

## **Abstract**

gonadotropins were measured by radioimmunoassay of urine samples from 285 privileged Nairobi adolescents and from 238 rural peripubertal Kenyan boys and girls who had had moderate malnutrition during childhood. Gonadotropins were reduced at all ages in the rural adolescents, but pubertal stage-matched comparisons showed no differences between children of the two study areas in middle or late phases of sexual maturity. These results document the pattern of gonadotropin changes in an environment of reduced caloric intake and confirm the presumed hypothalamic-pituitary origin of the delayed adolescence that occurs under such circumstances.