
**ABSTRACT**

This chapter examines the diversity of family forms and structure in Kenya. In accordance with a long history and opportunities for biological and cultural evolution, family patterns in Kenya are characterized by great diversity of customs surrounding family formation and structure across 42 distinct ethno-linguistic groups. The major indigenous groups include the Kikuyu, Kamba, Luhyia, Luo, Kalenjin, Kisii among others. Minority groups include non indigenous immigrants from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the rest of the world. Western influence has had a great impact on family patterns, and in particular the introduction of colonial and postcolonial secular laws that regulate marriage and family life, alongside African customary laws. This chapter synthesizes the issues of couple formation and marital dynamics, children, gender, stress and aging in relation to family diversity in Kenya.

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