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## ABSTRACT

**Title of Abstract** : Public Perception of Health And Sickness in The Context of River Water Use For Needs  
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**Background** : The use of polluted river water for household purposes is still frequently found in various regions of Indonesia.

**Objective** : This narrative review aims to explore community perceptions regarding the meaning of health and sickness in relation to the practice of using river water

**Research Methods/ Implementation Methods** : The literature review indicates that communities develop unique perceptions of water quality based on sensory indicators (color, smell) and direct experience, rather than microbiological parameters.

**Results** : The concept of 'sickness' tends to be defined functionally as a condition that disrupts daily activities, while mild illnesses like diarrhea and skin rashes are often normalized. Socio-cultural, economic factors, and limited knowledge shape these perceptions and create a cycle of dependency on river water.

**Conclusion/Lesson Learned** : It is concluded that there is a gap between scientific health definitions and community perceptions, therefore public health interventions need to consider participatory approaches that understand the construction of health-sickness meanings at the community level.

**Keyword** : Health Perceptions, Health Behavior, Social Construction