

ABSTRACT

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Study program: Pharmacy

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Title of diploma thesis: The effect of household characteristics on the allergies in children

BACKGROUND: The aim of our study was to try detect a possible effect of household characteristics on the development of allergies in children. Our obtained results we compared with scientific knowledge of studies in our country and abroad.

METHODS: The necessary data we obtained from a questionnaire study that was designed for childrens from seventh grade of elementary school and their parents in the pre-selected schools throughout the Czech Republic. We sent 2793 questionnaires to 69 schools and we got back approximately 61% (1697 questionnaires). Questionnaires were statistically evaluated and we focused on answers about the household characteristics.

RESULTS: We noticed in our study some statistically significant results. Statistically more allergic children were in household with smaller area of carpets, where the floor was cleaned with higher amount of detergents and disinfecting agents, where bedding was washed at higher temperature and was changed more frequently. The result of our work was also the total score of the household characteristics, which detected that statistically more allergic children lived in households where they cleaned more often, used higher amount of detergents and disinfecting agents, had smaller area of carpets, bedding was changed more often and was washed at higher temperature.

CONCLUSION: We obtained from a large amount of data some statistically significant results and by using a scoring system we tried to evaluate several parameters together. It is necessary to perform further studies which can investigate obtained possible risk factors for the development of allergies in children.

KEYWORDS: allergy, children, questionnaire, household, carpets, cleaning, laundry, bedding