

HIV/AIDS FACT SHEET: WOMEN and HIV/AIDS in KENYA

Women In Kenya between 15–49 years infected with HIV comprise of 8.8% compared to men of the same age-group which is 7.4%.

Overall, women are more likely (8.4%) to be infected with HIV than men (5.4).

In particular, young women aged between 15–24years are four times likely (5.6%) than young men of the same age (1.4%) respectively.

8.9% of women of childbearing ages (15–49) attending ANC clinics are infected with HIV while 1.6% of them have contracted syphilis.

66.8% of HIV infected women would prefer to delay pregnancy by two or more years.

Among married/co-habiting couples, 9.7% has at least one HIV infected partner.

Kenya has an estimated 344,000 HIV discordant couples.

HIV prevalence among women with secondary education 6.2% is lower than the prevalence among women with less education which ranges between 7.7–9.6.

70% of women experiencing GBV have three times more likely to be infected with HIV.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGH HIV PREVALENCE RATE IN WOMEN

Gender based violence in family setups including sexual violence by relatives.

Social cultural practices such as: Female genital mutilation, early marriages multiple sexual partners, wife inheritance

Fear of testing/disclosure and access to treatment

Economic factors: diminished control over financial resources

Limited decision making, mobility and care giving all this hinder economic opportunities for women

Programmatic gaps within government structures (i.e) Frequent condom stock-outs

Lack of funds to empower civil society to scale up HIV prevention

Sources: Kenya Aids Indicator Survey, UNGASS Kenya report, media houses