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**A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE PREVALENCE OF BRUCELLOSIS IN
PATIENTS ATTENDING LONGONOT GENERAL HOSPITAL BETWEEN URBAN
AND RURAL DWELLERS**

**BY
MOPHIN AKEYO OUKO
REGISTRATION NUMBER 107P07334**

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ABSTRACT

Brucellosis is the most widespread zoonotic disease with both economic and public health implications, with an estimated half a million cases every year. Brucellosis in humans and animals is increasing in many parts of the world, including the Mediterranean region, Western Asia and some parts of Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Very many individuals are at risk worldwide especially in countries where infection in animals has not been brought under control, where procedures for heat-treatment of milk (e.g. pasteurization) are not routinely applied, and where standards of animal husbandry are low. However, the officially reported data are generally incomplete and the actual incidence in most cases is thought to be much higher than is shown by these reports. This study targets at finding out which group among the urban and rural dwellers are the most affected by brucellosis. To achieve this, a cross-sectional hospital-based study will be carried out. Records from serological screening for brucellosis (*B. abortus* and *B. melitensis*) in 300 individuals will be obtained from Longonot General Hospital. Other parameters to be collected include patient's residence, age and gender. The findings from this study would indicate the most affected group and the prevalence of brucellosis among the urban and the rural dwellers attending the hospital. The results will direct treatment, control and even eradication of the disease.

From the study it can be concluded that the rural dwellers are more prone to brucella infection than their urban counterparts. The population prevalence of brucellosis was found to be 16.46% with the individuals between 15 and 29 years of age being most infected. The study was successful and all the objectives were met.

Emphasis should be put on rural dwellers to at least boil their milk prior to consumption. The preparation of sour milk commonly known as *mursik* should be made from milk of cattle tested by veterinary officers and proven not to have brucellosis. Also, the drugs for the infectious bacteria should be made available and affordable to the low income earners.