

## Women's Decision-making Power in Ghana

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In light of the difficulties identified in the previous paper in the construction of indices, as well as difficulty producing a coherent index of decision-making power using the information in the DHS, we apply a more disaggregated approach to our analysis. We separately examine the patterns in responses to seven different questions regarding women's decision-making power in Ghana by region, educational attainment, and ethnicity. Rankings of women's decision-making power vary markedly by region and ethnicity across the different questions. Rankings by educational attainment, however, are more uniform.

The share of respondents in the Eastern region reporting that they themselves alone or with others make decisions was most often in the upper half of the rankings, while the Upper West was only in the top half for three questions for those reporting making decision by themselves. However, the Eastern region had the second-lowest share of respondents reporting that they made decisions about large purchases by themselves, and the Upper West had the largest share of respondents reporting that they alone decided the number of children to have. The share of respondents reporting Ewe ethnicity was in the top half of the rankings most often but there's was the lowest share for making decisions about their own healthcare by themselves. The shares of Gruma and Mande respondents were least often in the top half of the rankings by ethnicity, yet Mande respondents were most likely to report making decisions about large purchases with others and Gruma respondents were the second likeliest ethnic group to report making decisions about family visits by themselves. In most cases, the share of women with decision-making power rises with the educational attainment of the women respondents. However, the opposite is true for the share of women deciding by themselves how many children to have, making family visits, and deciding how to spend the money they earn. Overall, the lack of consistency in the patterns of answers across questions by region, education, and ethnicity make it clear that the spheres of decision-making power represented by these questions cannot be superimposed on one another and that the analysis of decision-making power should investigate the various aspects separately.