



Memorandum

Date July 22, 1987

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Program Evaluation Branch (PEB), Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), Center
for Health Promotion and Education (CHPE)

Subject Foreign Trip Report (AID/RSSA): Jamaica, July 8-16, 1987, 1987--Young Adult
Reproductive Health Survey

To James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director, CDC
Through: Acting Assistant Director for Science, CHPE JL

SUMMARY

- I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL
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SUMMARY

Follow-up consultation was provided to the National Family Planning Board (NFPB) of the Government of Jamaica for final editing of the data files for the 1987 Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey (JYARHS) and preparation of a preliminary report. The JYARHS consisted of completed interviews for 2,141 females and 2,094 males, 14 to 24 years of age. Preliminary findings indicate: the majority of young females and males 14-24 years of age in Jamaica are sexually experienced (66 percent of females and 82 percent of males). For both sexes, sexual experience increases with age. Also, at their first sexual intercourse, 41 percent of females but only 11 percent of males used contraception. In addition, three-fourths of both males and females reported their first pregnancy or first live birth was unintended. Further, 80 percent of females and 61 percent of males have had at least one formal course on sex education (most of the courses were in school). From these preliminary findings it is clear that the 1987 JYARHS contains important information which will be invaluable to program policy-makers in Jamaica.

The preliminary report should be finalized by September and a final report is scheduled for February 1988 when a dissemination seminar for planning and policy officials will be held.

I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSES OF TRAVEL

Kingston, Jamaica, July 8-16, 1987, at the request of USAID/Jamaica, to provide consultation to the Jamaican National Family Planning Board (NFPB) in final editing of the data files for the Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey (JYARHS) and preparation of a preliminary report. Background and objectives of this survey were included in previous trip reports (see Jamaica Foreign Trip Reports dated June 24 and August 26, 1986). This travel was in accordance with the CDC AID RSSA.

II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

A. USAID (6B Oxford Road)

1. Mr. John Coury, Health and Population Officer (94850:X213/218)
2. Ms. Grace Ann Gray, Assistant Health and Population Officer

B. National Family Planning Board (NFPB)--5 Sylvan Avenue

1. Ms. June Rattray, Executive Director
2. Ms. Pauline Samuels, P&R (64154)

C. University of the West Indies (UWI)

1. Ms. Dorian Powell (Home No: 41193)
2. Ms. Jean Jackson

D. Statistical Institute of Jamaica

1. Mr. Vernon James, Director, Surveys
2. Mr. Victor Anderson, Consultant, Computer Services Division
3. Ms. Constance Williams, Programmer
4. Ms. Carol Cory, Programmer

III. PRELIMINARY REPORT

During this trip a draft of the Preliminary Report for the 1987 Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey was prepared. The Preliminary Report is to be finalized by the end of August 1987, 4 months after fieldwork was completed. The Preliminary Report consists of these major topics: Characteristics of the Sample, Access to Sex Education, Information on Sex Education, Knowledge of Contraceptive Methods and STDs, Attitudes Toward Women's Roles and Other Topics, Sexual Experience and Contraceptive Use, Current Sexual Activity, Fertility and Planning Status, and Comparison with Other Young Adult Surveys.

A review of the preliminary findings follows. The male and female samples, both, included 6,540 households. For females, 2,141 interviews were completed, yielding a 97.1 percent completion rate. For males, 2,094 interviews were completed, yielding a 95.7 percent completion rate.

Sex Education

The majority of females (80.2 percent) and males (61.4 percent) had been exposed to sex education (Table 1). For both males and females the exposure occurred primarily in school; 15.2 percent of females and 6.8 percent of males received some exposure to sex education both in and outside of school. Exposure to sex education for both males and females increased with age up to age group 18-19 then declined slightly for age group 20-24.

Sexual Experience and Contraceptive Use

Two-thirds of females (66.2 percent) 14-24 years of age were sexually experienced compared with 81.8 percent of males in this age group (Table 2). Sexual experience is defined as having sexual intercourse at least once. In the Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey, less than one percent of both males and females reported that their first partner was within a legal or consensual union. Thus, in the Caribbean context, reported sexual experience rates are essentially pre-union sexual rates.

For both sexes, as may be expected, sexual experience increases with age (Table 2). The sexual experience rate for females at age 14 is 15.3 percent. This figure more than doubles by age 16 to 36.3 percent, and doubles once again by age 18 to 76.5 percent. By age 22, more than 90 percent of the females report sexual experience. Almost one-half of males report sexual experience by age 14, increasing to almost three-fourths by age 16. Sexual experience is essentially universal for 20-24 year-old males. At age 14, the sexual experience rate for males is three times the rate reported by females and remains twice as high at ages 15 and 16. However, at age 17, there is a very large increase in sexual experience reported by females, narrowing the gap considerably between the sexes. By age 21, there is only a 7 percentage point difference between sexes, and at age 24 rates are essentially equal.

There is a striking difference between females and males in use of contraception at first intercourse (Table 3). Females (40.9 percent) were almost 4 times more likely than males (11.0 percent) to have used contraception. However, this is explained in part by the older age of first intercourse for females, as use of contraception increases with age at first intercourse. One-fourth of females who had first intercourse at less than 14 years of age report using contraception. By age 18-19, one-half used contraception and 63 percent of females with first sexual intercourse at 20-24 years of age used a method. Although usage rates also increase for males with age at first intercourse, they are always lower than the corresponding female usage rates. Some, but not all, of the total difference seen is accounted for by the different distributions in age at first intercourse. When we apply the male usage rates to the female age distribution, the total usage rates for males would be 22.8 percent, twice the 11.0 percent based on the male age distribution, still only approximately one-half the female contraceptive usage rate. Of those who use contraception at first intercourse, the majority report using condoms.

Fertility and Planning Status

Nearly 40 percent of the females 14-24 years of age report having had a pregnancy, and 36 percent had had a live birth (Table 4). The percentage of females who had ever been pregnant increases rapidly with age, from 13 percent for 15-17 year-olds, to 39 percent for 18-19 year-olds, to 68 percent for ages 20-24. Males were asked if they had ever "fathered a child." In total, 11 percent of the males reported they had fathered at least one child. As for females who were ever pregnant, the proportion of males who reported fathering a child increased with age.

Over three fourths of females (76.7 percent) and males (75.7 percent) reported that their first live birth was unintended (data not shown). Also, for females, three-fourths of their last pregnancies were reported as unintended. Therefore, whether we are discussing first births or last pregnancies for young adults in Jamaica, unintendedness levels are very high.

IV. TIMETABLE FOR FINAL REPORT

During this visit, two types of final data editing checks were identified: (1) questionnaires with very young ages entered in the data file, and (2) variables with more than ten percent of questionnaires coded as "other:" These latter questionnaires will be reviewed to recode the responses with existing codes or create new codes. All questionnaires needing final review

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were identified by parish code, enumeration district, and questionnaire number. The forms will be pulled by mid-August, and Dr. Warren will return Kingston the week of August 17-21 to assist in this final edit process and also review the final draft of the preliminary report.

The proposed table of contents for the final report was agreed upon (See attachment). Ms. Powell will meet with local program officials during a 1-d workshop in September, to present the preliminary report and to get further input for the final report. A participant from DRH/CDC will be invited to t workshop.

Work on the final report will be accomplished from September through November. We will review the draft of the report in December, with the fina report scheduled for release in February 1988 at a dissemination seminar for planning and policy officials.



Leo Morris, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Charles Warren, Ph.D.

Attachments

14 July 1987

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TABLE 1

Exposure to Sex Education by Age Group and Sex
Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey, 1987
(Percent Distribution)

<u>Sex Education</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age Group</u>			
		<u>14</u>	<u>15-17</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>
<u>Females</u>					
Had a class	<u>80.2</u>	<u>74.4</u>	<u>82.5</u>	<u>83.8</u>	<u>78.3</u>
At school	62.4	68.0	70.5	62.1	55.5
Outside school	2.6	0.5	0.8	3.2	4.0
Both	15.2	5.9	11.2	18.5	18.7
Did not have a class	<u>19.8</u>	<u>25.6</u>	<u>17.5</u>	<u>16.2</u>	<u>21.7</u>
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	2141	203	546	401	892
<u>Males</u>					
Had a class	<u>61.4</u>	<u>53.7</u>	<u>62.3</u>	<u>64.2</u>	<u>61.2</u>
At school	52.6	49.1	56.4	52.8	50.3
Outside school	1.9	1.4	1.0	1.9	2.8
Both	6.8	3.2	4.8	9.5	8.1
Did not have a class	<u>38.6</u>	<u>46.3</u>	<u>37.7</u>	<u>35.8</u>	<u>38.8</u>
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	2094	218	668	422	786

TABLE 2

Sexual Experience by Current Age Group and Individual Ages
Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey, 1987

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Percent Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse</u>		<u>Number of Cases</u>	
	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
14	15.3	46.3	203	218
15-19	55.4	78.1	1046	1090
<u>20-24</u>	<u>90.5</u>	<u>96.8</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>786</u>
TOTAL	66.2	81.8	2141	2094
 <u>Individual Age</u>				
14	15.3	46.3	203	218
15	27.0	57.6	230	231
16	36.3	74.7	226	225
17	64.6	78.8	189	212
18	76.5	89.6	196	221
19	80.0	92.0	205	201
20	87.2	96.4	195	193
21	89.6	96.6	183	176
22	90.9	98.1	187	159
23	91.3	97.1	195	137
24	94.7	95.9	137	121

TABLE 3

Reported Use of Contraception at First Sexual Intercourse
by Age at First Sexual Intercourse and Sex
Jamaica Young Adult Reproductive Health Survey, 1987

<u>Age at First Sexual Intercourse</u>	<u>Percent Who Used Method at First Sexual Intercourse</u>		<u>No. of Cases</u>	
	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
<14	24.6	3.7	217	875
14	32.5	12.2	202	222
15-17	43.5	25.0	718	384
18-19	51.2	} 41.7	203	} 72
20-24	63.0		49	
TOTAL	40.9	11.0	1418*	1706**

* Total includes 29 cases with unknown age at first sexual intercourse.

** Total includes 153 cases with unknown age at first sexual intercourse.

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TABLE 4

Percentage of Women Ever-Pregnant and
Men Who Reported They Have Fathered a Child,
By Age Group

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
14	0.5	0.0
15-17	12.7	1.0
18-19	39.2	6.6
20-24	68.2	24.4
Total	39.6	10.8
No. of Cases	2141	2094