



CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG ADOLESCENTS IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

RESULTS FROM THE 2020 GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY IN DENPASAR, INDONESIA

Key Findings

- Knowledge of COVID-19 and adherence to preventive measures are high in Denpasar
- The impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector in Denpasar has caused high rates of income reduction and food insecurity in the families of adolescents
- Remote education has been a major source of concern for adolescents
 - Girls have lower overall health and are experiencing high rates of anxiety, which they link to school challenges

Denpasar, Indonesia



Quantitative Data collection:

Dates: July 14th to September 10th, 2020

Sample size: 294

Methodology: Remote CASI (computer assisted self-interview)

Qualitative Data collection:

Dates: July, 2020

Sample: 4 focus group discussions with 6 to 8 participants in each, stratified by gender and socioeconomic status

The state of COVID-19 in Denpasar

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Indonesia was reported on March 2nd. As part of nationwide containment, schools in Bali were closed on March 16th, 2020 and most adolescents transitioned to online education.

Other containment measures included mandatory mask-wearing and stay at home orders that were enforced by local authorities. The government also closed the border to all foreign nationals, thus cutting off the prominent tourism economy. To date, there have been 1.5 million cases and 42,227 deaths.

Methods

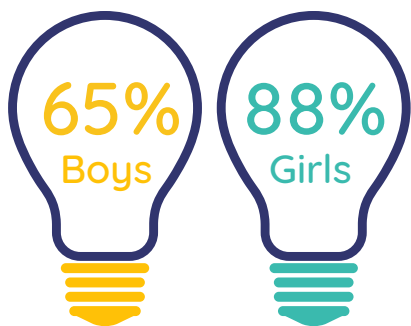
This study about adolescent experiences during COVID-19 is part of the Global Early Adolescent Study, a multi-site study on how gender impacts the health and well-being of young adolescents living in poor urban communities in 11 countries across 5 continents. In Indonesia, participants were located in Semarang and Denpasar. Their baseline GEAS survey was conducted in 2018 when adolescents were aged 10 to 14. Data collection for the COVID-19 module was conducted online in the summer of 2020 with a sub-sample of the GEAS cohort. The participants had an average age of 14.3 at the time of the study.



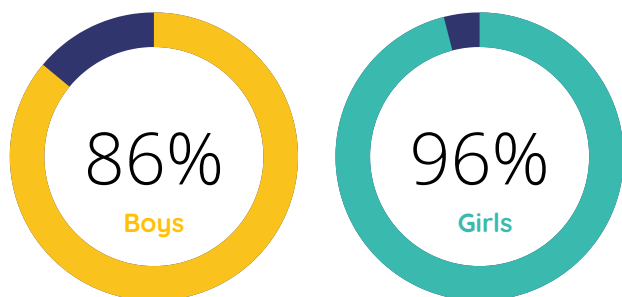
Knowledge and Behavior

Key Takeaways

- Girls report higher knowledge about COVID-19 than boys, but all adolescents report high levels of adherence to recommended preventative practices.



Percent of boys and girls that felt they were well informed about COVID*



Percent of boys and girls that actually practiced preventative measures**

Participants were asked: Which of the following actions can reduce the risk of catching the Coronavirus (COVID-19)?



Items in green are not scientifically proven to prevent COVID-19



I think COVID-19 is a virus that is easily transmitted... if we don't follow the health protocols. (Girl)



Always keep your hygiene, maintain your diet, and wear a mask if you're going out. (Girl)



Like eating healthy food... and keeping our house clean, washing our hands often, that's all. (Boy)



Structural Impact and Education



35% of boys

38% of girls

Report income reduction within the family



40% of boys

44% of girls

Report household food insecurity



85% of boys

81% of girls

Are concerned about completing their current grade



Everyone has to receive support. Because in Bali, it's tourism is the most falling one. (Girl)



And because of the parents who got laid off, so the children don't receive lunch money. (Boy)



I'm afraid I won't understand the lessons and my grade is getting worse. (Girl)



Key Takeaways

- Adolescents in Denpasar experienced increased economic hardship, where many adults work in the tourism sector that was affected by the travel restrictions
- The change to remote education has been particularly challenging and is causing high levels of concern about their personal performance



Health and Wellbeing

Overall health has increased for boys but decreased for girls in Denpasar during COVID***

77%



75%

Boys



64%



50%

Girls



The changed lifestyle maybe that I maintain my hygiene more, I prioritize health, and I don't eat carelessly now. (Boy)



Both boys and girls report anxiety****

27%

Boys



34%

Girls



Sometimes the teacher gives us way too much homework, so we get stressed thinking about it. (Girl)



Key Takeaways

- Boys overall health has increased slightly, while for girls it has decreased
- Girls experience more anxiety than boys, potentially due to the challenges of remote education

Conclusion

The results of the GEAS show the vulnerability of adolescents living in poor urban settings in the tourism-dependent region of Denpasar, Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adolescents report high levels of knowledge about COVID-19 transmission, symptoms, and prevention, which translates into high levels of adherence to prevention methods. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector, adolescents reported high rates of income reduction and food insecurity in their households. While all adolescents have negative views of remote education, girls also link these difficulties with high levels of anxiety and lower overall health.

