



COVID -19 & TEENAGE/ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IN BUSOGA REGION

October 2021

Introduction

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About, 55 Teen Girls give birth every day.



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2 of every 10 pregnant mothers are Teens.



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6 of every 10 pregnant women carrying out Abortion are Teens.



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2 of every 10 maternal deaths are Teens.

More than 18,000 teen girls, aged 15-19 years, give birth each year in the Busoga Region. The media often glamorize teens having sexual intercourse and teen parenting, but the reality is starkly different. Having a child during the teen years carries high costs—emotional, physical, and financial—to the mother, father, child, and community. Parents, educators, public health and medical professionals, and community organizations all have a role to play in reducing teen pregnancy. During the past 4 years, the rate of teen girls having children has increased by about 4% to its highest level since 2010. There is still much work to do, because teen pregnancy has such a huge impact on the future of Busoga's children.

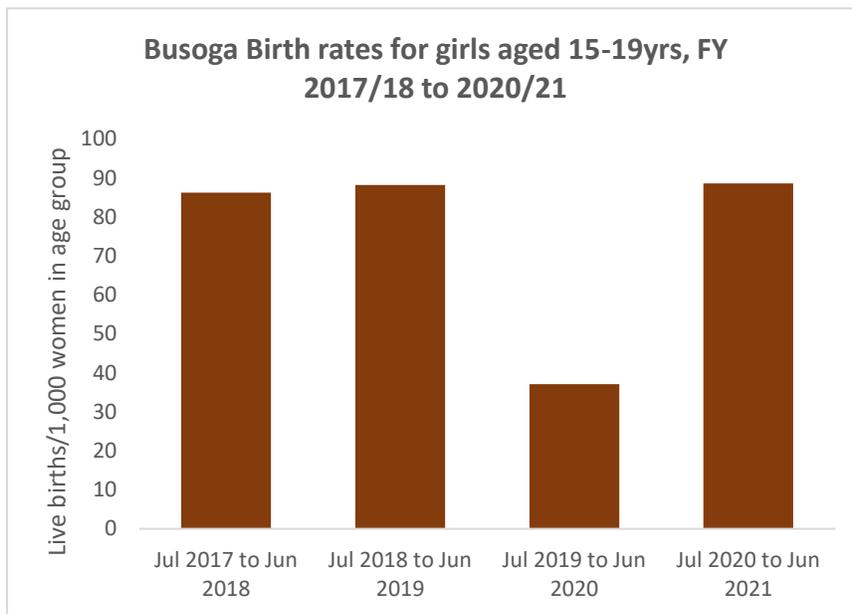
In the past five years, pre-COVID19, over 600 Teen girls, aged 15-19 years were reported to abort annually. However, analysis suggests an acute 48% ($n=2184$) increase in teen abortions as reported for FY 2020/21. *see figure 4*. This has been greatly attributed to the current idleness, poverty, and lawlessness that has driven most teenagers into sexual situations as a means of survival and recreation.

Similarly, Teenage maternal deaths are on the rise, with a record 12% ($n=11$) increase as compared to FY 2018/19s' 10% ($n=9$) see figure

Nevertheless, given the stagnant rate of uptake of modern contraceptives with only 1 of every 10 women registered as a teenager (15-19), as seen for the period under review, it is analytically proven that teens in Busoga region have a poor attitude towards contraception. This poses a great threat to future of Busoga as a region.

Teen Births

Regardless of the almost normal pre-*COVID-19* trend, which suggests that, about **8** of every **10** estimated teens in Busoga region give birth annually, with the coming of *COVID-19*, Busoga region still reported an increase in teen births.



The reported increase in births is relatively fueled by the low (1%) uptake of modern contraception methods (such as a condom with birth control pills or Depo-Provera, an injectable birth control) by sexually active teens to avoid pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Figure 1: SOURCE: DHIS2 October 2021

Teen birth rates by district per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years, FY 2019/20 & 2020/21

Teen births rates in Iganga are higher than other districts in Busoga Region for the period under review.

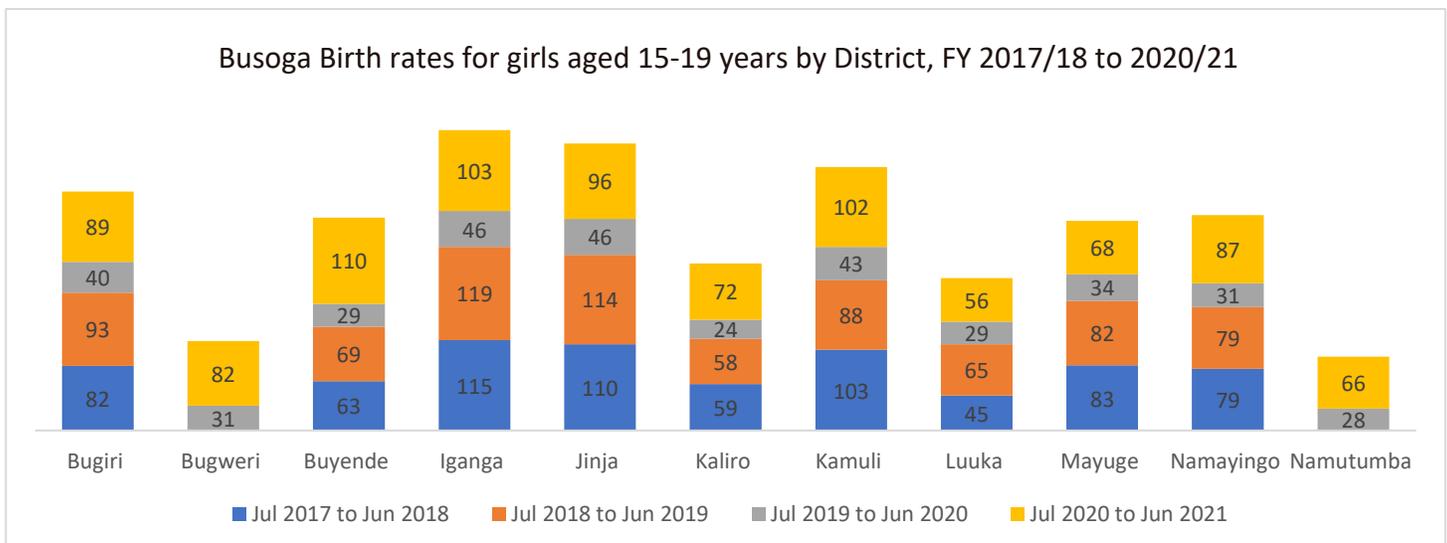


Figure 2: SOURCE: DHIS2 October 2021

Increase in Teen birth rates was lowest in Luuka (27%) and Mayuge (34%) and highest Buyende (81%) and Kamuli (59%) districts.

Despite Iganga and Jinja presenting as the most affected, with an over 50% increase, Buyende district reported a worrying over 80% increase in Teen birth rates for FY 2020/21 as compared to FY 2019/20.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the numbers reported during the pandemic are quite higher than the estimated catchment population. This is partially attributed to the high influx of people including teenagers that moved to villages for food and safety

Percentage of births to girls aged 15-19 years, FY 2017/18 to 2020/21

For the period under review, Namayingo, Bugiri and Mayuge districts, present as the most affected by teenage births.

Although other districts are experiencing an increase in the percentage of teen births, Jinja, Iganga and Kamuli districts registered a decline as seen in the figure below.

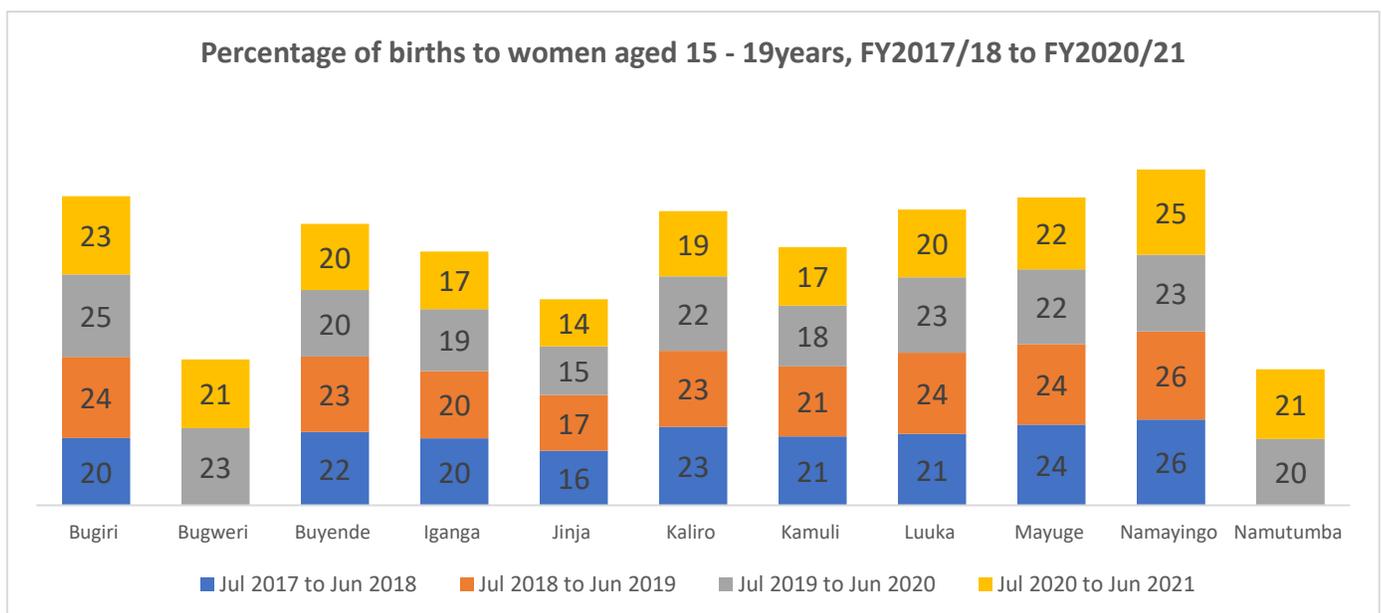


Figure 3: SOURCE: DHIS2 October 2021

Antenatal

ANC 1st Visit for women 15 - 19 Years

Parallel to the low percentage of Teen births, Jinja and Iganga have the lowest percentage of teens attending ANC 1st Visit, while Namayingo, Bugiri and Mayuge stand out with the highest percentages, 27%, 25%, & 23% respectively.



About 2 of every 10 women attending ANC 1st Visit are Teens.

Abortion

% Of abortions to women aged 15 – 19 years.

Busoga region is experiencing a worryingly increasing percentage of teenage abortions as seen in figure 4 below. It should be noted that in FY 2017/18 only **1** of every **10** women carrying out abortions was a teen, this acutely changed with a 20% increase experienced in FY2019/20, followed by a grave 30% increase reported for FY 2020/21.



Figure 4: SOURCE: DHIS2 October 2021

Contraception

% Of women aged 15 – 19 years using modern methods of family planning



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With exception to FY2019/20 in which the Busoga region registered a record low 17%, **19%** of all women using modern methods of family planning (such as a condom with birth control pills or Depo-Provera, an injectable birth control) are teens, as reported for the period under review.

In the last four financial years, Luuka, Buyende and Kaliro have registered a steady increase in the percentage of teenagers using modern contraceptive methods, at above 10%, 5% & 7% respectively.

Space for additional narrative.....

About 1 of every 10 women using modern contraception methods is a teen.

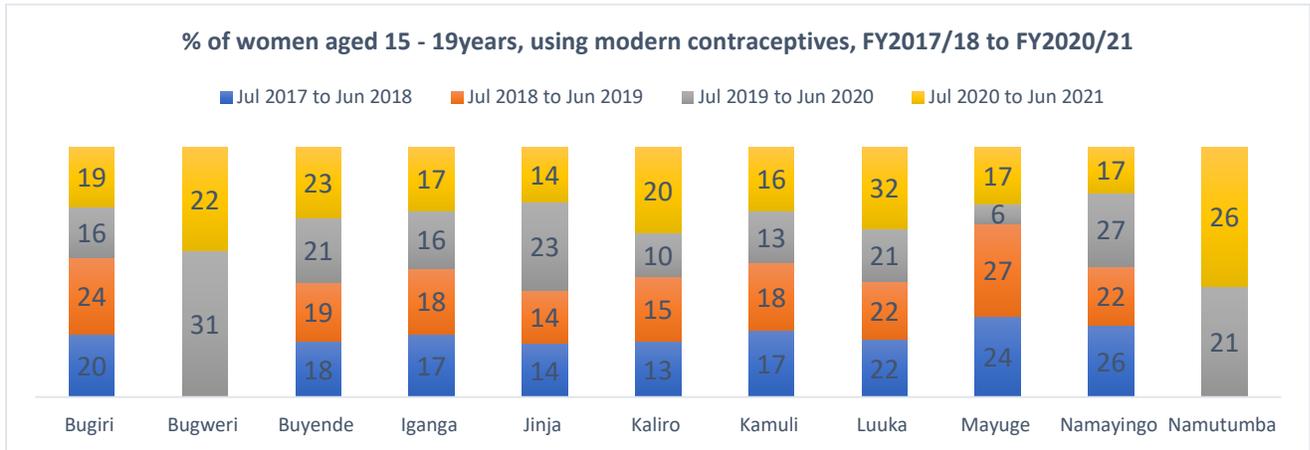


Figure 5: SOURCE: DHIS2 October 2021

Maternal deaths

% Of maternal deaths for women aged 15 - 19years, FY2017/18 to FY2020/21



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2 of every 10 maternal deaths are Teens.

Considering FY2017/18 to FY2019/20, Busoga region had managed to gradually reduce loss of teens to maternal deaths by about half, 15% ($n=12$) to 9% ($n=4$). However, this trend has been interrupted by the pandemic thus seeing an acute increase in the percentage of teens lost to maternal deaths by about 10% ($n=11$). Currently, 22% ($n=15$) of all maternal deaths reported in Busoga region are teens.

Though Kaliro district has consistently reported high percentages of teens lost to maternal deaths, it should be noted that Kamuli district is generally the most affected in terms of maternal deaths

MMRs for districts in Busoga region for FY2017/18 to FY2020/21

