

A22 Factors associated with stunting among 2- to 5-year-old urban poor children living in low cost-flats at Kuala Lumpur

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Stunting remains a public health concern. There are increasing concerns that low-income families in urban are particularly vulnerable to stunting. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the factors associated with stunting among urban poor children aged 2 to 5 years old living in low-cost flats at Kuala Lumpur. A total of 52 children (48.1% males and 51.9% females) with their mothers participated in this study. Information on sociodemographic characteristics, breastfeeding practice, food insecurity, second-hand smoke exposure and anthropometry data were completed by the mothers using an online questionnaire. Findings showed that stunting prevalence in children aged 2 to 5 years old in this study was 28.8%. Female children ($p=0.020$), mothers with short stature ($p=0.023$), fathers who smoked ($p=0.025$) and children who exposed to second-hand smoke ($p<0.001$) showed higher risk of becoming stunted. However, there were no significant associations between ethnicity, parental marital status, parental education level, monthly household income, father's height, birth weight, breastfeeding duration and food security with child stunting ($p>0.05$). Immediate and appropriate interventions targeted at urban poor children are needed, particularly in addressing second-hand smoke exposure. Family member who smoke is encouraged to quit smoking to maintain a smoke-free home environment that is beneficial to the nutritional and health status of children.