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Pretravelling Health-Seeking Behavior, Knowledge of Vaccines, and Attitud...



# Pretravelling Health-Seeking Behavior, Knowledge of Vaccines, and Attitudes Toward Travel Health among Malaysian Travelers

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**Source** INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
Volume: 13 Issue: 1  
DOI: 10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM\_365\_20

**Published** JAN-DEC 2022

**Indexed** 2022-07-14

**Document Type** Article

**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.

## Keywords

**Author Keywords:** community programs targeting group. Attitude to health; communicable diseases; information-seeking behavior; travel-related illness; vaccine-preventable diseases

**Keywords Plus:** INFECTIOUS-DISEASES; VACCINATION; PREVENTION; QUEBEC

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## Categories/ Classification

Research Areas: General & Internal Medicine

Citation [1 Clinical & Life Sciences](#) , [1.125 Hepatitis A and E](#) , [1.125.1718 Hepatitis A and E](#)

Sustainable Development Goals: [03 Good Health and Well-being](#)