



Kingdom Of Lesotho

2016 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS REPORT

October 2016



**Ministry of Development Planning
Bureau of Statistics
Box 455, Maseru 100, Lesotho**



Mission: Provide accurate, timely and reliable culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence based planning, and to satisfy the demand of each data user.

PREFACE

The Ministry of Development Planning (MDP) through its department of the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) conducted the Population and Housing Census (PHC) in April 2016. The PHC covered all the households within the Community councils, Constituencies, Districts and Villages. This census is the sixth in a series of scientific censuses conducted by the Bureau of Statistics. This Census used modern technology from cartography and GIS up to data collection where hands held electronic devices (tablets) were used for collection. The application was developed by BOS Census data Processing Team which was the tool used for collection.

This report is intended to provide data users with the interim results of the 2016 PHC for planning purposes. The detailed data analysis for the final report shall commence immediately after completing batch edits. This report has highlighted some important census data items, and a comparative analysis across censuses has been done in other areas.

The report has some text, tables and charts showing the trend and changes over the period 1976-2016.

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DIRECTOR BUREAU OF STATISTICS (BoS)

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CHAPTER 1

1.0. Background

Lesotho attained its independence in 1966 and has since then successfully conducted six modern population censuses, namely; 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016. Consequently, following this programme, the next Population and Housing Census (PHC) shall be undertaken in 2026. All the censuses since 1966 were carried out by the Bureau of Statistics, under the mandate acquired from the Statistics Act of 1965. The Statistics Act¹ provided for a census to be undertaken every ten years and it defines the functions and powers of the agency designated to undertake the census. Furthermore, the Act provides for a Parliamentary Proclamation that spells out the census objectives and establishment of a number of committees to plan and conduct the census.

1.1 Introduction

Lesotho has been undertaking decennial scientific censuses since 1966. Census project involves a complete count of all persons including those in the cattle-posts and institutions. The enumeration covers the usual residents of Lesotho who are found within the country at the time of the census (defacto count) as well as the usual members of households residing outside the country (dejure count). Lesotho always uses dejure count because of a considerable number of Basotho in Republic of South Africa, who are still usual members of households in Lesotho.

The last census was on the 09th April 2016. Since that time, the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), whose mandate is to plan and implement this huge project, has been engaged in post census activities, the most important of which is compilation of census data. The census preliminary results provide interim figures of the population size for the total country, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, districts and constituencies by sex.

The final report of the 2016 census will provide information on all characteristics of both the de jure and de facto populations. These will include characteristics of the population in relation to the following:

- Household characteristics and Household amenities
- Educational status
- Socio Economic characteristics
- Migratory status
- Disability and albinism status
- Mortality estimates
- Fertility level
- Household Assets
- Water and sanitation

All this information will be available after completion of data processing. The characteristics of the population will then be discussed in detail by District, Community Council, Ecological Zone, and Village and also by Rural and Urban areas.

¹ That has been repealed and replaced by the Statistics Act of 2001.

1.2. Method of Compiling the Preliminary Data

Since the preliminary results are intended to provide an interim outcome of the census, only few population variables were captured and processed manually, for immediate planning purposes. For example, information compiled includes:

- De jure population by district and sex
- De jure population by Constituency and sex
- De jure population by urban and rural residence and sex.

1.3. Data Limitations

These data has been electronically edited. The editing that has been done covers only structural editing and the raw data had a lot of duplications hence may be subject to some errors. However, after the batch or content editing has been done, the final results are not expected to vary much from the preliminary results.

1.4 Census Households

The summary of data collection for households is given in Table 1.1 which displays the housing stock of 2016 Lesotho Population and Housing Census. The total estimated total number of households for 2016 PHC is 593,403. The housing stock that was found to be occupied was 90.2 percent. While 0.3 percent of the total housing stock had its members temporarily absent and 0.7 percent of the households had members who were entirely absent for the extended period of time. An alarming 8.9 percent of the housing stock was vacant. Among the total Housing stock, 9.4 percent of the households were not occupied, while 0.003 percent was that of refusals. In total 15.78 percent were not counted.

Table 1.1: Household Stock for 2016 Population and Housing Census

Lesotho Totals	2016	% Distribution
<i>Housing Stock</i>	<i>593,403</i>	<i>100.000</i>
Occupied	535,231	90.197
Temporarily Absent	1,590	0.268
Entire household Absent	4,008	0.675
Vacant Houses	52,554	8.857
Refusals	20	0.003

CHAPTER 2

2.0 Population Estimates

The Population and Housing Census 2016 preliminary results show that the total household population of Lesotho is 2,001,946 as indicated in Table 2.1a and according to Table 2.1b the total population in the institutions (convents and orphanages) is 1,600. This amounts to the preliminary total population of **2,003,546**. This comprises 981,679 males and 1,020,267 females (49.0 and 51.0 percent respectively) for population in private households.

Table 2.1a: Percentage distribution of Dejure Population by Age and Sex

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	49.1	50.9
00 - 04	198,482	50.3	49.7
05 - 09	219,652	49.8	50.2
10 - 14	215,272	50.2	49.8
15 - 19	209,563	50.8	49.2
20 - 24	198,841	49.7	50.3
25 - 29	188,831	50.8	49.2
30 - 34	168,129	51.9	48.1
35 - 39	130,776	52.4	47.6
40 - 44	96,336	50.7	49.3
45 - 49	74,677	48.9	51.1
50 - 54	69,953	45.5	54.5
55 - 59	59,589	43.1	56.9
60 - 64	49,402	42.4	57.6
65 - 69	37,340	41.1	58.9
70 - 74	30,753	39.0	61.0
75 - 79	23,893	35.4	64.6
80 - 84	18,857	29.0	71.0
85 - 89	7,151	26.4	73.6
90 - 94	2,880	22.9	77.1
95+	367	23.7	76.3
ANS	1,202	49.1	50.9

Table 2.1b: Population Residing in Institutions

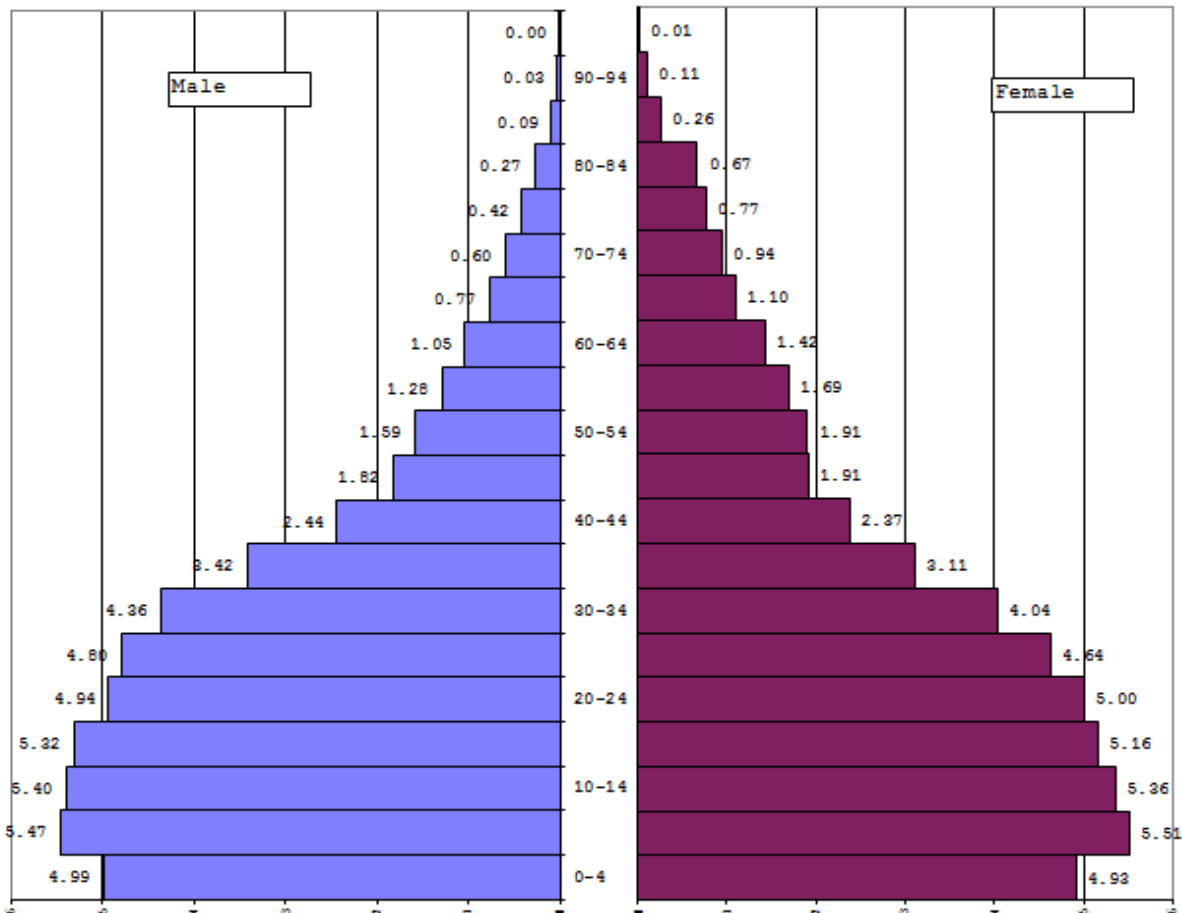
Total Population	1,600
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Figure 1 depicts a population pyramid which essentially shows the distribution of the population by age and sex and changes in the population due to deaths and births. The prominent features of the 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC) population pyramid are increasing deaths beyond age group 30-34 years for both sexes with male deaths dominating in most age groups with an alarming difference (0.77% males and 1.10% females) at ages 65-79 years. This is shown by the triangular shape or as it tapers at the apex indicating increased mortality experience as age increases.

The broad base of the pyramid is a sign of pronounced injection into the population signaling slightly higher fertility. Survivorship is observable from infancy and for under five children surviving in great numbers up to age group 20-24 years, which could be attributable to an improved health system. At the base of the pyramid at ages 0-4 years the bars are a bit narrow displaying a declining fertility regime in Lesotho. The elderly population beyond ages 60-64 years seems to be predominantly females as compared to males indicating that mortality affects males more than females

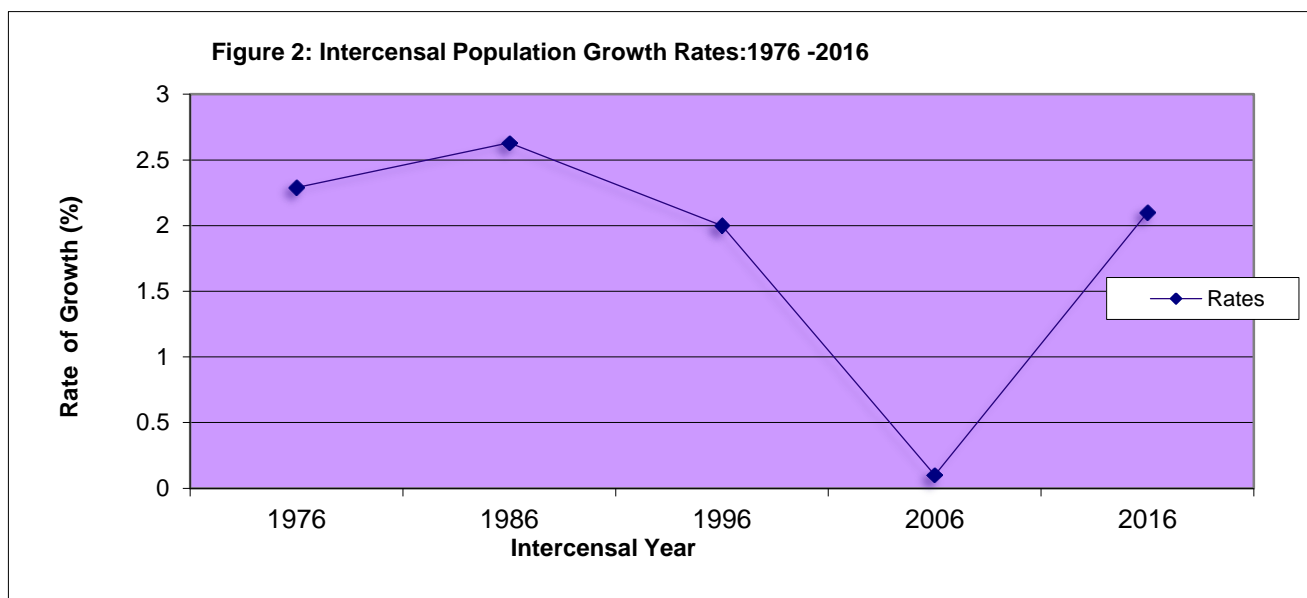
COUNTRY: Lesotho

Figure 1. Percent of Total Population



2.1 Inter-Censal Growth Rate of the Population

Population growth rate is measured using the current and previous census population estimates. Figure 2 shows that the annual growth rate between 1966 and 1976 was estimated as 2.3 percent per annum, which increased to 2.6 percent during the inter - censal period of 1976 to 1986. There was a declined observed between 1986 and 1996 of an estimated 1.5 percent population growth rate per annum. The growth rate between 1996 and 2006 censuses was estimated at 0.1 percent. The implied growth rate between 2006 and 2016 is therefore estimated at 0.021 percent.



2.2. Population in Districts

Population distribution by districts in Table 2.2 shows that approximately one quarter of the population resides in Maseru with estimated 25.8 percent, and the least proportion of population resides in the district of Qacha's Nek with 3.8 percent. The table also shows that for every 100 women in this country there are 96.2 males. Contrary to common expectation, (of females being more than males), the districts of Mafeteng and Thaba-Tseka have sex ratios of 100.6 and 100.2 respectively, meaning for every 100 females there are 100.6 males and 100.2 respectively.

Table 2.2: Household Population Distribution by District and Sex

	Count	Total	%Male	%Female	Sex Ratio
Total	2,001,946	100	49.0	51.0	96.2
Botha-Bothe	118,133	5.9	5.9	5.9	96.0
Leribe	337,236	16.8	16.8	16.8	96.2
Berea	262,065	13.1	13.1	13.1	96.1
Maseru	516,869	25.8	25.3	26.3	92.7
Mafeteng	176,611	8.8	9.0	8.6	100.6
Mohale'sHoek	164,880	8.2	8.3	8.2	97.4
Quthing	116,633	5.8	5.9	5.8	97.2
Qacha's Nek	75,087	3.8	3.8	3.7	96.7
Mokhotlong	99,683	5.0	5.1	4.9	99.1
Thaba-Tseka	134,749	6.7	6.9	6.6	100.2

2.3 Population in Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural Areas

A settlement is a place where people live or reside. Settlements have been subdivided into urban, peri-urban and rural residence. In undertaking this Census, households were identified with the settlement type they were found in during enumeration. In Lesotho, an urban area is defined by law through a Government Gazette by the Ministry of Local Government. The peri-urban area has been defined by BoS as those areas which are not too rural in character but are almost like urban areas. Table 2.2 below depicts the percentage distribution of household population by urban, peri-urban and rural residence from 1976 to 2016.

According to the table, there has been an observable increase in the population over the years. The share of population living in the urban areas increased from 10.5 in 1976 to 34.1 in 2016. The table further shows the share of the population in the peri-urban areas as 7.5 in 2016. This is the first time this category is covered in a census. Furthermore, the rural share of the population showed a different pattern where there was a decline in the population over the years depicting a rural to urban migration.

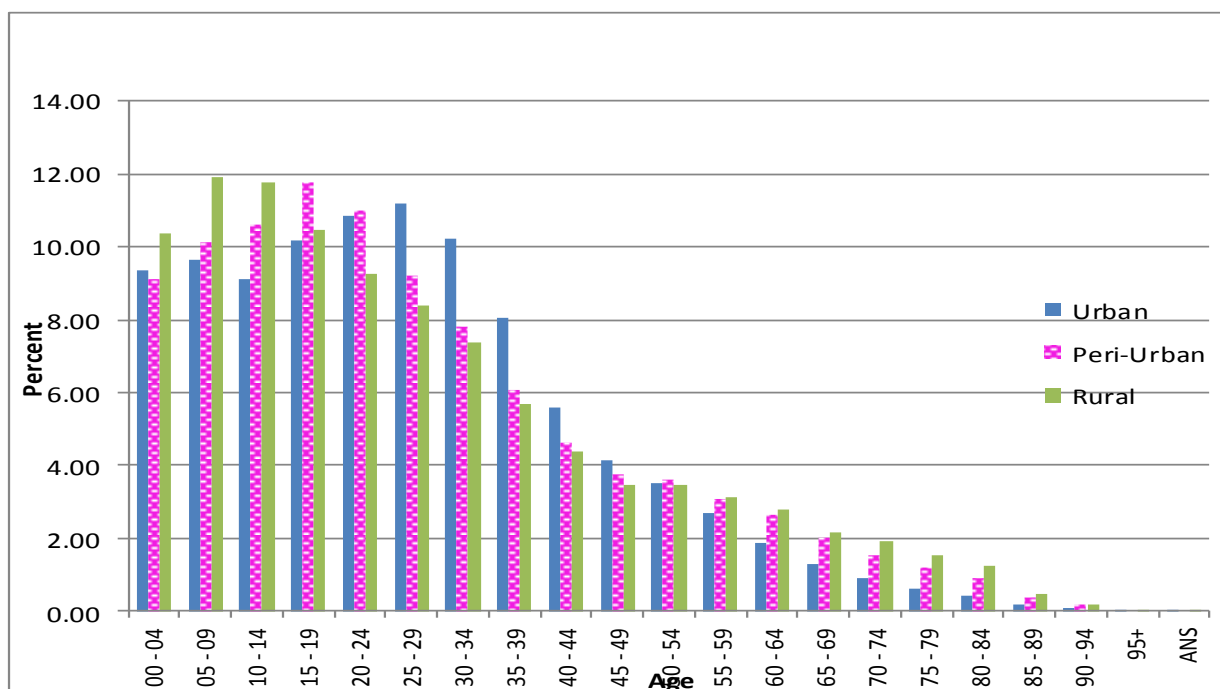
Table 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Urban, Peri-urban and Rural Residence :1976-2016

Residence	Years				
	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016
Urban	10.5	11.8	16.9	23.8	34.1
Peri-urban	-	-	-	-	7.5
Rural	89.5	88.2	83.1	76.2	58.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: LDS 2011

Figure 3 represents distribution of household population by age and settlement type. Generally, the overall percentage of household population constituting over 10.0 percent aged 5 to 19 years settled in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. According to this table, more than 10.0 percent of household population aged 15 to 34 years is mostly found in urban areas; 5 to 24 and 0 to 19 years in peri-urban and rural areas respectively. In all urban, peri-urban and rural settlement none of household population is aged 95 years. In addition to that, the majority of household population constituting less than 10.0 percent (35 to 94 years) is mostly distributed among urban, peri-urban and rural areas accordingly.

Figure 3: Population Distribution by Age and Settlement Type



2.4 Population in Ecological Zones

The country is further subdivided into agro-ecological zones. These are the Lowlands, Foothills, Mountains and the Senqu River Valley. Table 2.3 shows distribution of population by zones. Of the four zones, the lowlands have been increasingly gaining some population over the years since 1976 with 46.6 percentage share and about 61.9 percentage share in 2016. The Foothills and the Senqu River Valley have been losing the population since 1976 to 2016.

Table 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Ecological Zones :1976-2016

Ecological zones	Years				
	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016
Lowlands	46.6	49.0	58.6	56.7	61.9
Foothills	22.5	22.7	12.4	12.8	9.8
Mountain	20.7	16.8	22.8	20.5	19.6
Senqu River Valley	10.6	11.5	6.2	10.0	8.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

2.5. Population in Constituencies

Lesotho is also subdivided into constituencies. These are demarcated within the districts and they are politically defined. The limitation with keeping track of constituency populations is the ever changing boundaries. However, data suggests that some constituencies are considerably larger than others. They range from 8,123 as the lowest to 27, 208 as the largest (see Table 3, Appendix A).

APPENDIX A

Table 1: Distribution of Dejure Population by Age and Sex

Age	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	982,444	1,019,502
00 - 04	198,482	99,830	98,652
05 - 09	219,652	109,428	110,225
10 - 14	215,272	107,992	107,280
15 - 19	209,563	106,383	103,180
20 - 24	198,841	98,786	100,055
25 - 29	188,831	95,975	92,857
30 - 34	168,129	87,309	80,820
35 - 39	130,776	68,463	62,313
40 - 44	96,336	48,830	47,506
45 - 49	74,677	36,492	38,186
50 - 54	69,953	31,838	38,115
55 - 59	59,589	25,694	33,895
60 - 64	49,402	20,937	28,465
65 - 69	37,340	15,356	21,984
70 - 74	30,753	11,985	18,768
75 - 79	23,893	8,458	15,436
80 - 84	18,857	5,466	13,390
85 - 89	7,151	1,885	5,267
90 - 94	2,880	660	2,219
95+	367	87	280
ANS	1,202	590	612

Table 2: Distribution of Dejure Population by District and Sex

District	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	981,679	1,020,267
Botha-Bothe	118,133	57,853	60,280
Leribe	337,236	165,349	171,887
Berea	262,065	128,449	133,616
Maseru	516,869	248,686	268,183
Mafeteng	176,611	88,550	88,061
Mohale'sHoek	164,880	81,349	83,531
Quthing	116,633	57,474	59,159
Qacha's Nek	75,087	36,914	38,173
Mokhotlong	99,683	49,612	50,071
Thaba-Tseka	134,749	67,444	67,305

Table 3: Distribution of Dejure Population by Constituency and Sex

Constituency	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	981,942	1,020,004
Mechachane	19,123	9,582	9,541
Hololo	22,682	11,201	11,481
Motete	25,174	12,330	12,844
Qalo	22,808	11,346	11,462
Butha-buthe	28,346	13,418	14,928
Maliba-mats'o	27,619	13,964	13,655
Mphosong	21,118	10,740	10,378
Thaba-phats'oa	21,929	11,212	10,717
Mahobong	28,107	13,860	14,247
Pela-ts'oeu	23,158	11,624	11,534
Matlakeng	22,534	11,256	11,278
Leribe	22,788	11,547	11,241
Hlotse	33,562	16,019	17,543
Tsikoane	19,723	9,613	10,110
Maputsoe	39,977	18,041	21,936
Likhetlane	31,813	14,893	16,920
Peka	22,790	11,389	11,401
Kolonyama	22,118	11,251	10,867
Mosalemane	22,138	11,344	10,794
Makhoroana	21,438	10,643	10,795
Bela-bela	21,732	11,025	10,707
Malimong	20,728	10,583	10,145
Khafung	21,674	10,826	10,848
Teya-teyaneng	25,823	12,328	13,495
T'soana-makhulo	22,995	11,590	11,405
Thupa-kubu	26,048	12,996	13,052
Berea	27,676	13,272	14,404
Khubetsoana	30,456	13,982	16,474
Mabote	21,357	9,938	11,419
Motimposo	25,894	12,244	13,650
Stadium Area	24,785	11,567	13,218
Maseru	15,870	7,482	8,388
Thetsane	50,653	23,445	27,208
Qoaling	35,290	16,792	18,498
Lithoteng	37,181	17,366	19,815
Lithabaneng	40,323	18,958	21,365
Abia	29,968	14,063	15,905
Thaba-bosiu	33,010	15,744	17,266
Machache	25,986	13,082	12,904

Thaba-putsoa	22,887	11,871	11,016
Maama	24,923	11,995	12,928
Koro-koro	29,751	14,259	15,492
Qeme	25,820	12,365	13,455
Rothe	21,947	11,039	10,908
Matsieng	25,929	12,813	13,116
Makhaleng	21,700	10,983	10,717
Maletsunyane	24,952	12,725	12,227
Thaba-phechela	19,599	10,084	9,515
Kolo	18,578	9,400	9,178
Matelile	20,659	10,408	10,251
Maliepetsane	22,751	11,513	11,238
Thabana Morena	18,258	9,246	9,012
Likhoele	23,616	11,977	11,639
Qalabane	23,818	11,796	12,022
Mafeteng	29,332	14,108	15,224
Taung	17,215	8,776	8,439
Qhalasi	22,990	11,025	11,965
Mohale's Hoek	26,587	12,565	14,022
Mekaling	17,920	8,721	9,199
Qaqatu	15,990	7,867	8,123
Mpharane	18,088	9,172	8,916
Ketane	21,486	10,961	10,525
Hloahloeng	24,604	12,290	12,314
Tele	18,376	8,949	9,427
Moyeni	25,552	12,458	13,094
Sebapala	26,011	12,860	13,151
Mt.moorosi	25,328	12,655	12,673
Qhoali	21,366	10,549	10,817
Qacha'snek	30,299	14,784	15,515
Lebakeng	24,584	12,101	12,483
Tsoelike	21,897	10,842	11,055
Mantsonyane	24,290	12,542	11,748
Thaba-moea	22,989	11,474	11,515
Thaba-tseka	28,583	14,036	14,547
Semena	30,777	15,487	15,290
Mashai	26,183	12,963	13,220
Malingoaneng	25,861	13,031	12,830
Senqu	25,170	12,726	12,444
Mokhotlong	25,030	12,091	12,939
Bobatsi	23,856	11,880	11,976

Table 4: Distribution of Dejure Population by Zone and Sex

Zone	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	981,645	1,020,301
Lowlands	1,238,902	600,007	638,895
Foothills	195,626	99,091	96,535
Mountains	392,276	196,613	195,663
Senqu river valley	175,142	85,933	89,209

Table 5: Distribution of Dejure Population by Settlement type and Sex

Settlement	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	2,001,946	982,003	1,019,943
Urban	682,607	321,355	361,252
Peri-Urban	149,204	72,792	76,412
Rural	1,170,135	587,856	582,279

Table 6: Distribution of Dejure Population by Age and District

Age	Total	District									
		Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka
Total	2,001,946	118,134	337,250	262,070	516,936	176,617	164,829	116,645	75,072	99,680	134,713
00 - 04	198,519	11,894	32,925	25,607	49,946	16,753	16,061	11,607	7,698	10,938	15,090
05 - 09	219,863	13,606	37,010	28,025	51,232	18,656	18,487	13,108	8,879	13,055	17,805
10 - 14	215,549	13,040	35,519	27,097	49,133	19,386	18,562	13,458	9,066	13,199	17,090
15 - 19	209,694	11,968	35,123	27,010	50,943	19,188	17,539	12,906	8,504	11,426	15,088
20 - 24	198,640	11,150	33,220	25,558	57,184	16,488	15,527	11,670	6,997	9,060	11,787
25 - 29	188,590	10,744	32,070	24,313	55,082	15,860	14,517	10,653	6,477	8,089	10,785
30 - 34	167,892	9,896	28,962	22,250	48,729	13,969	12,779	8,981	5,850	7,152	9,324
35 - 39	130,509	7,552	22,407	17,414	38,951	10,776	9,479	6,479	4,325	5,665	7,460
40 - 44	96,175	5,519	16,409	12,999	27,676	8,215	7,322	4,767	3,152	4,298	5,817
45 - 49	74,604	4,290	13,045	10,659	20,356	6,444	5,943	3,934	2,480	3,057	4,396
50 - 54	69,975	4,188	11,902	9,987	17,515	6,633	6,070	4,085	2,555	2,953	4,086
55 - 59	59,653	3,668	10,392	8,547	13,902	6,057	5,430	3,542	2,230	2,417	3,468
60 - 64	49,482	3,070	8,349	6,905	11,124	5,212	4,710	3,110	1,777	2,189	3,035
65 - 69	37,413	2,312	6,161	4,862	8,307	4,199	3,653	2,377	1,438	1,706	2,398
70 - 74	30,840	1,997	5,030	4,010	6,345	3,098	3,104	2,077	1,198	1,588	2,392
75 - 79	23,973	1,399	3,766	3,116	4,749	2,563	2,458	1,739	967	1,172	2,043
80 - 84	18,939	1,143	3,089	2,220	3,412	1,883	2,011	1,376	962	1,114	1,728
85 - 89	7,176	425	1,234	927	1,364	750	731	484	327	365	569
90 - 94	2,889	163	386	359	608	348	305	205	132	151	232
95+	369	39	48	46	58	34	47	21	12	25	39
ANS	1,202	69	202	159	319	106	96	66	44	61	80

Table 7: Distribution of Dejure Population by Age and Settlement Type

Age	Settlement			
	Total	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural
Total	2,001,946	682,773	149,212	1,169,961
00 - 04	198,663	63,779	13,638	121,246
05 - 09	220,022	65,744	15,150	139,129
10 - 14	215,669	62,269	15,856	137,545
15 - 19	209,558	69,327	17,549	122,682
20 - 24	198,557	74,012	16,453	108,092
25 - 29	188,417	76,403	13,758	98,256
30 - 34	167,722	69,709	11,659	86,355
35 - 39	130,427	55,073	9,105	66,249
40 - 44	96,158	38,141	6,928	51,088
45 - 49	74,571	28,432	5,613	40,527
50 - 54	69,945	23,953	5,413	40,579
55 - 59	59,658	18,275	4,600	36,783
60 - 64	49,532	12,926	3,981	32,624
65 - 69	37,467	8,954	3,009	25,505
70 - 74	30,904	6,253	2,323	22,329
75 - 79	24,033	4,215	1,838	17,981
80 - 84	18,983	2,998	1,366	14,619
85 - 89	7,192	1,254	598	5,341
90 - 94	2,893	576	262	2,055
95+	370	64	22	284
ANS	1,202	418	92	692

Table 8: Distribution of Households by District and Household Status

District	Household Status						
	Total	Continue with interview	No household member at home	Entire hh absent for extended period of time	Dwelling vacant	Refusal	Not applicable
Total	593,403	535,231	1,590	4,008	49,956	20	2,598
Botha-Bothe	32,057	28,884	91	339	2,704	0	38
Leribe	99,349	89,723	293	708	7,983	2	641
Berea	79,125	70,444	178	461	7,660	5	377
Maseru	174,860	161,994	420	742	10,825	11	868
Mafeteng	53,433	46,128	192	306	6,571	2	234
Mohale'sHoek	44,727	39,196	112	470	4,853	0	97
Quthing	27,723	24,564	77	385	2,653	0	44

Qacha's Nek	19,323	17,038	39	181	2,016	0	48
Mokhotlong	26,694	24,280	45	173	2,094	-	102
Thaba-Tseka	36,113	32,980	143	244	2,597	0	149
