

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL HIV/STI PROGRAM
JAMAICA HIV EPIDEMIC UPDATE
January to December 2009**

HIV/AIDS cases

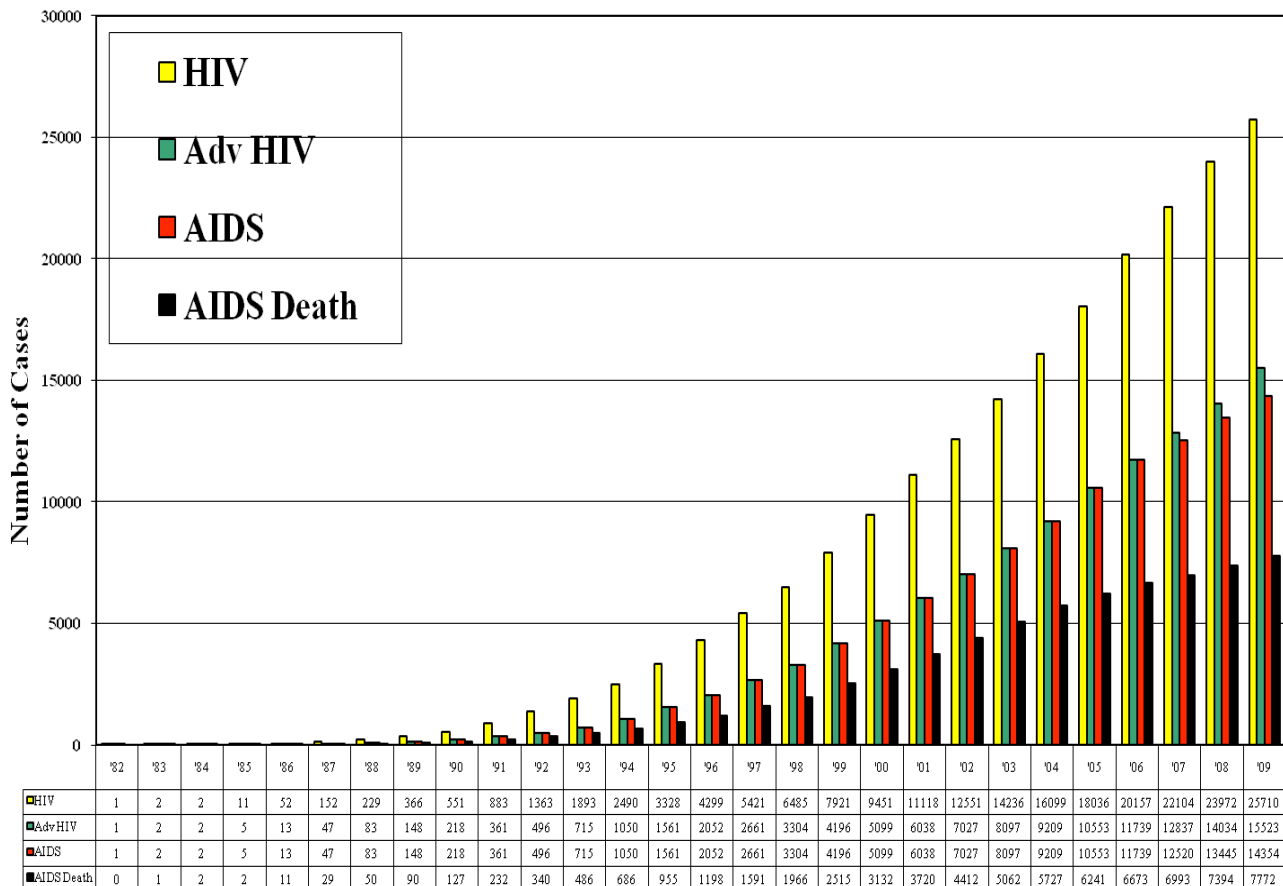
In this surveillance report, *HIV/AIDS* includes persons diagnosed with HIV infection (not AIDS), advanced HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS.

In Jamaica, it is estimated that 32,000 persons are living with HIV. Of these, at least 50% of persons are unaware of their status.

- Between January 1982 and December 2009, twenty five thousand seven hundred and ten cases (25710) of HIV/AIDS were reported to the Ministry of Health.

The number of persons reported with HIV increased by 21% over the last decade (between 1999 (1436 cases) and 2009 (1738 cases)). This is due to new HIV infections, increased access to testing, improved surveillance, and increased awareness about HIV/AIDS among health care workers and the general population.

Figure 1: Cumulative number of reported HIV/AIDS cases and deaths, 1982 to 2009



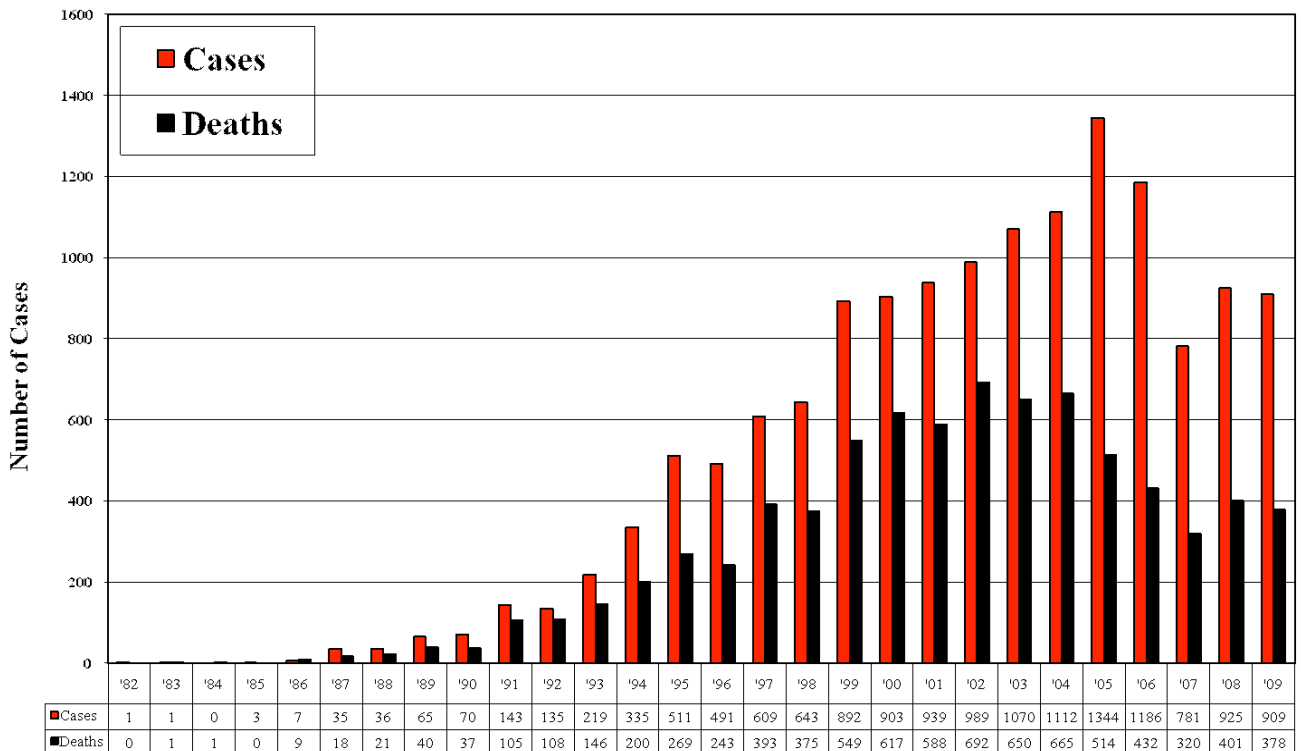
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- The most urbanized parishes have the highest cumulative number of reported HIV/AIDS cases since the start of the epidemic: Kingston & St. Andrew – 1432 cases per 100,000 persons, St. Ann – 1038 cases per 100,000 persons and St. James – 1854 HIV/AIDS cases per 100,000 persons.
- In 2009, 66% of reported HIV/AIDS cases were from the parishes Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. James, and St Catherine.

AIDS cases and deaths

- The total number of reported AIDS cases in Jamaica between January 1982 and December 2009 is 14,354.

Figure 2: AIDS cases and deaths reported annually in Jamaica, 1982 -2009



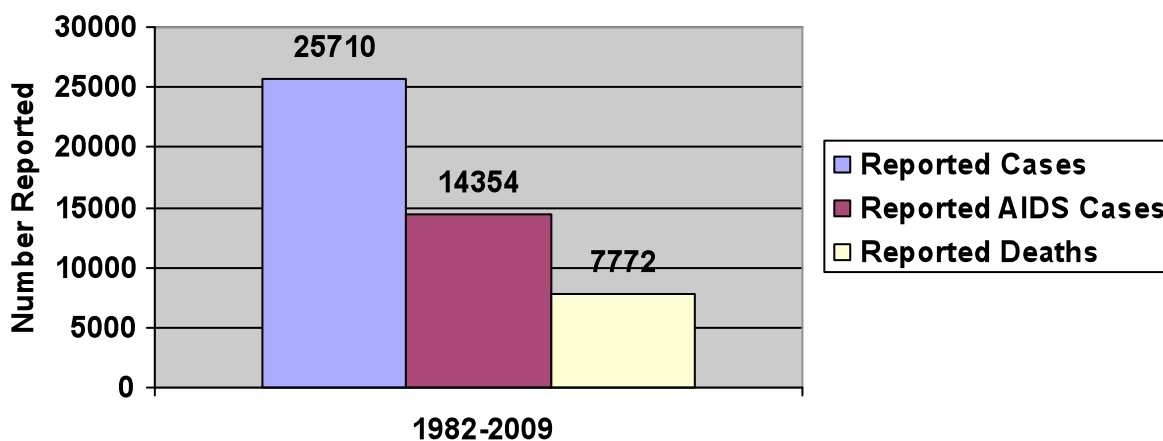
- In 2009, one thousand four hundred and eighty-nine persons with advanced HIV (704 males and 785 females) were reported compared to 1197 in 2008. Of these persons, nine hundred and nine (909) persons were diagnosed with AIDS compared to 1,112 persons in 2004 (first year of public access to antiretroviral treatment) and 892 in 1999. This represents a 18% decline in AIDS cases since the introduction of public access to ARVs in 2004, and a 2% increase in the ten year period from 1999.
- The percentage of reported cases that meet diagnosis for AIDS have declined from 62% of cases reported in 1999 to 52% of cases in 2009.

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- The total number of reported AIDS deaths in Jamaica between January 1982 and December 2009 is 7772.

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 2007 include persons with advanced HIV.

Figure 3: Total number of HIV/AIDS/Advanced HIV cases reported, number of AIDS Cases reported and number of AIDS deaths reported, between 1982-2009



- The number of AIDS deaths has also decreased with three hundred and seventy-eight (378) AIDS deaths (234 males and 144 females) reported in 2009 compared to 665 in 2004 (Figure 1). This represents a 43% decrease in AIDS deaths since the inception of Universal access to ARVs in 2004, and 31% decrease since 1999 (549 AIDS deaths)

A decrease in AIDS deaths and cases is attributed to the introduction of public access to antiretroviral treatment in 2004, scaling up of the national VCT programme allowing for earlier diagnosis, 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.

- Sixty percent (60%) of reported AIDS cases in 2009 were from the most urbanized parishes (KSA, St. Catherine, and St. James). This has decreased from 70% of cases in 2008.
- The overall male: female ratio for persons reported with AIDS is 1.35:1, and the ratio of men:women reported in 2009 is 1.2:1. The cumulative AIDS case rates are higher among men compared to women (614.9 cases per 100,000 men and 444.2 cases per 100,000)

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women).

- Approximately 79% of all AIDS cases reported in 2009 are in the 20-49 year old age group (compared to 69% in 2008). 91% 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 86% are in the 20 – 60 year old age group.

Figure 4: AIDS cases reported by age group, 2009

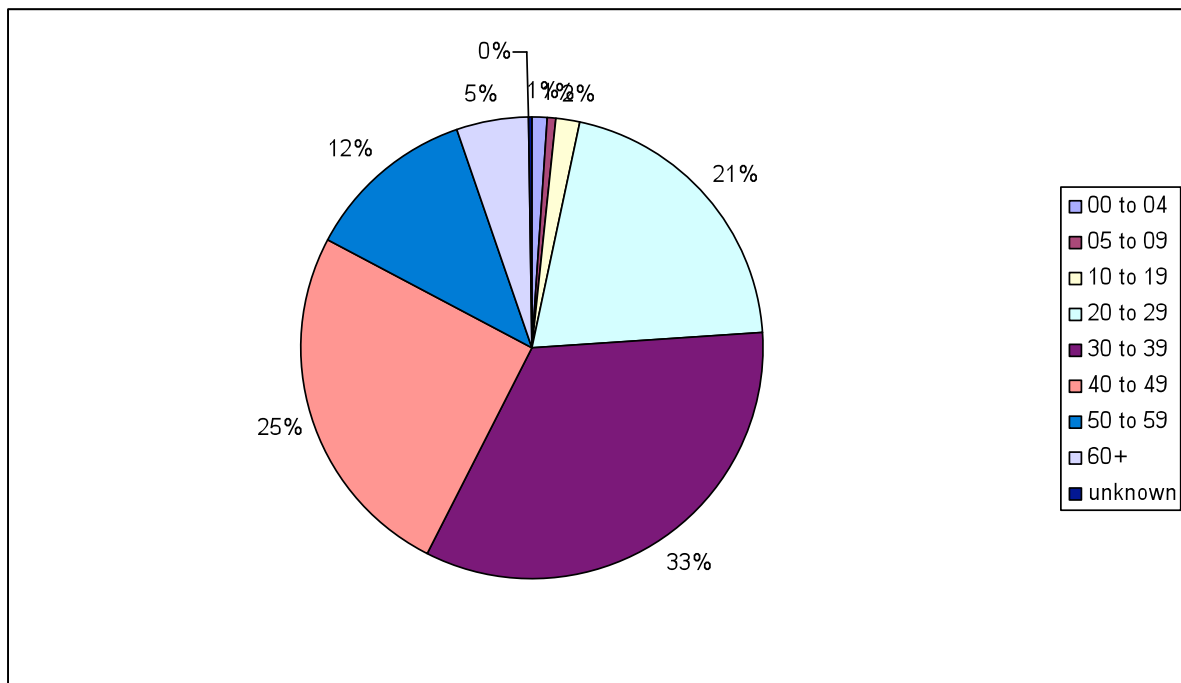
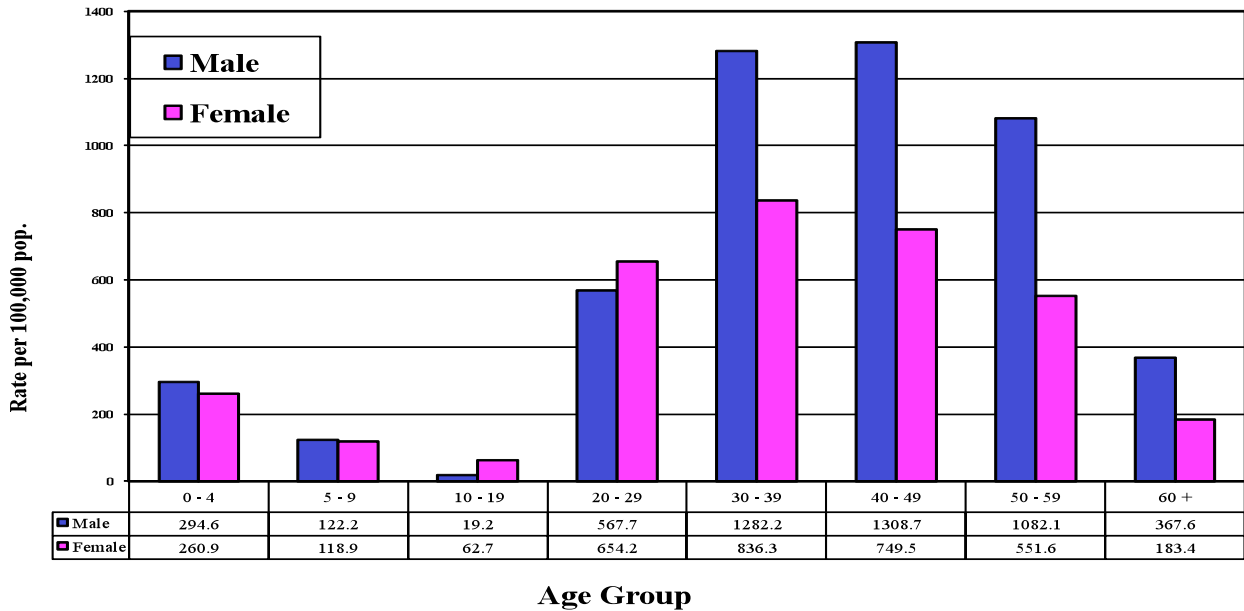


Figure 5: AIDS case rate per 100,000 population by age and sex: 1982 - 2009

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- Since 1982, the number of AIDS cases reported each year increased and, for almost all age groups, peaked in 2005. Cases of MTCT in the 0-9 age groups Peaked in 2006, and have been trending downward for the past 3 years.
- AIDS cases reported among girls in the 10-19 age group have increased since 1982, whereas there has been no noticeable trend in the number of cases reported for males in this age group.
- The number of AIDS cases reported among women age 10 - 29 outnumbers the cases among men in this age group. The reverse is seen in persons older than 30.

Figure 6. Trend in the percentage contribution to reported AIDS cases over time by Gender and

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infected by another partner (Table 1).

TABLE 1: Reported risk behaviours among adults with HIV (1982 – Dec 2009 cumulative)

N= 18130

RISK	No. of Persons (%)
Sex with Sex workers	3581(19.7)
Crack , Cocaine Use	1138 (6.3)
STI History	8137 (44.9)
IV Drug Use	139 (0.8)
Multiple Sexual Partners/contacts	Estimated >80%
No high risk behaviour	5135 (28.3)

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 HIV/AIDS.

The prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (pMTCT) Programme

- In 2009, for every one thousand pregnant women attending public antenatal clinics, at least 10 were HIV infected.

TABLE 2: HIV status of ANC clinic attendees by parish Jan – Sep 2009, Jamaica

Parish	Total Tested	Total Positive	Percent Positive (95% C.I.)
Kingston & St Andrew	1450	22	1.52 (0.89 – 2.15)
Manchester	415	4	0.96 (0.02 – 1.9)
St Ann	377	2	0.53 (-0.2 – 1.26)
St Catherine	1085	10	0.92 (0.35 – 1.49)
St James	401	7	1.75 (0.47 – 3.03)
Westmoreland	316	2	0.63 (-0.24 – 1.5)
Total	4044	47	1.16 (0.83 -1.49)

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 86% of HIV infected mothers in 2008. More than 90% of infants born to HIV infected women

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- In 2009, a total of 26 new paediatric AIDS cases (children 0 to 9 years old) were reported compared to 78 paediatric AIDS cases in 2004. This significant decrease likely reflects the success of the pMTCT programme in reaching HIV-infected women.
- Five (5) paediatric AIDS deaths were reported in 2009, compared to 9 in 2008 and 13 Paediatric AIDS deaths in 2004. This represents a 31% decrease in the number of paediatric AIDS deaths due to increased access to treatment by HIV infected children.
- It is estimated that the transmission of HIV from an HIV infected mother-to-child is currently less than 5% 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 2009, indicate that for every one thousand persons with a sexually transmitted infection, at least twenty four (24) were infected with HIV (Table 4).

TABLE 2: HIV status of STI clinic attendees by parish Jan – Sep 2009, Jamaica

Parish	Total Tested	Total Positive	Percent Positive (95% C.I.)
Kingston & St Andrew	1207	30	2.49 (1.75 -3.53)
Manchester	346	5	1.45 (0.64 – 3.33)
St Ann	314	6	1.91 (0.89 – 4.09)
St Catherine	903	25	2.77 (1.88 – 4.05)
St James	334	10	2.99 (1.65 – 5.42)
Westmoreland	263	6	2.28 (1.07 -4.88)
Total	3367	82	2.44 (1.97 – 3.01)

*Survey conducted between April and September 2009

- A 2008 survey of sex workers found that 5 % 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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Jamaica HIV/AIDS Update prepared by: Monitoring & Evaluation Unit
Reference: Ministry of Health, National HIV/STI Prevention and Control Program, Jamaica
AIDS Report 2009, Kingston Jamaica,
Released on September 3, 2010
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FACTS & FIGURES

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