

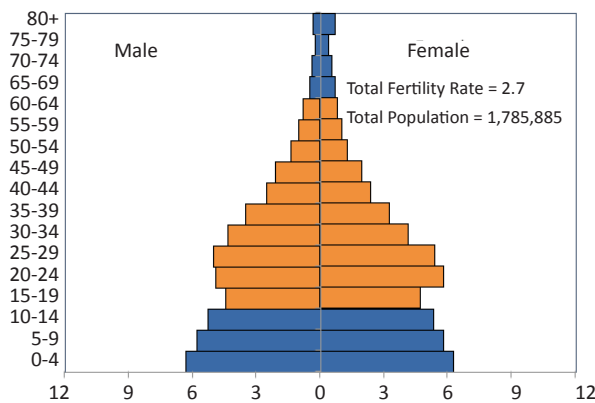


ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN KIAMBU COUNTY

Introduction

Kiambu County has one of the lowest fertility rates in the country. Women in the reproductive ages (15-49 years) in the county expect to have 2.7 children compared to the national average of 3.9 children per woman. As a result, Kiambu County has a youthful population age structure (Figure 1) which is at an advanced stage of transitioning from being dominated by a large population of children below 15 years to one dominated by more people in the working ages (15-64 years). Compared to Kenya where children below age 15 and the working age population between 15-64 years make up 43% and 54 % of the population, respectively, Kiambu has 35% of its population below 15 years and 61% of the population in the working ages 15-64 years.

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, Kiambu County, 2009



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. One in five (20%) people in Kiambu County are adolescents aged 10-19.

This fact sheet highlights the status of adolescent SRH in Kiambu 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 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

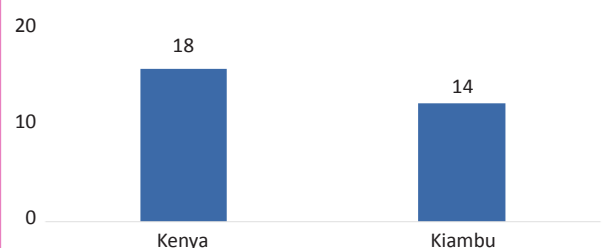
Age of sexual debut and first marriage

- Half of Kiambu County women (20-49 years old) and men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 19 and 18, respectively. Therefore, women and men in Kiambu County first had sex one year later than the national trend.
- Half of Kiambu County women (25-49 years old) first married by age 22 and half of the men (30-54 years old) by age 26. At the national level, women and men in the same age groups first married by age 20 and 25, respectively.

Teen pregnancy

- Fourteen (14) percent of girls aged 15-19 years in Kiambu County have begun childbearing; which is lower than the national level (Figure 2). Specifically, 1.4% are pregnant with their first child and 12.7% have ever given birth compared to 3.4% and 14.7%, respectively, at the national level.
- Kiambu County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 47 births per 1000 girls; about two times lower than the national rate (96).

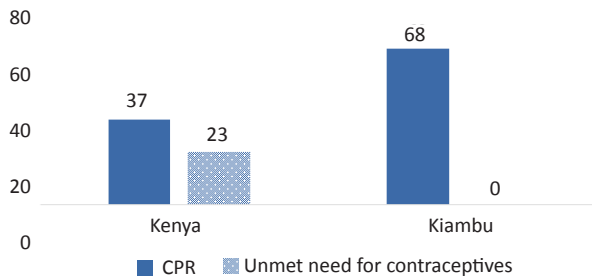
Figure 2. Percentage of women 15-19 years who have begun child bearing



Contraceptive use among adolescents

- Teenage pregnancies often result from low use of contraceptives and/or unmet need for contraceptives. In Kiambu County, 68% of currently married girls aged 15-19 use modern contraceptives which is higher than the national average of 37% (Figure 3).
- Current estimates of unmet need for contraceptives among currently married girls aged 15-19 in Kiambu County shows no unmet need for contraceptives. Unmet need for contraceptives refers to the proportion of women who would like to stop or postpone childbearing but are not using a contraceptive method. At national level there is an unmet need for contraceptives of 23%.

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

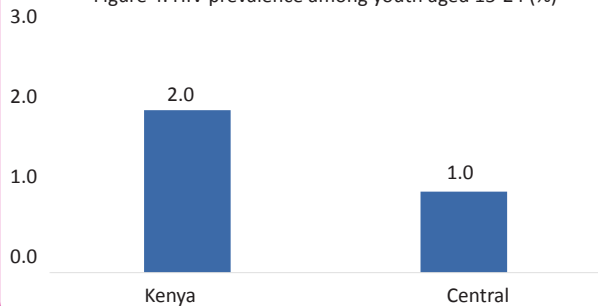


HIV prevalence and prevention among adolescents

HIV prevalence and prevention among adolescents

- County level HIV data are not yet available. At regional level, 1% of youth aged 15-24 in the former Central province, where Kiambu County is located, have HIV. This is lower than the national youth HIV prevalence rate (Figure 4).

Figure 4. HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 (%)



- 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 Central province, where Kiambu County is located, a considerable proportion of young people practice safe sex but a considerable proportion also engage in risky sex. In 2014, 75% of never married young women aged 15-24 used a condom during their last sexual encounter. Whereas, 79% of never married young men aged 15-24 used a condom during their last sexual encounter.

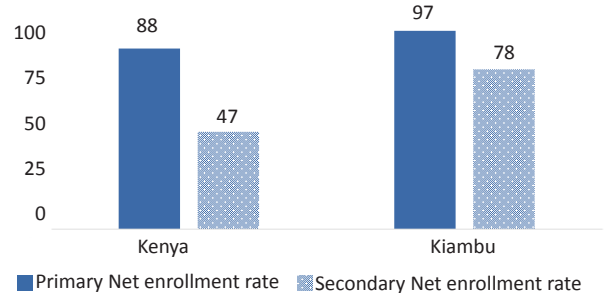
- This means that between 20 and 25% of never married young people in the region did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter.

Other important indicators

Education outcomes

- Education is an important determinant for sexual and reproductive health and general wellbeing, 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.
- Kiambu County is doing well on primary and secondary school enrollment. Nearly all (97%) children in the official primary school-age are enrolled in primary school.
- In addition, more than three-quarters (78%) 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.
- Kiambu County is one of the counties in Kenya where female circumcision is not practiced.

References

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