



LESOTHO

April 2019

Snapshot of the Strength of the Health Information System as a Source of HIV Data

Health information systems (HIS) are important tools in combatting the HIV epidemic, from the individual to the population level. Electronic health records contain individual patient information that helps clinicians provide high-quality care and can improve continuity of care across services and institutions. Laboratory information systems improve the submission of lab tests and the receipt of results. Logistic information systems can help forecast the need for medications and other commodities and reduce stockouts of antiretroviral drugs and other medications. Routine health information systems are used to compile this information for reports from facilities to the national level. Data use at all levels of the health system is necessary to monitor coverage of HIV interventions and progress toward targets. And finally, population-level surveys provide information on changes in behavior and HIV prevalence every few years; these data are needed to assess the impact of HIV programs over time.

HIV IN LESOTHO

- Adult HIV prevalence rate: 23.8¹
- Prevalence rate for women: 29.0¹
- Prevalence rate for men: 18.7¹
- Number of adults living with HIV: 330,000²
- Number of new HIV infections in 2016: 21,000²
- Number of AIDS-related deaths in 2016: 9,900²
- People living with HIV who know their status: 77%²
- People who know their status and are on antiretroviral therapy (ART): 90%²
- People on ART who have achieved viral suppression: 88%²

1 UNAIDS. (2017). AIDSinfo. <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>

2 United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. (2018). Country Specific Information: Lesotho. Retrieved from <https://www.pepfar.gov/countries/index.htm>

3 World Health Organization. (2018). Global Health Observatory: Lesotho Summary Statistics. Retrieved from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data>

4 United Nations Statistics Division. (2016). 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm>

5 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2018) Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update. Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

6 International Telecommunications Union. (2017). ICT Development Index 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/index.html>



Population

2,204,000+³

Year of last census

2016⁴

Life expectancy at birth

52.2/54.6 years (m/f)^{3,5}

Total expenditure on health

8.4% GDP³

Physician density

0.047 per 10,000³

Nurse & midwife density

0.591 per 10,000³

Hospital bed density

13 per 10,000³

Internet users

27.36% of the population⁶

This is one of 13 briefs prepared by MEASURE Evaluation (funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) to document the strength of a country's HIS as a source of reliable data for efforts to control the HIV epidemic.

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM FACTS

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Health strategy	no	72%	National Health Strategic Plan 2017–2022
Health sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan	no	42%	
Health information system (HIS) policy	no	19%	
HIS strategic plan	no	33%	Health Management Information System Strategic Plan 2013–2017
Core health indicators	no	49%	National Health Strategic Plan 2017–2022
HIS coordinating body	no	26%	
Master health facility list	no	28%	2017 Master Facility List
Completed Health Metrics Network assessment	yes	56%	Lesotho Health Information System: Review and Assessment
Population census within the past 10 years	yes	49%	2016 Census
Availability of national health surveys	yes	100%	2014 Demographic and Health Survey
Completeness of vital registration (births and deaths)	no	7%	Live births and deaths are less than 90%
Electronic system for routine site-level data	yes	91%	
Health statistics office	yes	98%	
Annual health statistics report	no	9%	
Health statistics website with latest data available	no	49%	
Data quality assessment aligned with health sector strategy	yes	67%	

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM) assessment conducted in any region or district	no	47%	
Percentage of facilities represented in health management information system reports is available	no	74%	
Proportion of government offices using data to manage health programs (set and monitor targets) is available	no	40%	
Measles coverage reported to the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF	yes	98%	WHO and UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage: 2017 revision ; page 10
Data on the number of institutional deliveries available by district and published within a year	no	28%	
Policies, laws, and regulations mandating public and private health facilities to report indicators determined by the national HIS	no	33%	
Standards or guidelines for routine health information system data collection, reporting, and analysis	yes	51%	RHIS Standards/Guidelines 2016
Procedures to verify the data quality	yes	47%	
Routine health information system forms allow for gender disaggregation	yes	60%	
At least one national health account completed in the past 5 years	no	35%	
Database of healthcare workers by district and main cadres updated in the past 2 years	no	26%	
Annual data on tracer medicines and commodities in public and private health facilities available	no	21%	
eHealth strategy	yes	58%	
Completeness of disease surveillance reporting is available	yes	28%	

* "Global status" is the percentage of the 43 countries tracked by the [HIS Strengthening Resource Center](#) that have a positive result (yes/no) for the indicator. A positive result (yes) indicates that the indicator is available and current; a negative result (no) indicates that the indicator is unknown, not available, or not current.

According to the 2009 and 2014 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey reports, the proportion of reproductive age women who were tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received the results of the test rose from 42.0 percent in 2009 to 58.0 percent in 2014.^{7,8} The proportion of men of the same age rose from 24.0 percent to 36.4 percent for the same years, respectively.^{7,8} In addition, in 2014, 78.5 percent of pregnant women attending antenatal care received counseling on HIV, an HIV test, and the results of that test.⁷

The Lesotho Global AIDS Response Report of 2015 indicates that the country adopted the global 90-90-90 targets. (By 2020, 90 percent of those with HIV will have been diagnosed; 90 percent of those diagnosed will be on ART; and 90 percent of those on treatment will be virally suppressed.) The report also states that 35 percent of HIV-positive adults and 30 percent of HIV-positive children

received ART.⁹ Of all those on ART 12 months after initiating, 79 percent were known to be continuing treatment.⁹ The 2016–17 Lesotho Population-Based HIV Impact Survey found that 90.2 percent of those 15–59 years of age who knew their HIV status were on ART (90.6% of women and 89.4% of men).¹⁰ Among those in the same age group and on ART, 88.3 percent (88.2 percent of women and 88.4 percent of men) were virally suppressed.¹⁰

The Health Management Information System Strategic Plan, 2013–2017 outlined three main goals for the HIS. These are to (1) strengthen coordination and management of the HIS, (2) to improve health data management at all levels, and (3) to strengthen data analysis, dissemination, and use.¹¹ An updated HIS policy document is under review, although it has not yet been published online.

7 Ministry of Health/Lesotho & ICF International. (2016). Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Maseru, Lesotho: Ministry of Health/Lesotho and ICF International. Retrieved from <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR309/FR309.pdf>

8 Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW)/Lesotho & ICF Macro. (2010). Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2009. Maseru, Lesotho: MOHSW and ICF Macro. Retrieved from <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR241/FR241.pdf>

9 Lesotho Ministry of Health. (2015). Global AIDS Response Progress Report 2015: Follow-up to the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS Intensifying Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS (Lesotho Country Report, Reporting Period: January–December 2014). Retrieved from http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/LSO_narrative_report_2015.pdf

10 Lesotho Ministry of Health. (2017). Lesotho Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment: LePHIA 2016–2017, Preliminary Findings Summary Sheet. Retrieved from https://phia.icap.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Lesotho-Summary-Sheet_A4.2.7.18.HR_.pdf

11 Lesotho Ministry of Health. (n.d.). Health Management Information System Strategic Plan 2013–2017. Retrieved from http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/country_docs/Lesotho/hmis_strategic_plan_2013-2017_final_-_01042013.pdf