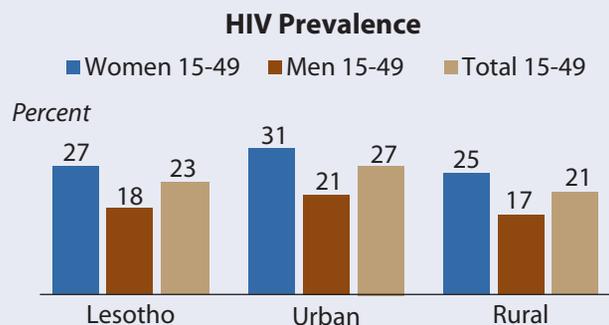
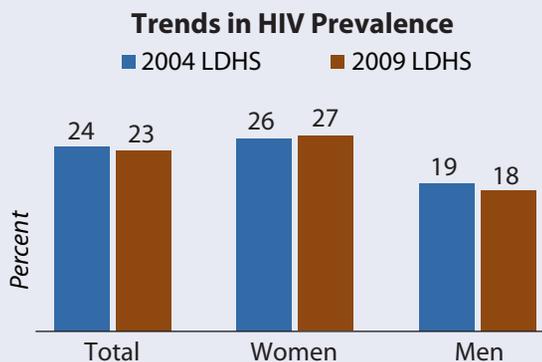


HIV Prevalence: Data from the 2009 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey

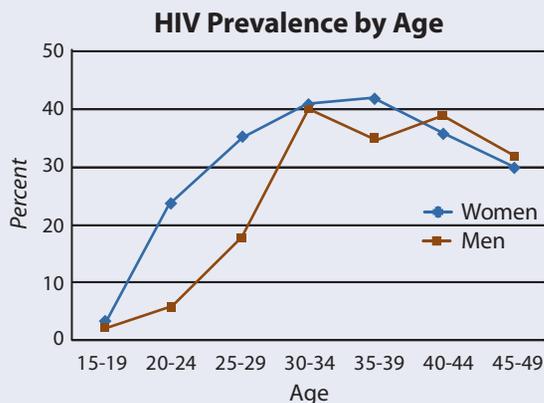
The 2009 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) included HIV testing of almost 3,800 women age 15-49 and 3,150 men age 15-59. According to the survey, 23% of Basothos age 15-49 are HIV-positive.



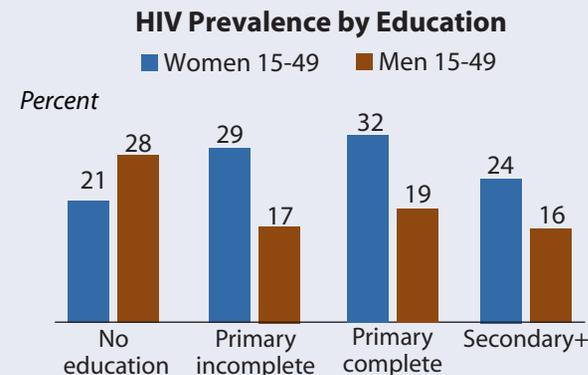
Overall, 27% of women and 18% of men are HIV-positive. HIV prevalence is slightly higher in urban areas than in rural areas (27% versus 21%).



Lesotho's HIV prevalence has remained essentially unchanged since 2004. The small increases and decreases seen here are not statistically significant and do not signify true changes in the population.

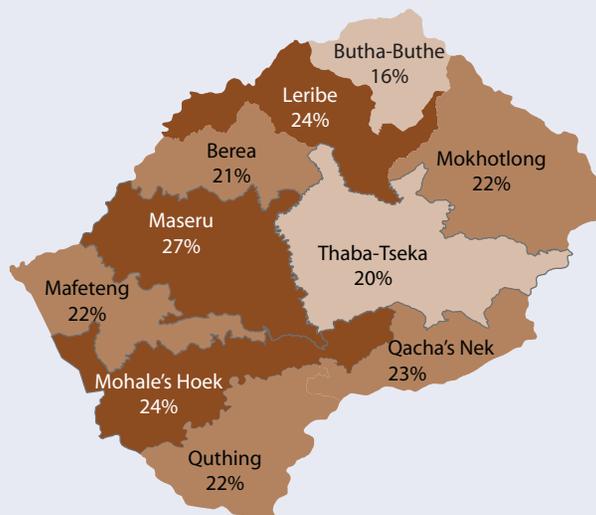


Women become infected at younger ages than men. Prevalence for both women and men increases with age until it peaks at age 35-39 for women (42%) and at age 30-34 for men (40%).

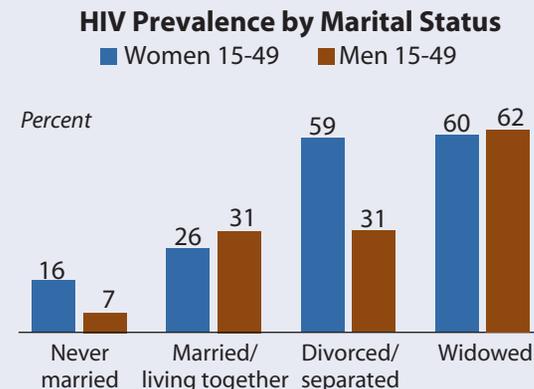


Among men, HIV prevalence decreases with education. There is no clear pattern among women; those with some or complete primary have the highest rates of HIV prevalence.

HIV Prevalence by District



HIV prevalence is consistently high across Lesotho. It is under 20% in only one district: Butha-Buthe.

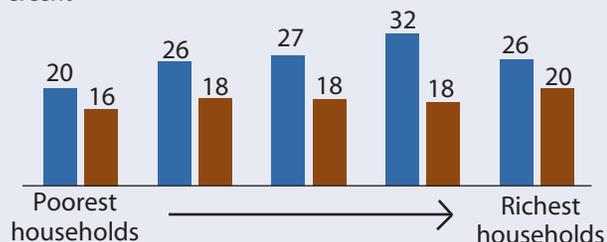


For both women and men, HIV prevalence is highest among those who are widowed. HIV prevalence is also very high among divorced and separated women. Women and men who have never been married are least likely to be HIV-positive.

HIV Prevalence by Household Wealth Quintile

■ Women 15-49 ■ Men 15-49

Percent



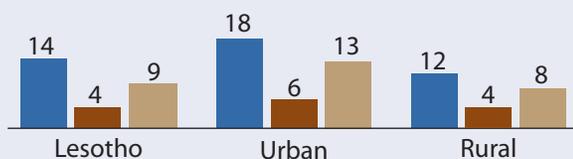
HIV prevalence generally increases with household wealth among women. There is no clear pattern for men.

71% of HIV-positive women and 52% of HIV-positive men had previously been tested and received the results of an HIV test.

HIV Prevalence Among Youth Age 15-24

■ Women 15-24 ■ Men 15-24 ■ Total 15-24

Percent



HIV prevalence among young women age 15-24 is 3.5 times higher than among young men age 15-24.

Response rates and methodology: HIV prevalence data were obtained from testing dried blood spot (DBS) samples voluntarily provided by women 15-49 and men 15-59 who were interviewed in the 2009 LDHS. The DBS were collected using the finger stick method. Of the 7,605 eligible subjects, 91% provided DBS specimens. Response rates were higher in rural areas than urban areas (93% vs. 86%).

For more information on the results of the 2009 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

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2009 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS)

HIV Prevalence