

PREVALENCE OF POOR HEALTH CARE ACCESS AMONG ELDERLY WITH LACK OF SUPPORT IN KELANTAN

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The elderly with poor social support, especially those living alone, an underappreciated public health risk in Malaysia. The knowledge about poor healthcare access among the elderly with poor social support is limited, and its factors are less known. Objectives: This study aimed to determine the prevalence of poor healthcare access among the elderly with poor social support in Kelantan and to identify the factors associated with it. Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted among elderly residents from five districts in Kelantan. This study involved 236 respondents who identified as poor in condition. The study utilized a questionnaire developed by a previous research study team covering the elderly's demography, health status, access to healthcare services, and level of social support. Logistic regression analysis was employed to identify which factors were associated. Results: Most are female (73.7%) while male (26.3%). The living area is in rural areas (88.14%) and urban is 11.86%. 50.85% of the elderly did not get a formal education and the other 49% received at least primary education. 98% of the elderly did not work and received financial support from the Social Welfare Department (58.47%), Baitulmal (3.81%), MAIK (2.54%) and from children (22.88%). Only 16.53% of them did not have any diseases, 21.61% had one disease, 22.88% had two diseases, and 48% had at least three diseases. Surprisingly, 33.05% of the elderly live alone. There 10.59% of the elderly never have access to healthcare, and 34.32% of them did not have access to healthcare even they need in these 12 months. Conclusion: The prevalence of poor healthcare access among poor social support elderly is common. Recommendations include expanding multi-agency collaboration to improve their health status.

Keywords: healthcare access, elderly, lack support, health
