

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES TOWARDS COVID-19 AMONG
PEDIATRIC CAREGIVERS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY

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Background: More than a year into the Covid-19 pandemic, the Philippines still registers thousands of new cases daily. Alarming, the number of confirmed cases among ages 19 and below has steadily risen. It is important to examine the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of parents and caregivers as these are integral in curtailing pediatric Covid-19 cases.

Objective: This study aims to determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards Covid-19 among pediatric caregivers in a private tertiary hospital in Davao City.

Design: Cross-sectional research design

Subjects: Participants are parents, guardians or caregivers, aged at least 18 years old, of a pediatric patient in San Pedro Hospital, Davao City.

Methodology: A modified questionnaire adapted with permission from the study of Mohammed Al-Hanawi was answered by 200 participants from March to May 2021. Validated Cebuano and Tagalog translated versions of the questionnaire were also offered.

Statistical Analysis: Univariate analysis was used to tabulate the frequency of social and demographic statistics. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to assess differences in mean values for KAP scores. A multivariable linear regression analysis was performed to identify factors related to KAP.

Results: The participants had moderate level knowledge about Covid-19. They were most knowledgeable about Covid-19 prevention and least knowledgeable about signs and symptoms in children. Low educational attainment and low household income were associated with lower knowledge scores. Majority of participants showed good practices but participants aged ≥ 50 and grandparents had poorer practice scores. Social media, mainstream media and, local officials are identified as the top sources of Covid-19 information.

Conclusion and Recommendations: The results of this study provide evidence-based information for developing programs to improve Covid-19 outcomes. Caregivers must be taught the manifestations of Covid-19 in children. Health educational campaigns must prioritize the less educated, lower income, and older populations. Sustaining positive attitudes and good practices are important factors in successfully controlling Covid-19.

Keywords: *KAP, Covid-19, pediatrics, caregivers, Davao*

