

# HOUSEHOLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

# 2

This chapter presents a descriptive summary of some demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population in the sampled households. Also examined are environmental conditions such as housing facilities and physical features of the dwelling units in which the population lives.

All usual residents of each sampled household, plus all visitors who slept in that household the night before the interview, were listed using the household questionnaire. Some basic information was collected for each person, including age, sex, marital status, and education. In addition, information was collected on whether each person is a usual resident of the household or a visitor, and whether the person slept in the household the night prior to the survey interview. This allows the analysis of either de jure (usual residents) or de facto (those who are physically present there at the time of the survey) populations.

## 2.1 HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RESIDENCE

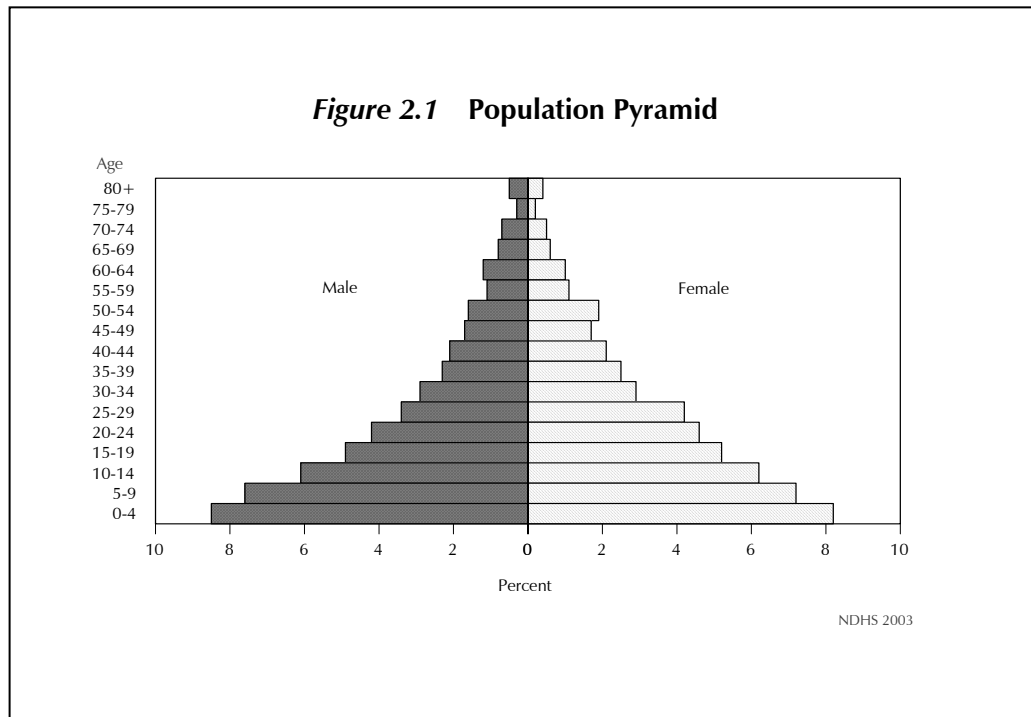
Table 2.1 shows the distribution of the de facto household population in the 2003 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2003 NDHS) by five-year age groups, according to sex and urban-rural residence. The 2003 NDHS households constitute a population of 35,173 persons. The population age structure indicates the history of the population of Nigeria and also its future course (Figure 2.1). About 50 percent of the population is female, and 50 percent is male. The proportion of persons in the younger age groups is substantially larger than the proportion in the older age groups for each sex in both urban and rural areas, which reflects the young age structure of the Nigerian population and is an indication of a population with high fertility. Forty-four percent of the population is below 15 years of age and 4 percent is age 65 or older.

Table 2.1 Household population by age, sex, and residence

Percent distribution of the de facto household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and residence, Nigeria 2003

Age	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<5	14.8	15.2	15.0	18.2	16.7	17.4	17.0	16.2	16.6
5-9	14.4	13.1	13.7	15.7	14.9	15.3	15.2	14.3	14.8
10-14	12.4	13.4	12.9	12.2	11.8	12.0	12.3	12.3	12.3
15-19	10.8	10.4	10.6	9.5	10.3	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.1
20-24	9.6	9.4	9.5	7.8	8.9	8.4	8.4	9.1	8.8
25-29	7.7	8.8	8.3	6.4	8.1	7.3	6.8	8.4	7.6
30-34	6.3	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9
35-39	4.4	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.7
40-44	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2
45-49	4.1	3.5	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.4
50-54	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.4
55-59	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2
60-64	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.1
65-69	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.4
70-74	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.1
75-79	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
80 +	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,017	5,870	11,887	11,441	11,844	23,286	17,459	17,714	35,173

**Figure 2.1 Population Pyramid**



## 2.2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Information about the composition of households by sex of the head of the household and size of the household is presented in Table 2.2. The data show that households in Nigeria are predominantly headed by men (83 percent) and less than one in five (17 percent) are headed by women. Female-headed households are more common in urban areas (19 percent) than in rural areas (15 percent). There is significant variation by region: the proportion of households headed by a female ranges from a low of 7 percent in the North East to a high of 28 percent in the South South.

The average household size in Nigeria is 5.0 persons. The household size is slightly higher in rural areas than in urban areas (5.1 versus 4.7 persons). It is also higher in the north than the south.

Table 2.2 Household composition

Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household and household size, according to residence, Nigeria 2003

Characteristic	Residence		Region						Total
	Urban	Rural	North Central	North East	North West	South East	South South	South West	
<b>Sex of head of household</b>									
Male	81.0	84.8	84.3	93.5	92.1	73.5	71.8	76.8	83.4
Female	19.0	15.2	15.7	6.5	7.9	26.5	28.2	23.2	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number of usual members</b>									
0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
1	14.9	9.8	10.7	9.1	7.1	16.8	15.1	15.9	11.7
2	12.7	11.5	10.2	9.2	11.1	15.4	13.0	14.8	12.0
3	14.0	14.2	12.3	10.8	15.8	13.8	12.4	18.9	14.1
4	12.8	13.4	13.9	12.8	14.0	11.5	12.9	13.1	13.2
5	12.2	12.0	10.9	11.0	13.3	11.6	10.7	14.0	12.1
6	10.4	11.0	11.1	11.8	9.9	12.2	10.5	10.2	10.8
7	8.4	8.4	9.8	8.8	8.6	9.2	8.6	5.2	8.4
8	4.5	5.5	5.9	6.7	5.6	3.4	5.6	2.5	5.1
9+	10.0	14.0	14.9	19.9	14.4	5.7	11.0	5.3	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	2,598	4,627	1,040	1,185	1,911	690	1,315	1,083	7,225
Mean size	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.9	5.2	4.1	4.7	4.0	5.0

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents.

### 2.3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment is perhaps the most important characteristic of household members. Many phenomena such as reproductive behaviour, use of contraception, children's health, and proper hygienic habits are related to the education of household members. Table 2.3 shows the classification of the household members by educational attainment, according to age group, residence, and geopolitical region for each sex. Although the majority of the household population age 6 and older has some education, 46 percent of females and 31 percent of males have never attended school.

With the exception of the youngest age group, some of whom will begin to attend school in the future, the proportion with no education increases with age. For example, the proportion of women who have never attended any formal schooling increases from 27 percent among those age 10-14 to 89 percent among those age 65 and above. For men, the proportion increases from 18 percent of those age 10-14 to 70 percent of those age 65 and older. Approximately one-quarter of women and one-third of men have attended at least some secondary schooling, however, the median number of years of schooling is 0.2 for females and 3.6 for males.

Educational attainment is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. The proportion of the population that has achieved any education varies among Nigeria's geopolitical regions. The North West and North East have the highest proportion of persons with no education—seven in ten women and half of men—while the South East has the lowest percentage who have never been to school among females (18 percent) and South South among males (9 percent).

**Table 2.3 Educational attainment of household population**

Percent distribution of the de facto female and male household populations age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed, according to background characteristics, Nigeria 2003

Background characteristic	Highest level of schooling attended or completed							Total	Number	Median number of years
	No education	Some primary	Completed primary <sup>1</sup>	Some secondary	Completed secondary <sup>2</sup>	More than secondary	Don't know/missing			
<b>FEMALE</b>										
<b>Age</b>										
6-9	45.9	51.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	100.0	2,041	0.0
10-14	26.8	53.2	4.6	14.0	0.1	0.0	1.3	100.0	2,176	2.3
15-19	30.2	11.2	10.1	39.6	7.3	0.9	0.8	100.0	1,832	5.6
20-24	33.9	5.6	11.9	17.3	23.3	7.1	0.9	100.0	1,609	5.8
25-29	39.7	5.5	14.6	13.0	18.6	8.0	0.6	100.0	1,481	5.3
30-34	47.5	7.4	15.5	13.4	9.1	6.3	0.8	100.0	1,031	2.1
35-39	49.8	7.3	14.9	15.0	3.9	8.7	0.4	100.0	867	0.0
40-44	60.4	8.9	12.4	10.0	2.4	5.5	0.5	100.0	736	0.0
45-49	68.0	11.5	8.7	3.6	1.1	4.4	2.7	100.0	584	0.0
50-54	76.3	6.2	8.1	4.6	0.8	2.9	1.1	100.0	653	0.0
55-59	80.9	6.2	5.1	2.4	0.3	2.1	3.0	100.0	404	0.0
60-64	85.5	6.8	1.5	3.7	0.1	1.0	1.5	100.0	341	0.0
65+	88.7	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.3	1.0	3.1	100.0	594	0.0
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	31.9	21.3	9.6	18.6	10.8	6.8	1.0	100.0	4,839	3.9
Rural	53.4	20.4	7.9	10.7	4.4	1.7	1.4	100.0	9,521	0.0
<b>Region</b>										
North Central	40.9	27.2	9.7	13.4	5.3	2.5	1.1	100.0	2,248	0.9
North East	68.0	17.1	4.3	5.7	2.7	1.5	0.7	100.0	2,593	0.0
North West	72.2	13.6	4.2	4.1	2.5	1.5	2.0	100.0	3,823	0.0
South East	17.8	25.1	12.1	20.6	16.2	5.6	2.6	100.0	1,314	5.4
South South	20.6	27.5	12.5	23.6	9.4	5.4	0.9	100.0	2,559	5.1
South West	23.2	19.9	13.6	24.3	11.4	7.1	0.5	100.0	1,823	5.4
Total	46.1	20.7	8.5	13.4	6.6	3.4	1.3	100.0	14,360	0.2
<b>MALE</b>										
<b>Age</b>										
6-9	41.1	56.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	100.0	2,175	0.0
10-14	18.2	62.1	3.1	15.4	0.1	0.0	1.2	100.0	2,144	2.7
15-19	15.4	15.6	8.9	51.2	7.4	0.8	0.9	100.0	1,736	6.7
20-24	16.2	6.4	13.2	27.9	24.7	10.0	1.5	100.0	1,473	8.7
25-29	20.6	4.3	16.7	15.5	27.4	14.2	1.3	100.0	1,195	8.6
30-34	23.7	5.9	14.4	19.3	18.1	17.5	1.0	100.0	1,029	8.3
35-39	27.2	7.0	15.8	18.3	12.9	17.7	1.0	100.0	796	6.4
40-44	35.7	8.9	15.7	15.5	6.1	17.6	0.5	100.0	724	5.5
45-49	38.7	12.1	15.9	12.6	4.2	15.9	0.6	100.0	613	5.3
50-54	47.0	14.1	16.0	10.0	2.8	8.1	2.1	100.0	550	1.5
55-59	52.8	14.3	12.2	6.8	2.9	9.3	1.8	100.0	372	0.0
60-64	66.0	9.3	11.1	6.6	1.1	4.0	1.8	100.0	411	0.0
65+	70.4	9.9	6.9	5.7	1.2	3.8	2.1	100.0	760	0.0
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	19.9	24.0	9.3	21.5	12.3	11.9	1.1	100.0	4,971	5.6
Rural	36.3	25.2	9.6	15.9	6.7	4.6	1.6	100.0	9,028	2.0
<b>Region</b>										
North Central	21.9	29.5	9.1	21.1	10.1	7.5	0.7	100.0	2,222	4.9
North East	50.2	22.9	4.6	11.8	4.9	4.9	0.8	100.0	2,626	0.0
North West	50.0	23.1	6.2	9.3	5.0	4.4	2.1	100.0	3,670	0.0
South East	14.0	23.6	16.0	20.2	11.5	10.8	4.0	100.0	1,124	5.6
South South	8.7	28.1	14.1	25.8	13.0	9.2	1.1	100.0	2,557	5.8
South West	13.9	21.0	13.4	27.7	12.5	10.7	0.8	100.0	1,800	5.9
Total	30.5	24.8	9.5	17.9	8.7	7.2	1.4	100.0	13,999	3.6

Note: Totals include 10 women and 20 men with missing information on age.

<sup>1</sup> Completed 6 years at the primary level

<sup>2</sup> Completed 6 years at the secondary level

## School Attendance Rates

Table 2.4 provides net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) by sex, residence, geopolitical region, and household economic status according to school level. The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary school-age (6-11 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary school age (12-17 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent. The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students of any age, expressed as the percentage of the official primary school age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students up to age 24, expressed as the percentage of the official secondary school age population. If there are significant numbers of over-age and under-age students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 percent. Children are considered to be attending school currently if they attended at any point during the current school year.

Table 2.4 shows that 60 percent of primary school age children in Nigeria are attending primary school. The NAR is higher in urban areas than in rural areas (70 and 56 percent, respectively), as is the GAR (100 and 82 percent, respectively). There is significant variation by region: the NARs in the North East and North West are just over half the ratios in the three southern regions. At the secondary school level, the NAR is 35 percent and the GAR is 61 percent. Regional disparities at the secondary school level are even more pronounced than at the primary school level: the NAR, for example, ranges from a low of 15 percent in the North West, to a high of 61 percent in the South West.

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) represents the ratio of the GAR for females to the GAR for males. It is presented for both the primary and secondary school levels and offers a summary measure to the extent to which there are gender differences in attendance rates. A GPI of less than 1 indicates that a smaller proportion of females than males attends school. The GPI for primary school is 0.86 and for secondary school is 0.77. Although there is little urban-rural differential at the primary school level, there is significant difference at the secondary school level. Once again, regional differentials are significant; the data indicate that girls residing in the North West and North East are particularly disadvantaged. Gender disparities by age in school attendance at any level are shown in Figure 2.2.

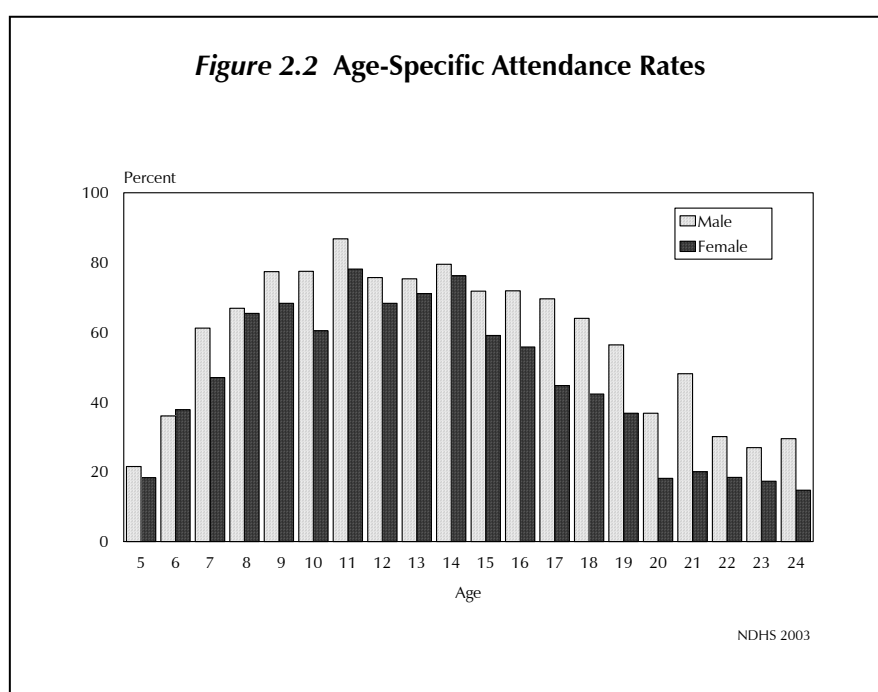


Table 2.4 also shows school attendance ratios and GPIs by wealth quintile, an indicator of the economic status of households. The wealth index is a recently developed measure that has been tested in a number of countries in relation to inequities in household income, use of health services, and health outcomes (Rutstein, 2004; Rutstein et al., 2000). It is an indicator of the level of wealth that is consistent with expenditure and income measures (Rutstein, 1999). The wealth index was constructed using household asset data and principal components analysis. Asset information was collected in the 2003 NDHS Household Questionnaire and covers information on household ownership of a number of consumer items ranging from a television to a bicycle or car, as well as dwelling characteristics such as source of drinking water, type of sanitation facilities, and type of material used in flooring.

Each asset was assigned a weight (factor score) generated through principal component analysis, and the resulting asset scores were standardized in relation to a standard normal distribution with a mean of zero and standard deviation of one (Gwatkin et al., 2000). Each household was then assigned a score for each asset, and the scores were summed for each household; individuals were ranked according to the total score of the household in which they resided. The sample was then divided into quintiles from one (lowest) to five (highest)

The data in Table 2.4 show that there is a high correlation between economic status of the household and school attendance. For example, the NAR at the primary school level is 40 percent for the poorest households and 83 percent for the most advantaged households. The data indicate that unless there is an effective policy on free education, many young Nigerians will continue to be denied educational opportunities.

Table 2.4 School attendance ratios

Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de jure household population by level of schooling and sex, according to background characteristics, Nigeria 2003

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio <sup>1</sup>			Gross attendance ratio <sup>2</sup>			Gender parity index <sup>3</sup>
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>							
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	71.0	68.0	69.5	105.5	93.8	99.8	0.89
Rural	60.2	51.1	55.7	89.4	75.3	82.4	0.84
<b>Region</b>							
North Central	71.4	68.9	70.2	109.1	110.0	109.5	1.01
North East	49.5	39.1	44.4	71.1	51.8	61.6	0.73
North West	49.0	34.2	41.7	77.6	48.6	63.3	0.63
South East	82.4	78.3	80.2	124.5	117.0	120.4	0.94
South South	83.2	81.1	82.2	124.5	114.4	119.5	0.92
South West	81.2	84.6	82.8	104.6	114.9	109.4	1.10
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	45.0	35.7	40.4	71.5	57.1	64.4	0.80
Second	55.6	42.2	48.9	88.5	63.4	75.9	0.72
Middle	64.9	56.6	60.9	97.2	83.7	90.7	0.86
Fourth	75.4	72.7	74.1	111.8	106.0	109.0	0.95
Highest	82.9	82.8	82.9	108.4	103.8	106.0	0.96
Total	63.7	56.5	60.1	94.6	81.2	88.0	0.86
<b>SECONDARY SCHOOL</b>							
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	47.2	45.3	46.3	75.6	67.2	71.6	0.89
Rural	31.7	25.9	28.7	65.0	45.9	55.3	0.71
<b>Region</b>							
North Central	42.7	32.6	37.7	90.7	55.6	73.3	0.61
North East	22.9	14.9	19.1	41.6	23.1	32.9	0.55
North West	19.8	9.5	14.7	41.0	14.6	27.8	0.36
South East	44.9	51.4	48.5	84.7	93.7	89.8	1.11
South South	51.6	51.5	51.5	90.9	90.8	90.9	1.00
South West	62.2	59.9	61.0	94.1	80.2	87.0	0.85
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	17.5	12.0	14.6	40.9	23.8	32.1	0.58
Second	24.8	16.2	20.9	50.1	31.3	41.5	0.63
Middle	37.3	26.7	32.0	71.2	49.8	60.4	0.70
Fourth	43.5	40.1	41.8	84.5	63.1	73.9	0.75
Highest	62.6	64.9	63.8	95.0	94.2	94.6	0.99
Total	37.5	32.6	35.1	69.0	53.3	61.2	0.77

<sup>1</sup> The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school-age (6-11 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school age (12-17 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent.

<sup>2</sup> The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of over-age and under-age students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 percent.

<sup>3</sup> The Gender Parity Index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school GAR for females to the GAR for males. The Gender Parity Index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school GAR for females to the GAR for males.

## Dropout and Repetition Rates

By asking about the grade or class that children were attending during the previous school year, it is possible to calculate dropout rates and repetition rates. These rates describe the flow of students through the school system. Repetition and dropout rates approach zero where students nearly always progress to the next grade at the end of the school year. Repetition and dropout rates often vary across grades, indicating points in the school system where students are not regularly promoted to the next grade or they decide to drop out of school.

Although an automatic promotion policy does not operate officially in Nigeria, very few primary school students repeat grades. Table 2.5 indicates that apart from first grade, which 4 percent are repeating, the rates for grades 2 to 6 are all below 3 percent. Dropout rates are also low (less than 2 percent) from grades 1 through 5. At the sixth grade, the dropout rate is 17 percent. The reason for the high dropout rate at grade 6 is probably because many of the pupils who attend primary school are unable to move

Table 2.5 Grade repetition and dropout rates						
Repetition and dropout rates for the de jure household population age 5-24 years by school grade, according to background characteristics, Nigeria 2003						
Background characteristic	School grade					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
REPETITION RATE <sup>1</sup>						
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	3.8	2.8	1.7	1.6	2.9	2.4
Female	4.0	1.8	3.5	1.9	1.8	1.9
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	4.5	0.9	1.7	2.3	4.4	2.9
Rural	3.5	3.2	3.0	1.4	1.2	1.5
<b>Region</b>						
North Central	2.4	1.1	2.2	0.0	2.1	0.0
North East	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.0
North West	6.1	4.2	5.6	1.3	5.7	(5.9)
South East	0.8	6.9	2.0	1.3	2.0	3.1
South South	6.6	0.0	1.6	2.2	1.1	1.1
South West	2.4	3.3	0.9	5.1	3.5	2.2
Total	3.9	2.4	2.5	1.7	2.4	2.1
DROPOUT RATE <sup>2</sup>						
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.0	2.0	15.8
Female	0.1	0.3	0.9	3.3	0.1	17.9
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	7.0
Rural	0.1	0.4	1.1	2.1	1.6	23.7
<b>Region</b>						
North Central	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.0	24.9
North East	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	14.2
North West	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.0	2.3	(26.8)
South East	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6	4.0
South South	0.2	0.0	2.5	4.3	2.5	21.3
South West	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
Total	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.4	1.1	16.9

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.  
<sup>1</sup> The repetition rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are repeating that grade in the current school year.  
<sup>2</sup> The dropout rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are not attending school.



to the next educational level (i.e., secondary school). There is great variation by residence and region. For example, rural children are more than three times as likely as urban children to drop out of school at grade 6.

## 2.4 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The 2003 NDHS gathered information on housing characteristics such as source of water, electricity, cooking fuel, type of toilet facilities, number of sleeping rooms in the house, and housing material. Table 2.6 presents this information by urban–rural residence and region. These characteristics are correlated with health and are also an indication of socioeconomic status.

About half of households in Nigeria have electricity. Electricity is much more common in urban areas than in rural areas (85 and 34 percent, respectively). Indeed, urban dwellers are more advantaged overall in terms of household characteristics than rural dwellers. Nonetheless, living conditions across the entire country are mixed, with a majority of Nigerians having no access to potable water and using traditional pit toilets.

The source of water and availability of sanitary facilities are important determinants of the health status of household members. Sources of water expected to be relatively free of disease are piped water and water drawn from protected wells and deep boreholes. Other sources, like unprotected wells and surface water (rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes), are more likely to carry disease-causing agents. The table shows that 42 percent of Nigerian households have access to clean water sources (17 percent from piped water, 24 percent from a protected well, and 1 percent from spring water).

Sources of drinking water differ considerably by place of residence. Thirty-three percent of urban households obtain water from pipes into dwelling/yard/plot or from public taps, compared with just 9 percent of rural households. It is notable that in rural areas, approximately one-fifth obtain drinking water from open public wells and 27 percent from a river or stream. A majority of Nigerians (56 percent) have access to water within 15 minutes. About two-thirds of urban households obtain water within 15 minutes, compared with about half of rural households. The median time to the source of drinking water is 5 minutes for the urban households and 10 minutes for the rural households.

The lack of availability of sanitary facilities poses a serious public health problem. Only 15 percent of households have a flush toilet, while the majority (57 percent) use traditional pit toilets, and one-quarter have no facility. There are differences in the type of toilet facilities by both residence and region. Urban households are more than four times as likely to have a modern flush toilet as rural areas (29 and 7 percent, respectively). Households in the North West and North East are the least likely to have a flush toilet.

The type of material used for flooring is an indicator of the economic situation of households and therefore the potential exposure of household members to disease-causing agents. Forty-two percent of households live in dwellings with cement floors and 31 percent in dwellings with earth or sand floors. There are substantial differences in the flooring materials by urban-rural residence. Almost half of rural households have a floor made of earth, sand, or dung, compared with 10 percent of urban households.

Firewood and straw is the most common fuel used for cooking, reported by two-thirds of households. An additional 27 percent use kerosene. Rural households are twice as likely as urban households to use firewood or straw (84 and 41 percent, respectively).

Table 2.6 Household characteristics

Percent distribution of households by household characteristics, according to residence and region, Nigeria 2003

Household characteristic	Residence		Region					Total	
	Urban	Rural	North Central	North East	North West	South East	South South		South West
<b>Electricity</b>									
Yes	84.9	33.8	47.2	30.9	42.0	70.2	57.9	79.9	52.2
No	15.0	66.0	52.6	68.9	57.8	29.4	42.1	20.0	47.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Source of drinking water</b>									
Piped into dwelling/yard/plot	14.4	2.3	7.8	4.6	10.2	8.3	3.2	4.6	6.6
Public tap	18.5	6.2	8.1	9.7	11.8	11.8	4.6	18.8	10.6
Open well in dwelling/yard/plot	9.4	14.2	12.6	15.1	22.9	1.8	3.3	9.2	12.5
Open public well	6.7	21.2	9.4	30.8	25.0	1.5	5.2	12.7	16.0
Protected well in dwelling/yard/plot	6.7	3.7	5.5	1.8	3.3	10.8	7.0	3.5	4.8
Protected public well	24.4	16.3	11.5	5.3	12.1	33.1	35.8	25.6	19.2
Spring	0.6	1.3	1.5	0.2	0.5	4.8	0.5	1.2	1.1
River/stream	6.7	26.9	34.9	17.3	10.4	10.6	33.0	13.5	19.6
Pond/lake/dam	0.8	1.7	2.0	1.9	0.4	1.3	1.3	2.1	1.4
Rainwater	0.5	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.7	4.2	0.5	1.5
Tanker truck	5.9	1.9	5.9	4.4	0.6	7.3	1.4	4.2	3.3
Other	5.2	2.0	0.6	8.9	2.9	1.8	0.5	4.1	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Time to water source</b>									
Percentage <15 minutes	64.9	51.4	51.1	58.2	62.1	59.4	45.8	59.4	56.3
Median time to source	4.6	9.9	10.0	9.4	6.5	4.9	14.8	9.2	9.4
<b>Sanitation facility</b>									
Flush toilet	28.7	6.7	9.6	4.5	4.5	41.3	21.2	23.4	14.6
Traditional pit toilet	55.6	56.9	50.1	74.6	74.3	39.8	42.3	39.1	56.5
Ventilated improved pit (vip) latrine	5.5	1.9	1.9	0.5	1.6	0.9	8.5	5.5	3.2
Bush/field	9.7	31.6	38.0	20.1	19.2	17.6	19.7	30.7	23.7
River	0.3	2.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	8.2	1.2	1.9
Other	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Flooring material</b>									
Earth/sand	9.9	43.6	28.3	57.3	41.8	12.8	21.7	11.8	31.4
Dung	0.4	3.6	1.4	4.5	4.2	0.2	1.1	1.2	2.4
Cement	47.4	39.6	48.5	31.5	45.4	53.1	35.9	44.4	42.4
Carpet	39.0	12.1	20.8	6.2	7.4	27.8	38.4	40.9	21.8
Other	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.1	1.1	1.3	2.7	1.3	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Cooking fuel</b>									
Electricity	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3
Kerosene	53.4	12.1	16.1	4.8	10.3	51.0	36.2	64.2	26.9
Firewood, straw	41.1	84.4	79.5	92.6	83.8	45.0	61.1	30.7	68.8
Dung	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5
Other	4.7	2.5	3.4	2.0	3.6	3.7	2.5	4.7	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons per sleeping room	2.9	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	3.6	2.2	3.3
Number of households	2,598	4,627	1,040	1,185	1,911	690	1,315	1,083	7,225

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to missing cases.

Crowded conditions may affect health as well as the quality of life. The number of persons per sleeping room in the household is used as a measure of household room density. On average, there are 3.3 persons per sleeping room in Nigeria. Rural households have more people per sleeping room than urban households (3.6 and 2.9 percent, respectively).

## Household Durable Goods

The availability of durable consumer goods is an indicator of a household's socioeconomic status. Moreover, particular goods have specific advantages. For example, having access to a radio or a television exposes household members to innovative ideas, a refrigerator prolongs the wholesomeness of foods, and a means of transport allows greater access to services away from the local area.

Table 2.7 shows the availability of selected consumer goods by residence. Nationally, almost three-fourths of households own a radio, and almost one-third own a television. Fewer households own a refrigerator—just 18 percent. In each case, urban households are much more likely than rural households to own these goods. Indeed, urban households are more likely than rural households to own each of the items except for bicycles, work animals, and boats, which are more commonly owned in rural areas. Rural households are also disadvantaged in terms of communications. Less than 2 percent of the rural households have telephones or cell phones, compared with 12 percent of urban households.

The data presented in this chapter vividly portray the level of poverty in Nigeria. Less than half of Nigerians have access to potable water and just one-third of rural households have electricity. There is a need for vigorous policies to improve access to the basic necessities of life. Furthermore, the data on education illustrate the need for better schooling of the population, especially females.

Table 2.7 Household durable goods

Percentage of households possessing various durable consumer goods, by residence and region, Nigeria 2003

Durable consumer goods	Residence		Region						Total
	Urban	Rural	North Central	North East	North West	South East	South South	South West	
Radio	85.3	65.8	75.0	60.8	72.5	87.7	69.4	79.1	72.8
Television	58.6	15.4	23.6	14.0	19.9	52.9	37.3	54.4	31.0
Telephone/cell phone	11.8	1.9	1.6	1.1	2.3	14.0	6.5	12.8	5.5
Refrigerator	36.1	7.9	13.6	9.2	8.9	35.4	24.8	28.8	18.0
Gas cooker	7.5	2.1	2.7	1.1	1.7	12.2	6.3	4.9	4.0
Iron	57.3	16.8	24.6	13.2	20.6	51.4	40.7	52.5	31.3
Fan	69.2	19.6	32.9	17.9	23.1	58.3	47.0	63.6	37.4
Bicycle	17.9	41.0	36.5	44.9	40.8	24.7	33.2	5.8	32.7
Motorcycle/scooter	17.5	13.8	23.3	13.9	14.9	14.2	14.4	10.4	15.1
Car/truck	17.8	4.9	8.4	6.3	4.9	21.3	9.7	15.0	9.6
Donkey/horse/camel	1.5	8.0	0.8	4.8	18.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	5.7
Canoe/boat/ship	1.2	7.1	3.9	1.2	7.5	0.1	12.2	0.2	5.0
None of the above	7.0	19.9	14.7	22.6	14.3	7.8	15.4	14.0	15.2
Number of households	2,598	4,627	1,040	1,185	1,911	690	1,315	1,083	7,225