

IMPACTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON SELF-REPORTED PREVALENCE OF ALLERGIC DISEASES AMONG FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Until recently, most studies reported the rising allergy and asthma diagnosis rates. The research suggested that it is the result of changes in the living condition and lifestyle.

The aim of this study was to analyze the prevalence and changes in allergic diseases in relation to socioeconomics factors over the six-years period.

The research material was collected in two cross-sectional surveys among university female students: in 2009 and 2015 (respectively 702 and 1305 subjects). The date concerned the incidence of allergic conditions and socioeconomic status were gathered in questionnaire. The occurrence of allergy was determined on the basis of answers to the questions whether the allergy and its specific allergens were defined on the basis of medical work-up.

The prevalence of allergic diseases increased from 14.56% to 22.30%. In both cohorts, among females with high SES allergic diseases were more prevalent than among females with low SES. In 2009 statistically significant difference were noted in relation to the place of living and number of siblings. In 2015 all socioeconomics factors significantly influenced on the prevalence of allergy. The increase in the incidence of allergies was higher in groups with high SES than in the low SES.