

**FINAL REPORT:
DEWORM GHANA PROGRAM
VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIPS FOR WEST
AFRICA**

PROJECT SUMMARY

Two billion people world-wide are affected by worms, formally known as Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) and Schistosomes. Although most worm infections are not life-threatening, the symptoms of worms cause health problems such as stomach pain, coughing, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, swollen belly, blood in stools or urine, and fatigue. Children living in developing countries are at the highest risk of contracting worms; without treatment, these children likely have poor attendance and performance at school and impaired physical and mental development.

Via the Deworm Ghana Program, Volunteer Partnerships for West Africa (VPWA) embarked on a mission to administer albendazole, a type of medication commonly used to treat worms, to as many children as possible throughout the Akuapim South Municipal District of Ghana. As such, a team of 13 volunteers from Ghana, the United Kingdom, and the United States visited sixteen schools between July 12 – July 21, 2011. In addition to administering albendazole to children, the team conducted health education with the children at each school to review the following topics:

- 1) What are worms?
- 2) What are the symptoms of worms?
- 3) What is deworming?
- 4) Why is it important to deworm?
- 5) How often should children deworm?
- 6) How can worm infections be prevented?

Whenever possible, VPWA volunteers also met with students' parents to discuss the worm infections, the problems that chronic worm infections often cause, as well as the benefits of deworming regularly. These discussions often yielded excellent question and answer sessions that enabled the parents to learn more about the importance of teaching and enforcing good hygiene with their children to ensure good health.

PROJECT RESULTS

As a result of VPWA's medical outreach via the Deworm Ghana Program, 3900 students age five to eighteen received a 400 mg dose of albendazole. 51% of these students (2008) were female, and 49% (1892) were male. The following charts depict additional data garnered from the Deworm Ghana Program.

TABLE 1: ALL SCHOOL DATA

Date	Name of School	Name of Community	Girls Covered	Age Range of Girls	Boys Covered	Age Range of Boys	Total Beneficiaries
12-Jul-11	Darmang Presbyterian School	Darman	179	6 - 16	191	5 - 15	370
13-Jul-11	St. John the Divine Anglican School	Nsawam	187	5 - 16	169	5 - 16	356
14-Jul-11	Adoagyiri Methodist Basic School	Adoagyiri	86	5 - 16	98	5 - 16	184
15-Jul-11	St. Michael's Anglican Primary School	Djankrom	110	5 - 15	114	6 - 16	224
15-Jul-11	Attowdwo Kettaneu L/A Primary School	Attodwo	103	6 - 14	98	7 - 17	201
15-Jul-11	Fotobi M/A Primary School	Fotobi	184	5 - 15	177	5 - 15	361
18-Jul-11	Bowkrom L/A Primary School	Bowkrom	38	6 - 15	51	6 - 18	89
18-Jul-11	Nkyenkyene Presbyterian Primary School	Nkyenkyene	119	5 - 15	144	5 - 17	263
18-Jul-11	Kwakye-Krom L/A Primary School	Kwakye-Krom	39	6 - 14	42	6 - 15	81
19-Jul-11	Anoff L/A KG/Primary School	Anoff	127	5 - 15	125	5 - 16	252
19-Jul-11	Adoagyiri R/C Catholic Primary School	Adoagyiri	381	5 - 17	212	6 - 18	593
19-Jul-11	Duayeden L/C Primary School	Duayeden	34	6 - 15	39	5 - 15	73
20-Jul-11	Sakyikrom United Primary School	Sakyikrom	73	5 - 15	89	5 - 15	162
20-Jul-11	Akraman L/A Primary School	Akraman	91	5 - 18	118	5 - 18	209
21-Jul-11	Seventh Day Adventist School	Nsawam	88	7 - 15	81	6 - 17	169
21-Jul-11	Tieku L/A Primary School	Nsawam	169	6 - 15	144	5 - 16	313
Total			2008	n/a	1892	n/a	3900

TABLE 2: TOTAL STUDENTS DEWORMED BY DAY

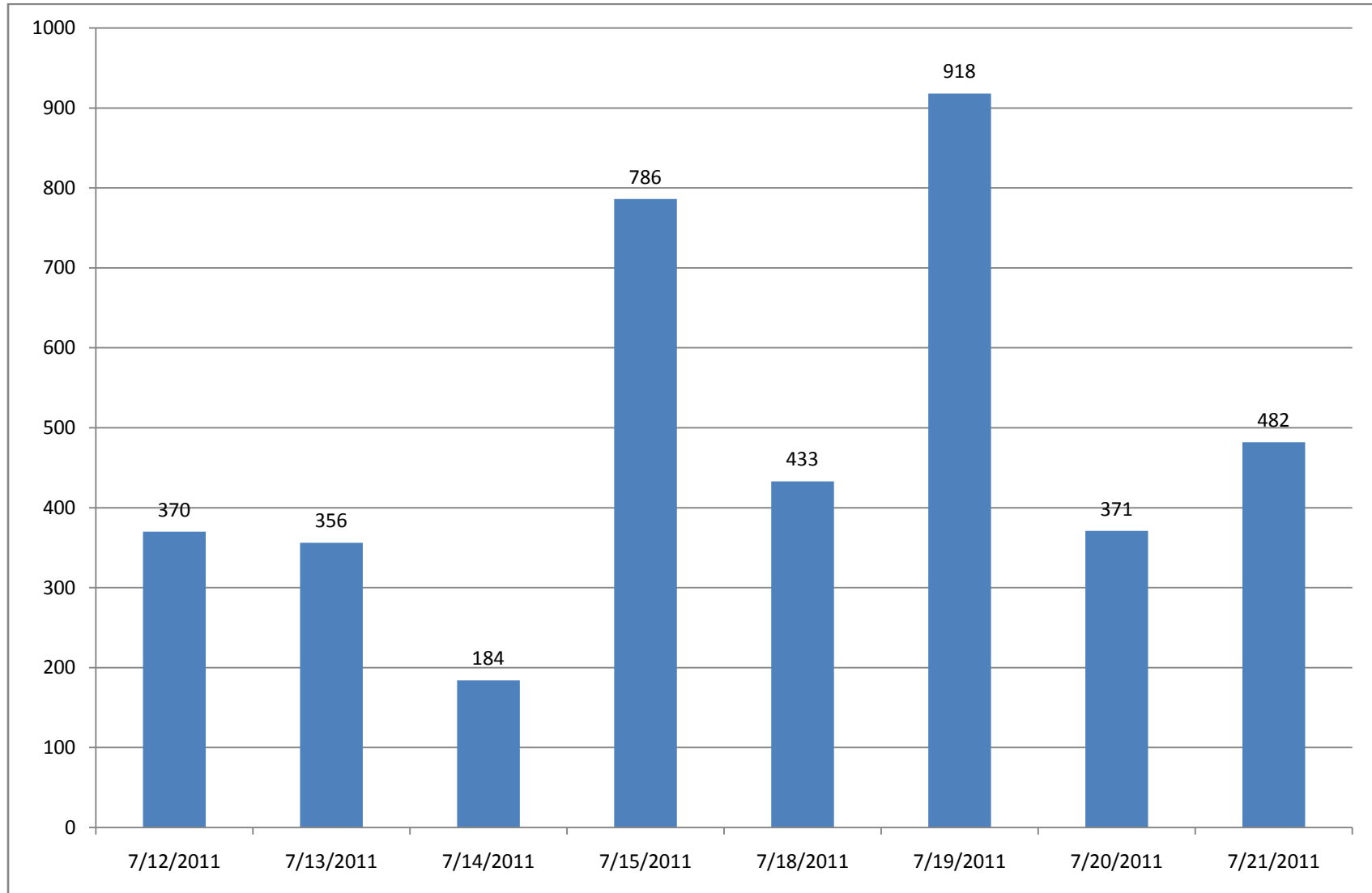


TABLE 3: TOTAL STUDENTS DEWORMED BY SCHOOL

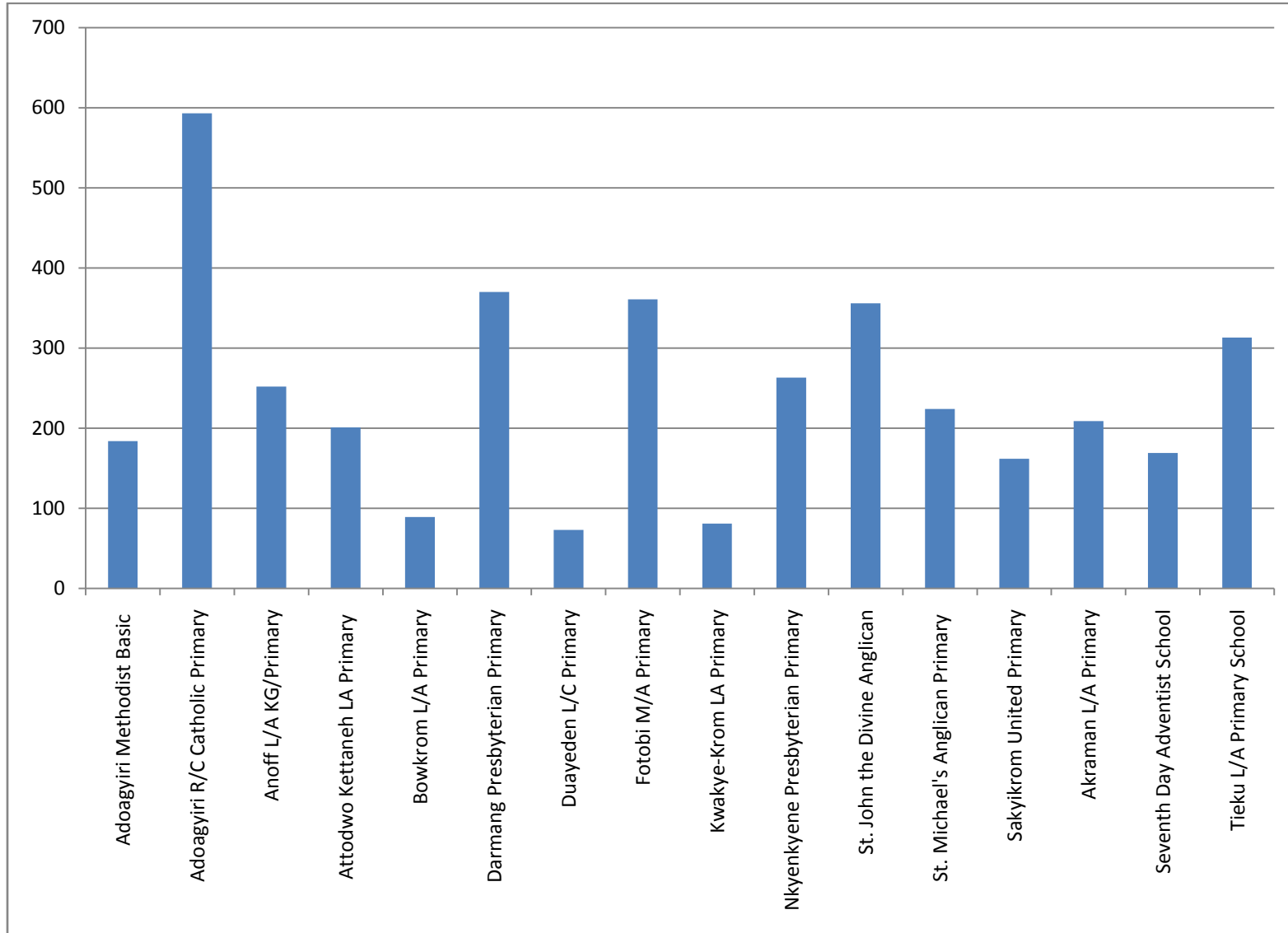


TABLE 4: TOTAL STUDENTS DEWORMED BY COMMUNITY

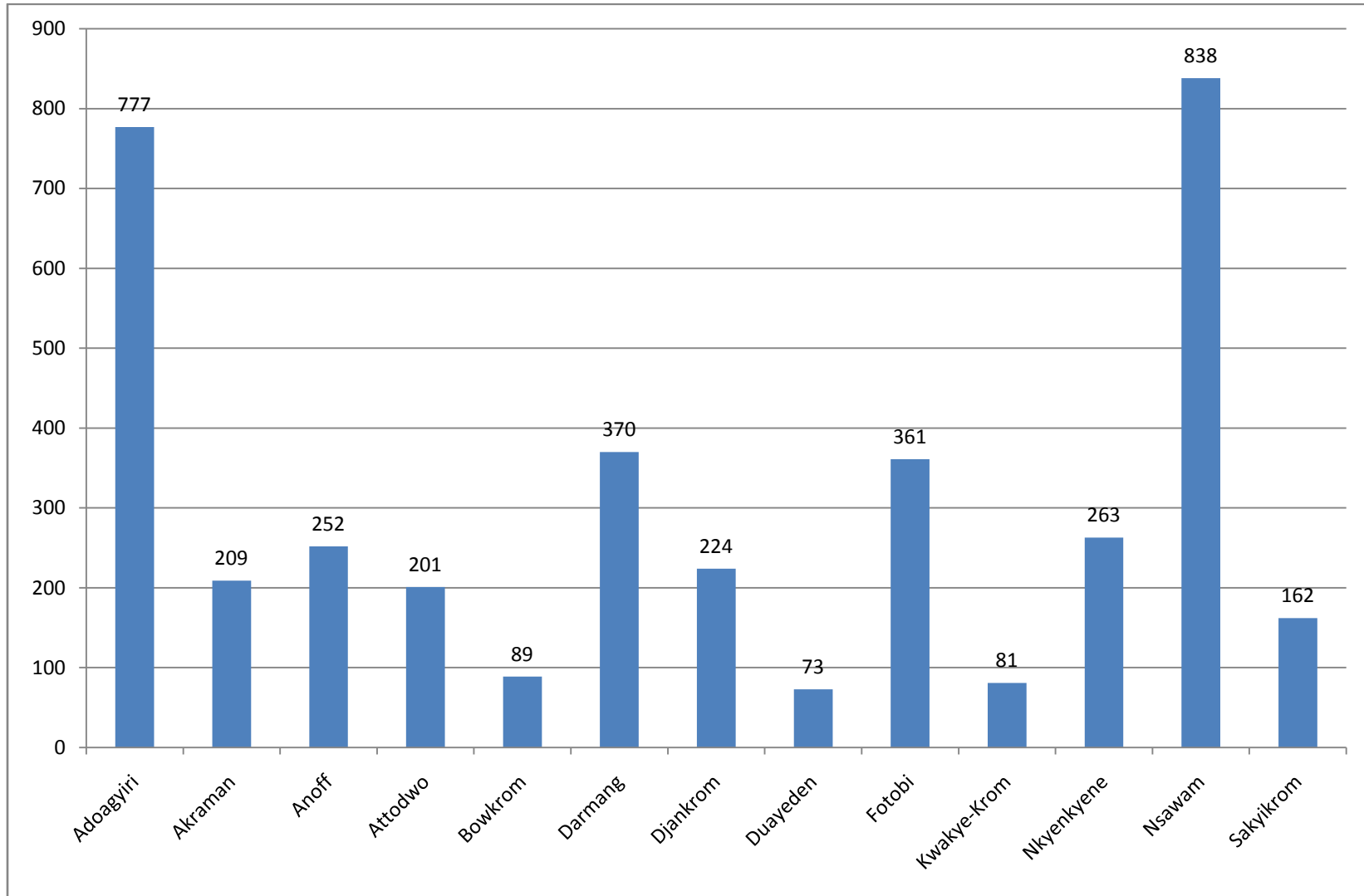


TABLE 5: TOTAL STUDENTS DEWORMED BY GENDER

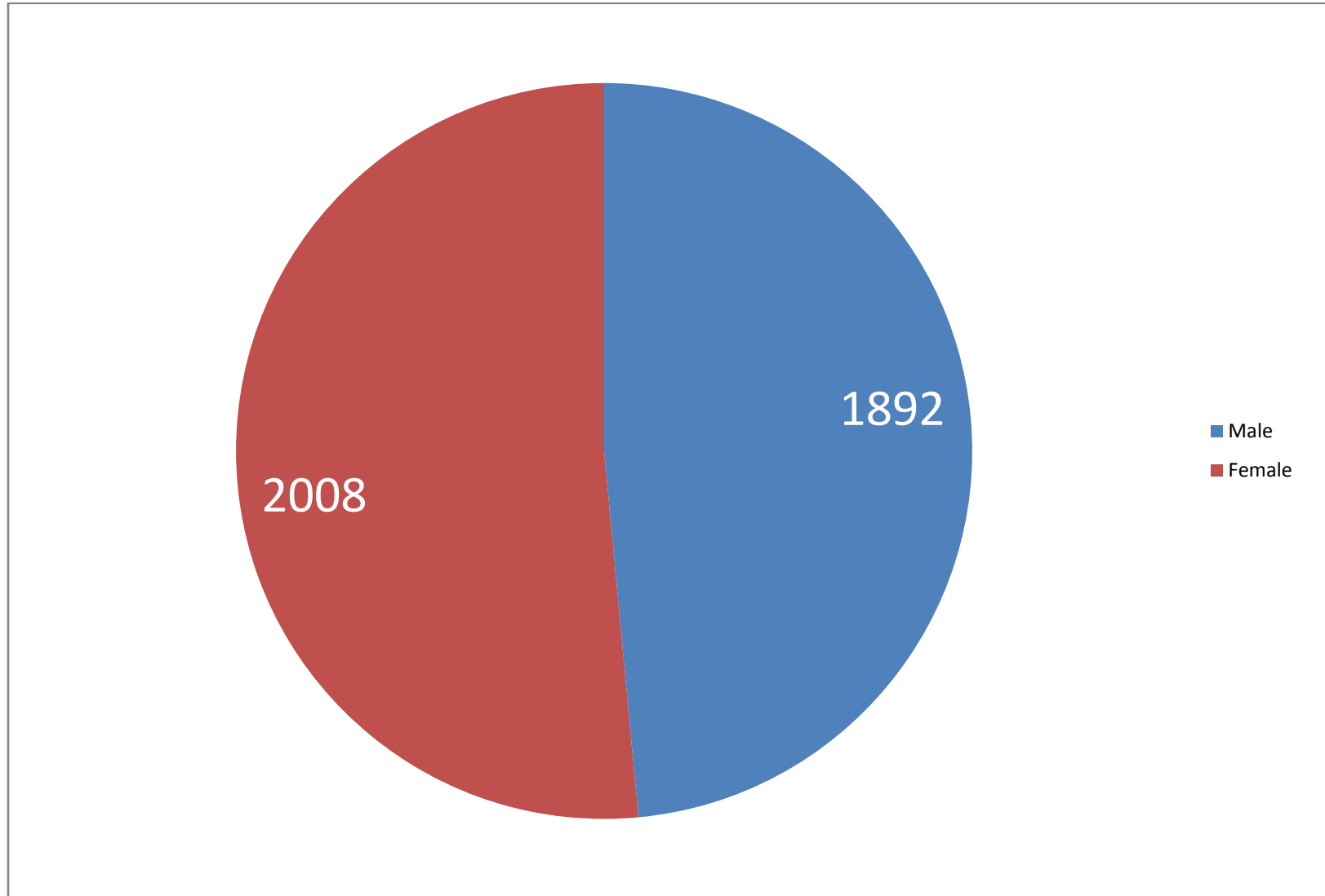


TABLE 6: TOTAL STUDENTS DEWORMED BY AGE

