

2023 Jamaica National Crime Victimisation Survey (JNCVS) Report Copyright © 2025 Statistical Institute of Jamaica and The Ministry of National Security.

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Preface

he Jamaica National Crime Victimisation Survey (*JNCVS*), a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of National Security (MNS) and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), has been an instrumental tool in understanding crime from the victims' perspective for several years. Since its inception in 2006, the *JNCVS* has been conducted six times, following an approximate triennial pattern, with the previous iteration conducted in 2019 and the most recent 2023 survey.

Crime, a pervasive issue that disrupts societal harmony and individual lives, has been a persistent concern for governments, the private sector, investors and citizens. To address this, crime victimisation surveys, such as the *JNCVS*, are employed globally by governmental bodies to gather comprehensive data on crime, public safety, and justice. These surveys provide invaluable insights, capturing the personal experiences of individuals who have been victims of crime. Unlike police-reported statistics, which primarily focus on offenders, victimisation surveys shift the lens towards the victims, thereby uncovering unreported crimes and the reasons behind their non-disclosure. This unique approach allows for a more accurate representation of criminal activity levels and the impact on victims.

The 2023 JNCVS report presents an in-depth analysis of crime experience in Jamaica from November 2022 to September 2023. It evaluates the burden Jamaican households and residents bear due to criminal activities and provides insights into unreported offences. Furthermore, it assesses public perceptions of justice and safety, including trust in the institutions of the criminal justice system. The report also explores public awareness, opinions, and participation in social interventions aimed at reducing crime and promoting community safety, such as the Community Renewal Programme (CRP), Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal), and the "Liv Gud" Campaign.

In alignment with international statistical measurement standards, this report offers a wealth of statistical information on globally comparable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimisation Survey Initiative (LACSI) indicators. Specifically, the data from the 2023 JNCVS will contribute to tracking Jamaica's progress towards SDG 16, which advocates for peaceful and inclusive societies, equal access to justice, and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Over the years, STATIN has collaborated with numerous Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and international organisations, reflecting its mission to contribute to national development by providing quality statistics for effective planning and decision-making. We remain committed to these collaborations aimed at providing data that informs national decision-making. The findings in this report will guide strategic planning, programme development, and other national initiatives.

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The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) extends its profound appreciation to all individuals, agencies, and organisations that contributed to the successful execution of the 2023 Jamaica National Crime Victimisation Survey (JNCVS).

STATIN was entrusted by the Ministry of National Security (MNS) to implement the 2023 JNCVS, marking another milestone in our longstanding collaboration. We are deeply grateful for MNS's continued commitment to our partnership and their recognition of the importance of victimisation experience and current public perception on safety as well as the impact of justice data in shaping national crime reduction strategies. The insights gleaned from the survey will significantly contribute to MNS's mission of fostering a safe and secure Jamaica and tracking the nation's progress towards key international frameworks.

Our heartfelt gratitude is also extended to those who played pivotal roles in various stages of the project. The staff of STATIN were instrumental in ensuring the successful coordination and implementation of the survey. We extend our special thanks to the interviewers and supervisors for their exceptional commitment to data collection. Their tireless efforts in traversing communities nationwide, despite environmental and social challenges, have not gone unnoticed. We also commend the staff members who facilitated field staff training, managed data quality, and coded the questionnaires. The contributions of the Corporate Services and Information and Technology Division staff, who supported the project in diverse ways, are also greatly appreciated.

We want to highlight the exceptional work of the Surveys Division, led by Dr. Natalee Simpson, which was responsible for project oversight, administration, and the compilation of this report. In this regard, thanks to Ms. Philone Mantock, Project Coordinator and former Unit Head, and Mr. Jiovanne Dixon, Ms. D'Amour Walker and Ms. Abbigail Duncan, Statisticians of the Surveys Division's Special Projects Unit, who were instrumental in preparing this report. We also extend appreciation to Ms. Stacy-Ann Thompson, Unit Head of Special Projects and Mrs. Ashlae Bingham, Statistician of the Special Projects Unit for collating and finalising the completion of this publication.

Above all, we express our deepest gratitude to the over 2,000 respondents who generously took the time to share their experiences and their perceptions. We at STATIN acknowledge the emotional toll they may have faced in recounting their testimonies and stories, and we also recognise that participation in surveys is an investment in time. The cooperation, kindness, and openness of these members of the public in sharing their experiences with our interviewers were integral to the success of this project, and we are eternally grateful.

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- Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ): Ms. Antonette Richards
- Ministry of Justice: Mr. Othdane Thompson
- Citizen Security Plan Secretariat (CSS), MNS Mrs. Latavia Mitchell-Morgan and Dr. Ren-Neasha Blake

We thank you all for making this project possible and for guiding its success!

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Executive Summary

The 2023 JNCVS was a household survey designed to produce reliable estimates of victimisation at the national and regional levels. The target population for this survey was persons 16 years and older who are usual residents of Jamaica and were living in private dwelling units at the time of the survey.

A total of 3,294 households were selected for the sample. The response rate was 84.8 per cent. The data collected from the survey was weighted to represent the 2019 mid-year population of Jamaica estimated at 2,112,458 persons aged 16 years and older in 897,796 households.

Perception of Safety, Community Crime & Disorder and Fear of Crime

- The majority of respondents (1,939,887 or 91.9%) reported feeling safe at home. The places where people generally felt safest were church (97.2%), educational institutions (92.5%), and their personal vehicle (92.3%).
- Overall, men felt safer at various locations than women. 93.5 per cent of men (960,637) felt safe at home, compared to 90.4 per cent of women (979,249).
- Church was the place where the highest proportion of both men (712,297 or 97.7%) and women (911,655 or 96.7%) felt safe. It was also the location where most urban respondents felt secure, with 95.1 per cent (819,248) reporting safety, compared to 99.4 per cent of rural residents (794,704).
- Nearly 9 out of 10 respondents (85.9%) felt safe walking alone in their community during the day, while only 6 in 10 felt safe walking alone at night.
- Most respondents (83.2% or 1,757,434) felt that their community was safe for children.
- The most heard or observed situations in the community between November 2022 to October 2023 included 'consumption of marijuana/ganja in the streets' (54.5%), 'alcohol consumption in the streets' (51.6%),

- and 'fights or quarrels in the streets' (43.4%).
- Almost 9 in 10 respondents (88.3%) felt they were unlikely to become a victim of crime within the next 12 months.
- Most respondents believed that crime had increased in Jamaica and in their parish when comparing 2022 to 2023—88.6 per cent thought crime had risen nationally, while 67.8 per cent felt the same about their local area.

Criminal Victimisation in Jamaica

- Between November 2020 and October 2023, 62,951 households (7.0%) reported that a member had experienced a household crime.
- Over the same three-year period, 458,180 individuals (21.7% of the eligible population) experienced a personal crime.
- Of the households that experienced a household crime, 31,721 (50.4%) reported that the crime occurred recently, between November 2022 and October 2023, which represents 3.5 per cent of all households.
- Among those who experienced a personal crime, 65.3 per cent (299,148 individuals) reported that the crime occurred recently, between November 2022 and October 2023, accounting for 14.2 per cent of the eligible population.

- Among victimised households, 72.0 per cent experienced domestic burglary, while 33.4 per cent were affected by theft of a motorised vehicle or its parts and objects.
- Between November 2022 and October 2023, 42.4 per cent of individuals who experienced a personal crime were victims of larceny, while 25.2 per cent reported threats or extortion. Bank or consumer fraud accounted for 21.3 per cent of personal crimes, 11.9 per cent experienced physical assaults and injuries, 11.0 per cent of respondents reported being victims of bribery, with the same percentage also experiencing robbery.
- Of all household crime incidents experienced between November 2022 and October 2023, 70.0 per cent were domestic burglaries, and 30.0 per cent involved theft of motorised vehicles, parts, or objects from vehicles.
- Larceny made up 29.7 per cent of personal crime incidents, followed by threats or extortion at 26.3 per cent, and bank and consumer fraud at 17.4 per cent. Physical assault and injuries accounted for 12.1 per cent, robbery for 7.3 per cent, and bribery for just 7.2 per cent of personal crime incidents.
- Most of the respondents experienced only one victimization incident—67.3 per cent for robbery or larceny and 69.2 per cent for bank or consumer fraud or bribery. On the other hand, 60.3 per cent of respondents reported experiencing threats, extortion, or physical assault two or more times.

Details of Recent Victimisation Experiences in the Past 12 Months (November 2022 to October 2023).

Household Victimisation

 There was a total of 27,849 incidents where households were impacted by incidents of burglary and 12,307 incidents of theft

- involving motorised vehicles, parts, or objects from vehicles.
- A higher proportion of household victimisation incidents occurred in the latter half of the year accounting for 47.4 per cent, while 44.5 per cent occurred in the first half.
- Most households reported being victimised between Monday and Thursday (52.5%), with the remainder experiencing victimisation on the other days of the week.
- Victimisation was more common in the morning (from midnight to noon) at 40.6 per cent, while just under one-third (32.0%) were victimised in the afternoon.
- The primary items stolen during domestic incidents were mobile phones or electronics (43.6%), followed by money (35.9%).
- Of the acts against property, 53.9 per cent were reported, while 45.9 per cent were not. The main reason for not reporting a crime was that respondents felt they could handle it themselves (66.4%).

Personal Victimisation

- During the 12-month period from November 2022 to October 2023, there were a total of 156,131 incidents of theft without violence (larceny) and 38,469 incidents of theft with violence (robbery). A larger proportion of these incidents occurred in the latter half of the year, accounting for 48.7 per cent.
- Additionally, there were 88,108 incidents of bank or consumer fraud and 39,059 incidents of bribery recorded during the same period. The majority of these incidents took place in the latter half of the year, making up 56.1 per cent.
- Incidents of physical assault and injuries totalled 56,751, while 115,368 incidents of threat or extortion were recorded. The majority of these incidents also occurred in the latter half of the year (54.4%).

- Fraud and bribery incidents primarily took place in the morning (after midnight and before noon) in 42.6 per cent of cases. Larceny and robbery incidents, along with incidents involving threat, extortion, or physical assault and injuries, were most reported in the afternoon (between noon and 6:00 p.m.), accounting for 38.1 per cent and 42.2 per cent of these incidents, respectively.
- A weapon was involved in 35.9 per cent of victimisation incidents related to robbery, physical assault, or threats. Firearms or blunt objects were used in 54.8 per cent of these incidents, while knives or sharp objects were used in 46.0 per cent.
- The most stolen item in robbery or larceny incidents was a mobile phone, accounting for 33.4 per cent, followed by money (20.8%) and crops (14.8%).
- The majority of personal crime victimisation incidents went unreported. Of those that were reported, the highest reporting rates were for threats, extortion, or physical assault (40.0%), followed by fraud (consumer or bank) or bribery (33.5%), and robbery or larceny (29.6%).
- The primary reason for not reporting a crime was that respondents felt they could handle the situation themselves (35.2%). Other common reasons included believing the crime was not serious enough (22.9%) or thinking that the police would not have taken action (16.4%).

Indirect Exposure to Crime

- The majority of respondents have not witnessed a serious crime. The most observed crime was serious beating or attack (9.0%), followed by robbery and shooting/gun battles (8.0% each), and murder at 5.8 per cent.
- Males were more likely to report witnessing a serious crime than females.
- Younger respondents (16-39 years old) were

- more exposed to serious crimes compared to older respondents (40+ years old). Younger individuals were more likely to witness serious attacks (56.3%), robbery (53.5%), and shootings (52.0%), while older respondents were more likely to witness murder (50.5%).
- Most respondents reported witnessing a crime only once, though a notable portion (at least a quarter) have witnessed multiple incidents of each type of crime.
- Reporting of crimes to the police was low, with only 12.3 per cent of persons who witnessed a crime indicating that they reported the crime to the authorities.

Crime Prevention

- Households have recently adopted various security measures to protect their property, the most common measure was the installation of security grills, used by 35.7 per cent of households. Weapons, including machetes and tasers, were used by 22.2 per cent of households, followed by the installation of additional locks on their premises, at 19.1 per cent.
- Of the 10.7 per cent of households (95,713) that implemented a security measure, a little below a quarter (22.0%) spent \$65,000.00 or more. 16.0 per cent spent \$5,000.00 but less than \$30,000.00, 13.0 per cent spent \$30,000.00 but less than \$65,000.00, while the remaining 13.9 per cent spent less than \$5,000.00.
- As a precautionary measure to protect themselves and reduce the risk of victimisation, more people reported stopping the practice of carrying large amounts of cash (27.9%), followed by avoiding alternate routes (19.2%) and refraining from going home late (17.3%).
- A little over a quarter of respondents (25.8%) said they avoided certain areas in their community due to fear of crime or attack.

- The areas most avoided included unlit spaces (90.0%), abandoned locations (89.3%) and bushy areas or spaces (88.6%).
- A little over half of the respondents (51.8%) believed that owning a gun would contribute to a greater sense of security.

Public Perception of Authority Performance

- Among respondents familiar with the functions of the various justice and safety agencies, the top three they were most. familiar with were the local police (82.1%), the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) (82.1%), and the local military, the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) (77.6%).
- The majority of those who were aware of the JDF's functions rated them as both effective (92.2%) and reliable (91.6%), the highest for any of the local authorities.
- Majority of the respondents were of the perception that the JCF was corrupt, 71.0 per cent indicated this, the highest for any of the local authorities.
- When asked to evaluate police performance across 11 areas of law enforcement, the highest ratings were for being approachable and easy to talk to (30.4%), followed by enforcing the law (30.1%), and patrolling the streets/neighbourhoods (29.8%).

Public Perception of Social Intervention Programmes and Security Measures

- 71.8 per cent of respondents were aware of the functions of the State of Emergency (SOE), while 68.9 per cent were familiar with the functions of the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs).
- Among those aware of the SOEs' functions, 73.0 per cent considered them effective, and 72.7 per cent viewed them as reliable.

- Regarding the Zones of Special Operations, 75.4 per cent of respondents who were aware of their functions considered them effective, while 73.5 per cent viewed them as reliable.
- The Peace Management Initiative (PMI) was the most recognized social intervention programme, with 22.2 per cent of respondents being aware of it.
- Among those familiar with the Child Diversion Programme, it was widely seen as both effective (81.8%) and reliable (80.5%).
- Awareness of other community programs, such as the Community Renewal Programme and Project STAR, was notably low, with only one in ten respondents indicating they were aware of these initiatives. However, of those who were aware, 70.0 per cent considered the Community Renewal Programme both effective and reliable, while 60.0 per cent felt the same about Project STAR.

Public Perception of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

- Awareness of the 'Liv Gud' campaign was relatively low, with only 11.5 per cent of respondents reporting that they had seen or heard about it.
- However, the majority of respondents (51.9%) felt that the campaign effectively encouraged citizens to respect life.
- Regarding its impact, 42.2 per cent of respondents believed the campaign had a positive effect, while 47.7 per cent felt it had no impact.
- To boost awareness of the campaign respondents recommended television (57.5%), radio (41.3%), and social media influences (40.3%), among others.

1. INTRODUCTION

Overview

Crime manifests as a deeply entrenched societal concern. The nature, degree, and consequences of criminal activity, as well as people's perceptions of their safety, are issues that influence directly and indirectly people's quality of life. Those aggrieved by criminality, designated as victims, experience loss or suffering due to the illicit activities. Crime victimisation, which is a terminology used repeatedly in this report, is used to refer to someone who experiences harm, loss or suffering as a result of criminal activities. Victims can be targeted intentionally by offenders or affected incidentally, and victim experiences often transcend the immediate criminal encounter, permeating into their daily lives and leaving lasting effects. From petty theft to violent assaults, the ripple effects of criminal activities extend across socio-economic strata, affecting numerous lives and livelihoods.

The question frequently arises regarding the relevance of crime victimisation surveys when police reports are accessible. However, police statistics reflect only reported or detected offences and fail to encapsulate the full crime spectrum. Crime victimisation surveys help bridge the gap between reported and unreported crimes, providing a more accurate picture of criminal activity. The JNCVS reports have historically underscored the prevalence of unreported crimes. The surveys have highlighted that certain crimes such as bribery, consumer fraud and larceny, were largely unreported. For a crime to be reported, there are a series of decisions and contemplations starting with a recognition by the victim that a crime has occurred, police notification and documentation in the official records. This decision is often influenced by the individual's assessment of the circumstances surrounding the event, costbenefit analysis, and anticipated outcome.

The high percentage of underreporting necessitates a broader data collection approach to inform policy and response strategies. National victimisation surveys, conducted through structured interviews with a representative sample of the population, have become a valuable source of information for a more comprehensive understanding, especially of unreported incidents and victims' experiences. They are now an important tool in helping governments and the public to understand their crime problems and how better to address them. Victimisation survey statistics provide a solid foundation for developing crime prevention policies and programmes to reduce crime, increase safety, and decrease fear among the public. Additional reasons why crime victimisation surveys are essential include:



Underreporting of Crime:

Not all crimes are reported. Various factors, including fear, distrust of the legal system, or cultural influences, can contribute to underreporting. Victimization surveys can provide data to examine the relatedness between perception, experience and behaviour.



Identifying Trends and Patterns:

Crime victimisation surveys can assist with identifying criminal patterns allowing for targeted strategies and resource allocation by law enforcement, policymakers, and researchers.



Victim Perspectives:

Crime victimisation surveys offer unique insights into crime from the perspective of those directly affected.



Policy Development:

Crime victimisation surveys offer valuable insights to inform policy formulation and the development of effective crime prevention measures.



Evaluating Criminal Justice System Effectiveness:

Victimization surveys help to evaluate the effectiveness of the actors and the agencies in the criminal justice system. By comparing reported crimes with survey data, researchers can identify gaps in the system's response to victims.



International Comparability:

Victimisation surveys aid international benchmarking of crime rates and can assist with identifying best practices and successful strategies.

Established as a single entity in 2001, the MNS was mandated to foster a safe and secure Jamaica through effective law enforcement, order maintenance and border security. Effective policy implementation necessitates that the security sector provides services that meet citizens' needs. This can be done by enabling, strengthening, and improving evidence-based policies, programmes, plans, and capacities to ensure public safety and security. As such, some of the key policy focus for MNS includes:²

Citizen Safety and Security

Mitigating crime and violence threats is integral to Jamaica's security.

Corruption

Self-serving exploitation of legitimate systems jeopardises national security.

Community Safety

Addressing illegitimate governance through positive leadership and local planning is vital for communal well- being. "A safer community = a safer parish = a safer Jamaica."

Education

Addressing educational deficits is crucial to curbing crime, violence, and lawlessness. Lack of basic literacy leads to crime, violence, poor conflict resolution, and untrainable individuals, resulting in gang proliferation and lawlessness. This emphasises the importance of education for a secure Jamaica.

Cyber security

Safeguarding digital information is a cornerstone of national security. Protecting personal, business and state information in cyberspace is critical in building a secure Jamaica.

Economic Security

Protecting the financial and productive sectors from criminal infiltration is essential.

¹ The Office of the Prime Minister. (n.d.). Government Ministries – Ministry of National Security. https://opm.gov.jm/ministry/ministry-of-national-security/

² Ministry of National Security. (n.d.). *Policy Priorities. The Ministry of National Security*. www.mns.gov.jm

The strategies to accomplish the aforementioned mandate include effective policing, swift and sure justice processes, social development and rehabilitation and redemption. The *JNCVS* is a critical data source to evaluate the effectiveness of several of these strategies.

The 2023 Jamaica National Crime Victimisation Survey (JNCVS) is a significant initiative conducted by the STATIN, funded by the MNS. This survey builds upon prior assessments, including those conducted in five previous rounds:

The 2023 JNCVS, as well as previous iterations of the survey, was designed to collect information from respondents about their experiences with violent and non-violent crimes, including property crimes and personal offences. The surveys were designed to engage participants 16 years and older to obtain valuable insights into Jamaica's crime situation. The full report will provide a socio-demographic profile of the victims and other invaluable information about their crime experience. It will summarise the findings from the survey on the population's perception of safety within their communities



The Government of Jamaica (GoJ) has a long history of conducting crime victimisation surveys, having undertaken six *JNCVS* since 2006. STATIN has partnered with MNS in administering five of the six rounds. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2023 marked the official start of the project, with an extended timeline of 14 months to complete the survey.

and their level of trust in and evaluation of the performance of institutions within the criminal justice system. This report, however, focuses on the public perception of the performance of authorities involved in security and justice services. To track trends and changes over time, the report, where feasible, incorporates historical comparative analysis with results from previous surveys.

The main objectives of the 2023 JNCVS were to:

Provide data on the types of crimes including those not reported to the police which will form the basis for comparisons with previous victimisation surveys at the national and international levels.

2023

Provide disaggregated information on criminal victimisation, including demographic characteristics of victims.

Provide data on respondents' knowledge of crime prevention initiatives.

LACSI Methodology and the SDGs

The 2019 JNCVS was the first time the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Statistics Initiative (LACSI) methodology was used. Established in 2013, the LACSI methodology measures victimisation, the perception of safety, and the performance of authorities in an internationally comparable manner, in line with UN international standards.³ Generating comparable data allows for a more in-depth understanding of the type of crime that affects a region. This, in turn, helps to identify impacts, vulnerabilities, risks and strengths of the country to support public policy.⁴

LACSI methodology. The survey provides data that can be used to assess Jamaica's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected global goals established by the United Nations (UN) in 2015. These goals are designed to address a wide range of global challenges and promote sustainable economic, social, and environmental development. Of particular importance to this project is SDG 16 "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" and three related targets outlined in Figure 1.1 below:5



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Target 16.1:
Significantly reduce
all forms of violence
and related death
rates everywhere.

Target 16.1.3:

Proportion of the population subjected to physical, psychological, or sexual violence in the last 12 months.

SDG 16

Target 16.3:
Promote the rule of law at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Target 16.3.1:

Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.

SDC 16 Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all forms.

Target 16.5.1:

Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months.

Figure 1.1. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and Subset of Targets

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. LACSI Initiative: Towards a Common Methodology. https://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/index.php/lacsi-initiative/

⁴ United Nations (2003) Manual for the Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics". New York: Studies in Methods Series F, No. 89.

⁵ United Nations (2015), Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/

Jamaica's Progress Towards SDG 16

The GOJ has articulated its commitment to fostering a secure, cohesive, and equitable society in Goal 2 of Vision 2030 Jamaica-National Development Plan. The Vision 2030 Jamaica plan is the country's pioneering strategic framework, charting a course for development over a 21-year span from 2009 to 2030. At its core, the plan aspires to transform Jamaica into the destination of choice for living, working, raising families, and conducting business. It is rooted in the collective engagement of all Jamaican citizens and stakeholders, driving towards a future that is both sustainable and inclusive. The strategy outlines four primary goals and 15 national outcomes, which are designed to achieve а dynamic internationally competitive economy, a cohesive and just society, a well-preserved natural environment, and the cultivation of human capital. These elements are expected to converge to enhance opportunities for social and economic growth, ultimately leading to greater national prosperity.6 This commitment is congruent with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which advocates for peace, justice, and strong institutions. To this end, the GOJ had earmarked approximately JMD\$300 billion for the MNS over the fiscal years 2018/19 to 2020/21, targeting enhancements in public safety and judicial accessibility.7

The following section summarises Jamaica's progress towards the SDGs outlined in the *Voluntary National Review 2022* prepared by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).



The GOJ has employed a multifaceted strategy to mitigate crime and violence. Short-term measures include the designation of Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) and States of Public Emergencies (SOEs) across various communities. Complementing these are medium to long-term initiatives such as legislative reforms, fortification of the technological capabilities of the security forces, and social interventions aimed at bolstering services in high-risk communities. The National Commission on Violence Prevention, established in 2019, developed a decadal action plan for violence prevention. In 2020, the Citizen Security Secretariat was inaugurated to supervise the Citizen Security Plan, which adopts a multi-sectoral, community-centric approach to citizen security in Jamaica.

The "Jamaica Eye" National Surveillance Programme is a pivotal initiative designed to augment public safety and bolster crime detection capabilities through an integrated network of closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs). The Data Protection Act, enacted in 2020, safeguards privacy rights, a critical consideration given the pandemic-induced surge in digital activity and the attendant cybersecurity concerns. The National Cybersecurity Strategy 2015-2025 has been prepared, and a review of the Cybercrimes Act 2015 is ongoing. Plans are also underway to develop a National Child Online Protection Strategy.

⁶ Planning Institute of Jamaica (n.d). What is Vision 2030 Jamaica? Vision 2023. https://www.vision2030.gov.jm/

⁷ Planning Institute of Jamaica. (2022). Voluntary National Review: Goal 16. Pioj.gov.jm. https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR_Goal_16.pdf



End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The GOJ launched the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) in 2018, which adopts a holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted issues children face as victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of violence and abuse. The Child Diversion Act, operationalised in 2019, aims to divert children from the formal criminal justice system into rehabilitative programmes. The National Child Diversion Programme which was developed to reform perpetrators of minor offences before they progress to major offences at the end of 2021 has referred over 600 children since its inception in March 2020. Additionally, in 2021, the Trafficking in Persons Handbook for MDAs was published, providing a tool for screening and a national referral process. In 2019, the Anti-Trafficking in Person (A-TIP) Club was launched in 20 secondary schools. This multistakeholder approach has helped Jamaica maintain its Tier 2 ranking in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons report.



Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Judicial reforms in Jamaica have been directed towards improving access to justice and introducing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms at the community level. Additionally, there have been technological upgrades and infrastructural enhancements in courts, the establishment of seven Parish Justice Centres for restorative justice, child diversion, and mediation services, and the use of restorative justice conferences to reduce case backlogs.



Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime.

Key agencies working in the area of national security, such as the Financial Investigations Division (FID), Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), and Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime Division (CTOC), are spearheading efforts to curtail illicit financial flows and organised crime. The National Risk Assessment (NRA) for Jamaica (2016-2019), published in 2021, aims to evaluate the risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing to bolster the nation's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism framework. Additionally, in 2020, efforts began to implement the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition and engagement with SALIENT (The Savings Lives Entity) focused on strategies to address the flow and use of small arms.



In 2020, the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure Regulations for the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) were enacted. These regulations give effect to the provisions of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Act, which includes the creation of the agency as a statutory law enforcement entity with autonomous operations and jurisdiction. Between 2018 and 2021, MOCA conducted 138 operations, arresting 161 people and charging 152. The Integrity Commission was established in 2018 to promote and enhance standards of ethical conduct for parliamentarians, public officials, and other state agents.

Other GOJ Programmes & Initiatives

Over the years, the Jamaican Government has enacted several social interventions to bolster and community safety curtail conduct. These initiatives include the Community Renewal Programme (CRP), Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal), and the 'Liv Gud' Campaign. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) launched the Community Renewal Programme (CRP) over a decade ago as an integrated intervention for coordinating and improving service delivery in 100 of Jamaica's most volatile and vulnerable areas. Its primary goal was to contribute to inclusive growth and equitable national development by boosting socio-economic well-being and improving the quality of life in these areas.8 The Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal) initiative is another social and economic transformation initiative created by the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) in partnership with the JCF and driven by communities to bring about societal transformation through targeted interventions in under-resourced areas of Jamaica. The project sought to consult and collaborate with community stakeholders to identify needs, then work with partners - public, private, NGOs, multilateral, individuals at home and the diaspora - to connect communities with the resources and services agreed in consultation. The 'Liv Gud' campaign, one recent initiative spearheaded by the MNS, is a national antiviolence campaign aimed at transmitting a culture of respect for people, the sanctity of life, law, and public order.¹⁰

The Socio-economic Situation in Jamaica

The relationship between economic growth and crime is bi-directional, multifaceted, and complex, with crime influencing socio-economic conditions and vice versa. As a result, it is difficult to establish a universal causal relationship, as multiple factors influence crime rates and economic conditions. These factors include education, employment, population density, and poverty. There is a need for social statistical indicators to explore these linkages and support evidence-based policymaking and comprehensive responses to social problems. This section of the introductory chapter highlights Jamaica's economic performance over a few years up to 2023, which may provide context to research and policy analysts. Emphasis is placed on data within the one-year reference period from November 2022 to October 2023 used in the survey.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Economic Growth

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the total monetary value of all goods and services produced over a specific period within a country. GDP is often used as a comprehensive measure of a nation's economic health. Based on data released by STATIN, Jamaica's GDP at constant market prices in 2019 JMD\$900,045 million. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 reduced Jamaica's real GDP growth rate to an unprecedented low of -9.9 per cent. However, as shown in Figure 1.2, the economy showed signs of recovery in 2021, growing by 4.6 per cent. The recovery continued in 2022 as the economy grew by 5.2 per cent¹¹.

⁸ Planning Institute of Jamaica. (n.d.). Community Renewal Programme . https://www.pioj.gov.jm/programmes/community-renewal-programme/

⁹ Private Sector Organization of Jamaica. (n.d.). Everybody Fawwud with Project Star (video) .https://www.projectstarja.com/

¹⁰ Ministry of National Security. (n.d.). Liv Gud | The Ministry of National Security. https://www.mns.gov.jm/liv-gud. Retrieved October 8, 2023

¹¹ Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Quarterly GDP report (2020 - 2022) (Kingston: STATIN, 2022)

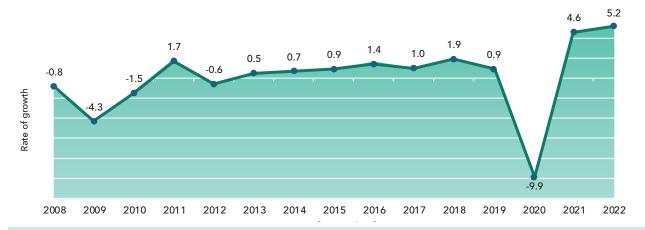


Figure 1.2. Annual Rate of Growth of GDP: Jamaica 2008 - 202211

In 2022, the industry Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs, and Installation of Machinery & Equipment contributed 20.9 per cent to the total value added of the economy. Producers of Government Services accounted for 13.0 per cent of total value added. Other industries' contributions to the total value added were: Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities (10.7%). **Finance** & Insurance Services (9.4%),Manufacturing (10.4%), Transport, Storage & Communication (7.2%), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (9.9%), Construction (8.8%) and Other Services (5.6%).¹² In the second quarter (April-June) of 2023, Jamaica's GDP grew by 2.3 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2022.13 The Services and Goods Producing industries grew by 2.2 per cent and 2.6 per cent, respectively. This growth indicated that the economy was recovering from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The seasonally adjusted total value added was JM\$196.6 billion, higher than the JM\$190.7 billion in March 2020, the quarter before the pandemic outbreak.

Consumer Price Index & Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households. It quantifies the rate at which the aggregate price level of a predetermined basket of goods and services changes within an economy over a delineated timeframe. The point-to-point inflation rate measures inflation at a certain point compared to the same point in the previous year.

The CPI stands as one of the paramount indicators of inflation. It gauges the change in the cost of living for the general consumer. The CPI is the best economic instrument to use when determining the effect of changes in retail prices on the average household budget. An incremental yet modest inflation rate is usually indicative of a healthy economy.

Based on the CPI published by STATIN, the annual inflation rate for 2022 was 9.4 per cent, 2.1 percentage points above the 7.3 per cent recorded for 2021. ¹⁴ As at September 2023, the

¹² Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Quarterly GDP Tables

¹³ Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Quarterly GDP Tables (Year Over Year Change of Value Added by Industry at Constant [2007] Prices (Seasonally Unadjusted) https://statinja.gov.jm/NationalAccounting/Quarterly/NewQuarterlyGDP.aspx

¹⁴ Statistical Institute of Jamaica. (2023). Consumer Price Index.



Figure 1.3. Point-to-Point Inflation Rate: Jamaica 2020 -2023

point-to-point inflation rate was 5.9 per cent; 3.4 percentage points lower than the point-to-point inflation rate of 9.3 per cent of the corresponding period for 2022 (Figure 1.3).

In September 2023, the inflation rate increased by 0.5 per cent compared to August 2023. This increase was largely attributed to an 11.8 per cent rise in the index for the 'Education' division, mainly due to increased tuition fees charged by primary-level private schools.

For September 2023, the point-to-point inflation rate was 5.9 per cent, mainly due to the rise in the cost of items within the 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' and 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' divisions. The highest upward movement was in the 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' division, which rose by 9.8 per cent, driven by a 23.4 per cent increase in the 'Vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses' class. The main contributors to this increase were higher prices for items such as yam, sweet potato, tomato, cabbage, and carrot. The inflation rate for this division was also influenced by the classes 'Cereals and cereal products', which rose by 4.6 per cent, and 'Meat and Other parts of slaughtered land animals', up by 4.2 per cent.

For the 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' division, there was a 12.0 per cent increase in the index for the 'Food and Beverage Serving Services' class due to higher prices for meals consumed away from home.

However, the overall inflation rate was moderated by the 1.6 per cent decrease in the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' division, mainly due to a fall of 6.3 per cent in the group 'Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'.

Population Growth, Distribution and Crime

Demographic factors, such as age and gender distribution, along with labour force participation, play a pivotal role in shaping a country's development strategy. Empirical studies have established a direct proportionality between per capita GDP growth rate and population growth.¹⁵ Positive demographic growth can bolster economic advancement by augmenting the labour force. Additionally, an expanding population can stimulate demand, thereby catalysing economic activities such as manufacturing and trade.¹⁶

¹⁵ Peterson, E. W. F. (2017). The Role of Population in Economic Growth. SAGE Open, 7(4), 215824401773609. https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244017736094

¹⁶ Yao& Liu. (2022). Research on Population Mobility and Sustainable Economic Growth From a Communication Perspective. Frontiers in Psychology, 13. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.935606

Over the years, Jamaica has witnessed a slow yet consistent demographic growth. From 2011 to 2018, Jamaica's population increased gradually, from 2,699,223 to 2,728,432¹⁷. In 2019, the Jamaican population was estimated to be 2,732,537, with an almost equal distribution of males (49.5%) and females (50.5%) (Figure 1.4).

While population growth is generally perceived as a positive development, it often correlates with a higher crime rate in urban areas. As cities and towns expand, many parts of the world witness increased crime rates. This suggests a positive correlation between city size and crime. Large cities offer anonymity for offenders, facilitating their criminal activities without recognition. Furthermore, large cities present more opportunities for criminals to commit crimes and evade capture.¹⁸

According to 2023 data published by the JCF, Kingston and St. Andrew, Jamaica's most densely populated areas, accounted for 31.0 per cent of serious crimes in the country.¹⁹ Approximately one-quarter of the population resided in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, while 19.1 per cent resided in the neighbouring parish of St. Catherine.²⁰

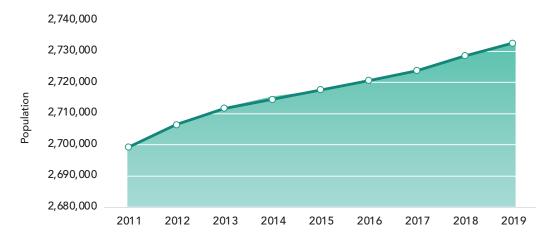


Figure 1.4. Jamaica's Annual Population 2011- 2019¹⁷

Labour Force Participation and Crime

The correlation between crime and labour force participation remains an active area of research. Empirical studies have established a positive correlation between labour force participation, particularly unemployment, and crime rate.²¹ Employment is generally associated with reduced criminal involvement. However, the quality of employment, including compensation and working time, may also factor into this dynamic.²²

¹⁷ Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Population Statistics

¹⁸ Braithwaite, John. (1975). Population growth and crime. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology, vol. 8, (no. 1), pp. 57–60, https://doi.org/10.1177/000486587500800107. Retrieved11 Apr. 2019.

¹⁹ Jamaica Constabulary Force, Crime Statistics 2022 -2023: https://jcf.gov.jm/stats/

²⁰ Statistical Institute of Jamaica. (2019). Demographic Statistics 2018.

²¹ Fallahi, F., & Rodríguez, G. (2014). Link between unemployment and crime in the US: A Markov-Switching approach. Social Science Research, 45, 33-

²² Crutchfield, R. D., Wadsworth, T., Groninger, H., & Drakulich, K. (2006). Labor Force Participation, Labor Markets, and Crime.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by STATIN in July 2023 shows that the labour force participation rate, a key indicator of economic activity, was 65.6 per cent in July 2023, marking an increase from 64.7 per cent in July 2022. This rate reflects the proportion of the working-age population that is economically active and serves as an indicator of the available labour supply for the production of goods and services. In July 2023, female labour force participation in Jamaica slightly increased to 60.1 per cent, up from 59.2 per cent in July 2022. However, this was still considerably lower than the male labour force participation rate, which rose to 71.2 per cent in July 2023 from 70.5 per cent in July 2022.

The youth demographic (14-24 years old) represents 15.2 per cent of the labour force, with a near-equal distribution between females and males. This age group aligns with the peak of the age-crime curve, which denotes the highest incidence of criminal activity where crime rates crest during adolescence and early adulthood, attributed to impulsivity, developmental changes, and peer influence.²³ According to a

2023 press release by the MNS, on average, 63.0 per cent of all known murder offenders in Jamaica are young men aged 15 – 24 years. This translates to approximately six in every 10 persons arrested for murder. Based on the July 2023 LFS findings, young men aged 14 -19 and 20 -24 had the lowest participation rates, besides those aged 65 and over, of 11.7 per cent and 73.3 per cent, respectively. This demographic also recorded the highest unemployment rates for July 2023, with 18.0 per cent and 9.4 per cent, respectively.

The unemployment rate, a critical labour market indicator, is the percentage of unemployed individuals in the total labour force. Jamaica's unemployment rate has been on a downward trend since 2011, with minor fluctuations. It fell below 10.0 per cent in 2018, and as at July 2023, the unemployment rate stood at 4.5 per cent, a decrease of 2.1 percentage points from July 2022 (6.6%)²⁴ as depicted in Figure 1.5.

The intricate interplay between crime rates and employment dynamics, particularly labour force

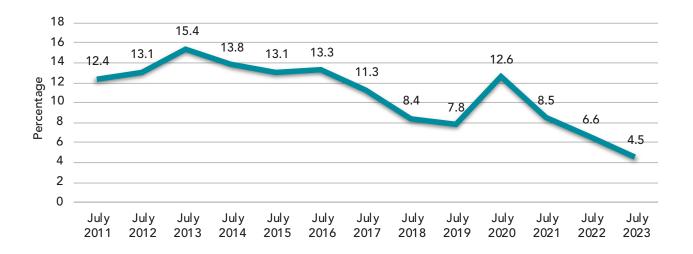


Figure 1.5. Unemployment Rate July 2011 - July 2023²⁴

²³ Farrington, D. P. (1986). Age and Crime. Crime and Justice, 7, 189–250. https://doi.org/10.1086/449114

²⁴ Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Labour Force, Main Labour Force Indicators

participation, is a multifaceted issue potentially influenced by additional variables such as income diparity. Despite the fact that law enforcement data indicate a general decrease in reported criminal activities and labour market statistics reveal a downward trend in unemployment rates, it is crucial to note that these two patterns may not be causally linked but could merely represent coincidental occurrences. As a result, there is a pressing need for further scholarly investigation to comprehensively understand the characterof these correlations socio-economic landscape of Jamaica. This research will contribute to the development of effective policies and strategies to address these complex issues.

Poverty and Crime

The complex interrelationship between unemployment, crime, and poverty can significantly hinder economic growth. According to economic theory, there is a negative relationship between educational achievement and crime. Unemployment can precipitate economic stress, desperation, and a propensity to participate in criminal activities. This is primarily due to the



scarcity of financial resources and demands to meet basic needs, which can render criminal alternatives more attractive.

The 2019 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC), a collaborative effort between STATIN and PIOJ, provides a quantifiable measure of the living standards of Jamaicans. As of 2019, the prevalence of poverty in Jamaica was 11.0 per cent, a decrease of 2.6 per cent from 2018. An age-based examination of the poverty rate revealed that children (under 15 years) and youth (15 – 24 years) recorded higher poverty rates than older individuals. Considering the data holistically, this age group aligns with the demographic with the lowest labour force participation rates and the highest crime participation statistics.

The Gini Coefficient is a measure of the income or wealth distribution of a population. It is frequently employed to quantify the degree of economic inequality within a country or region. A coefficient of 0 signifies complete equality, where all income or wealth values are identical, whereas a coefficient of 1 (or 100%) denotes the greatest inequality among values, where a single individual possesses all the wealth while all others have none. A Gini Coefficient above 0.4 is often considered a critical threshold, as inequality above this level is commonly associated with political instability and escalating social tensions. The Gini Coefficient for Jamaica in 2019 was 0.3671, suggesting moderate inequality in the country.

Education and Crime

According to economic theory, there is a negative relationship between educational achievement and crime. Empirical evidence consistently supports the notion that increasing educational attainment leads to a subsequent decrease in violent and property crime. This reduction in criminal activity results in significant

societal benefits. Individuals with higher education levels tend to have better job opportunities, higher income, and greater social stability. Consequently, they are less likely to engage in criminal activities.

In Jamaica, the completion rate at the primary education level is remarkably high, standing at 97.8 per cent.²⁵ This figure represents a significant achievement in ensuring access to basic education for all students. However, the picture becomes less optimistic when focus is shifted to secondary education. The data reveal low passing grades, which may be viewed as significant in measuring overall educational attainment. Specifically, a minority of students (28.7%) achieved grades 1-3 in five or more subjects, including core disciplines such as Mathematics and English.

The discrepancy between primary and secondary education outcomes underscores the challenges in maintaining educational progress beyond the primary level. It calls for a comprehensive review of the factors contributing to this performance and the development of targeted strategies to address them. It is also necessary to recognise that limited access to quality education, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas, can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and crime. Therefore, education is a crucial tool for crime prevention and intervention. Effective educational programmes, especially those targeting at-risk populations, can provide support, mentorship, and resources that help individuals avoid criminal behaviour.

Organisation of Report

This report is organized into 10 main sections starting with the introduction, Chapter 1 followed by Chapter 2 which delves into the intricacies of the survey design and methodology, providing a detailed account of the pivotal administrative activities executed during the project's implementation phase. This is followed by eight chapters detailing information on the findings from the survey according to sections of the questionnaire. Chapter 3 highlights the perception of crime and safety as well as the fear of crime. Chapter 4 examines criminal victimisation by household and personal crimes within a three year and 12 months reference period. Chapter 5 looks at details on victimisation within the 12-month reference period and highlights the number of incidents by specific crimes. Chapter 6 of the report looks at indirect exposure to crime, it also sought to determine if these crimes were reported to the police and the reason for not reporting. Chapter 7 examines crime prevention strategies and associated costs. Chapter 8 focuses on the public's perception of specific entities within the criminal justice system. This includes offices, agencies, and groups, with an additional section dedicated to evaluating police efficiency in various law enforcement duty areas. The chapter also aims to provide a view of the public sentiment towards these institutions, thereby offering valuable insights into their performance and public image. Chapter 9 looks at the awareness, perceived effectiveness and reliability of security measures including the State of Emergency (SOE) and Special Zones of Operations (ZOSO) and social intervention programmes such as the Management Initiative (PMI) Peace community programmes such as Project STAR. The final chapter, Chapter 10 provides feedback on the 'Liv Gud' campaign, looking at awareness levels, perceived effectiveness and strategies for improvement. This is followed by the conclusion and the appendices which include supplemental tables as well as the LACSI indicators.

2. Survey Administration & Methodology

Overview of the 2023 JNCVS Survey Methodology

The 2023 Jamaica National Crime Victimization Survey (JNCVS) adhered to the Latin American and Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (LACSI) methodology, similar to its 2019 iteration. In 2019, when the methodology was first applied, this adherence led to the inclusion of novel questions and the retention of others with minor modifications to enhance the measurement of crime indicators. The 2019 and 2023 surveys are comparable due to these methodological consistencies. However, it is important to note that only a limited number of questions maintain comparability with the results from surveys conducted before 2019.

A significant feature of the 2023 JNCVS, similar to the 2019 edition, is the use of dual weights: one for households and another for individuals. This contrasts with the approach taken in surveys before 2019, where samples were weighted, and proportions normalised to the sample size. Including these two weights in the 2019 and 2023 surveys facilitates a more nuanced analysis

of crime at both the household and individual levels. The 2023 JNCVS was designed to provide reliable estimates of victimisation at the national and regional level.

The 2023 JNCVS project was executed in five main phases as depicted in Figure 2.1.

Chapter 2 summarises the activities, approaches, and outcomes within the different project phases.

Sampling Design Methodology

Sample Domains

Sample domains are the analytical subgroups for which statistically reliable estimates are required. The domains for analysis in this survey were the Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area (GKMA), Other Urban Centres (OUC), and Rural Areas. GKMA includes the parish of Kingston, urban St. Andrew, Portmore and Spanish Town. OUC consists of all the other urban areas outside the GKMA, while all the remaining areas are regarded as rural.



Figure 2.1. 2023 JNCVS Project Phases

Target Population

Persons eligible for interview were the "usual residents" of Jamaica who were at least sixteen (16) years old and living in private dwelling units at the time of the survey. Persons living in non-private dwelling units (e.g. military camps, hospitals, prisons) were excluded from the survey.

Sample Frame

The master sampling frame is based on the data and cartographic materials from the 2011 Population and Housing Census conducted by STATIN. It contains a subset of Enumeration Districts (EDs) from the Census and is representative of Jamaica's demographic distribution. Enumeration Districts are geographically defined collections of dwelling units used by STATIN specifically for survey purposes; an ED is either urban or rural. The sampling frame was developed by STATIN specifically for data collection purposes in household surveys.

Sample Design

A multi-stage stratified cluster probability sample design with three (3) stages was used to optimise efficiency while ensuring adequate distribution of sample units and minimising costs. The three stages of this sample design are:

- Stage 1: Selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSUs)
- Stage 2: Selection of Secondary Sampling Units (Dwellings)
- Stage 3: Selection of Ultimate Sampling Units (Individuals)

Design Assumptions and Sample Size Calculation

The following assumptions informed the sample size calculation per domain:

Confidence level , ?? /?	95%
Margin of Error, e	5%
Expected household response rate, r	75%
Design effect, deff	2
Predicted indicator, p	0.5
Number of Domains, h	

The calculated sample size is given by:

$$n_h = \frac{z_{\alpha/2}^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2 \times r} \times h \times deff = \times = 3,073 \text{ dwellings}$$

Deviations were made from the calculated sample size to accommodate the practical requirements of the sample.

The total sample was comprised of:

Table 2.1 Sample Allocation for 2023 JNCVS

Sample	Total
Number of dwellings per ED	18
Total number of EDs	183
Total sample size	3,294

(Refer to Annex II for the distribution of Actual Sample Dwellings and EDs By Stratum).

The sample dwellings are sufficient to produce key estimates at the regional and national levels. However, individual estimates must be assessed to determine their reliability based on actual survey responses.

A significant feature of the 2023 JNCVS... is the use of dual weights: one for households and another for individuals.

Sample Selection

The sample elements were selected in three (3) stages as follows:

Stage 1: Selection of PSUs (Clusters)

In the first stage, primary sampling units (PSUs), area units based on census EDs, were selected with probability proportional to size. An ED is an independent geographic area defined by STATIN for the purposes of data collection. A PSU contains one or more contiguous EDs to provide a minimum number of dwellings for survey purposes. Each PSU is designated as urban or rural, and each dwelling is contained in only one PSU. The number of dwellings was used as the measure of size for each PSU.

The first stage probability of selection is given by

$$P_1 = \frac{P_d \times H_{dj}}{\sum_d H_j}$$

where

 P_d = total number of PSUs selected in stratum d H_{dj} = total number of dwellings in PSU j, stratum d $\sum_d H_j$ = total number of dwellings in stratum d

Stage 2: Selection of Dwelling Units

In the second stage, secondary sampling units (dwellings) were systematically selected, with a random start, from each stage 1 PSU to ensure adequate spread throughout the PSU. A total of 18 dwellings were selected per PSU. In dwellings with more than one household, the dwelling occupying the larger share of the dwelling was selected to participate in the survey.

The second stage probability of selection is given by

$$P_2 = \frac{k}{H_{dj}}, \, \mathbf{k} = 18$$

where

k = number of dwellings selected per PSU

 H_{dj} = total number of dwellings in PSU j, stratum d

Stage 3: Selection of Respondents

One eligible respondent was selected from each stage 2 household to participate in the survey. The "Next Birthday" method of selection was used for within household respondent selection. This maintains the randomness of the sample design. This method is a generally accepted selection technique in which the respondent with the nearest upcoming birthdate to the date of the interview is selected.

Sample Weights

The 2023 JNCVS was based on a complex sample design featuring stratification and clustering; this resulted in unequal probabilities of selection. Additionally, since non-response exists and a sample was taken, weights are required to adjust the sample proportions to match that of the population. Any data analysis should utilise the weights if population estimates are desired.

The weights were calculated as a composite of the design or base weights, non-response adjustment and post-stratification adjustment as follows:

$$\left(W_{dji}^f = W_{dji}^* \times NR_{dj} \times PS_l\right)$$

Design Weights

The household selection probability is the product of its stage-1 and stage-2 probabilities, and the design weight is the inverse of this joint selection probability.

The design weight is given by

$$W_{dj} = \frac{1}{P_1 \times P_2}$$

where

 W_{dj} = household weight in PSU j in stratum d.

 P_1 = Stage 1 probability of selection

 P_2 = Stage 2 probability of selection

The final weight is obtained by applying the appropriate non-response and post-stratification adjustments to the design weight.

Non-response Adjustment

The non-response adjustment accounts for unit non-response, that is, the failure to complete questionnaires for all households selected in the sample. The non-response adjustment factor was calculated as follows:

$$NR_{dj} = \frac{k}{I_{dj}}$$

Where:

 NR_{dj} is the unit non-response adjustment factor k is the number of dwellings selected per PSU I_{dj} is the number of interviews completed per PSU

Post Stratification Weights

The post-stratification adjustment was computed to ensure that the sample distribution is consistent with that of the population and adjust the design weights so that they sum to the population sizes within each sub-stratum. Information from the 2018 estimates of households and the 2019 mid-year population of persons 16 years and older were used in calculating post-stratification adjustment factors. In both the sample and the population, households were divided into substrata based on parish and urban/rural and individuals based on parish, age, and sex. For each sub-stratum, the ratio of the population to sample total was computed:

$$PS_l = \frac{l_{pop}}{l_{sam}}$$

The JNCVS contains both household and individual level variables, and as such, two (2) weights are provided for the 2023 survey: a household weight and an individual weight. Household weights are applied at the PSU level in each parish and area, while individual weights are applied to individuals in each parish by sex and age.

Trimming of Weights

When analysing data, extremely large weights can bias survey estimates and inflate variances. To mitigate this impact, after calculating and applying the weights, extremely large weights were trimmed. Weight trimming was carried out in each stratum, and the trimmed weight for the *i*th sampled unit in stratum j is defined as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} W_{ji(T)}^f = \begin{cases} W_{ji} & if \ W_{ji} < W_{jB} \\ W_{jB} & if \ W_{ji} \ge W_{jB} \end{pmatrix}$$

The weights were further adjusted in each PSU such that the difference between the sum of the original weight and the sum of the trimmed weight $(\sum W_{ji} - \sum W_{jB})$ was distributed proportionately across households or individuals.

Questionnaire Design & Development

To preserve the consistency and comparability of the data, the 2019 JNCVS questionnaire formed the base for the 2023 JNCVS questionnaire with a few minor modifications requested by the MNS. Those modifications included the reintroduction of some questions from a previous JNCVS instrument (2016). These questions pertain to the public's perception of the police and indirect exposure to crime (serious and violent crimes including murder, shooting/gun battle, robbery and serious beating or attack). The instrument was also updated to gauge the public's awareness of the Ministry's 'Liv Gud' campaign. Questions related to the recently concluded Citizen Security and **Justice** Programme (CSJP) and Integrated Community Development Programme were removed from the instrument.

Questionnaire

The 2023 JNCVS questionnaire had 11 sections (Figure 2.2) with approximately 330 questions.

Section C3, Crime Modules, was designed to gain more details about the time, place, and experience of 14 crimes, namely:

- Module 1. Vehicle theft
- Module 2. Theft of vehicle parts
- Module 3. Theft of objects from inside the vehicle
- Module 4. Motorcycle/motorbike theft
- Module 5. Domestic burglary
- Module 6. Robbery
- Module 7. Theft (Larceny)
- Module 8. Bank fraud
- Module 9. Consumer fraud/scamming
- Module 10. Bribery
- Module 11. Physical assault and injuries
- Module 12. Threats
- Module 13. Extortion
- Module 14. Homicide

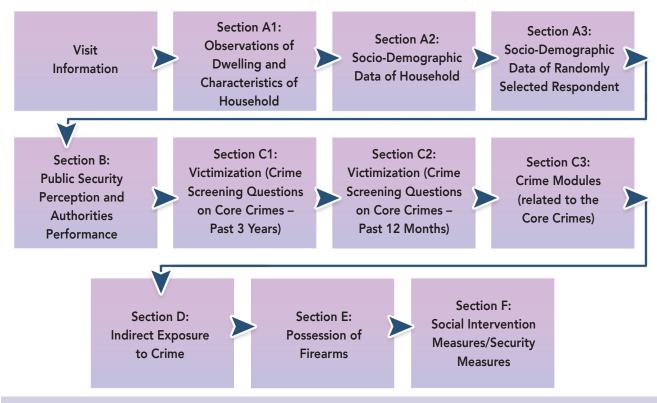


Figure 2.2. 2023 JNCVS Questionnaire Sections

Individual Sections

Sections A1 and A2 of the questionnaire aimed to collect information about the structure of the dwelling and the characteristics and composition of the household. The target respondent for this section was the head of the household or the most knowledgeable adult household member.

The remaining sections of the questionnaire, namely A3, B, C1, C2, C3, D, E, and F, targeted a randomly selected household member who was 16 years or older. The Next Birthday Method of respondent selection was used to identify the household member to be interviewed as previously mentioned.

Section A3 of the questionnaire was designed to obtain basic demographic information about the randomly selected respondent and included questions about the respondent's union status, education, and employment.

Section B included questions about the respondents' perception of safety and feelings of insecurity that arise from their fear of becoming a victim of crime, security measures taken by the respondents, and their evaluation of different authorities responsible for security in Jamaica.

Section C1 served as a screener to identify which of the core crimes the respondent or any household member may have been a victim of during the past three years (November 2020 to October 2023).

For those respondents who indicated that they or a household member had been a victim of a crime during the three-year period, **Section C2** was used to determine whether the victimisation occurred in the 12-month reference period - November 2022 to October 2023.

Section C3 had a module for each core crime and asked only about the crime or crimes experienced during the survey's reference period. Each module was structured similarly, but the questions were directed at the type of crime to which it referred. If a person had experienced a particular crime more than once during the reference period, a module was completed for the three most recent times the crime was experienced.

Section D included questions about the frequency of respondents' indirect exposure to serious and violent crimes, including murder, shooting or gun battle, robbery and serious beating or attack. It also sought to determine if these crimes were reported to the police and the reason for not reporting.

Section E explored the perception of firearm use and the possession of firearms for safety and protection.

Section F focused on the respondent's knowledge of specific social interventions and security measures, including the Community Renewal Programme (CRP), Project STAR and the 'Liv Gud' Campaign.

Main Survey

Training is crucial to the successful implementation of any project, and the 2023 JNCVS was no different. Interviewers were thoroughly trained to handle potential challenges and ensure respondents' active participation during the data collection phase. Training activities for the main survey were conducted from October to November 2023, encompassing training of trainers, supervisors, interviewers, and Headquarters (HQ) Users.

Training of Trainers

The training of trainers was conducted at STATIN's Head Office over three days from October 3-5, 2023. Nine STATIN staff were trained as technical trainers. The training emphasised the survey objectives and the general principles of completing the questionnaire on the Survey Solutions platform, a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technology developed by the World Bank. STATIN has used this platform for several years, including during the 2019 JNCVS. It facilitates data capture of complex surveys with dynamic structures using tablet devices. The training also covered appropriate interviewing techniques and a detailed explanation of the questions on the instrument.

Recruitment of Field Staff

Ninety-three individuals from all 14 parishes were selected for the interviewer training. Most trainees had prior experience working on surveys and were selected based on merit. The Senior Supervisors of the Field Services Division conducted interviews and recommended new trainees in areas where recruits were needed. Trainees are typically chosen from the local area to minimise their travel time, which makes navigating their assigned locations easier.

Training of Interviewers

The first training for interviewers was held from October 9-13, 2023, followed by a second training on November 27-30, 2023. The second training was organised due to a shortage of interviewers in the parishes of Trelawny, St James, and St Elizabeth. Similar to the training of trainers, interviewers were trained on the importance of the survey and its objectives. The training focused on teaching the most appropriate interviewing skills and techniques and a detailed explanation of the survey questions. The trainees were also instructed on completing the questionnaires and caring for and

using the tablets. The highly interactive classes involved role-plays, written exercises, and practice introductions. All trainees received an interviewer's manual specifically prepared for the 2023 JNCVS.

Out of the 93 trainees who were invited to the first interviewer training, 73 were selected: 56 were selected as interviewers and 17 as supervisors. In the second training round, three people were selected based on the recommendation of the trainers and assessments done in class, which included a questionnaire exercise, participation, and demonstrated understanding of the materials.

Training of Supervisors

On October 25, 2023, the selected supervisors received specialised training at STATIN's Head Office. This one-day training focused on providing attendees with additional knowledge and skills to enhance their roles and responsibilities as supervisors. The training covered various topics, including using the Survey Solutions platform to assign work and check completed questionnaires, issue resolution strategies, and maintaining team morale. Additionally, supervisors received training on data quality monitoring techniques and requirements to ensure that data is accurate and reliable. Overall, the training aimed to equip supervisors with the necessary skills to effectively lead their teams and ensure the success of data collection.

Training of Headquarters Users

In addition to the interviewers and supervisors, four individuals were chosen to work as headquarters (HQ) users. Their role was to ensure that questionnaires were complete and consistent and to code questions where necessary. The HQ Users attended the first training of interviewers to understand the objectives and significance of the survey and to familiarise themselves with the questionnaire and protocol for administering and completing it.

The HQ Users also attended a training session on November 14, 2023 at STATIN's Head Office. In addition to the topics covered in the interviewer training, the HQ Users received further instructions on their roles and responsibilities and how to use Survey Solutions to check and approve completed questionnaires. They also learned about specific quality and consistency checks for each section of the questionnaire.

Data Collection

Data collection for the main survey was staggered based on the training groups. The first group started collecting data on November 1, 2023, while the interviewers selected in the second round of training began data collection on December 11, 2023. The scheduled duration for data collection was four months, ending on February 21, 2024.

Quality Control

Quality control is an essential component of any data collection process. It is an ongoing process throughout any data collection project and plays a vital role in maintaining the accuracy and reliability of the data. Every phase or task performed on the project, especially throughout data collection, presents an opportunity to introduce errors. Therefore, it is crucial to implement procedures that can reduce the risk of errors and mitigate their impact. To be considered high-quality, data should be accurate, usable, and suitable for its intended purpose in decision-making and operations.²⁶ Additionally, it should represent real-world concepts and be consistent throughout the dataset.²⁷ By adhering to the best practices of data quality standards, data can be used effectively to make informed decisions.

Monitoring and supervision is one way in which STATIN implements quality control. Field supervisors closely monitored the interviewers' performance throughout the data collection period. This is mandatory as part of STATIN's standard quality control measure. Supervisors regularly met with their assigned interviewers in the office and the field. The work of the interviewers was monitored and evaluated using assignment records and weekly status reports. To ensure accuracy, each interviewer was carefully observed during the first two days of fieldwork, and any errors were promptly corrected. Additionally, supervisors conducted random spot checks of questionnaires to ensure quality control.

Once the interviewer completed an interview and uploaded it to STATIN's server, field supervisors were responsible for reviewing their work. Where errors or discrepancies were detected with the questionnaires, supervisors returned these electronically to the interviewer for corrections. Questionnaires approved by the supervisors were processed at STATIN's Head office. Once supervisors approved the questionnaires, additional quality checks were done at STATIN's head office for accuracy, consistency, and completeness. Where discrepancies and inconsistencies identified, the questionnaires were sent back to the supervisors for investigation and correction. If there were no errors at this stage, the questionnaires were submitted to the HQ Users for final evaluation and coding.

In addition to monitoring and supervision, Survey Solutions, the technology used by STATIN to conduct surveys, contains embedded automatic checks at the primary level, that is, entering the

²⁶ Strong, D. M., Lee, Y. W., & Wang, R. Y. (1997). Data quality in context. Communications of the ACM, 40(5), 103–110. https://doi.org/10.1145/253769.253804

data. The technology is designed with systematic checks like Global Positioning System (GPS), which ensures that the interviewer is visiting the correct address of the dwelling selected. It also notifies the interviewer with highlighted red prompts when a response entered does not correspond with previously inputted data.

Data Processing

From March to April 2024, trained HQ Users reviewed, approved, and coded the questionnaires in the office. At this stage, the questionnaires were checked for completeness, accuracy, and consistency. Additionally, the data was formatted and cleaned as required for data analysis. After the data were finalised, weights were applied to ensure that the estimates produced were representative and consistent with the sample design, as outlined in Chapter 2.

Data Analysis

The data analysis for this report was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The production of the final tables was based on a tabulation plan consistent with the previous *JNCVS* reports to allow for comparability where possible. The data presented in this report are reliable at the national level or at the regional level if presented by area of residence. The estimates provided have an acceptable level of precision, with a Coefficient of Variation (CV) not exceeding 20 per cent and an unweighted count exceeding 30. Estimates with CVs between 21-25 per cent and unweighted counts between 31 and 50 are included in the report but should be used cautiously.

Reporting of Findings

The presentation of the findings is contextualised within the construct of the survey question and its corresponding goal. This approach ensures that the findings are

adequately aligned with the research objectives and can be correctly interpreted within the survey's scope, thereby enhancing the significance and relevance of the results. Furthermore, the data was analysed to identify discernible patterns and trends. Based on the findings, conclusions and insights are drawn.

Response Rate and Weighting

Final results of the survey

At the end of data collection, 2,335 interviews were completed across the 14 parishes. Table 2.2 displays the final results of all households selected for the survey.

Table 2.2. Final Result of Households in Sample

	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Complete Interview	2,335	70.9
Vacant	417	12.7
Closed	280	8.5
Refusal	129	3.9
Demolished/Not Found	112	3.4
Non-residential	13	0.4
Other	8	0.2
Total	3,294	100

Response Rate

The response rate, typically represented as a percentage, is a fundamental measure that indicates the effectiveness of data collection methodologies. It reflects the proportion of eligible individuals in a sample who respond to a survey, questionnaire, or other data collection methods. This metric is crucial as it can significantly impact the reliability and validity of the results obtained. A low response rate can lead to

inaccurate results and sampling bias. Achieving a high response rate is crucial when collecting data, as it ensures the reliability and representativeness of the information gathered. For data to be considered reliable, it must be consistent and accurate, which can only be achieved if a significant portion of the target sample provides feedback. Moreover, representativeness is a crucial factor in ensuring that the results of a survey are applicable to the entire population.

Regarding the *JNCVS*, the response rate indicates the percentage of complete and partial household interviews compared to the total number of eligible households in the sample. Non-residential (previously residential), vacant/unoccupied and dilapidated dwellings to be demolished were deemed ineligible for the survey and were excluded from the response rate computation. The rate of response was calculated using the formula:

$$RR_H = \frac{(I+P)}{(I+P)+(R)+(C+O)}$$

Where:

- I is the number of completed household interviews
- P is the number of partially completed household interviews
- R is the number of households that refused an interview
- C is the number of closed dwellings
- *O* is the number of households with other

The response rate for the survey at the household level was 84.8%.

Sample Description

Table 2.3 provides a detailed overview of the survey respondents. A total of 2,335 individuals participated in the survey, with an almost equal representation of males (49.9%) and females (50.1%). The age distribution indicated that over one-third of the respondents (35.6%) were between 40 and 59 years old, with an average age of 43.5 years. In terms of educational attainment, 47.9 per cent of respondents had completed either upper secondary school (Grades 10-11), post-secondary or non-tertiary level. Additionally, 22.3 per cent had completed lower secondary school, and 8.5 per cent had attained a tertiary-level certificate or diploma. Additionally, respondents were asked about their relationship status, revealing that 51.5 per cent were single (not in a union).

The preceding section of this chapter highlighted that the 2023 JNCVS survey sample included participants from all parishes, categorized as either urban or rural. Three in five participants (59.1%) resided in urban areas, while 40.1 per cent were from rural areas of Jamaica.

Respondents were also asked about their primary activities during the seven days preceding the interview, which was used to determine their employment status. As shown in Table 2.3, nearly two-thirds (62.6%) of respondents were employed or had a formal attachment to employment, including full-time, part-time, self-employed, odd jobs, family business work, or being on leave from a job.

The survey includes both household and individual-level variables, necessitating the use of two weights: a household and an individual weight. The household weights aggregate to the 2018 estimate of households in Jamaica (897,796), while the individual weights align with the 2019 mid-year population estimate of individuals aged 16 and older (2,112,458). The tables in the findings section of the report represent the weighted number of responses and percentages.

 Table 2.3. Demographic Characteristics of 2023 JNCVS Survey Respondents

	N (Unweighted)	Percentage (%)	
Total	2335	100	
	Sex		
Male	1165	49.9	
Female	1170	50.1	
	Age Group		
16 - 24 years	252	10.8	
25 - 39 years	550	23.6	
40 - 59 years	832	35.6	
60 years and older	701	30.0	
	Education	Level	
Primary & Lower	281	12.0	
Lower Secondary (Grades 7-9)	520	22.3	
Upper Secondary (Grades 10-11)/ Post Secondary/ Non-Tertiary	1118	47.9	
Tertiary-level Certificate or Diploma/ Short Cycle Tertiary	199	8.5	
First Degree & Higher	215	9.2	
Not Stated	2	0.1	
	Area Of Res	sidence	
Rural	954	40.9	
Urban	1381	59.1	
	Employmen ^a	t Status	
Employed	1462	62.6	
Unemployed	121	5.2	
Student	98	4.2	
At home	292	12.5	
Retired	276	11.8	
Disabled	42	1.8	
Not interested in Work/Not Stated	44	1.9	
	Union Status		
Single - Not in Union	1202	51.5	
Married	418	17.9	
Divorced / Legally Separated	63	2.7	
Widowed	130	5.6	
Common Law	261	11.2	
Visiting Relationship	261	11.2	

3. Perception of Safety, Community Crime, Disorder and Fear of Crime

This chapter provides detailed information about how individuals perceive crime and disorder in their residential areas. This will include insights into their feelings of safety and their perceived likelihood of becoming victims of crime. According to Zhang et al. (2021), safety perception can be described as a psychological state influenced by an individual's apprehension of potential danger or threat to their well-being. For a community to be safe, research theorises that it must be perceived by its residents to be safe.²⁸

Perceptions of Safety

Crime victimisation surveys frequently contain questions about perceived safety to gauge how people feel about their security in different situations. These questions help to elucidate the impact of crime on people's attitudes and behaviours. During the survey, participants were prompted to express their perceived level of safety in 13 specific locations. These included a broad range of sites where individuals typically engage in routine activities for commerce, recreation, education and employment. In addition to these specified locations, the survey included a category denoted as 'Other, specify.' This category was designed to capture data related to any additional settings not covered in the predefined list. The response options

specified on the survey instrument were 'Very Safe', 'Safe', 'Unsafe' and 'Very Unsafe'. For analysis and reporting, the response options 'Very Safe' and 'Safe' were combined as 'Safe' and the options 'Unsafe' and 'Very Unsafe' were merged to represent 'Unsafe'.

As presented in Figure 3.1 below, the majority of respondents reported feeling safe in their church (97.2%). This result closely mirrors the findings from the 2019 JNCVS, where 97.8 per cent of respondents expressed a similar sentiment. Nine in every 10 individuals felt safe at their educational institution (92.5%), in their personal vehicle (92.3%) and at home (91.9%). Approximately seven in 10 persons felt safe at shopping centres (77.3%), in taxis (70.8%) and other public transportation (73.5%), banks (68.6%) and markets (68.5%). In contrast, only 47.2 per cent of respondents felt safe at the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) on the street. This represents an almost 10 percentage points decline compared to the 2019 results, which showed 56.3 per cent of respondents felt safe at an ATM. The growth in the unease or the decline in the perception of safety at ATMs may signal the need for targeted interventions considering recent bank closures in some locations across the island and the push to ATMs for both deposit and withdrawal transactions. 29

²⁸ Cozens, P. M. (2016). Think crime!: Using evidence, theory and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) for planning safer cities. Praxis Education.

²⁹ NCB plans 50 new ABMs across Jamaica amidst network strain. (2024, March 19). Loop News Jamaica. https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/ncb-plans-50-new-abms-across-jamaica-amidst-network-strain

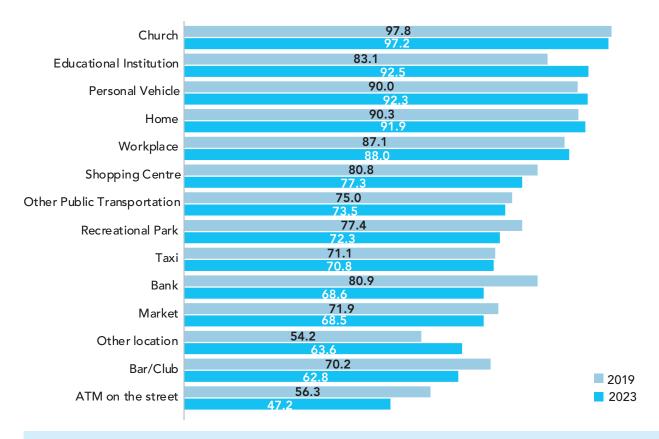


Figure 3.1. Per cent of Respondents who feel Safe in Specific Locations (%)

When safety in specific locales was aggregated by sex, men generally reported a greater sense of safety in their surroundings than women. These results were consistent with the findings from the previous *JNCVS* and other scholarly investigations which have highlighted a statistically significant disparity in the expression of fear between men and women.^{30, 31} These studies underscore that females were more inclined to express feelings of fear than males, particularly in public spaces.

Data from the 2023 JNCVS showed that 97.7 per cent of men felt safe in a church, similar to the results from 2019 (97.4%). Home and personal vehicles also emerged as safe by, 93.5 per cent

and 91.3 per cent of males, respectively as shown in Figure 3.2. A noteworthy trend was observed in the perception of safety within educational institutions. The 2023 survey indicated that 92.1 per cent of men reported feeling safe at their educational institution, a substantial increase from the 81.8 per cent reported in 2019. This represents a sizeable increase of 10.3 percentage points between the two surveys. In contrast, Table 3.3 (Annex I) highlights that 42.6 per cent of men feel unsafe at the ATM, marking a 4.6 percentage point increase since 2019 when it was 38.0 per cent.

Perception of safety in different places specified on the questionnaire did not differ significantly

³⁰ Gilchrist, E., Bannister, J., Ditton, J., & Farrall, S. (1998). Women and the fear of crime: challenging the accepted stereotype{. *British Journal of Criminology*, 38(2), pp. 283–298. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.bjc.a014236

³¹ Starkweather, S. (2007). Gender, perceptions of safety and strategic responses among Ohio University students *Gender, Place & Culture*, 14(3), 355–370. https://doi.org/10.1080/09663690701325000

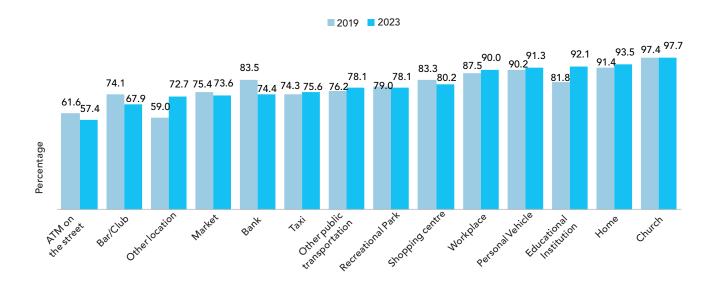


Figure 3.2. Per cent of Male Respondents who feel Safe in Specific Locations (%)

based on sex. According to the 2023 JNCVS, the majority of women, 96.7 per cent, reported feeling safe in a church, which is consistent with the findings from the 2019 survey where 98.0 per cent of women felt safe in this setting (Figure 3.3). Additionally, 93.4 per cent felt safe in their personal vehicle and 90.4 per cent of women felt secure at home.

Similar to men, the survey revealed a decline in the sense of safety at an ATM for women, with 38.4 per cent reporting feeling safe in this location, compared to 51.1 per cent in 2019. Ultimately, perceived safety at ATMs declined for both sexes, but it is also worth noting that for women, it is a greater cause for concern as shown by the 2023 survey where 57.4 per cent of men and 38.4 of women indicated feeling safe compared to 61.6 per cent of males and 51.1 per cent of females in 2019.

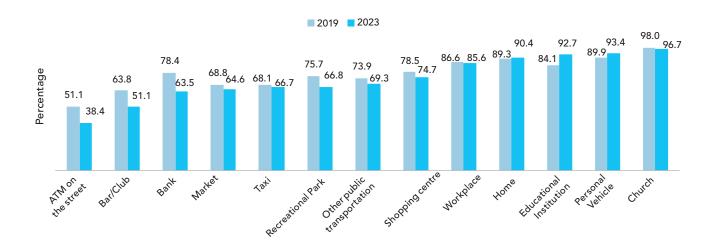


Figure 3.3. Per cent of Female Respondents who feel Safe in Specific Locations (%)

Figure 3.4 examines responses from urban residents in Jamaica. Notably, the location where the majority of respondents felt safe was at church, with 95.1 per cent expressing this sentiment. However, there has been a significant decline in perceived safety at banks. In 2019, 81.4 per cent of urban respondents felt secure at banks, but this figure dropped to 67.0 per cent in the 2023 survey- a 14.4 percentage point difference. On the other hand, safety perception at educational institutions increased from 81.7 per cent in 2019 to 94.6 per cent.

Based on the overall data, a higher proportion of survey participants residing in rural areas indicated feeling safe compared to individuals residing in urban areas. This observation aligned with research indicating that urban areas tend to have higher instances of criminal activities, thereby influencing the perception of safety in these areas.³² Furthermore, according to a study performed by Ruprah et al. (2017), these findings are particularly true in Latin America and the Caribbean.

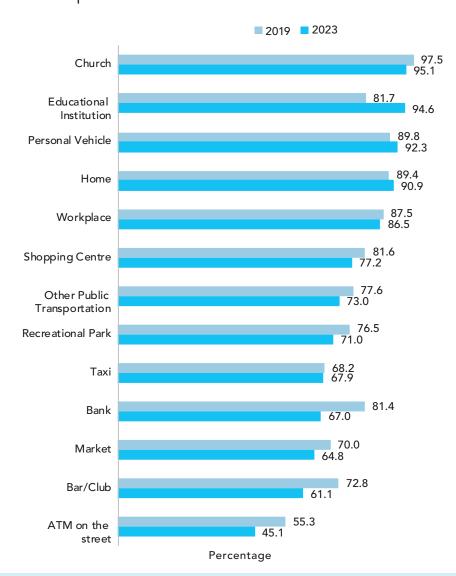


Figure 3.4. Per cent of Urban Respondents who feel Safe in Specific Locations (%)

³² Fisher, B., Kirsten, F., Biyase, M., & Pretorius, M. (2022). Perceptions of crime and subjective well-being: urban-rural differences in South Africa. *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 56(3), 81–91. https://doi.org/10.1353/jda.2022.0044

The survey found that 99.4 per cent of rural respondents felt safe at church, 92.9 per cent at home, and 92.5 per cent in their personal vehicles, as shown in Figure 3.5. Notably, residents in rural areas felt less safe at ATMs in 2023, with 50.1 per cent reporting feeling safe

compared to 57.5 per cent in 2019. Similarly, respondents felt less secure at the bank in 2023, with 70.6 per cent feeling safe compared to 80.2 per cent in 2019, reflecting an approximately 10 percentage point decrease.

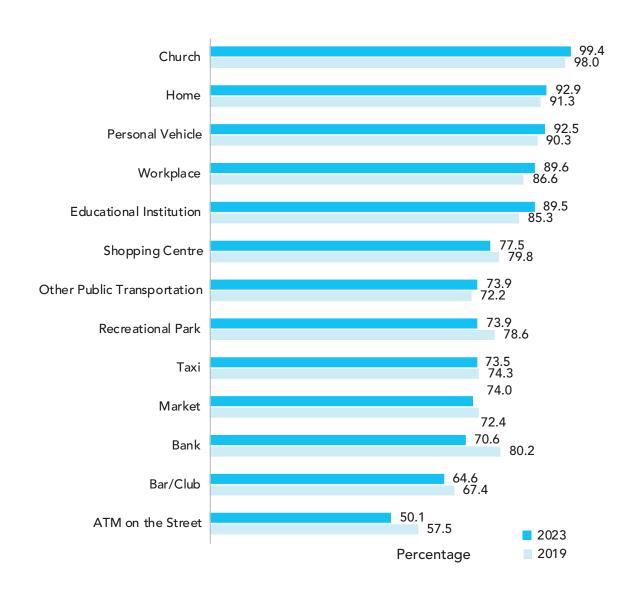


Figure 3.5. Per cent of Rural Respondents who feel Safe in Specific Locations (%)

Perceptions of Safety Walking Alone in Community

During the survey respondents were asked how safe they felt walking alone in their community or neighbourhood during the day and night. This is one of the most frequently asked questions in a victimisation survey and is one that helps to assess personal safety as well as provide information for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, Indicator 16.1.4, which measures the – 'Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live'.

Most respondents reported feeling safe walking alone in their community, a trend consistent with the 2019 results. However, more respondents felt safe walking during the day (85.9%) than at night (60.0%). Despite the overall high sense of safety in the 2023 JNCVS, there has been a decrease in reported feelings of safety compared to 2019, as illustrated in Figure 3.6.

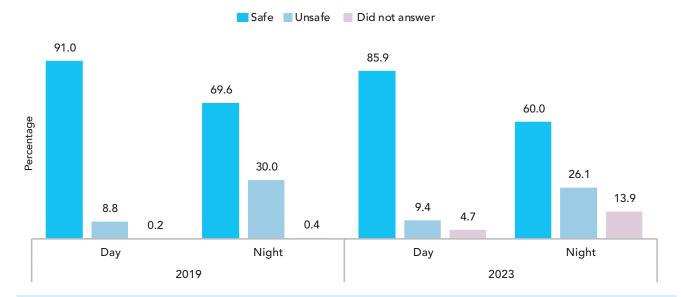


Figure 3.6. Level of Safety Walking Alone in Community in the Day and Night

Table 3.1 provides a comparative analysis of the percentage of participants who felt unsafe when walking in their community during the day and night for the current and previous survey cycles. The data revealed a gradual decrease in the proportion of individuals who reported feeling unsafe when walking in their community during daytime and nighttime between the 2006 and 2016 surveys. In the

Table 3.1. Per cent of Respondents who Feel Unsafe Walking Alone in Community in the Day and Night (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2023 JNCVS Results)

Activity	2006	2009	2013	2016	2019	2023
Walking alone in community during the day	NA ³³	4.6	4.7	3.6	8.8	9.4
Walking alone in community at night	24.6	23.5	20.9	16.8	30.0	26.1

2019 survey, 8.8 per cent of respondents indicated feeling unsafe when walking alone in their community during the day, compared to 3.6 per cent in 2016. Furthermore, a higher percentage of participants in the 2019 survey (30.0%) reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their community at night, as opposed to 16.8 per cent in 2016. Notably, the proportion of individuals who felt unsafe while walking alone during the day increased from 8.8 per cent in 2019 to 9.4 per cent in 2023. Conversely, the proportion of persons who felt unsafe walking alone in the community at night declined by 3.9 percentage points (30.0% in 2019 to 26.1% in 2023).

The study examined the level of safety based on demographic factors such as sex, age and area of residence. Figure 3.7 shows that more males (89.2%) felt safe walking alone during the day in their community than females (82.7%). Among different age groups, those aged 16 to 24 had the highest sense of safety during the day (91.3%), consistent with the 2019 findings. However, the sense of safety during the day among respondents aged 60 and above decreased significantly, from 90.7 per cent in 2019 to 79.5 per cent in the most recent survey. Notably, more persons aged 40 to 59 years expressed feeling unsafe during the day (10.5%), in contrast to the 2019 survey results, which showed this age group was one of the least likely to report (8.4%) feeling insecure (Annex I Table 3.7). Furthermore, 89.0 per cent of residents in rural areas reported feeling safe walking alone during the day, and similarly, eight in 10 of those living in urban areas (83.0%).

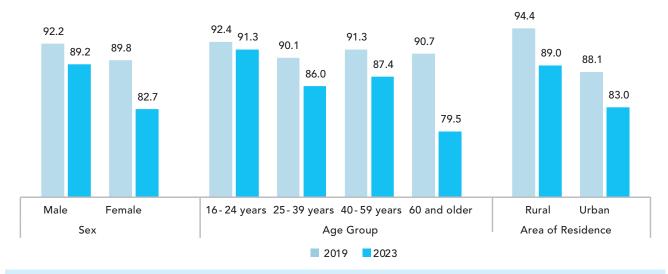


Figure 3.7. Per cent of Population who Feels Safe Walking Alone in Community during the Day by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

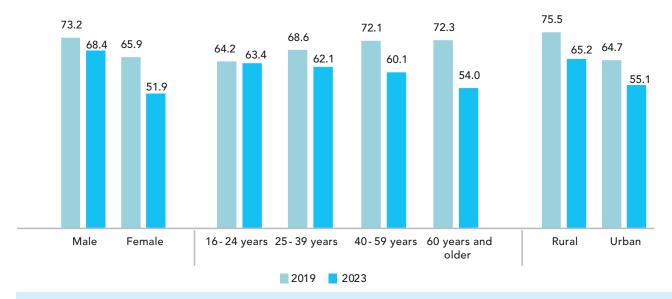


Figure 3.8. Per cent of Population who Feels Safe Walking Alone in Community during the Night by Sex,
Age Group and Area of Residence

When asked about their sense of safety when walking alone in their communities at night, respondents reported feeling significantly less safe compared to during the day. When disaggregated by sex, 68.4 per cent of males felt safe walking at night compared to 51.9 per cent of women (Figure 3.8). This proportion of women is notably lower than the 65.9 per cent reported in the 2019 survey. Among those aged 60 and over, approximately half felt secure walking at night, a decrease from 72.3 per cent in 2019.

Perceptions of Safety In Community For Children

The evaluation of community safety is a multifaceted process, with the perceived safety of children being a critical component. Survey participants, irrespective of their parental or guardian status, were asked to express their perceptions about the safety of their community or neighbourhood for children.

The findings, depicted in Figure 3.9 indicate that 83.2 per cent of respondents reported their community as safe for children, a slight increase from 81.8 per cent in 2019. The proportion of

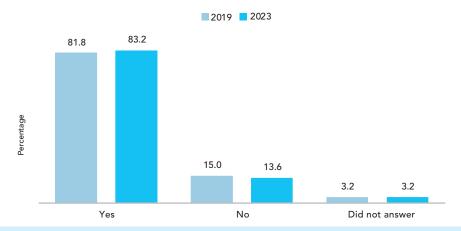


Figure 3.9. Safety of Community for Children

respondents who expressed concerns about their community not being safe for children decreased from 15.0 per cent in 2019 to 13.6 per cent in the 2023 survey results.

When the data were disaggregated by sex, it was observed that a marginally higher percentage of males (86.3%) than females (80.3%) reported feeling that their community was safe for children (Figure 3.10). There was a 6.4 percentage points increase in the belief among young adults (aged 16-24 years) that their community is safe for children, moving from 79.2 per cent in 2019 to 85.6 per cent. There was also a slight increase among individuals aged 25-39 years, who believed that their community was safe for children, moving from 80.1 per cent in 2019 to 83.1 per cent in 2023. In comparison there was a decrease among persons 60 years and older who indicated same – 83.2 per cent in 2023 and 85.1 per cent in 2019. Among those 40-59 years, there was a slight decrease in those who shared the same sentiment, 82.6 per cent in 2019 and 82.1 per cent in 2023. Furthermore, when examining residential areas, it was found that nearly nine of every 10 individuals in rural areas (86.0%) perceived their community as safe for children, compared to eight of 10 in urban areas (80.6%).

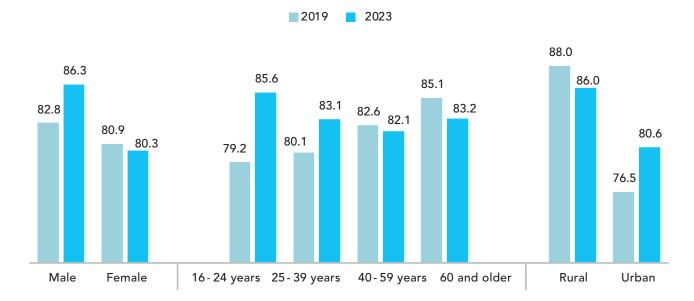


Figure 3.10. Per cent of Population who Feel Community is Safe for Children by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

Perceptions of Community Crime and Disorder

Understanding physical and social disorders in public spaces is fundamental to comprehending the perception of crime in communities.³⁴ To gain insights, survey participants were asked about their awareness of specific situations within their community from November 2022 to October 2023. These queries are commonly employed in crime victimisation surveys and aim to ascertain the extent of exposure and to evaluate the extent of certain criminal and non-criminal activities. Even though some situations do not constitute criminal acts, they may elevate risk and contribute to individuals' fear perceptions.

³⁴ Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & National Institute Of Justice (2001). Disorder in Urban Neighbourhoods: Does it Lead to Crime. U.S. Dept. Of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

Respondents must personally have seen or heard the situation, rather than merely being informed of it by a neighbour or third party.

In the 2023 survey, as illustrated in Figure 3.11, several situations were witnessed by individuals less frequently compared to the 2019 survey. The top three activities observed based on respondent reporting on the survey were 'Consumption of marijuana/ganja in the streets' (54.5%), 'Alcohol consumption in the streets' (51.6%), and 'Fights or quarrels in the streets' (43.4%), down from 63.9 per cent, 56.3 per cent,

and 50.9 per cent, respectively in 2019. On the other hand, fewer individuals observed activities such as 'Sale of counterfeit products' (3.2%), 'Presence of Area Don' (3.0%), and 'Prostitution' (2.8%) in their community. The graphical representation also highlights an increase in reported incidents of 'Consumption of illegal drugs in the streets' (5.9%) from 4.3 per cent in 2019. Moreover, the proportion of persons who witnessed the 'Sale of marijuana/ganja in the streets' has increased marginally to 35.5 per cent compared to 34.4 per cent in 2019.

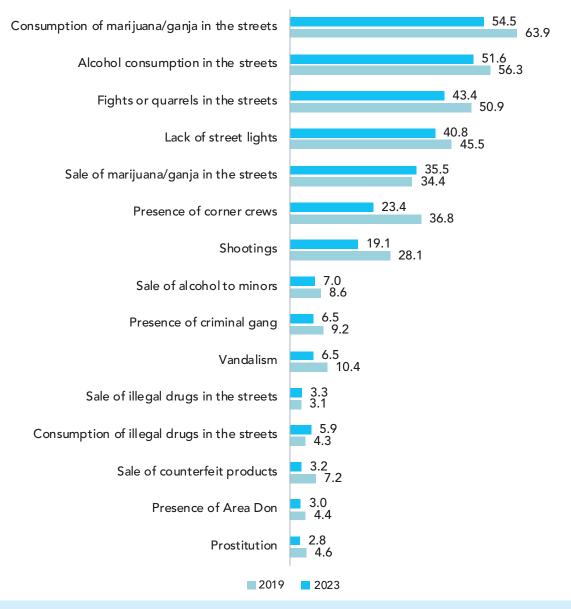
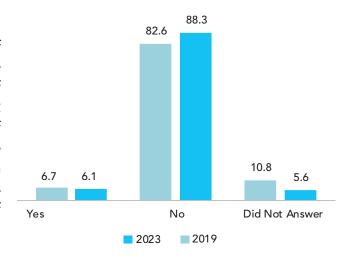


Figure 3.11. Per cent of Population Reporting Observations of Situations in Community

Fear of Becoming a Victim of Crime

The 2023 JNCVS aimed to gauge the level of insecurity within the population by assessing the respondents' perception of the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime within the next 12 months. The survey revealed that 6.1 per cent of the respondents felt they were likely to become victims of crime, marking a slight decrease from 6.7 per cent in 2019 (Figure 3.12). Most individuals (88.3%) did not anticipate becoming victims of crime within the next 12 months.



A demographic breakdown, shown in Figure 3.13 below, illustrates that a higher percentage of men (6.3%) compared to women (5.9%) expressed concern about their risk of becoming victims of

Figure 3.12. Possibility of Becoming a Victim of Crime within the next 12 Months (%)

crime. Interestingly, individuals aged 25 to 39 exhibited the highest level of apprehension, with 8.0 per cent indicating fear of being victimised in the next 12 months, compared to 4.7 per cent of the oldest age group (60 and older). Furthermore, 6.3 per cent of respondents residing in urban areas reiterated similar sentiments regarding their vulnerability to crime, slightly lower than the 6.0 per cent in rural areas.

Respondents who felt they could become a victim of crime within 12 months of the interview were asked to specify which crime. The survey instrument specified 18 crimes and a category for 'Other, specify', which allowed respondents to indicate any crime not listed. This category was included to ensure that all potential crime types were accounted for. Respondents could indicate as many crimes

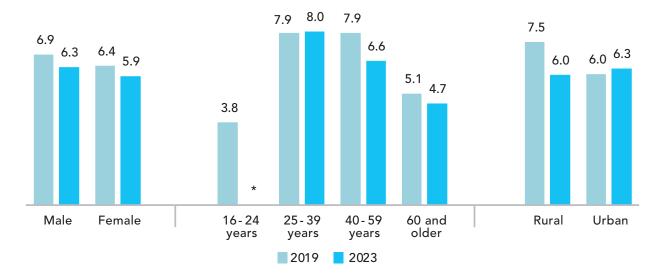


Figure 3.13. Per cent of Population that Feels they will Possibly become a Victim of Crime within the next 12 months by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

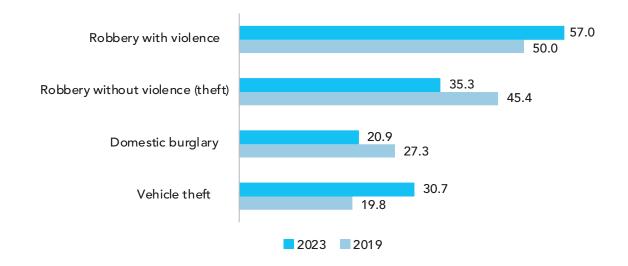


Figure 3.14. Type of Crime may become a Victim of within the next 12 Months (%)

as listed that they felt they could become a victim of within the specified timeframe. The results presented in Figure 3.14 are the top four crimes reported.

Based on the 2023 survey findings, almost six in every 10 (57.0%) persons who thought they would be victims of a crime in the next 12 months felt that they would experience robbery with violence, a crime involving the use of force or threat of force during a theft. Compared to the 2019 survey findings, the perceived likelihood of crime victimisation due to either vehicle theft or robbery with violence has increased. The proportion of persons reporting vehicle theft increased from 19.8 per cent to 30.7 per cent, while robbery with violence has increased by 7 percentage points, from 50.0 per cent to 57.0 per cent. In contrast, however, perceived victimisation due to domestic burglary

decreased to 20.9 per cent in the 2023 survey cycle, down from 27.3 per cent in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of persons who felt they would be future victims of theft decreased by 10 percentage points, to 35.3 per cent.

Perception of Public Safety in Geographic Locales

To assess the perception of crime rates and trends, survey participants were prompted to compare the years 2022 and 2023. They were asked to express whether they believed that crime had 'increased', 'remained the same', or 'decreased' in four distinct geographic locations: community/district, town/city, parish, and Jamaica. This question offers insight into the public's perception of public safety trends over time.

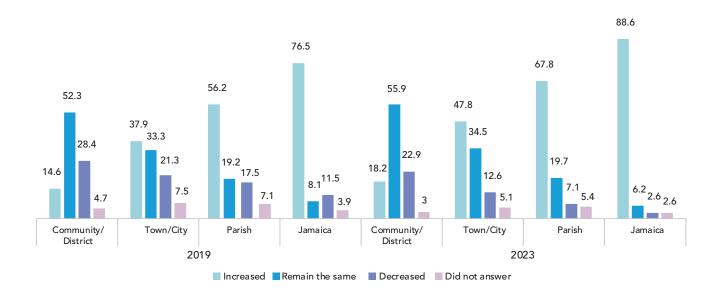


Figure 3.15. Per cent of Population Indicating Change in Crime in Different Locales Comparing 2019 to 2018 and 2022 to 2023

The data presented in Figure 3.15 illustrate a noticeable trend based on the 2023 and 2019 rounds of the survey. Persons were more likely to perceive that crime in Jamaica, the parish and the town had increased, while it had remained the same for the community. It is particularly concerning that there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons who think that crime has increased when both survey findings are compared. Specifically, 88.6 per cent of respondents indicated a perceived increase in crime in Jamaica when comparing 2022 to 2023, compared to 76.5 per cent from the 2019 survey with a reference period covering 2018 to 2019. This is a trend that warrants further investigation and action. Furthermore, 55.9 per cent of. participants believe that crime levels have remained unchanged in their communities, up from 52.3 per cent in 2019, while 22.9 per cent of respondents reported a decrease in crime within their community. Additionally, the percentage of respondents stating that crime in their town has declined decreased noticeably from 21.3 per cent in 2019 to 12.6 per cent in 2023.

In Figures 3.16 and 3.17, the perception of change in crime for the 2019 and 2023 surveys is depicted based on the respondent's area of residence. Notably, most individuals living in either urban or rural areas reported that crime had remained the same in their community across both surveys. Specifically, 53.2 per cent of the urban population and 58.8 per cent of the rural population expressed this view. This is an increase from 45.5 per cent for urban residents but a decrease from 60.2 per cent for rural residents recorded in 2019. Additionally, 24.1 per cent of urban dwellers and 21.7 per cent of rural residents indicated that crime had decreased in their community.

When asked about changes in crime within their respective town or city, nearly half of urban residents (48.7%) and rural residents (46.8%) reported an increase. Additionally, approximately 68.6 per cent of urban respondents and 67.1 per cent of rural respondents affirmed increased crime within their respective parishes. This significant proportion of residents who perceive a rise in crime at the community, town and parish level underscores the widespread concern. Almost nine of every 10 respondents in both the urban and rural areas indicated that crime has increased in the island, this is an increase compared to 2019 when almost eight in 10 respondents indicated same.

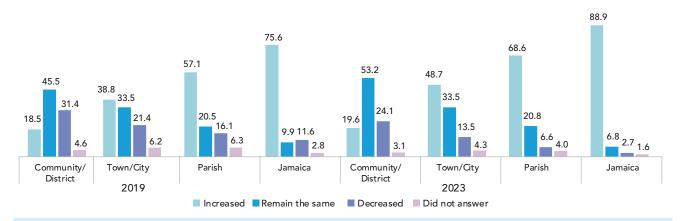


Figure 3.16. Per cent of Urban Population Indicating Change in Crime in Different Locales Comparing 2019 to 2018 and 2022 to 2023

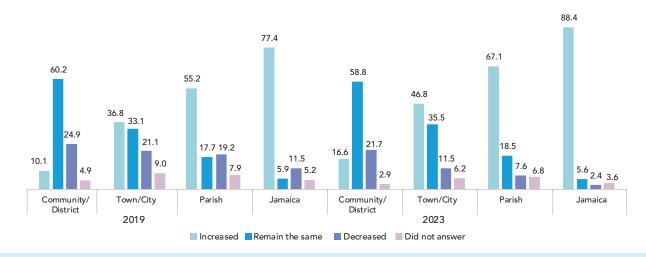


Figure 3.17. Per cent of Rural Population Indicating Change in Crime in Different Locales Comparing 2019 to 2018 and 2022 to 2023

Summary of Findings

The chapter explores individuals' perceptions of safety and crime within their communities, revealing key findings about their feelings of security and the likelihood of victimisation. The respondents' perception of high levels of safety are reported in places like churches and educational institutions, but there is a notable decline in perceived safety at ATMs, indicating a need for targeted interventions. Men generally feel safer than women, especially in public spaces, and while most respondents feel safe walking alone during the day, people feel less safe at night. In general, the respondents believe that their communities are safe for them, with those in rural areas having more confidence about community safety than urban residents.

Although reports of public disorder have decreased, concerns about drug-related activities have risen. Fear of becoming a crime victim in the next twelve months remains relatively low. Among those who perceived that they would have a victimisation experience, their anticipation related to becoming victims of robbery with violence and vehicle theft. The survey data also revealed a notable perception of rising crime trends in Jamaica.

Men generally felt safer than women, especially in public spaces, and while most respondents felt safe walking alone during the day, people felt less safe at night.



4. Criminal Victimisation in Jamaica

This chapter examines victimisation over a threeyear reference period (November 2020 -October 2023), with a particular focus on incidents that occurred in the past 12 months (November 2022 - October 2023). The chapter delves into the experiences of the Jamaican population³⁵ concerning both Household Victimisation (involving multiple members as victims of a crime within a household) and Personal Victimisation (crimes against individuals aged 16 and older). A household crime is any incident that by nature affects all members of the household, such that everyone can considered a victim. A personal crime is any incident that only affects one person and only the direct victim can report about it in the survey. The study classifies household and personal crimes into 14 distinct categories, offering a comprehensive overview of crime impacts on different demographics. The crimes are further grouped based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), which is based on internationally agreed-upon concepts,

Household Crimes

- Motor vehicle theft
- Theft of motor vehicle parts
- Theft of objects from a motor vehicle
- Motorcycle or motor bike theft
- Burglary
- Homicide

Personal Crimes

- Theft with violence (robbery)
- Theft without violence (larceny)
- Bank fraud
- Extortion
- Physical assault and injuries
- Consumer fraud (scamming)
- Bribery
- Threat

Acts against Property Only

- Motor vehicle theft
- Theft of motor vehicle parts
- Theft of objects from a motor vehicle
- Motorcycle or motor bike theft
- Burglary

Acts involving Fraud, Deception or Corruption

- Bank fraud
- Consumer fraud (scamming)
- Bribery

Acts causing Harm or Intending to cause Harm to the Person

- Extortion
- Physical assault and injuries
- Threat

Classification of Crimes based on International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

35 Household crime victimisation data were evaluated using weights to determine totals and percentages relative to the total number of households in Jamaica based on the 2018 mid-year population. Personal crime victimisation statistics were analysed using weights to calculate totals and percentages against the total number of individuals in Jamaica for the 2019 mid-year population.

definitions, and principles, aiming to enhance the consistency and comparability of crime statistics globally and to improve analytical capabilities at both national and international levels.³⁶ Several crimes from this survey are classified as Acts against Property Only, Acts involving Fraud, Deception, or Corruption, and Acts causing Harm or Intending to cause Harm to the Person.

Victimisation levels in the past three years (November 2020 - October 2023)

To ascertain the scope of victimisation over a three-year span, all respondents were asked if they had been a victim of each crime from November 2020 to October 2023. As per the data presented in Table 4.1, out of 897,796 households in Jamaica, 7.0 per cent (equivalent to 62,951 households) reported experiencing a household crime during this period. This represents a decrease from the 9.0 per cent (or 80,638 households) recorded in the 2019 survey. Furthermore, the data indicates that 21.7 per cent of the eligible (persons aged 16 years and older who are members of the household are considered eligible in the 2023 JNCVS) population, or 458,180 individuals, were victims of personal crimes during the same period, a slight decrease compared to the 22.0 per cent (or 462,551 individuals) in 2019.

The 2023 survey data revealed that among households that experienced a crime over the three-year reference period, domestic burglary accounted for 58.8 per cent, while motorised vehicle, parts or object theft made up 34.5 per cent. The proportion of households that experienced burglary increased from 55.8 per cent in 2019 to 58.8 per cent in 2023. In contrast, the proportion that experienced theft of motorised vehicles, parts, or theft of objects from a motor vehicle decreased from 41.5 per cent in 2019 to 34.5 per cent in 2023 (Figure 4.1).

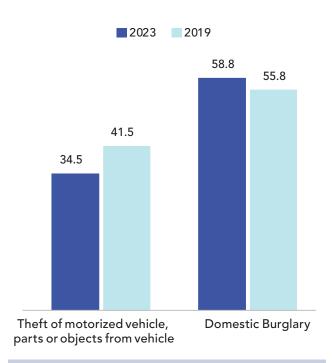


Figure 4.1. Per cent of Household Crime Victimisation in the Past Three Years by Crime

Table 4.1. Household and Personal Crime Victimisation in the Past Three Years

	201	9	2023	
Category	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Households that experienced a Household crime	80,638	9.0	62,951	7.0
Individuals who experienced a Personal crime	462,551	22.0	458,180	21.7

As depicted in Figure 4.2 below, of the individuals who were victims of a personal crime, 45.9 per cent experienced theft without violence (larceny), representing the highest proportion and an increase from 44.8 per cent in 2019. Victims of threats or extortion accounted for 30.5 per cent, down from 35.0 per cent in 2019. Those who experienced physical assault and injuries made up 17.3 per cent, down from 19.6 per cent in 2019, while victims of bank fraud constituted 15.6 per cent, a significant increase from 8.7 per cent in 2019. Theft with violence affected 13.8 per cent of respondents, a decrease from 15.8 per cent in 2019. The percentage of individuals who were victims of consumer fraud was similar for the two surveys with 12.5 per cent in 2023 from 12.3 per cent in 2019. Notably, one in 10 victims of personal crime reported involvement in bribery, a substantial increase from 4.7 per cent in 2019.

Victimisation levels in the past 12 months (November 2022 - October 2023)

The 2023 JNCVS data shows that 50.4 per cent of household victimisations and 65.3 per cent of personal victimisations within the three-year reference period occurred between November 2022 and October 2023. During this 12-month period, 3.5 per cent of households (31,721 households) experienced a household crime, while 14.2 per cent of the population (299,148 individuals) were victims of a personal crime. These figures represent a decrease from the 4.4 per cent of households that experienced a household crime and an increase from the 10.8 per cent of individuals who experienced a personal crime in 2019 (Table 4.2).

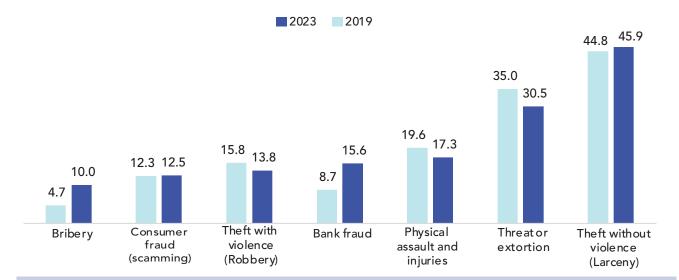


Figure 4.2. Per cent of Personal Crime Victimisation in the Past Three Years by Crime

Table 4.2. Per cent of Households and Individuals that Experienced a Crime in the past 12 Months.³⁷

	201	9	2023	
Category	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Households that experienced a Household crime	39,181	4.4	31,721	3.5
Individuals who experienced a Personal crime	227,238	10.8	299,148	14.2

³⁷ Total numbers include all household crimes except homicides. Homicides were excluded because it did not meet the publication standards.

Based on the results of the 2023 72.0 per cent victimised households experienced a domestic burglary, compared to 60.8 per cent in 2019. Households that were victims of theft of motorised vehicle parts or objects amounted to 33.4 per cent of victimised households, down from 42.8 per cent in 2019 (Figure 4.3).

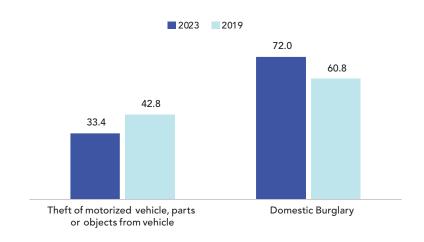


Figure 4.3. Per cent of Household Victimisation in the past 12 Months by Crime

Between November 2022 and October 2023, 42.4 per cent of individuals who were victims of personal crimes experienced larceny, a decrease from 50.5 per cent in 2019. Threat or extortion was reported by 25.2 per cent of personal crime victims, a decline from 42.7 per cent in 2019. Bank or consumer fraud accounted for 21.3 per cent of personal crime victims, an increase from 18.0 per cent in 2019. Physical assault and injuries were reported by 11.9 per cent of victims, down from 23.3 per cent in 2019. Additionally, 11.0 per cent of respondents reported experiencing bribery and robbery, compared to 6.5 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively, in 2019 (Figure 4.4).

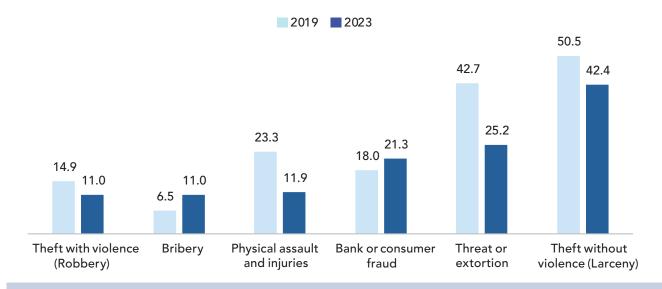


Figure 4.4. Per cent of Personal Crime Victimisation in the past 12 Months by Crime

Examination of Table 4.3 indicated that 2.5 per cent of households experienced burglary in the past 12 months (November 2022 to October 2023), while 1.6 per cent experienced burglary in the two years prior. Additionally, 1.2 per cent of households reported theft of motorised vehicle parts or objects within the 12-month reference period, compared to 1.9 per cent during the period from September 2018 to August 2019.

	,					
	20	019	2	2023		
Crime	(Sep 2016 - Aug 2019)	Past 12 months (Sep 2018 - Aug 2019)	(Nov 2020 - Oct 2022)	Past 12 months (Nov 2022 - Oct 2023)		
	%	%	%	%		
Household crimes						
Theft of motorised vehicle, parts, or objects from vehicle	1.9	1.9	* ³⁸	1.2		
Burglary	2.4	2.6	1.6	2.5		
	Personal cr	imes				
Theft with violence (Robbery)	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.6		
Theft without violence (Larceny)	4.4	5.5	3.9	6.0		
Bank or consumer fraud	2.3	1.9	2.3	3.0		
Physical assault and injuries	1.8	2.5	2.1	1.7		
Threat or extortion	3.1	4.6	3.0	3.6		

Table 4.3. Per cent of Victimisation Experienced over the Reference Period by Type of Crime

During the 12-month period (November 2022 to October 2023), 6.0 per cent of all respondents experienced larceny, 3.0 per cent experienced bank or consumer fraud, and 3.6 per cent were victims of threat or extortion. Meanwhile, 1.6 per cent of respondents reported being victims of robbery, and 1.7 per cent experienced physical assault and injuries during the same 12- month reference period.

Incidents of Victimisation

During the 12-month reference period, burglary made up 70.0 per cent of all household crime incidents reported during the survey, up from 57.5 per cent in 2019 (Figure 4.5). Households that experienced theft of motorized vehicles, parts or objects from vehicles accounted for 30.0 per cent of all incidents of household crimes, a decrease from 42.5 per cent in 2019.

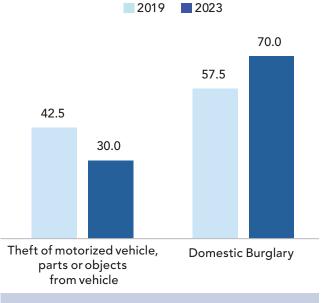


Figure 4.5. Per cent of Household Crime Victimisations Incidents by Type of Crime

³⁸ An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which were excluded due to a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%).

Larceny accounted for 29.7 per cent of personal crime incidents in the current survey, up from 27.0 per cent in 2019 as seen in Figure 4.6. Threat or extortion comprised 26.3 per cent of incidents, a decline from 38.1 per cent in 2019. Incidents of bank or consumer fraud increased to 17.4 per cent in 2023, compared to 9.7 per cent in 2019. Physical assault and injuries accounted for 12.1 per cent of incidents, down from 13.1 per cent in 2019. Robbery incidents rose to 7.3 per cent, compared to 6.9 per cent in 2019. Incidents of bribery amounted to 7.2 per cent, up from 5.2 per cent in 2019.

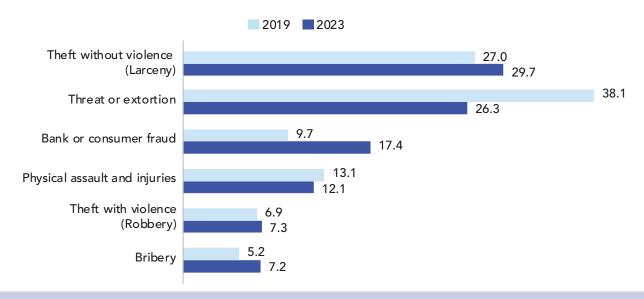


Figure 4.6. Per cent of Personal Crime Victimisation Incidents by Type of Crime

Most people reported experiencing a single incident of crime. As shown in Table 4.4, most robbery or larceny victims (67.3%) experienced one incident, similar to 2019 (73.3%). The data also reveal that 69.2 per cent of victims of acts involving fraud, deception or corruption experienced one incident, while 30.8 per cent faced multiple incidents. In 2019, 56.5 per cent of these victims experienced a single incident, and 43.5 per cent experienced multiple incidents.

Table 4.4. Per cent of Personal Crime Victims by Number of Incidents						
	20	19	2023			
Crime	One incident (%)	Two or more incidents (%)	One incident (%)	Two or more incidents (%)		
Personal crimes						
Robbery or Larceny	73.3	26.7	67.3	32.7		
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	56.5	43.5	69.2	30.8		
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries	51.0	49.0	39.7	60.3		

Among respondents who were victims of threat, extortion, or physical assault and injuries, 60.3 per cent experienced multiple incidents, while 39.7 per cent had one incident. This contrasts with 2019, when 49.0 per cent were repeat victims and 51.0 per cent were victimised once.

Location of Household Crime Victimisation

Research has underscored the correlation between urban environments and crime rates, suggesting that larger cities tend to have higher crime rates. Dense populations make it harder to maintain control, creating more opportunities for crime.³⁹ The survey results supported these findings above as seen in Figure 4.7 where urban areas recorded a higher crime victimisation rate. An analysis of household crime victimisation by area of residence showed that a little over one-

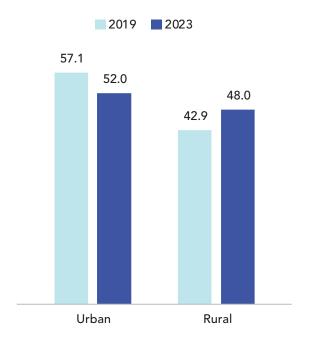


Figure 4.7. Per cent of Household Crime
Victimisation in the past 12 Months by Area of
Residence

half of households experiencing crime were in urban areas (52.0%), down from 57.1 per cent in the 2019 survey. Conversely, the prevalence of household crimes in rural areas increased to 48.0 per cent in 2023, up from 42.9 per cent in 2019.

Personal Crime Victimisation

Theft with Violence (Robbery) or Theft without Violence (Larceny)

Theft with violence, also known as robbery, involves the unlawful taking or obtaining of property with the intent to deprive a person of it, either permanently or temporarily, without their consent, using force, the threat of force, or violence. Theft without violence, or larceny, is the unlawful taking or obtaining of property with the intent to deprive a person of it, either permanently or temporarily, without their consent, and without using force, the threat of force, or violence.⁴⁰ Among respondents who reported being victims of robbery or larceny, a higher proportion were females (53.4%), a shift compared to the 2019 survey results when the majority were males (52.4%). Individuals under 40 years old reported a higher incidence of robbery or larceny (51.0%), consistent with 2019 data, which showed 52.3 per cent (Table 4.5). The majority of victims of robbery or larceny in 2023 were rural residents (56.8%), whereas in 2019, urban residents made up the majority (64.6%).

Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery

Bank fraud involves fraudulent activities related to financial transactions for personal gain. It encompasses the misuse of consumer financial products such as bank accounts, debit cards, credit cards, cheques, store cards, or online

³⁹ Aksoy, E. (2017, October). Geography of crime and its relation to location: the city of Balıkesir (Turkey). *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering* Vol. 245,(No. 7), p. 072012

⁴⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2015). International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS),

Table 4.5. Per cent of Theft with Violence (Robbery) or Theft without Violence (Larceny) Victims in the past 12 Months, by Sex, Age and Area of Residence

Catagoni	Robbery or larcer	y victims 2019	Robbery or larceny victims 2023		
Category	No	No %		%	
		Sex			
Male	74,688	52.4	73,078	46.6	
Female	67,934	47.6	83,611	53.4	
	Age group				
16-39 years	74,632	52.3	79,885	51.0	
40 years and older	67,990	47.7	76,803	49.0	
	Area	of residence			
Urban	92,136	64.6	67,690	43.2	
Rural	50,486	35.4	88,999	56.8	
TOTAL	142,622	100	156,689	100	

banking systems. Consumer fraud, also known as scamming, is a type of fraud where the offender deceives an individual into giving money in exchange for a good or service that is not delivered as promised. Bribery is the act of offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value with the intent to influence the actions of a government official in executing their public or legal duties. ⁴¹ Males reported a slightly higher incidence of acts involving fraud, deception or corruption, comprising 51.7 per cent of the victims based on the 2023 survey. This trend is consistent but lower than the 2019 survey findings when 58.6 per cent of fraud or bribery victims were male. Individuals aged 16-39 represented 57.0 per cent of the victims, compared to 53.5 per cent in 2019 (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6. Per cent of Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery Victims in the past 12 Months, by Sex and Age

Catagony	Fraud or bribery victims 2019		Fraud or bribery victims 2023		
Category	No.	%	No.	%	
Sex					
Male	29,695	58.6	46,746	51.7	
Female	21,012	41.4	43,717	48.3	
		Age group			
16-39 years	27,136	53.5	51,551	57.0	
40 years and older	23,571	46.5	38,913	43.0	

⁴¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) (version 1.0)

Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries

A threat involves intimidating someone with a declaration of intent to engage in behaviour that could cause injury or harm to the person, their acquaintance, or family. It qualifies as a threat if the intimidation is perceived as a potential reality. Extortion is a crime where an individual is compelled to give money or valuables or to perform or refrain from certain actions through threats of economic harm to themselves, their family, or their property. This coercion can occur through written or verbal threats. Physical assault involves the intentional or reckless use of physical force against a person's body. Injuries refer to physical harm, whether intentional or unintentional, that alters one's health or leaves a

visible mark on the body. This includes wounding and grievous bodily harm.⁴² As shown in Table 4.7, among individuals who experienced acts causing harm or intending to cause harm to the person, 50.2 per cent were males and 49.8 per cent were females. This marked a change from 2019 when most victims were females (55.1%). Persons aged 16-39 years made up the majority of victims (56.4%), compared to 2019 figures, where they accounted for 60.8 per cent. In 2023, more victims resided in rural areas (51.2%), contrasting with 2019, when most (51.6%) lived in urban areas.

Table 4.7. Per cent of Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries Victims in the past 12 Months, by Sex, Age and Area of Residence

Category	assault and injury victims		Threat, extortion or physical assault and injury victims 2023		
	No.	%	No.	%	
		Sex			
Male	56,736	44.9	49,014	50.2	
Female	69,570	55.1	48,714	49.8	
		Age group			
16-39 years	76,749	60.8	55,161	56.4	
40 years and older	49,557	39.2	42,567	43.6	
	А	Area of residence			
Urban	65,206	51.6	47,729	48.8	
Rural	61,100	48.4	49,999	51.2	

Summary of Findings

The number of households in Jamaica estimated to have experienced a household crime during the reference period November 2020 to October 2023 was lower in the 2023 survey compared to 2019. Additionally, there was a decline in the population who were victims of personal crimes. Among households experiencing crime, domestic burglary was the most common, followed by theft of motorised vehicles or parts. For personal crimes, larceny was the most

frequent, followed by threats or extortion, physical assault, and bank fraud. Most victims reported a single crime incident, with robbery or larceny being the most frequent. Urban areas saw a higher incidence of household crimes, and rural areas experienced an increase in personal crimes. Females and individuals under 40 reported higher incidences of robbery or larceny, while males and younger persons reported higher incidences of fraud or bribery.

The number of households in Jamaica estimated to have experienced a household crime during the reference period November 2020 to October 2023 was lower in the 2023 survey compared to 2019.



5. Details of Recent Victimisation Experiences in the Past 12 Months

The risks of victimisation or victimisation rate can be quantified as the percentage of individuals aged 16 or older who have been subjected to a particular type of crime at least once.⁴³ The frequency of criminal incidents within a specific timeframe serves as a metric for gauging the prevalence of crime within a particular region or country.

In the 2023 JNCVS, participants were asked if they had been victims or had experiences with any of the 14 crimes over a three-year period. Those who identified as victims were then asked to specify whether the incidents occurred within a specified 12-month timeframe. Following this, respondents were questioned about the frequency of victimisation, with a maximum of three occurrences recorded per individual. This method was employed to account for the possibility that individuals or households might be targeted multiple times. Repeat victimisation refers to situations where the same people or households experience the same type of crime within a specified reference period.⁴⁴

This section outlines the specific encounters of individuals who experienced at least one instance of criminal victimisation from November 2022 to October 2023. A crime module was utilised to gather details about the three most recent occurrences of each type of crime from the participants.⁴⁵ The information collected

includes:

- The time and location of the incident;
- Item(s) stolen;
- The extent of financial loss;
- The number and sex of the offender(s);
- The use of weapons;
- Reporting the incident to the police;
- Level of satisfaction with the handling of report by the police;
- Reason for not reporting the incident to the police.

Throughout this chapter, response options were combined to deliver a more comprehensive analysis of the experiences encountered by victims concerning each type of crime.

Victimisation Experiences

In the data presented in Table 5.1, burglary constituted the majority of household crime incidents at 69.4 per cent, which represents an increase relative to the 56.3 per cent recorded in 2019. Regarding personal crimes, theft without violence (larceny) was the most prevalent, making up 31.6 per cent of incidents, consistent with the figures from 2019. Additionally, incidents of threat or extortion accounted for 23.4 per cent of cases, followed by bank or consumer fraud at 17.8 per cent.

⁴³ John van Kesteren, Mayhew, P., & Nieuwbeerta, P. (2000). Criminal Victimisation in Seventeen Industrialised Countries. Key findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey. *Onderzoek En Beleid*. https://doi.org/10.15496/publikation-6595

⁴⁴ Farrell, G., & Pease, K. (2010). Repeat Victimization. Lynne Reiner.

⁴⁵ Respondents were asked to give details on the three most recent incidents of a crime even if they experienced more than three incidents in the reference period.

23.4

Table 5.1. Number and Per cent of Victimisation Incidents Detailed by Crime Module						
	201	9	202	3		
Crime	No. of incidents detailed	% of total incidents	No. of incidents detailed	% of total incidents		
Household crimes						
Theft of Motorised Vehicle, Parts or Objects from Vehicle	22,434	43.7	12,307	30.6		
Burglary	28,868	56.3	27,849	69.4		
	Per	sonal crimes				
Theft with Violence (Robbery)	35,533	8.3	38,469	7.8		
Theft without Violence (Larceny)	135,204	31.6	156,131	31.6		
Bank or Consumer Fraud	50,437	11.8	88,108	17.8		
Bribery	17,635	4.1	39,059	7.9		
Physical Assault and Injuries	67,939	12.2	56,751	11.5		

136,872

Time of Year

Threat or Extortion

Survey respondents were asked to specify the month in which the incidents occurred. According to the 2023 JNCVS findings, a slightly higher percentage of victimisation incidents, specifically 11.5 per cent occurred in the month of October, as depicted in Figure 5.1. This was followed by August at 11.2 per cent and then September and March at 10.3 per cent each. In contrast, the 2019 survey results showed that August (17.5%) had the highest proportion of victimisation incidents, with July at 10.9 per cent and September at 8.6 per cent. The 2016 report analysis showed that December had the highest

proportion of victimisation incidents, at 14.1 per cent, followed by February at 12.3 per cent and January at 10.6 per cent. The data presented does not indicate any consistent trends or patterns regarding the months in which victimisation incidents occurred. Each year shows variability in the distribution of incidents across different months, suggesting that victimisation may not be concentrated in specific periods.

115,368

Day of the Week

32.0

Victims were asked to specify the day of the week the victimisation incident occurred. It should be noted that 23.3 per cent, close to a



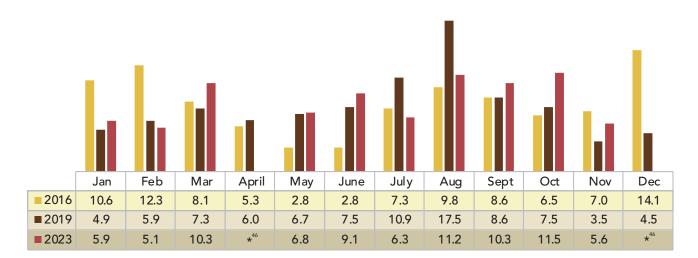


Figure 5.1. Per cent of Victimisation Incidents by Time of the Year (2016, 2019 and 2023)

quarter of the respondents indicated that the victimisation incidents took place on a weekday but could not recall the specific day. represents the highest proportion of overall responses. The data in Table 5.2 indicates that 11.2 per cent of victimisation incidents took place on a Thursday, making it the day with the highest proportion of incidents for individuals who could recall the specific day of victimisation. This was followed by Saturday, accounting for 10.9 per cent of incidents, and Friday, with 9.8 per cent. In comparison, the 2019 survey results indicated that Friday had the highest proportion of incidents at 14.0 per cent for those who could recall the specific day, followed by Saturday and Wednesday with 12.4 per cent and 10.5 per cent, respectively. The 2016 data indicated that Saturday had the highest proportion of incidents at 14.1 per cent, followed by Friday at 10.1 per cent and Wednesday at 6.8 per cent. The data shows a recurring pattern where Saturday and Friday consistently rank among the days with the highest proportion of victimisation incidents across the three years.

Table 5.2. Per cent of Victimisation Incidents by Day of the Week (2016, 2019 and 2023)

Day of the Week	2016	2019	2023
Monday	3.2	4.8	6.1
Tuesday	5.0	7.5	5.8
Wednesday	6.8	10.5	8.3
Thursday	6.0	10.3	11.2
Friday	10.1	14.0	9.8
Saturday	14.1	12.4	10.9
Sunday	6.5	5.6	* ⁴⁶
Weekend (specific day unknown)	14.8	6.8	9.9
Weekday (specific day unknown)	22.9	14.9	23.3
No Response	10.8	13.2	9.9

⁴⁶ An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which were excluded due to a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%). * April and Dec figures were excluded due to low count/low precision according to the CV (%).

Time of the Day

When asked about the time of day the victimisation incident occurred, 25.5 per cent of incidents took place in the early afternoon, the highest proportion across all time periods (Table 5.3). This was followed by 21.1 per cent of incidents occurring in the late morning and 14.4 per cent in the late afternoon. Similarly, the 2019 survey found that the highest proportion of victimisation incidents occurred in the early afternoon (19.6%), followed by late morning (18.2%) and in the late afternoon (17.3%). However, the 2016 survey revealed that victimisation incidents were more common during the evening hours than at other times of the day.

Figure 5.2 displays the distribution of personal crime victims across various crime categories for incidents that occurred in the morning. Among those who reported that the incidents took place in the morning (after midnight – before noon), the largest group (37.6%) were victims of robbery or larceny. This was followed by 34.6 per cent who were victims of acts involving fraud, deception, or corruption, and 27.8 per cent who were victims of acts causing harm. In the 2019

survey, 46.9 per cent of morning incidents were of threat, extortion or physical assault, while 38.7 per cent were related to robbery or larceny. Incidents involving fraud, deception, or corruption made up 14.3 per cent.

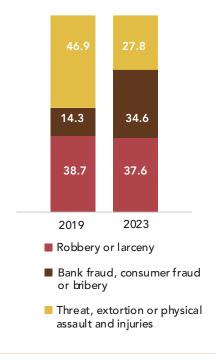


Figure 5.2. Per cent of Morning (after midnight - before noon) Personal Victimisation Incidents

Table 5.3. Per cent	of Victimisation	Incidents by Time	of Day (2016	2010 and 2023)
lable 5.3. Per cent	ot victimisation	incidents by Time	אוטעו עגנו זה י	7019 and 70731

Time of Day	2016	2019	2023
Early Morning (between 4:00 a.m before 8:00 a.m.)	10.8	4.5	5.1
Late Morning (between 8:00 a.m before noon)	8.3	18.2	21.1
Early Afternoon (between noon - before 3:00 p.m.)	11.4	19.6	25.5
Late Afternoon (between 3:00 p.m before 6 p.m.)	13.9	17.3	14.4
Early Evening (between 6:00 p.m before 9:00 p.m.)	16.2	15.5	12.5
Late Evening (between 9:00 p.m before midnight)	18.2	8.0	9.3
After Midnight (between midnight – before 4:00 a.m.)	12.6	6.8	6.1
No Response	8.6	10.0	6.0

Figure 5.3 depicts how incidents of personal crimes that occurred in the afternoon were allocated among the various crime categories. Victims of personal crimes were asked to indicate the time of day when the incident occurred. Among those who reported that the incidents happened in the afternoon (between noon – before 6:00 p.m.) majority (37.1%) were victims of robbery or larceny. Acts causing harm accounted for 36.3 per cent, while acts of fraud, deception, or corruption made up 26.6 per cent. In the 2019 survey, most incidents occurring in the afternoon (47.5%) involved acts causing harm. Robbery or larceny accounted for 33.0 per cent while incidents involving fraud, deception, or corruption made up 19.5 per cent of the cases.

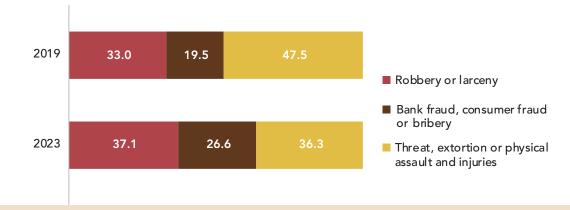


Figure 5.3. Per cent of Afternoon (between noon-before 6:00 p.m.) Personal Victimisation Incidents

Figure 5.4 illustrates the distribution of personal victimisation incidents that occurred during the evening. Among the victims of personal crimes who reported that the incidents took place in the evening (between 6:00 p.m. – before midnight), 46.9 per cent experienced robbery or larceny, while 43.1 per cent were victims of acts causing harm. In comparison, the 2019 survey showed that the majority (52.3%) of the incidents that occurred in the evening were of acts causing harm, while 38.3 per cent were of robbery or larceny.

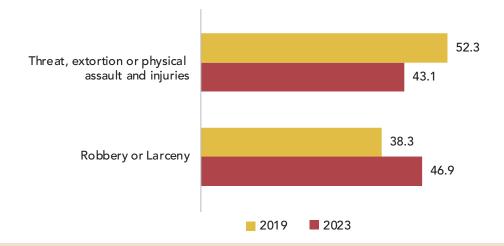


Figure 5.4. Per cent of Evening (between 6 pm- before midnight) Personal Victimisation Incidents

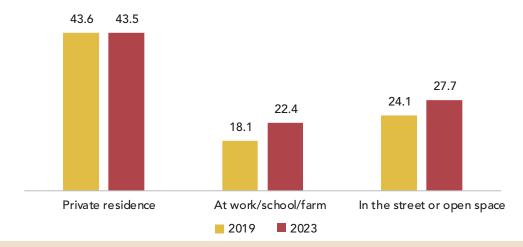


Figure 5.5. Per cent of Personal Victimisation Incidents by Specific Location

Location of Victimisation Incident

Respondents who were victims of a personal crime were asked to specify where the incident occurred. The data revealed that the largest share of incidents, 43.5 per cent, occurred at the respondent's private residence (Figure 5.5). This was followed by crimes that happened in the street or other open spaces (27.7%), and at the respondent's workplace (including the farm) or place of education (22.4%). This trend was consistent with the 2019 survey, where the largest proportion of personal victimisation incidents also took place at private residences (43.6%), followed by 24.1 per cent in streets or open spaces, and 18.1 per cent at work, farm or school.

When analysing the specific locations of personal victimisation by crime categories, it was found that 48.9 per cent of incidents involving threats, extortion, or physical assault and injuries occurred in private residences, up from 45.1 per cent in 2019. Incidents of theft within private residences accounted for 38.7 per cent of all cases, a slight decrease from 40.0 per cent in 2019. Victims of threat, extortion, or physical assault and injuries experienced 27.4 per cent of these incidents in streets or open spaces, an increase from 24.9 per cent in 2019. Robbery or larceny incidents in such locations rose to 28.0 per cent, compared to 22.1 per cent reported in the 2019 survey. Additionally, incidents of acts causing harm and theft at work or school increased to 18.6 per cent and 25.8 per cent, respectively (Figure 5.6).

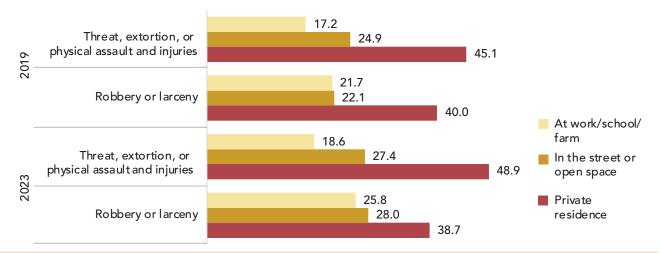


Figure 5.6. Per cent of Personal Victimisation Incidents at Specific Location by Type of Crime

Reporting of Victimisation to the Police

Victims of crime during the reference period were asked whether they reported the incidents to the police. According to Table 5.4, most victimisation incidents went unreported. Among all crime categories, robbery or larceny had the highest percentage of unreported incidents, with 70.0 per cent going unreported. Two-thirds of the acts involving fraud, deception, or corruption (66.0%) were unreported, while 59.5 per cent of acts causing harm were unreported. Crimes against property were the most reported, with 53.8 per cent of victims reporting them, an increase from 38.9 per cent in 2019. Additionally, two in five (40.0%) incidents of threats, extortion, or physical assaults were reported to the police. Reporting of bank fraud, consumer fraud or bribery to authorities increased by 12 percentage points compared to the 2019 results, reaching 33.5 per cent.

Table 5.4. Per cent of Reported Incidents of Victimisation by Type of Crime

Crime	2	2019	2023		
Crime	Reported	Not reported	Reported	Not reported	
Acts against Property only	38.9	61.1	53.8	45.9	
Robbery or Larceny	27.3	72.7	29.6	70.0	
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	21.5	78.5	33.5	66.0	
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault and Injuries	41.5	58.2	40.0	59.5	

Research indicates that underreporting of crimes is a common issue globally. For instance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the United States found that only 45.0 per cent of violent victimisations were reported to the police in 2023.⁴⁷ Similarly, a report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) revealed that a significant proportion of victims of serious crimes in the EU did not report their experiences to the authorities.⁴⁸ These findings underscore the challenges in obtaining accurate crime statistics and highlight the need for improved reporting mechanisms and public trust in law enforcement.

Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction with Handling of Complaint and Reasons

Among respondents who reported the crime they experienced to the police, 56.7 per cent were unsatisfied with how the situation was handled, while 43.2 per cent expressed satisfaction. The majority indicated that their dissatisfaction stemmed from a belief that the authorities either did not take sufficient action or failed to apprehend the offender. The 2023 survey showed an increase in the proportion of persons who were unsatisfied from the 49.4 per cent reported in 2019 and a decrease in

⁴⁷ Tapp, S. N. & Coen, E., (2024). Criminal victimization, 2023. NCJ, 309335. https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv23.pdf

⁴⁸ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, (2021) Crime, safety and victims' rights - Fundamental Rights Survey.

the percentage of satisfied respondents from 50.5 per cent (Figure 5.7).

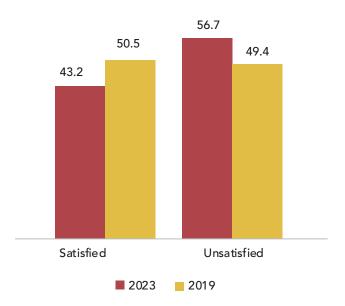


Figure 5.7. Reported Victimisation Incidents by Satisfaction with Handling of Complaint

To address the increased dissatisfaction among crime victims with police handling of their cases, policy recommendations could include enhancing police training and accountability,

improving communication and transparency, improving victim support services, creating feedback mechanisms, launching public awareness campaigns, and regularly reviewing and reforming related policies. These measures should improve victim satisfaction and build greater trust in law enforcement.

Reasons for not Reporting Victimisation Incident

Victims who did not report the incident to the police were asked to provide their reasons for not reporting. For household crimes, where 45.9 per cent of incidents went unreported, the main reasons were that the victims either felt they could handle it on their own or did not consider it serious enough (Table 5.5).

For personal crimes, just over a third of incidents (35.2%) were unreported because the victims thought they could manage on their own, an increase from 23.5 per cent in 2019. In 22.9 per cent of incidents, the victims did not think it was serious enough to report, lower than the 34.0 per cent reported in the 2019 survey. In 16.4 per cent of incidents, the respondents did not report incidents due to the belief that the police would not have taken action, up from 14.9 per cent in

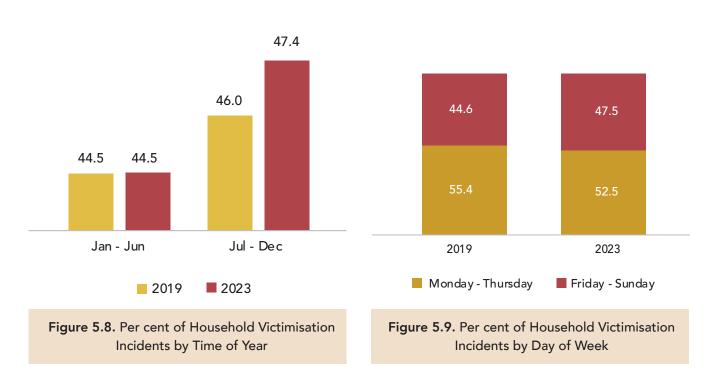
Table 5.5. Per cent of Unreported Incidents by the Reason for Not Reporting

Reason for Not Reporting	2019	2023
Household Crimes		
Can deal with it on my own / Not serious enough	53.1	66.4
Personal Crimes		
Can deal with it on my own	23.5	35.2
Not serious enough	34.0	22.9
Police wouldn't have done anything	14.9	16.4
No need for the police or relevant authority to intervene/ Don't want publicity	17.4	13.6
Didn't trust the police/Fear of reprisal/ Lack of evidence	11.0	12.6
Lack of evidence/Did not have the time	21.2	11.5
Others	24.1	36.6

2019. "No need for the police or relevant authority to intervene/Don't want publicity" were the reasons for failure to report in 13.6 per cent of the incidents. In 12.6 per cent of the incidents where victims failed to report the crime the reasons were distrust of the police or fear of reprisal, while 11.5 per cent cited lack of evidence or time as their reason for not reporting (Table 5.5).

Household Victimisation

The analysis of crime incidents by time of year reveals that property-related victimisation from January to June accounted for 44.5 per cent of the total incidents for the year, as shown in Figure 5.8. In contrast, incidents reported in the second half of the year constituted 47.4 per cent of the total. This pattern is similar to 2019, where 44.5 per cent of property-related victimisation occurred from January to June, and 46.0 per cent occurred in the latter half of the year, indicating a reduction compared to 2023.



Households that experienced property-related crimes were asked to recall the day of the week the incident occurred. Among those who could recall the exact day, 52.5 per cent reported being victimised between Monday and Thursday, while 47.5 per cent were targeted between Friday and Sunday. This is consistent with the 2019 survey, where 55.4 per cent of households were victimised between Monday and Thursday, and 44.6 per cent experiencing crimes between Friday and Sunday (Figure 5.9).

When asked to recall the time of day the victimisation took place, 40.6 per cent of households reported that it occurred in the morning (after midnight – before noon), while 32.0 per cent stated it happened in the afternoon (between noon – before 6:00 p.m.). In 2019, 39.8 per cent of incidents occurred in the morning, while 25.2 per cent experienced victimisation in the afternoon (Figure 5.10).

Figure 5.11 highlights the most stolen items during incidents of theft of objects from motor vehicles or domestic burglaries. In the 2023 survey, mobile phones or other electronics were taken in 43.6 per cent of incidents, up from 31.4 per cent in 2019. In 2023, money was stolen in 35.9 per cent of cases, a decrease from 42.8 per cent in 2019.

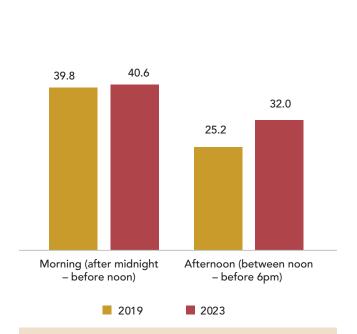


Figure 5.10. Per cent of Household Victimisation Incidents by Time of Day

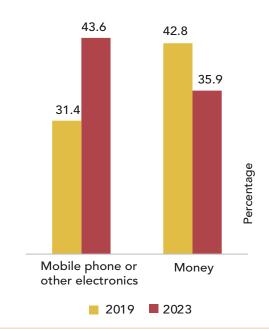


Figure 5.11. Per cent of Most Common Items
Lost During Theft of Objects from Vehicle or
Domestic Burglary

Personal Victimisation

Regarding personal crimes, respondents reported that 47.6 per cent of robbery or larceny incidents took place in the first half of the year, while 48.7 per cent of incidents occurred in the latter half of the year. Incidents involving fraud, deception or corruption in the first half of the year amounted to 34.9 per cent, while 56.1 per cent occurred during the second half. Acts causing harm or intending to cause harm to the individual were more prevalent in the second half of the year, with 54.4 per cent of incidents, compared to 40.3 per cent in the first.

In the 2019 survey, all comparable crimes had higher incidents in the second half of the year. Specifically, 52.8 per cent of incidents of robbery or larceny occurred in the second half of the year, while 38.6 per cent of incidents were reported in the first half of the year. Fraud, deception or corruption incidents were also more frequent in the second half (50.8%) compared to the first half (41.1%). Similarly, acts causing harm or intending to cause harm were more common in the second half (55.0%) than in the first half (34.4%) of the year (Table 5.6).

Crime	20	19	2023	
Crime	Jan - Jun Jul - Dec Jan – Jun		Jul - Dec	
Personal	crimes			
Robbery or Larceny	38.6	52.8	47.6	48.7
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	41.1	50.8	34.9	56.1
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault and Injuries	34.4	55.0	40.3	54.4

An analysis of crimes by quarter revealed that the third quarter (July – September) had the highest percentage of incidents for most crime categories. Figure 5.12 shows that acts that involved fraud, deception or corruption were most frequently experienced in the third quarter (29.4%), as were incidents of robbery or larceny (30.8%). However, the fourth quarter had the highest number of incidents for acts causing harm or intending to cause harm to the person (31.6%). In the 2019 survey, the third quarter recorded the highest number of incidents across all groups of crimes: 40.1 per cent for acts causing harm, 34.3 per cent for robbery or larceny and 38.5 per cent for fraud, deception or corruption (Figure 5.12).

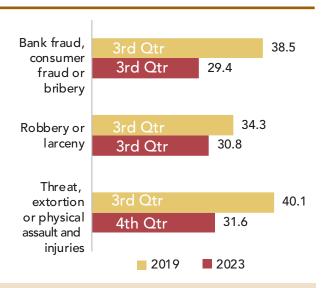


Figure 5.12. Per cent of Quarter with Highest Number of Incidents by Category of Crime

An analysis of personal victimisation incidents by day of the week revealed that most crimes occurred on a weekday. Weekday incidents of robbery or larceny made up 62.3 per cent of all cases, slightly lower than the 63.2 per cent in 2019, while 31.8 per cent of these crimes occurred on the weekend. Bank fraud, consumer fraud, or bribery incidents were predominantly reported on weekdays, accounting for 72.3 per cent of cases, an increase from 66.2 per cent in 2019. Weekday incidents of threats, extortion, or physical assault and injuries comprised 63.6 per cent of all cases, up from 58.3 per cent previously, while weekend incidents made up 24.7 per cent (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7. Per cent of Personal Victimisation Incidents on Weekends or Weekday

Crime	20	019	2023		
Crime	Weekday Weekend		Weekday	Weekend	
Perso	nal crimes				
Robbery or Larceny	63.2	23.6	62.3	31.8	
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	66.2	19.6	72.3	* 49	
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault and Injuries	58.3	27.9	63.6	24.7	

⁴⁹ An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which were excluded due to a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%)

Time of day	2019	2023
Morning (after midnight – before noon)	28.5	30.3
Afternoon (between noon – before 6:00 p.m.)	32.7	38.1
Evening (between 6:00 p.m. – before midnight)	23.5	26.2

Victims of robbery or larceny reported that 38.1 per cent of incidents happened in the afternoon, this represented an increase compared to the 32.7 per cent reported in 2019. Morning incidents accounted for 30.3 per cent of victimisation, while those that occurred in the evening accounted for 26.2 per cent. In 2019, 28.5 per cent of incidents occurred in the morning, while 23.5 per cent happened in the evening (Table 5.8).

Table 5.9. Per cent of Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery Incidents by Time of the Day

Time of day	2019	2023
Morning (after midnight – before noon)	26.7	42.6
Afternoon (between noon – before 6:00 p.m.)	48.9	41.8

Among respondents who experienced acts of fraud, deception or corruption, 42.6 per cent reported that the incident happened in the morning, followed by 41.8 per cent who indicated it happened in the afternoon (Table 5.9). This contrasts with 2019, when 48.9 per cent of incidents occurred in the afternoon, followed by the morning (26.7%).

Table 5.10. Per cent of Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries Incidents by Time of the Day

Time of day	2019	2023
Morning (after midnight – before noon)	29.0	25.2
Afternoon (between noon – before 6:00 p.m.)	39.6	42.2
Evening (between 6:00 p.m. – before midnight)	26.9	27.3

For incidents involving threat, extortion or physical assault and injuries, 42.2 per cent, happened in the afternoon. Incidents in the evening and morning amounted to 27.3 per cent and 25.2 per cent, respectively (Table 5.10). Similar to 2023, afternoon incidents (39.6%) were more prominent in 2019, this was followed by incidents occurring in the morning (29.0%), then evening (26.9%).

Respondents who were either victims of robbery, physical assault or threats were asked to recall the number of offenders involved. According to the data presented in Figure 5.13, most incidents involved a single perpetrator (71.3%), while 27.3 per cent of incidents involved two or more perpetrators. Comparatively, in the 2019 survey, eight out of every 10 (79.9%) incidents involved a single offender, while 10.6 per cent of incidents of robbery, physical assault, or threats involved two or more perpetrators.

Studies have shown a strong relationship between gender and criminality, with a higher probability that offenders are men, while female participation in criminal activity was found to be far less than that of men.⁵⁰ The survey's data revealed that the majority of robbery, physical assault, or threat incidents were committed by male offenders only, accounting for 82.9 per cent of all cases. In contrast, 15.7 per cent of incidents involved at least one female offender (Figure 5.14). Similarly, the 2019 survey indicated that males were involved in these incidents (78.9%), while fewer cases involved at least one female (20.0%).

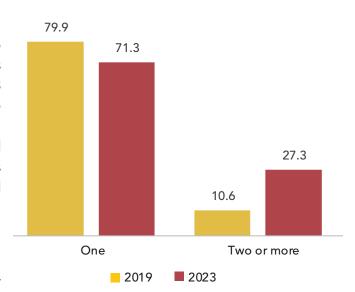


Figure 5.13. Per cent of Robbery, Physical Assault or Threat Incidents by Number of Offenders

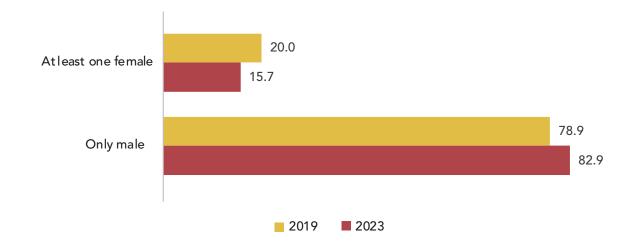


Figure 5.14. Per cent of Robbery, Physical Assault and Threat Incidents by Sex of Offenders

Respondents who were victims of robbery, physical assault or threat were asked if a weapon was used during the victimisation incident. The findings revealed that that slightly more than half (57.2%) of the respondents indicated that a weapon was not used by their perpetrator while 35.9 per cent reported that a weapon was used. This is compared to the 2019 survey, where 49.5 per cent of incidents did not involve the use of a weapon and 37.7 per cent did (Figure 5.15).

When asked about the type of weapon used in the victimisation incident, the majority of the respondents stated that a firearm or blunt object was used (Figure 5.16). Three in every five incidents (54.8%) involved a firearm or blunt object, just over 12 percentage points higher than reported during the 2019 survey (42.4%). Incidents involving sharp objects or knives decreased significantly by 9 percentage points in the 2023 survey (46.0%) compared to 2019 (55.0%).

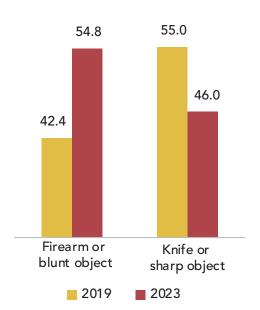


Figure 5.16. Per cent of Robbery, Physical Assault and Injuries or Threat Incidents Involving the Use of a Weapon by Type of Weapon

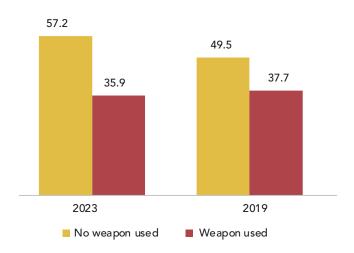


Figure 5.15. Per cent of Robbery, Physical Assault and Threat Incidents Involving the Use of a Weapon

The majority of the incidents of threats involved the victim being threaten that they, a family member or someone else would be hurt, 77.1 per cent in 2023 down from 83.4 per cent in 2019 (Figure 5.17). Consistent with 2019, the primary method used by the offender to communicate the threat to victims was face-to-face contact (90.9%) and on majority of the occasions the offender did not seem to be under the influence of any drug or alcohol.

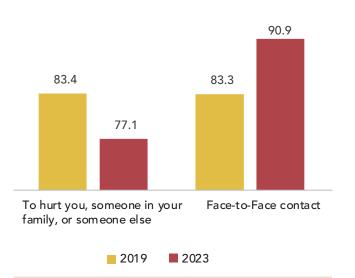


Figure 5.17. Type of Threat used, and Method used to Threaten

Estimated Financial Loss During Victimisation Incident

Respondents were asked to provide insights into the financial impact of victimisation incidents of robbery, larceny, bank fraud and consumer fraud to obtain an approximation or assessment of the financial impact of the harm caused. This question is commonly used to facilitate standardised evaluations, enabling comparisons using consistent measures. This may involve comparing the issue of crime with other societal challenges or assessing the expenses incurred due to criminal activity against the costs associated with prevention efforts.⁵¹

Respondents were asked to quantify the financial impact of victimisation incidents involving robbery, larceny, bank fraud and consumer fraud. As indicated in Table 5.11, the data revealed that over one-third of incidents resulted in financial losses of less than \$20,000, representing 39.3 per cent of the cases. Financial losses ranging from \$20,000 to \$59,999 were reported in 32.5 per cent of cases, while 19.2 per cent of victims experienced losses exceeding \$60,000. This is a notable difference compared to the 47.7 per cent of cases with losses amounting to less than \$20,000. Additionally, the 2023 survey indicated higher assessments of losses at larger sums.

Figure 5.18 illustrates the most frequently stolen items during incidents of robbery or larceny within the 12-month reference period. Mobile phones were taken in 33.4 per cent of these incidents, an increase from 2019 when the figure was 29.9 per cent. Thefts involving money (20.8 %) declined in the 2023 survey cycle compared to 2019, when the percentage was 21.7 per cent.

Figure 5.19 highlights the per cent of crops stolen during larceny incidents. The percentage remains decreased in 2023 when compared with 2019. In 2023, there were 14.8 per cent of larceny incidents where crops were stolen compared to 17.5 per cent in 2019.

Table 5.11. Estimated Financial Loss During Victimisation Incident

Amount (JMD)	2019	2023
Less than \$20,000	47.7	39.3
\$20,000-\$59,999	27.0	32.5
\$60,000 or more	15.2	19.2
Do not know/ Do not remember	10.0	★ 52

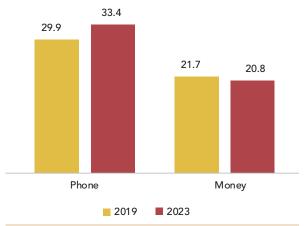


Figure 5.18. Per cent of Items Stolen During Robbery or Larceny Incident by Item.

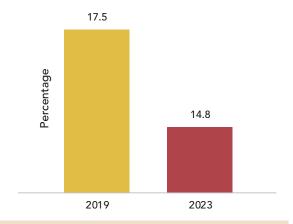


Figure 5.19. Per cent of Crops Stolen
During Larceny Incidents

⁵¹ Lugo, K., & Przybylski, R. (2018). Estimating the Financial Costs of Crime Victimization. Office of Justice Programs' National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

⁵² Asterisk (*) indicates estimates which were excluded due to a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%)

Summary of Findings

The data revealed that burglary is the predominant household crime. For personal crimes, larceny remains the most common, followed by threats or extortion, and bank or consumer fraud. Victimisation incidents varied by month, with October, August, September, and March being notable, though no consistent monthly pattern emerged. Regarding the weekday incidents of victimisation occurred, the highest incidents were reported as occurring on Thursdays, followed by Saturdays and Fridays. The days reported are a recurring pattern across surveys. Most incidents occurred in the early afternoon, with significant occurrences also in the late morning and late afternoon. Personal crimes frequently happened residences, streets, or workplaces.

A significant portion of crimes went unreported, with robbery or larceny being the most underreported. Victim dissatisfaction with police handling of cases has increased, with many victims citing self-management or perceived insignificance as reasons for not reporting incidents. Underreporting can lead to an inaccurate understanding of crime rates, lack of support for victims, impunity for offenders, erosion of trust in law enforcement, and challenges in community safety and policymaking. Addressing these issues requires improving public trust in the police, ensuring victims feel supported, and raising awareness about the importance of reporting all crimes.

Criminal victimisation comes with many costs, financial and otherwise. Mobile phones were the most frequently stolen items during robbery or larceny incidents, with an increase in such thefts compared to 2019. Thefts involving money and crops, however, showed a decline.

Addressing crime and improving the reporting of victimisation requires a multifaceted approach. Community policing is a key strategy, fostering trust between law enforcement and the community, encouraging victims to report crimes. Technological advancements, such as anonymous reporting apps and hotlines are strongly encouraged as they provide safe and accessible ways for victims to report incidents. It is also necessary to implement and, where needed, strengthen organisations and systems to protect victims and witnesses, especially from retaliation. Additionally, collaboration between law enforcement, social services, and community organisations is strongly encouraged to provide and ensure a holistic support system for victims.

6. Indirect Exposure to Crime

This chapter explores indirect exposure to criminal activities. It seeks to determine if the respondent witnessed a crime, the recency of the experience, whether they reported it to the police, and if not, the reasons for not reporting it. According to Orozco-Ramírez et al. (2020), an indirect victim of crime is an individual who has observed the perpetration of a crime upon another person, without themselves being directly impacted. Gathering information from individuals who have witnessed crimes provides an opportunity to explore the factors that may deter people from reporting crimes to law enforcement authorities. During the survey, respondents were questioned about their exposure to four major crimes:

Witnessing A Crime

Respondents were asked if they had ever witnessed any of the four aforementioned major crimes. Similar to the 2016 survey, when this set of questions was last included, most respondents had never personally witnessed any of the crimes listed. However, a small number did indicate that they have.

According to the results of the 2023 *JNCVS*, 9.1 per cent of persons had witnessed a serious beating or attack, making it the most observed crime. Additionally, 8.2 per cent witnessed a shooting or robbery incident, while 5.8 per cent of persons witnessed a murder as shown in Figure 6.1.



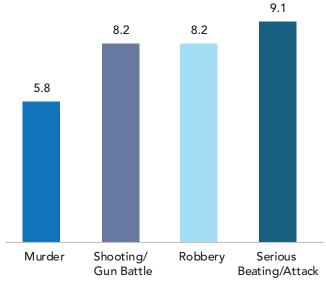


Figure 6.1. Per cent of Respondents Who Witnessed a Serious Crime

9.1

15.9

Crime	2006	2009	2013	2016	2023
Murder	8.4	7.2	7.3	5.8	5.8
Shooting/Gun Battle	12.3	10.1	9.6	7.7	8.2
Robbery	17.3	11.5	10.1	7.6	8.2

21.5

25.4

Table 6.1. Per cent of Respondents Who Witnessed a Violent Crime (2006 - 2023 JNCVS)⁵³

Table 6.1 shows the overall trend of major crimes witnessed across previous JNCVS cycles. The data indicates a steady decline in the proportion of persons who witnessed a major crime, consistent with existing research findings. The findings from Harriot and Jones' (2016) research indicate that there has been a sustained reduction in the prevalence of major criminal activities in Jamaica over an extended period. This trend reflects a positive trajectory in the overall security landscape of the nation. The percentage of respondents who witnessed a murder decreased from 8.4 per cent in 2006 to 5.8 per cent in 2016 and 2023. However, the percentage of those who witnessed a shooting has increased to 8.2 per cent for the 2023 survey, following a consistent decline from 12.3 per cent in 2006 to 10.1 per cent, 9.6 per cent and 7.7 per

Serious Beating/Attack

cent in 2009, 2013 and 2016, respectively. Additionally, the percentage of respondents who witnessed a robbery increased from 7.6 per cent in 2016 to 8.2 per cent in 2023, although still lower than the 17.3 per cent reported in 2006. A notable decrease is seen in the proportion of persons who witnessed a serious beating or attack, which declined from 25.4 per cent in 2006 to 9.1 per cent in 2023.

13.6

The latest data, when disaggregated by sex, shows that in the 2023 survey, more men witnessed all the serious crimes surveyed compared to women (Figure 6.2). Research suggests this may be because men are more frequently away from home and thus more likely to witness incidents of victimisation.⁵⁴ In

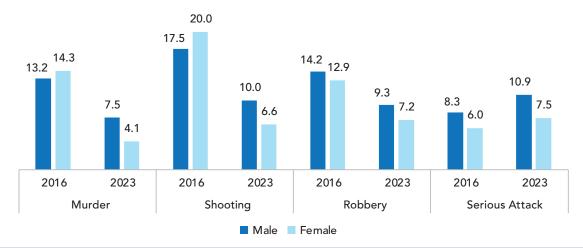


Figure 6.2. Per cent of Respondents Who Witnessed a Violent Crime by Sex (2016 - 2023 JNCVS)

 $^{53\,}$ The 2019 JNCVS did not include these questions.

⁵⁴ Wood, M., Lepanjuuri, K., Paskell, C., Thompson, J., Adams, L., & Coburn, S. (2015). *Victim and Witness Satisfaction Survey*. https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/victims_witnesses/cps_victim_and_witness_survey_sept_2015.pdf

contrast, during the 2016 survey, women were more likely than men to be indirectly exposed to violent crimes, murders and shootings. Regarding witnessing a murder, 7.5 per cent of males reported having seen one, compared to 4.1 per cent of females in the 2023 survey. This represents a decline compared to 13.2 per cent of males and 14.3 per cent of females who had witnessed a murder based on the 2016 survey. The proportion of persons who reported witnessing a shooting has significantly decreased compared to the 2016 survey, more so among females. Ten per cent of males and 6.6 per cent of females witnessed a shooting in 2023, down from 17.5 per cent and 20.0 per cent, respectively, in 2016. Exposure to serious attacks has

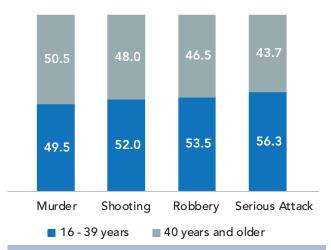


Figure 6.3. Per cent of Respondents Witnessing a Violent Crime by Age

increased for both males and females in 2023, with 10.9 per cent of males having witnessed an attack, up from 8.3 per cent in 2016 and 7.5 per cent for females, up from 6.0 per cent in 2016.

When disaggregated by age, the data for each violent crime shows that respondents 16-39 years old appear to be more exposed to serious attacks (56.3%), robberies (53.5%) and shooting (52.0%), while respondents 40 years and older appear to be more exposed to murders (50.5%) (Figure 6.3).

Number of Times Witnessing a Crime

During the survey, participants who reported witnessing a crime were asked the number of times they had witnessed these events. The data in Figure 6.4 revealed that 57.4 per cent had witnessed a murder once, while 23.5 per cent witnessed it two or three times. Of the respondents who observed a shooting or gun battle, 40.1 per cent witnessed it once, and 34.3 per cent witnessed it four or more times. Interestingly, a little over a third of respondents who witnessed a robbery observed it four or more times (34.9%), while 33.4 per cent witnessed it once. When it comes to serious beatings or attacks, 35.5 per cent of the respondents saw it once, while 35.0 per cent witnessed it four or more times.

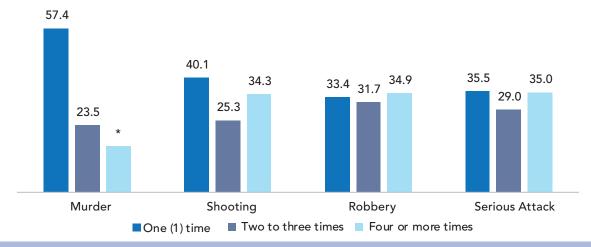


Figure 6.4. Percentage Number of Times Respondent has Witnessed a Violent Crime

Last Time Witnessing a Crime

When asked about the most recent incident of victimisation that was witnessed (Table 6.2), of the persons who witnessed a murder, similar to the 2016 results, 1.9 per cent indicated that it occurred in the last two to five years, while 3.1 per cent stated that it occurred over five years ago. As it pertains to shootings or gun battles, 3.0 per cent stated that they witnessed it over 5 years ago, similar to the 3.3 per cent reported in the 2016 survey. However, those who witnessed this crime in the last 2-5 years increased from 2.5 per cent in 2016 to 3.3 per cent in 2023. The percentage of respondents indicating that they last witnessed a robbery in the last 2 – 5 years has increased from 2.8 per cent in 2016 to 4.1 per cent in 2023. On the other hand, those witnessing a serious attack over 5 years ago have decreased since the 2016 survey from 4.6 per cent to 1.8 per cent in 2023.

Table 6.2. Per cent of Respondents that have Witnessed Serious Incidents of Violent Crime, by Most Recent Incident (2016, 2023 JNCVS)

	2016			2023				
Last Time Witnessed	Murder	Shooting	Robbery	Serious Attack	Murder	Shooting	Robbery	Serious Attack
In the past year	0.7	1.2	2.1	3.5	* ⁵⁵	1.9	2.6	2.7
2 -5 years ago	1.3	2.5	2.8	4.5	1.9	3.3	4.1	4.6
More than 5 years	3.4	3.3	2.1	4.6	3.1	3.0	1.6	1.8

Reporting Incidents of Serious Crime to the Police

Respondents who indicated that they had witnessed a crime were subsequently asked whether they reported the crime they witnessed to the police. Only 12.3 per cent of those who witnessed any of the crimes surveyed indicated that they reported the incident, while the majority, 87.7 per cent, did not (Figure 6.5).

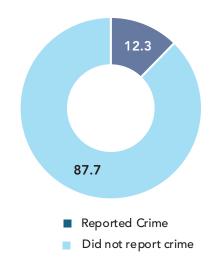


Figure 6.5. Per cent of Respondents Reporting Incidents of Violent Crime to the Police.

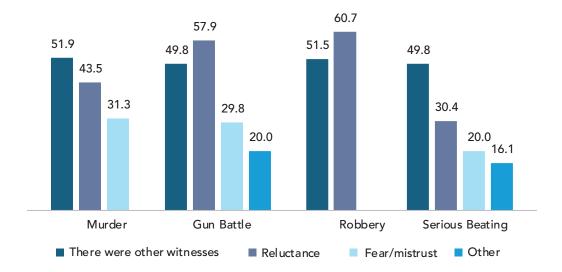


Figure 6.6. Reasons Why Respondents did not Report the Crime they Witnessed to the Police

Reasons for Not Reporting Incidents of Crime

Analysis of Figure 6.6 indicated that 51.9 per cent of persons who witnessed a murder but did not report it did so because there were other witnesses, the same is true for 51.5 per cent of persons who witnessed a robbery and did not report it. Similarly, almost one half (49.8%) of respondents who witnessed a gun battle and one half (49.8%) who witnessed a serious beating did not report it because there were other witnesses. The majority of respondents who witnessed a robbery (60.7%) and gun battle (57.9%) did not report it because there was reluctance to reporting while 43.5 per cent of murder witnesses and 30.4 per cent of serious beating witnesses shared the same sentiment as to why they did not report the crime.

Summary of Findings

This chapter explores indirect exposure to criminal activities, focusing on whether respondents witnessed a crime, the recency of the experience, and their reasons for not reporting it to the police. Indirect victims are those who observe crimes without being directly impacted. The survey examined exposure to four major crimes, revealing that most respondents had never witnessed these crimes, though a small number had. The 2023 data showed a decline in the proportion of people witnessing major crimes. More men than women reported witnessing serious crimes in 2023, a reversal from 2016. Younger respondents were more exposed to serious attacks, shootings and robberies, while older respondents witnessed more murders. Most respondents who witnessed a crime did so once, with a notable portion witnessing multiple incidents. Reporting serious crimes to the police has steadily declined since 2006, with the lowest rates observed in the 2023 survey.

7. Crime Prevention

This chapter delves into the comprehensive analysis of the measures adopted by individuals to safeguard themselves, their assets, and their communities from criminal victimisation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines crime prevention as strategies and measures aimed at reducing the occurrence of crimes and minimising their potential negative impacts on individuals and society, including the fear of crime.⁵⁶ Rosenbaum (2006) posits that in the absence of effective formal mechanisms for controlling crime, crime prevention strategies have emerged as a significant alternative and supplement to the criminal justice system. These strategies aim to change the motivations and predispositions of criminals. In addition to the actions taken by individuals to prevent crime, this approach includes initiatives to deter crime by altering the physical environment, such as the use of access control measures like grills and surveillance, and the adoption of innovative community policing strategies neighbourhood watches and watchmen.

Household Crime Prevention Strategies

Survey participants were asked about security measures, from a list of 12 measures and a category for 'Other, specify', that the household implemented to reduce the risk of crimes or protect their household from crime. Security grills was the measure most implemented by



35.7 per cent of respondents during the 2023 cycle, similar to the 37.8 per cent reported in 2019 (Figure 7.1). Interestingly, the use of security cameras increased threefold from 4.3 per cent in 2019 to 12.7 per cent in 2023. This increase could be attributed to the constant surveillance provided by security cameras, which some researchers believe acts as a deterrent to potential criminals, thus making it a popular security measure implemented in recent years.⁵⁷ Twenty-two per cent (22.2%) of survey respondents indicated the use of 'Other weapons' which encompassed items such as tasers and machetes, for security purposes. This represented an approximately twofold decrease from the 40.0 per cent reported in 2019.

⁵⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Crime Prevention*. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-crimeprevention-home.html

⁵⁷ Gómez, S., Mejía, D., & Tobón, S. (2021). The Deterrent Effect of Surveillance Cameras on Crime. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 40(2). https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22280

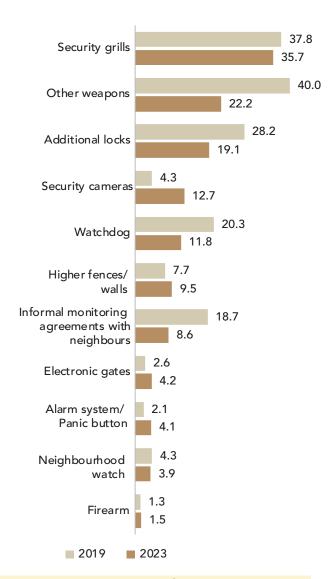


Figure 7.1. Per cent of Households that Implemented Security Measures

Cost to Implement Security Measures

Respondents who had implemented the security measures for their households in the 12-month reference period (that is, from November 2022 to October 2023) were asked to provide an approximate cost of the security measure. Of the households who reported having installed or implemented a security measure within the 12-month reference period (10.7% or 95,713), the majority of respondents who provided a cost, which accounts for 22.2 per cent, reported spending \$65,000 or more on security measures (Table 7.1). Approximately, 16.0 per cent reported spending \$5,000 but less than \$30,000.00 on the security measure they implemented, 13.9 per cent spent less than \$5,000.00 and 13.0 per cent spent \$30,000.00 but less than \$65,000.00.

Table 7.1. Proportion of Households by Cost of the Security Measure Installed in the Past 12 Months

Cost of Security Measure (JMD)	Number	Per Cent of Households
Less than \$ 5000	13262	13.9
\$ 5000 but less than \$30 000	15309	16.0
\$30 000 but less than \$65 000	12445	13.0
\$65,000 or more	21047	22.0
No cost/No response	33650	35.2
Total	95713	100.0

Personal Crime Prevention Strategies

Preventative Measures Adopted or Discontinued

To mitigate potential victimisation, individuals often adopt preventative measures, which may involve adopting new habits or ceasing certain practices, behaviours, or routines.⁵⁸ Within the context of the survey, participants were asked about the discontinuation of specific activities within the past 12 months in response to the security concerns in Jamaica. As depicted in Figure 7.2, the top three actions that respondents reported discontinuing were "Carrying a lot of cash" (27.9%), "Using alternate routes" (19.2%) and "Going home late" (17.3%).

Compared to the results of the 2019 survey, most categories decreased in the 2023 survey cycle. Specifically, a lower proportion of persons "Stopped letting children out alone" at 9.2 per cent, a marked decline compared to 34.4 per cent in 2019. Similarly, though still the action that respondents have stopped doing the most in the 2023 survey, "Carrying a lot of cash", fell by some 10 percentage points (27.9% in 2019). Additionally, a decrease of 4.6 percentage points (23.8% in 2019) for 'Using alternate routes' and a decrease of 1.4 percentage points (18.7% in 2019) for 'Going home late' was observed in this survey cycle.

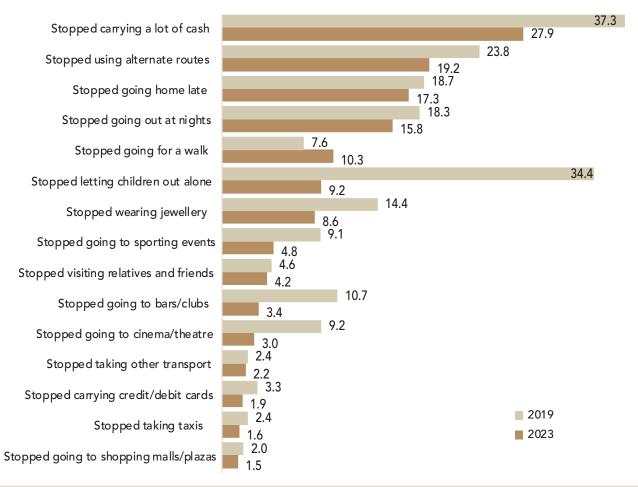


Figure 7.2. Per cent of Population that has Changed Habits

⁵⁸ Rader, N. (2017). Fear of Crime. Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice: Fear of Crime. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.10

Incidence of Avoiding Areas in Community Due to Fear

In addition to discontinued habits, respondents were asked about specific areas in their community or neighbourhood that they avoided due to fear of crime. Over time, more citizens have reported avoiding certain areas in their community due to fear, as illustrated in Figure 7.3. Compared to 2019 there is no notable difference in the percentage of respondents who indicated staying away from certain areas in the community due to fear. When compared to 2016 there is, however, a growing concern when the

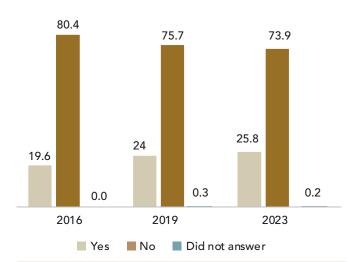


Figure 7.3. Per cent of Population that Avoid Areas in Community due to Fear of Crime (2016-2023)

data is examined. Up from 19.6 per cent in 2016, 25.8 per cent of respondents in the 2023 survey reported that they stayed away from certain areas in their community due to fear. These findings reinforce the growing concerns about criminal activities among the surveyed population.

Incidence of Avoiding Areas in Community due to Fear by Sex

When the data is disaggregated by sex, it reveals that a higher proportion of women reported avoiding certain areas in their community due to fear of crime compared to men. This genderbased phenomenon has been the focus of numerous research studies. Consistently, the research findings have demonstrated a disparity between fear of crime between men and women, with women exhibiting a higher odds ratio of fear of crime compared to men (Choi & Merlo, 2020). Rader (2017) explained that vulnerability plays a crucial role in this finding. Women felt afraid of crime because they felt more vulnerable to crime. In line with the 2019 survey, 25.9 per cent of females stated that they avoided areas in their community due to fear, a sentiment echoed by 23.5 per cent of male respondents (Figure 7.4). Interestingly, the disparity between men and women who avoided areas due to fear was slightly lower in the 2023 cycle than in 2019 (2.4% and 2.9%, respectively).

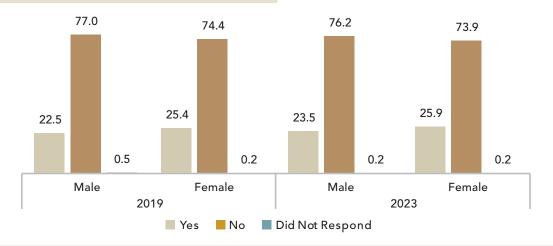


Figure 7.4. Per cent of Population that Avoid Ares in Community due to Fear of Crime by Sex

Incidence of Avoiding Areas in Community due to Fear by Age Group

Figure 7.5 highlights the variations in responses across different age brackets regarding the avoidance of certain areas in their communities due to fear of crime. The data indicated that a large majority of respondents did not avoid areas in their community due to fear. However, an increase in the proportion of individuals who affirmatively responded to avoiding certain areas in their community due to fear of victimisation across all age groups except those aged 16 – 24 years was observed. In 2019, the highest proportion (29.1%) was in the young adults age group (16 - 24 years), but for 2023, it was respondents 25-39 years (31.6%).

Incidence of Avoiding Areas in Community Due to Fear by Area of Residence

When analysed based on residential areas, the proportion of individuals who responded affirmatively remained unchanged in 2023 compared to 2019. However, a noteworthy difference emerged in the proportion of respondents who feared crime in rural areas versus urban areas. Consistent with the trend observed in 2019, a higher proportion of respondents residing in urban areas reported avoiding certain areas in their community due to fear of crime than those in rural areas. As depicted in Figure 7.6, 37.0 per cent expressed this sentiment, more than two times higher than in rural areas (14.1%). It should be noted that persons in rural areas were less likely to avoid areas in their community due to fear.

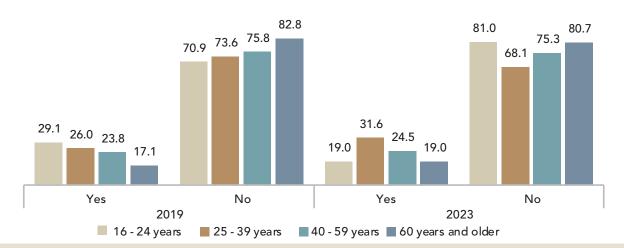


Figure 7.5. Per cent of Population that Avoid Areas in Community due to Fear of Crime by Age Group

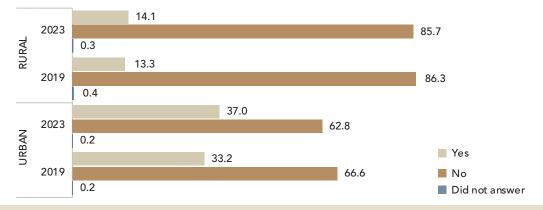


Figure 7.6. Per cent of Population that Avoid Areas in Community Due to Fear of Crime by Area of Residence

Areas in Community that are Avoided Due to Fear

In the survey, respondents were asked to provide their insights on seven specific sites within their community. The data revealed that in the current survey, the majority (90.0%) of respondents stated that they tended to avoid unlit areas followed by abandoned spaces (89.3%). Similar sentiments were shared in 2019 where the majority reported avoiding bushy areas (88.3%) (Table 7.2). Furthermore, 88.6 per cent of participants indicated that they avoided bushy areas which was consistent with the findings from the 2019 survey. The survey showed that the smallest percentage of individuals (31.8%) said they avoided the bus stop.

Table 7.2. Additional Areas Avoided by Residents in Community (JNCVS 2019 & 2023)

	2019		2023	
Area	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bus Stop	23.4	76.5	31.8	68.2
Playfield/Park	35.8	63.8	37.4	62.6
Specific Street	75.3	24.3	78.3	21.7
Shortcut/ Pathway	79.8	20.2	81.5	18.5
Unlit Area	84.9	14.8	90.0	10.0
Abandoned Spaces	86.5	13.4	89.3	10.7
Bushy Areas	88.3	11.7	88.6	11.7

Possession of Firearms

Gun Possession Contributing to a Higher Sense of Security

Acquiring a firearm is one method individuals may opt to use to safeguard themselves and their families from potential threats. Research indicates that the legal ownership of private firearms has escalated over time, primarily driven by crime-related fears. The primary use of these firearms leans towards self-defence rather than inflicting harm, with incidents often resulting in no injuries but effectively deterring the perpetrator.⁵⁹ Southwick (2000) found that victims who have and use guns have both lower losses and lesser injury rates from violent crime. During the survey, participants were asked whether having a firearm within a residence contributes to an increased perception of safety. Just over half of the individuals (51.8%) indicated that they think that having a gun in the household contributes to a higher sense of security compared to 40.3 per cent in 2019 (Figure 7.7). The increase in the proportion of persons who believed that firearm possession enhanced safety could potentially indicate an escalating fear of crime among the population.

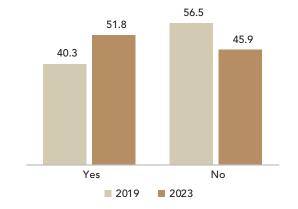


Figure 7.7. Availability of a Gun contributes to a Higher Sense of Security

Gun Possession Contributing to a Higher Sense of Security by Gender

When analysed by sex, similar to 2019, a higher proportion of men (57.4%) compared to women (46.4%) believed that gun possession enhanced feelings of safety. One-half of women (50.5%) believed that owning a gun did not increase their sense of security. Notably, this percentage has decreased from 60.6 per cent in 2019 (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3. Availability of a Gun Contributes to a Higher Sense of Security by Sex

Sex	2019		2023	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Male	45.1	52.2	57.4	41.0
Female	35.6	60.6	46.4	50.5

Gun Possession Contributing to a Higher Sense of Security by Age Group

When disaggregated by age group, the belief that having a licenced firearm enhanced safety was most prevalent among respondents aged 25-39 (58.2%), closely followed by the 16-24 age group (56.1%) (Figure 7.8). As age increased, this sentiment decreased, with respondents aged 60 and above being more likely to report that firearm ownership did not enhance their sense of safety (52.9%). Younger age groups, 16-24 (40.6%) and 25-39 (40.1%), were least likely to express this sentiment. A comparison with 2019 data reveals a general increase across all age groups in the belief that firearm ownership enhances safety.

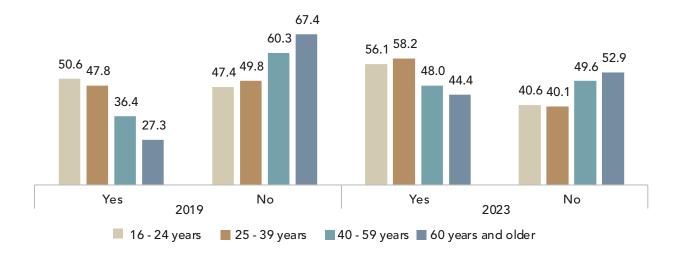


Figure 7.8. Availability of a Gun Contributes to a Higher Sense of Security by Age Group

The belief that having a licenced firearm enhanced safety was most prevalent among respondents aged 25-39.

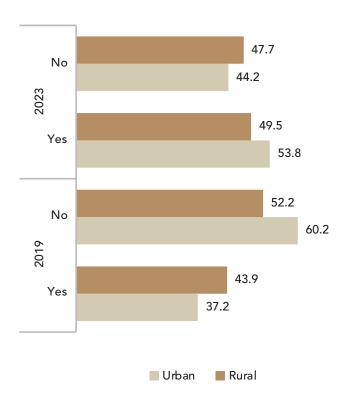


Figure 7.9. Availability of a Gun Contributes to a Higher Sense of Security by Area of Residence

Gun Possession Contributing to a Higher Sense of Security by Area of Residence

Urban respondents (53.8%) were more likely to associate firearm ownership with enhanced household safety, marking a significant increase compared to the 37.2 per cent reported in 2019 (Figure 7.9). This aligned with the findings in Chapter 3, which revealed a higher fear of crime among urban residents than those living in rural areas. This may result in a more positive view of gun ownership, in line with studies conducted by Heath et al. (1997), which found that people with higher levels of fear of crime were more favourable to guns. There was also an upward trend in the percentage of rural inhabitants who perceived that firearm possession enhanced personal safety. This increased from 43.9 per cent in 2019 to 49.5 per cent in 2023, indicating a shift in safety perceptions within this demographic.

Summary of Findings

This chapter examines the measures individuals adopted to protect themselves, their assets, and their communities from criminal victimisation. Survey participants reported various household security measures, with security grills being the most common. The use of security cameras has notably increased, providing increased property surveillance. Some respondents also used other weapons for security, though this has decreased since 2019. The cost of these measures varied, with a significant portion of households spending substantial amounts on security.

Individuals also adopted personal crime prevention strategies, such as changing habits or avoiding certain activities. The survey revealed a decrease in the proportion of people discontinuing specific activities compared to 2019. More respondents reported avoiding certain areas in their communities due to fear of crime, with women more likely than men to do so. This gender disparity in fear of crime is well-documented, with women feeling more vulnerable.

The belief that firearm possession enhances safety has increased, with more men than women holding this view. Younger respondents were more likely to believe in the protective value of firearms, while older respondents were less convinced. Urban residents were more likely to associate firearm ownership with enhanced safety, and this was consistent with the data showing a higher fear of crime in urban areas.

A higher proportion of respondents residing in urban areas reported avoiding certain areas in their community due to fear of crime than those in rural areas.

8. Public Perception of Authority Performance

In Jamaica, the MNS and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and their departments and agencies are entrusted with ensuring national security. Each of these entities is assigned specific roles, encompassing the provision of justice services, maintaining law and order, and protecting the nation from domestic and international threats.

The public's perception of and response to these authorities can significantly influence the quality and effectiveness of their services. This perception is largely shaped by the public's interactions and engagements with these authorities. The relationship between the public and these authorities is symbiotic, such that the citizens' willingness to report crimes directly impacts the authorities' capacity to enforce the law, maintain order and solve crime. In turn, the effectiveness of the authorities influences crime reporting. Therefore, it is paramount that these agencies strive to prioritise and uphold a positive image in the public eye to ensure ongoing support and cooperation.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is closely related to the public perception of authority performance and governance. Specifically, Target 16.6 aims to foster effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels, incorporating indicators related to the proportion of the population satisfied with their most recent experience of public service. 60 To assess the public's opinion of the agencies responsible for justice and security in Jamaica,

Target 16:
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Target 16.6: Foster effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels

Figure 1.2: Annual Rate of Growth of GDP: Jamaica 2008 - 2022¹¹

respondents were asked questions regarding the efficacy, reliability, and perceived corruption of several administrative bodies listed below:

- Local Police (Station)
- Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)
- Office of the Public Defender
- Judges and Courts
- Department of Correctional Services (DCS)
- Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)
- Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM)
- Major Organised Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA)
- Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA)

This approach of asking survey questions about people's perception of these authorities provides valuable insights into the public's perception and expectations of these institutions, thereby informing strategies for improvement and reform.

Function of Justice and Security Agencies and Departments

Assessing institutional awareness, that is, understanding how well citizens are informed about the existence and purpose of the different justice institutions, is paramount to understanding perceptions of efficacy. Enhanced awareness can foster more informed perceptions, while a lack of awareness can result in misconceptions and cynicism. Empirical data on public awareness and perception from surveys such as the *JNCVS* are valuable resources that can be used to shape public education programmes.

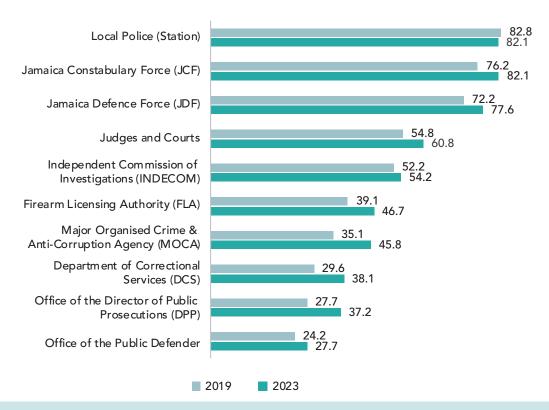


Figure 8.1. Public Awareness of Authorities' Function

The JNCVS sought to ascertain the respondents' knowledge regarding the roles of the various agencies and departments involved in justice and security. As depicted in Figure 8.1, the degree of public awareness about the functions of the different authorities varied. The survey results revealed that a large proportion of persons, 82.1 per cent, were acquainted with the functions of their local police and the JCF. Additionally, 77.6 per cent were familiar with the functions of the JDF. The level of public awareness of the function of the JCF and the JDF entities was higher compared to the 2019 survey results of 76.2 per cent and 72.2 per cent of respondents, respectively. Approximately half of the survey

respondents were knowledgeable about the functions of INDECOM (54.2%), which is the agency tasked with investigating possible abuse of power by members of the security forces or other agents of the government that result in death, personal injury, or violation of human rights. The role of the FLA, which is the agency responsible for granting, renewing revocation of firearm licences, was only familiar to 46.7 per cent of respondents, and MOCA, which is responsible for identifying and targeting major organised criminal networks and public sector corruption, was only known to 45.8 per cent. Over one-third of respondents know the DCS (38.1%) and the DPP (37.2%). The Office of the Public

Defender, whose function is to investigate allegations concerning breaches of law and the Constitution, was least known by the respondents (27.7%), roughly one in three people.

Public awareness increased in 2023 compared to the 2019 survey for every agency except the local police. It grew most notably for entities like MOCA, DPP, DCS, and FLA. These findings highlight potential areas for improvement in public education and awareness campaigns.

Effectiveness and Reliability of Justice and Security Agencies and Departments

The performance and reliability of justice and security institutions can significantly fluctuate based on many factors. These factors encompass their defined mandate, the allocation of resources, the quality of leadership, and the implementation of accountability procedures.

Despite these variables, citizens often harbour preconceived expectations of these institutions, which could potentially shape their perception of the institution's effectiveness and reliability. Empirical studies have demonstrated that when these institutions fail to align with the citizens' expectations, it can lead to a deterioration of trust, thereby impeding their ability to execute their duties efficiently.⁶¹

In the context of the survey, respondents who knew a specified authority's functions were subsequently asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the authority's work. In a similar vein, respondents were requested to assess the reliability of the specified authority, considering the expectations associated with it. This approach provides a nuanced understanding of the perceived effectiveness and reliability of these institutions, offering valuable insights for potential improvements which could, in turn, enhance the reach of these institutions.

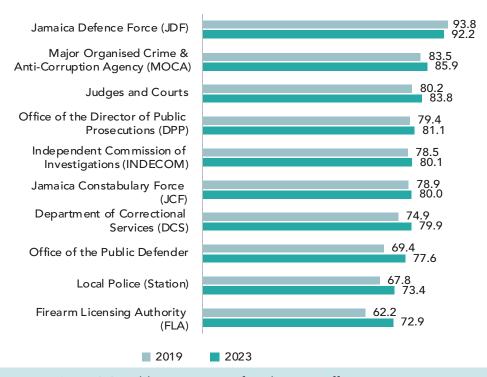


Figure 8.2. Public Perception of Authorities' Effectiveness

⁶¹ Beshi and Kaur. (2020). Public trust in Local Government: Explaining the role of good governance practices. *Public Organiz Rev* 20, 337–350. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-019-00444-6

The survey results indicated that the authorities were highly regarded for their effectiveness. The JDF was viewed as the most effective among the authorities, with 92.2 per cent believing they were effective; however, while consistent with 2019 was slightly below the 93.8 per cent recorded. MOCA and the Judges and Courts were perceived as effective by 85.9 per cent and 83.8 per cent of respondents, respectively. Similarly, eight in 10 persons considered the DPP, INDECOM and the JCF effective. The local police's perceived effectiveness grew to 73.4 per cent in 2023, up from 67.8 per cent in 2019. The FLA was thought to be effective by 72.9 per cent of respondents, an increase compared to the 62.2 per cent in 2019 (Figure 8.2).

Notable upward trends were observed in the perceived effectiveness of certain institutions. Specifically, perceived effectiveness improved for the Office of the Public Defender from 69.4 per cent in 2019 to 77.6 per cent in 2023. The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) also had improved perceived efficacy, increasing from

74.9 per cent in 2019 to 79.9 per cent in 2023. These findings underscored the growing public confidence in these institutions over the years.

The JDF was considered the most reliable among the authorities, with 91.6 per cent saying they were reliable as seen in Figure 8.3. It should be noted that the perceived reliability of the JDF remains high and does not differ significantly from the 92.8 per cent reported from the 2019 survey. Their perceptive reliability and effectiveness suggest that the JDF has earned a reputation among citizens for dependability and efficiency in carrying out its duties. In 2023, MOCA (83.5%), Judges and Courts (82.9%), and DPP (80.5%) had higher perceived reliability than the previous survey (80.9 per cent, 78.0 per cent, and 78.6 per cent, respectively). The local police were perceived as reliable by 71.2 per cent of respondents, while the FLA was deemed reliable by 70.2 per cent. Notably, despite most Jamaicans being aware of their local police station's functions, the authority is ranked among the least effective and reliable.



Figure 8.3. Public Perception of Authorities' Reliability

Public perception of the reliability of various security and justice agencies marginally improved in 2023 relative to 2019. The most significant positive shifts were observed in the cases of the FLA, the Office of the Public Defender, and the DCS. The JCF, despite its direct and frequent engagement with the populace, experienced a slight curtailment in public perception of its reliability. The JCF's reliability rating remains intermediate when juxtaposed with the spectrum of agencies considered.

Corruption within Justice and Security Agencies and Departments

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines corruption as an illicit act perpetrated by officials who exploit their positions to secure benefits for themselves or others. 62 Research has demonstrated a negative

correlation between the prevalence of corruption within security institutions and citizens' trust in them. Specifically, as corruption decreases, trust increases, and the converse holds. 63 Corruption undermines the fundamental principles that underpin justice and security institutions. It erodes public confidence and trust in these institutions and undermines their ability to fulfil their mandate effectively. The deleterious effects of corruption extend beyond immediate financial implications, impacting the very fabric of societal trust and institutional integrity.

The survey data in Figure 8.4 shows an increased perception of corruption within all named authorities compared to the previous 2019 report. According to the 2023 JNCVS, nearly seven of every 10 persons believed that both the JCF (71.0%) and DCS (69.4%) are corrupt, up from 65.2 per cent (JCF) and 55.6 per cent (DCS)

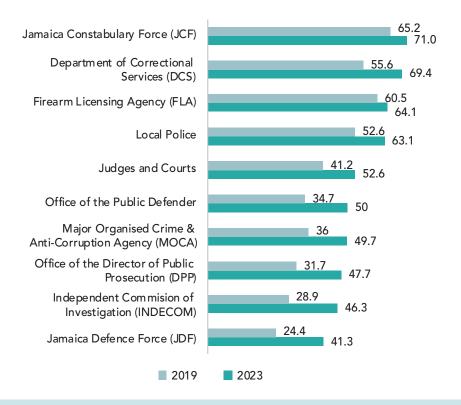


Figure 8.4. Public Perception of Corruption within Authorities

⁶² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Corruption*. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/corruption.html, retrieved May 17, 2024 63 Uslaner, Eric M. (2018). *The Oxford Handbook of Social and Political Trust*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press.

in 2019. Six in every 10 citizens perceived the FLA (64.1%) and Local Police (63.1%) corrupt compared to 60.5 per cent and 53.6 per cent in 2019. Approximately 50.0 per cent of respondents indicated that Judges and Courts (52.6%), Office of Public Defender (50.0%) and MOCA (49.7%) were corrupt. Notably, the JDF, viewed as the most effective and reliable authority among respondents, had the lowest perceived level of corruption (41.3%).

Jamaica's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Country score has remained relatively unchanged over the last few years at 44 out of 100, demonstrating that the country has a serious corruption problem, raking 69 out of 180 countries. The survey results show a growing public perception of corruption within the country's security and justice agencies, implying a greater need for transparency, engagement, robust anticorruption measures, and reforms.

Police Work in Law Enforcement Duty Areas

The JCF's responsibilities encompass maintaining peace and order, preventing and identifying criminal activities, probing suspected crimes, safeguarding individuals and their properties, and enforcing all criminal laws outlined in the Jamaican penal code. This suggests that the police's role extends beyond serving the citizens to engaging and collaborating with them.

Public perceptions of law enforcement officers play a vital role in executing their responsibilities. Research has found that those with a negative perception of the judicial system are less inclined to participate in police investigations or testify in court. Studies also suggest that those who have a negative impression of the criminal justice system or who see it as biased or unjust are more

likely to engage in criminal behaviour.⁶⁵ During the survey, respondents were asked to rate the police performance across 11 areas of law enforcement duty using a three-point scale:

- I. Enforcing the law
- II. Responding quickly when called
- III. Being approachable and easy to talk to
- IV. Supplying the information on how to reduce crime
- V. Ensuring the safety of the community residents
- VI. Treating people fairly and with respect
- VII. Patrolling neighbourhoods
- VIII. Fighting criminal gangs
- IX. Preventing police brutality
- X. Preventing police corruption
- XI. Dealing with public complaints

Questions regarding the perception of police performance were not included in the 2019 survey. Consequently, charts and tables will only compare data from the 2023 survey with other survey rounds before 2019.

The survey revealed that 30.4 per cent of respondents rated the police as 'good' in terms of approachability and ease of communication. Public perception has remained relatively stable across the last three surveys (Figure 8.5). Additionally, 48.9 per cent of respondents rated the police's approachability as 'average,' marking a slight increase from previous surveys. Conversely, 17.0 per cent of respondents perceived the police as not approachable or easy to talk to, which represents an improvement compared to earlier survey results. These findings are significant, as the perception of police approachability directly impacts the likelihood of improved crime reporting.

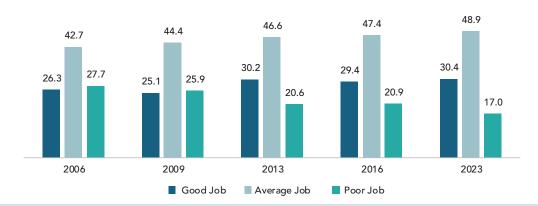


Figure 8.5. Public Perception of Police in being Approachable and Easy to Talk to (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results)

Questions about police performance in duty areas were compared with previous *JNCVS* results to explore trends in public perception of police performance over the years. The findings revealed a concerning trend. A mere 30.1 per cent of respondents indicated that the police have done a 'good job' in enforcing the law, which is low and even lower than the 32.4 and the 33.7 per cent reported in the 2016 and 2013 survey, respectively (Figure 8.6). Near half (48.4%) of respondents believe they are doing an 'average job' in enforcing the law, the highest result since 2006 (37.0%).

As shown in Figure 8.6, public assessment of the police concerning street patrolling has also dwindled. Only 29.8 per cent of respondents commended the police's performance in 2023, the lowest rating since 2009 (31.8%). A similar proportion of persons felt the police were doing a poor job patrolling the streets and neighbourhood. Based on the historical data, it is observed that the police received the best rating in this area in 2013.

The 2023 JNCVS revealed that 27.8 per cent of respondents believed the police did a 'good job' of ensuring public and community residents' safety, lower than all previous years except in 2009 when 26.1 per cent shared that belief. Research suggests that a positive assessment of the police positively influences participatory behaviour at the community level.⁶⁶ In other words, when police performance was viewed favourably, it tended to foster more active engagement at the community level, formally in neighbourhood watch programmes and informally in terms of reporting suspicious activities.

Regarding the public's opinion of the police's treatment of them, whether fairly or with respect, 24.3 per cent of respondents thought the police have done a 'good job', while 45.8 per cent believed they are doing an 'average job' (Figure 8.7). These statistics have decreased from 2013 (26.0% and 47.1%, respectively). Furthermore, 21.9 per cent of respondents said that the speed at which police responded to public calls for assistance was good, a decrease from 25.4 per cent in 2013 but an increase from 19.9 per cent in 2006.

⁶⁶ Pyo, J. (2021). Perceptions of police and participatory behavior for crime prevention: a multilevel analysis of formal and informal behaviors. *Crime* prevention and community safety, 23(1), 19-38.

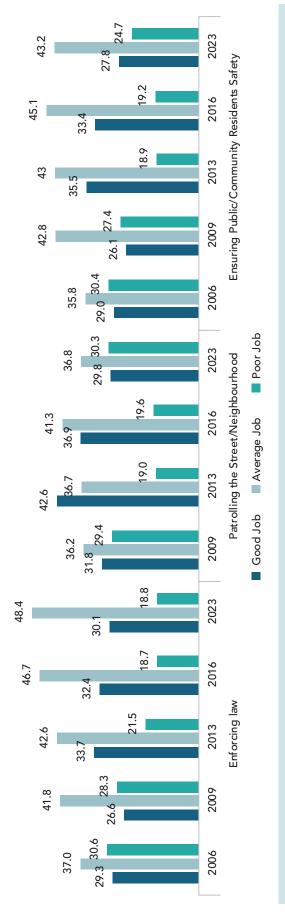


Figure 8.6. Public Perception of Police Work in Selected Law Enforcement Duty Areas (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results)

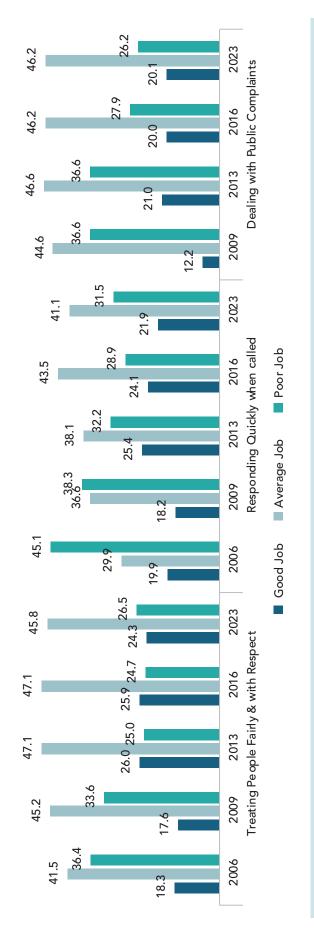


Figure 8.7. Public Perception of Police Work in Selected Law Enforcement Duty Areas (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results)

When respondents were asked how they felt the police handled public complaints, 20.1 per cent of respondents said they thought they did a good job, which is less than the 21.0 per cent who said the same thing in 2013. Identical to the 2016 study, 46.2 per cent of respondents indicated the police performed an 'average job' of dealing with public concerns, slightly lower than the 46.6 per cent recorded in 2013. The survey results supply an extensive overview of public opinion on police performance, determining areas which require improvement.

Summary of Findings

This chapter underscores the pivotal role of the JNCVS findings in shaping the understanding of institutional awareness and public perception of justice and security entities. The survey's results, which reflected varying degrees of public awareness about the functions of different authorities, served as a crucial starting point for more in-depth analysis and intervention. Notably, the local police and the JCF enjoyed the highest levels of public awareness. The survey also

gauged the perceived effectiveness and reliability of these organisations, with the JDF emerging at the top in both categories. However, the survey also revealed a concerning trend compared to 2019, which is a growing perception of corruption within these institutions despite Jamaica's stable corruption score. Notably, although the JCF was widely recognized and regarded as effective and reliable by most people, it was also perceived as corrupt by a similar proportion. These findings underscore the urgent need for increased public engagement, transparency and strengthening of the existing anti-corruption framework.

The survey also assessed the police's performance in the execution of various law enforcement duties. The results indicated a decline in public perception of police performance over the years, highlighting areas for improvement. Several studies have pointed to the connection between public perception, institutional efficacy, and crime. As such, addressing the issues highlighted in this chapter could enhance public trust and the overall efficacy of these institutions.



9. Public Perception of Social Intervention Programmes and Security Measures

Several initiatives aimed at enhancing Jamaicans' safety and security have been established over the years with the assistance of several international development partners (IDPs). These social intervention programmes primarily strive to mitigate crime and violence, working in tandem with other security measures. The Citizen Security Plan (CSP) is designed to enhance safety and security in vulnerable communities by addressing crime, fostering safer investing environments, and development initiatives. It focuses on four key areas: crime and violence reduction, safer spaces, human development, and community development.

This initiative is a collaborative effort involving government agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders, aiming to tackle crime through a holistic approach. A significant focus is placed on social programs that address the root causes of crime, particularly in high-crime and at-risk communities. The key focus areas and programmes associated with each are listed below:

- Crime and Violence Reduction: Includes initiatives such as States of Emergency (SOEs), Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs), the Peace Management Initiative (PMI), the Violence Prevention Programme (VSD), and Restorative Justice (RJ).
- Safer Spaces: Efforts under SOEs, ZOSOs, PMI, and VSD to create secure environments.
- Human Development: Supported through programs like ZOSOs, VSD, Community

- Development (CD), the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP), and the STAR Programme.
- Community Development: Strengthened through ZOSOs, the Community Renewal Programme (CRP), and Project STAR.

By integrating these initiatives, the CSP aims to create lasting social and economic transformation, reducing crime and improving overall community well-being. The 2023 JNCVS assessed public opinion on nine measures and programmes, specifically:

Security Measures

State of Emergency (SOE)
Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO)

Social Intervention **Programmes**

Victim Services Division
Restorative Justice Programme
Child Diversion Programme
Peace Management Initiative (PMI)
Poverty Reduction Programme

Other Commuity **Programmes**

Community Renewal Programme Project STAR

This chapter delves into the public's awareness of these programmes. It further seeks to discern from respondents who are aware of the functions these programmes regarding effectiveness and reliability. Public opinion is a barometer of the interest, efficacy, and prospects of different programmes. Regular assessment of such programmes or initiatives concerning awareness and impact ensures implementing agencies remain accountable to the populace they serve, thereby fostering a greater sense of responsibility and commitment to delivering on their mandate.

Security Measures

The SOE and ZOSO are strategic responses instituted in instances of severe crime, violence, or unrest to mitigate criminal activity, enforce the law, and ensure the safety of law-abiding citizens.

The SOE empowers law enforcement agencies with expanded authorities, including the ability to impose curfews, conduct searches and arrests without warrants, and restrict freedom of movement. These measures were designed to dismantle criminal networks, prevent violent incidents, and protect the general populace from criminal victimisation. The objective is to swiftly and decisively address the root causes of social discord and to restore security within the affected community.

Similarly, ZOSO focuses on high-risk areas plagued by gang violence and other forms of severe criminality. This strategy combines intensified policing with community-building initiatives aimed at enforcing the law while also promoting social and economic development within these zones. By integrating law enforcement with social services, ZOSO seeks to provide a sustainable and comprehensive solution to crime and violence.

As shown in Figure 9.1, there was a reduction in the number of Jamaicans who knew the functions of the SOE from 71.8 per cent based on the 2023 survey (1,516,410) down from 75.7 per cent (1,589,785) in 2019. However, the 2023 survey showed a marginal increase in the number of Jamaicans who understood the functions of ZOSO to 68.9 per cent (1,455,237), up from 68.2 per cent (1,432,688) in 2019.

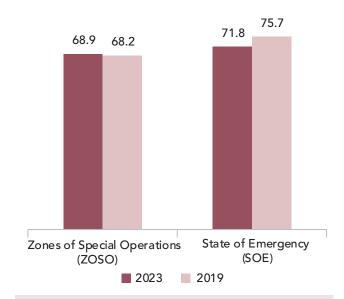


Figure 9.1. Public Awareness of the Functions of Security Measures

Effectiveness and Reliability of Security Measures

Majority of the respondents knowledgeable about the functions of the SOE (73.0%) and ZOSO (75.4%) believed they were effective. There was a notable decrease in the proportion who perceived the SOE as effective when compared to 77.7 per cent in 2019. Similarly in 2023, respondents who considered the ZOSO effective, decreased, moving down from the 78.4 per cent who held this belief in 2019 (Figure 9.2)

There was a decline in the perceived reliability of both the SOE and ZOSO. In 2023, 72.7 per cent of respondents regarded the SOE as reliable, a

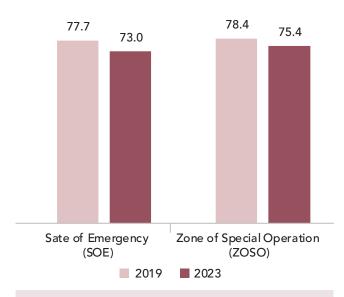


Figure 9.2. Effectiveness of Security Measures

decrease from 76.1 per cent in 2019. Similarly, 73.5 per cent of respondents in 2023 viewed the ZOSO as reliable, compared to 78.6 per cent in 2019 (Figure 9.3).

Social Intervention Programmes

Social intervention programmes play a pivotal role in addressing systemic issues that contribute to social inequalities. By providing essential resources, these programmes help to uplift the marginalised and improve their quality of life. Moreover, social intervention programmes are instrumental in enhancing community safety and cohesion. By addressing the root causes of social issues, these initiatives help reduce crime rates and foster safer environments for residents. Additionally, community-based programmes encourage residents to collaborate towards common goals, strengthen social bonds and build resilience.

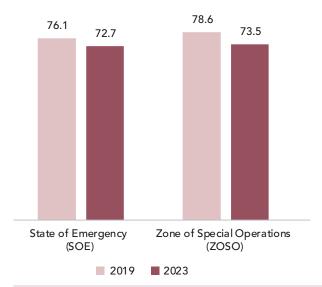


Figure 9.3. Reliability of Security Measures

The Victim Services Division (VSD)

The Victim Services Division (VSD) is a branch of the Ministry of Justice dedicated to providing therapeutic interventions for victims of crime. The VSD was launched in 1998 and is committed to acting in the best interest of victims by offering active support, identifying their needs, and enhancing their participation in the justice system. Through its 14 parish offices, the Division assists victims in managing and coping with the emotional trauma resulting from crime.

The service provision framework of the VSD is based on several key principles: offering free, high-quality, and confidential services; upholding victims' rights; providing services with neutrality and equal opportunity; forming victim support service networks; encouraging community involvement and volunteerism; focusing on crime prevention; standardising operations; and facilitating data collection and research on victim issues.⁶⁷

Figure 9.4 illustrates that 10.6 per cent of respondents reported being knowledgeable about the functions of the VSD. This marked an increase from 2019, when only 6.1 per cent of respondents indicated such knowledge. In 2023, 73.5 per cent of respondents believed the VSD was effective, a fall from the 75.1 per cent who held this view in 2019 (Figure 9.5). The respondents who believed the division was reliable increased to 74.5 per cent from 73.5 per cent in 2019.

Restorative Justice Programme (RJP)

The Restorative Justice Programme (RJP) launched in 2016 aims to cultivate a culture of peace through processes that emphasise mutual respect, dignity, and concern, fostering environments conducive to healing, reconciliation, and restoration. It addresses the criminal case backlog by diverting cases from the formal justice system and resolving conflicts within communities. The programme also seeks to build public confidence and trust in the justice system by encouraging increased community and victim involvement and ownership of Restorative

Justice processes. It aims to eliminate retaliatory behaviour by providing individuals with access to early-stage dispute resolution processes, thereby preventing escalation to violent reactions.

In the first quarter of the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the RJP received 792 referrals, leading to 650 conferences and resulting in 501 agreements. Additionally, over 7,750 beneficiaries of the RJP were sensitized.⁶⁸ As depicted in Figure 9.4, there was an increase in the number of individuals aware of the functions of the Restorative Justice Programme, increasing to 14.2 per cent (301,012 individuals) compared to 6.1 per cent (127,602 individuals) in 2019. In the 2023 survey, more respondents believed the RJP was effective (75.6%) compared to 2019 (72.4%). Likewise, perceived reliability increased from 70.9 per cent in 2019 to 73.0 per cent (Figure 9.6).

Child Diversion Programme

The Child Diversion Programme (CDP) implemented in March 2020 aims to reduce the incidence of children facing charges and exposure to the formal criminal justice system. It

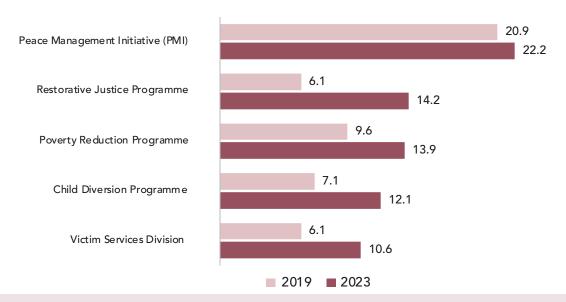


Figure 9.4. Public Awareness of the Functions of Social Intervention Measures

⁶⁸ Ministry of Justice. *Green Paper: Restorative Justice Policy* (Revised) https://moj.gov.jm/sites/default/files/RJ/Green%20Paper%20%-%20Restorative%20Justice%20Policy%20Revised.pdf

seeks to expand the utilisation of diversionary programs aimed at rehabilitating children involved in criminal activities and empowering communities to play a more active role in addressing anti-social behaviour among child offenders. Studies have shown that similar programmes in the Caribbean have enhanced

participants' problem-solving and coping skills, decreased the likelihood of probation or school suspension, and reduced their involvement in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the length of time participants stay in similar programmes has been linked to a significant improvement in perceived behavioural change among them.⁶⁹

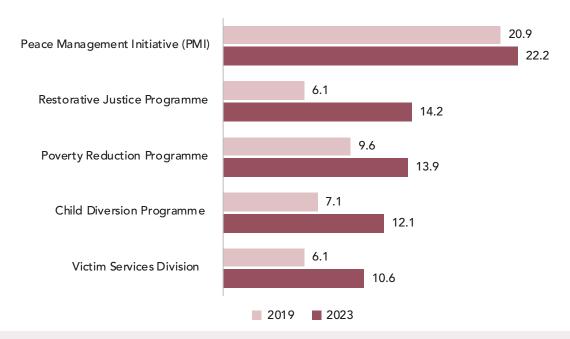


Figure 9.5. Effectiveness of Social Intervention Measures

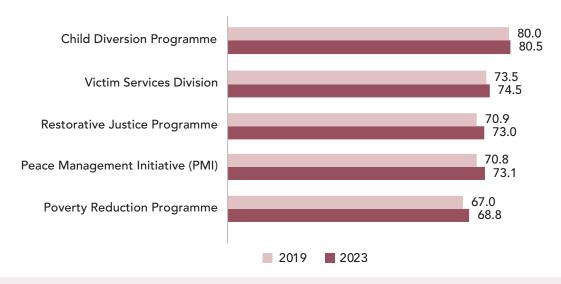


Figure 9.6. Reliability of Social Intervention Measures

⁶⁹ Benard, A. (2011). An Evaluation of the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, Royal Barbados Police Force by The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) for The National Task Force on Crime Prevention (NTFCP).

In 2023, 12.1 per cent of respondents were knowledgeable about the functions of the Child Diversion Programme, reflecting an increase from 2019, when 7.1 per cent (148,559 individuals) of the population were aware of the programme (Figure 9.4). Similar to 2019 (82.1%), the 2023 survey, as shown in Figure 9.5, indicated that the CDP had the highest proportion of respondents who considered it effective (81.8%). In terms of reliability, 80.5 per cent of respondents believed they were, up from the 80.0 per cent who shared that belief in 2019.

Poverty Reduction Programme

The 4th phase of the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP-IV) introduced in March 2018 aligns with the National Policy on Poverty and aims to reduce national poverty to below 10.0 per cent by 2030. The activities in this program build upon and continue the initiatives started under PRP-II and PRP-III, which ended in 2013 and 2016, respectively. The programme addresses poverty at the household, community and national level. By providing a coordinated and systematic approach to poverty reduction, the PRP minimizes duplication, addresses coverage gaps, enhances monitoring, evaluation, and accountability, and strengthens partnerships. The PRP encompasses five programme areas, each designed to influence and reduce the prevalence of poverty in Jamaica through their respective initiatives. The programme is expected to address extreme poverty and basic needs, economic empowerment and human psychosocial, cultural, development, normative advancement, basic community infrastructure, and institutional strengthening.

Figure 9.4 shows an improvement in the level of awareness concerning the functions of the PRP-

IV, with the proportion of knowledgeable individuals growing to 13.9 per cent (296,611) in 2023, compared to 9.6 per cent (202,527) in 2019. The proportion of the population that considered the PRP-IV effective was 68.2 per cent in 2023, an increase from 67.3 per cent in 2019. There was also an increase in the proportion of the population that viewed the programme as reliable (68.8%) compared to 67.0 per cent 2019 (Figure 9.6).

Peace Management Initiative (PMI)

The Peace Management Initiative (PMI), formed in 2002, operates in six parishes, covering more than 60 communities and aims to reduce and resolve community violence. The PMI engages in three primary areas of activity: mediation, counselling, and social development. Through mediation, PMI works to resolve conflicts and disputes within communities, foster peaceful resolutions and prevent escalation of disputes. The counselling services provided by PMI offer emotional and psychological support to individuals affected by violence. PMI's social development initiatives also aim to address the underlying social issues that contribute to violence. There have been comparable programmes that have employed a multifaceted approach focused on building strong, trusted relationships with community members and participants, especially those at risk of engaging in or being affected by violence. By fostering these connections and working closely with atrisk individuals, such programmes have had notable success in crime prevention.⁷⁰

The 2023 JNCVS indicated that 22.2 per cent of the population was knowledgeable about the functions of the PMI, an increase from 20.9 per cent in 2019 (Figure 9.4). There was an increase in the number of respondents who perceived the

⁷⁰ Amaning, A., & Bashir, H. (2022, June 15). Community-Based violence interventions: Proven strategies to reduce violent crime. Center for American Progress; Center for American Progress.

PMI to be effective in 2023 (73.2%) compared to 2019 (72.3%) (Figure 9.5). Perceived reliability of the PMI increased from 70.8 per cent in 2019 to 73.1 per cent in 2023.

Other Community Programmes

Community Renewal Programme (CRP)

Established in 2011, the Community Renewal Programme (CRP) is a strategic initiative designed to augment service provision in 100 of Jamaica's most volatile and vulnerable communities. The programme targets sustainable, positive change through interventions in six thematic areas: Social Transformation, Socio-economic Development, Governance, Youth Development, Physical Transformation, and Safety and Justice. Focused on communities in St. James, Clarendon, St. Catherine, Kingston, and St. Andrew, the CRP seeks to foster inclusive growth and equitable development by improving the socio-economic well-being and quality of life for residents. The CRP Secretariat, situated within the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), is responsible for coordinating and supervising initiatives socio-economic aimed development, governance enhancement, and improved safety and justice. The European Union has supported the CRP Secretariat's capacity-building efforts since 2015 through its Poverty Reduction Programme.

Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal)

Project STAR is a collaborative initiative led by the PSOJ and the JCF launched on June 1, 2022. The project's primary objective is to stimulate social and economic development in resourcedeprived areas. The project's methodology is rooted in collaboration and community consulimplementation tation, ensuring the community-identified needs and solutions. Project STAR collaborates with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, the private sector, and the Jamaican diaspora, to link communities with essential services and resources. The initiative places a strong emphasis on a rigorous feedback and review process to ensure the relevance and community ownership of projects. Through collective action and accountability, Project STAR aspires to create a Jamaica where every individual is valued and has the opportunity to thrive. As illustrated by Figure 9.7, a small



Figure 9.7. Public Awareness of the Community Renewal Programme and Project STAR

proportion of the population was aware of these programmes, with only 5.0 per cent knowing about the functions of the Community Renewal Programme and 6.2 per cent being aware of Project STAR.

Among respondents familiar with the functions of the Community Renewal Programme and Project STAR, 66.3 per cent perceived the Community Renewal Programme as effective, while 61.2 per cent held the same view regarding Project STAR. Nearly seventy per cent (69.3%) of respondents considered the Community Renewal Programme to be reliable, whereas 58.0 per cent perceived Project STAR as reliable (Figure 9.8).

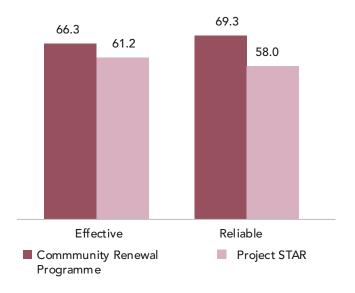


Figure 9.8. Effectiveness and Reliability of the Community Renewal Programme and Project STAR

Summary of Findings

Several initiatives have been established over the years to enhance Jamaicans' safety and security. These social intervention programmes primarily strive to mitigate crime and violence, working in tandem with other security measures. The 2023 JNCVS assessed public opinion on nine such measures, focusing on public awareness, effectiveness, and reliability. Regular assessment ensures accountability and fosters a greater sense of responsibility among implementing agencies.

The SOE and ZOSO are strategic responses to severe crime, violence, or unrest, empowering law enforcement with expanded authorities to dismantle criminal networks and restore security. While awareness of SOE functions decreased, understanding of ZOSO functions increased. Most respondents knowledgeable about these measures believed they were effective, though perceived effectiveness and reliability declined. Social intervention programmes aim to address systemic issues contributing to social inequalities

and enhance community safety and cohesion. The Victim Services Division (VSD) provides therapeutic interventions for crime victims with increased awareness and perceived reliability. The Restorative Justice Programme (RJP) fosters peace through community involvement with increased awareness and effectiveness. The Child Diversion Programme (CDP) aims to rehabilitate children involved in criminal activities, maintaining high perceived effectiveness and reliability.

The survey data shows that the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP-IV) which aligns with national poverty reduction goals, had improved public awareness and perceived reliability. The Peace Management Initiative (PMI) which focuses on reducing community violence through mediation, counselling, and social development, also increased perceived effectiveness and reliability.

10. 'Liv Gud' Campaign

The 'Liv Gud' initiative, spearheaded by the MNS, is a national anti-violence campaign designed to rouse public action against violence in its diverse manifestations. Launched in September 2019, the campaign promotes harmonious living within a milieu of unity and communal solidarity. It encompasses a spectrum of activities in schools and communities that collectively denounce violence while advocating for public order, respect for the sanctity of life, and encouraging positive societal values and attitudes. In addition to a vibrant media campaign, several murals have been created in communities nationwide under this initiative.

The 2023 JNCVS sought to evaluate respondents' level of awareness and exposure to the 'Liv Gud' campaign, aiming to gather insights into its reach and impact. This chapter, therefore, explores public awareness and gauges the effectiveness of the 'Liv Gud' campaign.

Public Awareness of the Campaign

The 'Liv Gud' campaign is a comprehensive initiative that underscores the transformative potential of community development and public inclusivity. The campaign aimed to foster a spirit of togetherness and collaboration within communities to attain sustainable development and peace. This is particularly noteworthy in the context of Jamaica's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which underscores the country's efforts to create a peaceful and inclusive society at every level. The 'Liv Gud' campaign is pivotal in fostering this vision within the Jamaican society.



During the survey, respondents were asked if they had ever seen or heard of the 'Liv Gud' campaign implemented by the MNS. The findings in Figure 10.1 revealed that only 11.5 per cent of the respondents (242,857) had seen

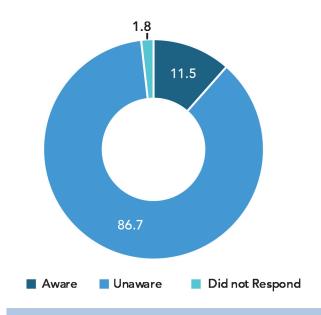


Figure 10.1. Awareness of the 'Liv Gud'
Campaign

or heard of the 'Liv Gud' campaign. This indicates that, given the initiative's nearly five-year history, there appears to be considerable potential for enhancement.

Individuals acquainted with the campaign were prompted to provide an assessment of the efforts made by the MNS in promoting the 'Liv Gud' campaign. The campaign's community-

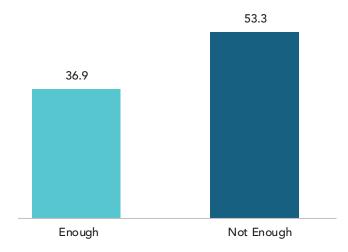


Figure 10.2. Public's Opinion on MNS' Effort in Promoting the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

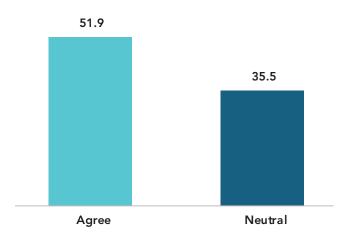


Figure 10.3. Public Assessment of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

centric activities are tailored to bolster resilience across Jamaican communities, particularly in locales earmarked for peace-building initiatives. The campaign considers the diverse needs of community members and ensures their involvement at all levels. Figure 10.2 illustrates that 36.9 per cent (89,589) of respondents acknowledged that the MNS's efforts in promoting the 'Liv Gud' campaign was enough, whereas 53.3 per cent (129,538) believe that the promotional attempts were insufficient.

Public Assessment of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

The survey instrument sought to gauge the extent to which the respondents who were aware of the 'Liv Gud' campaign thought the campaign had encouraged Jamaicans to respect life. The campaign is dedicated to establishing a peaceful environment where citizens can thrive, pursue their professions, and raise their families. It seeks to cultivate a culture of respect within Jamaican society, fostering an atmosphere where individuals can coexist harmoniously.

Of the respondents who were aware of the campaign, a little over one-half (51.9%) agreed that the campaign did an excellent job of encouraging citizens to respect life, as depicted in Figure 10.3.

Public's Opinion on the Impact of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

The survey sought to determine the type of impact the 'Liv Gud' campaign had on the respondent's behaviour. Through its commitment to promoting peace, the campaign incorporates strategies to initiate peace and reduce crime rates across the country.

The survey findings indicated a slight disparity in participants' views regarding the 'Liv Gud' campaign's impact, with 44.2 per cent believing it had a positive effect and 47.7 per cent believing it had no impact (Figure 10.4). The 'Liv Gud' campaign has integrated numerous strategies to promote peace and combat violence across all levels of society.

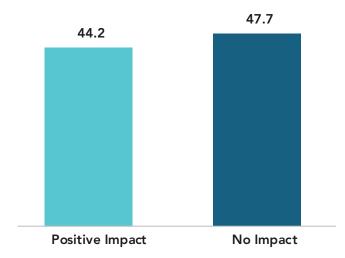


Figure 10.4. Public's Opinion on the Impact of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

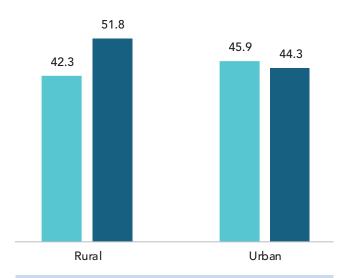


Figure 10.5. Public's Opinion on the Impact of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign by Area of Residence

Community-level impact is one of the main strategies in implementing behaviour change and citizen engagement through the 'Liv Gud' campaign. It includes an inclusive environment in which all areas are targeted. Figure 10.5 provides an evaluation of the public's opinion on the impact of the 'Liv Gud' campaign by areas of residence.

When analysing the perception of the campaign's impact based on area of residence, it was revealed that 45.9 per cent of respondents residing in urban areas perceived the campaign to have a positive impact, while 44.3 per cent reported no impact. Notably, two in every five (42.3%) respondents in rural areas believed the campaign had a positive impact, while one-half of the respondents within rural areas, 51.8 per cent, stated there was no impact. The findings indicate a need for the MNS to intensify its efforts in engaging the rural population of Jamaica in the 'Liv Gud' Campaign.

To further explore demographic characteristics to provide a broader perspective the effectiveness of the 'Liv Gud' campaign was disaggregated by sex.

A breakdown of the demographics, as seen in Figure 10.6 revealed that out of the respondents who believed the campaign had a positive impact, 46.7 per cent were female, compared to 41.3 per cent who were male. Interestingly, among the respondents who believed there was no impact, there was a 4.2 percentage points difference between males and females, with 50.0 per cent of males and 45.8 per cent of females expressing this view. Recent studies have shown that there is a higher inclination towards violence among men as compared to women. Men are more prone to engaging in physical or armed assaults, particularly targeting other males.⁷¹ Regrettably, this trend is also evident in Jamaica. Consequently, this insight could be leveraged by the MNS to implement a gender-specific

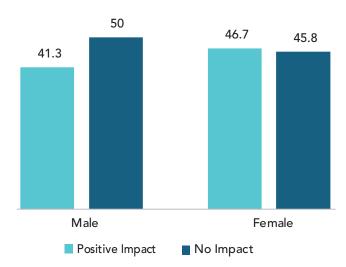


Figure 10.6. Public's Opinion on the Impact of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign by Sex

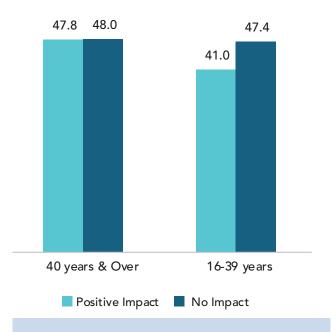


Figure 10.7. Public's Opinion on the Impact of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign by Age Group

approach in their campaign promotion efforts. The age discrepancy among survey respondents who held either positive or no perceptions regarding the impact of the 'Liv Gud' campaign was also examined.

Analysis depicted in Figure 10.7 revealed that 47.8 per cent of respondents aged 40 and above perceived that the 'Liv Gud' campaign predominantly had a positive impact, while 41.0 of respondents aged 16-39 years acknowledged a positive impact. Furthermore, 48.0 per cent of respondents aged 40 and above reported that they believed the campaign had no impact, similar to the 47.4 per cent of the 16-39 age group who expressed the same view. Notably, the data indicated that individuals of both age groups were inclined to believe that the campaign positively influenced citizen behaviour.

The two main reasons cited by respondents as to why the campaign had either positively impacted their behaviour or did not were: firstly, they believed they were already good neighbours, living well and respecting life; and secondly, the campaign had positively influenced their behaviour by teaching them how to live better, respect others and live good with their neighbours.

Suggested Strategies to Augment Awareness of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

To gauge public sentiment regarding the campaign's promotion, survey participants were asked what the Ministry can do to boost awareness of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign. It's important to highlight that respondents could propose multiple strategies. An analysis of the survey findings revealed that 57.5 per cent identified television as a key medium for raising awareness about the 'Liv Gud' campaign (Figure

10.8). Research indicates that television commercials are the most effective form of communication during a campaign.⁷² Radio and Social Media influencers (41.3% and 40.3%, respectively) were also identified as significant channels for increasing awareness. A study revealed that influencers are highly effective in rapidly raising awareness for campaigns through their extensive network of followers.⁷³ Furthermore, the study emphasised that influencer marketing facilitates the targeting of specific groups, making it easier to reach the desired audience.

Diversity in approach when promoting behavioural change is essential, as it recognises that distinct segments of the population resonate with different communication channels. McGuire et al. noted that campaigns are more likely to achieve their objectives when various methods are employed to secure publicity. Additionally, understanding the characteristics of the intended audience is crucial for determining the most effective promotional tactics for the campaign.

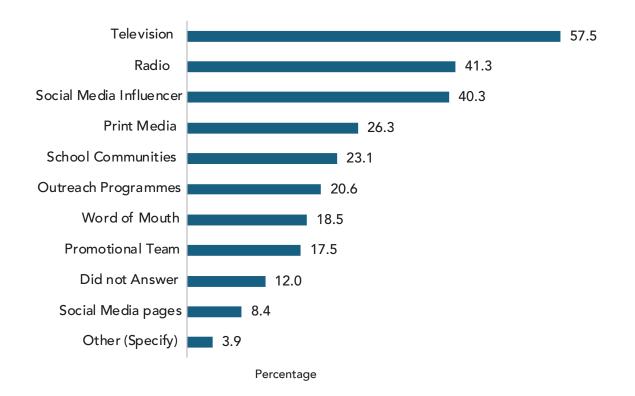


Figure 10.8. Public's Opinion on how MNS can Increase Awareness of the 'Liv Gud' Campaign

⁷² Meester, W. J., & Pellenbarg, P. H. (2001). Changing regional images; are regional marketing campaigns successful? Www.econstor.eu; Louvain-la-Neuve: European Regional Science Association (ERSA). https://hdl.handle.net/10419/115175

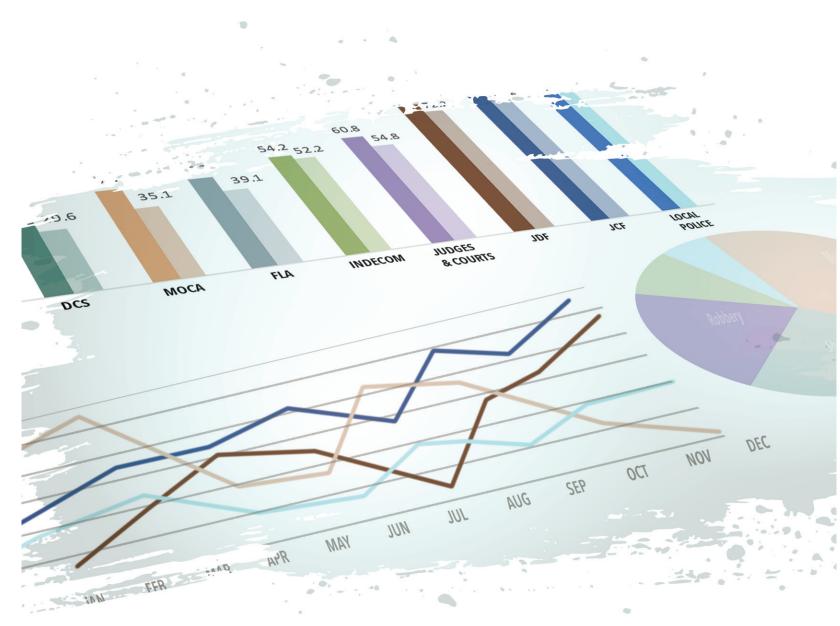
Mohammed E-Sayed, D. A. (2021). Influencers Marketing Via social media and its Role in Enhancing the Competitive Advantage. https://doi.org/10.21608/mjaf.2021.86911.2411

Summary of Findings

The 'Liv Gud' initiative, launched by the MNS in September 2019, is a national anti-violence campaign promoting harmonious living and communal solidarity. It includes activities in schools and communities, a vibrant media campaign, and murals nationwide. The 2023 JNCVS evaluated public awareness and the campaign's impact, revealing that a small percentage of respondents were aware of it. Those familiar with the campaign assessed the Ministry's promotional efforts, with many finding them insufficient.

The campaign aims to foster respect for life and reduce violence through community-based approaches. Public opinion on the campaign's impact was mixed, with some seeing positive effects and others seeing none. The campaign's effectiveness varied by demographics, with males more likely to perceive a positive impact. Suggested strategies to boost awareness included using television, radio, and social media influencers, emphasising the need for diverse communication channels to reach different population segments.

A little over one-half (51.9%) agreed that the campaign did an excellent job of encouraging citizens to respect life.



Conclusion

This report, based on the 2023 Jamaica National Crime Victimisation Survey (JNCVS), provides a comprehensive analysis of crime victimisation, public perceptions of safety and security, and views on the performance of authorities and various social intervention programmes and security measures in Jamaica. The findings offer valuable insights for policy formulation, resource allocation, and public awareness campaigns. This chapter summarises the key conclusions and provides general recommendations for future research and targeted policy interventions.

The 2023 JNCVS, conducted by the STATIN and funded by the MNS, aligns with the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Statistics Initiative (LACSI) methodology. The survey utilized a multi-stage stratified cluster probability sample design to arrive at a sample of 3,294 dwellings across Jamaica to produce estimates representative nationally and regionally. The methodology called for one eligible respondent to be selected from each household. A total of 2,335 individuals participated in the survey, representing a response rate of 84.8 per cent.

The survey reveals fluctuations in crime victimisation between 2019 and 2023. Some crimes, such as domestic burglary, bribery and bank fraud increased, while others, like physical assault and injuries, decreased. The report distinguishes between household and personal victimisation. Based on the survey findings, in the 12-month reference, urban areas experienced higher household crime rates, while rural areas saw a rise in personal crimes. Robbery (theft with violence) and larceny (theft without violence) were the most common crimes reported. The survey highlights the personal financial burden of crimes such as robbery, larceny, bank fraud,

and consumer fraud. Crime incidents go unreported due to beliefs about police inertia, distrust and mistrust in the police, fear of reprisal, and lack of evidence.

Public perception of safety has improved in certain areas, such as at home and in personal vehicles, but concerns remain regarding safety, especially in public spaces. Concerns about becoming a victim of crime, particularly robbery and vehicle theft, were prevalent. Perceptions varied across locations concerning changes in crime, with many respondents perceiving that crime had increased.

The survey measured public awareness and knowledge of various justice and security agencies, revealing higher familiarity with those directly interacting with the public, such as the local police and the JCF. However, the public trust and perceived reliability in agencies like the JCF, the DCS, local police and the FLA, although improved, has scope for improvement. The survey explored perceptions of corruption within justice and security agencies, indicating concerns about corruption levels within certain institutions, such as the JCF, DCS, FLA and local police.

The public expressed mixed views on police effectiveness in carrying out various law enforcement duties, with higher approval for enforcing the law and patrolling the streets and lower ratings for dealing with public complaints. In light of this, areas for targeted policy intervention include enhancing police-community relations to improve trust and crime reporting. Initiatives that focus on community policing, transparency in law enforcement, and responsive mechanisms to address public complaints. Strengthening anti-corruption measures within justice and security institutions is also vital. By addressing these recommendations and focusing on targeted policy interventions, Jamaica can continue to progress toward achieving a safer, more secure, and just society for all citizens.

The report explores crime prevention strategies employed by households, finding that a majority implemented security measures like installing burglar bars or reinforcing doors. Individuals reported modifying their behaviours to enhance safety, including minimising the amount of cash carried, altering travel routines, and restricting children's unsupervised outdoor activities due to concerns about crime. A notable portion of respondents believed having a gun increased their sense of security, highlighting complex linkages between firearms and perception of safety.

Social intervention programmes and security measures vary in their perceived effectiveness and reliability. The perceived effectiveness and reliability of Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) and State of Emergency (SOE) have declined. At the same time, initiatives like the Restorative Justice Programme (RJP) and the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP-IV) have improved. Further in-depth studies on the effectiveness and impact of social intervention programmes and are crucial. security measures Rigorous evaluations can help identify successful strategies, areas for improvement, and optimal resource allocation.

The 2023 JNCVS paints a complex picture of crime and safety in Jamaica. While some positive trends are observed, the survey underscores ongoing challenges and the need for continued research and efforts to address crime, improve public safety, and strengthen public trust in justice and security institutions. Comprehensive crime prevention initiatives must be developed and implemented, focused on community-based and individual-level strategies. Strengthening trust and communication between the police and communities is crucial to encourage crime reporting and enhance collaborative crimefighting efforts. Additionally, investing in the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system is vital to ensure accountability and reduce corruption.

Concerns about becoming a victim of crime,
particularly robbery and vehicle theft, were prevalent.

Perceptions varied across locations concerning changes in crime,
with many respondents perceiving that crime had increased.

Annex I

Tables

Table 3.2. Per cent of Population by Level of Safety in Specific Locations (%) 74

Location		20	19		2023					
	Safe		Unsaf	e	Safe		Unsaf	e		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Home	1,899,678	90.3	198,609	9.4	1,939,887	91.9	171,401	8.1		
Workplace	1,147,072	87.1	165,307	12.5	1,218,446	88.0	165,766	12.0		
Educational institution	154,094	83.1	27,896	15.0	182,242	92.5	14,839	7.5		
Market	1,068,425	71.9	407,934	27.4	1,089,712	68.5	501,837	31.5		
Shopping centre	1,376,356	80.8	321,212	18.9	1,356,498	77.3	398,262	22.7		
Bank	1,343,170	80.9	312,999	18.9	1,158,110	68.6	529,716	31.4		
ATM on the street	760,844	56.3	585,584	43.3	735,308	47.2	822,636	52.8		
Recreational Park	638,043	77.4	182,806	22.2	681,037	72.3	260,937	27.7		
Taxi	1,297,632	71.1	514,665	28.2	1,216,396	70.8	500,845	29.2		
Other public transportation	1,249,736	75.0	406,240	24.4	1,058,874	73.5	382,538	26.5		
Bar/Club	458,205	70.2	189,556	29.0	409,469	62.8	242,806	37.2		
Church	1,591,271	97.8	33,219	2.0	1,623,951	97.2	47,508	2.8		
Personal vehicle	521,806	90.0	52,527	9.1	672,498	92.3	55,790	7.7		
Other location	35,231	54.2	29,721	45.8	26,240	63.6	15,008	36.4		

⁷⁴ The table excludes the population that responded, "Does not know/Did not answer".

Table 3.3. Per cent of Male Population by Level of Safety in Specific Locations

Location	2019	•	2023	3	2019		2023	
		Sa	ıfe			Uns	afe	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Home	944,633	91.4	960,637	93.5	86,006	8.3	67,016	6.5
Workplace	616,341	87.5	679,839	90.0	85,283	12.1	75,524	10.0
Educational institution	66,396	81.8	73,609	92.1	13,570	16.7	6,346	7.9
Market	517,153	75.4	504,663	73.6	164,668	24.0	181,174	26.4
Shopping centre	686,714	83.3	671,082	80.2	135,810	16.5	165,526	19.8
Bank	674,771	83.5	591,143	74.4	130,443	16.1	203,179	25.6
ATM on the street	410,539	61.6	414,778	57.4	253,473	38.0	308,303	42.6
Recreational Park	327,761	79.0	356,722	78.1	86,303	20.8	100,018	21.9
Taxi	657,784	74.3	604,624	75.6	220,175	24.9	194,793	24.4
Other public transportation	615,654	76.2	530,476	78.1	186,423	23.1	148,790	21.9
Bar/Club	300,678	74.1	307,250	67.9	102,468	25.2	144,996	32.1
Church	720,102	97.4	712,297	97.7	15,850	2.1	16,442	2.3
Personal vehicle	270,215	90.2	342,006	91.3	25,841	8.6	32,588	8.7
Other location	17,682	59.0	16,056	72.7	12,281	41.0	6,025	27.3

Table 3.4. Per cent of Female Population by Level of Safety in Specific Locations

Location	2019		2023	}	2019)	2023	
		Sa	ıfe			Uns	afe	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Home	955,046	89.3	979,249	90.4	112,603	10.5	104,385	9.6
Workplace	530,731	86.6	538,607	85.6	80,025	13.1	90,242	14.4
Educational institution	87,698	84.1	108,633	92.7	14,327	13.7	8,493	7.3
Market	551,272	68.8	585,049	64.6	243,265	30.4	320,663	35.4
Shopping centre	689,642	78.5	685,416	74.7	185,402	21.1	232,736	25.3
Bank	668,399	78.4	566,967	63.5	182,555	21.4	326,537	36.5
ATM on the street	350,306	51.1	320,530	38.4	332,110	48.5	514,333	61.6
Recreational Park	310,283	75.7	324,315	66.8	96,502	23.5	160,919	33.2
Taxi	639,848	68.1	611,772	66.7	294,490	31.3	306,052	33.3
Other public transportation	634,082	73.9	528,398	69.3	219,817	25.6	233,747	30.7
Bar/Club	157,527	63.8	102,219	51.1	87,088	35.3	97,811	48.9
Church	871,170	98.0	911,655	96.7	17,369	2.0	31,066	3.3
Personal vehicle	251,591	89.9	330,492	93.4	26,686	9.5	23,202	6.6
Other location	17,550	50.2	10,184	53.1	17,441	49.8	8,983	46.9

Table 3.5. Per cent of Urban Population by Level of Safety in Specific Locations

Location	2019		2023	3	2019	7	2023		
		Saf	fe			Un	safe		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Home	1,013,144	89.4	995,893	90.9	116,706	10.3	99,713	9.1	
Workplace	619,150	87.5	620,848	86.5	86,094	12.2	96,638	13.5	
Educational institution	93,465	81.7	108,465	94.6	18,022	15.8	6,165	5.4	
Market	562,043	70.0	527,774	64.8	237,158	29.6	287,118	35.2	
Shopping centre	753,128	81.6	723,958	77.2	167,086	18.1	214,288	22.8	
Bank	748,621	81.4	631,108	67.0	170,292	18.5	310,497	33.0	
ATM on the street	422,868	55.3	403,436	45.1	339,944	44.5	491,918	54.9	
Recreational Park	367,401	76.5	370,885	71.0	111,655	23.2	151,338	29.0	
Taxi	649,621	68.2	555,730	67.9	297,742	31.3	263,085	32.1	
Other public transportation	679,165	77.6	515,208	73.0	191,337	21.9	190,469	27.0	
Bar/Club	243,540	72.8	208,415	61.1	88,229	26.4	132,622	38.9	
Church	832,421	97.5	829,248	95.1	19,144	2.2	43,097	4.9	
Personal vehicle	299,996	89.8	423,429	92.3	31,919	9.6	35,455	7.7	
Other location	19,801	46.0	9,947	73.5	23,209	54.0	3,583	26.5	

Table 3.6. Per cent of Rural Population by Level of Safety in Specific Locations

Location	2023		2019		2023		2019	
		Sa	afe			Uns	afe	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Home	943,994	92.9	886,534	91.3	71,688	7.1	81,903	8.4
Workplace	597,598	89.6	527,921	86.6	69,128	10.4	79,213	13.0
Educational institution	73,777	89.5	60,629	85.3	8,674	10.5	9,874	13.9
Market	561,937	72.4	506,382	74.0	214,719	27.6	170,776	25.0
Shopping centre	632,540	77.5	623,228	79.8	183,973	22.5	154,126	19.7
Bank	527,001	70.6	594,549	80.2	219,219	29.4	142,707	19.3
ATM on the street	331,872	50.1	337,976	57.5	330,719	49.9	245,640	41.8
Recreational Park	310,152	73.9	270,643	78.6	109,599	26.1	71,151	20.7
Taxi	660,665	73.5	648,011	74.3	237,760	26.5	216,923	24.9
Other public transportation	543,665	73.9	570,571	72.2	192,068	26.1	214,903	27.2
Bar/Club	201,054	64.6	214,665	67.4	110,185	35.4	101,326	31.8
Church	794,704	99.4	758,851	98.0	4,412	0.6	14,075	1.8
Personal vehicle	249,069	92.5	221,810	90.3	20,335	7.5	20,608	8.4
Other location	16,293	58.8	15,431	70.3	11,425	41.2	6,513	29.7

Table 3.7. Level of Safety Walking Alone in Community during the Day by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

Demographic	2019	9	2023	3	2019)	2023	3	2019)	202	3
		Sa	afe		Unsafe				Did Not Answer			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Respondent Sex												
Male	920,894	92.2	917,723	89.2	74,881	7.5	79,292	7.7	3,223	0.3	31,375	3.1
Female	915,752	89.8	896,433	82.7	103,116	10.1	119,870	11.1	423	0	67,764	6.3
					Age gro	up						
16 - 24 years	313,064	92.4	301,163	91.3	25,717	7.6	22,389	6.8	0	0	6,153	1.9
25 - 39 years	552,058	90.1	580,733	86.0	59,080	9.6	69,203	10.2	1,488	0.2	25,674	3.8
40 - 59 years	612,766	91.3	573,917	87.4	56,554	8.4	68,835	10.5	2,017	0.3	13,765	2.1
60 years and older	358,759	90.7	358,344	79.5	36,646	9.3	38,735	8.6	141	0	53,547	12.0
				Α	rea of Resi	idenc	е					
Rural	880,307	94.4	904,963	89	50,143	5.4	74,140	7.3	1,726	0.2	37,316	3.7
Urban	956,340	88.1	909,193	83	127,854	11.8	125,022	11.4	1,884	0.2	61,824	5.6

Table 3.8. Level of Safety Walking Alone in Community during the Night by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

Demographic	2019	7	2023	3	2019	2019 2023			2019		2023	
		Sa	ıfe		Unsafe				Did Not Answer			
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Respondent Sex												
Male	668,840	73.2	703,839	68.4	240,256	26.3	238,829	23.2	4,198	0.5	85,722	8.3
Female	588,150	65.9	562,613	51.9	300,709	33.7	313,476	28.9	3,918	0.4	207,978	19.2
				Age g	roups fron	า 16 y	ears					
16 - 24 years	208,520	64.2	209,022	63.4	115,521	35.5	89,392	27.1	957	0.3	31,291	9.5
25 - 39 years	392,528	68.6	419,465	62.1	176,010	30.8	203,829	30.2	3,689	0.6	52,316	7.7
40 - 59 years	435,443	72.1	394,773	60.1	165,453	27.4	184,453	28.1	2,870	0.5	77,291	11.8
60 years and older	220,499	72.3	243,192	54.0	83,980	27.5	74,632	16.6	600	0.2	132,802	29.5
				Aı	ea of Resi	dence						
Rural	617,633	75.5	662,527	65.2	196,185	24.0	207,020	20.4	4,046	0.5	146,871	14.4
Urban	639,357	64.7	603,925	55.1	344,780	34.9	345,285	31.5	4,070	0.4	146,829	13.4

Table 3.9. Safety of Community for Children by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

Demographic	2019)	2023		2019		2023		2019		2023	
		Yes			No				Did not answer			
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
					Respondent	t Sex						
Male	855,927	82.8	887,298	86.3	147,434	14.3	117,104	11.4	30,679	3.0	23,988	2.3
Female	865,007	80.9	870,137	80.3	168,232	15.7	170,827	15.8	36,383	3.4	43,104	4.0
				Age	groups from	16 y	ears					
16 - 24 years	272,761	79.2	282,155	85.6	63,483	18.4	37,177	11.3	7,963	2.3	10,373	3.1
25 - 39 years	507,247	80.1	561,738	83.1	110,608	17.5	100,100	14.8	15,153	2.4	13,773	2.0
40 - 59 years	567,826	82.6	538,756	82.1	95,928	13.9	92,373	14.1	24,022	3.5	25,387	3.9
60 years and older	373,100	85.1	374,785	83.2	45,646	10.4	58,282	12.9	19,925	4.5	17,559	3.9
					Area of Resi	dence	;					
Rural	854,158	88.0	874,329	86.0	88,660	9.1	114,929	11.3	28,185	2.9	27,160	2.7
Urban	866,776	76.5	883,105	80.6	227,006	20.0	173,002	15.8	38,877	3.4	39,932	3.6

Table 3.10. Possibility of Becoming a Victim of Crime within the next 12 months by Sex, Age Group and Area of Residence

Demographic	2019)	2023	}	2019	9	2023	3	2023	}	2019)
		Υ	'es		No			Did not answer				
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
				R	esponden	t Sex						
Male	71,476	6.9	65,180	6.3	854,154	82.6	914,243	88.9	108,410	10.5	48,968	4.8
Female	68,668	6.4	64,215	5.9	882,998	82.6	950,608	87.7	117,956	11.0	69,244	6.4
			,	Age g	roups fror	n 16 y	ears					
16 - 24 years	13,019	3.8	10,877	3.3	307,054	89.2	302,438	91.7	24,134	7.0	16,389	5.0
25 - 39 years	50,013	7.9	53,936	8.0	523,255	82.7	586,378	86.8	59,740	9.4	35,296	5.2
40 - 59 years	54,560	7.9	43,522	6.6	543,436	79.0	574,143	87.5	89,780	13.1	38,851	5.9
60 years and older	22,552	5.1	21,060	4.7	363,408	82.8	401,891	89.2	52,711	12.0	27,675	6.1
Area of Residence												
Rural	72,728	7.5	60,796	6.0	788,374	81.2	892,164	87.8	109,901	11.3	63,459	6.2
Urban	67,415	6.0	68,600	6.3	948,779	83.8	972,687	88.7	116,465	10.3	54,753	5.0

Tables^{75,76}

Table 8.1A. Public Perception of Police Work in Enforcing the Law (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	29.3	37.0	30.6	3.2
2009	26.6	41.8	28.3	3.2
2013	33.7	42.6	21.5	2.2
2016	32.4	46.7	18.7	2.2
2023	30.1	48.4	18.8	2.7

Table 8.1B. Public Perception of Police Work in Responding Quickly When Called (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	19.9	29.9	45.1	5.0
2009	18.2	36.6	38.3	6.9
2013	25.4	38.1	32.2	4.2
2016	24.1	43.5	28.9	3.6
2023	21.9	41.1	31.5	5.5

Table 8.1C. Public Perception of Police Work in Being Approachable and Easy to Talk to. (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Does not Answer
2006	26.3	42.7	27.7	3.3
2009	25.1	44.4	25.9	4.5
2013	30.2	46.6	20.6	2.6
2016	29.4	47.4	20.9	2.3
2023	30.4	48.9	17.0	3.6

 $^{75\,}$ The questions displayed in the tables were not included in the 2019 JNCVS.

⁷⁶ Use "Does not know/Did not answer' with caution due to low count and/or high variability.

Table 8.1D. Public Perception of Police Work in Supplying Crime Prevention Information. (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	17.4	30.5	44.1	8.1
2009	13.2	34.1	42.4	10.3
2013	21.9	37.2	34.5	6.5
2016	21.8	41.2	31.4	5.6
2023	18.1	38.1	34.4	9.4

Table 8.1E. Public Perception of Police Work in Ensuring Public or Community Residents Safety. (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	29.0	35.8	30.4	4.8
2009	26.1	42.8	27.4	3.8
2013	35.5	43.0	18.9	2.7
2016	33.4	45.1	19.2	2.3
2023	27.8	43.2	24.7	4.4

Table 8.1F. Public Perception of Police Work in Treating People Fairly and with Respect (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	18.3	41.5	36.4	3.8
2009	17.6	45.2	33.6	3.5
2013	26.0	47.1	25.0	2.0
2016	25.9	47.1	24.7	2.3
2023	24.3	45.8	26.5	3.4

Table 8.1G. Public Perception of Police Work in Patrolling the Streets or Neighbourhood (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	31.8	36.2	29.4	2.6
2013	42.6	36.7	19.0	1.7
2016	36.9	41.3	19.6	1.9
2023	29.8	36.8	30.3	3.1

Table 8.1H. Public Perception of Police Work in Managing or Fighting Criminal Gangs (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	19.4	35.1	34.8	10.6
2013	26.9	40.0	24.7	8.2
2016	24.0	42.2	26.1	7.6
2023	19.2	36.7	32.0	12.2

Table 8.11 Public Perception of Police Work in Preventing Police Brutality (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	10.1	31.7	50.1	8.0
2013	20.9	41.0	32.4	5.8
2016	21.0	41.5	29.9	7.7
2023	16.4	39.1	31.4	13.2

Table 8.1J. Public Perception of Police Work in Preventing Police Corruption (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	7.9	27.0	56.6	8.5
2013	17.4	36.8	39.1	6.8
2016	17.4	37.8	36.2	8.5
2023	11.7	33.7	41.2	13.4

Table 8.1K. Public Perception of Police Work in Dealing with Public Complaints (2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2023 JNCVS Results).

	Good Job	Average Job	Poor Job	Does not Know / Did not Answer
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	12.2	44.6	36.6	6.6
2013	21.0	46.6	27.6	4.8
2016	20.0	46.2	27.9	6.0
2023	20.1	46.2	26.2	7.6

ANNEX IIDistribution of Actual Sample Dwellings and PSUs, by Stratum – 2023 JNCVS

Parish	Sample Dwellings (All)			Sample PSUs (All)		
Fallsii	Urban	Rural	ALL	Urban	Rural	ALL
Kingston	108	-	108	6	-	6
St. Andrew	576	72	648	32	4	36
St. Thomas	54	72	126	3	4	7
Portland	36	72	108	2	4	6
St. Mary	54	90	144	3	5	8
St. Ann	90	126	216	5	7	12
Trelawny	36	54	90	2	3	5
St. James	162	90	252	9	5	14
Hanover	36	54	90	2	3	5
Westmoreland	72	126	198	4	7	11
St. Elizabeth	36	144	180	2	8	10
Manchester	108	126	234	6	7	13
Clarendon	144	162	306	8	9	17
St. Catherine	468	126	594	26	7	33
ALL	1,980	1,314	3,294	110	73	183

Annex III:

National Crime Victimisation Survey Indicators

This section of the report presents tables related to the National Crime Victimisation Survey indicators, based on the LACSI methodology provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The tables were compiled using individual weights, calculated from the 2019 mid-year population estimates. These tables focus on individuals aged 18 years or older at the time of the survey.

Level of Victimisation

1A.Population aged 18 and over by Geographic Area, by Condition of Victimisation of at Least One Crime (excluding homicide), November 2022 - October 2023

Geographic Area	Population aged 18	Condition of victimisation of at least one crime ²				
	years and over ¹	Vict	ims	Non victims		
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	2,032,837	337,385	16.6	1,695,452	83.4	
Urban	1,062,623	183,866	17.3	878,758	82.7	
Rural	970,213	153,519	15.8	816,694	84.2	

¹ Includes population identified as females (1,040,415) and males (992,422)

² JNCVS measures 13 different types of crime, namely: Motor-vehicle theft, Theft of motor-vehicle parts, Theft of objects from inside the motor vehicle, Motorcycle/Motorbike theft, Domestic burglary, Robbery, Theft (Larceny), Bank fraud, Consumer Fraud, Bribery, Physical Assault and Injury, Threats and Extortion. Homicide is not included in this estimation.

1B. Population aged 18 and Over Victims of at Least One Crime¹, by Geographic Area and Sex, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic	Female Population	Condition of victimisation					
Area	aged 18 years and over Victims N		Victims		victims		
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage		
Jamaica	1,040,415	163,427	15.7	876,988	84.3		
Urban	558,255	95,321	17.1	462,934	82.9		
Rural	482,160	68,106	14.1	414,054	85.9		

Geographic	Male Population	ale Population Condition of victimisation				
Area	aged 18 years and over	Vict	tims	Non	victims	
	and over	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	992,422	173,958	17.5	818,464	82.5	
Urban	504,368	88,545	17.6	415,823	82.4	
Rural	488,053	85,413	17.5	402,640	82.5	

¹ *JNCVS* measures 13 different types of crime, namely: Motor-vehicle theft, Theft of motor-vehicle parts, Theft of objects from inside the motor vehicle, Motorcycle/Motorbike theft, Domestic burglary, Robbery, Theft (Larceny), Bank fraud, Consumer Fraud, Bribery, Physical Assault and Injury, Threats and Extortion. Homicide is not included in this estimation.

1C. Population aged 18 and Over Victims of at Least One Crime by Sex and Type of Crime, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area Type of Crime	Population aged 18 years and over	Sex of Victim			
		Fer	male	Ma	ale
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	2,032,837	163,427	8.0	173,958	8.6
Acts against Property Only		36,779	1.8	42,040	2.1
Robbery or Larceny		73,926	3.6	73,078	3.6
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery		42,477	2.1	46,746	2.3
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries		42,607	2.1	46,816	2.3

Geographic Area Type of Crime	Population aged 18 years and		Sex of V	ictim/	
	Over Victim of	Fer	male	Male	
	at Least One Crime	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	337,385	163,427	48.4	173,958	51.6
Acts against Property Only	78,818	36,779	46.7	42,040	53.3
Robbery or Larceny	147,003	73,926	50.3	73,078	42.0
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	89,223	42,477	47.6	46,746	52.4
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries	89,423	42,607	47.6	46,816	52.4

1D. Victims by Geographic Area, by Number of Crimes Experienced and by Average Number of Crimes per Victim by Sex, November 2022 to October 2023.

Geographical	Total No. of Victims				Average Number of Crimes per Victim				
Area	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Jamaica	337,385	163,427	173,958	554,213	270,242	283,971	1.6	1.7	1.6
Urban	183,866	95,321	88,545	288,814	147,991	140,823	1.6	1.6	1.6
Rural	153,519	68,106	85,413	265,398	122,251	143,148	1.7	1.8	1.7

1E. Victims by Geographic Area, by Number of Crimes Experienced per Victim, November 2022 to October 2023.

	Population Aged 18 and	Number of Crimes Suffered per Victim					
Geographical Area	over Victim of at least	One C	Crime	Two or Mo	re Crimes		
	One Crime	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage		
Jamaica	337,385	205519	60.9	131,865	39.1		
Urban	183,866	128187	69.7	55,679	30.3		
Rural	153,519	77333	50.4	76,187	49.6		

2. Crime Reporting

2A. Crimes occurred by geographic area, by status of reporting to any competent authority, November 2022 - October 2023.

		Condition of	of Reporting to	Any Competent	t Authority
Geographical	Crimes	Repo	rted	Not Re	ported
Area	occurred	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	554,213	214,759	38.8	336,775	60.8
Urban	288,814	116,082	40.2	171,005	59.2
Rural	265,398	98,677	37.2	165,770	62.5

2B. Crimes occurred by type, by status of reporting to any competent authority, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographical Area	Crimes	Rep	ported	Not Reported	
	occurred	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	554,213	214,759	38.8	336,775	60.8
Acts against Property Only	98,852	54,734	55.4	43,733	44.2
Robbery or Larceny	184,915	54,408	29.4	129,849	70.2
Bank Fraud, Consumer Fraud or Bribery	124,686	40,080	32.1	83,921	67.3
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries	145,759	65,536	45.0	79,271	54.4

3. Characteristics of the Offender

3A. Robbery, Physical Assault & Injury or Threat, by geographic area, by number of offenders that the victim could identify, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area	Crimes where the Victim	Number of offenders that the victim could identify ¹				
	Could Identify	Or	ne	Two or	more	
	the Offender(s)	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	172,319	121,218	70.3	51,101	29.7	
Urban	87,811	56,693	64.6	31,118	35.4	
Rural	84,507	64,525	76.4	19,983	23.6	

Note 1: Not included are respondents who indicated "Don't know' or "Refused to answer'.

3B. Robbery, Physical Assault & Injury or Threat, by sex of the offender(s), November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic	Crimes where		Offender(s)		
Area	the Victim was Present	Men	only	At least o	ne Woman
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	175,084	143,436	81.9	28,882	16.5

3C. Robbery, Physical Assault & Injury or Threat, by the condition of the perpetrator of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area	Crimes where the Victim was Present	Condition of the Perpetrator of Being Under the Influence of Alcohol or Other Drugs			
	Total	Ye	es	N	0
		Absolute Percentage Absolute Percentage			Percentage
Jamaica	175,084	*	*	142,829	81.6

An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which had a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%). Only those estimates with a CV of 20 per cent or lower are reported while estimates with a CV above 20 per cent are excluded.

4. Characteristics of the Crimes

4A. Crimes Occurred, by Type of Crime, by Geographic Location, November 2022 - October 2023.

			Geographic	Location	
Geographic Area	Crimes Occurred	In yo		Other	location
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica	330,674				
Robbery or Larceny	184,915	146,806	79.4	38,110	20.6
Threat, Extortion or Physical Assault & Injuries	145,759	117,363	80.5	28,395	19.5

4B. Robbery or Larceny by Type of Stolen Object, November 2022 - October 2023.

Type of stolen object	Total number of robbery or	Frequency ¹		
,	larceny	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	184,915			
Mobile phone or other electronic equipment		66,385	35.9	
Money or jewellery		53,731	29.1	
Crops or livestock ²		37,940	20.5	
Others		59,879	32.4	

Note 1: Respondents may have chosen more than one option.

Note 2: Crops and livestock were only stolen during larceny incidents.

5. Perception of Public Safety

5A. Percentage of Population Aged 18 and Over That Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood During the Day, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic	Population aged 18	Perception of safely walking alone in their neighbourhood in the day				
Area	years and over	Safe		Unsafe		
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	1,936,884	1,740,481	89.9	193,216	10.0	
Urban	1,003,987	878,896	87.5	121,903	12.1	
Rural	932,898	861,585	92.4	71,313	7.6	

5B. Percentage of Population Aged 18 and Over That Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood During the Day, by Sex, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area	Female	Perception of safely walking alone in their neighbourhood in the day					
	Population aged 18 years and	Sa	fe	Unsafe			
7 11 0 0	over ¹	Absolute Percenta	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage		
Jamaica	974,905	858,727	88.1	113,923	11.7		
Urban	519,447	436,784	84.1	80,409	15.5		
Rural	455,458	421,944	92.6	33,514	7.4		

Geographic Area	Male Population	Perception of safely walking alone in their neighbourhood in the					
	aged 18 years	Sa	fe	Unsafe			
71100	and over	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage		
Jamaica	961,979	881,754	91.7	79,292	8.2		
Urban	484,540	442,112	91.2	41,494	8.6		
Rural	477,439	439,641	92.1	37,798	7.9		

Note 1: Includes population that responded, "Does not know / does not answer"; excludes population that responded, "Does not apply".

5C. Percentage of Population Aged 18 and Over That Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Sex, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area	Population	Perception of safely walking alone in their neighbourhood in the night					
	aged 18 years and over	Sa	fe	Unsafe			
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage		
Jamaica	1,754,286	1,218,351	69.4	533,065	30.4		
Urban	922,835	584,900	63.4	335,065	36.3		
Rural	831,451	633,451	76.2	197,999	23.8		

5D. Percentage of Female Population Aged 18 and Over That Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Sex, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic	Female Population	Perception of so	afely walking ald	one in their neigh	nbourhood in	
Area	aged 18 years	Sa	fe	Unsafe		
	and over	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	845,021	539,393	63.8	304,412	36.0	
Urban	461,361	265,129	57.5	195,015	42.3	
Rural	383,660	274,264	71.5	109,397	28.5	

5E. Percentage of Male Population Aged 18 and Over That Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Sex, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic	Male Population	Perception of s	afely walking ald	one in their neigl	hbourhood in	
Area	aged 18 years	Sa	fe	Unsafe		
	and over	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
Jamaica	909,265	678,958	74.7	228,653	25.1	
Urban	461,474	319,771	69.3	140,050	30.3	
Rural	447,790	359,188	80.2	88,603	19.8	

Note 1: Includes population that responded, "Does not know / does not answer"; excludes population that responded, "Does not apply".

5F. Percentage of Female Population Aged 18 and over, by Geographic Area and Daily Activities, by the Condition of Having Stopped Doing Them Because of the Security Context, November 2022 - October 2023.

		Yes		No	
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica					
Stopped going out at night	797,694	185,777	23.3	606,981	76.1
Stopped letting your child/ children go out alone	464,636	139,969	30.1	321,130	69.1
Stopped visiting relatives or friends	985,136	47,020	4.8	937,132	95.1
Stopped taking taxis	875,667	*	*	853,353	97.5
Stopped taking other public transportation	743,397	*	*	718,650	96.7
Stopped carrying a lot of cash	823,887	339,448	41.2	482,593	58.6
Stopped going to your educational institution	84,606	*	*	79,064	93.5
Stopped going to the cinema or theatre	359,531	*	*	329,595	91.7
Stopped going out for a walk	911,223	129,642	14.2	779,735	85.6
Stopped wearing jewellery	764,681	108,287	14.2	654,799	85.6
Stopped going to bars/clubs	204,348	32,838	16.1	171,509	83.9
Stopped carrying credit or debit cards	836,172	*	*	816,446	97.6
Stopped going to sporting events	562,123	53,130	9.5	507,831	90.3
Stopped going to shopping malls/plazas	878,642	*	*	862,081	98.1
Stopped taking alternate routes (shortcuts, back roads)	684,589	217,386	31.8	466,041	68.1
Stopped going home late	809,989	205,396	25.4	603,935	74.6
Moved to another dwelling or another place of residence	973,123	*	*	961,541	98.8
Any Other Change of Habit	1,040,415	*	*	1,029,066	98.9

Note 1: Includes population that responded, "Does not know / does not answer"; excludes population that responded, "Does not apply".

An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which had a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%). Only those estimates with a CV of 20 per cent or lower are reported while estimates with a CV above 20 per cent are excluded.

5G. Percentage of Male Population Aged 18 and Over, by Geographic Area and Daily Activities, by the Condition of Having Stopped Doing Them Because of the Security Context, November 2022 - October 2023.

Geographic Area	Male Population	Condition of having stopped doing the dail activity because of the security context			
Daily activity	aged 18 and over ¹	Yes		No	
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
Jamaica					
Stopped going out at night	867,834	142,325	16.4	724,952	83.5
Stopped letting your child/ children go out alone	219,898	53,442	24.3	164,249	74.7
Stopped visiting relatives or friends	956,447	39,235	4.1	917,212	95.9
Stopped taking taxis	758,471	*	*	745,083	98.2
Stopped taking other public transportation	656,308	*	*	632,550	96.4
Stopped carrying a lot of cash	813,932	241,103	29.6	570,322	70.1
Stopped going to your educational institution	63,351	*	*	55,950	88.3
Stopped going to the cinema or theatre	308,662	*	*	274,710	89.0
Stopped going out for a walk	919,281	81,897	8.9	836,576	91.0
Stopped wearing jewellery	607,688	68,615	11.3	539,073	88.7
Stopped going to bars/clubs	474,331	39,845	8.4	433,678	91.4
Stopped carrying credit or debit cards	718,363	*	*	696,094	96.9
Stopped going to sporting events	723,799	45,004	6.2	677,988	93.7
Stopped going to shopping malls/plazas	810,269	*	*	794,713	98.1
Stopped taking alternate routes (shortcuts, back roads)	795,593	178,035	22.4	615,856	77.4
Stopped going home late	882,069	150,646	17.1	731,077	82.9
Moved to another dwelling or another place of residence	935,148	*	*	920,418	98.4
Any Other Change of Habit	992,422	*	*	980,430	98.8

Note 1: Includes population that responded, "Does not know / does not answer"; excludes population that responded, "Does not apply".

An asterisk (*) indicates estimates which had a low precision according to the Coefficient of Variation - CV (%). Only those estimates with a CV of 20 per cent or lower are reported while estimates with a CV above 20 per cent are excluded.

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