

HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS) UPTAKE IN KAMKUNJI: TRENDS AND GAPS

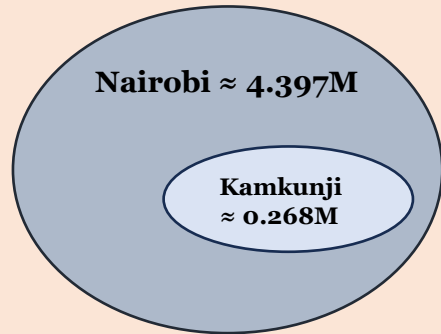
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OVERVIEW;

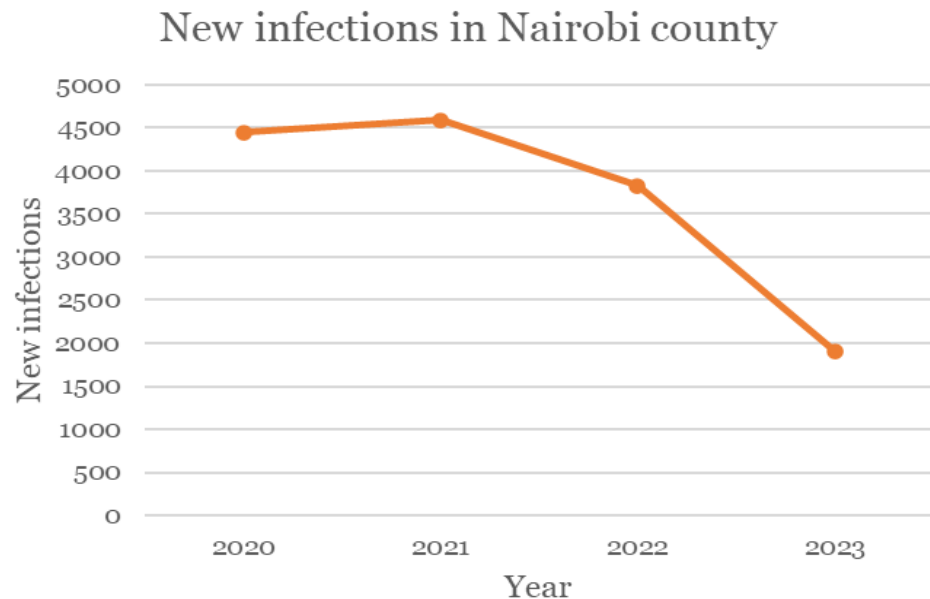
Data is a vital tool for guiding decisions and ensuring effective resource allocation. This report uses HIV Testing Services (HTS) data(*source: NASCOP*) to examine the link between population size (*source: KNBS*) and service uptake, identify gaps, and highlight opportunities for more effective programs. The focus narrows from Nairobi County to Kamkunji Sub-County, offering insights to address local challenges.

TREND OF NEW INFECTIONS

Background & context



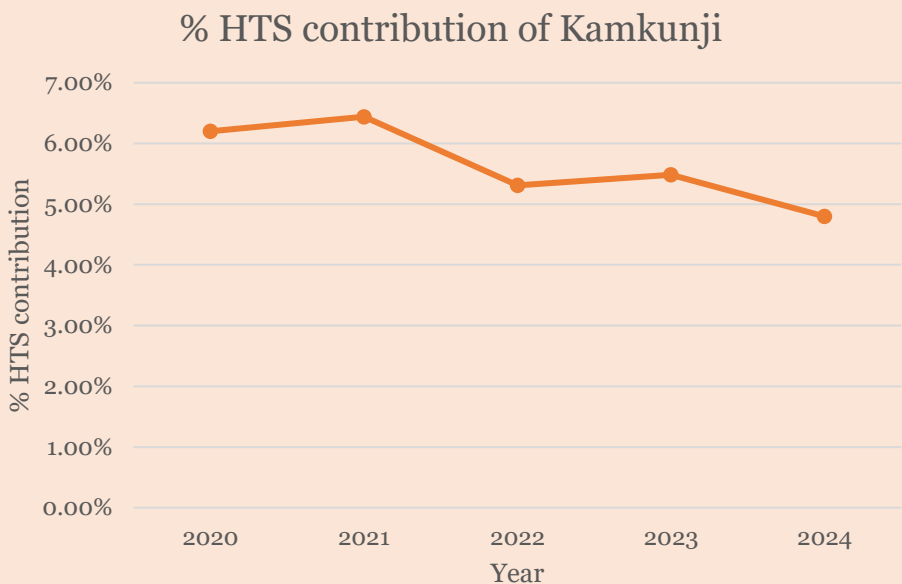
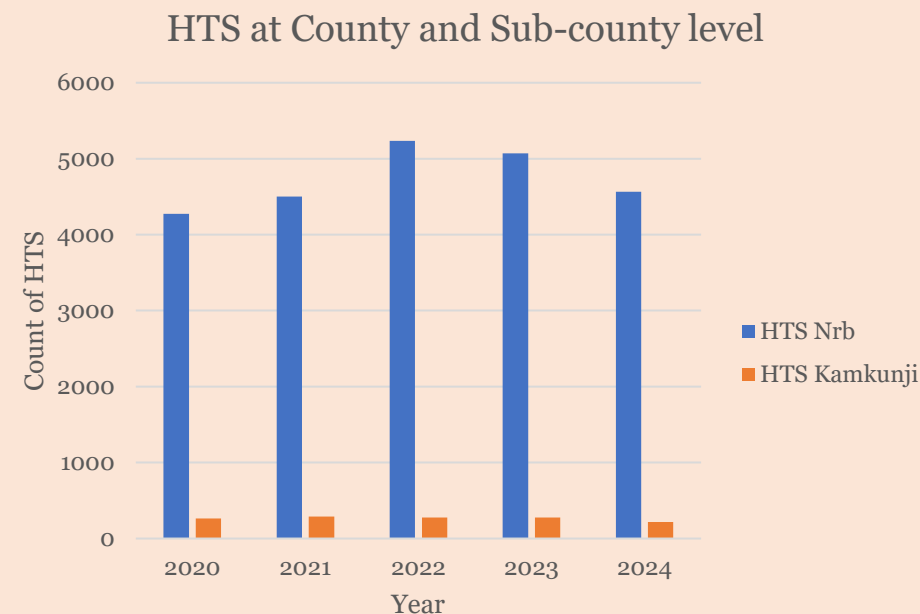
According to the 2019 KNBS census, Nairobi accounted for 9.2% of Kenya's total population, with approximately 4.397 million residents. Within the county, Kamukunji Constituency represented 6.1% of Nairobi's population and is home to Majengo, the city's oldest slum. Majengo, like many informal settlements, is characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and limited access to basic services. Under such conditions, residents often adopt high-risk coping strategies, including commercial sex work, which heighten their exposure to HIV infection.



Problem

Despite a steady decline in new HIV infections in recent years, Nairobi County continues to record the highest number of new cases nationally. Kamukunji Constituency, given its demographic weight and socio-economic vulnerabilities, remains particularly at risk. These dynamics sustain a disproportionately high vulnerability to HIV transmission, posing a significant public health challenge that calls for targeted interventions.

TREND OF HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS)



Between 2020 and 2024, Nairobi County recorded an annual average of 4,730 HIV tests, while Kamukunji Constituency contributed about 266 tests on average. This represents 5.62% of the county’s total HIV Testing Services (HTS), which is slightly lower than its population share of 6.1% (2019 KNBS census). Although population size does not always translate directly into proportional HTS contribution, the gap may suggest challenges in awareness, accessibility, or uptake of HIV testing services within Kamukunji. Lower testing uptake reduces opportunities for early diagnosis and timely initiation of treatment, which increases the risk of undetected transmission in the community. Furthermore, Kamukunji’s percentage contribution to HTS has been slightly lower since 2022 as compared to the previous 2 years, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to raise awareness, reduce barriers to testing, and encourage regular HTS uptake.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❖ The slight difference between Kamkunji's population contribution and its HTS uptake suggests possible gaps in HIV testing coverage among residents.
- ❖ HTS contribution has shown a decline since 2022 as compared to the preceding 2 years, pointing to reduced community engagement or emerging programmatic challenges.
- ❖ Despite having about 55 facilities offering HTS services, uptake remains low—likely influenced by stigma, limited awareness, and health-seeking behavior.

IMPLICATIONS

- ❖ Under-testing may sustain hidden HIV transmission and undermine Nairobi's progress in reducing new infections.
- ❖ Interventions should address stigma, awareness, and community outreach in addition to maintaining facility-based HTS.