Fertility and Family Planning in the 2003 Kenya DHS

According to the 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS), Kenyan women have about 5 children, on average. This rate has not changed much in the last 15 years. Many women wish to delay or end childbearing, yet only 39 percent of currently married women is using a modern contraceptive method. The KDHS also collects information on other determinants of fertility, including birth intervals, women’s age at first birth and teenage childbearing.

Almost all married women in Kenya know about at least one modern method of contraception, but only 39 percent currently use a modern method.

Thirty-eight percent of family planning users discontinue using the method within 12 months of starting use.
Other Determinants of Fertility

Birth Intervals

Almost one in four births occurs less than 24 months after the preceding birth. This short interval increases the risk of infant mortality.

Median Age at First Childbearing

The 2003 KDHS was conducted by the Kenya Central Bureau of Statistics in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the National Council for Population and Development. ORC Macro provided technical assistance in the design, implementation and analysis of the survey. Funding for the survey was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as UNFPA, DFID/U.K., the government of Japan through UNDP and UNICEF. Additional funding for this publication was provided by Family Health International.

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2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

Teenage Childbearing

The percentage of women age 15–19 who are mothers or pregnant with their first child.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Kenya total</th>
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<td>19.6</td>
<td>21.2</td>
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<td>19.3</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary +</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of women age 15–19 who are mothers or pregnant with their first child