

Jamaica

The Foundation is alarmed that, according to information received from United Nations organizations, HIV/AIDS is currently the leading cause of death among men and women in the 15-44 age group. The Black Caucus Foundation is particularly concerned that the overall mortality rate for persons infected with HIV/AIDS is 60 per cent, largely because they do not have access to affordable medicines, treatment and care. The Foundation is also concerned that the prevalence of HIV infection among girls in their late teens is twice that of older women according to UNAIDS, which attributes this phenomenon to young women participating in the sex tourism trade.

The Foundation is also concerned that clandestine abortion is the cause of a large number of deaths due to infections and complications from procedures performed under unsanitary conditions by untrained personnel and that it is one of the leading factors in the high maternal mortality rate.