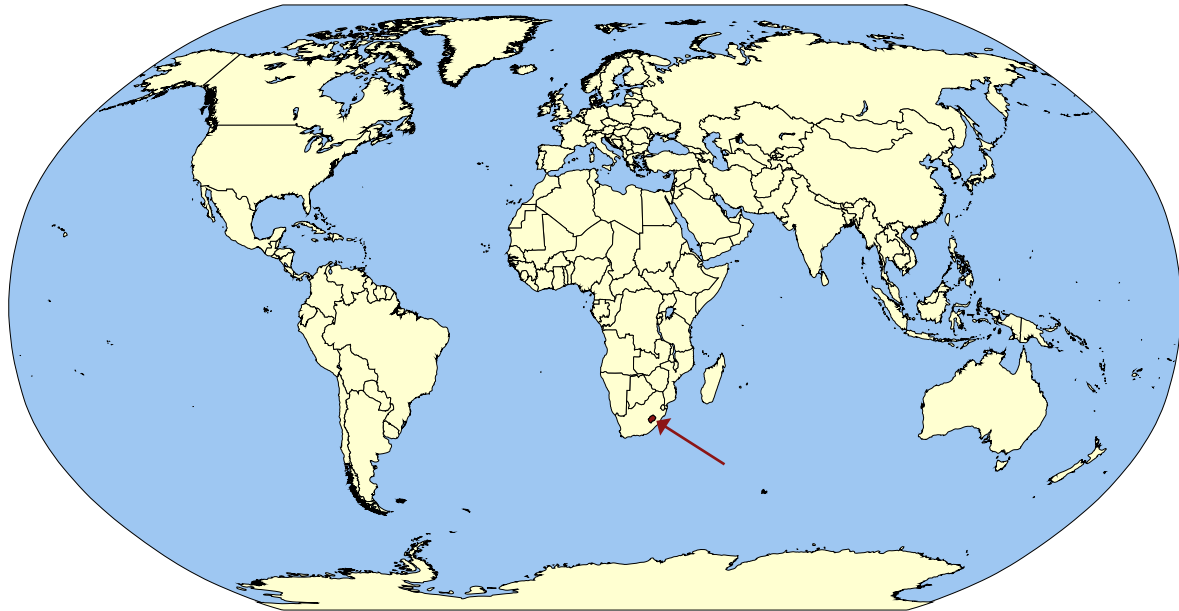


# Lesotho



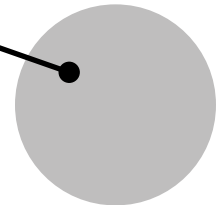
## The History of Schistosomiasis in Lesotho

Formerly known as Basutoland, the Kingdom of Lesotho is a small enclave nation of South Africa, formed upon independence from the United Kingdom in 1966 (1, 2). Schistosomiasis has been recorded at low levels in Lesotho, with some confusion in the literature about whether or not there are endemic foci (3-5). Current evidence seems to suggest low endemicity of schistosomiasis in the country(3).

In 1968, Lesotho was considered non-endemic for schistosomiasis (4), and this designation was also maintained in 1985 when Lesotho was again listed as schistosomiasis-free (6). In mid-2003 it was recorded that the estimated countrywide prevalence was less than 10%, then in 2010 the country was again recorded as non-endemic (7). Prevalence rates of 8.3% were estimated in 2015, with rates of 4.4% and 2.3% for *Schistosoma haematobium* and *S. mansoni*, respectively (3). The periodic absence of schistosomiasis in Lesotho may be attributed to a lack of data or to Lesotho's geography, mainly comprised of highlands. These higher altitudes could make intermediate host snail populations rare (6). No sources listed any kind of national control program for the disease, most likely due to the fact that schistosomiasis has not been perceived as a primary public health problem in Lesotho.

## Schistosomiasis in Lesotho [1]

Schistosomiasis has been recorded at low levels in Lesotho



## Overview of Lesotho [8]

- » Population in 2015: 1,947,701
- » Official Languages: Sesotho and English
- » Capital: Maseru
- » Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2015: 81.8%
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2015: 30.3%

## References

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