

## Relationship between Drugs Use and Sexual Risk Behaviors among Senior High School Students

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### Abstract

**Background:** Drugs use and risky sexual behavior among teenager are some of crucial problems arising in Indonesia. Statistic showed that there is an increasing prevalence in drugs use and risky sexual behavior among teenagers. This study was conducted to analyze the relationship between drugs use and risky sexual behaviors among high school students.

**Methods:** An analytic study involving 432 students in 5 state high schools located in Kerees region Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, was carried out in 2013. The region was chosen due the high prevalence of substance abuse. The inclusion criteria were every high school students in the Kerees region. The exclusion criteria were the students who refused to participate in the study, did not come when the sample was taken, and did not fill the questionnaire completely. The instruments used for the study were questionnaires with cross-sectional technique. Furthermore, the questionnaire used for analyzing drugs use was Addiction Severity Index-Lite Version (ASI-lite) questionnaire; with additional questionnaire to analyze risky sexual behaviors.

**Results:** Out of 432 students, 23.8% students already engaged to one or more risky sexual behavior. Among all respondents, the prevalence of students who had already done kissing was 22.7%, necking 9.3%, petting 7.2% and sexual intercourse 1.2%. Illegal drugs had been used at least once by 21.8% students. According to Chi-square test, drugs use and risky sexual behavior were related.

**Conclusions:** The prevalence of both drugs use and risky sexual behaviors are high and students who use drugs are more prone to do risky sexual behavior. [AMJ.2017;4(1):125-8]

**Keywords:** Drugs use, high school, sexual risk behavior

### Introduction

Senior high school is a formal education for teenagers between the ages of 14 to 18.<sup>1</sup> There are changes in many areas of life in a teenagers including physical, mental, emotional and social. Research showed that adolescences tend to use their emotional pathway rather than their cognitive pathway regarding to risk taking decision which lead them to do risky behavior.<sup>2</sup>

Drug is any substance that has the ability to enhance physical or mental welfare.<sup>3</sup> Drugs use among teenagers is one of the significant public health concerns.<sup>4</sup> A survey conducted at Minnesota<sup>5</sup> in 2011 showed that most of drugs users were 11–12 graders. Ricardo<sup>6</sup> stated that the number of drug users was increasing. Many factors influenced drugs use, including family and peer pressure.<sup>4</sup> A research conducted in

2012 showed that men with low education tend to be reported with negative alcohol abuse.<sup>7</sup> According to the survey conducted on 2012,<sup>8</sup> for the last 5 years there was an increase of drugs use in teenagers less than 16 years old.

Prevalence of risky sexual behavior has also increased. A survey conducted in Ghana<sup>9</sup> stated that 25% teenagers admitted that they had done sexual intercourse, where males were at higher prevalence than females. According to the survey conducted by *Survei Kesehatan Reproduksi Remaja Indonesia* (SKRRI) on 2007,<sup>9</sup> the number of risky sexual behaviors committed by teenager was increasing. The term risky sexual behavior refers to any sexual behaviors that increase the risk of negative sexual consequences.<sup>10</sup> Drugs use is believed to have an influence to the higher incidence of sexual risk behavior.<sup>11</sup> Baldwin et al.<sup>12</sup> stated

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