

# **KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES ON FOOD SAFETY AMONG STUDENTS IN UCSI UNIVERSITY**

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## ABSTRACT

The number of foodborne illnesses incidence has been increasing yearly nationwide. Indications show that the consumers are not aware of the situation that food safety has become an important global issue and health threat to the world. Educational interventions have to be done to raise their awareness towards food safety. However, the knowledge, attitude and practices of the public have to be measured first prior to develop strategies for effective food safety education. This study was conducted to evaluate the level of knowledge, attitude and practices among the students in UCSI University, as well as to examine the correlations between knowledge, attitude, and practices with demographic characteristics. Questionnaire developed were filled by a sample of 362 students whom are studying in the south wing of Kuala Lumpur Campus, UCSI University. The respondents were aged 17 to 30. The data was analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 11.5. Results showed that majority of the students had mediocre knowledge level (62.4%); had average attitude towards food safety issues (median score = 43.0); and possessed moderate practices in the prevention of foodborne illnesses (median score = 49.0). No significance was found between education level of students and their attitude towards food safety issues. Students from science disciplines were found to have better food safety practices in preventing foodborne illnesses than non-science students. Knowledge, attitude and practices in food safety were found to have significant positive correlations with one another. Findings of this study may help in planning food safety intervention programs for the young generations in order to have improvement in terms of knowledge, attitude and practices towards foodborne diseases and food safety.

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