

Kenya 2020 VACS Data File

SUMMARY

The Kenya Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) survey was planned and implemented as a partnership between the Government of Kenya (Ministry of Labour and social Protection-Department of Children Services (DCS) and KNBS), UCSF, Population Council, LVCT Health, and the Kenya VACS Technical Working Group (TWG) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This multi-sectoral TWG was comprised of stakeholders from various sectors including social services, health, education, justice, security, and civil society organizations. The Kenya VACS took place as part of the broader Together for Girls (TfG) partnership. The survey was implemented between December 2018 and January 2019 in every county in Kenya.

The Kenya 2019 VACS was a cross-sectional household-based survey of youth ages 13 to 24. The survey was designed to produce national level estimates of experiences of physical, sexual, and emotional violence in childhood. The data were analysed to provide: (1) the national prevalence of childhood violence (physical, sexual and emotional), defined as violence occurring before age 18 years among 18-24-year-olds and (2) the prevalence of violence in the past 12 months among adolescents (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-24). HIV testing was also conducted for eligible participants ages 15 to 24.

VACS includes a core questionnaire for the head of household as well as participant questionnaires (both a male and a female version) that are adapted for each country survey. The head of household questionnaire assessed the socioeconomic conditions of the household and basic demographic information. The participant questionnaire covered the following topics: demographics; parental relationships; education; general connectedness to family; friends and community; endorsement of traditional gender norms; perceptions of safety; witnessing violence in the home or community; sexual history and risk-taking behaviour; experiences of physical, sexual and emotional violence; violence perpetration; pregnancy; health outcomes and risk behaviours; violence disclosure, service-seeking and utilization of services; and HIV/AIDS service history.

To obtain a nationally representative sample, the VACS used the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme 5th (NASSEP-V). This sample frame is developed and maintained by KNBS. The NASSEP-V frame is a large, representative sample (i.e., “master sample”) of clusters created from 5,360 enumeration areas (EAs) selected from the approximately 96,000 EAs created for the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. The EAs selected for the NASSEP-V master sample were selected with probabilities proportionate to size (based on 2009 census household counts) within strata defined by county and urban/rural status. No county or local government area was excluded from the sampling frame. The sample size was determined from a standard cluster sample formula where an estimated prevalence of 32% sexual violence in childhood for females and 17% sexual violence in childhood for males based on 2010 Kenya VACS results were used.

As with the previous Kenya VACS, the 2018-2019 Kenya VACS was a nationally representative cross-sectional survey of non-institutionalized females and males ages 13-24. The survey used a three-stage cluster sampling design. Separate Enumeration Areas (EAs) were randomly selected for females and males. In the first stage, 266 EAs (155 female EAs and 109 male EAs) were selected from the 5,360 EAs in the NASSEP-V frame using probability proportional to size. In the second stage, 34 households were randomly selected, and in the third stage one eligible 13-24-year-old participant was selected. In the third stage, one eligible respondent (male or female, depending on the EA) was randomly selected from among all eligible respondents ages 13-24 in each household for the interview questionnaire. The Kenya VACS used a split sample approach, such that the survey for females was conducted in different

EAs than the survey for males. This approach was to protect the confidentiality of participants by eliminating the chance that perpetrators and survivors of violence would be interviewed in the same community, discover the purpose of the study, and possibly retaliate against participants. In the female sample, 5,270 households were surveyed, and 1,344 females completed the individual questionnaire. For the male sample, 3,774 households were surveyed, and 788 males completed the individual questionnaire.

Due to the complex sample design, clustering, stratification and sample weights should be considered in the data analysis in order to obtain proper point estimates and variances. Users of the Kenya VACS 2020 Data Files should use statistical software packages such as SAS, SPSS, SUDAAN, or Stata that have specific analytic procedures for complex survey designs. The stratification, cluster, and sample weight variables are Strata, Clust, and SampleWeight, respectively.