

STRENGTHENING HIV CARE ENGAGEMENT IN INDONESIA: EVIDENCE FROM THE QUALITATIVE LITERATURE AND FIELDWORK

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Background:

The Indonesian government has long recognised the importance of evidence-based policy in designing its national HIV program. To date, however, this response has been largely informed by quantitative research. In a socio-economically and culturally diverse country such as Indonesia, well-designed qualitative research holds much promise for providing nuanced, contextually specific insights into the social complexities of engaging key populations with care.

Methods:

This presentation will outline key findings from a scoping review of qualitative research published 1990-2016 in English language journals, and which used qualitative or mixed-methods to analyse primary data from Indonesia on engagement with HIV care. We will also report preliminary findings from a qualitative doctoral study comprising in-depth interviews (n=77) and observational research in 5 HIV testing and treatment settings in West Java, during 2017-2018.

Results:

17 publications were eligible for inclusion in the review, and a thematic analysis of key findings revealed that successful engagement across the HIV care cascade is influenced by a range of factors, including: lack of knowledge, stigma, accessibility and affordability, and barriers to linkages across the care continuum. Our review also revealed the response to HIV in Indonesia is affected by the complexities of translating global programs to local socio-cultural settings, political issues in the distribution of funding, an imbalance in power relations between service providers and clients, and gendered modes of stigmatisation. Preliminary findings from our qualitative research also revealed that stigma related to sexual identity was reported as a persistent and problematic barrier to care engagement.

Conclusion:

The Indonesian response to HIV could be strengthened by learning more from qualitative investigations of the experiences of at-risk populations as well as the role of clinics and providers in delivering HIV care in a country affected by an increasingly decentralised health system and diverse local values.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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