

## **INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE IN HUMAN HEAD LICE PRESENTS UNIQUE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS**

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Head lice are the most common arthropod parasite of humans and infest many thousands of children (mostly in elementary schools) in the United States each year. Resistance to the pyrethroid-based shampoos commonly used for treatment is now widespread, but not universal, in the U.S. and other developed countries. Resistance is causing increasing treatment failure, frustration among parents and school administrators, and is encouraging quackery and the development of alternative strategies for controlling head lice. Because louse treatments are sold over-the-counter to individuals, managing resistance in this insect presents some unique problems. There is much disagreement among the so called experts who are attempting to address these problems. Disagreement often stems from a continuing lack of reliable information on the biology and transmission of head lice.