



Kingdom of Lesotho



**Statistical Report
No. 21: 2021**

Vital Statistics Report – Births and Deaths 2020



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Mission: To coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) and produce accurate, timely and reliable culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence-based planning, decision making, research, policy, program formulation and monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the needs of users and producers.

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1.0 Introduction

Vital Statistics System is the total process of; (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events. This also includes characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analyzing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form (United Nations, 1998). In Lesotho, vital events that are collected by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) for compilation are births, deaths, marriages and divorces. The main source of vital statistics for deaths and births are records of vital events from the custodian of civil registration which is the Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety (MoHAPS).

Civil registration is the system developed by countries in which a continuous and complete record of births, deaths and the marital status of the entire nation are kept. Civil registration plays a vital role in monitoring the number of reported births that occur by sex and ensures the legal protection to the people of any country coupled with the social and economic development of the nation through creation of a permanent demographic database (United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), 2015).

The current Act of Births and Deaths registration of 1973 stipulates that every person is enforced and obliged to register a birth or a death at the earliest time possible, to meet the requirements and objectives of the vital events data collection. However, there are other events that are still not reported hence the report reflects only reported events.

Vital Registration statistics serves many needs including recording of the facts associated with births, deaths, marriages, divorces and related vital occurrences. The basic facts about each vital event are of importance to the individuals involved as well as to their Governments and other organizations in their societies. Additionally, these events are of great value both to Government and to its citizens and noncitizen residents. For individuals, vital records provide legal proof of identity, civil status, age and citizenship, upon which a variety of rights depend. Vital statistics of births were provided by the chiefs but the statistics were often not reliable. Hence, the alternative measures were taken into consideration in order to contribute to the improvement of the lives of Basotho through timely provision of reliable data for development planning.

1.1 Method of Collecting Births and Deaths Data

The incidence of birth or death was normally reported to the village chief who would then fill the forms with the assistance of the responsible family member. There were some problems encountered in using this system, therefore, during the year 2010, the BOS in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship which was the custodian of births and deaths then, and the Ministry of Health and Social

Welfare, adopted a new method of recording births of children aged less than one year at the clinics and hospitals. For this activity, the BOS engaged clerical staff mainly for collection of birth forms and data entry in Maseru district whereas in other districts, collection of birth was done by the BOS field staff responsible for data collection. A lot of work regarding data collection was done at district level and that posed a challenge in collecting birth statistics which was done every day at hospitals and clinics. Following an initiative by the Government of Lesotho to reallocate the task of civil registration from the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs (MoLGCA) to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety (MoHAPS) under the department of National Identity and Civil Registration (NICR) in 2011, there have been some changes in the system. However, the BOS still remains the principal agency responsible for compilation of official statistics including vital statistics.

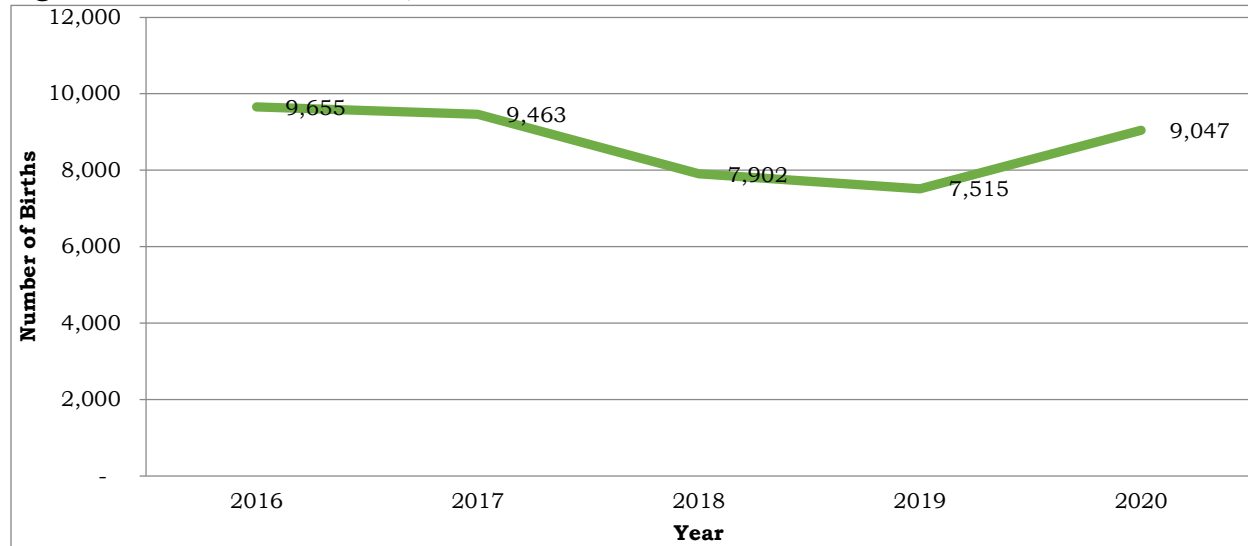
The MoHAPS registers among other vital events; births, deaths and marriages but this report is confined to statistics on births and deaths only. The 2020 report reflects information generated in the new system where data is readily available for analysis in electronic form as opposed to what used to be the case where information was manually extracted from the forms by BOS data entry clerks.

1.2 Live Birth

A live birth is defined as a complete expulsion, of a product from its mother's conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation breathes or shows any evidence of life, such as breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached: each product of such is considered live-born (Shryock, Siegel and Larmon, 1976).

Figure 1 shows the number of live births by year of occurrence. It shows a downward trend in the number of births registered from 2016 to 2019 and then an increase is observed from 7,515 to 9,047 births in 2020.

Figure 1: Number of Live Births, 2016-2020



The sex ratio of birth registrations is defined as the number of male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. The natural sex ratio at birth is often considered to be around 105. This means that at birth on average there are 105 males for every 100 females. A ratio of less than 100 indicates relatively more female births than male births and a number above 100 indicates more male than female births.

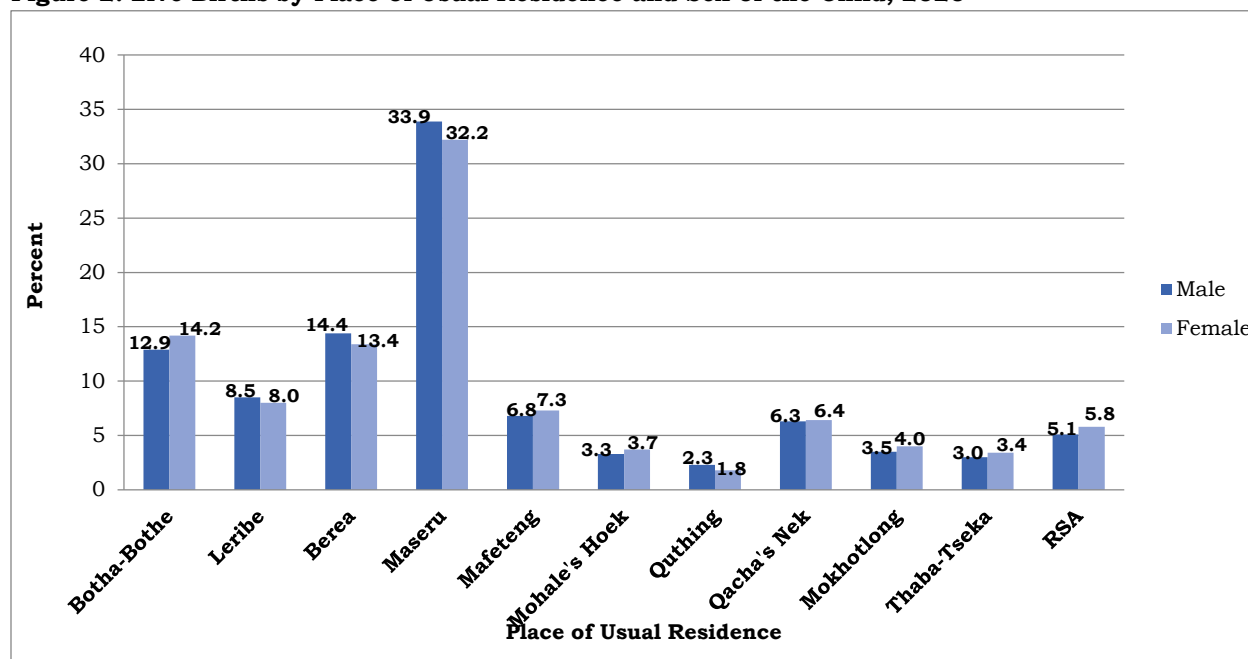
Sex ratio was less than one (1) in all districts except Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Quthing and this indicates that there were more registered female live births as opposed to males. Quthing had the highest sex ratio at registration with 1.28 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations while the least sex ratio at registration was observed in Mokhotlong with 0.86 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. The table further shows that generally there were 0.98 males registered across the country per 100 females.

Table 1: Number of Live Births by District and Sex ratio, 2020

District	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
Botha-Bothe	576	647	0.89
Leribe	380	365	1.04
Berea	645	610	1.06
Maseru	1,517	1,469	1.03
Mafeteng	306	335	0.91
Mohale's Hoek	149	168	0.89
Quthing	105	82	1.28
Qacha's Nek	283	291	0.97
Mokhotlong	155	181	0.86
Thaba-Tseka	136	156	0.87
RSA	228	263	0.87
Total	4,480	4,567	0.98

Figure 2 shows percentage distribution of live births by place of usual residence and sex of the child. The figure shows that Maseru district had the highest percentages of live births for both male and female children recording 33.9 and 32.2 respectively. The graph presentation further shows that, Quthing district had the least proportions of births for both males (2.3) and females (1.8) than any other district. The Republic of South Africa had 5.1 and 5.8 percent of male and female live births accordingly. It is noticed from the graph that all live births that occurred in 2020 were below 15 percent irrespective of gender except for Maseru.

Figure 2: Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Sex of the Child, 2020



Distribution of live births by place of occurrence and sex of the child is illustrated in Table 2. According to this table, most of live births occurred in health facilities with 90.9 percent while least proportions of live births occurring at home with 9.1. Generally, there were more female births than males with 4,567 and 4,480 respectively.

Table 2: Live Births by Place of Occurrence and Sex of the Child, 2020

Place of Occurrence	Male	Female	Total
Health Facility	90.5	91.3	90.9
Home	9.5	8.7	9.1
Total	4,480	4,567	9,047

Figure 3 represents distribution of live births by place of usual residence and place of occurrence. The figure indicates that Maseru had more live births that occurred in both health facilities and at home with 34.6 and 17.1 percent as opposed to other districts. Quthing and Republic of South Africa had the least proportions of live births that occurred at health facilities and home with 1.9 and 2.1 respectively.

Figure 3: Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Place of Occurrence, 2020

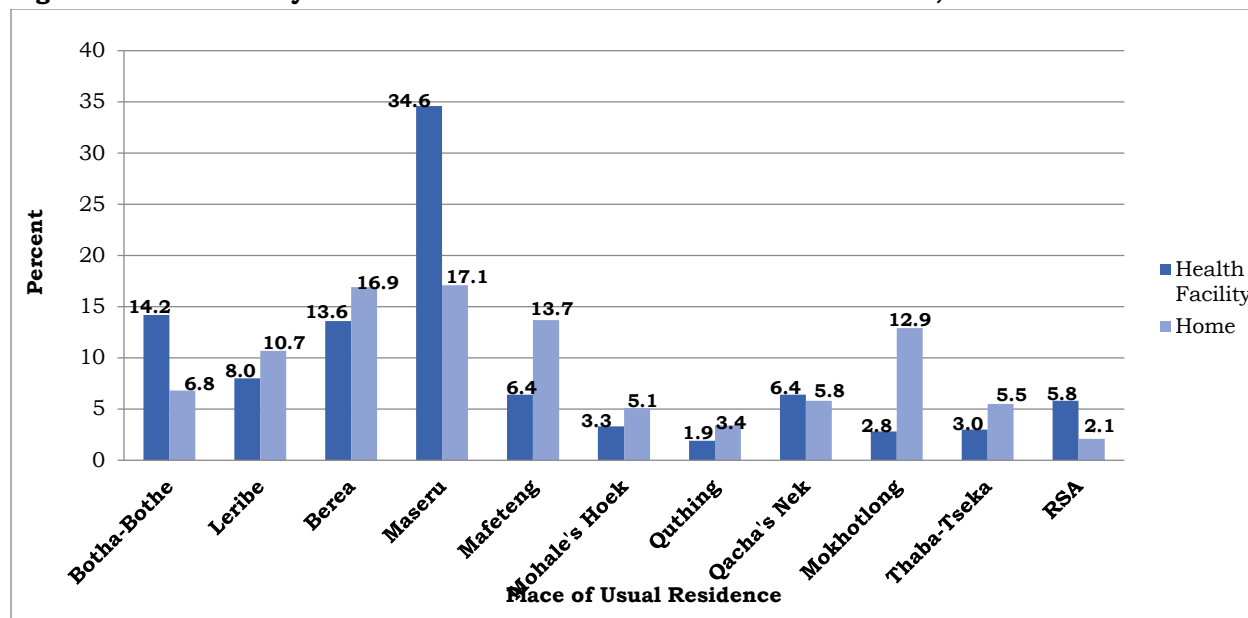
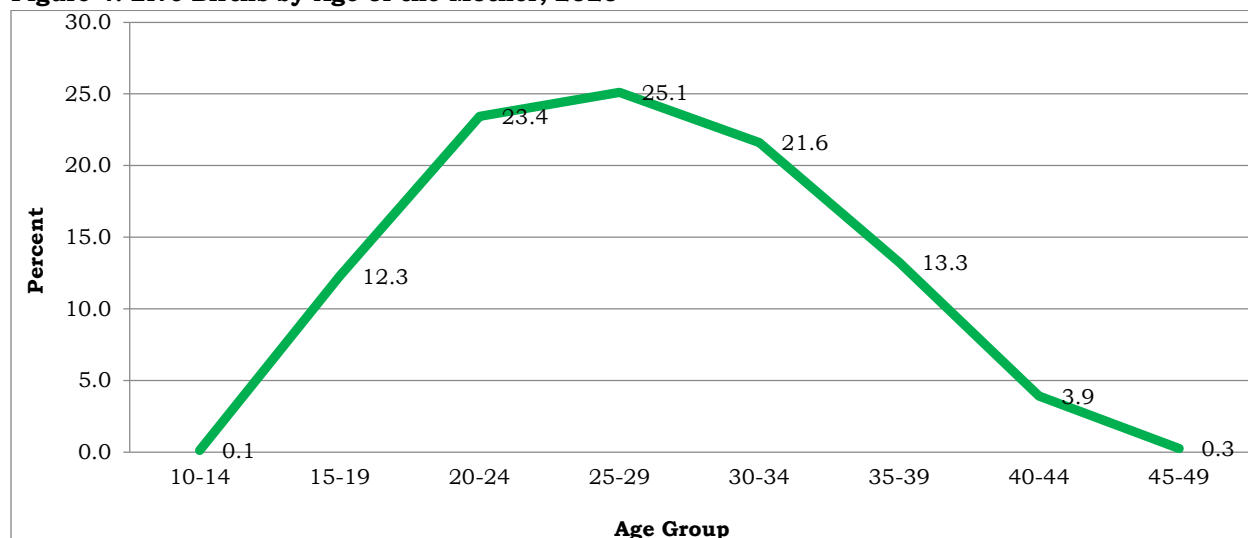


Figure 4 presents distribution of live births by age of the mother. The percentage of mothers with live births increased from age 10 to 14 years with 0.1 until they reached a peak at age 25 to 29 years with 25.1 percent. Thereafter, live births began to decline gradually with an increase in age until they reached 0.3 percent at age 45 to 49 years.

Figure 4: Live Births by Age of the Mother, 2020



The distribution of live births by place of usual residence and age group is illustrated in Table 3. The table shows that there were no live births in Mochale's Hoek, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and RSA for age group 10 to 14 years. Generally, Maseru had highest proportion of live births for all ages with 33.0 while Quthing had the least proportion of live births with 2.1.

Table 3: Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Age Group, 2020

Place of Usual Residence	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Total
Botha-Bothe	33.3	18.5	16.2	13.3	10.7	10.9	7.0	4.2	13.5
Leribe	8.3	6.2	7.6	7.8	10.1	8.8	9.3	4.2	8.2
Berea	8.3	15.3	14.8	14.0	13.2	12.5	12.4	4.2	13.9
Maseru	8.3	20.9	28.5	35.6	38.4	38.7	34.1	20.8	33.0
Mafeteng	25.0	9.6	8.3	6.1	5.5	6.3	7.6	16.7	7.1
Mochale's Hoek	0.0	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.8	4.8	8.3	3.5
Quthing	8.3	2.6	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.9	4.5	8.3	2.1
Qacha's Nek	8.3	12.3	7.6	5.4	4.0	4.0	6.2	12.5	6.3
Mokhotlong	0.0	4.6	4.4	3.4	3.3	2.9	3.9	4.2	3.7
Thaba-Tseka	0.0	3.6	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.6	3.9	12.5	3.2
RSA	0.0	2.8	4.1	5.9	7.1	6.5	6.2	4.2	5.4
Total	12	1,111	2,121	2,271	1,954	1,199	355	24	9,047

Table 4 presents distribution of live births by marital status, age group and district of the mother. The marital status recorded for 2020 was categorized into four types, namely; civil marriage, customary marriage, married by alteration, and single. Most of the women with the marital status of customary marriage and single had children at age group 20 to 24 years with respective percentages of 29.4 and 31.4. As for women who were in civil marriage, most had children at age group 25 to 29 years with 37.1 percent while most of women who were married by alteration had their children at age group 30 to 34 years recording 29.0 percent. Maseru had the highest numbers of mothers who were in marital status of civil marriage, married by alteration and single. In general, there were no children born in age group 10 to 14 for marital status of civil and married by alteration.

Table 4: Live Births by Marital Status, Age Group and District, 2020

	Botha- Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba- Tseka	RSA	Total
Civil marriage												
10-14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.6
20-24	20.0	20.0	10.0	6.4	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	25.0	0.0	7.9
25-29	40.0	30.0	40.0	39.9	0.0	33.3	0.0	55.6	16.7	0.0	31.6	37.1
30-34	10.0	30.0	27.5	36.9	62.5	66.7	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	26.3	35.1
35-39	30.0	20.0	22.5	15.9	25.0	0.0	100.0	22.2	0.0	12.5	15.8	17.0
40-44	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	26.3	2.3
45-49	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	10	10	40	233	8	9	1	9	6	8	19	353
Customary Marriage												
10-14	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
15-19	17.2	23.4	31.6	17.1	24.1	11.1	35.7	27.0	28.3	24.7	8.3	20.0
20-24	30.7	29.8	21.1	27.9	34.5	33.3	14.3	27.7	40.0	24.7	20.8	29.4
25-29	23.7	21.3	22.4	20.2	22.4	27.8	0.0	25.5	13.3	21.9	12.5	22.3
30-34	17.3	21.3	14.5	20.2	12.1	16.7	21.4	11.3	13.3	9.6	10.4	16.0
35-39	9.2	4.3	7.9	12.4	5.2	11.1	7.1	5.7	3.3	17.8	41.7	10.0
40-44	1.3	0.0	2.6	2.3	1.7	0.0	14.3	2.8	1.7	1.4	6.3	1.9
45-49	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	784	47	76	129	58	18	14	141	60	73	48	1,448
Married by Alteration												
10-14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	4.5	3.5	7.3	1.4	8.2	2.1	0.0	7.2	2.9	0.7	1.8	3.9
20-24	12.6	11.5	21.3	10.3	26.3	7.9	15.5	15.7	16.3	15.8	5.5	14.8
25-29	30.2	24.9	26.0	23.6	22.8	33.6	19.7	24.8	30.2	23.0	28.5	25.4
30-34	25.1	33.7	25.2	32.1	20.2	24.3	25.4	26.8	26.2	32.4	43.6	29.0
35-39	21.6	20.2	15.0	24.8	16.1	22.9	22.5	15.7	16.9	17.3	16.4	19.8
40-44	5.5	6.2	5.1	7.4	5.6	7.9	15.5	8.5	7.0	8.6	3.6	6.6
45-49	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.6	2.2	0.6	0.5
Total	199	401	742	1,130	342	140	71	153	172	139	165	3,654
Single												
10-14	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
15-19	27.0	15.3	23.2	13.0	27.9	22.7	23.8	32.1	29.6	27.8	8.9	18.8
20-24	32.6	34.5	34.0	29.3	28.3	31.3	35.6	36.5	40.8	34.7	26.4	31.4
25-29	23.0	22.3	23.2	28.3	20.6	24.0	22.8	16.2	16.3	22.2	28.7	24.8
30-34	10.0	17.1	12.3	18.4	11.6	10.7	8.9	7.7	8.2	6.9	22.1	15.0
35-39	5.7	7.3	6.0	8.8	6.9	7.3	5.0	5.2	4.1	6.9	10.9	7.6
40-44	1.7	2.8	1.0	2.1	3.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	1.0	1.4	3.1	2.2
45-49	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	230	287	397	1,493	233	150	101	271	98	72	258	3,590

Table 5 presents the live births by month and district of occurrence. The table indicates that most deliveries occurred in January and December estimated both at 9.9 percent. The deliveries at health facility occurred mostly in December and those delivered at home were mostly in May with 10.2 and 10.3 correspondingly. The table further shows that the least proportions of deliveries that occurred at health facility were in July with a record of 6.3 while home deliveries recorded 6.8 in June. Maseru

had the highest number of live births born in health facilities and at home recording 2,845 and 141 births respectively.

Table 5: Live Births by Month and District of Birth, 2020

Month	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	RSA	Total
Health Facility												
January	10.8	10.7	8.2	10.8	4.9	14.5	13.2	7.8	9.1	6.5	14.3	10.1
February	10.8	8.2	6.6	8.6	5.9	9.8	6.3	4.9	6.1	12.6	11.2	8.4
March	9.2	10.0	9.5	9.1	11.4	8.4	6.9	6.8	10.4	9.7	10.1	9.3
April	4.1	9.1	10.2	6.2	7.8	8.0	10.1	6.5	10.4	8.1	9.1	7.3
May	5.9	8.4	7.7	7.3	10.0	6.2	6.3	9.5	12.2	10.1	6.3	7.7
June	9.7	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.3	11.3	8.0	7.8	6.1	7.4	8.1
July	4.4	6.2	9.1	6.2	4.9	7.3	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.3	8.0	6.3
August	5.1	9.7	4.7	6.3	7.6	8.0	5.7	8.6	4.8	11.3	6.8	6.6
September	10.2	8.1	9.6	7.7	12.3	10.9	10.7	12.5	10.4	8.1	7.8	9.2
October	10.9	5.8	7.5	7.2	7.8	7.3	10.7	10.5	11.3	4.5	6.5	8.0
November	9.2	8.1	6.2	10.6	10.0	7.6	7.5	10.8	6.1	4.5	8.0	8.9
December	9.8	7.6	12.5	12.3	10.0	4.7	5.0	8.4	5.7	13.4	4.4	10.2
Total	1,167	657	1,116	2,845	528	275	159	526	230	247	474	8,224
Home												
January	14.3	15.9	1.4	9.9	8.0	4.8	3.6	12.5	7.5	11.1	0.0	8.4
February	10.7	13.6	8.6	9.2	6.2	16.7	3.6	4.2	5.7	11.1	5.9	8.7
March	8.9	5.7	6.5	4.3	6.2	9.5	14.3	10.4	8.5	13.3	5.9	7.4
April	14.3	9.1	7.9	12.1	8.8	14.3	7.1	2.1	3.8	13.3	5.9	9.0
May	8.9	13.6	9.4	9.2	12.4	2.4	7.1	10.4	14.2	6.7	11.8	10.3
June	7.1	5.7	6.5	5.0	9.7	2.4	14.3	4.2	5.7	13.3	5.9	6.8
July	8.9	4.5	7.9	4.3	8.0	4.8	10.7	10.4	8.5	6.7	5.9	7.0
August	5.4	3.4	9.4	9.2	7.1	11.9	7.1	4.2	7.5	2.2	11.8	7.3
September	1.8	8.0	5.8	10.6	14.2	9.5	14.3	16.7	9.4	6.7	5.9	9.4
October	5.4	8.0	9.4	10.6	10.6	4.8	7.1	14.6	9.4	2.2	11.8	9.0
November	3.6	5.7	14.4	8.5	4.4	11.9	7.1	8.3	11.3	8.9	23.5	9.1
December	10.7	6.8	12.9	7.1	4.4	7.1	3.6	2.1	8.5	4.4	5.9	7.5
Total	56	88	139	141	113	42	28	48	106	45	17	823
Total												
January	11.0	11.3	7.4	10.8	5.5	13.2	11.8	8.2	8.6	7.2	13.8	9.9
February	10.8	8.9	6.9	8.7	5.9	10.7	5.9	4.9	6.0	12.3	11.0	8.4
March	9.2	9.5	9.2	8.9	10.5	8.5	8.0	7.1	9.8	10.3	10.0	9.1
April	4.6	9.1	10.0	6.4	8.0	8.8	9.6	6.1	8.3	8.9	9.0	7.4
May	6.1	9.0	7.9	7.4	10.5	5.7	6.4	9.6	12.8	9.6	6.5	7.9
June	9.6	7.8	8.0	7.6	7.8	6.6	11.8	7.7	7.1	7.2	7.3	8.0
July	4.6	6.0	8.9	6.1	5.5	6.9	7.0	6.1	6.5	5.5	7.9	6.4
August	5.2	9.0	5.3	6.4	7.5	8.5	5.9	8.2	5.7	9.9	6.9	6.7
September	9.8	8.1	9.2	7.8	12.6	10.7	11.2	12.9	10.1	7.9	7.7	9.2
October	10.6	6.0	7.7	7.4	8.3	6.9	10.2	10.8	10.7	4.1	6.7	8.1
November	8.9	7.8	7.1	10.5	9.0	8.2	7.5	10.6	7.7	5.1	8.6	9.0
December	9.8	7.5	12.5	12.0	9.0	5.0	4.8	7.8	6.5	12.0	4.5	9.9
Total	1,223	745	1,255	2,986	641	317	187	574	336	292	491	9,047

1.3 Reported Deaths

According to the United Nations (UN, 2003) definition, a death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (postnatal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation). This definition therefore excludes foetal deaths. Despite certain limitations of mortality data, the official mortality statistics derived from death records are used widely for demographic studies and in public health programs. Death statistics can be used as indicators of health and for the assessment of health programs, and as well as measures of the magnitude of health problems. The death record can also be used for clearing files such as social security files, electoral lists, bank accounts, missing person's files, etc. They also assist in providing a proof of death for burial such as for the settlement of life insurance and social insurance claims.

Death is a vital event and as such should be recorded to monitor the levels of mortality as one of the three components of population change and to monitor whether or not the health system of the country is improving. Reported events occurring within districts determine the rate of recording as well as to measure the force of mortality at sub national level. This section therefore, deals with reported deaths that occurred across the country in 2020.

Figure 5 presents number of deaths by year of occurrence. Number of deaths decreased from the year 2016 to 2018 and they reached a peak in 2019 recording 13,494 deaths. The decline was again noticed at 13,268 in 2020.

Figure 5: Number of Deaths, 2016-2020

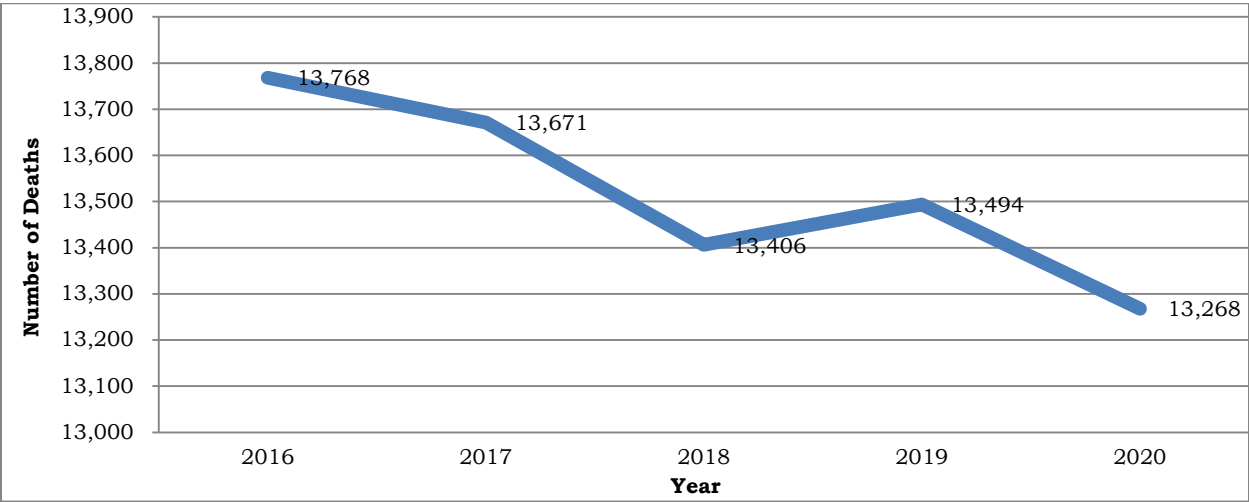


Figure 6 demonstrates distribution of deaths by place of usual residence and sex of the deceased. The figure displays that Maseru experienced higher proportions of deaths for both males and females with 27.8 and 29.9 respectively. Qacha's Nek had

the least proportions of reported deaths for males recording 2.4 and females were least observed in Mokhotlong with the same proportion of 2.4. In general, Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Berea, Mokhotlong and RSA had reported more male deaths than female deaths while Mohale`s Hoek had equivalent proportions of deaths for both males and females with 7.2.

Figure 6: Deaths by Place of Usual Residence and Sex of the Deceased, 2020

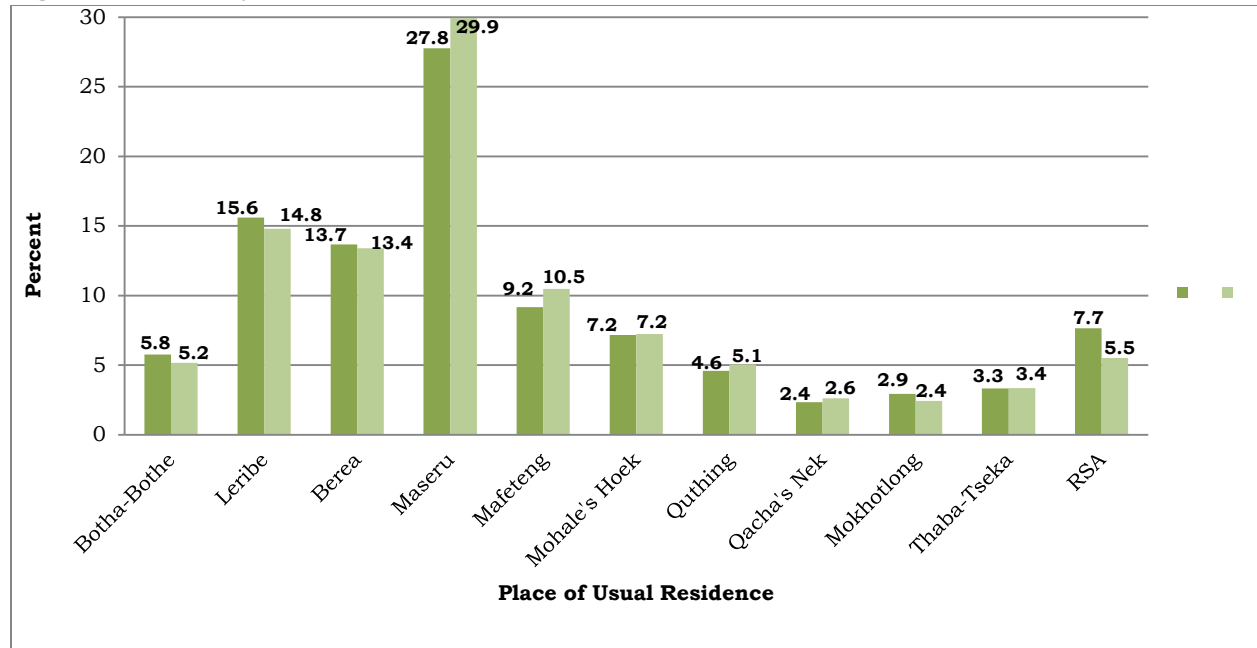


Table 6 shows percentage distribution of deaths by month of reporting and sex of the deceased. The proportions of reported male deaths exceeded that of females in all months except in April, May, June, August and October. July had the highest number of reported deaths as opposed to other months with a record of 1,308 while April had the least number of deaths recording 889. The general observation is that there were more male deaths than females with 50.6 and 49.4 percent correspondingly.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of Deaths by Month and Sex of the Deceased, 2020

Month	Male	Female	Total
January	53.3	46.7	1,164
February	50.9	49.1	998
March	50	50	1,092
April	46.8	53.2	889
May	48.4	51.6	1,054
June	47.9	52.1	1,091
July	51.8	48.2	1,308
August	49.5	50.5	1,195
September	53.7	46.3	1,069
October	47.1	52.9	1,077
November	50.8	49.2	1,054
December	55.4	44.6	1,277
Total	50.6	49.4	13,268

The distribution of deaths by age group and marital status of the deceased is illustrated in Table 7. Males who were single recorded the highest number of deaths with 6,108 while the least number of deaths was observed in males who were divorced recording 5. Regarding females, most of the reported deaths were observed in those who were married by alteration with 4,326 deaths while the least number of deaths was observed in divorced females with a record of 6 deaths. In general, most deaths were for both males and females at age 75 and above with 1,487 and 2,514 deaths respectively.

Table 7: Deaths by Age group and Marital Status, 2020

Age Group	Civil Married	Customary Married	Divorced	Married by Alteration	Single	Widowed	Total
Male							
00-04	0	2	0	0	148	3	153
05-09	0	0	0	0	45	0	45
10-14	0	2	0	0	56	0	58
15-19	0	2	0	1	82	2	87
20-24	0	2	0	0	171	4	177
25-29	2	18	0	1	305	8	334
30-34	5	55	0	1	410	8	479
35-39	4	50	0	1	465	11	531
40-44	5	37	1	3	409	14	469
45-49	4	34	2	3	321	11	375
50-54	5	46	0	0	360	11	422
55-59	3	33	1	2	425	12	476
60-69	6	37	0	3	470	9	525
70-74	1	27	0	1	519	11	559
75-79	0	22	0	4	504	8	538
75+	5	30	1	5	1418	28	1,487
Total	40	397	5	25	6,108	140	6,715
Female							
00-04	0	1	0	0	115	1	117
05-09	0	0	0	2	34	0	36
10-14	0	2	0	13	43	0	58
15-19	0	7	0	1	48	2	58
20-24	0	8	1	6	94	0	109
25-29	4	12	0	31	129	6	182
30-34	3	24	1	99	197	8	332
35-39	7	25	0	144	201	10	387
40-44	3	32	1	178	163	13	390
45-49	1	17	0	193	96	9	316
50-54	1	15	0	215	61	12	304
55-59	2	16	0	222	72	18	330
60-69	0	21	2	320	76	21	440
70-74	0	25	0	358	65	25	473
75-79	0	11	1	407	72	16	507
75+	0	57	0	2137	217	103	2,514
Total	21	273	6	4,326	1,683	244	6,553

Distribution of deaths by age group and district is presented in Table 8. Amongst males, more deaths were observed at the age of 75 and above with a record of 1,487 while the least deaths were experienced at age 5 to 9 recording 45. The same pattern was observed in females whereby the highest number of deaths was observed at age 75 and above with a record of 2, 514 and the least number was 36 at age 5 to 9. Amongst all male deaths, Qacha`s Nek reported the least number of deaths recording 158 while Maseru reported the highest number of male deaths with 1,864. For females, Maseru recorded the highest number of deaths with a record of 1,961 while Mokhotlong recorded the least number of deaths with a record of 160. In general, there were more male deaths than females' with the records of 6, 715 and 6, 553 respectively.

Table 8: Deaths by Age Group and Districts, 2020

Age Group	Botha - Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	RSA	Total
Male												
0-04	6	21	19	69	15	7	4	1	4	6	1	153
09-10	3	8	6	10	7	1	3	3	2	0	2	45
0-14	3	12	10	16	8	3	1	2	0	2	1	58
15-19	5	15	6	21	12	8	2	4	2	5	7	87
20-24	8	20	25	68	11	5	2	2	4	4	28	177
25-29	15	46	38	97	26	15	4	2	5	7	79	334
30-34	22	64	71	128	30	27	10	8	16	13	90	479
35-39	23	78	71	140	36	25	26	12	18	18	84	531
40-44	30	71	56	144	33	23	12	10	12	20	58	469
45-49	20	45	53	115	24	30	13	8	16	11	40	375
50-54	20	59	57	128	34	38	23	11	11	13	28	422
55-59	25	79	68	123	41	39	26	12	15	6	42	476
60-69	36	83	59	161	52	32	32	22	13	13	22	525
70-74	33	81	81	154	66	48	35	12	16	19	14	559
75-79	35	106	93	119	67	42	24	10	17	17	8	538
75+	103	259	205	371	153	139	91	39	47	70	10	1,487
Total	387	1,047	918	1,864	615	482	308	158	198	224	514	6,715
Female												
00-04	6	14	16	41	10	12	3	6	4	4	1	117
09-10	5	8	3	5	4	6	1	2	0	2	0	36
11-14	5	12	6	17	6	5	4	0	0	3	0	58
15-19	0	15	6	15	7	8	3	0	1	0	3	58
20-24	1	10	18	36	13	7	5	4	4	1	10	109
25-29	9	21	16	68	20	11	8	5	3	5	16	182
30-34	17	37	42	104	30	26	12	6	6	17	35	332
35-39	21	55	54	118	35	21	7	9	3	11	53	387
40-44	13	60	50	116	33	21	22	4	9	15	47	390
45-49	16	53	28	93	35	17	12	8	5	9	40	316
50-54	17	42	33	90	24	21	14	15	8	10	30	304
55-59	14	49	44	101	31	23	19	7	5	6	31	330
60-69	23	63	59	146	52	26	19	8	13	8	23	440
70-74	25	57	57	170	54	30	32	8	13	10	17	473
75-79	28	84	76	159	51	37	20	7	14	13	18	507
75+	139	390	370	682	282	203	150	83	72	106	37	2,514
Total	339	970	878	1,961	687	474	331	172	160	220	361	6,553

Table 9 shows the number and percentages of deaths by relationship to the person reporting the deaths of the deceased. Deaths reported by other relative of the deceased were highest amongst the reported deaths recording 3,001 while the least number of deaths were reported by guardian with a record of 2 cases.

Table 9: Number and Percentage of Deaths by Relationship to the Person Reporting, 2020

Relationship	Number of Deaths	Percent
Aunt	204	1.5
Brother	1,622	12.2
Daughter	1,737	13.1
Father	558	4.2
Grandfather	98	0.7
Grandmother	137	1
Guardian	2	0
Husband	546	4.1
Mother	511	3.9
Neighbour	21	0.2
Not related	35	0.3
Other relative	3,001	22.6
Sister	830	6.3
Social institution	13	0.1
Son	2,961	22.3
Supervisor	3	0
Uncle	373	2.8
Wife	616	4.6
Total	13,268	100.0

1.4 Completeness and Definitions

Estimation of completeness rates

There are two approaches to estimating the completeness of civil registration: direct and indirect methods. The Indirect methods include comparisons with data from other sources or other time periods, such as censuses and surveys (United Nations, 2015) and therefore the latter will be adopted in this report.

The completeness rate is defined as the percentage of registered events of the total number of events. The number of registered events is the number recorded by the civil registration system, whereas the number of actual events has to be estimated on the basis of other data sources. Usually, the best source is the most recent population census but the report will estimate completeness using population projections prepared by the Bureau of Statistics.

The completeness of registration of live births and deaths rates are calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Completeness rate for births} &= \frac{\text{Number of registered births within the year of occurrence} \times 100}{\text{Estimated number of live births within the year}} \\ &= \frac{9,047 \times 100}{50,969} \\ &= 17.8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Completeness rate for deaths} &= \frac{\text{Number of registered deaths within the year of occurrence} \times 100}{\text{Estimated number of live deaths within the year}} \\ &= \frac{13,268 \times 100}{24,232} \\ &= 54.5 \end{aligned}$$

Completeness

The completeness rates of birth and death registration at the national and subnational levels is presented mostly for two reasons:

- The rates alert the users to discrepancies in completeness and provide a caution in the interpretation of statistics that are presented throughout the report
- They provide an objective baseline that can be used to measure and evaluate future progress in completeness

It is particularly important to include estimates of the proportion of the total number of births (and deaths) that are registered in the country and in each region and local administration. These proportions are essential indicators of civil registration completeness. If the proportions are low, the vital statistics based on registrations become less useful for planning.

Completeness by Districts

Table 10: Number and Share of Registered Live Births by Districts, 2020

District	Number of Live Births Registered	Share of Live Births Registered
Botha-Bothe	1,223	13.5
Leribe	745	8.2
Berea	1,255	13.9
Maseru	2,986	33
Mafeteng	641	7.1
Mohale's Hoek	317	3.5
Quthing	187	2.1
Qacha's Nek	574	6.3
Mokhotlong	336	3.7
Thaba-Tseka	292	3.2
RSA	491	5.4
Total	9,047	100.0

Definitions and Specifications

- **Birth** is the act or process of bearing or bringing forth a child or children/ offspring
- **Live birth** is complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of product of conception, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, which after such a separation, breathes or shows any other signs of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles.
- **Death** is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (postnatal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation)
- **Foetal Death** is death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy and which is not induced by termination of pregnancy.
- **Marriage** refers only to civil marriage and solemnized of two opposite sex. Traditional marriages where two families draw agreement are not included.
- **Divorce** is the marital disruption/ separation or the termination of a marriage of married couples of different sex by law

1.5 Summary Table, Challenges and Recommendations

Summary Tables

Table 11: Time series of vital events, 2020

Year	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths
2016	9,655	13,768	17
2017	9,463	13,671	158
2018	7,902	13,406	150
2019	7,515	13,494	180
2020	9,047	13,268	142

Challenges

There were challenges that were encountered throughout the preparation, writing and finalization of this report. The reporting of data from the informants causes problems where some information will not be reported as said or the informant might also misreport. Those entering data might also forget or leave some records unfilled. As a result, production of statistics is not easy due to some data gaps encountered while cleaning data for analysis; other variables are not filled. Lack of human resources for NICR and BOS personnel also poses a challenge where the available staffs need to be capacitated and also recruit for the incoming staff.

The main challenge was due to the comparison of data with previous years because different systems were used for data collection and data entry; the data from CRVS systems was collected from 2014. Moreover, the challenge in writing this report as recommended was compromised because some variables or data that is required is not available hence why the need for the collaboration of the two teams (NICR and BOS). Some calculations such as completeness in chapter 3 were not possible to be done. Some variables had inconsistent data that may have occurred during reporting or data capturing. Also, other variables were left out due to data gaps they had such as occupation of the deceased, citizenship of the father, level of education etc.

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that;

- Data used for the production of vital statistics report must be from civil registration for following guidelines provided by the CRVS workshop for further improvements in the national CRVS systems and also to enable standard comparison within countries
- The CRVS and BOS meet in order to reach a conclusion on the variables as on the CRVS system from the registration forms as opposed to civil registration variables recommended by CRVS experts
- All countries must work together for the success of the CRVS

1.6 Reference

Shryock H. S. et al. (1976). "The Methods and Materials of Demography". Academic Press. New York.

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), (2015). Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission on 3 March 2015.

World Health Organization (2010b of vital statistics (United Nations, 2014, para. 576) UN, 2004)

Annex

Live Births by Year, 2020

Year	Number of Births
2016	9,655
2017	9,463
2018	7,902
2019	7,515
2020	9,047

Number of Live Births by District and Sex ratio, 2020

District	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
Botha-Bothe	576	647	0.89
Leribe	380	365	1.04
Berea	645	610	1.06
Maseru	1,517	1,469	1.03
Mafeteng	306	335	0.91
Mohale's Hoek	149	168	0.89
Quthing	105	82	1.28
Qacha's Nek	283	291	0.97
Mokhotlong	155	181	0.86
Thaba-Tseka	136	156	0.87
RSA	228	263	0.87
Total	4,480	4,567	0.98

Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Sex of the Child, 2020

District	Male	Female
Botha-Bothe	576	647
Leribe	380	365
Berea	645	610
Maseru	1,517	1,469
Mafeteng	306	335
Mohale's Hoek	149	168
Quthing	105	82
Qacha's Nek	283	291
Mokhotlong	155	181
Thaba-Tseka	136	156
RSA	228	263
Total	4,480	4,567

Live Births by Place of Occurrence and Sex of the Child, 2020

Place of Occurrence	Male	Female	Total
Health Facility	4,054	4,170	8,224
Home	426	397	823
Total	4,480	4,567	9,047

Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Place of Occurrence, 2020

District	Health Facility	Home
Botha-Bothe	1,167	56
Leribe	657	88
Berea	1,116	139
Maseru	2,845	141
Mafeteng	528	113
Mohale's Hoek	275	42
Quthing	159	28
Qacha's Nek	526	48
Mokhotlong	230	106
Thaba-Tseka	247	45
RSA	474	17
Total	8,224	823

Live Births by Age of the Mother, 2020

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
10-14	12	0.1
15-19	1,111	12.3
20-24	2,121	23.4
25-29	2,271	25.1
30-34	1,954	21.6
35-39	1,199	13.3
40-44	355	3.9
45-49	24	0.3
Total	9,047	100.0

Live Births by Place of Usual Residence and Age Group, 2020

Place of Usual Residence	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Total
Botha-Bothe	4	206	343	303	210	131	25	1	1,223
Leribe	1	69	161	177	197	106	33	1	745
Berea	1	170	313	318	258	150	44	1	1,255
Maseru	1	232	604	809	750	464	121	5	2,986
Mafeteng	3	107	177	139	108	76	27	4	641
Mohale's Hoek	0	39	64	91	59	45	17	2	317
Quthing	1	29	49	37	30	23	16	2	187
Qacha's Nek	1	137	162	123	78	48	22	3	574
Mokhotlong	0	51	94	77	64	35	14	1	336
Thaba-Tseka	0	40	67	64	61	43	14	3	292
RSA	0	31	87	133	139	78	22	1	491
Total	12	1,111	2,121	2,271	1,954	1,199	355	24	9,047

Live Births by Marital Status, Age Group and District, 2020

	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	RSA	Total
Civil marriage												
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
20-24	2	2	4	15	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	28
25-29	4	3	16	93	0	3	0	5	1	0	6	131
30-34	1	3	11	86	5	6	0	0	3	4	5	124
35-39	3	2	9	37	2	0	1	2	0	1	3	60
40-44	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	8
45-49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	10	40	233	8	9	1	9	6	8	19	353
Customary Marriage												
10-14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
15-19	135	11	24	22	14	2	5	38	17	18	4	290
20-24	241	14	16	36	20	6	2	39	24	18	10	426
5-29	186	10	17	26	13	5	-	36	8	16	6	323
30-34	136	10	11	26	7	3	3	16	8	7	5	232
35-39	72	2	6	16	3	2	1	8	2	13	20	145
40-44	10	0	2	3	1	0	2	4	1	1	3	27
45-49	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	784	47	76	129	58	18	14	141	60	73	48	1,448
Married by Alteration												
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	9	14	54	16	28	3	-	11	5	1	3	144
20-24	25	46	158	116	90	11	11	24	28	22	9	540
25-29	60	100	193	267	78	47	14	38	52	32	47	928
30-34	50	135	187	363	69	34	18	41	45	45	72	1,059
35-39	43	81	111	280	55	32	16	24	29	24	27	722
40-44	11	25	38	84	19	11	11	13	12	12	6	242
45-49	1	0	1	4	3	2	1	2	1	3	1	19
Total	199	401	742	1,130	342	140	71	153	172	139	165	3,654
Single												
10-14	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
15-19	62	44	92	194	65	34	24	87	29	20	23	674
20-24	75	99	135	437	66	47	36	99	40	25	68	1,127
25-29	53	64	92	423	48	36	23	44	16	16	74	889
30-34	23	49	49	274	27	16	9	21	8	5	57	538
35-39	13	21	24	131	16	11	5	14	4	5	28	272
40-44	4	8	4	32	7	6	3	4	1	1	8	78
45-49	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Total	230	287	397	1,493	233	150	101	271	98	72	258	3,590

Live Births by Month and District of Birth, 2020

Month	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	RSA	Total
Health Facility												
January	126	70	91	307	26	40	21	41	21	16	68	827
February	126	54	74	246	31	27	10	26	14	31	53	692
March	107	66	106	260	60	23	11	36	24	24	48	765
April	48	60	114	175	41	22	16	34	24	20	43	597
May	69	55	86	208	53	17	10	50	28	25	30	631
June	113	53	92	219	39	20	18	42	18	15	35	664
July	51	41	101	177	26	20	10	30	13	13	38	520
August	60	64	53	179	40	22	9	45	11	28	32	543
September	119	53	107	218	65	30	17	66	24	20	37	756
October	127	38	84	206	41	20	17	55	26	11	31	656
November	107	53	69	301	53	21	12	57	14	11	38	736
December	114	50	139	349	53	13	8	44	13	33	21	837
Total	1,167	657	1,116	2,845	528	275	159	526	230	247	474	8,224
Home												
January	8	14	2	14	9	2	1	6	8	5	-	69
February	6	12	12	13	7	7	1	2	6	5	1	72
March	5	5	9	6	7	4	4	5	9	6	1	61
April	8	8	11	17	10	6	2	1	4	6	1	74
May	5	12	13	13	14	1	2	5	15	3	2	85
June	4	5	9	7	11	1	4	2	6	6	1	56
July	5	4	11	6	9	2	3	5	9	3	1	58
August	3	3	13	13	8	5	2	2	8	1	2	60
September	1	7	8	15	16	4	4	8	10	3	1	77
October	3	7	13	15	12	2	2	7	10	1	2	74
November	2	5	20	12	5	5	2	4	12	4	4	75
December	6	6	18	10	5	3	1	1	9	2	1	62
Total	56	88	139	141	113	42	28	48	106	45	17	823
Total												
January	134	84	93	321	35	42	22	47	29	21	68	896
February	132	66	86	259	38	34	11	28	20	36	54	764
March	112	71	115	266	67	27	15	41	33	30	49	826
April	56	68	125	192	51	28	18	35	28	26	44	671
May	74	67	99	221	67	18	12	55	43	28	32	716
June	117	58	101	226	50	21	22	44	24	21	36	720
July	56	45	112	183	35	22	13	35	22	16	39	578
August	63	67	66	192	48	27	11	47	19	29	34	603
September	120	60	115	233	81	34	21	74	34	23	38	833
October	130	45	97	221	53	22	19	62	36	12	33	730
November	109	58	89	313	58	26	14	61	26	15	42	811
December	120	56	157	359	58	16	9	45	22	35	22	899
Total	1,223	745	1,255	2,986	641	317	187	574	336	292	491	9,047

Deaths by Year, 2020

Year	Number of Deaths
2016	13,768
2017	13,671
2018	13,406
2019	13,494
2020	13,268

Number of Deaths by Sex of the Deceased, 2020

District	Female	Male	Total
Botha-Bothe	339	387	726
Leribe	970	1,047	2,017
Berea	878	918	1,796
Maseru	1,961	1,864	3,825
Mafeteng	687	615	1,302
Mohale's Hoek	474	482	956
Quthing	331	308	639
Qacha's Nek	172	158	330
Mokhotlong	160	198	358
Thaba-Tseka	220	224	444
RSA	361	514	875
Total	6,553	6,715	13,268

Number and Share of Registered Live Births by Districts, 2020

District	Number of Live Births Registered	Share of Live Births Registered
Botha-Bothe	1,223	13.5
Leribe	745	8.2
Berea	1,255	13.9
Maseru	2,986	33
Mafeteng	641	7.1
Mohale's Hoek	317	3.5
Quthing	187	2.1
Qacha's Nek	574	6.3
Mokhotlong	336	3.7
Thaba-Tseka	292	3.2
RSA	491	5.4
Total	9,047	100.0

Deaths by Age group and Marital Status, 2020

Age Group	Civil Married	Customary Married	Divorced	Married by Alteration	Single	Widowed	Total
Male							
00-04	0	2	0	0	148	3	153
05-09	0	0	0	0	45	0	45
10-14	0	2	0	0	56	0	58
15-19	0	2	0	1	82	2	87
20-24	0	2	0	0	171	4	177
25-29	2	18	0	1	305	8	334
30-34	5	55	0	1	410	8	479
35-39	4	50	0	1	465	11	531
40-44	5	37	1	3	409	14	469
45-49	4	34	2	3	321	11	375
50-54	5	46	0	0	360	11	422
55-59	3	33	1	2	425	12	476
60-69	6	37	0	3	470	9	525
70-74	1	27	0	1	519	11	559
75-79	0	22	0	4	504	8	538
75+	5	30	1	5	1418	28	1,487
Total	40	397	5	25	6,108	140	6,715
Female							
00-04	0	1	0	0	115	1	117
05-09	0	0	0	2	34	0	36
10-14	0	2	0	13	43	0	58
15-19	0	7	0	1	48	2	58
20-24	0	8	1	6	94	0	109
25-29	4	12	0	31	129	6	182
30-34	3	24	1	99	197	8	332
35-39	7	25	0	144	201	10	387
40-44	3	32	1	178	163	13	390
45-49	1	17	0	193	96	9	316
50-54	1	15	0	215	61	12	304
55-59	2	16	0	222	72	18	330
60-69	0	21	2	320	76	21	440
70-74	0	25	0	358	65	25	473
75-79	0	11	1	407	72	16	507
75+	0	57	0	2137	217	103	2,514
Total	21	273	6	4,326	1,683	244	6,553

Deaths by Age Group and Districts, 2020

Age Group	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka	RSA	Total
Male												
00-04	6	21	19	69	15	7	4	1	4	6	1	153
05-09	3	8	6	10	7	1	3	3	2	0	2	45
10-14	3	12	10	16	8	3	1	2	0	2	1	58
15-19	5	15	6	21	12	8	2	4	2	5	7	87
20-24	8	20	25	68	11	5	2	2	4	4	28	177
25-29	15	46	38	97	26	15	4	2	5	7	79	334
30-34	22	64	71	128	30	27	10	8	16	13	90	479
35-39	23	78	71	140	36	25	26	12	18	18	84	531
40-44	30	71	56	144	33	23	12	10	12	20	58	69
45-49	20	45	53	115	24	30	13	8	16	11	40	375
50-54	20	59	57	128	34	38	23	11	11	13	28	422
55-59	25	79	68	123	41	39	26	12	15	6	42	76
60-69	36	83	59	161	52	32	32	22	13	13	22	525
70-74	33	81	81	154	66	48	35	12	16	19	14	559
75-79	35	106	93	119	67	42	24	10	17	17	8	538
75+	103	259	205	371	153	139	91	39	47	70	10	1,487
Total	387	1,047	918	1,864	615	482	308	158	198	224	514	6,715
Female												
00-04	6	14	16	41	10	12	3	6	4	4	1	117
05-09	5	8	3	5	4	6	1	2	0	2	0	36
10-14	5	12	6	17	6	5	4	0	0	3	0	58
15-19	0	15	6	15	7	8	3	0	1	0	3	58
20-24	1	10	18	36	13	7	5	4	4	1	10	109
25-29	9	21	16	68	20	11	8	5	3	5	16	182
30-34	17	37	42	104	30	26	12	6	6	17	35	332
35-39	21	55	54	118	35	21	7	9	3	11	53	387
40-44	13	60	50	116	33	21	22	4	9	15	47	390
45-49	16	53	28	93	35	17	12	8	5	9	40	316
50-54	17	42	33	90	24	21	14	15	8	10	30	304
55-59	14	49	44	101	31	23	19	7	5	6	31	330
60-69	23	63	59	146	52	26	19	8	13	8	23	440
70-74	25	57	57	170	54	30	32	8	13	10	17	473
75-79	28	84	76	159	51	37	20	7	14	13	18	507
75+	139	390	370	682	282	203	150	83	72	106	37	2,514
Total	339	970	878	1,961	687	474	331	172	160	220	361	6,553

Number and Percentage of Deaths by Relationship to the Person Reporting, 2020

Relationship	Frequency	Percent
Aunt	204	1.5
Brother	1,622	12.2
Daughter	1,737	13.1
Father	558	4.2
Grandfather	98	0.7
Grandmother	137	1
Guardian	2	0
Husband	546	4.1
Mother	511	3.9
Neighbour	21	0.2
Not related	35	0.3
Other relative	3,001	22.6
Sister	830	6.3
Social institution	13	0.1
Son	2,961	22.3
Supervisor	3	0
Uncle	373	2.8
Wife	616	4.6
Total	13,268	100.0