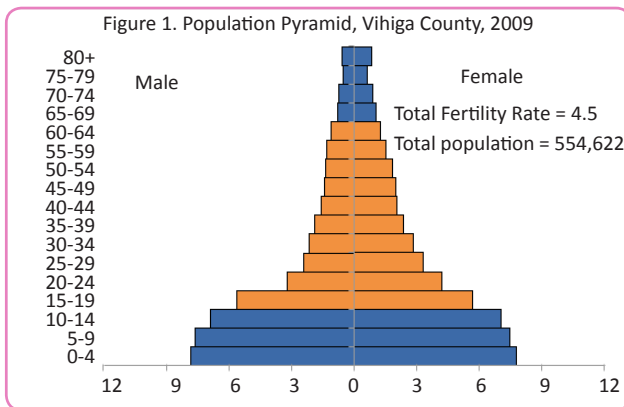




ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN VIHIGA COUNTY

Introduction

Vihiga 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 the number of 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 adolescents' SRH needs are met. One in four (25%) people in Vihiga County is an adolescent.

This fact sheet highlights the status of adolescent SRH in Vihiga County in relation to the national trends. The data are drawn from the 2014 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 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

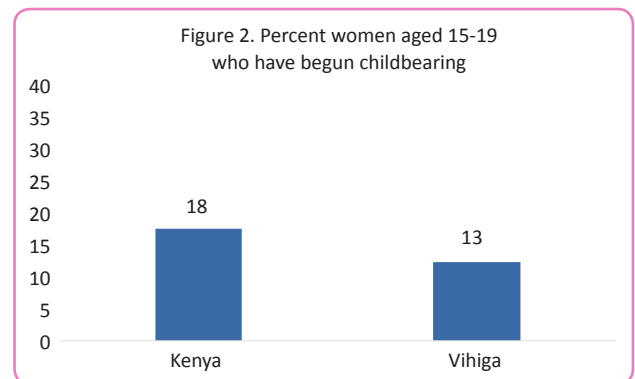
- Half of Vihiga County women (20-49 years old) first had sex by age 18, similar to the national trend (Figure 2).

Whereas, half of the men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 18, one year later than at the national level.

- Half of Vihiga County women (25-49 years old) first married by age 21 and half of the men (30-54 years old) by age 25. At the national level, women and men in the same age groups first married by age 20 and 25, respectively.

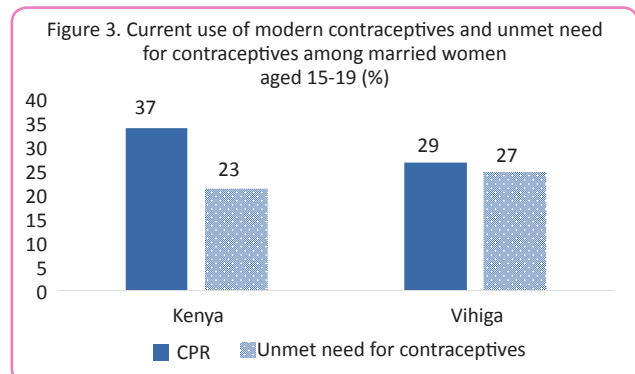
Teen pregnancy

- Vihiga County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 83 births per 1000 girls which is lower than the national level (96).



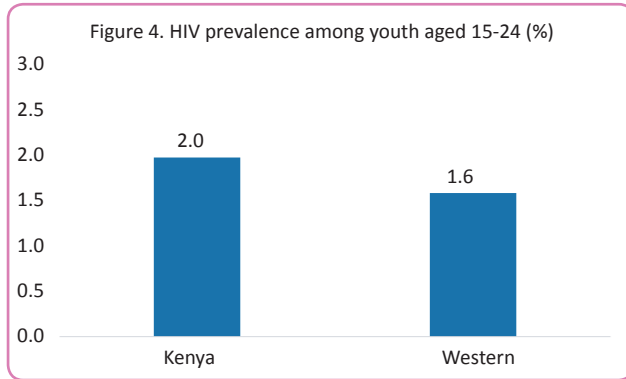
Contraceptive use among adolescents

- Teenage pregnancies often result from low use of contraceptives and/or unmet need for contraceptives. In Vihiga County, only 29% of currently married girls aged 15-19 use contraceptives compared to 37% at national level (Figure 3).
- Unmet need for contraceptives among currently married adolescents is high nationwide but it is higher in Vihiga County. More than a quarter (27%) 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.



HIV prevalence and prevention among adolescents

- County level HIV data are not yet available. At regional level, 1.6% of youth and 15-24 in the former Western province, where Vihiga County is located, have HIV. This is lower than the national rate but higher than in some regions where the rates are 1% or lower (Central and Eastern provinces) (Figure 4).



- One of the most effective way of preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV is through correct and consistent use of condoms during sex.
- In Western region, where Vihiga County is located, a significant proportion of young people engage in risky sex. In 2014, comparable to the national trend, 62% of never married women used a condom during their last sexual encounter. Whereas, 70% of never married men used a condom during their last sexual encounter.
- This means that between 30 and 40% of young people in the region did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter.

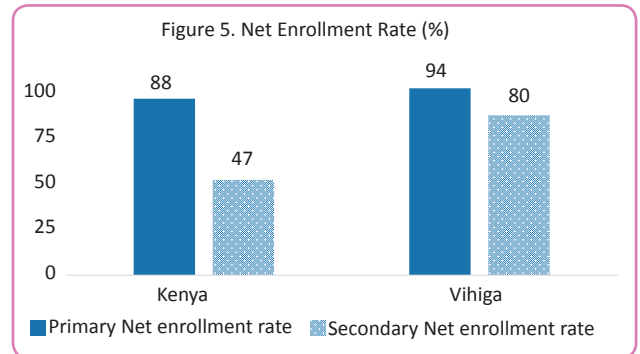
Other important indicators

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.

- Vihiga County is doing well on primary and secondary school enrollment. Nearly all (94%) children in the official primary school-age are enrolled in primary school (Net enrollment rate).
- In addition, most (80%) of the children in the official secondary school-age are also 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).



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.
- Vihiga County is one of the Counties in Kenya where female circumcision is not practiced.

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