

YOUR HEALTH

BILHARZIA

BILHARZIA is endemic to the catchment areas of rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean in South Africa. You should consider all water in rivers, streams, dams and irrigation canals in these areas as potentially infected.

There are two important types of bilharzia parasite in South Africa: *Schistosoma haematobium*, which is the cause of urinary bilharzia, and *S. mansoni*, the cause of intestinal bilharzia.

The bilharzia parasite is a small worm. These worms mature in the blood vessels of the human liver. The eggs penetrate the tissues of the bladder or rectum, depending on the type of infection, and are then discharged in the urine or stools.

The eggs can only hatch in fresh water. After hatching the worm swims around rapidly in search of a snail host.

After penetrating the thin skin of the snail, numerous forktailed cercariae easily bore through the human skin. They travel through the blood vessels eventually reaching the blood vessels of the liver.

Symptoms

When the cercariae penetrate the skin, intense irritation and itching may result. In some persons a rash may occur.

When the parasites migrate through the blood system, the patient suffers from listlessness, fever, general body pains, vague abdominal

symptoms and a cough. This stage may last several weeks.

About six or eight weeks after infection, the stage of egg laying occurs.

In urinary bilharzia the earliest symptom is lower abdominal pain associated with painful passing of blood in the urine. In intestinal bilharzia this stage is characterised by diarrhoea and the passage of blood and mucus in the stools.

Prevention

Don't drink from, swim, or wash in potentially infected rivers, streams, dams and canals. Whenever possible drink only purified water or water from safe bore holes. If you must drink potentially infected water, boil it first.

Never enter a dam or even a swimming pool in a bilharzia area without having made sure that it is free from the parasite. Take care not to contaminate any water, embankments of dams or banks of rivers and streams with human waste.

Treatment

Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial.

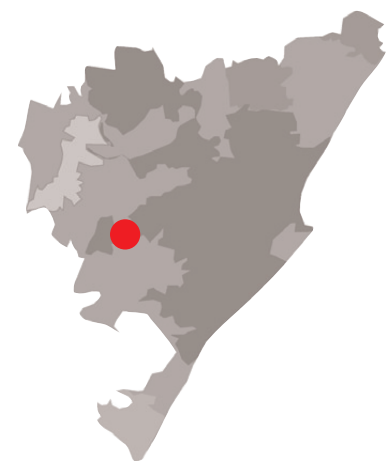
If you suspect you have bilharzia, seek immediate advice from your local clinic or doctor. A diagnosis can be established by blood tests three weeks after exposure.

For information contact your local clinic or phone 031 311 3555.

Compiled by the eThekweni Health Department

PROFILES: WARDS

The city comprises 100 wards, each with its own ward committee. In this, and forthcoming editions we will profile these wards so you can get to know them better. This week we look at Ward 13



Ward: 13

Councillor: Pearl Luthuli

Party: ANC

Contact: 031 311 1111

Areas within ward: Acorn, Birchwood, Dassenhoek, Lusaka, Marian Park, Mazenze, Nqobane, Mozambique 1&2, Oaklands, Olwambeni, Pinevilla, Sgubudwini, Zwilibomvu, Coffee Farm, Sukuma, Sulleys, Thornwood, Bhekukuthula and Madiba.

Community need assessment priorities: Infrastructure, health and safety, employment opportunities as well as basic social needs.

Household income (pa)	Households	%
No income	1 772	27
R1 – R4 800	435	7
R4 801 – R9 600	1 086	17
R9 601 – R19 200	1 240	19
R19 201 – R38 400	1 096	17
R38 401 – R76 800	547	8
R76 801 – R153 600	212	3
R153 601 – R307 200	67	1
R307 201 – R614 400	16	0
R614 401 – R1 228 800	4	0
R1 228 801 - R2 457 600	11	0
R2 457 601 and more	5	0

Work Status	15 – 65 years	%
Employed	4 938	25
Unemployed	7 002	36
Not Economically Active	7 726	39
Literacy Rate (Grade 7 and above)	12 883	41
Dependency Ratio		6

Delivery Of Basic Household Services		%
Electricity	2 001	73
Refuse Disposal	2 007	82
Flush Toilets	2 001	25
Water - dwelling/yard	2 007	98
Water < 200m		

Dwelling type		
Number of households	6 432	%
Formal	4 349	68
Informal	669	10
Traditional	1 396	22
Other	18	0

Age		%
Age 0 – 4	3 493	11
Age 5 – 14	7 540	24
Age 15 – 34	12 216	39
Age 35 – 64	7 347	23
Age > 65	23	3

Population	31 486	%
African	24 768	79
Coloured	4 084	13
Indian	2 616	8
White	18	0
Pensioners	890	3
Disabled	870	3
Male	14 742	47
Female	16 744	53

Major Community Facilities located in the Ward include:	
Library	2
Clinics	3
Police	0
Hospital	0
Pension pay points	0
Billing points	0
Metro police	0
Fire stations	0
Community halls	7
Post office	0
Schools	11

Approved Capital Projects (R million)				
Project	Type Task	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Electricity	Marianridge 132/11 KV S/s	1.1	0.0	0.0
Electricity	Sukuma 132/11 KV S/s	4.3	4.0	0.0
Service Backlog – Roads	Sundry Roads Ward 13	0.6	0.0	0.0



HAVE you wondered what makes Durban truly unique? What gives it that special flavour, that character, that identity?

Clearly, a city like ours is so much more than a place where people live and work. It is a place where people recreate, a place where people connect, where they dream and innovate.

Yes, it is a place too where the urban poor struggle as they negotiate life's daily challenges.

But more than all of this, our city provides a perfect space for vibrant, diverse cultures to cross-pollinate, for our rich history and heritage to be celebrated and for our city's creative heart to beat in rhythm with our African soul.

In recognition of this, Imagine Durban has identified Culture, History and Heritage as among the six thematic areas that will form part of the new and exciting long-term plan for the city. A plan that imagines where we want to be in the

future, but is about putting strategies and programmes in place right now to help achieve our collective vision.

The culture, history and heritage thematic area will focus on how to position Durban as a "creative city" that celebrates its artistic and cultural heritage;

how to ensure that city development will innovatively confront urban challenges in a way that celebrates public space and promotes civic pride; and how to mobilise the energies of all our city's creative talent so as to build on the synergies and work collectively to achieve a common goal.

The Imagine Durban project team will host this important theme workshop on 16 July, from 9am to 1pm at the Botanic Gardens Conference Centre.

All stakeholders with an interest in re-imagining their city are invited to attend.

Call Zama Ndlovu for details on 031 311 3444 or email ndlovuzc@durban.gov.za.

Imagining tomorrow today