

Head Lice Research

Townsville, Australia

James Cook University (1999)

This is an overview of recent research on head lice carried out by the Head Lice Research Group of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Summary

Primary school children examined - - - - -	3,000
Lice found on students - - - - -	7,000
Average lice count per infested student - - -	24

I. Six primary schools to year 7 researched 6

A. Carpeted classrooms vacuumed with special bags then analyzed in a lab.	100
1. Lice or eggs (nits) found	0
a) Risk factor for spreading head lice	0
B. Hats & Coat Collars	
1. Inspected	over 1,000
2. Lice or Nits Found	0
a) Risk factor for spreading head lice	0

II. Two Day Care Centers researched - Lice on kids 300

Items inspected:	Hats & Coat Collars	300
12 carpeted areas	21 beds	
5 lounges	40 pillow cases	
5 dolls	50 dress up clothes items	
Lice or eggs (nits) found on items		0
a) Risk factor for spreading head lice		0

III. Other results:

A. Eggs (nits) killed by pesticides (only) 20 %

B. The role of conditioner:

1. Coated lice generally stunned (up to) 20 minutes
2. Lice do not fall off the hair
3. Lice must be combed out
4. Lice removed via conditioner, plus simultaneous nit combing on 46 cases (only) 70 %