

DENGUE CONTROL ACTIVITIES BY THE AUTHORITIES: WHAT DO MALAYSIANS THINK?

Norzawati Yoep, Mohd Amierul Fikri Mahmud, Faizul Akmal Abd. Rahim, Mohd Farihan Md Yatim

Institute for Public Health, National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia

Introduction

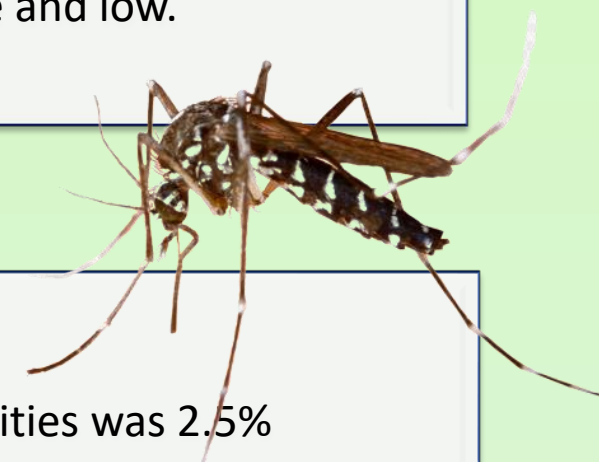
- Dengue remains a significant public health concern in Malaysia, with 66,102 cases recorded in 2022.
- The Ministry of Health and local council are primarily responsible for dengue control and prevention.
- This study aims to assess the prevalence of low perceived effectiveness of dengue control activities implemented by the authorities among the Malaysian population.

Method

- Data was collected from the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2020, which employed a two-stage stratified cluster random sampling technique.
- Respondents aged 13 years and above were given a validated self-administered questionnaire on dengue prevention.
- The respondents' level of perceived effectiveness towards dengue control activities by the authorities was assessed using Likert-type scale.
- The scores for perceived effectiveness were classified into three levels as high, moderate and low.
- Descriptive data analysis using complex sampling with weight was performed.

Results

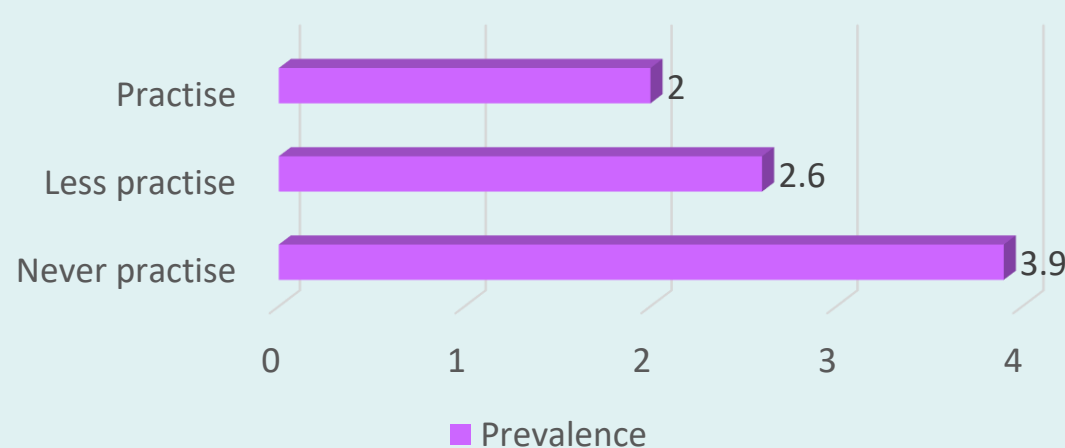
- A total of 4,432 respondents answered the questionnaire.
- Prevalence of low perceived effectiveness on dengue prevention activities by the authorities was 2.5% (95% CI:1.8,3.4) (n=100).
- The low perceived was higher among Indians (6.0%; 95% CI:2.1-16.3), with primary education (2.9%; 95% CI:1.4-5.8), females (3.2%; 95% CI:2.2-4.5) and living in urban areas (2.8%; 95% CI:1.5-3.1).
- Those who were low perceived were also low in practising individual dengue prevention activities (2.0%; 95% CI:1.0-3.8).



Level of Perception	n	Prevalence (%)	95% Confidence Interval
High	2885	60.7	57.0-64.3
Moderate	1435	36.8	33.6-40.1
Low	100	2.5	1.8-3.4

Table 1: Public perception on effectiveness on dengue prevention activities by the authorities

Figure 1: Prevalence of doing individual dengue prevention activities among low perceived respondents



Conclusion

- The authorities should provide / empower information to enhance public awareness of dengue prevention by the them, focusing on females, people with low levels of education, and urban dwellers.

Variables	n	Prevalence (%)	95% Confidence Interval
Gender			
Male	38	1.9	0.6-1.5
Female	65	3.2	2.2-4.5
Strata			
Urban	61	2.8	1.5-3.1
Rural	42	1.7	1.7-2.7
Ethnicity			
Malay	60	2.1	1.4-3.2
Chinese	16	4.2	2.6-6.6
Indian	11	6.0	2.1-16.3
Other bumiputras	11	1.2	0.6-2.6
Others	2	0.6	0.1-4.2
Education			
No formal education	9	2.3	0.9-5.7
Primary education	17	2.9	1.4-5.8
Secondary education	38	2.3	1.3-4.2
Tertiary education	32	2.3	1.6-3.3

Table 2: Prevalence of low perceived effectiveness on dengue prevention activities by the authorities by sociodemographic characteristics.

Acknowledgement

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