



**KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**2019 KENYA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**

**ANALYTICAL REPORT ON HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY DYNAMICS**

**HIGHLIGHTS ON KIAMBU COUNTY**

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# 1 Introduction

This report presents insights on the general trends in household growth rates, the household's distribution, size and composition, and households by characteristics of the household heads in Kiambu County as analyzed in the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

## 1.1 Objectives

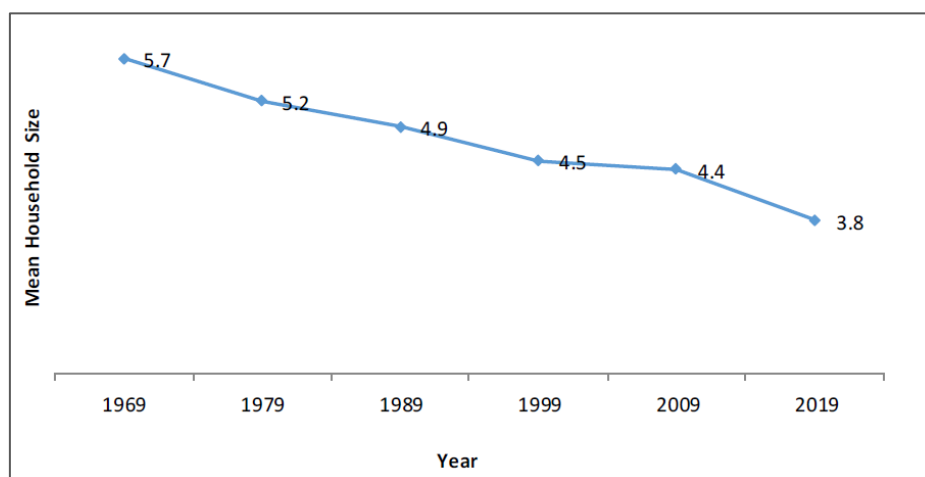
- i. To determine the household size, structure and composition in Kiambu County.
- ii. To describe Kiambu County households by characteristics of the household head.
- iii. To examine the general trend in household growth rates for the period 1969 to 2019.

## 1.2 General Trends in Household Growth Rates

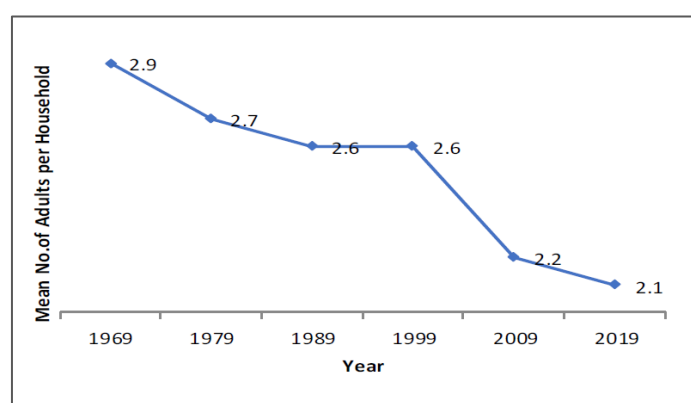
Nationally, the average annual household growth rate declined slightly to 3.1 for the period 2009-2019 from 3.2 for the period 1999-2009. The census showed urban areas had a slightly higher household growth rate compared to rural areas for the inter-censal period 2009-2019.

**Figure 1** below shows the mean household size declined from 5.7 to 3.8 in the last six censuses while **Figure 2** shows that there has been a decline in the mean number of adults per household from 2.9 to 2.1 from 1969 to 2019. The decline in fertility and mean number of adults per household overtime are the key factors contributing to a decline in mean household size.

*Figure 1: Trends in Mean Household Size, 1969-2019*



*Figure 2: Trends in Mean Number of Adults per Household, 1969-2019*



## 2 Household Size, Structure and Composition in Kiambu County

### 2.1 Household Distribution

The county recorded the second highest increase in the number of households after Nairobi County, with its household growth rate at 5.2 percent p.a. ranking it the third highest after Kajiado and Isiolo at 5.9 and 5.3 percent per annum respectively.

#### 2.1.1 Household Density

Nationally, there was a higher household density in urban compared to rural areas mainly due to migration factors attracting many people to the urban areas majorly seeking employment and training opportunities.

Nairobi and Mombasa counties had the highest household densities, with Kiambu following with a household density of **311** households per Sq. Km as shown in *Table 1* below.

*Table 1: Kiambu's Household Density, 2019*

Number of Households	Land Area Sq. Km	Household density
789,334	2,539	311

#### 2.1.2 Household Size

Nairobi, Kiambu, Mombasa and Nyeri counties had the highest proportion of households with one-person at 30.7, 29.0, 28.8 and 28.3 percent respectively. Nationally, proportion of one-person households increased from 16 percent to about 20 percent with both rural and urban areas of residence having an increase.

However, there was a decrease in the proportion of large households (nine persons or more) at the national level and in both areas of residence.

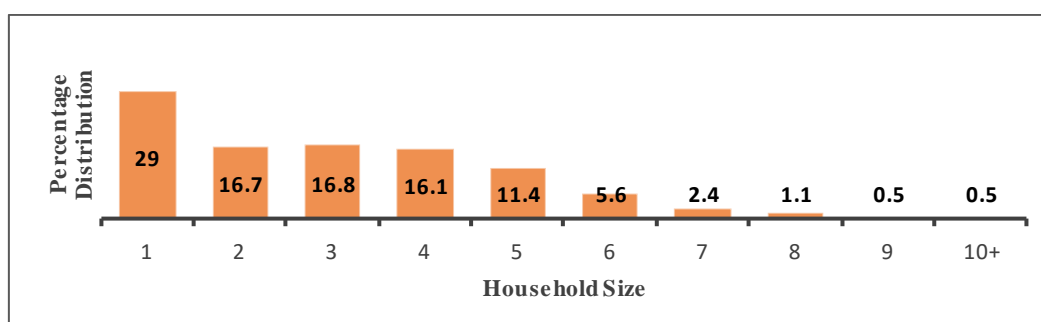
Nationally, child headed households had an average size of about three persons; while households headed by elderly had an average size of about four persons. From **Figure 4**, it shows Kiambu County Households with heads in the 45-49 age group had the highest mean household size at 3.7 followed closely with the 40-45 age-group with a household mean size of 3.6 while Households with heads in the 18-24 age group had lowest mean household size at 1.8 lower than child headed households with an average size of 2.2.

Small household size (2-4 members) is the largest in proportion accounting for 49.5% of total households in the county as shown in Table 2.

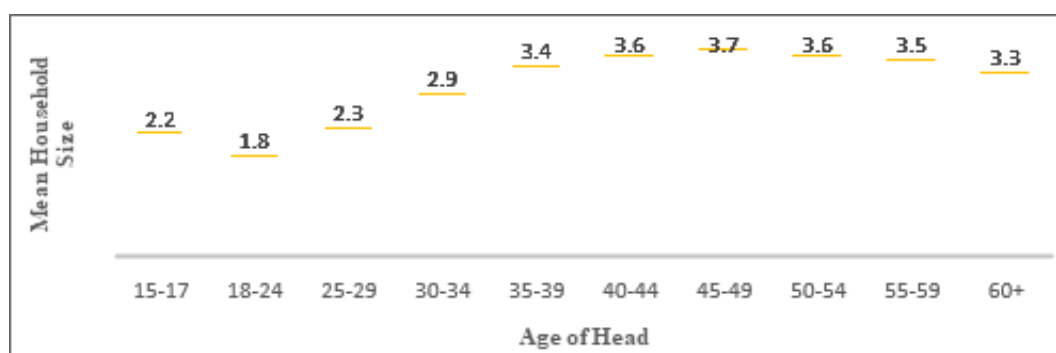
*Table 2: Distribution of Household Size Categories*

Household Size Categories			
One Person HH	Small HH (2-4 members)	Medium Size HH (5-8 members)	Large HH (9+ members)
29.0	49.5	20.5	1.0

*Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Household size in Kiambu, 2019*



*Figure 4: Mean Household Size by Age group of the Household Head in Kiambu, 2019*



## 2.2 Household Structure and Composition

### 2.2.1 Usual Household members

At national level, majority of male and female usual members of the household fall under the age group of 10- 14 years, at about 14 percent and 13 percent respectively. In the rural areas, the same age group comprised majority of male usual members; however, in urban areas boys aged 0-4 years comprise of the biggest proportion of male usual members. For female usual members, the proportion falls within the 10-14 years age group in rural areas, whereas, in urban areas it is within the 0-4 years age group.

In Kiambu county, among the usual male household members, the 0-4 age group bracket are the highest proportion at 11.9% with the 55-59 age group having the least proportion at 2.7%. For female usual household members, the 20-24 age group bracket are the highest proportion at 11.7% with the 55-59 age group having the least proportion at 2.5% as presented in **Table 3**.

*Table 3: Distribution of Male and Female Usual Household Members by Age Group in Kiambu, 2019*

	Age Group													Total usual HH members
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	
<b>Male</b>	11.9	10.3	9.6	8.6	10.2	10.3	9.4	7.6	6.2	4.9	3.6	2.7	4.8	1,173,961
<b>Female</b>	11.3	9.9	9.3	8.9	11.7	10.6	9.6	7.4	5.7	4.4	3.3	2.5	5.6	1,221,431

### 2.2.2 Mean Number of Adults per Household

The mean number of adults per household at national level is 2.1, with a slight difference in the mean number of adults per household between rural and urban areas of residence at 2.2 and 1.9 respectively.

Kiambu has a total of 1,525,444 total persons aged 18+ of which 739,532 are male, 785,815 are female and 97 Intersex with a mean of 1.9 number of adults per household.

### 2.2.3 Family Characteristics

At national level, about 26 percent of household members are heads, with children dominating the households. In regards to area of residence, proportion of household heads is higher in urban (32.9) than in rural (23.1) areas. Similarly, children contribute the greatest percentage in both areas of residence.

In Kiambu, 38.7 percent of household members by relation to head are children (son/ daughter), with 34.1 percent of the household members being the heads. Grandparents comprise of 0.2 percent of household members by relation to head which sums up as the lowest composition of household members.

The most common household in Kenya is nuclear. Invariably, in Kiambu, female headed households with children have a higher proportion in comparison to male headed households with children. Overall, single member household is the most common household in the county at 29.0 percent, followed closely with nuclear households at 27.4 percent. Male headed and grandchildren household is the least common with 0.1 percent proportion.

#### 2.2.4 Households by Number of Children Under 5 Years, Orphans and Elderly

Nationally, there are about 64 percent of households in the country that had no children under 5 years, while about 2 percent of the households have 3 or more children. In Kiambu, about 71.4 percent of households that had no children under 5 years while about 23.8 percent had 1 child under 5 years.

About 27 percent of households do not have any orphan while 9 percent have three or more orphans. Urban areas had more households that do not have orphans compared to rural areas. In Kiambu, 42 percent of households had 1 orphan.

Nationally, about 82 percent of households have no elderly person living in them and about 14 percent have only one elderly person living with them. More people are elderly in rural areas than in urban areas. In Kiambu, about 87.5 percent of households had no elderly person living in them and about 9.6 percent had only one elderly person living with them.

#### 2.2.5 Households Experience of Recent Demographic Events (Births, Deaths and Emigration)

Nationally there were about 89 percent of households who did not experience any live birth one year prior to the 2019 KPHC. Very few households had also experienced deaths; about 99 percent of the households reporting to have experienced no deaths. Households that reported to have emigrants were also low; about 2 percent of the households have at least one emigrant one year prior to the Census. The trend is also seen in the rural and urban areas with marginal differences between them.

In Kiambu, 91.1 percent proportion of households had not experienced any live births one year prior to the 2019 KPHS. Those with one new live birth accounted for 8.4 percent. 99.1 percent of households reported to have experienced no death with. 4.6 percent of households had one or more emigrant members.



### **3 Household by Characteristics of the Household Head**

#### **3.1 Demographic characteristics**

##### **3.1.1 Distribution of Household Heads by Age and Sex**

Men head about 62 percent of the total households, while females head about 38 percent of the total households. Children under 18 headed 0.5 percent of the total households. Urban areas had more male-headed households compared to rural areas at 63.3 percent and 60.8 percent, respectively. In Kiambu, men head about 66.8 percent of the total households, while females head about 33.2 percent of the total households. Children under 18 headed 0.3 percent of the total households.

##### **3.1.2 Headship by Marital Status**

Nationally, married persons head most of the households, about 71 percent and never married persons are more likely to stay alone at 58.2 percent. Majority of the large households are headed by married household heads. The proportion of married male household heads is larger (about 81 percent) than the proportion of married female heads (about 54 percent). Males who are divorced or separated tend to live alone compared to females, irrespective of place of residence. The proportion of never married male heads who live alone is greater (at 73.3 percent) compared to the proportion of never married female heads living alone (at 26.8 percent) in rural areas, 72.8 percent for males and 46.9 percent for females.

#### **3.2 Socio-economic Characteristics**

##### **3.2.1 Education Attainment**

Majority of households in the country, have attained at least secondary level of education (41.0 percent). Household heads who have attained secondary and higher level of education tend to head single person households while, those who have never attended school tend to head large households. In urban areas, household heads who have attained at least secondary level of education head majority of the households (62 percent), while in the rural areas the highest proportion of households heads have attained primary level education, 43.0 percent.

##### **3.2.2 Economic activity**

Household heads who are working were the highest proportion of the households at about 80 percent. There were more inactive female household heads (16.6 percent), compared to male (6.3 percent). The share of working heads is more in rural areas (84.1 percent) than in urban areas (72.7 percent). Unemployed males were more likely to head single person household than unemployed females in both areas of residence.

## References

Shelmith Kariuki (2020). rKenyaCensus: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results. R package version 0.0.2.

Republic of Kenya (2020): 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Analytical Report Volume XI.