

2.3. Age-Sex Structure

The age and sex structure of a population is derived from the number of individuals of each sex in each age category, in a particular population (John, 2001). Knowledge of age structure is essential for analysis of the key determinants of population change – fertility, mortality, and migration. Table 2.4 shows the trends in percentage distribution of the population by age groups since 1969. Figure 2.4 shows the trends in proportions of selected special age groups since 1969.

Kenya's population has always been dominated by children; however, the proportion of children age 0-14 years has gradually declined from about 48 per cent in 1969 to 39 per cent in 2019. The proportion of youthful population (15-34 years) has been increasing over time from about 30 per cent in 1969 to about 36 per cent in 2019. Similarly, in the recent past, persons in age 25-34 have been gradually increasing from about 12 per cent in 1969 to nearly 16 per cent in 2019. Notably, the proportion of the working population (15-64 years) has been steadily increasing from about 48 per cent in 1969 to about 57 per cent in 2019. Moreover, there was an increase in the proportion of the elderly to about 6 per cent, which had remained constant at about 5.0 percent from 1969 to 2009. The slight increase in the proportion of elderly could be attributed to advancement in the quality in terms of improved medical care, improved diet and nutrition, as well as the general wellbeing (Maina, 2017).

Table 2.4: Trends in Percentage Distribution of Population by Age Groups 1969-2019

Census Year	1969		1979		1989		1999		2009		2019	
Group	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4	2,104,482	19.2	2,843,406	18.5	3,801,079	17.7	4,534,902	15.8	5,939,306	15.4	5,991,128	12.6
5-9	1,809,958	16.5	2,491,840	16.3	3,470,208	16.2	3,963,136	13.8	5,597,716	14.5	6,200,719	13.0
10-14	1,378,515	12.6	2,074,771	13.5	2,990,744	13.9	4,038,635	14.1	5,034,855	13	6,345,864	13.3
15-19	1,104,999	10.1	1,741,845	11.4	2,379,466	11.1	3,403,178	11.9	4,169,543	10.8	5,286,535	11.1
20-24	878,111	8	1,327,404	8.7	1,903,300	8.9	2,832,918	9.9	3,775,103	9.8	4,448,037	9.4
25-29	760,839	7	1,055,712	6.9	1,629,914	7.6	2,259,503	7.9	3,201,226	8.3	3,853,955	8.1
30-34	580,189	5.3	818,076	5.3	1,159,612	5.4	1,685,922	5.9	2,519,506	6.5	3,570,133	7.5
35-39	516,955	4.7	615,594	4.0	918,984	4.3	1,419,012	4.9	2,008,632	5.2	2,649,679	5.6
40-44	395,872	3.6	535,182	3.5	732,167	3.4	1,033,491	3.6	1,476,169	3.8	2,258,861	4.7
45-49	336,360	3.1	440,879	2.9	574,441	2.7	838,828	2.9	1,272,745	3.3	1,785,957	3.8
50-54	271,528	2.5	373,930	2.4	476,514	2.2	684,806	2.4	956,206	2.5	1,308,371	2.8
55-59	216,904	2	275,311	1.8	360,196	1.7	460,016	1.6	711,953	1.8	1,117,878	2.4
60-64	196,974	1.8	217,228	1.4	318,457	1.5	409,228	1.4	593,778	1.5	869,837	1.8
65+	391,009	3.6	486,398	3.2	708,409	3.3	932,582	3.3	1,332,273	3.5	1,870,203	3.9
Not Stated	-		29,485	0.2	25,283	0.1	190,443	0.7	21,086	0.1	116	0.0
Total	10,944,664	100	15,329,040	100	21,450,763	100	28,688,599	100	38,610,097	100	47,557,273	100

2.4. Children, Working Age and Elderly Population

Figure 2.1 shows the trends in the children population age 0-14 since 1969. The absolute size of children age 0-14 population has increased over the years, whereas, the proportion of children out of the total population has been declining (from 48.3% to 39.0% in 2019). Further, the growth rate of children (0-14 years) has been declining over time from 3.4 per cent per annum between 1969 and 1979, to 1.1 per cent per annum between 2009 and 2019. This could be attributed to the reduction in the birth rates which has been experienced over time in the country.