

PERCEPTION OF THE POPULATION ABOUT WORMS

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Worm infestations negatively impact the physical and cognitive development of children and adolescents, as well as reducing the work performance of adults. One of the main ways to interrupt this chain of transmission is through adequate basic hygiene habits. Thus, we aimed to assess the population's knowledge about worm infestations, seeking to understand which information is well-established and which is deficient and requires government measures in health education. We applied an online questionnaire with questions about helminths that addressed: identification; evolutionary cycle; prevention measures and epidemiology; diagnosis; symptomatology. The target population was users and non-users of Family Clinics (CF). In the first stage with non-users, we had 65 participants. Of these, 93.8% lived in areas with sanitation and 56.9% had completed higher education. Regarding diseases caused by helminths, the most cited were: taeniasis (75.4%), ascariasis (61.5%), giardiasis (56.9% - protozoan disease). Regarding the forms of contagion, contamination by water (98.5%), food (90.8%) and soil (81.5%) was indicated. 89.2% of the participants knew the prophylactic measures, with the most prevalent being "washing hands before eating and after going to the bathroom" (95.4%) and "preventing insects from landing on food" (92.3%). This allows us to infer that there is no full knowledge regarding the identification of worm infestations and their forms of transmission. However, the main prophylactic measures were present in the daily lives of the participants, as well as an understanding of the main forms of contamination. The follow-up of this project will make it possible to compare the results obtained in the two groups and verify whether the activities developed in the CF contribute to expanding the population's knowledge about the health area. Furthermore, printed educational material will be given to the participant addressing the main points discussed in the questionnaire.

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