

Oral Presentation - 21

Knowledge of Inhalant Abuse among Selected Non-Residential Secondary School Students in Kepala Batas, Penang

Halilol Rahman Mohamed Khan¹, Hasni Arsad², Zakaria Ismail², Mohamed Nazri Mohamed Tahir¹, Razak Lajis¹

¹National Poison Centre, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Penang

²Advance Medical and Dental Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kepala Batas, Penang

Abstract

Introduction: Substances of abuse particularly inhalants have always been a major plight among youths.

Objective: This paper focuses on an evaluation study conducted among secondary schoolchildren of their knowledge of inhalant abuse in Kepala Batas, a district in northern Peninsular Malaysia.

Methodology: 567 students (male and female) were selected randomly from six non-residential schools in the district. Having obtained consent from the schools and parents, the students answered a self-administered questionnaire on inhalant abuse and its effects. Internal validity and reliability of the questionnaire were determined prior to the study. Chronbach's alpha value of 0.800 was obtained to ensure that only relevant and appropriate questions were asked.

Result: The study found that less than 10% of the students had good knowledge on inhalant and inhalant abuse. Male students seemed to have better knowledge on inhalant abuse compared to the female students. There was a significant association between religion and knowledge level on inhalant abuse.

Conclusion: The study found that age, race, level of education and guardian had no association with the knowledge level on inhalant abuse among the students. Although the students' level of knowledge and awareness on the dangers of inhalant abuse was relatively low, they are of the opinion that legal action and activities to heighten awareness is very important to curb the problem of inhalant abuse.