

**KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF MOTHER
ABOUT NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE
YEARS OF AGE IN BAHU HEALTH CENTER,
MALALAYANG SUBDISTRICT, MANADO CITY,
NORTH SULAWESI PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

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KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF MOTHERS ABOUT NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN BAHU HEALTH CENTER, MANADO CITY, NORTH SULAWESI PROVINCE, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted to describe the socio-demographic factors of mothers, mothers' knowledge and mothers' perception of nutritional status of children under five years. Data was collected from 210 mothers of children under five years of age at Bahu Health Center, Manado City, North Sulawesi Province. The study used a structured questionnaire during January 2008. Chi square test and Fisher's exact test were employed for statistical analysis of the variables.

The results showed that the children's nutritional status were at a normal level (87.1%). There was not a statistically significant association between age of mothers, status of mothers, educational level, and have children more than one of under and over five years with nutritional status. There was a significant association between family income and occupation of mothers with nutritional status of children ($p<005$).

The findings of this study are important for understanding nutritional status of children under five years of age and are a milestone for improving quality of nutritionist service at health centers. Government should need more nutritionist, provide professional training to enrich knowledge and skills of nutritionist and increase extra benefits.

KEY WORDS: KNOWLEDGE PERCEPTION/NUTRITIONAL/STATUS/
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