

Wild mushroom poisoning in Sarawak, 2011-2016

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Mushroom has been known for its benefits. However, there are edible and inedible types of mushrooms. The inedible types cause mushroom poisoning to human if ingested. Worldwide, it has been documented that more than at least 10% are safe to be consumed. Very little information on the epidemiology of mushroom poisoning documented in Malaysia. This paper described mushroom poisoning in Sarawak using available data sources. **Methods:** Data of mushroom poisoning from 2011-2016 was extracted from CDCIS e-notification and e-wabak web-based surveillance system. The data was analysed using IBM® SPSS® Statistics v20 with $p < 0.05$ considered statistically significance. **Results:** A total of 76 cases occurred during the study period. Most mushroom poisoning occurred in adults (those 16 years and above) (85.5%), and both sexes were equally affected. The difference between the proportion of those admitted to the hospital ($n=45$, 59.2%) cases and those treated as outpatients ($n=31$, 40.8%) was statistically significant (χ^2 test = 5.112, $p=0.024$). Average annual incidence of wild mushroom poisoning was 0.49 cases per 100,000 population. One death of mushroom poisoning has been reported contributed to case fatality rate of 1.3%. The mean age of cases was 35.78 (SD=17.33) years. The incidence was observed to be more frequent between July and October. The most common symptoms in admitted patients were vomiting (39.5%), abdominal pain (32.9%), diarrhoea (25%), nausea (18.4%) and dizziness (13.2%). **Discussion and Conclusion:** Mushroom poisoning in Sarawak is not uncommon to occur. The case fatality rate noted to be low as compared to other studies done. It is difficult to identify the species of mushroom. Public awareness should emphasize that the danger of picking wild mushrooms for food-especially during the middle of the year and previous edible mushrooms may become poisonous in the future.

KEY WORDS:

Wild mushroom, mushroom poisoning, Sarawak

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Willingness to Pay (WTP) for National Health Insurance Scheme in state of Sarawak, Malaysia: A Contingent Valuation Study

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ABSTRACT

Expenditure on health care in Malaysia has been increasing over the years and health care spending consumes a greater portion of the economic output in the future, thus an alternative to current health financing should be studied to ensure the sustainability of Malaysia health financing system. The objective of this study is to determine the willingness to pay for national health insurance scheme among population in Sarawak. This study is a cross sectional study involving working age group between 18 to 60 years old with the total of respondent of 930. The selection of sample was using Enumeration Block (EB) method where total of 81 EB were selected involving 6 out of 12 division in Sarawak. The selection of EB and houses were done by Department of Statistics of Malaysia and the eligible respondents were interviewed using method of interviewer administered questionnaire for data collection. This study found that 62.8% of the respondents have a Good knowledge on the scheme whereas only 37.2% have Poor knowledge. This study also found that majority of the respondents are agree to enrol in this scheme where 92.7% agreed based on Scenario 1, 91.1% agreed based on Scenario 2, 92.5% agreed based on Scenario 3 and 57.1% agreed for Altruistic WTP. About 60% of the respondents also willing to pay between RM30 to RM40 per household per month for this scheme across all three Scenarios. Education level, occupation, income, living area, household size and level of knowledge on scheme are among the significant factors contribute to willingness to pay for the scheme across all Scenarios. In order implement this national policy, the policy maker must emphasize on the affordability, understanding and knowledge of the population toward this new health financing system.

KEY WORDS:

Willingness to pay, national health insurance scheme, enumeration block, knowledge, scenario