

RESPONSE RATE

The table below shows the response rate for NHEWS Primary Care 2012 Survey:

Response Rate for NHEWS Primary Care 2012 Survey

State/Region	Sector	Sample size	No. of respondents	Response rate (%)
Selangor & WVP Putrajaya	Public	39	34	87.2
	Private	187	52	27.8
WP Kuala Lumpur	Public	8	8	100.0
	Private	107	30	28.0
Kelantan	Public	20	18	90.0
	Private	57	25	43.9
Kota Kinabalu	Public	4	4	100.0
	Private	21	9	42.9
Kuching	Public	4	4	100.0
	Private	11	4	36.4
Overall	Public	75	68	90.7
	Private	383	120	31.3

The low response rate from private clinics had already been anticipated and accounted for. A few studies which previously surveyed private clinics in Malaysia had also reported similar response rates ranging from 26.3% to 33.0%.^{1,2} Low response rates in national surveys when physicians were the responders had been associated with many factors such as apathy, lack of incentives and resistant to healthcare surveys especially those conducted by the government.^{3,4}

In view of this, the sampling matrix calculation had included an estimation of a 30.0% drop-out rate from the public and a 70.0% drop-out rate from the private sector.

A subsequent analysis comparing the respondents and non-respondents from private clinics was performed to ensure that the low response rate has not introduced any form of bias into the findings. As seen from the tables below, no significant differences in terms of age, gender and years of practice between these two GP groups were observed.

Comparison of age between the respondents and non-respondents in the private sector

Characteristics	Odds ratio	95% CI for odds ratio	χ^2 statistics (df)	P value
Age	1.01	(0.99, 1.03)	0.27 (1)	0.604

*10 missing variables for non respondents

Comparison of gender between the respondents and non-respondents in the private sector

Characteristics	n	Respondents n (%)	Non respondents n (%)	χ^2 statistic (df)	P value
Gender					
Male	239	76 (31.8)	163 (68.2)	0.04(1)	0.837
Female	134	44 (32.8)	90 (67.2)		

*10 missing variables for non respondents

Comparison of years of practice between the respondents and non-respondents in the private sector

Characteristics	Odds ratio	95% CI for Odds ratio	χ^2 statistics (df)	P value
Years of Practice	1.00	(0.98, 1.03)	0.15 (1)	0.699

*4 missing variables for respondents and 14 missing variables for non respondents

Having this analysis also increased the validity of the study. As the non-respondents were mainly from the private sector, the team has kept the comparison between the two groups to private sector only.