

## ***Relationship between Communication and HIV AIDS Prevention in Dental Clinic Patients of Health Center and Hospital***

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### **ABSTRACT**

An infection that attacks the immune system is known as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The most severe condition of this disease is known as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). HIV damages leukocytes in the body that function to reduce immunity. This study examines the relationship between HIV AIDS prevention and communication in dental polyclinic patients at hospitals and health centers in Bulukumba Regency in 2024. Based on information collected from surveys, interviews, observations, and documentation, this study uses a cross-sectional study approach with a quantitative type to analyze the relationship between variables. In this study, the population was all employees of the Dental Polyclinic, Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba Regency, totaling 55 dental polyclinic officers. The sample collection method used was purposive sampling. Based on the results of the study, the chi-square test was used to determine the results of the statistical test. Based on the p-value ( $0.001 < \alpha = 0.05$ ),  $H_a$  was accepted and  $H_0$  was rejected. In 2024, there was a relationship between HIV AIDS prevention and communication in dental polyclinic patients at hospitals and health centers in Bulukumba Regency. To reduce the number of cases in Bulukumba Regency, dental polyclinic officers are required to carry out promotional and educational efforts as early as possible to patients and the community.

### **BACKGROUND**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is an infectious disease that is a health problem worldwide that requires a comprehensive prevention strategy. In addition to medical action, HIV / AIDS prevention requires an efficient communication campaign to increase understanding, change behavior, and reduce stigma in PLWHA. To prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, communication is essential to spread knowledge, raise awareness, and bring about social change. Through deliberate and strategic communication, communities can be informed about risk factors, the importance of early detection, the use of condoms and other protective devices, and the benefits of antiretroviral therapy (ARVs). In addition, myths, misconceptions, and discrimination—all of which often hinder prevention efforts—can be reduced through inclusive and culturally appropriate communication(1).

By the end of 2023, 39.0 million people (33.1–45.7 million) worldwide will be HIV-positive. Globally, an estimated 0.7% (0.6–0.8%) of individuals aged between 15 and 49 years are HIV-positive, but this figure varies widely across countries and regions. With approximately 1 in 25 people (3.2 percent of PLHIV) and accounting for  $\leq 2/3$  of all HIV-positive individuals worldwide, the African region continues to be the worst-affected (2,3).

Number of HIV cases in Indonesia According to the AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM), there will be 515,455 PLWHA in 2023, which is a lower figure compared to 526,841 PLWHA in 2022. Based on statistical data from the South Sulawesi Health Office, the trend of HIV/AIDS development in South Sulawesi has increased over the past two years. This case increased by 694 people from 2021 to 2022, so that in 2021 there were 1,881 PLWHA, and in 2022, there were 2,575 PLWHA. From January to September 2023, there were 1,475 HIV cases and 279 AIDS cases. A total of 140 people were infected with AIDS during the period from January to the third week of April 2024. A total of 95 of these cases were caused by same-sex sexual relations (4).

Dentists and dental hygienists are among the healthcare workers at risk due to their direct exposure to patients' blood and saliva. It is important to note that dentists are highly susceptible to serious infectious diseases caused by bacteria and viruses. When performing procedures inside the mouth and coming into contact with blood, saliva, or airborne droplets, infections can be a significant problem in their lives. Many viruses, such as Hepatitis B, HIV, Hepatitis C, HSV, and others, can be spread during dental operations (5–7).

Based on initial data obtained from 10 health workers, 80 percent knew that communication was always carried out from top to bottom and also between health workers. However, 20 percent of health workers had never received information about the P2 HIV AIDS program policy in the Dental Polyclinic. This study aims to determine the relationship between communication and HIV AIDS Prevention in Dental Polyclinic Patients at Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba Regency in 2024.

## METHODS

Based on the collected data, the approach with cross-sectional and quantitative research methodology. This study was conducted in July and August 2024 at the Bulukumba Regency Health Center and Hospital. The population in this study was 55 staff of the Bulukumba Health Center and Hospital Dental Polyclinic. This study used purposive sampling and a nonprobability sampling approach based on predetermined criteria. The data collection methods were questionnaires, observation, and documentation (8). The data analysis techniques used were bivariate and univariate analysis. This study has been declared ethically healthy by the Research Ethics Committee with letter number 229 / A.1 / KEP-UMI / VI / 2024.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### RESULT

#### *Respondent Characteristic*

Table 1. Distribution of Respondent Characteristics

Respondent Characteristic	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	31	93,9
Male	2	6,1
<b>Age Group</b>		
27-39 Years	19	57,6
40-52 Years	9	27,3
14-26 Years	4	12,1
53-65 Years	1	3,0
<b>Last Education</b>		
S1	24	72,7
DIII	4	12,1
DIV	4	12,1
S2	1	3,0
<b>Profession</b>		
Dentist	21	63,6
Oral Therapist	6	18,2
Dental Nurse	4	12,1
Endodontist	1	3,0
Epidemiology	1	3,0
<b>Agency</b>		
Health Center	22	66,7
Hospital	11	33,3

Source: Primary Data 2024

Based on Table 1, most of the respondents were female, namely 31 people or 93.9%. The largest age group (18 people or 57.6%) was the 27-39 year age group. The highest level of education was S1, namely 24 people (72.7%). Most of the respondents were dentists (21 people or 63.6%), and the largest educational institution was the Community Health Center, namely 22 people (66.7%).

### Univariate Analysis

Table 2. Distribution of Respondents Based on Communication and Prevention of HIV AIDS in Patients of Dental Clinics of Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba Regency in 2024

Variable	Jumlah	
	n	%
<b>Communication</b>		
Less	14	42,4
Enough	19	57,6
<b>HIV AIDS Prevention</b>		
Less	12	36,4
Enough	21	63,6

Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 2 shows that 14 respondents (42.4%) experienced inadequate communication; the majority (19 people, or 57.6%) had adequate communication. In the HIV AIDS prevention variable, although 12 respondents (36.4%) did not have adequate HIV AIDS prophylaxis, the majority of respondents (21) (63.6%) had sufficient prevention..

### Bivariate Analysis

Table 3. Relationship between Communication and HIV AIDS Prevention in Dental Clinic Patients of Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba Regency in 2024

Communication	HIV AIDS Prevention				Total	p-value
	Less		Enough			
	n	%	n	%	N	%
Less	10	71,4	4	28,6	14	100,0
Enough	2	10,5	17	89,5	19	100,0
Total	12	36,4	21	63,6	33	100,0

Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 3 shows that ten (30.3%) of the 33 health professionals in this study had poor communication skills and poor HIV AIDS prevention. In comparison, four (12.1%) had poor communication skills but effective HIV AIDS prevention, according to Table 4. In contrast, there were 17 (51.5%) police officers with good communication and good prevention and 2 (6.1%) officers with strong communication but poor prevention. A p-value of  $0.001 < 0.05$  was achieved from statistical testing using the chi-square test, which led to the acceptance of  $H_a$  and rejection of  $H_0$

## DISCUSSIONS

In the context of health, communication has a dual purpose: to convey medical knowledge and to build relationships based on respect, understanding, and inspiration to help people or groups maintain and improve their well-being (9).

The findings of the investigation showed that 30.3% of health workers had poor communication with HIV AIDS prevention because health workers were only carrying out their duties because they did not understand the contents of PERMENKES Number 23 of 2022 concerning policies, so the communication provided was minimal. Related to, for example, PERMENKES 23 of 2022, as well as the target of achieving 2030 three zero 95-95-95 all must be netted, HRV because this target has been socialized but the limitations so that the prevention carried out is also lacking including in the Poly room. This is supported by methodical efforts to positively impact public health behavior known as communication (10,11). If communication between patients is poor, health promotion becomes

ineffective. This is in line with Istiqomah's research (2020) which shows the effectiveness of the three metrics used to assess communication factors the Adimulyo Health Center utilizes in implementing HIV/AIDS control (12).

The findings of the investigation showed that there were 12.1% of health workers with poor communication but sufficient HIV AIDS prevention because the dental poly officers did not know what to do to implement the HIV AIDS and PIMS P2 Program Policy. Still, the suitability between the vision, mission, and objectives of the institutions in the Health Center and Hospital by the HIV AIDS and PIMS P2 Program Policy is in line so that HIV AIDS prevention can be implemented properly. This is reinforced by the theory (13) that false knowledge causes excessive fear, which leads to stigmatization and discrimination. Also, fear can cause stigma and discrimination against PLWHA by emphasizing the implications of the objectification process in Peter Berger's social construction theory. This is in line with Fauk's research (2021) which shows that verbal discrimination involves insulting words directed at PLWHA. This often occurs due to a lack of information about HIV/AIDS, leading to derogatory words that isolate and demean individuals with the condition (14).

The investigation findings showed that 51.5% of health workers had sufficient communication with sufficient prevention. This is due to the existence of PERMENKES No. 23 of 2022 concerning the prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections and the determination of the HIV AIDS and PIMS P2 Program Policy has been in accordance so that HIV AIDS prevention can run well, related to that, dental poly officers must also know what to do to implement the HIV AIDS and PIMS P2 Program Policy so that the target of reducing cases in 2024 can be achieved. This is in line with research conducted by Asrina (2023) which shows that the T statistic value of  $132.129056 > 1.96$  results from an assessment indicating that health workers influence behavior. Based on the study results, the role of health workers influences behavior. So, the behavioral criteria for health workers have a reasonably large value (15).

The investigation findings showed that there were 6.1% of health workers with adequate communication but lack prevention. This is because health workers' knowledge of the Minister of Health Regulation No. 23 of 2022 article 9, paragraph 3 that the implementation of safe and non-risky behavior, education, counseling, STI treatment, standard precautions, and other actions are used to prevent the spread of HIV AIDS and STIs, but these actions are relatively limited so that prevention is very inadequate. Related to this, Poly officers' lack of knowledge about the PERMENKES describes how community empowerment, advocacy, and collaboration through communication, information, and education for behavior change are used to promote health. Rini's research (2019) showed that there are several types of intersocial communication, such as functional intersocial communication, direct intersocial communication, and social communication via the Internet. The components of intersocial communication are involved due to these types(16).

PERMENKES Number 23 of 2022 concerning Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS is a guideline issued to regulate comprehensive HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts in Indonesia. This regulation aims to minimize HIV transmission, reduce morbidity and mortality related to HIV/AIDS, and reduce fear and prejudice in PLWHA, Listening to universal access to health services for the community, especially groups vulnerable to HIV.

Communication plays a very important role in the implementation of health policies, including policies used in Permenkes No. 23 of 2022 concerning the prevention and handling of HIV/AIDS. There are important aspects of the implementation of PERMENKES policies based on communication with Dental Poly officers, namely information delivery policies, two-way communication, training and capacity building, coordination between work units, delivery of culturally sensitive messages, monitoring and evaluation of communication and utilization of technology in communication (17).

The findings of the investigation show a significant relationship between HIV AIDS prevention and communication in dental polyclinic patients at health centers and hospitals in Bulukumba Regency..

This is in line with research by Octavianty (2015) which shows that there is an important relationship between the level of public knowledge about HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Tanah Bumbu Regency, as evidenced by the results of the chi-square test statistics which show a p value of 0.000 so that  $H_0$  is rejected (18).

Communication is carried out in various ways, especially providing education to patients / the community. In Arafah's research (2020) Yang stated that it is very important to educate prisoners on how to avoid HIV / AIDS transmission using audiovisual materials (19).

Based on observations of field conditions, increasing public knowledge about health problems, obstacles, dangers, and treatments is an essential function of health communication. Increasing self-awareness indicates that the person has recognized the actions needed to maintain his health. Then, it will be easier for them to maintain their health and avoid and treat diseases. This constructive behavior will affect the family and community environment.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion above, there is a relationship between communication and HIV/AIDS Prevention in Dental Polyclinics Patients at Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba Regency in 2024. As for suggestions for further researchers in this study using communication with health workers in Dental Polyclinics, further researchers can expand the research by examining all health workers in all Polyclinics at Health Centers and Hospitals in Bulukumba.

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