

**Prevalence of *Pediculus capitis* infestation  
among school children of Chinese refugees  
residing in mountainous areas of northern  
Thailand.**

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摘要

**Abstract**

An epidemiologic survey of *Pediculus capitis* infestation among Akka aboriginal and Han children of Chinese refugees living in mountainous areas at elevations of 1,100 to 1,400 m in Chiang-Rai Province of northern Thailand was conducted during January 2003. Of the 303 children examined, 43 (14.2%) had *P. capitis* infestation. The overall infestation rate for *P. capitis* in Akka children (29.3%, 12/41) was significantly higher than that in Han children (11.8%, 31/262;  $\chi^2 = 8.161$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ). The prevalence in Akka (52.2%, 12/23) and Han girls (19.7%, 31/157) was higher than that in Akka (0%) and Han boys (0%), respectively ( $p < 0.001$ ), and the prevalence was higher in Akka girls than in Han girls ( $\chi^2 = 10.978$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). The high prevalence of *P. capitis* infestation among these girls was possibly due to poor environmental hygiene and unavailability of sufficient water.