

**THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF LEPTOSPIROSIS  
INFECTION AMONG PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS IN THE  
KINGSTON AND ST. ANDREW REGION**

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## Abstract

Leptospirosis is described as a disease which is endemic to Jamaica. It is a disease easily overlooked in comparison to other diseases in terms of significance. The epidemiology of the disease is dynamic hence continual surveillance and monitoring of the disease is important in controlling its spread and possible outbreak within a society. Surveillance also helps to provide increase awareness and knowledge as it relates to the public threat of the disease. This study looked at knowledge, attitudes and practices of public health inspectors within the Kingston and St Andrew region of Jamaica. It assessed the knowledge, practices and perception of the disease as it relates to the surveillance protocol in place for the investigation of leptospirosis. A total of 54 Public health inspectors were employed to the Kingston and St Andrew Health Department and from this total, 38 public health inspectors were selected for study. Data was collected via a questionnaire and individually held in-depth interviews with the inspectors. Knowledge of public health inspectors was divided into good and poor. This was based on scores attained by inspectors. Inspectors who had a score of 60% and over were described as having good knowledge of the subject area, those who scored below 60% were described as having poor knowledge of the subject area. The inspectors were asked questions in three (3) main areas: the identification, the transmission and the prevention of leptospirosis. The practices of public health inspectors was divided into good and poor. This was based on scores attained by inspectors. Inspectors who had a score of 60% and over were described as having good practices, those who scored below 60% were described as having poor practices.

Regarding practices the inspectors were asked questions in two (2) main areas: the investigation and the surveillance of leptospirosis cases.

The major findings were:

Most of the inspectors were knowledgeable as to the causes, sources of transmission of leptospirosis and reported utilization of appropriate practices, utilising the protocols in place, both in investigation as well as in the implementation of effective prevention and control strategies for the disease.