



**POPULATION
COUNCIL**

Ideas. Evidence. Impact.

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

Beth Kangwana

Population Council, Kenya

Poverty, Gender & Youth Program

10-11 May 2021

Contents

- Study Objectives
- Study Setting
- Overview of Cohorts
- Methodology
- Results
- Implications & Limitations

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

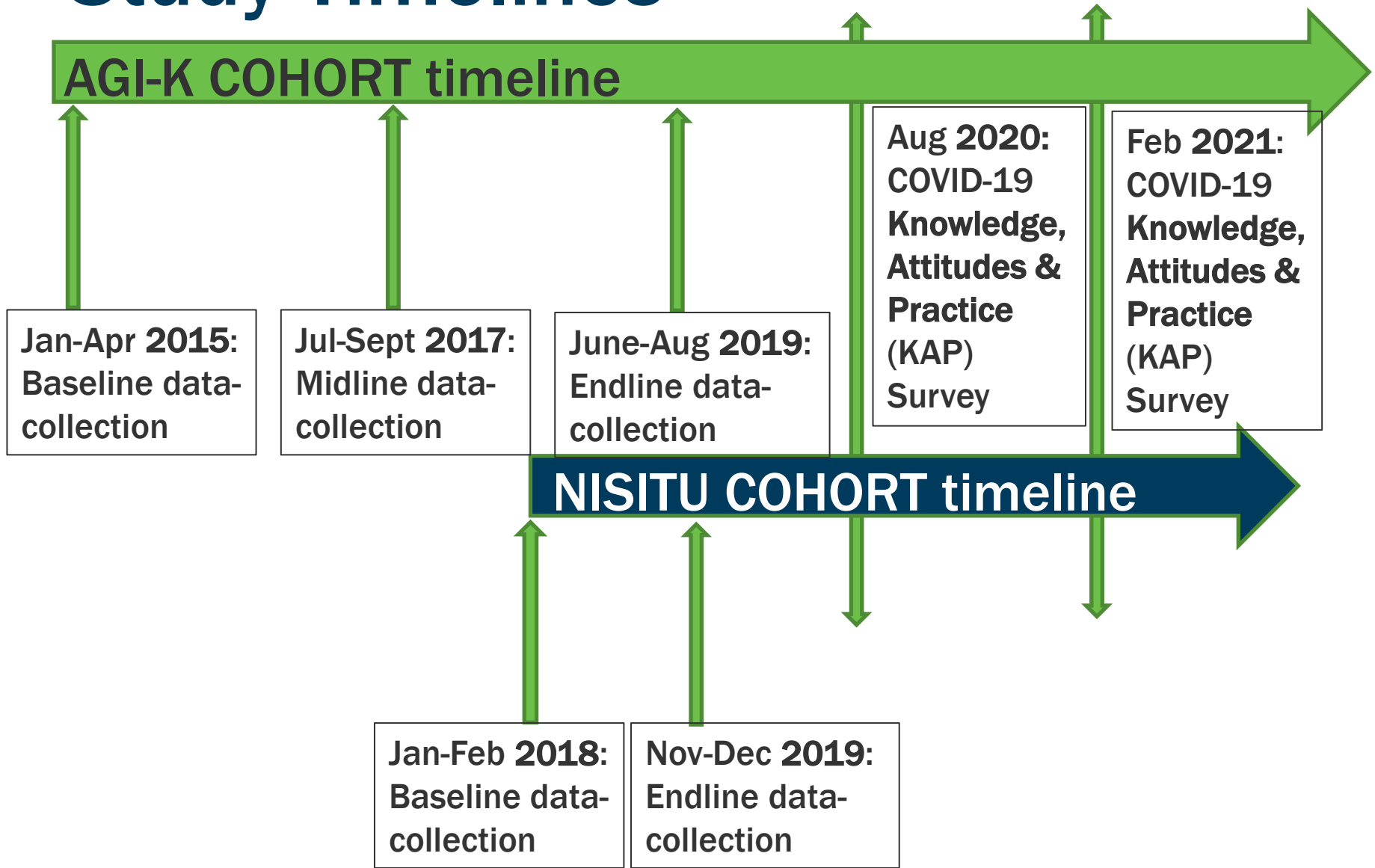
- 2 settlements: Kibera & Huruam
- Baseline age range and sample size:
 - Girls 11-15: 3,050



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



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

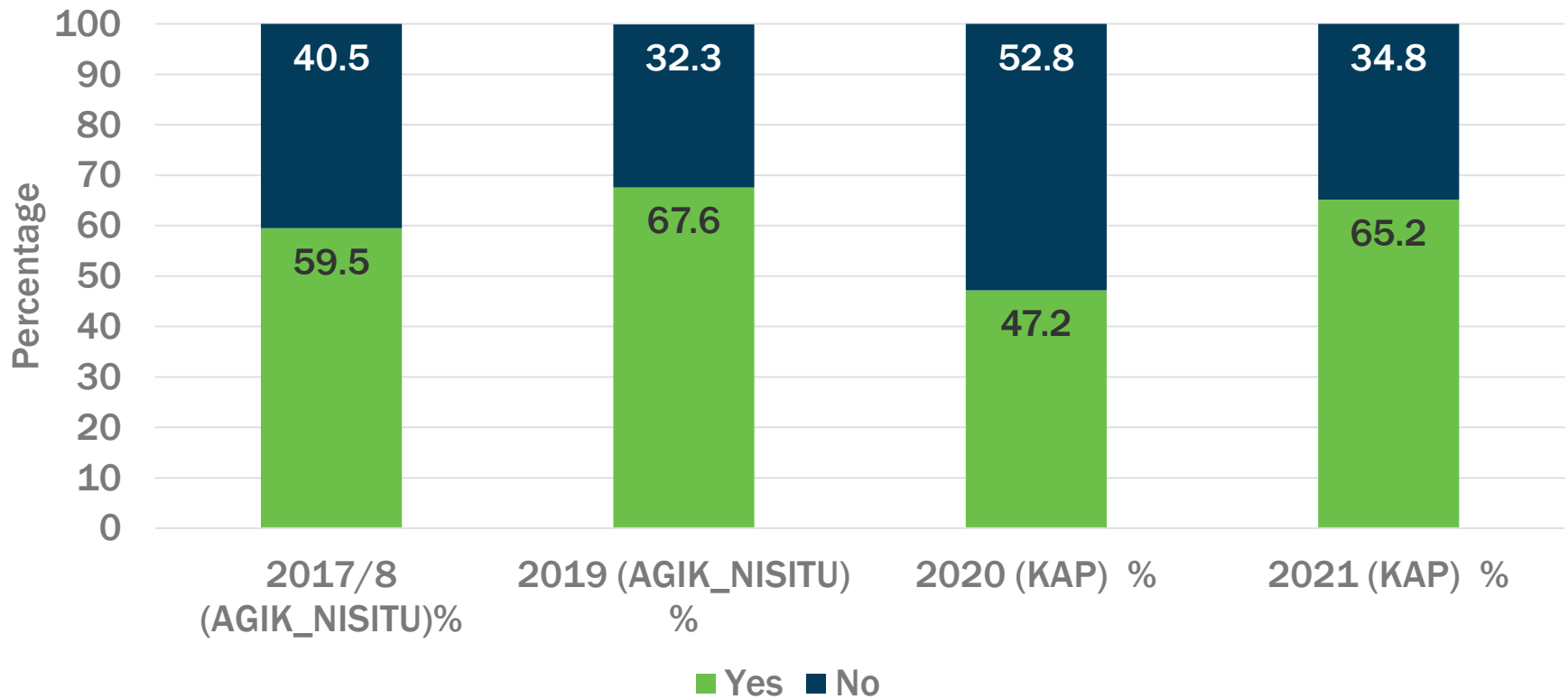
- Random sub-sample selected from participants with phone numbers from AGIK & NISITU
- Stratified by informal settlement
- Around 400 participants per site
- Structured phone interviews ~ 45 mins
- SRH questions asked to 15 years and above
- Analysis
 - Limited to 15-19 across all rounds
 - Repeat cross-sectional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



Preliminary Results

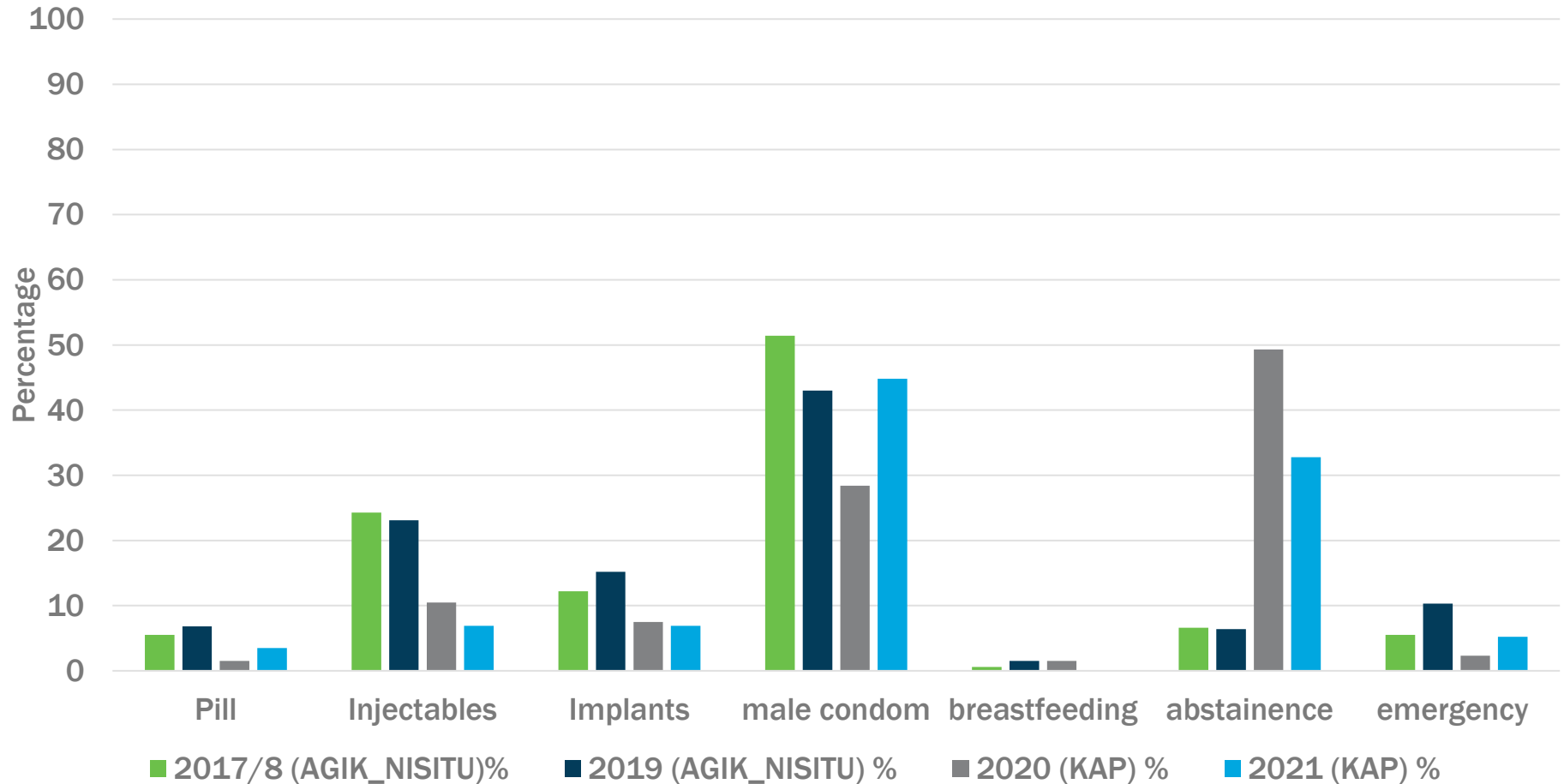
Variable	2017/8 (AGIK_NISITU) n (%)	2019 (AGIK_NISITU) n (%)	2020 (KAP) n (%)	2021 (KAP) n (%)
N (15-19 years)	2,030	3,095	603	269
Age (mean(SD))	16.6 (1.4)	17 (1.3)	17.1 (1.3)	17.5 (1.2)
In a romantic or sexual relationship				
Yes	558 (27.6)	767 (25.2)	176 (29.2)	93 (38.0)
Total	2,025	3,061	603	245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

Decrease in percentage reporting using an FP method in 2020



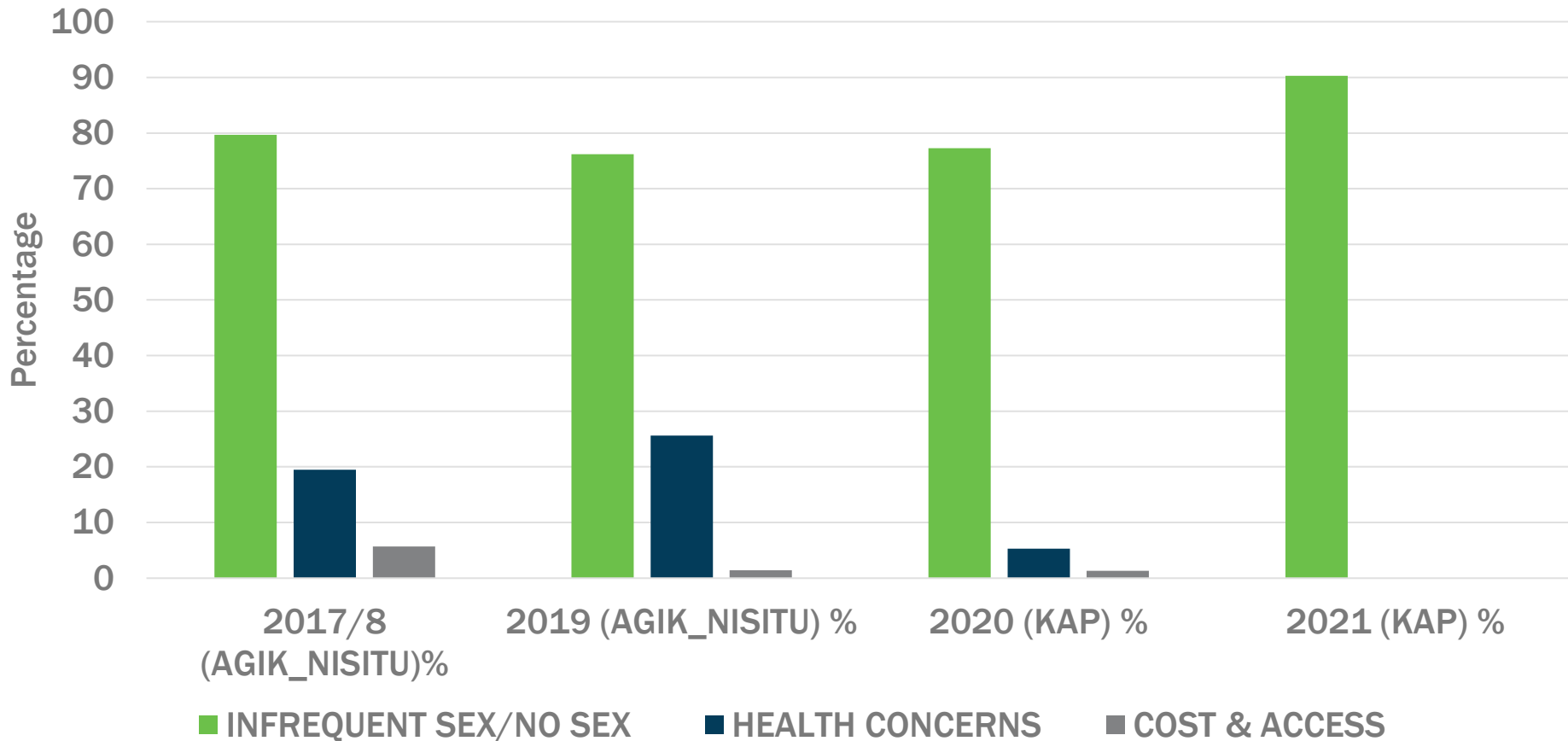
Currently doing something to delay getting pregnant

Increased reporting of abstinence in 2020 & 2021



Family Planning Method Mix

Infrequent or no sex common reason for not using an FP method



Reasons for not using an FP method

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

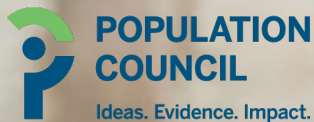
- Selection bias: limited to those with access to mobile phones
- Different modes of data collection
- Attrition/ loss to follow up
- Comparison of findings with other studies

Acknowledgements

- Poverty, Gender and Youth Program Team at Population Council, Kenya
- Parents and girls from the AGI-K and NISITU cohorts who carried out the interviews
- Enumerators
- Funders: Executive Office of the President, University of California San Diego, Innovations for Poverty Action, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office



The Population Council
conducts research and
delivers solutions that
improve lives around
the world. **Big ideas
supported by evidence:**
**It's our model for
global change.**



Q&A



For More Information Contact:

Beth Kangwana – bkangwana@popcouncil.com

Karen Austrian – kaustrian@popcouncil.org