

## ASHM ABSTRACT - HATI FSW TESTING

**Authors:** Whitford K<sup>a</sup>, Mitchell E<sup>a</sup>, Lazuardi E<sup>ab</sup>, Rowe E<sup>c</sup>, Anintya I<sup>d</sup>, Wirawan DN<sup>ce</sup>, Wisaksana R<sup>d</sup>, Subronto YW<sup>bf</sup>, Prameswari HD<sup>g</sup>, Kaldor J<sup>a</sup>, Bell S<sup>ah</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *The Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia*

<sup>b</sup> *Centre for Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

<sup>c</sup> *Yayasan Kerti Praja, Denpasar, Indonesia*

<sup>d</sup> *Clinical Infectious Diseases Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjajaran, Bandung, Indonesia*

<sup>e</sup> *Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Udayana, Denpasar, Indonesia*

<sup>f</sup> *Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

<sup>g</sup> *Ministry of Health, Government of Indonesia*

<sup>h</sup> *Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia*

**Title:** Social influences on HIV testing among female sex workers in three urban settings in Indonesia.

**Background:** In Indonesia, the national prevalence of HIV is estimated to be 0.33% but HIV is concentrated in key populations including female sex workers (FSW). Despite government efforts promoting condom use and HIV testing, prevalence among FSW remains high and a substantial proportion of FSW have never been tested. Qualitative studies in other settings highlight the influence of social networks on HIV testing among FSW, there is no qualitative research about these issues in Indonesia.

**Methods:** This paper draws on qualitative data collected during focus groups and in-depth interviews about access to HIV care services with 29 FSW in Yogyakarta, Bali and Bandung.

**Results:** Findings illustrate the important contribution of community-based action outside formal health spaces to enhance HIV testing among FSW. FSWs supported each other to attend HIV testing through information sharing and appointment reminders. The 'boss' or 'mama' [pimp] permitted time off work and flexible working hours to access HIV testing, and liaised with NGO clinics to facilitate outreach HIV testing at work. NGO community-outreach workers were a reliable support network, ensuring attendance at appointments through reminders, accompanied visits and the provision of transport, and offering emotional and informational support to FSWs.

**Conclusion:** Echoing recommendations in the recent International AIDS Society-Lancet Commission on HIV, our findings illustrate the importance of engaging community actors in effective HIV responses in Indonesia. Our study highlights key social factors that enhance HIV testing among FSW. Further investment in outreach programs and exploration of strategies to pilot HIV testing and treatment initiation in community- and work-based settings could result in increased HIV testing among this vulnerable population.

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