

## EXTENDED ABSTRACT

### RISK PERCEPTION ON COVID-19 IN INDONESIA DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PANDEMIC

Mila Tejamaya<sup>1,\*</sup>, Baiduri Widanarko<sup>1</sup>, Dadan Erwandi<sup>1</sup>, Amelia Anggarawati<sup>1</sup>, Stevan D.A.M. Sunarno<sup>1</sup>, I Md Ady Wirawan<sup>2</sup>, Bina Kurniawan<sup>3</sup>, Yahya Thamrin<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia, Depok City, West Java Province, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University, Denpasar City, Bali Province, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Diponegoro University, Semarang City, Central Java Province, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Hasanuddin University, Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

\*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Telp: +62-21-7863481; email: tejamaya@ui.ac.id

#### Objectives

Currently, COVID-19 is a global pandemic which has disrupted not only the health of communities but also the socio-economic state of the world. In Indonesia, according to national data available at [www.covid19.go.id](http://www.covid19.go.id), as of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020, confirmed COVID-19 cases had reached 8,155, mainly concentrated at the State of Jakarta (3,599 cases), West Java (862 cases), East Java (690 cases), Central Java (575 cases), South Sulawesi (420 cases), Banten (359 cases) and Bali (177 cases). This study aims to describe the risk perception on COVID-19 and its associated factors among the Indonesian population amidst the first stage of the pandemic.

#### Methods

Perception of covid-19 amongst Indonesian citizens, of whom mainly live at the eight most affected provinces in Indonesia, were studied by an online survey on the first week of May 2020, 2 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> case in Indonesia. The questionnaire was developed by following a standard questionnaire on risk perception of an infectious disease outbreak from ECOM (Effective Communication in Outbreak Management for Europe) 2015. Perception of covid-19 knowledge, infectiousness, fatalities, modes of transmission, control measures, efficacy of control measures as well as motivation and hindering factors in the execution of prevention methods were investigated. The questionnaire was distributed through social media, namely WhatsApp, Facebook, line and Instagram.

#### Results

1,067 respondents participated in this study, of whom 92% reside at those 8 targeted provinces (Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, East Java, South Sulawesi, Banten and Bali). Most respondents were female (59.3%); aged early-to-late adult (64.8%); married (62.4%); holds a bachelor's degree (54%); Muslim (72.1%); and were never in contact with COVID-19 patient (82.1%). Most participants deemed their level of knowledge regarding COVID-19 to be average (70.9%), in which social media (85.1%) and online news (82.4%) were their main sources of information. 100% of the

respondents were aware that COVID-19 is caused by a virus; and that the main modes of transmission are through saliva droplets (97.2%) and contaminated surfaces (86.3%). More than 85% of the respondents perceive that COVID-19 is very infectious and spreads within days after contact with a COVID-19 patient(s) (>50% respondents). More than 95% of the respondents perceive the seriousness of COVID-19 as serious and very serious, interestingly, however, the level of anxiety among those respondents were moderate (quite anxious and anxious). This may be due to the people believing in their ability to control the risks associated with COVID-19 (53.8%). More than 95% of the respondents believe in the efficacy of and are willing to implement hand washing, physical distancing and wearing a face mask. Although more than 95% of the respondents also believe in the efficacy of staying at home, only 83.7% are open to the idea of staying at home. This study also analysed the difference of risk perception on COVID-19 based on respondents' characteristics (sex, age, marital status, religion, occupation, education and prior contact with COVID-19 patient)

### **Conclusions**

The respondents of this study showed a good level of knowledge on COVID-19. Although their perception on the severity, seriousness and number of confirmed cases were high, they showed a moderate extent of anxiety.

**Key words:** Risk, Perception, COVID-19, Indonesia.