

ABSTRACT

The Prevalence of Intestinal Nematodes at the Adelphi All-Age School in St. James.

Warren Williams

A cross-sectional study of these rural school children was done to determine the level of infection in the school, and the types of geohelminths present. Data was collected through the use of one hundred and sixty-six (166) close-ended questionnaires, and the analysis of one hundred and nineteen (119) stool samples, and eighty (80) blood samples.

A high prevalence of 22.3% was demonstrated in the school's population, with prevalence in the 10-12 age group reaching a high of 44%. *Trichuris* (13.4%), *Ascaris* (8.9%), and eosinophilia (6.4%), all showed significant prevalence. However, the prevalence of Hookworm (3.6%), and anaemia (2.6%), were not significant among the group.

Infection strongly correlated with the eating of chalk and marl (a type of soil, composed chiefly of clay and limestone). The source of infection was identified as two marl pits located near the school, which are obviously used for indiscriminate defaecation.

The construction of more latrines at the school, school health education, and public health education were recommended, to help eradicate worms from the school.