

2012 HIV/AIDS

Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior Survey

JAMAICA

Report of Findings from 2012 HIV/AIDS Knowledge Attitudes and Behavior Survey

Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes the findings from the HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour (KAB) Survey conducted in Jamaica in January and February, 2012. KAB surveys are carried out in Jamaica every four years and according to fao.org the KAB survey gives a good indication of the existing patterns of knowledge, attitudes and practices within a target group. It serves as an educational diagnosis of a community. Jamaica's National HIV Programme has been conducting KAB surveys since 2000, making the 2012 study its 4th iteration.

Survey Methodology

Who did the Survey target?

A cross-sectional, household-based, survey among a randomly selected sample of **1800 persons** island-wide was used to provide data for this study. Respondents represented persons aged 15-49 yrs with the younger group, those 15-24 years being over-sampled to ensure a more robust sample of sexually active persons in this age cohort.

Were the interviewers trained?

Prior to the collection of data, all the interviewers were rigorously trained over a five-day period, with two of these days devoted to field practice. Interviewers were all female and travelled in groups of 4. For the purpose of on site validation a supervisor was present with each group of interviewers.

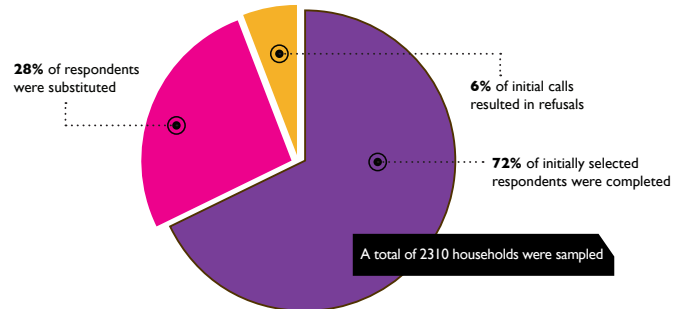
How was the survey carried out?

Between January and February, 2012 interviewers collected data by means of face-to-face confidential interviews. Answers to sensitive questions on sexual behavior however, were not told to the interviewer but separate cards were provided for the respondent. Once they answers were indicated on the card, the respondent would then drop the card into a large sealed reinforced envelope.

Did respondents fully understand the nature of the survey?

Informed consent was obtained from each respondent before proceeding with the interview. Interviewers assured participants of their anonymity and the confidentiality of the information. No identifiers (name, address, etc.) were included on the questionnaires.

How was the sample distributed?



The sample comprised 48% persons aged 15 – 24 years and 52% persons aged 25 – 49 years. The male:female distribution within the sample was equal.

Is this survey comparable with other KAP done in Jamaica and internationally?

The data collection instrument utilized indicator measures and definitions consistent with UNGASS. Where appropriate existing indicators (similar to those used in YR 2004) were used to ensure comparability with previous surveys.

Findings

The survey was designed to provide insight into issues and subjects. Each chapter of the report contained details of the findings relevant to that specific topic. These chapters are:

- (1) a review of the specific risk behaviours exhibited within the population;
- (2) behaviour by marital status;
- (3) access and attitudes to condoms;
- (4) knowledge;
- (5) stigma and discrimination;
- (6) response to media campaigns;
- (7) attitudes to circumcision;
- (8) childbearing and antenatal care;
- (9) role of religion
- (10) violence;
- (11) attitude to anal sex/buggery law and homosexuality and
- (12) the results of programme indicators.

The findings presented in the report provide numerous insights, however those presented are meant to be notable trends that the research has unearthed.

Review Of Specific Risk Behaviours

Multiple Partners

An increase in visiting and casual relationships, multiple partnerships overall increased. This was significantly so among the youth, **15-24 years** and females. Over a half (**52.4%**) of those multiple relationships are < 1 year. Persons reporting these relationships were significantly more likely to have also used a condom in their last such encounter than persons in longer term relationships. Twenty percent (**20%**) of those who are in cohabiting relationships also have other partners.

Multiple Partner Relationship less than and more than a year by Condom Usage YR 2012

	%YR 2012	%YR 2008
Total	41.0	38.9
Male	60.5	61.5
Female	19.4	16.8
15-24yrs	52.4	47.2
25-49yrs	32.9	32.6
Married/ cohabitating	20.0	21.7
Sexually active in last 12 months but not married	52.6	51.0
Have a main partner (% of those having multiple part- ners and in a non-married/non-cohabit- ing union)	66.2	70.3
Length of primary relation- ship (whether married or not) is less than 1 year	52.4	49.8
Length of primary relation- ship (whether married or not) is more than 1 year	47.6	50.2

Married & Cohabiting Partnerships

- The largest proportion of participants reported being in a sexual relationship with a married or cohabiting partner for 5 years or more.
- Condom use with a married or cohabiting partner registered an overall decline by sex and among younger persons. However, sub-group analyses revealed an encouraging increase in condom use among younger males (in 2008, **32.1%** reported condom use, which increased to **40.9%** in 2012) and a marginal increase among older females (in 2008, **26.1%** reported condom use, which increased to **28.3%**).

Transactional Sex

Transactional sex is widely recognized as one of the most risky sexual encounters, as it involves the exchange of gifts or money for sex. Unfortunately this practice is moving upwards and is particularly so among the youth (15-24 years) in both cohabiting and non-cohabiting relationships.

What is even more disturbing however is that only **50%** are protecting themselves in these situations by using a condom all or most of the times and **69%** of those who do not now use a condom have no intention of changing.

Table showing Transactional Sex by Socio-De-mographic Variables YR 2008 vs YR 2012

	Year 2012	Year 2008
Total (n=1618)	39.0	37.0
Male	53.8	52.7
Female	23.6	21.0
15-24 yr old	42.6*	42.6*
25-29 yr old	36.3	35.4
Married/cohabiting	29.6***	25.4
Sexually active in last 12 month but not married	54.3	45.0

*p<0.05; ***p<0.001

Response to Media Campaign

Recall of at least one message was impressive (96.2%) and even more so that just under a half, (49.1%) indicated that some aspect of a message had motivated them to think or act more responsibly. Condom related messages, in particular how to put on a condom, were the most memorable, followed by messages on abstinence.

Non-Cohabiting Unions

- vs.**
- The number of persons in non-cohabiting sexual unions increased within age groups and by sex over 2008.

Access & Attitudes to Condoms

- The main points of purchase for condoms were shops and pharmacies. To a lesser extent condoms were also procured from clinics or partners.
- The main change in procurement habits compared to 2008 was a decline in the use of clinics and an increase in supplies from partners.
- There was a significant difference in purchasing habits by age and sex. Younger persons accessed condoms mainly from shops, while older persons obtained their supply from pharmacies. It was also younger persons who relied more on partners to provide condoms

Top 4 Reasons for not using condoms all of the last 10 times sex had



Almost 5 in 10 (46.9%) of respondents say they **love or trust partner**



Less than 2 in 10 (14.7%) - **Don't like** using condoms



Less than 2 in 10 (13.1%) say they **didn't have one**



Less than 1 in 10 (8.0%) **say their partner doesn't like** using condoms

Stigma and Discrimination

When respondents were asked a series of statements about one's attitude to people living with AIDS (PLWAs), more positive attitudes were expressed on the aspects of caring for a family member and allowing a HIV+ teacher to remain in the classroom. Overall, males and females had similar accepting attitudes towards PLWAs, however older persons had more accepting attitudes on both composite scores (the 3 and 4 point composite score used for this scoring) than their younger counterparts.

Childbearing & Antenatal Care

Of the **167** respondents who are either pregnant or had a child within the last 2 years, the majority (**78.6%**) attended an antenatal clinic during pregnancy. The majority were provided with information on STI (**82.6%**) and HIV (**81.4%**) making them well aware of signs, symptoms, preventions and treatment, vitally important to protect their unborn child, resulting in **95.8%** opting to do an HIV Test during their pregnancy (Table 54).

Had STI At Least Once in Lifetime

Persons who've had multiple partners in last 12 months

YR 2008 - 25.6%
YR 2012 - 14.8%

Persons who've had transactional sex in last 12 months

YR 2008 - 25.3%
YR 2012 - 16.6%

STI Incidence

Self-reported incidence of STIs shows a significant decline, particularly among men 25-49 years. A similar pattern was seen among women in the same age group.

There were significant declines in the incidence of STIs among multiple partnerships as well as transactional and casual sexual contacts. However this must be questioned in light of the fact that for the most part, consistent condom use shows decline in these relationships while last time use shows no significant change to that reported in 2008.



"Widespread behavior change is challenging to achieve, and therefore effective HIV prevention must address the specific needs and circumstances of the target populations taking into consideration multiple determinants of human behavior. Jamaicans still need to understand what we need to do to advance our efforts, to address the limitations, gaps, and perceptions as it relates to knowledge, behavior and attitudes, as well as culture and societal norms that drive the HIV epidemic."

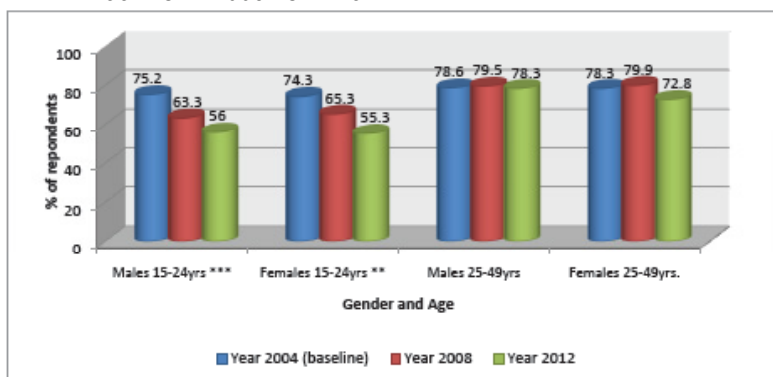


Sannia Sutherland
Director, Prevention
National HIV Programme
Ministry of Health, Jamaica

HIV/AIDS Knowledge

Just over a half of the younger age cohort (56%) have correct knowledge of preventive practices. This represents a 7 – 10% decrease over the years for both males and females. While knowledge was higher among older persons there was a smaller decline of 1 – 7% in their level of knowledge over the four year period.

Graph showing Endorsement of Correct Preventive Practices YR 2004 VS YR 2008 VS YR 2012



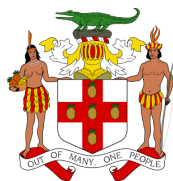
Role of Religion

Just over a half of the respondents (57.9%) indicated that they are actively religious. These were significantly more likely to be female.

Not surprisingly, the church was among the three major venues through which actively religious groups participated in a workshop on HIV/AIDS. Foremost was school (47.6%), followed by the community (19.4%) and church (17.1%). While, for the not actively religious group of respondents, they indicated school (44.3%), community (18.6%) and clinic (14.8).

Summary

- Approximately 8% of the population is engaging in risk behavior and not appropriately protecting themselves.
- Similar to the 2008 survey, multiple partnerships, a main risk factor associated with AIDS in Jamaica, have increased.
- HIV/AIDS knowledge indicators have declined marginally or held firm over the period, significantly among younger males and females. Efforts to increase HIV/AIDS awareness, correct preventive practices and to debunk myths continue to be critical.
- Accepting attitudes toward PLWAs have increased over the last three studies and held firm among females 25-49 between 2008-2012, except among males 15-24, which showed a decline 5.4% when compared to 2008 figures.



Attitude To Anal Sex/Buggery Law And Homosexuality

The society remains resolute in its view that the buggery law should not be repealed. Interestingly, women (21.4%) are more likely to agree with a repeal than are men (16.4%).

Fewer males than females believed that anal sex should be decriminalized and that anal sex is a private matter/ decision between consenting adult men and between consulting adult men and women.

The 15-24 year olds were significantly higher (63.9%) in their agreement of anal sex being a private matter between a man and a woman.

Violence

Approximately 1 in 10 (12%) of sexually active persons admitted to having been victims of violence meted out by a sex partner in the past 12 months. Violence was almost as pervasive among men (5.7%) as among women (6.8%) in the relationship

More men reported being slapped or having objects thrown at them as well as being pushed/shoved. However more women reported being threatened or actually victims of gun/knife use and being physically forced to have intercourse.

Reactions to the Findings

"Of particular concern to me is the convergence of vulnerabilities that manifest among the youth demographic that the KAPB reveals. The combination of factors such as an increase in the proportion of respondents that reported having casual, visiting or multiple sexual partnerships; an increase in the number of partners for persons in multiple sexual partnerships; a general low-risk perception for HIV transmission especially among respondents in these sorts of relationships; and overall inconsistent condom use is troubling."

- Brian-Paul Welsh, Sector Representative, Jamaica Country Coordinating Mechanism

"I am concerned that despite tremendous investments and many programmes targeted at young people 15-24 years for many years we are not making much progress. We must urgently assess the quality of all messages and programmes to ensure they are effective. It is also important that we broaden our reach and begin to implement interventions in other areas where there are none."

- Jaevion Nelson, Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network

The Ministry of Health

Study Conducted by Hope Enterprises Ltd. in October 2012 for the Ministry of Health's National HIV Programme