

Socioeconomic determinants of self-rated health among older Malaysians: Non-comparative and age-comparative models

Abstract

The study was to determine the effect of selected socioeconomic variables on self-rated health (SRH) of older persons. Total respondents is 2,980. Mean age is 70 years old (M=70.43, SD=7.23), males (50.5%), Malays (56.9%), married (56.2%) and primary education (44.6%), median income is USD106 a month. The independent variables accounted for 7.4% of variance in noncomparative SRH ($F=35.33$, $df=6$, $p=0.000$), with greatest effect is age, education, ethnicity, marital status and monthly income. Results indicated differences in the two measures of SRH, as the age-comparative single item naturally has weaker correlation with age. The study investigated the direct impact of socioeconomic factors on SRH and compared two separate models.