**Socio-Demographic Profile of Herbal Medicines Users and Risk Perception**

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**BACKGROUND**

Majority of Ghana’s population depend on herbal medications for treatment. However, the safety, adverse effects and efficacy of herbal medications largely remains unknown and a cause for concern in Ghana.

**OBJECTIVES**

This study sought to describe the profile of persons who patronize herbal medications, understand the factors contributing to use of herbal medications and user risk perception.

**METHODOLOGY**

We performed a descriptive cross-sectional survey of 350 participants above 18 years in the Kumasi metropolis from November to December 2017.

**RESULTS**

This study found that 79.25% of adults have used herbal medication and 38.38% had used in the last 3 months. 78.97% of those who had used herbal medications get relieve of symptoms.

33% believed that herbal medications can cure all diseases. Only 36.28% agree that herbal medicines have side effects whiles only 16.12% of participants had experienced a side effect from herbal medicine use. However, 79.94% of respondents agree that herbal medical services should be advertised. 53.85% of respondents acquired herbal medicine from commercial sources.

**CONCLUSION**

Herbal medicine use is a common practice in Ghana with relatively more people perceiving that herbal medicines are more readily available, without side effects, affordable, and efficacious compared to orthodox medications.