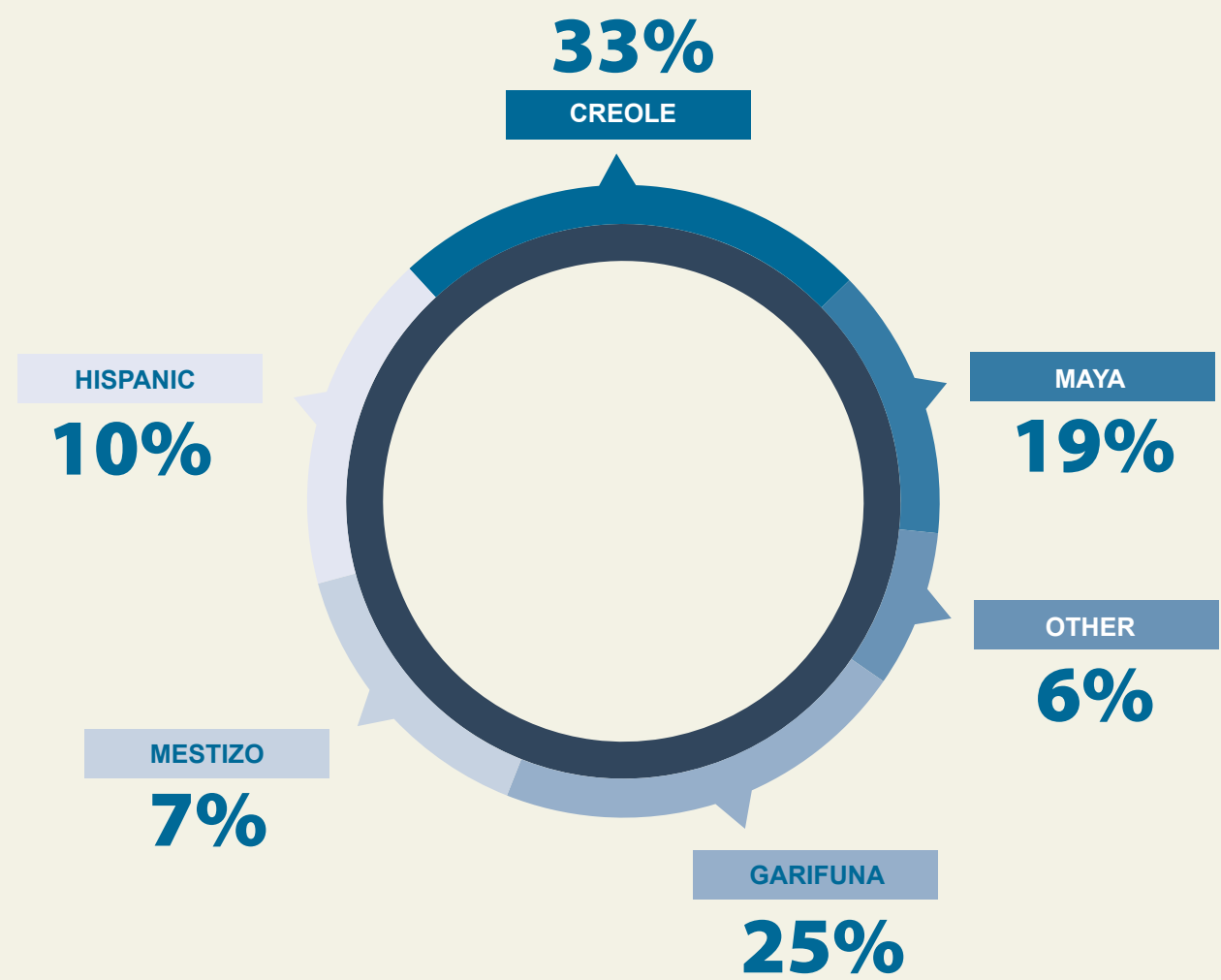# ADOLESCENT GIRLS

MICS FINAL REPORT

Adult literacy is also an MDG indicator, relating to both men and women. In MICS, since only a women's questionnaire was administered, the results are based only on females age 15-24. Literacy was assessed on the ability of women to read a short simple statement or on school attendance.

DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE RESPONDENTS

The ethnic group called "other" includes those who classified themselves as African, Asian, East Indian and White.

33% CREOLE

MAYA 19%

OTHER 6%

GARIFUNA 25%

MESTIZO 7%

HISPANIC 10%

ONE OR BOTH PARENTS
10 - 14 **85%**
15 - 19 **71%**

OTHER RELATIVE
9%
10%

NO RELATIVE NO SPOUSE
10 - 14 **3%**
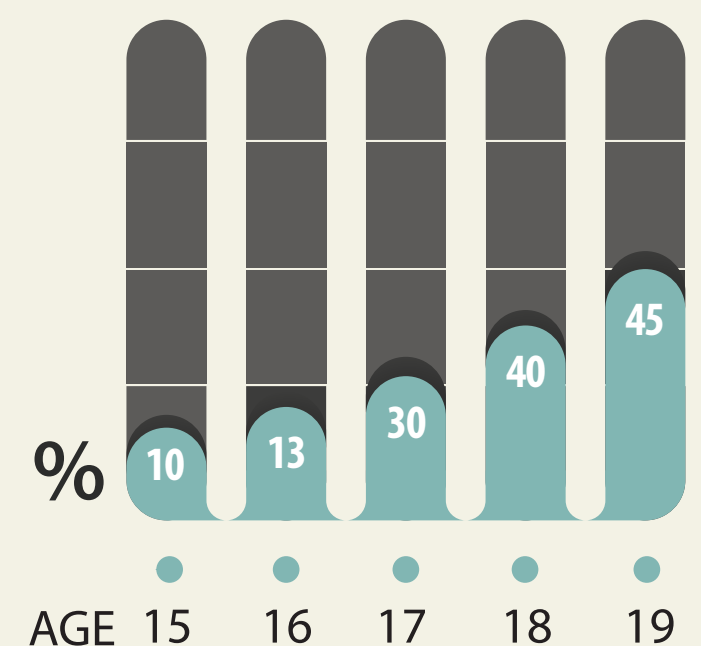15 - 19 **4%**

SPOUSE
0.4%
16%

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Males and female respondents age 15-19 are more likely to be living with other relatives (no parents) than 10-14-year-olds.
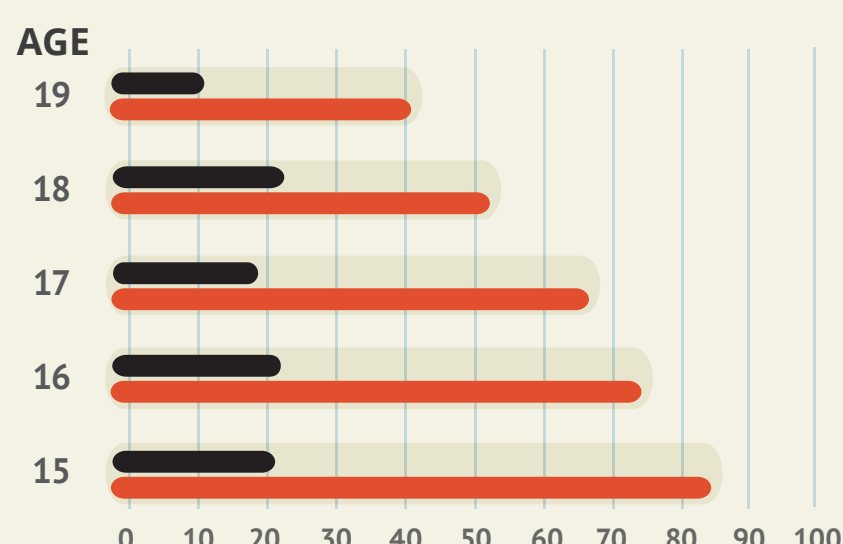
Among 15-19 year olds, over 16% of female respondents live with their spouse.

MARITAL STATUS

In the adolescent stage (15-19), the data show that Hispanic, Maya, and Mestizo females are most likely to be in a union, at 40.2%, 36.7%, and 36.0%, respectively.

%   10   13   30   40   45

AGE   15   16   17   18   19

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY AGE & PARENTAL STATUS

AGE
19
18
17
16
15

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

For all ages, female respondents without a child were much more likely to be attending school than those with a child.

The data show that from age 15-19, 2.3 - 4 times as many female respondents who are not mothers are in school than those who are mothers.

ADOLESCENT GIRLS

MICS FINAL REPORT

MICS questionnaires is intended for women aged 15-49 and as a result, adolescent girls aged 15-19 are directly interviewed on all topics covered under MICS (living arrangements; school attendance; access to improved water and sanitation facilities; access to media and use of information/communication technology; use of alcohol and tobacco; life satisfaction; reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; etc.).

PREGNANCY AND PARENTHOOD

Mayans and Mestizos are more likely to be pregnant during the adolescent stage (15 - 19) than female respondents of other ethnicities.

%

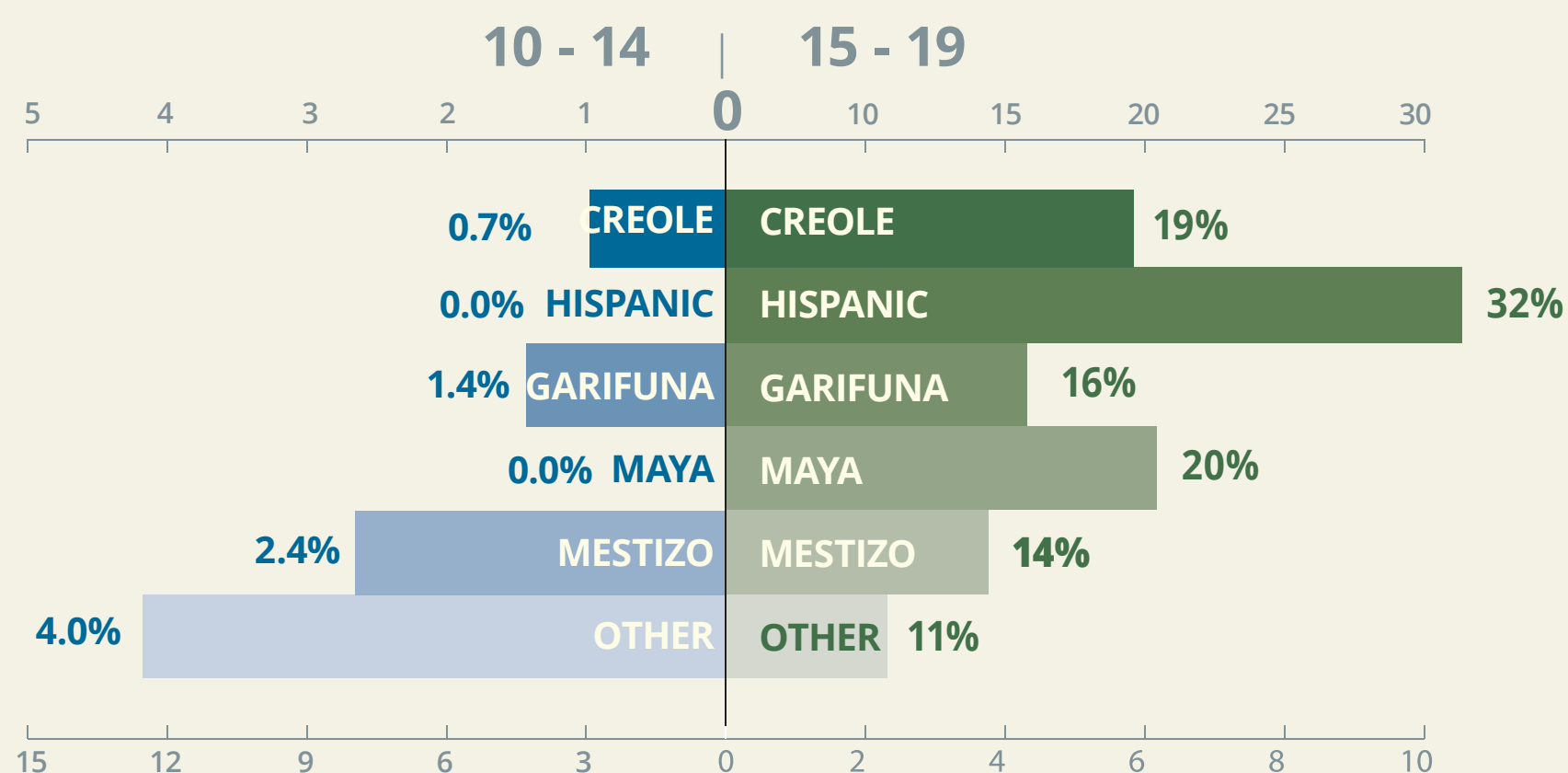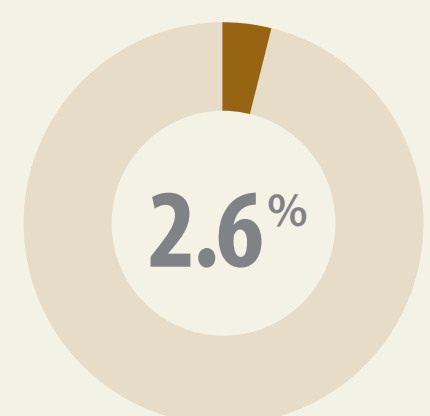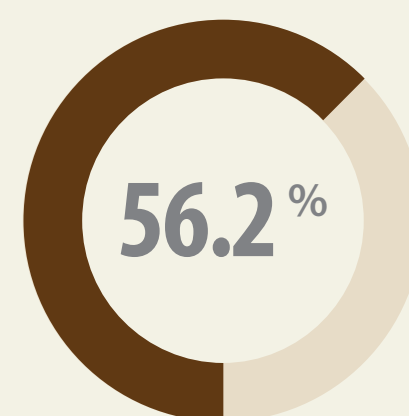|	
15	CREOLE
14	GARIFUNA
17.5	HISPANIC
20	MAYA
22	MESTIZO
9	OTHER

PARENTHOOD

Parenthood rates who have at least one child by age.

Among women aged 15-19, Hispanic respondents (32%) are about twice as likely to have had a child as Mestizo (14%) and Garifuna (16%) adolescent girls.

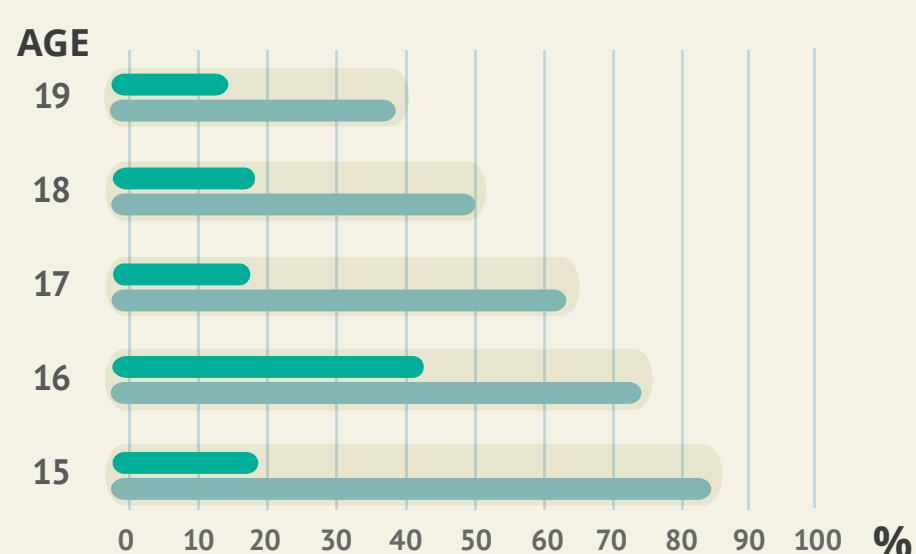| 10 - 14		15 - 19
0.7%	CREOLE	CREOLE 19%
0.0%	HISPANIC	HISPANIC 32%
1.4%	GARIFUNA	GARIFUNA 16%
0.0%	MAYA	MAYA 20%
2.4%	MESTIZO	MESTIZO 14%
4.0%	OTHER	OTHER 11%

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WITH CHILD

School attendance among women aged 15-19 who have had no child (56%) is about **20 times** higher than for women who have started having children (3%).

56.2%   **2.6%**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY AGE & PREGNANCY STATUS

AGE

19
18
17
16
15

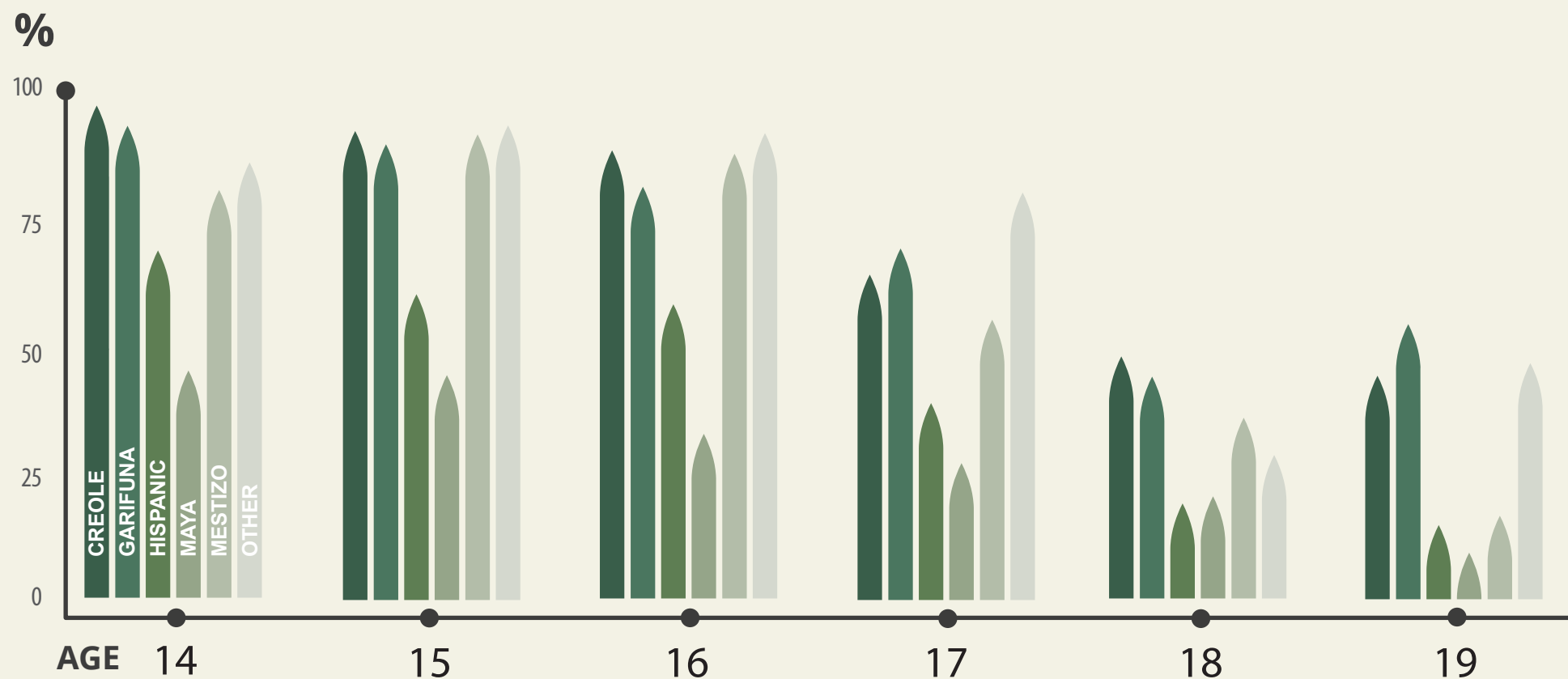0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 **%**

The data show that, similar to what occurs among young mothers, large proportions of pregnant females are not attending school compared to those who are not pregnant.

Between the ages of 15 and 19, 1.7-4.4 times as many non-pregnant female respondents were attending school than their pregnant counterparts.
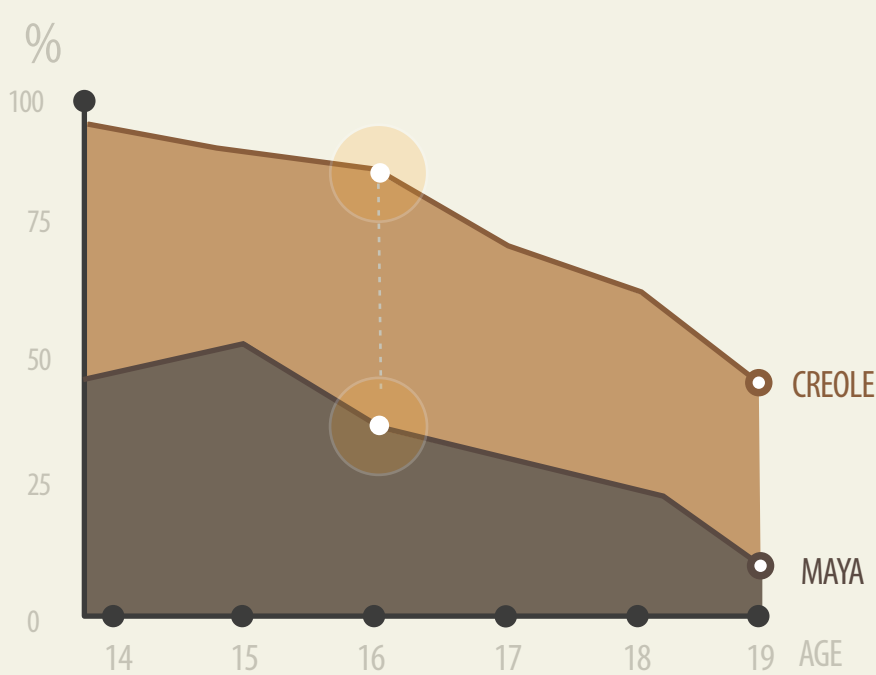
ADOLESCENT GIRLS

MICS FINAL REPORT

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

%

| AGE | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |

Legend: CREOLE, GARIFUNA, HISPANIC, MAYA, MESTIZO, OTHER

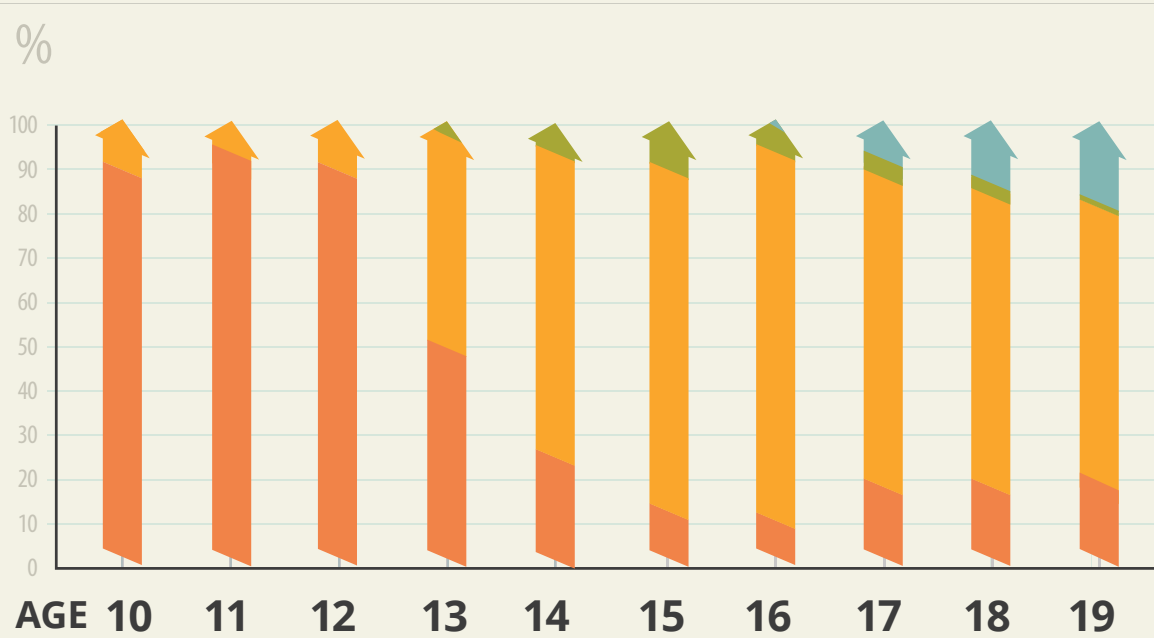*School attendance rates for female and male respondents age 14-19 by ethnicity.*

Mayan females are the least likely to be attending school at all ages represented in the chart. Hispanic females also have much lower school attendance rates than females of other ethnicities and their male counterparts.

CREOLE
MAYA
AGE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Creole female respondents have the highest rates of school attendance while Mayan female respondents have the lowest.

Creole females are approximately two times as likely to attend school from ages 14-18 and almost five times as likely at age 19.
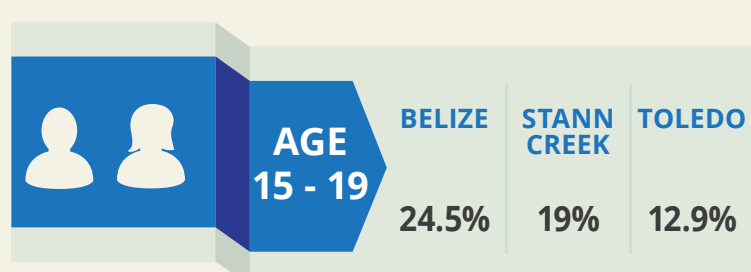

| AGE | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |

EDUCATION LEVEL

A large proportion of females age 10-14 and 15-19 are at grade-for-age (92.0% and 83.8%, respectively).

- ● Never Attended/Pre School
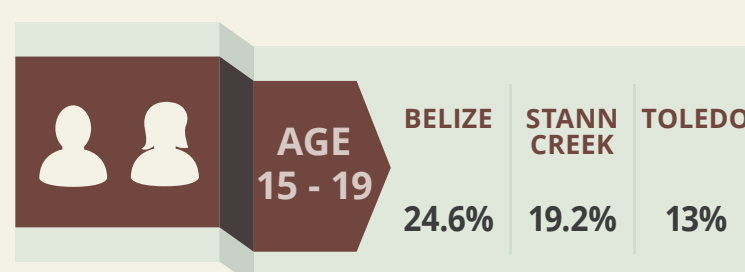- ● Primary School
- ● Secondary School
- ● CET/Vocaltional
- ● Assoc/Bach/Masters

WORKED FOR PAY OR FOR FAMILY

	BELIZE	STANN CREEK	TOLEDO
AGE 15 - 19	24.5%	19%	12.9%

VOLUNTEER WORK

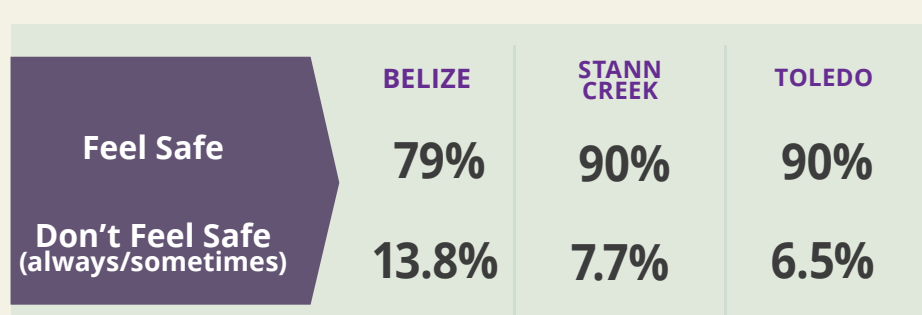|	BELIZE	STANN CREEK	TOLEDO
AGE 15 - 19	24.6%	19.2%	13%

In Belize, young females are employed at a much lower rate than males; among 15-19-year-olds, 12.9% and 32.3% of females and males were employed, respectively.

PERCEPTION OF SAFETY

	BELIZE	STANN CREEK	TOLEDO
Feel Safe	79%	90%	90%
Don't Feel Safe (always/sometimes)	13.8%	7.7%	6.5%

Females in Belize district were the group that reported the highest percentage of feeling unsafe, always or sometimes, at 13.8% as compared to 8.4% of males in Belize district who reported feeling unsafe. Females in Belize district areapproximately

twice as likely

to have reported feeling unsafe than females in Stann Creek and Toledo.