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11.1 INTRODUCTION

The 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) collected information on HIV/AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is one of the most serious public health and development challenges to face sub-Saharan Africa. The total number of people infected with HIV is estimated to be between 700,000 and one million people in 2003. This figure includes 60,000–80,000 HIV-positive children under age 15. One-third of those infected live in urban areas and two-thirds in rural areas. AIDS-related deaths constitute personal, economic, and social tragedies in the lives of surviving family, friends, and employers.

The principal mode of HIV transmission in Malawi is heterosexual contact. This accounts for 90 percent of HIV infections in the country (UNAIDS/WHO, 2000). The duration between HIV infection and the onset of AIDS varies but averages 9–10 years, and death typically ensues within 1–2 years of symptom onset. This is followed in importance by perinatal transmission (9 percent of all HIV infections), when the mother passes HIV to the child during pregnancy, delivery or breastfeeding. It is estimated that approximately 20 percent of babies born to HIV-positive mothers will be infected around the time of birth. About one-half of children infected during the perinatal period will die before their fifth birthday.

The children of HIV-infected parents who are not themselves infected are still at a great disadvantage, due to the health and social consequences of possibly losing one or both parents to AIDS. It is estimated that between 1990 and 2003, the number of children under 18 who were living without one or both parents in Malawi grew from about 800,000 to 1.2 million (NAC, 2004b), with most of the increase being the result of sharp rises in the rates of adult mortality.

The future course of Malawi's AIDS epidemic depends on a number of important variables, including the level of public awareness about HIV/AIDS, the level and pattern of risk-related behaviours, access to high quality services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and provision of HIV testing and counselling. The impact of AIDS is now affecting all sectors of Malawian society, and the nation's response needs to be matched with multisectoral strategies and interventions. The National AIDS Commission (NAC) is on the leading edge of efforts to bring down barriers to effective HIV/AIDS programmes and has identified the key challenges and opportunities to galvanise an effective national effort (NAC, 2000).

This chapter presents data about the extent of relevant knowledge, perceptions, and behaviours at the national and sub-national levels, and for various socioeconomic subgroups of the population. This information is relevant for AIDS control programmes to be able to target groups of individuals most in need of information and service and most vulnerable to the risk of HIV infection.

The data obtained from the 2004 MDHS provide an excellent opportunity to assess the levels and trends of factors related to the HIV infection. These factors include current levels of knowledge on AIDS-related issues, experience with HIV testing, and knowledge of and experience with other sexually transmitted infections, which may be important cofactors in HIV transmission. Information on patterns of sexual activity and condom use, especially among young women and men are also discussed in this section. Finally, schooling status and living arrangements of orphaned children are also presented in this chapter.

11.2 KNOWLEDGE OF AIDS AND HIV TRANSMISSION

11.2.1 Awareness of AIDS

Table 11.1 shows the percentage of women and men who have heard of AIDS by their background characteristics. Knowledge of AIDS among women and men in Malawi is almost universal. This is true across age group, urban-rural residence, marital status, wealth index, and education.

11.2.2 Knowledge of Ways to Reduce AIDS Transmission

Table 11.2 presents the percentage of women and men who reported selected ways that people can do to reduce the risk of getting the AIDS virus. The specific ways are abstaining from sex, being faithful to one uninfected sexual partner, and using condoms. Overall, for women and men, abstaining from sex was mentioned most frequently (71 percent for women and 90 percent for men). The second most cited reason for avoiding AIDS infection is by limiting sex to one uninfected person (68 percent and 80 percent, respectively). Condom use is cited by 57 percent of women and 76 percent of men. The combination of using condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner is mentioned by 47 percent of women and 63 percent of men. Small variations are shown in the proportion by age, marital status, and residence.

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Has heard of AIDS	Number of women	Has heard of AIDS	Number of men
Age				
15-19	98.5	2,392	98.4	650
20-24	98.3	2,870	100.0	587
25-29	98.6	2,157	99.6	634
30-39	98.8	2,595	99.8	779
40-49	98.9	1,684	100.0	464
15-24	98.4	5,262	99.2	1,237
Marital status				
Never married	98.8	1,970	99.0	1,084
Ever had sex	99.6	671	99.9	686
Never had sex	98.4	1,299	97.5	398
Married/living together	98.5	8,312	99.8	1,936
Divorced/separated/ widowed	99.0	1,416	100.0	93
Residence				
Urban	99.2	2,076	99.7	661
Rural	98.4	9,621	99.5	2,453
Region				
Northern	99.9	1,552	99.4	404
Central	97.3	4,734	99.2	1,302
Southern	99.3	5,412	99.8	1,408
District				
Blantyre	99.7	914	100.0	315
Kasungu	99.0	497	99.3	148
Machinga	99.5	427	100.0	106
Mangochi	97.1	599	99.6	141
Mzimba	99.8	778	99.3	203
Salima	97.7	303	100.0	72
Thyolo	99.6	618	100.0	156
Zomba	99.5	637	100.0	155
Lilongwe	96.2	1,705	99.3	523
Mulanje	99.4	512	100.0	105
Other districts	98.8	4,708	99.3	1,189
Education				
No education	97.3	2,734	99.2	350
Primary 1-4	97.7	2,998	98.3	746
Primary 5-8	99.6	4,154	100.0	1,171
Secondary+	99.8	1,811	100.0	845
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	97.4	2,037	98.6	383
Second	98.0	2,277	99.5	614
Middle	98.7	2,383	99.4	666
Fourth	99.4	2,361	99.8	666
Highest	99.3	2,639	99.8	785
Total 15-49	98.6	11,698	99.5	3,114
Total men 15-54	na	na	99.5	3,261

na = Not applicable

Table 11.2 Knowledge of HIV prevention methods

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who, in response to prompted questions, say that people can reduce the risk of getting the AIDS virus by using condoms every time they have sex, and by having sex with just one partner who is not infected and who has no other partners, and by abstaining from sex, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristics	Women					Men				
	Using condoms	Limiting sex to one uninfected partner	Using condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner	Abstaining from sex	Number of women	Using condoms	Limiting sex to one uninfected partner	Using condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner	Abstaining from sex	Number of men
Age										
15-19	55.3	62.1	42.3	69.2	2,392	72.4	74.7	59.4	83.1	650
20-24	61.0	67.9	49.9	70.9	2,870	79.7	79.7	64.7	92.2	587
25-29	59.4	68.4	48.4	71.6	2,157	76.1	79.6	63.5	90.9	634
30-39	55.6	70.8	46.8	71.4	2,595	77.0	82.2	66.1	90.9	779
40-49	53.6	69.3	44.2	70.2	1,684	71.5	83.9	62.5	92.8	464
15-24	58.4	65.2	46.5	70.2	5,262	75.8	77.1	61.9	87.4	1,237
Marital status										
Never married	55.1	63.1	42.5	70.6	1,970	74.1	76.2	60.9	87.2	1,084
Ever had sex	59.7	65.3	46.0	73.1	671	76.1	78.7	62.4	88.3	686
Never had sex	52.7	61.9	40.6	69.4	1,299	70.5	71.8	58.3	85.4	398
Married/living together	57.7	68.8	47.4	70.9	8,312	76.4	81.8	64.6	91.4	1,936
Divorced/separated/ widowed	57.9	67.1	47.2	69.2	1,416	74.4	82.5	65.8	87.9	93
Residence										
Urban	54.8	66.7	45.0	70.9	2,076	73.5	80.2	60.6	90.7	661
Rural	57.8	67.8	46.9	70.6	9,621	76.1	79.8	64.1	89.6	2,453
Region										
Northern	63.7	77.9	56.1	78.6	1,552	64.9	88.2	61.9	83.3	404
Central	52.2	61.6	41.0	68.2	4,734	78.0	73.6	59.5	90.7	1,302
Southern	60.0	69.9	48.7	70.6	5,412	76.3	83.4	67.3	90.9	1,408
District										
Blantyre	60.9	72.8	50.2	73.8	914	75.7	87.3	68.5	89.1	315
Kasungu	49.6	70.7	40.3	71.9	497	82.3	87.4	73.4	94.3	148
Machinga	54.9	56.3	40.4	57.5	427	79.0	84.7	74.0	87.5	106
Mangochi	53.4	55.7	37.9	55.3	599	80.4	84.6	72.5	84.5	141
Mzimba	70.3	86.9	67.1	85.9	778	61.7	87.2	58.0	74.9	203
Salima	62.8	65.3	48.3	65.9	303	84.0	89.4	76.1	96.5	72
Thyolo	67.2	76.8	55.9	82.0	618	76.3	84.6	68.2	97.5	156
Zomba	56.5	69.9	46.6	71.6	637	81.0	80.6	67.8	92.8	155
Lilongwe	43.9	56.3	35.9	66.2	1,705	72.1	64.3	48.4	88.0	523
Mulanje	75.2	78.8	61.4	91.7	512	54.8	75.2	45.1	85.8	105
Other districts	57.3	67.2	45.6	68.6	4,708	78.1	80.7	65.8	92.2	1,189
Education										
No education	48.9	62.0	39.4	62.9	2,734	73.6	71.2	55.5	90.4	350
Primary 1-4	57.3	65.4	46.0	69.2	2,998	73.0	73.7	59.4	86.1	746
Primary 5-8	61.6	70.9	50.4	73.3	4,154	77.5	82.4	66.3	89.0	1,171
Secondary+	60.1	72.2	49.4	79.0	1,811	75.8	85.5	66.1	94.0	845
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	53.6	63.2	42.4	67.1	2,037	73.5	76.0	60.8	86.9	383
Second	56.4	64.7	45.3	67.7	2,277	75.9	80.5	65.2	88.7	614
Middle	58.6	68.5	47.7	70.4	2,383	74.8	80.6	62.9	89.5	666
Fourth	59.7	70.5	49.4	72.4	2,361	76.6	79.1	63.1	91.1	666
Highest	57.6	70.2	47.3	74.7	2,639	75.9	81.3	63.7	91.3	785
Total 15-49	57.3	67.6	46.6	70.7	11,698	75.5	79.9	63.4	89.8	3,114
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	75.1	80.2	63.2	89.9	3,261

na = Not applicable

There is a strong association between the respondent's educational level and knowledge of AIDS prevention. For example, the percentage of women who mention abstaining from sex increases from 63 percent for women with no education to 79 percent for women with secondary or higher education. In all subgroups of men, the percentage who mention abstaining from sex is high (83 percent or higher). Knowledge of all three means of HIV transmission tends to increase with wealth.

11.2.3 Beliefs about AIDS

More than two decades since the first cases of AIDS were reported in Malawi, many people still do not know how the disease is transmitted. The 2004 MDHS asked questions to find out whether people have misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. The questions included in the survey are: whether a healthy-looking person can have AIDS virus, whether a mosquito can transmit AIDS, whether AIDS can be transmitted by supernatural powers, and whether a person can be infected by AIDS by sharing food with a person who has the AIDS virus.

Table 11.3.1 shows that four in five women correctly say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus and that a person cannot become infected by sharing a meal with a person who has the AIDS virus. Three in four women report that AIDS cannot be transmitted by supernatural powers, while two in three women say that AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquitoes. Overall, less than half of women can identify the two most common misconceptions and know that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus.

Table 11.3.1 also shows that the pattern among women 15-24 is similar to that for all women. Beliefs about AIDS do not vary much by marital status. The percentage of women who correctly identify two misconceptions and say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus ranges from 47 percent among women who are currently married to 63 percent among women who have never married but have had sex.

Beliefs about AIDS vary by residence; urban women are more knowledgeable about AIDS than rural women. While 88 percent of urban women say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, the proportion for rural women is 81 percent. Further, whereas 64 percent of women in urban areas can identify two misconceptions and confirm that a healthy-looking person can have AIDS virus, the corresponding proportion for rural women is 45 percent.

There is a strong association between a respondent's education and wealth status and her beliefs about AIDS. For example, 93 percent of women with secondary or higher education say that a healthy-looking person can have AIDS virus, compared with 73 percent of women with no education. While two in three women in the highest wealth quintile identify the two most common misconceptions and say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, only 38 percent of women in the lowest quintile share this belief.

There are no significant regional differences in the level of comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission. However, there are differentials in misconceptions levels by districts, comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS among women ranges from 13 percent in Kasungu and 15 percent in Mangochi to 33 percent in Mulanje.

Table 11.3.2 shows information on beliefs about AIDS among men. In general, the proportions for men are higher than those for women, which suggests that men are more knowledgeable than women in matters related to AIDS. Whereas slightly less than half of women can identify two of the most common misconceptions and say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, the corresponding proportion for men is 60 percent.

Table 11.3.1 Beliefs about AIDS: women

Percentage of women who, in response to prompted questions, correctly rejected local misconceptions about AIDS transmission and prevention, and who know that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who know that:				Percentage who reject the two most common local misconceptions and say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about AIDS ²	Number of women
	A healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus	AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	AIDS cannot be transmitted by super-natural means	A person cannot get infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS			
Age							
15-19	76.8	70.0	77.6	81.2	49.9	21.1	2,392
20-24	83.4	69.0	79.4	84.2	52.5	25.6	2,870
25-29	83.5	65.7	75.6	81.0	49.8	25.2	2,157
30-39	83.7	63.0	74.6	82.0	46.6	21.0	2,595
40-49	81.2	60.5	68.7	78.4	41.1	17.4	1,684
15-24	80.4	69.4	78.6	82.8	51.3	23.6	5,262
Marital status							
Never married	79.1	74.9	81.1	83.5	56.5	24.2	1,970
Ever had sex	83.5	80.4	84.1	88.3	63.0	28.1	671
Never had sex	76.9	72.0	79.6	81.0	53.1	22.1	1,299
Married/living together	82.1	64.1	74.9	81.1	46.8	22.1	8,312
Divorced/separated/widowed	83.7	65.3	73.1	82.8	47.6	22.0	1,416
Residence							
Urban	88.0	78.1	82.2	85.2	63.7	29.4	2,076
Rural	80.5	63.4	74.3	80.9	45.3	20.9	9,621
Region							
Northern	76.1	61.4	76.0	76.5	42.6	26.2	1,552
Central	79.1	63.4	73.7	81.0	46.1	19.5	4,734
Southern	85.9	69.6	77.4	83.7	52.4	23.9	5,412
District							
Blantyre	88.6	73.2	79.4	86.8	56.7	29.2	914
Kasungu	78.8	52.2	74.9	78.0	37.3	12.9	497
Machinga	78.0	77.5	78.4	82.2	51.6	19.4	427
Mangochi	74.9	59.9	60.7	71.1	38.4	14.9	599
Mzimba	80.6	60.2	72.2	74.8	44.6	32.4	778
Salima	80.0	63.3	66.5	81.8	41.6	20.9	303
Thyolo	91.6	60.8	76.9	87.5	47.7	25.9	618
Zomba	85.3	76.4	78.0	82.1	56.9	22.5	637
Lilongwe	78.9	69.9	75.8	80.8	53.9	20.9	1,705
Mulanje	91.1	68.7	83.7	88.6	56.3	33.9	512
Other districts	80.6	64.6	76.6	82.2	46.4	20.6	4,708
Education							
No education	73.0	56.6	64.3	72.5	34.7	14.2	2,734
Primary 1-4	80.0	57.9	70.0	77.1	39.9	17.6	2,998
Primary 5-8	84.2	69.8	81.4	86.0	53.3	25.5	4,154
Secondary+	92.5	85.1	89.2	93.1	72.9	35.8	1,811
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	75.2	57.8	68.6	75.6	38.1	16.0	2,037
Second	78.3	60.0	71.5	79.0	40.9	18.4	2,277
Middle	80.0	63.2	74.6	81.2	44.5	20.9	2,383
Fourth	83.3	66.4	77.7	82.1	49.1	24.1	2,361
Highest	90.3	79.9	84.0	88.8	66.3	30.7	2,639
Total	81.8	66.0	75.7	81.7	48.5	22.4	11,698

¹ Two most common local misconceptions: mosquito bites and supernatural means.

² Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that use of condom for every sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected and faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting the AIDS virus, say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, and reject the two most common local misconceptions.

Table 11.3.2 Beliefs about AIDS: men

Percentage of men age 15-49 who, in response to prompted questions, correctly rejected local misconceptions about AIDS transmission and prevention, and who know that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who know that:				Percentage who reject the two most common local misconceptions and say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about AIDS ²	Number of men
	A healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus	AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	AIDS cannot be transmitted by supernatural means	A person cannot get infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS			
Age							
15-19	85.7	66.9	84.4	88.1	55.6	34.5	650
20-24	93.3	68.9	87.6	91.0	61.7	38.3	587
25-29	92.4	68.5	85.9	92.9	59.7	40.3	634
30-39	95.5	72.2	83.2	92.3	63.0	42.9	779
40-49	92.9	68.2	84.3	87.2	59.0	37.0	464
15-24	89.3	67.9	85.9	89.5	58.5	36.3	1,237
Marital status							
Never married	88.3	71.9	85.9	89.4	61.9	38.8	1,084
Ever had sex	92.1	74.0	86.5	91.5	63.6	40.0	686
Never had sex	81.7	68.2	84.7	85.9	59.0	36.6	398
Married/living together	94.0	67.6	84.6	91.2	58.7	38.9	1,936
Divorced/separated/widowed	94.3	69.6	83.8	91.0	63.1	38.1	93
Residence							
Urban	93.6	81.0	89.3	91.2	74.7	46.4	661
Rural	91.6	66.0	83.8	90.4	56.0	36.8	2,453
Region							
Northern	88.1	64.0	85.0	89.6	54.6	36.7	404
Central	91.3	63.9	83.1	90.3	55.0	34.4	1,302
Southern	93.8	75.5	86.7	91.1	66.1	43.6	1,408
District							
Blantyre	97.1	85.2	89.1	93.9	77.3	48.0	315
Kasungu	87.1	57.8	80.6	91.8	46.2	36.7	148
Machinga	90.8	71.6	85.8	83.4	64.0	51.8	106
Mangochi	88.0	72.0	74.5	80.9	55.0	37.7	141
Mzimba	90.3	57.3	82.2	87.8	46.8	29.9	203
Salima	93.2	69.1	84.1	92.2	55.4	41.5	72
Thyolo	96.2	64.7	86.4	92.4	55.2	37.4	156
Zomba	96.3	68.8	85.0	93.8	61.6	40.7	155
Lilongwe	90.1	67.1	84.4	89.5	59.1	33.6	523
Mulanje	93.9	79.8	90.7	93.3	73.2	34.4	105
Other districts	91.7	68.4	85.7	91.2	59.4	39.7	1,189
Education							
No education	92.8	50.9	74.4	83.9	43.1	25.2	350
Primary 1-4	86.4	54.5	76.7	82.7	41.5	24.8	746
Primary 5-8	92.3	71.9	87.7	93.9	62.1	41.8	1,171
Secondary+	96.2	85.8	92.9	95.6	80.3	52.8	845
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	90.0	57.2	77.0	84.5	48.0	32.4	383
Second	90.3	62.1	83.4	89.4	52.2	33.8	614
Middle	92.0	65.2	85.6	90.5	55.4	37.2	666
Fourth	92.7	73.0	86.8	91.8	63.4	40.0	666
Highest	93.8	80.6	88.1	93.3	72.7	46.4	785
Total 15-49	92.0	69.1	85.0	90.6	60.0	38.9	3,114
Total 15-54	91.8	68.9	84.8	90.1	59.5	38.6	3,261

¹ Two most common local misconceptions: mosquito bites and supernatural means.

² Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that use of condom for every sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected and faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting the AIDS virus, say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, and reject the two most common local misconceptions.

Overall, 92 percent of men are aware that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus and 91 percent say that a person can not become infected by sharing a meal with a person who has AIDS. Individual beliefs about AIDS vary little across subgroups of men. However, the likelihood that a man identifies two misconceptions and agrees that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus varies by residence and increases with education and wealth status. While 43 percent of men with no education agree with these statements, the corresponding proportion for men with secondary or higher education is 80 percent.

The majority of respondents do not have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention methods: 22 percent of women and 39 percent of men know about condom use and limiting sex to one uninfected partner as HIV prevention methods, are aware that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, and reject the two most common local misconceptions, i.e., HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bites and through supernatural means. Education is positively correlated with the likelihood of having comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The youngest and oldest respondents have the lowest levels of comprehensive knowledge. There is room for growth in educating the population about the modes of transmission of the AIDS virus, especially in the rural areas, where levels of knowledge are lower.

There are no significant variations in the level of correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission among men. The proportion of men with comprehensive knowledge ranges from 30 percent in Mzimba to 50 percent in Machinga.

11.2.4 Knowledge of Mother-to-Child Transmission

The 2004 MDHS collected information as to whether women and men who know that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child by breastfeeding and that the risk of maternal to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs during pregnancy. Table 11.4 shows the results. Overall, three in four women agree that HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding, while 39 percent said the risk of MTCT can be reduced by the mother taking drugs during pregnancy and 37 percent reported both, that HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and the risk of MTCT can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs during pregnancy.

Knowledge of MTCT through breastfeeding varies by the women's marital status, ranging from 77 percent for ever-married women to 58 percent for women who have never had sex. Urban women, more educated women, and women in higher wealth quintiles are more knowledgeable about MTCT than other women.

Overall, almost seven in ten men say that HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding, 35 percent say that the risk of MTCT can be reduced by the mother taking drugs during pregnancy, and 29 percent report that HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and that the risk of MTCT can be reduced by taking special drugs during pregnancy.

Knowledge of HIV transmission from mother to child among men varies. In general, better educated men and men in the higher wealth quintiles are more likely to know ways to prevent the risk of babies contracting HIV from their mothers. Regional differentials show that men in the Northern Region are more likely than men in other regions to know that HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding, but less likely to say that drugs can be taken during pregnancy to reduce the risk of transmission. Predictably, knowledge of MTCT transmission is lower among men than among women (29 percent compared with 37 percent).

Table 11.4 Knowledge of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who know that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child by breastfeeding and that the risk of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs during pregnancy, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding	Risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking drugs during pregnancy	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and risk can be reduced by mother taking drugs during pregnancy	Number of women	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding	Risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking drugs during pregnancy	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and risk can be reduced by mother taking drugs during pregnancy	Number of men
Age								
15-19	64.3	32.5	29.7	2,392	55.5	25.2	21.6	650
20-24	76.2	43.7	41.7	2,870	68.0	40.0	32.9	587
25-29	78.5	43.6	41.8	2,157	68.2	36.9	30.2	634
30-39	79.1	40.4	38.0	2,595	70.1	35.2	30.8	779
40-49	75.0	33.7	32.5	1,684	75.7	36.2	31.6	464
15-24	70.8	38.6	36.2	5,262	61.5	32.2	27.0	1,237
Marital status								
Never married	63.4	35.9	32.4	1,970	58.8	32.6	26.6	1,084
Ever had sex	73.2	47.0	44.3	671	62.2	37.6	30.2	686
Never had sex	58.3	30.2	26.3	1,299	53.0	24.1	20.4	398
Married/living together	76.9	40.1	38.3	8,312	71.4	35.8	30.9	1,936
Divorced/separated/widowed	77.2	38.7	36.7	1,416	74.9	30.1	27.7	93
Residence								
Urban	79.1	57.2	53.7	2,076	60.9	35.4	29.5	661
Rural	73.7	35.3	33.5	9,621	68.8	34.3	29.3	2,453
Region								
Northern	68.2	33.1	30.5	1,552	72.3	26.3	24.1	404
Central	72.3	32.9	30.9	4,734	66.5	33.9	27.2	1,302
Southern	78.5	46.5	44.4	5,412	66.2	37.4	32.8	1,408
District								
Blantyre	83.6	60.2	58.0	914	74.7	40.9	37.6	315
Kasungu	75.5	36.4	35.1	497	66.0	42.8	35.7	148
Machinga	83.3	37.2	35.8	427	48.9	24.6	23.0	106
Mangochi	73.8	31.9	31.0	599	67.4	32.0	24.1	141
Mzimba	71.0	39.2	36.5	778	70.7	26.5	22.8	203
Salima	65.7	21.1	19.9	303	67.9	25.3	20.7	72
Thyolo	84.7	64.9	61.4	618	77.9	53.4	49.9	156
Zomba	79.2	52.0	49.1	637	62.3	32.2	22.3	155
Lilongwe	69.8	40.6	37.6	1,705	60.8	33.7	24.4	523
Mulanje	77.0	32.8	31.2	512	71.1	41.6	35.8	105
Other districts	72.9	32.8	31.0	4,708	67.8	32.4	28.9	1,189
Education								
No education	69.8	26.6	25.8	2,734	62.3	24.0	21.3	350
Primary 1-4	71.6	34.3	32.9	2,998	63.7	26.0	23.4	746
Primary 5-8	77.1	42.4	39.9	4,154	68.7	33.4	28.2	1,171
Secondary+	81.5	58.9	54.6	1,811	70.1	48.0	39.3	845
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	70.1	28.0	27.1	2,037	61.9	24.3	20.4	383
Second	72.8	34.5	33.1	2,277	68.8	32.2	28.2	614
Middle	72.8	33.7	32.2	2,383	66.7	33.9	28.0	666
Fourth	76.6	41.2	38.7	2,361	70.9	31.8	27.9	666
Highest	79.7	55.1	51.3	2,639	65.5	44.1	36.7	785
Total 15-49	74.7	39.2	37.1	11,698	67.1	34.5	29.3	3,114
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	67.0	34.3	29.2	3,261

Na = Not applicable

11.3 ACCEPTING ATTITUDES TOWARDS THOSE WITH HIV/AIDS

In the 2004 MDHS, to gauge stigma associated with AIDS, respondents who had heard of HIV/AIDS were asked questions about their attitudes towards people with HIV. These questions include whether respondents would be willing to take care of orphaned children of family member who died of HIV, whether they would buy fresh vegetables from shopkeepers who have HIV, and whether they believe an HIV-positive female teacher should be allowed to keep on teaching. Almost all women (94 percent) say that they are willing to take care of orphaned children of a family member who died of HIV. About two in three women said they would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV, that an HIV-positive teacher should be allowed to keep teaching and that they would not necessarily fear disclosure of a family member's HIV-positive status. When taking into account all of the stigmas toward persons with AIDS, about one in three women express their acceptance of all four measures.

The attitudes of women toward persons infected with HIV do not vary much across subgroups, except that urban women appear to be more accepting of an HIV infected female teacher continuing to work than rural women (80 percent compared with 64 percent). There is a strong positive correlation between the level of accepting attitudes and the woman's education with one exception; women with more education are less likely than others to not care that the HIV status of a family member remains a secret.

Table 11.5.1 also shows that urban women are as willing as rural women to take care of orphaned children of a family member who died of AIDS (94 percent). In general, women in the Southern Region, better educated women, and women in higher wealth quintiles are less likely than other women to have a stigma towards persons with AIDS. For instance, while 26 percent of women in the lowest wealth quintile have accepting attitudes on all four measures of stigma, the corresponding proportion for women in the highest wealth quintile is 36 percent. There are variations in attitudes towards persons living with AIDS across districts, women in Machinga have the least accepting attitudes (20 percent) and women in Thyolo have the most accepting attitudes (41 percent).

In the 2004 MDHS, the same questions were asked to men who heard of HIV/AIDS. The findings are presented in Table 11.5.2. The table shows that 97 percent of men age 15-49 are willing to take care of orphaned children of a relative who died of HIV, 84 percent would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV, 80 percent believed that an HIV-positive female teacher should be allowed to keep on teaching, and 48 percent say that they would not want the HIV status of family to remain secret. Differentials in stigma towards persons with AIDS among men are less pronounced and than among women, and do not show a particular pattern.

Table 11.5.1 Accepting attitudes towards people living with HIV: women

Among women age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, percentage expressing specific positive attitudes towards people with HIV, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who:				Percentage expressing acceptance on all four measures	Number of women who have heard of HIV/AIDS
	Would be willing to take orphaned children of relative who died of AIDS	Would buy fresh vegetables from vendor who has the AIDS virus	Believe a female teacher who has the AIDS virus should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not fear disclosing status of family member who became infected with AIDS virus		
Age						
15-19	91.6	63.0	62.0	67.9	28.6	2,356
20-24	94.3	69.6	70.9	63.6	33.2	2,821
25-29	94.6	66.9	68.5	63.2	30.8	2,127
30-39	95.0	67.6	66.7	63.8	30.7	2,563
40-49	94.3	65.0	63.3	65.8	30.2	1,665
Marital status						
Never married	91.2	66.7	66.5	63.5	28.8	1,946
Ever had sex	91.4	74.4	74.3	66.2	35.3	668
Never had sex	91.0	62.7	62.4	62.1	25.4	1,278
Married/living together	94.4	66.8	66.6	64.7	31.1	8,185
Divorced/separated/widowed	95.1	65.3	67.0	67.0	32.1	1,402
Residence						
Urban	93.8	76.5	80.0	57.6	34.3	2,060
Rural	94.0	64.5	63.7	66.3	30.1	9,471
Region						
Northern	92.2	66.0	67.3	62.5	29.6	1,551
Central	91.9	65.9	58.4	61.4	24.9	4,605
Southern	96.3	67.5	73.5	68.3	36.2	5,375
District						
Blantyre	97.4	78.7	82.6	59.5	37.8	912
Kasungu	92.7	63.6	54.3	59.1	22.5	492
Machinga	95.5	50.0	58.9	54.0	20.1	425
Mangochi	91.7	55.3	65.2	65.0	25.2	582
Mzimba	94.4	70.4	68.8	62.2	31.8	777
Salima	92.7	61.0	65.6	61.3	23.5	296
Thyolo	98.3	73.1	71.5	74.7	41.2	615
Zomba	95.6	71.8	78.3	59.9	34.7	634
Lilongwe	89.9	70.1	60.4	52.3	21.5	1,640
Mulanje	97.4	66.1	72.4	76.4	40.3	509
Other districts	93.9	64.6	64.7	70.5	32.7	4,650
Education						
No education	91.7	54.4	55.4	70.7	25.5	2,659
Primary 1-4	93.3	57.8	58.5	68.6	26.3	2,928
Primary 5-8	94.5	71.9	70.5	63.9	34.3	4,137
Secondary+	97.1	87.0	87.4	51.7	38.2	1,807
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	93.6	56.7	55.0	69.7	25.7	1,983
Second	93.0	58.3	60.2	69.4	27.5	2,231
Middle	93.5	63.4	63.0	65.7	28.9	2,352
Fourth	94.2	69.6	69.4	64.3	34.0	2,345
Highest	95.2	81.5	81.6	56.7	36.4	2,620
Total	94.0	66.6	66.6	64.8	30.8	11,532

Note: Some of these questions differ from the standard questions on stigma related to HIV/AIDS

Table 11.5.2 Accepting attitudes towards people living with HIV: men

Among men age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, percentage expressing specific positive attitudes towards people with HIV, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who:				Percentage expressing acceptance on all four measures	Number of men who have heard of HIV/AIDS
	Would be willing to take orphaned children of relative who died of AIDS	Would buy fresh vegetables from vendor who has the AIDS virus	Believe a female teacher who has the AIDS virus should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not fear disclosing status of family member who became infected with AIDS virus		
Age						
15-19	95.3	77.7	70.9	54.0	29.2	639
20-24	96.7	87.2	77.1	47.5	28.2	587
25-29	96.7	86.2	83.8	45.1	29.5	631
30-39	97.5	83.6	83.7	44.5	30.4	777
40-49	97.4	85.4	81.1	48.0	32.5	464
Marital status						
Never married	95.2	82.0	76.2	49.5	28.3	1,073
Ever had sex	95.9	83.3	77.1	51.1	29.7	685
Never had sex	94.1	79.7	74.5	46.6	25.9	388
Married/living together	97.5	85.0	81.5	47.0	31.1	1,932
Divorced/separated/widowed	97.2	82.3	75.3	41.5	22.0	93
Residence						
Urban	95.2	89.9	89.4	39.5	27.6	659
Rural	97.1	82.2	76.8	49.9	30.5	2,439
Region						
Northern	96.0	82.3	71.7	44.1	27.2	401
Central	97.2	83.3	74.3	44.4	24.9	1,292
Southern	96.4	84.8	86.4	51.7	35.2	1,405
District						
Blantyre	94.0	94.1	90.3	50.5	37.7	315
Kasungu	97.4	78.9	67.9	34.6	19.6	147
Machinga	97.7	83.9	91.1	49.8	38.1	106
Mangochi	95.9	71.2	74.2	37.3	18.0	141
Mzimba	97.0	83.2	72.5	40.0	26.3	202
Salima	93.9	83.1	69.4	38.3	18.2	72
Thyolo	99.2	83.3	86.8	57.2	41.5	156
Zomba	95.5	86.7	83.1	42.0	25.5	155
Lilongwe	97.0	86.1	81.8	43.0	26.8	519
Mulanje	94.8	83.2	86.0	57.5	35.6	105
Other districts	97.4	82.2	76.4	52.1	31.0	1,181
Education						
No education	96.4	70.2	69.5	60.5	32.4	347
Primary 1-4	96.1	72.6	68.6	56.3	26.7	734
Primary 5-8	96.9	87.0	79.7	46.3	31.6	1,171
Secondary+	97.1	94.9	92.8	36.7	29.1	845
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	96.8	78.7	70.4	53.5	28.4	377
Second	97.0	77.6	74.1	50.2	26.0	611
Middle	97.4	81.7	77.2	48.8	31.2	662
Fourth	97.8	87.8	81.3	45.9	30.8	665
Highest	95.0	89.8	88.3	43.4	31.7	783
Total 15-49	96.7	83.9	79.5	47.7	29.9	3,098
Total 15-54	96.7	83.3	79.4	47.5	29.7	3,246

Note: Some of these questions differ from the standard questions on stigma related to HIV/AIDS

11.4 ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONDOM EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

AIDS transmission can be reduced by using condoms. Table 11.6 shows the level of adult support for educating children age 12-14 in condom use to prevent AIDS. In the 2004 MDHS, women and men were asked whether they agree that children age 12-14 years should be taught about using condoms to avoid getting the AIDS virus. Half of the women and 56 percent of men age 18-49 agree that children in that age group should be taught about condom use in order to prevent contracting HIV/AIDS.

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Age				
18-19	52.3	1,054	62.5	283
20-24	54.1	2,870	57.3	587
25-29	50.8	2,157	56.6	634
30-39	47.8	2,595	55.4	779
40-49	42.5	1,684	50.7	464
Marital status				
Never married	50.4	863	57.8	720
Ever had sex	54.0	459	61.1	542
Never had sex	46.3	404	47.6	179
Married/living together	50.3	8,104	55.1	1,935
Divorced/separated/widowed	46.5	1,393	61.7	91
Residence				
Urban	53.3	1,830	56.1	585
Rural	49.0	8,530	56.0	2,162
Region				
Northern	45.6	1,341	49.7	352
Central	47.4	4,174	58.9	1,161
Southern	53.0	4,845	55.0	1,235
District				
Blantyre	59.7	829	57.1	293
Kasungu	45.5	435	50.4	129
Machinga	50.6	378	41.6	89
Mangochi	49.2	548	51.0	129
Mzimba	49.0	684	46.3	179
Salima	44.9	276	52.4	66
Thyolo	57.2	545	67.9	139
Zomba	46.7	566	58.6	133
Lilongwe	44.8	1,507	63.8	467
Mulanje	60.4	454	67.0	90
Other districts	48.8	4,139	53.7	1,033
Education				
No education	42.3	2,679	52.1	337
Primary 1-4	48.7	2,673	52.5	631
Primary 5-8	53.5	3,428	57.0	979
Secondary+	56.3	1,579	59.2	799
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	45.0	1,830	56.8	329
Second	47.4	2,069	53.6	541
Middle	49.8	2,132	56.8	604
Fourth	51.4	2,062	55.5	590
Highest	54.4	2,266	57.2	683
Total 18-49	49.8	10,360	56.0	2,747
Total men 18-54	na	na	55.5	2,895

na = Not applicable

The proportion of women and men who agree to the idea varies across subgroups of respondents. For both women and men, those who are younger and better educated are more likely than other respondents to say that children age 12-14 should be taught about using condoms. Interestingly, women and men who have never had sex are the least likely to agree to this idea (46 percent for women and 48 percent for men). While urban women are more likely to support condom use education than rural women (53 percent compared with 49 percent), there is no difference among men by residence.

11.5 ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGOTIATING SAFER SEX

Table 11.7 shows the percentage of women who believe that, if a husband has an STI, the wife is justified refusing to have sex, or asking the husband to use a condom. For men, the table shows the percentage of men who believe that a wife can refuse to have sex with her husband if the

Table 11.7 Attitudes toward negotiating safer sex with husband

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who believe that if a husband has a sexually transmitted infection his wife is justified in either refusing to have sex with him or proposing condom use, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Refuse sex	Propose condom use	Refuse sex or propose condom use	Number of women	Refuse sex	Propose condom use	Refuse sex or propose condom use	Number of men
Age								
15-19	66.0	75.3	84.6	2,392	75.1	75.2	89.5	650
20-24	74.2	84.8	93.0	2,870	80.6	80.4	93.4	587
25-29	76.6	84.8	93.9	2,157	82.8	82.2	93.3	634
30-39	77.0	82.3	93.6	2,595	83.6	82.8	95.8	779
40-49	76.0	78.6	91.0	1,684	85.3	76.8	93.6	464
15-24	70.5	80.5	89.2	5,262	77.7	77.7	91.4	1,237
Marital status								
Never married	65.9	73.1	82.5	1,970	76.7	77.0	90.0	1,084
Ever had sex	73.5	79.7	89.3	671	78.5	80.4	91.4	686
Never had sex	61.9	69.7	79.0	1,299	73.5	71.3	87.6	398
Married/living together	75.3	82.6	92.9	8,312	83.9	81.3	94.8	1,936
Divorced/separated/widowed	76.5	85.9	94.4	1,416	83.3	79.1	97.8	93
Residence								
Urban	79.8	87.7	94.8	2,076	84.3	82.5	95.1	661
Rural	72.6	80.1	90.5	9,621	80.5	79.0	92.7	2,453
Region								
Northern	80.1	75.8	91.2	1,552	76.6	79.4	90.4	404
Central	68.1	80.3	88.8	4,734	80.3	78.9	91.8	1,302
Southern	77.1	84.0	93.5	5,412	83.7	80.7	95.2	1,408
District								
Blantyre	80.8	89.2	95.3	914	84.9	83.8	97.1	315
Kasungu	57.8	70.0	81.8	497	76.4	73.3	87.8	148
Machinga	77.3	81.2	91.3	427	76.3	83.6	94.0	106
Mangochi	69.1	69.6	84.9	599	76.0	83.7	94.0	141
Mzimba	79.3	77.8	91.9	778	77.3	77.7	88.4	203
Salima	70.3	75.5	87.9	303	83.6	77.8	94.2	72
Thyolo	82.4	84.8	96.2	618	81.2	79.2	93.6	156
Zomba	79.3	85.9	95.4	637	85.3	76.6	95.5	155
Lilongwe	65.2	83.0	90.0	1,705	79.5	81.1	92.1	523
Mulanje	80.5	80.5	94.1	512	78.3	79.7	92.6	105
Other districts	74.4	82.1	91.4	4,708	83.3	79.1	93.6	1,189
Education								
No education	69.5	76.0	88.8	2,734	78.8	67.2	90.4	350
Primary 1-4	71.0	79.4	89.5	2,998	77.2	71.0	89.5	746
Primary 5-8	75.5	83.9	92.7	4,154	81.2	82.7	93.9	1,171
Secondary+	81.4	87.1	94.8	1,811	86.3	88.7	96.8	845
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	70.0	79.7	90.1	2,037	79.7	74.4	90.3	383
Second	71.3	78.6	89.6	2,277	80.8	76.3	92.4	614
Middle	71.9	79.2	90.0	2,383	80.3	80.9	93.0	666
Fourth	74.9	83.2	92.7	2,361	81.5	78.9	92.6	666
Highest	79.9	85.5	93.6	2,639	83.4	84.9	96.0	785
Total 15-49	73.9	81.4	91.3	11,698	81.4	79.8	93.2	3,114
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	81.3	79.4	93.3	3,261

na = Not applicable

husband has an STI. Women are less likely than men to say that a wife can refuse having sex with her husband if the husband has an STI (74 percent compared with 81 percent). However, women are as likely as men to say that a wife can propose to her husband to use a condom (81 percent and 80 percent, respectively). Overall, 81 percent of women say that a wife is justified to propose condom use if her husband has an STI and nine in ten women agree with both, refusing to have sex and proposing condom use. The corresponding proportion for men is 93 percent.

Wide variations exist across population groups, with older respondents, those living in urban areas, those with more education, and those in higher wealth quintiles are more likely to agree with women's ability to negotiate safer sex.

11.6 MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERSHIPS

In the context of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, limiting the number of sexual partners and having protected sex are crucial to the fight against the epidemic. Table 11.8 shows the percentage of women and men who had sexual intercourse with more than one partner in the last 12 months. Men in general are more likely to have more sexual partners than women. While only one percent of women had two or more sexual partners in the past year, the corresponding proportion for men is 11 percent.

Teenagers are more likely than older women to have two or more partners (2 percent compared with 1 percent or less for older women). Married women are the least likely to have multiple partners (less than 1 percent) compared with never married women (5 percent) or formerly married women (2 percent). Differentials across subgroups of women are not substantial.

Data for men show that men's behaviour with respect to having sex with multiple partners does not vary much across background characteristics. The only exception is that men in the Northern Region are twice as likely as men in the Southern Region (19 percent and 10 percent, respectively) to have multiple sex partners.

Table 11.8 Multiple sex partners among women and men

Among women and men age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had intercourse with more than one partner and among women and men who have ever had sex, the mean number of sexual partners in the past 12 months, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Number of women who had sex in the past 12 months	Mean number of sexual partners in the past 12 months	Number of women who ever had sex	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Number of men who had sex in the past 12 months	Mean number of sexual partners in the past 12 months	Number of men who ever had sex
Age								
15-19	2.2	1,095	0.9	1,249	14.4	223	0.8	340
20-24	1.4	2,499	0.9	2,741	12.6	435	1.1	521
25-29	0.9	1,940	0.9	2,126	11.5	564	1.0	615
30-39	0.7	2,241	0.9	2,594	10.9	738	1.1	776
40-49	0.4	1,312	0.8	1,684	11.7	442	1.1	460
15-24	1.7	3,594	0.9	3,991	13.2	658	1.0	861
Marital status								
Never married	6.3	434	0.7	670	15.5	451	0.9	686
Married/living together	0.6	8,004	1.0	8,309	10.8	1,893	1.1	1,933
Divorced/separated/widowed	3.2	649	0.5	1,416	16.9	57	0.8	93
Residence								
Urban	1.6	1,534	0.9	1,766	9.7	486	1.0	552
Rural	1.0	7,553	0.9	8,628	12.4	1,915	1.0	2,159
Region								
Northern	1.1	1,068	0.8	1,316	19.4	273	1.0	329
Central	0.9	3,635	0.9	4,090	12.4	990	1.0	1,113
Southern	1.2	4,383	0.9	4,989	9.5	1,138	1.0	1,269
District								
Blantyre	1.5	741	0.9	830	4.7	254	0.9	284
Kasungu	0.3	403	0.9	438	13.5	116	1.0	130
Machinga	0.6	355	0.9	396	9.8	89	1.1	93
Mangochi	1.1	468	0.8	563	16.1	122	1.1	135
Mzimba	0.9	532	0.8	661	15.4	135	0.9	168
Salima	1.2	242	0.9	272	18.4	63	1.2	66
Thyolo	0.4	533	0.9	578	11.1	126	1.0	140
Zomba	1.2	518	0.9	584	13.1	130	1.0	144
Lilongwe	1.3	1,304	0.9	1,454	12.2	386	1.0	438
Mulanje	3.2	416	0.9	479	14.3	85	1.0	97
Other districts	0.9	3,574	0.9	4,141	11.7	895	1.1	1,016
Education								
No education	0.8	2,338	0.9	2,694	7.5	318	1.0	340
Primary 1-4	1.1	2,467	0.9	2,744	12.0	594	1.0	651
Primary 5-8	1.2	3,092	0.9	3,539	13.5	881	1.1	988
Secondary+	1.1	1,189	0.8	1,417	11.4	606	1.0	732
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	1.6	1,525	0.8	1,864	10.4	301	1.0	342
Second	0.8	1,880	0.9	2,102	11.2	485	1.0	538
Middle	0.7	1,949	0.9	2,157	13.0	544	1.0	603
Fourth	1.1	1,852	0.9	2,068	13.2	513	1.1	584
Highest	1.3	1,880	0.9	2,204	10.7	558	1.0	645
Total 15-49	1.1	9,087	0.9	10,395	11.8	2,401	1.0	2,712

11.7 HIGHER-RISK SEX

Table 11.9 shows the percentage of sexually active women and men who had higher-risk sex (i.e., sex with a partner other than their husband or cohabiting partner) and the extent of condom

Table 11.9 Higher-risk sex and condom use at last higher-risk sex in the past year								
Among women and men reporting sexual activity in the 12 months preceding the survey, percentage who had sex with a nonmarital, noncohabiting partner in the past 12 months and among women and men who had higher-risk sex ¹ in the past 12 months, percentage who say they used a condom the last time they had sex with a nonmarital, noncohabiting partner, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004								
Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Percentage who had higher-risk sex ¹ in the past 12 months	Number of women sexually active in the past 12 months	Percentage who used condom at last higher-risk sex	Number of women who had higher-risk sex in past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk sex ¹ in the past 12 months	Number of men sexually active in the past 12 months	Percentage who used condom at last higher-risk sex	Number of men who had higher-risk sex in past 12 months
Age								
15-19	27.5	1,095	34.9	302	94.8	223	35.8	211
20-24	7.9	2,499	35.6	197	45.4	435	58.5	198
25-29	5.4	1,940	26.9	105	20.7	564	55.9	117
30-39	4.8	2,241	17.9	107	13.1	739	41.7	97
40-49	3.3	1,312	9.7	44	5.4	442	(31.0)	24
Marital status								
Never married	99.0	434	37.5	430	98.6	451	47.9	444
Married/living together	0.8	8,004	24.7	67	8.3	1,894	46.9	156
Divorced/separated/widowed	39.8	649	19.2	258	77.9	57	39.5	45
Residence								
Urban	13.8	1,534	43.7	211	35.0	486	57.2	170
Rural	7.2	7,553	24.8	544	24.8	1,916	43.5	475
Region								
Northern	7.0	1,068	43.1	75	27.2	273	55.3	74
Central	6.2	3,635	39.0	224	24.6	990	50.7	244
Southern	10.4	4,383	23.6	456	28.7	1,139	42.5	328
District								
Blantyre	13.6	741	31.6	101	25.6	254	(58.1)	65
Kasungu	2.8	403	*	11	23.9	116	47.9	28
Machinga	7.4	355	(19.0)	26	37.4	89	25.5	33
Mangochi	8.5	468	21.5	40	33.8	122	31.0	41
Mzimba	5.1	532	(45.7)	27	21.0	135	(62.1)	28
Salima	4.8	242	(46.6)	12	22.7	63	(47.6)	14
Thyolo	13.1	533	16.2	70	22.5	128	(53.5)	29
Zomba	12.5	518	21.2	65	32.3	130	30.7	42
Lilongwe	7.2	1,304	(43.5)	94	28.7	386	51.8	111
Mulanje	12.9	416	15.6	54	28.1	85	(25.2)	24
Other districts	7.2	3,574	32.4	256	25.8	895	50.2	230
Education								
No education	4.1	2,338	9.9	97	14.5	318	(22.1)	46
Primary 1-4	6.1	2,467	18.7	151	24.9	596	39.4	148
Primary 5-8	8.8	3,092	30.1	273	25.9	881	40.5	228
Secondary+	19.7	1,189	45.8	234	36.7	606	64.2	223
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	10.7	1,525	17.2	163	24.8	301	41.6	75
Second	5.1	1,880	16.6	96	24.1	485	43.3	117
Middle	6.1	1,949	27.1	119	21.1	544	37.8	115
Fourth	5.9	1,852	29.5	110	26.3	515	46.5	135
Highest	14.2	1,880	44.4	267	36.6	558	56.9	204
Total 15-49	8.3	9,087	30.1	755	26.9	2,402	47.1	646
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	25.7	2,545	47.1	653

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

¹Sexual intercourse with a partner who is neither a spouse nor a person who lives with the respondent

na = Not applicable

use the last time they had sex with such a partner. Women are much less likely to engage in higher risk sex than men (8 percent compared with 27 percent of those who had sex in the 12 months before the survey). Both younger women and men age 15-19 are substantially more likely to have higher-risk sex than older respondents, mainly because they are less likely to be married. While almost all sexually active men age 15-19 had sex with a noncohabiting partner (95 percent), only 5 percent of men age 40-49 engaged in higher-risk sex.

Condom use for higher-risk sex is reported by 30 percent of women and 47 percent of men. Women and men in urban areas are more likely to use condoms than their rural counterparts. For women, the percentage who used condoms at the last higher-risk sex in urban areas is 44 percent compared with 25 percent in rural areas. Predictably, the respondent's education and wealth status are positively correlated with condom use.

11.8 PAID SEX AND CONDOM USE

Male respondents in the 2004 MDHS were asked whether they had paid money in exchange for sex in the 12 months preceding the survey. Among men age 15-49, 5 percent reported paying for sex in the last 12 months, 43 percent of whom reported that they used condoms at the most recent paid sex (Table 11.10). Younger men are slightly more likely than older men to have sex with prostitutes (8 percent among men 15-19 compared with 6 percent or less for older men). Married men are less likely than never-married men and divorced, separated or widowed men to have sex with

Table 11.10 Paid sex in past year and condom use at last paid sex

Percentage of men reporting sex with a prostitute in the past 12 months, and among these men percentage reporting condom use the last time they had sex with a prostitute, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percentage reporting sex with prostitute in past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage reporting condom use at last sex with prostitute	Number of men reporting sex with prostitute in past 12 months
Age				
15-19	8.2	650	30.3	53
20-24	5.8	587	(40.6)	34
25-29	3.8	634	(56.7)	24
30-39	4.5	779	53.8	35
40-49	1.7	464	*	8
15-24	7.1	1,237	34.3	87
Marital status				
Never married	7.4	1,084	33.6	80
Ever had sex	11.6	686	33.6	80
Never had sex	0.0	398	*	0
Married/ living together	3.4	1,936	52.3	66
Divorced/ separated/widowed	9.4	93	*	9
Residence				
Urban	3.1	661	*	20
Rural	5.5	2,453	41.4	134
Region				
Northern	2.3	404	*	9
Central	4.2	1,302	50.2	54
Southern	6.5	1,408	34.9	91
Education				
No education	5.9	350	*	21
Primary 1-4	6.2	746	(28.4)	47
Primary 5-8	5.3	1,171	41.9	62
Secondary+	3.0	845	(83.2)	25
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	4.0	383	*	15
Second	7.0	614	(26.7)	43
Middle	4.9	666	(41.5)	33
Fourth	5.8	666	(52.8)	39
Highest	3.1	785	(59.1)	25
Total 15-49	5.0	3,114	42.4	155
Total 15-54	4.8	3,261	42.5	156

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

a prostitute (3 percent compared with 12 and 9 percent, respectively). Paid sex is more common among men in the rural areas, in the Southern Region, and those with less education. The relationship between payment for sex and wealth quintile is less clear.

Due to the small number of men who report using condoms at last sex with a prostitute, the results have to be used with caution. While young men are more likely than older men to report having sex with a prostitute, they are less likely to use condoms. Also, while married men are less likely than men who are not in a union to have sex with a prostitute, they are more likely than other men to use condoms.

11.9 COUNSELLING AND TESTING FOR HIV

Knowledge of HIV status helps HIV-negative individuals make specific decisions to reduce the risk of contracting the disease and to increase safer sex practices so they can remain disease free. For those who are HIV infected, knowledge of their status allows them to better protect their sexual partners, to access treatment, and to plan for their future.

In order to gauge the coverage of HIV testing as well as the unmet need for testing, respondents in the 2004 MDHS were asked if they had ever been tested to see if they have the AIDS virus. Those who had been tested were asked when they were last tested, whether they had asked for the test or were required to take it, and whether they received their results. Those who had not been tested were asked if they would like to be tested and whether they know of a place to go for an AIDS test.

Table 11.11 shows the percentage of women and men who have ever been tested and those who were tested and received the test results in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics. Overall, 83 percent of women and 83 percent of men have never been tested. Table 11.11 further shows that 13 percent of women and 15 percent of men were tested and received the results, while 2 percent report that they did not receive the test results. The table also shows that 4 percent of women and 8 percent of men were tested and received the test results in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Table 11.11 HIV testing status and receipt of test results

Percent distribution of women and men by HIV testing status, and percentage who were tested for HIV and received test results in the past 12 months, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women							Men						
	Tested				Total	Percentage tested and received results in past 12 months	Number of women	Tested				Total	Percentage tested and received results in past 12 months	Number of men
	Received results	Results not received	Not tested	Don't know/missing				Received results	Results not received	Not tested	Don't know/missing			
Age														
15-19	6.8	1.5	89.9	1.7	100.0	3.7	2,392	6.1	0.8	91.5	1.6	100.0	4.1	650
20-24	17.2	3.0	77.9	1.9	100.0	4.6	2,870	18.0	1.1	80.9	0.0	100.0	10.1	587
25-29	15.9	2.8	79.9	1.4	100.0	3.3	2,157	21.6	1.5	76.5	0.4	100.0	10.3	634
30-39	14.0	2.6	82.0	1.4	100.0	3.5	2,595	15.5	1.5	82.8	0.2	100.0	7.6	779
40-49	8.5	2.0	88.2	1.4	100.0	2.3	1,684	14.5	2.9	82.5	0.0	100.0	6.2	464
15-24	12.5	2.3	83.4	1.8	100.0	4.2	5,262	11.7	0.9	86.5	0.8	100.0	7.0	1,237
Marital status														
Never married	8.3	0.6	89.8	1.3	100.0	5.0	1,970	12.9	0.7	85.4	1.0	100.0	7.9	1,084
Ever had sex	17.2	1.2	81.1	0.6	100.0	9.1	671	17.8	0.8	81.3	0.1	100.0	11.6	686
Never had sex	3.7	0.3	94.4	1.6	100.0	2.8	1,299	4.4	0.5	92.5	2.5	100.0	1.6	398
Married/living together	13.8	2.7	81.8	1.7	100.0	3.1	8,312	16.1	2.0	81.7	0.2	100.0	7.6	1,936
Divorced/separated/widowed	13.9	3.1	81.8	1.2	100.0	4.4	1,416	20.9	0.5	78.6	0.0	100.0	7.7	93
Residence														
Urban	22.9	2.1	74.2	0.9	100.0	5.8	2,076	25.1	1.5	73.1	0.3	100.0	13.6	661
Rural	10.7	2.5	85.1	1.7	100.0	3.1	9,621	12.4	1.5	85.6	0.5	100.0	6.1	2,453
Region														
Northern	13.2	2.9	83.5	0.5	100.0	3.8	1,552	18.1	1.2	80.1	0.6	100.0	9.5	404
Central	10.9	2.0	84.3	2.8	100.0	2.5	4,734	14.2	1.9	83.2	0.8	100.0	6.5	1,302
Southern	14.5	2.7	82.0	0.8	100.0	4.5	5,412	15.1	1.2	83.5	0.2	100.0	8.2	1,408
District														
Blantyre	20.7	2.2	76.5	0.6	100.0	7.7	914	20.5	2.6	76.9	0.0	100.0	9.4	315
Kasungu	6.3	1.5	90.9	1.3	100.0	2.2	497	12.1	2.1	85.1	0.7	100.0	3.6	148
Machinga	8.1	2.9	88.2	0.9	100.0	2.2	427	6.8	1.3	92.0	0.0	100.0	2.2	106
Mangochi	7.5	4.5	85.2	2.9	100.0	2.7	599	9.7	0.0	89.9	0.4	100.0	5.9	141
Mzimba	15.9	1.6	82.3	0.3	100.0	4.4	778	21.1	0.3	77.8	0.7	100.0	11.2	203
Salima	5.1	2.3	90.3	2.3	100.0	1.2	303	11.8	1.2	87.0	0.0	100.0	4.1	72
Thyolo	29.1	3.3	67.2	0.5	100.0	7.0	618	24.2	0.9	74.9	0.0	100.0	17.0	156
Zomba	12.1	1.9	85.4	0.5	100.0	3.8	637	10.4	0.4	89.2	0.0	100.0	4.9	155
Lilongwe	16.9	1.4	78.0	3.7	100.0	2.8	1,705	16.5	1.3	81.5	0.7	100.0	8.5	523
Mulanje	7.1	2.9	89.4	0.7	100.0	2.0	512	10.6	1.7	87.7	0.0	100.0	5.8	105
Other districts	10.3	2.7	85.5	1.5	100.0	3.2	4,708	13.8	1.8	83.7	0.7	100.0	7.0	1,189
Education														
No education	8.4	2.9	85.8	2.9	100.0	2.0	2,734	10.1	0.4	88.7	0.8	100.0	5.6	350
Primary 1-4	9.8	2.6	85.2	2.4	100.0	2.6	2,998	10.1	1.8	86.5	1.7	100.0	4.1	746
Primary 5-8	12.6	2.3	84.4	0.7	100.0	3.3	4,154	12.0	1.4	86.6	0.0	100.0	6.2	1,171
Secondary+	25.3	1.6	72.9	0.2	100.0	8.4	1,811	25.9	1.7	72.3	0.0	100.0	13.7	845
Wealth quintile														
Lowest	8.6	2.4	86.2	2.9	100.0	2.5	2,037	10.1	2.3	86.2	1.4	100.0	5.0	383
Second	9.4	2.6	85.8	2.2	100.0	2.6	2,277	7.8	1.6	90.0	0.5	100.0	4.2	614
Middle	10.1	2.6	85.9	1.4	100.0	2.3	2,383	14.1	1.1	84.1	0.6	100.0	7.1	666
Fourth	12.3	2.7	84.2	0.8	100.0	3.2	2,361	13.8	0.9	85.1	0.2	100.0	5.4	666
Highest	22.3	1.9	74.9	0.8	100.0	6.8	2,639	25.2	1.7	72.9	0.2	100.0	14.2	785
Total 15-49	12.9	2.4	83.1	1.6	100.0	3.6	11,698	15.1	1.5	82.9	0.5	100.0	7.7	3,114
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	14.9	1.5	83.2	0.5	100.0	7.5	3,261

na = Not applicable

Women and men age 20-29 are the most likely to have taken the test. Testing is more common among urban residents, never-married women and men who have ever had sex, and women and men who are no longer married. Similar to many other indicators, in Malawi HIV testing appears to be an urban phenomenon and is more often practised by better educated and wealthier individuals. Women and men with at least some secondary education and those in the highest wealth quintile are more likely to have been tested for HIV than other respondents. For

example, 25 percent of women with secondary or higher education were ever tested and received the test result, compared with 8 percent of women with no education.

Among the oversampled districts, while 29 percent of women in Thyolo were tested and received the results, in Kasungu, Machinga, Mangochi, Salima, and Mulanje this proportion is less than 10 percent. For men, coverage of testing and receiving results ranges from and 6 percent in Machinga to 23 percent in Thyolo.

In the 2004 MDHS, women who had a live birth in the five years preceding the survey were asked whether they received information about HIV/AIDS and whether they were asked to give blood for HIV testing during an antenatal visit for the most recent birth. They were also asked whether they received the test result. Table 11.12 shows the findings for women who gave birth in the two years preceding the survey. Overall, 53 percent of women were counselled about HIV during an antenatal care visit, 4 percent were tested for HIV, and most of them received the result. Counselling and testing are more often reported by urban women. In general, coverage of counselling and testing increases with the woman's education level and wealth status. Women in the Central Region are less likely than women in other regions to report counselling. However, they are as likely to be tested for HIV.

Table 11.12 also shows that 3 percent of women who gave birth in the two years preceding the survey were counselled about HIV, tested for HIV, and received the HIV test result. While there are small age differentials, women in the urban areas are four times more likely than rural women to receive the full service on HIV during antenatal care (8 percent compared with 2 percent). Wide variations are found across districts, with women in Blantyre and Thyolo being the most likely to receive counselling about HIV and being tested for HIV (6 and 8 percent, respectively).

As mentioned above, 83 percent of women and men have never been tested for HIV. Table 11.13 shows that most of the respondents who have never been tested say that they know where to go for a test for the AIDS virus (79 percent of women age 15-49 and 85 percent of men age 15-49). Of those who know a place to have a test for HIV, about half mention a government-run hospital or clinic (47 percent of women and 40 percent of men). The next most often cited place for HIV testing is Malawi AIDS Counselling and Resource Organisation (MACRO), mentioned by 12 percent of women and 23 percent of men. Mission health facilities are mentioned by 12 percent of women and 8 percent of men. Another testing place frequently cited is Banja La Mtsogolo (BLM) clinics (6 percent of women and 9 percent of men).

Table 11.12 Pregnant women counselled and tested for HIV

Among women who gave birth in the two years preceding the survey, percentage who were counselled and offered HIV testing during antenatal care for their most recent birth, accepted an offer of testing and received test results, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Counselled during antenatal visit	Voluntarily tested for HIV during antenatal care visit		Counselled, tested for HIV, and received results	Number of women who gave birth in the past 2 years
		Received results	Results not received		
Age					
15-19	45.1	2.8	0.9	2.3	534
20-24	50.5	3.8	0.5	3.3	1,641
25-29	53.3	3.6	0.9	2.9	1,109
30-39	56.2	4.2	0.2	3.4	1,079
40-49	62.1	3.7	0.2	3.4	241
15-24	49.2	3.6	0.6	3.1	2,175
Residence					
Urban	67.7	8.7	0.9	8.0	583
Rural	50.3	3.0	0.5	2.4	4,021
Region					
Northern	56.3	4.3	0.5	3.5	559
Central	43.6	3.6	0.4	3.0	1,931
Southern	59.6	3.7	0.7	3.2	2,115
District					
Blantyre	64.7	6.2	0.8	6.2	303
Kasungu	39.5	1.2	0.7	0.7	226
Machinga	52.3	1.0	0.8	1.0	191
Mangochi	52.5	2.0	1.2	1.4	274
Mzimba	56.7	3.4	0.2	2.7	289
Salima	44.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	138
Thyolo	74.4	8.9	0.8	8.4	240
Zomba	63.1	2.1	0.5	1.4	239
Lilongwe	51.3	6.8	0.0	5.5	627
Mulanje	66.5	0.9	0.6	0.6	178
Other districts	47.0	3.3	0.6	2.7	1,900
Education					
No education	42.2	2.7	1.1	2.4	1,153
Primary 1-4	48.7	2.8	0.4	1.9	1,354
Primary 5-8	59.1	3.8	0.5	3.2	1,561
Secondary+	64.9	8.1	0.1	7.7	534
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	47.6	2.6	0.6	2.1	919
Second	47.0	2.3	0.7	1.6	1,111
Middle	53.1	3.8	0.4	3.2	1,001
Fourth	52.0	2.7	0.5	2.5	871
Highest	67.5	8.5	0.6	7.7	701
Total	52.5	3.7	0.6	3.1	4,604

Table 11.13 Knowledge of source for test

Among women and men age 15-49 who have not been tested for AIDS, percent distribution by reported place to get an AIDS test, according to background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women										Men										
	Public	Mission	Private	BLM	MACRO	Other	Missing	Don't know place	Total	Number never tested	Public	Mission	Private	BLM	MACRO	Other	Missing	Don't know place	Total	Number never tested	
Age																					
15-19	43.0	9.4	0.8	5.7	14.8	1.2	0.0	25.1	100.0	2,150	42.1	8.0	0.7	8.9	18.7	2.2	1.4	18.0	100.0	595	
20-24	48.1	11.6	0.9	7.8	12.4	0.9	0.1	18.2	100.0	2,236	39.6	7.1	0.8	8.8	28.3	0.6	2.4	12.4	100.0	475	
25-29	50.0	13.2	1.3	6.1	12.1	0.6	0.2	16.5	100.0	1,724	38.5	7.7	0.4	10.9	22.2	3.0	4.4	13.0	100.0	485	
30-39	46.8	13.4	0.9	5.3	11.7	0.8	0.2	21.0	100.0	2,129	39.0	8.6	0.2	8.6	25.7	0.4	2.3	15.1	100.0	645	
40-49	47.4	11.4	0.6	4.8	10.4	0.2	0.3	24.9	100.0	1,485	39.2	10.3	1.0	8.3	20.8	2.3	2.5	15.6	100.0	383	
15-24	45.6	10.5	0.9	6.8	13.6	1.0	0.0	21.6	100.0	4,386	41.0	7.6	0.7	8.8	23.0	1.5	1.8	15.5	100.0	1,070	
Marital status																					
Never married	40.4	8.0	0.9	5.7	20.2	1.0	0.0	23.8	100.0	1,770	40.5	6.1	0.6	9.7	24.4	2.0	1.7	15.0	100.0	926	
Ever had sex	42.8	6.9	0.5	6.2	25.0	0.8	0.0	17.8	100.0	544	42.2	6.8	0.6	10.6	23.7	1.6	1.6	12.9	100.0	557	
Never had sex	39.3	8.4	1.0	5.5	18.1	1.1	0.0	26.5	100.0	1,226	38.1	5.0	0.7	8.3	25.5	2.7	1.7	18.1	100.0	368	
Married/living together	48.6	12.4	1.0	6.5	10.7	0.7	0.1	20.1	100.0	6,796	39.2	9.7	0.5	8.9	22.9	1.3	2.9	14.7	100.0	1,583	
Divorced/separated/widowed	47.2	13.8	0.5	3.8	10.8	1.0	0.5	22.5	100.0	1,158	43.4	6.3	0.4	5.6	14.7	3.5	6.4	19.7	100.0	73	
Residence																					
Urban	36.7	1.9	0.7	9.9	37.0	1.2	0.1	12.6	100.0	1,540	33.0	1.0	0.0	9.7	43.2	2.9	0.9	9.4	100.0	484	
Rural	48.8	13.6	0.9	5.3	7.8	0.7	0.1	22.7	100.0	8,183	41.3	10.0	0.7	9.0	18.6	1.3	2.9	16.2	100.0	2,099	
Region																					
Northern	47.2	12.6	0.4	2.3	19.8	0.3	0.1	17.3	100.0	1,296	49.7	3.4	0.0	2.4	24.2	0.5	7.2	12.5	100.0	323	
Central	42.7	11.6	1.2	6.7	11.7	0.5	0.1	25.6	100.0	3,992	28.4	8.1	0.8	9.6	29.4	2.1	3.0	18.5	100.0	1,083	
Southern	50.6	11.6	0.8	6.5	11.0	1.2	0.2	18.1	100.0	4,435	47.5	9.7	0.5	10.4	17.2	1.5	0.8	12.4	100.0	1,176	
District																					
Blantyre	22.5	4.8	0.7	12.4	43.2	2.6	0.0	13.8	100.0	699	24.4	0.0	0.0	7.8	50.7	2.9	3.7	10.5	100.0	242	
Kasungu	56.9	8.6	0.3	5.8	6.0	0.6	0.0	21.7	100.0	452	41.8	15.4	1.7	11.6	17.8	0.4	0.0	11.4	100.0	126	
Machinga	65.2	7.9	0.0	4.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	20.4	100.0	377	55.0	6.2	0.0	5.8	9.6	0.5	0.0	23.0	100.0	97	
Mangochi	52.1	3.7	0.4	6.3	3.1	0.3	0.1	34.0	100.0	510	53.5	7.9	0.6	12.3	9.2	1.1	0.6	14.9	100.0	127	
Mzimba	33.1	18.3	0.6	1.8	28.4	0.3	0.0	17.4	100.0	640	33.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	39.0	0.5	14.7	9.6	100.0	158	
Salima	61.7	2.3	0.5	5.2	5.0	0.8	0.0	24.5	100.0	273	44.7	2.9	0.0	13.6	17.4	0.0	0.0	21.4	100.0	63	
Thyolo	71.9	15.0	0.6	2.4	3.2	0.0	0.3	6.5	100.0	415	58.9	11.5	0.6	6.5	12.8	0.6	0.0	9.1	100.0	117	
Zomba	56.5	8.6	0.3	5.9	8.2	3.6	0.0	16.8	100.0	545	45.2	10.3	0.0	16.3	13.6	5.8	0.0	8.8	100.0	138	
Lilongwe	24.2	9.5	0.9	6.8	25.4	0.9	0.1	32.1	100.0	1,331	13.4	0.0	0.0	8.0	48.7	3.5	7.6	18.8	100.0	426	
Mulanje	53.4	17.3	2.2	4.4	3.3	0.3	0.2	18.8	100.0	457	49.9	20.1	0.0	12.1	7.8	0.0	0.0	10.1	100.0	92	
Other districts	51.8	14.5	1.2	6.1	6.2	0.4	0.2	19.7	100.0	4,025	48.1	13.1	1.1	9.2	11.3	0.8	0.0	16.5	100.0	996	
Education																					
No education	45.8	12.3	0.4	3.7	4.2	0.7	0.2	32.6	100.0	2,344	34.9	7.8	0.5	12.2	14.4	0.9	2.0	27.4	100.0	310	
Primary 1-4	48.8	13.1	1.0	5.6	6.9	0.5	0.0	24.1	100.0	2,554	37.9	10.8	0.7	8.2	13.6	1.4	3.0	24.3	100.0	645	
Primary 5-8	48.7	11.8	0.9	6.9	14.0	0.9	0.2	16.5	100.0	3,504	44.2	8.5	0.6	8.5	20.9	2.0	2.6	12.8	100.0	1,014	
Secondary+	40.5	8.0	1.5	8.5	33.6	1.3	0.0	6.7	100.0	1,320	36.9	5.6	0.3	9.5	41.6	1.5	2.2	2.4	100.0	612	
Wealth quintile																					
Lowest	48.3	12.3	0.4	3.3	4.9	0.8	0.2	29.9	100.0	1,756	37.4	7.2	0.1	8.1	17.7	0.9	4.7	23.9	100.0	330	
Second	48.1	14.0	1.1	3.8	5.4	0.7	0.0	27.0	100.0	1,954	39.9	11.2	0.8	9.2	16.7	1.7	2.3	18.2	100.0	553	
Middle	50.0	13.1	0.9	6.6	7.4	0.6	0.2	21.2	100.0	2,048	42.3	11.3	0.2	8.9	17.1	1.0	2.2	17.0	100.0	560	
Fourth	50.5	12.1	0.6	6.2	11.9	0.7	0.1	17.9	100.0	1,988	44.7	8.3	0.6	8.2	22.1	1.3	2.4	12.3	100.0	567	
Highest	37.8	7.3	1.5	10.0	31.9	1.2	0.1	10.4	100.0	1,978	33.6	3.0	0.9	10.6	39.7	2.9	1.9	7.3	100.0	572	
Total 15-49	46.9	11.7	0.9	6.0	12.4	0.8	0.1	21.1	100.0	9,724	39.8	8.3	0.6	9.1	23.2	1.6	2.5	15.0	100.0	2,582	
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	39.7	8.2	0.6	9.2	22.6	1.6	2.6	15.6	100.0	2,713	

Note: Interviewers were instructed to record only the first place mentioned if the respondent knew two or more places.

MACRO = Malawi AIDS Counseling and Resource Organization

BLM = Banja La Mtsogola

na = Not applicable

The proportion of women and men who cited a public hospital as a source of test is lower among those who live in the urban areas than in rural areas. However, reporting of other sites such as MACRO is much higher among urban respondents and those with higher education. It is interesting that for women, knowledge of BLM as a test site increases with education, while men show the reverse pattern. Men with no education are more likely to mention BLM than educated men.

11.10 SELF-REPORTING OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND SYMPTOMS

The 2004 MDHS collected information from female and male respondents about their knowledge of sexually transmitted infections other than HIV. Respondents who had ever had sex were further asked whether they have had a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the 12 months preceding the survey or if they had either one of the symptoms of STI; abnormal genital discharge or a genital sore or ulcer.

Table 11.14 shows that only 1 percent of women and 1 percent of men report having an STI. Abnormal genital discharge is reported by 3 percent of women and 3 percent of men, while 6 percent of women and 3 percent of men say that they had a genital sore or ulcer. Women are more likely than men to report having an STI or symptoms associated with STI (8 percent compared with 6 percent). Small differences are observed across subgroups of population. However, women and men in the Central Region are much more likely than respondents in other regions to report having an STI or symptoms of an STI. The percentage of women who have ever had sex reporting an STI or symptoms of an STI is 10 percent or higher in Zomba, Lilongwe, and Mulanje, and in Lilongwe and Mulanje for men.

Figure 11.1 shows the percentage of women and men who reported having an STI or symptoms of an STI in the past 12 months who sought treatment from specific sources for their problems. Women are more likely than men to seek treatment for their infection (60 percent compared with 40 percent). Women also rely more on the advice of a traditional healer than men (31 percent compared with 11 percent), while men rely more on modern personnel or facilities such as health professionals, or pharmacy.

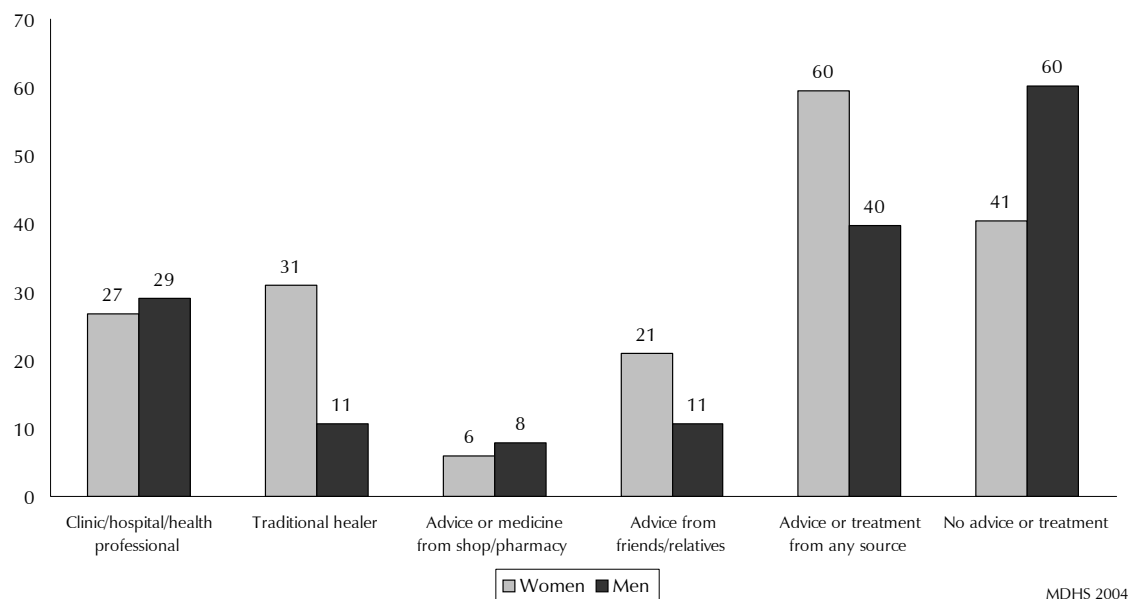
Table 11.14 Self-reporting of sexually transmitted infection (STI) and STI symptoms

Among women and men who ever had sex, percentage self-reporting an STI and/or symptoms of an STI in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percentage with STI	Percentage with abnormal genital discharge	Percentage with genital sore/ulcer	Percentage with STI/discharge/genital sore/ulcer	Number of women who ever had sex	Percentage with STI	Percentage with abnormal genital discharge	Percentage with genital sore/ulcer	Percentage with STI/discharge/genital sore/ulcer	Number of men who ever had sex
Age										
15-19	0.4	3.9	4.9	7.7	1,249	0.6	4.6	4.2	8.6	340
20-24	1.1	4.2	6.2	9.5	2,742	0.3	3.1	2.6	5.6	521
25-29	1.4	2.8	6.4	8.4	2,128	1.0	2.1	3.5	5.4	615
30-39	1.3	3.2	6.6	8.4	2,594	0.8	2.5	3.5	5.7	777
40-49	0.9	2.8	5.1	6.9	1,684	0.6	0.8	3.5	3.7	462
Marital status										
Never married	1.0	3.5	4.7	7.8	671	0.6	4.4	2.6	6.9	686
Married/living together	1.1	3.2	6.0	8.3	8,311	0.8	2.0	3.7	5.3	1,936
Divorced/separated/widowed	1.2	4.4	6.8	9.3	1,416	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.8	93
Residence										
Urban	1.1	2.9	5.3	7.1	1,766	0.9	1.9	2.6	4.5	552
Rural	1.1	3.5	6.1	8.6	8,631	0.7	2.7	3.6	5.9	2,163
Region										
Northern	0.8	1.7	1.5	2.9	1,316	1.6	1.0	2.0	2.5	329
Central	1.2	4.0	8.1	11.0	4,092	0.3	4.1	4.0	7.3	1,115
Southern	1.1	3.4	5.4	7.7	4,989	0.9	1.5	3.2	5.0	1,271
District										
Blantyre	0.5	3.7	5.1	7.1	830	1.7	1.0	1.4	3.7	284
Kasungu	0.6	1.7	5.6	6.7	438	0.9	1.6	2.6	3.3	130
Machinga	1.1	2.6	4.1	5.7	396	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	94
Mangochi	0.5	2.3	4.7	6.8	563	0.4	1.0	1.1	2.5	135
Mzimba	0.4	1.7	0.4	2.0	661	1.6	0.4	2.4	2.7	168
Salima	0.5	4.2	6.0	8.8	272	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	66
Thyolo	1.7	4.2	6.2	9.1	578	1.9	4.2	2.4	7.5	142
Zomba	0.8	3.3	9.9	11.3	584	0.8	1.2	6.1	6.5	144
Lilongwe	1.7	3.5	7.5	9.9	1,454	0.5	7.3	5.7	11.4	438
Mulanje	1.6	6.7	7.5	11.7	479	1.7	3.3	6.7	10.8	97
Other districts	1.2	3.4	6.2	8.8	4,144	0.3	1.8	3.1	4.4	1,018
Education										
No education	1.6	3.7	5.9	8.7	2,694	0.8	1.4	3.1	4.2	342
Primary 1-4	0.8	3.9	7.1	9.9	2,744	0.7	3.8	4.4	7.6	652
Primary 5-8	1.1	3.1	5.9	7.9	3,541	0.6	2.2	3.2	5.3	989
Secondary+	0.8	2.7	4.2	5.9	1,417	0.9	2.3	2.9	5.1	732
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	0.8	4.7	6.4	9.5	1,864	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.7	342
Second	1.5	3.3	6.4	8.8	2,102	0.3	3.8	2.6	6.6	539
Middle	1.0	3.2	5.6	8.0	2,157	1.0	1.3	5.5	6.7	604
Fourth	1.1	2.7	5.9	7.7	2,071	0.6	2.7	3.8	5.9	586
Highest	1.1	3.2	5.7	8.0	2,204	1.0	2.8	2.5	5.2	645
Total 15-49	1.1	3.4	6.0	8.4	10,397	0.7	2.5	3.4	5.6	2,715
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	0.7	2.5	3.4	5.5	2,863

na = Not applicable

Figure 11.1 Percentage of Women and Men Reporting an STI or Symptoms of an STI in the Past 12 Months Who Sought Care, by Source of Advice or Treatment



11.11 PREVALENCE OF INJECTIONS

Respondents in the 2004 MDHS were asked if they had any injections in the 12 months preceding the survey, how many injections they received in those 12 months, and who gave the last injection. It should be noted that medical injections can be self-administered (e.g., insulin for diabetes) and these injections are not included in the tabulation.

Table 11.15 shows the percentage of women and men age 15-49 who received an injection from a health care provider and whether the syringe and needle used were pulled from unopened package or not. Table 11.15 shows that 30 percent of women and 12 percent of men report having received an injection in the 12 months preceding the survey, with an average of 0.8 injections per year for women and 0.3 injections per year for men. Women age 20-29 are the most likely to report getting an injection (37-39 percent), probably because of injections given at ANC settings or for family planning purposes.

When asked whether the syringe used in the last injection came from a new unopened package, 94 percent of women and 90 percent of men gave a positive response. There are small variations in this proportion across subgroups of population.

Table 11.15 Injections by background characteristics

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who received an injection from a health care provider in the past 12 months, average number of injections per person per year, and of those who received an injection, the percentage whose provider pulled the syringe and needle from a new, unopened package the last time they received an injection, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percent received an injection in past 12 months	Average number injections per person per year	Number of women	Last injection from a new, unopened package	Number who received injection	Percent received an injection in past 12 months	Average number injections per person per year	Number of men	Last injection from a new, unopened package	Number who received injection
Age										
15-19	21.1	0.5	2,392	91.1	505	15.7	0.7	648	86.4	102
20-24	38.6	1.0	2,870	94.6	1,109	9.2	0.3	587	90.7	54
25-29	36.9	0.9	2,157	95.1	796	10.9	0.2	633	96.8	69
30-39	29.8	0.8	2,595	95.2	774	12.9	0.2	779	85.5	101
40-49	17.3	0.4	1,684	94.4	291	10.8	0.3	464	95.2	50
Residence										
Urban	26.8	0.8	2,076	97.0	557	12.2	0.6	661	93.9	81
Rural	30.3	0.8	9,621	93.8	2,917	12.1	0.3	2,449	88.8	296
Region										
Northern	24.8	0.6	1,552	94.1	385	9.7	0.2	404	88.8	39
Central	28.4	0.7	4,734	91.4	1,344	13.1	0.5	1,302	89.1	171
Southern	32.3	0.8	5,412	96.6	1,745	11.8	0.3	1,405	90.9	166
District										
Blantyre	33.0	0.9	914	97.6	301	11.0	0.3	316	(100.0)	35
Kasungu	28.2	0.6	497	85.8	140	16.8	0.4	156	92.5	26
Machinga	24.7	0.6	427	95.4	106	9.2	0.2	114	*	11
Mangochi	27.8	0.7	599	98.0	167	11.9	0.2	150	*	18
Mzimba	25.2	0.7	778	95.4	196	13.6	0.3	212	(95.7)	29
Salima	36.5	0.9	303	91.8	110	12.8	0.3	78	(100.0)	10
Thyolo	41.5	1.2	618	98.1	256	16.0	0.4	166	(85.0)	27
Zomba	37.0	1.0	637	96.7	236	10.7	0.2	159	*	17
Lilongwe	25.1	0.7	1,705	93.5	429	12.0	0.7	542	(86.1)	65
Mulanje	35.9	0.8	512	94.9	184	18.6	0.4	114	(79.9)	21
Other districts	28.7	0.7	4,708	93.0	1,350	10.9	0.3	1,250	87.5	136
Education										
No education	25.7	0.6	2,734	92.8	704	7.7	0.2	350	(79.8)	27
Primary 1-4	30.4	0.8	2,998	93.7	910	14.5	0.7	745	86.1	108
Primary 5-8	30.9	0.8	4,154	94.6	1,285	11.9	0.2	1,168	89.3	139
Secondary+	31.8	0.9	1,811	96.6	575	12.2	0.2	845	97.1	103
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	29.4	0.7	2,037	95.2	600	10.6	0.2	383	92.7	41
Second	30.4	0.8	2,277	91.8	692	10.8	0.2	613	90.7	66
Middle	29.6	0.7	2,383	92.3	707	13.0	0.2	666	89.4	86
Fourth	29.8	0.8	2,361	95.6	704	12.4	0.3	664	85.6	83
Highest	29.3	0.8	2,639	96.6	773	12.8	0.6	784	92.1	100
Total 15-49	29.7	0.8	11,698	94.3	3,474	12.1	0.3	3,110	89.9	376
Total men 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	12.1	0.3	3,258	89.5	394

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on unweighted 25-49 cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.
na = Not applicable

11.12 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTH

This section addresses knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues and related sexual behaviour among youths age 15-24 who are of particular interest for HIV/AIDS programmes. The period between initiation of sexual activity and marriage is often a time of sexual experimentation, but it may also involve risky behaviours. Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and knowledge of sources of condoms among youth is analysed in this section. Issues such as abstinence, age at sexual debut, age differences between partners, and condom use are also covered. Young

respondents in the 2004 MDHS were asked the same set of questions as older respondents about whether condom use and limiting number of partners to one uninfected partner can help protect against getting the AIDS virus, and whether a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus (see Tables 11.3.1 and 11.3.2).

The data in Table 11.16 show the level of comprehensive knowledge among young people, namely, the proportion who, in response to prompted questions, agree that people can reduce their

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge of AIDS ¹	Percentage who know a condom source ²	Number of women 15-24	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge of AIDS ¹	Percentage who know a condom source ²	Number of men 15-24
Age						
15-17	21.5	64.0	1,338	35.7	81.0	367
18-19	20.7	75.6	1,054	33.0	87.2	283
15-19	21.1	69.1	2,392	34.5	83.7	650
20-22	25.1	83.2	1,888	36.1	91.0	369
23-24	26.6	83.9	981	42.0	96.2	218
20-24	25.6	83.5	2,870	38.3	92.9	587
Marital status						
Never married	24.1	69.0	1,869	37.1	86.7	937
Ever had sex	28.0	82.9	600	37.9	91.6	561
Never had sex	22.2	62.4	1,269	35.9	79.2	375
Ever married	23.3	81.3	3,393	33.7	92.6	300
Residence						
Urban	30.3	82.4	1,063	48.0	94.5	269
Rural	21.9	75.5	4,199	33.1	86.3	968
Region						
Northern	26.1	86.1	739	32.1	87.9	168
Central	20.5	64.6	2,140	30.3	84.9	525
Southern	25.6	85.2	2,383	43.4	91.3	543
District						
Blantyre	31.5	83.2	424	48.9	94.7	105
Kasungu	14.6	68.3	224	34.6	85.8	61
Machinga	19.9	85.3	177	46.3	80.7	51
Mangochi	16.8	67.5	247	41.6	90.7	51
Mzimba	35.4	83.8	366	24.0	89.2	86
Salima	20.8	65.5	127	48.9	90.5	25
Thyolo	25.5	92.1	267	29.5	97.7	61
Zomba	24.1	90.2	294	39.8	97.2	62
Lilongwe	21.5	58.4	770	31.4	84.9	209
Mulanje	39.7	77.2	212	37.0	94.5	47
Other districts	21.0	79.4	2,154	36.1	85.5	478
Education						
No education	11.8	62.9	497	19.9	91.8	64
Primary 1-4	16.5	67.4	1,351	22.4	75.8	319
Primary 5-8	24.7	79.2	2,243	37.5	89.7	493
Secondary+	34.7	89.4	1,170	49.9	96.1	360
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	17.0	70.5	868	33.6	82.8	165
Second	19.1	72.4	1,013	29.6	82.5	248
Middle	22.1	75.8	1,061	34.5	86.7	225
Fourth	24.8	77.5	1,060	35.4	91.4	255
Highest	32.0	85.5	1,260	44.2	93.1	344
Total	23.6	76.9	5,262	36.3	88.1	1,237

¹ Respondents with a comprehensive knowledge say that use of condom for every sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected and faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting the AIDS virus, say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, and reject the two most common local misconceptions.

² Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

chances of getting the AIDS virus by having sex with only one uninfected, faithful partner and by using condoms consistently; who know that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus; and who know that HIV cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites or by supernatural means. Only two in ten young women and four in ten men meet the criteria of having comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The level of comprehensive knowledge increases with age, education, and wealth status. It is much higher among urban youths than rural youths. Interestingly, compared to other youths, never married young women and men who have ever had sex are most likely to have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. While regional differences among young women are not substantial, young men in the Southern Region are much more knowledgeable about HIV than their counterparts in other regions.

Because of the important role that condoms play in preventing the transmission of HIV, respondents were asked if they know where condoms could be obtained. Note that only responses about 'formal' sources were counted, that is friends and family, and other similar sources were not included. Table 11.16 shows that 77 percent of women 15-24 and 88 percent of men 15-24 can name a place where they can obtain male condoms. Knowledge of a source for condoms varies widely across background characteristics, with the lowest levels among women with no education and in the lowest socioeconomic status. Knowledge of a condom source among men generally follows the same pattern as that for women, with less variation.

11.13 AGE AT FIRST SEX AMONG YOUTH

This section discusses the initiation of sex, premarital and other higher-risk sex, and condom use among young women and men. Overall, 15 percent of women age 15-24 and 14 percent of men age 15-24 had sex by age 15. However, men's sexual debut occurs at a slightly earlier age than women; 18 percent of men 15-19 had sex by the time they are 15 compared with 14 percent of women of the same age. Marital status makes a difference in the likelihood of women having sex. While 19 percent of women 15-24 who have been married had sex by age 15, the corresponding proportion for never-married women is 8 percent. Women in the Southern Region start having sex at an earlier age than women in other regions, 21 percent of women in the Southern Region had sex by age 15, compared with 10 percent in the Northern and Central Regions. For women, education is related to the start of sexual act; 29 percent of women with no education had sex by age 15, compared with 5 percent for women with at least some secondary education.

Men show the same differentials, albeit less pronounced, as women in age at sexual debut by urban-rural residence, region, education, and wealth status. Women and men who know a source for condoms are slightly more likely to have had sex by age 15 than those who do not.

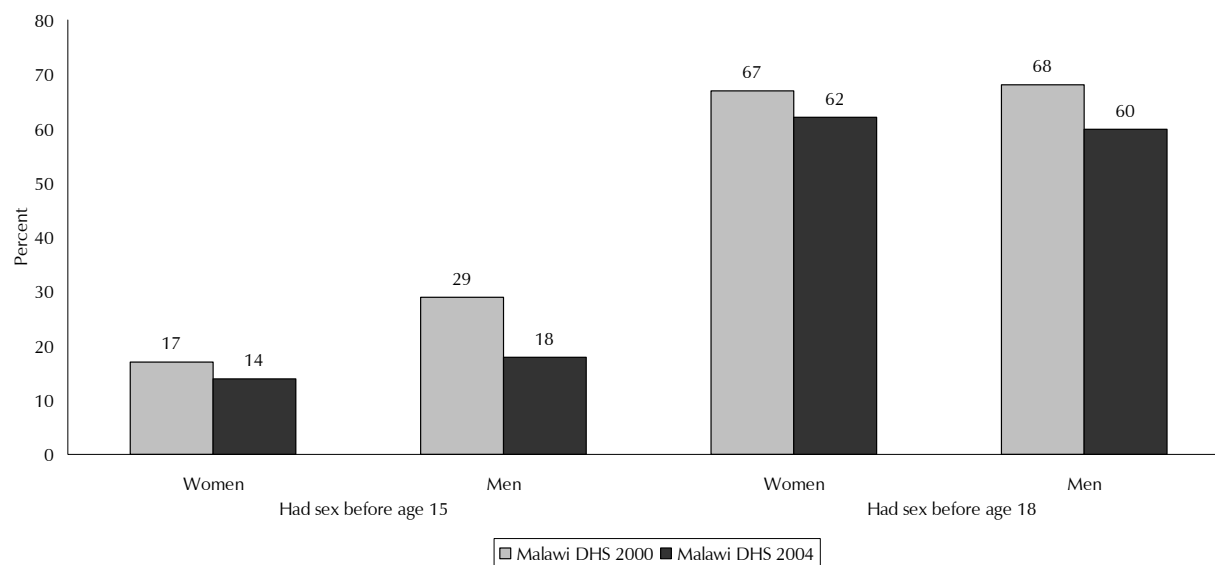
Table 11.17 Age at first sex among young women and men
Percentage of young women and men age 15-24 who had sex by exact age 15 and 18, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	15	18	Number of women 15-24	15	18	Number of men 15-24
Age						
15-17	12.8	a	1,338	18.1	a	367
18-19	15.7	62.4	1,054	17.7	59.4	283
15-19	14.1	a	2,392	18.0	a	650
20-22	16.2	57.5	1,888	8.9	44.8	369
23-24	14.1	56.5	981	9.4	52.6	218
20-24	15.5	57.1	2,870	9.1	47.7	587
Marital status						
Never married	7.5	23.4	1,869	14.3	46.8	937
Ever married	18.9	67.5	3,393	12.0	52.3	300
Residence						
Urban	11.0	45.0	1,063	3.7	40.0	269
Rural	15.8	53.5	4,199	16.5	50.4	968
Region						
Northern	9.6	47.8	739	14.5	42.1	168
Central	10.2	41.2	2,140	12.3	41.6	525
Southern	20.6	62.6	2,383	14.9	56.3	543
Education						
No education	28.6	71.9	497	13.7	70.2	64
Primary 1-4	20.3	60.8	1,351	14.3	50.0	319
Primary 5-8	13.5	52.3	2,243	17.2	47.7	493
Secondary+	5.2	31.9	1,170	8.5	43.1	360
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	20.3	60.5	868	16.7	48.3	165
Second	19.5	59.1	1,013	12.5	49.2	248
Middle	14.4	55.1	1,061	18.3	55.2	225
Fourth	12.1	48.9	1,060	18.0	52.6	255
Highest	9.9	39.7	1,260	7.1	39.4	344
Knows condom source¹						
Yes	15.2	54.1	4,048	14.1	50.3	1,090
No	13.7	44.3	1,214	11.5	31.9	147
Total 15-24	14.8	na	5,262	13.7	na	1,237

¹ Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.
^a Omitted because less than 50 percent of the women/men had intercourse for the first time before reaching the beginning of the age group.
na = Not applicable

Figure 11.2 shows the trend in age at first sex among women and men age 15-19 from the 2000 MDHS and the 2004 MDHS. For both women and men, the proportion who have had sex by each specific age has declined. For example, while 17 percent of women age 15-19 in 2000 had sex by age 15, this proportion declined to 14 percent in 2004. The corresponding proportions for men are 29 and 18 percent, respectively.

Figure 11.2 Percentage of Respondents Age 15-19 Who Had Sex Before Age 15 and Percentage of Respondents Age 18-19 Who Had Sex Before Age 18, MDHS 2000 and MDHS 2004



11.14 CONDOM USE AT FIRST SEX AMONG YOUTH

Table 11.18 shows, among women and men age 15-24 who have ever had sex, the percentage who used a condom at their first sexual encounter. Young men are more likely than young women to report using a condom at first sex (26 percent compared with 16 percent). Reported condom use at first sex varies widely across background characteristics. Never-married women and men are much more likely than ever-married individuals to have used condoms. For women, the proportion is 40 percent for never-married women compared with 12 percent for ever-married women. Low levels of education and wealth status are associated with low levels of condom use at first sex. Interestingly, current knowledge of a source for condoms is not strongly related to the use of condoms at first sex. Young women in Blantyre and young men in Lilongwe are much more likely than those in other districts to use a condom at first sex (26 and 39 percent, respectively).

Table 11.18 Condom use at first sex among young women and men

Among women and men age 15-24 who have ever had sex, percentage who used a condom the first time they ever had sex, by background characteristics Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Used a condom at first sex	Number of women 15-24 who have ever had sex	Used a condom at first sex	Number of men 15-24 who have ever had sex
Age				
15-17	25.8	442	28.3	147
18-19	21.9	807	30.3	193
15-19	23.3	1,249	29.4	340
20-22	14.2	1,780	25.8	312
23-24	8.8	962	21.5	210
20-24	12.3	2,742	24.0	521
Marital status				
Never married	39.9	600	32.1	561
Ever married	11.5	3,391	15.1	300
Residence				
Urban	26.2	765	36.7	173
Rural	13.3	3,227	23.5	689
Region				
Northern	16.8	506	22.3	98
Central	14.5	1,512	32.0	349
Southern	16.5	1,974	22.2	414
District				
Blantyre	26.2	342	(33.2)	77
Kasungu	13.1	165	27.0	45
Machinga	14.1	145	12.4	38
Mangochi	12.8	211	21.5	45
Mzimba	17.9	249	23.4	51
Salima	12.2	96	(16.5)	19
Thyolo	12.7	228	26.7	47
Zomba	16.0	242	10.8	52
Lilongwe	16.5	527	39.0	132
Mulanje	15.5	181	15.3	39
Other districts	14.4	1,605	26.2	315
Education				
No education	5.8	464	18.4	59
Primary 1-4	7.9	1,102	20.8	228
Primary 5-8	15.6	1,632	23.1	315
Secondary+	32.9	793	36.4	259
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	10.5	699	14.3	125
Second	12.9	844	26.9	172
Middle	10.5	835	17.1	171
Fourth	15.4	777	30.2	178
Highest	28.6	836	36.3	215
Knows condom source¹				
Yes	17.8	3,255	27.2	792
No	6.7	736	14.6	69
Total 15-24	15.8	3,991	26.2	861

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

¹ Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

11.15 PREMARITAL SEX

The most common means of HIV transmission in many countries is unprotected sex with an infected person. To prevent HIV transmission, it is important that young people practice safe sex through the advocated “ABC” methods (abstinence, being faithful to one uninfected partner, and condom use).

Table 11.19 shows the percentage of never-married young women and men who had never had sex, the percentage who had sex in the 12 months preceding the survey, as well as the percentage

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Never had sex	Had sex in past 12 months	Number of never-married women 15-24	Used condom at last sex	Number of women 15-24 sexually active in past 12 months	Never had sex	Had sex in past 12 months	Number of never-married men 15-24	Used condom at last sex	Number of men 15-24 sexually active in past 12 months
Age										
15-17	80.9	14.0	1,107	38.7	155	60.4	25.5	364	26.6	93
18-19	58.8	25.8	418	32.9	108	34.0	41.3	265	41.1	110
15-19	74.8	17.2	1,525	36.3	263	49.2	32.2	629	34.4	202
20-22	37.3	37.1	291	41.2	108	24.8	50.5	231	55.7	117
23-24	(36.3)	(46.3)	54	*	25	10.9	61.2	76	(74.2)	47
20-24	37.1	38.5	344	43.3	133	21.4	53.1	307	61.0	163
Residence										
Urban	60.3	27.8	494	49.2	137	40.6	40.8	236	57.1	96
Rural	70.6	18.8	1,375	33.1	258	39.9	38.5	700	42.4	269
Region										
Northern	77.1	14.3	302	(58.9)	43	50.7	31.5	138	(46.9)	43
Central	75.1	15.7	835	48.2	131	45.0	33.7	391	51.0	132
Southern	55.9	30.2	732	29.1	221	31.7	46.8	407	42.9	190
District										
Blantyre	52.0	38.6	159	35.1	61	33.6	40.3	83	*	34
Kasungu	74.4	10.7	80	*	9	37.3	41.8	43	(51.2)	18
Machinga	61.2	19.9	51	*	10	30.9	59.5	39	(23.7)	23
Mangochi	52.5	24.8	67	*	17	19.7	(56.1)	31	(26.4)	17
Mzimba	80.5	10.6	145	*	15	48.7	24.6	71	(58.8)	17
Salima	73.7	15.7	41	*	6	37.3	(45.6)	16	*	7
Thyolo	48.2	43.3	81	(21.4)	35	32.0	47.0	44	(48.2)	21
Zomba	51.3	35.4	102	(23.2)	36	22.8	57.3	43	(23.2)	24
Lilongwe	74.5	18.6	326	*	61	44.2	35.2	175	(55.6)	61
Mulanje	48.4	34.6	64	(14.7)	22	23.0	49.4	35	(27.7)	17
Other districts	72.8	16.3	752	43.3	123	45.8	35.0	357	47.8	125
Education										
No education	(75.2)	(21.0)	44	*	9	(17.5)	(65.2)	32	*	21
Primary 1-4	75.0	17.1	331	25.0	57	40.6	41.7	225	38.5	94
Primary 5-8	72.6	19.2	841	33.0	162	46.4	35.2	383	40.5	135
Secondary+	57.8	25.7	653	49.7	168	33.9	39.4	297	63.1	117
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	66.5	23.2	253	23.8	59	37.9	42.0	104	(37.9)	44
Second	77.0	16.8	220	(20.3)	37	42.3	40.8	179	47.7	73
Middle	75.3	16.9	300	39.0	51	39.1	38.7	140	34.8	54
Fourth	70.3	17.5	400	35.7	70	38.0	35.6	201	43.6	72
Highest	60.9	25.8	695	48.4	179	41.3	39.5	312	55.1	123
Knows condom source¹										
Yes	61.4	25.8	1,290	40.5	333	36.6	41.3	812	48.3	335
No	82.3	10.7	579	28.7	62	62.4	24.3	125	24.1	30
Total 15-24	67.9	21.1	1,869	38.7	395	40.1	39.1	937	46.3	366

who used a condom the last time they had sex. Seven in ten never-married women 15-24 and four in ten never-married men age 15-24 report that they have never had sex. The proportion of unmarried youths who have never had sex drops rapidly as age increases. For instance, 81 percent of women age 15-17 have never had sex compared with 37 percent of women age 20-22.

A significant proportion of never-married respondents age 15-24 had sex in the past 12 months (21 percent of women and 39 percent of men). Less than half of never-married respondents reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse (39 percent of women and 46 percent of men). While never-married urban women are more likely to have had sex in the preceding 12 months than rural women (28 and 19 percent, respectively), the difference is not as pronounced among men (41 and 39 percent, respectively). A significantly larger proportion of single young women and men with the highest education and in the highest wealth quintile reported condom use at last sex.

11.16 HIGHER-RISK SEX AND CONDOM USE AMONG YOUTH

As mentioned above, condom use is an important tool in the fight to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. While effective protection would require condom use at every sexual encounter, the most important sexual encounters to cover are those considered to be “higher risk.” In the context of this survey, higher-risk sex is defined as sex with a nonmarital, noncohabitating partner in the 12 months preceding the survey. Table 11.20 and Figure 11.3 show the proportion of young women and men who have been sexually active in the 12 months before the survey who have engaged in higher-risk sex and the extent to which they use condoms in higher-risk sexual encounters. Among sexually active youths age 15 to 24 years, the percentage of women and men who have engaged in higher-risk sex activity in the 12 months preceding the survey is 14 and 62 percent, respectively.

Condom use at higher-risk sex in the last year among youth shows a mixed pattern. Never-married female youths are less likely to report using a condom at last higher-risk sex than male youths (39 percent compared with 46 percent). For both women and men, condom use increases with education. As shown in the previous table, knowledge of a source for condoms does not make a difference in its use. Differences in the extent of higher risk sex among youth by regions are not significant. However, young women and men in the Southern Region are more likely to have had higher-risk sex in the 12 months preceding the survey, they are also the least likely to report using condoms.

Figure 11.3 and Figure 11.4 show trends in “ABC” prevalence among women and men age 15-24 between the 2000 MDHS and the 2004 MDHS. These women and men are classified into five groups of increasing risk, namely those who have never had sex; those who have had sex but not in the last 12 months; those who had sex with only one partner in the last 12 months and who used a condom the last time; those who had sex with more than one partner in the past 12 months and who used a condom the last time; and those who had sex with more than one partner in the past 12 months and who did not use a condom the last time. As seen from the figure, abstinence rates among women 15-24 remained at a similar level (23 to 24 percent) between 2000 and 2004, while for young men it increased from 24 percent to 30 percent. Reported condom use has increased, especially for men who had sex with one partner (2 percent in 2000 and 14 percent in 2004).

Table 11.20 Higher-risk sex and condom use at last higher risk sex in the past year among young women and men

Among young women age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey, and among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk sex, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Percentage engaging in higher-risk sex in past 12 months ¹	Number of women sexually active in past 12 months	Percentage used condom at last higher-risk sex ¹	Number of women 15-24 who had higher-risk sex in past 12 months	Percentage engaging in higher-risk sex in past 12 months ¹	Number of men sexually active in past 12 months	Percentage used condom at last higher-risk sex ¹	Number of men 15-24 who had higher-risk sex in past 12 months
Age								
15-17	44.9	380	37.9	171	98.6	96	28.1	95
18-19	18.3	715	30.9	131	91.9	127	42.0	116
15-19	27.5	1,095	34.9	302	94.8	223	35.8	211
20-22	8.9	1,614	34.3	144	53.2	249	54.7	133
23-24	6.0	885	39.0	53	35.0	186	66.3	65
20-24	7.9	2,499	35.6	197	45.4	435	58.5	198
Marital status								
Never married	99.0	395	38.5	391	98.5	366	45.9	360
Ever married	3.4	3,199	23.0	108	16.6	292	53.5	49
Residence								
Urban	22.4	685	48.6	153	74.2	129	58.2	95
Rural	11.9	2,910	29.2	346	59.2	529	43.3	313
Region								
Northern	11.5	426	52.9	49	62.4	73	49.2	45
Central	11.5	1,374	46.4	158	58.4	262	51.1	153
Southern	16.3	1,794	26.1	292	65.1	323	43.1	210
District								
Blantyre	21.9	315	32.3	69	(58.0)	55	*	32
Kasungu	6.0	151	*	9	50.2	35	(44.2)	18
Machinga	11.4	131	(17.5)	15	79.6	34	(20.6)	27
Mangochi	13.6	184	(26.4)	25	65.4	38	(29.2)	25
Mzimba	9.4	205	(53.5)	19	(58.0)	32	(61.0)	18
Salima	9.7	87	*	8	(45.4)	17	*	8
Thyolo	19.2	216	19.7	41	(54.6)	38	(48.2)	21
Zomba	20.5	223	22.0	46	67.5	43	(25.5)	29
Lilongwe	13.8	492	(52.6)	68	(68.2)	96	(55.2)	65
Mulanje	19.9	161	16.9	32	(65.0)	29	(28.2)	19
Other districts	11.6	1,429	38.9	166	61.1	241	51.1	147
Education								
No education	5.3	434	(10.4)	23	(46.0)	53	(14.5)	24
Primary 1-4	7.9	1,018	21.8	80	58.5	187	41.6	110
Primary 5-8	14.2	1,481	30.7	210	63.6	238	42.8	151
Secondary+	28.1	662	48.9	186	68.7	180	62.5	124
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	13.2	620	21.6	82	48.2	103	39.7	50
Second	7.6	792	15.1	60	59.4	139	46.4	82
Middle	8.5	776	35.6	66	52.4	138	39.2	72
Fourth	13.1	691	33.0	91	64.7	123	44.9	79
Highest	28.0	715	47.5	201	80.5	155	55.4	125
Knows condom source²								
Yes	13.9	2,827	34.8	394	61.5	591	48.3	364
No	13.8	767	36.5	106	67.8	66	(34.4)	45
Total 15-24	13.9	3,594	35.2	499	62.1	658	46.8	409

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

¹ Sexual intercourse with a partner who neither was a spouse nor who lived with the respondent

² Friends, family members and home are not considered sources for condoms.

Figure 11.3 Scale of Risk for Young Women: Abstinence, Being Faithful, and Condom Use

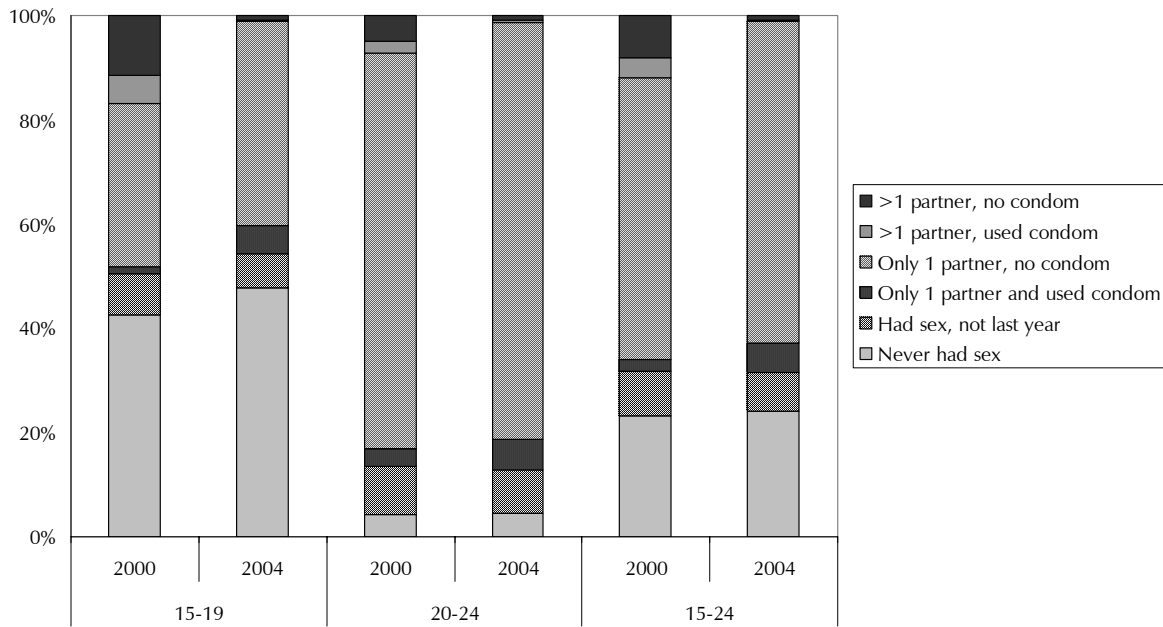
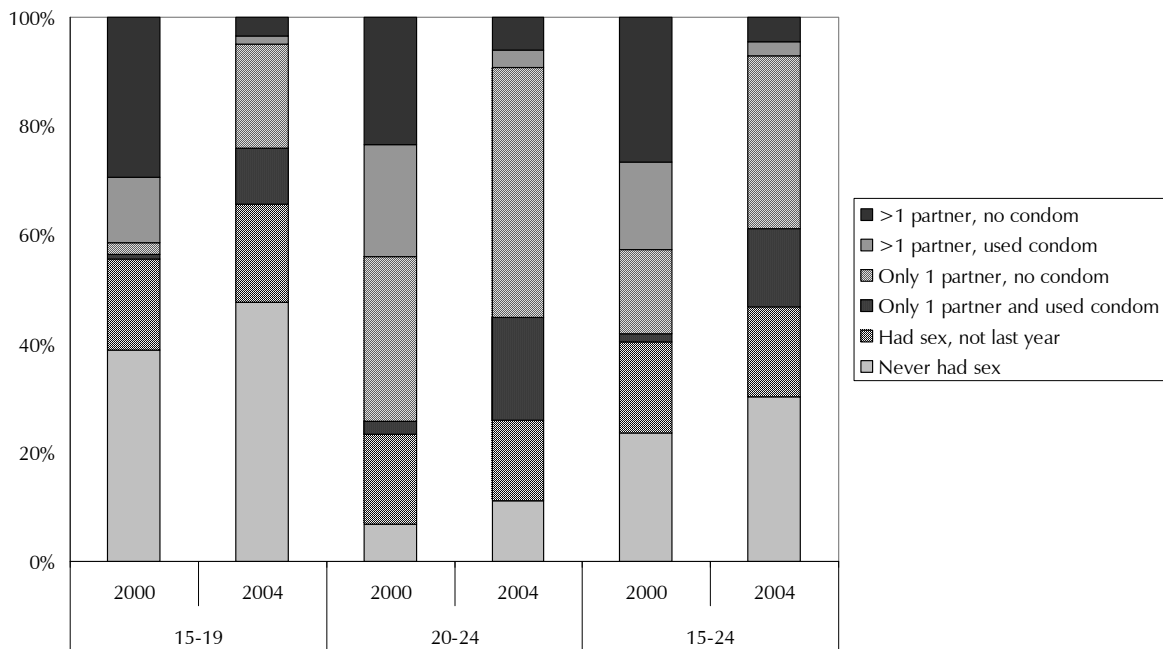


Figure 11.4 Scale of Risk for Young Men: Abstinence, Being Faithful, and Condom Use



In many societies, young women have sexual relationships with men who are considerably older than they are. This practice can contribute to the wider spread of HIV and other STIs, because if a younger, uninfected partner has sex with an older, infected partner, this can introduce the virus into a younger, uninfected cohort. To investigate this practice, in the 2004 MDHS, women age 15-

19 who had sex in the 12 months preceding the survey with a nonmarital, noncohabiting partner were asked whether the partner was younger, about the same age, or older than they.

Table 11.21 shows the percentage of young women who had sex with nonmarital non-cohabiting men who are 10 years or older than they are. Overall, 2 percent of teenagers who had nonmarital sex report having sex with an older man. Examination of differentials by background characteristics is hampered by small sample sizes.

Table 11.21 Age-mixing in sexual relationships		
Among women age 15-19 who had higher-risk sexual intercourse ¹ in the 12 months preceding the survey, percentage who had sex with a man who was 10 years or more older than themselves, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004		
Background characteristic	Percentage who had non-marital sex with a man 10+ years older	Number of women 15-19 having non-marital sex in past 12 months
Age		
15-17	0.9	171
18-19	2.4	131
Marital status		
Never married	1.4	261
Ever married	(2.7)	40
Residence		
Urban	0.6	78
Rural	1.9	224
Region		
Northern	(4.5)	26
Central	1.2	94
Southern	1.3	182
Education		
No education	*	10
Primary 1-4	1.9	57
Primary 5-8	1.5	154
Secondary+	1.5	81
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	0.0	49
Second	(3.0)	39
Middle	0.0	47
Fourth	1.1	61
Highest	2.7	106
Knows condom source¹		
Yes	1.5	235
No	1.6	67
Total 15-19	1.6	302

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

¹ Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources of condoms.

11.17 HIV TESTING AMONG YOUTH

Young people may feel that there are barriers to accessing and using many services and facilities, particularly for sensitive concerns relating to sexual health, including sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV/AIDS. Data in Table 11.22 present the degree of reach of HIV testing services among sexually active young people and their awareness of their HIV status. Overall, 5 percent of sexually active women and 9 percent of sexually active men were tested for HIV and received the test results in the 12 months preceding the survey. While the proportion of young women who have been tested for HIV testing decreases with age, young men show the reverse relationship. Men age 20-24 are almost twice as likely to be tested as men 15-19 (11 and 6 percent, respectively).

For both women and men, those who have never married are more likely to have taken the test than those who are married or are no longer married. Young women and men in urban areas are much more likely than those in rural areas to have been tested for HIV. For men, the proportion is 19 and 7 percent, respectively. As in the case with the general population, young women and men in the highest wealth quintile are more likely than those in lower quintiles to have taken the HIV test.

Table 11.22 Recent HIV tests among youth

Among young women and young men age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey, the percentage who had an HIV test in the past 12 months and received the results of the test, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004.

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Percentage tested in past 12 months and received results	Number of women	Percentage tested in past 12 months and received results	Number of men
Age				
15-17	6.8	380	0.7	96
18-19	5.0	715	9.1	127
15-19	5.6	1,095	5.5	223
20-22	4.1	1,614	10.5	249
23-24	4.2	885	11.0	186
20-24	4.1	2,499	10.7	435
15-24	4.6	3,594	8.9	658
Marital status				
Never married	10.0	395	10.0	366
Married/Living together	3.7	2,975	8.0	269
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	6.0	224	3.0	23
Residence				
Urban	7.9	685	18.6	129
Rural	3.8	2,910	6.6	529
Region				
Northern	3.8	426	10.8	73
Central	3.9	1,374	7.8	262
Southern	5.3	1,794	9.4	323
District				
Blantyre	8.5	315	15.1	55
Kasungu	3.5	151	5.7	35
Machinga	1.2	131	2.7	34
Mangochi	2.8	184	6.2	38
Mzimba	3.8	205	15.4	32
Salima	1.2	87	0.0	17
Thyolo	8.5	216	29.4	38
Zomba	3.4	223	0.0	43
Lilongwe	6.0	492	10.8	96
Mulanje	2.6	161	5.6	29
Other districts	4.0	1,429	7.1	241
Education				
No education	2.3	434	6.0	53
Primary 1-4	2.1	1,018	5.2	187
Primary 5-8	4.0	1,481	7.3	238
Secondary+	11.1	662	15.9	180
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	2.8	620	5.9	103
Second	3.2	792	6.6	139
Middle	2.3	776	6.1	138
Fourth	4.5	691	5.7	123
Highest	10.2	715	18.2	155
Knows condom source¹				
Yes	5.0	2,934	9.7	605
No	2.7	660	0.0	53
Total	4.6	3,594	8.9	658

¹ Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources of condoms.

11.18 ORPHANHOOD AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As a consequence of high adult mortality rates partly due to HIV/AIDS-related infections in Malawi, the number of orphans has increased in recent years. The 2004 MDHS collected information on orphanhood and fostering. Table 11.23 shows the percentage of children 10-14 who are attending school by survival status of parents and the ratio of de jure children age 10-14 who have lost both parents and who are attending school to children who are not orphaned and are living with at least one parent and who are attending school.

Table 11.23 shows that children whose parents are both alive and who are living with at least one parent have the best chances of attending school than other children (90 percent compared with 89 percent or less). However, the survivorship of the parents and the living arrangements of the children do not make much difference in the child's chances of attending school. In fact, for all groups of children, orphaned children have about the same chance of attending school as non-orphaned children.

Table 11.23 Schooling of children age 10-14 by orphanhood and living arrangements

Ratio of the percentage of de jure children age 10-14 attending school among those whose parents have both died to the percentage of children age 10-14 attending school and whose parents are both alive and at least one of whom lives with the child, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Both alive, living with at least one parent		Both alive, not living with either parent		Only mother dead		Only father dead		Both parents dead		Mother, father or both dead		Ratio of orphaned to non-orphaned children in school
	Percent in school	Number	Percent in school	Number	Percent in school	Number	Percent in school	Number	Percent in school	Number	Percent in school	Number	
Sex													
Male	89.7	2,675	84.1	556	88.4	167	87.7	555	85.5	269	86.6	991	1.0
Female	90.8	2,738	84.6	744	90.0	216	86.3	561	89.4	259	84.9	1,036	1.0
Residence													
Urban	95.3	744	86.6	199	89.2	73	93.2	211	91.3	98	90.2	382	1.0
Rural	89.4	4,669	84.0	1,101	89.4	310	85.5	905	86.6	430	84.7	1,645	1.0
Region													
Northern	97.7	725	94.7	147	93.1	51	96.3	151	91.3	66	94.1	268	0.9
Central	89.7	2,361	82.1	666	87.8	164	86.7	462	86.4	205	86.2	832	1.0
Southern	88.4	2,327	84.4	487	89.6	168	84.4	502	87.2	257	82.9	927	1.0
Wealth quintile													
Lowest	82.6	942	85.9	365	86.6	79	78.3	300	81.6	116	79.3	496	1.0
Second	85.4	1,137	83.9	216	82.4	63	88.6	195	88.9	87	86.0	345	1.0
Middle	89.6	1,125	83.2	214	93.9	69	85.7	205	89.0	84	85.0	358	1.0
Fourth	94.1	1,122	83.7	250	88.0	71	90.6	193	81.6	110	86.1	375	0.9
Highest	98.5	1,087	84.5	255	93.6	100	95.3	222	95.6	131	92.8	453	1.0
Total	90.2	5,413	84.4	1,300	89.3	383	87.0	1,116	87.4	528	85.7	2,027	1.0

11.19 MALE CIRCUMCISION

In Malawi, circumcision is practiced in many communities and often serves as a rite of passage to adulthood. Recently, male circumcision has been associated with lower transmission of STIs, including HIV. In order to investigate this relationship, men interviewed in the 2004 MDHS were asked if they were circumcised.

Table 11.24 shows that 21 percent of Malawian men are circumcised. Younger men in age groups 15-19 and 20-24 are less likely to have been circumcised (17 to 18 percent) than those at older ages (21 percent or higher). This could indicate a decline in the practice, although it is also possible that some young men may not have yet gone through the circumcision process. There are no differentials by urban-rural residence, however, men living in the Southern Region are much more likely to be circumcised than men in other regions (33 percent, compared with 5 percent in the Northern Region and 12 percent in the Central Region).

The practice of male circumcision varies widely across ethnic groups and religion. While 82 percent of Yao men and 30 percent of Lomwe men are circumcised, the rate for other specific ethnic groups is only 7 percent or lower. Muslims (93 percent) are much more likely to be circumcised than those who belong to other religious groups. Circumcision is also practiced among Christians; 20 percent of Anglican men, 21 percent of men who belong to Seventh Day Adventist or Baptist, and 14 percent of men whose religion is other Christianity are circumcised.

Table 11. 24 Male circumcision

Percentage of men age 15-49 who have been circumcised, by background characteristics, Malawi 2004

Background characteristic	Percent circumcised	Number of men
Age		
15-19	18.4	650
20-24	17.1	587
25-29	20.8	634
30-34	21.4	485
35-39	25.0	294
40-44	26.7	282
45-49	22.3	182
Residence		
Urban	21.3	661
Rural	20.5	2,453
Region		
Northern	5.0	404
Central	12.2	1,302
Southern	33.1	1,408
Education		
No education	26.3	350
Primary 1-4	24.9	746
Primary 5-8	19.9	1,171
Secondary+	15.8	845
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	17.5	383
Second	22.5	614
Middle	20.1	666
Fourth	22.6	666
Highest	19.8	785
Ethnicity		
Chewa	6.7	1,019
Tumbuka	2.0	303
Lomwe	29.8	527
Tonga	4.0	65
Yao	82.3	412
Sena	7.4	149
Nkonde	(8.6)	48
Ngoni	4.2	366
Other	18.4	225
Religion		
Catholic	8.6	660
CCAP	6.1	588
Anglican	19.4	73
Seventh Day Advenist/ Baptist	21.2	208
Other Christian	13.9	1,123
Muslim	93.3	359
No religion	*	91
Total	20.7	3,114

Note: Total includes some men with other religion. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that an estimate is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.