

those 48 respondents which were indirectly exposed have 33.3% prevalence rate which comprised of 6 individuals positive for *H.capsulatum* antibodies.

Conclusion From the results obtained, it can be concluded that there is presence of histoplasmosis in the subject area. The researchers recommended health agencies to conduct a close health monitoring to those individuals in higher risk of acquiring the infection and immediate treatment to those already infected.

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SEROPREVALENCE OF HISTOPLASMA CAPSULATUM INFECTION AMONG THE NEARBY RESIDENTS OF BAT CAVES IN ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL, DAVAO DEL NORTE

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Background Histoplasmosis is an infection caused by *Histoplasma capsulatum*. It lives in the soil that contains large amounts of bird or bat droppings.

Objectives This cross-sectional study determined the prevalence of histoplasmosis among selected residents and bat cave workers living 100–200 meters away from the bat caves in Brgy. Tambo, Babak District, Island Garden City of Samal. This study aimed to know the presence of *Histoplasma capsulatum* in areas contaminated with bat guano and to evaluate the correlation of long term and direct exposure to the prevalence of the infection.

Methods The method employed was serum antibody detection using *Histoplasma* ELISA DxSelect enzyme immunoassay.

Result Results of the study revealed that among the 63 respondents, 15 of those individuals directly exposed to bat guanos have higher rate of prevalence (46.7%) which comprised of 7 individuals positive for *H. capsulatum* antibodies compared to