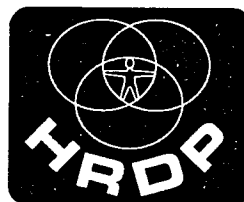


# **JAMAICA SURVEY**

— OF —

## **LIVING CONDITIONS**

**November, 1989**



**SURVEY OF LIVING  
CONDITIONS  
November 1989**

**Planning Institute of Jamaica  
Kingston, Jamaica**

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## PREFACE

The Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) was designed to provide information on the status of household welfare with specific reference to health, education, nutrition, the use of public services, housing and the participation of households in selected welfare programmes.

The November 1989 survey, which is the subject of this report, focused on the status of health and primary health care facilities, but also continued to examine household welfare through those perspectives. In addition, the survey obtained responses to certain questions relating to fertility patterns.

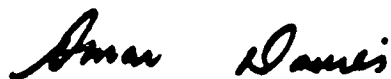
This publication does not examine data from the expanded health module, but provides a descriptive analysis of the findings of other areas. Tabulated data from the November 1989 survey have already been published by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) is grateful to the many individuals who contributed to the production of this report, among them, the staff of the Ministry of Health and of the Survey and Computer Services Divisions of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). The sample design, field work and data management of the survey were the responsibility of STATIN.

The World Bank also provided technical assistance in the planning of the survey, while staff of the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the PIOJ were responsible for co-ordinating the execution of the survey starting with the questionnaire design, as well as for data analysis and the production of this report.

We would also like to thank the households who co-operated in providing the data to make this publication possible.

It is hoped that researchers and analysts will avail themselves of the opportunity to investigate the socio-economic conditions being probed by the SLC. To this end, PIOJ and STATIN are prepared to make the data from the surveys available to all interested parties on request.



Omar Davies  
Director General  
Planning Institute of Jamaica  
January 1992

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES .....	vi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ix
CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW.....	1
CHAPTER 2: HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.....	3
Methodology.....	3
Per Capita Consumption .....	4
Mean Food and Non-food Consumption Expenditures .....	6
Consumption by Survey Round (89-1 And 89-2) .....	7
Food Consumption Patterns .....	9
CHAPTER 3: EDUCATION .....	12
Methodology .....	13
Enrolment.....	13
Attendance .....	16
Repetition.....	18
School feeding programme .....	20
Conclusions .....	23
CHAPTER 4: HEALTH .....	25
The Use Of Medical Care .....	25
Expenditure For Health Care .....	29
Drug Availability .....	31
Vaccination Coverage .....	32
Nutritional Status .....	32
Adult Health .....	39
Conclusions .....	41

CHAPTER 5: FOOD STAMP PROGRAMME .....	42
Targetting .....	43
Individual Beneficiaries .....	46
Self-reported Reasons For Non-receipt Of Stamps .....	50
CHAPTER 6: HOUSING .....	52
Housing Construction .....	52
Tenure.....	54
Quality of Housing Conditions .....	57
Summary and Conclusions .....	60
CHAPTER 7: FERTILITY .....	61
Methodology .....	61
Fertility Regulation .....	65
Sources of Contraceptives .....	68
Actual and Desired Fertility .....	69
Determinants of Fertility .....	71
Economic Welfare and Fertility .....	72
Rural/Urban Residence and Fertility .....	74
Age at Entry into Sexual Relationship .....	74
Trends in Fertility .....	76

## APPENDIX and GLOSSARY

## **ERRATA**

Page 45 paragraph 136, line 5 should read: "...more means testing may be required."

Page 46 reference after Table 5.2 should read " See Footnote (5)"

Page 74 paragraph 215: Reference should be **Table 7.14**

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption Expenditure	4
Table 2.2	Mean Per Capita Consumption Expenditure Adjusted for Price Variation	5
Table 2.3	Mean Food and Non-Food Consumption Expenditures	6
Table 2.4	Per Capita Consumption, by Areas	7
Table 2.5	Consumption Patterns, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2	8
Table 2.6	Food Consumption Patterns, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2	9
Table 2.7	Distribution of Sample Population by Quintile and Region	10
Table 2.8	Distribution of Consumption By Per Capita Consumption Deciles, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2	11
Table 3.1	Enrolment Rate by Age, Level and Quintile	14
Table 3.2	Enrolment Rate in Secondary and Tertiary Education by Quintile	15
Table 3.3	Percentage Attendance by Sex Primary and Secondary Schools	16
Table 3.4	Percentage Attendance By School Type	17
Table 3.5	Attendance Rate by Area	17
Table 3.6	Percentage Attendance by Quintile	18
Table 3.7	Primary and Secondary Repetition by Quintile, Area and Sex Percentage of Students who have repeated one or more years of school	19
Table 3.8	Percentage Distribution of School Feeding Benefits by School Type	20
Table 3.9	Percentage Distribution of Children Receiving Meals By Quintile	21
Table 3.10	Daily Expenditure on School Feeding By Quintile	22
Table 3.11	Distribution by Region of Students Receiving School lunch	23
Table 4.1	Self-Reported Illness or Injury, October 1988 - November 1989	26
Table 4.2	Severity of self-reported illness/injury and use of medical facilities	27
Table 4.3	Source and Level of Care by Patient Characteristics	28
Table 4.4	Choice of Provider; and Mean Cost of Service July and Nov. 1989	29
Table 4.5	Health Care Expenditures	30
Table 4.6	Drug Availability, November 1989 SLC	31
Table 4.7	Vaccination Coverage	32
Table 4.8	Prevalence of Malnutrition, Survey Data, 1978 -1989	33
Table 4.9	Prevalence of Malnutrition by Per Capita Consumption Quintile	35
Table 4.10	Prevalence of Malnutrition by Area	36
Table 4.11	Prevalence of Malnutrition by Age	37
Table 4.12	Prevalence of Malnutrition by Sex	38
Table 4.13	General health of the Jamaican Adult Population	40



Table 5.1	Households Receiving Food Stamps	45
Table 5.2	Individuals Receiving Food Stamps	46
Table 5.3	The Distribution of Food Stamp Recipients by Region	47
Table 5.4	Food Stamp Benefits Among Malnourished Households	48
Table 5.5	Normal and Malnourished Children by Reported Immunization & Receipt of Food Stamps	49
Table 5.6	Self-Reported Reasons for Not Receiving Food Stamps	51
Table 6.1	Type of Dwelling	53
Table 6.2	Materials used for Outer Walls	53
Table 6.3	Tenure Pattern	55
Table 6.4	Mortgage Payments	56
Table 6.5	Property Tax Payments	56
Table 6.6	Sanitation	57
Table 6.7	Sharing of toilet and kitchen facilities	58
Table 6.8	Main Sources of Water Supply.	59
Table 6.9	Lighting	59
Table 7.1	Percentage distribution of women by age, CPS and SLC, 1989	63
Table 7.2	Percentage distribution of women by educational level CPS 1989, SLC 1989 and Census 1982	63
Table 7.3	Percentage distribution of women by religious affiliation CPS and SLC, 1989	64
Table 7.4	Percentage distribution of women by place of residence CPS 1989, SLC 1989 and Census 1982	64
Table 7.5	Percentage of ever users of a contraceptive method by age	66
Table 7.6	Percentage ever users of a contraceptive method by education	66
Table 7.7	Percentage of ever users of a contraceptive method by union status	67
Table 7.8	Ever users of a contraceptive method by consumption quintile	67
Table 7.9	Percentage of ever users of a contraceptive method by place of residence	67
Table 7.10	Sources of obtaining pills, injections and condom and services of female sterilisation CPS 1989 and SLC 1989	68
Table 7.11	Percentage source of obtaining contraceptives and services and payment	68
Table 7.12	Actual and Desired fertility by age	69
Table 7.13	Actual and Desired fertility by age and education	70
Table 7.14	Actual and Desired fertility by age and place of residence	70
Table 7.15	Actual and Desired fertility by place of residence and education	
Table 7.16	Actual and Desired fertility by place of residence and union status	72
Table 7.17	Actual and Desired fertility by place of residence and consumption quintiles	73
Table 7.18	Mean number of children ever born by age at first sexual experience and place of residence SLC 1989	73
Table 7.19	Mean number of children ever born by education and age at first sexual relationship	75
Table 7.20	Mean number of children ever born by consumption quintile and age at first sexual relationship	75
Table 7.21	Mean number of children ever born per woman by age 1960 CENSUS, 1975 JFS, 1983 CPS, 1989 CPS & 1989 SLC	77
Table 7.22	Mothers per 1,000 women, 1960, 1975, 1983 and 1989 SLC	77
Table 7.23	Mothers per 1000 women, children ever born per 1000 mothers and per 1000 women, percentage increase in children per 1000 women Jamaica, 1960-89	78

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

i. The Survey of Living Conditions is one of two instruments designed to monitor social conditions and the effectiveness of the Human Resources Development Programme. This survey is household-based, and up to the time of the present survey, had been conducted in three rounds - one in 1988 and two in 1989. The first two surveys were general in scope while the third survey, in addition to covering the general areas, focused on health. Subsequent surveys, conducted in 1990 and 1991, have focused on education and housing respectively.

ii. This report is the third in the series of descriptive/analytical reports on the surveys. It presents an overview of the findings in the various areas covered by the survey. Provisions are in place for additional in-depth studies of the data collected on the sectors of focus in each round. It is also intended that researchers will utilise the SLC data for their own investigations.

## CONSUMPTION AND DISTRIBUTION

iii. Per capita household consumption expenditure in Jamaica in the November 1989 round 2 of the SLC was \$6,304. This compares with \$5,581 in the July 1989 round and \$4,700 in 1988. A comparison of these figures with National Accounts Estimates indicates that the SLC data are reliable.

iv. Mean per capita consumption expenditure, adjusted for price variations, increased by 6.2% between SLC 88 and SLC July 89 and by 4.5% between SLC July 89 and SLC November 89. These increases could be partly attributed to relief donations, including the significant inflows from relatives abroad, after Hurricane Gilbert in September 1988.

v. At constant prices, there appears to have been a decline in non-food expenditure, possibly because many households cut expenditure on non-food consumption in favour of buying food.

vi. Per capita consumption was highest in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) and lowest in Rural Areas. However, in the rural areas, 60% of per capita consumption was devoted to food, compared to 50% in KMA or Other Towns (50%).

vii. About 81% of the poorest 20% of the population live in rural areas while only 33.5% of the wealthiest 20% of the population live in rural areas. On the other hand, 46.3% of the wealthiest 20% in the country are in KMA, with a near proportionate number in Other Towns. The top 10% of the population accounted for more than 30% of national household consumption, while at the other end of the scale it took 60% of the population to account for a similar percentage. This pattern shows little variation from the previous two surveys.

## EDUCATION

viii. The survey findings revealed that enrolment at the pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels is high and on target with Government's policy towards basic education as set out in the 5 Year Plan 1990-95. Low attendance rates prevail at the primary level, and are particularly noticeable among students in the more rural areas, in All Age Schools, and among boys.

Attendance is relatively uniform and shows no strong pattern by consumption groups, although children of the wealthiest quintile are likely to attend school more regularly than their poorer counterparts. Repetition rates are generally low at both primary and secondary levels, but because of the local practice of promotion by age, these rates do not provide any useful indication of either the level of internal efficiency within the system or of performance.

ix. The enrolment pattern in secondary schools suggests a lack of social equity. Most of the poorest students are enrolled in the school types which do not offer much prospect for improvement in status, while the wealthiest have access to the type of education which can enhance their status. The percentage of students of tertiary age group enrolled in institutions is low. This fact may well be a function of limited availability of institutional space. However, the strong correlation between high levels of consumption and enrolment in tertiary education indicates that affordability has a critical role to play.

x. Assessment of the school feeding programme shows that benefits are positively skewed to the poorest groups. Those in the upper quintiles nevertheless derive substantial benefits from the programme, since the programme is available to all students in Primary and All Age schools and is generally self-targetting. However, the pattern of payment indicates that those who can least afford to pay for the lunches are the ones who most often do.

xi. Overall, the data show little or no gender bias in enrolment or the distribution of welfare benefits. Female students, however, account for the higher portion of enrolment in the better types of secondary schools, viz, Secondary High, Comprehensive and Technical High and are predominant in enrolment at the tertiary level.

## HEALTH

xii. According to the survey findings, the Jamaican population enjoys good health. Over 80% of children under five years old are fully vaccinated and therefore protected against the immunisable diseases, namely, polio, tetanus whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis and measles. Less than one fifth of Jamaicans reported being unwell during the four weeks preceding the survey, with the very young and the elderly suffering illness or injury more frequently than any other group. The higher susceptibility of these groups is typical.

xiii. Of the ill/injured, half sought medical care either at public or private health care facilities, and half purchased drugs. The cost of consultations and drugs in the public sector was fairly uniform and considerably less than in the private sector. Differences in use of and expenditure for these services among the consumption levels were observed, but even among the poorest consumption quintile nearly one half used the private sector.

xiv. In November 1989, the incidence of moderate and severe low weight for age was 7.3%. This was lower than the 9.2% reported in the July round and the 14.6% found in a Ministry of Health survey in 1985. Undernutrition was associated with consumption levels, although not very strongly, but no association was found with gender or area.

xv. Adult health showed significant correlation with consumption levels, area, age and gender. Poor health increased with decreasing per capita consumption and increasing age. Females reported significantly more poor/fair health as did adults in the rural areas.

## FOOD STAMPS

xvi. The SLC has found the Food Stamp Programme to be fairly progressive, i.e., of greatest benefit to the targetted groups. This finding has been maintained in all the surveys including the November 1989 round.

xvii. At this time, 15% of the households surveyed were in receipt of food stamps, representing a decline from the previous year's coverage of 23%, as indicated by the August 1988 SLC.

xviii. The contraction in distribution of food stamp benefits may have resulted from a general cleaning of the rolls which took place in 1989. This is likely to have been responsible for an observed reduction in the extent of leakage of benefits to ineligible participants between 1988 and 1989, there being a decline in the proportion of such participants from 14% to 3% of beneficiary households. Improvements in the progressive distribution of benefits across the consumption quintiles were however minor.

xix. On an individual basis, 4% of persons in the sample were food stamp recipients. Forty-five per cent of benefits went to those in the mother/child category and 55 % to the elderly/poor as compared with the targetted 50/50 percentage split.

xxi. It is noted that children under 5 years old are not as well targetted as the other categories. Under coverage of children, particularly the malnourished of whom only 12% were in receipt of food stamps, is also a cause for concern.

xxii. Rural areas receive 73% of total benefits, which is out of proportion to rural/urban population distribution. However, it is necessary to take into account the number of eligible persons and the percentage of persons in poverty in each area.

xxiii. The main reasons for non-participation in the Food Stamp Programme are self-perceived ineligibility (27%) and ignorance of how to obtain benefits (22%). According to the survey findings, approximately one-third of those who are eligible do apply for benefits, but over 80% are not approved.

## HOUSING

xxiv. The survey examined available data on housing construction, including information on materials used in construction; tenure patterns; and the quality of housing, with respect to sanitation, water and lighting.

xxv. The majority of Jamaicans maintain a traditional preference for detached units. However, the wealthier urban quintiles tend to some variation, as the growing number of apartment buildings and townhouses attest.

xxvi. Of dwellings surveyed, 63.9% are occupied by owners. However, there is a strong pattern of owner-occupancy in the rural areas and among the poorer groups, as opposed to a strong pattern of renting in the KMA region and among the wealthier groups.

xxvii. The main sanitary facilities available were, in rank order, pit latrines and water closets linked or not linked to sewage systems. Only 2% of the sample said that they had no such facilities.

xxviii. The main sources of water supply are, again in order, indoor taps, outside taps and public standpipes. In the Kingston Metropolitan Area in particular, the majority of dwellings are served by piped water, inside or outside.

Electricity is the main source of lighting, followed by kerosine. Two per cent of dwellings have no lighting.

## FERTILITY

xxix. The fertility rate of the women in the sample, that is, the average number of children born to those women, is 2.1. This is close to the average of 2.0 obtained in the 1989 Contraceptive Prevalence Study (CPS).

xxx. Ninety-eight per cent of the women surveyed desired children, so contraceptive methods were used principally to postpone and/or to space births. About 75% of the sample used one or more methods of

contraception. Contraceptive use by women in the 15-19 age group was somewhat less prevalent than in older age groups. Female sterilization is used by women who have already attained their desired fertility, usually women over 35 years old.

xxxi. At the aggregate level, both desired and actual fertility have fallen considerably in Jamaica since the mid-seventies and the difference between desired and actual fertility has also narrowed. The tendency to desire and bear a smaller number of children is evident among women of all social groups in the present study, with the mean desired fertility being 2.8 children per woman.

xxxii. It was observed that women in common-law and married unions preferred larger families than those in visiting and casual relationships. However, it must be noted that women in common law and married unions were generally older, usually 30 years and over.

xxxiii. The use of contraceptive methods is prevalent in all strata of the society, and about 40 per cent of the women in the sample utilized public-sponsored clinics to obtain contraception free of cost.

xxxiv. The present study seems to confirm the hypothesis that fertility and education are inversely related. Thus, irrespective of age at first sexual relationship, women with secondary and post-secondary education consistently manifested a lower fertility compared to those with primary education and below. An inverse relationship was also observed between fertility and economic status. However, when material welfare is cross-tabulated with education, this inverse relationship is manifested only among women who have reached secondary or a higher level of education.

## CHAPTER 1: Overview

1. In 1989 the Government of Jamaica instituted a comprehensive programme designed to improve the provision of social services to the nation. This programme, the Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP), involves institutional and policy reforms and an increased flow of funds to the social sectors which had been deprived of resources in recent years due to economic austerity measures and the structural adjustment programme.
2. The Survey of Living Conditions was introduced by the Government in 1988 to enable close assessment of the living conditions of the population. It has continued as a component of the monitoring system of the HRDP, which also relies on statistics gathered through social institutions (school, hospitals etc.). The SLC is a household-based survey and is designed to collect information on a variety of topics, such as consumption, education, health, nutrition, housing, the use of public services and the participation of households in selected welfare programmes. The SLC sample is a subset of the Labour Force Survey sample, allowing for linkages, cross-references and new permutations of data from the two surveys.
3. The execution of the SLC is a joint activity of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the Planning Institute of Jamaica with inputs from staff of the University of the West Indies and social sector Ministries. The sample design, field work and data management are the responsibility of the staff of the Surveys Division and the Computer Systems Division of STATIN, while questionnaire design, co-ordination of inputs and data analysis are the responsibility of the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the PIOJ.
4. The November 1989 survey was the third of five rounds of the survey conducted so far: the first was done in August 1988; the second in July 1989; the fourth in November 1990; and the fifth in November 1991. The first two rounds of the survey were general in scope, but subsequent rounds have focused on particular sectors by expanding the relevant module of the questionnaire and collecting such information as deemed necessary for a more thorough assessment of the sector. For **Round 3** which focused on the health sector, an additional survey of public and private health facilities was conducted, in addition to expanding the health module. This round also sought additional information on fertility issues. **Round 4** focused on the education sector, and involved surveys of school facilities and administrators and testing of students' achievement levels. **Round 5** focused on the housing sector.
5. Descriptive/analytical reports have already been produced for the first two surveys; this is therefore the third report in the series. The publication of a standard set of Tables has also been newly introduced, starting with the November 1989 Survey. The present report, like others in the series, provides an overview of the findings of the various modules of the survey, although the data facilitates far more extensive analysis. Special arrangements are in place for in-depth studies on the sectors which have been the subject of special focus. In addition, provisions are made for independent researchers to have access to the data from the various rounds of the Survey of Living Conditions. Requests from researchers should be directed to either the Planning Institute or the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

6. The present report is organized as follows:-

- Chapter 2 examines patterns of household consumption, comparing the findings with other sources as a check on the likely accuracy of the SLC;
  - Chapter 3 considers the data on the education sector including enrolment and attendance patterns, and participation in the school feeding programme;
  - in Chapter 4, the health sector is assessed in terms of the occurrence of illness, expenditure on care, drug availability, nutrition status and adult health;
  - Chapter 5 examines the distribution of benefits in the Food Stamp Programme; and
  - Chapter 6 describes housing conditions.
- Finally Chapter 7 presents the main findings of the fertility module including a comparison of these with data from other sources and discussions on fertility preferences and regulation, and socio-economic factors affecting fertility.

In the Appendix, details are given on the survey design and methods of data processing.

## CHAPTER 2: Household Consumption

### INTRODUCTION

7. The consumption of goods and services by households is one important indicator of human welfare. The consumption expenditure data collected in the SLC rounds can serve a variety of purposes including:

- i) analysis of the variations in levels of living standards over a period of years, and the disparities among different socioeconomic groups, geographic areas, rural and urban zones, etc;
- ii) comparisons of food expenditure patterns and levels of nutrition;
- iii) provision of estimates of household expenditure on consumption goods, and, in general, the basic data needed for market research and demand analysis;
- iv) provision of data on the distribution of households by income (proxy household expenditure) and income/expenditure inequalities, essential for both fiscal and development policy formulations; and
- v) in general, to supply data needed for policy making in connection with social and economic planning.

8. In addition, consumption data as a measure of welfare status are useful as an adjunct in the analysis of data collected on other topics such as education, health, and housing.

### METHODOLOGY

9. In the SLC 1989-2, the household consumption expenditure data were collected in parts E, F, H and I of the questionnaire. Parts E and F, were concerned with expenditure on non-food items and meals taken away from home, as well as with information on non-food items received as gifts. Part H, was meant to record information on purchased food, while part I was for the value of home-grown food consumed and food items received as gifts.

10. The reference period for each category depended on presumed frequency of purchase or acquisition: 7 days for part E; 4 weeks and 12 months for part F; 7 days and 30 days for part H; and 30 days for part I. The method of annualising this data to arrive at the overall annual household consumption expenditure is described in the Appendix (Survey Design).

11. Briefly, for items for which only one reference period was specified, the method of annualisation was multiplication (i.e., weekly figures were multiplied by 52 and monthly figures by 12).

12. For items for which two reference periods were specified, the portion of the long term expenditure that does not include the short term expenditure (e.g the 11 month previous to the last month if the long period is one year and the short period is one month) was calculated and then annualised, and an equal weighted average of this annualisation and the short period annualisation was taken.



13. As mentioned in the Appendix, the possibility of refining this procedure of annualisation is being studied by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) UWI, with the aim of improving the quality of household expenditure data collection in the SLC.

#### PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

14. According to the SLC 1989-2, per capita household consumption expenditure in Jamaica was \$6,304. This compares with \$5,581 in SLC 89-1 and \$4,700 in SLC 1988. These averages were calculated at current prices and, therefore, in order to make meaningful comparisons over the period 1988 to 1989 per capita expenditure had to be adjusted to allow for price increases.

#### Comparison with National Accounts

15. The reliability of these figures may be gauged by comparing them with the estimates of per capita private final consumption expenditure made in the National Accounts, which were also at current prices. The estimates in the National Accounts were based on commodity flows and, therefore, independent of SLC.

Table 2.1 shows these two sets of estimates, as well as that derived from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) of 1984.

**Table 2.1**  
**Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption Expenditure**

Years	Mean annual per capita consumption Expenditure ( at current prices)		
	National Accounts ( \$ )	Survey	Mean ( \$ )
1984	2,753	HES 84	2,905
1988	4,994	SLC 88	4,700
1989	5,671	SLC 89-1 SLC 89-2	5,581 6,304

HES - Household Expenditure Survey.

16. The figures in the Table are not directly comparable. The National Accounts estimates are for the year while the survey estimates relate to the period of the survey. The field investigations for the SLC 88 were done in August 1988; for SLC 89-1, in May-June 1989; and for SLC 89-2, in November-December 1989. The estimates of SLC 88 and SLC 89-1 may be taken to indicate per capita consumption at the beginning of 1989, yielding a figure of \$5,092. This, coupled with the estimate of per capita consumption in SLC 89-2, would yield an average of \$5,698 as mean per capita consumption in 1989, according to SLC. There is only marginal difference between this estimate and the National Accounts figure. In this context, it is relevant to mention that the National Accounts estimates of per capita private final consumption are themselves approximations. The comparison, however, indicates that the SLC estimates for 1989 are reliable.

## Comparison with earlier Rounds

17. As mentioned earlier, the survey estimates of per capita consumption expenditure are at the then current prices and are, therefore, not comparable unless adjusted for price variations. An attempt has been made to adjust the estimates for prices. The results are shown in Table 2.2. Particular months have been selected from the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for this exercise and these are also shown in the Table.

**Table 2.2**  
**Mean Per Capita Consumption Expenditure**  
**Adjusted for Price Variation**

Survey	Period of Investigation	CPI (Base: Jan 1988)		Mean Consumption	
		Average Index	Months Covered	At Current Prices (\$)	At 1984 Prices (\$)
HES 84	Sept-Dec	66.6	July-Dec	2,905	2,905
SLC 88	August	103.4	July-Aug	4,700	3,027
SLC 89-1	May-June	115.6	April-June	5,581	3,215
SLC 89-2	Nov-Dec	124.9	Oct-Dec	6,304	3,361

18. The months selected were based on an analysis of the SLC expenditures and their reference periods. The Table shows that per capita consumption expenditure at constant 1984 prices increased by 4.2% between the HES 84 and SLC 88; by 6.2% between SLC 88 and SLC 89-1 and by 4.5% between 89-1 and 89-2.

19. The increase in per capita consumption between SLC 89-1 and 89-2 may be partly explained by the increase in GDP between 1988 and 1989 of 3.7%. Another contributing factor is, undoubtedly, the substantial inflows following Hurricane Gilbert in September 1988. In the last months of 1988 and the early months of 1989, Jamaicans living abroad, and foreign organizations, made liberal donations of money, food, clothing, medicines, etc., to the hurricane relief effort, which would be reflected in the figures of per capita consumption for the period.

20. Another effect of the hurricane was a steep fall in agricultural production in 1989. The decline also affected home production, resulting in greater expenditure on purchased food. It is possible that increased expenditure on food was financed by readjusting household budgets to favour the purchase of food over non-food items and by reducing savings. Savings in the economy at current prices increased from \$1,168 million in 1987 to \$3,077 million in 1988, but showed only a small increase to 3,402 million in 1989. At constant prices, the savings in 1989 were substantially lower than in 1988.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The difference in the mean per capita consumption expenditure between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2 could also be due partly to sampling variability

## MEAN FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES

Table 2.3 shows an increase in food consumption expenditure between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2.

**Table 2.3**  
**Mean Food and Non-Food Consumption Expenditures**

Survey	Mean Per Capita Consumption Expenditure			Food as % of Total
	Total Consumption Expenditure (\$)	Food Expenditure (\$)	Non - Food Expenditure (\$)	
HES 84	2,905	1,468	1,437	50.5
SLC 88	4,700	2,337	2,362	49.7
SLC 89-1	5,581	2,786	2,795	49.9
SLC 89-2	6,304	3,410	2,894	54.1

21. Food and non-food expenditures in the average household budget remained remarkably consistent until SLC 89-2. In SLC-89-2, non-food expenditure at current prices remained barely above that in SLC 89-1, while food expenditure went up substantially. The rise in food expenditure at current prices was 22.4% while that of non-food a meagre 3.5%. Between SLC 89-1 and 89-2, the Consumer Price Index for All Jamaica increased by 8.0% and that for the food group by 9.4%. At constant prices, therefore, there was a decline in non-food expenditure. It could be that many households reduced non-food consumption, in order to purchase food.

### Consumption by Regions

22. The per capita consumption expenditure was highest in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), followed by Other Main Towns. It was lowest in the Rural Areas.

23. According to SLC 89-2, the mean per capita expenditure in Rural Areas was only \$4,889 against \$8,671 in KMA. In the case of Other Towns, the mean per capita consumption was \$7,080 or about 82% of that in KMA. If the mean per capita consumption expenditure for All Jamaica is taken as 100, then the corresponding index for KMA was 137.6; for Other Towns 112.3; and for Rural Areas a mere 77.6.

24. The fraction of total mean per capita expenditure devoted to food turns out to be highest in Rural Areas, compared to either KMA or Other Towns. About 60% of total consumption expenditure was devoted to food in rural areas as against about 50% in KMA and Other Towns. In other words, in both KMA and Other Towns, mean per capita expenditure on food and non-food groups was almost equal, while in the rural areas, the fraction devoted to non-food was substantially lower.

**Table 2.4**  
**Per Capita Consumption, by Areas**

	Mean Per Capita Consumption			
	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (\$/Year)	6,304	8,671	7,080	4,889
Food (\$/year)	3,410	4,302	3,504	2,942
Non-Food (\$/Year)	2,894	4,369	3,576	1,947
Fraction devoted to Food ( % )	54.1	49.6	49.5	60.2
Regional Index (Jamaica=100)	100.0	137.6	112.3	77.6

**CONSUMPTION BY SURVEY ROUND (89-1 AND 89-2)**

25. Because of the differences in the grouping of areas into KMA and Other Towns between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2, no firm comparisons could be made between changes in the composition of mean per capita consumption expenditure, by area. However, in the case of Rural Areas, these differences were found to be relatively insignificant.

26. In SLC 89-1, the level of expenditure devoted to food in the rural areas was about 52%, against 60% in SLC 89-2. In SLC 89-1, the rural areas did not differ much from the urban areas in the fraction devoted to non-food expenditure. However, by SLC 89-2 the non-food proportion had come down substantially and the food percentage had gone up. This gives credence to the inference that the real effect of Hurricane Gilbert was felt in the latter part of 1989, when there was a substantial reduction in home-grown food available for consumption, and some farmers were forced to purchase foodstuff which was traditionally home grown.

27. The food price index in the period between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2 also showed a greater increase than the index for non-food items, presumably because of increased demand on reduced supply.

**Consumption by Commodity Groups**

28. The percentage distribution of consumption expenditure according to major commodity groups for the SLC 89-2 and the comparative figures for 89-1 are presented in the Table 2.5.

**Table 2.5**  
**Consumption Patterns, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2**

Groups	Percentage Consumption Expenditure	
	SLC 89-1	SLC 89-2
Food	47.1	54.8
Fuel and Household Supplies	8.4	6.3
Housing and Household Operation	8.8	11.4
Household Durables	2.9	2.0
Personal Care	3.1	3.5
Health Care	2.3	2.0
Clothing and Footwear	10.9	9.6
Transportation	5.9	5.9
Recreation	4.8	2.8
Miscellaneous	5.7	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0

29. It should be mentioned, however, that some modifications were made in working out the distribution of consumption expenditure in SLC 89-1 primarily for making the distribution comparable with that in the Household Expenditure Survey, 1984. Hence, only broad inferences could be drawn between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2 distributions.

30. In SLC 1989-2, both Food and Housing accounted for a higher percentage of total consumption expenditure than in SLC 89-1. On the other hand, a substantial decline in the percentage expenditure is noticeable in the case of Fuel and Household Supplies; Household Durable Goods; Recreation and Miscellaneous Groups.

#### **FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS**

31. As mentioned earlier, in 1989, in the wake of Hurricane Gilbert, the domestic agricultural production was significantly affected, and the home production which was normally available to farmers for consumption was not available in adequate measure. Hence, some of them were forced to make purchases from the market.

32. The following table illustrates that between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2 the percentage consumption expenditure devoted to Starchy Roots and Tubers and Fruits had considerably increased while proportionate expenditure on Beverages and Miscellaneous Foods had decreased.

**Table 2.6**  
**Food Consumption Patterns, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2**

Groups	Percentage Consumption Expenditure	
	SLC 89-1	SLC 89-2
Meat, Poultry and Fish	22.5	21.9
Dairy Products	11.4	9.8
Oils and Fats	2.4	2.1
Cereals and Breakfast Drinks	11.4	11.8
Starchy Roots and Tubers	6.4	12.4
Vegetables	5.0	4.8
Fruits	2.5	4.3
Sugar/Sweets	2.4	2.8
Miscellaneous Foods	8.8	5.2
Beverages	4.1	3.1
Purchased Meals	23.1	21.8
Total	100.0	100.0

### Consumption Quintiles

33. In all the rounds of SLC, the level of household consumption expenditure is used to approximate income level, for the purpose of studying issues within the education and health sectors, according to income classes. The method followed has been to divide the sample population into quintiles on the basis of mean per capita expenditure.

34. Thus, the first quintile represents the poorest 20%, and the fifth and last quintile represents the wealthiest 20% of the sample population. For this purpose, mean per capita expenditure of a household was calculated; all members of that household are represented by that average. It should be noted that quintiles were calculated by household population, not by using the household as a unit.

Table 2.7 shows the distribution of the sample population in KMA, Other Towns and Rural areas in the quintiles.

35. About 81% of the poorest 20% of the population in the country live in rural areas, as against only 33.5% of the wealthiest 20%. By contrast only 7.5 % of the poorest 20% in the country live in KMA, and 11.8% in Other Towns.

**Table 2.7**  
**Distribution of Sample Population by Quintile and Region**

Region	Jamaica	Consumption Quintiles					Mean Per Capita Consumption (\$/Year)
		1	2	3	4	5	
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
KMA	26.9	7.5	16.8	25.1	39.0	46.3	8,671
Other Towns	18.1	11.8	15.9	21.3	21.2	20.2	7,080
Rural	55.0	80.7	67.2	53.6	39.8	33.5	4,889
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6,304

36. As one proceeds from the poorest to the wealthiest quintile, one finds the proportion living in the rural areas steadily declining and that in the urban areas progressively increasing.

#### **Consumption Deciles**

37. As with the quintiles, the consumption deciles are formed on the basis of household population, rather than household units. There was a gap of only 5-6 months between SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2; consequently there is not considerable variation in the percentage of aggregate consumption of each decile.

Table 2.8 shows the share of each decile in the aggregate household consumption in SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2 respectively.

38. The percentage shares of aggregate household consumption expenditure for the decile groups of the population are very close in the two surveys, (and are also very similar to that for the 1988 surveys). The marginal differences could be due to sampling variation.

39. The population in the highest decile accounted for more than 30% of national household consumption while the next two decile groups also accounted for almost 30% - more than their proportionate share. On the other hand, the lowest six deciles (i.e. 60% of the population) together accounted for 29.5% of the aggregate National Household Consumption.

**Table 2.8**  
**Distribution of Consumption By**  
**Per Capita Consumption Deciles, SLC 89-1 and SLC 89-2**

Decile	Share in Aggregate Household Consumption (percentages)		Mean Per Capita Consumption SLC 89-2 ( \$ )
	SLC 89-1	SLC 89-2	
1	1.89	1.89	1,194
2	3.22	3.16	1,993
3	4.21	4.28	2,686
4	5.35	5.47	3,430
5	6.43	6.63	4,185
6	7.86	7.08	5,075
7	9.64	9.93	6,246
8	12.29	12.58	7,918
9	17.11	16.81	10,580
10	32.00	31.19	19,599
Total	100.00	100.00	6,304

The last column in the above Table 2.8 shows per capita consumption expenditure in each decile recorded in SLC 89-2. It must be pointed out that these absolute values may not be compared with those of previous SLC surveys as modifications have been made in the method of arriving at these figures.



## CHAPTER 3: Education

### INTRODUCTION

40. The focus of the second Round of the 1989 SLC was the health sector, but a small module of twelve questions related directly to the education sector. The questions were answered by all respondents aged three years and older and sought to determine the level of education achieved, level of school enrolment, attendance, repetition, and participation in and level of expenditure on the School Feeding Programme.

### METHODOLOGY

41. As a large number of the respondents were not of school age, it was not useful to include them in the education-related analysis below which seeks to identify current patterns of school-related activity. Inclusion of these persons in the data set would also have rendered the cross-tabulation of some variables meaningless, as the level of "frequency missing" would have been too high.

42. It was therefore decided to narrow the analysis to persons of school age, that is, persons in the age groups between 3 and 24 years. The 20 - 24 year-old age<sup>2</sup> group was used as the upper limit rather than the 17 - 19 age group used in the previous SLC, in order to provide a better understanding of some of the important variables at the tertiary level.

43. Overall, there are some 8330 records of persons within the selected age band who responded to the education module. Data from the module were linked with household consumption levels, age, sex, and area of residence from the larger SLC. The data collected are of generally good quality although there are some noted errors particularly in respect of the coding of students' age by grade. The impact of these errors on the data overall was negligible and so no correction was deemed necessary.

44. The validity of the data was checked by relating the findings of specific variables, such as attendance, repetition, etc with the SLC Round 1 findings, data from the Institution-Based Monitoring System (IBMS), as well as with data collected generally by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and PIOJ. The findings are in the main consistent with those of the instruments mentioned. However, the current findings with respect to repetition rates deviate significantly from those of the July Survey, but present no cause for alarm as the current percentages are more in line with the low rates of repetition which are known to exist in the local education system.

45. The discrepancy between the results of the two periods may have arisen from the fact that the repetition rates identified in the earlier Round of the Survey were inferred from response on **current grade attending and number of years spent in school**, whereas the November rates were determined from direct questions asked.

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2. The age group 20-24 years is recognised as the tertiary level age group.

## ENROLMENT

46. Enrolment rates among children between 3 and 14 years old, at the lower levels of the education system, are quite high but decline substantially at the upper secondary and tertiary levels. Of children 3-5 years old, 83% are enrolled in school, the majority being in Basic Schools; 98% of those in the primary age group (6-11 years) are enrolled - 87% of these in primary educational institutions; enrolment among children of lower secondary school age (12-14 yrs.) is 97 % but only 80% of these are in secondary schools.

47. Seventy-two per cent of those in the 15-16 age group are in school, 69% of whom are in secondary schools, and there is a 19% enrolment among the 17-19 age group. A low rate of 2% of those in the tertiary age group, age 20-24 years, are in school. The findings of this Survey are generally consistent with those of the July Survey and consistent with Ministry of Education (MOE) data for the pre-primary and primary age groups, they are however substantially higher than MOE's estimates for the lower and upper secondary age groups.

48. Enrolment rates by age, level and quintile are shown in Table 3.1. As pointed out in the previous Survey Report, enrolment rates, though generally high at the lower levels of the system, are even higher as consumption/income rises. At the pre-primary level, for example, although 83% of the children (3-5 years) are in school, the children of the wealthiest quintile are more than twice as likely to be in school than those of the poorest.

49. At the primary level, (the 6-11 age group), enrolment is almost universal and is in keeping with Government's policy towards primary education. Enrolment is relatively uniform among the quintiles, with all consumption groups accessing education equally. The pattern of uniformity of enrolment by quintile is repeated among the 12-14 age group.

50. However, children in the poorest quintile are 8% more likely to be still pursuing primary education at this age than the wealthiest children, suggesting later entry to school. For children in the 15-16 age group, enrolment levels are strongly linked to consumption, with only 59% of those in the poorest quintile, compared to 84% of the highest, being enrolled in school. In this age group also, children of the poorest quintile are more than twice as likely as their wealthier counterparts not to be enrolled in schools. Wealthier children are also more likely to have an earlier start in tertiary education.

51. Enrolment rates fall significantly among the population age 17-19 years, but among those enrolled in any type of educational institutions, the representation of the poorest groups is very low and the pattern of enrolment rises steeply and progressively with consumption. The trend seen in this age group is again shown in the 20-24 group but is more marked as only 0.5% of the two lowest quintiles are enrolled in school compared to 4.2% of the highest two quintiles.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 show the percentage of children enrolled in school by age, school type and quintile.

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3 MOE's estimates are based on age specific enrolment for specific grade levels. Data for the upper secondary age group were also incomplete.

**Table 3.1**  
**Enrolment Rate by Age, Level and Quintile**

Age & Level	Jamaica	Population Quintile				
		Poorest	2	3	4	5
<b>3-5</b>						
Basic (N=828)	77	69	75	77	85	82
Primary (N=69)	6	5	8	7	2	7
None (N=178)	16	25	19	16	13	9
Sub-total N=1078						
<b>6-11</b>						
Basic (N=100)	4	5	4	4	3	5
Primary (N=2046)	87	87	87	91	87	85
Secondary (N=165)	7	6	9	4	8	9
None (N=22)	1	2	1	1	1	1
Sub-total (N=2337)						
<b>12-14</b>						
Primary (N=185)	17	20	16	21	14	12
Secondary (N=863)	80	75	82	77	84	85
None (N=30)	3	4	2	2	2	3
Sub-total N=1079						
<b>15-16</b>						
Primary (N=12)	2	1	8	2	1	1
Secondary (N=529)	69	58	64	70	81	81
Tertiary (N=10)	1	0	1	3	1	2
None (N=210)	28	41	34	25	16	16
Sub-total N=762						
<b>17-19</b>						
Secondary (N=146)	14	8	11	15	18	17
Tertiary (N=58)	5	1	3	4	6	12
None (N=868)	81	90	86	81	75	71
Sub-total N=1074						
<b>20-24</b>						
Tertiary (N=30)	2	0	1	2	3	5
None (N=1459)	98	100	99	98	97	95
Sub-total N=1496						

Percentages do not always add up to 100. Discrepancies are due to rounding

52. Table 3.2 below presents a percentage distribution of enrolment in secondary and tertiary education by quintile and by school type. As shown in the Table, students in the poorest quintile are most likely to be enrolled in Grade 7-9 of All Age Schools (44%) and in New Secondary Schools (38%). Of note is that among secondary schools, these schools types offer the least 'life prospect' or possibility for social mobility, while Secondary High Schools offer the greatest prospects. Forty-four per cent of those in the wealthiest quintile are enrolled in these Secondary High Schools, while only 13% and 24% of them are in the All Age and New Secondary Schools, respectively. This substantiates the view that the wealthiest are accessing and benefitting most from the best quality secondary education. From the data, there seems to be no evidence of a special relationship between consumption and enrolment in the technical and vocational-oriented tracks of secondary education.

**Table 3.2**  
**Enrolment Rate in Secondary and Tertiary Education by Quintile**

School Type	Population Quintile					
	Jamaica	Poorest	2	3	4	5
All Age (7-9) (N=488)	27	44	36	22	19	13
New Secondary (N=579)	32	38	36	33	29	24
Comprehensive High (N=48)	3	1	3	3	3	2
Secondary High (N=522)	29	14	19	31	38	44
Technical High (N=58)	3	1	3	5	3	3
Vocational/Agricultural (N=16)	0.8	1	1	0	2	1
University (N=8)	0.4	0	0	0	1	2
Other Post Secondary (N=57)	3	1	1	3	3	9
Adult/Night (N=34)	2	0	1	3	2	2
Total (N=1810)	100	100	100	100	100	100

53. Examination of the rates at the tertiary level shows that the two wealthiest quintiles account for almost all the enrolment at the tertiary level to the exclusion of the poorest.

54. Approximately 95% of students enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools attend public schools. The rate of access to public education is generally uniform among the quintiles except that the wealthiest quintile accesses public education some 10% less than the other consumption groups. Their use of private facilities is significantly higher than the other groups being some 5 times that of the poorest to 3rd poorest quintiles and more than double that of 4th. The majority (53%) of children benefitting from private education are in the primary age group (6-11 years) and are likely to be enrolled in private preparatory schools.

## ATTENDANCE

55. The question on attendance was asked only of children enrolled in primary and secondary institutions, who were requested to state the number of days they had attended school during the reference week.

### Attendance by Sex

56. Of the 3958 students responding, approximately 70% had attended school for five days (i.e. full attendance) and 16% had not been to school at all. Female students have a better record of full attendance than males but among those not attending school at all, there is no differential by sex. (See Table 3.3).

Table 3.3  
Percentage Attendance by Sex  
Primary and Secondary Schools

Days Attending	Male (N=1982)	Female (N=1976)
0	16	15
1	1	1
2	1	1
3	3	3
4	9	7
5	69	72

### Attendance by school type

57. Attendance rates presented by school type in Table 3.5 show the All Age and Vocational Agricultural Schools recording the lowest levels of attendance, while attendance rates are relatively uniform among the other school types. The exception is Technical High Schools, which registered an 81% full attendance rate.

58. Rates for both Secondary High and Vocational/Agricultural were much lower than expected, falling below the average 90% and 93%, respectively recorded in the Education Sector Five Year Development Plan (1990-1995). Full attendance in Rural Area and Other Towns is lower than in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA). (See Table 3.5).

**Table 3.4**  
**Percentage Attendance**  
**By School Type**

Days Attending	School Type						
No of Days	Primary	All-Age	New Sec	Comp	Sec.High	Tech	V/A
0 (N=626)	15	21	13	20	16	11	21
1 (N=23)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
2 (N=37)	1	1	2	2	1	2	0
3 (N=120)	3	4	4	2	3	4	0
4 (N=313)	9	12	5	2	5	2	7
5 (N=2781)	70	61	74	72	74	81	64
Total (N=3958)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Discrepancies are due to rounding

**Table 3.5**  
**Attendance Rate by Area**

Days Attending	KMA (N=1012)	Other Towns (N=696)	Rural (N=2248)
0	18	18	14
1	1	0	1
2	0	1	1
3	1	3	4
4	3	8	10
5	75	69	69

Two Students did not indicate area of abode

### Attendance Rates By Quintile

59. Examination of the attendance rates by quintile shows no significant pattern of relationship with consumption except that students in the poorest quintile record a lower rate of full attendance than the other quintiles where the rate is fairly uniform (See Table 3.7). Students in this group are also the most likely to be absent from school for one day. No attempt was made in this Round of the SLC to determine on which days students are most frequently absent from school or why. Response to these questions will be sought in the expanded education module due to be conducted in 1990.

Table 3.6  
Percentage Attendance by Quintile

Days Attending	Jamaica	Population Quintile				
		Poorest	2	3	4	5
0	16	18	2	16	11	16
1	1	1	16	1	0	1
2	1	2	0	0	2	1
3	3	4	3	3	3	3
4	8	10	9	9	7	8
5	70	63	71	71	76	70

60. Practically all students attending school live at home. This is true for all consumption groups, school types, and sex and shows no variation by area.

### REPETITION

61. The July Report pointed out that in the Jamaican education system, repetition rates are not necessarily good proxy performance indicators, because of the practice of automatic promotion whereby students are promoted by age rather than by performance.

62. As expected, only a small percentage - 6% of those responding - indicated that they had ever repeated at least one grade in school. Because of the small numbers involved, it was therefore not possible to draw any definitive conclusions about the pattern of repetition from the data.

### School

63. The 6% repetition indicated was, however, evenly distributed among those repeating Primary and Secondary grades. The incidence of students repeating grades in both Primary and Secondary school is negligible. Examination of those repeating by quintile shows that there is no set pattern of repetition by welfare status.

64. For those repeating Primary grades, the majority, 66%, is likely to repeat just one year. Similarly, most of those repeating grades in Secondary Schools (52%), repeat one year.

#### Sex

65. Fifty-eight per cent and 55% of those repeating at the primary and secondary levels respectively, are male. Male students also repeat for longer periods than girls. At both primary and secondary levels, the students repeating are most likely to reside in the rural area (63% primary and 56% secondary) and to be in the 6-11 years age group (62% primary and 44% secondary). See Table 3.7 for the percentage of students who have repeated school, by quintile, area and sex.

**Table 3.7**  
**Primary and Secondary Repetition by Quintile, Area and Sex**  
**Percentage of Students Who Have Repeated One or More Years of School**

Variables	% Primary	% Secondary
<b>Quintile</b>		
Poorest	3 (N=553)	7 (N=347)
2	5 (N=517)	6 (N=397)
3	5 (N=516)	7 (N=356)
4	5 (N=444)	6 (N=385)
5	6 (N=282)	8 (N=325)
<b>Area</b>		
KMA	4 (N=575)	3 (N=460)
Other Towns	4 (N=404)	8 (N=448)
Rural	5 (N=1333)	7 (N=940)
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	5 (N=1164)	7 (N=850)
Female	3 (N=1149)	8 (N=861)