2010 Kenya VACS Public Data File

SUMMARY
The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) is undertaken within the context of the Together for Girls (TfG) public-private partnership, which includes the US Government (including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and its partners), United Nations Agencies, led by UNICEF, and private sector agencies dedicated to ending violence against children, with a particular focus on sexual violence against girls. The partnership supports countries undertaking the Violence Against Children Survey through coordination of technical assistance, national-level coordination and funding among in-country partners. Designed by CDC and implemented under the leadership of country governments with participation from country government and civil society stakeholders, along with TfG partners, notably UNICEF, the VACS is a national population-based household survey of 13-24 year old males and females. It is designed to measure emotional, physical and sexual violence as well as risk and protective factors and consequences of violence. VACS also includes a short household survey administered to an adult in the selected households to collect socioeconomic information. VACS is used to inform development and implementation of a country-led multi-sector policy and programmatic response to violence against children.

The 2010 Kenya VACS was guided by a Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of government ministries and partners from social welfare, the police and legal system, education and health care sectors, and civil society. The study was coordinated by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Kenya Country Office with technical guidance and assistance provided by CDC DVP, and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). Funding for the implementation and coordination of the survey was provided by UNICEF. The Kenya VACS data is owned by the KNBS on behalf of the Kenyan government.

The 2010 Kenya VACS was designed to: (1) estimate the national prevalence of sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence against boys and girls prior to age 18; (2) identify risk and protective factors; (3) identify health consequences; (4) assess knowledge, and utilization of services available as well as barriers to accessing such services; and (5) identify areas for further research and provide information to guide strategies to prevent, identify and respond to violence against children. The Kenya VACS questionnaire included questions on background characteristics, sexual experiences, knowledge and attitudes towards HIV and HIV testing, general connectedness to family, friends, and community, experiences of sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence, health consequences of violence, and service-seeking behaviors. The TWG reviewed and adapted the VACS core questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered during private face to face interviews using paper and pencil in 13 languages: English, Borana, Kalinin, Kikamba, Somali, Mijikenda, Meru, Masai, Luo, Luhya, Kikuyu, Kiswahili, and Kisii. No personally-identifying information was collected for the study. The VACS survey design utilizes a “split sample” approach, such that the survey for females is conducted in different enumeration areas than the survey for males. This approach serves to further protect the confidentiality of respondents, and helps eliminate the chance that a sexual violence perpetrator and victim in the same community would both be interviewed.

A three stage sampling design was used for the Kenya VACS. In the first stage, 238 clusters were randomly selected from National Sample Survey and Evaluation Program (NASSEP) IV frame and randomly assigned to be a male or female cluster. In the second stage, an average of 35 households was selected per cluster using equal probability systematic sampling. In the third stage, one eligible participant aged 13-24 years (male or female according to the cluster sex designation) was selected among all households with at least one eligible member using the Kish method. For females, the following assumptions were used to estimate the sample size: 95% confidence interval (CI), +/-2.0% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against female
youth of 5.9%, and a design effect of 2.0. For males, the following assumptions were used to estimate the sample size: 95% CI, +/-1.4% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against male youth of 3.0%, and a design effect of 2.0.

Field work for the survey was conducted from 25 November 2010 to 31 December 2010. A total of 1,227 females and 1,456 males completed the individual survey, from a total of 3,837 female and 4,871 male households. The household response rates were 90.3% for households in female clusters and 89.6% for households in male clusters; the individual response rates were 94.0% females and 89.8% males; and the overall response rates were 84.8% for females and 80.4% for males.

Due to the complex sample design, clustering, stratification and sample weights should be taken into account in the data analysis in order to obtain proper point estimates and variances. Users of the Kenya VACS Public Data File should statistical software packages such as SAS, SPSS, SUDAAN, or Stata that have specific analytic procedures for complex survey designs. VACS uses a three step weighting procedure: (Step 1) computation of base weight for each sample respondent; (Step 2) adjustment of the base weights for non-response; and (Step 3) post-stratification calibration adjustment of weights to known population. Base weights were calculated that are inversely proportional to the overall selection probabilities for each sample respondent (Step 1). In Step 2, base weights were adjusted to compensate for the losses in the sample outcome due to non-response. In this step, household-level non-response adjustment was performed by using weighted data by province and sex. In the final stage of the weighting process (Step 3), calibration adjustment was done to adjust weights to conform with the 1999 Census population distribution by province, age group (13-17 or 18-24), and sex. The final weights assigned to each responding unit were computed as the product of the base weights, the nonresponse adjustment factors and post-stratification calibration adjustment factors. The final weights were used in all analysis to produce estimates of population parameters. Further details on the weighting procedure can be found in the country report, ‘Violence against Children in Kenya: Findings from a 2010 National Survey’. There is no personally-identifying information in the data. Due to the complex sample design, clustering, stratification and sample weights should be taken into account in the data analysis in order to obtain proper point estimates and variances. The stratification, cluster and sample weight variables are ProvinceCode, PSU and Finalwgt, respectively.

To access the 2010 Kenya VACS fact sheet and country report, please visit: www.xxxx (?).