

# AN INQUIRY INTO VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH MINORS IN JAMAICA: 2001-2023

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**Abstract.** Sexual violence is more frequently reported by persons in accommodation and food services, low-level jobs that are in isolated areas, individuals lacking qualification and legal status, working in a male-dominated career, and experiencing power differences in employment with minimal likelihood of promotion. Using secondary data collected by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), this research quantitatively evaluates victims of rapes and sexual abuse of children under 16 years old in Jamaica from January 1, 2001 to November 20, 2023. The study examines victims of rapes and sexual abuse of children less than 16 years from police division and time committed. The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) provided the data for this study. The period for this work is from January 1, 2001, to November 20, 2023. The data was recorded, stored, and retrieved using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows, Version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel. The significance level used to determine statistical significance was less than 5% (0.05) at the 2-tailed significance level. The data were analyzed using percentages, probability, annual percentage change, cross-tabulations, and analysis of variance. The statistics revealed that St. Andrew had the highest number of reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old, with St. Andrew South reporting 11.4% of the cases in the nation. In 2001, there were 28.26 rapes in were 100,000 populations of Jamaica and in 2022; the figure fell to 17.51 per 100,000 Jamaican populations. Since, 2010, the sexual abuse rates of those under 16 years in Jamaica have been greater than the rape rates. The sexual assault of women and children in Jamaica is more than a police oversight matter to a national public health problem that requires an urgent remedy.

**Keywords:** *rape, carnal abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence*

## Introduction

The United Nations defines sexual violence as the unwanted acts encompassing sexual harassment to rape by coercion regardless of a person's relationship within a community (UN Women, 2023; Jansen, 2016; United Nations, 2016). According to the United Nations, sexual violence is a pervasive global atrocity that is preventable (UN, 2023). Sexual violence includes date rape, marital rape, rape by a stranger or acquaintance, sexual harassment in the community, rape during human trafficking, systematic rape, and sexual abuse of a child (WHO, 2012). From the perspective of the United Nations or the World Health Organization, sexual violence ranges from verbal harassment to forced penetration, which has a psychosocial influence on the victim. The rationale for the psychosocial effect of sexual violence is because of the unwanted nature of the act and often the use of coercion by the perpetrator (WHO, 2012). Sexual violence is committed against different genders, age groups, and relationship statuses, as well as other characteristics of the population (CDCP, 2022). Sexual violence is more frequently reported by persons in accommodation and food services, low-level jobs that are in isolated areas, individuals lacking qualification and legal status, working in a

male-dominated career, and experiencing power differences in employment with minimal likelihood of promotion (Shaw et al., 2018). Sexual violence occurs because perpetrators believe they have the power and a sense of entitlement over their victims (van Berlo and Ploemm, 2018; Wegner et al., 2015; Kalra and Bhugra, 2013). A multi-country study on sexual violence indicated that sexual violence by partners is lowest in Japan (6%) and highest in Ethiopia (59%), with other countries averaging between 10% and 50% (WHO, 2012). The study mentioned above also indicated that 12% of females experienced sexual violence ranging from harassment to rape from non-partners. A study in Jamaica found that husbands in marriages also used sexual violence (Bourne et al., 2015b).

The Sexual Offences Act 2009 indicates that rape and sexual abuse of girls under the age of 16 years are aggravating challenges being experienced by many Jamaicans. Under the Sexual Offence Act, an "adult" is eighteen years and older; an individual of fewer than eighteen years is classified as a child (Ministry of Justice, 2009). Rapes and sexual assaults are not fully represented in the Jamaica Constabulary Force crime data because victims are experiencing fear; girls feel like they lose their dignity during investigations; women and girls experience a high level of fear of being targeted by many gunslingers; gangs and violent groups target some; many victims experience sexual violence by partner/s or from non-partner and acquaintances (Bourne et al., 2015b; Amnesty International, 2006). Many rapes and sexual assault victims feel imperilled to take their cases before a court as their testimonies are treated as an allegation that is easy to provide but difficult to substantiate before a jury (Lyons, 2021). The author mentioned above also indicated that rape and sexual assault cases are underreported, and less than 50% of the rape cases reported between 2011 and 2020 were not cleared up. Bourne et al. (2015a) indicated that rape and carnal abuse are crimes against a person that are violent and emergency that must be treated with a higher level of regard by the Jamaican justice system (Bourne et al., 2015a). The extent of rape in Jamaica is not merely a public health concern, but a study by Bourne et al. (2015b) found that there were more rapes in Jamaica than in New York City. New York City has a population that is more than ten times that of Jamaica. So, Jamaica's public health predicament of sexual violence is a tribulation that is direr than the crux being experienced by the geographic area of New York City. The nature of these public health concerns requires more examination to provide information to guide policy formulation to reduce this phenomenon. Using secondary data collected by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), this research quantitatively evaluates victims of rapes and sexual abuse of children under 16 years old in Jamaica from January 1, 2001 to November 20, 2023. The study examines victims of rapes and sexual abuse of children less than 16 years from police division and time committed.

## **Materials and Methods**

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) provided the data for this study. The period for this work is from January 1, 2001, to November 20, 2023. The data was recorded, stored, and retrieved using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows, Version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel. The significance level used to determine statistical significance was less than 5% (0.05) at the 2-tailed significance level. The data were analyzed using percentages, probability, annual percentage change, cross-tabulations, and analysis of variance.

### ***Data validity***

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has instituted a robust surveillance system that tracks, monitors, records and validates major crimes committed and arrests made in Jamaica. The surveillance system is constantly assessed and updated daily to ensure that major crimes are accurately recorded and accounted for. The purpose of this dataset is for national planning and record-keeping in an attempt to monitor this phenomenon.

### ***Sexual violence, rape and sexual abuse***

The UN (2016) opined, "Sexual Violence Acts of a sexual nature against one or multiple persons or that influence such person or persons to enter into an act of a sexual nature by force, threat or coercion; Sexual violence is attributable to the trepidation of incarceration, violence, intimidation, consternation, psychological oppression or debasement, or by capitalizing on a person's incapacity to give genuine consent. Forms of sexual violence include rape, attempted rape, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation, child pornography, child prostitution, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced public nudity, forced virginity testing, etc. According to the United Nations, "Rape Penetration-even if slightly-penetration of the anal or genital opening of a person's body by the penis and does not give consent to the invasion of their genital or anal opening or body part". The United Nations postulated, "Sex with a minor is Sexual penetration of a person younger than 18. Sexual penetration includes (s) the penetration by the penis of vagina, anus, or mouth by the penis or other body parts. Also, it includes the penetration of the vagina or anus by an object. Sexual penetration of a child is prohibited regardless of the age of 7 majorities or consents locally and is considered as sexual abuse. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence". The United Nations argued, "Sexual abuse is the verified or physical intimidation of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions".

### **Results and Discussion**

*Table 1* presents the characteristics of reported victims of rape and sexual abuse of fewer than 16-year old in Jamaica from January 1, 2023 to November 20, 2023. During the studied period, there were 30,644 cases of sexual violence in Jamaica with 52.0% being rape and 48.0% sexual abuse of those under 16-year-olds. The majority of reported sexual violence occurred in Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central and St. Andrew South), with the number of cases showing a decline since 2018. *Table 2* presents a detailed analysis of reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old in Jamaica. The statistics revealed that St. Andrew had the highest number of reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old, with St. Andrew South reporting 11.4% of the cases in the nation. *Table 3* presents the per cent of reported cases of rape and sexual abuse against those fewer than 16 years old in Jamaica from January 1, 2001 to November 20, 2023. Marginally more than 1 in every 10 cases of reported rapes and sexual abuse against those less than 16 years in Jamaica occurred in January followed by March, May, and April, with a majority of the cases occurring a Friday and Saturday. *Table 4* revealed that for the studied period, rape and sexual intercourse of those under 16 years old is at their lowest (25.13 per 100,000) and

2012 had the highest combined rate (80.10 per 100, 000 population. In 2001, there were 28.26 rapes in were 100,000 populations of Jamaica and in 2022; the figure fell to 17.51 per 100,000 Jamaican populations. Since, 2010, the sexual abuse rates of those under 16 years in Jamaica have been greater than the rape rates. *Table 5* presents that 77 out of every 100 reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of those less than 16 years were students. The statistics revealed that police officers, healthcare professionals, self-employed, and business owners have been victims of rape in Jamaica. The data showed that 1.4% of bartenders and/or bar owners has been raped, 0.7% of household helpers, and 0.6% of labourers. A detailed analysis of the reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old is presented in *Table 3*. *Table 6* presents a cross-tabulation between the police division and the month the sexual violence (rape and sexual intercourse/under-16) was committed in Jamaica ( $\chi^2$  (df=44)=77.205, p-value<0.001). In January, the most number of reported cases of rape and sexual intercourse with those under 16 years old occurred in Jamaica, with most of the cases occurring in Areas 4 and 5 (11.3%) followed by Area 2 (11.2%), and Area 1 (10.0%). *Table 7* presents a cross-tabulation between the police division and the day sexual violence (rape and sexual intercourse/under-16) was committed in Jamaica ( $\chi^2$  (df=24)=23.722, p-value=0.478). On a Saturday, the most number of reported cases of rape and sexual intercourse with those under 16 years old occurred in Jamaica (16.0%), with most of the cases occurring in Areas 1 (16.3%) followed by Area 4 (16.2%), and Area 3 (16.0%). *Table 8* presents a cross-tabulation between victim classification and the month the sexual violence (rape and sexual intercourse/under-16) was committed in Jamaica ( $\chi^2$  (df=11)=62.201, p-value<0.001). More sexual abuse of those less than 16 years occurred in January (11.6%) compared to rape (10.1%). Of the number of reported cases of sexual violence in Jamaica from 2001 to November 20, 2023 (N=30,677), 52% (N=15,921) were rape and 48% (N=14,722) were sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old. *Table 9* presents a cross-tabulation between victim classification and police division in which the sexual violence (rape and sexual intercourse/under-16) was committed in Jamaica ( $\chi^2$  (df=4)=5.210, p-value=0.266). More sexual abuse of those less than 16 years occurred in January (11.6%) compared to rape (10.1%). Of the number of reported cases of sexual violence in Jamaica from 2001 to November 20, 2023 (N=30,677), 52% (N=15,921) were rape and 48% (N=14,722) were sexual abuse of those less than 16 years old.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of the Reported Victims of Rape and Sexual Abuse of under 16-year old from 2001-to-2023, N=30,644.

Category	Frequency [N] (Percentage [%])
Type of Sexual Offenses:	
Rape	52.0 (15,921)
Sexual Abuse of Under 16-year old	48.0 (14,722)
Police Division	
Area 1 (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, & Westmoreland)	17.4 (5,341)
Area 2 (St. Ann, St. Mary, & Portland)	9.8 (3,010)
Area 3 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, & Clarendon)	16.3 (4,996)
Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South)	28.3 (8,661)
Area 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North)	28.1 (8,617)
Year Incident Occurred:	
2001	3.3 (1,005)
2002	3.4 (1,027)
2003	4.0 (1,221)
2004	4.2 (1,277)
2005	3.6 (1,117)
2006	3.7 (1,141)
2007	4.0 (1,230)

2008	4.8 (1,484)
2009	4.3 (1,325)
2010	5.0 (1,532)
2011	6.1 (1,856)
2012	7.1 (2,169)
2013	6.2 (1,910)
2014	5.4 (1,645)
2015	4.8 (1,471)
2016	4.0 (1,225)
2017	4.0 (1,218)
2018	4.1 (1,260)
2019	4.8 (1,483)
2020	4.1 (1,241)
2021	3.6 (1,091)
2022	3.3 (998)
2023	2.3 (710)
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Year Interval	
2001 – 2005	18.4 (5,647)
2006 – 2010	21.9 (6,712)
2011 – 2015	29.5 (9,051)
2016 – 2020	21.0 (6,427)
2021 – 2023	9.1 (2,799)

**Table 2.** Parish/Police Division Reported Cases of Rape and Sexual Abuse under 16-year Committed.

Details	Frequency [N] (Percentage [%])
Kingston	11.2 (3,446)
Kingston Eastern	4.6 (1,404)
Kingston Central	2.5 (781)
Kingston Western	4.1 (1,261)
St. Andrew	23.5 (7,179)
St. Andrew Central	5.7 (1,733)
St. Andrew North	6.4 (1,961)
St. Andrew South	11.4 (3,485)
St. Thomas	5.8 (1,763)
Portland	2.7 (831)
St. Mary	3.7 (1,143)
St. Ann	3.4 (1,039)
Trelawny	2.9 (874)
St. James	6.4 (1,972)
Hanover	2.5 (760)
Westmoreland	5.7 (1,736)
St. Elizabeth	3.2 (995)
Manchester	5.6 (1,707)
Clarendon	7.5 (2,298)
St. Catherine	16.0 (4,901)
St. Catherine North	8.8 (2,694)
St. Catherine South	7.2 (2,207)

**Table 3.** Day and Month Crimes Committed in Jamaica, N = 30,677.

Details	Frequency [N] (Percentage [%])
Month	
January	10.9 (3,340)
February	8.7 (2,667)
March	9.1 (2,784)
April	8.8 (2,692)
May	8.9 (2,715)
June	8.5 (2,608)
July	7.9 (2,427)
August	7.8 (2,380)
September	7.0 (2,140)
October	7.7 (2,371)
November	7.1 (2,176)
December	7.7 (2,377)
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Weekday	
Sunday	12.0 (3,681)
Monday	14.2 (4,347)
Tuesday	13.8 (4,244)

Wednesday	14.3 (4,385)
Thursday	13.9 (4,271)
Friday	15.8 (4,833)
Saturday	16.0 (4,916)

**Table 4. Reported Cases of Rape and Sexual Abuse of those under 16 years old in Jamaica by rates per year from 2001 to 2023 (November 20, 2023).**

Year	Victim		Total	Population	100K (means per 100000 population)		
	Rape	Sexual intercourse/ under 16			Rape/ 100K	Sexual intercourse/ 100K	Combine/ 100K
2001	736	269	1005	2,604,100	28.26	10.33	38.59
2002	763	264	1027	2,615,200	29.18	10.09	39.27
2003	847	374	1221	2,625,700	32.26	14.24	46.50
2004	865	412	1277	2,638,100	32.79	15.62	48.41
2005	762	355	1117	2,650,400	28.75	13.39	42.14
2006	706	435	1141	2,663,100	26.51	16.33	42.84
2007	735	495	1230	2,675,800	27.47	18.50	45.97
2008	863	621	1484	2,687,200	32.12	23.11	55.22
2009	715	610	1325	2,695,600	26.52	22.63	49.15
2010	744	788	1532	2,695,543	27.60	29.23	56.83
2011	852	1003	1855	2,699,838	31.56	37.15	68.71
2012	962	1207	2169	2,707,805	35.53	44.57	80.10
2013	879	1031	1910	2,714,669	32.38	37.98	70.36
2014	729	916	1645	2,720,554	26.80	33.67	60.47
2015	641	830	1471	2,725,288	23.52	30.46	53.98
2016	560	665	1225	2,728,149	20.53	24.38	44.90
2017	530	688	1218	2,728,654	19.42	25.21	44.64
2018	549	711	1260	2,727,503	20.13	26.07	46.20
2019	572	911	1483	2,813,773	20.33	32.38	52.71
2020	552	689	1241	2,820,436	19.57	24.43	44.00
2021	493	598	1091	2,827,695	17.43	21.15	38.58
2022	495	503	998	2,827,377	17.51	17.79	35.30
2023	370	340	710	2,825,544	13.09	12.03	25.13
Total	15920	14715	30635				

**Table 5. Occupational Type of Victims of Rape and Sexual Abuse/Under 16 years old.**

Details	Frequency [N] (Percentage [%])
Occupational type	
Other	6.0 (1,842)
Student	77.1 (23,629)
Unemployed	7.9 (2,406)
Self-Employed	0.2 (50)
Retiree	0.1 (32)
Sales Representative (including clerks, supervisors)	0.7 (224)
Healthcare Professionals (including pharmacists)	0.4 (115)
Police Officer	0.0 (13)
Nail Technician	0.1 (28)
Housewife	0.2 (63)
Housekeeper/Domestic helper	0.7 (215)
Customer Service Representative	0.2 (48)
Cosmetologist	0.5 (167)
Bartender & Owner (including mixologist)	1.4 (417)
Accounting Professionals	0.1 (35)
Administrative Assistants	0.3 (84)
Security Guards	0.2 (53)
Factory Worker	0.0 (2)
Principal, Teacher, Bursar, & Education Officer	0.4 (112)
Administrator/Manager	0.1 (35)
Cashier	0.4 (130)
Customer Service Representative	0.3 (102)
Child (including infant)	0.1 (40)
Ward of the State	0.2 (47)
Self-Employed	0.1 (42)
Higgler/Vendor	0.5 (138)
Merchandiser	0.0 (14)
Business Owner (including Shopkeeper)	0.3 (97)
Dressmaker	0.1 (27)

Labourer	0.6 (173)
Babysitter	0.1 (21)
Sex-Worker	0.0 (12)
Waitress	0.2 (60)
Receptionist	0.1 (34)
Farmer	0.2 (48)
Exotic Dancer	0.1 (40)
Chef	0.1 (38)
Cook	0.0 (11)

**Table 6.** A Cross tabulation between the Police Division and the Month Crimes Committed.

Month	A		B		C		D		E		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
January	532	10.0	336	11.2	483	9.7	979	11.3	974	11.3	3304	10.8
February	437	8.2	249	8.3	426	8.5	757	8.7	798	9.3	2667	8.7
March	486	9.1	294	9.8	457	9.1	814	9.4	732	8.5	2783	9.1
April	456	8.5	276	9.2	449	9.0	742	8.6	766	8.9	2689	8.8
May	465	8.7	277	9.2	464	9.3	779	9.0	730	8.5	2715	8.9
June	495	9.3	267	8.9	418	8.4	678	7.8	748	8.7	2606	8.5
July	436	8.2	234	7.8	399	8.0	684	7.9	672	7.8	2425	7.9
August	427	8.0	268	8.9	386	7.7	656	7.6	642	7.5	2379	7.8
September	408	7.6	208	6.9	377	7.5	598	6.9	548	6.4	2139	7.0
October	408	7.6	206	6.8	388	7.8	664	7.7	703	8.2	2369	7.7
November	378	7.1	193	6.4	368	7.4	652	7.5	584	6.8	2175	7.1
December	413	7.7	202	6.7	381	7.6	658	7.6	720	8.4	2374	7.8
Total	5341	100.0	3010	100.0	4996	100.0	8661	100.0	8617	100.0	30625	100.0

Note: N=Frequency; %=Percentage; A=Area 1 (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, & Westmoreland); B=Area 2 (St. Ann, St. Mary, & Portland); C=Area 3 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, & Clarendon); D=Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South); E=Area 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North).

**Table 7.** A Cross tabulation between the Police Division and Day Crimes Committed.

Month	A		B		C		D		E		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sunday	667	12.5	331	11.0	636	12.7	1034	11.9	1008	11.7	3676	12.0
Monday	689	12.9	439	14.6	712	14.3	1250	14.4	1243	14.4	4333	14.1
Tuesday	737	13.8	427	14.2	673	13.5	1207	13.9	1191	13.8	4235	13.8
Wednesday	779	14.6	434	14.4	729	14.6	1216	14.0	1224	14.2	4382	14.3
Thursday	745	13.9	435	14.5	674	13.5	1159	13.4	1255	14.6	4268	13.9
Friday	855	16.0	461	15.3	774	15.5	1392	16.1	1340	15.6	4822	15.7
Saturday	869	16.3	483	16.0	798	16.0	1403	16.2	1356	15.7	4909	16.0
Total	5341	100.0	3010	100.0	4996	100.0	8661	100.0	8617	100.0	30625	100.0

Note: N=Frequency; %=Percentage; A=Area 1 (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, & Westmoreland); B=Area 2 (St. Ann, St. Mary, & Portland); C=Area 3 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, & Clarendon); D=Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South); E=Area 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North).

**Table 8.** A Cross tabulation between Victim Classification and Month Crimes Committed.

Month	Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
January	1603	10.1	1704	11.6	3307	10.8
February	1325	8.3	1342	9.1	2667	8.7
March	1414	8.9	1370	9.3	2784	9.1
April	1425	9.0	1267	8.6	2692	8.8
May	1439	9.0	1276	8.7	2715	8.9
June	1367	8.6	1241	8.4	2608	8.5
July	1310	8.2	1117	7.6	2427	7.9
August	1343	8.4	1037	7.0	2380	7.8
September	1109	7.0	1030	7.0	2139	7.0
October	1288	8.1	1083	7.4	2371	7.7
November	1133	7.1	1043	7.1	2176	7.1
December	1165	7.3	1212	8.2	2377	7.8
Total	15921	100.0	14722	100.0	30643	100.0

**Table 9.** A Cross tabulation between Victim Classification and Police Division.

Police area	Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
A	2835	17.8	2505	17.0	5340	17.4
B	1532	9.6	1478	10.0	3010	9.8
C	2618	16.5	2378	16.2	4996	16.3
D	4463	28.0	4198	28.5	8661	28.3
E	4464	28.1	4153	28.2	8617	28.1
Total	15912	100.0	14712	100.0	30624	100.0

*Note:* A=Area 1 (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, & Westmoreland); B=Area 2 (St. Ann, St. Mary, & Portland); C=Area 3 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, & Clarendon); D=Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South); E=Area 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North).

Sexual violence is a public health concern, and continues to be an issue across the globe (CDCP, 2022). The CDCP (2022) reported that one in every two women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Such a statistical fact highlights an emergency that must be addressed and Alexander and Miller (2022) emphasized this. The World Population Review (2023) provided statistics on the countries with the highest rape rates in the globe and Jamaica was not listed among those nations (*Table 10*). The current findings revealed that since 2020 the rape rate in Jamaica has been less than 20 per 100,000. Despite this fact, since 2010, the sexual abuse rates of those fewer than 16 years in Jamaica have been greater than the rape rates, which make this a public health concern in Jamaica. McMahon and Puett (1999) opined, “Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a widespread problem that has been associated with a variety of negative health outcomes” suggesting that this is a public concern in Jamaica. In 2020, the sexual intercourse rate among those less than 16 years in Jamaica was 32.38 per 100,000 population, 44.57 per 100,000 population in 2012 and 37.98 per 100,000 populations in 2013. All those figures would place Jamaica among the 10 nations in which sexual abuse among those less than 16 years would be greater than rape rates for St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, and Nicaragua. Sexual violence, therefore, is a public health concern in Jamaica, particularly sexual intercourse among those under 16 years old. This public health problem is a substantial issue in Areas 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South) and 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North) Police Division.

**Table 10.** 10 Countries with the highest rape rate in the World.

Details	Per 100K population
Botswana	92.93 per 100k BW
Lesotho	82.68 per 100k LS
South Africa	72.10 per 100k ZA
Bermuda	67.29 per 100k BM
Sweden	63.54 per 100k SE
Suriname	45.21 per 100k SR
Costa Rica	36.70 per 100k CR
Nicaragua	31.60 per 100k NI
Grenada	30.63 per 100k GD
Saint Kitts and Nevis	28.62 per 100k KN

*Source:* World Population Review (2023).

## Conclusion

The sexual assault of women and children in Jamaica is more than a police oversight matter to a national public health problem that requires an urgent remedy. The remedy that is needed in Jamaica is a public health education campaign with adequate resources to aid behaviour change among men, particularly in St. Andrew South, St. Catherine North, Clarendon, and St. Catherine South.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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