



IOM International Organization for Migration  
 OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
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**IOM's International Dialogue on Migration**  
 Co-sponsored by WHO and CDC

Seminar on Health and Migration, 9-11 June 2004  
*Session IIIA: Migration and Health Policies*  
 Health and return migration, Dr Eva Lewis FULLER

# HEALTH AND RETURN MIGRATION

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## Jamaica – Country Profile

- Largest of the English-speaking Caribbean islands – 10,991 square kilometres
- Population – 2.7 million
- Population created by the transatlantic slave trade which began in the 1600s, from Africa to the British, French and Dutch territories in the Caribbean (migration of labour force)
- Gained independence from Britain – 1962  
 - has parliamentary democracy, based on Westminster-Whitehall model
- 14 administrative areas (parishes) clustered into 4 Regional Health Authorities



**This presentation will focus briefly on three aspects of immigration flows:**

1. Returning Residents
2. Deportees
3. Refugees

.....in to Jamaica

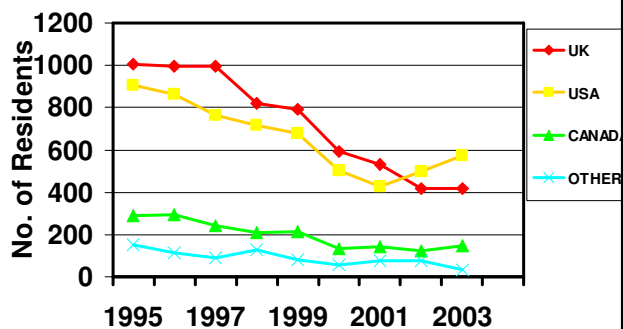
**NB:** Data and information for this presentation obtained from: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Security, Special Branch – Jamaica Constabulary Force; Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management; Ministry of Health



**Returning residents by main countries of origin**

Year	Country returned from				Total
	UK	USA	CANADA	OTHER	
1995	1,007	905	288	153	2,353
1996	995	863	296	114	2,268
1997	995	762	244	91	2,092
1998	821	715	211	128	1,875
1999	793	677	212	83	1,765
2000	594	501	132	55	1,282
2001	531	427	144	75	1,177
2002	417	500	121	75	1,113
2003	417	573	147	33	1,170
2004 April	124	181	34	11	350

**RETURNING RESIDENTS 1995 - 2003**



**WHERE ARE JAMAICANS RETURNING FROM?**

- **United Kingdom**
- **United States of America**
- **Canada**
  - Bahamas
  - St. Martin
  - Cayman Islands
  - Bermuda
  - Barbados
  - Puerto Rico
  - Japan
  - Aruba
  - Antigua
  - Turks Caicos
  - Panama
  - Dominica
  - Costa Rica
  - Switzerland

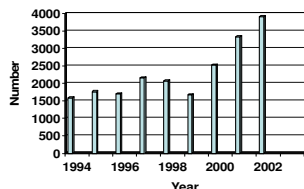
**Issues Related to Returning Residents**

- Many returning residents are retirees suffering from chronic diseases – cardiovascular, diabetes, disabilities, arthritis etc.
- Appears to be a policy of some developed countries to encourage persons to return to Caribbean when they develop chronic illness.
- Many receive pension from the country they are leaving
- Social welfare/health benefits not transferable from developed countries to country of birth
- Culture shock affecting returning residents
- ?Increased prevalence of mental illness- schizophrenia in returning residents
- How much concession and facilitation should be given to returning residents? What should they be entitled to?



### Number of Persons Deported to Jamaica 1994 - 2003

YEAR	NUMBER DEPORTED
1994	1434
1995	1582
1996	1765
1997	1699
1998	2161
1999	2071
2000	1672
2001	2529
2002	3331
2003	3913



### Main Countries From Which persons are Deported

Year	Country Reporting Persons				Total
	USA	UK	CANADA	OTHERS	
1999	1533	242	227	69	2071
2000	1268	235	146	44	1693
2001	1410	765	203	151	2529
2002	1581	1467	141	164	3353
2003	1674	1960	161	118	3913
Total	7466	4669	878	546	13559

### Reasons given for Deporting Persons

- Possession of drugs
- Possession of firearms
- Illegal Alien
- Fraud/ False documents
- Crime/ violence
- Others

### Issues Relating to Deportees

- Where did many deportees learn their criminal and socio-pathic/ psychopathic behaviour? Is it fair to deport those who left their birth country as infants?
- Whose responsibility should it be to rehabilitate these persons?
- When deportees have diseases requiring very expensive interventions which they cannot afford, who should pay? E.g. renal failure.
- Full information on deportees should be sent to relevant authorities in Jamaica prior to deporting individuals.
- How much follow-up and what should be done with deportees, within the context of human rights balanced with the potential risks and public good?.



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<b>Refugees to Jamaica</b>				
Year	MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN			Remarks
	Cuba	Haiti	Other	
1996	-	18		Persons involved in various illegal and economic activities e.g fishing, drug dealing – enter territorial waters and the country from time to time
1997	-	7		
1998	14	42		
2003	18	6	4	Asylum granted to some Hatians, none to Cubans
2004	-	<b>511</b>	2	6 pregnant women among group, 110 malaria and 11 TB cases among refugees.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health

- ### Issues Related to Refugees
- Funding for housing, nutrition, diagnostic tests and medical care of refugees.
  - Level of care required for refugees in the context of socio-economic situation and level of social welfare provided to citizens in host country
  - Risk to host countries of spread of communicable diseases – malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB (some resistant strains) etc.
  - Status of children of refugees born in host country
  - Level of interaction with local citizens

Through travel and communications technology the world has become a smaller space in which people move at will. We cannot stop this movement, we can only plan for it and manage it appropriately.

THE END



THANK YOU.