

Relationship Between High Risk Behaviors and Socio-Demographic Factors Among Adolescents in Kuala Lumpur: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

This study is to ascertain the relationship between high risk behaviors and socio-demographic factors among adolescents in the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur. This research was conducted through health clinics under the Health Department of the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (JKWP KL&P) in year 2016. There are 300 respondents from Kuala Lumpur consisting of adolescents aged 15-19 were selected randomly through a screening, utilizing a set of questionnaires in a 'Borang Saringan Status Kesihatan' (BSSK). The data obtained was then analysed in the form of frequency and percentage. The main findings of the study showed that the prevalence of adolescents who involved in high risk behaviors predominantly older age group (17-19) (72%), male (71.2%), Malay (73.0%), secondary school education level (98.5%), staying in People Housing Program (PPR)/Flat House (83.3%). The highest prevalence among the high risk behaviors in adolescents are pornography (28.3%), cigarette smoking (28.0%) and loitering (27.0%). Finally, various implications as discovered through this study are annexed with proposals for further studies directed to relevant entities thereof.

KEYWORDS: social behaviors, adolescent, sociodemographic

Reliability and Construct Validity of Newly Modified Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Medical Doctors On Smoking Cessation Guidelines Scales.

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Number of active smokers in Malaysia is increasing despite availability of stop smoking clinics and smoking cessation medications. Thus, the practice of the healthcare professionals involved in providing smoking cessation intervention using evidence-based guidelines needs to be assessed using validated assessment tool. Newly invented reliable and valid questionnaire is needed to be developed locally. This study aimed to develop and validate a newly modified questionnaire to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of medical doctors based on national smoking cessation guidelines and factors contributing to the score. **METHODS:** The 22 items consist of mixture of true/false choice questions and Likert scaling response based on domain of 5A's (ask, assess, advice, assist, arrange) and 5R's (relevant, risks, rewards, roadblocks, repetitions) of the national stop-smoking guideline. The questionnaires were distributed to 131 primary care doctors. Reliability was determined using Cronbach's alpha for internal consistency while construct validity was assessed using factor analysis. **RESULTS:** A high degree of internal consistency was observed for these 22-items (Cronbach's alpha = 0.87), with good knowledge subscale (0.72), attitude subscale (0.58) and practice subscale (0.92). Factor analysis showed five meaningful components which represent the smoking cessation framework. **DISCUSSION:** This study indicates that this questionnaire is most reliable and valid tool to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice on stop smoking guidelines compared to previously available questionnaire.

KEYWORDS: smoking, reliability, validity