HIV/AIDS in the 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

The 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey included HIV testing of over 6,000 people. The 2003 KDHS shows that 7 percent of Kenyan adults are HIV positive.

HIV prevalence is substantially higher among women than men. Urban residents have considerably higher infection levels than rural residents (10 percent vs. 6 percent).

The rate of infection in Nyanza Province is more than twice the national average. Residents of Nairobi also have an elevated prevalence of HIV infection.

HIV prevalence increases with education up to the primary complete level, and then falls slightly among those with some secondary education.

Women who have never drunk alcohol have a much lower rate of HIV infection than those who have ever drunk alcohol.

Lack of male circumcision is considered a risk factor for HIV infection. In Kenya, men who are not circumcised have a significantly higher rate of HIV prevalence.
Almost 8 percent of couples in Kenya are discordant, meaning that one partner is HIV infected and the other is not. The large proportion of discordant couples points to an unmet need for HIV prevention, as most of these couples do not know of their status.

Eighty percent of women and men believe that if a husband has a sexually transmitted disease, his wife is justified in proposing that they use a condom, while around 90 percent believe the wife is justified in refusing sex.

Response Rates and Methods
HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women and men age 15-49 who were interviewed in the 2003 KDHS. Of the 8,486 eligible subjects, 73% provided blood spots. Response rates were considerably higher in rural than urban areas (79% vs. 62% overall).

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