

Section C: Fertility and Nuptiality

Introduction

Fertility refers to the actual reproductive performance of an individual, a couple, a group, or a population. Fertility is influenced by social values and norms in which culture and traditional beliefs play a significant role. Nuptiality refers to marriage as a population phenomenon, including the rate at which it occurs, the characteristics of those united in marriage, and the dissolutions through divorce, separation, widowhood, and annulment.

The 2019 Census data on fertility and nuptiality levels, trends, and differentials confirm that Kenya is on the path of fertility transition. This path of fertility decline has been dominated by women in urban areas and educated women whose age at first marriage has increased significantly from 1989. Fertility and nuptiality behaviour influence human well-being through direct and indirect impacts on the development process. The achievements of fertility and nuptiality targets are reflected in the findings of the 2019 Census data.

27.9

Births per 1,000 population from the 2019 Kenya Census Crude Birth Rate. Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is an indicator of changes in total population in terms of births that have occurred over a period of time.

Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

Children Ever Born: Refers to the life-time fertility experience of women aged 12 years and above. It is the total number of children a woman has given birth to in her lifetime.

Crude Birth Rate: This is the ratio of the number of live births in a population during a given year to the total population (usually expressed as the number of live births per 1,000 population).

Fertility: Is the actual number of live births a woman has had by the end of her reproductive life span (15-49 years).

Mean Age at First Birth: Refers to the average age at which women have their firstborn child.

Nuptiality: Refers to the frequency of marriages between persons of opposite sexes which involve rights and obligations fixed by law or custom.

Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM): Refers to the average number of years lived in the single state by those who ever marry before age 50.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR): The average number of children a woman would have assuming that current age-specific birth rates remain constant throughout her childbearing years which are considered to be ages 15 to 49. Total fertility rates in this report are for the 36-month period prior to the census.

C.1: Crude Birth Rate by County

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is an indicator of changes in total population in terms of births that have occurred over a period of time. From the 2019 Census, Kenya's CBR stood at 27.9 births per 1,000 population.

Map C.1 below shows the spatial distribution of CBR by county. CBR is generally higher among counties in ASAL areas. Counties that recorded the highest CBR are; Mandera, Turkana, Marsabit and Wajir, ranging from 38.6 to 49.4 births per 1,000 population. The lowest CBR was recorded in Makueni, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Tharaka-Nithi, Nyamira, Murang'a, Machakos, Embu, Kitui and Vihiga counties ranging from 20 to 23 births per 1,000 population.



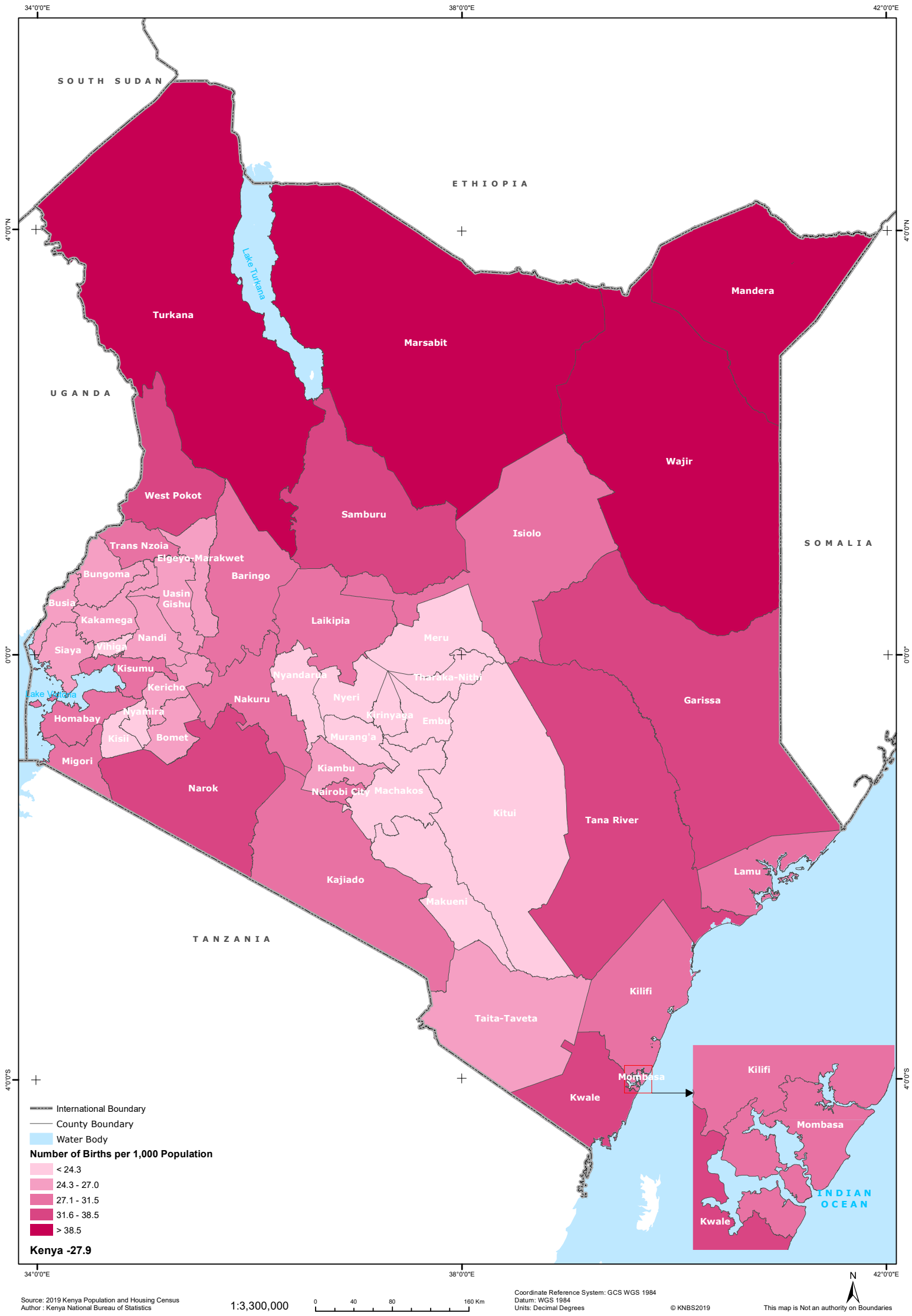




38.6 to 49.4

Range in Crude Births per 1,000 population among counties in ASAL areas such as Mandera, Turkana, Marsabit and Wajir

Map C.1: Crude Birth Rate by County



Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census
Author : Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

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Coordinate Reference System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
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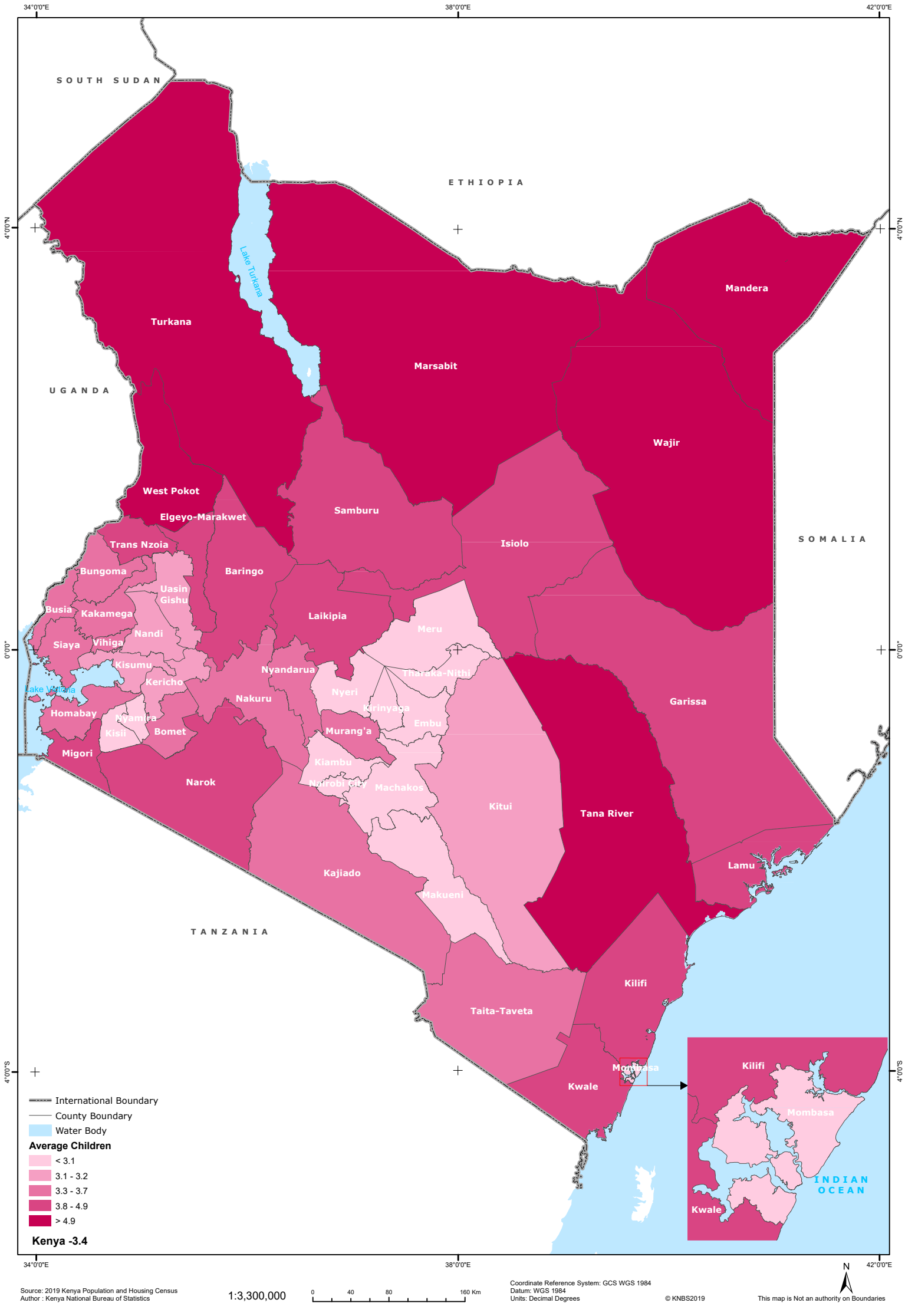
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C.2: Total Fertility Rate by County

Map C.2 presents the TFR as reported in the 2019 Census. Overall, the reported TFR for Kenya was 3.4 children per woman. Analysis by county shows that TFR is high in Tana River, West Pokot, Turkana, Wajir, Marsabit and Mandera at between 5.2 and 8.0 children per woman. Counties with the lowest TFR (3 or less children per woman) were Nairobi City, Nyamira, Machakos, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Makueni, Kisii, Mombasa, Nyeri, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru and Uasin Gishu.

Map C.2: Total Fertility Rate by County



Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census
Author : Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

Coordinate Reference System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
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C.3: Nuptiality

Percentage of Females Never Married

A never married female refers to any woman, age 12 and above years who reported to have never married, whether legally, customarily or religiously. The percentage never married was, therefore, computed by taking the total number of all females 12 years and above who reported to have never married divided by the total number of all women 12 years and above multiplied by 100.

The 2019 census found that 39.2 per cent of the females in Kenya had never married. Map C.3A shows that in 28 out of 47 counties, less than 39.2 per cent of the females had never married. Counties with the lowest percentage of females never married, below 35.7 per cent, were Tana River, Kirinyaga, Murang›a, Lamu, Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Samburu and Embu. Counties with the highest percentage of females never married, above 40.9 per cent, were Kiambu, Turkana, Baringo, Mandera, Garissa, Kericho, Bomet, Elgeyo/Marakwet, Nairobi City, Nandi and Uasin Gishu.

It is evident again that counties in the ASAL areas, high potential regions and the major urban centres dominate the list of counties with a very high percentage of never married females. These included Turkana, Nairobi City, Uasin Gishu, Mandera, Nandi, Baringo, Elgeyo/Marakwet, Kericho, Kiambu, Wajir, Kitui, Kisii and Mombasa with more than 40 per cent.

Percentage of Males Never Married

The definition and calculation of percentage of never married males 12 years and above is the same as that of females. Generally, the percentage of never married males is higher than that of females in all counties. Map C.3B presents the distribution of never married males by county.

Counties with the lowest percentage of never married males age 12 years and above are Kirinyaga, Nairobi City, Mombasa, Kiambu, Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Nyeri, Kajiado, Murang›a, Nyamira, Lamu, Embu, Kisii and Tana River, all with less than 46.8 per cent. Wajir, Kitui, Mandera, Samburu, Marsabit, Garissa and Turkana Counties had the highest percentage of never married men between 53 and 60 per cent. In summary, counties with a very high percentage of never married males had also very high Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage (SMAM).

Females in Monogamous Union

The percentage of females in monogamous union was calculated by dividing the total number of women 12 years and above in monogamous union by the total number of all women aged 12 years and above. The result was then multiplied by 100. Map C.3C depicts spatial distribution of females in monogamous union by county.

From the results, counties with the highest percentage of females in monogamous union, between 51.1 and 53.6 per cent were Lamu, Murang›a, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Wajir, Machakos, Tana River and Nyamira. Counties with the lowest percentage of females in monogamous union, less than 46.4 per cent were Turkana, Siaya, Kisumu, Samburu, Homa Bay, Busia, Migori, Kilifi, West Pokot and Baringo. Generally, it is noted that most of the counties with low percentage of females in monogamous union have high polygamous marriages. This could be associated with cultural and religious norms.

Males in Monogamous Union

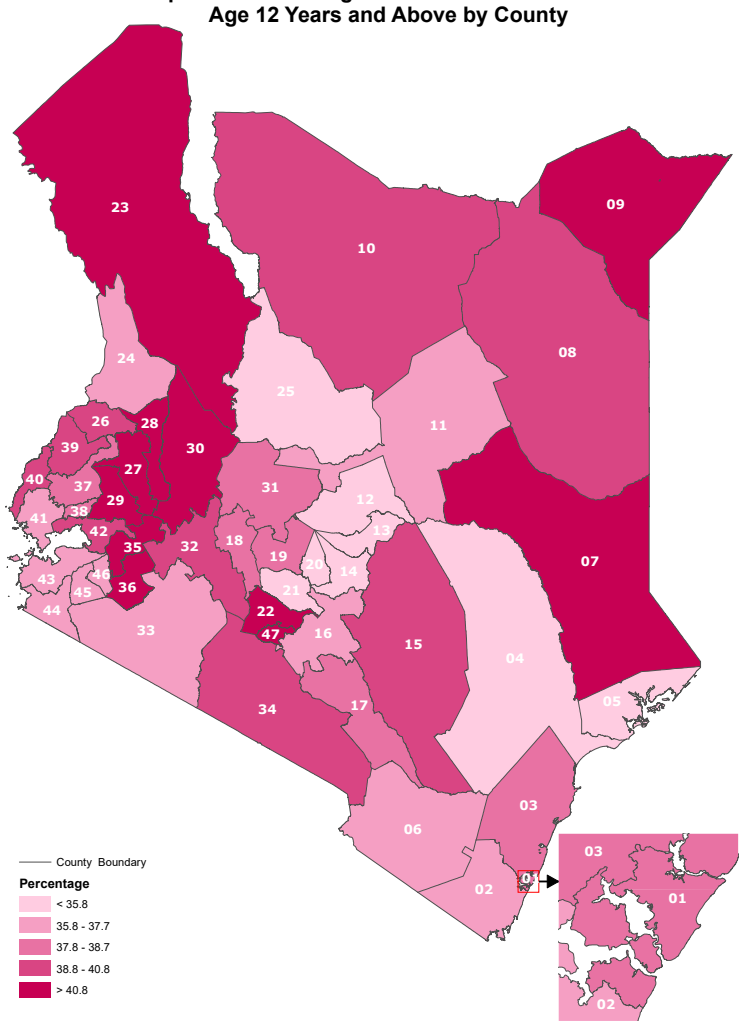
The percentage of males in monogamous union was calculated the same way as that of females. Map C.3D presents distribution of males in monogamous union by county.

Counties with the lowest percentage of men in monogamous union, from 32.6 to 38.2 per cent were; Mandera, Turkana, Samburu, Garissa and Marsabit. Counties with the highest percentage of men in monogamous union, from 48.3 to 53.9 per cent are Machakos, Meru, Nyeri, Kisii, Kajiado, Nyamira, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Mombasa and Nairobi City. Generally, a higher percentage of males compared to females were in monogamous union.

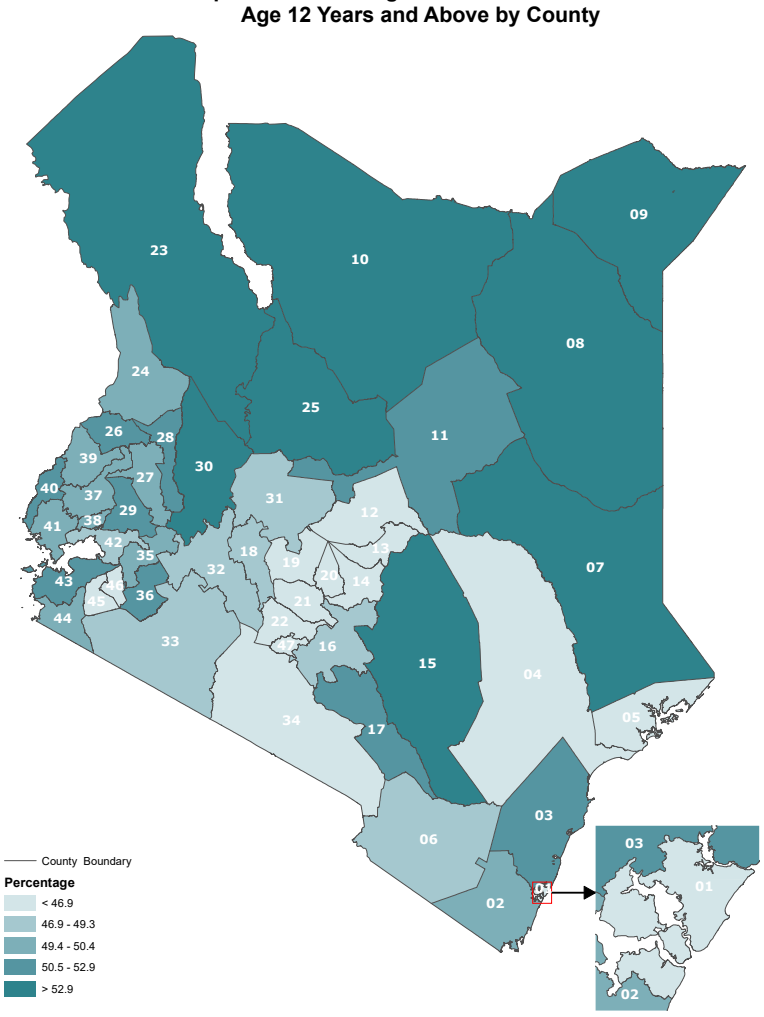
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Map C.3 : A Percentage of Never Married Females Age 12 Years and Above by County;Maps C:3B: Percentage of Never Married Males Age 12 Years and Above by County;Maps C:3C: Percentage of Females in Monogamous Union County;Maps C:3D: Percentage of Males in Monogamous Union by County

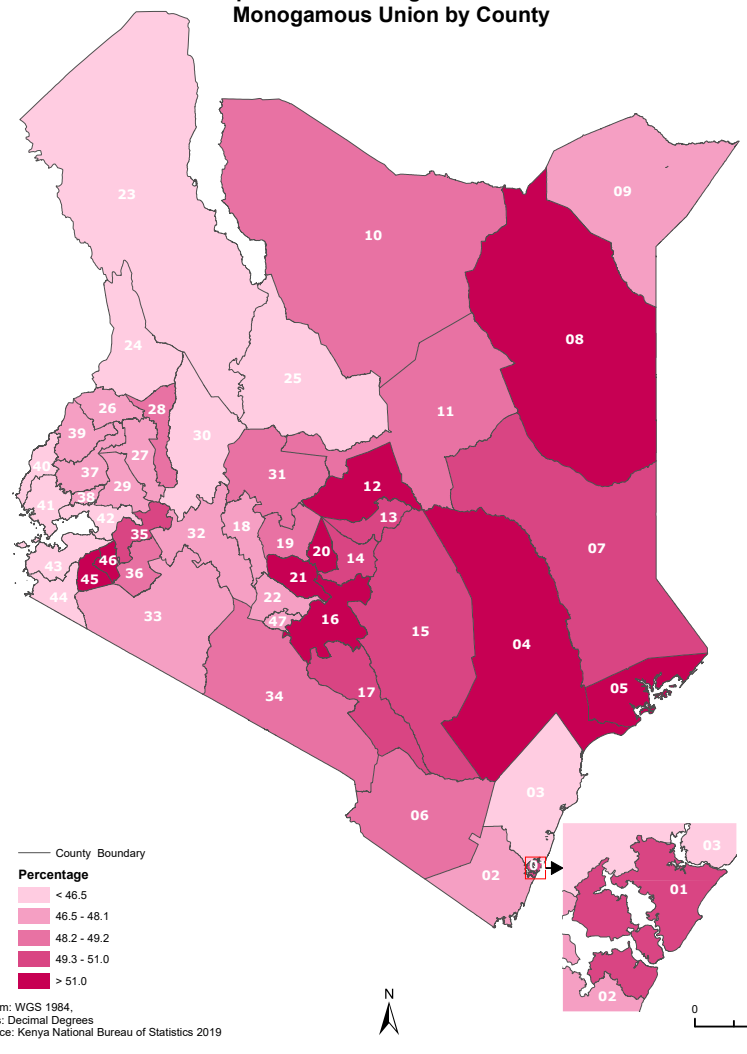
Map C.3A: Percentage of Never Married Females Age 12 Years and Above by County



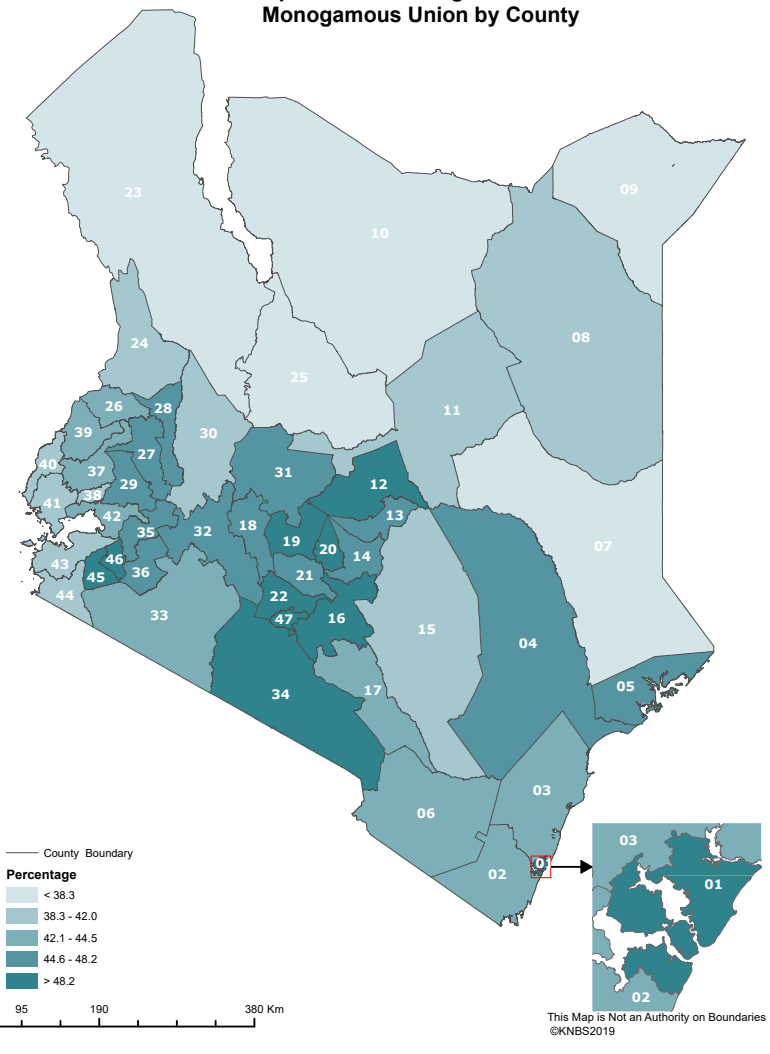
Map C.3B: Percentage of Never Married Males Age 12 Years and Above by County



Map C.3C: Percentage of Females in Monogamous Union by County



Map C.3D: Percentage of Males in Monogamous Union by County



Datum: WGS 1984,
Units: Decimal Degrees
Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019

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Percentage of Females Divorced or Separated

Divorce is an act or instance of legally dissolving a marriage. Unlike divorce, separation in marriage is not a complete break of the legal union of marriage. Spouses live independent lives, and in many cases, in different locations during the whole period of separation. Unlike in divorce, the separated spouses are still legally married and may reunite if they so wish. Some African communities who cherish customary marriage do not accept divorce even when cultural conditions for divorce have been fulfilled. Hence collecting data on divorce is sometimes challenging. Census data is based on respondents' verbal accounts of divorce because documentary proof is not demanded.

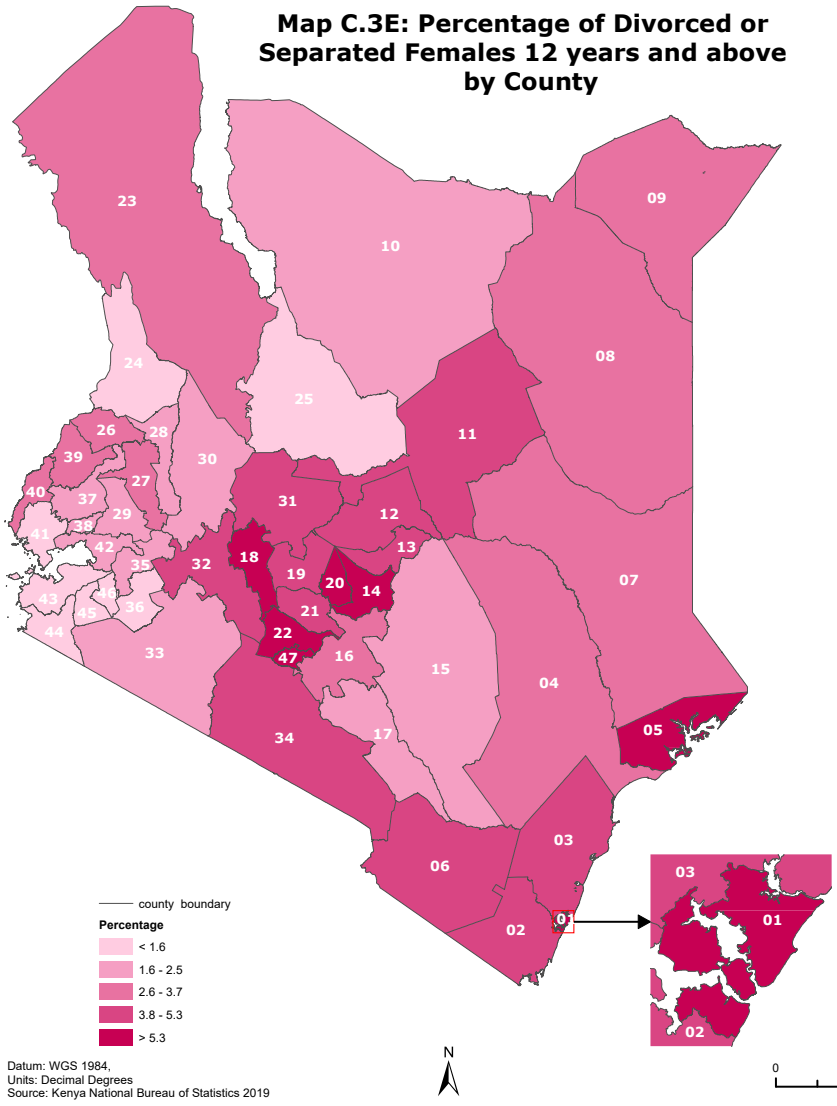
In the 2019 Census, the national average for women aged 12 years and above who were divorced or separated was 3.6 per cent. Map C.3E presents the percentage distribution of females divorced or separated by county. Counties with the lowest percentage of females divorced or separated, from 0.8 to 1.5 per cent, were Homa Bay, Migori, West Pokot, Nyamira, Samburu, Bomet, Siaya and Kisii. Counties with the highest percentage of females divorced or separated, from 5.4 to 7.5 per cent, were Nyandarua, Nairobi City, Embu, Mombasa, Kiambu, Lamu and Kirinyaga.

Percentage of Males Divorced or Separated

The percentage of divorced and separated men is relatively lower compared to that of females. Studies have shown that men are more likely to remarry after the death of a spouse or divorce compared to women. In the 2019 Census, the percentage of males aged 12 years and above who were divorced or separated was 2.4 per cent in the country. Map C.3F presents the percentage distribution of males divorced or separated by county. Counties with the lowest percentage of divorced or separated men, ranging from 0.5 to 1.2 per cent were Samburu, West Pokot, Bomet, Narok, Marsabit, Migori, Homa Bay, Nyamira, Wajir, Kericho, Mandera and Baringo. Counties that recorded a high percentage of males divorced or separated were Nyandarua, Meru, Taita/Taveta, Nyeri, Lamu, Vihiga, Tharaka-Nithi, Murang›a, Embu and Kirinyaga, ranging from 3.8 to 6.2 per cent.

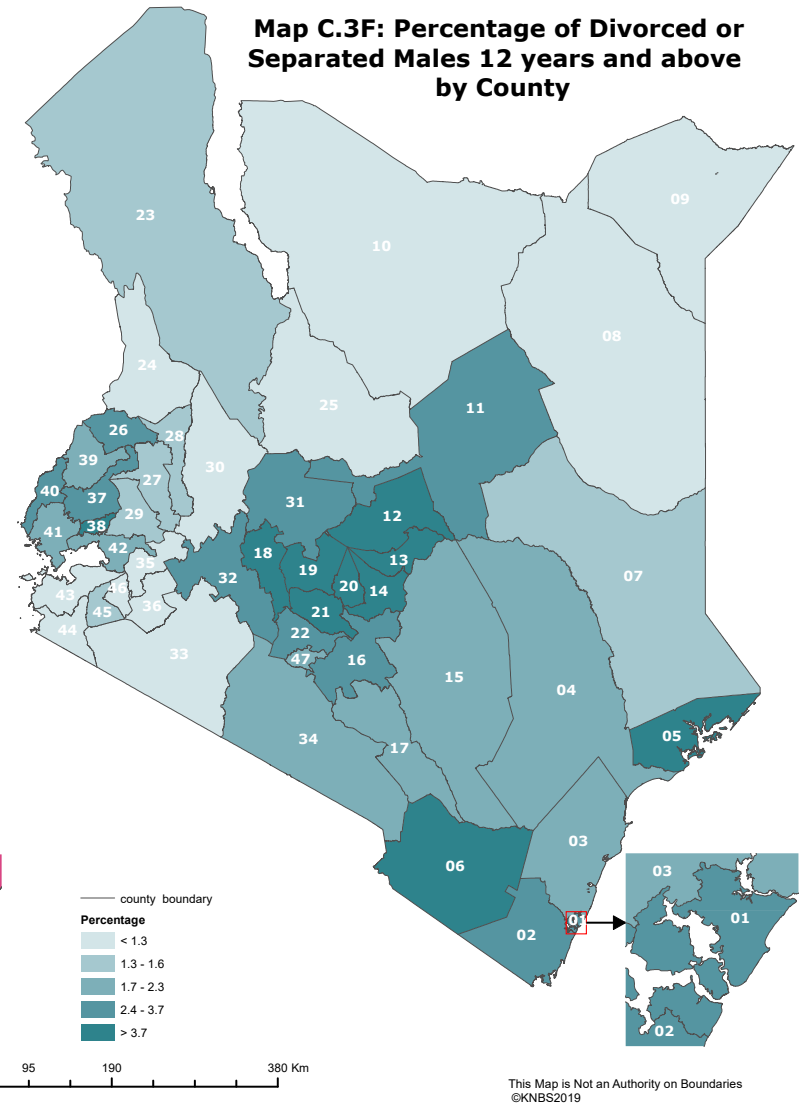
Map C.3E:Percentage of Population Divorced or Separated Females 12 Years and above by County; Maps C:3F: Percentage of Population Divorced or Separated Males 12 Years and above by County

Map C.3E: Percentage of Divorced or Separated Females 12 years and above by County



Datum: WGS 1984,
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Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019

Map C.3F: Percentage of Divorced or Separated Males 12 years and above by County



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Females in Polygamous Union

The per cent of females in polygamous union in 2019 was calculated as follows: the total number of women 12 years and above married in polygamous union was divided by the total number of all women aged 12 years and above and the product multiplied by 100. Map C.3G presents the percentage distribution of females in polygamous union by county. Kiambu, Nyeri, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Nairobi City, Nyandarua, Taita/Taveta, and Vihiga Counties had the lowest proportion of females in polygamous union at less than 0.9 per cent. Counties with the highest proportions of females in polygamous union, above 7.3 per cent were Homa Bay, Migori, Narok, West Pokot and Samburu. Generally, most of the ASAL counties recorded a relatively high proportion of females in polygamous union compared to the rest of the counties.

Males in Polygamous Union

The 2019 census revealed that in Kenya, the percentage of males aged 12 years and above in polygynous union were 2.8 per cent. As shown in Map C.3H, Tana River, Narok, Migori, Samburu, West Pokot and Mandera counties recorded the highest proportions of males in polygamous union ranging from 6.3 to 10.6 per cent. Counties with the lowest proportion of males in polygamous union were Murang›a, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Machakos, Nyandarua, Embu, Vihiga and Makueni ranging from 0.8 to 1.3 per cent. In a nutshell, the spatial distribution of males in polygyny is similar to that of females in polygamous union.

Percentage of Widowed Females

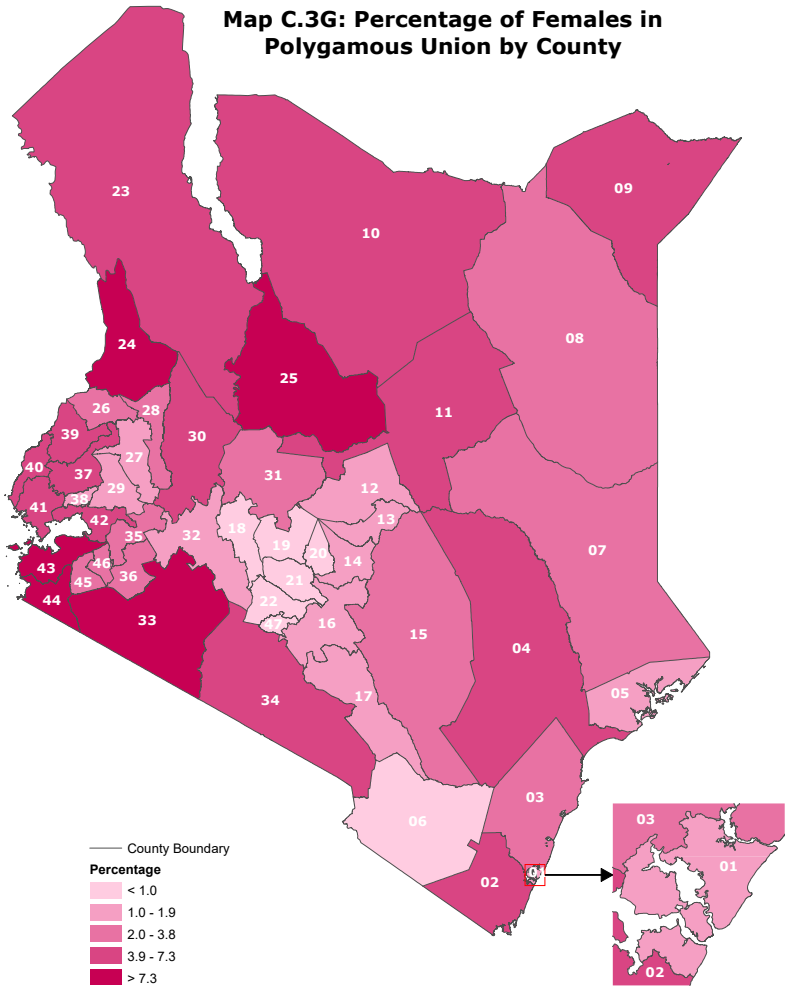
The calculation of per cent of females aged 12 years and above who were widowed during the 2019 Census was done as follows: the total number of women 12 years and above who were widowed was divided by the total number of all women aged 12 years and above in the county and the product multiplied by 100. Nationally, the proportion of widowed females was 6.0 per cent. As presented in Map C.3J, counties with the lowest proportions of widowed females (4.2 per cent and less) were Mandera, Wajir, Nairobi City, Garissa, West Pokot, Narok, Kajiado, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo/Marakwet, Bomet, Mombasa, Baringo and Kericho. The highest proportions of widowed females, between 10.7 and 13.9 per cent, were recorded in Vihiga, Homa Bay and Siaya counties.

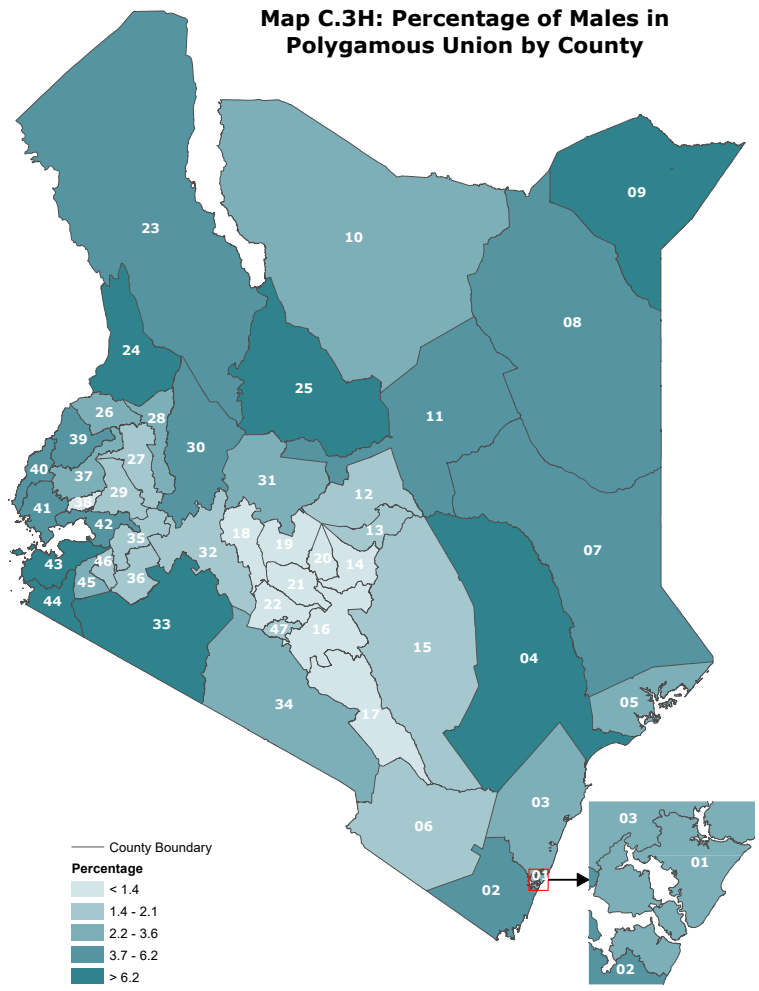
Percentage of Widowed Males

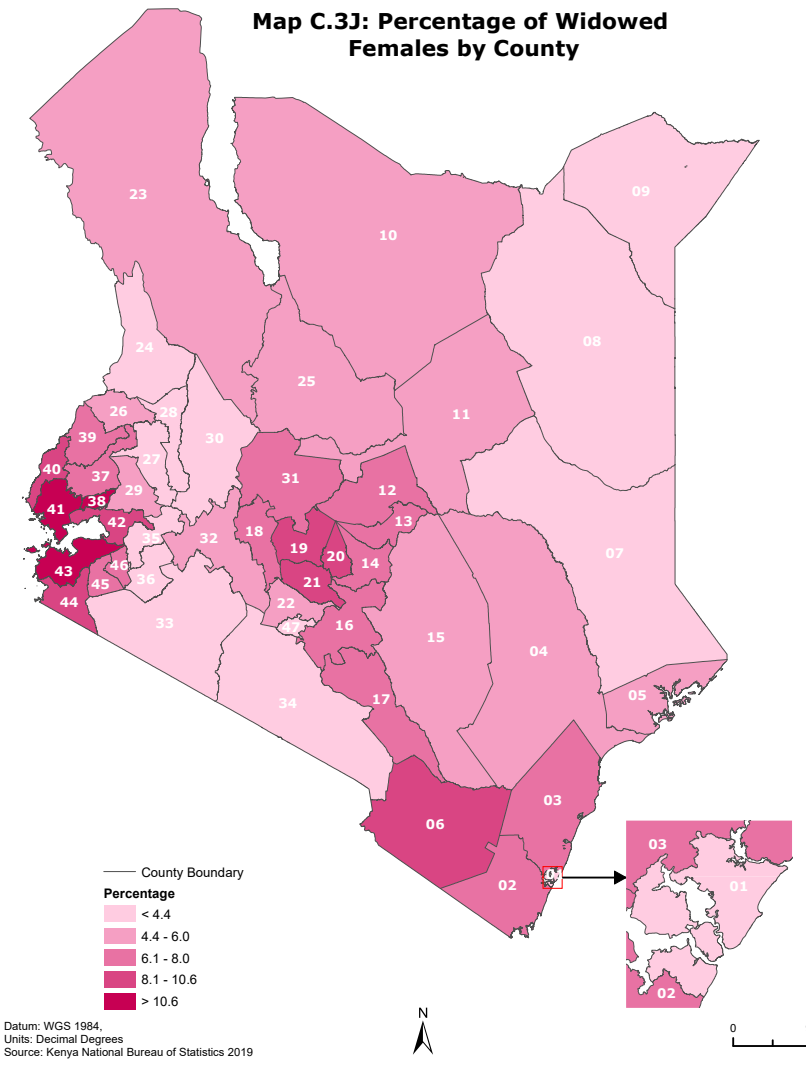
The 2019 Census revealed that females are more likely to be widowed compared to males. This could be explained by the fact the life expectancy for females is higher than that of males. Nationally, the proportion of widowed males was 0.9 per cent. As shown in Map C.3K, the lowest proportions of widowed males, 6 per cent and less, were recorded in Narok, Samburu, Kajiado, Mandera, West Pokot, Nairobi City, Bomet, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Turkana, Uasin Gishu and Tana River counties. The highest proportions of widowed males were recorded in Tharaka-Nithi, Siaya, Nyeri, Taita/Taveta, Muranga and Vihiga counties, ranging from 1.6 to 2.4 per cent.

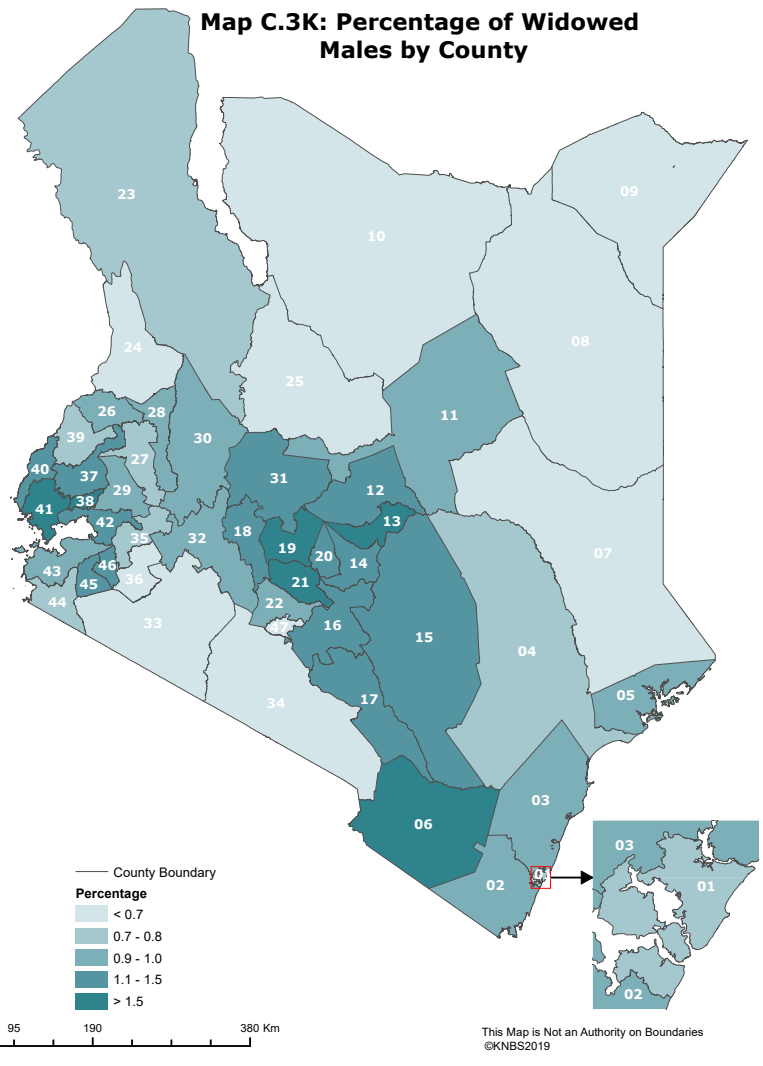
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Map C.3G: A Percentage of Females in Polygamous Union by County; Maps C:3H: Percentage of Males in Polygamous Union by County; Maps C:3J: Percentage of Widowed Females by County; Maps C:3K: Percentage of Widowed Males by County









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Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019

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C.4 Births and Place of Occurrence

The question about the place of occurrence of a birth is critical in determining whether a birth occurred in a health facility or not. Births occurring in a health facility are more likely to receive skilled professional (doctor, nurse, or midwife) care during delivery than those outside a health facility, which is crucial in reducing maternal and child deaths. The percentage of live births attended by a skilled birth attendant (SBA) is a key global indicator and proxy for monitoring progress in maternal and newborn health. In addition, births occurring in a health facility have higher chances of being notified. The question on place of occurrence of birth was asked to mothers who had a birth occurring within the last 12 months preceding the census.

The results show that in Kenya, about 86 per cent of the births that occurred during the one-year period before the census took place in a health facility. As presented in Map C.6A, counties with the highest proportion of births that occurred in a health facility, above 93.3 per cent were Meru, Siaya, Kisumu, Embu, Nyandarua, Mombasa, Kisii, Murang›a, Nyamira, Kiambu, Nairobi City, Nyeri and Kirinyaga. Counties with less than 72.9 per cent of births occurring in a health facility were mainly those from the ASAL areas namely; Samburu, Wajir, Mandera, West Pokot, Turkana, Marsabit, Tana River, Narok, Garissa and Isiolo (Map C.4A).

Births Notification

Birth notification is a key milestone towards acquiring personal rights and accessing services in any part of the country. The 2019 Census shows that births that occur in a health facility are more likely to be notified, at 97 per cent, compared to those that occur outside a health facility, at 50 per cent. Map C.4B, shows counties with the highest birth notification, above 95.8 per cent, which included Meru, Nairobi City, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Embu, Murang›a, Kirinyaga and Nyeri. Those with the lowest notification of births were Wajir, Mandera, West Pokot, Samburu, Turkana, Tana River, Marsabit, Garissa, Narok, Baringo and Isiolo at 84.1 per cent and less.

Map C.4A: Percentage of Births Delivered in Health Facilities by County; Maps C:4B: Percentage of Births Notified by County

