

# Bridging the Gap: JAMAICA COUNTRY PROFILE

## Mapping Gender Data Availability in Latin America and the Caribbean

*Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Latin America and the Caribbean* traces the availability and quality of data for 93 gender indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jamaica lacks comprehensive gender data. Few health indicators exist at the national level, and few human security and political participation indicators exist at either national or international levels.

High-level support for issues such as maternal and child health exists in Jamaica, however, the availability of timely, disaggregated data is needed to support these initiatives.

### Jamaica lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2019 in international and national databases maintained by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Jamaica's national databases include **60 out of the 93 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

**27 gender indicators** in Jamaica's national databases lack sex disaggregation.



ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

**16 published gender indicators** in Jamaica's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

**16 gender indicators** in Jamaica's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Jamaica is among the five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean included in this study.

### Opportunities to improve gender data in Jamaica

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



The Ministry of Health and Wellness should collaborate with STATIN to produce a comprehensive set of health indicators with sex disaggregation to close gaps in databases at both the national and international levels to inform decision-making.



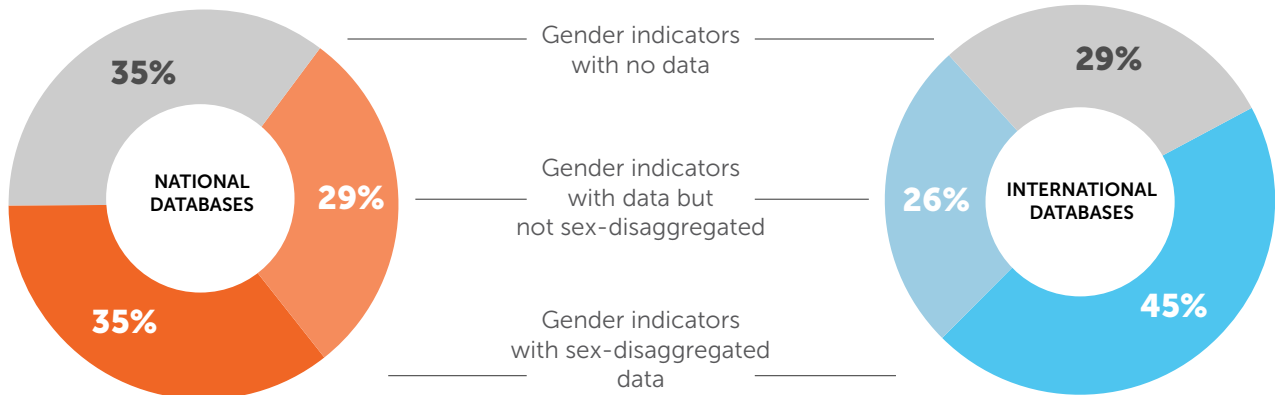
Share indicators on human security, particularly on crime and violence, that conform to international standards with appropriate disaggregation. The Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Ministry of National Security with guidance from STATIN should take the lead in producing these statistics.



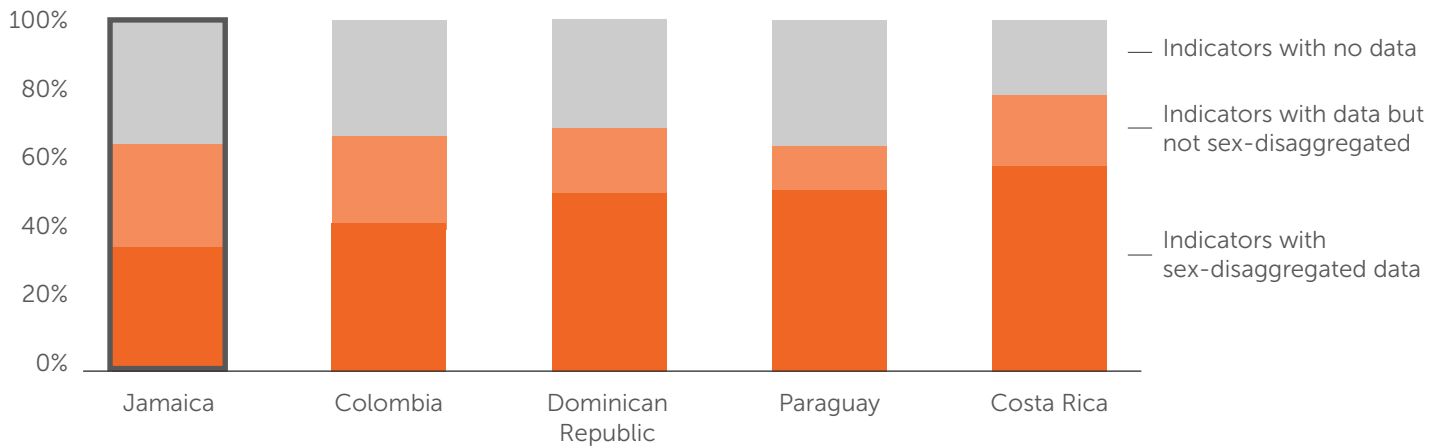
Publish anonymized microdata, questionnaires, and survey reports from critical surveys such as the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, Jamaica National Crime Victimization Survey, Women's Health Survey, Youth Activity Survey, and Labor Force Surveys.

## A closer look at gender data gaps

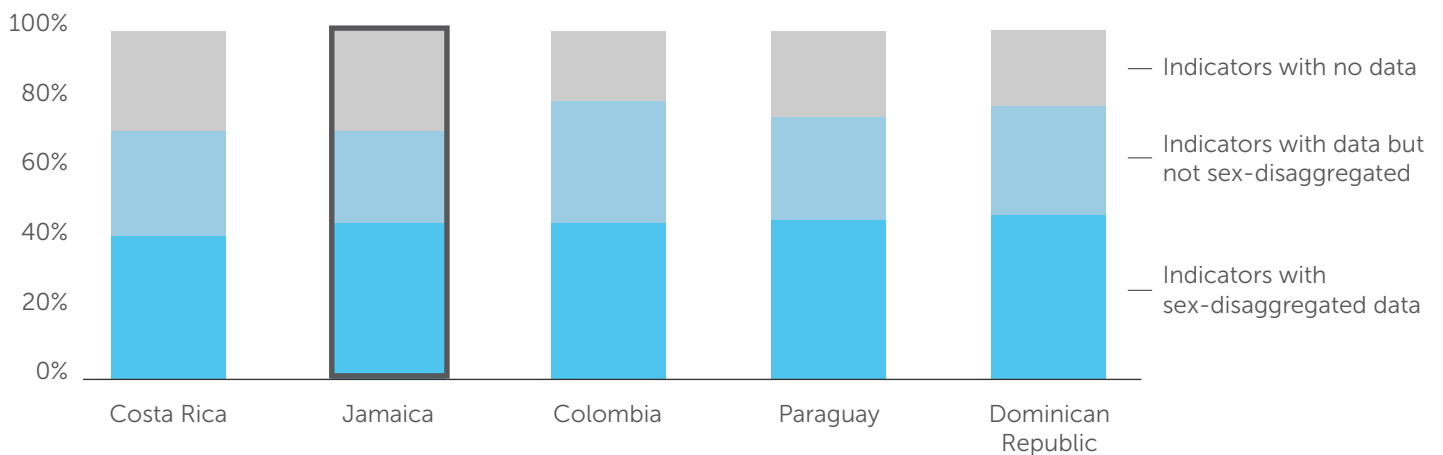
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Jamaica's national databases lack data for 35 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have better coverage of Jamaica's gender indicators, but 29 percent are still missing.



Jamaica publishes the lowest number of sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **national databases** of any country included in the study.

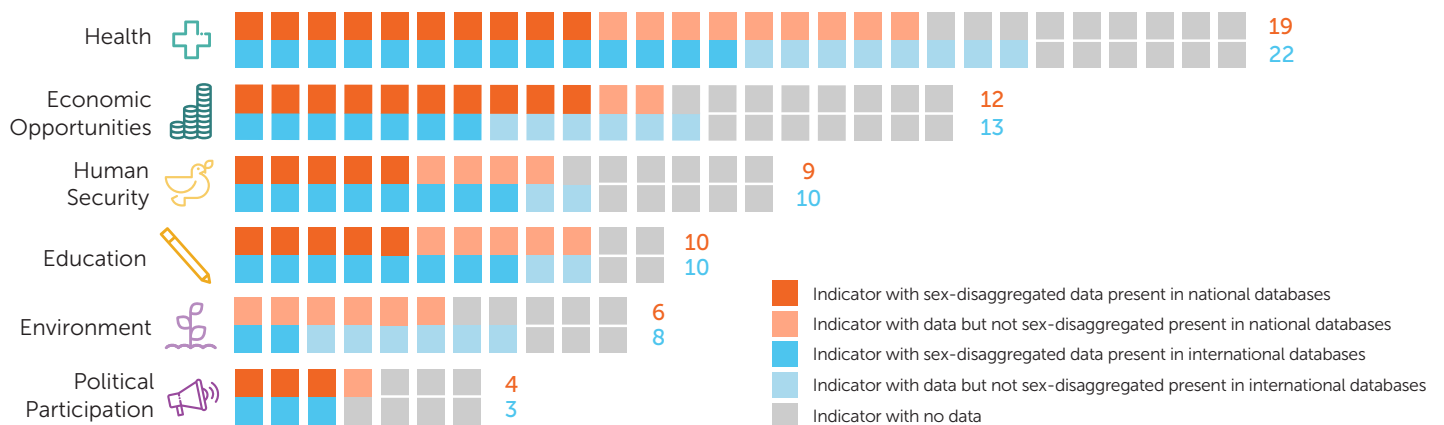


Jamaica also publishes fewer sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **international databases** than other countries included in the study.

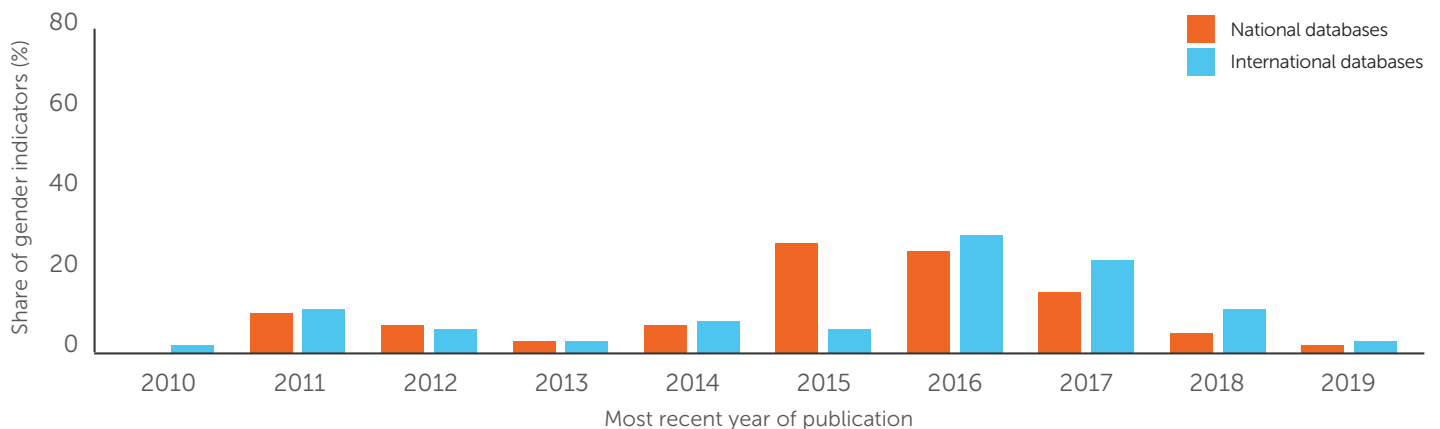


## Data availability and timeliness

Education has the highest availability of data in Jamaica, but gaps remain in the availability of sex-disaggregated data in all domains, particularly in health and human security. There is no sex disaggregation for any environmental indicator at the national level.

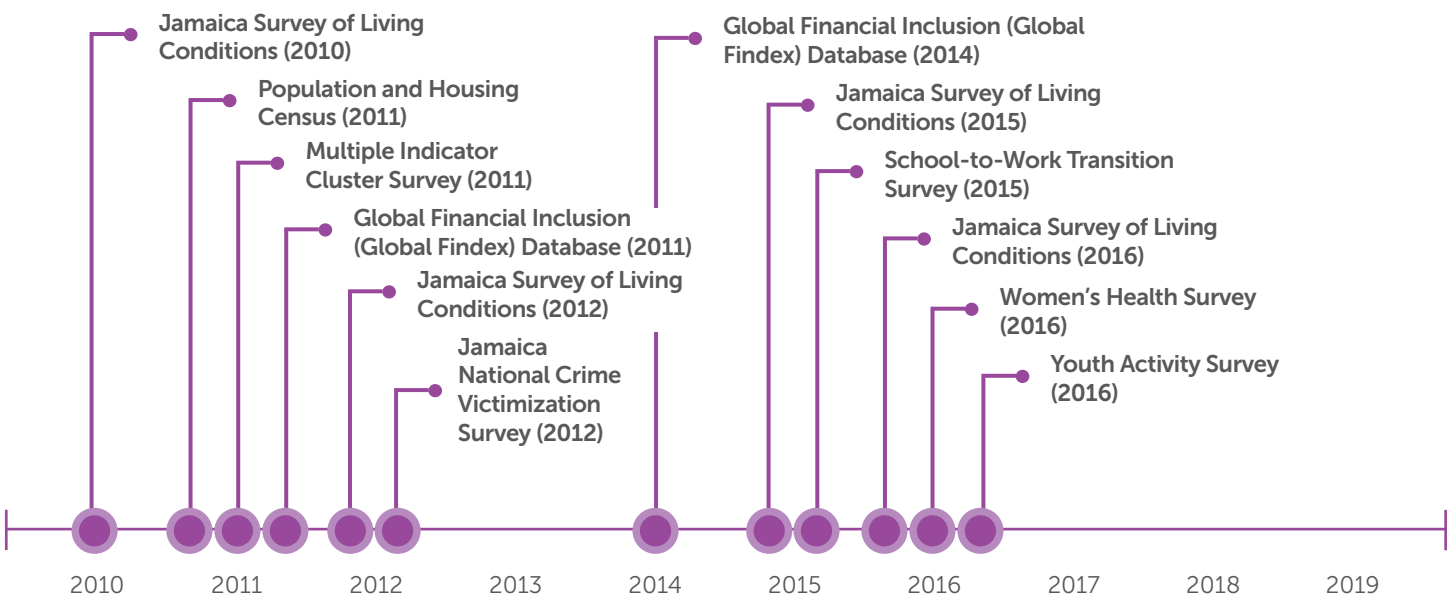


Twenty-seven percent of gender indicators in Jamaica's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



## Core systems to produce gender data

Many gender indicators in Jamaica are produced through surveys. Jamaica conducts quarterly labor force surveys that are not included in the timeline below. No records of official surveys since 2016 appear in public archives.



**Civil registration and vital statistics** provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data help to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. The SDG Global Database provides birth registration rate data based on the Registrar General Department Administrative Records for 2017.

**98%** Birth registration rate in Jamaica

Source: SDG Global Database <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

## Assessments of Jamaica’s data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Jamaica’s statistical and legislative environment.



\* Score converted to percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

■ Highest score for a LAC country

## Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Jamaica is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- Jamaica’s 2011-2015 **National Policy for Gender Equality** noted the deficit in sex-disaggregated data and highlighted the government of Jamaica’s commitment to promoting and developing the use of sex-disaggregated data.
- In its **Voluntary National Review (VNR 2018)**, the government of Jamaica recognizes the importance of data and statistics for decision-making, planning, and policy formation. Furthermore, the VNR shares the government of Jamaica’s commitment to gender mainstreaming efforts.
- Jamaica’s 10-year **National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate GBV in Jamaica (2017-2027)** is receiving financial support from UN Women. However, the plan is not available online.
- **Every Caribbean Woman, Every Caribbean Child** is a regional initiative that works to enhance maternal and child health, creating a need for these indicators. This initiative has received high-level support from Jamaica which participated in the First Ladies Forum to launch the initiative.

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