

Prevalence of Behavior and Emotional Problems (BEPs) in Children Age 2-5 Years Old and Its Determinant Factors

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Behavioral and emotional problems (BEPs) affected a significant proportion of preschool-aged children. The Covid-19 pandemic may increase the prevalence and treatment gap. Therefore, assessing determinant factors is needed to design appropriate prevention and early interventions. This study aims to assess the prevalence of BEPs in preschool-aged children in Indonesia and its determinant factors during the Covid-19 pandemic. **METHODS:** We conducted a community-based cross-sectional study in the Sleman District, Yogyakarta Special Province, Indonesia, from July to August 2022. We recruited children aged 2 to 5 and their parents using the Sleman Health and Demography Surveillance System framework. We used the Early Childhood Screening Assessment to detect BEPs in children and parents with a risk of depression. **RESULTS:** We recruited 214 children and their caregivers. The prevalence of BEPs in young children was 17.8%, and 16.8% of parents have a risk of depression. Based on the multivariate regression analysis, factors associated with BEPs are males adjusted OR 2.26 (95% CI:1.01-5.08) and parents with a risk for depression adjusted Odds Ratio 5.11 (95% CI 2.21-11.81). **CONCLUSION:** Early detection and intervention of BEPs in children and parents are essential to prevent mental illness and improve well-being, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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