
THE LINKAGE TO CARE FOR CLIENTS OF DIFFERENTIATED HEALTH SERVICES OF KEY POPULATIONS (DHSKP) TOWARDS HIV TREATMENT AND PREP IN JOHOR

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The DHSKP program was established in 2019 by Ministry of Health to reduce the transmission of HIV among the Key Populations in the country which comprised Male Sex with Male (MSM), Transgender (TG), Women at Risk (WAR) and People Who Use Drug (PWUD) by scaling up HIV prevention, testing, and treatment adherence services. The program links clients who are tested positive towards health service to initiate treatment and those who are tested negative towards clinics in Johor which provides Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of infection. OBJECTIVE: This study aims to describe the linkage to care for clients of DHSKP towards HIV treatment and PrEP in Johor. METHODOLOGY: This is a cross-sectional study of all individuals who are reached by the DHSKP Program in 5 districts (Muar, Batu Pahat, Segamat, Kluang, Johor Bahru) in Johor from January 2024 to June 2024. A total of 1757 individuals are included. RESULTS: The results showed that the majority of the participants are Malay (78.5%), age group 25-59 (79%), from MSM risk group (66.8%) and from Johor Bahru (49.4%). A total of 48 (2.7%) out of 1757 participants tested positive with 40 (83.3%) linked to care while among those tested negative, 151 (8.6%) linked to PrEP clinics. Linkage to treatment was highest among Malay (80%), from MSM risk group (82.5%) and receiving treatment in Johor Bahru (70%). PrEP uptake was highest among Malay (78.8%), from MSM risk group (94%) and receiving PrEP in KK Mahmoodiah (50.3%). CONCLUSION: The results showed that the linkage to HIV treatment and PrEP are highest among MSM risk group. Results also showed that PrEP among PWUD and WAR risk groups are low. Future project to explore the reasons of low PrEP uptake among negative participants should be undertaken to reduce the risk of transmission among key populations.

Keywords: HIV treatment, Pre Exposure Prophylaxis, Key populations, Johor
