

## ABSTRACT

### Nutritional, Health and Socioeconomic Status of The Elderly in the Standpipe area, Kingston.

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Throughout the world elderly populations are increasing. Data pertaining to these populations are scant in terms of both living conditions and nutritional requirements.

This study of the elderly in the Standpipe area, a low socioeconomic area, of Kingston, Jamaica, involved 61 of the elderly in that area and was carried out in two major phases. The first involved the administering of a questionnaire to the study sample in order to ascertain their demographic and household characteristics as well as their dietary habits, functional status, common illnesses and their use of health facilities. The second phase involved taking physical measurements and blood specimens in order to assess health status.

Findings indicated that the elderly in this study were largely functional and ambulant. They were able to look after themselves and most of them were heads of households. Few took part in community activities. The most common diseases found were hypertension, arthritis and diabetes.

Recommendations are made for improving the living conditions of the elderly. Further studies on the elderly themselves are needed in order to develop proper criteria for determining disease conditions in the elderly.