

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS RELATED TO UNSAFE DELIVERIES IN MALAYSIA

FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

Unsafe delivery are births conducted by non-skilled health personnel. The prevalence of unsafe deliveries was reported as 0.5% in NHMS 2016 (1). This study aims to determine the prevalence and sociodemographic factors related to unsafe deliveries in Malaysia.

RESULTS

The survey revealed that the prevalence of unsafe deliveries was 1.6%. Results showed unsafe deliveries were higher among women who never attended antenatal check-up, 67.1% (95% CI: 47.22, 82.36) than those who had more than 4 times of antenatal visits, 0.7% (95% CI: 0.43, 0.99). The prevalence of unsafe deliveries among non-citizen was 20.0% (95% CI: 13.00, 29.54) compared to Malaysian at 0.4% (95% CI: 0.24, 0.73). Unsafe deliveries were higher in women with no formal education, at 16.5% (95% CI: 7.36, 33.07) and among private employees at 2.4% (95% CI: 1.44, 3.90). There was no significant difference in the prevalence of unsafe deliveries by mothers' locality, household income, and marital status.

Comparison between unsafe deliveries and sociodemographic factors (N=6,335)

Variables	Unsafe delivery		P
	n (%)	95% C.I	
Locality			
Urban	39 (1.3)	0.87-1.81	0.103
Rural	31 (2.5)	1.17-5.22	
Marital status of mother			
Single/separated/widow/divorce	2 (3.0)	0.74-11.19	0.388
Married/cohabiting	67 (1.6)	1.06-2.43	
Mother citizenship			
Malaysian	19 (0.4)	0.24-0.73	<0.001
Permanent resident / non-citizen	50 (20.0)	13.00-29.54	
Mother working status			
Government/ semi-gov	3 (0.2)	0.08-0.73	0.011
Private employee	17 (2.4)	1.44-3.90	
Employer/self employed	3 (0.6)	0.13-2.43	
Unpaid worker/housewife/not working/student	45 (1.8)	1.07-3.10	
Mother education level			
No formal education	13 (16.5)	7.36-33.07	<0.001
Primary school	30 (11.5)	5.93-21.20	
Secondary school	15 (0.7)	0.39-1.21	
Tertiary	10 (0.4)	0.20-0.99	
Household income			
B40	63 (1.9)	1.28-2.78	0.041
M40	6 (0.8)	0.29-2.33	
T40	1 (0.3)	0.04-1.85	
Antenatal visit			
No ANC	26 (67.1)	47.22-82.36	<0.001
3 and above	11 (33.3)	17.69-53.79	
4 and above	30 (0.7)	0.43-0.99	

METHODS

Data was obtained from the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2022, Maternal and Child Health (NHMS 2022: MCH), a nationwide study that adopted a two-stage stratified random sampling design. Overall, 6335 women aged between 15-49 years with a child below 2 years old were involved in this survey. Analysis was done via complex sample analyses using IBM SPSS version 28.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the prevalence of unsafe deliveries has increased from 0.5% in 2016 to 1.6%. Due to potential implications on maternal and child health well-being, adhering to recommended time of initiation of antenatal visits and following schedule is essential. These findings provide information to the respective agency in strengthening interventions to improve antenatal visitation to avoid unsafe deliveries.

KEYWORDS: Maternal, Malaysia, Unsafe delivery, NHMS 2022: MCH

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