



Investing in Isiolo County's birth/child spacing programme



Background

Isiolo County covers an area of 25,336.7 square kilometers and is situated in the upper eastern region of Kenya, bordering Marsabit county to the north, Samburu and Laikipia Counties to the west, Garissa County to the south east, Wajir County to the north east, Tana River and Kitui Counties to the south and Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties to the south west. It has three sub counties Isiolo, Merti and Garbatulla and the county's population consists largely of Oromo-speaking Borana and Sakuye as well as the Turkana, Samburu, Meru and Somali. the county is part of Frontier Counties Development Council. The distance between the county's capital Isiolo town and Nairobi is 285 kilometers.

The county has a total of 75 health facilities^{3a}, with a density of 2.7 health facilities per 10,000 citizens, which is above than the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommendation of 2.0. It has a core health workforce density of 22 per 10,000 citizens, which is below WHO's recommended 23 health workers^{3b}.

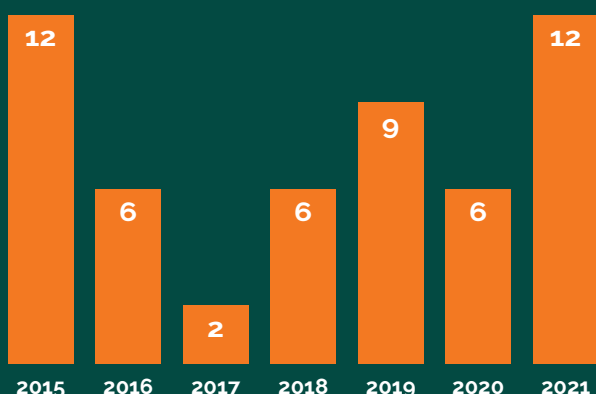
In terms of service provision, 95% of the facilities in the county offer family planning services. 58% of the facilities don't have all the family planning

Social statistics

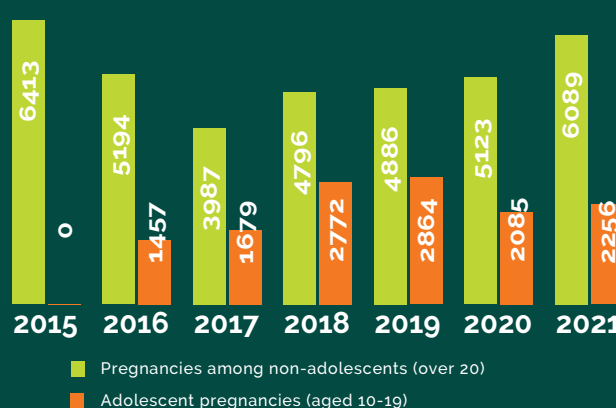
Population (2022) ^c	Total	280,735
	Male	145,842
	Female	134,893
	Women of Reproductive age (15-49 yrs)	64,295
	Adolescents 10 - 14 yrs	40,707
	Adolescents 15 - 19 yrs	32,565
Total fertility rate (number of children per woman) (2019) ⁶		4.1
Absolute poverty rate (2015) ⁷		52%
% Distribution of population aged 15 years and above with ability to read and write (2015) ⁸	Male	90.7%
	Female	70.4%
	Total	80.1%

tracer commodities which include blood pressure apparatus, combined oral contraceptive pills, progestin-only contraceptive pills, Injectable contraceptives and condoms^{3b}.

Number of maternal deaths per year



Number of adolescent pregnancies per year



5

maternal deaths could have been prevented through birth/child spacing in 2021¹

2/5

pregnant women were adolescents in 2021^{*}



To tackle both maternal deaths and teenage pregnancies, **more investments in birth spacing are required.**

Benefits of investing in birth/child spacing²

1. Health benefits

- Lower number of unintended pregnancies
- Decline in unplanned births
- Reduction in unsafe abortions
- Decrease in maternal deaths

2. Social and economic benefits of healthier birth timing and spacing

- Increase infant survival rates
- Improvement in children's health, education and wellbeing
- More savings as well as a higher household income and gross domestic product per capita as a result of women's economic participation
- Attainment of the demographic dividend

To reap these benefits in Isiolo county:



More women need to be reached with family planning services



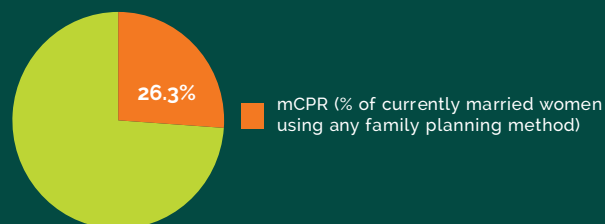
Counselling on and sensitisation to long acting birth spacing methods must be provided to increase the uptake of long acting methods



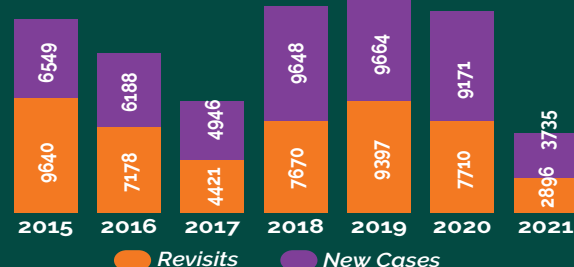
More domestic financing for birth spacing is required

The status of birth spacing access and funding in Isiolo county

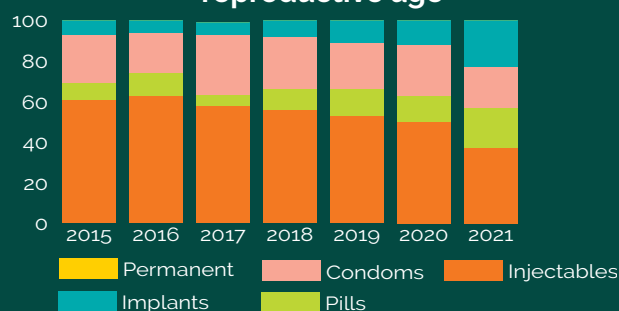
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR 2014)⁹



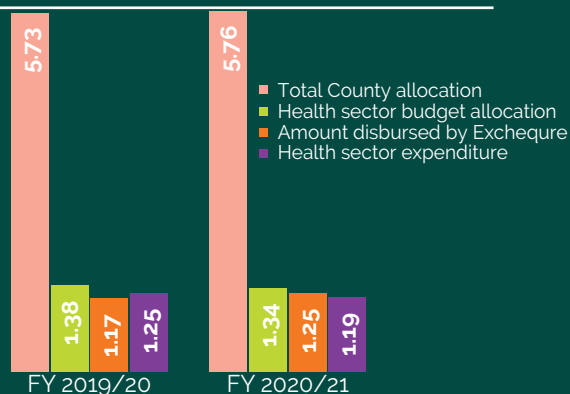
Family planning service uptake*



Family planning method mix among women of reproductive age*



Comparison of funding needs and disbursements (in Billions Ksh.)⁴



References

* Data from Kenya Health Information System as of April 2022

² Ahmed, Saifuddin et al. Maternal deaths averted by contraceptive use: an analysis of 172 countries. The Lancet, Volume 380, Issue 9837, 111 – 125

³ Starrs A, Ezech A, et al. Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission. The Lancet, vol. 391, issue 10140, (2018), pp: 2642–2692. Published by Elsevier

^{3a} Kenya Master Health Facility List (KMHL). ^{3b} Kenya harmonized health facility assessment 2018/19 (KHFA)

⁴ County Government budget implementation review report 2018/19, 2019/20 & 2020/21.

⁵ KNBS, 2019 Kenya population and housing census.

⁶ KNBS, Analytical Report on Fertility and Nuptiality, Volume IV, 2019.

⁷ KNBS, Inequality trends and diagnostics in Kenya 2020; Absolute poverty rate is defined as the inability for a household, family or person to meet basic needs including food, shelter, safe drinking water, education and healthcare.

⁸ KNBS, The 2015/16 Kenya integrated household budget survey (KIHS) reports

⁹ Kenya demographic health survey 2014