

A B S T R A C T

Health problems associated with rodent infestation, and in particular rats and mice have been reasonably well documented. The problem is widespread and affects urban as well as rural populations, producing basically similar results in any location.

This study examines the problem in Silent Hill, a rural community in the parish of Manchester in Jamaica; and was undertaken as the result of a preliminary survey which indicated that rodent infestation constituted the priority health problem in the community.

Methods of information gathering included the use of a structural questionnaire, physical inspection of premises, serological assays of blood sampling taken from rodents captured in the study area and from determinations of rodent population.

Findings indicated widespread infestation throughout the community and the need for adopting appropriate control measures accordingly. Recommendations include a community based programme for sustained control of the rodent population in the community.