

Pretravelling Health-Seeking Behavior, Knowledge of Vaccines, and Attitudes Toward Travel Health among Malaysian Travelers

ABSTRACT

Background: Travelers are at higher risk of developing health-related problems, especially travel-related diseases, and this remains a major public health burden. Aims: To assess pretravel health behavior-seeking factors, knowledge of vaccine, and travel health attitudes. A cross-sectional design among Malaysian travelers. Methods: An online survey was conducted from December 2017 till March 2018 among 226 participants. Demographic data, pretraveling health behaviors, knowledge of vaccine-preventable diseases, and travel health were asked. Independent t-test and ANOVA were performed using SPSS version 20. Results: Among travelers, 51.3% and 63.7% used health-related information on their destination before departure and collected information on possible travel hazards at their destination. Participant age ($P = 0.02$), monthly income ($P = 0.01$), predeparture health information ($P = 0.03$), information on possible hazards ($P = 0.04$), and travel health advice from medical professionals ($P = 0.03$) have been reported as a major predictor of knowledge of vaccine-preventable disease. Travelers' gender ($P = 0.01$), household income ($P = 0.01$), and travel health advice from professionals ($P = 0.002$) were significantly associated with travel health attitude. Conclusions: Sociodemographic and pretravel health-seeking behavior influence knowledge of vaccine-preventable disease and attitudes towards travel health which requires a public health need for community outreach programs targeting this group.