

Original Article

# Investigating the epidemiological trend of pediculosis from 2016 to 2022 in Babol city, Iran

Marjan Mohseni<sup>1</sup>, Zeinab Gholami<sup>2</sup>, Seyed Mahmoud Mehdinia<sup>3</sup>, Abdoliman Amouei<sup>4\*</sup>

1. Department of Environmental Health Engineering, School of Public Health, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran.
2. Department of Environmental Health Engineering, School of Public Health, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran.
3. Environmental Health Research Center (EHRC), Health Research Institute, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, I.R. Iran.
4. Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Health Research Institute, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran.

**Article Info.****Received:** 16 Dec 2024**Revised:** 13 Jan 2025**Accepted:** 1 Feb 2025**\* Corresponding Author:**

Abdoliman Amouei;  
Environmental Health  
Research Center (EHRC),  
Health Research Institute,  
Babol University of Medical  
Sciences, Babol, I.R. Iran.  
Email:  
iamouei1966@gmail.com  
Seyed Mahmoud Mehdinia;  
Environmental Health  
Research Center (EHRC),  
Health Research Institute,  
Babol University of Medical  
Sciences, Babol, I.R. Iran.  
Email:  
smmehdinia@yahoo.ca

**Cite this article:**  
Mohseni M, Mehdinia SM,  
Gholami Z, Amouei A.  
Investigating the  
epidemiological trend of  
pediculosis from 2016 to  
2022 in Babol city, Iran. Curr  
Res Med Sci. 2024; 8: 45-  
55.

**Background:** Lice are widespread on a global scale and afflict all socioeconomic classes. The infestation of humans by lice is commonly called pediculosis. Despite advancements in health and medical science, human lice are still a health problem. Therefore, the present study investigated the prevalence of pediculosis and its related factors from 2016-2022 in Babol City, Iran.

**Methods:** In this descriptive-analytical study, the information of individuals who referred to comprehensive urban and rural health centers, health centers and health houses of Babol City and affiliated hospitals for the purpose of investigating the trend of pediculosis between 2016 and 2022 was extracted from the county health center of Babol City. Data were analyzed using SPSS software version 23. To compare qualitative variables, the chi-square test was used.  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:** According to the results, there were 66197 cases of pediculosis from 2016 to 2022 in Babol City, Iran. Moreover, pediculosis was 4.44 times more common in females than males and 2.31 times more common in rural areas, compared to urban areas. It is worth mentioning that the highest infection rate was related to the 6-12 year age group. The general prevalence of lice infestation was 20.86% in spring, in summer 21.92%, 36.73% in autumn and 20.47% in winter. Study's results showed that the most commonly used treatment was permethrin shampoo and dimethicone lotion.

**Conclusion:** The results show that age, gender, and place of residence are important variables in the prevalence of pediculosis. Educating people about identifying the growth stages of head lice (nits, nymphs, and adults) and methods of preventing and treating parasites and observing personal hygiene, especially in children, can significantly affect the prevalence of pediculosis.

**Keywords:** Pediculosis, Trend, Prevalence



## Introduction

Public health plays a crucial role in the development of every community (1). Despite advancements in health and medical education, the presence of external parasitic infestations continues to pose a threat to community health development and remains a public health concern (2). For more than 10000 years, pediculosis (infestation of humans by lice) has been a widespread global concern for human communities, a factor affecting societal health caused by the external parasites called lice (3). The three primary types of lice that can live on humans: *Pediculus humanus capitis* (head louse), *Phthirus pubis* (pubic louse), and *Pediculus humanus corporis* (body or clothes louse) (4). This condition is transmitted directly through person-to-person contact or indirectly via contact with contaminated personal items such as hats, scarves, underwear, towels, and headphones on electrical devices (5, 6). Human lice require the completion of their entire life cycle on hairy human scalps, which involves different stages starting with the egg, also known as a nit, followed by the larva or first mobile instar, two nymphal stages, and then adults (female and male) (7). Female *P. capitis* prefers to lay eggs around the ears and the nape of the neck while attaching to the hair shaft. The nymph that hatches from the nits matures into an adult within one week. They feed on the head every 4 to 6 hours over an average lifespan of 16 days (8). Common symptoms of pediculosis include

bites, itching, allergies, and secondary infections such as dermatitis and jaundice. In children, pediculosis can lead to social issues like insomnia, depression, lack of self-confidence, loss of social status, and even academic failure. Many infected individuals develop secondary infections associated with hair loss, allergies, and other complications due to frequent itching (9). Risk factors for acquiring pediculosis are determined by various factors, such as the number of children in a family, parent's education and occupation, presence of a bathroom at home, frequency of bathing per week, local customs, social contacts, lack of healthcare systems, and the socioeconomic status of the family (10, 11). Pediculosis is controlled in two ways: (1) proactive prevention or (2) post-infestation treatment (12). One of the ways to prevent head lice is to follow personal hygiene, take regular baths and avoid using other people's belongings (13). Many treatment approaches for head lice include: treatment by the use of chemical insecticides with shampoo formulation as a standard method (1% permethrin shampoo), Treatment with non-neurotoxic chemical products such as dimethicone lotion and Oral treatments (Albendazole, Diethyl carbamazine and oral Ivermectin) (14). The reported prevalence of lice infestation in various provinces of Iran ranged from 1.05% to 29.3%, with percentages such as 1.3% in Hamadan (15, 16), 1.8% in Kerman (17), 2.3% in Asadabad (18), 4.7% in Kurdistan (19), 6.6% in Tabriz

(20), 7.4% in Mazandaran (21), 8% in Kermanshah (22), 13.7% in Mashhad (23), 27.1% in Iranshahr (24), 29.3% in Qom (25), 23.38% in Khuzestan (11), and 3.2% in North Khorasan Province (26). Furthermore, the prevalence of head lice infestation in other countries was reported as 0.7% in Germany (27), 4.1% in South Korea (28), 5.2% in Saudi Arabia

(29), 41.8% in India (30) and 29.7% in Argentina (31). The prevalence of human lice continues to be a health concern, despite the progress in health and medical research. Hence, from 2016 to 2022, the current research examined the occurrence of pediculosis and its associated factors in Babol City.

## Methods

### Study Area

Babol is a city of great significance in the Mazandaran Province, particularly in terms of its population, economy, and agriculture (32). Located in Mazandaran Province, Iran, Babol County is positioned between latitudes N 40°36' to N 36°35' and longitudes E 33°52' to E 43°51'. The Babol Plain covers an area of 1578 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to an urban population of 230973 (33). (Fig.1)

### Data Collection

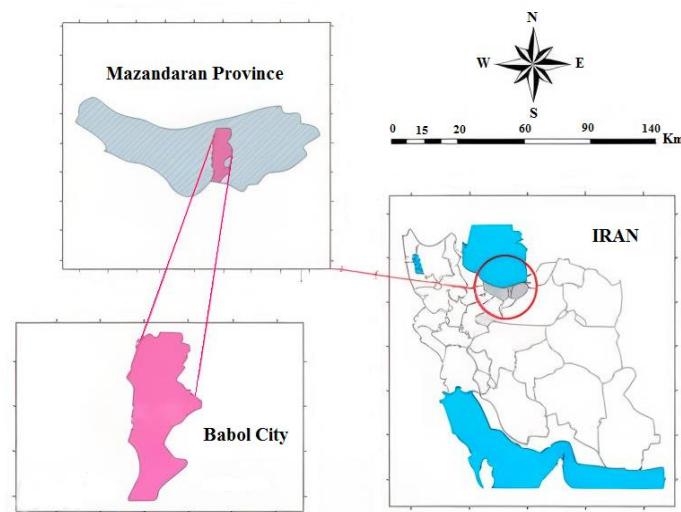
In this descriptive-analytical study, the information of individuals who referred (including sex, age, place of residence, separated by urban and rural, and type of treatment) to comprehensive urban and rural health centers, health centers and health houses of Babol City and affiliated hospitals to the purpose of investigating the trend of pediculosis between 2016 and 2022 was extracted from the health center of Babol City. Among the files of individuals with pediculosis, those who had incomplete information on the variables studied

(including sex, age, place of residence, separated by urban and rural, and type of treatment) were inevitably excluded from the study. The population of Babol City was also obtained from the population sources of Mazandaran Province from 2016 to 2022, separated by the investigated groups.

Two weeks after the end of the internship, a NCP as the projects of both the control and experimental groups were handed to the instructor and corrected. In this study based on a check-list, 2 points for assessment, 2 points for ND, 1.5 points for nursing goals, 4.5 points for nursing interventions, 5 points for implementation, and 5 points for evaluation were given. Since the students had to be available in the ward two days a week, they could not complete the implementation and evaluation phases of the designed NCP, thus, the grades related to those phases were removed from the final analysis. Data analysis was performed using SPSS v.21, with a significance level of 0.05.

### Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS software version 23. To compare qualitative variables, the chi-square test was used. P< 0.05 were considered significant.



**Figure 1: Map of Babol City, Mazandaran Province, Iran**

## Results

According to information extracted from the Babol County Health Center, 66197 people were infected with pediculosis from 2016 to 2022. The prevalence of pediculosis declined from 2016 to 2021 but saw an increase in 2022 (Fig 2). During this study, the incidence of head lice was 97.842%, body lice 2.152%, and pubic lice 0.006% (Fig 3). As shown in Table 1, the prevalence of pediculosis in Babol City was different between men and women, and the prevalence of pediculosis disease was higher in women (81.63%) than in men (18.36%). In this study, in terms of place of residence, the rate of pediculosis in villages was higher than in cities, so pediculosis in rural areas was almost 2.3 times that of urban areas (Table 1). The highest prevalence of disease was seen in children between the ages of 6–12 years (29110 n) while the lowest prevalence was seen in children < 6 years old (9617 n) (Fig 4). The general prevalence of lice infestation was 36.73%, 20.47%, 21.92% and 20.86% in autumn, winter, summer and spring, respectively. The highest number of pediculosis cases detected was related in October (13.34%), and the lowest number was related in March (4.97%). The results of the study showed that the most commonly used treatment was permethrin shampoo and dimethicone lotion.

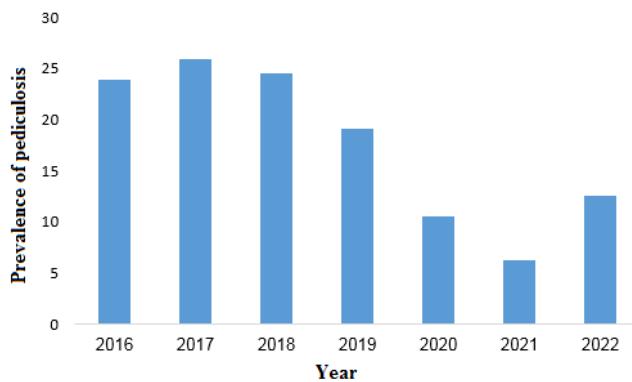


Figure 2: Prevalence of pediculosis in Babol city from 2016-2022

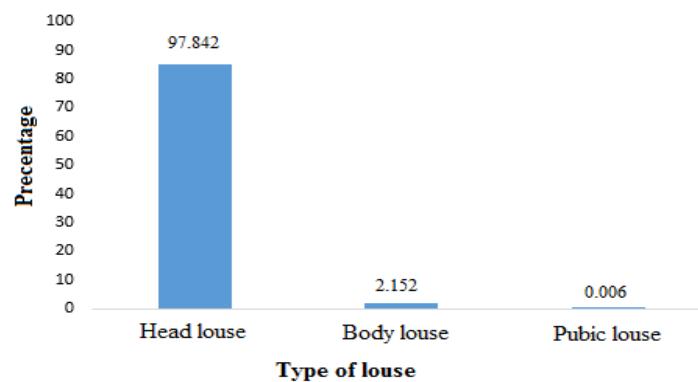


Figure 3: Percentage of pediculosis cases by type of pediculosis in Babol city

Table 1: prevalence of pediculosis according to gender and residence Percentage

Year	Gender		Residence	
	Female	Male	Urban	Rural
2016	81.30%	18.70%	34.39%	65.61%
2017	83.06%	16.94%	26.92%	73.08%
2018	79.73%	20.27%	30.70%	69.30%
2019	83.42%	16.58%	30.90%	69.10%
2020	81.56%	18.44%	32.32%	67.68%
2021	78.82%	21.18%	26.24%	73.76%
2022	81.84%	18.16%	26.71%	73.29%
Total	81.64%	18.36%	30.14%	69.85%

## Discussion

In spite of advances in hygiene and sanitation worldwide, cases of pediculosis persist in both developed and developing countries. This infestation is increasingly overlooked in many parts of the world, particularly in developing

nations (34). Epidemiologic research has revealed pediculosis prevalence rates of 6.8%, 23.32%, and 26.4% in Turkey (35), Thailand (36), and Nigeria (37), respectively. Moreover, studies have shown a wide range of pediculosis

prevalence, varying from 1.6% to 67% in different regions of Iran (38). According to the results obtained in this study, it was shown that the prevalence of pediculosis has a downward trend from 2016 to 2022. The decrease in head lice during these years can be attributed to educating children and families about health habits, such as not sharing combs, brushes, and hats, along with early diagnosis and treatment, as well as improved access to healthcare. In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus variant that leads to lung, intestinal, cardiac, and neurological damage and first emerged in China (39). As a preventive measure, the Iranian government imposed a strict and indefinite lockdown. This mandated social distancing, prohibiting direct contact between individuals from different households and requiring the isolation of symptomatic individuals, as well as imposing restrictions on leaving the house except for essential purposes. These restriction rules forced the students, as the most vulnerable ones for pediculosis, to stay at home and have virtual education. Similar lockdown measures in other countries like Argentina (Buenos Aires), the United Kingdom, and the European Union seem to have impacted transmission as well, resulting in reduced head lice transmission among school children during the COVID-19 pandemic due to school closures and the practice of social distancing (40-42).

During this study, the prevalence of head lice was 97.842%, body lice 2.152%, and pubic lice 0.006%. Head louse infestation has historically been and is likely to remain a worldwide problem because head lice can infest people of all ages, and various social and economic statuses (43). Body lice are predominantly prevalent in homeless people, refugees and living in crowded and/ or unsanitary conditions (44). They are transmitted among humans via close body-to-body contact and multiply when cold, promiscuity, lack of hygiene, and war are present. Its prevalence also reflects the socioeconomic level of society (45). prevalence of pediculosis capititis was reported as 95.7% in Ethiopia (46), 42.7% in Argentina (47), 23.38 in Iran (48) and 23.32% in Bangkok (36). In this study, there was a significant relationship between head lice infestation and the gender of the patients. The contamination rate in women was approximately 4.44 times higher than in men, which was similar to the results of the studies of Gholami et al. (2024) (9), Sepehri et al. (2022) (49), Saraswat et al. (2020) (30), and Lessafft et al. (2013) (50). Behavioral factors such as longer hair length, greater hair density and more hair covering with scarves cause early detection and higher prevalence of parasites in women (51).

The results showed that in terms of place of residence, the rate of pediculosis in villages was higher than in cities. The reason for this difference in prevalence in urban and rural areas is the difference in the level of awareness of

families, access to medicine and treatment, lack of access to bathrooms, and economic status. Based on a cross-sectional study in Jordan in 2012, infestation was significantly related to living in a village (31.2% in rural areas vs. 23.5% in urban areas) (52).

The highest prevalence of disease was seen in children between the ages of 6–12 years (29110 n) while the lowest prevalence was seen in children < 6 years old (9617 n). More infection with pediculosis in the age group of 6 to 12 years is due to more presence in crowded centers such as schools and the tendency of children to do personal things and leave them to their parents, and on the other hand, not having enough ability of children to do hygiene and bathing, and probably The presence of less pollution in the age group under 6 years old is due to more parental care and spending more time at home. A study conducted in Mazandaran Province, Iran from 2012 to 2020 reported similar findings (53).

The general prevalence of lice infestation was 36.73% in autumn, 20.47% in winter, 21.92% in summer and 20.86% in spring. The highest number of pediculosis cases detected was related to October (13.34%) and the lowest number was related to March (4.97%). In autumn and October due to the reopening of schools and the increase in pediculosis by students and the transmission of infection to the family, this disease increases (22). In the cold season, high rainfall provides a good condition for the growth of lice. In addition, children wear hot clothes and woolen hats in cold weather they tend to share

these clothes with their siblings and peers or leave them in the schoolroom (54). Zioddini et al. (2019) reported that in the cold season (especially autumn), students are more affected by head lice than in spring (38), which was similar to the results of the study, while a study on students, aged 6-12 year in Egypt, reported a high prevalence of pediculosis capititis in the warm season (summer) and humid climate (55).

The results of the study showed that the most statistics of drugs used were permethrin shampoo and dimethicone lotion. Permethrin shampoo and dimethicone lotion are used due to their effectiveness and elimination of lice and their eggs, low risk and usability for most people, including children, availability and recommendation of CDC personnel, and affordability (56, 57). Stough et al.(2009) in the USA showed that 42.9% of permethrin-treated participants were head lice-free (58). In a similar study, Moemen bellah-Fard et al. (2016) observed that the head lice infestation treatment success using permethrin shampoo on days 2, 6, 9, and 14 were 71.8%, 64.1%, 89.7%, and 89.7%, respectively (59).

## Conclusion

Lice infestation is a major public health problem. The results show that age, gender and place of residence are important variables in prevalence are pediculosis. Educating people about identifying the growth stages of head lice (nits, nymphs and adults) and methods of preventing and treating parasites and observing

personal hygiene, especially in children, can significantly affect the prevalence of pediculosis.

### Acknowledgements:

Acknowledgments are due to Deputy of Health, Babol University of Medical Sciences for their generous assistance.

### Author's contribution:

Conceptualization: AA, SMM; Methodology: AA, SMM; Statistical analysis and investigation: MM, ZGh; Writing - original draft preparation: ZGh, AA, MM; Writing – review and editing: AA, SMM.

### Funding

This study supported by the vice chancellery of Research and Technology of Babol University of Medical Sciences

### Disclosure statement

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

### REFERENCES

1. Karakuş M, Arıcı A, Töz SÖ, Özbel Y. Prevalence of head lice in two socio-economically different schools in the center of Izmir City, Turkey. *Turkiye Parazitol Derg*. 2014;38(1):32-6.
2. Moosazadeh M, Afshari M, Keianian H, Nezammahalleh A, Enayati AA. Prevalence of head lice infestation and its associated factors among primary school students in Iran: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Osong public health and research perspectives*. 2015;6(6):346-56.
3. Toghroli R, Hosseini Z, Ziapour A, Yari A, Rahimi SF, Mehedi N. Explaining the determinants of Pediculosis Control and Prevention: a qualitative study in Southern Iran. *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*. 2022;59:00469580221086369.
4. Bekry G, Sarbakhsh P, Allahverdipour H, Shaghaghi A. Children's perception scale of head lice infestation (CPS-HLI): Design and psychometrics. *Archives of Pediatric Infectious Diseases*. 2022;10(1): 1-8.
5. Soltani Z, Keshavarzi D. Increasing trend of pediculosis (*Pediculus Humanus Capitis*) in Lamerd, Farashband, and Marvdasht Cities, Southern Iran. *International Archives of Health Sciences*. 2018;5(2):38-42.
6. Rodina M, Shawa A. Pediculus capititis, infestation according to sex and social factors in Gaza Governorate, Islamic Univ. *J. Ser Nat Stud Eng*. 2008;16:75-83.
7. Lambiase S, Perotti MA. Using human head lice to unravel neglect and cause of death. *Parasitology*. 2019;146(5):678-84.
8. Khosravani M, Amiri SA, Rafatpanah A, Bandak C, Latifi R, Moradi M, et al. A review of pediculosis studies in Iran during three decades (1990-2020). *Journal of Health Sciences & Surveillance System*. 2021;9(4):218-25.
9. Gholami Z, Dayer MS, Azarm A. Pediculosis and Factors Affecting its Prevalence among Schoolchildren in Amol City, Northern Iran. *Journal of Arthropod-Borne Diseases*. 2024;18(1):57.
10. Mumcuoglu KY, Pollack RJ, Reed DL, Barker SC, Gordon S, Tolosa AC, et al. International recommendations for an effective control of head louse infestations. *International journal of dermatology*. 2021;60(3): 272-80.
11. Maramazi HG, Sharififard M, Jahanifard E, Maraghi E, Sourestani MM, Malehi AS, et al. Pediculosis humanus capititis prevalence as a health problem in girl's elementary schools, southwest of Iran (2017-2018). *Journal of research in health sciences*. 2019;19(2):e00446.
12. Clark JM. New chemistries for the control of human head lice, *Pediculus humanus capititis*: A mini-review. *Pesticide biochemistry and physiology*. 2022;181:105013.
13. Moradi-Asl E, Saghafipour A, Hamta A, Taheri-Kharameh Z, Abazari M, Asghari Jajin S. The effect of educational intervention on efficacy of 1% permethrin shampoo and 4% dimeticone lotion to treat head lice infestation using propensity score matching (PSM). *BMC Infectious Diseases*. 2024;24(1):143.
14. Salimi M, Saghafipour A, Firoozfar F, Mozaffari E, Rezaei F, Vatandoost H. Study on efficacy of 1% permethrin shampoo and some traditional physical treatment for head lice infestation. *International journal of preventive medicine*. 2021;12.
15. Omidi A, Khodaveisi M, MOGHIM BA, Mohammadi N, Amini R. Pediculosis capititis and relevant factors in secondary school students of Hamadan, West of Iran. 2013.
16. AM A. The Prevalence of Pediculosis capititis in Primary School Students in Bahar, Hamadan Province, Iran. 2009.

17. Motovali-Emami M, Aflatoonian MR, Fekri A, Yazdi M. Epidemiological aspects of Pediculosis capitis and treatment evaluation in primary-school children in Iran. *Pakistan journal of biological sciences: PJBS*. 2008;11(2):260-4.

18. Nazari M, Goudarzalejerdi R, Payman MA. Pediculosis capitis among primary and middle school children in Asadabad, Iran: An epidemiological study. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine*. 2016;6(4):367-70.

19. Vahabi A, Shemshad K, Sayyadi M, Biglarian A, Vahabi B, Sayyad S, et al. Prevalence and risk factors of *Pediculus (humanus) capitis* (Anoplura: Pediculidae), in primary schools in Sanandaj City, Kurdistan Province, Iran. *Trop Biomed*. 2012;29(2):207-11.

20. Shayeghi M, Paksa A, Ahmadi A, Eshaghi M, Bazrafkan S. Epidemiology of head lice infestation in primary school pupils, in khajeh city, East azerbaijan province, iran. *Iranian journal of arthropod-borne diseases*. 2010;4(1):42.

21. Motevalli-Haghi SF, Rafinejad J, Hosseni M, Yazdani-Charati J, Parsi B. Prevalence pediculosis and associated risk factors in primary-school children of Mazandaran Province, Iran, 2012-2013. *Journal of Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences*. 2014;23(110):82-91.

22. Vahabi B, Vahabi A, Gharib A, Sayyadi M, Sayyad S. Prevalence of head louse infestations and factors affecting the rate of infestation among primary schoolchildren in Paveh City, Kermanshah Province, Iran in the years 2009 to 2010. *Life Sci J*. 2013;10(12s):360-4.

23. Berenji F, Marvi-Moghadam N, Naghibozakerin Meibodi P. A retrospective study of ectoparasitosis in patients referred to Imam Reza Hospital of Mashhad, Iran. *BioMed research international*. 2014;2014(1):104018.

24. Salemi JA, Shayeghi N, Zeraati H, Akbarzadeh K, Basseri H, Ebrahimi B, et al. Some aspects of head lice infestation in Iranshahr area (southeast of Iran). *Iranian Journal of Public Health*. 2003;32(3):60-3.

25. Saghafipour A, Nejati J, Zahraei Ramazani A, Vatandoost H, Mozaffari E, Rezaei F. Prevalence and risk factors associated with head louse (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) in Central Iran. *International Journal of Pediatrics*. 2017;5(7):5245-54.

26. Firoozfar F, Moosa-Kazemi SH, Bahrami A, Yusuf MA, Saghafipour A, Armoon Z, et al. Head lice infestation (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) prevalence and its associated factors, among the Kormanj tribes in North Khorasan province. *Shiraz E-Medical Journal*. 2019;20(4).

27. Jahnke C, Bauer E, Feldmeier H. Pediculosis capita in childhood: epidemiological and socio-medical results from screening of school beginners. *Gesundheitswesen (Bundesverband der Ärzte des Öffentlichen Gesundheitsdienstes (Germany))*. 2008;70(11):667-73.

28. Oh J-M, Lee IY, Lee W-J, Seo M, Park S-A, Lee SH, et al. Prevalence of pediculosis capitis among Korean children. *Parasitology research*. 2010;107:1415-9.

29. Al-Saeed WY, Al-Dawood KM, Bukhari IA, Bahnassy AA. Prevalence and pattern of skin disorders among female schoolchildren in Eastern Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Medical Journal*. 2006;27(2):227.

30. Saraswat N, Shankar P, Chopra A, Mitra B, Kumar S. Risk factors associated with head lice infestation in rural pediatric patients. *Indian dermatology online journal*. 2020;11(1):25-8.

31. Toloza A, Vassena C, Gallardo A, González-Audino P, Picollo MI. Epidemiology of Pediculosis capitis in elementary schools of Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Parasitology research*. 2009;104(6):1295-8.

32. Amouei A, Asgharnia H, Fallah H, Faraji H, Barari R, Naghipour D. Characteristics of effluent wastewater in hospitals of Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran. *Health Scope*. 20.(۱۴):۱۰.

33. Asgari G, Ghalehaskar S, Moghaddam VK, Radfar M, Heidarnejad Z, Mohammadi AA, et al. Monitoring and health risk assessment of fluoride in drinking water in Babol, Mazandaran Province, Iran. *Desalination and Water Treatment*. 2019;165:141-7.

34. Najjari M, Gorouhi MA, Zarrinfar H, Hosseini Farash BR, Jamali J, Moghaddas E, et al. Impact of a health educational interventional program on reducing the head lice infestation among pupils in an elementary school of a sub-tropical region: a quasi-experimental study. *BMC pediatrics*. 2022;22(1):424.

35. Kokturk A, Baz K, Bugdayci R, Sasmaz T, Tursen U, Kaya TI, et al. The prevalence of pediculosis capitis in schoolchildren in Mersin, Turkey. *International journal of dermatology*. 2003;42(9):694-8.

36. Rassami W, Soonwera M. Epidemiology of pediculosis capitis among schoolchildren in the eastern area of Bangkok, Thailand. *Asian Pacific journal of tropical biomedicine*. 2012;2(11):901-4.

37. Etim S, Ohioma M, Okon O, Akpan P. Pediculosis among primary school children in Calabar, Nigeria and implications for control. *Sci Res Essays*. 2012;7(47):4071-5.

38. Ziaoddini A, Riahi R, Heidari-Beni M, Ziaoddini H, Zamani S. National and Provincial Prevalence of

Pediculus humanus capitis among Urban Students in Iran from 2014 to 2018. *Journal of Research in Health Sciences*. 2019;19(4):e00459.

39. Zhu N, Zhang D, Wang W, Li X, Yang B, Song J, et al. China Novel Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team. A novel coronavirus from patients with pneumonia in China, 2019. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;382(8):727-33.

40. Galassi F, Ortega-Insaurralde I, Adjemian V, Gonzalez-Audino P, Picollo MI, Toloza AC. Head lice were also affected by COVID-19: a decrease on Pediculosis infestation during lockdown in Buenos Aires. *Parasitology Research*. 2021;120(2):443-50.

41. Burgess IF, Brunton ER, Burgess MN. Head lice: impact of COVID-19 and slow recovery of prevalence in Cambridgeshire, UK. *PeerJ*. 2023;11:e16001.

42. Moin-Vaziri V, Badakhshan M. The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Arthropod-Related Diseases. *Journal of Arthropod-Borne Diseases*. 2023;17(1):28.

43. Fu Y-T, Yao C, Deng Y-P, Elsheikha HM, Shao R, Zhu X-Q, et al. Human pediculosis, a global public health problem. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*. 2022;11(1):58.

44. Badiaga S, Brouqui P. Human louse-transmitted infectious diseases. *Clinical microbiology and infection*. 2012;18(4):332-7.

45. Sangaré AK, Doumbo OK, Raoult D. Management and treatment of human lice. *BioMed research international*. 2016;2016(1):8962685.

46. Dagne H, Biya AA, Tirfie A, Yallew WW, Dagnew B. Prevalence of pediculosis capitis and associated factors among schoolchildren in Woreta town, northwest Ethiopia. *BMC research notes*. 2019;12:1-6.

47. Gutiérrez MM, González JW, Stefanazzi N, Serralunga G, Yañez L, Ferrero AA. Prevalence of Pediculus humanus capitis infestation among kindergarten children in Bahía Blanca city, Argentina. *Parasitology research*. 2012;111:1309-13.

48. Nejati J, Keyhani A, Kareshk AT, Mahmoudvand H, Saghaipour A, Khoraminasab M, et al. Prevalence and risk factors of pediculosis in primary school children in South West of Iran. *Iranian journal of public health*. 2018;47(12):1923.

49. Sepehri M, Jafari Z. Prevalence and associated factors of head lice (Pediculosis capitis) among primary school students in Varzaqan Villages, Northwest of Iran. *Zahedan Journal of Research in Medical Sciences*. 2022;24(1).

50. Lesshafft H, Baier A, Guerra H, Terashima A, Feldmeier H. Prevalence and risk factors associated with pediculosis capitis in an impoverished urban community in Lima, Peru. *Journal of Global Infectious Diseases*. 2013;5(4):138-43.

51. Willems S, Lapeere H, Haedens N, Pasteels I, Naeyaert J-M, De Maeseneer J. The importance of socio-economic status and individual characteristics on the prevalence of head lice in schoolchildren. *European Journal of Dermatology*. 2005;15(5):387-92.

52. Al Bashtawy M, Hasna F. Pediculosis capitis among primary-school children in Mafraq Governorate, Jordan. *EMHJ-Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*, 18 (1), 43-48, 20.2.12.12

53. Habibi SA, Rahimi MT, Salmani Seraji M, Mahdavi S. Prevalence of pediculosis in Mazandaran province from 2012-2020. *Journal of health research in community*. 2020;6(3):65-72.

54. Bauer E, Jahnke C, Feldmeier H. Seasonal fluctuations of head lice infestation in Germany. *Parasitology research*. 2009;104:677-81.

55. Mostafa FF, Hassan AAH, Soliman MI, Nassar A, Deabes RH. Prevalence of skin diseases among infants and children in Al Sharqia Governorate, Egypt. *Egyptian dermatology online journal*. 12;(1):1-12.

56. Kalari H, Soltani A, Azizi K, Faramarzi H, Moemenbellah-Fard MD. Comparative efficacy of three pediculicides to treat head lice infestation in primary school girls: a randomised controlled assessor blind trial in rural Iran. *BMC dermatology*. 2019;19:1-9.

57. Yamaguchi S, Yasumura R, Okamoto Y, Okubo Y, Miyagi T, Kawada H, et al. Efficacy and safety of a dimethicone lotion in patients with pyrethroid-resistant head lice in an epidemic area, Okinawa, Japan. *The Journal of dermatology*. 2021.9-1343;(9)48;.

58. Stough D, Shellabarger S, Quiring J, Gabrielsen Jr AA. Efficacy and safety of spinosad and permethrin creme rinses for pediculosis capitis (head lice). *Pediatrics*. 2009;124(3):e389-e95.

59. Moemenbellah-Fard M, Nasiri Z, Azizi K, Fakoorziba M. Head lice treatment with two interventions: pediculosis capitis profile in female schoolchildren of a rural setting in the south of Iran. *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Public Health*. 2016;9(4).