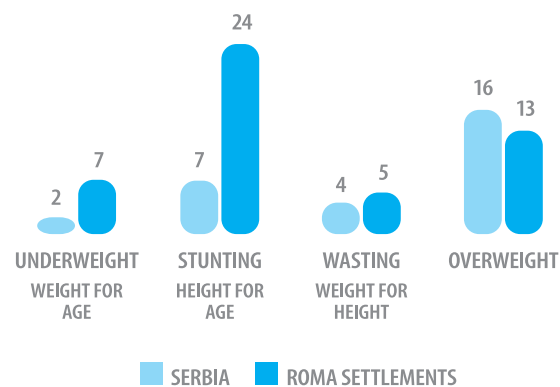


## Nutrition

The prevalence of child malnourishment (moderate and severe) **nationally** is relatively low: the prevalence of underweight children is less than 2 percent, fewer than 7 percent of children are stunted, and 4 percent are wasted. 16 percent of children under the age of 5 are overweight.

A different nutritional status is found among children living in **Roma settlements** — the prevalence of malnourishment is several times higher than the national average (around 7 percent of children are underweight and around 24 percent stunted). However, the prevalence of obesity is similar — 13 percent.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 WHO ARE UNDERWEIGHT, STUNTED AND WASTED



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The full report and database can be downloaded from [www.childinfo.org/mics4\\_surveys.html](http://www.childinfo.org/mics4_surveys.html)

For more information about MICS in Serbia, contact [belgrade@unicef.org](mailto:belgrade@unicef.org)

For more information about MICS in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth or Independent States contact [ceecis@unicef.org](mailto:ceecis@unicef.org)

For more information about MICS globally, visit [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org)

March, 2012



# MICS4 IN SERBIA

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS4) in Serbia consists of two surveys: one on a nationally representative sample of households; and a second on a sample of households in Roma settlements. MICS4 was conducted in late 2010 by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, with financial and technical support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

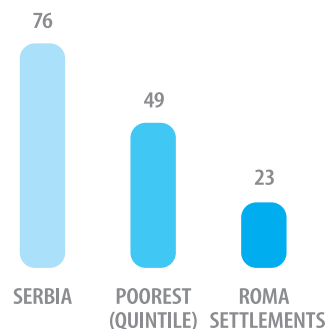


## Early Childhood Development

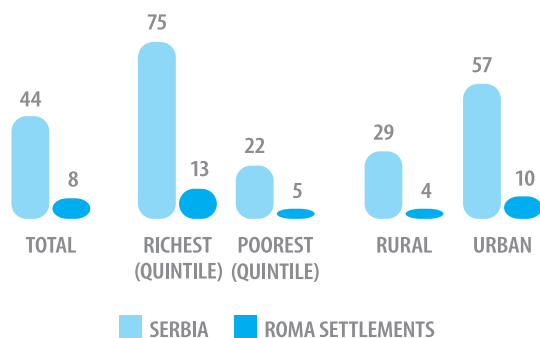
It is well recognized that a child's first 3–4 years of life is a period of rapid brain development. In this context, the quality of home care is essential, including adult support for learning through engagement in activities with children and the presence of children's books in the home.

In Serbia, **nationally** only 76 percent of young children have at least three children's books in their homes, dropping to 49 percent among the poorest. In **Roma settlements**, fewer than one quarter of households with young children have three or more children's books at home.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS PRESENT IN THE HOUSEHOLD (3 OR MORE BOOKS)



PERCENTAGE OF 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS ATTENDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Attendance in organized early childhood education programmes is important for the readiness of children to enter school.

**Nationally**, 44 percent of children aged 3 and 4 years are attending an organized early childhood education programme in comparison with 8 percent of children in **Roma settlements**.

Urban–rural disparities and differences related to wealth status are quite prominent and are presented in the chart.

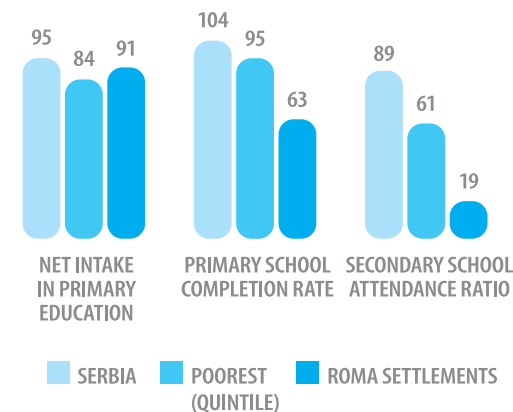
## Education

Education indicators reveal high rates of both enrolment and completion of primary school **nationally**. The majority of children will continue with secondary education.

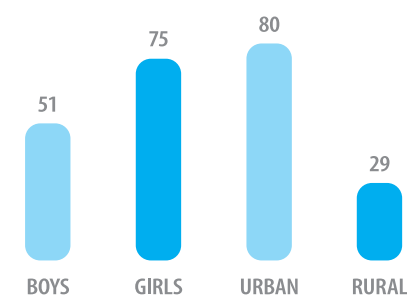
A lower percentage of children in **Roma settlements** are enrolling and completing primary school, while only 19 percent attend secondary education.

Among children in the poorest quintile, the majority will enroll in and complete primary school while only 61 percent will attend secondary school.

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS



PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES FOR CHILDREN IN ROMA SETTLEMENTS



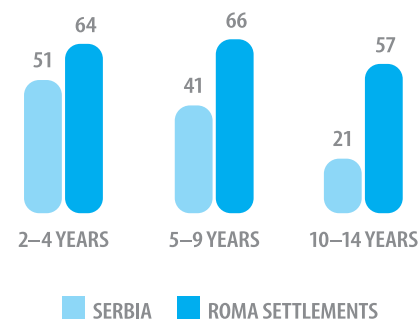
There are prominent differences among children from **Roma settlements**, especially between rural and urban areas and between boys and girls when it comes to completion of primary school, with more girls completing than boys.

## Child Disciplining

**Nationally**, over 60 percent of children aged 2 to 14 were subjected to at least one form of punishment (psychological or physical) by an adult household member while in **Roma settlements**, this was the case for over 80 percent of children.

**Nationally**, physical punishment as a disciplining method is used less as children grow older. However, this trend is not as pronounced among children from **Roma settlements**.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT, BY AGE



## Early Marriage

The proportion of women aged between 20 and 49 who were married before the age of 15 or 18 is low in the general population. This practice is more common in rural areas and among the less educated.

Almost 17 percent of women aged 20–49 in **Roma settlements** were married before the age of 15 and 54 percent of them married before age 18.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 20–49 WHO WERE MARRIED BEFORE THEIR 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAYS

