

# **Health-seeking behavior of Port Harcourt City Residents: A Univariate Comparison between the Upper and Lower Socio-Economic Classes**

**Jaja Promise Tamunoipiriala, Akoko Sokiprim, Bestman Abiotoa, Iragunima Agnes U.**

## **BACKGROUND**

This study aimed at establishing the determinants and distribution of the health-seeking behaviours of Port Harcourt City residents, with comparison between the upper and lower socio-economic classes.

## **METHOD**

This was a descriptive cross-sectional study that used 204 respondents. The socio-economic classification was done using occupation and average monthly income. A Multi-staged sampling technique was used in subject selection; stage one being by stratified sampling using socio-economic classes for stratification while stage two involved clustered sampling; following which five-sectioned structured questionnaires were administered.

## **RESULTS**

Differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) in Health facility used existed as the upper class used mostly Hospitals (Government and Private); the lower class additionally used health centres and un-orthodox health facilities. Reasons for using a health facility was similar ( $P > 0.05$ ) as both classes mostly go for treatment or medical check-ups. Health facility preference was mostly for good treatment outcome and accessibility; cost was also a cardinal reason for the lower class. Commonly and last used health-care giver differed ( $P < 0.05$ ); the upper class mostly saw a doctor, the lower saw the doctor, pharmacist and nurse. Competence was the major reason for health-care giver selection by the upper class, it differed ( $P < 0.05$ ) from the lower class that had previous good treatment outcome and illness severity.

## **CONCLUSION**

The upper socio-economic class has better health-seeking behavior as they use more competent Health facilities and health-care givers.

## **KEYWORDS**

Health-seeking behaviours; Determinants; Social Class Comparison; Port Harcourt; Nigeria.

**Correspondence:** P.T Jaja

**Email:** projat@hotmail.com

