

Liberia - Demographic and Health Survey 2013

**Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) - Ministry of
Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW)**

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Sample Design

The sampling frame for the 2013 LDHS was developed by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) after the 2008 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC). The sampling frame is similar to that used for the 2009 and 2011 Liberia Malaria Indicator Surveys (LMIS), except that the classification of localities as urban or rural was updated through the application of standardized definitions. The sampling frame excluded nomadic and institutional populations such as residents of hotels, barracks, and prisons. Notably, the sampling frame for the 2013 LDHS differs markedly from that used for the 2007 LDHS, which was based on the 1984 NPHC. Taken together, these differences may complicate data comparisons between surveys.

The 2013 LDHS followed a two-stage sample design that allowed estimates of key indicators for the country as a whole, for urban and rural areas separately, for Greater Monrovia and other urban areas separately, and for each of 15 counties. To facilitate estimates of geographical differentials for certain demographic indicators, the 15 counties were collapsed into five regions as follows:

North Western: Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu
 South Central: Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa
 South Eastern A: River Cess, Sinoe, and Grand Gedeh
 South Eastern B: River Gee, Grand Kru, and Maryland
 North Central: Bong, Nimba, and Lofa

Regional data were presented in the 2007 LDHS, the 2009 LMIS, and the 2011 LMIS. However, in contrast with these past surveys, the South Central region now includes Monrovia. Thus, data presented for the South Central region in this report is not directly comparable to that presented in the 2007 LDHS, the 2009 LMIS, or the 2011 LMIS.

The first stage of sample selection involved selecting sample points (clusters) consisting of enumeration areas (EAs) delineated for the 2008 NPHC. Overall, the sample included 322 sample points, 119 in urban areas and 203 in rural areas. To allow for separate estimates of Greater Monrovia and Montserrado as a whole, 44 sample points were selected in Montserrado; 16 to 26 sample points were selected in each of the other 14 counties.

The second stage of selection involved the systemic sampling of households. A household listing operation was undertaken in all the selected EAs from mid-September to mid-October 2012. From these lists, households to be included in the survey were selected. Approximately 30 households were selected from each sample point for a total sample size of 9,677 households. During the listing, geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) were taken in the center of the populated area of each EA using global positioning system (GPS) units.

Because of the approximately equal sample sizes in each region, the sample is not self-weighting at the national level, and weighting factors have been added to the data file so that the results will be proportional at the national level.

All women age 15-49 who were either permanent residents of the selected households or visitors who stayed in the household the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed. In half of the households, all men age 15-49 who were either permanent residents of the selected households or visitors who stayed in the household the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed. In the subsample of households selected for the male survey, blood samples were collected for laboratory testing to detect HIV from eligible women and men who consented; in this same subsample of households, height and weight information was collected from eligible women, men, and children 0-59 months.

Further details on the sample design and implementation are given in Appendix A of the final report.

Response Rate

A total of 9,677 households were selected for the sample, of which 9,386 were occupied. Of the occupied households, 9,333 were successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 99 percent.

In the interviewed households, 9,462 eligible women were identified for individual interview; of these, complete interviews were conducted with 9,239 women, yielding a response rate of 98 percent. In the subsample of households selected for the male survey, 4,318 eligible men were identified and 4,118 were successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 95 percent. The lower response rate for men was likely due to their more frequent and longer absences from the household.

Weighting

Due to the nonproportional allocation of the sample across domains and urban-rural areas, and the differential response rates, sampling weights must be calculated using all analyses of the LDHS results to ensure that survey results are representative at both the national and domain level. Since the LDHS sample is a two-stage stratified cluster sample, sampling weights are based on sampling probabilities calculated separately for each sampling stage and for each cluster.

The design weight is adjusted for household non-response and individual non-response to get the sampling weights for households and for women and men, respectively. Non-response is adjusted at the sampling stratum level. For the household sampling weight, the household design weight is multiplied by the inverse of the household response rate, by stratum. For the women's individual sampling weight, the household sampling weight is multiplied by the inverse of the women's individual response rate, by stratum. For the men's individual sampling weight, the household sampling weight for the male sub-sample is multiplied by the inverse of the men's individual response rate, by stratum. After adjusting for non-response, the sampling weights are normalized to get the final standard weights that appear in the data files. The normalization process is done to obtain a total number of unweighted cases equal to the total number of weighted cases at the national level, for the total number of households, women, and men. Normalization is done by multiplying the sampling weight by the estimated sampling fraction obtained from the survey for the household weight, the individual woman's weight, and the individual man's weight. The normalized weights are relative weights that are valid for estimating means, proportions, ratios, and rates, but they are not valid for estimating population totals or pooled data. The sampling weights for HIV testing are calculated in a similar way, but the normalization of the HIV weights is different. The individual HIV testing weights are normalized at the national level for women and men together so that HIV prevalence estimates calculated for women and men together are valid.

Further details on the sample weight calculation are given in Appendix A.4 in the final report.

Questionnaires

Overview

Three questionnaires were used for the 2013 LDHS: the Household Questionnaire, the Woman's Questionnaire, and the Man's Questionnaire. These questionnaires are based on MEASURE DHS standard survey questionnaires and were adapted to reflect the population and health issues relevant to Liberia. Input was solicited from various stakeholders representing government ministries and agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and international donors.

Given that there are dozens of local languages in Liberia, most of which have no accepted written script and are not taught in the schools, and given that English is widely spoken, it was decided not to attempt to translate the questionnaires into vernaculars. However, many of the questions were broken down into a simpler form of Liberian English that interviewers could use with respondents.

The Household Questionnaire was used to list all the usual members of and visitors to selected households. Some basic demographic information was collected on the characteristics of each person listed, including his or her age, sex, education, and relationship to the head of the household. For children under age 18, survival status of the parents was determined. The data on age and sex of household members obtained in the Household Questionnaire were used to identify women and men who were eligible for individual interview and HIV testing. The Household Questionnaire also collected information on characteristics of the household's dwelling unit, such as the source of water, type of toilet facility, materials used for the floor of the house, ownership of various durable goods, ownership and use of mosquito nets, and information on household out-of-pocket health-related expenditures. The Household Questionnaire was also used to record height and weight measurements of children 0-59 months and eligible adults. Also recorded was whether or not eligible adults consented to HIV testing.

The Woman's Questionnaire was used to collect information from all eligible women age 15-49.

The Man's Questionnaire was administered to all men age 15-49 in the subsample of households selected for the male survey in the 2013 LDHS sample. The Man's Questionnaire collected much of the same information as the Woman's Questionnaire, but was shorter because it did not contain a detailed reproductive history or questions on maternal and child health.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2013-03	2013-07	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Training of Field Staff

Six women and nine men participated in a training to pretest the LDHS survey protocol from 20 August to 7 September 2012. Most participants had worked on various LDHS survey activities previously, including the 2007 LDHS, or were employed by LISGIS. Trainers were staff from LISGIS and MEASURE DHS. Ten days of classroom instruction were provided. Additionally, pretest field practice took place over four days in both rural and urban locations. Following field practice, a debriefing session was held with the pretest field staff, and modifications to the questionnaires were made based on lessons drawn from the exercise.

The recruitment of the LDHS field staff began in October 2012. The positions were advertised via announcements on bulletin boards in LISGIS headquarters and all LISGIS county offices. Minimum requirements of applicants included a high school diploma, fluency in English, and familiarity with one or more local dialects. A total of 3,662 applications were received from all counties. Vetting of all applications was done over a two-week period; 1,339 candidates were short-listed to sit for aptitude testing. Two aptitude tests were arranged. The first occurred in November 2012; those who passed were eligible for a second aptitude test, which was administered in January 2013. One thousand and sixty-four candidates sat for the first test, and 564 candidates sat for the second test. Based on the outcome of the second test combined with prior survey experience and other intangibles, a total of 128 persons (82 females and 46 males) were invited to the main training.

The field staff main training took place over four weeks (11 February to 8 March 2013). The training was conducted following MEASURE DHS training procedures, which included class presentations, mock interviews, tests, and field practice. Trainers included LISGIS staff who participated in the LDHS pretest; staff from MOHSW, WHO, and Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia; and staff from ICF International.

Out of those persons who were recruited and attended the main training, 65 women and 31 men were selected to carry out field work. Among this group, 16 persons were selected as team supervisors and 16 persons were selected as field editors; all others served as interviewers. Team supervisors and field editors were provided with additional training in methods of field editing, data quality control procedures, and fieldwork coordination.

Fieldwork

Data collection was carried out by 16 field teams, each consisting of one team supervisor, one field editor, three female interviewers, one male interviewer, and one driver. On each team, one of the female interviewers and the male interviewer were also tasked with biomarker collection (conducting height and weight measurements and blood collection for HIV testing from eligible respondents). Five senior staff members from LISGIS and a senior staff member from NACP coordinated and supervised the fieldwork activities. Participants in fieldwork monitoring also included a resident advisor, a survey technical specialist, and a senior data processing specialist, all of whom worked directly for the MEASURE DHS project.

Data collection took place over a four-month period from 10 March to 19 July 2013. For logistical reasons, including the difficulty in reaching the clusters located in the Southeast during the rainy season, fieldwork was divided into three phases:

- Phase I: Maryland, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Gedeh
- Phase II: Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, River Cess
- Phase III: Margibi, Montserrado, Greater Monrovia, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount

At least three teams were assigned to each county.

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services	LISGIS	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW)

Data Processing

Data Editing

All questionnaires were returned to the LISGIS central office in Monrovia for data processing, which consisted of office editing, coding of open-ended questions, data entry, and editing computer-identified errors. The data were processed by a team of 12 data entry clerks, two data editors, one data entry supervisor, and two administrators of questionnaires; the latter checked that the clusters were completed according to the sample selection and that all members of the household eligible for individual interview were identified. Secondary editing was led by an LDHS coordinator. Several LISGIS staff took on the responsibility of receiving the blood samples from the field and checking them before sending them to the Montserrado Regional Blood Bank for storage. Data entry and editing using CSPro software was initiated in April 2013 and completed in late August 2013.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

The estimates from a sample survey are affected by two types of errors: nonsampling errors and sampling errors. Nonsampling errors are the results of mistakes made in implementing data collection and data processing, such as failure to locate and interview the correct household, misunderstanding of the questions on the part of either the interviewer or the respondent, and data entry errors. Although numerous efforts were made during the implementation of the 2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey to minimize this type of error, nonsampling errors are impossible to avoid and difficult to evaluate statistically.

Sampling errors, on the other hand, can be evaluated statistically. The sample of respondents selected in the 2013 LDHS is only one of many samples that could have been selected from the same population, using the same design and expected size. Each of these samples would yield results that differ somewhat from the results of the actual sample selected. Sampling errors are a measure of the variability between all possible samples. Although the degree of variability is not known exactly, it can be estimated from the survey results.

Sampling error is usually measured in terms of the standard error for a particular statistic (mean, percentage, etc.), which is the square root of the variance. The standard error can be used to calculate confidence intervals within which the true value for the population can reasonably be assumed to fall. For example, for any given statistic calculated from a sample survey, the value of that statistic will fall within a range of plus or minus two times the standard error of that statistic in 95 percent of all possible samples of identical size and design.

If the sample of respondents had been selected as a simple random sample, it would have been possible to use straightforward formulas for calculating sampling errors. However, the 2013 LDHS sample is the result of a multi-stage stratified design, and, consequently, it was necessary to use more complex formulas. Sampling errors are computed in either ISSA or SAS, using programs developed by ICF International. These programs use the Taylor linearization method of variance estimation for survey estimates that are means, proportions, or ratios. The Jackknife repeated replication method is used for variance estimation of more complex statistics such as fertility and mortality rates.

The Taylor linearization method treats any percentage or average as a ratio estimate, $r = y/x$, where y represents the total sample value for variable y , and x represents the total number of cases in the group or subgroup under consideration.

Further details on sampling errors calculation are given in Appendix B of the final report.

Other forms of Data Appraisal

Data quality tables were produced to review the quality of the data:

- Household age distribution
- Age distribution of eligible and interviewed women
- Completeness of reporting
- Births by calendar years
- Reporting of age at death in days
- Reporting of age at death in months
- Completeness of information on siblings
- Sibship size and sex ratio of siblings

Note: The tables are presented in APPENDIX C of the final report.

Related Materials

Questionnaires

2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Household Questionnaire

Title 2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Household Questionnaire
 Author(s) Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
 Date 2013-01-11
 Country Liberia
 Language English
 Filename Liberia_2013_DHS_hh_questionnaire.pdf

2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Woman's Questionnaire

Title 2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Woman's Questionnaire
 Author(s) Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
 Date 2013-01-11
 Country Liberia
 Language English
 Filename Liberia_2013_DHS_women_questionnaire.pdf

2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Man's Questionnaire

Title 2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Man's Questionnaire
 Author(s) Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
 Date 2013-01-11
 Country Liberia
 Language English
 Filename Liberia_2013_DHS_men_questionnaire.pdf

Reports

Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2013 Report

Title	Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2013 Report
Author(s)	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Monrovia, Liberia Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Monrovia, Liberia National AIDS Control Program, Monrovia, Liberia ICF International Inc., Rockville, Maryland, USA
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LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES	ix
FOREWORD	xvii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xxi
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS	xxiii
MAP OF LIBERIA	xxiv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND ECONOMY	1
1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY	2
1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE SURVEY	2
1.4 SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION	2
1.4.1 Sample Design	2
1.4.2 Questionnaires	3
1.4.3 HIV Testing	4
1.4.4 Training of Field Staff	5
1.4.5 Fieldwork	6
1.4.6 Data Processing	6
1.5 RESPONSE RATES	7
2 HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSEHOLD POPULATION	9
2.1 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	9
2.1.1 Drinking Water	10
2.1.2 Sanitation Facilities and Waste Disposal	11
2.1.3 Housing Characteristics	12
2.1.4 Household Possessions	14
2.1.5 Distance to a Health Facility	15
2.2 HOUSEHOLD WEALTH	16
2.3 HAND WASHING	17
2.4 HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RESIDENCE	18
2.5 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION	19
2.6 BIRTH REGISTRATION	20
2.7 CHILDREN'S LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND PARENTAL SURVIVAL	21
2.8 EDUCATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION	23
2.8.1 Educational Attainment	23
2.8.2 School Attendance Ratios	25
2.9 UTILIZATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURES FOR HEALTH CARE	29
3 CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS	33
3.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS	33
3.2 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	35
3.3 LITERACY	37
3.4 EXPOSURE TO MASS MEDIA	40
3.5 EMPLOYMENT STATUS	42
3.6 OCCUPATION	45
3.7 TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	48
3.8 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	48
3.9 USE OF TOBACCO	50
3.10 USE OF ALCOHOL	53
4 MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY	57
4.1 MARITAL STATUS	57
4.2 POLYGYNY	58
4.3 AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE	60
4.4 AGE AT FIRST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE	62
4.5 RECENT SEXUAL ACTIVITY	64
5 FERTILITY	69
5.1 CURRENT FERTILITY	69
5.2 FERTILITY BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	70
5.3 FERTILITY TRENDS	71
5.4 CHILDREN EVER BORN AND LIVING	72
5.5 BIRTH INTERVALS	73
5.6 POSTPARTUM AMENORRHEA, ABSTINENCE, AND INSUSCEPTIBILITY	75
5.7 MEDIAN DURATION OF POSTPARTUM INSUSCEPTIBILITY BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	75
5.8 MENOPAUSE	77
5.9 AGE AT FIRST BIRTH	77
5.10 MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST BIRTH BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	78
5.11 TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND MOTHERHOOD	79
6 FERTILITY PREFERENCES	81
6.1 FERTILITY PREFERENCES BY NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN	81
6.2 DESIRE TO LIMIT CHILDREARING BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	82
6.3 IDEAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN	84
6.4 MEAN IDEAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	86
6.5 FERTILITY PLANNING STATUS	86
6.6 WANTED FERTILITY RATES	87
7 FAMILY PLANNING	89
7.1 KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS	89
7.2 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION	91
7.3 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	92
7.4 SOURCE OF MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS	95
7.5 USE OF SOCIAL MARKETING BRAND PILLS	96
7.6 INFORMED CHOICE	97
7.7 RATES OF DISCONTINUING CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS	98
7.8 REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS	98
7.9 KNOWLEDGE OF THE FERTILE PERIOD	99
7.10 NEED AND DEMAND FOR FAMILY PLANNING	100
7.11 FUTURE USE OF CONTRACEPTION	104
7.12 EXPOSURE TO FAMILY PLANNING MESSAGES IN THE MEDIA	105
7.13 CONTACT OF NONUSERS WITH FAMILY PLANNING PROVIDERS	106
8 INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY	109
8.1 BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT OF DATA QUALITY	109
8.2 INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY LEVELS AND TRENDS	111
8.3 SOCIOECONOMIC DIFFERENTIALS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD MORTALITY	112
8.4 DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENTIALS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD MORTALITY	113
8.5 PERINATAL MORTALITY	114
8.6 HIGH-RISK FERTILITY BEHAVIOR	115
9 MATERNAL HEALTH CARE	117
9.1 PRENATAL CARE	117
9.2 NUMBER AND TIMING OF PRENATAL VISITS	120
9.3 COMPONENTS OF PRENATAL CARE	120
9.4 TETANUS TOXOID	122
9.5 PLACE OF DELIVERY	124
9.6 ASSISTANCE DURING DELIVERY	125
9.7 POSTNATAL CARE FOR THE MOTHER	126
9.8 POSTNATAL CARE FOR THE NEWBORN	131
9.9 PROBLEMS IN ACCESSING HEALTH CARE	135
10 CHILD HEALTH	137
10.1 CHILD'S WEIGHT AND SIZE AT BIRTH	137
10.2 VACCINATION OF CHILDREN	139
10.3 PREVALENCE AND TREATMENT OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION	143
10.4 PREVALENCE AND TREATMENT OF FEVER	145
10.5 DIARRHEAL DISEASE	147
10.5.1 Prevalence of Diarrhea	147
10.5.2 Treatment of Diarrhea	149
10.5.3 Feeding Practices during Diarrhea	151
10.6 KNOWLEDGE OF ORS PACKETS	153
10.7 DISPOSAL OF CHILDREN'S STOOLS	154
11 NUTRITION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS	157
11.1 NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN	157
11.1.1 Measurement of Nutritional Status among Young Children	158
11.1.2 Data Collection	159
11.1.3 Levels of Child Malnutrition	159
11.1.4 Trends in Child Malnutrition	161
11.2 BREASTFEEDING	162
11.2.1 Initiation of Breastfeeding	162
11.2.2 Breastfeeding Status by Age	164
11.2.3 Median Duration of Breastfeeding	166
11.3 DIETARY DIVERSITY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN	167
11.3.1 Foods and Liquids Consumed by Infants and Young Children	168
11.3.2 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices	169
11.4 MICRONUTRIENT INTAKE AND SUPPLEMENTATION AMONG CHILDREN	171
11.5 PRESENCE OF IODIZED SALT IN HOUSEHOLDS	174
11.6 ADULT NUTRITIONAL STATUS	175
11.6.1 Nutritional Status of Women	175
11.6.2 Nutritional Status of Men	177
11.7 MICRONUTRIENT INTAKE AMONG MOTHERS	178
12 MALARIA	181
12.1 OWNERSHIP OF MOSQUITO NETS	182
12.2 INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING	183
12.3 ACCESS TO MOSQUITO NETS	185
12.4 USE OF MOSQUITO NETS	186
12.4.1 Use of Mosquito Nets by Persons in the Household	186
12.4.2 Use of Existing Mosquito Nets	188
12.4.3 Use of Mosquito Nets by Children Under 5	189
12.4.4 Use of Mosquito Nets by Pregnant Women	192
12.5 INTERMITTENT PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF MALARIA IN PREGNANCY	193
12.6 PREVALENCE, DIAGNOSIS, AND PROMPT TREATMENT OF FEVER AMONG CHILDREN	195
13 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIOR	201
13.1 HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE, TRANSMISSION, AND PREVENTION METHODS	202
13.2 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION	208
13.3 ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS	210
13.4 ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGOTIATING FOR SAFER SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH HUSBANDS	213
13.5 ATTITUDES TOWARD CONDOM EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	214
13.6 MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERS	215
13.7 PAID SEX	220
13.8 COVERAGE OF HIV TESTING SERVICES	222
13.9 MALE CIRCUMCISION	227
13.10 SELF-REPORTING OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS	227
13.11 INJECTIONS	229
13.12 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOR AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE	231
13.12.1 Knowledge about HIV/AIDS and Source for Condoms	231
13.12.2 First Sex	232
13.12.3 Premarital Sex	234
13.12.4 Multiple Sexual Partners	236
13.12.5 Age-mixing in Sexual Relationships	237
13.12.6 Coverage of HIV Testing Services	238
14 HIV PREVALENCE	241
14.1 COVERAGE RATES FOR HIV TESTING	242
14.2 HIV PREVALENCE	245
14.2.1 HIV Prevalence by Age and Sex	245
14.2.2 HIV Prevalence by Socioeconomic Characteristics	246
14.2.3 HIV Prevalence by Other Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics	247
14.2.4 HIV Prevalence by Sexual Risk Behavior	249
14.3 HIV PREVALENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE	251
14.4 HIV PREVALENCE BY OTHER CHARACTERISTICS RELATED TO HIV RISK	253
14.5 HIV PREVALENCE AMONG COUPLES	254
15 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH OUTCOMES	257
15.1 WOMEN'S AND MEN'S EMPLOYMENT	257
15.2 WOMEN'S CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN EARNINGS AND RELATIVE MAGNITUDE OF WOMEN'S EARNINGS	258
15.3 WOMEN'S OWNERSHIP OF ASSETS	262
15.4 WOMEN'S AND MEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING	265
15.5 ATTITUDES TOWARD WIFE BEATING	269
15.6 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS	272
15.7 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION BY WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	272
15.8 IDEAL FAMILY SIZE AND UNMET NEED BY WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	273
15.9 WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE	274
15.10 DIFFERENTIALS IN INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY BY WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	275
15.11 FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING	275
15.12 ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILD BEATING	277
16 ADULT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY	281
16.1 ASSESSMENT OF DATA QUALITY	281
16.2 ESTIMATES OF ADULT MORTALITY	282
16.3 ESTIMATES OF MATERNAL MORTALITY	283
REFERENCES	287
APPENDIX A SAMPLE DESIGN	291
APPENDIX B ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERRORS	309
APPENDIX C DATA QUALITY TABLES	333
APPENDIX D PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2013 LIBERIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY	339
APPENDIX E QUESTIONNAIRES	345

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