

Jamaica

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Jamaica Family Planning Association (JFPA)



Founded in 1957, the **Jamaica Family Planning Association (JFPA)** pioneered family planning services in Jamaica and played a major role in the establishment of the national family planning programme and the subsequent development of national family planning policies and programmes. The Association currently supports the national programme by providing family planning information and education and offering clinical services to underserved peripheral communities.

The Association operates within national policy guidelines to provide contraceptives, vaccination for adults and children, and gynaecological, prenatal, and post-natal services.

Additionally, it conducts outreach activities in communities identified as particularly vulnerable due to high rates of adolescent pregnancies, fertility among the general female population, HIV/STI infection, and maternal deaths.

VISION

Every Jamaican has access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, education and support services in an environment that is rights-based.

MISSION

JFPA responds to the family planning and reproductive health needs of adolescents, men, women, and the underserved in rural and urban communities. JFPA works in partnership with the Government of Jamaica, and all interested non-government agencies to achieve a better quality of life for all.



COUNTRY STATISTICS

48 per 1000

births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. (2020)



22,000

The estimated number of **women in Jamaica** who have an abortion every year. Complications are the eighth leading cause of maternal mortality in the country.



In 2013

The Ministry of Education

Made it mandatory that all schools (pre-primary to secondary) teach Health and Family Life education (HFLE) as a core subject. However, there is still some reluctance among teachers and school Guidance Counsellors in some schools to cover the sexuality component of the HFLE curriculum.

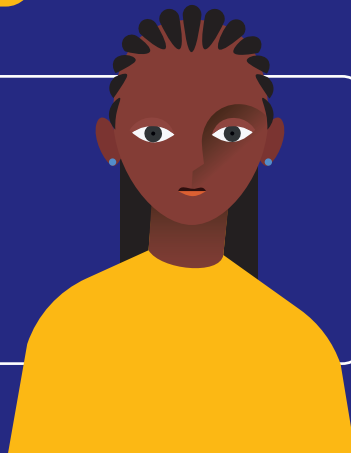
82.9%

of women

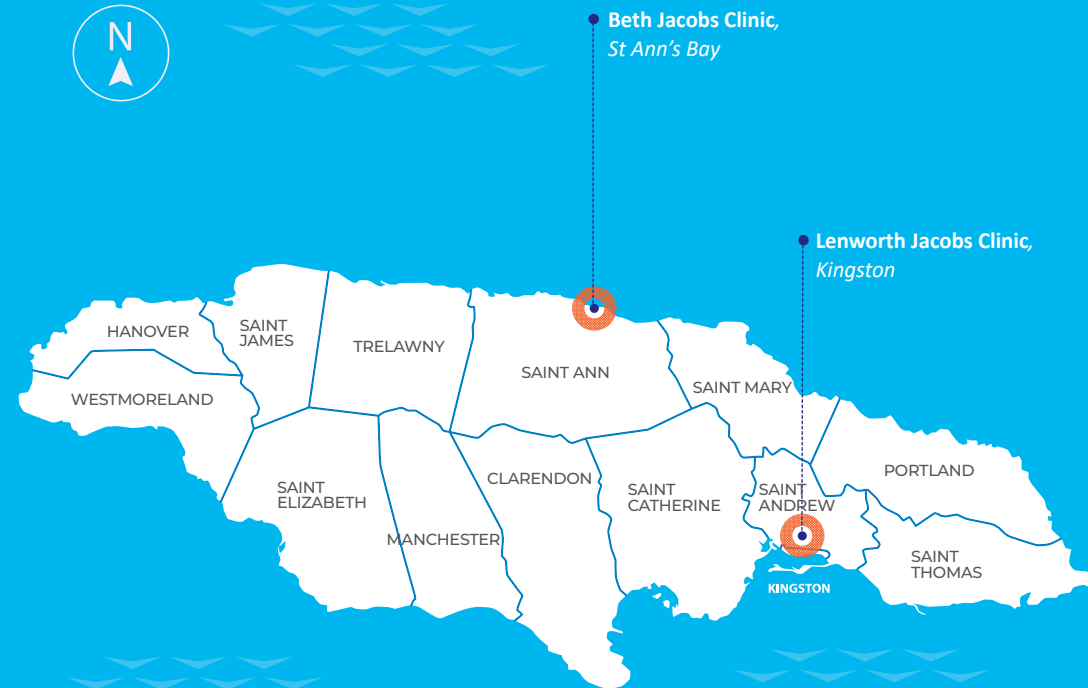
of reproductive age (15-49 years) have access to contraceptives.






Contraceptives are restricted to minors (girls under 16 years) unless they have had a child.



ORGANISATION DATA



-  JFPA operates two static health clinics.
-  Lenworth Jacobs Clinic, Kingston
-  Beth Jacobs Clinic, St Ann's Bay



PROGRAMMES

1 COUNSELLING

- At its clinics, JFPA also offers family planning counselling and HIV/STI counselling and referral.
- One of JFPA's key objectives is to integrate HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) services into its overall family planning offering. Staff highlight the benefits of condom use for both unwanted pregnancy prevention and STI transmission, including HIV. Due to COVID-19, JFPA introduced a telehealth sexual and reproductive health counselling service for pre-natal and family planning clients. With support from UNFPA, they will expand this service to include outreach and referral for pregnant women who miss their clinic appointment.
- JFPA provides gender-based violence counselling and referral, and documents any Human Rights Violation reported by its clients.
- An important part of the Association's work is to empower women to assert their right to refuse unsafe sex, by teaching them safe sex negotiating skills.

2 CLINICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

- JFPA provides family planning services, pre-and post-natal care, as well as other health services in its two clinics.
- Its community-based distribution programme seeks to distribute contraceptives and improve access to services for women in rural communities. The programme has trained several persons to serve as distributors of oral contraceptives and condoms and currently has three distributors in St. Ann and one in Kingston.



3 YOUTH ADVOCACY MOVEMENT (YAM)

- The Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM) represents one of the most important initiatives of the Association. These trained volunteers (aged 17-25 years old) deliver information on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues to youth in schools, community groups and other settings. Their work focuses on the development and empowerment of young people through capacity strengthening activities.



ASSOCIATED CLINIC

- An Associated Clinic (AC) is classified as an independent entity which has entered into a contractual agreement with JFPA to expand access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services.
- Established in 2016, the AC programme provides the JFPA with the opportunity to respond to the commodity needs of SRH service providers within the private sector.
- The JFPA provides AC doctors with technical guidance on SRH services and access to the Association's Health Information System.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS

JFPA, in partnership with The Government of Jamaica and other agencies, advocated to change the current policy that denies family planning providers the right to act in the best interest of the child and ensure the prevention of first pregnancy among minors, assure patients' rights and to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

The Association has provided primary research evidence to the Ministry of Education to demonstrate a need for school based Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

171,552 services delivered (2017-2020)

- 25,784 STI / HIV services.
- 5,575 CYP (contraceptive protection from pregnancy per year).
- 22,407 first time users (unique clients).
- 33.8 % of services to young people under 25 years old.



KEY PARTNERS


- *AIDS Healthcare Foundation*
- *Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)*
- *Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS)*
- *European Commission*
- *Eve for Life*
- *Gender and Development Studies Department, University of the West Indies, Mona*
- *Gender Unit of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports*
- *Jamaica AIDS Support for Life*
- *Ministry of Education, Youth and Information*
- *Ministry of Health and Wellness*
- *Planning Institute of Jamaica*
- *Rise Life Management Services*
- *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*
- *USAID / President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*
- *Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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