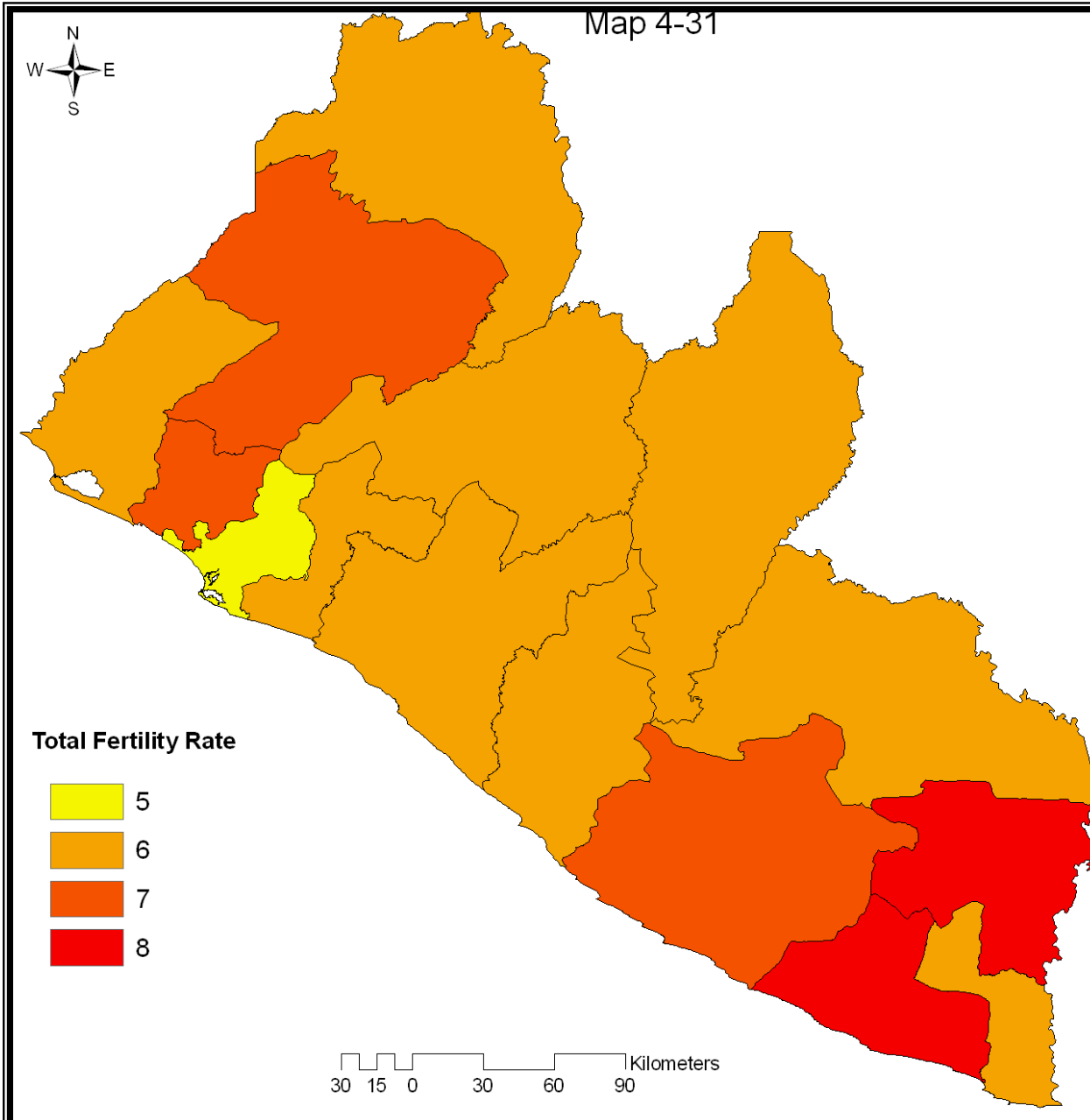


# CHAPTER 4: FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY

Map 4-31

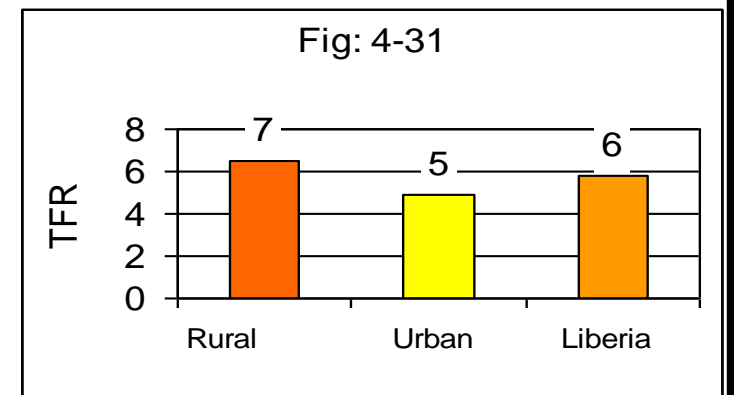


### Total Fertility Rates in 2008

Although Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 5.8 or 6 children is relatively high by International standards. However, the trend has been fluctuating in Liberia during the intercensal periods, from 6.3 in 1974, to 7.1 in 1984 and 5.8 in 2008.

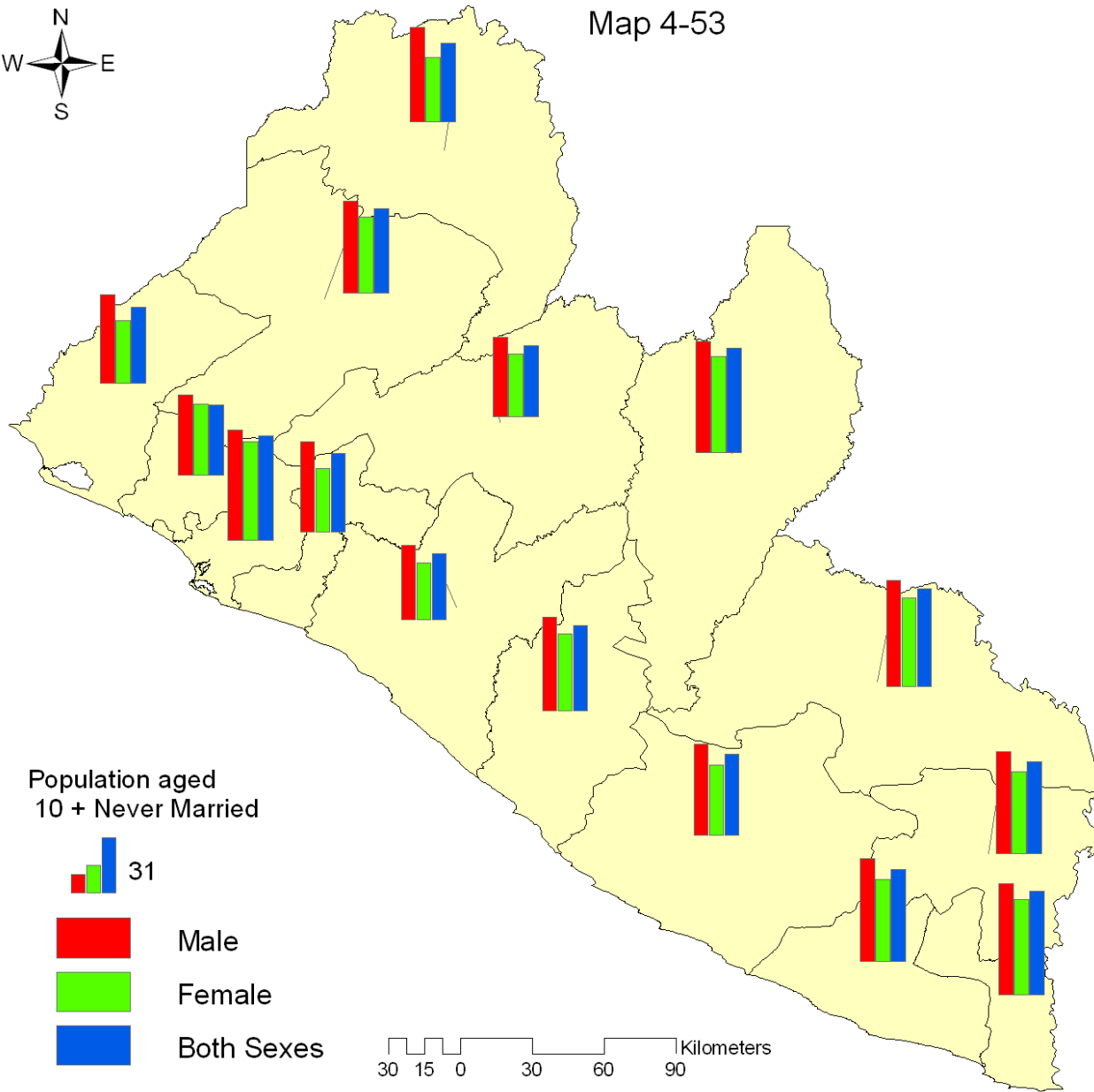
This map shows TFR distributed among the counties. Accordingly, relatively high TFRs of 8 or more children were observed in the south-east counties of River Gee and Grand Kru. TFRs ranged between 6 and 7 children in the rest of the country except Montserrado County where the TFR is approximately 5 children per woman.

The bar chart below compares TFR by residence. The results show that fertility is relatively higher in the rural area (7 children) than in the urban area (5 children). Several socio-economic and cultural factors can be attributed to the high fertility pattern, i.e. young age at marriage, low or non usage of family planning methods. These are complemented by a very young age-structure which also fuels the momentum for growth.



# CHAPTER 4: FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY

Map 4-53

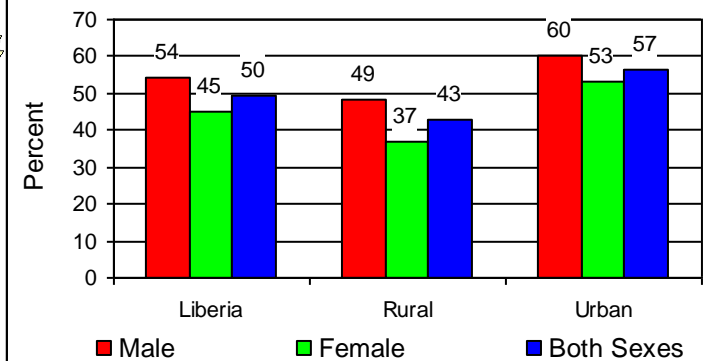


## Never Married Population Aged 10+ years in 2008

More males than females were reported as never married. This trend is uniform throughout the fifteen counties as reflected on the map.

Nationwide, 54% of males were never married, compared to 49% of females. The proportion never married was consistently higher for both sexes in urban areas (57%) than rural areas (53%). The distribution of educational facilities and social development opportunities favor urban areas, hence the rural populace was more apt to get married sooner.

Fig: 4-53



# CHAPTER 4: FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY

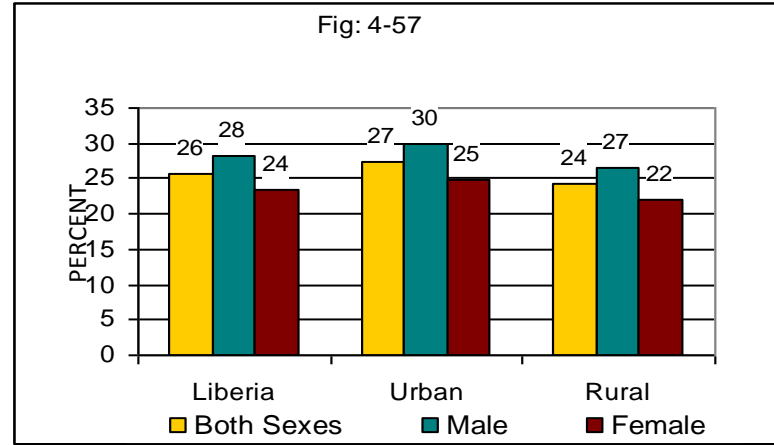
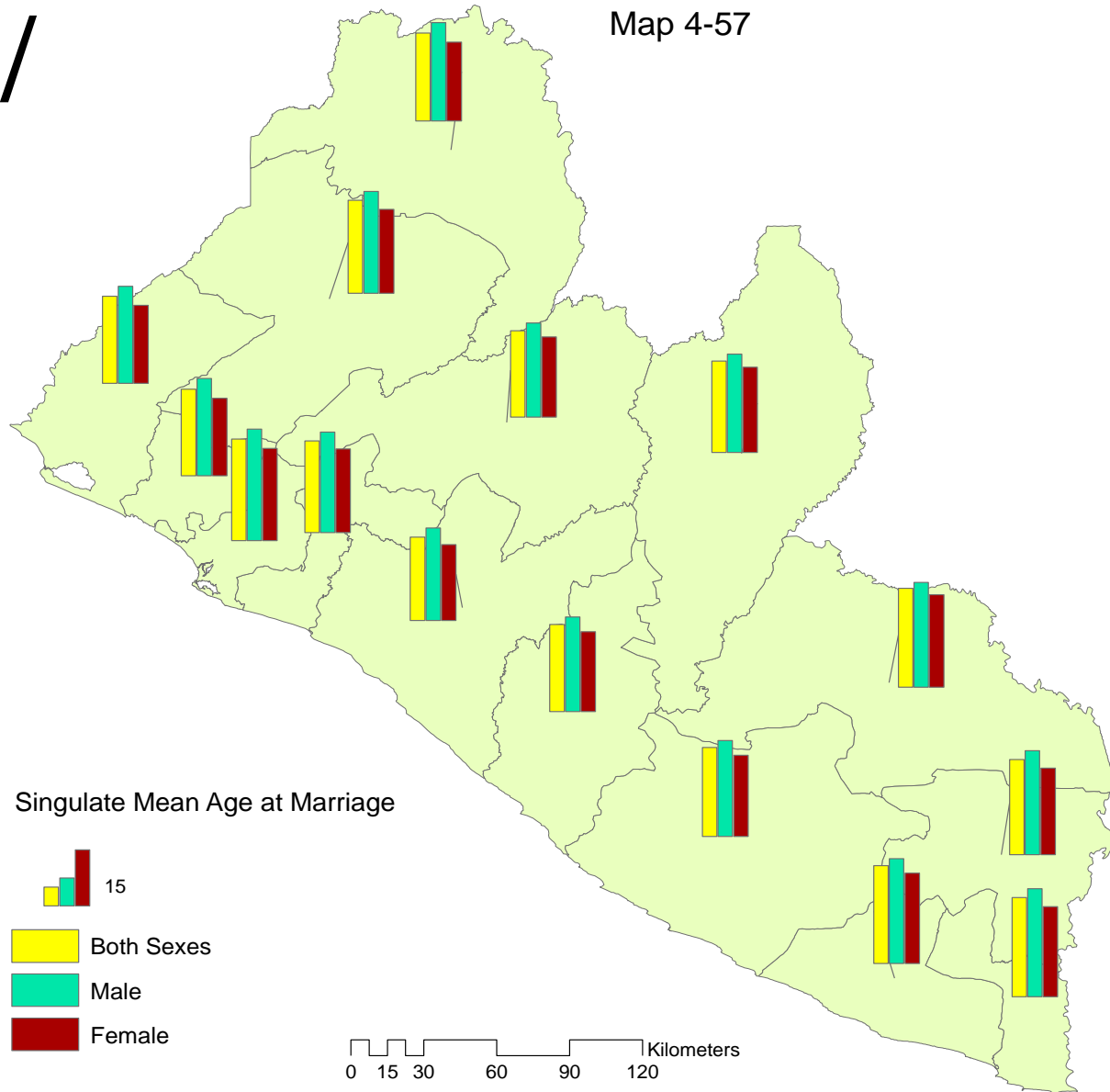
Map 4-57

## Singulate Mean Age at Marriage in 2008

Nationwide, although the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage fluctuated between males and females during the intercensal period, 1962 through 2008, the general trend seems to depict that the SMAM is gradually increasing for both sexes, from 21.6 years in 1962 to 26 years in 2008.

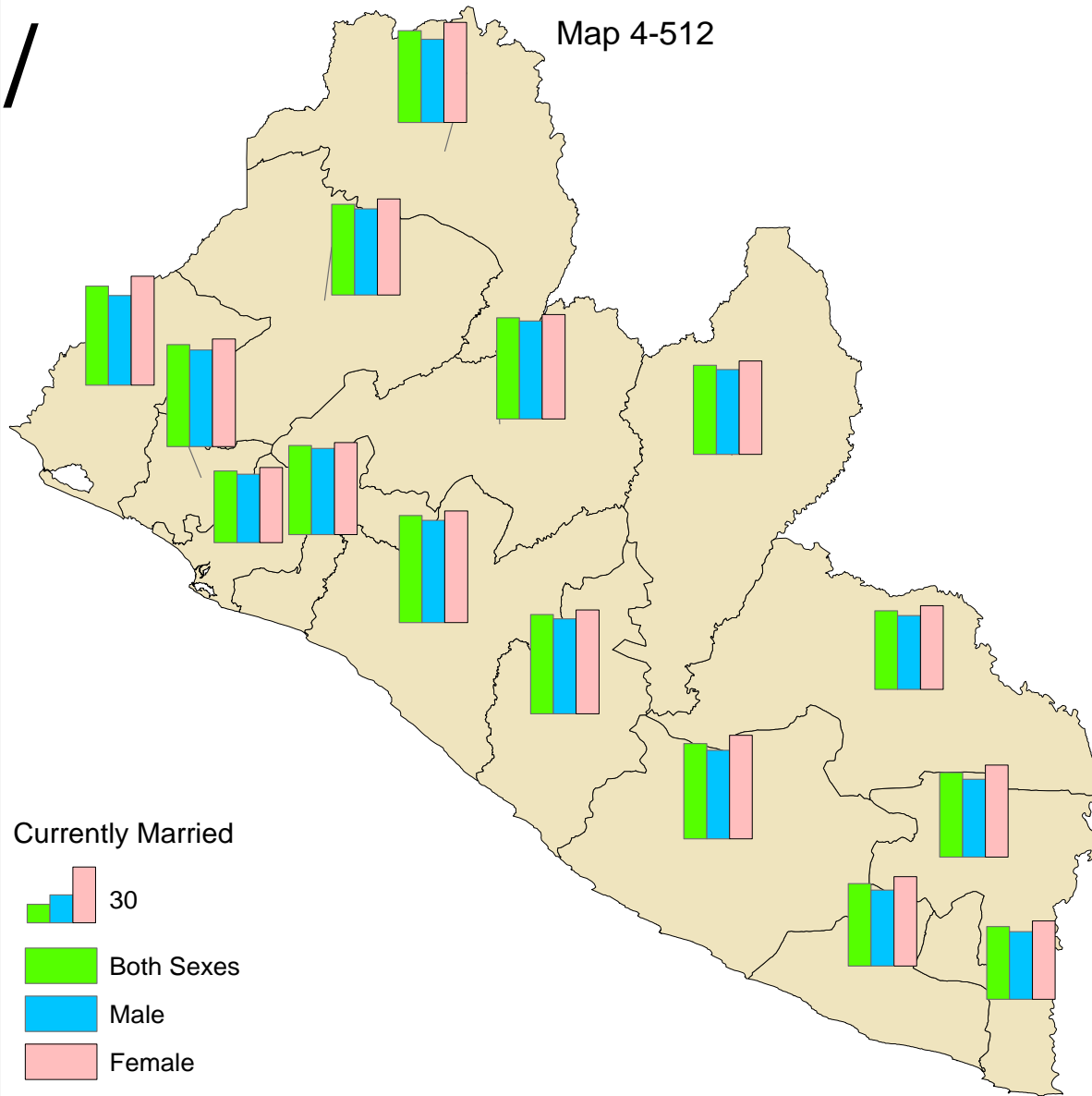
The map shows that all over the counties, the SMAM is higher for males than females, a tendency that more males delay marriage than females.

It can be observed from Fig: 4-57 that the SMAM for both sexes and either sex in urban area was higher than that of rural, which reinforces the point that single persons in rural areas married earlier than their urban counterparts.



# CHAPTER 4: FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY

Map 4-512

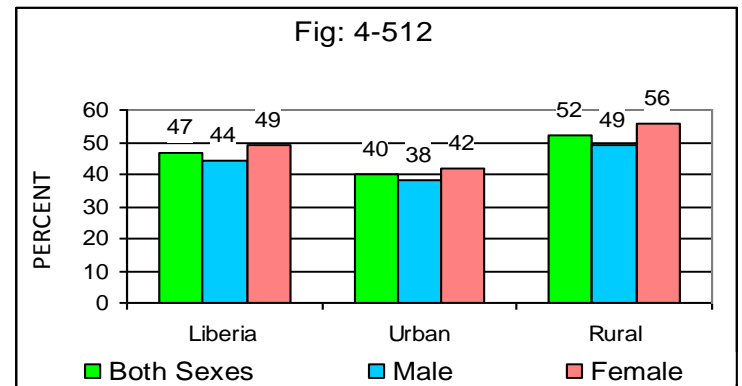


## Percent Currently Married by Residence and Sex, 2008

Approximately two in every five persons aged 10 years and above were married in 2008. This proportion is lower in urban area (42%) than rural area (56%). People in urban areas tend to delay marriage due to the availability of educational, employment and other social opportunities which are often lacking in rural areas.

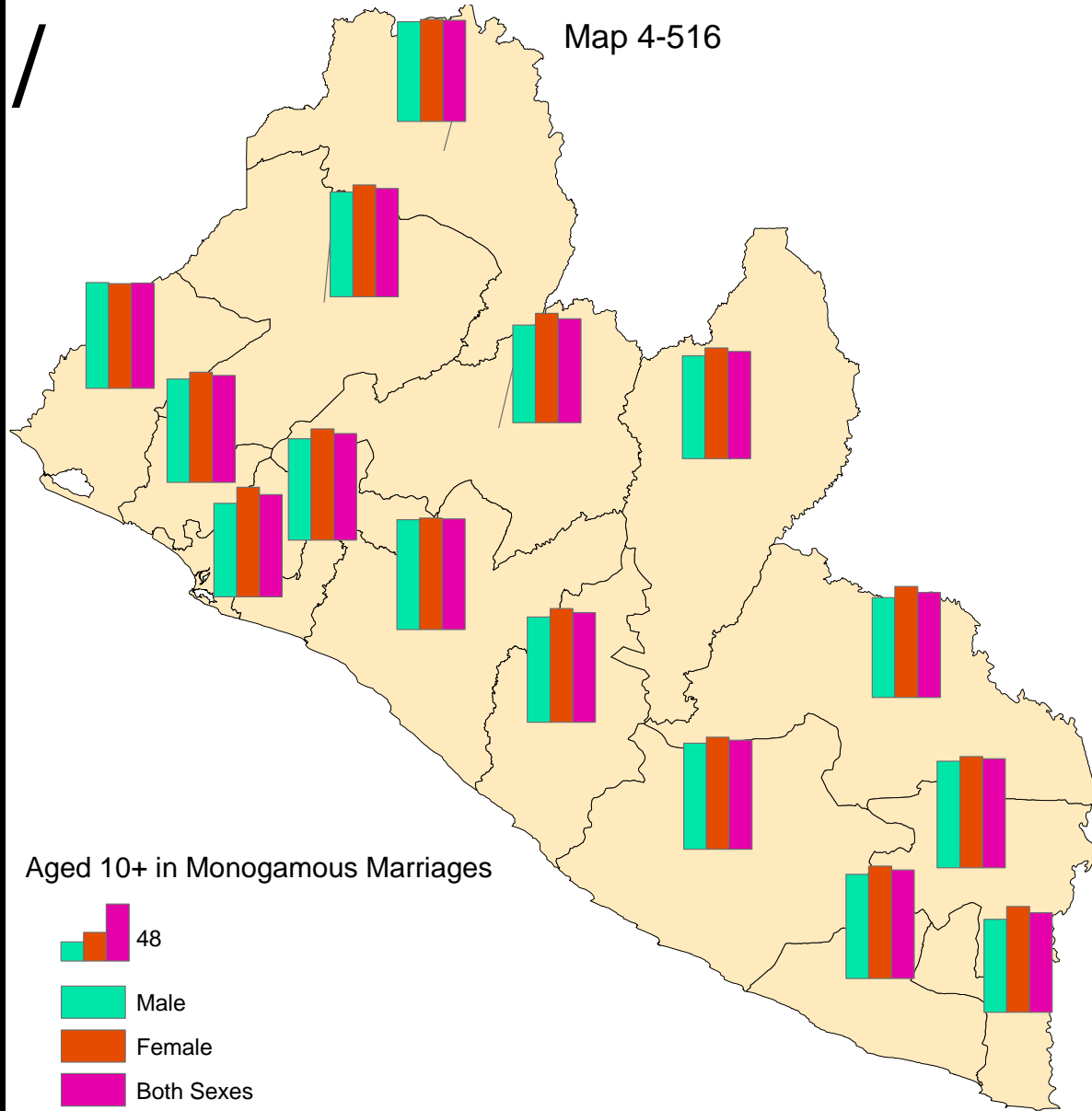
Among the counties, Grand Bassa County depicted the highest proportion of married persons while Montserrado and Maryland showed the lowest.

Fig: 4-512



# CHAPTER 4: FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY

Map 4-516

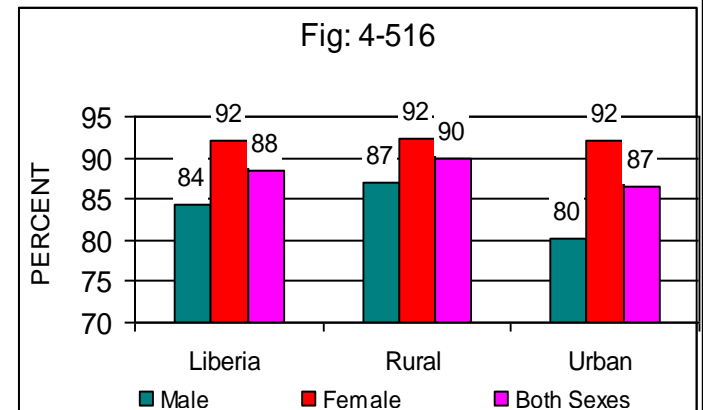


## Percentage of Population aged 10+ in Monogamous Marriages 2008

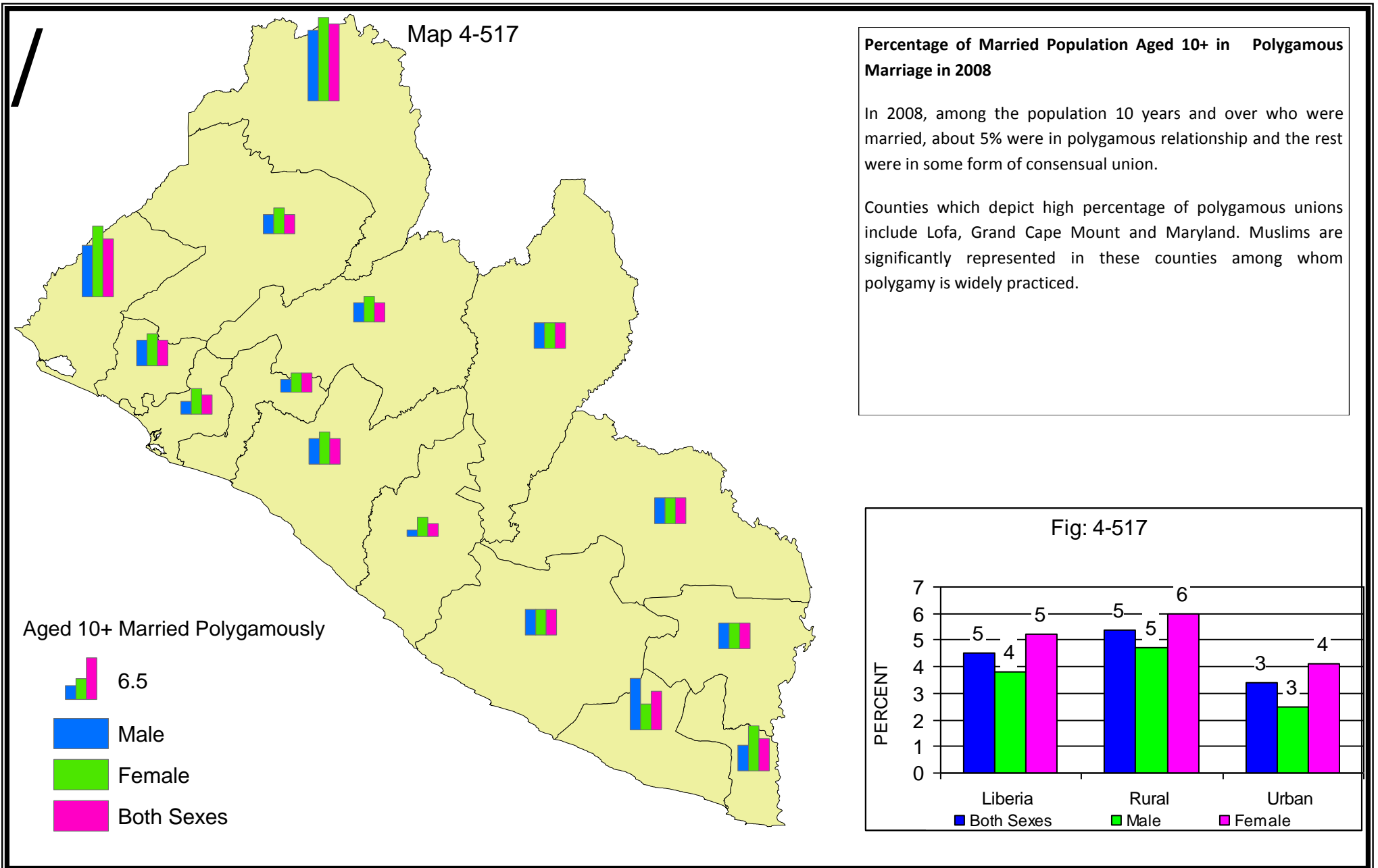
About 89% of the married population was in a monogamous relationship, implying one man to one woman. Monogamous relationships are more common in rural areas (90%) than in urban areas (87%). Raising a family may be more expensive in the urban area than in the rural area.

Monogamy is widespread throughout the fifteen counties as reflected on the map.

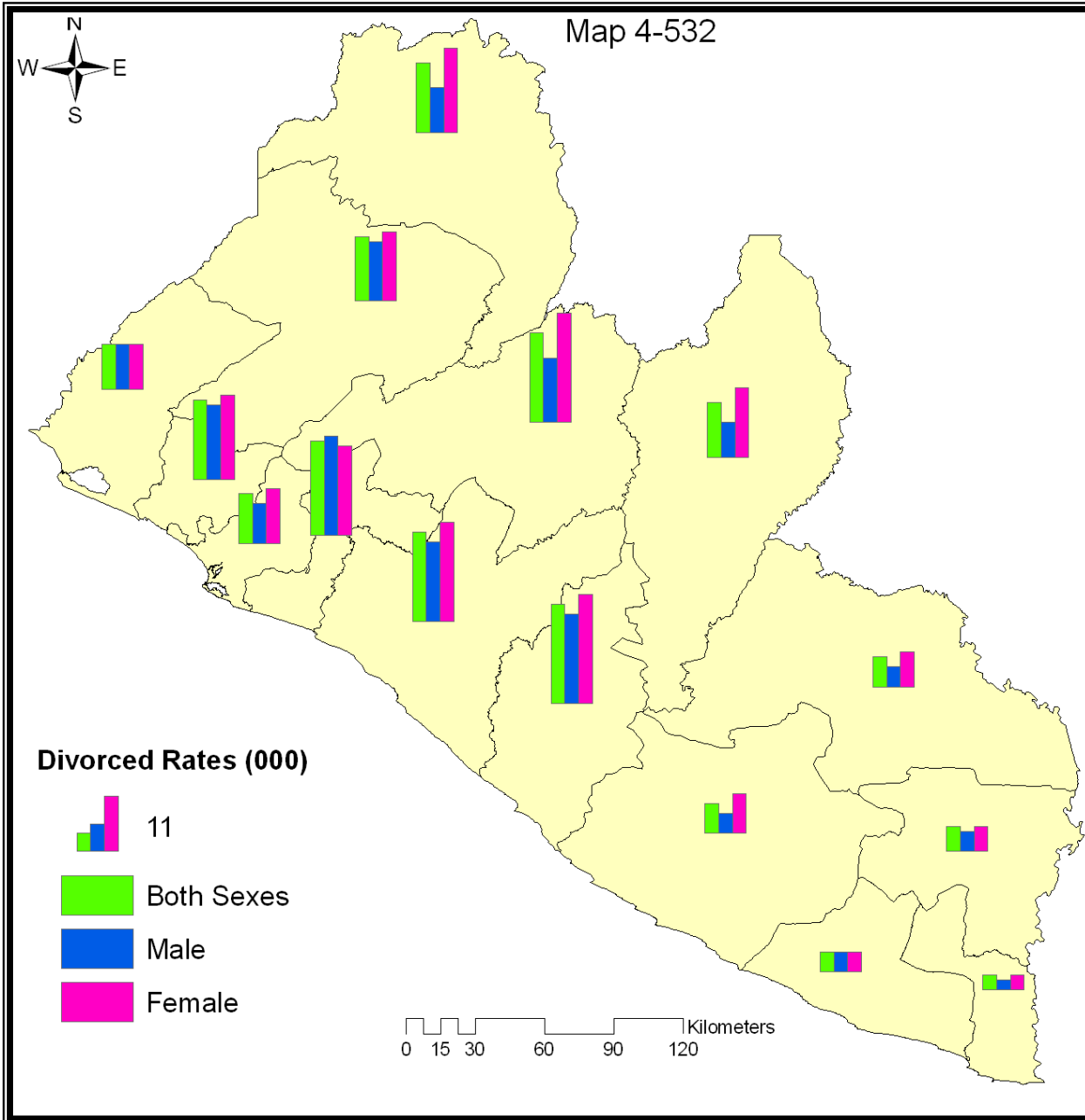
Fig: 4-516



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## Divorced Rate in 2008

The divorce rate is the measure of the divorces per one thousand of the married population. The divorce rates in 2008 were 12 for both sexes; 10 and 14 divorces per thousand for male and female, respectively. In the rural area, the divorce rate for both sexes was 14 compared to 10 in the urban areas. The rates were higher among females than males in both urban and rural areas.

The map shows that the highest divorce rates were observed in River Cess, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong and Bomi counties. This was followed by Lofa, Gbarpolu, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado counties. The lowest divorce rates were observed in Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee and Grand Gedeh counties.

