

SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY ON THE BURDEN AND PREVENTION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS FOR URBAN AND RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

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(都市と農村の健康・安全政策に向けたレプトスピラ症の負担と予防に関する社会
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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

Leptospirosis is a serious public health concern in the Philippines because of its increasing rate of incidence affecting the urban slums and high-risk occupations. Despite the increasing occurrence of leptospirosis outbreaks in the country, the knowledge on the economic burden of leptospirosis, including the community's awareness and acceptance of various preventive measures remain limited. These research gaps were specifically addressed in this study by estimating the economic burden of leptospirosis, valuing environmental clean up to prevent leptospirosis, evaluating the acceptability of leptospirosis vaccine, assessing the knowledge and preventive practices of leptospirosis among agricultural workers, and evaluating the acceptability of micro health insurances as a form of financial risk protection for leptospirosis. Using the cost-of-illness approach, the results showed that leptospirosis imposes catastrophic impact on household considering the household income was reduced by 10%. Using opportunity cost of labor, environmental clean up for leptospirosis prevention was valued at US\$124.97 million per year, which corresponds to 1.13% of Metro Manila's Gross Domestic Product, providing a solid ground for investment in community level leptospirosis prevention program. The results from discrete choice modeling indicated that respondents' willingness to pay for leptospirosis vaccine (US\$ 31.14–US\$ 65.89) was higher than the Japanese retail price (US\$ 21.60-US\$ 24.00), indicating the significant potential of introducing leptospirosis vaccine in the Philippine market. The findings from knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study revealed that agricultural workers generally had lower scores on the knowledge, attitude and preventive practices about leptospirosis, suggesting the need to improve occupational health and safety programs in the agricultural sector. The respondents' willingness to pay for micro health insurance amounted from S\$ 4.12 to 6.25 per month. These are comparable to the social insurance currently available in the market, indicating the potential demand for micro health insurance. Policy recommendations for the prevention of leptospirosis include building capacity and infrastructure for early detection of leptospirosis, developing community-level preventive programs in the urban slums, improving leptospirosis vaccine safety and efficacy, delivery of leptospirosis vaccination program to the poor and highly vulnerable groups, increasing health promotion of leptospirosis within the agricultural sector, incorporating leptospirosis within the occupational health and safety policy of the agricultural sector, and improving the product design and market delivery of micro health insurance.