

ABSTRACT

Knowledge, attitude and practice towards risk reduction of typhoid in Western Jamaica

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The study was conducted to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice in relation to risk reduction of typhoid in two selected communities in Western Jamaica. It also examined the knowledge, attitude and practice of health of providers at the primary and secondary levels relative to prevention, patient care and control of typhoid fever.

Two sets of questionnaires were designed to collect the necessary data. A total of 150 responses were obtained from the two selected communities and 52 from health workers. There were almost equal numbers of male and female the community respondents (76 males and 74 females) while, female was the dominant gender in the health care respondents (40/52). The modal age group was 40-49 years in both groups.

The study revealed that:

- (1) The unavailability of clean safe water was one of the important issues.

- (2) There was no statistically significant difference between communities relative to knowledge. 7
- (3) Most respondents with good/fair knowledge had good/fair attitude.
- (4) Both community members and health workers were knowledgeable, obtained good attitude scores but the practice was not concomitant with their knowledge.
- (5) Most community members indicated confidence in the work and worth of the health providers.

Some recommendations are made to foster the transition between knowledge and desired behaviour change.