In order to create a world where every child, adolescent and young person is safe, protected and thriving, we must first know the facts.

In Lesotho, girls and boys experience unacceptably high rates of sexual and physical violence

Percentage of females and males who experienced sexual or physical violence prior to age 18

15% SEXUAL VIOLENCE
32% PHYSICAL VIOLENCE
5% TOTAL

For many girls, the first experience of sexual intercourse is physically forced or coerced

(among those who had sexual intercourse before age 18)

Girls face particularly high risks of sexual violence, often with devastating consequences

Age of first incident of physically forced or coerced sex, among those who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18

23% AGES 14-15
8% AGES 13 OR YOUNGER
69% AGES 16-17

Girls are at risk of early marriage

Percentage of females who married or lived with someone as if married prior to age 18

Married or lived with someone as if married before age 16
2%

Married or lived with someone as if married before age 18
11%

8% of girls who experienced physically forced or coerced sex or alcohol-facilitated sex before age 18 became pregnant

All data among 18-24 year-olds
Perpetrators of sexual violence are often someone known to the child or adolescent

Most common perpetrators of first incident of sexual violence as reported by females who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18

*Intimate partner is defined as spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner

^Estimate may be unreliable

Sexual violence often occurs in familiar locations

Location of first incident of sexual violence experienced by females prior to age 18

Perpetrator’s Home: 30%

On a Road or Street: 20%

Field or Other Natural Area: 17%

Girls who experience sexual violence are not getting the support and services they need

Females who told someone about, sought services and received services for sexual violence, among those who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18

39% Told Someone

11% Sought Services

8% Received Services

For more information, visit: togetherforgirls.org

Together for girls

The Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys Surveys are nationally representative household surveys led by national governments, with technical support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the Together for Girls Partnership.

For more information, visit: togetherforgirls.org