A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPUA HIV/AIDS RESEARCH, 1995-2011

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Introduction

This bibliography represents a large proportion of research conducted on HIV/AIDS in Tanah Papua. Our interest in compiling this research was motivated in part by the almost complete absence of Papua-focused HIV/AIDS research presented at the 9th International Conference on AIDS in the Asia Pacific, held in Bali in August 2009. Although the Provincial HIV/AIDS Commission in Papua (KPA Papua) funded over 100 participants from Papua, and the governor of Papua province, Barnabas Suebu, spoke at one of the evening sessions, there was a low rate of research presented in the public domain on Papua at ICAAP-9, and an even lower rate of participation by Papuan researchers. At ICAAP 9, there were 494 presentations on Indonesia, but just 19 focused on Papua, the only region of Indonesia suffering from a generalized epidemic. The ethnicity of the researchers presenting on Papua was primarily Indonesian, with indigenous Papuans giving just 2 of the 19 presentations on Papua.

The dearth of research on Papua at a national and international level is striking when compared with the wealth of qualitative studies that have been conducted within Papua on all aspects of HIV/AIDS over the past decade. In Papua, indigenous researchers have conducted many studies on HIV/AIDS, sometimes in teams. An important feature of many of the works produced on Papua is a reliance on qualitative methodology, especially works produced by indigenous Papuans.

A significant number of Papua’s HIV/AIDS qualitative research studies are concerned with describing and documenting sexual behaviour in terms of culture. Examples of this genre date back to 1995 and are primarily written by indigenous Papuan scholars. The motivation for qualitative research is sometimes candidly stated— the chosen methods are best able to reflect complex beliefs and understandings that must be taken into account when designing prevention approaches. A number of reports by indigenous Papuans promote understanding, in-depth knowledge, and attention to cultural realities through the use of qualitative methods. While the largely Papuan-led qualitative studies listed below are not always explicitly political, in some cases they are. Papuans readily understand that in-depth studies can pose a challenge to political conservatism and denial surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Qualitative research on culture and HIV counters early Indonesian responses to the epidemic which judged Papuans as primitive, culturally deficient, and hypersexual. Qualitative research also offers compelling evidence of the intersection of politics and research. In employing methods that resemble testimonials used in political and human rights campaigns, researchers subtly reinforce a local political discourse that is critical of Indonesian occupation of the province. In doing qualitative research, and in insisting on the importance of local cultural practice, Papuans sustain and promote the integrity of Papuan experiences and values in addressing and overcoming the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
**Indonesian/English Abbreviations**

BPS/Badan Pusat Statistik/Statistics Indonesia

DepKes/Departemen Kesehatan/Ministry of Health

DinKes/Dinas Kesehatan/Ministry of Health (Provincial)

FHI-ASA/Family Health International-Aksi Stop AIDS

Irja/Irian Jaya

LIPI/Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia/Indonesian Institute of Sciences

PMS/Penyakit Menular Seksual/Sexually-Transmitted Infections

PPK-UI/Pusat Penelitian Kesehatan-Universitas Indonesia/Centre for Health Research-University of Indonesia

PSK-UNCEN/Pusat Studi Kependudukan-Universitas Cenderawasih/Centre for Population Studies-Cenderawasih University

UNCEN/Universitas Cenderawasih/Cenderawasih University
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