

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL HIV/STI PROGRAM
JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE
January to December 2007**

AIDS cases and deaths

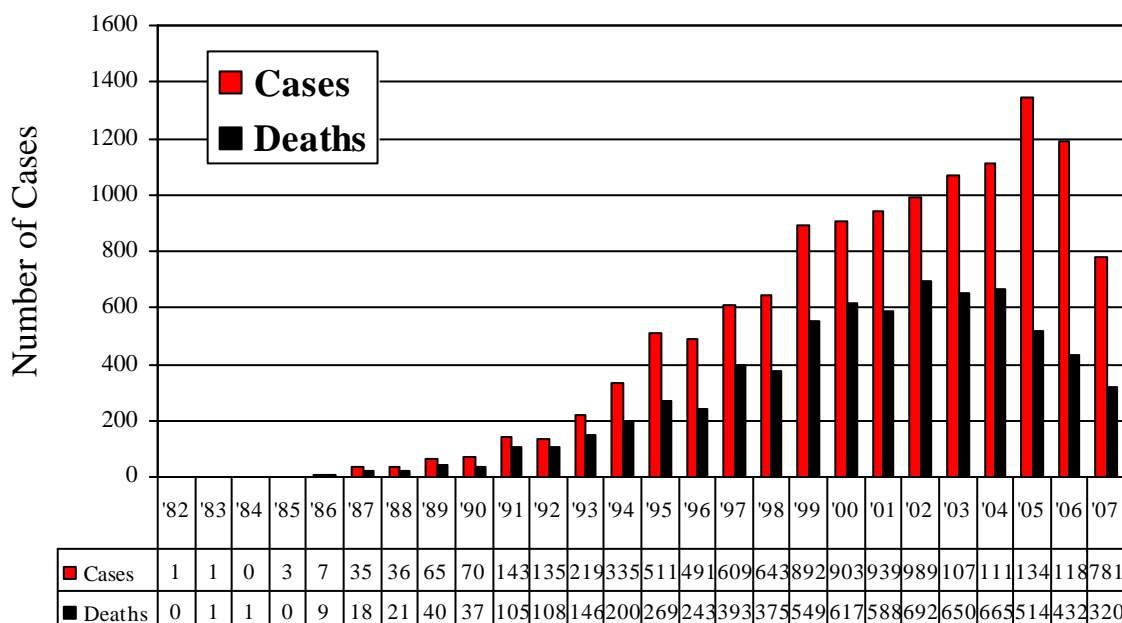
- The total number of reported cases of AIDS in Jamaica between January 1982 and December 2007 is 12,520.
- The total number of reported AIDS deaths in Jamaica between January 1982 and December 2007 is 6,993.

In July 2005, the national HIV/STI program 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 2007 include persons with advanced HIV.

- In 2007, one thousand one hundred and four persons with advanced HIV (595 males and 509 females) were reported compared to 1,186 in 2006. Of these 1104 persons, seven hundred and eighty-one (781) persons were diagnosed with AIDS compared to 1,112 persons in 2004. This represents a 30% decline in AIDS cases and is largely due to an increased access to treatment.
- The number of AIDS deaths has also decreased with three hundred and twenty (320) AIDS deaths (201 males and 119 females) reported in 2007 compared to 514 in 2005 (Figure 1).

A decrease in AIDS deaths and cases is attributed 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.

Figure 1: Number of AIDS cases and deaths in Jamaica, 1982-2007



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- Approximately 73% of all AIDS cases reported in 2007 are in the 20-49 year old age group and 87% 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: Summary of AIDS Cases* by 5-Year Age Groups 1986 – Dec 2007, Jamaica

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
00 to 4	314	277	591
05 to 9	140	134	274
10 to 14	17	15	32
15 to 19	30	118	148
20 to 24	279	417	696
25 to 29	745	830	1575
30 to 34	1161	916	2077
35 to 39	1247	819	2066
40 to 44	1044	621	1665
45 to 49	792	423	1215
50 to 54	581	260	841
55 to 59	392	176	568
60 to 64	229	126	355
65 to 69	99	68	167
70 to 74	53	30	83
75 to 79	17	12	29
80 to 84	3	8	11
85 to 89	3	2	5
90 to 94	0	1	1
Unknown	79	42	121
Total	7225	5295	12520

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- The most urbanized parishes continue to have the highest cumulative number of AIDS cases: Kingston & St. Andrew – 735 cases per 100,000 persons and St. James – 1050 AIDS cases per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 2: Summary of AIDS Cases by Parish in Jamaica, 1982 – Dec 2007 (by date of reporting)

PARISH	Jan - Dec 2007	1982 – Dec 2007 Cumulative Total	RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION
KINGSTON & ST. ANDREW	248	4863	735.0
ST. THOMAS	11	220	235.1
PORTLAND	11	251	307.3
ST. MARY	23	359	316.2
ST. ANN	38	754	437.8
TRELAWNY	23	321	427.4
ST. JAMES	102	1923	1050.0
HANOVER	23	303	436.3
WESTMORELAND	75	668	463.9
ST. ELIZABETH	19	285	189.9
MANCHESTER	31	328	173.0
CLARENDON	39	477	194.8
ST. CATHERINE	136	1737	350.9
PARISH NOT KNOWN	1	19	n/a
OVERSEAS ADDRESS	1	12	n/a
TOTAL	1104	12520	468.2

Transmission of HIV

- In Jamaica, HIV is primarily transmitted through sexual intercourse. Among all reported adult AIDS cases on whom data about sexual practices are available (76% of cases), heterosexual practice is reported by more than 90% 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 behaviour among persons with AIDS (1982 – Dec 2007 cumulative)

RISK	No. of Persons* (%)
Sex with Sex workers	2233 (23.9)
Crack , Cocaine Use	748 (8.0)
STI History	4777 (51.1.)
IV Drug Use	98 (1.0)
Multiple Sexual Partners/contacts	~ 80%
No Known high risk behaviour	~ 20%

* N= 9341

- 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 cases to reveal their sexual orientation.

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.

- In 2007, a total of 27 new paediatric AIDS cases (children 0 to 9 years old) were reported compared to 73 paediatric AIDS cases in 2006. This represents a 63% decrease in the number of paediatric AIDS cases.
- Nine (9) paediatric AIDS deaths were reported in 2007, compared to 13 Paediatric AIDS deaths in 2006. This represents a 31% decrease in the number of paediatric AIDS deaths due to increased access to treatment by HIV infected children.

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- It is estimated that the transmission of HIV from an HIV infected mother-to-child is less than 10 % compared to 25% in 2002 (prior to the introduction of antiretroviral medication for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (pMTCT)).

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).

TABLE 4: HIV status of STI clinic attendees by parish Jan – Dec 2007, Jamaica (excludes 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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FACTS & FIGURES

2007

