

Trends of ambulance accidents in Malaysia: Implications to public health

Nurul Salwana binti Abu Bakar, Jabrullah Abd Hamid, Nur Amalina Zaimi, Sudharshana Mahaletchumy, Akmalia Shabadin, Azzuhana Roslan, Adilius Manual, Ahmad Shafiq Ishak, Zalilah Abdullah, Siti Haniza Mahmud

Institute for Health Systems Research (IHSR), Ministry of Health Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Ambulance service plays an important role in providing patients with pre-hospital care whilst transporting them to the hospital. It also poses a significant risk towards emergency medical personnel and patients. This study aims to describe the trends of ambulance accidents in Malaysia. **Methodology:** This is a retrospective secondary data analysis study using data from 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014. Accident data was obtained from Police Di Raja Malaysia (PDRM) and extracted using MIROS Road Accident Database System (M-ROADS). Data gathered were on vehicles involved, environment, injury severity and road location. Data was analysed using STATA version 12. **Results:** On average, 129 number of ambulance accidents happened per year. Nine fatal accidents and 636 non-fatal accidents happened in 5 years. Nine accidents resulted in serious injury, 11 leads to minor injuries while 616 accidents caused damage towards vehicles. Most (70.4%) of ambulance accidents occurred during day time, 55.7% on weekdays, 49.7% accidents in a straight road and happened at 35.4% in federal road. **Discussion:** Findings indicate similarity with other local studies looking at accident trends. Higher volume of road users commuting during the day on weekdays; and driving on a straight road, at an inappropriate speed, both increases the probability of accidents. Most accidents happened on federal roads as it makes up 60% of roads in Malaysia with dangerous features such as trees, open culverts, narrow road barriers as well as a single carriageway. In conclusion, analysis of ambulance accidents and injuries aid in understanding the factors related to vehicles, environment and road location in ambulance accidents occurrences. Subsequently, efficient strategies can be address to reduce the number of ambulance accidents. Ambulance should be able to provide a reliable and safe emergency transport services for the benefit of the public.

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Tuberculosis Infection Screening strategies among high risk health care System workers in Sarawak

Pauline Robert, Zafar Ahmed, Marilyn Umar

UniMAS, Ministry of Health

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Increasing incidence of Tuberculosis disease among health care workers in Malaysia as number of notified cases gradually increased from 65.71 per 100,000 (2007), 80.59 per 100,000 (2008), 71.42 per 100,000 (2009) to 97.86 per 100,000 (2010). Therefore, Ministry of Health Malaysia started Tuberculosis Infection screening among all the identified high risk health care workers since 2012. The objective of this paper is to determine the social-demographic characteristic of health care workers involved in Tuberculosis infection screening strategies and to identify the pattern of Tuberculosis Infection screening strategies in Sarawak. **Methods:** This is an economic evaluation study with retrospective cohort study design intended to identify pattern of Tuberculosis Infection screening program in Sarawak. Data gathered from Sarawak State Health Department (Occupational and Environmental Health Unit and Tuberculosis Control Program Section). Medical officer, nurses and assistant medical officer (screened in 2012 and follow-up after 36 months) included in study. Microsoft Excel 2010 used in analysis. **Result:** Total of 4193 health care worker included in the study, comprised of 2304 (54.90%) nurses followed by 1570 (37.5%) assistant medical officer and 319 (7.6%) medical officer. Total of 1701 (40.60%) male and 2492 (59.40%) female, with majority (52.90%) age within 25-34 years old and 31.89% age 34-44. Total of 1689 (40.3%) were Malay, followed by 1004 (23.90%) Iban and 768 (18.30%) Bidayuh. Majority of screening 1903 (45.40%) staff of health clinic and 1536 (36.60%) hospital. Kuching Division have the highest number of screening 1642 (39.26%) followed by Miri 771 (18.39%). Total of 2740 (65.40%) TST performed followed by 1426 (34.00%) TST, SAFB and Chest x-ray. **Discussion:** The absent of gold standard test for tuberculosis infection remain one of major challenges in our health system. Therefore, screening of Tuberculosis infection program is one of strategy to reduce the burden of tuberculosis disease among high risks health care worker.