

KAJIADO COUNTY

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

FACTSHEET

Kajiado County Demographics



POPULATION:	807,070 (2009)
Male	50 %
Female	50 %
Population Density	31 people per Km2
National Percentage	3.6 %
total fertility rate (TFR)	5.1 births per woman
Total fertility rate (TFR)	4.7 births per woman

Age Distribution	
0-15 years	39%
15-24	21%

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

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- The county Poverty Rate in 2016 was at 36.9% (7)
- The main economic activities include pastoralism, livestock herding, tourism and agriculture.
- In Kajiado County, 7 in 10 primary school-age going children are enrolled in primary school. 51% of boys are enrolled in primary school while girls account for 49%.
- Only 36% of students in primary school transition to secondary school.
- Net Enrollment rate for secondary school averages 26.3% - for boys being 27.2% and 25.4% for girls
- Years of Education Completed for men is 10.0 while for women it is 8.0.

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Main health problems affecting young people in Kajiado County

Main health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
STI/HIV Drugs and Substance Abuse Teenage Pregnancy	Multiple sexual partners, Shortage of condoms, Peer pressure, Unemployment, Harmful practice FGM, Early Marriage	Multiple sexual partners, Shortage of condoms, Peer pressure, Unemployment, Harmful practice FGM, Early Marriage	Guidance and counselling in schools & for parents, Promote Sex education (Abstinence), Supply of free condoms in public places, Public education, Provide YFS, Rehabilitation centers, Enforce laws on DSA, SGBV & education policy

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

SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Similar to the national trends half of Kajiado County women (20-49 years) first had sex by age 17, whereas, half of men (20-54 years) first had sex by age 18.
- Young people in Kajiado (both men and women) marry at slightly older ages than the national average. Half of Kajiado County women (25-49 years) report first marriage by age 21 and half of men (30-54 years) by age 27.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- In Kajiado County, pregnancy rate among school girls ranks at number 10 countrywide
- 1 in 5 (20%) girls aged 15-19 years in Kajiado County have begun childbearing – they are pregnant with their first child or have ever given birth. This is comparable to the national level.
- Kajiado County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 118 births per 1000 girls which is higher than the national level (96).
- Girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy/motherhood is a common occurrence in the County. For example in 2017, 13 girls from one village had to drop out of one primary school in the county
- Lifetime births per woman (i.e. TFR) is 4.5 while the average woman's age at first birth is 21 years.

CONTRACEPTION

- Contraceptive prevalence in Kajiado County stands at 45.2%.
- Only 19% of married girls aged 15-19 use contraceptives compared to 37% at national level.
- Unmet need for contraceptives among adolescents is high nationwide (at 23%), but it is much higher in Kajiado County at 34%.
- In Kajiado County, unprotected sexual activities are common among young people. In 2014, just about half (52%) of never married women used a condom during their last sexual encounter compared to 68% of never married men who used a condom during their last sexual encounter.

HIV/AIDS

- Kajiado County has a HIV prevalence rate of 4.7% compare to 5.9%, the national average
- The HIV prevalence among women in Kajiado County is higher (6.6%) than that of men (4.0%).
- In 2015, there were 1,989 adolescents (aged 10-19 years) living with HIV which accounted for almost 9% of the total number of people living with HIV in the County.
- In the same year there were 3,033 youth aged 15-24 living with the virus – representing 13% of all people living with HIV in the County.
- The annual new infections among adolescents is estimated at 120 and 224 for youth aged 15-24 years.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

- Female Genital Mutilation is widely practiced in Kajiado County
- Nearly 1 in 2 (46%) girls aged 15-19 years have undergone female circumcision. This is four times higher than the national trend of 12%.
- According to UNICEF, 1 in 12 women lives beneath the hazard of FGM, which in addition predisposes them to early marriages.
- FGM has always been cited as the main reason why girls in Kajiado become wives and mothers at a young age.

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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