### Worldwide Prevalence of Head Lice

#### Technical Appendix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (reference)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (1)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Refugee children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>43/303 (14.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India (2)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Child laborers in a slum area</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>72/150 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India (3)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Public primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>156/940 (16.59% overall; 20.42% girls, 13.86% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India (4)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Jail inmates</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>15/225 (6.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran (5)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Children in 12 public rural primary schools</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>58/847 (6.85%) (55/407 [13.3%] girls, 3/440 [0.7%] boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq (7)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>409 children from 2 primary schools in Baghdad with different school environment and hygienic status</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>48.9% incidence in the school with lower school environment and hygiene status. 9.4% in other school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel (8)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Children 7–10 years of age</td>
<td>Visual examination and combing; detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>152/268; (56.7% overall; 61.2% girls, 36.7% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan (9)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Elementary public-school children</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>338/2,519 (13.4% overall; 14.5% girls, 11.1% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea (10)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Kindergarten and primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>435/7,495 (5.8% overall; 11.2% girls, 0.9% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea (11)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Kindergarten and primary-school children</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>294/2,288 (12.8% overall; 23.5% girls, 3.9% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (12)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11-year-old schoolchildren</td>
<td>Fine-tooth combing and visual examination; detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>162/463 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal (13)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>A sample of persons 10–39 years of age, street children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal (14)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Urban schoolchildren</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>172/818 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine (15)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Primary-school girls, 6–14 years of age, from rural and urban area</td>
<td>Detection of nits or lice</td>
<td>340/2,408 (14.1% with lice) 843 of 2408 (35%) with nits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia (16)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Urban female schoolchildren from private and preparatory schools</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>116/2239 (5.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka (17)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Children accompanying their mothers in prison</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan (18)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>615/5121 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan (19)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Primary-school children (12.9%) from 4 rural districts and 1 urban area</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>391/3029; More common in rural areas and among girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (20)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Schoolchildren</td>
<td>Visual inspection</td>
<td>31.1% in a low socioeconomic–status village, 7.7% in a neighboring higher socioeconomic status village (69 and 31 children, respectively)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (21)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Deaf students</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6/117 (5.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (22)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Schoolchildren</td>
<td>Visual inspection</td>
<td>9/1134 (0.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (23)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>20/68 (29.4%); 0/32 (0%) boys, 20/36 (55.5%) girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NA: Not available.*
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<tr>
<td>Turkey (24)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>117/1261 (9.1%); 16/648 (2.1%) boys, 101/613 (16.4%) girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (25)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Rural primary-school children</td>
<td>Nits (no adult lice detected)</td>
<td>17/178 (9.5%); 2/104 (1.9%) boys, 15/74 (20.3%) girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (26)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Schoolchildren 7–14 years of age</td>
<td>Visual examination; detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>260/1569 (16.6% overall; 31.8% girls, 2.5% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (27)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Elementary-school children</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>360/5318 (6.8% overall; 13.3% girls, 1.1% boys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (28)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Schoolchildren</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>701/20612 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (29)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>74/785 (9.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania (30)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Refugees from Kosovo (479,223 officially registered)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>≈4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium (31)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Schoolchildren 2.5–12 years of age</td>
<td>Wet combing</td>
<td>549/6169 (8.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium (32)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Primary-school children in a socially deprived urban area</td>
<td>Visual examination and combing</td>
<td>49/224 (21.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic (33)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Schoolchildren 6–15 years of age</td>
<td>Dry-hair combing; detection of live lice or dead nits.</td>
<td>75/531 with lice (14.1%); 52/531 with nits (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England (34)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>438/21556 (2.03%); annual incidence 37.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England (35)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Diagnosis of pediculosis in the West Midlands population from 1993-2000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>28.2/1,000 patient years at risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (36)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Urban primary-school children</td>
<td>Fine-tooth combing. Detection of live lice</td>
<td>112/3345 (3.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (37)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Homeless persons</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>205/930 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo (38)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Kosovar refugees upon arrival in the United States</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>107/1051 (10.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland (39)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Rural schoolchildren, urban schoolchildren</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>682/42759 (1.59%); 252/52394 (0.48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (41)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Rural inhabitants of all ages</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1551/8008 (19.37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (42)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Population sample</td>
<td>Visual examination</td>
<td>137/2448 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (43)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Primary-, preparatory-, secondary- school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>384/1772 with head or body lice (21.67% overall; 30.26% girls, 17.7% boys, 18.2:1 head lice:body lice ratio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (44)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Urban poor preschool children</td>
<td>Visual examination</td>
<td>151/ 256 (58.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (45)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Orphanage children 2–6 years of age</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (46)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>276/510 (54.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa (47)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Primary-school children 6–13 years of age (black and white) from 2 rural schools, 1 with low and 1 with high socioeconomic status</td>
<td>Visual examination followed by hair conditioner and fine-tooth combing if evidence of lice found; detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>0/300 (0%) in the school with low socioeconomic status; 15/175 (8.6%) in the other school; all infected children were white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina (48)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Primary-school children from public and private school</td>
<td>Detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>842/1370 (61.4%); 296/678 (44%) boys, 546/692 (79%) girls</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil (49)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>98 children, 196 adolescents, 119 adults, 90 elderly nursing home residents</td>
<td>Cut hair analysis and visual inspection</td>
<td>13.3%, 5.6%, 5.4%, and 5.5% respectively, by cut hair analysis. Visual inspection doubled this prevalence in general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil (50)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Urban slum residents, fishing community residents</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>634/1460 (43.4%); 170/605 (28.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil (51)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Slum population attending a primary healthcare center</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Point prevalence 38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil (52)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Children 0–15 years of age at day care centers; public, urban, rural schools</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>309/884 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba (53)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Persons living with children who repeatedly had pediculosis</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>40/237 (14.54% overall; 82.5% female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States (54)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Detection of nits or lice</td>
<td>28/1729 (1.6%) with lice; 63/1729 (3.6%) with nits without lice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceana (Australia) (55)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Primary-school children</td>
<td>Hair conditioner and fine-tooth combing; detection of nits and/or lice</td>
<td>239/1838 (13%); girls more likely to have active infection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NA, not available.

References


23. Noyan E, Demir V. Investigation of pediculosis carried out as the special study module No. 74, a part of Ege University Medical Faculty's educational program. Turkiye Parazitol Derg. 2006;30:32–4. PubMed


