

ABSTRACT

A study of gastrointestinal parasitic infection was conducted in Annotto Bay community in the Parish of ST. Mary, Jamaica. 64.7% of stool specimen (n=85) contained ova/cyst of one or more 3 helminth species.

The prevalence was markedly age-dependent, with infection occurring most commonly in pre-school children. It is concluded that gastrointestinal parasitic infection is also related to low socioeconomic status, lack of education in personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, prevalence level of intestinal infestation likely to have a significant impact on community health until and unless treatment and control programmes are combined with other public health measures such as health education, environmental sanitation, proper personal hygiene and most of all community participation.