ABSTRACT

Persistent Gaps in Healthy Latrine Use: Three-Year Comparative Analysis Across Primary Health Centers in Tarakan

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Background : Healthy latrine use is an indicator of Clean and Healthy Living Behaviour (PHBS) and plays an important role in preventing environmentally related diseases. Geographical disparities highlight the need to evaluate sanitation programmes and prioritise public health interventions.

Objective : To examine trends and disparities in healthy latrine use in the Puskesmas Pantai Amal service area relative to five other Puskesmas in Tarakan during 2023–2025.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : This descriptive comparative study used aggregated secondary data from household PHBS surveys in Tarakan during 2023–2025. The unit of analysis was each Puskesmas in each year. Healthy latrine use across six Puskesmas, annual changes, and gaps between Puskesmas Pantai Amal and citywide levels were compared using percentages and percentage-point differences.

Results : Healthy latrine use in Pantai Amal was 68.00% in 2023, 57.00% in 2024, and 60.48% in 2025, consistently the lowest among the six Puskesmas. Corresponding citywide percentages were 82.43%, 80.01%, and 85.21%. The gap widened from 14.43 to 23.01 and 24.73 percentage points, respectively. Despite a 3.48-percentage-point increase in 2025, Pantai Amal remained 7.52 percentage points below its 2023 level. These persistent disparities indicate uneven sanitation improvements across Puskesmas service areas. Pantai Amal's recovery in 2025 did not keep pace with citywide improvements, highlighting the need to evaluate sanitation interventions according to local characteristics. Access to sanitation facilities, socioeconomic conditions, residential environments, and community behaviours warrant further investigation as possible explanations for these disparities.

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : Puskesmas Pantai Amal exhibited a persistent and widening gap in healthy latrine use relative to citywide levels. Sanitation programme evaluation, identification of local barriers, and stronger community-based interventions and cross-sectoral collaboration are needed.

Keyword : PHBS; healthy latrines; health promotion; Pantai Amal; descriptive survey