



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!

**Spatial aspects of sustainable
development:**

**differences by type of settlement
and between regions**



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Spatial aspects of sustainable development: differences by type of settlement and between regions

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LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!

Spatial aspects of sustainable development: differences by type of settlement and between regions

Leave No One Behind is the basic principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It represents the unanimous commitment of all states to fully eradicate poverty, social exclusion and discrimination in all their forms, and reduce the inequalities and various forms of vulnerabilities that exclude individuals and social groups from development processes and undermine their development potential and well-being and the development potential of humanity as a whole.¹

This principle is grounded in a finding that due to intertwining of various exclusion factors, some groups experience multiple and mutually strengthening forms of deprivation and inequalities, which results in their exclusion from development processes. Five key exclusion factors are the following: discrimination (on the basis of inherited or acquired characteristics), geographic remoteness or staying in an unfavourable geographic area (environmental degradation, lack of transport and communications, under-developed economy, technology, services), governance (inadequate laws, policies, non-transparent and unaccountable institutions, lack of democratic participation), socio-economic status (inequalities in access to resources and in employment possibilities, poverty and deprivation), vulnerability to shocks (including conflicts, crises, climate change and natural disasters)².

This short informative publication from the *"Leave No One Behind"* series shows the situation with regard to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Republic of Serbia from the perspective of spatial differences or inequalities, which are viewed twofold: (1) as differences between the population living in urban and other settlements, and (2) as differences among the population living in regions of the Republic of Serbia. To differentiate settlements by type, official statistics uses a typology that distinguishes between "urban" and "other" settlements. This typology is based on the so-called administrative-legal criterion, according to which certain settlements have been declared urban by special acts of local self-government units, while all other settlements have been classified in the "other" category. The category of "other" settlements is used as the closest to the category of rural settlements. According to the estimates of the population by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia for 2020, the share of the population of "other" settlements in the overall population of Serbia was 38.8%.

¹ <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>

² UNSDG (2019) *Leaving No One Behind. A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams*, <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Interim-Draft-Operational-Guide-on-LNOB-for-UNCTs.pdf>



When it comes to regions, the "Regulation on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics" (NUTS) defines three levels:

- There are two regions at the NUTS 1 level: Serbia - north, and Serbia - south;
- At the NUTS 2 level, there are five regions, out of which this publication covers the Belgrade Region, the Region of Vojvodina, the Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, and
- At the NUTS 3 level, there are 29 administrative districts, each of which includes a number of municipalities and cities, and the city of Belgrade has the status of a special administrative unit.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda pays special attention to the spatial aspects of development. To achieve sustainable development in countries and wider international regions, it is necessary to take special care of sustainable development policies at the regional level within countries, as well as urban and rural development policies. Regional inequalities are present in almost all countries, and when they are very pronounced they represent a serious obstacle to sustainable development because they affect migratory trends of population moving from less developed to more developed areas, creating further unfavorable conditions for development (reduction of economic activities, unprofitable maintenance or development of social services, infrastructure, public transport, etc.), which creates further obstacles to development and leads to new waves of emigration of the population, particularly the youth and most productive population. The 2030 Agenda therefore particularly focuses on both regional inequalities and inequalities between urban and rural areas, providing for support for positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. In this regard, the "Leave No One Behind" principle means not leaving out of development even underdeveloped and remote regions, nor rural areas.

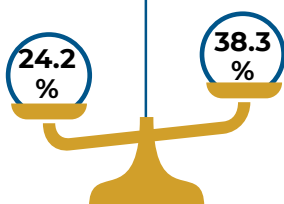
Population of urban and other settlements in the sustainable development flows

Urban settlements

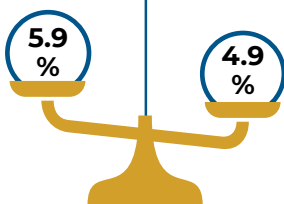
Other settlements



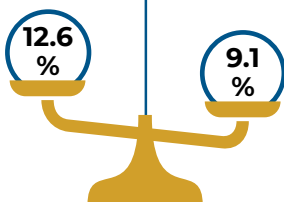
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate



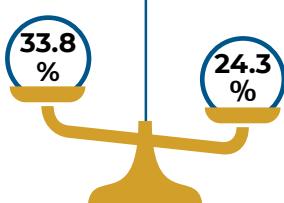
Stunt rate among children under 5 years of age



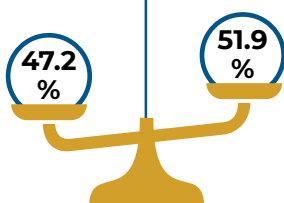
Obesity rate among children under 5 years of age



Family planning with modern contraception, women 15-49



Employment rates of population aged 15+ years

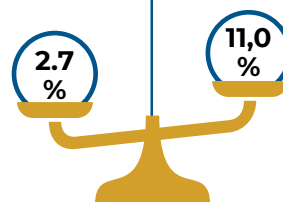


Urban settlements

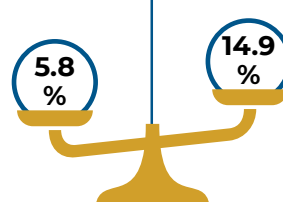
Other settlements



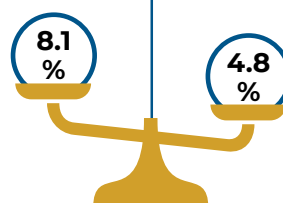
Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union for the first time before age 18



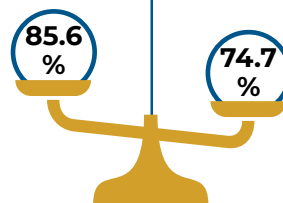
Child labour rate (aged 5-17 years)



Experienced discrimination in the previous 12 months (women aged 15-49 years)



Households with Internet connection

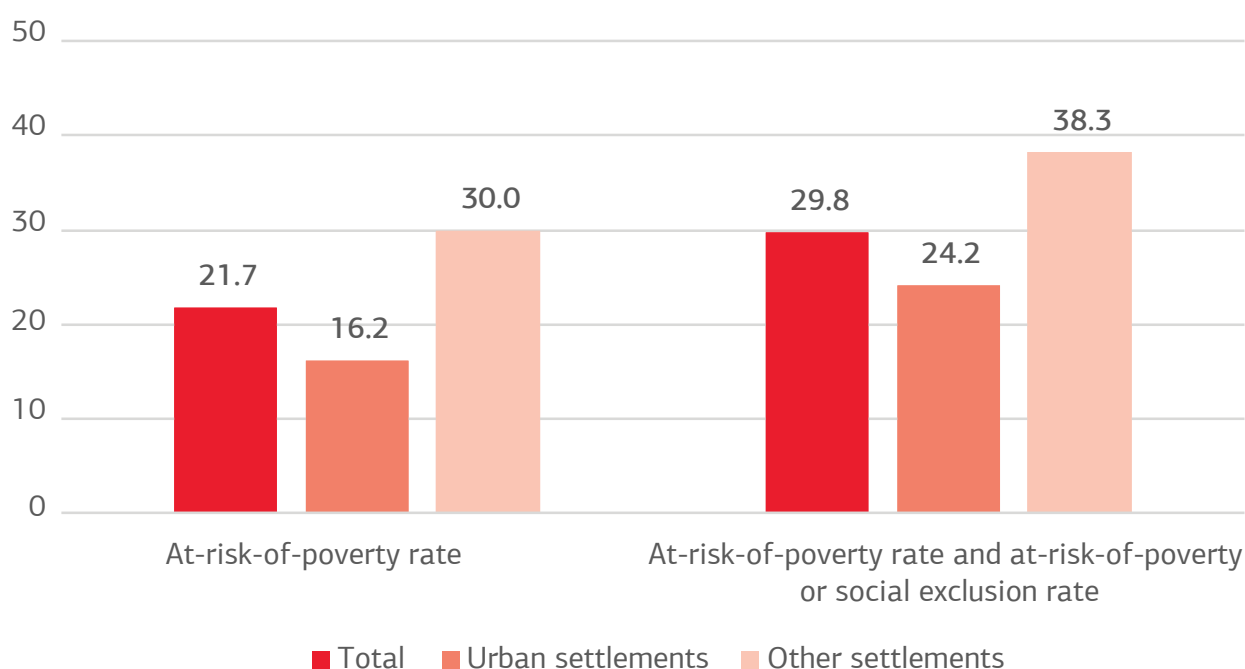




THE RISKS OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER IN OTHER ("RURAL") THAN IN URBAN SETTLEMENTS...

Poverty and social exclusion do not affect the population of urban and other, i.e. "rural" settlements equally. Differences in at-risk-of-poverty rates as well as at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates are large, being significantly higher in "rural" environments as compared to urban ones (Graph 1)³.

Graph 1: **At-risk-of-poverty rate and at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate, by type of settlement, 2020,% (SDG indicators 1.2.1 and 1.2.2)**



Source: Survey on Income and Living Conditions, SORS

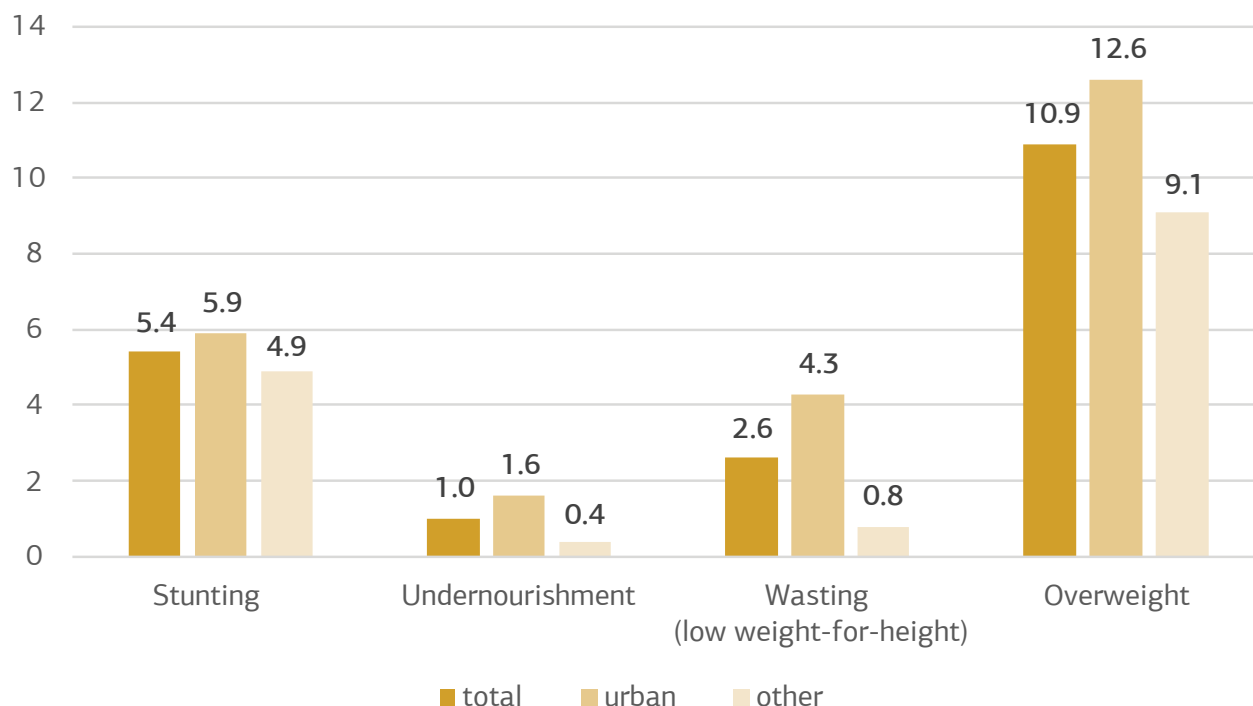


...MALNUTRITION IS MORE A PROBLEM FOR CHILDREN IN URBAN THAN IN "RURAL" AREAS...

When the nutritional status is observed, children living in other settlements show better characteristics as compared to children from urban settlements. Stunting rate (SDG indicator 2.2.1), as well as wasting rates (low weight-for-height) and obesity rates (SDG indicator 2.2.2), but also undernourishment rates, are higher among children living in urban areas than among children living in "rural" settlements (Graph 2).

³ Unless otherwise stated, data are taken from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) portal on SDGs, <https://sdg.indikatori.rs/sr-cyrl/>

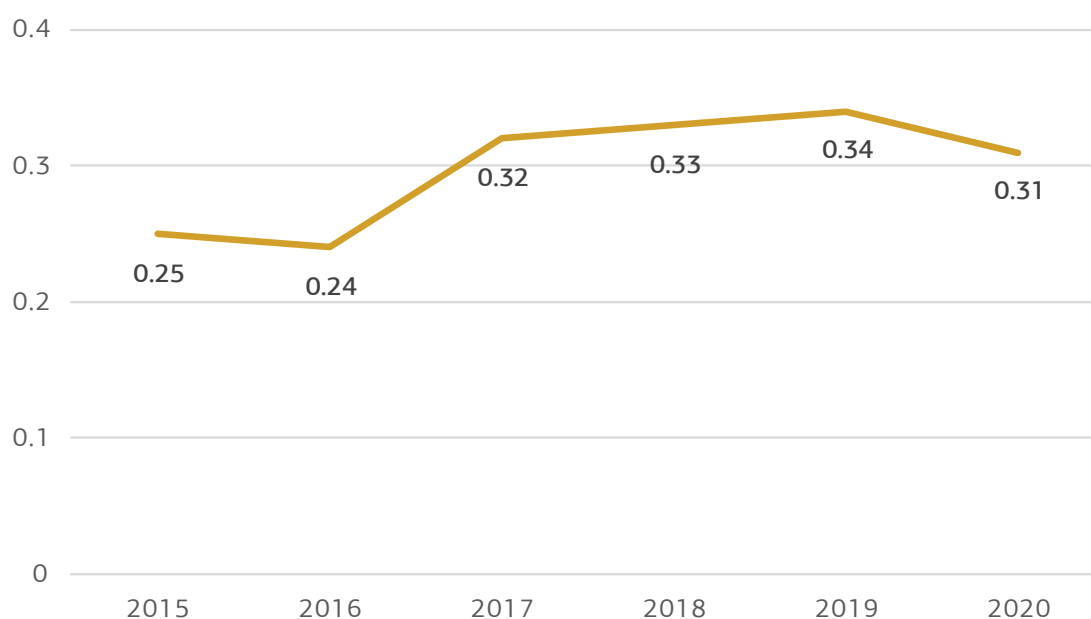
Graph 2: **Nutritional status indicators among children under 5 years of age, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicators 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)**



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

One of the most important indicators of sustainable development in the field of food availability refers to agriculture share of government expenditures. Data for the 2015-2020 period indicate an increase in these expenditures in the period from 2016 to 2019, and then a decrease in 2020 (Graph 3).

Graph 3: **Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures, 2015-2020 (SDG indicator 2.a.1)**



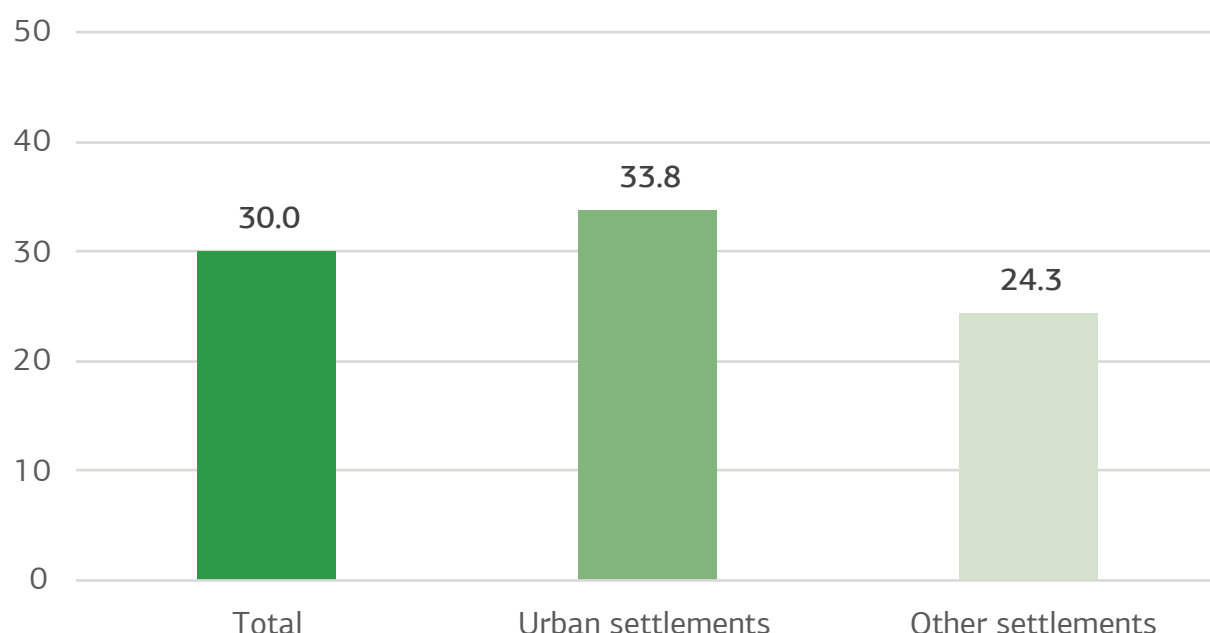
Source: Ministry of Finance and SORS



...WOMEN FROM URBAN SETTLEMENTS RELY MORE ON MODERN METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION IN FAMILY PLANNING THAN WOMEN FROM OTHER SETTLEMENTS, SO THE PROTECTION OF PREGNANT WOMEN IS LESS FAVOURABLE AMONG WOMEN IN "RURAL" AREAS WHERE EARLY BIRTHS ARE REGISTERED MORE OFTEN...

Women from urban areas are more likely to use modern methods of contraception for family planning. These methods are much more reliable than traditional methods and enable better control over the reproductive cycles, the transition to parenthood and the harmonization of that transition with other aspects of life, such as education, employment, etc. They also enable better birth plans and the desired number of children (Graph 4).

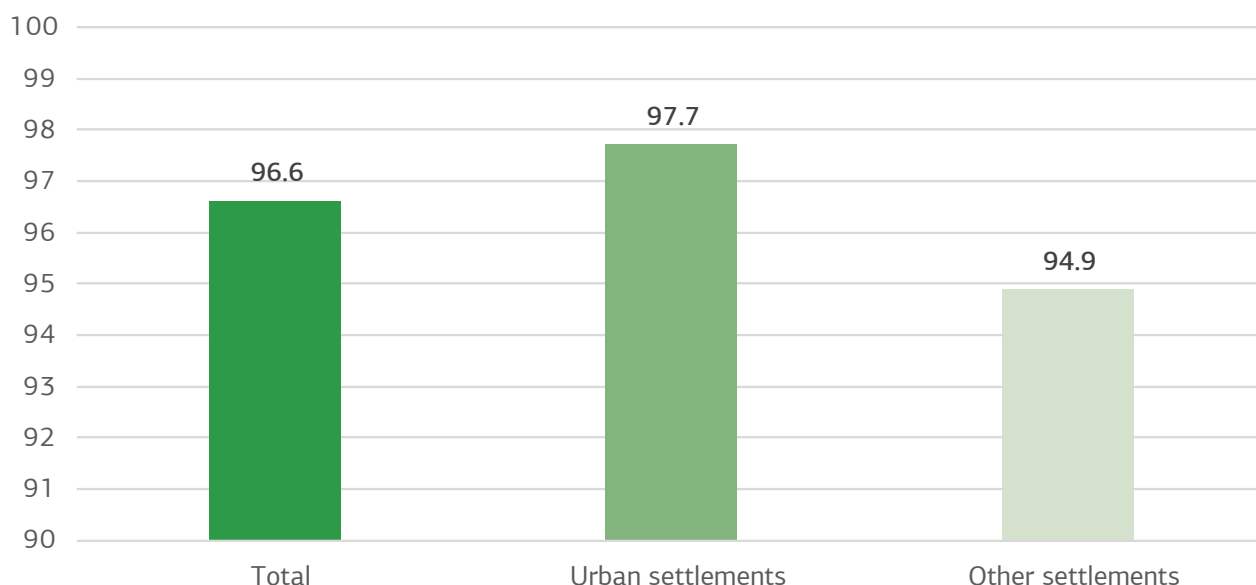
Graph 4: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 3.7.1)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Women from urban settlements check their health during pregnancy more regularly than women from other settlements. A slightly higher percentage of those who visited a doctor four or more times during pregnancy was recorded among women living in the urban areas. (Graph 5).

Graph 5: **Coverage of essential health services - Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 3.8.1b)**

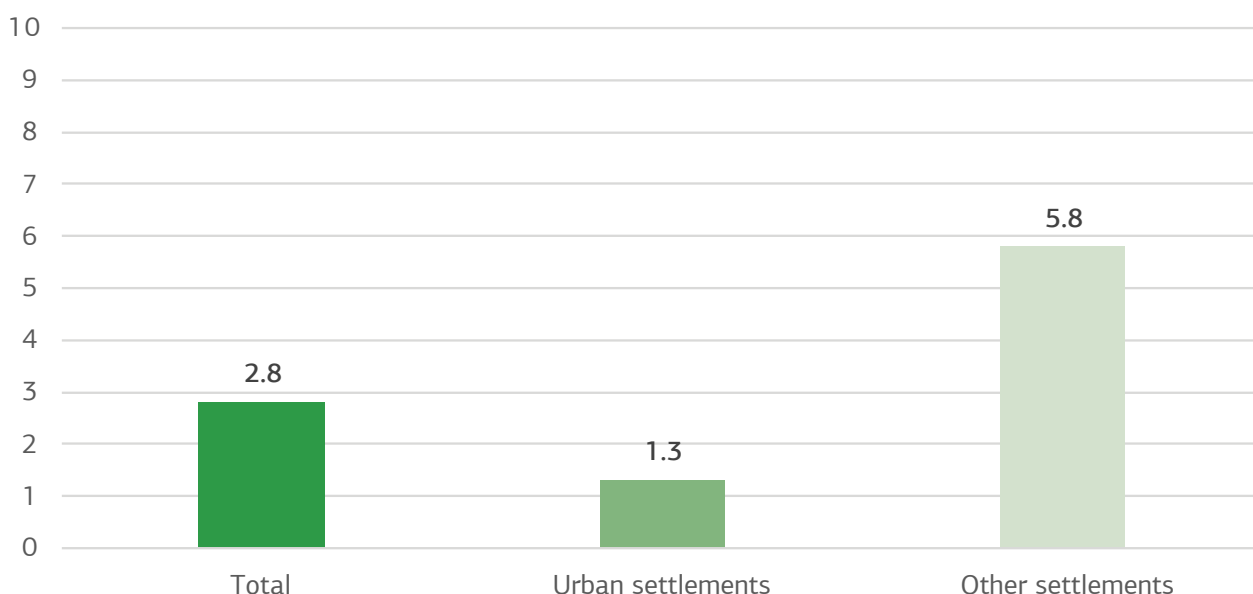


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

According to the findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey from 2019, skilled medical surveillance of childbirth was provided to women from both urban and "rural" settlements, i.e. all childbirths were performed in health institutions (SDG indicator 3.1.2).

The problem of premature birth is more present in other than in urban settlements (Graph 6).

Graph 6: **Percentage of women aged 20-24 years with live births given before the age of 18, by type of settlement, 2019, %**



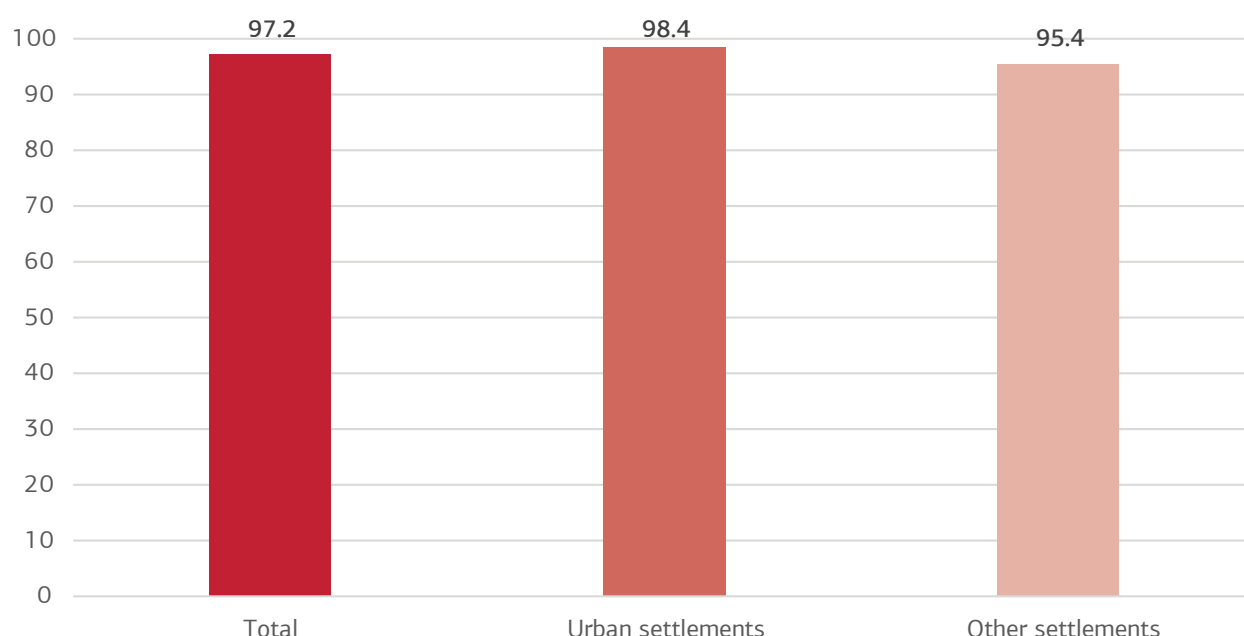
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IS SOMEWHAT MORE FAVOURABLE IN URBAN THAN IN OTHER SETTLEMENTS, AND THE DIFFERENCES IN EDUCATION, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF THE SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE AND GENDER PARITY, ARE NOT LARGE AMONG CHILDREN OF URBAN AND OTHER SETTLEMENTS...

Learning and development opportunities are somewhat more favourable in urban areas than in other settlements, judging by the values of the Early Childhood Development Index, which monitors the development of children aged 3 to 4 years. This index monitors children's development in terms of motor, cognitive, language and socio-emotional skills and abilities, behavioural control skills, and attitudes toward others. The value of the Early Childhood Development Index is three percentage points higher in urban areas than in other areas (Graph 7).

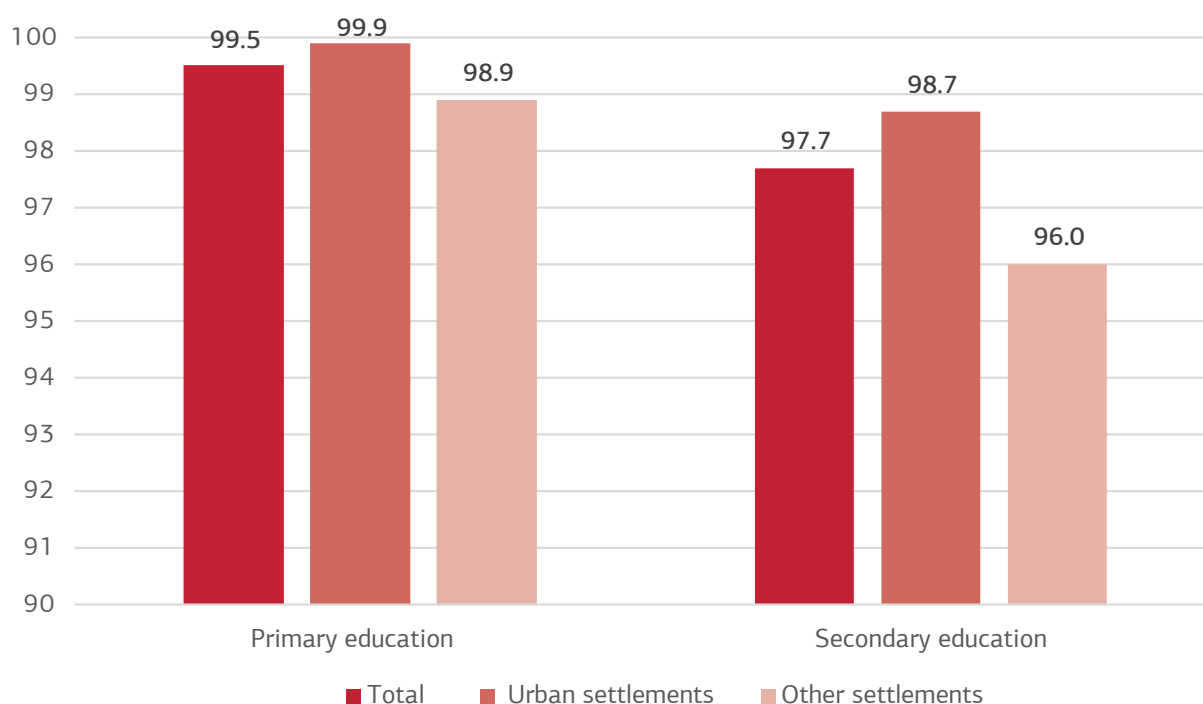
Graph 7: Early Childhood Development Index by settlement type, 2019, % (SDG indicator 4.2.1)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Differences in the primary school completion rates, given that primary education is compulsory in the Republic of Serbia, are almost non-existent between children living in urban and other settlements, but at the level of secondary education the differences increase, although they are still not large (Graph 8).

Graph 8: **Primary and secondary school completion rates by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 4.1.2)**



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

The gender parity index, which shows the ratio of the school net attendance rate for girls vis-à-vis boys, shows smaller differences between children living in urban and other, "rural" settlements. The index for primary school in urban areas is 0.96 and 1.01 for other areas. For secondary school, the gender parity in urban settlements is 1.00 (full parity), while in "rural" settlements it amounts to 0.96, which indicates a slightly lower gender parity index for secondary school attendance⁴.

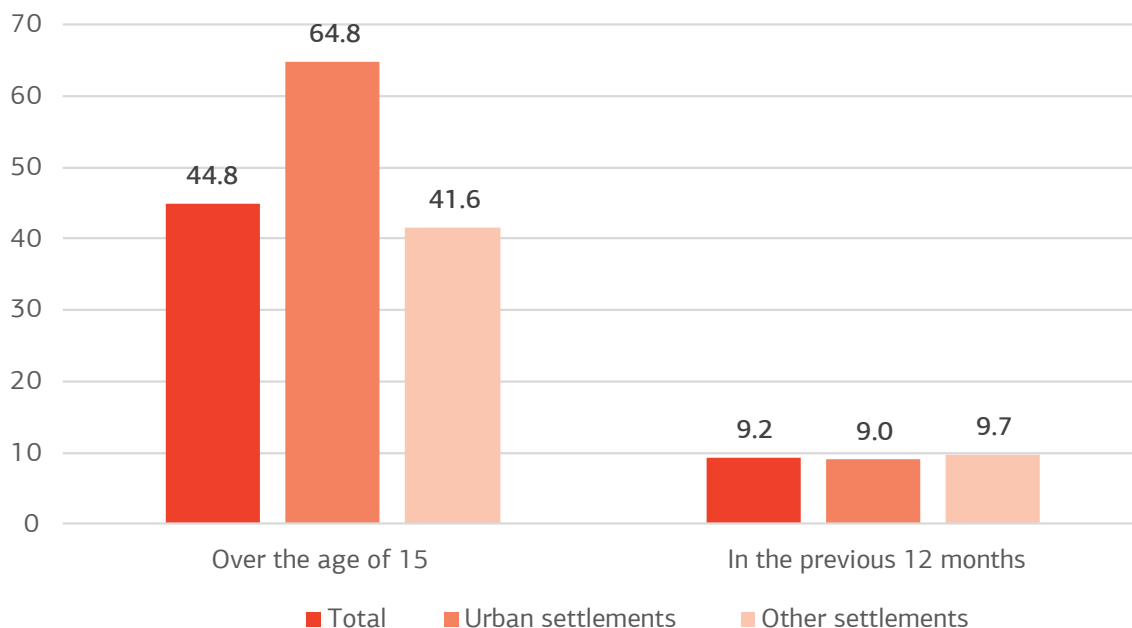


...GENDER INEQUALITIES ARE PRESENT IN SERBIA IN BOTH URBAN AND OTHER SETTLEMENTS, BUT EARLY MARRIAGE, AS ONE OF THE KEY OBSTACLES TO BETTER EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, IS MORE PREVALENT AMONG WOMEN IN OTHER SETTLEMENTS; WOMEN IN URBAN AREAS ARE MORE WILLING TO POINT OUT GENDER INEQUALITIES...

Sustainable Development Goals in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment include, among other things, protection against discrimination and combating violence against women and girls, prevention of early marriages, fairer distribution of unpaid domestic and family care. According to the findings of the Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, the rates of exposure of women to intimate partner violence after the age of 15 are significantly higher in urban areas than in other settlements. The reason for this does not have to be the really higher prevalence of intimate partner violence against women, but also the differences in the willingness of women from urban areas as compared to women from other settlements to share their violence-related experiences. When intimate partner violence is observed during the 12-month period preceding the Survey, it is slightly higher in other than in urban areas (Graph 9).

⁴ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

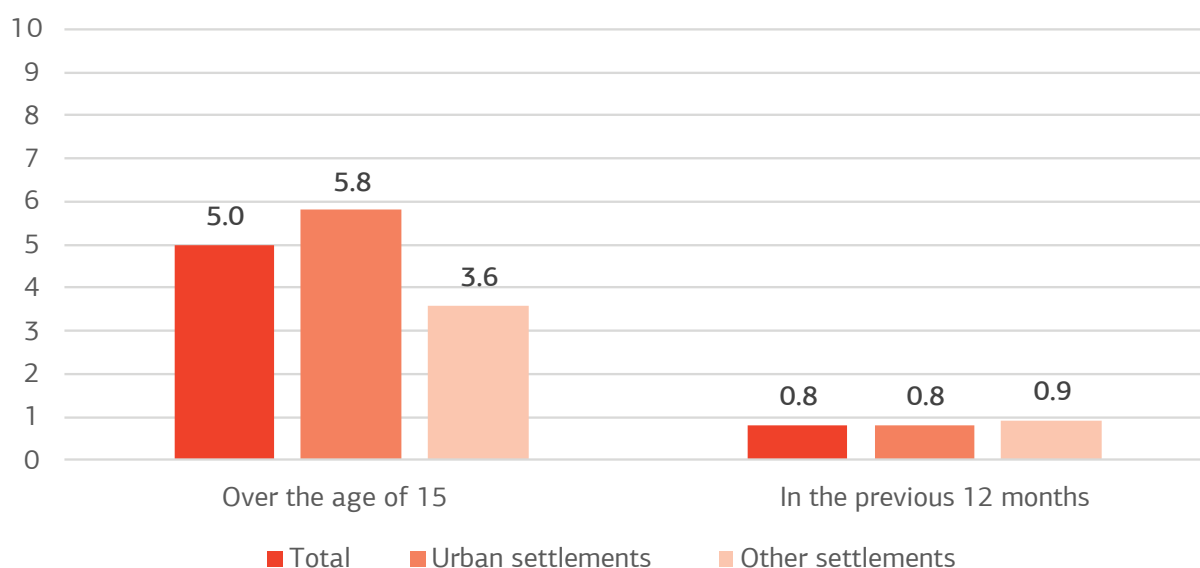
Graph 9: **Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 18-74 years subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, by type of settlement, 2018, % (SDG indicator 5.2.1)**



Source: Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, OSCE; data processing - author

Similar tendencies when it comes to intimate partner violence are also observed with regard to non-partner violence. In urban areas, the proportion of women who have experienced sexual violence after the age of 15 by persons who have not been their intimate partners is higher. The prevalence of non-partner violence during the 12 months preceding the survey was equalized among women living in urban and other settlements (Graph 10).

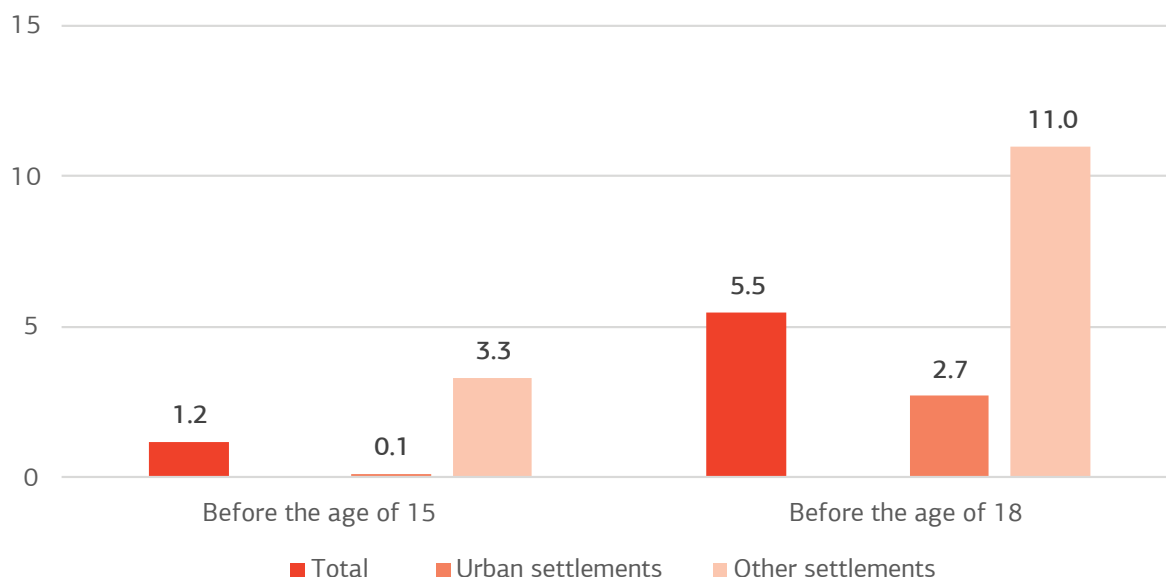
Graph 10: **Proportion of women and girls aged 18-74 years subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, by type of settlement, 2018, % (SDG indicator 5.2.2)**



Source: Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, OSCE; data processing - author

According to the Istanbul Convention, early marriage is defined as one of the forms of gender-based violence. The data indicate that women from “rural” areas are at greater risk to enter early marriages than women from urban areas (Graph 11).

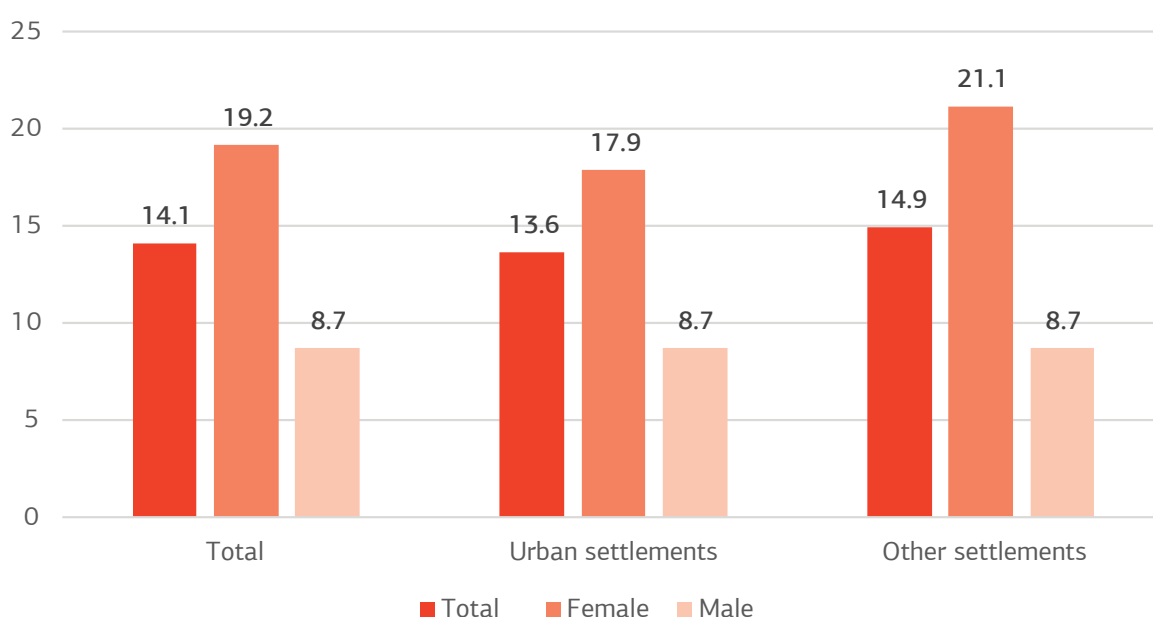
Graph 11: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 5.3.1)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Differences between women from urban and other settlements are also manifested in terms of unpaid domestic and care work. Gender inequalities in the workload of this type of work are present in both urban and "rural" areas, but are more pronounced in "rural" areas (Graph 12).

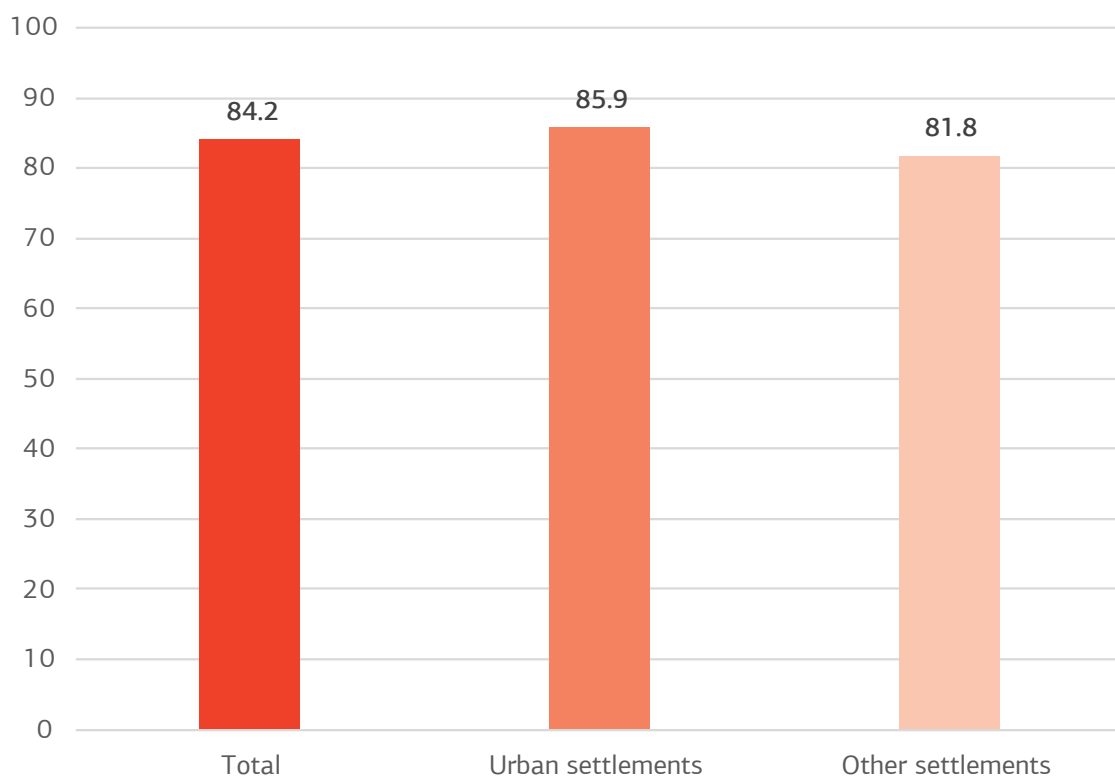
Graph 12: The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, population aged 15 and over, by sex and type of settlement, 2015, % (SDG indicator 5.4.1)



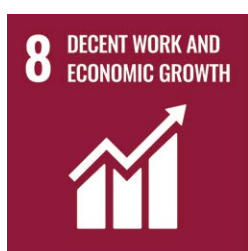
Source: Time Use Survey, SORS

Although the vast majority of women, both in urban and other settlements, make their own decisions about reproductive health, certain differences are present. Thus, a slightly lower percentage of women in “rural” areas show such autonomy in terms of deciding on their own sexual and reproductive health than women in urban areas (Graph 13).

Graph 13: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 5.6.1)



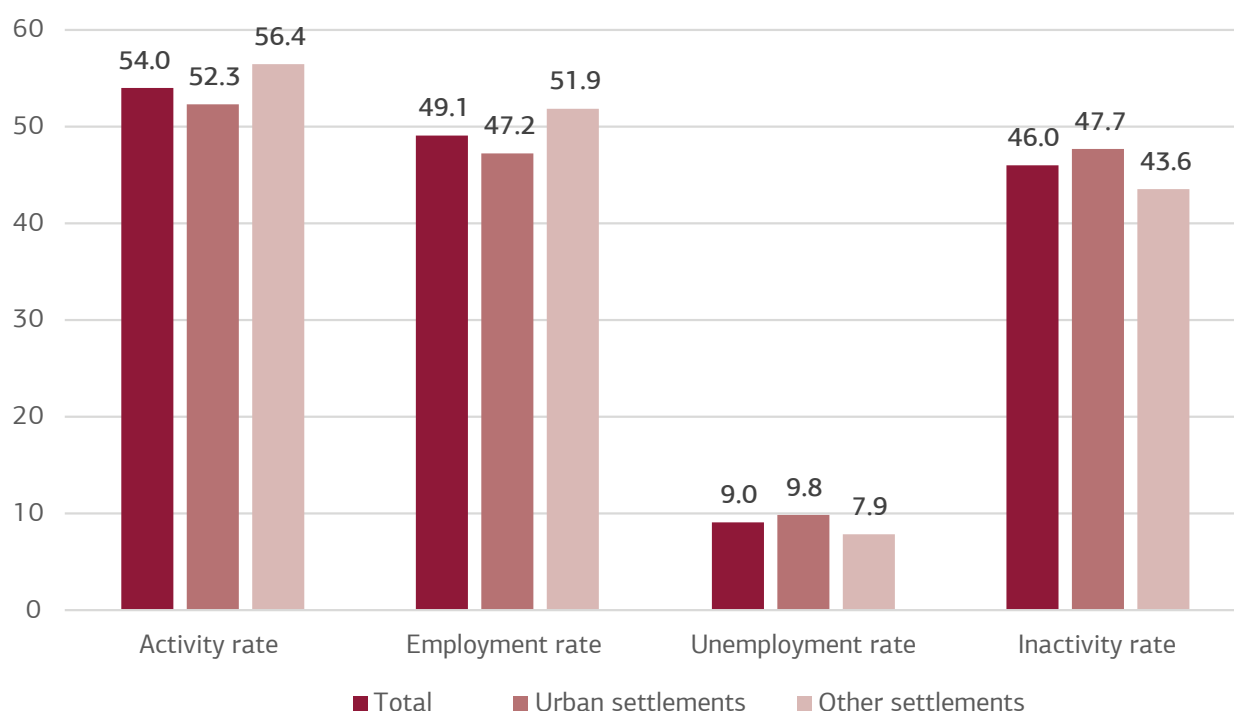
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT RATES ARE HIGHER, AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND INACTIVITY RATES ARE LOWER IN OTHER SETTLEMENTS COMPARED TO URBAN ONES, BUT UNFORTUNATELY CHILD LABOUR RATES ARE ALSO HIGHER...

The areas of sustainable development in which "rural" settlements show certain advantages over urban ones, are activity and employment. The activity and employment rates of the population aged 15 and over are higher, and the unemployment and inactivity rates are lower in other settlements than in urban areas (Graph 14). The reason for that is the possibility of engaging in agricultural production on a family farm. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that work in agriculture is often associated with lower productivity and lower wages.

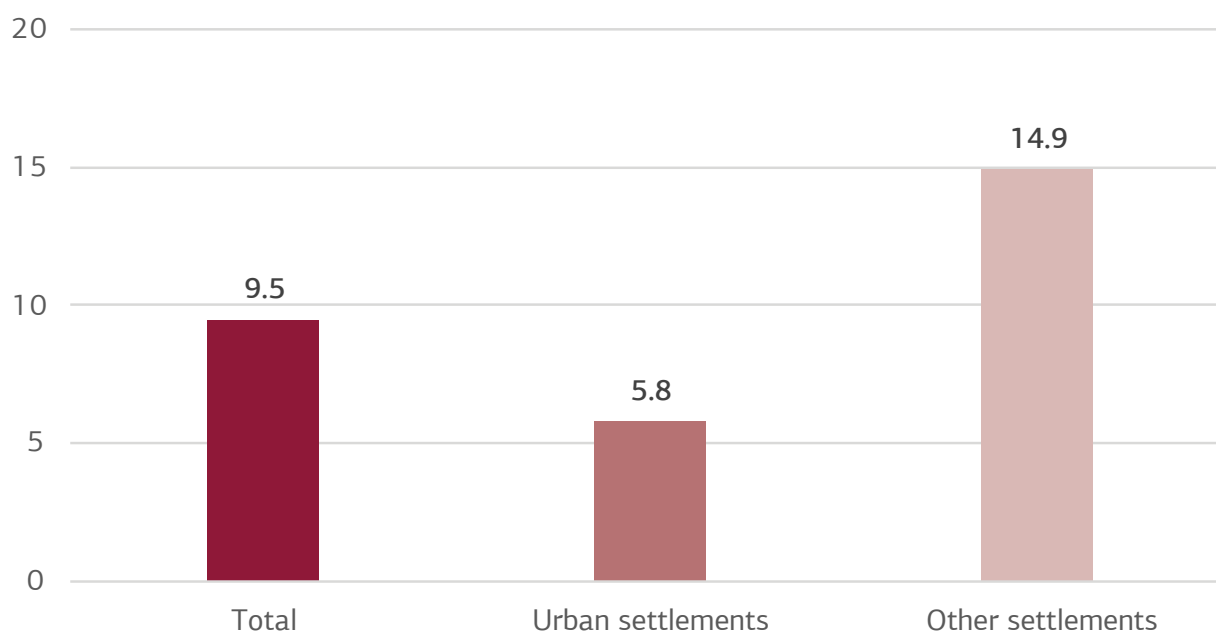
Graph 14: **Basic labour market indicators, population 15 years and over, by type of settlement, 2020, %**



Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

The lack of labour force in other settlements often characterized by depopulation, is compensated by engaging children in work on family farms, which is why the child labour rate is higher in other than in urban settlements (Graph 15).

Graph 15: **Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 8.7.1)**



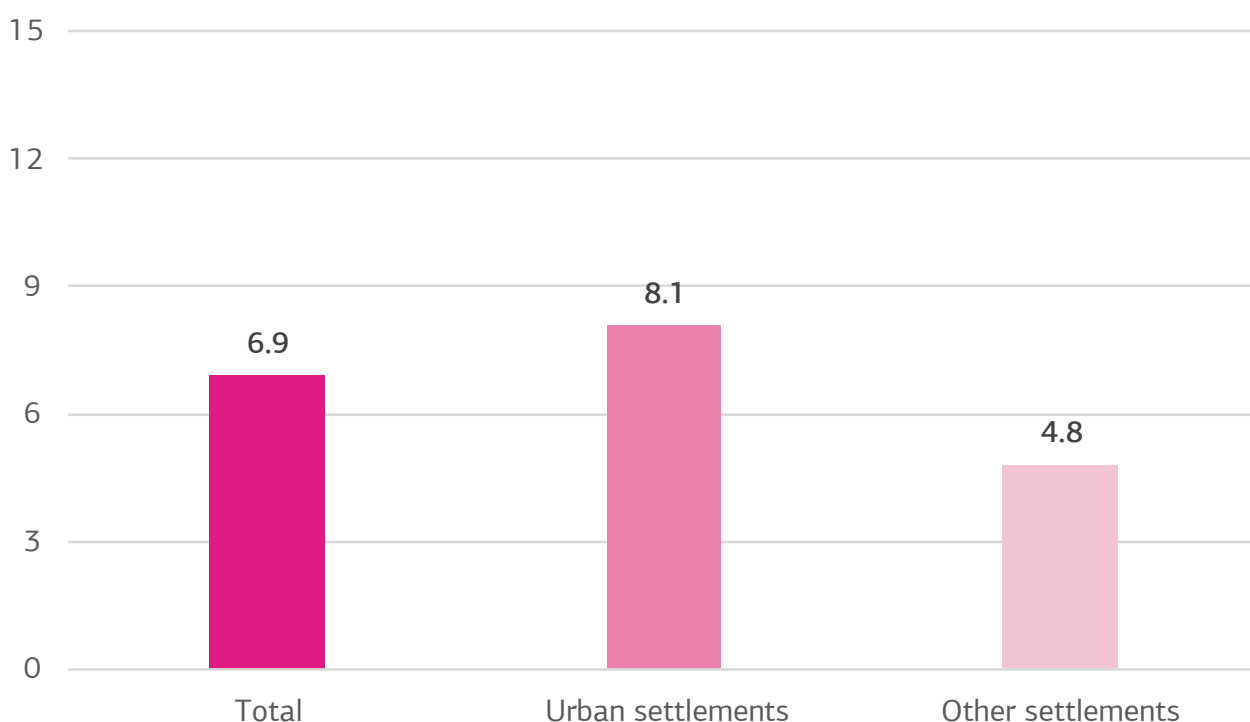
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION ARE MORE OFTEN REPORTED BY RESIDENTS OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS, BUT THE REASON FOR THIS CAN BE HIDDEN IN A BETTER RECOGNITION OF DISCRIMINATION...

It is difficult to assess whether the inhabitants of urban settlements or of other settlements are more peaceful and inclusive. Judging by the available data, experiences of discrimination are more prevalent among the population of urban settlements, although the reason for this may be the more widespread awareness of discrimination enabling its better recognition (Graph 16).

Graph 16: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, by type of settlement, 2019, % (SDG indicator 10.3.1=16. b.1)



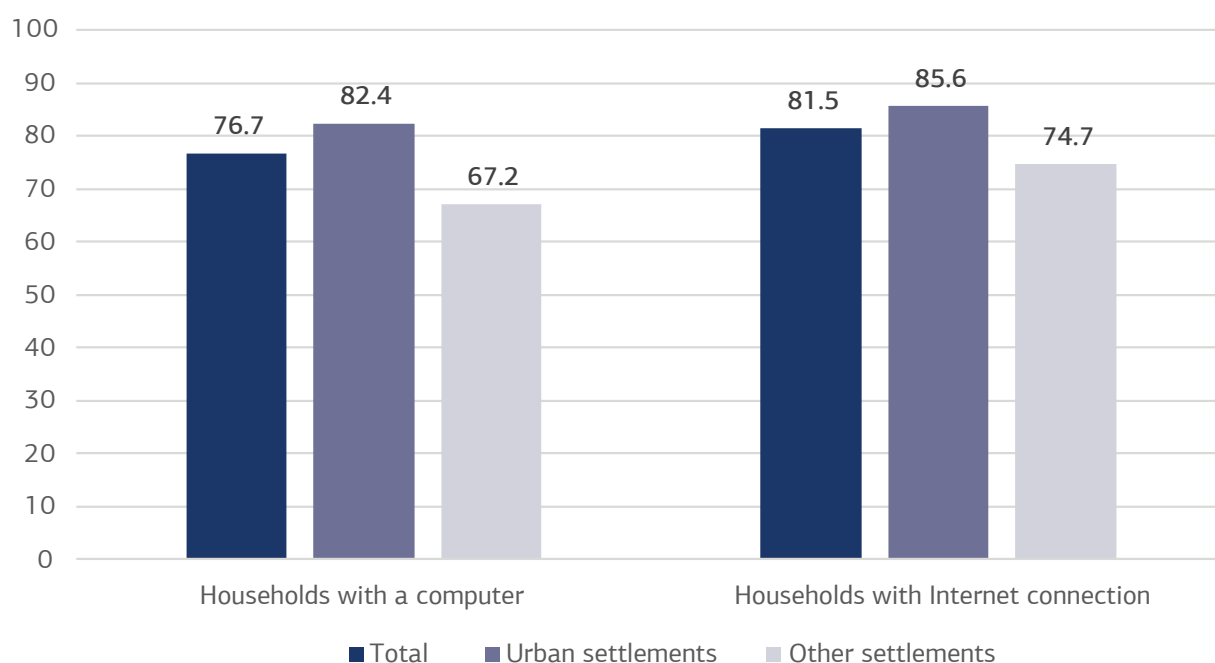
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...OTHER SETTLEMENTS ALSO LAG BEHIND THE URBAN ONES IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES...

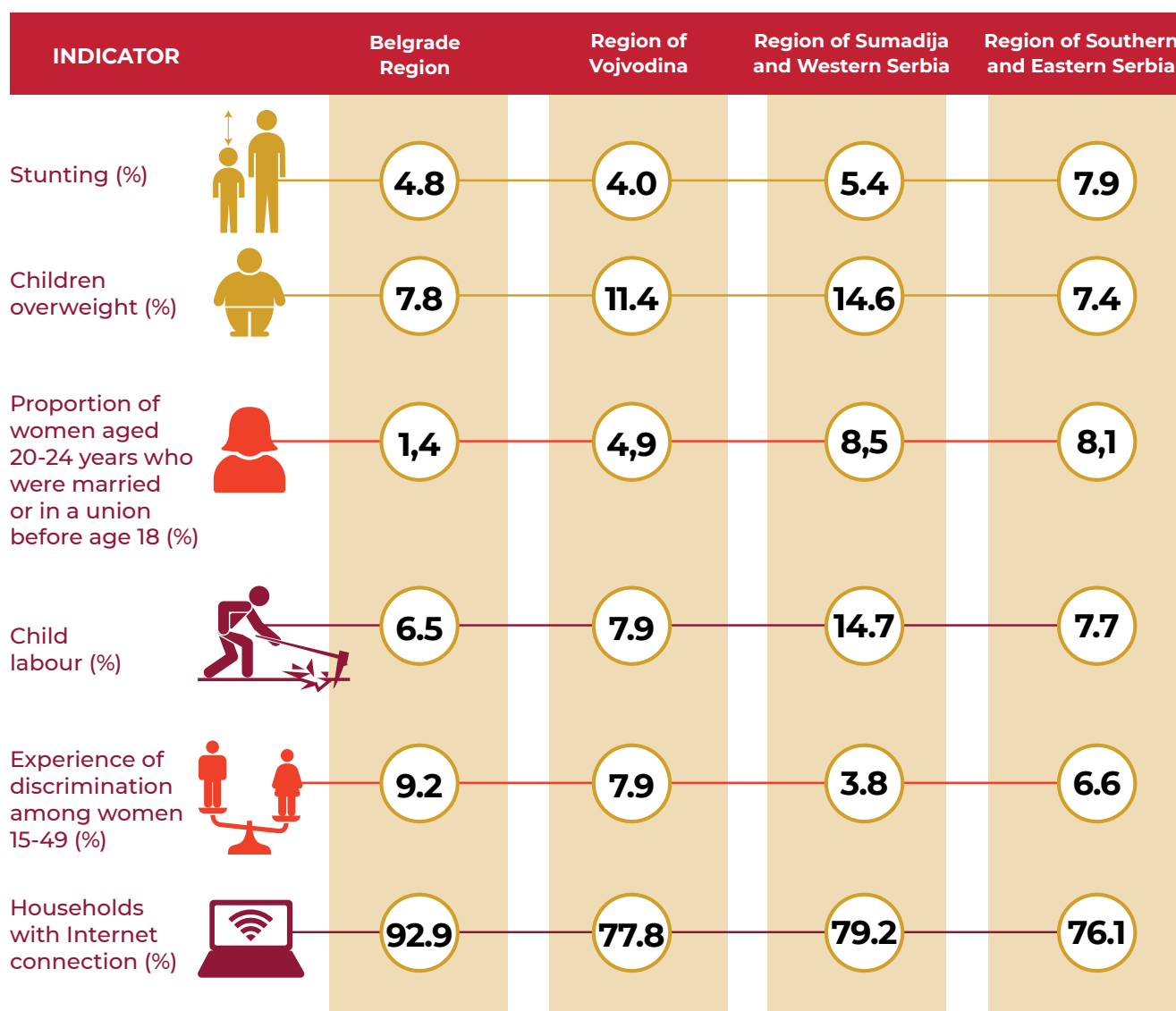
The area of information and communication technologies is undoubtedly the area of development in which other settlements lag behind the urban ones. According to the research on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in the Republic of Serbia, rural households have computers and Internet connections in a smaller proportion than urban ones, which creates less favourable opportunities for access to information, knowledge, markets and connections with others (Graph 17).

Graph 17: **Proportion of households with computer and Internet connection, by type of settlement, 2021, %**



Source: Information and Communication Technology Statistics, SORS

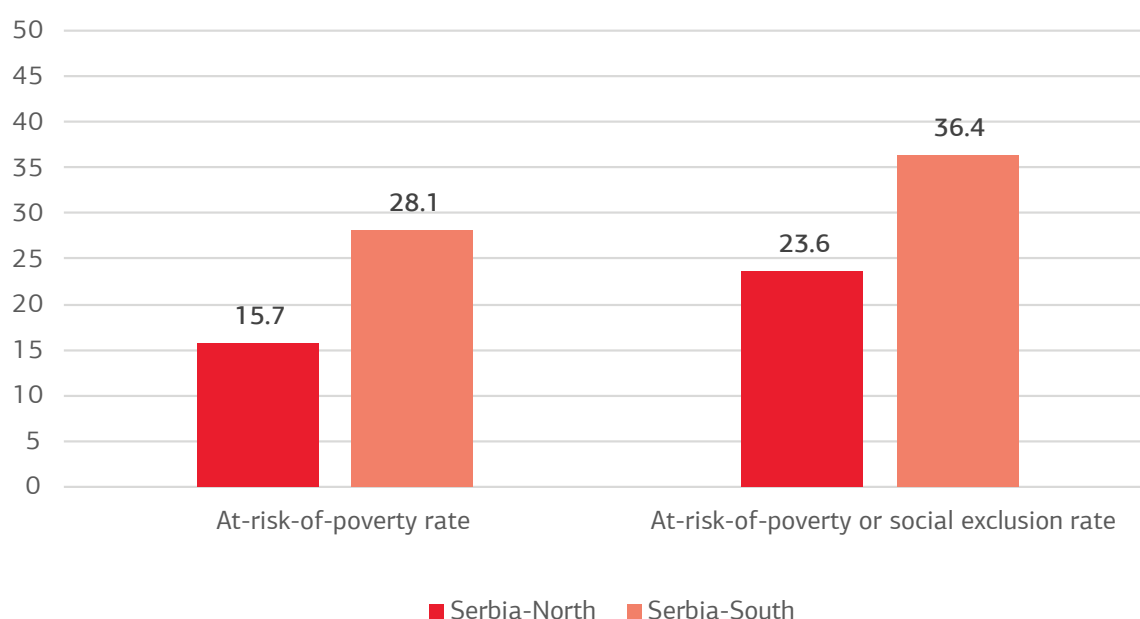
Regional aspects of sustainable development



RISKS OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION ARE HIGHER IN THE REGION OF SERBIA - SOUTH COMPARED TO THE REGION OF SERBIA - NORTH...

Poverty and social exclusion do not equally affect the population living in different regions of Serbia. At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates, as well as at-risk-of-poverty rates, are significantly higher in the region Serbia-south, which includes Sumadija and Western Serbia, and Southern and Eastern Serbia, than in Serbia-north, which includes Belgrade and Vojvodina region (Graph 18).

Graph 18: **At-risk-of-poverty rate and at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate, by region, 2020, % (SDG indicator 1.2.2)**



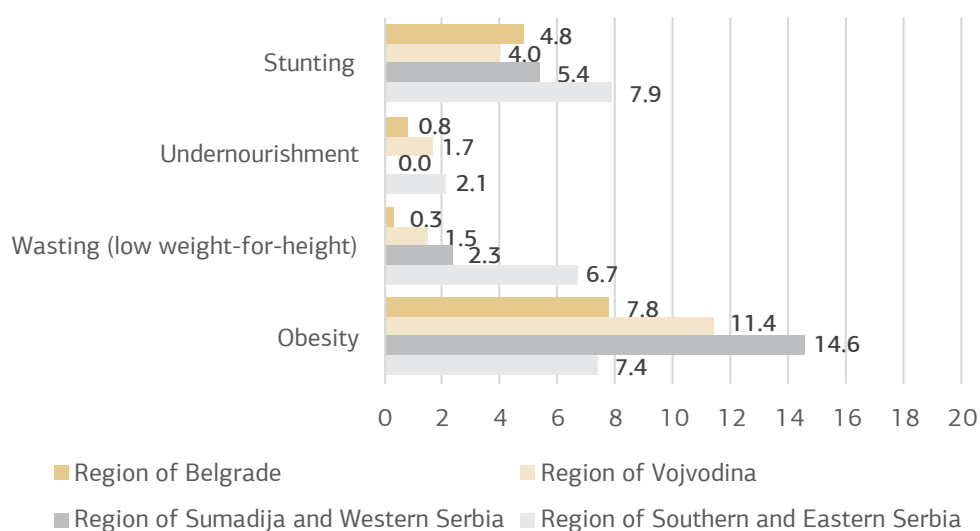
Source: Income and Living Conditions Survey, SORS



...IN TERMS OF CHILDREN'S NUTRITION, THERE ARE ALSO PRONOUNCED REGIONAL DIFFERENCES - OBESITY IS MOST PREVALENT IN THE REGION OF SUMADIJA AND WESTERN SERBIA, AND STUNTING IN THE REGION OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SERBIA...

Regional differences in the nutritional status of children are visible. Stunting, as well as wasting (low weight-for-height), are prevalent among children living in the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (SDG indicator 2.2.1), and obesity particularly affects children living in the region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, and in the Region of Vojvodina (Graph 19).

Graph 19: **Nutrition indicators among children under 5 years of age, by regions, 2019, % (SDG indicators 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)**



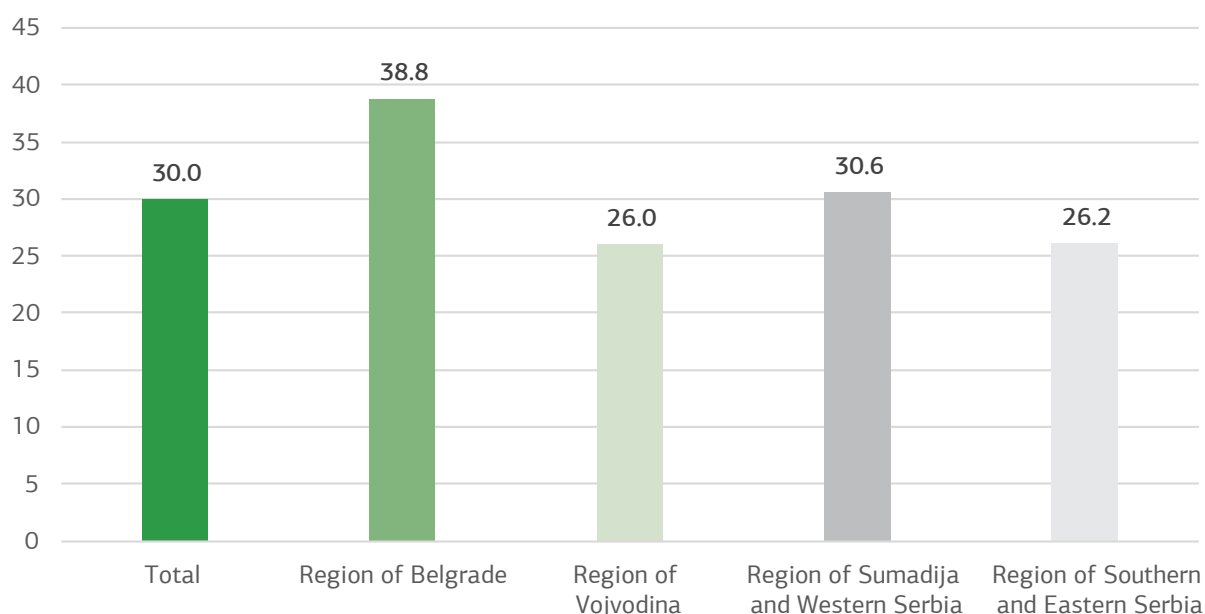
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...WOMEN FROM THE BELGRADE REGION RELY MORE ON MODERN METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION IN FAMILY PLANNING THAN WOMEN FROM OTHER REGIONS, PROTECTION OF PREGNANT WOMEN IS SOMEWHAT LESS FAVOURABLE AMONG WOMEN IN THE REGION OF VOJVODINA AND THE REGION OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SERBIA, AS WELL AS PREMATURE CHILDBIRTH...

Women from the Belgrade region are more likely to use modern methods of contraception for family planning than women from other regions (Graph 20). These methods are much more reliable than traditional methods and enable better control over the reproductive cycles, the transition to parenthood and the harmonization of this transition with other aspects of life, such as education, employment, etc. They also enable better birth plans and the desired number of children.

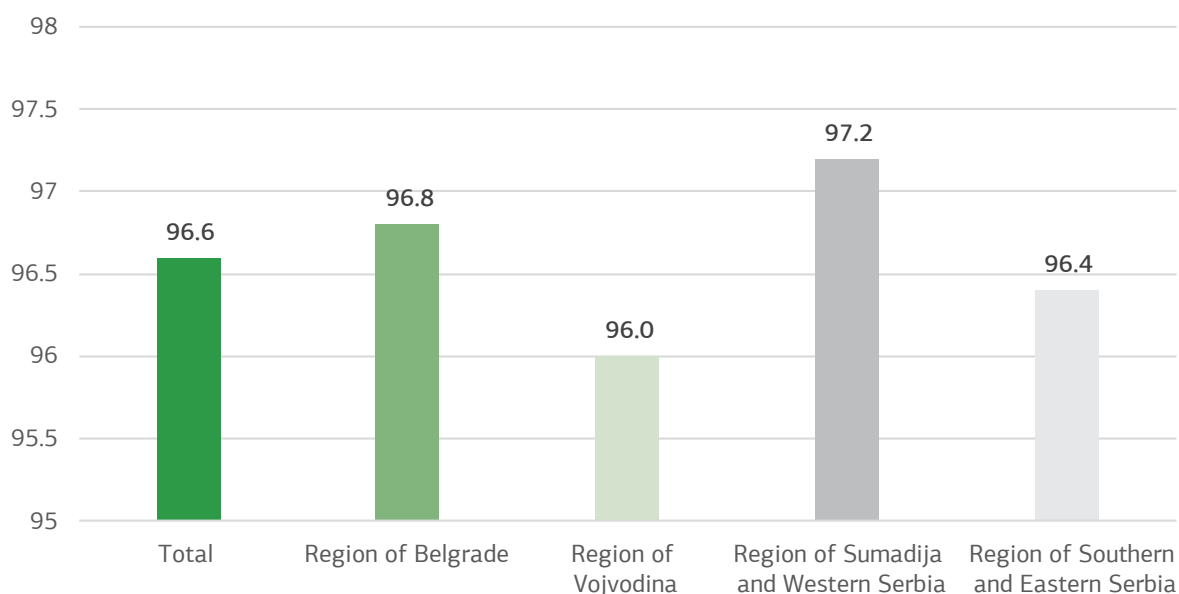
Graph 20: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, by regions, 2019, % (SDG indicator 3.7.1)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Regional differences are also pronounced in terms of prenatal care. Women from the region of Sumadija and Western Serbia report more often than women from other regions that they visited a doctor four or more times during pregnancy (Graph 21).

Graph 21: **Coverage of essential health services: prenatal care, four or more visits to the doctor, by regions, 2019, % (SDG indicator 3.8.1b)**

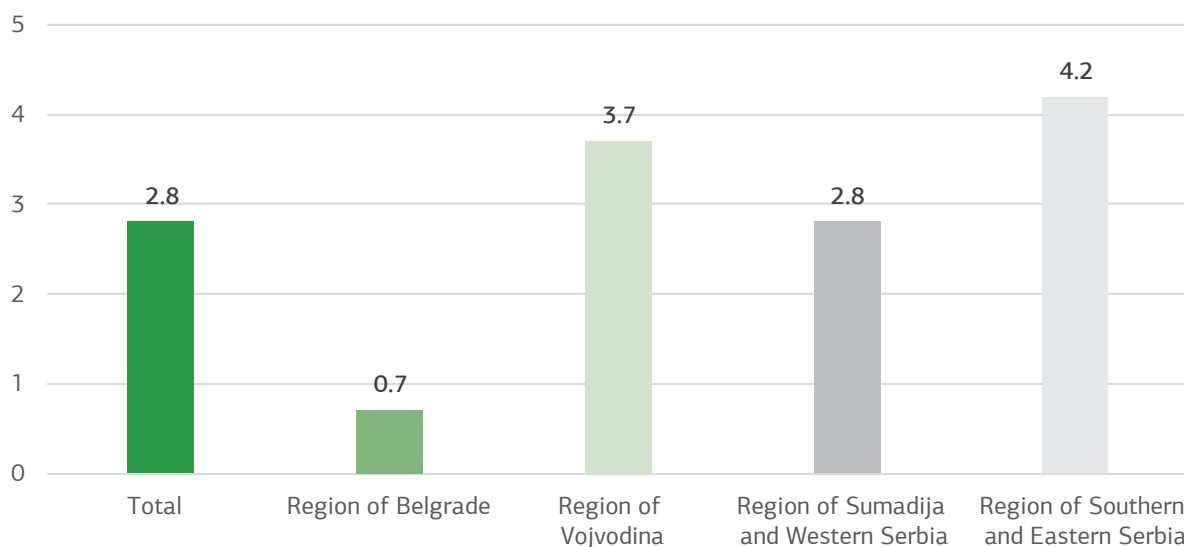


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Health care for mothers and children during childbirth is provided under the supervision of skilled health personnel equally in all regions. In 2019, according to the findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, in almost 100% of cases, childbirth was performed in a health institution in all regions of the Republic of Serbia (SDG indicator 3.1.2).

When it comes to the national sample, in 2019, there were 2.8% of women aged 20-24 years with live births given before the age of 18. The prevalence of premature birth is higher in the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia and the region of Vojvodina than in the other two regions (Graph 22).

Graph 22: **Percentage of women aged 20-24 years with live births given before the age of 18, by regions, 2019, %**



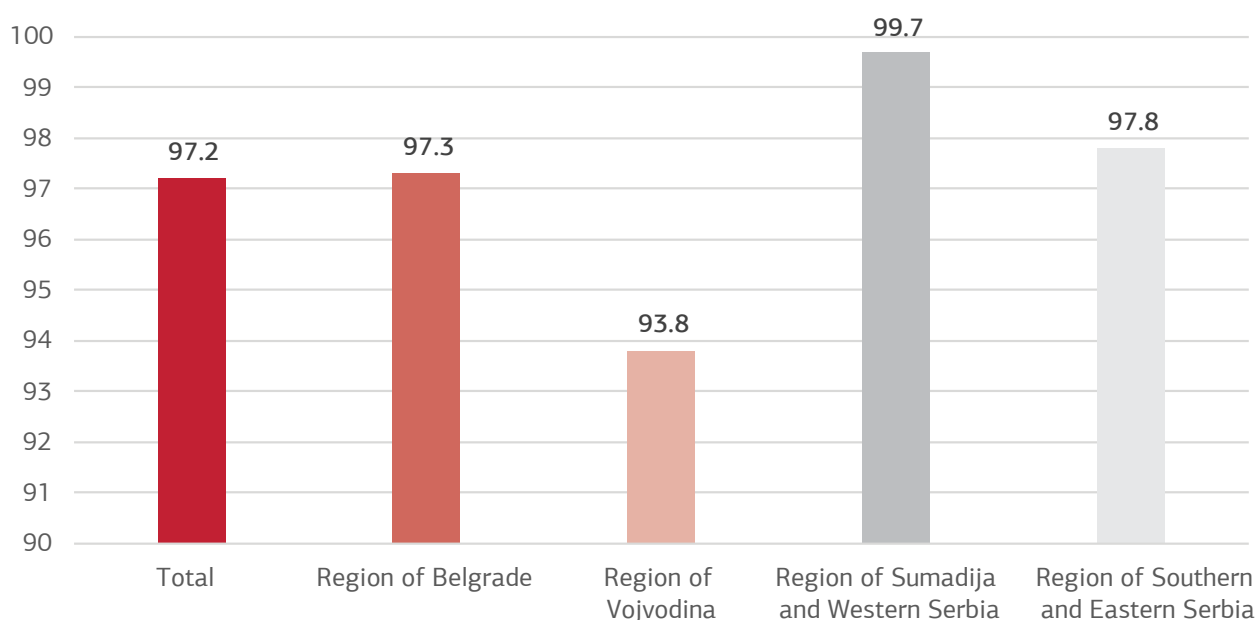
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IS SOMEWHAT LOWER IN THE REGION OF VOJVODINA, ON AVERAGE; DIFFERENCES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE ARE NOT PRESENT, AND IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES ARE SMALL, WHILE GENDER PARITY AT LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION IS SOMEWHAT LESS FAVOURABLE IN THE REGION OF VOJVODINA THAN IN OTHER REGIONS...

The Early Childhood Development Index monitors children's development in terms of motor, cognitive, linguistic and socio-emotional skills and abilities, behavioural control skills, and attitudes toward others during the first few years of life. The region of Vojvodina records the lowest values of the early childhood development index as compared to other regions (Graph 23).

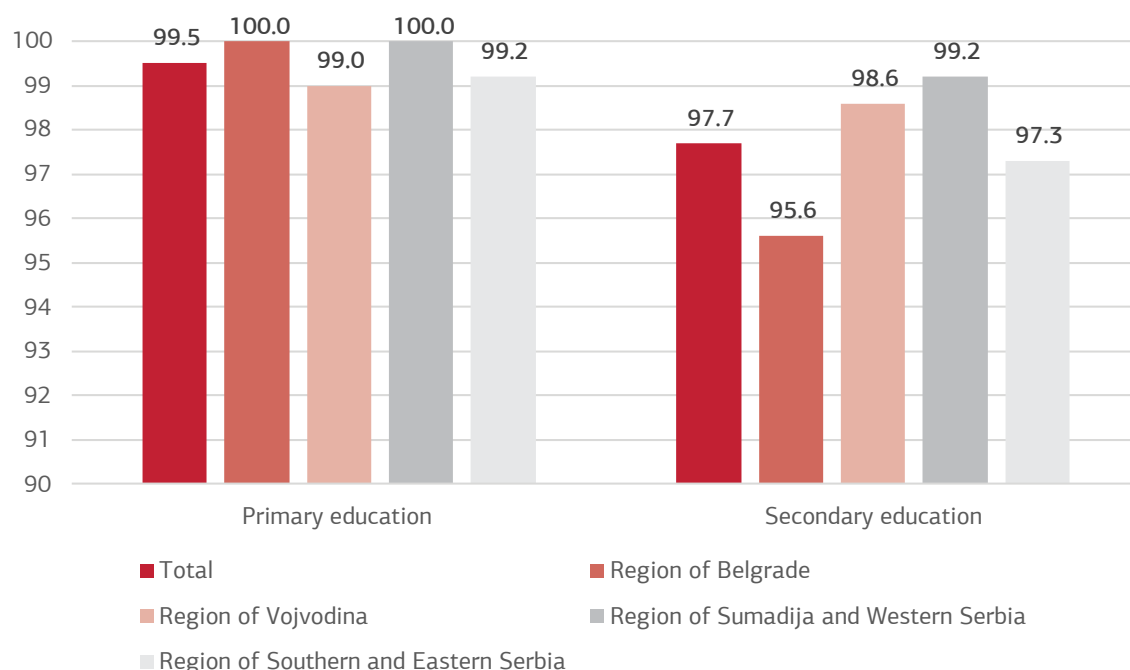
Graph 23: **Early Childhood Development Index, by region, 2019, % (SDG indicator 4.2.1)**



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Differences in the primary school completion rates, given that primary education is compulsory, are almost non-existent among the population of the four regions in Serbia, but at the secondary school level the differences are more noticeable, although still not large (Graph 24).

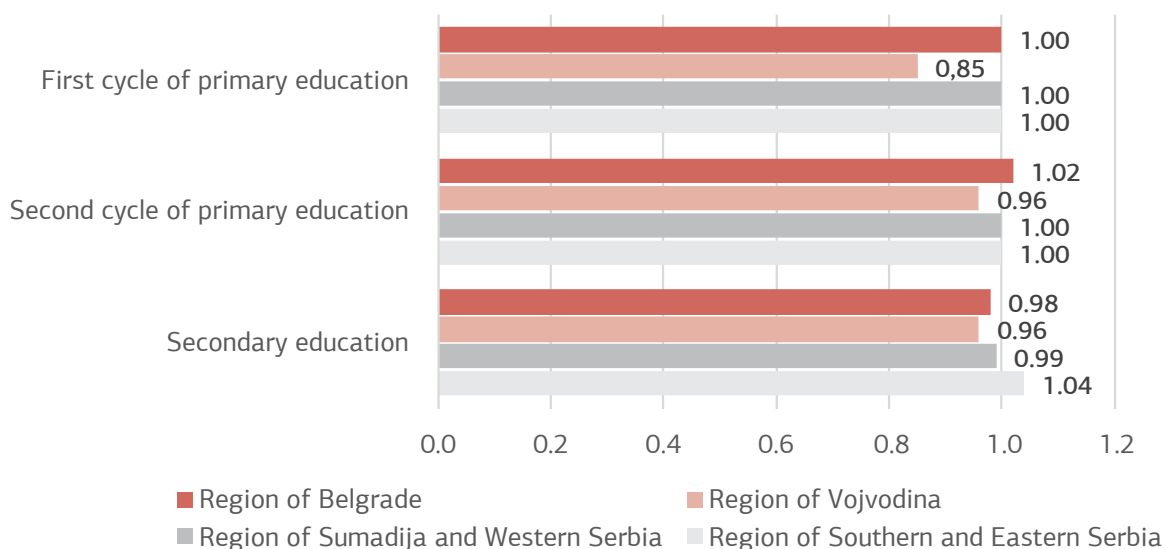
Graph 24: **Primary and secondary school completion rates, by region, 2019, % (SDG indicator 4.1.2c)**



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

The regions of Serbia differ to a lesser extent in terms of gender parity in education. At the level of the first cycle of primary education, full gender parity, i.e. the same school attendance rate for boys and girls was achieved in all regions except in the region of Vojvodina where the coverage among boys is somewhat higher. At the level of the second cycle of primary education, gender parity was achieved in the regions of Sumadija and Western Serbia, and Southern and Eastern Serbia; in the region of Vojvodina there was a slight difference in favour of boys, and in the Belgrade region in favour of girls. At the level of secondary education, only in the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia there is a slightly higher coverage of girls with secondary education compared to boys, while in other regions the difference is in favour of boys, although it is also very low (Graph 25).

Graph 25: **Gender equality index in primary and secondary education, by regions, 2019, index (SDG indicator 4.5.1)**



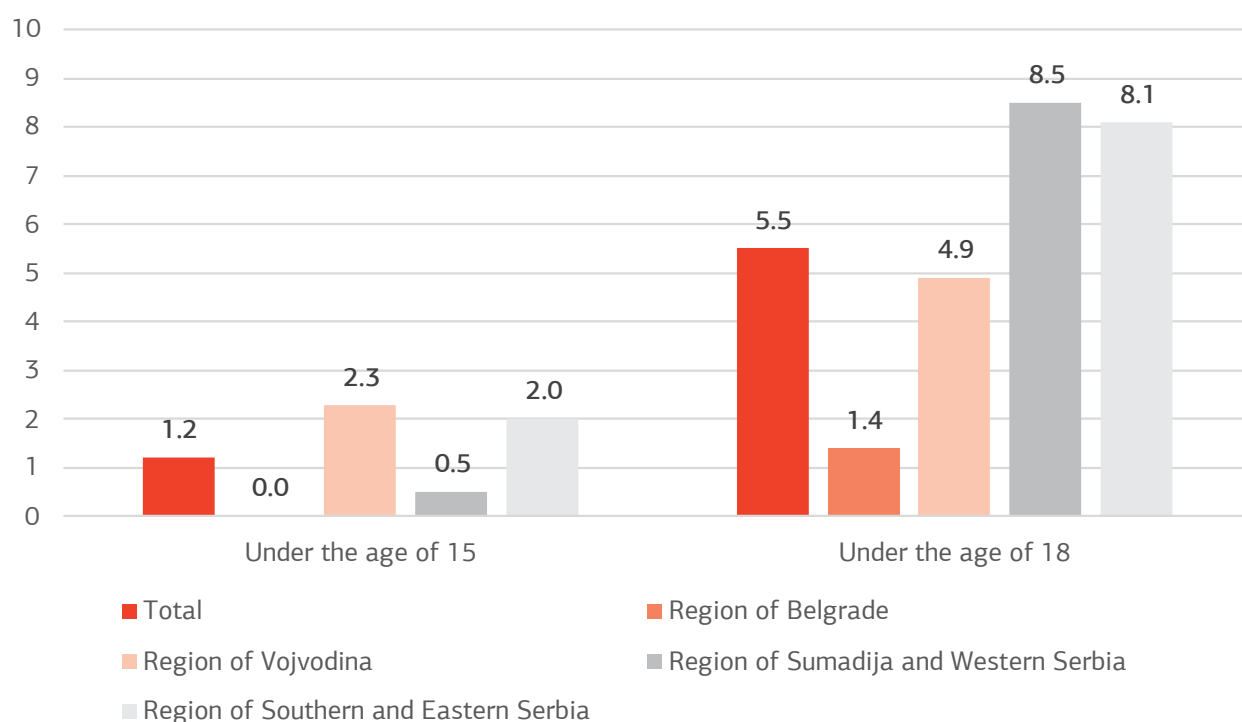
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...GENDER INEQUALITIES ARE PRESENT IN SERBIA IN ALL REGIONS. DIFFERENCES IN WOMEN'S AUTONOMY IN MAKING DECISIONS ON THEIR HEALTH ARE NOT PRONOUNCED, BUT DIFFERENCES ARE MORE PRONOUNCED IN TERMS OF THE PREVALENCE OF EARLY MARRIAGES THAT ARE MORE COMMON IN SUMADIJA AND WESTERN SERBIA, AND SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SERBIA THAN IN THE REMAINING TWO REGIONS...

Sustainable Development Goals in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment provide for, among other things, protection against discrimination and combating violence against women, prevention of early marriages, fairer distribution of unpaid domestic and family care. According to the Istanbul Convention, early marriage is defined as one of the forms of gender-based violence. The data indicate that early marriages before the age of 15 are more common in the Region of Vojvodina and the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, and before the age of 18 in the Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia and the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (Graph 26).

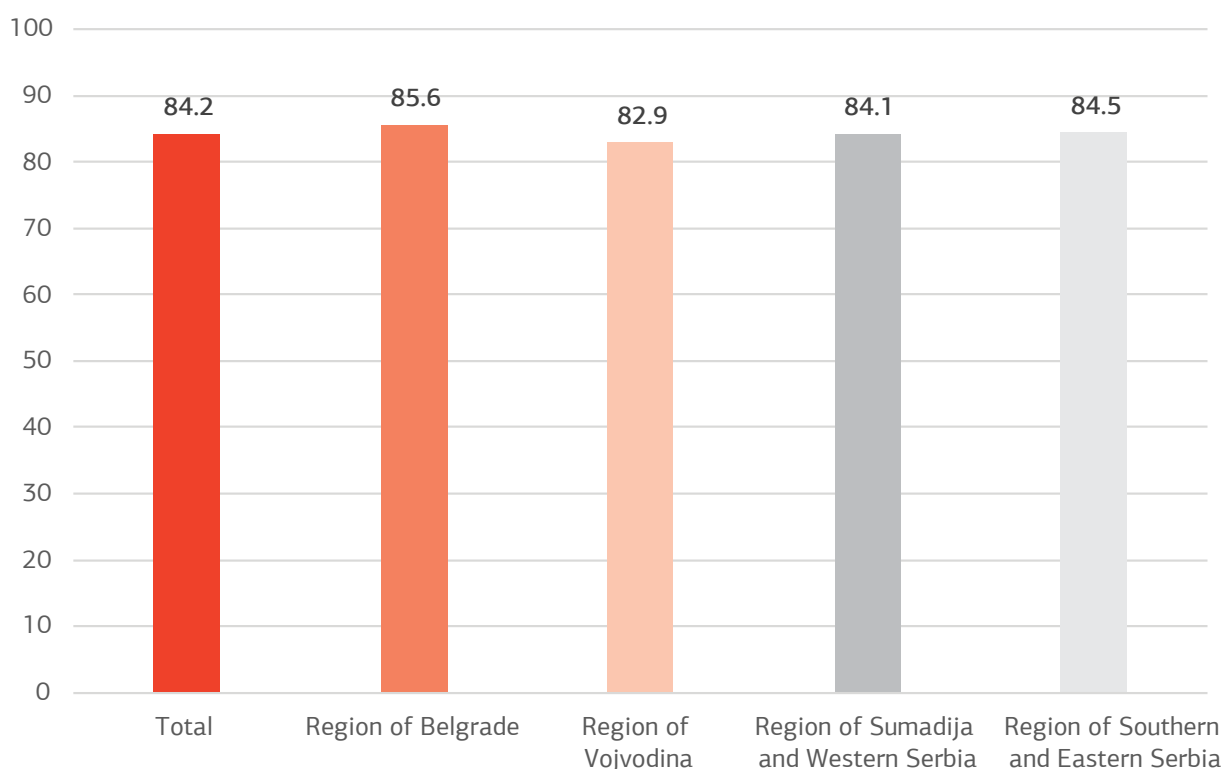
Graph 26: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18, by regions, 2019 (SDG indicator 5.3.1)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF

Although the vast majority of women in all regions make their own decisions about reproductive health, some differences are present. There is a slightly higher prevalence of women who make such decisions autonomously in the Belgrade region, while in the region of Vojvodina their prevalence is the lowest (Graph 27).

Graph 27: **Proportion of women who independently make their own decisions on reproductive health care, by regions, 2019, (SDG indicator 5.6.1)**



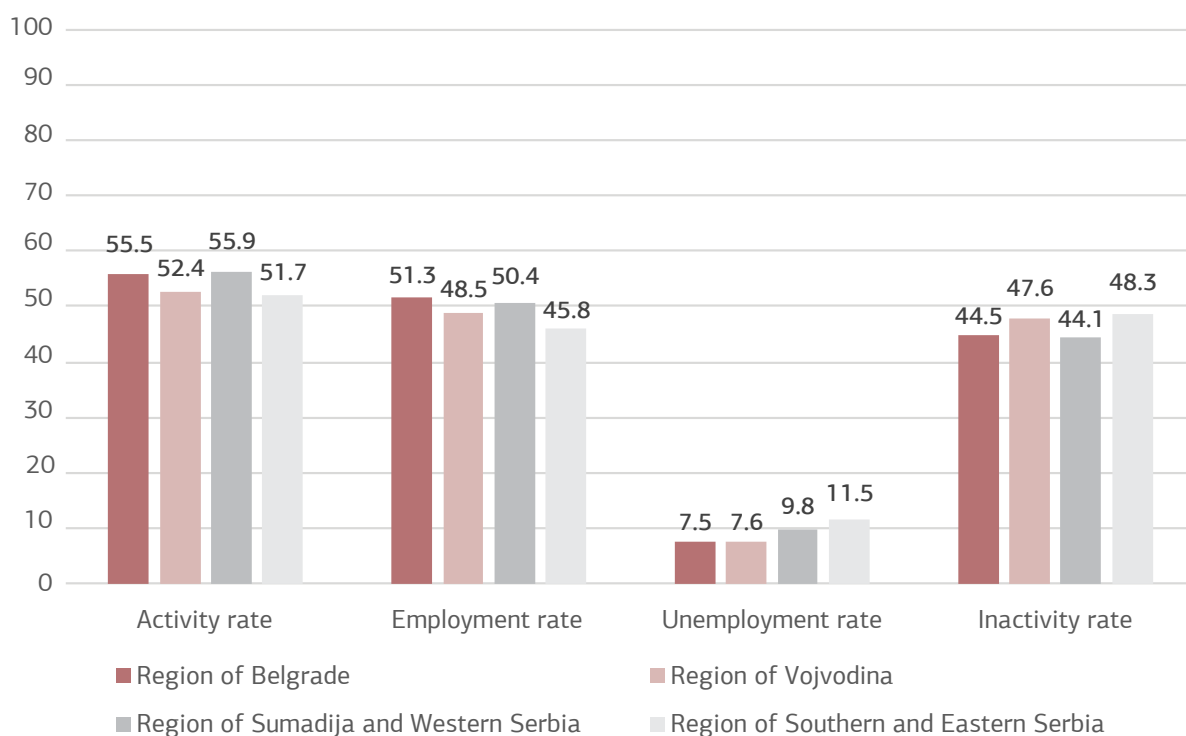
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...REGIONAL DIFFERENCES ARE PRESENT IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT LARGE, WHILE IN THE REGION OF SUMADIJA AND WESTERN SERBIA, CHILD LABOUR IS MOST PREVALENT...

In the region of Vojvodina and the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, activity and employment rates are lower, and inactivity rates are higher than in the other two regions. Unemployment rates are highest in the region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, and in the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (Graph 28).

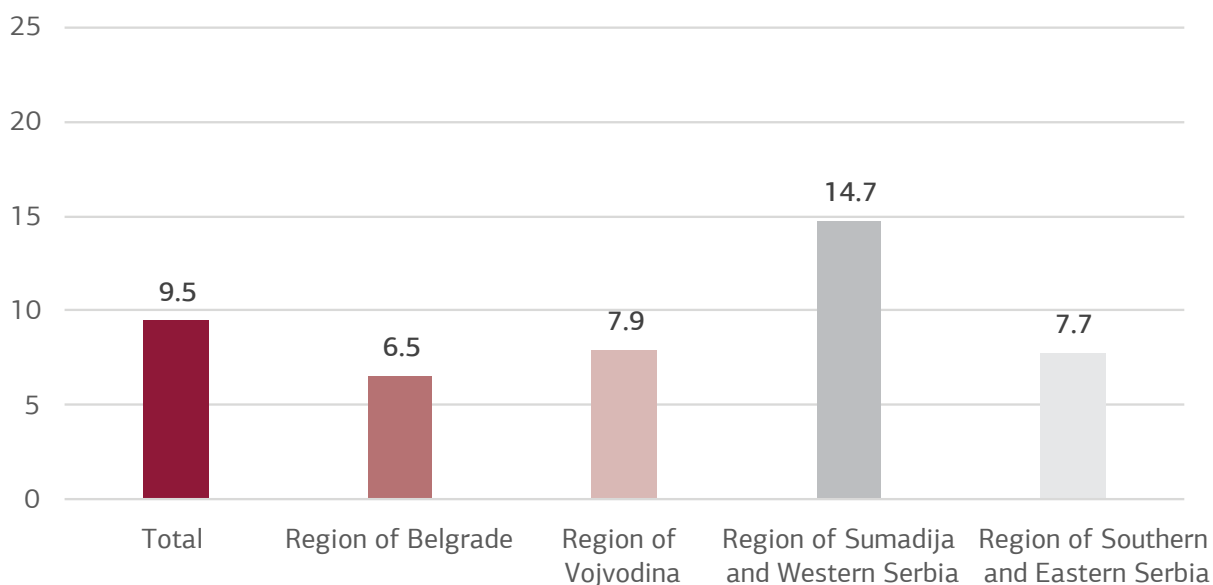
Graph 28: **Basic labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over, by regions, 2020, %**



Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

The highest rate of child labour was recorded in the region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, as compared to other regions (Graph 29).

Graph 29: **Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by regions, 2019, % (SDG indicator 8.7.1)**



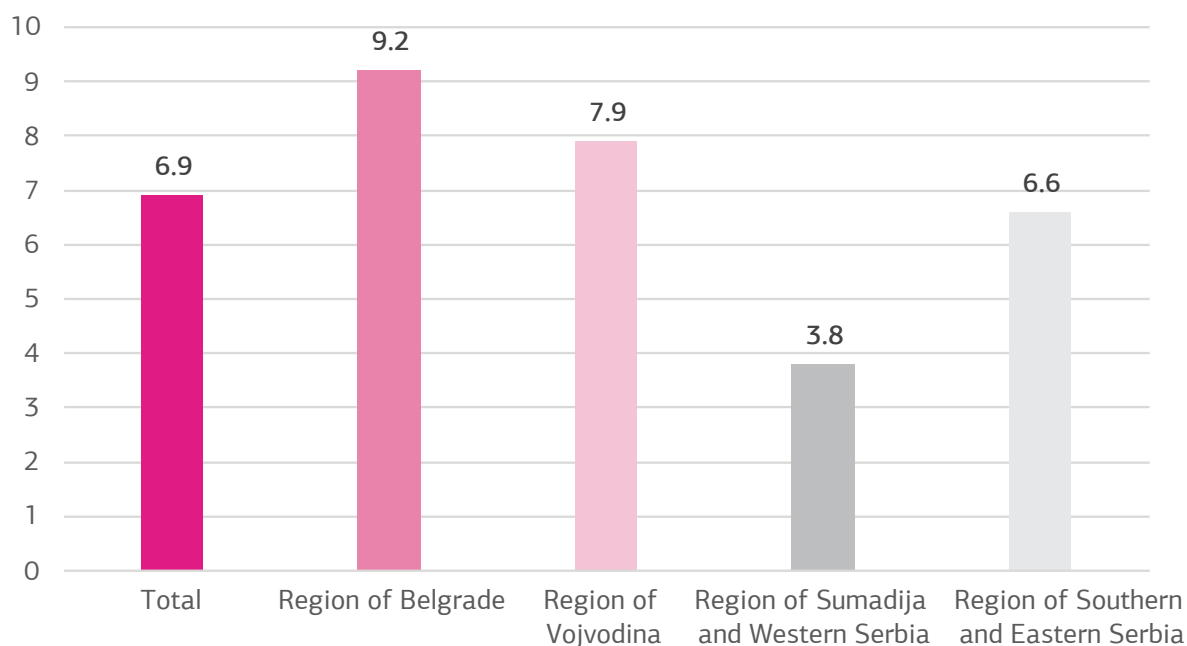
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION ARE MORE OFTEN REPORTED BY RESIDENTS OF THE BELGRADE REGION THAN RESIDENTS OF OTHER REGIONS; THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO REPORTED EXPERIENCING SOME FORM OF DISCRIMINATION DURING THE YEAR PRECEDING THE SURVEY IS AMONG WOMEN LIVING IN THE SUMADIJA AND WESTERN SERBIA REGION...

Discrimination data are only available for women aged 15-49 years, based on the MICS survey. Judging by the data from this survey, experiences of discrimination are most prevalent among residents of the Belgrade region, and the least among residents of the Sumadija and Western Serbia region, although the reason for this may be a more widespread awareness of discrimination enabling its better recognition (Graph 30).

Graph 30: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, by regions, 2019, % (SDG indicator 10.3.1=16. b.1)



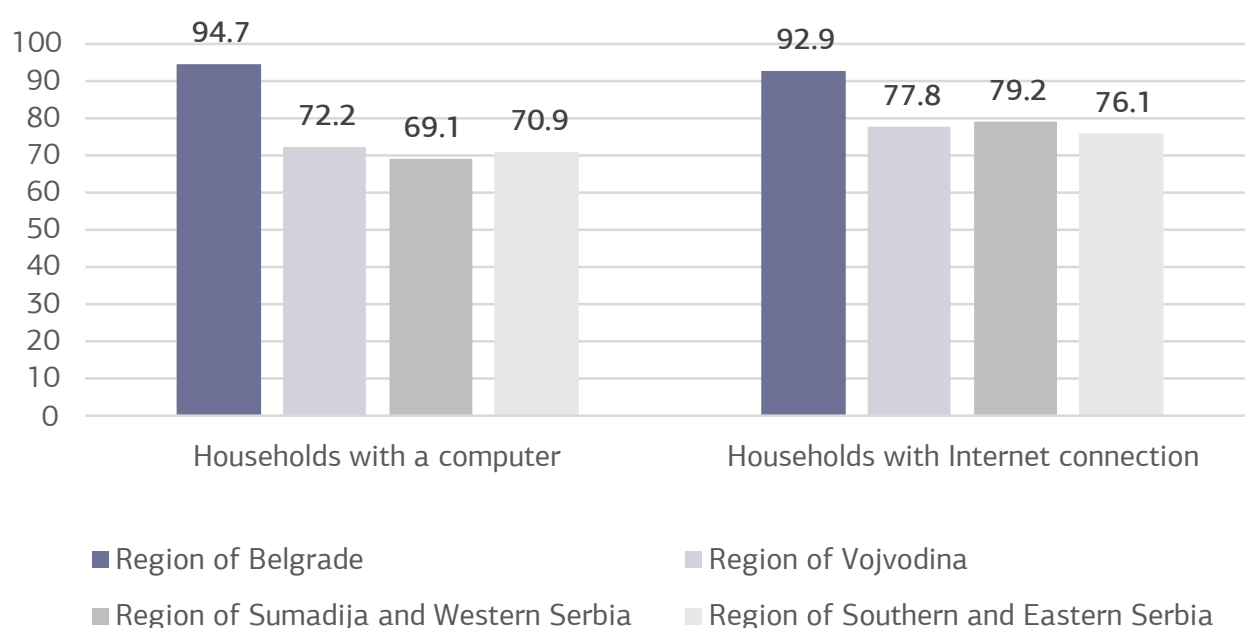
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - SORS and UNICEF



...THE BELGRADE REGION LEADS AS COMPARED TO OTHER REGIONS IN TERMS OF AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES...

Judging by the data of the ICT Survey, there are significant regional differences in this aspect of sustainable development, because compared to the Belgrade region, the other three regions have a significantly poorer access to information and communication technology (Graph 31).

Graph 31: **Graph 31: Proportion of households with computer and Internet connection by regions, 2021, %**



Source: Information and Communication Technology Statistics, SORS





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