

# THE PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

BOURNE, P. A.<sup>1\*</sup> – FOSTER, C.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Education and Training, Vocational Training and Development Institute, Kingston, Jamaica.*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Northern Caribbean University, Manchester, Jamaica.*

*\*Corresponding author  
e-mail: paulbourne1[at]gmail.com*

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**Abstract.** Perpetrators of sexual violence are fully responsible for their criminal actions and have no excuse for sexually victimizing familiar and unfamiliar victims using their influence and aggression. Sexual violence perpetrators are partners and non-partners-community members. The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) provided the data for this study. This research examined sexual violence committed in Jamaica and the arrests made from January 1, 2010, to November 20, 2023. This study evaluates the perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica using a hybrid conceptual framework. The data was recorded, stored, and retrieved using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows, Version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel. The significance level used to determine statistical significance was less than 5% (0.05) at the 2-tailed significance level. The findings revealed that students (23.6%) committed most of the sexually violent acts in Jamaica, followed by those who are unemployed (14.0%), labourers/construction workers (11.1%), farmers (4.3%), and taxi operators (3.4%). The statistics revealed that students were the most arrested perpetrators for carnal abuse (24.0%), rape (16.4%), and having sexual intercourse with someone less than 16 years old (31.0%). The public health problem of sexual violence is complex, and its solution cannot be addressed with a simple magic wand.

**Keywords:** *sexual abuse, sexual violence, sexual perpetrators, criminal actions*

## Introduction

Perpetrators of sexual violence are fully responsible for their criminal actions and have no excuse for sexually victimizing familiar and unfamiliar victims using their influence and aggression. Sexual violence perpetrators are partners and non-partners-community members. In a study conducted by RAINN Web Portal (2023), perpetrators were strangers (19%), acquaintances (39%), spouses (33%), multiple known or unknown individuals (6%), and relatives (2.5%). Also, the previously mentioned article indicated that the age groups of perpetrators were: 30 years and above (50%), 21-29 years (25%), 18-20 years (9%), and 17 years or lower (15%). Worldwide, perpetrators have been reported to sexually victimize fifteen million teenage girls between 15 and 19 years old, with the majority reporting that they experienced forced penetration (United Nations Women, 2024). Perpetrators engaging in multiple-person sexual assault (battery) are younger and are usually not acquainted with their victims (Morgan et al., 2012). Morgan et al. (2012) also indicated that the age group of perpetrators of multiple-person sexual assault is between 9 years and 36 years, with the average being 14 years. Evidence of 28% and 27% of perpetrators committing sexual violence were reported in two South African studies in a developing nation that has low-to-middle income (Dartnall and Jewkes, 2013). Hamby (2014) indicated that males are the predominant

perpetrators of sexual violence, exhibiting aggression in both partner and non-partner sexual victimization (Walters et al., 2013).

The Caribbean countries are experiencing a public health crisis with the perpetrating of sexual violence predominantly by men against women. Jamaica has the third highest rate (51/100000) of sexual violence cases behind the Bahamas (133/100000) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (112/100000) perpetrated youth and juveniles in the Caribbean (Wiltshire, 2012). Also, the previously mentioned author indicated that Jamaican men believe aggression and power are critical traits to show their masculinity and manhood and to ensure discipline and that sexual violence is acceptable to control women (Wiltshire, 2012). Perpetrators utilized sexual violence against 12% of the women in Jamaica (Lundwall and Wie, 2015). ACOG (2016) indicated that the perpetrating of sexual violence by men between 16 and 24 years has increased the prevalence of childhood pregnancy. Lundwall and Wie (2015) suggested that young perpetrators between the ages of 16 and 30 years utilized sexual violence to force half of all Jamaicans into committing the first sexual penetration. A recent study conducted in five CARICOM countries, including Jamaica, indicated that sexual violence by partners was being perpetrated against 27 to 40 percent of women (Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, 2023). This study evaluates the perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica using a hybrid conceptual framework.

### ***Conceptual framework***

The study of human aggression has expanded since it was first published some 29 years ago. Aggression is an anti-social behavior in which the person shows a lack of emotional concern for the welfare, including the well-being of others (Baron and Richardson, 1994). This definition of human aggression or aggression highlights a psychological state as well as the biological and cultural underpinnings of the perpetrator (Haidu and Vlaicu, 2019). The nature of the definition of aggression speaks to the multidimensional nature of the phenomenon, and so this study used a hybrid conceptual framework. The conceptual framework draws on three theories. These theories are: (1) Social Cognitive Theory, (2) Drive Theory, and (3) Mechanistic theory. Albert Bandura developed the social cognitive theory, which proposes that human behavior is a composite of interactions with personal factors, environmental influences, and behavioral patterns (Bandura, 1986; 1977a; 1977b). Bandura believed that one's behavior is influenced by the social environment in which people are socialized and their social experiences. People are, therefore, agents of the social environment, and their culture helps to fashion the individual. This emphasizes observational learning in human behavior or learning through experience, which offers an understanding of the role of imitation in learning. This takes the discussion to the other theory, the Drive Theory. What is in the social environment that drives someone to be aggressive? Sigmund Freud's theory on aggression was widely criticized by scholars (Haidu and Vlaicu, 2019). Haidu and Vlaicu (2019) opined, "In particular, the notion of spontaneity in aggression, that is, the endogenous build-up of aggressive energy, has been dismissed". This led to a group of scholars at Yale University re-labeling the energy concept as the 'drive concept,' which saw the development of the frustration-aggression hypothesis (Dollard et al., 1939).

The frustration-aggression hypothesis led to many quantitative studies, and a scientific framework was laid for the factors that influence this phenomenon as well as the establishment of a relationship between frustration and aggression (Dennen, 2005;

Parker et al., 1995; Dollard et al., 1939). The frustration-aggression hypothesis proposes that frustration directly influences aggressive behavior, and this was questioned by some scholars (Buss, 1963; Bandura et al., 1961; Pastore, 1952). Buss (1963) found, "Although frustration elicited aggression, the effect was slight. This was explained by the mode of aggression (physical) and the fact that it had no instrumental value in overcoming frustration. It was suggested that [the] instrumental value of aggression is a major determiner of the frustration-aggression relationship". Bandura was of the view that internal determinants were inferred from the frustration-aggression hypothesis or 'Drive Theory,' and that was not the case. To explain his perspective, Bandura offered the concept of pseudo-explanations. He opined, "It should be emphasized here that it is not the existence of motivated behavior that is being questioned, but rather whether such behavior is explained by ascribing it to the action of drives or other inner forces" (Bandura, 1977b). This offered some truth to the frustration-aggression hypothesis that a relationship between two factors does not imply that one causes another. The questioning of the frustration-aggression hypothesis has only gone to concretize that frustration is associated with aggression. This means that human aggression is influenced by frustration and does not necessarily drive it.

The Drive Theory offers some explanation for the complex nature of human aggression, but it is limited in fulsome account. Another theory that can augment the explanation is the mechanistic theory. The mechanistic theory of aggression forwards a cybernetic concept of the nervous system. Haidu and Vlaicu (2019) were of the view that "... behavioral differences of an organism are the result of the social contexts in which the organism "worked" previously". Hull (1943) believed that the formulation of habits of human behavior is affected by the need or tendency of a primary or secondary reaction. He indicated that the primary tendencies of an organic nature (i.e., food, sexual needs, et cetera) account for the emergence of nerve impulses, which aid the specialized receptors (glands or muscles) to trigger the reaction in the human body. This can be referred to as conditioned reflexes. According to Haidu and Vlaicu (2019), "...the success of these reactions will produce the habit formation". Hull believed that the reactions are measurable and that their parameters reflect the affective state of the organism.

## **Materials and Methods**

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) provided the data for this study. This research examined sexual violence committed in Jamaica and the arrests made from January 1, 2010, to November 20, 2023. The data was recorded, stored, and retrieved using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows, Version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel. The significance level used to determine statistical significance was less than 5% (0.05) at the 2-tailed significance level. The data were analyzed using percentages, probability, annual percentage change, cross-tabulations, and rate per 100,000 population.

### ***Data validity***

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has instituted a robust surveillance system that tracks, monitors, records, and validates major crimes committed and arrests made in Jamaica. The surveillance system is constantly assessed and updated daily to ensure that

major crimes are accurately recorded. The purpose of this dataset is for national planning and record-keeping in an attempt to monitor this phenomenon.

### ***Definition of terms***

**Sexual violence:** Carribean Sub-Regional Office (2023) opined, "Sexual Violence Acts of a sexual nature against one or multiple persons or that influence such person or persons to enter into an act of a sexual nature by force, threat or coercion; Sexual violence is attributable to the trepidation of incarceration, violence, intimidation, consternation, psychological oppression or debasement, or by capitalizing on a person's incapacity to give genuine consent. Forms of sexual violence include rape, attempted rape, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation, child pornography, child prostitution, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced public nudity, forced virginity testing, and other challenges.

**Rape:** According to the United Nations, "Rape Penetration-even if slightly-penetration of the anal or genital opening of a person's body by the penis and does not give consent to the invasion of their genital or anal opening or body part".

**Sex with a minor:** The United Nations postulated, "Sex with a minor is Sexual penetration of a person younger than 18. Sexual penetration includes (s) the penetration by the penis of the vagina, anus, or mouth by the penis or other body parts. Also, it includes the penetration of the vagina or anus by an object. Sexual penetration of a child is prohibited regardless of the age of 7 majorities or consents locally and is considered as sexual abuse. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense". However, in Jamaica, rape is defined as "(I) A man commits the offense of rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman; (a) without the woman's consent; and (b) knowing that the woman does not consent to sexual intercourse or recklessly not caring whether the woman consents or not. (2) For subsection (I), consent shall not be treated as existing where the apparent agreement to sexual intercourse is: (a) extorted by physical assault or threats or fear of physical assault to the complainant or a third person; Of (B) obtained by false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act or the identity of the offender" (Gender Equality Observatory Web Portal, 2023). Furthermore, the Sexual Offense Act of 2009 opined, "sexual intercourse" means the penetration of the vagina of one person by the penis of another person" (Gender Equality Observatory Web Portal, 2023). Additionally, in Jamaica, a minor is someone who is less than 18 years; Still, concerning the sexual offense, the victim must be less than 16 years (Gender Equality Observatory Web Portal, 2023), and "(I) A husband commits the offense of rape against his wife if he has sexual intercourse with his wife in any of the circumstances specified in subsection (3)-(a) without her consent; and (b) knowing that she does not consent to sexual intercourse or recklessly not caring whether she consents or not" (Gender Equality Observatory Web Portal, 2023). In Jamaica, carnal abuse is "having carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 15" (Miller, 2014). However, as of 2014, the definition used is sexual intercourse with some less than 16 years old (Linton, 2023).

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**Results and Discussion**

Figure 1 depicts the sexual acts for which perpetrators have been arrested in Jamaica from January 1, 2010, to November 20, 2023. For the studied period, 4,864 men have been arrested for rape in Jamaica (46.6%), 4,794 men were arrested for sexual intercourse with a female under 16 years, and 782 men have been arrested for carnal abuse (7.5%). Table 1 presents the percentage of those who have been arrested for sexual violence committed in Jamaica by parishes as well as police divisions. The statistics revealed that 18.3% of the perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica were arrested in St. Catherine, particularly St. Catherine North. Figure 2 depicts, or Table 2 presents, the percentage of perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica by Police Area. Of the number of perpetrators, the majority of them were arrested in Area 5 (32.3%-St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North), with Area 2 having the least number of arrests (12.0%-St. Ann, St. Mary and Portland). There have been cases of sexual violence committed in Jamaica from 1976 to which no arrests were made by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) before 2010. No interpretations should be made from Table 3 that an arrest made by the members of the JCF is directly associated with the time it was committed. Such an interpretation can only be had from a cross-tabulation, which is provided later in the analysis of this study. The statistics revealed that most of the sexual violence committed in Jamaica was in January (11.8%), with the highest arrested being in May (10.1%) (Table 4).

**Table 1.** Parish/Police division by arrested perpetrators of sexual violence committed in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Percentage [%] (Frequency, N)
Kingston	9.0 (938)
Kingston Eastern	3.9 (408)
Kingston Central	1.8 (189)
Kingston Western	3.3 (341)
St. Andrew	15.8 (1652)
St. Andrew Central	3.4 (351)
St. Andrew North	4.9 (515)
St. Andrew South	7.5 (786)
St. Thomas	9.1 (949)
Portland	3.7 (388)
St. Mary	4.7 (488)
St. Ann	3.6 (375)
Trelawny	4.1 (433)
St. James	6.6 (689)
Hanover	3.4 (351)
Westmoreland	5.7 (595)
St. Elizabeth	3.2 (338)
Manchester	5.0 (523)
Clarendon	7.8 (811)
St. Catherine	18.3 (1908)
St. Catherine North	10.2 (1063)
St. Catherine South	8.1 (845)

**Table 2.** Police area the perpetrators of sexual violence were arrested in Jamaica.

Police area	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Area 1 (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, & Westmoreland)	2068	19.8%

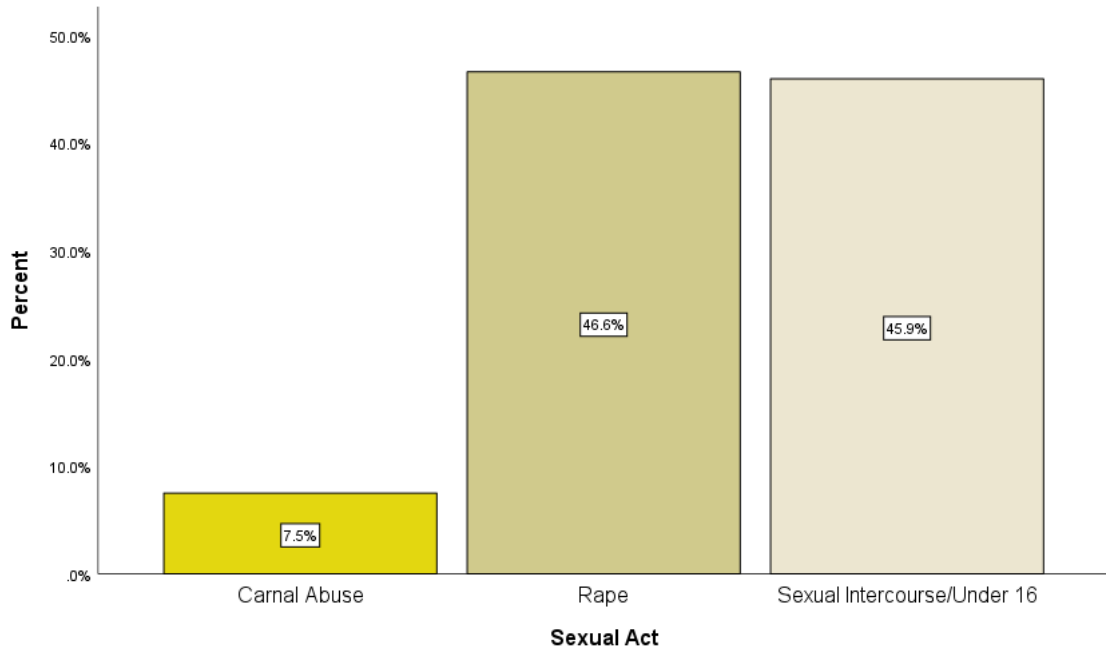
Area 2 (St. Ann, St. Mary, & Portland)	1251	12.0%
Area 3 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, & Clarendon)	1672	16.0%
Area 4 (Kingston, St. Andrew Central, & St. Andrew South)	2075	19.9%
Area 5 (St. Catherine, St. Thomas, & St. Andrew North)	3372	32.3%

**Table 3.** Year the perpetrator of sexual violence was committed & arrest made by police in Jamaica (N=10,438).

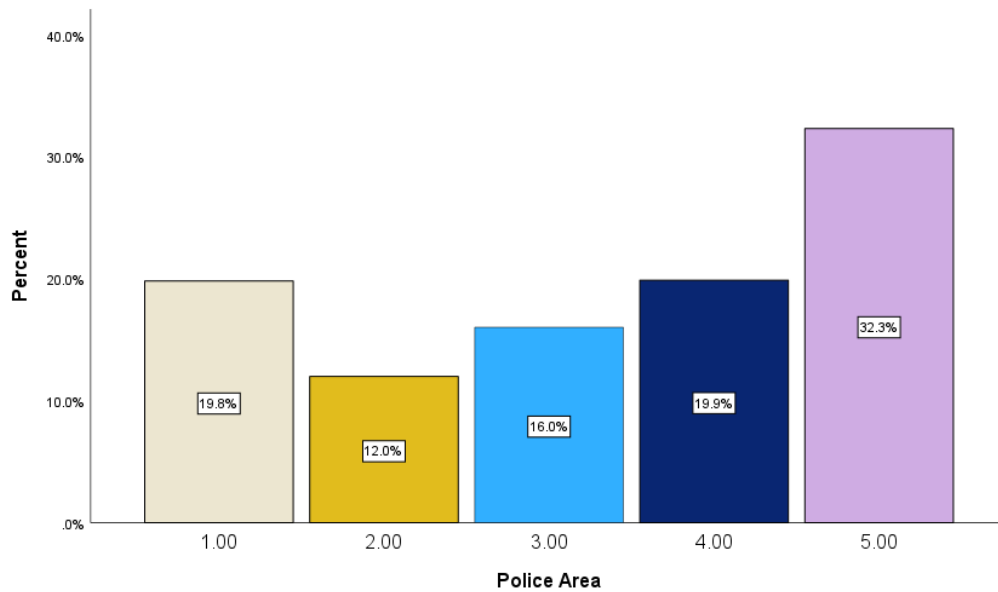
Category	Committed	Committed rate/100K	Arrested	Arrested rate/100K
1976	-	0.00958 (1)	-	-
1983	-	0.00958 (1)	-	-
1993	-	0.00958 (1)	-	-
1997	-	0.00958 (1)	-	-
1998	-	0.028741 (3)	-	-
1999	-	0.019161 (2)	-	-
2000	-	0.00958 (1)	-	-
2001	2,604,100	0.047902 (5)	0.192	-
2002	2,615,200	0.028741 (3)	0.115	-
2003	2,625,700	0.028741 (3)	0.114	-
2004	2,638,100	0.019161 (2)	0.076	-
2005	2,650,400	0.114965 (12)	0.453	-
2006	2,663,100	0.067063 (7)	0.263	-
2007	2,675,800	0.095804 (10)	0.374	-
2008	2,687,200	0.450278 (47)	1.749	-
2009	2,695,600	0.900556 (94)	3.487	-
2010	2,695,543	7.118222 (723)	26.822	5.7 (590)
2011	2,699,838	9.005557 (940)	34.817	8.6 (902)
2012	2,707,805	9.206745 (961)	35.490	8.9 (929)
2013	2,714,669	9.369611 (978)	36.026	9.4 (981)
2014	2,720,554	8.267867 (863)	31.721	8.7 (912)
2015	2,725,288	8.133742 (849)	31.153	8.7 (911)
2016	2,728,149	6.0548 (632)	23.166	6.0 (622)
2017	2,728,654	5.5662 (581)	21.293	5.6 (584)
2018	2,727,503	6.677524 (697)	25.555	6.1 (632)
2019	2,813,773	7.137383 (745)	26.477	7.2 (747)
2020	2,820,436	6.505078 (679)	24.074	7.0 (726)
2021	2,827,695	5.911094 (617)	21.820	6.6 (687)
2022	2,827,377	5.259628 (549)	19.417	5.8 (607)
2023	2,825,544	3.937536 (411)	14.546	5.8 (608)

**Table 4.** Month the perpetrators of sexual violence were committed & arrest made by police in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Committed [% (N)]	Arrested [% (N)]
January	11.8 (1231)	8.1 (846)
February	8.8 (916)	8.8 (921)
March	9.4 (981)	9.3 (969)
April	8.6 (893)	9.3 (974)
May	9.1 (949)	10.1 (1056)
June	8.3 (870)	9.6 (1005)
July	7.7 (802)	8.6 (895)
August	7.1 (741)	7.1 (736)
September	6.8 (714)	7.2 (749)
October	7.6 (789)	8.8 (914)
November	6.9 (723)	7.3 (759)
December	7.9 (829)	5.9 (614)



**Figure 1.** Sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators.



**Figure 2.** Police area the perpetrators of sexual violence was arrested in Jamaica.

The various sexual violence perpetrated by people in Jamaica is based on those from different occupational types. *Table 5* revealed that students (23.6%) committed most of the sexually violent acts in Jamaica followed by those who are unemployed (14.0%), labourers/construction workers (11.1%), farmers (4.3%), and taxi operators (3.4%). *Table 6* presents a cross-tabulation between occupational type and the type of sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=44)=477.995$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that students were the most arrested perpetrators for carnal abuse (24.0%), rape (16.4%), and having sexual intercourse with someone less than 16 years old (31.0%). Unemployed men were the

second most arrested perpetrators of carnal abuse (16.0%), rape (13.3%), and having sexual intercourse with someone under 16 years (14.4%). *Table 7* presents a cross-tabulation between parish/police division and the type of sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=36)=408.906$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that men in St. Thomas were the most arrested perpetrators for carnal abuse (12.3%) and having sexual intercourse with someone less than 16 years (11.8%), and men in St. Catherine North for rape (10.3%). Unemployed men were the second most arrested perpetrators of carnal abuse (16.0%), rape (13.3%), and having sexual intercourse with someone under 16 years (14.4%). *Table 8* presents a cross-tabulation between the year the arrest was made and the type of sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=26)=3813.934$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that 2011 saw the most arrested perpetrators for carnal abuse (46.3%) and rape (8.9%), and 2013 for the most for having sexual intercourse with someone less than 16 years (11.0%). *Table 9* presents a cross-tabulation between the year the act was committed and the type of sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=56)=4662.148$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that in 2010 most arrested perpetrators committed carnal abuse (49.9%), 2013 for rape (9.1%), and in 2012 as well as 2013 the most for having sexual intercourse with someone less than 16 years (11.2%). *Table 10* presents a cross-tabulation between the month the act was committed and the month the arrest was made for the committed sexual act in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=121)=14244.024$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that most of the sexual violence committed against females in Jamaica was not arrested in the month in which it was committed by the perpetrators. *Table 11* presents a cross-tabulation between the year the sexual act was committed, and the year the arrest was made for the committed sexual act in Jamaica. The chi-square statistical test revealed that there was a significant relationship between the two variables ( $\chi^2(DF=169)=74324.464$ ,  $p\text{-value}<0.001$ ). The statistics revealed that in most of the sexual violence committed against females in 2010, an arrest was made in the same year (99.8%), and this rate has been declining since that time.

**Table 5.** *Self-reported occupation of arrested perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica, (N=10,438).*

Category	N	%
Vendor	250	2.4
Unemployed	1464	14.0
Tiler	52	0.5
Taxi Operator	357	3.4
Student	2467	23.6
Security Guard	123	1.2
Police	59	0.6
Painter	52	0.5
Musician	16	0.2
Mechanic	213	2.0
Mason	190	1.8



Labourer/Construction Worker	1162	11.1
Fisherman	71	0.7
Farmer	487	4.7
Electrician	70	0.7
Bus Driver	142	1.4
Chef	131	1.3
Carpenter	116	1.1
Barber	70	0.7
Bus Conductor	93	0.9
Businessman	107	1.0
Teacher	43	0.4
Other	2703	25.9

**Table 6.** A Cross-tabulation between occupational type and sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Carnal abuse		Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Vendor	22	2.8	131	2.7	97	2.0	250	2.4
Unemployed	125	16.0	648	13.3	691	14.4	1464	14.0
Tiler	6	0.8	27	0.6	19	0.4	52	0.5
Taxi Operator	33	4.2	208	4.3	116	2.4	357	3.4
Student	188	24.0	795	16.4	1484	31.0	2467	23.6
Security Guard	11	1.4	76	1.6	36	0.8	123	1.2
Police	7	0.9	37	0.8	15	0.3	59	0.6
Painter	8	1.0	27	0.6	17	0.4	52	0.5
Musician	3	0.4	13	0.3	0	0.0	16	0.2
Mechanic	22	2.8	114	2.3	77	1.6	213	2.0
Mason	19	2.4	99	2.0	72	1.5	190	1.8
Labourer/Construction Worker	114	14.6	554	11.4	494	10.3	1162	11.1
Fisherman	8	1.0	48	1.0	15	0.3	71	0.7
Farmer	32	4.1	275	5.7	180	3.8	487	4.7
Electrician	7	0.9	37	0.8	26	0.5	70	0.7
Bus Driver	13	1.7	73	1.5	56	1.2	142	1.4
Chef	9	1.2	75	1.5	47	1.0	131	1.3
Carpenter	9	1.2	71	1.5	36	0.8	116	1.1
Barber	6	0.8	37	0.8	27	0.6	70	0.7
Bus Conductor	14	1.8	28	0.6	51	1.1	93	0.9
Businessman	6	0.8	71	1.5	30	0.6	107	1.0
Teacher	4	0.5	14	0.3	25	0.5	43	0.4
Other	116	14.8	1404	28.9	1183	24.7	2703	25.9
Total	782	100	4862	100	4794	100	10438	100

**Table 7.** A Cross-tabulation between police division and sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Carnal abuse		Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kingston Eastern	32	4.1	152	3.1	224	4.7	408	3.9
Kingston Central	11	1.4	96	2.0	82	1.7	189	1.8
Kingston Western	19	2.4	157	3.2	165	3.4	341	3.3
St. Andrew Central	16	2.0	184	3.8	151	3.1	351	3.4
St. Andrew North	37	4.7	246	5.1	232	4.8	515	4.9
St. Andrew South	42	5.4	328	6.7	416	8.7	786	7.5
St. Thomas	96	12.3	287	5.9	566	11.8	949	9.1
Portland	34	4.3	172	3.5	182	3.8	388	3.7
St. Mary	42	5.4	225	4.6	221	4.6	488	4.7
St. Ann	26	3.3	234	4.8	115	2.4	375	3.6
Trelawny	39	5.0	193	4.0	201	4.2	433	4.1
St. James	49	6.3	447	9.2	193	4.0	689	6.6
Hanover	17	2.2	228	4.7	106	2.2	351	3.4
Westmoreland	39	5.0	303	6.2	253	5.3	595	5.7
St. Elizabeth	20	2.6	212	4.4	106	2.2	338	3.2
Manchester	53	6.8	198	4.1	272	5.7	523	5.0
Clarendon	56	7.2	342	7.0	413	8.6	811	7.8
St. Catherine North	88	11.3	503	10.3	472	9.8	1063	10.2

St. Catherine South	66	8.4	355	7.3	424	8.8	845	8.1
Total	782	100	4862	100	4794	100	10438	100

**Table 8.** A Cross-tabulation between year arrest was made and sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Carnal abuse		Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2010	292	37.3	298	6.1	0	0.0	590	5.7
2011	362	46.3	433	8.9	107	2.2	902	8.6
2012	70	9.0	419	8.6	440	9.2	929	8.9
2013	30	3.8	426	8.8	525	11.0	981	9.4
2014	12	1.5	379	7.8	521	10.9	912	8.7
2015	4	0.5	392	8.1	515	10.7	911	8.7
2016	5	0.6	274	5.6	343	7.2	622	6.0
2017	2	0.3	257	5.3	325	6.8	584	5.6
2018	3	0.4	312	6.4	317	6.6	632	6.1
2019	0	0.0	331	6.8	416	8.7	747	7.2
2020	0	0.0	361	7.4	365	7.6	726	7.0
2021	0	0.0	325	6.7	362	7.6	687	6.6
2022	1	0.1	332	6.8	274	5.7	607	5.8
2023	1	0.1	323	6.6	284	5.9	608	5.8
Total	782	100	4862	100	4794	100	10438	100

**Table 9.** A Cross-tabulation between year sexual act committed and sexual acts committed by arrested perpetrators in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Carnal abuse		Rape		Sexual intercourse/under 16		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1976	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
1983	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
1993	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
1997	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
1998	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.0
1999	1	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
2000	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
2001	4	0.5	1	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0
2002	2	0.3	1	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
2003	2	0.3	1	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
2004	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
2005	4	0.5	6	0.1	2	0.0	12	0.1
2006	4	0.5	3	0.1	0	0.0	7	0.1
2007	3	0.4	7	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.1
2008	31	4.0	15	0.3	1	0.0	47	0.5
2009	55	7.0	37	0.8	2	0.0	94	0.9
2010	390	49.9	351	7.2	2	0.0	743	7.1
2011	281	35.9	426	8.8	233	4.9	940	9.0
2012	0	0.0	426	8.8	535	11.2	961	9.2
2013	0	0.0	443	9.1	535	11.2	978	9.4
2014	0	0.0	372	7.7	491	10.2	863	8.3
2015	0	0.0	367	7.5	482	10.1	849	8.1
2016	0	0.0	279	5.7	353	7.4	632	6.1
2017	0	0.0	275	5.7	306	6.4	581	5.6
2018	0	0.0	336	6.9	361	7.5	697	6.7
2019	0	0.0	321	6.6	424	8.8	745	7.1
2020	0	0.0	352	7.2	327	6.8	679	6.5
2021	0	0.0	310	6.4	307	6.4	617	5.9
2022	0	0.0	302	6.2	247	5.2	549	5.3
2023	0	0.0	225	4.6	186	3.9	411	3.9
Total	782	100	4862	100	4794	100	10438	100

**Table 10.** A Cross-tabulation of month sexual act committed and month arrested made by the Ppolice in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Month arrest made (in %)												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Jan	39.1												11.8
Feb		35.6											8.8
Mar			37.8										9.4
Apr				37.3									8.6

May					39.7								9.1
Jun						35.0							8.3
Jul							34.3						7.7
Aug								33.6					7.1
Sept									34.8				6.8
Oct										33.9			7.6
Nov											36.6		6.9
Dec												38.3	7.9
Total	846	921	969	974	1056	1005	895	736	749	914	759	614	10438

**Table 11.** A cross-tabulation of year sexual act committed and year arrested made by the police in Jamaica (N=10,438).

Category	Month arrest made (in %)														Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	
2010	99.8														7.3
2011		82.6													9.2
2012			78.1												9.4
2013				75.4											9.5
2014					70.3										8.4
2015						73.6									8.3
2016							72.8								6.2
2017								69.1							5.7
2018									73.9						6.8
2019										67.5					7.3
2020											63.8				6.6
2021												67.4			6.0
2022													66.6		5.4
2023*														67.7	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>10245</b>

\*2023 constitute January 1 to November 20. The figure can be translated into probability by dividing by 100.

Public health problem in the world includes and is not limited to sexual violence (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web Portal, 2023; Alexander and Miller, 2022; Olf, 2022; Schafran, 1996). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web Portal (2023) opined, "Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given. It is a serious public health problem in the United States that profoundly impacts lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being. Sexual violence impacts every community and affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, and ages." It continued, "Anyone can experience or perpetrate sexual violence." This study is concerned with the perpetrators, so quantitative analysis has been provided on this group of people. In Jamaica, 10,428 people have been arrested for various sexually violent acts (rape, 4865; sexual intercourse/under 16 years, 5572). In 2010, the probability of arresting a sexual perpetrator was 0.998, and this has fallen to 0.666 in 2022. Additionally, at most 40% of perpetrators have been arrested in the month in which the sexual violence was committed in Jamaica, which highlights the public health emergency that must be addressed. Jamaica like the United States is experiencing a public health emergency in sexual violence (Alexander and Miller, 2022).

Mahase (2021) indicated that sexual violence must be treated as a public health problem; also, Alexander and Miller (2022), indicated that we are at a crisis level, and this requires an emergency to tackle the phenomenon. In 2022, 67% of the perpetrators of sexual violence in Jamaica were arrested, and 60% of the perpetrators were arrested in the month when the act was committed. The act of sexual violence is a traumatic experience for females, and the fear of the perpetrators being on the loose further complicates their psychological status (ACOG, 2019). Perpetrators of sexual violence employ aggression or force themselves on the female victims (Wegner et al., 2015; Abbey et al., 2011), which has a long-lasting effect on females' psychological status (ACOG, 2019). Wegner et al. (2015) opined that between 25-57% of men who commit sexual violence employed aggression. These men used verbal coercion and forceful penetration, which explains how the act influenced the women's mental health status.

Lundwall and Wie (2015) indicated that perpetrators utilized sexual violence against 12% of the women in Jamaica, and 60% of the cases were unsolved, making many female targets for sexual predators. A recent study conducted in five CARICOM countries, including Jamaica, indicated sexual violence by partners was being perpetrated against 27 to 40 percent of the women (Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, 2023), highlighting the urgency of this public health problem. Jamaican females who reside in Areas 4 and 5 were more likely to be sexually assaulted (52.2%) and should require immediate attention to understand those who prey on these women. RAINN Web Portal (2023) found that 75% of sexual violence was committed by a former spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, non-spouse relative, or acquaintance. The current study disaggregates the acquaintance to include school classmates (24%), taxi operators (3.4%), and teachers (0.4%). With 60% of the sexually violent cases being unsolved, this means that many females are living in fear because of the proximity to the perpetrator.

## Conclusion

The public health problem of sexual violence is complex, and its solution cannot be addressed with a simple magic wand. Morgan (2005) postulated, "The future of mental

health delivery must combine our new knowledge of genetics, psychopharmacology, and the transformative power of the psychotherapies". As such, this study forwards that it must include the cognitive domain to include depression, bipolar disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder of sexual predators, as well as stressors associated with their behaviors.

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### **Conflict of interest**

The authors confirm that there is no conflict of interest involve with any parties in this research study.

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