

Use of Antibiotics Without a Doctor's Prescription

ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND ISSUES

Antibiotic resistance or antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a significant threat to public health and global development. AMR was estimated to be directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths. In 2019, it was estimated that there were 133,800 deaths associated with AMR in Indonesia, placing Indonesia in the 78th position for the highest age-standardized death rate related to AMR among 204 countries.

AMR, particularly in developing countries, is a complex health issue driven by behaviors related to

drug-seeking and the misuse of antimicrobials. These behaviors are shaped by structural factors such as poverty, access to medication and medical information, the quality of services at health facilities, and policies related to pharmaceuticals.

The irrational use of antibiotics has the potential to cause AMR, serious side effects (such as drug toxicity), and increased healthcare costs both individually and systemically due to more challenging infection treatments. AMR is also predicted to lead to the emergence of superbugs (new bacteria that are resistant to all forms of antibiotics).

RESULTS OF THE 2023 INDONESIAN HEALTH SURVEY

The results of the 2023 Indonesian Health Survey (SKI 2023) in figure 1 indicate that out of 22.1% of the population who used oral antibiotics in the past year, 41.0% obtained antibiotics without a prescription. This suggests that the practice of obtaining antibiotics without a prescription is still prevalent.

Dari From the proportion of obtaining antibiotics without a doctor's prescription used last time (Figure 2),

a total of 18 provinces in Indonesia (mostly located in the central and eastern regions of Indonesia) have proportions of obtaining oral antibiotics without a doctor's prescription above the national average (41.0%) (Figure 3). Meanwhile, the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) Province has the lowest proportion of obtaining oral antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.

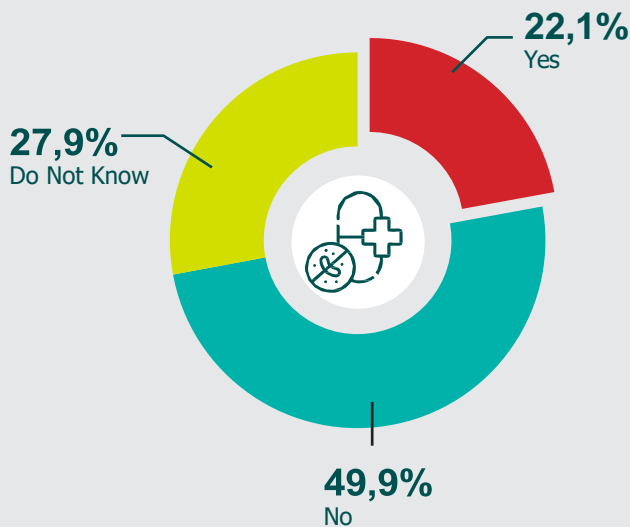


Figure 1. Proportion of Oral Antibiotic Usage in the Last Year

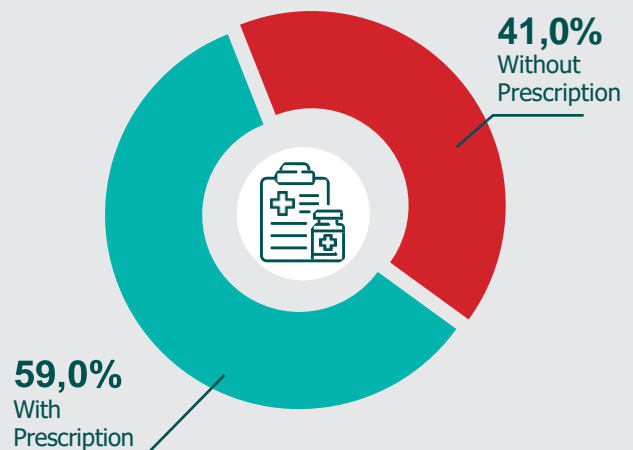


Figure 2. Proportion of Method of Obtaining Antibiotics That Was Used Last Time

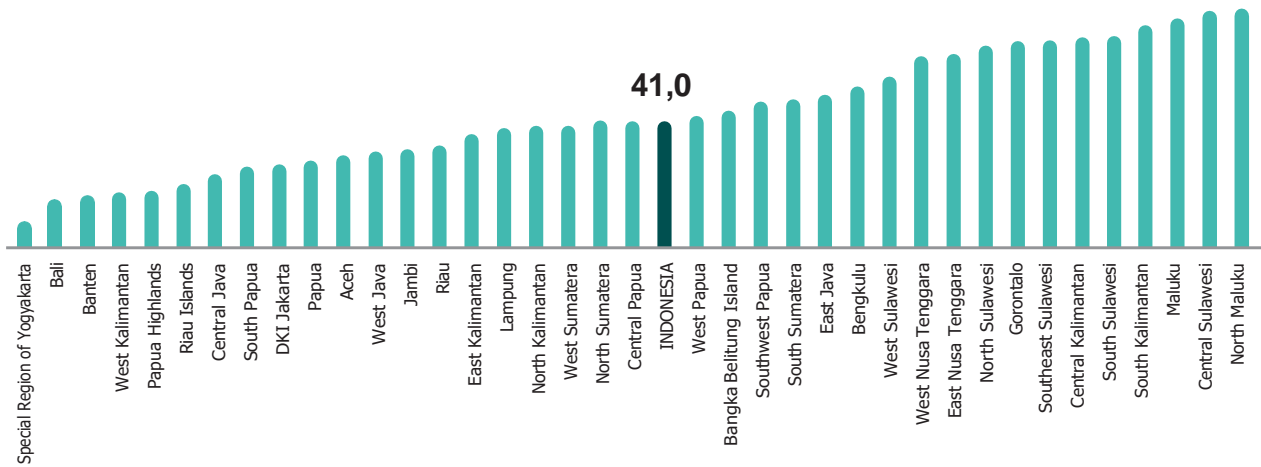


Figure 3. Usage of Oral Antibiotics Without Prescription Used Last Time by Province

More than 60% of the population obtain antibiotics without a prescription from licensed pharmacies or drugstores, while the rest are sourced from various outlets, including online purchases.



61,3%
Licensed Pharmacies,
Drugstores



22,2%
Small shops



9,3%
Independent
Practice by Non-
Physician



4,3%
Hospitals, Puskesmas,
Clinics, Independent
Practice by Physicians



2,8%
Given by
Other People



1,0%
Online Purchase

Figure 4. Source of Obtaining Antibiotics Without Prescription

CONCLUSION



Of the 22.1% of the population who used oral antibiotics in the last year, 41.0% obtained antibiotics without a prescription.



The irrational use of antibiotics has serious implications for both individuals and society, one of which is AMR. Due to the complexity of this issue, addressing it requires the involvement of all parties, including the government, healthcare workers, healthcare facilities, pharmaceutical service providers (such as pharmacies), businesses, and communities.



Public education on the rational use of antibiotics and the enforcement of regulations regarding antibiotic prescribing are needed to enhance public understanding of the dangers of AMR.

*Materials can be viewed at www.badankebijakan.kemkes.go.id