

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

### 3.1 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Information on the basic characteristics of women and men interviewed in the survey is essential for the interpretation of findings subsequently presented in the report. Background characteristics of the 7,095 women and 2,797 men interviewed in the 2004 LDHS are presented in Table 3.1. For both sexes, the proportion of respondents in each age group declines as age increases, reflecting the comparatively young age structure of the population.

Slightly more than half of female respondents are currently married, compared with 42 percent of males. Almost all respondents in current unions declared themselves as living in formal unions with less than 1 percent of females and males saying they were living together in an informal union. Among female respondents, the proportion divorced or separated is 6 percent compared with 4 percent among males. Nine percent of female respondents are widowed compared with 2 percent of males. Never-married females account for one-third of all women, and around half of males have never married.

Slightly more than three-quarters of both female and male respondents are rural residents. The Lowlands have the largest proportion of respondents followed by the Mountains zone, and Foothills and Senqu River Valley zones have the smallest proportions. By district, the proportions of respondents range from around 3 percent in Qacha's Nek to about 26 percent in Maseru.

Female respondents are less likely than male respondents to have never attended school (2 and 17 percent, respectively). Among those who attended school, female respondents are more likely than males to have attended secondary school. Comparatively few respondents of either gender have gone to school beyond the secondary level (1 percent of females and 3 percent of males), as shown in Tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

Almost half of the survey respondents are Roman Catholic, with one in five belonging to the Lesotho Evangelical Church and another one in five belonging to other Christian denominations (Table 3.1).

### 3.2 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LITERACY

Tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 present the distributions of female and male respondents, respectively, by the highest level of education attained according to selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

The results reveal that younger persons have reached higher levels of school than older people. The results also show that the female-male differential in educational attainment is evident in every age group although the gap, particularly in the proportion who have ever attended school, is much greater among older than younger respondents.

Generally, urban residents have higher educational attainment than rural residents. For example, 58 percent of females in urban areas have attended at least some secondary school, compared with 33 percent of rural residents, and the corresponding figures for males are 52 and 21 percent, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These figures were attained by adding together three education categories: some secondary, completed secondary, and more than secondary.)

Table 3.1 Background characteristics of respondents

Percent distribution of women and men by selected background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic  | Women            |          |            | Men              |          |            |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|------------------|----------|------------|
|                            | Weighted percent | Weighted | Unweighted | Weighted percent | Weighted | Unweighted |
| <b>Age</b>                 |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| 15-19                      | 24.1             | 1,710    | 1,761      | 26.6             | 743      | 752        |
| 20-24                      | 20.6             | 1,463    | 1,456      | 18.1             | 507      | 508        |
| 25-29                      | 14.7             | 1,044    | 1,026      | 13.4             | 374      | 367        |
| 30-34                      | 11.5             | 816      | 807        | 10.9             | 305      | 306        |
| 35-39                      | 10.3             | 728      | 740        | 8.3              | 233      | 226        |
| 40-44                      | 10.4             | 741      | 714        | 5.9              | 164      | 163        |
| 45-49                      | 8.3              | 592      | 591        | 6.1              | 170      | 173        |
| 50-54                      | na               | na       | na         | 5.9              | 164      | 165        |
| 55-59                      | na               | na       | na         | 4.9              | 137      | 137        |
| <b>Marital status</b>      |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Never married              | 33.4             | 2,373    | 2,358      | 50.7             | 1,419    | 1,403      |
| Married                    | 51.6             | 3,662    | 3,668      | 42.2             | 1,179    | 1,191      |
| Living together            | 0.7              | 47       | 58         | 0.4              | 12       | 16         |
| Divorced/separated         | 5.6              | 401      | 382        | 4.4              | 124      | 121        |
| Widowed                    | 8.6              | 613      | 629        | 2.2              | 60       | 64         |
| <b>Residence</b>           |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Urban                      | 23.7             | 1,682    | 1,945      | 21.5             | 603      | 694        |
| Rural                      | 76.3             | 5,413    | 5,150      | 78.5             | 2,194    | 2,103      |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>     |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Lowlands                   | 60.6             | 4,299    | 3,118      | 62.0             | 1,734    | 1,248      |
| Foothills                  | 11.1             | 787      | 999        | 11.0             | 307      | 392        |
| Mountains                  | 22.2             | 1,572    | 2,274      | 20.9             | 585      | 877        |
| Senqu River Valley         | 6.2              | 437      | 704        | 6.1              | 171      | 280        |
| <b>District</b>            |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Butha-Buthe                | 6.5              | 458      | 774        | 6.5              | 182      | 304        |
| Leribe                     | 15.0             | 1,065    | 845        | 14.1             | 393      | 297        |
| Berea                      | 10.9             | 776      | 685        | 12.5             | 350      | 330        |
| Maseru                     | 26.3             | 1,868    | 1,059      | 26.5             | 741      | 405        |
| Mafeteng                   | 10.6             | 755      | 709        | 10.6             | 297      | 285        |
| Mohale's Hoek              | 9.6              | 684      | 803        | 10.1             | 281      | 331        |
| Quthing                    | 6.5              | 461      | 574        | 6.0              | 167      | 200        |
| Qacha's Nek                | 3.3              | 233      | 497        | 3.6              | 99       | 213        |
| Mokhotlong                 | 5.1              | 360      | 605        | 4.6              | 130      | 238        |
| Thaba-Tseka                | 6.1              | 435      | 544        | 5.6              | 156      | 194        |
| <b>Education</b>           |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| No education               | 2.0              | 145      | 169        | 17.1             | 479      | 549        |
| Primary, incomplete        | 30.1             | 2,136    | 2,244      | 42.7             | 1,194    | 1,165      |
| Primary, complete          | 27.3             | 1,936    | 1,939      | 12.2             | 342      | 333        |
| Secondary+                 | 40.6             | 2,878    | 2,743      | 28.0             | 783      | 750        |
| <b>Religion</b>            |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Roman Catholic Church      | 44.9             | 3,187    | 3,153      | 46.5             | 1,300    | 1,257      |
| Lesotho Evangelical Church | 20.3             | 1,442    | 1,378      | 21.6             | 605      | 561        |
| Anglican Church            | 9.7              | 691      | 675        | 9.1              | 253      | 264        |
| Other Christian            | 24.0             | 1,704    | 1,813      | 16.9             | 473      | 525        |
| No religion                | 0.7              | 52       | 60         | 5.6              | 158      | 182        |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>     |                  |          |            |                  |          |            |
| Lowest                     | 13.9             | 987      | 1,160      | 16.7             | 466      | 543        |
| Second                     | 18.2             | 1,294    | 1,405      | 18.4             | 514      | 553        |
| Middle                     | 17.7             | 1,258    | 1,259      | 20.2             | 566      | 551        |
| Fourth                     | 22.5             | 1,595    | 1,455      | 22.2             | 621      | 568        |
| Highest                    | 27.6             | 1,962    | 1,816      | 22.5             | 630      | 582        |
| Total                      | 100.0            | 7,095    | 7,095      | 100.0            | 2,797    | 2,797      |

Note: Education categories refer to the highest level of education attended, whether or not that level was completed.

na = Not applicable

Respondents living in the Lowlands are more likely to have a secondary or higher education than respondents from the other zones. Looking at districts, the proportions of respondents with a secondary education are lowest in Thaba-Tseka for both sexes and highest in Mafeteng and Maseru for females and in Maseru for males.

As expected, the level of education increases with the wealth index. Among females in the lowest wealth quintile only 12 percent have at least some secondary education, compared with 62 percent of those in the highest quintile.

Table 3.2.1 Educational attainment by background characteristics: women

Percent distribution of women by highest level of schooling attended or completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic | Highest level of schooling attended or completed |              |                                |                |                                  |                     | Total | Number of women | Median years of schooling |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|                           | No education                                     | Some primary | Completed primary <sup>1</sup> | Some secondary | Completed secondary <sup>2</sup> | More than secondary |       |                 |                           |
| <b>Age</b>                |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |                 |                           |
| 15-19                     | 0.3  | 35.8         | 23.6                           | 37.3           | 3.0                              | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,710           | 6.6                       |
| 20-24                     | 1.2  | 24.5         | 28.5                           | 33.9           | 10.7                             | 1.2                 | 100.0 | 1,463           | 6.9                       |
| 25-29                     | 2.1  | 25.1         | 27.3                           | 32.3           | 11.0                             | 2.4                 | 100.0 | 1,044           | 6.8                       |
| 30-34                     | 2.4  | 25.1         | 33.7                           | 29.5           | 7.8                              | 1.5                 | 100.0 | 816             | 6.7                       |
| 35-39                     | 2.9  | 25.4         | 31.7                           | 32.5           | 6.3                              | 1.3                 | 100.0 | 728             | 6.7                       |
| 40-44                     | 4.4  | 41.1         | 27.9                           | 20.7           | 4.4                              | 1.5                 | 100.0 | 741             | 6.2                       |
| 45-49                     | 4.8  | 50.7         | 27.2                           | 12.0           | 2.3                              | 2.9                 | 100.0 | 592             | 5.6                       |
| <b>Residence</b>          |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |                 |                           |
| Urban                     | 0.8  | 17.7         | 23.8                           | 40.2           | 14.7                             | 2.8                 | 100.0 | 1,682           | 8.1                       |
| Rural                     | 2.4  | 35.6         | 29.2                           | 27.7           | 4.2                              | 0.8                 | 100.0 | 5,413           | 6.4                       |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>    |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |                 |                           |
| Lowlands                  | 1.1  | 24.5         | 27.1                           | 36.4           | 9.2                              | 1.6                 | 100.0 | 4,299           | 6.9                       |
| Foothills                 | 1.8  | 39.4         | 29.9                           | 24.1           | 3.4                              | 1.4                 | 100.0 | 787             | 6.3                       |
| Mountains                 | 4.6  | 45.2         | 28.9                           | 18.7           | 2.1                              | 0.5                 | 100.0 | 1,572           | 6.0                       |
| Senqu River Valley        | 2.8  | 34.4         | 28.1                           | 28.9           | 5.0                              | 0.8                 | 100.0 | 437             | 6.5                       |
| <b>District</b>           |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |                 |                           |
| Butha-Buthe               | 1.7  | 28.3         | 29.0                           | 32.3           | 6.1                              | 2.5                 | 100.0 | 458             | 6.7                       |
| Leribe                    | 0.8  | 28.5         | 29.7                           | 33.9           | 6.1                              | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 1,065           | 6.7                       |
| Berea                     | 1.3  | 33.7         | 32.6                           | 26.5           | 4.9                              | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 776             | 6.4                       |
| Maseru                    | 0.9  | 22.0         | 25.9                           | 36.5           | 12.5                             | 2.2                 | 100.0 | 1,868           | 7.1                       |
| Mafeteng                  | 1.5  | 28.5         | 27.3                           | 37.1           | 5.0                              | 0.6                 | 100.0 | 755             | 6.7                       |
| Mohale's Hoek             | 2.9  | 37.7         | 25.0                           | 28.9           | 4.6                              | 0.8                 | 100.0 | 684             | 6.4                       |
| Quthing                   | 4.0  | 41.0         | 26.4                           | 24.2           | 3.8                              | 0.7                 | 100.0 | 461             | 6.2                       |
| Qacha's Nek               | 5.4  | 44.9         | 22.5                           | 23.3           | 3.2                              | 0.7                 | 100.0 | 233             | 6.0                       |
| Mokhotlong                | 6.8  | 44.0         | 26.8                           | 18.8           | 2.5                              | 1.2                 | 100.0 | 360             | 6.0                       |
| Thaba-Tseka               | 3.5  | 45.1         | 33.4                           | 15.2           | 2.5                              | 0.3                 | 100.0 | 435             | 6.0                       |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>    |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |                 |                           |
| Lowest                    | 6.2  | 55.7         | 26.2                           | 11.0           | 0.9                              | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 987             | 5.3                       |
| Second                    | 3.7  | 45.0         | 32.7                           | 17.2           | 1.2                              | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 1,294           | 6.0                       |
| Middle                    | 1.5  | 33.2         | 29.8                           | 31.4           | 3.4                              | 0.7                 | 100.0 | 1,258           | 6.5                       |
| Fourth                    | 0.7  | 23.0         | 31.1                           | 37.9           | 6.7                              | 0.6                 | 100.0 | 1,595           | 6.8                       |
| Highest                   | 0.3  | 15.8         | 21.7                           | 43.0           | 15.4                             | 3.7                 | 100.0 | 1,962           | 8.2                       |
| Total                     | 2.0  | 31.4         | 27.9                           | 30.6           | 6.7                              | 1.3                 | 100.0 | 7,095           | 6.6                       |

<sup>1</sup> Completed 7 grade at the primary level

<sup>2</sup> Completed 12 grade at the secondary level

Table 3.2.2 Educational attainment by background characteristics: men

Percent distribution of men by highest level of schooling attended or completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic | Highest level of schooling attended or completed |              |                                |                |                                  |                     | Total | Number of men | Median years of schooling |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------|
|                           | No education                                     | Some primary | Completed primary <sup>1</sup> | Some secondary | Completed secondary <sup>2</sup> | More than secondary |       |               |                           |
| Age                       |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |               |                           |
| 15-19                     | 4.3  | 55.9         | 11.8                           | 25.7           | 2.0                              | 0.3                 | 100.0 | 743           | 5.4                       |
| 20-24                     | 12.9   | 34.0         | 18.6                           | 24.4           | 8.0                              | 2.2                 | 100.0 | 507           | 6.2                       |
| 25-29                     | 18.5   | 33.3         | 12.4                           | 20.5           | 11.2                             | 4.1                 | 100.0 | 374           | 5.8                       |
| 30-34                     | 22.1   | 38.3         | 16.1                           | 12.6           | 8.1                              | 2.8                 | 100.0 | 305           | 4.8                       |
| 35-39                     | 18.4   | 41.5         | 13.0                           | 16.4           | 5.7                              | 5.0                 | 100.0 | 233           | 4.5                       |
| 40-44                     | 23.3   | 37.6         | 15.1                           | 15.2           | 7.0                              | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 164           | 3.8                       |
| 45-49                     | 34.7   | 33.9         | 6.8                            | 5.8            | 7.0                              | 11.8                | 100.0 | 170           | 2.6                       |
| 50-54                     | 36.7   | 42.9         | 4.0                            | 10.5           | 4.4                              | 1.5                 | 100.0 | 164           | 2.0                       |
| 55-59                     | 32.3   | 57.2         | 1.6                            | 2.9            | 4.1                              | 1.9                 | 100.0 | 137           | 1.4                       |
| Residence                 |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |               |                           |
| Urban                     | 5.6  | 26.3         | 15.8                           | 30.5           | 14.0                             | 7.7                 | 100.0 | 603           | 7.3                       |
| Rural                     | 20.3   | 47.2         | 11.7                           | 15.5           | 4.0                              | 1.4                 | 100.0 | 2,194         | 4.3                       |
| Ecological zone           |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |               |                           |
| Lowlands                  | 9.6  | 41.0         | 14.3                           | 23.3           | 8.1                              | 3.7                 | 100.0 | 1,734         | 5.9                       |
| Foothills                 | 19.4   | 53.1         | 9.4                            | 14.0           | 2.9                              | 1.3                 | 100.0 | 307           | 3.7                       |
| Mountains                 | 37.0   | 42.2         | 8.4                            | 8.3            | 2.9                              | 1.2                 | 100.0 | 585           | 2.5                       |
| Senqu River Valley        | 20.9   | 42.5         | 15.4                           | 16.7           | 3.5                              | 0.9                 | 100.0 | 171           | 5.0                       |
| District                  |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |               |                           |
| Butha-Buthe               | 12.3   | 45.1         | 14.6                           | 21.1           | 4.6                              | 2.3                 | 100.0 | 182           | 5.4                       |
| Leribe                    | 13.2   | 41.5         | 11.7                           | 18.9           | 11.8                             | 2.8                 | 100.0 | 393           | 5.6                       |
| Berea                     | 13.1   | 52.1         | 13.0                           | 16.6           | 4.2                              | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 350           | 4.7                       |
| Maseru                    | 10.9   | 34.3         | 13.5                           | 25.6           | 9.6                              | 6.1                 | 100.0 | 741           | 6.3                       |
| Mafeteng                  | 14.2   | 49.7         | 14.3                           | 19.8           | 1.9                              | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 297           | 4.4                       |
| Mohale's Hoek             | 23.1   | 43.5         | 12.3                           | 15.7           | 3.7                              | 1.7                 | 100.0 | 281           | 4.1                       |
| Quthing                   | 28.6   | 43.7         | 10.7                           | 12.6           | 3.8                              | 0.5                 | 100.0 | 167           | 3.8                       |
| Qacha's Nek               | 24.2   | 53.1         | 6.6                            | 11.9           | 3.6                              | 0.6                 | 100.0 | 99            | 3.6                       |
| Mokhotlong                | 33.7   | 38.0         | 9.2                            | 14.7           | 2.7                              | 1.7                 | 100.0 | 130           | 3.4                       |
| Thaba-Tseka               | 35.0   | 42.5         | 13.2                           | 5.6            | 1.0                              | 2.7                 | 100.0 | 156           | 2.8                       |
| Wealth quintile           |  |              |                                |                |                                  |                     |       |               |                           |
| Lowest                    | 43.2   | 46.1         | 6.7                            | 3.1            | 0.5                              | 0.4                 | 100.0 | 466           | 1.2                       |
| Second                    | 22.5   | 56.0         | 10.2                           | 9.3            | 2.0                              | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 514           | 3.4                       |
| Middle                    | 14.6   | 49.1         | 15.4                           | 16.1           | 3.8                              | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 566           | 5.0                       |
| Fourth                    | 8.4  | 39.2         | 18.0                           | 26.2           | 7.4                              | 0.8                 | 100.0 | 621           | 6.1                       |
| Highest                   | 4.2  | 26.9         | 11.1                           | 33.0           | 14.5                             | 10.2                | 100.0 | 630           | 8.1                       |
| Total                     | 17.1   | 42.7         | 12.6                           | 18.7           | 6.1                              | 2.7                 | 100.0 | 2,797         | 5.0                       |

<sup>1</sup> Completed 7 grade at the primary level

<sup>2</sup> Completed 12 grade at the secondary level

The 2004 LDHS interviewers asked respondents to read a simple, short sentence to establish literacy. The sentences were written in Sesotho and English (for those who were interviewed in English). Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 show the percent distributions of female and male respondents, respectively, by level of literacy and the percent literate, according to background characteristics.

Table 3.3.1 Literacy: women

Percent distribution of women by level of schooling attended and by level of literacy, and percent literate, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic | Secondary school or higher | No schooling or primary school |                             |                    |                                |     | Missing | Total | Number of women | Percent literate <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
|                           |                            | Can read a whole sentence      | Can read part of a sentence | Cannot read at all | No card with required language |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| Age                       |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| 15-19                     | 40.3                       | 51.0                           | 5.3                         | 2.5                | 0.0                            | 0.8 | 100.0   | 1,710 | 96.6            |                               |
| 20-24                     | 45.8                       | 45.3                           | 4.4                         | 3.9                | 0.1                            | 0.6 | 100.0   | 1,463 | 95.5            |                               |
| 25-29                     | 45.6                       | 45.2                           | 5.3                         | 3.5                | 0.0                            | 0.4 | 100.0   | 1,044 | 96.1            |                               |
| 30-34                     | 38.8                       | 51.1                           | 5.5                         | 4.2                | 0.1                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 816   | 95.4            |                               |
| 35-39                     | 40.1                       | 50.7                           | 4.5                         | 4.3                | 0.1                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 728   | 95.3            |                               |
| 40-44                     | 26.6                       | 58.4                           | 6.7                         | 7.9                | 0.1                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 741   | 91.7            |                               |
| 45-49                     | 17.3                       | 65.3                           | 6.7                         | 10.1               | 0.0                            | 0.6 | 100.0   | 592   | 89.2            |                               |
| Residence                 |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| Urban                     | 57.7                       | 38.2                           | 1.9                         | 1.9                | 0.0                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 1,682 | 97.8            |                               |
| Rural                     | 32.8                       | 54.9                           | 6.4                         | 5.3                | 0.1                            | 0.6 | 100.0   | 5,413 | 94.0            |                               |
| Ecological zone           |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| Lowlands                  | 47.2                       | 45.8                           | 3.4                         | 3.0                | 0.0                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 4,299 | 96.5            |                               |
| Foothills                 | 28.9                       | 58.3                           | 8.0                         | 4.4                | 0.0                            | 0.4 | 100.0   | 787   | 95.2            |                               |
| Mountains                 | 21.3                       | 59.9                           | 9.4                         | 8.7                | 0.2                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 1,572 | 90.7            |                               |
| Senqu River Valley        | 34.6                       | 55.4                           | 4.2                         | 4.9                | 0.0                            | 0.8 | 100.0   | 437   | 94.3            |                               |
| District                  |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| Butha-Buthe               | 41.0                       | 52.4                           | 2.7                         | 3.6                | 0.0                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 458   | 96.1            |                               |
| Leribe                    | 41.0                       | 51.7                           | 4.5                         | 2.3                | 0.0                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 1,065 | 97.1            |                               |
| Berea                     | 32.4                       | 57.8                           | 4.1                         | 4.5                | 0.2                            | 0.9 | 100.0   | 776   | 94.4            |                               |
| Maseru                    | 51.2                       | 39.5                           | 6.0                         | 3.0                | 0.0                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 1,868 | 96.7            |                               |
| Mafeteng                  | 42.6                       | 49.3                           | 4.9                         | 3.2                | 0.0                            | 0.0 | 100.0   | 755   | 96.8            |                               |
| Mohale's Hoek             | 34.4                       | 56.9                           | 3.4                         | 4.3                | 0.0                            | 1.0 | 100.0   | 684   | 94.7            |                               |
| Quthing                   | 28.7                       | 57.2                           | 6.0                         | 7.0                | 0.2                            | 0.9 | 100.0   | 461   | 91.9            |                               |
| Qacha's Nek               | 27.3                       | 47.3                           | 15.4                        | 8.8                | 0.7                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 233   | 90.0            |                               |
| Mokhotlong                | 22.4                       | 60.9                           | 6.3                         | 9.7                | 0.0                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 360   | 89.7            |                               |
| Thaba-Tseka               | 18.1                       | 64.7                           | 5.9                         | 10.9               | 0.0                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 435   | 88.6            |                               |
| Wealth quintile           |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |     |         |       |                 |                               |
| Lowest                    | 11.9                       | 64.4                           | 11.4                        | 11.6               | 0.2                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 987   | 87.7            |                               |
| Second                    | 18.5                       | 63.6                           | 9.7                         | 7.9                | 0.0                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 1,294 | 91.8            |                               |
| Middle                    | 35.5                       | 55.6                           | 4.4                         | 3.7                | 0.2                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 1,258 | 95.5            |                               |
| Fourth                    | 45.2                       | 49.0                           | 2.7                         | 2.2                | 0.0                            | 0.9 | 100.0   | 1,595 | 96.9            |                               |
| Highest                   | 62.1                       | 34.3                           | 2.1                         | 1.1                | 0.0                            | 0.3 | 100.0   | 1,962 | 98.5            |                               |
| Total                     | 38.7                       | 50.9                           | 5.3                         | 4.5                | 0.1                            | 0.5 | 100.0   | 7,095 | 94.9            |                               |

<sup>1</sup> Refers to women who attended secondary school or higher and women who can read a whole sentence or part of a sentence

The literacy rate is higher for females (95 percent) than for males (75 percent). This pattern is not unexpected in view of the generally higher educational attainment of females than males. Looking at other differentials, the literacy rate decreases with increasing age, particularly among male respondents. Among female respondents, there are relatively minor differences in literacy rates by residence, with urban females only slightly more likely to be able to read than rural females (98 and 94 percent, respectively). Among male respondents, the residential differential is more pronounced, with the literacy rate for urban males (91 percent) being 20 percentage points higher than the rate for rural males. Literacy rates rise with increasing wealth, with variations being more significant for males than for females.

Table 3.3.2 Literacy: men

Percent distribution of men by level of schooling attended and by level of literacy, and percent literate, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic | Secondary school or higher | No schooling or primary school |                             |                    |                                |         | Total | Number of men | Percent literate <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---------------|-------------------------------|
|                           |                            | Can read a whole sentence      | Can read part of a sentence | Cannot read at all | No card with required language | Missing |       |               |                               |
| <b>Age</b>                |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |         |       |               |                               |
| 15-19                     | 28.0                       | 48.9                           | 8.9                         | 13.6               | 0.0                            | 0.6     | 100.0 | 743           | 85.8                          |
| 20-24                     | 34.6                       | 36.4                           | 6.8                         | 21.0               | 0.3                            | 1.0     | 100.0 | 507           | 77.7                          |
| 25-29                     | 35.8                       | 32.5                           | 5.2                         | 26.6               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 374           | 73.4                          |
| 30-34                     | 23.5                       | 36.8                           | 8.1                         | 31.4               | 0.0                            | 0.2     | 100.0 | 305           | 68.4                          |
| 35-39                     | 27.1                       | 36.1                           | 11.5                        | 25.4               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 233           | 74.6                          |
| 40-44                     | 24.0                       | 42.5                           | 6.8                         | 26.7               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 164           | 73.3                          |
| 45-49                     | 24.6                       | 30.2                           | 10.3                        | 34.9               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 170           | 65.1                          |
| 50-54                     | 16.4                       | 39.5                           | 7.4                         | 36.3               | 0.5                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 164           | 63.3                          |
| 55-59                     | 8.9                        | 45.0                           | 5.1                         | 41.0               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 137           | 59.0                          |
| <b>Residence</b>          |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |         |       |               |                               |
| Urban                     | 52.3                       | 34.3                           | 4.4                         | 8.8                | 0.0                            | 0.2     | 100.0 | 603           | 91.0                          |
| Rural                     | 20.9                       | 41.3                           | 8.7                         | 28.6               | 0.1                            | 0.4     | 100.0 | 2,194         | 70.9                          |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>    |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |         |       |               |                               |
| Lowlands                  | 35.1                       | 41.3                           | 7.5                         | 15.6               | 0.1                            | 0.4     | 100.0 | 1,734         | 83.9                          |
| Foothills                 | 18.1                       | 40.9                           | 10.5                        | 30.0               | 0.0                            | 0.5     | 100.0 | 307           | 69.5                          |
| Mountains                 | 12.4                       | 32.4                           | 7.5                         | 47.4               | 0.1                            | 0.3     | 100.0 | 585           | 52.2                          |
| Senqu River Valley        | 21.1                       | 47.9                           | 7.2                         | 23.8               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 171           | 76.2                          |
| <b>District</b>           |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |         |       |               |                               |
| Butha-Buthe               | 28.0                       | 47.8                           | 6.3                         | 17.9               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 182           | 82.1                          |
| Leribe                    | 33.5                       | 38.5                           | 10.6                        | 16.4               | 0.0                            | 1.1     | 100.0 | 393           | 82.6                          |
| Berea                     | 21.8                       | 47.1                           | 6.7                         | 24.2               | 0.0                            | 0.1     | 100.0 | 350           | 75.7                          |
| Maseru                    | 41.2                       | 32.2                           | 8.4                         | 17.7               | 0.0                            | 0.4     | 100.0 | 741           | 81.9                          |
| Mafeteng                  | 21.7                       | 44.2                           | 8.0                         | 25.3               | 0.5                            | 0.3     | 100.0 | 297           | 73.9                          |
| Mohale's Hoek             | 21.1                       | 47.3                           | 6.1                         | 25.4               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 281           | 74.6                          |
| Quthing                   | 17.0                       | 40.9                           | 7.1                         | 34.3               | 0.0                            | 0.5     | 100.0 | 167           | 65.1                          |
| Qacha's Nek               | 16.1                       | 32.5                           | 15.5                        | 35.2               | 0.8                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 99            | 64.1                          |
| Mokhotlong                | 19.1                       | 33.4                           | 3.7                         | 43.1               | 0.0                            | 0.6     | 100.0 | 130           | 56.3                          |
| Thaba-Tseka               | 9.4                        | 39.8                           | 4.1                         | 46.7               | 0.0                            | 0.0     | 100.0 | 156           | 53.3                          |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>    |                            |                                |                             |                    |                                |         |       |               |                               |
| Lowest                    | 4.0                        | 32.2                           | 9.1                         | 54.5               | 0.0                            | 0.2     | 100.0 | 466           | 45.3                          |
| Second                    | 11.4                       | 45.3                           | 8.5                         | 34.6               | 0.1                            | 0.2     | 100.0 | 514           | 65.1                          |
| Middle                    | 20.9                       | 49.3                           | 9.4                         | 20.2               | 0.0                            | 0.3     | 100.0 | 566           | 79.5                          |
| Fourth                    | 34.4                       | 42.4                           | 8.0                         | 14.5               | 0.2                            | 0.5     | 100.0 | 621           | 84.8                          |
| Highest                   | 57.7                       | 29.8                           | 4.8                         | 6.9                | 0.0                            | 0.7     | 100.0 | 630           | 92.4                          |
| Total                     | 27.6                       | 39.8                           | 7.8                         | 24.3               | 0.1                            | 0.4     | 100.0 | 2,797         | 75.2                          |

<sup>1</sup> Refers to men who attended secondary school or higher and men who can read a whole sentence or part of a sentence

### 3.3 ACCESS TO MASS MEDIA

Mass media access is essential in increasing people's knowledge and awareness of what is taking place around them, which may eventually affect their perceptions and behaviour. In the survey, exposure to media was assessed by asking respondents how often they read newspapers, watched television, or listened to a radio. Tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 show the percentage of female and male respondents exposed to different types of mass media by various background characteristics such as age, residence, education, and wealth index. This information is important in helping to identify population groups that are more commonly reached by mass media for purposes of assisting health, poverty alleviation, HIV/AIDS, and other development programmes to spread information more efficiently.

| Table 3.4.1 Exposure to mass media: women   |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Percentage of women who usually read a newspaper at least once a week, watch television at least once a week, and listen to the radio at least once a week, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004 |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| Background characteristic   | Reads a newspaper at least once a week | Watches television at least once a week | Listens to the radio at least once a week | All three media | No media | Number of women |
| <b>Age</b>  |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| 15-19   | 15.3                                   | 16.3                                    | 52.0                                      | 5.6             | 43.1     | 1,710           |
| 20-24   | 13.9                                   | 12.0                                    | 51.2                                      | 3.3             | 45.1     | 1,463           |
| 25-29   | 13.5                                   | 16.0                                    | 56.3                                      | 5.3             | 40.0     | 1,044           |
| 30-34   | 13.6                                   | 14.7                                    | 62.0                                      | 3.4             | 34.9     | 816             |
| 35-39   | 13.5                                   | 13.4                                    | 58.8                                      | 3.9             | 37.4     | 728             |
| 40-44   | 11.5                                   | 13.8                                    | 54.4                                      | 3.1             | 43.6     | 741             |
| 45-49   | 10.0                                   | 10.4                                    | 49.0                                      | 2.8             | 48.6     | 592             |
| <b>Residence</b>  |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| Urban   | 22.2                                   | 34.6                                    | 74.1                                      | 10.8            | 20.2     | 1,682           |
| Rural   | 10.8                                   | 7.8                                     | 48.2                                      | 2.1             | 48.8     | 5,413           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| Lowlands  | 17.3                                   | 21.3                                    | 66.3                                      | 6.1             | 29.3     | 4,299           |
| Foothills   | 9.2                                    | 5.4                                     | 48.0                                      | 1.7             | 49.9     | 787             |
| Mountains   | 6.5                                    | 1.8                                     | 28.1                                      | 0.8             | 69.4     | 1,572           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 9.3                                    | 4.2                                     | 41.6                                      | 1.3             | 55.1     | 437             |
| <b>District</b>   |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| Butha-Buthe   | 15.9                                   | 8.8                                     | 57.0                                      | 3.3             | 38.8     | 458             |
| Leribe  | 14.1                                   | 16.1                                    | 58.1                                      | 4.7             | 38.4     | 1,065           |
| Berea   | 18.3                                   | 13.4                                    | 59.7                                      | 4.0             | 35.0     | 776             |
| Maseru  | 17.6                                   | 26.1                                    | 67.8                                      | 7.7             | 28.0     | 1,868           |
| Mafeteng  | 12.7                                   | 11.7                                    | 59.3                                      | 3.6             | 38.0     | 755             |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 8.2                                    | 11.3                                    | 52.1                                      | 2.2             | 45.0     | 684             |
| Quthing   | 8.9                                    | 3.1                                     | 37.9                                      | 1.1             | 59.1     | 461             |
| Qacha's Nek   | 8.1                                    | 3.7                                     | 33.4                                      | 1.2             | 63.8     | 233             |
| Mokhotlong  | 10.4                                   | 2.0                                     | 31.9                                      | 1.2             | 65.1     | 360             |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 3.7                                    | 0.9                                     | 16.7                                      | 0.3             | 81.0     | 435             |
| <b>Education</b>  |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| No education  | 0.0                                    | 0.1                                     | 22.7                                      | 0.0             | 77.3     | 145             |
| Primary, incomplete   | 5.0                                    | 5.3                                     | 36.2                                      | 0.7             | 61.1     | 2,136           |
| Primary, complete   | 9.7                                    | 8.7                                     | 51.7                                      | 1.3             | 44.9     | 1,936           |
| Secondary+  | 23.1                                   | 25.1                                    | 71.2                                      | 8.8             | 24.2     | 2,878           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |  |   |   |                 |          |                 |
| Lowest  | 4.6                                    | 1.0                                     | 10.5                                      | 0.3             | 86.2     | 987             |
| Second  | 6.9                                    | 2.4                                     | 31.0                                      | 0.2             | 65.4     | 1,294           |
| Middle  | 8.0                                    | 4.0                                     | 48.7                                      | 0.7             | 49.0     | 1,258           |
| Fourth  | 14.0                                   | 7.1                                     | 67.9                                      | 1.7             | 29.4     | 1,595           |
| Highest   | 25.5                                   | 40.8                                    | 84.4                                      | 12.9            | 10.3     | 1,962           |
| Total   | 13.5                                   | 14.1                                    | 54.3                                      | 4.2             | 42.1     | 7,095           |

Table 3.4.2 Exposure to mass media: men

Percentage of men who usually read a newspaper at least once a week, watch television at least once a week, and listen to the radio at least once a week, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

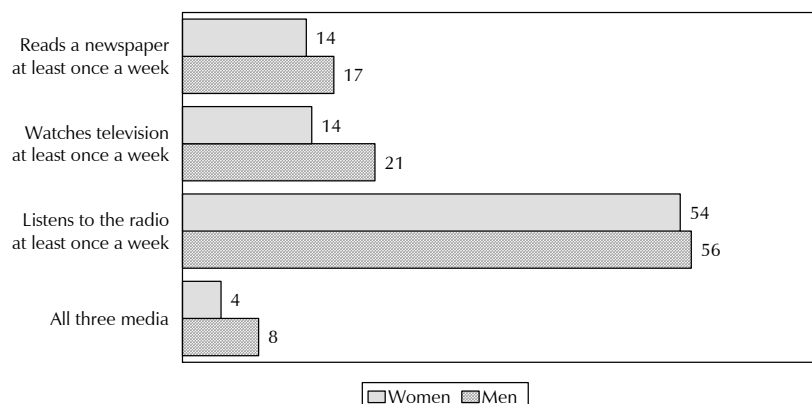
| Background characteristic | Reads a newspaper at least once a week | Watches television at least once a week | Listens to the radio at least once a week | All three media | No media | Number of men |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| <b>Age</b>                |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| 15-19                     | 12.7                                   | 20.2                                    | 52.2                                      | 6.1             | 43.5     | 743           |
| 20-24                     | 16.3                                   | 21.6                                    | 58.9                                      | 7.9             | 37.1     | 507           |
| 25-29                     | 20.3                                   | 24.2                                    | 58.3                                      | 9.1             | 35.5     | 374           |
| 30-34                     | 14.8                                   | 21.4                                    | 53.0                                      | 7.2             | 42.9     | 305           |
| 35-39                     | 19.3                                   | 23.3                                    | 61.3                                      | 11.9            | 35.1     | 233           |
| 40-44                     | 22.0                                   | 17.9                                    | 57.0                                      | 10.5            | 40.2     | 164           |
| 45-49                     | 21.1                                   | 23.4                                    | 54.4                                      | 14.2            | 44.3     | 170           |
| 50-54                     | 15.0                                   | 20.5                                    | 54.5                                      | 10.2            | 44.6     | 164           |
| 55-59                     | 15.5                                   | 11.9                                    | 48.7                                      | 3.0             | 48.0     | 137           |
| <b>Residence</b>          |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| Urban                     | 34.0                                   | 46.0                                    | 77.7                                      | 21.2            | 16.2     | 603           |
| Rural                     | 11.7                                   | 14.2                                    | 49.4                                      | 4.7             | 47.4     | 2,194         |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>    |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| Lowlands                  | 21.2                                   | 30.0                                    | 66.6                                      | 11.7            | 28.7     | 1,734         |
| Foothills                 | 11.5                                   | 8.4                                     | 48.9                                      | 2.8             | 48.4     | 307           |
| Mountains                 | 7.5                                    | 4.9                                     | 28.9                                      | 2.4             | 68.7     | 585           |
| Senqu River Valley        | 8.4                                    | 8.0                                     | 45.3                                      | 3.2             | 52.2     | 171           |
| <b>District</b>           |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| Butha-Buthe               | 16.8                                   | 18.4                                    | 62.2                                      | 7.0             | 34.3     | 182           |
| Leribe                    | 20.7                                   | 26.5                                    | 60.3                                      | 12.2            | 36.8     | 393           |
| Berea                     | 16.0                                   | 24.2                                    | 57.2                                      | 7.0             | 37.2     | 350           |
| Maseru                    | 25.1                                   | 32.2                                    | 68.8                                      | 14.9            | 27.0     | 741           |
| Mafeteng                  | 10.7                                   | 15.6                                    | 52.4                                      | 3.6             | 42.3     | 297           |
| Mohale's Hoek             | 9.7                                    | 20.0                                    | 56.2                                      | 4.4             | 40.1     | 281           |
| Quthing                   | 9.9                                    | 3.9                                     | 39.6                                      | 1.9             | 58.0     | 167           |
| Qacha's Nek               | 13.0                                   | 8.1                                     | 35.4                                      | 3.2             | 61.3     | 99            |
| Mokhotlong                | 7.8                                    | 5.3                                     | 35.3                                      | 2.9             | 62.3     | 130           |
| Thaba-Tseka               | 5.6                                    | 1.9                                     | 19.3                                      | 1.3             | 78.5     | 156           |
| <b>Education</b>          |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| No education              | 0.7                                    | 5.4                                     | 30.3                                      | 0.0             | 68.7     | 479           |
| Primary, incomplete       | 6.4                                    | 13.7                                    | 47.3                                      | 2.3             | 49.2     | 1,194         |
| Primary, complete         | 18.4                                   | 20.1                                    | 64.7                                      | 7.3             | 32.3     | 342           |
| Secondary+                | 40.7                                   | 42.2                                    | 79.2                                      | 22.8            | 14.1     | 783           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>    |  |   |   |                 |          |               |
| Lowest                    | 2.5                                    | 3.3                                     | 15.7                                      | 0.6             | 82.3     | 466           |
| Second                    | 7.3                                    | 7.8                                     | 41.0                                      | 1.0             | 55.3     | 514           |
| Middle                    | 11.1                                   | 12.7                                    | 54.5                                      | 4.6             | 41.1     | 566           |
| Fourth                    | 16.7                                   | 20.9                                    | 66.4                                      | 4.4             | 28.7     | 621           |
| Highest                   | 39.1                                   | 52.6                                    | 86.8                                      | 27.0            | 9.3      | 630           |
| Total                     | 16.5                                   | 21.0                                    | 55.5                                      | 8.3             | 40.6     | 2,797         |

Radio has the widest audience, with 54 percent of females and 56 percent of males saying they listen to the radio at least once a week (Figure 3.1). In comparison, 14 percent of females and 21 percent of males, watch television at least once a week and 14 percent of females and 17 percent of males report they read a newspaper or a magazine weekly. Nearly identical percentages of females and males are not exposed to any type of media on a regular basis (42 and 41 percent, respectively). Only 4 percent of women and 8 percent of men are exposed to all three of these media sources weekly.

The data show that there are relatively large differences for both sexes in the proportions having access to media by residence. For example, urban residents are much more likely to have been exposed to some form of media than rural residents for both sexes. Considering other residential categories, exposure to media is most common in the Lowlands zone and in Maseru district. The proportion with access to media increases with increasing education level and wealth of respondents.



**Figure 3.1 Access to Mass Media**



LDHS 2004

## **3.4 EMPLOYMENT**

### **3.4.1 Employment Status**

The 2004 LDHS asked respondents whether they were employed at the time of the survey and, if not, whether they were employed in the 12 months preceding the survey. Tables 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 show that 38 percent of women and 32 percent of men are currently employed and that 6 percent of women and 14 percent of men were not working at the time of the survey but had been employed at some point in the 12 months preceding the survey.

The proportion of women currently employed increases with age up to age group 25-29 and, for men, it increases up to age group 35-39 before falling somewhat at older ages. Women who are divorced, separated, or widowed are most likely to be employed (51 percent), followed by those who are married (43 percent). In contrast, married men are somewhat more likely to be employed than divorced, separated, or widowed men.

Urban residents are more likely to be currently employed than rural residents. Looking at the pattern by district, the percentages currently employed are highest for both sexes in Maseru (48 and 39 percent, respectively). Mokhotlong has the lowest percentage of women currently employed (27 percent), and the percentage of currently employed men is lowest in Butha-Buthe and Quthing (22 and 21 percent respectively).

The proportion currently employed is higher in men with no education (36 percent) and in women who have attended or completed secondary education or higher (42 percent). The proportion currently employed generally increases as the wealth index increases, with those in the highest wealth quintile much more likely to be currently employed than individuals in the bottom four quintiles.

Table 3.5.1 Employment status: women

Percent distribution of women by employment status, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic        | Employed in the 12 months preceding the survey |                        | Not employed in the 12 months preceding the survey | Missing/ don't know | Total | Number of respondents |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|
|                                  | Currently employed                             | Not currently employed |  |                     |       |                       |
| <b>Age</b>                       |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| 15-19                            | 15.3   | 3.4                    | 81.3   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,710                 |
| 20-24                            | 33.9   | 8.1                    | 58.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,463                 |
| 25-29                            | 50.0   | 9.9                    | 40.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,044                 |
| 30-34                            | 48.2   | 5.8                    | 46.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 816                   |
| 35-39                            | 50.8   | 6.8                    | 42.0   | 0.3                 | 100.0 | 728                   |
| 40-44                            | 49.8   | 6.2                    | 44.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 741                   |
| 45-49                            | 52.5   | 5.5                    | 42.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 592                   |
| <b>Marital status</b>            |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| Never married                    | 26.3   | 5.5                    | 68.2   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 2,373                 |
| Married or living together       | 42.6   | 6.5                    | 50.8   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 3,709                 |
| Divorced/separated/widowed       | 51.4   | 8.1                    | 40.4   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 1,014                 |
| <b>Number of living children</b> |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| 0                                | 26.4   | 5.3                    | 68.3   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 2,386                 |
| 1-2                              | 43.7   | 7.8                    | 48.6   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 2,563                 |
| 3-4                              | 47.5   | 6.3                    | 46.2   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,327                 |
| 5+                               | 42.1   | 5.6                    | 52.0   | 0.3                 | 100.0 | 820                   |
| <b>Residence</b>                 |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| Urban                            | 55.0   | 7.4                    | 37.7   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,682                 |
| Rural                            | 33.2   | 6.1                    | 60.6   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 5,413                 |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>           |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| Lowlands                         | 41.4   | 6.7                    | 51.8   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 4,299                 |
| Foothills                        | 32.3   | 4.5                    | 63.1   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 787                   |
| Mountains                        | 34.2   | 6.6                    | 59.2   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,572                 |
| Senqu River Valley               | 34.3   | 6.1                    | 59.5   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 437                   |
| <b>District</b>                  |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| Butha-Buthe                      | 29.7   | 4.1                    | 66.1   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 458                   |
| Leribe                           | 42.5   | 4.3                    | 53.1   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 1,065                 |
| Berea                            | 34.6   | 9.8                    | 55.5   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 776                   |
| Maseru                           | 47.8   | 7.3                    | 45.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,868                 |
| Mafeteng                         | 33.2   | 3.0                    | 63.8   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 755                   |
| Mohale's Hoek                    | 33.3   | 8.5                    | 58.1   | 0.2                 | 100.0 | 684                   |
| Quthing                          | 31.8   | 5.5                    | 62.7   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 461                   |
| Qacha's Nek                      | 31.8   | 10.6                   | 57.6   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 233                   |
| Mokhotlong                       | 27.3   | 7.1                    | 65.6   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 360                   |
| Thaba-Tseka                      | 40.8   | 5.2                    | 54.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 435                   |
| <b>Education</b>                 |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| No education                     | 34.4   | 7.5                    | 57.2   | 0.9                 | 100.0 | 145                   |
| Primary, incomplete              | 35.3   | 5.4                    | 59.2   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 2,136                 |
| Primary, complete                | 37.5   | 7.5                    | 55.0   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,936                 |
| Secondary+                       | 41.5   | 6.4                    | 52.1   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 2,878                 |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>           |  |                        |  |                     |       |                       |
| Lowest                           | 31.5   | 6.7                    | 61.9   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 987                   |
| Second                           | 31.5   | 6.1                    | 62.2   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 1,294                 |
| Middle                           | 32.2   | 7.2                    | 60.5   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 1,258                 |
| Fourth                           | 36.3   | 6.6                    | 57.1   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,595                 |
| Highest                          | 52.1   | 5.9                    | 42.1   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 1,962                 |
| Total                            | 38.4   | 6.4                    | 55.1   | 0.0                 | 100.0 | 7,095                 |

Table 3.5.2 Employment status: men

Percent distribution of men by employment status, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic  | Employed in the 12 months preceding the survey |                        | Not employed in the 12 months preceding the survey | Missing/ don't know | Total | Number of men |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------|-------|---------------|
|                            | Currently employed                             | Not currently employed |  |                     |       |               |
| Age                        |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| 15-19                      | 13.5   | 7.0                    | 77.0   | 2.6                 | 100.0 | 743           |
| 20-24                      | 30.3   | 11.9                   | 56.5   | 1.3                 | 100.0 | 507           |
| 25-29                      | 39.4   | 23.5                   | 36.5   | 0.6                 | 100.0 | 374           |
| 30-34                      | 42.4   | 19.8                   | 33.7   | 4.2                 | 100.0 | 305           |
| 35-39                      | 52.4   | 12.4                   | 34.4   | 0.8                 | 100.0 | 233           |
| 40-44                      | 41.1   | 17.1                   | 40.0   | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 164           |
| 45-49                      | 47.9   | 13.2                   | 37.2   | 1.7                 | 100.0 | 170           |
| 50-54                      | 32.0   | 20.4                   | 47.5   | 0.1                 | 100.0 | 164           |
| 55-59                      | 32.4   | 15.4                   | 51.4   | 0.7                 | 100.0 | 137           |
| Marital status             |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| Never married              | 22.4   | 10.4                   | 65.0   | 2.2                 | 100.0 | 1,419         |
| Married or living together | 43.2   | 17.6                   | 38.0   | 1.2                 | 100.0 | 1,191         |
| Divorced/separated/widowed | 35.5   | 20.6                   | 41.9   | 2.0                 | 100.0 | 184           |
| Number of living children  |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| 0                          | 24.3   | 11.2                   | 62.5   | 1.9                 | 100.0 | 1,561         |
| 1-2                        | 44.1   | 16.3                   | 37.7   | 1.9                 | 100.0 | 635           |
| 3-4                        | 42.4   | 20.5                   | 35.3   | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 359           |
| 5+                         | 35.4   | 17.3                   | 46.8   | 0.4                 | 100.0 | 242           |
| Residence                  |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| Urban                      | 44.1   | 14.1                   | 40.0   | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 603           |
| Rural                      | 28.8   | 14.1                   | 55.3   | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 2,194         |
| District                   |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| Butha-Buthe                | 22.2   | 20.0                   | 55.5   | 2.2                 | 100.0 | 182           |
| Leribe                     | 35.8   | 15.3                   | 47.9   | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 393           |
| Berea                      | 37.7   | 13.0                   | 47.5   | 1.9                 | 100.0 | 350           |
| Maseru                     | 39.1   | 12.7                   | 45.4   | 2.7                 | 100.0 | 741           |
| Mafeteng                   | 26.9   | 9.2                    | 63.6   | 0.2                 | 100.0 | 297           |
| Mohale's Hoek              | 25.2   | 14.8                   | 59.0   | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 281           |
| Quthing                    | 20.6   | 12.1                   | 66.2   | 1.1                 | 100.0 | 167           |
| Qacha's Nek                | 38.2   | 25.6                   | 35.2   | 1.0                 | 100.0 | 99            |
| Mokhotlong                 | 27.0   | 22.2                   | 49.5   | 1.4                 | 100.0 | 130           |
| Thaba-Tseka                | 23.3   | 9.4                    | 63.2   | 4.0                 | 100.0 | 156           |
| Education                  |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| No education               | 35.7   | 18.5                   | 43.4   | 2.4                 | 100.0 | 479           |
| Primary, incomplete        | 30.4   | 13.6                   | 54.1   | 1.9                 | 100.0 | 1,194         |
| Primary, complete          | 33.8   | 12.8                   | 51.0   | 2.4                 | 100.0 | 342           |
| Secondary+                 | 31.8   | 12.7                   | 54.6   | 0.9                 | 100.0 | 783           |
| Wealth quintile            |  |                        |  |                     |       |               |
| Lowest                     | 27.3   | 19.3                   | 51.9   | 1.5                 | 100.0 | 466           |
| Second                     | 26.6   | 13.2                   | 58.1   | 2.1                 | 100.0 | 514           |
| Middle                     | 30.0   | 16.5                   | 52.2   | 1.3                 | 100.0 | 566           |
| Fourth                     | 30.4   | 14.4                   | 52.9   | 2.4                 | 100.0 | 621           |
| Highest                    | 43.7   | 8.6                    | 46.2   | 1.4                 | 100.0 | 630           |
| Total                      | 32.1   | 14.1                   | 52.0   | 1.8                 | 100.0 | 2,797         |

### 3.4.2 Occupation

The distributions of women and men employed in the 12 months preceding the survey by occupation are shown in Tables 3.6.1 and 3.6.2. One in three working women and almost four in ten working men are engaged in agricultural occupations. Among both women and men, the next most common occupation is skilled manual labour (27 and 32 percent, respectively). The sales and service sector is the third most common occupation category, engaging 18 percent of women and 12 percent of men. Ten percent of employed women do domestic work, and 7 percent work in professional, technical, or managerial fields.

| Background characteristic        | Professional/technical/managerial | Clerical | Sales and services | Skilled manual | Unskilled manual | Domestic service | Agriculture | Total | Number of women |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|
| <b>Age</b>                       |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| 15-19                            | 1.9                               | 0.6      | 13.1               | 9.7            | 7.1              | 27.9             | 39.7        | 100.0 | 320             |
| 20-24                            | 3.5                               | 3.1      | 17.8               | 33.9           | 2.5              | 11.2             | 28.0        | 100.0 | 614             |
| 25-29                            | 7.0                               | 4.5      | 15.1               | 37.7           | 1.8              | 9.0              | 24.9        | 100.0 | 626             |
| 30-34                            | 8.2                               | 3.4      | 17.7               | 29.4           | 1.6              | 8.0              | 31.6        | 100.0 | 441             |
| 35-39                            | 7.8                               | 2.8      | 21.6               | 25.8           | 5.8              | 4.2              | 32.1        | 100.0 | 420             |
| 40-44                            | 11.8                              | 1.3      | 21.8               | 19.1           | 2.0              | 4.2              | 39.7        | 100.0 | 415             |
| 45-49                            | 7.4                               | 4.9      | 18.4               | 19.3           | 2.6              | 7.2              | 40.2        | 100.0 | 344             |
| <b>Marital status</b>            |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| Never married                    | 5.3                               | 4.5      | 17.9               | 31.1           | 3.6              | 19.3             | 18.2        | 100.0 | 755             |
| Married or living together       | 7.1                               | 2.8      | 16.7               | 26.0           | 2.7              | 5.4              | 39.2        | 100.0 | 1,822           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed       | 7.5                               | 2.1      | 21.5               | 24.8           | 3.5              | 10.7             | 29.9        | 100.0 | 603             |
| <b>Number of living children</b> |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| 0                                | 5.3                               | 4.3      | 16.2               | 29.7           | 3.9              | 18.0             | 22.5        | 100.0 | 757             |
| 1-2                              | 7.2                               | 3.2      | 19.6               | 32.0           | 2.1              | 8.1              | 27.8        | 100.0 | 1,318           |
| 3-4                              | 8.3                               | 2.6      | 16.9               | 23.0           | 3.5              | 6.8              | 38.8        | 100.0 | 714             |
| 5+                               | 5.2                               | 1.2      | 17.0               | 12.4           | 3.8              | 4.8              | 55.8        | 100.0 | 391             |
| <b>Residence</b>                 |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| Urban                            | 7.9                               | 6.1      | 22.4               | 48.1           | 2.4              | 10.3             | 2.9         | 100.0 | 1,048           |
| Rural                            | 6.2                               | 1.6      | 15.7               | 16.7           | 3.4              | 9.5              | 47.0        | 100.0 | 2,132           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>           |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| Lowlands                         | 6.9                               | 3.8      | 19.6               | 35.0           | 2.2              | 9.9              | 22.6        | 100.0 | 2,071           |
| Foothills                        | 7.9                               | 1.4      | 13.4               | 14.0           | 5.7              | 9.8              | 47.7        | 100.0 | 290             |
| Mountains                        | 6.4                               | 1.0      | 14.9               | 11.7           | 4.3              | 9.5              | 52.2        | 100.0 | 642             |
| Senqu River Valley               | 4.3                               | 4.5      | 15.8               | 11.0           | 4.3              | 9.2              | 50.8        | 100.0 | 177             |
| <b>District</b>                  |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| Butha-Buthe                      | 13.0                              | 2.5      | 24.2               | 12.1           | 4.2              | 11.9             | 32.1        | 100.0 | 155             |
| Leribe                           | 5.6                               | 1.4      | 17.8               | 31.1           | 2.1              | 6.9              | 35.1        | 100.0 | 499             |
| Berea                            | 7.6                               | 3.0      | 14.3               | 23.4           | 2.1              | 12.8             | 36.8        | 100.0 | 345             |
| Maseru                           | 6.8                               | 4.4      | 21.4               | 43.8           | 2.0              | 8.6              | 13.0        | 100.0 | 1,028           |
| Mafeteng                         | 6.5                               | 3.5      | 14.9               | 20.3           | 5.1              | 10.0             | 39.7        | 100.0 | 273             |
| Mohale's Hoek                    | 4.2                               | 3.0      | 18.2               | 12.3           | 4.7              | 12.7             | 44.9        | 100.0 | 285             |
| Quthing                          | 3.8                               | 4.5      | 14.9               | 11.5           | 4.4              | 7.4              | 53.4        | 100.0 | 172             |
| Qacha's Nek                      | 8.8                               | 1.9      | 19.3               | 9.3            | 2.8              | 14.1             | 43.8        | 100.0 | 99              |
| Mokhotlong                       | 10.5                              | 1.5      | 17.0               | 10.4           | 4.2              | 16.3             | 40.0        | 100.0 | 124             |
| Thaba-Tseka                      | 6.0                               | 0.5      | 7.6                | 11.4           | 4.7              | 7.0              | 62.7        | 100.0 | 200             |
| <b>Education</b>                 |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| No education                     | 1.6                               | 0.2      | 13.6               | 11.0           | 2.9              | 9.3              | 61.4        | 100.0 | 61              |
| Primary, incomplete              | 0.8                               | 0.4      | 13.7               | 15.5           | 4.5              | 13.8             | 51.2        | 100.0 | 870             |
| Primary, complete                | 1.3                               | 0.8      | 16.3               | 29.6           | 2.7              | 14.0             | 35.5        | 100.0 | 871             |
| Secondary+                       | 14.2                              | 6.3      | 21.7               | 33.4           | 2.4              | 4.5              | 17.5        | 100.0 | 1,378           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>           |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |                 |
| Lowest                           | 3.1                               | 0.2      | 9.7                | 10.7           | 4.2              | 8.5              | 63.7        | 100.0 | 376             |
| Second                           | 2.9                               | 0.2      | 13.8               | 14.1           | 5.0              | 10.8             | 53.2        | 100.0 | 487             |
| Middle                           | 4.8                               | 1.7      | 15.2               | 20.5           | 3.6              | 10.3             | 43.9        | 100.0 | 496             |
| Fourth                           | 6.0                               | 1.9      | 19.2               | 31.8           | 3.4              | 7.6              | 30.1        | 100.0 | 685             |
| Highest                          | 10.9                              | 6.5      | 22.7               | 37.9           | 1.4              | 10.8             | 9.7         | 100.0 | 1,136           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | 6.7                               | 3.1      | 17.9               | 27.0           | 3.1              | 9.7              | 32.5        | 100.0 | 3,180           |

Table 3.6.2 Occupation: men

Percent distribution of men employed in the 12 months preceding the survey by occupation, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic        | Professional/technical/managerial | Clerical | Sales and services | Skilled manual | Unskilled manual | Domestic service | Agriculture | Total | Number of men |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|
| <b>Age</b>                       |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| 15-19                            | 3.4                               | 1.4      | 4.7                | 3.1            | 13.1             | 0.1              | 74.3        | 100.0 | 152           |
| 20-24                            | 4.6                               | 1.8      | 8.2                | 18.6           | 13.5             | 1.6              | 51.6        | 100.0 | 214           |
| 25-29                            | 5.6                               | 5.8      | 15.8               | 36.4           | 7.9              | 0.1              | 28.5        | 100.0 | 235           |
| 30-34                            | 4.6                               | 6.0      | 14.7               | 44.6           | 6.4              | 0.1              | 23.7        | 100.0 | 189           |
| 35-39                            | 11.2                              | 5.0      | 17.3               | 42.2           | 3.3              | 0.6              | 20.3        | 100.0 | 151           |
| 40-44                            | 6.2                               | 2.4      | 21.5               | 37.3           | 0.0              | 0.0              | 32.6        | 100.0 | 95            |
| 45-49                            | 19.2                              | 0.7      | 3.7                | 40.9           | 9.0              | 0.0              | 26.5        | 100.0 | 104           |
| 50-54                            | 8.0                               | 1.4      | 12.1               | 36.5           | 3.2              | 0.9              | 38.0        | 100.0 | 86            |
| 55-59                            | 2.3                               | 1.4      | 9.0                | 33.2           | 1.0              | 0.0              | 53.2        | 100.0 | 66            |
| <b>Marital status</b>            |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| Never married                    | 4.7                               | 3.3      | 8.7                | 17.4           | 11.2             | 1.0              | 53.6        | 100.0 | 465           |
| Married or living together       | 8.5                               | 2.8      | 15.5               | 39.9           | 5.6              | 0.0              | 27.5        | 100.0 | 724           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed       | 3.9                               | 7.5      | 3.3                | 38.0           | 4.2              | 0.7              | 42.3        | 100.0 | 103           |
| <b>Number of living children</b> |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| 0                                | 4.8                               | 3.2      | 9.2                | 20.7           | 11.5             | 0.9              | 49.8        | 100.0 | 555           |
| 1-2                              | 7.1                               | 5.6      | 18.2               | 43.4           | 3.6              | 0.0              | 22.1        | 100.0 | 383           |
| 3-4                              | 13.2                              | 2.1      | 11.1               | 36.6           | 7.1              | 0.4              | 29.6        | 100.0 | 226           |
| 5+                               | 2.9                               | 0.0      | 8.3                | 35.5           | 2.7              | 0.0              | 50.5        | 100.0 | 128           |
| <b>Residence</b>                 |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| Urban                            | 13.2                              | 7.1      | 26.1               | 40.8           | 6.1              | 0.1              | 6.7         | 100.0 | 351           |
| Rural                            | 4.4                               | 2.0      | 6.9                | 28.3           | 8.1              | 0.6              | 49.8        | 100.0 | 942           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>           |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| Lowlands                         | 8.5                               | 4.2      | 15.0               | 36.6           | 8.5              | 0.4              | 26.7        | 100.0 | 795           |
| Foothills                        | 3.9                               | 2.4      | 4.0                | 23.9           | 6.4              | 0.7              | 58.8        | 100.0 | 147           |
| Mountains                        | 4.6                               | 1.1      | 8.4                | 21.6           | 4.6              | 0.4              | 59.3        | 100.0 | 289           |
| Senqu River Valley               | 1.8                               | 5.6      | 11.5               | 33.3           | 12.3             | 0.0              | 35.6        | 100.0 | 61            |
| <b>District</b>                  |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| Butha-Buthe                      | 5.7                               | 1.8      | 12.8               | 42.4           | 4.8              | 0.0              | 32.5        | 100.0 | 77            |
| Leribe                           | 10.6                              | 2.5      | 12.9               | 35.5           | 5.6              | 0.5              | 32.4        | 100.0 | 201           |
| Berea                            | 2.9                               | 3.9      | 7.1                | 22.2           | 8.7              | 0.8              | 54.3        | 100.0 | 177           |
| Maseru                           | 11.2                              | 4.8      | 18.0               | 31.6           | 7.0              | 0.5              | 26.9        | 100.0 | 385           |
| Mafeteng                         | 0.2                               | 2.0      | 8.7                | 33.2           | 8.6              | 0.0              | 47.2        | 100.0 | 107           |
| Mohale's Hoek                    | 3.5                               | 5.2      | 3.0                | 46.7           | 12.0             | 0.0              | 29.6        | 100.0 | 112           |
| Quthing                          | 2.5                               | 5.1      | 13.5               | 22.7           | 16.0             | 0.0              | 40.3        | 100.0 | 54            |
| Qacha's Nek                      | 1.9                               | 1.0      | 10.6               | 22.1           | 5.0              | 1.5              | 58.0        | 100.0 | 63            |
| Mokhotlong                       | 5.1                               | 0.4      | 9.5                | 25.8           | 5.0              | 0.2              | 53.9        | 100.0 | 64            |
| Thaba-Tseka                      | 7.8                               | 0.6      | 11.3               | 26.4           | 4.4              | 0.3              | 49.3        | 100.0 | 51            |
| <b>Education</b>                 |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| No education                     | 1.0                               | 0.4      | 5.0                | 26.9           | 5.8              | 0.4              | 60.6        | 100.0 | 260           |
| Primary, incomplete              | 2.3                               | 0.7      | 8.8                | 30.7           | 7.2              | 0.2              | 50.2        | 100.0 | 525           |
| Primary, complete                | 2.1                               | 8.2      | 11.3               | 43.3           | 6.5              | 0.9              | 27.6        | 100.0 | 159           |
| Secondary+                       | 20.1                              | 7.4      | 22.7               | 31.3           | 9.8              | 0.6              | 8.0         | 100.0 | 349           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>           |                                   |          |                    |                |                  |                  |             |       |               |
| Lowest                           | 1.1                               | 0.1      | 4.7                | 24.2           | 6.2              | 0.0              | 63.7        | 100.0 | 217           |
| Second                           | 4.1                               | 1.2      | 8.4                | 25.7           | 8.3              | 0.5              | 51.8        | 100.0 | 205           |
| Middle                           | 3.7                               | 3.1      | 3.4                | 30.2           | 7.6              | 1.7              | 50.2        | 100.0 | 263           |
| Fourth                           | 4.9                               | 4.7      | 10.6               | 41.5           | 10.5             | 0.1              | 27.8        | 100.0 | 278           |
| Highest                          | 16.3                              | 6.0      | 27.4               | 33.1           | 5.4              | 0.0              | 11.8        | 100.0 | 330           |
| Total                            | 6.8                               | 3.4      | 12.1               | 31.7           | 7.5              | 0.4              | 38.1        | 100.0 | 1,293         |

Differences by background characteristics show that rural women (47 percent) and men (50 percent) are more likely to be employed in agricultural jobs than urban women (3 percent) and men (7 percent). In turn, urban residents are more likely than rural residents to be engaged in skilled manual or sales and service occupations. Among women, domestic service is particularly high among never-married (19 percent) and younger respondents age 15-19 (28 percent).

### 3.4.3 Type of Employer, Form of Earnings, and Continuity of Employment

Table 3.7.1 presents the percent distribution of employed women, by type of earnings and employment characteristics, according to type of employment (agricultural or nonagricultural).

The data show that slightly more than 60 percent of employed women receive cash for their work, and almost one in three is unpaid. Women are more likely to be paid in kind or not paid at all if they are employed in agricultural activities. Less than half of working women are employed by a nonfamily member, and 38 percent are self-employed. Women are more likely to be self-employed if they are doing agricultural work than if they are engaged in nonagricultural work. Women are also more prone to seasonal work if they are employed in agricultural activities (90 percent) than if they are in nonagricultural occupations (16 percent) and, conversely, continuity of employment is more assured for women who are engaged in nonagricultural work, 74 percent of whom are engaged throughout the year.

| Table 3.7.1 Type of employment: women   |                   |                      |       |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Percent distribution of women employed in the 12 months preceding the survey by type of earnings, type of employer, and continuity of employment, according to type of employment (agricultural or nonagricultural), Lesotho 2004 |                   |                      |       |
| Employment characteristic   | Agricultural work | Nonagricultural work | Total |
| <b>Type of earnings</b>   |                   |                      |       |
| Cash only   | 6.4               | 85.7                 | 59.9  |
| Cash and in-kind  | 1.3               | 3.5                  | 2.8   |
| In-kind only  | 9.1               | 2.4                  | 4.6   |
| Not paid  | 83.2              | 7.9                  | 32.4  |
| Total   | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0 |
| <b>Type of employer</b>   |                   |                      |       |
| Employed by family member   | 31.5              | 4.7                  | 13.4  |
| Employed by nonfamily member  | 13.7              | 65.0                 | 48.4  |
| Self-employed   | 54.8              | 29.9                 | 38.0  |
| Total   | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0 |
| <b>Continuity of employment</b>   |                   |                      |       |
| All year  | 7.6               | 73.6                 | 52.2  |
| Seasonal  | 89.5              | 15.7                 | 39.6  |
| Occasional  | 2.8               | 10.3                 | 7.8   |
| Total   | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0 |
| Number of respondents   | 1,032             | 2,147                | 3,180 |
| Note: Total includes 15 women with missing information on type of employment who are not shown separately.  |                   |                      |       |

For the male respondents, questions on the type of employment were somewhat more limited than those for women. For example, men were not asked about the type of employer and the continuity or seasonality of their employment. Table 3.7.2 provides information on the type of earnings and employment patterns for men. Results show that 67 percent of men earn cash for the work they do, and 23 percent are not paid for their work.

Table 3.7.2 Type of employment: men

Percent distribution of men employed in the 12 months preceding the survey by type of earnings, according to type of employment (agricultural or nonagricultural), Lesotho 2004

| Type of earnings | Agricultural work | Nonagricultural work | Total |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Cash only        | 24.8              | 88.9                 | 64.5  |
| Cash and in-kind | 2.8               | 2.4                  | 2.6   |
| In-kind only     | 18.3              | 1.5                  | 7.9   |
| Not paid         | 54.1              | 4.5                  | 23.4  |
| Total            | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0 |
| Number of men    | 492               | 800                  | 1,293 |

Note: Total includes 4 men with missing information on type of employment who are not shown separately.

### 3.4.4 Control Over Earnings and Women's Contribution to Household Expenditures

Women and men who were working and receiving cash earnings were asked who makes the decisions on how their earnings are used. They were also asked what proportion of household expenditures is met by their earnings. Table 3.8.1 shows that 70 percent of working women say they decide by themselves how their earnings are used, and an additional 22 percent make the decision jointly with someone else. Table 3.8.2 shows that working men are somewhat less likely than working women to say they alone decide on their own how earnings will be used (57 percent) and somewhat more likely to make these decisions jointly with someone else (28 percent). Only 9 percent of women and 14 percent of men report that the decision on how to use their earnings is made entirely by someone else.

Tables 3.8.1 and 3.8.2 also look at how the degree of control over a respondent's earnings varies by background characteristics. The results generally show that, regardless of background characteristics, the majority of respondents make the decisions on how their cash earnings are used themselves. Married women and men, compared with their unmarried counterparts, are somewhat more likely to involve another person in making the decision. Women and men are more likely to report that someone else makes the decisions about their earnings if they are under age 20 (20 and 35 percent, respectively). The proportions of both women and men in the lowest wealth quintile who report that decisions about the use of their earnings are made by someone are also comparatively high (20 and 23 percent, respectively).

Regarding the proportion of household expenditures met by their earnings, 4 percent of working women reported that their earnings supported all household expenditure, and 36 percent reported that their earnings constitute more than half of household expenditures. Younger women and women who are married or living together with their partner are more likely to provide all of the financial support for their households. Seven percent of working men report that their earnings cover all household expenditures.

Table 3.8.1 Decision on use of earnings and contribution of earnings to household expenditures: women

Percent distribution of women employed in the 12 months preceding the survey receiving cash earnings by person who decides how earnings are to be used and by proportion of household expenditures met by earnings, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic        | Person who decides how earnings are used |                      |                                |         | Total   | Proportion of household expenditures met by earnings |                |              |       |         | Total   | Number of women |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|----------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|-----------------|
|                                  | Self only                                | Jointly <sup>1</sup> | Someone else only <sup>2</sup> | Missing |         | Almost none/none                                     | Less than half | Half or more | All   | Missing |         |                 |
| <b>Age</b>                       |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| 15-19                            | 67.3                                     | 11.9                 | 20.3                           | 0.5     | 100.0   | 8.5  | 52.6           | 32.3         | 6.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 160             |
| 20-24                            | 68.0                                     | 18.7                 | 12.8                           | 0.5     | 100.0   | 8.4  | 48.7           | 39.6         | 3.3   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 405             |
| 25-29                            | 68.4                                     | 23.3                 | 8.3                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.8   | 51.6           | 34.6         | 2.6   | 0.3     | 100.0   | 442             |
| 30-34                            | 69.0                                     | 26.3                 | 4.8                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.7   | 46.4           | 39.4         | 3.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 286             |
| 35-39                            | 70.8                                     | 23.6                 | 5.1                            | 0.5     | 100.0   | 8.5  | 51.0           | 36.8         | 2.9   | 0.9     | 100.0   | 266             |
| 40-44                            | 74.4                                     | 19.8                 | 5.8                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.9   | 50.7           | 34.0         | 4.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 246             |
| 45-49                            | 69.9                                     | 23.7                 | 6.4                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 9.0  | 60.1           | 27.4         | 3.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 187             |
| <b>Marital status</b>            |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| Never married                    | 83.8                                     | 4.7                  | 11.0                           | 0.6     | 100.0   | 8.8  | 55.0           | 32.7         | 3.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 569             |
| Married or living together       | 52.0                                     | 38.4                 | 9.5                            | 0.1     | 100.0   | 9.8  | 47.4           | 38.7         | 3.8   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 1,025           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed       | 94.1                                     | 2.3                  | 3.7                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.4   | 54.2           | 32.1         | 3.0   | 0.4     | 100.0   | 401             |
| <b>Number of living children</b> |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| 0                                | 75.2                                     | 11.4                 | 12.9                           | 0.5     | 100.0   | 6.9  | 52.9           | 36.0         | 3.9   | 0.3     | 100.0   | 532             |
| 1-2                              | 68.3                                     | 24.9                 | 6.8                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.6   | 50.3           | 35.8         | 3.1   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 900             |
| 3-4                              | 66.3                                     | 25.4                 | 8.3                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.0   | 48.8           | 37.0         | 4.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 406             |
| 5+                               | 65.7                                     | 26.6                 | 7.2                            | 0.5     | 100.0   | 12.6   | 53.4           | 30.2         | 3.3   | 0.5     | 100.0   | 157             |
| <b>Residence</b>                 |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| Urban                            | 72.9                                     | 21.7                 | 5.1                            | 0.3     | 100.0   | 9.5  | 52.7           | 34.0         | 3.8   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 968             |
| Rural                            | 66.3                                     | 21.4                 | 12.2                           | 0.1     | 100.0   | 9.8  | 49.2           | 37.3         | 3.3   | 0.4     | 100.0   | 1,026           |
| <b>District</b>                  |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| Butha-Buthe                      | 66.6                                     | 22.1                 | 11.4                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 27.1   | 42.4           | 29.3         | 1.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 102             |
| Leribe                           | 75.4                                     | 17.3                 | 7.4                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 7.3  | 36.9           | 51.8         | 4.0   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 292             |
| Berea                            | 69.9                                     | 14.8                 | 15.1                           | 0.2     | 100.0   | 5.8  | 53.1           | 37.2         | 3.8   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 202             |
| Maseru                           | 70.0                                     | 22.6                 | 7.2                            | 0.3     | 100.0   | 10.7   | 53.8           | 31.4         | 4.1   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 861             |
| Mafeteng                         | 60.8                                     | 35.1                 | 3.6                            | 0.5     | 100.0   | 3.5  | 58.8           | 32.0         | 3.7   | 2.0     | 100.0   | 145             |
| Mohale's Hoek                    | 66.9                                     | 22.9                 | 10.1                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 5.5  | 56.6           | 34.4         | 3.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 139             |
| Quthing                          | 71.0                                     | 21.8                 | 7.2                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 17.9   | 55.4           | 21.4         | 5.4   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 66              |
| Qacha's Nek                      | 75.2                                     | 14.8                 | 10.0                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.7  | 50.0           | 40.1         | 1.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 54              |
| Mokhotlong                       | 69.2                                     | 18.6                 | 10.9                           | 1.3     | 100.0   | 7.8  | 52.9           | 37.5         | 0.5   | 1.3     | 100.0   | 61              |
| Thaba-Tseka                      | 60.9                                     | 20.9                 | 18.2                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.3  | 47.7           | 43.8         | 0.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 73              |
| <b>Education</b>                 |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| No education                     | (81.8)                                   | (12.7)               | (5.5)                          | (0.0)   | (100.0) | (15.9)   | (51.6)         | (32.5)       | (0.0) | (0.0)   | (100.0) | 19              |
| Primary, incomplete              | 71.4                                     | 16.0                 | 12.4                           | 0.2     | 100.0   | 11.7   | 56.9           | 27.0         | 4.0   | 0.4     | 100.0   | 385             |
| Primary, complete                | 69.5                                     | 20.7                 | 9.8                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 9.4  | 51.2           | 36.5         | 2.9   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 532             |
| Secondary+                       | 68.7                                     | 24.1                 | 6.9                            | 0.3     | 100.0   | 8.9  | 48.6           | 38.4         | 3.8   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 1,059           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>           |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |                 |
| Lowest                           | 63.4                                     | 16.9                 | 19.6                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.2  | 53.4           | 38.2         | 0.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 127             |
| Second                           | 71.1                                     | 17.8                 | 10.7                           | 0.4     | 100.0   | 15.0   | 49.0           | 32.1         | 3.4   | 0.4     | 100.0   | 210             |
| Middle                           | 63.7                                     | 22.2                 | 14.2                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.9  | 50.8           | 37.1         | 2.7   | 0.6     | 100.0   | 256             |
| Fourth                           | 68.5                                     | 20.9                 | 10.1                           | 0.5     | 100.0   | 11.9   | 49.6           | 36.7         | 1.9   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 438             |
| Highest                          | 72.0                                     | 23.0                 | 4.9                            | 0.1     | 100.0   | 7.9  | 51.7           | 35.2         | 5.0   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 964             |
| Total                            | 69.5                                     | 21.5                 | 8.8                            | 0.2     | 100.0   | 9.7  | 50.9           | 35.7         | 3.6   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 1,995           |

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> With husband or someone else

<sup>2</sup> Includes husband



Table 3.8.2 Decision on use of earnings and contribution of earnings to household expenditures: men

Percent distribution of men employed in the 12 months preceding the survey receiving cash earnings by person who decides how earnings are to be used and by proportion of household expenditures met by earnings, according to background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic        | Person who decides how earnings are used |                      |                                |         | Total   | Proportion of household expenditures met by earnings |                |              |       |         |         | Number of men |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|----------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
|                                  | Self only                                | Jointly <sup>1</sup> | Someone else only <sup>2</sup> | Missing |         | Almost none/none                                     | Less than half | Half or more | All   | Missing | Total   |               |
| <b>Age</b>                       |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| 15-19                            | 40.1                                     | 21.4                 | 35.4                           | 3.1     | 100.0   | 11.9   | 55.1           | 29.8         | 0.0   | 3.1     | 100.0   | 47            |
| 20-24                            | 64.1                                     | 14.2                 | 21.7                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 15.8   | 52.8           | 27.6         | 3.8   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 129           |
| 25-29                            | 64.1                                     | 24.3                 | 11.6                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 6.9  | 54.6           | 35.8         | 2.7   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 181           |
| 30-34                            | 53.6                                     | 33.3                 | 13.1                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 9.7  | 45.9           | 41.9         | 2.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 154           |
| 35-39                            | 53.2                                     | 37.9                 | 8.9                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 13.1   | 36.5           | 40.8         | 9.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 131           |
| 40-44                            | 52.3                                     | 34.3                 | 13.4                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 11.3   | 35.4           | 36.4         | 16.9  | 0.0     | 100.0   | 67            |
| 45-49                            | 55.3                                     | 33.3                 | 11.4                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 6.2  | 33.4           | 45.6         | 14.9  | 0.0     | 100.0   | 73            |
| 50-54                            | 60.0                                     | 25.3                 | 14.7                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 5.9  | 38.4           | 43.0         | 12.7  | 0.0     | 100.0   | 57            |
| 55-59                            | (53.9)                                   | (40.4)               | (5.8)                          | (0.0)   | (100.0) | (9.0)  | (26.7)         | (61.0)       | (3.2) | (0.0)   | (100.0) | 28            |
| <b>Marital status</b>            |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| Never married                    | 71.7                                     | 9.5                  | 18.2                           | 0.6     | 100.0   | 14.6   | 52.7           | 29.8         | 2.3   | 0.6     | 100.0   | 258           |
| Married or living together       | 46.0                                     | 41.1                 | 13.0                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 7.6  | 40.9           | 42.4         | 9.1   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 537           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed       | 87.2                                     | 1.7                  | 11.1                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 13.8   | 46.0           | 37.5         | 2.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 71            |
| <b>Number of living children</b> |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| 0                                | 69.4                                     | 13.4                 | 16.8                           | 0.4     | 100.0   | 13.5   | 51.9           | 31.4         | 2.7   | 0.4     | 100.0   | 326           |
| 1-2                              | 52.3                                     | 35.4                 | 12.3                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 5.6  | 45.7           | 40.7         | 8.1   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 312           |
| 3-4                              | 45.5                                     | 41.1                 | 13.3                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 14.3   | 31.0           | 45.1         | 9.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 161           |
| 5+                               | 46.5                                     | 38.7                 | 14.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 5.9  | 39.4           | 44.0         | 10.7  | 0.0     | 100.0   | 67            |
| <b>Residence</b>                 |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| Urban                            | 64.1                                     | 28.5                 | 7.5                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.4  | 43.5           | 40.3         | 7.9   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 323           |
| Rural                            | 52.9                                     | 28.4                 | 18.5                           | 0.3     | 100.0   | 11.3   | 45.6           | 37.0         | 5.7   | 0.3     | 100.0   | 544           |
| <b>District</b>                  |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| Butha-Buthe                      | 66.1                                     | 21.1                 | 12.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 19.0   | 30.4           | 47.1         | 3.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 51            |
| Leribe                           | 60.4                                     | 26.0                 | 13.7                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 7.1  | 41.2           | 44.6         | 7.1   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 129           |
| Berea                            | 60.7                                     | 18.9                 | 18.9                           | 1.5     | 100.0   | 6.0  | 51.1           | 37.0         | 4.4   | 1.5     | 100.0   | 94            |
| Maseru                           | 61.6                                     | 26.6                 | 11.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 11.4   | 43.7           | 36.7         | 8.2   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 291           |
| Mafeteng                         | 42.3                                     | 50.4                 | 7.3                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 0.4  | 56.6           | 35.4         | 7.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 63            |
| Mohale's Hoek                    | 49.0                                     | 36.8                 | 14.1                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.0  | 44.6           | 40.7         | 6.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 94            |
| Quthing                          | 51.0                                     | 33.0                 | 16.0                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 25.0   | 48.0           | 24.0         | 3.0   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 46            |
| Qacha's Nek                      | 56.2                                     | 16.3                 | 27.5                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 6.5  | 50.7           | 36.2         | 6.7   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 30            |
| Mokhotlong                       | 42.8                                     | 39.4                 | 17.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 8.2  | 50.9           | 33.5         | 7.4   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 37            |
| Thaba-Tseka                      | 54.9                                     | 18.3                 | 26.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 22.4   | 33.9           | 42.8         | 0.9   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 31            |
| <b>Education</b>                 |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| No education                     | 48.4                                     | 30.6                 | 21.0                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 19.3   | 45.3           | 31.0         | 4.4   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 133           |
| Primary, incomplete              | 56.7                                     | 26.7                 | 16.2                           | 0.5     | 100.0   | 6.6  | 46.4           | 41.0         | 5.6   | 0.5     | 100.0   | 312           |
| Primary, complete                | 65.2                                     | 15.6                 | 19.2                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 7.4  | 55.8           | 30.2         | 6.6   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 121           |
| Secondary+                       | 58.0                                     | 34.4                 | 7.7                            | 0.0     | 100.0   | 11.1   | 38.6           | 41.9         | 8.4   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 300           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>           |  |                      |                                |         |         |  |                |              |       |         |         |               |
| Lowest                           | 55.9                                     | 21.0                 | 23.1                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 10.7   | 52.9           | 30.4         | 6.0   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 98            |
| Second                           | 50.0                                     | 31.8                 | 18.2                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 15.4   | 38.8           | 43.3         | 2.5   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 119           |
| Middle                           | 61.8                                     | 21.4                 | 16.8                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 13.7   | 50.8           | 30.8         | 4.7   | 0.0     | 100.0   | 146           |
| Fourth                           | 61.3                                     | 28.6                 | 9.4                            | 0.7     | 100.0   | 9.4  | 47.7           | 39.6         | 2.7   | 0.7     | 100.0   | 210           |
| Highest                          | 54.9                                     | 32.9                 | 12.3                           | 0.0     | 100.0   | 6.8  | 39.5           | 41.6         | 12.0  | 0.0     | 100.0   | 294           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | 57.0                                     | 28.4                 | 14.4                           | 0.2     | 100.0   | 10.2   | 44.8           | 38.3         | 6.5   | 0.2     | 100.0   | 866           |

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> With husband or someone else

<sup>2</sup> Includes wife

Table 3.9 shows information on how decisions on use of women's earnings are related to the proportional contribution of these earnings to the household expenditures, according to marital status. The analysis indicates that independence in decisionmaking is slightly inversely related to the proportion of women's contribution to the household expenses. For instance, 62 percent of currently married women whose contribution to household expenditures is minimal decide for themselves how their earnings are used. Only 55 percent of women who support all of their household's expenses decide for themselves how their earnings are used, and 34 percent share the decision with their husband and 11 percent say that their husband alone makes decisions. Almost all unmarried women (between 87 and 92 percent) make their own decisions regarding their earnings, regardless of their contribution to the household expenditures.

Table 3.9 Women's control over earnings

Percent distribution of women who received cash earnings for work in the past 12 months by person who decides how earnings are used, according to current marital status, and the proportion of household expenditures met by earnings, Lesotho 2004

| Contribution to household expenditures | Currently married or living together |                      |                           |              |                   |         |         | Number of women | Not married <sup>1</sup> |                           |                   |         |         | Number of women |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
|  | Self only                            | Jointly with husband | Jointly with someone else | Husband only | Someone else only | Missing | Total   |                 | Self only                | Jointly with someone else | Someone else only | Missing | Total   |                 |
| Almost none/none                       | 61.8                                 | 33.3                 | 4.1                       | 0.8          | 0.0               | 0.0     | 100.0   | 101             | 90.9                     | 0.9                       | 7.5               | 0.8     | 100.0   | 92              |
| Less than half                         | 52.2                                 | 35.3                 | 2.0                       | 9.7          | 0.8               | 0.0     | 100.0   | 486             | 88.2                     | 3.0                       | 8.4               | 0.5     | 100.0   | 530             |
| Half or more                           | 49.4                                 | 37.8                 | 2.4                       | 10.2         | 0.2               | 0.0     | 100.0   | 397             | 87.0                     | 6.0                       | 6.9               | 0.0     | 100.0   | 315             |
| All                                    | (55.0)                               | (33.9)               | (0.0)                     | (11.1)       | (0.0)             | (0.0)   | (100.0) | 39              | (92.0)                   | (0.0)                     | (8.0)             | (0.0)   | (100.0) | 32              |
| Total                                  | 52.0                                 | 36.1                 | 2.3                       | 9.1          | 0.4               | 0.1     | 100.0   | 1,025           | 88.0                     | 3.7                       | 7.9               | 0.3     | 100.0   | 969             |

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> Never married, divorced, separated, or widowed women

### 3.5 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

In addition to information on women's education, employment status, and control over earnings, the 2004 LDHS collected information from both women and men on other measures of women's autonomy and status. Questions were asked about women's roles in making household decisions, on acceptance of wife beating, and on opinions about when a wife should be able to deny sex to her husband. Such information provides insight into women's control over their environment and their attitudes towards gender roles, both of which are relevant to understanding women's demographic and health behaviour.

#### 3.5.1 Women's Participation in Decisionmaking

To assess women's decisionmaking autonomy, the 2004 LDHS sought information on women's participation in five different types of household decisions: on the respondents' own health care; on making large household purchases; on making household purchase for daily needs; on visits to family or relatives; and on what food should be cooked each day. Table 3.10 shows the percent distribution of women according to who in the household usually has the final say on each aspect. A woman is considered to have autonomy in a decision if she either makes the decision herself or participates jointly with someone else in the decisions.

Among currently married women, the degree of sole decisionmaking ranges from a high of 81 percent in decisions about what food to cook daily to a low 14 percent in decisions about large household purchases. Although 50 percent of married women make decisions on their own health care by

themselves or jointly, 44 percent of women say that their husband alone makes these decisions. Decisions about visits to relatives or friends are generally made by the woman herself or jointly (61 percent).

Unmarried women are generally less autonomous than married women. The proportions of unmarried women reporting that decisions are made by someone else ranges from 46 percent in the case of what food to cook to 59 percent in the case of large household purchases. These patterns are not surprising because the majority of the unmarried are younger women who still live with their guardians or parents.

Table 3.10 Women's participation in decisionmaking

Percent distribution of women by person who has the final say in making specific decisions, according to current marital status and type of decision, Lesotho 2004

| Decision                      | Currently married or living together |                      |                           |              |                   |                                  |       | Not married <sup>1</sup> |           |                           |                   |                                  |       |                       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
|                               | Self only                            | Jointly with husband | Jointly with someone else | Husband only | Someone else only | Decision not made/not applicable | Total | Number of respondents    | Self only | Jointly with someone else | Someone else only | Decision not made/not applicable | Total | Number of respondents |
| Own health care               | 37.0                                 | 12.3                 | 0.8                       | 43.8         | 6.0               | 0.1                              | 100.0 | 3,709                    | 38.8      | 7.9                       | 52.7              | 0.5                              | 100.0 | 3,386                 |
| Large household purchases     | 14.1                                 | 29.0                 | 1.4                       | 48.0         | 7.2               | 0.3                              | 100.0 | 3,709                    | 30.3      | 5.4                       | 59.0              | 5.1                              | 100.0 | 3,386                 |
| Daily household purchases     | 67.4                                 | 10.1                 | 0.9                       | 14.9         | 6.3               | 0.2                              | 100.0 | 3,709                    | 35.1      | 5.0                       | 55.7              | 4.0                              | 100.0 | 3,386                 |
| Visits to family or relatives | 24.3                                 | 35.1                 | 1.9                       | 31.1         | 5.6               | 1.8                              | 100.0 | 3,709                    | 34.0      | 7.4                       | 54.2              | 4.2                              | 100.0 | 3,386                 |
| What food to cook each day    | 80.5                                 | 7.6                  | 0.8                       | 5.6          | 4.5               | 0.8                              | 100.0 | 3,709                    | 44.7      | 4.7                       | 45.5              | 4.8                              | 100.0 | 3,386                 |

<sup>1</sup> Never married, divorced, separated, or widowed women

Table 3.11 shows that although 30 percent of women have a say in all five areas of decisionmaking, another 23 percent have no say at all in any of the specified areas. Women who are under age 20, have never married, and have no children are least likely to participate in all decisions. Older women, urban residents, and those living in Mafeteng are among the most likely to be involved in all decisions. Cash employment also is related to increased decisionmaking power. More than half (53 percent) of women who are employed for cash participate in making all decisions, compared with 31 percent who are employed but do not earn cash and 21 percent of unemployed women.

| Table 3.11 Women's participation in decisionmaking by background characteristics   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Percentage of women who say that they alone or jointly have the final say in specific decisions, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004 |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Background characteristic  | Alone or jointly have final say in: |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 | Number of women |
|  | Own health care                     | Making large purchases | Making daily purchases | Visits to family or relatives | What food to cook each day | All specified decisions | None of the specified decisions |                 |
| <b>Age</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| 15-19  | 22.1                                | 11.5                   | 18.3                   | 17.1                          | 30.1                       | 8.1                     | 59.3                            | 1,710           |
| 20-24  | 40.8                                | 30.3                   | 50.6                   | 41.5                          | 63.9                       | 19.3                    | 25.9                            | 1,463           |
| 25-29  | 58.1                                | 50.8                   | 74.6                   | 64.0                          | 84.4                       | 35.8                    | 9.3                             | 1,044           |
| 30-34  | 63.3                                | 54.8                   | 83.4                   | 72.2                          | 89.7                       | 41.5                    | 6.6                             | 816             |
| 35-39  | 66.4                                | 62.0                   | 85.3                   | 73.4                          | 92.5                       | 50.1                    | 4.7                             | 728             |
| 40-44  | 65.8                                | 60.3                   | 86.8                   | 74.0                          | 93.7                       | 49.4                    | 3.6                             | 741             |
| 45-49  | 62.7                                | 58.0                   | 83.2                   | 74.0                          | 91.4                       | 46.8                    | 3.2                             | 592             |
| <b>Marital status</b>  |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Never married  | 31.6                                | 17.8                   | 22.3                   | 23.9                          | 33.7                       | 15.8                    | 54.0                            | 2,373           |
| Married or living together   | 50.1                                | 44.5                   | 78.5                   | 61.3                          | 88.9                       | 27.5                    | 6.6                             | 3,709           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed   | 82.0                                | 77.7                   | 82.1                   | 82.5                          | 86.2                       | 73.5                    | 9.8                             | 1,014           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| 0  | 30.7                                | 18.8                   | 27.1                   | 25.4                          | 38.5                       | 15.2                    | 51.0                            | 2,386           |
| 1-2  | 54.9                                | 47.6                   | 71.0                   | 61.2                          | 81.3                       | 33.6                    | 12.3                            | 2,563           |
| 3-4  | 62.9                                | 57.3                   | 85.6                   | 71.8                          | 92.9                       | 44.9                    | 3.9                             | 1,327           |
| 5+   | 57.0                                | 52.5                   | 81.8                   | 67.3                          | 90.1                       | 39.5                    | 5.1                             | 820             |
| <b>Residence</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Urban  | 59.3                                | 52.5                   | 66.0                   | 61.2                          | 72.3                       | 43.7                    | 21.6                            | 1,682           |
| Rural  | 45.2                                | 36.5                   | 58.4                   | 48.9                          | 69.4                       | 26.0                    | 23.3                            | 5,413           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Lowlands   | 51.2                                | 42.1                   | 61.7                   | 54.9                          | 72.0                       | 32.5                    | 21.4                            | 4,299           |
| Foothills  | 40.2                                | 38.9                   | 60.0                   | 49.1                          | 71.2                       | 26.2                    | 24.7                            | 787             |
| Mountains  | 44.2                                | 34.7                   | 57.6                   | 43.2                          | 66.3                       | 24.6                    | 25.5                            | 1,572           |
| Senqu River Valley   | 53.0                                | 45.2                   | 55.7                   | 57.7                          | 62.7                       | 34.4                    | 24.5                            | 437             |
| <b>District</b>  |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Butha-Buthe  | 46.3                                | 45.3                   | 67.4                   | 49.8                          | 78.0                       | 31.5                    | 19.1                            | 458             |
| Leribe   | 46.1                                | 33.7                   | 63.0                   | 52.7                          | 73.8                       | 22.4                    | 18.1                            | 1,065           |
| Berea  | 36.4                                | 31.2                   | 55.5                   | 44.7                          | 64.4                       | 21.8                    | 29.8                            | 776             |
| Maseru   | 51.3                                | 47.5                   | 62.6                   | 55.4                          | 70.5                       | 36.4                    | 24.5                            | 1,868           |
| Mafeteng   | 65.8                                | 49.3                   | 67.6                   | 67.3                          | 81.4                       | 41.7                    | 11.1                            | 755             |
| Mohale's Hoek  | 42.7                                | 34.8                   | 52.0                   | 46.4                          | 67.7                       | 25.9                    | 25.8                            | 684             |
| Quthing  | 59.3                                | 48.8                   | 58.2                   | 62.2                          | 61.2                       | 36.8                    | 21.4                            | 461             |
| Qacha's Nek  | 44.0                                | 35.2                   | 58.7                   | 46.0                          | 63.7                       | 28.1                    | 32.0                            | 233             |
| Mokhotlong   | 46.0                                | 33.5                   | 54.6                   | 37.6                          | 60.4                       | 22.8                    | 28.5                            | 360             |
| Thaba-Tseka  | 38.5                                | 29.1                   | 51.5                   | 35.2                          | 65.6                       | 22.8                    | 27.3                            | 435             |
| <b>Education</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| No education   | 53.3                                | 47.8                   | 69.9                   | 60.0                          | 81.1                       | 37.9                    | 12.2                            | 145             |
| Primary, incomplete  | 41.7                                | 37.0                   | 59.1                   | 48.6                          | 69.1                       | 25.9                    | 24.4                            | 2,136           |
| Primary, complete  | 50.9                                | 40.7                   | 63.6                   | 53.5                          | 73.6                       | 30.9                    | 19.7                            | 1,936           |
| Secondary+   | 51.7                                | 42.0                   | 58.3                   | 52.8                          | 67.9                       | 32.5                    | 24.5                            | 2,878           |
| <b>Employment</b>  |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Not employed   | 39.5                                | 30.4                   | 49.3                   | 42.5                          | 61.8                       | 21.4                    | 30.9                            | 4,366           |
| Employed for cash  | 73.0                                | 64.4                   | 81.4                   | 73.6                          | 86.1                       | 53.2                    | 7.5                             | 1,633           |
| Employed not for cash  | 47.6                                | 44.0                   | 72.4                   | 56.7                          | 79.6                       | 31.2                    | 13.5                            | 1,081           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |
| Lowest   | 43.9                                | 37.4                   | 58.2                   | 45.3                          | 69.6                       | 26.8                    | 23.7                            | 987             |
| Second   | 41.9                                | 35.6                   | 58.0                   | 46.4                          | 69.1                       | 23.8                    | 23.0                            | 1,294           |
| Middle   | 42.7                                | 33.5                   | 55.5                   | 46.8                          | 68.3                       | 23.4                    | 25.1                            | 1,258           |
| Fourth   | 50.9                                | 42.2                   | 62.5                   | 56.4                          | 71.6                       | 31.5                    | 21.4                            | 1,595           |
| Highest  | 56.9                                | 47.7                   | 63.9                   | 58.2                          | 70.8                       | 39.4                    | 22.2                            | 1,962           |
| Total  | 48.5                                | 40.3                   | 60.2                   | 51.8                          | 70.1                       | 30.2                    | 22.9                            | 7,095           |
| Note: Total includes 15 women with missing information on employment status.   |                                     |                        |                        |                               |                            |                         |                                 |                 |

### 3.5.2 Women's Attitudes Towards Wife Beating

Violence against women is an area that is increasingly being recognised as affecting women's health and autonomy. Violence against women has serious consequences for their mental and physical well-being, including their reproductive and sexual health (World Health Organisation, 1999). If violence against women is tolerated and accepted in a society, its eradication is made more difficult. To gauge the acceptability of domestic violence, women and men interviewed in the 2004 LDHS were asked whether they thought a husband would be justified in hitting or beating his wife in each of the following five situations: if she burns the food, if she argues with him, if she goes out without telling him, if she neglects the children, and if she refuses to have sexual relations with him.

Tables 3.12.1 and 3.12.2 show that many women and men, respectively, find wife beating to be justified in certain circumstances. Nearly 48 percent of women and 51 percent of men agree that at least one of these factors is sufficient justification for wife-beating.

The most widely accepted reasons for wife-beating are neglecting the children (37 percent of women and 38 percent of men) and arguing with the husband (36 percent of women and 39 percent of men). Twenty-four percent of women and 30 percent of men think that going out without informing the husband is a justifiable reason for beating. About one-fifth of women and men feel that denying sex to the husband is a justification for wife beating. Even smaller proportions believe that burning the food is a justifiable reason to hit or beat the wife.

The tables also show attitudes towards wife beating by background characteristics. Acceptance of wife beating for at least one of the specified reasons is higher among women and men who are under age 25 than among older individuals. Considering residence, the proportions are higher among women and men who live in rural areas, the Mountains zone, or Qacha's Nek, Mokhotlong, and Thaba-Tseka districts than among those living in other areas. Acceptance of wife beating declines as the level of education increases. Similarly, acceptance of wife beating by women and men declines markedly as wealth increases.

Table 3.12.1 Attitude towards wife beating: women

Percentage of women who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic   | Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she: |                 |                              |                       |                              | Agrees with at least one specified reason | Number of women |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
|   | Burns the food  | Argues with him | Goes out without telling him | Neglects the children | Refuses to have sex with him |   |                 |
| <b>Age</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| 15-19   | 14.7  | 43.4            | 29.0                         | 43.0                  | 20.1                         | 56.1                                      | 1,710           |
| 20-24   | 11.7  | 38.7            | 22.9                         | 39.2                  | 18.4                         | 50.2                                      | 1,463           |
| 25-29   | 11.2  | 32.2            | 22.1                         | 31.3                  | 18.9                         | 43.2                                      | 1,044           |
| 30-34   | 11.8  | 33.2            | 23.1                         | 35.4                  | 19.7                         | 44.2                                      | 816             |
| 35-39   | 11.3  | 29.4            | 21.3                         | 32.2                  | 19.2                         | 41.9                                      | 728             |
| 40-44   | 11.7  | 32.3            | 21.3                         | 33.1                  | 22.4                         | 45.4                                      | 741             |
| 45-49   | 15.7  | 33.9            | 27.7                         | 38.3                  | 24.7                         | 47.8                                      | 592             |
| <b>Marital status</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Never married   | 12.3  | 36.5            | 23.0                         | 37.9                  | 15.5                         | 48.8                                      | 2,373           |
| Married or living together  | 12.8  | 36.7            | 25.5                         | 37.0                  | 22.8                         | 48.9                                      | 3,709           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed  | 12.7  | 33.6            | 23.5                         | 35.6                  | 20.8                         | 45.2                                      | 1,014           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>                                    |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| 0   | 12.4  | 37.7            | 24.5                         | 38.9                  | 17.5                         | 50.3                                      | 2,386           |
| 1-2   | 11.7  | 36.2            | 23.2                         | 35.4                  | 19.4                         | 47.3                                      | 2,563           |
| 3-4   | 12.0  | 31.1            | 22.2                         | 35.0                  | 20.7                         | 44.2                                      | 1,327           |
| 5+  | 17.1  | 40.1            | 30.8                         | 40.3                  | 28.5                         | 52.7                                      | 820             |
| <b>Residence</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Urban   | 6.4   | 21.4            | 12.9                         | 27.3                  | 9.7                          | 34.1                                      | 1,682           |
| Rural   | 14.6  | 40.8            | 27.9                         | 40.1                  | 23.3                         | 52.8                                      | 5,413           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Lowlands  | 9.7   | 31.7            | 19.3                         | 33.4                  | 14.9                         | 43.5                                      | 4,299           |
| Foothills   | 13.7  | 41.0            | 28.1                         | 40.2                  | 24.2                         | 53.6                                      | 787             |
| Mountains   | 20.5  | 47.7            | 37.1                         | 46.6                  | 32.9                         | 61.0                                      | 1,572           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 11.2  | 30.2            | 21.8                         | 33.0                  | 16.9                         | 41.1                                      | 437             |
| <b>District</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Butha-Buthe   | 13.2  | 35.9            | 25.5                         | 38.2                  | 21.0                         | 48.0                                      | 458             |
| Leribe  | 9.8   | 32.3            | 20.2                         | 32.6                  | 17.0                         | 44.5                                      | 1,065           |
| Berea   | 10.7  | 43.1            | 29.8                         | 43.4                  | 23.7                         | 54.4                                      | 776             |
| Maseru  | 9.3   | 29.4            | 17.6                         | 32.9                  | 14.7                         | 43.8                                      | 1,868           |
| Mafeteng  | 10.2  | 31.9            | 17.8                         | 28.6                  | 14.0                         | 40.4                                      | 755             |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 17.3  | 41.7            | 28.5                         | 41.3                  | 22.6                         | 52.3                                      | 684             |
| Quthing   | 9.6   | 27.5            | 18.7                         | 31.1                  | 16.2                         | 37.4                                      | 461             |
| Qacha's Nek   | 17.4  | 47.6            | 42.0                         | 50.1                  | 26.6                         | 64.4                                      | 233             |
| Mokhotlong  | 21.3  | 51.9            | 43.0                         | 51.2                  | 38.4                         | 64.5                                      | 360             |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 27.0  | 51.8            | 38.7                         | 49.4                  | 35.1                         | 64.0                                      | 435             |
| <b>Education</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| No education  | 24.2  | 45.7            | 43.2                         | 48.5                  | 39.7                         | 64.5                                      | 145             |
| Primary, incomplete   | 18.6  | 49.1            | 35.5                         | 47.2                  | 29.8                         | 60.4                                      | 2,136           |
| Primary, complete   | 12.9  | 37.9            | 26.2                         | 38.4                  | 21.7                         | 49.3                                      | 1,936           |
| Secondary+  | 7.4   | 25.0            | 13.9                         | 28.1                  | 10.8                         | 38.0                                      | 2,878           |
| <b>Employment</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Not employed  | 13.3  | 39.6            | 26.4                         | 40.0                  | 21.5                         | 51.7                                      | 4,366           |
| Employed for cash   | 9.0   | 24.5            | 17.1                         | 28.1                  | 13.2                         | 37.3                                      | 1,633           |
| Employed not for cash   | 15.5  | 40.5            | 27.2                         | 38.8                  | 24.6                         | 51.7                                      | 1,081           |
| <b>Number of decisions in which woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b> |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| 0   | 14.5  | 42.5            | 29.1                         | 43.0                  | 19.3                         | 55.2                                      | 1,623           |
| 1-2   | 14.5  | 42.2            | 27.8                         | 42.0                  | 23.7                         | 54.5                                      | 1,558           |
| 3-4   | 13.2  | 37.9            | 24.4                         | 36.9                  | 22.0                         | 49.7                                      | 1,772           |
| 5   | 9.4   | 25.7            | 18.2                         | 29.1                  | 16.4                         | 37.6                                      | 2,142           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |                 |
| Lowest  | 23.1  | 51.9            | 39.6                         | 50.6                  | 34.8                         | 64.0                                      | 987             |
| Second  | 16.1  | 46.3            | 33.4                         | 43.9                  | 28.1                         | 58.8                                      | 1,294           |
| Middle  | 13.6  | 40.0            | 25.5                         | 38.7                  | 19.7                         | 51.3                                      | 1,258           |
| Fourth  | 9.5   | 33.0            | 19.8                         | 35.3                  | 16.4                         | 45.6                                      | 1,595           |
| Highest   | 7.0   | 21.8            | 13.7                         | 26.1                  | 10.6                         | 33.9                                      | 1,962           |
| <b>Total</b>  | 12.6  | 36.2            | 24.4                         | 37.1                  | 20.1                         | 48.3                                      | 7,095           |

Note: Total includes 15 women with missing information on employment status.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others

Table 3.12.2 Attitude towards wife beating: men

Percentage of men who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic   | Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she: |                 |                              |                       |                              | Agrees with at least one specified reason | Number of men |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------|
|   | Burns the food  | Argues with him | Goes out without telling him | Neglects the children | Refuses to have sex with him |   |               |
| <b>Age</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| 15-19   | 17.6  | 46.1            | 33.0                         | 45.8                  | 19.4                         | 60.1                                      | 743           |
| 20-24   | 13.7  | 42.8            | 30.3                         | 40.3                  | 18.0                         | 54.2                                      | 507           |
| 25-29   | 9.5   | 38.0            | 22.6                         | 32.4                  | 19.1                         | 46.7                                      | 374           |
| 30-34   | 9.9   | 35.0            | 29.3                         | 35.6                  | 15.1                         | 46.6                                      | 305           |
| 35-39   | 11.3  | 30.5            | 31.7                         | 33.2                  | 22.0                         | 43.5                                      | 233           |
| 40-44   | 12.7  | 38.0            | 28.4                         | 34.8                  | 26.8                         | 50.5                                      | 164           |
| 45-49   | 9.4   | 38.3            | 33.0                         | 37.5                  | 21.8                         | 52.2                                      | 170           |
| 50-54   | 11.6  | 31.4            | 30.5                         | 31.7                  | 27.7                         | 45.9                                      | 164           |
| 55-59   | 8.6   | 26.2            | 22.2                         | 28.9                  | 13.6                         | 37.6                                      | 137           |
| <b>Marital status</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Never married   | 15.8  | 42.0            | 29.5                         | 40.1                  | 18.5                         | 54.8                                      | 1,419         |
| Married or living together  | 9.6   | 35.1            | 29.6                         | 35.1                  | 19.8                         | 47.0                                      | 1,191         |
| Divorced/separated/widowed  | 11.9  | 43.8            | 31.6                         | 41.3                  | 27.8                         | 53.8                                      | 184           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>                                    |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| 0   | 15.2  | 42.0            | 29.8                         | 40.2                  | 19.0                         | 54.8                                      | 1,561         |
| 1-2   | 8.2   | 34.8            | 27.1                         | 34.1                  | 16.9                         | 43.9                                      | 635           |
| 3-4   | 11.4  | 35.4            | 32.1                         | 36.4                  | 26.8                         | 50.9                                      | 359           |
| 5+  | 12.5  | 37.3            | 31.8                         | 36.6                  | 20.1                         | 49.2                                      | 242           |
| <b>Residence</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Urban   | 6.4   | 23.7            | 20.0                         | 25.0                  | 12.6                         | 34.2                                      | 603           |
| Rural   | 14.7  | 43.3            | 32.3                         | 41.6                  | 21.5                         | 56.1                                      | 2,194         |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Lowlands  | 11.9  | 37.2            | 27.3                         | 34.9                  | 16.2                         | 47.0                                      | 1,734         |
| Foothills   | 14.2  | 43.6            | 31.8                         | 40.9                  | 20.8                         | 58.2                                      | 307           |
| Mountains   | 16.5  | 45.7            | 35.8                         | 45.9                  | 30.3                         | 61.9                                      | 585           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 8.6   | 28.5            | 29.2                         | 37.8                  | 15.5                         | 47.2                                      | 171           |
| <b>District</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Butha-Buthe   | 9.0   | 34.5            | 24.3                         | 33.0                  | 16.0                         | 46.1                                      | 182           |
| Leribe  | 11.3  | 39.9            | 32.1                         | 38.1                  | 20.3                         | 51.1                                      | 393           |
| Berea   | 10.9  | 45.5            | 34.9                         | 45.0                  | 14.9                         | 57.0                                      | 350           |
| Maseru  | 9.5   | 33.7            | 23.5                         | 29.8                  | 15.5                         | 45.4                                      | 741           |
| Mafeteng  | 15.6  | 38.3            | 25.3                         | 34.3                  | 21.5                         | 48.4                                      | 297           |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 22.5  | 43.9            | 34.4                         | 45.1                  | 22.4                         | 54.8                                      | 281           |
| Quthing   | 5.8   | 26.1            | 27.5                         | 37.6                  | 14.3                         | 44.5                                      | 167           |
| Qacha's Nek   | 14.3  | 46.5            | 35.5                         | 50.3                  | 34.4                         | 66.6                                      | 99            |
| Mokhotlong  | 15.4  | 48.3            | 39.0                         | 49.0                  | 30.6                         | 58.8                                      | 130           |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 24.3  | 48.4            | 37.9                         | 45.0                  | 30.6                         | 65.1                                      | 156           |
| <b>Education</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| No education  | 15.8  | 44.1            | 33.1                         | 44.3                  | 25.4                         | 57.4                                      | 479           |
| Primary, incomplete   | 15.5  | 47.1            | 36.4                         | 46.0                  | 26.5                         | 60.8                                      | 1,194         |
| Primary, complete   | 15.2  | 41.1            | 31.0                         | 36.0                  | 14.7                         | 51.7                                      | 342           |
| Secondary+  | 6.1   | 23.0            | 16.9                         | 23.0                  | 7.7                          | 33.2                                      | 783           |
| <b>Employment</b>   |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Not employed  | 13.5  | 41.8            | 31.2                         | 39.3                  | 19.2                         | 53.7                                      | 1,895         |
| Employed for cash   | 10.1  | 29.5            | 23.3                         | 30.0                  | 15.6                         | 40.6                                      | 587           |
| Employed not for cash   | 14.6  | 41.7            | 32.9                         | 45.9                  | 30.3                         | 58.1                                      | 311           |
| <b>Number of decisions in which woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b> |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| 0   | 17.2  | 46.0            | 36.6                         | 48.5                  | 29.3                         | 58.8                                      | 137           |
| 1-2   | 19.0  | 54.0            | 40.3                         | 53.0                  | 29.7                         | 68.5                                      | 686           |
| 3-4   | 11.9  | 40.0            | 29.1                         | 37.3                  | 18.6                         | 51.1                                      | 1,123         |
| 5-6   | 8.6   | 24.8            | 20.7                         | 25.2                  | 11.3                         | 36.8                                      | 851           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |   |                 |                              |                       |                              |   |               |
| Lowest  | 17.6  | 46.9            | 37.8                         | 48.1                  | 30.2                         | 62.3                                      | 466           |
| Second  | 19.3  | 48.6            | 35.6                         | 45.8                  | 25.7                         | 61.7                                      | 514           |
| Middle  | 10.2  | 40.3            | 32.5                         | 39.5                  | 19.0                         | 54.3                                      | 566           |
| Fourth  | 11.6  | 37.6            | 25.0                         | 34.6                  | 16.6                         | 46.9                                      | 621           |
| Highest   | 7.9   | 26.1            | 21.0                         | 26.3                  | 10.3                         | 36.7                                      | 630           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>12.9</b>   | <b>39.1</b>     | <b>29.7</b>                  | <b>38.0</b>           | <b>19.6</b>                  | <b>51.4</b>                               | <b>2,797</b>  |

Note: Total includes 2 men with missing information on marital status and 4 men with missing information on employment status.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others

### 3.5.3 Attitudes Towards Refusing Sex with Husband

The extent of control women have over matters such as when and with whom they have sex has important implications for demographic and health outcomes, such as transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. To measure beliefs about sexual empowerment of women, the 2004 LDHS asked all respondents whether they think a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband in the following circumstances: when she knows that her husband has a sexually transmitted disease, when she knows that her husband has sex with other women, when she has recently given birth, and when she is tired or not in the mood. Tables 3.13.1 and 3.13.2 show the responses of women and men, respectively.

Sixty-one percent of women and 41 percent of men agree that all of the above reasons are acceptable justifications for a woman to refuse to have sexual relations with her husband, and 7 percent of women and 11 percent of men consider none of the reasons acceptable. For women and men, the most acceptable reason for a wife to refuse having sex is if the wife has recently given birth (85 and 81 percent, respectively), and the least acceptable reason is the wife being tired or not in the mood (73 and 59 percent, respectively).

Women and men age 15-19, those with no children, those who have never married, those living in the Mountains zone, especially Qacha's Nek district, and those with the least autonomy in making household decisions are the most likely to agree with none of the reasons for refusing sex.



Table 3.13.1 Attitude towards refusing sex with husband: women

Percentage of women who believe that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic   | Wife is justified in refusing sex with husband if she: |  |                          |                             | Agrees with all of the specified reasons | Agrees with none of the specified reasons | Number of women |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------|
|   | Knows husband has a sexually transmitted disease       | Knows husband has sex with other women | Has recently given birth | Is tired or not in the mood |  |   |                 |
| <b>Age</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| 15-19   | 75.6   | 75.1                                   | 78.7                     | 64.9                        | 54.3                                     | 13.5                                      | 1,710           |
| 20-24   | 82.5   | 80.2                                   | 88.2                     | 77.8                        | 63.4                                     | 4.7                                       | 1,463           |
| 25-29   | 84.1   | 83.6                                   | 88.5                     | 73.7                        | 61.1                                     | 3.9                                       | 1,044           |
| 30-34   | 86.4   | 81.4                                   | 87.6                     | 75.1                        | 64.5                                     | 4.5                                       | 816             |
| 35-39   | 85.6   | 83.6                                   | 86.0                     | 75.6                        | 63.2                                     | 3.8                                       | 728             |
| 40-44   | 83.6   | 79.7                                   | 86.3                     | 75.0                        | 61.2                                     | 5.8                                       | 741             |
| 45-49   | 81.4   | 77.5                                   | 84.0                     | 71.0                        | 60.0                                     | 8.5                                       | 592             |
| <b>Marital status</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Never married   | 80.2   | 79.1                                   | 81.2                     | 70.0                        | 59.2                                     | 10.5                                      | 2,373           |
| Married or living together  | 82.1   | 80.0                                   | 87.2                     | 73.5                        | 60.4                                     | 5.3                                       | 3,709           |
| Divorced/separated/widowed  | 85.0   | 79.7                                   | 86.5                     | 76.0                        | 63.7                                     | 5.2                                       | 1,014           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>                                    |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| 0   | 77.9   | 77.4                                   | 80.3                     | 68.1                        | 56.2                                     | 11.1                                      | 2,386           |
| 1-2   | 84.2   | 81.5                                   | 88.8                     | 76.1                        | 63.9                                     | 4.4                                       | 2,563           |
| 3-4   | 85.3   | 82.0                                   | 86.9                     | 74.6                        | 61.9                                     | 4.6                                       | 1,327           |
| 5+  | 80.5   | 76.9                                   | 84.6                     | 72.4                        | 59.8                                     | 7.3                                       | 820             |
| <b>Residence</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Urban   | 88.2   | 87.4                                   | 88.6                     | 78.1                        | 67.6                                     | 3.6                                       | 1,682           |
| Rural   | 79.9   | 77.3                                   | 84.0                     | 71.0                        | 58.2                                     | 8.1                                       | 5,413           |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Lowlands  | 85.7   | 83.8                                   | 87.1                     | 74.9                        | 64.0                                     | 5.2                                       | 4,299           |
| Foothills   | 81.6   | 75.7                                   | 85.8                     | 70.3                        | 56.8                                     | 6.3                                       | 787             |
| Mountains   | 70.0   | 69.2                                   | 78.2                     | 66.0                        | 49.6                                     | 12.4                                      | 1,572           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 87.3   | 84.4                                   | 88.6                     | 79.9                        | 71.0                                     | 6.9                                       | 437             |
| <b>District</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Butha-Buthe   | 82.2   | 78.6                                   | 83.8                     | 70.5                        | 58.5                                     | 7.3                                       | 458             |
| Leribe  | 81.9   | 79.7                                   | 82.4                     | 71.6                        | 62.0                                     | 8.8                                       | 1,065           |
| Berea   | 84.5   | 82.4                                   | 86.8                     | 72.2                        | 61.6                                     | 5.2                                       | 776             |
| Maseru  | 85.6   | 82.9                                   | 86.4                     | 73.7                        | 61.8                                     | 4.8                                       | 1,868           |
| Mafeteng  | 83.8   | 79.9                                   | 90.2                     | 73.4                        | 60.4                                     | 4.4                                       | 755             |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 83.9   | 81.0                                   | 90.1                     | 77.5                        | 65.2                                     | 5.8                                       | 684             |
| Quthing   | 84.3   | 84.9                                   | 86.5                     | 78.9                        | 70.6                                     | 8.8                                       | 461             |
| Qacha's Nek   | 60.7   | 62.5                                   | 61.2                     | 61.8                        | 39.2                                     | 19.5                                      | 233             |
| Mokhotlong  | 68.9   | 67.9                                   | 81.2                     | 63.5                        | 51.2                                     | 14.2                                      | 360             |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 73.7   | 73.1                                   | 82.1                     | 72.5                        | 52.0                                     | 7.5                                       | 435             |
| <b>Education</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| No education  | 64.6   | 60.2                                   | 76.2                     | 64.3                        | 42.8                                     | 15.6                                      | 145             |
| Primary, incomplete   | 74.3   | 72.5                                   | 80.7                     | 66.3                        | 52.5                                     | 11.2                                      | 2,136           |
| Primary, complete   | 82.4   | 79.2                                   | 85.1                     | 72.9                        | 60.1                                     | 5.9                                       | 1,936           |
| Secondary+  | 88.0   | 86.2                                   | 88.8                     | 77.8                        | 67.5                                     | 4.2                                       | 2,878           |
| <b>Employment</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Not employed  | 79.9   | 77.8                                   | 84.4                     | 71.7                        | 59.5                                     | 8.4                                       | 4,366           |
| Employed for cash   | 88.2   | 86.1                                   | 86.8                     | 76.2                        | 65.3                                     | 3.9                                       | 1,633           |
| Employed not for cash   | 80.2   | 77.3                                   | 85.5                     | 71.5                        | 56.9                                     | 6.2                                       | 1,081           |
| <b>Number of decisions in which woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b> |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| 0   | 77.4   | 76.0                                   | 80.9                     | 68.7                        | 57.5                                     | 11.3                                      | 1,623           |
| 1-2   | 78.4   | 77.3                                   | 83.8                     | 70.1                        | 55.7                                     | 8.3                                       | 1,558           |
| 3-4   | 81.9   | 79.4                                   | 86.3                     | 73.2                        | 59.2                                     | 5.3                                       | 1,772           |
| 5   | 87.7   | 84.4                                   | 88.2                     | 77.2                        | 67.3                                     | 4.3                                       | 2,142           |
| <b>Number of reasons wife beating is justified</b>                  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| 0   | 85.0   | 83.3                                   | 86.6                     | 78.4                        | 68.5                                     | 6.9                                       | 3,665           |
| 1-2   | 79.7   | 76.7                                   | 82.6                     | 68.5                        | 53.0                                     | 6.8                                       | 1,685           |
| 3-4   | 79.3   | 76.2                                   | 85.2                     | 64.5                        | 50.9                                     | 7.0                                       | 1,276           |
| 5-6   | 72.1   | 71.2                                   | 82.2                     | 65.4                        | 50.6                                     | 8.9                                       | 469             |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |                 |
| Lowest  | 71.8   | 67.4                                   | 78.9                     | 65.7                        | 49.7                                     | 12.5                                      | 987             |
| Second  | 78.6   | 76.0                                   | 83.9                     | 69.7                        | 55.9                                     | 8.2                                       | 1,294           |
| Middle  | 80.2   | 79.2                                   | 84.4                     | 71.3                        | 59.7                                     | 7.7                                       | 1,258           |
| Fourth  | 84.8   | 81.8                                   | 87.0                     | 74.3                        | 62.7                                     | 6.0                                       | 1,595           |
| Highest   | 87.8   | 86.9                                   | 87.9                     | 77.8                        | 67.5                                     | 3.9                                       | 1,962           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>81.9</b>  | <b>79.7</b>                            | <b>85.1</b>              | <b>72.7</b>                 | <b>60.5</b>                              | <b>7.0</b>                                | <b>7,095</b>    |

Note: Total includes 15 women with missing information on employment status.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others

Table 3.13.2 Attitude towards refusing sex with husband: men

Percentage of men who believe that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic   | Wife is justified in refusing sex with husband if she: |  |                          |                             | Agrees with all of the specified reasons | Agrees with none of the specified reasons | Number of men |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------|
|   | Knows husband has a sexually transmitted disease       | Knows husband has sex with other women | Has recently given birth | Is tired or not in the mood |  |   |               |
| <b>Age</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| 15-19   | 65.5   | 58.5                                   | 72.3                     | 52.8                        | 37.6                                     | 18.8                                      | 743           |
| 20-24   | 70.6   | 63.8                                   | 84.5                     | 58.2                        | 39.8                                     | 8.5                                       | 507           |
| 25-29   | 74.7   | 64.0                                   | 84.1                     | 63.1                        | 43.4                                     | 7.9                                       | 374           |
| 30-34   | 71.2   | 62.6                                   | 83.7                     | 65.6                        | 42.4                                     | 7.4                                       | 305           |
| 35-39   | 73.0   | 67.7                                   | 85.2                     | 62.2                        | 45.9                                     | 7.1                                       | 233           |
| 40-44   | 77.5   | 66.2                                   | 83.7                     | 60.3                        | 46.8                                     | 8.6                                       | 164           |
| 45-49   | 76.1   | 58.1                                   | 83.9                     | 52.5                        | 32.5                                     | 10.6                                      | 170           |
| 50-54   | 76.9   | 58.8                                   | 80.9                     | 62.4                        | 41.7                                     | 5.1                                       | 164           |
| 55-59   | 78.2   | 72.0                                   | 84.9                     | 60.7                        | 53.4                                     | 10.0                                      | 137           |
| <b>Marital status</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Never married   | 68.1   | 60.6                                   | 76.7                     | 56.1                        | 39.1                                     | 14.5                                      | 1,419         |
| Married or living together  | 75.4   | 65.3                                   | 85.4                     | 61.6                        | 43.8                                     | 7.3                                       | 1,191         |
| Divorced/separated/widowed  | 73.1   | 58.4                                   | 84.0                     | 59.9                        | 40.4                                     | 7.1                                       | 184           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>                                    |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| 0   | 68.5   | 60.7                                   | 77.6                     | 55.6                        | 39.1                                     | 13.7                                      | 1,561         |
| 1-2   | 75.7   | 65.4                                   | 87.5                     | 67.4                        | 46.0                                     | 5.8                                       | 635           |
| 3-4   | 73.7   | 65.7                                   | 83.5                     | 58.7                        | 42.5                                     | 9.4                                       | 359           |
| 5+  | 77.4   | 62.1                                   | 81.2                     | 56.3                        | 40.7                                     | 8.5                                       | 242           |
| <b>Residence</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Urban   | 73.6   | 67.9                                   | 83.3                     | 61.6                        | 48.1                                     | 9.2                                       | 603           |
| Rural   | 71.0   | 61.1                                   | 80.2                     | 57.9                        | 39.3                                     | 11.4                                      | 2,194         |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Lowlands  | 71.4   | 63.8                                   | 81.8                     | 60.4                        | 42.7                                     | 10.1                                      | 1,734         |
| Foothills   | 67.3   | 58.8                                   | 77.3                     | 52.9                        | 36.0                                     | 14.8                                      | 307           |
| Mountains   | 70.3   | 57.0                                   | 76.8                     | 52.8                        | 35.0                                     | 13.2                                      | 585           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 85.0   | 75.5                                   | 92.4                     | 72.1                        | 57.4                                     | 4.3                                       | 171           |
| <b>District</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Butha-Buthe   | 68.1   | 60.3                                   | 80.3                     | 56.3                        | 37.5                                     | 12.1                                      | 182           |
| Leribe  | 70.8   | 65.2                                   | 76.2                     | 57.6                        | 43.4                                     | 13.7                                      | 393           |
| Berea   | 74.4   | 64.9                                   | 79.5                     | 60.0                        | 39.2                                     | 8.7                                       | 350           |
| Maseru  | 72.3   | 63.5                                   | 81.3                     | 57.9                        | 42.5                                     | 10.5                                      | 741           |
| Mafeteng  | 56.2   | 49.5                                   | 80.6                     | 52.9                        | 29.3                                     | 16.1                                      | 297           |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 80.2   | 64.8                                   | 88.1                     | 67.6                        | 50.2                                     | 5.9                                       | 281           |
| Quthing   | 88.2   | 78.9                                   | 90.4                     | 69.0                        | 59.1                                     | 5.2                                       | 167           |
| Qacha's Nek   | 57.4   | 49.5                                   | 67.2                     | 52.2                        | 24.6                                     | 19.8                                      | 99            |
| Mokhotlong  | 72.6   | 61.7                                   | 83.3                     | 57.3                        | 44.8                                     | 11.3                                      | 130           |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 71.6   | 61.0                                   | 78.9                     | 55.0                        | 33.8                                     | 8.7                                       | 156           |
| <b>Education</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| No education  | 68.4   | 52.5                                   | 77.8                     | 53.4                        | 33.3                                     | 12.8                                      | 479           |
| Primary, incomplete   | 67.7   | 61.6                                   | 76.2                     | 52.5                        | 37.3                                     | 13.7                                      | 1,194         |
| Primary, complete   | 80.9   | 68.5                                   | 86.3                     | 60.8                        | 46.0                                     | 6.4                                       | 342           |
| Secondary+  | 75.2   | 67.5                                   | 87.6                     | 70.6                        | 50.0                                     | 7.6                                       | 783           |
| <b>Employment</b>   |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Not employed  | 71.8   | 62.7                                   | 80.3                     | 59.1                        | 40.9                                     | 10.8                                      | 1,895         |
| Employed for cash   | 75.6   | 69.1                                   | 86.3                     | 64.4                        | 48.9                                     | 7.8                                       | 587           |
| Employed not for cash   | 62.2   | 49.0                                   | 74.5                     | 45.4                        | 28.5                                     | 17.1                                      | 311           |
| <b>Number of decisions in which woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b> |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| 0   | 57.7   | 50.4                                   | 65.6                     | 41.9                        | 29.1                                     | 22.1                                      | 137           |
| 1-2   | 71.0   | 57.9                                   | 78.3                     | 55.3                        | 33.5                                     | 9.6                                       | 686           |
| 3-4   | 73.6   | 63.5                                   | 82.4                     | 58.4                        | 42.9                                     | 10.7                                      | 1,123         |
| 5-6   | 71.6   | 67.0                                   | 83.5                     | 64.6                        | 47.3                                     | 10.5                                      | 851           |
| <b>Number of reasons wife beating is justified</b>                  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| 0   | 73.2   | 65.0                                   | 81.3                     | 64.2                        | 48.6                                     | 12.6                                      | 1,360         |
| 1-2   | 69.8   | 60.8                                   | 78.9                     | 57.3                        | 36.3                                     | 10.5                                      | 663           |
| 3-4   | 71.2   | 60.0                                   | 81.5                     | 53.3                        | 33.7                                     | 7.7                                       | 621           |
| 5-6   | 65.9   | 58.6                                   | 83.6                     | 37.7                        | 27.6                                     | 11.2                                      | 153           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |  |  |                          |                             |  |   |               |
| Lowest  | 71.6   | 58.3                                   | 76.3                     | 53.3                        | 35.4                                     | 12.4                                      | 466           |
| Second  | 69.0   | 58.2                                   | 80.0                     | 54.5                        | 36.5                                     | 12.5                                      | 514           |
| Middle  | 72.3   | 64.5                                   | 82.0                     | 60.0                        | 43.2                                     | 11.7                                      | 566           |
| Fourth  | 71.6   | 61.5                                   | 78.5                     | 58.2                        | 40.6                                     | 10.8                                      | 621           |
| Highest   | 72.9   | 68.5                                   | 86.4                     | 65.6                        | 48.2                                     | 8.0                                       | 630           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>71.6</b>  | <b>62.5</b>                            | <b>80.9</b>              | <b>58.7</b>                 | <b>41.2</b>                              | <b>10.9</b>                               | <b>2,797</b>  |

Note: Total includes 2 men with missing information on marital status and 4 men with missing information on employment status.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others

Male respondents in the 2004 LDHS were further asked whether they thought that a husband had the right to take specific actions if his wife refused to have sex with him. The specified actions were to get angry and reprimand her, to refuse to give her money or other means of financial support, to use force and have sex with her even if she does not want to, and to have sex with another woman. Table 3.14 presents the results.

Data show that 56 percent of men think that the husband has the right to get angry and reprimand his wife if she refuses to have sex with him. Eighteen percent of men think that a husband has the right to refuse giving money or other means of financial support to his wife if she refuses to have sex, and an equal proportion think that a husband has the right to have sex with another woman if wife refuse to have sex with him. Twelve percent of men believe that a husband has the right to use force to have sex with his wife if she refuses to have sex with him.

Table 3.14 Reprimanding for refusing sex with husband

Percentage of men who believe that if a woman refuses to have sex with her husband when he wants to, he has the right to reprimand her, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

| Background characteristic   | Percent that think if a woman refuses sex with husband, the husband has the right to: |  |   |                             | Number of men |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------|
|   | Get angry and reprimand her   | Refuse to give her money or other means of financial support | Use force and have sex with her even if she doesn't want to | Have sex with another woman |               |
| <b>Age</b>  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| 15-19   | 51.0  | 17.6   | 12.3  | 13.7                        | 743           |
| 20-24   | 58.2  | 18.1   | 11.0  | 19.1                        | 507           |
| 25-29   | 56.0  | 12.4   | 9.6   | 20.0                        | 374           |
| 30-34   | 58.2  | 15.1   | 12.0  | 18.7                        | 305           |
| 35-39   | 61.0  | 18.3   | 13.1  | 16.2                        | 233           |
| 40-44   | 52.5  | 18.5   | 13.4  | 22.8                        | 164           |
| 45-49   | 65.3  | 23.1   | 18.6  | 21.0                        | 170           |
| 50-54   | 66.3  | 24.3   | 16.0  | 18.8                        | 164           |
| 55-59   | 49.8  | 16.4   | 11.6  | 14.3                        | 137           |
| <b>Marital status</b>   |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Never married   | 53.1  | 15.8   | 10.9  | 16.8                        | 1,419         |
| Married or living together  | 59.3  | 19.1   | 13.9  | 16.8                        | 1,191         |
| Divorced/separated/widowed  | 61.8  | 20.3   | 14.3  | 28.9                        | 184           |
| <b>Number of living children</b>                                    |   |  |   |                             |               |
| 0   | 54.2  | 16.5   | 12.0  | 17.0                        | 1,561         |
| 1-2   | 56.9  | 15.6   | 9.6   | 17.3                        | 635           |
| 3-4   | 62.0  | 20.4   | 14.9  | 20.9                        | 359           |
| 5+  | 61.0  | 24.6   | 18.1  | 16.9                        | 242           |
| <b>Residence</b>  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Urban   | 48.5  | 13.5   | 10.1  | 16.6                        | 603           |
| Rural   | 58.6  | 18.6   | 13.0  | 17.8                        | 2,194         |
| <b>Ecological zone</b>  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Lowlands  | 53.7  | 16.2   | 10.2  | 16.0                        | 1,734         |
| Foothills   | 61.8  | 18.7   | 12.1  | 20.0                        | 307           |
| Mountains   | 61.7  | 23.6   | 20.5  | 21.8                        | 585           |
| Senqu River Valley  | 56.2  | 7.7  | 7.2   | 14.6                        | 171           |
| <b>District</b>   |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Butha-Buthe   | 53.3  | 9.2  | 9.9   | 12.7                        | 182           |
| Leribe  | 57.7  | 21.0   | 12.5  | 15.2                        | 393           |
| Berea   | 66.6  | 22.1   | 13.2  | 16.9                        | 350           |
| Maseru  | 52.2  | 15.5   | 9.8   | 18.0                        | 741           |
| Mafeteng  | 44.2  | 12.8   | 9.7   | 20.9                        | 297           |
| Mohale's Hoek   | 61.8  | 18.8   | 12.2  | 16.5                        | 281           |
| Quthing   | 49.7  | 7.1  | 7.4   | 11.3                        | 167           |
| Qacha's Nek   | 58.1  | 28.3   | 23.0  | 25.2                        | 99            |
| Mokhotlong  | 61.8  | 25.8   | 24.1  | 25.4                        | 130           |
| Thaba-Tseka   | 68.8  | 21.5   | 19.4  | 19.3                        | 156           |
| <b>Education</b>  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| No education  | 58.0  | 22.9   | 18.7  | 23.0                        | 479           |
| Primary, incomplete   | 57.8  | 18.7   | 14.7  | 19.6                        | 1,194         |
| Primary, complete   | 57.5  | 16.7   | 9.8   | 13.0                        | 342           |
| Secondary+  | 52.8  | 12.7   | 6.1   | 13.1                        | 783           |
| <b>Employment</b>   |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Not employed  | 55.8  | 16.4   | 11.8  | 16.3                        | 1,895         |
| Employed for cash   | 58.1  | 19.1   | 10.6  | 16.6                        | 587           |
| Employed not for cash   | 56.5  | 21.5   | 19.5  | 27.2                        | 311           |
| <b>Number of decisions in which woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b> |   |  |   |                             |               |
| 0   | 55.0  | 24.9   | 19.6  | 23.5                        | 137           |
| 1-2   | 63.4  | 25.4   | 16.0  | 21.9                        | 686           |
| 3-4   | 58.0  | 16.0   | 13.3  | 17.0                        | 1,123         |
| 5-6   | 48.8  | 12.0   | 7.0   | 13.8                        | 851           |
| <b>Number of reasons wife beating is justified</b>                  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| 0   | 43.8  | 9.3  | 5.8   | 9.8                         | 1,360         |
| 1-2   | 59.8  | 18.1   | 12.0  | 20.5                        | 663           |
| 3-4   | 74.8  | 31.1   | 21.0  | 28.2                        | 621           |
| 5-6   | 78.6  | 32.4   | 37.6  | 30.4                        | 153           |
| <b>Wealth quintile</b>  |   |  |   |                             |               |
| Lowest  | 61.5  | 21.6   | 20.2  | 22.5                        | 466           |
| Second  | 61.3  | 20.8   | 16.8  | 23.2                        | 514           |
| Middle  | 56.8  | 15.5   | 10.7  | 15.2                        | 566           |
| Fourth  | 51.3  | 15.4   | 7.6   | 14.8                        | 621           |
| Highest   | 53.3  | 15.6   | 9.3   | 14.2                        | 630           |
| Total   | 56.4  | 17.5   | 12.4  | 17.6                        | 2,797         |

Note: Total includes 2 men with missing information on marital status and 4 men with missing information on employment status.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others