

Relationship Between Age, Gender, and Marital Status with The Intention to Disclose HIV Status Among PLHIV

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ABSTRACT

Globally, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains a public health problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports 39.0 million (33.1-45.7 million) people living with HIV by the end of 2022, with two-thirds (25.6 million) in the African region. Based on national data in 2022, West Java has the 3rd highest number of HIV cases based on data and reporting from 2010-2022, which amounted to 52,970 cases, so it is necessary to disclose the status to the closest people to prevent transmission. HIV-positive status disclosure is the decision of PLWHA to disclose personal information about their disease and transmit it to others. This study aims to determine the relationship between age, gender, and marital status in disclosing HIV status in PLWHA. This study is a quantitative research, analytic research design with a cross-sectional design conducted on 74 PLWHA in Sumedang Regency Hospital. Data were analyzed using the chi-square test and Fisher's exact test. The results of bivariate analysis showed age $P=0.033$ and OR 2.739 (CI 95% 1.184-6.337), gender $P=0.002$ and OR 5.091 (CI 95% 1.712-15.139), single marital status $P=0.004$ and OR 4.4381 (CI 95% 1.628-12.099). (CI 95% 1.628-12.099) so that it is known that the variable most associated with disclosure of HIV-positive status in PLWHA at Sumedang District Hospital and the most associated with disclosure of HIV-positive status.

Keywords: PLHIV, Age, Gender, Marital Status, Intention to Disclose HIV-Positive Status.

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains a public health problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports 39.0 million (33.1-45.7 million) people living with HIV by the end of 2022, with two-thirds of them (25.6 million) in the African region¹. The United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) reported 1.3 million (1-1.7 million) new cases of HIV infection, the lowest number in recent decades².

Along with the national problem, HIV cases in West Java are also a major problem.

Specifically, in data in West Java in 2021, the number of HIV cases was 4,531 cases or an increase of 2.94%, the average number of cases per year was 4,488.67 in the last 3 years³. Based on national data in 2022, West Java has the third highest number of HIV cases based on data and reporting from 2010-2022, which amounted to 52,970 cases⁴.

disclosing one's HIV-positive status, or revealing one's HIV-positive diagnosis to others is a complex and multifaceted issue that is influenced by various factors. The disease process that develops without symptoms over a long period of time (window period) which can even reach ten years is one of the reasons why

HIV patients do not disclose their disease status. Disclosure of HIV positive status is the decision of PLWHA to disclose their personal information about the disease that is likely to be transmitted and transmitted to others but disclosure of HIV positive status is not an easy thing to do by PLWHA. Based on the results of previous studies, the level of intention to disclose HIV-positive status among PLHIV is still around 22%, -58%^{5,6,7,8}.

In Indonesia, the disclosure rate of HIV patients to their partners ranges from 16.7% to 78.2%^{9,10}. various individual and environmental factors have been identified to be associated with HIV disclosure intentions. Although there have been many studies that have uncovered various factors that influence HIV disclosure, there are limited studies that identify PLHIV's decision to disclose their HIV-positive status,

especially in the West Java population. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the association between age, gender, and marital status with disclosure intention among PLHIV.

METHODS

This study is a quantitative study with an analytic research design with a cross-sectional design. Cross sectional research is research to study the dynamics of correlation⁽¹¹⁾ This study will be conducted at Sumedang Regional Hospital, West Java Province in October-December 2023. The population in this study were 130 HIV patients who had not disclosed their positive HIV status to their closest people and the sample size in this study was 74 PLWHA using convenience sampling technique.

RESULTS

Table 1. Intention to Disclose HIV Status and Characteristics of PLHIV

Characteristics	Intention Revealing HIV positive status				Total	
	No		Yes		n	%
	n	%	n	%		
Total	53	71.6	21	28.4	74	100
Age (mean, SD)	29.4	9.01	37.2	11.8		
1 8 -25 years	21	84.0	4	16.0	25	33.8
26- 4 5 years	28	71.8	11	28.2	39	52.7
4 6- 6 5 years	4	40.0	6	60.0	10	13.5
Gender						
Man	42	82.4	9	17.6	51	68.9
Woman	11	47.8	12	52.2	23	31.1
Marital status						
Not married yet	36	83.7	7	16.3	43	58.1
Marry	17	58.6	12	41.4	29	39.2
Widow widower	0	0	2	100	2	2.7
Education						
No School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elementary School	0	0	1	100	1	1.4
Junior High School	3	83.3	3	16.7	6	8.1
Senior High School	48	52.4	15	47.6	63	85.1
Higher Education	2	50%	2	50%	4	5.4
Type of work						
Not yet/Not working	3	75.0	1	25.0	4	5.4
Housewife	1	33.3	2	66.7	3	4.1
Self - employed	39	79.6	10	20.4	49	66.2
TNI/Police /PNS	1	100	0	0	1	1.4
Other	9	52.9	8	47.1	17	23.0
Income						
Do not have	2	50.0	2	50.0	4	5.4
Below UMR	31	75.6	10	24.4	41	55.4
Above UMR	20	69.0	9	31.0	29	39.2

Length of HIV Suffering						
1-5 Years	52	74.3	18	25.7	70	94.6
6-10 Years	1	25.0	3	75.0	4	5.4
Clinical Stage						
Stage I	26	68.4	12	31.6	38	51.4
Stage II	6	100	0	0	6	8.1
Stage III	19	73.1	7	26.9	26	35.1
Stage IV	2	50.0	2	50.0	4	5.4
Source transmission						
Heterosexual	14	58.3	10	41.7	24	32.4
Homosexual	26	83.9	5	16.1	31	41.9
IDUS/ IDU	5	83.3	1	16.7	6	8.1
Maternal	0	0	1	100	1	1.4
Tattoos/Needles	0	0	1	100	1	1.4
Not identified	8	72.7	3	27.3	11	14.9

Table 1 explains that the study was conducted on 74 people with HIV/AIDS. The results showed that the majority of respondents (68.9%) were male and more than half (52.7%) of respondents were in the age range of 26-45 years with the majority (85.1%) having a high school education. Based on clinical disease characteristics and disease characteristics, almost all respondents (94.6%) had HIV for 1-5 years with more than half (51.4%) clinical stage 1 and almost half of respondents (41.9%) were infected through sexual intercourse.

After analyzing the characteristics of respondents, researchers conducted bivariate analysis using the chi square test and Fisher's exact test and determined the odds ratio (OR) to determine the odds of intention to disclose HIV status.

Table 2. Relationship between Age, Gender and Marital Status with Intention to Disclose HIV Status in PLHIV

Variable	p-value	OR (95% CI)
Age		
18 -25 years	0.033 ^b	2,739
26- 4 5 years		(1,184-6,337)
4 6- 6 5 years		
Gender		
Man	0.002 ^a	5,091
Woman	*	(1,712-15,139)
Marital status		
Not married yet	0.004 ^b	4,438
Marry		(1,628-12,099)
Widow widower		

Table 2 describes the results of bivariate analysis between independent and dependent variables. Only one variable was found to be statistically associated with HIV disclosure intentions: age with $P = 0.033$ and OR 2.739 (95% CI 1.184-6.337),

meaning those aged 26-45 years were more likely to have disclosure intentions among their partners. Gender had a $P = 0.002$ and OR 5.091 (95% CI 1.712-15.139), meaning women were more likely to have the intention to disclose. Status variable has a value of $P = 0.004$ OR 4.4381 (95% CI 1.628-12.099) which means that the marital status of PLHIV who are married has a greater chance of having the intention to disclose HIV status.

DISCUSSION

1. Characteristics of PLHIV and Intention to Disclose Positive HIV Status in PLHIV

This study shows that the characteristics of PLHIV are part of the background of HIV-positive disclosure behaviour. In a previous study, age characteristics, averaged 41.57 years for males and 38.99 years for females, and there were statistically significant differences between males and females in ethnicity, religion, residential status, and family size in terms of education level, occupation, and monthly household income^{11,12}.

The characteristics in this study indicate that the majority of PLWHA are male and more than half of PLWHA are in the age range of 26-45 years with a majority of high school educational background, in the large dictionary of Indonesian language (KBBI) education comes from the basic word didik (educate) which is to maintain and provide training (teaching, leadership) regarding morals and intelligence of the mind¹³. The results of research in Sarawak, educational differences

are a background that can be statistically related to openness intentions¹².

Marital status shows that more people are not married. Research conducted in Nigeria shows that *disclosing HIV positive status* occurs more often between partners or sexual partners than disclosing HIV positive status to relatives/family members, friends, pastors/imams or co-workers/employers¹⁴.

Based on characteristics disease journey clinical and characteristic disease, almost All PLHIV have HIV for 1-5 years with clinical stage more from half are stage 1 as well almost half respondents infected through connection homosexual. Study results before The results of research in Southern Ethiopia identified clinical stages disease is very important For push *disclosing HIV status* and minimizing stigma for encourage living people with HIV for do matter, revealing their status.

Disclosing HIV positive status is influenced by sociodemographics, one of which is path / source infection heterosexual¹⁵. According to other research, non-disclosure of HIV serostatus to sexual partners has a significant relationship with HIV risk behaviour. This is consistent with studies conducted in Jamaica, Cape Town, South Africa and Cameroon where HIV risk behaviour was reported mostly among patients who did not disclose their HIV status to sexual partners. Similar findings were also documented in research conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa. This could be caused by the possibility that PLWHA who do not know their number of sexual partners are not encouraged to use condoms during sexual intercourse¹⁶.

2. Relationship between Age, Gender and Marital Status with Intention to Reveal Positive HIV Status in PLHIV

There is a relationship between age and disclosing HIV positive status full, and partial disclosure of HIV positive status is rare in all age groups, this shows a pattern of early and late disclosure of HIV positive status. Programs disclosing HIV positive status must emphasize the importance of disclosing HIV positive status gradually, starting at a younger age, to maximize benefits¹⁷. Based on the results of another study of 371 participants, the average age was 37 ± 12 years, 79.3%¹².

Age shows that there is a relationship with the intention to disclose HIV positive status. In accordance with several studies which reveal that the majority of individuals who have the intention of disclosing their HIV positive status are adults¹⁸. Disclosing HIV positive status is influenced by the characteristics of the respondent, namely adult age¹⁵ and openness intentions are higher at ages 39-59 years⁶. Research in *the Republic of Congo* revealed that there is a relationship between age and *disclosing HIV positive status*¹⁹. Based on The results of research in Sarawak, analysis showed that among men, the percentage of *disclosing HIV positive status* was 66.7% compared to women (70.2%)¹². Based on the results of research conducted²⁰, *reveal HIV positive status* significantly higher in married participants compared to single people and in PLHIV aged 39-59 years.

There are other reasons why PLHIV do not want to reveal their status, among them the main reasons for not disclosing it include fear of losing their partner, feeling embarrassed about being HIV positive and fear of stigma.

Intention to disclose HIV status based on gender shows that there are differences between the groups of men and women, statistically there is a very significant relationship between gender and intention to disclose HIV positive status. In line with previous research that found statistically significant differences in the intention to disclose HIV status between men and women, the pattern of HIV status disclosure was higher in women compared to men⁷. Another study conducted in Nigeria showed that disclosing HIV positive status was the most influential factor in disclosing HIV positive status was gender¹⁴. Research in the Republic of Congo shows that gender is related to disclosing HIV positive status¹⁹.

Research conducted in Nigeria shows that *disclosing HIV positive status* mostly occurs between partners or sexual partners rather than disclosing HIV positive status to relatives/family members, friends, pastors/imams or co-workers/employers.

The most influential factor in *disclosing HIV positive status* is type. Several studies report *disclosing HIV positive status* as a way to limit stigma. Almost all studies highlight that there is a fear of stigma and social exclusion associated with *disclosing HIV positive status*¹⁴. Intention to disclose HIV positive status based

on marital status differs and has a significant relationship. Based on the results of previous research, respondents who have an official partner or discuss it with their sexual partner before taking an HIV test will be more open about their status to their sexual partner²¹. Other research says it reveals HIV positive status is significantly higher in the married⁶. Other research conducted in Nigeria shows that disclosing HIV positive status HIV positive states most often occurs between couples¹⁴. In another study conducted in China, the proportion of disclosing HIV positive status to sexual partners was lowest among couples without official marriage ties²². Results of other research in Yogyakarta It was found that marital status was related to openness behaviour²¹. However, based on the results of research conducted in the African continent of Ghana, marital status is not a dominant factor in openness²¹. According to research results in Ethiopia, more than a quarter of adults living with HIV did not disclose their HIV-positive status to sexual partners. The percentage of PLWHA who disclose their HIV-positive status to sexual partners is 76.03%²⁴.

Intention to reveal the HIV positive status of respondents from the results of this study during interviews, some respondents said they tended to avoid communication such as disclosing HIV to their partners and considered it very personal information and wanted to protect themselves from embarrassment so they had no intention of disclosing. This research revealed how much Respondents' intention to be open, of the 21 (28.4%) respondents who had the intention to be open, 16 respondents (21.6%) said they had quite the intention to be open, 1 respondent (1.4%) said they intended to reveal their status, 4 (5.4) respondents were very willing and there were 10 (13.5%) said they had no intention and 43 (58.1%) said they had no intention at all during the discussion.

In short interviews, respondents also revealed the time needed to reveal their HIV status, including 15 (20.3%) respondents who said it took 1 year to reveal their HIV status to their partner, 4 (5.4%) respondents said it took 6 months to reveal their HIV status and There were 2 respondents who had just been diagnosed, 2 (2.7%) who wanted to immediately reveal their status within 1 month of the respondent being diagnosed with HIV.

In several research studies conducted in Nigeria, Ethiopia and Indonesia, the level of

status discrepancy was revealed HIV among PLHIV in couples it is still low^{5,8,9} research studies conducted in Kilombero (Tanzania), in Malaysia (Sarawak), it has shown that the level of openness is around 56-58% who reveal test results. their HIV to their partners^{6,7}. The problem of disclosing HIV positive status to a partner is very complex because it is related to the wide impact that will be received by both the individual suffering from HIV and their partner²⁵.

In general, the results of this study conclude that special attention is needed for women aged 18-25 years and 46-65 years, with the majority of PLHIV being male and unmarried, to facilitate their intention to open up, especially to those closest to them (partners). Official/unofficial partner, family or partner sharing needles), disclosing HIV positive status is also influenced by differences in characteristics. Openness regarding HIV status information is very important in preventing transmission to partners or close people. The strategy that can be taken is to optimize partner involvement before carrying out VCT.

CONCLUSIONS

The research results showed that the majority of respondents were men and more than half of the respondents were in the age range of 26-45 years, the majority were single and the majority had a high school educational background. Based on the characteristics of the clinical course and disease characteristics, almost all PLHIV have had HIV for 1-5 years with more than half of the clinical stage being stage 1 and almost half of PLHIV were infected through homosexual relations and the results of this study also prove that there is a relationship between age, gender and status. marriage with the intention of disclosing HIV status.

Implications of this research: Disclosure of HIV status is an important behaviour that has implications for HIV treatment and prevention, the intention to disclose HIV positive status is also something that can support preventing and reducing HIV transmission in the community, with the intention to reveal HIV positive status to sexual partners or partners sharing needles. , will allow everyone to take steps to stay healthy. However, the level of intention to disclose HIV positive status is still relatively low. This shows the need

for planning and intervention to help PLHIV carry out their intention to reveal their HIV positive status

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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