LESOTHO

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

- Sexual violence: 15% females, 32% males
- Physical violence: 5% females, 56% males

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

Girls are at risk of early marriage

- 8% of girls who experienced physically forced or coerced sex or alcohol-facilitated sex before age 18 became pregnant
- 2% married or lived with someone as if married before age 16
- 11% married or lived with someone as if married prior to age 18

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

For more information, visit: togetherforgirls.org

The Violence Against Children and Youth 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.

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