

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL HIV/STI PROGRAMME
JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE
January to June 2008**



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FACTS & FIGURES
HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE
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AIDS cases and deaths

- The total number of reported AIDS cases in Jamaica between January 1982 and June 2008 is 12,893.
- The total number of reported AIDS deaths in Jamaica between January 1982 and June 2008 is 7,165.

In July 2005, the National HIV/STI Programme began monitoring cases of advanced HIV to reflect the need for treatment at an earlier stage of disease. Persons with advanced HIV include persons with CD4 count < 350. Figures reported for AIDS cases between July 2005 and December 2006 include persons with advanced HIV.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF AIDS CASES IN JAMAICA, 1982 – June 2008

PERIOD	TOTAL	MALE	(%)	FEMALE	(%)
Cumulative 1982 – June 2008	12893	7425	(57.6)	5468	(42.4)
Jan – Dec 2000	903	515	(57.0)	388	(43.0)
Jan – Dec 2001	939	511	(54.4)	428	(45.6)
Jan – Dec 2002	989	580	(58.6)	409	(41.4)
Jan – Dec 2003	1070	611	(57.0)	459	(43.0)
Jan – Dec 2004	1112	603	(54.2)	509	(45.8)
Jan – June 2004	578	334	(57.8)	244	(42.2)
Jan – June 2005	473	275	(58.1)	198	(41.9)
Jan – June 2006	451	256	(56.8)	195	(43.2)
Jan – June 2007	324	190	(58.6)	134	(41.4)
Jan – June 2008	373	200	(53.6)	173	(46.4)

- In 2008, increased active surveillance of HIV to bridge the gap in underreporting resulted in a small increase in the number of persons reported with AIDS in the first half of 2008. Three hundred and seventy three persons with AIDS (200 males and 173 females) were reported between January and June 2008 compared to 324 persons between January and June 2007.
- 172 deaths (95 males and 77 females) were due to AIDS in the first half of 2008 compared to 175 in the corresponding period of 2007.

A decrease in AIDS deaths seen in the last 4 years is attributable to the introduction of public access to antiretroviral treatment in 2004, prophylaxis against opportunistic infections and improved laboratory capacity to conduct investigations such as CD4 counts, viral load and PCRs. These factors have resulted in a general improved quality of care.

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- Approximately 71% of all AIDS cases reported in the first half of 2008 are in the 20-49 year old age group and 84% of all reported AIDS cases are between 20 and 60 years old. This is similar to the breakdown for all AIDS cases reported since 1982, of which 74% are in the 20 – 49 year old age group, and 85% are in the 20 – 60 year old age group (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of AIDS Cases by 5-Year Age Groups 1982 – June 2008,

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00 to 4	321	281	602
05 to 9	145	137	282
10 to 14	17	16	33
15 to 19	31	121	152
20 to 24	287	434	721
25 to 29	761	850	1611
30 to 34	1184	945	2129
35 to 39	1282	837	2119
40 to 44	1073	650	1723
45 to 49	817	439	1256
50 to 54	598	271	869
55 to 59	406	184	590
60 to 64	239	132	371
65 to 69	104	74	178
70 to 74	57	31	88
75 to 79	17	13	30
80 to 84	3	8	11
85 to 89	3	2	5
90 to 94	0	1	1
Unknown	80	42	122
Total	7425	5468	12893

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- The most urbanized parishes continue to have the highest cumulative number of AIDS cases: Kingston & St. Andrew 754 cases per 100,000 persons and St. James 1,071 AIDS cases per 100,000 persons.

Table 2: Summary of AIDS cases by Parish in Jamaica (by date of reporting)

PARISH	Jan - June 2007	Jan - June 2008	1982 – June 2008 Cumulative Total	RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION
KINGSTON & ST. ANDREW	124	147	5004	754.0
ST. THOMAS	4	2	223	237.5
PORTLAND	5	13	263	321.0
ST. MARY	3	7	366	321.4
ST. ANN	17	18	772	446.9
TRELAWNY	8	15	336	446.0
ST. JAMES	34	49	1968	1071.2
HANOVER	7	7	313	449.3
WESTMORELAND	39	28	696	481.9
ST. ELIZABETH	9	12	297	197.3
MANCHESTER	15	26	357	187.7
CLARENDON	20	12	489	199.1
ST. CATHERINE	38	36	1777	357.9
PARISH NOT KNOWN	1	1	20	n/a
OVERSEAS ADDRESS	0	0	12	n/a
TOTAL	324	373	12893	480.7

Transmission of HIV

- In Jamaica, HIV is primarily transmitted through sexual intercourse as seen with 91% of cases with a known transmission category. Among all reported adult AIDS cases for whom data about sexual practices are available (71% of cases), heterosexual practice is reported by almost 94% of persons.
- Among reported AIDS cases on whom risk data are available (73% of cases), the main risk factors fuelling the epidemic are multiple sex partners, history of STIs, crack/cocaine use, and sex with sex workers. No high risk behaviour was reported by 21% of reported AIDS cases and this may represent persons who report having one sex partner who was HIV infected by another partner (Table 3).

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Table 3: Reported risk behaviours among persons with AIDS (1982 – June 2008 cumulative)

RISK	No. of Persons* (%)
Sex with Sex workers	2297 (24.4)
Crack , Cocaine Use	768 (8.2)
STI History	4341 (46.1)
IV Drug Use	99 (1.1)
Multiple Sexual Partners/contacts	~ 80%
No Known high risk behaviour	~ 20%

* N= 9412

- Among reported **male** AIDS cases on whom data about sexual practices are available, homosexual or bisexual activity is reported by 14% of men. However, the sexual practice of **42%** of men with AIDS is **unknown**. This is due to inadequate investigation and reporting of cases as well as unwillingness of men to reveal their sexual orientation, among cases that may be men who have sex with men.

In the last decade, there has been no significant change in the distribution of the reported risk factors and sexual practices among persons diagnosed with AIDS.

The prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (pMTCT) Programme

- In 2007, for every one thousand pregnant women attending public antenatal clinics, at least 10 were HIV infected.

The implementation of pMTCT in 2004 included routine opt-out testing of antenatal clinic attendees, provision of antiretrovirals (ARV) and access to alternate feeding for HIV-infected women. This has resulted in HIV testing of more than 90% of pregnant women and ARV treatment or prophylaxis for 84% of HIV infected mothers in 2007. More than 90% of infants born to HIV infected women received ARV for pMTCT. Further, it is estimated that the transmission of HIV from an HIV infected mother-to-child is less than 10% compared to a transmission rate of 25% in 2002.

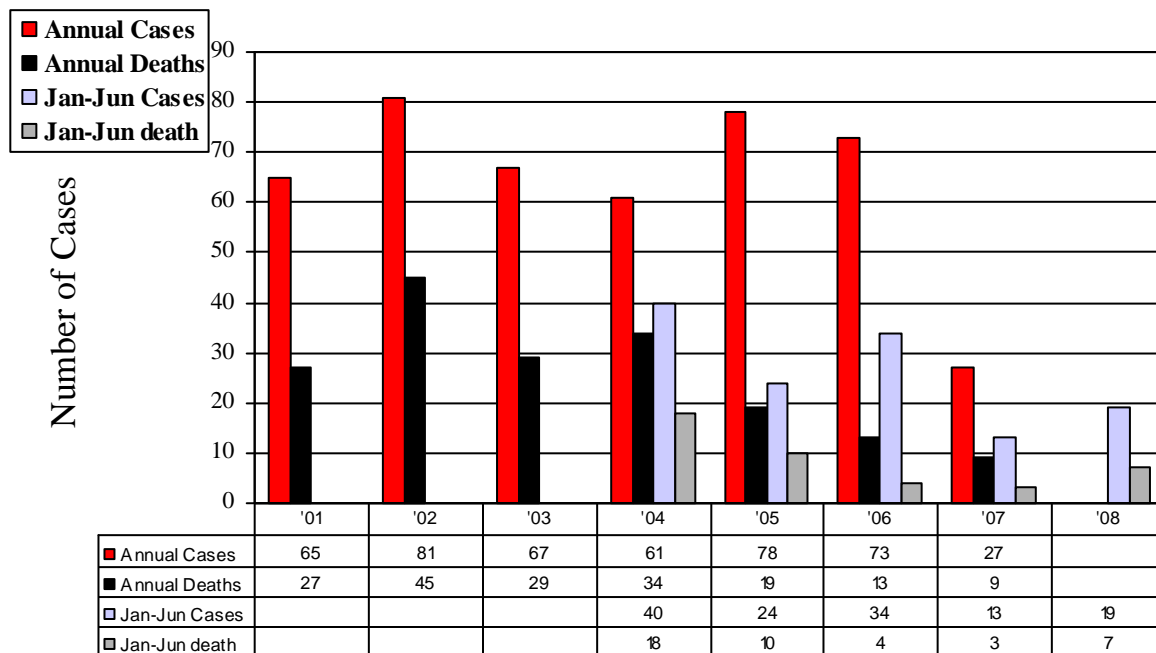
- Between January and June 2008, a total of 19 new pediatric AIDS cases (children 0 to 9 years old) were reported, compared to 13 pediatric AIDS cases January and June 2007. This represents a 46% increase over the corresponding period in 2007 and may be attributed to

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increase active surveillance.

- Seven pediatric AIDS deaths were reported between January and June 2008, compared to 3 pediatric AIDS deaths in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Figure 2: Number of Pediatric AIDS cases and deaths in Jamaica, 1982- June 2008



Other most-at-risk populations

Jamaica has features of both a generalized and concentrated HIV epidemic as survey data confirms high HIV prevalence in some populations.

- Surveillance of STI clinic attendees in 2007 indicate that for every one thousand persons with a sexually transmitted infection, at least thirty six (36) were infected with HIV (Table 4).

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TABLE 4: HIV status of STI clinic attendees by parish Jan – Dec 2007, Jamaica (excludes HIV positive clinic attendees whose status were previously known)

Parish	Total Tested	Total Positive	Percent Positive (95% C.I.)
Kingston & St Andrew	1580	78	4.94 (3.92 - 6.12)
Manchester	453	6	1.32 (0.49 – 2.86)
St Ann	410	17	4.15 (2.43 – 6.56)
St Catherine	1181	28	2.37 (1.58 – 3.41)
St James	436	19	4.36 (2.64 – 6.72)
Westmoreland	343	11	3.21 (1.61 – 5.67)
Total	4403	159	3.61 (3.08 – 4.21)

*Survey conducted between April and September 2007

- A 2005 survey of sex workers found that 9 % of female sex workers were HIV infected.
- In 2007, a survey of 201 men who have sex with men (MSM) found that approximately 1 out of every 3 MSM was HIV infected.
- A 2006 survey of prison inmates indicated that approximately 3.3% of inmates are HIV positive.

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