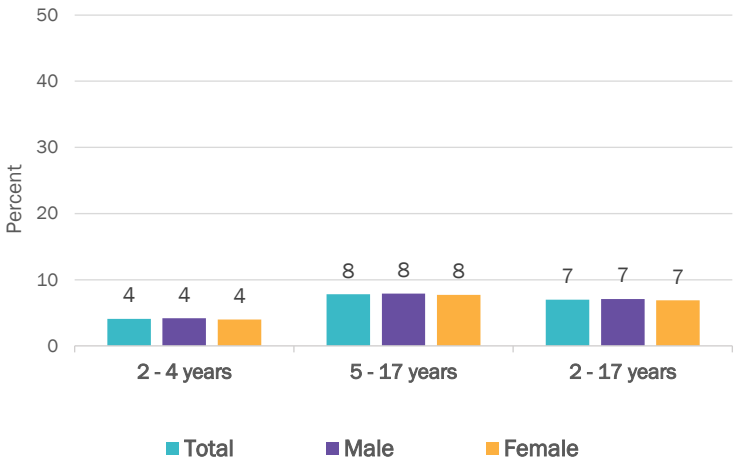
# Belize
# 2024

## Child Functioning

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

### Child Functioning: Levels & Domains

### Child Functioning Levels by Age-Group




Percentage of children age 2–17 years with functional difficulty, by age-group

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in society. Facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, and lack of adequate policies and legislation, they are often likely to be among the poorest members of the population and are less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard in society. Discrimination against and exclusion of children with disabilities also puts them at a higher risk of physical and emotional abuse or other forms of neglect, violence and exploitation.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 1989) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006) explicitly state the rights of children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children and call for improvements in their access to services, and in their participation in all aspects of life.

In order to achieve these goals, there is a need for cross-nationally comparable, reliable data. The Child Functioning module is designed In line with the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to collect information on functional difficulties that children experience in different domains including hearing, vision, communication/comprehension, learning, mobility and emotions. Children with functional difficulties may be at risk of experiencing limited participation in an unaccommodating environment and limit the fulfilment of their rights.

### Child Functioning Domains

| | Seeing | Hearing | Walking | Fine Motor | Communication | Learning | Playing | Controlling Behaviour | Self care | Remembering | Concentrating | Accepting Change | Making Friends | Anxiety | Depression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-4 years | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 2.6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 5-17 years | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.5 | N/A | 0.8 | 1.5 | N/A | 2.2 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 1.2 |

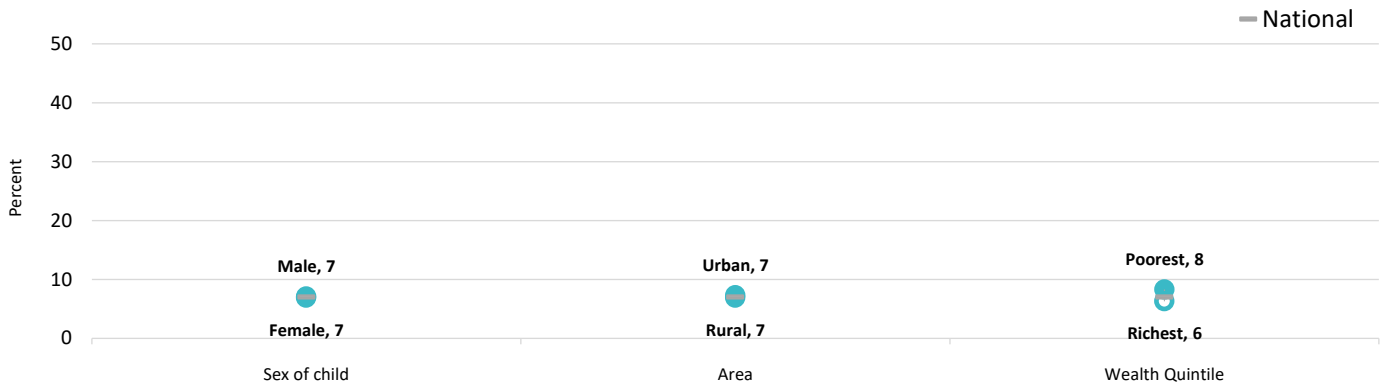
Percentage of children age 2–4 and 5-17 years with functional difficulty in at least one domain, by domain of difficulty

N/A- Not Applicable

## Key Messages

- Children 2 – 4 years have most difficulty in communication and in controlling their behavior.
- Children 5 – 17 years also have trouble controlling their behavior but also suffer from anxiety.
- There is very little difference between males and females with females being affected to a less extent than males
- Children have most difficulty in functioning in the age group of 5 – 17 years and this is especially pronounced in the Corozal, Cayo and Stann Creek Districts.

## Child Functioning: Inequalities



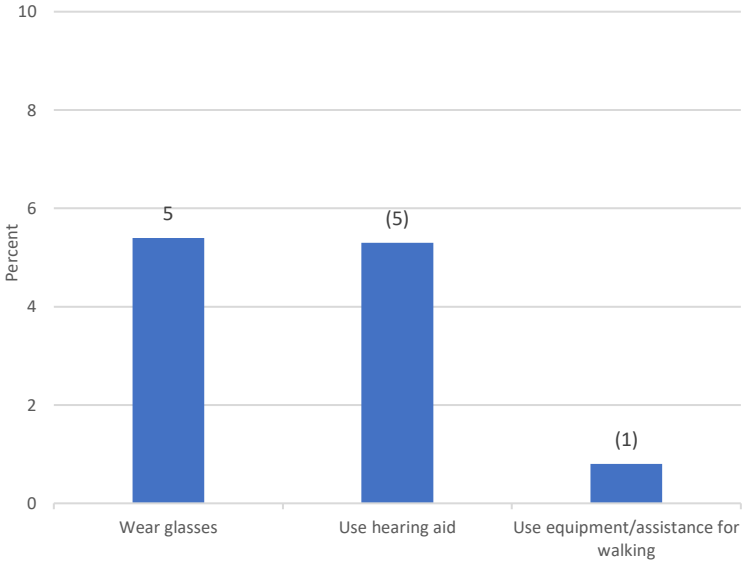

Percentage of children age 2–17 years with functional difficulty, by background characteristics

## Regional Data on Child Functioning

| Region | 2-4 years | 5-17 years | 2-17 years |
|---|---|---|---|
| **National** | **4** | **8** | **7** |
| Corozal | 4 | 13 | 11 |
| Orange Walk | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| Belize North | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| Belize South | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Cayo | 4 | 10 | 9 |
| Stann Creek | 4 | 11 | 9 |
| Toledo | 2 | 6 | 5 |

Percentage of children age 2–17 years with functional difficulty in at least one domain, by region

## Children who use Assistive Devices & have Functional Difficulties




Percentage of children age 2-17 years with difficulties seeing when wearing glasses among those who wear glasses, percentage of children age 2-17 years with difficulties hearing when using a hearing aid among those who use a hearing aid, and percentage of children age 2-17 years with difficulties walking when using equipment or receiving assistance among those who use equipment or receive assistance walking.

*() Values in parentheses indicate findings based on 25–49 unweighted cases*

The Belize Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2024 by the Statistical Institute of Belie (SIB) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF and Government of Belize provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Belize MICS7, 2024 related to Child Functioning. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables EQ.1.1, EQ.1.2, EQ.1.3, and EQ.1.4 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.