

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

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Antigua and Barbuda

# Facts about Antigua and Barbuda

- Location: Caribbean Sea at 17°03'N 61°48'W
- 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