

## A community survey on awareness and attitudes regarding bone donation

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### Introduction

Public perception towards bone donation plays a significant role in determining the success rate of bone banking in Malaysia. However, there is no nationwide survey on this.

### Objective

The study aimed to determine the level of community awareness on bone donation and their inclination to donate.

### Methods

Allied health workers and the general public communities participated in a survey at our exhibition booths between September 2022 and January 2023. A self-designed questionnaire was distributed comprising general demographic information and questions on awareness about organ donation/ tissue donation/tissue transplantation, willingness to donate, willingness to donate bone after death and awareness about UMMC Bone Bank.

### Results

A total of 155 respondents participated with age ranging from 17 to 55 years old. Of these 108 (69.7%) were female and 47 (30.3%) were male. They were mostly Malays with 110 (71%) compared to Chinese (15.5%), Indians (6.5%) and non-Malaysian (7.1%). The largest group was students, comprising 95 (61.3%) of the total. Most of the respondents were aware of organ donation 150 (96.8%), while 87 (56.1%) had awareness of tissue donation and 98 (63.2%) were aware of tissue transplantation. Surprisingly, most respondents (65.2%) expressed willingness to donate organs while 65.8% were willing to donate bone after death. However, only 23.2% knew about UMMC Bone Bank.

### Conclusions

The survey indicated that there is a high level of awareness and willingness among Malaysians towards organ and tissue donation. The fact that most respondents expressed their willingness to donate after death is a positive sign. However, the low awareness of the UMMC Bone Bank among respondents highlights the need for more efforts to promote bone donation and improve knowledge of bone banking. Overall, these findings offer valuable insights for developing effective strategies to increase the success rate of bone donation in Malaysia.