

## Intestinal parasites in schoolchildren from Niterói, RJ

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Intestinal parasitosis present a higher prevalence in children from 5 to 12 years old, determining interference in their integral development, representing a problem of public health. The evaluation of the frequency of intestinal parasitosis among schoolchildren, has the aim to foment epidemiology and control through health education and drug intervention. Through parasitological techniques, this study proposes the diagnosis of intestinal parasites in students of the municipal schools of Niterói, added to educational intervention. The study was carried out in two Municipal Schools of Niterói, RJ, being the target audience students and employees. Participants received a stool collection kit containing two recipients with preservative solution and one without preservative solution. Fresh samples were processed by the Baerman & Moraes technique, and those with preservative, by Ritchie modified, Faust et al., and Lutz techniques. After stool diagnosis, a workshop was held at the school, composed of five playful activities on intestinal parasitosis. In these playful activities, 396 individuals participated, of which 52 (13.1%) schoolchildren and 13 (3.3%) employees delivered fecal samples for diagnosis. Of this group, 19 (36.5%) students and 3 (23.1%) employees were positive, being the most frequent parasite *Blastocystis* sp.. The parasite frequency was 33.8% with predominance of protozoa and this predominance probably occurred due to the environmental changes in the urban space that make it impossible to maintain the parasitic cycles of the geohelminths or periodic anthelmintic treatment. The educational activity, although punctual in the form of an interactive fair, aroused great interest of the children and promoted the awareness of the participating group. The low adherence to the study does not make it possible to extrapolate the results obtained for the school community of Niterói and may be associated with resistance in the collection of feces, since it is considered a material that causes repulsion. The detected parasite frequency demonstrates deficiency in basic sanitation, as well as in personal and food hygiene, and emphasizes the importance of performing diagnostic, treatment and educational activities with schoolchildren on intestinal parasites.