ABSTRACT

Relationship Between HIV Knowledge and Stigma Toward PLWHA at Puskesmas Lempake

Imam Fathoni, Nur Rohmah

Correspondence E-mail : ifathoni26@gmail.com

Background : HIV remains a public health concern in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, where 447 HIV cases were reported in 2022, including 322 (72.0%) among people aged 25–49 years. Although local studies have examined HIV knowledge and prevention, evidence on the association between knowledge and stigma among primary healthcare visitors remains limited. This study examined this association among visitors at Puskesmas Lempake.

Objective : This study analyzed the relationship between public knowledge level regarding HIV/AIDS and community stigma toward People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) at Puskesmas Lempake, Samarinda.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted from December 2024 to January 2025 among 101 visitors aged 15–49 years recruited through purposive sampling. The sample size was calculated using Lemeshow's formula. Data were collected using structured questionnaires assessing knowledge (Guttman scale) and stigma (four-point Likert scale). The stigma questionnaire was adapted from Rahayu (2021). Spearman's rank correlation was used for analysis.

Results : Of 101 respondents, 55.4% (n=56) had good HIV knowledge, 36.6% (n=37) had moderate knowledge, and 7.9% (n=8) had poor knowledge. Stigma was low in 90.1% (n=91) and moderate in 9.9% (n=10). Knowledge was significantly but weakly negatively correlated with stigma toward people living with HIV (PLHIV) ($\rho = -0.251$, $p = 0.011$).

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : Higher HIV knowledge was associated with lower stigma among Puskesmas Lempake visitors, although the correlation was weak. The cross-sectional design precludes causal conclusions. Targeted HIV education and stigma-reduction initiatives may be strengthened in primary healthcare settings.

Keyword : HIV Infections; Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Social Stigma; Cross-Sectional Studies; Indonesia.

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