the 1996 instrument did. Further, whereas the school name and status changes (for example All Age schools converted to Primary and Junior High schools) were not widely known in 1995, they were better known in 1996. It is believed that respondents were only now able to provide more accurate responses to the question on student enrolment.

Secondary - Second Cycle

15-16 Age Group

As shown in Table 3.1, the second cycle secondary enrolment rate of 82.4 per cent was the highest since 1989, as was the 2.9 per cent enrolment rate at the tertiary level. No stable trend was observed over the period 1989-1996. Instead there were cycles which seem to reflect mainly substitutions between the secondary and Out-of-School populations. On the other hand, the tertiary level enrolment rate for this age group increased steadily after 1993. This trend should be encouraged in the light of ongoing efforts to increase the GNP, eradicate poverty, and create a population sufficiently educated to respond to the challenges of global competition.

17-18 Age Group (See Table 3.1)

Approximately 34.8 percent of this age group were enrolled in school, with 30.0 per cent enrolled at the secondary level and 4.8 per cent enrolled at the tertiary level. The enrolment rate for the age group has trended upward since 1989. Nevertheless, for this very important age group, these are low enrolment rates which point to the need to speed up the reform of upper secondary education and thereby increase the number of places available. It is important that a much larger proportion of this population be adequately trained if the national development effort is to succeed.

Tertiary Level

19-24 Age Group (See Table 3.1)

As shown in Table 3.1, approximately 7.0 per cent of this age group were enrolled in an educational institution in 1996. Approximately 4.0 per cent were enrolled at the tertiary level. This seems to reflect partly the small numbers generally attaining upper secondary education and partly the decisions by some individuals to defer tertiary education until older and well-established in gainful employment.

Some 3.0 per cent of the age group were enrolled at the secondary level. It is suspected that some of this was enrolment in A'Level programmes at Community Colleges and evening programmes in secondary schools.

As with the 17-19 years age group, these low rates of enrolment by the 20-24 years age group indicate an important bottleneck constraining the country's growth and development efforts.

Enrolment by Quintile

With respect to early childhood education, the data for 1996 showed that the pattern for 1989-1995 continued, with enrolment as a function of welfare status, increasing as welfare status improved (See Table 3.2). The disparity in percentage enrolment by the children of the poorest and wealthiest consumption groups remained an area of concern especially since early childhood education sets the foundation for advanced learning. For the 3-5 year olds of the poorest consumption groups (Quintiles 1 and 2), school enrolment fluctuated over the period. For children of the poorest group, enrolment moved marginally from 74.0 per cent in 1989 to 72.0 per cent in 1990 and recovered lost ground in 1991, to 75.0 per cent. Because the 1992 Survey was conducted in the summer period, the school enrolment rate in that year was expectedly low at 63.0 per cent. The enrolment rate was reported at 82.0 per cent in 1994 but has fallen to approximately 78.0 per cent since then.

Of the 3-5 year olds in quintile 2, 83.0 per cent were enrolled in 1989 and 77.0 per cent in 1991. After 1993, enrolment rates have been above 80.0 per cent, with that for 1996 being 80.2 per cent, the lowest since then. On the other hand, enrolment of the children of the wealthiest group generally remained at rates above 90.0 per cent. More initiatives are needed to promote the value of early childhood education and eventually ensure universal access without compromising quality.

As already stated, access to basic education remained virtually universal over the 1989-1996 period. Table 3.2 shows that regardless of welfare status, enrolment rates of between 95.0 per cent and 100.0 per cent obtained for the 6-11 and 12-14 age groups.

Significant differences in enrolment rates by welfare status were evident at the upper secondary and tertiary levels in 1996. Enrolment rate increased as welfare status improved (See Table 3.2). Of the age group 15-16 years, the enrolment by students of the poorest consumption group was 68.2 per cent in 1996, and fluctuated between 58.0 per cent and 75.0 per cent since 1989. The lowest enrolment rate over the period was recorded in 1995 at 58.0 per cent, so the rate for 1996 represents a recovery of approximately 17.6 per cent over the year.

TABLE 3.2
SCHOOL ENROLMENT OF 3-24 YEAR OLDS BY QUINTILE, 1989-1996

AGE, QUINTILE	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
3-5 Years								
Poorest	74.0	72.0	75.0	63.0	76.0	82.0	78.0	**78.8**
2	83.0	75.0	77.0	69.0	86.0	82.0	85.0	**80.2**
3	84.0	78.0	83.0	82.0	87.0	80.0	86.0	**81.0**
4	87.0	83.0	91.0	79.0	93.0	87.0	89.0	**86.6**
5	89.0	83.0	93.0	81.0	95.0	95.0	91.0	**94.1**
6-11 Years								
Poorest	98.0	99.0	99.0	97.0	99.0	98.0	99.0	**99.6**
2	100.0	99.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	**99.1**
3	99.0	100.0	98.0	99.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	**100.0**
4	98.0	100.0	99.0	98.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	**99.4**
5	99.0	98.0	99.0	99.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	**100.0**
12-14 Years								
Poorest	95.0	95.0	95.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	98.0	**95.6**
2	98.0	97.0	95.0	95.0	97.0	91.0	98.0	**96.6**
3	98.0	98.0	96.0	98.0	99.0	96.0	97.0	**100.0**
4	98.0	96.0	100.0	99.0	99.0	98.0	100.0	**98.0**
5	97.0	100.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	95.0	98.0	**100.0**
15-16 Years								
Poorest	59.0	75.0	65.0	65.0	71.0	73.0	58.0	**68.2**
2	73.0	73.0	74.0	72.0	73.0	60.0	78.0	**86.8**
3	75.0	71.0	73.0	80.0	80.0	91.0	83.0	**92.7**
4	83.0	87.0	99.0	89.0	82.0	89.0	84.0	**84.5**
5	84.0	88.0	92.0	92.0	93.0	93.0	92.0	**97.4**
17-19 Years								***17-18Yrs**
Poorest	9.0	11.0	17.0	11.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	**25.9**
2	14.0	6.0	12.0	19.0	15.0	9.0	21.0	**14.3**
3	19.0	13.0	18.0	26.0	25.0	18.0	28.0	**32.1**
4	14.0	15.0	31.0	26.0	33.0	18.0	39.0	**47.5**
5	19.0	29.0	31.0	40.0	37.0	37.0	43.0	**53.5**
20-24 Years								***19-24Yrs**
Poorest	0.0	-	4.0	1.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	**1.6**
2	1.0	-	0.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	**2.2**
3	2.0	-	3.0	2.0	7.0	2.0	1.0	**4.9**
4	3.0	-	5.0	3.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	**7.1**
5	5.0	-	8.0	5.0	12.0	8.0	7.0	**12.9**

a-Second Round of the 1989 SLC
b-Data not available for this age group for 1990
*-Age group disaggregations not consistent with previous years

NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

In comparison, the enrolment rates for the 15 and 16 year olds of the wealthiest consumption group ranged between 84.0 per cent in 1989 and 97.4 per cent in 1996 with that in 1996 representing an upward movement. Clearly, the enrolment rates of the poorest consumption groups are too low for this age group. They suggest that in the light of the cost of attending school, programs such as the Government's Financial Assistance Programme or Welfare Fund, the book rental scheme, subsidized transportation, and subsidized meals, while making a major contribution, are ultimately inadequate to deal with the fundamental problems of educating the vulnerable in the country.

TABLE 3.3
DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
BY SCHOOL TYPE (1993-94-1995/96)

School Type	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
All Age(Grades 7-9)	442	430	413
Primary & Junior High	20	28	40
Junior high	0	0	1
New Secondary	47	37	27
Secondary High	46	56	56
Comprehensive High	23	33	44
Technical High	12	12	13
Vocational/Agricultural	6	6	5
Total	606	602	599

Note: Data made available by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture.

Further, even in the context of budget constraints, current efforts to universalize upper secondary education may have to be speeded up.

For the students in the 17-18 age group, approximately one-quarter of the poorest (25.9 per cent) were enrolled compared with more than one-half of the wealthiest group (53.9 per cent). This was again a reflection of the disparity in welfare status. This means that the majority of the poor do not access upper secondary education.

With respect to the tertiary level age group, 19-24 year olds, enrolment increased progressively with welfare status. While some 1.6 per cent of the poorest were enrolled, approximately 13.0 per cent of the wealthiest were enrolled.

Generally, 97.0 per cent of all students in the country were enrolled in public schools. Of the approximately 3.0 per cent of all students enrolled in private sector schools in 1996, enrolment was greatest among the children of the wealthiest consumption group (Table E-3).

Approximately 60.0 per cent of the students of the poorest consumption group enrolled in All Age, Primary and Junior High (Grades 7-9) and New Secondary schools (See Table E-5). These schools do not enjoy the same social status as the other secondary level schools. This enrolment by the poor was 18.3 per cent less than that in these school types in 1995 and reflected the shift in enrolment under the school upgrading component of the ROSE project. Some All Age and New Secondary schools have been upgraded to Primary and Junior High schools and Comprehensive High schools, respectively (See Table 3.3). Table 3.4 shows the shifting pattern of enrolment since the inception of the ROSE programme in 1993.

Expectedly, enrolment by students of the poorest group in Comprehensive, Secondary and Technical High schools increased by approximately 25.0 per cent in 1996, from 27.8 per cent to 34.7 per cent (See Table E-5). Among the students of the wealthiest consumption group, enrolment in Comprehensive and Technical High schools remained virtually the same as that in 1995, at 7.8 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively, while that in Secondary High schools declined from 55.1 per cent to 48.7 per cent. Compared with the 20.3 per cent rate of enrolment by the poorest, that by the wealthiest was more than two times (See Table E-5).

The rate of enrolment in Vocational/Agricultural institutions increased across all consumption groups between 1995 and 1996, with the rate of increase of the poorest consumption group being the highest. Nevertheless, the poor are merely catching up. Table E-5 shows that in 1996 the rate of enrolment of the students of the wealthiest consumption group, 7.8 per cent, was more than twice that of the poorest, 3.3 per cent.

Enrolment rates at the tertiary level varied by welfare status (See Table E-5). Whereas 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively, were from the poorest group and quintile 2, 8.9 per cent and 9.9 per cent were from quintiles 4 and 5, respectively.

TABLE 3.4
ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, 1989-1996

SCHOOL TYPE	1989(2)*	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
All Age (Grades 7-9)	27.0	22.0	28.0	23.0	20.2	19.8	21.5	**20.6**
Pr. & Jn. High/Jn. High (Grades 7-9)*								**3.0**
New Secondary	32.0	37.0	30.6	28.8	27.9	20.5	23.4	**15.8**
Comprehensive High	3.0	3.0	3.9	5.0	8.6	13.0	11.3	**13.9**
Secondary High	29.0	28.0	27.6	30.7	29.4	33.7	32.6	**31.1**
Technical High	3.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	5.7	5.0	3.7	**4.3**
Vocational/Agricultural	0.8	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.8	1.7	**4.0**
University/Post Secondary.	3.4	4.0	3.8	6.5	5.6	4.4	4.5	**6.1**
Adult Night School	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	1.8	1.4	**1.2**
Jamaica	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100	**100.0**

a-Second Round of the 1989 SLC
*-New school types
NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

Enrolment by Area

Consistent with all previous Surveys of Living Conditions, enrolment of 3-5 year olds in 1996 differed by geographical region (Table 3.5). The KMA continued to record the highest rate of enrolment at 91.6 per cent. Except in 1992, the enrolment rate of children from the KMA has exceeded 90.0 per cent since 1991, though it has been falling since 1993. In the Rural Areas, the rate of enrolment was 81.6 per cent and has generally increased since 1990. However, the rural enrolment rate has remained significantly below the All Jamaica average over the period (see Table 3.1). The enrolment rate of children from Other Towns peaked at 90.3 per cent in 1993 and declined steadily thereafter to 80.7 per cent in 1996, which is below the rate for Rural Areas (Table 3.5). Further investigation is warranted.

Of the 15 and 16 year olds, the biggest gains in enrolment were recorded by students from the Rural Areas. The data in Table 3.5 show that the rate of 83.8 per cent in 1996 is the highest since 1990 when it was approximately 72.0 per cent. For students from the KMA and Other Towns, the enrolment rates currently stand at 88.2 and 85.0 per cent, respectively. In both of these areas, the enrolment rate fluctuated over the period. In the Other Towns, it is currently lower than the peak rate of 93.4 per cent achieved in 1991. With a mean absolute difference of approximately 2.1, the rates of enrolment in the three regions, for this age group, are closer to each other than at any time since 1990.

Among the 17-18 year olds enrolment rates have increased substantially in all regions since 1990. In 1996, students from the KMA had the highest rate of enrolment, 43.6 per cent, compared with 36.3 per cent from Other Towns, and 27.9 per cent from the Rural Areas. Students from the KMA also recorded the largest increase in enrolment rate, though there has been a general tendency for the rate of enrolment to increase substantially for this group in all three regions of the country. Of the tertiary level age group, students from Other Towns recorded the highest level of enrolment, 9.3 per cent, while those from the KMA and Rural Areas recorded similar levels of 6.4 per cent and 6.0 per cent, respectively (See Table 3.5). More interesting, perhaps, outside the KMA the enrolment rate increased very rapidly in 1996 moving from 0.6 per cent to 6.0 per cent in Rural Areas and from 3.6 per cent to 9.3 per cent in Other Towns (Table 3.5). For the Rural Areas especially, this also represented a substantial improvement over the very low rates which prevailed before.

Decomposition of enrolment at the secondary level by school type showed a higher percentage of students from the Rural Areas obtaining education from All Age schools, Junior High schools and departments, and New Secondary schools, than in the other regions. This is largely due to the proliferation of these school types in the Rural Areas. Calculated from Tables 3.6a, 3.6b, 3.6c, some 43.2 per cent of students from these areas were enrolled in such schools, compared with 37.4 per cent from Other Towns and 34.6

TABLE 3.5
PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT, BY AGE AND AREA 1990-1996

AGE, AREA	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
3-5 Years							
KMA	83.0	90.6	81.5	94.4	94.0	90.4	**91.6**
Other Towns	77.0	85.9	77.9	90.3	84.3	82.3	**80.7**
Rural Areas	75.0	77.5	71.3	79.5	81.7	82.7	**81.6**
6-11 Years							
KMA	99.0	98.7	99.0	99.3	100.0	99.4	**99.9**
Other Towns	99.0	98.8	96.2	100.0	100.0	99.6	**99.6**
Rural Areas	99.0	98.3	98.6	99.4	99.1	99.0	**99.6**
12-14 Years							
KMA	96.0	95.5	100.0	99.3	96.0	99.1	**98.5**
Other Towns	99.0	100.0	95.4	98.0	91.7	97.8	**98.2**
Rural Areas	97.0	96.1	95.3	95.9	95.3	98.0	**97.4**
15-16 Years							
KMA	87.0	83.5	94.0	79.7	88.2	83.1	**88.2**
Other Towns	84.0	93.4	80.2	81.5	87.7	78.4	**85.0**
Rural Areas	72.0	70.2	73.9	76.6	76.1	73.8	**83.8**
17-19 Years							**17-18 Yrs***
KMA	18.0	32.3	33.5	36.3	26.1	32.6	**43.6**
Other Towns	13.0	19.1	24.4	24.6	22.3	33.4	**36.3**
Rural Areas	11.0	15.0	21.6	17.7	13.7	23.9	**27.9**
20-24 Years *							**19-24 Yrs***
KMA	-	5.2	5.3	11.0	4.8	5.5	**6.4**
Other Towns	-	7.9	2.3	6.0	1.8	3.6	**9.3**
Rural Areas	-	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.8	0.6	**6.0**

a- Data not available for this age group for 1990
***- Age group disaggregations not consistent with previous years**
NOTE: Percentages adjusted to one decimal place

per cent from the KMA. However, it is interesting to note that since 1990, enrolment of students from the Rural Areas in these school types, declined from a high of 69.0 per cent to the present level of 43.2 per cent. Part of this decline is explained by shifts in enrolment since 1994 under the ROSE programme for upgrading All Age and New Secondary schools. Not surprising then, there was also a concomitant "increase" in enrolment in Comprehensive High schools and a 3.7 per cent rate of enrolment in the Junior High school and Junior High departments by students from the Rural Areas. The rate of enrolment of these students in the Comprehensive, Secondary and Technical High schools which have higher social currency grew steadily from 26.0 per cent in 1990 to 48.4 per cent in 1996. This rate is now similar to that for students from the KMA, 49.5 per cent, and Other Towns, 51.5 per cent.

Since 1994, the SLC has reported enrolment in Adult/Night school separately from enrolment in University and Post Secondary institutions. In the KMA, the rate of enrolment in University and Post Secondary institutions is now at 9.2 per cent. This is still below the rate of about 11.0 per cent in 1993 but is a substantial recovery from the decline to 6.2 per cent recorded in 1995. For students from the Other Towns, enrolment in this category more than doubled between 1994 and 1995, moving from 2.8 per cent to 7.3 per cent but has fallen to 5.8 per cent in 1996. Among students in the Rural Areas, enrolment declined from 3.7 per cent in 1994 to 1.9 per cent in 1995 but has now improved substantially to 4.3 per cent in 1996.

TABLE3.6a
PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, IN KMA, 1990-1996

SCHOOL TYPE	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
All Age (7-9)	15.0	21.5	13.0	11.9	13.6	18.6	
Pr.&Jr. High/Jr. High*							
New Secondary	36.0	27.6	25.1	27.8	14.8	17.8	
Comprehensive High	3.0	4.7	7.4	9.1	11.7	6.5	
Secondary High	36.0	35.1	38.0	36.3	44.8	42.3	
Technical High	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.3	4.1	3.7	
Vocational/Agric.	1.0	3.7	2.5	1.6	1.2	1.6	
University/Post Sec.	6.0	5.6	11.8	11.0	6.3	6.2	
Adult/Night School [a]	-	-	-	-	3.4	3.3	
Jamaica	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 since 1994. In precious years It was included in the University/Post Secondary category.
***-New school types**

TABLE3.6b
PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, IN OTHER TOWNS, 1990-1996

SCHOOL TYPE	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
All Age (7-9)	8.0	17.2	14.9	21.9	16.9	15.9	
*Pr.&Jr. High/Jr.							
New Secondary	36.0	28.5	35.3	13.7	17.9	26.3	
Comprehensive	0.0	2.0	2.1	9.4	11.2	7.3	
Secondary High	41.0	40.4	37.7	35.8	40.8	33.8	
Technical High	8.0	3.3	3.4	10.3	7.6	4.9	
Vocational/Agric.	1.0	2.7	0.2	5.8	2.1	4	
University/Post	6.0	6.0	6.3	3.1	2.8	7.3	
Adult/Night [a]					0.8	0.6	
Jamaica	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 since 1994. In precious years It was included in the University/Post Secondary category.
***-New school types**

TABLE3.6c
PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, IN RURAL AREAS, 1990-1996

SCHOOL TYPE	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
All Age(7-9)	32.0	35.5	31.7	25.7	25.4	26.1	21.8
*Pr.&Jr. High/Jr.							3.7
New Secondary	37.0	33.0	28.9	33.5	25.5	26.1	17.7
Comprehensive	3.0	4.2	4.5	7.9	14.8	16.7	18.1
Secondary High	18.0	19.0	24.2	21.9	23.0	24.9	25.8
Technical high	5.0	4.7	3.9	6.3	4.6	3.1	4.5
Vocational /Agric	2.0	1.7	3.2	2.1	2.0	0.7	3.4
University/Post Sec	3.0	2.0	3.6	2.6	3.7	1.9	4.3
Adult/Night [a]					1.1	0.4	0.8
Jamaica	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 since 1994. In precious years It was included in the University/Post Secondary category.
***-New school types**

ATTENDANCE

The analysis of school attendance data is provided for only the primary and secondary levels of the school system. As indicated in the Introduction, the data more accurately reflect efforts by households to send children to school rather than actual attendance rates. Similar data provided in previous SLC reports should be interpreted this way.

The reference period for which data were collected was the 5 school days (holidays excluded) prior to the actual date of the interview, and therefore differed among households. Full attendance refers to household efforts to send the child to school for all of the days of the reference period. Absence indicates no effort to send the child to school. Some caution must be exercised with this interpretation since truancy and various circumstances beyond the control of the household, such as violence, illness and road blocks could prevent actual attendance despite efforts to send children to school.

As seen in Table 3.7, approximately 78.8 percent of households attempted to send their children to school for all five days of the school week in 1996. This rate is significantly above that of 70.0 per cent which prevailed in 1989; it is about the same for most years since 1990 and is significantly lower than the 83.9 per cent effort of 1994. These rates are unacceptably low relative to targets and must be studied in more detail in the light of relatively high rates of poor performance by students in the CXC and GCE

English Language and Mathematics examinations. In addition, they should be taken into account by education planners and policy makers who are now considering extending the school day or the school year. The problem should be investigated further and, if possible, corrected with appropriate social policy.

When examined by the number of children under 16 years, households with 1, 2 and 3 such children, 81.3 per cent, 80.2 per cent and 79.3 per cent, respectively, made the greatest effort to send their children to school everyday. Effort declined with increasing number of children under 16 years in the households. For those households with 8 and 9 children under the age 16, the percentage sending their children to school for the entire period, declined to 52.2 per cent and 48.1 per cent, respectively. Interestingly, households with 7, 8 and 9 children made some effort to send them for 4 of the 5 school days. The rates for these groups were 34.7 per cent, 47.8 per cent, and 51.9 per cent, respectively. Discussions with the interview staff revealed that much of the absence for one day can be explained by market commitments, household chores and other responsibilities on Fridays.

With respect to the education of the household heads, those who had attained public tertiary level education and those who had received adult education and night school programs tended to make the greatest effort to send their children to school everyday. These heads were few in number compared with others. Approximately 91.8 per cent of them had attended University and 87.2 per cent had attended Teachers Colleges and other public tertiary institutions. Also, about 89.3 per cent of those who attended Adult or Night school made the effort. In comparison, only 80.0 per cent of heads of households who had attained private tertiary education made similar efforts to send their children to school every day.

Of the household heads who had last attended Technical High schools, approximately 86.0 per cent sent their children to school everyday. Some 88.6 per cent who last attended Primary schools made the same effort. For their counterparts who had attended Primary, All Age (Grades 7-9), New Secondary and Secondary High schools, between 74.9 per cent and 78.5 per cent sent their children to school everyday.

Attendance by School Type

In 1996, attendance data were collected for the first time on the new school types, Junior High and Primary and Junior High schools.

For primary level schools whose student populations largely belong to the 6-11 age group characterized by universal enrolment, the households' efforts to send children to school were low in relation to enrolment levels. Up to 1993 when combined averages of "attendance" rates in Primary and All Age schools were computed, the percentages were between one-fifth and one-third of the enrolment rates. For Primary schools separately, 78.5 per cent of students were sent to school everyday. This was virtually the same as for 1995 (78.8 per cent) but was a substantial decline from 83.4 per cent for 1994 (See Table 3.7).

Approximately 77.1 per cent of All Age school students were sent to school everyday in 1996. This represented a substantial decline from 82.8 per cent in 1995 and 84.3 per cent in 1994. The latter had improved significantly from 70.0 per cent in 1989 to 78.7 per cent in 1993, so that for this group of student, the effort in 1996 was below that for 1993 as well.

In every year since 1989, the percentage of Primary school students sent to school everyday was at or below the All Jamaica sample proportion. The pattern for children in All Age schools was similar up to 1993 but improved after that year to rates higher than the All Jamaica sample proportions in 1994 and 1995 (See Table 3.7). The decline of attendance efforts in 1996 by households with students enrolled in All Age schools once again resulted in a rate below the All Jamaica sample proportion of 78.8 per cent.

The estimate for children enrolled in the new school types Primary and Junior High and Junior High (Grades 7-9) schools was 72.5 per cent. This is a benchmark since the estimates were first computed for 1996. It is significant that this estimate is below that for All Age schools which are widely reputed to have unacceptably low attendance rates.

The best efforts at sending children to school were by households with children enrolled in Secondary High schools. In all years since 1989, the percentage of children sent to school for all 5 days of the reference period exceeded the All Jamaica sample proportions. Other relatively good rates were achieved by households with students attending New Secondary, Comprehensive High and Technical High schools. Even for these groups, however, household efforts tended to be well below 90.0 per cent for most of the period and should be improved through initiatives at both the level of the household and the level of the state.

The students with high rates of attendance for only 4 days were those enrolled in the Junior High school, 20.7 per cent, the secondary level of All Age and Primary and Junior High schools, 13.4 per cent, Primary schools, 14.0 per cent,

TABLE 3.7
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN SENT TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY, BY SEX, SCHOOL TYPE, QUINTILE AND AREA, 1989-1996

GROUP	1989	1990	1991	[a] 1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Sex								
Male	69	78.6	76.1	-	78.9	84.5	79.4	**76**
Female	72	78.7	79.7	-	78.5	83.3	81.1	**81.7**
School Type[b]								
Primary						83.4	78.8	**78.5**
All Age/Pr.&Jn. High (1-6)	70	75.4	76.4	-	78.7	84.3	82.8	**77.1**
All Age (7-9)	61	75.7	75.7	-	77.6	79.2	78.6	**75**
Pr.&Jn. High/Jn. High (7-9)*					-			**72.5**
New Secondary	74	81	81.5	-	75.8	84.8	78.5	**78.9**
Compreh. High	72	85.7	79.3	-	79.2	85.1	84.9	**77.6**
Technical High	81	72.7	78.6	-	92.4	89.3	71.8	**86.8**
Secondary High	74	91.6	85	-	81.2	85.5	80.5	**85**
Quintile								
Poorest	63	67.6	70.6	-	71.4	79.6	73.4	**74.6**
2	71	72.8	77.4	-	77.7	83.2	80.6	**76.7**
3	71	79.5	83.5	-	78.5	85.7	79.7	**84.1**
4	76	87.9	80	-	82.1	87.1	84	**76.3**
5	70	89.9	79.5	-	89.6	89.3	88	**85.6**
Area								
KMA	75	91.8	87.9	-	83.5	84	84.7	**75**
Other Towns	69	73.6	82.8	-	80.5	92.4	84.4	**84**
Rural Area	69	73.2	72	-	75.2	80.8	76.2	**78.8**
Jamaica	70	79	78	-	78.7	83.9	80.3	**78.8**

a- Data on households' efforts to send children to school were not collected in SLC 1992
b- An average percentage based on the combined percentages for Primary and All Age(1-6) is given for the period 1989-1993. Thereafter individual percentages are given for Primary schools and All Age(1-6) schools, separately.
*-New school types

Comprehensive High schools, 11.3 per cent, and primary level All Age and Junior High schools, 11.2 per cent (See Table E-7). The basic causes of this problem remain to be investigated adequately but information collected during the survey process reveal that an important cause may be the Friday attendance problem mentioned earlier.

Attendance by Gender

In 1996, household efforts to send girls to school for the entire 5 day reference period were at 81.7 per cent compared to 76 per cent for boys. Indeed, in 1995 and 1996 a distinct tendency emerged for the efforts to send girls for the entire 5 day reference period to exceed efforts to send boys to school (See Table 3.7). Moreover, household efforts to send boys to school declined substantially in both years after reaching a high of 84.5 per cent in 1994, above the percentage for girls (83.3 per cent). Other national attendance data also show girls as having better attendance rates than boys.

As shown in Table E-7, a higher percentage of boys, 12.7 per cent, were sent to school for only 4 days, than girls, 9.8 per cent. Compared with 1995 data, absenteeism declined for both boys and girls, from 5.3 per cent to 3.2 per cent, 5.4 per cent to 2.2 per cent, respectively.

Taking into account the fact that males outnumber females in employment, regardless of their education levels, there might be some socioeconomic rationality to the household choices regarding boys, in which case new education programmes are needed for those who choose an early exit from the academic track. In general, corrective measures are needed to improve efforts for both boys and girls since the rates for both are too low but the signals in the data for 1996 were that special attention to boys may now be needed.

Attendance by Area

For the first time since 1989, the percentage of enrolled students sent to school in the KMA in 1996 (75.0 per cent) was smaller than the All Jamaica sample percentage (78.8 per cent) (Table 3.7). Indeed, it was exactly the same as the rate for 1989. This was a substantial decline below the rates for 1990 to 1995 which were all above 83 per cent. As shown in Table E-7, the KMA also registered the largest level of absenteeism, 5.2 per cent, compared with the other areas, 1.5 per cent (Other Towns) and 1.9 per cent (Rural Areas). The reasons for the relative decline in the percentage for the KMA must be studied carefully but two important factors are likely to have affected attendance efforts during the year. One is the flare up of violence in some parts of the region and the other is the downturn in consumption documented in this volume for 1996.

The Rural Areas had the largest proportion of students, 12.3 per cent, sent to school for only 4 days of the reference period. With respect to the percentage sent to school for the full 5 day period, the data in Table 3.7 show that in 1996, for the first time, the percentage sent to school perfectly matched the All Jamaica sample average, reflecting general improvement in the Rural Areas and general decline in the KMA.

For students from Other Towns, consistently since 1991, the percentage sent to school exceeded the All Jamaica sample averages and stood at 84.0 per cent in 1996. This was substantially higher than the 69.0 per cent recorded in 1989 but was down from the peak for the period of 92.4 per cent in 1994.

Attendance by Quintile

Consistently over the years, the data generally showed a close relationship between welfare status of the household and the effort to send children to school everyday. Children from the poorest households were less likely to be sent to school everyday (74.6 per cent) than those from the wealthiest households (85.6 per cent). Invariably, the percentage sent everyday were also well below the All Jamaica sample average (See Table 3.7). A much larger percentage of children of the poorest consumption groups, 15.5 per cent and 12.7 per cent, were sent to school for only 4 days, compared with children of the wealthiest group, 3.6 per cent. In general, the attendance effort by low-income households improved over the years since 1989 when the rate was only 63.0 per cent, but it is now well below the peak achieved in 1994 (See Table 3.7).

THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL POPULATION

This population refers to persons between 12 and 18 years who were not enrolled in school at the time of the Survey. They typically represent the crucial secondary school age. Not all members of this population are school drop-outs. Many are graduates of All Age schools which terminate at Grade 9. Given that there is universal access to education by 6-11 year olds, this age group was not found to be at risk of having a large population not in school. Although a similar point can be made about the 12-14 year olds, it was felt that the small percentage not in school should, nevertheless, evoke social concern.

This year, the Out-of-School population represented 6.5 per cent of the school age population covered in the sample, and approximately 22.0 per cent of the 12-18 age cohort in the sample. Certain comparisons with 1995 SLC data were not possible because of redefinition of the age group representing the Out-of-School population; in particular, the age group 12-19 has been changed to 12-18.

Of this population, one half (50.4 per cent) belonged to single headed households with no spouse or partner resident. Two-thirds of these households were headed by females and the other one-third by males.

More than one-half (54.5 per cent) of the Out-of-School population belonged to the poorest consumption groups and approximately 27.2 per cent belonged to the wealthiest group. Almost three-quarters, 72.8 per cent, of the entire population belonged to the bottom 3 Quintiles.

The majority of the heads of the households with Out-of-School populations were graduates of schools which enjoy low social status, namely All Age (7-9), 27.3 per cent, and New Secondary schools, 33.5 per cent. Some 14.1 per cent of their counterpart heads had last attended Secondary High schools, while equal proportions, 6.2 per cent in each case, had last attended Comprehensive High and Technical High schools.

Closer examination by age group revealed that 74.4 per cent of the heads of households with 15 and 16 year olds Out-of-School were past students of All Age and New Secondary schools. Only 11.7 per cent of heads with 15 and 16 year olds not in school last attended Secondary High and Technical High schools. A similar pattern was observed for the 17 and 18 year olds. Some 58.4 per cent of the heads of their households were students of All Age and New Secondary schools. Approximately half (49.7 per cent) of all the households belonged to the poorest consumption

groups while 71.2 per cent of the households belonged to the bottom 3 Quintiles. The data reveals a significant risk of a vicious cycle of poverty among these groups and urgent policies are needed to prevent this.

As already inferred, non-enrolment increases with age, especially since scarce resources limit the MOEYC's ability to provide universal education beyond Grade 9. As shown in Table 3.1, between 1989 and 1996 non-enrolment among 12-14 year olds was generally low, below 5.2 per cent. Table E-6 showed that more than one-half of the population Out-of-School, 54.4 per cent, attained some amount of upper secondary education (Grades 10-13), while 41.5 per cent had some years of first cycle secondary education (Grades 7-9).

Calculated from Table E-6, the data showed a disproportionate share of males, 60.0 per cent, in the Out-of-School population. Of the males, 48.5 per cent had attained some upper secondary education compared with 62.5 per cent of females. These findings are consistent with those other studies which report that more females than males tend to attain the higher levels of available academic education.

The Rural Areas accounted for more than one-half (53.1 per cent) of the Out-of-School population (from Table E-6). This fact must be considered in the design and implementation of the poverty eradication programme.

The KMA accounted for 27.7 per cent while the Other Towns accounted for 19.2 per cent. With respect to the completion of some degree of upper secondary education (upwards of Grade 9) by persons from the Rural Areas, the percentage, 50.9 per cent, was lower than that of the All Jamaica sample. These facts must be interpreted in the light of the concentration of poverty in Rural Areas (in terms of numbers, intensity and severity) and should be considered in the design and implementation of the poverty eradication programme.

A close relationship was observed between consumption status and grade attained upon completion of school. As Table E-6 shows, a higher percentage of individuals in the wealthiest consumption group completed school at a higher grade compared with their poorer counterparts. Some 79.0 per cent of those from the wealthiest group completed some amount of upper secondary education compared with 46.6 per cent of the poorest (see also Tables 3.3 and E-4). This was well below the All Jamaica sample average of 54.4 per cent for attainment of that level of education. These findings should also be read in conjunction with data on the type of schools in which individuals from different socioeconomic strata enrolled. The data in Table E-5 shows that some 60.0 per cent of the poorest, compared with 22.0 per cent of the wealthiest, were enrolled in All Age and New Secondary schools which terminate at grades 9 and 11, respectively.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAMMES

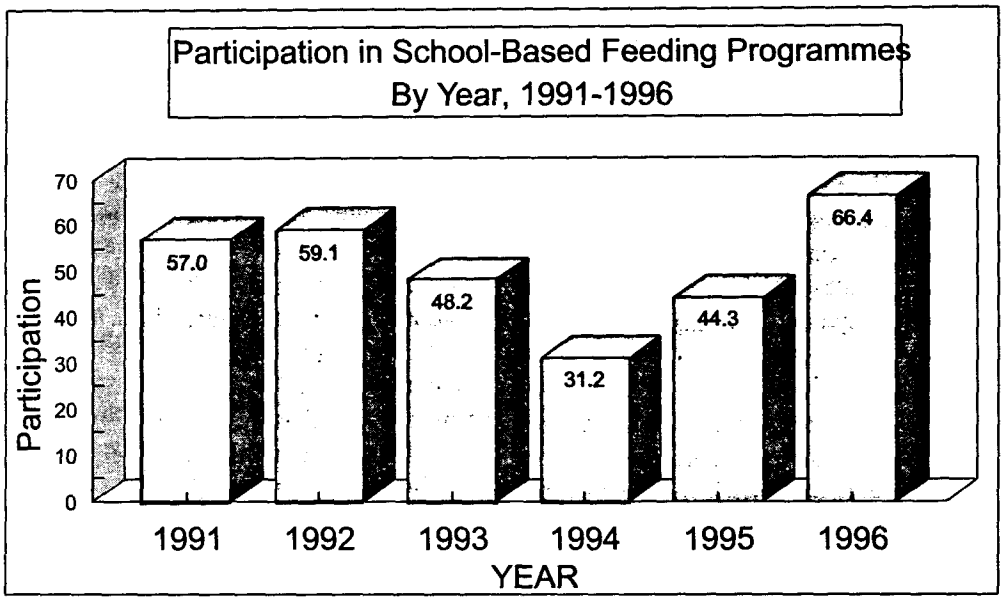
Under the School Feeding Programme (SFP), a milk and nutribun snack or a cooked meal is made available to students through their schools. Students can receive one of these options or can have both. These are sold at a heavily subsidized costs to ensure that the neediest student can afford them. Apart from the SFP, other school feeding initiatives were undertaken by the PTA, the church, private sector organizations and the schools themselves, among others. These venture also provide cooked meals and snacks at a subsidized cost to students.

Participation in all school-based feeding programs grew by approximately 50.0 per cent (49.9) from 44.3 per cent of students in 1995 to 66.4 per cent in 1996. This was in spite of continuing problems with the Government's SFP, such as inadequacy of funds, shortage of raw materials, and malfunctioning equipment. As seen in Figure 1, this was the highest rate of participation since 1991 (57.0 per cent) when the reference period for data collection on SFP moved from one reference week to the entire school year. It followed a steady recovery of participation rates from the low for the period of 31.2 per cent in 1994 and seems to be mainly the result of the supplementary initiatives identified.

Arising out of discussions, it is now believed that perhaps, since 1994 at least, when the Government's SFP seemed fraught with problems, initiatives from the schools themselves, sometimes in collaboration with parents and/or churches, past students' associations, and the private sector (breakfast programmes), have assisted students by providing meals at an affordable cost. Hence, it is felt that some of the participation rates found include those in these school-based feeding programmes.

In the light of the fundamental objective that the SFP stimulate domestic agriculture, it would be interesting to know if and how the non-Government initiatives support the local agriculture and livestock industries and how many schools, if any, are self-reliant, owning kitchen gardens and/or livestock. All efforts should be made to encourage programmes of this nature, especially since the notion of the welfare state is fast being replaced with independence and self sufficiency.

FIGURE 3.1



Participation by School Type

As shown in Table 3.8, the increase in participation in the school based feeding programmes over 1995 occurred across all school types and was the highest since 1991 when data on annual rates were first collected. A similar simultaneous increase in participation was evident for all schools in 1992. Also, whenever participation rates decreased, it seemed to occur simultaneously across all school types. All Age and Primary schools recorded the highest rates of participation over the period followed by Comprehensive High and Technical High schools (Table 3.8).

In 1996, participation by students in Primary schools rose to 72.8 per cent from 55.5 per cent in 1995. Participation by students in All Age schools and Primary and Junior High schools (Grades 1-6) increased from 53.8 per cent in 1995 to 70.6 per cent in 1996.

Participation by Quintile

As in all previous years, a relationship was observed between participation in school-based feeding programmes and children's welfare status - a deliberate objective of school feeding programmes generally (See Table 3.8). To that extent, the programme has been targeted with reasonable success. However, the participation rates tend to increase simultaneously for all consumption groups.

Participation by Area

The students from the Rural Areas had the lowest rate of participation in school-based feeding programmes, at 63.6 per cent in 1996. However, this represented the largest percentage of students from the Rural Areas participating in a school meal programme since 1992. Students from Other Towns, at 71.1 per cent, had the highest rate of participation while 68.2 per cent of students from the KMA participated.

This pattern is interesting since it represents a significant change from all previous years. In other years, students from the Rural Areas had the highest rate of participation in school-based feeding programmes. It is worth noting the association of this change with the recent tendency for the Rural Areas to record more improvement in consumption expenditures across all households than in the KMA and Other Towns. It is clear that it must be carefully studied since poverty continues to be severest in Rural Areas. It is also necessary to caution that investigations should be conducted to ensure that the results do not reflect growing problems in non-government school feeding initiatives in the Rural Areas. The data in Table 3.8 for the years 1993 and 1994 reveal a tendency for participation rates to fall when school-based feeding programmes are inadequately supported.

TABLE 3.8
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAMMES
BY SCHOOL TYPE, QUINTILE, AND AREA, 1991-1996

Group	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
SCHOOL TYPE						
Primary	63.5	67.9	58.4	34.4	55.5	**72.8**
All Age/Pr.&Jn. High (1-6)		68.5	52.2	39.4	53.8	**70.6****
All Age (7-9)	65.8*	62.7	48.0	42.5	40.5	**68.0**
Pr.&Jn. High/Jn. High (7-9)	-	-	-	-	-	**63.1*****
New Secondary	39.9	40.4	40.9	19.4	24.7	**58.2**
Comprehensive High	34.5	44.9	17.2	19.2	21.3	**59.2**
Secondary High	31.1	41.5	29.6	16.7	25.8	**53.9**
Technical High	58.6	52.2	18.9	21.5	33.4	**45.5**
QUINTILE						
Poorest	62.8	53.8	52.7	39.0	57.4	**63.0**
2	60.9	65.3	51.8	32.2	51.4	**71.8**
3	51.7	61.1	48.3	35.0	37.2	**70.1**
4	54.7	59.1	46.0	24.8	38.8	**69.6**
5	52.3	54.4	38.3	24.4	33.1	**58.7**
AREA						
KMA	50.0	54.1	47.0	29.7	42.1	**68.2**
Other Towns	55.6	34.2	43.6	25.6	35.8	**71.1**
Rural Areas	60.3	61.6	40.4	34.1	48.2	**63.6**
Jamaica	56.9	59.1	48.0	31.8	44.3	**66.4**

*-Primary and Secondary level All Age schools, combined
**-Combined average of Primary and Junior High and All Age (1-6)
***-Combined average of Primary and Junior High and Junior High (7-9)

SCHOOL EXPENDITURE AND SCHOOL ASSISTANCE

Since 1994, the SLC has collected data on school expenditure at the primary and secondary levels, particularly the costs incurred on items such as Tuition and Fees, Extra Lessons, Transport, Lunch and Snacks, Uniforms, Books, Other Supplies, and Room and Board. Respondent households were asked to state how much they spent on the particular items related to their children's education and schooling. Specifically as it relates to secondary school students, data were also collected on financial assistance provided by the Government through the Financial Assistance Programme (previously incorrectly reported as the Student Assistance Programme (SAP) or Welfare Fund), and on assistance from Other Sources. These other sources could be Members of Parliament (MPS) providing assistance through the Social and Economic Support Programme (SESP), Civic organisations, Churches and Private sector organisations.

The analysis of school expenditure and assistance this year involved comparisons with 1995 at constant 1990 prices. Comparisons with 1994 were not possible because of the manner in which the data were reported for that year. The critical items Tuition and Fees (including Contributions), Extra Lessons, and Books which impact on education content, were given special examination to determine what proportion of total school and school related expenditure they represented, and how prominent expenditures on Extra Lessons and Lunch and Snacks were. A major area of focus this year was that of expenditure on Tuition and Fees, since some large part of this is really contributions requested by Primary and All Age schools, Primary and Junior High schools, and the Junior High school, which do not enjoy Government sanctioned Tuition Fees.

As shown in Table 3.9, the real All Jamaica mean expenditure on Tuition and Fees and Contributions was $307.97, down from $336.80 in 1995. This reflected a reduction of 8.5 per cent. On Books, Uniforms and Other Supplies, real mean expenditure in 1996 was slightly less than that in the previous year. For Books, expenditure was some 12.4 per cent less than in 1995. Expenditure on Transportation and Lunch and Snacks saw the largest

increases over 1995. In real terms, expenditure on Transportation increased from $302.62 to $462.78, or by 52.9 per cent. Real expenditure on Lunch and Snacks moved from $578.76 to $720.33, a 24.5 per cent increase. With respect to Extra Lessons, real expenditure in 1996, at $380.28, represented an increase of 25.9 per cent over 1995. Real total school expenditure this year was $2,242.94, compared with $1,924.42 in 1995. This represented an increase of approximately 17.0 per cent.

Worthy of note was the fact that for All Jamaica, real mean expenditure on Extra Lessons exceeded that on Tuition and Fees and Contributions (See Table 3.9). This meant that parents paid more for this item than for regular Fees and Contributions. The evidence seems to be that a private school system providing Extra Lessons is emerging alongside regular schooling, perhaps partly to buffer some of the deficiencies in the regular education system and partly as a normal expression of entrepreneurship in the country. This should be examined more carefully, and the findings taken into account in the design of education, social and economic policy.

Expenditure on Primary Level Education

Primary level education is offered at Primary schools (public and private preparatory), and Grades 1-6 of All Age schools and Primary and Junior High schools. With the exception of the private preparatory schools, the other schools are public sector schools. Here, school fees are not sanctioned by the Government. A monetary contribution is requested by some schools to cover incidentals but the official position of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (MOEYC) is that any payment must be voluntary. Under no circumstance must a student be prevented from attending school because of the family's inability to pay this contribution. Some schools have been guilty of this, however, prompting the MOEYC to step up its campaign to outlaw the practice in public schools. The amount of these contributions is not uniform across schools.

At the private preparatory schools, however, fees are charged and in some cases can be quite high. The fee structure in these schools is also not uniform.

Among Primary school students, households spent on average some $16,278.00 on all the school and school related items in 1996 (See Table E-9). This was $2,213.36 in 1990 prices. In the previous year they spent some $10,021.00 on these items, which was $1,712.39 in real terms. In fact, the expenditure by households in 1996 represented an increase of 22.6 per cent in real terms. Expenditure on Tuition and Fees (private preparatory schools), Contributions (public schools), and Books combined, represented 16.8 per cent of mean total expenditure on school and school-related items. At public Primary schools, books for the four core curriculum subjects are provided free of cost.

Expenditure on Extra Lessons represented 18.9 per cent of mean total school expenditure. Compared with 1995, expenditure on Tuition and Fees and Contributions, and Books, was 24.5 per cent of households' total school and school related expenditure, while that on Extra Lessons was virtually the same as in 1995, at 19.0 per cent. This is sizeable and gives some indication of the relative importance placed on Extra Lessons which have become almost a cultural norm once a student begins preparation for the Common Entrance Examination (CEE), especially.

As shown in Table E-9, expenditure on Lunch and Snacks was a sizeable 26.4 per cent of total school and school related expenditure. In 1995, it was even higher at 30.2 per cent of total school expenditure. This relatively high share of food in schooling costs is one reason efforts at providing reasonably low-priced meals, affordable to all and not economically burdensome to the poor, should continue to be among the initiatives supported in the redesign of social policy.

For students at All Age schools, mean annual household expenditure on school and school related items was $11,155.00, approximately 31.5 per cent less than that of Primary school students. This is largely due to the Tuition Fees charged by Preparatory schools which are included in the Primary schools' students expenditure and the fact that more of the children of the poor attend All Age schools. In these schools, contributions are requested. Expenditure on Contributions and Books combined, represented only 10.6 per cent of mean annual expenditure on school. This is explained by the free provision of core curriculum text books and the associated low outlay for books required of households.

Similar to the pattern for Primary school students, expenditure by All Age students on Extra Lessons represented approximately 19.0 per cent (18.5) of mean school expenditure (See Table E-9). In 1995, this expenditure was 16.7 per cent of total school expenditure.

In light of the fact that a sizeable proportion of the student compliment of these schools belong to poor households, it can be argued that this finding indicates some amount of effort on the part of these households to ensure that their children also receive "good" examination preparation. As pointed out before, it can also be the result of an "Extra Lessons Culture" which prevails and these two explanations are not mutually exclusive.

Expenditure on Lunch and Snacks represented 39.1 per cent of school and school related expenditure in 1996, compared with 35.7 per cent in 1995.

Valued at 1990 prices, total expenditure on schooling by families of students of All Age schools was $1,516.09 in 1996 compared with $1,274.06 in 1995. In real terms, this represented an increase of approximately 16.0 per cent over 1995.

With respect to Primary and Junior High school students, expenditure data were available for only 11 persons and conclusions must be drawn with great caution. As with their All Age school counterparts, school contributions are requested though payment should be voluntary. Core subject text books are also provided free of cost, so expenditure on Contributions and Books represented a mere 6.6 per cent of total school expenditure. No comparison with 1995 was possible since this new school type was not included in the 1995 estimates. Total school expenditure by these households was $13,956.00 or $1,896.77 in 1990 prices. Expenditure on Extra Lessons was quite high, at $5,000.00, representing 35.8 per cent of total school expenditure. That on Lunch and Snacks was $4,686.00 or 33.6 per cent of total school expenditure.

Expenditure on Secondary Level Education

Secondary level education is offered in All Age (Grades 7-9) schools, Primary and Junior High (Grades 7-9) schools, one Junior High school, New Secondary schools, and Comprehensive High, Secondary High and Technical High schools.

As with their primary level counterparts, Tuition and Fees are not officially sanctioned at All Age and Primary and Junior High schools and expenditure on Contributions was found to be small. For households with children attending All Age schools, expenditure on Contributions and Books represented approximately 12.0 per cent (11.9) of total expenditure on school. For their counterparts with children attending Primary and Junior High schools, this represented approximately 10.0 per cent (9.9) of total school expenditure (See Table E-9).

Expenditure on Extra Lessons represented 16.6 per cent of total school expenditure for students of All Age schools, compared with 23.6 per cent for their counterparts attending Primary and Junior High schools. For the former group of students, expenditure on this item was a substantial 24.2 per cent of total school expenditure in 1995. Valued in real terms, this expenditure in 1995 was $349.44, while in 1996 it was $302.26, reflecting a 13.5 per cent reduction over the year.

Expenditure on Lunch and Snacks was 39.3 per cent ($5,272.00) of total school expenditure for All Age school students this year compared with 33.7 per cent ($2,858) in 1995. At constant 1990 prices, these were $716.52 and $488.37, respectively. This expenditure in 1996 therefore increase by approximately 32.0 per cent over 1995. Perhaps this is due in part to the fact that the School Feeding Programme has been experiencing problems and that students might have been purchasing meals and snacks elsewhere and at higher costs. If this is in fact so, it means that these households, known to be mainly poor, faced increased economic burden.

For households with children attending Primary and Junior High schools, expenditure on Lunch and Snacks was 33.5 per cent of total school expenditure.

Total school expenditure for All Age school students was $13,417.00, compared with $8,466.00 in 1995. Valued at 1990 prices, these were $1,823.52 and $1,446.65, respectively. In real terms therefore, school expenditure in

TABLE 3.9
CHANGES IN ANNUAL COST OF SCHOOLING AND SCHOOL RELATED ITEMS, 1995 AND 1996, (at constant prices)

Category	1995 Nominal	1995 Real	1996 Nominal	1996 Real
Tuition and Fees/Contributions	$1,971.00	$336.80	$2,266.00	$307.97
Extra Lessons	$1,768.00	$302.11	$2,798.00	$380.28
Books	$961.00	$164.21	$1,058.00	$143.79
Transportation	$1,771.00	$302.62	$3,405.00	$462.78
Lunch and Snacks	$3,387.00	$578.76	$5,300.00	$720.33
Uniforms	$1,014.00	$173.27	$1,240.00	$168.53
Other Supplies	$390.00	$66.64	$436.00	$59.26
TOTAL	$11,262.00	$1,924.42	$16,503.00	$2,242.94

1996 increased by 20.7 per cent over that in 1995. Total school expenditure by households with children attending Primary and Junior High schools was $12,684.00 or $1,723.89 at 1990 prices.

For the other secondary level schools, Tuition Fees are sanctioned officially but are not uniform. As Table E-9 shows, households with children attending Secondary High schools paid the highest Fees, while those with children attending New Secondary schools paid the lowest. These differences in fees may be related partly to differences in the quality of education delivered. It is known that students from Secondary High schools, where fees are highest, generally perform better than others at the highest examinations and this may be partly because higher fees allow recruitment of better teachers and provision of better school facilities.

For students attending New Secondary schools, expenditure on Tuition and Fees, and Books represented 19.3 per cent of total school expenditure. For those attending Secondary High schools, it was 25.8 per cent. Expenditure on Extra Lessons for these two groups of students was 14.0 per cent and 17.8 per cent, respectively. Total expenditure on schooling for Secondary High school students was $26,588.00 in 1996, up from $18,383.00 in the previous year. In real terms, the corresponding figures were $3,613.60 and $3,141.24. For New Secondary school students, total school expenditure was $17.088, up from $12,485.00 in 1995. In real terms, the figures were $2,322.45 and $2,133.40, respectively.

Households with children attending Comprehensive High and Technical High schools spent similar proportions, 21.7 per cent and 21.6 per cent, respectively, of their total school expenditure on Tuition and Fees and Books. The corresponding expenditures on Extra Lessons were 11.0 per cent and 16.4 per cent of total school expenditure. For students attending Comprehensive High schools, total expenditure was $19,180.00, up from $14,960.00 in 1995. In real terms, these were $2,606.77 and $2,556.33, respectively. For their Technical High school counterparts, the real expenditures were $3,207.77 in 1996 and $3,433.61 in 1995, reflecting a reduction over the year.

Expenditure by Area

With respect to expenditure on Tuition and Fees, Contributions, and Books, households in all three geographical areas spent virtually the same proportions (See Table E-9). For households in the KMA, it was 20.3 per cent of total school expenditure compared with 20.4 per cent in Other Towns and 19.8 per cent in the Rural Areas. In 1995, these were 27.8 per cent, 25.8 per cent, and 24.5 per cent, respectively.

On Transport, households in all three areas also spent similar proportions in 1996, 20.5 per cent in the KMA, 19.7 per cent in Other Towns, and 21.1 per cent in Rural Areas. Compared with the previous year, the proportions spent by households from the KMA and Other Towns showed substantial increases, moving from 11.7 per cent and 15.5 per cent of total school expenditure, respectively.

Total school expenditure was highest by households from the KMA, at $20,517.00. In the previous year, 1995, total expenditure by KMA households was $13,100.00. Households in the Rural Areas had the smallest school expenditure. This was $13,948, compared with $9,900.00 in 1995.

Expenditure by Quintile

Consistent with the findings of 1995, an expected direct relationship was observed between welfare status and households' expenditure on school. The households from the poorest consumption group spent some $11,585.00 compared with $27,619.00 by households from the wealthiest group. At constant 1990 prices, these were $1,574.53 and $3,753.73, respectively, and represented respective increases of 16.7 per cent and 21.2 per cent over 1995.

Expenditure on Tuition and Fees, Contributions, and Books by the poorest households was 16.6 per cent of total schooling expenditure, compared with 23.1 per cent by the wealthiest households. For Extra Lessons, with the exception of households from Quintile 2 for whom that expenditure represented 21.3 per cent of total schooling expenditure, that by all other consumption groups represented similar proportions of the total, between 14.2 per cent and 15.5 per cent.

Assistance by School Type

The analysis presented here covers four (4) school types, those in which Tuition Fees are sanctioned. Needy students who attend these schools - New Secondary, Comprehensive High, Secondary High, Technical High schools - can access financial assistance from the Government to help with the payment of their School Fees. Some students do receive help with the full amount. Assistance with School Fees can also be obtained from Other Sources.

The Survey shows that, since 1994, a consistently small number of students from New Secondary schools, 8, received assistance from the Government through its Financial Assistance Programme (FAP). As seen in Table E-10, this was a mean of $1001.00 and represented

approximately 50.0 per cent (49.8) of the School Fees. In 1994, assistance from the FAP represented two-thirds (66.1 per cent) of the School Fees while in 1995 it was approximately 40.0 per cent (39.9). It must be noted that the amounts/shares reported are means, and that full assistance is given to some students.

In 1996, ten (10) students received assistance from Other Sources which amounted on average to about 88.2 per cent of School Fees. In the previous year, 21 students received similar assistance worth 86.3 per cent of Fees. Assistance for these years improved over those for 1994 when average assistance was 63.5 per cent of School Fees.

Ten (10) students from the Comprehensive High schools received assistance from the Welfare Fund in 1996. The share of assistance this year was 42.8 per cent and was the lowest share given since 1994. The number receiving assistance this year was the highest since 1994. The declining share of assistance might indicate that there was some improvement in the overall economic welfare of households with children in these schools but it might also indicate a budget constraint. An increased number, 12 students, received assistance from Other Sources. Further, the share of assistance by this source in 1996 was the highest over the period for which data was collected, having increased steadily from 65.4 per cent to 82.4 per cent.

The highest School Fees were those for Secondary High schools, at $4,684.00 (See Table E-10). This was partly a function of the fact that economically wealthier students attend these schools. Only 2 students in the sample who were attending the Secondary high schools received assistance from the Government. The assistance provided was equivalent to 38.4 per cent of the School Fees and represented the largest share of assistance to such students since 1994. Compared with students from the other secondary schools, a consistently higher percentage of students from Secondary High schools received assistance from Other Sources. The assistance provided actually exceeded the School Fees in 1994 and was an estimated 99.0 per cent in 1995. This declined to approximately 82.0 per cent in 1996.

Assistance by Area

The share of assistance provided by the Government followed no consistent pattern over the 1994-1996 period. In 1994, students from the Rural Areas received the largest share, 72.4 per cent. This changed in 1995 with students from the KMA receiving the largest share at 45.3 per cent. In 1996, students from Other Towns received the largest share of Government's assistance, 51.6 per cent. Consistently, however, the Rural Areas had the most students receiving Government assistance.

With respect to assistance provided from Other Sources, the Rural Areas also had the most students who received Government assistance. However, students from the KMA consistently received the largest share in relation to their School Fees. In the two previous years, the assistance exceeded the Fees while in the 1996 the share was approximately 71.0 per cent. It is suspected that the recipients are students who received scholarships, perhaps from their parents' work places.

Assistance by Quintile

Some 14 students from the poorest consumption groups received assistance from the Government, compared with 4 from the wealthiest group. Students from Quintile 3, however, received the largest share of assistance, approximately 62.1 per cent. With respect to assistance from Other Sources, students from Quintiles 2 and 3 received amounts in excess of their School Fees.

CONCLUSION

In 1996, some previous gains were consolidated and some improvements made in the education system. Access to Basic Education continued to be universal, so the enrolment of 6-14 year olds was virtually universal. Enrolment of students in the 15-16 age group exceeded 85.0 per cent for the first time in the 1989-1996 period, and tertiary level enrolment by students from the Rural Areas more than doubled over the year.

The impact of the upgrading of All Age and New Secondary schools was evident in the shifting pattern of school type enrolment. The impact on the children of the poorest consumption groups was the most evident. Enrolment in Comprehensive High, Secondary High and Technical High schools, by these children, increased by approximately 25.0 per cent over 1995. Efforts by the ROSE programme must be commended. However, annual evaluations must be done to ensure that the real and qualitative changes proposed are in fact effected.

The data this year suggested the existence of school-based feeding programmes driven by initiatives set up outside of the SFP. These came into being in order to fill the gap created by the SFP's inability to provide an efficient service and resulted in a significant increase in participation by students in all regions, consumption quintiles and school types.

The Government's Financial Assistance Programme continued to provide assistance to financially needy students. More students of the poorest consumption groups and the Rural Areas received assistance. Targeting therefore appeared to be good. The share of this assistance followed no consistent regional pattern over the 1994-1996 period.

Mean real expenditure on Tuition and Fees and Contributions was less than that in 1995. So too were expenditures on Books, Uniforms, and Other Supplies.

In spite of these gains, there were significant areas of continuing concern. Enrolment of the early childhood age group (3-5 year olds), at 83.0 per cent, was not sufficiently high. Differences among students in early childhood education by welfare status were stark, highlighting the urgent need for more work on promoting the value of this level of education, and ensuring continued support for universal accessibility, adequate training of teachers, and the use of a standardized curriculum. Enrolment of students in the 15-24 age groups also continued to be unacceptably low. Poverty and non-enrolment continued to be directly linked, highlighting the need for more relevant social programmes at the upper secondary level.

The commitment of the ROSE programme to ensure upper secondary level education for all signals official recognition of the problem of limited opportunities. However, the evidence of wide variability in the quality of education obtained by school type, region and consumption quintile suggest the need for all to be vigilant during the period of implementation lest the labour market relevance, and quality of the education are compromised.

Households' efforts to send children to school, at 79.0 per cent, was unacceptably low relative to targets. Judged against the background of poor performance in some critical subject areas, especially by males, this is especially worrying. Further, the need to improve effort and actual attendance must be taken into account in any initiatives to extend the school year or improve the efficiency of time use in any one day,

Of the Out-of-School population, an examination of the characteristics of those between 12 and 18 years old, yielded some very interesting findings. More than one-half belonged to the poorest consumption groups and the majority belonged to households whose heads had low levels of education. Approximately 60.0 per cent of the Out-of-School population were males, and more than one-half of the population came from the Rural Areas. In this context, undesirable cycles of poverty and the slim prospects of upward social mobility remain urgent social problems faced by these vulnerable groups which perhaps should be confronted by the National Poverty Eradication Programme.

With respect to school-based feeding programmes, despite the non-Government initiatives, downward trends in rural participation may signal deficiencies in the program. These trends must be studied to determine their cause and corrective action taken where necessary, consistent with the goal of supporting domestic agriculture.

With regard to school and school related expenditure, the cost of Transportation and Lunch and Snacks increased over the year. The data on Tuition and Fees changed in such a way as to suggest the inclusion of expenditure on contributions in responses but the fraction of such expenses in the total have generally remained relatively low for all groups of students. Official policy discourage such contributions.

With respect to the link of trends in the education sector to the socioeconomic development programme of the country, the most significant finding this year was in regard to the expenditure on Extra Lessons. This significantly exceeded that on Tuition and Fees and Contributions, signifying the extent to which households are willing to support the Extra Lessons industry and/or buffer themselves from the deficiencies in the education system. Extra Lessons seems to have emerged as a private and complementary component of the education industry. Such private enterprise is obviously consistent with the spirit of the structural adjustment and economic development programmes and should be carefully evaluated for appropriate policy supports.

4 Health

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides information on self-reported illness and injury, severity of illness or injury reported, and the use and cost of health care services. Demand for health care services are compared with actual use of these services to measure rates of access to needed care. Additionally, the chapter examines the nutritional status and immunization coverage of the 0-59 month population in order to monitor its health status.

The analysis is based on the health module questionnaire of the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) for 1996 which was designed to obtain information on the health situation of a representative sample of the Jamaican population. As is standard SLC practice, the design of the questionnaire and the data collection procedures followed the principles of strict scientific rigour, so the data obtained can be used confidently to formulate policies and programmes to improve the health of the Jamaican people.

This year, the analysis takes fuller account of the fact that the SLC provides a unique serial view of health conditions from 1989 to 1996. This feature allows planners to monitor changes in health conditions over time, evaluate socioeconomic policies and programmes which were implemented in this period and/or designed to have effects within it, and make adjustments in the light of outcomes.

HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

Prevalence of illness/injury

This section of the analysis provides information on self-reported illness/injury. The estimate of percentage of various populations reporting illness/injury is clearly an indication of need and may be used as an index of the demand for curative health services.

The data in Table C-1 indicate that, overall, 10.7 per cent of the survey respondents reported illness/injury in the four-week reference period prior to the survey. In the Rural Areas the index was 12.0 per cent, in the KMA, 10.0 per cent, and in the Other Towns, 8.9 per cent. There was no significant difference between the index for Other Towns and the KMA. For females, the rate of self-reported illness/injury was 11.8 per cent, compared to 9.7 per cent for males. The highest rates were reported by individuals in the age groups "0-4 years" (21.0 per cent) and "65 years and over" (22.2 per cent). Given the increase in the fraction of the population accounted for by the elderly in the Demographics chapter of this report, it is also useful to note that there was a significant decline in reported illness/injury by individuals 65 years and older, from 26.8 per cent in 1995 to 22.2 per cent in 1996. In general, the data indicate that the country essentially maintained the tendency to a significant reduction in the rate of self reported illness/injury across all population groups observed in 1995.

The data in Table 4.1 provides a serial view of the index in the relevant four-week reference periods for 1989 to 1996[1]. The index shows a general decline, moving from 16.8 to 10.8 per cent. This represented a 36.3 per cent decline in the rate of reported illness/injury with noted declines from 18.3 per cent to 10.6 per cent between 1990 and 1992, and from approximately 13.0 per cent to 10.7 per cent between 1994 and 1996. However, clear cycles are evident over the period, with a distinct rising trend in the index between 1992 and 1994 and a resumption of the general declining trend since then. Figure 4.1 illustrates the pattern for the entire period.

[1] Comparisons of reported illness/injury from 1989-1991 are not included for age, due to the use of disparate age categories in survey reports for these years.

TABLE 4.1
PERCENTAGE REPORTING ILLNESS IN 4-WEEK REFERENCE PERIOD, 1989-1996

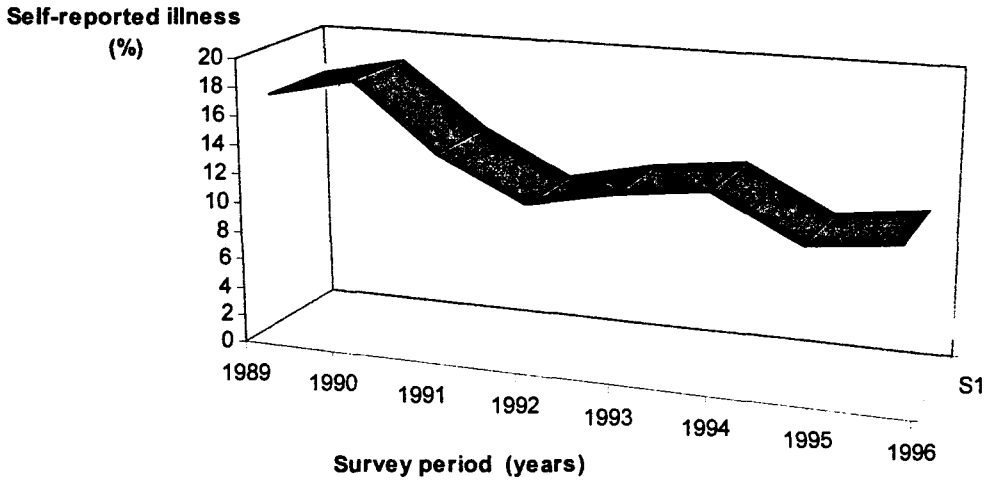
Classification	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
AREA								
KMA	12.0	17.4	11.8	9.3	10.7	11.2	8.9	**10.0**
Other Towns	18.2	22.3	17.7	11.1	13.3	11.9	8.4	**8.9**
Rural Areas	18.2	17.5	13.3	11.1	12.4	14.4	11.0	**12.0**
QUINTILE								
Poorest	14.9	17.3	12.1	10.1	12.1	13.5	10.4	**9.6**
2	17.1	16.0	14.4	9.8	12.8	13.6	10.5	**11.0**
3	17.1	16.3	14.1	11.0	12.5	13.9	7.5	**10.2**
4	17.9	22.1	11.7	10.8	10.4	11.3	10.1	**10.6**
5	17.1	19.8	16.0	11.4	11.3	12.2	10.7	**12.2**
SEX								
Male	15.0	16.3	12.1	9.9	10.4	11.6	8.3	**9.7**
Female	18.5	20.3	15.0	11.3	13.5	14.3	11.3	**11.8**
AGE (Years)								
0-4					17.3	22.3	17.3	**21.0**
5-9				12.8	9.7	11.8	8.3	**11.1**
10-19				5.9	6.7	6.5	4.9	**5.6**
20-29				4.7	6.3	8.2	5.5	**5.6**
30-39				7.0	8.1	8.0	6.4	**7.4**
40-49				10.5	11.0	12.9	8.2	**9.6**
50-59				13.5	13.2	16.0	15.1	**14.7**
60-64				18.2	26.0	21.8	15.8	**14.6**
65+				28.6	33.0	30.0	26.8	**22.2**
JAMAICA	16.8	18.3	13.7	10.6	12.0	12.9	9.8	**10.7**

If demand for curative health services is taken as an indicator of the health status of the population, this data suggests a general and significant improvement in the national health condition since the start of the survey in 1989, a trend which was more or less sustained in 1996. To some extent, the observed trend may reflect an adjustment of demand to the greater availability of health care services since 1989.

The pattern of a declining trend in the index, interrupted by cyclical adjustments, was generally evident in all three regions of the country. However, in Other Town the downward trend in the index was strongest from 18.2 per cent in 1989 to 8.9 per cent in 1996, and the interruption was briefest with only one year of significant increase between 1992 and 1993. Other Towns have experienced steady improvements in their health conditions since 1993 to levels which are better than for any other region in the country. A stronger trend and more pronounced interruption in the index was also evident in the Rural Areas as compared with the KMA. The reason for the more pronounced patterns in the rural Areas and Other Towns when compared with the KMA is the general tendency for the KMA to maintain a relatively low and stable mean index of approximately 11.2 over the period. Perhaps, this is mainly the result of the general greater availability of health

FIGURE 4.1

Self-reported illness over survey period 1989 - 1996



care services in this region on the one hand and the concentration over the period of initiatives to improve services in Other Towns and the Rural Areas where the needs were clearly the greatest in 1989.

With respect to gender, the patterns were also similar to the national trend, but with that for women being generally higher than that for men. Indeed, a difference between the indexes for men and women of more than 2 percentage points was maintained in each year of the survey, including 1996. Comparison of the consumption quintiles reveal that the reduction in reported illness/injury was greater for respondents from the poorest consumption quintile than for respondents from the wealthiest consumption quintile. Because of data availability, comparison of the age groups was only possible for the period since 1992. The data show that among age groups, the elderly above 60 years accounted for most of the improvement in the index over this period and that the generally low level of the index since 1992 is the result of the relatively low rates of reported illness/injury among age groups between 5-9 years and 50-59 years.

DURATION OF ILLNESS/INJURY

The general index of health status is interpreted best in the context of specific indicators of the severity of illness. One such indicator is the rate at which those who report illness/injury also report Protracted Illness/Injury, that is conditions beginning before the four-week reference period of the Survey. In 1996, 33.3 per cent of those reporting an illness/injury also reported Protracted Conditions (Table C-1).

The rate of protracted illness/injury was highest in the Rural Areas at 36.8 per cent. Ill/injured women continued to report more protracted conditions than ill/injured men. Reports of protracted conditions by the ill/injured increased with age, starting at 14.8 per cent for children 0-4 years and peaking at 66.2 per cent for individuals 65 years and over. The ill/injured from the poorest consumption quintile reported more protracted conditions than those from the wealthiest consumption quintile. These variations warrant further investigation, but may be linked to lifestyles which vary across consumption quintiles.

Over the year 1995-1996, there was a marginal, that is statistically insignificant, increase from 32.0 per cent to 33.3 per cent of the rate of reported protracted illness/injury by those who reported any illness/injury in the four-week refernce period of the Survey. However, this was not uniformly spread across the country. The rate declined significantly in the KMA and Other Towns while it increased significantly in the Rural Areas. Among the social groups, it increased for quintiles 1 and 4, held firm for quintile 3 and decreased significantly for quintiles 2 and 5. The rate also declined significantly for the 60-64 years age group and held constant for those above 65 (Table 4.2).

TABLE 4.2
PERCENTAGE REPORTING PROTRACTED ILLNESS/INJURY, 1989-1996

Classification	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
AREA							
KMA	18.2	23.1	31.3	28.5	36.8	36.0	**29.8**
Other Towns	15.5	25.9	27.4	33.6	27.6	31.6	**27.7**
Rural Areas	22.1	26.4	37.5	40.2	28.9	30.0	**36.8**
QUINTILE							
Poorest	24.9	26.8	40.8	37.1	32.8	25.0	**33.6**
2	24.8	27.8	34.6	34.6	29.8	30.4	**27.3**
3	17.6	34.5	35.2	26.1	26.4	35.4	**34.6**
4	16.9	23.9	35.4	43.9	36.4	34.0	**39.3**
5	15.6	15.9	28.6	36.7	26.2	36.3	**31.8**
SEX							
Male	18.4	25.4	31.6	35.0	26.3	28.4	**30.4**
Female	20.6	25.5	36.2	35.8	34.4	34.6	**35.6**
AGE (Years)							
0-4				15.2	15.6	12.9	**14.8**
5-9			16.5*	20.4	20.0	18.1	**25.1**
10-19			15.2	19.4	17.0	17.5	**18.0**
20-29			18.5	22.5	21.6	12.0	**22.6**
30-39			22.4	29.4	27.7	29.4	**28.3**
40-49			39.4	32.8	26.2	26.4	**46.8**
50-59			46.1	41.3	38.7	44.9	**47.8**
60-64			57.3	61.4	43.2	53.5	**46.5**
65+			63.4	62.4	61.3	66.8	**66.2**
JAMAICA	19.6	25.5	34.8	35.5	30.9	32.0	**33.3**

*** Percentage protracted illness for children 0-9 years old**

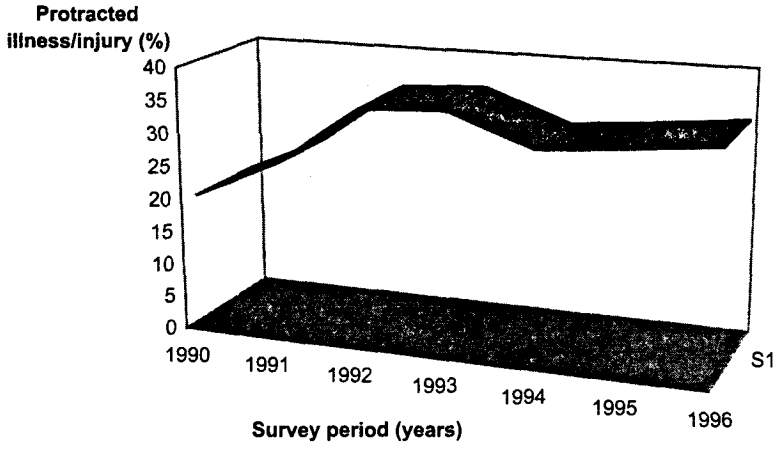
During the period 1989 to 1996, there was a general tendency to an increase in the rate of reported protracted conditions among those who reported illness/injury in the four-week reference period of the Survey. Protracted conditions increased steadily between 1990-1993 period, from 19.6 per cent to 35.5 per cent. In 1994, the rate fell significantly to 30.9 per cent but increased steadily and significantly after that to 33.3 per cent in 1996. Among the various subgroups, the only consistent patterns observed were that females tended to report protracted conditions at a much higher rate than men and, as expected, the rate of reported protracted conditions tended to increase with age. The exception here was the 10-19 age group which reported protracted conditions at a lower rate than all others.

Two additional measurements are used in the evaluation of severity of illness/injury in the health module:

i. The mean number of days of illness/injury, or duration of illness/injury;
ii The mean number of days restricted from normal

FIGURE 4.2

Protracted illness/injury in survey period 1990 - 1996



activities, or impairment (see Table C-1).

In 1996, the national mean number of days of illness/injury was 10.0 days and the national mean number of days of impairment was 6.0 days.

The ill/injured from the Rural Areas reported the highest mean number of days of illness/injury (13.0 days), 3.0 days more than the national mean. Residents from the KMA reported the lowest mean number of days of illness/injury at 7.0 days. Mean days of illness/injury, like protracted conditions, increased with age, with individuals 65 years and older reporting a mean of 17.0 days. There was no difference in the mean number of days of illness/injury between the two poorest consumption quintiles and the two wealthiest consumption quintiles. The difference observed between men at a mean of 11.0 days and women at 10.0 days was not significant.

The ill/injured from the Rural Areas reported a mean of 7.0 days of impairment, those from Other Towns reported 5.0 days. The lowest mean number of days, 4.0, was reported by the ill/injured from the KMA but the difference from that for Other Towns is not statistically significant. Those reporting illness/injury from the poorest consumption quintile had a mean number of days of impairment of 6.0 days compared with 5.0 days for those from the wealthiest consumption quintile; again this difference is not statistically significant. There was also no significant difference in the mean number of days of impairment of men and women and the mean number was highest for individuals 65 years and older.

For the period 1989-1996, the mean number of days of illness was very stable, declining numerically only from 11.4 days to 10.0 days, a 12.3 per cent decline, with the highest figure being documented in 1989. The 1996 figure was the lowest Mean Days of Illness reported since the start of the documentation of the Survey. As with the other indicators of national health, Mean Days of Illness has fluctuated somewhat during the period under review (see Table 4.3).

Over the same period, the mean number of days of impairment was also very stable but the numbers displayed the opposite trend, increasing numerically from 5.5 days in 1989 to 6.0 days, a 9.0 per cent increase, with the highest recorded mean in 1993 at 6.3 days and the lowest in 1990 at 4.7 days (see Table 4.3).

In general, the indicators of severity do not contradict the conclusion that the general health status of the country improved significantly in 1996 and improved generally since 1989, but they indicate the need to be cautious with such an interpretation since the tendency to decline is not uniform on all indicators of severity. The steady increase in protracted conditions may reflect an increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and coronary heart disease which are generally related to lifestyle. The development of these diseases may start early in the lifecycle in childhood and early adulthood and most have been shown to be preventable. Public prevention policy to disseminate relevant preventive information through health promotion messages and programmes continue to be relevant.

TABLE 4.3
MEAN NUMBER OF DAYS OF ILLNESS/INJURY AND IMPAIRMENT

Year	Mean no. of days of illness	Mean no. of days of impairment
1989	11.4	5.5
1990	10.1	4.7
1991	10.2	4.9
1992	10.8	6.0
1993	10.4	6.3
1994	10.4	6.2
1995	10.7	5.6
1996	10.0	6.0

USE OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

In 1996, 54.9 per cent of those reporting an illness/injury sought medical care for their condition (Table C-1).

The KMA had the lowest proportion of ill/injured persons seeking care (53.5 per cent). The proportion for Other Towns and Rural Areas was 55.5 per cent. A lower proportion of ill/injured in the poorest consumption quintiles (53.4 per cent) tended to seek health care than in the wealthiest consumption quintile (63.0 per cent). Also, a higher proportion of women (58.5 per cent) sought care than men (50.5 per cent). Among the age groups, the highest proportions seeking health care were reported by the 20-29 and 60-64 year old age groups, at 62.1 per cent and 68.3 per cent respectively (Table C-1).

The private sector continued to be the main provider of health care services, accounting for some 63.6 per cent of the health care seekers. This compared with 31.8 per cent seeking care from public sector providers and 4.6 per cent from both public and private providers (Table C-2). The ill/injured from the Rural Areas used the private health care providers more than their counterparts from the other geographic locations (66.0 per cent) but used combined public and private sector providers less than the ill/injured of the other two geographic locations.

The sector from which the ill/injured seek health care was closely associated with consumption quintile. Some 84.6 per cent of the health care seekers from the wealthiest consumption quintile, sought care from the private sector compared with 40.4 per cent of health care seekers from the poorest consumption quintile.

Those seeking care in the 50-59 year age group used the public sector health services more than any other age group. At the same time, those seeking health care services between the ages 20-39 years were the most frequent users of private sector providers.

Approximately 78.0 per cent of those purchasing medication bought from private providers (Table C-2). In part, this is because only users of public health services can access medication from the public sector pharmacies. Of the 36.4 per cent[2] seeking care from the public sector, only 22.0 per cent brought supplies from the public sector drug windows. Among health-care seekers, the two poorest consumption quintiles made the greatest use of public drug windows. Only 3.2 per cent of the wealthiest quintile and 18.7 per cent of households from quintile 4 used this facility, indicating that the program was very successful in targeting the poor and avoiding leakage.

Of those seeking health care services, 5.6 percent were hospitalized and over 90% of these were admitted to public facilities. Hospitalization was highest in the KMA at 8.4 per cent of those seeking care and was lowest in the Rural Areas at 4.2 per cent. The rate of hospitalization among women seeking care was higher than for men, and health care seekers 5-9 years old and 65 years and over had higher rates of hospitalization than any other age group.

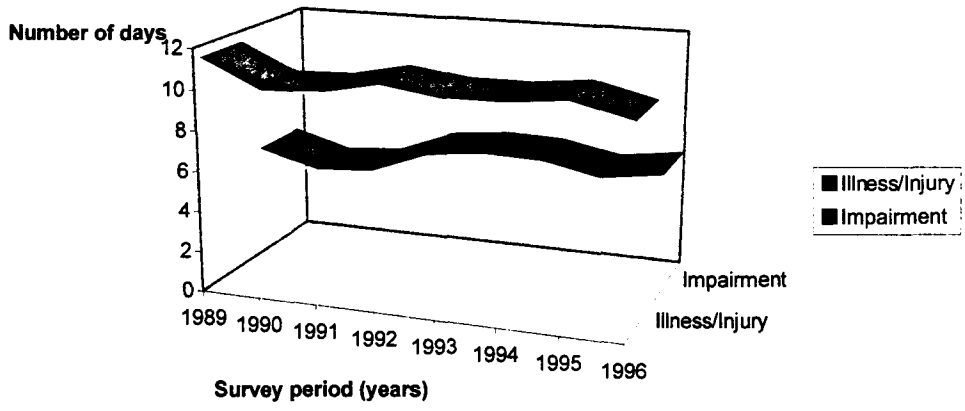
Analysis of the use of health care services by level of care revealed that primary health care, a major component of the health care system, continued to be the most highly utilized form of health care (Table C-3). Primary health care was used by 74.6 per cent of those seeking care with 20.8 per cent obtaining care at the Out-Patient level. The highest proportion of health care seekers at the Out-patient level, 29.0 per cent, were from the KMA. Only 15.4 per cent were from the Rural Areas.

Between 1995 and 1996 there was a 16.9 per cent increase in the use of public sector health care providers, with a concurrent decline of 27.0 per cent in the use of combined public and private health care services. The use of private sector health care providers also declined by 4.2 per cent during the year.

[2] 31.8 per cent using public sector only plus 4.6 percent using both public and private sectors.

FIGURE 4.3

Mean Days of Illness/Injury and Impairment for survey period 1989 - 1996



Over the period 1989-1996, those seeking medical care showed a marked preference for private sector care providers (Table 4.4). The overall picture from 1989 is a 4.3 per cent increase in the use of private sector care providers, an 18.5 per cent decrease in the use of public sector care providers, and since its documentation in 1991, a 31.3 per cent decline in the use of combined public and private sector care providers.

Similarly, between 1995 and 1996, use of public sector providers of drugs increased from 16.4 per cent to 19.1 per cent of all purchasers.

The sector from which medication is purchased was first documented in 1992. Since that time, there has been an increase in the use of the public sector for medication from 8.9 per cent to 19.1 per cent of purchasers, representing a 114.6 per cent increase in the percentage of health care seekers who use these public facilities.

In the period 1989 to 1996, the percentage of the ill/injured who sought health care improved by 12.0 per cent, from 49.0 per cent to 54.9 per cent (see Table 4.6). It is useful to note that since 1990, when the lowest percentage was documented at 39.0 per cent, there was a steady improvement in the effort to access health care services by those in need to 58.9 per cent in 1995 before declining again to 54.9 per cent in 1996.

Gains were mostly evident in the Rural Areas and Other Towns. The percentage of the ill/injured who sought care in the Other Towns tended to increase fairly steadily from 45.5 per cent to 55.5 per cent over the period but has shown a tendency to decline since 1994. In the Rural Areas, the percentage was generally stable at 47 per cent until 1995 when it increased dramatically to 62.8 per cent. In the last year, the rate has fallen to 55.4 per cent. The KMA showed a very stable percentage for the entire period. In 1996, the same percentage of the ill/injured sought care in all regions. The percentage of the ill/injured who seek care is usually a good indicator of the availability and affordability of care. On this basis, one can conclude that in 1996, the Rural Areas and Other Towns generally caught up with the KMA on the accessibility of reasonable health care. The Rural Areas and Other Towns were well-known to be regions in which there were severe problems of access to health care services at the start of the Survey in 1989.

Since 1989, the improvement in the percentage of the ill/injured seeking health services was also evident across all consumption quintiles except the wealthiest.

HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure during the four-week reference period

Mean individual expenditure on visits for those seeking care from public sector care providers was $147.60 (see Table C-4).

Among the regions, mean individual expenditure was highest in the KMA at $188.40. Among the consumption quintiles, as could be expected, the mean individual

TABLE 4.4
USE OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR BY ILL/INJURED FOR MEDICAL CARE, PURCHASE OF MEDICATION, AND HOSPITALISATION DURING THE FOUR-WEEK REFERENCE PERIOD

Percentage of those seeking medical care			Percentage purchasing medication			Percentage hospitalisation of those seeking medical care		
Year	Public	Private	Both	Public	Private	Both	Public	Private
1989	39.0	61.0	na	na	na	na	na	na
1990	39.4	60.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
1991	35.6	57.7	6.7	na	na	na	na	na
1992	28.5	63.4	8.1	8.9	58.5	2.4	1.0	0.4
1993	30.9	63.8	5.3	15.9	79.9	4.2	6.9	0.5
1994	28.8	66.7	4.5	21.4	75.6	3.0	4.6	0.8
1995	27.2	66.4	6.3	16.4	81.9	1.7	6.0	0.2
1996	31.8	63.6	4.6	19.1	78.0	2.9	5.1	0.5

expenditure was highest in the wealthiest consumption quintile at $422.50 while individuals in the 20-29 year age group spent the most on average at $268.30. Mean expenditure on visits was higher for males ($159.60) than for females ($139.80).

For those seeking care from private sector providers, mean individual expenditure on visits was $598.30. Comparison of the regions indicated that this was highest in the Rural Areas at $988.10. The mean annual expenditure for private care increased with consumption quintile, with the poorest at $450.40 and the wealthiest at $827.30 (see Table C-4). The highest mean private patient expenditure was observed for individuals 65 years and over at $1,030.70.

As expected, mean patient cost for drugs was higher for private sector purchasers at $685.80 than for public sector purchasers at $176.20 (see Table C-4). In both sectors, mean cost of increased with consumption quintile. The mean public cost was highest in the Rural Areas, $205.00, while mean private cost was highest in the KMA, $784.90.

Comparable data on mean patient expenditure for the period 1989-1996 is presented in 1990 dollars (see Table 4.7). In 1989, real private patient expenditure on visits was $74. This fell in 1991 to $44, representing a 40.5 per cent decline in mean patient expenditure since 1989. Mean private patient expenditure then increased to $100.00 in 1994 at an average increase of 31.9 per cent. Between 1994 and 1996 mean, private patient expenditure on visits remained reasonably stable.

A similar trend was observed for mean public patient expenditure on visits, which fell from $14.00 to $6.00 dollars between 1989 and 1991 at an average rate of change of 33.5 per cent. Mean public patient expenditure was generally maintained for one year but in 1993 increased significantly to $33, a 450 per cent increase. This increase came at the implementation of strategies under the Government of Jamaica Health Reform Programme. An essential part of this programme being the collection of user fees. A decline of 36.4 per cent in mean public patient expenditure on visits to $21 was observed between 1993 and 1994, after which mean public patient expenditure remained reasonably constant.

Mean cost for drugs from the private sector expressed as real 1990 dollars, decreased from $62 in 1989 to $43 in 1990, a 30.6 per cent decline. From 1990 to 1996, however, mean cost for drugs increased to $119.00 at an average rate of increase of 20.6 per cent. The largest increase was observed between 1991 and 1992 from a mean of $51 to a mean of $88, a 72.5 per cent increase.

Mean cost for drugs from the public sector, expressed as real 1990 dollars, displayed a similar trend with a reduction from $6.00 in 1989 to $4.00 in 1990, a 33.3 per cent decline. Mean cost of drugs from the public sector increased from $4 in 1990 to $47 in 1995. The largest increase was documented for the 1992-1993 period from $6.00 to $37.00, marking the implementation of the user fee programme by the Government of Jamaica. In the period 1995 to 1996, a 34.0 per cent decline in mean patient cost for drugs from the public sector was observed.