Poor Social Support Among Elderly in Malaysia; Findings from NHMS 2018

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Social support is an exchange of aids between at least two individuals which is perceived by the recipient, intended to enhance the well-being of the recipient. Evidence has shown social support moderates the effect of health-related strain on mental health in elderly. This study aims to examine the social support among elderly population in Malaysia. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study addressing two major sub-scales; Social Interaction and Subjective Support towards selected socio-demographic variables. The instrument used to measure social support was 11-item DUKE Social Support Index (DSSI). **RESULTS:** There were 3959 respondents recruited into NHMS 2018. The prevalence for poor social support among elderly is 30.76% (95%CI: 27.24, 34.52). The overall estimated mean score for Social Interaction subscale is 8.35; 95%CI: 8.20, 8.51. Males had significantly higher estimated mean score (8.59; 95%CI: 8.39, 8.78) compared to females (8.13; 95%CI: 7.96, 8.31). The overall estimated mean score of Subjective Support sub-scale is 19.30; 95%CI: 19.11, 19.49. The highest estimated mean score was reported among those who has monthly income more than RM2000. Unmarried elderly and elderly with tertiary education achievement have highest mean scores for these two subscales. However, no significant difference in strata and occupation. **DISCUSSION:** The results showed that most elderly in Malaysia had inadequate network as well as low satisfaction towards their family, friends and community. Therefore, active participation and engagement with community is imperative to boost up social support and networking among elderly.

KEYWORDS: social support, networking, elderly

Positive Predictive Value of the Dengue Notification System in Kepong District, Kuala Lumpur

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The Malaysia Prevention and Control Disease Act 1988, requires notifying dengue case to health district office (PKD). All notified cases which fulfil the case definition will be register and control action will be initiated, after the verification case. Purpose of this study to determine the effectiveness of notification system and evaluate associated factors with the discarded cases. **METHODS:** The e-notification and e-dengue system were used as the database for review of all cases notified by various healthcare facilities for the year 2018. Proportion of discarded notifications can be expressed as the positive predictive value (PPV) of the notification system. Therefore, we quantified the proportion of discarded to calculate the positive predictive value (PPV). The PPV was used to assess the efficiency of the system. The significant reasons for discarding notifications were analysed by reviewing the notifications forms which were abstracted from the system. Result Overall receiving 5311 notifications, 80.6% transferred in cases and 19.4% notified by local. Overall PPV was 36% (minimum-maximum = 15.2-54.7% across the year). 63% notification received were discarded, where 1932 (36%) were registered in the systems. Of 3397 discarded cases, most of them discarded because of negative serology (32.3%), duplicate (19.5%), no serology (10.5%), IGG +ve (7.7%) and failed to reach (3.7%). Conclusion Adaptation of the legal framework concerning notifications may increase the efficiency of the notification system since many notifications that do not lead public health action. Thus, provide useful surveillance data and may lead to better use of data from notified cases.

KEYWORDS: Dengue, Notification, Discarded, Positive Predictive Value