

The Relationship Between Adolescents' Perceptions of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Sexual Behavior Among Students at Balung Senior High School

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ABSTRACT

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are reproductive health problems that may result from risky sexual behavior among adolescents. Adolescents' perceptions of STIs based on the Health Belief Model (HBM) may influence their sexual behavior. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between adolescents' perceptions of STIs and sexual behavior among students at SMA Negeri Balung, Jember Regency. A correlational analytic study with a cross-sectional design was conducted involving 88 eleventh-grade students selected through stratified random sampling. Data were collected using questionnaires on STI perceptions and sexual behavior and analyzed using Spearman's Rho test. The results showed that most respondents had high levels of perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and self-efficacy, while all respondents were categorized as having low-risk sexual behavior. Significant relationships were found between perceived susceptibility ($p=0.005$), perceived severity ($p=0.013$), perceived benefits ($p=0.023$), perceived barriers ($p=0.039$), self-efficacy ($p=0.013$), and adolescent sexual behavior. It can be concluded that all components of the Health Belief Model are associated with adolescent sexual behavior. Strengthening reproductive health education is therefore necessary to promote healthy sexual behavior and prevent STIs among adolescents.

Keywords : *Sexually Transmitted Infections, Adolescent Perception, Health Belief Model, Sexual Behavior.*