

# Population Status of Children in China

- Analysis Based on Population Census/Survey

Yan Fang, UNICEF China

27 November 2019, Beijing



携手为儿童

# Outline

- Snapshot/highlights in infographics
- Example: data analysis using 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey (2015 mini-census)
- Other child-related data publications based on analysis of population Census/Survey
- Q&A



The healthy development of children is the basis for positive human and social development. In recent years, while great improvements have been made in the survival and development of China's large population of children, noticeable internal disparities remain. Factors such as rapid socio-economic transformation, unbalanced regional development, and mass internal migration have resulted in survival and development challenges for many children. The censuses and surveys are rich sources of basic data and information on children, reflecting the demographic changes over time and the key characteristics of sub-groups. Analysis of census data can support enhanced understanding of the challenges faced by children and help inform more evidence-based decision making to address these challenges towards the fulfilment of child rights. This publication describes and analyzes the status of China's child population, based on data from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey and previous censuses and inter-census surveys.

#### Definitions:

**Children:** According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children are persons below 18 years of age, i.e. persons aged 0-17 years.

**Development stages:** In this publication, child development is divided into five stages, based on age range: infant stage (0-2 years), pre-primary stage (3-5 years), primary school stage (6-11 years), junior secondary stage (12-14 years) and senior secondary stage (15-17 years).

**Migrant children:** Migrant children refer to those members of the migrant population who are aged 0-17 years. The migrant population refers to persons whose place of residence is different from the location (e.g. town/township or street committee) of their household registration (*hukou*), and who have left the location of their household registration for more than six months. It excludes the population whose current place of residence is different from that of their *hukou* registration, but is within the same city-level administration.

**Left-behind children:** Left-behind children refer to children who live in their original domicile, but do not live together with their parents, as either one parent or both parents have migrated. **Rural left-behind children** refer to left-behind children whose household registration locations are in rural areas. **Urban left-behind children** refer to left-behind children whose household registration locations are in urban areas.

**Poverty-stricken area:** Poverty-stricken areas include the original 592 "key poverty counties" identified by the Government of China for focused poverty alleviation efforts, and the 680 counties that are located in 14 "poverty blocks" (11 blocks, along with the Tibet Autonomous Region, ethnically Tibetan regions in four provinces, and South Xinjiang), as defined in the new *Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)*. There is an overlap of 440 counties between the list of "key poverty counties", and the updated "poverty blocks". Therefore, there are 832 distinct counties categorized as "poverty-stricken areas."

#### Data Sources:

The data in this publication mainly comes from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China, as well as from previous censuses and inter-census surveys. Currently, China conducts a national census every ten years, with six censuses conducted to date, in 1953, 1964, 1982, 1990, 2000 and 2010. China conducts an inter-census population survey in the middle year between two censuses, with a sampling fraction of 1% (also called "mini-census"). The two most recent inter-census surveys were conducted in 2005 and 2015.

#### Acknowledgement:

This publication has been developed on the basis of the research projects conducted on the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey by Professor Duan Chengrong and Dr. Lv Lidan from Renmin University. These research projects received the technical and financial support of the NBS/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Data Project.

# Population Status of Children in China in 2015: Facts and Figures

<https://www.unicef.cn/en/reports/population-status-children-china-2015>



# Snapshot in Infographics



## Population Status of Children (aged 0-17) in China in 2015 **Facts and Figures**

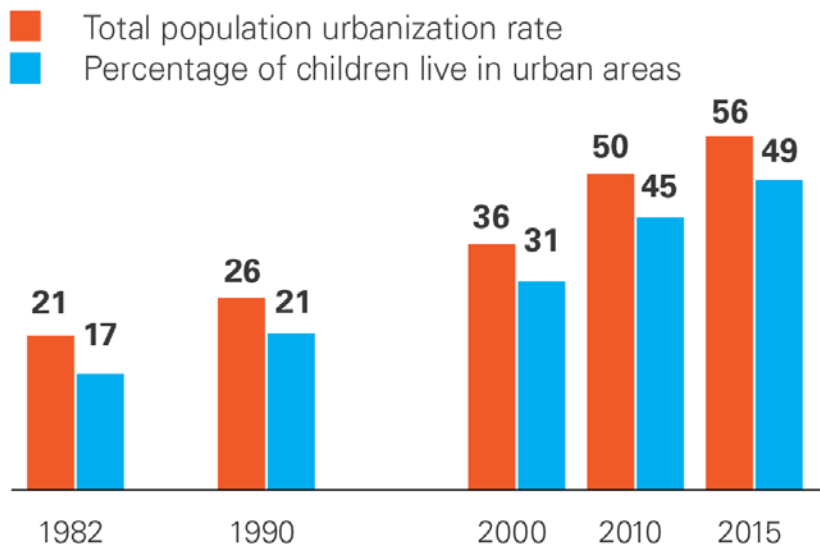


Data mainly comes from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China, and from previous censuses and inter-census surveys. Currently, China conducts a national census every ten years and an inter-census population survey in between two censuses, with a sampling fraction of 1%.

The healthy development of children is the basis for sustainable human and social development. Censuses and population surveys are rich sources of data and information on children, reflecting the demographic changes over time and the key characteristics of sub-groups. Analysis of census data can enhance understanding the challenges faced by children and help inform evidence-based decision making to address these challenges.

Go to [http:// www.unicef.cn](http://www.unicef.cn) to download the full report for more information. This publication has been developed on the basis of research on the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey by Professor Duan Chengrong and Dr. Lv Lidan from Renmin University, with technical and financial support from the NBS/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Data Project.

**49% of children live in urban areas,  
as compared to the total population  
urbanization rate of 56%**



**16% of children live in  
poverty-stricken rural areas**

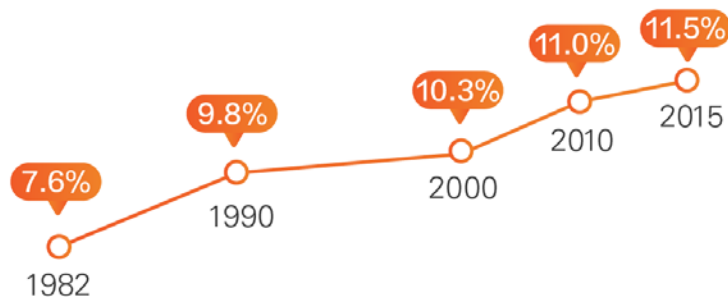


**Corresponding to  
44 million children**



Children living in poverty-stricken rural areas face multiple challenges in health, education and child protection.

The population of ethnic minority children is **31.11 million**, and their proportion in the child population is increasing



**45.3%** of ethnic minority children live in poor rural areas



The development discrepancy between ethnic minority children and Han children is, to a large extent, a reflection of the urban/rural and regional disparities. This requires equitable and integrated development of urban and rural areas, and balanced development among regions.

In China, the sex ratio at birth is  
**113 boys to every 100 girls**



Sex ratio at birth is  
generally recognized to  
be between 103–107 in  
the absence of an  
intervention



China is one of the countries with the most severely imbalanced sex ratio at birth (SRB) in the world.



Due to long-term SRB imbalance, there are 34 million fewer women than men in China.

**103 million children are  
affected by migration**

**Migrant  
children  
34.26  
million**

+

**Children  
left-behind  
68.77  
million**



**4 out of every 10 children in China  
are directly affected by migration**



Migrant children lose access to traditional and community support systems, and are confronted with difficulties and discrimination in terms of urban schooling, health care, social security and other aspects.



With one or both parents working away from home, it is difficult for children to receive emotional and learning support from their families, which can be detrimental to their physical, emotional and mental health.



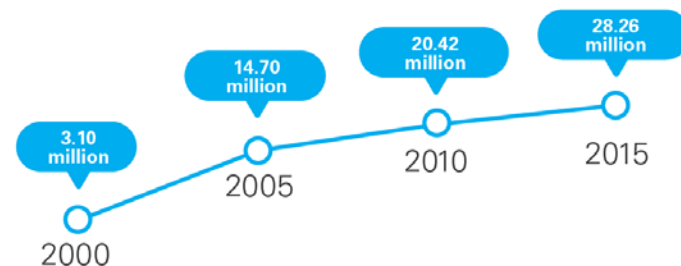
## 3 out of every 10 children in rural areas are children left-behind

Children left-behind  
68.77 million



40.51 million  
live in rural areas

28.26 million  
live in urban areas



## 2 out of every 10 children in urban areas are migrant children

Migrant children  
34.26 million



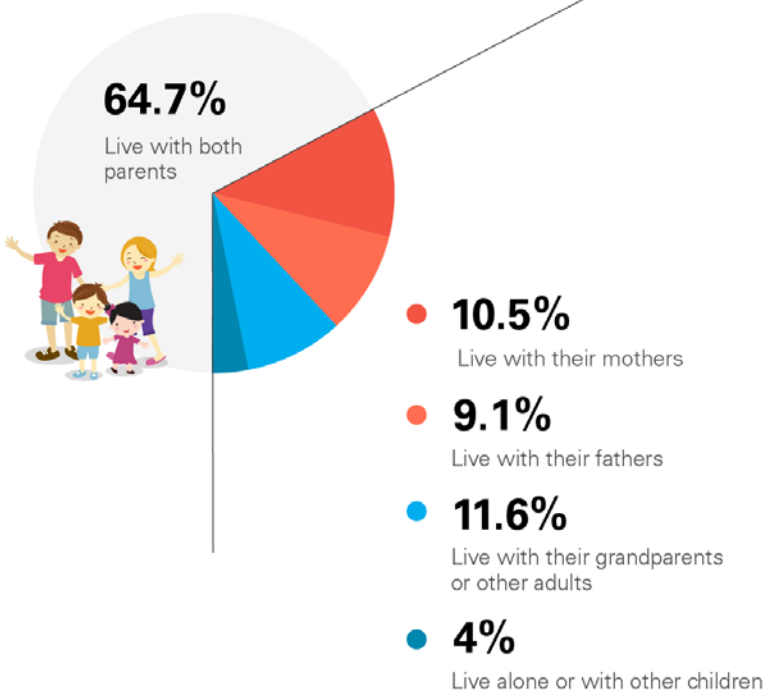
5.3 million  
live in rural areas

28.96 million  
live in urban areas



The rapid increase in the number of left-behind children in urban areas calls for an increased policy focus on this sub-group by the Government.

Over **1/3** children nationwide  
do not live with both parents



► This totals **95.6 million children**

▼ **92%** are children affected by migration



Rural children  
left-behind

**40.51  
million**



Urban children  
left-behind

**28.26  
million**



Migrant children not  
living with both parents

**18.84  
million**

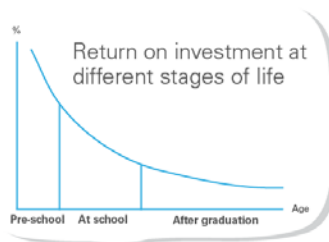
▼  
**8%**  
Children  
in a  
single-parent  
family  
**8  
million**



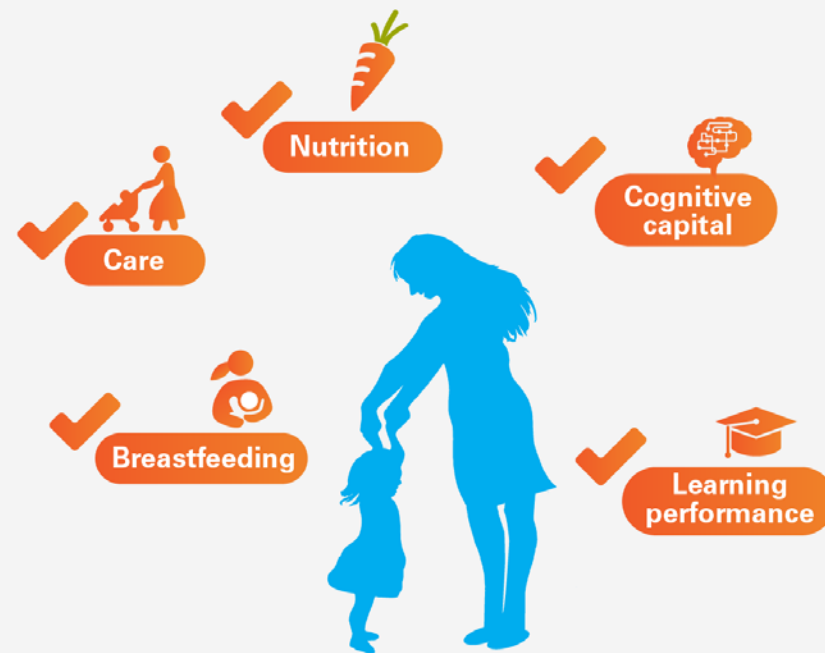
The lack of parental involvement can be detrimental to the growth and development of children. More attention needs to be given to children living alone, children living in single-parent families, children of migrant families, and children left-behind.

## Over 1/4 children aged 0-2 years are taken care of by caregivers other than their mothers

*Economists advocate for investing in early childhood development as the most cost-effective way to realize sustainable development.*



The absence of parents, especially mothers, have a negative effect on children's early development, and has been found to be one of the key factors contributing to cognitive delay.



Children living with their mothers usually receive better parenting and care. The involvement of both father and mother is even more beneficial for children.

## Education of children and adolescents has significantly improved, but still facing challenges

### Compulsory education school age Aged 6-14



- ▶ Nine years of compulsory education has been achieved with universal access. The key focus now is on ensuring quality education.

### Senior secondary school age Aged 15-17



- ▶ The attendance rate in senior secondary school has reached 86%. The urban-rural disparity and the level itself, both need further improvement.



**9.3 million** children aged 7-17 are out of school. This includes **6.3 million** children aged 15-17 years.

# Content of 2015 data analysis

## 1. Changes in the size of the child population

### 1.1 China

### 1.2 The world

## 2. Population birth

### 2.1 Number of births

### 2.2 Sex ratio at birth

## 3. Composition of child population

### 3.1 Age structure

### 3.2 Gender composition

### 3.3 Urban and rural distribution

### 3.4 Ethnic minority children

### 3.5 Children living in poverty-stricken areas

### 3.6 Children without a registered residence

## 4. Children affected by migration

### 4.1 Size

### 4.2 Age

### 4.3 Sex

### 4.4 Distribution of migrant children and rural children left-behind

### 4.5 Migration flow

### 4.6 Migration duration and experience

## 5. Family structure and child-rearing

### 5.1 Families with children

### 5.2 Child-rearing

### 5.3 Household water and sanitation facilities

## 6. Status of child and adolescent education

### 6.1 Status and progress

### 6.2 Gaps between different groups

### 6.3 Out of school children

### 6.4 Over-age students

### 6.5 Completion of compulsory and senior secondary education

### 6.6 Youth literacy rate

## 7. Adolescent marriage and fertility rate

## 8. Employment status of children aged 16-17



# Method

- Descriptive statistics
- Standard definitions
- Cross-tabulation
- Data visualization
- Child rights perspective
- Link with national policies
- Link with SDGs

# Disaggregation

- Sex
- Age
- Education stage
- Urban-rural
- Status of migration
- Ethnicity
- Poverty areas

# Examples of data visualization

- Population pyramid
- Pie chart
- Bar chart
- Table
- Line chart
- Map

Figure 7: Pyramid of child population aged 0-17, 2010 and 2015

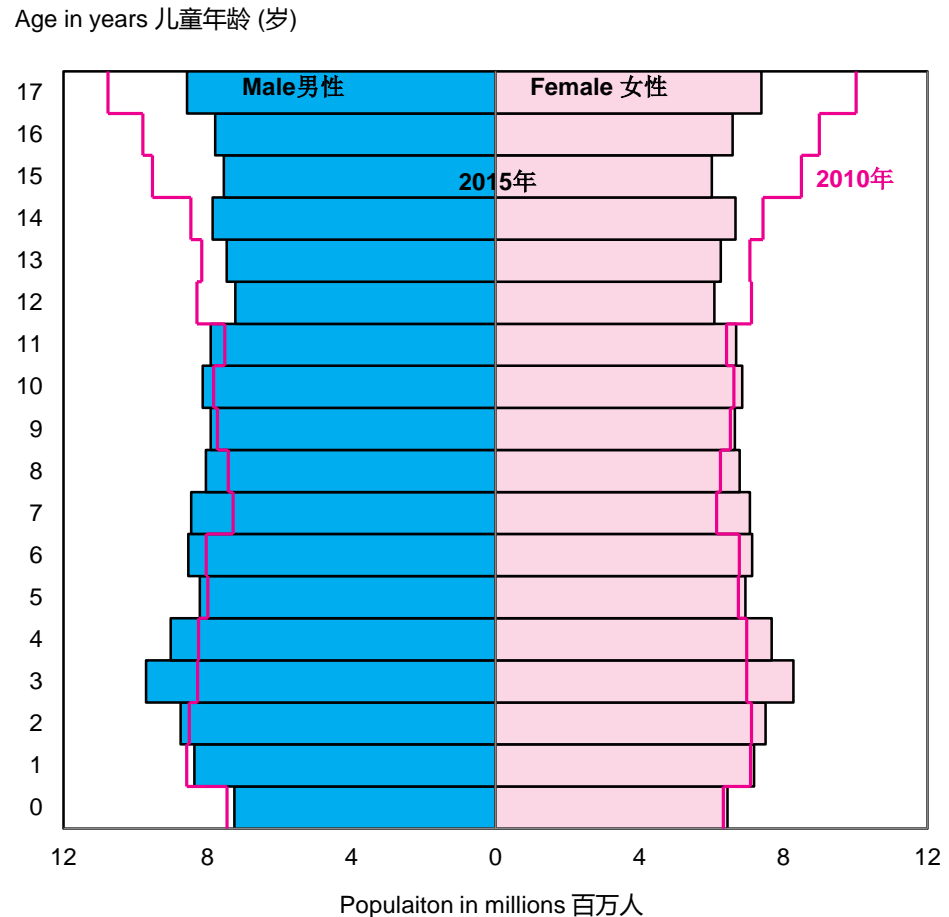


Figure 12: Number and composition of migrant children and children left-behind, 2000-2015

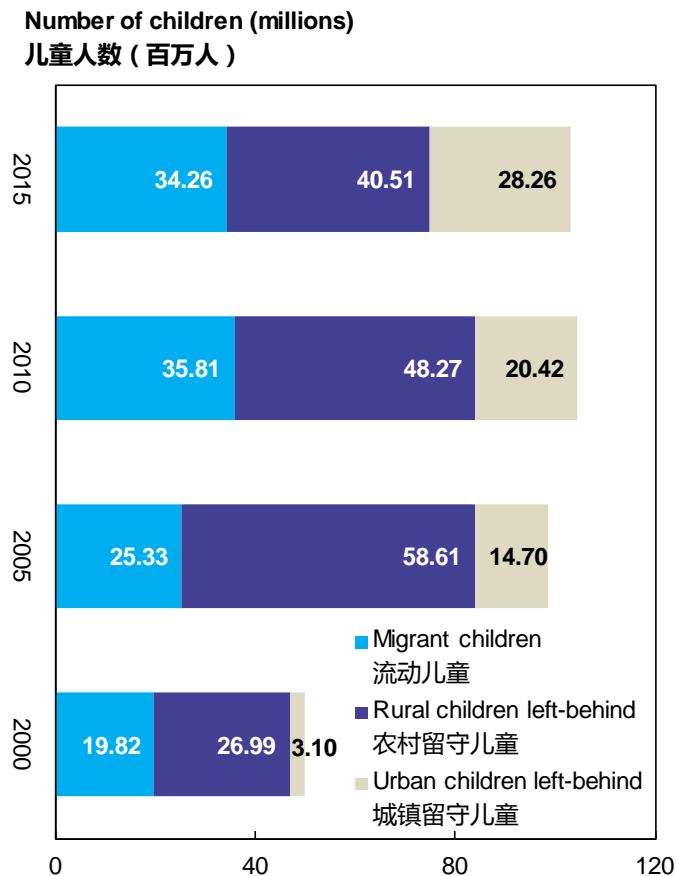
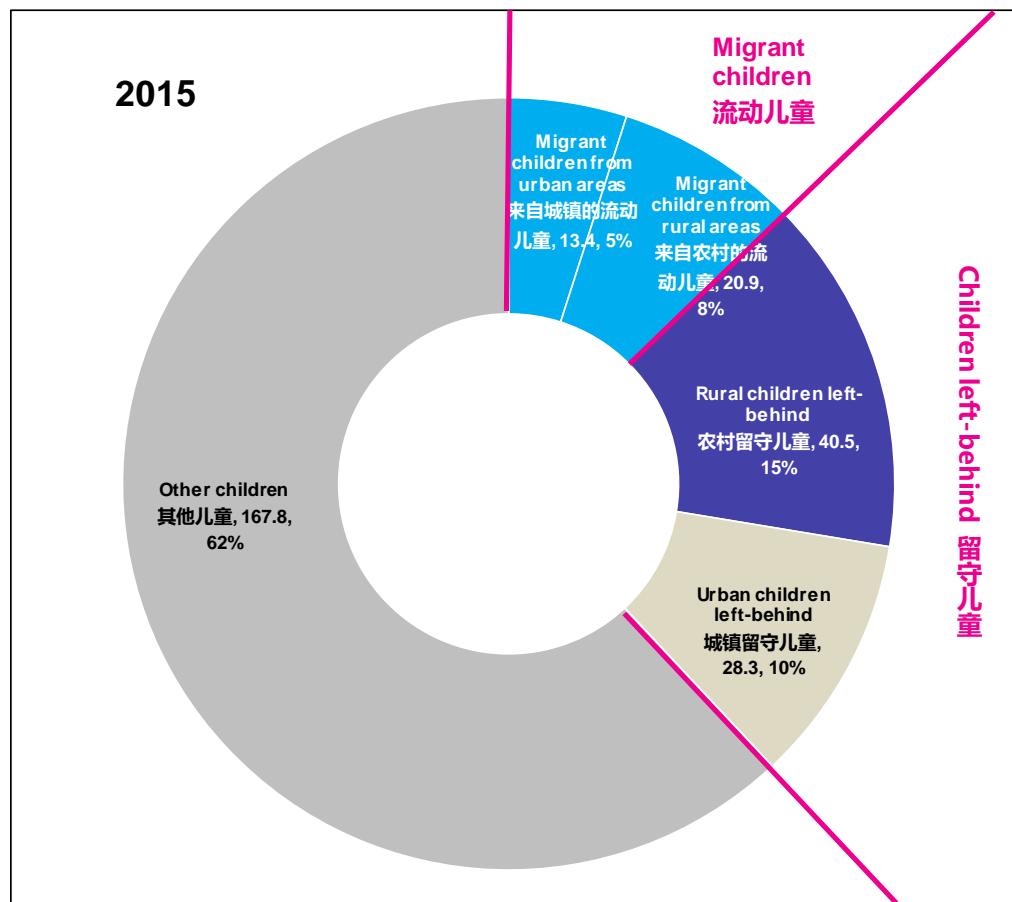
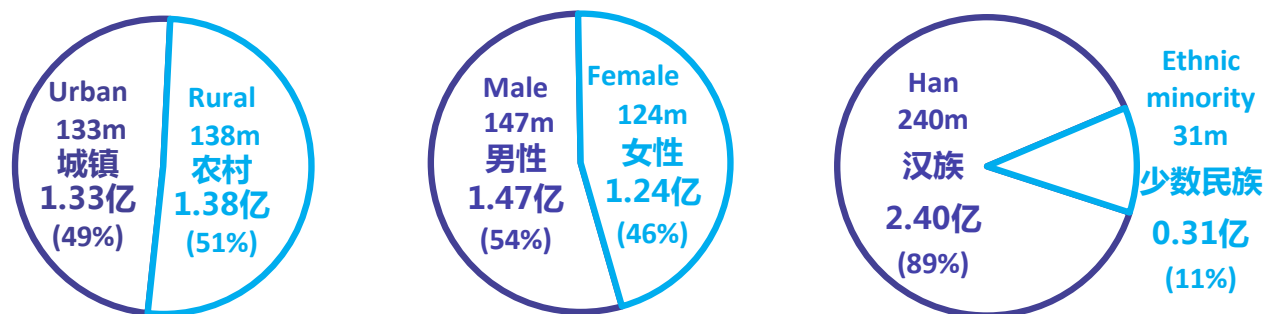




Figure 2: Composition of child population in China, 2015



Age 年龄	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total 0-17岁 合计
Level of education 学龄阶段	0-2 years 幼儿			Pre- primary 学前教育			Primary 小学阶段					Junior Secondary 初中阶段			Senior Secondary 高中阶段				
Number of children (millions) 儿童人数（百万人）	45.48			49.83			90.12					41.55			43.87			270.84	
Number of migrant children (millions) 流动儿童人数（百万人）	4.63			5.90			9.34					4.12			10.26			34.26	
Number of rural children left-behind (millions) 农村留守儿童人数（百万人）	7.84			7.92			14.11					5.60			5.03			40.51	
Number of urban children left-behind (millions) 城镇留守儿童人数（百万人）	7.44			5.55			7.57					3.44			4.25			28.26	



Figure 18: School attendance rate of children and adolescents aged 6-19, by age and urban-rural residence, 2015

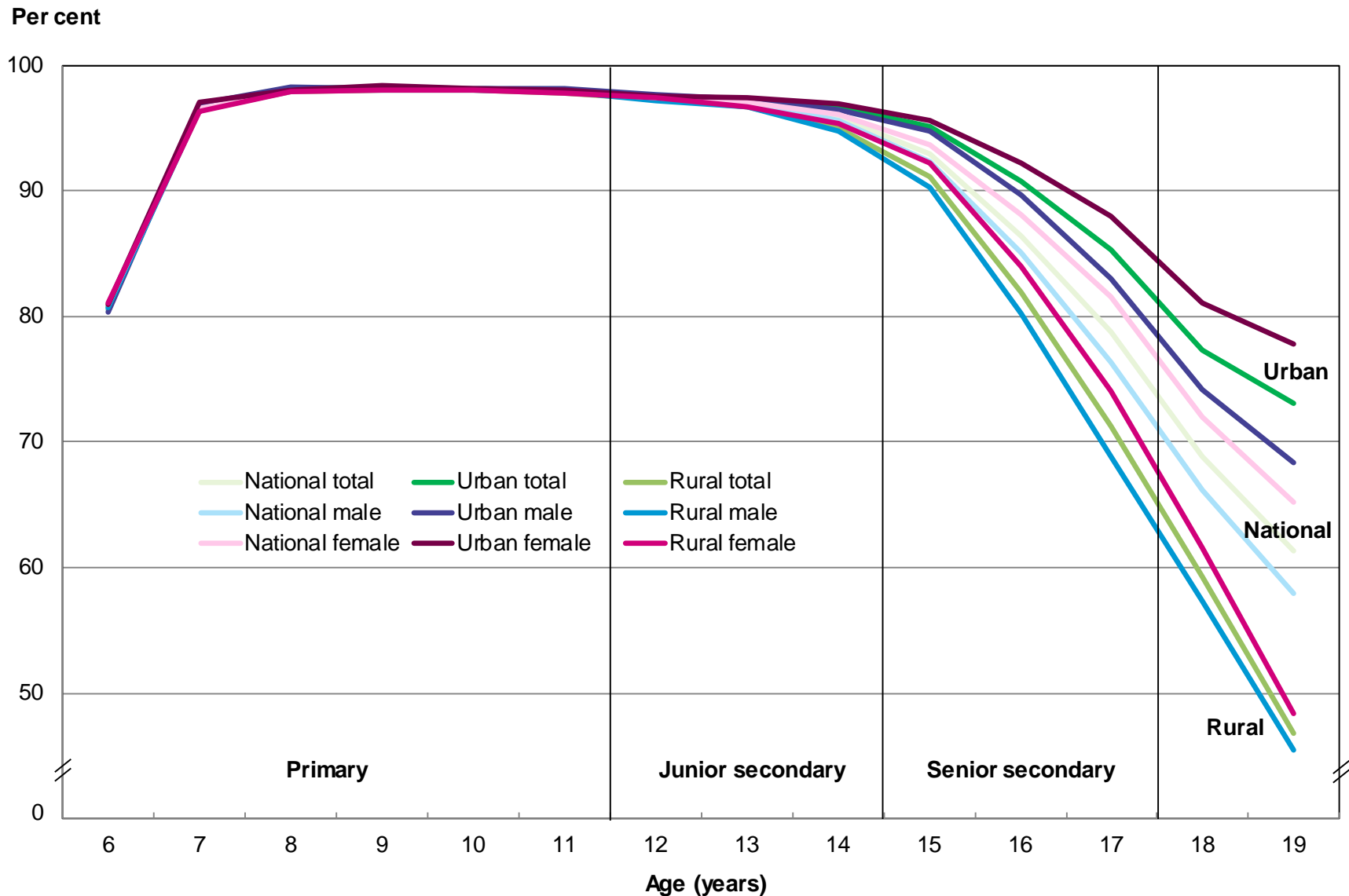


Figure 15a: Number of migrant children by province, 2015

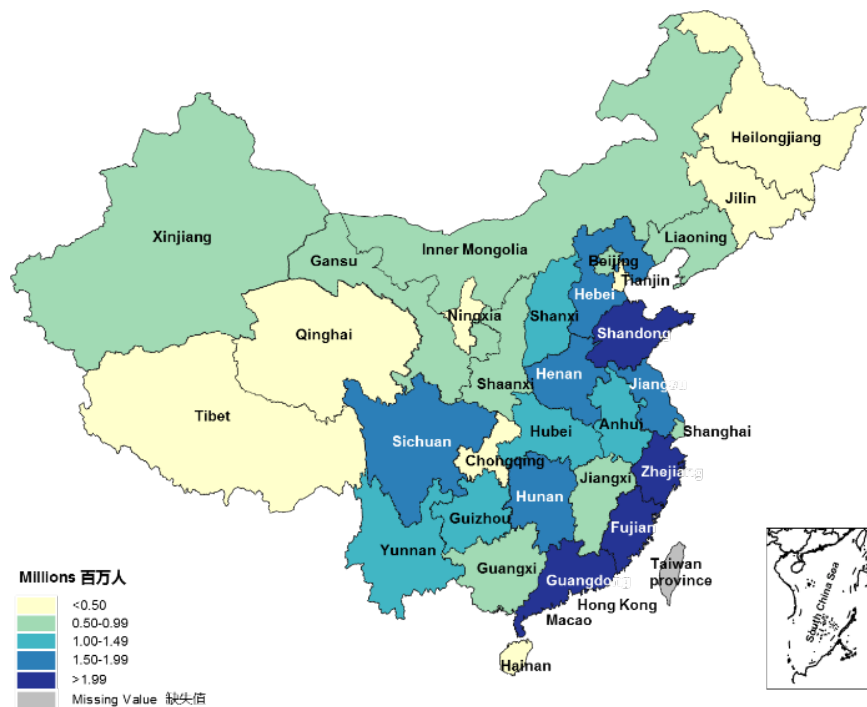
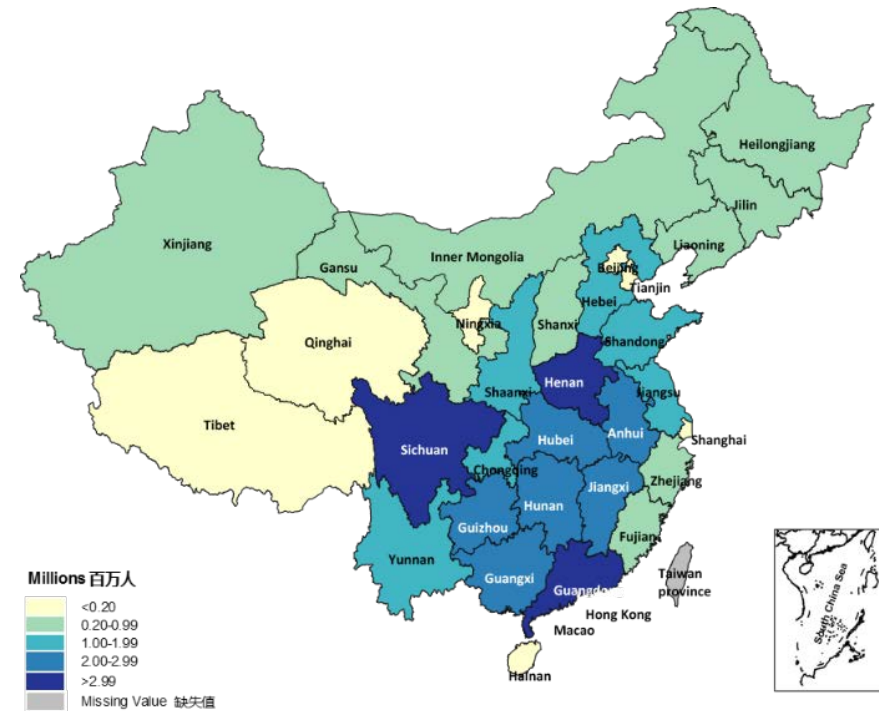


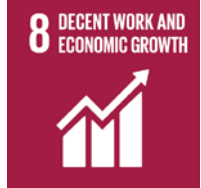



Figure 15b: Number of rural children left-behind by province, 2015



# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

	Official SDG Indicators	Section
	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Section 7, age 15-19
	4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	Section 6.6 Youth literacy rate, Figure 25
	Thematic education indicators e.g. completion rate	Section 6.5, Figure 24
	8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	Section 8, age 16-17
	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Section 3.6

# Children in China: An Atlas of Social Indicators 2018

## Children in China: An Atlas of Social Indicators 2018

<https://www.unicef.cn/en/atlas-2018-en>

NWCCW  
国务院妇女儿童  
工作委员会办公室

NBS  
国家统计局社会科技  
和文化产业统计司

unicef  
联合国儿童基金会



1  
POPULATION  
DEMOGRAPHICS

CHAPTER 1 POPULATION  
DEMOGRAPHICS



8  
EDUCATION  
AND CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 8 EDUCATION AND  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT



10  
CHILDREN  
AFFECTED BY  
MIGRATION

CHAPTER 10 CHILDREN AFFECTED  
BY MIGRATION





**Population Status of Adolescents in China in 2015**  
Facts and Figures



© UNICEF/China/2015/Xia Yong

Adolescence, which takes place during the ages of 10 to 19 years, marks the beginning of many transitions – from childhood to adulthood, from school to the workplace and into society. Adolescents experience monumental changes in every aspect of their lives – physically, cognitively, emotionally and socially. Understanding the population status of adolescents can assist governments, communities and families to better respond to the specific characteristics and needs of adolescents by providing appropriate policies, services and support to enable them to reach their full potential and prepare for the future. Censuses and surveys are rich sources of basic data and information on adolescents, reflecting the demographic development and the key characteristics of the different sub-groups. Analysis of the available data can support enhanced understanding of the challenges faced by adolescents and help inform more evidence-based decision making to address these challenges towards the fulfilment of their rights. This publication describes and analyzes the status of China's adolescent population, based on data from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey and previous censuses and inter-census surveys.

<https://www.unicef.cn/en/reports/population-status-adolescents-china-2015>



**Population Status of Ethnic Minority Children in China in 2015 Fact Sheet**



© UNICEF/China/2014/Li Manwei

<https://www.unicef.cn/en/reports/population-status-ethnic-minority-children-china-2015>





Children are the foundation of our society and culture, and the healthy development of children is the basis for positive human and social development. In recent years, great improvements have been made in the survival and development of China's children, but great internal disparities remain. Factors such as unbalanced regional development, rapid socioeconomic transformation, and mass internal migration have resulted in survival and development challenges for many children, and the overall situation of child development in China should be further promoted and improved. This publication describes and analyzes the status of China's child population, based on data from the 2010 Census and previous Censuses. The Census is a rich source of basic data and information on the child population and its characteristics by sub-groups, and analysis of Census data can support enhanced understanding of and more evidence-based decision making on issues affecting children.

#### Definitions:

**Children:** According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children are persons below 18 years of age, i.e. persons aged 0-17 years.

**Development stages:** In this publication, child development is divided into five stages, based on age range: infant stage (0-2 years), pre-primary stage (3-5 years), primary school stage (6-11 years), junior secondary stage (12-14 years) and senior secondary stage (15-17 years).

**Migrant children:** Migrant children refer to those members of the migrant population who are aged 0-17 years. The migrant population refers to persons whose place of residence is different from the location (e.g. town/township or street committee) of their household registration (*hukou*), and who have left the location of their household registration for more than six months. It excludes the population whose current place of residence is different from that of their *hukou* registration, but is within the same city-level administration.

**Left-behind children:** Left-behind children refer to children who live in their original domicile, but do not live together with their parents, as either one parent or both parents have migrated. **Rural left-behind children** refer to left-behind children whose household registration locations are in rural areas.

**Poverty-stricken area:** Poverty-stricken areas include the original 592 "key poverty counties" identified by the Government of China for focused poverty alleviation efforts, and the 676 counties that form the 14 "poverty blocks" (11 blocks, along with the Tibet Autonomous Region, ethnically Tibetan regions in four provinces, and South Xinjiang), as defined in the new *Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)*. There is an overlap of 440 counties between the list of "key poverty counties," and the updated "poverty blocks." Therefore, there are 828 distinct counties categorized as "poverty-stricken areas."

**Sex ratio:** Sex ratio refers to the ratio of males to females in the population, and is an important indicator of sex composition. It is usually expressed as the number of males corresponding to every 100 females.

# What 2010 Census Data Can Tell Us About Children in China

<https://www.unicef.cn/en/reports/census-data-about-children-china-2013>





## Q&A

Thank you!

