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Family Function And Non-Communicable Disease In An Urban Setting, Selangor, Malaysia

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Abstract

Background: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a serious and significant issue worldwide, since they are one of the leading causes of death, accounting for more than 41 million fatalities per year or 71% of all deaths worldwide (World Health Organization, 2021). Non-communicable diseases have been highlighted as a major public health issue in the Southeast Asian region Angkurawaranon et. al, 2014).

Objective: To assess the prevalence of NCD, and to determine the associations between the sociodemography and family function with NCD in the Shah Alam population.

Method: A cross-sectional study on 320 respondents was conducted in an urban area, Shah Alam from 5th July until 6th August 2021. The respondents were collected via snowball sampling. A questionnaire was given online that consisted of three parts which were sociodemographic, family function (APGAR score) and presence of any NCD (diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, stroke, cancer and chronic respiratory disease). A Chi-square test was used to analyze the association.

Results: The study showed that the prevalence of NCD in Shah Alam was 22.8%, with the highest prevalence being hypertension (11.6%), followed by hypercholesterolemia (8.4%) and chronic respiratory disease (5.9%). It is proven that males have a higher risk of having NCD compared to females (Odds ratio, OR 1.80, 95% CI 1.06, 3.04). Those with NCD have a significantly higher mean age (48 years old) compared to those who have no NCD (30 years old). Those who are married have a higher risk of having NCD compared to non-married people (OR 8.33, 95% CI 4.53,15.32). There is no statistically significant association between family function and the NCD status (OR 1.5, 95% CI 0.95, 2.58)

Conclusion: When formulating preventing NCD program in Shah Alam, health authorities should take into account the significant risk factors to ensure the success of the program.

Keywords: Urban, non-communicable disease, factors, family

Biography

I have over 10 years of experience as a Public Health Medicine Specialist at a public medical institution and teaching hospital. I teach and supervise projects for undergraduates and postgraduates in the field of family health. I am also a coordinator for the family health unit in the Public Health Department of the University. I have several publications relevant to the health of family units and caregivers, and urban health, in local and international journals.

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