|  |
| --- |
| **Knowledge, Attitude and Practices toward Road Traffic Regulations and Road Safety among Medical Students of University of the Philippines-College of Medicine (UPCM)** |
| **Background/Objectives:**Road traffic injury is a growing public health concern of governments and health professionals worldwide.Keys factors contributing to its increasing number are knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of novice drivers leading to road traffic crashes (RTC).Objectives of this study were to determine the demographics, knowledge and attitude toward traffic regulations of UPCM students and their association to driving practices.  **Methods:**This cross-sectional study was conducted from September to October 2016 among 1st-4th year UPCM students.Total enumeration was employed to capture the drivers among the respondents.Tool questionnaire was developed based on identified national laws on traffic and adopted from related literature.It was pretested on medical interns of Philippine General Hospital (PGH).T-test and chi-square were used to determine associations between variables of interest.  **Results:**Among the 156 drivers included in the final analysis, 57.05% were men. Mean age was 22.31 + 1.94, and 54.49% were involved in RTC.Overall safe driving KAP were low;knowledge and attitude did not correlate with practice(p> 0.005).Being older was the only demographic characteristic significantly associated(p= 0.0028)with safe knowledge.The high acceptable knowledge and attitude results on the different road safety indicators were not seen on desired practices regarding speeding (39.73%),distracted driving (34.93%),risky driving maneuvers(31.72%)and regular vehicular maintenance (18.54%).Only attitude on speeding (p < 0.001)and use of seat belt(p =0.007)showed significant associations to unacceptable practices.  **Discussion:**The outcome can be due to them being intently focused on the stringent demands of medical schoolwork,rendering less attention on traffic rules.Being slightly older shows a significant correlation with having safe knowledge.The high acceptable knowledge and attitude results on the different road safety indicators that are not seen on practices can be due to the notorious traffic in Metro Manila and the daily road pressures they are exposed to.The most notable finding is that attitude regarding speeding and use of seat belt are significantly associated to unsafe practices.It is recommended that strict and consistent enforcement of traffic rules should be prioritized as attitude is the only variable that is significantly related to unsafe practices.  **Keywords:**Knowledge,attitude,practices,traffic regulation,road safety,novice drivers |