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Terri Lynn Meinking, BA
Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, University of Miami

The mechanisms of transmission and the habits of head lice differ between cool and warm climates. Maximum egg production occurs at optimum temperatures of 29°C to 30°C (84°F to 86°F) with an ample supply of food. For these reasons it is commonly held that most eggs are laid close to the scalp and that the distance of an egg or nit from the scalp may be used to judge the age or viability of the eggs. These observations may be true in colder climates and in laboratory environments, but our experiences in the United States in the summer months and in the tropics year round do not support this. In warmer climates we frequently find viable eggs 6 inches or more down a hair shaft. In fact, in very hot climates where children spend long periods of time playing in the sun, the top of the head is too warm for the eggs and the lice. Lice will wander around the hair until they find the optimum temperature for their eggs, which may be several inches from the scalp. The nape of the neck and behind the ears are their favorite places because these areas are more protected from extreme temperatures. After a normal non pesticide shampoo (Prell) we usually find live lice on the towels because their little claws often get caught in the cloth fibers. These lice are capable of feeding, copulating, and laying eggs, providing they find a new host within a day. Even within the "high-risk" group, children 3 to 11 years old, there appears to be an unknown element that causes some children to be more prone to repeated infestations, whereas others, even within the same family or peer group, are unaffected. It appears that blood type and Rh factor may play a role, but more extensive research needs to be conducted to validate this theory. 6,29,32 In spite of many years of awareness and many billions of dollars expended by parents, health providers, and school authorities, pediculosis capitis is a persistent and growing problem in the United States and other developed countries (Box 1). 33