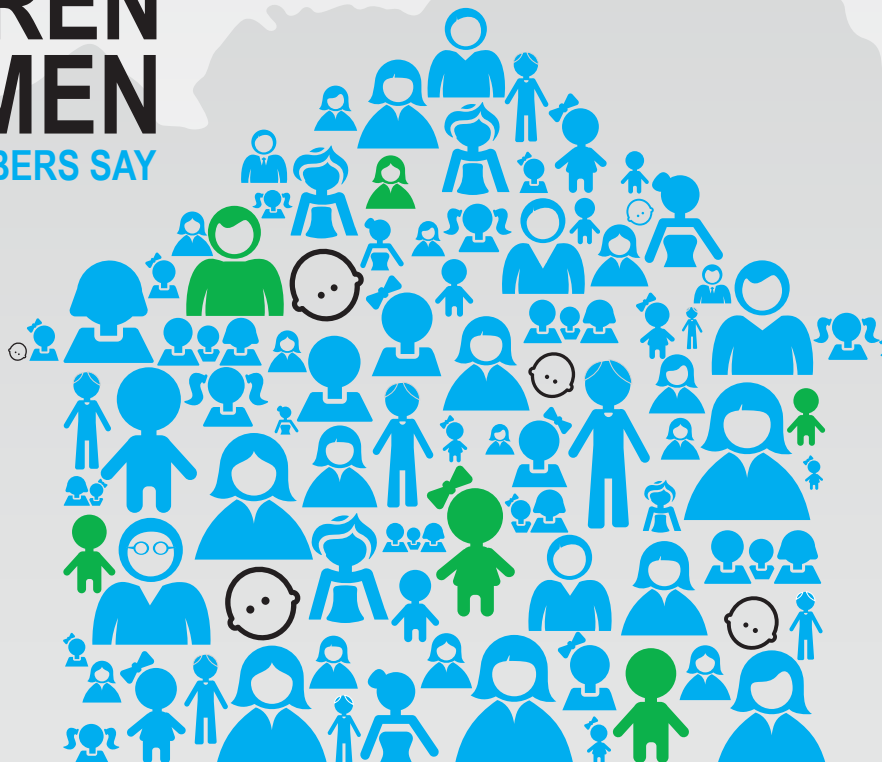# CHILDREN & WOMEN

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

KEY FINDINGS OF THE MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY – 2011

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The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey or MICS is an
international household survey programme developed
and supported by UNICEF. It provides up-to-date infor-
mation on the situation of children and women, which
helps monitor progress towards the Millennium Devel-
opment Goals and other international commitments.
The survey is a nationally representative sample
survey of households, women and children.In addition
to carrying out MICS on a nationally representative
sample, in this country a survey was also carried out on
a separate sample of Roma settlements. The findings
are presented around various children`s rights. The
findings for the nationally representative sample are
depicted in blue while those for the Roma settlements
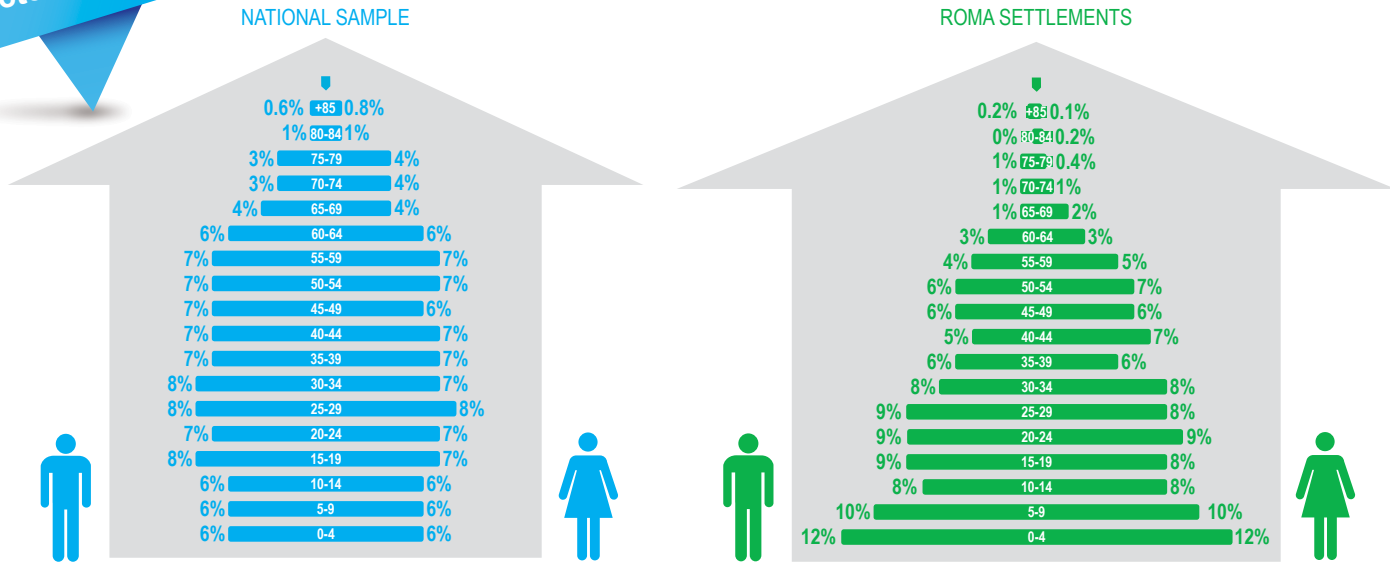sample are presented in green.

National sample:
Households: 4018
Women: 3831
Children under five: 1376

Roma sample:
Households: 953
Women: 1091
Children under five: 476

LEGEND   ■ General Population   ■ Roma settlement

unicef

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

NATIONAL SAMPLE

0.6%	+85	0.8%
1%	80-84	1%
3%	75-79	4%
3%	70-74	4%
4%	65-69	4%
6%	60-64	6%
7%	55-59	7%
7%	50-54	7%
7%	45-49	6%
7%	40-44	7%
7%	35-39	7%
8%	30-34	7%
8%	25-29	8%
7%	20-24	7%
8%	15-19	7%
6%	10-14	6%
6%	5-9	6%
6%	0-4	6%

ROMA SETTLEMENTS

0.2%	+85	0.1%
0%	80-84	0.2%
1%	75-79	0.4%
1%	70-74	1%
1%	65-69	2%
3%	60-64	3%
4%	55-59	5%
6%	50-54	7%
6%	45-49	6%
5%	40-44	7%
6%	35-39	6%
8%	30-34	8%
9%	25-29	8%
9%	20-24	9%
9%	15-19	8%
8%	10-14	8%
10%	5-9	10%
12%	0-4	12%

	Boys (0-17)	Girls (0-17)	Male (+18)	Female (+18)
General Population	23%	21%	77%	79%
Roma settlement	36%	36%	64%	64%
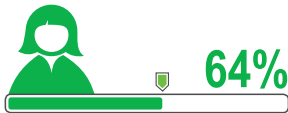
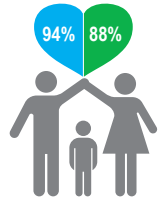## CHILDREN UNDER 5 LIVING WITH BOTH PARENTS

94% 88%

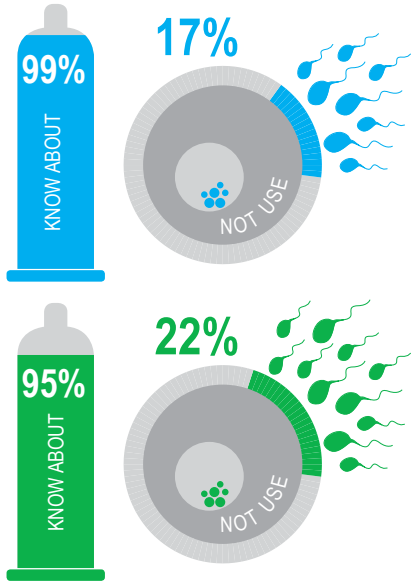LEGEND General Population Roma settlement

The Right to Health and Nutrition

FAMILY PLANNING CHOICES OF WOMEN MARRIED OR IN UNION

The numbers show that the percentage of women who know about any contraception method is very high. Yet almost 1 in 5 women who want to postpone or stop child bearing are not currently using contraception.

99% KNOW ABOUT

17% NOT USE

95% KNOW ABOUT

22% NOT USE

**HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS**

YOUNG WOMAN AGED 15-19 WHO HAVE GIVEN BIRTH OR CURRENTLY PREGNANT

The numbers show that the proportion of young women aged 15-19 who have given birth or are currently pregnant is low among the general population. However, almost 1 in 5 Roma young women aged 15-19 have given birth or are currently pregnant.

| TOTAL	POOREST	ONLY COMPLETED PRIMARY EDUCATION
3% 18%	5% 25%	12% 24%
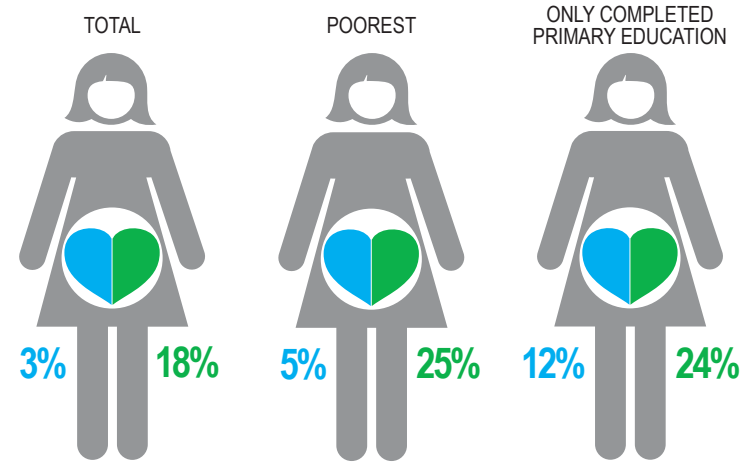
LAST BORN CHILD DELIVERED DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS VIA C-SECTION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

How a child is delivered at birth can place the health of women and babies in danger. WHO indicates that the proportion of women delivering by caesarean section should not normally exceed 15%. The numbers show that children delivered via c-section increases with the mother's education.

GENERAL POPULATION **30%**

With primary education **15%**

With secondary education **27%**

With higher education **38%**
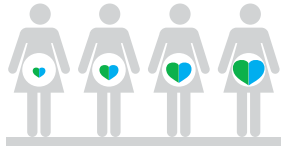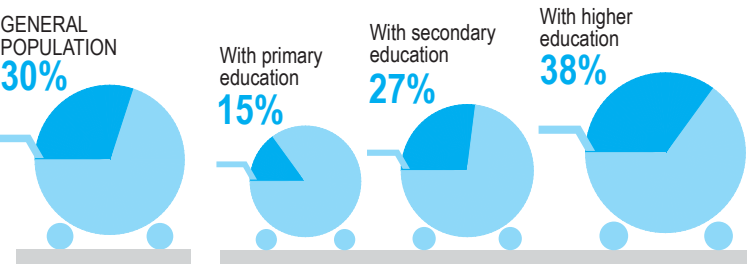
WOMEN WHO SEE A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL AT LEAST 4 TIMES DURING PREGNANCY

UNICEF and WHO recommend a minimum of four antenatal visits to ensure interventions vital to the health and wellbeing of the mother and baby. The numbers show that women in Roma settlements and Albanian women are less likely to see to see a medical professional during pregnancy, compared to Macedonian women.

General Population	Macedonian women	Albanian women	Roma settlement
94%	97%	88%	86%
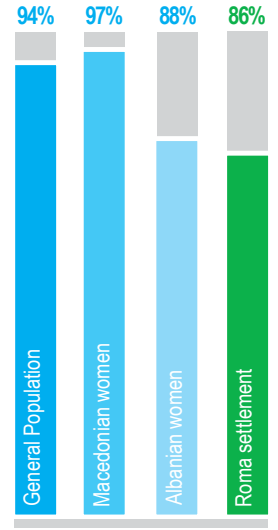
The Right to Health and Nutrition

### YOUNG WOMAN AGED 15-19 WHO REGULARLY SMOKE

8%

20%
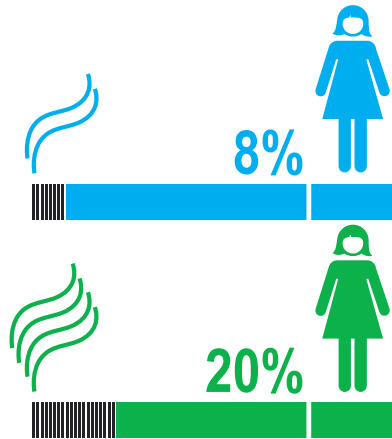
Tobacco use is a known risk factor for many deadly diseases. The numbers show that young women in Roma settlements are twice as likely to regularly smoke compared to the general population. Among young women aged 15-19 1 in 5 young women in Roma settlements smoke.

YOUNG WOMAN AGED 15-19 WHO REGULARLY CONSUME ALCOHOL

23%   14%
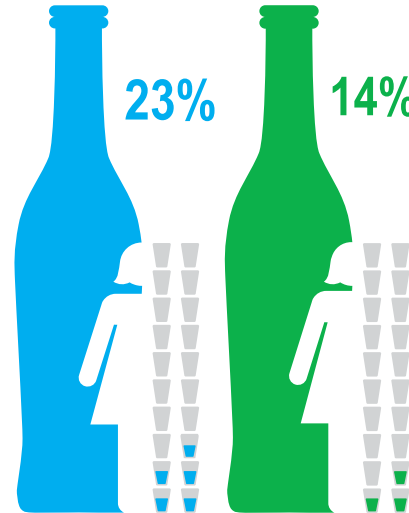
Excessive alcohol use also increases the risk of many harmful health conditions. Unlike smoking, the numbers show that young women in Roma settlements are less likely to consume alcohol compared to the general population.

WOMEN 15-49 WHO SMOKE REGULARLY

24% Poorest

38% Richest

56% Poorest

32% Richest
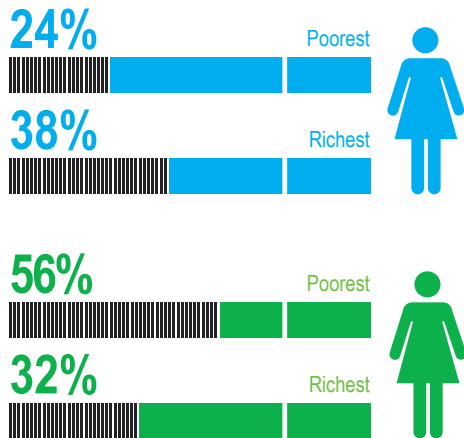
The numbers show that the proportion of women who smoke increases with age. Looking at a broader age group -15-49 years - 30 percent of women reported to use tobacco regularly. The numbers also show that among women in the general population, smoking increases with the rise in household wealth. However, among women in Roma settlements smoking decreases with household wealth.

WOMAN AGED 15-49 WHO REGULARLY CONSUME ALCOHOL

9%   9%   12%   52%

Poorest   Richest

The numbers show that consumption of alcohol varies somewhat depending on the wealth of the household. Among the general population women from the richest households are five time more likely to consume alcohol than women from the poorest household.

LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

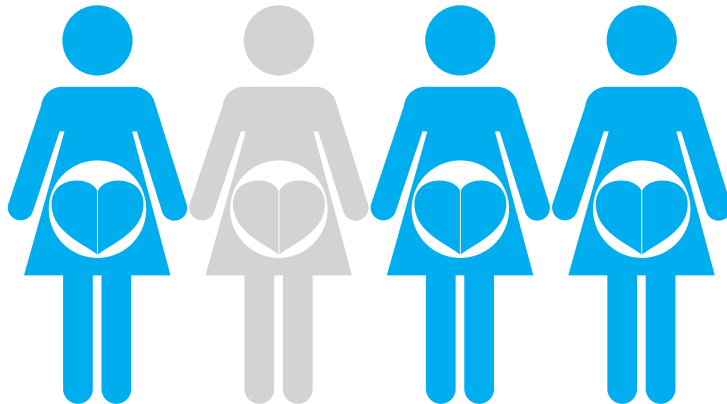## WOMEN WHO SMOKE DURING PREGNANCY

23%

General population

19%

Roma settlements

The prevalence of smoking, particularly during pregnancy, is a significant public health issue. The numbers show that almost 1 in 4 pregnant women smoke during pregnancy.

CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) carries a range of grave health risks for children. Babies who were undernourished in the womb face a greatly increased risk of dying during their early months and years. The numbers show that children in Roma settlements are two time more likely to be born below 2,500 grams than the general public.

PERCENTAGE OF LIVE
BIRTHS UNDER 2,500 GRAMS

2,500gr

2,500gr

6%

11%
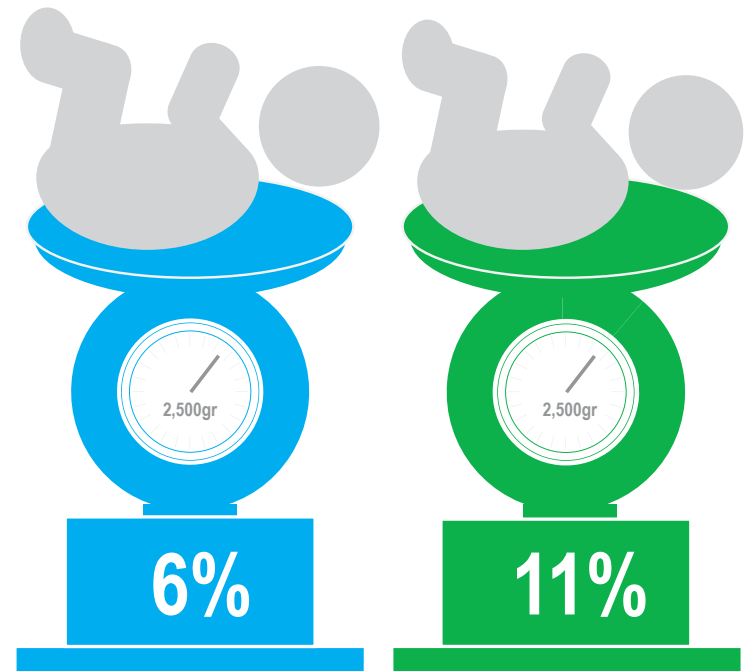
## CHILDREN WHO HAVE RECEIVED ALL RECOMMENDED VACCINES

The numbers show that over 90 per cent of all children have received all the recommended vaccines. Children in Roma settlements are only slightly less likely to receive the full round of vaccinations compared to the general population.

91%

89%

General Population

Roma settlement
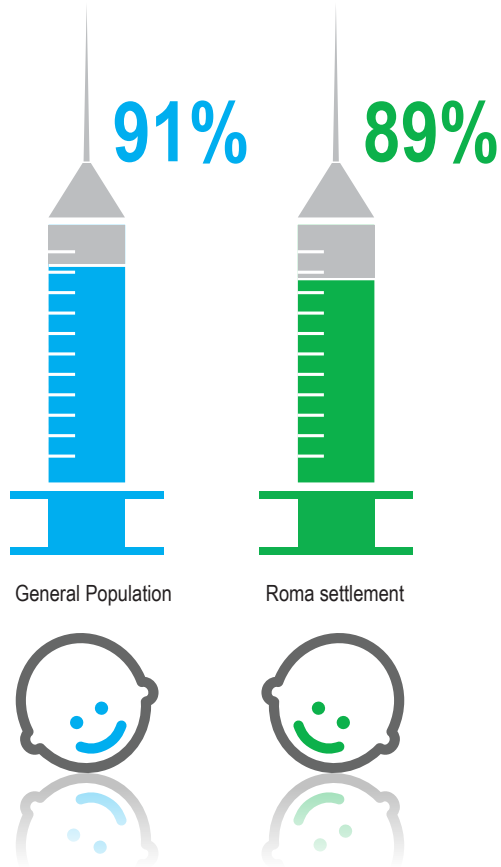
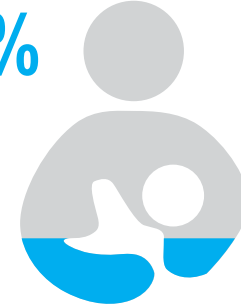## CHILDREN WHO ARE BREASTFED

WITHIN FIRST HOUR OF BIRTH

21%
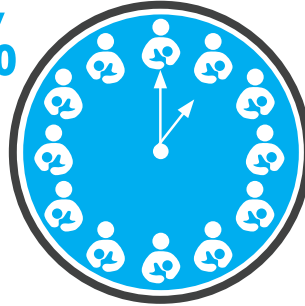
EXCLUSIVELY IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF BIRTH

23%

Breastfeeding protects children from infection, provides an ideal source of nutrients, and is economical and safe. However, many mothers stop breastfeeding too soon and there are often pressures to switch to infant formula. UNICEF and WHO recommend that breastfeeding is initiated within one hour of birth and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months. The numbers show that while over 90 percent of children born within the last two years were breastfed at some point, those breastfed in the first hour and exclusively in the first 6 months is very low.

5%
General Population

17%
Roma Settlements
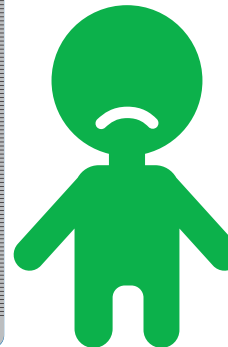
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 WHO ARE TOO SHORT FOR THEIR AGE

Stunting is indicative of chronic malnutrition caused by improper and inadequate feeding. The numbers show that the prevalence of child malnutrition at a national level is relatively low. However, the prevalence of children considered short for age, or stunted, is high among children in Roma settlements.

LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

The Right to Inclusive, Quality Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN AGED 36-59 MONTHS ATTENDING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The only access to early childhood development programs in the country is through state-funded kindergarten programs and a small number of early childhood development centres. Given the areas in which the services are available, predominantly in urban areas, those children who would benefit most are precisely the ones missing out.

General Population	Urban	Rural	Macedonian	Albanian	Roma settlement
22%	**37%**	**6%**	**37%**	**3%**	**4%**
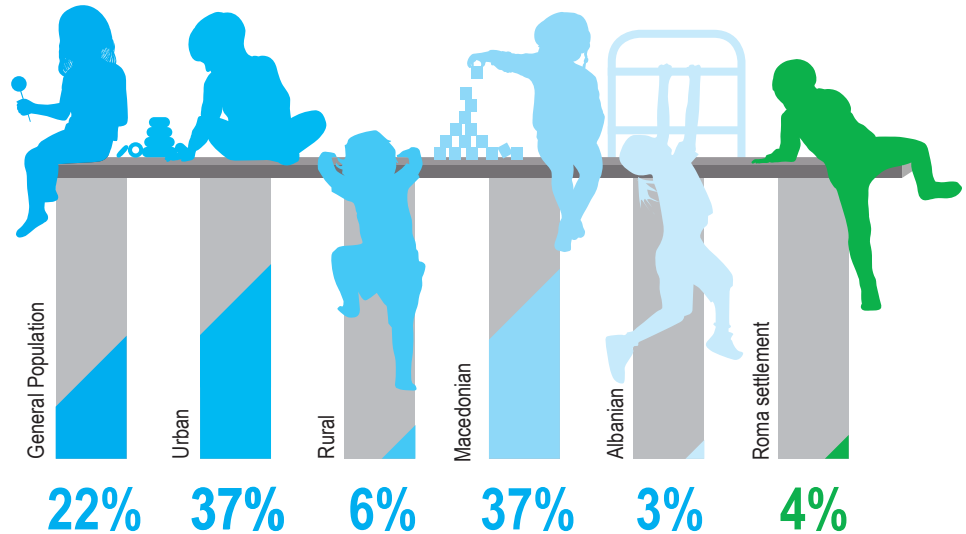
CHILDREN AGED 36-59 MONTHS WITH ACCESS TO MORE THAN THREE BOOKS IN THE HOME

52% General Population

66% Urban

38% Rural

75% Macedonian

25% Albanian

27% Roma settlement
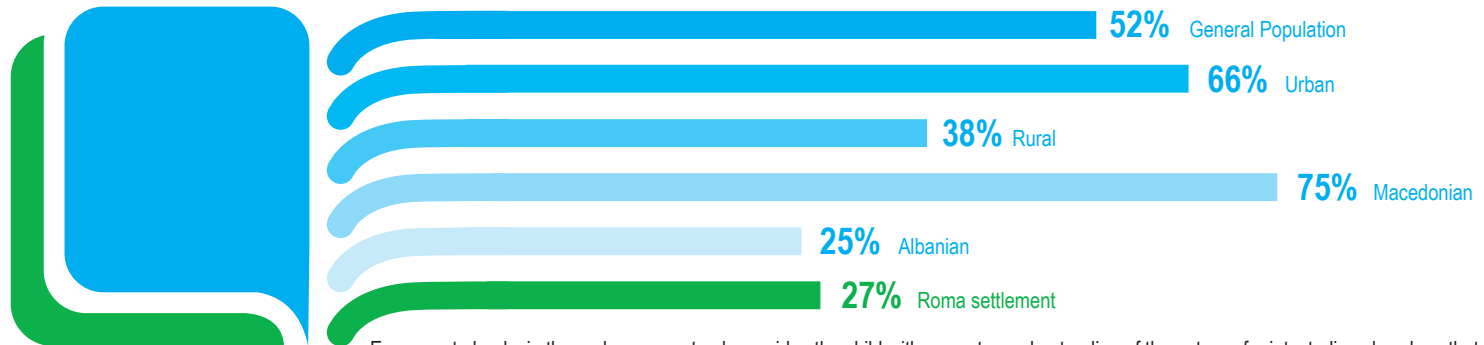
Exposure to books in the early years not only provides the child with a greater understanding of the nature of print, studies also show that children who grow up in households where books are available are more likely to do better in school. The numbers show that every second child does not have access to more than three books, and that children in Roma settlements, living in rural areas and Albanian children are far less likely to have access to books than the general population.

LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

CHILDREN AGED 36-59 MONTHS WHO ARE ON TRACK IN FOUR DEVELOPMENT DOMAINS

Literacy and numeracy, physical growth, socio-emotional development and readiness to learn are vital domains of a child's overall development. Almost all children (general population and Roma settlements) are on track when it comes to physical development and readiness to learn, and to some degree social-emotional development. However, fewer are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy skills.
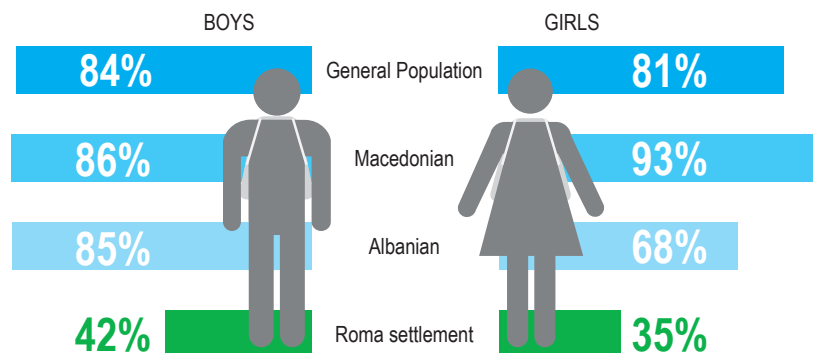
	Literacy and Numeracy	Physical	Social-Emotional	Learning
General Population	43%	100%	91%	98%
Roma settlement	16%	98%	72%	92%
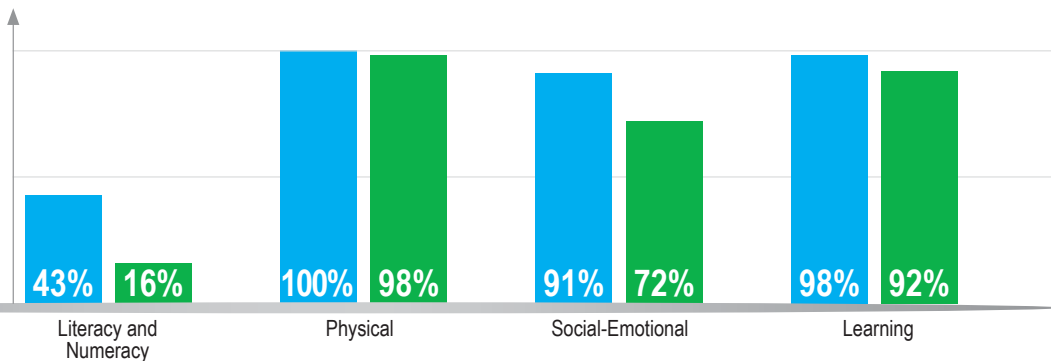
EDUCATION

CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL

General Population
Almost all children

Roma Settlements
86%
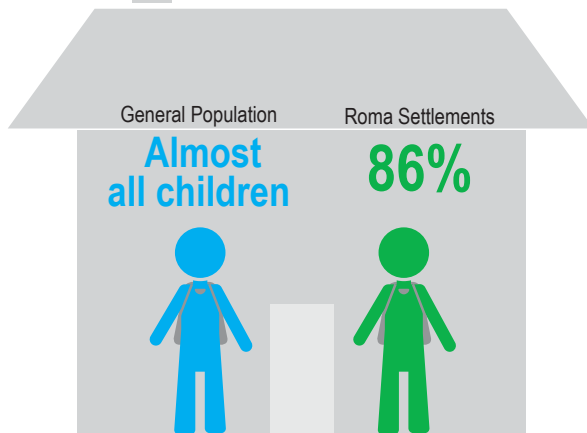
CHILDREN ATTENDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

	BOYS		GIRLS
General Population	84%		81%
Macedonian	86%		93%
Albanian	85%		68%
Roma settlement	42%		35%

The numbers show that more than half of the youth at secondary school age in Roma settlements do not attend secondary school. Furthermore, girls in Roma settlements and Albanian girls are less likely to attend secondary school than boys.
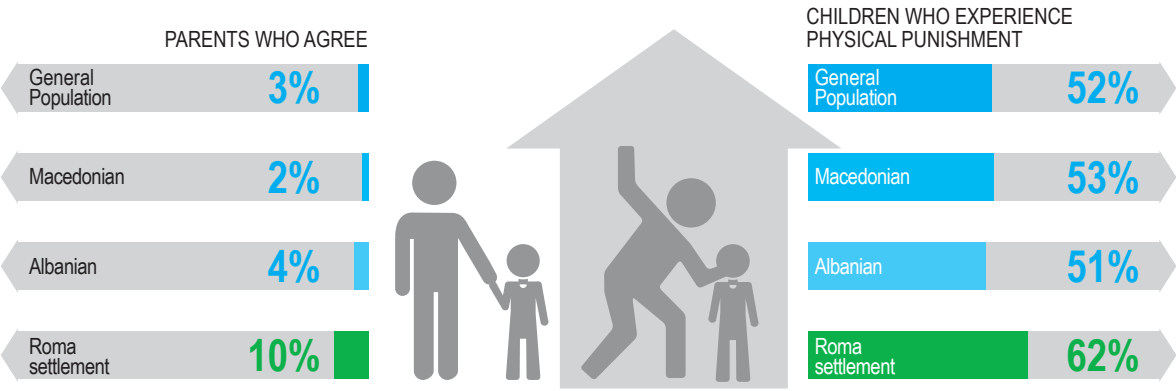
LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

The Right to Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

CHILD DISCIPLINE

The numbers show that while a relatively small proportion of parents believe that to raise their children properly they need to physically punish them, in practice, more of them use physical punishment as a method for discipline.

## PARENTS WHO AGREE PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IS NEEDED TO RAISE CHILD VS CHILDREN AGED 2-14 SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT

PARENTS WHO AGREE

General Population	3%
Macedonian	2%
Albanian	4%
Roma settlement	10%

CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT

General Population	52%
Macedonian	53%
Albanian	51%
Roma settlement	62%

CHILDREN AGED 2-14 WHO EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL AGGRESSION AS A METHOD OF DISCIPLINE BY AGE

ANY VIOLENT DISCIPLINE METHOD

- 69% 2-4 years
- 73% 5-9 years
- 66% 10-14 years

LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

GIRLS AGED 15-19 CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN UNION

General Population	4%
Macedonian	2%
Albanian	6%
Roma settlement	22%
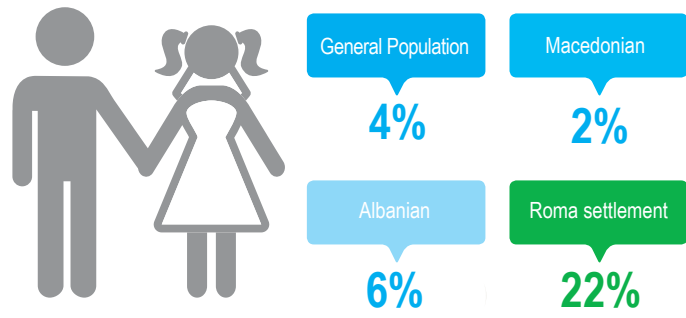
Child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the mental and physical development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation. The numbers show that 1 in 5 girls aged 15-19 in Roma settlements are currently married or in union.

WOMEN WHO BELIEVE IT IS JUSTIFIED FOR A HUSBAND TO BEAT HIS WIFE

General Population **15%**

Urban **7%**

Rural **24%**

Macedonian **6%**
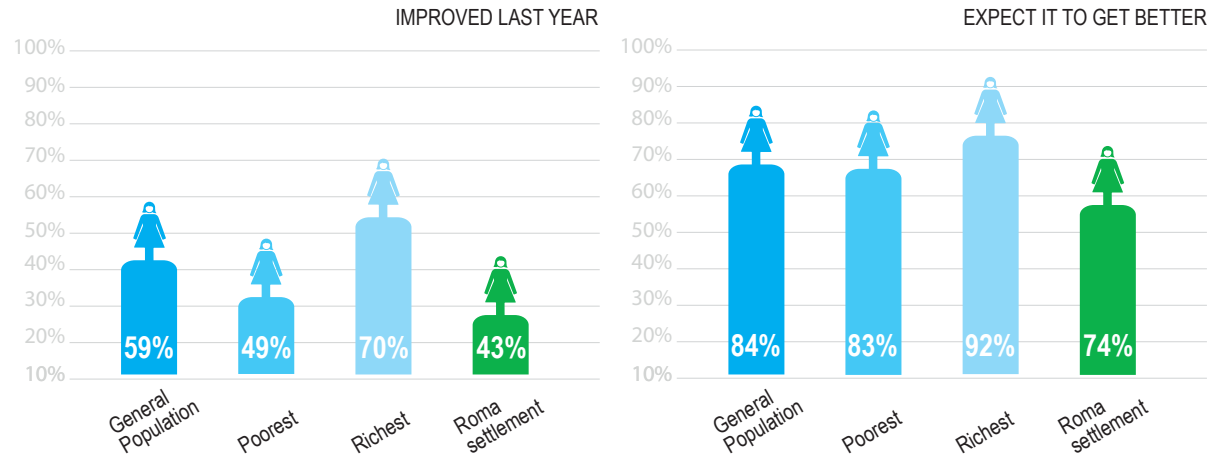
Albanian **30%**

Roma settlement **25%**
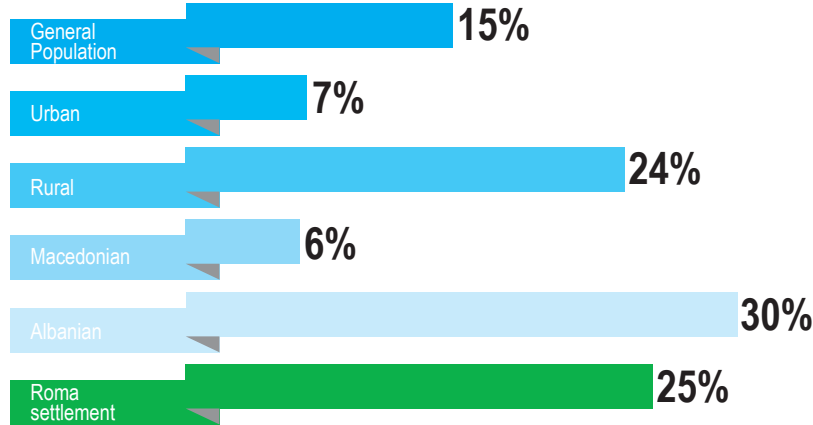
Cultural beliefs around justification of a husband to beat his wife tend to be associated with the prevalence of violence against women by their husbands/partners. The main assumption here is that women who agree with the statements indicating that husbands/partners are justified to beat their wives/partners under situations also tend to be abused by their own husbands/partners. The numbers show that Albanian women, women living in Roma settlements and women living in rural areas are far more likely to believe it is justified for a husband to beat his wife compared to the general population.

YOUNG WOMEN'S OUTLOOK ON LIFE

YOUNG WOMEN WHO THINK THAT THEIR LIVES IMPROVED DURING THE LAST YEAR AND EXPECT IT TO GET BETTER

Life satisfaction is a measure of an individual's perceived level of well-being. The numbers show that more young women are optimistic about the future.

IMPROVED LAST YEAR

General Population **59%**

Poorest **49%**

Richest **70%**

Roma settlement **43%**

EXPECT IT TO GET BETTER

General Population **84%**

Poorest **83%**

Richest **92%**

Roma settlement **74%**

LEGEND ■ General Population ■ Roma settlement

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