



TITLE: THE 2013-2015 NATIONWIDE PREVALENCE SURVEY OF SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS (STH) AND SCHISTOSOMIASIS AMONG SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT (up to 300 words)

A country-wide, cross-sectional, school-based multi-stage stratified cluster sampling was conducted from 2013 to 2015, Stool samples were examined by Kato Katz (KK) method. Of the 26,171 school children who submitted samples, 7,440 (28.4%) were infected with at least one soil-transmitted helminth (STH). Infections among male students were significantly higher than female students (31.0% versus 26.0%). Heavy, moderate, and light intensity of infections were 3.2%, 29.0% and 67.7%, respectively. STH cumulative prevalence per province ranged between 0.5% and 89.5%. Schistosomiasis infections were detected in known non-endemic provinces. Majority (68%) of the infections were with single parasites but as many as five parasites were detected in one child. Infections with heterophyids were also observed. Though the national prevalence of schistosomiasis was less than 1.0%, the cumulative prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis among school-aged children was higher than the global figure of 24.0%.

BIOGRAPHY (up to 200 words)

Fe Espino is a pediatric infectious diseases specialist with a PhD in Tropical Health. She is a Medical Specialist in RITM and heads the Department of Parasitology. Her research interest is in integrated approaches for the elimination of tropical and infectious diseases.



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Mode of Presentation: Oral

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