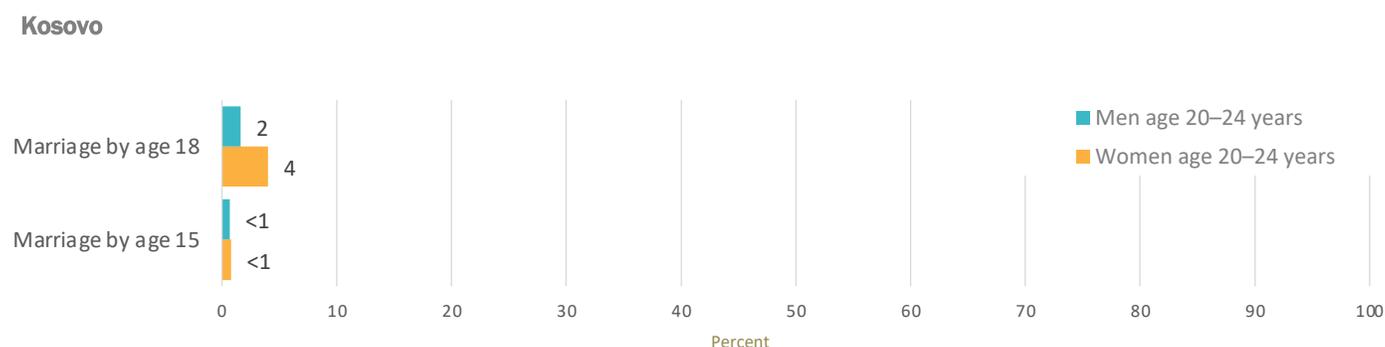


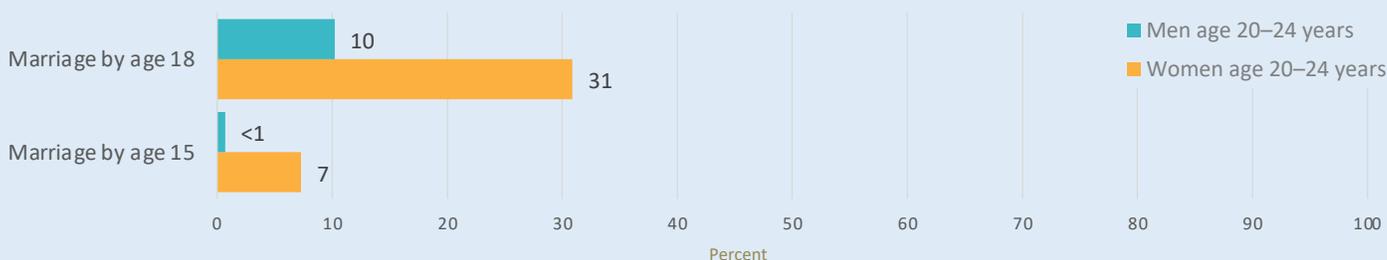
Child Marriage among Women and Men

Marriage before Age 15 & Age 18 among women (SDG 5.3.1*) and men



Percentage of women and men age 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo



Percentage of women and men age 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18

The above charts refer to women and men age 20 to 24 years, as this youngest cohort most recently completed exposure to the risk of marrying in childhood, thus giving a closer approximation of the current prevalence of child marriage. The following charts, which show disaggregation by background characteristics, refer to the full cohort of women and men age 20 to 49 years.

* SDG indicator 5.3.1 refers only to child marriage prevalence among girls: ‘Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18’

Key Messages

- 1 in 25 women and 1 in 50 men age 20–24 years were married before age 18 in Kosovo. The proportion is much higher among women and men this age living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo: 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men age 20–24 years were married before age 18.
- Marriage before age 18 is more common among women age 20–49 years with no education (41 percent of women in the general population and 47 percent of women living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were married by age 18), compared to those with higher levels of education (1 percent and 10 percent,

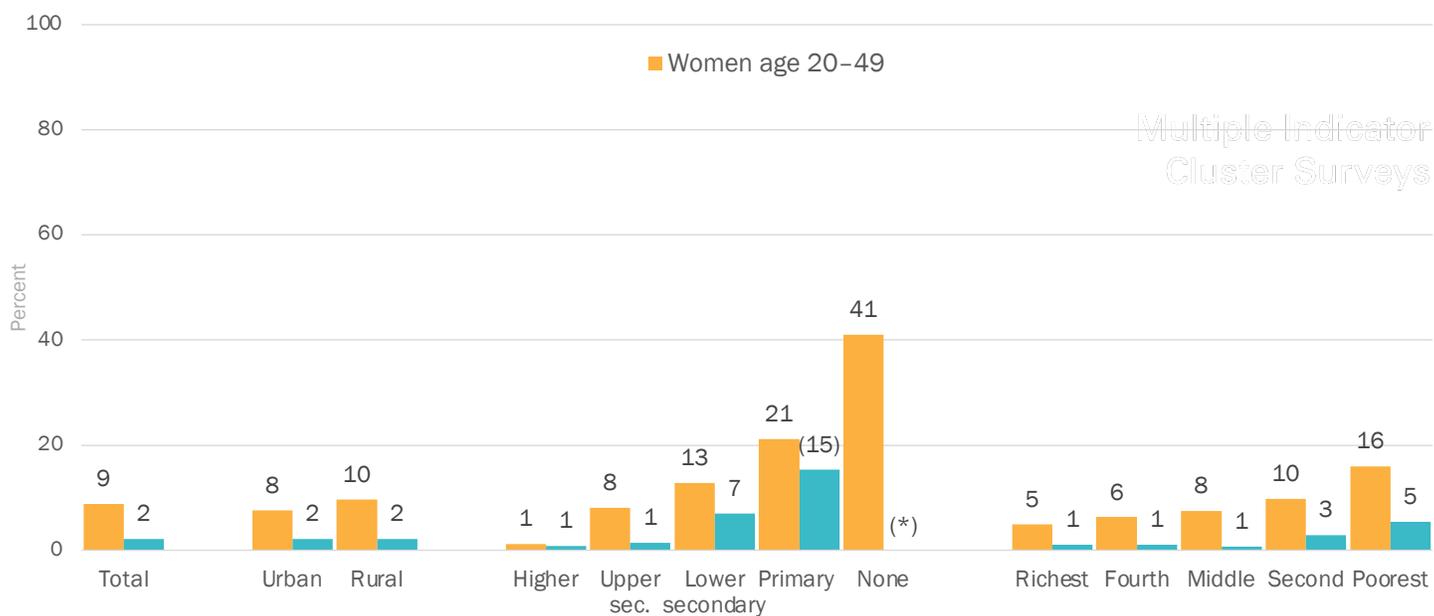
respectively). A similar trend is observed by household wealth, with women living in poorer households more likely to be married before age 18 than those living in the richest households.

In the general population, marriage before age 18 has declined slightly over time, from 13 percent amongst women age 45–49 years to 4 percent amongst those age 20–24 years.

A declining trend over time in marriage before age 18 is also visible among men living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, where 20 percent of men in the 45–49-year age cohort were married before age 18 compared to 10 percent of men in the 20–24-year age cohort.

Disaggregates in Marriage before Age 18

Kosovo



Percentage of women and men age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by residence, education and household wealth quintile

() Figures that are based on 25-49 unweighted cases

(*) Figures that are based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo



Percentage of women and men age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by residence, education and household wealth quintile

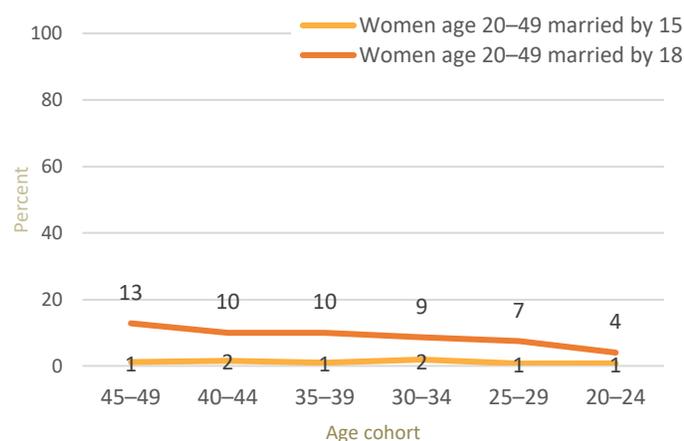
() Figures that are based on 25-49 unweighted cases

(R) The wealth index has been constructed using information on household assets and is assumed to capture underlying long-term wealth, ranking households by wealth, from poorest to richest. The calculations have been conducted separately on the sample for the Kosovo MICS and the sample for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS, using characteristics for each respective sample. The wealth scores calculated are therefore applicable for only the particular dataset they are based on and differ for the two surveys. Findings by wealth scores calculated for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS are indicated with an '(R)' in the charts.

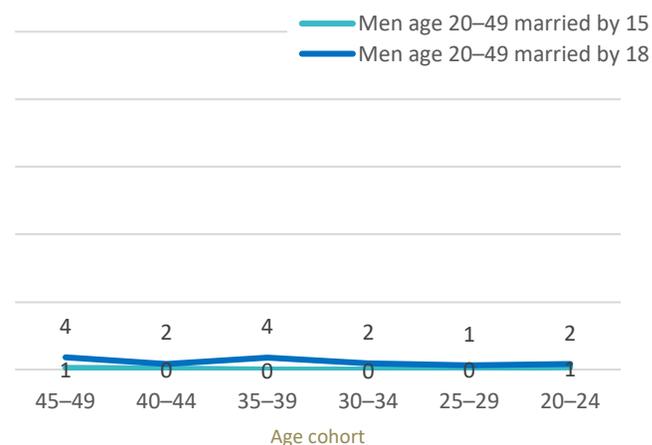
Trends in Child Marriage

Kosovo

Women



Men

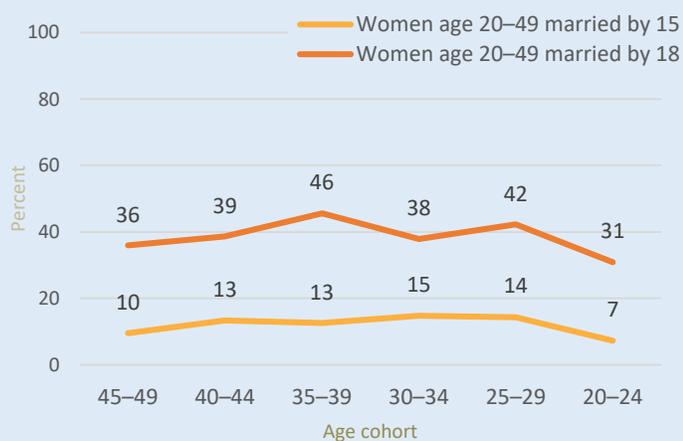


Percentage of women (left) and men (right) age 20–49 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by age cohort

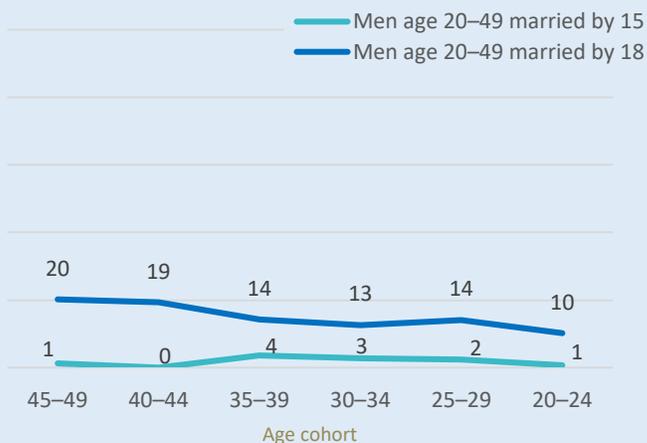
Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls. In many parts of the world parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hopes that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actual fact, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty. The right to ‘free and full’ consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – with the recognition that consent cannot be ‘free and full’ when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision about a life partner.

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo

Women



Men



Percentage of women (left) and men (right) age 20–49 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by age cohort

The Kosovo Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS were carried out in 2019–2020 by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), with funding provided by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Government of Luxembourg, the Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK), UNICEF, the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the 2019–2020 Kosovo MICS and the 2019–2020 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS related to Child Marriage. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables PR.4.1W and PR.4.1M (indicated with the letter ‘R’ for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS) in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.