



Urban Poverty and Child Health Indicators in Nigeria with DHS Data (AS81)

An Analysis Brief from The DHS Program

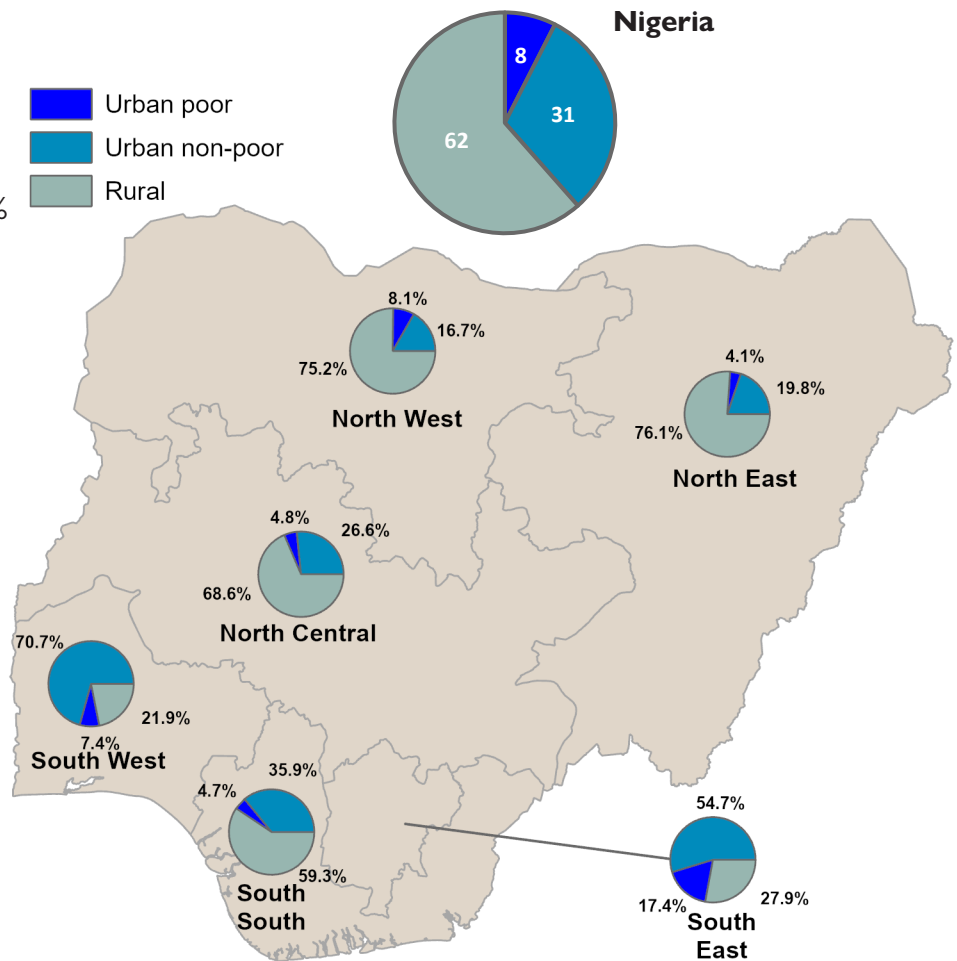
Why study urban poverty and health?

The health consequences and advantages of urban living are not experienced equally by everyone in urban areas. This analysis compares several child health indicators (place of delivery, food given during diarrhea, liquids given during diarrhea, zero-dose children, breastfeeding timing after birth, weight for age, and weight for height) for urban poor, urban non-poor, and rural areas across six USAID Maternal and Child Health priority countries. This brief provides an overview of results from the Nigeria. Data from the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) are used.

Urban poverty in Nigeria

- In Nigeria overall, 8% of children under 5 live in urban poor areas, 31% live in urban non-poor areas, and 62% live in rural areas (Figure 1). This means that 19% of urban children live in poor areas, and 81% of urban children live in non-poor areas.
- By region, urban poverty is highest in South East (17%) and is lowest in North East (4%).

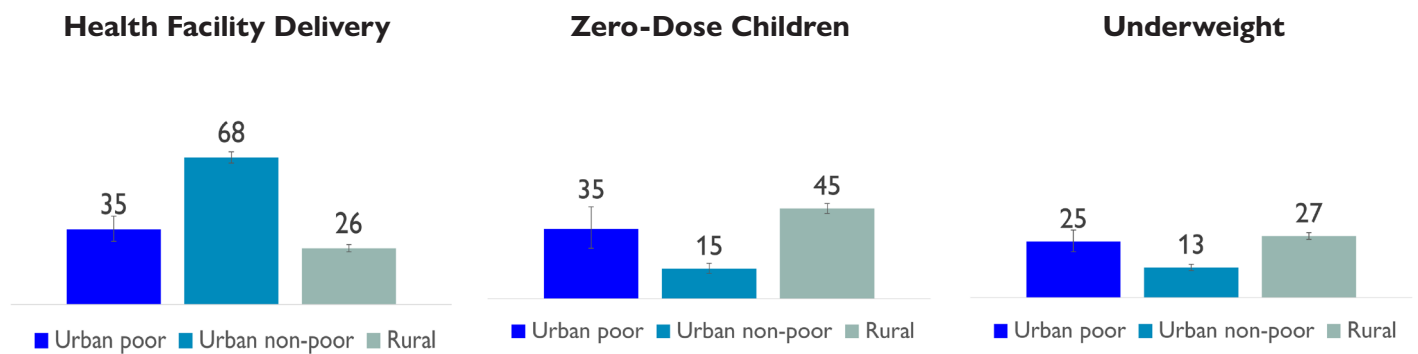
Figure 1. Percent distribution of urban poverty among children under 5 in Nigeria by region.



Differences in child health indicators by urban poverty in Nigeria

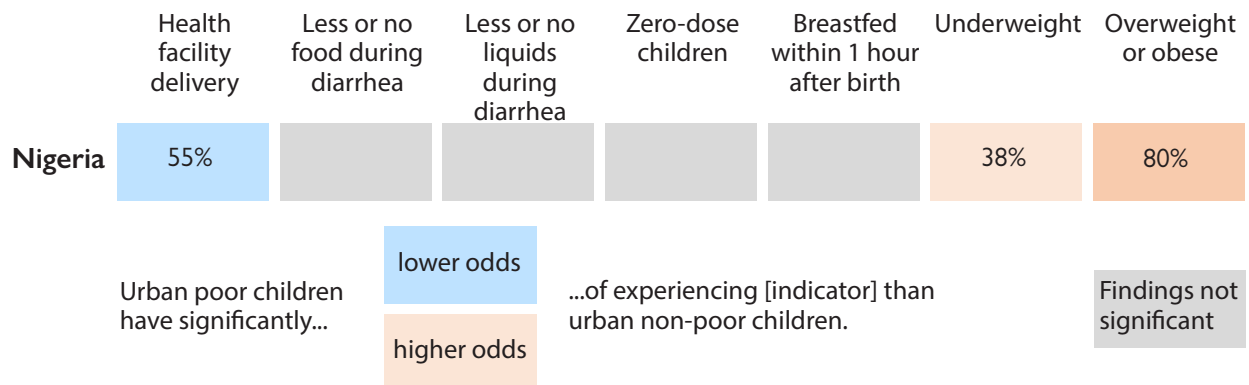
- Crosstabulation results for Nigeria show the largest differences between urban poor and urban non-poor children for three indicators: health facility delivery, zero-dose children, and underweight.

Figure 2. Crosstabulations of health facility delivery, zero-dose children, and underweight among children in Nigeria.



- More than one-third of urban poor children under five in Nigeria were delivered in a health facility (35%), compared to 68% of urban non-poor children and 26% of rural children.
- Zero-dose children (children age 12-23 months who have not received the DPT 1 vaccine) is higher among urban poor children (35%) than urban non-poor children (15%) but is highest among rural children (45%).
- More urban poor children under five are considered underweight (25%) than urban non-poor children (13%). More than 1 in 4 children in rural areas are underweight.
- Analysis shows these differences persist even after controlling for background variables except for the zero-dose children indicator as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Summary of adjusted regression results for each indicator for urban poor children under 5 compared to urban non-poor children under 5 in Nigeria.



Characteristics of urban poor in Nigeria

- In Nigeria, 30% of children in urban poor areas have mothers with secondary or higher education compared to 71% of children in urban non-poor areas.
- Mothers in urban poor areas have more trouble accessing health care: 55% have experienced at least one problem accessing health care compared to 39% of mothers in urban non-poor areas.
- Nearly half of mothers in urban poor areas reported getting money needed for treatment was a barrier to accessing health care compared to 36% of mothers in urban non-poor areas.
- Over twice as many women in urban poor areas reported the distance to the health facility was a barrier to accessing health care than women in urban non-poor areas (30% versus 14%).