

**TABLE 2.1**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE,**  
**1988-1994**

Survey	Period of Investigation	CPI (Base: Jan 1988)	Months Covered	Mean Consumption	
				At Current Prices (\$)	At 1990 Prices (\$)
SLC 88	August	103.4	Jul-Aug	4,700	7,309
SLC 89-1	May-Jun	115.6	Apr-Jun	5,581	7,763
SLC 89-2	Nov-Dec	124.9	Oct-Dec	6,304	8,116
SLC 90	Nov-Dec	160.8	Oct-Dec	7,616	7,616
SLC 91	Nov-Dec	278.6	Oct-Dec	10,384	6,080
SLC 92	Aug 92- Mar 93	415.1	Aug 92- Mar 93	16,998	6,586
SLC 93	Nov 93- Mar 94	553.3	Nov 93- Mar 94	23,408	6,805
SLC 94	Nov-Dec	687.4	Oct-Dec	32,712	7,652

**TABLE 2.2**  
**INDICES OF MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY AREA,**  
**1989-1994**  
**(BASE: JAMAICA = 100)**

Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
SLC 89-2	100	138	112	78
SLC 90	100	139	108	73
SLC 91	100	141	110	72
SLC 92	100	143	106	74
SLC 93	100	131	101	79
SLC 94	100	141	99	74

This increase was mainly contributed by a recovery in Rural Areas. In 1994, all three regions, namely KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas, showed further improvement in mean per capita consumption in real terms.

The estimate of mean per capita private final consumption from National Accounts<sup>0</sup> for 1994 adopting the commodity flow approach, was \$35,819. Thus, the estimate of \$32,712 from the SLC 94 differed from the National Accounts estimate by 8.7 per cent.

### CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA

The mean per capita consumption expenditure according to SLC 94 was \$46,127 in Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), \$32,406 in Other Towns and \$24,296 in Rural Areas. The indices of mean per capita consumption with the average for Jamaica as 100, which showed a decline in KMA in 1993, recovered in 1994 while in Other Towns, there was not much difference in 1993. In Rural Areas, after the spurt in the index in 1993, which was partly due to the decline in the other two regions, the index in 1994 was similar to that in 1992 (See Table 2.2).

In 1994, the index number of per capita consumption, with Jamaica=100, was 141 in KMA, 99 in Other Towns and 74 in Rural Areas, indicating the wide gulf in per capita consumption which continues to exist in the three regions and in relation to the Jamaica average.

The growth in mean per capita consumption in 1994, in real terms, compared with 1993 was at the highest in KMA at 20.6 per cent, followed by 11.5 per cent in Other Towns and 5.3 per cent in Rural Areas. The Rural Areas already showed a substantial increase of 11.7 per cent in 1992 and 11.1 per cent in 1993 in per capita consumption in real terms and, therefore, the further increase of 5.3 per cent in 1994 returned consumption to 1991 levels. In 1994, real per capita consumption in Rural Areas was 0.9 per cent higher than that in 1990. In KMA also, real per capita consumption in 1994 was 3.3 per cent higher than in 1990 because of the substantial increase of 20.6 per cent in 1994 over the previous year. In Other Towns, however, real per capita consumption in 1994 still lagged behind that in 1990 by about 7.3 per cent, in spite of an increase of 11.5 per cent in 1994 over 1993.

**TABLE 2.3**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE: BY AREA**  
**SLC 90 - 94**

Item/Survey	JAMAICA	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
Mean Per Capita Consumption (at Current Prices)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
SLC 90	7,616	10,553	8,185	5,562
SLC 91	10,384	14,646	11,445	7,433
SLC 92	16,998	24,311	18,068	12,627
SLC 93	23,408	30,766	23,523	18,517
SLC 94	32,712	46,127	32,406	24,296
Mean Per Capita Consumption (at Oct-Dec 90 prices)				
SLC 90	7,616	10,553	8,185	5,562
SLC 91	6,080	8,746	6,646	4,295
SLC 92	6,586	9,586	6,963	4,797
SLC 93	6,805	9,036	6,801	5,328
SLC 94	7,652	10,897	7,586	5,612
Variation in Mean Per Capita Consumption at Constant Prices	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
(i) SLC 91 over SLC 90	-20.2a	-17.1	-18.8	-22.8
(ii) SLC 92 over SLC 91	+ 8.3a	+ 9.6	+ 4.8	+11.8
(iii) SLC 93 over SLC 92	+ 3.3	- 5.7	- 2.3	+11.1
(iv) SLC 93 over SLC 90	-10.6a	-14.4	-16.9	- 4.2
(v) SLC 94 over SLC 93	+12.5a	+20.6	+11.5	+ 5.3
(vi) SLC 94 over SLC 90	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	- 7.3	+ 0.9

a - Statistically significant (see Appendix II)

## FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION

In SLC 94, the mean per capita expenditure on food (See Table 2.4) in Jamaica, as a percentage of total consumption expenditure was 53.4 per cent compared with 53.9 per cent in SLC 93; 54.3 per cent in SLC 92; 55.7 per cent in SLC 91; 53.1 per cent in SLC 90, and 54.1 per cent in SLC 89-2. Thus, the substantial decline in non-food consumption observed in 1991 was compensated for, a large extent, by continued improvement during 1992-94, though the level in 1994, in percentage terms, was slightly lower than in 1990.

Among the three regions, only KMA showed a substantial decline in the percentage expenditure on food in 1994 compared with 1993, while in Other Towns, there was some increase.

## DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION BY COMMODITY GROUPS

The percentage of total consumption spent on the

various commodity groups is given in Table B-1. For Jamaica, while there was a decline in the share of food in total consumption in SLC 94, compared with SLC 93, there were increases in the shares of Personal Care, Transportation, Education, Recreation and Miscellaneous Consumption. Out of these, the increase in the share of Transportation was the largest. It moved from 5.6 per cent in 1993 to 7.2 per cent in 1994, due to a substantial increase in expenditure on privately owned vehicles. The share of Durable Goods remained at the same level in SLC 94 and SLC 93, at current prices, while there was a decline in the shares of other groups, namely Housing & Household Operational Expenses, Health Care, Fuel & Household Supplies and Clothing & Footwear (See Table 2.5).

The distribution of consumption expenditure by commodity groups in the three regions in SLC 94 is given in Table B-1.

**TABLE 2.4**  
**MEAN FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA,**  
**SLC 93 AND SLC 94**

Region	Group	SLC 93		SLC 94	
		(\$)	(%)	(\$)	(%)
KMA	Food	15,284	49.7	21,875	47.4
	Non-food	15,482	50.3	24,252	52.6
	Total	30,766	100.0	46,127	100.0
Other Towns	Food	12,392	52.7	18,273	56.4
	Non-food	11,131	47.3	14,133	43.6
	Total	23,523	100.0	32,406	100.0
Rural Areas	Food	10,952	59.2	14,355	59.1
	Non-food	7,565	40.8	9,941	40.9
	Total	18,517	100.0	24,296	100.0
Jamaica	Food	12,619	53.9	17,462	53.4
	Non-food	10,789	46.1	15,250	46.6
	Total	23,408	100.0	32,712	100.0

Among the three regions, the share of food in total consumption expenditure in SLC 94 was the highest at 59.1 per cent of total consumption in Rural Areas (at current prices) compared with 56.4 per cent in Other Towns and 47.4 per cent in KMA (See Table 2.6). Next to the food group, housing continues to account for the highest share of total consumption expenditure in both KMA and Other Towns, while in Rural Areas, clothing accounted for the second highest share. In 1994, the share of housing was at a high of 13.8 per cent in KMA and 12.3 per cent in Other Towns, while for Rural Areas it was only 7.8 per cent. The share of housing in total consumption for KMA declined in 1994, compared with 1993, but increased for the Other Towns and Rural Areas.

The Clothing & Footwear group accounted for 11.0 per cent of total consumption expenditure in KMA, 9.0 per cent in Other Towns and 11.0 per cent in Rural Areas. The share of the Clothing & Footwear group increased between 1993 and 1994 in KMA but declined in both Other Towns and Rural Areas.

The share of Health Care which remained stable for KMA in SLC 94, declined for Other Towns and Rural Areas while transportation which increased for KMA and Rural Areas, declined for Other Towns. The share of education in total consumption expenditure went up in Rural Areas, but declined in both KMA and Other Towns while for Personal Care and Recreation, there was an increase

**TABLE 2.5**  
**PERCENTAGE SHARE OF COMMODITY GROUPS IN TOTAL PER**  
**CAPITA CONSUMPTION, JAMAICA SLC 90 - SLC 94**  
**(at current prices)**

Commodity Group	Percentage Share in Total Consumption				
	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 92	SLC 93	SLC 94
Food & Beverages	53.1	55.7	54.3	53.9	53.4
Fuel & Household Supplies	7.1	7.1	5.8	5.8	5.5
Housing & Household Operational Expenses	10.5	10.8	11.9	11.9	11.3
Durable Goods	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Personal Care	3.2	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.7
Health Care	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.3
Clothing & Footwear	10.4	8.8	11.2	11.5	10.6
Transportation	5.9	6.2	5.1	5.6	7.2
Education & Recreation	3.4	1.4	2.7	2.3	2.4
Recreation		1.3	1.3	1.0	1.1
Miscellaneous Consumption	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	2.0
Total Consumption	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a - In 1990, Education and Recreation were combined.

**TABLE 2.6**  
**PERCENTAGE SHARES OF COMMODITY GROUPS IN TOTAL PER**  
**CAPITA CONSUMPTION, BY REGIONS, SLC 93 AND SLC 94**  
**(at current prices)**

Commodity Group	Percentage Share in Total Consumption					
	KMA		Other Towns		Rural Areas	
	93	94	93	94	93	94
1. Food & Beverages	49.7	47.4	52.7	56.4	59.2	59.1
2. Fuel & Household Supplies	5.2	4.7	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2
3. Housing & Household Operational Expenses	16.5	13.8	12.2	12.3	6.8	7.8
4. Durable Goods	1.8	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.0
5. Personal Care	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.8
6. Health Care	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.2
7. Clothing & Footwear	10.6	11.0	10.9	9.0	12.8	11.0
8. Transportation	6.2	9.5	6.4	6.1	4.5	5.0
9. Education	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.8	2.3
10. Recreation	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.8
11. Miscellaneous Consumption	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.8
Total Consumption	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

of the share in KMA and the Rural Areas while the share for Other Towns declined.

Compared with 1990, in Jamaica as a whole, on the average, there was a 0.5 per cent increase, in real terms, in total consumption in 1994 (See Table 2.7). Reflected in this expenditure on consumption was 34.2 per cent more spent on Housing & Household Operational Expenses and 44.6 per cent on Transportation. The only other group to show an increase in consumption was Health Care where the increase was 3.0 per cent. All other groups showed reduced expenditure at constant prices, compared with 1990. The largest reduction in expenditure, a decline of 16.0 percent, was on Personal Care and this was followed by Miscellaneous Consumption and the Education and Recreation groups with declines of 12.9 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively.

Among the three regions, KMA and Rural Areas increased their consumption expenditure, compared with 1990, by 3.3 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively while the mean per capita expenditure in Other Towns still showed a shortfall of 7.3 per cent. Housing & Household Operational Expenses and Transportation expenses at constant prices increased for all areas. The highest increase for Housing & Household Operational Expenses was in the Rural Areas, 42.9 per cent, while KMA had the highest increase, 69.2 per cent in Transportation.

All three regions had reduced expenditure for Food

and Beverages and for Fuel & Household Supplies. Durable Goods increased in expenditure by 41.3 per cent for KMA but the other regions had reductions. At constant prices, expenditure on Personal Care declined for all three regions while for Health Care, KMA and Rural Areas had increases in expenditure with Other Towns declining. Rural Areas, at constant prices, had increases in expenditure on Education & Recreation, Miscellaneous Consumption and Clothing & Footwear while there were declines in expenditure for these groups for KMA and Other Towns.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

As in the previous rounds, the Meals and Beverages consumed away from home continued to account for a sizeable share of the total expenditure on Food & Beverages in all the three regions (See Table B-4). In 1994, at current prices, it accounted for 31.2 per cent in KMA, 25.8 per cent in Other Towns and 18.9 per cent share in Rural Areas. Compared with 1993, there was some decline in 1994 in all regions.

The Meat, Poultry & Fish sub-group continued to account for the largest share of the expenditure on Food & Beverages group. In SLC 94, the share of this sub-group was 22.9 per cent in KMA, 25.9 per cent in Other Towns, 25.7 per cent in Rural Areas and 24.7 per cent in Jamaica as a whole. Compared with 1993, there was some decline in the share of this sub-group in total consumption of Food & Beverages in all regions.

**TABLE 2.7**  
**PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN GROUP EXPENDITURE IN SLC 94**  
**COMPARED TO SLC 90 AT CONSTANT (OCT-DEC 1990) PRICES,**  
**BY AREA**

Group	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
1. Food & Beverages	- 3.2	- 5.1	- 3.2	- 1.8
2. Fuel & Household Supplies	- 8.7	- 8.7	-15.5	- 3.9
3. Housing & Household Operational Expenses	+34.2	+23.3	+11.4	+42.9
4. Durable Goods	- 6.7	+41.3	-32.9	-46.2
5. Personal Care	-16.0	-13.1	-27.4	-19.0
6. Health Care	+ 3.0	+13.1	-20.7	0.2
7. Clothing & Footwear	- 3.3	- 1.7	-17.4	+ 1.8
8. Transportation	+44.6	+69.2	+13.5	+24.5
9. Education & Recreation	-12.8	-15.2	-37.1	+10.9
10. Miscellaneous Consumption	-12.9	-17.4	-34.5	+ 8.8
All Groups	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	- 7.3	+ 0.9

The shares of Dairy Products, Oils & Fats, Cereals & Cereal Products, Starchy Roots and Tubers, Vegetables, Fruits, Sugar/Sweets and Miscellaneous Foods sub-groups generally showed minor changes in SLC 94 compared to SLC 93 in all the three regions.

#### CONSUMPTION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

According to SLC 94, the mean per capita consumption of a household with a male head, was \$35,516 compared with \$29,436 for a household with a female head (See Table 2.8). This is consistent with the findings of earlier rounds of the SLC, that, on the average, the households with females as head have lower consumption levels than those with males as head. Compared with SLC 93, the mean per capita consumption expenditure of a male-headed household increased, at current prices, by 41.4 per cent, while the corresponding increase for a female-headed household was 36.9 per cent. Thus, while the mean per capita consumption of a female-headed household formed 91.0 per cent of that of a male-headed household in 1992 and 86.0 per cent in 1993, the corresponding figure in 1994

was 83.0 per cent.

The share of the Food & Beverages group in total consumption expenditure continued to be higher for female-headed households than for those headed by males.

As observed in the earlier rounds of SLC, the share of the Clothing and Accessories group in total consumption expenditure was higher for female-headed households, while the share for Transportation was higher for male-headed households. In SLC 94, the share of the Clothing & Footwear group in total consumption was 10.3 per cent for male-headed households and 11.1 per cent for female-headed households; while the share of Transportation was 7.7 per cent for male-headed households and 6.4 per cent for female-headed households (See Table B-3).

#### DISTRIBUTION (DECILES) OF CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

##### Population Deciles

In SLC 94, the mean per capita annual consumption expenditure in the poorest 10 per cent of the

**TABLE 2.8**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD,**  
**SLC 93 AND SLC 94**

Sex of Head	Mean Per Capita Consumption (\$)		Mean Food Expenditure		Food as percentage of total	
	SLC 93	SLC 94	SLC 93	SLC 94	SLC 93	SLC 94
Male	25,117	35,516	13,380	18,885	53.3	53.2
Female	21,509	29,436	11,774	15,800	54.7	53.7

**TABLE 2.9**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION BY DECILES,**  
**SLC 90 - SLC 94**

Decile	Percentage Share in National Consumption				
	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 92	SLC 93	SLC 94
1	2.53	2.22	2.58	2.42	2.52
2	3.85	3.59	3.92	3.88	3.89
3	4.84	4.73	5.00	4.98	4.89
4	5.78	5.72	5.82	6.08	5.86
5	6.90	6.83	6.92	7.17	6.87
6	8.15	8.16	8.30	8.45	8.11
7	9.83	9.65	9.98	9.94	9.82
8	12.21	11.98	12.26	12.24	12.11
9	16.31	15.70	15.63	15.98	15.53
10	29.59	31.42	29.59	28.86	30.39
Jamaica	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

sample was \$8,137 and that in the wealthiest 10 per cent was \$97,309; thus, the mean consumption for the wealthiest 10 per cent was 12.0 times that for the poorest 10 per cent. This compares with 12.0 in 1993; 12.8 in 1992; 13.7 in 1991 and 12.3 times in 1990 (see Table B-8).

The share of the top 20 per cent in national consumption which was 47.1 per cent in 1991, 45.2 per cent in 1992 and 44.8 per cent in 1993 moved to 45.9 per cent in 1994 (Table 2.9).

In 1994, there were mixed trends in the movement of the deciles. The highest decile showed an increase in its share of national consumption mov-

ing from 28.86 per cent in 1993 to 30.39 per cent in 1994. The lowest two deciles also showed an upward movement in their share of consumption while the shares of all other deciles declined.

In SLC 94, the consumption expenditure allocated to food formed 64.7 per cent of total consumption expenditure for the poorest decile, which progressively came down to 45.0 per cent in the highest decile.

#### CONSUMPTION OF HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS

The share of home production and gifts in the

**TABLE 2.10**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL VALUE OF HOME PRODUCTION AND**  
**GIFTS CONSUMED, BY AREA, SLC 94**

Commodity Group	Jamaica		KMA		Other Towns		Rural Areas	
	Value (\$)	% to group	Value (\$)	% to group	Value (\$)	% to group	Value (\$)	% to group
Non-food								
Durable Goods	56	10.4	95	8.9	41	9.6	37	15.5
Clothing & Footwear	753	21.4	1221	24.1	411	14.1	583	21.8
Other	274	2.4	507	2.8	104	1.0	189	2.7
Total Non-food	1083	7.1	1823	7.5	556	3.9	809	8.1
Food								
Meat, Poultry, & Fish	211	5.1	116	2.3	421	8.9	193	5.2
Roots, Tubers	432	41.9	75	8.2	195	20.4	747	65.9
Fruits & Vegetables	235	19.6	144	8.9	101	8.5	343	36.6
Other Food & Drinks	384	3.5	340	2.4	349	3.1	444	5.2
Total food	1262	7.2	675	3.1	1066	5.8	1,727	12.0
Grand total	2,345	7.2	2,498	5.4	1622	5.0	2,536	10.4

**TABLE 2.11**  
**HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL**  
**CONSUMPTION, BY AREA, SLC 90 - SLC 94**

Group/Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
<b>Food Group</b>				
SLC 90	6.1	0.9	4.4	12.0
SLC 91	6.0	0.8	4.8	11.7
SLC 92	6.5	1.8	4.5	8.8
SLC 93	5.4	2.8	3.6	8.6
SLC 94	7.2	3.1	5.8	12.0
<b>Non-food Group</b>				
SLC 90	4.4	3.7	4.9	5.1
SLC 91	4.2	3.4	5.0	5.0
SLC 92	4.6	3.6	4.9	5.8
SLC 93	5.2	4.4	3.9	7.0
SLC 94	7.1	7.5	3.9	8.1
<b>Total Consumption</b>				
SLC 90	5.3	2.3	4.6	9.2
SLC 91	5.2	2.1	4.9	9.1
SLC 92	5.6	2.7	4.7	7.6
SLC 93	5.3	3.6	3.8	7.9
SLC 94	7.2	5.4	5.0	10.4

mean per capita consumption expenditure was relatively high in 1994, accounting for 7.2 per cent of the total consumption, compared to 5.3 per cent in 1993 and 5.6 per cent in 1992 (See Table 2.10). The mean per capita consumption of home production and gifts in 1994 was \$2,345 out of the total consumption of \$32,712. The consumption of gifts of non-food items was 7.1 per cent of all non-food expenditures (5.2 per cent in 1993 and 4.6 per cent in 1992) and home production and gifts of food items was 7.2 per cent of all food expenditure (5.4 per cent in 1993 and 6.5 per cent in 1992).

As observed in the earlier rounds, SLC 94 also confirmed that among non-food gifts, Clothing & Footwear account for a significant percentage of all non-food gifts consumed. This percentage was 67.0 in KMA, 73.9 in Other Towns and 72.1 in Rural Areas. The percentage share for the country as a whole was 69.5.

Among food items home produced or gifts, the consumption of Starchy Foods and Fruits & Vegetables was the highest, accounting for 63 per cent of all food items consumed in Rural Areas, 27.8 per cent in Other Towns, 32.4 per cent in KMA and 52.9 per cent in the country as a whole.

If group consumption expenditure is considered, the consumption of home production or gifts accounted for a substantial portion of the total consumption in the clothing group among non-food items and Starchy Roots and Tubers and Fruits and Vegetables among food items.

The share of home produced food and food gifts as a share of total food, which is an important element in the Rural Areas, had progressively declined from 12.0 to 8.6 per cent during 1990 to 1993 (See Table 2.11). In 1994, however, the Rural Areas share had again climbed to 12.0 per cent. In Other Towns, the share, which had declined from 4.8 per cent in 1991 to 3.6 per cent in 1993, reached its highest level of 5.8 per cent in 1994. In KMA, the share of home production and gifts in total food consumption moved from 0.8 per cent in 1991 to 2.8 per cent in 1993 and increased further to 3.1 per cent in 1994.

The share of gifts in total Non-food consumption which increased significantly in Rural Areas from 5.1 per cent in 1990 to 7.0 per cent in 1993, increased further to 8.1 per cent in 1994. During 1993-94, the share of gifts in total Non-food consumption increased from 4.4 per cent to 7.5 per cent in KMA; while in Other Towns it remained stationary at 3.9 per cent.

### NON-CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

In all SLC rounds, one module was devoted to collecting information on non-consumption expenditure. The items covered included, inter alia, insurance payments, repayment of loans and interest, payments for supporting children living elsewhere, maintenance of relatives living away from home, legal services, donations and gifts, etc.

The per capita non-consumption expenditure as a percentage of total household expenditure in the

**TABLE 2.12**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CONSUMPTION AND**  
**NON-CONSUMPTION ITEMS BY AREA AND QUINTILE,**  
**SLC 94**

Group	SLC 94-Per Capita			% Non-consumption	
	Consumption (\$)	Non-consumption (\$)	Total (\$)	SLC 93	SLC94
<b>Area</b>					
KMA	46,127	2,333	48,460	6.1	4.8
Other Towns	32,406	1,260	33,666	4.8	3.7
Rural Areas	24,296	858	25,154	3.7	3.4
<b>Quintile</b>					
Poorest	10,297	214	10,510	2.3	2.0
2	17,175	306	17,480	2.2	1.7
3	23,924	641	24,565	2.9	2.6
4	34,975	1,234	36,209	3.2	3.4
5	73,572	4,119	77,691	7.3	5.3
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>32,712</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>34,112</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>

country declined from 4.9 per cent in 1993 to 4.1 per cent in 1994, a decline which was reflected in all three regions. Among the quintile groups, there was an increase in the share of Non-consumption expenditure in total household expenditure in quintile four, while the share in all other quintiles declined.

As observed in the earlier SLC rounds, the per capita non-consumption expenditure in SLC 94 was negligible at \$214 in the poorest quintile and this progressively increased to \$4,119 in the wealthiest quintile. The percentage of non-consumption expenditure to total household expenditure was 2.0 per cent in the poorest quintile and 5.3 per cent in the wealthiest quintile.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE**

Data in tables B-9 to B-11 give the distribution of households according to 17 ranges of total annual household consumption expenditure, by regions, quintiles and sex of household head respectively. The frequency of households by a few monthly consumption expenditure classes for the regions, for 1994 is summarized in Table 2.13.

In Jamaica, the total consumption expenditure 34.0 per cent of the households in 1994 was less than \$6,000 per household per month, while 51.3 per cent of the households spend less than \$8,000 per month per household on the average. Among the three regions, only 23.3 per cent of the households in KMA, and 33.9 per cent in Other Towns and 42.1 per cent of the households in Rural Areas spend less than \$6,000 per month per household. The cumulated frequency of the households spending less than \$8,000 was 37.4 per cent in KMA,

**TABLE 2.13**  
**CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION (%) OF HOUSEHOLDS BY MONTHLY**  
**HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, BY AREA, SLC 94**

Monthly Household Consumption Expenditure (\$)	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas	Jamaica
Less than 1,000	0.9	0.2	2.0	1.3
Less than 2,000	4.3	3.7	8.7	6.2
Less than 3,000	8.3	8.8	16.5	12.1
Less than 4,000	13.2	16.0	25.0	19.1
Less than 5,000	17.9	23.6	34.5	26.6
Less than 6,000	23.3	33.9	42.1	34.0
Less than 7,000	31.9	45.1	52.0	43.7
Less than 8,000	37.4	53.9	60.6	51.3
8000+	62.6	46.1	39.4	48.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



53.9 per cent in Other Towns and 60.6 per cent in Rural Areas. On the other hand, the households spending \$8,000 or more were the largest in KMA with 62.6 per cent, followed by Other Towns with 46.1 per cent and Rural Areas with 39.4 per cent. Thus, the consumption levels in KMA are higher than in either Other Towns or Rural Areas.

## SUMMARY

The mean per capita consumption expenditure (including value of home production and gifts consumed) recorded in SLC 94 for Jamaica was \$32,712 compared with \$23,408 in 1993; \$16,998 in 1992; \$10,384 in 1991, and \$7,616 in 1990 at current prices. Thus, at current prices, the 1994 figure was 40 per cent higher than in 1993, 92 per cent higher than in 1992, 215 per cent higher than in 1991 and 330 per cent higher than in 1990.

When deflated to 1990 price levels, the per capita consumption in 1994 (SLC 94) was \$7,652 compared with \$6,805 in 1993; \$6,586 in 1992; \$6,080 in 1991; and \$7,616 in 1990. Thus, the consumption in real terms, which declined by about 20 per cent in 1991 compared with the previous year, recovered somewhat in 1992 and 1993 and by 1994 was again on par with that in 1990. Compared with 1990, the per capita consumption in 1994 in real terms was just 0.5 per cent higher.

In 1994, all three regions, namely KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas showed further improvement in mean per capita consumption in real terms. Consequently, the real per capita consumption was slightly higher than that in 1990 in both KMA and Rural Areas. In Other Towns, however, the real per capita consumption still lags behind that in 1990.

As noticed in the previous rounds of SLC, among the three regions, the share of food in total consumption expenditure in SLC 94 was the highest at 59.1 per cent in Rural Areas (at current prices) compared with 56.4 per cent in Other Towns and 47.4 per cent in KMA. Next to the food group, housing continues to account for the highest share of total consumption expenditure in both KMA and Other Towns, while in the Rural Areas, clothing accounted for the second highest share. In 1994, the share of housing was at a high of 13.8 per cent in KMA and 12.3 per cent in Other Towns, while the Rural Areas' share was only 7.8 per cent. The share of housing in total consumption for KMA declined in 1994, compared with 1993, but increased for the Other Towns and Rural Areas.

At constant 1990 prices, during the period 1990 - 94, there was a 44.6 per cent rise in transportation costs, 34.2 per cent in housing & household operational expenses and 3.0 per cent rise in health care costs. All the other commodity groups showed a decline in consumption at constant prices.

As in the previous rounds, meals and beverages consumed away from home continued to account for a sizeable share of the total expenditure on Food & Beverages in all three regions. In 1994, at current prices, it accounted for 31.2 per cent in KMA, 25.8 per cent in Other Towns and 18.9 per cent in Rural Areas. Compared with 1993, there was some decline in these proportions in 1994 in all three regions.

The meat, poultry and fish sub-group continued to account for the largest share of the expenditure in the Food & Beverages group. In SLC 94, the share of this sub-group was 22.9 per cent in KMA, 25.9 per cent in Other Towns, 25.7 per cent in Rural Areas and 24.7 per cent in Jamaica as a whole. Compared with 1993, there was some decline in the share of this sub-group in total consumption of food and beverages in all the regions.

According to SLC 94, the mean per capita consumption of a household with a male head, was \$35,516 compared with \$29,436 for a household with a female head (see Table 2.8). This is consistent with the findings of earlier rounds of the SLC, that, on the average, the households with females as head have lower consumption levels than those with males as head.

In SLC 94, the mean per capita annual consumption expenditure in the poorest 10 per cent of the sample was \$8,137 and that in the wealthiest 10 per cent was \$97,309; thus, the mean consumption for the wealthiest ten per cent was 12.0 times that for the poorest ten per cent. This compares with 12.0 in 1993; 12.8 in 1992; 13.7 in 1991 and 12.3 times in 1990.

The share of home production and gifts in the mean per capita consumption expenditure was relatively high in 1994, accounting for 7.2 per cent of the total consumption compared with 5.3 per cent in 1993 and 5.6 per cent in 1992. The mean per capita consumption of home production and gifts in 1994 was \$2,345 out of the total consumption of \$32,712.

# Education

## INTRODUCTION

**T**his year is the first time since the SLC's 1990 Expanded Module on Education, that data on educational expenses were collected. This was in addition to the data regularly collected on enrolment and attendance at all levels of the education system, participation in the school feeding programme, and characteristics of persons not enrolled in school. For the first time, however, data on assistance provided to students by the Government's Student Assistance Programme and other sources were collected.

For most of the analysis on enrolment and school attendance, the focus will be on the 6 to 14 year olds. This cohort is the target group of the Ministry of Education as it seeks to realize one of its objectives, that of providing basic education for all children between 6 and 14 years. Some analysis of enrolment of the other age groups will, nevertheless, be provided. Further, since Early Childhood education is a critical foundation for Basic Education, enrolment by 3 to 5 year olds will be closely examined.

## ENROLMENT

The school age population, defined as persons between the ages 3 and 24 years, represented 46.0 per cent of the SLC sample. This was a total of 3,256 persons, of whom 67.0 per cent were enrolled in school. The data revealed that percentage enrolment up to age 14 continued to be high, confirming the findings of all previous surveys that educational coverage is quite good for students up to this age, but it declines significantly thereafter. The declining enrolment after age 14 must be seen

against the background of a Ministry of Education policy for the provision of basic education aimed at persons 6 to 14 years old. This is in part a direct response to the recognition that the available resources are not enough to provide education for all beyond a certain age and level.

A breakdown of enrolment by sector showed the vast majority, 95.5 per cent, enrolled in the Public school system. This is explained by the fact that most of the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education is provided by the State. The impact of enrolment in privately owned schools is generally most noticeable among the 3-5 age group, at the Early Childhood level of the education system.

### Enrolment by Age group and School level

The school age population has been divided into particular age groups representing particular levels or stages within the education system (See Table 3.1). The age groups are 3-5 years, the Early Childhood level; 6-11 years, the Primary level (Grades 1-6); the 12-14 age group, Grades 7-9 (the lower end of the Secondary level); the 15-16 and 17-19 year olds, Grades 10-11, and 12-13, respectively, the upper ends of the secondary level; and the 20-24 year olds, enrolled at the Tertiary level.

### Early Childhood Education

#### 3-5 Age Group

Enrolment remained virtually unchanged over the past two years. As seen in Table 3.1, some 86.0 per cent were enrolled in school, of which 81.0 per cent were enrolled at the early childhood level. This percentage enrolment represented an 11.0 percentage point increase over 1992. Approximately 5.0 per

**TABLE 3.1**  
**PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATION LEVEL, 1989-1994**

Age, Education Level	Year					
	1989 (2)	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>3-5 Years</b>						
Early Childhood	77.0	77.0	77.3	70.0	81.4	81.0
Primary	6.0	0.0	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.8
None	16.0	23.0	17.5	25.2	14.0	14.2
<b>6-11 Years</b>						
Early Childhood	4.0	2.0	3.7	5.6	2.4	0.3
Primary	87.0	93.0	87.1	86.1	94.5	95.3
Secondary	7.0	3.0	7.7	6.6	2.6	3.9
None	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.7	0.5	0.5
<b>12-14 Years</b>						
Primary	17.0	16.0	18.4	21.6	17.3	15.0
Secondary	80.0	81.0	78.1	74.9	80.0	79.8
None	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	2.7	5.2
<b>15-16 Years</b>						
Primary	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Secondary	69.0	78.0	76.2	79.2	77.1	81.2
Tertiary	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.7	1.5	0.4
None	28.0	22.0	21.8	19.7	21.4	18.4
<b>17-19 Years</b>						
Secondary	14.0	11.0	15.9	20.4	19.1	11.9
Tertiary	5.0	2.0	5.2	4.9	6.6	7.4
None	81.0	86.0	78.9	74.7	74.4	80.7
<b>20-24 Years<sup>b</sup></b>						
Secondary	0.0	-	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.1
Tertiary	2.0	-	3.3	2.4	5.6	2.8
None	98.0	-	96.1	97.1	93.1	97.1

a - Second Round of the 1989 SLC

b - Data not available for this age group for 1990

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

cent were enrolled at the primary level. With respect to school sector enrolment, approximately 80.0 per cent of this age group were enrolled in subsidized Basic schools which are community-run, and enjoy Government support (See Table E-3).

Compared with the period 1989 to 1992, the years 1993 and 1994 saw the highest enrolment among this age group. With enrolment at the early childhood level increasing over the years, this should assist the efforts at the provision of basic education.

#### **Basic Education - Primary** **6-11 Age group**

Approximately 99.5 per cent of the 6-11 year olds were enrolled in school (See Table 3.1). This is consistent with national enrolment data and with efforts aimed at providing universal primary education for children of this age group. Some 95.3 per cent were enrolled at the primary level. Enrolment of 6-11 year olds at the secondary level increased slightly to approximately 4.0 per cent. This could

be a function of the Common Entrance Examination which places 11 year olds who have been successful, in Secondary High schools.

#### **Secondary Education**

Secondary level education is offered in the following schools; All Age (Grades 7-9), New Secondary, Comprehensive High, Secondary High and Technical High schools. The year 1994 saw the introduction of a Government policy aimed at upgrading certain types of the secondary level schools in order to provide equity. In light of this, and thus to examine the effectiveness of the policy, the data on enrolment at the secondary level were given close scrutiny. This was done cognizant of the fact stated earlier, that the education system has no policy commitment to carry all students after age 14. The findings on enrolment of students older than 14 years, are therefore not to be interpreted as an indictment on the Ministry of Education.

**TABLE 3.2**  
**ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, 1989-1994**

School Type	Year					
	1989(2)	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
All Age (Grades 7-9)	27.0	22.0	28.0	23.0	20.2	19.8
New Secondary	32.0	37.0	30.6	28.8	27.9	20.5
Comprehensive High	3.0	3.0	3.9	5.0	8.6	13.0
Secondary High	29.0	28.0	27.6	30.7	29.4	33.7
Technical High	3.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	5.7	5.0
Vocational/Agric.	0.8	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.8
University/Post Sec.	3.4	4.0	3.8	6.5	5.6	4.4
Adult/Night School	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Jamaica	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a - Second Round of the 1989 SLC

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

### **Secondary - First Cycle/Basic Education** **12-14 Age group**

Among the 12-14 year olds, approximately 95.0 per cent were enrolled. As shown in Table 3.1, this percentage enrolment marked a decline of 2.5 percentage points over 1993. Further, it was the first year since 1989 (the inception of the SLC) that enrolment among this age group was so low. However, enrolment among this age group is still high.

Approximately 15.0 per cent were enrolled at the primary level, suggesting some degree of repetition at Grade 6. Some 80.0 per cent were enrolled at the secondary level. Enrolment at this level thus remained unchanged from 1993.

### **Secondary - Second Cycle (i)** **15-16 Age group**

On completion of Grade 9, the education system generally has no policy commitment to carry the entire age cohort further through the system. This is particularly so for students enrolled in All Age schools which end at Grade 9. Student enrolment among the older age groups (older than 14 years) thus tends to show a decline. This is largely the result of the limited number of school spaces at the upper secondary level.

Among the 15 and 16 year olds, there was a 3 percentage point increase in enrolment. This year saw the highest percentage of enrolment by these students since 1989 (See Table 3.1). Some 81.2 per cent were enrolled at the upper secondary level (Grades 10 and above). Of the three areas, students from the KMA and from Other Towns, had the largest percentage enrolment (approximately 88.0

per cent, each) at this level (See Table E-1). In both areas this represented an increase over 1993, of approximately 6 percentage points. Only 75.0 per cent of students in Rural Areas were enrolled, highlighting the converse situation, that of the high percentage of children out of school which was twice that of the KMA and Other Towns.

### **Secondary - Second Cycle (ii)** **17-19 Age group**

This part of the cycle represents the smallest proportion of students enrolled in the formal education system. Approximately 19 per cent were enrolled. As shown in Table 3.1, this was lower than that between 1991 and 1993. At the secondary level, there was a marked decline in enrolment from 19.1 per cent in 1993 to 11.9 per cent. Enrolment of this age group at the tertiary level increased marginally by 1.0 percentage point, to 7.4 per cent.

### **SUMMARY - Secondary level**

With respect to total secondary level enrolment, the data presented in Table 3.2 seem to support the policy objective of the Government with regard to the redistribution of the secondary level school population rather than increasing enrolment at this time. While percentage enrolment in All Age schools (Grades 7-9) virtually remained unchanged over the year, the enrolment in New Secondary schools declined by some 7.4 percentage points to 20.5 per cent. Correspondingly, enrolment in Secondary High and Comprehensive High schools increased from 29.4 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively, to 33.7 per cent and 13.0 per cent, over the year. The impact of the policy was evidenced in this shift.

## Tertiary

### 20-24 Age group

With respect to this age group, enrolment declined over the year by 3.8 percentage points, to 3.0 per cent (See Table 3.1). This was almost a reversal to the situation in 1992.

## SUMMARY - All Levels

At the early childhood level, percentage enrolment continued to increase. The enrolment in 1994 was some 11 percentage points higher than in 1992. The Early Childhood programme is provided in Government Infant Schools and Infant Departments as well as in community-run Basic Schools and in privately-owned Nurseries and Kindergartens. Government continued its support of this type of education through administrative direction and in the provision of salary and nutrition subsidies; in-service training for the teachers and para-professionals; parenting and community education; as well as upgrading physical facilities.

With respect to basic education, some 94.0 per cent of the relevant age cohort (6-14 years) were enrolled in school, indicating the wide coverage of the basic education programme. Only 32 children of this age group were out of school at the time of the survey. Up to the basic education level the education system can accommodate the entire age cohort, after which limited school space hinders universal access. At this point, welfare status greatly determines enrolment or non-enrolment.

A redistribution of enrolment at the secondary level was evident from the data. The policy geared to upgrading All Age and New Secondary schools into Secondary High and Comprehensive High schools realized declining enrolment in All Age and New Secondary schools and increased enrolment in Comprehensive High and Secondary High schools. In effect, this was a redistribution of the secondary level population.

At the tertiary level, (University/Post Secondary, and Adult/Night School) enrolment increased marginally, by 0.6 percentage point, to 6.2 per cent (See Table 3.2).

## Enrolment by Quintile

A close relationship was observed between welfare status and school enrolment after age 14. Further, enrolment at the secondary and tertiary levels tended to increase with improvement in welfare status (See Tables 3.3 and E-4). Restricted access to higher levels of education (grades 10 and above) seriously affect the poor.

At the early childhood level, (the 3-5 age group), enrolment increased as welfare status improved. Among the poorest children, some 82.4 per cent were enrolled, compared with 95.5 per cent of the wealthiest. With regard to the 6-11 age group, the data showed near total and total enrolment (between 98.0 per cent and 100.0 per cent). Regardless of welfare status, it is evident that all students do access primary education. Percentage enrolment among the 12-14 year olds of all consumption groups was also quite high, ranging from 91.0 per cent to 98.0 per cent.

Among the older age groups (15-16; 17-19; 20-24), the percentage of children of the poorest consumption groups (quintiles 1 and 2) enrolled in school, was on average smaller than their wealthier counterparts in the upper quintiles (4 and 5). With respect to the 15 and 16 year olds not enrolled, they tended to be poor. They would also be the ones to join the labour force, unprepared and unskilled. As seen in Table 3.3, some 27.0 per cent of the poorest and 40.0 per cent of persons of this age group belonging to quintile 2, were not enrolled in school. Only 7.0 per cent of the 15 and 16 year old children belonging to the wealthiest consumption group, were not enrolled.

Among the 17-19 age cohort, only those belonging to quintile 5 enjoyed any real advantage with respect to enrolment, since some 37.0 per cent were enrolled. For the other consumption groups, percentage enrolment ranged between 9.0 per cent and 18.0 per cent. Within the 20-24 age group, no one from the poorest quintile enjoyed tertiary level education, compared with 8.0 per cent of the wealthiest.

A relationship was noticed between the welfare status of students and school-sector (public/private) enrolment. The data in Table E-3 showed enrolment in private schools as being greatest among the

**TABLE 3.3**  
**SCHOOL ENROLMENT OF 3-24 YEAR OLDS, BY QUINTILE, 1989-1994<sup>a</sup>**

Age, Quintile <sup>a</sup>	YEAR					
	1989(2)	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>3-5 Years</b>						
Poorest	74.0	72.0	75.0	63.0	76.0	82.0
2	83.0	75.0	77.0	69.0	86.0	82.0
3	84.0	78.0	83.0	82.0	87.0	80.0
4	87.0	83.0	91.0	79.0	93.0	87.0
5	89.0	83.0	93.0	81.0	95.0	95.0
<b>6-11 Years</b>						
Poorest	98.0	99.0	99.0	97.0	99.0	98.0
2	100.0	99.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	100.0
3	99.0	100.0	98.0	99.0	100.0	100.0
4	98.0	100.0	99.0	98.0	100.0	100.0
5	99.0	98.0	99.0	99.0	100.0	100.0
<b>12-14 Years</b>						
Poorest	95.0	95.0	95.0	93.0	93.0	93.0
2	98.0	97.0	95.0	95.0	97.0	91.0
3	98.0	98.0	96.0	98.0	99.0	96.0
4	98.0	96.0	100.0	99.0	99.0	98.0
5	97.0	100.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	95.0
<b>15-16 Years</b>						
Poorest	59.0	75.0	65.0	65.0	71.0	73.0
2	73.0	73.0	74.0	72.0	73.0	60.0
3	75.0	71.0	73.0	80.0	80.0	91.0
4	83.0	87.0	99.0	89.0	82.0	89.0
5	84.0	88.0	92.0	92.0	93.0	93.0
<b>17-19 Years</b>						
Poorest	9.0	11.0	17.0	11.0	16.0	12.0
2	14.0	6.0	12.0	19.0	15.0	9.0
3	19.0	13.0	18.0	26.0	25.0	18.0
4	14.0	15.0	31.0	26.0	33.0	18.0
5	19.0	29.0	31.0	40.0	37.0	37.0
<b>20-24 Years<sup>b</sup></b>						
Poorest	0.0	-	4.0	1.0	3.0	0.0
2	1.0	-	0.0	1.0	2.0	4.0
3	2.0	-	3.0	2.0	7.0	2.0
4	3.0	-	*5.0	3.0	7.0	3.0
5	5.0	-	8.0	5.0	12.0	8.0

a - Second Round of the 1989 SLC

b - Data not available for this age group for 1990

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

wealthiest children (10.5 per cent), compared with only 1.2 per cent of the poorest. In spite of the existing relationship between welfare status and school sector enrolment, the data reveal that all consumption groups still access to a large extent, public education.

As shown in Table E-5, percentage enrolment in All Age schools (Grades 7-9) and New Secondary schools was greatest among children of the poorest consumption groups. These schools cater to the poorest children, offer low status secondary education, and have low social currency. Admission to them is free flow and not through competitive examinations. Children here are prepared for the

world of work rather than for further education. From all indications, this preparation is not entirely adequate. Percentage enrolment by students from quintiles 1 and 2, in All Age and New Secondary schools, combined, was 67.8 per cent and 47.3 per cent, respectively. This was compared with 35.9 per cent of students in quintile 4 enrolled in these schools, and 19.1 per cent of students from the wealthiest consumption group. Although the Government's policy of school upgrading saw a shift in type of secondary school enrolment, with an attendant decline in enrolment in All Age and New Secondary schools, the association between poverty and enrolment in these schools was again evident. Only 28.8 per cent of the poorest con-

**TABLE 3.4**  
**PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT, BY AGE AND AREA, 1990-1993**

Age, Area	Year				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>3-5 Years</b>					
KMA	83.0	90.6	81.5	94.4	94.0
Other Towns	77.0	85.9	77.9	90.3	84.3
Rural Areas	75.0	77.5	71.3	79.5	81.7
<b>6-11 Years</b>					
KMA	99.0	98.7	99.0	99.3	100.0
Other Towns	99.0	98.8	96.2	100.0	100.0
Rural Areas	99.0	98.3	98.6	99.4	99.1
<b>12-14 Years</b>					
KMA	96.0	95.5	100.0	99.3	96.0
Other Towns	99.0	100.0	95.4	98.0	91.7
Rural Areas	97.0	96.1	95.3	95.9	95.3
<b>15-16 Years</b>					
KMA	87.0	83.5	94.0	79.7	88.2
Other Towns	84.0	93.4	80.2	81.5	87.7
Rural Areas	72.0	70.2	73.9	76.6	76.1
<b>17-19 Years</b>					
KMA	18.0	32.3	33.5	36.3	26.1
Other Towns	13.0	19.1	24.4	24.6	22.3
Rural Areas	11.0	15.0	21.6	17.7	13.7
<b>20-24 Years <sup>a</sup></b>					
KMA	-	5.2	5.3	11.0	4.8
Other Towns	-	7.9	2.3	6.0	1.8
Rural Areas	-	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.8

a - Data not available for this age group for 1990

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

sumption group were enrolled in the more "traditional" high schools (Comprehensive, Secondary and Technical), compared with 65.8 per cent of the wealthiest group.

With respect to tertiary institutions, the association between welfare status and enrolment was again observed. As welfare status improved, enrolment increased. This year's Table E-5 introduces a separate category, that of Adult/Night school. This category was in previous years included in the Post Secondary category which encompasses University enrolment. One can add the categories of University/Post Secondary and Adult/Night school to attempt a comparison of tertiary level enrolment with the percentages reported for previous years under the category Post-Secondary.

### Enrolment by Area

Enrolment among all age groups was generally highest in the KMA, and lowest in the Rural Areas (See Table 3.4). Among the early childhood age group in the KMA, percentage enrolment was virtually unchanged, while that in Other Towns declined by 6.0 percentage points, and that in

Rural Areas increased by 2.2 percentage points. Enrolment in the KMA, at 94.0 per cent, was higher than the All Jamaica sample's percentage enrolment for the 3-5 age group.

With respect to the 6-11 age group, there was 100.0 per cent enrolment by students from the KMA and Other Towns. Among Rural Area students, percentage enrolment was 99.1 per cent. Equality of access to education was therefore evident.

In all three areas, percentage enrolment by the 12-14 year olds declined. These declining percentages are worthy of note in spite of enrolment being still quite high, at between 92.0 per cent and 96.0 per cent. The largest decline of 6.3 percentage points was students from Other Towns. The KMA compared with the other areas, recorded the largest proportion enrolled (96.0 per cent), followed by Rural Areas with approximately 95.0 per cent, and Other Towns with 92.0 per cent enrolled (See Table 3.4). This percentage enrolment of students from Other Towns was lower than the percentage enrolment of the 12-14 age group in the All Jamaica sample. It is

**TABLE 3.5**  
**PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, BY AREA, 1990-1994**

School Type	Area, Year														
	KMA					Other Towns					Rural Areas				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
All Age (7-9)	15.0	21.5	13.0	11.9	13.6	8.0	17.2	14.9	21.9	16.9	32.0	35.5	31.7	25.7	25.4
New Secondary	36.0	27.6	25.1	27.8	14.8	36.0	28.5	35.3	13.7	17.9	37.0	33.0	28.9	33.5	25.5
Comprehensive High	3.0	4.7	7.4	9.1	11.7	0.0	2.0	2.1	9.4	11.2	3.0	4.2	4.5	7.9	14.8
Secondary High	36.0	35.1	38.0	36.3	44.8	41.0	40.4	37.7	35.8	40.8	18.0	19.0	24.2	21.9	23.0
Technical High	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.3	4.1	8.0	3.3	3.4	10.3	7.6	5.0	4.7	3.9	6.3	4.6
Vocational/Agric.	1.0	3.7	2.5	1.6	1.2	1.0	2.7	0.2	5.8	2.1	2.0	1.7	3.2	2.1	2.0
University/Post Sec.	6.0	5.6	11.8	11.0	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.3	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.0	3.6	2.6	3.7
Adult/Night School <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	3.4	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	1.1
Jamaica	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

a - This category is given separately in 1994, whereas in previous years was included in the University/Post Secondary category.

also an unexpected finding which might warrant some further investigation.

Among the 15-16 age group, enrolment among students from the KMA and from Other Towns increased by greater than 6.0 percentage points, while enrolment in Rural Areas remained virtually the same as that in 1993. Enrolment among the older age groups in all three areas, declined.

The redistribution of the secondary level school population was evident in all three areas. There were observed increases in the percentage enrolment in Comprehensive High and Secondary High schools (See Table 3.5). Only in Other Towns did the percentage enrolment in New Secondary schools increase and percentage enrolment in All Age schools decline.

The largest percentage of students (44.8 per cent) enrolled in the KMA were enrolled in Secondary High schools. In Other Towns, the majority, 40.8 per cent, were also enrolled in Secondary High schools, while in Rural Areas some 51.0 per cent were enrolled in New Secondary and All Age schools combined (See Table 3.5). This type of secondary level school enrolment is largely a function of area, since the Rural Areas tend to have more of the All Age and New Secondary schools, while the KMA has a large number of Secondary High schools.

With regard to tertiary level enrolment, the KMA compared with the other areas, had the largest proportion of its students, 9.7 per cent, enrolled at this level. This was a decline of 1.3 percentage points

from that in 1993. Among the students from Other Towns, 3.6 per cent were enrolled at this level, compared with 4.6 per cent of Rural Area students. This latter percentage represented almost a doubling of that in 1993.

### THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL POPULATION

This population comprises persons of school age who were not enrolled in a school or educational institution at the time of the survey. In the analysis of the out-of-school population, the 1994 SLC report focuses on the 15-24 year olds, since access to education after age 14 ceases to be largely universal, and becomes closely associated with welfare status.

Some 969 persons between the ages 15 and 24 were not enrolled in school. They represented 75.3 per cent of this age cohort in the sample. As was expected, percentage non-enrolment increased with age. The data showed that of the 15-24 year olds who were out of school, 5.8 per cent were between 15 and 16 years; 32.3 per cent belonged to the 17-19 age group; and 61.9 per cent were between 20 and 24 years.

As indicated in Table E-6, a close association existed between consumption status and the grade at which one completed school. Where welfare status improved there was an increased chance of completing school at the higher end of the secondary level (beyond Grade 9). Among the poorest group, the largest proportion (54.5 per cent), had completed school at the lower end of the secondary level (Grades 7-9). Among the wealthiest group,



however, 86.4 per cent had completed grade 10 or 11 before exiting the education system. Both these facts indicate the inability of the education system to guarantee education for all after Grade 9. Further, they point to an association between welfare status and the ability to remain in the education system and access higher education. None of the poor who were out of school had previously gone on to Grade 12 or 13. Some 4.5 per cent of the wealthiest had terminated school after completing Grade 12 or 13.

An examination of the data on the highest grade achieved by individuals from each area who were out of school, revealed that of the three areas, the KMA had the largest proportion (78.5 per cent) who had completed either grade 10 or 11. Other Towns had the largest proportion (2.8 per cent) who had achieved Grade 12 or 13, compared with 2.2 per cent in the KMA and 1.0 per cent of the out-of-school population from Rural Areas (See Table E-6).

A gender distribution of the out-of-school population showed that when compared with males (60.5 per cent), a greater proportion of females (68.7 per cent) had completed Grade 10 or 11. At the tertiary level, however, similar percentages of males (1.7 per cent) and females (1.6 per cent) had achieved Grade 12 or 13.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Analysis of school attendance relates only to the primary and secondary levels of the education system. The reference period for which data were collected was the 5 school days prior to the interview date. The analysis showed an improvement in full attendance (attendance for all 5 days), of 5.0 percentage points, to 84.0 per cent (See Table E-7).

### **Attendance by Gender**

There was very little difference in the percentages of full attendance of boys and girls for the reference school period, 84.5 per cent, and 83.2 per cent, respectively. Analysis of non-attendance or absenteeism for all 5 days showed 3.3 per cent of males and 2.5 per cent of females not attending. This is an improvement in gender performance where the attendance by boys and girls is high.

### **Attendance by School Type**

Although secondary level schools continued to record a higher percentage of full attendance than primary level schools, percentage full attendance by the latter improved by 5.0 percentage points over the year, from 78.7 per cent to 83.4 per cent. These percentages are better/higher than those reported by the Ministry of Education. This could be due to the fact that the attendance data collected by the SLC is for a restricted period, whereas the attendance percentages reported by the Ministry of Education are for the school year. (In the 1993 analysis, both the primary and secondary levels of the All Age schools were combined and reported under the category primary level. In 1994, the two levels are separated into primary and secondary level.)

With the exception of Technical High schools, full attendance figures improved for all other secondary level schools. Technical High schools, nevertheless, continued to record the highest proportion (89.3 per cent) of students attending school for all 5 days of the reference period. This was followed by Secondary High schools with 85.5 per cent. All Age schools (Grades 7-9), recorded the lowest percentage of full attendance.

### **Attendance by Area**

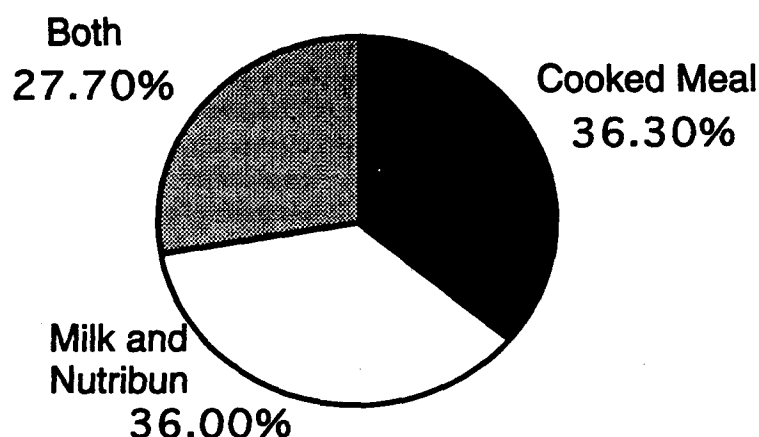
Unlike 1993, students from Other Towns recorded the highest percentage (92.4 per cent) attending school for the reference 5 days. The KMA followed with 84.0 per cent and the Rural Areas with approximately 81.0 per cent. Of all three areas, students from Other Towns recorded the largest percentage (3.4 per cent) of absenteeism. In Rural Areas, 2.7 per cent of students did not attend school for the reference period, while in the KMA it was 2.3 per cent.

### **Attendance by Quintile**

The data showed a close relationship between attendance and welfare status. As welfare status improved, full attendance increased and percentage non-attendance declined. Percentage full attendance by the poorest children, at 79.6 per cent, was approximately 10.0 percentage points lower than that of their wealthiest counterparts. Further, it was lower than that for the All Jamaica sample which

Figure 3.1

### Share of Participation in the School Feeding Programme



was 83.9 per cent.

### PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

This report examines the participation of students in the School Feeding Programme (SFP) (See Table E-8). Under the SFP, a milk and nutribun snack or a cooked meal (obtained at a higher cost to the student) is provided by the school. Students can receive one of these or both. Those persons classified under the heading of receiving both meal types, are treated separately from those identified as having either the milk and nutribun snack, or a cooked meal, and are reported on under the category "both".

Unlike the previous year, data on the provision of school meals provided by the school tuck shop or canteen, are not reported on, except as not being a part of the SFP. They are thus referred to in the category "none".

Some 31.2 per cent of students participated in the School Feeding Programme, a decline of 17.0 percentage points of that in 1993. Of the participants, almost similar percentages of 36.3 per cent and 36.0 per cent, respectively, had the cooked meal and the milk and nutribun snack. The remaining 27.7 per cent had "both" (See Figure 3.1). The decline in participation is explained by the fact that for the country as a whole, the level of participation

in the SFP "was some 8 per cent lower than in the previous year and resulted from a decline in production experienced under the nutribun programme. Budgetary constraints, shortage of raw and packaging materials, industrial unrest, inter alia, led to NPL's feeding only 60 per cent of the targeted number of students."<sup>1</sup>

### Participation by School Type

Some 34.4 per cent of the students in Primary schools reported that they had participated in the SFP. Among All Age schools (Grades 1-6), 39.4 per cent did. Of all the school types, the secondary level of All Age schools recorded the largest percentage of beneficiaries, 42.5 per cent. The Secondary High schools with 16.7 per cent of participants, had the lowest percentage participation in the SFP. As intended, Primary level students were the chief beneficiaries of the programme (See Table E-8).

The popular choice of students at the primary and secondary levels of the All Age school system, was the milk and nutribun snack, while among the secondary level school students, generally, it was the cooked meal.

<sup>1</sup>. *Planning Institute of Jamaica. Economic and Social Survey Jamaica, 1994, Kingston, 1995, p. 20.4.*

## Participation by Quintile

As expected, students from the highest consumption group recorded the lowest percentage participation in the School Feeding Programme (24.4 per cent). Of those who participated, the majority, 42.0 per cent, had both the cooked meal and the nutribun and milk snack.

Some 39.0 per cent of the poorest students participated in the SFP. Of the five consumption groups, the poorest quintile had the largest share of participation. This fact confirmed the successful realization of a major aim of the SFP, that of providing meals to students in need (See Table E-8). The most popular choice among the children of the poorest consumption group was the milk and nutribun snack.

## Participation by Area

Analysis of participation within the three geographical locations, showed Rural Areas having the largest proportion of participants, (34.0 per cent). The KMA followed with 29.7 per cent, and Other Towns with 25.6 per cent. Among KMA participants, "both", followed closely by the milk and nutribun snack, were the popular choices. In the Other Towns and Rural Areas, the cooked meal, followed closely by the snack, were the two popular choices.

## SCHOOL EXPENSES

Data on expenditure on school fees, extra lessons, transportation, lunch and snacks for school, uniforms, books, other supplies, and room and board across the education system, were collected and analyzed (See Table E-9). Further, data on the Secondary school system, with respect to the assistance provided by the Government's Student Assistance Programme and other agencies or persons such as from Members of Parliament through the Social and Economic Support Programme (SESP), Civic organizations, Churches and Private Sector organizations, are also reported on (See Table E-10). In the analysis presented, mean annual expenditure is reported.

During the 1993/1994 academic year, the Government introduced a policy of cost-sharing at

the secondary and tertiary levels. By September 1994, the policy took full effect with parents being asked to make a greater contribution to the cost of financing secondary education. The principle of cost sharing specifies that Government retains responsibility for paying the salaries of teachers, and related expenses, while operating expenses are met at the school level, through fees collected. In order to assist needy students to meet the fees charged, a Student Assistance Programme was established by the Government. This Programme's operating principle is that no child should be turned away from school because of the inability to pay fees.

Respondents were asked to state how much their families spent on the particular items of tuition and fees, extra lessons, transportation, lunch and snacks, uniforms, books, other supplies, and room and board.

## Expenditure on Primary Level Education

### Primary Schools

The most expensive item was lunch and snacks, with a mean annual expenditure of \$2,706.00 (See Table E-9). This was in spite of the heavily subsidized meals available to students through the School Feeding Programme. Reported mean expenditure on extra lessons, and on tuition and fees, were the second and third largest amounts, respectively. The cost of extra lessons here, is perhaps Common Entrance Examination related.

Mean annual expenditure on room and board ranked fourth. Mean annual expenditure on books was \$758.00. The Government assists primary school students through the provision of books covering the core curriculum areas, free of cost. At the secondary level, however, through a Secondary Schools Textbook Project (SSTP), a textbook rental scheme makes the books that are needed more available to students at affordable cost. These forms of assistance can be viewed as the major contributors to the low expenditure on books.

The high tuition cost found at the primary level, can be explained by the fact that fees at the private Preparatory schools are usually high, and sometimes surpass the fees at the secondary level schools. At the public primary schools, tuition fees are not

**TABLE 3.6**  
**MEAN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL AND SCHOOL RELATED ITEMS,**  
**BY AREA, 1994 (\$)**

Area	School and School Related Items							
	Tuition and Fees	Extra Lessons	Transport	Lunch and Snacks	Uniforms	Books	Other Supplies	Room and Board
KMA	(N=374) 2502	(N=119) 2797	(N=255) 1747	(N=460) 3349	(N=483) 915	(N=428) 1378	(N=265) 385	(N=2) 2500
Other Towns	(N=241) 1453	(N=70) 1223	(N=144) 1249	(N=344) 2833	(N=368) 814	(N=343) 930	(N=262) 330	(N=5) 7500
Rural Areas	(N=561) 1048	(N=156) 1187	(N=156) 1686	(N=969) 2593	(N=995) 801	(N=833) 769	(N=709) 323	(N=9) 6951

NOTE: Figures not in brackets are the mean dollar values

sanctioned. However, some schools request a small fee or contribution for incidentals.

### All Age Schools (Grades 1-6)

As seen in Table E-9, with the exception of expenditure on transportation, mean annual expenditure on all items, was slightly less than that for Primary schools. Perhaps the slightly higher cost for transportation (\$1303.00 as against \$1015.00) could in part be explained by the predominance of All Age schools in Rural Areas, where the distance makes transportation cost higher than in urban areas. More Primary schools than All Age schools are found in urban areas.

Mean expenditure on tuition and fees was almost three times less than that for Primary schools. This could be partly explained by the high fees paid for private Preparatory schools. Expenditure on lunch and snacks was the largest, at \$1814.00.

### Expenditure on Secondary Level Education

As shown in Table E-9, there generally was a wide variation in mean annual expenditure on the select-

ed items, by school type. Expenditure was lowest overall for the least prestigious All Age schools and highest for the most prestigious Secondary High and Technical High schools.

As was expected, Technical High schools reported the highest mean expenditure on tuition and fees, (\$4114.00), followed by Secondary High schools (\$2978.00). Expenditure on extra lessons was by far the highest for Secondary High school students (\$7293.00), than that for any other school type which fell well below \$2000.00 dollars. One possible explanation for this is that the Secondary High school population consists of many children who belong to the wealthiest consumption groups (quintiles 4 and 5) and who can therefore better afford extra lessons.

The largest mean annual expenditure on transportation was reported by Technical High school students. This is due to the fact that only 12 Traditional High schools serve the entire country and travelling for long distances is required by many. Expenditure on transportation by students in Secondary High schools, was two times lower than that of students in Technical High schools.

**TABLE 3.7**  
**MEAN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL AND SCHOOL RELATED ITEMS,**  
**BY QUINTILE, 1994 (\$)**

Quintile	School and School Related Items							
	Tuition and Fees	Extra Lessons	Transport	Lunch and Snacks	Uniforms	Books	Other Supplies	Room and Board
Poorest	(N=240) 726	(N=38) 776	(N=99) 1125	(N=427) 1784	(N=424) 547	(N=342) 381	(N=285) 241	(N=3) 3383
2	(N=207) 1128	(N=77) 1339	(N=125) 1273	(N=372) 1921	(N=385) 727	(N=342) 630	(N=258) 244	(N=3) 9433
3	(N=250) 1551	(N=69) 1314	(N=172) 2043	(N=371) 2923	(N=402) 810	(N=314) 920	(N=252) 338	(N=3) 4870
4	(N=256) 1505	(N=72) 1440	(N=186) 1486	(N=330) 3447	(N=348) 950	(N=321) 1179	(N=231) 363	(N=3) 5667
5	(N=223) 3107	(N=89) 3109	(N=164) 1905	(N=273) 4868	(N=287) 1292	(N=285) 1882	(N=210) 557	(N=4) 8750

NOTE: Figures not in brackets are the mean dollar values

Because of the generally higher welfare status of these students, expenditure on public transportation is lower than that for the poorer students. Certainly in the KMA, the private family vehicle is used to transport a significant proportion of students who attend Secondary High schools.

With respect to mean annual expenditure on books, the highest mean values were reported by Secondary High and Technical High school students, \$2308.00 and \$2185.00, respectively. All Age (Grades 7-9) and New Secondary schools recorded the lowest annual means on the expenditure of books. This therefore implies limited instructional and support material for these students.

Very few students reported expenditure on room and board. Mean annual expenditure on room and board by Technical High school students, at \$11,667.00, was the largest among secondary level schools. The fact of location, with Technical High schools tending to be located in Other Towns and Rural Areas, makes boarding necessary for some students who come from as far as the KMA and other areas. Further, most of the Secondary High schools with boarding facilities are located in Other Towns and Rural Areas and have students from as far as the KMA.

### **School Expenditure by Area**

School expenses is largely a function of school type. As a consequence therefore, to the extent that there is a concentration of a particular school type(s) in a particular area, school expenditure becomes also, a function of area. This is seen in the case of expenditure on room and board. The majority of Technical High schools are located in Rural Areas and Other Towns, and so boarding becomes necessary for some students. Further the majority of Secondary High schools with boarding facilities are located outside of the KMA, implying also boarding for students who come from other areas.

As shown in Table 3.6, with the exception of room and board, the KMA had the highest mean expenditure on all other items. Other Towns followed by Rural Areas, had the highest mean expenditure on room and board. The mean expenditure on this item in the KMA was \$2500.00, while for students in Rural Areas it was \$6951.00, and in Other

Towns, \$7500.00. Generally, more of the schools with boarding facilities are to be found in Rural Areas and Other Towns.

Families in the KMA spent almost twice more on tuition and fees and extra lessons than students in the other areas. This is partly due to the preponderance of private preparatory schools and Secondary High schools where fees are high and extra lessons are taken by many.

With respect to expenditure on transportation, uniforms and other supplies, mean annual expenditure was very similar, in all areas. Expenditure on school books, however, saw students in the KMA spending almost twice that spent by persons in Rural Areas, - \$1378.00 as against \$769.00, respectively.

### **School expenditure by Quintile**

There was a direct relationship between welfare status and expenditure on the various items relevant to school. As seen in Table 3.7, the students of the wealthiest consumption groups (quintiles 4 and 5), were generally always able to spend more on all items than their poorer counterparts. The disparities in expenditure were great, with the poorest spending as much as four and five times less than the wealthiest on important items such as tuition and fees, extra lessons and books. On the item of lunch and snacks, the students of the wealthiest consumption group spent almost three times that spent by those of the poorest group. This may be partially related to their low participation in the School Feeding Programme. Further, where the wealthier students participated in the Programme, the popular meal choice was the cooked lunch which is more costly than the milk and nutribun snack which is the popular choice of the poorest students.

The pattern of expenditure can be linked to a number of factors such as type of school attended by the students, participation in welfare programmes such as the SFP, and ownership of books. With respect to the gap in expenditure on books between the poorest and the wealthiest, it may be associated in part, with the fact that most of the primary level children of the wealthiest consumption group attend private schools and are thus not eligible to obtain the textbooks issued to primary students under the Primary Textbook Programme.

With respect to tuition and fees, it is believed that this bears a direct relationship to the type of school in which the children were enrolled. These fees are high in schools such as Technical and Secondary High schools and private Preparatory schools.

The pattern of expenditure on uniforms and other supplies while varying with consumption status, was fairly even up to the fourth quintile, in the sense that the difference in mean expenditure between the quintiles was relatively small. The wearing of uniforms helps to regulate social status and acts as an equalizing agent. It is compulsory in Jamaican schools.

### **ASSISTANCE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

This section reports on assistance with school fees given to Secondary level students (See Table E-10). Reported sources of assistance were from the Government, through its Student Assistance Programme, and from other sources such as Members of Parliament through the SESP; civic organizations such as the Jaycees, Rotarians, Kiwanians; Private sector companies and Churches.

Generally, the numbers receiving assistance through the Student Assistance Programme and the other sources, were very few. This could be due in part, to the Programme being relatively new and thus its existence not known to many at the time of the survey. Between one and eight students (no more than approximately 0.7 per cent of the secondary level sample) from the various schools, received assistance with fees from the Government. This was lower than the numbers (between 5 and 18 students - no more than approximately 1.5 per cent of the secondary level sample) who received assistance from other sources.

#### **Assistance by School Type**

The highest mean annual value of assistance sourced through the Student Assistance Programme was that received by Secondary High and Comprehensive High school students, \$1058.00 and \$1047.00 dollars, respectively. The introduction of cost-sharing saw the introduction of school fees to be paid by each student. Those unable to pay the fees can seek assistance through the Government's Student Assistance Programme.

Assistance received by Secondary High and Technical High school students, from sources other than the Student Assistance Programme, was far greater than that from the Programme. With respect to students from the Secondary High schools who received such assistance, the mean annual value of the assistance was almost five times that received by students who got assistance through the Student Assistance Programme. The mean value of assistance to Technical High school students was some \$5660.00 dollars. Five such students compared with one, benefitted from assistance provided by sources other than the Government.

#### **Assistance by Area**

Not only did the majority of students who received assistance from the Student Assistance Programme, come from Rural Areas, but the value of that assistance was the highest (twice) compared with that received by students from the other areas. More students from Rural Areas also benefitted from assistance provided by other sources. However, the beneficiaries from the KMA received three times the value of assistance given to students from Rural Areas.

#### **Assistance by Quintile**

There was a close relationship between consumption status and assistance with fees from the Student Assistance Programme. Most of the students who received assistance (79.0 per cent) were from the poorest consumption groups (quintiles 1 and 2). Further, children of the poor received on average 100.0 per cent more than the children of the wealthiest consumption groups (quintiles 4 and 5). The largest mean amount of assistance from the fund went to the students from quintile 3. Only two such students benefitted.

With respect to assistance received from the other sources, the number of poor recipients (quintiles 1 and 2) was one less than the number of recipients from the wealthiest quintiles. A close relationship, however, existed between welfare status and amount of assistance given, with assistance increasing as welfare status improved. Not only did more students from the wealthiest quintiles receive assistance with fees from other sources, but the value of

the assistance was extremely higher than that received by students through the Student Assistance Programme. It is suspected that some of the students who reported receiving help from sources other than the government, had in fact received private sector scholarships.

## CONCLUSION

As in previous years, there continued to be almost total enrolment up to Grade 9 when the school curriculum is geared to the provision of basic education. After first cycle secondary education (which is a component of the Basic Education programme), inadequate school places prevent universal access to higher education.

The Government's policy of upgrading certain types of secondary level schools was evidenced by the redistribution of the Secondary level school population into Secondary High and Comprehensive schools, in particular. Percentage enrolment at the tertiary level increased marginally over the year.

Poverty continued to impact negatively on access to high quality education, and shortened the length of stay in school. Enrolment at the tertiary level, by the poor, however, increased over the year. With respect to the Out-of-School population, among the poorest, the majority, approximately 55.0 per cent, had completed school at the lower end of the secondary level (Grades 7-9). Among the wealthiest group, however, some 86.0 per cent completed school at a higher level, after Grade 10 or 11.

There was a marked decline of 17.0 percentage points in the participation in the School Feeding Programme. This was in part due to the impact of budgetary constraints, shortage of input materials and industrial unrest at the Nutrition Products Limited. In spite of the decline of participation, the chief beneficiaries continued to be the Primary and All Age school children and the children of the

poor, - the primary target populations of the SFP.

On the matter of school expenses, the KMA reported highest mean annual expenditure. A direct relationship between welfare status and expenditure on the items, was evident. The disparities in expenditure were enormous, with the wealthiest spending between four and five times more than the poorest on crucial items such as tuition and fees, extra lessons and books. The Government's Student Assistance Programme was seen to be at work although the beneficiaries were few. This was perhaps due to the Programme being new and not widely known about at the time of the survey.

Rural poverty seemed set to continue to be significant. Relative to students from the other areas, Rural Areas recorded the lowest percentage enrolment and attendance. Percentage enrolment by all age groups was lowest in Rural Areas. School type enrolment showed more than one-half of the students to be enrolled in New Secondary and All Age schools which offer low status secondary education, and are accorded low social currency. This type of enrolment is in part, a function of the proliferation of these types of secondary level schools in Rural Areas. Enrolment in these schools is also generally greatest among children from the poorest consumption groups. As in previous years, the majority of the poor were found in Rural Areas. Percentage full attendance in the Rural Areas was also lower than that for the All Jamaica sample.

Since the majority of the poor are found in Rural Areas, the children of the poor tend to attend low status secondary level schools, and enrolment and attendance are lower than that in the other areas, these seem to suggest a vicious cycle of poverty in which poverty here is likely to reproduce itself. The Rural Areas should therefore be targeted for the setting up of measures to ensure greater enrolment and attendance, and perhaps to stimulate the home environment to encourage an appreciation for schooling and education.

# Health

## INTRODUCTION

**T**he health chapter of the SLC provides information on the health status and health seeking behavior of adults and children in Jamaica, utilizing data from the 1989 SLC (second round) to SLC 1994. It reviews the prevalence of self-reported illness and injury, and the use and cost of medical care. The health status of children under 5 years is examined in terms of immunization coverage, and prevalence of diarrhoea.

## PREVALENCE OF ILLNESS/INJURY

Self-reported illness during a fourweek reference period was used to measure morbidity. This method is based on subjective evaluation and therefore should not be viewed as an indicator of the health status of the population. Self-reported illness is, however, a useful indicator of the demand for health care services.

Some 12.9 per cent of the respondents reported illness/injury during this period. When the data were examined by area, KMA had the lowest prevalence of illness with 11.2 per cent of the respondents

**Table 4.1**  
**Percentage Reporting Illness in 4-week**  
**Reference Period, 1989 - 1994**

CLASSIFICATION	YEAR					
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
AREA						
KMA	12.0	17.4	11.8	9.3	10.7	11.2
Other Towns	18.2	22.3	17.7	11.1	13.3	11.9
Rural Areas	18.2	17.5	13.3	11.1	12.4	14.4
QUINTILE						
Poorest	14.9	17.3	12.1	10.1	12.1	13.5
2	17.1	16.0	14.4	9.8	12.8	13.6
3	17.1	16.3	14.1	11.0	12.5	13.9
4	17.9	22.1	11.7	10.8	10.4	11.3
5	17.1	19.8	16.0	11.4	11.3	12.2
SEX						
Male	15.0	16.3	12.1	9.9	10.4	11.6
Female	18.5	20.3	15.0	11.3	13.5	14.3
AGE (Years)						
0 - 4					17.3	22.3
5 - 9				12.8	9.7	11.8
10 - 19				5.9	6.7	6.5
20 - 29				4.7	6.3	8.2
30 - 39				7.0	8.1	8.0
40 - 49				10.5	11.0	12.9
50 - 59				13.5	13.2	16.0
60 - 64				18.2	26.0	21.8
65+				28.6	33.0	30.0
JAMAICA	16.8	18.3	13.7	10.6	12.0	12.9



from this area reporting illness (See Table C-1). A difference of 3.2 percentage points between KMA and Rural Areas, was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) and warrants some investigation. It may be an indication of the higher levels of health services offered or higher economic status in the KMA.

Examined by quintile, there was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of reported illness. More females, 14.3 per cent, than males, 11.6 per cent, reported illness/injury ( $p < 0.001$ ) (See Table C-1).

In keeping with epidemiological expectations, individuals at both ends of the spectrum, children under five years of age and persons over sixty years had the highest levels of reported illness. In the younger category, 22.3 per cent were reported to have been ill during the reference period, while 21.8 and 30.0 per cent of the adults in the categories 60-64 years and 65 years and over respectively, reported illness.

The percentage reporting illness in the four week reference period, from 1989 to 1994 is shown in Table 4.1. Between 1989 and 1992, reported illness declined, suggesting improved health status, and a decline in the demand for health care. In 1993, however, the level of reported illness in Jamaica increased by 1.4 percentage points to 12.0. Between 1993 and 1994 levels of reported illness was reasonably stable but there was considerable variation in the by area category.

The lowest level of reported illness was in the KMA region for all SLC reports. Although the gap between KMA and Other Towns narrowed between 1993 and 1994, the data revealed disparity between reported illness in Rural Areas and the KMA, with an increased prevalence in the Rural Areas. The likely outcome of this would be an increased demand for health care services in the Rural Areas (See Table 4.1).

A notable increase was exhibited in the prevalence

<sup>1</sup> Comparisons of reported illness from 1989-1991 are not included for age, due to the use of disparate age categories in SLC reports for this period.

of self-reported illness between 1993 and 1994 in children in the under five age group, with a 5.0 percentage point increase. There was a general decrease in the prevalence of reported illness in the over 60 age groups of an average of 3.6 percentage points. This could be the result of increased focus on the aged through the establishment of policies to assist them, and increased social services offered by voluntary and statutory welfare agencies.

## DURATION OF ILLNESS/INJURY

Severity of illness was measured by the average number of days of illness and the mean number of days restricted from normal activities (See Table C-1). The lowest mean days of illness (9.7 days) was reported in Other Towns. Mean days of illness/injury was relatively uniform across areas but mean days of impairment (days restricted from normal activities) was marginally higher in Rural Areas.

Mean days of illness/injury and impairment was highest in the poorest quintile. Differences in severity of illness by gender were only marginal. Severity of illness/injury increased with age from the 59 year old age group (See Table C-1).

Protracted illness (illness occurring before the four week reference period), was reported by 30.9 per cent of the respondents, with the highest prevalence in the KMA and among females at 36.8 per cent and 34.4 per cent, respectively. Higher levels of protracted illness/injury among females may be linked to a number of factors: Antenatal and reproductive complications, spousal abuse and higher levels of obesity among females than males. In keeping with epidemiological expectations, persons over 60 years old exhibited the highest prevalence of protracted illness/injury. Individuals of quintile 4 reported the highest prevalence of protracted illness/injury. This may be linked to stress related occupations of members of this quintile.

The mean number of days of illness/injury has been relatively constant at about 10 days, for the past six years. There has, however, been variations in, the

**TABLE 4.2**  
**MEAN NUMBER OF DAYS OF ILLNESS AND IMPAIRMENT AND PERCENTAGE**  
**REPORTING PROTRACTED ILLNESS, 1989-1994**

YEAR	Mean no. of Days of Illness	Mean no. of Days of Impairment	Percentage Reported Protracted Illness
SLC 89a	11.4	5.5	N/A
SLC 90	10.1	4.7	19.6
SLC 91	10.2	4.9	25.5
SLC 92	10.8	6.0	34.8
SLC 93	10.4	6.3	35.5
SLC 94	10.4	6.2	30.9

a - 2nd round of SLC

N/A - not available

mean number of days of impairment from 1991-1992, from approximately 5 days to 6 days (See Table 4.2).

### USE OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

The proportion of the ill or injured who sought medical care in 1994 was about 51.5 per cent (See Table C-1); of these 28.8 per cent used the public sector, 66.7 per cent the private sector and 4.5 per cent used both public and private facilities (See Table C-2). The KMA had the highest proportion of ill seeking medical care from the private sector. This could be attributed to two factors: the greater availability and access to these services in the KMA, and socio-economic factors. Residents in the KMA tend to be better off financially than those in Other Areas, and so better able to seek medical care from the private sector. This may be further examined within the quintiles seeking medical care. In quintile 5, some 63.4 per cent of the ill/injured, reported seeking medical care compared with 44.3 and 44.6 per cent in the two poorest quintiles, ( $p < 0.01$ ), (See Table C-1). Additionally, 81.5 per cent of the ill/injured seeking medical care from quintile 5, did so from private institutions, while 41.2 per cent and 57.0 per cent of the care seekers in the poorest two quintiles did so from the private sector (Table C-2). Females were more likely than males to seek medical care.

The use of private health facilities by the poor is relatively high and their ability to afford these facilities is questionable and should be further examined, along with their willingness to pay for private health care as opposed to public health care.

Although the elderly, (60+) reported the highest prevalence of illness/injury, this group did not seek care most often. The ill/injured most likely to seek care were in the 50-59 age group or pre-retirement age group.

A clear preference for the use of private facilities was observed in all groups (See Table C-2). The highest users of public health facilities were: the sick or injured from Rural Areas where private health facilities are lacking, individuals from the poorest quintiles who cannot afford private health services, females, and individuals under five years old. The latter is linked to the high levels of child health services offered by the public health system.

In 1994, some 75.6 per cent of persons purchasing medication did so from private providers, compared with 21.4 per cent from public sector providers (See Table C-2). It should be noted that only users of public sector health facilities can access drugs from the public sector dispensaries. Some 28.8 percent of the ill sought care from the public sector health facilities and 21.4 per cent purchased drugs from the public sector dispensary (See

**TABLE 4.3**  
**LEVEL OF CARE (PERCENTAGE OF**  
**RESPONDENTS) USED IN JAMAICA, 1989 - 1994**

YEAR	Primary	LEVEL	
		Out-Patient	Hospitalization (Total In-patient)
SLC '89a	75.7	18.9	2.9
'90	74.3	21.2	4.5
'91	75.7	18.5	5.8
'92	72.0	17.7	3.5
'93	68.3	24.8	3.8
'94	78.1	15.7	5.4

a - 2nd round of SLC '89

Table C-2). This deficit in the proportion of ill purchasing medication from the public dispensary was notable in the Rural Areas, with a 12.8 percentage point deficit, and among patients in the two poorest quintiles (See Table C-2).

The use of health care facilities was analysed by level of health care. Primary health care facilities as in previous years continued to be most utilized. It accounted for some 78.1 per cent of those who sought medical care. There was little difference in the use of primary health care facilities by gender. Individuals in the 10-19 year age group used the primary health facilities more than any other age group (See Table C-3).

As expected, hospitalization was highest in the public sector (See Table C-2), a reflection of the limited number and the high cost of private sector hospitals. Hospitalization was greatest among health seekers in the poorest quintile, and reflects the increasing difficulty of this group in seeking preventive medical intervention. Males were also more likely than females to be hospitalized (See Table C-3), and so were respondents in the 30-39 year old age group. This may be linked to higher occupational and road traffic accidents in these groups compared to other groups and warrants further investigation.

The decrease in the use of primary health care facilities reported in 1993, was reversed by 9.8 percentage points to 78.1 per cent. The use of outpatient facilities was lowest in 1994 at 15.7 per cent (See Table 4.3), and may be due to more targeted use of health facilities with the implementation of the Government of Jamaica cost recovery programme.

For the period 1992 - 1994, very little change was observed in the health-seeking behaviour of those ill or injured (See Table 4.4). Using health seeking behaviour as a measure of availability and accessibility of health care, the urban areas continue to exhibit the higher levels of health care services. The percentage of the poor who sought medical care was highest in 1994. In the period 1990 - 1993, less than 40 per cent of the ill/injured individuals from

**TABLE 4.4**  
**PERCENTAGE ILL/INJURED SEEKING**  
**MEDICAL CARE, 1989-1994**

Classification	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>AREA</b>						
KMA	56.7	40.5	48.0	58.8	60.1	55.9
Other Towns	45.5	40.9	45.6	52.4	51.6	59.0
Rural Areas	47.2	36.8	48.6	47.1	47.2	47.0
<b>QUINTILE</b>						
Poorest	43.7	35.7	38.7	34.7	39.0	44.3
2	49.8	38.0	52.0	45.8	48.7	44.6
3	47.5	38.8	48.7	53.5	45.4	50.8
4	52.7	40.2	50.6	55.9	63.4	56.8
5	51.6	39.7	47.8	60.3	60.3	63.4
JAMAICA	49.0	39.0	47.7	50.9	51.8	51.5

the poorest quintiles were able to seek medical care. In 1994, some 44.3 per cent of the ill/injured individuals in this quintile did so (See Table 4.4). The ill / injured of quintile 5 continued to be the highest seekers of health care.

## HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURE

### Expenditure During The Four-Week Reference Period

There was no significant difference in mean patient expenditure on visits and drugs between 1993 and 1994. Health care expenditure remained significantly higher than in the period 1989 - 1992, when expenditure was less than \$20.00 (see Table 4.5). This notable increase in patient expenditure reflects increased cost for social services with the implementation of structural adjustment programmes.

After a reduction in the difference in mean patient expenditure in 1993, expenditure in 1994 showed a relative restraint in the public sector, as the private sector continues to be more sensitive and respon-

**TABLE 4.5**  
**MEAN PATIENT EXPENDITURE (\$) ON HEALTH**  
**CARE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FACILITIES,**  
**IN THE 4 WEEK REFERENCE PERIOD**  
**1989 - 1994**

Year	Visits		Drugs	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
1989	57	11	48	5
1990	72	11	43	4
1991	82	11	95	8
1992	167	14	234	17
1993	298.2	114.8	330.9	130.7
1994	461.7	91.1	417.1	163.2

sive to changes in economic indicators and hence, increased prices at a faster rate than the public sector.

Mean patient expenditure in the private sector was \$461.70 compared with \$91.10 in the public sector (See Table 4.5). Expenditure for care in the public sector was greatest in the KMA, and lowest in Rural Areas. This is a reflection of the user fee system where increased fees are charged for care in higher level facilities. In the private sector there was no significant difference in mean expenditure on health care by area (See Table C-4).

There was no difference in mean expenditure between the poorest quintile and quintile 5 for visits in the public sector, however, mean expenditure on visits in the private sector was highest in quintile 5 at \$575.4, suggesting a greater tendency for individuals in the higher consumption levels to seek medical services from specialists (See Table C-4).

As expected, the mean cost of drugs was highest in the private sector. Individuals in the age group 30-39 exhibited the highest mean expenditure on drugs. This group was also at high risk of hospitalization (See Table C-2 and C-3). This age group should be more closely examined for factors that predispose it to vulnerability to illness/injury.

## ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON SECONDARY CARE

In 1993 a new variable was examined in the SLC report. This was total annual expenditure on secondary health care or hospitalization, and was introduced to examine the effects of the Government of Jamaica cost recovery initiatives in the public sector.

In 1994, the percentage of respondents hospitalized in the twelve month period was 2.6 in private institutions and 19.5 in public institutions, (See Table C-5). The mean total amount paid for hospitalization in the past 12 months of the survey, differed considerably in the two sectors. In the private sector, a mean of \$6208.3 was paid for hospitalization,

while a mean of \$1148.7 was paid for this service in the public sector (See Table C-5). The highest amount paid for private hospitalization was found in the KMA where most of the private hospitals are located, and where households in the highest consumption levels are more likely to be found. A significant amount was spent for hospitalization by individuals in the age group 65+ (\$10,543.2) reflecting the complications and severity of illness/injury in this group.

The mean expenditure on public sector hospitalization was \$1,148.70. This reflected a threefold increase over the 1993 figure (See Table 4.6), and was due mainly to the increased vigilance in the collection of user fees in the public sector. The increase in patient payments is consistent with the growth in revenues from \$20.0 million in 1993 to \$51.0 million in 1994 as reported by public hospitals<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Shepard, D.S.: *Cost recovery in Jamaican Health Facilities: Impact on Revenues, Satisfaction, and Access. Presented at Symposium on Research for the Development of Effective Social Policy; Sponsored by The Planning Institute of Jamaica, June 20-21, 1995.*

**TABLE 4.6**  
**MEAN ANNUAL HOSPITALIZATION EXPENSES**  
**IN PUBLIC SECTOR, BY AREA, QUINTILE, SEX**  
**AND AGE, 1993-1994**

Classification	1993 \$	1994 \$
<b>AREA</b>		
KMA	1009.4	1152.1
Other Towns	788.0	855.1
Rural Areas	826.5	1266.3
<b>QUINTILE</b>		
Poorest	331.0	960.6
2	694.2	790.9
3	1180.2	526.4
4	855.7	1412.8
5	1245.28	2870.4
<b>SEX</b>		
Male	1657.6	1664.9
Female	587.4	938.5
<b>AGE</b>		
0-9	375.0	131.7
10-19	767.2	822.8
20-29	251.6	762.0
30-39	917.4	549.4
40-64	979.4	1639.9
65+	1461.1	2431.2
<b>JAMAICA</b>	<b>887.0</b>	<b>1148.7</b>

As in the previous year, the mean amount paid for hospitalization increased from the poorest quintile (\$960.6) to the wealthiest quintile who paid \$2870.4 for public sector hospitalization (See Table 4.6). This is an important indicator to be used in the monitoring of the Government's cost recovery programmes.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance coverage continued to be low for those seeking medical care as well as for the total sample. Individuals in the KMA and in the wealthiest quintile had the highest coverage ( $p < 0.001$ ). This was also true for individuals in the age group 30-59 years, in keeping with the structure of the Labour Force (See Table C-6). This pattern of coverage, was similar for those seeking medical care. More males seeking health care services had insurance coverage than females but this was not statistically significant. As in 1993, the elderly had the lowest level of insurance coverage.

The level of insurance benefits was also found to be low. This was evident in the vast variation between the mean amount paid by insurance for hospitalization in the public and in the private sector, \$104.09 and \$1,841.07 respectively (See Table C-7), versus the mean patient expenditure on hospitalization in public and private institutions, \$1,148.70 and \$6,208.30 respectively (See Table C-5). Significant differences were observed in insurance payments for public hospitalization by area ( $p < 0.05$ ). No insurance payments were made on behalf of individuals from the Rural Areas while the mean amount paid in Other Towns (\$297.46), was higher than that in the KMA. This may be attributed to high health insurance benefits to labourers in the mining industry located in urban centres outside the KMA. Dissimilarities were also observed in insurance payments for private hospitalization, but these were not statistically significant.

No payments for hospitalization were made on behalf of individuals in the two poorest quintiles, and a significant difference was observed in the

mean amount paid by insurance companies for public hospitalization between quintile 4 and 5, ( $p < 0.001$ ). This could be due to payments made for private patients, at public institutions. Mean annual amount paid for hospitalization was higher for males than for females. This was statistically significant in payments made for private hospitalization ( $p < 0.05$ ), and could be a function of the labour market, with respect to occupational differences by gender and hence differences in the levels of insurance coverage between these two groups.

## CHILD HEALTH

### Immunization Coverage

Preventive health interventions are extremely important in the medical services of developing countries such as Jamaica. One such measure of significant importance in the prevention of some childhood diseases is immunization of children less than 5 years old. Immunization coverage in this age group (0-4 years old) has been satisfactorily high, reflected in the immunization coverage of children with the essential vaccines OPV, DPT, BCG and measles. BCG coverage was highest at 95.5 per cent (See Table C-8).

When examined by vaccine categories, and by area, coverage in all vaccine categories was higher outside the KMA. Rural children reported the highest coverage for DPT and OPV, while children in Other Towns exhibited highest coverage in BCG and measles. As expected, coverage among children of households of the higher consumption groups was higher than in the lower consumption groups. This event may be linked to a combination of factors, the two most important being a greater awareness and improved ability of these households to afford health services. A larger proportion of male babies were immunized in all vaccine categories.

### Birth Registration

The levels of registered births in children 0-59 months old was examined. As in previous years birth registration was very high at 96 per cent (See Table C-9). No significant difference was observed

between groups or previous years.

### **Diarrhoea**

Diarrhoea is a serious condition in children under five years of age, as it can cause acute morbidity leading to malnutrition as the body loses essential nutrients in an uncontrollable manner. The final result of this condition could be fatal. Reported cases of diarrhoea can therefore be used as an indicator of a child's health status, vulnerability of the child to infection, and is a useful indicator of environmental health.

In 1994, reported cases of diarrhoea, in the age group 0-59 months was at a low of 7.1 per cent. Except for quintile 4, no significant difference was observed at the various consumption levels. Reports of this condition, were however, higher in the KMA and Rural areas than in Other Towns. Among the age groups, the highest prevalence of diarrhoea was observed in the 12-23 month olds. This may be associated with weaning.

An increase in the prevalence of diarrhoea was observed from 1993 to 1994. This is a public health concern and warrants close monitoring and evaluation.

### **DISCUSSION**

The vulnerable groups; children under five years, and persons over 60 years of age, reported the highest incidence of illness. This is an indication of the high demand in these groups for preventive health care measures. Promoting healthy lifestyles and improved nutritional practices will be a necessary preventive measure and will in the long run reduce demands placed on the health sector.

As in previous years, individuals in the two poorer quintiles, exhibited slightly higher mean number of days of illness and impairment (mean number of days restricted from normal activities). This suggests that although a higher prevalence of self reported illness/injury was observed in the individuals in the quintiles representative of the higher

consumption levels, more severe cases of illness/injury were found in the lower consumption groups. This points to the interaction between poverty and ill health.

It is also interesting to note that in Rural Areas, where in the 1993 estimates of poverty, the highest levels of poverty were reported, 34.7 per cent of the population living in poverty, self reported illness and mean days of impairment were highest. In spite of this, individuals in Rural Areas were less likely to seek medical care. This suggests inaccessibility to health care either due to a lack of services stemming from the unavailability of medical personnel to provide this care in Rural Areas or the inability to afford health care services. We must also consider personal choices, where the preference of individuals from Rural Areas is to use indigenous methods of medical intervention.

Large disparities between the public sector and private sector use of health care services have been observed, with private sector services being the preferred. Drastic cuts in the budget of the public health sector has resulted in the inability of the sector to recruit sufficient skilled personnel, high attrition of personnel, inadequate maintenance of physical structures and shortages of pharmaceutical products, by as much as half of its requirements. These have resulted in poor service delivery in the sector. The Government of Jamaica in the restructuring of the health system, has implemented a cost recovery programme utilizing user fees. The monetary gains of this programme is reinvested into the public health systems to provide improved management, services and maintenance programmes. It is too early in the life of the programme, to observe its effects in the health sector. There are also additional activities and strategies being pursued to improve quality of care. Since the public health sector is less sensitive to price increases and various policies are in place that protect public health patients from higher prices for care and medication, these strategies should improve public sector services, allowing individuals in need, good health care at a reasonable cost.

# Food Stamp Programme

## INTRODUCTION

**T**he Food Stamp Programme (FSP), a social support programme, is intended to cushion the negative effects of Jamaica's structural adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups in the population. The aim of the programme is to provide income support to individuals who are classified as poor or vulnerable. The food stamp programme was therefore an explicit move away from un-targeted subsidies to a targeted programme. In December 1994, the programme targeted the provision of benefits to 320,000 persons. Of this total, 277,228 individuals benefited from the programme, a reduction of 2 percentage points compared with the 1993 level of 285,901.

The target group is based on health and income-related criteria. The health subgroup is made up of pregnant and lactating women, and children under 6 years old attending public health clinics. Income related recipients are the elderly/poor/disabled, single member households and families with annual incomes below a stipulated minimum.<sup>1</sup> In 1994 a Special Rehabilitation Programme was introduced aimed at removing from the Food Stamp Programme persons who have the potential to provide for themselves.<sup>2</sup> Contributing to the less than full achievement of the target are a number of problems: lack of knowledge of the criteria of eligibility, problems in collecting food stamps and administrative difficulties.

In discussing individual and household coverage, this chapter outlines the extent to which targets were achieved, the distribution of food stamps by area and quintile, and the reasons some households did not apply for food stamps.

## DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STAMPS

The distribution of food stamps to individuals and households show improved allocation to the KMA and an inverse relationship between consumption levels and food stamps received. Of the individuals surveyed, 6.8 per cent reported that they received food stamps. This is virtually the same percentage obtained in 1993 (See Table 5.4). In addition, the coverage of households remained fairly stable moving from 20.5 per cent in 1993 to 19.5 per cent in 1994 (See Table 5.5).

## COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARIES

### Distribution by beneficiary category

The data in Table 5.1 indicate the intended proportion of benefits among the categories, and to what extent the targets were achieved for the respondents.

The beneficiaries in the categories Children Aged Less Than Six and Elderly/Poor/Disabled com-

<sup>1</sup>Single member households and families with income below \$7,000 and \$18,000 per annum respectively are eligible.

<sup>2</sup>Economic and Social Survey Jamaica 1994, Kingston: Planning Institute of Jamaica:25.3.