

# NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2024 MONOGRAPH

## ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC) VOLUME 4



Conference Hall  
Statistics House

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Uganda Bureau of Statistics



19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#OVC 2024

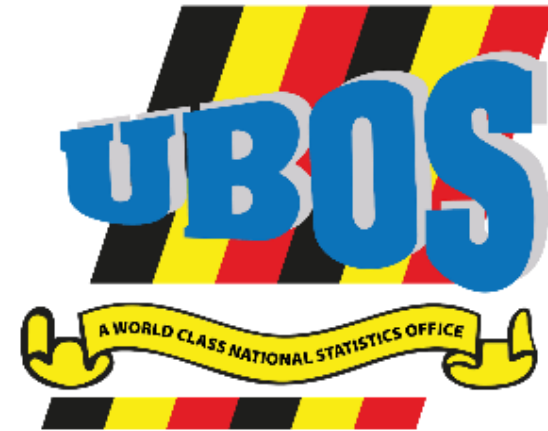
- **Introduction**
- **Overview of the children population**
- **Key findings on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC)**
- **Summary**

**#OVC 2024**

# Acknowledgement

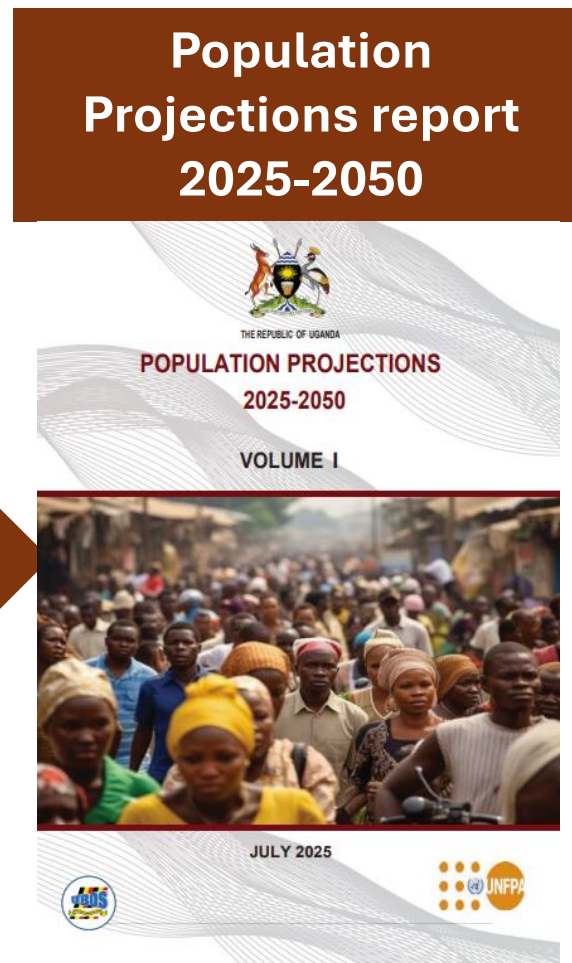
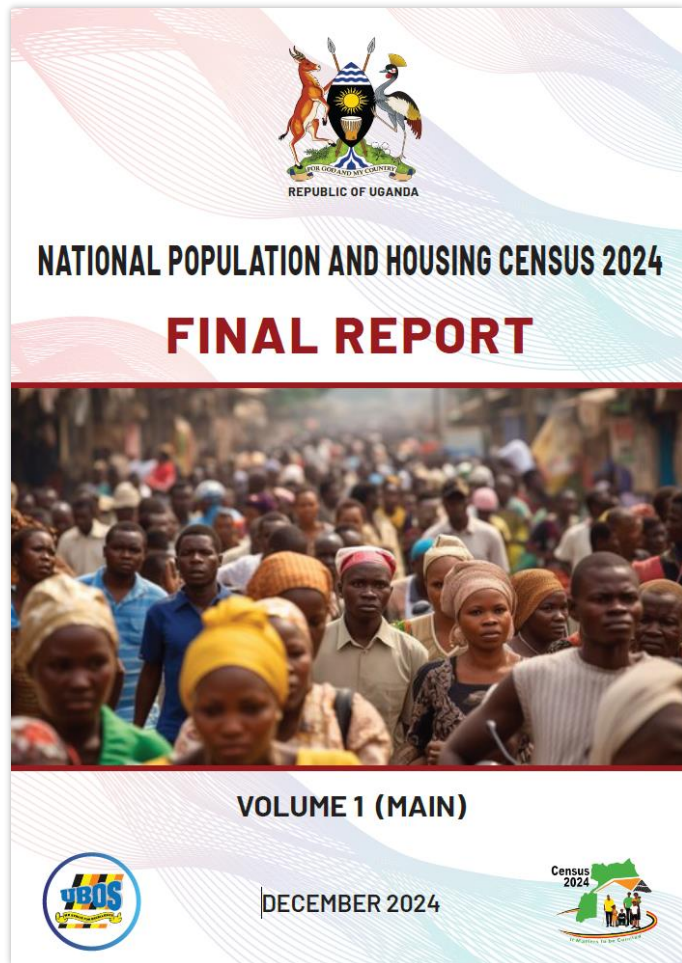


THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



# INTRODUCTION

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## Monographs

- **Volume 2: 17 Sub-regional Profiles – June 2025**
- **Volume 3: Disability Monograph – July 2025**
- **Volume 4: Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) – March 2026**

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## Information on OVCs is critical for;

1. Evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, further research and appropriate resource allocation to meet the evolving needs of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda.
2. Tracking progress toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals on Good Health and Well-being (3), Gender equality (5), and Quality Education (4), among others.
3. Monitoring progress of the National child policy 2020

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## Monograph

### Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC)

- Volume 4:

- Provide levels and distribution of categories of orphans and other vulnerable children in Uganda
- Present Key Socio-economic Characteristics Associated with Vulnerability among children

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## Child

**A person aged less than 18 complete years**

## Orphan

**A child who lost either one or both parents**

## Vulnerable Child:

**A child who is currently either experiencing or likely to experience lack of adequate care and protection.**

**These include;**

- Abandoned children
- Children who are exposed /or likely to be exposed to risks of poverty, disability, forced displacement, or living in situations of inadequate adult support

# Scope of the OVC Monograph

## Focus

- Overview of children in Uganda
- Orphanhood status
- Other Vulnerable children
- Child Mothers

## What it answers

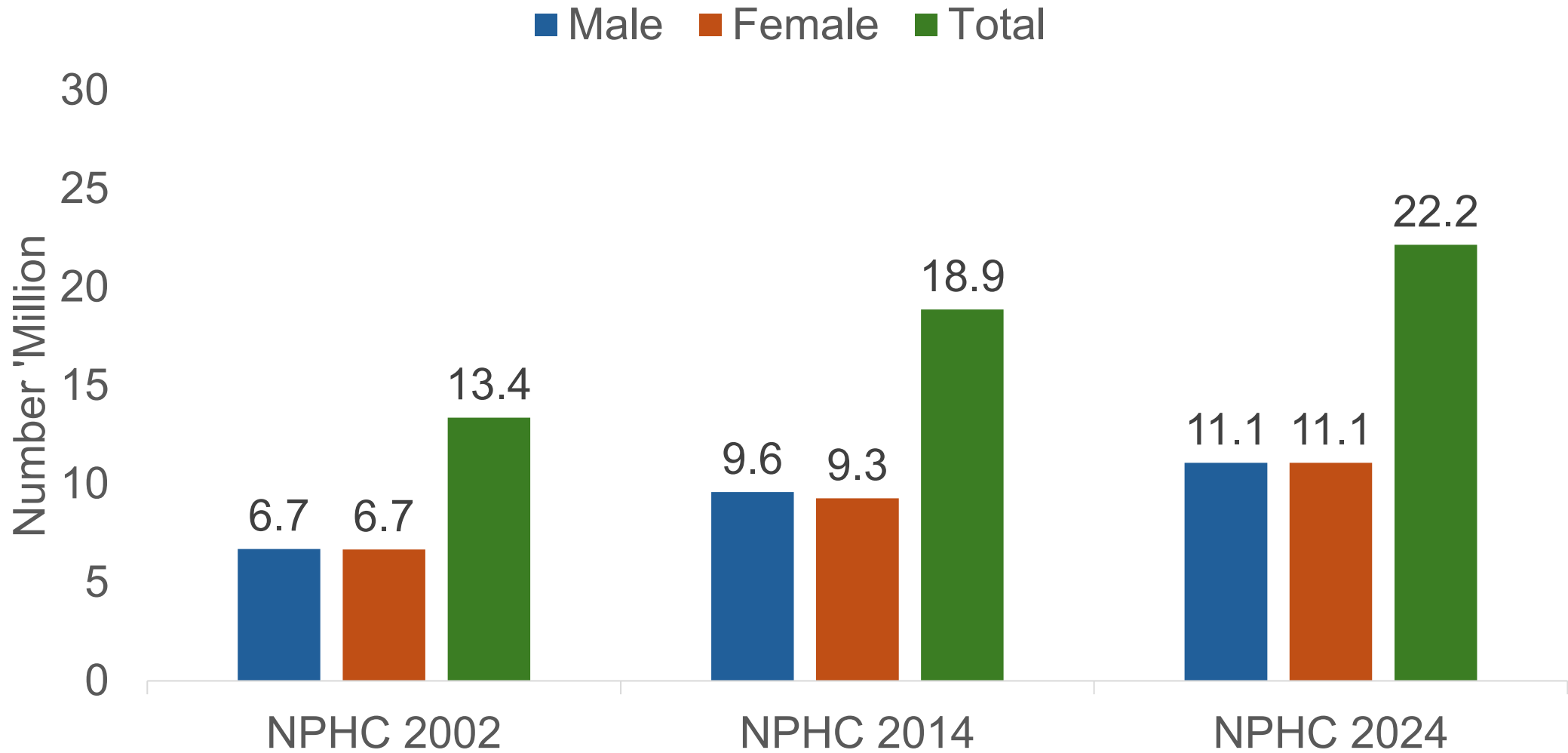
- How many children are affected?
- Who are they?
- Where do they live?

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# Overview of the Children Population

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# Population of children by sex in Million (2002-2024)

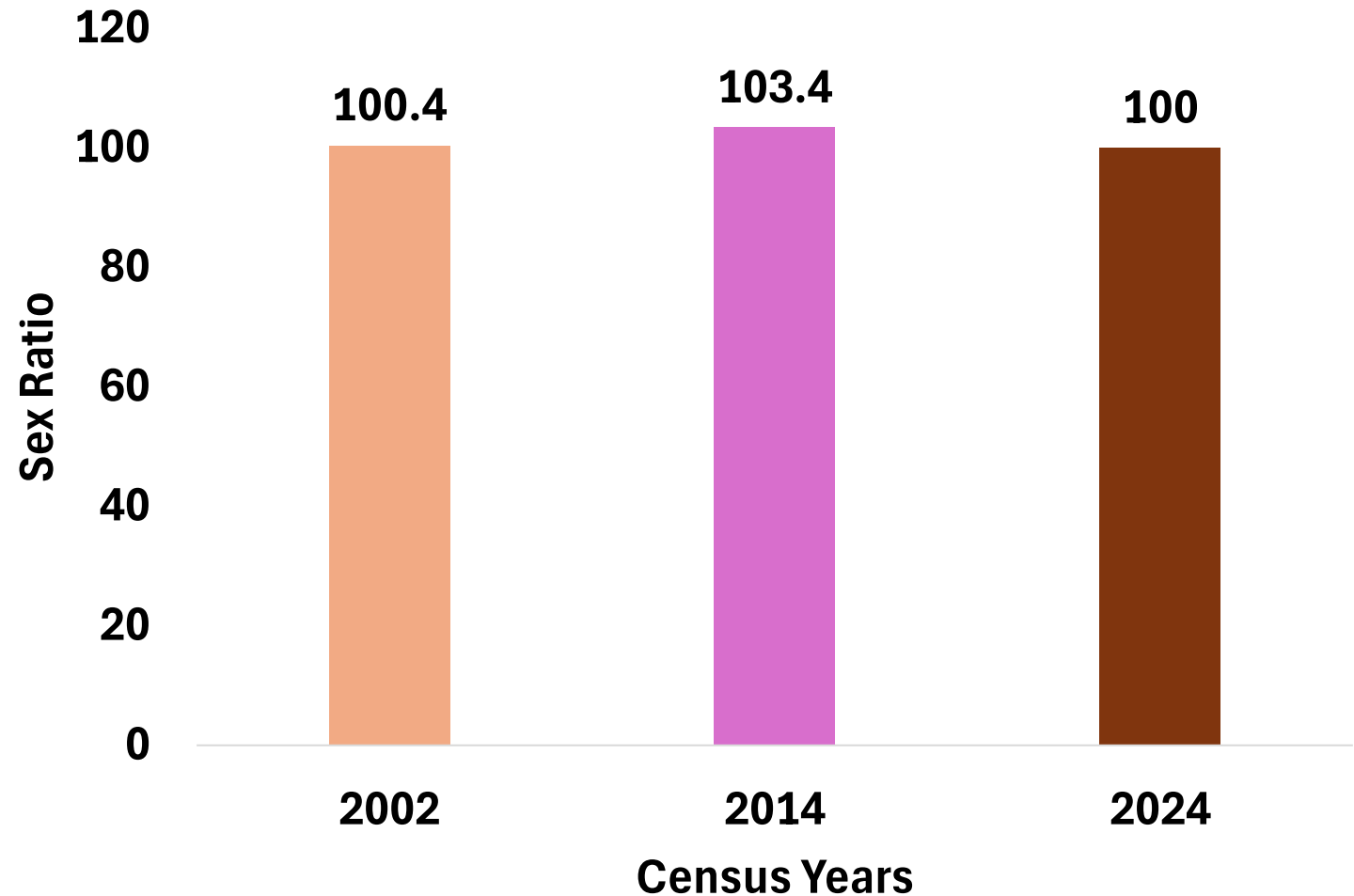


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# Sex ratio in Children, 2002-2024

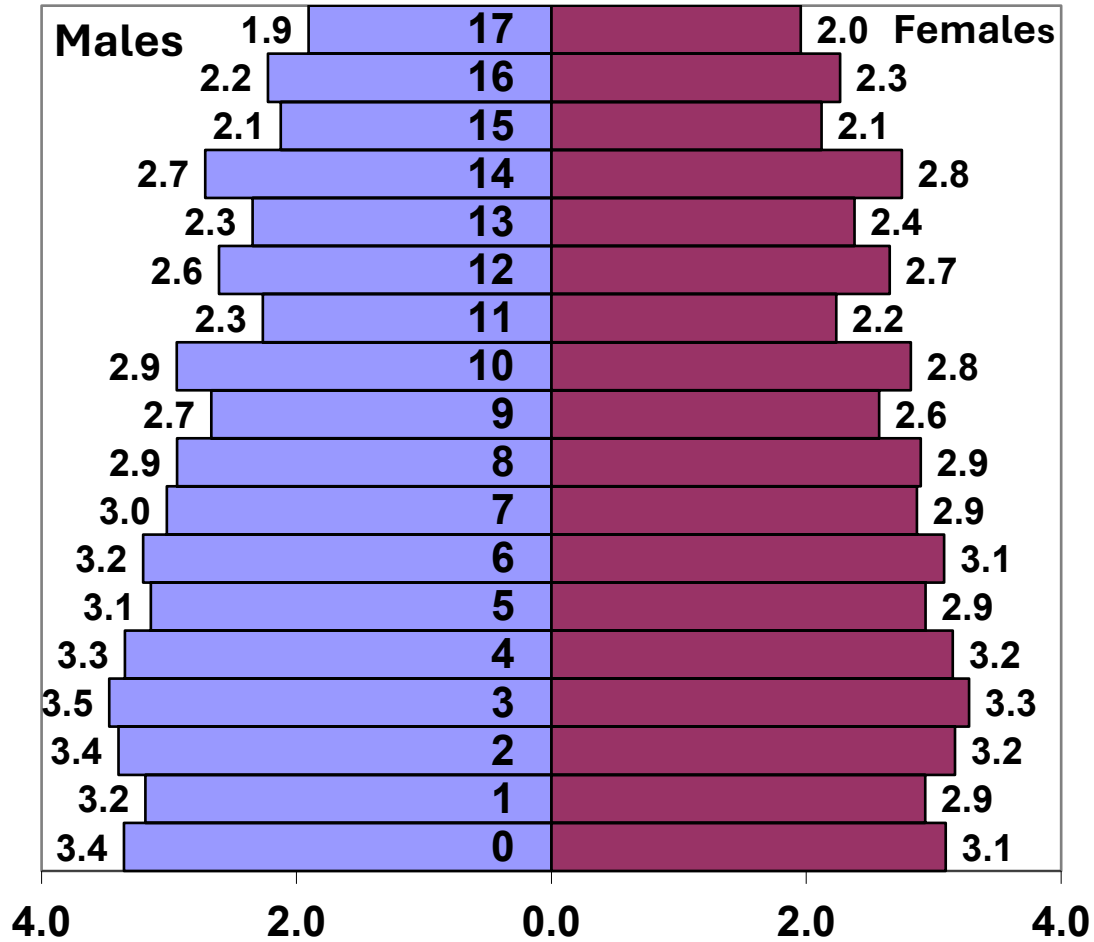
**Sex Ratio** is the proportion of males per 100 females within a population.

A ratio of 100 indicates an equal number of males and females, while a ratio below 100 indicates more females than males and a ratio above 100 indicates more males than females.

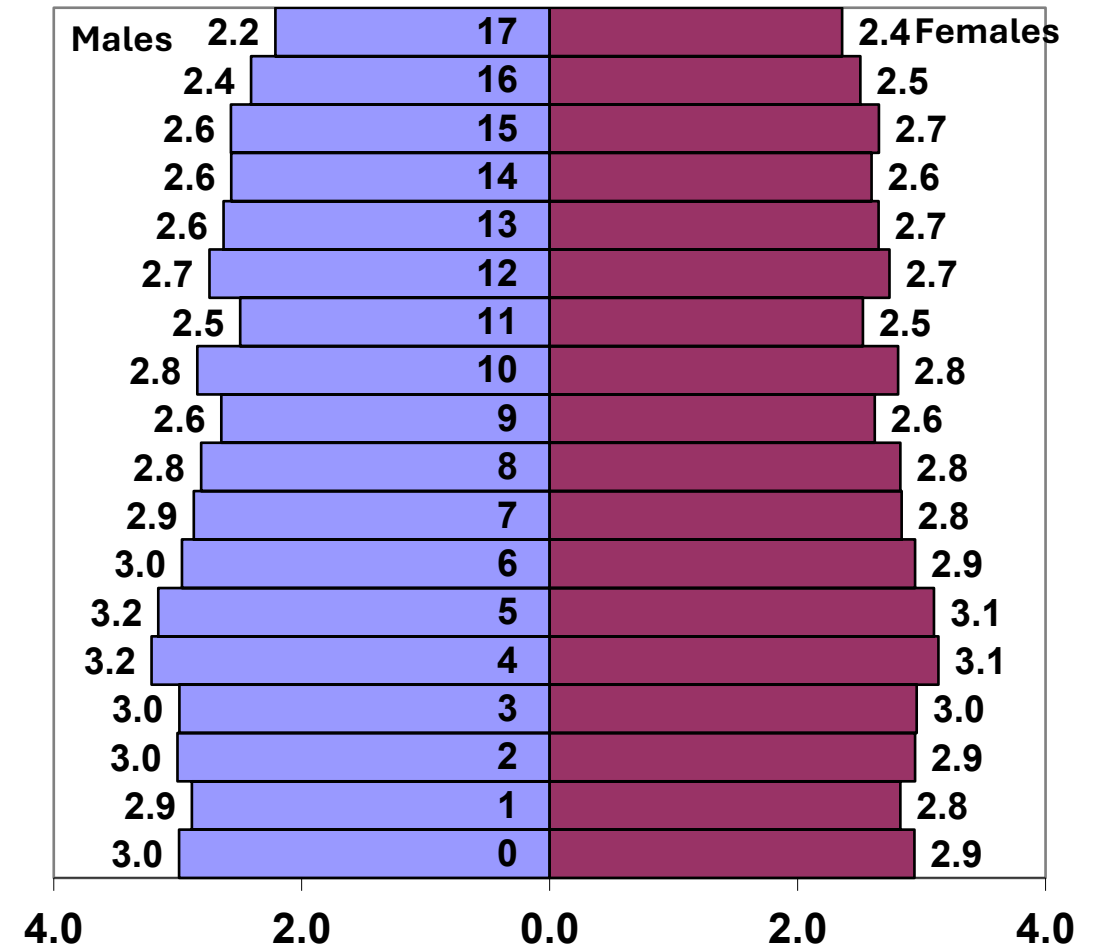


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# Population Pyramid Of Children In Uganda



Source: NPHC 2014



Source: NPHC 2024

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# ORPHANHOOD IN UGANDA

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# Parents' survival status among children (0-17)

## QN:

Is (NAME'S) biological mother alive ?

1=Yes

2=No

8= Don't know

Is (NAME'S) biological Father alive ?

1=Yes

2=No

8= Don't know



Don't know survival Status

0.8

Both parents' dead

4.2

Father alive, mother dead

2.5

Mother alive, father dead

6.2

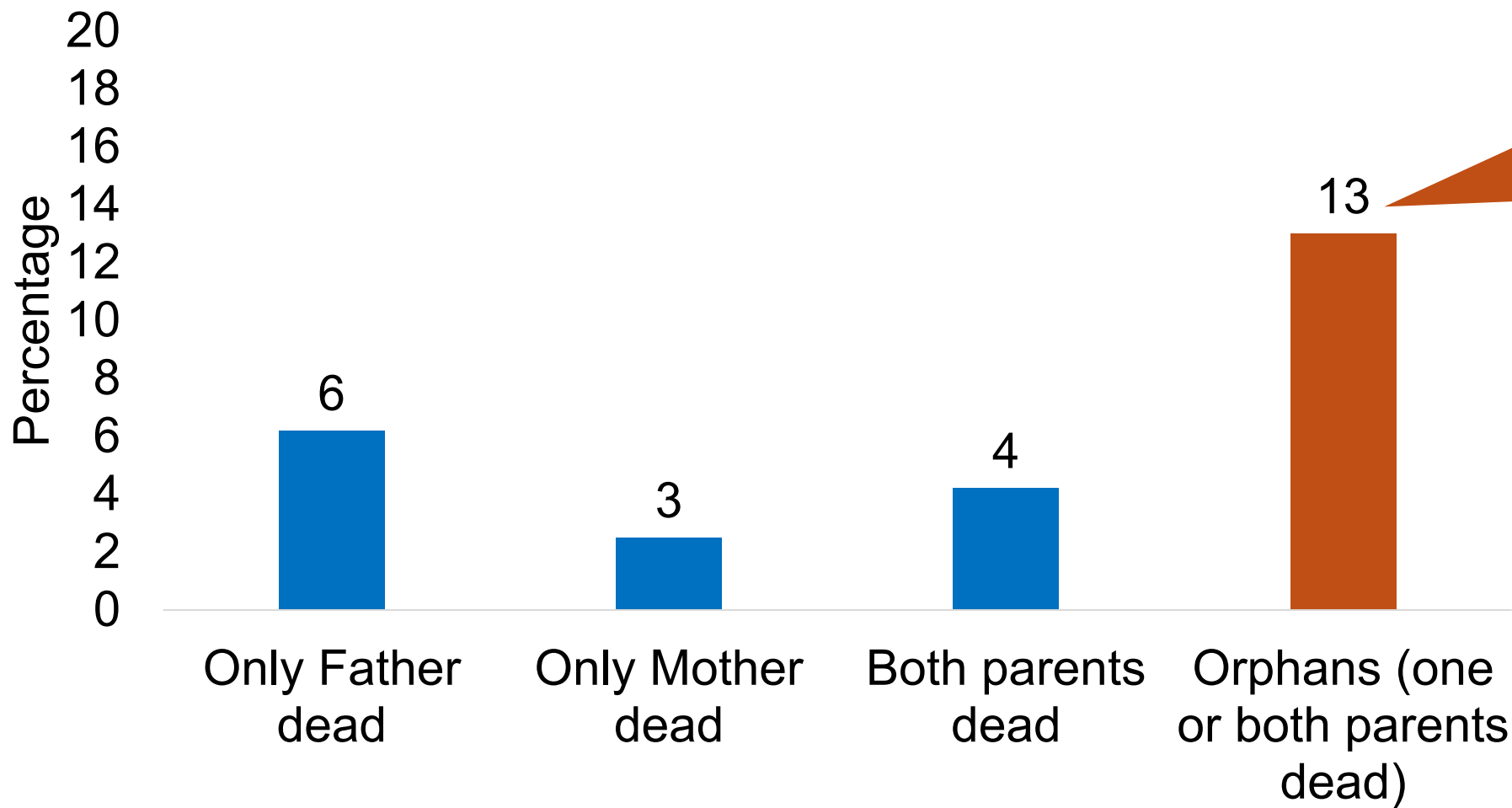
Both parents alive

86.3

0 20 40 60 80 100

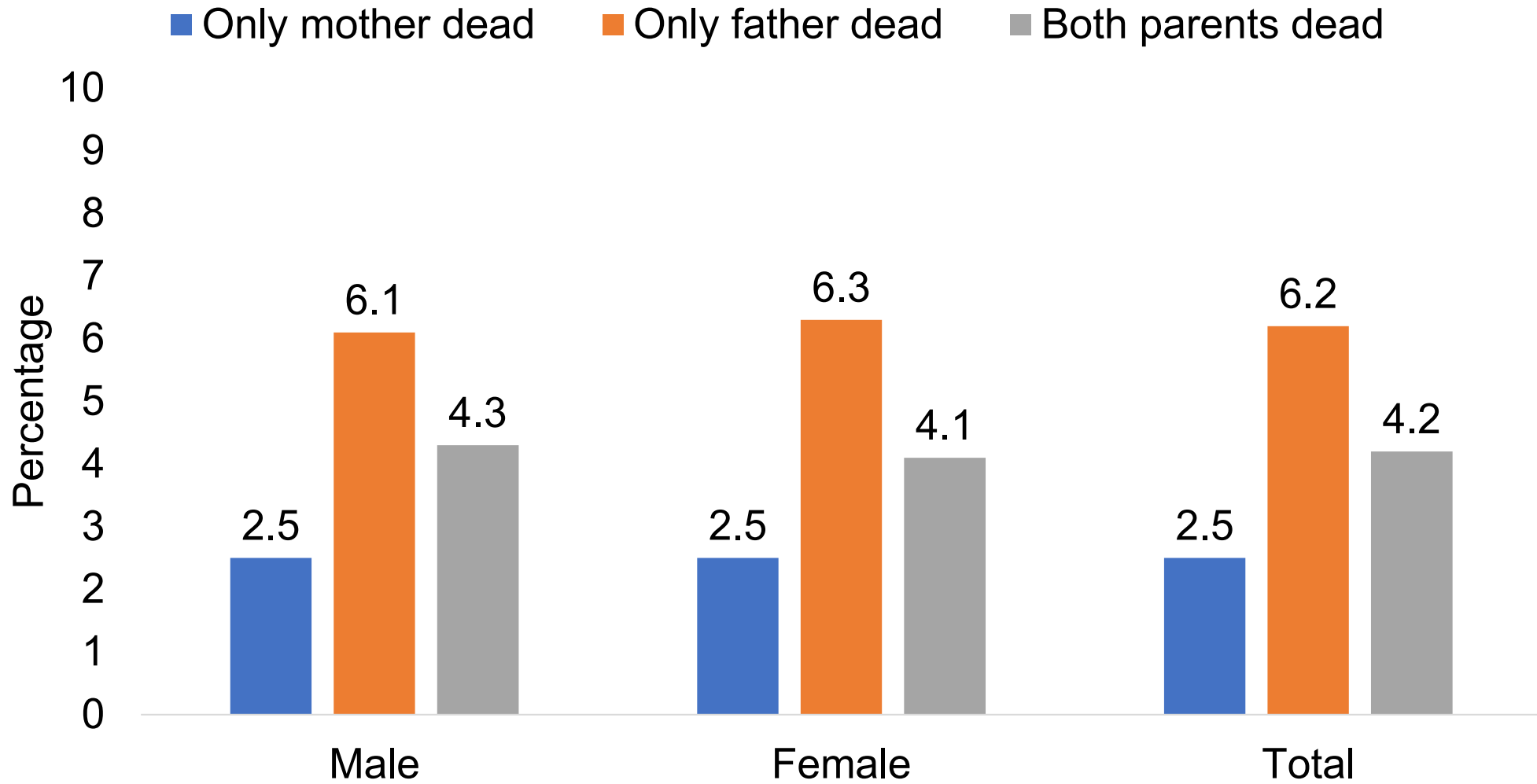
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# Percentage of children who are orphans by type, 2024



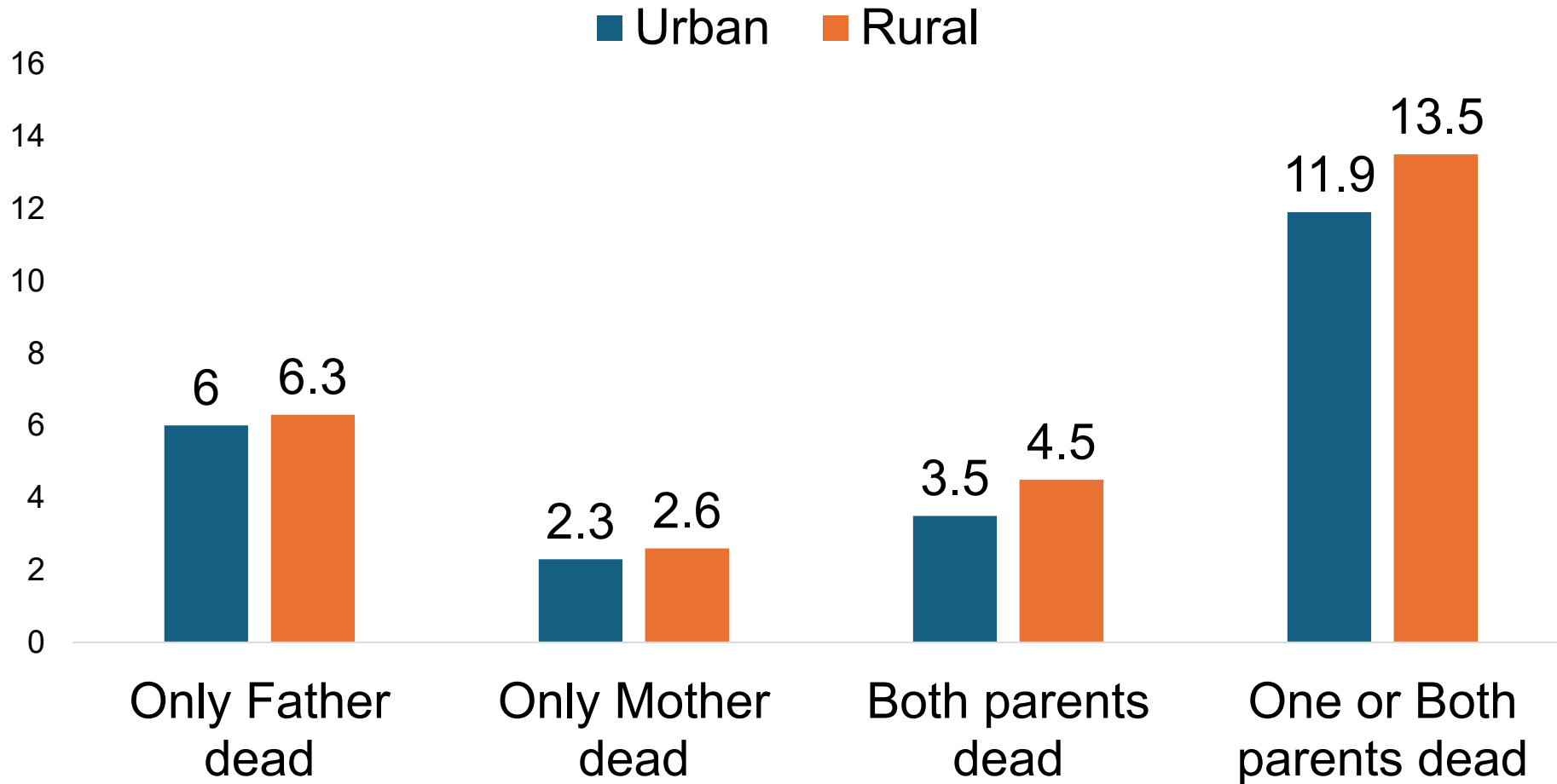
#OVC 2024

# Orphanhood by Sex



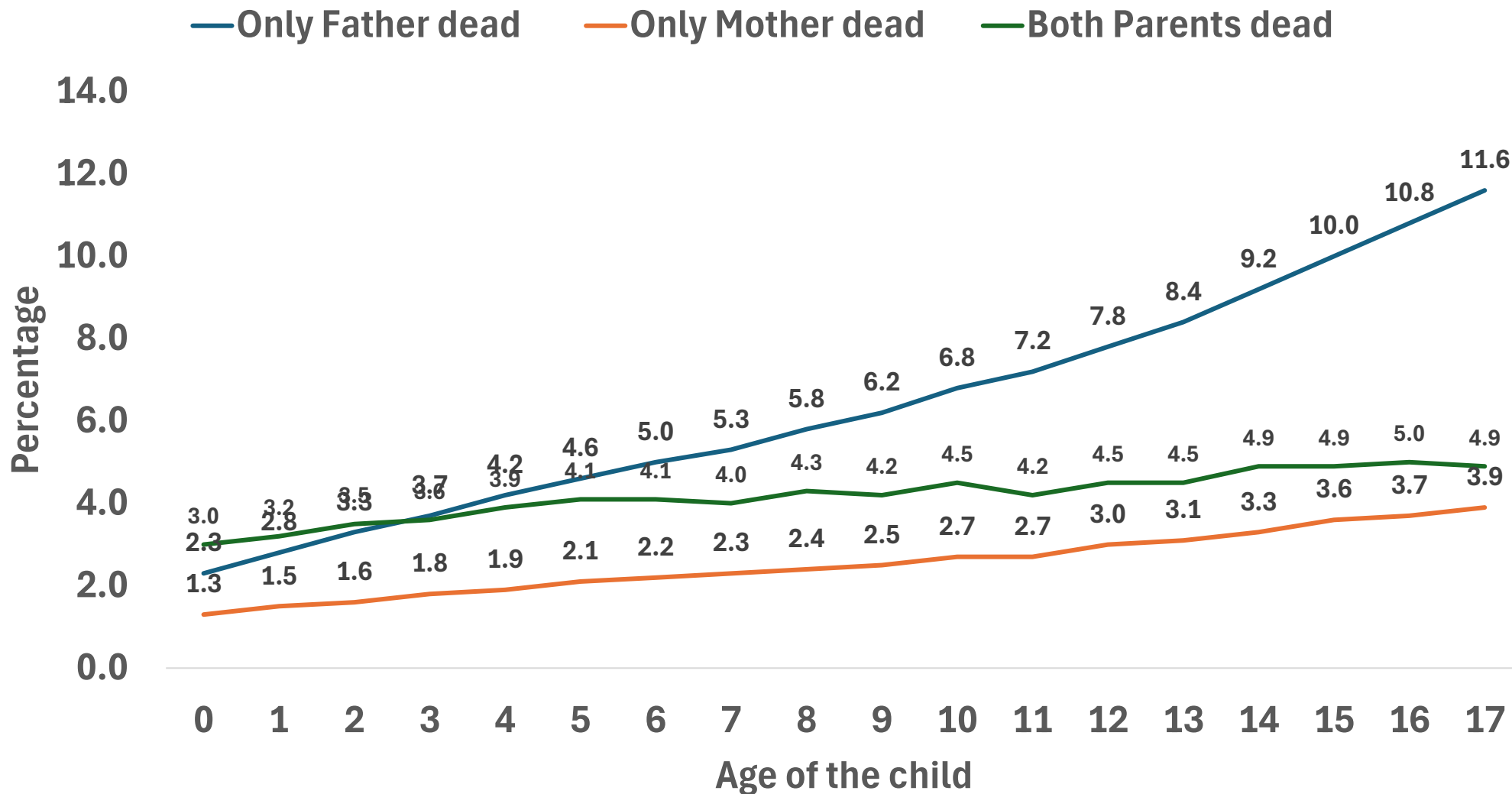
#OVC 2024

# Orphanhood Levels by Rural-Urban Residence



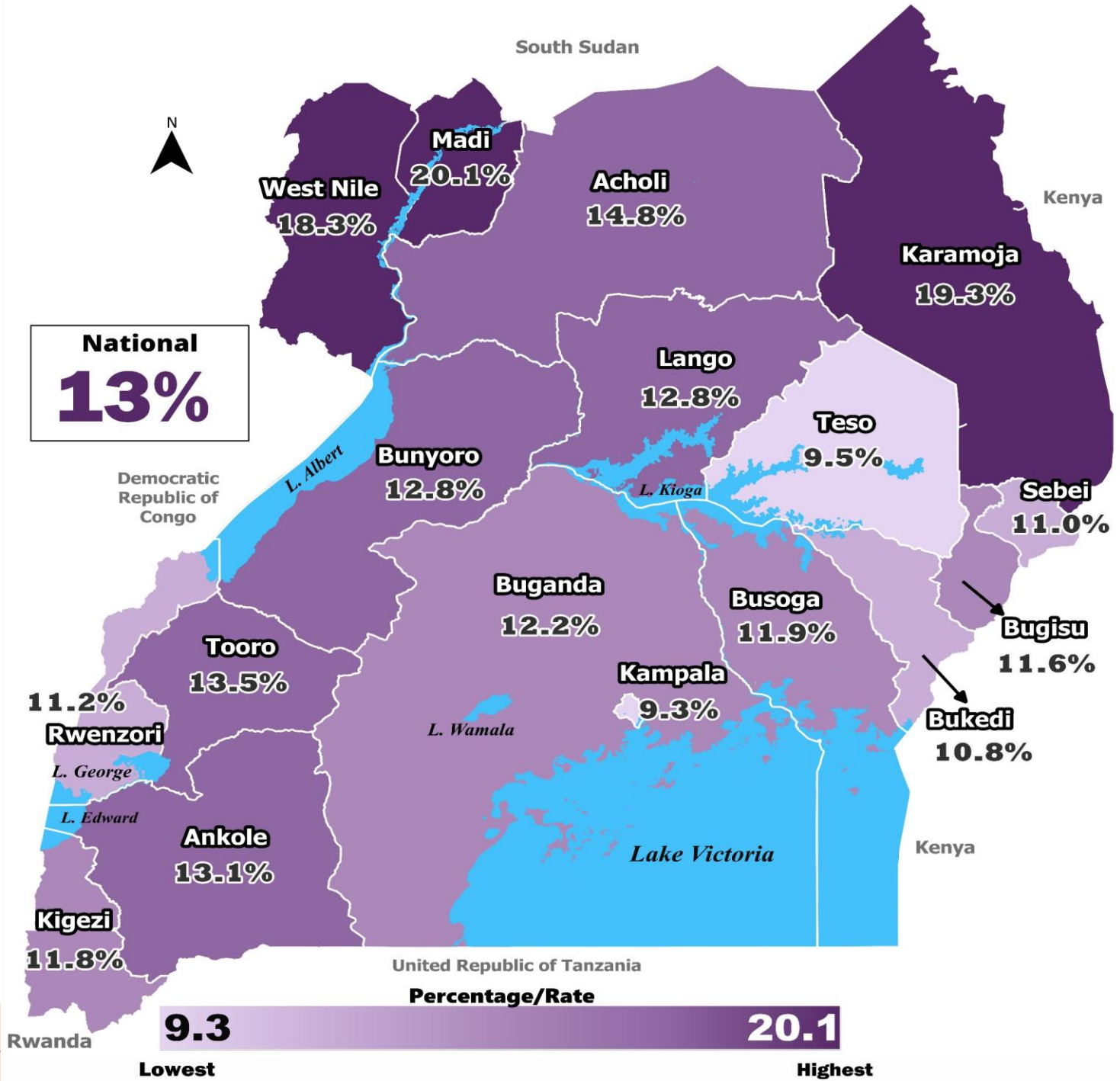
#OVC 2024

# Orphanhood by age of the child



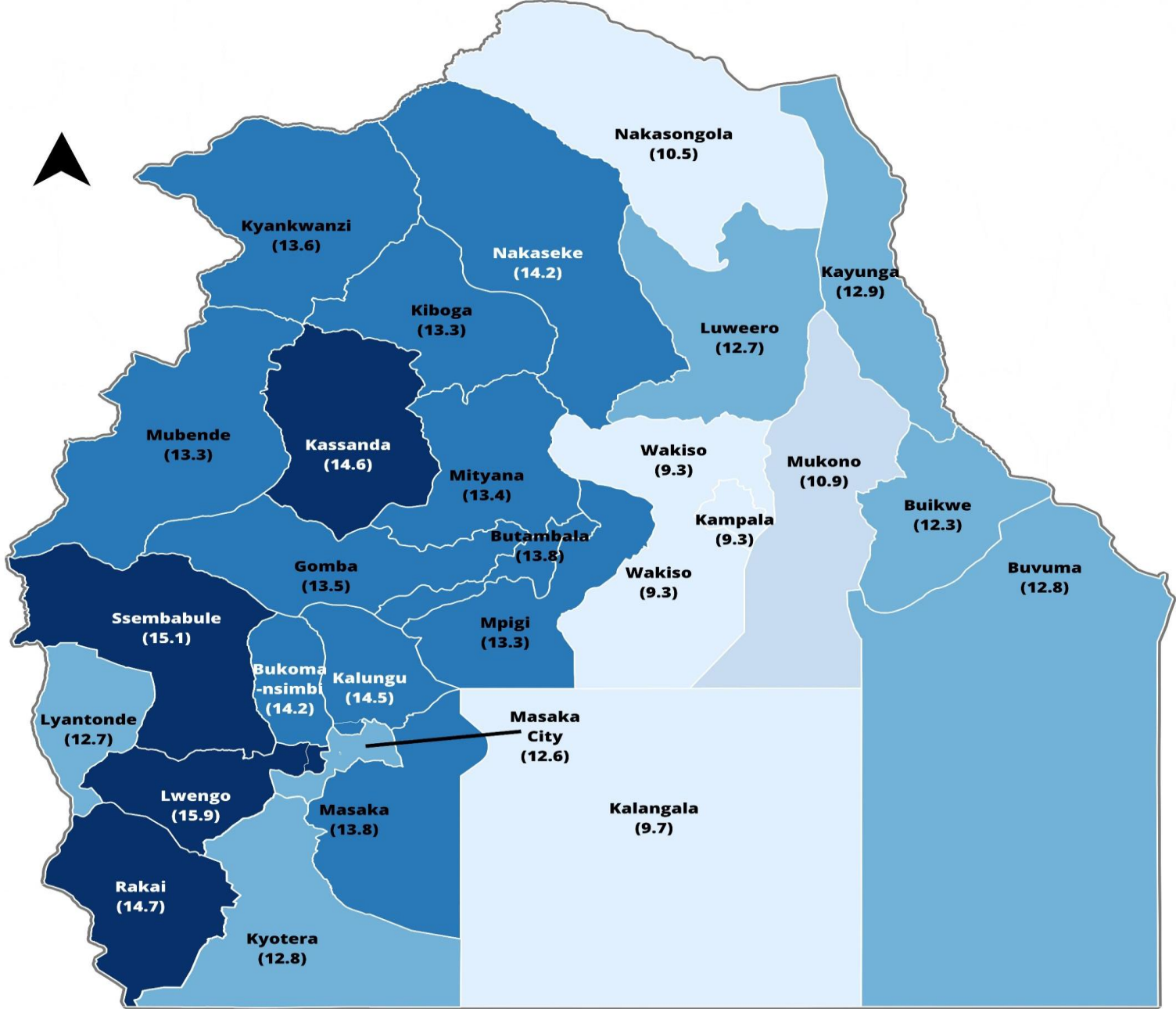
#OVC 2024

# Percentage of children who are orphans by Subregion



#OVC 2024

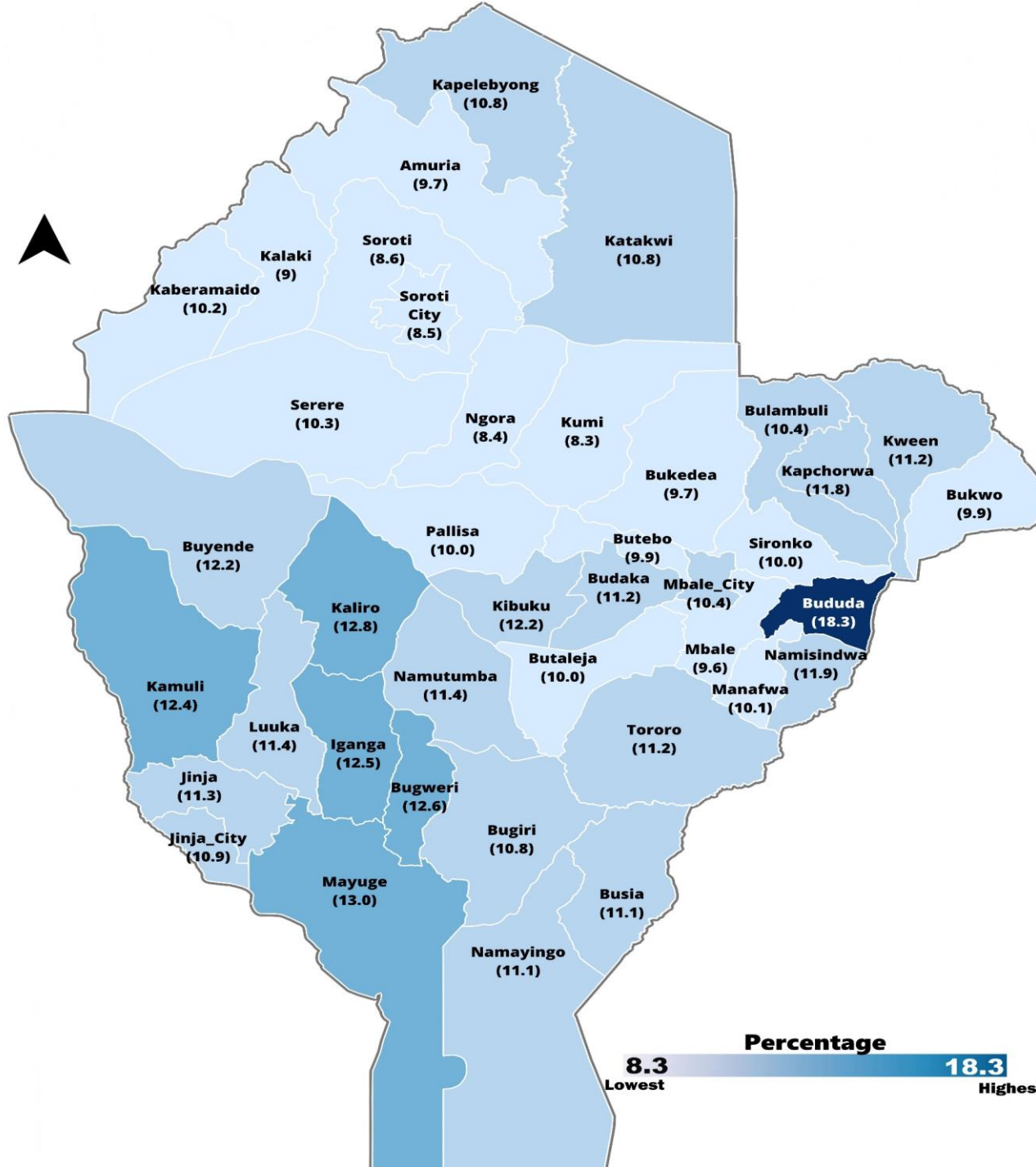
# Percentage of children who are orphans in central region



#OVC 2024



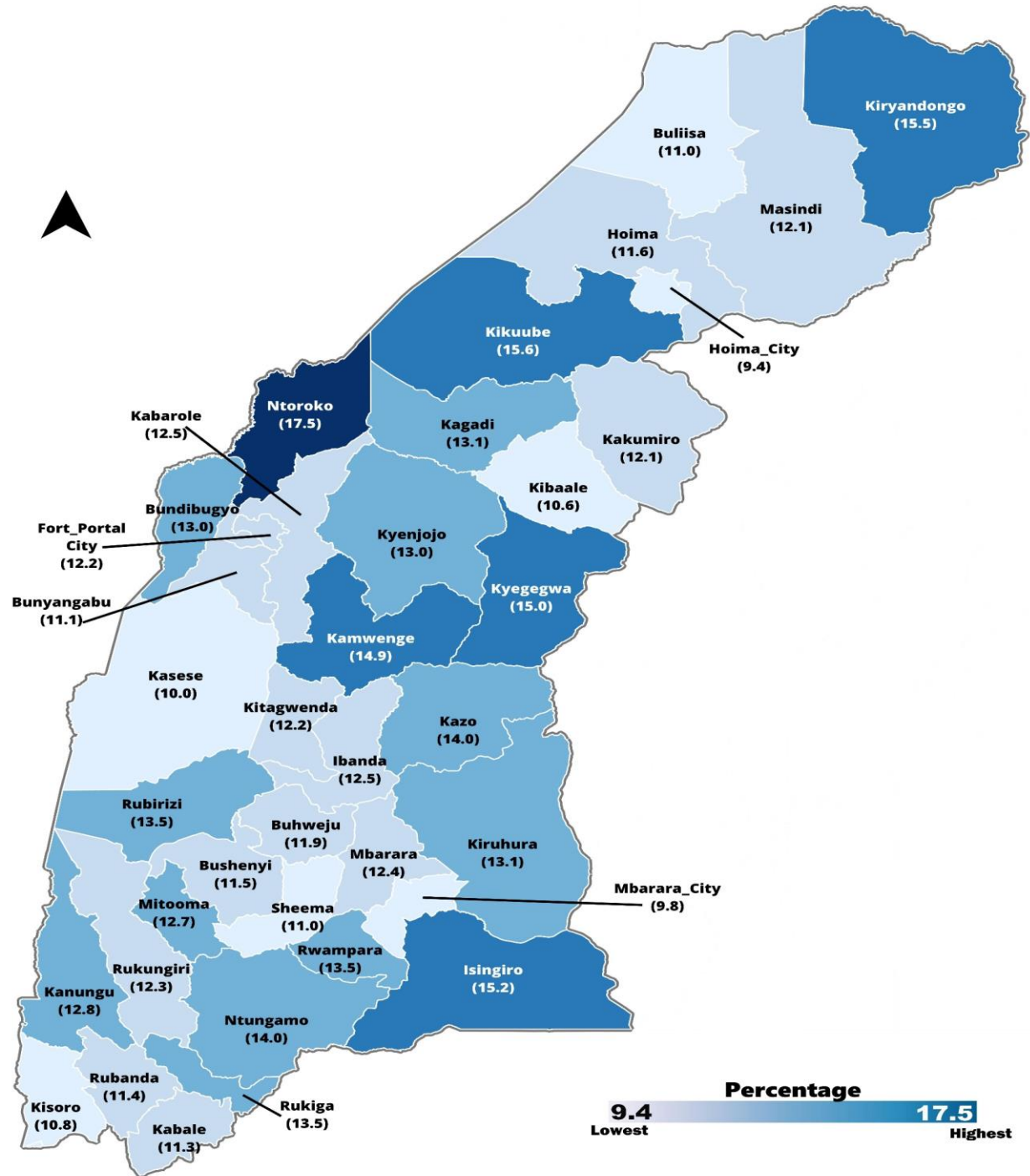
# Percentage of children who are orphans in Eastern region



#OVC 2024

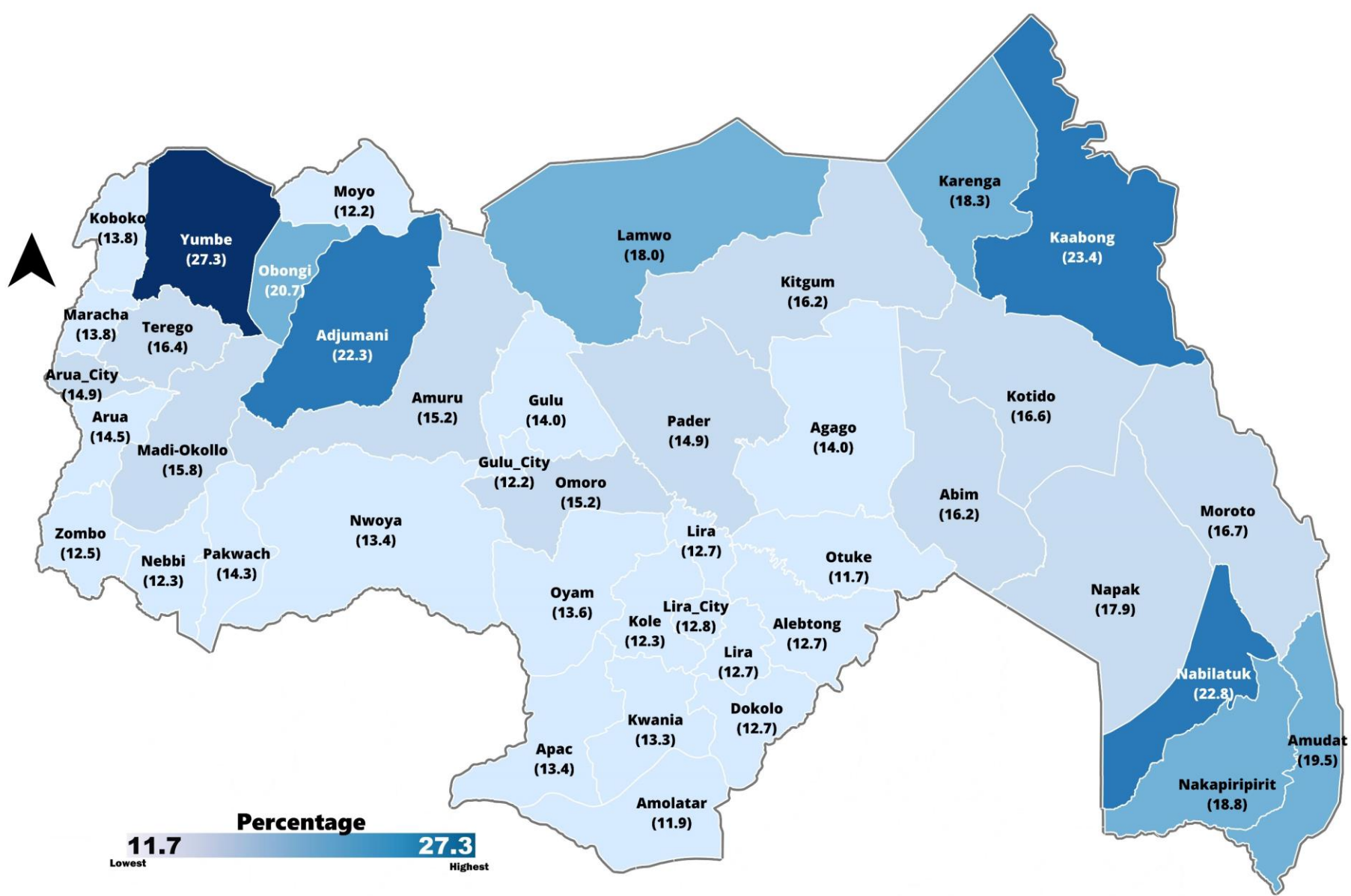


# Percentage of children who are orphans in Western region



#OVC 2024

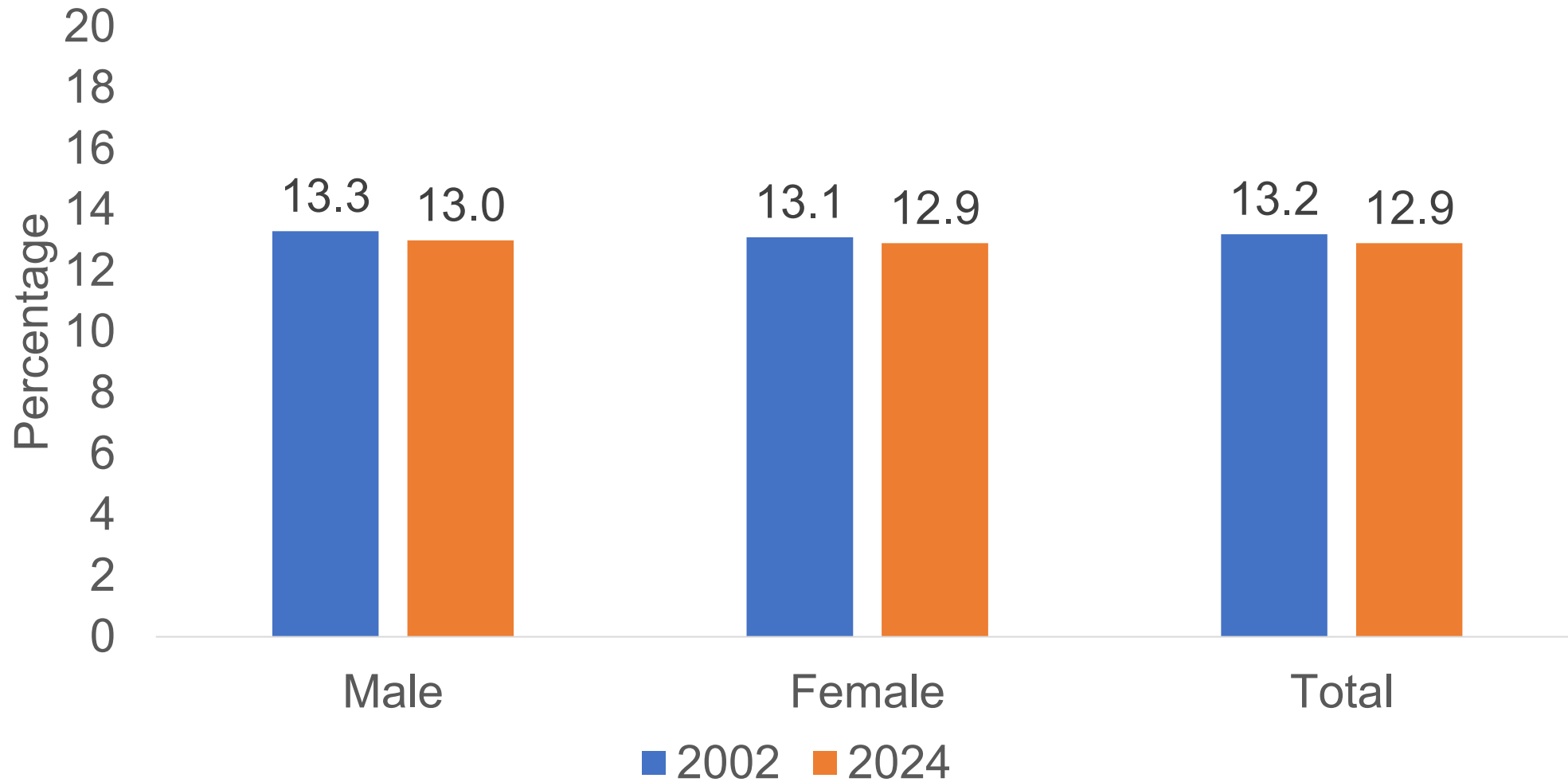
# Percentage of children who are orphans in Northern region



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# Orphanhood by Sex, 2002 & 2024



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# School Attendance status of Orphans

Questions on school attendance were asked for children aged 3 years and above

1. Has (NAME) ever attended formal school or any early childhood education programme ? 1=Yes, 2=No

2. If Yes, Did (NAME) attend school at any time during the 2024 schooling year ?

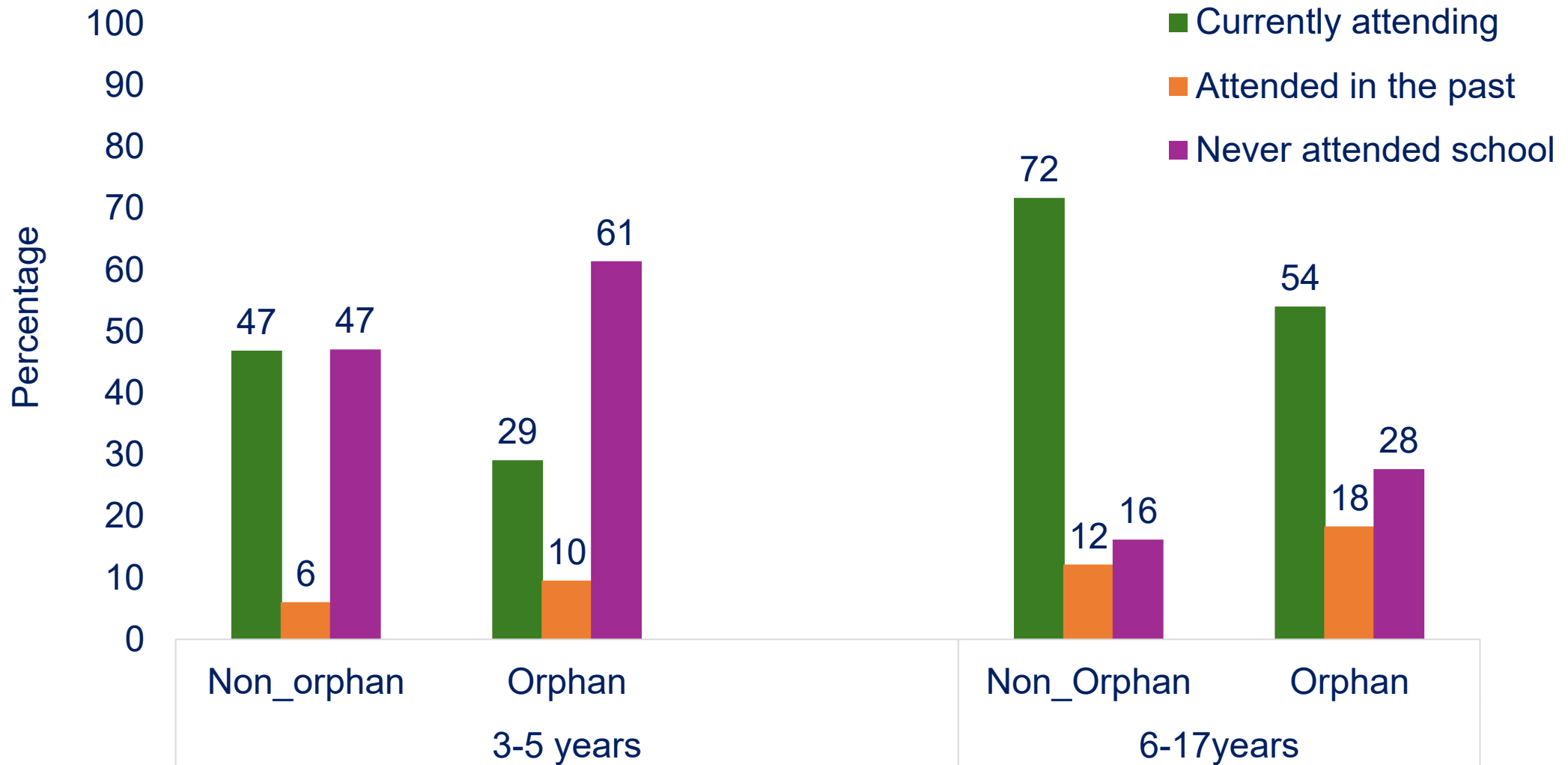
## Categorization

Currently attending

Attended in the past

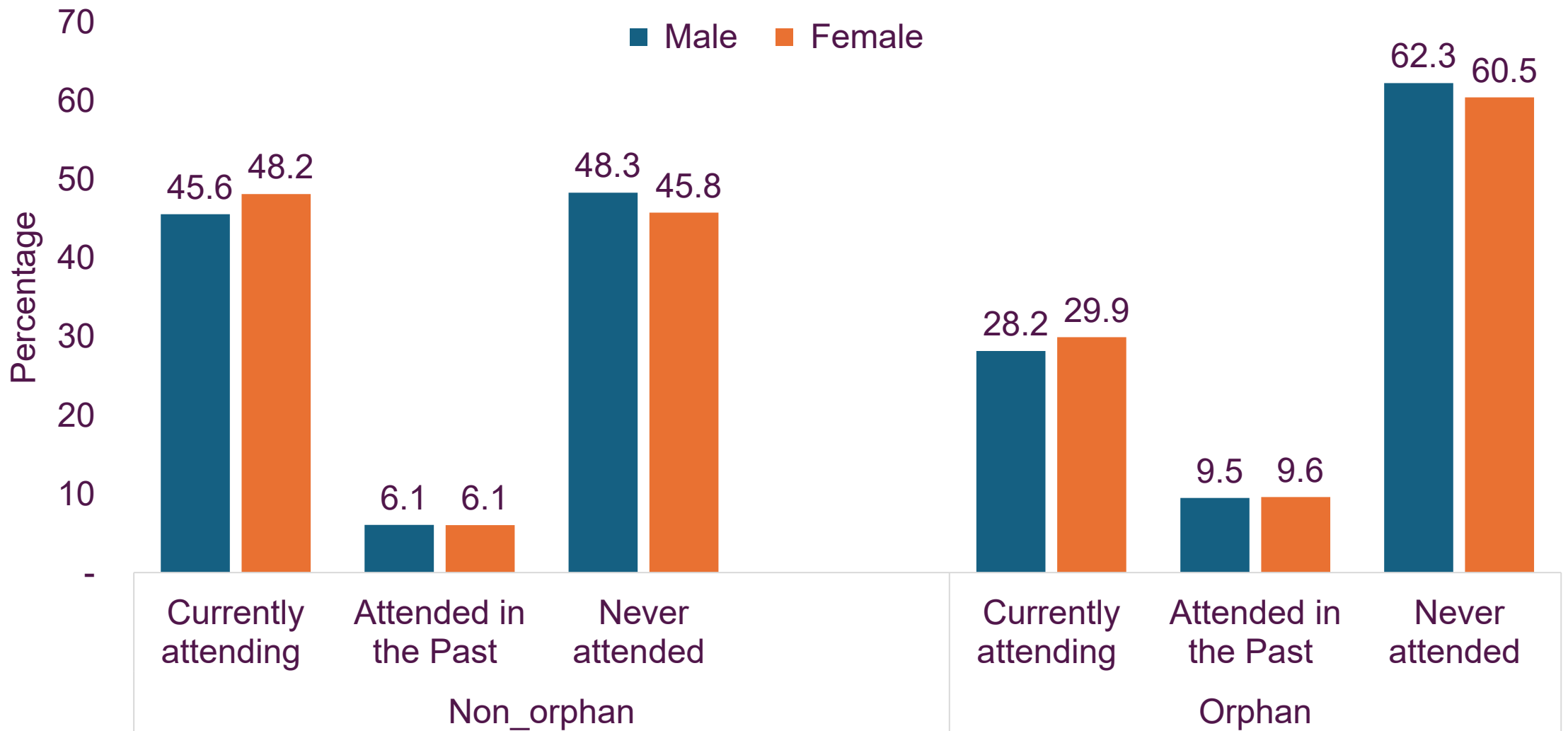
Never attended

# School attendance by Orphanhood status



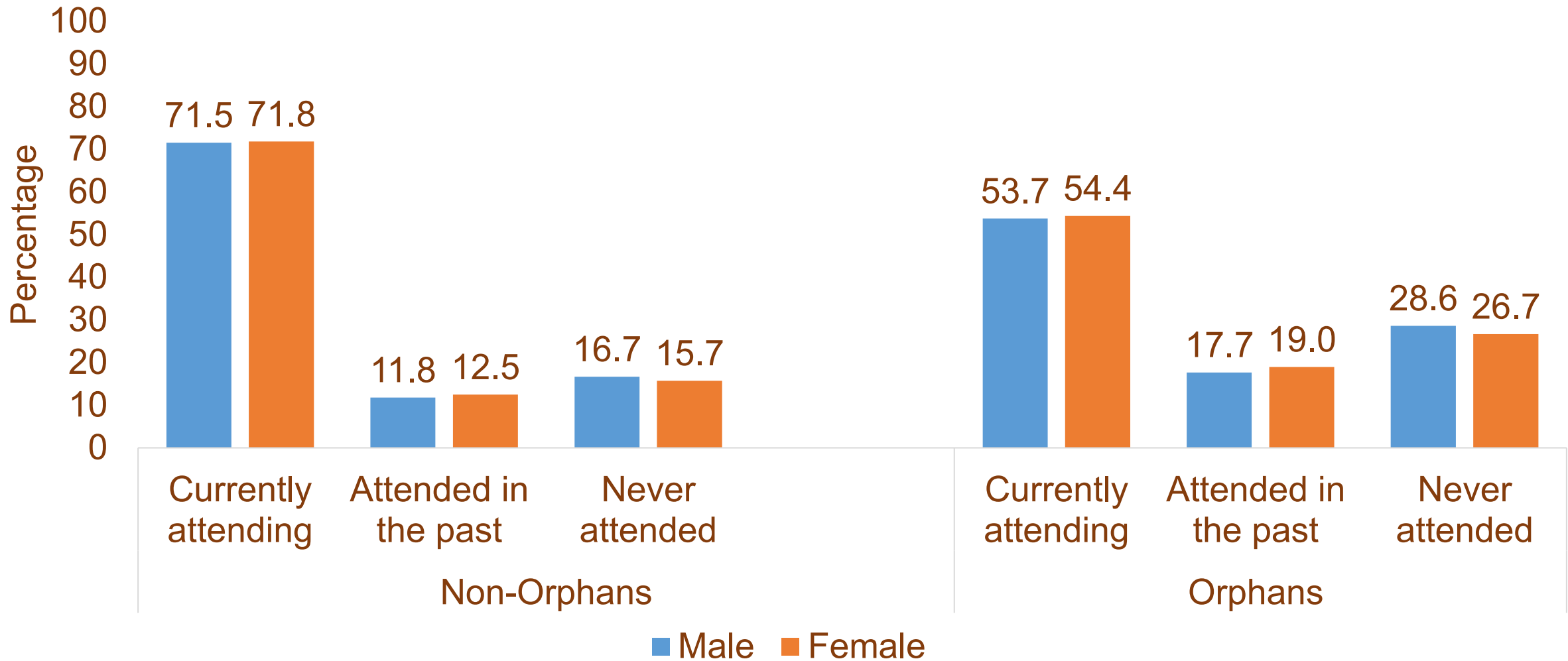
#OVC 2024

# School attendance (3-5years) by Orphanhood status



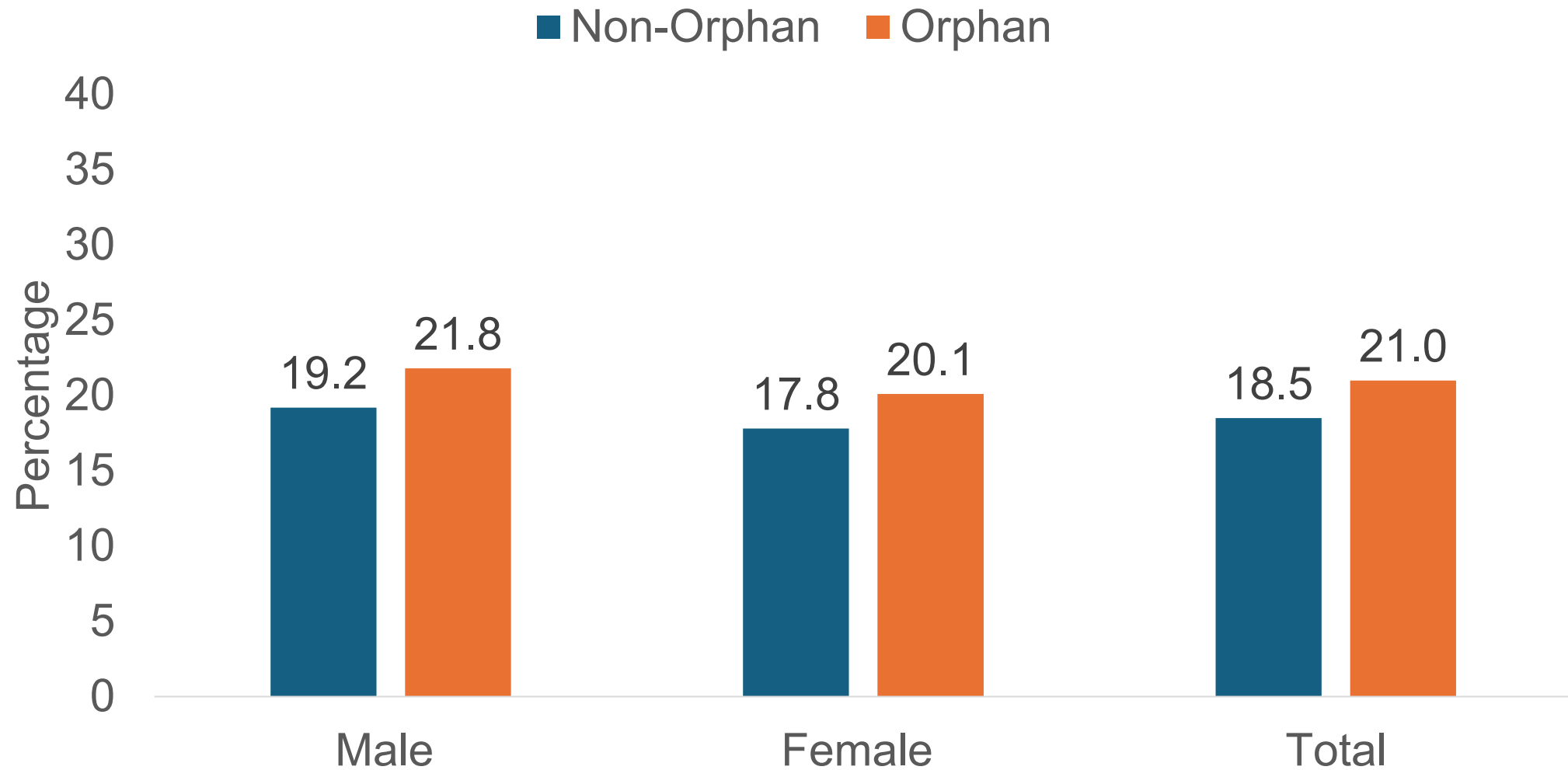
#OVC 2024

# School attendance (6-17years) by Orphanhood status



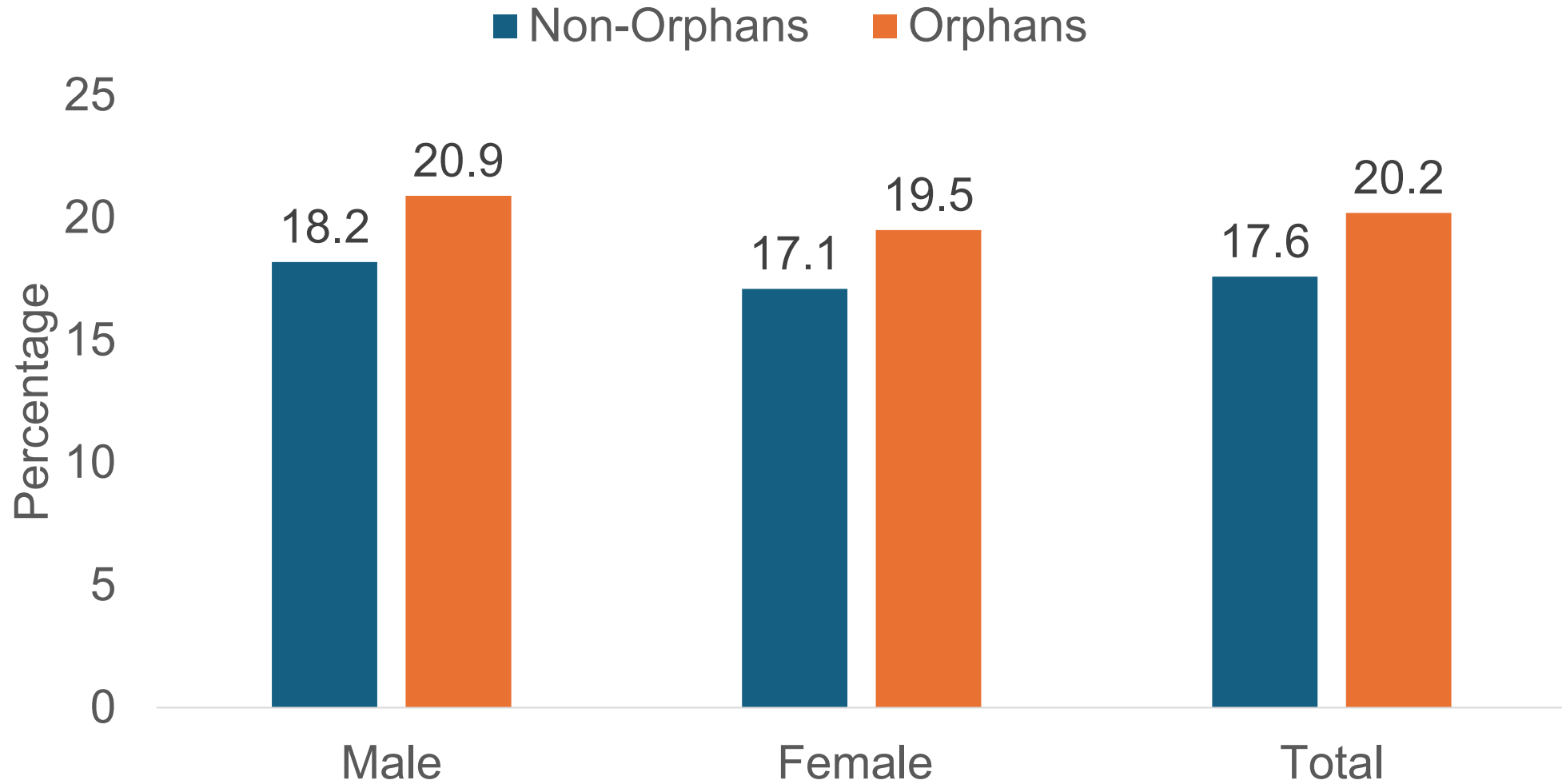
#OVC 2024

# Children aged 15-17 in employment by orphanhood status



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# Children aged 14-17 in employment by orphanhood status



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# Other Vulnerable Children

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# UNKNOWN PARENTAL SURVIVAL STATUS

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**The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 2025) emphasises that children should;**

- **Know their parents (Identity);**
- **Not be separated from their parents, and**
- **Be looked after by their parents unless there are reasons why that is not possible; and children should have a family or belonging that is an identity**

# Distribution of children whose parental survival status is unknown

QN:

**Is (NAME'S) biological mother alive?**

1=Yes

2=No

8= Don't know

**Is (NAME'S) biological father alive?**

1=Yes

2=No

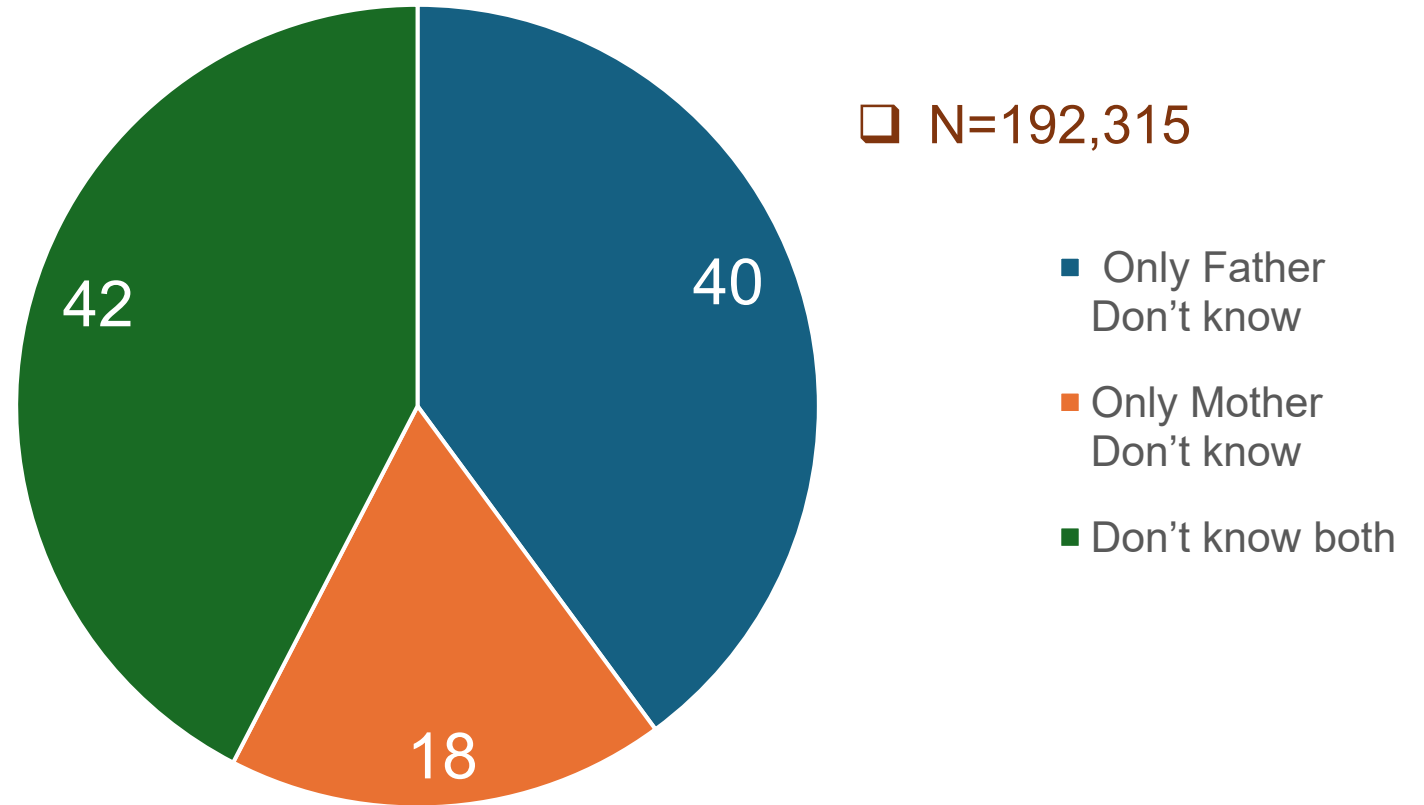
8= Don't know

Survival Status of Parent	No.	Percent
Mother alive, Father Don't know	60,324	31.4
Mother dead, Father Don't know	16,395	8.5
Father alive, Mother Don't know	21,385	11.1
Father dead, Mother Don't know	12,739	6.6
Don't know both	81,472	42.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>100</b>

**0.7% of all children**

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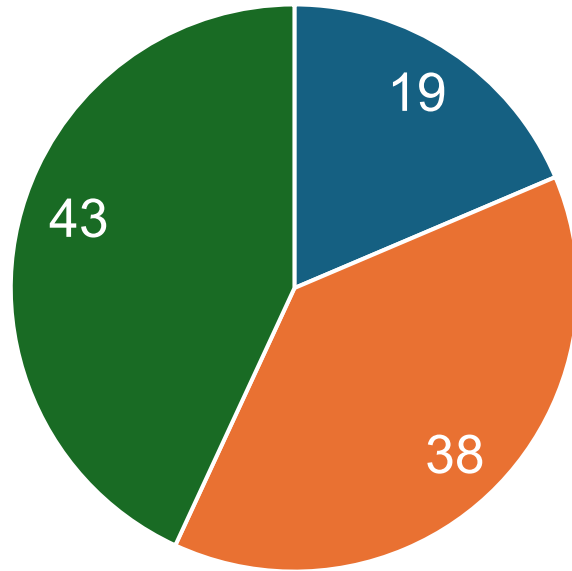
# Distribution of children whose parental survival status is unknown



#OVC 2024

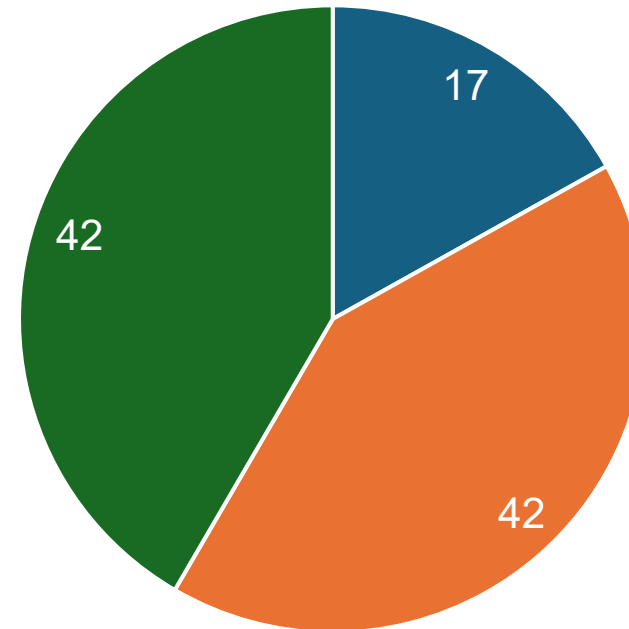
# Percentage of children for whom survival status of a parent is unknown by Sex

## Male



- Only Mother Unknown
- Only Father Unknown
- Both unknown

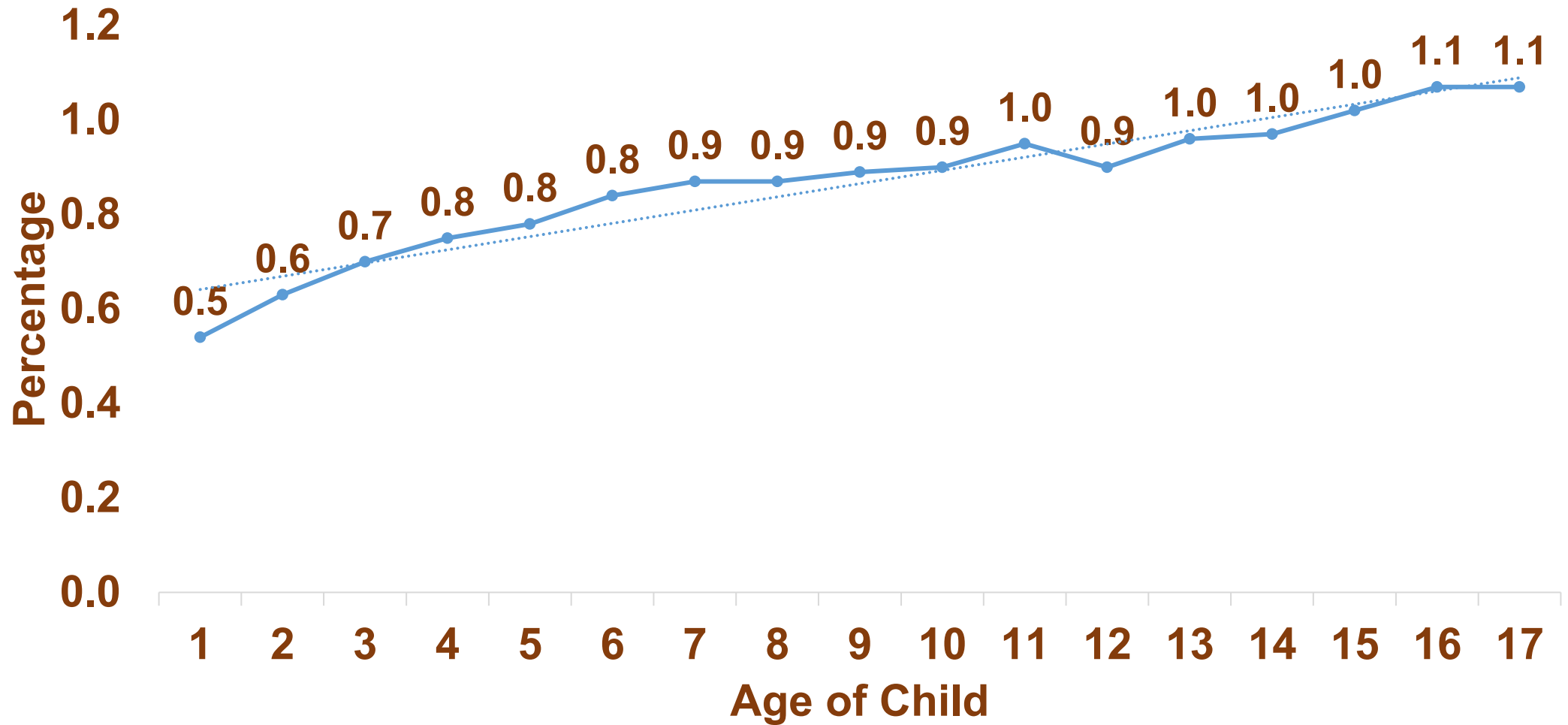
## Female



- Only Mother Unknown
- Only Father Unknown
- Both unknown

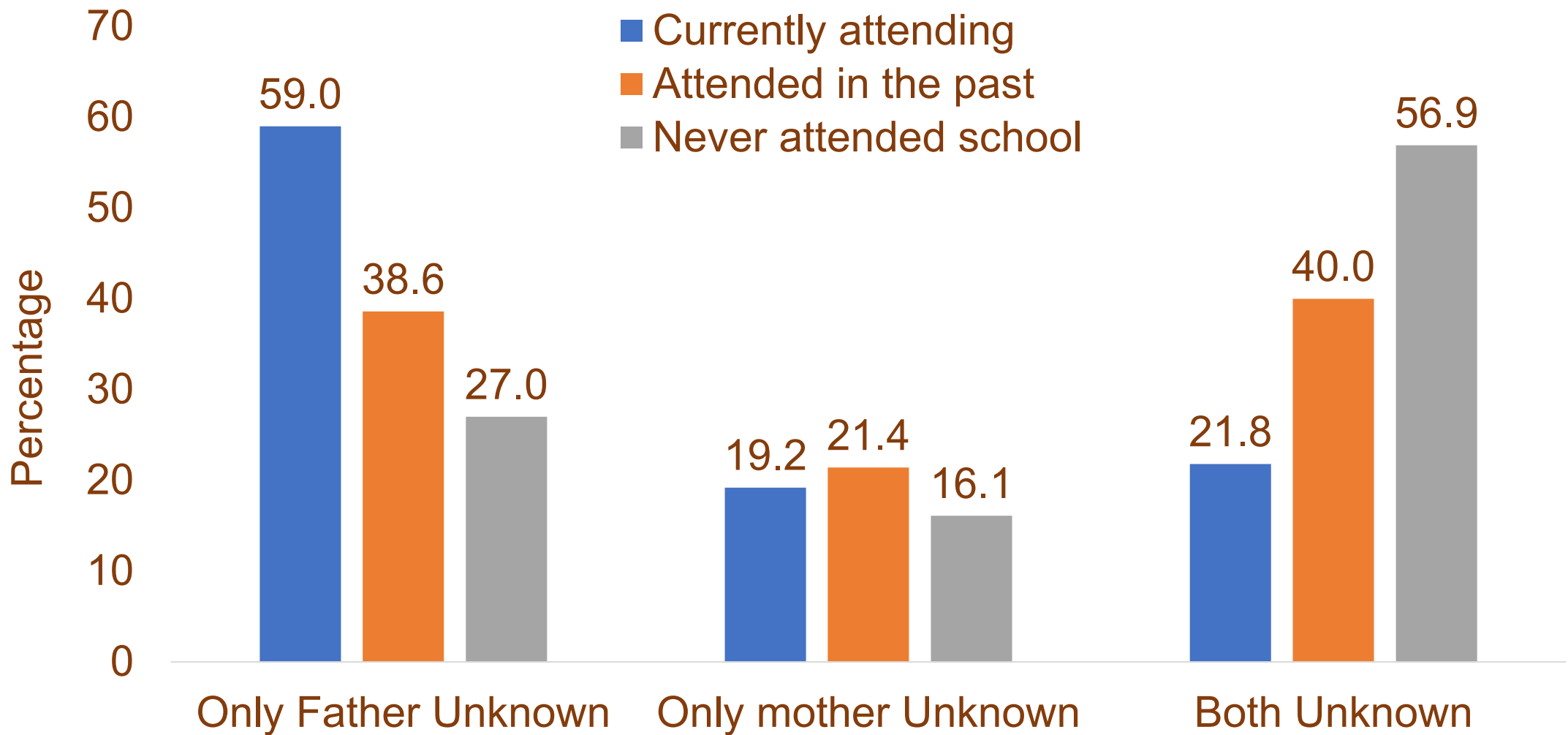
#OVC 2024

# Percentage of children whose parental survival status is unknown by age



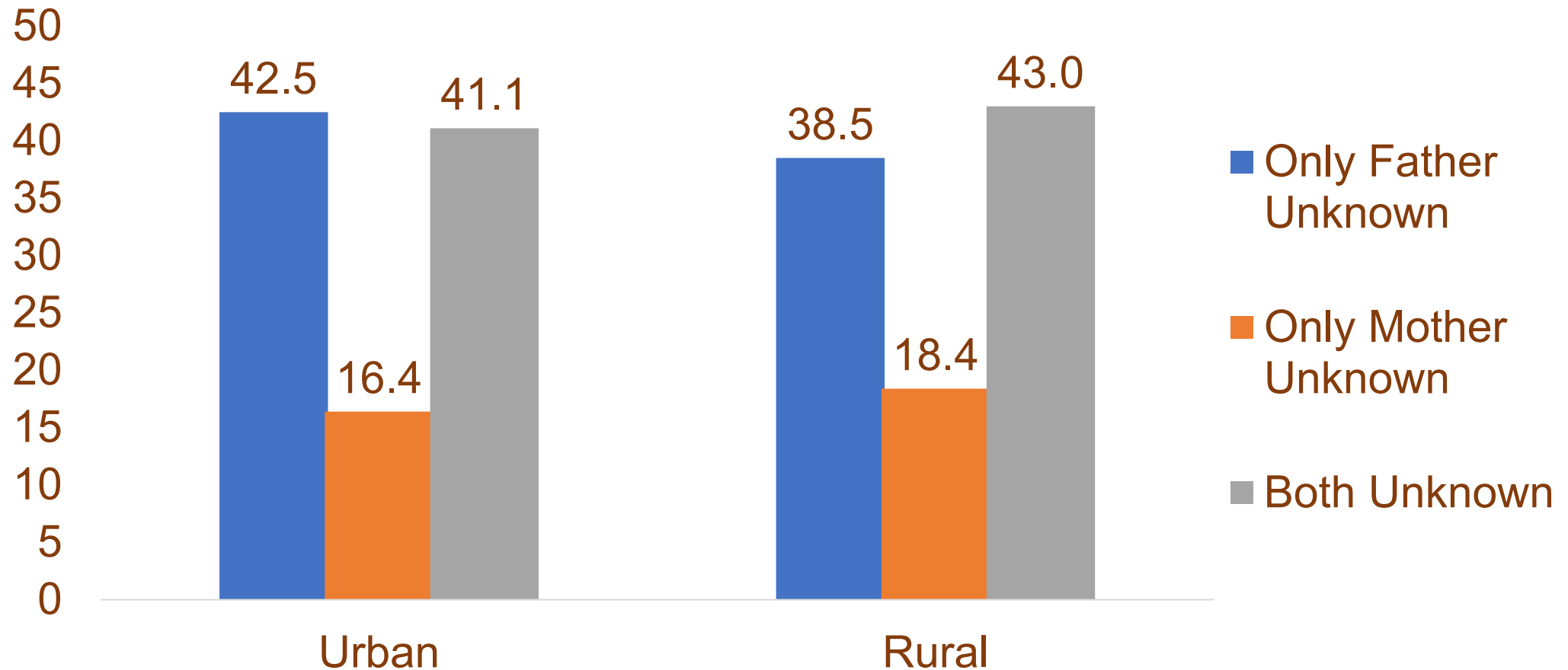
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# Percentage of children aged 3-17 for whom survival status of a parent is unknown by Schooling status



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# Percentage of children for whom survival status of a parent is unknown by Rural-Urban



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# CHILD MOTHERHOOD

**#OVC 2024**

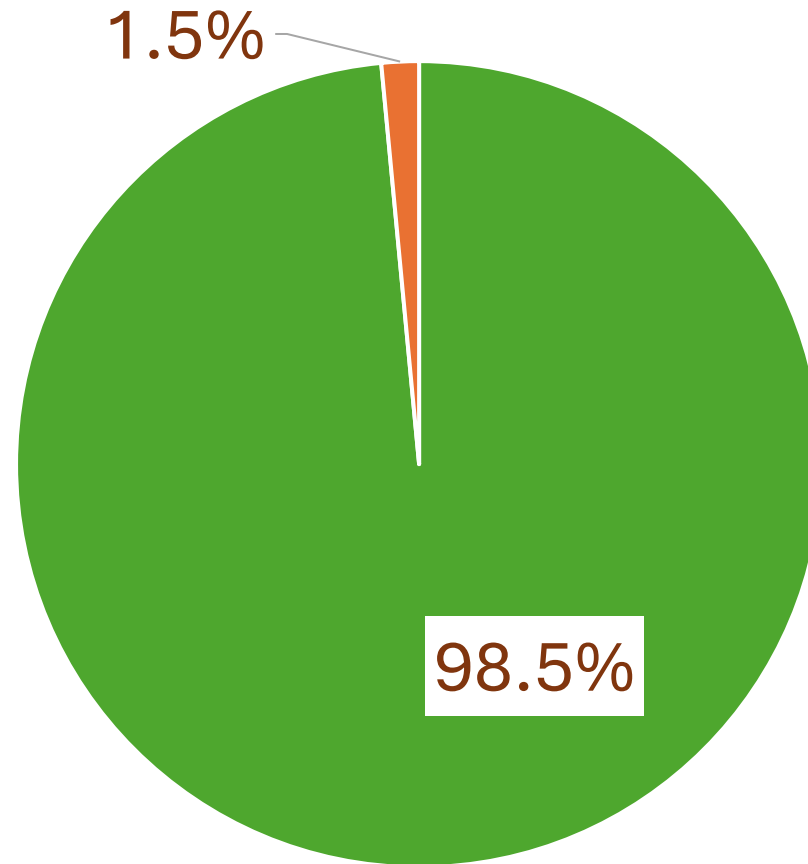


- ❑ A child mother is any female child aged less than 18 years who has ever given birth, irrespective of the survival status of the baby.
- ❑ Child motherhood occurs in all societies, with considerable variation in magnitude and consequences across different regions.
- ❑ These young mothers often face severe risks, including high mortality rates from pregnancy complications, poverty, school dropout, and social stigma, often requiring urgent health and educational support.

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# Percentage of children aged 10-17 who were mothers

QN:  
Has  
[NAME]  
ever given  
birth?



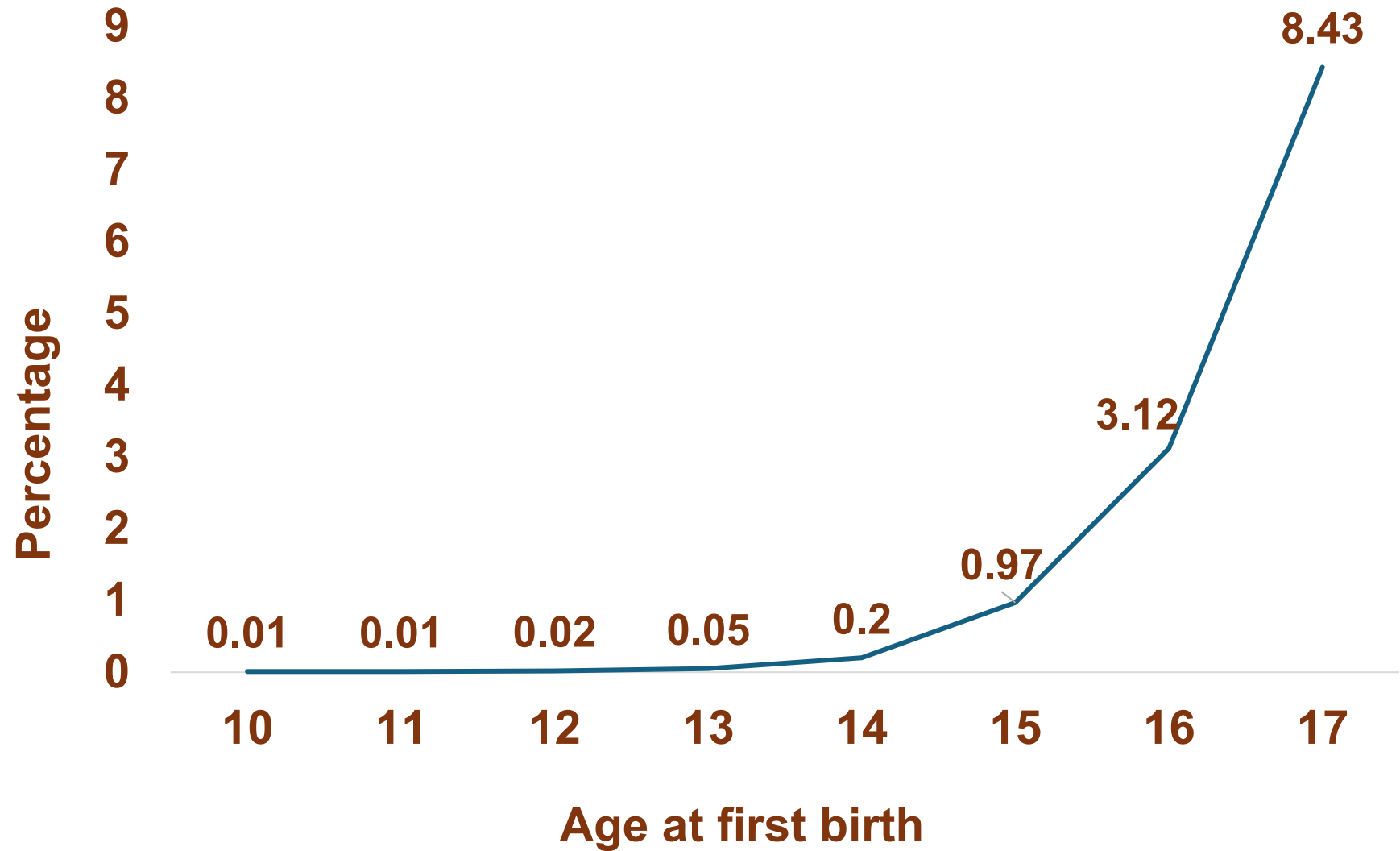
Out of the 4,619,063 girls aged 10–17 years in 2024, a total of **68,787** (1.5%) were child mothers.

■ Never given birth ■ Ever given birth

#OVC 2024

# Percentage of child mothers aged 10-17 by age at first birth

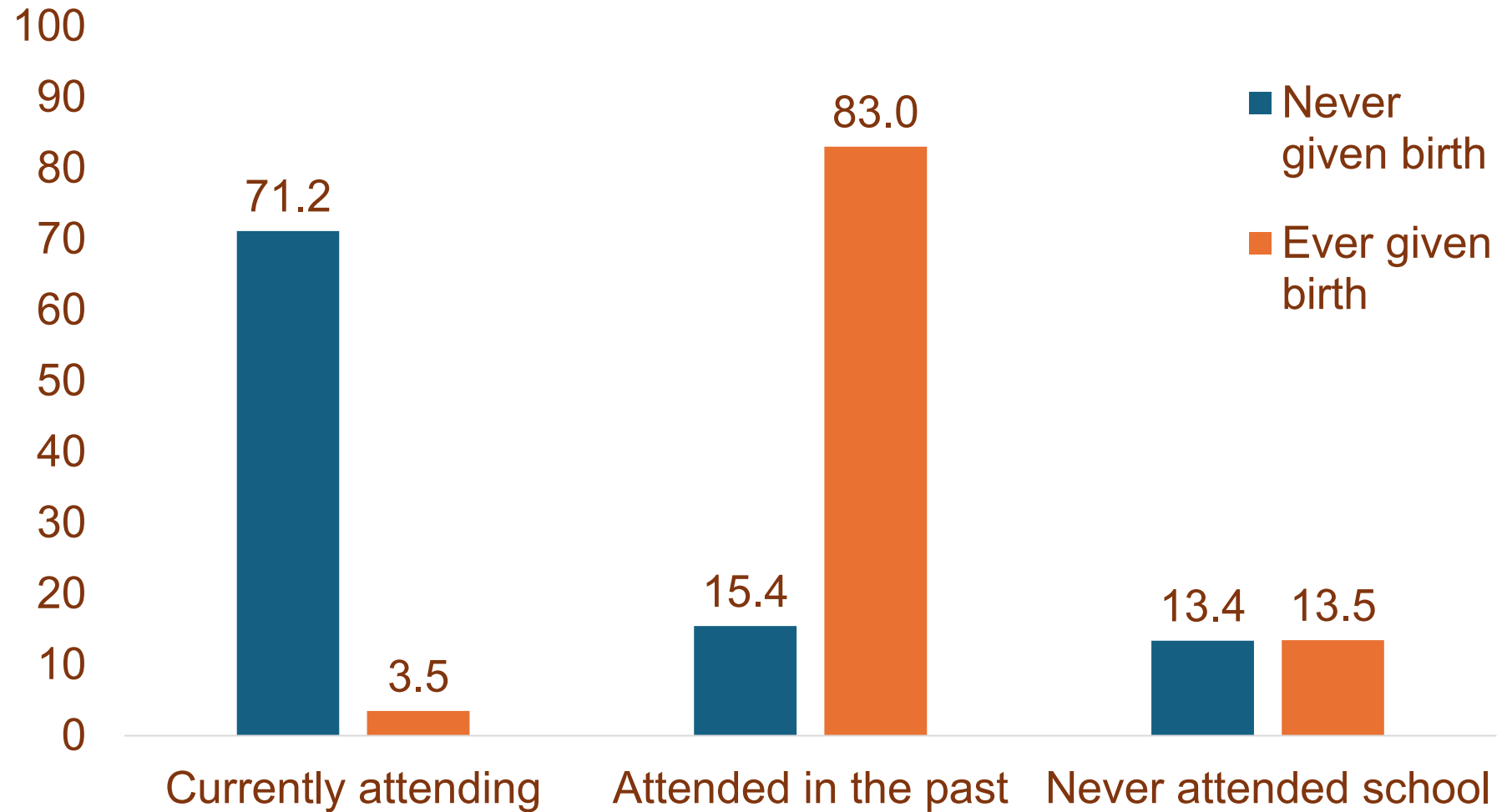
QN:  
How old was [NAME] at the time she had her first birth?



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# Percentage of child mothers by School Attendance

**QN:**  
 Has (NAME) ever attended formal school or any early childhood education programme?  
  
 Did (NAME) attend school at any time during the 2024 school year?

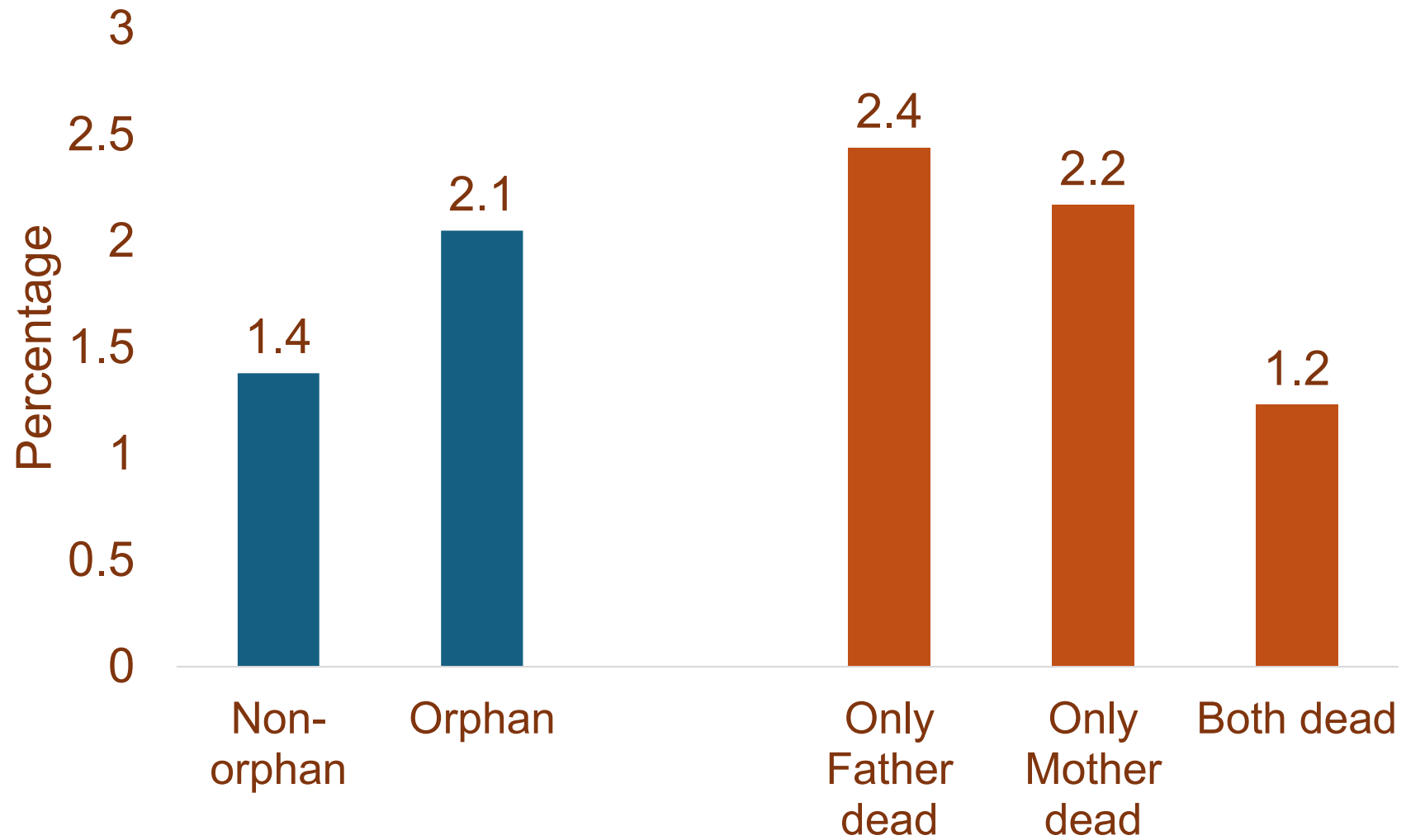


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# Percentage of Child Mothers by Orphanhood Status , (%)

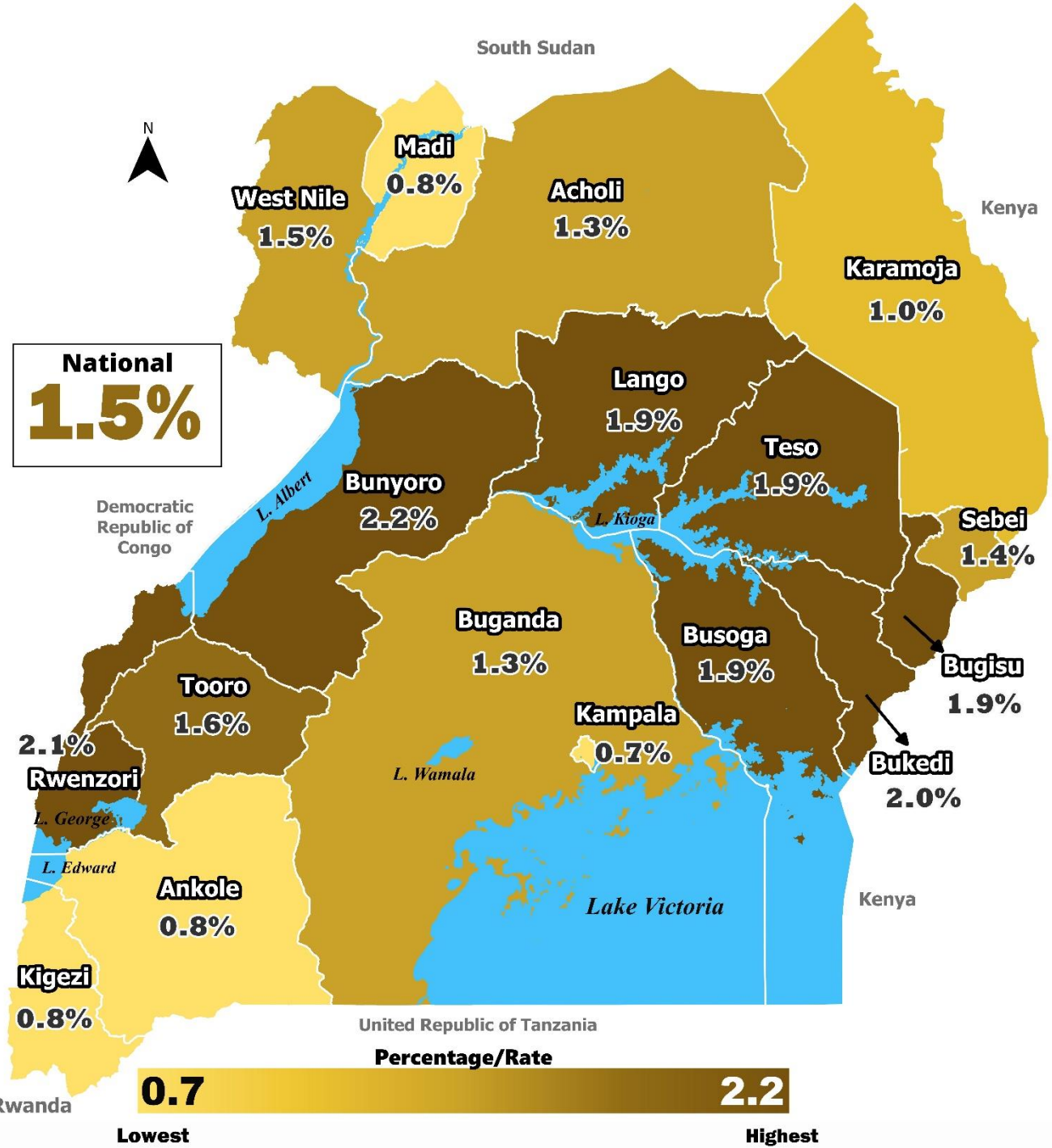
QN:  
**Is (NAME'S) biological mother alive?**  
**1=Yes**  
**2=No**  
**8= Don't know**

**Is (NAME'S) biological father alive?**  
**1=Yes**  
**2=No**  
**8= Don't know**



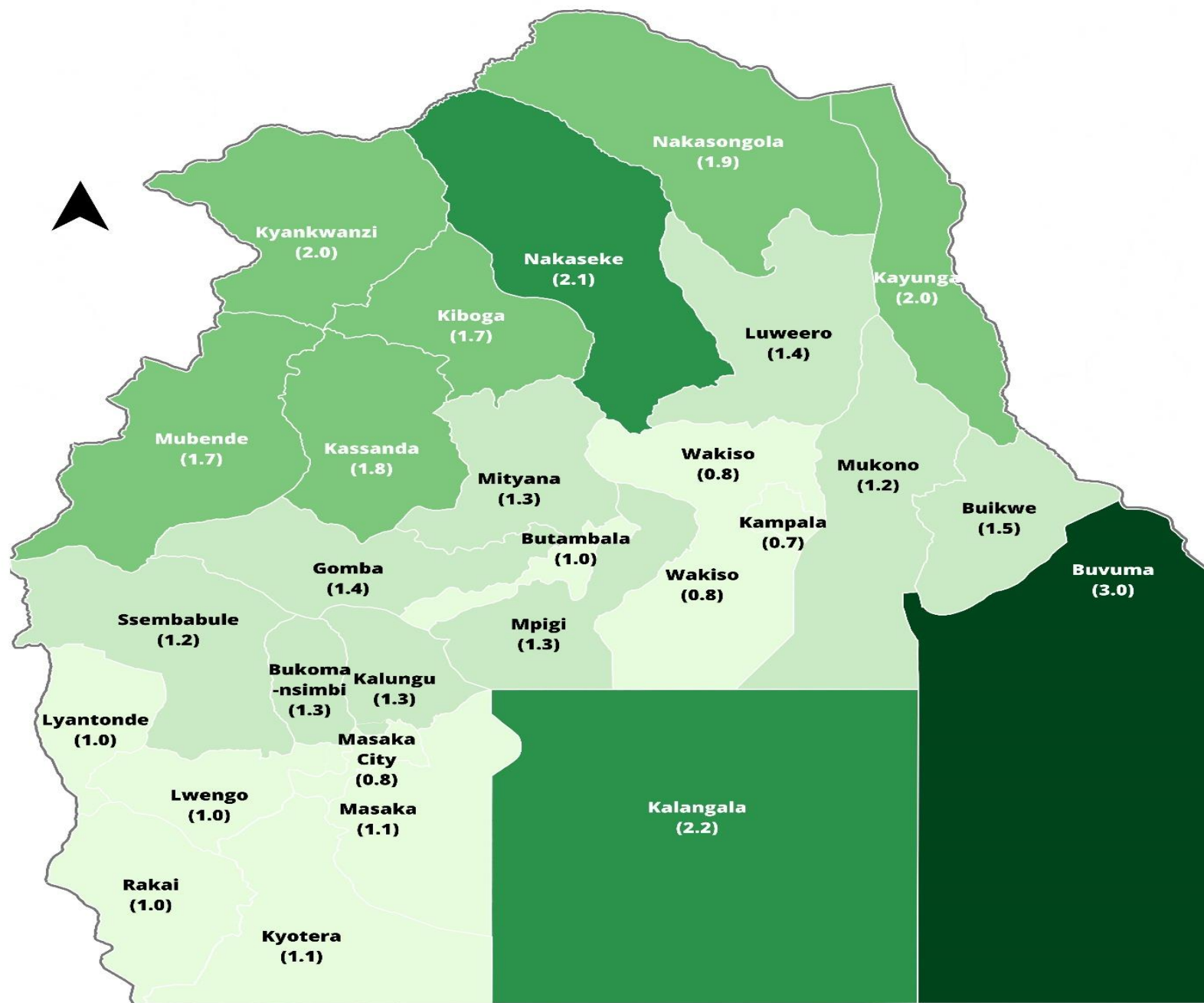
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# Percentage of child mothers by Sub region

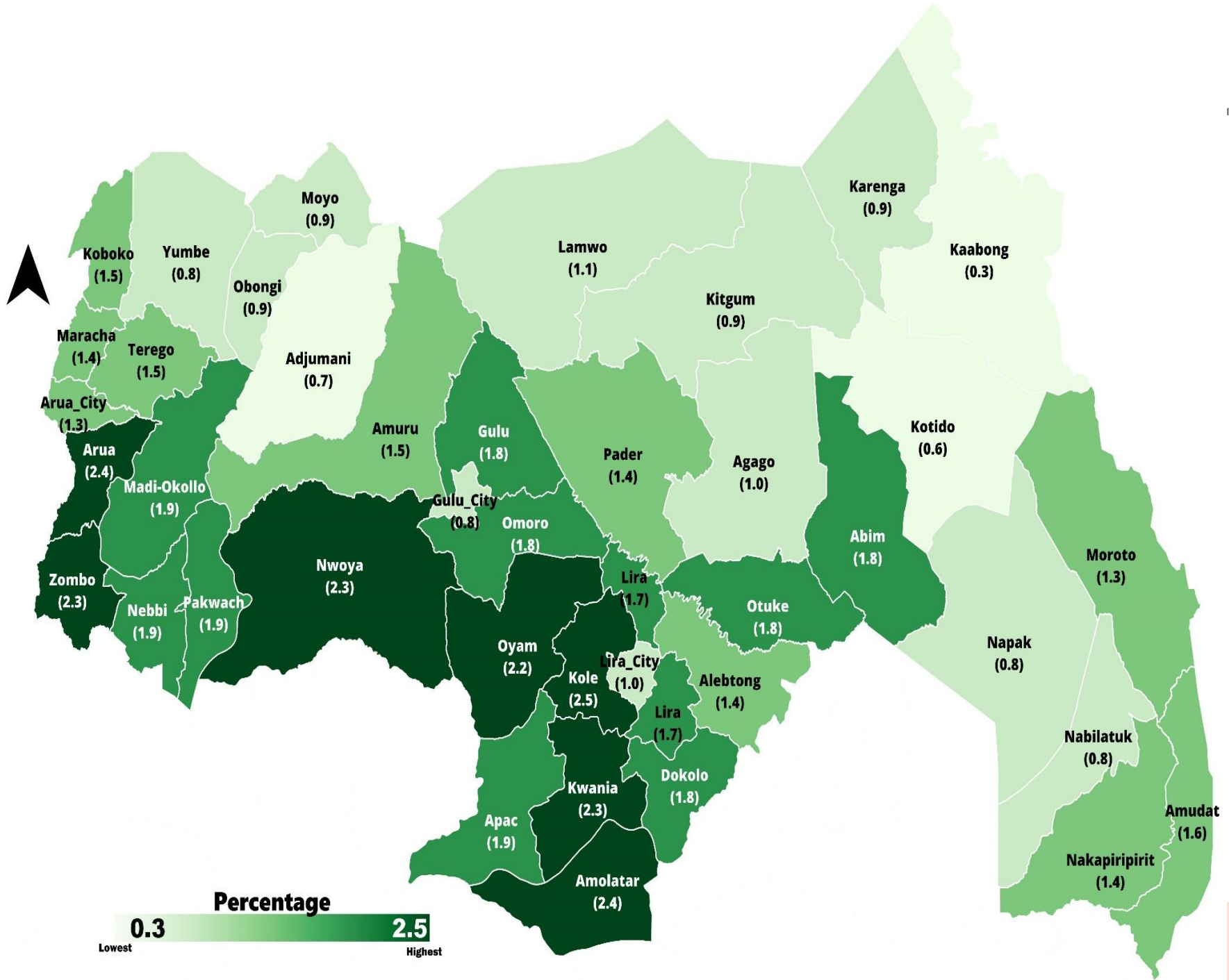


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# Percentage of child mothers in Central region



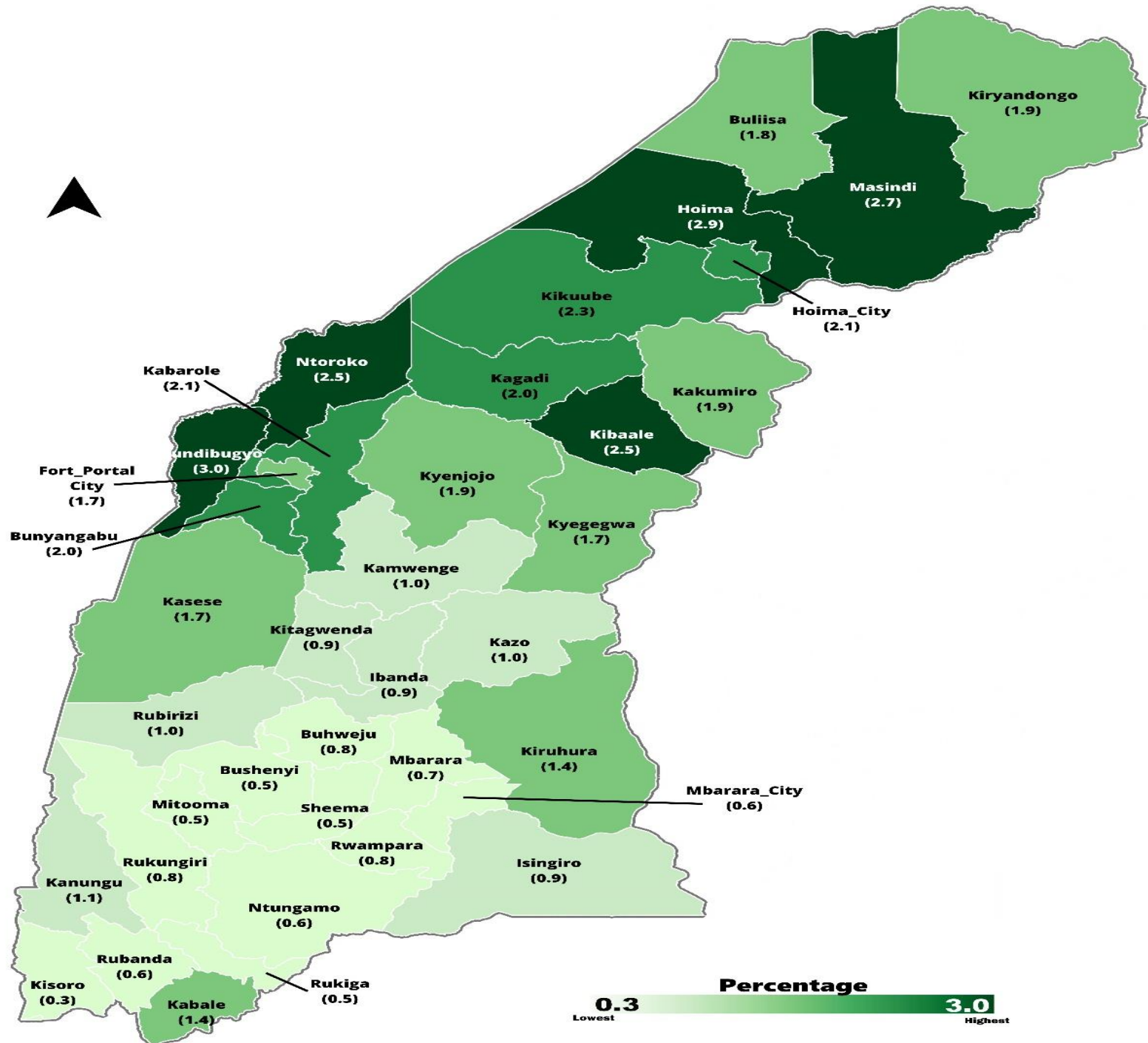
# Percentage of child mothers in Northern region



#OVC 2024



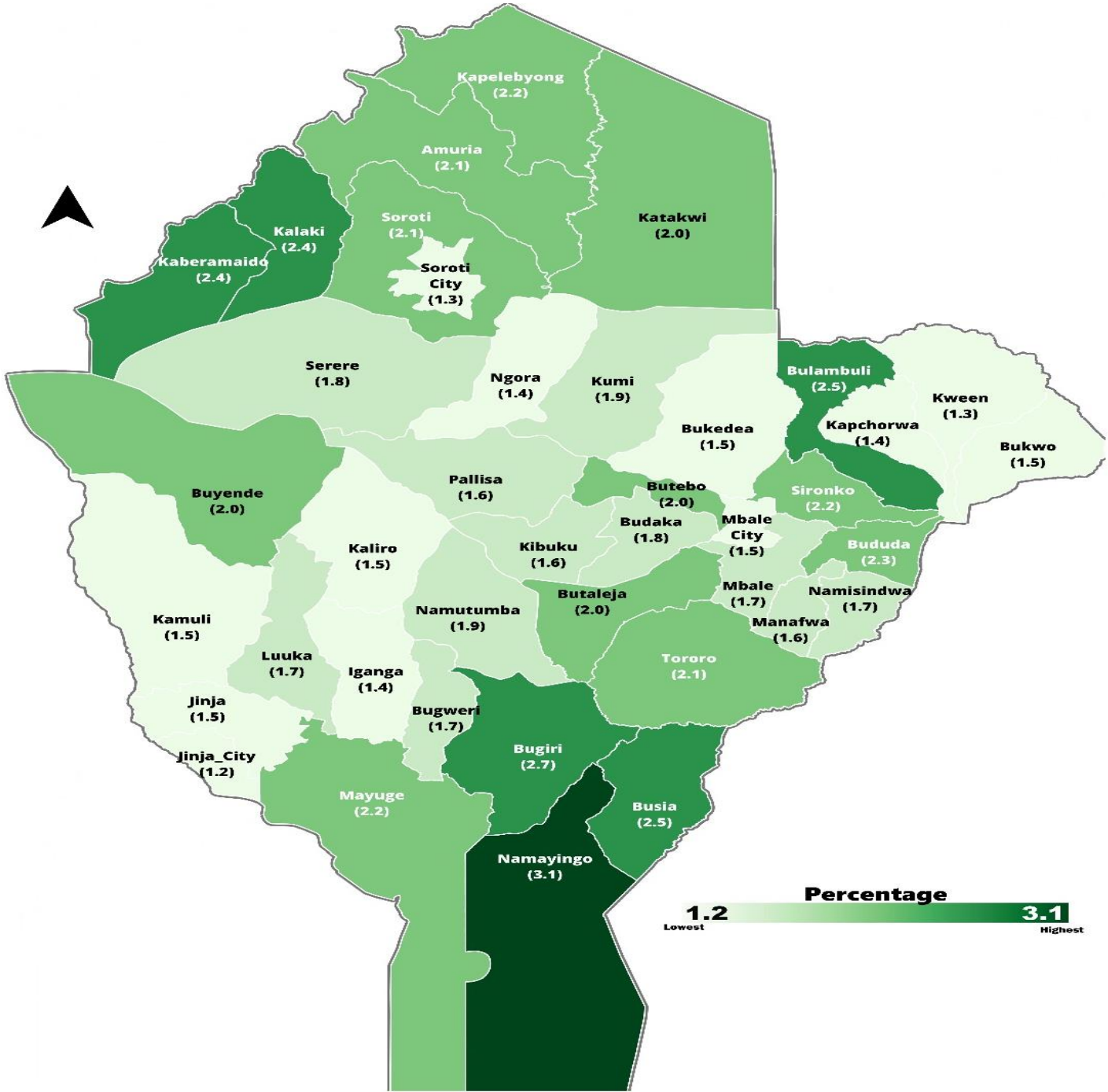
# Percentage of child mothers in Western region



#OVC 2024



# Percentage of child mothers in Eastern region



#OVC 2024

# Summary of Findings

#OVC 2024

# Summary of Findings

- ❑ 2,873,622 (13 %) of children were orphans (lost one or both parents) in 2024
- ❑ Percentage of orphans was highest in Madi 20.1% and lowest in Kampala (9.3%) Sub region
- ❑ 29% of orphans aged 3-5 were attending school
- ❑ 54% of Orphans aged 6-17 were attending school
- ❑ 21% of Orphans aged 15 -17 were in Employment.

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- ❑ Survival status of a parent was unknown for **0.7%** of all children
- ❑ **59%** of children for whom the survival status of **only father was unknown** were currently attending school, compared to **19%** for whom survival status of **only mother was unknown**.
- ❑ **1.5%** of children 10-17 years have ever given birth.

- ❑ Prevalence of child mothers was higher among **orphans (2.1%)** than **non-orphans (1.4%)**.
- ❑ Prevalence of child mothers was highest in Bunyoro sub region **(2.2%)** and lowest in Kampala **(0.7%)**.
- ❑ Prevalence of child mothers was highest in Namayingo district **(3.1%)** and lowest in Kisoro and Kaabong **(0.3%)**.



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