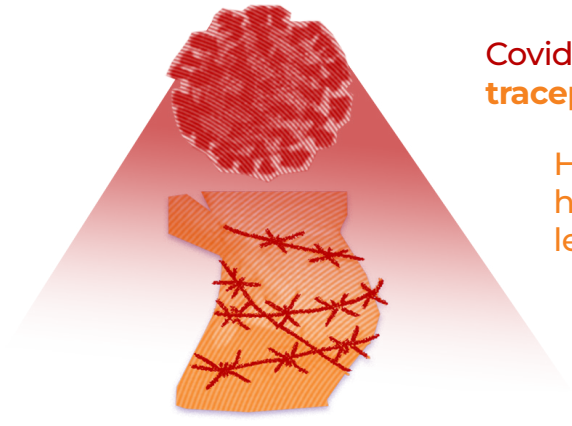


Unlocking the Future: Paving the Way for Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health in Post-Pandemic Jakarta



Covid-19 led to higher **maternal deaths, unmet needs for contraception, and unintended pregnancies.**

Healthcare services for family planning, maternal child health, HIV/AIDS, and adolescent services were **disrupted**, leading to **decreased health visits.**

1 in 3 patients had to give up access to STI services



One study investigating **the impact of the pandemic on STIs and HIV services** in Yogyakarta's Sleman District, where a **decrease was found in in-patient visits to STI services by 34.48%** and a **0.23% decrease in in-patient visits to HIV services** (Pudjiati et al., 2022)

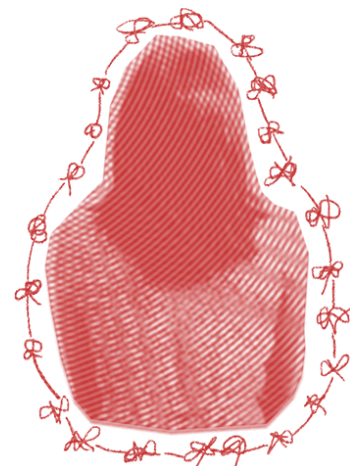
“ I think my friends who want to buy condoms, they are still afraid of the stigma.

FGD participant, Jakarta

* The uptake of family planning methods like intrauterine devices, injections, and sterilizations also decreased. **Limited access to personal protective equipment (PPE) affected SRH services and health-care workers well-being.**

* **The pandemic influenced dating, relationships, and sexual behavior among young people in Indonesia.** Some reported an increase in casual dating, while others experienced **more breakups.** Interestingly, the use of internet pornography among young people increased.

* Gender-based violence (GBV) cases surged during the pandemic, with a **63% increase** (Puspitasari & Mayangsari, 2022).



Technology-based GBV cases rose sharply during the pandemic with a **nearly 400% increase** in reported cases in 2020 (NORC at the University of Chicago & International Center for Research on Women, 2022).



Intimate partner violence and gender-based cyber violence were prevalent, driven by economic insecurity, quarantine measures, and increased social media use.

“ In the pandemic, because we have fewer people in the commuter line - especially in the stations, I think it lead to the increase of sexual violence. I've also heard news that in the KRL station, there are many people who are sexually harassed.

FGD participant, Jakarta

Recommendations

- Inclusive Decision-Making and Law Revision - Revoke and Revise Discriminatory Laws:**
 - Policymakers should involve young people, marginalized groups, and civil society in decision-making and law revision processes
 - Revoking and revising discriminatory laws, ensuring equal access to SRHR services.
- Inclusive Decision-Making and Law Revision - Provide Inclusive Training:**
 - Mandate inclusivity training for government staff and law enforcers to provide empathetic care and support to vulnerable groups
- Ensure Access to SRHR Services:**
 - Increase provision of health facilities for in-person and digital access to SRHR services.
 - Support youth-led digital innovations for better access to peer-led services and information.
- Enact Anti-Discrimination Legislation:**
 - Implement anti-discrimination legislation to combat stigma and discrimination in SRHR services and make them more inclusive.
- Expand Access to Menstrual Health Services:**
 - Ensure free access to menstrual health products, pain medications, and sustainable alternatives.
 - Broaden menstrual health management (MHM) awareness efforts for a more informed and understanding society.
- Uphold Contraception and Safe Abortion Access:**
 - Decriminalise abortion to allow access without legal scrutiny.
 - Ensure the availability of contraception and educate users about their options.
- Promote SRHR Information:**
 - Provide inclusivity training for health providers to create a safer and more inclusive health environment.
 - Democratise access to HIV prevention and treatment medications and address misconceptions.
- Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):**
 - Mainstream progressive laws across institutions to create a strong legal framework for combating SGBV.
 - Ensure access to trauma support services for victim-survivors of SGBV, addressing logistical challenges for timely and confidential support.

For more info, read Stories To Actions policy brief **“Beyond COVID: The sexual and reproductive rights and rights of urban youth.”**