

POLICY BRIEF ON YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES

Why counties should prioritize the provision of youth friendly sexual reproductive health services



Background:

- 66% of Kenya's population comprises of young people below the age of 25yrs (Census 2009)
- Young people take higher risks in general including unprotected sex. According to KAIS (2012), only 23% of young people aged between 12-14 years who had ever had sex used a condom.
- 1 in every 5 young people aged 15-24years has had sex before 15 years (KAIS,2012)
- Approximately 10% (150,000) of all people living with HIV are adolescents 10-19 years (KAIS, 2012)
- Less than 20% of young people aged between 10-14 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV (KAIS, 2012)
- Pregnancy is the second most common reason for adolescent girls dropping out of secondary school in Kenya , with approximately 13,000 girls dropping out each year (Guttmacher,2012)
- Many young people in need of sexual reproductive health (SRH) services are embarrassed to seek services because of fear of being seen or their information being shared with family members.
- As of 2010, Only 7% of health facilities were offering youth friendly services in the country despite the existence of the National guidelines for provision of youth friendly services(KSPA 2010)

Barriers to young people accessing health services in public health facilities:

- Lack of Privacy and Confidentiality in most public health facilities
- Negative and judgmental attitude of some health providers
- Lack of essential health services and commodities in some health facilities
- Cost of SRH services
- Distance to health facilities
- Lack of complete and correct information about SRH and where, when and how to access SRH services

County Governments should therefore:

1. Prioritize the implementation of Youth friendly services by:

- Allocating resources in their health budgets for Setting up of youth friendly corners within the public health facilities
- Allocating resources for training health service providers on Youth Friendly Service provision
- Ensuring consistent supplies of essential health commodities in all public health facilities.
- Creating demand for youth friendly services at the county level
- Encouraging partnerships and collaboration with other partners working on provision of youth friendly services
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Youth friendly services in the county

2. Support the provision of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education for young people in line with the existing policies.

What needs to be done?

Public health facilities should be youth friendly i.e. They should provide services which meet the individual health needs of young people in a manner and environment which attracts their interest and sustain their motivation



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