# Epidemiological status of Schistosomiasis in Antigua and Barbuda and general overview

Dr. Cleofoster V. Beazer; MBBS,MPH DMO Antigua and Barbuda

#### 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

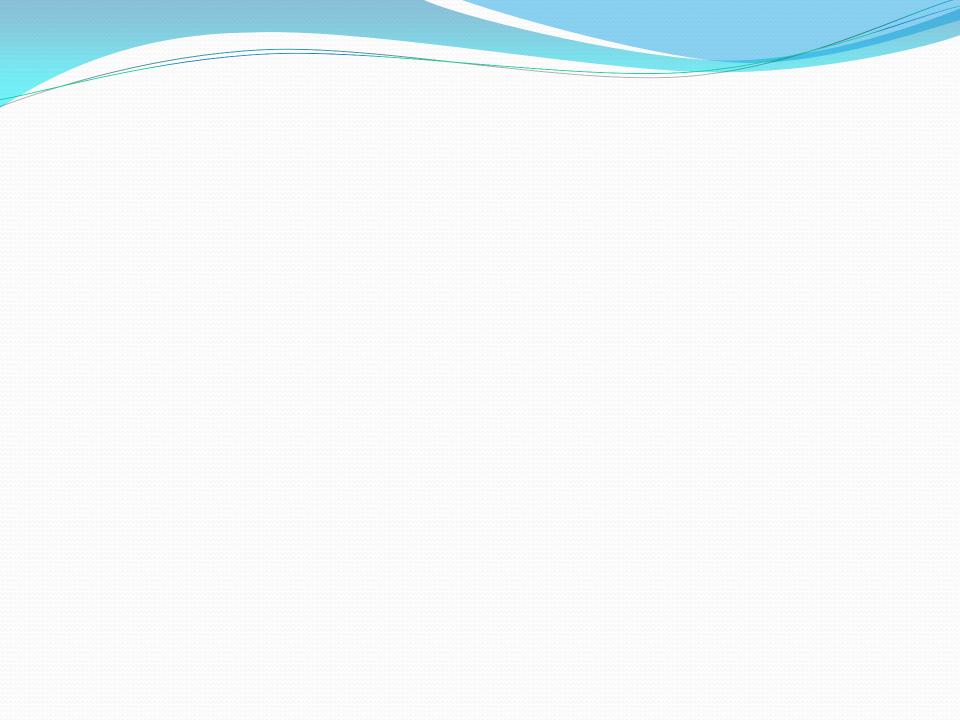
• There is a paucity of data, so estimates are based on empirical estimations

### 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**