

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nail cutting on the street which is sometimes referred to as the roadside trimming, refers to the use of sharp objects and other equipment's by some individuals to trim finger and toenails on the roadside or the streets as their business. The use of sharp objects for cutting nails in towns and cities is very alarming and can be a major risk to the spread of blood borne diseases, and Ghana is not an exception. Whilst there is some evidence regarding safety behaviours in saloons and barbering shops, there is little evidence regarding the burden of street nail trimming and factors associated with this practice.

Objective: this study sought to estimate the Prevalence, Knowledge, Attitudes, correlates (determinants/ factors) and Safety Practices associated with **Street nail trimming (SNT)** among traders in the study area.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional design employing a mixed method was used. A multi-stage sampling was used to obtain 384 eligible participants. A structured questionnaire, a focus group discussion guide, an observational check list and an interview guide were used. STATA (version 15.0) was used for the quantitative analysis. Bivariate and multivariate analysis were used to test for association between variables.

Results: Prevalence of street nail trimming was revealed as 69.3%. Prevalence by sex was 68.8% males and 69.8% females, ($p=0.586$). Knowledge was high. Attitudes (traders' likens): qualitative excerpts indicates almost half of participants preferred SNT continue. A few other respondents do not like due to the high risk of disease transmission associated with the activity. Association between patronage of street nail trimming and the factor (correlate /determinants of STN): Participants who perceived SNT as beneficial had an almost 5 times increased odds of practicing this (OR=4.99, 95% CI: 2.51- 9.92, $p<0.001$). Participants who thought/agreed street nail trimming should be discouraged had a reduced

odds of practicing this (OR=0.40, 95% CI: 0.23 - 0.70, $p<0.001$) at a confidence interval of 95%. Most (77%) of the instruments were seen as not being disinfected.

Conclusion: There is a high prevalence of the practice of street nail trimming with more than two thirds of participants taking up this service. This is against the backdrop that knowledge of the risks involved in this service is high. **It appears** knowledge does not always translate into healthy behavioral choices though attitudes might, given the fact that participants perceived the service as convenient. This therefore calls for the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ghana Health Service (GHS) to implement **Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC)** strategies. Also, there should be application of the health belief model to promote safety practices regarding SNT.