SUMMARY

The primary health care programme was started in Cornwall County in 1976.

The aim of this study was to compare the antenatal and child health primary health care services offered by the type I health centres in Trelawny and St. James and in the pilot and non-pilot districts of these two parishes.

Certain key maternal and child health indicators were used to evaluate the execution of the primary health care programme. Information was collected from 323 child health record cards and 720 maternal health record cards from 14 type I health centres in both parishes. On the whole St. James performed better than Trelawny in both aspects of the programme. This could be attributed to three factors:

(a) better motivation by Community Health Aides and Public Health Nurses in St. James.

(b) the smaller population served by each Community Health Aide and Public Health Nurse in St. James.

(c) more regular supplies to the type I health centres in St. James.

There were no major differences between pilot and non-pilot districts of Trelawny and St. James. Regardless of pilot or non-pilot districts, the quality of the health personnel at each
health centre seemed to play a major part in influencing health care activities.

Most of the primary health care targets were not achieved.

There is therefore, a need for improvement and reorganisation in the overall operation and structure of the primary health care programme in St. James and Trelawny.