

Prevalence and Factors Associated with Hearing Disability Among Elders in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: World Health Organization estimates there are 165.4 million (33%) persons for population above 65 years with disabling hearing loss in the world. This study aimed to determine prevalence and factors associated with hearing disability among elders in Malaysia. **METHODS:** Data from nationwide survey implemented using stratified cluster sampling design was analysed. This study was conducted through face to face interview and questionnaires used to determine hearing disability. Locally validated work of the Washington Group on Disability (WG) questionnaires were used which can produce multiple disability identifiers based on the choice of the severity threshold or cut-off. Hearing disability defined as at least one domain or question is coded "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot hear at all". **RESULTS:** The prevalence of hearing disability among elders aged 60 years and above was 6.4% (95%CI: 5.0-8.3) while 1.5% (95%CI: 0.90, 2.50) elderly reported wearing hearing aid. The largest effects were found for age more than 80 years old (OR:11.89; 95%CI: 7.71, 18.33), male (OR: 1.32; 95%CI: 1.01, 1.72), no formal education (OR: 15.32; 95%CI: 3.74, 62.74) and rural area (OR: 1.37; 95%CI: 1.05, 1.81). Discussions: Hearing disability and provision of outreach care must be tailored to elderly from low socio-economic status that may have problems accessing these services especially from rural area.

KEYWORDS: hearing disability, hearing loss, hearing aids, elder adults

Prevalence and Factors Associated with Physical Abuse at Home Among School-Going Adolescents in Malaysia; A Population Based Nationwide Study

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Physical abuse among adolescents at home still persists despite measures by the relevant authorities. We aim to assess the current situation in Malaysia. **METHODS:** Data from the Malaysian National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2017 was used for this study. A total of 27,497 school going adolescents answered a self-administered questionnaire in this study. A complex sampling analysis was applied to identify factors associated with physical abuse among adolescents using Multiple Logistic Regression analysis. **RESULTS:** The self-reported prevalence of physical abuse at home among students was 11.8%. Our result shows that adolescents aged 13 had significantly higher odds (aOR:2.10, 95%CI: 1.66, 2.66) of such abuse, with odds decreasing as the adolescents age. Girls (aOR:1.27, 95%CI: 1.11, 1.54) and adolescents from Indian ethnicity (aOR:1.72, 95%CI: 1.23, 2.40) had higher odds of such abuse. Other associated factors were mental health problems like depression and suicide ideation, substance abuse like alcohol consumption and drug use, and also school related problems like truancy and involvement in physical fight. **CONCLUSION:** Physical abuse among adolescents at home should be countered with appropriate measures at various levels, as it is an issue with divergent risk.

KEYWORDS: physical abuse, adolescent, home, Adolescent Health Survey, National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS), Malaysia.