
In initiating a community oriented programme for the control of rheumatic disease (COPCORD), 1685 people of all ages from a rural area in the Philippines were questioned by primary health care workers (PHW) for limb and spinal rheumatic pain and disability. The total complaint rate was 15.3% for men and 18.5% for women. For those 15 years and older the age adjusted rheumatic pain rates for pain present at the time of survey were 28.4% for the Philippines and 22.6% for Lawrence's UK population. The most common rheumatic pain sites in this community were knee, lumbar spine, neck and the trapezius muscle. The disability rate was 4.5% for those 15 years and older. One quarter of those with pain had received medical attention and the remainder, herbal treatment, massage, various faith and/or self-treatment methods.