

Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health:

Policy Developments and Indicators 2003



United Nations Population Fund



Population Reference Bureau

Lesotho

Overview

Lesotho is a small country located within South Africa. Due to the poor economy, 40 per cent of the male population seeks employment in the surrounding country, resulting in a large proportion of female-headed households. Over three quarters of the population has access to basic health services. However, the relatively poor status of women has hindered the implementation of population and reproductive health programmes, especially the distribution of modern contraception. The Lesotho Safe Motherhood Initiative, a collaborative effort between various UN agencies and the World Health Organization, was formed in direct response to this problem. The initiative also aims to curb the high rates of maternal, child and infant mortality.

HIV/AIDS continues to drive and be driven by poverty and hinders the country's overall development. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among adolescents is an area of concern, as is the high level of adolescent fertility. The migration of workers for employment is a contributing factor in the high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among adults, one quarter of whom are now infected. In an effort to combat the pandemic, the Government has joined in a public-private partnership with Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

Although Lesotho adopted its National Population Policy in 1994, implementation has been difficult due to lack of strong institutional capacity. Improvement in this area, as well as the incorporation of the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development into the national policy, will be integral to its success. Continued support for programmes, services and policy formulation will be crucial elements of population and reproductive health programmes. Equally important will be strong advocacy efforts for women's issues on legal, political and social levels. Key to such efforts is continued support for partnerships with national non-governmental organizations, religious and political leaders, women's groups, the media and private industry.

Statistics

POPULATION

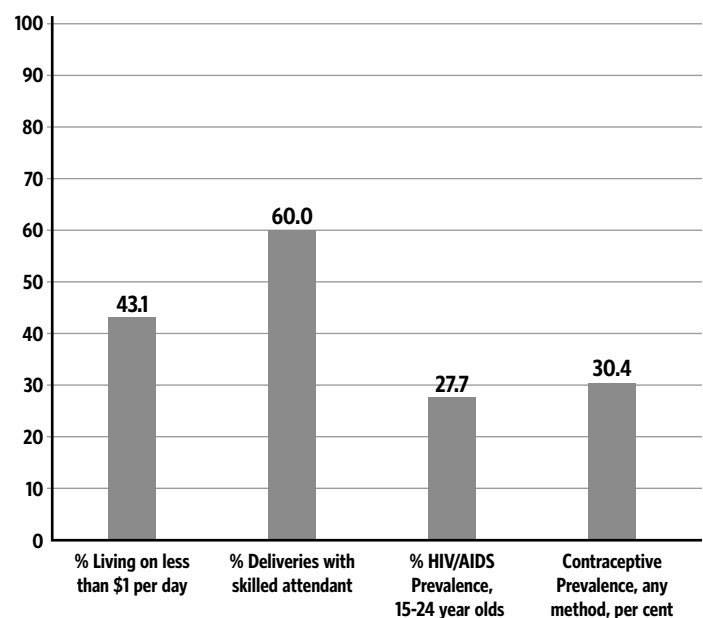
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Male	1,032.1
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Female	1,044.1
Population Growth Rate, Per Cent	1.7
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	35.0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	14.6
Urban Population, Per Cent	29.6
Sex Ratio at Birth, Male Births per Female Birth	1.03
Women 15-49, Thousands	492.0
Women 15-49, Per Cent	47.1
Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49	4.75
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Modern Method, Per Cent	29.5
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Any Method, Per Cent	▲ 30.4
Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 Live Births (MMR)	● ▲ 530
MMR, Lower Bound	● ▲ 200
MMR, Upper Bound	● ▲ 1,200
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	● ▲ 108.1
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Total	● ▲ 181
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Female	● ▲ 180
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Male	● ▲ 182
Life Expectancy at Birth, Combined, Years	● ▲ 51.2
Life Expectancy at Birth, Female, Years	● ▲ 51.6
Life Expectancy at Birth, Male, Years	● ▲ 50.7
Population 60 Years and Over, Per Cent	7.1

Estimated Annual Resource Requirements for Population Programmes

Years 2005-2015 (in millions \$US)

Date	2005	2010	2015
Cost	10.59	12.01	14.71

Indicators for Population and Reproductive Health



Indicators

for updates, please visit our web site: <http://www.unfpa.org/profile>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC & HEALTH

Gross Domestic Product Per Capita, Purchasing Power Parity, International Dollars	2,031
Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate, Annual Per Cent	3.8
Income Group per World Bank Classification	Low income
UNFPA Country Priority Classification	A
Population Below \$1/Day, Per Cent	▲ 43.1
Access to Improved Water Supply, Per Cent	▲ 91
Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants, Per Cent	● ▲ 60
Family Planning Programme Effort Index, 1999 (Total Mean Score)	62.0
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Male	27
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Female	6
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ 108
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ 99
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ 24
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ 32
Children Underweight Under 5, Male, Per Cent	na
Children Underweight Under 5, Female, Per Cent	na
Stunted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	44
Stunted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	20
Wasted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	5
Wasted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	3

● ICPD Goals ▲ MDG Indicators

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Proportion of Population 15-24	19.9
Age-Specific Fertility Rate per 1000 Women, 15-20	66.8
Mean Age at Marriage, Male	26.3
Mean Age at Marriage, Female	20.5
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Female	● ▲ 24.8
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Female	● ▲ 51.4
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Male	● ▲ 11.3
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Male	● ▲ 23.5

GENDER EQUALITY

Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Total	63.3
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Male	70.5
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Female	57.9
Women in Managerial or Technical Positions, Thousands	na
Seats in Parliament Held by Women, Per Cent	10.7

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITY SECURITY

Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Thousands	19.9
Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Per Cent	4.1
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Spacing, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Limiting, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Total, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Thousands	● na

INTERNAL DISPARITIES

Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49:		Adolescent Women 15-19 Begun Childbearing:		Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	44.7
Urban	na	Urban, Per Cent	na	Provincial Low, Per Cent	12.1
Rural	na	Rural, Per Cent	na	Provincial High, Per Cent	40.1
No Education/Primary	na	No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na	Poorest, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education	na	Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na	Richest, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low	na	Provincial Low, Per Cent	na	Children Underweight Under 5, Moderate:	
Provincial High	na	Provincial High, Per Cent	na	Urban, Per Cent	na
Poorest	na	Poorest, Per Cent	na	Rural, Per Cent	na
Richest	na	Richest, Per Cent	na	No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:		Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants:		Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Urban	na	Urban, Per Cent	na	Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Rural	na	Rural, Per Cent	na	Provincial High, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary	na	No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na	Poorest, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education	na	Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na	Richest, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low	na	Provincial Low, Per Cent	na	Children Underweight Under 5, Severe:	
Provincial High	na	Provincial High, Per Cent	na	Urban, Per Cent	na
Poorest	na	Poorest, Per Cent	na	Rural, Per Cent	na
Richest	na	Richest, Per Cent	na	No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Age-Specific Fertility Rate, 15-19 Years:		Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49:		Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Urban	na	Urban, Per Cent	37.6	Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Rural	na	Rural, Per Cent	27.1	Provincial High, Per Cent	na
Poorest	na	No Education/Primary, Per Cent	10.4	Richest, Per Cent	na
Richest	na			Poorest, Per Cent	na