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Unintended pregnancy by the numbers: A look at Kenya

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UNINTENDED PREGNANCY BY THE NUMBERS

A look at Kenya



Summary

This fact sheet summarizes data collated during the development of the STEP UP Country Profile Report on Unintended Pregnancies for Kenya, which presents a range of key evidence aimed at informing readers about the trends, magnitude, determinants and consequences of unintended pregnancy in Kenya. The data shown in this fact sheet are drawn mainly from the 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008/09 Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys (KDHS) as well as other secondary sources.

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Table 1: Trends in unintended pregnancy (%)

Type of Unintended Pregnancy	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Mistimed (wanted later)	34.2	37.2	24.9	25.5
Unwanted (wanted no more)	16.7	11.1	19.6	17.1
Unintended pregnancies	50.9	48.3	44.5	42.6

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 1a: Mistimed pregnancy by selected background characteristics (%)

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Age				
15-24	41.3	42.7	26.9	30.9
25-34	31.1	33.9	24.5	22.2
>35	14.3	22.2	11.3	12.4
Education				
No education	24.2	27.0	12.9	17.4
Primary	36.8	40.0	28.2	28.0
Secondary +	35.9	34.2	23.6	23.5
Wealth				
Low	32.7	38.4	25.6	26.8
Medium	38.0	36.6	25.0	28.3
High	34.0	35.9	24.2	23.0
Residence				
Urban	31.3	35.5	24.7	20.4
Rural	34.6	37.6	25.0	26.7
Region				
Nairobi	36.0	29.3	27.8	14.5
Central	30.9	29.5	18.0	19.4
Coast	30.3	39.6	22.9	6.9
Eastern	41.8	36.9	25.1	22.6
Nyanza	27.3	34.3	32.8	18.2
Rift Valley	34.0	37.6	22.8	18.7
Western	36.3	49.0	29.5	15.7
North Eastern	-	-	4.1	0.5
Total	34.2	37.2	24.9	25.5

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 1b: Unwanted pregnancy by selected background characteristics (%)

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Age				
15-24	6.5	3.8	15.9	12.3
25-34	22.8	13.1	20.6	18.1
>35	39.1	40.7	47.6	44.6
Education				
No education	21.6	22.2	14.8	10.2
Primary	17.0	11.0	20.9	19.7
Secondary +	11.6	6.4	19.0	13.8

Wealth				
Low	15.7	12.4	18.9	18.5
Medium	17.1	11.8	22.3	19.0
High	17.5	8.8	19.5	14.9
Residence				
Urban	12.2	7.1	17.3	11.4
Rural	17.4	11.9	20.1	18.4
Region				
Nairobi	8.6	7.1	10.7	14.5
Central	23.7	8.7	27.3	19.4
Coast	4.9	6.1	10.5	6.9
Eastern	22.6	17.3	23.1	22.6
Nyanza	16.6	11.3	22.6	18.2
Rift Valley	15.6	10.8	18.4	18.7
Western	15.4	9.8	22.4	15.7
North Eastern	-	-	0.4	0.5
Total	16.7	11.1	19.6	17.1

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 1c: Unintended pregnancy (unwanted and mistimed) by selected background characteristics (%)

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Age				
15-24	47.7	46.4	42.8	43.2
25-34	53.9	47.0	45.0	40.2
>35	53.3	62.8	58.9	57.0
Education				
No education	45.8	49.2	27.7	27.6
Primary	53.8	51.0	49.1	47.7
Secondary +	47.5	40.6	42.6	37.3
Wealth				
Low	48.4	50.8	44.5	45.2
Medium	55.1	48.4	47.3	47.3
High	51.5	44.7	43.7	37.9
Residence				
Urban	43.5	42.6	42.0	31.8
Rural	52.0	49.5	45.1	45.1
Region				
Nairobi	44.6	36.4	38.5	29.0
Central	54.6	38.2	45.3	38.8
Coast	35.2	45.7	33.4	13.8
Eastern	64.4	54.2	48.2	45.2
Nyanza	43.9	45.6	55.4	36.4
Rift Valley	49.6	48.4	41.2	37.4
Western	51.7	58.8	51.9	31.4
North Eastern	-	-	4.5	1.0
Total	50.9	48.3	44.5	42.6

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 2: Percentage of currently married women 15-49 using contraceptive methods

Method Used	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Any method	32.7	39.0	39.3	45.5
Modern method	27.3	31.5	31.5	39.4
Traditional method	5.5	7.5	8.0	6.0

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 2a: Percent distribution of all women age 15-49 using a method of contraception by background characteristics (Current users at the time of the survey)

Background Characteristics	Any Modern Method				Any Method			
	1993	1998	2003	2008-09	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Age								
15-24	14.1	16.4	13.8	16.5	9.1	11.4	10.6	14.1
25-34	37.9	40.8	38.7	44.7	31.8	32.7	31.5	40.5
>35	32.6	39.3	40.5	40.8	28.1	33.1	32.6	34.4
Education								
No Education	18	21.4	10.6	12.2	14.4	15.5	7.4	10.3
Primary Education	23.6	26.3	27.1	31.7	19.0	21.0	21.5	27.8
Secondary +	37.1	40.5	38.5	37.7	29.3	32.1	31.7	32.8
Wealth								
Low	14.3	19.5	18.4	21.8	10.6	13.4	13.1	18.3
Medium	27.8	31.1	31.3	35.8	22.5	24.7	24.8	31.4
High	35.8	39.2	35.3	38.6	29.2	32.8	30.3	34.2
Residence								
Urban	12.1	12.9	8.4	9.2	6.9	8.1	5.8	7.9
Rural	32.7	39	39.3	45.5	27.3	31.5	31.5	39.4
Marital Status	25.3	24.3	22.2	25.1	21.9	21.6	20.2	23.8
Never Married								
Currently Married	33.4	38	33.5	36.6	28.1	30.9	28.1	32.7
Formerly Married	24.2	27.4	26.6	30.5	19.1	21.4	20.9	26.3
Province								
Nairobi	38.7	41.5	33.5	37.3	30.8	34.1	28.6	33.7
Central	40.4	46.4	42.6	46.2	34.4	40.1	36.7	43.4
Coast	17.1	18.0	20.2	26.7	14.3	16.3	16.0	23.6
Eastern	29.7	34.6	35.5	36.1	22.1	26.2	27.3	30.4
Nyanza	18.8	21.5	19.1	30.2	15.5	18.1	16.3	26.3
Rift Valley	21.4	28.9	25.5	28.2	15.8	20.6	18.4	23.5
Western	20.2	22.8	24.4	29.9	17.1	16.1	19.0	26.4
North Eastern	-	-	0.1	2.4	-	-	0.1	2.4
Total	27.3	31.5	31.5	39.4	32.7	39.0	39.3	45.5

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 3: Percentage of unmet need¹ for family planning

	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Currently Married Women				
Spacing	20.7	16.0	15.2	12.5
Limiting	14.6	11.9	12.2	13.1
Currently Unmarried Women				
Spacing	3.5	7.6	3.8	4.2
Limiting	2.3	2.2	3.8	3.0
All Women				
Spacing	14.1	12.8	10.6	9.1
Limiting	9.8	8.2	8.9	8.9

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 3a: Trends in unmet need for FP among currently married women age 15-49 by background characteristics (%)

	1993		1998		2003		2008-09	
	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting
Age								
15-24	34.3	5.1	27.2	4.5	28.3	5.6	23.8	6.5
25-34	23.4	14.4	18.8	11.0	15.8	11.7	13.7	11.1
>35	6.6	22.3	5.0	18.4	4.4	17.9	3.4	20.1
Education								
No Education	16.5	18.7	10.7	18.2	11.3	12.6	16.5	10.0
Primary	23.9	14.8	19.3	12.8	18.9	14.4	14.1	16.0
Secondary +	16.8	9.5	11.9	6.9	9.0	7.3	7.9	8.6
Wealth								
Low	25.6	17.0	23.1	15.2	18.6	15.7	17.6	18.0
Medium	21.2	16.0	13.3	11.4	13.5	12.9	10.2	11.6
High	14.0	10.1	10.2	8.4	12.7	7.2	9.4	9.3
Residence								
Urban	13.7	10.1	11.8	8.6	11.6	7.9	10.7	8.9
Rural	22.0	15.4	17.2	12.8	16.2	13.5	13.1	14.4
Province								
Nairobi	15.3	10.2	10.4	5.9	13.5	5.0	6.5	8.7
Central	11.2	13.4	7.1	8.0	7.3	7.5	6.2	9.3
Coast	24.8	8.4	21.4	12.5	16.9	10.7	15.9	9.3
Eastern	21.8	18.3	14.0	13.5	12.6	12.4	9.8	14.0
Nyanza	21.9	14.6	16.7	12.4	20.8	16.7	18.2	14.0
Rift Valley	20.9	15.0	18.8	12.8	15.8	14.0	13.0	17.6
Western	25.7	16.0	21.3	14.7	20.0	16.6	13.5	12.6
North Eastern	-	-	-	-	9.1	1.3	17.1	0.8
Total	20.7	14.6	16.0	11.9	15.2	12.2	12.5	13.1

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

¹ A woman has an unmet need if she is sexually active, does not want another child or wants to delay pregnancy, but she is not using any FP method.

Table 3b: Percentage of contraceptive users who discontinued use of a method within 12 months of beginning its use

Method	1998	2003	2008-09
Pill	34.0	30.9	38.0
IUD	9.0	11.7	6.4
Injectables	18.1	22.9	28.0
Implants	-	17.1	10.5
Male Condom	61.5	35.1	71.6
Rhythm Method	27.0	29.3	29.9
All Methods	26.1	25.8	32.0

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 3c: Method switching from first method choice, method choice by current contraceptive status and method use among all ever users (%)

First Method Used	Not Using (Not Pregnant)	Not Using (Pregnant)	Pill	IUD	Inject.	Condoms	Steriliz.	Rhythm	Other	No. of Cases
Pill	35.0	7.2	23.6	3.2	18.3	1.4	6.7	3.0	1.5	1589
IUD	24.9	3.4	8.9	31.6	12.2	2.1	10.5	4.6	1.7	237
Injections	35.5	5.4	7.1	1.3	42.7	1.4	3.7	2.1	0.8	709
Condoms	43.3	11.2	5.8	1.4	6.5	23.1	2.5	3.2	2.9	277
Sterilization	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	147
Rhythm	37.1	11.5	4.6	0.9	5.1	1.9	2.3	35.3	1.4	917
Other	32.5	5.7	3.2	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.8	51.6	157
Total	1378	305	509	147	693	119	333	413	136	4033

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998

Table 3d: Women status 12 months after discontinuing for method-related reasons (%)

	No. of discontinuations	At pregnancy risk	Switched	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live births
				Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
All Methods							
1998	604	28.9	36.8	7.0	15.6	9.2	2.4
2003	821	30.0	38.9	6.4	13.9	8.8	2.0
Modern Methods							
1998	604	28.9	36.8	7.0	15.6	9.2	2.4
2003	821	30.0	38.9	6.4	13.9	8.8	2.0

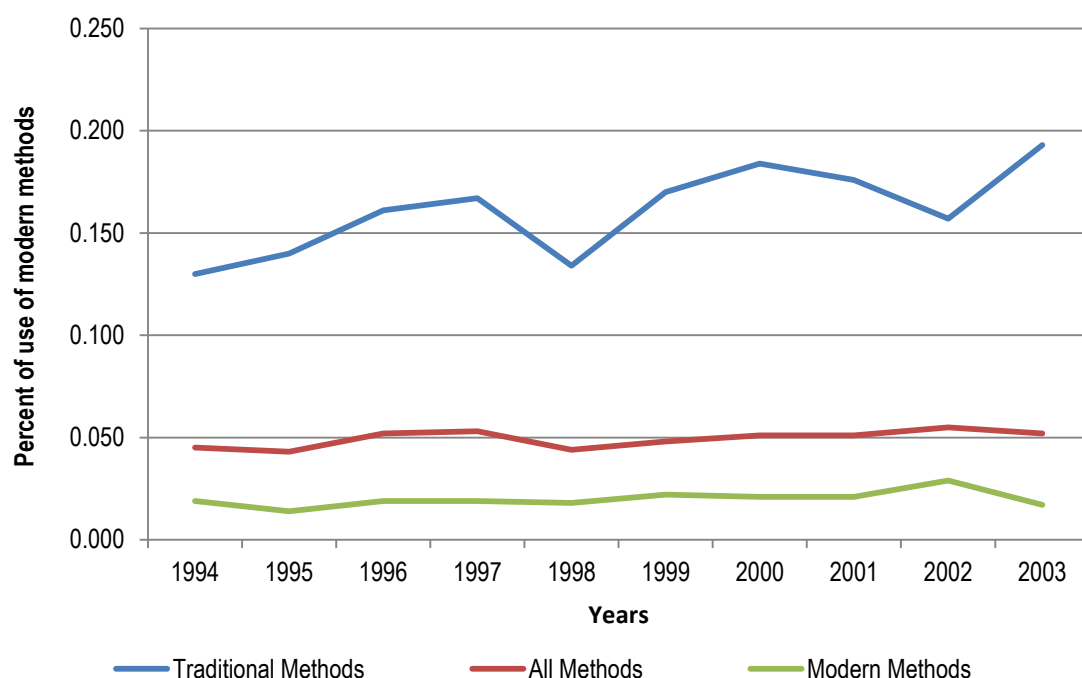
Ali MM, Cleland J, Shah IH. Causes and Consequences of Contraceptive Discontinuation: Evidence from 60 Demographic and Health Surveys. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.

Table 3e: Women status 12 months after discontinuing for desire for pregnancy (%)

	No. of discontinuations	At risk	Switched	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live birth
				Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
All Methods							
1998	358	12.6	0.0	4.1	11.5	67.1	4.7
2003	391	18.6	0.8	2.2	3.6	72.0	2.8
Modern Methods							
1998	243	16.0	0.0	3.4	13.9	61.4	5.2
2003	257	23.0	1.2	1.7	2.1	69.1	2.8
Traditional Methods							
1998	114	5.5	0.0	5.5	6.4	79.0	3.6
2003	133	10.1	0.0	3.0	6.5	77.6	2.7

Ali MM, Cleland J, Shah IH. *Causes and Consequences of Contraceptive Discontinuation: Evidence from 60 Demographic and Health Surveys*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.

Figure 1: Trends in annual contraceptive failure rates



Source: Westoff, Charles F., and Anne R. Cross. 2006. *The Stall in the Fertility Transition in Kenya*. DHS Analytical Studies No. 9. Calverton, Maryland: ORC Macro.

Table 4: Contraceptive users that discontinued after the first year of use for reasons other than desire for pregnancy (%)

Method	1998	2003
Pill	32	42
Injectables	18	28
Condom	54	53
Periodic abstinence	27	27
All methods	28	33

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998 and 2003

Table 4a: Reproductive consequences of reported contraceptive failure (%)

	No. of failures	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live birth
		Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
All Methods					
1998	243	20.3	52.0	23.0	4.7
2003	272	27.7	49.8	16.9	5.6
Modern Methods					
1998	68	26.7	49.7	19.9	3.6
2003	94	31.0	55.1	10.7	3.2
Traditional Methods					
1998	174	17.8	52.8	24.2	5.2
2003	178	26.0	46.9	20.2	6.9

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998 and 2003

Table 5: Trends in Wanted Fertility Rates (WFR), Unwanted Fertility Rates (UWFR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the three years preceding the survey

	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Unwanted Fertility Rates	2.4	1.5	1.3	1.4
Wanted Fertility Rates	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.2
Total Fertility Rate	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.6

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

Table 6. Estimated number of cases of induced abortion complications and overall induced abortions by region, Kenya, 2012

Region	No. of women treated for induced abortion complications at health facilities	Number of all induced abortions		
		Low estimate	Medium estimate	High estimate
Central & Nairobi	20,676	49,828	70,504	91,180
Coast and North Eastern	16,649	49,616	66,265	82,914
Eastern	7,057	21,030	28,087	35,144
Nyanza & Western	36,842	109,789	146,631	183,473
Rift Valley	38,687	115,289	153,976	192,664
Total	119,912	344,778	464,690	584,601

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

Table 6a. National and regional induced abortion rates and ratio, Kenya, 2012

Region	Number of Women (in 1,000's) of reproductive age (15-49)	Induced Abortion Rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age	Induced Abortion Ratio per 100 live births
Central & Nairobi	2186	32	20
Coast and North Eastern	1298	51	32
Eastern	1382	20	13
Nyanza & Western	2329	63	39
Rift Valley	2404	64	40
Total	9600	48	30

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. *Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study*. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

Table 6b. Socio-demographic characteristics of women seeking PAC in health facilities over a 30-day period, Kenya, 2012

Characteristics	%	N
Age		
10-19 Years	16.5	335
20-24 Years	31.5	810
25+ Years	51.3	1478
Residence		
Urban	40.9	1386
Rural	58.7	1238
Marital Status		
Never Married	27.8	761
Married/Living together	64.4	1700
Divorced	7.5	162
Education		
No education	9.3	158
Primary	40.1	963
Secondary	35.5	952
Post-secondary	14.8	543
Occupation		
Farmer/unskilled	24.9	589
Skilled/clerical	20.2	684
Student	13.0	384
Unemployed/housewife	41.7	965
Religion		
Catholic	24.3	606
Other Christians	64.4	1767
Muslims	8.5	216
Others	2.3	30
Total	100	2631

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. *Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study*. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

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The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** generates policy-relevant research to promote an evidence-based approach for improving access to family planning and safe abortion. STEP UP focuses its activities in five countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, and Senegal. STEP UP is coordinated by the Population Council in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center; ICDDR,B; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Marie Stopes International; and Partners in Population on Development. STEP UP is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development.

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