

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PREVALENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF HELMINTHIASES
IN PATIENTS FREQUENTING THIKA LEVEL 5 HOSPITAL**

**A Research Project Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
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ABSTRACT

Helminthic infections are among the most common infections worldwide and affect the poorest and most deprived communities. The main species that infect people are *Ascarislumbricoides*, *Trichuristrichiura*, *Necatoramericanus* or *Ancylostomaduodenale*. Worldwide helminthic infections affect more than 2 billion people with the majority of cases being in sub-Saharan and south East Africa. This study aimed at establishing the prevalence and distribution of helminthiases in patients frequenting Thika level 5 Hospital. Additionally, the study investigated the co-morbidities associated with helminthiases in the region. Hospital records for the period between January 2013 and August 2013 at Thika District Level 5 Hospital were reviewed. Results obtained indicate that Thika District Hospital recorded high cases of helminthic infection. The study revealed that children were highly infected with the various forms of helminthiases. The highest number of cases was in the Kiandutu area. From the results obtained, more aggressive campaigns to sensitize the county residents on the importance of sanitation as a way of preventing helminthic infections ought to be conducted. Further, mass drug administration campaigns to treat the already infected people ought to be carried out.