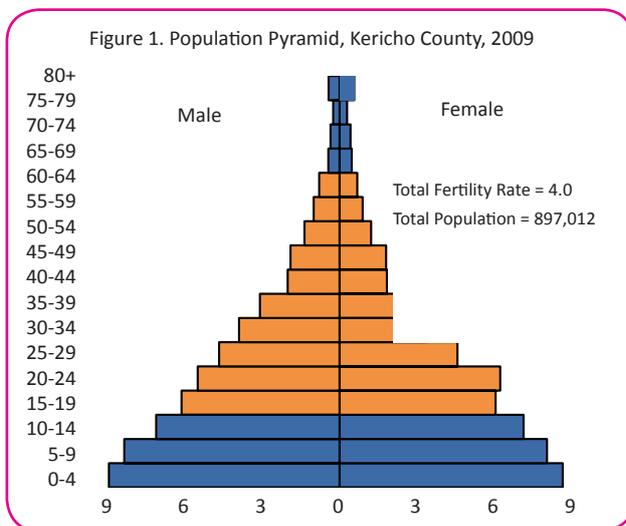




ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN KERICHO COUNTY

Introduction

Kericho County has a youthful population with people below age 15 making up 44% of the total population (Figure 1). This is mainly because many more children are added to the population than people dying.



This youthful population has implications on the County's health and development agenda as it puts increasing demands on provision of services including health and education. One of the main areas of concern in Kenya is the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of adolescents and the extent to which their SRH needs are met. About 1 in 4 (24%) people in Kericho County is an adolescent aged 10-19.

This fact sheet highlights the status of adolescent SRH in Kericho County in relation to the national trends. The data are drawn from the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2012 Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey and the 2014 Basic Education Statistical Booklet.

Policy and legal context

Kenya has favorable policy and legal frameworks that promote adolescent SRH and SRH rights. These frameworks include but are not limited to the Constitution (2010), National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (2015), National Guidelines for Provision of Adolescent Youth Friendly Services (YFS) in Kenya (2005), the Children Act (2001) and the National Youth Policy (2007).

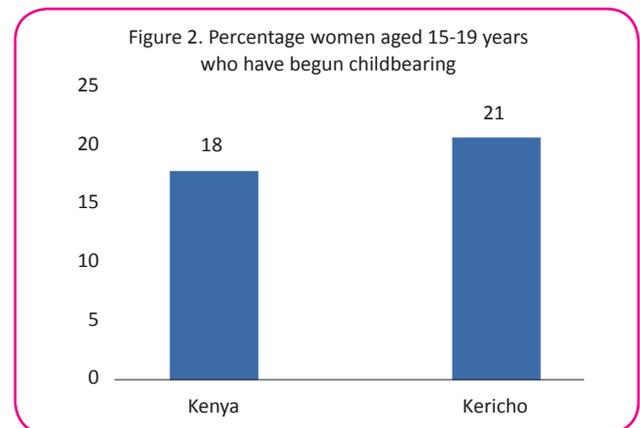
Adolescent SRH Indicators

Age of sexual debut and first marriage

- Half of both Kericho County women (20-49 years old) and men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 17. Therefore, women in Kericho County first had sex one year earlier than the national trend. Whereas the trend among men is similar to that at the national level.
- Half of Kericho County women (25-49 years old) first married by age 20 and half of the men (30-54 years old) by age 25. This is the same as the national trend.

Teen pregnancy

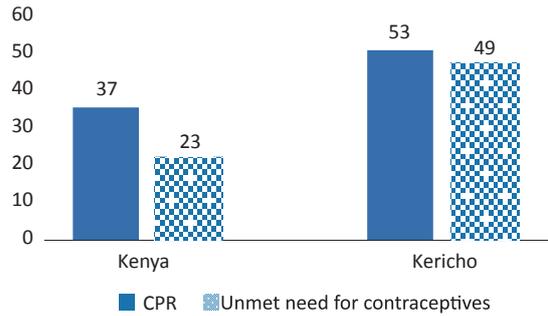
- About 1 in 5 (21%) of girls aged 15-19 years in Kericho County have begun childbearing; almost two times higher than the national level (figure 2). Specifically, 2.9% are pregnant with their first child and 17.6% have ever given birth compared to 3.4% and 14.7% respectively, at the national level.
- Kericho County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 132 births per 1000 girls; which is considerably higher than at the national level (96).



Contraceptive use among adolescents

- Teenage pregnancies often result from low use of contraceptives and/or unmet need for contraceptives. In Kericho County, 53% of currently married girls aged 15-19 use modern contraceptives compared to 37% at the national level (Figure 3).
- Unmet need for contraceptives among currently married adolescents in Kericho is more than two times higher than that at the national level. About half (49%) of currently married girls aged 15-19 would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern contraceptive method compared to 23% at national level.

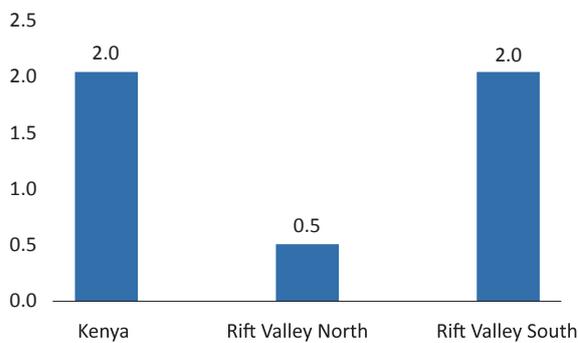
Figure 3. Current use of modern contraceptives and unmet need for contraceptives among women aged 15-19 (%)



HIV prevalence and prevention among adolescents

- County level HIV data are not yet available. At regional level, 2% of youth aged 15-24 in the former Rift Valley South, where Kericho County is located, have HIV. This is similar to the national youth HIV prevalence rate, but considerably higher than in other regions including Rift Valley South (0.5%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. HIV prevalence among youth 15-24 years



- One of the most effective ways of preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV is through correct and consistent use of condoms during sex.
- In the former Rift Valley province, where Kericho County is located, considerable proportion of young people practice safe sex but a considerable proportion also engage in risky sex. In 2014, 52% of never married young women aged 15-24 used a condom during their last sexual encounter. Whereas, 68% of never married young men aged 15-24 used a condom during their last sexual encounter.

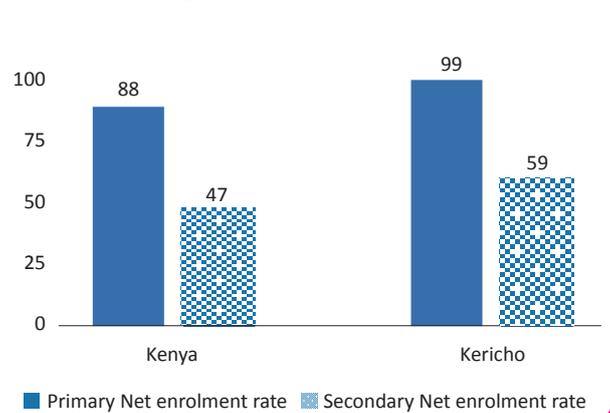
- This means that between 30 and 50% of never married young people in the region did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter.

Other important indicators

Education outcomes

- Education is an important determinant for sexual and reproductive health particularly among girls. Girls who complete secondary and higher education have better sexual and reproductive health outcomes – they are less likely to have unwanted pregnancies and more likely to have higher socio-economic status.
- Kericho County is doing well on primary school enrollment. Nearly all (99%) children in the official primary school-age are enrolled in primary school (Net enrollment rate).
- However, only 59% of children in the official secondary school-age are enrolled in secondary school.
- At national level, 88% of children in the official primary school-age are enrolled in primary school and less than half (47%) of children in the official secondary school-age are enrolled in secondary school (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Net Enrollment Rate (%)



Female circumcision among adolescents

- Female circumcision, commonly referred to as Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting is linked to obstetric complications and gynecological problems, and long-term negative effects on women's wellbeing.
- It is also often linked to girl child marriage which also has long-term negative effects on women's health and wellbeing.
- Kericho County is one of the counties in Kenya where female circumcision is not practiced.

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