ANALYSIS OF CASES OF *SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI* IN THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST REGIONS OF BRASIL IN THE YEARS 2018-2021

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Schistosomiasis is caused by worms of the Trematoda class, with the *Schistosoma mansoni* species prevalent in South America. Initially asymptomatic, it can evolve into severe forms and lead to death. In Brazil, the most affected regions are the northeast and southeast, where it stands out as a major public health problem. We conducted a retrospective descriptive study, with a quantitative approach, based on data published in the Schistosomiasis Control Program, with the objective of evaluating the epidemiological data in these regions between 2018 and 2021. We were able to observe that the northeast region had a higher number of positive cases than the southeast region in the analyzed period, probably due to the socioeconomic characteristics of the region. A positive data observed in both regions was the high percentage of treated (above 70%) among the positive cases, which favors the control of transmission in these areas. Even during the pandemic, despite the decrease in the number of cases monitored, the percentage of cases treated remained high among the positive cases. Regarding the identification of the molluscs that are vectors of the disease, the predominance of the species *Biomphalaria straminea* was observed in the northeast region and *B. glabrata* in the southeast. However, the absence of *B. tenagophila* in the southeast during the period evaluated was noteworthy. Based on the data observed, we can conclude that cases are closely linked to the lack of basic sanitation, drinking water, and social vulnerability, and are classified above all as a public health problem. The availability of epidemiological data is of utmost importance so that strategies can be drawn up to raise awareness and improve the territory to reduce these numbers. The scarcity of updated data (the latest is from 2021) makes it difficult to make quick and accurate decisions, preventing the strategic allocation of resources for prevention and treatment of the endemic disease in the country.

Key words: Schistosomiasis; Prevention and Control; Public Health