In 2003, there were 5,125 children who had been reported for major crimes. The number of children involved in violent criminal activities is a disturbing reflection of the society in which they live. A recent survey of Jamaican Parents of 6 Y.O (2004), Disciplinary Practices among Jamaican Parents indicates that: 42.3% reported being slapped; 37.3% reported being beat; 37.4% reported being pinched; 25.8% shouted at; 20.9% were threatened to hit; 20.1% were undressed to underwear; 19.8% were scolded; 19.5% were forced to have sex; 19.2% were exposed to profanity; 18.8% were intimidated; 18.4% were kicked; 18.0% were beaten; 17.2% were hugged; 16.9% were forced to undress; 16.4% were neglected; 16.2% were punished for no reason; 16.0% were threatened verbally; 15.8% were told they are losers; 15.5% were thrown or slammed against objects; 15.2% had been physically beaten; 14.8% were spanked; 14.4% were forced to go into sexual activity; 14.1% were forced to drink alcohol or be exposed to drugs; 13.9% were forced to stand up in the middle of the night; 13.6% were forced to eat bad food; 13.3% were forced to fight; 13.0% were forced to sleep on the floor; 12.7% were forced to attend school; 12.4% were forced to walk to school; 12.1% were forced to stay home; 11.8% were forced to go against their wills; 11.5% were forced to report having seen a dead body; 11.2% were forced to report having seen a rape; 10.9% were forced to break into someone's home; 10.6% were forced to break into someone's car; 10.3% were forced to touch someone's private parts; 10.0% were forced to fight or argue in the street; 9.7% were forced to steal; 9.4% were forced to run away from home; 9.1% were forced to steal and sell drugs; 8.8% were forced to hit someone; 8.5% were forced to break a window; 8.2% were forced to break a door; 7.9% were forced to throw something; 7.6% were forced to kick someone in the face; 7.3% were forced to hit someone with a stone; 7.0% were forced to hit someone with a knife; 6.7% were forced to hit someone with a weapon; 6.4% were forced to use a weapon; 6.1% were forced to be abused sexually; 5.8% were forced to force someone to have sex; 5.5% were forced to be forced into marriage; 5.2% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 4.9% were forced to do something they did not understand; 4.6% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 4.3% were forced to do something they did not understand; 4.0% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 3.7% were forced to do something they did not understand; 3.4% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 3.1% were forced to do something they did not understand; 2.8% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 2.5% were forced to do something they did not understand; 2.2% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 1.9% were forced to do something they did not understand; 1.6% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 1.3% were forced to do something they did not understand; 1.0% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 0.7% were forced to do something they did not understand; 0.4% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 0.1% were forced to do something they did not understand.

In 2003, 5,125 children were arrested for major crimes in Jamaica. The number of children involved in violent criminal activities is a disturbing reflection of the society in which they live. A recent survey of Jamaican Parents of 6 Y.O (2004), Disciplinary Practices among Jamaican Parents indicates that: 42.3% reported being slapped; 37.3% reported being beat; 37.4% reported being pinched; 25.8% shouted at; 20.9% were threatened to hit; 20.1% were undressed to underwear; 19.8% were scolded; 19.5% were forced to have sex; 19.2% were exposed to profanity; 19.0% were intimidated; 18.8% were kicked; 18.4% were beaten; 17.2% were hugged; 16.9% were neglected; 16.2% were punished for no reason; 16.0% were threatened verbally; 15.8% were told they are losers; 15.5% were thrown or slammed against objects; 15.2% had been physically beaten; 14.8% were spanked; 14.4% were forced to undress; 14.1% were forced to drink alcohol or be exposed to drugs; 13.9% were forced to stand up in the middle of the night; 13.6% were forced to eat bad food; 13.3% were forced to fight; 13.0% were forced to sleep on the floor; 12.7% were forced to be forced to go to school; 12.4% were forced to walk to school; 12.1% were forced to stay home; 11.8% were forced to go against their wills; 11.5% were forced to report having seen a dead body; 11.2% were forced to report having seen a rape; 10.9% were forced to break into someone's home; 10.6% were forced to break into someone's car; 10.3% were forced to touch someone's private parts; 10.0% were forced to hit someone; 9.7% were forced to steal; 9.4% were forced to run away from home; 9.1% were forced to steal and sell drugs; 8.8% were forced to hit someone; 8.5% were forced to use a weapon; 8.2% were forced to break a window; 7.9% were forced to break a door; 7.6% were forced to throw something; 7.3% were forced to kick someone in the face; 7.0% were forced to hit someone with a stone; 6.7% were forced to hit someone with a knife; 6.4% were forced to use a weapon; 6.1% were forced to be abused sexually; 5.8% were forced to force someone to have sex; 5.5% were forced to be forced into marriage; 5.2% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 4.9% were forced to do something they did not understand; 4.6% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 4.3% were forced to do something they did not understand; 4.0% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 3.7% were forced to do something they did not understand; 3.4% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 3.1% were forced to do something they did not understand; 2.8% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 2.5% were forced to do something they did not understand; 2.2% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 1.9% were forced to do something they did not understand; 1.6% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 1.3% were forced to do something they did not understand; 1.0% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 0.7% were forced to do something they did not understand; 0.4% were forced to do something they did not want to do; 0.1% were forced to do something they did not understand.

HIV/AIDS
Pediatric deaths due to AIDS among children aged 0–14 account for 16% of all deaths among children aged 0–14 in the Americas, and 2% of all deaths from AIDS in the world. In 2002, 545 children died of AIDS in Jamaica. Of these deaths, 429 (78.6%) occurred in children aged 0–4 years, 109 (19.9%) in children aged 5–14 years, and 7 (1.4%) in children aged 15–19 years. In 2003, 560 children died of AIDS, with 492 (87.9%) occurring in children aged 0–4 years, 59 (10.2%) in children aged 5–14 years, and 9 (1.6%) in children aged 15–19 years. The number of children who died from AIDS was higher in 2003 than in 2002, with a 22% increase. The number of children who died of AIDS increased by 24% (from 429 to 560) in 2003 compared to 2002, with a 22% increase. In 2002, 545 children died of AIDS in Jamaica. Of these deaths, 429 (78.6%) occurred in children aged 0–4 years, 109 (19.9%) in children aged 5–14 years, and 7 (1.4%) in children aged 15–19 years. In 2003, 560 children died of AIDS, with 492 (87.9%) occurring in children aged 0–4 years, 59 (10.2%) in children aged 5–14 years, and 9 (1.6%) in children aged 15–19 years. The number of children who died from AIDS was higher in 2003 than in 2002, with a 22% increase. The number of children who died of AIDS increased by 24% (from 429 to 560) in 2003 compared to 2002, with a 22% increase.
CHILDREN IN THE JAMAICAN POPULATION

Children and adolescents comprise 41% of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male Total</th>
<th>Female Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,541,000</td>
<td>1,712,000</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>23.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,530,000</td>
<td>1,702,000</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>23.1</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Household Consumption by Gender of Head and Region

Social Investment and Poverty

The education and health systems in Jamaica are rated among the lowest in the region. Education is a poverty risk factor in its own right. Children who do not access school are more likely to continue the cycle of poverty and to become involved in criminal activities. The school system in Jamaica has made some improvements, but still has a long way to go to provide equal access to quality education for all children.

Children's nutritional status is also a concern. The prevalence of malnutrition is high, with a significant number of children being underweight or stunted. Vaccination coverage is low, with many children not receiving the necessary vaccines to protect them from diseases.

Health

The health system in Jamaica is also underperforming, with a high burden of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and HIV/AIDS. The country has made some progress in reducing maternal and child mortality, but there is still much work to be done.

In summary, Jamaica faces significant challenges in the areas of education, poverty, and health. The country needs to invest more in these areas if it hopes to improve the quality of life for its children and adolescents.