



Lesotho Government



2021 LESOTHO DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

VOLUME IIIA

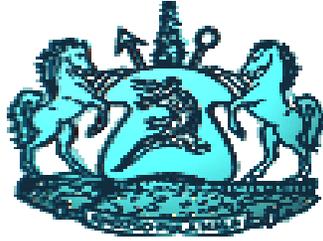
POPULATION DYNAMICS ANALYTICAL REPORT



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Kingdom of Lesotho

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ANALYTICAL REPORT, Volume IIIA Population Dynamics

Maseru, January 2023

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The 2021 Lesotho Demographic Survey results are presented in the following three reports:

- ✓ Volume IIIA Population Dynamics Report
- ✓ Volume IIIB Socio-economic Characteristics Report and
- ✓ Volume IV Gender Based Violence Report

This report is divided into thirteen chapters which are meant to provide a detailed analysis of the findings from the survey on the following themes:

- Evaluation of population size and composition
- Population distribution
- Youth and Elderly Population
- Nuptiality and fertility
- Mortality
- Orphanhood
- Disability
- Migration

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PREFACE

The 2021 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS) is an intercensal survey, a project undertaken from May to June 2021 by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), the department under the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MDP). The survey used a modern type of technology whereby tablets were used for data collection, which resulted in the quick release of the survey findings because about four processes were done simultaneously to promote the quick release of results by cutting down the data processing time. These processes include data collection, primary editing, verification and capturing.

The LDS used the same questionnaire as that used in 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC), with a few modifications as this survey had to be aligned with and serve as a tool for monitoring and evaluating government development programmes within frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Population Policy (NPP), and National Strategic Development Plans (NSDP II). The BOS has therefore produced three volumes of census analytical reports. This being the first volume of the three, contains information on population dynamics while the second volume covers information on the socio-economic characteristics of the population and housing characteristics and the third covers Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The 2021 LDS collected information on population distribution, education, disability, nuptiality, fertility, mortality, migration, household characteristics and Orphanhood. The survey generated indicators such as population counts from national down to districts. Detailed analysis has been done to show other indicators such as life expectancy, childhood and adult (including maternal) mortality rates, fertility rates, migration, housing indicators, education and demographic structures.

Finally, the BOS wishes to extend its gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which contributed to the success of the 2021 LDS with financial backstopping. It also wishes to express appreciation to the Basotho nation at large for their good hospitality, willingness and cooperation in providing the needed information, to the enumerators, supervisors, coordinators and to all others who contributed to the collection, processing and compilation of this valuable information in one way or another.



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CHAPTER 1

ORGANISATION AND EVALUATION OF THE SURVEY

1.0 Introduction

The strategic importance of household surveys in national statistics offices has attracted global recognition in recent times. There has been an exceptional expansion of household survey work in developed and developing countries in response to rapidly expanding demands for current and detailed socio-economic and demographic population data.

The censuses and surveys provide the most essential data across all sectoral spheres. The censuses are conducted decennially while the demographic surveys are conducted five years after every census. Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS) provides a basis for updating census information at least for the nation as a whole or for broad geographical areas. The last LDS was conducted in April 2011 hence after the 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the BOS conducted 2021 LDS for the Government, policy-makers, service deliverers, Development partners and other data users to obtain up-to-date information. It is also meant to supply disaggregated data required for the measurement of progress for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as to evaluate and monitor other Development frameworks and national programmes in between the two censuses.

1.1 Objectives of the Survey

The main objective of the 2021 LDS is to update statistics collected during the 2016 PHC and to provide data that can be used during the intercensal period. It is also meant to provide extensive and up-to-date information on the conditions under which people live, the activities in which they engage, their demographic characteristics and socio-economic and cultural factors which influence their behaviour and response to social and economic changes. Moreover, it is mainly designed to provide information on population size and growth, fertility, mortality, migration and other population characteristics as well as household facilities and amenities. The specific objectives of the 2021 LDS were therefore to:

- provide more accurate updated benchmarks for population and housing census data relating to population dynamics; mortality, fertility and migration, in order to track the changes over time and
- set the stage for the preparation of the 2026 Population and Housing Census and to gather the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population for policy formulation and planning purposes.

1.2 Survey Background

The censuses and surveys in Lesotho have a long history that dates as far back as 1875 for censuses and 1971 for intercensal surveys. The resolution for African countries to undertake censuses around the same time period was concurred at the Joint Session of the Committee of Director-Generals (CoDG) of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), held in Tunis in December 2014 and

at the 10th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), held in January 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. The plan was for member countries to implement the 2020 Africa Programme relating to Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2020 RPHC) that spans from 2015 to 2024.

The 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme was approved by the Statistical Commission at its 46th session and adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in resolution E/RES/2015/10 (UNESCO, 2015). The Programme recognises population and housing censuses as one of the primary sources of data required for formulating, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes aimed at inclusive socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. For member states such as Lesotho which had recently conducted her national population census, a recommendation was made for them to undertake a large-scale demographic survey during that time period. Hence, Lesotho embarked on the 2021 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS). This survey resembles the 2016 PHC in every aspect except for the fact that interviews were done to sampled household population and the survey instrument had an additional module of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

1.3 Sample Design

The sample for 2021 LDS was a single stage stratified sample, designed to provide estimates of demographic indicators at the national, district and regional levels, covering the private households in the country. The Sampling Frame used consists of all Enumeration Areas (EAs) in Lesotho along with the estimated number of households in each EA and the numerical administrative units of each EA. The EAs were stratified by settlement type, namely, Urban, Peri-Urban¹ and Rural as well as by ecological zones (Lowlands, Foothills, Mountains and Senqu River Valley (SRV)). The 2016 Population and Housing Census Master Sample Frame comprising of 5,490 EAs and 557,900 households was used for the sample design and for the selection of EAs.

1.3.1 Sample Selection

The process of the sample design was employed such that all the ten districts were explicitly stratified and a further implicit stratification of settlements within the districts was also applied. A stratified single stage probability sample design was used for the selection of the sample. The first stage of the sample selection involved selecting the EAs from the master sample frame as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), selected with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS), where the Measures of Size (MOS) were the number of households in the EAs as defined by the 2016 Population and Housing Census. A sample size of 300 EAs was therefore selected with PPS and all the private households within the selected EAs were included in the sample.

¹ According to BOS, Peri-urban refers to an area that somewhat mirrors characteristics of urban areas but to a lesser extent.

Table 1.1: Distribution of the Sample Size by District and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Districts	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	Total EAs
Botha-Bothe	7	0	17	24
Leribe	17	4	19	40
Berea	14	3	20	37
Maseru	34	5	15	54
Mafeteng	10	5	15	30
Mohale's Hoek	8	1	19	28
Quthing	7	2	13	22
Qacha's Nek	5	1	12	18
Mokhotlong	3	1	18	22
Thaba-Tseka	3	3	19	25
Total	108	25	167	300

1.3.2 Weighting Procedures

To compensate for unequal selection probabilities of the EA's in the districts and for non-response as well as non-coverage of the sampled units, sampling weights were employed to correct those imperfections. The sampling weight of each EA was obtained as the inverse or reciprocal of its probability of selection. The determination procedure for weighting the i^{th} EA in stratum h was calculated using the following;

$w_{hi} = F1 \times F2$, where;

$$F1 = \frac{n_h \times M_{hi}}{M_h} \text{ and } F2 = \frac{m_h}{M_{hi}} \text{ for;}$$

and for;

M_h = total number of private households in stratum h

M_{hi} = number of private households in i^{th} EA in stratum h

m_h = number of households who responded to the survey in stratum h

n_h = number of sampled EA's in stratum h

1.3.3 Response Rates

According to American Association for Public Opinion Research (APOR) 2011, response rate has been defined traditionally as the total number of participants who were interviewed divided by the total number who were eligible. Furthermore, it has also been defined as the total number of completed interviews divided by the total number of participants with whom contact was made (or the number of all possible interviews).

A survey response rate is generally presented as a percentage. It is used in determining whether or not a survey was successful in engaging its targeted households and is calculated by dividing the total number of households interviewed by the total number of households that were eligible to be interviewed during the survey and then multiplied by 100.

Table 1.2 shows the number of enumerated households by districts, household completion and response rates. A total of 30,756 households were sampled, of which 26,914 were occupied and 23,367 were successfully interviewed yielding a total response rate of 86.8

percent. Generally, the response rates were high in all districts with response rates above 80 percent.

Table 1.2: Number of Enumerated Households by Districts and Response Rates, 2021 LDS

District	Sampled	Occupied	Interviewed	Household Response Rate
Botha-Bothe	2,359	2,158	1,951	90.4
Leribe	4,323	3,744	3,346	89.4
Berea	3,934	3,332	2,921	87.7
Maseru	5,321	4,710	4,019	85.3
Mafeteng	2,799	2,322	2,000	86.1
Mohale's Hoek	3,044	2,516	2,121	84.3
Quthing	2,180	1,897	1,522	80.2
Qacha's Nek	1,696	1,518	1,405	92.6
Mokhotlong	2,432	2,261	1,951	86.3
Thaba-Tseka	2,668	2,456	2,131	86.8
Total	30,756	26,914	23,367	86.8

1.4 Survey Tools

A prerequisite to conducting a survey is the design and preparation of survey devices or instruments. It is one of the most crucial steps is the interpretation of a combined intricate ideas and concepts into a series of questions that would address the purpose of the survey. The interviewer's and supervisor's manuals are other essential documents that often come in handy during the conduct of the survey.

1.4.1 Questionnaires

The initial step in preparation of the questionnaire design was to form a team that consists of technical staff to revisit and update the 2016 PHC questionnaire in 2019. The update covered the modifications that included attaching GBV module to develop the 2021 data collection instrument. The questionnaire was translated into Sesotho and then back translated into English to ensure consistency in both languages. A Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) application was developed using the mobile version of Census and Survey Processing System (CSPRO).

The questionnaire covered the following modules:

-  Demographics and Migration
-  Disability
-  Education
-  Economic Activity
-  Fertility
-  Mortality
-  Housing characteristics and household possessions and
-  Gender based violence

1.4.2 Interviewer's and Supervisor's Manuals

An Interviewer's manual is a detailed written instructional document that is used to provide the field staff with the common understanding of the individual questions contained in the survey tool. It accomplishes two primary purposes which are to serve as an instrument of study during training course and could also be used as a basic reference material during the survey or census enumeration. The quality of data collected during surveys or censuses rely entirely on the quality of field work performed by the supervisors and enumerators. Field staff is mostly expected to specifically understand all the details and procedures to be followed during data collection but most importantly the enumerators.

For this survey, the supervisors and enumerators were using the same manual for training and reference purposes regarding the content of the questionnaire. The interviewer's manual for 2021 LDS covered all aspects of the survey such as:

- Objectives of the survey
- Uses of survey data
- General information about the survey
 - Nature and scope
 - Definitions and procedures
 - Time reference
 - The survey field organization
- The interviewer and interviewing techniques
 - Desirable attributes of the interviewer
 - Preparation for the interview
 - Tips on interviewing
 - Resolving common problems in interviewing
- The questionnaire
 - Basic concepts and definitions
 - Item by item explanations of exactly what kinds of data are expected for each question and how to make the proper entries
- Administrative instructions

The supervisor's manual contained instructions on what is expected of the Supervisor in the field including the terms and conditions of operation. The conduct of field team under the supervisor's leadership was explained in the manual and also what is expected of the Supervisor upon arrival in the field. There were also details on how to spot check enumerators in the field and how to handle data from the enumerator then consequently its transmission to the server at the BOS headquarters.

1.5 Training

The LDS training for the pilot was held on 19th to 28th October 2020. The training modality for the survey used a prepared basic enumerators and supervisor's instructional manual alongside the survey instrument. The first phase of training was dedicated to training of trainers (TOT) which was done on the 12th to 16th April 2021. A total of fifteen (15) BOS staff were trained as supervisors for a period of two weeks. The Supervisory training

techniques included among others; being interviewed by interviewers, how to spot incomplete cases, how to approve cases, receiving system updates, distributing updates to interviewers and questionnaire content. For the main survey, a total of hundred and fifty (150) enumerators were recruited. Training for Enumerators was done from the 3rd to 14th May 2021 for a period of two weeks and the training was done in two different centres. Enumerators were initially introduced to the complete training of paper questionnaire and that was followed by training on the CAPI application and map reading.

The training course consisted of instruction regarding interviewing techniques and field procedures, a detailed review of questionnaire content, and instruction on how to administer the paper and electronic questionnaires. Moreover, mock interviews were conducted among enumerators to allow practice in proper interviewing techniques. A one-day practice with real respondents was done in areas neighboring the training centres to provide enumerators with hands-on experience before the main fieldwork. There was a special training also on the use including transmission of data from enumerators to supervisors' tablet (synchronization), handling and storage of tablets which was conducted by the Information and Technology (IT) personnel. The enumerators were also given tests to evaluate their understanding and assess their skills in the expected knowledge of survey procedures and specifically questions.

1.6 Field Work

The LDS pilot survey data collection was done in five districts namely; Leribe, Thaba-Tseka, Maseru, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing from 9th to 23rd November 2020. The subsequent data collection was that of the main survey which commenced from May 18, 2021 and was expected to end on the 18th June 2021. However, due to some unforeseen climatic conditions of snowfall, some EA's could not be covered during the stipulated time period; hence there was an extension of one week to complete enumerating the remaining EA's.

There were 15 field work teams with each team comprising of ten interviewers, two drivers (two vehicles per team) and a supervisor with pre-assigned workloads. Each team had a workload of twenty (20) Enumeration Areas (EAs) to be completed in one month.

The duties of a supervisor were to observe interviews done by field staff at different households to ensure that they properly introduce the objective of the survey including the expected survey procedures and techniques. They were also to ensure that the questionnaire was administered accordingly as was demonstrated during training for good quality data purposes. The three Coordinators and three IT Support staff who were based in three regions namely North, Central and South supervised and supported 15 teams. There was also a team of five (5) staff members who were based at head office comprising of three (3) quality controllers and two (2) IT personnel (programmers). The main function of quality controllers was to undertake content editing during data collection.

During enumeration, data was directly captured into the tablets by enumerators through face-to-face interviews with the survey respondents. Data was then transmitted to the supervisor using Bluetooth for validation before sending to the server at headquarters. The transmission of data was done on a daily basis to ensure minimum effect in the event of loss or damage that can befall the data collection tools. The supervisors would then synchronize the data using the internet in different districts offices to upload the data onto the server. Further validation was carried out by quality controllers, with a possibility of

returning the record to the supervisor for further correction if some inconsistencies in data were found. Generally, fieldwork proceeded smoothly for the entire period except for the snowfall that hindered access to other mountain EA's hence there was an extension of one week to finalise data collection in the remaining EA's.

1.7 Data Processing

The CAPI data collection methodology entails pre-designed program that allowed data capturing in real time, that is, enumeration and data capturing happened concurrently. The data management tool that collected, transmitted, stored and cleaned survey data was developed using CSPro 7.5. This means that the program had in-built correction features (skipping's and validation checks) hence most of the errors were eliminated during data collection. Various quality check tables were generated to validate data consistency and quality parameters as a result specific feedback was given to the teams to improve performance in the field.

After the completion of data collection, secondary editing and coding continued in the office which was done by technical staff. A set of consistency rules and edit specification were used to guide the computer edit programs which were used to produce data files. Thereafter, production of four datasets namely; household member, deaths, household characteristics and GBV were used for final tabulation. Sampling weights were then applied to the data for production of final tables.

1.8 Production of Tables

A tabulation plan containing a set of detailed tables presenting the full survey results or at least those deemed worthy of publication was developed prior to data collection. The trial tables were produced to check data consistency from the four datasets that were produced. A four weeks retreat (28th January – 18th February 2022) was undertaken outside the office to run the tabulation programme that would be used for both analytical and tables reports. Identified inconsistencies in the tables were referred to the data processing team to accordingly access the raw data and apply necessary validation and edits procedures. The final tables were produced after verification of the trial tables.

1.9 Data Evaluation

Age and sex constitute the most important variables in demographic analysis. The magnitude of age misreporting is best judged by evaluation of age-sex distribution. Evaluating data collectively results in uncovering very minor patterns and details that would otherwise have been left out during data cleaning and editing. Populations are not homogeneous units; they differ by sex, age, race or ethnicity, marital status, and a host of other characteristics.

Age and sex data are mainly used by planning agencies for assessing the attained level of development of the economy and culture of the nation and of its individual regions, for verifying the course of fulfillment of plans, as well as for current and long-term planning. Demographic phenomenon like fertility, mortality and migration and socio-economic characteristics, such as nuptiality, education, occupation and employment are also highly correlated with age and sex. A society's sex structure has important implications for socio-

economic and demographic development, as well as for labor force participation and gender relations.

Age is most commonly used to differentiate populations in terms of the time elapsed (usually in complete years), generally from the date of live birth to a certain point in time. Collected age data may not be hundred percent correct due to several reasons in spite of all necessary care undertaken in the field, hence it is necessary to evaluate them before use. Age can be misreported whereby illiterate population may not know their exact age or dates of birth and when asked to give out such information they might either guess or give estimates. Such estimates produce errors in age data.

Table 1.3 shows some selected demographic measures that usually reflect the plausibility of the results. The overall sex ratio decreased from 97.3 in 2011 to 94.8 males per 100 females in 2021. The percentage of population residing in urban areas seems to be increasing in recent years. In general, the selected demographic measures seemed to be decreasing from 2011 except population aged 65 and above including percentage of population residing in urban areas.

Table 1.3: Selected Demographic Measures, 2001-2021, 2021 LDS

Measure	Survey/Census Year				
	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
% of population <15	38.6	34.1	33.7	31.7	30.4
% of population 65+	4.9	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.4
Overall Sex ratio	95.6	94.7	97.3	95.8	94.8
Sex ratio at birth	102.4	102.4	105.1	101.4	101.1
Average Household size	5.0	4.4	4.2	3.7	3.6
% of population urban	17.1	22.6	23.7	34.2	41.7
Age dependency Ratio	43.0	66.2	66.1	60.9	58.0

Source: 2006, 2016 Population and Housing censuses of Lesotho and 2001, 2011 and 2021 LDS

1.9.1 Digit Preference

Data on age in developing countries are subject to errors, particularly in circumstances where literacy levels are not high. A common error in age reporting is the tendency of rounding the ages to the nearest figure ending in '0' or '5' or to a lesser extent, to the nearest even number. As age data collected may not be hundred percent correct due to several reasons in spite of all care undertaken in the field, it is necessary to evaluate before use. There are various methods available to estimate the extent to which data on age are misreported because of unconscious errors and due to conscious biases and for this survey Myers Blended method of estimation was employed.

Table 1.4 shows the degree of digit preference bias that was assessed using Myers' Index for the whole population disaggregated by sex. There was a higher index for females than males, which implies that age was more accurately reported among males than females with 2.3 and 3.7 respectively. The overall Myers index for this survey was estimated at 2.8 which reflect virtuous quality age reporting.

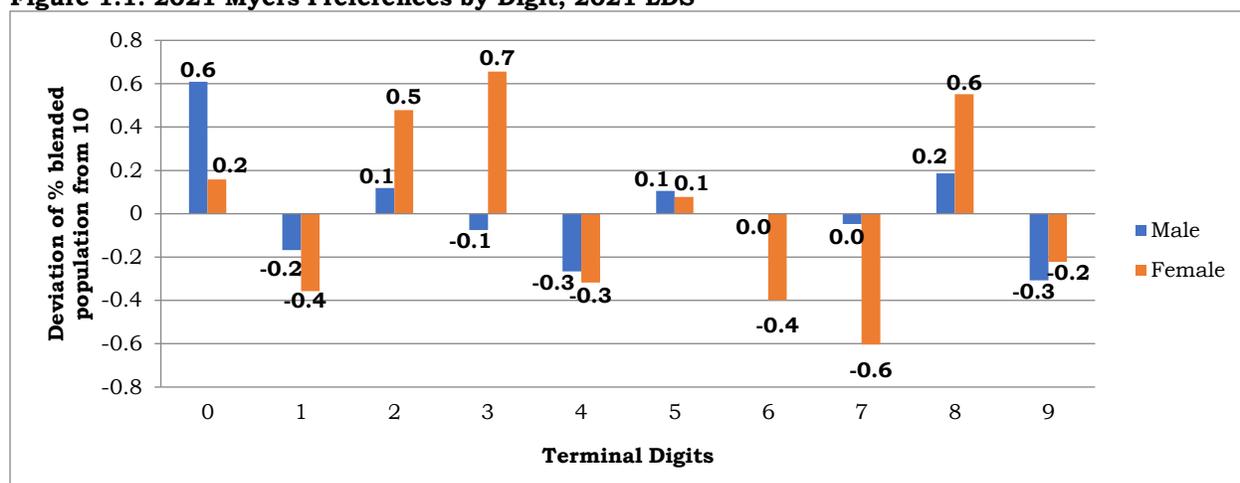
Table 1.4: Myers Measures of Digital Preference for 2016 PHC and 2021 LDS, 2021 LDS

Population	Myers Index of Digit preference	
	2016	2021
Both Sexes	2.7	2.8
Males	2.5	2.3
Females	3.1	3.7

Source: 2016 PHC and 2021 LDS

The Myers Blended digit preference index is illustrated in Figure 1.1. Minus signs indicate avoidance of certain terminal digits while positive signs are for preference to those terminal digits. The figure indicates that males preferred to report ages ending in digits 0 or 8 and avoided reporting digits ending with 4 or 9 while females preferred reporting ages ending in 2, 3 or 8 and avoided reporting digits ending with 1, 6 or 7.

Figure 1.1: 2021 Myers Preferences by Digit, 2021 LDS



1.9.2 Age and Sex Ratios

Population ratios are used to describe the degree of balance between two elements of the population that is males against females, children versus women of reproductive ages. Sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females in a population. Sex ratio is among the most basic demographic parameters and provides an indication of both the relative survival of females and males and the future reproduction potential of a population. The sex ratio of the population affects, and is affected by birth, death, immigration, and emigration rates.

Age ratio is the proportion of young individuals to adults in a population. Age ratios are vitally important since they have an impact on productivity and population growth. According to United Nations (2013), the age ratio for a particular cohort to the average of the counts for the adjacent cohorts should be approximately equal to 1 (or 100 if multiplied by a constant of 100)

Table 1.5 shows age ratios and sex ratios for 2021 LDS. The overall sex ratio was estimated at 94.8, which means that on average there were 95 males for every 100 females. Male ratios reflect minor deviations from 100 in most of the age groups except at age group 10 to 14 and 40 to 44 years whereby it exceeds by eight and five points correspondingly. Regarding female ratios, the same pattern of minor deviations still prevails across all age

groups except at age group 10 to 14 years and 60 to 64 years where they exceed 100 by 10 and 9 points respectively.

Table 1.5: Age Ratio and Sex Ratios for Lesotho, 2021 LDS

Age	Population		Age ratio		Age ratio Deviation		Sex ratio	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	(Males per 100 females)	Sex ratio Difference
All ages	1,010,397	1,066,272					94.8	
0-4	96,359	97,205					99.1	
5-9	106,801	101,470	100.3	95.9	0.3	-4.1	105.3	6.1
10-14	116,710	114,507	108.0	110.1	8.0	10.1	101.9	-3.3
15-19	109,363	106,517	101.1	97.9	1.1	-2.1	102.7	0.7
20-24	99,533	103,116	100.3	104.4	0.3	4.4	96.5	-6.1
25-29	89,115	91,094	97.8	98.0	-2.2	-2.0	97.8	1.3
30-34	82,709	82,845	102.2	101.1	2.2	1.1	99.8	2.0
35-39	72,722	72,802	100.6	101.8	0.6	1.8	99.9	0.1
40-44	61,937	60,139	105.0	104.5	5.0	4.5	103.0	3.1
45-49	45,206	42,279	95.7	85.6	-4.3	-14.4	106.9	3.9
50-54	32,568	38,652	88.7	99.4	-11.3	-0.6	84.3	-22.7
55-59	28,257	35,483	102.0	97.9	2.0	-2.1	79.6	-4.6
60-64	22,846	33,871	101.1	109.5	1.1	9.5	67.5	-12.2
65-69	16,927	26,403	96.8	98.2	-3.2	-1.8	64.1	-3.3
70-74	12,139	19,915	#N/A	#N/A	0.0	0.0	61.0	-3.2
75+	17,205	39,974	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	43.0	#N/A

1.9.3 Age-Sex Accuracy Index

Age-sex accuracy index is a technique initially developed by the United Nations Secretariat for evaluating the accuracy of age data in demographic surveys. The calculations require dividing the population in a specific 5-year age group by the average population of the two adjacent 5-year age groups, multiplied by 100. However, for 2021 LDS, AGESEX spreadsheet developed by the US Census Bureau to assess the quality of data was employed to generate age ratios, sex ratios and UN accuracy indices.

An index is considered to be accurate if it is below 20, inaccurate if it ranges from 20 to 40 and highly inaccurate if it exceeds 40 and this is according to the UN interpretation of indices. Table 1.6 shows summary of indices measuring the age-sex accuracy of the 2011 and 2021 LDS. The age sex accuracy for 2021 LDS was estimated at 23.3 reflecting much lesser misreporting of age sex data in comparison with the 2011 LDS which was recorded at 32.2. The general observation shows that the 2021 LDS age and sex data was fairly accurate.

Table 1.6: Summary of Indices Measuring the Age-Sex Accuracy of the 2011 and 2021 LDS, 2021 LDS

Index	2011	2021
Sex Ratio Score	6.9	5.2
Male Age Ratio Score	6.0	3.2
Female Age Ratio Score	5.6	4.5
Age-Sex Accuracy Index	32.2	23.3

Source: 2011 and 2021 LDS

1.9.4 Parity data

Misreporting for lifetime parity was checked for inconsistencies and the implausible parities were corrected using the El Badry method of correction. The proportion of women whose parity is truly unstated is 0.016, and since the proportions unknown are less than the expected 0.016, then this implies that the data is of good quality.

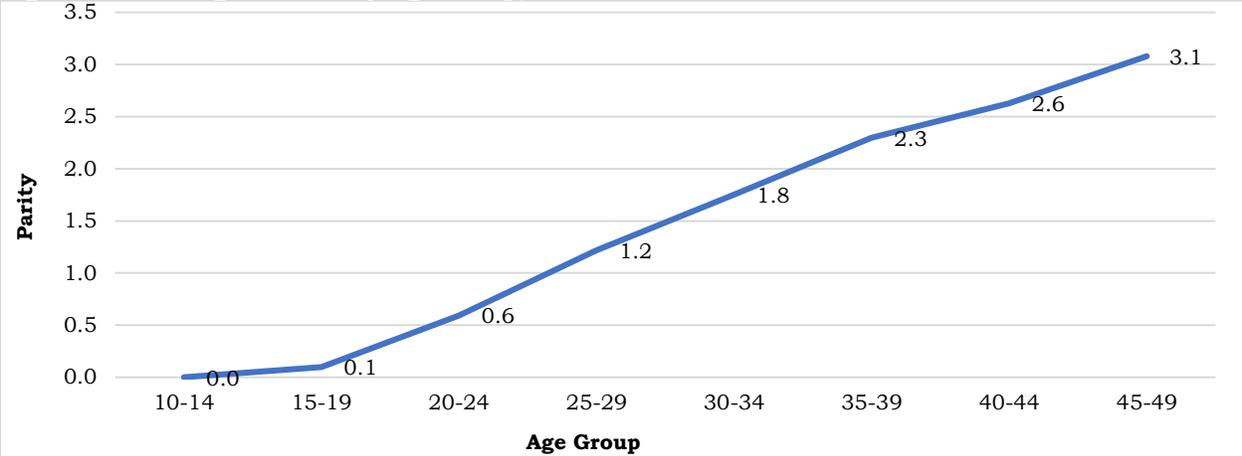
Table 1.7: Distribution of Women Aged 15 - 49 by their Parity and Age Group, 2021 LDS

Parity	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	TOTAL
0	95,122	53,216	23,359	12,273	7,350	5,634	3,150	200,104
1	9,300	37,652	33,985	23,205	13,230	8,774	5,226	131,373
2	362	9,456	23,549	26,384	22,914	16,353	9,021	108,038
3	23	1,102	7,123	13,885	15,569	13,346	9,339	60,387
4	36	60	1,489	4,131	7,164	7,529	6,503	26,911
5	-	-	155	1,358	3,415	3,951	4,121	12,999
6	-	-	-	258	1,308	2,022	2,082	5,670
7	-	-	-	30	490	990	901	2,412
8	-	10	-	19	153	360	604	1,145
9	-	-	-	-	73	164	364	601
10	-	-	-	-	-	46	223	269
11	-	-	-	-	-	15	61	76
12	-	-	-	-	-	9	33	42
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Unknown	1,675	1,622	1,433	1,303	1,137	946	643	8,758
TOTAL	106,517	103,116	91,094	82,845	72,802	60,139	42,279	558,793
Prop Unknown	0.0151	0.0157	0.0157	0.0157	0.0156	0.0157	0.0152	

1.9.4.1 Average Parity

Figure 1.2 presents the average parities by age group. It is observed that there are low levels of fertility in teenage girls and the average parity increases with an increasing age. From age group 30 to 34 years, the average parities increase at a lower rate than those in the lower age groups. The largest increments were observed between the ages 20 and 30 years whereby females highly participate in reproduction. This is also indicative of a good and reliable data.

Figure 1.2: Average Parities by Age Group, 2021 LDS



1.10 Smoothing the Age Distribution

Data smoothing is a statistical technique that involves removing outliers from a data set when there are errors in age reporting and the idea behind is to identify simplified changes to help predict different trends. There are several techniques for smoothing the population age distribution when there are errors in age reporting that was caused by either the enumerator or respondents. Misreporting involves a change from one’s actual age to another age that may be due to digit preference in most cases, typically an adjacent age group.

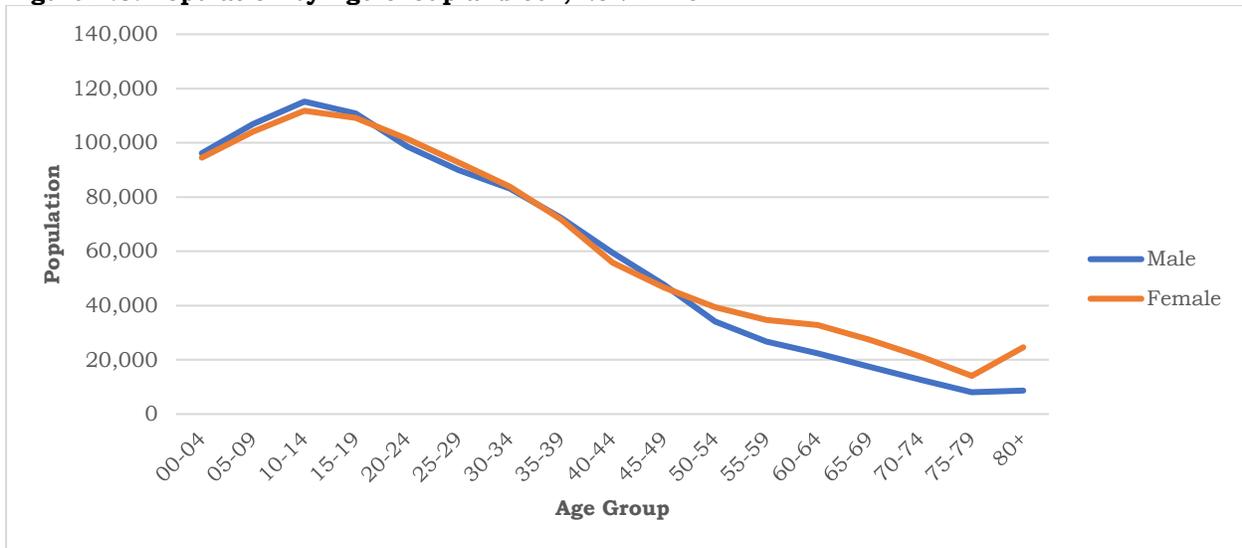
The Arriaga's method of smoothing using the AGESMTH spreadsheet was applied to 2021 LDS data with the results presented in Table 1.8. This method of smoothing assumes that a second-degree polynomial passes by the midpoint of each three consecutive 10-year age groups and then integrates a 5-year age group.

Table 1.8: De Jure Population Distribution by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

	Male	Female	Total
All Ages	1,010,397	1,066,272	2,076,669
00 - 04	96,359	97,204	193,563
05 - 09	106,801	101,470	208,271
10 - 14	116,710	114,507	231,216
15 - 19	109,363	106,517	215,880
20 - 24	99,533	103,116	202,649
25 - 29	89,115	91,094	180,209
30 - 34	82,709	82,845	165,554
35 - 39	72,722	72,802	145,524
40 - 44	61,937	60,139	122,076
45 - 49	45,206	42,279	87,485
50 - 54	32,568	38,652	71,220
55 - 59	28,257	35,483	63,740
60 - 64	22,846	33,871	56,717
65 - 69	16,927	26,403	43,330
70 - 74	12,139	19,915	32,055
75 - 79	8,575	15,408	23,982
80 - 84	4,885	12,654	17,539
85+	3,745	11,912	15,658

Figure 1.3 shows population distribution after smoothing for males and females by age group. The population is observed to be high at age group 0 to 4 years where it starts to increase further until it reaches the peak at age 10 to 14 years and begins to decline till it reaches the lowest number of 14,081 and 8,058 for males and females respectively at age group 75 to 79 years.

Figure 1.3: Population by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS



1.11 Summary

The planning of the 2021 LDS was well organised in advance, from the development of project document to implementation. Like any other massive project, 2021 LDS had its own problems and milestones. All the different stages of the project execution were done in accordance with the plans except for data collection which was expected to commence on 10th April 2021 but was postponed to 15th May 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

For data evaluation, Myers measure of digit preference was applied to detect whether there was a digit preference for respondents or not. This yielded an index of 2.3 and 3.7 for both males and females respectively. The figures are close to zero showing minimal digit preference of any particular terminal digit for both males and females. The 2021 LDS revealed a noteworthy improvement in regard to age reporting with the estimate of the United Nations age-sex accuracy index of 23.3 when compared to the 2011 LDS which yielded an estimate of 32.2. Generally, the 2021 LDS is of good quality data that could be utilised by all stakeholders.

CHAPTER 2

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

2.0 Introduction

Population distribution is the pattern of where people live with an uneven distribution. Places which are sparsely populated contain fewer people while those which are densely populated contain many people. Sparsely populated places tend to be difficult places to live in and mostly exhibit hostile environments while those which are densely populated have proved to have habitable environments, (www.internetgeography.net).

Information on population distribution is valuable for planning purposes, formulation of policies as well as informed decision making for better development of the country. It will also enable the government to make informed decisions, effectively plan and monitor development progress and better allocation of resources. The chapter provides information on distribution of the population disaggregated by age and sex, districts, ecological zones, settlement type, population change and density.

2.1 Age and Sex Distribution

The population structure for any particular area shows the number of males and females within different age groups in the population. This information is displayed graphically as an age-sex or population pyramid. Population pyramids of less economically developed countries typically have a wide base and a narrow top representing a high birth rate and high death rate. On the contrary, population pyramids of more economically developed countries typically have a roughly equal distribution of population throughout the age groups and the top visibly gets narrower as a result of mortality affecting older ages.

Lesotho population age structure is generally young, the base is wide and tapers at the apex even though in recent times it is getting narrower from age 0 to 9 years due to low fertility and high infant deaths. Age 10 to 14 years contain more population than any other age group reflecting a high influx into the population about ten years prior to this survey, and as age increases the population declines due to several factors but mostly mortality.

Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid of Lesotho, 2021 LDS

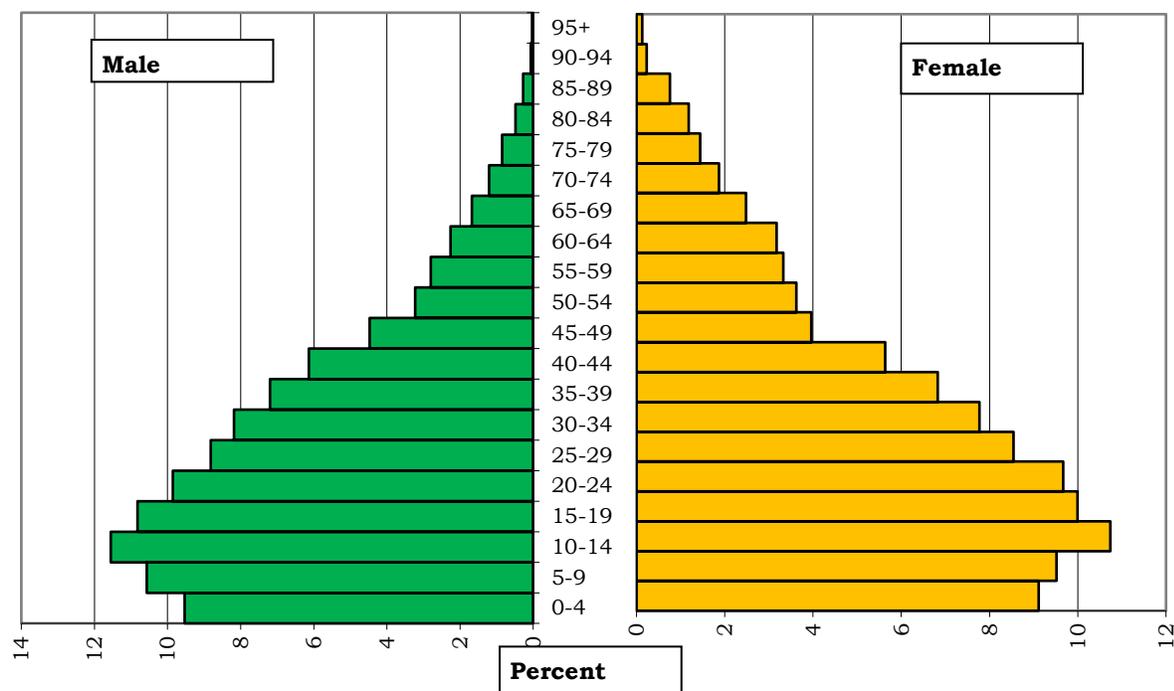


Table 2.1 shows De Jure population by five-year age group and sex. The total De Jure population is estimated to be 2,076,669 with female population constituting 51.3 percent and the 10 to 14 years' age bracket having the highest population.

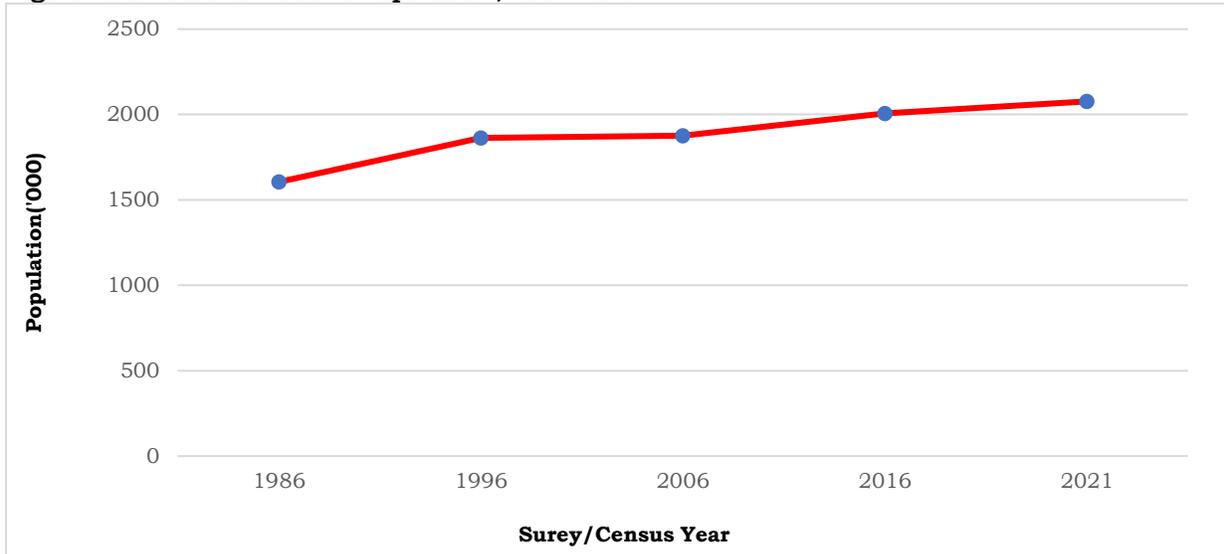
Table 2.1: De Jure Population by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00 - 04	96,359	97,204	193,563
05 - 09	106,801	101,470	208,271
10 - 14	116,710	114,507	231,216
15 - 19	109,363	106,517	215,880
20 - 24	99,533	103,116	202,649
25 - 29	89,115	91,094	180,209
30 - 34	82,709	82,845	165,554
35 - 39	72,722	72,802	145,524
40 - 44	61,937	60,139	122,076
45 - 49	45,206	42,279	87,485
50 - 54	32,568	38,652	71,220
55 - 59	28,257	35,483	63,740
60 - 64	22,846	33,871	56,717
65 - 69	16,927	26,403	43,330
70 - 74	12,139	19,915	32,055
75 - 79	8,575	15,408	23,982
80 - 84	4,885	12,654	17,539
85+	3,745	11,912	15,658
Total	1,010,397	1,066,272	2,076,669

2.2 Total Population

Total population is the entire number of people or inhabitants in a country at the given time. Of the estimated total population 1,066,272 were females and 1,010,397 males. Figure 2.2 illustrates that the total population of the country have been increasing from 1986 to 2021.

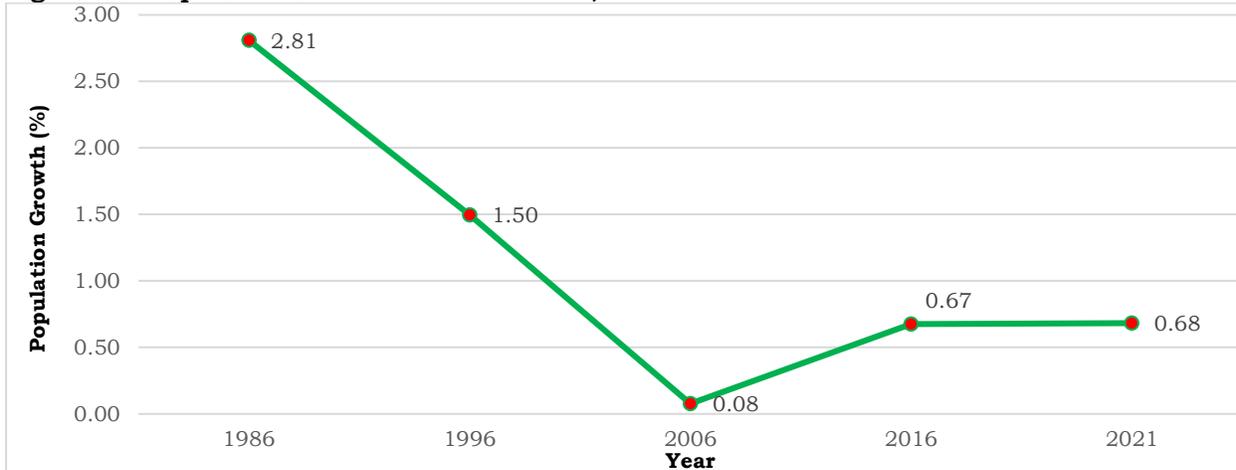
Figure 2.2: Lesotho De-Jure Population, 2001-2021



2.3 The Growth Rate

Population growth rate is the rate of either natural increase or decrease in the number of people within the country in a specified time. It is affected by birth rates, death rates, immigration, and emigration. Lesotho experienced a decreasing growth rate of the population from 1986 to 2006 and has increased to 0.68 percent in 2021.

Figure 2.3: Population Growth Rate 1986-2021, 2021 LDS



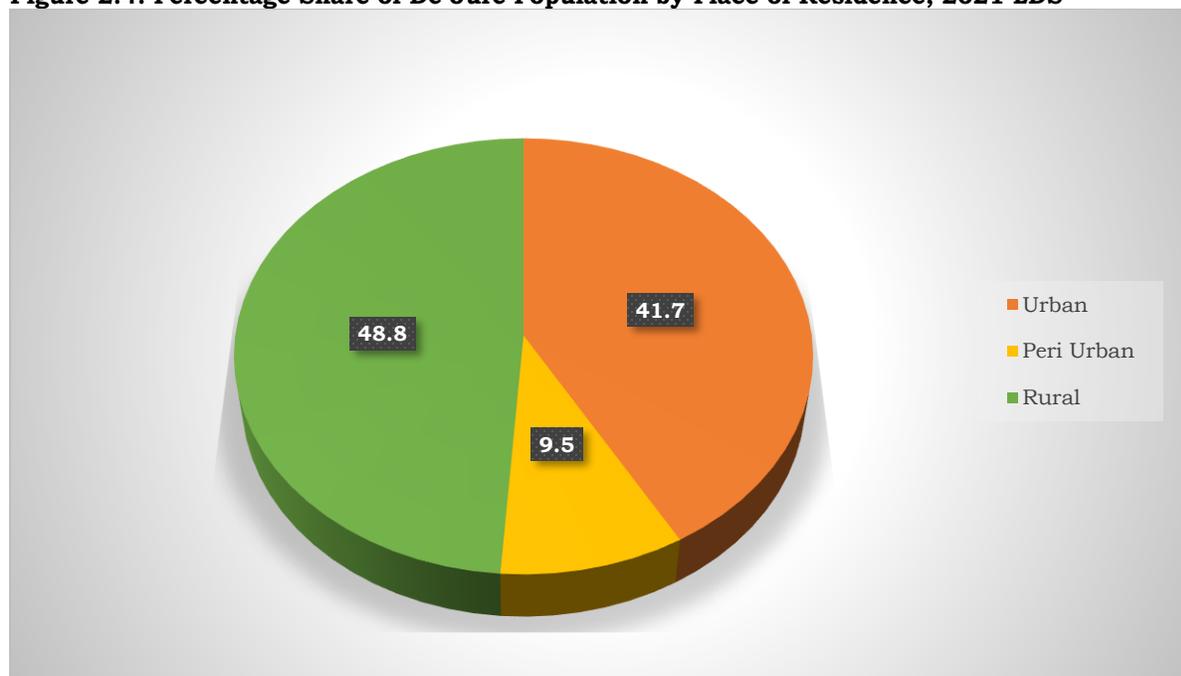
2.4 Spatial Distribution of the Population

Spatial distribution describes how the population is spread-out and this section highlights the distribution disparities relating to age, sex, place of residence, ecological zones and districts.

2.4.1 Place of Residence

The place of residence refers to the civil subdivision of a country in which the individual resides (UN, 1991), hence in this section it refers to Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural areas. Figure 2.4 depicts that 48.8 percent of the population resides in the rural areas.

Figure 2.4: Percentage Share of De Jure Population by Place of Residence, 2021 LDS



2.4.2 Districts

Lesotho is divided into ten administrative districts which differ in terms of area, population and topography. It is shown from Table 2.2 that the proportion of population for both Botha-Bothe and Qacha's Nek remained the same from 2006 to 2021 with estimated 5.9 and 3.7 percent respectively. As majority of the districts showed a decreasing trend in the population, Maseru increased throughout the years and in 2021 LDS the proportion of the population accounted for 27.3 percent.

Table 2.2: Percentage Distribution of De Jure Population by District, 1986-2021

District	Censuses				LDS
	1986	1996	2006	2016	2021
Botha-Bothe	7.0	6	5.9	5.9	5.9
Leribe	17.0	16	15.7	16.8	17.4
Berea	9.0	13	13.4	13.2	13.0
Maseru	19.0	21	22.9	25.8	27.3
Mafeteng	13.0	11	10.3	8.9	8.2
Mohale's Hoek	11.0	10	9.4	8.2	7.7
Quthing	7.2	7	6.6	5.8	5.3
Qacha's Nek	4.0	4	3.7	3.7	3.7
Mokhotlong	5.0	5	5.2	5.0	4.9
Thaba-Tseka	7.0	7	6.9	6.7	6.6
Total	1,605,177	1,862,275	1,876,633	2,007,201	2,076,669

Source: 1986, 1996, 2006, 2016 censuses and 2021 LDS

As distribution of population is further broken down into district and sex, it is shown from Table 2.3 that female population outnumber males in almost all the districts except in Mokhotlong with 50.9 percent (51,839) of the population being males.

Table 2.3: De Jure Population by District and Sex, 2021 LDS

District	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	59,990	62,510	122,500
Leribe	174,412	187,183	361,595
Berea	131,709	137,581	269,290
Maseru	269,512	296,865	566,377
Mafeteng	83,536	86,525	170,061
Mohale's Hoek	78,675	80,462	159,137
Quthing	54,714	55,932	110,645
Qacha's Nek	37,251	39,901	77,152
Mokhotlong	51,839	50,006	101,845
Thaba-Tseka	68,759	69,308	138,066
Total	1,010,397	1,066,272	2,076,669

2.4.3 Ecological Zones

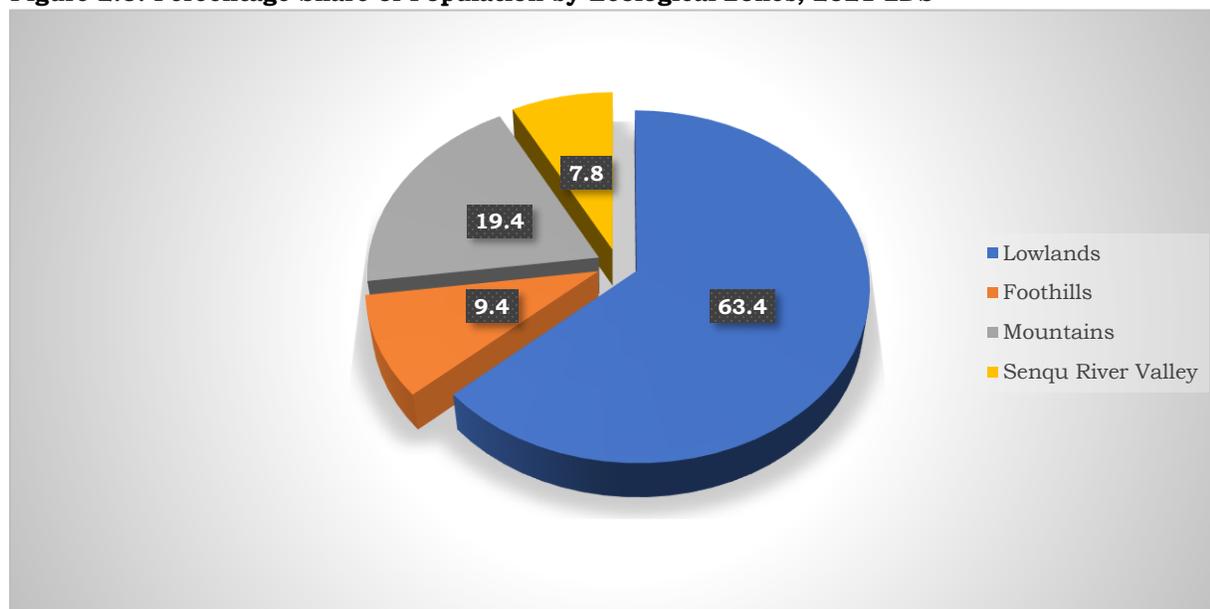
Lesotho is divided into four ecological zones which differ in terms of altitude, topography and climate. The majority of population resides in the lowlands as indicated in Table 2.4 and this has been a similar pattern since 1986. Moreover, the table further shows that there is a lower population count for the other zones estimated in 1986 to 2016 censuses as well as 2021 LDS.

Table 2.4: Percentage of De Jure Population Distribution by Ecological Zones 1986-2021 LDS

Ecological Zone	1986	1996	2006	2016	2021
	Census	Census	Census	Census	LDS
Lowlands	49.0	58.6	56.7	62.0	63.4
Foothills	22.7	12.4	12.8	9.7	9.4
Mountain	16.8	22.8	20.5	19.6	19.4
SRV	11.5	6.2	10.0	8.7	7.8
Total	1,605,177	1,862,275	1,876,633	2,007,201	2,076,669

Figure 2.5 depicts percentage share of the population in the four ecological zones of the country. Most of the population is found in Lowlands accounting for 63.4 percent while 7.8 percent of the population resides along the Senqu River Valley.

Figure 2.5: Percentage Share of Population by Ecological Zones, 2021 LDS



2.5 Population Change

Population change is defined as the variation in the number of people in a specified area during a certain time period. The main components of population change are births, deaths, and migration. The rural-urban migration is a normal phenomenon and this is observed in Table 2.5. The total population changed by 3.5 percent from 2016 to 2021 while it was estimated at 7.0 percent from 2006 to 2016 census. In the Urban areas population changed by 26.3 percent although the change was lower than that of 2016 census where 62.7 percent change was experienced. Most of the districts gained population except Mafeteng, Quthing and Mohale's Hoek and the same observation prevailed even during 2016 census.

Table 2.5: Distribution of Population Percentage Change by Place of Residence and District, 2006-2021, 2021 LDS

Urban/Rural/District	Censuses		LDS	Percentage Change	
	2006	2016	2021	2006-2016	2016-2021
Urban	421,655	685,938	866,095	62.7	26.3
Rural	1,444,816	1,321,263	1,210,574	-8.6	-8.4
District					
Botha-Bothe	110,320	118,242	122,500	7.2	3.6
Leribe	293,369	337,521	361,595	15.0	7.1
Berea	250,006	262,616	269,290	5.0	2.5
Maseru	431,998	519,186	566,377	20.2	9.1
Mafeteng	192,621	178,222	170,061	-7.5	-4.6
Mohale's Hoek	176,928	165,590	159,137	-6.4	-3.9
Quthing	124,048	115,469	110,645	-6.9	-4.2
Qacha's Nek	69,749	74,566	77,152	6.9	3.5
Mokhotlong	97,713	100,442	101,845	2.8	1.4
Thaba-Tseka	129,881	135,347	138,066	4.2	2.0
Total	1,876,633	2,007,201	2,076,669	7.0	3.5

Source: 2006 and 2016 Census Reports, 2021 LDS Report

2.6 Population Density

Population density is the average number of individuals in a population per unit area. It reveals different information about the pressure the population exerts on land. Table 2.6 shows that Lesotho population density was 359 persons per square kilometre with arable land of 5,780. Maseru being the capital city has much higher population density with 633.5 persons per square kilometre. Population density for Mafeteng is 178 persons per square kilometre with highest arable land of 952 square kilometre.

Table 2.6: Percentage Distribution, Arable Land and Population Density, 2021 LDS

District	Percent Population	Arable Land (sq. km)	Density (sq. km)
Botha-Bothe	5.9	228	537.5
Leribe	17.4	837	432.0
Berea	13.0	757	355.7
Maseru	27.3	894	633.5
Mafeteng	8.2	952	178.0
Mohale's Hoek	7.7	714	222.9
Quthing	5.3	350	316.2
Qacha's Nek	3.7	240	321.3
Mokhotlong	4.9	329	310.0
Thaba-Tseka	6.6	481	286.9
Total	100	5,780	359.0

National Irrigation Master Plan and Investment Framework, Lesotho Final Completion Report, Volume I, 2020.

2.7 Summary

The 2021 LDS estimated De Jure population to be 2,076,669 with female population constituting 51.3 percent and males 48.7 percent, with the growth rate of 0.68 percent. Population in 2021 LDS changed by 3.5 percent and urban areas showed a change of 26.3 percent while the population changed by 8.4 in the rural areas. Considering districts, population for Maseru increased by 9.1 percent and Mafeteng experienced 4.6 percent decrease. National population density is estimated at 359 persons per square kilometre.

CHAPTER 3

YOUTH

3.0 Introduction

Youth population is defined as population evolving from a dependent childhood to independent adulthood. The term 'youth' may be interchangeably used to refer to young person, young adult, adolescent and teenager (www.youth.com). The other angle of defining youth population is in relation to age. For instance, in Lesotho, Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation (MGYSR) classifies youth as a person aged 15 to 35 years, the National Youth Policy (NYP), UNAIDS, and WHO categorizes youth as persons aged 10 to 24 years. The UN General Assembly and the World Bank defines youth as persons aged 15 to 24 years, while the Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP) considers age bracket 15 to 29 years. However, for this chapter the analysis will be confined to local definition adopted by MGYSR (15 to 35 years).

The MGYSR is mandated to deliver among others the Government's vision of overall empowerment of young people through the integration of youth into socio-economic development issues of the country. This can meaningfully only be attained through a coherent and widely accepted NYP which is also in line with international youth conventions and protocols on development.

The overall goal of NYP 2017-2030 is the empowerment of all Basotho. This policy provides a framework for enabling youth develop social, economic, cultural and political skills to enhance their participation in all aspects or spheres of the overall development process to improve their quality of life.

This policy is aligned with the second National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) and with the MGYSR strategic plan. The policy has taken into account the numerous provisions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063's ten-year implementation plan.

3.1 Age and Sex Characteristics of Youth

The distribution of the youth by age and sex are important demographic variables since they form part of the labour force. Table 3.1 presents percentage distribution of youth by age, sex and sex ratio. The results revealed that, the youth population accounted for 38.4 percent of the total population in 2021 LDS. The results also show that the total number of male youth is 397,488 which is 49.9 percent of total youth and the total number of females is 399,360 accounting for 50.1 percent of youth population.

According to Shryock H.S. et al (1976), sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females. The 2011 LDS estimated a sex ratio of 106.5 and the 2016 PHC estimated the sex ratio at 102.0 while that of 2021 LDS is 99.5 reflecting a deficit of male youth.

Table 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Lesotho Youth by Age, Sex and Sex Ratio, 2021 LDS

Age	Male	Female	Sex ratio	% Share	Total
15	49.4	50.6	97.7	5.7	45,569
16	52.3	47.7	109.8	5.7	45,082
17	53.2	46.8	113.6	5.6	44,385
18	48.9	51.1	95.8	5.5	44,053
19	49.2	50.8	96.7	4.6	36,792
20	50.0	50.0	99.9	5.4	42,670
21	49.2	50.8	96.7	5.6	44,974
22	48.6	51.4	94.4	5.0	39,750
23	49.2	50.8	96.9	5.2	41,233
24	48.5	51.5	94.3	4.3	34,022
25	49.3	50.7	97.2	5.0	39,896
26	50.6	49.4	102.3	4.4	34,829
27	50.0	50.0	99.9	4.4	35,207
28	49.0	51.0	96.0	4.6	36,756
29	48.4	51.6	93.9	4.2	33,522
30	51.1	48.9	104.4	4.5	35,581
31	50.4	49.6	101.7	3.8	30,143
32	50.3	49.7	101.2	4.3	34,153
33	47.0	53.0	88.7	4.2	33,183
34	51.0	49.0	104.0	3.9	30,973
35	51.5	48.5	106.2	3.8	30,219
Total (%)	49.9	50.1	99.5	100	
Total (N)	397,488	399,360			796,848

3.2 Spatial Distribution

The distribution of population in the localities is useful in determining the administrative planning. Table 3.2 indicates that, the majority of youth population reside in rural areas with 46.0 percent while the least reside in peri-urban with 10.4 percent. Most of the youth population stay in the lowlands representing 65.0 percent. The district with the highest share of youth was Maseru with 29.4 percent and Qacha's Nek had the lowest share of youth accounting for 3.6 percent.

Table 3.2: Distribution of Youth by Place of Residence, Sex and Sex Ratio, 2021 LDS

Place of Residence	Male	Female	Sex ratio	% Share	Total
Settlement Type					
Urban	39.4	47.8	82.1	43.6	347,790
Peri-urban	10.3	10.5	97.7	10.4	82,592
Rural	50.3	41.7	120.0	46.0	366,466
Ecological Zone					
Lowlands	62.2	67.9	91.3	65.0	518,290
Foothills	9.9	7.8	125.8	8.8	70,272
Mountains	20.2	17.2	117.2	18.7	149,051
Senqu River Valley	7.7	7.2	106.8	7.4	59,236
District					
Botha-Bothe	5.6	5.8	96.1	5.7	45,219
Leribe	17.3	17.4	99.0	17.3	137,956
Berea	12.7	12.6	100.9	12.7	100,858
Maseru	28.2	30.6	91.6	29.4	234,462
Mafeteng	7.9	7.7	102.0	7.8	62,309
Mohale's Hoek	7.4	7.0	104.9	7.2	57,381
Quthing	5.5	5.0	108.8	5.3	41,868
Qacha's Nek	3.5	3.6	97.0	3.6	28,386
Mokhotlong	5.0	4.4	112.8	4.7	37,795
Thaba-Tseka	6.9	5.9	116.6	6.4	50,612
Total	397,488	399,360			796,848

3.3 Household Composition and Headship

The 2021 LDS respondents were asked of their relationship to the head of household. A list of pre-coded responses was provided to establish membership status of each person within the household. This sub-section discusses the situation of the youth with respect to household composition and headship.

Out of the total youth population 19.7 percent were household heads and there were no step parents. Furthermore, household heads sex disaggregation shows that there were more males (70.3%) than females (29.7%). There was also a 98.1 percent of female youth who were spouses to the head. It is further noticed that 39.2 percent were children to the household head. Of these children, the majority were males (58.5%), while female children recorded 41.5 percent.

Table 3.3: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Sex and Relationship to Household Head, 2021 LDS

Relationship	Male	Female	% Share	Total
Household Head	70.3	29.7	19.7	157,336
Spouse	1.9	98.1	13.5	107,498
Partner (Cohabiting)	18.7	81.3	0.3	2,707
Son/Daughter	58.5	41.5	39.2	312,611
Son/daughter in-law	6.6	93.4	4.2	33,797
Step child/Adopted/Forster	59.0	41.0	0.6	4,798
Sibling	53.6	46.4	3.2	25,643
Step Parent	42.7	57.3	0.0	347
Parent in-law	2.9	97.1	0.1	858
Grandchild/Great grandchild	55.4	44.6	10.0	80,062
Other relative	49.8	50.2	5.2	41,271
Not related	59.0	41.0	3.8	29,921
Total	397,488	399,360		796,848

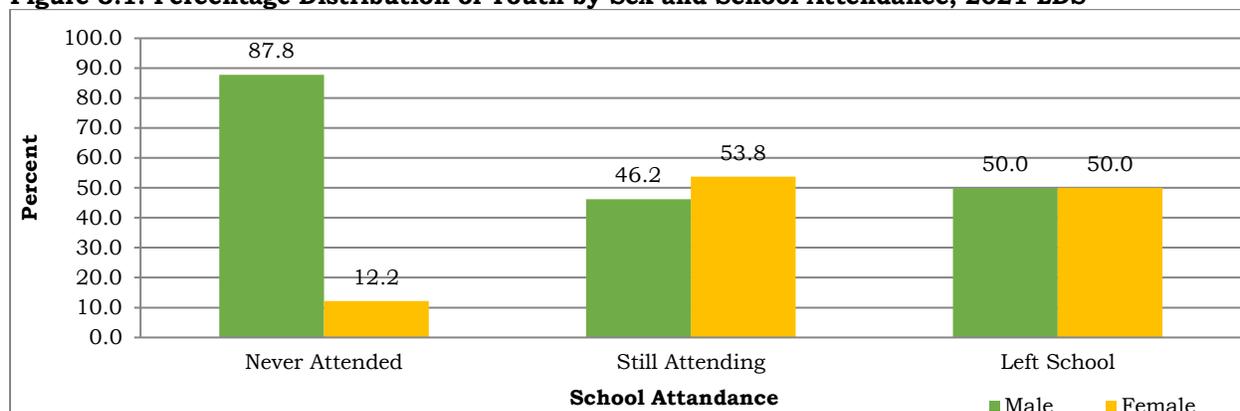
3.4 Literacy and Education of Youth

The government of Lesotho introduced the universal free primary education policy in year 2000. The policy is the main tool for achieving the economic, social, political objectives outlined in the governments' NSDP II (2019-2023) which emphasizes education as an aspect of human capital development. Education is not only useful for policy makers and programmers for formulating public policies but it is also important for national and personal development assessment.

3.4.1 School Attendance

The 2021 LDS collected information on literacy, school attendance and highest education qualification attained for persons aged 3 years and older, however in this chapter our main concern was the youth (15-35 years). The results indicate that those who left school had the same percentage irrespective of sex. The majority of males recording 87.8 percent of the population had never attended school and more of the females were still attending school at 53.8 percent.

Figure 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Sex and School Attendance, 2021 LDS



Regarding districts, Mokhotlong had the highest proportion of youth who left school at 79.9 percent. Maseru registered 28.1 percent of youth who were still attending and Mokhotlong also had 6.2 percent as the highest for those who never attended school as shown in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Percentage Distribution of Lesotho Youth by District and School Attendance, 2021 LDS

Districts	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Total
Botha-Bothe	1.4	20.2	78.5	45,219
Leribe	1.0	22.0	77.0	137,956
Berea	0.9	21.1	78.1	100,858
Maseru	1.2	28.1	70.7	234,462
Mafeteng	1.4	23.4	75.2	62,309
Mohale's Hoek	3.3	20.5	76.2	57,381
Quthing	3.5	17.5	79.1	41,868
Qacha's Nek	2.7	20.0	77.3	28,386
Mokhotlong	6.2	14.0	79.9	37,795
Thaba-Tseka	5.9	18.4	75.7	50,612
Total (%)	2.0	22.6	75.3	
Total (N)	16,044	180,462	600,342	796,848

3.4.2 Highest Level of Education Attained

The role of education is crucial in poverty eradication and in close co-operation with other social sectors and is also key to an independent nation in terms of socio-economic issues. More than three quarters (85.5%) of males attended school but did not have any certificate while females recorded only 14 percent. There were no male youth with PHD as their highest level of education. Generally, the table indicates that at higher levels of education females outnumbered males while the reverse is observed at lower levels for males.

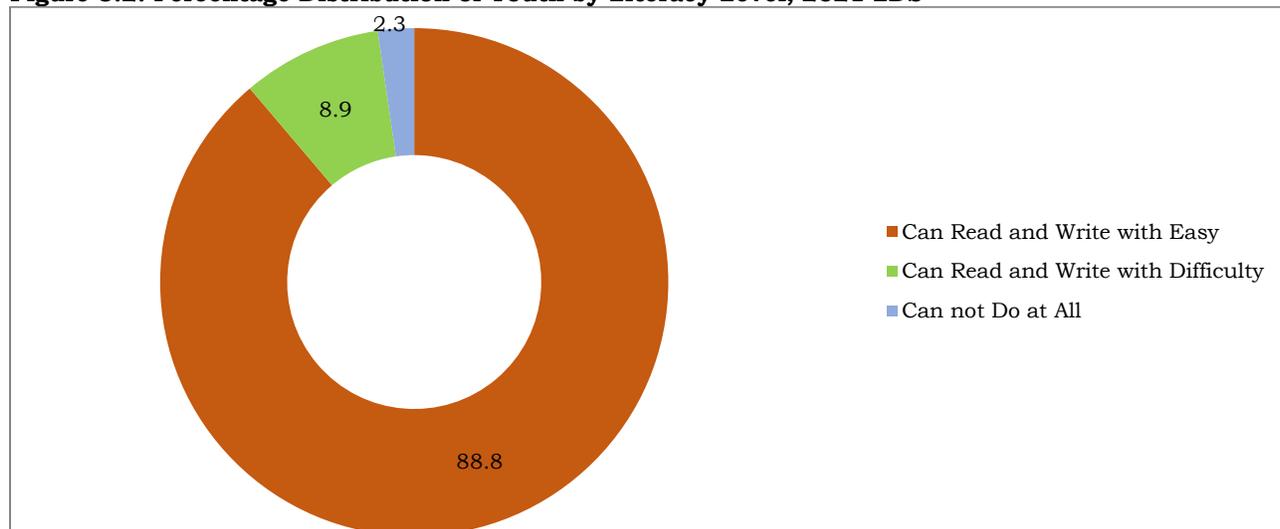
Table 3.5: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained, 2021 LDS

Highest Level of Education	Male	Female	Total
Pre school	82.0	18.0	594
Primary	62.5	37.5	244,079
Secondary	43.4	56.6	258,835
High	42.2	57.8	202,254
None	85.5	14.5	1,430
Non-Formal Education	80.7	19.3	1,136
Diploma, Certificate, Vocational and technical after primary	55.1	44.9	1,112
Diploma, Certificate, Vocational and technical after Sec	47.3	52.7	2,878
Diploma, Certificate, Vocational and technical after High	41.1	58.9	37,923
Graduate	42.3	57.7	18,607
Post graduate Diploma/Honors	40.8	59.2	8,642
Masters	48.0	52.0	1,483
PHD	0.0	100.0	88
N/A	87.9	12.1	15,326
Total	396,119	398,269	794,388

3.4.3 Literacy

Literacy as a basic human right equips and capacitates one with skills for life which contributes to personal and social development. The 2021 LDS defines literacy as the ability to write a meaningful sentence and read with understanding in either Sesotho or English.

Household members, aged three years and older whose highest level of education was standard seven or below were made to read and write a simple sentence to determine level of literacy. About 89 percent of youth were able to read and write with ease while 8.9 percent was able to read or write with difficulty. Only 2.3 percent of the youth could not read or write.

Figure 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Literacy Level, 2021 LDS

3.5 Young People with Disability

To measure disability, the 2021 LDS asked respondents aged 5 years and above of each household if they had difficulty in walking including climbing steps and carrying items, in seeing even if wearing glasses, in hearing even if using hearing aid, cognition, in caring for one’s self and in communication. Table 3.6 shows youth that had disability in walking, seeing, hearing, in cognition, self-care and in communication. The most common form of disability for both sexes was seeing with 30.0 percent while the least common type of disability was hearing accounting for only 10.3 percent. Among males, the most common disability is remembering with 23.4 percent.

Table 3.6: Disabled Population by Type of Difficulty, 2021 LDS

Difficulty	Sex			Total
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	
Seeing	23.2	38.8	30.0	4,129
Hearing	9.6	11.3	10.3	1,422
Walking	11.6	12.5	12.0	1,650
Remembering	23.4	16.4	20.4	2,808
Self-care	13.8	9.3	11.8	1,632
Communication	18.5	11.7	15.6	2,145

3.6 Marital Status of Youth

This section explores the current marital status of youth. Most child bearing occurs within marriage institution but not restricted to married couples. The age when sexual intercourse begins becomes even more important determinant of fertility.

Table 3.7 portrays the percentage distribution of youth by marital status and census or survey years. The results reveal that 59.5 percent were reported as never married. This shows an increase from 57.3 percent estimated in 2016. The living together category has decreased from 0.6 percent in 2016 to 0.3 percent in 2021. The monogamously married youth were estimated at 34.1 percent compared to 37.3 percent in 2016. The ‘ever married’ (widowed, divorced and separated) were estimated at 5.4 percent compared to 4.1 percent in 2016 PHC.

Table 3.7: Distribution of Youth by Marital Status and Census/Survey Years, 2021 LDS

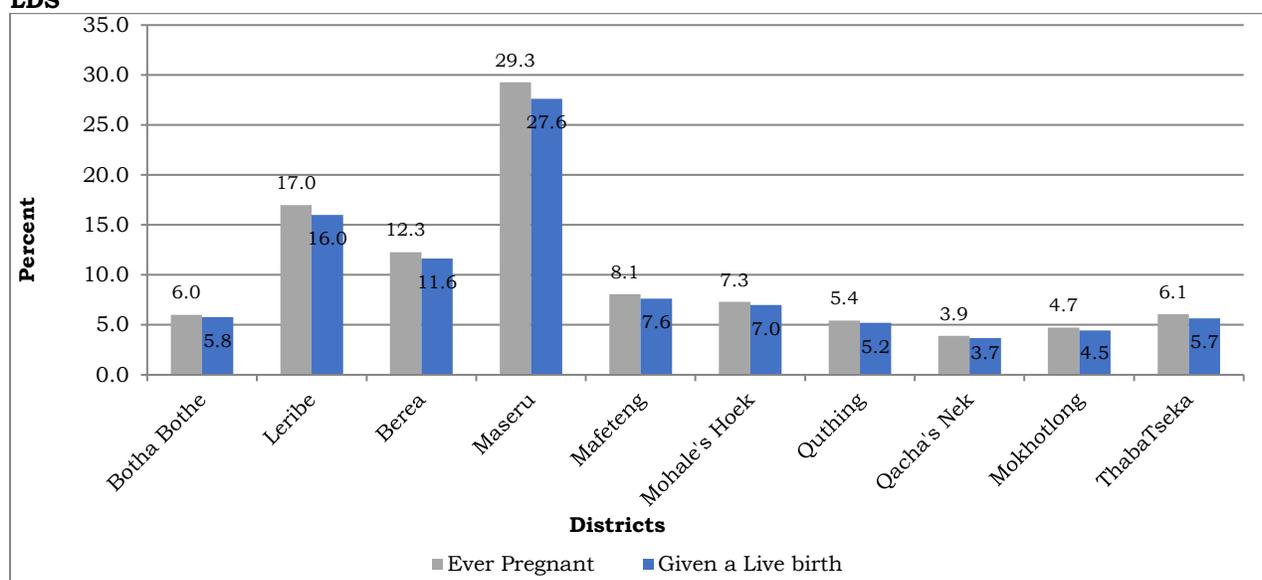
Marital Status	2016	2021
Never married	57.3	59.5
Monogamously married	37.3	34.1
Polygamously married	0.8	0.7
Living together	0.6	0.3
Separated	2.5	3.9
Divorced	0.4	0.6
Widowed	1.2	0.9
Total	794,940	796,848

3.7 Pregnancy and Child Bearing Experience

The questions on pregnancy and child bearing experience were asked of women of reproductive ages 12 to 50 years. In an attempt to gauge the incidence of pregnancy and child bearing experience in Lesotho among youths, the survey administered questions on whether they have ever been pregnant and ever gave a live birth.

Studying the behaviour of youth with respect to pregnancy, child bearing experience is important and out of 399,360 female youth, 54.9 percent were reported to have ever been pregnant while 51.9 percent ever gave live birth. The disaggregation by districts shows that Maseru had recorded the highest percentage (29.3%) of youth that were ever pregnant though 27.6 percent had a live birth. The district of Qacha's Nek had recorded a lower figure of 3.9 percent of female youth that ever fell pregnant and 3.7 percent that gave a live birth.

Figure 3.3: Distribution of Female Youth by District, Pregnancy and Child Bearing Experience, 2021 LDS



3.8 Youth's Economic Activity

Economically active population refers to all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services as defined by the United Nations System of National Accounts (stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=730).

Most countries depend on the contribution of youth for the economy to grow hence Lesotho is not an exception. The survey collected data on economic activity status of household members aged 10 years and above. The main focus related to the main activity status of an individual in the 7 days prior to the survey.

Table 3.8 shows the current economic activity status of the young people. Among the youth, the larger number of 223,425 constituting 28.0 percent were housewives. Of this category females were 68.9 percent while males were 31.1 percent. On the contrary, males dominate in the category of unpaid family worker with 90.4 percent. It is noticed from the

table that the economically active males were more than females while females dominate in economically inactive categories.

Table 3.8: Youth Population by Main Activity Status, 2021 LDS

Main Activity	Male	Female	Total
Employer	46.8	53.2	1,309
Own account worker/farmer	71.0	29.0	60,295
Regular wage/ salary earner	55.2	44.8	180,275
Casual worker	73.2	26.8	39,972
Unpaid family worker	90.4	9.6	31,708
Job seeking	59.4	40.6	37,979
Job seeking for the first time	60.5	39.5	26,185
Homemaker	36.7	63.3	3,770
Housewife	31.1	68.9	223,425
Student	45.5	54.5	191,863
Other (Specify)	31.5	68.5	70
Total	397,488	399,360	796,848

3.9 Summary

The survey estimated 796,848 youth population, accounting for 38.4 percent of the total population of 2,076,669. The overall sex ratio for youth is 99.5 percent.

In general, at higher levels of education females outnumbered males and the reverse is observed at lower levels for males. Four in five of youth were able to read and write with ease while 8.9 percent was able to read or write with difficulty. Out of total of 399,360 female youth, 54.9 percent reported to have ever been pregnant even though 51.9 percent gave live birth which signals potential area for government's intervention.

Regarding disability in youth, the most popular type of disability is seeing which accounts for 30.0 percent. Observation shows that the economically active males were more than females while females dominate in economically inactive categories.

CHAPTER 4

ELDERLY POPULATION

4.0 Introduction

The age of 60 or 65, roughly equivalent to retirement ages in most developed countries is said to be the beginning of old age. Other socially constructed meanings of age are more significant such as the roles assigned to older people; in some cases, it is the loss of roles accompanying physical decline which is significant in defining old age. Thus, in contrast to the chronological milestones which mark life stages in many developing countries is seen to begin at the point when active contribution is no longer possible (Gorman, 2000 in Kowal P. Dowd JE 2001).

The Lesotho Policy for Older Persons, which adopts a rights-based approach, is also guided by five (5) principles based on the eighteen (18) United Nations Principles for Older Persons. These principles include; independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity of the older persons. It aims at providing an implementation framework which will facilitate the improvement of older person's life and set the ageing agenda within the national development strategies including among others; economic, health, housing and shelter, safety and security and rights of older persons (Ministry of Social Development, 2014). Therefore, Lesotho considers elderly population as persons aged 60 and above. The chapter will highlight the spatial and population distribution of elderly persons including headship, literacy, marital status and disability.

4.1 Age and Sex Distribution

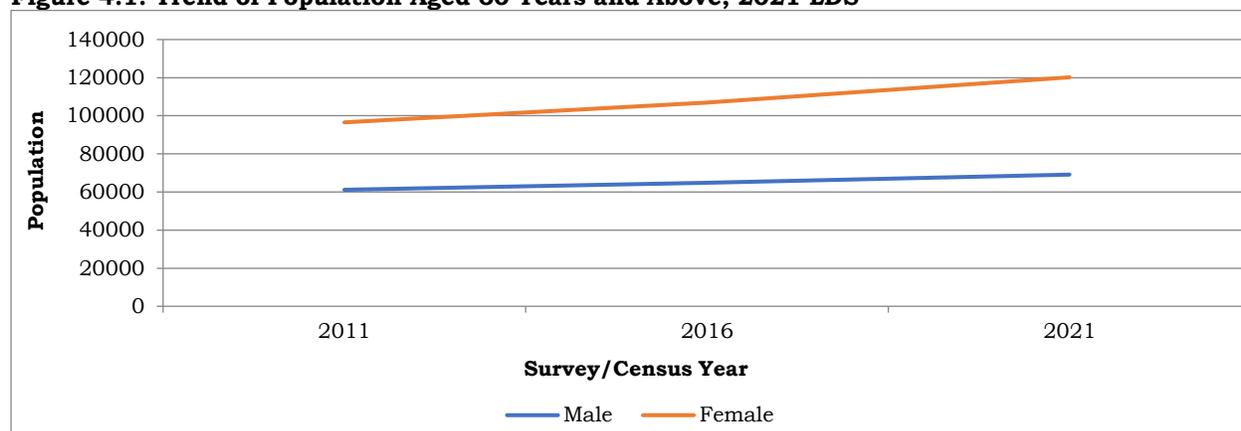
The elderly population forms the apex of the population pyramid. Of the total population, the elderly account for 9.1 percent. Among the elderly, there are more females constituting 63.5 percent while males comprise 36.5 percent as demonstrated in Table 4.1. Generally, there is an inverse relationship between elderly age and their number, that is, as their age increases their number decreases.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Elderly by Districts and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
60-64	40.3	59.7	56,717
65-69	39.1	60.9	43,330
70-74	37.9	62.1	32,055
75-79	35.8	64.2	23,982
80-84	27.9	72.1	17,539
85+	23.9	76.1	15,658
Total	36.5	63.5	189,280

The trend is usually important to measure population change over time. The figure shows that elderly population has been increasing from 2011 (157,685) to 2021 (189,280) with the female population contributing more to the increase. The increase of elderly population comes with pros and cons such as economic and dependency burden.

Figure 4.1: Trend of Population Aged 60 Years and Above, 2021 LDS



4.2 Spatial Distribution

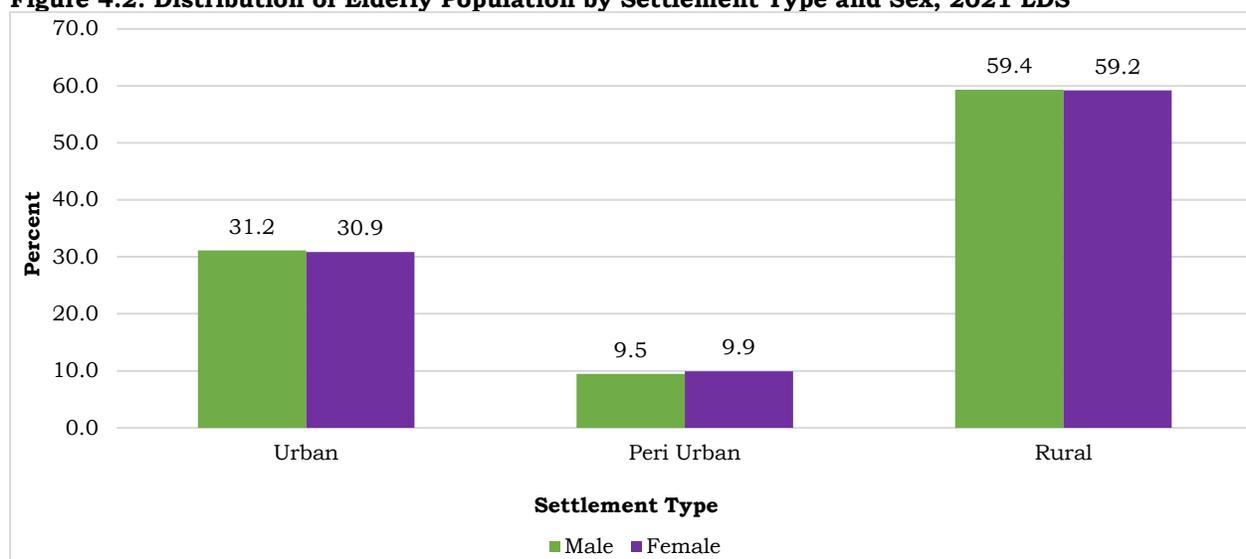
It is important to know how the elderly population is distributed among the administrative areas and ecological zones. Table 4.2 depicts that among the districts of Lesotho, Maseru had the highest proportion of elderly population while Qacha's Nek had the lowest. Presentation of elderly population was also distributed by settlement type where most elderly population resides in the lowlands.

Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Elderly Population by Place of Residence, 2021 LDS

Districts	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	6.0	5.6	10,898
Leribe	18.0	17.2	33,160
Berea	13.5	13.5	25,565
Maseru	20.9	22.2	41,108
Mafeteng	9.7	10.4	19,270
Mohale's Hoek	10.3	10.1	19,217
Quthing	5.9	5.9	11,209
Qacha's Nek	4.3	4.0	7,747
Mokhotlong	4.4	4.4	8,290
Thaba-Tseka	7.0	6.6	12,815
Ecological Zone			
Lowlands	36.5	63.5	115,146
Foothills	34.9	65.1	20,855
Mountains	37.4	62.6	35,792
Senqu River Valley	36.8	63.2	17,487
Total	36.5	63.5	189,280

Figure 4.2 illustrate the distribution of elderly population by settlement type. The figure further depicts that there were more elderly in rural areas as opposed to other settlement types irrespective of sex.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Elderly Population by Settlement Type and Sex, 2021 LDS



4.3 Household Headship

Household composition is an essential determinant of knowing who makes decisions within the household. Among all household heads within the country, the households which are headed by persons aged 60 years and above constituted 25.7 percent. Table 4.3 shows that elderly male headship decreases when age increases while the opposite is observed for female headed households.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Elderly Population by Headship, 2021 LDS

Age group	Male		Female		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
60 - 64	21,083	0.1	20,578	49.4	41,660
65 - 69	16,165	47.6	17,770	52.4	33,936
70 - 74	11,314	43.3	14,827	56.7	26,141
75 - 79	7,982	40.6	11,698	59.4	19,679
80 - 84	4,531	31.7	9,763	68.3	14,294
85+	3,128	29.2	7,598	70.8	10,726
Total	64,202	43.8	82,234	56.2	146,436

The care and support by the family and community that used to be done in the past has declined due to changes in societal relationships associated with urbanization and modernity. Hence the importance to study the household composition of household headed by elderly persons.

Generally, households headed by elderly persons that live with at least one orphan constitute 25 percent. The district distribution shows that Thaba-Tseka had 31.3 percent of households with at least one orphan. One out of five households in Lesotho which are

headed by elderly persons had at least one member living with disability and the highest was Mohale's Hoek district estimated at 27.1 percent.

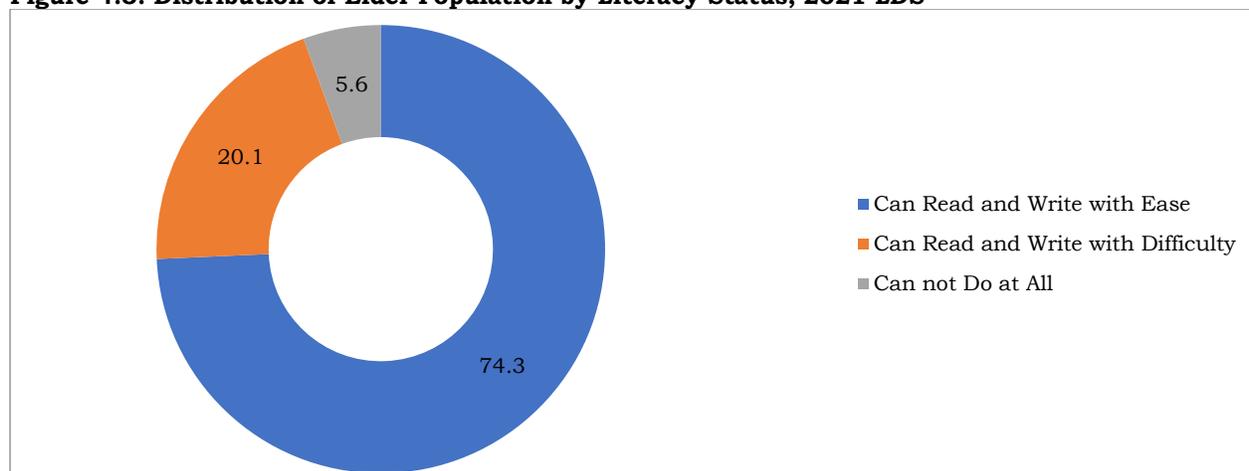
Table 4.4: Distribution of Elderly Household Heads by District, Orphanhood and Disability Status of Any Household Member, 2021 LDS

District	Household living with an Orphan	Household with at least one Disabled Person	Total Household
Botha-Bothe	22.0	20.5	8,417
Leribe	22.1	17.2	25,984
Berea	25.3	15.5	20,149
Maseru	23.2	18.3	31,747
Mafeteng	24.0	22.9	15,183
Mohale's Hoek	28.5	27.1	14,710
Quthing	29.2	20.7	8,679
Qacha's Nek	24.9	11.4	5,835
Mokhotlong	29.5	22.8	6,121
Thaba-Tseka	31.3	19.0	9,611
Total	25.0	19.3	146,436

4.4 Literacy Status

The ability to read and write for elderly population is essential in determining their educational status in the country. Most of the elderly persons were able to read and write with ease at 74.3 percent. Only 5.6 of elderly population could not read and write at all as shown in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: Distribution of Elder Population by Literacy Status, 2021 LDS



4.5 Current Marital Status

For this survey, the current marital status was asked for all persons aged 12 years and above. The current marital status of elderly population as illustrated in Table 4.5 shows that, the majority of males (69.0%) were monogamously married while females were mostly widowed with 63.6 percent.

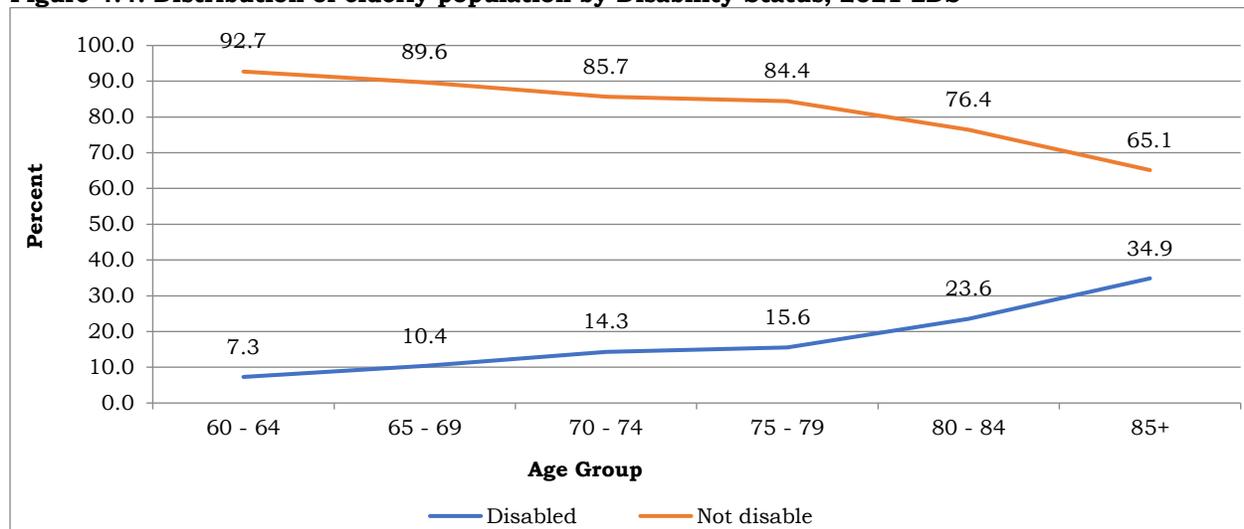
Table 4.5: Distribution of Elderly Population by Marital Status and Sex, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	Sex		Both Sexes
	Male	Female	
Never married	3.2	4.4	4.0
Monogamously married	69.0	27.7	42.8
Polygamously married	2.8	0.7	1.5
Living together	0.4	0.1	0.2
Separated	2.9	2.1	2.4
Divorced	1.6	1.4	1.4
Widowed	20.0	63.6	47.7
Total	69,117	120,163	189,280

4.6 Disability

It should be noted that it is not easy to determine disability when dealing with people 60 years and above as some of the chronic diseases or illnesses might hinder the ability to do day to day activities and therefore might be regarded as disabled, (WHO, 2021). Figure 4.4 illustrates that the proportion of disabled elderly persons increases with an increase in age.

Figure 4.4: Distribution of elderly population by Disability Status, 2021 LDS



4.7 Summary

The observation from this chapter indicates that elderly population has been increasing from 2011 (157,685) to 2021 (189,280) with the female population contributing more to the increase. This is suggestive of potential challenges to the government because the old age comes with associated physical, mental and physiological changes which present new needs and challenges for the social welfare of this age group.

Data suggest that there is an inverse relationship between elderly age and their number, that is, as their age increases their number decreases. Across all the districts of this country, Maseru had the highest proportion of elderly population while Qacha's Nek had the lowest. Regarding the current marital status of the elderly, males were predominantly in monogamous marriage while the majority of females were widowed. However, there were more female head of households than their male counterparts. Most of the elderly aged 60 years and above were able to read and write with ease at approximately 74.3 percent.

Generally, households headed by elderly persons that live with at least one orphan constitute 25 percent. One out of five households in Lesotho which are headed by persons aged 60 years and above had at least one member living with disability. Hence, as reiterated by Lesotho National Policy for Older Persons it is important to advocate for intensive efforts to effectively cater for the needs of its elderly population.

CHAPTER 5

NUPTIALITY

5.0 Introduction

Marriage which is demographically termed nuptiality is defined as a legally and socially endorsed union, usually between a man and a woman, that is regulated by the laws, rules, customs, beliefs and attitudes that prescribe the rights and duties of partners and accords status of their offspring if any. Marital status is a demographic characteristic involving biological, social, economic, legal and in many cases, religious aspects. Furthermore, marital status is a vital factor in population dynamics as it is one of the most important measures of fertility, Siegel, J.S. and Swanson D.A. (2004).

There are two systems of marriages in Lesotho, namely, customary and civil marriage. A customary marriage involves two families of bride and groom agreeing on the bride price (number of cows) to be paid to the family of the bride. Once that agreement is sealed with a signed and stamped letter of agreement, the bride price is then paid by the groom's family and that is considered a legal marriage. Civil marriage is referred to as marriage solemnised by the local authorities (churches and Ministry of Home Affairs). Once the marital union is recognised as legal and valid, the only way to terminate the relationship is by a legal divorce.

Analysis on marital status is restricted to males and females aged 15 years and above. By maintaining this age restriction, persons aged 14 years and below were excluded in the main analysis, because it is believed that they are at a minimal risk of marriage (Siegel and Swanson, 2004). However, due to concern of early child marriages the survey expanded the age bracket to include children aged 12 to 14 years to establish prevalence of child marriage in Lesotho. This chapter intends to provide estimates on marital status of the population in relation to demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

5.1 Current Marital Status

Marital status refers to each person's status within the country in relation to the marriage regulations and customs. Sex is one of the demographic variables that influence or affect the pattern of various marital statuses. Table 5.1 shows that, the proportion of monogamously married persons was the highest of all the marital status categories with 44.4 percent. Data suggest that females are more likely to be widowed at 17.6 percent and males had a considerable proportion of never married persons estimated at 43.2 percent.

Table 5.1: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Marital Status and Sex, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Never married	43.2	31.9	37.3
Monogamously married	46.3	42.7	44.4
Polygamously married	1.2	1.1	1.1
Living together	0.5	0.4	0.4
Separated	4.1	5	4.6
Divorced	0.7	1.4	1.1
Widowed	3.9	17.6	11.1
Total	690,527	753,091	1,443,618

Age at marriage is one of the most important characteristics in population studies as it links directly to participation in fertility. Table 5.2 reflects that, 99.1 percent of male population aged 15 to 19 years were never married and females of the same age accounted for 89.9 percent. The observation from the table displays that most people in a relationship were with one partner at 44.4 percent during the survey.

Table 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Marital Status, Age and Sex, 2021 LDS

Male	Marital Status							Number
	Five Year Age Group	Never married	Monogamously married	Polygamously married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	
15 - 19	99.1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	109,363
20 - 24	82.5	16	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.1	0	99,533
25 - 29	53.8	40.9	0.6	0.5	3.9	0.2	0.2	89,115
30 - 34	31.2	58.9	1	0.4	6.6	1	0.8	82,709
35 - 39	20.7	66.2	2.1	0.7	7.5	1.3	1.5	72,722
40 - 44	13.6	70	1.9	1.1	7.6	1.2	4.6	61,937
45 - 49	9	73.7	1.9	0.6	6.6	1.5	6.5	45,206
50 - 54	7.9	74.6	1.6	1.2	5.8	0.9	8.1	32,568
55 - 59	5.9	73.6	3	0.7	4.8	1.1	10.8	28,257
60 - 64	4.7	74	3.3	0.5	2.6	1.8	13.1	22,846
65 - 69	3	70	2.1	0.5	4.5	1.8	18.1	16,927
70 - 74	3.7	65.9	3	0.6	3.6	1.6	21.6	12,139
75 - 79	1.6	64.7	3.1	0.3	1.2	0.7	28.4	8,575
80 - 84	1.5	71.7	1.9	0	1.9	0.9	22.1	4,885
85 - 89	0	55.1	2.6	0	0	2.2	40.2	2,772
90 - 94	0	43.4	5.3	0	0	1.6	49.7	684
95+	0	29.4	3.1	0	0	0	67.5	289
Total	43.2	46.3	1.2	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.9	690,527
Female								
15 - 19	89.9	9.4	0.2	0	0.4	0.1	0	106,517
20 - 24	57.2	37.2	0.9	0.4	3.6	0.3	0.4	103,116
25 - 29	32.1	56.2	1.4	0.5	7.1	1.2	1.4	91,094
30 - 34	22.6	59.6	1.5	0.7	9.3	2	4.3	82,845
35 - 39	16.8	60	1.1	0.8	9.2	2.5	9.5	72,802
40 - 44	15.3	59.1	1.4	0.8	7.2	2.1	14.1	60,139
45 - 49	11.2	56	1.8	0.7	5.9	2	22.3	42,280
50 - 54	8.4	51.9	1.2	0.4	4.7	3.1	30.3	38,651
55 - 59	6.7	45.1	1.6	0.2	3.9	1.3	41.2	35,483
60 - 64	6.1	39.8	1.1	0	2.3	0.8	49.9	33,870
65 - 69	4.8	32.5	0.6	0.2	2.7	1.9	57.3	26,404
70 - 74	2.9	25.7	0.4	0	2.9	1.1	67	19,915
75 - 79	3	18.2	1	0.1	1.3	1.9	74.4	15,408
80 - 84	4.1	15.1	0.8	0	0.9	1.3	78	12,654
85 - 89	4.3	12.7	0	0	0.2	1.5	81.3	8,114
90 - 94	4.2	11.5	0.6	0	0.8	2.2	80.7	2,451
95+	0	11.4	0	0	3	0	85.5	1,348
Total	31.8	42.7	1.1	0.4	5	1.4	17.6	753,091
Both Sexes								
15 - 19	94.5	5.1	0.1	0	0.2	0	0	215,880
20 - 24	69.6	26.8	0.6	0.2	2.4	0.2	0.2	202,649
25 - 29	42.8	48.6	1	0.5	5.5	0.7	0.8	180,209
30 - 34	26.9	59.3	1.3	0.5	8	1.5	2.6	165,554
35 - 39	18.8	63.1	1.6	0.8	8.4	1.9	5.5	145,524
40 - 44	14.5	64.6	1.7	1	7.4	1.6	9.3	122,076
45 - 49	10.1	65.2	1.9	0.7	6.3	1.8	14.2	87,485
50 - 54	8.2	62.3	1.4	0.7	5.2	2.1	20.1	71,220
55 - 59	6.3	57.8	2.2	0.4	4.3	1.2	27.7	63,740
60 - 64	5.5	53.5	2	0.2	2.4	1.2	35.1	56,717
65 - 69	4.1	47.1	1.2	0.3	3.4	1.9	42	43,330
70 - 74	3.2	40.9	1.4	0.2	3.2	1.3	49.8	32,055
75 - 79	2.5	34.8	1.8	0.2	1.3	1.4	58	23,982
80 - 84	3.3	30.9	1.1	0	1.2	1.1	62.4	17,540
85 - 89	3.2	23.5	0.7	0	0.1	1.7	70.8	10,886
90 - 94	3.3	18.5	1.6	0	0.6	2.1	73.9	3,134
95+	0	14.6	0.5	0	2.5	0	82.3	1,637
Total	37.3	44.4	1.1	0.4	4.6	1.1	11.1	1,443,618

5.2 Marital Status and Place of Residence

This sub-section displays the spatial distribution patterns of population and their marital status. There are observed dissimilarities in marital status patterns for different districts. Generally, Maseru district has the highest percentage share for every type of marital status as reflected in Table 5.3. For both sexes, most persons were living together recording 44.6 percent. The majority of polygamously married males were mostly found in Leribe district with an estimated 33.6 percent. For the categories of separated and divorced, the highest percentages were for females who resided in Maseru district with 28.2 and 31.0 percent respectively.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Marital Status, District and Sex, 2021
LDS

Sex/District	Marital Status							Total
	Never married	Monogamously married	Polygamously married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	
Male								
Botha-Bothe	5.6	6.2	2.7	5.8	5.3	4.8	5.7	5.8
Leribe	17.3	17.3	33.6	14.6	16.0	17.8	17.8	17.5
Berea	13.1	13.4	5.3	12.6	12.1	13.6	12.3	13.1
Maseru	27.6	27.6	23.7	44.1	25.9	23.0	22.7	27.4
Mafeteng	8.1	7.9	6.4	6.9	10.2	10.0	9.5	8.1
Mohale's								
Hoek	7.7	7.4	6.2	5.8	12.2	7.9	10.0	7.8
Quthing	5.6	4.7	8.4	2.9	6.3	9.5	6.3	5.3
Qacha's Nek	3.5	3.6	6.8	3.5	3.8	2.3	3.0	3.6
Mokhotlong	4.9	4.9	3.0	1.2	3.9	4.3	4.7	4.8
Thaba-Tseka	6.5	6.9	3.9	2.6	4.4	7.0	8.1	6.6
Total	298,306	319,762	8,530	3,225	28,420	5,068	27,217	690,527
Female								
Botha-Bothe	5.0	6.4	2.7	8.0	5.7	4.7	5.9	5.8
Leribe	17.2	17.2	37.9	14.5	18.9	18.8	17.8	17.7
Berea	13.2	13.4	4.7	10.6	9.5	14.9	12.8	13.0
Maseru	32.0	27.4	23.5	45.1	28.2	31.0	26.1	28.7
Mafeteng	7.8	8.0	5.6	6.6	8.5	6.1	9.5	8.2
Mohale's								
Hoek	7.3	7.1	4.9	4.7	11.3	7.8	8.6	7.6
Quthing	5.2	4.9	7.8	3.4	5.6	7.0	5.0	5.1
Qacha's Nek	3.6	3.9	6.1	3.4	4.0	1.8	3.1	3.7
Mokhotlong	3.8	4.8	3.0	1.6	4.0	3.1	4.5	4.3
Thaba-Tseka	4.8	6.9	3.8	2.0	4.3	4.9	6.7	6.0
Total	239,959	321,202	7,963	3,102	37,603	10,420	132,843	753,089
Box Sexes								
Botha-Bothe	5.4	6.3	2.7	6.9	5.5	4.7	5.8	5.8
Leribe	17.3	17.3	35.7	14.6	17.6	18.5	17.8	17.6
Berea	13.1	13.4	5.0	11.6	10.6	14.5	12.7	13.0
Maseru	29.6	27.5	23.6	44.6	27.2	28.3	25.5	28.1
Mafeteng	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.8	9.2	7.4	9.5	8.2
Mohale's								
Hoek	7.5	7.2	5.6	5.3	11.7	7.8	8.8	7.7
Quthing	5.4	4.8	8.1	3.1	5.9	7.8	5.3	5.2
Qacha's Nek	3.6	3.8	6.4	3.4	3.9	1.9	3.1	3.6
Mokhotlong	4.4	4.9	3.0	1.4	3.9	3.5	4.5	4.6
Thaba-Tseka	5.7	6.9	3.9	2.3	4.4	5.6	6.9	6.3
Total	538,274	640,970	16,494	6,326	66,021	15,487	160,046	1,443,618

Table 5.4 reflects the marital status patterns for urban, peri-urban, rural areas by sex. The results suggest that the percentage shares for each marital status category differ according to sex within each area. Most females in the rural areas were reported to be widowed (21.5%). In the urban areas most males were reported to be monogamously married recording 50.3 percent. In the peri-urban settlement, the never married males

constituted 47.2 percent. Moreover, males who were reported to be living together and those who were divorced recorded the same percentage of 0.7.

Table 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Settlement Type, Sex and Marital Status, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	Settlement Type								
	Urban			Peri Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never married	40.2	36.0	37.9	47.2	37.2	41.9	44.9	26.6	35.8
Monogamously married	50.3	42.1	45.8	42.0	37.7	39.8	43.9	44.3	44.1
Polygamously married	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1
Living together	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Separated	3.6	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.2	4.8
Divorced	0.8	1.6	1.2	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0
Widowed	3.0	13.7	8.8	4.0	18.1	11.4	4.7	21.5	13.1
Total	279,426	339,544	618,970	66,530	74,221	140,751	344,571	339,326	683,897

5.3 Marital Status and Education

Education attainment correlates with various socio-economic and demographic variables such as marriage. However, early entry into marriage lowers a person's chances of progressing with educational career. This section focuses on marital status and the highest level of education attained of the population aged 15 years and above. Of the 1,443,618 persons aged 15 years and above, 0.4 percent did not have information on education.

The majority of the population had attained primary level of education estimated at 39.8 percent as indicated in Table 5.5. The table further reveals that, persons who were separated had mostly attained primary level of education accounting for 47.0 percent. Of all marital status categories, the never married had exhibited the highest proportion of persons who attained high school as the highest level of education with 26.3 percent.

Table 5.5: Distribution of Persons Aged 15 years and above by Marital Status, Education and Sex, 2021 LDS

Educational Attainment	Marital Status								Number
	Never married	Monogamously married	Polygamously married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Total	
Both Sexes									
Pre School	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	1,627
Primary	29.4	41.9	45.1	35.0	47.0	37.1	63.1	39.8	571,927
Secondary	33.2	22.8	26.7	26.4	25.4	23.3	14.5	25.9	373,069
High School	26.3	16.2	12.8	21.0	13.5	15.8	5.8	18.7	268,457
Diploma After (Primary, Secondary, High School)	3.9	6.0	2.2	7.5	3.8	7.8	3.4	4.8	69,058
Vocational After (Primary, Secondary, High School)	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.5	7,394
Graduate	1.9	3.0	0.9	3.4	1.6	6.1	1.1	2.4	33,796
Post Graduate/ Honors	0.9	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.3	1.0	14,861
Masters	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.1	0.3	4,606
PHD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	495
None	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.4	6,101
Non-Formal education	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.5	7,585
Other Qualification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31
Not Applicable	3.1	6.4	9.7	5.3	6.0	5.9	9.3	5.5	78,887
Total	536,508	638,244	16,407	6,105	65,753	15,478	158,737	100.0	1,437,233

5.4 Trend in Marital Status

Trend in marital status reflects the patterns and changes observed in populations over time. Table 5.6 shows the trend relating to population aged 15 years and above by marital status, census and survey years as well as sex for the period 1966 to 2021. It is observed from the table that from 1966 the trend was fluctuating for never married males and females. The highest percentages were observed in 1996 for both males (64.0%) and females (58.4%). However, the table shows observable decline from 1996 to 2021 for the never married males and females. The same observations are noticed for currently married, widowed and separated or divorced persons.

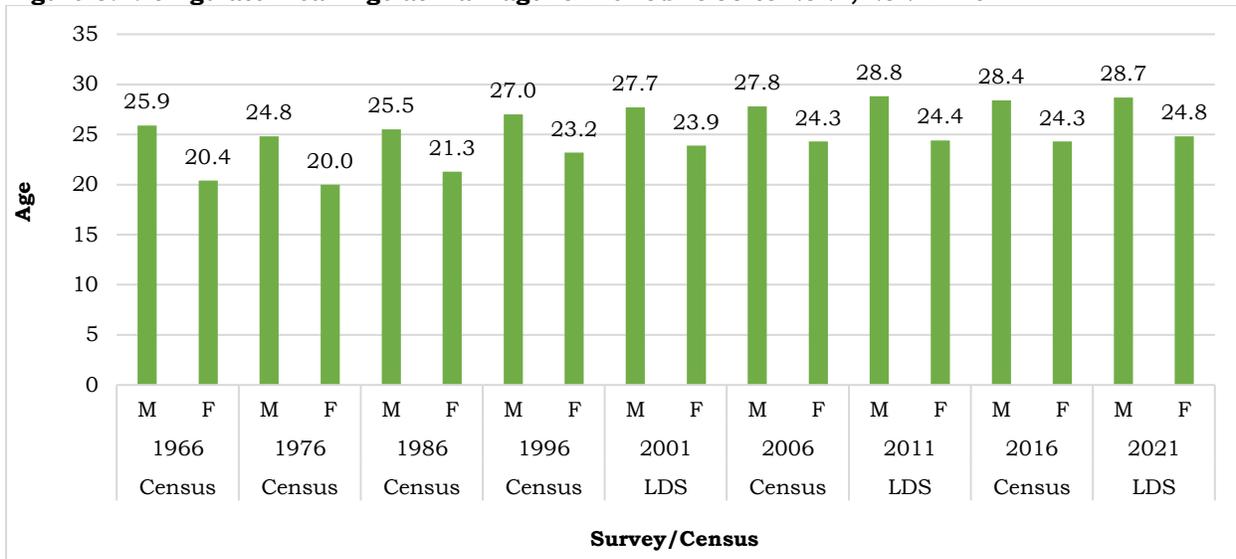
Table 5.6: Trend in Percentages of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Marital Status, Sex and Census/Survey Years of 1966 to 2021, 2021 LDS

Census/Survey	Year	Sex	Never Married	Currently Married	Widowed	Separated/Divorced
Census	1966	M	60.0	36.0	1.5	2.9
		F	49.0	37.5	10.6	2.9
Census	1976	M	59.5	38.2	1.5	0.7
		F	49.4	39.0	10.2	1.4
Census	1986	M	62.6	34.3	1.3	1.8
		F	53.4	35.8	8.0	2.8
Census	1996	M	64.0	32.8	1.5	1.6
		F	58.4	33.9	2.2	9.2
LDS	2001	M	44.7	48.4	3.3	3.4
		F	30.9	46.9	17.4	4.7
Census	2006	M	44.3	48.2	4.3	2.9
		F	31.3	47.0	17.2	3.1
LDS	2011	M	46.0	46.5	4.7	2.8
		F	30.1	45.7	20.6	3.5
Census	2016	M	43.5	50.0	3.5	3.1
		F	30.5	50.9	13.8	4.2
LDS	2021	M	43.2	48.0	3.9	4.8
		F	31.9	44.1	17.6	6.4

5.4.1 Singulate Mean Age at Marriage

The Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) measures the mean age at first marriage for those who ever married. Age at first marriage determines the length of time females are exposed to the risk of childbearing. The SMAM for males and females has been increasing over years as reflected in Figure 5.1. This implies delayed entry into marriage for both males and females. The SMAM for males increased from 24.8 years in 1976 to 28.7 years in 2021, while SMAM for females increased from 20.4 years in 1966 to 24.8 in 2021. This could be the contributing factor for declining fertility.

Figure 5.1: Singulate Mean Age at Marriage for Period 1966 to 2021, 2021 LDS



5.5 Age at First Marriage

The age at marriage varies from one country to another hence in Lesotho a person can be married if 18 years and above. However, for this survey, questions for marital status were addressed to persons aged 12 years and above. It is observed in Table 5.7 for both sexes, across all marital status categories that most persons got married between the ages of 20 to 24 years (39.2%). For males in polygamous marriage, age at first marriage is predominantly in the 20 to 24 years (45.1%) and widowed females as 15 to 19 years (51.9%). The table further shows that some persons married at younger ages ranging between 12 and 14 years at 1.0 percent. Females constituted the highest percent of 1.7 while males are 0.1 percent which implies a disadvantage for girl child.

Table 5.7: Percentage Distribution of the Ever-Married Persons Aged 12 Years and Above by Age at First Marriage, Marital Status and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age at first Marriage/Sex	Marital Status						Total
	Monogamously married	Polygamously married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	
Male							
12-14	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
15-19	7.2	14.6	5.6	12.1	7.8	11.1	8.0
20-24	40.8	45.1	26.2	46.7	41.1	44.4	41.4
25-29	34.1	25.0	33.9	27.4	36.3	30.2	33.2
30-34	12.4	11.5	11.4	10.7	11.4	10.1	12.1
35-39	3.7	2.8	12.3	1.5	2.2	2.5	3.5
40-44	1.1	0.3	7.5	0.8	0.0	0.9	1.1
45-49	0.3	0.4	2.5	0.3	1.2	0.2	0.3
50+	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.3
Total	319,625	8,527	3,223	28,407	5,066	27,206	392,054
Female							
12-14	1.4	1.5	2.2	1.9	1.4	2.5	1.7
15-19	43.1	47.1	30.1	49.8	43.2	51.9	45.8
20-24	38.5	33.3	29.9	35.5	39.1	35.9	37.5
25-29	12.6	12.2	13.6	10.2	13.2	7.6	11.2
30-34	3.2	4.0	11.1	1.8	2.5	1.1	2.6
35-39	0.8	1.4	10.9	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.8
40-44	0.2	0.0	2.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
45-49	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
50+	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
Total	320,975	7,958	3,099	37,575	10,412	132,748	512,767
Both Sexes							
12-14	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	2.0	1.0
15-19	25.2	30.3	17.6	33.6	31.7	45.0	29.4
20-24	39.6	39.4	28.0	40.3	39.7	37.3	39.2
25-29	23.3	18.8	23.9	17.6	20.8	11.4	20.7
30-34	7.8	7.9	11.2	5.6	5.4	2.7	6.7
35-39	2.3	2.1	11.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	2.0
40-44	0.6	0.1	4.9	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.6
45-49	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
50+	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total	640,600	16,485	6,322	65,982	16,478	159,953	904,821

5.6 Time Spent in Marriage and Age

It refers to the time frame i.e., an average number of years one has spent in marriage. The variable for time spent in marriage for the currently married was not directly addressed in the questionnaire, therefore, age of the respondent and age at first marriage were used to compute this variable. It should also be noted that this approach did not take into consideration the incidence of remarriages. Nevertheless, the results provide information on the duration of marriages. Table 5.8 illustrates the distribution of currently married persons aged 15 years and above by length of time spent in marriage and age. It is revealed in the table that, length of time spent in marriage increased with an increase in age. As expected, persons in the younger age groups seem to have spent less than 10 years in marriage. Most persons who spent more than 20 years in marriage were mostly concentrated in the older age groups, mostly from age 40 years and above.

Table 5.8: Percentage of the Currently Married Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Age-group and Length of Time Spent in Marriage, 2021 LDS

Age	Length of Time Spent in Marriage						Total
	0 - 1 years	2 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 years and above	
15 - 19	15.2	3.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
20 - 24	36.4	32.0	9.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.8
25 - 29	29.1	34.4	35.6	10.8	0.2	0.0	11.4
30 - 34	12.7	19.4	31.7	39.6	13.0	0.1	13.4
35 - 39	4.2	7.0	15.0	31.4	42.6	3.3	13.1
40 - 44	1.2	2.6	4.9	13.4	29.9	12.0	11.5
45 - 49	0.6	0.8	1.9	3.6	10.0	14.4	8.7
50 - 54	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	2.8	14.2	7.2
55 - 59	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	13.6	6.6
60 - 64	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	12.5	5.9
65 - 69	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	9.7	4.6
70 - 74	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	7.2	3.4
75 - 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	2.6
80 - 84	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.0	1.9
85+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.7
Total	57,064	90,355	119,762	114,802	96,299	426,540	904,821

5.7 Survival Status of the First or Only Spouse

This subsection intends to establish the possibility of survivorship of the first or only spouse. There were considerable proportions of monogamously married persons who reported that their spouses were still alive accounting for 87.5 percent at the time of survey indicated in Table 5.9. Furthermore, there were respondents who were widowed but stated that their first spouses were still alive with 0.1 percent implying a phenomenon of remarriage.

Table 5.9: Percentage Distribution of Ever Married Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Survival Status of First or Only Spouse, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	First or Only Spouse Alive	
	Yes	No
Monogamously married	87.5	12.9
Polygamously married	1.9	1.7
Separated	8.8	2.2
Divorced	1.7	1.6
Widowed	0.1	81.5
Total	703,509	195,544

5.8 Child Marriage

Child marriage refers to any formal or informal union between a child under the age of 18 years with an adult or another child. An outstanding feature about child marriage, whether it happens to a girl or a boy, translates to a violation of human rights for both sexes. It also places a heavy physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impacts, cutting off educational opportunity and chances of personal growth. Additionally, for girls, it will almost certainly mean early entry into reproduction which is likely to lead to a life time of domestic and sexual subservience over which they have no control (UNICEF, 2001).

Target 5.3 of the SDGs aims to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations” by 2030 hence the Ministry of Social Development (2014) explained that there should be interventions that are preventive and protective against child and early forced marriage. As a result, this section explores the early child marriages among persons aged 12 to 17 years.

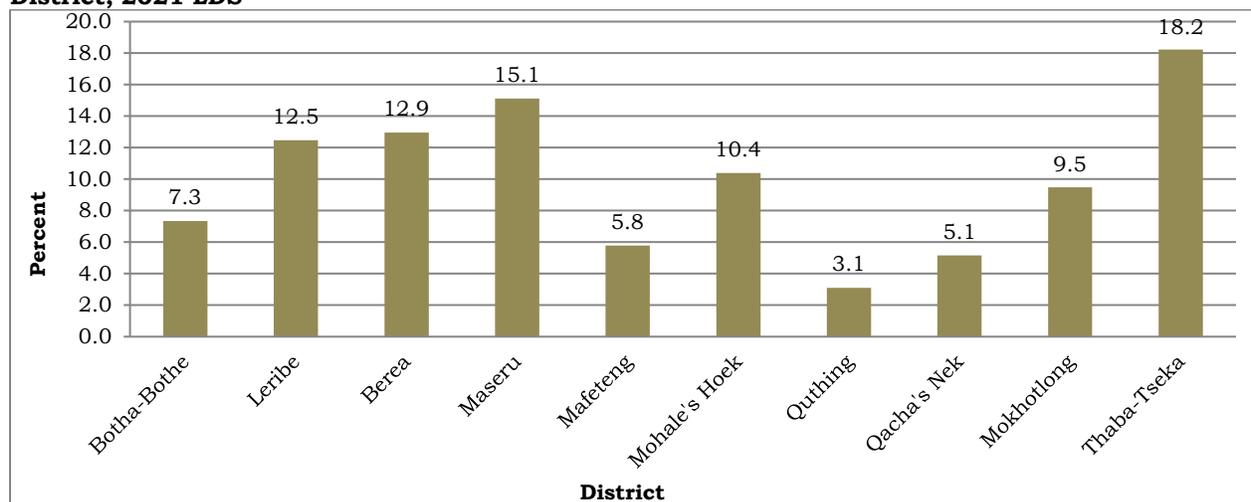
There were 275,013 children aged 12 to 17 years and of these 1.2 percent were ever married as depicted in Table 5.10. Children aged 12 to 17 were mostly reported in the never married category, with those aged 12 and 13 years falling in this category only. About 73 percent of children aged 17 years were monogamously married. Some factors such as household economic burden may have resulted in child marriage which even forced children to be in polygamous marriage at 61.5 percent for children aged 15 years.

Table 5.10: Distribution of Persons Aged 12 to 17 Years by Marital Status and Age, 2021 LDS

Age	Marital Status						Total
	Never married	Monogamously married	Polygamously married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	
12	17.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0
13	17.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.3
14	16.8	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.6
15	16.7	3.3	61.5	0.0	32.6	0.0	16.6
16	16.3	22.5	0.0	0.0	26.1	0.0	16.4
17	15.5	72.5	38.5	100.0	43.5	100.0	16.1
Total	271,731	3,145	52	29	46	10	275,013

Though the proportion of ever married children looks small, it is still a challenge for the government. The figure depicts that Thaba-Tseka district has an outstandingly high proportion of ever married children estimated at 18.2 with Maseru following with 15.1 percent. Quthing had the least percentage of children who were ever married accounting for 3.1.

Figure 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 12 to 17 Years Who Have Ever Been Married by District, 2021 LDS



Marriage before the age of 18 is violation of human rights, yet remains a reality for many children. The right to 'free and full' consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - with the recognition that consent cannot be 'free and full' when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision

about a life partner. In the Sustainable Development Goals, child marriage has been identified as a harmful practice which the world should aim to eliminate by 2030.

One in five women aged 20 to 24 years were found to have been in union before their eighteenth birthday, while for those who were married before age 15 years contributed 1.2 percent. The district of Thaba-Tseka had the highest proportion of women (29.5%) who were married before age 18 while Berea had the least with 13.7 percent. The contrary pattern is observed for males married before 18 and 15 years with proportions less than five.

Table 5.11: Percentage of Women and Men Age 20-24 Years who First Married or Entered a Marital Union Before their 15th and 18th Birthdays, 2021 LDS

Settlement Type	Women Married Before		Number of Women Age 20-24 Years	Men Married Before		Number of Men Age 20-24 Years
	18 years	15 years		18 Years	15 Years	
Urban	14.9	0.5	16,202	3.5	0.0	5,486
Peri-Urban	13.5	0.0	4,139	2.8	0.0	1,435
Rural	26.6	1.8	23,819	3.1	0.1	10,523
District						
Botha-Bothe	27.7	0.4	2,791	4.7	0.0	1,016
Leribe	20.9	1.4	7,898	5.7	0.0	2,699
Berea	13.7	0.4	4,787	1.3	0.0	1,740
Maseru	18.1	0.0	12,314	1.5	0.0	4,563
Mafeteng	18.2	1.2	3,381	6.5	0.0	1,168
Mohale's Hoek	22.0	0.0	3,177	2.2	0.0	1,292
Quthing	27.5	5.1	2,253	3.5	0.0	909
Qacha's Nek	28.3	1.3	1,606	4.5	1.4	831
Mokhotlong	23.0	1.8	2,441	4.1	0.0	1,320
Thaba-Tseka	29.5	4.5	3,513	1.9	0.0	1,905
Total	21.0	1.2	44,160	3.2	0.1	17,444

5.9 Summary

There were 1,443,618 persons aged 15 years and above. Male population was estimated at 48.8 percent while female accounted for 52.2 percent. The never married persons constituted 37.3 percent and ever married was 62.7 percent. Generally, Maseru had the highest percentage share in every marital status type.

Irrespective of sex, persons aged 15 to 19 years were mostly never married recording 94.5 percent. The survey indicated that across all marital status categories most persons got married between the ages of 20 to 24 years for both sexes. The SMAM for males and females has been increasing over years indicating delayed entry into marriage. SMAM for males increased from 24.8 to 28.7 years and females increased from 20.4 to 24.8 years.

There were 275,013 children aged 12 to 17 years and of these 1.2 percent were ever married and of the ever married children Thaba-Tseka district had an outstandingly high proportion. One in five women aged 20 to 24 years were found to have been in union before their 18th birthday, while those married before age 15 years contributed 1.2 percent.

CHAPTER 6

FERTILITY

6.0 Introduction

Fertility is one of the major components of population change. Various socio-economic and demographic variables determine fertility. High fertility is associated with the level of income, education, child survival, culture and religious factors. In addition to these, family planning plays a vital role in determining fertility which also differs from one group of people to another. There are social economic culture and other variables affecting the level of fertility in societies where, high fertility societies are generally considered as poor and backward. Thus, fertility could also be seen as an important indicator of socio-economic development.

According to UNFPA (2019), fertility is a primary engine of population growth and the knowledge of fertility levels and trends can help in the formulation and evaluation of policies related to population change. Furthermore, analysis on fertility trends helps to predict needs for public services, such as health facilities and schools.

6.1 Lifetime Fertility

Lifetime fertility refers to the number of children ever born alive to a woman during the entire reproductive period of the woman or up to the point of data collection. Each woman aged 12 to 50 years was asked whether or not she had ever had a live birth even if the child died soon after birth. Those who had ever had a live birth, were further asked to provide the number of boys and girls living within the household, the number living elsewhere, and the number that were no longer alive. Then the numbers were summed up to derive the total number of children a woman had in her entire life.

6.1.1 Children Ever Born

Children ever born refers to children that were born alive even if the child died soon after birth to women aged 15 to 49 years during the 2021 LDS. Asking questions on children ever born alive is recommended in all situations, even in countries with good vital registration, to assess completeness of the registration system and for estimating levels of lifetime fertility for older cohorts, UNFPA (2019).

Table 6.1 presents the percentage distribution of children ever born by age group of women aged 15 to 49 years. It is observed that the number of children ever born increases from age group 15 to 19 years estimated at 1.3 percent and reaches a climax (21.4 percent) at age group 35 to 39 years. From this age group onwards, children ever born decreases as age increases. The least number of children ever born is observed in adolescents (15 to 19 years). It is further depicted in this table that most children (28.0 percent) were borne by women with parity 2.

Table 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Women Aged 15 to 49 Years by Children Ever Born, 2021 LDS

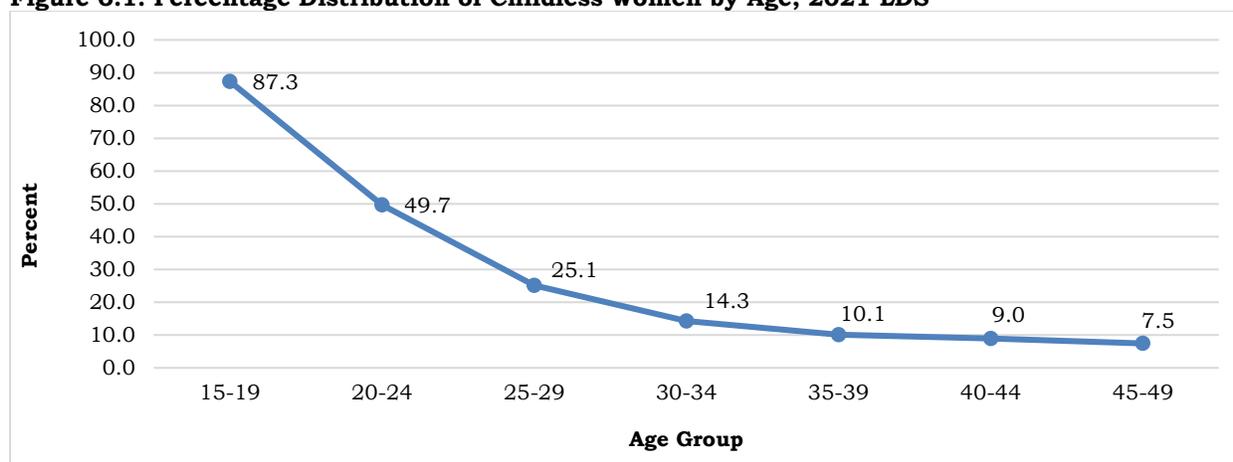
Age group	Children ever Born													Total (%)	Total (N)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
15 – 19	7.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	10,235
20 – 24	28.7	8.8	1.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	60,185
25 – 29	25.9	21.8	11.8	5.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.2	109,184	
30 – 34	17.7	24.4	23.0	15.3	10.4	4.5	1.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5	142,854	
35 – 39	10.1	21.2	25.8	26.6	26.3	23.1	20.3	13.3	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	164,650	
40 – 44	6.7	15.1	22.1	28.0	30.4	35.7	41.1	31.4	27.3	17.2	19.4	20.9	0.0	20.2	155,541	
45 – 49	4.0	8.3	15.5	24.2	31.7	36.7	37.4	52.7	60.5	82.8	80.6	79.1	100.0	16.6	128,216	
Total	17.0	28.0	23.5	14.0	8.4	4.4	2.2	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	770,865	

6.1.2 Childlessness

When a woman has had no live birth during her entire life until the reference date, she is referred to as a childless woman. South Africa 2011 Census report on fertility states that parity data are deemed to be reliable if the proportion of women experiencing childlessness decreases with the age of women, and the proportion of women that remained childless at age 45 to 49 should not exceed 10 percent in reported data (Moultrie et al, 2013).

The proportion of childless women decreases with increasing age. Evidently, in Figure 6.1, 87.3 percent of women aged 15 to 19 years were childless and only 7.5 percent of women in the 45 to 49 age range had never had a live birth. It, therefore, falls within the expected range of 3 to 10 percent at the higher age of 50 years.

Figure 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Childless Women by Age, 2021 LDS

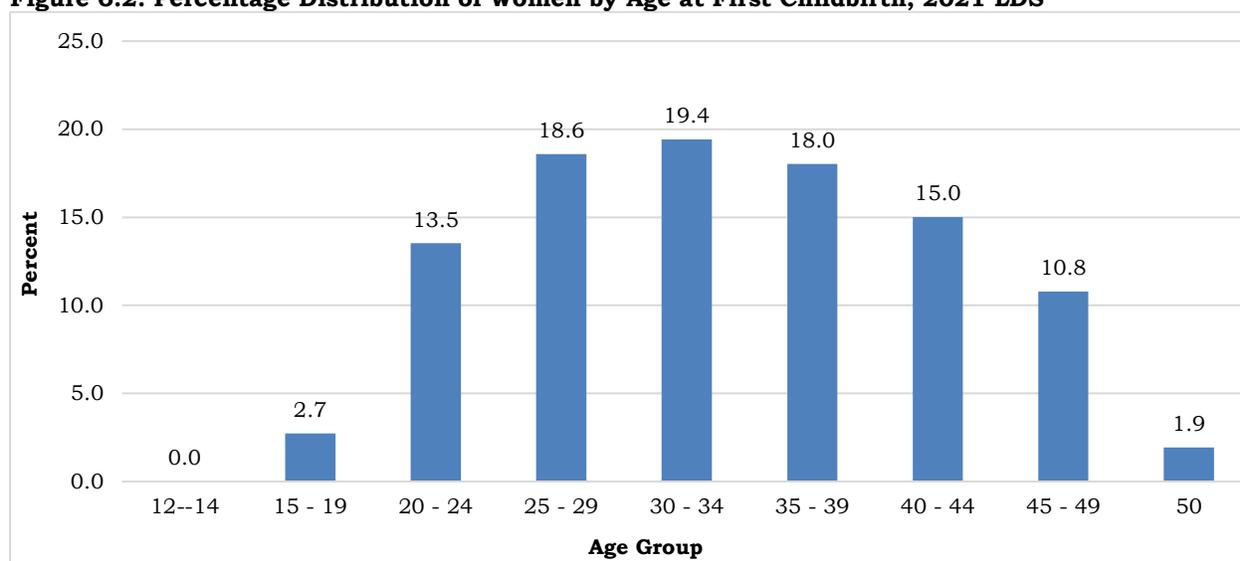


6.1.3 Age at First Live Birth

The age of women at first birth is an important indicator of subsequent fertility at individual and community levels, thereby impacting on the size, composition and future growth of the population. An understanding of the age at first birth within a population provides policymakers and planners with an indication of succeeding fertility patterns and their policy implications. Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) indicate early childbearing is often related to high levels of adolescent fertility (Gyepi-Garbrah, 1985 cited in Stats SA, 2015).

It is important to study and observe the age pattern of first childbirth because it directly has an impact on the lifetime parity of a woman. The earlier the commencement of childbearing, the higher the chances of high birth orders for that particular woman. Figure 6.2 shows the percentage distribution of females and their age at first childbirth. It is indicated in the figure that the topmost number of childbearing women represented by 19.4 percent is around the ages of 30 to 34 years for women that had their first live birth. A relatively low percentage of childbearing is observed in teenage years as opposed to those that had their first child at later years of life (45 to 50 years).

Figure 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Women by Age at First Childbirth, 2021 LDS



6.2 Current Fertility

Current fertility refers to births that occurred to women aged 15 to 49 years in the 12 months before the census or survey. As one of the major components of population change, it is important to observe the behavioral patterns of fertility in order to assess the dynamics within which the population is changing.

6.2.1 Age Specific Fertility Rate

The Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) is estimated as the number of live births which occurred to a woman in a particular age group at the time of birth, over the number of woman years lived in that age group during the specified period. It is indicated in Table 6.2 that the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime if she experienced the prevailing fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life is 2.8. This estimate is referred to as Total Fertility Rate (TFR) implying that in Lesotho a woman will have about 3 children after completing her reproductive span. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) which is rarely used is estimated at 19.66 per 1,000 populations. There were 73.03 births in 2021 midyear for every 1,000 women in the age group 15 to 49 years.

Table 6.2: Reported and Adjusted Age Specific Rates, Total Fertility Rates, General Fertility Rates and Crude Birth Rates, 2021 LDS

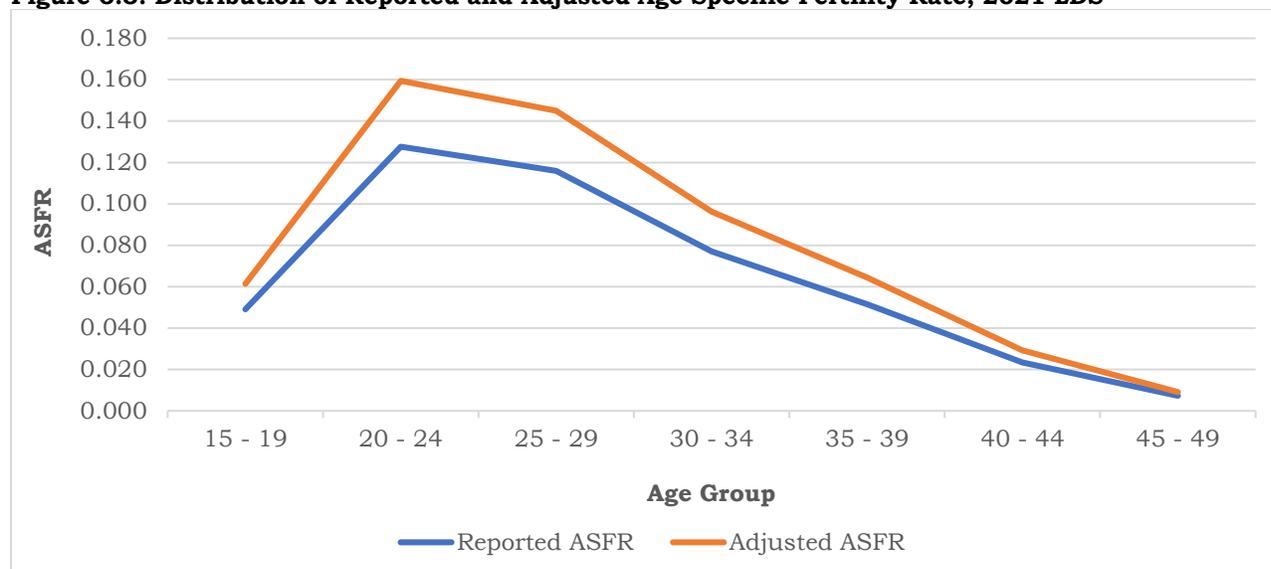
Age Group	Number of Women	Births	Reported ASFR	Adjusted ASFR
15 - 19	106,561	5230	0.049	0.061
20 - 24	103,116	13161	0.128	0.159
25 - 29	91,196	10579	0.116	0.145
30 - 34	82,845	6385	0.077	0.096
35 - 39	72,802	3754	0.052	0.064
40 - 44	60,187	1408	0.023	0.029
45 - 49	42,279	308	0.007	0.009
Total	558,986	40,824	0.452	0.565
TFR	-	-	2.260	2.824
CBR	-	-	19.658	24.560
GFR	-	-	73.032	

6.2.2 Age Pattern of Fertility and Mean Age at Childbearing

It shows the distribution of births to females in a particular age group in relation to the number of females in that age group in a particular year. Reducing adolescent fertility and addressing multiple factors underlying it are essential for improving sexual and reproductive health and the social and economic well-being of adolescents. Women who give birth early on in their reproductive span are at a higher risk of complications or even death during pregnancy or child birth and their children are also more vulnerable. Therefore, preventing births very early in a woman's life is an important measure to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality (WHO, 2022).

The reported and adjusted fertility rates are presented in Figure 6.3. It shows that most children born in the last 12 months before the survey were borne by mothers in the age group 20 to 24 years. The reported age specific rates are lower than the adjusted age specific fertility rates implying an under reporting of recent births. A decline in fertility rate is observed from age 25 to 49 years. Adolescent birth rate is reported at 0.06 children per 1,000 women. The mean age at childbearing is 26.5 years in Lesotho.

Figure 6.3: Distribution of Reported and Adjusted Age Specific Fertility Rate, 2021 LDS



6.2.3 Trends in Age Pattern of Fertility

The ASFR derived from censuses and surveys indicate a trend suggesting that fertility has gradually declined over time with minor increases in 2001 and 2011 (Table 6.3). As expected, the ASFRs were highest in 1996 for most ages and lowest in 2021 across most ages, indicating a decline in current fertility over time. For the first three age groups, there was an increase in the fertility rates from 2011 to 2021 but from age group 30 to 34 there was a noticeable decline in ASFRs.

Table 6.3: Trend in Age Specific Rates and Total Fertility Rates for 1996 to 2021, 2021 LDS

Age group	1996 Census	2001 LDS	2004 LDHS	2006 Census	2009 LDHS	2011 Adjusted ASFR	2014 LDHS	2016 Adjusted ASFR	2021 Reported ASFR	2021 Adjusted ASFR
15-19	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.094	0.041	0.049	0.061
20-24	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.181	0.120	0.128	0.159
25-29	0.19	0.20	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.141	0.140	0.116	0.145
30-34	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.112	0.137	0.077	0.096
35-39	0.13	0.15	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.072	0.127	0.052	0.064
40-44	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.049	0.067	0.023	0.029
45-49	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.004	0.015	0.007	0.009
TFR	4.1	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.23	2.26	2.82

Source: 2016 Population and Housing Census

Figure 6.4 presents the adjusted fertility distributions derived from the fertility data of the surveys conducted in 2011 and 2021. The ASFRs reached the climax at age 20 to 24 years and declined with increasing age thereafter. In general, the figure illustrates that, the age pattern of fertility has remained the same over the years. The shape of the age specific fertility rates in the figure is observed across age groups revealing a decreasing pattern of ASFRs.

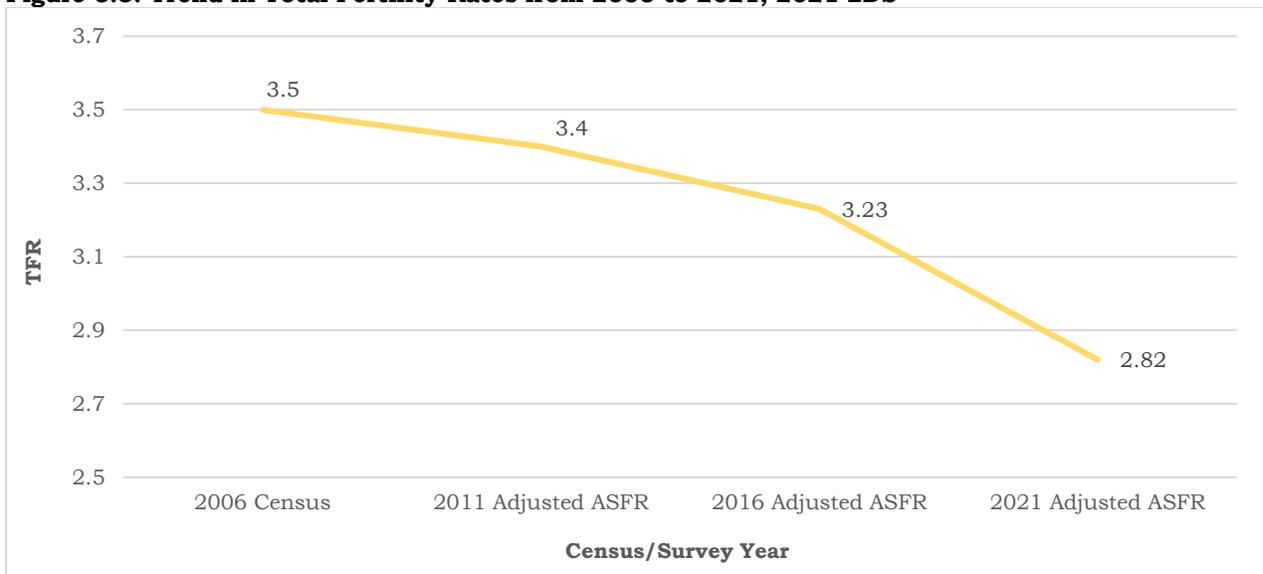
Figure 6.4: Age Specific Fertility Rates for 2011 and 2021, 2021 LDS



6.2.4 Trend in Total Fertility Rates

Trends in total fertility rate resulting from the recent data sources suggest that fertility has been decreasing over time. The TFR has also been declining over years from approximately 4 children in 2006 to 3 children per 1,000 women in 2021.

Figure 6.5: Trend in Total Fertility Rates from 2006 to 2021, 2021 LDS



6.2.5 Fertility Differentials and Background Characteristics

Fertility for eligible females varies by women’s background characteristics. This subsection presents fertility by women’s place of residence (urban, peri-urban, rural areas and districts), marital status and by educational attainment. Fertility rate of women residing in rural areas (2.94 children per woman) is higher than that of women residing in urban (2.65 children per woman) settings as indicated by Table 6.4. The estimated total fertility

rate of women by their marital status was higher for women who were ever married (5.12 children per woman) as opposed to 1.54 children for women who had never been married.

The table further presents the total fertility of women by their respective highest level of education attained. Women with the lowest educational levels seem to bear more children than women who had attained higher levels of education. Women with primary education have an average of 3.53 children per woman. This rate is much higher than those estimated for women with no education and secondary level of education whose fertility levels are estimated at 2.18 and 2.66 children per woman.

The results illustrate a fairly high total fertility rate ranging from 3.19 to 3.26 children per woman who were residing in the three mountainous districts (Thaba-tseka, Mokhotlong and Quthing). Moreover, the lowest total fertility rate of around 2.21 children per woman has been observed in the district of Maseru.

Table 6.4: Total Fertility Rate by Background Characteristics, 2021 LDS

Background Characteristics	Total Fertility Rate
Settlement Type	
Urban	2.65
Rural	2.94
Marital Status	
Never Married	1.54
Ever Married	5.12
Highest Level of Education Attained	
No Education	2.18
Primary	3.53
Secondary and Above	2.66
Districts	
Botha-Bothe	3.11
Leribe	2.63
Berea	3.07
Maseru	2.21
Mafeteng	2.95
Mohale's Hoek	2.60
Quthing	3.19
Qacha's Nek	2.73
Mokhotlong	3.19
Thaba-Tseka	3.26
Total	2.82

6.3 Summary

The results from the survey reflected that fertility in Lesotho is declining since 2006 to 2021. The proportion of childless women decreases with an increase in age. Most women had their first live birth within the age group 30 to 34 years. The majority of children born in the last 12 months prior to the survey were borne by mothers in the age group 20 to 24 years. The shape of the age specific fertility rates reveals a decreasing pattern from the peak of 20 to 24 age group.

The 2021 TFR for Lesotho is estimated at 3 children per woman. In the SDG's, one of the indicators of Target 3.7 in relation to adolescent birth rate is estimated at 0.061 children per woman. This shows that there is still some work to be done to educate the young women about the health risks associated with early child birth for both the mother and the child.

CHAPTER 7

INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY

7.0 Introduction

Mortality is one of the three components of population change which plays an important role in determining the growth of a population. However, Roser et al (2019) state that 15,000 children die every day before they had their fifth birthday. This fact is an everyday tragedy of enormous scale that rarely makes the headlines. Child mortality has been the global concern; hence the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda in 2015. Countries agreed to reach the SDGs and Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. Target 3.2 of SDGs states that “by 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age. This initiative is done with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births; and under five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births” (WHO, 2017). The Lesotho National Health Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is in line with the SDGs aiming at achieving access quality essential health care services, safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all people living in Lesotho by 2030 (Ministry of Health, 2016).

Mortality data is needed for analysing its potential contribution to the growth of population and construction of population projections, to develop, implement, evaluate public health programmes and projects as well as formulating policies. Results from mortality analyses support viable health and related programmes, which can be put in place to address human survival. The significance of mortality is advocated among other things to prevent illness and disease, to reduce their impact and to promote healthy lifestyle.

The chapter will present a discussion on the estimates of mortality levels, trends and differentials in infant and child mortality, sex-ratio, children surviving and children dying. The socio demographic differentials in infant and child mortality are also presented to highlight factors that enhance and/or retard child survival.

7.1 Data Limitation

Many Sub Saharan African (SSA) countries are likely to have poor reports on mortality due to weak or limited Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems. The CRVS systems are the preferred ways to collect data on fertility and mortality but census provide a valuable information particularly in countries where birth and death registration is incomplete. Inadequate CRVS prohibit presentation of information required for quality or completeness of reliable demographic estimates. Similarly, the coverage for vital registration events is still low hence the country fails to generate data that can be used for mortality analysis.

7.2 Data and Methodology

In estimating child mortality, information is based on the reports of women in their reproductive ages (15 to 49 years) for live births and survival history of their children. All eligible women interviewed in the 2021 LDS were asked to provide a detailed history of all live births in sequential order and their survival status. According to DHS 2014, the quality of mortality estimates calculated from birth histories depends on the mother’s ability to

recall all of the children she has given birth to, as well as their birth dates and ages at death.

There are basically direct and indirect procedures for estimating childhood mortality. The direct procedure depends on reliable population data as well as birth and death data. The indirect procedures are used when reliable and adequate birth and death registration data are not accessible. The indirect demographic methods were employed to derive both infant and child mortality. There are several techniques used to develop estimates of childhood mortality based on available data which may be incomplete and/or inadequate. The indirect estimation technique of the United Nations Mortality measurement package developed by William Brass (1984) was used in this chapter. This method is applicable where data on children ever born (CEB) and children surviving (CS) by age of women were employed to derive the proportion dead among children ever born. The technique calculates mortality indicators such as infant mortality rate (IMR), child mortality rate (CMR), under-five mortality rate (U5MR) and life expectancy at birth.

The proportions dead among all children born are converted by the Hill-Trussel regression equation of the Brass method into estimates of the infant mortality rate, probability of dying between ages 1 and 5, and life expectancy at birth in a given population. The method has different models (UN mortality models and 4 regional Coale-Demeny mortality models) from which to select the mortality model that is most consistent with the age pattern of mortality in the population that is being investigated.

Ekanem and Som (1984) investigated on the practice among mortality analysts whereby they recommended that the North Model be used for SSA countries. Therefore, the North model of the Coale-Demeny family of life tables was selected as the most appropriate for Lesotho. The method also estimates the length at which children are exposed to the risk of dying using the proportions of children dead and convert them into probabilities of dying. However, the child's probability of dying is only a function of child's age and not mother's age as the method assumed. Therefore, omissions are done for the estimates of infant mortality from women aged less than 15 years because they have proved to be unreliable and unrealistic.

7.3 Children Ever Born, Surviving and Sex Ratio

This section focuses on the number of CEB, CS and SR by age of women. The CEB relates to all children a woman ever had that were born alive and CS were children a woman ever had that are still alive while SR is the proportion of males to females in a population. The sex ratio is measured as the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio at birth is a biological constant that varies little from population to population. This estimate is generally found within the range of 1.03 and 1.08 male births per female births indicating slightly more males at birth than females (United Nations, 1990).

In this study, the sex ratio at birth is estimated at 1.07 as indicated in Table 7.1. This means that for every 100 female births there are 107 male births. Those lower than 1.02 might suggest an underreporting of males while rates higher than 1.08 might suggest an underreporting of girls which was not the case in this study as indicated in Table 7.1. As expected, the mean number of children ever born, mean number alive and mean number dead increases constantly with the age of women.

Table 7.1: Mean Number of Children Ever Born (CEB), Mean Number Surviving, Mean Number Dead and Sex Ratios at Birth by Age of Women, 2021 LDS

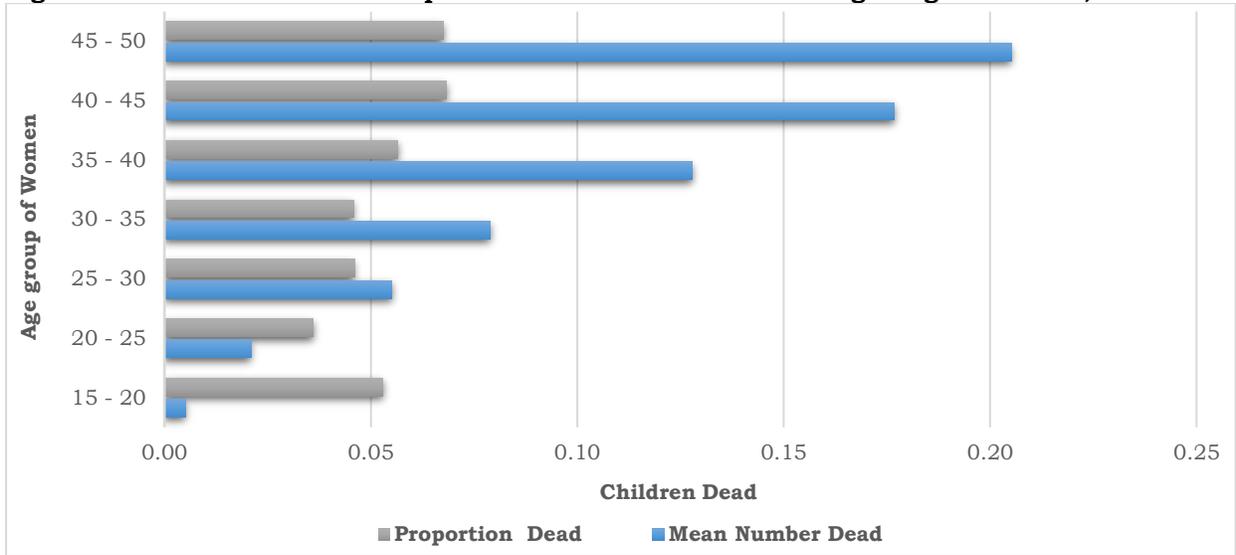
Age of women at survey	Number of Women	Mean Number of CEB	Mean Number of Children Surviving	Mean Number of Children Dead	Sex-Ratio at Birth
15-19	106,561	0.100	0.09	0.01	1.07
20-24	103,116	0.605	0.56	0.02	1.02
25-29	91,196	1.224	1.14	0.06	1.06
30-34	82,845	1.762	1.65	0.08	1.02
35-39	72,802	2.298	2.13	0.13	0.99
40-44	60,187	2.638	2.41	0.18	1.02
45-49	42,279	3.080	2.83	0.21	0.98

7.4 Children Dead

These are children born alive to a woman but later on died. The proportion of children dead alter with age while the mean number of children dead seemed to increase constantly with age of the women. This might be possible due to women in some age groups who have misreported either the number of children ever born or the number of children dead or both.

In general, the proportion of children dead was less than 0.10 percent for all women in the reproductive ages while mean children dead was estimated as 0.20 percent. The same pattern for the mean number and proportion of children dead according to the age of the women observed for both 2001 and 2011 LDS still prevails in 2021 LDS.

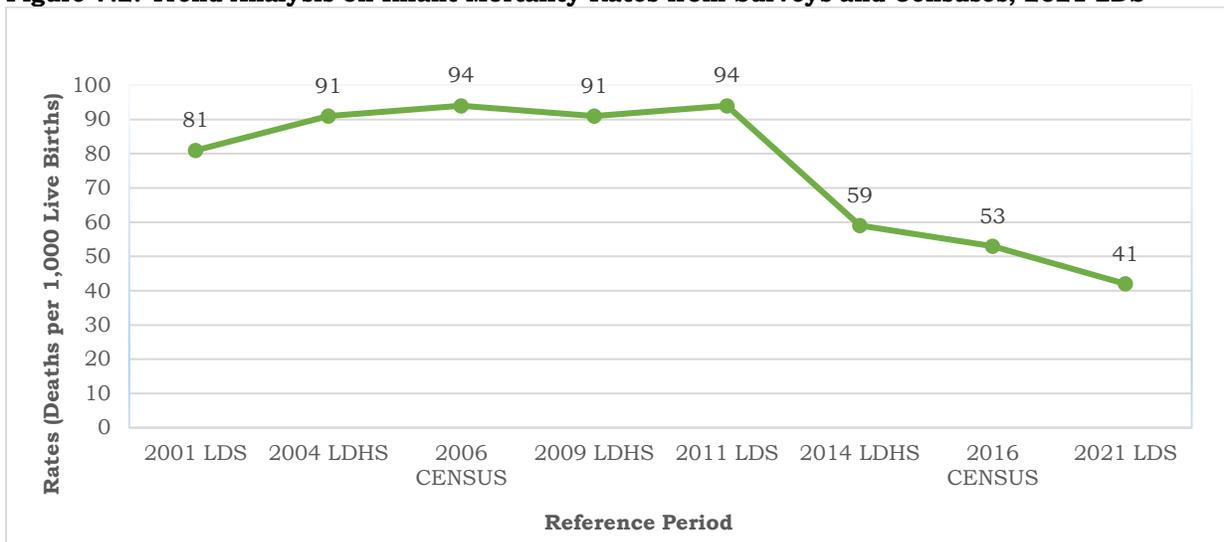
Figure 7.1: Mean Number and Proportion of Children Dead According to Age of Women, 2021 LDS



7.5 Trends in Childhood Mortality

The fundamental pattern of mortality behaviour is interpreted on the basis of historical data. Various reference periods from LDS, DHS and census were observed over time. There is a downward trend in the early childhood mortality rates over time from 2011 to 2021 as illustrated in Figure 7.2. The 2021 LDS estimated IMR is 42 deaths per 1,000 live births. When birth rates increase infant and child mortality also increases (Montgomery M.R. and Cohen B.,1998).

Figure 7.2: Trend Analysis on Infant Mortality Rates from Surveys and Censuses, 2021 LDS



7.6 Childhood Mortality Levels

The level and pattern of mortality is a reflection of the health status of a population. The current levels and future trend of mortality are important for planning and policy formulations within the country.

The North family of Coale-Demeny model life tables was used to estimate childhood mortality based on children ever born and children surviving by age group of the woman. The estimates for each age group of women refer to an approximate reference period. On average, the estimates reflect a decline in IMR, CMR and U5MR through the reference periods for both sexes during the period 2012 to 2019. The U5MR is a much more reliable index of the risk of a child dying before age 5 years.

Table 7.2 displays infant mortality rate of 33 deaths per 1,000 live births estimated in 2019 which is lower than the 2016 estimate of 53 deaths of infants per 1,000 live births. It is not recommended to use estimates for births of younger women due to fewer reported births as the low maternal age disposes mortality risk during infancy.

Table 7.2: Infant, Child and Under-five Mortality Rates Using Data on Children Ever Born and Children Surviving (Coale and Demeny North Model), 2021 LDS

Age group	Reference Period	Both Sex			Males			Females		
		IMR	CMR	U5MR	IMR	CMR	U5MR	IMR	CMR	U5MR
20 - 25	2019.1	33	12	44	36	14	50	29	9	37
25 - 30	2017.2	36	14	50	38	15	53	34	13	47
30 - 35	2015	35	13	47	39	16	54	31	10	41
35 - 40	2012.5	42	19	59	43	20	62	40	18	57

7.7 Socio-Demographic differentials in Childhood Mortality

The mortality indicators such as infant, child and under-five were analysed using background characteristics. The patterns and distributions observed in these indicators are the result of a complex interplay of demographic, economic, cultural, environmental and political factors. Specific factors such as educational attainment, occupation, marital status, place of residence and the quality of health facilities exert some influence on mortality (Shryock & Siegel, 1976).

Place of residence is considered an important influential factor in mortality analysis as there are observed disparities in developing countries in how early childhood mortality affects children. Location has some influence on levels of childhood mortality and this is influenced by the living and environmental conditions of the place.

Table 7.3 indicates that children born to women residing in the rural areas (65 deaths per 1,000 live births) experienced higher risk of dying before completing their fifth birthday compared to those in urban areas with 49 deaths per 1,000 live births. The degree of mortality varies from one area to the other with infant mortality rate ranging from a low of 32 in the district of Botha-Bothe to a high of 56 deaths per 1,000 live births in Qacha's Nek districts. The same scenario is observed for child and under 5 mortalities regarding the aforementioned districts.

Table 7.3: Socio-economic Differentials in Early Age Mortality, 2021 LDS

Background Characteristics	Number of Women	Number of Children Ever Born	Infant Mortality (1q0)	Child Mortality (4q1)	Under-five Mortality (5q0)
Total	558,986	770,865	41	18	59
Settlement Type					
Urban	270,483	332,819	35	14	49
Rural	288,505	438,046	45	21	65
Districts					
Botha-Bothe	32,215	47,313	32	12	43
Leribe	98,485	133,765	36	14	49
Berea	70,844	178,716	39	17	55
Maseru	170,365	213,711	44	21	64
Mafeteng	42,662	55,485	35	15	49
Mohale's Hoek	39,656	57,496	51	27	76
Quthing	27,142	39,659	37	16	52
Qacha's Nek	20,189	31,754	56	32	85
Mokhotlong	24,629	41,618	39	17	55
Thaba-Tseka	32,799	55,922	49	24	72
Mother's Marital Status					
Never Married	229,122	683,955	45	21	65
Ever Married	329,865	679,400	32	13	45
Mother's Education					
No Education	7,625	14,737	42	20	60
Primary	159,661	343,183	46	22	66
Secondary	391,702	412,935	38	16	53

* Note: The figures in parentheses are based on data for age groups containing a value which is less than or equal to zero.

The information on marital status has been categorised into never married and ever married. The results reveal that, children borne to ever married persons experienced low under-five mortality rate of 45 deaths per 1000 live births. Regarding infant mortality among children borne to women with no education, the rate of 42 deaths per 1,000 live births is much lower when compared to that of children borne to mothers with Primary level of education with 46 deaths per 1000 live births.

7.8 Summary

The findings from 2021 LDS estimated IMR as 41 deaths per 1,000 live births for children who died before completing their first birthday. Regarding child mortality, there were 18 deaths per 1,000 live births while the under-five mortality was estimated at 59 deaths per 1,000 live births. The sex ratio at birth was found to be 1.07 indicating that for every 100 female births there were 107 male births. The results further reveal that the indices were high in rural areas as opposed to urban areas.

Regarding SDG 3 which aspires to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all, there is evidence that suggests that, intervention programmes and policies that were put in place addressed the health issues and well-being of the society and this is revealed by a decline in IMR of 94 estimated in 2011 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021. Moreover, a decline in under-five mortality will probably lead to healthy lives as (WHO, 2017) stated that, it should be at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. Hence there is a considerable progress in relation to under-five mortality rate which was estimated at 121 in 2011 to 59 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021.

CHAPTER 8

ADULT MORTALITY

8.0 Introduction

Adult mortality has largely remained a major health concern and an overlooked public health matter in SSA region, with most policies and programs engrossed on child and maternal health (Chisumpa, n.d; Kandjimbi & Kazembe, 2014). The Lesotho National Health Strategic Plan 2017-2022 aims to achieve access to quality essential health care services, safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all people living in Lesotho by 2030 (Ministry of Health, 2016). This policy is in line with the SDG 3 which also aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030 (UN, 2022). The Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest adult mortality rate, in spite of programs that have been put in place to curb down mortality. Sufficient knowledge of mortality levels in a country is vital for the systematic planning of public policies particularly on health and social security in order to have an understanding of the impact of regional (economic and social) disparities (Queiroz et al., 2020).

Information on adult mortality is very essential to better understand the patterns of mortality and the rate of decline in mortality levels especially in countries experiencing high HIV prevalence. It is also a key indicator for assessing and formulating the execution of both social and health interventions, policies as well as programs formulated to reduce mortality to improve the survival of adults (Chisumpa V.H., 2018). Synthetic measures of the level of mortality, such as life expectancy at birth or at age 15 and above, are used as indicators of health status and social development (Helleringer et al., 2014).

8.1 Data and Methods

Most countries in the SSA region including Lesotho, have poor unreliable mortality data because of inconsistent vital registration systems that fail to provide good quality and complete data for the calculation of demographic estimates. In this regard, two procedures are used for estimating adult mortality and these are the direct and indirect techniques that utilize information derived from the following data:

- Deaths that occurred in the household 12 months prior to the survey classified by the age and sex of the deceased,
- Total population by age and sex,
- Orphan-hood data-survival status of biological mother and father,
- Widowhood data-survival status of the first or only spouse

The direct method technique uses data collected on deaths that occurred 12 months preceding the survey date while the indirect method technique employs the orphanhood and widowhood method to estimate adult mortality. The indirect method estimates of mortality use data on proportions of respondents' relatives (spouse or biological parent) surviving. The orphanhood method estimates mortality of adult men and women indirectly from data on the survival status of the respondents' biological mothers and fathers. The widowhood method originally developed by Hill and Trussell (1977) estimates adult mortality from information on the survival status of the first or only spouse. These

estimates of adult mortality are calculated based on the North family of Preston-Coale and Demeny model life tables.

8.2 Current Deaths in the Household

Completeness and accuracy of data on reported deaths that occurred 12 months preceding the survey is of great importance to provide reliable estimates of mortality disaggregated by sex and age.

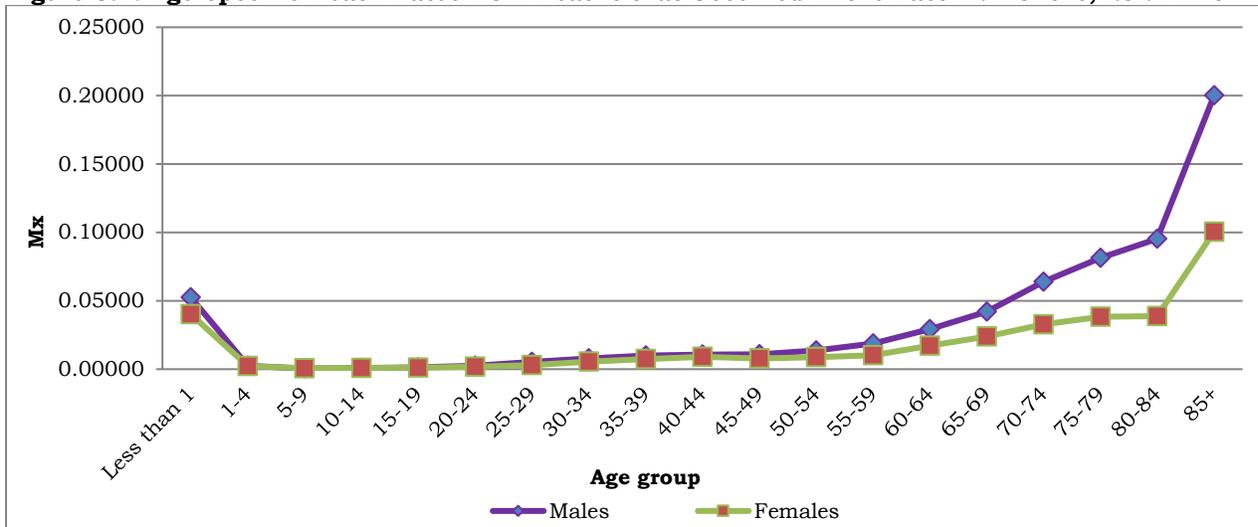
Table 8.1 presents the number of reported deaths in the past 12 months preceding the survey by sex. Results showed a total of 18,086 reported deaths of which 9,718 were males and 8,368 were females. An interesting distinct feature that emerged out of these results is that age group 70 to 74 years exhibited higher percentages of male deaths as compared to other age groups. Regarding females, deaths were more pronounced in the age group 85 years and above.

Table 8.1: Number and Percentage Distribution of Reported Deaths 12 Months Prior to the Survey by Sex, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Number of deaths			Percentage of deaths	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Less than 1	1,683	957	726	9.85	8.67
1-4	370	188	182	1.94	2.18
5-9	195	87	107	0.90	1.28
10-14	125	55	70	0.57	0.83
15-19	215	87	128	0.89	1.53
20-24	441	318	123	3.27	1.46
25-29	857	499	357	5.14	4.27
30-34	1,050	621	430	6.39	5.14
35-39	1,338	786	552	8.09	6.59
40-44	1,258	713	545	7.34	6.52
45-49	790	393	397	4.04	4.75
50-54	586	392	194	4.04	2.31
55-59	1,066	622	443	6.40	5.30
60-64	1,039	520	519	5.35	6.20
65-69	1,415	783	632	8.06	7.55
70-74	1,472	797	676	8.20	8.07
75-79	1,283	683	600	7.03	7.17
80-84	956	465	491	4.79	5.86
85+	1,947	750	1,197	7.71	14.30
Total	18,086	9,718	8,368	100.00	100.00

Demographers often find it useful to use Age Specific Death Rates (ASDR) because the risk of dying varies greatly with age. Moreover, ASDRs are calculated to eliminate the effect of age structure to allow comparison of mortality across countries. Figure 8.1 depicts the age specific death rates by sex where death rates are relatively high for infants and decline to the lowest levels for children under 5 for both sexes. The mortality rates assume an almost constant rate up to age 20 to 24 years before gradually rising and reaching a peak in the age group 85 and above for both sexes with males experiencing the highest mortality rates than females.

Figure 8.1: Age Specific Death Rates from Deaths that Occurred in the Past 12 Months, 2021 LDS

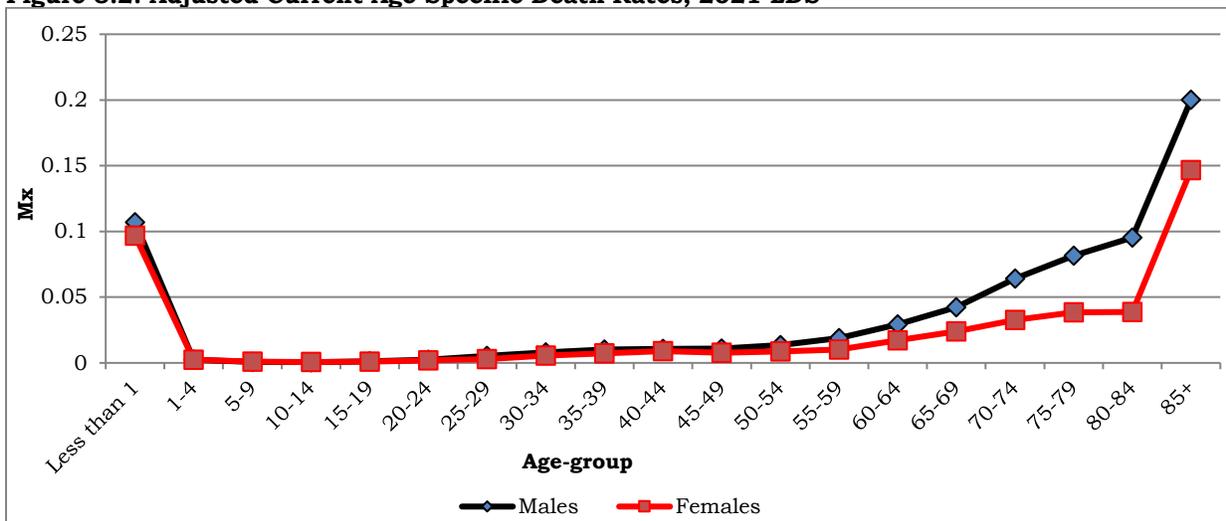


8.2.1 Adjusted Death Rates

The evaluation of completeness of the reporting of deaths plays a vital role relative to an estimate of the population since data is prone to errors. Moreover, the Preston North model was utilized to evaluate the coverage of reported deaths hence the need for adjustment.

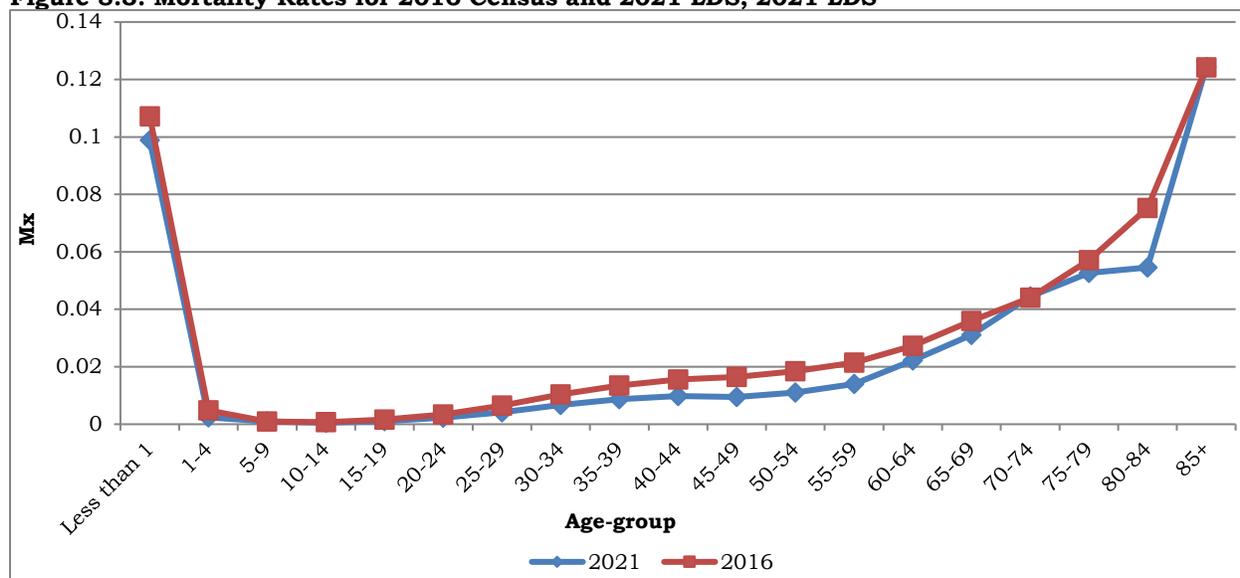
Figure 8.2 depicts the adjusted ASDRs for both males and females. The figure shows a pattern of high death rates at infancy that rapidly decline to lower levels at the age 20 to 24 years then increase gradually with age due to behavioral change for both sexes. Furthermore, males experienced the highest mortality rates than their female counterparts.

Figure 8.2: Adjusted Current Age Specific Death Rates, 2021 LDS



A representation of the mortality rates for the 2016 Census and 2021 LDS are displayed in Figure 8.3. The age mortality pattern for both years shows a J-shaped as expected for developing countries though 2016 experienced slightly higher mortality compared to 2021.

Figure 8.3: Mortality Rates for 2016 Census and 2021 LDS, 2021 LDS



8.3 Estimation of Adult Mortality

Mortality is directly calculated by using the information on deaths distributed by age and derived from vital registration system, censuses and/or surveys. However, limitation for using this approach has been established, therefore, some method of adjustment is required to transform the reported death rate into a better estimate of true mortality. As a result, two methods of estimating adult mortality, that is orphanhood and widowhood were engaged in this chapter.

8.3.1 Orphanhood Method

Estimation of adult mortality by orphanhood method utilizes information on the survival status of parents of each member of the household. “The orphanhood method is based on the assumption that; the mortality of parents is not correlated with the mortality of their children. If they were correlated, then the level of adult mortality would be underestimated, as information on the survival of dead children’s parents at the time of the survey would not be reported” (Odimegwu et.al., 2018).

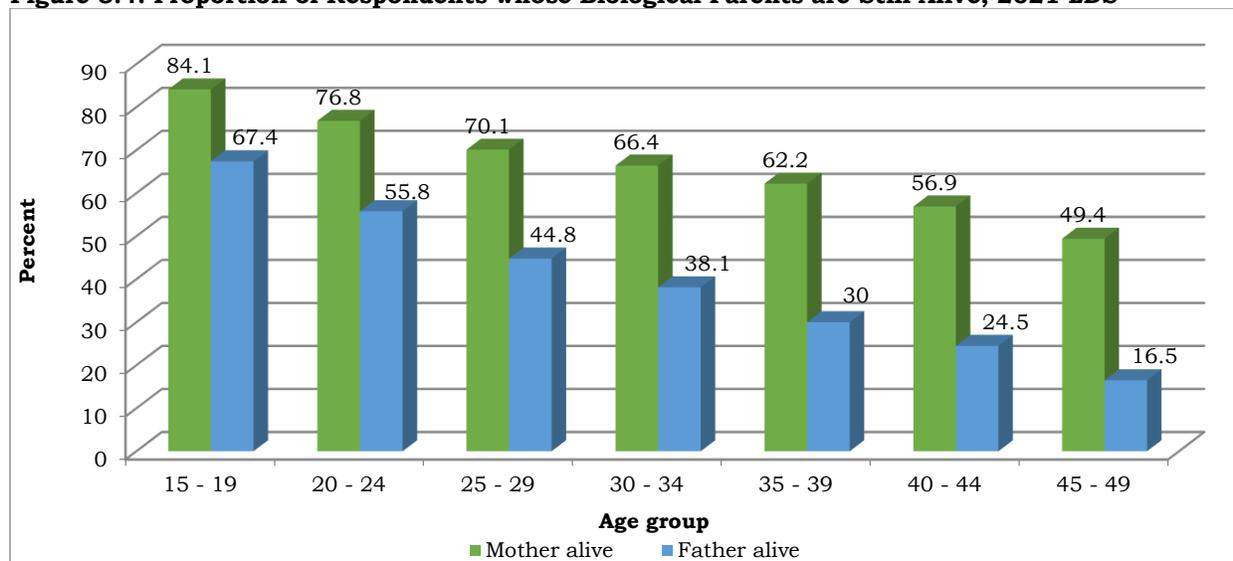
The survival status of parents yielded the proportions of biological father or mother alive that is used in the orphanhood method. Table 8.2 provides a detailed representation of the proportion of respondents with biological parents who were still alive by sex and age. Results revealed that the respondents whose mothers were still alive exhibited the highest proportions. Furthermore, the proportions decreased with an increase in age for both male and female respondents.

Table 8.2: Proportion of Respondents with Biological Parents Alive by Sex and Age, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Both Sexes			Male			Female		
	Mother alive	Father alive	Number	Mother alive	Father alive	Number	Mother alive	Father alive	Number
15 - 19	0.8411	0.6736	326,980	0.8435	0.6677	109,363	0.8386	0.6796	106,517
20 - 24	0.7684	0.5577	268,735	0.7777	0.5667	99,533	0.7596	0.5489	103,116
25 - 29	0.7010	0.4475	206,978	0.7187	0.4571	89,115	0.6837	0.4382	91,094
30 - 34	0.6643	0.3808	173,025	0.6820	0.4070	82,709	0.6467	0.3546	82,845
35 - 39	0.6221	0.2998	134,162	0.6415	0.2947	72,722	0.6028	0.3049	72,802
40 - 44	0.5688	0.2445	99,291	0.5637	0.2532	61,937	0.5741	0.2356	60,139
45 - 49	0.4942	0.1650	57,667	0.5117	0.1800	45,206	0.4755	0.1489	42,279
Total			1,266,838			560,585			558,793

Figure 8.4 illustrates the proportion of respondents whose biological parents are still alive. It is evident that mortality varied by sex with pronounced mortality among males than females. The graph further depicts an inverse relationship, with younger ages mostly reporting survival of parents and there is also an observable decline as age increases.

Figure 8.4: Proportion of Respondents whose Biological Parents are Still Alive, 2021 LDS



The module orphan in Mortpak application was used to estimate female adult mortality from the proportion of population with mothers still alive by age group of respondents. The separate equations for estimating survival probabilities and reference periods were adopted from the Coale and Demeny north model. Table 8.3 represents life expectancy at birth and at age 20 for females. Regarding life expectancy at age 20, results indicate a decline in life expectancy from 50.1 in July 2005 to 42.6 in October 2011. The life expectancy at birth declined drastically from 55.8 in July 2005 to 44.9 in October 2011 as reflected in the table.

Table 8.3: Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 20 for Females Estimated from Orphanhood Data, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Reference Period	Life expectancy at age 20		Life expectancy at birth	
		North model		North model	
15- 20	Oct 2011	42.67		44.91	
20- 25	Aug 2009	41.30		41.83	
25- 30	Oct 2007	40.99		41.18	
30- 35	Oct 2006	42.89		45.32	
35- 40	Apr 2005	45.16		50.22	
40- 45	Jul 2005	47.69		55.81	
45- 50	XXXX	50.11		61.08	

8.3.2 Widowhood Method

The widowhood method is an indirect technique used to estimate adult mortality. The 2021 LDS tool had questions pertaining to survival status of the first or only spouse for individuals that were ever married. Responses to the questions were used to calculate the proportions of persons whose first spouse was still alive as reflected in Table 8.4. The results indicate that, the proportion of males who were not widowed decreased with an increase in age and the same observation is true for females.

Table 8.4: Proportion of Persons whose First or Only Spouse was Still Alive, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Male		Female	
	Spouse alive	Number	Spouse alive	Number
20 - 24	0.9939	17,338	0.9820	43,366
25 - 29	0.9898	40,736	0.9653	59,663
30 - 34	0.9770	55,577	0.9258	59,344
35 - 39	0.9653	55,632	0.8571	51,814
40 - 44	0.9063	48,439	0.7899	40,231
45 - 49	0.8763	36,041	0.6993	26,233
50 - 54	0.8434	25,281	0.6096	21,506
55 - 59	0.8278	21,975	0.5041	16,650
Total		301,019		318,808

Figure 8.5 depicts the proportion of persons whose first or only spouse is alive. Data reveals that higher proportions were observed for males whose first or only spouse was still alive than females. This implies that mortality is affecting more males than females.

Figure 8.5: Proportion of Persons Whose First or Only Spouse is Alive, 2021 LDS

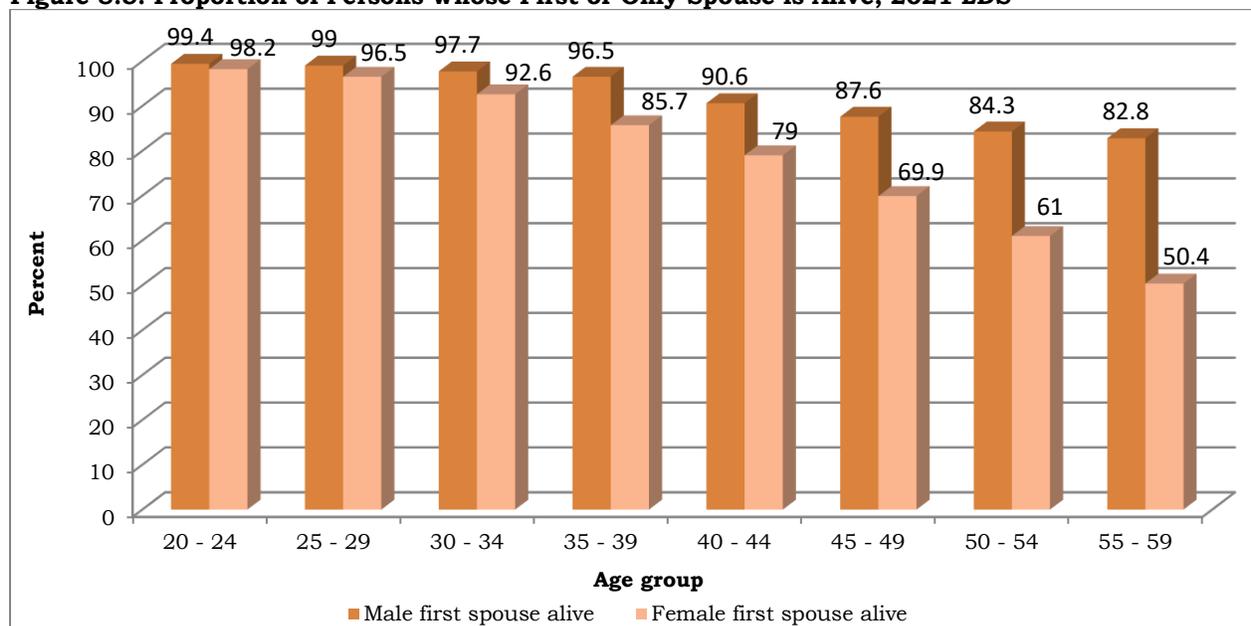


Table 8.5 is a representation of the life expectancy at birth and at age 20 for females estimated from widowhood method. The table reveals that, life expectancy at age 20 was estimated at 51.8 in May 2021 and females were expected to live 49.3 years in August 2009. Moreover, females were expected to live 64.7 years at birth in May 2021 and had a life expectancy of 59.4 years in August 2009.

Table 8.5: Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 20 for Females Estimated from Widowhood Method, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Reference Period	Life expectancy at age 20		Life expectancy at birth	
		North model		North model	
25- 30	May 2021	51.82		64.73	
30- 35	Aug 2019	50.47		61.90	
35- 40	May 2017	51.24		63.53	
40- 45	Dec 2014	45.77		51.63	
45- 50	Oct 2012	46.38		53.08	
50- 55	Jan 2011	46.99		54.41	
55- 60	Aug 2009	49.27		59.41	

Life expectancy at birth and at age 20 for males estimated from widowhood data is shown in Table 8.6. The results presented in the table indicate that life expectancy for males was estimated at 54.6 years in May 2021 and 38.2 years in January 2009. Additionally, life expectancy for males aged 20 was 46.1 years in May 2021 and 38.6 years in January 2009 suggesting that life expectancy has been increasing over time.

Table 8.6: Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 20 for Females Estimated from Widowhood Method, 2021 LDS

Age-group	Reference Period	Life expectancy at age 20	Life expectancy at birth
		North model	North model
20- 25	May 2021	46.06	54.69
25- 30	Feb 2020	45.64	53.74
30- 35	Oct 2017	43.46	48.95
35- 40	May 2015	40.51	42.60
40- 45	Feb 2013	39.86	41.14
45- 50	Dec 2010	38.77	38.71
50- 55	Jan 2009	38.55	38.24
55- 60	Feb 2007	< 20.0	< 20.0

8.4 Life table for Lesotho

Life table has been one of demography's most important tool used to examine the toll of mortality, measuring life expectancy and the extent to which death diminishes population numbers as age increases (Rowland, 2003). The LTPOPDTH spreadsheet was employed to generate a life table and utilized the adjusted values of deaths that occurred 12 months prior to the survey. A detailed presentation of a life table based on total population and adjusted deaths is shown in Table 8.7 and reveal that at birth, a person in Lesotho is expected to live for 61.6 years.

Table 8.7: Life Table based on Total Population and Adjusted Deaths, 2021 LDS

Age	nMx	nax	nqx	lx	ndx	nLx	5Px	Tx	ex
0	0.106952	0.35	0.100000	100000	10000	93500	0.902904	6164366	61.64366
1	0.002355	1.5703	0.009365	90000	842.8431	357952.1	0.985145	6070866	67.45407
5	0.000936	2.5	0.004667	89157.16	416.0653	444745.6	0.996314	5712914	64.07689
10	0.000541	2.5	0.002702	88741.09	239.7561	443106.1	0.995942	5268168	59.36560
15	0.001086	2.5	0.005417	88501.34	479.419	441308.1	0.991727	4825062	54.51965
20	0.002242	2.5	0.011145	88021.92	981.0133	437657	0.984174	4383754	49.80298
25	0.004154	2.5	0.020559	87040.9	1789.467	430730.8	0.97327	3946097	45.33612
30	0.006717	2.5	0.03303	85251.44	2815.855	419217.5	0.962291	3515366	41.23527
35	0.008694	2.5	0.042548	82435.58	3507.439	403409.3	0.954915	3096148	37.55840
40	0.00978	2.5	0.047734	78928.14	3767.591	385221.7	0.953091	2692739	34.11634
45	0.009425	2.5	0.046042	75160.55	3460.552	367151.4	0.950131	2307517	30.70118
50	0.011074	2.5	0.05388	71700	3863.204	348842	0.939393	1940366	27.06229
55	0.014018	2.5	0.067717	67836.79	4593.679	327699.8	0.914226	1591524	23.46107
60	0.022196	2.5	0.105144	63243.12	6649.619	299591.5	0.876406	1263824	19.98359
65	0.031084	2.5	0.144213	56593.5	8161.522	262563.7	0.830079	964232.8	17.03787
70	0.044435	2.5	0.199962	48431.98	9684.561	217948.5	0.785414	701669.1	14.48772
75	0.05271	2.5	0.232865	38747.41	9022.927	171179.8	0.764095	483720.6	12.48395
80	0.054511	2.5	0.239867	29724.49	7129.909	130797.7	0.581502	312540.8	10.51459
85	0.124321	8.043663	1	22594.58	22594.58	181743.2		181743.2	8.043663

Table 8.8 indicates life tables for males and females based on total population and adjusted deaths. The table shows that, the number of years a female is expected to live is 65.3 years, while males had a life expectancy of 57.9 years implying that females live longer than males.

Table 8.8: Life Table for Both Sexes Based on Total Population and Adjusted Deaths, 2021 LDS

Age	Males				Females			
	nMx	nqx	lx	ex	nMx	nqx	lx	ex
0	0.107181	0.100000	100000	57.90108	0.106952	0.100000	100000	65.32770
1	0.002409	0.009578	90000	63.29786	0.002301	0.009154	90000	71.54744
5	0.000819	0.004087	89137.97	59.89493	0.001058	0.005277	89176.12	68.19395
10	0.000474	0.002368	88773.7	55.13044	0.000609	0.003042	88705.55	63.54244
15	0.001096	0.005464	88563.53	50.25534	0.00099	0.00494	88435.68	58.72872
20	0.002496	0.012405	88079.59	45.51773	0.001842	0.009167	87998.85	54.00784
25	0.005277	0.02604	86986.97	41.05806	0.002997	0.014874	87192.17	49.48438
30	0.00792	0.03883	84721.79	37.08897	0.005558	0.027407	85895.25	45.19378
35	0.010067	0.049099	81432.05	33.48632	0.007351	0.036091	83541.1	41.39688
40	0.010572	0.0515	77433.81	30.08628	0.00896	0.043819	80526.05	37.85325
45	0.010962	0.053346	73446	26.5841	0.007805	0.038277	76997.49	34.47339
50	0.013609	0.065805	69527.96	22.94129	0.008684	0.042499	74050.22	30.74595
55	0.018757	0.089584	64952.67	19.38118	0.010222	0.049837	70903.15	26.99967
60	0.02937	0.136805	59133.94	16.04227	0.017221	0.082552	67369.52	23.28471
65	0.042259	0.191105	51044.13	13.18854	0.024025	0.113317	61808.05	20.15491
70	0.064176	0.276516	41289.33	10.71376	0.032783	0.151497	54804.13	17.4112
75	0.081655	0.339061	29872.18	8.853056	0.038498	0.175591	46501.45	15.07354
80	0.095268	0.384713	19743.69	7.112166	0.038776	0.176744	38336.22	12.75158
85	0.200162	1	12148.04	4.995956	0.100477	1	31560.51	9.952485

8.4.1 Trend in Life Expectancy

Table 8.9 provides information on trends in life expectancy estimated from censuses and surveys from 1986 to 2021. Results from the table illustrate that the lowest expectation of life was observed in 2006 estimated at 41.2 years and drastically increased to 61.6 years in 2021. Moreover, the highest life expectancy was experienced in 2021 with males expected to live for 57.9 years and females for 65.3 years indicating a general improvement in the health of the nation.

Table 8.9: Trends in Life Expectancy 1986-2016 Censuses and 2001-2021 LDS

Census/Survey	Year	Both sexes	Males	Females
Census	1986	53.3	53.5	57.2
Census	1996	59.0	58.6	60.2
LDS	2001	50.1	45.1	54.2
Census	2006	41.2	39.7	42.9
LDS	2011	41.8	39.4	45.3
Census	2016	56.0	51.7	59.6
LDS	2021	61.6	57.9	65.3

8.5 Summary

The results from the survey based on deaths that occurred 12 months preceding the survey showed a decline in the number of reported deaths (18,036) when compared to the 2016 Census (22,994). The life table revealed that on average a person is expected to live 61.6 years. Moreover, life expectancy for males was 57.9 years and females 65.3 years which suggests that females live longer than males. Taking into account the trend in life expectancy, it showed that life expectancy has increased indicating the general improvement of the lives of Basotho.

CHAPTER 9

MATERNAL MORTALITY

9.0 Introduction

The Government of Lesotho (GOL) is committed in implementing the SDG's (also called Agenda 2030) which came into effect in 2016. This Agenda is striving towards achieving Goal 3 of SDGs; which is aimed at ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all (WHO, 2017). Under this goal the direct target (3.1) states that, by 2030, each country should have reduced its maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births globally.

The government through the MOH took into consideration the SDG's and all other global, regional and national strategies, policies and frameworks. Its goal is to achieve universal health coverage with a vision of a health population living a quality and productive life. The health policy covers all aspects of health and provides broad direction for the development and the determinants of health (NHP, 2016).

UNFPA in Lesotho aligns its work with three pillars which are prevention of unwanted pregnancies through contraception, safe motherhood and midwifery, who are able to perform lifesaving interventions and deal with complications (UNFPA Lesotho, 2022). Furthermore, it works towards building a competent, well trained and supported midwifery workforce and developing strong regulatory mechanisms to ensure quality services.

This chapter focuses on maternal deaths of household members that occurred within the household in the five years' prior the survey. The main aim was to obtain country estimates of maternal mortality. These estimates are needed to inform planning of sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes. The information on women of reproductive age 12 to 50 years was obtained from those who experienced death while pregnant, during delivery and or within six weeks after delivery. The deaths should strictly be caused by pregnancy or delivery related complications.

9.1 Data Limitations

Early pregnancy deaths may remain underreported if pregnancy status was not known. Thus, even when a doctor does certify the death, those that occur outside the labour ward may be incorrectly ascribed to a non-maternal cause (Moultrie, 2013). Furthermore, maternal mortality can be over-estimated where death was incidental and not due to pregnancy.

9.2 Method of Analysis

An indirect method of estimation was used to estimate pregnancy-related maternal mortality ratio. The births and deaths were adjusted using PF2 Ratios 2 and 3 in PAS for trend. The conventional age bracket of females aged 15 to 49 years was used for international comparison even though data collected was of females aged 12 to 50 years.

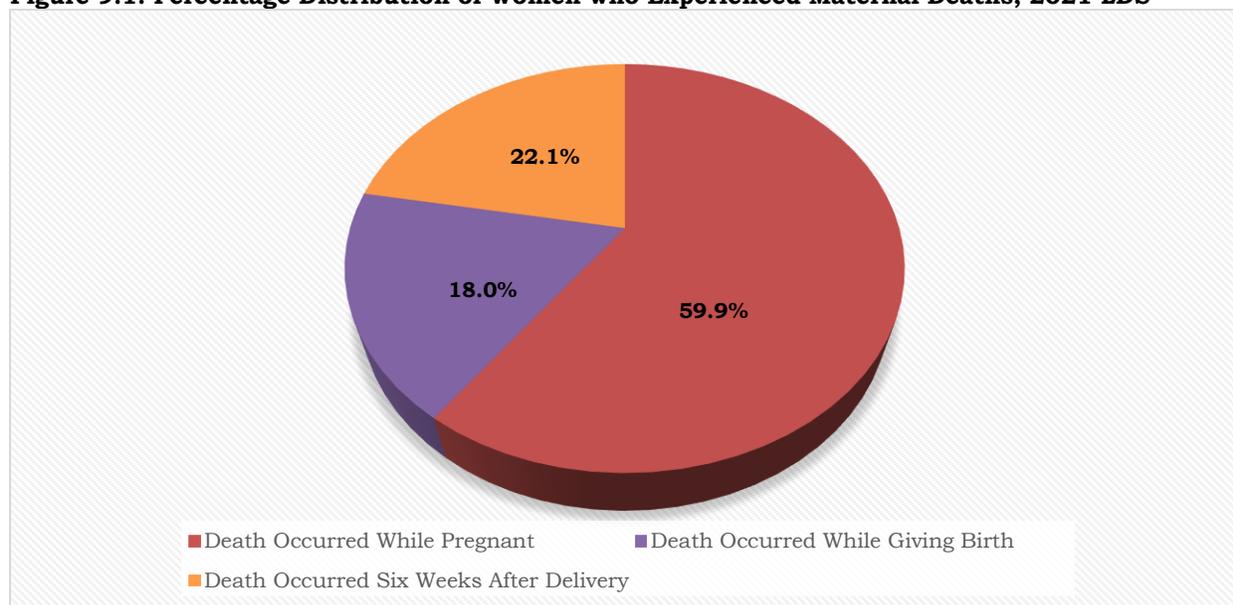
9.3 Data Adjustment

Household deaths and births prior to a census or survey often under report the true numbers of these events. Moreover, if data evaluation indicates omission of deaths and births, the data will need to be corrected before a final estimate of pregnancy or delivery related mortality is calculated (Hill, 2013). In this section, therefore, adjustment has been employed on births and deaths to cater for those possible errors of underreporting and misclassification of deaths.

9.4 Estimates of Maternal Mortality

The number of maternal deaths reported within the household in the past 5 years amount to 642 while those that were reported one year preceding the survey were 135. Figure 9.1 denotes the percentage distribution of reported maternal deaths. According to the figure, 59.9 percent of women of reproductive age 15 to 49 years experienced maternal death while pregnant, 18.0 percent while giving birth and 22.1 percent during the six weeks after delivery. This shows that more women experienced maternal deaths while pregnant.

Figure 9.1: Percentage Distribution of Women who Experienced Maternal Deaths, 2021 LDS



² Brass defined P to be the average parity (cumulated lifetime fertility) of a cohort of women up to a given age, and F to be closely related to the cumulated current (period) fertility up to that same age. The P/F ratio method expresses these two quantities in relation to each other in the form of a ratio for each age group. (Tools for Demographic Estimation)

Table 9.1 presents number of women who experienced maternal deaths in the past 5 years prior to the survey by district. The total reported maternal deaths were 642 of which 385 died while pregnant, 116 while giving birth and 142 within six weeks after delivery. Berea is the only district which experienced all the three categories of maternal deaths with an outstanding 58 cases of deaths that occurred within six weeks after delivery.

Table 9.1: Number of Reported Maternal Deaths by District, 2021 LDS

District	Death Occurred While Pregnant	Death Occurred While Giving Birth	Death Occurred within Six Weeks After Delivery	Total
Botha-Bothe	0	0	12	12
Leribe	65	22	0	86
Berea	12	13	58	84
Maseru	100	48	0	149
Mafeteng	84	13	0	97
Mohale's Hoek	49	20	0	68
Quthing	12	0	11	23
Qacha's Nek	10	0	8	19
Mokhotlong	29	0	33	62
Thaba-Tseka	23	0	20	43
Total	385	116	142	642

Figure 9.2 shows percentage distribution of maternal deaths by place of residence. It is observed from the figure that in all settlements, the majority of maternal deaths occurred to women while pregnant with more than 50.0 percent in each area relating to this death.

Figure 9.2: Percentage Distribution of Maternal Deaths by Place of Residence, 2021 LDS

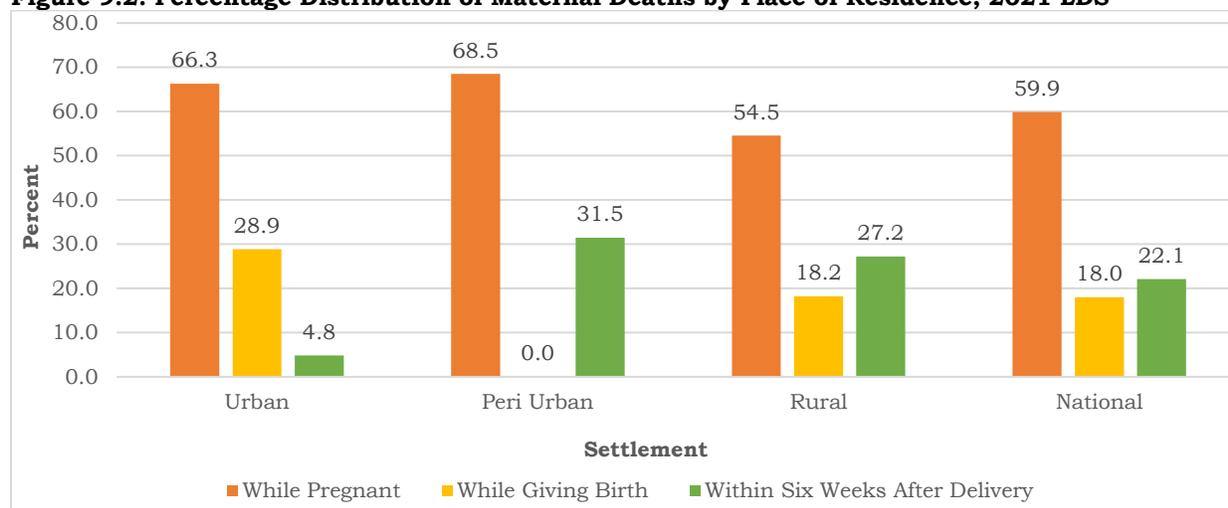


Table 9.2 presents percentage distribution of maternal deaths reported in households by age group and period of death. Maternal deaths reported within the household one year preceding the survey were common to females aged 30 to 34 years with 54.6 percent. Deaths reported 5 years prior to the survey shows more maternal deaths experience estimated at 46.8 percent for women aged 25 to 29 years.

Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of Maternal Deaths Reported by Age Group and Period of Death, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Deaths in the Past 12 Months	Deaths in the past 5 Years
15 - 19	0,0	2,8
20 - 24	9,1	8,3
25 - 29	21,7	46,8
30 - 34	54,6	27,6
35 - 39	0,0	9,0
40 - 44	14,6	3,1
45 - 49	0,0	2,4
Total	135	642

According to Table 9.3 the majority of females in the age groups 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years experienced maternal mortality with the proportions of 46.8 and 27.6 respectively. The similar pattern is observed within the same age groups for women who died while pregnant with 48.5 and 27.5 percent accordingly. Regarding deaths occurring to women while giving birth was more pronounced for the age group 25 to 29 years estimated at 71.3 percent.

Table 9.3: Percentage Distribution of Maternal Deaths by Age Group, 2021 LDS

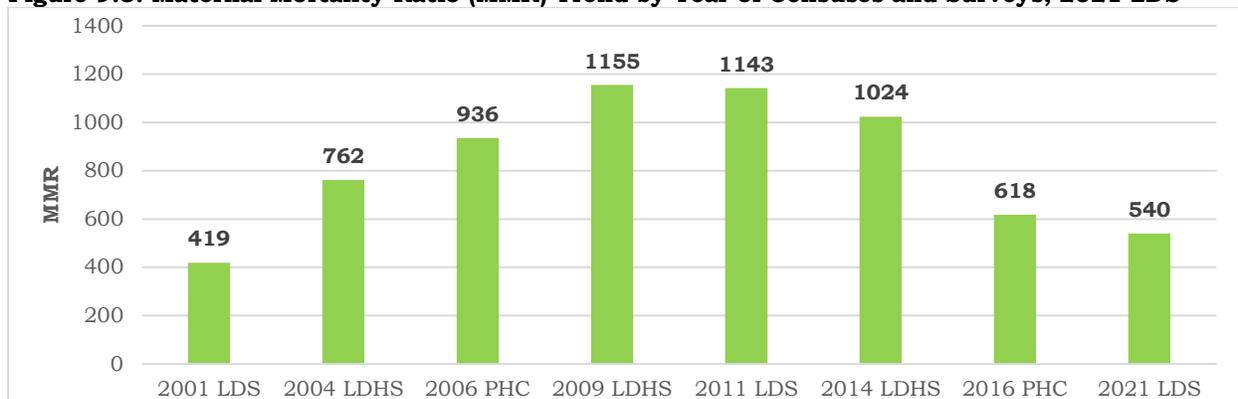
Age Group	While Pregnant	While Giving Birth	Within Six Weeks		Total
			After Delivery		
15 - 19	0,0	0,0	12,8		2,8
20 - 24	11,1	0,0	7,6		8,3
25 - 29	48,5	71,3	22,5		46,8
30 - 34	27,5	11,6	40,7		27,6
35 - 39	9,0	0,0	16,4		9,0
40 - 44	0,0	17,0	0,0		3,1
45 - 49	3,9	0,0	0,0		2,4
Total (N)	385	116	142		642

9.5 Trends in Maternal Mortality Ratio

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) depicts the risk of maternal death relative to the number of live births and essentially captures the risk of death in a single pregnancy or a single live birth.

Figure 9.3 shows MMR trend by year of censuses and surveys. The results show that MMR has declined from 618 to 540 deaths per 100,000 live births in the past five years. When compared to other LDS's, it increased from 419 estimated in 2001 to 540 deaths per 100,000 live births recorded for 2021. A comparison of the two consecutive surveys reflect a decline from 1143 that was estimated in 2011 to 540 deaths per 100,000 live births estimated in 2021 LDS. This shows an improvement in the reduction of maternal deaths although it is still considered high.

Figure 9.3: Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) Trend by Year of Censuses and Surveys, 2021 LDS



9.6 Summary

The SDG states that by 2030 every country should have reduced its MMR to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births globally and Lesotho has achieved some milestones of reducing its MMR from 618 deaths estimated in 2016 to 540 deaths per 100 000 live births as per 2021 LDS.

CHAPTER 10

ORPHANHOOD

10.0 Introduction

Children are the most vulnerable individuals, who are mostly affected by crisis and conflicts happening around the world. Child population makes up 28.6 percent of the world population while 143 to 210 million of children are orphans. The regions where most orphans are living are Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. While in Africa, more especially SSA countries face the most imperative orphan crisis in the developing countries (Kavak, 2014).

Zhou (2012) avers that orphanhood status is the most significant predictor of psychosocial health. Hence, Lesotho is not an exception, as the current orphanhood crisis is threatening decades of development gains. The National Strategic Plan on Vulnerable Children (NSPVC) 2012-2017 aims to improve the quality of life for vulnerable children and to ensure that they enjoy the basic human rights.

The National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children of 2012 has defined an orphan as a person who is below the age of 18 and has lost one or both parents due to death (Ministry of Social Development, 2012). The term orphan refers to children who have lost a mother (maternal orphans), a father (paternal orphans) or both parents (double orphans).

10.1 Orphanhood Status

The survey revealed that children less than 18 years were 767,509 constituting 37 percent of the total population. The orphans accounted for 20.0 percent of all children below the age of 18 years. Households living with at least one orphan regardless of orphanhood type was estimated at 17.1 percent.

Percentage distribution of Household living with or without an Orphan is presented in Table 10.1. Proportion of households with more orphans were observed in Quthing and Thaba-Tseka districts estimated at 23.0 percent each. Regarding the type of settlement, it was noted that more households with orphans were in the rural areas at 21.8 percent.

Table 10.1: Percentage Distribution of Households Living with or Without an Orphan, 2021 LDS

Settlement	With Orphan	Without Orphan	Total
Urban	13.3	86.7	268,983
Peri-urban	15.5	84.5	63,230
Rural	21.8	78.2	237,418
District			
Botha-Bothe	16.6	83.4	30,626
Leribe	16.0	84.0	97,056
Berea	16.7	83.3	73,874
Maseru	13.6	86.4	177,500
Mafeteng	19.0	81.0	46,447
Mohale's Hoek	22.2	77.8	41,039
Quthing	23.0	77.0	25,713
Qacha's Nek	19.0	81.0	18,597
Mokhotlong	20.6	79.4	24,585
Thaba-Tseka	23.0	77.0	34,194
Total	17.1	82.9	569,631

10.1.1 Age and Sex

Table 10.2 displays that the total number of orphans is 153,209 and 614,300 as non-orphans. Out of the total number of orphans, males constitute 51.3 percent and females accounted for 48.7 percent. Moreover, the proportion of orphans was higher in age group 15 to 17 (35.6%) and it can also be observed that the increase in number of orphans increases with age.

Table 10.2: Distribution of Children Aged 0 to 17 Years by Sex, 2021 LDS

Sex	Orphan		Non-Orphan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	78,588	51.3	310,746	50.6
Female	74,621	48.7	303,554	49.4
Total	153,209	100.0	614,300	100.0
00 - 04	13,321	6.9	180,160	93.1
05 - 09	32,405	15.6	175,750	84.4
10 - 14	59,415	25.7	171,595	74.3
15 - 17	48,069	35.6	86,795	64.4
Total	153,209	20.0	614,300	80.0

10.1.2 Place of Residence

The spatial distribution of orphans is as important as that of the population in general. The distribution of children aged less than 18 years, place of residence and orphanhood status is displayed in Table 10.3. Quthing district harbours the most orphan children with the record of 23.7 percent while Botha-Bothe district inversely accounts for 16.4 percent of orphan population. However, in the case of settlement type, the least proportion of orphans (17.2%) was recorded in the urban areas.

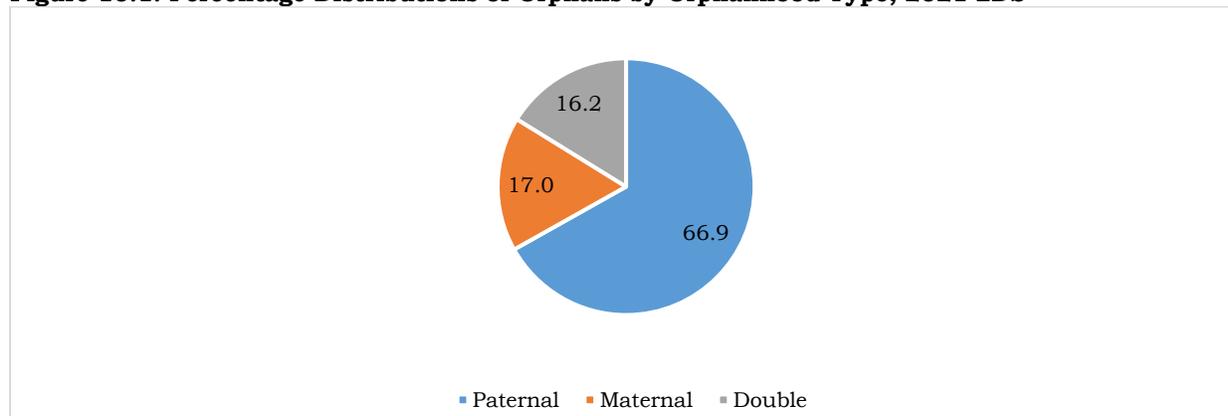
Table 10.3: Distribution of Children Aged 0 to 17 Years by, Place of Residence and Orphanhood Status, 2021 LDS

Settlement	Orphan		Non-Orphan		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Urban	51,457	17.2	247,863	82.8	299,320
Peri Urban	14,869	21.6	53,867	78.4	68,736
Rural	86,884	21.8	312,570	78.2	399,454
District					
Botha-Bothe	7,680	16.4	39,135	83.6	46,815
Leribe	23,658	18.1	107,373	81.9	131,031
Berea	19,117	19.6	78,502	80.4	97,619
Maseru	37,051	19.0	158,399	81.0	195,450
Mafeteng	14,007	22.2	49,071	77.8	63,078
Mohale's Hoek	13,500	23.2	44,713	76.8	58,213
Quthing	10,085	23.7	32,418	76.3	42,502
Qacha's Nek	5,890	19.7	23,947	80.3	29,836
Mokhotlong	8,715	19.7	35,549	80.3	44,263
Thaba-Tseka	13,507	23.0	45,192	77.0	58,698
Total	153,209	20.0	614,300	80.0	767,509

10.2 Type of Orphanhood

It is very crucial to understand how types of orphans are distributed among different segments of the population. The percentage distribution of orphanhood type is illustrated in Figure 10.1. The vast majority of orphans are children who are paternal orphans with 66.9 percent while maternal and double orphans are almost at par with 17.0 and 16.2 percent respectively.

Figure 10.1: Percentage Distributions of Orphans by Orphanhood Type, 2021 LDS



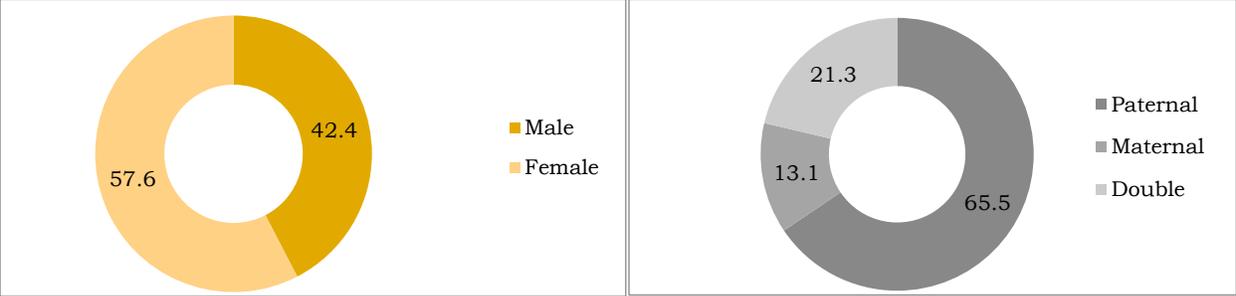
10.3 Demographic and Socio-Economic Status of Orphans

The extended family network that traditionally used to support orphans has collapsed due to urbanization, poverty and other socio-economic factors. Africa demonstrated that due to social norms, orphans are often adopted into extended families that cannot support them, leading to greater risk of psychosocial harm (Kiambi and Mugambi, 2017). The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of orphans and will be discussed in the section.

10.3.1 Household Heads

It is imperial and indispensable to establish the roles and responsibilities of orphans within the household. The percentage distribution of orphans by orphanhood type and sex is highlighted in Figure 10.2. Regarding sex of the household heads, females had a percentage of 57.6 and males recorded 42.4 percent. The paternal orphans who were household heads contributed 65.5 percent and double orphans one fifth (21.3%).

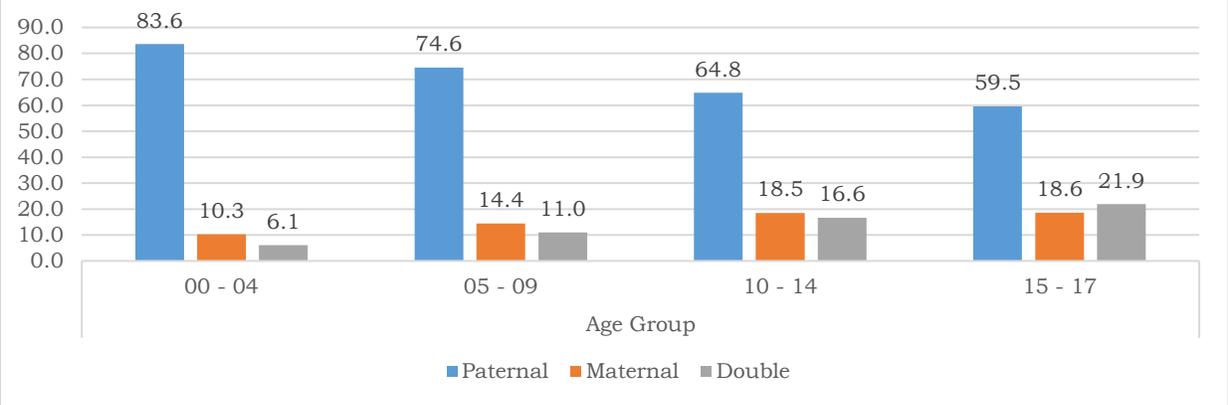
Figure 10.2: Percentage Distributions of Orphans Who are Household Heads by Orphanhood Type and Sex, 2021 LDS



10.3.2 Age of Orphans

It is observed that age is the most important variable that is associated with psychosocial outcomes of the population, hence it is equally paramount to sketch the scale of the problem using age. Figure 10.3 highlights the percentage distribution of orphans by age group where paternal orphans have a higher share of more than 50 percent, even though is decreasing with an increase in age. Whereas, both maternal and double orphans increased with age. In age group 10 to 14 and 15 to 17 maternal orphans are comparatively at equilibrium with a record of 18.5 and 18.6 percent respectively.

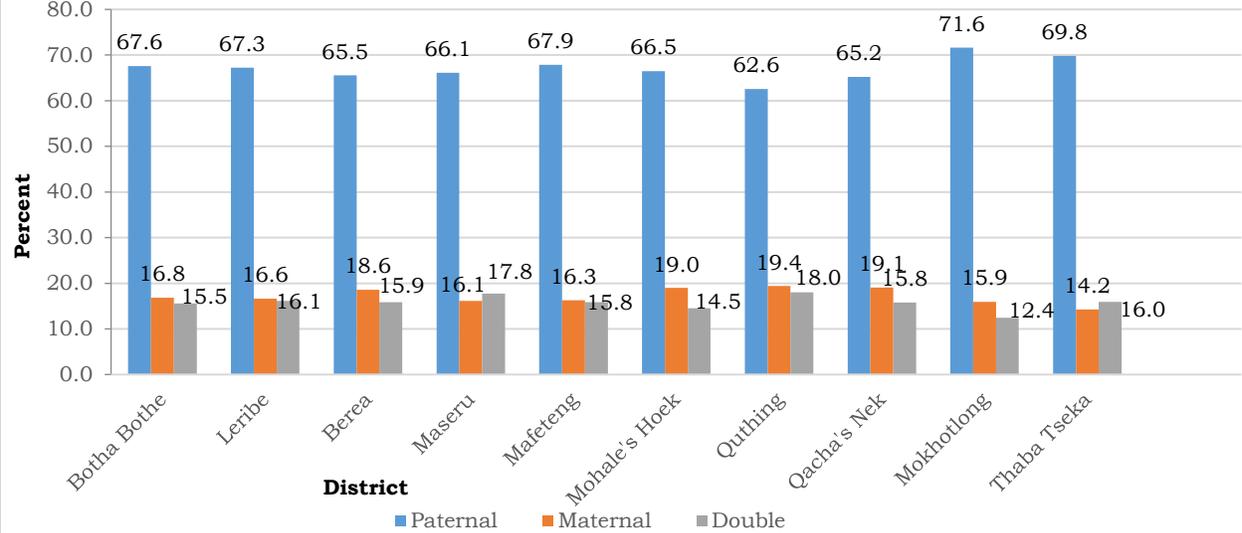
Figure 10.3: Distribution of Orphan Type by Age Group, 2021 LDS



10.3.3 Orphans in Districts

Knowing the place of residence where orphans reside will be essential for the government in allocation of resources. Figure 10.4 demonstrates the percentage distribution of orphans by district. Paternal orphans are much more pronounced in all the ten districts from a range of 62.6 to 71.6 percent in Quthing and Mokhotlong districts respectively. However, maternal and double orphan differentials are nominal in all the districts.

Figure 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Orphanhood Type by Districts, 2021 LDS



10.3.4 Orphanhood Status and School Attendance

The reality of orphans is that they assume adult roles prematurely and this may deprive them from receiving proper education. On instances where they attend school, their participation is normally poor, resulting in reduced academic performance (Kanjanda, 2014).

Table 10.4 shows percentage distribution of orphanhood status by school attendance. The paternal orphans who never attended school accounted for 6.7 percent. It should be noted that for children who are double orphans are at higher risk of leaving school verified by 22.1 percent.

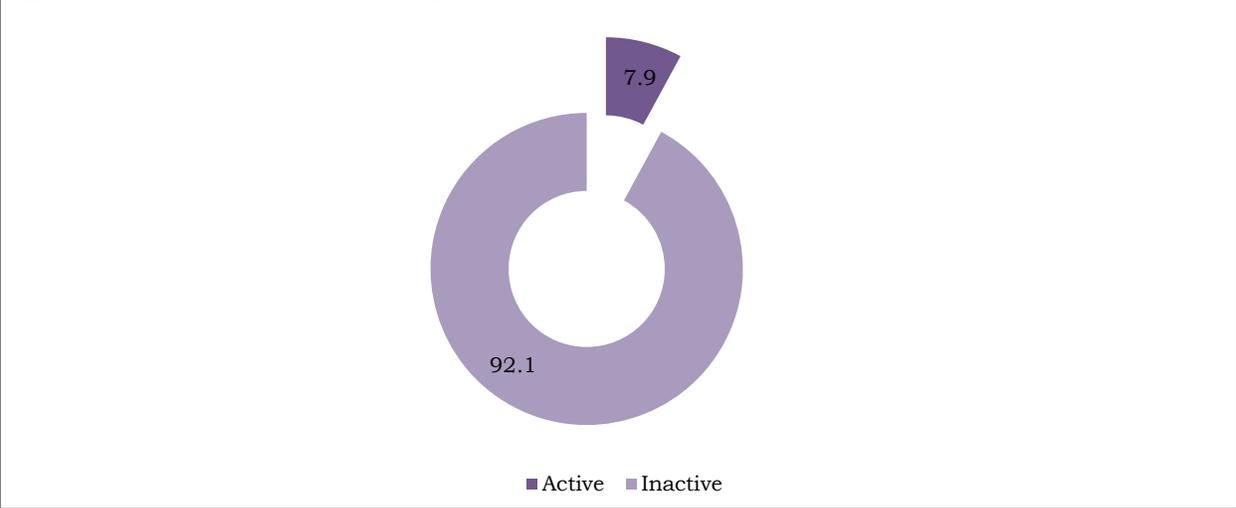
Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Orphanhood Type by School Attendance, 2021 LDS

Ever Attended School	Paternal Orphan	Maternal Orphan	Double Orphan
Never Attended	6.7	3.6	4.8
Still Attending	78.0	79.8	73.1
Left School	15.3	16.6	22.1
Total	97,302	254,34	24,597

10.3.5 Orphanhood Status and Occupation

The SSA countries share the highest incidence of child labour worldwide (ILO, 2006). Even though child labour is not discussed in this section, it is important to examine the occupation of orphans when not at school. Figure 10.5 depicts the percentage distribution of orphans by orphanhood status and economic activity. It is noticed from the figure that 7.9 percent of orphans were economically active.

Figure 10.5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Orphans by Economic Activity, 2021 LDS



10.3.6 Orphanhood and Marital Status

Early marriage takes many different forms of various causes of which one is paramount, that is violation of human rights (UNICEF, 2001). This happens to anybody either a girl or a boy regardless of place of residence. It is important to tentatively scrutinise marital status of orphans as they are highly susceptible to such.

Table 10.5 presents the percentage distribution of orphans by marital status and sex. The results show that, the proportion of the never married orphans is 99.1 percent while only 0.9 percent of these were ever married. Out of the total orphans who had ever been married females constituted a high proportion of 96.3 percent while males were estimated at 3.7 percent.

Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Orphans by Marital Status, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	Male	Female	Both Sex	Total
Never Married	51.7	48.3	99.1	151,884
Ever Married	3.7	96.3	0.9	1,325

10.3.7 Orphans who were ever Pregnant

Pregnancies that occur too early when a woman's body is not fully mature constitute a major risk to the survival and future health of both mother and child (UNICEF, 2001). Orphans are at high risk of being pregnant due to various factors such as lack of guidance and high pressure from their peers.

Table 10.6 presents the number of orphans who have ever been pregnant and those who gave live birth and proportions of births which were successful within districts. The total number of orphans that have ever been pregnant is 1,666 compared to 973 who ever gave live birth. As a result, only 58.4 percent of pregnant orphans successfully gave a live birth. Maseru district showed a low success rate in giving a live birth. About two out of five orphans (42%) in this district who had ever been pregnant had live birth. A similar pattern is observed in Thaba-Tseka (43.8%) and Mafeteng (45.6%).

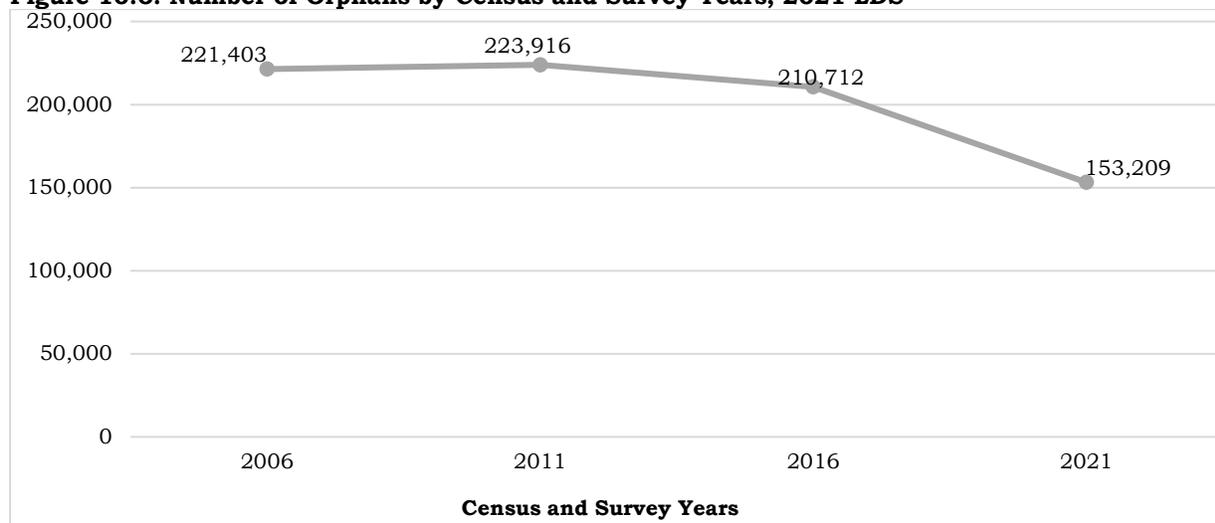
Table 10.6: Number of Orphans who have ever Been Pregnant and those who Gave Live Birth and Proportions of Successful Births by Districts, 2021 LDS

Districts	Pregnant	Live Birth	Successful Births (%)
Botha-Bothe	89	56	62.9
Leribe	198	151	76.3
Berea	224	160	71.4
Maseru	336	141	42.0
Mafeteng	79	36	45.6
Mohale's Hoek	108	64	59.3
Quthing	131	97	74.0
Qacha's Nek	126	94	74.6
Mokhotlong	152	75	49.3
Thaba-Tseka	224	98	43.8
Total	1,666	973	58.4

10.4 Trend on Orphans

In relative terms, Lesotho is seemingly envisioning the progression of declined orphanhood. Meaningful evidence is drawn from figure 10.6, whereby a steady decline of orphans is observed from 2011 by 223,916 to 2021 by 153,209.

Figure 10.6: Number of Orphans by Census and Survey Years, 2021 LDS



10.5 Summary

The total number of orphans in Lesotho was estimated at 153,209 which constituted 20 percent of all children below the age of 18 years. Households living with at least one orphan regardless of orphanhood type was estimated at 17.1 percent. The vast majority of orphans reside in the rural areas (21.8%). Out of the total number of children, males constituted 51.3 percent while females accounted for 48.7 percent. It is further observed that the increase in number of orphans increases with age.

The vast majority of orphans are children who are paternal orphans with 66.9 percent while maternal and double orphans are almost at par with 17.0 and 16.2 percent respectively. The paternal orphans who were household heads contributed 65.5 percent and double orphans one fifth (21.3%). The total number of orphans that have ever been pregnant is 1,666 compared to 973 who ever gave live birth (58.4%).

CHAPTER 11

DISABILITY

11.0 Introduction

The Washington Group (WG) on disability states that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for SDG has become an uncontested priority with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. This is in sharp contrast with the past when people with disabilities were largely excluded from the global development agenda. It further states that, to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind, sufficient data must be collected so that all person-level SDG indicators can be disaggregated by disability status to allow comprehensive monitoring of their well-being, inclusion and advancement of their rights (Washington Group on Disability, 2022).

The WHO indicates that data collection is critical to the formulation of evidence-based policies and all aspects of the implementation of disability-inclusive policies and programmes. However, WHO further states that historically, there has been lack of data on disability, particularly in developing countries (WHO,2022).

Historically in Lesotho persons with disabilities have experienced discrimination, marginalisation and social exclusion. The policy on persons with disability states that it is the government responsibility to integrate persons with disabilities into the mainstream of society so that they may achieve optimal levels of social functioning to realise their full potential (Ministry of Social Development, 2014/2015). Moreover, the Lesotho National Disability Mainstreaming Plan indicates that the ministry of social development has a disability services department, which its overall goal is to improve the lives of persons with disabilities through appropriate service provision (Ministry of Social Development, 2015).

The chapter focuses on the prevalence of disability together with some socio-economic background characteristics of persons with disability. The specific functional domains for persons aged 5 years and older were seeing, hearing, communication, remembering or concentrating, walking and self-care. Therefore, the analysis for this chapter will be based on the approach by the WG on disability.

11.1 Methodology

The WG on disability suggests that respondents should be asked about difficulties they may have doing certain activities because of health problems, using the following questions;

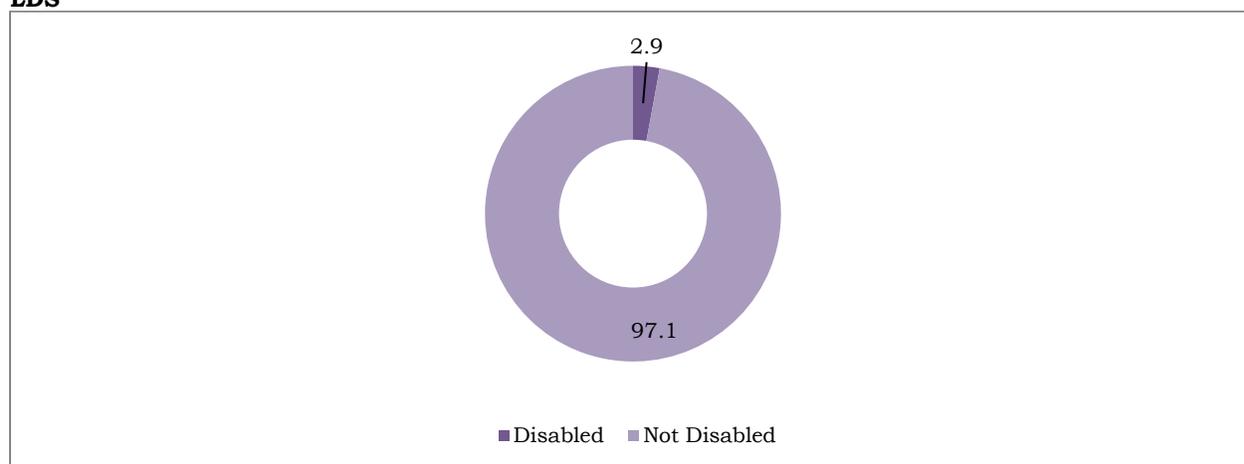
- (a) Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
- (b) Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
- (c) Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
- (d) Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
- (e) Do you have difficulty with self-care (such as washing all over or dressing)?
- (f) Do you have difficulty communicating using your usual language (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

The WG on disability suggested that each question should have four response categories (a) No difficulty (b) Some difficulty (c) A lot of difficulty (d) Cannot do at all. Disability is determined, according to the WG on disability as anyone having at least ‘a lot of difficulty’ and/or “cannot do at all” on at least one of the six questions (Washington Group on Disability Statistics, 2020).

11.2 Status of Disability

The WHO states that around 15 percent of the global population of over a billion people live with some form of disability, of whom 2 to 4 percent experience significant difficulties in functioning (WHO, 2022). The national disability mainstreaming plan further corroborates that there are roughly over 81 million people affected by some form of disability in Africa (Ministry of Social Development, 2015). The survey results reveal that of the 1,874,291 persons aged 5 years and above, 2.9 percent were found to be disabled as reflected in Figure 11.1.

Figure 11.1: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Above by Disability Status, 2021 LDS



11.2.1 Sex and Age Group of Disabled Population

Table 11.1 shows the number and percentage distribution of disabled population by sex and age group. Generally, of the disabled persons, disability is more dominant for females (56.6%) as compared to males with 43.4 percent. According to the table, proportions of disabled males seemed to decrease with an increase in age while for disabled females an inverse pattern is observed from age 50 years.

Table 11.1: Number and Percentage Distribution of Disabled Population by Sex and Age Group, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Male		Female		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
05 - 09	1,715	59.9	1,150	40.1	2,925
10 - 14	1,568	64.9	849	35.1	2,482
15 - 19	1,157	53.5	1,007	46.5	2,217
20 - 24	1,404	58.6	993	41.4	2,456
25 - 29	1,359	55.2	1,103	44.8	2,517
30 - 34	1,305	52.4	1,186	47.6	2,543
35 - 39	1,312	59.6	891	40.4	2,263
40 - 44	1,232	52.1	1,134	47.9	2,418
45 - 49	1,421	58.0	1,028	42.0	2,507
50 - 54	872	32.5	1,811	67.5	2,716
55 - 59	1,179	39.4	1,814	60.6	3,032
60 - 64	1,618	39.1	2,519	60.9	4,176
65 - 69	1,830	40.8	2,658	59.2	4,529
70 - 74	1,725	37.6	2,864	62.4	4,627
75 - 79	1,371	36.7	2,365	63.3	3,773
80 - 84	1,217	29.4	2,920	70.6	4,166
85+	1,181	21.6	4,277	78.4	5,480
Total	23,467	43.4	30,569	56.6	54,036

11.3 Place of Residence and Disability Status

The incidences of disability vary from place to place. Table 11.2 shows the number and percentage distribution by district and disability status. The total number of disabled persons was found to be 54,036 for the whole country, of which Maseru, Leribe and Mohale's Hoek districts constitute more than half. However, the share of disabled persons in Mohale's Hoek is 4.9 percent, which is the highest while the lowest is observed in Qacha's Nek district with 1.7 percent.

Table 11.2: Number and Percentage Distribution of Disability Status by District, 2021 LDS

District	Disabled		Not Disabled		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Botha-Bothe	3,294	3.0	107,615	97.0	110,909
Leribe	9,149	2.8	318,897	97.2	328,046
Berea	6,085	2.5	238,623	97.5	244,708
Maseru	12,244	2.4	502,741	97.6	514,985
Mafeteng	5,771	3.7	148,868	96.3	154,639
Mohale's Hoek	7,143	4.9	137,333	95.1	144,476
Quthing	3,376	3.4	97,045	96.6	100,422
Qacha's Nek	1,185	1.7	68,475	98.3	69,660
Mokhotlong	2,392	2.6	88,733	97.4	91,125
Thaba-Tseka	3,398	2.7	120,738	97.3	124,137
Total	54,036	2.9	1,829,070	97.1	1,883,106

The distribution of disabled persons by settlement and ecological zones is displayed in Table 11.3. The proportion of disabled persons is more pronounced in the rural area with 3.2 percent as compared to other settlement types. Regarding the ecological zones, the foothills dominate with 3.6 percent of disabled persons.

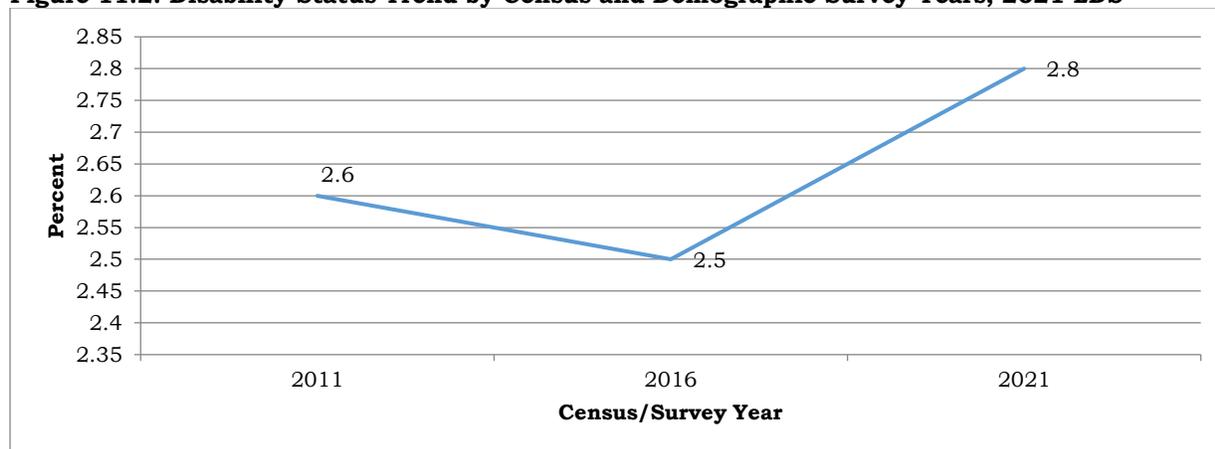
Table 11.3: Number and Percentage Distribution of Disability Status by Settlement and Ecological Zones, 2021 LDS

Settlement	Disabled		Not Disabled		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Urban	19,990	2.5	766,346	97.5	786,336
Peri Urban	4,683	2.6	175,311	97.4	179,994
Rural	29,363	3.2	887,413	96.8	916,776
Ecological Zone					
Lowlands	33,681	2.8	1,165,065	97.2	1,198,746
Foothills	6,389	3.6	170,520	96.4	176,908
Mountains	9,171	2.5	351,947	97.5	361,118
Senqu River Valley	4,795	3.3	141,538	96.7	146,333
Total	54,036	2.9	1,829,070	97.1	1,883,106

11.4 Disability Status Trend

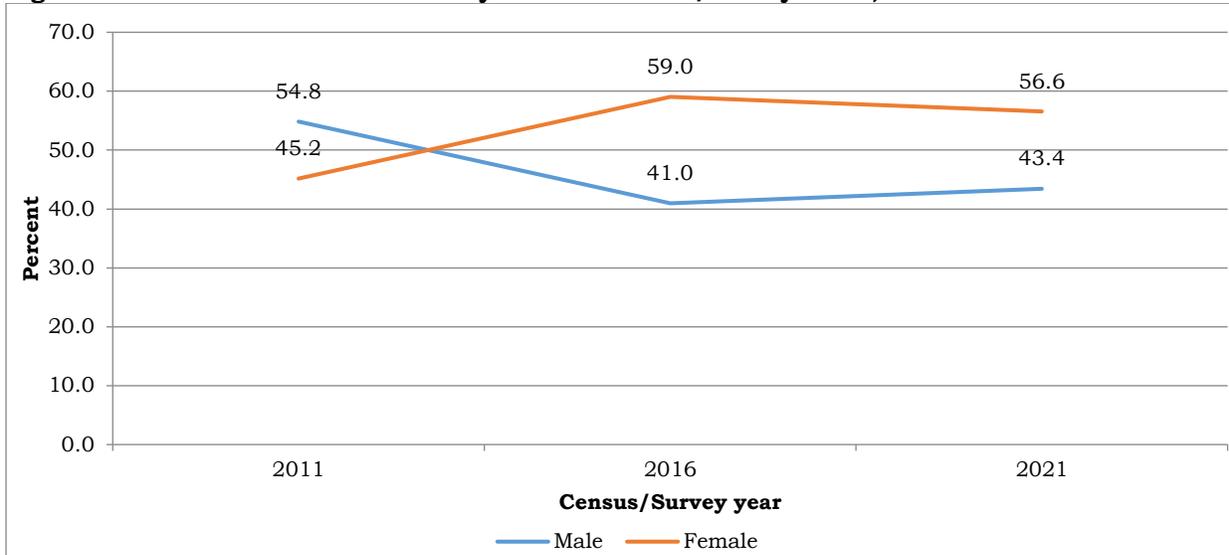
Figure 11.2 shows the disability status trend by the census and demographic survey years. There was a downward trend observed for disabled persons from the year 2011 estimated at 2.6 percent to 2.5 percent during 2016. There is a noted increase from 2016 to 2021 of 0.3 percentage points.

Figure 11.2: Disability Status Trend by Census and Demographic Survey Years, 2021 LDS



Literature has shown that women are more likely to experience disability than men and older people more than young (WHO, 2022). Figure 11.3 shows trend on persons with disability by sex during census and survey years. According to the figure, the total disabled females outnumbered males for the years 2016 and 2021.

Figure 11.3: Disabled Persons Trend by Sex and Census/Survey Years, 2021 LDS



11.5 Disability Types

The disability can be categorised into various types which include physical and mental impairments that can affect a person's ability to carry out their day-to-day functions. These impairments can be termed as disability and broken down into a number of broad sub-categories, which the WG has categorised into six types. The most common types of disability are of 'seeing' and 'walking' with proportions ranging above 21 percent as illustrated in Figure 11.4. The least represented type of disability is communication with 7.7 percent.

Figure 11.4: Percentage Distribution of Disabled Population by Disability Types, 2021 LDS

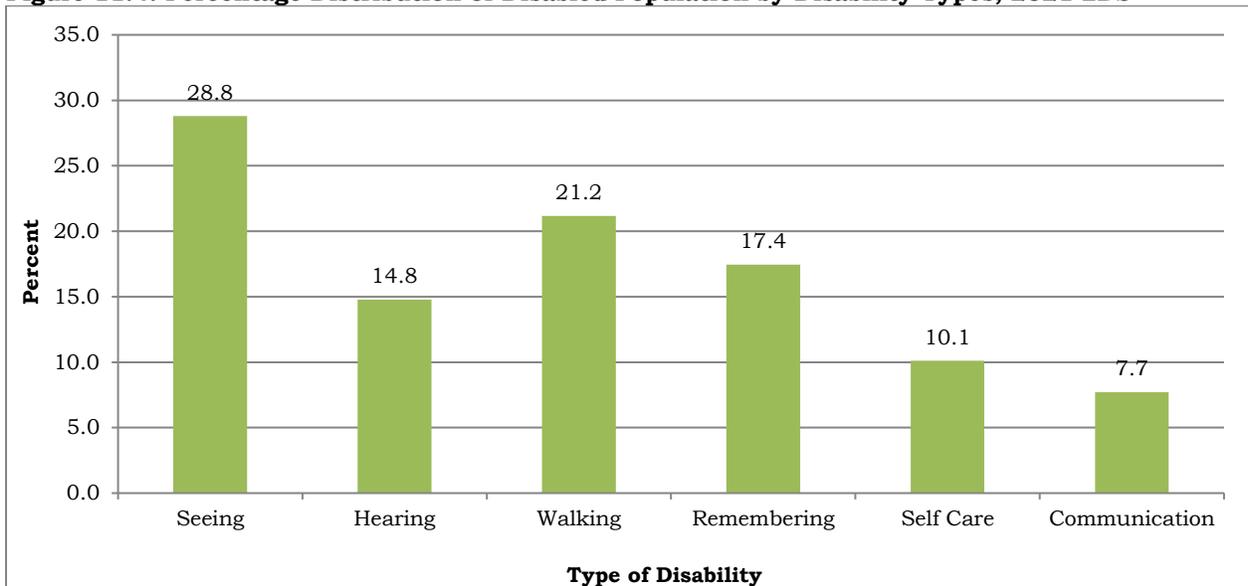


Table 11.4 shows distribution of disability types by settlement and districts. People residing in urban areas had the highest share of disabled persons with disability in seeing (34.4%) and the least was communication with 7.6 percent. Mafeteng district had the highest percentage (35.0%) of persons with seeing disability and Qacha's Nek being the lowest with 17.4 percent.

Table 11.4: Distribution of Disability Types by Districts and Settlement, 2021 LDS

Settlement	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communication	Total
Urban	34.4	9.8	23.6	14.6	10.0	7.6	26,680
Peri Urban	29.2	17.4	22.0	16.3	7.2	7.8	6,518
Rural	25.2	17.5	19.6	19.4	10.6	7.8	43,090
Total	28.8	14.8	21.2	17.4	10.1	7.7	76,289
District							
Botha-Bothe	22.1	12.9	22.4	21.9	10.8	9.8	4,990
Leribe	27.1	11.6	23.0	17.5	10.8	9.9	13,506
Berea	26.9	13.8	19.9	15.5	15.4	8.4	8,853
Maseru	30.4	14.8	22.5	13.9	11.7	6.7	17,220
Mafeteng	35.0	16.3	22.1	13.5	6.7	6.4	7,844
Mohale's Hoek	31.5	15.5	19.0	23.1	5.0	5.9	9,263
Quthing	28.3	17.9	19.3	18.2	8.3	8.0	4,899
Qacha's Nek	17.4	17.9	19.5	22.8	10.8	11.6	1,664
Mokhotlong	30.1	19.3	21.1	13.5	8.6	7.2	3,422
Thaba-Tseka	26.2	15.7	17.4	24.7	10.2	5.7	4,628

11.6 Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Disabled Persons

The disability data advocacy toolkit by stakeholders group of persons with disability for sustainable development recommends that in the analysis of data on disability, it is important to monitor decent work and economic growth and quality education goals (Stakeholders Group of Persons with Disability for Sustainable Development, 2018). Persons with disability experience widespread barriers that other people often take for granted, including barriers in the health system, education, employment, transportation, and community space especially in less developed communities (WHO, 2022).

11.6.1 Households with Disabled Persons

Households living with at least one person with disability are presented in Table 11.5. According to the table, out of 569,631 households, 48,496 households had persons with disability and this accounts for 8.5 percent of total households. Most households with disabled persons are in the Mohale's Hoek district with 15.0 percent while the least proportion is in Qacha's Nek constituting 5.8 percent.

Table 11.5: Distribution of Households with at Least One Member Disabled, 2021 LDS

District	With Disabled Persons	Without Disabled Persons	Total
Botha-Bothe	10.2	89.8	30,626
Leribe	8.3	91.7	97,056
Berea	7.6	92.4	73,874
Maseru	6.3	93.7	177,500
Mafeteng	11.2	88.8	46,447
Mohale's Hoek	15.0	85.0	41,039
Quthing	10.7	89.3	25,713
Qacha's Nek	5.8	94.2	18,597
Mokhotlong	8.9	91.1	24,585
Thaba-Tseka	9.1	90.9	34,194
Total	8.5	91.5	569,631

11.6.2 Marital Status of Disabled Persons

Table 11.6 shows the distribution of married persons by their disability status. The majority of disabled person's falls under the categories widowed and never married estimated at 31.2 percent. An equal proportion (0.9%) within each disability status indicated that they are in polygamous marriage. The least proportions, irrespective of disability status is for those in 'living together' category with 0.3 and 0.4 percent for the 'not disabled' and 'disabled categories respectively.

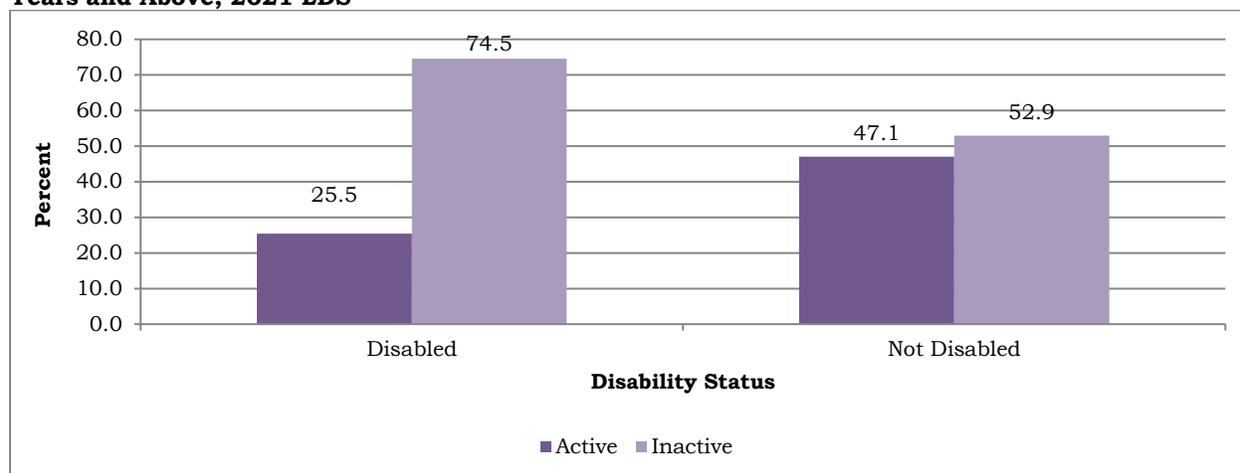
Table 11.6: Distribution of Marital by Disability Status, 2021 LDS

Marital Status	Disabled	Not Disabled	Total
Never married	16,835	31.2	960,561
Monogamously married	16,633	30.8	624,016
Polygamously married	480	0.9	16,005
Living together	217	0.4	6,105
Separated	2,171	4.0	63,812
Divorced	823	1.5	14,654
Widowed	16,849	31.2	143,104
Don't know	27	0.0	812
Total	54,036	100	1,829,070

11.6.3 Main Activity

This refers to the activity one performed 7 days prior to the date of interview. The main activities were subdivided into those economically active and inactive. Figure 11.4 shows the percentage distribution of disability by economic activity status for persons aged 15 years and over. According to the figure, about three quarters of disabled persons are not economically active. For the non-disabled persons almost half (47.1%) were economically inactive.

Figure 11.4: Percentage Distribution of Disability by Economic Activity Status for Persons Aged 15 Years and Above, 2021 LDS



According to Table 11.7 for disabled persons who were economically active, the number of employers was significantly low. About 11 percent are own account worker/ farmer while regular wage/ salary earner accounted for 9.3 percent. Regarding disabled persons who were economically inactive, 62.3 percent were housewives and 4.5 were retired.

Table 11.7: Disability Status by Sex and Main Activity Done 7 Days Prior to Survey for Persons 15 Years and Over, 2021 LDS

Main Activity Status 7 Days Prior to Survey	Disabled			Not Disabled		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Economically Active						
Employer	20	0	0.0	1,652	1,254	0.2
Own account worker/farmer	3,695	1,714	11.1	118,808	60,244	12.8
Regular wage/ salary earner	1,876	2,636	9.3	186,091	164,848	25.2
Casual worker	623	446	2.2	52,174	21,837	5.3
Unpaid family worker	560	231	1.6	33,095	4,935	2.7
Homemaker	115	465	1.2	3,097	8,264	0.8
Other (Specify)	0	30	0.1	22	64	0.0
Economically Inactive						
Job Seeking	573	541	2.3	51,971	31,919	6.0
Housewife	10,478	19,881	62.3	127,307	317,872	31.9
Retired	1,022	1,154	4.5	6,875	6,676	1.0
Student	862	1,181	4.2	86,894	105,018	13.8
Don't Know	360	290	1.3	2,358	1,590	0.3
Total	20,184	28,571	100	670,343	724,520	100

The disabled persons who were economically inactive dominated the active disabled persons for all the disability types as indicated in Table 11.8. The majority of economically active persons had seeing disability estimated at 42.8 percent. The table further shows that active persons were relatively very few in communication disability with 5.2 percent and 3.0 percent for self-care disability. The sex disaggregation reflects that, active disabled females dominate males in seeing and walking disabilities. For the inactive category, males with communication disability were more than females, though the communication disability type was the least of all the types.

Table 11.8: Economically Active and Inactive Persons by Type of Disability and Sex, 2021 LDS

Disability Type	Active			Inactive		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Seeing	2,948	3,062	42.8	4,331	9,771	25.9
Hearing	2,007	659	19.0	3,049	4,813	14.5
Walking	1,015	1,057	14.8	4,157	9,112	24.4
Remembering	1,174	950	15.1	3,994	6,079	18.5
Self-care	294	127	3.0	2,402	2,770	9.5
Communication	515	221	5.2	2,156	1,715	7.1
Total	7,953	6,076	100	20,089	34,260	100

The majority of disabled persons are self-employed estimated at 46.7 percent as indicated in Table 11.9. About 16 percent of disabled persons worked in private households while the least proportions accounting for 0.5 work in parastatals.

Table 11.9: Disabled Persons by Sector of Employment, 2021 LDS

Employer	Number	Percent
Government	1,250	10.0
Parastatal	66	0.5
Private	1,217	9.8
Manufacturing	694	5.6
Self-employed	5,820	46.7
Private Household	1,993	16.0
RSA	1,246	10.0
NGO'S and other agencies	142	1.1
Other Countries	29	0.2
Total	12,458	100

11.6.4 Educational Status

Lesotho national disability mainstreaming plan states that, special education unit was established to accommodate children with disabilities into the normal school set-up (Ministry of Social Development, 2015). For this subsection education will cover persons aged 5 to 29 years. Generally, there were more disabled males for all the three categories of school attendance than females with an exception of disability in seeing. The results reveal that females dominated males for those still attending school with disability in walking.

Table 11.10: Distribution of Disability Type and Sex by School Attendance for Persons Aged 5 to 29 Years, 2021 LDS

Disability Type	Sex	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Don't Know	Total
Seeing	Male	3.6	58.6	37.8	0.0	2,470
	Female	2.9	51.2	46.1	0.0	2,484
Hearing	Male	15.3	21.9	35.2	0.0	1,089
	Female	19.5	12.1	33.4	0.0	632
Walking	Male	46.0	6.8	36.9	0.0	995
	Female	49.2	9.9	22.6	0.0	866
Remembering	Male	33.7	14.4	48.4	0.0	1,996
	Female	39.2	6.7	43.6	0.0	965
Self-care	Male	44.7	30.7	18.5	0.0	2,061
	Female	51.8	16.3	13.1	0.0	1,148
Communication	Male	51.4	16.7	25.2	1.7	1,911
	Female	52.4	9.9	23.4	0.0	1,007

Table 11.10 shows disability types (for those still attending) by sex and age group (5 to 29 years). Generally, there were more persons with disability still attending school in younger age groups than older age groups. Females aged 5 to 9 years with disability in hearing, were very few (2.0%) than males. For age group 25 to 29 years, only females with disability in walking (6.1%) and disability in seeing (2.4%) were still attending school. In age group 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 years, there were no females with self-care type of disability who were still attending school.

Table 11.11: Distribution of Persons with Disability by Educational Attainment, 2021 LDS

Disability Type	Sex	05 - 09	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	Total
Seeing	Male	27.3	44.5	19.2	9.0	0.0	1,448
	Female	19.4	30.9	31.4	16.0	2.4	1,265
Hearing	Male	25.4	43.3	25.9	5.2	0.0	540
	Female	2.0	40.3	46.3	11.1	0.0	298
Walking	Male	0.0	89.3	10.7	0.0	0.0	169
	Female	17.2	23.4	38.1	15.2	6.1	244
Remembering	Male	14.0	73.9	12.4	0.0	0.0	356
	Female	43.4	30.7	25.9	0.0	0.0	166
Self-care	Male	72.8	24.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	758
	Female	90.8	0.0	0.0	9.2	0.0	403
Communication	Male	14.0	63.7	12.3	9.9	0.0	413
	Female	14.8	31.6	54.1	0.0	0.0	244

The qualifications or a level of education for persons with disability is an important aspect as it may determine their decision making and livelihood. Seeing is the most common type of disability for persons with higher level of education estimated at 54.5 percent as illustrated in Table 11.12. The majority of persons with vocational and technical education had disability walking with 55.5 percent.

Table 11.12: Distribution of Persons with Disability by Educational Attainment, 2021 LDS

Educational Attainment	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communication	Total
None/Pre School	12.2	9.8	16.5	20.2	30.5	10.8	3,128
Non-Formal Education	11.4	12.3	20.8	24.3	13.2	18.1	1,329
Primary	28.9	17.3	23.0	17.6	7.7	5.4	38,185
Secondary	48.9	8.9	18.4	14.2	5.3	4.3	11,754
Higher	54.5	7.4	22.8	7.2	5.3	2.8	2,372
Vocational and technical	22.9	0.0	55.5	14.6	0.0	6.9	506
N/A	17.0	15.3	19.1	19.7	15.1	13.8	17,840
Don't know	58.8	0.0	24.4	16.8	0.0	0.0	119
Total	29.0	14.7	21.3	17.4	10.0	7.6	75,231

11.7 Summary

There were 569,631 households' country wide, of which 48,496 households had persons with disability constituting 8.5 percent of all households. It is observed from the survey results that of the 1,874,291 persons aged 5 years and above, 2.9 percent were found to be disabled. The total number of disabled persons was 54,036, of which males constituted 43.4 and female's 56.6 percent. The most common type of disability was seeing at 28.8 percent while the least was communication type of disability at 7.7 percent.

CHAPTER 12

INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBANISATION

12.0 Introduction

Internal migration refers to the movement of population from one place to another within a country, with an intention to stay at a place of destination (Rees, 2001). This movement can happen due to several reasons which may include, social, political, environmental and economic factors. The population may change due to migration in terms of size, composition and population growth, therefore migration like fertility and mortality, contributes to population change. Internal migration could be classified into four types, namely; rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban migration. Persons can move from one village to another or from one district to another within a country.

Literature reveals that in SSA, 50 to 80 percent of rural households have at least one migrant member (DFID, 2004 in Eshetu F. and Beshir M., 2017). The 2013 Lesotho National Migration and Development Policy has different streams of internal migration that have been identified such as the normal framework of rural to urban migration. As a result, there are strategic frameworks that are used to address these streams through interventions.

12.1 Data and Methods

The 2021 LDS questions asked for internal migration included movements of people within the districts of birth, district of enumeration, movement of people during a given time and duration of stay in the place of enumeration. Household members were also asked whether the village of their enumeration was also that of their birth. These questions were useful in providing information about whether a person was a migrant or not.

The data collected for 2021 LDS can be used to estimate lifetime and recent migration. Every household member was asked about their residential status during the reference night. The residential status was categorised as present members, those living elsewhere in the country, residing outside Lesotho and visitors. All usual members of the household were included, except those who were continuously living elsewhere in Lesotho for more than six months and those outside Lesotho for more than three years. Information collected was based on place of birth, place of residence in April 2011, 2016 and 2020 and the duration of stay in the place of enumeration. This approach has one major data limitation; the migration rate could be underestimated because the way the information was collected does not allow for the multiple, intermediate and past migratory moves to be measured.

Information from a place of birth and place of current residence at the time of enumeration was collected to measure lifetime migration, while information at a fixed period (April 2020) before the survey was collected to measure recent migration. For period migration, respondents were asked to state where they were living in April 2011 yielding information on migration in the ten years prior to the survey.

12.2 Internal Migrants

A migrant is a person who has changed a geographic location. It is important to know where the migrants are located. Different places or areas do attract migrants in many different ways, depending on a person's aspiration. For example, some persons relocate due to agriculture, job opportunities or other factors. Table 12.1 indicates that most persons in Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng districts resided in urban areas with percentages ranging above 55. However, other districts had more concentration of the population in the rural areas such as Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts. Maseru had the highest proportion of the population in urban estimated at 78.7 percent while on the contrary, Thaba-Tseka had the highest in rural area with 59.7 percent.

Table 12.1: Percentage Distribution of Migrants by District and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Districts	Urban	Peri-urban	Rural	Total
Botha-Bothe	51.1	--	48.9	27,901
Leribe	55.1	12.2	32.7	92,438
Berea	66.8	9.7	23.5	66,097
Maseru	78.7	10.6	10.8	196,718
Mafeteng	60.8	12.5	26.7	45,502
Mohale's Hoek	46.0	2.3	51.7	40,710
Quthing	40.7	10.3	49.1	33,217
Qacha's Nek	49.1	7.3	43.5	20,258
Mokhotlong	32.6	8.7	58.7	19,106
Thaba-Tseka	25.2	15.1	59.7	24,307
Total	61.2	9.8	29.1	566,254

There were 560,383 Lesotho citizens who migrated and 56.7 percent were females while males were 43.3 percent in 2021. Table 12.2 represents Lesotho citizens who migrated by age group and sex. The table shows the highest proportion for males estimated at 56.1 for age group 50 to 59 years and the females were 88.6 at age group 80 years and above.

Table 12.2: Lesotho Citizens that were Migrants by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00 - 09	48.8	51.2	42,554
10 - 19	45.2	54.8	114,388
20 - 29	34.6	65.4	172,079
30 - 39	45.6	54.4	127,700
40 - 49	51.8	48.2	61,125
50 - 59	56.1	43.9	23,949
60 - 69	45.1	54.9	15,183
70 - 79	19.9	80.1	2,297
80+	11.4	88.6	1,108
Total	43.3	56.7	560,383

12.3 Lifetime Migration

The UN defines a lifetime migrant as a person whose area of residence at the time of census or survey date differs from his area of birth (UN, 1970). This definition may have shortfalls in that, it does not consider persons who moved from their place of enumeration and came back before the survey. In this case therefore, the number of migrants is not necessarily equal to the number of moves that occurred during the interval for these migrants. This section will focus on marital status, educational attainment and economic activity of lifetime migrants.

The districts of birth and enumeration play an important part in showing the migration flows. According to Table 12.3 most people in 2021 LDS were non-movers, as the proportion ranged from 49.4 in Thaba-Tseka to 80.5 in Maseru for persons that were enumerated in their district of birth. The overall observation is that 193,358 persons were lifetime migrants. The table further indicates that, most persons who migrated were enumerated in adjacent districts with Mafeteng recording the highest number. Moreover, Maseru had migrants from all other districts.

Table 12.3: Percentage Distribution of Lifetime Migrants by District of Birth and Enumeration, 2021 LDS

Districts	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	Don't know
Botha-Bothe	60.9	3.9	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.2	0	0.4	5.3	0.7	0
Leribe	13.0	69.8	17.4	3.0	2.2	1.3	0.5	0.4	14.7	10.5	29.6
Berea	5.8	7.3	54.6	8.9	4.5	4.0	2.7	5.1	6.1	7.6	19.8
Maseru	17.1	15.3	23.8	80.5	35.2	18.9	14.2	21.4	10.9	26.9	25.7
Mafeteng	0.4	0.8	0.9	2.4	52.8	6.8	2.2	1.6	0.3	0.6	3.1
Mohale's Hoek	0.4	0.9	0.4	1.2	2.8	60.3	4.9	3.1	0.3	0.6	16.7
Quthing	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.3	4.9	72.6	2.2	0.7	0.4	3.1
Qacha's Nek	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.3	3.0	2.7	64.2	0.3	2.0	0
Mokhotlong	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0	0.3	59.4	1.3	0
Thaba-Tseka	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.3	2.1	49.4	2.1
Total	32,336	85,857	60,683	128,585	65,724	52,037	36,445	22,391	27,427	41,152	521
Lifetime Migrants	12,643	25,929	27,550	25,074	31,022	20,659	9,986	8,016	11,135	20,823	521

Marital status has a positive relationship with migration. It is customary in Lesotho for a woman to join her husband's family when getting married. This therefore normally forces women to move from their usual place of residence. Table 12.4 indicates that about 47 percent of persons who were lifetime migrants were monogamously married and 37 percent were never married. It is also noticed that widowed persons were more likely to be lifetime migrants with estimated percentage of 9.6.

Table 12.1: Lesotho Citizens that were Lifetime Migrants by Marital Status, 2021 LDS

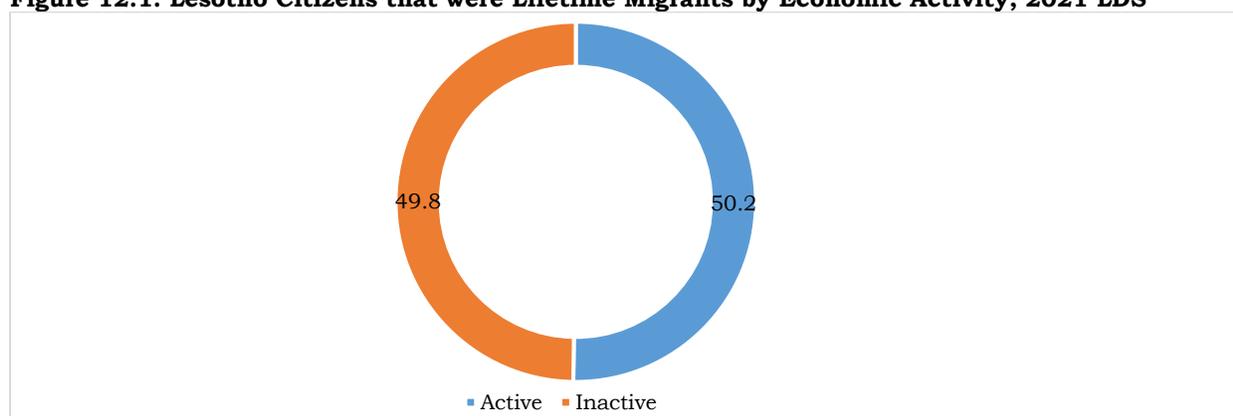
Marital Status	Percent	Total
Never married	36.9	119,947
Monogamously married	47.1	152,994
Polygamously married	1.2	3,927
Living together	0.7	2,394
Separated	3.4	10,898
Divorced	1.0	3,377
Widowed	9.6	31,138
Don't know	0.0	151
Total	100	324,826

The reallocation of a person in a certain place requires decisions about other life course events, for instance young adults leave their parental homes and settle to pursue education. According to Table 12.5, most persons who were lifetime migrants attained secondary level of education estimated at 45.3 percent as the highest. Additionally, those whose attainment was non-formal education were the least represented with 0.2 percent.

Table 12.2: Lesotho Citizens that were Lifetime Migrants by Educational Attainment, 2021 LDS

Educational Attainment	Percent	Total
None/Pre School	2.2	7,579
Non-Formal Education	0.2	818
Primary	32.5	110,903
Secondary	45.3	154,620
Higher	15.1	51,607
Vocational and technical	0.7	2,302
N/A	3.6	12,307
Don't know	0.2	830
Total	100	340,966

Employment plays a significant role in migration as persons move from their place of origin to look for job opportunities. The total number of lifetime migrants who moved due to economic reasons were estimated at 323,046. Of this total, 50.2 percent were economically active. In general, lifetime migrants who were either active or inactive were almost similar.

Figure 12.1: Lesotho Citizens that were Lifetime Migrants by Economic Activity, 2021 LDS

12.4 Net Migration

Net migration is the difference between in-migrants (the number of people coming into an area) and out-migrants (the number of people leaving an area). In a situation where the number of in-migrants is larger than the number of out-migrants, a positive net migration rate occurs. A positive net migration rate indicates that there are more persons entering than leaving an area. Therefore, when there are more out-migrants than in-migrants the result is a negative net migration, meaning that more people are leaving than entering the area. When there is an equal number of in-migrants and out-migrants, the net migration is balanced.

According to Table 12.6, lifetime migration net-gain of the population ranged from 3.7 in Leribe to 65.1 in Maseru which has the largest population gain. Mafeteng, Thaba-Tseka and Mohale's Hoek had the highest net-loss of the population with above 13.0 per 1,000 people. Maseru seems to have pull factors as more persons tend to move while the push factors are observable for the districts of Thaba-Tseka and Mafeteng since they are mostly experiencing population loss.

Table 12.3: Inter-district Lifetime Migration, 2021 LDS

Districts	In	Out	Net
Botha-Bothe	7.6	12.7	-5.1
Leribe	29.6	25.9	3.7
Berea	31.6	27.5	4.1
Maseru	90.3	25.1	65.1
Mafeteng	9.6	31.0	-21.4
Mohale's Hoek	7.5	20.6	-13.2
Quthing	5.8	10.0	-4.2
Qacha's Nek	5.1	8.0	-2.9
Mokhotlong	2.6	11.1	-8.6
Thaba-Tseka	3.8	20.8	-17.0

The lifetime net-migration rates by districts from 1976 to 2021 are displayed in Table 12.7. The trends demonstrated in the table reflect districts disparity regarding gain or loss of population over years. The trend illustrates that only Maseru and Leribe had experienced positive net-migration while the rest of the districts had negative net-migration throughout the years, indicating a pronounced inter-district movement.

Table 12.4: Inter-district Lifetime Migration, 2021 LDS

District of Enumeration	Net Migration					
	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016	2021
Botha-Bothe	-0.6	-0.8	-0.6	-1.5	-2.1	-5.1
Leribe	1.4	4.1	6.7	0.1	4.2	3.7
Berea	1.0	-0.8	8.0	7.9	4.1	4.1
Maseru	10.6	11.1	13.5	25.1	22.7	65.1
Mafeteng	-2.9	-1.7	-2.3	-8.5	-8.0	-21.4
Mohale's Hoek	-2.1	-1.3	-1.6	-6.3	-6.0	-13.2
Quthing	-4.8	-4.5	-2.5	-3.9	-2.2	-4.2
Qacha's Nek	-1.9	-2.9	-1.5	-2.2	-0.7	-2.9
Mokhotlong	-0.8	-4.0	-3.9	-4.4	-4.2	-8.6
Thaba-Tseka	N/A	0.8	-15.9	-6.3	-7.8	-17.0

Source: 2016 Population and Housing Census

12.5 Duration of Residence

Duration of stay or residence may also be used to determine whether a person is a lifetime migrant or recent migrant. The question that was directed to the respondents during the survey was, 'For how long has (*name*) lived in this village /town?'. This question was asked all respondents.

According to Table 12.8, there was high mobility of population in districts that have stayed for 1 to 4 years in their place of enumeration. Maseru (38.2%), Leribe (14.9%) and Berea (12.0%) districts had the highest proportion of population that stayed in their districts of enumeration for 1 to 4 years. There was an observed low mobility of population born in the districts of Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek with 3.4 and 3.6 percent respectively.

Table 12.5: Lesotho Citizens that were migrants by Settlement and District and Duration of Stay, 2021 LDS

District	Duration of Stay					Total
	Less than 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20+	
Botha-Bothe	4.8	4.7	4.5	6.8	6.5	4.9
Leribe	15.4	14.9	16.8	19.6	22.7	16.3
Berea	12.8	12.0	11.6	7.9	8.0	11.7
Maseru	37.3	38.2	37.0	18.3	12.1	34.7
Mafeteng	8.8	8.5	7.1	5.8	7.2	8.0
Mohale's Hoek	5.3	6.1	7.4	13.6	15.2	7.2
Quthing	4.7	4.8	4.5	13.1	15.6	5.9
Qacha's Nek	3.1	3.4	4.1	5.3	3.7	3.6
Mokhotlong	3.5	3.2	3.0	4.3	4.2	3.4
Thaba-Tseka	4.4	4.2	3.9	5.4	4.8	4.3
Total	176,191	180,120	142,408	22,506	45,030	566,254

Table 12.9 shows that most migrants seem to have stayed in their place of residence for a duration of 1 to 4 years compared to other length of time. For the duration of 19 years and below, females seem to have stayed in their place of residence longer than their male counterparts with proportions ranging above 55 percent. A higher proportion of migrants who stayed for a duration of less than 5 years in their residential areas were mostly in age group 20 to 29 years. For those who stayed for 20 years or more were mostly in age group 25 to 34 years estimated at about 16 percent.

Table 12.6: Lesotho Citizens that were Migrants by Sex, Age group and Duration of Stay, 2021 LDS

Sex/Age group	Duration of Stay					Total
	Less than 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20+	
Male	43.9	42.2	39.9	41.4	58.3	43.4
Female	56.1	57.8	60.1	58.6	41.7	56.6
Total	176,191	180,120	142,408	22,506	45,030	566,254
00 - 04	4.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
05 - 09	7.6	10.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	6.0
10 - 14	8.5	9.6	13.5	8.9	0.0	9.5
15 - 19	13.4	10.9	10.7	15.0	0.0	10.9
20 - 24	19.5	17.8	9.3	15.6	7.2	15.3
25 - 29	15.4	15.6	15.0	12.5	16.1	15.3
30 - 34	10.5	11.9	14.9	12.9	16.2	12.6
35 - 39	8.0	9.1	12.7	11.2	14.7	10.2
40 - 44	4.6	5.5	10.0	9.4	12.7	7.1
45 - 49	2.3	2.9	4.7	6.9	9.3	3.9
50 - 54	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.9	8.1	2.5
55 - 59	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.5	6.7	1.8
60 - 64	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.7	4.8	1.3
65 - 69	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.0	2.6	0.7
70 - 74	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.4
75 - 79	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3
80 - 84	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
85+	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.4
Total	176,191	180,120	142,408	22,506	45,030	566,254

13.6 Recent Migration

The movement of people whose area of residence at the time of census or survey is different from place of residence at a fixed specified time interval, in this case 12 months prior to the survey which was 2020, is referred to as recent migration.

Table 12.10 indicates that almost all recent migrants were unlikely to have been in their district of birth in 2020. Most recent migrants that were born in all districts seemed to have moved to Maseru districts as the major recipient of migrants constituting 37.6

percent while the lowest is Mokhotlong with 2.8 percent. The majority of persons who were enumerated in Maseru in 2021 comprising 55 percent were born in Mafeteng. There were no recent migrants from the district of Quthing that were enumerated in Mokhotlong.

Table 12.7: Distribution of Recent Migrants by District of Birth and Enumeration, 2021 LDS

Place of Enumeration	Place of Birth											Total
	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	Don't know	
Botha-Bothe	37.5	7.0	2.4	2.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6	8.4	1.1	0.0	4.9
Leribe	20.8	45.6	28.6	7.6	3.4	2.2	0.8	0.7	23.4	15.8	29.6	16.5
Berea	9.2	13.2	25.4	22.0	7.1	6.5	4.4	9.2	9.7	11.4	19.8	13.2
Maseru	27.3	27.6	39.1	51.5	55.0	30.7	22.9	38.9	17.3	40.5	25.7	37.6
Mafeteng	0.7	1.5	1.5	6.0	26.3	11.1	3.6	3.0	0.5	0.9	3.1	6.6
Mohale's Hoek	0.7	1.5	0.6	3.1	4.4	35.7	8.0	5.7	0.5	1.0	16.7	6.1
Quthing	0.6	0.4	0.4	2.1	2.1	8.0	55.7	3.9	1.1	0.6	3.1	5.9
Qacha's Nek	0.3	0.4	0.3	2.1	0.5	4.8	4.3	34.9	0.4	3.0	0.0	3.0
Mokhotlong	2.3	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6	35.4	2.0	0.0	2.8
Thaba-Tseka	0.5	1.9	0.8	2.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	2.4	3.3	23.7	2.1	3.3
Total	20,253	47,632	36,916	51,743	42,082	32,084	22,549	12,328	17,242	27,306	521	310,656

12.7 Urbanisation

Urbanisation refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas and the corresponding change in proportion of people living in such areas. Thus, urbanisation attracts more population especially from rural or less developed areas. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas. Urbanisation has both advantages and disadvantages. In as much as more job opportunities are created, development is promoted though with the effect of overcrowding and increased criminal activities.

Major developments are mostly done in Maseru and this creates a problem as most people tend to move to Maseru in search of opportunities. Therefore, the country still has a long way to meet SDG11 Target 11.1A; which states that, “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning by 2030”. (Ritchie et al, 2018).

The population of Lesotho was estimated at 2 076 669 in 2021 LDS and of this number only 41.7 percent (866,094) resided in urban areas. The share of urban area in each district is considered vital in estimating how many people live in each area. Table 12.11 portrays population by urban centres and percentage of the total population. Hence the table further shows the distribution of the population in urban areas ranked by size. Among the urban areas in Lesotho, Maseru ranked the first with the population of 356 420 (62.9 percent) while the urban centre with the least population was Thaba-Tseka with 16 587 persons constituting only 12.0 percent.

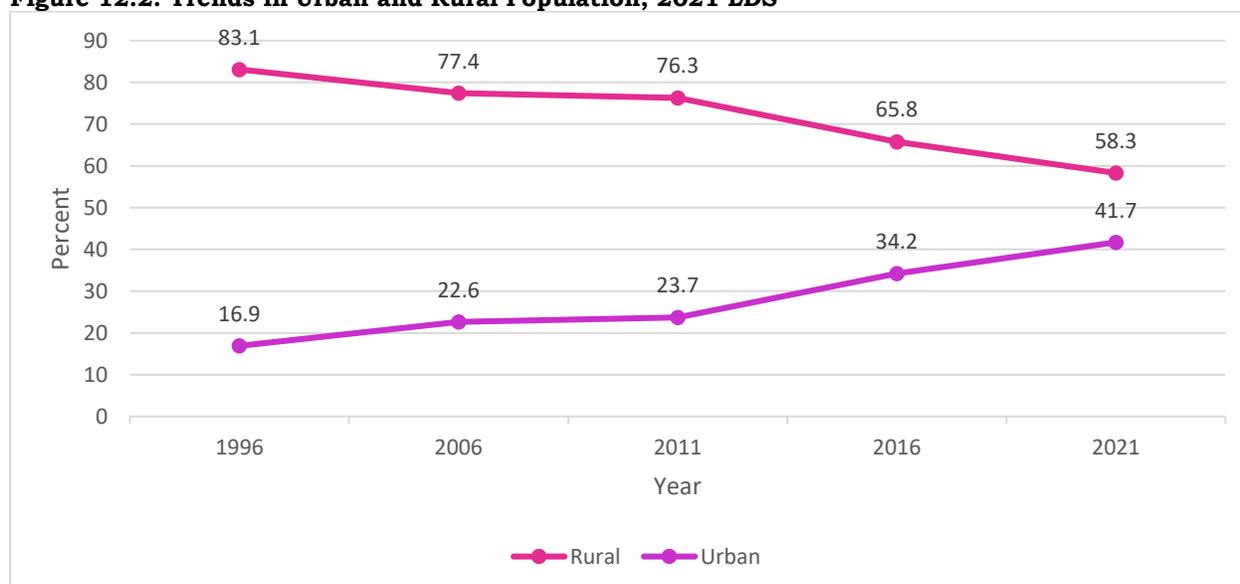
Table 12.8: Population in Urban Centres by District and Percentage of the Total Population, 2021 LDS

Districts	Population	Urban Centres	Urban Population	Population Share
Botha-Bothe	122,500	Botha Bothe	35,729	29.2
Leribe	361,595	Hlotse	54,239	15.0
		Maputsoe	99,439	27.5
Berea	269,290	Teya-Teyaneng	109,181	40.5
Maseru	566,377	Semongkong	10,498	1.9
		Maseru	356,420	62.9
Mafeteng	170,061	Mafeteng	68,024	40.0
Mohale's Hoek	159,137	Mohale's Hoek	45,468	28.6
Quthing	110,645	Moyeni	35,190	31.8
Qacha's Nek	77,152	Qacha's Nek	21,431	27.8
Mokhotlong	101,845	Mokhotlong	13,888	13.6
Thaba-Tseka	138,066	Thaba-Tseka	16,587	12.0
Total	2,076,669		866,094	41.7

12.7.1: Trends in Urban and Rural Population

The change in population size over time in rural and urban areas has been explored in this section with particular focus on urban areas. The urban areas are mostly the recipients of migrants hence it is important to observe the impact of urbanization.

Figure 12.2 reveals that there is a declining population in rural areas from 83.1 to 58.3 percent for the years 1996 to 2021. Furthermore, there is an opposite scenario observed in urban areas whereby population increased from 16.9 percent in 1996 to 41.7 percent in 2021. As population increases in urban areas, it generally promotes urbanization. The overall observation is that there is a spatial growth of urban areas as a result of massive movement from rural to urban (rural to urban migration).

Figure 12.2: Trends in Urban and Rural Population, 2021 LDS

12.8 Summary

The 2021 LDS survey results indicate that there were 560,383 migrants and 56.7 percent were females while males were 43.3 percent. The majority of migrants were living in urban areas. The data from the districts indicate that more persons in Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng were residing in urban areas with percentages above 55. Almost all districts had a negative Net-Migration except Leribe, Berea and Maseru.

There was a continuous increase observed in the proportion of the population in urban areas. The urban area population is currently estimated at 41.7 percent with Maseru urban ranking the highest with the population of 356 420 (62.9 percent). The urban centre with the least population was Thaba-Tseka with 16 587 persons constituting only 12.0 percent.

CHAPTER 13

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

13.0 Introduction

International migration is the movement of people across international borders for the purpose of settlement (Rees, 2009). International migrants change their usual place of residence from one country to another. The prospective measurement of migration suggested by the United Nations (2019) is that the degree of permanence of migration should be measured over a 12 months' period. Hence, the shorter period one stays in another country should be classified as short-term international migration. Thus, migrants with 12 months or more duration of stay in a country are classified as long-term migrants. Alternatively, the retrospective measurement of migration can be derived by comparing the current place of residence and the place where one was living 12 months prior to the survey. If one was living in another country 12 months prior to the survey, then that person is classified as an international migrant.

Besides these classifications, there are two categories of international migration, namely; emigration and immigration. Emigration is the act of leaving a resident country to another with the intent to settle permanently (IOM, 2021). On the other hand, immigration is defined as in-movement of people across national borders (Burnley, 2009). The migration data therefore needs to be analysed and used in response to SDGs and NSDP II. Apart from that, migration data is also needed in response to the data gaps observed under the global and SADC Migration Data Hub. Consequently, for the study of international migration, recommendations tend to focus on two subgroups of the population; the foreign-born population and the foreign citizens living in the country of enumeration. In order to identify members of those groups, the following information; country of birth, country of usual residence, duration of stay and citizenship will be used to determine the migration flows and volume of international migration.

Migration is a cross-cutting issue and has relevance to almost all of the SDGs and the 2063 Agenda. Thus, out of seventeen goals, eleven contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration and or mobility. This chapter therefore, focuses on the analysis of international migrants and their basic characteristics.

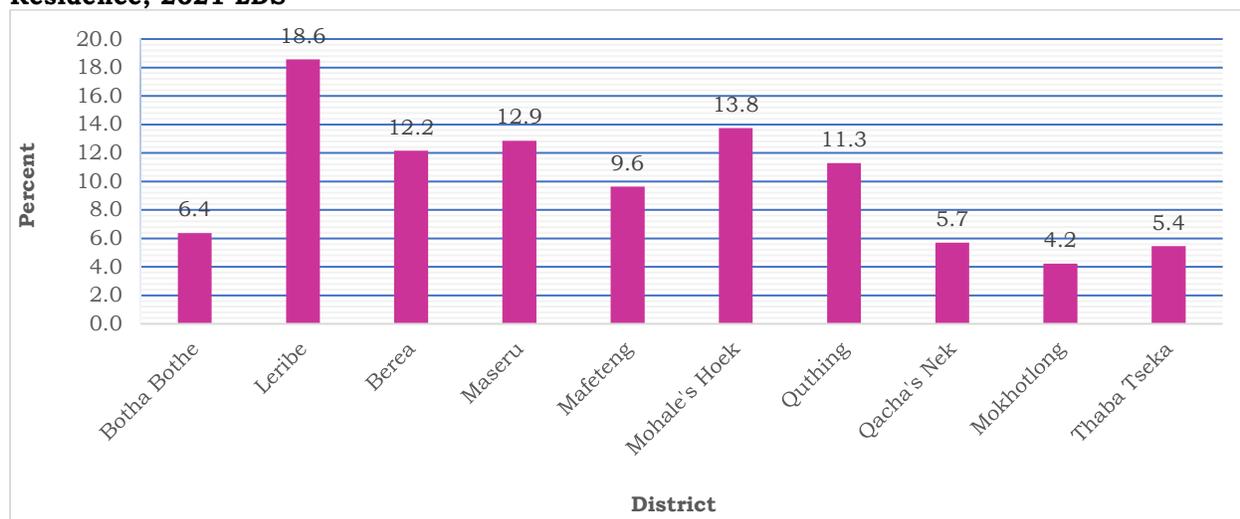
13.1 Characteristics of Emigrants

This section discusses characteristics of persons enumerated in Lesotho who are residing in other countries. These are district of origin, country of residence, age, sex, educational attainment and employment status of emigrants based on classifications of migration with more focus on short term migration.

Figure 13.1 presents percentage distribution of persons residing in other countries by district of residence. Persons residing outside the country during the survey were estimated at 166,225. Of these emigrants, about one fifth (18.6 percent) originated from Leribe district (this was the case even for the last population census). While contrarily 13.8 percent of these emigrants originated from Mohale's Hoek district. Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts recorded the least proportions of emigrants; as compared to other ten

districts, representing 4.2 and 5.4 percent respectively of the total emigrants. Generally, most districts had percentage shares above 10 points of persons living abroad.

Figure 13.1: Percentage Distribution of Persons Living Outside the Country by District of Residence, 2021 LDS



As reflected in Table 13.1, the migration streams are mostly flooded by males represented by 56.0 percent for all districts. The districts of Thaba-Tseka and Mafeteng have outstandingly higher proportions of 63.9 and 60.0 percent respectively for males. The proportions for females range below 50 percent in all districts.

Table 13.1: Percentage Distribution of Persons Living Outside the Country by District of Residence, 2021 LDS

District	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	59.4	40.6	10,597
Leribe	56.7	43.3	30,880
Berea	57.6	42.4	20,206
Maseru	51.4	48.6	21,369
Mafeteng	60.0	40.0	16,012
Mohale's Hoek	53.1	46.9	22,863
Quthing	55.9	44.1	18,748
Qacha's Nek	53.2	46.8	9,463
Mokhotlong	52.0	48.0	7,032
Thaba-Tseka	63.9	36.1	9,055
Total	56.0	44.0	166,225

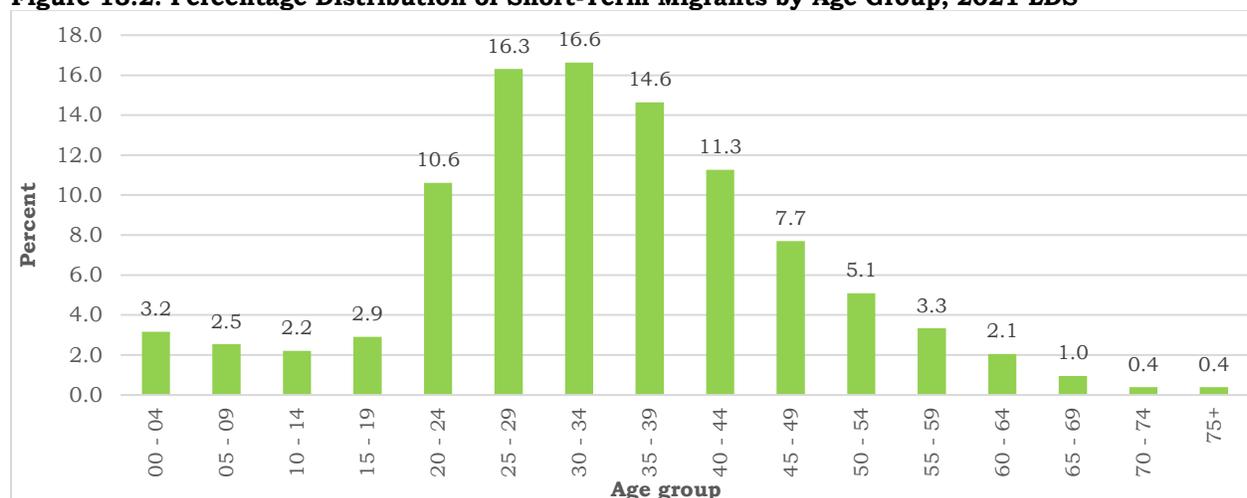
Most of migration flows is to or from neighboring countries. Table 13.2 displays number and percentage distribution of short and long-term emigrants by country of destination. The majority of emigrants' destination is the Republic of South Africa (RSA) hosting 98.9 percent for short-term and 97.2 percent for long-term migrants. Malawi and Madagascar seemed to be the least popular destinations with only 12 migrants for both migration classifications.

Table 13.2: Number and Percentage Distribution of Short and Long-Term Migrants by Country of Destination, 2021 LDS

Country of Destination	Short-Term		Long-Term	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
RSA	53,752	98.9	49,206	97.2
Swaziland	0	0.0	25	0.0
Botswana	29	0.1	81	0.2
Namibia	0	0.0	37	0.1
Zimbabwe	190	0.3	501	1.0
Zambia	27	0.0	89	0.2
Mozambique	0	0.0	118	0.2
Tanzania	0	0.0	62	0.1
Malawi	12	0.0	122	0.2
DRC	0	0.0	72	0.1
Madagascar	0	0.0	12	0.0
Kenya	57	0.1	0	0.0
Other Africa	31	0.1	30	0.1
America	47	0.1	0	0.0
China	18	0.0	18	0.0
India	205	0.4	173	0.3
UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales)	0	0.0	62	0.1
Other Europe	0	0.0	37	0.1
Total	54,368		50,645	

Figure 13.2 illustrates the percentage distribution of short-term emigrants by age group. The majority of persons aged 25 to 34 years who moved out of their country to another for various purposes not covered in this survey are estimated at above 16.0 percent. The flow seemed to be much more pronounced for persons in the working class (those aged 20 to 54 years), however as age increases, the migration influx decreases.

Figure 13.2: Percentage Distribution of Short-Term Migrants by Age Group, 2021 LDS

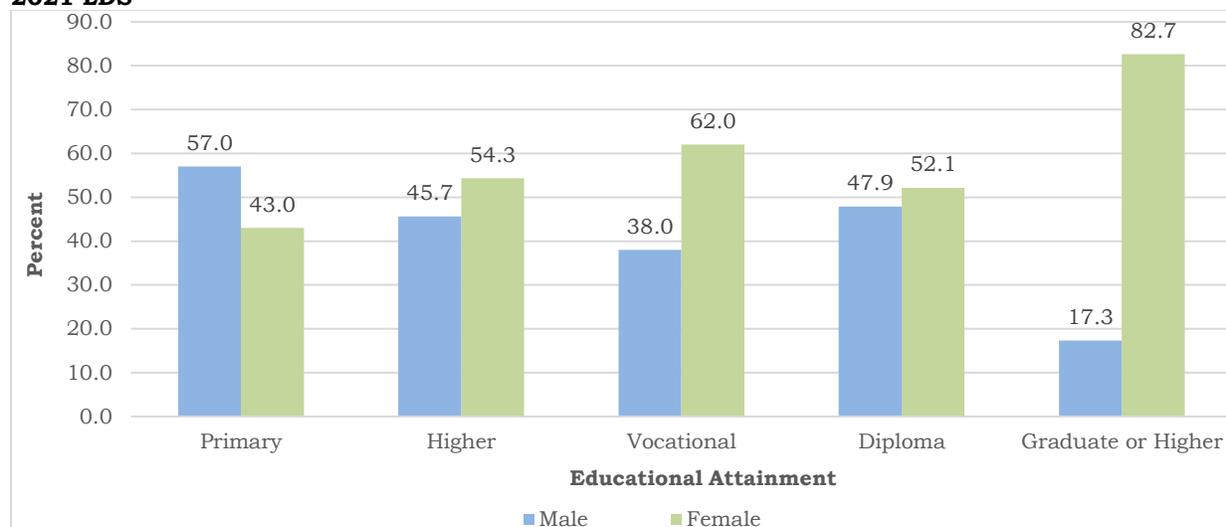


The sex distribution of short-term emigrants by age group demonstrated in Table 13.3 that males migrate at earlier ages of 20 to 24 years at 12.0 percent as opposed to females at 9.1 percent. The greatest proportion of males migrate at age group 30 to 34 years estimated at 17.1 percent. Regarding females, the peak was observed at age group 25 to 29 years with 16.5 percent.

Table 13.3: Percentage Distribution of Short-Term Migrants by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age group	Male	Female	Total
00 - 04	3.4	2.9	1,716
05 - 09	2.0	3.1	1,382
10 - 14	1.7	2.7	1,198
15 - 19	2.5	3.3	1,577
20 - 24	12.0	9.1	5,773
25 - 29	16.1	16.5	8,868
30 - 34	17.1	16.1	9,041
35 - 39	13.5	15.9	7,961
40 - 44	10.4	12.2	6,123
45 - 49	8.6	6.7	4,186
50 - 54	5.5	4.6	2,769
55 - 59	3.6	3.0	1,816
60 - 64	1.7	2.4	1,115
65 - 69	1.1	0.8	519
70 - 74	0.5	0.3	210
75+	0.2	0.2	113
Total	28,740	25,627	54,367

The highest level of education attained by short term migrants and sex is shown in Figure 13.3. The general observation indicates that for higher level of education attained female migrants outnumbered males. The majority of male migrants was only observed for those who attained primary level of education estimated at 57.0 percent. Moreover, females surpassed males in all categories of educational level.

Figure 13.3: Percentage Distribution of Short-Term Migrants by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2021 LDS

This section deals with emigrants aged 10 years and above who were employed in the country during the survey. A comparison of emigrants employed in Lesotho by sex and occupation is illustrated in Table 13.4. The majority of emigrants represented by 75.7 percent were engaged in elementary occupations with females leading with 81.3 percent and males were 71.3 percent. The second most dominant occupational category for males was skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers with 9.9 percent. The major absorber for females also was Service and sales workers estimated at 8.5 percent. The table also

reveals that though the figures are low there is still some proportion of professional Basotho who are employed outside the country.

Table 13.4: Percentage Distribution of Short-Term Migrants by Occupation and Sex, 2021 LDS

Occupation	Male	Female	Total
Armed forces occupations	0.5	0.0	0.3
Managers	0.6	0.3	0.5
Professionals	1.9	1.3	1.6
Technicians and associate professionals	1.1	1.6	1.3
Clerical support workers	0.6	1.2	0.9
Service and sales workers	4.1	8.5	6.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	9.9	3.7	7.2
Craft and related trades workers	6.2	1.6	4.2
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	3.9	0.4	2.4
Elementary occupations	71.3	81.3	75.7
Total	21,058	16,800	37,858

13.2 Characteristics of Immigrants

This section deals with the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of immigrants; such as: sex, country of origin, educational attainment and their main economic activity. The analysis will focus on long-term classification of migrants. Data about immigrants was gathered by asking about citizenship of household members. As a result, Lesotho citizens were excluded in this analysis.

Persons from other countries residing in Lesotho were recorded to be 26,373 of which RSA had the greatest proportion of 87.7 percent. Other African countries such as Zimbabwe and Uganda recorded 3.7 and 1.0 percent respectively. Some countries apart from African countries such as India and Other Asia recorded 1.2 and 1.1 percent respectively.

Table 13.5: Percentage Distribution of Immigrants by Country of Birth, 2021 LDS

Country of Birth	Male	Female	Total
RSA	81.6	93.0	87.7
Swaziland	0.2	0.4	0.3
Botswana	0.0	0.2	0.1
Zimbabwe	5.9	1.7	3.7
Zambia	0.3	1.2	0.8
Mozambique	0.8	0.4	0.6
Malawi	1.1	0.6	0.8
DRC	0.9	0.3	0.6
Nigeria	1.3	0.0	0.6
Ghana	0.2	0.0	0.1
Kenya	0.3	0.0	0.1
Uganda	1.5	0.5	1.0
Other Africa	1.3	0.6	0.9
China	0.1	0.7	0.4
Other Asia	2.4	0.0	1.1
India	2.1	0.4	1.2
Total	12,329	14,044	26,373

Table 13.6 demonstrate the percentage distribution of immigrants by country of origin for long-term migration. The dominant proportion of immigrants originated from the RSA accounting for 85.4 percent regardless of sex. Immigrants from Botswana and China recorded the least proportion for males and Other Asia recorded the least for females.

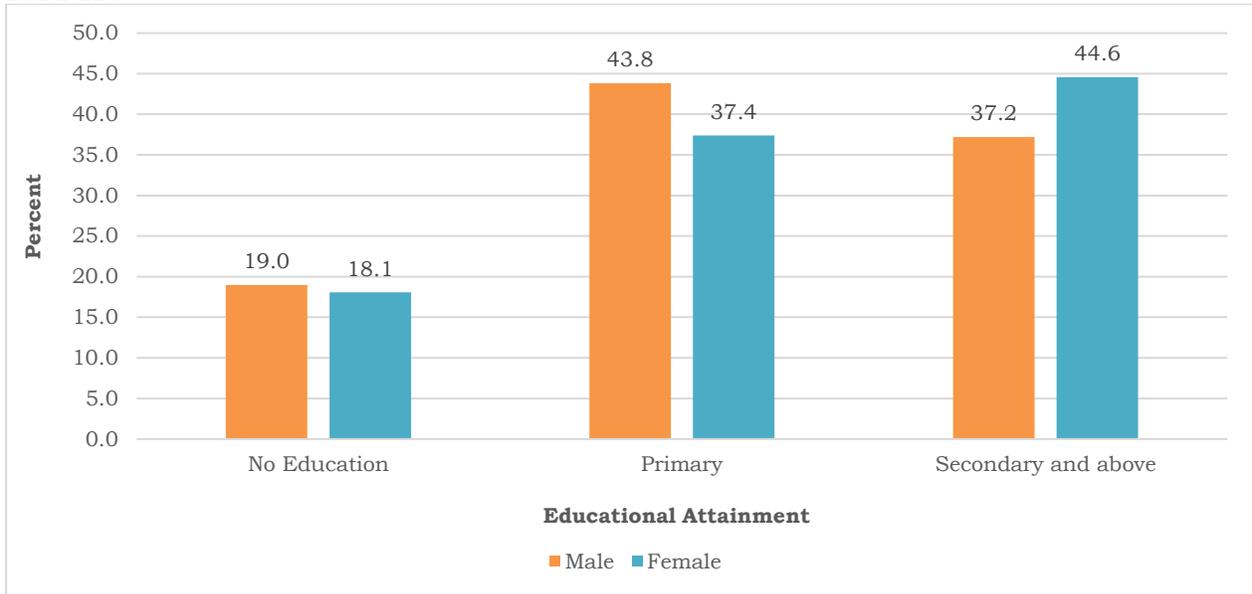
Table 13.6: Percentage Distribution of Long-Term Immigrants by Country of Origin and Sex, 2021 LDS

Country of Birth	Male	Female	Total
RSA	78.6	91.3	85.4
Swaziland	0.4	0.2	0.3
Botswana	0.0	0.2	0.1
Zimbabwe	5.1	2.2	3.5
Mozambique	1.7	0.9	1.3
Malawi	1.9	1.2	1.5
DRC	1.3	0.7	1.0
Nigeria	1.9	0.0	0.9
Uganda	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other Africa	2.2	1.3	1.7
China	0.3	0.2	0.2
Other Asia	1.5	0.0	0.7
India	4.0	0.8	2.3
Total	5,765	6,755	12,520

The propensity to migrate is often associated with the highest level of educational attainment. This may be due to greater access to information or accessibility of job

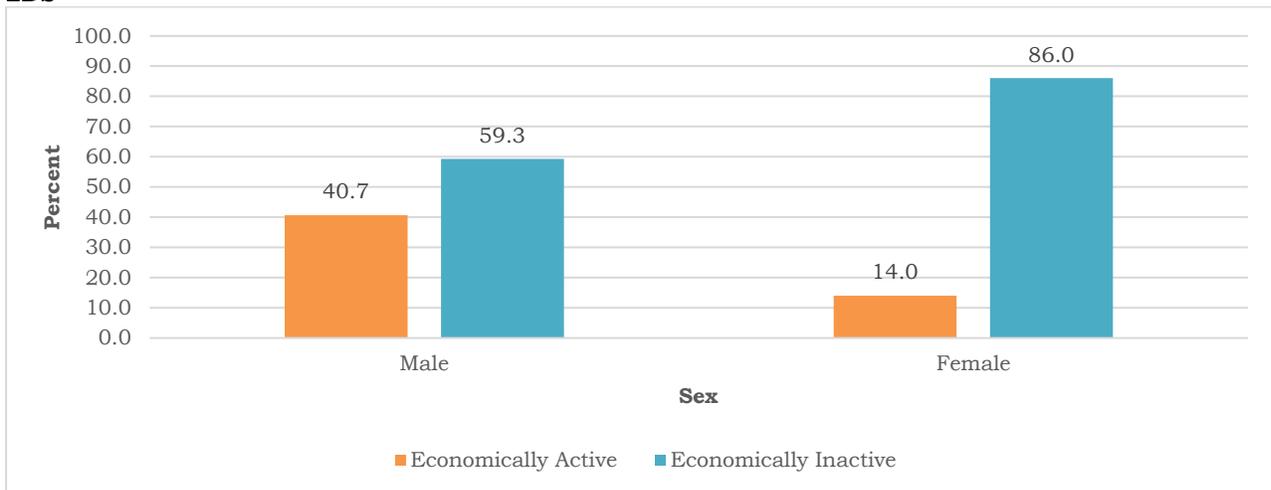
opportunities. Figure 13.4 presents the proportion of migrants inside the country by their educational attainment and sex. According to this graph, immigration was more prevalent among female immigrants who had attained primary with 43.8 percent. Males who had secondary and above accounted for 44.6 percent.

Figure 13.4: Percentage Distribution of Long-term Immigrants by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2021 LDS



The percentage distribution of economically active and inactive persons from other countries who are living in this country is illustrated in Figure 13.5. Of all female immigrants about 14.0 percent of them were economically active. In general, when comparing economically active and inactive for males 59.3 percent were inactive. Contrarily, there is a wide gap for females with the economically inactive category highly represented.

Figure 13.5: Percentage Distribution of Long-term Immigrants by Economic Activity and Sex, 2021 LDS



13.3 Citizenship of Immigrants

Information on immigrants was collected on the citizenship of non-citizens living in Lesotho. Table 13.7 presents the percentage distribution of immigrants by citizenship and sex. There were 8,808 immigrants at the time of the survey. The top five reported countries of citizenship were RSA, Zimbabwe, Malawi, India, and Zambia. A large proportion of immigrants originating from RSA were dominated by females comprising 72.5 percent with Zambia recording the second highest with 5.8 percent. The male citizens of Zimbabwe followed those of RSA with 16.3 percent. The least represented country is Botswana with only 0.2 percent for both sexes.

Table 13.7: Percentage Distribution of Immigrants by Citizenship and Sex, 2021 LDS

Country	Male	Female	Total
RSA	55.3	72.5	63.4
Swaziland	0.5	2.0	1.2
Botswana	0.4	0.0	0.2
Zimbabwe	16.3	5.7	11.3
Zambia	1.1	5.8	3.3
Mozambique	1.3	1.4	1.3
Malawi	3.5	4.3	3.9
DRC	0.5	1.2	0.8
Nigeria	3.4	0.0	1.8
Kenya	0.7	0.0	0.4
Uganda	1.8	0.0	1.0
Other Africa	3.3	2.1	2.7
China	0.3	2.4	1.3
Other Asia	5.6	0.0	2.9
India	5.5	1.3	3.5
Don't know	0.5	1.4	0.9
Total	4,637	4,171	8,808

13.4 Summary

The number of persons originally from Lesotho residing outside the country were estimated to 166,225, and 18.6 percent of these people were from Leribe district. The migration streams are mostly flooded by males represented by more than 50.0 percent for all districts. RSA was the main destination of emigrants accommodating 98.9 percent and the majority of emigrants were in elementary occupations. Generally, emigration was more dominant among male migrants with primary education. Moreover, female emigrants dominated males in all categories of educational level.

The number of immigrants was estimated at 26,373 and 87.7 percent were from RSA. Immigration was more prevalent among female immigrants who had attained primary with 43.8 percent. Males who had secondary and above accounted for 44.6 percent. In general, when comparing economically active and inactive for males, 59.3 percent were inactive. However, there is a wide gap for females with economically inactive category highly represented.

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