

# Head Louse Infestation among Urban and Rural Primary School Children in Korea

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Head louse (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) infestation in primary school children in one urban and one rural area of Korea, was investigated. Of 1,663 children who were examined for head lice and nits, 147(8.8%) were found infested. The over-all infestation rate of rural children, 35.6%, was higher than that of urban children, 5.3%. Females were more infested than males. The infestation rate increased gradually from the age of 8, was highest in 9~10 years of age and thereafter slowly decreased. The infestation rate of orphan was higher than that of general childhood population. The collection ranges of head louse collected from children were 1~48 individuals per a child. Health education and mass-delousing attempt are urgently required to lower such a high prevalence of head louse infestation in Korea.