

Bridging the Gap:

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Asia and the Pacific

SAMOA COUNTRY PROFILE

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Asia and the Pacific traces the availability and quality of data for 98 gender indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic opportunity, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers five countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Samoa lacks comprehensive gender data. Many human security, health, and environmental indicators either lack data or lack sex-disaggregated data in both national and international databases.

Samoa acknowledges the importance of gender data for monitoring progress towards policies, plans, and programs, as emphasized in the national review of their implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Samoa lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2020 in international and national databases maintained by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Samoa's national databases include **68 out of the 98 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

21 gender indicators in Samoa's national databases lack sex disaggregation.



ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

28 published gender indicators in Samoa's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

35 gender indicators in Samoa's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Samoa is among the five countries in Asia and the Pacific that are included in this study.

Opportunities to improve gender data in Samoa

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



Develop a national SDG reporting platform as a central repository to provide sex-disaggregated SDG data.



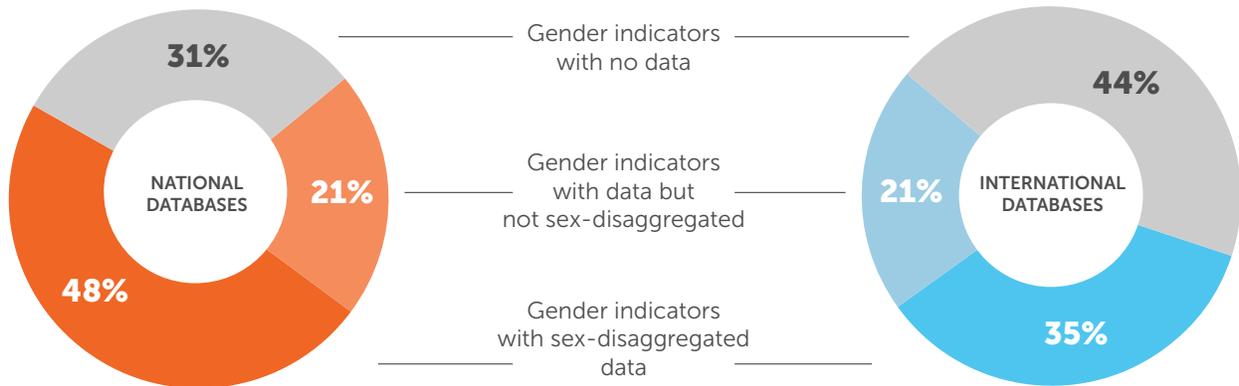
Develop a comprehensive and more detailed gender-based violence survey, as the existing **National Public Inquiry on Family Violence in Samoa Survey** lacks conforming data to monitor several human security indicators.



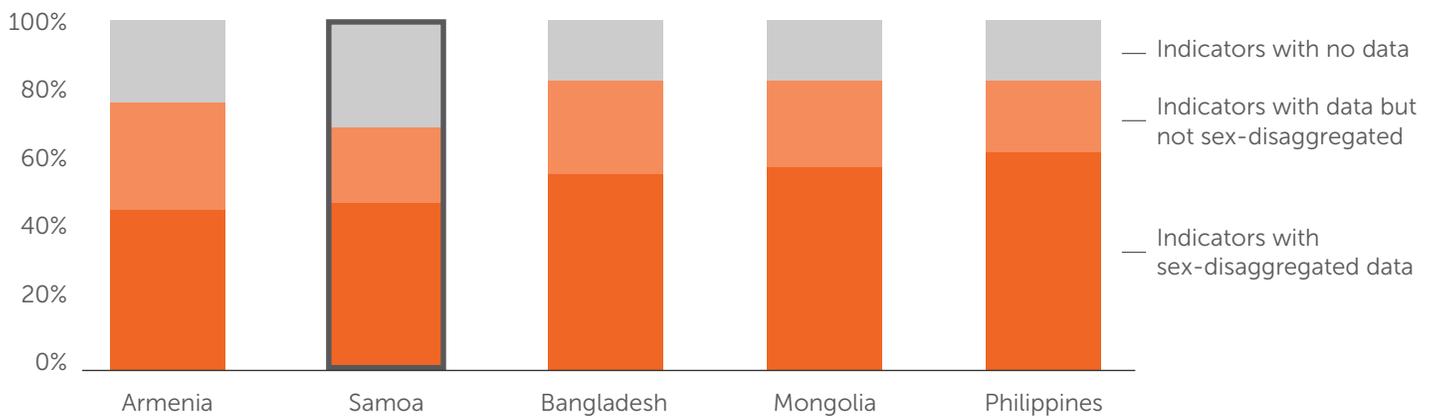
Provide more sex-disaggregated data from the environment domain or conduct further analysis of household data to show how women and girls are affected by environmental conditions

A closer look at gender data gaps

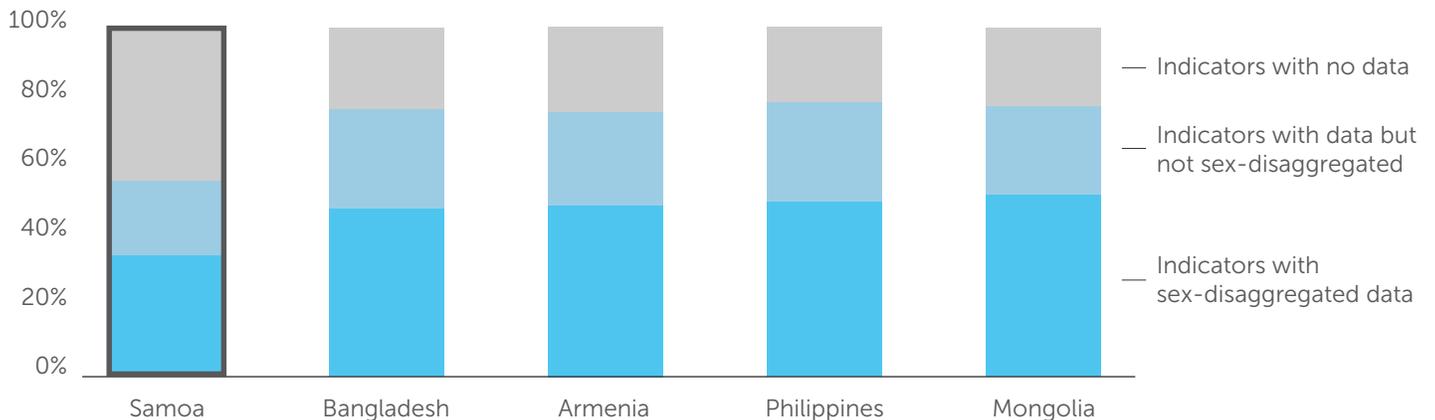
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Samoa's national databases lack data for 31 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations are slightly worse, lacking 44 percent of the gender indicators reviewed.



Samoa publishes fewer sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **national databases** than other countries included in the study.

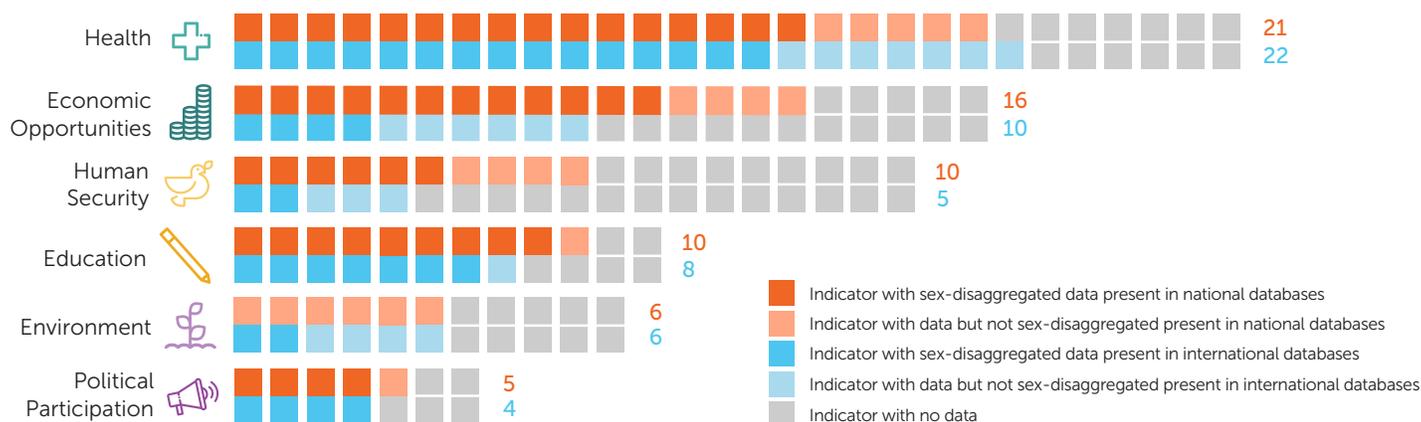


Samoa publishes the fewest number of sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

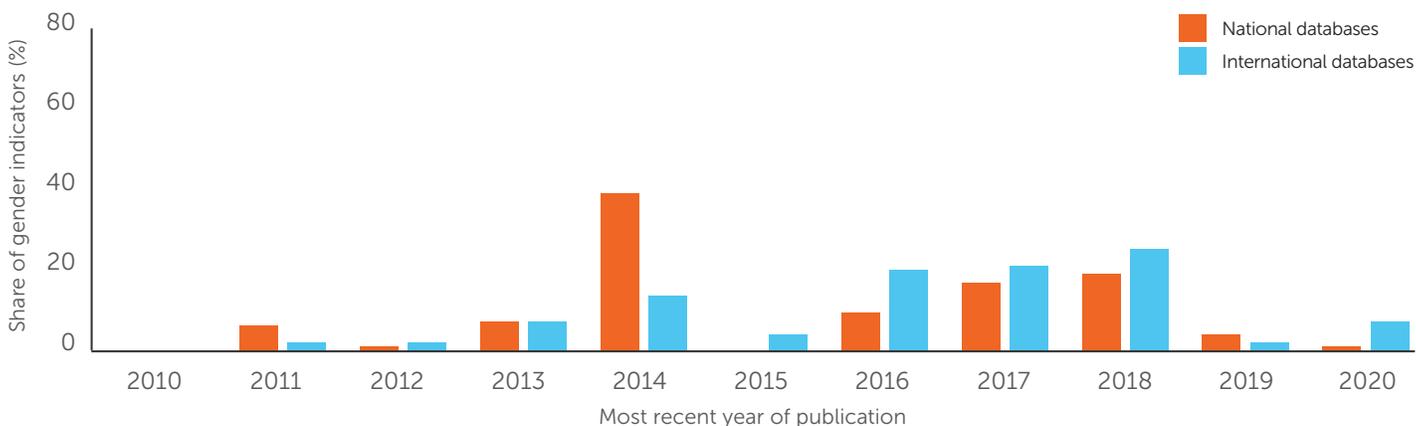


Data availability and timeliness

In national databases, health has the highest availability of data in Samoa, but gaps remain in the availability of sex-disaggregated data in all domains, particularly in the environmental domain.

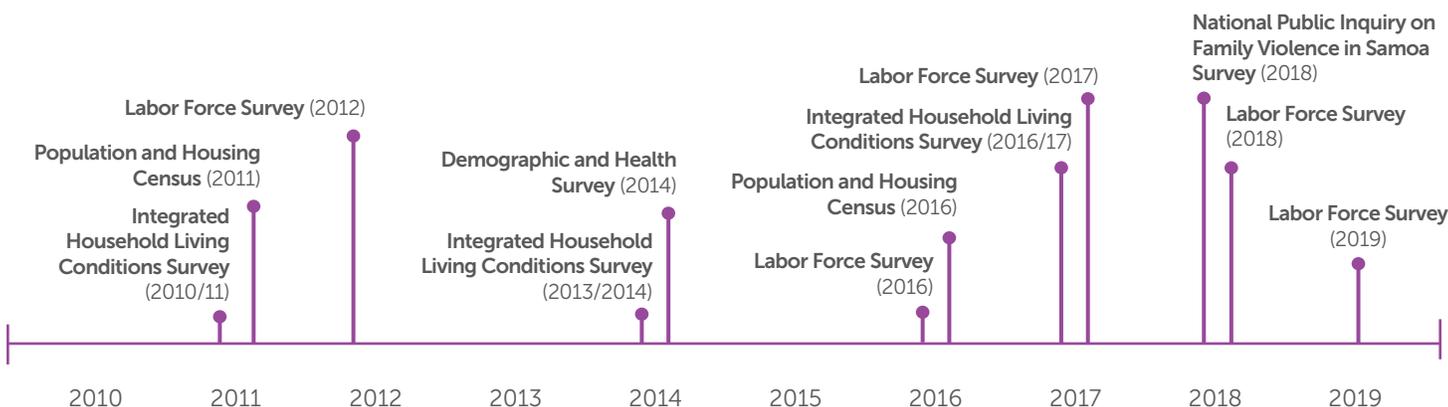


Fifty-one percent of available gender indicators in Samoa's national databases have had no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Samoa are produced through surveys. Since 2010, Samoa has produced five labor force surveys, three Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey, and one Demographic and Health Survey.



Civil registration and vital statistics systems provide basic demographic and health information and confer legal rights of great importance for women and children. Complete registration of vital events opens opportunities for women and combats discrimination and exclusion. The SDG Global Database provides birth registration rate data based on Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data for 2014.

59% Birth registration rate in Samoa

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

Assessments of Samoa's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a clearer picture of Samoa's statistical and legislative environment.



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

Highest score for an Asia and Pacific country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

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

- Samoa's Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development has recently implemented its **National Policy for Gender Equality 2016–2020** with the goal of "All women and girls [having] equal access to opportunities that guarantee their full participation in, and [benefiting] from, the sustainable development of Samoa."
- In 2019, Samoa conducted a **national review** of their implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to the review, the key challenges include insufficient collection and availability of sex-disaggregated data to monitor progress towards policies, plans, and programs.
- In March 2020, the **Spotlight Initiative**—a United Nations-European Union partnership focused on ending all violence against women and girls—was launched in Samoa. In Samoa, part of the initiative is directed towards forming evidence-based programs.

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