PHILHEALTH MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS


Background:
The National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, is a mandatory health insurance program of the government that aims to provide universal health insurance coverage and ensure affordable, acceptable, available, accessible, and quality health care services for all Filipinos.

Objectives:
This study determined the profile of PhilHealth members and their participation in selected government programs. It also determined the proportion of PhilHealth principal members with selected NCD risk factors.

Materials and Methods:
Secondary data analysis was done using the 2015 Updating Survey conducted by the Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI). Data on socio-economic, government program participation and clinical and health components were integrated in this study. Descriptive statistics was done using Stata Software version 13.

Results and Findings:
About 77.1% of households have at least 1 PhilHealth principal member. Among these, majority of the PhilHealth principal members work in the formal sector. On the participation in programs for children 0-71 months old, about 80% of children belonged to households with at least 1 PhilHealth member that availed of newborn screening, and were fully immunized. Similarly, about 80% of mothers in households with PhilHealth member had at least 4 pre-natal care consultations, maternal delivery attended by skilled birth attendant, delivery in health facility, and had post-natal care for lactating mothers. There was a considerable proportion of adults who were not PhilHealth members and have potential risk to hospitalization, particularly 30.2% had high blood pressure, 28.6% were obese, 36.9% had low physical activity and 42.1% were current smokers.

Conclusion and Recommendations:
Participation in selected government programs of households with at least 1 PhilHealth principal member was relatively high but these were mostly on facility-based health services. Considering the passage of the Universal Health Care Law, services on promotive and preventive services should also be included.