

10 Things to know about



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HITS AND MISSES

Women in Organised Violence



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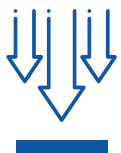
While law enforcement reports and media attention suggest increased female involvement in organised crime, arrest and conviction trends do not show a significant rise in gang-related and violent offenses.

2



In 2024, only 19 women—less than 4% of 488 gang-related arrests—were recorded, and no documented case exists of a woman firing a weapon in a gang-related homicide.

3



Women account for less than 3% of violent crime arrests. In 2021, only 2% of those arrested for murder were women, with similarly low numbers for shootings and gang-related crimes. The one violent crime where women predominate is human trafficking.

4



Drug trafficking is one of the most common crimes for which women are imprisoned in Jamaica.

5



Women's participation in violent crime is generally limited to domestic or interpersonal contexts, including hiring contract killers to settle disputes and eliminate romantic rivals.

6



Violence against children is the most prevalent form of domestic violence perpetrated by women in Jamaica.

7



Formative family and community environments, economic dependence on men, individual vulnerabilities, and a search for belonging are primary factors driving women's participation in gangs.

8



Early exposure to gang violence is a key driver of women's involvement in gangs. Reducing gang influence and limiting pathways into organised crime requires more than policing and prevention efforts. Structural transformation through improving governance and regularising land tenure thereby economically empowering women is the answer.

9



Women in gangs primarily serve as facilitators, financial operators, informants, and couriers rather than direct perpetrators of violence. They are used to transport guns, drugs, and money, as they attract less law enforcement scrutiny and are less likely to be searched due to gender constraints on male police officers.

10



Contrary to global trends, Jamaica's female prison population is decreasing. Women's custodial admissions dropped 82% from 2010 to 2020, with women making up just 4% of the prison population in 2021.