

Factors Affecting Blood Donation Among Six Hundred Respondents from Selected Sites in Manila

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Abstract

This study was undertaken to determine the demographic profile, the perceived risks associated with blood donation, and the factors that encourage or discourage prospective blood donors among selected sites in Manila. Six hundred randomly chosen respondents from the six barangays of the first six districts of Manila, were asked about their views about donating or not donating blood. Most of them donated blood to help friends and relatives. But others avoided donating blood because of medical reasons (25.2%; 151 out of 600) and the absence of opportunities (21.5%; 129 out of 600).

Keywords: Blood Donation, Experienced Blood Donors, Prospective Blood Donors

Introduction

Nowadays blood transfusion is critical in the management of patients with medical conditions, such as accidental injuries, surgical conditions, malignancies, pregnancy complications, anemia, leukemia, and dengue, among others. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2012) estimates that at least 1% of the population needs to donate blood to meet the minimum requirement of the country. In the world however, about 70 countries have blood donation less than the required 10/1000 population and about 108 million blood units are collected. Half of these come from high income countries which constitute about 18% of the world's population.

In the Philippines, the maintenance of safe and secure blood supply is dependent on its volunteers. Republic Act 7719, also known as the National Blood Services Act of 1994 (NBSA) pertains to the voluntary donation of blood that can help provide sufficient supply to the patients in need. It aims to create public consciousness about the importance of blood donations in saving millions of Filipinos. The Philippine National Red Cross, the, Department of Health, the Philippine Blood Coordinating