

MALAWI YOUTH DATA SHEET 2014



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Acknowledgements

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PURPOSE

To support Malawi's 2012 pledge to improve the sexual and reproductive health of its young people, two government ministries prepared a 2014 Malawi Youth Data Sheet (MYDS) and accompanying pocket factsheet: the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in consultation with the National Youth Council and the National Statistics Office and in collaboration with USAID's IDEA project managed by the Population Reference Bureau.

The MYDS provides reliable health and population data for youth ages 15 to 24 years according to household wealth, residence type and regional zones—collected for the Malawi 2010 Demographic and Health Survey by the Malawi National Statistics Office in collaboration with ICF International.

This discussion guide can assist educators, journalists, and policymakers in how to interpret and use the data from the MYDS and its accompanying pocket factsheet, in a classroom setting, for the context of a news piece or for a policy audience.

Using data about Malawi's youth informs policymakers' and programmers' actions to improve the health and well-being of young people and to safeguard their future. When major votes are pending in Parliament or budget decisions looming, these data can support the choices decision-makers and individuals make.

Groups and individuals are encouraged to use the data sheet as a starting point for discussion on a variety of topics and activities. The following short activities can be used to guide such discussions. A glossary at the end of this guide defines the health and demographic terms in the MYDS.

ACTIVITY 1

GETTING TO KNOW THE 2014 MALAWI YOUTH DATA SHEET

Table 1.1. Literate Youth, Ages 15 to 19 (%)

	Female	Male
Total	81	82
Poorest	68	67
Richest	93	91
Urban	87	90
Rural	79	80
North	87	78
Central	77	80
South	83	82

Step 1

Read the title of Table 1.1. The title indicates the topic and the specific group of people the table is about. Table 1.1 is about literacy among youth ages 15 to 19 years.

Step 2

Read the top horizontal row headings, also known as the column headings. The columns indicate how the data is grouped or categorized. In our sample table, the information is grouped by sex (females and males ages 15 to 19).

Step 3

Read the first vertical column on the left, also known as the row headings. These rows show how the data about a specific group of people are further divided into specific categories based on characteristics such as wealth (poorest and richest), place of residence (urban and rural), and region (North, Central, South).

Step 4

To find out what percentage of males ages 15 to 19 who live in urban areas are literate, look in the column labelled "Male" and the row labelled "Urban." Our sample table indicates that 90 percent of males who live in urban areas are literate.

ACTIVITY 2

LEARNING ABOUT MALAWI'S YOUTH POPULATION THROUGH DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH DATA

Find answers to the following questions related to the indicator(s) presented in the Malawi Youth Data Sheet. An indicator is an element that is affected by cultural, social, economic and health factors. The indicators in the Malawi Youth Data Sheet are the column headings.

Education

Youth attending secondary school

1. What percentage of youth ages 15 to 19 in Malawi attend secondary school?
2. What percentage of youth ages 15 to 19 in the poorest and wealthiest households attend secondary school?
3. What percentage of youth ages 15 to 19 in the urban and rural areas attend secondary school? What are the differences between the two areas?

Completion of secondary school

1. What percentage of 20-to-24-year-old females and males in the poorest households completed secondary school? What percentage of 20-to-24-year-old females and males in the wealthiest households completed secondary school? Are there large percentage differences between women and men or between the poorest and richest?
2. What percentage of 20-to-24-year-old females and males in urban areas complete secondary school? What percentage of 20-to-24-year-old females and males in the rural population complete secondary school? Are there significant differences between females and males? Are there significant differences if one is an urban or rural resident?

Employment

Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year

1. In the last 12 months, what percent of youth were working?
2. Compare the percentage of employed girls and boys in the poorest and the richest households. What is the difference between the two, and by how many percentage points? Repeat for the urban and rural populations.
3. What percentage of females and males work in agriculture?

Reproductive Health

Adolescents ages 15 to 19 who are currently married

1. What percentage of females and males are currently married?
2. Repeat #1 for the poorest and wealthiest, place of residence, and region. What similarities, if any, do you notice?

Girls ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing

1. What percentage of females in Malawi are already mothers or are currently pregnant with their first child?
2. What are the percentages for the poorest and wealthiest? Which group has a higher percentage and by how many percentage points?

Youth ages 15 to 19 using a modern method of contraception

1. Look at the “donuts” graphic of contraceptive use on the MYDS. Who uses a modern method of contraception more?
2. Which group has the lowest percentage?

Sexual Health

Youth ages 15 to 24 using condoms during premarital sex

1. What percentage of youth use condoms during premarital sex?
2. Look over the percentages for the wealthiest and poorest, urban and rural, and by region. Which groups are least likely to use condoms during premarital sex?
3. In which region is there a significant difference in condom use between girls and boys?

Adolescents ages 15 to 24 who are infected with HIV

1. What percentage of males and females are infected with HIV? Which group is more infected?
2. Repeat #1 for the rest of the other groups, e.g. poorest and richest, urban and rural.

What overall trends and differences do you notice?

ACTIVITY 3

COMPARING TWO POPULATIONS

Using the data sheet, complete one of the two tables below for the six indicators (in the left column) for poorest and wealthiest populations (female/male) or for urban and rural populations (female/male).

Table 3.1. Comparing Poorest and Wealthiest Populations

INDICATORS	POPULATION			
	Poorest (%)		Wealthiest (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Young adults ages 20 to 24 who complete secondary school				
Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year				
Youth ages 15 to 19 who are currently married				
Youth ages 15 to 19 who have been exposed to family planning messages in the media				
Women ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing				
HIV prevalence rate ages 15 to 24				

Table 3.2. Comparing Urban and Rural Populations

INDICATORS	POPULATION			
	Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Young adults ages 20 to 24 who complete secondary school				
Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year				
Youth ages 15 to 19 who are currently married				
Youth ages 15 to 19 who have been exposed to family planning messages in the media				
Women ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing				
HIV prevalence rate ages 15 to 24				

After you've completed a table, consider the following questions to guide interpretation of the data:

1. Discuss what you observe for each indicator between the two populations. Which population has a higher value for each indicator?

Example response: In Table 3.1 above, more boys than girls were employed last year; there are more teenagers from the poorest households who work than from the wealthiest households.

2. Do you notice any patterns between the indicators?

Example response: In Table 3.1 above, wealthy girls are less likely to be employed and begin childbearing than girls in the poorest populations.

ACTIVITY 4

UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDICATORS

Review the Malawi Youth Data Sheet data in a table below for one of the following pairs of indicators for the urban, rural, poorest, and wealthiest populations.

- Completion of secondary education and bearing a child by age 18
- Literacy and employment in agriculture

Table 4.1. Completion of Secondary Education Among Females Ages 20 to 24 and Females Ages 20 to 24 Who Gave Birth by Age 18

Completion of Secondary Education Among Females Ages 20 to 24 (%)		Females Ages 20 to 24 Who Gave Birth by Age 18 (%)	
Poorest	1	Poorest	40
Wealthiest	26	Wealthiest	22
Urban	21	Urban	28
Rural	6	Rural	36

Table 4.2. Males Ages 15 to 19 Who Are Literate and Who Are Currently Employed in Agriculture

Males Ages 15 to 19 Who Are Literate (%)		Men Ages 15 to 19 Who Are Currently Employed in Agriculture (%)	
Poorest	67	Poorest	72
Wealthiest	91	Wealthiest	38
Urban	90	Urban	22
Rural	80	Rural	72

Now, examine how the two indicators might relate to each other:

1. Does there appear to be a relationship between the two indicators by household wealth (poorest/wealthiest) or place of residence (urban/rural)?

Example response: In Table 4.3 below, we see that in populations where employment among females ages 15 to 19 is high (poorest households, rural residence), females ages 15 to 19 are also more likely to have begun childbearing.

Table 4.3. Females Ages 15 to 19 Who Were Employed in the Last Year and Who Have Begun Childbearing

Females Ages 15 to 19 Who Were Employed in the Last Year (%)		Females Ages 15 to 19 Who Have Begun Childbearing (%)	
Poorest	67	Poorest	31
Wealthiest	39	Wealthiest	16
Urban	35	Urban	21
Rural	60	Rural	27

2. How does wealth or place of residence affect the outcomes of the indicators?

Example response: Table 4.2 shows that women who are poor are least likely to complete secondary school compared to women who are wealthy. Thus, wealth influences completion of secondary school among women.

3. Which indicators are most affected by wealth among women? Which indicators are most affected by place of residence among women?

Example response: Table 4.2 shows that both wealth and place of residence affect completion of secondary school among women.

4. Which indicators are most affected by wealth among men? Which indicators are most affected by place of residence among men?

ACTIVITY 2

LEARNING ABOUT MALAWI'S YOUTH POPULATION THROUGH DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH DATA

Education

Youth attending secondary school

1. • Female: 13%
• Male: 12%
2. • Poorest: Females (3%) and Males (3%)
• Richest: Females (31%) and Males (29%)
3. • Urban: Females (30%) and Males (28%)
• Rural: Females (9%) and Males (9%)

Completion of secondary school

1. • Poorest: Females (1%) and Males (1%)
• Richest: Females (26%) and Males (32%)
• There is little difference between the percentage of women who complete secondary school and the percentage of men who complete secondary school.
• There is a large difference between the completion of secondary school among the poorest population and completion of secondary school among the richest population. Women and men who belong in the richest population are more likely to complete secondary school.
2. • Urban: Females (30%) and Males (28%)
• Rural: Females (9%) and Males (9%)
• There is little difference between the percent of women who complete secondary school and the percent of men who complete secondary school.
• There is a large difference between the completion of secondary school among the urban population and completion of secondary school among the rural population. A higher percentage of women and men who live in urban areas complete secondary school.

Employment

Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year

1. • Female: 56%
• Male: 71%
2. • Poorest: Female (67%) and Male (82%)
• Richest: Female (39%) and Male (53%)
• Females: There is a difference of 28% percentage points (67% minus 39%) between the two populations with more females from the poorest population working in the last year compared to females in the richest population.
• Males: There is a difference of 29% percentage points (82% minus 53%) between the two populations with more males from the poorest population working in the last year compared to males in the richest population.

ANSWER KEY

- Urban: Female (35%) and Male (51%)
 - Rural: Female (60%) and Male (77%)
 - Females: There is a difference of 25% percentage points between the two populations with more females who in rural areas working in the last year compared to females who live in urban areas.
 - Males: There is a difference of 26% percentage points between the two populations with more males who in rural areas working in the last year compared to males who live in urban areas.
3. • Female: 68%
- Male: 64%

Reproductive Health

Adolescents ages 15 to 19 who are currently married

1. • Females: 20%
 - Males: 2%
2. • Poorest: Females (21%) and Males (2%)
 - Richest: Females (9%) and Males (2%)
 - Urban: Females (13%) and Males (0%)
 - Rural: Females (21%) and Males (2%)
 - North: Females (24%) and Males (1%)
 - Central: Females (16%) and Males (1%)
 - South: Females (22%) and Males (3%)
 - A higher percentage of females who are poor and live in rural areas are married compared to females who are rich and live in urban areas. In all populations, more females ages 15 to 19 years are married compared to males in the same age group.

Girls ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing

1. • Females: 26%
2. • Poorest: 31% or 31 in a 100 or 3.1 in 10
 - Richest: 16% or 16 in a 100 or almost 2 (round up 1.6) in 10
 - More women ages 15 to 19 in the poorest population have begun childbearing. The percentage point difference is 15 (31% minus 16%) between the poorest women and richest women ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing.

Youth ages 15 to 19 using a modern method of contraception

1. • Boys use modern contraception more than girls do. Four in 10 boys, 3 in 10 unmarried girls and 2.5 in 10 married girls use a modern method.
2. • Married girls use modern contraception the least. Four in 10 boys, 3 in 10 unmarried girls and 2.5 in 10 married girls use a modern method.

ANSWER KEY

Sexual Health

Youth ages 15 to 24 using condoms during premarital sex

1.
 - Females: 49%
 - Males: 51%
2.
 - A lower percentage of youth who are poor and live in rural areas use condoms during premarital sex compared to youth who are rich and live in urban areas.
3.
 - In the Northern region, only 37% of girls ages 15 to 19 years use condoms during premarital sex, while 67% of boys ages 15 to 19 years use condoms during premarital sex.

Adolescents ages 15 to 24 who are infected with HIV

1.
 - Females: 5%
 - Males: 2%
 - More women ages 15 to 24 are infected with HIV compared to men in the same age group.
2.
 - Poorest: Females (3%) and Males (1%)
 - Richest: Females (8%) and Males (3%)
 - Urban: Females (11%) and Males (3%)
 - Rural: Females (4%) and Males (2%)
 - Northern: Females (3%) and Males (1%)
 - Central: Females (4%) and Males (2%)
 - South: Females (8%) and Males (2%)
 - In all populations, a higher percentage of women ages 15 to 24 years are infected with HIV compared to men ages 15 to 24 years.

ANSWER KEY

ACTIVITY 3

COMPARING TWO POPULATIONS

Table 3.1. Comparing Poorest and Wealthiest Populations

INDICATORS	POPULATION			
	Poorest (%)		Wealthiest (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Young adults ages 20 to 24 who complete secondary school	1	1	26	32
Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year	67	82	39	53
Youth ages 15 to 19 who are currently married	21	2	9	2
Youth ages 15 to 19 who have been exposed to family planning messages in the media	35	69	68	81
Women ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing	31	N/A	16	N/A
HIV prevalence rate ages 15 to 24	3	1	8	3

Table 3.2. Comparing Urban and Rural Populations

INDICATORS	POPULATION			
	Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Young adults ages 20 to 24 who complete secondary school	21	28	6	11
Youth ages 15 to 19 employed in the last year	35	51	60	77
Youth ages 15 to 19 who are currently married	13	0	21	2
Youth ages 15 to 19 who have been exposed to family planning messages in the media	61	74	50	74
Women ages 15 to 19 who have begun childbearing	21	N/A	27	N/A
HIV prevalence rate ages 15 to 24	11	3	4	2

Answers to Question 1

Table 3.1 Comparing Poorest and Wealthiest Populations

Table 3.1 shows that compared to youth from the poorest populations, more youth from the richest populations complete secondary school, and less youth from the richest populations were employed in the last year. In addition, fewer youth from the poorest populations have been exposed to family planning messages.

Table 3.2 Comparing Urban and Rural Populations

Table 3.2 shows that more youth from urban areas complete secondary school; less youth from urban areas were working in the last year. In addition, more youth in rural areas are currently married.

ANSWER KEY

Answers to Question 2

Table 3.1 Comparing Poorest and Wealthiest Populations

Table 3.1 shows that wealthy girls are less likely to be employed and begin child-bearing than girls in the poorest populations. Women in both populations are least likely to complete secondary school and be exposed to family planning messages. In addition, fewer men are currently married and are infected with HIV compared to women.

Table 3.2 Comparing Urban and Rural Populations

Table 3.2 shows that fewer women in both populations complete secondary school and have been exposed to family planning messages compared to men in the same age group. In addition, more women in both populations are married and are infected with HIV compared to men.

ACTIVITY 4

UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDICATORS

Answers to Question 1

Table 4.1 shows that in populations where completion of secondary school among women ages 20 to 24 is low (poorest households, rural residence), a higher percentage of women ages 20 to 24 have given birth by age 18.

Table 4.2 shows that in populations where literacy among men ages 15 to 19 is high (richest households, urban residence), men ages 15 to 19 are least likely to be employed in agriculture. This indicates a negative relationship.

Answers to Question 2

Table 4.1 shows that in populations where completion of secondary school among women ages 20 to 24 is low (poorest households, rural residence), a higher percentage of women ages 20 to 24 have given birth by age 18. Therefore, wealth and area of residence influence completion of secondary school and childbearing by age 18.

Table 4.2 shows that in populations where literacy among males ages 15 to 19 is high (richest households, urban residence), men ages 15 to 19 are least likely to be employed in agriculture. Therefore, wealth and area of residence influence literacy and employment in the agriculture sector.

Answers to Question 3

Table 4.1 shows that wealth and place of residence affect completion of secondary school and childbearing by age 18 among women ages 20 to 24.

Answers to Question 4

Table 4.2 shows that wealth and place of residence affect literacy and employment in the agriculture among males ages 15 to 19.

GLOSSARY

Adolescent childbearing

Females who are pregnant or had their first child within the five years before the survey.

Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Comprehensive knowledge means knowing that consistent use of a condom during sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting the AIDS virus, knowing that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about AIDS transmission or prevention—"AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites" and "AIDS can be transmitted by supernatural means."

Contraceptive use

All (married and unmarried) females and males who are using any form of contraception. *Modern* methods include female and male sterilization, pills, intrauterine devices (IUD), injectables, implants, female and male condoms, and emergency contraception. *Any* methods include modern and traditional methods (rhythm/periodic abstinence, withdrawal, other methods).

Employment

Females and males who reported that they were currently working and those who reported that they worked at some time during the 12 months preceding the survey in any sector, formal or informal.

Media exposure to family planning messages

Females and males who heard or saw a family planning message on the radio, television, or in a newspaper or magazine in the past few months prior to the survey.

HIV/AIDS prevalence

Females and males infected with HIV/AIDS.

Literacy

Females and males who can read a whole sentence or part of a sentence in any of the four languages: English, Chichewa, Yao, or Tumbuka.

Percentage

A number or ratio expressed as a fraction of 100.

Physical or sexual violence

Also known as gender-based violence (GBV), it includes any act of violence, in public or private, that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering, including threats of such acts and the coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty (UN, 1993; UN, 1995). The Government of Malawi not only recognises GBV, especially violence against women, as a severe impediment to poverty reduction, but also recognises its impact on vulnerable groups in relation to the prevalence of HIV infection (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2008).

Ratio

The relation of one group another group. (For example, the school attendance ratio of girls in secondary school is 13 girls per 100 girls ages 14 to 17.)

Secondary-school age

Children ages 14 to 17.

Sexually transmitted infection

An infection acquired through sexual contact.

Tobacco use

Women and men who consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once during the 30 days before the survey.

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