ABSTRACT

THE NECESSITY FOR A SCREENING PROGRAMME IN SCHOOLS
FOR EXERCISE-INDUCED ASTHMA IN CHILDREN IN KINGSTON AND
ST. ANDREW

DENISE J.B. NICHOLS

A cross-sectional study was done focussing on the
prevalence of exercise-induced asthma in Jamaica and
variables that may account for this rate. A sample of
214 students from primary and secondary schools were
chosen from parishes in the corporate area and given
questionnaires to complete. Eighty-four of the children
reported a history consistent with that of exercise-
induced asthma and were further subjected to stress
testing for a definitive diagnosis of this condition.

A prevalence of twenty per hundred was identified which
reflected a rate in excess of that recorded worldwide.
There was a significantly higher prevalence in children
of primary school ages, but all other variable considered
for significance testing to determine associations
between these and the prevalence of EIA proved not
significant.

The necessity for a screening programme was reviewed and
found to be justifiable taking into account the standard
criteria. Recommendations were made for its
institution.