Factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis among the population at risk in Si Sa Ket, Thailand

Thawatchai Toemjai a, Pramote Thongkrajat b, Choosak Nithikathkul b, *.

a Faculty of Medicine, Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand
b Tropical and Parasitic Diseases Research Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand

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ABSTRACT
Leptospirosis is a major public health problem in Si Sa Ket, Thailand. Humans can become infected via direct contact with the urine of infected animal reservoir hosts or by indirect contact with contaminated soil and water in the environment. This study examined the factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis among the population at risk in Si Sa Ket, Thailand. A cross-sectional questionnaire was conducted by a representative population survey using a four-stage stratified random sampling to select 350 respondents aged 18–65 years from the fifth districts with the highest morbidity rate in 2010–2019. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics and stepwise multiple regression. The majority of the respondents were male (53.40%), aged 46–55 years (31.20%), and agricultural workers (76.00%). Their knowledge (M = 10.78, SD = 1.60), perceived severity (M = 2.91, SD = 0.60), perceived probability (M = 2.98, SD = 0.64), self-efficacy expectations (M = 3.18, SD = 0.63), responses-efficacy expectations (M = 3.16, SD = 0.71), social support (M = 3.19, SD = 0.52), and preventive behavior against leptospirosis (M = 3.29, SD = 0.49) were at moderate level. Significant factors affecting leptospirosis preventive behaviors were history of leptospirosis illness (β = 0.312), social support (β = 0.240), perceived probability (β = 0.238), household members with a history of leptospirosis illness (β = 0.158), perceived severity (β = 0.114), self-efficacy expectations (β = 0.094) and knowledge (β = 0.088) regarding leptospirosis. All of these factors could together predict the preventive behavior against leptospirosis up to 42.8% (Adjusted R² = 0.428). Public health interventions should be strengthening people's perception and awareness regarding leptospirosis and the promotion of preventive health behavior to prevent potential outbreaks.

1. Introduction

Leptospirosis is a neglected zoonotic disease worldwide. It is of global public health importance with respect to morbidity and mortality in humans. Humans can become infected via direct contact with urine from infected animal hosts or by indirect contact with contaminated soil and water in the environment [1]. The main animal reservoir host are rodents, livestock, and dogs. The disease in humans can vary from mild flu-like illness to a serious disease. Some severe complications include kidney damage, liver failure, respiratory distress, meningitis, and death. [2]. Globally, it is estimated that 0.1 to 1 per 100,000 population in temperate climates are affected each year, with the number increasing to 10 or more per 100,000 population in tropical climates. When there is an epidemic, the incidence can soar to 100 or more per 100,000 population. The disease is under-reported for many reasons, including difficulty in distinguishing clinical signs from those of other endemic diseases and a lack of appropriate diagnostic laboratory services [3].

Thailand had an epidemic of leptospirosis in 2000, with a total reported 14,285 cases and 362 deaths, and the disease was reported from 72 of 76 provinces. The morbidity rate was 23.13 per 100,000 population, with a fatality rate of 2.53%. Most of the cases (85.01%) and most of the deaths (78.18%) were occurred in the Northeastern region. Then, the number of cases has declined significantly each year until 2005. During 2006–2019, the number of cases was relatively stable. The male to female ratio of leptospirosis in 2019 was 4:1. It was most frequently found in aged 45–54 years (20.33%). Most patients were agricultural workers (45.60%). The highest morbidity rates per 100,000 population were found in the South (4.71) and the Northeast region (2.95), mostly in Ranong (21.97), Phang Nga (18.67), Si Sa Ket (16.71), Yasothon (14.28) and Trang (12.60) [4]. In Si Sa Ket province, the

* Corresponding author at: Tropical and Parasitic Diseases Research Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Mahasarakham University, Muang District, Mahasarakham 44000, Thailand.
E-mail address: nithikathkul2016@gmail.com (C. Nithikathkul).

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incidence of leptospirosis cases was 35.95, 29.40, 24.58, 21.48, 17.60, 21.40, 25.40, 52.80, 26.70 and 17.60 per 100,000 population in 2010–2019 respectively. In addition, the fatality rates were 0%, 0.23%, 2.24%, 1.92%, 1.55%, 6.07%, 2.15%, 2.06%, 1.78% and 2.16% in 2010–2019 respectively. The morbidity rate during 2010–2019 was higher than the national level and continues to be so up to the present time. The dramatic phenomenal epidemiological characteristics of leptospirosis in Si Sa Ket include a peak incidence between August to October which is in the rainy season [5]. Although the morbidity rate in Si Sa Ket has decreased, the number of deaths is still high, and annual outbreak of leptospirosis still occur. The goals of control and prevention of leptospirosis according to the National Strategic Plan for 20 years (2018–2037) is to decrease the fatality rate by not more than 1.20%. Important problems and prevention gaps of managing leptospirosis were found to be that people lacked knowledge of the disease, lacked awareness of self-protection from it, not protecting themselves from infection by wearing boots or gloves while working on agricultural activities, and trampling in mud or wet soil or soaking in natural water sources for a long time. These inadequacies were leading to illness. Thus, action is needed to solve these problems to prevent and control leptospirosis more effectively [6]. The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis among the population at risk in Si Sa Ket, Thailand.

2. Methods

2.1. Ethics statement

This study was reviewed and approved on March 28, 2020 by the Ethics Committee of Mahasarakham University, Thailand (registration number 132/2020). Informed written consent was obtained from all the respondents.

2.2. Study setting and population

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in Si Sa Ket, located in the Northeastern of Thailand. Si Sa Ket province was divided by 22 districts, 206 subdistricts, 2675 villages, and 393,356 households. The population of province aged 18–65 years was 1,003,696 people [7,8]. Sample size was employed multi-stage random sampling. The criteria for eligible respondents was that they were; aged 18–65 years, only persons with at least 12 months of residence in the area, who were involved with occupations or activities that required them to be exposed to wet soil, mud, local natural water for a long time and were living closely to reservoir animals host (Farmer, Fisherman, Livestock, Gardener). Si Sa Ket province was selected based on its high incidence of leptospirosis morbidity rates (Fig. 1). The study location within the province were selected by random sampling using a four-stage stratified technique. The first stage used a purposive random sampling to select the first 5 districts of 22 districts with the highest morbidity rate during 2010–2019 in Si Sa Ket. These were, Phu Sing, Khukhan, Khun Han, Prang Ku and Phrai Bueng districts. The second to the fourth stages used simple random sampling to select subdistricts, villages, and their representative populations respectively. All the samples which fitted into the inclusion criteria were chosen as the respondents. A total of 350 individuals was invited to participate in the study.

2.3. Sampling technique

The sample size was calculated by using a formula to estimate the proportion of the population, which the population size is known \( n = \frac{Np(1-p)}{\epsilon^2 (N-1) + Z^2_\alpha p(1-p)} \), where \( n \) = sample size, \( N \) = the total number of the population aged 18–65 years, \( Z \) = \( Z \)-statistic for a level of confidence at 95%, \( P \) = expected prevalence or proportion, which was the mean of incidence with leptospirosis during 2015–2019 in Si Sa Ket in order to obtain the maximum sample size and \( d \) = precision of estimation of 5% [9]. The estimated sample size based on the above calculation was 311 individuals. Sample size was increased by 39 individuals to protect drop out, so the sample size that was used in the study was 350 individuals.

2.4. Survey questionnaire and data collection

A self-administered questionnaire was developed based on the protection motivation theory [10], the social support theory [11], literature review of relevant studies, and previous questionnaires. A panel of experts reviewed and checked the tool, including an epidemiologist, infectious disease physician, health educationist and other relevant experts were involved to develop the questionnaire. After modifying some of the questions, internal consistency use a content validity index (CVI) [12]. The questionnaire was reviewed and measured by 7 experts.

![Fig. 1.](image_url) Incidence of leptospirosis in Si Sa Ket, Northeast Region of Thailand and Thailand, 2010–2019.
Reliability was assured by pre-testing with revision, where the pre-tests were performed with communities having similar characteristics but in different geographical area. A pilot study was conducted among 30 respondents to examine the test-retest reliability and internal consistency of the questionnaire. Cronbach’s alpha was analyzed for reliability in terms of internal consistency [13,14].

Survey data were collected during April to May 2020 via the questionnaires in the first 5 districts (Phu Sing, Khukhan, Khun Han, Prang Ku and Phrai Bueng) which had the highest morbidity rates during 2010–2019 in Si Sa Ket. The questionnaire used to collect data, was composed of positive and negative meaning items. The sociodemographic characteristics included gender, age, marital status, education, occupation, household incomes per year, and history of leptospirosis illness. Social factors included household members with a history of leptospirosis illness, community members with a history of leptospirosis illness, and receiving information regarding leptospirosis. Environmental factors included the residential area experiencing waterlogging, or wet soil or mud, having a cattle or pig stall, having rodents infestation, and having garbage disposal facilities. The knowledge of leptospirosis was based on 15-items that assessed respondents understanding of leptospirosis. There were measured by nominal scales that were divided into either “true” or “false”. A true answer was given a score of 1 but a false answer was given a score as 0. For evaluation, respondents who obtained scores ≥12 points, 9–11 points, and scores ≤8 points were considered to have good knowledge, moderate knowledge, and poor knowledge respectively [15]. Perceived probability (10-items), perceived severity (10-items), self-efficacy expectations (10-items), and responses-efficacy expectations (10-items) of leptospirosis were measured by ordinal scales that included positive attitude items that were given scores of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for strongly agree, agree, not sure, not agree, and strongly not agree respectively. For negative attitude items, the above scoring system was reversed. For evaluation, respondents who obtained mean scores of 3.68–5.00, 2.34–3.67, and 1.00–2.33 considered to have a perception of leptospirosis at a high, moderate, and low levels respectively. Social support for leptospirosis (10-items) was measured by ordinal scales with positive items that were given scores of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for most, more, moderate, low, and very low respectively. For negative items, the above scoring system was reversed and that assessed the respondents who obtained mean scores 3.68–5.00, 2.34–3.67, and 1.00–2.33 who were considered to have social support for leptospirosis at most, moderate, and low levels respectively. Preventive behaviors against leptospirosis were measured on a 15-items ordinal scale in which positive items were given scores of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for most, more, moderate, low, and very low respectively. Cronbach’s alpha was 0.77, 0.77, 0.77, 0.80, 0.75, 0.80, and 0.78 for knowledge, perceived probability, perceived severity, self-efficacy expectations, responses-efficacy expectations, social support, and preventive behaviors against leptospirosis respectively, indicated good internal consistency.

All interviewers were trained and provided with a field manual for their reference during the face-to-face interview. Before questionnaire administration, the purpose of the study was explained to each respondent, informed consent was gained, and confidentiality of the information assured. The interview was conducted for an average 20–30 min for each respondent. Data were collected on questionnaires completed by the respondents. A total of 350 questionnaires were returned.

### 2.5. Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using the IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences for windows (SPSS) version 23.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Data were checked and cleaned. Normality of data was checked by histogram, skewness, kurtosis, and Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test. Data were analyzed with descriptive statistics including frequency and percentages. If the continuous data was of normal distribution, descriptive statistics were presented an average and standard deviation (SD). For the continuous data that was not normally distributed, data were presented as median, maximum, and minimum value. The relationship between determinants and preventive behavior against leptospirosis was investigated by Pearson Correlation Coefficient. Stepwise multiple regression analysis was carried out to determine the predictor of preventive behavior against leptospirosis. The level of statistical significance was set at an alpha level at 0.05.

### 3. Results

Si Sa Ket province has 22 districts, 206 sub-districts, and 2634 villages. In 2020, incidence of leptospirosis was reported in 18 districts throughout province, with most cases in the province’s southwest (Fig. 2).

Of the 350 respondents, 53.4% were male, 62.2% were marital status, and the mean age was 46.99 years (SD = 10.28). The majority 69.4% had completed junior high school and lower, 76.0% were agricultural worker, 60.9% had household income ≤75,000 Baht per year (Mean of Country: 316,452 Baht per year). The median of household income per year was 60,000 Baht (1786.25 USD). Mostly, the respondents had never been sick with leptospirosis (84.0%), the household members had never been sick with leptospirosis (90%), the community members had never been sick with leptospirosis (62.9%), the respondents received information regarding leptospirosis (91.4%), the residential area doesn’t have experiencing waterlogging, or wet soil or mud, the residential area doesn’t have a cattle or pig stall, the residential area doesn’t have rodents infestation, and the residential area has a garbage disposal facilities been 54.9%, 51.7%, 70.0%, and 81.1% respectively (Table 1).

In our study, the respondents had the knowledge (M = 10.78, SD = 1.60), perceived severity (M = 2.91, SD = 0.60), perceived probability (M = 2.98, SD = 0.64), self-efficacy expectations (M = 3.18, SD = 0.63), responses-efficacy expectations (M = 3.16, SD = 0.71), social support (M = 3.19, SD = 0.52), and preventive behavior (M = 3.29, SD = 0.49) regarding leptospirosis were mostly shown a moderate level (Fig. 3).

The high-risk behaviors in this study, were if the respondents were not wearing gloves (M = 2.80, SD = 1.21) and boots (M = 2.94, SD = 0.81) while working in the cattle or pig stall, and wading in flood waters, barefoot trampling in mud or wet soil (M = 3.10, SD = 0.94) (Table 2).

It was found among the respondents that being, agricultural workers (r = -0.107, p < 0.05), having a history ever being sick with leptospirosis (r = 0.349, p < 0.001), receiving information regarding leptospirosis (r = 0.128, p < 0.01), having household members with a history of leptospirosis illness (r = 0.291, p < 0.001), social support (r = 0.401, p < 0.001), the residential area has a garbage disposal facilities (r = 0.130, p < 0.01), knowledge (r = 0.247, p < 0.001), perceived probability (r = 0.380, p < 0.001), perceived severity (r = 0.230, p < 0.001), self-efficacy expectations (r = 0.256, p < 0.001), and responses-efficacy expectations (r = 0.217, p < 0.001) were correlated with preventive behaviors against leptospirosis with statistical significance set at an alpha level at 0.05.

The multiple regression analysis indicated that the factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis (Y, Z) with statistically significance (p-value < 0.05) were history of leptospirosis illness (X1), social support (X2), perceived probability (X3), household members with a history of leptospirosis illness (X4), perceived severity (X5), self-efficacy expectations (X6), and knowledge regarding leptospirosis (X7). All of these factors could together predict the preventive behavior against leptospirosis up to 42.8% (Adjusted R² = 0.428) (Table 3). The predictive equation was as follows:

The predictive equation in raw scores:
Workers should protect themselves from infection by wearing boots and gloves while trampling in mud or wet soil or wading in flood waters, canals, swamps, and creeks for a long time, but this is sometimes inconvenient [22, 23].

The multiple regression analysis indicated that history of leptospirosis illness, household members with a history of leptospirosis illness, social support, knowledge, perceived probability, perceived severity, and self-efficacy expectations were statistically significant factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis (p-value < 0.05) and could predict preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This will now be discussed.

History of leptospirosis illness was a significant association with preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This might be for the reason that the respondents had received the knowledge regarding risky behavior, prevention and control of leptospirosis from a public health officer, and with a history of leptospirosis illness. Thus, the respondents had perceived and awareness regarding danger of disease. This consistent with a concept of Rogers (1986) [10], and similar to a previous study, that who get the knowledge and understand, that result a correct and appropriate behavior [24].

Social support for leptospirosis was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This is consistent with the concept that social support is the interaction between one person and another, comprising love, concern, trust, objects, and information, which results in mutually good feelings for each other. It involves respect and assistance for each other [11, 25]. This then resulted in the recipient, acting in the way that the giver wanted. The supporter that may be a family member such as parent, husband, wife, or co-worker, fellow students, health volunteer, and public health officer [26], resulting in support recipients to practice or behave in a way that the supporter wants such as having good preventive behavior of the disease. This affirms previous studies finding that motivation and community participation were associated with leptospirosis prevention behaviors [24], receiving advice from village health volunteers, health officers, and others in the community were associated with preventive behavior against leptospirosis [27]. These results were different from a study of Naksila (2014) who found that individual stimulation was not associated...
with preventive behavior against leptospirosis [22].

Perceived probability of leptospirosis was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This was consistent with a previous study showing that factors related to preventive behaviors and control of leptospirosis from health officers when household member was sick with leptospirosis. Thus, they had a perception and awareness regarding leptospirosis, that resulted in a good preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This is consistent with a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis [29].

Household members with a history of leptospirosis illness was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This is because people received knowledge regarding preventive behaviors against leptospirosis among family healthcare core leaders who perceived that perceived probability of leptospirosis was not associated with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis [22,28], and a study of Wongbutdee et al. (2016) found that perceptions of leptospirosis were not associated with preventive behavior against leptospirosis [29].

Table 1
Characteristics of the study population. (n = 350).

| Characteristics | Number | % |
|-----------------|--------|---|
| Gender          |        |   |
| Male            | 187    | 53.4 |
| Female          | 163    | 46.6 |
| Age (years)     |        |   |
| 26–35           | 56     | 16.0 |
| 36–45           | 97     | 27.7 |
| 46–55           | 109    | 31.2 |
| 56–65           | 88     | 25.1 |
| Marital status  |        |   |
| Single/Divorced/widowed | 94 | 27.8 |
| Married         | 256    | 72.2 |
| Educational levels |      |   |
| Junior high school and lower | 243 | 69.4 |
| High school and above | 107 | 30.6 |
| Occupation      |        |   |
| Agricultural    | 266    | 76.0 |
| Other           | 84     | 24.0 |
| Household income per year (Median = 60,000, max = 800,000, min = 10,000) | | |
| ≤75,000 Baht    | 213    | 60.9 |
| >75,000 Baht    | 137    | 39.1 |
| History of leptospirosis illness | | |
| Never           | 294    | 84.0 |
| Ever            | 56     | 16.0 |
| Household members with a history of leptospirosis illness | | |
| Never           | 315    | 90.0 |
| Ever            | 35     | 10.0 |
| Community members with a history of leptospirosis illness | | |
| Never           | 220    | 62.9 |
| Ever            | 130    | 37.1 |
| Receiving information regarding leptospirosis | | |
| No              | 30     | 8.6 |
| Yes             | 320    | 91.4 |
| The residential area experiencing waterlogging, or wet soil or mud | | |
| No              | 192    | 54.9 |
| Yes             | 158    | 45.1 |
| The residential area having a cattle or pig stall | | |
| No              | 181    | 51.7 |
| Yes             | 169    | 48.3 |
| The residential area having rodents infestation | | |
| No              | 245    | 70.0 |
| Yes             | 105    | 30.0 |
| The residential area having garbage disposal facilities | | |
| No              | 66     | 18.9 |
| Yes             | 284    | 81.1 |

Table 2
Mean and standard deviation of preventive behavior against leptospirosis. (n = 350).

| Preventive behavior against leptospirosis | M  | SD  | Behavior level |
|-------------------------------------------|----|-----|----------------|
| 1. You are wading in flood waters, trampling in mud or wet soil with barefoot.* | 3.10 | 0.94 | Moderate |
| 2. If you are having a cuts or scratches on your body, you often trampling in mud or wet soil or you bathe or soaking in water sources, canals, swamps and creeks.* | 3.33 | 1.14 | Moderate |
| 3. If you have a fever, muscle pain, you often to buy a drug for treatment yourself. * | 3.68 | 1.09 | High |
| 4. You wash your hands with clean water and soap after contact with rodents and dead bodies of animals such as rodents, cattle, pigs, dogs. | 3.69 | 1.26 | High |
| 5. You keep food completely away from rodents. | 3.25 | 1.16 | Moderate |
| 6. You eliminate food scraps. | 3.24 | 1.12 | Moderate |
| 7. You eat half-cooked meat or entrails of animals.* | 3.42 | 1.30 | Moderate |
| 8. You are wearing boots while trampling in mud, wet soil or soaking in water sources, canals, swamps, and creeks. | 3.40 | 1.46 | Moderate |
| 9. You are wearing boots while working in the cattle or pig stall. | 2.94 | 0.81 | Moderate |
| 10. You are not wearing gloves while in contact with rodents, dead bodies of animals such as rodents, cattle, pigs, dogs.* | 3.51 | 1.35 | Moderate |
| 11. You are not wearing gloves while working in the cattle, or pig stall.* | 2.80 | 1.21 | Moderate |
| 12. You bathe with clean water and soap immediately after trampling in mud, wet soil, or soaking in water sources, canals, swamps, and creeks. | 3.18 | 1.46 | Moderate |
| 13. Your household has garbage disposal facilities. | 3.22 | 1.13 | Moderate |
| 14. You maintain surveillance and eliminate rodents in and around the house area. | 3.24 | 1.07 | Moderate |
| 15. You did not participate in the village cleaning campaign to control and prevention of leptospirosis.* | 3.38 | 1.16 | Moderate |

Remarks: the questions are negatively contrasted.

Fig. 3. Level of determinants regarding leptospirosis.
study of Sangwali et al. (2015) was found that a household members with a history of leptospirosis illness was associated with preventive behaviors against leptospirosis [16].

Perceived severity of leptospirosis was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This perceived severity of disease will lead to changes in attitudes and behaviors. This is consistent with studies of Naksila (2014) and Jinda & Tansakul (2014) reporting that the perceived severity of leptospirosis was associated with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis [22,27]. This is different to the study of Chaengchat (2016) who reported that the perceived severity of leptospirosis was not associated with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis [28].

Self-efficacy expectations of leptospirosis was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This is consistent with a concept of Wallston & Wallston (1978) that “self-believers are highly self-learning, that results in appropriate health behavior” [30].

Knowledge regarding leptospirosis was a significant association with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This is consistent with studies from Thailand [16,24,31], a study from Philippines [32], and a study from Santa Fe, Argentina [33] reporting that knowledge regarding leptospirosis was associated with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis. This affirms a study from Brazil reporting that illiteracy was associated with leptospirosis [34]. A study from South Gujarat region, India reporting that illiteracy increased risk of leptospirosis 1.82 fold [23]. This is a different from Chaengchat (2016) who found that knowledge regarding leptospirosis was not associated with the preventive behavior against leptospirosis [28].

5. Limitations

The respondents may have provided socially desirable responses, especially due to the high perceived and preventive behaviors against leptospirosis. Notwithstanding these limitations, this study is believed the survey conducted among the population at risk, hence, the findings can be used to directly inform the health agency and provide a baseline for evaluating leptospirosis prevention and control in Si Sa Ket province.

6. Conclusions

This study has demonstrated that the levels of knowledge and practices on leptospirosis among the population at risk are still low. Thus, there is an urgent need for the relevant authorities or stakeholders to develop more practicable health education programs or interventions for this group. There is still a gap in knowledge regarding leptospirosis, especially with the perceiving, awareness, and preventive behavior against leptospirosis which were poor, especially regarding the use of PPE. These findings could also provide an insight for health agencies to strengthen their communication, planning for prevention and control of leptospirosis. Health professionals should be encouraged to provide knowledge and develop good action plans or preventive behavior interventions of leptospirosis, particularly in leptospirosis prone areas.

Author contributions

TT, PT and CN had an important role in initiating and designing the study. TT collected and analyzed the data. TT and CN drafted the first version of the manuscript. All authors revised the manuscript critically and contributed to the final version.

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Author statement

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Declarations

One Health requires that all authors sign a declaration of conflicting interests. If you have nothing to declare in any of these categories then this should be stated.

Please state any sources of funding for your research

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors have no conflicts of interests to declare.

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Table 3

Factors affecting preventive behavior against leptospirosis, (n = 350).

| Predictive determinants                                      | R   | Adjusted R² | b    | SE (b) | Beta | t    | p-value |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|------|--------|------|------|---------|
| History of leptospirosis illness                            | 0.408 | 0.164 | 6.236 | 0.910 | 0.312 | 6.853 | 0.000** |
| Social support                                              | 0.553 | 0.301 | 0.333 | 0.062 | 0.240 | 5.369 | 0.000** |
| Perceived probability                                       | 0.623 | 0.383 | 0.269 | 0.050 | 0.238 | 5.358 | 0.000** |
| Household members with a history of leptospirosis illness   | 0.640 | 0.402 | 3.853 | 1.114 | 0.158 | 3.458 | 0.001** |
| Perceived severity                                          | 0.652 | 0.417 | 0.139 | 0.051 | 0.114 | 2.710 | 0.007** |
| Self-efficacy expectations                                   | 0.658 | 0.422 | 0.109 | 0.051 | 0.094 | 2.138 | 0.033*  |
| Knowledge                                                   | 0.663 | 0.428 | 0.405 | 0.198 | 0.088 | 2.049 | 0.041*  |
| Constant                                                    |      |     | 17.463 | 2.820 |      | 6.193 | 0.000*** |

Note: *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.
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