

# TANA RIVER COUNTY

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FACTSHEET



### Tana River County Demographics

<b>POPULATION:</b>	<b>240,075 (2009)</b>
Male	47%
Female	53%
Population Density	6.2 people per Km <sup>2</sup>
National Percentage	3.6 %
Growth Rate	3.4%.

### Age Distribution

0-14 years	51%
15-64 years	46.2%

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

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- The Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey of 2005/06 indicated that Tana River County has an absolute poverty level of 76.9 percent. This means that the county contributes 0.8 percent to the national poverty. As a result, the majority of the population is unable to afford basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. (8)
- Due to the dry conditions and erratic rainfall patterns experienced in the county, farming and nomadic pastoralism are the main economic activities.
- The literacy rate for the county is 33.7 per cent and the illiteracy rate is at 66.3 per cent. (8)
- Gender disparity in education in the county is glaring. The years of education completed for men is 6.8 years compared to women's 2.4 years.
- By 2015 the county's primary school enrolment improved with 98% of children in the official primary school-age (boys and girls) being enrolled in primary school.
- However, this figure drops drastically at secondary school enrolment. Just over half (58%) of children in official secondary school-age were enrolled in secondary school in 2015; with 66% being boys and 51% girls.
- The average gross enrolment in primary schools is at 60.4 per cent with boys' enrolment rate standing at 68.5 per cent while that of girls stands at 51.9 per cent (8)
- Transition from primary to secondary school in Tana River is low.
- In secondary schools, the net enrolment is 4,903 with 1,603 being girls and 3,300 boys. The girl population is so low due the high drop-out rate arising from early marriages and pregnancies.(8)
- Girls are shown to be disadvantaged at all levels of secondary school enrolment in the county. In 2014 Form 1 enrolment was 1034 boys and 673 girls; at Form 2, 1058 boys vs 554 girls; Form 3, 914 boys vs 492 girls; and at Form 4, 267 boys compared to 104 girls were enrolled.

## SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Main health problems affecting young people in Tana River County

Main health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and Substance Abuse, Teenage Pregnancies, STI including HIV, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Parental negligence, Poverty, Peer pressure	School drop-out, Mental health, Poor health	Public health education Guidance and Counseling

## SEXUAL DEBUT AND MARRIAGE

- Half of Tana River County women (20–49 years old) and men (20–54 years old) first had sex by age 17 and 19, respectively. Therefore, women in the county not only have their first sexual encounter one year earlier than the national average age at first sex, but also two years earlier than men. On the other hand, the men in Tana River county have first sex two years later than the national level.
- Child marriage is a common phenomenon in Tana River County. Age at first marriage in the county is low with half of women (aged 25–49 years old) having been married by age 17 and half of the men (30–54 years old) were married by age 24.2

## TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Tana River is one of the 14 counties in the country with the highest burden of teenage pregnancy and motherhood at more than 20%
- 28% of girls aged 15–19 years in the county have begun child bearing. Specifically, 7.8% are pregnant with their first child and 20.4% have ever given birth, compared to 3.4% and 14.7%, respectively, at the national level.
- The County's age specific fertility rate for girls aged 15–19 (adolescent birth rate) is 144 births per 1000 girls in this age group; higher than the national average of 96 births per 1000 girls (15–19)

## CONTRACEPTION

- In Tana River County, 21% currently married girls aged 15–19 use modern contraceptives which is lower compared to 37% at national level.
- Unmet need for contraceptives among currently married girls in Tana River is 15% compared to 23% at national level. These are currently married girls aged 15–19 who would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern contraceptive method.

## HIV/AIDS

- Over the years, the women living in the county have been more vulnerable to HIV infection than the men. This disproportionate vulnerability is partly linked to Polygamy, wife inheritance, re-marrying, low literacy levels among women, poverty, FGM, unskilled deliveries, early marriages and high divorce-rates.
- Tana River County has a HIV prevalence rate of 1.9%.
- The HIV prevalence among women is higher (2.7%) than that of men (1.2%).
- By end of 2015 a total of 2,792 people were living with HIV in the county; with 19% of them being young people aged 15–24. There Were 257 Adolescents living with HIV who are between the ages of 10–19.
- Annual new HIV infections among 10–19 and 15–24 year olds was 35 and 66 respectively
- The county contributed 0.2% of the total number of people living with HIV in Kenya

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation and early marriages still threaten girls' education in Tana River county. FGM has contributed to low enrollment in school for girls. FGM contributes to the spread of HIV infections in the county

## 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

1. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2010). The 2009 Kenya population and Housing Census.
2. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2015). Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Nairobi. Ministry of Health, National Aids Control Council (2018). KENYA HIV ESTIMATES; REPORT 2018. Nairobi.
3. KNBS (2017):
4. County Statistical Abstract -Tana River
5. NACC (2016): Kenya HIV County Profiles 2016Tana River County HIV&AIDS STRATEGIC Plan (2016–2020)
6. 28 Too Many. (2013) Country Profile: FGM in Kenya
7. National Council for Population and Development (NCPD). 2017. 2015 Kenya National Adolescents And Youth Survey (NAYS). Nairobi, Kenya: NCPD.
8. Tana River County Government (2013). FIRST COUNTY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN JULY 2013 – June 2018 KENYA

