

Lesotho

Violence Against Children and Youth Survey 2018



Ministry of Social Development, Lesotho
August 2020



Together
for girls
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

unicef 
for every child



ICAP
Columbia University
Mailman School
of Public Health

Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey 2018

Ministry of Social Development, Lesotho

August 2020

The Ministry of Social Development and ICAP conducted the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey in Lesotho in 2018, with funding provided by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Technical guidance and coordination of this study was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC provided technical assistance on planning and implementation of the survey and in development of this report, in consultation with the Government of Lesotho. Any policy recommendations contained within this document with regard to budget allocations or statutory changes are the recommendations of the Government of Lesotho and do not reflect an endorsement of the CDC or the U.S. Government.



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Section B

Key terms and definitions



Violence

“Violence” means any form of physical, emotional or mental injury or violence, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual violence, intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against an individual which may result in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in, injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation.



1. Sexual violence

Sexual violence encompasses a range of acts, including completed non-consensual sex acts, attempted non-consensual sex acts, and unwanted sexual contact. In this survey, questions were posed on four forms of sexual violence.

Forms of sexual violence include:

1. Unwanted Sexual Touching:

If anyone, male or female, ever touched the participant in a sexual way without their permission but did not try to force the participant to have sex. Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching on or around the participant's sexual body parts.

2. Unwanted Attempted Sex:

If anyone ever tried to make the participant have sex¹ against their will but *did not* succeed. They might have tried to physically force the participant to have sex or they might have tried to pressure the participant to have sex through harassment or threats.

3. Pressured or Coerced Sex:

If anyone ever pressured or coerced the participant to have sex, through harassment, threats, or lies, and *did* succeed in having sex with the participant.

4. Physically Forced Sex:

If anyone ever physically forced the participant to have sex and *did* succeed in having sex with the participant.

In addition, questions were included about sex when a person was too drunk to give consent or say no. Although this is considered a form of sexual violence, it was not included in the sexual violence combined indicator because this question is new to the questionnaire and has not been fully tested or used in an African context.

Sex when a person was too drunk to say no: If participants ever had sex when they were too drunk to say no.



2. Physical violence

Physical violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force with the potential to cause death, disability, injury or harm. Participants were asked about physical acts of violence perpetrated by four types of potential perpetrators:

1. Current or previous intimate partners, including a romantic partner, a boyfriend/girlfriend, or a spouse.

2. Peers, including people the same age as the participant *not* including a boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse, or romantic partner. These might be people the participant may have known or not known including siblings, schoolmates, neighbours, or strangers.

3. Parents, adult caregivers, or other adult relatives.

4. Adults in the community such as teachers, police, employers, religious or community leaders, neighbours, or adults the participant did not know.

1. Sex or sexual intercourse: Includes vaginal, oral or anal sex.

For each perpetrator type, participants were asked about four measures of physical violence:

Has (1) an intimate partner; (2) a peer; (3) a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative (4) an adult in the community or neighbourhood ever:

Slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched, or intentionally threw something at the participant to hurt them.

Punched, kicked, whipped, or beat the participant with an object.

Choked, smothered, tried to drown, or burned the participant intentionally.

Used or threatened the participant with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.



3. Emotional violence

Emotional violence is defined as a pattern of verbal behaviour over time or an isolated incident that is not developmentally appropriate or supportive and that has a high probability of damaging a child's mental health or their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

For the VACS, the definition of emotional violence varied according to the perpetrators. For emotional violence perpetrated by parents, adult caregivers or other adult relatives, the definition included:

The participant was told that they were not loved or did not deserve to be loved.

The participant was told they wished s/he had never been born or were dead.

The participant was ridiculed or put down, for example told that they were stupid or useless.

For emotional violence perpetrated by intimate partners, the definition included the participant being treated the following way by a romantic partner, boyfriend or spouse:

Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front of others.

Kept the participant from having their own money.

Kept track of the participant by demanding to know where the participant was and what the participant was doing.

Made threats to physically harm the participant.

Emotional violence by peers was defined to include the following done to the participant by a person the participant's own age:

Made the participant get scared or feel really bad because they were calling the participant names, saying mean things to the participant, or saying they didn't want them around.

Told lies or spread rumours about the participant or tried to make others dislike the participant.

Kept the participant out of things on purpose, excluded the participant from their group of friends, or completely ignored the participant.



Child marriage

For the purpose of the Lesotho VACS, child marriage was defined as married or living with someone as if married (i.e., cohabitating) before age 18.

Section C

List of acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CI	Confidence Interval
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DREAMS	Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HoH	Head of Household
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
ICAP	ICAP at Columbia University
MSTF	Multisectoral Task Force
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization(s)
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
RSE	Relative Standard Error
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TfG	Together for Girls
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VACS	Violence Against Children and Youth Survey(s)
WHO	World Health Organization
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Section 1

Introduction and background





1.1. Background

According to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and consistent with the Lesotho Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011, a child is any person younger than age 18. As in many other countries, violence against children and youth remains a significant issue in Lesotho. Previous qualitative and quantitative studies on violence against children and youth in Lesotho show that children are at risk for violence at home, in the community, and in schools. In many cases, those who are supposed to protect children (e.g., parents, other family members, and teachers and other adults in the community) are the ones committing violence against children.^{2,3} However, there have been no comprehensive, population studies on the full burden of violence against children and youth in Lesotho, the associated risk and protective factors, and consequences. Such nationally representative studies are necessary to provide a complete picture of the true prevalence of violence against young people and to inform prevention efforts. The government of Lesotho acknowledges that the lack of data, particularly data on the national prevalence of violence against children and youth, presents a challenge in planning, prioritizing, implementing, and evaluating programmes on child protection.

In response to concerns regarding all forms of violence against children and youth, the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and ICAP at Columbia University (ICAP), in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), conducted a national survey to determine the magnitude of violence against children. The study assessed the epidemiologic patterns of risk factors for violence in order to develop more targeted and informed prevention programmes and policy initiatives.

The 2018 Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) is a national household survey to assess the prevalence and burden of violence against children and youth, including physical, emotional, and sexual violence against female and male youth. Ultimately, this study provides stakeholders with an evidence base for policy and programming to prevent violence against children and youth, and inform the national child protection system and to potentially monitor changes over time.



1.2. Leadership and key partners

The 2018 Lesotho VACS reflects the leadership of the Government of Lesotho through MoSD and ICAP, supported by the multisectoral task force (MSTF) made up of the members of the National OVC Coordinating Committee (NOCC) in collaborative relationships with CDC. The government-led institutions formed the MSTF specifically for the VACS in Lesotho. The MSTF includes representation from key relevant ministries of the government of Lesotho as well as national and international agencies including UNICEF. The MSTF was established to provide cultural context to the adaptation of the study tools for Lesotho, to oversee the implementation of the study, and to ensure that the findings will be followed up with appropriate policies and programmes. The MSTF also promoted broad ownership from the most pertinent governmental and non-governmental agencies that are integral in organizing action around the survey findings.

The 2018 Lesotho VACS took place as part of the broader Together for Girls (TfG) partnership. TfG is a global partnership among national governments, UN agencies, and private sector organizations, working at the intersection of violence against children and youth and violence against women. Through data, nationally-led action, and advocacy, the partnership works to raise awareness, promote evidence-based solutions, and galvanize coordinated response across sectors to end violence against boys and girls, with a special focus on sexual violence against girls. The partnership was founded in 2009, following the ground-breaking, first-ever VACS in Eswatini (previously known as Swaziland).⁴ Since then, the partnership has grown to over twenty countries, working across three pillars to prevent and respond to violence against children: data, action, and advocacy.

2. Krug EG et al., (2002). World report on violence and health, World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/introduction.pdf
3. Millett, L. S., Kohl, P. L., Jonson-Reid, M., Drake, B., & Petra, M. (2013). Child maltreatment victimization and subsequent perpetration of young adult intimate partner violence: an exploration of mediating factors. *Child maltreatment*, 18(2), 71–84. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559513484821>
4. United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). *A National Study on violence Against Children and Young Women in Swaziland*. 2007. Mbabane, Eswatini. https://www.togetherforgirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Violence_study_report-swaziland.pdf.



The TFG partnership envisions a world where every child, adolescent and young person is safe, protected, and thriving, and supports countries to undertake research, programme and policy response, and to raise awareness to contribute to this vision.

To end violence against children and youth around the world, a unique public private partnership of major stakeholder groups came together to focus their efforts with an objective of holding themselves accountable and working together to prevent and respond to violence. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (*End Violence*) was formed in 2015 and includes governments, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, research practitioners, academics and children themselves. Major partners include the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, PEPFAR, TFG, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, USAID, and The World Bank. In 2016, *End Violence* released *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*, a technical package that includes evidence-based strategies with demonstrated success in preventing and responding to violence in childhood.⁵ The seven strategies that INSPIRE encompasses are: **Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support;**

Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills. These strategies aim to create the safe, nurturing environments and relationships that allow children and youth to thrive.



1.3. The HIV epidemic and risks specific to adolescent girls and young women

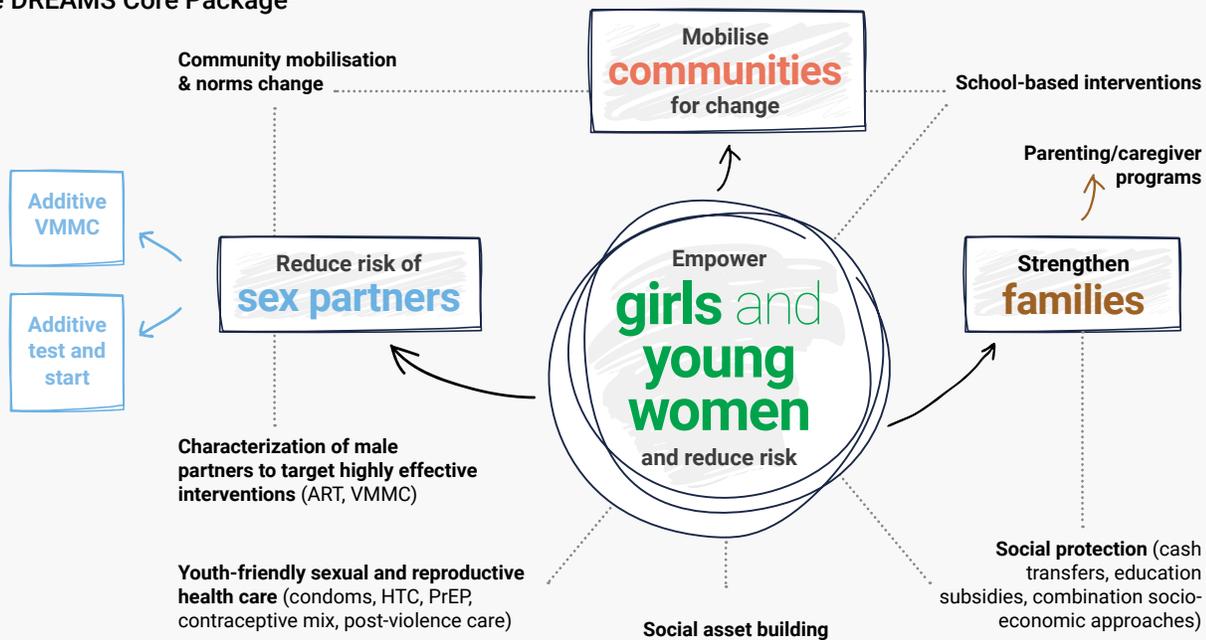
Globally, rates of new HIV infections are highest among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) between the ages of 15 and 24, compared with other groups based on age and sex.⁶ This is particularly true in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result of the growing population of young people in Africa, the numbers of HIV cases among youth are expected to increase significantly if the contributing factors (e.g., HIV risk, service access, and childhood sexual violence) are not identified and addressed. Social isolation, poverty, discriminatory cultural norms, orphanhood, gender-based violence, and inadequate schooling contribute to girls' vulnerability to HIV and a life not lived to its full potential.⁵ Gender-based violence is a known driver of HIV infection.⁵ For example, females who experience violence at an early age are exposed to increased risk of HIV transmission, both directly as a consequence of sexual violence and indirectly by engaging in behaviours that place youth

5. World Health Organization. (2016). *INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children*. World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire-package/en/

6. Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). (2019). *AIDSinfo database: Trends of New HIV Infections: 2018; Trend in New Infections: Eastern, Southern, Western, Central Africa by Sex*. <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>

Figure 1.1.

The DREAMS Core Package¹¹



Note: ART = antiretroviral therapy; HTC = HIV testing and counselling; VMMC = voluntary medical male circumcision.

at risk for HIV (e.g., early sexual debut, having multiple partners, inconsistent condom use, and diminished power to negotiate condom use).⁷ Preventing gender-based violence and responding to the needs of victims through policies and relevant statutes are important strategies for reducing the suffering of children and youth as well as the burden of HIV globally.

PEPFAR’s DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, AIDS-Free, Mentored, and Safe) partnership is an public-private initiative working to reduce rates of HIV among AGYW in the highest HIV-burden countries, including Lesotho.⁸ In 2015, 10 DREAMS countries in sub-Saharan Africa—Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—accounted for nearly half of the new HIV infections among AGYW globally.⁹ In 2017, five additional countries joined the DREAMS initiative.⁸ Working toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of ending AIDS by 2030, DREAMS addresses the multiple spheres of risk that AGYW face, through a layered approach of

synergistic interventions. These core interventions include empowering AGYW and reducing their HIV risk, strengthening the family and contributing to positive parenting, characterizing and addressing risks of sexual partners, and mobilizing the surrounding community to change norms and improve educational attainment. DREAMS works to simultaneously reduce vulnerability and increase agency, and thereby goes beyond typical health initiatives to address the structural drivers of the HIV epidemic among this population.¹⁰ To ensure the largest impact, collection and use of data is critical to identify the most vulnerable and at-risk AGYW within geographic areas with high HIV prevalence; data on experiences of violence and related risks among this population are key to ensuring an AIDS-free future for AGYW.

In Lesotho, AGYW are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection as highlighted by findings from the recent Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessment.¹¹ Of every five new HIV infections among young people

7. Li, Y., Marshall, C. M., Rees, H. C., Nunez, A., Ezeanolue, E. E., & Ehiri, J. E. (2014). Intimate partner violence and HIV infection among women: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 17(1), 18845. <https://doi.org/10.7448/IAS.17.1.18845>

8. USAID. (2020, January). DREAMS: Partnership to Reduce HIV/AIDS in Adolescent Girls and Young Women. <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/hiv-and-aids/technical-areas/dreams>.

9. PEPFAR. (2019). *DREAMS Partnership*. https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DREAMS-Partnership-Fact-Sheet_WAD_2019.pdf.

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(15-24 years), three are among young women.¹² The DREAMS programme started in Lesotho in October 2016 in two of the ten districts, Berea and Maseru. These districts account for 39% of the population of Lesotho.¹³ AGYW in Lesotho receive the core package of DREAMS interventions including HIV testing and counselling, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post violence care, increased diversity of contraceptive method mix, community mobilization and norms change, school-based HIV and violence prevention, parent/caregiver programmes, cash transfers, education subsidies, social asset building, HIV risk assessment, HIV messaging, and combination socioeconomic strengthening approaches (Figure 1.1).¹⁴



1.4. Violence against children and youth in Lesotho

In recent years, studies throughout the world have demonstrated the high prevalence of violence against children in a variety of countries and cultures. UNICEF and CDC have conducted several nationally-representative studies on violence against children in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. This research revealed high rates of violence in these populations; it is estimated that over 1 billion children globally experience physical, sexual or emotional violence annually.¹⁵ Several countries have provided leadership in the collection and use of quality data on the scale and nature of violence for the purpose of informing appropriate policy intervention, planning, and advocacy for prevention and response.

A 2004 survey of 18-35-year-old women in Lesotho found that 61% of participants experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁶ Twenty-two percent of the women reported being physically forced to have sex and 40% reported coerced sex. Young women age 15-24 who were physically forced to have sex had a higher

prevalence of HIV than those who had not been forced to have sex (18.6% vs 11.9%, respectively).¹⁷ There is limited research on violence against boys in Lesotho, especially sexual violence. One study of South African school-aged children found approximately 10% of males and females experienced forced or coerced sex.¹⁸

Outside of the home, children in Lesotho often face violence in school and in the workplace. Corporal punishment in schools is widely tolerated.¹⁹ Young women experience sexual and gender-based violence at school. A study of students in 2012 found young women reporting incidents of gang rape.²⁰ Some also reported acquiescing to male teachers' sexual demands as they feared physical violence if they did not comply.¹⁸ Some adolescents and children are forced to work due to the economic difficulties in Lesotho. An estimated 3% of children age 6-14 years are involved in exploitative labour.²¹ To help alleviate economic hardship, some AGYW turn to sex work.²² A 2008 report on sex work in Lesotho indicates the ages of sex workers can range from 13 to 40 years, with most in their teens and early 20s.²³

Until recently, little was known about the specific risk and protective factors for violence against children in Lesotho. While some qualitative studies in Lesotho provide information on the risks and impact of violence against children, they were mostly limited in scale and could not be generalized. One way to address this gap in information on violence against children was to collect population-based data using nationally representative survey methods. Lesotho conducted the 2018 VACS, the first-ever nationally representative study of violence against children in Lesotho, to estimate the prevalence of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth.

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Section 2

Methods



The purpose of the 2018 Lesotho VACS is to (1) estimate the prevalence of childhood violence (physical, sexual and emotional), defined as violence occurring before 18 years of age among 18-24-year-olds, and (2) estimate the prevalence of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey among adolescents (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-24), and (3) to estimate prevalence at the national level and for two sub-national geographic areas: Maseru and Berea.



2.1. Study design and sampling

To achieve these aims, the Lesotho VACS assessed the experiences of females and males ages 13-24 via a nationally representative household survey. Individuals ages 13-24 were selected to better understand childhood violence. In addition, females were oversampled in the two PEPFAR DREAMS districts (Berea and Maseru) in order to obtain sub-national estimates of violence prevalence in districts with high HIV burden. The geographic selection of DREAMS areas was done by PEPFAR and Ministry of Social Development, resulting in oversampling in the two districts.

To obtain a nationally representative sample, the Lesotho VACS used the 2016 census as the sample frame. Separate samples were drawn for males and females based on required sample size and consideration of response rates. The survey used a three-stage cluster sampling design, using separate Enumeration Areas (EAs) for males and females. In the first stage, 240 EAs (197 female EAs and 43 male EAs) were selected from the 2,600 EAs in the 2016 census sample frame using probability proportional to size. In the second stage, 40 households were randomly selected in each EA from a list of all eligible households in the EA. A household was determined to be eligible if at least one 13-24-year-old was a household member. In the third stage, one eligible 13-24-year-old participant was selected within each household. Additional details on the sampling and methodology are included in Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods.

2.2. Survey questionnaire

VACS includes a core questionnaire for the head of household as well as participant questionnaires (both a male and a female version) that are adapted for each country survey. The core VACS questionnaire was adapted for the Lesotho 2018 VACS through a consultative process of key stakeholders and partners, led by the Ministry of Social Development. The VACS participant questionnaire covered the following topics: demographics; parental relationships; education; general connectedness to family, friends and community; endorsement of traditional gender norms; perceptions of safety; witnessing violence in the home or community/ neighbourhood; sexual history and risk-taking behaviour; experiences of physical, sexual, and emotional violence; violence perpetration; pregnancy; health outcomes and risk behaviours; violence disclosure, service-seeking and utilization of services; and HIV service history. Additionally, the questionnaire contained modules that were specific for Lesotho; these included questions about disability. The VACS participant questionnaire consisted of approximately 300 potential questions and included numerous programmed skip patterns to route the interviewer to the logical sequence of questions based on participant responses. Given the complexity of the skip patterns and logic sequencing, electronic data collection eliminated routing errors, reduced training on skip pattern sequencing and reduced data entry errors.

All participants were asked about ever experiencing violence in addition to experiences of violence in the past 12 months. For analysis purposes in this report, prevalence estimates of childhood violence were based on responses from participants ages 18 to 24 reporting on their experiences prior to age 18, whereas the estimates of recent violence were based on responses from both participants ages 13-17 and 18-24 reporting on experiences occurring in the 12 months preceding the survey. This allowed for the examination of current patterns and contexts of childhood violence in Lesotho.



2.3. Inclusion criteria and selection of households and participants

To be included in the survey, a participant had to be living in selected households in Lesotho, be between the ages of 13 to 24 at the time of the survey, and speak English or Sesotho. The target population for this survey included individuals ages 13-24. The study relied on this age range because children younger than 13 years old typically do



not have the maturity to be able to answer complex survey questions, including the more complicated questions on potential risk and protective factors. Furthermore, limiting the upper age range to 24 years helps reduce potential recall bias for childhood experiences, and the inability to recall events in the past accurately. Females and males who did not have the capacity to understand and/or respond to the survey questions due to a cognitive disability or severe hearing or speech impairment were ineligible to participate. Those living or residing in institutions (i.e., hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and other similar institutions) were not included in the survey because VACS was household-based.

During study implementation, upon entering a randomly selected household, interviewers identified the head of household (HoH), or the person acting as the HoH at the time, to introduce the study and determine eligibility of household members to participate. Interviewers invited the HoH to participate in a short survey to assess the socio-economic conditions of the household. Next, for selected eligible participants under 18 years old, the parent or guardian provided consent for their dependent to participate. Participants ages 18 or older, emancipated persons under age 18, and minors who were married provided their own consent to participate in the survey. For minor participants who were dependents, after a parent or guardian provided consent, the participant was then asked for their assent to participate. HIV testing was offered to all participants ages 13-24 who did not report a previous positive HIV test.

For households that had more than one eligible participant, a participant was randomly selected using a data collection programme installed on the netbooks. If participants were not available for an interview, interviewers made every effort to schedule return visits to the household at times when the selected participant would be available. However, if the selected participant was not available after three attempts, or if she or he refused to participate, the household was coded as a non-response regardless of whether another eligible participant existed in the household. In that case, neither the household nor the eligible participant were replaced.



■ 2.4. Data collection

Data collection was done electronically on netbooks/laptop computers using the CSPro programme. Data collection was conducted in face-to-face computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI) by trained interviewers with selected eligible participants using a structured questionnaire. To ensure privacy during the study, interviewers took thorough precautions. The interviewers conducted the interview in a safe and private location (e.g., outside, or in an appropriate place in the home or garden). If the interview was started but could not be completed while the survey team was in the selected community, the interview was coded as incomplete and not included in the final dataset. If the participant was not available after three attempts to

contact them over the course of two days, the household was omitted and not replaced. The initial visit record form of the survey tool had a section that allowed the survey team to track incomplete interviews, as well as interviews that needed to be rescheduled. Data collection was conducted between June and September 2018.

The survey also included voluntary HIV testing. HIV testing procedures were based on the WHO *Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Testing Services* (2015) and Lesotho *National Policy & Guidelines on HIV Testing Services* (2017). These guidelines state that adolescents and youth age 12 years or older can give their own consent for HIV testing without consent from a parent/guardian and have the right to receive their test results in private without a parent/guardian present, and to choose whether or not to disclose their results to parents or significant others in accordance with global recommendations from WHO. Therefore, 13-24-year-old participants were eligible for VACS HIV testing, and testing was offered to participants who completed the questionnaire. Testing services included pre-test counselling and testing using rapid testing kit by obtaining blood from a finger prick. Participants were provided test results and post-test counselling, including active linkage to treatment for all HIV-positive participants and according to Lesotho national standards. The interviewer obtained consent for HIV testing separately from consent for participation in the survey and performed the HIV test and gave the results of the test. The participants were encouraged to disclose their HIV status to a significant other, parent, or trusted family member but made the decision for themselves whether and to whom to disclose their HIV results.

Based on the eligibility criteria for HIV testing, 8,176 participants were eligible for HIV testing. Of those eligible for testing, 7,568 consented to HIV testing. Among those who consented, 7,556 completed the testing for HIV: 80 participants tested positive for HIV and were referred to treatment services. During the VACS interview, 385 participants self-reported a prior positive HIV test.



2.5. Ethical considerations

The Lesotho VACS adhered to WHO recommendations on ethics and safety in studies of violence against women.²⁴ The Research and Ethics Committee (REC) at

the Lesotho Ministry of Health, the Columbia University Medical Center Institutional Review Board, and the CDC Institutional Review Board all independently reviewed and approved the survey protocol to ensure appropriate protections for the rights and welfare of human research participants.

2.5.1. Referrals

During the interview, participants could have recalled frightening, humiliating, or painful experiences, which could elicit a strong emotional response. Participants could also have recently experienced violence and desired counselling or immediate assistance with the situation. Evidence suggests that adult women find that talking about their experiences of violence is beneficial and appreciate having the opportunity to have a conversation about those experiences.²⁵ In addition, there is evidence that adolescents and young adults are willing to talk about their experiences of violence within a compassionate structure. Social support can help to alleviate the stress of difficult emotions or experiences.

Interviewers offered free, direct referrals to participants who: 1) became upset during the interview; 2) felt unsafe in their current living situation, including in their home or community; 3) experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence in the past 12 months; 4) were under the age of 18 and exchanged sex for money, goods, or favours in the last 12 months; 5) reported being in immediate danger; or 6) requested help for violence, regardless of what was disclosed in the interview. If the participant met any of these criteria, the interviewer offered a direct referral and, upon the participant's consent, recorded contact information separately from survey responses. The information would then be passed to a local government social worker who could take on the case and offer counselling services as well as other referrals. Additionally, the interviewers provided all participants with a list of services, reflecting free programmes, services, and amenities currently offered in Lesotho.

For this study, anyone under the age of 18 who identified as being in immediate danger and/or who was currently experiencing ongoing sexual violence and/or who was physically injured due to recent physical violence and/or who reported past attempted suicide was considered an acute case. All acute cases under age 18 were then referred to a social worker as consistent with mandatory

24. World Health Organization. (2001). *Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Considerations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women*.
25. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). *Critical Elements of Interviewer Training for Engaging Children and Adolescents in Global Violence Research: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Violence Against Children Survey*. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

reporting requirements under the Children’s Protection and Welfare Act. Participants 18 and older who met the same criteria for an acute case were referred only if they consented for the referral. Adult participants who met the study definition of an acute case were offered a direct referral, but they could decline. When a child or adult participant was identified as an acute case and consented to a referral, the interviewer followed protocol procedures to ensure that the case was referred as soon as possible. The interviewer immediately alerted their team leader that an acute case was being referred and the social worker was notified.

Appropriate action plans for all acute cases were conducted on a case-by-case basis in order to best respond to the individual situation and ensure that the participant was not placed in any additional danger. However, as a basis of action, the service provider made every effort to ensure that the participant was offered immediate help and removal from the dangerous situation as well as offered appropriate medical, psychosocial and legal service and programme referrals. For cases when the participant was in immediate danger, the service provider made every effort to reach the participant requiring referral within 48 hours.

In total, 357 participants requested direct referral to services. Of those, 67 were acute cases and 290 were non-acute cases.

2.5.2. Survey informed consent

The first step in the informed consent process was to seek consent from the HoH. For all selected eligible participants under 18 years old, the HoH provided verbal consent to allow interviewers to conduct the interview. Participants who were age 18 or older, emancipated persons under age 18, and minors who lived in a child-headed household provided their own consent to participate in the survey. When seeking permission from the HoH, interviewers described the study as “an opportunity to learn more about the social welfare of children and young people in Lesotho which include health, educational, and life experiences.” This approach is consistent with WHO ethical and safety recommendations regarding obtaining informed consent for participation in surveys that contain questions on domestic violence.²⁶ This introduction helped to ensure the safety and confidentiality of both participants

and interviewers. According to the WHO guidelines, it was important to define the study in terms *other* than violence. The VACS adopted this guideline to inform HoHs as fully as possible about the content of the survey without risking possible retaliation against participants for their participation.

Once the consent was complete, the interviewer and the participant moved to a private location for the interview to ensure confidentiality. Following this important step, the interviewer read the contents of a verbal survey assent form (for minor participants) or a consent form (for adults, emancipated minors, and children living in a child-headed household). This assent/consent informed participants that information they provided in the interview was confidential and anonymous, and that their decision regarding participation was voluntary. Participants were told that if they chose to participate, questions about their sexual activity and their experiences with physical, sexual, and emotional violence would be asked. Participants were assured that the information they shared was confidential, identifying information would not be shared with anyone, and that they could skip any questions or end participation at any time. Each participant provided assent or consent verbally. This was documented by the interviewer.



2.6. Response rates and data analysis

Among 7,414 eligible female households, 7,256 were surveyed, resulting in a female household response rate of 97.8%. Among 7,221 eligible females identified, 7,101 females completed the participant questionnaire, resulting in an individual response rate of 98.3%. The overall female response rate was 96.2%. Among 1,531 eligible male households, 1,512 were surveyed, resulting in a male household response rate of 98.8%. Among 1,496 eligible males identified, 1,467 males completed the participant questionnaire, resulting in an individual response rate of 98.0%. The overall male response rate was 96.2%. See Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods for further details on how response rates were calculated.

Data were analysed separately for participants ages 13-17 versus 18-24 given differences between these age groups in the time scope reported in the present report. Data from 13-17-year-olds generated estimates of the

26. World Health Organization. (2001). Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women. Department of Gender and Women’s Health, World Health Organization.

prevalence of violence experienced in the 12 months prior to the survey among adolescents (i.e., childhood violence)²⁷. Data from 18-24-year-olds generated estimates of prevalence of violence experienced before age 18 (i.e., childhood violence) and in the 12 months prior to the survey among young adults. Estimates of the prevalence of violence in the past 12 months provided information about the current experiences of adolescents and young adults, as well as the patterns and contexts of violence in Lesotho. Data from 19-24-year-olds generated estimates to explore the ways that exposure to violence during childhood may determine later risk-taking behaviours, knowledge and use of HIV testing services. Therefore, the inclusion of only those aged 19 or older ensures that violence in childhood preceded involvement in current sexual risk-taking behaviours. Although the analyses distinguished results by sex and age group, all VACS participants responded to the same questions, except questions about pregnancy, which only applied to females.

The statistical package SAS (version 9.4) was used for data management and analysis to produce weighted point estimates and standard error calculations.

2.6.1. Weighted percentages

Sample weights were applied to all results to yield nationally and sub-nationally representative estimates.²⁸ When calculating the estimates for most measures, missing values were excluded from the analysis. Sample weights were created and applied to each individual record in order to adjust for the probability of selection, differential non-response, and calibration to the census population. Through the use of SAS 9.4 that considers the complex sample design, accurate standard errors were produced for each estimate. More information on calculation of sample weights is available in Appendix B.

2.6.2. Definition of unreliable estimates

Standard errors for estimates were calculated using methods that take the complex survey design into account. Estimates were considered unreliable based on the corresponding Relative Standard Error (RSE). RSE is calculated by dividing the standard error by the estimate and then multiplying by 100. As such, the RSE is affected by the magnitude of the estimate and

the sample size. If sample weights are computed, as in VACS, then estimates are based on the weighted sample size. Estimates with an RSE higher than 30% were considered unreliable in the Lesotho VACS. An asterisk (“*”) is displayed in tables next to all unreliable estimates. Unreliable estimates should be interpreted with caution. Unreliable estimates are included in the tables, but not discussed in the Results section. When the prevalence of an indicator is zero percent (0.0%), those results are denoted as <0.1 in the tables and should be interpreted with caution. We could not assume that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

2.6.3. Technical note to the reader

The estimates in this report are accompanied by a 95% confidence interval (CI). This is a statistical measure indicating how confident we can be in our point estimates, within a specified margin of error. The CIs are calculated as the Z-score for a normal distribution containing 95% of the values (1.96) times the standard error of the prevalence estimate. Smaller CIs mean that the estimates are more precise, whereas wider CIs indicate more variation in the sample data.

This 95% range indicates that for 95 out of 100 samples completed in the same way as the VACS, the true population prevalence of violence will be between the upper and lower CI values. For example, if the expected sexual violence prevalence in Lesotho is 30%, with a CI of plus or minus 4%, this means that, if we could survey all children in Lesotho at the same time, the VACS data estimate that 95% of the time, between 26% and 34% of the total child population of Lesotho have experienced sexual violence in childhood. In short, the CI helps determine how precisely prevalence is measured and how to make inferences about the national population.

2.6.4. Differences between estimates

To evaluate whether differences between any groups or subgroups were statistically significant and not due to random variation, the CIs for point estimates were compared to determine whether they overlapped or not. The CI overlap method is a conservative method that determines statistical difference by comparing the CI for two estimates – if the CIs do not overlap then the estimates are considered “statistically different” and not due to random chance.

27. Referred to throughout this report as “past 12 months”

28. See Appendix B

▴ Section 3

Background characteristics of youth



Education



Among **18-24** year olds

1 in 5 females (20.2%)

and

1 in 3 males (31.6%)

had never attended school or completed primary school or less

More females (63.6%) than males (54.4%) had attended or completed secondary school

Among **13-17** year olds

1 in 3 females (35.2%)

and

1 in 2 males (50.3%)

had a primary education or less

More females (64.8%) than males (49.7%) ages 13-17 had attended or completed secondary school

Orphanhood



Among **18-24** year olds

Nearly half of children were **single or double orphans before age 18**, meaning one or both of their parents had died

For females, the proportion of single or double orphans was 46.4% and for males, 48.1%

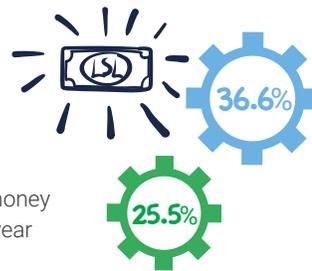
Among **13-17** year olds

Nearly **2 in 5** females (39.7%) and **3 in 5** males (59.3%) were orphans



Employment

Among **18-24** year olds



About **1 in 4** females (25.5%) and **1 in 3** males (36.6%) worked for money or other payment in the previous year

First sex

Among **18-24** year olds

The mean age of first sex among those who had ever had sex was **17.4 years old for females** and **15.9 years old for males**



17.4 y/o **15.9** y/o

Food insecurity

Among **18-24** year olds



Despite high levels of work among youth, **2 in 3** females (66.0%) and **7 in 10** males (70.4%) experienced food insecurity

Among **13-17** year olds

Nearly **2/3** of females (65.6%) and **two thirds of males** (66.4%) experienced food insecurities

Marriage

Among **18-24** year olds



Significantly more **females** (38.5%) were married or lived with someone as if married, compared to **10.2% of males**

11% of females were married or cohabitated before age 18

This section presents selected background characteristics of the survey population in Lesotho by age, sex, education, orphan status, disability, work experience, marital status, and sexual activity. Orphanhood is defined as the loss of one (single orphan) or both (double orphan) parents before age 18. "Married" refers to those who were ever married or ever lived with someone as if married, otherwise known as cohabitation.



3.1. Characteristics of 18-24-year-olds

Tables 3.1.1. through 3.1.3. include background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds. One out of five females (20.2%) and one out of three males (31.6%) had never attended school or completed primary school or less (Figure 3.1). More females (63.6%) than males (54.4%)

(54.4%) had completed secondary school. These findings suggest disparities in educational access between males and females. Nearly half of children were single or double orphans before the age of 18; that is, one or both of their parents had died (Figure 3.2). For females, the proportion of single or double orphans was 46.4%, and for males, 48.1%.

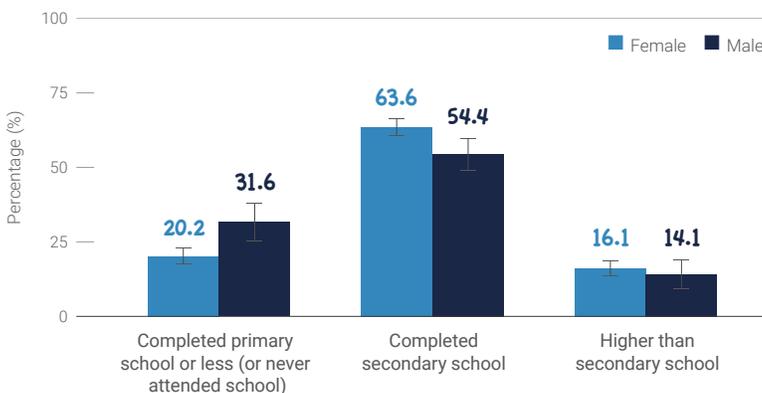
About one in seven females (14.3%) had a functional disability in one or more domains, compared with 7.4% of males, a statistically significant difference. Common types of disability among females were a disability in seeing (6.9%) and problems remembering and concentrating (6.4%). Common types of disability for males were difficulty seeing (2.7%) and problems with communication (1.2%).

About one out of four females (25.5%) and one out of three males (36.6%) worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months. This difference was statistically significant. Despite these high levels of work among youth, two out of three females (66.0%) and seven out of ten males (70.4%) experienced food insecurity (Figure 3.3). Among those who had worked in the past year, common locations for females were domestic work (35.6%), at a factory or workshop (17.2%), or a shop or kiosk (14.6%). For males, common locations were a farm or garden (21.6%), a construction site (20.9%), or domestic work (16.5%).

Significantly more females (38.5%) had ever been married or lived with someone as if married, compared to 10.2% of males (Figure 3.4). Child marriage was not uncommon among females; 11.0% of females married or cohabitated before age 18. The estimates of males who were married or cohabitated before age 18 were unreliable. Among females who were married, 7.4% were in an arranged marriage. Fewer females (78.2%) than males (84.1%) had ever had sex. The mean age of first sex among those who had ever had sex was 17.4 years old for females and 15.9 years old for males. More than one in ten females (11.0%) and one in three males (31.4%) had early sexual initiation, defined as first sex at or before age 15.

Figure 3.1.

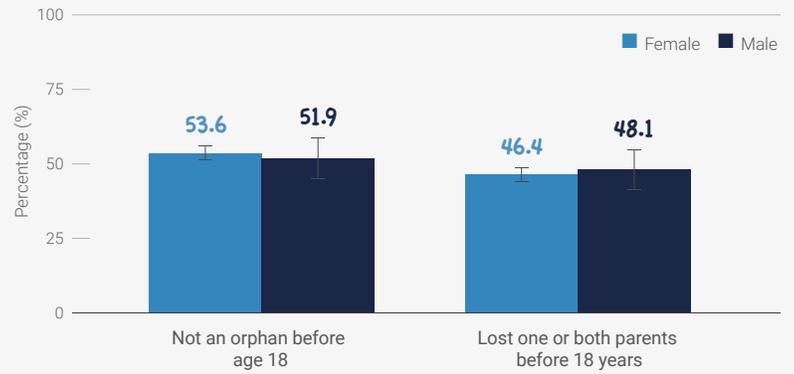
Educational status among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

Figure 3.2.

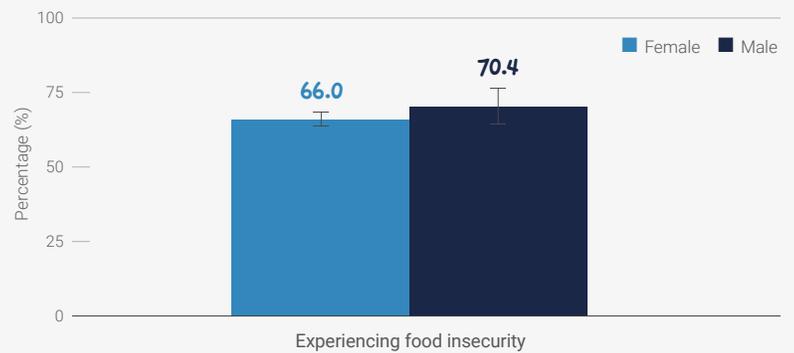
Prevalence of orphanhood before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

Figure 3.3.

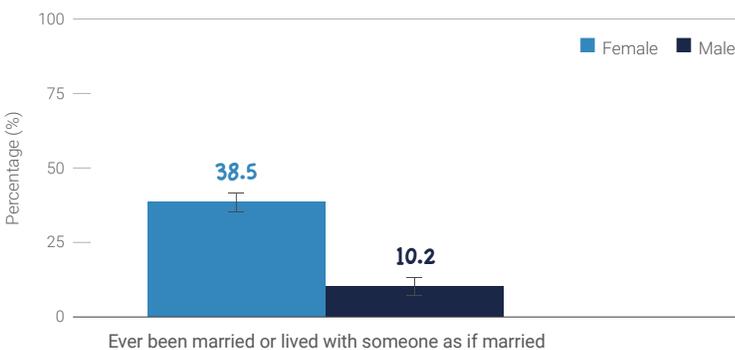
Prevalence of food insecurity, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

Figure 3.4.

Prevalence of ever been married or cohabitation among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



3.2. Characteristics of 13-17-year-olds

Tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 include background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds. One out of three females (35.2%) and one out of two males (50.3%) had a primary education or less (Figure 3.5). More females (64.8%) than males (49.7%) had attended or completed secondary school. Nearly two out of five females (39.7%) and three out of five males (59.3%) were orphans. The prevalence of disability was significantly higher among females (13.8%) than males (7.0%). The most common disability type for females was difficult remembering or concentrating (6.5%), followed by difficulty seeing (5.9%). For males, the most common type of disability was difficulty seeing (4.9%). Only 3.0% of females and 8.4% of males worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months. Nearly two thirds of females (65.6%) and males (66.4%) experienced food insecurity.

▴ Section 4

Sexual violence in childhood and adolescence



Sexual violence

Among **18-24** year olds



About

1 in 7 females **14.5%**

and

1 in 20 males **5.0%**

1 in 10 females **7.5%**

experienced sexual violence before age 18

experienced pressured or coerced or physically forced sex in childhood

Location of the first incidents of sexual violence in childhood

Among **18-24** year olds



Among females who experienced sexual violence, the **most common locations were the perpetrator's home** (29.8%), followed by on a road or street (19.7%) and an outdoor area (18.7%)

Perpetrators of the first incidents of sexual violence in childhood

Among **18-24** year olds

Among **females**, common perpetrators of the first incident of sexual violence were current or previous **intimate partners** (58.4%), neighbours (10.2%), and friends (9.0%)

For **males**, the most common perpetrators with reliable estimates were current or **previous intimate partners** (25.5%)



Sexual violence in the past 12 months

Among **13-17** year olds



In the past year, 7.3% of females ages 13-17 experienced sexual violence

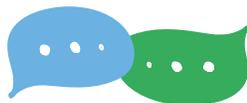
Among youth who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, nearly **3 in 5 females** (59.5%) **experienced more than one incident**



Fewer than 3 out of 5 females (55.4%) who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months told someone about an experience of sexual violence

Disclosure, knowledge of services and service-seeking for sexual violence in childhood

Among **18-24** year olds



Females who told someone about an experience of sexual violence:

59.5% told a relative

45.2% told a friend or neighbour



This section describes the prevalence and contexts of sexual violence against children in Lesotho. Four forms of sexual violence were included: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, pressured or coerced sex, and physically forced sex. The section further describes contexts in which sexual violence occurs as well as service knowledge and utilization for experiences of sexual violence.

For each form of sexual violence, the perpetrator, context, and location of the first incident is reported among 18-24-year-olds, and the most recent incident among 13-17-year-olds. If a participant experienced multiple forms of sexual violence (e.g., unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex), she or he was asked about the perpetrator of the first or most recent incident of each form of violence. Since any participant could have provided up to four perpetrators (one perpetrator for the first or most recent incident of each form of violence experience), the total percentages of perpetrators may sum to more than 100%. All findings presented are percentages of the total number who experienced sexual violence before age 18 (for those ages 18-24) or experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months (for those ages 13-17).

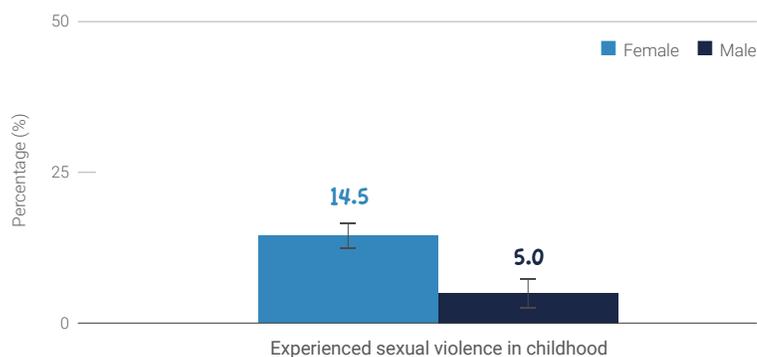
4.1. Sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

The prevalence of childhood sexual violence is presented in this section. The prevalence of each of the four types of sexual violence are also described, along with age at first experience of sexual violence and experiences of multiple incidents of sexual violence. Multiple incidents include more than one incident of the same form of sexual violence, more than one form of sexual violence, or both. Rates of unwanted first sex, including physically forced, pressured, or coerced attempted sex at sexual debut, are also presented. In some cases, the number of incidents of sexual violence for females and males were too small to generate reliable estimates for certain indicators. Findings of sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds are presented in Tables 4.1.1 through 4.1.11.

About one in seven females (14.5%) and one in twenty males (5.0%) experienced sexual violence before age 18 (Figure 4.1). The difference between females and males is statistically significant. Among females, 6.3% experienced unwanted sexual touching, 5.3% experienced unwanted attempted sex; 4.6% experienced sex that was pressured or coerced; and 4.1% experienced physically forced sex in childhood. Among males, 4.1% experienced unwanted sexual touching before age 18. The difference between females and males for unwanted sexual touching was statistically significant. The estimate of males who experienced unwanted attempted sex, pressured or coerced sex, and physically forced sex was unreliable. About one in ten females (7.5%) experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in childhood. This estimate was unreliable for males.

Among those who experienced any childhood sexual violence, 13.1% of females experienced the first incident at age 13 or younger, 26.7% at age 14-15, and 60.2% at age 16-17. For males, 36.5% experienced the first incident at age 14-15, and 51.6% at age 16-17. The estimate for first experience for males at or before age 13 was unreliable. Among females who experienced physically forced, pressured, or coerced sex in childhood, 7.8% experienced the first incident at age 13 or younger, 23.5% at age 14-15, and 68.7% at age 16-17. The estimates of males who experienced physically forced, pressured, or coerced sex in childhood were unreliable by age of first experience.

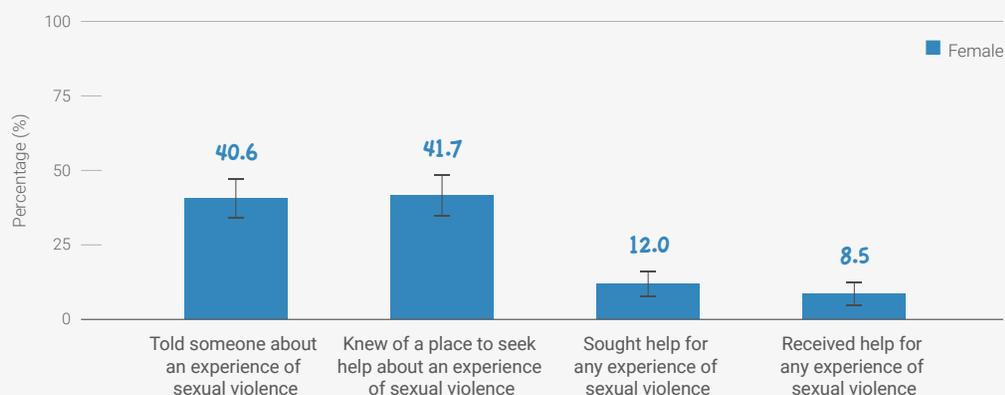
Figure 4.1.
Prevalence of sexual violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 4.2.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for sexual violence, among 18-24-year-old females who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

Among youth who experienced childhood sexual violence, more than three out of five females (62.0%) and more than three out of four males (76.6%) experienced multiple incidents before age 18. Nearly one out of five females (18.3%) who had sex before age 18 were physically forced or pressured at first sexual experience. The estimates of males who experienced physically forced, pressured, or coerced sex at first sexual experience were unreliable.

4.1.1. Perpetrators of the first incidents of sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Among females, common perpetrators of the first incident of sexual violence were current or previous intimate partners (58.4%), neighbours (10.2%), and friends (9.0%). For males, common perpetrators with reliable estimates were current or previous intimate partners (25.5%).

Among females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood, nearly three out of ten (29.0%) indicated the perpetrator of the first incident was at least five years older. One out of four females (24.3%) who experienced physically forced, pressured, or coerced sex before age 18 indicated the perpetrator of the first incident was at least five years older. Among males, more than one in three (34.4%) indicated the perpetrator of the first incident of sexual violence was at least 5 years older.

Among females and males who experienced sexual violence before age 18, 15.0% of females and 50.9% of males indicated there was more than one perpetrator present during the first incident, a statistically significant difference.

4.1.2. Contexts of the first incident of sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Among females who experienced sexual violence, the most common locations were the perpetrator's home (29.8%), followed by on a road or street (19.7%) and an outdoor area (18.7%). The estimates of location of first incidents of sexual violence for males were unreliable. For 65.7% of female victims, the first incident occurred in the afternoon, for 25.0% in the evening, 11.8% in the morning, and 5.5% late at night. For 53.6% of male victims, the first incident occurred in the evening.

4.1.3. Disclosure, knowledge of services, and service-seeking for sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Among 18-24-year-old females who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18, 40.6% told someone about an experience of sexual violence, 41.7% knew of a place to seek help about an



experience of sexual violence, 12.0% sought help for any experience of sexual violence, and 8.5% received help for any experience of sexual violence (Figure 4.2). Females who did not seek services for sexual violence indicated that the most common reason for not seeking services was that they did not think it was a problem (41.4%) or they did not need or want services (19.5%). Females and males who disclosed were asked to whom they disclosed; they could choose multiple answer options. Among females who told someone about an experience of sexual violence, 59.5% told a relative and 45.2% told a friend or neighbour. Among females who received services, 80.5% received care from a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker, 77.6% received services from police or other security personnel, and 60.7% received services from a community leader or village chief. The estimates of disclosure and knowledge of services among males who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 was unreliable.



4.2. Sexual violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds

Findings of sexual violence in childhood among 13-17-year-olds are presented in Tables 4.2.1 through 4.2.8. In the past 12 months, 7.3% of females experienced

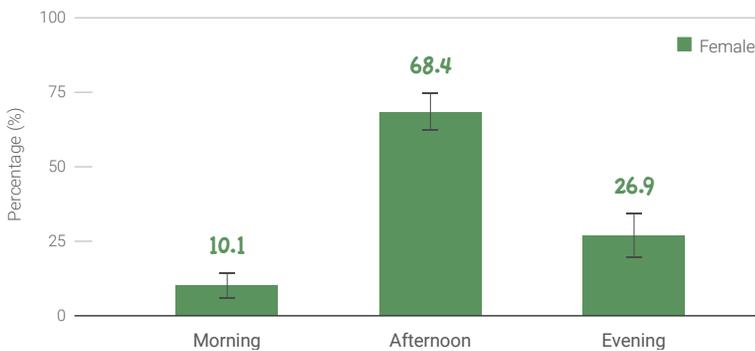
sexual violence. Among females, 4.1% experienced unwanted sexual touching, 2.9% experienced unwanted attempted sex; 1.2% experienced pressured or coerced sex; and 1.4% experienced physically forced sex; 2.2% experienced pressured, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months. Among females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, nearly three out of five (59.5%) experienced more than one incident. Among females who had ever had sex, one out of five (20.2%) experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at their first sexual experience. The estimate of males who experienced any sexual violence in the past year, unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, and pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months were unreliable.

4.2.1. Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence among 13-17-year-olds

Among females ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, common perpetrators of the most recent incident were current or former intimate partners (42.6%), classmates or schoolmates (22.0%), friends (12.5%), neighbours (10.7%), and strangers (10.3%). Among females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, 12.4% indicated the perpetrator of the most recent incident was at least five years older.

▲ Figure 4.3.

Time of day of the most recent incident of sexual violence, among 13-17-year-old females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Percents sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

4.2.2. Contexts of the most recent incidents of sexual violence among 13-17-year-olds

Among females who had sexual violence in the past 12 months, common locations of the most recent incident were on a road or street (26.6%), at school (26.2%), at the perpetrator’s home (20.9%), or at a field or other natural area (14.6%). For females, 68.4% of the most recent incidents took place in the afternoon, and 26.9% took place in the evening (Figure 4.3).

4.2.3. Disclosure, knowledge of services, and service-seeking for sexual violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds

Fewer than three out of five females (55.4%) who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months told someone about an experience of sexual violence. Females who did tell someone about their experience of sexual violence told a relative (56.6%) or a friend or neighbour (42.8%). Fewer than half of females (46.2%) knew of a place to go for help, and 17.7% sought help for any experience of sexual violence. The estimate for receiving help for any experience of sexual violence among females was unreliable. The estimates for disclosure, service-seeking, and service receipt for sexual violence for males for pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex were unreliable.



▾ Section 5

Physical violence in childhood and adolescence



Physical violence in childhood

Among **18-24** year olds

Nearly

1 in 3 females **32.9%**

and more than

1 in 2 males **57.4%**

experienced physical violence before age 18



The most common **age of first experience of physical violence** in childhood for both females and males was ages **6-11**

More than

1 in 5 females **22.7%**

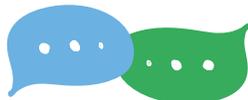
and more than

1 in 3 males **38.6%**

experienced physical violence in childhood by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative

Disclosure, knowledge of services and service-seeking for physical violence in childhood

Among **18-24** year olds



Among those who experienced physical violence in childhood, **52.0% of females and 37.1% of males** ever told anybody about their experience

Nearly **2 out of 5 females** (38.8%) and **males** (37.3%) knew of a place to go for help for physical violence. Only **4.6%** of females and **7.1%** of males sought help, and **3.7%** of females received help

Physical violence in the past 12 months

Among **13-17** year olds



More than

1 in 5 females **21.1%**

and more than

1 in 4 males **27.1%**

experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

In the past 12 months, **8.1%** of females and **10.1%** of males experienced physical violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative; 9.7% of females and 14.9% of males experienced violence by an adult in the community or neighborhood; and 6.3% of females and 14.2% of males experienced violence by a peer

Disclosure, knowledge of services and service-seeking for physical violence in the past 12 months

Among **13-17** year olds



About one **1 of 2 females** (49.7%) and **1 of 3 (31.3%) males** who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experiences



Both females (78.5%) and males (80.6%) were most likely to tell a relative, followed by a friend or neighbor

Witnessing physical violence

Among **18-24** year olds

More than **2 out of 5 females** (22.5%) and **44.1% of males** witnessed violence in the community or neighborhood before age 18

Nearly **1 in 2** females (**46.9%**) and males (**43.5%**) witnessed physical violence in the home before age 18



This section describes the magnitude and contexts of physical violence against children in Lesotho. The perpetrators of childhood physical violence, injuries received, school missed as a result of violence, disclosure of violence, and knowledge and utilization of services are also described. Findings include the overall prevalence of physical violence in childhood (before age 18) for 18-24-year-olds and in the past 12 months for 13-17-year-olds.

The prevalence of physical violence by four types of perpetrators is presented: 1) parents, adult caregivers, or adult relatives; 2) intimate partners; 3) peers; and 4) adults in the community or neighbourhood.

Injuries from physical violence among 13-17-year-olds are also described. Such injuries include: scratches or bruises, black eyes or eye injuries; gashes or deep wounds, broken bones or broken teeth; and burns.



5.1. Physical violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Tables 5.1.1 through 5.1.7 include findings related to physical violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds. Significantly fewer females experienced childhood physical violence; nearly one out of three females (32.9%) and more than half of males (57.4%) experienced physical violence before age 18 (Figure 5.1). Half of females (51.5%) who experienced physical violence in childhood had the first incident at ages 6-11, 40.0% had the first incident at ages 12-17, and 8.5% at age 5 or younger. For males who experienced physical violence in childhood, half (50.5%) had the first experience at ages 6-11, 44.1% at ages 12-17, and 5.4% at age 5 or younger.

More than one in five females (22.7%) and 38.6% of males experienced physical violence in childhood by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative. The difference between males and females was statistically significant. Females also were significantly less likely than males to experience physical violence by an adult in the

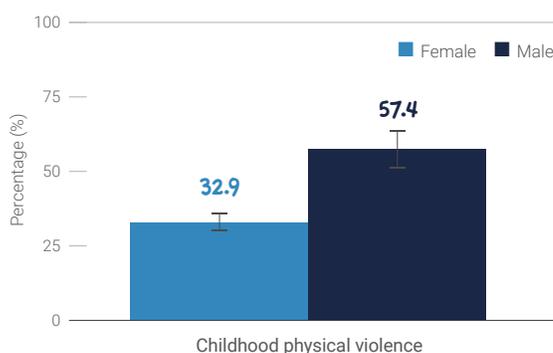
community or neighbourhood (females, 12.0%; males, 24.3%) and by a peer (females, 10.7%; males, 32.7%). Among 18-24-year-old females who had an intimate partner before age 18, 3.8% of females experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. This estimate was unreliable for males.

5.1.1. Disclosure, knowledge of services, and service-seeking for physical violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in childhood, 52.0% of females and 37.1% of males told someone about their experience (Figure 5.2). Among females who disclosed, 77.4% told a relative, and 26.1% told a friend or neighbour. Among males who disclosed, 66.8% told a relative, and 37.2% told a friend or neighbour. Nearly two out of five females (38.8%) and males (37.3%) knew of a place to go for help for physical violence. Only 4.6% of females and 7.1% of males sought help, and 3.7% of females received help. The estimate for service receipt for males was unreliable. Among females who received help, 63.0% received help from a community leader, and 41.7% received help from police or other security personnel. Females who did not seek services for childhood physical violence indicated their reasons for not seeking services were that they did not think it was a problem (36.4%), they felt it was their fault

Figure 5.1.

Prevalence of physical violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds - Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



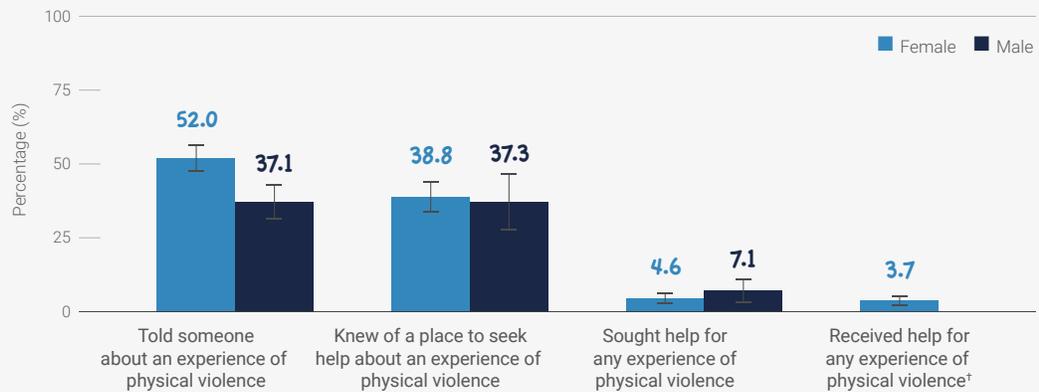
*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 5.2.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence before 18

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

[†] The estimate for males who received help for any experience of physical violence among those who experienced physical childhood violence was unreliable and not included in the figure.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

(20.9%), they did not need or want services (17.5%), and they were afraid of getting in trouble (16.2%). For males, common reasons for not seeking services were that they did not think it was a problem (57.2%), they did not need or want services (17.8%), or they felt the violence was their fault (15.9%).



▲ **5.2. Physical violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds**

Tables 5.2.1 through 5.2.7 include findings for physical violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds. More than one in five females (21.1%) and more than one in four males (27.1%) experienced physical violence in the past 12 months. For nearly half of females (48.6%), the first incident was at ages 6-11, 43.7% had the first incident at ages 12-17, and 7.7% at age 5 or younger. Among males, 55.9% had the first incident at ages 6-11, 38.8% at ages 12-17, and 5.3% at age 5 or younger.

In the past 12 months, 8.1% of females and 10.1% of males experienced physical violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative; 9.7% of females and 14.9% of males experienced violence by an adult in the community

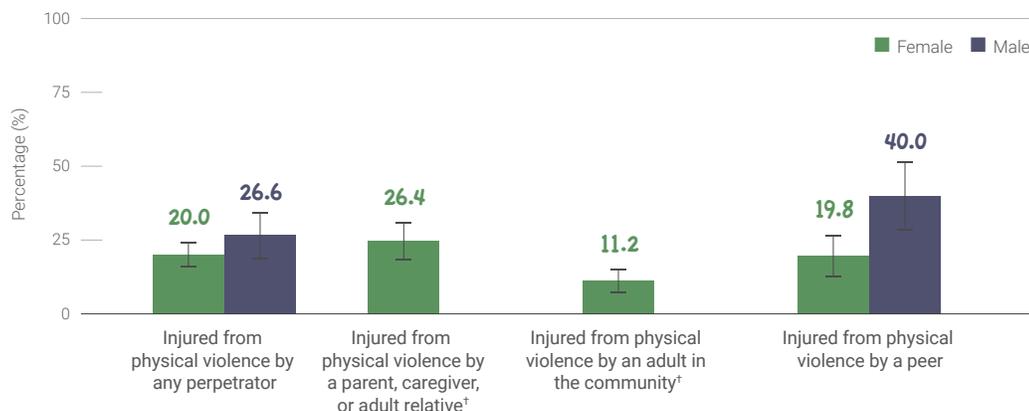
or neighbourhood; and 6.3% of females and 14.2% of males experienced violence by a peer. The difference between males and females for peer physical violence was statistically significant. Among youth who ever had an intimate partner, 5.4% of females experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. This estimate was unreliable for males.

5.2.1. Injuries from physical violence among 13-17-year-olds

One in five females (20.0%) and more than one in four males (26.6%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months experienced an injury from violence (Figure 5.3). Among females who experienced violence by a parent, adult caregiver or adult relative in the past 12 months, one out of four (24.6%) received an injury. Significantly fewer females than males were injured; among those who experienced peer physical violence in the past 12 months, 19.8% of females and 40.0% of males received an injury. Among females who experienced violence by an adult in the community or neighbourhood, 11.2% were injured. The estimates of injuries from physical violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative and from an adult in the community or

▲ Figure 5.3.

Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of physical violence, among 13-17-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months, by perpetrator – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

[†] The estimates for males who had been injured from physical violence by a parent, caregiver, adult relative, or adult in the community among those who experienced physical childhood violence were unreliable and are not included in the figure.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



▲ 5.3. Witnessing physical violence

neighbourhood for males were unreliable. The estimate for injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner for males and females were unreliable.

5.2.2. Disclosure, knowledge of services, and service-seeking for physical violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds

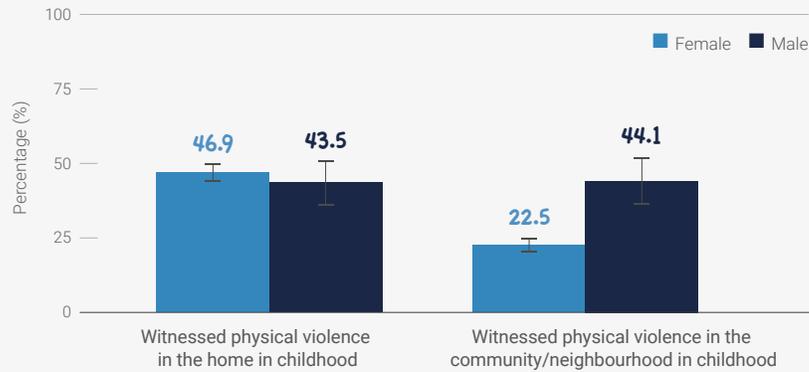
About one out of two females (49.7%) and 31.1% of males who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experiences. Among those who disclosed, 78.5% of females and 80.6% of males told a relative, and 23.6% of females and 25.2% of males told a friend or neighbour. About three out of ten females (30.1%) and one out of four males (28.0%) knew of a place to go for help. Among females, 2.9% sought help and 2.0% received help for any experience of physical violence. The estimates for service-seeking and service receipt for any experience of physical violence among males were unreliable. Females who did not seek services indicated that the reasons were that they did not think it was a problem (39.3%), and they felt the violence was their fault (22.6%). Males indicated that the reasons for not seeking services were that they did not think the violence was a problem (41.9%), and they felt the violence was their fault (24.9%).

Witnessing physical violence in the home was defined as seeing or hearing a parent hit, punched, kicked, or beaten up by another parent or their boyfriend or girlfriend or seeing or hearing a sibling punched, kicked, or beaten by a parent. Witnessing physical violence in the community/neighbourhood included seeing anyone outside of the home and family environment get attacked. Table 5.3.1 includes findings of witnessing violence in the home and in the community/neighbourhood among 18-24-year-olds in childhood and 13-17-year-olds in the past 12 months.

Nearly half of females (46.9%) and males (43.5%) ages 18-24 witnessed physical violence in the home before age 18 (Figure 5.4). More than one out of five females (22.5%) and 44.1% of males witnessed violence in the community/neighbourhood before age 18. The difference between females and males for witnessing community/neighbourhood violence was statistically significant. Among youth ages 13-17, 18.9% of females and 14.4% of males witnessed violence in the home in the past 12 months, and 8.6% of females and 13.4% of males witnessed physical violence in the community/neighbourhood in the past 12 months (Figure 5.5). The difference between females and males among 13-17 year olds who witnessed physical violence in the past 12 months were statistically significant.

▲ Figure 5.4.

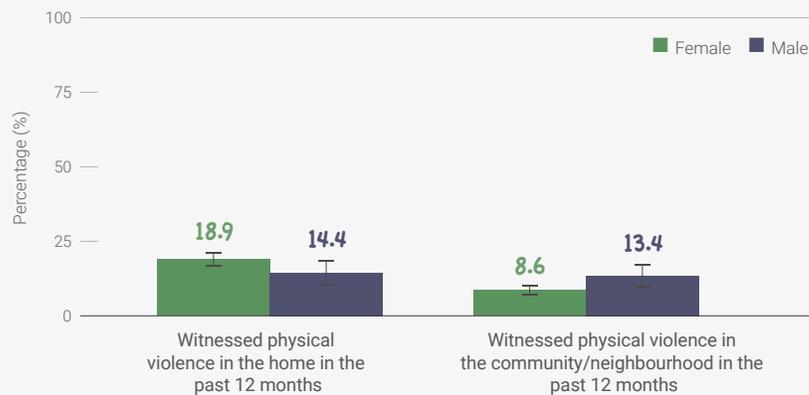
Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home and in the community/ neighbourhood before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 5.5.

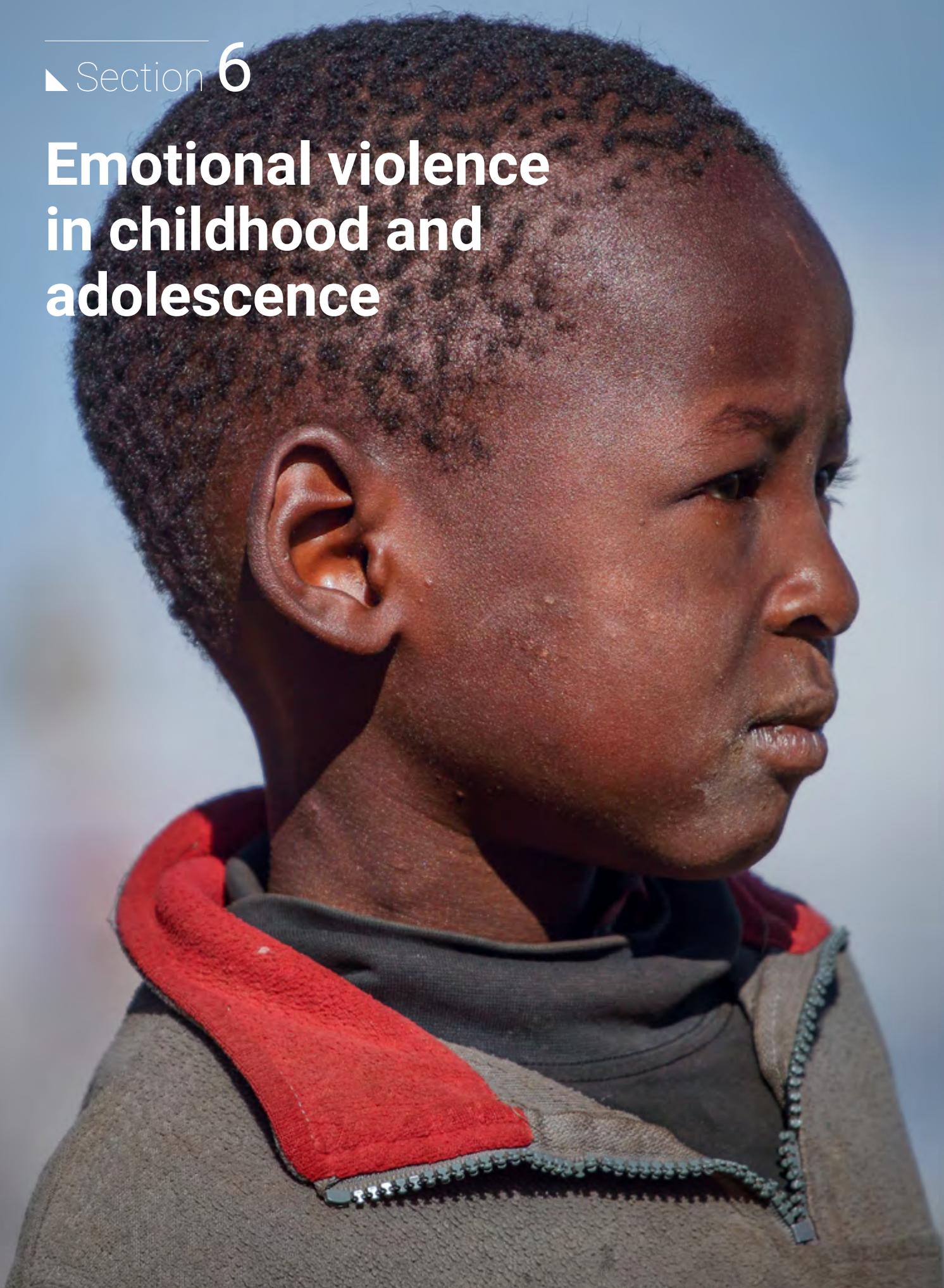
Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home and in the community/ neighbourhood in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▾ Section 6

Emotional violence in childhood and adolescence





Emotional violence in childhood and adolescence



Among **18-24** year olds

10.6% of females
and
7.8% of males

experienced emotional violence
by a parent, adult caregiver, or
other adult relative before age 18

Among **13-17** year olds

6.9% of females
and
3.8% of males

experienced emotional violence
by a parent, caregiver, or adult
relative in the past year

For both age groups,
the most common age
of first experience of
emotional violence was
12-17 years

Emotional violence in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds

Among those who ever had a partner,
14.5% of females experienced
emotional violence by a partner in the
past 12 months, compared with
5.7% of males



Section 6

This section describes childhood experiences of emotional violence perpetrated by parents, adult caregivers, or adult relatives and by intimate partners. For 13-17-year-olds, peer emotional violence is also reported.

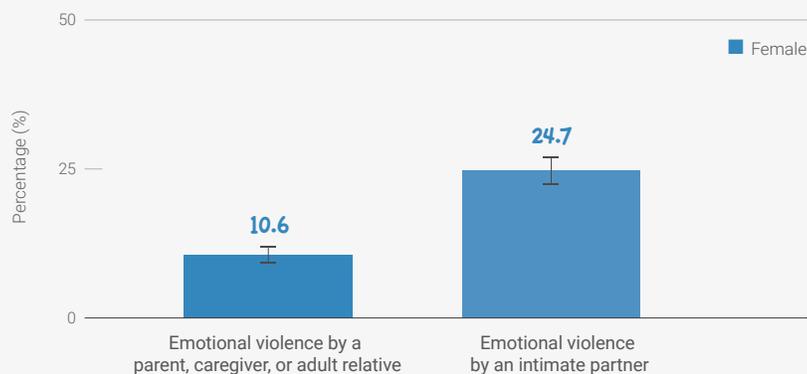


6.1. Emotional violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Tables 6.1.1 through 6.1.3 include findings of emotional violence among 18-24-year-olds before age 18. Among 18-24-year-olds, 10.6% of females and 7.8% of males experienced emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18 (Figure 6.1). For both females (82.3%) and males (89.2%) who experienced emotional violence in childhood, the most common age of first experience of emotional violence was 12-17 years. Among females and males who had an intimate partner, 24.7% of females and 15.5% of males experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner.

Figure 6.1.

Prevalence of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative or by an intimate partner among those who have had a partner before age 18, among female 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

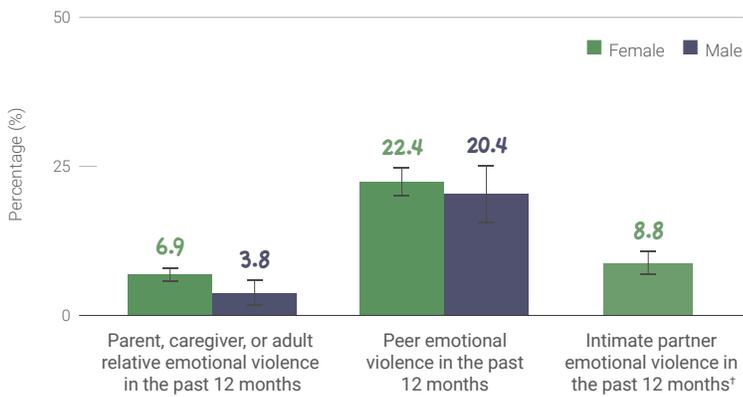


*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 6.2.

Prevalence of emotional violence in the past 12 months by different perpetrator types among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
 † Among those who had a partner. The estimate for males experiencing emotional violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months was unreliable and was not included in the figure.
 Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



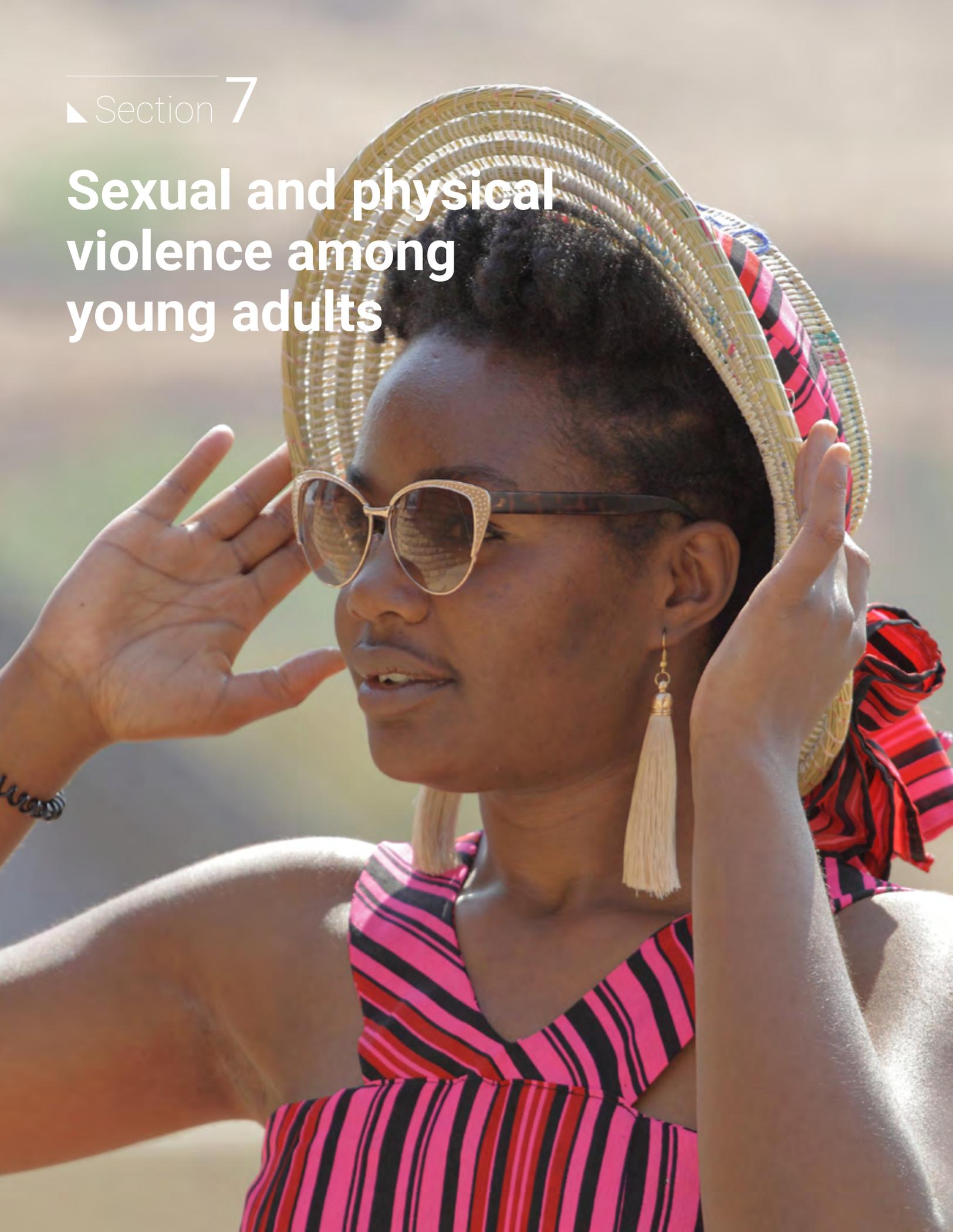
▲ **6.2. Emotional violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds**

Tables 6.2.1 through 6.2.4 include findings of emotional violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds. Among 13-17-year-olds, 6.9% of females and 3.8% of males experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past year. The most common age of first experience was 12-17 for both females (90.5%) and males (91.9%). More than one out of five females (22.4%) and males (20.4%) experienced peer emotional violence in the past 12 months (Figure 6.2). Among females who ever had a partner, 8.8% experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. This estimate was unreliable for males.



Section 7

Sexual and physical violence among young adults



Sexual violence in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds



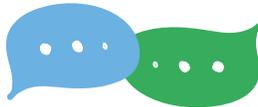
In the past 12 months, **9.9%** of females and **4.8%** of males experienced sexual violence



The most common perpetrators of sexual violence experienced by **females** in the past 12 months were a current or former intimate partner (49.3%), followed by a friend (17.0%) and a neighbor (8.9%). For **males**, the most common perpetrators were a current or former intimate partner (39.7%)

Disclosure, knowledge and service-seeking among those who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds

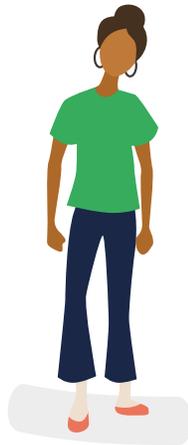


About **1 out of 2** females **47.1%**

knew of a place to go for help for sexual violence

Nearly **4 in 5** males **78.4%**

who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months told someone



Among **females** who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, **11.5%** sought help

Physical violence in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds

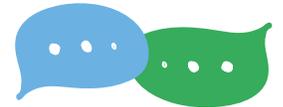


12.9% of females and **18.0%** of males experienced physical violence in the past year

Females had significantly higher prevalence than males of intimate partner physical violence, and **males** had significantly higher prevalence of peer physical violence

Disclosure, knowledge and service-seeking among those who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds



2 out of 3 females **66.8%**

and

1/2 of males **50.8%**

who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience

For **females**: **12.6%** sought help and **10.6%** received help

For **males**: **7.5%** sought help



This section describes sexual and physical violence in the past 12 months among young adults. Prevalence, perpetrators, and service-seeking for sexual and physical violence are included for 18-24-year-olds who experienced violence in the past year. The overall prevalence of sexual violence in the past 12 months among young adults is presented, along with the prevalence of each of the four forms of sexual violence.

unwanted sexual touching, 3.2% experienced unwanted attempted sex, 2.1% experienced pressured or coerced sex, and 2.1% experienced physically forced sex in the past 12 months. For males, 4.5% experienced unwanted sexual touching. The estimates of males were unreliable for unwanted attempted sex; pressured or coerced sex; or physically forced sex in the past 12 months. In Table 7.1.2, 3.6% of females experienced pressured or physically forced sex in the past 12 months.



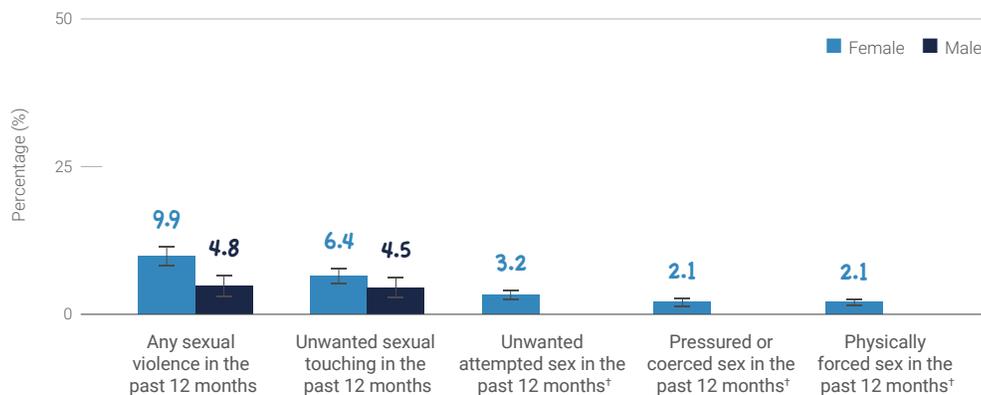
7.1. Sexual violence in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds

Findings related to sexual violence in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds are provided in Tables 7.1.1 through 7.1.7. In the past 12 months, 9.9% of females and 4.8% of males ages 18-24 experienced sexual violence (Figure 7.1). Among females, 6.4% experienced

Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence experienced by females in the past 12 months included a current or previous intimate partner (49.3%), a friend (17.0%) and a neighbour (8.9%). For males, 39.7% of perpetrators were a current or former intimate partner. Among females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, 31.1% perceived the perpetrators of the most recent incidents to be at least five years older. Among females who experienced pressured, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months, 31.2% perceived the perpetrator to be at least 5 years older. These estimates were unreliable for males.

Figure 7.1.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



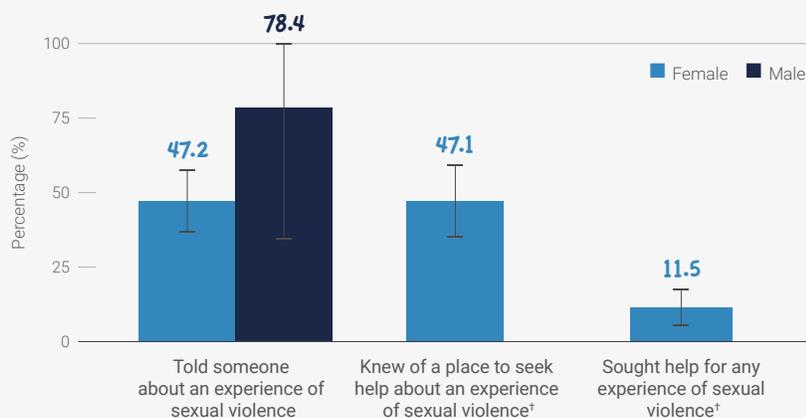
*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

† The estimates for males experiencing unwanted attempted sex, pressured or coerced sex, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months are unreliable and is not included in the figure.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 7.2.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

[†] The estimates for males for knowledge and service-seeking for any incident of sexual violence among those who experienced sexual violence are unreliable and is not included in the figure.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

7.1.2. Disclosure, knowledge, and service-seeking among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Among females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, nearly half (47.2%) told someone about an experience (Figure 7.2). Among females who disclosed, 59.2% told a friend or neighbour, and 45.0% told a relative. Nearly four in five males (78.4%) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months told someone. About one out of two females (47.1%) knew of a place to go for help for sexual violence. Among females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, 11.5% sought help. The estimates for knowledge of services for males and service receipt for females were unreliable.



▲ 7.2. Physical violence in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds

Tables 7.2.1 through 7.2.6 include findings of physical violence in the past 12 months among young adults. Among 18-24-year-olds, 12.9% of females and 18.0% of males experienced physical violence in the past year. Among females, 7.2% experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, 2.9% by an adult in the community

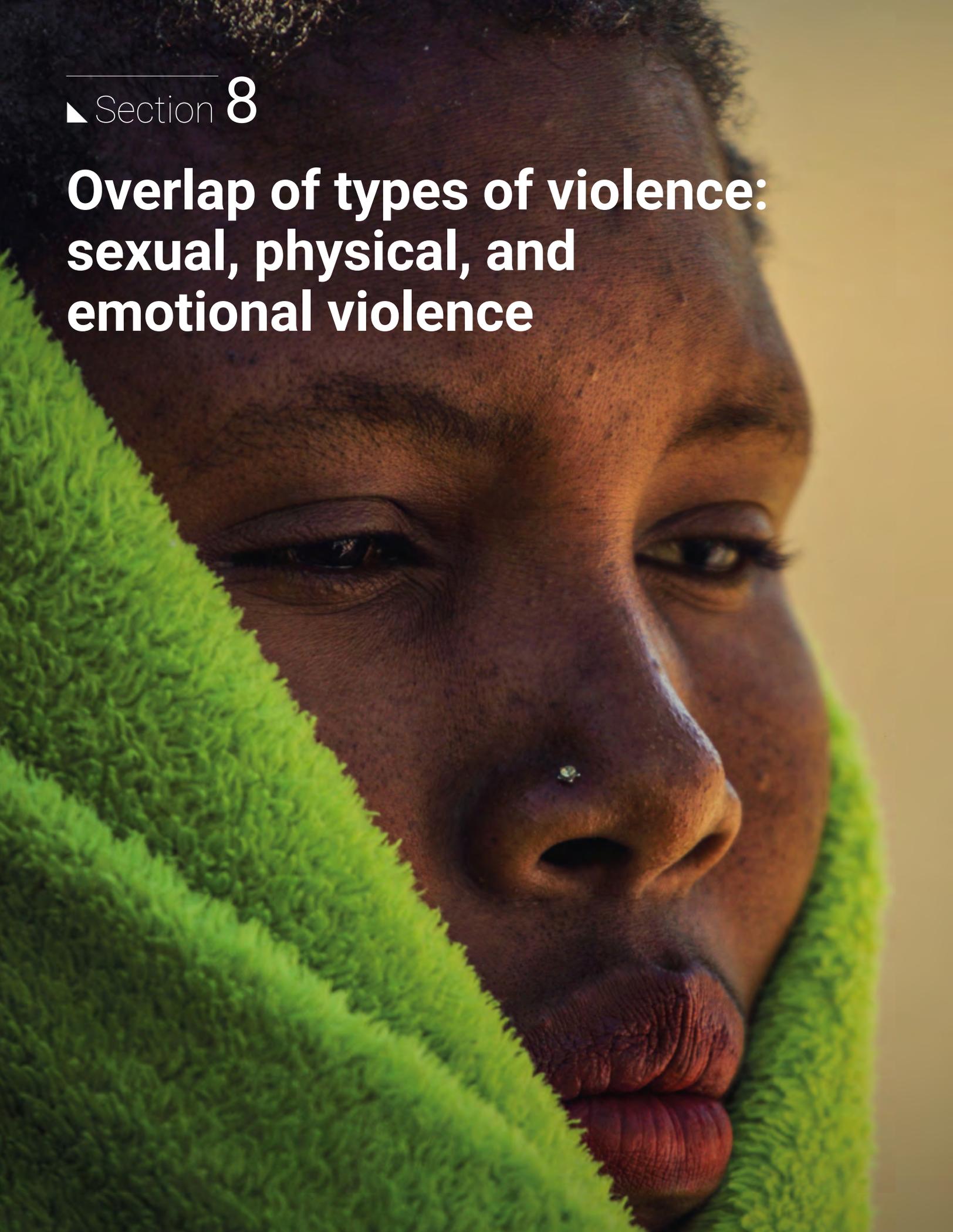
or neighbourhood, and 2.3% by a peer. For males, 1.6% experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, 5.7% by an adult in the community or neighbourhood, and 10.5% by a peer. About three out of ten females (31.8%) and males (28.1%) were injured as a result of physical violence in the past 12 months.

7.2.2. Disclosure, knowledge, and service-seeking among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

Two out of three females (66.8%) and half of males (50.8%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience. Those who disclosed told a relative (females, 75.6%; males, 58.0%), and 25.7% of females told a friend or neighbour. About two out of five females (42.2%) and males (41.1%) knew of a place to seek help. For females, 12.6% sought help and 10.6% received help. For males, 7.5% sought help. The estimate of males who received help was unreliable. Females who did not seek services for physical violence in the past 12 months indicated their reasons for not seeking services were that they did not think it was a problem (30.0%), they were afraid of getting in trouble (22.3%), they did not want or need services (19.8%), and they felt it was their fault (11.8%). For males, 65.6% indicated that they did not think it was a problem.

▾ Section 8

Overlap of types of violence: sexual, physical, and emotional violence



Overlap of types of violence in childhood and in the past 12 months

Among **18-24** year olds

- 43.0%** of females and **59.0%** of males experienced any violence before age 18
- 5.5%** of females experienced sexual violence only
- 21.0%** of females and **47.5%** of males experienced physical violence only

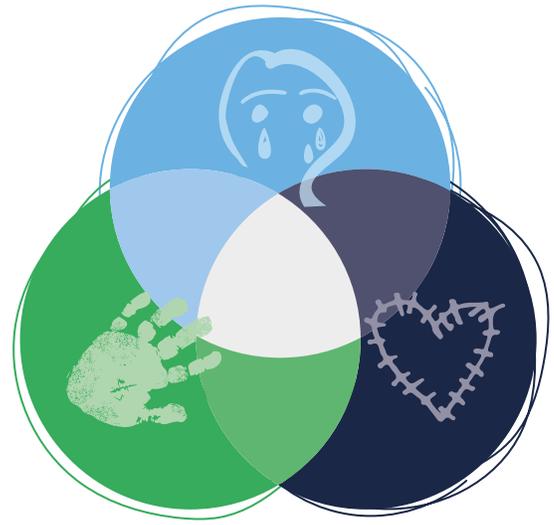


22.8%



23.4%

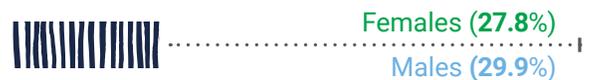
About **1 in 4** females and nearly **1 in 3** males experienced any violence in the past 12 months



Overlap of types of violence in the past 12 months

Among **13-17** year olds

More than **1** out of **4** experienced any violence in the past 12 months



In this age group, **3.4%** of females experienced sexual violence only, **15.4%** of females and **24.5%** of males experienced physical violence only, and **2.4%** of females experienced emotional violence only

Although specific forms of violence have a distinctive nature and can occur in isolation, attempts to categorize violence can be somewhat artificial given that the boundaries between acts of violence often become blurred. Overlap among different forms of violence could happen in one of two ways: (1) violence could occur simultaneously (e.g., when a youth is being emotionally and physically subjected to violence at the same time); and/or (2) violence could occur to the same youth, but at different points in time. The overlap of sexual, physical, and emotional violence experienced before age 18 are described here. In this section, “sexual violence” includes the four subtypes of sexual violence (unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, pressured or coerced sex, and physically forced sex).



8.1. Overlap of different types of violence in childhood and in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds

Tables 8.1.1 and 8.1.3 include data on overlap of types of violence in childhood and in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds. In this age group, 43.0% of females and 59.0% of males experienced any violence before age 18; 5.5% of females experienced sexual violence only, 21.0% of females and 47.5% of males experienced physical violence only, and 3.5% of females experienced emotional violence only in childhood. The estimate of males who experienced sexual violence only and emotional violence only were unreliable. Significantly more males experienced physical violence only than females. There was some overlap in violence experiences; 10.9% of females and 8.5% of males experienced two types of violence; and 2.1% of females experienced all three types. The estimate of males who experienced all three types of violence was unreliable.

About one out of four 18-24-year-old females (22.8%) and males (23.4%) experienced any violence in the past 12 months. In this age group, 6.0% of females and 2.3% of males experienced sexual violence only, 7.9% of females and 13.0% of males experienced physical violence only, and 3.2% of females and 2.9% of males experienced emotional violence only. For females, 4.2% experienced two types of violence and 1.5% experienced all three types. For males, 4.8% experienced two types.



8.2. Overlap of types of violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds

Table 8.1.2 includes data on overlap among types of violence in the past 12 months for 13-17-year-olds. More than one out of four 13-17-year-olds (females, 27.8%; males, 29.9%) experienced any violence in the past 12 months. In this age group, 3.4% of females experienced sexual violence only, 15.4% experienced physical violence only, and 2.4% experienced emotional violence only. Among males, 24.5% experienced physical violence only; the estimates for sexual violence only and emotional violence only were unreliable. In the past 12 months, 5.6% of females and 2.6% of males experienced two types of violence, and 1.0% of females experienced all three types. The estimate of males who experienced all three types of violence in the past 12 months was unreliable.

▾ Section 9

**Health conditions
associated with
sexual, physical,
and emotional
violence**



Health conditions and childhood sexual violence

Among **18-24** year olds

Females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood **were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days (42.7% versus 28.0%)**; to have ever intentionally hurt themselves (5.5% versus 1.8%); and to have ever thought of suicide (21.2% versus 9.1%)



Health conditions and childhood physical violence

Among **18-24** year olds

Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood physical violence **were significantly more likely than those who did not experience physical violence in childhood to have mental distress in the past 30 days (37.3% versus 26.6%)** and to have ever thought of suicide (18.2% versus 7.2%)



Health conditions and childhood emotional violence

Among **18-24** year olds

Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood emotional violence **were significantly more likely to experience mental distress (51.4% versus 27.3%)**; have ever intentionally hurt themselves (7.1% versus 1.8%); and to have ever thought of suicide (24.0% versus 9.2%)



Missing school due to violence

Among **18-24** year olds

6.2% of females missed school as a result of sexual violence in childhood

Sexual, physical and emotional violence in the past 12 months and mental and physical health among 13-17 year olds

Health conditions and sexual violence

Among **13-17** year olds

Females ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months **were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days (42.7% versus 20.1%)**; to have ever intentionally hurt themselves (11.0% versus 1.3%); to have ever thought of suicide (13.8% versus 3.8%); and to have ever had symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (12.9% versus 4.3%)



Health conditions and physical violence

Among **13-17** year olds

There were significant differences between females ages 13-17 who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months and those who did not for **mental distress in the past 30 days (28.5% versus 19.8%)**; having ever thought of suicide (7.9% versus 3.6%); and symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (7.1% versus 4.3%)



Health conditions and emotional violence

Among **13-17** year olds

There were significant differences between females ages 13-17 who experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months and those who did not for **mental distress in the past 30 days (48.5% versus 19.7%)**; having ever intentionally hurt themselves (9.8% versus 1.4%); having ever thought of suicide (18.6% versus 3.5%); and symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (10.8% versus 4.5%)





This section describes the relationship between health outcomes in young adulthood among 13-24-year-olds and experiences of sexual, physical, and/or emotional violence in childhood. The health outcomes assessed include: mental distress in the past 30 days; binge drinking in the past 30 days; current cigarette use; drug use in the past 30 days; self-harm behaviours, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts; and symptoms or diagnosis of STIs. Health outcomes that do not specify “in the past 30 days” may have occurred at any time in the person’s life (ever). Mental distress was measured using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale.²⁹ The scale includes 6 items that assess the frequency of feeling: nervous, hopeless, restless, so sad nothing could cheer them up, that everything was an effort, or worthless. A Kessler score of five or higher indicates moderate or severe mental distress. This section also describes pregnancy among females as a result of physically forced sex or sex when a person was too drunk to say no and prevalence of missing school after childhood sexual violence.

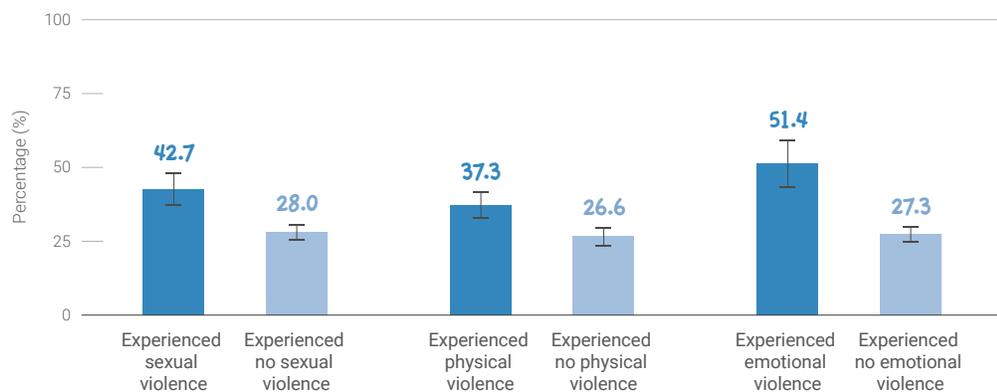
9.1. Sexual, physical, and emotional violence in childhood and mental and physical health among 18-24-year-olds

Tables 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 include findings of health conditions by experience of childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence among 18-24-year-olds. Estimates for health conditions mentioned at the beginning of Section 9 were compared between 18-24-year-olds who did versus who did not experience sexual, physical, or emotional violence before age 18 by sex. This section highlights significant differences by experience of violence.

Females and males can have health conditions that are correlated with experiences of violence in childhood. Females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days (42.7% versus 28.0%; Figure 9.1), to have ever intentionally hurt themselves (5.5% versus 1.8%), to have ever thought of suicide

Figure 9.1.

Mental distress in the past 30 days by experience of sexual, physical, or emotional violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old females – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



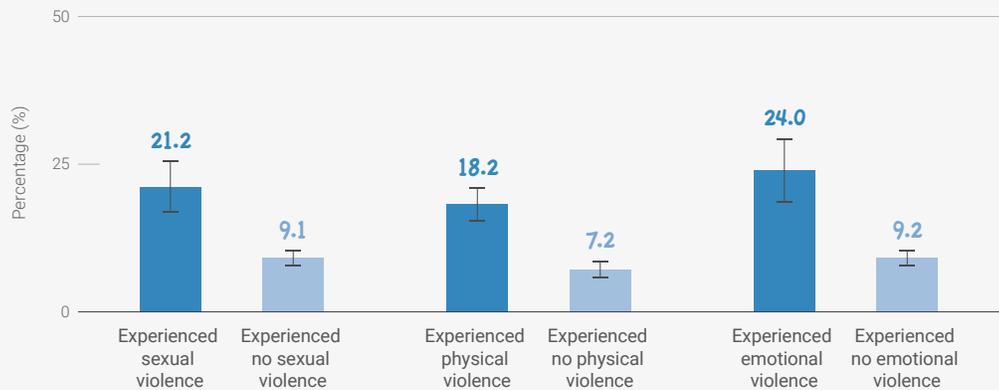
*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

29. Kessler, R.C., Barker, P.R., Colpe, L.J., Epstein, J.F., Gfroerer, J.C., Hiripi, E., Howes, M.J., Normand, S-L.T., Manderscheid, R.W., Walters, E.E., Zaslavsky, A.M. (2003). Screening for serious mental illness in the general population Archives of General Psychiatry. 60(2), 184-189

▲ Figure 9.2.

Prevalence of having ever thought of suicide by experience of sexual, physical, or emotional violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old females – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



▲ 9.2. Sexual, physical, and emotional violence in the past 12 months and mental and physical health among 13-17-year-olds

(21.2% versus 9.1%; Figure 9.2), and ever attempted suicide (37.8% versus 25.0%) than those who did not experience childhood sexual violence. Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood physical violence were significantly more likely than those who did not experience physical violence in childhood to have mental distress in the past 30 days (37.3% versus 26.6%) and to have ever thought of suicide (18.2% versus 7.2%). Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood emotional violence were significantly more likely to experience mental distress (51.4% versus 27.3%), have ever intentionally hurt themselves (7.1% versus 1.8%), and to have ever thought of suicide (24.0% versus 9.2%) than those who did not experience childhood emotional violence.

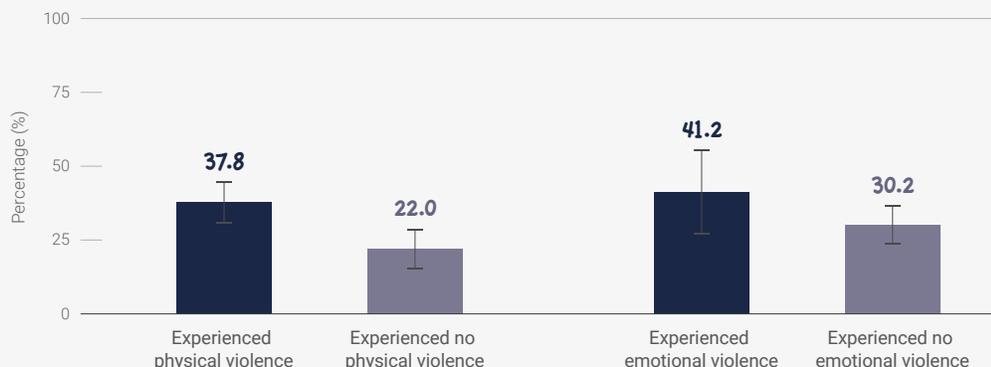
Males who experienced physical violence in childhood were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days than those who did not experience childhood physical violence (37.8% versus 22.0%; Figure 9.3). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in Tables 9.1.1 (for females) and 9.1.2 (for males).

Tables 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 include findings related to health conditions and sexual, physical, and emotional violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds. Estimates for health conditions mentioned at the beginning of Section 9 were compared between 13-17-year-olds who did versus who did not experience sexual, physical, or emotional violence in childhood by sex. This section highlights significant differences by experience of violence.

Females ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days (42.7% versus 20.1), to have ever intentionally hurt themselves (11.0% versus 1.3%), to have ever thought of suicide (13.8% versus 3.8%), and to have ever had symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (12.9% versus 4.3%) than those who did not experience sexual violence in the past 12 months. There were significant differences between females ages 13-17 who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

▲ Figure 9.3.

Mental distress in the past 30 days by experience of physical or emotional violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old males
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
 Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

and those who did not for mental distress in the past 30 days (28.5% versus 19.8%), having ever thought of suicide (7.9% versus 3.6%), and symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (7.1% versus 4.3%). Females ages 13-17 who experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to experience mental distress in the past 30 days (48.5% versus 19.7%), to have ever intentionally hurt themselves (9.8% versus 1.4%), to have ever thought of suicide (18.6% versus 3.5%), and symptoms or a diagnosis of an STI (10.8% versus 4.5%) than those who did not experience emotional violence in the past 12 months. Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in Tables 9.2.1 (for females) and 9.2.2 (for males).



▲ 9.3. Pregnancy as a result of sexual violence and missing school due to childhood violence

Tables 9.3.1 through 9.3.3 include data on pregnancy as a result of sexual violence and missing school due to childhood violence. Among females ages 13-24 who experienced coerced or physically forced sex or sex when they were too drunk to say no, 4.3% became pregnant as

a result of an incident. Among 18-24-year-olds females who experienced any childhood sexual violence, 6.2% missed school as a result of sexual violence before age 18. The estimates of 18-24-year-old males who reported missing school due to childhood sexual violence were unreliable. The estimate for missing school due to violence among 13-17-year-old females was unreliable. The estimate for males ages 13-17 who experienced any sexual violence was suppressed as the denominator was unreliable.

Among 18-24-year-olds who experienced childhood physical violence, 7.0% of females missed school as a result of physical violence before age 18. The estimate of males who missed school as a result of childhood physical violence was unreliable. Among 13-17-year-olds who experienced childhood physical violence, 3.1% of females and 3.4% of males missed school as a result of physical violence.

Section 10

Sexual risk-taking behaviours and HIV



Sexual risk-taking behaviors and HIV behaviors in the past 21 months among 19-24 year olds



Among 19-24 year-olds who had sex in the past year, significantly more males than females had two or more sex partners in the past year



In the past 12 months, **26.3%** of females and **35.1%** of males had infrequent or no condom use, and 4.7% of females engaged in transactional sex



Sexual violence

Among females who experienced childhood sexual violence, 18.3% had multiple sex partners and 33.8% infrequently or never used condoms in the past year

Among males who experienced childhood sexual violence, 44.6% had multiple sex partners and 43.1% infrequently used condoms



Physical violence

Among females who experienced physical violence, 13.9% had multiple sex partners and 29.3% infrequently used condoms in the past year

For males who experienced physical violence, 43.3% had multiple sex partners and 41.0% infrequently used condoms



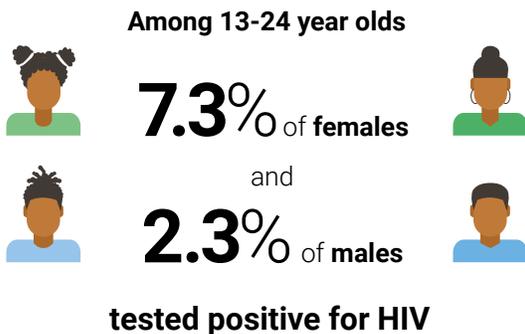
Emotional violence

Among females who experienced childhood emotional violence, 13.6% had multiple sex partners and 30.0% had infrequent condom use in the past year

Among males who experienced childhood emotional violence, 60.4% had multiple sex partners and 59.0% had infrequent condom use

HIV testing knowledge and behaviours among 19-24 year olds

Never being tested for HIV was rare; 4.0% of females and 10.5% of males had never been tested



Knowledge of where to get an HIV test was high among 13-24 year-olds

Of those who had ever had sex, **97.6%** of females and **91.9%** of males knew where to go for an HIV test





10.1. Sexual risk-taking behaviours in the past 12 months among 19-24-year-olds

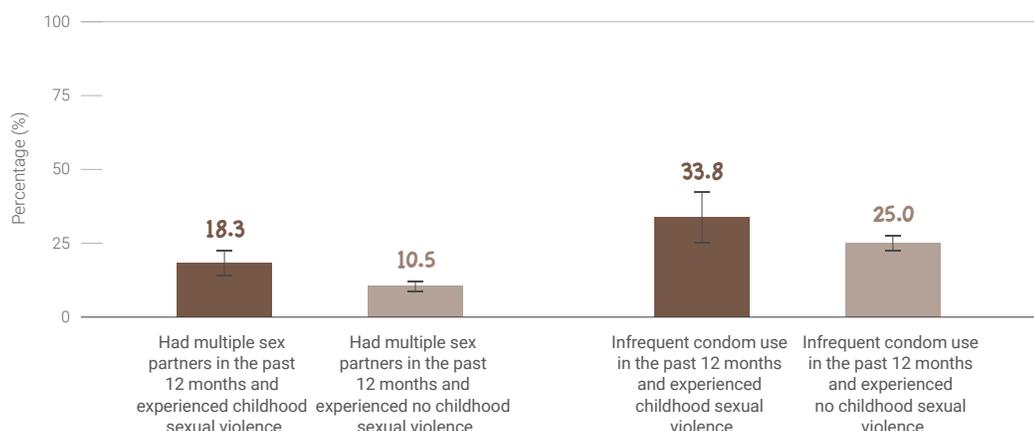
This section examines the association between exposure to violence in childhood and sexual risk-taking behaviours (e.g., having two or more sexual partners, infrequent condom use, and transactional sex). Multiple sexual partners are defined as two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months. Infrequent condom use is defined as never or sometimes using condoms in the past 12 months, whether unmarried or married. Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex in the past 12 months.

Findings related to sexual risk-taking behaviours, overall and by experience of different types of violence, are included in Tables 10.1.1 to 10.1.4. In Table 10.1.1, among 19-24-year-olds who had sex, significantly fewer females than males had two or more sex partners in the past year (females, 11.6%; males, 44.3%). In the past 12 months, 26.3% of females and 35.1% of males had infrequent or no condom use, and 4.7% of females engaged in transactional sex. The estimate of males who engaged in transactional sex in the past 12 months was unreliable.

To explore the ways that exposure to violence during childhood determined later risk-taking behaviours, knowledge and use of HIV testing services, the analyses were restricted to participants ages 19-24. Therefore, the inclusion of only those aged 19 or older ensures that violence in childhood preceded involvement in current sexual risk-taking behaviours.

Among females who experienced childhood sexual violence and had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, 18.3% had multiple sex partners and 33.8% infrequently or never used condoms in the past year, compared to 10.5% and 25.0%, respectively of those who never experienced childhood sexual violence (Figure 10.1). The differences for multiple sex partners and infrequent or never used

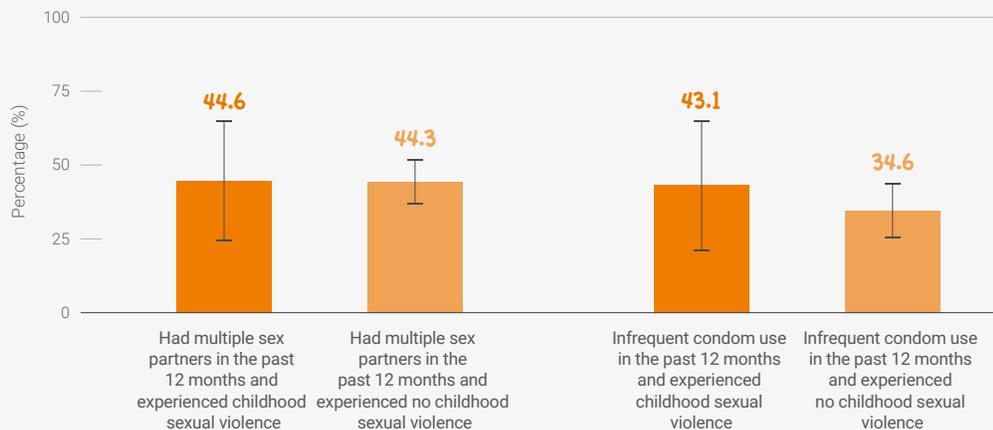
Figure 10.1. Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners and infrequent condom use in the past 12 months by experience of sexual violence before age 18, among 19-24-year old females who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 10.2.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners and infrequent condom use in the past 12 months by experience of sexual violence before age 18, among 19-24-year old males who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 month – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



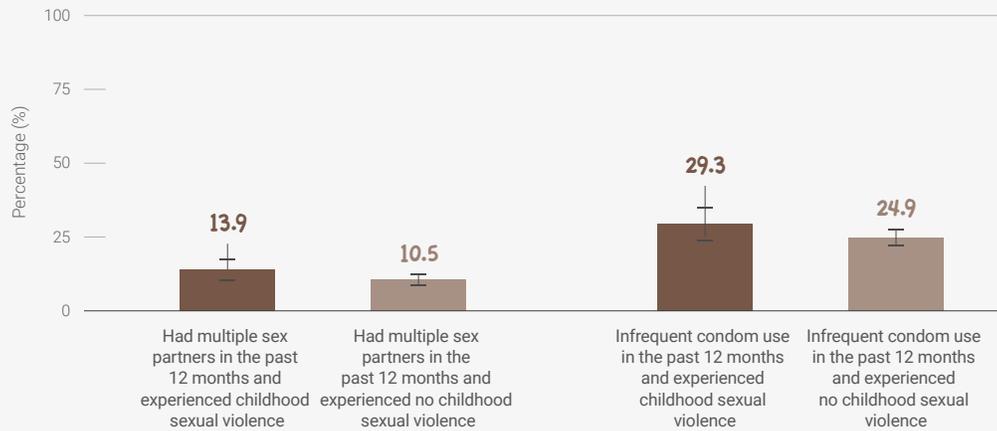
condom use were statistically significant between those who did and did not experience childhood sexual violence. Among males who experienced childhood sexual violence, 44.6% had multiple sex partners and 43.1% infrequently used condoms, compared to 44.3% and 34.6%, respectively, of those who did not experience sexual violence (Figure 10.2).

Among females who experienced childhood physical violence, 13.9% had multiple sex partners and 29.3% infrequently used condoms in the past year, compared to 10.5% and 24.9%, respectively, of those who did not experience childhood physical violence (Figure 10.3). For males who experienced physical violence, 43.3% had multiple sex partners and 41.0% infrequently used condoms, compared to 45.7% and 27.0%, respectively, of males who did not experience childhood physical violence (Figure 10.4).

Among females who experienced childhood emotional violence, 13.6% had multiple sex partners and 30.0% had infrequent condom use in the past year, compared to 11.4% and 25.9%, respectively, of females who did not experience childhood emotional violence. Among males who experienced childhood emotional violence, 60.4% had multiple sex partners and 59.0% had infrequent condom use, compared to 43.0% and 32.7%, respectively, of males who did not experience childhood emotional violence.

▲ Figure 10.3.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners and infrequent condom use in the past 12 months by experience of physical violence before age 18, among 19-24-year old females who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

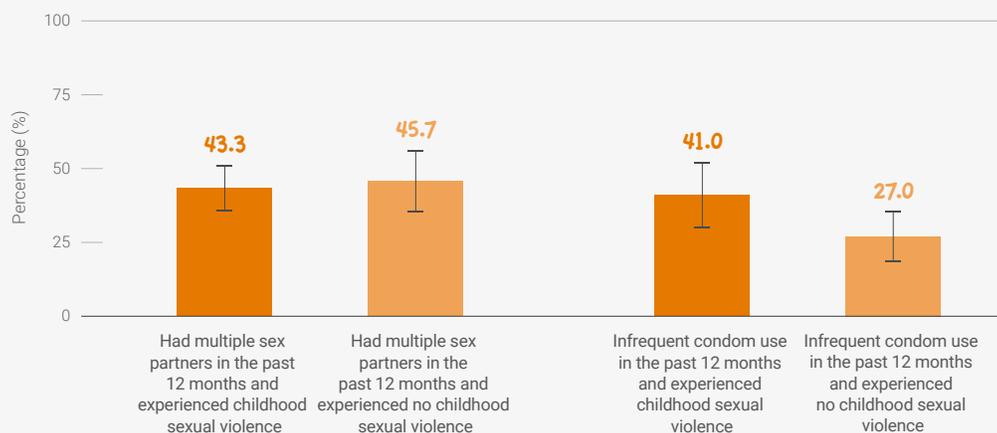


*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 10.4.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners and infrequent condom use in the past 12 months by experience of physical violence before age 18, among 19-24-year old males who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



10.2. HIV testing knowledge and behaviours

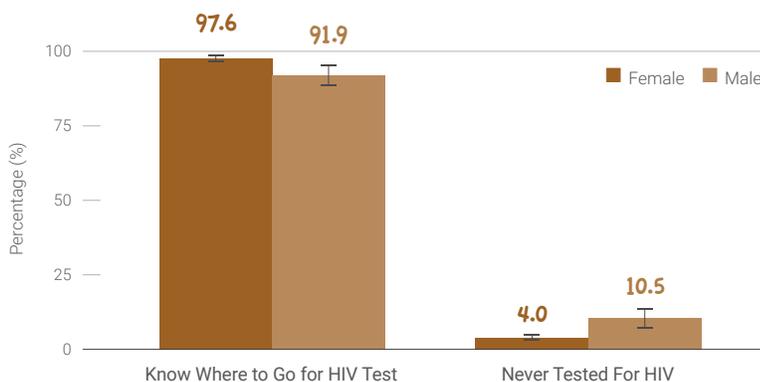
This section describes knowledge of HIV testing services and HIV testing behaviours among females and males overall and among those who experienced any sexual violence before age 18, compared to those who did not. These findings are provided in Tables 10.2.1 through 10.3.1. Although unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sexual intercourse are considered

low risk for direct HIV transmission, those findings are still presented, as all forms of sexual violence may increase the risk of HIV indirectly – through diminished ability to negotiate safe sex and engagement in sexual risk-taking behaviours later in life. Data are presented in a single age range of 13-24 years, as the age of consent for HIV testing is 13 years old in Lesotho.

Knowledge of where to get an HIV test was high among 13-24-year-olds. Of those who had ever had sex,³⁰ 97.6% of females and 91.9% of males knew where to go for an HIV test (Figure 10.5). Never being tested for HIV was rare; 4.0% of females and 10.5% of males had never been tested, a statistically significant difference. Among those who ever had sex but were never tested for HIV, common reasons for both females (25.1%) and males (21.4%) were other reasons. For females, common reasons for never testing also included: they did not want to know if they had HIV (22.2%) and they were afraid that others would know their test results (21.5%). For males, a common reason with reliable estimates was that they did not need the test and were low risk (19.4%).

HIV status was determined through HIV testing or a participant self-reporting the results of a prior HIV test. Among 13-24-year-olds, 7.3% of females and 2.3% of males tested positive for HIV. This difference was statistically significant.

Figure 10.5. HIV testing knowledge and behaviour among 13-24-year-olds who ever had sexual intercourse – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

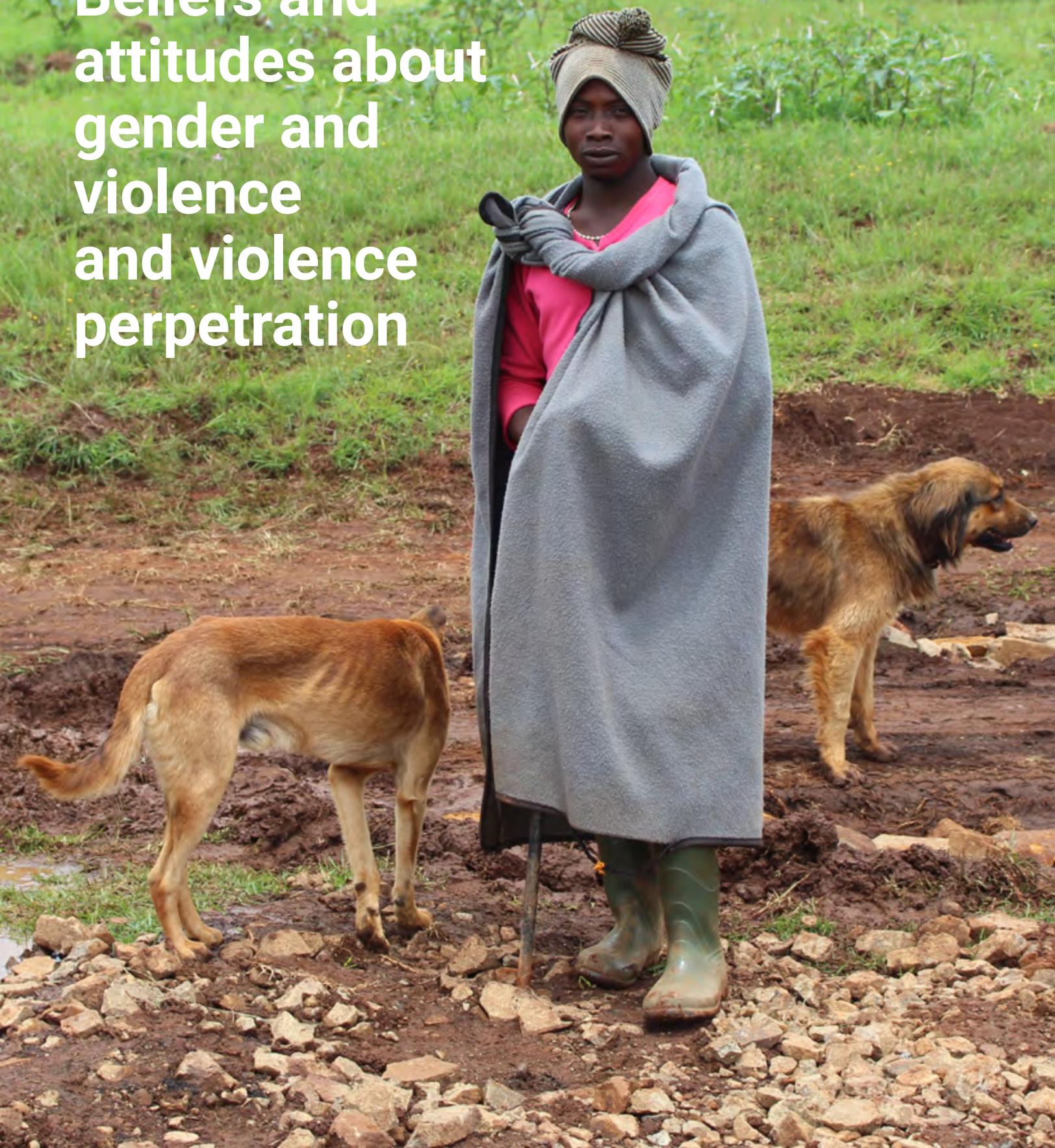


*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars. Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

30. See Section 3.5 on Sexual History

Section 11

Beliefs and attitudes about gender and violence and violence perpetration





Among **18-24** year olds

24.4% of females and **22.6% of males** indicated it was acceptable for a husband to beat his wife under one or more circumstances



Among **13-17** year olds

31.7% of females and **24.5% of males** endorsed one or more attitudes supportive of domestic violence



Among **18-24** year olds

27.4% of females and **47.0% of males** endorsed traditional gender and sexual norms

Childhood experience of **sexual and physical violence** was associated with increased perpetration of physical violence among females and males

Among youth ages 18-24 who ever had a partner, **5.9% of females** and **21.7% of males** perpetrated physical violence against an intimate partner.



11.1%



50.4%



Females and males who experienced childhood sexual violence (females, 11.1%; males, 50.4%) were significantly more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence than those who did not (females, 5.0%; males, 20.0%)



This section examines attitudes and beliefs related to violence. Questions assessed attitudes justifying the use of physical violence by husbands against their wives. All participants were asked if it was right for a husband to hit or beat his wife under five different circumstances: if she goes out without telling him, if she does not take care of the children, if she argues with him, if she refuses to have sex with him, or if she is suspected of having an affair.

The survey also examined the endorsement of traditional norms about gender and sexual behaviour and intimate partner violence. These included: men, not women, should decide when to have sex; men need more sex than women; men need to have sex with other women even if they have a good relationship with their wife; women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men; and a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.



11.1. Beliefs about domestic violence and traditional gender norms

Findings related to attitudes about domestic violence and traditional gender norms are included in Tables 11.1.1 and 11.1.2. Among 18-24-year-olds, 24.4% of females and 22.6% of males indicated it was acceptable for a husband to beat his wife under one or more circumstances. Among 13-17-year-olds, 31.7% of females and 24.5% of males endorsed one or more attitudes supportive of domestic violence. Among 18-24-year-olds, 27.4% of females and 47.0% of males endorsed traditional gender and sexual norms. This difference was statistically significant. Among 13-17-year-olds, significantly fewer females (30.0%) than males (41.4%) endorsed one or more traditional gender and sexual norms.



11.2. Prevalence of violence perpetration

This section presents the prevalence of sexual and physical violence perpetration among 18-24 and 13-17-year-old females and males. Here, violence perpetration includes physical violence against any victim, as measured by: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening the participant with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon. Similarly, questions on sexual violence included forcing a current or former intimate partner or someone else to have sex when they did not want to. This section also presents data on perpetration of violence by experiences of sexual violence and physical violence in childhood. Participants were asked if they had ever perpetrated these types of violence, so it is not possible to determine when the perpetration happened in relation to timing of experiences of violence. Tables 11.2.1 through 11.2.3 include findings of violence perpetration.

Childhood experiences of sexual and physical violence were associated with increased perpetration of physical violence among females and males. Among 18-24-year-olds, significantly fewer females (12.1%) than males (25.3%) perpetrated physical violence. Females who experienced childhood sexual violence were significantly more likely than those who did not to have perpetrated physical violence (22.5% versus 10.3%). Females who experienced childhood physical violence were significantly more likely than those who did not experience childhood physical violence to have perpetrated physical violence (25.6% versus 5.4%). Significantly more males who experienced childhood sexual violence (59.3%) than those who did not (23.5%) perpetrated physical violence. Males who experienced childhood physical violence were significantly more likely than those who did not to perpetrate physical violence (35.8% versus 11.1%).

Among 13-17-year-olds, 12.5% of females and 19.2% of males perpetrated physical violence, a statistically significant difference. Females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely than those who did not experience sexual violence in the past 12 months to have perpetrated physical violence (28.9% versus 11.1%). Females who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely than those who did not experience physical



violence in the past 12 months to have perpetrated physical violence (26.3% versus 8.7%). There were no statistically significant differences between 13-17-year-old males who did versus did not experience sexual and physical violence on their perpetration of physical violence.



11.2. Prevalence of intimate partner violence perpetration

Violence perpetration against intimate partners, or intimate partner violence, included both forcing an intimate partner to have sex and physical violence. As in previous sections, an intimate partner refers to a current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife, while ever-partnered refers to someone who has ever had an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence perpetration findings are provided in Tables 11.3.1 through 11.3.4.

Among youth ages 18-24 who ever had a partner, 5.9% of females and 21.7% of males perpetrated physical violence against an intimate partner, a statistically

significant difference. Females and males who experienced childhood sexual violence (females, 11.1%; males, 50.4%) were significantly more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence than those who did not (females, 5.0%; males, 20.0%). Females who experienced childhood physical violence (10.2%) were more likely than those who did not to perpetrate intimate partner violence (3.7%). There were no significant differences between males who experienced childhood physical violence and those who did not for intimate partner violence perpetration.

For 13-17-year-old females, there were no significant differences between those who did versus did not experience sexual violence in the past 12 months, and those who did versus did not experience physical violence in the past 12 months, on intimate partner violence perpetration.

Section 12

**Characteristics
associated
with sexual
and physical
violence**





Among **18-24** year olds



Among **18-24** year olds



Among **13-17** year olds

Females with a functional disability in any domain were more likely to have experienced violence in childhood than those with no functional disability (32.6% versus 17.4%)

Females who witnessed violence in the home before age 18 were significantly more likely to experience childhood violence (29.1%) compared to those who did not witness violence at home (11.2%)

Males who were not attending school were more likely than those enrolled in school to have experienced violence in the past 12 months (30.2% versus 15.7%)



This section presents experiences of sexual and physical violence by characteristics of participants, including: loss of one or both parents in childhood, disability, completion of primary school, employment status in the past year, ever witnessing violence at home in childhood, marriage or cohabitation status, arranged or forced marriage status, and food or material insecurity.



12.1. Characteristics associated with violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds

Table 12.1 includes findings of characteristics of 18-24-year-olds by experiences of sexual or physical violence in childhood. Characteristics with significant associations with childhood violence are presented here; the table includes findings for all characteristics assessed. Among 18-24-year-olds, females with a functional disability in any domain were more likely to have experienced violence in childhood than those with no functional disability (32.6% versus 17.4%). Females who witnessed violence in the home before age 18 were

significantly more likely to experience childhood violence (29.1%) compared to those who did not witness violence at home (11.2%). Males ages 18-24 with a functional disability were significantly more likely than those with no disability to have experienced violence in childhood (42.9% versus 18.7%).



12.2. Characteristics associated with violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds

Table 12.2 includes findings of characteristics of 13-17-year-olds by experiences of sexual or physical violence in the past 12 months. Characteristics with significant associations with childhood violence are presented here; the table includes findings for all characteristics assessed. Among 13-17-year-olds, females with a functional disability in any domain were more likely than those without a functional disability to have experienced violence in the past 12 months (37.4% versus 23.4%). Females who witnessed violence at home were significantly more likely to have experienced violence in the past 12 months (35.2% versus 18.7%). Males who were not attending school were more likely than those enrolled in school to have experienced violence in the past 12 months (30.2% versus 15.7%). Males who witnessed violence at home were significantly more likely than males who did not to have experienced sexual or physical violence in the past 12 months (41.3% versus 20.9%).



Section 13

INSPIRE Indicators



In 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children released INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children including seven strategies for effective and promising interventions

The Lesotho 2018 VACS covers indicators for six of seven strategies:

- » Norms and values;
- » Safe environments;
- » Parent and caregiver support;
- » Income and economic strengthening
- » Education and life skills
- » Response and support strategies

Norms

Among 18-24-year-olds, 37.6% of females and 49.5% of males agreed it was necessary for parents to use corporal punishment to raise children



Significantly fewer females (41.8%) than males (58.4%) agreed it was necessary for teachers to use corporal punishment

Significantly more males (47.0%) than females (27.4%) endorsed traditional norms about gender and sexuality

Safe environments

3.1% of females ages 13-17 missed school or did not leave the home due to fear of violence in the past 12 months and

3.3% of females missed school or did not leave home due to safety problems



Income and economic strengthening

Among 13-17-year-olds, about **2 out of 3 females** (65.6%) and **males** (66.4%) experienced food insecurity



Education and life skills

Among 18-24-year-olds, **11.7%** of females and **31.4%** of males had early sexual debut, defined as first sex at or before age 15

Among females ages 18-24, **13.5%** had been pregnant before age 18 and **11.0%** were married before age 18



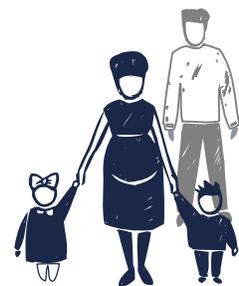
More than **11.7%** of females and nearly **1 in 5 males** (16.9%) **had been in a physical fight in the past 12 months**

Parent and caregiver support

More than **3 out of 4 females** **78.4%**

and **2 out of 3 males** **68.7%**

indicated their parents had high parental monitoring and supervision



More than nine out of ten females (96.6%) and males (95.2%) said they were close or very close to their mothers, and 76.7% of females and 79.2% of males said it was easy to talk to their mothers about something that was really bothering them

In 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children released INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, a technical package that includes evidence-based strategies with demonstrated success in preventing and responding to violence in childhood. The INSPIRE technical packages includes effective and promising interventions.³¹ There are seven strategies included in INSPIRE. The Lesotho 2018 VACS covers indicators for six of the strategies: Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening, and Education and life skills. Indicators for Response and support strategies for victims of violence are included in the previous sections on disclosure, knowledge of services, and service access among victims of sexual violence (sections 4.1.3 and 4.2.3) and physical violence (sections 5.1.1 and 5.2.2). Data on these INSPIRE indicators capture key opportunities to inform evidence-based interventions and approaches.



13.1. Norms and values

Data on Norms and Values are included in Table N. Among 18-24-year-olds, 37.6% of females and 49.5% of males agreed it was necessary for parents to use corporal punishment to raise children. This difference was statistically significant. Significantly fewer females (41.8%) than males (58.4%) agreed it was necessary for teachers to use corporal punishment. About one out of four females (24.4%) and 22.6% of males endorsed accepting attitudes toward wife beating. Significantly more males (47.0%) than females (27.4%) endorsed traditional norms about gender and sexuality.



13.2. Safe environments

Findings of Safe Environments indicators are provided in Table S. Data indicate that 3.1% females ages 13-17 missed school or did not leave the home due to fear of

violence in the past 12 months, and 3.3% missed school or did not leave home due to safety problems. These estimates are unreliable for males.



13.3. Parent and caregiver support

Table P includes data on Parent and Caregiver Supports. Among 13-17-year-olds, 10.5% of females and 6.3% of males said their parents used positive discipline strategies in the past 12 months. More than nine out of ten females (96.6%) and males (95.2%) said they were close or very close to their mothers, and 76.7% of females and 79.2% of males said it was easy to talk to their mothers about something that was really bothering them (Figure 13.1). More than three out of four females (78.4%) and two out of three males (68.7%) indicated their parents had high parental monitoring and supervision. More than one in five females (21.3%) and one out of four males (26.9%) experienced physical discipline or verbal aggression as a form of discipline by parents or caregivers in the past 12 months.



13.4. Income and economic strengthening

Tables I.1 and I.2 include findings of indicators for Income and Economic Strengthening. The survey included questions about food insecurity and economic strengthening. Among 13-17-year-olds, about two out of three females (65.6%) and males (66.4%) experienced food insecurity.



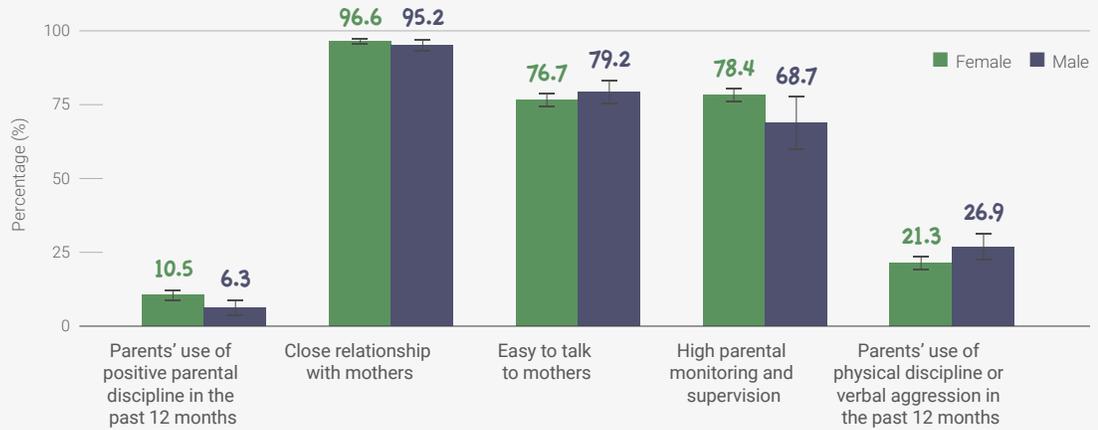
13.5. Education and life skills

Table E.1 and E.2 include findings of Education and Life Skills. Indicators of Education and Life Skills assess both engagement and participation in education and risk behaviours. Among 13-17-year-olds, 87.1% of females and 84.4% of males were currently enrolled in school, and 0.8% of females and 0.8% of males had at least one episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days. More than 11.7% of females and nearly one in five males (16.9%) had been in a physical fight in the past 12 months. Among 18-24-year-olds, 11.0% of females and 31.4% of males had early sexual debut, defined as first sex at or before age 15. This difference was statistically significant. Among females ages 18-24, 13.5% had been pregnant before age 18 and 11.0% were married before age 18.

31. World Health Organization. (2016). INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children. Geneva, Switzerland.

▲ Figure 13.1.

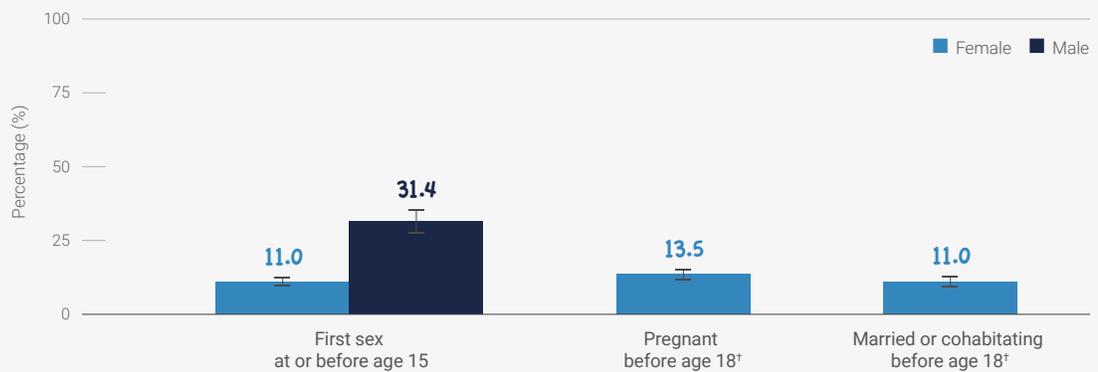
Parent and caregiver support and parent-youth relationships among 13-17-year-olds
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
 Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

▲ Figure 13.2

Prevalence of early sexual debut, early pregnancy, and child marriage among 18-24-year-olds
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



*All figures are presented with 95% confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.
 †† The survey only included questions about pregnancy for females. The estimate for males who were married or cohabitating before age 18 was unreliable and is not included in the figure.
 Source: Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

Section 14

DREAMS Districts





This section includes survey findings from females in the two PEPFAR DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) districts, Berea and Maseru. DREAMS is a partnership that focuses on reducing HIV among girls and young women.

DREAMS background characteristics

Among **18-24** year olds

1 out of 3 females

in Berea (32.1%) and Maseru (31.1%) **were married or lived with someone as if married**

Nearly **1/2** of females in Berea (47.6%) and Maseru (47.5%) were single or double orphans before the age of 18'

Nearly **seven in ten** females in Berea (67.9%) and **three in five** females in Maseru (59.6%) had completed secondary school



Among **13-17** year olds

Nearly 2 in 5 females

in Berea (39.6%) and Maseru (36.5%) **had lost one or both parents**

Child marriage was rare; 2.7% of females age 13-17 in Maseru had ever been married or lived with someone as if married



Sexual violence

One in eight females in Berea (13.4%) and one in six (17.2%) females in Maseru experienced sexual violence before age 18



Physical violence

Significantly fewer females ages 18-24 in Berea (20.9%) experienced childhood physical violence compared to Maseru (40.9%)



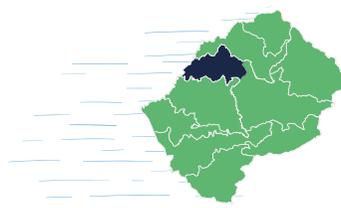
Emotional violence

Among 18-24-year-olds, significantly fewer females in Berea (9.3%) experienced childhood emotional violence compared to females in Maseru (16.1%)



Sexual risk-taking behaviours and HIV among young adults in DREAMS districts

Among **19-24** year olds



Knowledge of where to go for HIV testing was high among 13-24-year-olds (Berea, 98.6%; Maseru, 98.4%)

In Berea:
» **11.8%** had two or more sex partners in the past 12 months
» **28.7%** had infrequent condom use in the past 12 months

In Maseru:
» **15.0%** had two or more sex partners in the past 12 months
» **30.2%** had infrequent condom use in the past 12 months

1 in 5 females in **Berea** (5.8%) and **1 in 12** females in **Maseru** (8.3%) had tested positive for HIV



This section describes survey findings from females in the two districts, Berea and Maseru, where the PEPFAR DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) program is implemented. DREAMS is a partnership that focuses on reducing HIV among adolescent girls and young women.



14.1. DREAMS background characteristics

Tables D.1 and D.2 include background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds. One in eight females (Berea, 13.5%; Maseru, 12.8%) had never attended school or completed primary school or less. Nearly seven in ten females in Beria (67.9%) and three in five females in Maseru (59.6%) had completed secondary school. Nearly half of females in Beria (47.6%) and Maseru (47.5%) were single or double orphans before the age of 18. Significantly fewer females in Beria (24.9%) worked for money or other payment than females in Maseru (35.4%) in the past 12 months. Three in five females in Beria (61.2%) and 55.3% of females in Maseru experienced food insecurity.

One out of three females in Beria (32.1%) and Maseru (31.1%) were married or lived with someone as if married. Only 8.4% of females in Beria and 5.5% of females in Maseru were married or lived with someone as if married before the age of 18. Three quarters of females in Beria (74.6%) and Maseru (78.6%) had ever had sex, with 11.5% of females in both districts having early sexual initiation.

Tables D.3 and D.4 include background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds. One out of four females in Beria (26.3%) and Maseru (28.2%) had never attended school or completed primary school or less. Seven in ten females in Beria (73.7%) and Maseru (71.8%) had attended at least some secondary school. Nearly two in five females in Beria (39.6%) and Maseru (36.5%) had lost one or both parents. Only 3.2% females in Beria worked for money

or other payment in the past 12 months. The estimate of females who worked for money in the past 12 months was unreliable in Maseru. Three in five females in Beria (60.1%) and 53.7% of females in Maseru experienced food insecurity.

Child marriage was rare; 2.7% of females age 13-17 in Maseru had ever been married or lived with someone as if married. The estimate of females in Beria who were ever married was unreliable. One in eight females in Beria (13.3%) and Maseru (13.7%) had ever had sex.



14.2. Sexual violence in childhood in DREAMS districts

Findings of sexual violence in childhood in DREAMS Districts are presented in Tables D.5 through D.18. Tables D.5 through D.11 include findings from 18-24-year-old females in Beria and Maseru. One in eight females in Beria (13.4%) and one in six (17.2%) females in Maseru experienced sexual violence before age 18. Among females in Beria, 6.1% experienced unwanted sexual touching in childhood, 3.6% experienced unwanted attempted sex, 4.5% experienced pressured or coerced sex, and 3.8% experienced physically forced sex. Among females in Maseru, 7.5% experienced unwanted attempted sex, 4.3% experienced pressured or coerced sex, and 4.2% experienced physically forced sex. The estimate of females in Maseru who experienced unwanted sexual touching in childhood was unreliable.

The prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex among females before age 18 was 7.5% in Beria and 6.5% in Maseru. The prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience among females whose first sexual experience was before age 18 was 22.0% in Beria and 16.8% in Maseru. The most common age of first experience of sexual violence was 16-17 for both Beria (56.7%) and Maseru (53.2%). Among those who had experienced childhood sexual violence, current or previous intimate partners were common perpetrators of the first incident of sexual violence in Beria (53.1%) and Maseru (50.0%). Common locations of the first incident of sexual violence in Beria were the perpetrator's home (28.2%), on a road or street (22.6%), and school (17.1). In Maseru, common locations were the perpetrator's home (25.6%) and the participant's home (16.5%). Victims experienced their first incident of sexual violence in the afternoon (Beria, 64.1%; Maseru, 66.1%) and in the evening (Beria, 29.7%; Maseru, 18.9%).



Findings of sexual violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds are presented in Tables D.12 to D.18. In the past 12 months, 5.6% of females ages 13-17 in Berea and 11.3% in Maseru experienced sexual violence. Among 13-17-year-old females, 3.3% of Berea females and 6.4% of Maseru females experienced unwanted sexual touching. The estimates of females in Berea and Maseru who experienced unwanted attempted sex, pressured or coerced sex, or physically forced sex in the past year were unreliable. Common perpetrators of most recent incidents of sexual violence were current or former intimate partners (Berea, 45.5%; Maseru, 41.2%). Common locations of the first incident of sexual violence in Berea were the perpetrator's home (37.6%) and school (30.0%). In Maseru, school (32.0%) was a common location. Most 13-17-year-old females experienced their most recent incident of sexual violence in the afternoon in Berea (77.2%) and Maseru (75.1%).

Half of 13-17-year-old females in Berea (50.9%) and Maseru (54.6%) told someone about any experience of sexual violence. Among Maseru females, 46.6% knew of a place to seek help about any experience of sexual violence. This estimate was unreliable for Berea. The estimates for knowledge of services, service-seeking, and receipt of services for sexual violence were unreliable for Berea and Maseru.



14.3. Physical violence in childhood in DREAMS districts

Tables D.19 to D.23 describe physical violence among females in Berea and Maseru. Significantly fewer females ages 18-24 in Berea (20.9%) experienced childhood physical violence compared to Maseru (40.9%). In Berea, 13.2% of females experienced physical violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in childhood, 5.6% experienced physical violence by an adult in the community or neighbourhood in childhood, 5.9% experienced physical violence by a peer in childhood, and 4.4% of those who had a partner in childhood experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. In Maseru, 30.7% experienced physical violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in childhood, 13.6% experienced physical violence by an adult in the community or neighbourhood in childhood, 14.3% experienced physical violence by a peer in childhood, and 3.1% of those who had a partner experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in childhood.

Among 13-17-year-old females in Berea and Maseru, one in five (18.9%) in Berea and one in four (24.6%) in Maseru experienced physical violence in the past 12 months. In Berea, the prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months by perpetrator was 7.7% for adults in the community or neighbourhood, 6.7% for parents,



caregivers, or adult relatives, and 6.2% for peers. The estimate for intimate partner physical violence in the past 12 months among those who had a partner was unreliable in Berea. In Maseru, the prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months by perpetrator was 12.4% for parents, caregivers, or adult relatives, 9.0% for adults in the community or neighbourhood, 8.1% for peers, and 7.5% for intimate partners (among those who had a partner).

Significantly fewer females ages 18-24 witnessed physical violence in the home in childhood in Berea (38.0%) compared to females in the same age group in Maseru (50.0%). One in five females (20.3%) ages 18-24 in Berea and one in four females (25.1%) ages 18-24 in Maseru witnessed physical violence in the community or neighbourhood. Among 13-17-year-olds, 15.4% of Berea females and 24.2% of Maseru females witnessed violence in the home in the past 12 months. In the same age group, 7.6% of Berea females and 11.9% of Maseru females witnessed violence in the community or neighbourhood in the past 12 months.



14.4. Emotional violence in childhood in DREAMS districts

Tables D.24 to D.28 include findings related to emotional violence. Among 18-24-year-olds, significantly fewer

females in Berea (9.3%) experienced childhood emotional violence compared to females in Maseru (16.1%). One in five 18-24-year-olds females in Berea (19.9%) and three in ten females in Maseru (27.9%) who had a partner in childhood experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner.

Among 13-17-year-olds, 27.3% of females in Berea and 33.4% of females in Maseru had experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months. Of this age group, 8.0% of females in Berea and 10.0% of females in Maseru experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past 12 months. The prevalence of peer emotional violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-old females was higher in Maseru (28.1%) compared to Berea (22.9%).



14.5. Sexual, physical, and emotional violence among young adults in DREAMS districts

Tables D.29 to D.34 include findings on sexual, physical, and emotional violence among 18-24-year-olds in Berea and Maseru. In the past 12 months, 9.2% of females in Berea and 13.7% of females in Maseru experienced sexual violence. Among Berea females, 6.8% experienced unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months, 2.2% experienced unwanted attempted sex in the past 12

months, and 1.3% experienced physically forced sex in the past 12 months. The estimate of females who experienced pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months was unreliable. Among Maseru females, 9.3% experienced unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months, 4.1% experienced unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months, 2.9% experienced pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months, and 2.6% experienced physically forced sex in the past 12 months.

Half of females in Berea (55.5%) and Maseru (42.8%) told someone about an experience of sexual violence. Three in five females (61.6%) in Berea knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence. The estimate for service seeking and service receipt for sexual violence in the past 12 months in Berea was unreliable. Among Maseru females, 44.4% knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence. The estimates for service-seeking and services receipt for sexual violence in the past 12 months in Maseru were unreliable. In Berea, 3.5% of females engaged in transactional sex in the past 12 months. The prevalence of past-12-month transactional sex in Maseru was 5.3%.

Among 18-24-year-olds in the past 12 months, 11.0% of females in Berea and 15.6% of females in Maseru experienced physical violence. In Berea, 7.4% of females who had a partner experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. In Maseru, 7.7% of females who had a partner experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. In Maseru, 4.0% of females experienced physical violence by an adult in the community or neighbourhood in the past 12 months, and 2.6% experienced physical violence by a peer in the past 12 months. The estimates of physical violence in the past 12 months by an adult in the community or neighbourhood and by a peer were unreliable in Berea.



▀ 14.6. Sexual risk-taking behaviours and HIV among young adults in DREAMS districts

Tables D.35 to D.37 include findings on sexual risk-taking behaviours and HIV in the past 12 months among 19-24-year-olds in Berea and Maseru. Among females in Berea, 11.8% had two or more sex partners in the past 12 months, 28.7% had infrequent condom use in the past 12 months, and 3.7% engaged in transactional sex in the past 12 months. In Maseru, 15.0% had two or more sex partners in the past 12 months, 30.2% had infrequent

condom use in the past 12 months, and 5.3% engaged in transactional sex in the past 12 months. Knowledge of where to go for HIV testing was high among 13-24-year-olds (Berea, 98.6%; Maseru, 98.4%). Less than one in twenty-five (Berea, 2.8%; Maseru, 3.6%) had never been tested for HIV.

One in five females in Berea (5.8%) and one in twelve females in Maseru (8.3%) had tested positive for HIV. There was no statistically significant difference between those who were HIV positive and who had experienced violence (Berea, 7.3%; Maseru, 8.3%) and those who were HIV positive and who had not experienced violence (Berea, 4.8%; Maseru, 8.3%).



▀ 14.7. Attitudes and beliefs related to gender and violence, and violence perpetration in DREAMS districts

Tables D.38 and D.39 include findings regarding attitudes and beliefs related to gender and violence. One in five 18-24-year-olds in Berea (21.3%) and Maseru (17.6%) accepted one or more reasons for wife beating. One quarter of females in Berea (24.1%) and Maseru (24.3%) endorsed one or more traditional beliefs about gender, sexual practice, and intimate partner violence.



▀ 14.8. INSPIRE indicators in DREAMS districts

Tables D.P and D.E include findings regarding INSPIRE indicators in Berea and Maseru. Nearly three quarters of 13-17-year-olds in Berea (72.0%) and Maseru (73.8%) found it easy to talk to their mothers, and 85.8% of females in Berea and 78.9% of females in Maseru had parents who practiced high monitoring and supervision. The estimate of 13-17-year-olds who engaged in binge drinking was unreliable. Among 18-24-year-olds, 6.6% of females in Berea engaged in binge drinking, while significantly more females (13.0%) in Maseru engaged in binge drinking. One in ten females in Berea (11.8%) and one in twelve females in Maseru (7.8%) experienced early pregnancy (before age 18).

Section 15

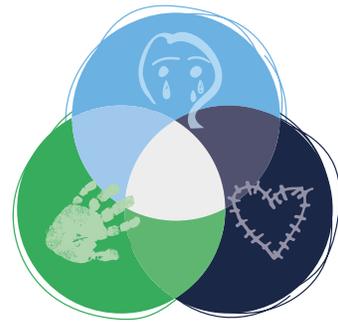
Discussion



Key findings

There is a high prevalence of childhood violence overall

2/5 and **3/5**
females and **males**
 experienced any violence in childhood



The prevalence of childhood **sexual violence** is about **1 in 7 females** and **1 in 20 males**



1 in 3 females and **3 in 5 males** experienced **physical violence** in childhood



1 in 10 females and **1 in 12** for males experienced **emotional violence** in childhood

Some consistent patterns between childhood violence and health conditions emerged. Sexual, physical, and emotional violence in childhood **was associated with mental distress and suicidal ideation among males and females before age 18**



Disclosure and service-seeking among victims of sexual violence were very low

Sex differences also emerged for early sexual debut among young adults



1/10 females experienced early sexual debut, compared to



Among females who ever had sex in childhood, nearly

1/5 experienced forced or coerced sexual debut



Prevalence of childhood physical violence was high, particularly among males:

1/3 of females versus nearly **3/5 males** experienced physical violence in childhood

Key findings

Being a victim of physical violence and sexual violence in childhood **were consistently associated with violence perpetration for both females and males**



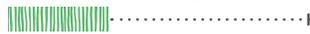
Disability is common among adolescents in Lesotho:

1 out of **7** girls and **1** out of **14** boys

have functional disability in one or more areas

Formal educational attainment is low among adolescents:

1/3 of **adolescent girls**



and

1/2 of **adolescent boys**



have no more than a primary school education



Use of positive parental discipline was low:

1/10 adolescent females and **3/16** adolescent males had parents who used such strategies in the past 12 months.

Nearly **1/2** of young adult males had two or more sex partners in the past 12 months and **1/3** had infrequent or no condom use

Orphanhood is high in Lesotho: almost



1/2

of **females** and **males** are orphaned before age 18

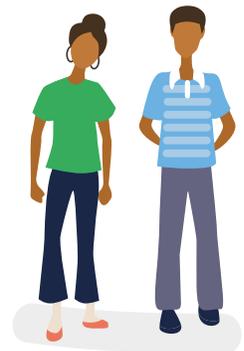


Underemployment is a major issue in Lesotho:

only

1/4 of young **adult females** work, and

1/3 of young **adult males** work



Most young adults were not attending school and were not working

There are sizeable sex differences in marriage or cohabitation among young adults:

nearly

2 out of **5** females

were married or cohabitating by age 24, compared to

1 out of **10** males



There were significant sex disparities in HIV prevalence among adolescents:

1 of **14** females had HIV, which was three times the prevalence as that of males



This section describes the burden, contexts, and health consequences for violence against children and adolescents. It also explores the overlap between sexual, physical, and emotional violence and the services sought and utilized for incidents of sexual, physical and emotional violence. The Lesotho 2018 VACS provides the first nationally representative data on the prevalence and epidemiology of sexual, physical, and emotional violence among female and male children and youth in Lesotho. The wealth of information provided by the VACS can guide prevention and response efforts that are uniquely adapted to the context of Lesotho.



15.1. Key findings

The 2018 Lesotho VACS provides quality data on the experiences, linkages, assets, and risks of children and youth in Lesotho. The findings paint a complex and nuanced picture of the experiences of children and young people and point to opportunities to address factors that can improve those experiences. Several notable findings point to unique aspects of the lives and environments among Lesotho's children and youth.

In the summary of key findings references to violence or other experiences "in childhood" generally includes estimates from 18-24-year-olds before age 18, whereas "adolescents" refers to estimates from 13-17-year-olds.

The following findings revealed an opportunity to reinforce three specific strategies from the INSPIRE package:

» Norms and Values

- Almost half of young adult males believed that corporal punishment from parents was acceptable.
- Males endorsed more traditional gender norms than females.

» Parent and Caregiver Support

- Although more than nine out of ten adolescent females and males have a close relationship with their mother, parental monitoring and supervision is low.
- There is also low parental use of positive discipline in adolescence.
- Use of positive parental discipline was low: one in ten adolescent females and one in 16 adolescent males had parents who used such strategies in the past 12 months.

» Income and Economic Strengthening

- Among adolescents, two thirds of females and seven out of ten males experience food insecurity.
- Underemployment is a major issue in Lesotho: only one quarter of young adult females work, and one third of young adult males work. Most young adults were not attending school and were not working.



15.2. Strengths and limitations

The VACS is Lesotho's first nationally representative survey on the burden of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth. There are important strengths and limitations to consider when interpreting the data. The sampling strategy ensured the data are nationally representative, and random sampling using a stratified three-stage cluster design allowed for calculation of weighted estimates. Another benefit of the survey is the level of detail obtained on the context of violence. The rich, contextualized data in the Lesotho VACS can inform programmatic and policy strategies to address violence. Another strength of the VACS is that it relies on a core questionnaire that is consistent across countries. This allows for cross-country comparison and facilitates interpretation of findings as they can be assessed within a global context. Most importantly, the process of planning the VACS - thorough engagement with the Lesotho government agencies, partners, and stakeholders - can bolster country ownership of the data and findings, encouraging efforts to use the data to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth in Lesotho.



A key strategy for collecting VACS data was that an interview may only be conducted if interviewers could ensure privacy and reduce the risk of retaliation for participation in the survey. Interviewers underwent extensive training on how to maximize rapport with participants. The survey moved through sensitive questions in a graduated manner to help comfort participants and facilitate trust-building with their interviewer. These strategies were in place to facilitate disclosure.

There are also limitations that must be considered. Because the VACS involves a household survey, vulnerable populations have been excluded or missed (i.e., children residing in institutions, residential care, or justice systems, as well as those living on the street). Similarly, children and youth who are away from home to attend school or for other reasons would not have been available to participate in the survey. Children were also excluded from the study if they had a disability that prevented them from understanding or responding to the interview questions or from being interviewed in private. Children residing outside of the household in vulnerable settings, or living with disabilities, could be at higher risk for violence. Future studies should address the burden of violence among these special populations.

An additional limitation is that the survey only collects contextual information on the first and most recent episodes of each type of violence, when individuals reported multiple instances of a form of violence. This potentially results in missing important contextual detail on certain violent events affecting participants.

The VACS is also vulnerable to recall bias. The study does not include participants over age 24 to maximize the participants' ability to recall events from childhood. However, there is still a chance that participants do not accurately recall the details of their experiences.

Another possible limitation is that some participants may not have been comfortable disclosing personal and sensitive life experiences with strangers, thus providing an underestimate of the prevalence of violence.



► 15.3. Prevention and response priorities

The government of Lesotho, civil society organizations, and international community partners held a Data to Action Workshop in Maseru, Lesotho, from June 25 to 28, 2019. Discussions in Lesotho included a variety of participants from multiple sectors. This event was co-organized by the Ministry of Social Development, ICAP, and UNICEF, with technical leadership by the CDC, support from TFG, and funding by PEPFAR. The partnership uses a three-pronged model: data, action, and advocacy to promote evidence-based solutions, galvanize coordinated response across sectors and raise awareness. The process by which VACS is undertaken, with robust multi-sector government ownership from the outset and the engagement of multiple Together for Girls partners, creates the necessary conditions for strong country ownership, facilitating the translation of the data into effective, evidence-based programmatic action.

Multiple themes emerged from the four-day workshop focused on transforming VACS data into action for Lesotho. The first three days of the workshop focused on sector responses, while the fourth day gathered responses from children and youth of Lesotho. All participants agreed that these data can continue to guide ongoing efforts to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) on violence against children and youth for the country. The institutions represented in this meeting agreed that these recommendations complement ongoing activities led by the Ministry of Social Development with the aim of creating a NAP to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth in Lesotho. Multiple government partners (i.e., the Ministries of Justice, Health, Education, Gender and Youth, and Labour and Employment), along with civil society organizations, will collaborate with the Ministry of Social Development to develop the final plan.

Multi-sectoral discussions focused on identifying strategies aimed at strengthening existing child protection systems, as well as improving primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention to prevent violence against children and provide supportive services to victims. Workshop participants noted that mapping of existing violence prevention and control programmes to identify areas of collaboration and areas for improved coordination is necessary. Progress on the development of a NAP for Lesotho with clear milestones and a timeline will provide a clear roadmap for the country. All participants representing the sectors reviewed and discussed VACS results in detail as well as its methodological strengths and limitations and its applications in the context of other existing national information on violence. Participants further addressed programmatic and policy implications. Over the course of the workshop, participants also identified several high-level priorities for Lesotho. These priorities were mapped to specific INSPIRE strategies that could be developed, adapted or strengthened for the country.³² The following section describes the key points and suggestions that emerged from those discussions and from thematic tables representing the sectors of justice and law enforcement, education, community and faith based, policy and finance, social services, and health.

15.3.1. Response priorities

The multi-sectoral discussions identified key areas for special attention in Lesotho based on the VACS findings

as well as on existing programmes and interventions under development or implemented locally. Priority themes included addressing food insecurity, particularly for children. Second, sectors prioritized a reduction in physical violence perpetrated by parents or adult caregivers, as well as a reduction in intimate partner physical and emotional violence. Third, sectors prioritized a reduction in sexual violence through strategies aimed at preventing violence by intimate partners and a focus on post-violence care and processes already established by service providers in Lesotho. The sectors also discussed prevention of all forms of violence in the home and school environments, as well as addressing witnessing violence in the home, disabilities, and child marriage.

Several sectors and participants concurred with the importance of addressing food insecurity in Lesotho. VACS data show that underemployment among youth is a major issue in Lesotho and most young adults are not attending school and not working. The sectors agreed that food insecurity may result in children being vulnerable to all forms of violence. Income and economic strengthening was identified as the most appropriate INSPIRE strategy to respond to food insecurity, which affects two thirds of females and seven out of ten males in Lesotho. Participants from all sectors suggested revising and updating policies (e.g., Lesotho's Food Security Policy) and improving land use management laws to incorporate opportunities to improve economic conditions for youth.

Multiple sectors listed addressing physical violence as a priority. This priority will concentrate on the prevention of physical violence perpetrated by parents and caregivers against children and youth. It is key to address physical disciplinary practices and work with communities or within community violence prevention structures. This priority will also address the challenge of intimate partner physical violence and emotional violence. The norms and values strategy in INSPIRE may address this priority by pointing to evidence-based programmes that strengthen norms and values that support positive and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents. The sectors were specifically interested in community mobilization programmes such as SASA! (Start, Awareness, Support, and Action).

Discussions regarding victims of physical and emotional violence emphasized current Lesotho laws that may pose barriers to victims receiving services. The sectors recommended eliminating hospital, medical, and

32. World Health Organization. (2016). INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children. World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire-package/en/

laboratory and forensic analysis fees which can be barriers to accessing services among victims of violence. The police forensic laboratory should be equipped with adequate resources (e.g., skilled human resource advanced technology). The sector recommended the establishment of One-Stop Centres for provision of services for victims of violence.

Discussions to address the sexual violence priority focused on strategies intended to prevent violence by intimate partners and expand post-violence care to reduce mental distress amongst violence victims. VACS data show intimate partners are the most common perpetrators of the first incidents of sexual violence among females. The data also show that more sexual violence victims reported mental distress than non-victims, and that being a victim of physical and sexual violence were consistently associated with violence perpetration for both females and males. The multi-sectoral response for this priority includes addressing response and support services for these victims.

Additional discussions by the sectors addressed witnessing violence in the home, disabilities, and child marriage in Lesotho. VACS data show witnessing violence in the home and in the community or neighbourhood were remarkably common, for both girls and boys. In regard to disabilities, VACS data suggest that disability is common among children in Lesotho, and those with functional disabilities are a highly vulnerable group for experiencing violence. Sectors agreed that more collaboration and discussion are needed to ensure this vulnerable group is reached with preventive interventions and services. The group suggests restorative Justice programs and policies, with intention to restore relationships that were destroyed by violence, would benefit victims. Lastly, sectors noted that child marriage was not uncommon among females in Lesotho and strategies need to be developed to reduce child marriage among females. To address these topics, the sectors recommend using INSPIRE strategies implementation and enforcement of laws and norms and values. The sectors agreed that all laws should be harmonized to be consistent with the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2011. The Children's Protection and Welfare Act should make provision for all issues relating to child protection including child marriage so that no other law is in conflict with its provisions.

^[1] Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; 1989



The voices of children and adolescents

To promote meaningful and active participation of children in "matters that concern them,"^[1] 25 children and adolescents ages 12 to 23 were mobilised to participate in a youth-specific Data to Action consultative workshop. Using a combination of plenary discussion, group work and play, the participants were guided through the processes leading up to the survey and allowed an opportunity to share their interpretation of the VACS findings, their opinions regarding the causes and perpetrators of violence against children as well as their proposed ideas for addressing it.

The children's consultation exercise involved children and adolescents from within and around Maseru. As such, the findings captured in this section do not represent the point of view of youth across all of Lesotho. Upon consultation, the children and adolescents cited poverty, peer pressure, alcohol and drug use, insufficient or lack of knowledge of reporting channels and deep-seated social norms, attitudes and practices as some of the key drivers of violence against children. The children and adolescents indicated that emotional, sexual and physical violence are all common among their cohort. Following an open and participatory "trimming down" process to identify priority focus areas, the children and adolescents unanimously highlighted emotional violence as a priority for the government and relevant partners to address. In their view, emotional violence can be either a result or a cause of other forms of violence. In response to the above-mentioned priorities, the participants also made several suggestions.

» **Implementation and effective enforcement of laws** against violence: all groups suggested strengthening provisions of laws to ensure perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable. They further suggested that efforts should be made to address gaps (for instance, the proposed Cyber and Domestic Violence Acts) in protections which allow certain forms of violence, including child marriage.

- » **Norms, attitudes and practices** which promote violence against children should be addressed. Youth proposed that continued sensitisation at community, family, schools, district and national levels should be carried out. The children and adolescents indicated that effective enforcement of laws can be a deterrent to norms and practices that promote violence. Children and adolescents outlined that religious and community leaders can provide leadership in their communities in raising awareness and changing norms related to violence. Furthermore, they indicated that community groups and youth clubs can provide crucial mechanisms for supporting children and helping them avoid situations where they would be more vulnerable to violence.
- » According to the participants, creating **safe environments** is one of the ways to end violence against children. Of particular importance to the children and adolescents are safe homes and schools and targeting hotspots to interrupt the spread of violence against children. The participants called for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents living with disabilities, those with HIV and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning populations.
- » **Parent and caregiver support and training:** children and adolescents emphasized the need to guide parents and caregivers on appropriate alternative disciplinary measures. They noted that parents and caregivers, including teachers, make use of punitive measures (i.e., corporal punishment or emotional violence). This also has implications for income and economic support.
- » **Income and economic strengthening:** greater availability of and access to income-generating activities for girls and young women may lead to lower risk for exploitation by men who provide them money or material support. Parents also sometimes are unable to provide the basic necessities (e.g., food and school fees for children). As such, children are driven into exploitative relationships to provide their material needs.
- » **Response and support services:** children and adolescents expressed concern over lack of or inconsistent information on existing referral mechanisms and standard operating procedures at

community, district and national levels. Even in cases where such channels are known and functional, the environment (i.e., the physical location), the attitude of social service providers (e.g., chiefs, teachers, police, legal/justice professionals, health services) can be unfriendly to children's and adolescents' needs. This attitude discourages children from reporting violence. The participants called for provision of psychosocial support training for community support groups, teachers, and other social service providers (e.g., police, health officers, magistrates, and social workers).

In the case of both physical and sexual violence, it is vital to increase disclosure and access to services for victims, especially males. It is also crucial to analyse the individual, familial, and structural barriers for reporting and to understand the reasons why individuals choose not to report. Multiple sectors and participants want to improve youth knowledge of violence services and youth seeking violence services.

In the **home environment**, programmes that strengthen positive connections and communication between children, youth, and parents can foster protective environments, particularly those exposed to risks outside the home. Youth also expressed the importance of addressing emotional violence in the home. In the **school environment**, improving upon or implementing evidence-based violence prevention programmes is imperative. Strengthening safe, supportive school environments can reduce peer-to-peer violence. School interventions that foster dynamic, reciprocal communication between the home and schools have potential to be most effective. At the **community and legislative level**, reducing food insufficiency and expanding economic strengthening efforts for youth, young adults, and their families were identified as key priorities to reduce risk. To address childhood food insecurity, income and economic strengthening evidence-based strategies have demonstrated encouraging outcomes. Additional **system-wide measures** that include a costing exercise can address the feasibility of strategies and initiatives.





15.4. Conclusions and recommendations

The 2018 Lesotho VACS provides powerful information that can be used to inform violence prevention and response efforts in the specific context of Lesotho. The dedication of the partners signifies a strong commitment to using the findings of the Lesotho VACS to make significant gains in the prevention and response to violence against children and youth in Lesotho.

The findings of the survey offer an opportunity for Lesotho to lead the way in addressing the problem of violence against children and youth by focusing on immediate and future prevention and response programmes. Based on the Data to Action workshop and existing activities within the government of Lesotho and civil society, the following can improve, strengthen, or complement the existing issues in the country pertaining to the prevention and response of violence against children and youth:

- » Promoting greater awareness that violence is preventable and there are a variety of strategies to achieve this outcome.
- » Fostering partnerships among multi-sectoral government agencies, civil society organizations and international technical experts is critical in the development and implementation of responses.
- » Harmonizing existing government initiatives related to violence against children and youth. These efforts could also include input from civil society and the international community.
- » Monitoring and evaluation for all interventions; these efforts should be strengthened within each sector but also in collaboration with other sectors including social service, justice and law, education, health, policy, finance, labour, interior/planning, development, community, civil society, and faith-based.
- » Using VACS data to supplement other data sources (e.g., those addressing gender-based violence, school-based data, and family protection data).
- » Building capacity amongst government personnel, lawmakers, and service providers from all sectors, to prevent and respond to violence, include addressing norms and values among government service providers.

- » Strengthening dissemination of violence prevention strategies by working with the media and through scientific publications or academic institutions.
- » Addressing children's and youth's concerns by government leaders. Lesotho should continue to include active children and youth participation in the planning and decision-making process of programmes.

These recommendations could greatly enhance ongoing activities led by Lesotho and for the benefit of its population. Emphasis on approaches that are multisectoral within many institutions is key for strengthening country responses. Overall, the findings of this study contribute to and enhance other violence prevention and response efforts currently being conducted in Lesotho.

Appendix **A**

Lesotho VACS 2018 data tables

Section 3

Background characteristics

Table 3.1.1.

Background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females	 Males
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Education Status	Females (n=3676)	Males (n=718)
Completed primary school or less (or never attended school)	20.2 (17.5 - 22.9)	31.6 (25.3 - 37.9)
Completed secondary school	63.6 (60.8 - 66.5)	54.4 (49.0 - 59.8)
Higher than secondary school	16.1 (13.6 - 18.7)	14.1 (9.2 - 18.9)
Orphan Status	Females (n=3417)	Males (n=671)
Not an orphan before age 18	53.6 (51.3 - 55.9)	51.9 (45.2 - 58.6)
Lost one or both parents before age 18	46.4 (44.1 - 48.7)	48.1 (41.4 - 54.8)
Disability	Females (n=3686)	Males (n=718)
No functional disability in any domain	85.7 (84.1 - 87.3)	92.6 (89.8 - 95.3)
Disability in one or more domains	14.3 (12.7 - 15.9)	7.4 (4.7 - 10.2)
	Females (n=3677)	Males (n=717)
Seeing	6.9 (5.8 - 8.0)	2.7 (1.3 - 4.1)
	Females (n=3680)	Males (n=718)
Remembering and concentrating	6.4 (5.3 - 7.4)	3.3 (1.0 - 5.6)*
	Females (n=3682)	Males (n=718)
Walking and climbing	0.9 (0.5 - 1.3)	1.4 (0.3 - 2.6)*
	Females (n=3684)	Males (n=718)
Self-care	0.5 (0.3 - 0.8)	0.9 (0.0 - 2.0)*
	Females (n=3684)	Males (n=717)
Functional impairment	1.2 (0.8 - 1.7)	0.7 (0.0 - 1.3)*
Communicating	1.9 (1.4 - 2.4)	1.2 (0.6 - 1.8)
Socioeconomic Conditions	Females (n=3684)	Males (n=717)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	25.5 (23.4 - 27.6)	36.6 (31.9 - 41.3)
	Females (n=3657)	Males (n=714)
Experiencing food insecurity	66.0 (63.7 - 68.4)	70.4 (64.5 - 76.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3.1.2.

Location of work among 18-24-year-olds who have worked in the past year – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
At family dwelling	77	7.3 (5.6 - 9.0)	11	3.8 (0.0 - 8.1)*
Formal office	78	7.8 (5.8 - 9.8)	12	3.6 (1.2 - 5.9)*
Factory/Workshop	160	17.2 (12.8 - 21.6)	21	7.0 (2.5 - 11.6)*
Farm/Garden	18	1.9 (1.1 - 2.8)	63	21.6 (12.1 - 31.0)
Construction site	18	1.9 (0.9 - 2.9)	56	20.9 (15.2 - 26.7)
Mine/Quarry	6	0.7 (0.1 - 1.3)*	10	2.5 (0.0 - 5.6)*
Shop/Kiosk	146	14.6 (11.6 - 17.5)	29	9.8 (5.6 - 14.1)
Restaurant/Hotel/Café/Bar	37	4.4 (2.5 - 6.2)	9	3.1 (0.2 - 6.1)*
Different places (mobile)	39	5.3 (3.1 - 7.6)	14	4.9 (1.8 - 8.0)*
Fixed street or market stall	21	2.1 (1.0 - 3.2)	11	5.8 (1.8 - 9.7)*
Pond/Lake/River	11	1.2 (0.4 - 2.1)*	2	0.5 (0.0 - 1.5)*
Domestic work/Someone else's home	345	35.6 (31.3 - 39.8)	51	16.5 (8.8 - 24.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3.1.3.

Relationships and sexual history of 18-24-year-olds
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey
 (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3688)	Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	38.5 (35.4 - 41.7)	10.2 (7.2 - 13.1)
	Females (n=3685)	Males (n=717)
Married or lived with someone as if married before age 18	11.0 (9.3 - 12.6)	0.8 (0.1 - 1.6)*
	Females (n=3685)	Males (n=717)
Married or lived with someone as if married before age 16	2.3 (1.7 - 2.9)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9)*
	Females (n[†]=1479)	Males (n[†]=83)
Median age at first marriage ^[1]	18.0 years (17.8 – 18.2)	20.2 years (19.5 – 20.9)
	Females (n[†]=1322)	Males (n[†]=70)
Arranged marriage ^[2]	7.4 (5.8 - 9.0)	<0.1 [§]
	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=718)
Ever had sex ^[3]	78.2 (76.1 - 80.4)	84.1 (80.6 - 87.6)
	Females (n=3666)	Males (n=699)
Had sex at or before age 15	11.0 (9.7 - 12.3)	31.4 (27.6 - 35.3)
	Females (n[†]=2879)	Males (n[†]=577)
Mean age of first sex ^[4]	17.4 years (17.3 - 17.5)	15.9 years (15.8 - 16.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Among 18-24-year-olds who are married.

[2] Marriage was arranged, and the person did not have a choice or was asked to agree, among those who have ever been married.

[3] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse, or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else

[4] Among 18-24-year-olds who had ever had sex.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

Table 3.2.1.

Background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females	Males
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Education Status	Females (n=3410)	Males (n=749)
Completed primary school or less (or never attended school)	35.2 (31.9 - 38.5)	50.3 (43.5 - 57.0)
Some secondary school or more	64.8 (61.5 - 68.1)	49.7 (43.0 - 56.5)
Orphan Status	Females (n=3417)	Males (n=671)
Not an orphan before age 18	53.6 (51.3 - 55.9)	51.9 (45.2 - 58.6)
Lost one or both parents before age 18	46.4 (44.1 - 48.7)	48.1 (41.4 - 54.8)
Current Orphan Status	Females (n=3240)	Males (n=727)
Not an orphan	60.3 (58.2 - 62.4)	40.7 (36.0 - 45.4)
Lost one or both parents	39.7 (37.6 - 41.8)	59.3 (54.6 - 64.0)
Disability	Females (n=3411)	Males (n=749)
No functional disability in any domain	86.2 (84.6 - 87.9)	93.0 (90.1 - 95.9)
Disability in one or more domains	13.8 (12.1 - 15.4)	7.0 (4.1 - 9.9)
	Females (n=3406)	Males (n=749)
Seeing	5.9 (4.9 - 6.9)	4.9 (2.5 - 7.3)
	Females (n=3406)	Males (n=748)
Remembering and concentrating	6.5 (5.3 - 7.7)	1.8 (0.2 - 3.5)*
	Females (n=3408)	Males (n=747)
Walking and climbing	0.9 (0.5 - 1.3)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.4)*
	Females (n=3408)	Males (n=749)
Self-care	0.6 (0.3 - 0.9)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5)*
Functional impairment	1.7 (1.0 - 2.4)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5)*
Communicating	2.4 (1.8 - 3.1)	0.7 (0.1 - 1.4)*
Socioeconomic Conditions	Females (n=3409)	Males (n=749)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	3.0 (2.3 - 3.7)	8.4 (5.6 - 11.2)
	Females (n=3391)	Males (n=739)
Currently enrolled in school	87.1 (85.5 - 88.8)	84.4 (79.5 - 89.3)
	Females (n=3353)	Males (n=737)
Experiencing food insecurity	65.6 (63.1 - 68.2)	66.4 (60.6 - 72.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3.2.2.

Relationship and sexual history of 13-17-year-olds
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3407)	 Males (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	3.8 (2.9 - 4.8)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)*
	Females (n=3411)	Males (n=749)
Ever had sex ^[1]	14.4 (13.0 - 15.9)	24.3 (19.9 - 28.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 [1] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse, or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 *Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Section 4 Sexual violence in childhood

Table 4.1.1.

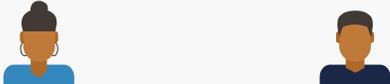
Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3690)	 Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in childhood	14.5 (12.4 - 16.6)	5.0 (2.6 - 7.3)
	Females (n=3675)	Males (n=717)
Unwanted sexual touching in childhood	6.3 (4.6 - 8.1)	4.1 (1.9 - 6.3)
	Females (n=3662)	Males (n=716)
Unwanted attempted sex in childhood	5.3 (4.1 - 6.5)	1.8 (0.2 - 3.5)*
	Females (n=3633)	Males (n=716)
Pressured or coerced sex in childhood	4.6 (3.8 - 5.4)	1.6 (0.0 - 3.2)*
	Females (n=3656)	Males (n=717)
Physically forced sex in childhood	4.1 (3.2 - 5.0)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 *Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.2.

Age of first experience of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =479)	Males (n [†] =29)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
13 or younger	13.1 (9.2 - 16.9)	11.9 (0.0 - 25.8)*
14-15	26.7 (21.2 - 32.3)	36.5 (17.8 - 55.3)
16-17	60.2 (54.3 - 66.1)	51.6 (35.5 - 67.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

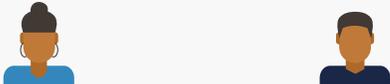
[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.3.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3679)	Males (n=717)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in childhood	7.5 (6.4 - 8.6)	1.8 (0.2 - 3.5)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.4.

Age of first experience of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =265)	Males (n [†] =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
13 or younger	7.8 (4.4 - 11.3)	**
14-15	23.5 (16.7 - 30.3)	**
16-17	68.7 (61.1 - 76.2)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.1.5.

Prevalence of experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced at least one incident of sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n†=467) Weighted % (95% CI)	Males (n†=27) Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced multiple incidents of sexual violence in childhood	62.0 (55.2 - 68.8)	76.6 (55.2 - 97.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking). n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 4.1.6.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience, among 18-24-year-olds whose first sexual intercourse was before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n†=1424) Weighted % (95% CI)	Males (n†=448) Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience	18.3 (15.5 - 21.1)	1.0 (0.0 - 2.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.7.

Perpetrators of first incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n[†]=478)	Males (n[†]=30)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/romantic partner	58.4 (52.2 - 64.6)	25.5 (13.8 - 37.3)
Family member	5.8 (3.3 - 8.2)	18.8 (0.0 - 44.0)*
Authority figure ^[2]	1.6 (0.4 - 2.8)*	<0.1 [§]
Neighbour	10.2 (6.3 - 14.1)	29.2 (9.2 - 49.3)*
Classmate/Schoolmate	10.7 (4.1 - 17.3)*	13.5 (0.0 - 28.1)*
Friend	9.0 (6.1 - 11.9)	11.5 (0.0 - 24.8)*
Stranger	8.7 (5.4 - 12.1)	4.3 (0.0 - 13.2)*
Other	3.2 (1.5 - 4.9)	18.4 (2.0 - 34.9)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Authority figure includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 4.1.8.

Perpetrators of the first incident of sexual violence^[1] perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced first incidents of sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n^v=480)	Males (n[†]=30)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in childhood	29.0 (24.3 - 33.8)	34.4 (13.9 - 54.8)
	Females (n[†]=267)	Males (n[†]=9)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in childhood	24.3 (18.3 - 30.3)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.1.9.

Prevalence of more than one perpetrator at the first incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n ^t =472)	 Males (n ^t =29)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
More than one perpetrator at the first incident of childhood sexual violence	15.0 (11.3 - 18.7)	50.9 (20.7 - 81.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, luring, or tricking).
n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 4.1.10.

Location of first incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n ^t =475)	 Males (n ^t =30)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Participant's home	12.8 (8.8 - 16.7)	12.7 (0.0 - 25.9)*
Perpetrator's home	29.8 (24.0 - 35.7)	27.0 (4.2 - 49.9)*
Someone else's home	5.9 (3.1 - 8.7)	8.2 (0.0 - 19.1)*
On a road/Street	19.7 (14.7 - 24.6)	7.8 (0.0 - 17.8)*
Market/Shop	1.4 (0.0 - 3.2)*	3.0 (0.0 - 8.9)*
School	16.3 (8.8 - 23.8)	19.9 (1.2 - 38.6)*
Outdoor area ^[2]	18.7 (13.1 - 24.2)	38.0 (5.3 - 70.7)*
Other ^[3]	3.4 (1.1 - 5.7)*	6.8 (0.0 - 17.0)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Outdoor area includes lake, river, other body of water, field or other natural area, or sports fields/recreate area.

[3] Other includes inside a car/bus, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc.), church, and place of work.

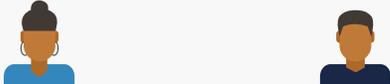
Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different locations.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.11.

Time of day^[1] of first incident of sexual violence^[2], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n ^t =476)	Males (n ^t =30)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Morning	11.8 (6.9 - 16.7)	8.0 (0.0 - 20.1)*
Afternoon	65.7 (60.3 - 71.2)	37.1 (10.4 - 63.9)*
Evening	25.0 (21.0 - 29.1)	53.6 (26.4 - 80.9)
Late at night	5.5 (3.4 - 7.7)	9.9 (0.0 - 20.8)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Morning refers to sunrise until noon, afternoon refers to noon until sunset, evening refers to sunset until midnight, and late at night refers to midnight until sunrise.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.12.

Disclosure, service seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n ^t =266)	Males (n ^t =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	40.6 (34.1 - 47.2)	20.5 (0.0 - 47.2)*
	Females (n^t=269)	Males (n^t=9)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	41.7 (34.8 - 48.6)	55.7 (13.4 - 98.1)*
	Females (n^t=268)	Males (n^t=9)
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	12.0 (7.9 - 16.1)	< 0.1
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	8.5 (4.8 - 12.3)	< 0.1

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.1.13.

Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 and who told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =111)	 Males (n [†] =3)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Relative	59.5 (49.7 - 69.2)	**
Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, partner	0.9 (0.0 - 2.7)*	**
Friend or neighbour	45.2 (35.1 - 55.3)	**
Service provider or authority figure ^[2]	4.3 (0.2 - 8.5)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: Non-governmental organization worker, teacher, employer/co-worker, community leader/village chief, traditional healer, and religious leader.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.1.14.

Source of service receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex before age 18 and received help – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =21)	 Males (n [†] =0)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Community leader/village chief	60.7 (38.4 - 83.0)	**
Doctor, nurse, or other health care worker	80.5 (63.3 - 97.8)	**
Police or other security personnel	77.6 (59.8 - 95.4)	**
Child and gender protection unit	19.1 (0.0 - 39.0)*	**
Legal professional	17.2 (0.2 - 34.2)*	**
Social worker or counselor	33.0 (11.9 - 54.0)*	**
Non-governmental organization	7.1 (0.0 - 17.6)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of sexual violence or may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence which they may have told different people about each incident.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.1.15.

Reasons for not seeking services for sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured or physically forced sex before age 18 and did not seek services – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=73)	 Males (n=3)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	15.1 (5.0 - 25.2)*	**
Embarrassed for self or my family	10.1 (1.6 - 18.5)*	**
Did not think it was a problem	41.4 (26.3 - 56.5)	**
Did not need/want services	19.5 (9.5 - 29.5)	**
Other ^[2]	14.0 (6.8 - 21.2)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Other includes: dependent on perpetrator, perpetrator threatened me, felt it was my fault, afraid of being abandoned, services too far/not available.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator is unreliable.

Table 4.2.1.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3690)	 Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	7.3 (5.9 - 8.6)	1.5 (0.4 - 2.6)*
	Females (n=3404)	Males (n=749)
Unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months	4.1 (3.2 - 5.0)	1.1 (0.2 - 2.1)*
	Females (n=3400)	Males (n=749)
Unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months	2.9 (2.1 - 3.7)	0.3 (0.0 - 0.6)*
	Females (n=3392)	Males (n=749)
Pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months	1.2 (0.6 - 1.8)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.7)*
	Females (n=3375)	Males (n=749)
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	1.4 (0.8 - 1.9)	<0.1 [§]

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

Table 4.2.2.

Prevalence of experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced at least one incident of sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n ⁺ =233)	 Males (n ⁺ =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced more than one incident of sexual violence	59.5 (52.0 - 67.0)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.3.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3399)	 Males (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	2.2 (1.5 - 2.9)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.2.4.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience, among 13-17-year-olds who had ever had sexual intercourse – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n ⁺ =457)	 Males (n ⁺ =186)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual intercourse	20.2 (15.3 - 25.1)	0.9 (0.0 - 2.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.2.5.

Perpetrators of most recent incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =232)	 Males (n [†] =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend romantic partner	42.6 (33.0 - 52.2)	**
Family member	4.5 (1.9 - 7.1)	**
Authority figure ^[2]	1.7 (0.0 - 3.3)*	**
Neighbour	10.7 (5.9 - 15.4)	**
Classmate/Schoolmate	22.0 (15.4 - 28.6)	**
Friend	12.5 (7.7 - 17.3)	**
Stranger	10.3 (6.0 - 14.7)	**
Other	5.8 (1.9 - 9.7)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Authority figure includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.6.

Perpetrators of the most recent incident of sexual violence^[1] perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =231)	 Males (n [†] =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	12.4 (8.1 - 16.7)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.7.

Location of most recent incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n ⁺ =233)	Males (n ⁺ =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Participant's home	11.3 (6.3 - 16.3)	**
Perpetrator's home	20.9 (13.0 - 28.9)	**
Someone else's home	6.9 (1.5 - 12.2)*	**
On a road/Street	26.6 (19.3 - 33.8)	**
Market/Shop	2.1 (0.0 - 4.5)*	**
School	26.2 (19.1 - 33.2)	**
Lake, river, or other body of water	3.1 (1.1 - 5.1)*	**
Field or other natural area	14.6 (9.5 - 19.7)	**
Other ^[2]	1.7 (0.3 - 3.1)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
 [2] Other includes inside a car/bus, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc) church, or place of work.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day. n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.8.

Time of day^[1] of the most recent incident of sexual violence^[2], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n ⁺ =232)	Males (n ⁺ =9)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Morning	10.1 (5.9 - 14.3)	**
Afternoon	68.4 (62.2 - 74.6)	**
Evening	26.9 (19.5 - 34.4)	**
Late at night	3.3 (0.5 - 6.2)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Morning refers to sunrise until noon, afternoon refers to noon until sunset, evening refers to sunset until midnight, and late at night refers to midnight until sunrise.
 [2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day. n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.9.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =95)	 Males (n [†] =2)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	55.4 (42.7 - 68.0)	**
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	46.2 (33.4 - 59.0)	**
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	17.7 (8.1 - 27.2)	**
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	13.2 (5.0 - 21.4)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 4.2.10.

Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex and who told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =56)	 Males (n [†] =2)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Relative	56.6 (40.5 - 72.7)	**
Friend or neighbour	42.8 (26.4 - 59.2)	**
Service provider or authority figure ^[2]	7.6 (0.3 - 15.0)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: non-governmental organization worker, teacher, employer/co-worker, community leader/village chief, traditional healer, and religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of sexual violence or may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence which they may have told different people about each incident.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Section 5

Physical violence in childhood

Table 5.1.1.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Childhood physical violence	32.9 (30.1 - 35.8)	57.4 (51.1 - 63.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 5.1.2.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18 by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	136	3.8 (3.1 - 4.6)	13	2.1 (0.2 - 4.0)*
Parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative physical violence	755	22.7 (20.2 - 25.2)	256	38.6 (31.3 - 45.9)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	423	12.0 (9.7 - 14.2)	159	24.3 (19.7 - 28.8)
Peer physical violence	356	10.7 (9.1 - 12.4)	223	32.7 (26.5 - 39.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner. Intimate partner includes: married or lived with someone as married, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5.1.3.

Age of first experience of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =1101)	Males (n [†] =376)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
5 or younger	8.5 (6.0 - 11.0)	5.4 (2.3 - 8.6)
6-11	51.5 (47.1 - 55.9)	50.5 (41.0 - 60.1)
12-17	40.0 (35.8 - 44.3)	44.1 (32.9 - 55.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 5.1.4.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence before 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =1131)	Males (n [†] =387)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	52.0 (47.7 - 56.3)	37.1 (31.3 - 42.9)
	Females (n[†]=1129)	Males (n[†]=387)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	38.8 (33.8 - 43.9)	37.3 (27.9 - 46.6)
	Females (n[†]=1128)	Males (n[†]=387)
Sought help for any experience of physical violence	4.6 (3.0 - 6.2)	7.1 (3.2 - 10.9)
Received help for any experience of physical violence	3.7 (2.2 - 5.2)	6.2 (2.3 - 10.1)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5.1.5.

Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months and who told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =586)	Males (n [†] =144)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Relative	77.4 (72.6 - 82.1)	66.8 (51.0 - 82.6)
Spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/partner	0.7 (0.0 - 1.5)*	0.5 (0.0 - 1.4)*
Friend or neighbour	26.1 (21.3 - 30.9)	37.2 (21.4 - 53.1)
Service provider or authority figure ^[2]	4.8 (2.5 - 7.1)	4.8 (1.0 - 8.6)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: Non-governmental organization worker, teacher, employer/co-worker, community leader/village chief, traditional healer, and religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of physical violence or may have experienced physical violence from multiple people which they may have told different people about each incident.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5.1.6.

Source of service receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1] among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence before age 18 and received – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =39)	Males (n [†] =22)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Doctor, nurse, or other health care worker	31.1 (12.4 - 49.7)*	**
Police or other security personnel	41.7 (25.1 - 58.3)	**
Legal professional	1.5 (0.0 - 4.5)*	**
Community leader	63.0 (44.9 - 81.0)	**
Child and gender protection unit	16.0 (3.0 - 29.0)*	**
Social worker or counsellor	9.8 (0.0 - 19.7)*	**
Non-governmental organization	3.8 (0.0 - 11.2)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as categories not mutually exclusive.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 5.1.7.

Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence before age 18 and did not seek services – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =373)	Males (n [†] =115)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	16.2 (9.6 - 22.9)	5.2 (0.0 - 10.8)*
Embarrassed for self or my family	3.9 (0.0 - 7.7)*	1.5 (0.0 - 3.3)*
Could not afford services	0.2 (0.0 - 0.4)*	<0.1 [§]
Dependent on perpetrator	1.6 (0.2 - 3.0)*	<0.1 [§]
Perpetrator threatened me	0.6 (0.0 - 1.5)*	0.6 (0.0 - 1.8)*
Did not think it was a problem	36.4 (29.1 - 43.6)	57.2 (48.8 - 65.6)
Felt it was my fault	20.9 (15.4 - 26.3)	15.9 (9.4 - 22.4)
Afraid of being abandoned	0.4 (0.0 - 1.0)*	0.6 (0.0 - 1.7)*
Did not need/want services	17.5 (12.6 - 22.4)	17.8 (11.4 - 24.2)
Afraid of community violence	1.7 (0.0 - 3.8)*	1.2 (0.0 - 3.6)*
Services too far away	0.7 (0.0 - 1.5)*	<0.1 [§]

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

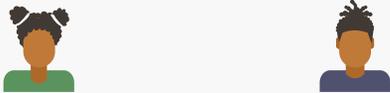
n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 5.2.1.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



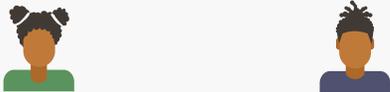
	Females (n=3411)	Males (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	21.1 (18.7 - 23.6)	27.1 (21.5 - 32.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 5.2.2.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females		Males	
	n^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	63	5.4 (3.9 - 6.9)	2	0.6 (0.0 - 1.6)*
Parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative physical violence	265	8.1 (6.8 - 9.4)	79	10.1 (7.2 - 13.0)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	341	9.7 (7.6 - 11.9)	113	14.9 (10.4 - 19.5)
Peer physical violence	202	6.3 (5.3 - 7.3)	98	14.2 (10.2 - 18.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner. Intimate partner includes: married or lived with someone as married, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some youth may experience violence from more than one person.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table 5.2.3.

Age of first experience of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n[†]=688)	Males (n[†]=199)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
5 or younger	7.7 (4.9 - 10.5)	5.3 (2.1 - 8.4)
6-11	48.6 (43.2 - 54.1)	55.9 (45.5 - 66.3)
12-17	43.7 (37.9 - 49.4)	38.8 (29.0 - 48.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 5.2.4.

Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months, by perpetrator – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =702)	Males (n [†] =202)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced injury as a result of physical violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months	20.0 (16.0 - 24.0)	26.6 (18.8 - 34.3)
	Females (n[†]=63)	Males (n[†]=2)
Injured from intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	10.1 (3.0 - 17.1)*	**
	Females (n[†]=265)	Males (n[†]=79)
Injured from parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative physical violence	24.6 (18.4 - 30.8)	18.3 (3.4 - 33.2)*
	Females (n[†]=341)	Males (n[†]=113)
Injured from adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	11.2 (7.4 - 14.9)	10.5 (0.4 - 20.6)*
	Females (n[†]=202)	Males (n[†]=98)
Injured from peer physical violence	19.8 (12.8 - 26.9)	40.0 (28.6 - 51.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner. Intimate partner includes: married or lived with someone as married, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because numerator was unreliable.

Table 5.2.5.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =1263)	Males (n [†] =406)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	49.7 (46.1 - 53.3)	31.1 (26.7 - 35.6)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	30.1 (25.6 - 34.6)	28.0 (20.2 - 35.8)
Sought help for any experience of physical violence	2.9 (1.8 - 4.0)	2.9 (0.8 - 4.9)*
Received help for any experience of physical violence	2.0 (1.2 - 2.9)	1.9 (0.2 - 3.6)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5.2.6.

Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence who and told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =628)	Males (n [†] =131)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Relative	78.5 (73.8 - 83.1)	80.6 (74.5 - 86.6)
Spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/partner	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7)*	<0.1 [§]
Friend or neighbour	23.6 (17.9 - 29.3)	25.2 (15.8 - 34.5)
Service provider or authority figure ^[2]	7.0 (4.0 - 10.0)	3.8 (0.4 - 7.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: Non-governmental organization worker, teacher, employer/co-worker, community leader/village chief, traditional healer, and religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of physical violence or may have experienced physical violence from multiple people which they may have told different people about each incident.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 5.2.7.

Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence and did not seek services – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Females (n [†] =327)	Males (n [†] =93)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	15.6 (10.2 - 20.9)	7.0 (0.9 - 13.2)*
Embarrassed for self or my family	1.9 (0.5 - 3.3)*	2.4 (0.0 - 5.1)*
Could not afford services	0.5 (0.0 - 1.5)*	<0.1 [§]
Dependent on perpetrator	<0.1 [§]	2.9 (0.0 - 8.2)*
Perpetrator threatened me	0.4 (0.0 - 1.2)*	<0.1 [§]
Did not think it was a problem	39.3 (32.1 - 46.6)	41.9 (26.7 - 57.0)
Felt it was my fault	22.6 (16.0 - 29.2)	24.9 (13.3 - 36.5)
Afraid of being abandoned	2.1 (0.5 - 3.7)*	<0.1 [§]
Did not need/want services	17.0 (12.1 - 21.8)	16.7 (7.2 - 26.1)
Afraid of community violence	<0.1 [§]	1.0 (0.0 - 2.9)*
Services too far away	0.6 (0.0 - 1.8)*	3.2 (0.0 - 6.9)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 5.3.1.

Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home^[1] and in the community/neighbourhood^[2], among 18-24-year-olds before age 18 and among 13-17-year-olds in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



Witnessed physical violence in childhood (among 18-24-year-olds)

	Females (n=3687)	Males (n=716)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
In the home	46.9 (44.2 - 49.7)	43.5 (36.1 - 50.9)
	Females (n=3684)	Males (n=717)
In the community/neighbourhood	22.5 (20.3 - 24.8)	44.1 (36.4 - 51.9)



Witnessed physical violence in the past 12 months (among 13-17-year-olds)

	Females (n=3402)	Males (n=746)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
In the home	18.9 (16.8 - 21.0)	14.4 (10.4 - 18.4)
	Females (n=3407)	Males (n=747)
In the community/neighbourhood	8.6 (7.2 - 10.0)	13.4 (9.7 - 17.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Witnessing physical violence in the home includes: hearing or seeing a parent hit, punch, kick or beat your other parent, step-parent, or your brothers or sisters.

[2] Witnessing physical violence in the community/neighbourhood includes: seeing someone get attacked outside of your home and family environment.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Section 6

Emotional violence in childhood

Table 6.1.1.

Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3655)	 Males (n=712)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Childhood emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative	10.6 (9.3 - 12.0)	7.8 (4.9 - 10.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 6.1.2.

Age of first experience of emotional violence^[1] by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced emotional violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Female (n [†] =360)	 Male (n [†] =52)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
11 or younger	17.7 (12.6 - 22.8)	10.8 (1.6 - 20.0)*
12-17	82.3 (77.2 - 87.4)	89.2 (80.0 - 98.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 6.1.3.

Prevalence of emotional violence by an intimate partner^[1,2], among 18-24-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =3336)	 Males (n [†] =591)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner	24.7 (22.5 - 26.9)	15.5 (10.6 - 20.4)
	Females (n [†] =3327)	Males (n [†] =591)
Emotional violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months	14.5 (12.6 - 16.3)	5.7 (3.3 - 8.1)

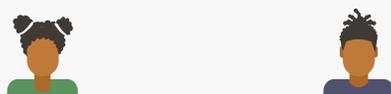
Note: CI = confidence interval. [1] Emotional violence by an intimate partner includes: being insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others; keeping you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends; keeping track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing; made threats to physically harm you.

[2] Intimate partner includes: married or lived with someone as married, or boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup

Table 6.2.1.

Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3411)	Males (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Emotional violence in the past 12 months	26.7 (24.1 - 29.3)	22.1 (17.4 - 26.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence includes: any emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, by an intimate partner, and by a peer. n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 6.2.2.

Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] in the past 12 months by different perpetrator types among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Female (n=3409)	Male (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative emotional violence^[2] in the past 12 months	6.9 (5.8 - 8.0)	3.8 (1.8 - 5.9)
Peer emotional violence^[3] in the past 12 months	22.4 (20.1 - 24.7)	20.4 (15.6 - 25.1)
Intimate partner emotional violence^[4] in the past 12 months	8.8 (6.9 - 10.7)	3.5 (0.4 - 6.5)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence includes: any emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, by an intimate partner, and by a peer.

[2] Emotional violence by parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.

[3] Emotional violence by peer includes: made you feel scared or really bad because they were calling you names, being told lies or spread rumours about you, or tried to make others dislike you, being kept you out of things on purpose, excluded you from their group of friends, or completely ignored you.

[4] Emotional violence by an intimate partner includes: being insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others; keeping you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends; keeping track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing; made threats to physically harm you.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 6.2.3.

Age of first experience of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any emotional violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Female (n†=202)	Male (n†=22)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
11 or younger	9.5 (5.3 - 13.7)	8.1 (0.0 - 20.6)*
12-17	90.5 (86.3 - 94.7)	91.9 (79.4 - 100.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence includes: any emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, by an intimate partner, and by a peer.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 6.2.4.

Prevalence of emotional violence by a peer^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3409)	 Males (n=748)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Peer emotional violence in the past 12 months	22.4 (20.1 - 24.7)	20.4 (15.6 - 25.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by peer includes: made you feel scared or really bad because they were calling you names, being told lies or spread rumours about you, or tried to make others dislike you, being kept you out of things on purpose, excluded you from their group of friends, or completely ignored you.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Section 7

Sexual and physical violence among young adults

Table 7.1.1.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3690)	 Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	9.9 (8.3 - 11.5)	4.8 (3.0 - 6.6)
	Females (n=3686)	Males (n=718)
Unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months	6.4 (5.2 - 7.7)	4.5 (2.8 - 6.2)
	Females (n=3674)	Males (n=717)
Unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months	3.2 (2.5 - 4.0)	0.8 (0.2 - 1.4)*
	Females (n=3663)	Males (n=716)
Pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months	2.1 (1.4 - 2.7)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.8)*
	Females (n=3682)	Males (n=717)
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	2.1 (1.5 - 2.6)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

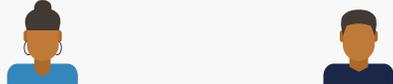
[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 7.1.2.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3687)	Males (n=717)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	3.6 (2.8 - 4.4)	0.5 (0.0 - 0.9)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 *Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 7.1.3.

Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

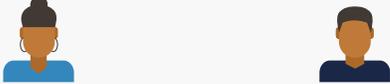


	Females (n [†] =319)	Males (n [†] =35)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend girlfriend/romantic partner	49.3 (41.6 - 57.1)	39.7 (17.4 - 62.0)
Family member	4.0 (1.5 - 6.6)*	<0.1 [§]
Authority figure ^[2]	4.8 (2.4 - 7.2)	<0.1 [§]
Neighbour	8.9 (5.0 - 12.8)	16.9 (3.3 - 30.4)*
Classmate/Schoolmate	8.7 (4.1 - 13.3)	18.5 (3.4 - 33.5)*
Friend	17.0 (11.0 - 23.0)	15.6 (2.3 - 28.8)*
Stranger	7.5 (4.3 - 10.6)	10.6 (0.0 - 24.4)*
Other	6.3 (3.1 - 9.5)	5.3 (0.0 - 13.4)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
 [2] Authority figure: includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.
 Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
 *Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 §Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 7.1.4.

Perpetrators of sexual violence^[1] perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =317)	Males (n [†] =35)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months	31.1 (24.4 - 37.9)	13.7 (2.7 - 24.6)*
	Females (n [†] =121)	Males (n [†] =5)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	31.2 (20.6 - 41.8)	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured and coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

Table 7.1.5.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =123)	Males (n [†] =5)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	47.2 (37.0 - 57.4)	78.4 (34.4 - 100.0)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	47.1 (35.1 - 59.2)	48.6 (9.3 - 88.0)*
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	11.5 (5.6 - 17.4)	<0.1 [§]
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	7.1 (1.9 - 12.2)*	<0.1 [§]

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured and coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

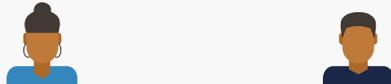
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

Table 7.1.6.

Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured or physically forced sex in the past 12 months and who told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =64)	Males (n [†] =4)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Relative	45.0 (31.4 - 58.7)	**
Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, partner	1.7 (0.0 - 5.2)*	**
Friend or neighbour	59.2 (45.9 - 72.4)	**
Service provider or authority figure ^[2]	4.8 (0.0 - 10.0)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured and coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: Non-governmental organization worker, teacher, employer/co-worker, community leader/village chief, traditional healer, and religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of sexual violence or may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence which they may have told different people about each incident.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because the denominator was unreliable.

Table 7.1.7.

Prevalence of transactional sex^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds who had sex – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =2624)	Males (n [†] =506)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Transactional sex	5.1 (4.0 - 6.2)	1.7 (0.3 - 3.1)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 7.2.1.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	12.9 (11.3 - 14.5)	18.0 (13.6 - 22.4)

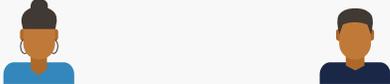
Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 7.2.2.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =3336)	Males (n [†] =591)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	7.2 (6.0 - 8.4)	1.6 (0.7 - 2.5)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	2.9 (2.1 - 3.7)	5.7 (3.1 - 8.3)
Peer physical violence	2.3 (1.7 - 2.9)	10.5 (7.2 - 13.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner. Intimate partner includes: married or lived with someone as if married, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 7.2.3.

Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n [†] =466)	Males (n [†] =126)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced injury as a result of physical violence in the past 12 months	31.8 (26.9 - 36.7)	28.1 (18.4 - 37.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 7.2.4.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n ⁺ =465)	Males (n ⁺ =126)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	66.8 (61.5 - 72.2)	50.8 (38.8 - 62.9)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	42.2 (35.9 - 48.6)	41.1 (26.0 - 56.1)
Sought help for any experience of physical violence	12.6 (8.4 - 16.7)	7.5 (3.0 - 11.9)
Received help for any experience of physical violence	10.6 (6.6 - 14.6)	5.9 (2.1 - 9.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 7.2.5.

Relationship with person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months who told someone – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n ⁺ =308)	Males (n ⁺ =63)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told a relative	75.6 (69.5 - 81.8)	58.0 (38.7 - 77.3)
Told a spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or partner	1.6 (0.3 - 2.8)*	1.6 (0.0 - 4.9)*
Told a friend/neighbour	25.7 (19.1 - 32.2)	33.1 (11.0 - 55.2)*
Told a service provider or authority figure ^[2]	6.8 (3.1 - 10.6)	11.5 (2.3 - 20.8)*
Received help for any experience of physical violence	10.6 (6.6 - 14.6)	5.9 (2.1 - 9.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Authority figure: includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as categories not mutually exclusive.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 7.2.6.

Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months and did not seek services – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n [†] =138)	 Males (n [†] =35)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	22.3 (12.4 - 32.2)	6.1 (0.0 - 14.8)*
Embarrassed for self or my family	4.1 (0.0 - 8.2)*	1.4 (0.0 - 4.1)*
Could not afford services	1.0 (0.0 - 2.4)*	<0.1§
Dependent on perpetrator	0.3 (0.0 - 1.0)*	<0.1§
Perpetrator threatened me	2.8 (0.0 - 6.2)*	1.7 (0.0 - 5.2)*
Did not think it was a problem	30.0 (21.1 - 38.8)	65.6 (42.9 - 88.3)
Felt it was my fault	11.8 (6.4 - 17.1)	3.1 (0.0 - 7.3)*
Afraid of being abandoned	2.0 (0.0 - 4.8)*	1.7 (0.0 - 5.2)*
Did not need/want services	19.8 (12.5 - 27.0)	18.0 (0.2 - 35.8)*
Afraid of community violence	2.8 (0.0 - 7.5)*	<0.1§
Services too far away	3.2 (0.2 - 6.2)*	2.4 (0.0 - 7.6)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Section 8

Overlap between sexual, physical, and emotional violence

Table 8.1.1.

Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Female (n=3690) Weighted % (95% CI)	Male (n=718) Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence		
No childhood violence	57.0 (54.1 - 60.0)	41.0 (35.0 - 47.1)
Any childhood violence	43.0 (40.0 - 45.9)	59.0 (52.9 - 65.0)
One type of violence only		
Childhood sexual violence ^[1] only	5.5 (4.4 - 6.6)	0.6 (0.0 - 1.1)*
Childhood physical violence ^[2] only	21.0 (18.6 - 23.3)	47.5 (41.9 - 53.2)
Childhood emotional violence ^[3] only	3.5 (2.8 - 4.3)	1.0 (0.3 - 1.7)*
Multiple types of violence		
Two types of violence	10.9 (9.4 - 12.3)	8.5 (5.6 - 11.4)
Childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence	2.1 (1.5 - 2.7)	1.3 (0.0 - 2.8)*
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	2.1 (1.5 - 2.6)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or neighbourhood, or peer.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down, by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.1.2.

Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds
– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Female (n=3411)	Male (n=749)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence		
No violence	72.2 (69.6 - 74.9)	70.1 (64.7 - 75.6)
Any violence	27.8 (25.1 - 30.4)	29.9 (24.4 - 35.3)
One type of violence only		
Sexual violence ^[1] only	3.4 (2.6 - 4.2)	0.9 (0.1 - 1.7)*
Physical violence ^[2] only	15.4 (13.1 - 17.6)	24.5 (19.2 - 29.9)
Emotional violence ^[3] only	2.4 (1.8 - 3.1)	1.8 (0.4 - 3.2)*
Multiple types of violence		
Two types of violence	5.6 (4.6 - 6.6)	2.6 (1.1 - 4.2)
Sexual, physical, and emotional violence	1.0 (0.6 - 1.4)	<0.1 [§]

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or neighbourhood, or peer.[3]

Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 8.1.3.

Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds
– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Female (n=3690)	Male (n=718)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence		
No violence	77.2 (74.9 - 79.5)	76.6 (72.4 - 80.9)
Any violence	22.8 (20.5 - 25.1)	23.4 (19.1 - 27.6)
One type of violence only		
Sexual violence ^[1] in the past 12 months only	6.0 (4.8 - 7.3)	2.3 (1.1 - 3.4)
Physical violence ^[2] in the past 12 months only	7.9 (6.5 - 9.2)	13.0 (9.0 - 16.9)
Emotional violence ^[3] in the past 12 months only	3.2 (2.4 - 4.0)	2.9 (1.3 - 4.4)
Multiple types of violence		
Two types of violence	4.2 (3.4 - 4.9)	4.8 (2.6 - 7.1)
Sexual, physical, and emotional violence	1.5 (1.0 - 2.1)	0.5 (0.0 - 0.9)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or neighbourhood, or peer.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Health conditions associated with violence

Table 9.1.1.

Health conditions and health behaviours by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old females – Lesotho

Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking [4] in the past 30 days	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	42.7 (37.4 - 48.0) 480	11.7 (6.3 - 17.1) 470	4.8 (0.0 - 10.3)* 477	1.8 (0.3 - 3.3)* 480
No sexual violence n [†]	28.0 (25.4 - 30.7) 3209	7.0 (5.7 - 8.4) 3152	2.6 (1.9 - 3.3) 3200	1.5 (1.0 - 2.1) 3199
Physical violence in childhood				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	37.3 (33.0 - 41.7) 1131	8.6 (6.4 - 10.9) 1111	3.6 (2.0 - 5.1) 1126	2.0 (1.0 - 3.1) 1128
No physical violence n [†]	26.6 (23.6 - 29.6) 2559	7.3 (5.8 - 8.7) 2511	2.6 (1.6 - 3.5) 2552	1.3 (0.8 - 1.9) 2552
Emotional violence in childhood				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	51.4 (43.5 - 59.3) 372	8.7 (5.6 - 11.8) 368	5.3 (1.4 - 9.1)* 371	2.7 (1.0 - 4.4)* 372
No emotional violence n [†]	27.3 (24.8 - 29.8) 3283	7.6 (6.2 - 9.0) 3221	2.6 (1.8 - 3.4) 3273	1.4 (0.9 - 1.9) 3273

	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide [5]	Ever had symptoms/ diagnosis of STI [6]
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	5.5 (3.2 - 7.9) 478	21.2 (16.9 - 25.6) 480	37.8 (27.6 - 48.1) 109	16.3 (12.4 - 20.1) 480
No sexual violence n [†]	1.8 (1.2 - 2.4) 3207	9.1 (7.8 - 10.3) 3209	25.0 (19.2 - 30.7) 259	12.8 (11.0 - 14.5) 3209
Physical violence in childhood				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	3.6 (2.0 - 5.1) 1130	18.2 (15.5 - 21.0) 1131	28.6 (20.5 - 36.8) 188	15.2 (12.5 - 17.9) 1131
No physical violence n [†]	1.8 (1.1 - 2.4) 2556	7.2 (5.9 - 8.6) 2559	28.6 (21.0 - 36.2) 180	12.3 (10.6 - 14.0) 2559
Emotional violence in childhood				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	7.1 (3.9 - 10.2) 371	24.0 (18.6 - 29.3) 372	38.9 (25.6 - 52.2) 83	18.3 (13.1 - 23.6) 372
No emotional violence n [†]	1.8 (1.2 - 2.4) 3280	9.2 (7.9 - 10.4) 3283	25.7 (19.9 - 31.4) 277	12.6 (10.9 - 14.2) 3283

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down. by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.

[5] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[6] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 9.1.2.

Health conditions and health behaviours by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old males – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking [4] in the past 30 days	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	36.4 (12.8 - 60.1)* 30	37.7 (16.6 - 58.9) 28	41.6 (22.1 - 61.0) 30	21.7 (0.0 - 45.0)* 30
No sexual violence n [†]	30.8 (24.6 - 37.0) 688	25.9 (20.5 - 31.4) 658	37.8 (32.3 - 43.3) 687	12.2 (8.7 - 15.7) 687
Physical violence in childhood				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	37.8 (30.9 - 44.6) 387	31.0 (23.7 - 38.2) 374	40.0 (33.4 - 46.6) 387	13.4 (8.9 - 18.0) 387
No physical violence n [†]	22.0 (15.5 - 28.6) 331	20.4 (13.8 - 27.0) 312	35.2 (28.5 - 42.0) 330	11.8 (7.4 - 16.1) 330
Emotional violence in childhood				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	41.2 (27.0 - 55.3) 52	40.7 (18.3 - 63.0) 52	55.4 (35.4 - 75.4) 52	25.7 (6.1 - 45.3)* 52
No emotional violence n [†]	30.2 (23.9 - 36.5) 660	25.1 (19.1 - 31.1) 628	36.4 (30.7 - 42.1) 659	11.4 (8.3 - 14.6) 659

	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide [5]	Ever had symptoms/ diagnosis of STI [6]
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any violence				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	16.9 (0.0 - 42.4)* 29	7.1 (0.0 - 16.7)* 30	** 3	32.7 (10.9 - 54.5)* 30
No sexual violence n [†]	2.5 (0.6 - 4.3)* 688	3.2 (1.6 - 4.9) 688	24.5 (9.8 - 39.2) 30	9.4 (6.8 - 12.1) 688
Physical violence in childhood				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	4.1 (0.6 - 7.6)* 387	4.0 (1.7 - 6.3) 387	29.5 (8.9 - 50.0)* 21	11.9 (7.3 - 16.5) 387
No physical violence n [†]	1.9 (0.1 - 3.8) 330	2.7 (1.0 - 4.4)* 331	21.7 (0.0 - 46.0) 12	8.8 (4.8 - 12.8) 331
Emotional violence in childhood				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	15.9 (0.0 - 34.2)* 52	5.9 (0.0 - 12.6)* 52	** 4	31.7 (6.0 - 57.4)* 52
No emotional violence n [†]	2.1 (0.3 - 3.8)* 659	3.0 (1.4 - 4.5) 660	27.6 (11.1 - 44.1) 26	8.6 (5.9 - 11.3) 660

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down, by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.[5] Among those who experienced thought of suicide.

[6] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

Table 9.2.1.

Health conditions and health behaviours by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence, among 13-17-year-old females – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking [4] in the past 30 days	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	42.7 (33.8 - 51.6) 233	3.3 (0.9 - 5.7)* 225	6.0 (0.6 - 11.5)* 232	1.3 (0.0 - 2.7)* 233
No sexual violence n [†]	20.1 (17.7 - 22.5) 3172	0.6 (0.3 - 0.9) 3118	0.7 (0.4 - 1.1) 3160	0.4 (0.1 - 0.7)* 3160
Physical violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	28.5 (24.0 - 33.0) 702	1.8 (0.6 - 2.9)* 688	1.7 (0.6 - 2.8)* 700	1.3 (0.2 - 2.4)* 700
No physical violence n [†]	19.8 (17.2 - 22.5) 2709	0.5 (0.3 - 0.8) 2660	1.0 (0.4 - 1.6)* 2698	0.2 (0.1 - 0.4)* 2699
Emotional violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	48.5 (40.8 - 56.2) 221	2.2 (0.4 - 4.1)* 219	3.8 (0.6 - 7.0) 220	0.9 (0.0 - 2.3)* 221
No emotional violence n [†]	19.7 (17.3 - 22.0) 3188	0.7 (0.4 - 1.0) 3127	0.9 (0.4 - 1.5) 3176	0.4 (0.1 - 0.7)* 3176
	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide [5]	Ever had symptoms/ diagnosis of STI [6]
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced sexual violence n [†]	11.0 (5.4 - 16.6) 233	13.8 (9.3 - 18.2) 233	34.8 (15.7 - 53.8) 35	12.9 (7.8 - 18.0) 233
No sexual violence n [†]	1.3 (0.8 - 1.8) 3171	3.8 (3.1 - 4.6) 3171	18.7 (10.6 - 26.8) 124	4.3 (3.4 - 5.2) 3159
Physical violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced physical violence n [†]	3.2 (1.5 - 4.8) 702	7.9 (5.7 - 10.2) 702	14.4 (3.8 - 25.0)* 58	7.1 (4.9 - 9.4) 701
No physical violence n [†]	1.7 (1.0 - 2.4) 2708	3.6 (2.8 - 4.5) 2708	26.8 (16.7 - 37.0) 101	4.3 (3.3 - 5.3) 2696
Emotional violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced emotional violence n [†]	9.8 (4.0 - 15.5) 221	18.6 (12.6 - 24.6) 221	26.8 (11.0 - 42.6) 43	10.8 (5.6 - 16.1) 221
No emotional violence n [†]	1.4 (0.9 - 2.0) 3187	3.5 (2.8 - 4.2) 3187	20.4 (12.4 - 28.5) 116	4.5 (3.5 - 5.4) 3174

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down. by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.[5] Among those who experienced thought of suicide.

[6] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

Table 9.2.2.

Health conditions and health behaviours by experience of sexual violence [1] or physical [2] or emotional [3] violence, among 13-17-year-old males – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking [4] in the past 30 days	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced sexual violence	**	**	**	**
n [†]	9	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]	9
No sexual violence	25.0 (18.1 - 31.9)	2.8 (1.5 - 4.1)	7.6 (4.4 - 10.8)	1.9 (0.8 - 3.0)
n [†]	740	732	740	740
Physical violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced physical violence	31.8 (24.9 - 38.7)	2.4 (0.3 - 4.5)*	12.8 (5.3 - 20.2)	2.7 (0.5 - 4.8)*
n [†]	202	200	202	202
No physical violence	22.7 (14.6 - 30.7)	2.9 (1.3 - 4.5)	5.6 (2.8 - 8.3)	1.7 (0.6 - 2.9)*
n [†]	547	540	547	547
Emotional violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced emotional violence	52.1 (26.2 - 78.1)	2.7 (0.0 - 8.1)*	17.6 (1.5 - 33.8)*	<0.1 [§]
n [†]	25	24	25	
No emotional violence	24.1 (17.0 - 31.1)	2.8 (1.6 - 4.0)	7.1 (4.1 - 10.1)	2.1 (0.9 - 3.2)
n [†]	724	716	724	724
	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide [5]	Ever had symptoms/ diagnosis of STI [6]
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced sexual violence	**	**	**	**
n [†]	<0.1 [§]	9	<0.1 [§]	9
No sexual violence	1.4 (0.5 - 2.3)*	2.0 (0.8 - 3.2)	27.1 (4.3 - 50.0)	3.8 (1.6 - 6.1)
n [†]	740	739	140	740
Physical violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced physical violence	1.6 (0.0 - 3.1)*	3.8 (0.5 - 7.2)*	**	8.0 (1.1 - 15.0)*
n [†]	202	202	6	202
No physical violence	1.3 (0.1 - 2.4)*	1.5 (0.4 - 2.7)	**	2.5 (0.6 - 4.4)*
n [†]	547	546	9	547
Emotional violence in the past 12 months				
Experienced emotional violence	2.3 (0.0 - 6.8)*	20.6 (2.7 - 38.5)*	**	12.5 (0.0 - 27.8)*
n [†]	25	25	4	25
No emotional violence	1.3 (0.4 - 2.2)	1.4 (0.4 - 2.4)*	**	3.7 (1.5 - 5.8)
n [†]	724	723	11	724

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down, by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion. [5] Among those who experienced thoughts of thinking of suicide.

[6] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 9.3.1.

Pregnancy as a result of coerced^[1] or physically forced sex or sex when too drunk to say no, among 13-24-year-old females who had these experiences
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =1083)
	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pregnancy as a result of coerced or forced sex, or sex when too drunk to say no	4.3 (2.9 - 5.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Coerced sex includes: sex through verbal persuasion, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 9.3.2.

Missing school as a result of childhood sexual violence^[1] before age 18
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =333)	Males (n [†] =12)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
18-24-year-olds who experienced any childhood sexual violence	6.2 (3.0 - 9.4)	<0.1 [§]
	Females (n [†] =130)	Males (n [†] =3)
13-17-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence	6.5 (2.1 - 10.8)*	**

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator was unreliable.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 9.3.3.

Missing school as a result of childhood physical violence^[1] before age 18
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =1110)	Males (n [†] =367)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
18-24-year-olds who experienced any childhood physical violence	7.0 (5.0 - 8.9)	3.6 (1.2 - 6.0)*
	Females (n [†] =1256)	Males (n [†] =399)
13-17-year-olds who experienced physical violence	3.1 (2.0 - 4.2)	3.4 (1.5 - 5.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Section 10

Sexual risk taking behaviours and HIV

Table 10.1.1.

Sexual risk taking behaviours in the past 12 months, among 19-24-year-olds who had sexual intercourse – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Two or more sex partners in the past 12 months	243	11.6 (9.9 - 13.4)	181	44.3 (37.1 - 51.6)
Infrequent condom use ^[1] in the past 12 months	549	26.3 (23.6 - 29.1)	142	35.1 (26.4 - 43.7)
Transactional sex ^[2] in the past 12 months	100	4.7 (3.7 - 5.7)	8	1.7 (0.2 - 3.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes used condoms in the past 12 months.

[2] Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 10.1.1a

Prevalence of transactional sex^[1], among 13-24-year-olds who had sex – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =3359)	Males (n [†] =782)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Transactional sex	5.1 (4.1 - 6.1)	1.9 (0.6 - 3.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 10.1.2.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners^[1] and infrequent condom use^[2] in the past 12 months by experience of sexual violence^[3] before age 18, among 19-24-year-olds who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Had multiple sex partners in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood sexual violence	55	18.3 (14.0 - 22.6)	7	44.6 (24.4 - 64.7)
Never experienced childhood sexual violence	188	10.5 (8.8 - 12.2)	174	44.3 (36.8 - 51.8)
Infrequent condom use in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood sexual violence	94	33.8 (25.2 - 42.4)	7	43.1 (21.1 - 65.0)
Never experienced childhood sexual violence	455	25.0 (22.5 - 27.6)	135	34.6 (25.4 - 43.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Multiple sexual partners: 2 or more sexual partners in the past 12 months.

[2] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes used condoms in the past 12 months.

[3] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table 10.1.3.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners^[1] and infrequent condom use^[2] in the past 12 months by experience of physical violence^[3] before age 18, among 19-24-year-olds who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Had multiple sex partners in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood physical violence	86	13.9 (10.4 - 17.4)	96	43.3 (35.9 - 50.8)
Never experienced childhood physical violence	157	10.5 (8.6 - 12.5)	85	45.7 (35.5 - 55.9)
Infrequent condom use in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood physical violence	184	29.3 (23.7 - 34.9)	88	41.0 (30.1 - 52.0)
Never experienced childhood physical violence	365	24.9 (22.3 - 27.4)	54	27.0 (18.6 - 35.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Multiple sexual partners: 2 or more sexual partners in the past 12 months.

[2] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes use condoms in the past 12 months.

[3] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table 10.1.4.

Prevalence of having multiple sexual partners^[1], and infrequent condom use^[2] in the past 12 months by experience of emotional violence^[3] before age 18, among 19-24-year-olds who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Had multiple sex partners in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood emotional violence	27	13.6 (7.7 - 19.5)	16	60.4 (36.3 - 84.5)
Never experienced childhood emotional violence	213	11.4 (9.5 - 13.3)	165	43.0 (36.0 - 50.0)
Infrequent condom use in the past 12 months				
Experienced childhood emotional violence	62	30.0 (22.3 - 37.6)	16	59.0 (33.3 - 84.8)
Never experienced childhood emotional violence	480	25.9 (23.0 - 28.9)	125	32.7 (23.4 - 42.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Multiple sexual partners: 2 or more sexual partners in the past 12 months.

[2] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes use condoms in the past 12 months.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down, by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table 10.2.1.

HIV testing knowledge and behaviour among 13-24-year-olds^[1] who ever had sexual intercourse – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
HIV testing knowledge				
Know where to go for HIV test	3289	97.7 (96.8 - 98.5)	721	91.9 (88.6 - 95.2)
HIV testing behaviour				
Never tested for HIV	136	3.9 (3.1 - 4.7)	99	10.5 (7.3 - 13.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Age of consent for HIV testing in Lesotho is 13-years-old.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table 10.2.2.

HIV testing knowledge and behaviour among 13-24-year-olds^[1] who have ever had sexual intercourse, by experience of childhood sexual violence^[2] before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Know where to go for HIV test	Never tested for HIV
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Females		
Experienced childhood sexual violence n ^{††}	96.5 (94.6 - 98.5) 535	4.2 (2.4 - 6.0) 27
Never experienced childhood sexual violence n ^{††}	97.9 (97.2 - 98.7) 2753	3.8 (3.0 - 4.7) 109
Males		
Experienced childhood sexual violence n ^{††}	93.6 (84.7 - 100.0) 35	10.5 (0.0 - 22.0)* 4
Never experienced childhood sexual violence n ^{††}	91.8 (88.5 - 95.1) 686	10.5 (7.3 - 13.7) 95

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Ages 15-24-year-olds include all participants who were above the age of consent in Lesotho for HIV testing.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 10.2.3.

HIV testing knowledge and behaviour among 13-24-year-olds^[1] who have ever had sexual intercourse, by experience of sexual violence^[2] in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Know where to go for HIV test	Never tested for HIV
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Females		
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months n ^{††}	97.6 (95.8 - 99.4) 357	** 16
Never experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months n ^{††}	97.7 (96.7 - 98.6) 2943	3.8 (3.0 - 4.7) 122
Males		
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months n ^{††}	96.9 (90.6 - 100.0) 39	** <0.1 [§]
Never experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months n ^{††}	97.7 (96.8 - 98.6) 2931	3.8 (3.0 - 4.7) 120

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Ages 15-24-years-old include all participants who were above the age of consent in Lesotho for HIV testing.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^{††}denotes numerator.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator is unreliable.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 10.2.4.

Reason for not getting tested for HIV, among 13-24-year-olds who ever had sex but were never tested for HIV – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n [†] =117)	Males (n [†] =87)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
No knowledge about HIV test	9.4 (4.0 - 14.8)	11.9 (3.0 - 20.7)*
Don't know where to get HIV test	2.3 (0.0 - 5.0)*	11.1 (3.3 - 19.0)*
Test costs too much	0.6 (0.0 - 1.9)*	<0.1 [§]
Transport to test site is too much	3.3 (0.4 - 6.3)*	1.0 (0.0 - 3.2)*
Test site too far away	5.6 (1.2 - 10.0)*	10.1 (1.9 - 18.2)*
Afraid husband/wife/partner will know about test/test results	0.6 (0.0 - 1.8)*	1.6 (0.0 - 4.8)*
Afraid others will know about test/test results	21.5 (12.6 - 30.3)	11.2 (2.3 - 20.1)*
Don't need test/low risk	8.8 (3.7 - 13.9)	19.4 (10.7 - 28.2)
Don't want to know if I have HIV	22.2 (13.7 - 30.7)	12.3 (4.2 - 20.5)*
Other	25.7 (14.6 - 36.7)	21.4 (8.7 - 34.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 10.3.1.

Prevalence of testing positive for HIV^[1], among 13-24 year-olds, overall and by experience of lifetime^[2] sexual^[3], physical^[4], and emotional^[5] violence
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Tested positive for HIV	434	7.3 (6.3 - 8.3)	30	2.3 (1.4 - 3.2)
HIV status and any lifetime violence				
HIV positive and experienced any violence	249	8.3 (6.9 - 9.8)	18	2.2 (0.9 - 3.5)
HIV positive and never experienced violence	185	6.2 (5.2 - 7.3)	12	2.3 (1.1 - 3.6)
HIV status and lifetime sexual violence				
HIV positive and experienced sexual violence	93	9.4 (6.8 - 11.9)	2	2.3 (0.0 - 5.4)*
HIV positive and never experienced sexual violence	341	6.8 (5.9 - 7.8)	28	2.3 (1.4 - 3.1)
HIV status and lifetime physical violence				
HIV positive and experienced physical violence	207	8.7 (7.2 - 10.2)	18	2.3 (0.9 - 3.6)
HIV positive and never experienced physical violence	227	6.3 (5.3 - 7.4)	12	2.3 (1.0 - 3.5)
HIV status and lifetime emotional violence				
HIV positive and experienced emotional violence	70	9.2 (5.8 - 12.5)	2	1.4 (0.0 - 3.4)*
HIV positive and never experienced emotional violence	363	6.9 (6.0 - 7.9)	28	2.3 (1.4 - 3.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Determined through HIV rapid test results, demonstrating proof of treatment, or self-report of a prior HIV test.

[2] Includes any experiences of violence throughout the lifetime.

[3] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[4] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[5] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down. by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Attitudes and beliefs related to gender and violence, and violence perpetration

Table 11.1.1.

Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence^[1] among 13-17 and 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n=3407)	Males (n=741)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
13-17-year-olds	31.7 (29.1 - 34.3)	24.5 (17.9 - 31.1)
	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=717)
18-24-year-olds	24.4 (22.1 - 26.8)	22.6 (18.4 - 26.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she: goes out without telling him; neglects the children; argues with him; refuses to have sex with him; burns the food.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 11.1.2.

Endorsement of traditional norms about gender, sexual behaviour, and intimate partner violence^[1], among 13-17 and 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females (n=3407)	Males (n=741)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
13-17-year-olds	30.0 (27.4 - 32.6)	41.4 (34.6 - 48.2)
	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=718)
18-24-year-olds	27.4 (25.3 - 29.4)	47.0 (41.3 - 52.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: Only men, not women, should decide when to have sex; If someone insults a boy or man, he should defend his reputation with force if he needs to; There are times when a woman should be beaten; Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men; A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 11.2.1.

Physical violence^[1] perpetration by age group – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females	Males
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
	Females (n=3386)	Males (n=748)
13-17-year-olds	12.5 (10.6 - 14.3)	19.2 (15.0 - 23.4)
	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=717)
18-24-year-olds	12.1 (10.2 - 13.9)	25.3 (20.2 - 30.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

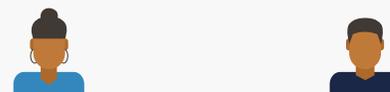
[1] Violence includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 11.2.2.

Physical violence perpetration^[1] by experience of sexual violence^[2] and physical violence^[3] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



Physical violence perpetration (ever) by experience of childhood sexual violence	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=717)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced childhood sexual violence	22.5 (16.5-28.4)	59.3 (30.7-87.8)
Never experienced childhood sexual violence	10.3 (8.6-12.0)	23.5 (18.9-28.2)

Physical violence perpetration (ever) by experience of childhood physical violence	Females (n=3690)	Males (n=717)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced childhood physical violence	25.6 (22.0 - 29.2)	35.8 (28.5 - 43.1)
Never experienced childhood physical violence	5.4 (4.2 - 6.7)	11.1 (7.1 - 15.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

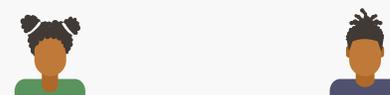
[3] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table 11.2.3.

Physical violence perpetration^[1] by experience of sexual violence^[2] and physical violence^[3] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



Physical violence perpetration (ever) by experience of sexual violence	Females (n=3384)	Males (n=748)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	28.9 (19.9 - 37.8)	60.9 (23.2 - 98.6)*
Never experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	11.1 (9.4 - 12.9)	18.6 (14.3 - 22.9)

Physical violence perpetration (ever) by experience of physical violence	Females (n=3386)	Males (n=748)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	26.3 (21.8 - 30.8)	27.6 (16.4 - 38.9)
Never experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	8.7 (7.2 - 10.3)	16.1 (11.6 - 20.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[3] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table 11.3.1.

Intimate partner^[1] violence perpetration^[2], among 18-24-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n ⁺ =3336)	Males (n ⁺ =591)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Perpetrated intimate partner violence	5.9 (4.9 - 7.0)	21.7 (17.3 - 26.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

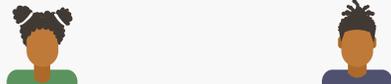
[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Intimate partner violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon; or forcing a boyfriend/romantic partner, girlfriend/romantic partner, ex-boyfriend/romantic partner, ex-girlfriend/romantic partner, husband, wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife to have sex with you when they did not want to.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 11.3.2.

Intimate partner^[1] violence perpetration^[2], among 13-17-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3384)	Males (n=748)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Perpetrated intimate partner violence	4.6 (2.9 - 6.3)	7.6 (4.5 - 10.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

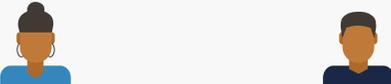
[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Intimate partner violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon; or forcing a boyfriend/romantic partner, girlfriend/romantic partner, ex-boyfriend/romantic partner, ex-girlfriend/romantic partner, husband, wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife to have sex with you when they did not want to.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table 11.3.3.

Intimate partner^[1] violence perpetration^[2] by experience of sexual violence^[3] or physical violence^[4] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females (n=3690)		Males	
	n ⁺⁺	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ⁺⁺	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of childhood sexual violence				
Experienced childhood sexual violence	46	11.1 (7.5 - 14.7)	14	50.4 (32.4 - 68.5)
Never experienced childhood sexual violence	132	5.0 (4.0 - 6.0)	118	20.0 (16.3 - 23.7)
Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of childhood physical violence				
Experienced childhood physical violence	106	10.2 (8.1 - 12.3)	81	25.8 (19.4 - 32.1)
Never experienced childhood physical violence	72	3.7 (2.9 - 4.6)	51	16.0 (10.6 - 21.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Intimate partner violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon; or forcing a boyfriend/romantic partner, girlfriend/romantic partner, ex-boyfriend/romantic partner, ex-girlfriend/romantic partner, husband, wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife to have sex with you when they did not want to.

[3] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[4] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n⁺⁺ denotes numerator.

Table 11.3.4.

Intimate partner^[1] violence perpetration^[2] by experience of sexual violence^[3] or physical violence^[4] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of sexual violence in the past 12 months	Females (n ⁺ =179)	Males (n ⁺ =7)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	5.9 (1.7 - 10.0)*	**
Never experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	4.4 (2.5 - 6.3)	6.1 (3.2 - 9.0)

Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of physical violence in the past 12 months	Females (n ⁺ =290)	Males (n ⁺ =62)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	6.8 (3.4 - 10.2)	8.7 (1.8 - 15.7)*
Never experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	3.9 (2.1 - 5.7)	7.2 (3.8 - 10.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Intimate partner violence perpetration includes: slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, pulled hair, twisted arm, pinched or intentionally threw something to hurt them; punched, kicked, whipped, or beat them with an object; choked, smothered, tried to drown them, or burned them intentionally; used or threatened them with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon; or forcing a boyfriend/romantic partner, girlfriend/romantic partner, ex-boyfriend/romantic partner, ex-girlfriend/romantic partner, husband, wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife to have sex with you when they did not want to.

[3] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[4] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator is unreliable.

Section 12

Characteristics associated with violence

Table 12.1.

Characteristics of 18-24-year-olds by experience of sexual^[1] and physical violence^[2] in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Violence and orphan status (lost one or both parents in childhood)				
Any violence among orphans	307	21.0 (17.5 - 24.5)	67	19.5 (13.9 - 25.2)
Any violence among non-orphans	322	18.6 (16.2 - 21.1)	69	21.2 (15.2 - 27.2)
Violence and disability				
Any violence among youth with functional impairment in any domain	161	32.6 (27.7 - 37.5)	21	42.9 (26.2 - 59.6)
Any violence among youth without functional impairment	522	17.4 (15.1 - 19.8)	127	18.7 (14.6 - 22.8)
Violence and school attendance				
Any violence among youth who completed primary school or less	109	15.3 (11.6 - 19.0)	38	18.0 (9.3 - 26.6)
Any violence among youth who completed secondary school or more	569	20.6 (18.2 - 23.0)	110	21.7 (16.9 - 26.5)
Violence and working for money or other payment in the past year				
Any violence among youth who worked	188	21.7 (17.9 - 25.5)	54	19.9 (14.6 - 25.3)
Any violence among youth who did not work	495	18.9 (16.7 - 21.1)	94	20.9 (15.4 - 26.3)
Violence and witnessed violence at home before age 18				
Any violence among youth who witnessed violence at home	467	29.1 (26.0 - 32.2)	74	26.5 (20.8 - 32.2)
Any violence among youth who did not witness violence at home	216	11.2 (9.2 - 13.2)	74	16.0 (11.2 - 20.8)
Violence and marriage or cohabitation				
Any violence among youth who were ever married or cohabitating	260	19.2 (15.7 - 22.7)	15	18.9 (8.0 - 29.9)
Any violence among youth who are not married and not cohabitating	421	19.8 (17.4 - 22.2)	133	20.7 (16.2 - 25.2)
Violence and arranged or forced marriage				
Any violence among youth in an arranged marriage or relationship	26	31.2 (19.5 - 42.9)	<0.1 [§]	**
Any violence among youth in a marriage or relationship that was not arranged	198	17.1 (14.2 - 20.1)	8	14.3 (3.1 - 25.4)*
Violence and food or material insecurity				
Any violence among youth who experienced food or material insecurity	636	19.8 (17.6 - 22.0)	140	20.9 (16.4 - 25.3)
Any violence among youth who did not experience food or material insecurity	47	17.2 (11.5 - 23.0)	8	15.5 (5.1 - 26.0)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution

**Estimate suppressed because denominator is unreliable.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table 12.2.

Characteristics of 13-17-year-olds by experience of sexual^[1] and physical violence^[2] in the past 12 months – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Females		Males	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Violence and orphan status (lost one or both parents)				
Any violence among orphans	343	28.1 (25.0 - 31.1)	83	29.3 (24.3 - 34.3)
Any violence among non-orphans	450	23.6 (20.4 - 26.8)	121	27.9 (20.5 - 35.4)
Violence and disability				
Any violence among youth with functional impairment in any domain	171	37.4 (31.7 - 43.1)	12	22.8 (2.2 - 43.4)*
Any violence among youth without functional impairment	666	23.4 (20.6 - 26.3)	196	28.5 (22.5 - 34.4)
Violence and school attendance				
Any violence among youth not attending school	112	25.3 (20.5 - 30.2)	186	30.2 (23.9 - 36.4)
Any violence among youth attending school	722	25.4 (22.6 - 28.2)	18	15.7 (7.9 - 23.6)
Violence and working for money or other payment in the past year				
Any violence among youth who worked	31	31.4 (21.6 - 41.2)	14	23.3 (8.4 - 38.3)*
Any violence among youth who did not work	806	25.2 (22.5 - 27.9)	194	28.5 (22.6 - 34.4)
Violence and witnessed violence at home in the past 12 months				
Any violence among youth who witnessed violence at home	462	35.2 (31.3 - 39.2)	105	41.3 (32.0 - 50.6)
Any violence among youth who did not witness violence at home	374	18.7 (16.4 - 20.9)	103	20.9 (15.2 - 26.6)
Violence and marriage or cohabitation				
Any violence among youth who were ever married or cohabitating	24	17.8 (9.9 - 25.7)	<0.1 [§]	**
Any violence among youth who are not married and not cohabitating	812	25.6 (22.9 - 28.3)	208	28.1 (22.4 - 33.8)
Violence and food or material insecurity				
Any violence among youth who experienced food or material insecurity	775	25.6 (22.9 - 28.3)	197	28.6 (22.6 - 34.6)
Any violence among youth who did not experience food or material insecurity	61	23.3 (17.3 - 29.3)	10	18.6 (8.9 - 28.3)
Violence and food or material insecurity				
Any violence among youth who experienced food or material insecurity	636	19.8 (17.6 - 22.0)	140	20.9 (16.4 - 25.3)
Any violence among youth who did not experience food or material insecurity	47	17.2 (11.5 - 23.0)	8	15.5 (5.1 - 26.0)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

**Estimate suppressed because denominator is unreliable.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Parent and caregiver support

Table P.

Parent and caregiver support and parent-youth relationships among 13-17-year-old – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3407)	 Males (n=748)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Parents' use of positive parental discipline in the past 12 months ^[1]	10.5 (8.7 - 12.2)	6.3 (3.6 - 8.9)
	Females (n=2871)	Males (n=645)
Close relationship with mother	96.6 (95.7 - 97.4)	95.2 (93.3 - 97.0)
	Females (n=2930)	Males (n=652)
Easy to talk to mother	76.7 (74.5 - 78.9)	79.2 (75.3 - 83.2)
	Females (n=3392)	Males (n=741)
High parental monitoring and supervision	78.4 (76.2 - 80.6)	68.7 (59.9 - 77.6)
	Females (n=3410)	Males (n=749)
Parents' use of physical discipline or verbal aggression in the past 12 months	21.3 (19.1 - 23.5)	26.9 (22.4 - 31.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Positive parental discipline includes: taking away privileges; forbidding something they liked or wanted to do; explaining why the behaviour is wrong; or giving a reminder or warning not to do it again. n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Income and economic strengthening

Table I.1.

Income and economic strengthening among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3353)	 Males (n=737)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Experiencing food insecurity	65.6 (63.1 - 68.2)	66.4 (60.6 - 72.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Education and life skills

Table E.1.

Education and life skills among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3391)	 Males (n=739)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Currently enrolled in school	87.1 (85.5 - 88.8)	84.4 (79.5 - 89.3)
	Females (n=3348)	Males (n=740)
Binge drinking in the past 30 days ^[1]	0.8 (0.5 - 1.1)	0.8 (0.5 - 1.1)
	Females (n=3405)	Males (n=749)
Been in a physical fight in the past 12 months	11.7 (10.4 - 13.0)	16.9 (13.4 - 20.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table E.2.

Education and life skills among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Females (n=3666)	 Males (n=699)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Early sexual debut: first sex was at or before age 15	11.0 (9.7 - 12.3)	31.4 (27.6 - 35.3)
	Females (nt=2902)	Males (n=699)
Early pregnancy: pregnant before age 18 ^[1]	13.5 (11.8 - 15.2)	N/A
	Females (n=3685)	Males (n=717)
Child marriage: married or cohabitating before age 18	11.0 (9.3 - 12.6)	0.8 (0.1 - 1.6)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Among 18-24-year-olds who have ever had sex

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

nt denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Section 14

DREAMS

Background characteristics

Table D.1.

Background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females	 Maseru Females
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Education Status	Berea Females (n=811)	Maseru Females (n=767)
Completed primary school or less (or never attended school)	13.5 (8.5 - 18.5)	12.8 (9.7 - 16.0)
Completed secondary school	67.9 (63.4 - 72.4)	59.6 (52.9 - 66.2)
Higher than secondary school	18.6 (13.4 - 23.8)	27.6 (20.4 - 34.8)
Orphan Status	Berea Females (n=723)	Maseru Females (n=727)
Not an orphan before age 18	52.4 (48.2 - 56.6)	52.5 (47.2 - 57.8)
Lost one or both parents before 18 years	47.6 (43.4 - 51.8)	47.5 (42.2 - 52.8)
Socioeconomic conditions	Berea Females (n=812)	Maseru Females (n=775)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	24.9 (21.1 - 28.7)	35.4 (30.6 - 40.1)
	Berea Females (n=796)	Maseru Females (n=768)
Experiencing food insecurity	61.2 (54.4 - 68.0)	55.3 (50.1 - 60.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.2.

Relationship and sexual history of 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females	 Maseru Females
	Berea Females (n=812)	Maseru Females (n=774)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	32.1 (25.3 - 39.0)	31.1 (26.0 - 36.2)
Married or lived with someone as if married before age 18	8.4 (5.6 - 11.3)	5.5 (3.4 - 7.7)
Marriage or lived with someone as if married before age 16	1.6 (0.6 - 2.5)	1.3 (0.4 - 2.1)*
	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=775)
Ever had sex ^[1]	74.6 (71.2 - 78.1)	78.6 (74.5 - 82.6)
	Berea Females (n=809)	Maseru Females (n=765)
Had sex at or before age 15	11.5 (8.7 - 14.4)	11.5 (8.7 - 14.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
[1] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse, or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.3.

Background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females	Maseru Females
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Education Status	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
Completed primary school or less (or never attended school)	26.3 (19.6 - 33.0)	28.2 (22.4 - 33.9)
Some secondary school or more	73.7 (67.0 - 80.4)	71.8 (66.1 - 77.6)
Current Orphan Status	Berea Females (n=655)	Maseru Females (n=551)
Not an orphan	60.4 (56.2 - 64.5)	63.5 (57.8 - 69.1)
Lost one or both parents	39.6 (35.5 - 43.8)	36.5 (30.9 - 42.2)
Socioeconomic Conditions	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	3.2 (1.7 - 4.7)	2.6 (1.0 - 4.3)*
	Berea Females (n=689)	Maseru Females (n=576)
Currently enrolled in school among those who ever attended school	85.6 (81.1 - 90.0)	92.9 (90.4 - 95.4)
	Berea Females (n=682)	Maseru Females (n=563)
Experiencing food insecurity	60.1 (53.2 - 66.9)	53.7 (46.9 - 60.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.4.

Relationship and sexual history of 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho
Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=577)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	2.7 (0.9 - 4.6)*	2.7 (1.4 - 4.0)
	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
Ever had sex ^[1]	13.3 (10.5 - 16.1)	13.7 (10.5 - 16.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
[1] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse, or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Sexual violence in childhood

Table D.5.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=813)	 Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in childhood	13.4 (9.4 - 17.4)	17.2 (11.1 - 23.3)
	Berea Females (n=810)	Maseru Females (n=770)
Unwanted sexual touching in childhood	6.1 (3.5 - 8.7)	9.0 (3.7 - 14.3)*
	Berea Females (n=809)	Maseru Females (n=772)
Unwanted attempted sex in childhood	3.6 (2.1 - 5.2)	7.5 (4.3 - 10.7)
	Berea Females (n=800)	Maseru Females (n=767)
Pressured or coerced sex in childhood	4.5 (2.7 - 6.3)	4.3 (2.3 - 6.2)
	Berea Females (n=803)	Maseru Females (n=772)
Physically forced sex in childhood	3.8 (2.3 - 5.3)	4.2 (2.3 - 6.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking). n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.6.

Age of first experience of sexual violence [1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n ^t =105)	 Maseru Females (n ^t =106)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
13 or younger	19.4 (10.7 - 28.1)	14.3 (6.1 - 22.5)
14-15	23.9 (15.8 - 31.9)	32.5 (20.7 - 44.4)
16-17	56.7 (47.0 - 66.4)	53.2 (40.9 - 65.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking). n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.7.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced or physically forced sex before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=809) Weighted % (95% CI)	Maseru Females (n=774) Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in childhood	7.5 (5.3 - 9.6)	6.5 (4.1 - 8.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.8.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience, among 18-24-year-olds whose first sexual intercourse was before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=285) Weighted % (95% CI)	Maseru Females (n=278) Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex at first sexual experience	22.0 (14.9 - 29.1)	16.8 (10.0 - 23.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table D.9.

Perpetrators of first incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n†=105) Weighted % (95% CI)	Maseru Females (n†=107) Weighted % (95% CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/romantic partner	53.1 (41.5 - 64.7)	50.0 (37.3 - 62.8)
Family member	5.4 (1.2 - 9.5)*	5.5 (0.8 - 10.3)*
Authority figure ^[2]	4.3 (0.3 - 8.2)*	<0.1§
Neighbour	4.5 (0.0 - 9.2)*	10.9 (2.3 - 19.5)*
Classmate/Schoolmate	11.3 (7.0 - 15.5)	17.8 (1.2 - 34.3)*
Friend	14.6 (6.9 - 22.3)	13.2 (6.9 - 19.5)
Stranger	5.5 (0.3 - 10.6)*	8.0 (1.5 - 14.6)*
Other	6.1 (0.7 - 11.4)*	4.3 (0.5 - 8.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.
[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
[2] Authority figure includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.
Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.
n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table D.10.

Location of first incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =104)	Maseru Females (n ^t =106)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Participant's home	7.6 (1.9 - 13.3)*	16.5 (7.8 - 25.3)
Perpetrator's home	28.2 (19.1 - 37.4)	25.6 (13.1 - 38.0)
Someone else's home	5.9 (1.6 - 10.2)*	6.0 (1.1 - 10.8)*
On a road/street	22.6 (13.0 - 32.2)	14.4 (5.6 - 23.2)*
Market/Shop	1.8 (0.0 - 4.4)*	2.6 (0.0 - 7.6)*
School	17.1 (8.8 - 25.3)	22.7 (4.1 - 41.3)*
Outdoor area ^[2]	20.0 (13.3 - 26.8)	16.6 (4.0 - 29.1)*
Other ^[3]	5.2 (0.5 - 9.9)*	4.6 (0.0 - 10.3)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Outdoor area includes lake, river, other body of water, field, other natural area, or sports fields/recreate area.

[3] Other includes inside a car/bus, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc.), church, and place of work.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different locations.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.11.

Time of day^[1] of first incident of sexual violence, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18

– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =104)	Maseru Females (n ^t =107)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Morning	4.3 (0.0 - 8.9)*	18.5 (7.8 - 29.2)
Afternoon	64.1 (53.5 - 74.7)	66.1 (53.6 - 78.6)
Evening	29.7 (21.8 - 37.7)	18.9 (11.2 - 26.7)
Late at night	10.3 (4.2 - 16.5)*	4.2 (0.7 - 7.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Morning refers to sunrise until noon, afternoon refers to noon until sunset, evening refers to sunset until midnight, and late at night refers to midnight until sunrise.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.12.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=692)	 Maseru Females (n=579)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	5.6 (3.4 - 7.7)	11.3 (6.7 - 15.9)
	Berea Females (n=691)	Maseru Females (n=579)
Unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months	3.3 (1.7 - 4.9)	6.4 (3.6 - 9.3)
	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=578)
Unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months	1.9 (0.7 - 3.1)*	4.5 (1.6 - 7.4)*
	Berea Females (n=690)	Maseru Females (n=577)
Pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7)*	2.4 (0.2 - 4.6)*
	Berea Females (n=687)	Maseru Females (n=577)
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	0.8 (0.0 - 1.5)*	2.3 (0.4 - 4.2)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.13.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=692)	 Maseru Females (n=578)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	1.1 (0.2 - 1.9)*	3.7 (1.2 - 6.1)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.14.

Perpetrators of most recent incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =41)	Maseru Females (n ^t =48)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Current or previous spouse boyfriend/girlfriend/romantic partner	45.5 (28.2 - 62.8)	41.2 (19.7 - 62.6)
Family member	5.3 (0.0 - 11.7)*	2.5 (0.0 - 6.1)*
Authority figure ^[2]	4.0 (0.0 - 9.5)*	<0.1 [§]
Neighbour	2.7 (0.0 - 7.8)*	1.7 (0.0 - 5.0)*
Classmate/Schoolmate	27.8 (10.0 - 45.7)*	24.2 (12.0 - 36.5)
Friend	4.0 (0.0 - 9.0)*	17.4 (8.5 - 26.3)
Stranger	**	9.6 (2.5 - 16.7)*
Other	1.5 (0.0 - 4.2)*	3.3 (0.0 - 8.3)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

[2] Authority figure includes teacher, police/security person, employer/co-worker, and community/religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

**Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 50%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table D.15.

Perpetrators of the most recent incident of sexual violence^[1] who were perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months
 – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =41)	Maseru Females (n ^t =48)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	9.1 (1.8 - 16.4)*	7.7 (1.1 - 14.3)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.16.

Location of most recent incident of sexual violence^[1], among
13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months
– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n ^t =42)	Maseru Females (n ^t =48)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Participant's home	9.0 (0.0 - 18.0)*	8.9 (0.0 - 18.4)*
Perpetrator's home	37.6 (22.6 - 52.6)	24.5 (5.8 - 43.1)*
Someone else's home	2.6 (0.0 - 7.4)*	6.3 (0.0 - 18.5)*
On a road/street	11.7 (2.1 - 21.3)*	26.3 (10.6 - 42.1)*
Market/Shop	<0.1 [§]	1.7 (0.0 - 5.0)*
School/University/College	30.0 (13.4 - 46.6)	32.0 (18.8 - 45.3)
Lake, river, other body of water	1.8 (0.0 - 5.4)*	0.8 (0.0 - 2.3)*
Field or other natural area	5.9 (0.0 - 12.7)*	15.7 (4.4 - 27.0)*
Other ^[2]	6.6 (0.2 - 13.0)*	<0.1 [§]

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats or harassment).

[2] Other includes inside a car/bus, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc.), church, and place of work.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero

Table D.17.

Time of day^[1] of the most recent incident of sexual violence, among
13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months
– Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n ^t =41)	Maseru Females (n ^t =48)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Morning	7.7 (0.0 - 16.6)*	15.0 (6.9 - 23.0)
Afternoon	77.2 (63.8 - 90.5)	75.1 (65.7 - 84.4)
Evening	17.0 (3.4 - 30.7)*	19.8 (5.2 - 34.3)*
Late at night	3.5 (0.0 - 8.8)*	3.6 (0.0 - 9.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Morning refers to sunrise until noon, afternoon refers to noon until sunset, evening refers to sunset until midnight, and late at night refers to midnight until sunrise.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.18.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ⁺ =16)	Maseru Females (n ⁺ =22)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about any experience of sexual violence	50.9 (22.8 - 79.0)	54.6 (28.5 - 80.7)
Knew of a place to seek help about any experience of sexual violence	35.6 (12.8 - 58.3)*	33.6 (8.2 - 59.0)*
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	8.6 (0.0 - 20.6)*	12.3 (0.0 - 25.6)*
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	8.6 (0.0 - 20.6)*	5.0 (0.0 - 12.7)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Physical violence in childhood

Table D.19.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Childhood physical violence	20.9 (16.6 - 25.2)	40.9 (34.1 - 47.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.20.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18 by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females		Maseru Females	
	n ⁺⁺	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ⁺⁺	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	36	4.4 (2.9 - 5.9)	23	3.1 (1.7 - 4.5)
Parent or adult relative physical violence	107	13.2 (9.2 - 17.1)	222	30.7 (24.4 - 37.0)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	56	5.6 (3.2 - 7.9)	119	13.6 (8.6 - 18.6)
Peer physical violence	50	5.9 (4.1 - 7.6)	100	14.3 (10.5 - 18.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n⁺⁺ denotes numerator.

Table D.21.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	18.9 (14.7 - 23.2)	24.6 (20.0 - 29.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.22.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n=692)		Maseru Females	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	9	3.2 (1.0 - 5.4)*	17	7.5 (4.0 - 11.0)
Parent or adult relative physical violence	46	6.7 (4.5 - 8.9)	65	12.4 (8.6 - 16.2)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood physical violence	61	7.7 (4.1 - 11.4)	63	9.0 (5.6 - 12.3)
Peer physical violence	37	6.2 (3.9 - 8.4)	42	8.1 (5.6 - 10.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.23.

Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home^[1] and in the community/neighbourhood^[2], among 18-24-year-olds before age 18 and among 13-17-year-olds in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



Witnessed physical violence in childhood (among 18-24-year-olds)

	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=772)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
In the home	38.0 (31.9 - 44.1)	50.0 (45.4 - 54.6)
In the community/neighbourhood	20.3 (15.1 - 25.4)	25.1 (20.0 - 30.1)



Witnessed physical violence in the past 12 months (among 13-17-year-olds)

	Berea Females (n=691)	Maseru Females (n=576)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
In the home	15.4 (11.7 - 19.0)	24.2 (18.5 - 29.9)
In the community/neighbourhood	7.6 (4.5 - 10.7)	11.9 (8.2 - 15.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Witnessing physical violence in the home includes: hearing or seeing a parent hit, punch, kick or beat your other parent, step-parent, or your brothers or sisters.

[2] Witnessing physical violence in the community/neighbourhood includes: seeing someone get attacked outside of your home and family environment.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Emotional violence in childhood

Table D.24.

Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n=804)	Maseru Females (n=763)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Childhood emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative	9.3 (6.5 - 12.1)	16.1 (13.1 - 19.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relatives.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.25.

Prevalence of emotional violence by an intimate partner^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who ever had a partner – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n ^t =726)	Maseru Females (n ^t =688)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Ever experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner	19.9 (15.8 - 24.0)	27.9 (23.0 - 32.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by an intimate partner includes: being insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others; keeping you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends; keeping track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing; made threats to physically harm you.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table D.26.

Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Emotional violence in the past 12 months	27.3 (21.5 - 33.1)	33.4 (27.9 - 38.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence includes: any emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative, by an intimate partner, and peer.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.27.

Prevalence of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative^[1] in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=691)	Maseru Females (n=579)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative in the past 12 months	8.0 (5.5 - 10.6)	10.0 (7.6 - 12.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative includes: being told that you were not loved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.28.

Prevalence of emotional violence by a peer [1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=692)	Maseru Females (n=579)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Peer emotional violence in the past 12 months	22.9 (17.6 - 28.2)	28.1 (23.3 - 32.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by peer includes: made you feel scared or really bad because they were calling you names, being told lies or spread rumours about you, or tried to make others dislike you, being kept you out of things on purpose, excluded you from their group of friends, or completely ignored you.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Sexual and physical violence among young adults

Table D.29.

Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=813)	 Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	9.2 (5.8 - 12.6)	13.7 (9.6 - 17.7)
	Berea Females (n=812)	Maseru Females (n=774)
Unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months	6.8 (4.2 - 9.4)	9.3 (5.9 - 12.7)
	Berea Females (n=810)	Maseru Females (n=771)
Unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months	2.2 (1.0 - 3.4)	4.1 (2.4 - 5.9)
	Berea Females (n=805)	Maseru Females (n=772)
Pressured or coerced sex in the past 12 months	1.1 (0.3 - 1.9)*	2.9 (1.6 - 4.3)
	Berea Females (n=809)	Maseru Females (n=774)
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	1.3 (0.6 - 2.0)	2.6 (1.2 - 4.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking). n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.30.

Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=811)	 Maseru Females (n=774)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	2.3 (1.0 - 3.6)	4.7 (2.8 - 6.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.31.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced pressured, coerced, or physically forced sex in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =20)	Maseru Females (n ^t =31)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	55.5 (38.2 - 72.7)	42.8 (23.8 - 61.8)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	61.6 (42.0 - 81.1)	44.4 (21.9 - 66.8)
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	27.3 (9.5 - 45.1)*	5.6 (0.0 - 14.3)*
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	9.8 (0.0 - 22.3)*	4.0 (0.0 - 12.0)*

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Table D.32.

Prevalence of transactional sex^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds who had sex – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n ^t =558)	Maseru Females (n ^t =537)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Transactional sex	3.5 (1.5 - 5.4)	5.3 (3.2 - 7.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex.

n^t denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Table D.33.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.




	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	11.0 (8.0 - 14.0)	15.6 (12.4 - 18.8)

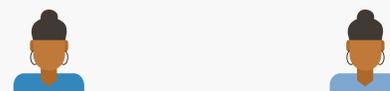
Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.34.

Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.



	Berea Females (n [†] = 726)	Maseru Females (n [†] =688)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Intimate partner ^[2] physical violence	7.4 (5.3 - 9.5)	7.7 (5.0 - 10.3)
	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=775)
Adult in the community or neighbourhood member physical violence	1.4 (0.4 - 2.4)*	4.0 (2.3 - 5.7)
Peer physical violence	2.1 (0.7 - 3.6)*	2.6 (1.5 - 3.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

Note: Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Sexual risk-taking behaviours and HIV

Table D.35.

Sexual risk taking behaviours in the past 12 months, among 19-24-year-olds who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females		Maseru Females	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Two or more sex partners in the past 12 months	57	11.8 (8.5 - 15.2)	63	15.0 (10.6 - 19.3)
Infrequent condom use ^[1] in the past 12 months	132	28.7 (24.0 - 33.4)	131	30.2 (23.5 - 36.9)
Transactional sex ^[2] in the past 12 months	17	3.7 (1.6 - 5.7)	22	5.3 (3.0 - 7.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes use condoms in the past 12 months.

[2] Transactional sex includes receiving money, gifts, food, or favours in exchange for sex.

n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table D.36.

HIV testing knowledge and behaviour among 13-24-year-olds^[1] who ever had sexual intercourse – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females		Maseru Females	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Know where to go for HIV test	702	98.6 (97.7 - 99.6)	669	98.4 (97.3 - 99.6)
HIV testing behaviour				
Never tested for HIV	19	2.8 (1.5 - 4.1)	26	3.6 (2.2 - 5.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 [1] Age of consent for HIV testing in Lesotho is 13.
 n^{††} denotes numerator.

Table D.37.

Prevalence of testing positive for HIV^[1], among 13-24-year-olds, overall and by experience of lifetime^[2] sexual^[3], physical^[4], and emotional^[5] – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females		Maseru Females	
	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)	n ^{††}	Weighted % (95% CI)
Tested positive for HIV	88	5.8 (4.4 - 7.1)	108	8.3 (5.9 - 10.8)
HIV status and any violence				
HIV positive and experienced any violence	49	7.3 (5.0 - 9.6)	60	8.3 (5.2 - 11.5)
HIV positive and experienced no violence	39	4.8 (3.3 - 6.2)	48	8.3 (5.4 - 11.3)
HIV status and sexual violence				
HIV positive and experienced sexual violence	20	7.7 (4.1 - 11.3)	22	9.1 (4.3 - 14.0)
HIV positive and never experienced sexual violence	68	5.4 (4.0 - 6.7)	86	8.1 (5.8 - 10.4)
HIV status and physical violence				
HIV positive and experienced physical violence	39	8.0 (5.6 - 10.5)	56	9.6 (6.4 - 12.8)
HIV positive and never experienced physical violence	49	4.9 (3.6 - 6.2)	52	7.2 (4.5 - 9.9)
HIV status and emotional violence				
HIV positive and experienced emotional violence	20	8.9 (4.8 - 13.0)	24	10.3 (4.0 - 16.6)*
HIV positive and never experienced emotional violence	68	5.3 (3.9 - 6.7)	83	7.6 (5.5 - 9.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
 [1] Determined through HIV rapid test results, demonstrating proof of treatment, or self-report of a prior HIV test.
 [2] Includes any experiences of violence throughout the lifetime.
 [3] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured or coerced sex (through threats, harassment, or tricking).
 [4] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, pulling hair, twisting arm, pinching, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, or using or threatening with a stick, knife, gun or other weapon.
 [5] Emotional violence includes any emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative.
 n^{††} denotes numerator.
 *Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

Attitudes and beliefs related to gender and violence and violence perpetration

Table D.38.

Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence^[1] among 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=813)	 Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Acceptance of one or more reasons for wife beating		
18-24-year-olds	21.3 (17.1 - 25.5)	9.3 (5.9 - 12.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she goes out without telling him; neglects the children; argues with him; refuses to have sex with him; burns the food.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Table D.39.

Beliefs about gender, sexual behaviour, and intimate partner violence^[1], 18-24-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	 Berea Females (n=813)	 Maseru Females (n=775)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Endorsement of one or more beliefs about gender, sexual behaviour, and intimate partner violence		
18-24-year-olds	24.1 (19.8 - 28.3)	24.3 (20.5 - 28.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: Only men, not women, should decide when to have sex; If someone insults a boy or man, he should defend his reputation with force if he needs to; There are times when a woman should be beaten; Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men; A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Parent and caregiver support

Table D.P.

Parent and caregiver support and parent-youth relationships among 13-17-year-olds – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=607)	Maseru Females (n=503)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Easy to talk to mother	72.0 (67.8 - 76.2)	73.8 (69.5 - 78.2)
	Berea Females (n=690)	Maseru Females (n=571)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
High parental monitoring and supervision	85.8 (83.0 - 88.5)	78.9 (74.4 - 83.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

Education and life skills

Table D.E.

Education and life skills – Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2018.

	Berea Females (n=686)	Maseru Females (n=572)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Binge drinking [1] in the past 30 days among 13-17-year-olds	0.5 (0.0 - 1.1)*	1.4 (0.5 - 2.3)*
	Berea Females (n=813)	Maseru Females (n=764)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Binge drinking in the past 30 days among 18-24-year-olds	6.6 (4.0 - 9.2)	13.0 (9.3 - 16.6)
	Berea Females (n†=621)	Maseru Females (n†=606)
	Weighted % (95% CI)	Weighted % (95% CI)
Early pregnancy: pregnant before age 18 among 18-24-year-olds who ever had sex	11.8 (9.0 - 14.6)	7.8 (4.9 - 10.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.
[1] Binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.
*Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

Appendix B

Supplementary sampling methods



The Lesotho Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) was a nationally representative household survey of all non-institutionalized females and males ages 13-24 years designed to produce national estimates of childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence.



■ B1. Study design and sampling

To calculate separate male and female prevalence estimates for violence victimization, the Lesotho VACS used a split sample approach. This means that the survey for females was conducted in different enumeration areas (EAs) than the survey for males. The split sample approach serves to protect the confidentiality of participants and eliminates the chance that a male perpetrator of a sexual assault and the female who was the victim of his sexual assault in the same community would both be interviewed. The design also eliminates the chance that a female perpetrator and a male victim of sexual violence from the same community would both be interviewed in the selected EA.

The sampling frame was originally compiled by the Bureau of Statistics for the 2016 national census. The master frame for the Lesotho VACS included 2,600 EAs from the census. In female EAs, 7,101 interviews were completed among 7,414 eligible households. In male EAs, 1,467 interviews were completed among 1,531 eligible households. In two additional PEPFAR DREAMS districts, Berea and Maseru, females were oversampled to produce indicators for those regions. In Berea, 1,505 female interviews were completed, and 1,353 female interviews were completed in Maseru to produce representative indicators for these areas.



■ B2. Stages of selection

The VACS utilized a three-stage stratified sample design. In the first stage, a total of 240 EAs were selected randomly from the master frame; 197 were assigned to be female EAs and 43 were assigned to be male EAs. In the second stage, a fixed number of 40 households were randomly selected using equal probability systematic

sampling. In the last stage, one eligible participant (female or male depending on the selected EA) was randomly selected from the list of all eligible participants (females or males) 13-24 years of age in each household and administered the questionnaire. EAs with fewer than 50 households were excluded from the study to protect participants' confidentiality.



■ B3. Weighting procedure

Weighting is a method used to obtain parameters from the data set resulting from sampling in order to represent the total population. The VACS used a three-step weighting procedure: (Step 1) computation of base weight for each sample participant; (Step 2) adjustment of the base weights for differential non-response in the sample; and (Step 3) post-stratification calibration adjustment of weights to known population totals.

B3.1. Base weight

Base weights were calculated that are inversely proportional to the overall selection probabilities for each sample participant (Step 1). Calculations in this stage included probabilities of selection of EAs, gender specification, selection of households, and selection of eligible individuals.

B3.2. Non-response adjustments

In Step 2, base weights were adjusted to compensate for the losses in the sample outcome due to non-response. In this step, non-response adjustments were made for households, and participants. The household-level and individual non-response adjustments were conducted using base-weighted data aggregated into weighting-classes by location strata (National and PEPFAR DREAMS districts - Berea and Maseru) and sex.



B.3.3. Household-level response rate

Using the household disposition codes, the household-level response rates were computed separately for each weighting-class using the formula below.

$$\text{Household-Level Response Rate} = \frac{([1]+[2])}{([1]+[2]+[4]+[6])}$$

Where:

- [1] = Completed Household Survey, one person selected
- [2] = Completed Household Survey, no eligible in household
- [3] = Unoccupied or abandoned
- [4] = No one home
- [5] = Demolished
- [6] = Household Refusal

The corresponding household-level weighting class adjustment was computed as one divided by the weighted household response rate for each weighting-class.

B.3.4. Person-level response rate

Person-level non-response adjustment was performed by using individual-level response rate calculating formula by a combination of weighting-class variables. As with the household adjustment component, the person-level adjustment component was computed as one divided by the weighted person-level response rate for each weighting-class.

$$\text{Individual-Level Response Rate} = \frac{([1])}{([1]+[2]+[3]+[4])}$$

Where:

- [1] = Completed Individual Survey
- [2] = Selected Participant Refusal
- [3] = Incomplete
- [4] = Not available
- [5] = Does not speak study language/disability

B.3.5. Post-stratification calibration adjustment

In the final stage of the weighting process (Step 3), calibration adjustment was done to adjust weights to conform to the 2016 population census data distributed by location stratum and sex. These variables were used to form weighting-classes.

B.3.6. Final weights

The final weights assigned to each responding unit were computed as the product of the base weights, the non-response adjustment factors, and post-stratification calibration adjustment factors. The final weights were used in all analyses to produce estimates of population parameters in SAS (version 9.4).

Appendix C

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