

North Macedonia 2018-2019

MICS

Child Marriage

Multiple Indicator
Cluster Surveys

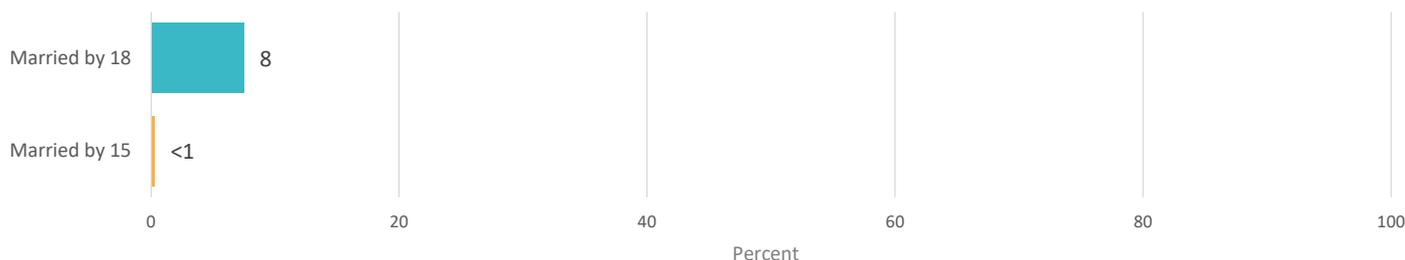
Child Marriage: Levels & Disaggregates



Republic of North Macedonia
State Statistical Office



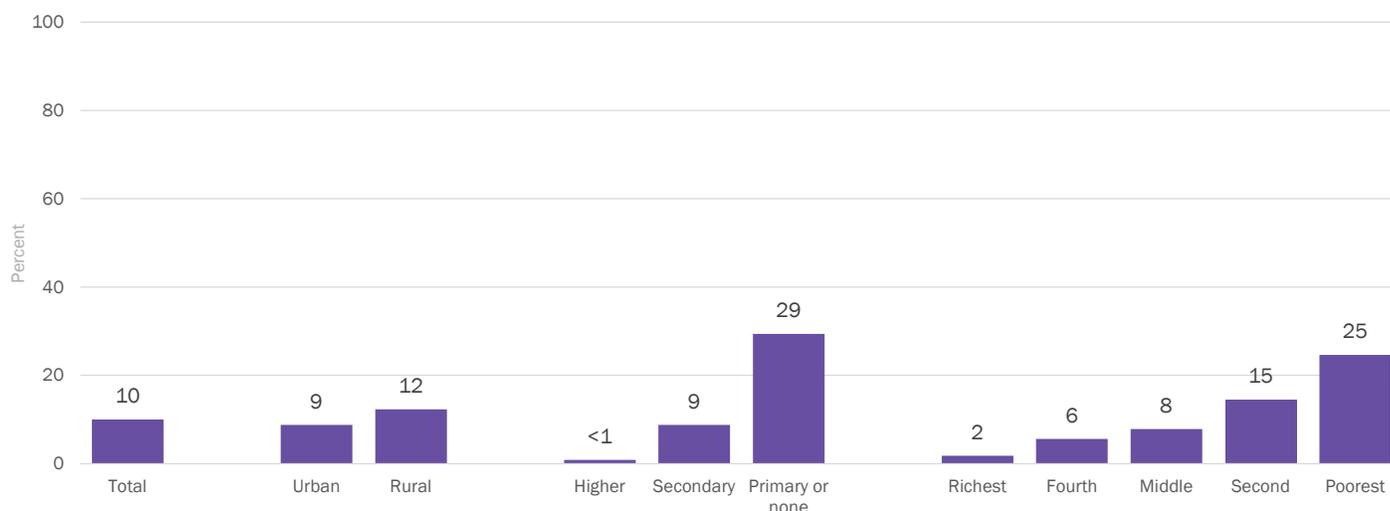
Marriage before Age 15 & Age 18: SDG 5.3.1



Percentage of women age 20-24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18

The above chart refers to women aged 20 to 24 years, as this youngest cohort most recently completed exposure to the risk of marrying in childhood, thus giving a closer approximation of the current prevalence of child marriage. The following charts, which show disaggregation by background characteristics, refer to the full cohort of women aged 20 to 49 years.

Disaggregates in Marriage before Age 18



Percentage of women age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by area, wealth quintile and education

Key Messages

- Eight percent of the women age 20-24 years in the country were first married or in union before they were 18 years old, while less than 1 percent of women of the same age group were married or in union before age 15.
- Of the women age 20-49, 10 percent were married or in union before age 18.
- Results by background characteristics show that the percentage of women married or in union before age 18 differs among women with different levels of education. Less than 1 percent of women with higher education were married before 18 compared to 29 percent of those with primary education or none.
- Similarly, 25 percent of women from the poorest quintile were married before 18, compared to only 2 percent of women from the richest quintile.
- The results on women married before ages 15 and 18 across different age groups allow for trends to be observed in child marriage over time. These show a continuous decrease of marriage before age 18, while more recently progress appears to have stalled.

Child Marriage by Ethnicity of Household Head

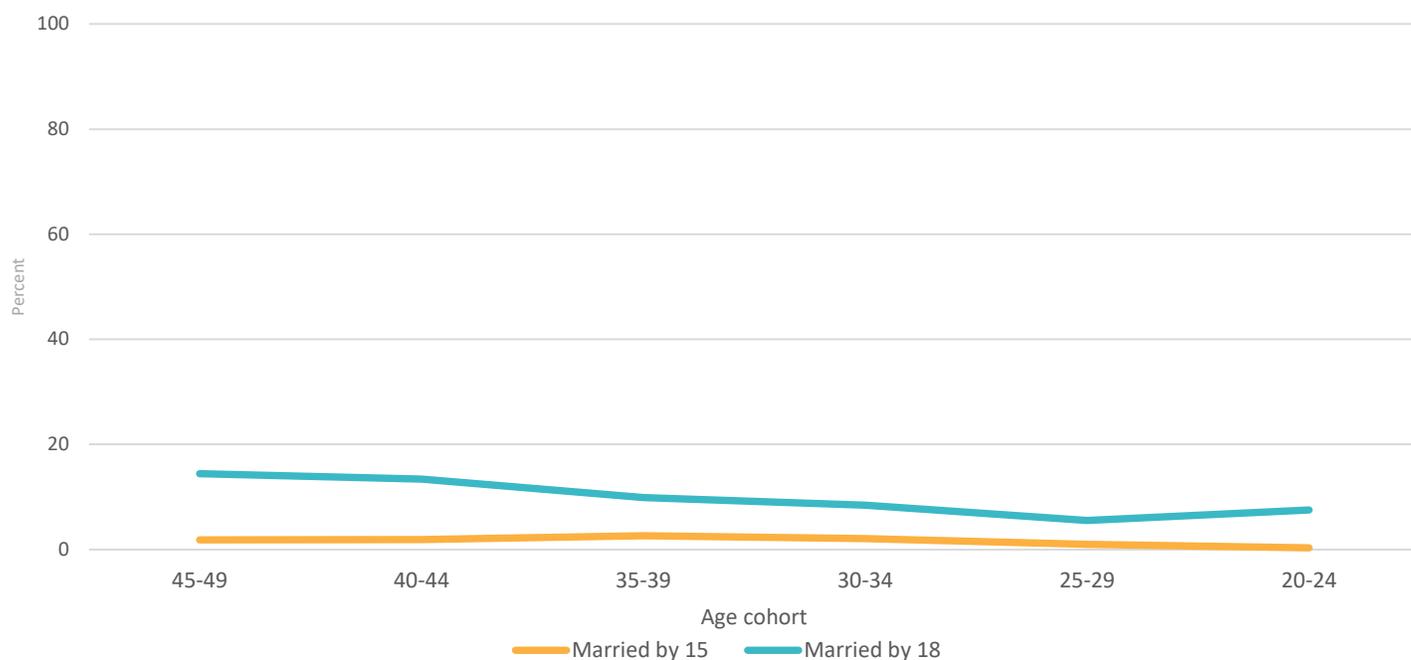
Ethnicity of household head	Marriage by age 18
National	10
Macedonian	7
Albanian	7
Other ¹	30

Percentage of women aged 20 to 49 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by ethnicity of household head

¹ "Other" includes any of the other five ethnic minorities living in the country: Roma (2.7 percent), Turkish (3.8 percent), Serbian (1.8 percent), Bosniak (0.8 percent), Vlach (0.5 percent), per the last Census conducted in 2002.

Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls. In many parts of the world parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hopes that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actual fact, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty. The right to 'free and full' consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - with the recognition that consent cannot be 'free and full' when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision about a life partner.

Trends in Child Marriage



Percentage of women age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by age cohort

The North Macedonia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2018-2019 by the State Statistical Office as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF, UNFPA and the British Embassy provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the 2018-2019 North Macedonia MICS related to Child Marriage. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables PR.4.1W.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.