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This chapter presents information on the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the household population, focusing mainly on such background characteristics as age, sex, educational attendance and attainment, place of residence, and socioeconomic conditions of households. The information provided is intended to facilitate interpretation of the key demographic, socioeconomic, and health indices. It is further intended to assist in the assessment of the representativeness of the survey.

One of the background characteristics used throughout this report is an index of socioeconomic status. The economic index used here was recently developed and tested in a large number of countries in relation to inequities in household income, use of health services, and health outcomes (Rutstein et al., 2000). It is an indicator of the level of wealth that is consistent with expenditure and income measures (Rutstein, 1999). The economic index was constructed using household asset data with principal components analysis. The asset information was collected through the Household Questionnaire of the 2004 LDHS and covers information on household ownership of a number of consumer items ranging from a television to a bicycle or car, as well as dwelling characteristics, such as source of drinking water, sanitation facilities, and type of material used for flooring.

Each asset was assigned a weight (factor score) generated through principal components analysis, and the resulting asset scores were standardized in relation to a normal distribution with a mean of zero and standard deviation of one (Gwatkin et al., 2000). Each household was then assigned a score for each asset, and the scores were summed for each household; individuals were ranked according to the total score of the household in which they resided. The sample was then divided into quintiles from one (lowest) to five (highest). A single asset index was developed for the whole sample; separate indices were not prepared for the urban and rural populations.

2.1 HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

The 2004 LDHS Household Questionnaire solicited information on key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics; parental survivorship and residence for people age 17 years and under; educational attendance and attainment; and housing characteristics. A household was defined as a person or group of people, related or unrelated to each other, who live together in the same dwelling unit and share a common source of food.

Table 2.1 presents the distribution of the 2004 LDHS household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and urban-rural residence. The household population constitutes 32,747 persons, of which 47 percent are males and 53 percent are females. There are more persons in the younger age groups than in the older groups for both sexes.

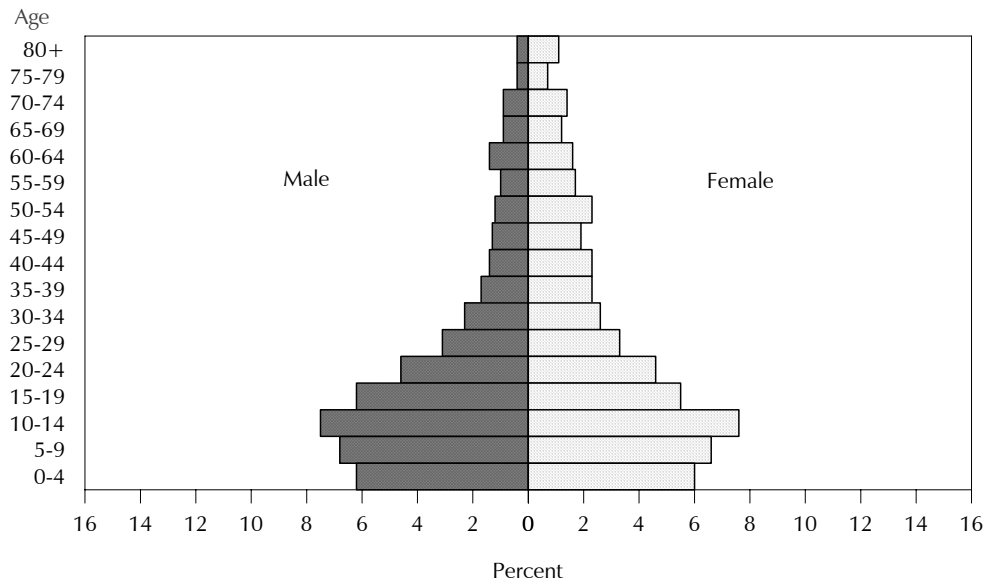
Figure 2.1 shows the age-sex structure of the Lesotho population. The household population age-structure is wide based, as depicted by the population pyramid. Lesotho's population is still young. This implies that the share of the Lesotho population under age 15 is 41 percent, and the older age groups (65 years and above) make up just 7 percent of the total household population. The recent decline in fertility is also apparent in the narrowing at the base of the pyramid. The jutting out of the bars for women age 50-54 and for men age 60-64 is most likely a result of deliberate age displacement by interviewers to place respondents outside of the age range of eligibility for the interview, thus reducing the interviewer's workload.

Table 2.1 Household population by age, sex, and residence

Percent distribution of the de facto household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and residence, Lesotho 2004

Age	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<5	9.3	8.5	8.9	13.8	12.0	12.8	13.0	11.3	12.1
5-9	12.2	9.7	10.8	14.9	13.1	14.0	14.5	12.5	13.4
10-14	13.3	12.3	12.8	16.4	14.8	15.6	15.9	14.4	15.1
15-19	12.6	9.9	11.1	13.3	10.5	11.9	13.2	10.4	11.7
20-24	10.2	11.6	11.0	9.6	8.2	8.8	9.7	8.8	9.2
25-29	10.4	11.0	10.7	5.7	5.2	5.5	6.5	6.3	6.4
30-34	7.9	6.9	7.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.9
35-39	5.5	5.8	5.7	3.2	4.1	3.7	3.6	4.4	4.0
40-44	4.6	4.9	4.7	2.6	4.3	3.5	3.0	4.4	3.7
45-49	3.6	4.1	3.9	2.6	3.4	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.2
50-54	3.0	6.0	4.6	2.5	4.0	3.3	2.6	4.4	3.5
55-59	1.7	2.9	2.4	2.1	3.4	2.8	2.1	3.3	2.7
60-64	2.6	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9
65-69	1.3	1.7	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.1
70-74	0.8	1.6	1.2	2.2	3.0	2.6	1.9	2.7	2.3
75-79	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.1
80 +	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	2.3	1.6	0.8	2.0	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,628	3,226	5,854	12,867	14,026	26,893	15,495	17,252	32,747

Figure 2.1 Population Pyramid



LDHS 2004

2.2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Table 2.2 shows the distribution of households by sex of the head of household and by household size, according to rural-urban residence. According to the 2004 LDHS, women head 37 percent of households in Lesotho, an increase from 29 percent as shown in the 1996 population census (BOS, 1996). There are modest differences in female-headed households between urban and rural areas (41 and 36 percent, respectively). This may be somewhat attributed to rural to urban migration exacerbated by the proliferation of textile industries in the cities whose employees are predominantly women.

Characteristic	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Sex of head of household			
Male	59.5	63.7	62.7
Female	40.5	36.3	37.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of usual members			
1	29.4	11.9	16.0
2	19.4	14.2	15.4
3	18.3	15.6	16.3
4	14.3	17.9	17.0
5	9.1	14.3	13.1
6	4.3	11.1	9.5
7	2.7	6.2	5.3
8	0.9	4.1	3.3
9+	1.4	4.6	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	2,043	6,549	8,592
Mean size	2.9	4.2	3.9

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents.

Table 2.2 further shows that the mean size of a Lesotho household is 3.9 persons, 1.1 person lower than the mean household size of 5 found in the 1996 population census (BOS, 1996 IIIB: 4). As expected, urban households have, on average, much smaller household sizes (2.9 persons) than rural households (4.2 persons). In the 2004 LDHS, the mean household size in both rural and urban areas is lower than in the 1996 population census (3.9 persons for urban areas and 5.2 persons for rural areas).

2.3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 show the percent distribution of the de facto female and male household population age six years and over by highest level of education attended, according to background characteristics. Eight percent of females and 19 percent of males have no education at all, while seven in ten women and six in ten men have attended or completed primary education only. Among both males and females, about 5 percent have completed secondary or higher education.

The proportion of the household population age six years and above who have attended school is significantly higher for females than males in all age groups. The median number of years of schooling is higher in females (4.8 years) than males (2.8 years).

Table 2.3.1 shows that the proportion of women with no education is higher among older women, suggesting some improvement in education over the years. Urban women are more likely to be educated than rural women. For example, 4 percent of urban females have no education, compared with 9 percent of rural females. The proportion of urban females with some secondary education or higher (42 percent) is more than twice as high as that of rural females (16 percent).

Table 2.3.1 Educational attainment of household population: women

Percent distribution of the de facto female household population age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary ¹	Some secondary	Completed secondary ²	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median number of years
Age										
6-9	18.9	80.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	1,797	0.2
10-14	1.0	88.9	6.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,480	3.4
15-19	1.0	38.8	22.6	35.4	1.7	0.4	0.1	100.0	1,793	6.4
20-24	1.7	23.4	28.1	33.4	10.7	2.5	0.2	100.0	1,517	6.9
25-29	2.3	22.7	28.1	31.7	11.0	4.2	0.0	100.0	1,085	6.9
30-34	2.7	23.3	31.2	31.3	8.6	2.9	0.1	100.0	844	6.8
35-39	3.6	22.5	31.2	33.1	7.1	2.1	0.4	100.0	757	6.7
40-44	4.9	39.3	26.2	20.2	5.8	3.0	0.5	100.0	760	6.2
45-49	5.5	49.8	25.8	11.6	3.3	3.7	0.3	100.0	607	5.6
50-54	11.9	61.7	12.3	9.8	2.0	2.2	0.1	100.0	757	4.4
55-59	7.9	74.6	9.3	4.8	0.9	2.4	0.1	100.0	569	3.6
60-64	16.2	73.3	5.0	2.0	0.9	1.6	1.0	100.0	513	3.1
65+	24.2	69.2	3.7	1.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	100.0	1,440	2.3
Residence										
Urban	3.9	36.3	17.2	27.4	10.0	5.0	0.3	100.0	2,913	6.6
Rural	8.5	59.3	15.6	13.7	2.0	0.6	0.2	100.0	12,034	4.3
Ecological zone										
Lowlands	5.5	49.4	16.7	20.8	5.1	2.2	0.3	100.0	8,579	5.5
Foothills	7.6	62.8	15.7	11.5	1.4	0.9	0.1	100.0	1,798	4.1
Mountains	12.3	62.4	14.6	8.9	1.2	0.4	0.2	100.0	3,573	3.6
Senqu River Valley	8.6	59.4	14.8	13.9	2.5	0.8	0.1	100.0	997	4.3
District										
Butha-Buthe	5.5	54.6	17.3	17.5	2.9	2.2	0.1	100.0	905	5.1
Leribe	5.6	54.5	17.2	18.3	3.5	0.8	0.1	100.0	2,196	5.1
Berea	5.6	59.4	18.2	13.1	2.5	0.8	0.4	100.0	1,696	4.8
Maseru	6.5	44.2	16.7	22.0	6.9	3.3	0.4	100.0	3,757	5.9
Mafeteng	5.7	57.3	14.6	19.0	2.4	0.9	0.1	100.0	1,555	4.6
Mohale's Hoek	9.1	58.6	14.2	14.4	2.6	1.0	0.1	100.0	1,455	4.2
Quthing	11.5	59.2	13.9	12.2	2.1	0.6	0.5	100.0	1,027	4.0
Qacha's Nek	11.0	64.0	11.7	11.1	1.6	0.6	0.0	100.0	532	3.8
Mokhotlong	12.0	62.1	14.5	9.4	1.2	0.8	0.0	100.0	772	3.6
Thaba-Tseka	12.7	63.2	15.1	7.2	1.4	0.2	0.3	100.0	1,052	3.5
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	15.7	69.2	10.6	4.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,816	2.7
Second	9.3	64.4	16.3	8.7	0.8	0.0	0.4	100.0	2,857	3.7
Middle	6.9	59.4	16.3	15.2	1.5	0.4	0.3	100.0	2,979	4.7
Fourth	3.7	50.2	19.6	21.7	3.8	0.7	0.2	100.0	2,993	5.6
Highest	3.4	34.3	16.4	29.8	10.3	5.7	0.1	100.0	3,302	6.7
Total	7.6	54.8	15.9	16.4	3.6	1.5	0.2	100.0	14,947	4.8

Note: Total includes 25 women with missing information on age who are not shown separately.

¹ Completed 7 grade at the primary level

² Completed 12 grade at the secondary level

Women who live in the Mountains zone are more disadvantaged educationally than other women. Among all districts, the highest proportion of women who never went to school is in Thaba-Tseka (13 percent) and Mokhotlong (12 percent) and the lowest in Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Berea, and Mafeteng (6 percent each). It is worth noting that the proportion of female household members who have never attended school decreases with higher wealth status. Sixteen percent of women in the lowest wealth quintile have no education compared with only 3 percent in the highest quintile.

Table 2.3.2 shows that 22 percent of males in rural areas have no education compared with 8 percent in urban areas. There is a marked urban-rural differential in secondary and higher education: 18 percent of males in urban areas have completed secondary or higher education, compared with only 3 percent in rural areas.

Table 2.3.2 Educational attainment of household population: men

Percent distribution of the de facto male household population age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary ¹	Some secondary	Completed secondary ²	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median number of years
Age										
6-9	21.9	77.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	1,848	0.0
10-14	6.2	89.8	2.6	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,461	2.5
15-19	8.3	57.1	10.2	23.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	100.0	2,045	5.0
20-24	13.4	36.5	15.2	22.5	8.4	3.8	0.2	100.0	1,497	6.0
25-29	16.7	32.2	16.1	19.8	10.3	4.4	0.6	100.0	1,009	6.1
30-34	22.3	35.3	15.2	15.2	8.9	3.0	0.0	100.0	756	4.9
35-39	20.0	35.8	14.8	16.3	8.9	4.1	0.0	100.0	560	5.0
40-44	27.5	39.8	10.4	13.0	5.6	3.7	0.0	100.0	459	3.6
45-49	31.7	39.1	8.4	10.1	4.7	6.0	0.0	100.0	427	2.8
50-54	36.5	43.9	5.0	8.0	4.0	2.6	0.0	100.0	401	1.7
55-59	39.1	47.1	4.7	3.2	3.6	2.3	0.0	100.0	318	1.3
60-64	42.0	45.6	4.7	3.7	2.0	1.9	0.1	100.0	443	1.1
65+	48.5	42.9	2.9	3.6	0.8	1.1	0.2	100.0	844	0.1
Residence										
Urban	7.7	41.0	10.1	23.4	11.1	6.5	0.3	100.0	2,334	6.1
Rural	21.7	59.7	7.3	8.5	1.8	0.7	0.2	100.0	10,751	2.3
Ecological zone										
Lowlands	11.9	56.4	9.3	14.6	5.0	2.5	0.3	100.0	7,582	3.8
Foothills	22.8	60.9	6.5	7.8	1.3	0.5	0.1	100.0	1,608	2.1
Mountains	35.1	53.4	4.5	4.8	1.2	0.8	0.2	100.0	3,103	0.7
Senqu River Valley	19.6	59.4	9.0	9.0	2.3	0.7	0.0	100.0	791	2.6
District										
Butha-Buthe	13.5	61.5	8.5	11.9	3.2	1.3	0.1	100.0	824	3.4
Leribe	15.1	59.0	8.6	12.0	3.5	1.6	0.2	100.0	1,834	3.2
Berea	14.8	64.7	7.7	9.2	2.6	0.7	0.4	100.0	1,583	2.9
Maseru	14.1	48.7	9.5	16.8	6.7	3.9	0.3	100.0	3,326	4.3
Mafeteng	15.3	63.1	8.3	10.7	1.9	0.5	0.2	100.0	1,379	2.7
Mohale's Hoek	24.9	55.2	6.5	9.1	2.6	1.5	0.1	100.0	1,257	2.0
Quthing	26.1	57.2	6.7	7.9	1.9	0.3	0.0	100.0	822	1.9
Qacha's Nek	25.8	61.5	4.9	5.6	1.8	0.4	0.0	100.0	471	1.7
Mokhotlong	36.1	49.8	5.4	6.1	1.4	1.1	0.1	100.0	707	0.5
Thaba-Tseka	34.8	53.4	5.1	4.6	0.7	1.2	0.4	100.0	883	0.6
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	39.0	54.1	4.2	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	100.0	2,634	0.4
Second	25.0	63.0	6.1	5.1	0.8	0.0	0.1	100.0	2,513	1.7
Middle	15.3	62.3	10.1	9.7	1.7	0.5	0.4	100.0	2,663	3.0
Fourth	10.4	58.5	10.2	15.6	4.0	1.0	0.2	100.0	2,635	3.9
Highest	6.7	44.3	8.4	22.9	10.4	7.1	0.2	100.0	2,640	5.9
Total	19.2	56.4	7.8	11.1	3.5	1.8	0.2	100.0	13,085	2.8

Note: Total includes 17 men with missing information on age who are not shown separately.
¹ Completed 7 grade at the primary level
² Completed 12 grade at the secondary level

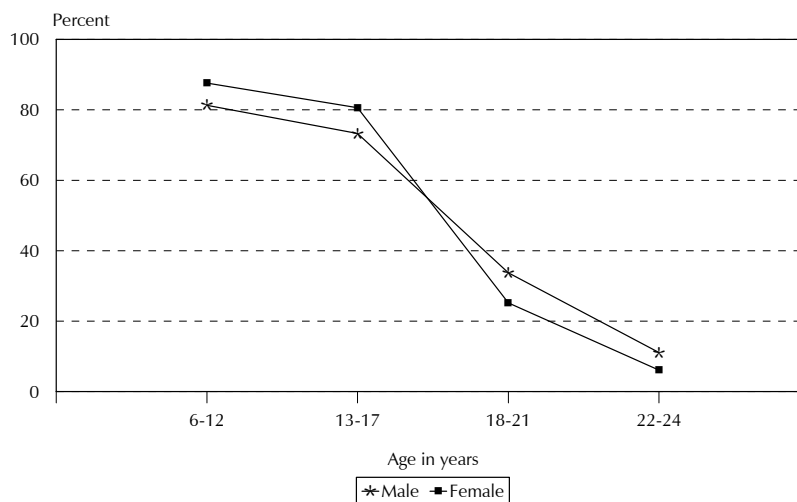
Across districts, the pattern among the male population is similar to that exhibited by the females. The variation in education among the male population according to wealth quintile is also similar to that among the female population. Wealthy males are less likely to have no education, with 7 percent of males in the highest wealth quintile having no education compared with 39 percent in the lowest.

Table 2.4 shows the percentage of the household population age 6-24 years who are currently attending school, by age, sex, and residence. Eighty-one percent of people age 6-17 years are in school, with urban attendance higher than rural attendance (86 and 81 percent, respectively) and female attendance higher than male attendance (85 and 78 percent, respectively). However, at age group 18-21, attendance levels drop dramatically, and they are noticeably higher in urban than in rural areas (42 and 27 percent, respectively) and higher for males than females (34 and 25 percent, respectively).

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
6-12	83.2	81.0	81.3	89.1	87.4	87.6	86.3	84.1	84.5
13-17	85.4	71.2	73.3	84.2	79.8	80.6	84.8	75.2	76.7
6-17	84.2	76.9	77.9	87.0	84.4	84.9	85.7	80.5	81.3
18-21	53.0	29.9	33.7	32.9	23.2	25.2	41.9	26.7	29.5
22-24	20.5	8.9	11.1	12.5	3.9	6.1	15.9	6.5	8.6

Figure 2.2 shows that attendance rates for both males and females are 81 and 88 percent, respectively, at age group 6-12 years. Both boys and girls tend to drop out of school, so that at age group 13-17 years, 73 percent of boys and 81 percent of girls are attending school. After age 13-17 years, girls drop out of school more rapidly than boys. Among youth age 22-24 years, 11 percent of males and 6 percent of females attend school. The largest drop in attendance for both sexes occurs at age 18-21 years (34 percent for males and 25 percent for females).

Figure 2.2 Percentage of Males and Females Currently Attending School, by Age



LDHS 2004

Table 2.5 presents net attendance ratios (NARs) and gross attendance ratios (GARs) for the de jure household population by level of schooling and sex, according to background characteristics. The NAR for primary school measures the proportion of children of primary school age who are attending primary school, while the GAR represents the total number of primary school students age 5-24 as a percentage of children of primary school age. In the Lesotho context, the levels refer to 6 to 12 years for primary and 13 to 17 years for secondary. The GAR is usually higher than the NAR because the GAR includes participation of those who may be older or younger than the official age range for that level. Students who are over age for a given level of school may have started school late, may have repeated one or more grades in school, or may have dropped out of school and later returned.

The NAR indicates that 85 percent of children of primary school age are attending primary school. There is a gender gap among the children who are attending primary school; the NAR is 88 percent for girls and 81 percent for boys. NARs for primary school do not differ by urban-rural residence. Among districts, NARs are highest in Butha-Buthe (92 percent) and lowest in Mokhotlong (79 percent). The GAR indicates that there are children in primary school who are not of primary school age, with ratios of 130 for males and 126 for females. This is probably a result of the introduction of free primary education about six years ago.

As expected, both the NAR and GAR are lower at the secondary school level. The NAR indicates that only 21 percent of the secondary school age population are attending secondary school. Net secondary school attendance is higher for females (NAR of 27) than for males (NAR of 16). The GAR shows that there are many secondary school students who are not of secondary school age. School attendance ratios at the secondary level are lower in rural than in urban areas. For instance, the NAR at the secondary school level in rural areas is 17 percent compared with 42 percent in urban areas. Similarly, the GAR at secondary school is 29 percent in rural areas compared with 73 percent in urban areas.

There is a strong relationship between household economic status and school attendance that can be seen at both the primary and secondary levels and among males and females. The NAR increases from 75 percent among students from poorer households (lowest wealth quintile) in primary school to 88 percent among students from richer households (highest wealth quintile). Similarly, the GAR rises dramatically from 6 percent among secondary school attendees in the lowest wealth quintile to 77 percent among those in the highest wealth quintile.

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) represents the ratio of the GAR for females to the GAR for males. It is presented at both the primary and secondary levels and offers a summary measure of gender differences in school attendance rates. A GPI less than 1 indicates that a smaller proportion of females than males attend school. In Lesotho, the GPI is slightly less than 1 (0.97) for primary school attendance, indicating that the gender gap is relatively small, while for secondary school attendance it is greater than 1 (1.32), indicating that females are advantaged at this educational level. There are no marked differences in GPI by place of residence.

Table 2.5 School attendance ratios

Net attendance ratios (NAR), gross attendance ratios (GAR), and gender parity index (GPI) for the de jure household population age 6-24 by level of schooling and sex, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹			Gross attendance ratio ²			Gender Parity Index ³
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
PRIMARY SCHOOL							
Residence							
Urban	81.6	88.0	85.0	124.1	117.2	120.4	0.94
Rural	81.4	87.6	84.5	131.0	127.3	129.2	0.97
Ecological zone							
Lowlands	85.9	88.5	87.2	137.9	122.3	130.2	0.89
Foothills	81.6	88.3	85.0	136.7	129.6	133.1	0.95
Mountains	71.8	85.1	78.3	109.6	128.4	118.8	1.17
Senqu River Valley	85.2	90.0	87.7	138.9	134.2	136.5	0.97
District							
Butha-Buthe	91.7	92.8	92.2	149.2	125.8	137.4	0.84
Leribe	86.5	91.5	89.1	137.1	126.7	131.7	0.92
Berea	87.2	89.6	88.3	140.1	130.1	135.5	0.93
Maseru	81.8	83.8	82.8	129.5	115.7	122.5	0.89
Mafeteng	83.2	89.6	86.5	147.9	124.3	135.6	0.84
Mohale's Hoek	74.6	84.6	79.6	119.6	127.3	123.5	1.06
Quthing	79.7	87.5	83.5	120.8	132.4	126.4	1.10
Qacha's Nek	75.4	88.0	81.2	120.8	134.0	126.9	1.11
Mokhotlong	72.9	86.9	79.4	103.1	131.4	116.2	1.27
Thaba-Tseka	73.1	87.1	80.0	115.4	132.6	123.9	1.15
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	66.9	83.8	75.1	104.0	126.7	115.0	1.22
Second	79.2	87.2	83.1	126.1	131.6	128.8	1.04
Middle	87.4	87.6	87.5	145.3	128.2	136.9	0.88
Fourth	87.7	92.5	90.1	143.1	128.0	135.6	0.89
Highest	88.3	87.7	88.0	135.2	113.7	123.9	0.84
Total	81.4	87.7	84.6	130.1	125.7	127.9	0.97
SECONDARY SCHOOL							
Residence							
Urban	36.9	46.9	42.1	72.0	73.5	72.8	1.02
Rural	11.9	22.2	16.6	24.6	34.7	29.3	1.41
Ecological zone							
Lowlands	21.2	34.8	27.5	40.7	53.0	46.4	1.30
Foothills	10.4	17.0	13.4	26.9	32.1	29.3	1.19
Mountains	5.7	12.4	8.8	12.5	20.0	16.0	1.60
Senqu River Valley	13.3	26.5	20.0	30.1	41.5	35.9	1.38
District							
Butha-Buthe	16.2	36.2	25.2	41.2	62.8	50.9	1.53
Leribe	16.0	29.1	22.3	32.2	45.2	38.5	1.40
Berea	12.9	27.8	19.9	30.9	39.3	34.8	1.27
Maseru	24.1	35.5	29.4	45.0	55.5	49.9	1.23
Mafeteng	13.0	22.4	16.9	24.3	37.1	29.6	1.53
Mohale's Hoek	19.4	23.6	21.5	34.1	36.0	35.0	1.06
Quthing	12.0	26.4	19.4	28.4	41.4	35.1	1.46
Qacha's Nek	4.5	12.9	8.4	12.2	22.8	17.2	1.86
Mokhotlong	7.0	14.7	10.6	14.7	22.3	18.3	1.51
Thaba-Tseka	4.6	7.7	6.0	11.5	12.8	12.1	1.12
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	1.1	4.9	2.8	4.9	7.1	5.9	1.47
Second	4.9	12.6	8.6	12.5	17.6	15.0	1.41
Middle	13.3	24.9	18.6	24.3	39.0	31.0	1.61
Fourth	18.1	31.7	24.4	42.4	51.3	46.5	1.21
Highest	38.0	53.6	45.6	69.2	84.8	76.8	1.23
Total	15.6	26.6	20.7	31.6	41.7	36.3	1.32

¹ The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school-age (6-12 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school-age (13-17 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent.

² The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of overage and underage students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 percent.

³ The Gender Parity Index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school GAR for females to the GAR for males. The Gender Parity Index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school GAR for females to the GAR for males.

Table 2.6 shows repetition and dropout rates for the de jure household population age 5-24 by school grade, according to background characteristics. Repetition and dropout rates describe the flow of students through the school system. The repetition rate for the primary education ranges from 6 percent for the sixth grade to 23 percent for the first grade. The repetition rates are higher at every grade for males and rural residents when compared with females and urban residents. There is no clear pattern of repetition rates when looking at other background characteristics.

The dropout rate increases with grade, from 2 percent of students in first grade to 18 percent of those in seventh grade. Dropout rates are higher among male than female students, with the exception of the seventh grade, when this pattern is reversed. Dropout rates are more pronounced in rural than urban areas and among those in the Mountains zone.

2.4 HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Given that there is a strong relationship between household economic conditions and exposure to diseases, information on housing characteristics, such as access to electricity, source of drinking water, sanitary facilities, and flooring and roofing materials, is key to explaining the interrelationships between the social and economic conditions of the household and likely exposure to and prevalence of diseases. Table 2.7 shows the percent distribution of households by housing characteristics, according to residence.

The table shows that only 7 percent of Lesotho households have electricity. There is a large discrepancy between urban and rural areas in the proportion of households that have electricity: 26 percent of urban households have electricity compared with less than 1 percent of rural households.

Table 2.6 Grade repetition and dropout rates

Repetition and dropout rates for the de jure household population age 5-24 years by school grade, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	School grade						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
REPETITION RATE¹							
Sex							
Male	24.6	15.3	10.9	11.4	12.6	6.6	11.7
Female	21.4	9.0	8.3	7.4	11.8	5.9	10.6
Residence							
Urban	16.7	9.3	8.0	5.1	8.2	4.3	2.8
Rural	23.9	12.8	9.9	10.0	13.1	6.7	13.8
Ecological zone							
Lowlands	20.2	12.6	10.0	9.4	11.3	6.7	9.6
Foothills	20.9	8.1	13.1	12.2	17.2	6.3	18.1
Mountains	29.0	14.0	8.9	6.9	11.9	5.9	12.3
Senqu River Valley	19.9	13.1	2.4	10.9	12.2	3.1	12.0
District							
Butha-Buthe	14.1	15.2	12.8	10.9	16.6	7.1	6.6
Leribe	19.0	13.6	11.1	13.8	15.2	10.5	10.6
Berea	26.3	12.3	14.8	11.1	7.7	6.3	29.9
Maseru	17.8	9.8	10.9	8.4	12.0	5.0	6.2
Mafeteng	25.7	13.6	6.9	6.8	16.0	6.8	10.1
Mohale's Hoek	25.5	6.8	4.7	4.1	6.1	2.9	3.7
Quthing	19.5	12.7	2.0	10.9	12.5	4.1	11.2
Qacha's Nek	23.4	13.3	8.9	14.0	19.8	5.5	2.4
Mokhotlong	38.3	15.3	10.3	7.6	0.4	6.2	10.7
Thaba-Tseka	25.2	18.5	8.1	5.1	15.8	7.4	13.5
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	26.0	9.9	8.0	7.6	13.6	2.5	15.6
Second	28.9	13.8	8.8	13.8	8.1	5.5	15.7
Middle	25.0	10.4	12.1	8.7	15.2	9.8	13.2
Fourth	16.8	15.9	10.7	9.7	13.1	4.3	11.4
Highest	15.0	12.1	8.2	5.8	10.2	6.2	6.5
Total	23.1	12.4	9.7	9.3	12.2	6.2	11.1
DROPOUT RATE²							
Sex							
Male	2.1	2.2	2.5	3.6	3.1	4.7	14.5
Female	0.7	0.6	1.2	2.5	2.9	3.3	19.8
Residence							
Urban	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.9	0.5	8.4
Rural	1.5	1.7	2.2	3.5	3.5	4.7	20.6
Ecological zone							
Lowlands	0.4	0.0	0.8	2.3	0.9	1.8	14.4
Foothills	1.3	1.6	1.9	3.3	3.4	5.0	21.6
Mountains	3.1	4.4	4.4	5.0	8.8	7.7	32.8
Senqu River Valley	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.2	3.0	9.1	13.3
District							
Butha-Buthe	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.4	4.6	14.4
Leribe	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.8	4.5	12.1
Berea	0.0	0.0	1.7	3.3	1.4	2.6	14.8
Maseru	0.3	0.8	2.0	3.0	0.8	2.0	13.0
Mafeteng	0.8	0.3	0.8	4.3	4.4	1.6	32.4
Mohale's Hoek	4.7	4.6	5.5	9.2	5.9	2.3	24.6
Quthing	1.2	0.9	1.9	0.0	5.3	10.1	10.5
Qacha's Nek	4.6	4.4	2.3	6.9	1.5	19.3	32.9
Mokhotlong	0.6	4.4	6.2	1.2	14.0	8.7	44.4
Thaba-Tseka	3.1	4.2	2.5	2.0	4.8	2.2	18.9
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	2.2	2.5	3.9	2.5	7.5	10.5	28.9
Second	3.0	2.5	1.6	5.3	4.9	6.1	26.1
Middle	0.7	1.7	2.7	4.6	3.9	5.6	25.3
Fourth	0.5	0.1	0.6	1.4	1.0	2.7	20.8
Highest	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	0.1	3.6
Total	1.5	1.5	1.9	3.0	3.0	3.9	17.5

¹ The repetition rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are repeating that grade in the current school year.

² The dropout rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are not attending school.

Table 2.7 Household characteristics

Percent distribution of households by household characteristics, according to residence, Lesotho 2004

Household characteristic	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Electricity			
Yes	26.2	0.8	6.8
No	73.6	99.0	93.0
Missing	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Source of drinking water			
Piped into dwelling	11.9	0.6	3.3
Piped into yard/plot	39.5	1.5	10.5
Piped into someone else's yard/plot	17.0	1.0	4.8
Public tap	22.0	50.0	43.3
Open well in dwelling/yard/plot	0.0	0.2	0.2
Open public well	3.4	21.7	17.3
Protected well in dwelling/yard/plot	0.7	1.3	1.2
Protected well in someone else's yard/plot	1.3	1.2	1.2
Protected public well	2.9	13.2	10.7
Spring	0.8	6.9	5.4
River, stream	0.0	2.2	1.7
Dam	0.0	0.1	0.1
Tanker truck	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other/missing	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Time to water source			
Percentage <15 minutes	75.5	37.0	46.1
Median time to source	0.0	19.4	14.5
Sanitation facility			
Flush toilet	7.7	0.2	2.0
Traditional pit toilet	44.4	29.7	33.2
Ventilated improved pit latrine	40.7	15.7	21.6
No facility, bush, field	7.1	54.4	43.2
Other/missing	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Type of cooking fuel			
Electricity	7.0	0.2	1.8
LPG, natural gas	58.2	10.7	22.0
Charcoal	0.0	0.2	0.1
Firewood, straw	6.6	71.0	55.7
Dung	0.5	7.4	5.7
Paraffin	27.4	9.2	13.5
Crop waste	0.1	1.1	0.9
Other/missing	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flooring material			
Mud/earth/dung	6.6	51.1	40.5
Wood planks	0.4	0.1	0.2
Parquet, polished wood	0.1	0.0	0.0
Brick tiles	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tiles	16.8	5.9	8.5
Cement	43.1	14.4	21.2
Carpet	13.0	9.9	10.6
Vinyl, linoleum	19.3	18.2	18.4
Other/missing	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	2,043	6,549	8,592

The availability of and accessibility to potable water may, to a large extent, minimise the prevalence of potentially fatal water-borne diseases among household members. The source of drinking water is an important determinant of potentially fatal diarrhoeal diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, and dysentery. In Lesotho, more than four in ten households (43 percent) get their drinking water from a public tap. Seventeen percent of the households draw their drinking water from open public wells, while 11 percent each use protected public well or piped water located in their yard or plot. Less than 5 percent of households use other types of water supply sources. Forty-six percent of the households are within 15 minutes of their water source, with a median time to water source of about 15 minutes. In urban areas, the main source is piped water in the yard or plot (40 percent), followed by public tap (22 percent). In rural areas, half of the household get their drinking water from a public tap, and more than one in five (22 percent) from an open public well.

The availability of toilet facilities in households ensures a more efficient and hygienic method of human waste disposal. Fifty-seven percent of the households in Lesotho have access to some type of sanitary facility. Three in ten households in Lesotho have traditional pit toilets, while about one in five (22 percent) have ventilated improved pit latrines. Only 2 percent of the households have flush toilets. Traditional pit toilets are more common in urban (44 percent) areas than rural areas (30 percent). As expected, flush toilets are more widely used in urban (8 percent) than in rural areas (less than 1 percent).

The most common source of cooking fuel in Lesotho is firewood or straw (56 percent), followed by LPG or natural gas (22 percent). In urban households, the two most commonly used sources are LPG or natural gas (58 percent) and paraffin (27 percent). In rural areas, seven in ten households use firewood or straw for cooking, and one in ten use LPG or natural gas (11 percent) or paraffin (9 percent).

The type of flooring material used in dwellings is a proxy indicator of the socioeconomic status of the household as well as its likely exposure to disease-causing agents. The predominant flooring materials used by Lesotho households are mud, earth, or dung with a share of 41 percent. Cement is the next most common flooring material, with a share of 21 percent. Forty-three percent of urban households use cement for flooring their houses, and 51 percent of rural households use mud, earth, or dung.

2.5 HOUSEHOLD DURABLE GOODS

Table 2.8 shows the percentage of households possessing various durable goods by urban-rural residence. This indicator provides a rough measure of the socioeconomic status of households. Of the 11 selected durable household goods, sofa or mattress, radio, and horse or donkey or mule were most frequently available. Seventy-nine percent of households in Lesotho own a sofa and mattress, 54 percent own a radio, and 29 percent own a horse or donkey or mule.

There is noticeable urban-rural variation in the proportion of households owning durable goods. Ninety-two percent of households in urban areas have a sofa or mattress, compared with 75 percent of rural households. Similarly, 79 percent of urban households have a radio, compared with 47 percent of rural households. Four percent of urban households and 14 percent of rural households have none of the selected durable goods.

Table 2.8 Household durable goods

Percentage of households possessing various durable consumer goods, by residence, Lesotho 2004

Durable consumer goods	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Energy battery/generator/solar	27.5	15.4	18.3
Radio	78.7	46.5	54.1
Television	32.9	6.9	13.1
Telephone	44.0	9.6	17.8
Refrigerator	28.8	7.5	12.5
Sofa/mattress	91.9	74.8	78.8
Bicycle	4.6	2.6	3.0
Motorcycle/scooter	0.4	0.1	0.2
Car/truck	10.5	2.6	4.5
Horse/donkey/mule	2.5	37.1	28.9
Scotch cart	1.3	12.3	9.7
None of the above	3.5	13.8	11.3
Number of households	2,043	6,549	8,592

2.6 RESIDENCY STATUS

Table 2.9 shows the residency status of the household population in Lesotho. One in ten men (10 percent) and women (11 percent) live elsewhere in Lesotho. There are no significant variations in the proportion of the population who lives elsewhere in Lesotho by various background characteristics, except for education. The proportion of population living elsewhere in Lesotho generally increases with education attainment. Seven percent of men and 3 percent of women live in the Republic of South Africa (RSA). Again, the differentials by background characteristics are not pronounced, except for education and wealth index. The proportion of household population who live in RSA increases with increasing education and wealth index quintile. The patterns are more clear for men than for women because of the larger proportion of men who live in RSA.

The 2004 LDHS results show that 5 percent of the household population live outside of Lesotho, either in RSA or in another country (calculation based on Table 2.9).

Table 2.9 Residency status

Percentage of household population by residency status, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	Male						Female					
	Percentage usually living:						Percentage usually living:					
	In the household	Else-where in Lesotho	In RSA	In a country other than RSA	Total	Number	In the household	Else-where in Lesotho	In RSA	In a country other than RSA	Total	Number
Age												
0-9	94.3	5.3	0.4	0.1	100.0	4,551	93.2	6.1	0.5	0.1	100.0	4,459
10-19	89.2	9.7	1.0	0.1	100.0	5,250	86.4	12.2	1.2	0.2	100.0	5,035
20-29	72.7	17.3	9.4	0.5	100.0	3,565	75.9	19.6	4.1	0.4	100.0	3,481
30-39	67.6	13.2	18.3	0.8	100.0	1,972	81.0	13.1	5.7	0.1	100.0	2,004
40-49	59.9	9.4	28.1	2.5	100.0	1,498	84.6	8.7	5.9	0.7	100.0	1,662
50-59	71.0	8.7	19.8	0.5	100.0	1,043	90.4	4.9	4.6	0.1	100.0	1,511
60+	92.9	4.1	2.6	0.3	100.0	1,414	95.6	3.1	1.1	0.2	100.0	2,089
Residence												
Urban	83.0	10.2	6.4	0.4	100.0	3,186	87.7	9.8	2.3	0.2	100.0	3,778
Rural	82.0	9.9	7.6	0.5	100.0	16,132	86.4	10.6	2.7	0.2	100.0	16,493
Ecological zone												
Lowlands	82.2	9.5	7.8	0.6	100.0	10,878	86.2	10.8	2.7	0.2	100.0	11,418
Foothills	83.3	9.6	6.9	0.2	100.0	2,392	87.9	9.9	2.0	0.1	100.0	2,479
Mountains	81.8	11.6	6.3	0.2	100.0	4,815	87.6	9.9	2.2	0.1	100.0	5,014
Senqu River Valley	80.8	8.4	9.8	1.1	100.0	1,233	84.8	10.4	4.3	0.6	100.0	1,361
District												
Butha-Buthe	78.9	8.6	11.8	0.7	100.0	1,269	83.7	10.0	5.8	0.4	100.0	1,271
Leribe	85.0	7.2	7.3	0.4	100.0	2,583	90.3	7.7	1.8	0.2	100.0	2,836
Berea	86.0	6.6	6.5	0.8	100.0	2,203	90.3	7.5	2.0	0.2	100.0	2,210
Maseru	84.0	11.1	4.6	0.3	100.0	4,629	87.5	11.0	1.2	0.2	100.0	4,970
Mafeteng	77.7	11.0	10.8	0.4	100.0	2,180	81.5	14.7	3.7	0.1	100.0	2,216
Mohale's Hoek	79.0	12.1	8.3	0.7	100.0	1,935	83.3	13.0	3.4	0.1	100.0	2,022
Quthing	81.1	7.8	9.9	1.2	100.0	1,272	85.9	9.2	4.1	0.8	100.0	1,418
Qacha's Nek	76.0	11.2	12.4	0.4	100.0	781	81.8	10.6	7.3	0.3	100.0	783
Mokhotlong	83.9	10.9	5.2	0.0	100.0	1,089	87.1	10.4	2.4	0.0	100.0	1,101
Thaba-Tseka	81.8	13.6	4.4	0.1	100.0	1,377	89.6	9.8	0.5	0.0	100.0	1,446
Education												
No education	86.1	8.5	5.0	0.4	100.0	5,811	92.4	6.5	0.9	0.1	100.0	3,763
Primary, incomplete	84.9	7.8	6.9	0.4	100.0	8,960	91.0	6.8	2.0	0.1	100.0	9,240
Primary, complete	70.1	15.0	13.9	1.0	100.0	1,534	81.3	14.4	4.0	0.2	100.0	2,989
Secondary+	72.6	16.4	10.2	0.7	100.0	2,982	76.5	18.8	4.2	0.5	100.0	4,247
Wealth quintile												
Lowest	84.7	11.1	3.9	0.2	100.0	3,868	87.4	10.1	2.2	0.1	100.0	3,921
Second	84.6	9.4	5.6	0.3	100.0	3,774	87.6	9.6	2.6	0.2	100.0	3,971
Middle	82.7	9.7	7.0	0.6	100.0	3,897	86.6	10.0	3.2	0.1	100.0	3,970
Fourth	80.2	8.7	10.5	0.5	100.0	3,951	86.1	10.9	2.7	0.2	100.0	4,086
Highest	78.5	10.8	10.0	0.7	100.0	3,828	85.7	11.5	2.3	0.4	100.0	4,324
Total ¹	82.1	9.9	7.4	0.5	100.0	19,318	86.7	10.5	2.6	0.2	100.0	20,272

RSA = Republic of South Africa

¹ Total includes 30 cases missing information on age and 15 cases missing information on the residency status.