

Kinship Support Tree

Overview and Technical Documentation Waves 1 & 2

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1. Introduction

The Kinship Support Tree (KST) study is a longitudinal study of kinship structure and support for single mothers and their young children residing in Korogocho, one of two slum communities in Nairobi, Kenya where the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) runs the Nairobi Urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System (NUHDSS). The first wave of the KST study was conducted in 2015 with 462 single (not married or cohabiting) mothers with a child under the age of 7 (focal child). The second wave was administered 6 months later to 412 of the original mothers to assess changes in kinship structure and support over time. The survey includes demographic attributes of the mother, household characteristics, health and development of the focal child, mother's union history, a roster of other biological children and non-biological children in the household and a detailed module on kinship structure and support. The mother was asked to list close kin, from the focal child's perspective, both living for deceased. This includes the child's siblings, biological father, paternal and maternal grandparents and paternal and maternal aunts and uncles. She then provided information on survival status, age, educational level, employment, wealth status and current residential location of each named member. The GPS coordinates for the residential location of a member not living in the household was ascertained through google maps. For support, she was asked to identify those who provided her or her child with financial, child care or emotional support along with details about quantity and quality of that support. The survey was programmed using Open Data Kit and administered on tablet computers in the respondent's home.

2. Sampling

The KST used the NUHDSS as sampling frame to select the mothers for wave 1. We identified 500 single mothers (not married or cohabiting) as of the most recent census update –April 2015- with at least one child (focal child) born between 2010 and 2015. If the mother had more than 1 child in this age range, one was selected randomly. All data collection on child health and development, kinship structure and support was conducted with reference to the focal child. After excluding those who were deemed ineligible because they were in a union or did not have a child of eligible age ($n = 183$), those who had left the area ($n = 126$), those who either refused or did not schedule an interview ($n = 37$), and those who were not accessible for other reasons ($n = 32$), the research team successfully interviewed 462 women. Cell phone numbers were collected for each respondent in order to administer the second wave of data collected 6 months later. Of the original 462 mothers, 412 were followed up in wave 2.

3. Datasets

For each wave, 4 data sets are available: *Mother Focal Child File*, *Mother Union History File*, *Combined Children File*, and *KST Member File*.

4.1 Mother Focal Child File

For each wave, this file contains information on the mother, her household, the focal child, biological father of focal child and selected summary measures of kinship structure and support. Each file has one record per mother (W1 N=462, W2 N=412).

4.2 Mother Union History File

This file contains data on all unions with men other than the biological father of the focal child. This includes type of union, and start and end date of each union. This file has one record per union (W1 N=131, W2 N=160).

4.3 Combined Children File

This file includes information on all children, biological and non-biological, of the respondent. It includes the child's classification (i.e. focal child, half sibling, step sibling etc.), residential location, gender, survival status and age. This file has one record per child (W1 N= 972, W2 N=952).

4.4 KST Member File

This file contains information on all reported close kin (alive and dead) from the perspective of the focal child. This includes the biological father, maternal grandmother and grandfather, paternal grandmother and grandfather, and maternal and paternal aunts and uncles. In addition, it contains detailed data on support provided by each kin member to the mother. The file has one record per kin member (W1 N=5,371, W2 N= 5,159).

Note: Geospatial data on kin member locations is not included to protect confidentiality.

5. Codebooks

Each data file has a corresponding codebook which includes the description of variables, missing data information, and some description of the skip patterns. Codebooks are available for download.

6. Merging/Key Identification Variables

The unique identifier that should be used to merge and collapse data to the mother level for each data file is the variable PI7. This unique identifier is consistent across waves and files.

Within each wave, each mother is also assigned an identification variable (ID). This variable, ID, does not correspond across waves, but can be used within waves to collapse (aggregate) data to create summary statistics for each mother. **We recommend using PI7 for all merging and collapsing to ensure accuracy.**

7. Acknowledgment

Papers using KST data (Waves 1 and 2) should include the following acknowledgment:

Madhavan, S. S. Clark, D. Beguy, C. Kabiru and M. Gross. 2017. “Moving Beyond the Household: Innovations in Data Collection on Kinship.” *Population Studies* 71: 117-132.