

**INFLUENCE OF FAMILY ON TEENAGE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR: A CASE OF
PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN NAKURU TOWN, NAKURU
COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Teenage sexual behaviour has become a concern in Kenya. A number of research carried in secondary schools in Kenya indicate that teenagers are engaging sexual behaviour despite the government's efforts to empower them to abstain the marriage programmes. The age of sexual debut has reduced to between 12 years and 14 years. This is the age when majority of teenagers are in primary school. The Continued evidence of sexual behaviour calls for change of focus on the role of families on the behaviour of teenagers. The study sought to establish the influence of the family on teenager sexual behaviour: A case of primary school pupils in selected primary schools in Nakuru town. The objective of the study was to find out the prevalence of different forms of sexual behaviour among teenagers, to determine the influence of the family on teenage sexual behaviour. Family systems theory and attachment theory guided this study. The study used *ex post facto* and cross sectional survey design. The study population constituted N-1013 class 8 pupils and N=112 public and private schools. The sample size of n=8 private schools n=8 public schools and n=288 was arrived using stratified sampling and simple random sampling. The study focused on class 8 pupils. Data was collected using questionnaire that was administered to the respondents within the selected schools in the Nakuru town. A pilot study was conducted before the main study to determine the reliability and validity of the data collection instrument. The data collected was edited, coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed using statistical tool with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 21.0). The data was analyzed using frequency, percentage and Pearson's chi square was used to establish the relationship between family factors and sexual behaviour. Sexual behaviour (ever had sex 35.1%) was the most prevalent. Sexual behaviour of multiple sexual partners (18.1%) was also practiced by the teenagers. Family structure and siblings influenced teenage sexual behavior most. Teenagers from single parent family structure and those within high sibling influence were the more likely to engage in early sexual behavior than teenagers from two parent intact family. Significant relationship between family structure, sibling influence and sexual behavior was established. However the study found no significant relationship between parental attitude, communication, relationship and sexual behavior. The findings may provide empirical evidence useful in designing programmes for behaviour change for teenagers.