

## RESEARCH BASED TEMPLATE

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## **SEA, SUN, AND OOPS, SEX WITHOUT CONDOM. RISK AND PATTERNS OF PEP INITIATION IN BALI**

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### **Background:**

In tourism-heavy regions like Bali, HIV prevention services must accommodate different populations: international travelers and local residents. Understanding these differences is important to improve timely access to HIV prevention services.

### **Methods:**

A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted on 154 clients accessing PEP at Bali Medika. Variables included Citizenship, Onset of PEP, Condom use, Sexual orientation, and Alcohol use and Age. Associations between categorical variables were assessed using chi-square tests.

### **Results:**

The mean age of clients was 35.2 (SD 10.4), with most clients aged 25–35 years (48.7%). Most clients were non-Indonesian (77.3%), with Indonesian comprising 22.7% followed by Australian (9.7%), UK, France and USA, reflecting a highly mobile international population. MSM exposure accounted for 35.1% of cases, and alcohol use at the time of exposure was reported in 33.8% cases. The majority (97.4%) involved no condom use. While PEP is available up to 72 hours post-exposure, only 32.5% of clients accessed PEP within <24 hours. Most presentations occurred after this period, primarily within 24–48 hours (45.5%), with MSM exposure associated with lower likelihood of presentation within 24 hours compared to heterosexual exposure (22.2% vs 38.0%;  $p = 0.046$ ). Indonesian clients were also less likely to present within 24 hours compared to foreign nationals (17.1% vs 37.0%;  $p = 0.028$ ). Alcohol use was more frequently among foreign clients (37.8% vs 20.0%;  $p = 0.050$ ).

### **Conclusion:**

PEP seekers in Bali represent diverse populations. Lower rates of early presentation reflect different patterns of risk, access and barriers, especially among MSM and Indonesian clients, which underscore the need for fast PEP pathways and tailored counseling. This also supports broader HIV prevention efforts, including PrEP, while addressing contextual factors such as alcohol and condom use in a tourism-driven setting characterized by nightlife and high risk interactions.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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