

# ASSOCIATIONS OF PERCEIVED SUSCEPTIBILITY AND PERCEIVED SEVERITY WITH PREVENTION PRACTICES AGAINST COVID-19 AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN WEST KALIMANTAN

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Early in the pandemic and prior to the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, prevention measures were promoted to help inhibit the spread of the virus. To optimize adherence to prevention practices, it is vital to understand factors that may influence adherence. Health Belief Model has been widely used to explain various preventive health behaviors. This study aimed to determine the applicability of perceived susceptibility and perceived severity to explain prevention practices against COVID-19 among pregnant women in West Kalimantan.

**Subjects and Method:** This was a cross-sectional study conducted at Silat Hulu Community Health Center, West Kalimantan, from August to September 2022. A sample of 43 pregnant women attending the Community Health Center were selected for this study. The dependent variable was preventive behavior against COVID-19. The independent variables were perceived susceptibility and perceived severity representing two of Health Belief Model constructs. The data were collected by questionnaire, and analyzed using multiple logistic regression.

**Results:** Prevention practice against COVID-19 was positively associated with high perceived susceptibility (OR=3.14; 95%CI= 2.05 to 7.34; p=0.023) and perceived severity (OR=4.76; 95%CI= 3.88 to 10.49; p=0.002).

**Conclusion:** Prevention practice against COVID-19 is positively determined by high perceived susceptibility and perceived severity. This study supports the applicability of these two constructs of Health Belief Model in pregnant women population in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

**Keywords:** perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, health belief model, prevention practice COVID-19, pregnant women

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