

# NAROK COUNTY

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FACTSHEET



### Narok County Demographics

**POPULATION:** **850,920 (2009)**

Male 50 %

Female 50 %

Population Density 47 people per Km<sup>2</sup>

### Age Distribution

0-14 years 50%

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

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- Majority (85%) of all children in the official primary school age are enrolled in primary school. This is called Net enrollment rate.
- Slightly more boys (89%) of boys than girls (82%) are enrolled in primary school
- However only a fifth (20%) of children in the official secondary school-age are enrolled in secondary school.
- Average years of education completed is 7.2 years for men and 6.6 for women.
- Transition from primary to secondary school level is still wanting. For instance in 2014, while there were a total of 250,213 students enrolled in primary schools, only 26,342 transitioned to secondary schools.
- While there's near gender parity in primary school enrolment the disparity between boys and girls widens as they progress through the primary school system. For example, in 2014, while there were 19,776 boys and 18,082 girls in class 1, there were just 9,125 boys and 7,312 girls in class 8. Likewise, at secondary school level, there were 3,023 boys compared to only 1,880 girls in Form 4. (KNBS, 2017)

### SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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

Main health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV, Drug and substance Abuse, Sexual and Gender based violence(SGBV)	Peer pressure, Unsafe sexual practices, Unemployment/ Idleness, Harmful cultural practice	Mental health problems, Teenage pregnancy, School drop outs/poor performance, Early marriage	Guidance and counselling (parental guidance), Public health education, Promote safe sex practices (SRH information and services), Enforce laws on drug regulation & SGBV

### SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Age of sexual debut in Narok is low. Half of the county's women (aged 20-49 years) and men (20-54 years old) first had sex by age 17 and 18 respectively. Therefore, women in Narok County first had sex one year earlier than the national trend. (8)
- Half of Narok 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)

- The average number of children per woman in Narok County is six, which the national average of 3.9 is one and a half times.(7)

## TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Forty percent (40%) of girls aged 15-19 years in Narok County have begun childbearing; almost two times higher than the national average which stands at 18%. Specifically, 7.4% are pregnant with their first child and 33% have ever given birth compared to the national levels of 3.4% and 14.7% respectively.
- Narok County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 225 births per 1000 girls; more than two times higher than the national level (96/1000 girls) and the highest compared to all other counties of Kenya.
- Lifetime births per woman or total fertility rate is 6.0 one and a half times the national average of 3.9 while the average woman's age at first birth is 19.5.

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

- Narok County has HIV prevalence rate of 3.1% lower than the national prevalence of 5.9%. The County contributed 1.0% and 0.4 % of the total new HIV infections in Kenya among children and adults respectively (Kenya HIV Estimates 2015).
- The HIV prevalence among women in the County is higher (4.3 %) than that of men (2.6%).
- By end of 2015, there were 15,890 persons living with HIV in Narok, out of whom 15% were young people aged 15-24 and 9% were children under the age of 15 years
- Annual new HIV infections among adolescents 10-19 years old is 94 and for 15-24 year olds is 175

## HIV/AIDS

- Levels of female circumcision are significant in Narok County with 1 in 4 (25%) of girls aged 15-19 having undergone circumcision. This is two times higher than the national level (12%).<sup>2</sup>
- FGM takes place once a year for all girls in the appropriate age group, usually between the ages of 12 and 14 (prior to marriage), and the celebration is an important rite of passage into womanhood.<sup>2</sup>
- Among the Maasai, women were only respected after undergoing FGM. A woman is considered mature, obedient and aware of her role in the family and society if they undergo the practice (Njau, 2016)

## 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

## REFERENCES

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