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# Pretravelling health-seeking behavior, knowledge of vaccines, and attitudes toward travel health among malaysian travelers

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## Abstract

Background: Travelers are at higher risk of developing health-related problems, especially travel-related diseases, and this remains a major public health burden. Aims: To assess pretravel health behavior-seeking factors, knowledge of vaccine, and travel health attitudes. A cross-sectional design among Malaysian travelers. Methods: An online survey was conducted from December 2017 till March 2018 among 226 participants. Demographic data, pretraveling health behaviors, knowledge of vaccine-preventable diseases, and travel health were asked. Independent t-test and ANOVA were

performed using SPSS version 20. Results: Among travelers, 51.3% and 63.7% used health-related information on their destination before departure and collected information on possible travel hazards at their destination. Participant age ( $P = 0.02$ ), monthly income ( $P = 0.01$ ), predeparture health information ( $P = 0.03$ ), information on possible hazards ( $P = 0.04$ ), and travel health advice from medical professionals ( $P = 0.03$ ) have been reported as a major predictor of knowledge of vaccine-preventable disease. Travelers' gender ( $P = 0.01$ ), household income ( $P = 0.01$ ), and travel health advice from professionals ( $P = 0.002$ ) were significantly associated with travel health attitude. Conclusions: Sociodemographic and pretravel health-seeking behavior influence knowledge of vaccine-preventable disease and attitudes towards travel health which requires a public health need for community outreach programs targeting this group. © 2022 Mary Ann Liebert Inc.. All rights reserved.

## Author keywords

Attitude to health; communicable diseases; information-seeking behavior; travel-related illness; vaccine-preventable diseases

## Indexed keywords

### EMTREE medical terms

adult; Article; attitude to health; cross-sectional study; emporiatrics; female; health hazard; household income; human; information seeking; Malaysian; male; medical information; middle aged; vaccination; vaccine preventable disease

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### Abstract