

Women's Decision-making power in Ghana

Preliminary evidence

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Prepared for Online Event "Women's economic empowerment and control over time in sub-Saharan Africa", November 1 & 2, 2021.

Outline

- 1 Data
- 2 Decision-making by Region
- 3 Decision-making by Ethnicity
- 4 Decision-making by Educational Achievement
- 5 Conclusions and Next Steps

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Decision-making

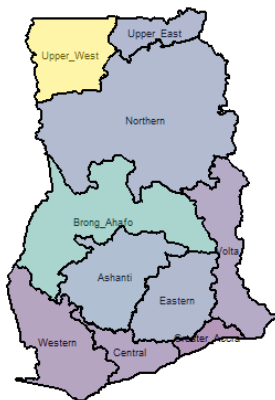
- Demographic and Health Survey 2008 (DHS) asks women seven questions related to decision-making
 - ① Who has final say on how many children to have?
 - ② Who usually makes decisions about healthcare for yourself?
 - ③ Who usually decides about making large household purchases?
 - ④ Who usually decides about making purchases for daily needs?
 - ⑤ Who usually decides about making visits to family or relatives?
 - ⑥ Who usually decides how to spend money your husband earns?
 - ⑦ Who usually decides how to spend money you earn?
- Varying subsets of adult women are asked each question

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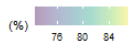
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Decisions over number of children

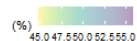
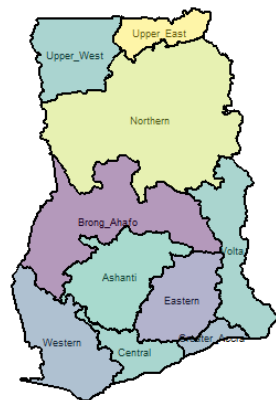
Number of Children, Self



Number of Children, Self and Others



Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



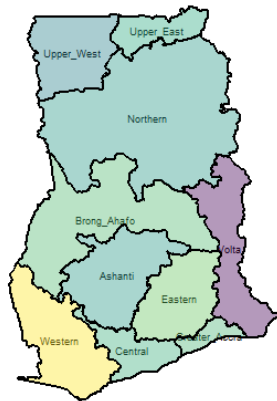
Decisions over number of children

Table: Number of Children

Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	16.11	87.22
Brong Ahafo	55.8	20.13	72.61
Central	49.9	11.82	82.65
Eastern	53.8	15.09	85.81
Greater Accra	52.1	10.29	77.65
Northern	45.8	15.28	83.94
Upper East	44.8	14.93	84.85
Upper West	50.1	29.22	78.95
Volta	50.0	12.48	86.86
Western	52.2	11.56	79.03

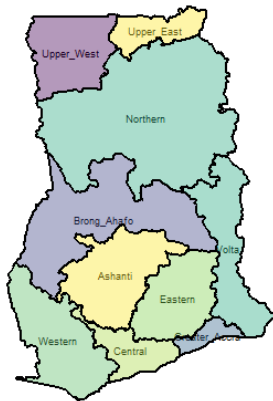
Decisions over own healthcare

Own Healthcare, Self



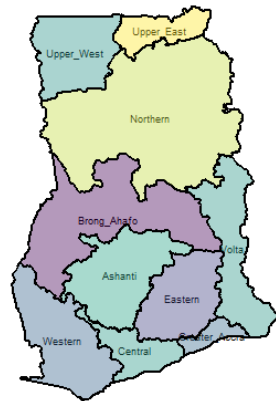
(%) 10 15 20 25 30 35

Own Healthcare, Self and Others



(%) 60 70

Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



(%) 45.0 47.5 50.0 52.5 55.0

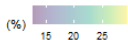
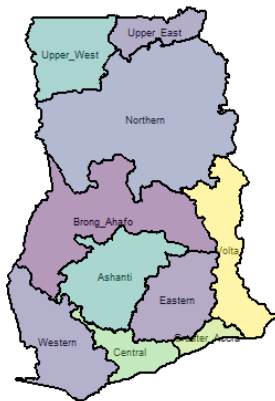
Decisions over own healthcare

Table: Own Healthcare

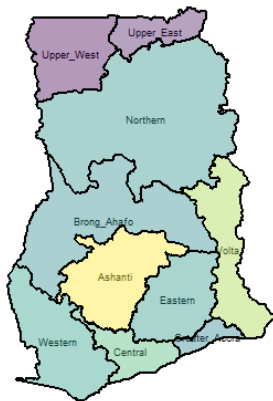
Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	23.91	78.63
Brong Ahafo	55.8	27.81	56.86
Central	49.9	26.51	75.12
Eastern	53.8	29.45	73.53
Greater Accra	52.1	27.28	60.41
Northern	45.8	23.85	68.14
Upper East	44.8	25.96	78.82
Upper West	50.1	21.4	51.19
Volta	50.0	9.67	67.98
Western	52.2	36.21	70.91

Decisions about large purchases

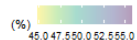
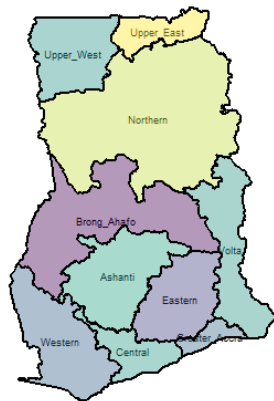
Large Purchases, Self



Large Purchases, Self and Others



Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



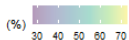
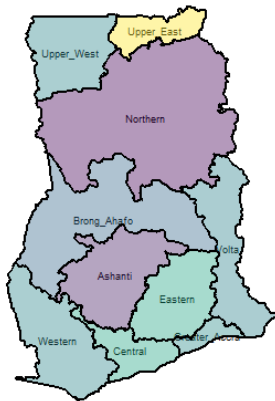
Decisions about large purchases

Table: Large Purchases

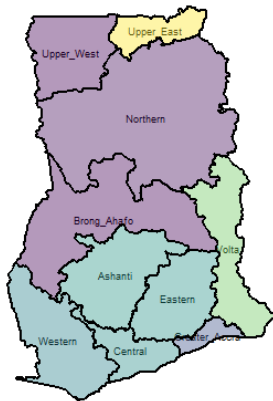
Region	Tpov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	21.86	75.76
Brong Ahafo	55.8	12.6	59
Central	49.9	25.44	65.15
Eastern	53.8	14.52	60.79
Greater Accra	52.1	27.07	57.92
Northern	45.8	16.67	60.05
Upper East	44.8	14.97	45.63
Upper West	50.1	21.33	43.96
Volta	50.0	29.45	71.32
Western	52.2	15.54	61.7

Decisions about daily purchases

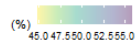
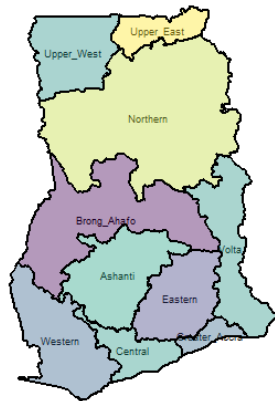
Daily Purchases, Self



Daily Purchases, Self and Others



Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



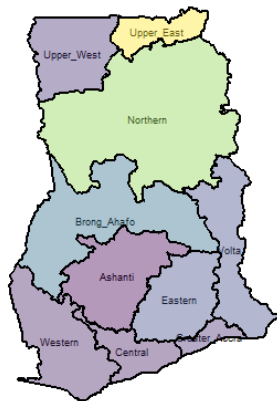
Decisions about daily purchases

Table: Daily Purchases

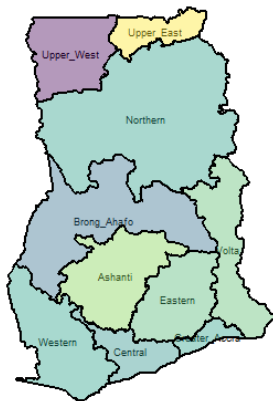
Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	30.88	83.29
Brong Ahafo	55.8	43.22	71.48
Central	49.9	54.47	82.67
Eastern	53.8	54.36	83
Greater Accra	52.1	49.81	77.2
Northern	45.8	27.71	72.17
Upper East	44.8	73.19	94
Upper West	50.1	48.72	71.47
Volta	50.0	47.95	88.56
Western	52.2	48.89	81.41

Decisions about family visits

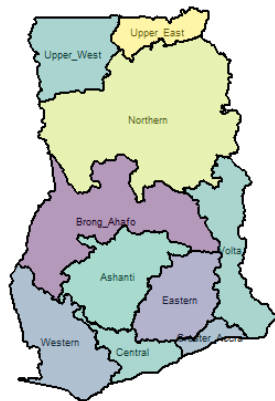
Family Visits, Self



Family Visits, Self and Others



Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



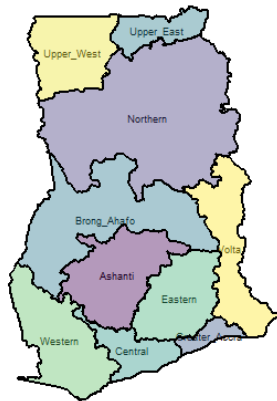
Decisions about family visits

Table: Family Visits

Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	16.15	89.29
Brong Ahafo	55.8	25.67	77.17
Central	49.9	17.89	81.05
Eastern	53.8	22.03	85.62
Greater Accra	52.1	19.28	82.71
Northern	45.8	37.86	82.48
Upper East	44.8	42.44	94.53
Upper West	50.1	19.44	67.33
Volta	50.0	22.06	86.37
Western	52.2	18.08	82.83

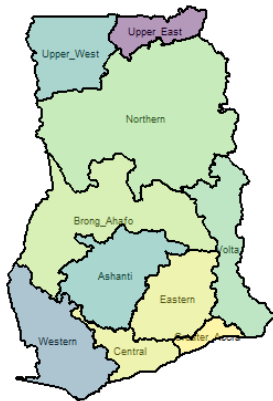
Decisions about own earnings

Own Earnings, Self



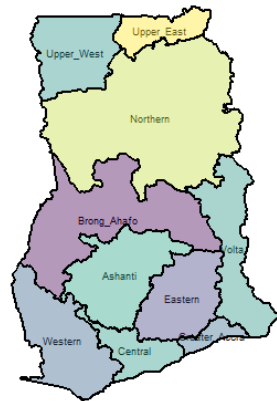
(%)
45 50 55 60 65 70 75

Own Earnings, Self and Others



(%)
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Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



(%)
45.0 47.550.0 52.555.0

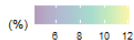
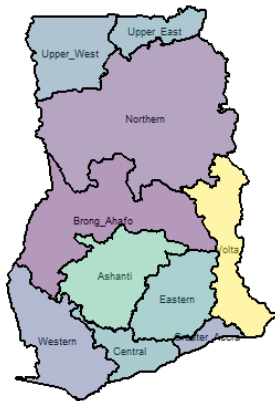
Decisions about own earnings

Table: Own Earnings

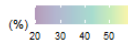
Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	44.8	91.42
Brong Ahafo	55.8	57.07	95.22
Central	49.9	60.91	96.26
Eastern	53.8	64.6	96.26
Greater Accra	52.1	53.52	97.12
Northern	45.8	49.74	94.4
Upper East	44.8	57.83	84.54
Upper West	50.1	74.36	91.14
Volta	50.0	75.31	93.41
Western	52.2	66.85	89.12

Decisions about husband's earnings

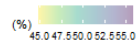
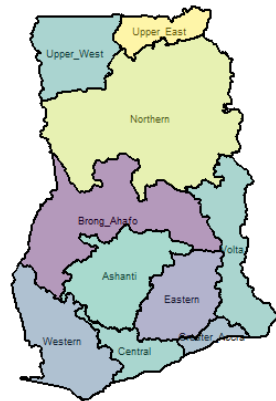
Husband's Earnings, Self



Husband's Earnings, Self and Others



Time Poverty Rate, Married Women



Decisions about husband's earnings

Table: Husband's Earnings

Region	TPov	Self	Self plus Others
Ashanti	49.5	9.25	57.94
Brong Ahafo	55.8	4.2	37.26
Central	49.9	7.6	47.43
Eastern	53.8	8.04	51.51
Greater Accra	52.1	6.22	44.61
Northern	45.8	4.73	23.45
Upper East	44.8	7.22	19.66
Upper West	50.1	6.87	29.76
Volta	50.0	12.12	50.46
Western	52.2	6.13	58.37

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Health decisions

Ethnicity	Number of Children		Own Healthcare	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
Akan	14.31	84.05	28.27	74.14
Ga/Dangme	12.57	77.61	29.79	58.85
Ewe	12.77	83.36	14.94	66.19
Guan	20.1	78.98	31.78	67.69
Mole-Dagbani	17.39	79.92	23.22	64.6
Grussi	22.19	85.23	31.05	66.48
Gruma	11.44	82.97	22.86	68.79
Mande	14.53	80.28	21.45	72.73
Other	8.14	74.09	21.11	63.79

Decisions about Purchases and Visits

Ethnicity	Large Purchases		Daily Purchases		Family Visits	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
Akan	20.22	67.98	44.19	82.21	19.63	86.05
Ga/Dangme	26.61	57.01	55.09	79.2	26.07	82.96
Ewe	26.74	67.24	48.91	83.78	21.9	84.35
Guan	21.59	63.67	36.08	77.68	16.01	73.55
Mole-Dagbani	17.7	53.68	47.47	78.59	34.48	83.04
Grussi	22.01	49.18	48.62	79.17	16.96	78.27
Gruma	11.53	64.29	25.26	75.61	29.56	84.8
Mande	16.66	69.71	28.21	73.54	6.63	76.49
Other	17.5	48.17	40.57	67.76	14.49	76.8

Decisions about Earnings

Ethnicity	Husband's Earnings		Own Earnings	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
Akan	7.07	51.93	53.66	95.12
Ga/Dangme	5.9	43.93	54.57	91.67
Ewe	9.45	50.43	63.62	98.1
Guan	11.03	39.26	62.16	88.95
Mole-Dagbani	5.86	29.06	69.09	93.31
Grussi	13.27	36.39	45.15	76.05
Gruma	4.1	31.02	59.42	84.81
Mande	7.72	37.09	66.99	100
Other	10.88	38.41	63.53	85.42

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Health Decisions

Education	Number of Children		Own Healthcare	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
No Formal	15.26	79.97	24.21	65.84
Primary	13.94	78.29	25.94	68.35
Secondary	14.82	84.77	24.54	70.91
Higher	10.05	95.18	37.56	86.78

Decisions about Purchases and Visits

Education	Large Purchases		Daily Purchases		Family Visits	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
No Formal	17.23	56.19	40.72	76.37	26.27	82.14
Primary	22.06	62.04	49.2	79.91	24.92	80.62
Secondary	20.67	66.58	44.42	82.76	20.18	86.46
Higher	37.6	82.06	59.93	90.74	22.85	93.51

Decisions about Earnings

Education	Husband's Earnings		Own Earnings	
	Self	Self + Others	Self	Self + Others
No Formal	5.21	32.94	59.47	89.2
Primary	9.78	44.6	59.33	94.12
Secondary	7.56	51.61	57.38	95.85
Higher	7.74	57.93	51.73	99.34

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Conclusions

- The decision-making variables in the DHS can not be usefully combined into a single measure of women's decision-making power.
- Subsets of the variables might lend themselves to that purpose.
- The greatest correspondence between decision-making questions and rates of time poverty for married women by region was for the number of children, when the decision was made with others.
- Akan and Ewe individuals reported the highest rates of decision-making power for the most part, and Gruma individuals the lowest.
- Decision-making power was correlated with educational achievement, for the most part.

Next Steps

- Gathering more data on the regional level indices of patriarchal structures, ideology, and outcomes
- Analyzing inter-relationships between decision-making variables/indices, measures of patriarchy, and time poverty