

Inadequate care of children in Malaysia: Findings from the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2016

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Adequate parental supervision is an important aspect in young children's care. Accidents and injuries are more likely to occur when children are left alone. This novel survey was conducted to determine the prevalence of Malaysian children with inadequate care; left unattended or under the care of another child. **Methods:** The NHMS, a nationwide community-based cross-sectional survey was conducted by the Institute for Public Health using two-stage stratified random sampling design. Parents were interviewed via face-to-face interview with mobile devices utilising a locally adapted questionnaire from the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) on inadequate care practices in the past seven days. Descriptive analysis and multivariate logistic regression analysis were done to identify factors associated with inadequate care. **Results:** Caregivers of 16,966 children below five years of age were interviewed. The prevalence of inadequate care among children under five with inadequate care was 2.9% (95%CI: 2.01-4.03). Univariate analysis showed that age of children, ethnicity, locality, parental education and occupation, household income, parental engagement with the child and children's screen time were factors associated with inadequate care. In the multivariate analysis, children from urban areas (aOR 1.73, 95%CI 1.09-2.76) and children with >2 hours screen time exposure daily (aOR 2.82, 95%CI 1.62-4.89) were significantly associated with inadequate care. Factors protective towards inadequate care were Indian ethnicity (aOR 0.03, 95%CI 0.01-0.22) self-employed or unemployed mothers and fathers (aOR 0.50, 95%CI 0.27-0.96 and aOR 0.51, 95%CI 0.28-0.95 respectively), and parental engagement with the child (aOR 0.36, 95%CI 0.19-0.67). **Discussion:** Although the prevalence of Malaysian children left with inadequate care is lower compared to neighbouring countries (5.0%-7.0%), actions need to be taken early in the interests of the child's safety and well-being. Parents need to be made aware of the importance of having their children adequately supervised.

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Integrated notification for tuberculosis

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease for which there is a legal requirement to report the diagnosis to organisation. In Malaysia, all laboratory-confirmed cases of TB should be notified by the physician to the District Health Office within seven days from the diagnosis date. However, there were missed notifications for TB cases leading to inadequate treatment, prevention and control measures. Besides physician notification, notification by laboratories (integrated notification) has been made mandatory in some countries. **Objective/Aim:** The objective of this study was to assess the feasibility, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, organisational and legislation aspect of integrated notification for TB. **Methods:** Relevant trials published until July 2016 was identified through several databases including the Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed, Embase and online publishing site. Studies were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria and critically appraised using Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) and graded according to US/Canadian preventive services task force. **Results and Discussions:** Out of 970 titles identified, six articles related to the effect of integrated notification for tuberculosis were included in this review consisting of three cross sectional studies, one pre- and post-intervention study, and two policy documents. There was fair level of retrievable evidence to suggest the effectiveness of integrated notification in increasing notification, reducing missed cases, reducing delay in notification and treatment. The requirement for integrated notification for TB has been made mandatory in some countries. Hence, integrated notification for TB may be implemented in Malaysia.