,764	1,951,869	2,238,078

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The variation between the sexes in literacy appears higher among the youth compared to the adolescents whether it is with reference to the 20-24 year group or those aged 25-35 years. It is quite clear that the variation between males and females who are not literate in any language is much higher among the youth aged 25-35 years compared to that

for the 20-24 year group. While the females aged 25-35 years were about 11 percentage points less literate than their male counterparts of the same age, females of 20-24 years were reported to be about eight percentage points less literate compared with their male counterparts of the same age. This shows that although female youth are less literate compared to their male counterparts, the gender gap is wider among the older youth aged 25-35 than their younger counterparts of 20-24 years. This suggests that there have been some improvement in literacy among females in particular over the years. It is also noteworthy to mention that while a little more than 20% of the youth are literate in English only, a higher proportion of the adolescents (almost 30%) reported literacy in English only. This means that increasingly, a higher proportion of the younger generation is limiting their literacy to English language only, thereby abandoning their local Ghanaian language. This is a practice which may not be good since the Ghanaian culture is also linked to knowledge in local languages spoken in the country. Efforts should be made to emphasize knowledge in our local languages at young ages.

There is a huge difference between rural and urban areas of Ghana with respect to literacy. This is evident from the results presented in Table 4.2.

Adolescents: As earlier indicated, literacy rate is higher among adolescents in urban than in the rural areas. Among adolescents of 10-14 years in the urban areas, less than five percent was reported to be non-literate and this compares with a higher proportion of about 12% of their counterparts in the rural areas. Similarly, while just about 6% of older adolescents aged 15-19 years were recorded to be non-literate, almost 17% of others in the rural areas were not literate. It is also seen that in terms of literacy in English only, higher proportions of the adolescent groups in the urban areas were recorded than in the rural areas in the country. At the same time, a higher proportion of the 10-14 and 15-19 year-old adolescent groups had literacy in English and Ghanaian language in the urban areas than in the rural communities. In contrast, a relatively higher proportion of adolescents in the rural areas reported to be literate in Ghanaian language only than that recorded in the urban areas. This obviously is due to a higher level of formal schooling in the urban compared to the rural areas in Ghana. Furthermore, although quite insignificant proportions of the adolescents in either urban or rural areas reported to be literate in English and French as well as English, French and Ghanaian language, the proportions are relatively higher in the urban areas which is a reflection of the relatively higher importance placed on the two foreign languages in the urban relative to the rural areas.

Table 4.2: Distribution of young persons by age-sex, literacy level and type of locality

Type of Locality	None	English only	Ghanaian language only	English and Ghanaian language	English French	English, French & Ghanaian Language	Other	%	Total Number
Urban									
10-14	3.2	36.1	4.2	54.7	0.3	1.4	0.0	100.0	1,063,784
15-19	5.8	27.4	3.2	61.3	0.5	1.9	0.0	100.0	1,364,124
20-24	9.9	25.4	4.4	58.1	0.6	1.7	0.0	100.0	1,356,838
25-35	15.5	24.7	7.1	51.1	0.5	1.0	0.0	100.0	2,380,388
Rural									
10-14	11.7	31.2	9.2	47.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	100.0	1,120,646
15-19	16.9	23.7	6.2	52.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	1,245,865
20-24	29.0	17.1	7.0	46.1	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	966,653
25-35	42.7	12.8	9.0	35.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	100.0	1,809,559

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The pattern of literacy by language groupings as shown in Table 4.2 is similar to that exhibited by the adolescent groups. It is, however, important to emphasize that illiteracy is much higher among the youth groups where almost 30 percent and 43 percent respectively aged 20-24 and 25-35 years in the rural areas were non-literate compared to about 10 percent and 16 percent of their counterparts in the urban areas. On the other hand, a higher proportion of these youth groups in the urban areas had literacy in English language only compared to those in the rural areas. We also find that while higher proportions of the youth groups in the urban areas were literate in English and Ghanaian language than their counterparts in the rural areas, the reverse was the case with respect to literacy in Ghanaian language only. It has to be understood that the higher levels of literacy among the youth groups compared to the adolescents is an indication of increasing literacy rates among the younger generation compared with the older generation. This also suggests that much progress has been made in the area of literacy in the country over the years although much more needs to be done particularly in the rural areas.

4.3 Literacy Status by Age-Sex and Region of Residence

Literacy rates tend to vary spatially due to a variety of factors. These include the importance different groups of people spatially located in the country attach to education in general and their willingness to support their children and young ones to attend schooling, availability of educational facilities and the ability of the population to afford the cost of schooling for their children. Obviously, these factors are also dependent on the spatial differences in the level of development so far as socio-economic indicators are concerned. In this section, we attempt to compare literacy levels in Ghana by region to highlight the spatial variations that exist among adolescents and youth groups by sex.

Adolescents: Table 4.3a presents level of literacy and region of residence of adolescents and youth by age groups for the males. From the results, it is found that literacy rates are lowest in the northern regions. Northern Region has the highest proportion of adolescents who were not literate. One third (31% and 35%) of adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively

in the Northern Region were not literate. Comparing the literacy rates of the male to the female adolescent groups presented in Table 4.3b, we find that literacy rates are higher among males in all the regions compared with their female counterparts. This is to be expected because in Ghana, female education has lagged behind males until in the recent past when policies including the one calling on families to send their girl children to school have begun showing signs of improvement. For example, in the Northern Region where the lowest literacy rates were reported, about 33 percent of the female adolescent group 10-14 and about 43 percent of their counterparts aged 15-19 years (Table 4.3b) not literate compared to lower rates recorded for their male counterparts in Table 4.3a.

It is interesting to point out that the proportion of adolescents with literacy in English only is extraordinarily high in the Upper East Region either among the males or females. From Tables 4.3a and b, we find that 65 percent and 58 percent among the males aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively were literate in English only in the Upper East Region. This compares with 68 percent and 57 percent respectively among their female counterparts of same age groups. Further investigations may be necessary because it is difficult to speculate why such a high proportion of the adolescent population in a region which is largely traditional in character would be literate in English language only without any knowledge in any local language. Perhaps, this may have something to do about the poor development of local languages in the Upper East Region. On the other hand, it is understandable to find that about half of the male and female adolescent groups aged 10-14 years in Greater Accra Region reported literacy in English only in view of Accra's migrant status ad emphasis that is put on spoken English in many schools at the basic level especially the private ones. It is, however, clear that in all the regions, younger adolescents (10-14 years) report lower rates of illiteracy compared to the their older counterparts (15-19 years). Furthermore, the Ashanti and Greater Accra regions respectively recorded the lowest proportion of younger and older adolescents respectively who are non-literate in the country among the male groups while among the female adolescent groups, the lowest proportion was from the Central Region among either the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups. There are indications of higher levels of literacy in three regions: Ashanti, Greater Accra and Central regions among the adolescents. Literacy in Ghanaian language only is also particularly high in the Volta Region among male and female adolescents aged 10-14 years among whom 13% and about 15% were respectively recorded in Tables 4.3a and b to be literate in Ghanaian language only with other regions recording far lower proportions.

Table 4.3a: Percent distribution of population of young males by language of literacy, region and age

Region	None	English only	Ghanaian language only	English & Ghanaian language	English and French	English, French & Ghanaian Language	Other	Total	
								%	Number
10-14									
Western	3.6	36.6	5.6	53.2	0.2	0.7	0.0	100.0	108,886
Central	2.8	35.5	6.1	54.8	0.2	0.6	0.0	100.0	105,337
Gt. Accra	2.5	50.0	1.8	42.7	0.7	2.3	0.0	100.0	139,155
Volta	7.8	23.1	13.4	54.6	0.4	0.6	0.0	100.0	96,723
Eastern	4.8	26.7	8.7	59.0	0.2	0.6	0.0	100.0	126,740
Ashanti	2.3	20.3	8.9	67.3	0.2	0.9	0.0	100.0	219,024
B. Ahafo	6.4	27.8	6.9	58.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	100.0	113,169
Northern	30.6	37.1	3.2	28.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	106,858
U/East	14.0	64.7	2.4	18.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	53,256
U/West	21.3	39.0	3.9	35.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	35,481
15-19									
Western	6.7	26.7	3.8	61.6	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	127,629
Central	4.3	25.9	4.0	64.6	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	119,095
Gt. Accra	3.4	40.3	1.9	50.9	0.9	2.6	0.0	100.0	180,165
Volta	9.0	16.4	8.4	64.9	0.4	0.9	0.0	100.0	115,696
Eastern	5.6	19.3	5.9	68.3	0.2	0.8	0.0	100.0	144,066
Ashanti	4.3	14.2	5.8	74.2	0.2	1.3	0.0	100.0	253,131
B. Ahafo	10.4	19.3	4.1	65.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	131,054
Northern	34.9	29.3	2.4	33.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	138,908
U/East	18.1	58.4	1.8	21.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	60,307
U/West	22.5	32.8	2.7	41.4	0.1	0.5	0.0	100.0	41,033
20-24									
Western	12.4	23.2	3.8	59.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	100.0	110,460
Central	7.4	22.3	3.9	64.5	0.5	1.4	0.0	100.0	92,178
Gt. Accra	4.9	36.6	2.8	52.3	1.3	2.1	0.0	100.0	215,803
Volta	13.2	11.9	7.4	65.7	0.6	1.2	0.0	100.0	86,049
Eastern	8.9	17.1	6.9	65.9	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	104,571
Ashanti	7.9	13.8	6.7	69.8	0.3	1.5	0.0	100.0	222,112
B. Ahafo	17.3	14.3	4.2	63.2	0.3	0.8	0.0	100.0	102,007
Northern	44.5	19.7	1.9	33.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	100.0	98,318
U/East	28.3	43.0	1.6	26.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	100.0	40,214
U/West	29.5	22.0	1.9	45.2	0.2	1.3	0.0	100.0	29,015
25-35									
Western	20.9	20.4	6.5	50.7	0.5	0.9	0.0	100.0	1,951,872
Central	13.9	22.2	6.7	55.9	0.5	0.9	0.0	100.0	151,058
Gt. Accra	6.3	35.2	3.9	51.9	1.2	1.5	0.0	100.0	423,286
Volta	21.1	10.1	10.3	56.4	0.7	1.4	0.0	100.0	144,255
Eastern	13.7	16.6	10.3	58.2	0.4	0.7	0.0	100.0	186,584
Ashanti	13.1	14.1	10.2	61.5	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	388,813
B. Ahafo	28.3	12.7	6.2	51.9	0.3	0.5	0.0	100.0	174,807
Northern	61.3	12.9	1.4	24.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	176,638
U/East	49.6	28.4	1.5	20.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	100.0	64,850
U/West	52.8	15.5	1.4	29.7	0.1	0.5	0.0	100.0	45,062

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Literacy rates among the youth groups just like that among the adolescents depict the three Northern regions to be behind the other regions. The Northern Region stands out as the region with the lowest rate of literacy with as high as 44% and 65% of the males and females respectively aged 10-14 years and 61% and 81% respectively among the male and female aged 15-19 years were non-literate. In contrast, the Greater Accra Region recorded the lowest proportion of youth with no literacy among the male and female youth groups aged 20-24 and 25-35 years in the country. Once again, the Upper East Region recorded one of the highest proportions of youth groups with literacy in English only particularly among the females aged 20-24 years. It is also to be noted that among the youth groups, literacy in Ghanaian language only is peculiar in three regions (Volta, Eastern and Ashanti) where one in 10 of the male youth group 25-35 years were reported in each of the three regions (Table 4.3a). A similar picture is presented among the female youth group aged 20-24 years in the Volta and Eastern regions in Table 4.3b. This means that in these regions, the likelihood that the young person would be literate only in the dominant local language of the region was higher than in the other regions. This situation is, however, changing as depicted by the lower proportions of the younger age groups recorded to have literacy in Ghanaian language only in all the regions except in the Volta Region.

Table 4.3b: Percent distribution of population of young females by language of literacy, region and age

Region	None	English only	Ghanaian language only	English & Ghanaian language	English and French	English, French & Ghanaian Language	Other	Total	
								%	Number
10-14									
Western	4.3	37.3	6.1	51.2	0.2	0.8	0.0	100.0	106,814
Central	3.0	36.4	6.5	53.3	0.2	0.6	0.0	100.0	102,725
Gt. Accra	3.7	49.1	2.3	41.9	0.7	2.4	0.0	100.0	156,750
Volta	7.0	23.6	14.6	53.9	0.3	0.5	0.0	100.0	90,388
Eastern	3.7	27.3	9.2	59.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	100.0	117,869
Ashanti	3.3	20.7	9.5	65.3	0.2	1.0	0.0	100.0	221,782
B. Ahafo	7.0	28.3	7.7	56.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	100.0	107,592
Northern	32.9	37.8	3.0	26.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	95,338
U/East	12.0	68.2	2.2	17.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	48,914
U/West	15.8	44.7	3.9	35.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	100.0	31,681
15-19									
Western	9.4	27.0	4.2	58.1	0.3	1.0	0.0	100.0	123,672
Central	5.7	26.6	4.4	59.7	0.4	3.2	0.0	100.0	124,924
Gt. Accra	6.5	39.1	2.5	48.0	0.9	3.0	0.0	100.0	208,226
Volta	11.0	16.2	9.4	62.2	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	106,850
Eastern	6.0	19.7	6.9	66.2	0.3	1.1	0.0	100.0	135,168
Ashanti	7.3	14.9	6.7	69.5	0.2	1.4	0.0	100.0	261,672
B. Ahafo	12.8	19.7	5.3	61.6	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	122,395
Northern	42.5	27.7	2.0	27.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	123,011
U/East	20.8	57.3	1.5	20.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	55,641
U/West	21.6	35.5	2.5	39.9	0.1	0.5	0.0	100.0	37,301
20-24									
Western	20.2	24.2	5.4	49.1	0.4	0.8	0.0	100.0	118,795

Central	13.2	25.4	5.8	53.8	0.3	1.4	0.0	100.0	103,551
Gt. Accra	9.5	36.4	3.8	46.8	1.0	2.4	0.0	100.0	242,272
Volta	21.8	12.2	10.4	54.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	100.0	93,400
Eastern	12.7	18.8	10.1	57.3	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	117,053
Ashanti	14.1	14.4	9.9	60.2	0.2	1.2	0.0	100.0	251,410
B. Ahafo	25.2	15.2	6.6	52.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	100.0	111,687
Northern	64.7	14.5	1.2	19.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	112,364
U/East	43.7	36.9	1.2	17.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	42,298
U/West	45.7	20.0	1.4	31.7	0.1	1.0	0.0	100.0	29,934
25-35									
Western	33.2	21.9	7.1	37.2	0.3	0.4	0.0	100.0	210,559
Central	26.3	22.6	8.5	41.9	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	181,131
Gt. Accra	13.1	35.0	6.4	43.5	0.7	1.3	0.0	100.0	453,642
Volta	33.6	8.9	14.4	42.1	0.4	0.6	0.0	100.0	174,291
Eastern	22.7	16.7	14.3	45.7	0.2	0.4	0.0	100.0	212,764
Ashanti	21.4	13.5	15.2	49.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	444,654
B. Ahafo	38.3	12.4	9.3	39.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	100.0	198,738
Northern	80.6	8.2	0.8	10.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	224,693
U/East	69.7	19.3	1.1	9.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	80,799
U/West	52.8	15.5	1.4	29.7	0.1	0.5	0.0	100.0	45,062

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

4.4 Educational Attainment

Education of young persons in Ghana faces a serious challenge. According to World Bank (2000), 200,000 students graduate from the Junior Secondary School every year in Ghana but only 30% gain admission to Senior Secondary School. Again, of 72,000 students that graduate from Senior Secondary School each year, only 25% were reported to find space in post-secondary institutions in 2003 (Chronicle, Thursday April 10, 2003, Vol. 3 # 45). Anecdotal evidence from several districts in the country also paints quite a gloomy picture of huge drop-out rates from primary school to junior high school which affect both males and females equally. These high drop-out rates undermine the smooth development of the young persons' human development capacities.

Notwithstanding these challenges, education remains a key measure of the level of human development in the country. The 2010 PHC collected information on the educational attainment of persons three years and above. Consequently, the analysis presents results for the population of children (3-9 years), adolescents (10-14 and 15-19 years) and the youth groups spanning 20-35 years. The analysis is both at the national and regional levels with a comparison between the sexes. The comparison between the educational attainment of males and females reveal interesting patterns as one moves from childhood through adolescence to youth status.

Table 4.4 shows the results of the analysis of educational attainment of young persons by sex and age groups. The general picture shown in the table is that of progress made in educational attainment over the years. This is evidenced by the higher proportion of persons with no education in older age groups compared to counterparts in relatively younger age groups.

Adolescents: From Table 4.4, we find a high proportion of adolescents aged 10-14 years with primary level of educational attainment among either males or females. For example, there is about 70% of the male and 68% of the female adolescents in this age group with primary level of education. There is also virtually no difference between the males and females with no education which is around 8% in either case. What is interesting, however, is that a slightly higher proportion of the female adolescents in this age group had attained JHS/JSS/Middle school level of education compared to their male counterparts which is a bit contrary to the general situation in Ghana where males usually tend to have relatively higher level of education compared to females. This may be the result of recent policy efforts towards promoting female education throughout the country.

Among older adolescents (15-19 years), the results do not suggest big gender gap at all levels of education. However, it has to be noted that females with no education were more than two percentage points higher compared to their male counterparts. There is some gender parity at post-secondary and tertiary level of education where the proportion that is reported for males and females is the same.

Youth: Unlike the adolescent groups, the results in Table 4.4 reveal big gender gaps in educational attainment among the youth. For example, about 14 percent of the male youth aged 20-24 years were recorded to have no education compared to about 22 percent of their female counterparts. Similarly, while 21 percent of the male youth aged 25-35 years had no education, about a third of their female cohort reported same. Also, a relatively higher proportion of the males than the females had attained post-secondary and tertiary levels of education. This is a clear evidence of gender imbalance in the level of educational attainment among the youth groups. With time, however, this gap is fast closing when notice is taken of the situation of adolescents especially those aged 10-14 years.

Table 4.4: Distribution of population of young persons by educational attainment and age-sex

	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-35	
Educational Attainment	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
No education	8.2	8.0	10.0	12.2	13.7	21.6	20.9	32.8
Pre-school	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary	69.9	68.5	17.9	16.5	9.3	11.6	9.2	12.7
JHS/JSS/Middle	20.6	22.1	48.9	47.7	32.9	33.1	35.5	33.1
SHS/SSS/Secondary	0.7	0.8	21.3	21.7	28.5	21.3	17.4	10.6
Vocational/Technical/Commercial	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.8
Post-secondary	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	7.6	6.8	8.3	5.0
Tertiary	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	5.5	3.3	5.6	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Number	1.477,525	1,438,515	1,311,112	1,298,877	1,100,727	1,222,764	1,951,869	2,238,078

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 4.5 presents a comparison of the educational attainment of young persons in Ghana by urban-rural residence and sex.

Children: The results show that there is a huge gap in educational attainment between the urban and rural areas. For example, only 8 percent of urban-dwelling children (male or female) had no education while almost one in four of their rural counterparts had no education. It has to be noted also that not much variation exists between the male and female children within the urban and rural areas.

Adolescents: Similar to the results for children, Table 4.5 reveals a higher level of educational attainment among the urban-dwelling adolescents compared to their rural counterparts. For example, about 3 percent and 4 percent of the urban male adolescents respectively among the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups had no education compared to about 4 percent and 7 percent of their female counterparts. At the same time, among the females, about 4 percent and 7 percent respectively of adolescents 10-14 and 15-19 years had no education in the urban areas compared to 12 percent and 18 percent of their rural-dwelling counterparts. We also find that a slightly higher proportion of female adolescents had no education either within the urban or rural places of residence. About the same proportion of urban male (2%) or female (1.8%) adolescents had attained tertiary level of education. These may, however, be persons who were perhaps enrolled at tertiary institutions of learning and may not have attained that level of education at the time of the census.

Youth: The proportion of the youth with no education happens to be the highest compared to children and adolescents. Furthermore, among the youth, the proportions having no education are highest in the rural areas. Again, within the urban or rural areas, female youth tend to have higher proportions with no education compared to the males. For example, from Table 4.5, almost half of the female rural youth aged 25-35 years were reported to have no education compared to about 35 percent of their male counterparts. Furthermore, a higher proportion of the urban male youth (17%-18%) proceed to attain tertiary level of education compared to 9 percent -12 percent among their female counterparts. It is therefore, quite clear that not only do the male youth have relatively higher education compared to the female youth, progression to tertiary level of education is higher among the males than the female youth.

Table 4.5: Percent distribution of population of young persons by educational attainment, type of locality and age-sex

Type of Locality	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	JHS/JSS/ Middle	SHS/SSS Sec.	Voc/Tec/ Comm.	Post-secondary	Tertiary	Total %	Total No.
Male										
Urban										
3-9	7.6	47.0	45.5	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	999,077
10-14	2.8	0.5	68.1	27.6	1.0	-	-	-	100.0	672,906
15-19	4.2	-	12.9	48.9	30.8	0.9	0.2	2.0	100.0	651,829
20-24	6.8	-	7.2	30.7	33.1	3.1	1.9	17.2	100.0	642,140
5-35	10.7	-	7.6	35.9	21.8	4.2	2.2	17.6	100.0	1,119,930
Rural										
3-9	23.2	40.2	36.6	-	-	-	-	1.4	100.0	1,286,468
10-14	12.6	0.8	71.4	14.7	0.5	-	-	-	100.0	804,619
15-19	15.6	-	22.9	48.8	12.0	0.4	0.1	-	100.0	659,283
20-24	23.4	-	12.2	36.0	22.1	1.4	1.0	0.2	100.0	458,587
25-35	34.7	-	11.4	34.8	11.5	1.5	1.4	3.9	100.0	831,939
Female										
Urban										
3-9	7.8	45.4	46.8	-	-	-	-		100.0	986,267
10-14	3.9	0.4	65.8	28.9	1.1	-	-		100.0	718,323
15-19	7.2	-	12.9	47.2	29.8	0.8	0.3	1.8	100.0	712,295
20-24	12.7	-	9.7	32.5	27.1	3.2	3.3	11.5	100.0	714,698
25-35	19.8	-	11.9	37.6	15.0	4.1	2.3	9.3	100.0	1,260,458
Rural										
3-9	22.7	40.3	37.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	1,227,833
10-14	12.2	0.8	71.3	15.3	0.5	-	-	-	100.0	720,192
15-19	18.2	-	20.8	48.3	11.9	0.4	0.1	0.2	100.0	586,582
20-24	34.2	-	14.2	33.8	13.1	1.3	1.1	2.4	100.0	508,066
25-35	49.4	-	13.8	28.3	4.9	1.1	0.8	1.7	100.0	977,620

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

4.5 Educational Attainment by Age-Sex and Region of Residence

This section discusses differences in educational attainment by region of residence. Table 4.6 reveals that educational attainment in Ghana tends to vary by region.

Children: A comparison of educational attainment among children 3-9 years is presented in Table 4.6. From the table, we find that for either the male or female children, the Northern Region has the highest proportions of children with no education (36% among males and 38% among females). In contrast, Greater Accra Region has the lowest proportions of children with no education (less than 8% for either males or females). While the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions each had more than 20 percent of their children without education, in other regions, the proportion without education is less than 20 percent making children in the three northern regions the most disadvantaged with regard to education attainment. A comparison between male and female children in educational attainment in each region also shows an interesting observation. Apart from the Greater Accra and Ashanti and to some extent Brong Ahafo regions, the proportion of children with no education is higher among the male than female children. While this is quite unexpected, it could be the result of the policy dabbed "send your Girl child to school" the country has embarked upon that may be having some negative effect on the boy child in these regions.

Table 4.6: Distribution of children aged 3-9 years by educational attainment, region and sex

Region	Male					Female				
	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total No.	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total No.
Western	12.9	47.8	39.3	100.0	223,818	12.4	46.8	40.9	100.0	216,183
Central	11.9	48.2	39.8	100.0	205,857	11.2	47.7	41.1	100.0	201,418
Gt. Accra	7.4	46.7	46.0	100.0	288,041	7.6	45.0	47.4	100.0	286,172
Volta	18.8	42.6	38.6	100.0	195,475	18.0	43.0	39.0	100.0	189,991
Eastern	14.2	45.7	40.1	100.0	242,491	13.0	45.7	41.4	100.0	231,216
Ashanti	8.1	46.3	45.6	100.0	422,427	8.1	45.1	46.8	100.0	410,553
B. Ahafo	16.1	46.3	37.5	100.0	225,762	16.0	45.8	38.3	100.0	215,546
Northern	36.4	29.6	34.1	100.0	297,212	37.9	29.5	32.6	100.0	287,218
U/East	23.8	34.8	41.4	100.0	110,045	22.3	35.3	42.4	100.0	104,937
U/West	35.2	33.0	35.7	100.0	74,417	28.9	33.8	37.3	100.0	70,866

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Table 4.7 shows the results of the analysis on educational attainment among adolescents aged 10-14 years by region and sex. From the results, we find a concentration of the adolescents at the primary and JSS/SHS/Middle levels of educational attainment in all the regions.

Table 4.7: Distribution of adolescents aged 10-14 years by educational attainment, region and sex

Region	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	JHS/JSS/ Middle	SHS/SSS Sec.	Voc/Tec/ Comm.	Post-secondary	Tertiary	Total %	Total No.
Male										
Western	3.8	0.8	73.6	21.1	0.7	-	-	-	100.0	145,176
Central	3.1	0.8	74.9	20.6	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	139,658
Gt. Accra	2.8	0.4	64.1	31.3	1.3	-	-	-	100.0	183,246
Volta	8.4	0.9	72.7	17.3	0.7	-	-	-	100.0	128,578
Eastern	5.2	0.7	73.8	19.8	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	167,665
Ashanti	2.5	0.5	70.1	26.2	0.8	-	-	-	100.0	287,944
B. Ahafo	6.9	0.9	75.3	16.4	0.5	-	-	-	100.0	150,551
Northern	30.7	0.5	56.3	11.9	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	154,824
U/East	14.5	0.5	73.7	10.8	0.4	-	-	-	100.0	71,453
U/West	22.0	0.5	65.2	11.8	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	48,430
Female										
Western	4.5	0.7	71.5	22.5	0.8	-	-	-	100.0	141,957
Central	3.2	0.8	73.4	22.0	0.7	-	-	-	100.0	135,891
Gt. Accra	3.9	0.4	62.2	32.0	1.4	-	-	-	100.0	203,036
Volta	7.5	1.0	72.6	18.2	0.7	-	-	-	100.0	120,759
Eastern	4.0	0.6	73.1	21.7	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	155,899
Ashanti	3.4	0.4	67.7	27.5	0.9	-	-	-	100.0	289,223
B. Ahafo	7.2	0.9	74.2	17.2	0.5	-	-	-	100.0	143,485
Northern	32.8	0.6	54.7	11.4	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	139,171
U/East	12.3	0.5	73.4	13.3	0.5	-	-	-	100.0	65,611
U/West	16.6	0.5	69.3	13.1	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	43,483

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Again, in all the regions, less than one percent of either males or females had attained SHS/SSS or secondary level of education with the exception of Greater Accra Region where it is a little higher. Also very visible is the comparatively higher proportion of adolescents with no education in the three Northern regions among either males or females. The Northern Region once again stands out as the region where educational attainment is the lowest countrywide. It also has to be noted that apart from four regions: Volta, Eastern, Upper East and Upper West, a higher proportion of the females had no education compared to their male counterparts in each of the other regions.

Table 4.8 reveals a picture that is indicative of a higher proportion of adolescents aged 15-19 years attaining SHS/SSS level of education and beyond compared to their younger counterparts of 10-14 years. Among adolescents with no education, the results depict Northern as recording the highest proportion of older adolescents with no education either among the males or females. As high as 35 percent of the males and 42 percent of the females in the Northern Region had no education compared to 3 percent of the males in Greater Accra and about 6 percent of the females in Central Region which had the lowest proportion of adolescents with no education. In contrast to the younger adolescents aged 10-14 years, the proportion of older female adolescents in Table 4.8 with no education in all the regions was lower than their male counterparts with the exception of the Upper West Region where the reverse is recorded.

Table 4.8: Distribution of youth aged 15-19 years by educational attainment, region and sex

Region	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	JHS/JSS/ Middle	SHS/SSS Sec.	Voc/Tec/ Comm.	Post-secondary	Tertiary	Total	
									%	No.
Male										
Western	6.7	-	16.2	53.7	21.3	1.2	0.1	0.8	100.0	127,632
Central	4.2	-	17.8	55.9	19.3	0.6	0.1	2.0	100.0	119,095
Gt. Accra	3.4	-	12.3	45.6	34.7	1.2	0.2	2.7	100.0	180,173
Volta	9.0	-	25.0	49.1	16.0	0.6	0.1	0.3	100.0	115,697
Eastern	5.5	-	19.2	55.1	18.9	0.7	0.1	0.6	100.0	144,066
Ashanti	4.2	-	12.2	52.6	29.0	0.4	0.1	1.5	100.0	253,131
B. Ahafo	10.4	-	19.7	51.7	17.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	100.0	131,054
Northern	34.8	-	19.7	33.9	11.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	100.0	138,919
U/East	18.0	-	31.2	40.2	9.7	0.4	0.1	0.4	100.0	60,310
U/West	22.4	-	28.3	37.0	10.6	0.5	0.2	1.0	100.0	41,035
Female										
Western	9.3	-	15.1	52.8	21.2	0.8	0.2	0.5	100.0	123,672
Central	5.6	-	15.8	52.3	23.3	0.6	0.2	2.3	100.0	124,925
Gt. Accra	6.4	-	13.3	44.2	32.2	0.9	0.3	2.7	100.0	208,230
Volta	10.9	-	23.0	48.9	16.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	100.0	106,856
Eastern	6.0	-	18.2	54.7	19.8	0.8	0.2	0.5	100.0	135,168
Ashanti	7.2	-	12.3	50.3	28.3	0.4	0.3	1.2	100.0	261,672
B. Ahafo	12.8	-	19.0	50.4	16.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	100.0	122,395
Northern	42.4	-	17.0	30.4	9.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	100.0	123,016
U/East	20.7	-	23.8	43.8	10.9	0.5	0.1	0.2	100.0	55,642
U/West	21.5	-	25.2	41.3	9.8	0.8	0.2	1.1	100.0	37,301

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Educational attainment among the youth is presented in tables 4.9 and 4.10 by region and sex. In Table 4.9, the highest proportion of females with no education among the youth group 20-24 years is in the Northern Region (65%) and the lowest (about 10%) in the Greater Accra Region. In contrast, the results for males indicate that Upper East and Volta regions have the highest and lowest proportions of youth without education. At the tertiary level of education male youth aged 20-24 years in the Volta Region recorded the highest proportion (19%) and is followed by Greater Accra Region (17%). There is, however, a huge contrast between the sexes in the Volta Region as only three percent of the female youth aged 20-24 years in the region had attained tertiary level of education compared to almost 19 percent of their male counterparts. Another big contrast is depicted in the Brong Ahafo Region where about 14 percent of the male youth aged 20-24 years in the region had attained tertiary level of education relative to just 5 percent of their female counterparts. It is also noteworthy to state that in all regions, the proportion of the youth aged 20-24 years that had attained tertiary level of education was higher among males than females except in Eastern, Ashanti and Upper West regions where the reverse was the case.

Table 4.9: Percent distribution of youth aged 20-24 years by educational attainment, region and sex

Region	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	JHS/JSS/ Middle	SHS/SSS Sec.	Voc/Tec/ Comm.	Post-secondary	Tertiary	Total	
									%	No.
Male										
Western	13.7	-	9.3	32.9	28.5	2.4	1.5	11.7	100.0	110,460
Central	12.4	-	8.5	35.8	28.4	3.6	1.3	10.0	100.0	92,178
Gt. Accra	7.4	-	8.4	37.2	26.6	2.4	1.3	16.6	100.0	215,803
Volta	4.9	-	7.5	32.3	31.5	3.8	1.4	18.5	100.0	86,049
Eastern	13.2	-	13.2	36.8	27.8	2.2	1.8	5.0	100.0	104,571
Ashanti	8.9	-	11.5	41.6	26.6	2.0	1.5	7.8	100.0	222,112
B. Ahafo	7.9	-	7.9	35.1	31.9	1.9	1.7	13.6	100.0	102,007
Northern	17.3	-	10.1	30.6	30.4	1.5	1.3	8.7	100.0	98,318
U/East	44.5	-	8.9	18.6	21.5	0.9	1.6	3.9	100.0	40,214
U/West	28.3	-	13.6	24.3	23.8	1.7	1.9	6.4	100.0	29,015
Female										
Western	20.2	-	11.3	36.7	20.5	2.8	2.4	6.1	100.0	118,795
Central	13.2	-	12.3	40.6	19.9	2.3	2.2	9.6	100.0	103,551
Gt. Accra	9.5	-	10.0	32.5	26.8	4.0	2.6	14.5	100.0	242,272
Volta	21.8	-	15.2	36.7	19.0	1.9	2.2	3.2	100.0	93,400
Eastern	12.7	-	15.2	43.3	19.0	2.4	2.3	5.2	100.0	117,053
Ashanti	14.1	-	11.1	36.6	24.7	2.0	3.3	8.3	100.0	251,410
B. Ahafo	25.2	-	12.6	32.5	21.1	1.6	1.7	5.4	100.0	111,687
Northern	64.7	-	8.1	11.5	11.8	0.9	1.2	2.0	100.0	112,364
U/East	43.7	-	12.5	19.2	17.6	2.0	2.0	3.0	100.0	42,298
U/West	45.7	-	10.1	17.2	13.3	2.9	2.1	8.7	100.0	29,934

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Among youth aged 25-35 years, the Northern Region is shown as having the highest proportion with no education of 61 percent and 81 percent respectively among males and females. Equally high proportions with no education are recorded in Upper West and Upper

East regions for either males or females. The region with the least proportion with no education is Greater Accra where just six percent of the male and 13 percent of female youth aged 25-35 years had no education. This is in marked contrast with the situation in the other regions. At the other end of the educational continuum at the tertiary level, the youth in Greater Accra again show a much higher proportion with tertiary education than in other regions. This is the case for both male and female youth aged 25-35 years. Apart from the Greater Accra Region, the male youth in Central, Ashanti and Upper West recorded more than one in 10 of them attaining tertiary level of education while in the other regions the proportion was less than 10 percent. Among the females, we have six percent or less of the older youth progressing to tertiary level of education in all the regions with the exception of Greater Accra where about 13 percent of them were recorded to have reached this level of education.

Table 4.10: Percent distribution of youth aged 25-35 years by educational attainment, region and sex

Region	No educ.	Pre-school	Primary	JHS/JSS/ Middle	SHS/SSS Sec.	Voc/Tec/ Comm.	Post-secondary	Tertiary	Total	
									%	No.
Male										
Western	20.5	-	9.5	40.5	15.4	3.0	1.6	9.4	100.0	196,541
Central	13.9	-	10.2	44.0	14.0	3.0	1.4	13.5	100.0	151,050
Gt. Accra	6.3	-	7.3	35.3	23.9	5.8	1.6	19.9	100.0	423,285
Volta	21.1	-	12.6	37.4	16.3	2.3	2.5	7.7	100.0	144,255
Eastern	13.7	-	12.4	47.0	14.0	2.3	1.6	8.9	100.0	186,584
Ashanti	13.1	-	8.4	43.2	18.3	2.4	1.7	12.9	100.0	388,813
B. Ahafo	28.3	-	10.1	34.0	15.6	1.9	1.8	8.3	100.0	174,796
Northern	61.3	-	6.6	8.7	13.7	1.1	2.4	6.3	100.0	176,635
U/East	49.6	-	12.2	11.6	14.1	1.8	2.8	7.8	100.0	64,848
U/West	52.8	-	8.5	10.4	12.7	2.1	2.9	10.7	100.0	45,062
Female										
Western	33.2	-	12.5	36.4	9.1	2.8	1.5	4.4	100.0	210,558
Central	26.3	-	15.5	39.9	8.7	2.4	1.4	5.9	100.0	181,127
Gt. Accra	13.1	-	12.0	37.1	17.7	5.4	2.0	12.7	100.0	453,636
Volta	33.6	-	16.0	34.8	8.9	2.0	1.7	3.0	100.0	174,291
Eastern	22.7	-	17.9	43.3	8.2	2.2	1.5	4.2	100.0	212,764
Ashanti	21.4	-	13.1	42.9	11.7	2.6	2.0	6.4	100.0	444,654
B. Ahafo	38.3	-	12.6	34.5	8.8	1.7	1.1	3.0	100.0	198,733
Northern	80.6	-	6.2	4.7	5.1	0.7	0.9	1.7	100.0	224,692
U/East	69.7	-	10.4	8.1	6.4	1.3	1.5	2.6	100.0	80,819
U/West	71.6	-	7.7	8.1	5.9	2.0	1.8	3.0	100.0	56,804

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

4.6 Summary and Conclusions

Children: The results on educational attainment show a huge gap between urban and rural areas. This implies that most children in the urban areas have acquired some form of education as compared to those in the rural areas. At the regional level, the Northern Region recorded the highest proportion of children with no education among either males or females

in contrast to Greater Accra Region which had the lowest proportion of children with no education.

Adolescents: Most of adolescents (males or females) were found to be literate in English and Ghanaian language. It was also realized that, among the two age groups of adolescents, 10-14 and 15-19 years, the proportion literate in English and Ghanaian language was relatively higher among males than females. Literacy in English only was higher among younger adolescents compared to their older counterparts. Overall, literacy rate was higher among adolescents in urban areas than among those in the rural areas. At the regional level, adolescents in the Southern half of the country were relatively more literate in any language than those in the Northern half.

In terms of educational attainment, there was a concentration of adolescents aged 10-14 years at primary level of educational attainment. As the age increases, however, the results did not suggest any big gender gap at any level of education. Gender parity was recorded at post-secondary and tertiary level of education where the proportion that was reported for males and females was the same. Similar to the results for children, there was a high level of educational attainment among the urban-dwelling adolescents than their rural counterparts. The Northern sector was more disadvantaged with respect to educational attainment among the adolescents.

Youth: In comparison with the adolescents, the variation between the sexes in literacy appeared to be higher among the youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years. Most of the youth were literate in English language only and were deficient in the local languages. Literacy rates among the youth, just like the adolescents, depicted the three Northern regions to lag behind with regard to English and other languages with the Northern Region recording the highest rate of illiteracy either among the male or female youth in comparison with the other regions. With regard to educational attainment, there were big gender gaps in educational attainment among the youth unlike the adolescents. This depicts a clear gender imbalance in the level of educational attainment among the youth. The proportion of the youth with no education was also higher compared to children and adolescents. This, however, is an indication of progress made over the years in educational attainment among young persons in Ghana.

CHAPTER FIVE
MARITAL STATUS, FERTILITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

5.1 Introduction

There has been a steady decline in fertility in Ghana since 1988 when the first demographic and health survey was conducted. Fertility is associated with marital status particularly the proportion of the population that is married at any given point in time. This is because fertility of women in marital unions tends to be higher than among those not married. It is, therefore, important to examine fertility against the backdrop of an analysis of the marital status of the population. Such an analysis is particularly relevant when discussing young people because at young ages, there is an expectation that a majority of them would be in school and, therefore, would not contribute to fertility. However, this expectation is not always met on account of either early marriage or early birth that often results in school dropouts particularly among adolescents. Involvement in and contribution to fertility by adolescents also occur due to the low usage of modern family planning methods among young sexually active persons. In situations where unplanned pregnancies occur, some of the young people in an attempt to ensure that they continue their schooling undertake to terminate the pregnancies using all kinds of methods including some which put their lives even at risks. Such practices also could have long lasting implications for their reproductive health even in situations where they survive induced abortion.

Against this background, this section examines the population of young people in Ghana by their marital status and their contribution to fertility in the country. It also analyses them with regard to their contraceptive knowledge and use, abortion, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and reproductive health in general.

5.2 Marital Status

The questions in the 2010 Population and housing census on marital status were limited to those persons aged 12 years and older. There were, therefore, no data on children less than 10 years. Consequently, the discussion in this section is limited to adolescents and youth.

Table 5.1 presents the distribution of the population of young people by age and sex. According to the results from Table 5.1, it is clear that at the national level, as age increases, the proportion of people who report being never married reduces while the percentage of persons who get married increases.

Adolescents: A quick look at Table 5.1 reveals that among those aged 12-14, a relatively higher proportion of the males (5.6%) than females (5.2%) were reported to be married. Thus, while 94% of the females were never married, a slightly lower proportion of the males had never married. This is quite unexpected because it is not a usual occurrence for boys of such

young ages to get married and could be the result of errors in the reporting in the data. The small proportion of persons who reported to have ever been married within ages 12-14 years is to be expected since at these ages, adolescents are expected to be in school and therefore, even the small proportion that was reported to have ever been married is something that is not only interesting but could be avoided. This is especially so when in Ghana, the age at married by law is fixed at 18 years. In contrast, nine percent of adolescent females aged 15-19 years were married compared to about 5 percent of their male counterparts. This is consistent with findings from all the GDHS that have been conducted in Ghana from 1988 to 2008 (See GSS et al, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009). Equally important is the result suggesting that three percent of the adolescent females aged 15-19 years were living together. Strangely, although quite negligible, some of the adolescents in these ages were reported to be divorced, separated or widowed.

Youth: A much higher proportion of the youth were married compared to the adolescents. It is, however, quite visible that the proportion of the youth reported to be married were higher among the females than the males either for the 20-24 or 25-35 age groups. For example, while about one in 10 of the males aged 20-24 years were married, as high as a third of their female counterparts were reported to be married. Again, among the older youth of age 25-35 years, 64 percent of the females and 47 percent of the males were recorded as married. For the youth described as living together, males and females of age 25-35 years recorded the same proportion (about 9%). In contrast, one in 10 of the younger female youth of 20-24 years had married relative to only about four percent of their male counterparts. We also find a similar result among the population of 15-24 years just like in the case of the adolescents. Again, as expected, relatively higher proportions of the females than males were reported to have ever been married and i.e., classified as divorced, widowed or separated. By age 35 years only one in five of the females and two in five of the males had never been married in the country. This suggests marriage is almost universal in Ghana.

Table 5.1: Distribution of population of young persons by marital status and age-sex

Marital Status	12-14		15-19		20-24		25-35	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never married	93.9	94.2	94.2	86.8	84.3	54.7	41.2	19.7
Living together	0.5	0.6	0.7	3.2	3.9	10.0	8.9	8.9
Married	5.6	5.2	4.8	9.2	11.0	32.5	46.8	64.2
Separated	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.4	1.3	2.6
Divorced	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.4	3.3
Widowed	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	846,580	831,301	1,311,112	1,298,877	1,100,727	1,222,764	1,951,869	2,238,078

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

In Table 5.2, a comparison is made between young persons in urban and rural areas with respect to marital status. The results present interesting scenarios across gender and urban-rural residence.

Adolescents: In the urban areas, the results of the analysis indicate that a slightly higher proportion of the male adolescents aged 12-14 years reported to be married compared to the females, which as earlier pointed out is quite unexpected at that young age for the males. In contrast, male and female adolescents of the same ages behave similarly in that we have the same proportion indicating that they were married. By urban rural residence, however, there is a clear difference between adolescents of 12-14 years who were married in urban areas and their counterparts in the rural areas. For example, about six percent of the males in the rural areas were married compared to five percent of their counterparts in the urban areas. The gender gap increases even higher comparing the females in urban to rural areas. Here, about twice the proportion of the rural-dwelling females aged 15-19 years were reported to be married compared to their counterparts in the urban areas. In the rural areas, more than twice of the females as males were married. The differences are influenced by variations in education which is higher in the urban than rural areas and also higher among the males than the females.

Youth: A similar pattern is shown in Table 5.2 with respect to marital status among the youth as was with the adolescents. The older youth recorded a higher proportion of their members to be married than their younger counterparts and this is true for either males or females. From Table 5.2, we find once again that higher proportions of the youth groups in the rural than urban areas were married. For example, while 16% of the rural male youth aged 20-24 years were married, 45 percent of the female counterparts were reported to be married. In a similar vein, as high as 73 percent of the females of age 25-35 years were married in the rural area compared to 56 percent of the males in the same age group. In the urban area, we also find that while less than 10 percent of the male youth aged 20-24 years were reported to be married, the figure among their female counterparts in the same urban area was 23 percent. Among urban-dwelling youth aged 25-35 years, on the other hand, two in five of the males and almost 60 percent of the females were married. The gender and spatial variation seen among the adolescents regarding marital status is equally valid among the two youth groups between the urban and rural areas in the country.

Table 5.2: Distribution of population of young persons by marital status, type of locality and age-sex

Type of Locality	Male					
	Never married	Living together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Urban						
12-14	94.1	0.6	5.4	-	-	-
15-19	95.0	0.7	4.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
20-24	88.8	3.4	7.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
25-35	48.7	8.9	40.0	1.0	1.1	0.2
Rural						
12-14	93.7	0.5	5.7	-	-	-
15-19	93.5	0.7	5.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
20-24	78.1	4.6	16.3	0.5	0.4	0.1
25-35	31.1	9.0	56.0	1.6	1.9	0.4
Female						
Urban						
12-14	94.7	0.6	4.8	-	-	-
15-19	90.4	2.6	6.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
20-24	65.5	9.1	23.3	1.1	0.8	0.3
25-35	26.7	8.8	57.4	2.6	3.3	1.2
Rural						
12-14	93.7	0.7	5.7	-	-	-
15-19	82.5	3.9	12.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
20-24	39.5	11.3	45.4	1.8	1.4	0.5
25-35	10.7	9.0	72.9	2.6	3.3	1.5

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

At this stage, the analysis further examines the regional differences in marital status between the males and females who are adolescents and youth in Ghana. The results have been presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.6.

Adolescents: Table 5.3 presents marital status of adolescents aged 12-14 years by region. The table shows some results that are quite difficult to expect where in all the regions we have between four and seven percent of the adolescent males of 12-14 years reported to be married at the time of the census, the highest being recorded in the Northern Region while the lowest was in Brong Ahafo. Similarly, the highest proportion of the females adolescents aged 12-14 years reported to be married were in the Northern Region and the lowest in Brong Ahafo. It is also interesting to note that with the exception of the three northern regions where the proportion of young adolescents who were married was higher for the female than the male, in the rest of the regions, the reverse was the case, a finding which defies the known reality where women are more likely to be married than males at very young ages in the country.

Table 5.3: Distribution of population aged 12-14 years by marital status, region and sex

Region	Male					
	Never married	Living together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Western	92.9	0.4	6.7	-	-	-
Central	93.5	0.7	5.8	-	-	-
Greater Accra	92.5	0.9	6.6	-	-	-
Volta	94.0	0.5	5.5	-	-	-
Eastern	94.7	0.7	4.6	-	-	-
Ashanti	94.6	0.7	4.7	-	-	-
Brong Ahafo	95.6	0.5	3.9	-	-	-
Northern	92.4	0.2	7.4	-	-	-
U/East	95.1	0.1	4.8	-	-	-
U/West	92.6	0.1	7.3	-	-	-
Female						
Western	93.4	0.5	6.1	-	-	-
Central	94.3	0.8	5.0	-	-	-
Greater Accra	93.6	0.7	5.6	-	-	-
Volta	94.1	0.7	5.3	-	-	-
Eastern	95.0	0.8	4.2	-	-	-
Ashanti	95.1	0.7	4.2	-	-	-
Brong Ahafo	95.6	0.6	3.8	-	-	-
Northern	91.6	0.2	8.2	-	-	-
Upper East	95.0	0.1	4.9	-	-	-
Upper West	92.3	0.2	7.5	-	-	-

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

With reference to adolescents aged 15-19 years, Table 5.4 shows that as expected, females were more likely to be married compared to males in each of the regions in the country. The three northern regions have the highest proportions of married adolescents 15-19 years compared to other regions either for males or females. As high as almost 18 percent of the females aged 15-19 years in the Northern Region were married compared to just 6 percent in Greater Accra. Equally high proportions were married in Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Western regions where 10 percent or higher of the female adolescents aged 15-19 years were reported to be married. It must also be pointed out the interesting picture where the proportion of male adolescents aged 12-14 years reported to be married was higher than their counterparts aged 15-19 years in all regions except in the three northern regions. This is unexpected because older adolescents are naturally expected to be married more than their younger counterparts. There is, therefore, a strong reason to believe that this could have resulted from some data errors with regard to adolescents 12-14 years.

Table 5.4: Distribution of population aged 15-19 years by marital status, region and sex

Region	Male					
	Never married	Living Together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Western	93.7	0.7	5.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Central	94.6	0.9	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Greater Accra	94.4	0.8	4.6	0.1	0.1	0.0
Volta	93.9	0.7	5.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Eastern	94.8	1.0	3.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ashanti	95.5	0.8	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
Brong Ahafo	95.4	0.8	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.0
Northern	91.2	0.3	8.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Upper East	94.1	0.2	5.5	0.1	0.0	0.1
Upper West	92.0	0.2	7.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Female						
Western	85.6	3.2	10.2	0.5	0.4	0.2
Central	87.2	4.3	7.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
Greater Accra	90.7	2.3	6.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Volta	83.8	3.2	11.9	0.6	0.2	0.2
Eastern	86.2	5.1	7.8	0.5	0.3	0.2
Ashanti	89.0	3.7	6.5	0.3	0.3	0.1
Brong Ahafo	86.6	4.8	7.8	0.4	0.3	0.1
Northern	81.1	0.9	17.6	0.2	0.1	0.2
Upper East	85.3	0.6	13.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Upper West	84.4	0.6	14.3	0.2	0.1	0.3

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The distribution of population aged 20-24 and 25-35 years shows a much higher proportion reporting to be married at the time of the census compared with adolescents discussed earlier. Also, as expected, higher proportions of the older youth 25-35 years in all regions were married compared to their younger age group 20-24 years. Once again, a relatively higher proportion of females than males were recorded as married in all regions in Tables 5.5 and 5.6. It is observed that among either the 20-24 or 25-35 year-groups, the Northern Region has the highest proportion of married males or females with Greater Accra recording the lowest proportion married in each case. The reason for the disparity between the Greater Accra and Northern Region could stem from the predominantly agrarian economy (made up largely of crop farming and animal husbandry) in the north which requires more hands, thereby influencing early marriages in Northern Region. This compares with the case of Greater Accra Region which is the industrial and commercial hub of the country attracting more educated youth who are more likely to postpone marriage until they are in a position to properly cater for a family in the city.

The very high proportion of the youth groups particularly in the three northern regions that were married could also be the result of low educational attainment particularly among the females which at times is often caused by early marriage that tends to deny many young

women higher education. It is, however, not too strange to find a high proportion of youth groups 25 years and over to be married since by then a majority of them would have completed higher levels of schooling, and therefore, making marriage less of an interference in the pursuit of their educational career goal.

It has to be pointed out that in the three northern regions where the proportion of married youth was highest, the practice of "living together" or being in "consensual unions" does not appear to be common compared to the other regions. Just about one percent of the youth aged 25-35 years in the three northern regions were recorded as "living together" with a sexual partner compared to as high as between 13% and 14% in the Eastern Region among males and females respectively.

Table 5.5: Distribution of population aged 20-24 years by marital status, region and sex

	Male						Female					
Region	Never married	Living Together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never married	Living Together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Western	82.3	4.0	12.8	0.4	0.4	0.1	51.1	8.7	36.5	1.6	1.8	0.4
Central	83.7	5.3	10.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	52.7	13.3	30.5	1.5	1.5	0.5
Greater Accra	89.3	3.3	6.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	70.0	8.4	19.7	1.0	0.6	0.3
Volta	80.9	3.6	14.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	46.0	9.2	41.1	2.1	1.1	0.6
Eastern	82.3	6.3	10.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	51.1	15.7	29.8	1.9	1.1	0.4
Ashanti	87.2	4.6	7.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	58.9	12.7	25.6	1.3	1.1	0.4
Brong Ahafo	84.6	5.1	9.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	49.8	14.2	32.8	1.5	1.4	0.3
Northern	76.7	1.1	21.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	39.3	1.8	57.0	0.8	0.6	0.5
U/East	80.6	0.7	17.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	44.7	1.5	51.3	1.2	0.7	0.7
U/West	81.6	0.7	17.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	48.3	1.9	48.1	0.7	0.4	0.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 5.6: Distribution of population aged 25-35 years by marital status, region and sex

	Male						Female					
Region	Never married	Living Together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never married	Living Together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Western	36.2	7.1	53.0	1.4	2.0	0.3	16.6	6.4	68.7	2.5	4.6	1.2
Central	36.0	11.2	49.1	1.3	2.0	0.3	16.7	11.1	62.8	3.0	5.0	1.5
Greater Accra	51.6	9.2	37.1	1.1	0.9	0.2	32.6	9.0	52.0	2.8	2.7	0.9
Volta	35.3	7.9	52.7	2.0	1.7	0.4	14.4	8.3	69.4	3.4	2.9	1.5
Eastern	37.6	13.3	45.0	1.8	1.8	0.3	17.7	13.7	59.9	3.3	4.0	1.4
Ashanti	45.1	11.8	40.5	1.1	1.3	0.2	21.8	12.2	58.5	2.5	3.8	1.2
Brong Ahafo	39.1	11.1	46.5	1.3	1.7	0.3	14.9	11.6	65.8	2.4	4.0	1.4
Northern	32.9	1.4	63.5	1.0	0.9	0.3	10.4	1.1	84.9	1.2	1.3	1.1
U/East	33.9	1.1	61.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	11.4	1.0	80.8	2.1	1.4	3.3
U/West	34.9	1.4	61.2	0.9	1.1	0.5	12.0	1.1	81.9	1.5	1.1	2.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

5.3 Trends in Adolescent and Youth Fertility in Ghana

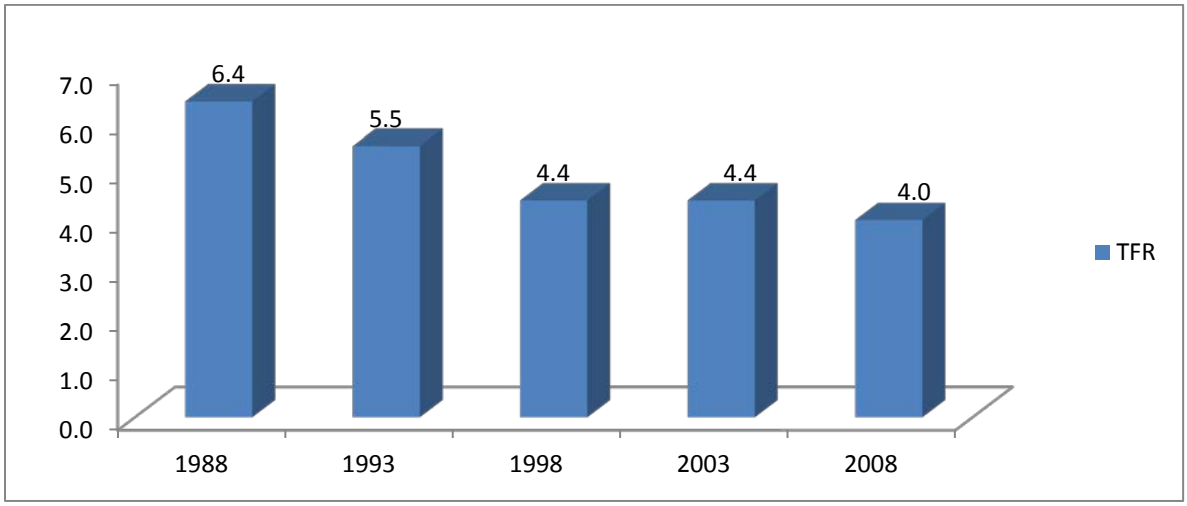
According to the Guttmacher Institute (2004), 12 percent of adolescents 15-19 years and one percent of their male counterparts have ever had a child in Ghana. The Institute further reports that one in 10 births occurs among adolescent mothers. This is quite evident in all the GDHS reports.

Linked to unplanned pregnancies among adolescents is abortion which may put the young pregnant woman at reproductive health risks. According to the Guttmacher Institute (2004), 16 percent of women and 11 percent of men 12-24 years in Ghana who have ever had sex have been involved in terminating a pregnancy. Furthermore, since a substantial proportion of abortion among this group takes place outside modern health facilities without professionally trained health officers, post-abortion complications, including even death in extreme cases, cannot be downplayed. For example, as high as 30% of women and 39% of men 12-24 years in Ghana reported that the last abortion they were involved in took place at home (Guttmacher Institute, 2004).

According to UNICEF (2009), more than 2.6 million young people aged 10 to 24 years worldwide die each year mostly due to preventable causes. About 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 years give birth every year while young people 15 to 24 years old accounted for 40 percent of all new HIV infections among adults in 2009. An estimated 150 million young people use tobacco worldwide. On youth unemployment, UNICEF (2009) further notes that with 81 million young people out of work globally in 2009, youth unemployment remains a concern in almost every country. This is due to the development where the labour market is increasingly requiring skills that many young people do not possess. This not only results in a waste of young people's talents, but also in a lost opportunity for the communities in which they live. In many countries large teenage populations are a unique demographic asset that is often overlooked. By investing in the education and training of adolescents, countries can reap a large and productive workforce, contributing significantly to the growth of national economies.

The Ghana Demographic and Health Surveys (GDHS) over the past two decades have shown clearly that the fertility behaviour of the population is changing. The total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 6.4 in 1988 to 5.5 in 1993 and further down to 4.4 in both 1998 and 2003 and in 2008, it reached 4.0 (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Trend in Total Fertility Rate in Ghana, 1988-2008



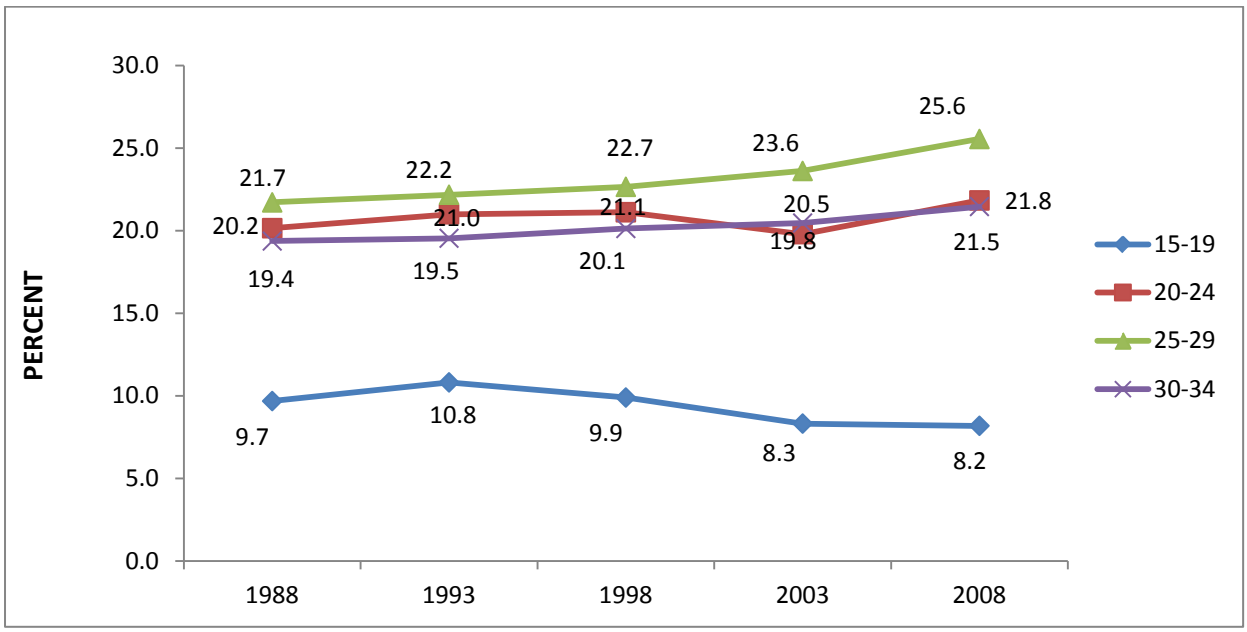
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008

Adolescents: The contribution of adolescents and youth to the total fertility rate cannot be over emphasized. Figure 5.2 shows the percent contribution of adolescents and youth to the total fertility rate (TFR) between 1988 and 2008. From the Figure, although the contribution of adolescents to TFR increased from 9.7 percent in 1988 to 10.8 percent in 1993, it has since seen a gradual reduction and came down to 8.2% in 2008.

Youth: Even though the percentage contribution by the youth to fertility is generally higher than that by adolescents, it has over the years taken the same trend as the adolescent fertility. The contribution of the youth aged 20-24 increased from 20.2% in 1988 to 21% in both 1993 and 2003 and declined slightly to 19.8% and further increased to 21.8% in 2008. Among those aged 25-29 years, however, their contribution increased steadily from 21.7% to reach a high of 25.6% in 2008 (Figure 5.2). It is also seen that the pattern of contribution of the youth group aged 30-34 years is similar to their counterparts of age 20-24 years. The contribution of the youth to fertility in Ghana has, therefore, been quite substantial in the past two decades.

This consistently high contribution of adolescents and youth to childbearing has potentially negative demographic and social consequences. For instance, births to teenage mothers (age 15-19) have been found to have the highest infant and child mortality rate in Ghana (Ghana Statistical Service et al, 1994 and 1999). This may be due to the fact that these young mothers are more likely to experience complications during pregnancy and delivery than older mothers, resulting in higher morbidity and mortality for both themselves and their children. This high rate of adolescent and youth fertility is also attributable to factors including their early entry into first sex, first birth and low contraceptive use.

Figure 5.2: Percent contribution to fertility by adolescents and youth in Ghana, 1988-2008



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008

5.4 Age at First Sex

Age at first marriage is sometimes used as a proxy for a woman's first exposure to sexual intercourse but these two events often may not happen at the same time due to pre-marital sexual activity that many young people engage in prior to marriage. Age at first sex therefore is a key factor in determining a woman's exposure to sexual intercourse and has the potential to influence one's fertility.

Sexual debut in the country has been quite early. Median age at first sex was reported to be 18.4 years in Ghana and varies between the rural (17.9) and the urban (18.8) areas (See GDHS Report for 2008). This means that first sex tends to take place among the Ghanaian population when they are in their teens. It is also reported that sexual coercion is quite common in Ghana with one in four sexually active young women reporting to have ever been forced to have sex against their will (The Guttmacher Institute, 2004). Thus, as they are not ready for such sexual encounters, the likelihood of being exposed to either an unwanted pregnancy or infection by HIV or STIs is quite high since coerced sexual encounters often do not benefit from any form of protection against these risks.

As already noted, early childbearing by youth or adolescent females has social, health and economic costs which the adolescents in particular may not be able to cope with physiologically by virtue of their young ages. Pregnancy of a still-growing girl means an increase in nutritional requirements, not only for the growth of the foetus, but also for the mother herself (Friedman, 1985). Figures 5.3a and b show the age at first sex among adolescents and youth in Ghana in 1998 and 2008 respectively.

Figure 5.3a: Percent of adolescents and youth in Ghana having sex at exact ages, 1998

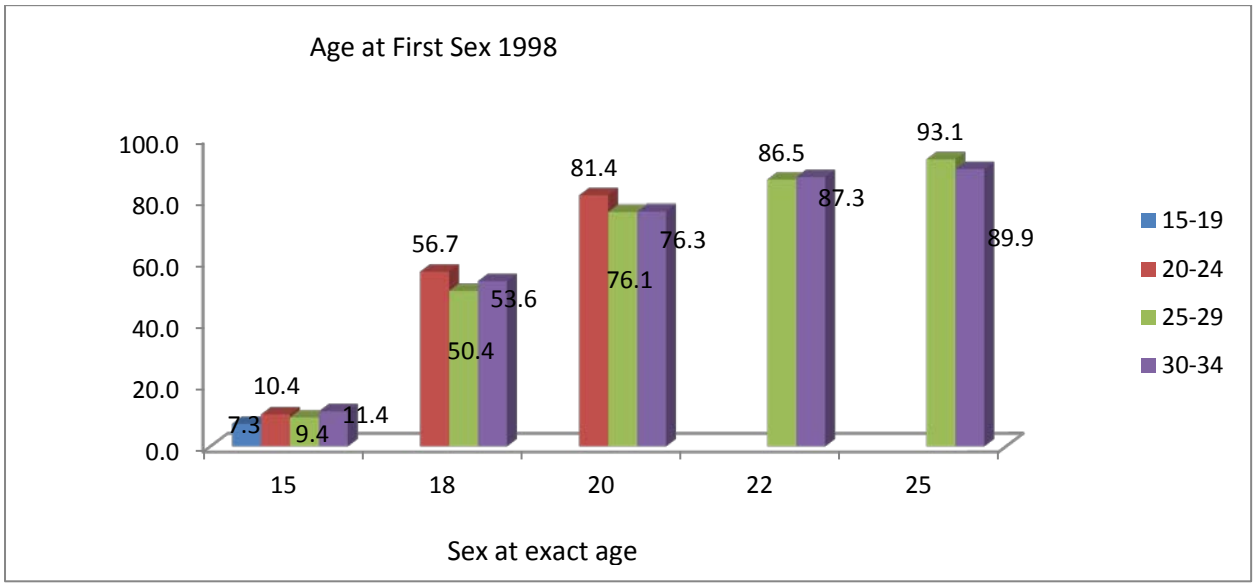
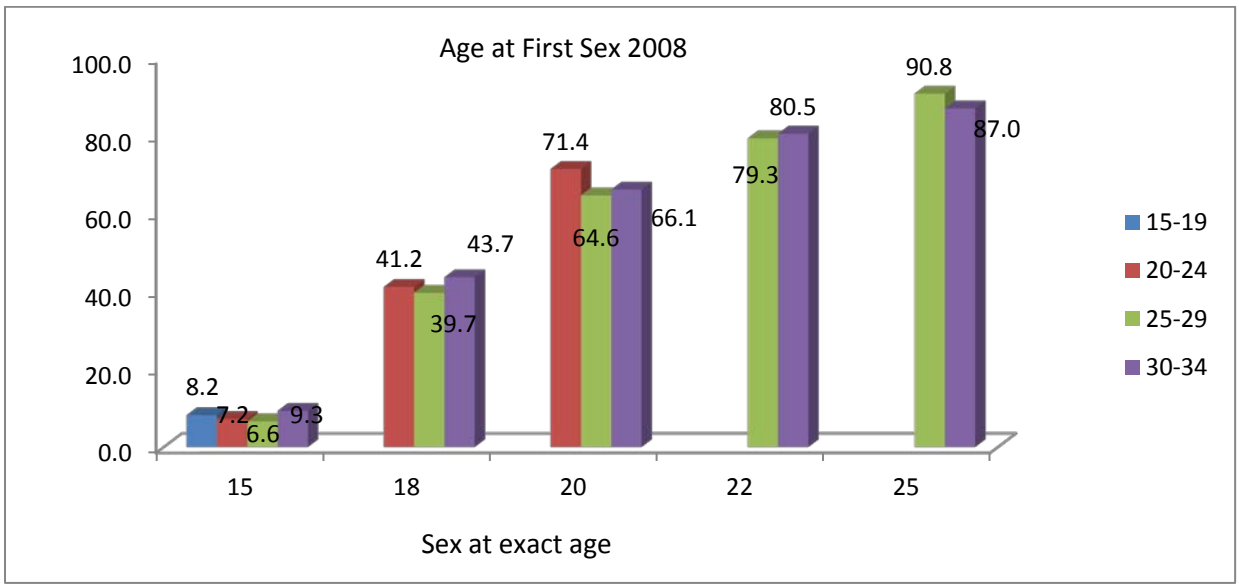


Figure 5.3b: Percent of adolescents and youth in Ghana having sex at exact ages, 2008



5.5 Age at First Birth

One of the factors that determine the level of fertility in a population is the age at first birth. Women who marry early are typically exposed to the risk of pregnancy for a longer period, especially when there is little or no contraceptive use. Thus, early childbearing generally leads to a larger family size than later onset of childbearing. Figures 5.4a, b and c present information on adolescents and youth in Ghana by age at first birth respectively in 1988, 1998 and 2008.

Figure 5.4a: Percent of adolescents and youth by age at first birth, 1988

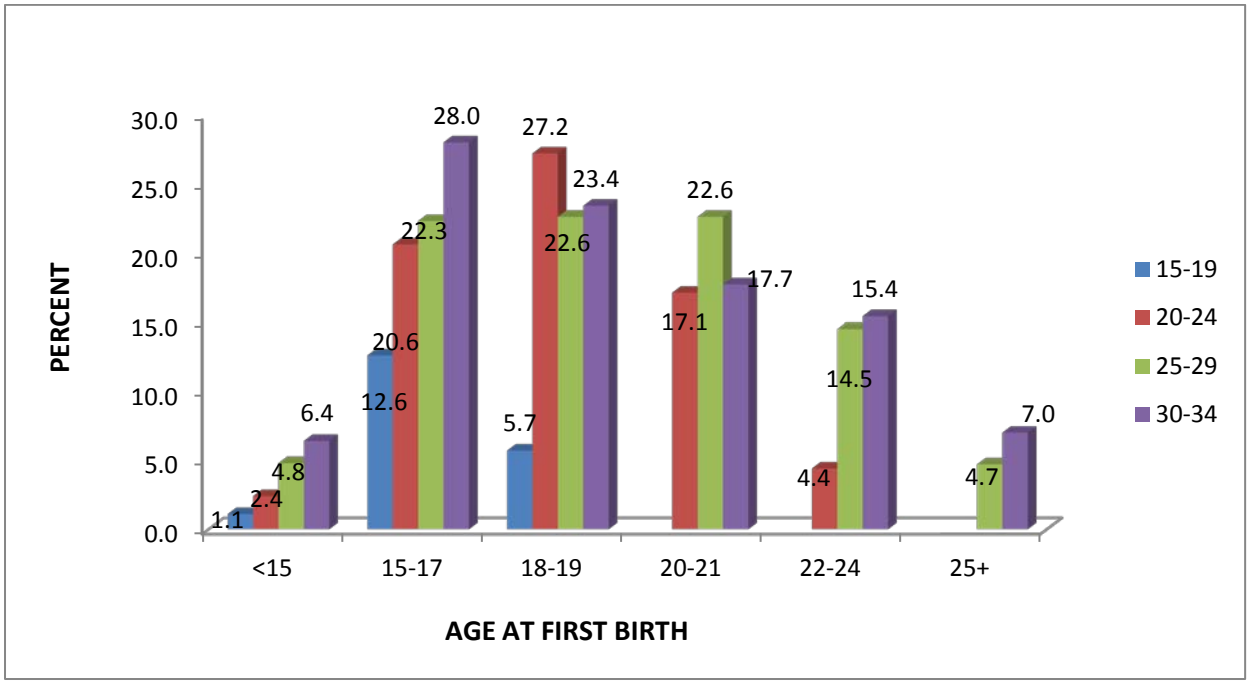


Figure 5.4b: Percent of adolescents and youth by age at first birth, 1998

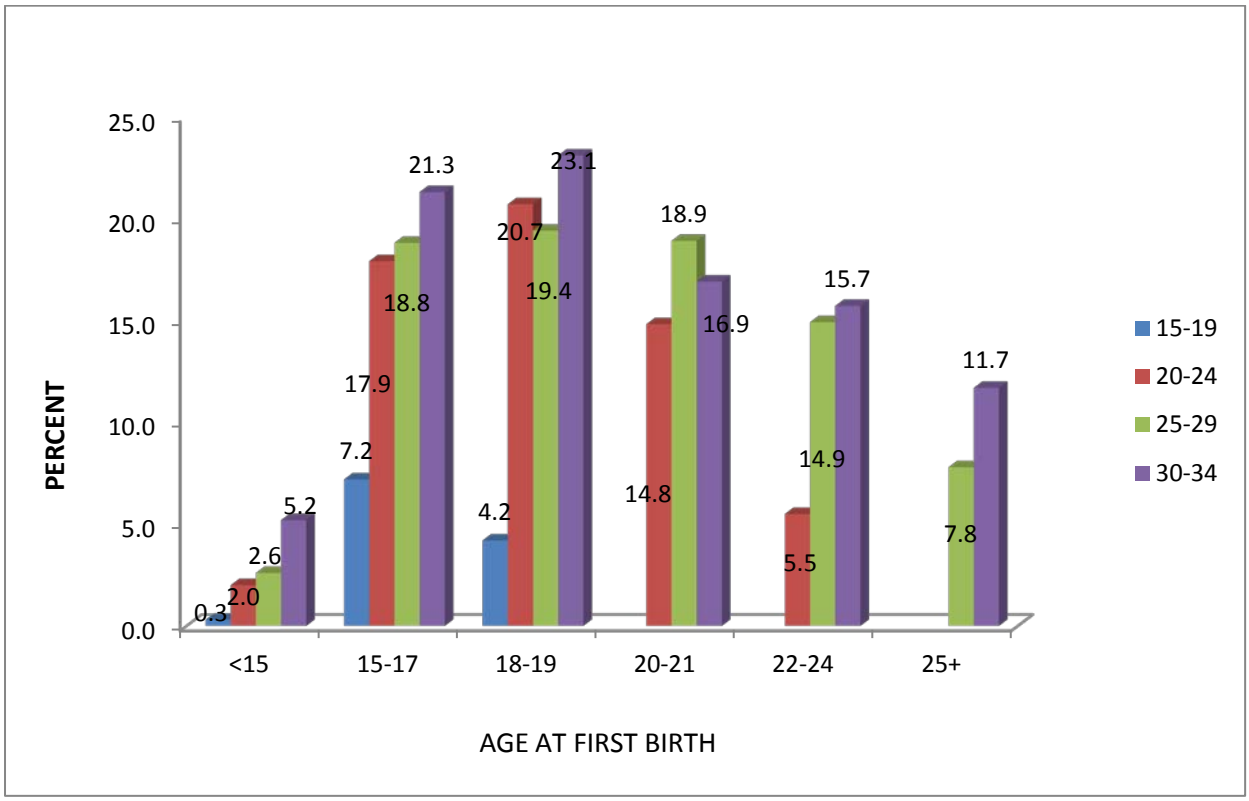
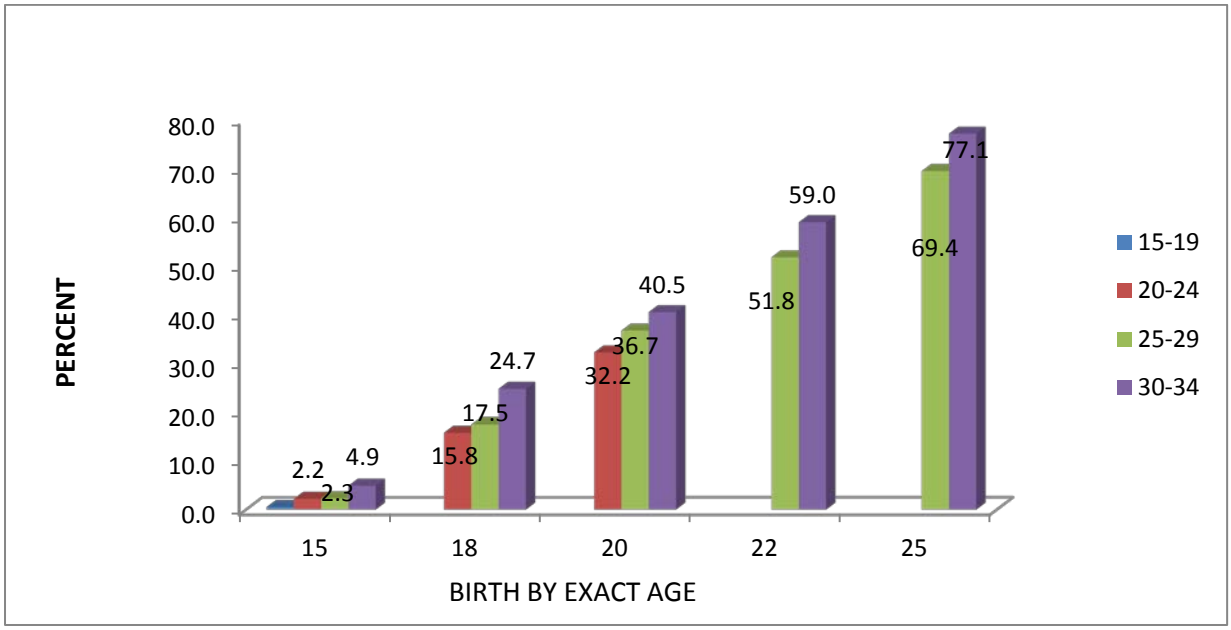


Figure 5.4c: Percent of adolescents and youth by age at first birth, 2008



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008

Figures 5.4a, b and c show a decline from 1.1 percent to 0.3 percent of women aged 15-19 that have had their first birth before age 15 between 1988 and 1998. Similar trend of reduction in percent of women having their first birth is observed for most part of the younger age groups between 1988 and 1998. On the other hand, Figures 5.4a & b indicate an increase in the age at first sex reflected in the higher proportion of the older youth groups having their first births later. For instance, first births at 25 years and more increased from 4.7 percent to 7.8 percent for women in the age group 25-29 years and from 7.0 percent to 11.7 percent for women within the ages of 30-34 years between 1988 and 1998. Figure 5.4c also shows that a higher proportion of the youth had their first births by exact age 25 years.

The 2010 Population and Housing Census collected information on births to women in the past 12 months prior to the census. The information collected defines the current fertility among women. Table 5.7 shows an analysis of the data on fertility regarding the contribution of young persons to current fertility by age group.

Adolescents: From the table, it is seen that 6.6 percent of total fertility in the country was contributed by adolescents of age 12-19 years. The breakdown by locality shows a relatively higher contribution by adolescents to fertility in the rural than urban areas in the country. This is on a low side compared to the results from the GDHS which indicated about 10% of fertility in Ghana to be the contribution of adolescents. The difference between the urban and rural areas is also influenced by differences in education and access to family planning services which is higher in the urban compared to rural areas.

Youth: The contribution of the youth is higher compared to that for the adolescents as depicted in Table 5.7. Overall, the youth contributed to as high as two-thirds of all births reported in the last 12 months prior to the census. Not much variation, however, exists

between the urban and rural areas. The pattern shows that fertility reached its peak in the age group 25-29 years as the age group that contributed the highest proportion of all births in the country. A similar pattern exists between the urban and rural areas. However, the contribution of the youth group aged 30-34 was higher than the 20-24 year-olds in the urban areas but the reverse was the case in the rural areas.

Table 5.7: Percent contribution of young persons to births in last 12 months

Age group	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Births	%	Births	%	Births	%
12 - 14	917	0.1	343	0.1	574	0.2
15 - 19	40,307	6.5	14,919	5.1	25,388	7.7
20 - 24	126,417	20.3	52,137	17.8	74,280	22.5
25 - 29	167,306	26.8	82,006	27.9	85,300	25.8
30 - 34	130,724	21.0	67,100	22.9	63,624	19.3
Total Births	623,700	-	293,566	-	330,134	-

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: As Table 5.8 presents, the contribution of adolescents aged 12-19 years in Central and Eastern regions was the highest, i.e., about 8 percent of current fertility in each of these two regions was contributed by adolescents. This compares with about 4 percent recorded in the Greater Accra Region as the lowest. Adolescents in the Northern Region contributed the lowest to fertility after their counterparts in Greater Accra. The rest of the regions recorded between five and eight percent of fertility in the past 12 months before the census.

Youth: Among the youth, the highest contribution to fertility was among those aged 25-29 years in each region and ranges between 26 percent and 27 percent. Also, in all regions, the contribution of adolescents to fertility among the youth group aged 20-24 years was higher than among those of 30-34 years except in four regions namely, Greater Accra, Ashanti, Northern and Upper West where the reverse was the case. Therefore, while the other six regions demonstrate an early fertility peak, a late peak is exhibited by the youth in the four regions.

Table 5.8: Percent contribution of young persons to births in last 12 months by region

Age group	Western	Central	Greater Accra	Volta	Eastern	Ashanti	Brong Ahafo	Northern	Upper East	Upper West
12 - 14	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
15 - 19	6.8	8.7	3.7	8.2	8.7	5.7	7.3	5.1	7.0	5.4
20 - 24	21.3	22.5	15.4	22.0	21.9	20.1	21.6	19.7	21.9	19.7
25 - 29	27.2	26.2	27.8	25.6	25.7	27.8	26.9	26.4	26.0	25.6
30 - 34	19.5	19.6	24.1	19.9	18.9	21.9	20.6	21.0	19.9	21.4
Total births	64,623	59,001	93,052	52,094	67,900	124,429	61,426	60,590	24,059	16,526

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

5.6 Children Ever Born

Information on children ever born was collected in the 2010 Population and Housing Census from all women. This covered all births by women as at the time of the census. As expected, the total number of births ever had in Ghana was higher in the rural areas than the urban (Table 5.9).

Adolescents: An analysis of the results presented in the table suggests minimal contributions of adolescents to overall number of children ever born. This is expected because adolescents who had begun children were just at the beginning and could not have had many births to demonstrate any significant contribution to all births by all women in the country. Consequently, their contribution is less than one percent. Similarly, the mean number of children ever born to adolescents is quite small: 1.3 and 1.5 respectively among adolescents aged 12-14 and 15-19 years and there is virtually no variation by urban-rural residence.

Youth: Among the youth, Table 5.9 shows that as expected, the contribution to number of children ever born by the youth increases with age and ranges from a low of about six percent among the youth aged 20-24 through 12 percent among the 25-29 year-olds to 16 percent for the 30-34 year group. The results further reveal some variations between urban and rural areas. Here, the contribution of the youth among the 20-24 and 25-29 year groups is higher in the rural areas compared to the urban. In contrast, however, the contribution of the 30-34 year-olds to children ever born in the urban areas was relatively higher than that in the rural areas. This may imply possible postponement of births until later ages by women in the urban areas compared with their counterparts in the rural areas. The mean number of children ever born also increases with higher age of the youth reaching 4.2 children ever born among the oldest youth aged 30-34 years which is higher in the rural (4.7) than the urban (3.6) areas.

Table 5.9: Contribution of young persons to children ever born and mean number of children ever born

	Percent contribution to CEB			Mean CEB		
Age group	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
12 - 14	0.03	0.03	0.03	1.3	1.3	1.2
15 - 19	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.5
20 - 24	5.6	5.1	6.0	2.2	2.1	2.4
25 - 29	11.8	11.6	12.0	3.1	2.7	3.4
30 - 34	16.0	16.3	15.8	4.2	3.6	4.7
Total Births	14,991,092	6,740,663	8,250,429	-	-	-

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

The regional variation in the contribution of adolescents and youth groups to the number of children ever born is shown in Table 5.10. From the table, we find that the contribution of adolescents to life-time fertility in each region is quite insignificant in that in each case we have one percent or less of all life-time fertility contributed by adolescents aged 15-19 years

with virtually no contribution in percentage terms by those of age 12-14 years on account of their very young ages.

Youth: In each region, as expected, the contribution of the youth to life-time fertility increases with higher age of the youth. Among the youth 20-24 years, the highest contribution to life-time fertility was recorded in the Northern Region (6.6%) and the lowest was in Greater Accra and Upper East regions (5% each). At the same time, among older youth aged 30-34 years, the Northern Region (18.8%) followed by Greater Accra (17.2%) recorded the highest percent contribution to life-time fertility with the least contribution reported in the Eastern Region (14.3%). There is slight variation by region and age of the youth as shown in Table 5.10.

Table 5.10: Percent contribution of young persons to children ever born by region

Age group	Western	Central	Greater Accra	Volta	Eastern	Ashanti	Brong Ahafo	Northern	Upper East	Upper West
12 - 14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 - 19	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8
20 - 24	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.8	6.6	5.0	4.7
25 - 29	12.5	11.0	12.2	11.1	10.9	11.7	11.9	14.0	10.7	10.6
30 - 34	16.0	14.6	17.2	14.9	14.3	16.1	16.0	18.8	15.5	16.5
Total births	1,463,121	1,458,731	1,932,131	1,338,642	1,666,499	2,843,057	1,480,548	1,606,954	719,901	481,508

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

5.7 Contraceptive Use

Adolescent sexuality in most of sub-Saharan Africa has raised a lot of eyebrows in view of low contraceptive use, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS. One of the more serious challenges facing family planning programmes particularly in sub-Saharan Africa is to address the reproductive health needs of adolescents as they initiate sexual activity and are exposed to the risk of pregnancy (Blanc and Way, 1998).

Women aged 15-19 years in Ghana report the lowest contraceptive use. According to the 2008 GDHS, use of any modern of contraception was respectively 5.2 percent and 7.6 percent for all female adolescents and currently married adolescents of 15-19 years compared to the national averages of 13.5 percent and 16.6 percent. The resultant challenge is that of many unplanned or unwanted pregnancies which on account of their earlier occurrences, put many of them at risk of maternal mortality. Contraceptive Use therefore remains another key factor that determines the fertility of adolescents and youth in Ghana.

Contraceptive use among currently married women for any modern methods has seen some improvement both for adolescents (15-19 years) and youth (20-24 years). The adolescent contraceptive use even though decreased slightly from 5 percent in 1993 to 4.8 percent in 1998; it had increased to 14.8 percent by 2008. On the other hand, modern contraceptive method usage among the youth group 20-24 years increased from 8 percent in 1993 to 10.4 percent and 13.6 percent respectively in 1998 and 2008 according to the GDHS reports.

Similarly, youth contraceptive use in Ghana has also seen some increase from 8.3 percent in 1993 to 13.6 percent in 2008. The Millennium Development Goal 5b aims at improving maternal health and with a specific target of universal access to reproductive health. In order for Ghana to achieve some of these targets conscious efforts should be made to address some of the challenges that affect the fertility of the youth and adolescents like reducing unmet needs and awareness creation on the need for contraceptive use.

5.8 Summary and Conclusions

Adolescents: Among adolescents of age 12-14 years, a relatively higher proportion of the males than females were reported to be married. This was found to be unexpected and could be attributed to data error. As age increases, more adolescent females got married than the males and this is in line with GDHS reports that suggest that females marry earlier than males. In the urban areas, the results of the analysis indicated that a slightly higher proportion of the male adolescents reported to be married compared to the females. More than twice of the females as their male counterparts living in rural areas were married. The highest proportion of adolescents reported to be married was in the Northern Region while the lowest was recorded in Brong Ahafo. Adolescents contribute to fertility in the country and yet, their contraceptive use has been low compared with the rest of the population. This exposes them to risks of early unplanned childbearing and sexually transmitted infections.

Youth: A much higher proportion of the youth were married compared to the adolescents. However, the proportion of the youth groups that were reported to be married was higher among the females than the males. The older youth recorded a higher proportion of their members to be married than their younger counterparts and this is true for either males or females. As expected, higher proportions of the older youth 25-35 years in all regions were married compared to their counterparts who were younger. The contribution of youth to current fertility in Ghana has been high quite high and was recorded to be 20% or higher in all the youth groups. In contrast, their contribution to life-time fertility was below 10% in all regions with the Northern Region recording the highest contribution while the lowest was in Greater Accra and Eastern regions. Contraceptive use has seen some increases in the recent past among the youth but the records indicate that use has been relatively lower compared with older persons in the population with a variation across the regions.

CHAPTER SIX
HEALTH AND MORTALITY

6.1 Introduction

Children in Ghana are exposed to a high risk of death or disability resulting from poor nutrition which put many of them in a vicious cycle of illness and under-nutrition (UNICEF, 2009). For example, the 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) report shows that 28 percent of children under-five are stunted or considered too short for their age and this varies from a high of 38 percent in the Eastern Region to a low of 14 percent in the Greater Accra Region (Ghana Statistical Service et al., 2009a). At the same time, anaemia prevalence is reported to be quite high among children in Ghana with more than three of every four children diagnosed to be anaemic in 2008.

Trends in infant, child and under-five mortality suggest that although Ghana has recorded appreciable declines in these mortality indicators, further improvement is required both at the national level and particularly in some of the regions where the results are quite bad. At the national level, infant mortality is reported to have declined steadily from 77 per 1,000 live births in 1988 to 50 in 2008 although there was a rise from 57 in 1998 to 64 in 2003 (Ghana Statistical Service et al., 2009b). From the same report, we find a similar decline in under-five mortality but with a rise in 2003.

Furthermore, trends in child health with respect to coverage of vaccination of children 12-23 months old according to the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) reports suggest that although there has been substantial progress over the years, one in five children born in Ghana does not receive full vaccination against childhood diseases (Ghana Statistical Service et al., 2009a). The same report shows that about two in five births are not delivered by skilled health personnel, a situation that presents dire consequences for both mother and infant during deliveries outside a health facility or outside the purview of trained health service providers.

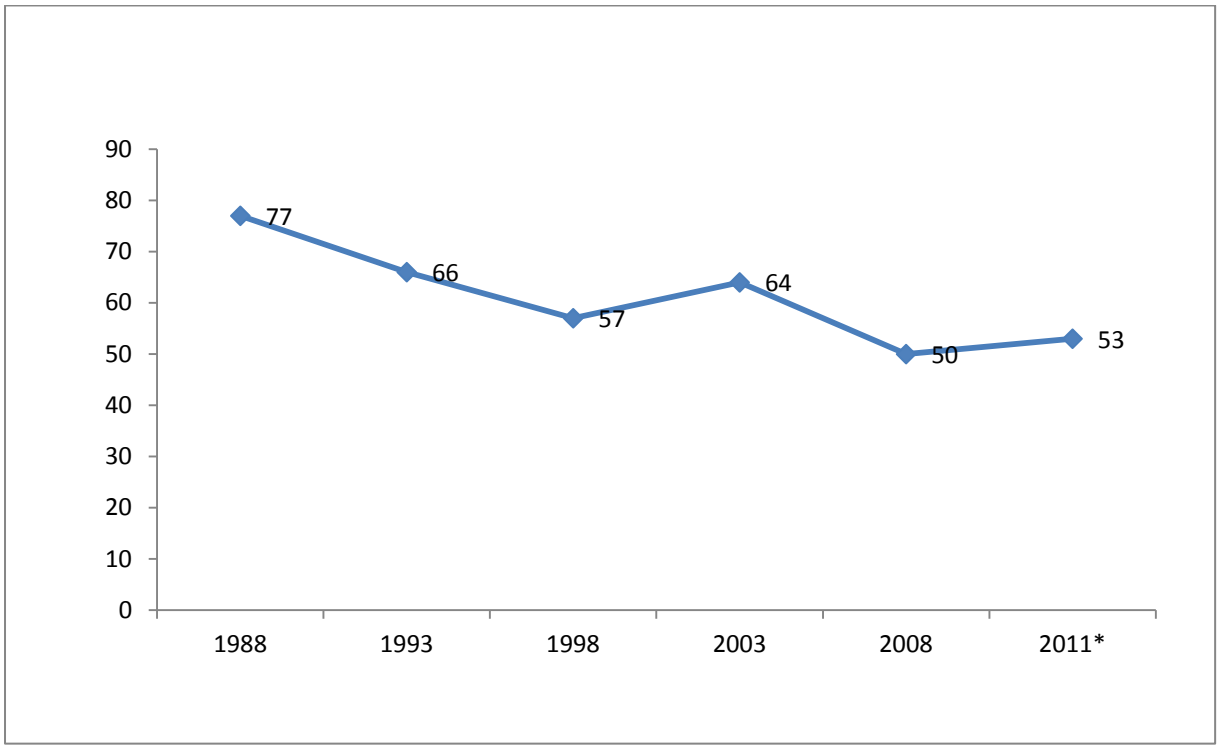
6.2 Infant Mortality

Measures of mortality are used for a number of reasons. For instance, infant and childhood rates are often used as broad indicators of social development or as more specific indicators of the health status of the population. Studies of mortality such as its age pattern and socio-economic and demographic differentials are used to highlight factors that promote child survival as well as those that are detrimental to it. Consequently, mortality analyses are helpful in identifying policy directions for health programmes and advancing child survival efforts.

Figure 6.1 shows the trend in infant mortality between 1988 and 2011. Since 1988, Ghana's Infant Mortality Rate has seen a marked decline even though it is still high compared to rates

that found in some sub-Saharan African countries. The 1998 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) showed a decline in this critical health indicator, dropping from a high of 77 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 to 66 infant deaths in 1993, then to 57 in 1998. In 2003, infant mortality increased again to 64 deaths per 1,000 live births until it dropped again to 50 live births per 1,000 in 2008. Unfortunately, this has been reported to have increased again to 53 infant deaths per 1,000 live births according to the 2011 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

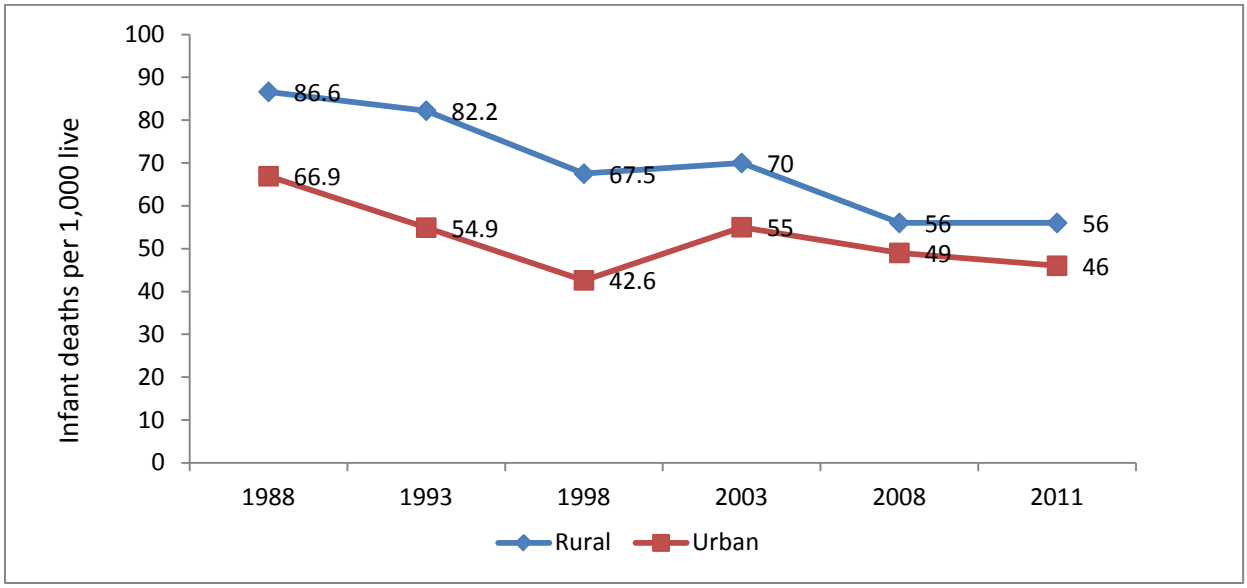
Figure 6.1: Trend in Infant Mortality Rate, 1988-2011



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

There are also variations in infant mortality by locality as shown in Figure 6.2. Infant Mortality levels in rural areas are considerably and consistently higher than in urban areas. For instance, in 2011, infant mortality in rural areas was 56 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with 46 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas for the same period and this has been the situation over the years.

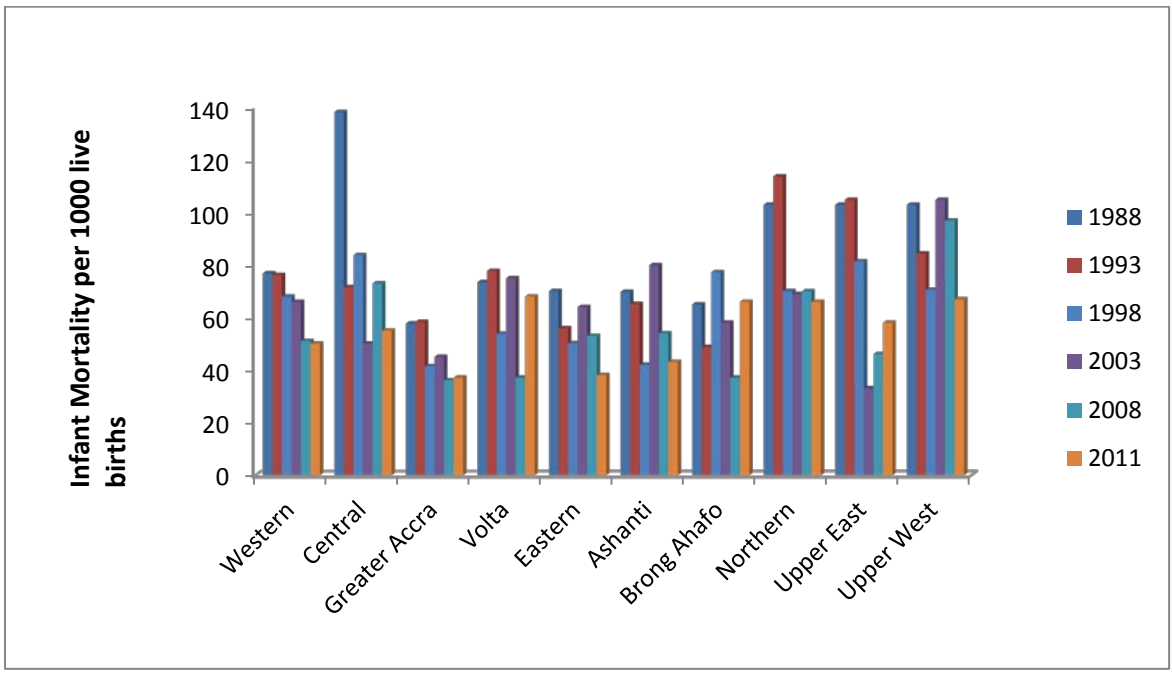
Figure 6.2: Infant Mortality by Locality



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

Infant mortality rates also vary substantially among regions in Ghana from 138.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 for Central Region compared to 57.7 per 1,000 live births in the same year for Greater Accra (Figure 6.3). The 2011 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey indicates that Central Region records an infant mortality rate of 55 deaths per 1,000 live births whereas Greater Accra recorded 37 deaths per 1,000 live births. Some of these differentials may also be attributed to cultural factors that vary in these regions.

Figure 6.3: Infant mortality by region, 1988-2011

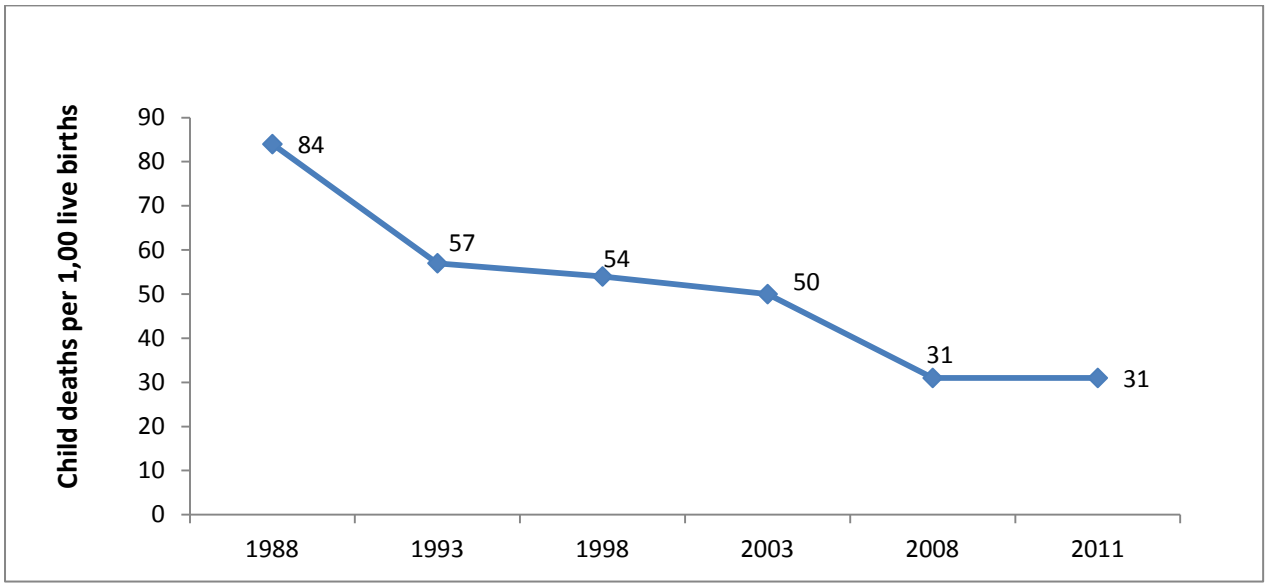


Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

6.3 Childhood Mortality

This is the probability of a child dying between the first and the fifth birthday. According to a UN report (Levels and Trends in child mortality 2012), in 2011 6.9 million children under the age of five died worldwide, with about half of these deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa**.** This situation poses a threat to national development. Child mortality in Ghana has witnessed a significant decline over the years, from a high of 84 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 to its current level of 31 per 1000 live births in 2011. Figure 6.4 shows the trend in child mortality rate from 1988 to 2011.

Figure 6.4: Child mortality rate, 1988-2011

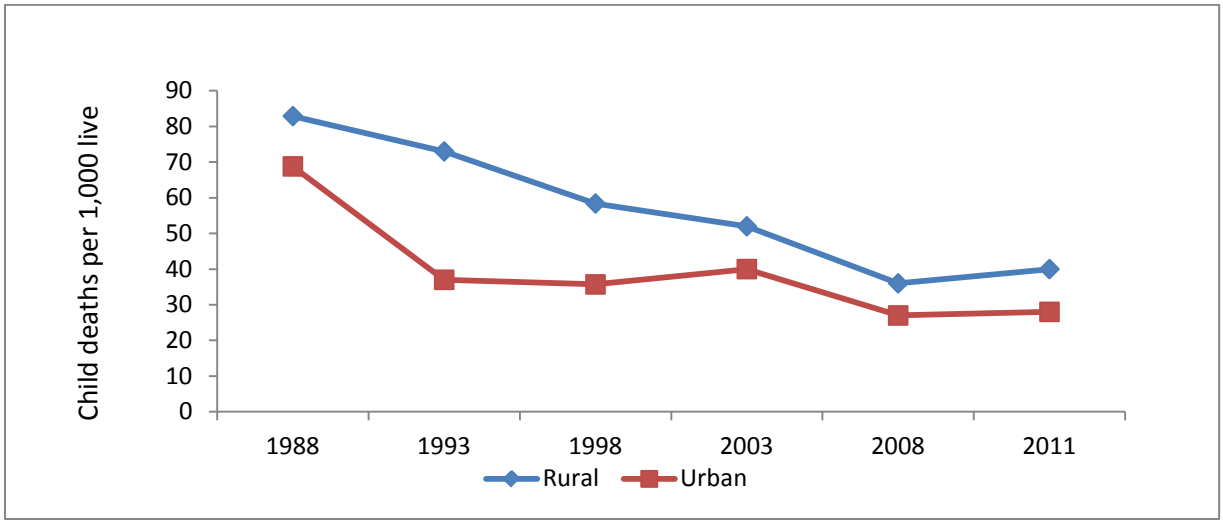


Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

From Figure 6.4, the period between 1988 and 1993 was the period when Ghana witnessed a relatively higher decline in child mortality, dropping from 84 per 1000 live birth to 57 per 1000 live births. The period 2003-2008 also witnessed a significant decline, from 50 per 1000 live births to 31 per 1000 live births. This figure, however, remained constant from 2008 to 2011. Over the 23 year period from 1988 to 2011, there has been a 63 percent decline in child mortality rate in the country. This could largely be a result of health policy interventions, like an increase in the rate of immunization against childhood killer diseases, introduction of mosquito nets and extensive education on good hygiene practices and other healthy practices to curb the leading child killers like malaria, diarrheal and pneumonia.

Available statistics (GDHS, MICS) show that rural children face a higher risk of dying than their counterparts in the urban areas. This could be due to a host of factors such as differences in parents' level of education, economic status, etc. Over the years, there have been marked differences in rural-urban child mortality rates in Ghana. Figure 6.5 shows the differences in the level of child mortality in Ghana by locality of residence.

Figure 6.5: Child mortality rate by locality, 1988-2011

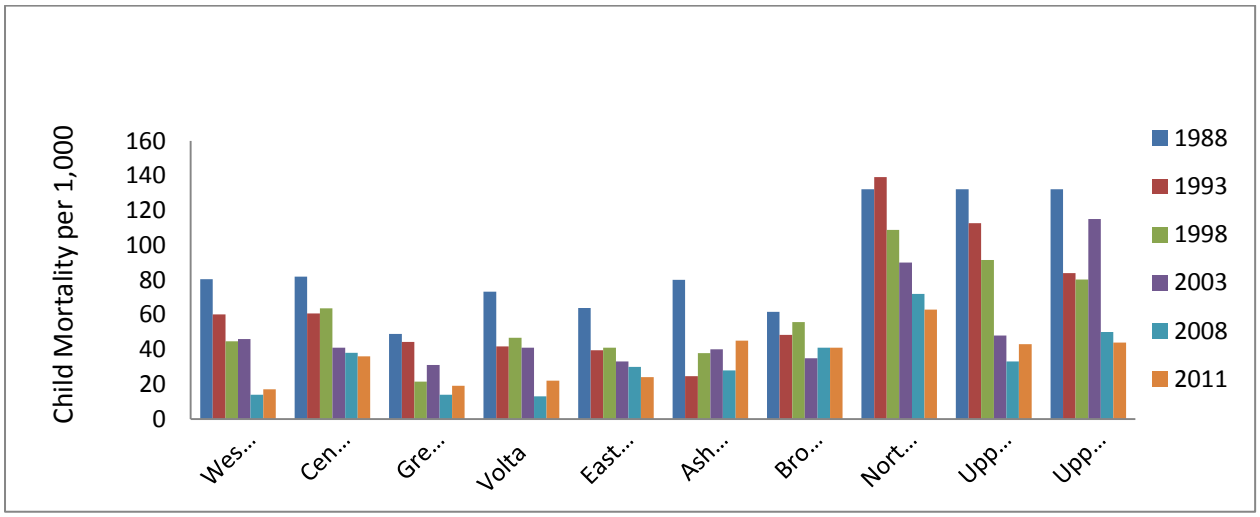


Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

Child mortality rate in rural Ghana has witness a consistent decline over the years, until the period between 2008 and 2011, where there was a slight setback. It increased from 36 in 2008 to 40 per 1000 live births in 2011. Compared to urban Ghana, rural Ghana's rate is higher and kept reducing at a slower pace. For example, the highest rate of reduction was only in 2008 where it reduced by 16. Although urban Ghana witnessed significant changes, this has fluctuated. In 1998, it reduced to 35.7 from 37 per 1000 live births, but went up to 40 per 1000 live births in the succeeding 5 year period (1998-2003). From the 2011 MICs data, child mortality is reported to have gone up again from 27 in 2008 to 28 per 1000 live births in 2011.

There have been significant changes in child mortality rates among the various regions in Ghana over the years. Figure 6.6 shows the regional variations in child mortality rate from 1988 to 2011.

Figure 6.6: Child mortality rate by region, 1988-2011



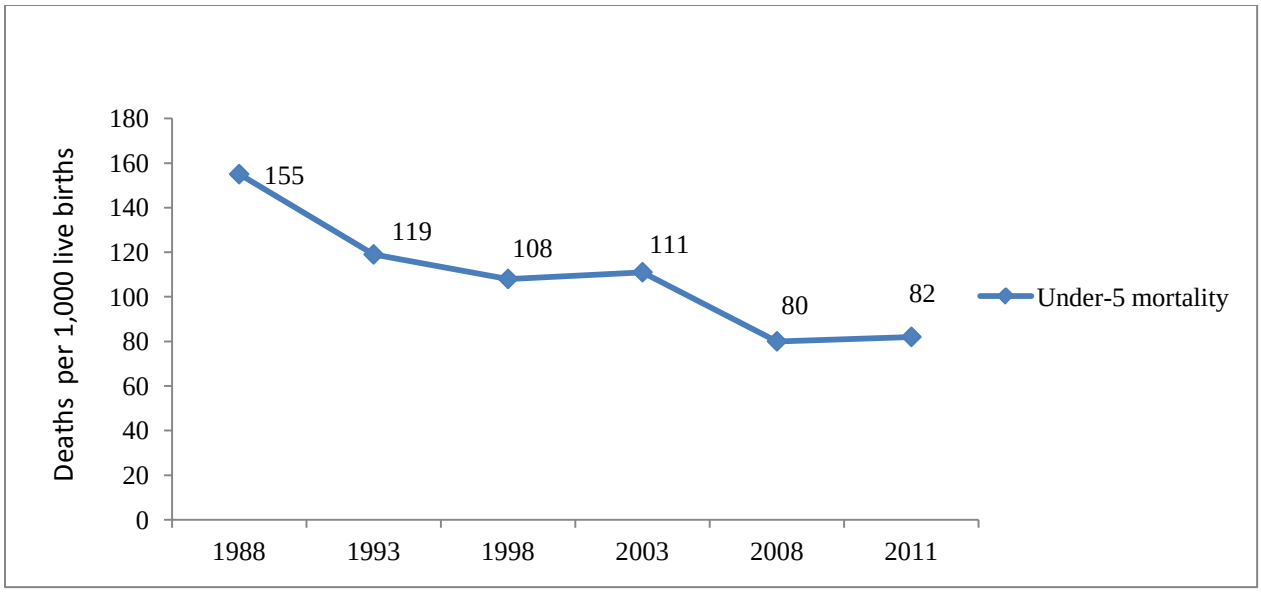
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

Child mortality has persistently been higher among the regions in the north, particularly Northern Region compared to regions in the south. For example, the Greater Accra Region has witnessed persistent reduction in child mortality until in 2011, when it increased from 14 to 36 per 1000 live births. These differences could largely be due to the rural nature of regions in the north and higher poverty levels in these regions compared to the south. For the year 2011, Western region recorded the lowest child mortality rate among the regions, even though it increased from its previous figure of 14 per 1000 in 2008. Some of the regions like Western Region, Greater Accra, Volta and Upper East also recorded setbacks with Ashanti region recording the greatest setback, increasing from it 2008 number of 28, to 45 per 1000 live births in 2011. Overall about four regions performed well above the national average of 31 per 1000 live births, which is a good indication of the country making a head way in the war against child mortality.

6.4 Under-Five Mortality

Under-five mortality rate is the probability per 1,000 live births that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates. Measures of under-five mortality are useful in population projections. It is an important indicator of a community's social development. Estimates of under-five mortality are important for targeting interventions to reduce under-five mortality and to monitor progress. Under-five mortality trend is presented in Figure 6.7.

Figure 6.7: Under-five mortality rate, 1988-2011



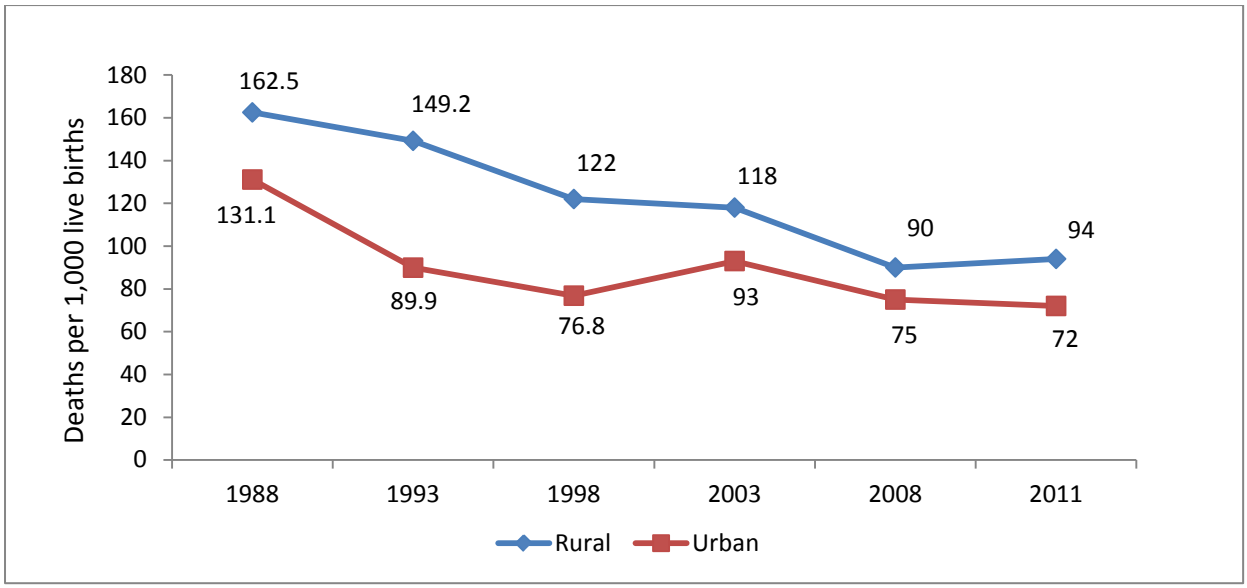
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

Ghana's under-five mortality rate has been reducing over the years even though on a few occasions there were some slight increases. For instance in 1988 the total rate was 155 per 1000 live births, this reduced significantly to 119 in 1993, and 108 in 1998. However, the under-five mortality rate rose to 111 per 1000 live births in 2003, and again saw a significant decline to 80 per 1000 live births in 2008. Unfortunately, there has been a slight increase to

82 per 1000 live births according to the 2011 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS, 2011). Ghana's fight against under-five mortality is not encouraging and consistent; there is therefore the need to adopt more effective measures and interventions if the country is to succeed in the fight against under-five mortality.

There are variations in under-5 mortality by locality (rural/urban) and regional basis. Ghana's under-5 Mortality levels in rural areas are significantly higher than in urban areas. Figure 6.8 shows that in 2011, under-five mortality in rural areas was 94 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with 72 deaths per 1,000 live births for urban areas for the same period. Various factors such as lack of access to health facilities, malnutrition, low mother's education, and other socio-cultural practices also contribute to the variation in under-five mortality by locality. People in the urban areas tend to have more access to health care, exposure to information in the mass media, while the influence of socio-cultural factors and barriers are minimal. All these could be factors that have accounted for the variations in under-five mortality between rural and urban localities.

Figure 6.8: Under-five mortality rate by locality, 1988-2011

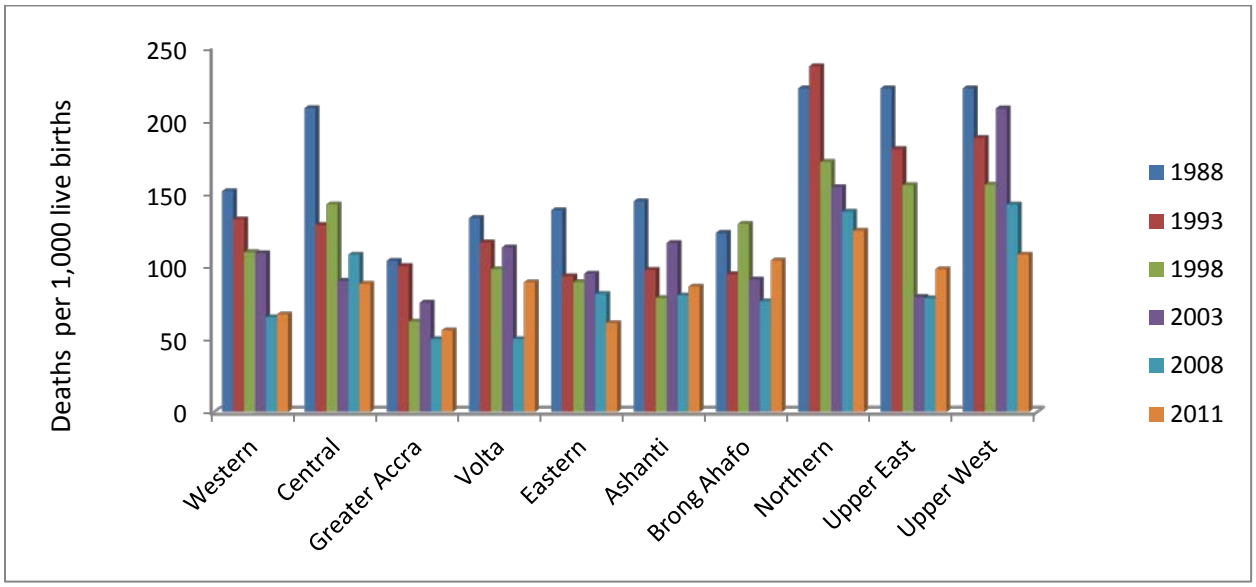


Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

Under-five mortality rates vary among regions in Ghana (Figure 6.9). In the Northern Region, under-five mortality in 1998 was 221.8 per 1000 live births and later declined to 124 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011. The Upper West Region also recorded 221.8 in 1988 and saw a decline to 108 deaths per 1,000 live births. However, Upper East Region recorded the highest rate of decline from 221.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 to 98 deaths in 2011. This significant decline could be attributed to the presence of the Navrongo Health Research Centre which has over the years undertaken series of research to promote health education and also educate women on their health.

Furthermore, the Greater Accra Region which has seen consistent decline in under-five mortality over the years recorded an increase from 50 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 56 deaths in 2011 even though it falls below the national average of 82 per 1000 live births. The Brong Ahafo region recorded a very high rate of 104 deaths in 2011 compared to 76 deaths in 2008, which is a very significant increase and therefore not a very good sign of progress in the region. These variations in the rates of mortality may be attributed to such factors as social and economic factors, education and beliefs that are inimical to child health.

Figure 6.9: Under-five mortality rate by region, 1988-2011



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GDHS 1988-2008, MICS 2011

6.5 Adolescent and Youth Mortality

The 2010 Population and Housing Census collected data on deaths in the past 12 months by age and sex. It also elicited information on deaths that were related to pregnancy or birth to find out the possible magnitude of maternal mortality. The data collected in respect of young persons are presented in Table 6.1.

Adolescents: From the table, we find a higher proportion of all deaths reported in the census in the country to be made up of males. However, among the adolescent groups, more than half of the deaths were made up of females with a little over a third recorded for the males. For example, among the 12-14 year group, 63% of the reported deaths were made of females while 37% is for males. A similar result is reflected among adolescents aged 15-19 years among whom 60% of the deaths were females and 40% males. This is also reflected in the very low sex ratios for the deaths among the adolescent groups. It is possible that the high rate of deaths pertaining to females relative to the males may be related to additional deaths occasioned by maternal deaths that affect the young women. As shown in the table, four percent of deaths among females aged 12-14 years and about 9% of others of age 15-19 years were pregnancy-related.

Youth: Just like the results shown among the adolescents, the proportion of deaths recorded among the youth groups was higher among females compared to the males. Once again, the sex ratios that reflect the deaths are lower, suggesting that deaths among the youth groups aged 20-24 and 25-34 years were more among the females than the males. Again, maternal mortality could contribute to this pattern of deaths between the sexes at these young ages. With regard to the percent of deaths to women that were pregnancy-related, Table 6.1 further indicates that 14% and about 15% respectively of deaths among youth groups aged 20-24 and 25-34 years were related to maternal deaths. This compares to a low figure of 9% of all deaths to women in Ghana. Against this reasoning, the low sex ratios recorded with respect to deaths in the 12 months before the census among the youth groups is very much to be expected.

Table 6.1: Percent of total and pregnancy-related deaths among young persons by age and sex

Age group	No. of deaths past 12 months		Percent			Pregnancy-related deaths (women)		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Total deaths	No. pregnancy related	%
12-14	757	1,311	36.6	63.4	57.7	1,311	52	4.0
15-19	1,752	2,647	39.8	60.2	66.2	2,647	228	8.6
20-24	5,913	8,630	38.7	61.3	63.2	3,350	480	14.3
25-34	2,516	3,809	40.7	59.3	68.5	8,630	1,266	14.7
Total Country	84,214	79,320	51.5	48.5	106.2	33,347	3,026	9.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 6.2 also provides further analysis of deaths recorded in the 2010 Population and Housing Census that were the result of accidents, violence, homicide and suicide in Ghana. The interesting revelation from the table is that overall, about 12% of deaths recorded in the census were due to accidents, violence, homicide or suicide in the whole of Ghana. However, we find much higher proportions of deaths among the adolescents and youth groups that were the result of one of these causes referred to in the table.

Table 6.2: Percent of deaths due to accident, violence, homicide and suicide among young persons by age

Age group	Total deaths	Due to accidents, violence, etc	%
12-14	2,068	384	18.6
15-19	4,399	721	16.4
20-24	5,467	1,067	19.5
25-34	14,543	2,367	16.3
Total Country	163,534	18,938	11.6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Quite specifically, we find that close to one in five deaths pertaining to young adolescents 12-14 years was due to accidents, violence, homicide and suicide. This compares with 16% of their counterparts aged 15-19 years. Among the youth groups, similar proportions of the reported deaths were reported to be associated with one of these causes (about 20% and 16% respectively for the 20-24 and 25-35 year groups). This is quite to be expected because these causes of death are associated with youthful exuberance. This explains why in the whole population, the proportion of deaths that is associated with accidents, violence, homicide and suicide is by far lower compared to that recorded for each of the adolescent and youth groups.

6.6 Summary and Conclusions

Children: Infant, child and under-five mortality have witnessed declines in the last two decades but further decreases would be expected. There are variations across regions but overall, it appears that infant and child mortality rates are higher in the northern regions compared to the southern half of the country. More work would have to be done to ensure appreciable declines in the mortality indicators pertaining to children.

Adolescents: The analysis on recorded deaths in the past 12 months before the 2010 PHC showed a higher proportion of the deaths to have occurred among female adolescents compared to the males. Consequently, the sex ratios pertaining to reported deaths in the 12 months preceding the census was below 70. At the same time, deaths during the same period that were related to pregnancy were recorded at 4 percent and about 9 percent among adolescent females aged 12-14 and 15-19 years. These are maternal-related deaths which could be avoided if pregnancies at these young ages were avoided. Finally, deaths resulting from accidents, homicide and suicide represented between 16 percent and 19 percent of all deaths among the adolescents in the past 12 months before the census.

Youth: Similar results pertaining to deaths were recorded among the youth just like among the adolescents. The proportion of recorded deaths among the youth was higher for females than males and much higher among the youth than the adolescents. Again, the proportion of pregnancy-related deaths pertaining to the youth (14%-15%) was higher than the national average of 9 percent, suggesting that younger persons are more at risk of maternal mortality than older persons in the population. The analysis further shows that causes of death such as accidents, violence, homicide and suicide associated with youthful exuberance account for almost 20 percent and about 16 percent of all reported deaths 12 months prior to the census among the youth groups 20-24 and 25-35 years which is higher than the national average of about 12 percent.

CHAPTER SEVEN
ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

7.1 Introduction

Employment and job creation are fundamental objectives for leaders of every nation especially in developing countries. The size of the labour force is determined by the structure of the population which also shows the number of people who graduate each year into the labour force. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), everyone is eligible for employment at age 15 years and above. Yet, there are situations where children below age 15 years engage in all kinds of economic activities some of which have negative implications not only for their health but most importantly for their education. This Chapter examines the employment characteristics of young persons in the country, makes deductions on the extent of child labour in Ghana and examines its variation by region. In addition, it presents an analysis of the employment status and the sectors and industry of employment of young people in the country and brings out the implications for the development of the country.

Legally, child labour is prohibited under the Child Labour Act. In spite of this, child labour has been found to be quite high in Ghana. While it is normal and even encouraged that children participate in some form of work at the household level as part of their socialisation, some children are made to work in areas that are hazardous, abusive and exploitative. Children who find themselves in such work environments are often either exposed to health hazards or are unable to attend school.

According to the 2003 National Child Labour Study, one in five of all children 5-17 years were engaged in some form of child labour in Ghana (Ghana Statistical Service, 2004). The same study reports that some children numbering over 200,000 were actively engaged in mining and quarrying, hotels and restaurants, and fishing. While these types of work engagements were hazardous to the health of the children, in some cases, the children were required to work for more than four hours and in the night which are prohibited under the Child Labour Act. Cases of child trafficking for conscription into child labour in fishing communities along the Volta Lake have also been reported but often the magnitude of such hazardous work engaged in by some unfortunate children is not known as they are often shrouded in secrecy and not talked about.

7.2 Employment Status

The questions on the type of economic activity engaged in by persons were asked of only respondents aged five years and above. In this section, the target population is examined to find out the kind of work engaged in at the time of the census i.e., employment status, type of occupation and the type of industry within which persons were engaged for their livelihood. Throughout, a comparison is made by gender and region among children, adolescents and youth.

Table 7.1 presents the distribution of the population of young people by their employment status. For children, the analysis is limited to persons 5-9 years since in the 2010 Population and Housing Census questions on employment were only posed to those 5 years and above.

Children: The results from Table 7.1 show that among the children, two-thirds of either males or females were reported to be mainly engaged in contributing labour as family worker. This is to be expected because in Ghana, engaging in household chores is part and parcel of children's socialization processes as they grow from childhood into adulthood. It is, however, strange to find that about three percent of either male or female children were reported as being self-employed without employees while at the same time 0.2 percent of them were reported to be self-employed with employees. Again, 0.7 percent of the male and 0.3 percent of the female children were identified as being employees. These results suggest that some level of child labour is present in the country. On the other hand, for some children less than 10 years to be reported as being self-employed with employees suggests possible data errors since this is not possible at the young age of 5-9 years. Further investigation may be necessary. It is also interesting to note that about 30 percent of either male or female children were reported as seeking for work for the first time at the time of the census. This also suggests that instead of being engaged in schooling at these tender ages, a substantial proportion of the children were said to be actively looking for jobs. The search for jobs appears, therefore, to compete with child education in Ghana.

Table 7.1: Distribution of the population of young people by age-sex and employment status

Employment status	Male					Female				
	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35
Employee	0.7	0.5	8.0	22.2	28.1	0.3	0.3	5.9	14.3	13.1
Self-employed without employee(s)	2.9	2.2	23.4	34.3	50.4	3.1	2.5	26.1	42.7	62.2
Self-employed with employee(s)	0.2	0.2	1.2	2.1	5.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	2.1	4.2
Casual worker	0.1	0.1	3.4	4.3	3.2	0.1	0.0	2.2	2.0	1.3
Contributing family worker	66.7	84.6	45.6	16.0	5.6	66.0	82.8	40.5	16.5	12.0
Apprentice	0.1	0.1	6.1	8.7	2.3	0.1	0.1	8.9	10.0	1.9
Domestic employee (House help)	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.8	0.6
Other	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Person seeking work for the first time	29.0	12.1	11.3	11.5	4.4	29.9	13.7	13.7	11.5	4.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	206,923	251,394	395,307	670,732	1,734,436	195,675	223,962	389,272	788,679	1,895,209

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: At age 10-14 years, a majority of people is expected to be in junior high schools while those aged 15-19 years may be in senior high school or entering tertiary level of schooling and consequently not expected to be actively engaged in employment. However, as Table 7.1 presents, eight percent of the males and about six percent of the females aged 15-19 years were reported to be employees. This suggests that they were in some regular economic activity for which they received regular wages. Another interesting finding from the table is that almost a quarter of the 15-19 year old males and two percent of their counterparts aged 10-14 years indicated that they were self-employed without employees. The corresponding proportions among the female adolescents were 26 percent and about three percent. This is likely to be in the informal sector. Table 7.1 further shows that about 12 percent of male and almost 14 percent female adolescents were seeking work for the first time which was far below the percentage of children 5-9 years said to be seeking for work. This is not consistent with what is expected because adolescents 10-14 and 15-19 years are more likely to be seeking for jobs compared to their counterparts 5-9 years. Finally, engagement in family labour is still quite common among the adolescents, with as high as 85 percent and 46 percent respectively of 10-14 and 15-19 in contrast with 83 percent and 41 percent of their female counterparts employed as family worker. This is also to be expected in many communities in Ghana and may not attract monetary rewards.

Youth: With regard to the employment status of the youth across the nation, we find that the proportion of persons described as family workers is much smaller compared to the children and adolescents. However, the proportion of the youth working as self-employed without employees increased particularly among the females among whom about 43 percent and 62 percent respectively aged 20-24 and 25-35 years were recorded. The corresponding proportions among the males were 34 percent and 50 percent. We also note that about 12 percent and four percent of either the males or females were said to be actively seeking for jobs at the time of the census. As the age of the youth increases, it is clear that the proportion of the youth working as family worker reduces while self-employment without employees increases. The proportion of the male youth in particular aged 20-24 and 25-35 years who were described as employees was higher compared to the female youth.

Institutional Sector of Employment

The analysis further shows the institutional sector of employment among the young persons in the country. The results of the analysis are shown in Table 7.2.

Children: Among children, more than 70 percent of males are engaged in the private informal sector as against just 0.3 percent of them in the public (Government) sector. While the high proportion of children working in the private informal sector is expected, it is strange to have some number of children reported to be working within the public (Government) sector. This is because no government institution can employ children when the child labour law, which is initiated by the state, outlaws any engagement of children for work. This requires further investigation if it is not caused by errors in the data. For the females 69.8% were engaged in the private informal sector with only 0.2 percent in the public (Government)

sector. As was observed earlier, about 30 percent of the children were also seeking for employment for the first time.

Adolescents: The pattern of institutional sector of employment among the adolescents is not entirely different from that among children where a majority is engaged in the private informal sector. For example, among the females, as high as 86 percent and 84 percent of adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively were recorded as being engaged in the private informal sector. The corresponding proportions among the males were about 88% and 86 percent. This is possible because at this stage in their lives many of the adolescents are either without any professional skills or lack the requisite experience to be eligible for employment in the formal sector.

Youth: The results from Table 7.2 indicate that the proportion of those in the private informal sector was a little lower compared to that among the adolescents. The proportion of youth in the private informal sector was about 75 percent for males either of 20-24 or 25-35 years and 78% and 85% respectively among females. The proportion of youth employed in the private formal sector was also relatively higher among either males or females than that which was recorded within the public sector. This means that government's capacity to employ the youth in Ghana is becoming weaker.

Table 7.2: Distribution of population of young people by age-sex and institutional sector of employment

Institutional Sector	Male					Female				
	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35
Public (Government)	0.3	0.2	0.5	4.2	8.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	3.7	5.0
Private Formal	0.2	0.2	2.2	9.3	11.1	0.1	0.1	1.7	6.2	5.1
Private Informal	70.5	87.5	85.9	74.5	75.3	69.8	86.0	84.1	78.3	84.9
Semi-Public/Parastatal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
NGOs (Local and International)	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3
Other International Organisations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Person seeking work for the first time	29.0	12.1	11.3	11.5	4.4	29.9	13.7	13.7	11.5	4.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Occupation

Children: Majority of the children were reported in Table 7.3 as engaged as skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers. About 63% of the male children were identified as skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers compared to 58% among their female counterparts. This is inconsistent when juxtaposed against the fact that children of ages 5-9 years cannot boast of any skills that may be related to this area of work. However, since there was no other category for unskilled agricultural activities, it is possible that children classified as contributing to family work in Table 7.1 may have been lumped into the skilled

agricultural forestry and fishery workers. It may, therefore, be important to undertake further investigation into this finding.

Adolescents: The situation among the adolescents is similar to the children with more than two-thirds (75.9%) of males aged 10-14 years and 60.7% of 15-19 years compared to 58% and about 64% of the females respectively recorded as working as skilled agricultural and forestry workers. Other important areas the adolescents were engaged in included craft and related trades work which employed up 11% of the male adolescents aged 15-19 years and less than 4% of their counterparts of 10-14 years. These compare with 12% and 6% of the female adolescents in the age groups 15-19 years and 10-14 years respectively engaged in craft and related trades work. Once again, it is not clear as to the kind of skills that these adolescents possessed, suggesting that further investigations may be necessary. Quite expectedly, none of the adolescents was identified to work as professionals.

Youth: Among the youth groups, about a third of the males and 30% or less of the females were reported to be working as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers as Table 7.3 indicates. In comparison with the children and adolescents, however, the proportion of youth working in agricultural-related occupation was the least. Other occupations that employed quite a good proportion of the youth include craft and related trade which employed about one in five of the males aged 20-24 or 25-35 years and almost 15% of their female counterparts. For the female youth in particular, quite a substantial numbers representing close to a third were employed in the service and sales sector. The proportion of youth engaged in professional occupations although quite small, showed relatively higher proportions for the males compared to the females. This may be due to the relatively higher education of males compared to females in Ghana. Again, the small numbers employed as professional workers could be the result of the long years of training and working experience many professional and managerial jobs require which most of the youth may not have acquired at the time of the census.

Table 7.3: Distribution of population of young people by age-sex and occupation

Occupation	Male					Female				
	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35
Managers	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.3
Professionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	4.7
Technicians and associate professionals	0.1	0.1	0.7	2.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.0
Clerical support workers	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.9
Service and sales workers	3.3	4.5	8.4	11.0	10.4	5.5	10.8	23.1	30.9	32.4
Skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers	63.3	75.9	60.7	34.6	33.3	58.1	63.8	43.3	27.4	30.0
Craft and related trades workers	2.0	3.7	10.9	19.8	20.4	3.6	6.3	12.1	14.7	14.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.3	0.6	3.4	8.2	11.4	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.6
Elementary occupations	2.0	3.1	4.4	5.5	4.7	2.6	5.0	6.5	6.9	7.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Person seeking work for the first time	29.0	12.1	11.3	11.5	4.4	29.9	13.7	13.7	11.5	4.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Industry

Data on the type of industry people were working in were also collected in the 2010 PHC. The analysis of data on type of industry engaged in by the young people in the country is presented in Table 7.4.

Children: A majority of children were reported to be working in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. In Table 7.4, 63 percent of the males and 58 percent of females were recorded to be working in agriculture-related industry. This is to be expected because in Ghana agriculture continues to be the largest employer of persons in all ages within the labour force. Again, for the children, this is not strange because in Ghana particularly in the rural areas, every child goes to farm to support parents till the land. It is, however, difficult to tell if these children were working in paid agricultural jobs in which case it would amount to child labour which has been outlawed in Ghana.

Adolescents: The pattern of distribution of the adolescents by industry of engagement is not different from that exhibited by the children. Among the adolescent groups, however, Table 7.4 suggests a relatively higher proportion of the younger ones aged 10-14 years than older adolescents of 15-19 years among either males or females were reported to be working in the agriculture/forestry/fishing industry. It is also to be noted that wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing engage quite a good proportion of adolescents in Ghana. What is interesting is that in either the wholesale/retail or manufacturing industry, a higher proportion of the female adolescents than males were reported. Again, it is to be expected that relatively higher proportions of female adolescents were recorded to be engaged in accommodation and food service activities compared to the males. On the other hand, less than one percent of the adolescents were working in the information and communication industry. However, this is likely to increase in the face of on-going competition within the mobile phone service provision which increasingly employs adolescents as vendors.

Youth: Compared to children and adolescents, Table 7.4 present far smaller proportions of the youth groups to be engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. Among the male youth, about a third of either the 20-24 or 25-35 year-olds were reported to be engaged in this industry compared to smaller proportions among their female counterparts. Wholesale, retail and vehicle repairs industry and manufacturing were also important industries of employment of youth labour in Ghana. For example, about 14 percent of the males were engaged in wholesale, retail and repair of vehicles and motorcycles while about one in 10 of them worked in the manufacturing industry. Among the females, higher proportions were recorded in these two industries: about 17 percent and 25 percent respectively among the 20-24 and 25-35 female youth groups were engaged in wholesale, retail and vehicle repairs and about 14 percent in manufacturing. It is observed from Table 7.4, the distribution of the youth groups exhibits a wider spread across all the categories of industry compared to children and adolescents.

Table 7.4: Distribution of population of young people by age-sex and industry of employment

Industry	Male					Female				
	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-35
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	63.2	75.9	61.1	35.5	34.1	58.0	63.8	43.6	27.7	30.1
Mining and quarrying	0.1	0.3	1.5	2.2	2.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.4
Manufacturing	1.8	3.1	6.2	9.6	9.9	3.4	5.8	10.9	13.8	13.6
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Water supply; sewerage waste management and remediation activities	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Construction	0.1	0.2	2.2	5.8	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2.9	4.8	8.6	13.5	13.7	4.7	9.4	12.5	16.6	24.6
Transportation and storage	0.1	0.3	2.4	6.0	8.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	3.8	7.7	8.2	9.3
Information and communication	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3
Financial and insurance activities	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.8
Real estate activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional scientific and technical activities	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.0	0.9
Administrative and support service activities	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9
Education	0.1	0.1	0.6	4.1	5.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	3.6	3.5
Human health and social work activities	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.5
Arts entertainment and recreation	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Other service activities	0.2	0.4	1.9	3.6	3.8	0.3	1.1	7.1	12.0	7.3
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods - and services - producing activities of households for own use	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.1	0.8
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Person seeking work for the first time	29.0	12.1	11.3	11.5	4.4	29.9	13.7	13.7	11.5	4.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

7.4 Spatial Variation in Employment Status

Children: Table 7.5 presents the results of analysis of data on employment status of children aged 5-9 years by region. Two employment statuses are quite prominent in the table. These are employment status as family worker and those seeking work for the first time. This is true for either males or females with some variations among the regions. In all the regions, it appears that if a child is not working as a family worker then he/she may be seeking work for the first time. The Greater Accra Region for example has as high as 71 percent of the male children seeking for work for the first time while 22 percent were engaged as family worker. The proportion recorded among the females was 68 percent and 26 percent respectively. This

may be consistent with everyday observation on the principal arteries in the city of Accra where quite visibly children of less than 10 years are found engaged in all kinds of trade along the main streets where traffic jams are a regular feature. In contrast to this is the situation in the Northern Region where family workers formed about 81 percent of either male or female children in the region while 15 percent reported to be seeking for work for the first time. It must be pointed out also that the three northern regions recorded the highest proportion of children working for the family compared to all other regions in the country.

Table 7.5: Percent distribution of population 5-9 years by sex, employment status and region

Region/ Sex	Employment status									
	Employee	Self-employed without employees	Self-employed with employees	Casual worker	Contri-buting family worker	Appren-tice	Domestic worker	Worker	Seeking work for the first	Total
Male										
Western	1.2	4.1	0.5	0.3	57.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	36.5	100.0
Central	1.0	2.6	0.2	0.1	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	38.8	100.0
Gt. Accra	2.6	2.6	0.5	0.1	22.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	71.5	100.0
Volta	0.6	3.8	0.2	0.1	71.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	23.2	100.0
Eastern	0.5	2.9	0.2	0.1	50.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	45.9	100.0
Ashanti	1.2	2.8	0.6	0.1	52.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	42.9	100.0
B. Ahafo	0.5	2.6	0.2	0.1	73.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	23.3	100.0
Northern	0.2	3.1	0.2	0.1	80.5	0.0	0.2	0.4	15.4	100.0
U/East	0.2	2.6	0.1	0.0	79.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	17.2	100.0
U/West	0.2	1.9	0.2	0.0	78.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	19.3	100.0
Female										
Western	0.5	3.9	0.1	0.2	58.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	36.7	100.0
Central	0.4	3.3	0.1	0.0	58.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	37.3	100.0
Gt. Accra	1.1	3.8	0.4	0.1	26.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	68.3	100.0
Volta	0.2	4.4	0.1	0.1	68.9	0.0	0.1	0.2	26.0	100.0
Eastern	0.2	3.6	0.1	0.1	48.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	47.6	100.0
Ashanti	0.7	3.6	0.3	0.2	51.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	43.0	100.0
B. Ahafo	0.3	2.6	0.1	0.1	72.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	23.9	100.0
Northern	0.1	2.8	0.2	0.1	80.4	0.0	0.2	0.4	15.8	100.0
U/East	0.1	2.6	0.1	0.0	79.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	17.8	100.0
U/West	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.0	77.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	21.2	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Table 7.6 and 7.7 show an analysis of the employment structure of adolescents by region respectively among the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups. In Table 7.6, there is a clear indication of the importance of family labour provision among either the male or female young adolescents. More than 70 percent of the adolescents 10-14 years were reported as contributing family worker in all regions with the exception of Greater Accra which had 50 percent of their young adolescents males identified as family workers. Also among the females, Greater Accra and Volta region were the exceptional cases recording about 58 percent and 51 percent respectively of their young adolescents to be involved in family work. It must also be noted that among either males or females aged 10-14 years, the proportion recorded to be seeking work for the first time was highest in the Greater Accra Region (about 44 percent and 36 percent respectively among the males and females). The Ashanti Region

was next with 21 percent of the male and 24 percent of the female young adolescents reported to be seeking work for the first time. This situation could reflect the migration of children into the two main cities (Accra and Kumasi) located in the two regions in search of jobs.

Table 7.6: Percent distribution of population 10-14 years by sex, employment status and region

Region/ Sex	Employment status									
	Employee	Self-employed without employees	Self-employed with employees	Casual worker	Contri-buting family worker	Appren-tice	Domestic worker	Worker	Seeking work for the first	Total
Male										
Western	0.8	3.2	0.2	0.2	80.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	14.4	100.0
Central	0.6	1.7	0.1	0.1	83.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	13.8	100.0
Gt. Accra	2.3	2.5	0.6	0.2	50.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	43.8	100.0
Volta	0.4	2.7	0.2	0.1	88.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	8.1	100.0
Eastern	0.5	2.8	0.1	0.1	75.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	20.5	100.0
Ashanti	1.1	2.2	0.4	0.1	77.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	18.4	100.0
B. Ahafo	0.4	2.0	0.2	0.0	88.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	8.7	100.0
Northern	0.2	2.0	0.1	0.0	91.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	6.2	100.0
U/East	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.0	91.9	0.0	0.1	0.3	5.9	100.0
U/West	0.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	89.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	8.7	100.0
Female										
Western	0.4	2.9	0.2	0.1	81.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	14.2	100.0
Central	0.3	2.5	0.1	0.0	81.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	15.0	100.0
Greater Accra	1.4	3.5	0.4	0.1	57.9	0.2	0.1	0.3	36.2	100.0
Volta	0.1	1.8	0.1	0.0	51.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	5.8	100.0
Eastern	0.3	3.2	0.2	0.1	71.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	24.0	100.0
Ashanti	0.5	3.1	0.3	0.1	76.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	18.7	100.0
B. Ahafo	0.3	2.4	0.1	0.0	86.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	9.9	100.0
Northern	0.1	2.2	0.2	0.0	89.8	0.1	0.2	0.4	7.0	100.0
U/East	0.2	1.6	0.1	0.0	91.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	6.8	100.0
U/West	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.0	87.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	10.7	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

In Table 7.7, the very high proportion representing family workers reduces to bring about some more diversity in the employment structures of the older adolescents aged 15-19 years. For example, only 12 percent of the adolescent males and 18 percent of their female counterparts in the Greater Accra Region were reported to be engaged as family worker. This, however, compares with more than half of either male or female adolescents in the three northern regions. Besides, in almost all the regions 20 percent or higher of the adolescents aged 15-19 years were self-employed without employees, the highest proportions being recorded in the Volta Region among either males (30%) or females (33%) and the least in Upper West among the males (18%) and females (about 19%).

Furthermore, Table 7.7 reveals that in four regions namely Greater Accra, Ashanti, Western and Central, at least one in 10 of the male adolescents aged 15-19 years was an employee. In fact, in the Greater Accra Region, the figure was about one in five. In contrast, in the other regions much smaller proportions particularly in the three Northern regions were recorded as employees. Among the females, Greater Accra stands out with 16 percent of the adolescents aged 15-19 years being employees, followed by Ashanti (about 9%, Western (about 6%) and

Central (5%) while in the other regions less than 5 percent of the females adolescents were workings employees.

Table 7.7: Percent distribution of population 15-19 years by sex, employment status and region

Region/ Sex	Employment status									
	Employee	Self-employed without employees	Self-employed with employees	Casual worker	Contri-buting family worker	Appren-tice	Domestic worker	Worker	Seeking work for the first	Total
Male										
Western	10.8	19.6	1.1	6.4	41.4	6.0	0.8	0.3	13.7	100.0
Central	10.0	20.1	1.0	3.8	45.0	5.9	0.5	0.3	13.5	100.0
Gt. Accra	23.9	19.6	1.3	4.8	12.3	14.4	1.1	0.4	22.2	100.0
Volta	4.2	30.4	1.0	3.1	48.3	4.0	0.7	0.2	8.1	100.0
Eastern	7.9	29.0	1.0	3.3	36.7	5.5	0.8	0.3	15.5	100.0
Ashanti	12.0	20.4	1.2	6.1	30.9	13.0	0.6	0.2	15.7	100.0
B. Ahafo	5.8	21.2	1.1	3.4	55.4	4.2	0.6	0.2	8.0	100.0
Northern	2.0	25.1	1.7	1.0	61.9	1.8	1.0	0.4	5.0	100.0
U/East	1.9	27.4	1.0	1.1	61.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	4.7	100.0
U/West	1.6	18.3	0.9	1.3	68.8	1.4	0.5	0.2	6.9	100.0
Female										
Western	5.8	24.7	1.1	2.9	38.9	10.4	0.8	0.2	15.2	100.0
Central	5.0	26.7	1.0	1.5	41.1	8.0	0.7	0.2	15.8	100.0
Greater Accra	16.1	26.2	1.4	2.9	17.6	12.8	3.0	0.3	19.8	100.0
Volta	2.7	32.9	0.8	1.6	43.9	6.0	0.9	0.2	11.0	100.0
Eastern	4.6	31.1	1.1	1.7	31.8	8.9	1.1	0.2	19.6	100.0
Ashanti	8.8	24.1	1.3	3.7	27.0	15.4	1.2	0.1	18.4	100.0
B. Ahafo	3.8	21.9	1.1	1.7	49.3	9.6	0.8	0.2	11.5	100.0
Northern	1.6	26.3	1.6	1.9	58.6	2.6	1.1	0.4	5.9	100.0
U/East	1.7	27.6	1.2	0.9	56.3	5.2	0.7	0.2	6.1	100.0
U/West	1.4	18.6	1.1	1.3	63.4	4.5	0.5	0.2	8.9	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Apprenticeship is also recorded to be important among the adolescent group aged 15-19 years. This was particularly the case in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions where 14 percent and 13 percent respectively of the male adolescents were engaged in some kinds of apprenticeship. Among the female adolescents, apprenticeship was again found to be important in Ashanti (15%) and Greater Accra (about 13%), followed by Western and Brong Ahafo regions with about 10 percent of the female adolescents recorded to be engaged in apprenticeship. This is to be expected as this period in the life of adolescents is ideal for the

acquisition of employable skills particularly among those who could not continue with formal schooling.

Finally, the proportion of older adolescents (15-19 years) seeking work for the first time indicates some reductions in many of the regions compared to the younger adolescent group presented in Table 7.6. However, we find that in Greater Accra Region one in four of the male and one in five of the female adolescents were seeking work for the first time. Relatively high proportions (about 16% for males and 20% for females) in Eastern and Ashanti regions were seeking for work for the first time. The three Northern regions, however, recorded the least proportions of either younger or older male or female adolescents seeking work for the first time.

Youth: Tables 7.8 and 7.9 present a comparison of the youth by region and employment structures. From Table 7.8 it is clear that a higher proportion of youth aged 20-24 years were reported to be employees, the highest proportion of 38 percent and 27 percent respectively of the males and females recorded in the Greater Accra Region. For either male or female youth of this age bracket, the three Northern regions and Volta Region have the smallest proportions described as employees. Furthermore, the self-employed without employees category also recorded quite high proportions of the youth group aged 20-24 years in each of the regions. For this group, Volta Region followed by Eastern Region had the highest proportion of their self-employed without employees and the lowest proportions among the males were recorded in Greater Accra (24%) and Upper West Region (about 34%).

It is also observed that at age 20-24 years, quite a good proportion of the youth in all regions with the exception of Greater Accra was engaged as family worker. Only three percent of the males and five percent of the females in Greater Accra Region were family workers compared to a third or higher proportions in the three Northern regions among either males or females. Again, apprenticeship was found to be important among the youth especially in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions in respect of the males among whom about 12 percent and 14 percent respectively were reported as being engaged in apprenticeship skills training. With regard to the females, apprenticeship training (10% or higher) is found in Ashanti and Greater Accra in addition to Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Central regions. The other regions recorded less than one in 10 of their male or female youth to be in some apprenticeship. Finally, the proportion of the youth aged 20-24 years seeking work for the first time was highest in Greater Accra Region among the males and Ashanti Region among the females. The two regions are the most urbanized in Ghana and, therefore, may be perceived as providing opportunities for employment.

Table 7.8: Percent distribution of population 20-24 years by sex, employment status and region

Region/ Sex	Employment status									
	Employee	Self-employed without employees	Self-employed with employees	Casual worker	Contri-buting family worker	Appren-tice	Domestic worker	Worker	Seeking work for the first	Total
Male										
Western	24.0	31.7	1.6	7.0	15.2	6.9	0.6	0.2	12.8	100.0
Central	24.7	33.0	1.8	4.4	13.4	9.2	0.5	0.2	12.6	100.0
Gt. Accra	38.1	24.0	2.2	4.4	3.4	11.5	0.8	0.3	15.3	100.0
Volta	13.3	48.9	1.6	3.2	17.9	5.1	0.5	0.2	9.3	100.0
Eastern	20.2	41.1	1.9	4.1	11.5	8.2	0.6	0.3	12.2	100.0
Ashanti	24.6	30.5	2.7	5.6	8.9	14.4	0.5	0.2	12.6	100.0
B. Ahafo	16.7	37.5	1.7	4.5	23.8	6.1	0.5	0.2	8.8	100.0
Northern	5.8	42.1	2.3	1.2	39.0	2.6	0.8	0.4	5.8	100.0
U/East	7.4	43.4	1.5	1.7	35.8	2.9	0.7	0.1	6.4	100.0
U/West	7.1	34.3	1.2	2.0	44.5	2.0	0.5	0.3	8.0	100.0
Female										
Western	13.2	42.2	1.9	2.6	17.6	9.6	0.6	0.2	12.2	100.0
Central	13.0	48.3	1.7	1.6	13.5	10.1	0.4	0.2	11.3	100.0
Gt. Accra	27.0	36.4	2.3	2.5	5.1	11.5	1.4	0.2	13.7	100.0
Volta	7.5	56.8	1.4	1.3	16.4	6.6	0.6	0.1	9.4	100.0
Eastern	12.3	49.5	2.0	1.6	11.3	10.0	0.5	0.1	12.6	100.0
Ashanti	16.8	38.7	2.6	2.5	10.4	14.2	0.6	0.1	14.0	100.0
B. Ahafo	10.0	40.5	2.1	1.4	23.5	11.2	0.6	0.2	10.5	100.0
Northern	3.4	45.0	2.5	1.7	37.6	2.6	0.9	0.3	5.7	100.0
U/East	6.2	45.2	2.1	0.8	32.7	5.2	0.6	0.2	7.0	100.0
U/West	4.7	33.7	1.4	1.1	45.3	5.3	0.5	0.2	7.8	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

This may explain why the proportion of the 20-24 age group of youth seeking work for the first time is highest in the two regions. The other regions where the proportion of the youth group seeking work for the first time was higher than 10 percent include Western, Central Eastern among either males or females and Brong Ahafo for the females only. Among either males or females, the three Northern regions recorded the lowest proportions seeking work for the first time.

Table 7.9 also shows that more than half of the older youth aged 25-35 years, with the exception of those in Greater Accra and Ashanti for the males and Upper West for the females, were reported to be self-employed without employees. In Greater Accra and Ashanti regions the proportions were 34 percent and 47 percent respectively among the males and 48 percent in Upper West Region with respect to the females. On the other hand, the proportion that was reported to be employees was higher among the males than females in each region. So far, Greater Accra recorded the highest proportion of the older youth aged 25-35 years working as employees (about 46% of the male and 25% of the females). Fairly high proportions were also recorded as employees in Western, Central and Ashanti regions each with more than one in four of their male youth aged 25-35 years engaged as employees. In contrast, Western, Central and Eastern regions had at least one in 10 of their female youth aged 25-35 years working as employees.

Table 7.9: Percent distribution of population 25-35 years by sex, employment status and region

Region/ Sex	Employment status									
	Employee	Self-employed without employees	Self-employed with employees	Casual worker	Contri-buting family worker	Appren-tice	Domestic worker	Worker	Seeking work for the first	Total
Male										
Western	29.0	50.0	3.9	5.0	5.1	1.4	0.6	0.2	4.8	100.0
Central	29.3	52.1	4.7	3.3	3.8	2.0	0.5	0.1	4.2	100.0
Gt. Accra	45.8	34.4	6.7	3.3	1.2	2.3	0.6	0.2	5.5	100.0
Volta	18.2	65.8	3.3	2.2	4.8	1.3	0.5	0.1	3.7	100.0
Eastern	24.0	58.2	4.4	3.0	3.4	1.9	0.4	0.2	4.5	100.0
Ashanti	28.4	47.3	7.6	3.9	3.2	4.2	0.5	0.2	4.8	100.0
B. Ahafo	20.8	58.2	4.0	3.1	8.2	1.8	0.5	0.2	3.3	100.0
Northern	11.4	61.4	3.7	1.0	17.0	1.2	0.8	0.2	3.2	100.0
U/East	15.1	60.0	2.6	1.6	15.3	1.2	0.6	0.1	3.5	100.0
U/West	14.6	55.9	2.4	1.8	20.3	0.9	0.5	0.1	3.5	100.0
Female										
Western	11.4	61.7	3.6	1.6	14.6	1.6	0.7	0.1	4.6	100.0
Central	10.9	69.7	3.4	1.0	8.8	1.7	0.4	0.1	4.1	100.0
Gt. Accra	24.9	56.8	5.9	1.4	2.4	2.3	0.8	0.2	5.3	100.0
Volta	7.8	73.9	2.6	0.9	9.3	1.5	0.6	0.1	3.4	100.0
Eastern	10.6	70.2	3.6	1.2	7.5	1.8	0.5	0.1	4.5	100.0
Ashanti	14.6	61.3	5.7	1.6	7.9	2.7	0.5	0.1	5.5	100.0
B. Ahafo	9.0	61.2	3.5	1.0	18.3	2.3	0.5	0.2	4.0	100.0
Northern	4.2	57.1	3.0	1.3	29.3	0.8	0.8	0.2	3.2	100.0
U/East	6.4	60.2	2.6	0.8	24.9	1.4	0.7	0.1	3.0	100.0
U/West	6.2	47.7	2.1	0.8	37.4	1.4	0.5	0.1	3.7	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

In addition, Table 7.9 reveals that in all regions very small proportions of the youth aged 25-35 years were reported to be working as family workers with the exception of the three Northern regions either for the males or females. The proportion of the female youth aged 25-35 years in the Brong Ahafo Region who were working as family workers was also quite high (about 18% compared to 8% of their male counterparts). The proportion of this category of youth recorded to be seeking work for the first time was also the lowest in all regions compared to that recorded among the children and adolescent groups. At the same time, a smaller proportion of the older youth group 25-35 years were recorded as self-employed with employees and as casual workers. The numbers engaged in apprenticeship training at this age were equally small; perhaps at this age most of the youth requiring apprenticeship training would have done so already.

7.5 Summary and Conclusions

Children: From the results of the analysis, two-thirds of children of each sex were found to be contributing labour as family worker. Surprisingly, three percent of each of the sexes was also found to be self-employed without employees, which is difficult to appreciate. Unemployment was deduced to be high with about 30 percent of each of either the male or female children reported to be seeking for jobs for the first time. This suggests that in Ghana, the search for jobs among children compete with their education. A higher proportion of the

male (68%) and female (58%) children was, however, recorded to be engaged as skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers in Ghana. While this could be the result of data errors, considering that at that young age it is difficult for any of them to have any skills, it also suggests that child labour could be high in the country.

Adolescents: It was found that 8 percent of adolescent males and 6 percent of their female counterparts in Ghana were employees receiving some form of wages. Again, about a quarter of the males within the ages of 15-19 years old and 2 percent of their counterparts aged 10-14 years were self-employed without employees and as high as 85 percent and 46 percent of males aged 10-14 and 15-19 years old respectively were engaged in family labour compared to 83 percent and 41 percent of their female counterparts. As expected, a large percentage of either the male or female adolescents was engaged in private informal sector. It was also found that a higher proportion of adolescent females than males were working in the manufacturing sector in Ghana with agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors recording the highest proportion of these adolescents.

Youth: According to the census results, the females self–employed without employees represented 43 percent and 62 percent respectively of youth aged 20-24 and 25-35 years old. This compares with relatively lower proportions for the males. Compared to the adolescents and children, a much smaller proportion of the youth groups were recorded as seeking work for the first time. It is possible that by this age, a higher proportion of the youth would have had job. Similar to the adolescents, a high proportion of youth were engaged in the private informal sector either among the males or females. Consequently, the public sector is not a major recruiter of youth labour force in Ghana perhaps due to the relatively lower skills and experience many of the youth may possess to make them competitively eligible for public sector work.

CHAPTER EIGHT
DISABILITY

8.1 Introduction

Knowledge of disability among the population is important in informing policy interventions to address the challenges faced by people with disabilities. The 2010 Population and Housing Census collected information on all persons with or without disability and types of disability that respondents have. The types of disability for which information was collected were sight, hearing and speech, physical, intellectual and emotional. This Chapter discusses incidence and type of disability among children, adolescents and youth and its variation by sex, region of residence, literacy, educational attainment, marital status and employment status.

8.2 Type of Disability

Table 8.1 presents the results of the analysis on incidence and type of disability by age-sex for young people in Ghana. The results indicate that overall, between one to two percent of the population had some disability. Also, the rate of disability increases with age.

Children: The results of the analysis in Table 8.1 do not show much variation in reported disability by sex. This is because among children 0-9 years 1.4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively of males and females reported some form of disability. However, among the less than two percent of the children's population that reported some form of disability, some variations exist between the sexes regarding the type of disability they had. It should be noted that because of the possibility of one person having more than one disability, the percentages do not add up to exactly 100 percent. The male children reported a relatively higher disability with respect to only speech and physical. However, in terms of sight, hearing, intellectual and emotional disability, female children recorded a slightly higher proportion with disability than their male counterparts. It is also to be noted that while the proportion of male children with disability was highest with regard to sight and speech, on the other hand, sight and emotional disability were the two top-most disabilities among female children.

Adolescents: The analysis shows that among adolescents, a relatively higher proportion reported some form of disability compared to the children. Table 8.1 indicates that 1.7 percent and 1.9 percent of the adolescent males of age 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively had some disability. The corresponding proportions among the female adolescents of the same ages were 1.6 percent and 2.0 percent. Regarding the specific disabilities reported among the adolescents, Table 8.1 further shows that sight was the most commonly cited form of disability. Among males with disability, about 27 percent of those aged 10-14 or 15-19 year-olds had sight disability in contrast to about 28 percent and 29 percent of females with such disability. It is also to be noted that while among males with disability, speech (about 25%) and emotional (about 24%) disabilities were the most reported after sight disabilities. In the case of the females, about one in four of either age group was reported to have emotional

disability. Intellectual disability was also reported among one in five of either males or females aged 10-14 and 15-19 years who had any form of disability which is similar to the proportion reporting disability of speech although it was lower among the females of age 15-19 years (17%). The results do not show much variation between the male and female adolescent groups reporting hearing and physical disabilities.

Table 8.1: Percent distribution of population of young people in Ghana by reported disability and type and age-sex

Type of Locality	Total No.	%. with disability	% with no disability	Type of Disability							
				Sight	Hearing	Speech	Physical	Intell-ectual	Emo-tional	Other	Total
Male											
0-9	3,321,419	1.4	98.6	26.7	18.4	25.8	20.0	22.2	22.9	15.0	45,313
10-14	1,477,525	1.7	98.3	27.1	20.0	24.8	19.3	20.2	21.8	12.9	24,728
15-19	1,311,112	1.9	98.1	27.3	16.3	21.9	20.1	20.4	23.6	12.4	25,290
20-24	1,100,727	2.1	97.9	26.8	14.9	20.6	21.8	21.2	24.6	12.5	23,370
25-35	1,951,869	2.6	97.4	27.3	13.0	17.7	23.4	20.8	25.4	11.8	51,306
Female											
0-9	3,212,939	1.3	98.7	27.9	19.4	23.3	19.7	22.9	24.1	15.4	40,495
10-14	1,438,515	1.6	98.4	28.8	21.2	21.3	19.2	21.0	23.4	13.3	22,345
15-19	1,298,877	2.0	98.0	33.9	16.5	17.3	18.5	20.2	24.7	12.1	25,373
20-24	1,222,764	2.1	97.9	31.9	15.0	15.7	19.6	19.0	26.3	12.0	25,292
25-35	2,238,078	2.4	97.6	30.4	14.4	14.4	22.4	19.0	26.3	11.4	54,067

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The results of the analysis presented in Table 8.1 indicate that while the same proportion of the youth group aged 20-24 years reported some form of disability (2.1%) either among the males or females it was slightly higher among the 25-35 age group where 2.6 percent of the males and 2.4 percent of the females reporting some disability. Of the number of youth said to have a disability, the results once again indicate that sight was the most commonly reported and was relatively higher among the females than the males. While about 27 percent of the male youth aged 20-24 or 25-35 years who were suffering from some form of disability had sight difficulties, a higher proportion of their female counterparts (32% and 30% respectively) were reported to have sight challenges. This suggests that a relatively higher proportion of the female youth were reported to have some disability compared to the males were suffering from sight defects. Similarly, a slightly higher proportion of the female youth who had some form of disability were reported to have emotional disability compared to their male counterparts. However, with respect to intellectual, physical and speech disability, a contrary picture is shown with the male youth who had some form of disability recorded higher proportions to have these disability challenges.

8.3 Spatial Variation of Disability by Region of Residence

Variation in disability among young people in Ghana is of interest to policy makers. The analysis enables policy makers to identify where challenges are highest in order to address them. Table 8.2 presents an analysis of the disability situation in each region by sex.

Children: The information in Table 8.2 shows quite clearly that across all regions, reported disability is higher among male than female children. This is reflected in the observation that in each of the regions, more than half of children that were reported to have disabilities were among the male children while less than 50 percent was among children who were females. For example, the higher proportion reporting a disability among the males was in Upper West where 54 percent of all the reported disabilities among children in the region was among the males relative to 46 percent among the females. This pattern runs through where in each region at least 52 percent of all children suffering from any form of disability were males. This suggests that male children are relatively more prone to suffering from a form of disability in all regions in Ghana.

Adolescents: Among the adolescent groups, the picture is not very different from that seen among the children. However, there were some variation between the 10-14 and 15-19 year groups in some of the regions. In the case of adolescents aged 10-14 years, it is only in Volta Region that a higher proportion of adolescents with disability was recorded among the females. In the other nine regions, a different picture was recorded. Among adolescents aged 15-19 years, the situation is slightly different. Here, as shown in Table 8.2, the proportion of adolescents reported to suffer from a disability was higher among the females in four regions: Volta, Brong Ahafo, Greater Accra and Western while in the remaining six regions, the reverse was the case. It may appear that as adolescents grow older, females become relatively more at risk of suffering from one disability or another.

Youth: It is observed that in all but two regions, Northern and Upper West, reported disability among the youth was higher among females than males. However, at older ages, a higher proportion of the male youth aged 25-35 years than their female counterparts reported a form of disability in three regions in the country, namely Central, Northern and Upper West. It is not easy to speculate what accounts for these variations but comparing all the three groups of young persons (children, adolescents and youth), it can be fairly concluded that at very young ages, a higher proportion of males than females is likely to suffer from a form of disability. In contrast, however, the reverse is likely to occur within older ages perhaps due to the relatively different life cycles males and females go through as they grow older. These may be due to their biological and social differences.

Table 8.2: Percent distribution of population of young people in Ghana by reported disability, region of residence and age-sex

	0-9			10-14			15-19			20-24			25-35		
Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Western	52.8	47.2	100.0	52.5	47.5	100.0	49.9	50.1	100.0	48.0	52.0	100.0	48.7	51.3	100.0
Central	52.8	47.2	100.0	54.4	45.6	100.0	50.2	49.8	100.0	49.8	50.2	100.0	51.2	48.8	100.0
Greater Accra	53.2	46.8	100.0	53.2	46.8	100.0	49.2	50.8	100.0	47.4	52.6	100.0	48.3	51.7	100.0
Volta	52.2	47.8	100.0	49.0	51.0	100.0	45.8	54.2	100.0	47.7	52.3	100.0	49.4	50.6	100.0
Eastern	52.1	47.9	100.0	55.0	45.0	100.0	50.6	49.4	100.0	48.6	51.4	100.0	45.7	54.3	100.0
Ashanti	53.7	46.3	100.0	51.2	48.8	100.0	50.2	49.8	100.0	46.2	53.8	100.0	48.5	51.5	100.0
Brong Ahafo	52.4	47.6	100.0	51.5	48.5	100.0	47.5	52.5	100.0	46.0	54.0	100.0	48.2	51.8	100.0
Northern	53.4	46.6	100.0	52.7	47.3	100.0	51.1	48.9	100.0	50.2	49.8	100.0	50.2	49.8	100.0
Upper East	51.9	48.1	100.0	52.6	47.4	100.0	55.5	44.5	100.0	47.5	52.5	100.0	47.6	52.4	100.0
Upper West	54.4	45.6	100.0	53.3	46.7	100.0	52.1	47.9	100.0	52.8	47.2	100.0	50.7	49.3	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 8.3 a – e discusses the proportion of each sex that was reported to have a disability in each region in Ghana. This is to examine the possible variation among each of the three groups of young persons in Ghana by sex and region.

Children: In Table 8.3a, it is generally observed that with the exception of Ashanti Region where the proportion of children of each sex reported to suffer from a disability was the same (1.1%), the other regions recorded relatively higher proportion of male children with disability than their female counterparts. The difference, however, was quite small between the sexes. In each of the nine regions where the proportion with disability is higher among males than females, the proportion of the males with disability was 0.1 percentage point higher than the females apart from the Upper West Region where the male proportion is higher by 0.2 percentage points.

Table 8.3a: Percent of population 0-9 years with disability by sex and region

Region	Total Population		Population with disability		Percent with disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western	325,361	314,020	4,102	3,666	1.3	1.2
Central	302,291	293,994	3,932	3,453	1.3	1.2
Greater Accra	436,790	430,560	5,346	4,898	1.2	1.1
Volta	285,381	278,107	4,487	4,118	1.6	1.5
Eastern	351,313	336,177	4,961	4,272	1.4	1.3
Ashanti	623,122	603,629	7,097	6,437	1.1	1.1
Brong Ahafo	326,374	312,281	3,816	3,335	1.2	1.1
Northern	415,197	401,421	7,075	6,567	1.7	1.6
Upper East	152,810	144,745	2,511	2,104	1.6	1.5
Upper West	102,780	98,005	1,986	1,645	1.9	1.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

The variation in the proportion of adolescents with disability by region among males and females is shown in Tables 8.3a and b. Just like was depicted among the children in Table 8.3a, it is shown in Table 8.3b that a relatively higher proportion of the male adolescents than their female counterparts were reported to be suffering from a disability. The only exceptions were in the Eastern Region where the reverse was the case and the Northern Region which registered the same proportion of 1.8% among either the male or female adolescents with some form of disability. In contrast to the picture shown among adolescents aged 10-14 years, there were slightly different results among their counterparts aged 15-19 years (Table 8.3c). In that table, four regions namely: Western, Northern, Brong Ahafo and Upper West, recorded the same proportion of either male or female adolescents with some form of disability. On the other hand, in Central, Northern and Upper West regions, a relatively higher proportion of the male adolescents than their female counterparts had a disability. In the other three regions: Volta, Eastern and Ashanti, the results were to the contrary with higher proportion of the female adolescents reporting some disabilities than that among their male counterparts.

Table 8.3b: Percent of population 10-14 years with disability by sex and region

Region	Total Population		Population with disability		Percent with disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western	145,176	141,957	2,280	1,913	1.6	1.3
Central	139,658	135,891	2,402	2,112	1.7	1.6
Greater Accra	183,246	203,036	2,792	2,906	1.5	1.4
Volta	128,578	120,759	2,743	2,248	2.1	1.9
Eastern	167,665	155,899	2,725	2,598	1.6	1.7
Ashanti	287,944	289,223	4,120	3,874	1.4	1.3
Brong Ahafo	150,551	143,485	2,093	1,876	1.4	1.3
Northern	154,824	139,171	2,855	2,572	1.8	1.8
Upper East	71,453	65,611	1,502	1,317	2.1	2.0
Upper West	48,430	43,483	1,216	929	2.5	2.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 8.3c: Percent of population 15-19 years with disability by sex and region

Region	Total Population		Population with disability		Percent with disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western	127,632	123,672	2,277	2,257	1.8	1.8
Central	119,095	124,925	2,459	2,544	2.1	2.0
Greater Accra	180,173	208,230	3,171	3,753	1.8	1.8
Volta	115,697	106,856	2,818	2,747	2.4	2.6
Eastern	144,066	135,168	2,960	2,932	2.1	2.2
Ashanti	253,131	261,672	4,276	4,725	1.7	1.8
Brong Ahafo	131,054	122,395	2,104	2,012	1.6	1.6
Northern	138,919	123,016	2,826	2,268	2.0	1.8
Upper East	60,310	55,642	1,381	1,272	2.3	2.3
Upper West	41,035	37,301	1,018	863	2.5	2.3

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Among the youth aged either 20-24 or 25-35 years, one pattern is observable across all 10 regions in Ghana. In all regions, the proportion of male youth aged 20-24 years that reported some disabilities was higher than that among females in all regions except in the Eastern Region where there was no difference between males and females. In Ashanti Region on the other hand, a relatively higher proportion of female youth than their male counterparts reported some disabilities. The results also indicate that among either males or females of the youthful age 20-24 years, the Volta Region recorded the highest proportion of the youth to have a disability. The youth of this age group recorded three percent among males or females with some disability which in the other regions it was below three percent.

Similarly, among the youth group aged 25-35 years, Volta Region recorded the highest proportion with disability which was almost four percent among either males or females. The Volta Region was followed by the Upper East Region where 3.7 percent of the males and 2.9

percent of the females were recorded as having a disability and in the Upper West Region which had 3.5 percent and 2.9 percent respectively of males and females as having a disability. It is also clear that in all the regions, a relatively higher proportion of the males of age 25-35 years were reported to have a disability compared to their female counterparts. This suggests that a higher proportion of male young persons in Ghana are likely to have some disability in each region than their female counterparts.

Table 8.3d: Percent of population 20-24 years with disability by sex and region

Region	Total Population		Population with disability		Percent with disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western	110,460	118,795	2,261	2,279	2.0	1.9
Central	92,178	103,551	2,176	2,418	2.4	2.3
Greater Accra	215,803	242,272	4,053	4,442	1.9	1.8
Volta	86,049	93,400	2,660	2,810	3.1	3.0
Eastern	104,571	117,053	2,464	2,864	2.4	2.4
Ashanti	222,112	251,410	4,022	4,726	1.8	1.9
Brong Ahafo	102,007	111,687	1,861	1,846	1.8	1.7
Northern	98,318	112,364	2,036	2,252	2.1	2.0
Upper East	40,214	42,298	1,097	982	2.7	2.3
Upper West	29,015	29,934	740	673	2.6	2.2

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 8.3e: Percent of population 25-35 years with disability by sex and region

Region	Total Population		Population with disability		Percent with disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western	196,541	210,558	5,085	4,849	2.6	2.3
Central	151,050	181,127	4,828	5,159	3.2	2.8
Greater Accra	423,285	453,636	9,121	9,338	2.2	2.1
Volta	144,255	174,291	5,453	6,490	3.8	3.7
Eastern	186,584	212,764	5,800	6,166	3.1	2.9
Ashanti	388,813	444,654	8,690	9,339	2.2	2.1
Brong Ahafo	174,796	198,733	4,015	3,979	2.3	2.0
Northern	176,635	224,692	4,347	4,778	2.5	2.1
Upper East	64,848	80,819	2,397	2,331	3.7	2.9
Upper West	45,062	56,804	1,570	1,638	3.5	2.9

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

8.4 Disability by Marital Status

In Section 8.3, it was found that reported disability is likely to be higher among females than males as they grow older. We also know that both males and females go through different life situations which could make them become differently susceptible to disabilities of different kinds. An important life situation that young people are likely to go through that could make them become prone to one disability or another is marriage. Interestingly, in Ghana, marriage

is largely universal in that almost everyone is expected to marry at a point in time. At the same time, through childbearing, women go through different physical, mental and psychological circumstances that are quite different from men. It is, therefore, important at this stage to examine the extent to which a young person's marital status may influence his/her disability status in Ghana. Conversely, the disability status of people could also affect their eligibility to being married. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 8.3. It should, however, be noted that the analysis is limited largely to adolescents and youth since the 2010 Population and Housing Census did not asked questions on marital status to children less than 12 years. The comparison is, therefore, between the adolescent and youth groups with all children below 10 years presented as never married in the table.

Adolescents: There were no separated, divorced or widowed adolescents of age 10-14 years as shown in Table 8.4 and, therefore, the discussion on adolescents is mainly with reference to the 15-19 year group. Among this group, we find that disability is highest among the widowed, followed by the divorced and then the separated and those living together. The never married and married adolescents reported the lowest proportion with disability, each with 1.9 percent recorded to have some form of disability. It is quite clear that marital separation, dissolution and widowhood could be a greater determinant or consequence of disability where for example on account of disability, marriages could face a threat of instability. Again, depending on the circumstances surrounding a marital separation or dissolution, the partners involved could be prone to different forms of disability especially emotional disability. Furthermore, a sudden loss of a marital partner could ignite emotional and other forms of disability particularly among young women. This may explain the relatively high proportion of widowed, divorced and separated adolescents who were reported to have disabilities.

Youth: A similar pattern is seen among the youth with respect to disability just like that observed among the adolescent group. Once again, the widowed, divorced and separated have the highest proportion of persons with disabilities. It has to be pointed out, however, that from Table 8.4, the analysis shows that the never married youth reported a higher proportion of their members with disability either among those aged 20-24 or 25-35 years. This, notwithstanding, stability within marriage should be cherished and worked towards achieving in order to reduce the incidence and prevalence of disabilities among the youth some of whom may be marrying for the first time.

Table 8.4: Percent distribution of population of young people in Ghana by reported disability, marital status and age

Age group & disability status	Marital Status					
	Never married	Living together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
0-9						
With disability	1.3	0	0	0	0	0
Without disability	98.7	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number	6,534,358	0	0	0	0	0
10-14						
With disability	0.9	1.8	1.7	0	0	0
Without disability	99.1	98.2	98.3	0	0	0
Total Number	2,815,900	9,715	90,425	0	0	0
15-19						
With disability	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.9	3.2	5.5
Without disability	98.1	97.6	98.1	97.1	96.8	94.5
Total Number	2,363,122	50,978	182,604	6,252	4,119	2,914
20-24						
With disability	2.1	2.3	1.8	2.9	3.7	7.5
Without disability	97.9	97.7	98.2	97.1	96.3	92.5
Total Number	1,596,712	165,450	518,585	20,737	15,919	6,088
25-35						
With disability	3.1	2.7	2.0	3.8	4.3	5.7
Without disability	96.9	97.3	98.0	96.2	95.7	94.3
Total Number	1,246,272	373,838	2,350,157	82,694	101,714	35,272

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

8.5 Summary and Conclusions

Children: The analysis does not reveal much variation in disability by sex among children. The proportion of male and female children reported to have a form of disability was low: 1.4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively. Overall, physical and speech disability was higher among the males while among the females it was with regard to sight, hearing, intellectual and emotional. The regional analysis showed that more than 50 percent of children with disability were males in all regions, the highest being recorded in Upper West Region. It was thus quite evident that during childhood ages, a higher proportion of male children than their female counterparts are likely to report any form of disability.

Adolescents: The proportion of adolescents that were reported to have a form of disability was higher compared to that recorded among children in Ghana. Sight disability was the most commonly reported form of disability among the adolescents and this was found to be comparatively higher among the female than male adolescents. At the same time, emotional disability was observed to be higher among females than males. There were, however, no significant variations between the males and females relative to hearing and physical disabilities. Spatially, the picture shown among the adolescents was similar to that pertaining to the children across the regions. The exception was among adolescents 15-19 years where

disability was found to be higher among female adolescents in the Volta, Brong Ahafo, Greater Accra and Western regions while in the six remaining regions, the reverse was the case. Disability was also found to be related to marital status among the adolescents where the widowed, followed by the divorced and separated recorded higher prevalence of disability than either the never married (which recorded the lowest prevalence) or the married.

Youth: Disability was found to be higher among the 25-35 age group of youth compared to the younger group of 20-24 years. Sight disability was the most common disability among the youth and was higher for the females than the males. A similar observation was made pertaining to emotional disability which was higher among the female youth. At the regional level, all the regions except the Northern and Upper West regions recorded higher disability proportions among the females than the males. In higher ages 25-35 years, higher male than female reported disability was found in Central, Northern and Upper West regions. On the whole, the analysis suggests that more males tend to suffer from disabilities at very young ages while the reverse is true at older ages perhaps due to the different life cycle experiences males and females go through as they grow older.

CHAPTER NINE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

9.1 Introduction

Information technology is increasingly becoming a common feature of the Ghanaian society just like many developing countries. Today, mobile phone ownership appears to be almost universal in Ghana. Government has also embarked on a policy of one-child one laptop. Internet cafes are also common. The coverage of ownership of mobile phones and computers by region, type of locality and among children, adolescents and youth in the country is, however, not well documented. Luckily, the 2010 PHC collected data on information technology (IT) pertaining to household ownership and usage of mobile phones and computers among the population. The purpose of this section, therefore, is to examine coverage of these IT facilities in terms of household ownership of computers and mobile phones in the country among children, adolescents and youth.

9.2 Household Ownership of Computer

The results presented in Table 9.1 compare household ownership of computers by type of residence in Ghana. The 2010 PHC captured data on ICT that is fast becoming an important issue in a world which is rapidly becoming a global village. The questions sought to find out the ownership of either a laptop or desktop computer by the household, thus whether any member of the household to which children, adolescents or youth belonged owned either a laptop or desktop computer.

Children: Table 9.1 indicates that in urban areas one in ten of children were living in households with either a laptop or desktop while in rural areas it was one in hundred. This is to be expected because in the rural areas, it may be difficult to use such equipment without regular electricity supply. At the same time, illiteracy is generally higher in rural than urban areas and, therefore, many rural households may be handicapped finding a use for computers compared to their counterparts in the urban areas.

Adolescents: Table 9.1 indicates that in households where the adolescents live, the picture with respect to ownership of computers is not different from that of the children. This is reflected in the observation that while about 12 percent and 14 percent of households of adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 years respectively reported ownership of a computer in the urban area, the corresponding proportions among their rural counterparts were 1.7 percent and 2.4 percent. The difference between the rural and urban areas is again to be expected just like in the case of adolescents. It should, however, be noted that it is not encouraging to find that in 86-88 percent of households in urban areas in Ghana, adolescents do not have access to either a laptop or desktop at the household level. It should, however, be noted that in the urban areas, the adolescents may have access to internet cafes where many of them would be able to access ICT services.

Youth: The picture among the youth looks a bit better and it is to be expected because persons in these ages may be either students beyond the secondary level or may be employed and, therefore, may be in a position to afford a laptop or desktop. This is also because they may need computers for their studies or work. It is also quite common for some parents to purchase personal computers for their children and wards in higher institutions of learning. Among the youth, about 17 percent and 15 percent of households they were members of reported to have ownership of either a laptop or desktop in the urban areas while about 3 percent or less of households of their peers in the rural areas indicated ownership of personal computers. The variation between the rural and urban areas is, however, similar to that among children and adolescents. The results call for more to be done with respect to the rural areas.

Table 9.1: Percent distribution of population of young people by household ownership of computer and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Age	Yes (%)	No (%)	%	Total No.	Yes (%)	No (%)	%	Total No.
0-9	9.9	90.1	100.0	2,878,402	1.3	98.7	100.0	3,557,879
10-14	11.7	88.3	100.0	1,357,180	1.7	98.3	100.0	2,726,032
15-19	14.0	86.0	100.0	1,305,062	2.4	97.6	100.0	2,165,172
20-24	16.9	83.1	100.0	1,265,415	3.4	96.6	100.0	3,942,786
25-35	15.2	84.8	100.0	2,300,930	2.7	97.3	100.0	3,557,879

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

9.3 Regional Variation in Computer Ownership

Tables 9.2 to 9.6 present data on household ownership of computers by region and locality of residence.

Children: At the regional level, the picture as shown in Table 9.2 quite expectedly is better among children resident in urban areas compared to others in the rural areas. Among the children, Greater Accra reported the highest proportion of ownership of a laptop or desktop (about 16%) at the household level while the Northern Region reported the lowest ownership of just about 5%. Ashanti Region is next to the Greater Accra Region in ownership of computers in the urban areas. The gap between Greater Accra and the other regions is much wider in the rural areas considering that 7% of households of children in rural Greater Accra Region reported ownership of computers with less than two percent of rural resident children in each of the other regions indicating ownership of a computer. Ownership of computers by region is a reflection of the more urbanized regions having advantage over those that are less urbanized.

Table 9.2: Percent distribution of population of children 0-9 years by household ownership of computer, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	9.3	90.7	232,542	100.0	1.6	98.4	393,831	100.0
Central	6.2	93.8	256,988	100.0	1.7	98.3	329,402	100.0
Greater Accra	15.7	84.3	750,968	100.0	7.2	92.8	98,967	100.0
Volta	4.6	95.4	169,887	100.0	0.8	99.2	386,958	100.0
Eastern	6.6	93.4	262,707	100.0	1.2	98.8	414,815	100.0
Ashanti	11.1	88.9	665,051	100.0	1.9	98.1	543,220	100.0
Brong Ahafo	5.6	94.4	251,523	100.0	1.1	98.9	379,740	100.0
Northern	4.8	95.2	207,742	100.0	0.4	99.6	598,744	100.0
Upper East	6.4	93.6	55,164	100.0	0.7	99.3	239,877	100.0
Upper West	7.9	92.1	25,830	100.0	0.7	99.3	172,325	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: The variation of adolescents in household ownership of computers by region as depicted in Tables 9.3 and 9.4 does not deviate dramatically from the picture presented among the children. The only difference is that the proportion of households of adolescents in each region that reported computer ownership was higher than those recorded among children. Households in Greater Accra still lead in ownership of computers with about 18% of adolescents aged 10-14 years and one in five of others 15-19 years in urban areas in the region having access to either a laptop or a desktop at the household level compared to a little less than 10% and about 13% respectively of their rural counterparts. This is followed by households of adolescents in the Ashanti Region with about 13% and 17% ownership of computers respectively among the 10-14 and 15-19 year groups in the urban areas compared with about two percent and four percent in the rural areas in the region among the 10-14 and 15-19 year groups respectively. The region with the least reported household computer ownership was in the Northern Region where about between five and seven percent of households in the urban areas and less than one percent in the rural areas indicated ownership of a computer in the region. It has to be noted also that adolescents in the Western Region ranked highest in access to computers after their counterparts in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions.

Table 9.3: Percent distribution of population of adolescents 10-14 years by household ownership of computer, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	11.5	88.5	114,464	100.0	2.2	97.8	165,814	100.0
Central	7.5	92.5	119,789	100.0	2.1	97.9	149,118	100.0
Greater Accra	18.4	81.6	336,229	100.0	8.9	91.1	41,436	100.0
Volta	5.7	94.3	80,352	100.0	1.0	99.0	164,970	100.0
Eastern	8.0	92.0	134,564	100.0	1.7	98.3	182,713	100.0
Ashanti	13.4	86.6	324,089	100.0	2.4	97.6	240,578	100.0
Brong Ahafo	6.9	93.1	127,304	100.0	1.4	98.6	162,647	100.0
Northern	5.5	94.5	82,522	100.0	0.5	99.5	207,777	100.0
Upper East	7.3	92.7	25,664	100.0	0.8	99.2	110,312	100.0
Upper West	9.0	91.0	12,203	100.0	0.8	92.2	78,431	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 9.4: Percent distribution of population of adolescents 15-19 years by household ownership of computer, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	15.0	85.0	107,683	100.0	3.0	97.0	135,435	100.0
Central	10.7	89.3	106,879	100.0	3.8	96.2	118,296	100.0
Greater Accra	21.9	78.1	336,280	100.0	12.7	87.3	36,804	100.0
Volta	7.4	92.6	78,750	100.0	1.4	98.6	140,268	100.0
Eastern	11.5	88.5	124,433	100.0	2.9	97.1	146,473	100.0
Ashanti	17.4	82.6	310,474	100.0	4.1	95.9	187,898	100.0
Brong Ahafo	9.4	90.6	117,784	100.0	2.4	97.6	130,582	100.0
Northern	6.9	93.1	85,353	100.0	0.8	99.2	172,949	100.0
Upper East	9.5	90.5	24,492	100.0	1.4	98.6	90,135	100.0
Upper West	14.7	85.3	12,934	100.0	1.5	98.5	63,396	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Reported proportions of household ownership of computers among the youth are presented in Tables 9.5 and 9.6 respectively for the 20-24 and 25-35 year groups constituting the youth. The differential ownership of computers by region reveals a similar pattern where Greater Accra and Northern regions respectively reported the highest and lowest proportion of households with ownership of a computer either among the urban or rural areas. Among this group, computer ownership ranged from a low of about 7 percent to a high of 22 percent respectively in the Northern and Greater Accra regions relative to the urban areas among the youth group aged 20-24 years. In contrast, in the rural areas, household computer was reported to range from a low of less than one percent in the Northern Region to a high of 13 percent in the Greater Accra Region. A similar observation can be made from Table 9.6 in respect of the youth group 25-35 years. The Western Region recorded the third highest proportion of ownership (about 14) in the urban areas after Ashanti Region's 14 percent. In the entire data presentation, the ownership of either a desktop or laptop across the country is

as expected better in the urban areas as opposed to the rural areas based on the relatively better living conditions and standards of living in the urban than rural areas in addition to the higher urban than rural literacy rates in the country as have been recorded in Chapter Four.

What is quite clear from the results of the analysis on household computer ownership is that as age increases, there is a higher tendency for a higher proportion of young persons to own either a laptop or desktop at the household level. The rural folks are at a disadvantage but there is every indication that sooner or later more households hosting young persons in rural areas may become owners of computers. This is based on the kind of transformation and education currently on-going regarding the use of information technology in the country especially government's policy of one-child one-laptop that was launched not too long ago throughout the country that with.

Table 9.5: Percent distribution of population of youth 20-24 years by household ownership of computer, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	14.5	85.5	99.950	100.0	3.0	97.0	117,185	100.0
Central	10.6	89.4	89,241	100.0	3.8	96.2	84,180	100.0
Greater Accra	21.5	78.5	395,374	100.0	12.9	87.1	35,611	100.0
Volta	7.5	92.5	66,376	100.0	1.5	98.5	109,108	100.0
Eastern	11.3	88.7	101,508	100.0	2.8	97.2	110,841	100.0
Ashanti	16.6	83.4	305,419	100.0	3.8	96.2	148,349	100.0
Brong Ahafo	9.3	90.7	100,211	100.0	2.2	97.8	101,903	100.0
Northern	7.0	93.0	71,962	100.0	0.8	99.2	134,992	100.0
Upper East	9.8	90.2	21,463	100.0	1.4	98.6	58,824	100.0
Upper West	14.2	85.8	13,911	100.0	1.5	98.5	41,943	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 9.6: Percent distribution of population of youth 25-35 years by household ownership of computer, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total N.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total N.	%
Western	13.9	86.1	171,139	100.0	2.7	97.3	222,525	100.0
Central	10.5	89.5	160,842	100.0	3.7	96.3	155,106	100.0
Greater Accra	21.0	79.0	779,834	100.0	13.0	87.0	69,283	100.0
Volta	7.7	92.3	115,987	100.0	1.6	98.4	197,418	100.0
Eastern	11.0	89.0	176,432	100.0	2.7	97.3	212,732	100.0
Ashanti	13.8	84.2	536,599	100.0	3.4	96.6	277,308	100.0
Brong Ahafo	9.3	90.7	170,709	100.0	2.0	98.0	194,050	100.0
Northern	7.2	92.8	131,993	100.0	0.7	99.3	263,056	100.0
Upper East	10.1	89.9	36,869	100.0	1.4	98.6	106,805	100.0
Upper West	13.6	86.4	20,526	100.0	1.3	98.5	79,331	100.0

9.4 Mobile Phone Ownership

The 2010 Population and Housing Census collected information on mobile phone ownership among all household members aged 12 years and above in Ghana. The analysis in this monograph, therefore, excludes children below 12 years. The results in Table 9.6 show the proportion of young persons by ownership of mobile phones by rural-urban residence among adolescents and youth. From the results, there is a clear indication that ownership of mobile phones in Ghana is far higher in urban than rural areas across all age groups considered. There is also a clear indication of a direct relationship between age and ownership of mobile phone in the country irrespective of type of locality of residence, i.e., whether rural or urban. Thus, the proportion that owns mobile phones increases as age increases.

Adolescents: Ownership of mobile phones is higher among older adolescents aged 15-19 years compared to their younger counterparts of age 12-14 years whether in the urban or rural areas. The proportion of adolescents aged 15-19 years with ownership of mobile phones was about four times that among those of age 12-14 years in the urban areas and seven times in the rural areas. This shows a bigger gap between the two adolescent groups in the rural than urban areas in Ghana. The difference between the urban and rural areas is expected because not all rural areas in Ghana have access to electricity which is required to regularly charge the batteries of the mobile phone by their owners. At the same time, income levels in the rural areas are much lower than in the urban areas, making ownership of mobile phones become more affordable in urban areas than rural localities.

Table 9.6: Percent distribution of population of young people by ownership of mobile phones and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Age	Yes (%)	No (%)	%	Total No.	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
12-14	8.5	91.5	100.0	815,040	2.3	97.7	100.0	862,841
15-19	37.0	63.0	100.0	1,364,124	15.5	84.5	100.0	1,245,865
20-24	73.9	26.1	100.0	1,356,838	38.5	61.5	100.0	966,653
25-35	80.7	19.3	100.0	2,380,388	42.1	57.9	100.0	1,809,559

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Table 9.6 shows that ownership of mobile phones among the youth in urban areas is about two times that among adolescents 15-19 years. In the rural areas, however, ownership of mobile phones among the youth is slightly higher than two times that among their counterparts 15-19 years. Access to mobile phones is, therefore, quite high among the urban youth in Ghana with just about 20 percent and 26 percent of the youth aged 25-35 years and 20-24 years respectively with no ownership of mobile phones. This compares with as high as 62 percent and 58 percent respectively among the youth in rural areas in the country who do not own a mobile phone.

9.5 Regional Variation in Mobile Phone Ownership

Regional variations in mobile phone ownership among adolescents and youth in Ghana are presented in Tables 9.7 to 9.10. The results indicate few variations across the regions with much higher ownership of mobile phones among the youth than adolescents.

Adolescents: Tables 9.7 and 9.8 present information on the proportion of adolescents with ownership of mobile phones by region in Ghana. Once again, adolescents in urban areas have relatively higher proportion of their members with ownership of mobile phones in all regions in the country. Among adolescents aged 12-14 years, Greater Accra recorded the highest proportion that owns mobile phones. Fourteen percent of adolescents of 12-14 years in Greater Accra Region recorded ownership of mobile phones compared to less than 10 percent in the other regions. So far, ownership of mobile phones is less than five percent in four regions: Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Northern. In contrast, ownership of mobile phones is less than 10 percent in the rural areas in all regions in the country, the highest of about seven percent being reported in Greater Accra Region while it was less than two percent once again in Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Northern regions. This is to be expected because on account of their young ages, it is rare for them to have mobile phones of their own and may share those of their parents or older siblings whenever it becomes necessary.

Table 9.7: Percent distribution of population of adolescents 12-14 years by ownership of mobile phones, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total N.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total N	%
Western	7.5	92.5	70,143	100.0	2.6	97.4	96,200	100.0
Central	5.5	94.5	72,677	100.0	2.3	97.7	87,811	100.0
Greater Accra	14.1	85.9	199,970	100.0	6.7	93.3	24,520	100.0
Volta	4.8	95.2	48,607	100.0	1.9	92.1	95,043	100.0
Eastern	6.0	94.0	82,000	100.0	2.5	97.5	106,349	100.0
Ashanti	9.0	91.0	195,728	100.0	2.8	97.2	139,833	100.0
Brong Ahafo	5.1	94.9	76,345	100.0	2.2	97.8	92,699	100.0
Northern	4.9	95.1	47,094	100.0	1.6	98.4	112,345	100.0
Upper East	4.2	95.8	15,072	100.0	1.7	98.3	63,903	100.0
Upper West	4.7	95.3	7,404	100.0	1.5	98.5	44,138	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 9.8 shows that once again adolescents aged 15-19 years in Greater Accra either in urban or rural areas have the highest proportion of ownership of mobile phones. Almost half of the adolescents of age 15-19 years in the urban areas and a little less than a third of their counterparts in the rural areas reported ownership of mobile phones. Greater Accra is followed by Ashanti Region with two in five of their members owning mobile phones in the urban areas while in the rural setting, Central Region comes second after Greater Accra. So far, the three northern regions (Northern, Upper East and Upper West) recorded the lowest

proportion with mobile phone ownership among adolescents aged 15-19 years whether in urban or rural areas. All the other regions recorded far lower proportion of ownership.

Table 9.8: Percent distribution of population of adolescents 15-19 years by ownership of mobile phones, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	34.9	65.1	113,208	100.0	18.3	80.7	138,096	100.0
Central	34.2	65.8	119,295	100.0	20.6	79.3	124,725	100.0
Greater Accra	47.3	52.7	350,501	100.0	30.5	69.5	37,902	100.0
Volta	26.1	73.9	80,710	100.0	13.7	86.3	141,843	100.0
Eastern	32.5	67.5	130,230	100.0	17.4	82.6	149,004	100.0
Ashanti	41.2	58.8	323,966	100.0	20.0	80.0	190,837	100.0
Brong Ahafo	29.0	71.0	120,916	100.0	15.3	84.7	132,533	100.0
Northern	20.9	79.1	86,699	100.0	6.1	95.9	175,236	100.0
Upper East	23.4	76.6	24,875	100.0	11.6	88.4	91,077	100.0
Upper West	22.2	77.8	13,724	100.0	8.4	91.6	64,612	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Youth: In comparison with the adolescents, mobile phone ownership was far higher among the youth in all regions in the country. The same observed pattern of a higher urban than rural household ownership of mobile phones among adolescents is also seen among the youth in Tables 9.9 and 9.10. It is also seen that ownership of mobile phones was relatively higher among the older youth aged 25-35 years compared to their younger counterparts of age 20-24 years in all the regions whether in rural or urban areas. The only exception was in Upper West Region in the rural areas where a slightly higher proportion of the youth aged 20-24 years (about 27%) owned a mobile phone compared to about 26 percent of their counterparts of 25-35 years. In conclusion, therefore, except in the isolated case of the Upper West Region, ownership of mobile phones happens to be higher with higher age among young persons in Ghana.

Table 9.9: Percent distribution of population of youth 20-24 years by ownership of mobile phones, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	71.8	28.2	109,435	100.0	44.1	55.9	119,820	100.0
Central	71.0	29.0	106,518	100.0	49.3	50.7	89,211	100.0
Greater Accra	82.0	18.0	420,482	100.0	67.4	32.6	37,593	100.0
Volta	61.7	38.3	68,951	100.0	36.5	63.5	110,498	100.0
Eastern	69.8	30.2	108,551	100.0	43.2	56.8	113,073	100.0
Ashanti	78.6	21.4	322,081	100.0	47.4	52.3	151,441	100.0
Brong Ahafo	65.6	34.4	109,744	100.0	37.4	62.6	103,950	100.0
Northern	50.0	50.0	73,695	100.0	14.6	85.4	136,987	100.0
Upper East	60.0	40.0	22,389	100.0	31.4	68.6	60,123	100.0
Upper West	63.9	36.1	14,992	100.0	26.7	73.3	43,957	100.0

Table 9.10: Percent distribution of population of youth 25-35 years by ownership of mobile phones, region and rural-urban residence

	Urban				Rural			
Region	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total No.	%
Western	77.5	22.5	179,652	100.0	48.9	51.1	227,447	100.0
Central	74.9	25.1	171,546	100.0	51.8	48.2	160,631	100.0
Greater Accra	88.5	11.5	805,773	100.0	76.5	33.5	71,148	100.0
Volta	70.8	29.2	118,862	100.0	42.3	57.7	199,684	100.0
Eastern	76.0	24.0	183,214	100.0	48.5	51.5	216,134	100.0
Ashanti	85.3	14.7	551,515	100.0	51.0	49.0	281,952	100.0
Brong Ahafo	72.2	27.8	176,107	100.0	40.4	59.6	197,422	100.0
Northern	59.3	40.7	134,594	100.0	17.2	82.8	266,733	100.0
Upper East	65.8	34.2	37,762	100.0	31.0	69.0	107,905	100.0
Upper West	69.1	30.9	21,363	100.0	25.5	74.5	80,503	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

9.6 Summary and Conclusions

Children: It has been observed that household ownership of computers is by far higher in urban than rural areas. One in 10 households of children in urban areas compared to less than two percent of their counterparts in rural areas was found to own a computer. High rates of illiteracy and poor rural infrastructure with particular reference to access to electricity could account for these urban-rural differences in computer ownership among households. The regional analysis also revealed that children in Greater Accra Region have the highest access to computers, followed by children in Ashanti Region. In contrast, children in Northern Region were recorded to have the least access to computers at the household level. The regional variation in ownership and access to computers is largely a reflection of differences in degrees of urbanization and development across the regions.

Adolescents: Ownership of computers at the household level was found to be higher among households with adolescents than that observed among those with children. However, the pattern where the urban areas were more advantaged was found among the adolescents. Once again, Greater Accra was noted to be ahead of all the other regions in terms of household ownership of computers with Northern Region being the most disadvantaged. Consequently, access to computers was higher in Greater Accra and least in the Northern Region among the adolescents.

Ownership of mobile phones was by far higher among adolescents in urban than rural areas. In terms of region, access to mobile phones was relatively higher among adolescents in Greater Accra Region than their counterparts in all the other regions either among those aged 10-14 or 15-19 years. Ownership of mobile phones was less than 10 percent in the rural areas in all regions in the country, with the highest (7%) being recorded in Greater Accra Region and less than two percent in Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Northern regions. Older adolescents aged 15-19 years enjoy a higher access to mobile phones compared to the

younger ones of age 10-14 years. This could be a reflection of the policy in schools in Ghana where young persons in Junior and Senior High schools in Ghana are not permitted to possess mobile phones while in school.

Youth: Household ownership of computers among the youth is not different from that observed among other households with children and adolescents. The proportion of households among the youth having computers, was, however, higher compared to that observed among the children and adolescents. The rural areas are still disadvantaged compared to the urban. Once again, household computer ownership was still higher in Greater Accra, followed by Ashanti Region with Northern Region trailing at the end. More attention is required to be focused on rural areas as the most deprived with regard to household ownership of computers.

Ownership of mobile phones among the youth was higher than that among the adolescents in Ghana. The youth in urban areas in all regions in the country recorded a much higher degree of ownership that those in rural areas. Furthermore, ownership of mobile phones was relatively higher among the older youth aged 25-35 years compared to the younger ones of age 20-24 years in all the regions irrespective of whether they were resident in rural or urban areas. With the exception of Upper West Region where a slightly higher proportion of the youth aged 20-24 years (about 27%) owned a mobile phone compared to about 26 percent of their counterparts of 25-35 years, the proportion of young persons with ownership of mobile phones increased with higher age in Ghana.

CHAPTER TEN
POPULATION PROJECTION OF YOUNG PERSONS

10.1 Introduction

Population projections are important in informing policy makers about the changes that are expected to occur in the population in order to plan towards addressing the challenges that accompany the changes. The changes that occur in a population would depend on the interplay of three main factors: fertility, mortality and migration. The purpose of this chapter, therefore, is to present the results of projections made in respect of the population of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana.

10.2 Methodology

The projection uses the Spectrum Model Software as the method for the projection of the population of young persons in Ghana. The model has a component known as Demproj which is used to undertake the projection of populations when the required data are available and appropriate assumptions are made. Three different projections are made namely the High, Medium and Low variants. The three variants each has varying assumptions regarding the rate at which the population is expected to grow based on differences in fertility which is also a factor of expected average increase in contraceptive prevalence rate throughout the projection period. While the Medium Variant projection is expected to produce relatively accurate results, the results of all three projections are presented to show the possible range within which the population of young persons is expected to fall.

The projection uses 2010 as the base year and the age-sex population distribution from the 2010 Population and Housing Census as the base-year population. The projection is done over a 10-year period 2010-2020. The projection is also done for the entire country before extracting the component made up of children, adolescents and youth. The following assumptions were made as the basis for the projection:

10.2.1 High Variant Projection

i. That Contraceptive Prevalence will increase by 0.4 percent per annum from 2010 to 2020. This has been the trend recorded in the 2003 and 2008 GDHS reports which is maintained to be constant throughout the projection period. Contraceptive prevalence of 21.6 percent is used at the base year and was assumed to reach 25.6 percent at the end of the projection period in 2020.

ii. Total fertility rate of 3.84 in 2010 and was projected to attain 3.63 at the end of the projection period. The base year figure was derived from an extrapolation from that recorded in 2008 using observed trend from the 2003 and 2008 GDHS reports.

iii. The age pattern of age-specific fertility rates from the 2008 GDHS is adopted to approximate for the base-year and projected using UN average model fertility patterns during the projection period.

iv. The sex ratio of 103 was used for the base year 2010 and this was assumed to remain constant over the projection period. The sex ratio was the same as that reported from the Population Reference Bureau's 2010 World Population Data Sheet figure for Ghana.

v. Life expectancy for 2010 (60.2 years for males and 63.4 years for females) was adopted and projected using the UN Population projection median variant projection "2010 Revision" available at www.esa.un.org/undp/wpp/index.htm. At the end of the projection period, these were assumed to reach 62.7 and 65.9 years respectively among males and females.

vi. The Coale-Demeny West Model life table is assumed to approximate Ghana during the projection period.

vii. International Migration is assumed to be zero during the projection period because of lack of relevant data for the projection.

10.2.2 Medium and Low Variants

All the assumptions under the High Variant Projection were maintained in the Medium and Low Variant projections except the assumption of contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) which was varied. In the Medium Variant Projection, CPR was assumed to increase by 1.0 percent each year throughout the projection period and was assumed to increase from 21.6 percent in 2010 to 31.6 percent in 2020. On the other hand, TFR was assumed to decline from 3.84 in 2010 to reach 3.36 in 2020. In the case of Low Variant, CPR was assumed to increase by 1.5 percent per year from 21.6 percent in 2010 to reach 36.6 percent in 2020. In contrast, TFR was assumed to decline from its 2010 level of 3.84 to 3.08 in 2020. The age-sex population distribution of Ghana for 2010 (Table 10.1) was used as the base year for the projection under each of the three variants.

Table 10.1: Age-sex base year population distribution of Ghana, 2010

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,731,787	1,673,619	3,405,406	7.0	6.8	13.8
5-9	1,589,632	1,539,320	3,128,952	6.4	6.2	12.7
10-14	1,477,525	1,438,515	2,916,040	6.0	5.8	11.8
15-19	1,311,112	1,298,877	2,609,989	5.3	5.3	10.6
20-24	1,100,727	1,222,764	2,323,491	4.5	5.0	9.4
25-29	943,213	1,106,898	2,050,111	3.8	4.5	8.3
30-34	790,301	888,508	1,678,809	3.2	3.6	6.8
35-39	676,768	744,635	1,421,403	2.7	3.0	5.8
40-44	572,620	613,730	1,186,350	2.3	2.5	4.8
45-49	452,975	485,123	938,098	1.8	2.0	3.8
50-54	394,600	438,498	833,098	1.6	1.8	3.4
55-59	258,582	265,113	523,695	1.0	1.1	2.1
60-64	227,050	248,799	475,849	0.9	1.0	1.9
65-69	136,244	157,627	293,871	0.6	0.6	1.2
70-74	149,512	201,818	351,330	0.6	0.8	1.4
75-79	89,149	116,804	205,953	0.4	0.5	0.8
80+	123,048	193,330	316,378	0.5	0.8	1.3
Total	12,024,845	12,633,978	24,658,823	48.8	51.2	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

10.3 Projection Results

Tables 10.3a and b, 10.4a and b, and 10.5a and b present the results of the projection of the total population of Ghana by age and sex respectively for the high, medium and low variant projections of the total population of Ghana for 2015 and 2020 in each case based on the assumptions adopted. Each of the projected population contains the children, adolescent and youth components that are of interest in this analysis. These have been extracted and shown in Table 10.2.

Table 10.2: Base year (2010) population and projected age-sex population distribution of children, adolescents and youth for 2015 and 2020

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2010						
0-9	3,321,419	3,212,939	6,534,358	13.5	13.0	26.5
10-14	1,477,525	1,438,515	2,916,040	6.0	5.8	11.8
15-19	1,311,112	1,298,877	2,609,989	5.3	5.3	10.6
20-24	1,100,727	1,222,764	2,323,491	4.5	5.0	9.4
25-29	943,213	1,106,898	2,050,111	3.8	4.5	8.3
30-34	790,301	888,508	1,678,809	3.2	3.6	6.8
2015 Proj.						
0-9	3,550,011	3,460,989	7,011,000	13.0	12.6	25.6
10-14	1,578,795	1,529,578	3,108,373	5.8	5.6	11.4
15-19	1,465,284	1,425,316	2,890,600	5.4	5.2	10.6
20-24	1,294,812	1,287,655	2,582,467	4.7	4.7	9.4
25-29	1,084,136	1,206,735	2,290,871	4.0	4.4	8.4
30-34	927,685	1,090,039	2,017,724	3.4	4.0	7.4
2020 Proj.						
0-9	3,764,673	3,696,053	7,460,726	12.4	12.2	24.7
10-14	1,688,056	1,634,919	3,322,975	5.6	5.4	11.0
15-19	1,566,904	1,516,543	3,083,447	5.2	5.0	10.2
20-24	1,448,614	1,414,845	2,863,459	4.8	4.7	9.5
25-29	1,277,028	1,272,646	2,549,674	4.2	4.2	8.4
30-34	1,067,926	1,190,192	2,258,118	3.5	3.9	7.5

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Population of Children: From Table 10.2, the results of the projection from the Medium Variant scenario indicate that the population of children 0-9 years would increase by 476,642 in the five-year period between 2010 and 2015 and add another 449,726 to reach 7,460,726 by 2020. However, the proportionate share of children of the total population of Ghana would see a gradual decline from almost 27% in 2010 to about 25% in 2020.

Population of Adolescents: The adolescent population is projected to increase from a total of about 5.5 million in 2010 to 6.4 million i.e., for both the 10-14 and 15-19 year groups, representing 11.4% and 10.6% respectively in 2015 and 11.0% and 10.2% in 2020. This shows that between 2010 and 2015, the adolescent population would increase by some 472,944 with an additional 407,449 by 2020.

Population of Youth: Similar to children and adolescents, the projected population of the youth groups would increase. During the period 2010-2015, the population of the youth aged 20-34 years would see an increase by 838,651 and in 2015-2020, 780,189 is expected to be added. However, in contrast to the children and adolescent groups, the proportion of the population of the youth is projected to increase slightly as more adolescents grow to join this group while fertility declines affect the size of the children's population at the base. This would mean that the number of people in the labour force would increase and more jobs would be required.

Table 10.3a: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2015 (High Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,897,863	1,862,492	3,760,355	6.9	6.8	13.7
5-9	1,698,444	1,643,902	3,342,346	6.2	6.0	12.2
10-14	1,578,795	1,529,578	3,108,373	5.8	5.6	11.3
15-19	1,465,284	1,425,316	2,890,600	5.3	5.2	10.5
20-24	1,294,812	1,287,655	2,582,467	4.7	4.7	9.4
25-29	1,084,136	1,206,735	2,290,871	3.9	4.4	8.3
30-34	927,685	1,090,039	2,017,724	3.4	4.0	7.4
35-39	774,906	872,585	1,647,491	2.8	3.2	6.0
40-44	659,777	728,445	1,388,222	2.4	2.7	5.1
45-49	552,870	596,766	1,149,636	2.0	2.2	4.2
50-54	430,559	466,814	897,373	1.6	1.7	3.3
55-59	366,123	415,166	781,289	1.3	1.5	2.8
60-64	231,142	244,369	475,511	0.8	0.9	1.7
65-69	191,622	218,939	410,561	0.7	0.8	1.5
70-74	105,182	128,225	233,407	0.4	0.5	0.9
75-79	99,135	143,093	242,228	0.4	0.5	0.9
80+	90,613	142,869	233,482	0.3	0.5	0.9
Total	13,448,949	14,002,989	27,451,938	49.0	51.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 10.3b: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2020 (High Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	2,081,583	2,041,391	4,122,974	6.8	6.7	13.5
5-9	1,865,843	1,833,946	3,699,789	6.1	6.0	12.1
10-14	1,688,056	1,634,919	3,322,975	5.5	5.3	10.9
15-19	1,566,904	1,516,543	3,083,447	5.1	5.0	10.1
20-24	1,448,614	1,414,845	2,863,459	4.7	4.6	9.4
25-29	1,277,028	1,272,646	2,549,674	4.2	4.2	8.3
30-34	1,067,926	1,190,192	2,258,118	3.5	3.9	7.4
35-39	911,231	1,072,341	1,983,572	3.0	3.5	6.5
40-44	757,041	855,198	1,612,239	2.5	2.8	5.3
45-49	638,534	709,647	1,348,181	2.1	2.3	4.4
50-54	527,026	575,535	1,102,561	1.7	1.9	3.6
55-59	400,761	443,080	843,841	1.3	1.4	2.8
60-64	328,558	383,955	712,513	1.1	1.3	2.3
65-69	196,176	216,224	412,400	0.6	0.7	1.3
70-74	148,993	179,432	328,425	0.5	0.6	1.1
75-79	70,565	91,768	162,333	0.2	0.3	0.5
80+	82,804	134,605	217,409	0.3	0.4	0.7
Total	15,057,644	15,566,267	30,623,911	49.2	50.8	100.0

Table 10.4a: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2015 (Medium Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,851,567	1,817,087	3,668,654	6.8	6.6	13.4
5-9	1,698,444	1,643,902	3,342,346	6.2	6.0	12.2
10-14	1,578,795	1,529,578	3,108,373	5.8	5.6	11.4
15-19	1,465,284	1,425,316	2,890,600	5.4	5.2	10.6
20-24	1,294,812	1,287,655	2,582,467	4.7	4.7	9.4
25-29	1,084,136	1,206,735	2,290,871	4.0	4.4	8.4
30-34	927,685	1,090,039	2,017,724	3.4	4.0	7.4
35-39	774,906	872,585	1,647,491	2.8	3.2	6.0
40-44	659,777	728,445	1,388,222	2.4	2.7	5.1
45-49	552,870	596,766	1,149,636	2.0	2.2	4.2
50-54	430,559	466,814	897,373	1.6	1.7	3.3
55-59	366,123	415,166	781,289	1.3	1.5	2.9
60-64	231,142	244,369	475,511	0.8	0.9	1.7
65-69	191,622	218,939	410,561	0.7	0.8	1.5
70-74	105,182	128,225	233,407	0.4	0.5	0.9
75-79	99,135	143,093	242,228	0.4	0.5	0.9
80+	90,613	142,869	233,482	0.3	0.5	0.9
Total	13,402,653	13,957,584	27,360,237	49.0	51.0	100.0

Table 10.4b: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2020 (Medium Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,944,147	1,906,643	3,850,790	6.4	6.3	12.7
5-9	1,820,526	1,789,410	3,609,936	6.0	5.9	11.9
10-14	1,688,056	1,634,919	3,322,975	5.6	5.4	11.0
15-19	1,566,904	1,516,543	3,083,447	5.2	5.0	10.2
20-24	1,448,614	1,414,845	2,863,459	4.8	4.7	9.5
25-29	1,277,028	1,272,646	2,549,674	4.2	4.2	8.4
30-34	1,067,926	1,190,192	2,258,118	3.5	3.9	7.5
35-39	911,231	1,072,341	1,983,572	3.0	3.5	6.6
40-44	757,041	855,198	1,612,239	2.5	2.8	5.3
45-49	638,534	709,647	1,348,181	2.1	2.3	4.5
50-54	527,026	575,535	1,102,561	1.7	1.9	3.6
55-59	400,761	443,080	843,841	1.3	1.5	2.8
60-64	328,558	383,955	712,513	1.1	1.3	2.4
65-69	196,176	216,224	412,400	0.6	0.7	1.4
70-74	148,993	179,432	328,425	0.5	0.6	1.1
75-79	70,565	91,768	162,333	0.2	0.3	0.5
80+	82,804	134,605	217,409	0.3	0.4	0.7
Total	14,874,891	15,386,983	30,261,874	49.2	50.8	100.0

Table 10.5a: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2015 (Low Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,812,997	1,779,260	3,592,257	6.6	6.5	13.2
5-9	1,698,444	1,643,902	3,342,346	6.2	6.0	12.3
10-14	1,578,795	1,529,578	3,108,373	5.8	5.6	11.4
15-19	1,465,284	1,425,316	2,890,600	5.4	5.2	10.6
20-24	1,294,812	1,287,655	2,582,467	4.7	4.7	9.5
25-29	1,084,136	1,206,735	2,290,871	4.0	4.4	8.4
30-34	927,685	1,090,039	2,017,724	3.4	4.0	7.4
35-39	774,906	872,585	1,647,491	2.8	3.2	6.0
40-44	659,777	728,445	1,388,222	2.4	2.7	5.1
45-49	552,870	596,766	1,149,636	2.0	2.2	4.2
50-54	430,559	466,814	897,373	1.6	1.7	3.3
55-59	366,123	415,166	781,289	1.3	1.5	2.9
60-64	231,142	244,369	475,511	0.8	0.9	1.7
65-69	191,622	218,939	410,561	0.7	0.8	1.5
70-74	105,182	128,225	233,407	0.4	0.5	0.9
75-79	99,135	143,093	242,228	0.4	0.5	0.9
80+	90,613	142,869	233,482	0.3	0.5	0.9
Total	13,364,083	13,919,757	27,283,840	49.0	51.0	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 10.5b: Projected population distribution of Ghana by age and sex, 2020 (Low Variant)

Age group	Population			% Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	1,829,769	1,794,501	3,624,270	6.1	6.0	12.1
5-9	1,782,771	1,752,307	3,535,078	6.0	5.8	11.8
10-14	1,688,056	1,634,919	3,322,975	5.6	5.5	11.1
15-19	1,566,904	1,516,543	3,083,447	5.2	5.1	10.3
20-24	1,448,614	1,414,845	2,863,459	4.8	4.7	9.6
25-29	1,277,028	1,272,646	2,549,674	4.3	4.2	8.5
30-34	1,067,926	1,190,192	2,258,118	3.6	4.0	7.5
35-39	911,231	1,072,341	1,983,572	3.0	3.6	6.6
40-44	757,041	855,198	1,612,239	2.5	2.9	5.4
45-49	638,534	709,647	1,348,181	2.1	2.4	4.5
50-54	527,026	575,535	1,102,561	1.8	1.9	3.7
55-59	400,761	443,080	843,841	1.3	1.5	2.8
60-64	328,558	383,955	712,513	1.1	1.3	2.4
65-69	196,176	216,224	412,400	0.7	0.7	1.4
70-74	148,993	179,432	328,425	0.5	0.6	1.1
75-79	70,565	91,768	162,333	0.2	0.3	0.5
80+	82,804	134,605	217,409	0.3	0.4	0.7
Total	14,722,758	15,237,737	29,960,495	49.1	50.9	100.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

CHAPTER ELEVEN

SUMMARY, POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Population Size, Age-Sex and Household Structure

The population of Ghana is made up of a large proportion of children, adolescents and youth. The sex ratio among the children's population is high, but reduces when one moves into the period of adolescence and youth. Each region's population of children was also dominated by males compared to the females. Apart from the Brong Ahafo Region, sex ratios among children were high in all other regions. The results indicate that more than two in three children in Ghana were reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household and not much variation was found to exist between the urban and rural areas. **T**he proportion of the male population classified as adolescents is higher than that for females, and it is higher in the rural areas than the urban. This translates into a higher sex for the adolescent groups.

At the regional level, males out-number females in all the regions except in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions where the reverse is the case among adolescents of 10-14 years. Regional differences in fertility in the general population and migration flows among young persons may have influenced the gender variations across the regions. Heads of household were made up mainly of males because that is the kind of culture in Ghana where men are more likely to be identified as the heads of household although they may not be responsible in taking care of the household needs.

The large size of the population of children in particular puts a burden on the state regarding their education and health. At the same time, the state would have to consider their economic wellbeing through the expansion of job opportunities and or create the enabling environment for the private sector to expand to absorb the increasing population that enters the labour force each year.

In order to address these challenges, the government should continue to embark on educational infrastructure expansion at all levels to ensure that all persons of school-going age have access to primary school education. At the same time, a long-term intervention that ensures that the size of the population of children is reduced should be pursued. Currently, there are efforts by the National Population Council, the Ghana Health Service and their partners to implement a programme aimed at re-positioning family planning throughout the country. This programme should be supported fully with adequate funding to ensure that there is an understanding within the entire population particularly in the rural areas of the need to cut down on individual family sizes through a sustained usage of family planning. When this is done, it is hoped that Ghana would gradually reduce the size and proportion of the population of children in order to reduce the burden on families and the state in providing for the needs of the teeming army of children in the country.

11.2 Housing Characteristics

The analysis presented under housing characteristics in Ghana have revealed compound houses as the most common dwelling units used by children and young persons in the country. There are, however, some variations across the regions, and these are a demonstration of the socio-cultural differences in housing construction pertaining to each region. Although, the nature of the data examined does not bring out the magnitude of housing deficit in Ghana, the information on existing housing conditions presented so far suggest that apart from the housing deficit which is accepted by everyone in Ghana, households are faced with challenges regarding waste disposal, provision of basic housing facilities including water, energy and places of convenience.

The implication of these unsatisfactory housing conditions is that living standards are seriously undermined and the health of members of many households is also negatively affected. This is especially against the finding that the bush continues to be a common place of convenience for a substantial proportion of people in the country while others dump their wastes indiscriminately anywhere they find space.

It is important, therefore, for intensive public health education among the population for drastic attitudinal change. At the same time, there should be rigid enforcement of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly bye-laws on the obligation of landlords and landladies particularly in the urban areas to include toilet facilities in their building plans. There are, however, several existing houses in the cities and towns without toilet facilities and these must be brought under the law to create spaces for toilet facilities within existing structures. This would be effective if would-be tenants are well-sensitised to refuse accommodation in dwelling units without toilet facilities.

The state should invest in the construction of affordable rental housing facilities in fast-expanding cities and towns to provide decent accommodation for workers. This will go a long way to reduce the challenge many people are faced with regarding the payment of huge rent advances to landlords/ladies for housing facilities some of which have no places of convenience.

Furthermore, a huge proportion of households in the country even in urban communities have no piped water in the house for drinking and other purposes. Urban water infrastructure facilities should be expanded as a matter of urgency while providing the enabling environment and technical support to households that cannot be reached in the foreseeable future with potable water to acquire bore holes for their household consumption. Currently, the cost for drilling bore holes is hardly affordable for many households in urban communities.

The use of LPG at the household level has caught up with a large proportion of households even in rural communities. Unfortunately, LPG availability is become very unpredictable, the consequence of which is not only the frustration urban dwellers in particular have had to live

with but also the return to the use of charcoal and wood fuel for household energy requirement which is not line with the practice of a green economy the world is currently adopting. With the discovery of oil and gas and its subsequent production in commercial quantities, it should be possible to generate more LPG as a by-product of the crude oil when refined to ensure a sustained supply of LPG throughout the year even in rural communities to make life less stressful for mothers and female children who have a social responsibility in Ghana in the provision of household energy needs.

It is also important for the state to strengthen its partnership with private waste collection and disposal agencies and companies to ensure that there are properly designated sites for dumping and collecting waste. Again, the state should explore the possibility of recycling waste in the country. It is further proposed that the use of polythene bags for carrying foodstuff and other things from the market should be prohibited and replaced with paper bags that can easily be burnt and are more environment-friendly.

11.3 Literacy and Educational Attainment

It has been shown that there is a huge gap between the urban and rural areas and also between males and females with regard to literacy and educational attainment among children and young persons in Ghana. There is also a literacy and educational imbalance between the northern and southern divide in the country. There is, however, a relatively high level of literacy in English and Ghanaian language either for males or females. There is also a growing phenomenon where in the urban areas in particular, children and young persons are increasingly becoming literate in English language only. Quite a small proportion of children, adolescents and youth are also becoming literate in French. Overall, however, an examination of young persons regarding those who never attend schooling suggested that some progress has been made over the years although much still needs to be done to achieve universal basic and compulsory education in the country.

It is, therefore, recommended that efforts are made at the state level to rigidly enforce the policy on full Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE) which has been adopted several years ago. This can, however, be achieved when we have a full complement of educational infrastructure and well-trained and qualified teachers throughout the country. This requires deliberate efforts to achieve through the allocation of needed resources. It should, thus, be made punishable if parents do not allow their children to go to school. The Girl-Child educational policy is excellent and is achieving needed results. However, it should at this stage not be limited to the girl-child but the boy child as well in order not to put boys at a disadvantage in the process.

Attention should be paid to secondary level education by expanding infrastructure, teaching and learning facilities to increase accessibility and affordability to secondary education throughout Ghana. This could be achieved by extending basic education beyond the Junior High School level through increased state funding. When this is achieved, it will have a multiplier effect by inculcating in young people attitudes that enhance nation-building and an

understanding of the virtues of smaller family sizes while being positioned to acquire requisite skills for the job market.

The practice of being literate in only a foreign language should be discouraged by making it compulsory for every child to learn one Ghanaian language in both public and private schools in Ghana. This will facilitate the instilling of a sense of national identity among Ghanaians. The learning of other foreign languages in addition to English as the official language in the country such as French should be encouraged. This is especially important as Ghana is surrounded by French-speaking countries at all its boarders except the Gulf of Guinea.

11.4 Marital Status, Fertility and Reproductive Health

It has been shown in the analysis that some adolescents and youth marry quite early at a time when they are expected to be in school. Marriage, therefore, for some young people tends to compete with their education. Some of the results could, however, have been influenced by data errors especially when some male children of age 12-14 are reported to be married. Marriage was found to be more prevalent in the rural than urban areas. Regional variations were also found where the Northern Region recorded the highest proportion of its adolescent population to be married with Brong Ahafo recorded the lowest. The contribution of adolescents and youth to fertility in Ghana has also been highlighted with their use of contraception not as high as among older adults. The consequence is their avoidable exposure to risks of early unplanned childbearing and sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS.

In the light of these findings, it is important to note the role of education in reducing young people's exposure to early sex and pregnancy. Efforts to ensure that all young persons have access to education at least up to the secondary level should be sustained. This should be embarked upon alongside making investment in and education on family planning a matter of national developmental priority. This is because of the important contribution family planning could play in the nation's drive towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) particularly regarding reproductive health and rights. It is not enough for Ghana to sign unto international declarations and protocols on family planning without practically supporting its implementation in the country.

Educational policies should also be subjected to review with a view to removing all barriers that inhibit the education of school pupils on their sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is because the removal of any barriers would go a long way in equipping children and young people to not only delay first sex and births but most importantly to be better placed to avoid risks that are associated with sex and childbearing whenever they choose to have children.

11.5 Health and Mortality

Some progress has been made in reducing infant and child mortality in Ghana over the years. There is, however, a lot that needs to be done to further reduce these often avoidable deaths. At the moment, the results produced in this analysis suggest variations in infant and child deaths across regions with northern regions being more disadvantaged relative to the south. The analysis on recorded deaths in the past 12 months prior to the census also showed a higher proportion of the deaths to have occurred among female adolescents compared to the males. We also have found that pregnancy-related deaths during the same period were quite substantial particularly among the youth groups where it exceeds the national average. Furthermore, deaths from accidents, homicide and suicide were quite high among the adolescents and youth perhaps due to youthful exuberance.

The determinants of high infant, child and maternal mortality include early age at sex, little or non-use of family planning, early childbearing and poor access to health care services. There should, therefore, be increased and sustained public education on sexual and reproductive health among young persons throughout Ghana. To achieve this, there should be comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education as part of the basic school curricula. Alongside this, institutions of state and in the private sector should be supported to sustain family planning and reproductive health service delivery everywhere in the country. The state as a matter of policy should create family planning and reproductive health desks in all ministries, departments and agencies to facilitate a sustained family planning and reproductive health service delivery and counseling among workers. This could be extended to private sector organisations and companies through public-private sector partnerships. When early sex and early pregnancies are reduced, it would have a rippling positive effect on infant, child and maternal deaths.

There should also be increased public health education on antenatal and post-natal health care as well delivery at health facilities with professionally trained health personnel in attendance. This is because there is a big gap between the high antenatal attendance at health facilities in the country and low health facility delivery among women. The myths surrounding delivery by untrained persons should be addressed through intensified counseling during attendance at antenatal care.

11.6 Economic and Employment Characteristics

From the results of the analysis, contribution to family work is quite common among children, adolescents and youth. Child labour also appears to be common among children in the country. This is based on the observation that about 30% of each of either male or female children were reported to be seeking for jobs for the first time. The search for jobs among children, therefore, appears to compete with their education. Agriculture-related work and the private informal sector were the leading employers of the labour force of adolescents and youth with between 6% and 8% of the adolescents being employees receiving some form of wages. The public sector is not a major recruiter of youth labour force perhaps due to the relatively lower skills and experience many of the youth may possess to make them

competitively eligible for public sector work. This could be the result of their low skills and inadequate experience that the public formal sector requires from its high level employees but which many young people in Ghana do not have. Furthermore, a higher proportion of adolescent females than males were found to be working in the manufacturing sector in Ghana. It is important to underscore the fact that a much smaller proportion of the youth groups were recorded as seeking work for the first time compared to children and adolescents.

To address the prevalence of child labour in the country, there should be rigid enforcement of the child labour law while intensifying public education to bring out the dangers in child labour. Once again, the full implementation of the fCUBE where parents who do not send their children to school are prosecuted would be an important route out of child labour in the country.

Furthermore, the large army of adolescents and youth in the country requires jobs to do. Investing in their education and supporting the out-of school with apprenticeship training could go a long way to address the employment needs of young people in Ghana. The National Youth Employment Programme should be expanded and measures put in place to make the modules under the programme relatively permanent for those who desire to use them as a career. Again, since the public sector is limited in offering employment to a big proportion of young people, entrepreneurial programmes should be integrated into tertiary-level education to equip more graduates from our tertiary institutions to undertake initiatives to embark on their private-sector initiatives. The state should, however, put a framework in place to support such initiatives.

11.7 Disability

Data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census suggest very low levels of disability in the country among young persons. In most cases, the proportion of the population with any form of disability was found to be less than five percent. Among the small numbers with disabilities, however, physical and speech disability was higher among males while among the females it was with regard to sight, hearing, intellectual and emotional disability. At the regional level, more than half of children who had some form of disability were males in all regions, the highest being recorded in Upper West. Furthermore, sight disability was the most commonly reported among the adolescents and the proportion with sight disability was relatively higher among the female than male adolescents. Disability was also found to vary by marital status among the adolescents and youth where the widowed, followed by the divorced and separated were found to be more prone to having a form of disability than either the never married or married. On the whole, the analysis indicated that on average disability in children was more among the male child and the reverse being the case at older ages perhaps due to the different life cycle experiences males and females go through as they grow older.

In the light of these observations, the general population ought to be educated on the causes of disability and at the same time ensure strict enforcement of laws and policies on disability in the country so as to integrate persons with disabilities effectively in the society. The National Council for Disability should be enabled to lead advocacy and sensitization programmes to make issues of disability matters of national priority.

Furthermore, the construction of infrastructure such as foot bridges in cities and towns take account of the specific needs of persons with physical disabilities. In addition, counseling among persons with disabilities should be integrated and strengthened as important components of efforts that address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

11.8 Information Technology

Household ownership of computers was examined among households to assess how accessible children, adolescents and youth are to computers. It was found that household ownership of computers was much higher in urban than rural areas. High rates of illiteracy, poor rural infrastructure especially electricity supply and affordability challenges could account for this variation in computer accessibility between the rural and urban areas. At the regional level, household computer accessibility was highest among young persons in the Greater Accra Region, followed by those in Ashanti Region with their counterparts in the Northern Region being the most disadvantaged. It appears quite clearly that the regional variation among the young persons in computer ownership at the household level is largely a reflection of differences in degrees of urbanization and spatial development across the regions.

Furthermore, mobile phone ownership was found to be higher with older age of people. Again, ownership of mobile phones was higher in urban than rural areas in the country. At the regional level, access to mobile phones among adolescents and youth was highest in Greater Accra, followed by Ashanti with the Northern Region having the least access.

With the world increasingly becoming a global village, the importance of computers cannot be under-estimated. In recent times, government has initiated a policy of delivering free laptops to some students in the tertiary institutions. While this is commendable, the criteria for distribution do not appear to be transparent enough for all eligible students to stand to benefit. It is, therefore, recommended that government should make the process of laptop allocation more transparent. Alongside this programme of free laptop distribution, it should be possible for the state to subsidize interested students and young people in the country to purchase their own laptops since it may not be possible for the state to provide every child or young person even in school with one laptop.

In the rural areas where due to lack of regular electricity supply, the use of computers may not be practicable even if a household owned one, the state should as a policy establish computer and internet centres within public libraries. These centres could be provided with power generating plants whose running costs should be borne by the district assemblies to

ensure their effective usage. The centres should be guided by rules and regulations so that young people in the country may not use them for computer fraud popularly called “Sakawa” in Ghana today.

The Ghana Education Service should also consider instituting a policy that ensures that each senior high school in a rural area is provided with a computer/internet facility where both day and boarding students would have access to in their studies. Forward-looking traditional leaders should also be encouraged to support government efforts in the establishment and management of these information technology centres in areas under their jurisdiction.

11.9 Population Projection

The projections suggest an increase in the population of children, adolescents and youth. However, since fertility is expected to continue to steadily decline, the size of the children and adolescent population would each be smaller relative to the youth. There would consequently the need for more job opportunities to be created for the large army of youth. At the same time, educational avenues at the secondary and higher levels would need to be expanded.

In the light of this, it is recommended that, the state should, as a matter of urgency, prepare a ten-year national educational plan to expand educational infrastructure across all levels particularly the secondary levels so as to be able to train a substantial proportion of the country’s human resources to a much higher level than it is currently. The state should also invest in the expansion of institutions for the training of teachers at the secondary school level and consider improving remuneration and introducing special incentives to attract more people into the teaching profession. This calls for the allocation of a substantial proportion of the country’s annual budget to educational expansion. There is also the need to review the educational curricula at all levels to re-align the training in our educational institutions towards a structural transformation of the Ghanaian economy.

11.10 Conclusion

Young people constitute a percentage of Ghana’s population as has been reported by the censuses conducted from 1960 to 2010. Two in every five persons in Ghana are less than 15 years and almost one in four is an adolescent. Again, one in five persons in the country is a youth aged 15-24 years and a little more than a third of the Ghanaian population is made of the youth of 15-35 years. The age differences between the three groups of young people indicate that each group requires specific policy prescriptions in addressing their needs. It must be added, however, that although recent data have shown decreasing proportions of the population of children, adolescents and youth in the population, the drop is not very significant.

Beside their huge numbers, children, adolescents and youth are exposed to physical, social and reproductive health challenges and risks. Any attempt to address these challenges requires carefully thought out interventions and programmes that are tailored to the peculiar

situations of children as different from adolescents and the youth. Considering that children, adolescents and youth are the future human resource of the country, their needs and challenges should attract attention as a matter of national priority. It is hoped that recommendations presented in this analysis would go a long way to address the needs and challenges of children, adolescents and youth in Ghana and make them valuable human resources for the country's socio-economic development.

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