

Reproductive tract infections (RTIs) include not only sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), but also endogenous infections, caused by an overgrowth of organisms normally present in the reproductive tract, and iatrogenic infections, caused by procedures that manipulate the reproductive tract, including induced abortion, delivery, and traditional practices. Although data are inadequate and are drawn primarily from clinic and hospital populations, it appears that RTIs are common and have severe consequences for women in Kenya. Nonetheless, national health planning and policies have given little priority to these diseases. This chapter explores the reasons for this neglect and attempts to offer a range of possible interventions.