

Perception of e-cigarette harm and benefit - a nationwide survey comparing characteristics between electronic cigarette users, conventional cigarette smokers and dual users

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: We conducted a nationally representative study to identify characteristics of current (e-cigarette users, conventional cigarette smokers, and dual users), former and never smokers linked to perceptions of harm and benefit associated with e-cigarette use. **Methods:** A cross-sectional questionnaire survey of 1,987 adults (≥ 18 years) males was conducted via face-to-face interviews. Survey questions included sociodemographic and smoking-related variables, and questions relating to perceptions of harm and benefit associated with e-cigarette use. Logistic regression was used to identify sociodemographic characteristic linked to the perception of harm and benefit associated with e-cigarettes between types of EC users and smokers, with never smokers as the reference group. **Results:** Overall, older respondents aged ≥ 65 years (OR=1.736, CI 0.821-2.260), civil servants (OR=1.721, CI 1.085-2.729), non-governmental organisations (OR=1.570, CI 1.066-2.311) and the self-employed (OR=1.469, CI 1.016-2.123) were more likely to perceive e-cigarettes as harmful. Conventional cigarette smokers (OR=0.759, CI 0.609-0.946) as well as dual users (OR=0.537, CI 0.323-0.893) were less likely to perceive e-cigarettes as harmful. EC users (OR=8.353, CI 3.401-20.517), conventional cigarette smokers (OR=1.948, CI 1.497-2.537), dual users (OR=9.657, CI 5.300-17.596) and former smokers (OR=1.545, CI 1.133-2.108), those younger (18-24 years, OR=2.252, CI 1.234-4.109; 25-44 years, OR=1.750, CI 1.055-2.903), were more likely to perceive e-cigarettes as beneficial. However, those with secondary education (OR=0.528, CI 0.379-0.736) and university or college degrees (OR=0.528, CI 0.379-0.736) were less likely to perceive e-cigarettes as beneficial. **Discussion:** Our findings constitute an important snapshot into the differences between types of EC users or smokers, as well as identifies characteristics associated with perceptions of EC harm and benefit in a nationally representative sample.

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Postnatal depression and intimate partner violence: Malaysian scenario

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Worldwide, an estimated 13% of postnatal women are suffering from postnatal depression. Other than under-privileged women, those who were exposed to violence are also at higher risk of postnatal depression. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between intimate partner violence and postnatal depression in Malaysia. **Methods:** Randomly selected women at 6 to 16 weeks postnatal, registered at randomly selected government health clinics throughout Malaysia between July to November 2016, were invited to join this study. This survey was conducted as a nation-wide clinic-based survey using cluster sampling design. Postnatal depression was assessed using self-administered Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), while demographic profile and intimate partner violence was assessed using locally validated WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Life Events Questionnaire, administered as face-to-face interview. EPDS score of 12 or more and/or positive for suicidal behaviour were considered as having postnatal depression. **Results:** Out of 6,669 randomly selected respondents, 5,727 respondents were successfully interviewed, resulting in response rate of 85.9%. The prevalence of postnatal depression in Malaysia was 4.4% (95%CI: 2.9, 6.7). Overall prevalence of intimate partner violence was 4.9% (95%CI: 3.8, 6.4), with 3.7%, 2.6% and 1.2% had revealed of been abused emotionally, physically, and sexually, respectively. Logistic regression analysis noted that postnatal women at risk of having depression were those reported as been abused emotionally, physically, or sexually, and those who were Other Bumiputera, low household income, and lack of family support during confinement. **Discussion and Conclusion:** Other than underprivileged women, intimate partner violence and lack of family support were noted as significantly associated with postnatal depression. These findings highlighted the importance of screening for postnatal depression and intimate partner violence during postpartum period, followed by appropriate intervention particularly for underprivileged population.