

ABSTRACT

**OCCURRENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE UNDER FOURTEEN  
YEAR OLDS AT COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTRE,  
KINGSTON JAMAICA 1988 -1992.**

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The need for consistency in bringing the perpetrators of sexual abuse in children to Justice is critical if sexual abuse is to be reduced.

Despite the number of studies carried out, and the publishing of results, there seems not to be national documentation of these cases.

This study was carried out in Kingston, Jamaica at the Comprehensive Health Centre, examined the occurrence of sexual abuse in the under fourteen (14) year old to ascertain the trends over the period 1988 - 1992. Also to find the associated factors of child abuse.

The study was restricted to those who went for assistance at the Comprehensive Health Centre. This centre being a type five (5) with catchment areas, would have seen children from several areas and especially from the lower socio-economic groups.

A large percentage of the sample were found to have

evidence of sexual abuse. Although a large majority (83.4%) of the sample were found to have old ruptured hymen only 16% had newly ruptured hymen. Physical abuse occurred in 15.6% of the sample. The most common complaints related to sexually transmitted diseases were *Trichomonas vaginalis* and gonorrhoea.

It therefore means parents, guardians and child minders are to be more vigilant while caring for these children.