

ABSTRACT

This study explores the evolution of colonial government policy towards public health in Jamaica between 1838-1938. It contends that during this period colonial policy towards public health care in Jamaica was primarily a response to the challenges, both medical and administrative, posed by the spread of communicable diseases in Jamaica. In addition, before 1918, the government was primarily concerned with the need to cure communicable diseases. After 1918, its primary focus became preventing the spread of communicable diseases, and modernizing the administrative structure of public health care in Jamaica.