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Demographic and Social Characteristics of Households in Conakry

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In this research bulletin, we present the main demographic and social characteristics of the Guinean households in Conakry. For the purpose of the survey and of the interpretation of the results, a household has been defined as a collection of individuals who have lived in the same place for at least three months and who eat together. Information on age, sex, and relationship with household heads was collected on all the members of the household at the time of the interview.

The distribution of the total population in the sample, organized by sex and age groups, is reported in Table 1 and plotted in the standard population pyramid in Figure 1. Here we can see that 42.0 percent of the population is younger than 15 years and 53.0 percent of the population is older than 20 years.

The ratio of males to females fluctuates among the different age categories up to 30 years of age (Figure 1). After 30 years of age the ratio increases constantly from 105.4 percent to 180.0 percent at age 79. This pattern reflects that there are many unaccompanied men who come to Conakry to find jobs and opportunities.

Average household size is 7.0 persons. The frequency distribution of household size is reported in Figure 2. Single people represent 9.0 percent of the total. It is evident that the mode of household size is

4. From the distribution by categories in Table 2, 26.8 percent of the households have 2 to 4 members and 28.0 percent have 5 to 7 members.. Households with 8 to 10 members and more than 10 members each comprise around 17 percent of the total.

In Figure 3 average household size has been plotted for different age groups of male- and female-headed households. Average family size increases considerably with the age of the head. Female-headed households, which represent only 7.2 percent of the total, have smaller average family sizes. Larger households are headed by older and more established males. The direct relationship between household size and age of the household head is confirmed in Table 2. Over one-third of the household heads younger than 30 years are one-person households. The percentage of households with 2 to 4 members decreases from 55.4 of households where the head is younger than 30 to 10.8 percent where the head is between 45 and 49 years old. After age 50, the share of households with 2 to 4 persons increases slightly, as the head gets older and offspring from their own family units begin to leave home. Conversely, the percentage of larger families increases with the age of the household head. For example, 56.8 percent of the families with household heads over 45 years of age have at least 8 people, while only 4.6 percent of the households where the head is younger than 35 years of age have that many.

One reason older households have much larger family sizes is found in the number of wives per household head. Only 4.5 percent of household males under 35 have more than one wife, while 28.8 percent of male heads

over 45 years of age have two wives, and 10.7 percent have three or more wives (Figure 4). Overall, 25.6 percent of male household heads have two or more wives. Looking at the percentage of people married by age group and sex (Figure 5), it emerges that men marry much later than females. It is particularly striking that only 15 percent of men under 30 years are married, compared with the almost 80 percent of females. Most men are not married until they are 35 years old. We suspect that this is because men wait until they are financially established before getting married, especially migrants. As noted in other bulletins concerning labor force and participation, the percentage of young men (between 20 to 30 years of age) having jobs is extremely low. It is only after 30 years old that young men get jobs, get married, and establish their own households. With regard to women, there is a relatively high share that are married under 30, as compared with men. This reflects in part that there are far fewer eligible females, as discussed above. The rapid decrease in the percentage of married females, in contrast to men, after age 50 is presumably explained by the larger number of widows and can in part be attributed to the polygamous nature of many households, as well as being an indicator of lower life expectancy for men.

The household composition of the households by household size is next shown in Figure 6. As households increase in size, the number of spouses rise from a mean of 0.86 for household of 2 to 4 members, to 2.15 for households with more than 16 members. At the same time, the average number of children increases nearly 10 times from 0.83 for households with between 2 and 4 members, to an average of 7.86 children for

households with more than 16 members. The most rapid increase in numbers as households get larger is found in the number of other members, including siblings, nieces and nephews, and parents of the head. Their numbers reach an average of 7.93 members in the largest household size category, up from an average of just 0.49 members among households with 2 to 4 members. In percentage terms, the contribution of "others" increases steadily across household size categories from 15.4 percent for those with 2 to 4 members, to 41.9 percent for those with more than 16 members (Table 3).

Migration is the primary explanation for the relatively large number of single-person households, as well as the large contribution of "other" household members. Migrants represent 46.11 percent of the population in Conakry; 17.2 percent of the total population has migrated since 1985. Furthermore, more than one-half the migrants into Conakry arrived during the 1980s, and these migrants now comprise more than 25 percent of the population (Table 4). As shown in Figure 7, the number of migrants in a 5-year period doubled in the 1981-1984 period and then doubled again after 1985.

The migration pattern in Guinea described in Figure 8 follows regional lines. Most people in Conakry come from Guinea Maritime (46.3 percent, in total of which 11.9 percent come from Kindia and 8.1 percent from Forecarria) and Haute Guinea (23.9 percent in total of which 6.8 percent from Pita, and 5.0 percent from Labe). Fewer people come from the other two more distant regions of Guinea (12.2 percent from Guinea Moyenne of which 4.5 percent are from Kan Kan) and 8.1 percent from

Guinea Forestiere. Only 8.7 percent of the population came from other African countries. There is no apparent difference in the source of migrants by gender.

Figure 9 shows that 53.0 percent of males migrated to Conakry for work and work opportunities, and 18.3 percent migrated for study. Females in contrast migrated mainly for family reasons (82.2 percent). This confirms a pattern of men migrating to find work with their wives and daughters joining them later.

In fact, a look at the share of migrants by relationship reveals some remarkable figures (Table 5). In particular, 86.0 percent of the household heads in Conakry are migrants. Likewise, 79.4 percent of their spouses are migrants. Among their children, in contrast, 85.5 percent are born in Conakry. In combination, this picture of Conakry as a city of migrants and their offspring is indeed dramatic, and is likely a testament to the years of discrimination against the rural sector under Sekou Touré, and the fact that policy reforms have done little to reverse the urban-rural disparities in incomes and availability of services.

Information about basic language capability, literacy, and schooling has been collected for all the individuals age 6 and older. In Guinea there are three major ethnic groups that speak different "local languages." French is the official language that is used in schools and government. We found that 48.3 percent of all males speak French, compared to 25.5 percent of all females (Figure 10).

The difference between language capability by gender only begins to emerge after 10 years of age, and is most pronounced in adults between

the ages of 25 to 45. Among those older than 45, the percentage who speak French begins to decline, as do the gender differences.

Literacy is low in Guinea, once again with pronounced gender differences. Among men, 41.8 percent can read and write, with the comparable number for women just being 22.6 percent (Figure 11). Most people who can read can also write. A cross-tabulation between speaking French and the ability to read shows that the former is an excellent proxy for literacy, with this capability usually gained in the classroom (Table 6).

Schooling is shown by gender and age in Table 7. The age cohort with the largest percentage that have attended some school is 10 to 14 year olds. The older age cohorts show that very few have attended any school, reflecting a combination of their rural upbringing and the lack of access to school. Given the fact that persons older than 20 are likely to be migrants, it is not possible to say anything meaningful about what has happened to enrollment in Conakry during the past couple of decades. It must be further recognized that a large proportion of the children less than 14 years are still enrolled in school. In fact, 82.7 percent of males in the 10-14 age group are still in school compared with 58.6 percent of females in the same age cohort (Figure 12).

Among girls in the same age group, two-thirds have gone to school, with 11.0 percent having attended some secondary school. For boys, nearly 90 percent have some schooling, with 16.3 percent having advanced to secondary school. This disparity by gender is found across all age groups. Across the entire population, for example, only 48.7 percent of

females have any schooling. In particular, 22.8 percent have primary education and 19.2 percent have secondary education. In comparison, 71.1 percent of males have schooling. In particular, 29.8 percent have primary education and 27.5 percent have secondary education (Figure 13).

Table 1 — Age Distribution of Population Sample

Age Groups	Males	Females	Total	Male	Column	Cumulative
	Number			Percentage		
0 to 4	966	1,012	1,978	95.45	16.47	16.47
5 to 9	837	777	1,614	107.72	13.44	29.92
10 to 14	713	736	1,449	96.88	12.07	41.98
15 to 19	649	675	1,324	96.15	11.03	53.01
20 to 24	616	610	1,226	100.98	10.21	63.22
25 to 29	522	527	1,049	99.05	8.74	71.96
30 to 34	452	429	881	105.36	7.34	79.30
35 to 39	370	330	700	112.12	5.83	85.13
40 to 44	272	239	511	113.81	4.26	89.38
45 to 49	227	183	410	124.04	3.41	92.80
50 to 54	171	118	289	144.92	2.41	95.20
55 to 59	135	82	217	164.63	1.81	97.01
60 to 64	90	52	142	173.08	1.18	98.19
65 to 69	51	31	82	164.52	0.68	98.88
70 to 74	37	21	58	176.19	0.48	99.36
75 to 79	18	10	28	180.00	0.23	99.59
80 to 84	12	14	26	85.71	0.22	99.81
85 to 89	3	11	14	27.27	0.12	99.93
over 90	2	7	9	28.57	0.07	100.00
Total	6,143	5,864	12,007	104.76	—	—

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

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Table 2 — Distribution and Mean Household Size by Age of Household Head

Age of Household Head Years	Household Size						Total
	1	2 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 15	16 or more	
29 or under	34.8	55.4	8.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
30 to 34	17.2	52.1	24.5	3.8	1.2	1.2	100.0
35 to 39	6.8	33.0	39.5	11.3	7.1	2.3	100.0
40 to 44	5.9	20.2	34.9	23.5	11.0	4.4	100.0
45 to 49	2.6	10.8	30.6	31.5	16.4	8.2	100.0
50 to 59	3.9	14.6	22.7	23.4	22.1	13.3	100.0
60 or over	6.1	17.2	21.9	20.5	17.2	17.2	100.0
All	8.9	26.8	28.0	17.4	11.8	7.0	100.0

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Note: Total number of households is 1,725.

Table 3 — Household Structure by Household Size (Percentages)

Category	1	2 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 15	16 +	All
Household Head	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Percentage	100.00	31.45	16.98	11.27	7.92	5.28	14.35
Average spouse	0	0.86	1.05	1.38	1.7	2.15	1.12
Percentage	0.00	27.04	17.83	15.56	13.46	11.35	16.07
Average Kids	0	0.83	2.62	4.29	6.01	7.86	2.97
Percentage	0.00	26.10	44.48	48.37	47.59	41.50	42.61
Average others	0	0.49	1.22	2.20	3.92	7.93	1.88
Percentage	0.00	15.41	20.71	24.80	31.04	41.87	26.97
Average Size	1.00	3.18	5.89	8.87	12.63	18.94	6.97
Percentage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
No. of households	153	463	483	301	204	121	1,725

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

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Table 4 — Year of Migration by Gender

Year	Males	Females	Total
Before 1960	4.98	3.60	4.31
1960 to 1969	6.76	6.33	6.55
1970 to 1974	4.90	4.43	4.67
1975 to 1979	4.42	4.72	4.57
1981 to 1984	8.51	9.14	8.82
1985 and after	15.95	18.40	17.15
Total Migrant	45.52	46.62	46.06
Non-Migrant	54.48	53.38	53.94
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

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Table 5 — Migration by Sex and Relationship

Relationship	Males	Females	Total	Male	Female	All
	Percentage			Number		
Head	86.82	75.81	86.03	1,601	124	1,725
Spouse	80.00	79.38	79.39	5	1,916	1,921
Son/Daughter	15.32	15.68	15.48	2,820	2,283	5,103
Brother/Sister	71.43	81.43	80.52	7	70	77
Father/Mother	75.94	57.14	70.63	320	126	446
Relative	48.61	43.55	46.30	757	636	1,393
Renter/Employee	100.00	100.00	100.00	4	2	6
Other	56.26	50.88	53.43	615	684	1,299
All	45.55	46.72	46.12	6,129	5,841	11,970

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Table 6 — French and Reading Capabilities

	Males			Females		
	Can Read	No Reading	Total Number	Can Read	No Reading	Total Number
No French	3.86	47.88	2,584	2.96	71.55	3,473
French-speaking	42.09	6.17	2,410	23.13	2.36	1,188
Total number	501	4,493	4,994	248	4,413	4,661

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

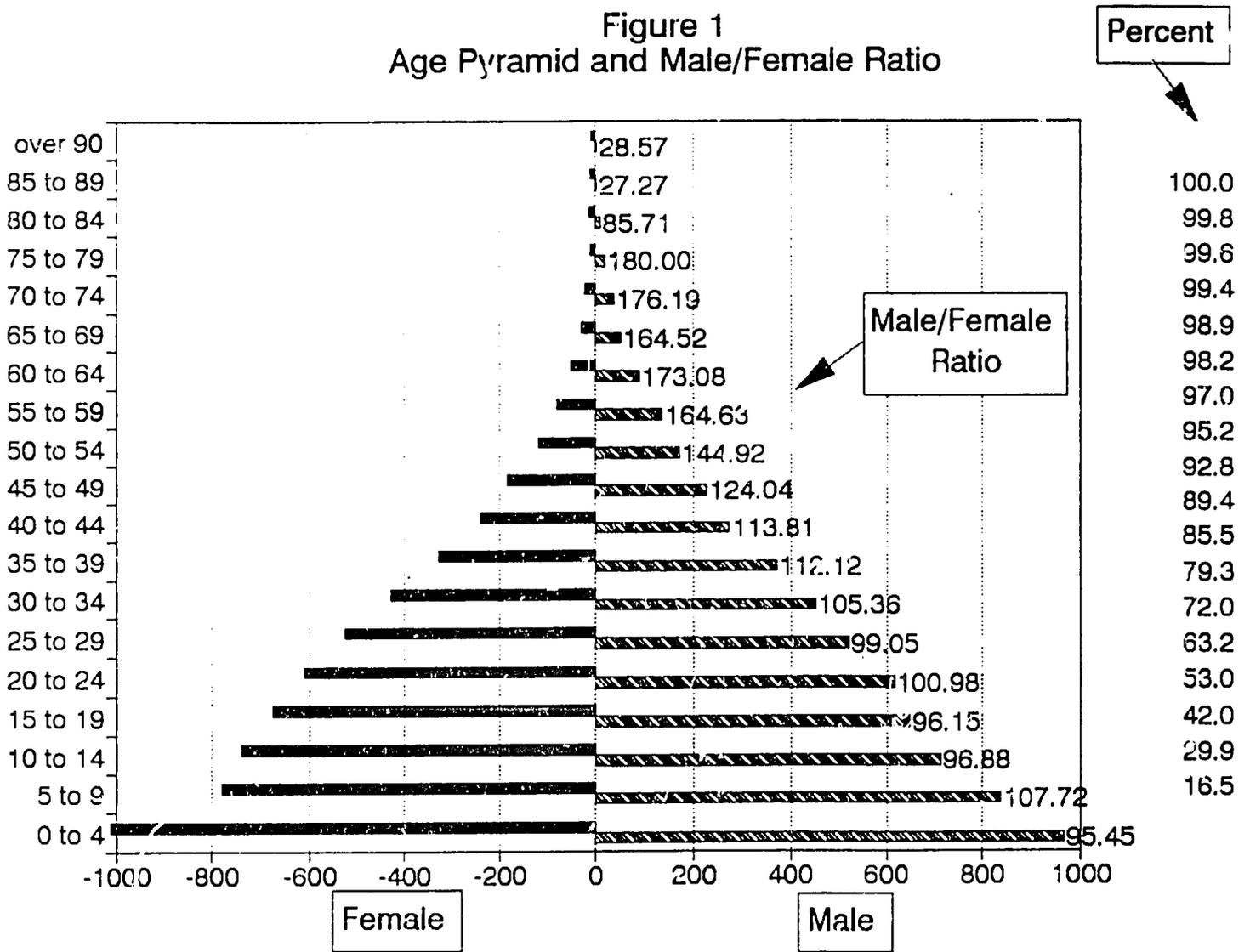
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Table 7 - School Achievement by Age and Gender

	Age Groups											
	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 25	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	44 to 49	50 to 59	60 and +	All
	Percentage											
Females												
No schooling	45.74	33.42	40.92	42.36	53.92	55.50	55.15	73.84	83.06	88.54	91.78	51.27
Some primary	53.77	55.62	20.68	11.63	6.31	5.62	9.09	3.80	5.46	3.13	4.11	22.81
Some secondary	0.49	10.96	36.90	35.55	23.52	19.67	20.30	16.46	9.29	6.77	2.74	19.17
Some university	0.00	0.00	1.49	10.30	13.00	13.58	9.70	3.80	1.09	1.04	1.37	5.27
University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	3.25	5.62	5.76	2.11	1.09	0.52	0.00	1.48
Still enrolled	52.67	58.55	34.08	14.90	3.80	0.70	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.68	23.62
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
No. of females	617	731	672	604	526	427	330	237	183	192	146	4652
Males												
No schooling	31.79	11.83	14.66	17.93	23.51	26.67	33.33	40.59	54.63	61.86	74.65	28.92
Some primary	68.06	71.83	23.92	12.34	9.63	9.56	6.23	7.01	7.05	8.93	7.51	27.91
Some secondary	0.15	16.34	59.26	49.01	33.14	22.89	22.22	25.83	23.35	20.27	13.62	27.47
Some university	0.00	0.00	2.16	20.56	25.63	22.22	16.26	16.61	7.49	5.15	2.35	10.33
University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	8.09	18.67	21.95	9.96	7.49	3.78	1.88	5.37
Still enrolled	67.76	82.68	62.50	38.32	19.46	3.78	0.81	0.37	0.00	0.69	0.47	36.25
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. of males	670	710	648	608	519	450	369	271	227	291	213	4976

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

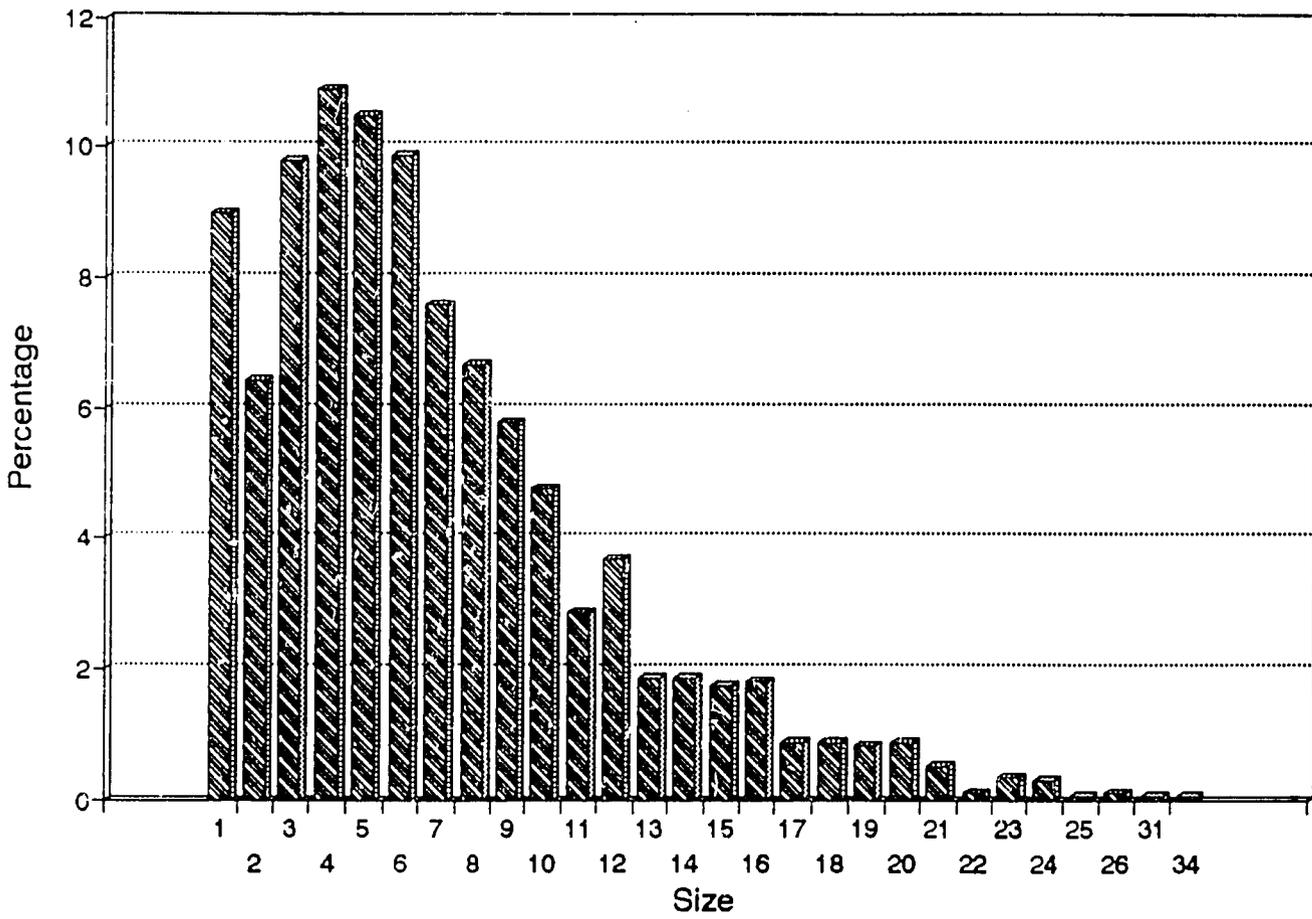
Figure 1
Age Pyramid and Male/Female Ratio



Source: CFNPP/ENCOME 1990 Survey data.

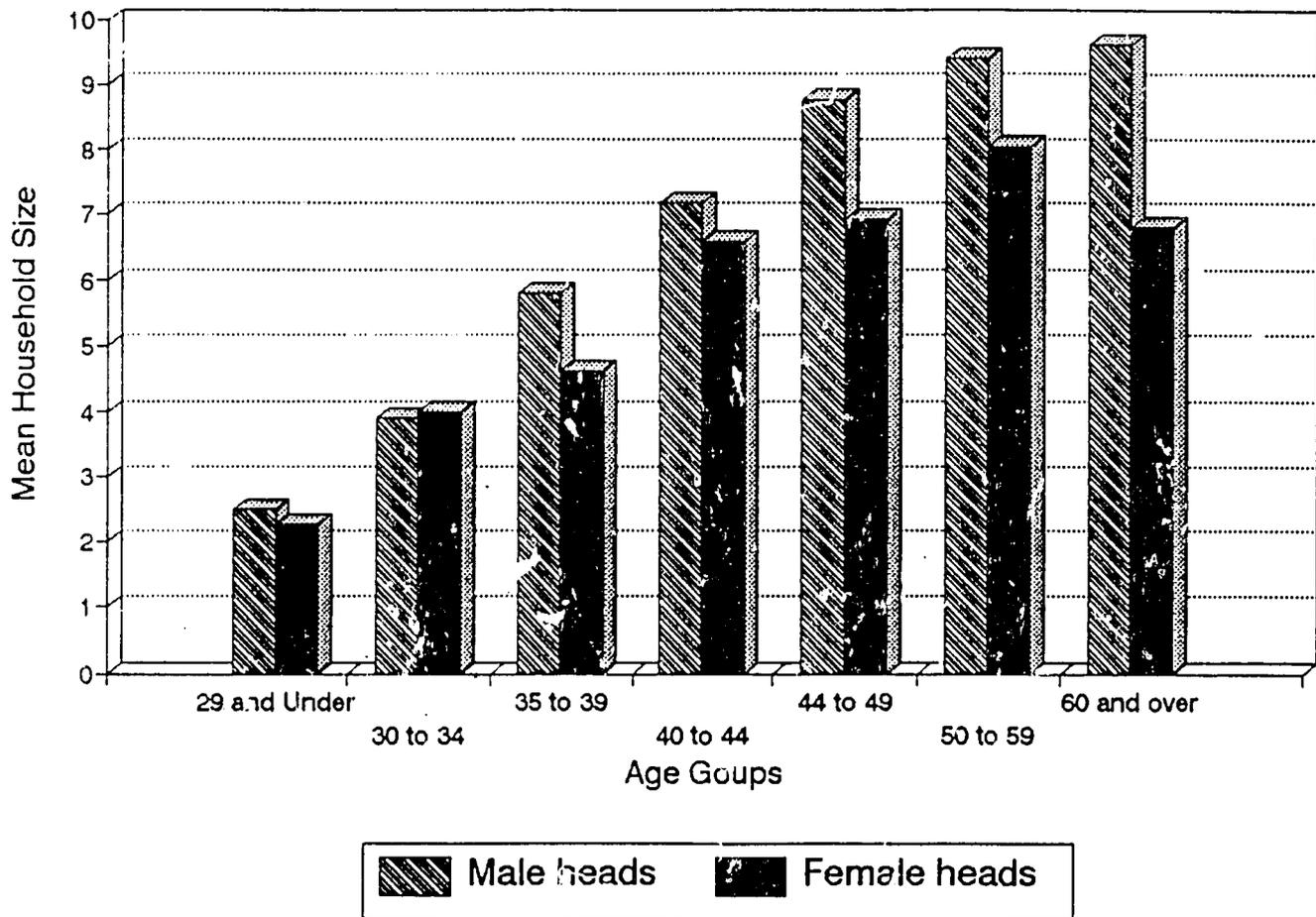
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Figure 2
Size Distribution of Households



Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

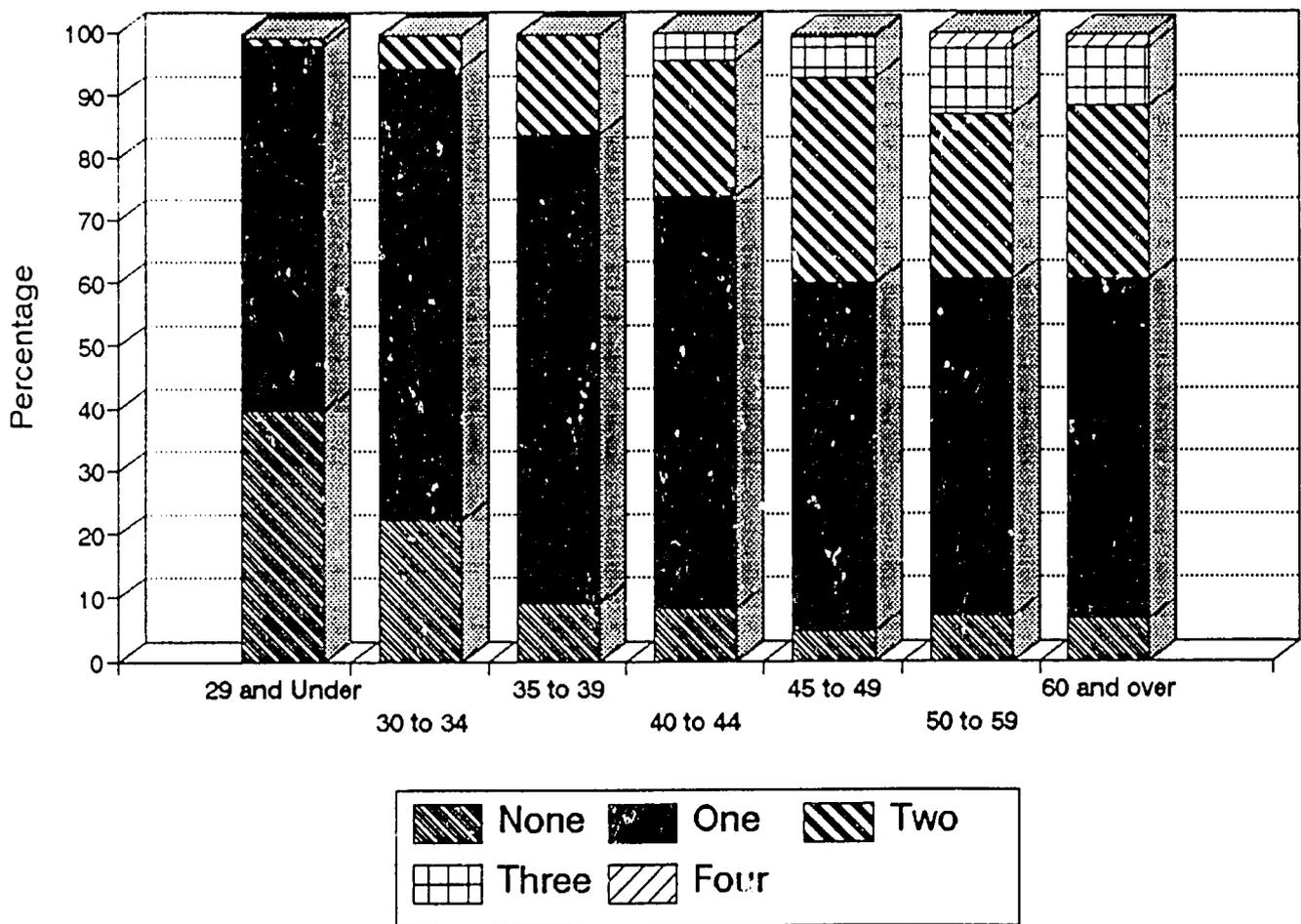
Figure 3: Mean Household Size
By Age and Gender of Household Head



Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

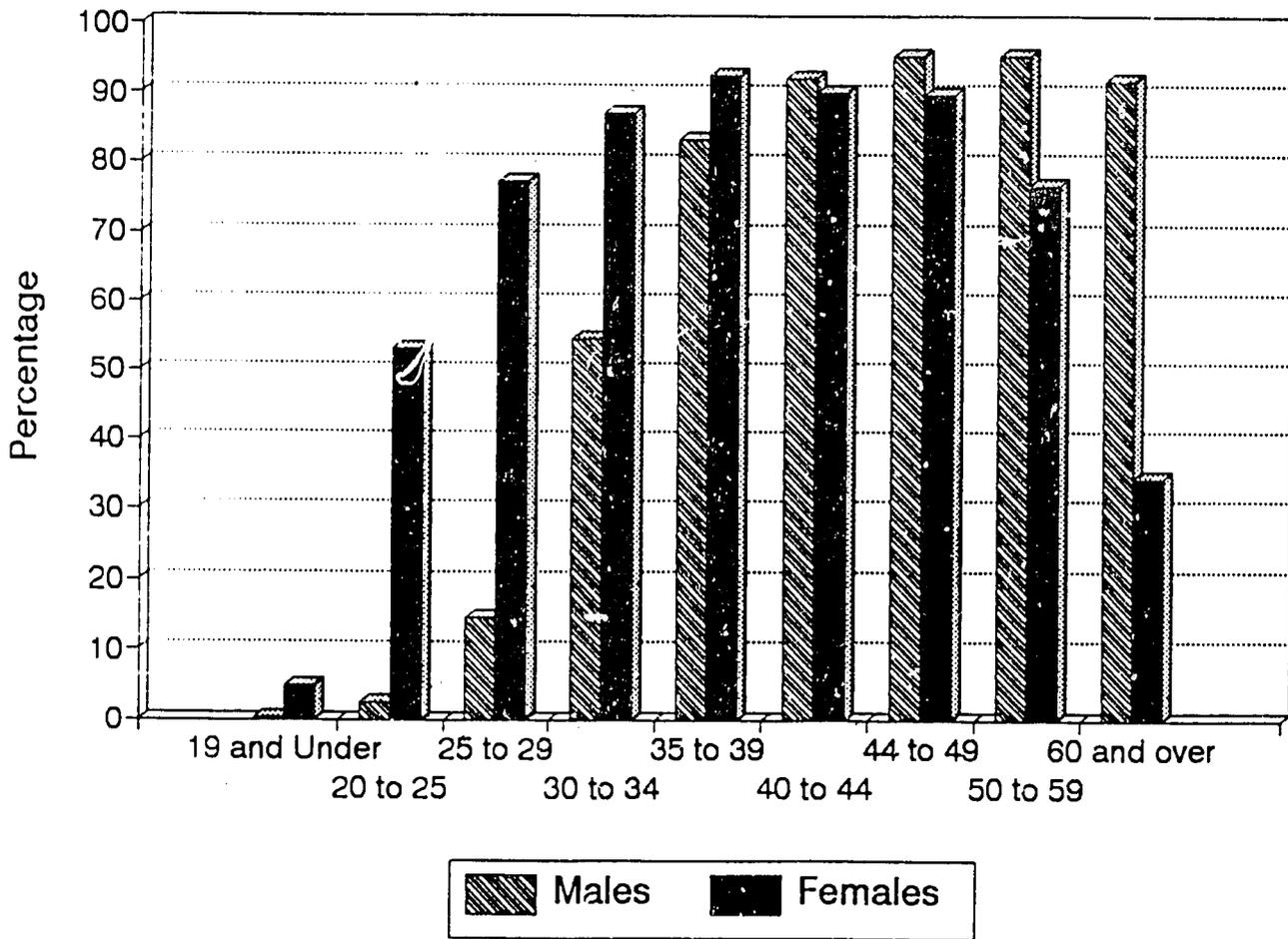
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Figure 4
Number of Wives by Age of Head



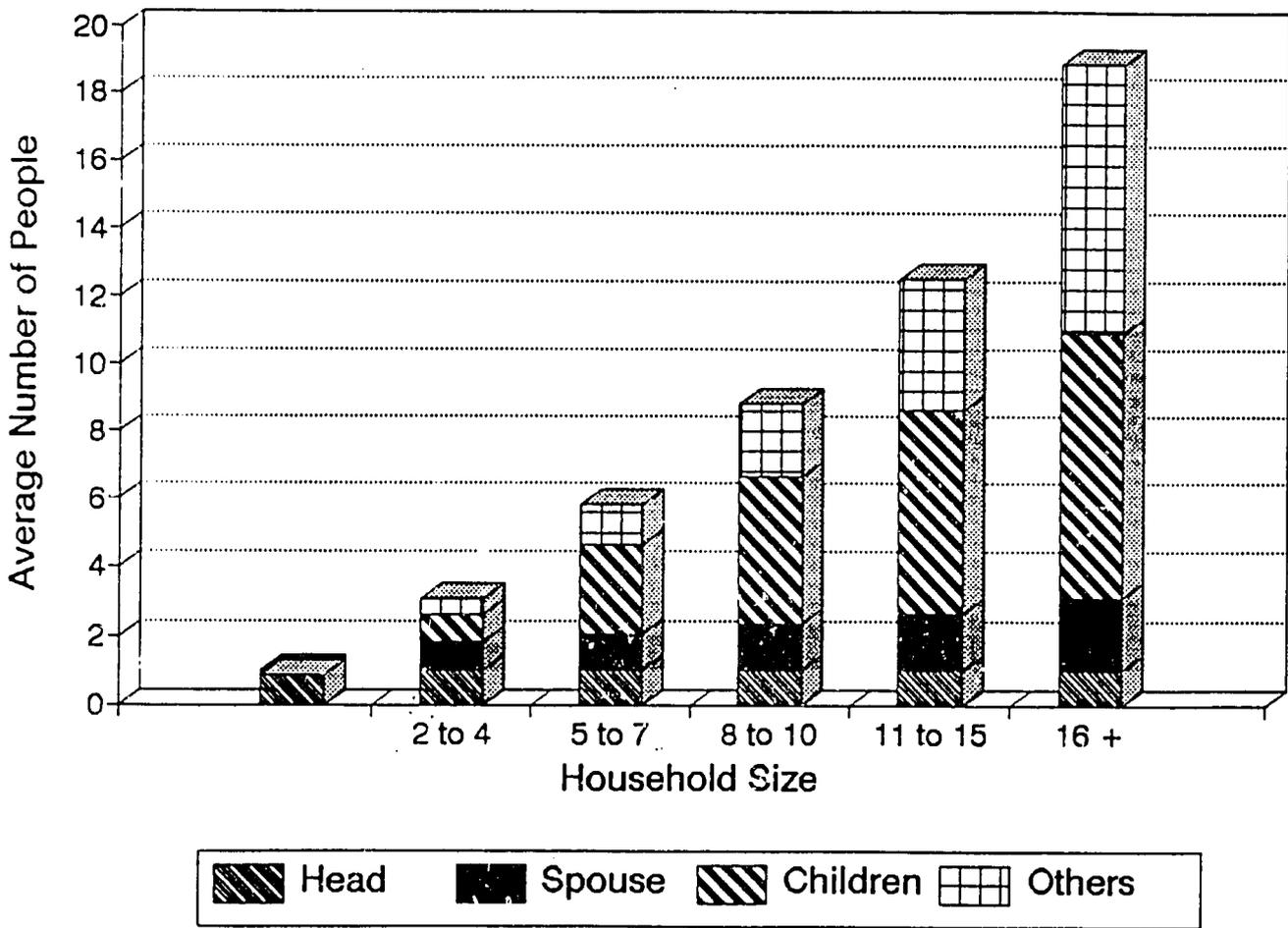
Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Figure 5: Percentage of People Married by Age Group and Gender



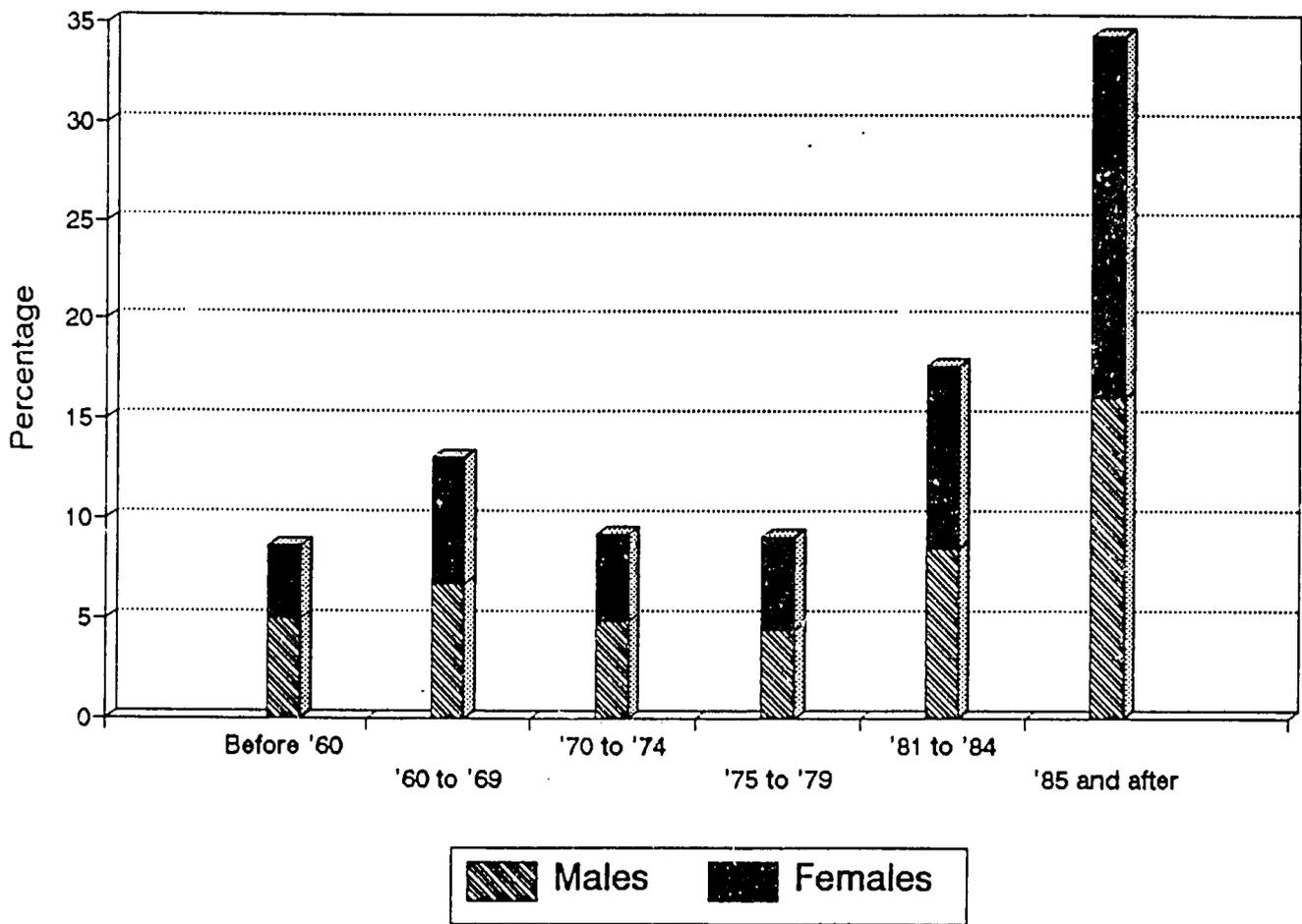
Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Figure 6: Average Household Structure by Size



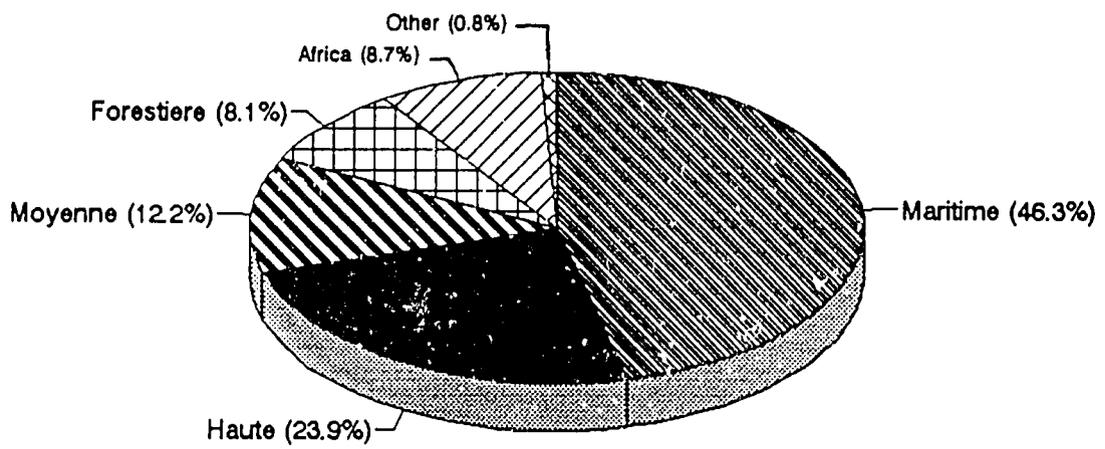
Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Figure 7
Migration by Year and Gender



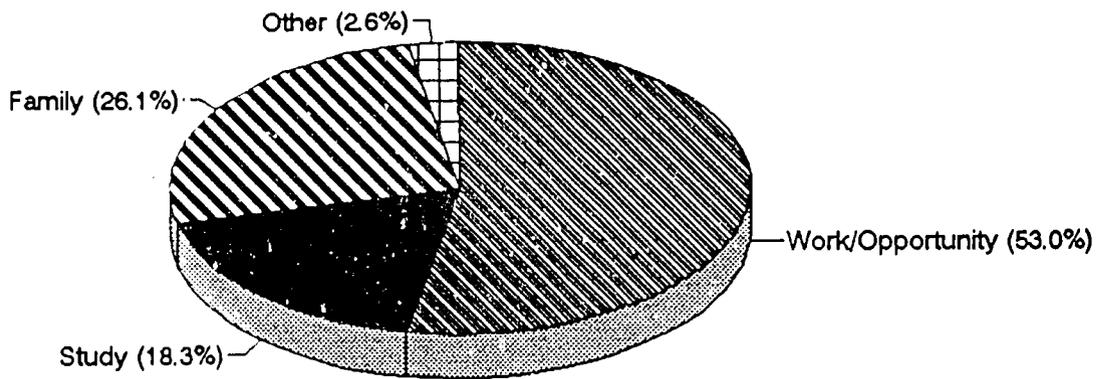
Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Figure 8: Region of Migration

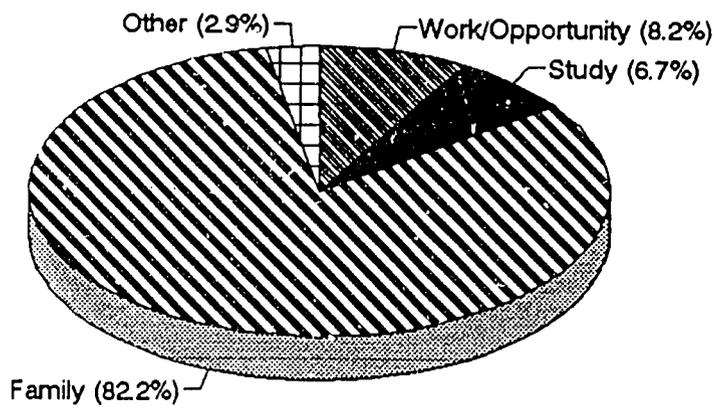


Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

Figure 9: Reasons for Migration



Males

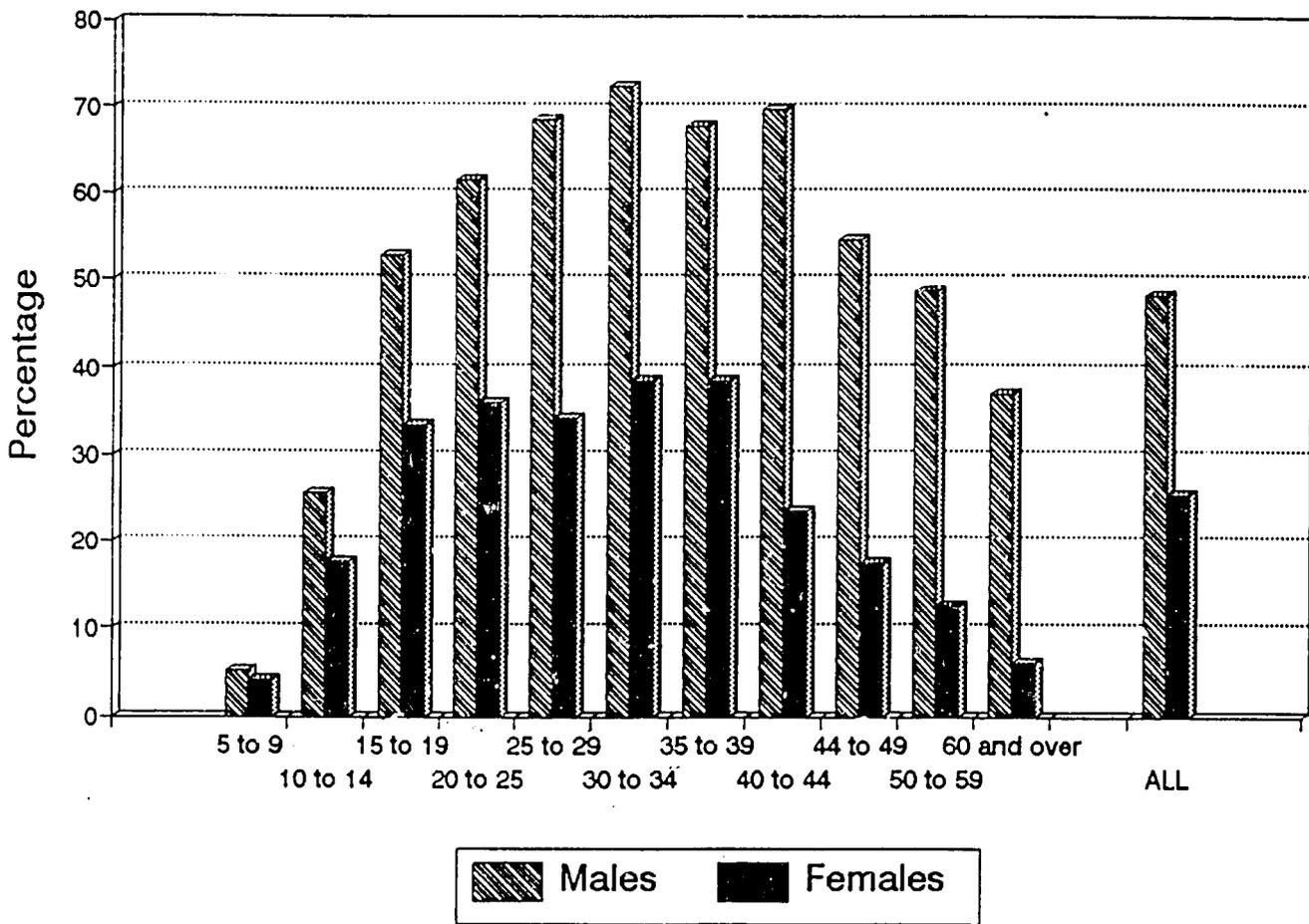


Females

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

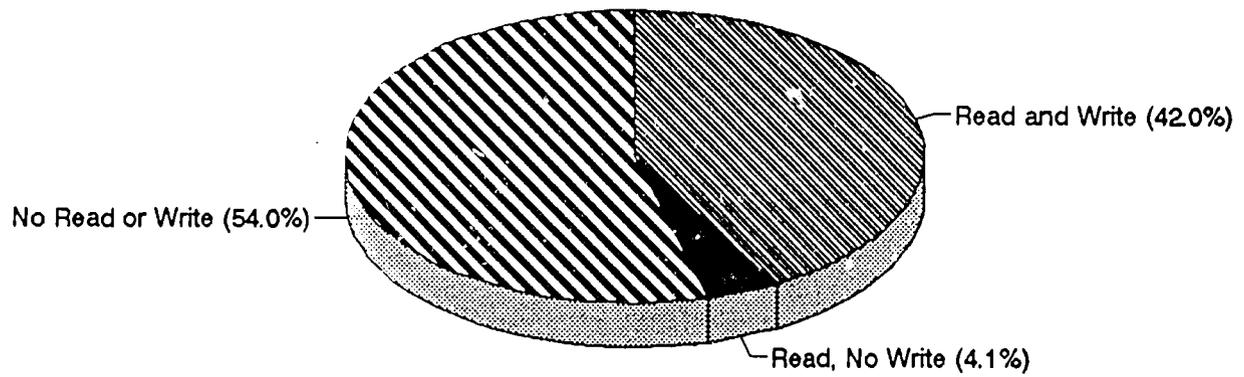
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Figure 10: French Speaking Capability by Gender and Age

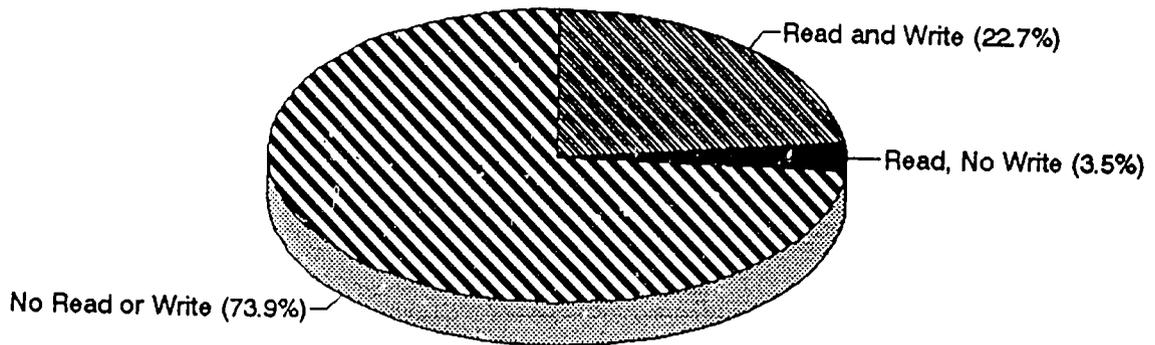


Source: CFNPP/ENCOMECE 1990 Survey data.

Figure 11: Reading and Writing by Gender



Males

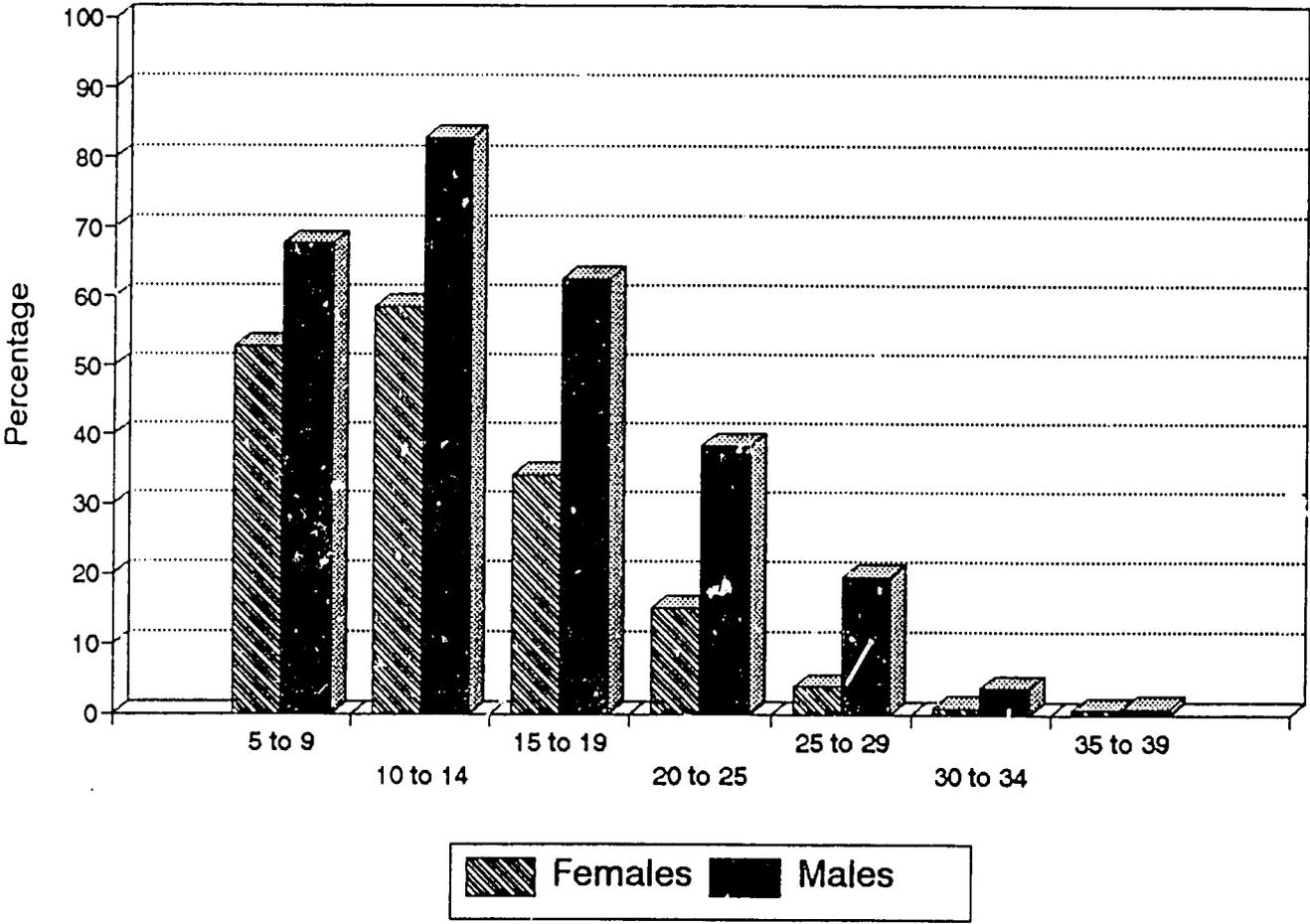


Females

Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

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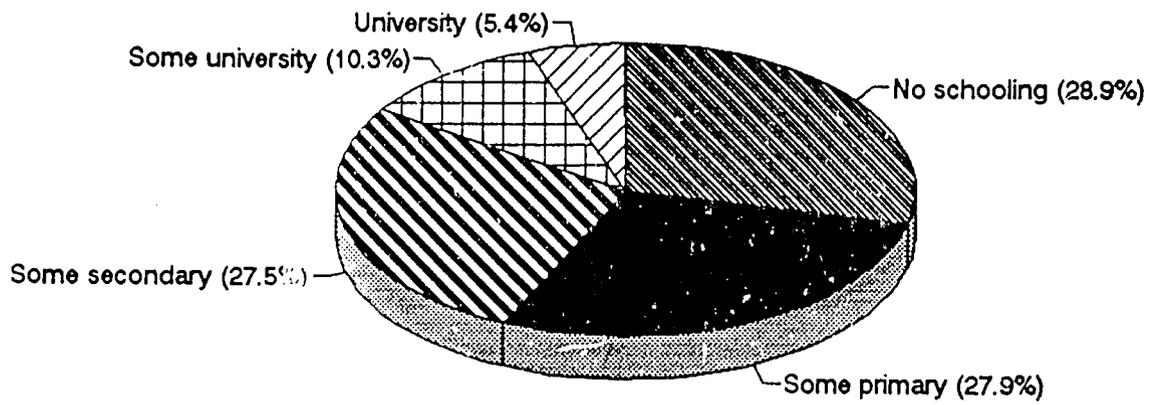
Figure 12
School Enrollment by Gender



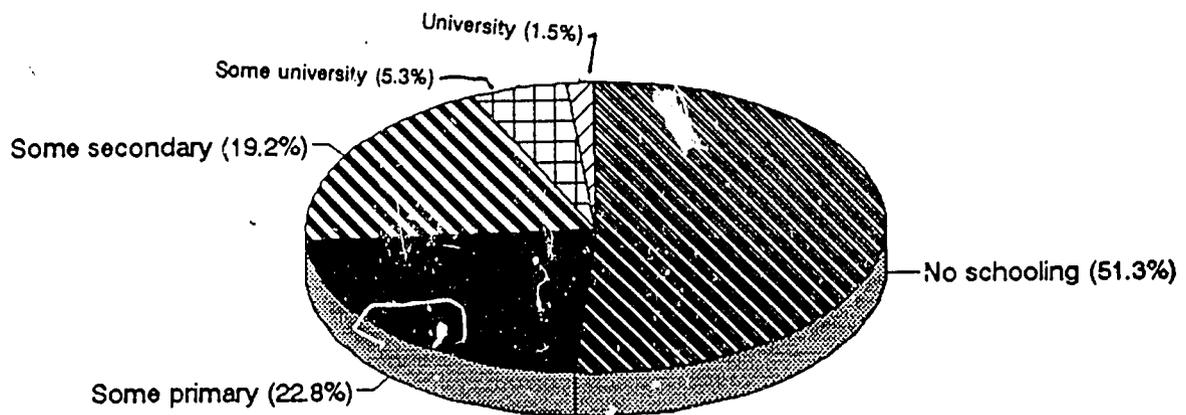
Source: CFNPP/ENCOMEC 1990 Survey data.

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Figure 13 : Schooling Achievement



Males



Females

Source: CFNPP/ENCOME 1990 Survey data.