

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households Report

Wave 1

15th May 2020

KNBS
KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Keeping you informed

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1
1. Introduction 2
2. Survey Objectives, Design and Implementation 2
3. Survey Response Rate 3
4. Characteristics of Respondents 3
5. Economic Activity 4
Labour Force Participation 4
Working Population by Employment Status 5
Percentage Distribution of Working Population by Employment Status 5
Hours Worked by Industry 5
Reasons for Absence from Work 6
Expected Time to Return to Work 6
6. Transport 7
Changes in amount paid for transport 7
Means of transport 7
7. Rent 8
Household Ability to Pay Rent 8
Main Reason for Inability to Pay Rent 8
Waiver/Relief from Landlords 8
8. Health 9
Pre-existing medical conditions 9
Seeking of healthcare services 10
9. Knowledge of Coronavirus 11
Awareness of Coronavirus 11
Source of information on Coronavirus 11
Knowledge of protective measures against Coronavirus 12
Knowledge of symptoms of Coronavirus 12
10. Coping Mechanism on Learning 13
Proportion of households with members who usually attend any learning institution 13
Coping mechanisms used to continue learning at home 13
11. Way Forward 14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) which was declared a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) has had negative economic impact in many coutries across the world. The inevitable measures that have been put in place to curb the spread of the highly contagious virus and the looming uncertainty about the disease have had knock-on effects on businesses and workers' incomes. In order to enhance response to the pandemic, the Government of Kenya established the National Coordination Committee on the Response to the Corona Virus Pandemic (NCCRCP). Among the committee's tasks was to undertake a household Economic Impact Assessment which will provide data to facilitate formulation of appropriate strategies to respond to economic effects of the disease. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is supporting the Committee to undertake the surveys whose overall objective will be to assess the economic impact of the COVID-19 in Kenya.

Labour force participation rate of the population age 18 years and above in the seven days preceding the survey was 56.8 per cent. About two in three (65.3%) males were in the labour force while slightly more than half (51.2%) of the females were found to be outside the labour force in the reference period. Almost half of the respondents who were absent from work said that it was due to lockout or stay away instructions as guided by the Government and/or employers. Nine out of ten persons who were absent from work due to stay away or lockdown were not sure when they would be returning to work.

Overall, there has been a 51.7 per cent increase in the cost of transport. Migori County recorded the highest increase while Turkana County recorded the least at 77.2 and 24.4 per cent respectively.

Nationally, 30.5 Per Cent of households were unable to pay rent on the agreed date with the landlord . The results show that at least 21.5 per cent of the households in Kenya who usually pay rent on the dates agreed with landlords were unable to pay rent for the month of April 2020. Reduced income/earnings (52.9%) was the main reason for inability by households to pay rent. Only a small proportion of households (8.7%) received waiver/relief from their landlords for the same month.

Findings from the survey show that 17 per cent of the households reported having at least one member with a pre-existing medical condition. One out of every eight households reported that a member sought health services during the period under review with majority (30.5%) seeking the services from government hospital.

Almost all (99.4%) adults age 18 years and above have heard about Coronavirus. Majority of those who had heard about corona virus acquired the information through Radio and Television at 82.0 and 63.3 per cent, respectively. According to the survey, 97.2 per cent of households cited soap and water for hand washing as the main method that one can use for protection against Coronavirus.

Nationally, more than half (57.9) of the households have members who usually attend learning institutions. Home schooling was reported as the main coping mechanism used by majority (42.8%) of the households to continue with learning. Notably, 24.6 per cent of households with members who usually attend any learning institution were not using any method to continue with learning.

Survey on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households

1. Introduction

The novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID) which was declared a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) this year has ravaged many countries in the world. A number of measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus have been introduced across the world. In Kenya, the measures introduced by the Government include banning of all passenger flights, temporary closure of restaurants and bars, dusk to dawn curfew, cessation of movement in and out of some high-risk areas among others. Globally, the confirmed cases of corona virus infections stood at 4,170,424 with 287,399 deaths (WHO) as at 13th May 2020. In Kenya, the confirmed cases were 737 with 40 deaths and 281 recoveries (Ministry of Health) as of that date.

The uncertainty caused by the disease in various sectors of the economy has led to introduction of measures, by business owners, geared towards ensuring their businesses remain afloat. The enterprises have had to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers, while others have resorted to salary cuts for their employees, temporary layoffs and some have resorted to total closure. This continues to have knock-on effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casual workers.

In order to respond to the crisis and to cushion Kenyans from the adverse effects of the COVID-19, the Government of Kenya established a National Coordination Committee on the Response to the Corona Virus Pandemic (NCCRCP). Among the working groups of the NCCRCP is the National Economic and Business Response Working Group whose tasks include conducting a Household Economic Impact Assessment aimed at providing data that would facilitate formulation of appropriate strategies to respond to socio-economic effects of the disease. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics was tasked to undertake surveys to provide the required information. During the implementation of this survey, the Bureau received support from the Government through The National Treasury and Planning and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-women).

2. Survey Objectives, Design and Implementation

The overall objective of the survey is to assess the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 in Kenya. The survey is aimed at measuring the impact of COVID-19 on health, labor market, transport cost and housing sectors. The survey is also aimed at assessing the awareness of COVID-19 and the appropriate protective measures.

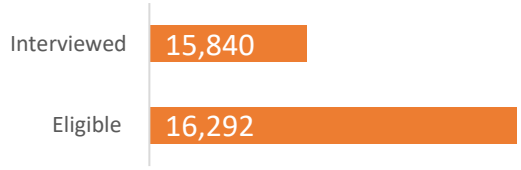
The COVID-19 Household Socio-Economic Impact Survey is a longitudinal survey set to be implemented in 6 waves on a biweekly basis. This means that repeated observations are derived by following a sample of persons and collecting data from a sequence of interviews. The survey targets adults aged 18 years and above and was designed to provide reliable estimates at county level. The sampled respondents provide information about themselves and the households where they currently reside. The survey is being implemented using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) approach in which the interviews are

conducted through telephone and the responses are captured in tablets and transmitted to a central server for data processing. Data collection for the first wave was undertaken between 2nd and 9th May 2020.

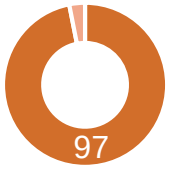
3. Survey Response Rate

The response rate for the survey was 97 per cent. This is the number of successful interviews divided by the eligible respondents. Eligible respondents include; all successfully interviewed individuals, those who refused to be interviewed, those whose phones rung but were not picked, and those with partial interviews.

Number of Individuals



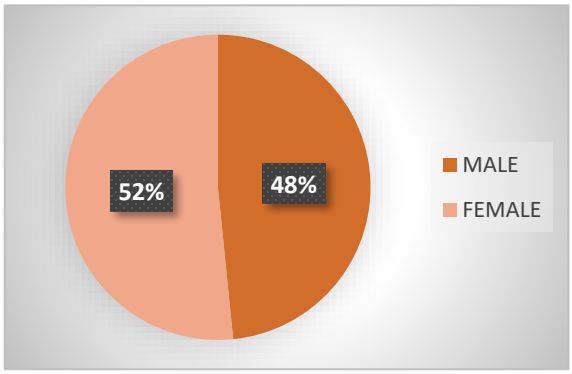
Response Rate



4. Characteristics of Respondents

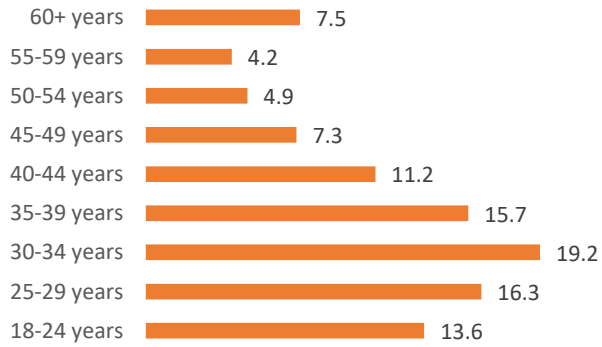
Distribution of Respondents by Sex

The distribution of the respondents was as follows: Females -52% while Males - 48%.



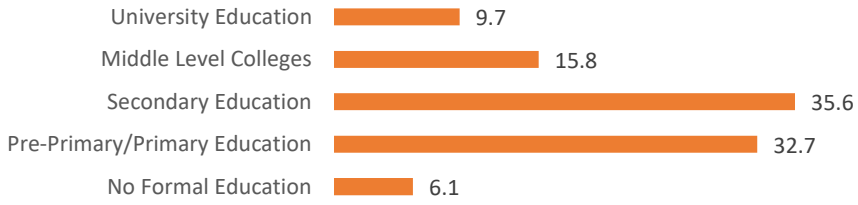
Respondent's Age

Majority of respondents (64.8%) were aged between 18 and 39 years.



Education Attainment

About two thirds of the respondents reported having attained at least secondary level of education while about 6 per cent reported as having no formal education.



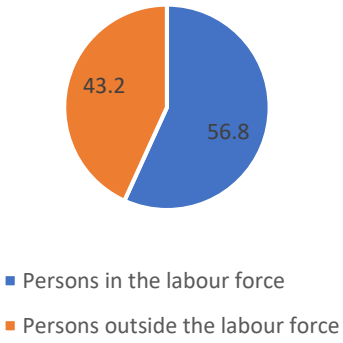
5. Economic Activity

Respondents were asked to report the economic activity they were engaged in seven days preceding the survey, the industry they worked and the number of hours they worked. Those who were absent from work were asked to provide the reasons for absence and when they expected to return to work. This section presents the results of the respondents' status of economic activities.

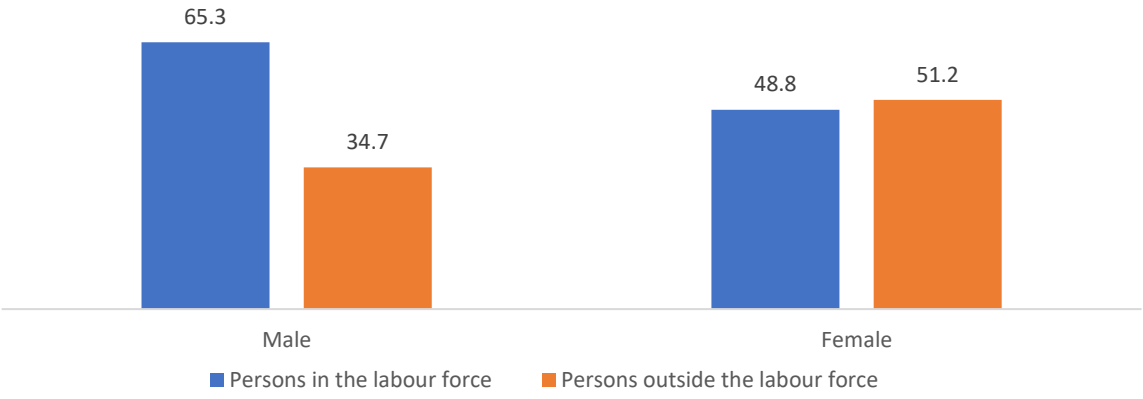
Labour Force Participation

Participation rate of the population aged 18 years and above in the seven days preceding the survey was 56.8 per cent. Males accounted for 65.3 per cent of those in the labour force. On the other hand, females accounted for slightly more than half (51.2%) of those who were outside the labour force during the reference period.

Percentage distribution of persons by labour force participation status



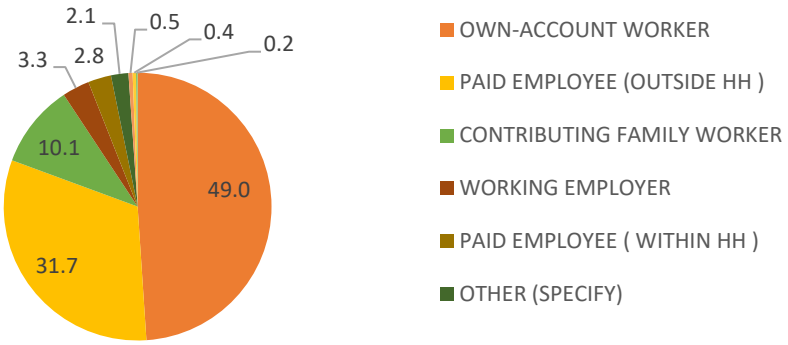
Percentage distribution of persons by sex and labour force participation status



Working Population by Employment Status

Almost half (49.0%) of the working population were own account workers, i.e. persons who were engaged in their own businesses while 31.7 per cent were paid employees outside the household.

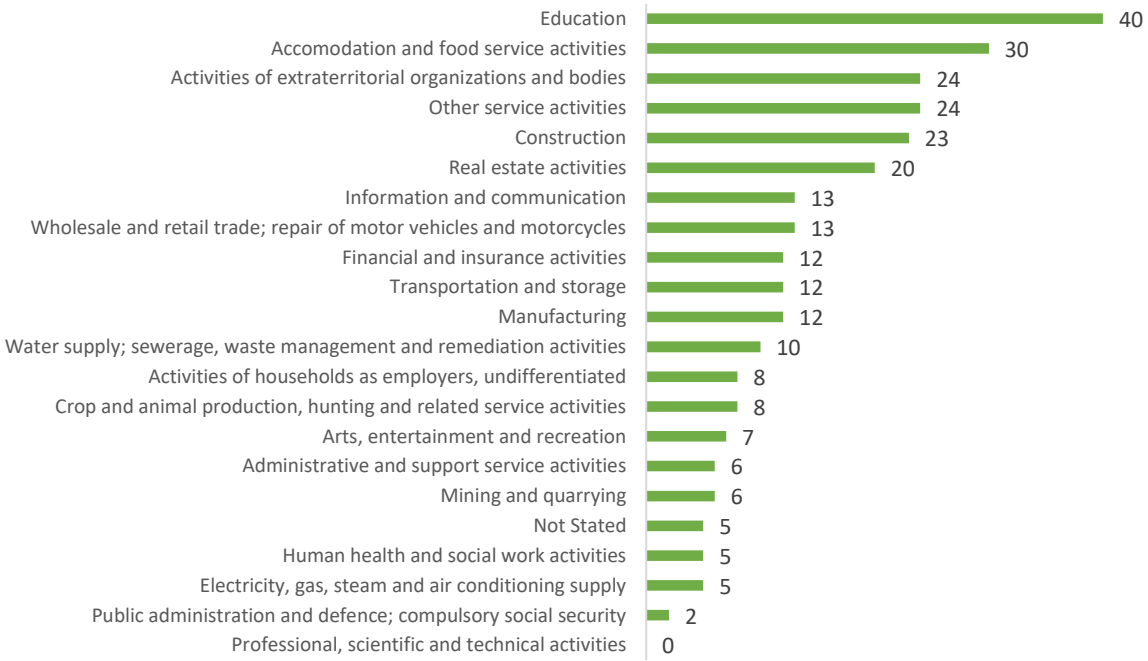
Percentage Distribution of Working Population by Employment Status



Hours Worked by Industry

On average, workers across all industries reported having worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. Education sector recorded the highest variance of 40 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. This was followed by Accommodation & Food Services which had a variance of 30 hours.

Difference between Usual and Actual Hours Worked by Industry



Reasons for Absence from Work

Almost half of the respondents who were absent from work reported that it was due to lockout or stay away instructions as guided by the Government and/or employers they worked for. Other reasons include temporary slack, and temporary layoff or work reduction.

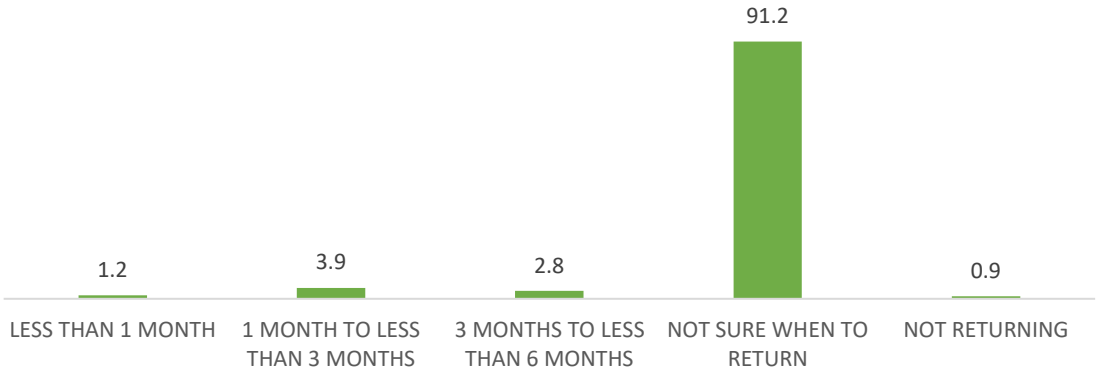
Percentage Distribution of Persons absent from Work by the Main Reason for Absence



Expected Time to Return to Work

Persons who reported that they were absent from work due to stay away or lockdown were asked when they expected to return to work. Nine out of ten were not sure of when they would be returning to work.

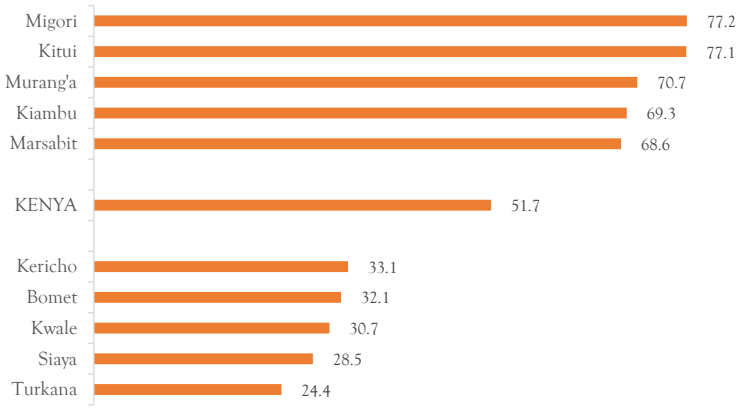
Percentage Distribution of Persons absent from Work by Expected Time to Return to Work



6. Transport

This section covers the means of transport and change in amount paid. Respondents were asked if they had used any means of transport in the last 7 days and how much they paid.

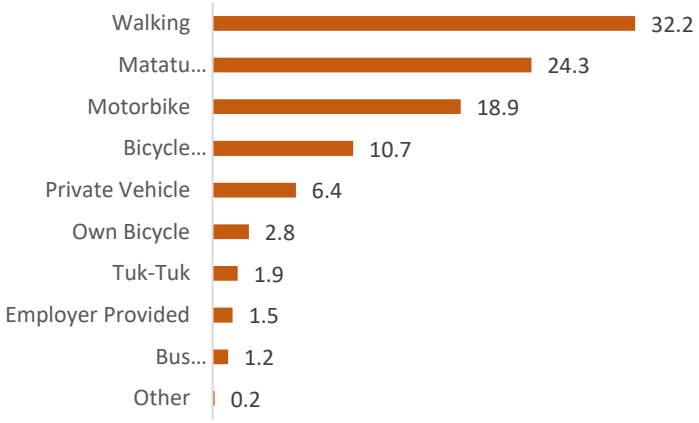
Changes in amount paid for transport



Overall, there was a 51.7 per cent increase in the cost of transport on most frequent routes in Kenya.

Migori County recorded the highest increase in the amount of cost paid with 77.2 per cent while Turkana County recorded the least with 24.4 per cent.

Means of transport



About 32.2 per cent of the persons who used any means of transport in the last 7 days reported that they had walked. Public Service Vehicles (Matatu and bus) were used by 25.5 per cent of the population while 18.9 per cent used motorbikes.

7. Rent

This section presents household ability to pay rent, main reasons for inability to pay rent and households that received waiver. Reference is made to the month of April 2020.

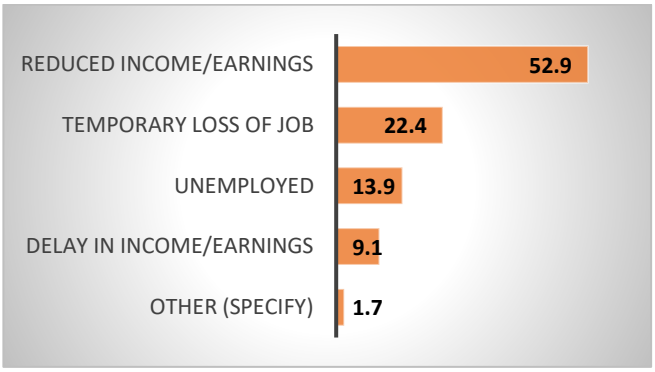
Household Ability to Pay Rent

Overall, 30.5 per cent of households were unable to pay rent on the agreed date with the landlord. About 21.5 per cent who usually pay rent on agreed date with landlord were unable to pay rent for month of April 2020 on time. Approximately 59.8 per cent of those who usually pay rent on agreed date were able to pay rent for the month of April on time.

Usually Pays Rent on time	Household Rent Paid for the Month of April 2020				
	Paid, On-Time	Paid, Not Fully	To Pay,On-Time	UnableTo Pay	Not Stated
YES, Always	59.8	12.0	6.6	21.5	0.1
YES, Sometimes	30.0	26.6	9.2	34.0	0.1
NO	13.8	16.4	6.1	63.6	0.0
Total	41.7	19.8	7.9	30.5	0.1

Main Reason for Inability to Pay Rent

The main reason for the households' inability to pay rent for the month of April 2020 was the reduced income/earnings (52.9%).



Waiver/Relief from Landlords

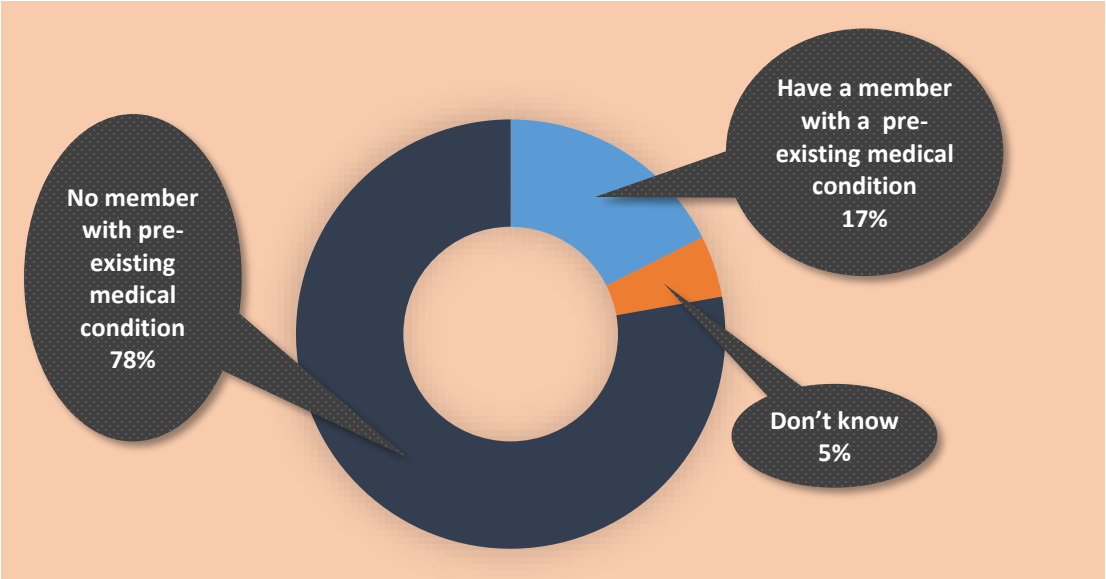
8.7% → **Proportion of households who have received any waiver/relief from landlords on rent for the month of April 2020.**

8. Health

Information on basic health care is crucial in the design of requisite policy interventions by the Government in responding to the virus and to cushion Kenyans from its adverse effects.

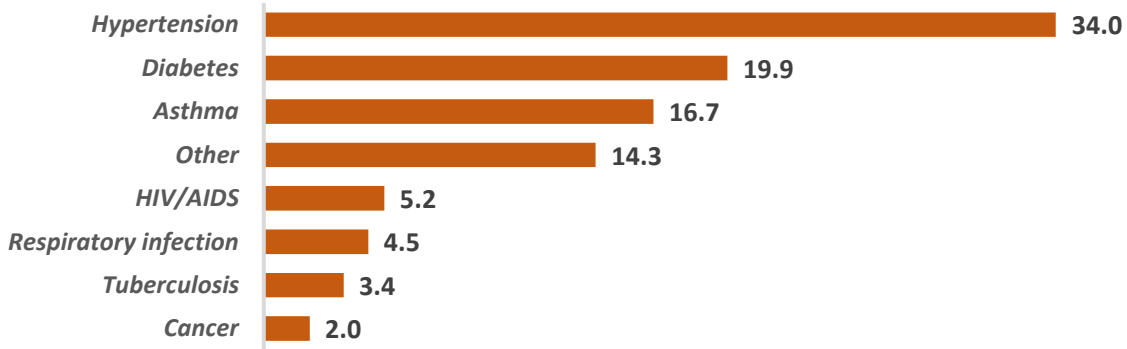
Pre-existing medical conditions

Persons with pre-existing medical conditions have been identified as more vulnerable to the coronavirus more than persons without any pre-existing medical condition. Findings from the survey show that almost a fifth of households reported having a member with a pre-existing medical condition.



Percentage Distribution of Households with Members Reported to Have Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

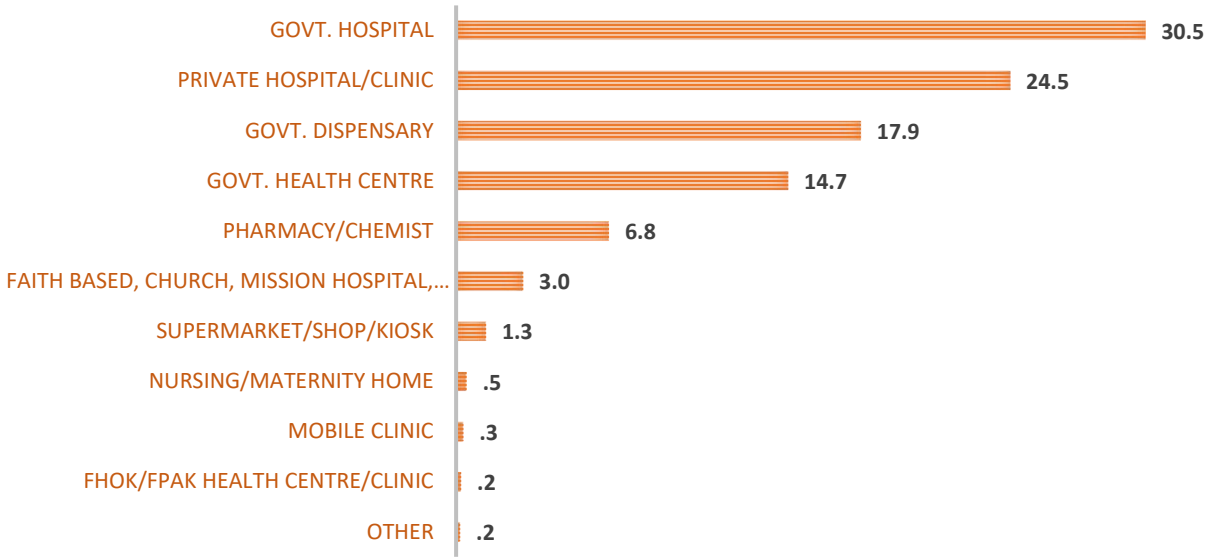
Majority of the households that reported having a member with any pre-existing medical condition cited hypertension and diabetes.



Seeking of healthcare services

12.4% per cent of households reported that a member of the household sought health services over the period under review. Among these households, majority cited government hospital as the health care service provider that was visited.

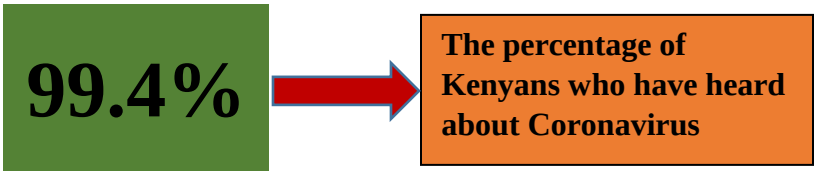
Percentage Distribution of Households by The Health Service Provider Visited



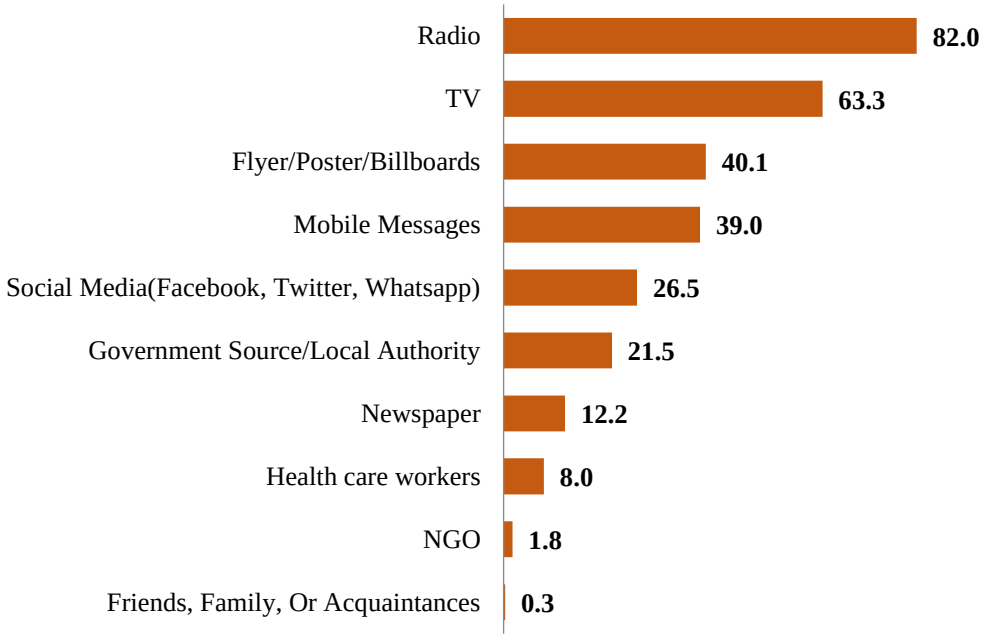
9. Knowledge of Coronavirus

This section presents information on the awareness of COVID-19 by Kenyans, how they acquired the information, methods they can use to protect themselves and knowledge of the symptoms that manifest when one is infected with coronavirus.

Awareness of Coronavirus

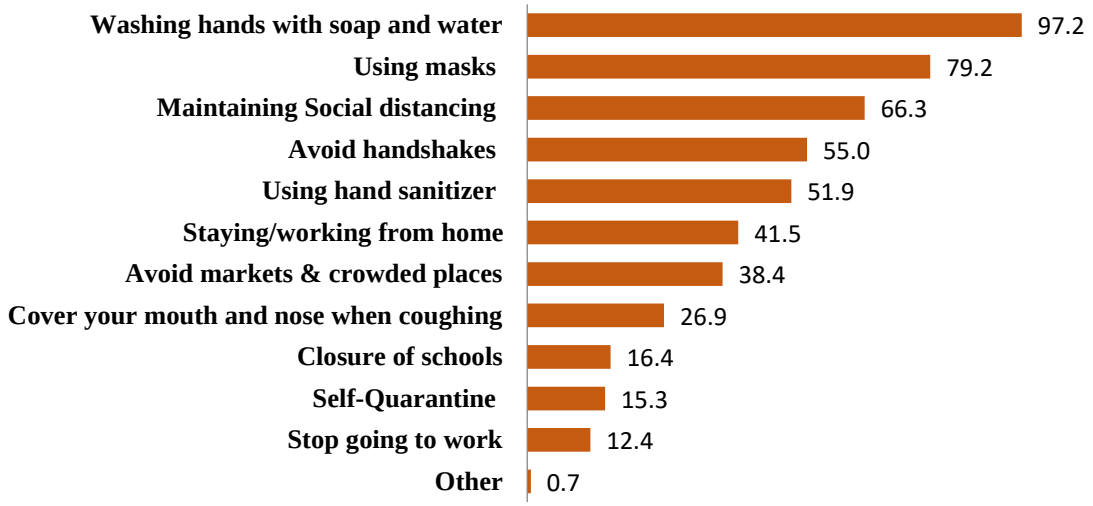


Source of information on Coronavirus



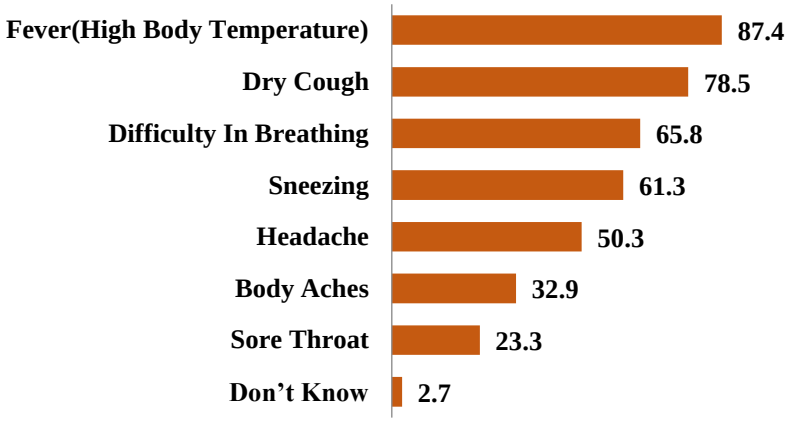
Nationally, majority of Kenyans reported the source of information on the Coronavirus as Radio (82.0 %) and Television (63.3%).

Knowledge of protective measures against Coronavirus



Nearly all (97.2%) adults aged 18 years and above are aware that washing hands with soap and water is a preventive measure against Corona virus.

Knowledge of symptoms of Coronavirus

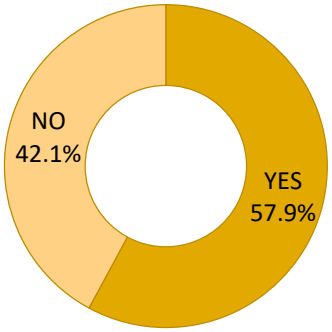


Fever and dry cough were reported by majority of individuals as the most known symptoms of Coronavirus at 87.4 per cent and 78.5 per cent, respectively.

10. Coping Mechanism on Learning

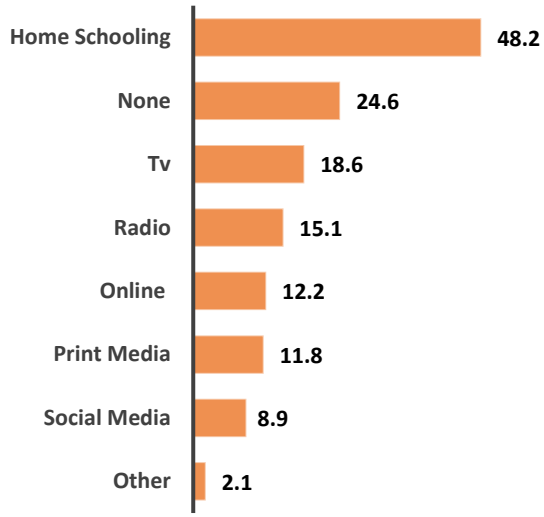
This section presents information on different mechanisms used by households to ensure members who usually attend learning institutions, continue with learning at home.

Proportion of households with members who usually attend any learning institution



Nationally, 57.9 per cent of the households have members who usually attend learning institutions.

Coping mechanisms used to continue learning at home



The highest proportion (48.2%) of households used home schooling as a coping mechanism to continue learning at home. Notably, 24.6 per cent of households with members who usually attend any learning institution were not using any method to continue learning at home.

11. Way Forward

The rapidly evolving situations of COVID-19 demand for continuous change in ways of monitoring the economic situation of the country. This calls for constant review of measurement tools in order to capture the immediate concerns and issues that require urgent government response. Consequently, the Bureau will review the indicators which will be captured in the next wave of the survey. This will ensure that any new situation arising from the disease is captured in order to enhance the quality of collected data. The second wave of data collection across the country is expected to begin on 21st May 2020 for 6 days.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
Real Towers, Hospital Road
P.O. Box 30266 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: (+254) 3317583/6
Fax: (+254) 20 3315977

Email: directorgeneral@knbs.or.ke

Website: www.knbs.or.ke

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBStats)

@KNBStats