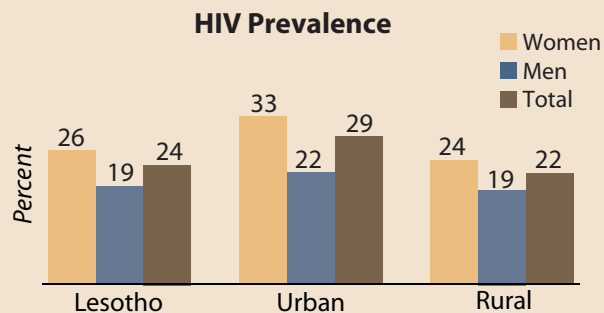
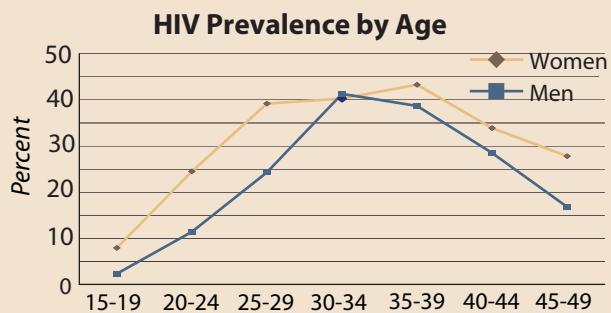


# HIV/AIDS Data from the 2004 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS)

The 2004 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey included HIV testing of over 5,000 people. The 2004 LDHS shows that 23.5 percent of Basotho adults are HIV positive.



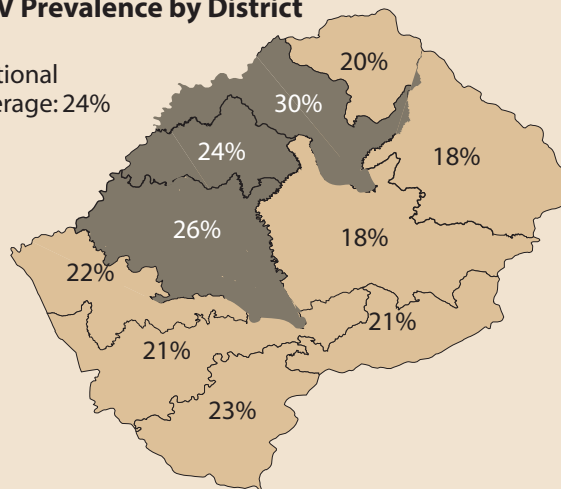
HIV prevalence is significantly higher among women than men and among urban residents than their rural counterparts.



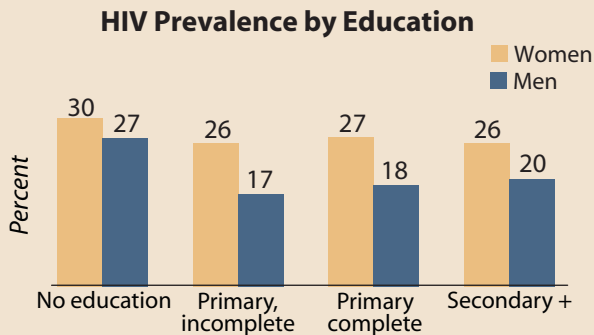
For both sexes, rates of infection rise with age, peaking at 43 percent among women in their late 30s and 41 percent among men age 30-34. HIV prevalence is substantially higher among women than men under age 30, while, at ages 40-49, the pattern reverses and prevalence among men exceeds the level among women.

## HIV Prevalence by District

National average: 24%

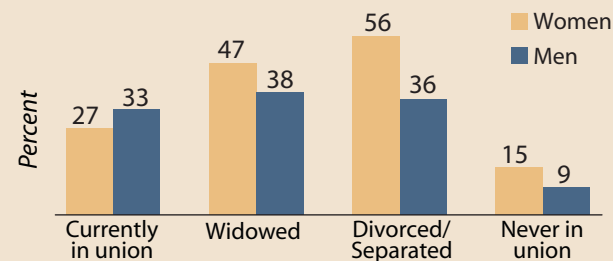


HIV prevalence is highest in Leribe (29.7 percent) and Maseru (25.5 percent). Residents of Berea and Quthing also have an elevated prevalence of HIV infection. Thaba-Tseka (18.2 percent) and Mokhotlong (17.7 percent) have the lowest HIV prevalence.



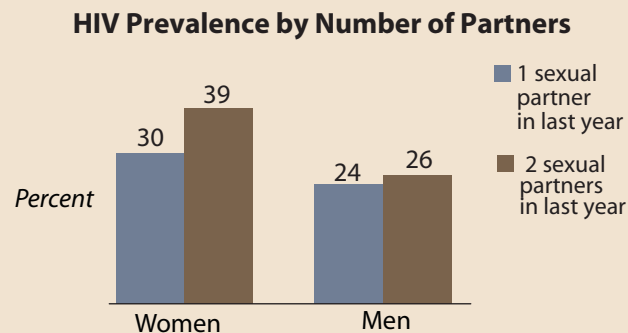
Differences in HIV infection levels are not large across educational categories, although having attended school is related to somewhat lower infection levels among both women and men.

## HIV Prevalence by Marital Status



For both men and women, HIV infection rates are higher among those who are widowed or divorced or separated than those who are currently in a marital union or have never been in a marital union.

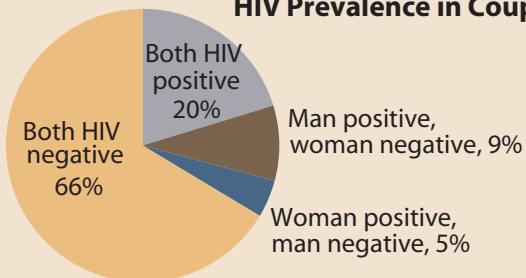
In Lesotho, men who are circumcised have a significantly higher HIV infection rate than men who are not circumcised.



For all Basotho adults, having more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months is positively associated with higher HIV prevalence. This association is especially strong among women.

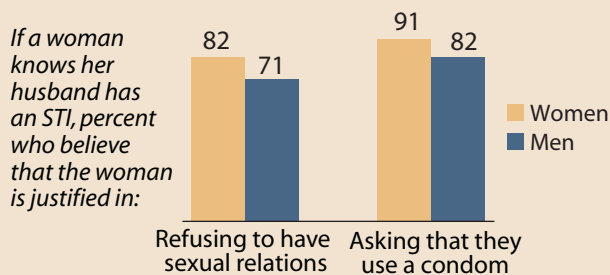


### HIV Prevalence in Couples



The HIV status of about 13 percent of couples is discordant, meaning that one partner is infected and the other is not. This points to an urgent need for HIV prevention education, counselling and testing, as most of these couple do not know their status.

### Attitudes Towards Negotiating Safer Sex



Eighty-two percent of women and 71 percent men believe that a woman is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband if she knows he has a sexually transmitted infection (STI), while 91 percent of women and 82 percent of men believe that a woman is justified in asking her husband to use a condom if he has an STI.

### Response Rates and Methods

HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women and men age 15-49 who were interviewed in the 2004 LDHS. Of the 7,063 eligible subjects, 75 percent provided blood spots. Response rates were considerably higher in rural than urban areas (77 percent and 68 percent, respectively).

For additional information on the results of the 2004 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

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The 2004 LDHS was conducted by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in partnership with the Bureau of Statistics. ORC Macro provided technical assistance in the design, implementation and analysis of the survey. Funding was provided by the Government of Lesotho, Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI), World Bank, UNICEF, DFID, WHO, and USAID's Regional HIV/AIDS Program (USAID/RHAP).

## 2004 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS)



## HIV/AIDS Prevalence