

TITLE: INTESTINAL PARASITES IN CHILDREN ATTENDED AT THE HEALTH CENTER OF MARIA CELINA DE ALBUQUERQUE IN LIMOEIRO DE ANADIA, ALAGOAS.

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ABSTRACT: Parasitoses are a serious public health problem in Brazil, are infections caused by helminths or protozoa. The main causes of the disease are: lack of health education, hygiene conditions, lack of basic sanitation and poor housing. This reality is a public health problem, as it affects a large percentage of the population. The main group affected by intestinal parasitoses is the infantile one, this is due to several factors such as immunity, hygiene level, parents' educational level, feeding, among others. The presente research had as objective to indicate the frequency of intestinal parasitoses in Children attended at Maria Celina de Albuquerque Health Center in Limoeiro de Anadia, Alagoas. Thirty – five stool samples were obtained from children aged between 1 and 12 years of age, both attending the Maria Celina de Albuquerque Health Center in the municipality of Limoeiro de Anadia, Alagoas. These samples were collected, identified, stored and transported in ice styrofoam, to the Laboratory of Parasitology of the University Center Tiradentes (UNIT). The processing was performed by the Hoffman Method, Pons and Janer (HPJ) know as the spontaneous sedimentation technique, and then stained with Lugol and analyzed under a microscope. From each stool sample, readings were made on 3 slides to confirm the result. Of the 35 samples analyzed, 24 (68.6%) were negative for the presence of parasites and 11 (31.4%) were positive, among them helminths and protozoa. Among the parasites identified, 7 (20%) of children were infected with *Ascaris lumbricoides*, 3 (8.57%) for *Trichuris trichiura*, 3 (8.57%) for Entamoeba, 1 (2.85%) for *Giardia lamblia*. Of the positive samples, more than one parasite was detected, and the prevalence was of *Ascaris lumbricoides* in children aged 3 years. Ascariasis caused by helminth *Ascaris lumbricoides*, commonly known as roundworm is transmitted through the ingestion of embryonated eggs carried by hands of feces or earth, or by food and water contaminated by feces. It is important the constant development and implementation of educational programs to raise awareness about parasitoses, as well as treatment of individuals already infected. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2015, only 39% of the global population has access to safe sanitation. In Brazil, one in four Brazilians lives with open sewage. Environmental sanitation, adequate water treatment and good personal hygiene through parental supervision are essential measures to avoid contamination.

KEYWORDS: Health Center, Children, Intestinal Parasites.