1. General Profile

2. Under-five mortality (U5M), 1965-2015

2.1 U5M (per 1000 live births)

Mean U5M per 1000 live births in Kakamega and LREB every 10 years between 1965 and 2013.

2.2 Trends in U5M and progress towards achieving global targets

USM trends in Kakamega, relative to the national mean, the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) mean and progress in meeting global U5M reduction targets set during World Summit for Children (WSC), the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.2.


3.1 Child Factors


Coverage of breastfeeding indicators, and the percentage change between 1993 and 2014. Green indicates an improvement and red a decline. The darker the green the greater the improvement.


Coverage of malnutrition indicators, and the percentage change between 1993 and 2014. Red indicates deterioration in the indicator and green an improvement.
3.2 Maternal factors

Comparing maternal factors in 1993 and 2014:

- Maternal literacy: 15.29% in 1993, 18.06% in 2014.
- Birth interval: 70.86% in 1993, 44.13% in 2014.
- Contraceptive use: 17.94% in 1993, 25.08% in 2014.

Note: Birth interval - the proportion of children with a preceding or succeeding birth interval > 24 months.
Low parity - the proportion of women aged <30 years with less than 4 or aged >29 years with less than 5 children.
Maternal education - the proportion of mothers (15-49 years) who had greater than primary education at the time of the survey.

3.3 Health Care Utilization

Comparing health care utilization coverage in 1993 and 2014:

- Antenatal care (ANC): 96.42% in 1993, 95.64% in 2014.
- Skilled birth attendance (SBA): 44.47% in 1993, 62.31% in 2014.
- Antimalarial treatment: 11.61% in 1993, 54.36% in 2014.
- Vitamin A supplementation: 11.36% in 1993, 22.27% in 2014.
- ORS - Oral rehydration salts use: 15.56% in 1993, 22.27% in 2014.
- Polio3 - 3rd dose of polo vaccine: 31.89% in 1993, 49.14% in 2014.

Factors that were either not monitored or had not been rolled out by 1993 (IPTp1, IPTp2, Iron Supplements, Vitamin A-mothers, Antimalarial and Child-ITN)

3.4 Household factors

Map showing Malaria prevalence in Kakamega and other LREB counties.

3.5 Health Interventions


Key Messages

- After 1981, the USM trend in Kakamega was similar to that of the regional average. Before that, the rate was slightly lower than the regional mean. The reduction rate every 10 years between 1965 and 1994 was < 10%, which further increased to >20% after 1995. Despite the progress, by 2014, USM in Kakamega rose 45.76% above the national mean and was at 75.84 per 1000 live births, the sixth-highest in LREB after Bungoma.
- HIV prevalence steadily declined between 1993 and 2014. Malaria prevalence also declined, however, the transmission rates remained high even after significant improvement in malaria interventions between 2003 and 2014.
- Except for the proportion of children breastfed continually after six months, other breastfeeding practices and nutritional status had noticeable improvements that ranged between 8% to 179%.
- Maternal education alongside contraceptive usage had the most significant improvements among the maternal factors improving by 56% and 145% respectively.
- The rate of health care utilization has improved, except for the proportion of women receiving at least four antenatal care, and was the least sought health care service by 2014.
- Vaccination coverage dropped between 1993 and 2003 but improved in 2014. However, the coverage remained < 80%, unlike most counties in the region and country.
- Notably, vitamin A supplementation had a remarkable increase between 2003 and 2014.
- Though access to sanitation remained above 88% across the years, more than 50% of the households did not have access to clean water.
- In terms of wealth by 2014, Kakamega was on the higher end in LREB, with over 50% of households classified as least poor.

Note: TT2 - Two doses of tetanus toxoid Injection
IPTp1-Intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy
ORS - Oral rehydration salts use
DPT3 - 3rd dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine
Polio3 - 3rd dose of polo vaccine
Child ITN - Insecticide treated bed nets use by children