

HOMABAY COUNTY

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

FACTSHEET

Homa Bay County Demographics



POPULATION:	1,101,901 (2009)
Male	48 %
Female	52 %
Population Density	303 people per Km 2
National Percentage	3.6 %
Growth Rate	2.7%
Total fertility rate (TFR)	4.7 births per woman

Age Distribution	
0-15 years	47%
15-24 years	21%
10-19 years	26%

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2010): The 2009 Kenya population and Housing Census.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- The county Poverty Rate in 2016 was 22.7 % (2016).
- Main economic activities include agriculture and fishing along the shores of Lake Victoria.
- Homa Bay County primary school Net enrolment rate (the proportion of children in the official primary school age) at primary level of education is high at 98%.
- Over half (58%) of children in the official secondary school-age are enrolled in secondary school.2
- Gender parity in primary school enrolment is evident – especially at lower classes. In 2014 the County enrolled 22,002 boys and 21,840 girls in class 1 but slightly above half of the boys (13,529) and girls (11,802) were retained in class 8 an indication of high school dropout rate among girls.

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Main health problems affecting young people in Homa Bay County

Main health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA), Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV and AIDS, Teenage Pregnancy, Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV)	Parental negligence, Poverty, Peer pressure,	School dropout, Poor health condition, Poor mental health, High STI or HIV and AIDS infections, Stigmatization, Death	Public Health Education Guidance and counselling, Parental guidance, Abstinence Life skills

Source: National Council for Population and Development (NCPD). 2017

SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Half of Homa Bay County women (20-49 years old) and men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 16. Therefore, women in Homa Bay County first have sex two years earlier than the national trend. Whereas the men first have sex one year earlier than at the national level. (2,3)
- Half of Homa Bay County women (25-49 years old) first married by age 18 and half of the men (30-54 years old) by age 24. At the national level, women and men in the same age groups first married by age 20 and 25, respectively. Early marriage among girls is therefore common in Homa Bay. (2,3)

SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Homa Bay county has the second highest proportion of adolescents (33%) nationally who have begun childbearing.(8)
- 33% of girls aged 15-19 years in Homa Bay County have begun childbearing; considerably higher than the national level. Specifically, 2.1% are pregnant with their first child and 31.2% have ever given birth, compared to 3.4% and 14.7%, respectively, at the national level.(2)
- Early marriage among girls is therefore common in Homa Bay.(3)
- Pregnancy precipitates early marriage. A population council study in 2015 found that a third of the teenage mothers who reported that pregnancy was their main reason for being out of school, were married. Of these, 92% reported that their marriage was prompted by the pregnancy that preceded their school dropout. (10)

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Homa Bay County is one of the Counties leading in teenage pregnancy in the Nyanza region and the country.
- Pregnancy happens early in the county and available evidence indicates that pregnancy is the main reason for leaving school. A report by Population Council (2016) showed that of the teenage mothers who highlighted pregnancy as their main reason for leaving school, 80% dropped out at the primary level just like 66% of out-of-school teenage mothers. An estimated 48% of girls in the county were out of school, while 40% of those aged 15-19 had begun childbearing.
- Pregnancy happens early in the schooling career of most teenage girls. Of the out-of-school adolescent girls who highlight pregnancy as their main reason for leaving school, 80% drop out at the primary school level.(10)
- Homa Bay County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 178 births per 1000 girls; about 2 times higher than at the national level (96).(2)
- Lifetime births per woman is 5.2 while the average woman's age at first birth is 17.9.
- Intimate partnerships with peers are important for understanding school pregnancy in Homa Bay County. Most teenage mothers (89%) out of school due to pregnancy reported being impregnated by their boyfriends - 37% of whom were described as their fellow students at the time.(10)

CONTRACEPTION

- Contraceptive prevalence stands at 45.5 %.
- 3 in 5 (56%) currently married girls aged 15-19 use modern contraceptives which is high compared to 2 in 5 (37%) at national level.
- There is still an unmet need for contraceptives among currently married girls in Homa Bay. About 1 in 10 (11%) 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/AIDS

- HIV prevalence in the county is still unacceptably high and nearly 4.5 times higher than the national prevalence at 26.0%.
- The HIV prevalence among women in the County is higher (27.8%) than that of men (24.0%), indicating that women are more vulnerable to HIV infection than men in the County. (6)
- In 2015, the county contributed 15.1% and 14.0 % of the total NEW HIV infections in Kenya among children and adults respectively and also contributed to 10.4% of the total number of people living with HIV in Kenya, and is ranked the second highest nationally. (6)
- In 2017, new infections in Kenya were 52,767, with young people contributing 17,667 (33%). HIV infections among youth are concentrated in the high prevalence counties in Kenya. Homa bay County was the second highest contributor with 1,852 new infections.(11)

HIV/AIDS

- The total number of people living with HIV in 2017, 105,213 (6%) were among children 0-14 years of age with Homa Bay county contributing the highest number at 10,722.(11)
- Of the total number of people living with HIV in 2017, 184,719 (12%) were among youth 15-24 years of age. Homa Bay county contributed 19,050, the second highest among all counties in Kenya. (11)

CALL TO ACTION

All county leaders should:

- **SPEAK UP PUBLICLY** in favour of programmes that provide access to age-appropriate reproductive health information, counselling and services for all adolescents and youth as well as quality sexual and reproductive health services and commodities.
- **ADVOCATE FOR, SUPPORT AND PUT** in place programmes that promote innovative county-specific interventions to curb teenage pregnancy. County health department should be supported to ensure adolescent and youth-friendly SRH services are made available, accessible, acceptable, appropriate, equitable, and effective for all.
- **WORK CLOSELY** with law enforcement agencies to create awareness on legal standards concerning ages of marriage, consent, prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence and access to social protection and sexual and reproductive health services.
- **WORK CLOSELY** with local administration and communities to address factor that predispose young girls to teen pregnancies

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