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Soil transmitted helminth infections in children from households in Mahintedo, a coastal community in Ilaje local government area of Ondo State

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Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections are major public health problem as a result of its chronic impact on human health and quality of life. The World Health Organization recommends de-worming programmes based on prevalence status of STH infections in a community. The treatment schedule is once or twice a year when prevalence is $\geq 20\%$ or $\geq 50\%$ respectively. However, there is a dearth of information on the prevalence of STHs in Mahintedo therefore this study was designed to determine the prevalence, intensity and the associated risk factors of STHs in Mahintedo coastal community, Ondo State. Fecal samples were collected from children from randomly selected households with at least one child from each household in Mahintedo community from October 2016 to March 2017. Stool samples were screened for helminth eggs using modified Kato Katz method to determine prevalence's and intensities. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson's Chi square at $\alpha 0.05$. Four hundred and eighty-four children [235(48.6%) females and 249(51.4%) males] from 315 households were recruited for the study. Majority (60.5%) of them is of school age status (≥ 6 years). A total of 378(78.1%) were infected with STHs. The parasites encountered were *ascaris*, *trichiuris* and hookworms. The prevalence of *ascariasis*, *trichuriasis* and hookworm infection were 46.7%, 23.6% and 7.9%, respectively. The school aged children were significantly more infected (86%) than the pre-school aged children (66%). One hundred and eleven (29.4%) of the sampled children had multiple infections, 11.9% had both *A. lumbricoides* and hookworms followed by 8.7% who had *A. lumbricoides* and *T. trichuria*. A total of 28(7.4%), 211(55.8%) and 139(36.8%) of the children examined had heavy, moderate and light intensities of infection, respectively. There is a need for WHO recommended de-worming program twice a year in this community.