

**Table 1 Demographic characteristics of the 6-7-year-old pupils**

Variable	Tartous ( <i>n</i> =2734)		Lattakia ( <i>n</i> = 2373)		Total ( <i>n</i> = 5107)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Age (years)<sup>a</sup></i>						
6	1925	81.1	988	36.1	2913	57.0
7	448	18.9	1745	63.8	2193	42.9
8	-	-	1	0.0	1	0.0
<i>Sex<sup>a</sup></i>						
Male	1093	46.1	1390	50.8	2483	48.6
Female	1280	53.9	1344	49.2	2624	51.4

<sup>a</sup>Chi-squared test for difference between centres, *P* < 0.001.