

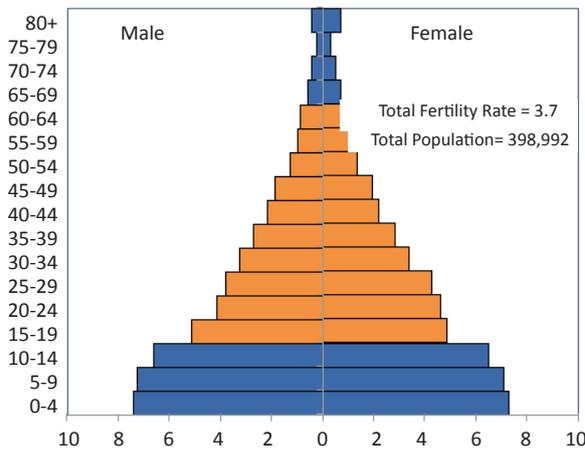


# ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

## Introduction

Laikipia County has a youthful population with people below age 15 making up 42% of the total population (Figure 1). This is mainly because many more children are added to the population than people dying. Out-migration from Laikipia is also likely common.

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, Laikipia 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. About 1 in 5 (23%) people in Laikipia County are adolescents aged 10-19.

This fact sheet highlights the status of adolescent SRH in Laikipia 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 favourable 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

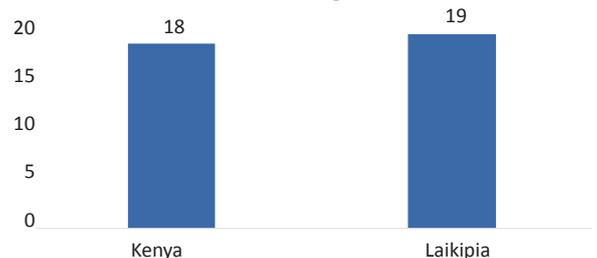
### Age of sexual debut and first marriage

- Half of Laikipia County women (20-49 years old) and men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 18. Therefore, women in Laikipia County first had sex at the same age as the national trend. Whereas the men first had sex one year later than the national level.
- Half of Laikipia County women (25-49 years old) first married by age 21 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

- About 1 in 5 (19%) girls aged 15-19 years in Laikipia County have begun childbearing; around the rate as the national rate (Figure 2). Specifically, 3.9% are pregnant with their first child and 14.8% have ever given birth compared to 3.4% and 14.7%, respectively, at the national level.
- Laikipia County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 95 births per 1000 girls; similar to the national level (96).

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



### Contraceptive use among adolescents

- Teenage pregnancies can partly result from high unmet need for contraceptives. In Laikipia County, none of the currently married girls aged 15-19 use modern contraceptives compared to 37% at national level (Figure 3).
- Unmet need for contraceptives among currently married adolescents in Laikipia is considerably higher than the national level. About 60% 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 married 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 Laikipia County is located, have HIV. This is similar to the national youth HIV prevalence rate, but considerably higher than the rate in other regions including Rift Valley North (0.5%).
- One of the most effective ways of preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV is through correct and consistent use of condoms during sex.
- In former Rift Valley South, where Laikipia County is located, a considerable proportion of young people practice safe sex but a considerable proportion also engage in risky sex particularly young women. 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.

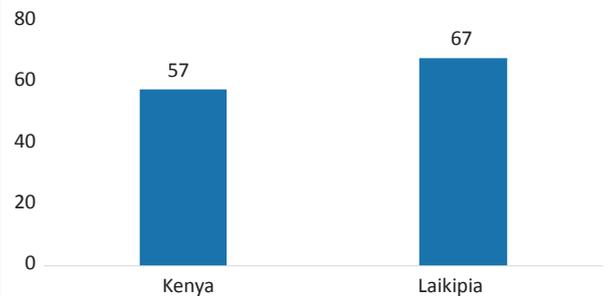
### Other important indicators

#### 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.

- Laikipia County is doing well on primary school enrollment. Majority (93%) of children in the official primary school-age are enrolled in primary school (Net enrollment rate).
- However, only two-thirds (67%) of students in primary school transition to secondary school (Figure 4). This is higher than the national trend.

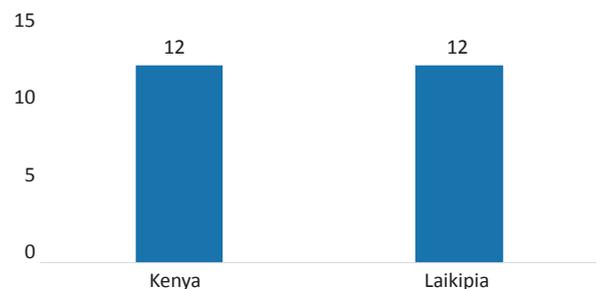
Figure 4. Secondary school transition rate (%)



### 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.
- About 12% of women aged 15-19 in Laikipia County self-reported as being circumcised. This is the same rate as the national level (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percentage of women aged 15-19 self reporting as circumcised



### References

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