



ADOLESCENTS' PERCEPTION OF HIV TESTING

Fenska Narly Makualaina^{1*}, Crystin Evangelin Watunglawar¹, Angela Librianti Thome¹, Nasri¹, Hasnia², Innal Saitis³

¹Nursing Study Program, Universitas Jayapura, Jl. Kamp Wolker, Yabansai, Heram, Jayapura, Papua 99224, Indonesia

²Midwifery Study Program, Universitas Jayapura, Jl. Kamp Wolker, Yabansai, Heram, Jayapura, Papua 99224, Indonesia

³Pharmacy Study Program, Jayapura University. Jl. Kamp Wolker, Yabansai, Heram, Jayapura, Papua 99224, Indonesia

*makualainafenskanarly@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research aims For understand perception teenager about HIV testing at Sentani Health Vocational School as well as identify factors that influence perception said. Research methods use approach qualitative with design phenomenology. Participants study amount to four teenagers , consisting of of two men and two women 14 until 15 years old. Data is collected through interview in-depth and Focus Group Discussion (FGD), then analyzed use analysis thematic. Research results show there is seven theme main: characteristics teenagers, knowledge teenager about HIV and HIV testin, perception teenager to HIV test, trust to accuracy results HIV test, importance HIV test for teenagers, the importance of education about HIV testing, and the impact HIV test for decision teenager in health reproduction. This study concludes that teenager Still own knowledge limited and diverse perceptions to HIV test.

Keywords: health education; HIV testing; perception adolescents; phenomenology

How to cite (in APA style)

Makualaina, F. N., Watunglawar, C. E., Thome, A. L., Nasri, N., Nasri, N., & Saitis, I. (2026). Adolescents' Perception of HIV Testing. *Indonesian Journal of Global Health Research*, 8(1), 509–516. <https://doi.org/10.37287/ijghr.v8i1.719>.

INTRODUCTION

The number of HIV cases in Indonesia continues to increase from year to year: The number of HIV cases in Indonesia continues to increase from year to year, especially among adolescents (AA Amir et al., 2022) . Based on data from the Ministry of Health, in 2022, there were approximately 1,929 adolescents aged 15-24 years who were estimated to be infected with HIV, an increase of 3.8% from the previous year (Aulia Apriliani et al., 2020) . In 2024, there were 35,415 cases of HIV and 12,481 cases of AIDS, with 71% of new cases occurring in men and 29% in women. In addition, 19% of cases occurred in the 20-24 age range, and 60% in adults aged 25 to 49 years (N. Amir, 2022)& (Damayanti et al., 2024) . Therefore, effective prevention and treatment efforts are needed to reduce HIV transmission among adolescents (Dewi et al., 2021) & (Gunawan et al., 2021).

Adolescents are a group that is vulnerable to HIV transmission. This is influenced by several factors, including lack of knowledge about HIV, risky sexual behavior, lack of awareness of risks, social pressure, lack of access to information, and lack of social support. (Hasibuan et al., 2024) . Therefore, effective prevention and treatment efforts are needed to reduce HIV transmission among adolescents. To prevent HIV transmission among adolescents, effective prevention efforts are needed, such as early sexual education, providing information about HIV and how it is transmitted, and providing access to adequate health services (Hatini et al., 2022) .

HIV testing is crucial for adolescents for several reasons: it can detect HIV infection early, prevent HIV transmission, and raise awareness about HIV (Nurmalawati, 2022) & (Mahardani et al., 2022). This research is crucial because adolescents are a population vulnerable to HIV infection. A comprehensive understanding of adolescents' perceptions regarding HIV testing will assist in designing more effective HIV prevention and control programs tailored to their needs. Furthermore, this study can provide input for policymakers in their efforts to improve access to and the quality of

HIV testing services for adolescents. The purpose of this study is to explore adolescent perceptions about HIV testing and identify factors that influence adolescent perceptions about HIV testing. Based on the above background, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled "Adolescent Perceptions About HIV Testing".

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach to understand how adolescents perceive HIV/AIDS testing. The purpose of this study is to explore adolescents' experiences and perceptions in depth and contextually. This study involved four adolescents, consisting of two boys and two girls aged 14 and 15 years old, who attend YPKP Sentani Health Vocational School. Participants were selected based on certain criteria to ensure the data's relevance to the research objectives. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews and observations to obtain a comprehensive understanding of adolescents' perceptions. The data obtained were then analyzed using data transcription and thematic analysis to identify emerging themes. To ensure data validity, this study used three criteria: credibility, transferability, and dependability. Thus, this study can provide an accurate and in-depth picture of adolescents' perceptions of HIV/AIDS testing.

RESULT

In this study 7 themes were found the main thing that will be discussed in a way deep in results research and discussion including: characteristics teenagers, knowledge teenager about HIV and HIV testing, perception teenager about HIV test, trust teenager to accuracy results HIV test, importance HIV test for teenagers, the importance of education about HIV testing in adolescents, and influence HIV test for decision teenager about health reproduction.

Table 1.
Thematic Results

Questions	Theme	Sub Theme	Category
What do you know about HIV testing?	Knowledge about HIV Testing	a. Definition of HIV Test b. Benefits of HIV Testing c. HIV Test Process d. HIV Test Results	a. Knowledge about how HIV is transmitted b. Knowledge about HIV symptoms c. Knowledge about the benefits of HIV testing d. Knowledge about the risks of HIV testing e. Knowledge about the HIV Testing process
How do you view HIV testing?	Adolescent perceptions of HIV testing	a. Attitudes towards HIV Testing b. Views on the benefits of HIV testing c. Views on the risks of HIV testing d. Emotions Associated with HIV Testing	a. Positive attitude b. Negative attitude c. Views on the benefits of HIV testing d. Views on the risks of HIV testing e. Emotions Associated with HIV Testing
What do you think about the accuracy of HIV test results?	Adolescents' Confidence in the Accuracy of HIV Test Results	a. Beliefs about the accuracy of HIV testing b. Doubts about the accuracy of HIV testing c. Factors that affect the accuracy of HIV test results	a. Trust that HIV tests are accurate b. Don't believe that HIV tests are accurate c. Doubts about the accuracy of HIV testing due to certain factors d. Knowledge about accurate types of HIV tests e. Knowledge about possible errors in HIV test results

Questions	Theme	Sub Theme	Category
What do you think about the importance of HIV testing for teenagers?	The Importance of HIV Testing for Teenagers	a. Benefits of HIV testing for teenagers b. Risks that can be prevented by HIV testing c. Adolescent awareness of the importance of HIV testing	a. Benefits of HIV testing b. Preventable risks c. The importance of adolescent awareness d. The importance of prevention e. Views on HIV testing priorities for adolescents
What do you think about the importance of education about HIV testing for teenagers?	The Importance of Education about HIV Testing for Teenagers	a. Benefits of education about HIV testing for adolescents b. The role of education in increasing adolescent awareness about HIV testing c. The impact of education about HIV testing on adolescent behavior	a. Benefits of education b. The importance of early education c. The role of education in preventing HIV transmission d. Positive impact of education e. Comprehensive educational needs.
What do you think about how HIV testing can influence adolescents' decisions about reproductive health?	The Influence of HIV Testing on Adolescents' Decisions about Reproductive Health	a. The influence of HIV testing on adolescent sexual behavior b. The influence of HIV testing on adolescents' decisions about condom use c. The influence of HIV testing on adolescents' decisions about sexual partners	a. Positive influence b. Negative influence c. Behavioral changes d. Awareness of risk e. Wiser decision making.

Characteristics Participant

Table 1.
Characteristics Respondents

Name	Age	Class
Mr. M	14 years	X Nurse
Brother C	15 years	X Nurse
Brother E	14 years	X Nurse
Brother A	14 years	X Nurse

This study involved 4 participants teenagers who are included in category teenager beginning, namely aged 14 and 15 years. Participants consists of of 2 men and 2 women who are student female students major nursing. Based on results research, fourth This participant has unique and interesting characteristics for investigated in context perception teenager about HIV AIDS.

DISCUSSION

Adolescents' Knowledge About HIV and HIV Testing

The results of the study indicate that adolescents' knowledge about HIV and HIV testing is still limited. Based on the results of interviews with participants, many adolescents do not understand how HIV is transmitted, HIV symptoms, and the importance of HIV testing. According to (Pengabdian et al., 2023) HIV infection can initially cause various health problems such as fever, headache, muscle pain, swollen lymph nodes, skin rashes, diarrhea, and weight loss. In addition, according to (Sman & Kabupaten, 2024) HIV/AIDS transmission occurs through risky activities such as unprotected sexual intercourse, sharing needles, breastfeeding by infected mothers, and non-sterile blood transfusions. This is supported by the results of interviews with participants in statement P1: *I don't know much about HIV, I only know that it is a dangerous disease.* P2 : *I thought HIV testing was only for people who had certain symptoms, I didn't know that HIV testing was important for everyone who was sexually active.*

Health Belief Model (HBM) theory states that knowledge and awareness about health can influence a person's behavior. In the context of HIV and HIV testing, limited knowledge can lead adolescents to not get tested and not take appropriate preventive measures (Edward et al., 2025) . According to (Di & Pekanbaru, 2025) , health education has a significant influence on adolescents' knowledge about preventing HIV/AIDS transmission. Researchers believe that adolescents' knowledge about HIV and HIV testing needs to be improved through effective health education. This way, adolescents can understand the importance of HIV testing and take appropriate precautions to reduce their risk of contracting HIV.

Teenagers' Perceptions About HIV Testing

The results of the study indicate that adolescents have diverse perceptions about HIV testing. Based on interviews with participants, some adolescents have positive perceptions about HIV testing, while others have negative perceptions. According to (Barus et al., 2025) , adolescents with good knowledge about HIV/AIDS tend to have positive views about HIV testing. According to (Pengabdian et al., 2023), there are also adolescents who have negative perceptions about HIV testing. These perceptions are often influenced by the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. Adolescents who are concerned about social stigma may be reluctant to get tested for HIV due to fear of being judged, ostracized, or discriminated against if they are diagnosed positive. In addition, some adolescents may also have concerns about the confidentiality of their test results and fear that their personal information will be disseminated.

This is supported by the results of interviews with participants in statement P1: *I think HIV testing is very important to know our health status. I am not afraid to take an HIV test because I want to know whether I am infected or not* . P3: *I don't want to take an HIV test because I'm afraid of getting a positive result. I don't know what will happen if I get infected with HIV*. Perception Theory states that a person's perception of their health can influence their behavior. In the context of HIV testing, positive perceptions about HIV testing can increase a person's likelihood of getting tested (Gunawan et al., 2021) . Previous research has shown that negative perceptions about HIV testing can be a barrier to getting tested. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV testing among adolescents (Damayanti et al., 2024). Researchers argue that adolescents' perceptions about HIV testing need to be improved through effective health education. In this way, teenagers can understand the importance of HIV testing and increase their chances of carrying out an HIV test.

Adolescent Confidence in the Accuracy of HIV Test Results

The study results show that adolescents have varying levels of confidence in the accuracy of HIV test results. Interviews with participants revealed that some adolescents had high confidence in the accuracy of HIV test results, while others expressed doubts. (Iii et al., 2021) argue that high confidence in HIV test accuracy reflects a good understanding of the scientific process behind the test. Adolescents who have adequate knowledge of how HIV tests work, how samples are analyzed, and how quality control is performed are more likely to trust the results. According to (Mardiani et al., 2024) , adolescents who are uncertain about HIV test results tend to delay or avoid testing, even if they are at risk of infection. This uncertainty can stem from various sources, including misinformation or inaccurate information about HIV testing, negative experiences with health services, or distrust of the health care system in general.

This is evidenced by the results of the interview P2: *I believe that HIV test results are accurate because the technology used today is very advanced. I have no doubts about the accuracy of HIV test results* . P4: *I am not sure about the accuracy of HIV test results because I have heard of several cases where HIV test results were inaccurate. I want to make sure that HIV test results are accurate before I trust them*. Health Trust Theory states that a person's trust in the accuracy of

health information can influence their behavior. In the context of HIV testing, trust in the accuracy of HIV test results can increase a person's likelihood of getting tested and following treatment recommendations (Prameshwari & Ayubi, 2025) . Previous research has shown that trust in the accuracy of HIV test results can influence a person's decision to get tested and follow treatment. Therefore, it is important to increase adolescents' trust in the accuracy of HIV test results (Azizah, 2022). Researchers argue that adolescents' confidence in the accuracy of HIV test results needs to be increased through effective health education and accurate information about HIV testing. In this way, adolescents can understand the accuracy of HIV test results and increase their likelihood of taking an HIV test.

The Importance of HIV Testing for Teenagers

Research results show that HIV testing is very important for adolescents because it can help them know their health status and take appropriate action to prevent HIV transmission. According to (Purba et al., 2025) knowing HIV status early allows adolescents to get antiretroviral (ARV) treatment faster, which can slow the progression of the virus, improve quality of life, and reduce the risk of transmission. According to (Adyani, 2025) the importance of HIV testing for adolescents is not only as a medical procedure, but also as a proactive step that empowers adolescents to take control of their health and prevent further spread of HIV. This is supported by the results of P3's interview : *"I think HIV testing is very important for teenagers because we are at an age where we are vulnerable to risky sexual behavior. By getting tested, we can determine our health status and take appropriate action."* P4: *I believe that HIV testing can help young people like me understand our health status and take appropriate action to prevent HIV transmission. I want to get tested to ensure my health.*

Prevention Theory states that early detection and treatment can prevent disease transmission and improve quality of life. In the context of HIV, HIV testing can help adolescents understand their health status and take appropriate action to prevent HIV transmission (Damayanti et al., 2024) . Previous research has shown that HIV testing can help reduce HIV transmission and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV testing among adolescents (Suryantarini, 2024). Researchers argue that HIV testing is very important for adolescents because it can help them know their health status and take appropriate action to prevent HIV transmission. Therefore, efforts need to be made to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV testing among adolescents and facilitate access to easy and safe HIV testing.

The Importance of Education About HIV Testing for Teenagers

Research shows that education about HIV testing is crucial for adolescents because it can help them understand the importance of HIV testing, how to take a test, and how to manage their test results. (Nasution et al., 2024) (Rini, 2025). This is supported by the results of the interview P1: *I think education about HIV testing is very important for teenagers because we need to know about the importance of HIV testing and how to do HIV testing correctly* . P3: *I believe that education about HIV testing can help teenagers like me to understand about HIV testing and make the right decisions about our health.* *Education Theory* states that health education can help individuals understand health and make informed decisions about their health. In the context of HIV testing, education about HIV testing can help adolescents understand the importance of HIV testing and how to perform HIV testing correctly (Aprilya Mutmainnah et al., 2024) . Previous research has shown that education about HIV testing can increase awareness and knowledge about HIV testing among adolescents and facilitate access to easy and safe HIV testing. Therefore, it is important to improve education about HIV testing among adolescents (Azizah, 2022). researchers argue that education about HIV testing is very important for adolescents because it can help them understand the importance of HIV testing and make informed decisions about their health. Therefore, efforts

need to be made to improve education about HIV testing among adolescents and facilitate access to easy and safe HIV testing.

The Impact of HIV Testing on Adolescents' Decisions About Reproductive Health

The study results show that HIV testing can influence adolescents' decisions about their reproductive health. Based on the results of interviews with participants, HIV testing can help adolescents make more informed decisions about their sexual behavior and increase their awareness of reproductive health. P2: *I think the HIV test helped me make more informed decisions about my sexual behavior. I'm more careful now and use condoms during sex.* P4 : *I believe that the HIV test made me more aware of my reproductive health. I am now more concerned about using condoms and getting regular health checks.*

Behavior Theory states that knowledge and awareness about health can influence a person's behavior. In the context of HIV testing, HIV testing can help adolescents understand the importance of reproductive health and make more informed decisions about their sexual behavior (Prameshwari & Ayubi, 2025) . Previous research has shown that HIV testing can increase awareness and knowledge about reproductive health among adolescents and facilitate healthier behavior changes. Therefore, it is important to increase access to easy and safe HIV testing for adolescents (Sri & Bangaran, 2024). Researchers argue that HIV testing can influence adolescents' decisions about their reproductive health by increasing their awareness and knowledge about reproductive health. Therefore, efforts need to be made to increase access to easy and safe HIV testing for adolescents and facilitate effective reproductive health education.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that adolescents have varying perceptions about HIV testing, limited knowledge about HIV and HIV testing, and varying confidence in the accuracy of HIV test results. However, this study also shows that HIV testing is crucial for adolescents because it can help them make more informed decisions about their reproductive health. Therefore, it is important to improve education about HIV testing for adolescents and facilitate easy and safe access to HIV testing. This way, adolescents can understand the importance of HIV testing and make more informed decisions about their reproductive health.

REFERENCES

- Adyani, K. (2025). *Literature Review : Pengaruh Edukasi Kesehatan terhadap Pemahaman Remaja Mengenai HIV Infection / AIDS*. 5(2), 1485–1492.
- Amir, A. A., Fitri, R., & Zulyusri, Z. (2022). Persepsi Mengenai Pendidikan Seksual Pada Remaja: a Literature Review. *Khazanah Pendidikan*, 16(2), 111. <https://doi.org/10.30595/jkp.v16i2.14103>
- Amir, N. (2022). Stigma Remaja pada Orang dengan HIV/AIDS (ODHA) di SMA Negeri 1 Sentani Kabupaten Jayapura, Indonesia. *Jurnal Ilmiah Keperawatan Indonesia (JIKI)*, 6(1), 99. <https://doi.org/10.31000/jiki.v6i1.7113>
- Aprilya Mutmainnah, N., Ernawati, & Sastika Sumi, S. (2024). Efektivitas Health Education Melalui Video Learning Multimedia Terhadap Peningkatan Pengetahuan Remaja Mengenai Seks Bebas Di Smk Laniang Makassar. *JIMPK : Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa & Penelitian Keperawatan*, 4, 164–169.
- Aulia Apriliani, A. Rizki Amelia AP, & Rusyidi, A. R. (2020). Persepsi Remaja Tentang HIV/AIDS Pada Organisasi Berbasis Komunitas (OBK) di Kota Makassar Tahun 2020. *Window of Public Health Journal*, 01(01), 59–69. <https://doi.org/10.33096/woph.vi.50>
- Azizah, N. (2022). Gambaran Pengetahuan, Sikap, Kepercayaan dan Perilaku Pencegahan HIV/AIDS Pada Remaja di SMA X Kota Tangerang. *Gambaran Pengetahuan Dan Sikap*

- Barus, D. J., Bangun, H. A., & Sembiring, S. (2025). *TINGKAT PENGETAHUAN DAN STIGMA TENTANG PENYAKIT HIV / AIDS DI REMAJA SMA*. 29–36.
- Damayanti, N. K. W., Raya, N. A. J., Nurhesti, P. O. Y., & Antari, G. A. A. (2024). Perceptions of HIV-AIDS and motivation for HIV testing among Balinese tourist village community. *Media Keperawatan Indonesia*, 7(1), 38. <https://doi.org/10.26714/mki.7.1.2024.38-45>
- Dewi, R. K., Kusumaningrum, T. A. I., Saputri, M. W., Febriyanti, D., & Pebrianti, S. (2021). Faktor Personal dan Sikap Teman mengenai Tindakan Pencegahan Dampak Penularan HIV/AIDS dengan Stigma Mahasiswa Terhadap Orang dengan HIV/AIDS (ODHA). *Jurnal Kesehatan*, 14(2), 184–194. <https://doi.org/10.23917/jk.v14i2.15056>
- Di, A., & Pekanbaru, S. A. (2025). *Hubungan pengetahuan dan sikap remaja terhadap pencegahan hiv aids di smait al-fikri pekanbaru 1*. 4(1), 124–132.
- Edward, Z., Purwati, K., Aprilia, A., Batam, K. U., Batam, K. U., Kesehatan, Z., & No, V. (2025). Zona kesehatan volume 19 no.1 maret 2025. *Detector: Jurnal Inovasi Riset Ilmu Kesehatan*, 19(1), 1–10.
- Gunawan, I. W. A., Lubis, D., & SeriAni, L. (2021). A Persepsi Remaja Terhadap Kontrol Perilaku HIV AIDS Di Wilayah Kerja Puskesmas Parigi Tahun 2021. *Preventif: Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat*, 12(2), 344. <https://doi.org/10.22487/preventif.v12i2.379>
- Hasibuan, A., Maulana, M. F. Z., & Mauliah, S. (2024). Melonjaknya Kasus HIV Dikalangan Remaja Indonesia. *Amsir Community Service Journal*, 2(1), 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.62861/acsj.v2i1.392>
- Hatini, E. E., Bingan, E. C. S., Mawaddah, S., & Nurjanah, A. (2022). Karakteristik Remaja Terinfeksi HIV yang Memanfaatkan Program Pencegahan Penularan HIV ke Anak di RSUP P Kota Jakarta Timur. *Jurnal Forum Kesehatan : Media Publikasi Kesehatan Ilmiah*, 12(1), 38–44. <https://doi.org/10.52263/jfk.v12i1.244>
- Iii, B. A. B., Dan, P., Remaja, S., Octavia, Y. T., Kep, S., Km, M., & Pendahuluan, A. (2021). *TERHADAP HIV / AIDS*. 20–61.
- Mahardani, P. N. T. Y., Merati, K. T. P., Kumbara, C. I. Y. K., & Widiana, I. G. R. (2022). Hubungan Pengetahuan Dan Persepsi Terhadap Perilaku Pencegahan Hiv/Aids Pada Remaja Di Sekolah Menengah Atas. *E-Jurnal Medika Udayana*, 11(11), 61. <https://doi.org/10.24843/mu.2022.v11.i11.p11>
- Mardiani, I. N., Artono, A., & Aswin, R. (2024). *Analisis Pemahaman dan Dampak Pencegahan Perilaku Seks Bebas Pada Kalangan Remaja Kp . Baregbeg RT / RW 13 / 03*. 2(4).
- Nasution, R. K., Aryulika, M., Situmorang, F. W., Masyarakat, F. K., Islam, U., & Sumatera, N. (2024). *JPKM Jurnal Profesi Kesehatan Masyarakat*. 5(2), 109–117.
- Nurmalawati, S. (2022). Hubungan persepsi tentang HIV AIDS terhadap minat dalam pemanfaatan voluntary counseling and testing pada kelompok resiko di Kota Lhokseumawe. *Jurnal Kesehatan, Teknologi ...*, 1(September), 56–63. <https://jurnalstikes.bumipersada.ac.id/index.php/BPI/article/download/1/8>
- Pengabdian, J., Masyarakat, K., Aids, H. I. V, Pembentukan, D. A. N., & Kesehatan, K. (2023). *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*. 2(3), 305–309.
- Prameshwari, F. R., & Ayubi, D. (2025). Hubungan Teori Health Belief Model Dengan Kepatuhan Terapi Antiretroviral Di Puskesmas X Jakarta Selatan. *Ikesma*, 21(2), 124–132. <https://doi.org/10.19184/ikesma.v21i2.46599>
- Purba, K. I., Mailandra, D., Zahra, K. P., Pratiwi, S. T., & Siregar, S. F. (2025). *Hubungan Tingkat Pengetahuan , Sikap , dan Persepsi Dengan Stigma Masyarakat Terhadap Orang Dengan HIV / AIDS (ODHA) di Kota Medan*. 2, 1–14.
- Rini, S. P. (2025). *Scoping Review HIV pada Remaja di Indonesia*.

Sman, D. I., & Kabupaten, C. (2024). *No Title*. 7, 1752–1765.

Sri, N., & Bangaran, A. (2024). Edukasi Pencegahan HIV/AIDS Pada Wanita Usia Subur. *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat Nusantara*, 6(1), 2554–2559.

Suryantarini, N. W. P. W. (2024). Faktor Predisposisi Stigma dan Diskriminasi serta Upaya Peningkatan Kualitas Hidup Pasien terdiagnosis HIV/AIDS. *Lombok Medical Journal*, 3(2), 61–69.