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# RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## The Relationship Between Knowledge and Assessment of Pregnant Women with the Utilization of Dental Health Services

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### ABSTRACT

Improving the optimal health status requires commitment and continuous effort so that a sub-standard development goals (SDGS) program is formed, one of which aims to tackle health problems in pregnant women. Dental and oral disease during pregnancy is a public health problem. The incidence of dental and oral diseases during this period is due to a lack of knowledge about oral health maintenance. The low use of service facilities by the community is related to treatment seeking behavior and ill-health concepts from the community. The purpose of the study was to analyze the relationship of knowledge and assessment of pregnant women with the use of dental health services at the Dental Clinic at the Health Centers in Kupang City. The design of this research was cross-sectional. The samples were 250 respondents, selected using proportional random sampling technique. Data were collected using a questionnaire as an instrument, then analyzed using ordinal regression test. Based on the data analysis results, it could be concluded that there was relationship between knowledge and assessment of pregnant women with the utilization of dental and oral health services in Public Health Center in Kupang City.

**Keywords:** knowledge; pregnant women; utilization; dental and oral health services

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background

Improving the optimal health status requires commitment and continuous hard work to form a substantable development goals (SDGs) program, one of which aims to tackle health problems in pregnant women. the world health organization (WHO), estimates that around 711,000 to 948,148 Indonesian women and young women each year will experience a high risk of complications during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium<sup>(1)</sup>.

Dental and oral health is one of the things that need to be considered during pregnancy, this is because pregnant women are one of the groups that are vulnerable to dental and oral diseases<sup>(2)</sup>. Dental and oral disease during pregnancy is an important public health problem throughout the world because of its prevalence and its association with daily life which can be detrimental to pregnancy, birth outcomes and caries in early childhood and chronic diseases<sup>(3)</sup>.

The incidence of dental and oral diseases during pregnancy is not merely influenced by the pregnancy itself but also because of a lack of knowledge of oral and dental health care so that it affects bad dental and oral health behaviors including the behavior of pregnant women visiting to check their dental health in health services. Mwaiswelo and Masalu's research (2006) shows that the lack of knowledge of pregnant women in maintaining oral health in which only 16% of pregnant women receive dental and oral health education, 97% brush their teeth, 52% of pregnant women believe that regular brushing will reduce risk of gum problems and only 3.7% of pregnant women visit the dentist during pregnancy<sup>(4)</sup>. The behavior of visits to the dentist is

influenced by factors including personal, economic status and knowledge about the relationship of pregnancy with oral health<sup>(5)</sup>.

The low use of service facilities by the community is related to treatment seeking behavior and ill-health concepts from the community. The existence of facilities with various treatment systems opens opportunities for people to get treatment at promising facilities. Prihastari and Andreas's research (2015) found that barriers for pregnant women to visit the dentist most important came from within themselves as many as 73% (19 people) and the rest came from external factors (external) namely 27% (7 people). External barriers, among others, are due to high costs of 57% (4 people), prohibited by husbands 15% (1 person), prohibited relatives 14% (1 person), and due to working time 14% (1 person)<sup>(6)</sup>.

### Purpose

The purpose of the study was to analyze the relationship between knowledge and assessment of pregnant women with the utilization of dental health services at the Dental Clinic at the Health Centers in Kupang City.

### METHODS

This type of research was a quantitative study using a cross-sectional design. The study population was all pregnant women in the working area of the Public Health Center of Kupang City. The sample size was 250 pregnant women, selected by proportional random sampling technique. Data was collected through filling out the questionnaire as an instrument. Then the data is processed through the stages of editing, coding and tabulating; then analyzed using logistic regression tests.

### RESULTS

A summary of the results of data analysis is presented in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of the logistic regression test results

Variables	Estimate	Sig	95%	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Knowledge	-1.022	0.05	-2.073	0.028
Assessment of pregnant women	-1.467	0.02	-2.727	-0.206

Based on table 3 it can be interpreted that the utilization of dental health services was related to the level of knowledge of pregnant women (p-value = 0.05) and the assessment of pregnant women (p-value = 0.02).

### DISCUSSION

Based on the results, there was a relationship between knowledge and the utilization of dental and oral health services by pregnant women in health center. The level of knowledge of a person influences a lot of individual behavior, where the higher the level of knowledge of pregnant women about the benefits of dental and oral health services, the higher the level of awareness of pregnant women to visit the Public Health Center. A behavior that is based on knowledge, awareness and a positive attitude will be long-lasting, whereas if the behavior is not based on knowledge and awareness then the behavior is temporary. Knowledge that ultimately affects the attitude that determines pregnant women to take advantage of dental and oral health services. The results of this study are the same as the results of research conducted by Suarniti namely there is a meaningful relationship between knowledge and the utilization of dental and oral health services in Public Health Center<sup>(7)</sup>. Another study conducted by Byrappagari, et al. Stated that good oral health knowledge does not mean better utilization of dental services, but there are other obstacles to seeking treatment<sup>(8)</sup>.

Based on the results, there was a correlation between the assessment variables of pregnant women with the utilization of dental and oral health services at the Public Health Center. The need for health services for pregnant women is a fundamental factor in using health services in Puskesmas, the quality of health services and adequate care facilities will get a good assessment from pregnant women, so that pregnant women are satisfied with the services provided and are motivated to the Public Health Center to get dental health services and mouth<sup>(9)</sup>. The results of this study are the same as the results of a study conducted by Napirah, et al who stated that there is a relationship between people's perceptions about health with the utilization of health services in the work area of Tambarana Health Center in Poso Pesisir Utara District Poso District<sup>(10)</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

There is a correlation between knowledge and assessment of pregnant women on the utilization of dental and oral health services in Public Health Center in Kupang City, meaning that good knowledge of pregnant women in the utilization of dental and oral health services at public health center can improve the degree of dental and oral health.

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