**T**he collective effort of

various stakeholders in

the national response

to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in

Kenya is recording steady

gains, with the latest Kenya

AIDS Indicator Survey (KAIS

2012) demonstrating the

impact of HIV prevention,

care and treatment services.

Preliminary results of the

KAIS 2012 show that there

has been a drop in national

prevalence among adults

aged 15 to 64 years from

7.2% in the last KAIS survey

conducted in 2007 to 5.6% in

2012.

While most regions recorded

a decline in HIV prevalence,

particularly in Coast, Rift

Valley and Nairobi regions,

the prevalence in Nyanza

and Central remained the

same since the last survey

in 2007.

A combination of factors

may have contributed to the

change in prevalence. These

include declines in the rate of

new HIV infections in certain

population groups, continued

mortality among HIV-infected

persons not accessing

treatment, and improved

survey methods. Further

investigation is ongoing and

will be presented in the KAIS

2012 final report.

Results also show that the

age group with the highest

prevalence has changed. The

KAIS 2007 showed that those

aged 25 to 34 years had the

highest prevalence (10.5%),

while the latest survey

showed that prevalence was

highest among those aged

45 to 54 years (9.1%).

KAIS 2012 is the first national

survey in Kenya to determine

the HIV prevalence in children

aged 18 months to 14 years.

The survey found that about

0.9% of all children aged 18

months to 14 years (about

104,000 children) were HIV

positive.

Only six out of ten of these

children’s parents did not

know their child was infected,

meaning the child was not

placed on antiretroviral

medication to treat HIV

infection or receiving other

medical services to improve

health.

More work needed to

get people who are in

need of treatment on

antiretroviral therapy.

Nine out of ten people who

knew they had HIV were

receiving HIV care and

ART to treat their infection.

More work needs to be

done to extend coverage of

antiretroviral therapy (ART)

with only 63% of those eligible

for ART currently receiving

antiretroviral medication.

Among adults who were

aware of their HIV infection

and currently receiving ART,

78% had achieved viral

suppression. This means

that the amount of HIV virus

in their bodies has reached

a low enough level, allowing

them to live healthier and

longer and reduce the chance

of giving HIV to others.

Progress made in HIV

testing at ANC clinics

and PMTCT

About nine in every ten

pregnant women aged

between 15-54 years were

tested for HIV when they

attended antenatal care. Of

those testing positive, 90%

were given medication for themselves and/or for their infants to prevent the infant from

getting HIV.

All children who were diagnosed with HIV before the survey were receiving HIV care and 71%

of them were on ART.

Male circumcision gaining acceptance in Nyanza, where HIV prevalence is

highest

As in 2007 survey, Nyanza remains the region with the highest percentage of persons living

with HIV at 15.1%. The northern part of Eastern Kenya has the lowest at 2.1%.

The circumcision campaign is recording progress, with the percentage of circumcised men

increasing. Nyanza region had the largest increase, from 48% in 2007 to 66% in 2012.

In the survey, the rate of HIV infection among uncircumcised men was five times higher than

among those men who were circumcised (17% compared to 3%).

Higher rates of infection occur among educated adults and widows

Men and women who completed any secondary education had a higher rate of HIV infection than those

who reported no primary education. HIV prevalence was higher among women at all education levels

compared to men.

For women, the highest rate of HIV infection was among those who had completed at least some

secondary education (7.1%) while the lowest rate of infection was among those women with no primary

education (4%).

Men who had completed primary school had twice the rate of HIV infection compared to those who had

not attended school (4.8% compared to 2.4%)

HIV infection rates also varied by marital status. Men and women who had ever been widowed had a

higher HIV prevalence (19.2% men, 20.3% women) than those who were married or currently living with

a partner, divorced or separated, or had never been married or lived with a partner.

The lowest HIV prevalence was among men and women who had never been married (1.3% men, 2.7%

women).

More Kenyans are

being tested for HIV

The percentage of adults who

reported having been tested

for HIV at least once in their

lifetime has more than doubled

since 2007.

In the 2007 KAIS, only 34% of

adults reported having been

tested for HIV. Five years later,

72% of adults reported having

been tested for HIV, with more

women having been tested

than men (80% and 63%

respectively).

Of those who have taken the

test, 35% have been tested

with a sexual partner.

In 2012, almost half (47%) of

those who tested HIV positive

were aware they were HIVinfected.

This was an increase

from 2007 when only 16%

of those who tested positive

knew they

were HIV-infected.

One out of 20 couples who

were tested together were

discordant (one partner was

HIV positive while the other

partner was HIV negative).

Survey provides essential data on the sexual

behaviour and risk among youth and adults

A new feature of the 2012 KAIS was the inclusion of a behavioural

questionnaire for youth aged 10 to 14 years. Children aged 12 to 14

years were asked about sexual behaviour and 7% of them said they

had engaged in sex at least one time.

Among youth aged 15-24 years old, 66% of females and 59% of

males have had sex at least once, with one out of every five reporting

that their first sexual encounter occurred before they were aged 15

years. Males aged 15-24 years

were seven times more likely to have had more than one sex partner

in the last year than women in their same age group.

Among adults aged 25 to 64 years, only 5% of women and 14% of

men reported consistently using condoms when having sex with a

person whose HHIV status was not known to them or different from

their own HIV status.

Certain populations are more at risk for HIV infection, although

they represent a small proportion of the Kenyan population. These

populations include people who inject drugs, men who have sex with

men, and people who give or receive money or favours in exchange

for sex.

Only 1 in 1,000 persons aged 15-64 years reported that they had ever

injected drugs, while only one in every hundred Kenyan men aged

15-64 years reported having had sex with another man.

In the same age group, 4% of women and 3% of men said they had

received money, goods, or favours in exchange for sex. Additionally,

17 in 100 men aged 15-64 years had ever given money, gifts, or

favours in exchange for sex.

**For more information, please contact: Head, National AIDS & STI Control Programme, P.O Box 19361- 00202,**