

A photograph of two young girls in a classroom. The girl in the foreground is pointing at a globe with her right index finger. She has dark hair and is looking intently at the globe. The girl behind her is also looking at the globe. The globe is a standard world map with blue oceans and tan landmasses. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting.

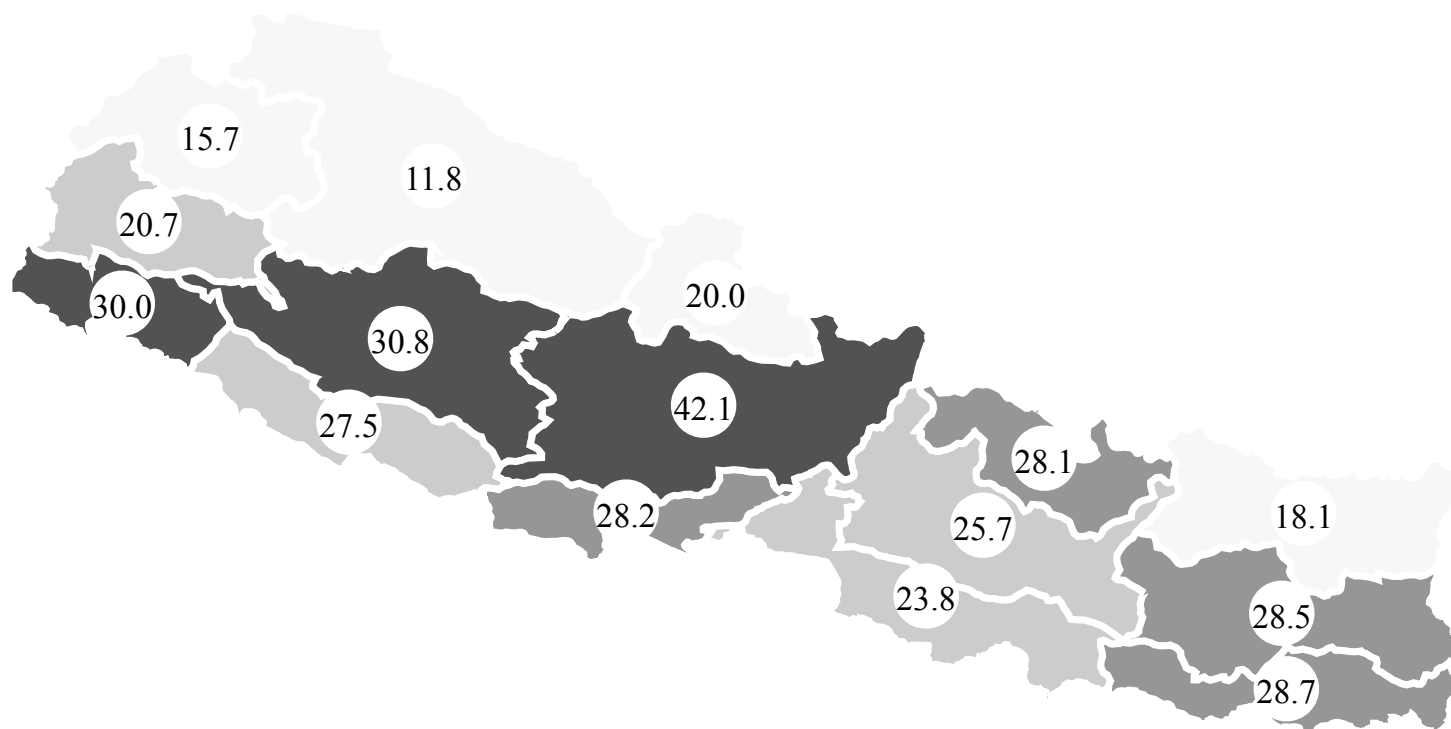
International migration of fathers – Who are the children left behind?

UNICEF Nepal
Discussion document
August 2015

In Nepal, 28% of children (age 0-17) do not live in the same household as their fathers

Absence of fathers by region

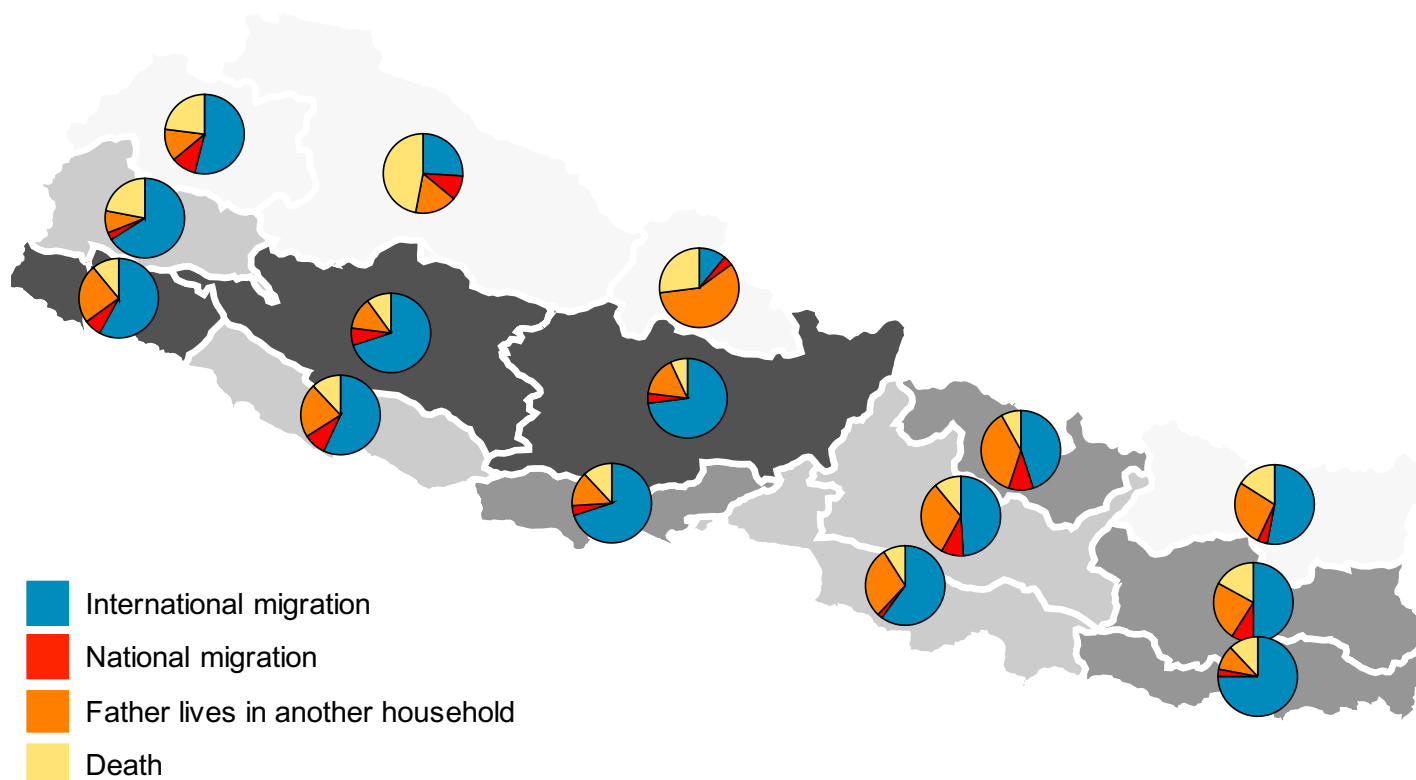
Percentage share of children who live without their father



- In Nepal, 28% of children (age 0-17) do not live in the same household as their fathers
 - Part of this is driven by older children (>15 years) who have **already moved out**
 - Other reasons are **international migration, national migration, or death**
- Paternal absence is highest in Western and Mid-Western Hills as well as in Far-Western Terai regions

On average, international migration accounts for 62% of paternal absence in Nepal

Reasons for living without a father
Percent of total number of children without father

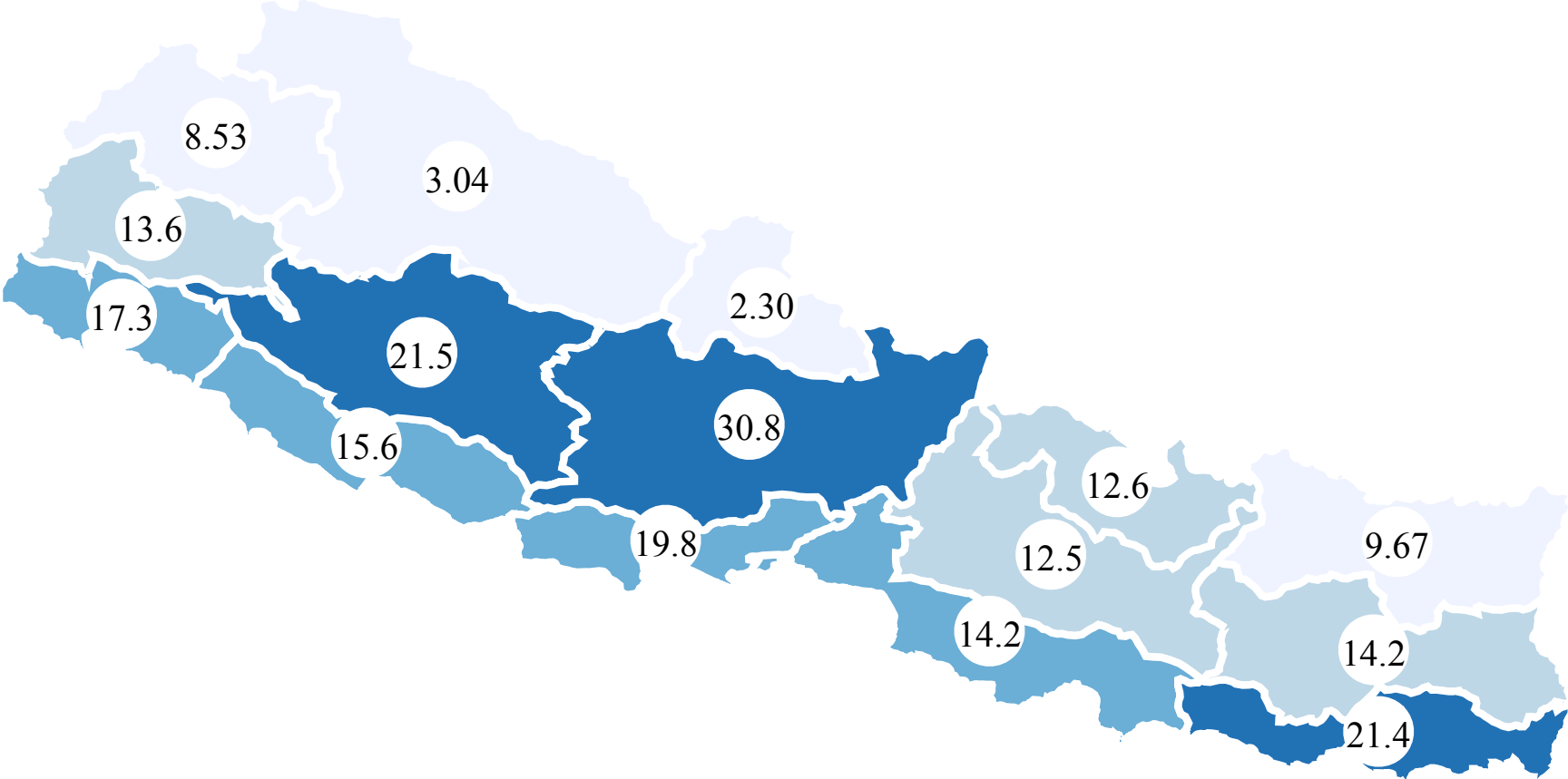


- International migration accounts for **more than 50% of paternal absence in 12 out of 15 regions**
- In Western and Mid-Western Mountain regions, the primary cause of father absence is death or living in other households – however, their overall rate of paternal absence is lower (12% in Mid-Western Mountain and 20% in Western Mountain, compared to 42% in Western Hills)

18% of children live without their fathers due to international migration

Outmigration is highest in the Western and Mid-Western Hills and Eastern Terai, where more than 20% of children live without their fathers

Percentage share of children whose father lives abroad



SOURCE: MICS5 Nepal, own illustration

Contents





Food / Nutrition

Father lives abroad
 Father in country / dead



Stunting



Underweight



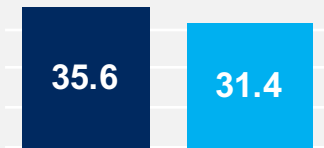
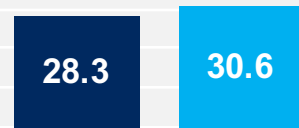
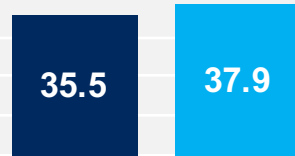
Wasting



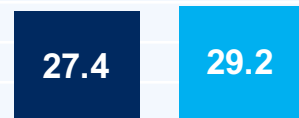
Minimum acceptable diet

Percentage share of children under 5

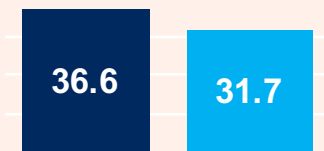
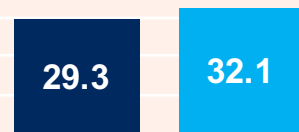
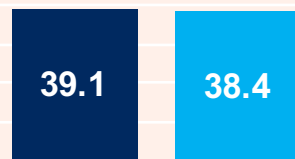
Total



Boys



Girls





Water / Sanitation

Father lives abroad
Father in country / dead



Access to improved drinking water



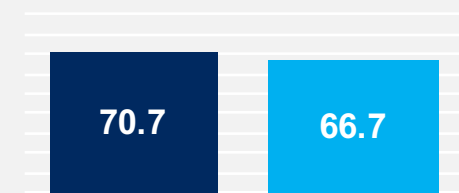
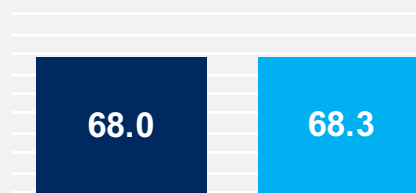
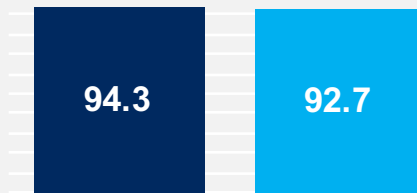
Access to good hand washing place



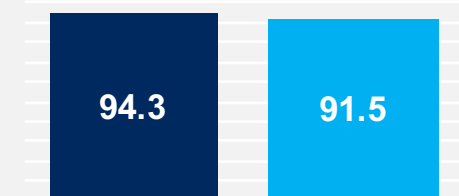
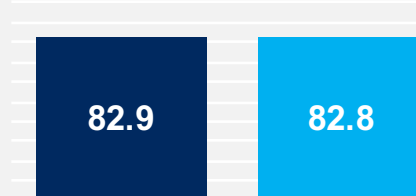
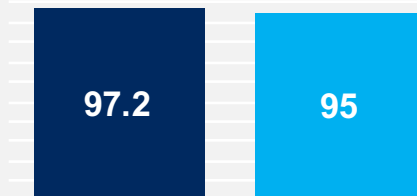
Access to improved sanitation

Percentage share of children

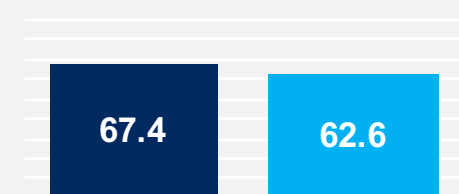
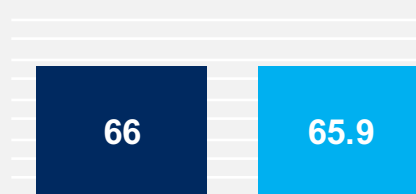
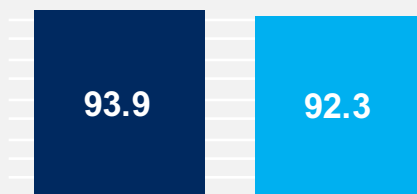
Total



Urban



Rural



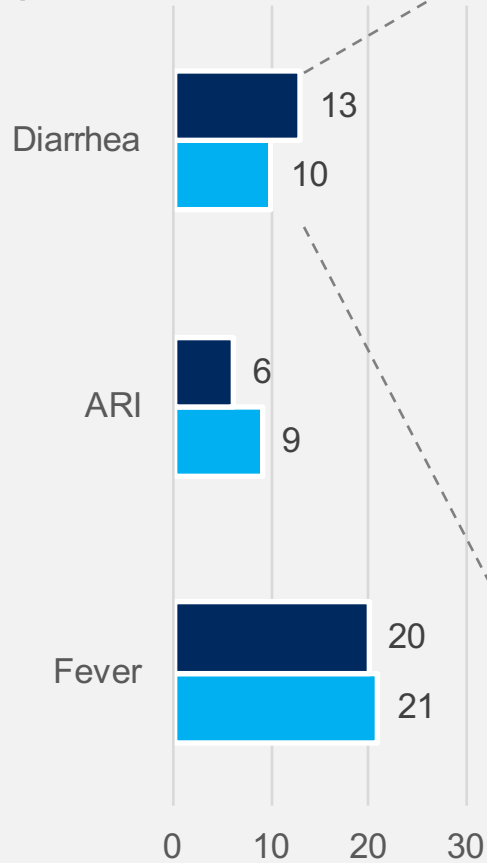


Health care

■ Father lives abroad
■ Father in country / dead

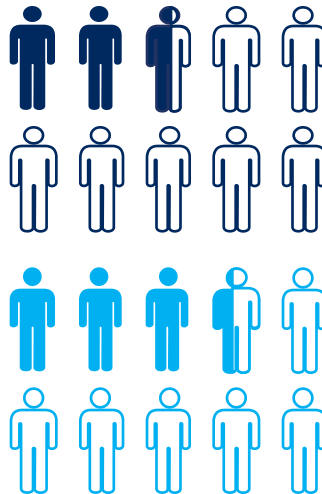
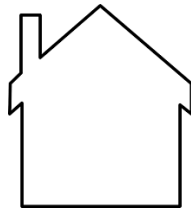


Percentage share of children 0-59 months with reported episodes of...

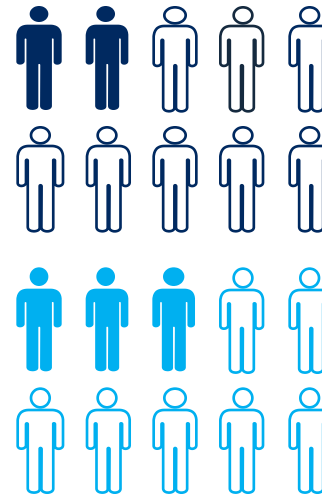
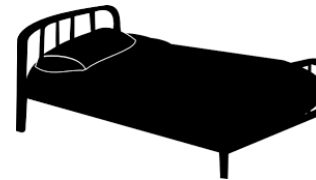


Out of 10 children with symptoms of diarrhea, how many are seeking advice at...

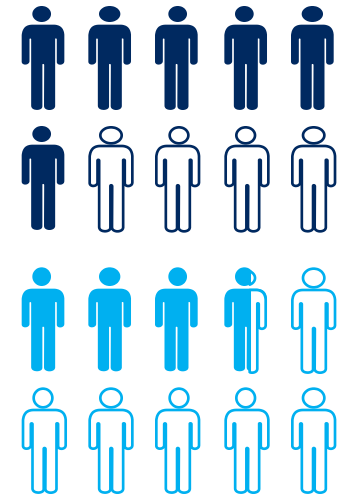
No advice



Public facility



Private facility



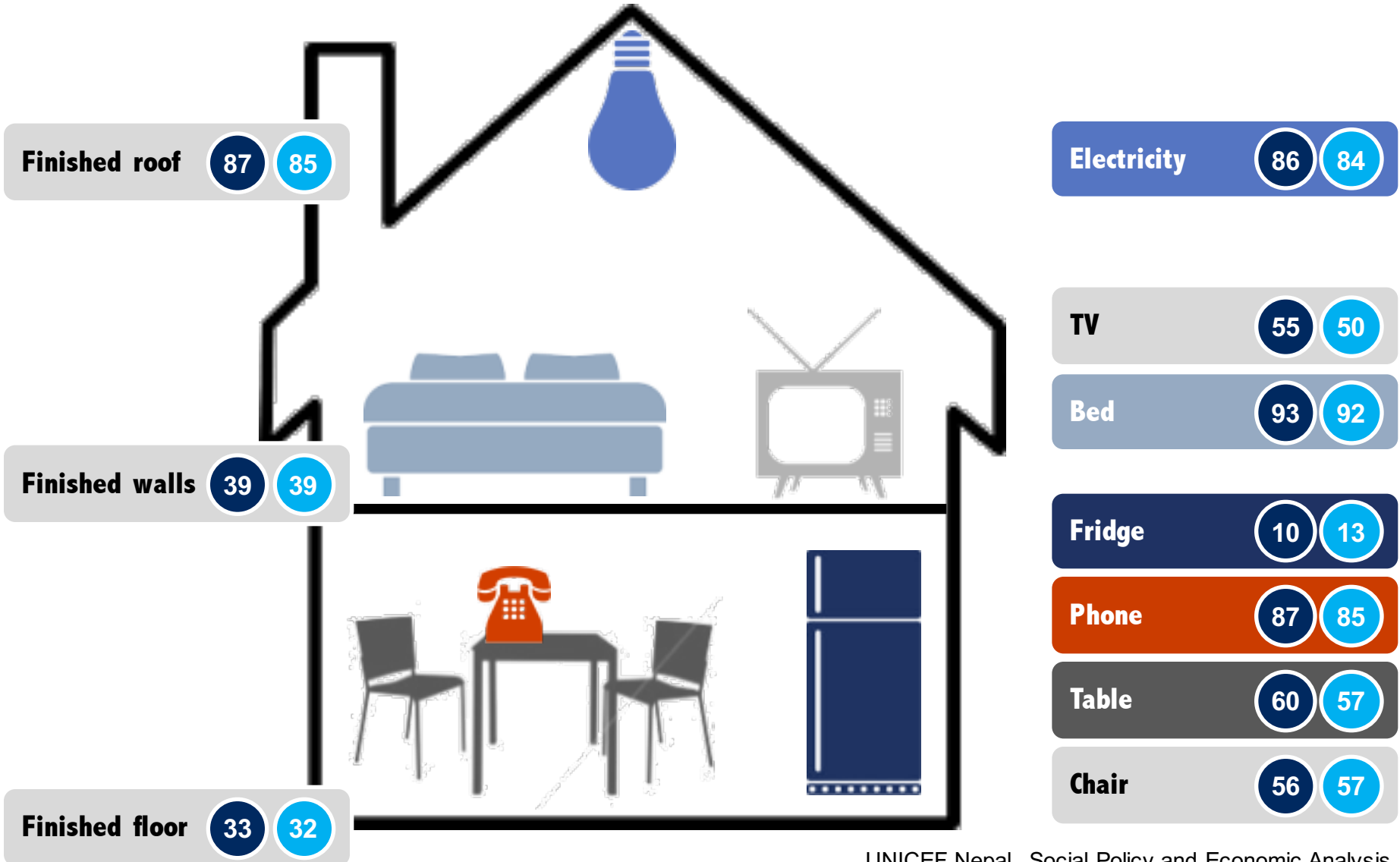


Housing / Shelter

- Father lives abroad
- Father in country / dead



Percentage share of children living in households with...





Education

- Father lives abroad
- Father in country / dead



Enrolment in early childhood development program



Father abroad

57

Father in country

49

Learning support by...

Mother	37	28
Father	1	13
Any adult	67	67

Forms of learning support

Reading books	63	63
Telling stories	67	66
Singing songs	67	65
Playing	78	85
Taking outside	82	83
Naming / counting	59	61

Early learning indicators



Can identify 10 letters from the alphabet	Boys		Girls	
	27	29	37	29
	Urban		Rural	
	53	60	29	24
Can read at least four simple, popular words	Boys		Girls	
	23	25	31	26
	Urban		Rural	
	42	47	25	22
Recognizes numbers from 1 to 10	Boys		Girls	
	30	34	42	31
	Urban		Rural	
	52	60	34	28



Social development

■ Father lives abroad
■ Father in country / dead



Social development

Plays with other children

Kicks and hits other children

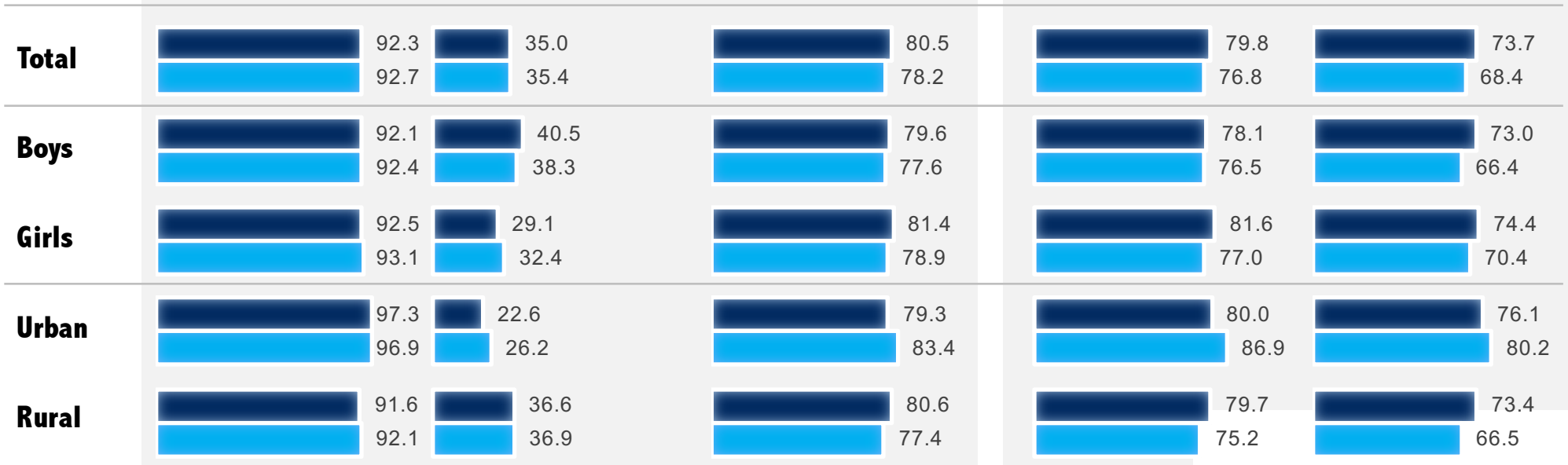
Gets easily distracted



Independence

Can follow simple instructions correctly

Can carry out work independently





Child labor

■ Father lives abroad
■ Father in country / dead



Percentage share of children between 5 and 17 years who have been involved in any of the following activities for more time than their age-specific threshold



Business activity



Household chores



Involved in dangerous work



Child labor indicator

	Business activity		Household chores		Involved in dangerous work		Child labor indicator	
Total	20.1	18.6	3.8	3.8	27.3	30.5	37.0	39.3
Boys	19.9	18.7	3.9	3.9	24.0	29.3	37.1	39.3
Girls	20.3	18.5	3.7	3.6	30.4	31.7	37.0	39.3
Urban	7.6	7.3	1.7	2.3	8.4	13.8	15.3	18.7
Rural	21.8	20.5	4.2	4.0	29.9	33.4	40.1	42.8

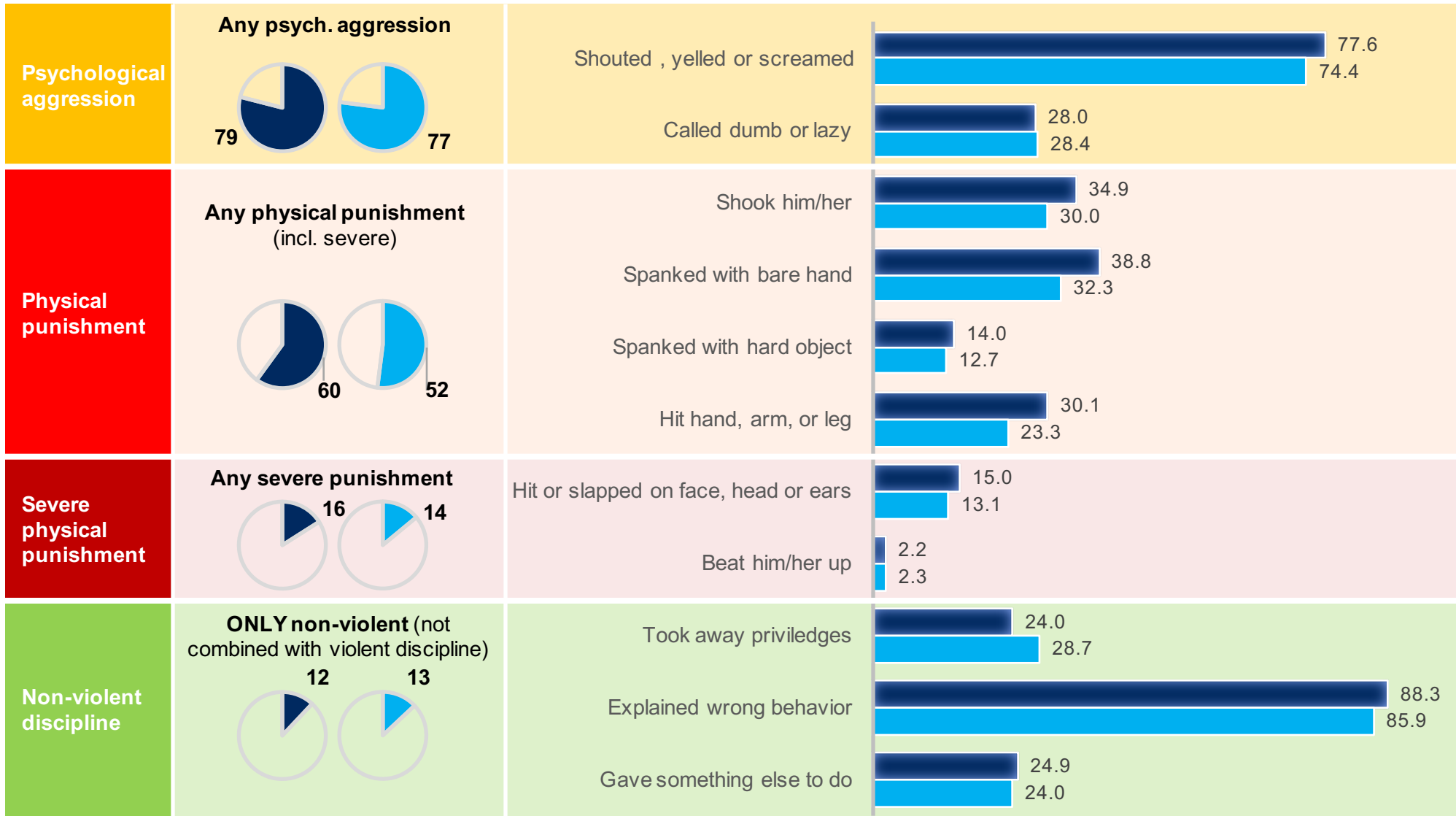


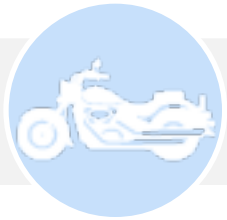
Child discipline

■ Father lives abroad
■ Father in country / dead



Percentage share of children between 1 and 14 years who have experienced one or more of the following disciplining methods in the past month



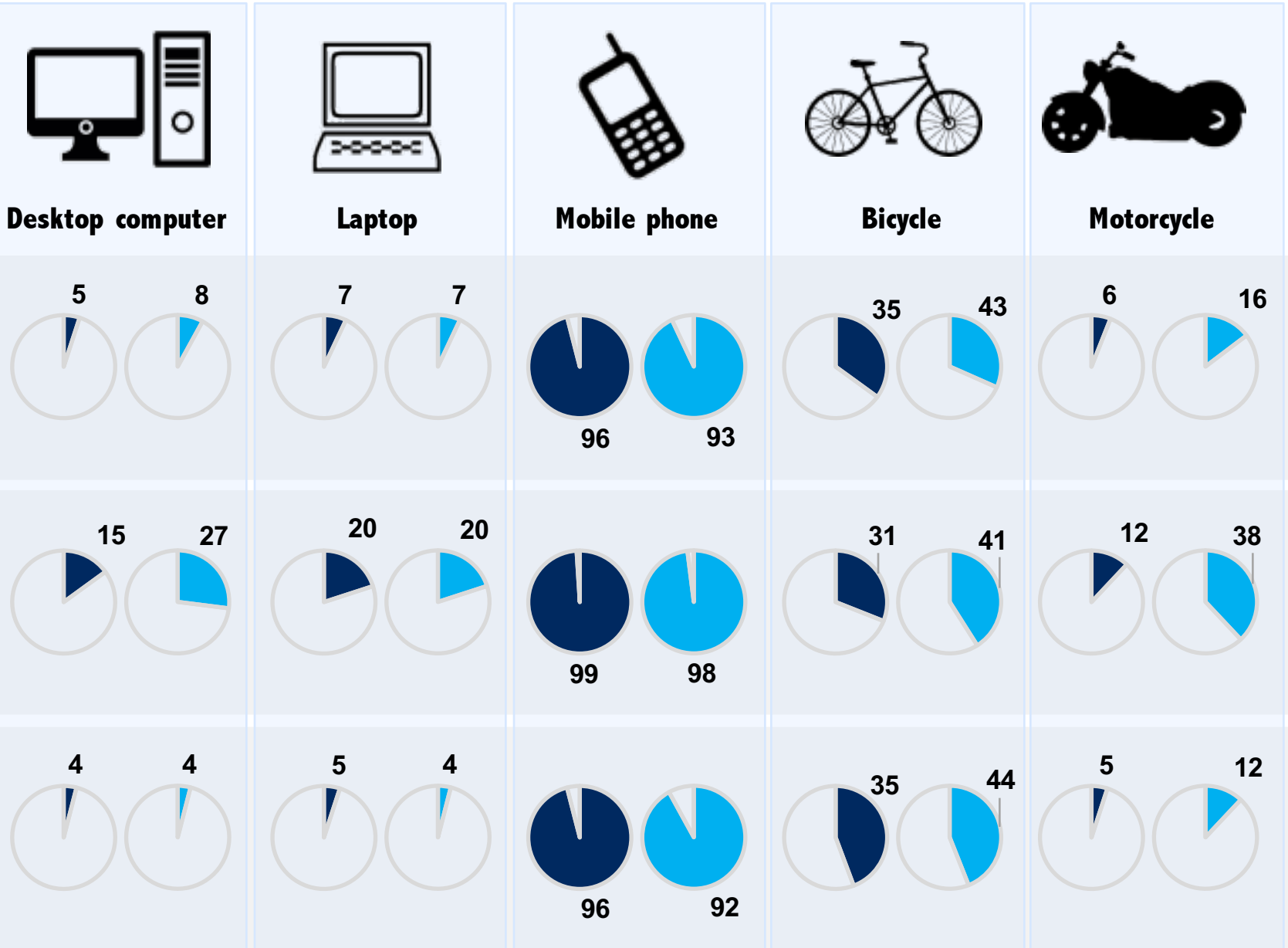


Information / Mobility

■ Father lives abroad
■ Father in country / dead



Percentage share of children living in households where at least one person owns...



Summary: Children whose father lives abroad are...



Food / Nutrition

- Less likely to be stunted (-2 pp) or underweight (-2 pp)
- More likely to meet minimum dietary requirements (4 pp)



Water / Sanitation

- More likely to have access to improved drinking water (+2 pp)
- Use of improved sanitation systems, 4 percentage point higher



Health care

- 25 percentage points more likely to be brought to a private health care facility
- No noticeable difference in the occurrence of diarrhea (-2pp), ARI (+3pp), fever (+2pp)



Housing / Shelter

- Living in similar housing conditions as children with fathers in the household
- 5 percentage points more likely to own a TV



Education

- 8 percentage points more likely to be enrolment in ECD programs
- Receiving less learning support by fathers (-10 pp), but other adults compensate for it
- In rural areas, slightly better outcomes on early childhood learning indicators; worse outcomes in urban areas



Social development

- On average at same stage of social development
- Boys are 2 pp more likely to kick or hit other children, but at the same time can carry out work more independently (+2pp)



Child labor

- Less likely to work in dangerous conditions (-3 pp on average)
- Less likely to be involved in child labor (- 2pp)



Child discipline

- 8 percentage points more likely to experience physical punishments
- Severe punishment occurs 2 pp more often



Information / Mobility

- Less likely to own a bicycle or motorcycle (-9 pp and -11 pp)
- Less less likely to own a desktop computer (-3 pp), but more likely to own a mobile phone (+3 pp)