Epidemiological status of Schistosomiasis in Antigua and Barbuda and general overview

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Facts about Antigua and Barbuda

- Location: Caribbean Sea at <u>17°03'N 61°48'W</u>
- Government : Democratically elected, West Minister System
- Population: Approximately 89,000 (91 % Black)
- GDP per capita: \$11,000 US dollars per capita per year
- Yearly Health Expenditure as proportion of GDP: approximately 6.5%

Medical Facts

Physicians per 100000
population: approximately

135

 One Public Hospital on island: Mount Saint John's Medical Centre with other small private institutions

Medical Facts

- 4 major clinics in major population centers; 17 other small clinics
- Universal access to water ,sanitation and healthcare facilities
- Ministry of Health responsible for the elimination if Schistosomiasis

World Schistosomiasis Risk chart

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- Antigua has only seasonal streams and we don't have rivers
- Intermediate host is present in human built pools, canals and reservoirs and potentially infected with S. mansoni
- Public health authorities report no human cases from the known foci of infected areas of Sweet's, Liberta, Bendals and the area surrounding the settlement of John Hughes

Map of Antigua and Barbuda



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

 Antigua is not known to have and diagnosed cases on record for the past 20 years- maybe much longer through development of waterways away from snail breeding grounds

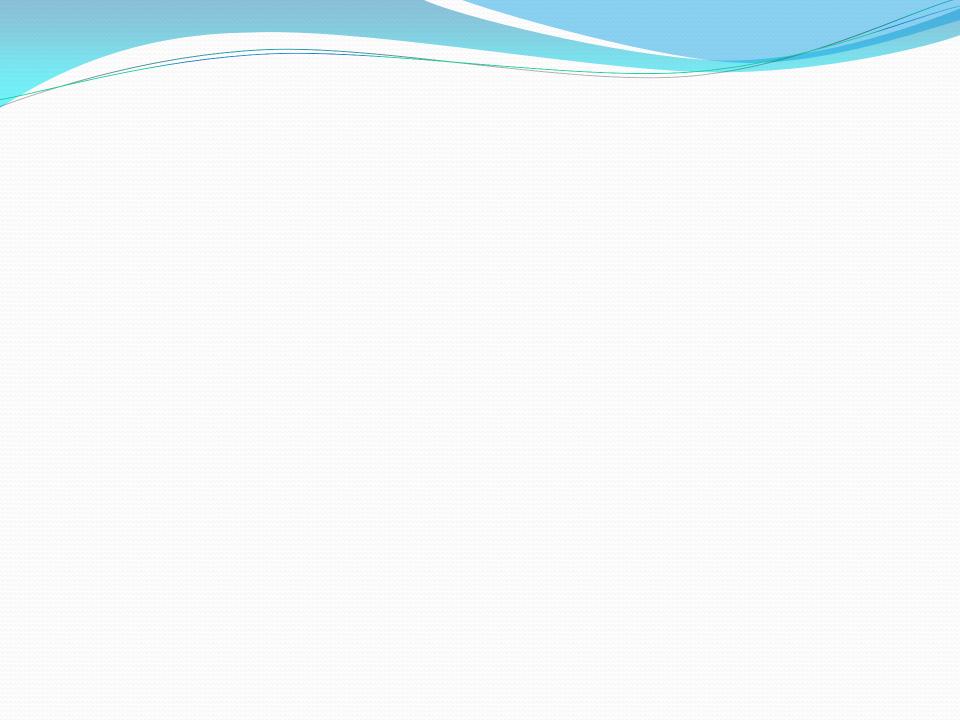
• There is a paucity of data, so estimates are based on empirical estimations

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- Travel Advisories for visitors depict Antigua as a Low Risk for Bilharzia
- Still state that tourists should avoid fresh water brooks and streams while visiting because it is known to still exist in specific areas.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- Definitive diagnosis not made in Antigua/Barbuda
- Children thought to be at higher risk due to bathing in streams which still sporadically occurs
- Hurricanes are a risk factor in Antigua-Gonzalo most recent hurricane



Strategies in place

• Control strategies:

The priorities are:

- Health education
- The supply of drinking water and the planning of adequate health care facilities
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Management of the environment
- Control of the intermediate hosts (freshwater snails)

THANK YOU