

Bridging the Gap: COSTA RICA COUNTRY PROFILE

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Latin America and the Caribbean

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Latin America and the Caribbean traces the availability and quality of data for 93 gender indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over half of the indicators in Costa Rica's national databases are sex-disaggregated. However, there is still room for improvement as there are indicators in all domains that do not conform to international standards.

High-level support for gender equality exists in Costa Rica, and most data are available for recent years. Achieving gender equality requires high-quality, sex-disaggregated data.

Costa Rica lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2019 in international and national databases maintained by the Costa Rica's National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.

- **AVAILABILITY**
Costa Rica's national databases include **73 out of the 93 gender indicators**.
- **DISAGGREGATION**
19 gender indicators in Costa Rica's national databases lack sex disaggregation.
- **ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS**
23 published gender indicators in Costa Rica's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.
- **TIMELINESS**
8 gender indicators in Costa Rica's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Costa Rica is among the five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean included in this study.

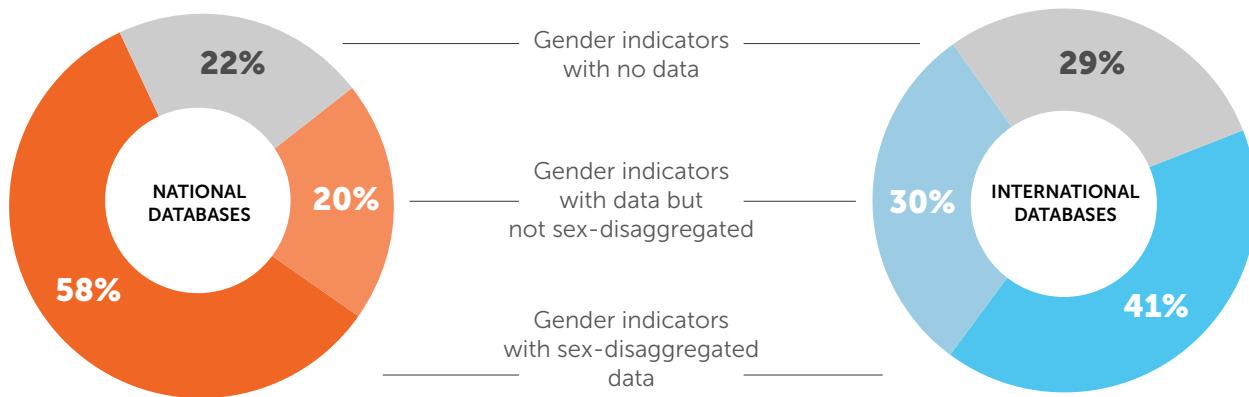
Opportunities to improve gender data in Costa Rica

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:

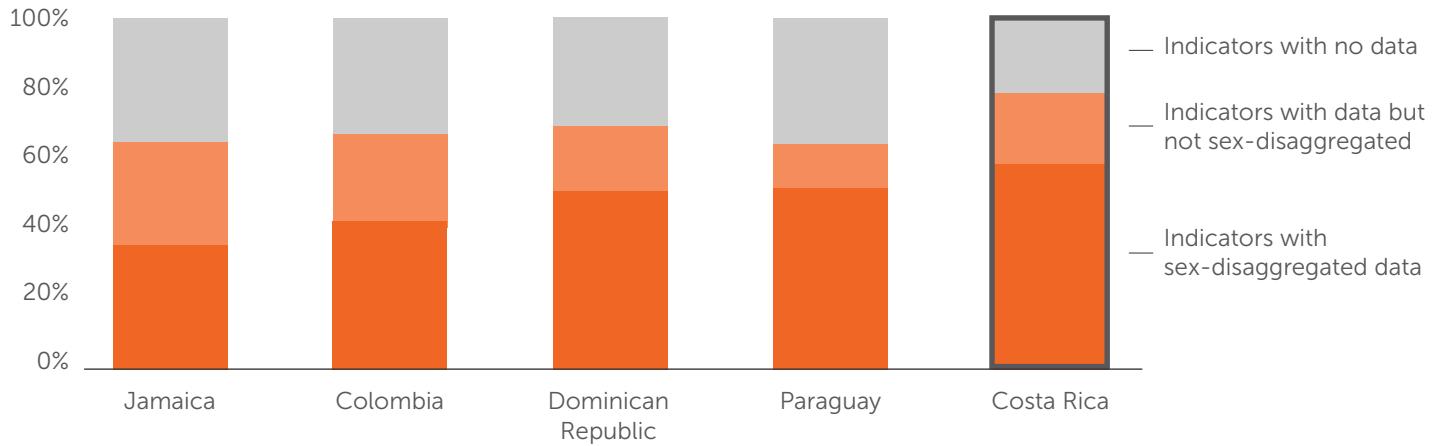
- ▶ INEC should collaborate with the appropriate ministries to produce a comprehensive set of economic and environment indicators with sex disaggregation.
- ▶ In collaboration with appropriate ministries, INEC should produce indicators on health and human security, particularly on nutrition, morbidity, and violence against women that conform to international standards with appropriate disaggregations.
- ▶ Update indicators on public participation, particularly data on birth registration, as this indicator is immediately relevant to improving the quality of gender statistics.

A closer look at gender data gaps

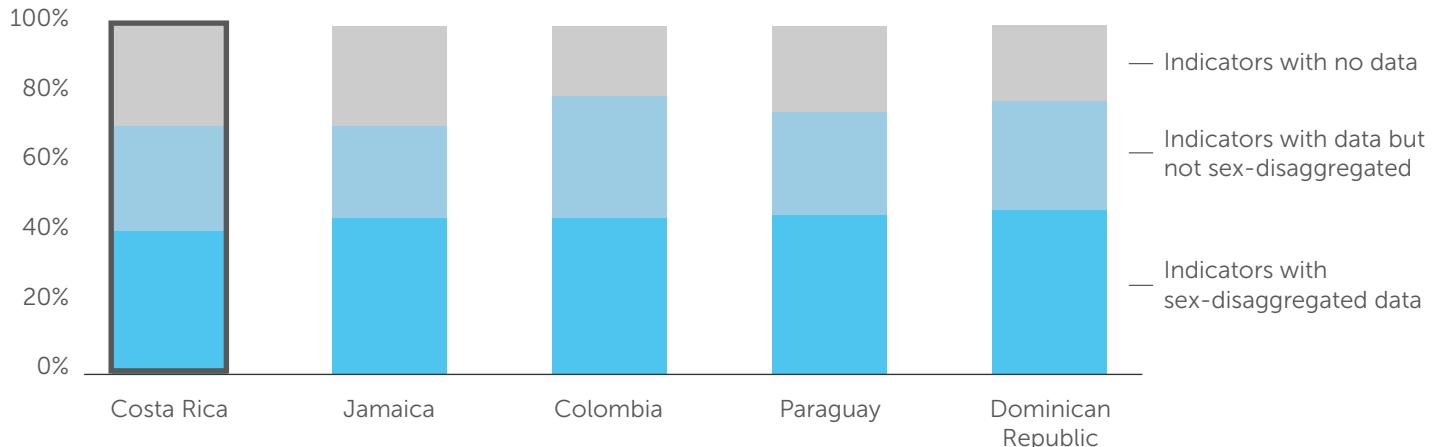
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Costa Rica's national databases lack data for 22 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have lower coverage of Costa Rica's gender indicators, lacking data for 29 percent of gender indicators reviewed.



Costa Rica publishes the highest number of sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **national databases** of any country included in the study.

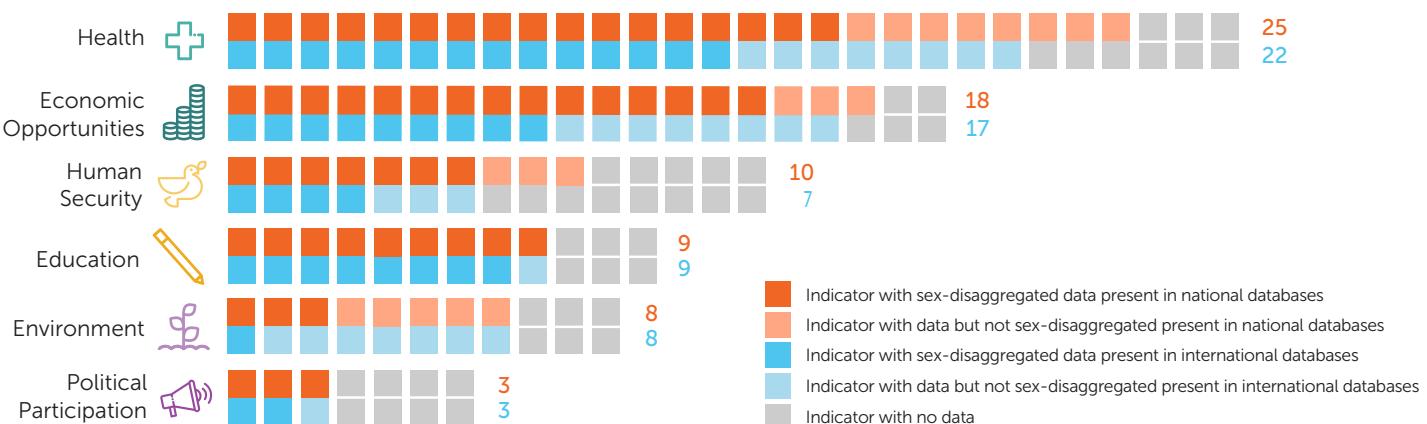


Costa Rica publishes the lowest number of sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **international databases** of any country included in the study.

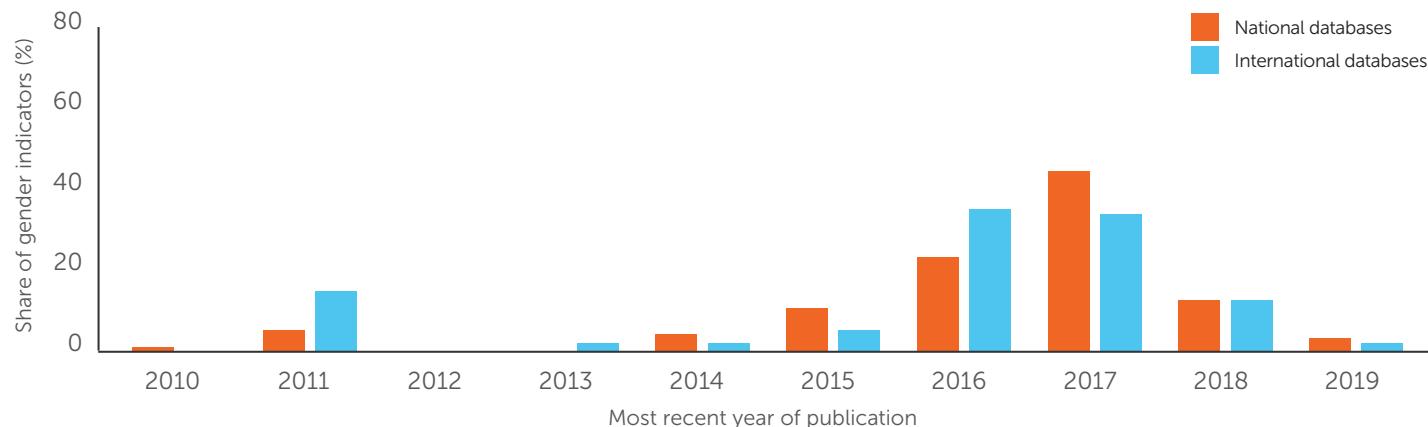


Data availability and timeliness

Economic opportunities data have the highest availability in Costa Rica, but gaps remain in the availability of sex-disaggregated data in all domains, particularly in political participation and human security. Unlike most countries, Costa Rica provides sex-disaggregated data for several environmental indicators.



Nine percent of available gender indicators in Costa Rica's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Costa Rica are produced through surveys. Costa Rica regularly conducts annual national household surveys and labor force surveys, which are shown below.



Civil registration and vital statistics provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data help to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. The SDG Global Database provides data on the rate of birth registration from INEC for 2013.

100% Birth registration rate in Costa Rica

Source: SDG Global Database <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

Assessments of Costa Rica's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Costa Rica's statistical and legislative environment.



* Score converted to percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Highest score for a LAC country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Costa Rica is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- The **National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018-2030** (PIEG) calls for an improvement in gender data. The policy commits to the creation of an online information system for monitoring management and substantive compliance with policy performance indicators.
- To strengthen gender data, the Government of Costa Rica implemented **Law No. 9325** in 2015 to start a national measurement of non-remunerated household care work under the provisions of the National Statistics and Census System to provide a comprehensive measurement of all economic activities.
- In 2014, the government of Costa Rica introduced **Law No. 9220** to create a National Child Care and Development Network. This program uses time-use data to inform gender-responsive government policies and programs.

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To access the full report, please visit bit.ly/BridgingtheGapLAC

