

Characteristics of E-cigarette or vape (ECV) users and patterns of use: Malaysia Chapter

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The use of e-cigarette or vape (ECV) is increasing rapidly internationally and also nationally. However, the characteristics of ECV users and patterns of its use in Malaysia are still scarce. **Objectives:** To explore and assess characteristics and patterns of e-cigarette or vape (ECV) use in Malaysia. **Methods:** Data were obtained from National E-Cigarette Survey (NECS) 2016 which used a multi-stage stratified cluster sampling household survey representing all Malaysian adults aged 18 years at national and urban/rural level. A total of 4,288 adults from all the states were selected and weighted using complex sampling method to represent 19 million Malaysians. Further analyses among current ECV users were conducted to evaluate the characteristics and patterns of ECV used. **Results:** The majority of current ECV users are 25-44 years old (55.3%), males (95%) and Malays (74.9%). About 86.5% started to use ECV at the age of 19 years and above. A quarter of current ECV users were daily users. Overall, the main reason to use ECV was to experiment (47.0%, 95%CI=38.1 - 56.0) and 55% of current ECV users shared their ECV liquid, mainly among friends. Most of the current ECV users preferred third generation devices or mechanical mods (71.9%, 95%CI=58.6 - 82.3). The mean frequency of ECV use was 18.6 session/day with mean of 16.2 puff per ECV session. Majority (83.9%) preferred ECV liquid with nicotine and the preferred nicotine strength among ECV users was 7.3-mg/ ml. The most favourite places for ECV use were outside (25.3%) and inside (19.1%) of the homes, followed by restaurants without air-conditioning (17.5%) and workplaces (16.3%). **Conclusions:** More education and awareness campaigns towards ECV use should target children as young as school age. Moreover, Malaysia tobacco-free policies should include prohibition of ECV use in public places and workplaces.

KEY WORDS:

Characteristics, Patterns, E-cigarette, Malaysia

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Community empowerment: Low Budget, High Impact!

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Determining the current patients' satisfaction is essential for further improvement of the healthcare services. However, studies on patients' satisfaction level on healthcare services among the marginalised community are insufficient. This sub study involved Semai Tribe from Pahang rural settlement aimed to assess the level of patient's satisfaction at the public health clinics (Klinik Desa). **Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in August 2014. Target respondents were among OA women within the reproductive age group of 15-49 years old from the rural settlements in Pahang, namely Pos A and Pos B. These settlements were selected based on the high concentration of OA population as recommended by Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli. All eligible respondents were interviewed by trained interviewers. The questionnaire comprised of socio-demographics, Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on maternal health and perceptions towards healthcare services in health clinics. **Results:** Only 247 out of 252 data from the respondents were qualified for further analysis. Almost 73% of the respondents were satisfied with the current health clinics services. More than 70% of the respondents were satisfied with equipment provided in the health clinics. However, only 69% were satisfied with the services provided by the local healthcare personnel (community nurses). **Discussion:** Satisfaction level among OA women towards the services provided in health clinics in rural Pahang scored lower (72.7%) than general population (more than 90%) as shown by in a study by Roslan J et. al in 2008. Further study to explore low satisfaction level of these communities should be conducted periodically in future, in order to sustain high quality of healthcare services provision especially in the rural setting.

KEY WORDS:

Orang Asli, Satisfaction, Health

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