IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADOLESCENT FERTILITY IN NAIROBI’S URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

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Study Objective

- Leverage adolescent cohorts from on-going studies
- Assess trends of contraceptive use in adolescent girls 15-19 across 5 informal settlements in Nairobi between 2018 to 2021
- Use data to predict possible impact of COVID-19 on adolescent fertility
Urban Informal Settlements in Nairobi

Adolescent girls living in informal settlements are particularly vulnerable:

- Earlier sexual debut and child-bearing
- Significantly higher rates of unprotected sex
- Greater gender-based violence exposure
- Poorer access to health-care services

Source: Mukuru studio inclusive upgrading frameworks for Nairobi Report
Study Setting

• Pre COVID-19 Population Council was following cohorts from 5 informal settlements in Nairobi, across 2 studies:

  • *Nisikilize Tujengane (NISITU):* since 2018
  • *Adolescent Girls Initiative- Kenya (AGIK):* since 2015
NISITU Study

- 3 settlements: **Kariobangi, Mathare and Dandora**
- Baseline age range and sample size:
  - Girls 10-14: 842
  - Girls 15-19: 556
  - Boys 10-24: 1,108
- **Research question**: Is it possible to improve gender norms among and reduce perpetration of sexual violence and harassment by adolescent boys and young men via a girl-centered male engagement program?
- Quasi-experimental study
AGIK Study

- 2 settlements: Kibera & Huruam
- Baseline age range and sample size:
  - Girls 11-15: 3,050

Research question:
- What package of multisectoral, multilevel interventions has impact for adolescent girls
- Can early interventions improve longer term outcomes

- Randomized Controlled Trial
Study Timelines

AGI-K COHORT timeline

- Jan-Apr 2015: Baseline data-collection
- Jul-Sept 2017: Midline data-collection
- June-Aug 2019: Endline data-collection

NISITU COHORT timeline

- Feb 2021: COVID-19 Knowledge, Attitudes & Practice (KAP) Survey

- Jan-Feb 2018: Baseline data-collection
- Nov-Dec 2019: Endline data-collection
COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDES & PRACTICES (KAP) SURVEY

• Topics covered:
  1) COVID-19 Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices
  2) Effects of COVID-19 on:
     • Education
     • Time Use/Economic Activity
     • Social interactions
     • Health
     • Violence
     • Sexual and Reproductive Health (15+ only)
Methodology

• Random sub-sample selected from participants with phone numbers from AGIK & NISITU
• Stratified by informal settlement
• Around 400 participants per site
• Structured phone interviews ~ 45 mins
• SRH questions asked to 15 years and above
• Analysis
  – Limited to 15-19 across all rounds
  – Repeat cross-sectional analysis
## Preliminary Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>2017/8 (AGIK_NISITU) n (%)</th>
<th>2019 (AGIK_NISITU) n (%)</th>
<th>2020 (KAP) n (%)</th>
<th>2021 (KAP) n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (15-19 years)</td>
<td>2,030</td>
<td>3,095</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean(SD))</td>
<td>16.6 (1.4)</td>
<td>17 (1.3)</td>
<td>17.1 (1.3)</td>
<td>17.5 (1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a romantic or sexual relationship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>558 (27.6)</td>
<td>767 (25.2)</td>
<td>176 (29.2)</td>
<td>93 (38.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>3,061</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently pregnant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33 (5.9)</td>
<td>59 (7.7)</td>
<td>4 (2.4)</td>
<td>4 (4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently trying to get pregnant*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>516 (98.3)</td>
<td>691 (97.6)</td>
<td>158 (99.4)</td>
<td>89 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decrease in percentage reporting using an FP method in 2020

Currently doing something to delay getting pregnant
Increased reporting of abstinence in 2020 & 2021

Family Planning Method Mix

- Pill
- Injectables
- Implants
- Male condom
- Breastfeeding
- Abstinence
- Emergency

Percentage

- 2017/8 (AGIK_NISITU)%
- 2019 (AGIK_NISITU)%
- 2020 (KAP)%
- 2021 (KAP)%
Infrequent or no sex common reason for not using an FP method

Reasons for not using an FP method

**2017/8 (AGIK_NISITU)%**

**2019 (AGIK_NISITU) %**

**2020 (KAP) %**

**2021 (KAP) %**

- **INFREQUENT SEX/NO SEX**
- **HEALTH CONCERNS**
- **COST & ACCESS**
Summary

- Minimal to no changes observed in fertility outcomes*

- Significant increase in reporting of abstinence

- Infrequent sex or no sex: most common reason for not using an FP method across the years
Limitations

• Selection bias: limited to those with access to mobile phones
• Different modes of data collection
• Attrition/ loss to follow up
• Comparison of findings with other studies
Acknowledgements

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