

CLUSTER ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD HEALTH RISK PERCEPTION IN TAIWAN

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Background and Aims: We surveyed the health risk perception of the environment and electromagnetic fields (EMF) in Taiwanese adults, and analyzed its response clusters.

Methods: A cross-sectional telephone surveys was conducted by the Center for Survey Research, Academia Sinica in August to September, 2007, with a randomized sample of 1,251 adults aged 18 years and beyond.

Results: There were 77% of Taiwanese adults who considered food safety affected health to a big extent, followed by quality of outdoor air, drinking water, and dumping of waste. There were four clusters in the survey, namely, high risk, low risk, environment, and EMF. Within the high risk group, there were more women, middle-aged, married, and high school educated participants. Further, there were higher percentages of reported hypersensitivity to EMF in the high risk and EMF groups.

Conclusions: Taiwanese adults were highly concerned of the health risks of food. Issues of hypersensitivity to EMF warranted further investigation.