

# CORE ISSUES

- 1. Too many abortion deaths among teenage pregnancies in Jamaica.
- 2. Recent figures are showing an upward trend.
- 3. Unsafe ABORTIONS playing a big part
- 4. Both the medical profession and the government must now do something about it.



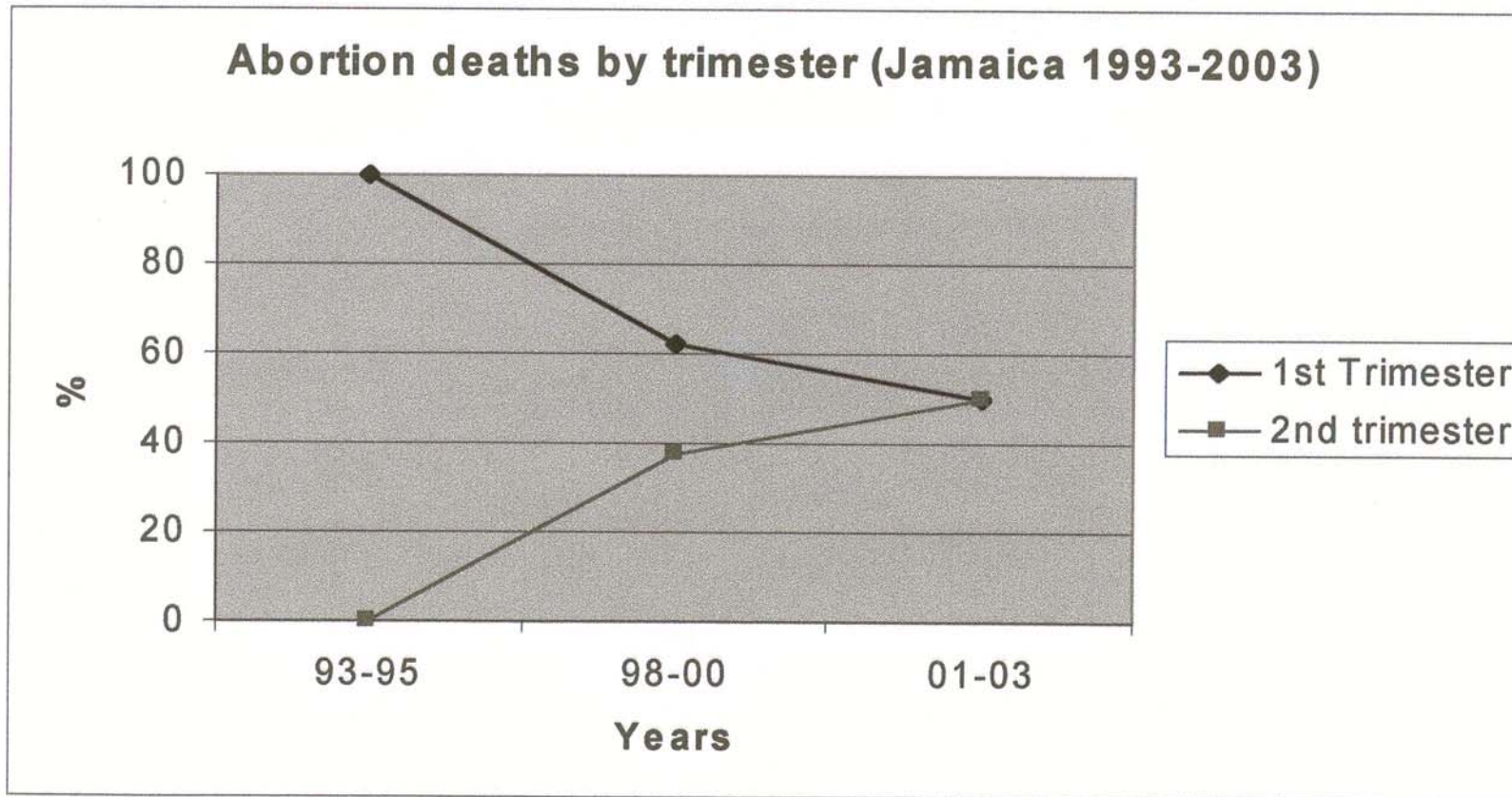
# UNSAFE ABORTIONS

- ABORTION should be a legalised procedure within the full control of the medical profession.

Otherwise the procedure is UNSAFE with a high mortality.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester abortion = LATE ABORTION
- LATE ABORTION = UNSAFE ABORTION

# Abortion trends in Jamaica (1993-2003)



TOTAL 24 cases.

1. There is the potential for continued decrease in deaths from 1st trimester abortions <sup>medical inductions</sup>
2. Increasing deaths from 2nd trimester abortions in Jamaica at this time calls for urgent attention by the medical profession and the Government.



# UNSAFE ABORTIONS

- The risk of death at later gestation is considerable – the risk increases by 34% for each additional week beyond the first trimester.
- The larger portion of late abortions occurs in the TEENAGE mothers for many understandable reasons. These are largely PREVENTABLE by early medical induction of abortion with MIFEPRISTONE + MISOPROSTOL, abortifacients.

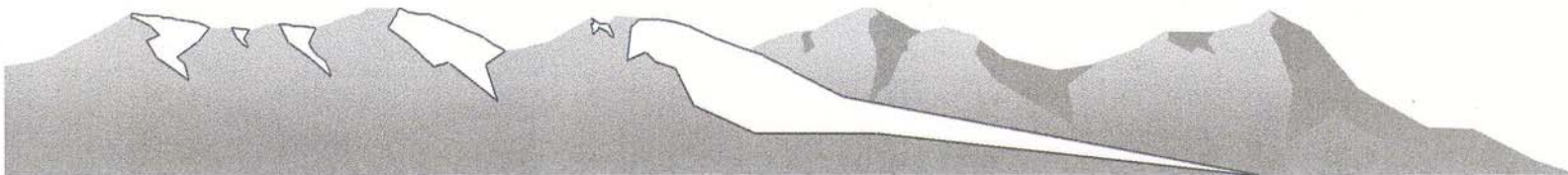
# CHALLENGE TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN JAMAICA

- Doctors and Counsellors need to be proactive in “sex” education in high schools. *— from age 12.*
- Much more needs to be done in the area of contraceptive services for teenagers.
- The medical profession in Jamaica should advocate that abortion be legalised and regulated.
- The medical profession should be compassionate and positively helpful to teenagers with unwanted pregnancies.



# THE PRESENTATION

- **ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY**
  - Teenage pregnancies/abortion
- **MATERNAL MORTALITY**
- **UNSAFE ABORTION**
  - Needs correction
- **MEDICAL ABORTION**
- **A CHALLENGE TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN JAMAICA**



# ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY

## JAMAICA

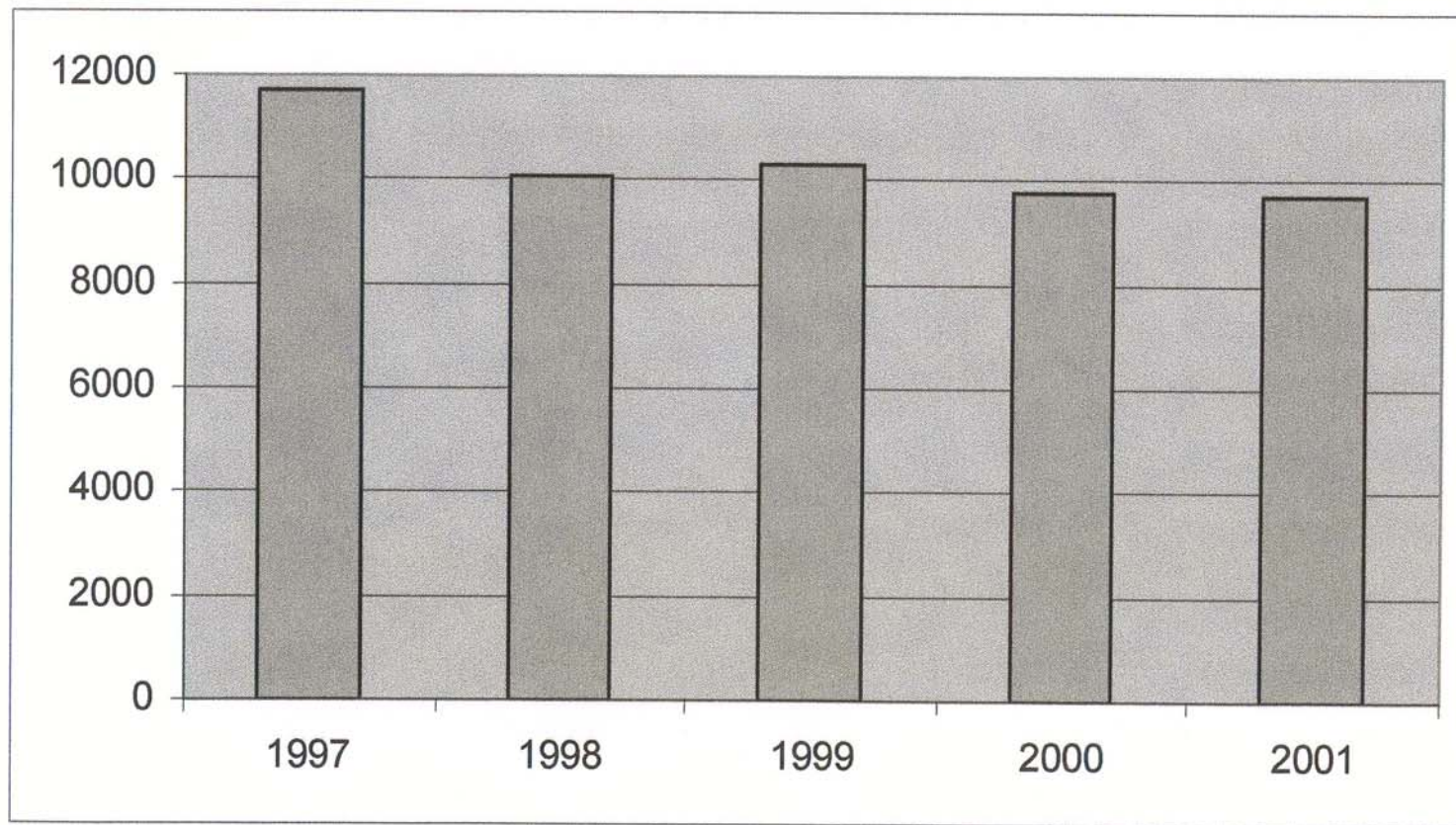
- Sexual debut occurs early for many: age 13 years for boys, age 15 for girls.
- By age 16, 71% of adolescents have had sex: 82% of boys, 56% of girls.
- Approximately 40% of Jamaican women experience pregnancy at least once before age 20.

# 2001 STUDY BY HOPE ENTERPRIZES

- 44.4% of girls ages 15-19 reported ever being pregnant
- 10.6% of boys ages 15-19 reported making someone pregnant
- By the time they reach age 18, approximately one-quarter of young women have had their first child and by age 20 this figure jumps to 40%.

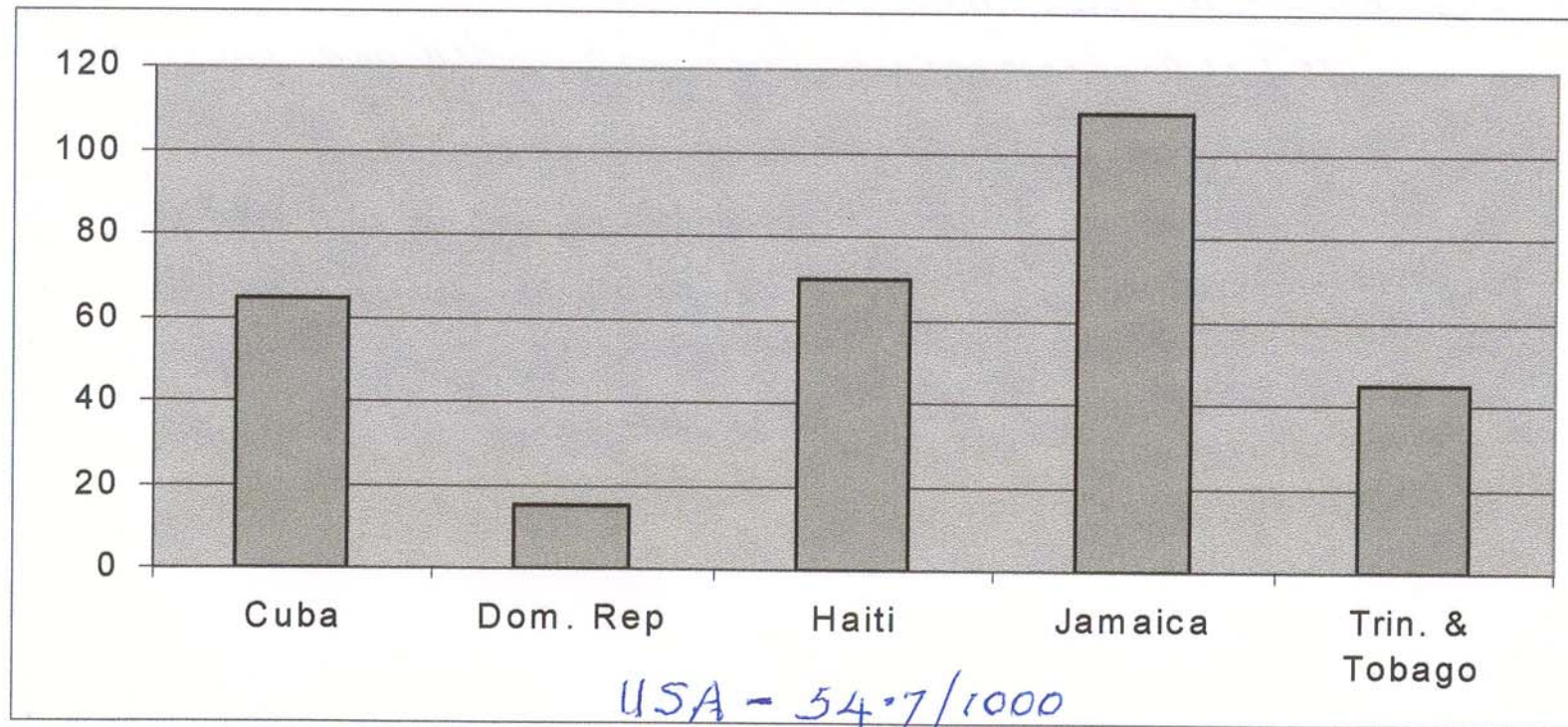


# Births to women 15-19 years 1997-2001 (Jamaica)



*The proportion of births to adolescents in the year 2001 was 20.4%.*

# Adolescent Birth Rates for Selected Caribbean Countries (per 1000 females 15-19 years)





# ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY CONCLUSIONS

- There is significant sexual activity in this group
- This behavior should be regarded as a normal biological exercise, as something quite natural determined by instinct and genes.
- This leads to **TEENAGE PREGNANCIES**
  - 78% of these pregnancies being unwanted
  - 50% of these pregnancies ending in **ABORTIONS****UNSAFE ABORTIONS** carry a high mortality and calls for attention

# MATERNAL MORTALITY WORLDWIDE PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS

## DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

U.K.	9.1	<i>acceptable figures we can live with the standard.</i>
U.S.A.	7.2	
THE NETHERLANDS	8.8	
EUROPE	95.2	
MIDDLE EAST, N AFRICA	320	
EAST ASIA/PACIFIC	210	



## CONCLUSION.

1. There is significant sexual activity in this group.
2. This behavior should be regarded as a normal biological exercise determined mainly by instinct and genetic influences.
3. This leads to TEEN-AGE PREGNANCIES

- 78% of the pregnancies being unintended and unwanted  
- 50% of the pregnancies ending in ABORTIONS

30%  
- naturally  
- safe  
- unsafe

# MATERNAL MORTALITY IN JAMAICA

- MMR IN 2002 – 110 PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS
- MMR IN 1990 – 108 PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS
- NO CHANGE OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS



# MATERNAL MORTALITY WORLDWIDE PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS

## UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES

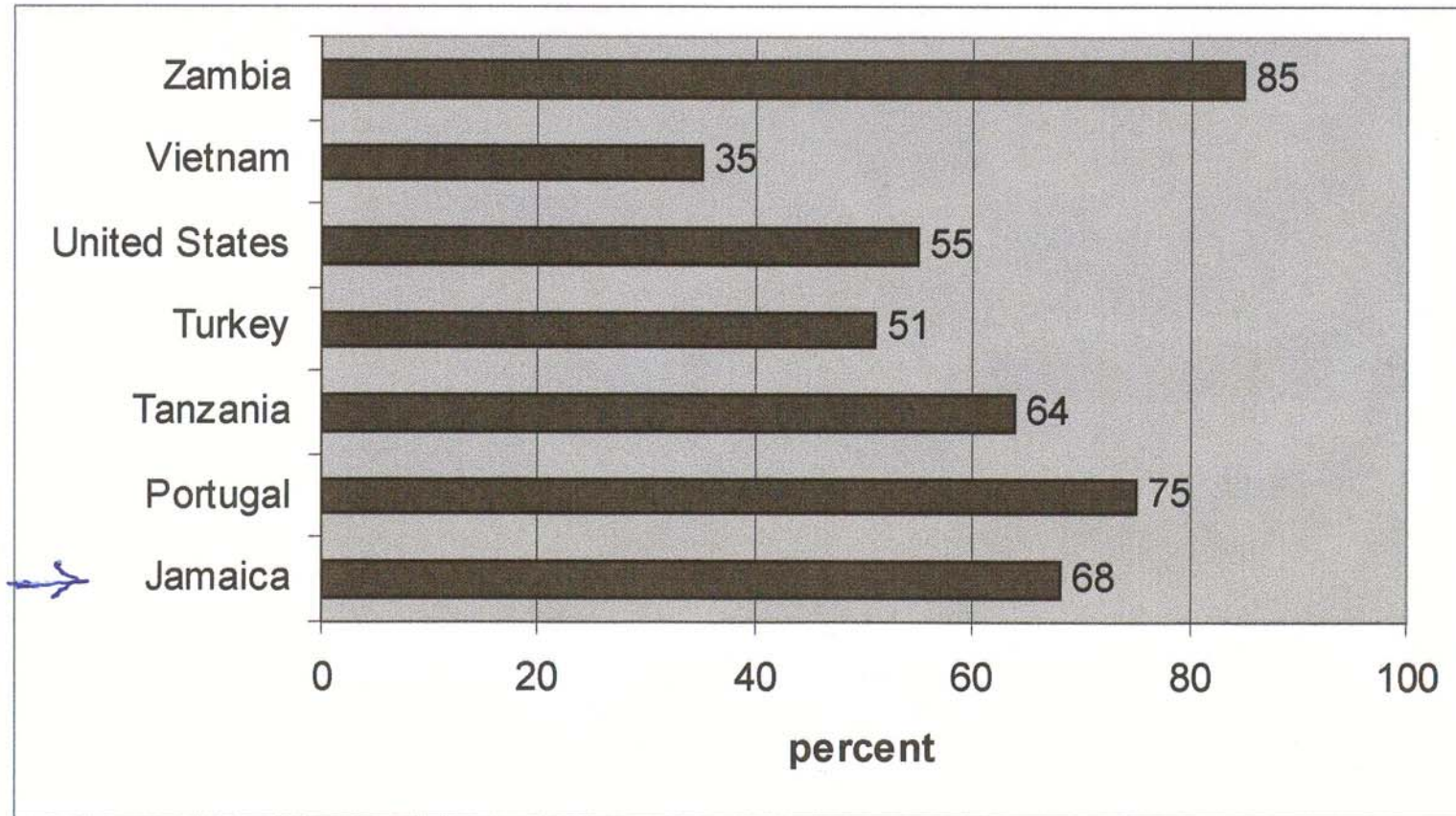
SUB-SAKARAN AFRICA	980
LATIN AMER. CARIBBEAN	190
<u>JAMAICA</u>	110
<u>CUBA</u>	31
BARBADOS	80
TRINIDAD	35

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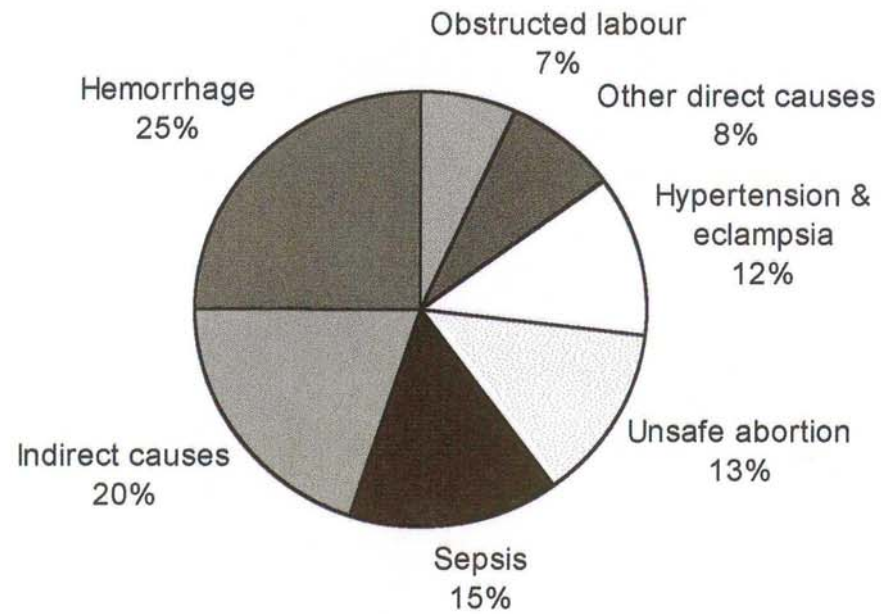


# Maternal deaths considered preventable (1975-1985)



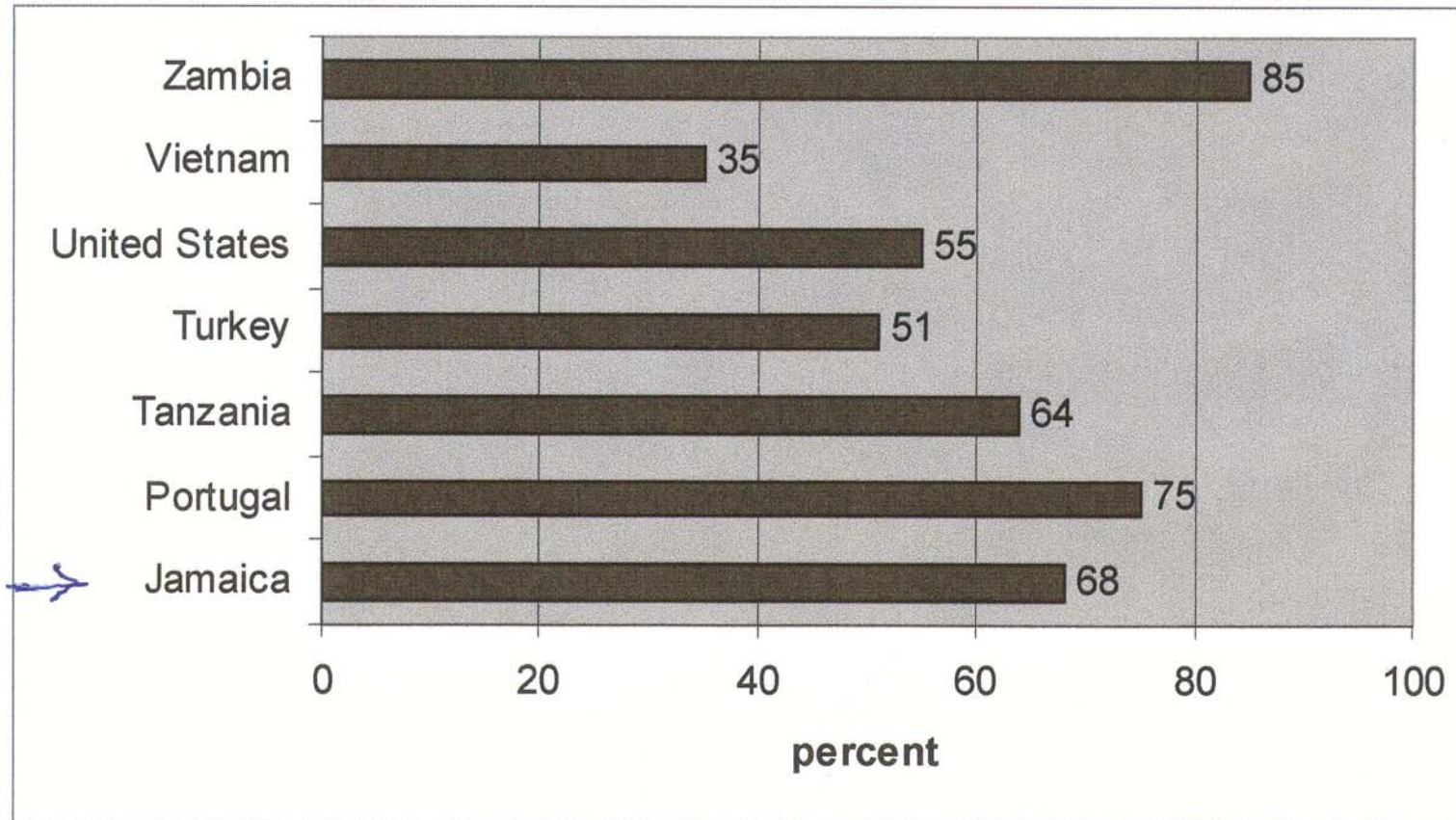
preventable within the limitations of the system in place  
Not from lack of ultrasound or CAT scan  
But from lack of 1 pint of blood or a pint of saline  
- medical negligence  
or mismanagement

# Causes of maternal mortality: Global perspective





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# DEATHS FROM ABORTION IN DEVELOPED VS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REGION	DEATHS/100,000 ABORTIONS
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (UNSAFE)	330
AFRICA	680
SOUTHEAST AND SOUTH ASIA	283
LATIN AMERICA	119
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (SAFE)	0.2-1.2

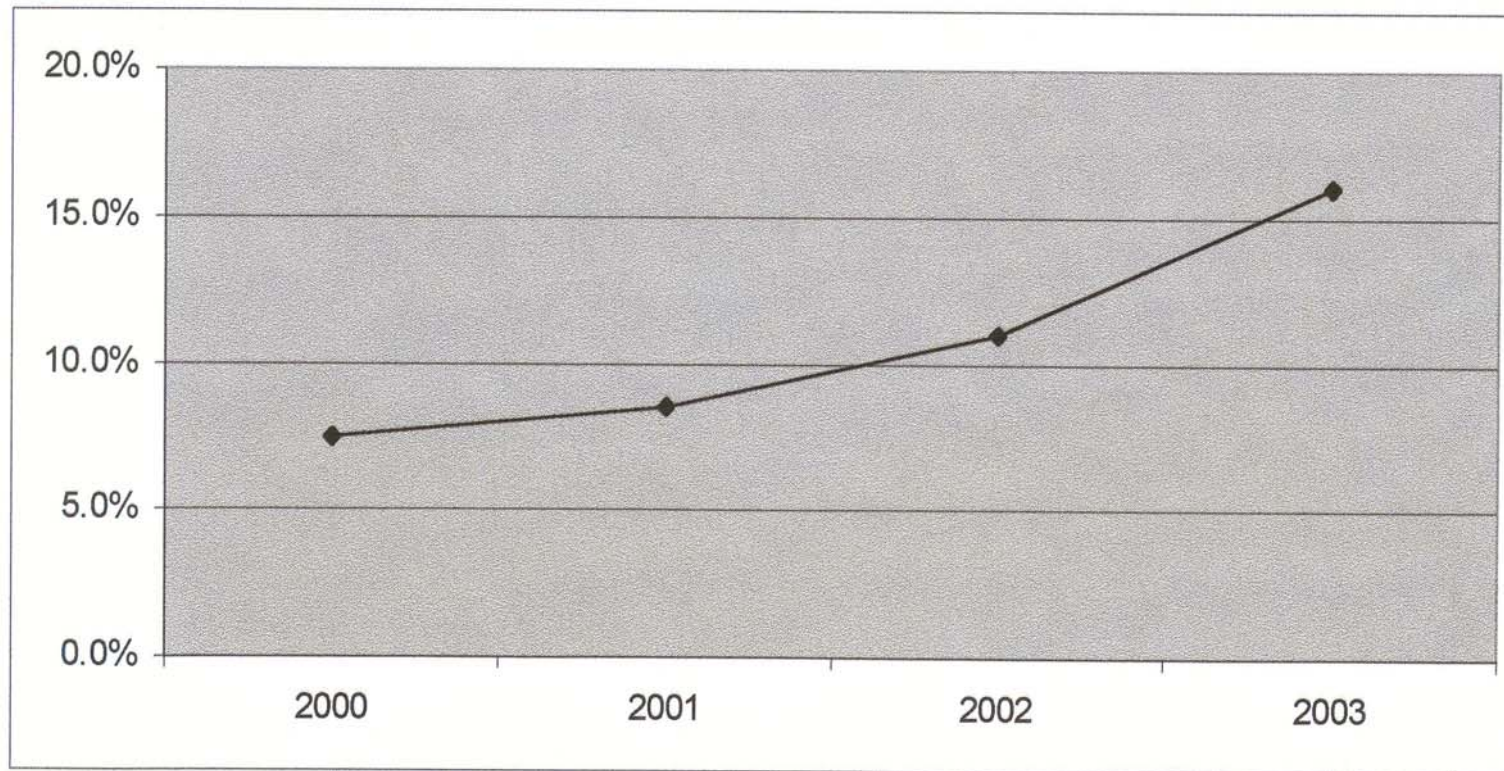


# UNSAFE ABORTIONS

- 30% of the world's population live in countries with restrictive laws governing abortion – JAMAICA being one of them.
- WHO estimates that unsafe abortions constitute some 15% of all maternal deaths.



# Teen Maternal Deaths (2000-2003) as % of total maternal deaths in the Southeast Region



*From 7.5% → 16%*



# UNSAFE ABORTIONS

- Worldwide: WHO estimates that of the 40-60 million abortions performed annually throughout the world, 20 million (or 50%) are UNSAFE.
- 95% of unsafe abortions occur in developing countries with laws that make abortion illegal.

## Causes of maternal death 15-19 years (Jamaica 1993-2003)

- Gest. Hypertension/pre-eclampsia-14 (27.4%)
- Medical disorders-9 (17.6%)
- • Abortion-7 (13.7%)
- Sepsis (exc. Abortion)-6 (11.8%)
- Fortuitous-6 (11.8%)
- Embolism-4 (7.8%)
- Accidents/violence-1 (3.9%)
- Ectopic pregnancies-1 (3.9%)
- Haemorrhage-3 (5.9%)

→ 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death.



# CHALLENGE TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN JAMAICA

- Medical (rather than surgical) procedures should be employed in the first instance for early abortions.
- Emergency contraception (Postinor) should be unhesitatingly prescribed and available in all pharmacies. Doctors should respect the right of the teenager to decide on her reproductive health.