

Lesotho - Population Census - IPUMS Subset 1996

Bureau of Statistics, IPUMS

Report generated on: September 25, 2026

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

LSO_1996_PHC_v01_M_v7.6_A_IPUMS

TITLE

Population Census - IPUMS Subset 1996

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

PHC Is1996a (IPUMS Harmonized Subset)

COUNTRY/ECONOMY

Name	Country code
Lesotho	LSO

STUDY TYPE

Population and Housing Census [hh/popcen] IPUMS International

SERIES INFORMATION

DOI:10.18128/D020.V7.6

KIND OF DATA

Population and Housing Census [hh/popcen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Persons, households, and dwellings

UNITS IDENTIFIED:

- Dwellings: yes
- Vacant Units: No
- Households: yes
- Individuals: yes
- Group quarters: no

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS:

- Dwellings: No
- Households: A household is one person or a group of persons who live together and have common catering arrangements, whether or not they are related by blood or marriage. If two or more groups of persons live in the same dwelling unit and have separate living and eating arrangements, treat them as separate households.
- Group quarters: All persons in hospitals, colleges, barracks or prisons

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 7.6. The datasets contain selected variables from the original microdata plus harmonized variables from the IPUMS-International database.

VERSION DATE

2025-05-09

Scope

NOTES

Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: Lesotho 1996

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary
Demographic Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Other Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Geography: Global Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Fertility and Mortality Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Nativity and Birthplace Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Work Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Technical Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Geography: IPUMS-I, IPUMS-DHS Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Disability Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Education Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Constructed Family Interrelationship Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Utilities Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Geography: F-N Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Migration: Global Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Group Quarters Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Constructed Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Migration: F-N Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Household Economic Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Technical Person Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Appliances, Mechanicals, Other Amenities Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Dwelling Characteristics Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Technical Person Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Technical Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Household Economic Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Group Quarters Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Dwelling Characteristics Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Utilities Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Appliances, Mechanicals, Other Amenities Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Other Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD	IPUMS
Migration: Global Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Demographic Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Other Person Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Nativity and Birthplace Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Fertility and Mortality Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Education Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Work Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS
Work: Occupation Variables -- PERSON	IPUMS

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

District

UNIVERSE

All persons present in the country on census day

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Bureau of Statistics	
IPUMS	University of Minnesota

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

MICRODATA SOURCE: Bureau of Statistics

SAMPLE SIZE (person records): 1880346.

SAMPLE DESIGN: Systematic sample of every tenth dwelling drawn by IPUMS from 100% microdata

WEIGHTING

Self-weighting (expansion factor=10)

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
1996-04-14	1996-04-20

TIME PERIODS

Start date	End date
1996-04-14	1996-04-14

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

both, CENSUS DAY: April 14, 1996

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

A single census form for dwellings and persons

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name
Bureau of Statistics

CONFIDENTIALITY

IPUMS International distributes integrated microdata of individuals and households only by agreement of collaborating national statistical offices and under the strictest of confidence. Before data may be distributed to an individual researcher, an electronic license agreement must be signed and approved. To gain access to the data, a researcher must agree to the following: (1) Implement security measures to prevent unauthorized access to census microdata. Under IPUMS International agreements with collaborating agencies, redistribution of the data to third parties is prohibited. (2) Use the microdata for the exclusive purposes of scholarly research and education. Researchers must explicitly agree to not use microdata acquired for any commercial or income-generating venture. (3) Maintain the confidentiality of persons, households, and other entities. Any attempt to ascertain the identity of persons or households from the microdata is prohibited. Alleging that a person or household has been identified is also prohibited. (4) Report all publications based on these data to IPUMS International, which will in turn pass the information on to the relevant national statistical agencies. Once a project is approved, a password is issued and data may be acquired through the Internet. Penalties for violating the license include: revocation of the license, recall of all microdata acquired, filing of a motion of censure to the appropriate professional organizations, and civil prosecution under the relevant national or international statutes. These safeguards mirror the principles from the Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality. Employees of the Minnesota Population Center who work with the census microdata to produce the harmonized database also sign agreements to respect the confidentiality of the data. IPUMS International works with each country's statistical office to minimize the risk of disclosure of respondent information. The details of the confidentiality protections vary across countries, but in all cases, names and detailed geographic information are suppressed and top-codes are imposed on variables such as income that might identify specific persons. In addition, IPUMS International uses a variety of technical procedures to enhance confidentiality protection. These include the following: (1) Swapping an undisclosed fraction of records from one administrative district to another to make positive identification of individuals impossible. (2) Randomizing the placement of households within districts to disguise the order in which individuals were enumerated or the data processed. (3) Aggregating codes of sensitive characteristics (e.g., grouping together very small ethnic categories) (4) Top- and bottom-coding continuous variables to prevent identification of extreme cases. The safety record for public-use census microdata is apparently perfect. In almost four decades of use, there has not been a single verified breach of statistical confidentiality. The measures implemented by the IPUMS International are designed to extend this record.

ACCESS CONDITIONS

An adapted version of the dataset, harmonized for international comparability, is available from IPUMS International (<https://international.ipums.org/international/>) under the following conditions:

IPUMS International distributes integrated microdata of individuals and households only by agreement of collaborating national statistical offices and under the strictest of confidence. Before data may be distributed to an individual researcher, an electronic license agreement must be signed and approved. To gain access to the data, a researcher must agree to the following:

- (1) Implement security measures to prevent unauthorized access to census microdata. Under IPUMS International agreements with collaborating agencies, redistribution of the data to third parties is prohibited.
- (2) Use the microdata for the exclusive purposes of scholarly research and education. Researchers must explicitly agree to not use microdata acquired for any commercial or income-generating venture.
- (3) Maintain the confidentiality of persons, households, and other entities. Any attempt to ascertain the identity of persons or households from the microdata is prohibited. Alleging that a person or household has been identified is also prohibited.
- (4) Report all publications based on these data to IPUMS International, which will in turn pass the information on to the relevant national statistical agencies.

Once a project is approved, a password is issued and data may be acquired through the Internet. Penalties for violating the license include: revocation of the license, recall of all microdata acquired, filing of a motion of censure to the appropriate professional organizations, and civil prosecution under the relevant national or international statutes.

These safeguards mirror the principles from the Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality. Employees of the Minnesota Population Center who work with the census microdata to produce the harmonized database also sign agreements to respect the confidentiality of the data.

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Steven Ruggles, Lara Cleveland, Rodrigo Lovaton, Sula Sarkar, Matthew Sobek, Derek Burk, Dan Ehrlich, Quinn Heimann, Jane Lee, and Nate Merrill. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, International: Version 7.6 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D020.V7.6>

Researchers should also acknowledge the statistical agency that originally produced the data: Lesotho, Bureau of Statistics. Population Census

The licensing agreement for use of IPUMS International data requires that users supply IPUMS International with the title and full citation for any publications, research reports, or educational materials making use of the data or documentation.

Copies of such materials are also gratefully received at ipums@umn.edu.

Printed matter should be sent to:

IPUMS International
Minnesota Population Center
University of Minnesota
50 Willey Hall
225 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name
Bureau of Statistics

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_LSO_1996_PHC_v01_M_v7.6_A_IPUMS

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
IPUMS	IPUMS	University of Minnesota	Integration Harmonization Documentation

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

April 1, 2025

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 7.6 October 2025 : NEW FEATURES.

--NO "new features" listed in Revision History

NEW SAMPLES.

--Six new census samples for Honduras (2013), Kenya (2019), Malawi (2018), Mongolia (2010, 2020), and Mozambique (2017) were added to the data series. All census samples extend pre-existing series for those countries.

--91 quarterly labor force surveys from the Philippines (1997 - 2019) were added to IPUMS.

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA.

--No "supplemental data" listed in revision history

NEW VARIABLES.

--New spatially harmonized birthplace and previous-residence variables are available for samples in this data release. More information is available here (https://international.ipums.org/international/geo_mig.shtml).

--Users should note that many older migration and birthplace variables are available by different names. Refer to this table for a crosswalk of old and corresponding new migration variables. For birthplace variables refer to this table (https://international.ipums.org/international/resources/misc_docs/migCrosswalk_names.pdf).

EDITED SAMPLES.

--For the Zambia 2000 sample, an error in the household breaks was corrected, resulting in the creation of 1,988 new households (1% increase) that were previously combined with other households. The person records included in the sample did not change. Due to an inconsistency in the original file, no household-level information other than geographic location is available for these newly identified households, necessitating the addition of "unknown" values for this sample to the following variables: BEDROOMS, ELECTRIC, FLOOR, FUELCOOK, FUELHEAT, OWNERSHIP, PHONE, RADIO, REFRIG, ROOMS, SEWAGE, TRASH, WATSRG, TV, TOILET, GQ, ROOF, WATSUP, BIKE, MOTORCYCLE, KITCHEN, GQTYPE, AUTOS, and WALL.

EDITED VARIABLES.

--For the 1998 and 2008 Malawi samples, the family interrelationship pointer variables MOMLOC and POPLOC were modified to allow a "Spouse/partner" of the household head to be linked as a parent to an "Other relative", because the enumeration instructions specify that adopted and stepchildren were categorized as "Other relative". These samples are now consistent with the links made in the newly released 2018 Malawi sample, which had the same enumeration instructions for adopted and stepchildren.

--In the samples for Côte d'Ivoire 1988 and 1998, Rwanda 1991 and 2002, Togo 1960 and 2010, and South Africa 2001, for the harmonized variable POLYGAM, persons in consensual unions were previously coded as "No, in monogamous union". Because there was no response option in these samples for polygamous consensual unions, it is more appropriate to treat these cases as not-in-universe, so they have been recoded to "NIU (not in universe)".

--MARST has been edited for Honduras 1974 to reclassify the source variable responses "married, wife lives separately" and "consensual union, companion lives separately" as separations. The documentation suggests that "separately" actually indicates a relationship separation and not an absent spouse or companion. Other minor edits were implemented for MARST for Mozambique 1997 and 2007.

--In the Mozambique 1997 sample, an error was corrected that recoded persons with a relationship of "Unknown" in the source data to "Other relative or non-relative" (6000) in the harmonized variable RELATE. These persons are now coded as "Not Stated/Unknown" (9999).

--In the Malawi 1987, 1998, and 2008 samples, for variable WATSUP, a programming error was corrected such that any households who reported having piped water in either the wet or the dry season are classified as having access to piped water. This programming was also applied to the newly released 2018 sample.

--The NATIVITY variable has been edited in the Chile 2017 sample to correct a programming error that mistakenly classified as foreign-born about 20 thousand person records that were actually native-born.

--The MIGRATE5 variable has been edited in the Chile 2017 sample, given a programming error that classified most migrants as having changed their major geographic unit. The MIGRATE5 variable for the Chile 1982 and 1992 samples has been edited to use spatially harmonized geographic units to calculate migration status.

--In the 1989, 1999, and 2009 Kenya samples, households who indicated that their lighting type or fuel was "Solar" were recoded from "No" to "Yes" in ELECTRIC, based on secondary sources documenting the spread of home solar energy systems in Kenya beginning in the mid-1980s. In the 1989 and 1999 Kenya samples, programming was removed that previously recoded households that reported using electricity as their main cooking fuel to "Yes" in the access to electricity variable ELECTRIC, making it more consistent across samples. Other minor edits were implemented for ELECTRIC in Botswana 2011, Ethiopia 1984 and 1994, Mongolia 1989, Mozambique 2007.

--Some samples in DISCARE classified responses indicating "some" difficulty into "yes". These cases were revised to consistently include in "yes" only responses indicating "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all".

--Some codes were improperly labeled for municipalities in Honduras 1961 and 1974, which affect variables on place of residence, birthplace, and previous residence.

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
LSO1996_PHC-H-H.dat Household records	37088	
LSO1996_PHC-P-H.dat Person records	1880346	

Data file: LSO1996_PHC-H-H.dat

Household records

Cases: 37088

Variables:

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
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Total: 0

Data file: LSO1996_PHC-P-H.dat

Person records

Cases: 1880346

Variables:

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
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Total: 0

Documentation

Questionnaires

Population Census Questionnaire

Title	Population Census Questionnaire
Date	1996-01-01
Country	Lesotho
Language	English
Filename	LSO_1996_PHC_questionnaire.pdf
