

## **A24 Food safety knowledge, attitude and practice among undergraduates during the COVID-19 pandemic**

***Nathalie Khoo JY and Tan CX***

*Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kampar, Malaysia*

The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as a global threat and has raised concerns among the public regarding food safety and related hygienic practices, especially among university students, who have been known to have risky food handling behaviours. This study aims to evaluate the food safety knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP), the relationship between KAP as well as the association between sociodemographic variables and food safety KAP among undergraduates of a private university during the COVID-19 pandemic. A questionnaire was distributed to 156 participants via various online platforms, and the data obtained was analysed using descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests, ANOVA test and T-test. Overall, the respondents demonstrated good food safety attitude and practice levels, with average scores of 84.6% and 81%, respectively, as well as a moderate knowledge level, with an average score of 74.1%. A significant association ( $p < 0.001$ ) was observed between attitude and practice scores. Male respondents ( $p = 0.042$ ) and those studying science-related courses ( $p < 0.001$ ) had significantly higher knowledge scores. Undergraduates with a CGPA of 2.0–2.49 had a significantly lower ( $p = 0.019$ ) food safety knowledge score than all other respondents, while those with a CGPA of 3.0–3.49 had significantly higher attitude ( $p = 0.003$ ) and practice ( $p = 0.037$ ) scores than those with a CGPA of 3.5–4.0. Food safety and nutrition knowledge intervention programmes should be conducted to encourage positive changes in food handling behaviours and hygiene practices among undergraduates.