



## **The Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescents Perceptions and Attitudes About the Risk of Increasing HIV in SMAN 12 Makassar**

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### **ABSTRACT / ABSTRAK**

Adolescents' use of social media has become an integral part of their lives in the digital age. However, its uncontrolled use can bring negative impacts, including influencing risky sexual behavior. Social media allows adolescents to access adult content, potentially increasing promiscuous sexual behavior, the risk of developing sexually transmitted diseases, early marriage, pregnancy, and HIV. To determine whether adolescents' social media use, attitudes, and perceptions are associated with increased HIV risk. This study used a quantitative method with a cross-sectional descriptive study design using 189 students of class X SMAN 12 Makassar as the research sample. The results of the study based on the Fisher Exact alternative test obtained on perceptions with a p value of 0.125 and attitudes with a p value of 0.058 where the use of social media is in the positive category, perceptions and attitudes are in the positive category towards the risk of increasing HIV. There is no relationship between the use of social media with the perception of adolescents with an increased risk of HIV and there is no relationship between the use of social media with the attitude of adolescents with an increased risk of HIV.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Adolescents are an age group that is vulnerable to various physical, psychological, and social changes, with ages 10-19 years according to WHO (2016). At this time, the development of technology and the internet has encouraged adolescents to actively use social media (Mulati & Lestari, 2019). Social media, such as Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, Twitter, and TikTok, allow teens to exchange information, but also present negative risks such as access to adult content and risky sexual behavior (Gustina & Mella, 2021).

HIV among adolescents remains a major problem, both in Indonesia and globally (Kemenkes, 2022). According to WHO, (2023) 39 million people are living with HIV, including 1.3 million new cases in 2022. In Indonesia, South Sulawesi recorded a high number of HIV cases, with Makassar City as the main contributor, with 5,963 cases in the population aged  $\geq 15$  years (Riskasdas, 2018).

Various studies have shown that social media can play a role in influencing adolescents' perceptions and attitudes towards HIV risk (Rifani & Mudjiran, 2023). Uncontrolled exposure to social media can lead to risky sexual behavior, such as promiscuous sex, early pregnancy, and

the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV (Nuraeni et al., 2021). However, if used wisely, social media can be an effective educational tool to increase adolescent awareness of HIV (Taggart et al., 2015).

Based on this explanation, this study aims to evaluate the relationship between social media use and adolescents' perceptions and attitudes about the risk of increasing HIV at SMAN 12 Makassar.

## METHODS

The research method used is a quantitative approach, the research design used in this study is using cross-sectional descriptive research design (Sugiyono, 2017). The population in this study were class X students at SMAN 12 Makassar. With a sample size of 189 respondents.

Data collection was obtained from respondents, by distributing and giving questionnaires, asking respondents to fill out questionnaires honestly, filling out informed consent, and following the instructions given. The data were analyzed using the Fisher Exact Alternative Test using SPSS, with a meaning limit of P value  $\leq 0.05$  which indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables. While the value of P  $\geq 0.05$  which means there is no statistically significant relationship between the two variables.

## RESULTS

### Respondent Characteristics

**Table 1.** Frequency Distribution of Respondent Characteristics

	Variabel	n = 189	%
Age (Year)	14-15	158	83,6
	16-18	31	16,3
Gender	Male	68	36
	Female	121	64
Religion	Islam	180	95,2
	Christianity	9	4,8
Have a Boyfriend	Yes	31	16,4
	No	158	83,6

Source: Primary Data, 2024

Based on table 1. above, the characteristics of the respondents can be seen. The average age of respondents aged 14-15 years was 83.6% (158 respondents) and aged 16-18 years was 16.3% (31 respondents). The gender of the respondents was predominantly female at 64% (121 respondents) and male at 36% (68 respondents). The religion of the respondents was predominantly Islamic 95.2% (180 respondents) compared to Christian 4.8% (9 respondents) and respondents who did not have a girlfriend 83.6% (158 respondents) compared to those who had a girlfriend as much as 16.4% (31 respondents).

### Overview of Social Media Distribution on the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar.

Based on table 2 above, it can be seen that more respondents use Social Media positively 98.4% (186 respondents) than those who use social media negatively 1.6% (3 respondents).

**Table 2.** Overview of Social Media Distribution on the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar

Social Media	n = 189	%
Positive	186	98,4
Negative	3	1,6

Source: Primary Data, 2024

### Overview of the Distribution of Adolescent Attitudes About the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar.

**Table 3.** Overview of the Distribution of Adolescent Attitudes About the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar

Attitudes	n = 189	%
Positive	161	85,2
Negative	28	14,8

Source: Primary Data, 2024

Based on table 3 above, it can be seen that more respondents with a positive attitude 84.7% (160 respondents) compared to respondents with a negative attitude 15.3% (29 respondents).

### Overview of the Distribution of Adolescents' Perceptions of the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar

**Table 4.** Overview of the Distribution of Adolescents' Perceptions of the Risk of Increased HIV in Adolescents at SMAN 12 Makassar

Perception	n = 189	%
Positive	147	77,8
Negative	42	22,2

Source: Primary Data, 2024

Based on table 4 above, it can be seen that more respondents have a positive perception, 80.4% (152 respondents), compared to respondents with a negative perception, 19.6% (37 respondents).

### Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescents' Perception of HIV Risk Increase at SMAN 12 Makassar

Based on the results of the analysis of the relationship between the use of social media with adolescents' perceptions of the risk of increasing HIV. This can be seen in table 5.9 of 189 respondents who obtained data on the use of social media with positive perceptions, namely positive as many as 146 respondents (78.5%), and negative as many as 40 respondents (21.5%), while data on the use of social media with negative perceptions are positive 1 respondent (33.3%), and negative 2 respondents (66.7%).

After the data was collected, the results of the chi-square test showed that it did not meet the requirements where the expected number of counts should be  $<5$ , and the expected number of counts should be  $>5$ . Therefore, the fisher exact alternative test was used and found that

there was no significant relationship between the use of social media and adolescents' perception of HIV risk at SMAN 12 Makassar, with a p value = 0.125 and an  $\alpha$  value = 0.05, so Hypothesis H0 was accepted and H1 was rejected.

**Table 5.** Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescents' Perception of HIV Risk Increase at SMAN 12 Makassar

Use of social media	Adolescent Perceptions of Increased Risk of HIV				Total	<i>p-Value</i>	
	Positive		Negative				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Positive	146	78,5	1	33,3	147	77,8	0,125
Negative	40	21,5	2	66,7	42	22,2	
Total	186	100	3	100	189	100	

Source: Primary Data, 2024

### Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescents' Attitudes About the Risk of HIV Increase at SMAN 12 Makassar

**Tabel 6.** The Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescent Attitudes towards Increasing HIV Risk at SMAN 12 Makassar

Use of social media	Adolescent Attitudes About Increased Risk of HIV				Total	<i>p-Value</i>	
	Positive		Negative				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Positive	160	86,0	1	33,3	161	85,2	0.058
Negative	26	14,0	2	66,7	28	14,8	
Total	186	100	3	100	189	100	

Source: Primary Data, 2024

Based on the results of the analysis of the relationship between the use of social media with adolescents' attitudes about the risk of increasing HIV. This can be seen in table 5.10 of 189 respondents who obtained data on the use of social media with a positive attitude, namely positive as many as 160 respondents (86.0%), and negative as many as 26 respondents (14.0%), while data on the use of social media with a negative attitude, namely positive 1 respondent (33.3%), and negative 2 respondents (66.7%).

After the data was collected, the results of the chi-square test showed that it did not meet the requirements where the expected number of counts should be  $<5$ , and the expected number of counts should be  $>5$ . Therefore, the fisher exact alternative test was used and found that there was no significant relationship between the use of social media and adolescents' attitudes about HIV risk at SMAN 12 Makassar, with a p value = 0.058 and an  $\alpha$  value = 0.05, so Hypothesis H0 was accepted and H1 was rejected.

## DISCUSSION

### Overview of HIV Risk Increase Based on Respondent Characteristics at SMAN 12 Makassar

Most respondents were aged 14-15 years, a period of adolescence that is vulnerable to physical, psychological and social changes. At this age, high curiosity and exploratory behavior are factors that influence the risk of risky sexual behavior (Pratiwi, 2020). HIV-related education needs to be provided early to increase adolescents' understanding of the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (Maharani Swastika & Prastuti, 2021).

The majority of respondents are women, who tend to use social media for positive purposes such as searching for information or shopping. However, a lack of knowledge about reproductive health and inaccurate information can increase their risk of HIV (Hanandha & Kurniawan, 2023). In addition, emotional instability in adolescent girls can also be a factor in HIV transmission (Rangkuti & Harahap, 2022).

The majority of respondents do not have a boyfriend, although having a boyfriend is often considered a "slang" among teenagers. Courtship behavior, if left unchecked, can trigger risky sexual behaviors that increase the risk of HIV (Putri et al., 2022). Religious and social education needs to be emphasized to prevent this behavior (Qomariah, 2020).

### The Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescent Perception of the Risk of HIV Increase at SMAN 12 Makassar

The results of the study showed that the use of Social Media with adolescents' perception of HIV risk did not have a significant relationship where adolescents in SMAN12 Makassar. Although social media, has a lot of diverse content, including those that have the potential to negatively affect perceptions, not all adolescents consume this information uniformly. Content consumption patterns vary greatly, depending on the interests, preferences, and social environment of adolescents. Adolescents who have access to educational information or have supportive friends and family are more likely to perceive HIV risk positively, regardless of negative content on social media. However, adolescents' perceptions can be influenced by other factors, such as education, family values, and personal experiences. so that adolescents perceive positively about the increased risk of HIV, although there are still some adolescents who perceive negatively.

Perception consists of two categories, namely positive and negative. Where, a person can judge positive things about himself and life experiences that can form a positive perception of an event and vice versa (Gani et al., 2021). Positive awareness can be caused by various factors, such as health education received through school, information from public health, or information obtained from social media. However, the presence of some adolescents who perceive the risk of HIV negatively should also be a concern (Arini, 2021).

### The Relationship between Social Media Use and Adolescent Attitudes About the Risk of Increasing HIV at SMAN 12 Makassar

The results showed that the use of social media with adolescents' attitudes about HIV risk did not have a significant relationship where adolescents' attitudes at SMAN 12 Makasaar were still positive about the risk of HIV increase, but there were still some adolescents whose

attitudes were negative. Although most adolescents have a positive attitude towards HIV risk due to formal education in school, social media is often a challenge due to the tendency of adolescents to be more interested in entertainment content than health information. This tendency creates problems when adolescents ignore or do not prioritize information of an educational nature, such as HIV prevention, and are exposed to irrelevant or even unhelpful content.

As a result, a lot of inaccurate information, myths, and stigmas about HIV continue to spread among them. This exacerbates misconceptions and fosters misconceptions about HIV, despite the correct education they receive in school (Ismayati et al., 2023). Adolescents' negative attitudes about HIV risk through social media are characterized by a tendency to ignore health information and prefer entertainment content, which can lead to the spread of inaccurate information, myths, and stigmas about HIV without ensuring clearer information (Nurhikmah, 2024).

## CONCLUSION

The results of the study on the use of social media on the perception and attitude of adolescents with an increased risk of HIV at SMAN 12 Makassar involving as many as 189 respondents are the use of social media in adolescents with adolescents' perception of the risk of increasing HIV shows that the perception of adolescents (80.4%) is still in the positive category. The use of social media in adolescents with adolescent attitudes about the increased risk of HIV shows that the attitude of respondents (84.7%) is still in the positive category. Based on the results of *Fisher Exact's alternativ* statistical test, there was no relationship between social media use and adolescents' perception of the risk of HIV increase and there was no relationship between social media use and adolescents' attitudes about the risk of HIV increase.

One of the limitations of the research process is that the time is not in accordance with the students' class hours at SMAN 12 Makassar, so the number of classes taken as respondents does not cover all classes. It is recommended that researchers can further conduct research in providing educational interventions and other methods that can be more accurate in factors that can affect the perception and attitude of adolescents with an increased risk of HIV.

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