

ABSTRACT

There have been very few studies conducted on home food safety of students. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the home food safety knowledge, attitude and practices of Postgraduate students at the University of the West Indies campus, St. Augustine. The target population consisted of the 50 Postgraduate students living at the two main dormitories at the University campus. The students were given a self administered questionnaire incorporating questions of demographics, food safety knowledge, hand-washing practices, sanitation and food safety attitudes. Tables were used to summarise the data collected. It was found that the students have relatively little knowledge on food safety temperatures but had known much more on food spoilage. Most respondents did not display good hand-washing (only 34% always washed their hands before eating and 32% always when preparing food). The majority of respondents however displayed proper sanitation practices. Most respondents (84%) stored their raw meats and poultry the correct way but only 30% of respondents thawed their meats the correct way. The majority of males (n=15) and females (n=22) viewed food safety as being extremely important. However, it was found that the majority of males (n=15) would not take the responsibility or cared about getting information on food safety. Even though the sample population was small, it emphasized the need for consumer education on food safety as gaps in knowledge and correct food practices exists. Urgent food safety education is recommended to reduce the risk of a food-borne illness occurring.