

# KILIFI COUNTY

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### FACTSHEET

#### Kilifi County Demographics



<b>POPULATION:</b>	<b>1,109,735 (2009)</b>
Male	535,531
Female	574,204
Population Density	88.01 people per Km <sup>2</sup>
National Percentage	3.6 %
Growth Rate	3.1%
Total fertility rate (TFR)	4.7 births per woman

<b>Age Distribution</b>	
0-15 years	46%
15-24 years	19%
10-19 years	24%

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

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- The county Poverty Rate in 2011 was at 70.8% (6)
- Tourism and fishing are the major economic activities. Agriculture is also practiced since more than half of the land in Kilifi is arable, with maize and cassava being the main subsistence crops grown.
- 84% of children in the official primary school-age enrolled in primary school – 81.4% boys and nearly 87% girls.
- Only 1 in 4 children (26%) in the official secondary school-age are enrolled in secondary school – nearly half the national secondary school net enrollment rate which is 47%.
- While net enrolment rate for girls is higher than that of boys at primary school level, at secondary school level, the girls in Kilifi record a lower rate than the boys in 2014. 28% of boys were enrolled in secondary school while girls accounted for 24% – 4% lower.
- Years of education completed is 7.4 years for men and 6.4 for women.

### SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

#### Main health problems affecting young people in Kilifi County

Main health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA), Teenage Pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV)	Parental negligence, Poverty, Peer pressure, Lack of or inadequate health information, Unemployment	School dropout, Poor health condition, Poor mental health, Poor school performance, Early marriage	Public health education, Guidance and counselling, Parental guidance, Create employment

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

### SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Half of Kilifi County women (20-49 years old) and men (2054 years old) first had sex by age 18. Therefore, women in Kilifi County first had sex at the same age as the national trend. Men in Kilifi first had sex one year later than at the national level. (8)

## SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Half of Kilifi County women (25–49 years old) first married by age 19 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. (8)
- Studies show that negative cultural beliefs, norms, and custom practices during events like burial ceremonies predispose adolescents to high-risk experiences contributing to early sexual debut, teen pregnancy and early marriages. (9,10, 11)

## TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- 22% of girls aged 15–19 years in Kilifi County have begun childbearing; higher than the national level (Figure 2). Specifically, 3% are pregnant with their first child and 19% have ever given birth compared to 14.7% and 3.4%, respectively, at the national level. (8)
- Kilifi County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15–19 (adolescent birth rate) is 123 births per 1000 girls; considerably lower than at the national level (96). (8)
- The average woman's age at first birth is 19.9 years.
- In 2018 alone, some 13,624 pregnancies were reported in Kilifi County among school children aged 15 to 19 (Children's Affairs Department).
- Tourism industry has a substantial negative impact on adolescent SRH due to increased risk of transitional sex and sexual exploitation of minors contributing to teenage pregnancies. (10)

## CONTRACEPTION

- Contraceptive prevalence stands at 32.8%.
- Teenage pregnancies often result from low use of contraceptives and/or unmet need for contraceptives. In Kilifi County, 20% of currently married girls aged 15–19 use modern contraceptives which is considerably low compared to 37% at national level.
- Unmet need for contraceptives among currently married adolescents in Kilifi is more than two times higher than the national level. About 59% of currently married girls in Kilifi aged 15–19 would like to avoid pregnancy and are not using a modern contraceptive method compared to 23% at national level.

## HIV/AIDS

- Kilifi County HIV prevalence was 4.4%, slightly lower than the national prevalence of 5.6%. (12)
- By 2015, there were over 7000 adolescents living with HIV in Kilifi County while only 3,488 of these were under treatment. (12)
- Kilifi County established to an Adolescent HIV Response Technical Working Group (ATWG) in 2015 to advise on matters of HIV response among this critical group. (12)

## 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

## REFERENCE

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