

## ERRATA

in

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW)[Lesotho] and ICF Macro. 2010. *Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2009*. Maseru, Lesotho: MOHSW and ICF Macro.

Date of correction  
**January 15, 2011**

Correction

**Page 176, Section 12.8**

Incorrect data are shown by strikethroughs, and correct data are highlighted.

**Page 177, Table 12.8.1**

Incorrect data in the first three columns have been replaced by correct data, which is highlighted.

**Page 178, Table 12.8.2**

Incorrect data in the first two columns have been replaced by correct data, which is highlighted.

Changes to the text of Section 12.8 result from changes to data in Tables 12.8.1 and 12.8.2. Errors in the first two columns of Table 12.8.1 and Table 12.8.2 resulted from an error in the base population used for calculations. The base population originally used for column two was women and men who had sex in the past 12 months; however, the base population should have encompassed all women and all men. As a result, the percentages in column 1 were incorrect. The error in the third column in Table 12.8.1 resulted because women who reported using female condoms were excluded from the original data on condom use; the number is small; hence the percentages in the old and new tables are similar.

**February 18, 2011**

**Page 69, Section 6.2; pages 235-236, Section 14.4, Table 14.8, and Table 14.9**

Incorrect text is shown by strikethroughs, and new text is highlighted.

## 12.8 MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERSHIPS

Given that the most important mechanism of HIV transmission is sexual intercourse, information on sexual behaviour is important in designing and monitoring intervention programmes to control the spread of the epidemic. In the context of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, limiting the number of sexual partners and encouraging protected sex are crucial to the fight against the epidemic. The 2009 LDHS included questions on the respondent's lifetime sexual partners and also the partners a respondent had in the 12 months preceding the survey. Male respondents were also asked whether they had paid for sex in the past 12 months. Information on the use of condoms at last sexual encounter with each of these partner types was collected as well.

Tables 12.8.1 and 12.8.2 show the percentages of all women and all men, respectively, age 15-49 years who (1) had sexual intercourse with more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months and (2) used a condom during last intercourse (among those who had more than one partner in the past 12 months). The tables also show the mean number of lifetime sexual partners for respondents.

The data show that, among those who had sex in the previous 12 months, 26.6 percent of women and 45.21 percent of men reportedly had two or more sexual partners during the 12 months preceding the survey. Respondents age 30 and above and those currently married or cohabiting Women age 25-39 and men age 20-29 are more likely than other respondents to have had multiple partners over the past year. Among women, those living in rural urban areas (28.7 percent), in the Mountains (34.8 percent), and in Quthing and Mokhotlong (37.8 percent each) have the highest percentage who report having had two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months. Among men, urban residents are only slightly more likely than their rural counterparts to report multiple sexual partners in the preceding 12 months (50.23 percent versus 43.22 percent). Looking at ecological zones and districts, men in the Mountains (53.25 percent) and in Leribe, Berea, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Mokhotlong, and Thaba-Tseka (53.23 percent each) report the highest percentages who have had two or more partners in the past year. Among women and men, education and wealth are inversely associated with the percentages who had two or more partners in the past 12 months, while among men there is no clear pattern in the variation of education and wealth.

Among respondents who had two or more partners in the past 12 months, only 38.39 percent of women and 52 percent of men report having used a condom at their last encounter. Condom use is more pronounced among women and men who have never married (65.66 percent of women and 66 percent of men) than those currently married (23.24 percent for women and 36 percent for men) or divorced, widowed, or separated (55.56 percent for women and 52 percent for men). Urban respondents (54.52 percent of women and 67 percent of men) are much more likely to use a condom during their last sexual intercourse than rural respondents (30.31 percent of women and 46 percent of men). Nineteen percent of women in the Foothills used a condom during their last sexual intercourse compared with 49.50 percent of women in the Lowlands. Furthermore, the lowest percentage of women who reported using a condom at last sexual encounter is in Thaba-Tseka (44.17 percent), and the highest is in Berea (52 percent). Among men, the highest percentages who reported using a condom at their last sexual intercourse are in the Lowlands (60 percent) and in Maseru (65 percent), while the lowest are in the Mountains (36 percent) and in Thaba-Tseka (35 percent). Education and wealth are strongly associated with use of condoms in the last sexual encounter among respondents who had two or more partners in the past 12 months. The more educated and well-off respondents are much more likely to report condom use at their last sexual intercourse than are those who are less educated or worse-off. For example, 24.25 percent of women with some primary education have used a condom at their last sexual encounter compared with 52 percent of women with secondary or higher education. Looking at wealth, condom use at last sexual encounter ranges from 32.13 percent of women in the second lowest wealth quintile to 48.49 to 52 percent of women in the two highest wealth quintiles. Similar patterns are observed among men.

Table 12.8.1 Multiple sexual partners in the past 12 months: Women

Among all women age 15-49, the percentage who had sexual intercourse with more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months; among those having more than one partner in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last intercourse; and the mean number of sexual partners during her lifetime for women who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2009-10

Background characteristic	All women		Among women who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months:				Among women who ever had sexual intercourse <sup>1</sup> :	
	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse		Number of women	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of women	
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	15.8	4.0	837	3,337	45.5	47.7	133	2,249
15-19	9.7	2.2	396	1,785	(39.0)	(42.9)	39	826
20-24	21.3	6.1	441	1,552	48.2	49.7	94	1,422
25-29	34.2	8.8	321	1,244	40.4	40.4	110	1,206
30-39	36.4	9.0	430	1,746	34.2	34.4	157	1,695
40-49	30.2	6.9	296	1,297	27.7	29.8	89	1,248
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	11.7	4.6	1,040	2,618	64.7	66.0	121	1,471
Married or living together	93.8	7.5	322	4,049	22.9	23.9	302	3,998
Divorced/separated/widowed	12.4	6.8	522	957	54.5	55.5	65	929
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	23.1	6.7	742	2,573	51.2	52.3	171	2,162
Rural	27.8	6.3	1,142	5,051	30.1	31.1	317	4,236
<b>Ecological zone</b>								
Lowlands	23.6	6.1	1,238	4,798	48.7	49.8	293	4,003
Foothills	28.6	6.2	158	725	(19.4)	(19.4)	45	631
Mountains	34.2	7.7	346	1,544	19.5	20.5	118	1,291
Senqu River Valley	22.9	5.8	141	556	27.5	29.5	32	473
<b>District</b>								
Butha-Butha	31.2	6.4	73	357	(16.5)	(18.3)	23	316
Leribe	26.6	5.9	301	1,359	(42.8)	(44.7)	80	1,130
Berea	28.4	7.2	286	1,122	51.5	51.5	81	894
Maseru	22.1	6.1	561	2,036	42.6	43.7	124	1,725
Mafeteng	22.3	5.6	170	682	(43.0)	(43.0)	38	579
Mohale's Hoek	28.0	6.3	135	599	(26.5)	(26.5)	38	521
Quthing	25.7	7.5	110	379	(27.8)	(30.1)	28	321
Qacha's-Nek	26.4	6.9	57	219	(39.5)	(41.2)	15	187
Mokhotlong	37.1	8.2	78	356	19.4	19.4	29	294
Thaba-Tseka	28.4	6.2	112	515	(14.4)	(17.3)	32	429
<b>Education</b>								
No education	37.8	8.8	22	93	0.0	*	8	90
Primary incomplete	32.7	6.9	382	1,810	23.7	24.9	125	1,563
Primary complete	30.7	7.3	416	1,741	28.4	30.2	128	1,561
Secondary+	21.4	5.7	1,064	3,979	51.5	52.1	227	3,183
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	36.0	7.1	212	1,073	*	13.4	76	917
Second	32.3	7.6	281	1,190	32.4	32.6	91	1,019
Middle	22.3	5.4	321	1,325	31.7	31.7	72	1,097
Fourth	24.9	6.4	489	1,900	49.4	51.7	122	1,581
Highest	22.1	6.0	581	2,136	48.1	49.0	128	1,784
Total 15-49	25.9	6.4	1,884	7,624	37.5	38.5	488	6,397

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> Means are calculated excluding respondents who gave non-numeric responses

Table 12.8.2 Multiple sexual partners in the past 12 months: Men

Among all men age 15-49, the percentage who had sexual intercourse with more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months; among those having more than one partner in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last intercourse; and the mean number of sexual partners during his lifetime for men who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2009

Background characteristic	All men		Among men who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months:		Among men who ever had sexual intercourse <sup>1</sup> :			
	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse	Number of men	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of men		
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	37.2	20.5	809	1,470	60.3	301	5.1	1,054
15-19	28.9	13.4	387	835	60.2	112	3.3	491
20-24	44.8	29.8	422	634	60.3	189	6.7	563
25-29	47.6	26.5	257	463	52.5	123	7.6	406
30-39	62.9	24.4	267	686	46.0	168	9.2	630
40-49	49.2	17.5	139	389	32.3	68	10.9	353
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	34.1	20.7	1,029	1,691	65.5	350	5.6	1,230
Married or living together	80.5	23.4	341	1,169	35.5	274	8.9	1,078
Divorced/separated/widowed	34.1	23.7	103	148	51.6	35	11.6	136
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	50.3	22.9	385	845	67.2	194	9.6	653
Rural	42.9	21.5	1,086	2,162	46.1	466	6.6	1,791
<b>Ecological zone</b>								
Lowlands	45.8	22.1	892	1,850	59.5	408	8.0	1,467
Foothills	32.6	17.6	172	319	48.1	56	6.5	269
Mountains	52.8	25.0	295	621	35.6	155	6.0	530
Senqu River Valley	35.0	18.2	113	217	49.8	40	8.4	178
<b>District</b>								
Butha-Bothe	43.8	22.3	86	168	53.1	37	8.8	136
Leribe	47.4	22.6	237	498	56.2	113	6.8	416
Berea	44.8	22.7	229	451	52.9	102	8.0	355
Maseru	43.8	20.5	361	773	65.2	158	7.4	604
Mafeteng	41.3	22.6	161	295	45.1	67	7.7	246
Mohale's Hoek	44.5	23.0	129	250	37.4	58	8.3	214
Quthing	39.9	20.0	75	150	55.9	30	9.2	119
Qacha's-Nek	41.9	19.0	36	79	48.9	15	6.8	64
Mokhotlong	46.7	23.4	69	137	37.7	32	6.1	115
Thaba-Tseka	53.4	22.8	88	206	34.7	47	5.0	175
<b>Education</b>								
No education	41.8	18.7	150	336	25.3	63	8.3	313
Primary incomplete	44.8	22.0	538	1,095	41.4	241	6.7	883
Primary complete	41.5	19.5	175	372	50.4	73	7.9	313
Secondary+	46.5	23.5	608	1,205	68.1	283	7.6	935
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	42.6	20.2	210	443	29.8	89	6.1	381
Second	46.9	22.2	272	575	45.1	128	6.1	483
Middle	41.1	21.9	355	666	47.3	146	7.2	550
Fourth	43.1	20.5	304	640	56.9	131	8.9	502
Highest	50.0	24.2	331	684	70.8	166	8.4	528
Total 15-49	44.8	21.9	1,472	3,008	52.3	659	7.4	2,444
50-59	48.1	12.6	81	309	(20.8)	39	13.4	276
Total men 15-59	45.0	21.1	1,553	3,317	50.5	699	8.0	2,719

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> Means are calculated excluding respondents who gave non-numeric responses.

## 6.1 INTRODUCTION

Research on fertility demonstrates that fertility levels in most populations can be explained by five key proximate determinants that define the risk of becoming pregnant. These are marriage, sexual intercourse, postpartum amenorrhoea, abstinence from sexual relations, onset of menopause, and contraceptive use. This chapter addresses all of these determinants except contraception, which is discussed in Chapter 5.

In many societies, marriage is a principal indicator of women's exposure to risk of pregnancy. Early marriage is usually associated with early childbearing, a longer period of exposure to the risk of pregnancy, and higher fertility levels. The early initiation of childbearing may also adversely affect women's and children's health. The duration of postpartum amenorrhoea and postpartum abstinence affects the length of time a woman is insusceptible to pregnancy and thus, determines the interval between births. The onset of menopause marks the end of a woman's reproductive life cycle. This chapter presents factors that determine the duration of a woman's reproductive life and the pace of childbearing, leading to a better understanding of fertility levels and differences.

## 6.2 MARITAL STATUS

The category *currently married* is used to refer to those persons who are married and who live together. Those who are divorced, separated, and widowed are referred to as *formerly married*. The proportion of women and men who are currently married and formerly married together comprise the proportion *ever married*.

Table 6.1 shows that one-third of women of childbearing age have never been married; more than half are either married or living together; 8 percent are widowed; and the remaining 5 percent are separated or divorced. Only 5 percent of women age 45-49 have never been married, indicating that marriage is nearly universal in Lesotho.

Fifty-six percent of men age 15-49 have never been married, 39 percent are currently married or living together, 2 percent are widowed, and 3 percent are separated or divorced. If one compares the sexes, a larger proportion of men have never been married (56 percent of men compared with 34 percent of women, respectively), and a smaller proportion of men are widowed (3 2 percent compared with 8 percent), or separated or divorced (3 percent compared with 5 percent).

## 14.4 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

The three sets of empowerment indicators, namely women's participation in making household decisions, attitude towards wife beating, and attitude towards a wife's right to refuse sexual intercourse with her husband/partner, can be summarized into three separate indices. The first index shows the number of decisions (see Table 14.5.1 for the list of decisions) in which women participate alone or jointly with their husband/partner. This index ranges in value from 0 to 4 and is positively related to women's empowerment. It reflects the degree of decision-making control that women are able to exercise in areas that affect their own lives and environments.

The second index, which ranges in value from 0 to 5, is the total number of reasons (see Table 14.6.1 for the list of reasons) for which the respondent feels that a husband is justified in beating his wife. A lower score on this indicator is interpreted as reflecting a greater sense of entitlement and self-esteem and a higher status of women.

The final index, which ranges in value from 0 to 3, is the number of circumstances (see Table 14.7.1 for the list of the circumstances) in which the respondent feels that a woman is justified in refusing sexual intercourse with her husband or partner. This indicator reflects perceptions of sexual roles and women's rights over their bodies and relates positively to women's sense of self and empowerment.

Table 14.8 shows how these three indicators relate to each other. In general, the expectation is that women who participate in making household decisions are also more likely to have egalitarian gender beliefs. Greater decision-making participation is normally associated with disapproval of wife beating and vice versa. Data in Table 14.8 show that women who participate in 3 to 4 decisions are more likely than other women to disagree with wife beating and to agree with the woman's right to refuse sex with her husband.

Table 14.8 Indicators of women's empowerment						
Percentage of women age 15-49 who participate in all decision making, percentage who disagree with all reasons for justifying wife-beating, and percentage who agree with all reasons for refusing sexual intercourse with husband, by value on each of the indicators of women's empowerment, Lesotho 2009						
Empowerment indicator	Currently married women		Percentage who disagree with all the reasons justifying wife beating	Percentage who agree with all the reasons for refusing sexual intercourse with husband	Number of women	
	Percentage who participate in all decision making	Number of women				
<b>Number of decisions in which women participate<sup>1</sup></b>						
0	0.0 na	130	48.6	31.3	130	
1-2	0.0 na	742	47.4	25.7	742	
3-4	66.9 na	3,178	67.9	34.5	3,178	
<b>Number of reasons for which wife beating is justified<sup>2</sup></b>						
0	59.3	2,572	100.0 na	39.0	4,796	
1-2	46.3	856	0.0 na	31.3	1,750	
3-4	31.6	528	0.0 na	26.4	905	
5	38.8	93	0.0 na	21.0	173	
<b>Number of reasons given for refusing to have sexual intercourse with husband<sup>3</sup></b>						
0	50.0	636	60.1	0.0 na	1,114	
1-2	51.3	2,084	59.1	0.0 na	3,820	
3	55.5	1,329	69.5	100.0 na	2,690	

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Restricted to currently married women. See Table 14.5.1 for the list of decisions.

<sup>2</sup> See Table 14.6.1 for the list of reasons

<sup>3</sup> See Table 14.7.1 for the list of reasons

The second panel in Table 14.8 shows that participation in making household decisions declines as the number of justifications for wife beating increases. In general, disapproval of wife beating is associated with agreement regarding a woman's right to refuse sex with her husband.

Decision-making participation is also usually associated with agreement that there is no justification for wife beating and that a wife can refuse sex with her husband. ~~It is surprising, however, that the~~ **The** percentage of women who participate in all four decisions increases along with the number of reasons for a wife to refuse sex with her husband.

## 14.5 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION BY WOMEN'S STATUS

Table 14.9 shows the distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method use, according to the three empowerment indicators. The data indicate that contraceptive use is highest among women who participate in three to four household decisions (50 percent), who agree with none of the reasons justifying wife beating (50 percent), and who believe that a wife can refuse sexual intercourse with her partner for all three specified reasons (48 percent).

Empowerment indicator	Any method	Any modern method	Modern methods			Any traditional method	Not currently using	Total	Number of women
			Female sterilisation <sup>1</sup>	Temporary modern female methods <sup>1</sup>	Male condom				
<b>Number of decisions in which women participate<sup>2</sup></b>									
0	28.5	27.0	0.0	21.1	5.9	1.5	71.5	100.0	130
1-2	37.6	36.2	0.9	28.2	7.1	1.4	62.4	100.0	742
3-4	50.0	48.6	2.8	35.8	10.0	1.4	50.0	100.0	3,178
<b>Number of reasons for which wife beating is justified<sup>3</sup></b>									
0	50.4	49.2	2.6	35.8	10.8	1.2	49.6	100.0	2,572
1-2	42.9	41.5	2.6	30.5	8.4	1.4	57.1	100.0	856
3-4	39.4	37.5	1.2	31.5	4.8	1.9	60.6	100.0	528
5	35.0	31.3	0.0	26.0	5.3	3.7	65.0	100.0	93
<b>Number of reasons given for refusing to have sexual intercourse with husband<sup>4</sup></b>									
0	42.9	40.8	2.4	30.7	7.7	2.1	57.1	100.0	636
1-2	47.5	46.0	2.5	34.8	8.8	1.5	52.5	100.0	2,084
3	48.2	47.3	2.1	34.1	11.1	1.0	51.8	100.0	1,329
Total	47.0	45.6	2.4	33.9	9.4	1.4	53.0	100.0	4,049

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

<sup>1</sup> Pill, IUD, injectables, implants, female condom, diaphragm, foam/jelly and lactational amenorrhoea method

<sup>2</sup> See Table 14.5.1 for the list of decisions.

<sup>3</sup> See Table 14.6.1 for the list of reasons

<sup>4</sup> See Table 14.7.1 for the list of reasons