

Engaging communities in rabies prevention: A study of knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions (KAP) in Perak

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Rabies, a preventable yet fatal zoonotic disease, remains a significant public health concern in many regions, including Perak. To support the government's goal of a rabies-free Malaysia by 2030, understanding community knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions (KAP) is crucial for tailoring effective prevention strategies. **Objective:** The aim of this study is to assess the public's knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions concerning rabies transmission and prevention in Perak. **Materials and Method:** A cross-sectional online survey was conducted in Perak from February to May 2023. 121 participants aged 18 and older completed a validated 21-item questionnaire assessing knowledge, attitudes, and perception regarding rabies. Data were analysed using SPSS, with descriptive statistics and Bloom's taxonomy applied to categorise responses. **Results:** The majority of respondents were young adult females (n=92, 76.0%) with a bachelor's degree (n=87, 71.9%). Most participants were Malay (n=98, 81.0%) and had a monthly income below RM4,850 (n=89, 73.9%). The majority lived in terraced houses (n=71, 58.7%) without pets (n=71, 58.7%). The majority of participants exhibited satisfactory knowledge (71.1%), positive attitudes (n=68), and favourable perceptions (n=100; 82.6%) about the prevention and transmission of rabies. Furthermore, a substantial majority of participants (n=88) indicated their inclination to receive the vaccine, with 63.6% strongly supporting the necessity of rabies vaccination. A substantial proportion of the respondents (n=72) who were surveyed are also of the opinion that rabies can be prevented. **Conclusion:** This study reveals positive public knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of rabies prevention in Perak. However, targeted interventions are needed to address specific groups and boost vaccination rates, contributing to Malaysia's goal of becoming rabies-free.