HOW MANY BACTERIA LIVE ON THE OF YOUR COMPUTER?

Messina G.[1], Lupoli A.[1], Quercioli C.[1], Burgassi S.[1], Moirano F.[2], Nante N.[1]
1 University of Siena, Dept. of Public Health, Laboratory of Environmental Hygiene, Italy
2 National Agency for the Regional Health Systems – Rome, Italy

EUPHA
17° European Conference
Lodz, 25-27 November

INTRODUCTION

Computer keyboard contamination has been studied in hospitals, because nosocomial infections can be caused by transfer of pathogens from the hands of personnel to patients

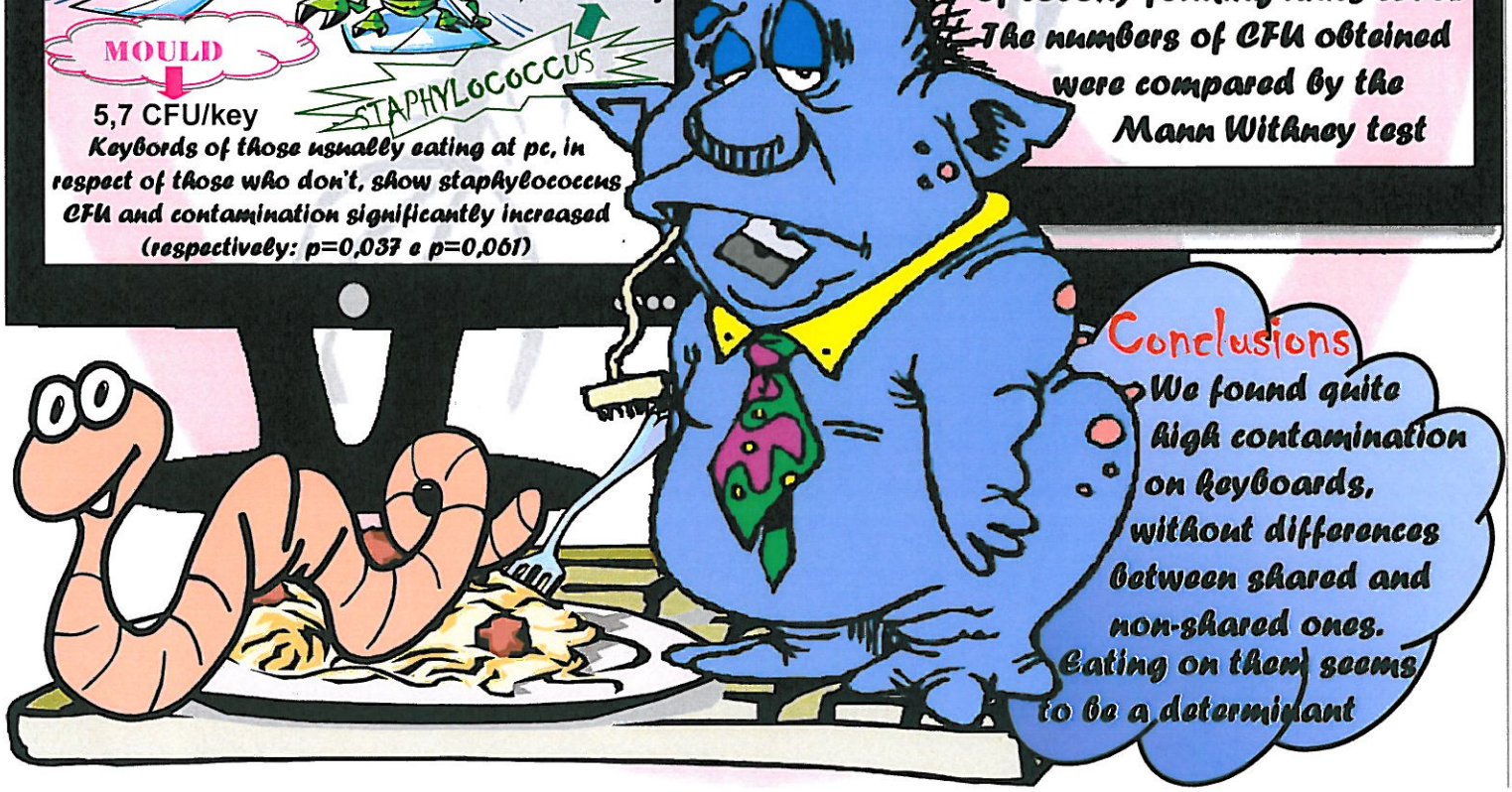
MATERIALS AND METHODS

30 keyboards in the University of Siena were examined from February to March
15 were non shared keyboards and
15 were shared keyboards
Swabs of "vowels" and "enter" keys were carried out and cultured to investigate, assessing the number of colony forming units (CFU)
The numbers of CFU obtained were compared by the Mann Withney test

RESULTS

- 36°C → TML: 50,4 CFU/key
- 22°C
  - YEAST → 50,4 CFU/key
  - 19,7 CFU/key
  - MOULD → 5,7 CFU/key
  - STAPHYLOCOCCUS

Keybords of those usually eating at pc, in respect of those who don't, show staphylococcus CFU and contamination significantly increased (respectively: p=0,037 e p=0,061)



Conclusions

We found quite high contamination on keyboards, without differences between shared and non-shared ones. Eating on them seems to be a determinant