Giardia lamblia is a flagellated enteric protozoan parasite.

the highest burden of this disease, with an average reported prevalence rate of 20- 30% (Furness 2000)

In areas of particularly poor sanitation and water quality, such as parts of Mexico and Russia, this number can be as high as 95% (Ortega 1997).

The problems associated with this parasite are not only characterized by their high prevalence, but also their potentially debilitating nature.

most commonly transmitted to humans as a waterbourne infectious disease in fecally contaminated groundwater finding its way into drinking water. Thus, in places such as Mexico City, where water sanitation can be a problem in and around a highly populated, urban area, the incidence can rise very quickly once a few people are infected. In fact, poor water quality, caused by such 4 things as contaminated groundwater sources, overcrowding, and poor sanitation in Mexico City, have contributed to an estimated consistent prevalence of 10% Giardia infection in many subpopulations (Cifuentes 2004). The metropolis is an ideal setting for interventions in education and sanitation efforts, in addition to mass treatment if accurate incidence and prevalence rates can be achieved.

In Mexico City, significant risk factors that are currently known include close contact by schoolchildren, low standards of personal hygiene, unsafe methods of drinking water storage and food-related practices at the household level (Cifuentes 2004).





