

# PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE RISK OF HIV INFECTION IN JEPARA, CENTRAL JAVA

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Social capital is a well-established predictor of several behavioral health outcomes. However, studies that examined the relationship between social capital and HIV/AIDS infection is scarce. This study aimed to analyze psychological and social factors affecting the risk of HIV infection in Jepara, Central Java.

**Subjects and Method:** A case control study was conducted in Jepara Health District, Central Java, from April to May 2019. A sample of 200 study subjects was selected for this study by fixed disease sampling. The dependent variable was HIV infection. The independent variables were unsafe sex behavior, sexual orientation, frequency of sexual behavior, social capital, and geographical location. The data were collected by medical record and questionnaire. The data were analyzed by a multiple logistic regression.

**Results:** Unsafe sex behavior ( $b = 0.55$ ; 95% CI = 0.26 to 0.83;  $p < 0.001$ ), frequency of sexual intercourse  $> 4$  times per week ( $b = 1.72$ ; 95% CI = 0.38 to 3.06;  $p = 0.012$ ), homosexual ( $b = 3.28$ ; 95% CI = 0.48 to 6.08;  $p = 0.022$ ), and residence close to the port ( $b = 2.54$ ; 95% CI = 1.17 to 3.91;  $p < 0.001$ ) increased the risk of HIV infection. Strong social capital ( $b = -0.51$ ; 95% CI = -0.70 to -0.32;  $p < 0.001$ ) decreased the risk of HIV infection.

**Conclusion:** Unsafe sex behavior, frequency of sexual intercourse  $> 4$  times per week, homosexual, and residence close to the port increase the risk of HIV infection. Strong social capital decreases the risk of HIV infection.

**Keywords:** HIV infection, sexual behavior, social capital

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