# Mental Health, Environmental, and Socioeconomic Geographic Factors of Severe Drug Addiction: Analysis of Rehabilitation Center Data in Indonesia

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#### **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** A growing number of recent literatures have attempted to document the factors related to drug use in different contexts, but limited studies analyzed the factors related to patient's severity level.

**OBJECTIVE:** We aimed to examine the correlates of behavioral, environmental, socioeconomic, geographic factors, and severe drug addiction.

**METHODS:** We used a sample of 6790 people who use drugs (PWUD) from rehabilitation centers during 2019 to 2020 in Indonesia. Data were obtained from Drugs Rehabilitation Information System (SIRENA) by the Indonesian National Narcotics Agency (BNN) during 2019 to 2020. SIRENA used the adapted version of WHO's Addiction Severity Index (ASI), which assesses patient's addiction severity level and relevant factors. A composite of the ASI factors is classified as "poor" or "serious" if its score is 4 or higher. The data was analyzed using logistic regression model to estimate correlations of severe drug addiction.

**RESULTS:** We found a high prevalence (65.08%) of our sample reported having severe drug addiction, which needed intervention and support. Poor psychiatric condition (OR = 4.02, CI: 2.97-5.44), serious work-related issue (OR = 2.10, 1.75-2.51), poor medical condition (OR = 2.01, 1.32-3.06), and serious family and social problems (OR = 2.56, 2.15-3.05) were significantly associated with severe drug addiction. Male users had higher odds of severe drug addiction (OR = 1.81, 1.55-2.20), compared to female counterparts. Patients in urban areas had higher odds of severe drug addiction (OR = 1.19, 1.1-1.3) than those in rural. Those in less developed regions (eg, Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi) had higher odds of severe drug addiction (OR = 2.33, 1.9-2.9), compared to those in the most developed region (eg, Java and Bali).

**CONCLUSION:** This evidence can help policymakers in refining the harm reduction policies in Indonesia and other countries with similar settings.

KEYWORDS: Mental health, socioeconomic, geographic, disparity, severe drug addiction

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# Introduction

Drug use is a growing public health problem in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated that in 2030, the population at most risk of drug use will increase by 43% in LMICs.¹ Drug use was responsible for 585 000 premature deaths in LMICs, of which 167 000 deaths were due to overdoses with 59% are below 50 years old.² Moreover, 31.8 million (1.3%) of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) were attributed to drug use in 2016,³ which threatened countries' productivity and resulted in economic burden (eg, crime cost, health cost, and productivity cost) in LMICs.⁴

Indonesia is one of the LMICs currently battling with the increasing issue of drug use. The country has witnessed an increase in the drug use rate, from 1.80% in 2018 to 2.40% in 2019.<sup>5</sup> As Indonesia is currently experiencing increasing number of productive population, efforts toward tackling public health problems including drug use can ensure reaping the demographic dividend.<sup>6</sup> The country has implemented various programs to prevent and reduce drug use, which are considered as the strictest drug use laws in Southeast Asia including the "shoot-on-sight" policy, imprisonment, and rehabilitation programs.<sup>7</sup> While the efficacy of the programs might be determined by factors related to the drug addiction, <sup>8,9</sup> there is very

limited evidence related to the this issue in Indonesia. Hence, evidence to better understand such factors is crucial to shape a more well-targeted anti-drug policies in the country.

Previous studies have provided some evidence on the factors related to drug use and addiction in different contexts. Those studies concluded that different psychosocial stressors and social environmental factors are associated with drug use behavior. <sup>10-15</sup> Furthermore, populations living in certain places like urban or highly-populated areas possess higher risks of drug use as they have easier access to public entertainment places, drugstores, and transportation facilities. <sup>16</sup> However, evidence on factors associated with the patient's severity level is limited. As one of the main goals of substance use treatment, understanding factors related to addiction severity level could help refine harm reduction policies and improve treatment in rehabilitation centers across the country and other LMICs with similar settings.

Understanding the factors driving an addiction's severity level will help to identify the different harm reduction programs needed by individuals as varied by the contributing factors. In terms of harm reduction policies, different substance type requires different treatment.<sup>17</sup> In addition, many factors such as gender-stigmatization, lack of family's and friends' supports, as well as psychosocial to logistical barriers have prevented individuals in accessing harm reduction programs.<sup>18,19</sup> Thus, our study aims to examine the associations between a range of behavioral, environmental, socioeconomic, and geographic factors and severe drug addiction in Indonesia. Given the country has the strictest drug use laws in Southeast Asia, our findings will provide insights into preventive actions for relevant stakeholders in a larger global context.

## Methods

## Data and sample

This is a cross-sectional study to examine socioeconomic, geographic, and behavioral correlates of severe drug addiction in Indonesia. We used facility-level data from Drugs Rehabilitation Information System (Sistem Informasi Rehabilitasi Narkoba [SIRENA]) owned by the National Narcotics Agency (Badan Narkotika Nasional [BNN]) from 2019 to early 2020 (just before the COVID-19 pandemic began in the country). The data provide assessment of 6790 patients in rehabilitation centers under BNN throughout the country. The subject in the data is the patients being admitted to the rehabilitation center owned by BNN. All incoming patients need to undergo a medical checkup. Admitted patients are limited to those with nonsevere physical and mental illness based on the result of medical checkup. Patients who have severe physical or mental illness are considered ineligible to be included in the rehabilitation treatment sessions and therefore are excluded from the addiction severity assessment.

The assessment form was adapted from the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) by the World Health Organization, which assesses PWUD substance addiction severity level and relevant factors. The BNN used the original ASI version from the fifth edition of ASI by McLellan et al<sup>20</sup> which is directly translated into Bahasa Indonesia. BNN recruits assessor/counselors to conduct in-depth interviews to assess all incoming patients using the ASI form prior to their admission to the center. All assessor/counselors have received trainings prior to conducting the assessment to ensure quality data. The assessment score also helps to determine the type of rehabilitative services received. There are 2 services offered, for example, outpatient and inpatient services. In both types of services, patients will receive counseling sessions, symptomatic treatment, and basic health checkups. Specifically for inpatient services, patients will receive therapeutic community facilities, and family support groups. In addition, vocational training is available for inpatient post-rehabilitation.

In addition to general information data, the assessment collected several information to measure the severity of addiction including severity of substance use, psychiatric condition, work-related issue, medical condition, and family/social problems. For each item, a patient gave a score from 0 to 9: score 0-1 means no considerable problem and no intervention needed; score 2-3 means there is a bit of problem but no intervention/support needed; score 4-5 means there is a moderate problem and some intervention/support needed; score 6-7 means there is a serious problem and intervention/support needed; score 8-9 means there is a serious problem and intervention/support really needed. The score assessment will be given based on the assessor observation on the patient's physical and psychological conditions in times of rehabilitation. For our analysis, we followed the BNN ASI definition: severe drug addiction and poor/serious issues as having an assessment score 4 or higher (moderate problem and some intervention/support needed). Moreover, we included age, sex, marital status, and educational levels, urban location, and region (Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and the Eastern region [including Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, and Papua]) as control variables.

## Empirical strategy

In terms of data analysis, we employed a logistic regression to estimate the correlates of severe drug addiction using the equation below.

$$\begin{aligned} Drugs_i &= \beta_{0i} + \beta_1 psy_i + \beta_2 med_i + \beta_3 job_i \\ &+ \beta_4 family_i + \beta_5 X_i + \varepsilon_i \end{aligned}$$

 $Drugs_i$ ,  $psy_i$ ,  $med_i$ ,  $job_i$ , and  $family_i$  are binomial variables of, respectively, severe drug addiction (having the ASI score of  $\geq$ 4), poor psychiatric condition (having the score for psychiatric composite of  $\geq$ 4), poor medical condition (having the score for health composite of  $\geq$ 4), serious work-related issue (having the score for work-related issue composite of  $\geq$ 4), and serious

Dewabhrata et al 3

family and social problems (having the score for family and social problems composite of  $\geq$ 4). While  $X_i$  is a matrix of control variables including age, marital status, sex, educational levels, urban location, and regions. Thus, in the analyses, our main dependent variable was severe drug addiction while our main independent variables included poor psychiatric condition, poor medical condition, serious work-related issue, and serious family and social problems. Moreover, we also conducted subgroup analyses to see the patterning of results by drug/substance types (eg, depressant, hallucinogen, and stimulant), by urban and rural, by sex, and by region. Data analyses were conducted in Stata 15, using the statistical significance level of 5% or lower.

#### Results

At the beginning of the discussion, we will provide a concise overview of our study's main findings, including sample characteristics, behavioral and environmental assessments, and the outcome variable in Table 1. In terms of sample characteristics (panel a), the majority of the sample (67%) were not married and were mostly male (89.2%). A larger percentage of our participants attended primary and secondary schools, 44.8% and 46.7%, respectively. Then, most of our participants (65.7%) lived in urban areas. By region, Sumatra and Java, we had a higher percentage of our participants, 37.2% and 25.9%, respectively. Regarding behavioral and environmental assessment (panel b), a higher percentage of our participants, 16.0% and 18.4%, reported serious work-related and family and social problems, respectively. In terms of the outcome variable (panel c), 65.1% of our sample reported having a severe drug addiction, which needed intervention and support. For more detailed information, please refer to Table 1.

Regarding the first regression result, the correlates of severe drug addiction for all and by type of substance are shown in Table 2. We found that poor psychiatric condition, serious work-related issue, poor medical condition, and serious family and social problems are significantly associated with severe drug addiction. Among the 4 factors, we found that poor psychiatric condition has the strongest association—patients with poor psychiatric conditions were 4 times more likely to have severe drug addiction to any type of substance (OR = 4.0, 95% CI:3.0-5.4). The other factors such as having serious workrelated issue, poor medical condition, and serious family and social problems were 2.1 (95% CI: 1.8-2.5), 2.0 (CI: 1.3-3.1), and 2.5 (CI: 2.2-3.0) time higher odds of severe drug addiction, respectively. In terms of sociodemographic characteristics, we found that age, sex, location, and region are significantly associated with severe drug addiction. Older age group was associated with higher odds of severe drug addiction with significant odds on those aged 20 to 39 years (OR=1.3, CI: 1.2-1.6) compared to aged 20 years or under. Male patients were 1.8 (CI: 1.5-2.2) times more likely to have severe drug

addiction than female patients. Patients in urban areas were 1.2 (CI: 1.1-1.3) times more likely to have severe drug addiction than those in rural areas. By region, those in Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi were 1.7 (CI: 1.5-2.0), 1.9 (CI: 1.6-2.3), and 2.3 (CI: 1.9-2.9) times more likely to have severe drug addiction, compared to those in the Java region

By type of substance, the majority of our sample used stimulant (63.3% of total sample in this analysis). The rest of sample used depressant (22.9%) and hallucinogen (13.8%). In terms of the associations, the patterning is similar for stimulant and hallucinogen, which shows the strongest associations between severe drug addiction and poor psychiatric condition (OR = 4.8 [CI: 3.1-7.5] for stimulant and OR = 5.5 [CI: 2.6-11.6] for hallucinogen). For depressant, the strongest associations were between serious family and social problems and severe drug addiction. In terms of sociodemographic characteristics, the patterning is relatively similar with the analysis using all substances, although some associations were not statistically significant. However, it is worth noting that the associations by urban/rural were flipped. Patients in urban areas were more likely to have severe addiction to stimulant (OR = 1.6, CI: 1.3-1.8) while, in contrast, those in rural areas were more likely to have severe addition to depressant (OR = 0.7, CI: 0.5-0.9).

In the subsequent regression results, the correlates of severe drug addiction by urban/rural and sex are shown in Table 3. By urban/rural, the associations between the 4 behavioral and environmental assessments and severe drug addiction were consistently stronger in patients living in rural areas, compared to those in urban areas. For instance, the associations between poor psychiatric condition and severe drug addiction were OR = 4.8 (CI: 2.8-8.2) and OR = 3.0 (CI: 2.1-4.4) in rural and urban, respectively. Similarly, the associations between serious work-related issue and severe drug addiction were OR=3.1 (CI: 2.3-4.4) and OR=1.8 (CI: 1.4-2.3) in rural and urban, respectively. By sex, the associations between the 4 behavioral and environmental assessments and severe drug addiction were relatively stronger in male than female patients, except for serious work-related issue. For instance, the associations between poor psychiatric condition and severe drug addiction were OR = 4.7 (CI: 3.3-6.6) and OR = 2.3 (CI: 1.1-4.9) among males and females, respectively. In contrast, the associations between serious work-related issue and severe drug addiction were OR = 2.1 (CI: 1.7-2.5) and OR = 2.7 (CI: 1.7-4.3) among males and females, respectively.

Furthermore, the last analysis reveals the correlations of severe drug addiction based on regional factors shown in Table 4. The associations between the 4 behavioral and environmental assessments and severe drug addiction were mixed by region. For instance, the associations between poor psychiatric condition and severe drug addiction were strongest in Sumatera (OR=5.2 [CI: 2.4-10.9]) and weakest in Sulawesi (OR=2.9)

Table 1. Sample characteristics.

(A) Demographics         Age group       28.72         20-39 years       4075       60.01         40-65 years       765       11.27         Marital status       Not married       4546       66.95         Married       2244       33.05         Sex       Female       731       10.77         Male       6059       89.23         Educational level       Primary       2955       44.81         Secondary       3081       46.72         Tertiary       559       8.48         Residing location       Residing location         Rural       2328       34.29         Urban       4462       65.71         Region       Java       1715       25.89         Sumatera       2467       37.24         Kalimantan       1083       16.35         Sulawesi       801       12.09         Eastern region       558       8.42         (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment       Poor psychiatric condition         No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-r	VARIABLE	N	%
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A0-65 years       765       11.27         Marital status       11.27       11.27         Not married       4546       66.95         Married       2244       33.05         Sex       30.05       30.05         Female       731       10.77         Male       6059       89.23         Educational level       80.05       44.81         Primary       2955       44.81         Secondary       3081       46.72         Tertiary       559       8.48         Residing location       80.00       80.00         Rural       2328       34.29         Urban       4462       65.71         Region       30.00       37.24         Kalimantan       1083       16.35         Sulawesi       801       12.09         Eastern region       558       8.42         (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment         Poor psychiatric condition         No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-related issue         No       5701       83.96         Yes       10.94       16.04	<20 years	1950	28.72
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Primary         2955         44.81           Secondary         3081         46.72           Tertiary         559         8.48           Residing location         Rural         2328         34.29           Urban         4462         65.71           Region         Java         1715         25.89           Sumatera         2467         37.24           Kalimantan         1083         16.35           Sulawesi         801         12.09           Eastern region         558         8.42           (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment           Poor psychiatric condition           No         6225         91.68           Yes         565         8.32           Serious work-related issue         No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition         No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem         No         5544         81.65	Male	6059	89.23
Secondary         3081         46.72           Tertiary         559         8.48           Residing location         Rural         2328         34.29           Urban         4462         65.71           Region         Java         1715         25.89           Sumatera         2467         37.24           Kalimantan         1083         16.35           Sulawesi         801         12.09           Eastern region         558         8.42           (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment           Poor psychiatric condition           No         6225         91.68           Yes         565         8.32           Serious work-related issue           No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition           No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Educational level		
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Kalimantan       1083       16.35         Sulawesi       801       12.09         Eastern region       558       8.42         (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment       Poor psychiatric condition         No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-related issue       No       5701       83.96         Yes       1089       16.04         Poor medical condition       No       6545       96.39         Yes       245       3.61         Serious family and social problem         No       5544       81.65	Java	1715	25.89
Sulawesi         801         12.09           Eastern region         558         8.42           (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment           Poor psychiatric condition           No         6225         91.68           Yes         565         8.32           Serious work-related issue           No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition         No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Sumatera	2467	37.24
Eastern region       558       8.42         (B) Behavioral and environmental assessment         Poor psychiatric condition         No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-related issue         No       5701       83.96         Yes       1089       16.04         Poor medical condition         No       6545       96.39         Yes       245       3.61         Serious family and social problem         No       5544       81.65	Kalimantan	1083	16.35
(B) Behavioral and environmental assessment         Poor psychiatric condition         No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-related issue         No       5701       83.96         Yes       1089       16.04         Poor medical condition         No       6545       96.39         Yes       245       3.61         Serious family and social problem         No       5544       81.65	Sulawesi	801	12.09
Poor psychiatric condition           No         6225         91.68           Yes         565         8.32           Serious work-related issue             No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition             No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Eastern region	558	8.42
No       6225       91.68         Yes       565       8.32         Serious work-related issue         No       5701       83.96         Yes       1089       16.04         Poor medical condition         No       6545       96.39         Yes       245       3.61         Serious family and social problem         No       5544       81.65	(B) Behavioral and environme	ntal assessment	
Yes         565         8.32           Serious work-related issue         No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition         No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Poor psychiatric condition		
Serious work-related issue           No         5701         83.96           Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition             No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem             No         5544         81.65	No	6225	91.68
No       5701       83.96         Yes       1089       16.04         Poor medical condition         No       6545       96.39         Yes       245       3.61         Serious family and social problem         No       5544       81.65	Yes	565	8.32
Yes         1089         16.04           Poor medical condition           No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Serious work-related issue		
Poor medical condition           No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	No	5701	83.96
No         6545         96.39           Yes         245         3.61           Serious family and social problem           No         5544         81.65	Yes	1089	16.04
Yes 245 3.61 Serious family and social problem No 5544 81.65	Poor medical condition		
Serious family and social problem  No 5544 81.65	No	6545	96.39
No 5544 81.65	Yes	245	3.61
	Serious family and social prob	olem	
Yes 1246 18.35	No	5544	81.65
	Yes	1246	18.35

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

VARIABLE	N	%
(C) Outcome variable		
Severe drug addiction		
No	2371	34.92
Yes	4419	65.08

Abbreviation: n, sample.

[CI: 1.2-7.0). The associations between serious work-related issue and severe drug addiction were strongest in Kalimantan (OR=3.2 [CI: 1.9-5.3]) and weakest in Java (OR=1.7 [CI: 1.3-2.4). The associations between poor medical condition and severe drug addiction were strongest in Java (OR=2.7 [CI: 1.4-5.4]) and weakest in Sulawesi (OR=1.0 [CI: 0.3-3.8], not significant). The associations between serious family and social problems and severe drug addiction were strongest in the Eastern region (OR=3.3 [CI: 1.8-6.1]) and weakest in Kalimantan (OR=2.0 [CI: 1.3-3.2]).

#### Discussion

In our study, we used a sample of 6790 PWUD from rehabilitation centers during 2019 to 2020 in Indonesia. A high number of 65.1% of our sample reported having severe drug addiction, which needed intervention and support. We found that factors such as poor psychiatric condition, serious work-related issue, poor medical condition, and serious family and social problems are significantly associated with severe drug addiction. We also found that socioeconomic factors (eg, age and sex) and geographic factors (eg, urban/rural and region) are significantly associated with severe drug addiction.

We found that poor psychiatric condition has the strongest association with patients having poor psychiatric conditions who were 4 times more likely to have severe drug addiction. This aligns with evidence from other settings. A study of 3079 participants in the United Kingdom concluded that problem substance use was common amongst those with severe mental health problems. A meta-analysis of 22 epidemiological surveys showed the strongest associations were for drug use and major depression (OR 3.8). 22

In terms of sociodemographic factors, we found that sex is significantly associated with severe drug addiction. Male users had 1.8 times higher odds of severe drug addiction, compared to female counterparts. This finding aligns with previous studies which showed that males were more likely to have drug problems. <sup>21,22</sup> However, this may be due to potential drug userelated stigma by gender. A literature review of 75 studies showed that women who use drugs experienced greater levels of stigma, <sup>23</sup> which may prevent them to seek treatment including at rehabilitation centers.

In terms of geographic factors, we found that urban location and region were significantly associated with severe drug addiction. Patients in urban areas had 1.2 times higher odds of severe

 Table 2. Correlates of severe drug addiction for all and by substance type in Indonesia 2019-2020.

	ALL (N=6595)		DEPRESSA	ANT (N=1508)	HALLUCING	DGEN (N=908)	STIMULANT (N=4179)	
	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)
	[1]		[2]		[3]		[4]	
Poor psychiatric of	condition							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	4.02**	(2.97,5.44)	2.62**	(1.59,4.32)	5.48**	(2.59,11.60)	4.80**	(3.07,7.51)
Serious work-rela	ited issue							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.10**	(1.75,2.51)	2.32**	(1.51,3.57)	1.81**	(1.19,2.74)	2.28**	(1.78,2.91)
Poor medical con	dition							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.01**	(1.32,3.06)	1.11	(0.49,2.53)	1.86	(0.56,6.16)	2.43**	(1.38,4.27)
Serious family an	d social pro	blems						
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.56**	(2.15,3.05)	2.96**	(2.09,4.21)	2.58**	(1.70,3.90)	2.41**	(1.90,3.05)
Age								
<20 years	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
20-39 years	1.34**	(1.15,1.55)	1.77**	(1.27,2.45)	1.21	(0.82,1.80)	1.20	(0.98,1.48)
40-65 years	1.19	(0.95,1.49)	2.59**	(1.29,5.18)	0.79	(0.44,1.43)	1.10	(0.83,1.46)
Marital status								
Not married	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Married	1.12	(0.98,1.28)	0.89	(0.59,1.34)	0.99	(0.68,1.44)	1.12	(0.96,1.31)
Sex								
Female	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Male	1.81**	(1.52,2.15)	1.23	(0.88,1.72)	1.54*	(1.02,2.33)	1.99**	(1.56,2.53)
Educational level								
Primary	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Secondary	1.07	(0.94,1.21)	1.31	(0.96,1.80)	0.95	(0.67,1.35)	1.09	(0.93,1.27)
Tertiary	0.87	(0.70,1.07)	0.72	(0.38,1.40)	0.75	(0.44,1.27)	1.01	(0.78,1.31)
Residing location								
Rural	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Urban	1.19**	(1.06,1.33)	0.70**	(0.54,0.90)	1.27	(0.90,1.79)	1.55**	(1.33,1.80)
Sumatera								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	1.72**	(1.50,1.96)	1.39	(0.94,2.06)	2.18**	(1.48,3.20)	1.65**	(1.37,1.98)
Kalimantan								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	1.91**	(1.60,2.27)	2.02**	(1.39,2.95)	3.77**	(1.87,7.59)	1.55**	(1.23,1.95)

(Continued)

Table 2. (Continued)

	ALL (N=6595)		DEPRESSA	DEPRESSANT (N=1508)		OGEN (N=908)	STIMULANT (N=4179)		
	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	
	[1]	-	[2]	_	[3]	_	[4]	_	
Sulawesi									
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		
Yes	2.33**	(1.91,2.85)	2.09**	(1.53,2.85)	3.49**	(1.66,7.34)	1.99**	(1.48,2.69)	
Eastern region									
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		
Yes	1.22	(1.00,1.50)	1.25	(0.77,2.02)	1.87**	(1.25,2.81)	1.11	(0.82,1.51)	

Abbreviations: N, sample; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; Ref, reference group. \*P < 05 \*\*P < 01

drug addiction than those residing in rural areas. Also, we found that patients in Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi had up to 2.3 times higher odds of severe drug addiction, compared to those in the Java region. The higher odds of drug addiction in urban areas is in line with theoretical evidence from other studies. The characteristics of urban environments such as higher discrepancies in income distribution and higher exposure to threatening conditions that may lead to mental issues, lower collective efficacy and higher residential segregation that may result in less controlled deviant behaviors, higher population density that increase "contagiousness" in drug misuse, and better transportation access that increase mobility of illicit drugs, are estimated to contribute to higher incidence of drug use.24 This finding may imply an institutional barrier in seeking for treatment as most of treatment centers (both private and public) are centralized in urban areas. The barriers in accessing the treatment centers in urban areas may result in lack of rural patients captured in the sample. Since Java is the most developed region in Indonesia, the higher drug addiction in regions outside Java may stem from the inequal distribution of available services to information and treatment in lessdeveloped areas. Lack of institution's availability or difficulties to access nearest treatment centers have also been found as barriers from seeking harm reduction treatment programs in other countries.25-28

The findings in this study have important implications for policymakers in refining the harm reduction policy in Indonesia and other countries with similar settings. Firstly, compared to other countries in South-East Asia, mental health services and systems in Indonesia remain underdeveloped especially due to lack of professional mental health practitioners and inadequate financial investment.<sup>29</sup> For patients with poor initial psychiatric condition, psychological intervention will be needed during the harm reduction programs. Therefore, strengthening the country's mental health system and awareness is recommended. Secondly, gender stigmatization among PWUD may prevent

patients from seeking treatment in drug rehabilitation centers. To address the issue, the frontliners and practitioners of the harm reduction programs will need to be adequately trained. Finally, the last implication concerns the spread and coverage of the harm reduction programs. Increasing the breadth of the current programs will be required in reaching remote and vulnerable patients.

To our knowledge, this is the first study in LMICs using a relatively large number of PWUD at rehabilitation facilities to assess behavioral, environmental, socioeconomic, and geographic correlates of severe drug addiction. However, our study has at least 2 limitations. First, given the cross-sectional nature of our data, our findings only showed correlation, not causation. For instance, we found a strong association between poor psychiatric condition and severe drug addiction. The pathway could be either poor psychiatric condition cause severe drug addiction or the other way around. Second, while our samples were relatively nationally representative with data obtained from rehabilitation centers across the country, nearly 90% of our samples were males. Thus, our findings may not be generalizable to both males and females and further study with a larger sample of female PWUD may be needed.

## Conclusion

This study found a significant association between factors such as poor psychiatric condition, serious work-related issue, poor medical condition, and serious family and social problems to severe drug addiction. We also found that socioeconomic factors (eg, age and sex) and geographic factors (eg, urban/rural and region) are significantly associated with severe drug addiction. This evidence supports improvement in harm reduction policies in Indonesia and other countries with similar settings. Also, our findings highlight the need to strengthening the country's mental health system and population awareness.

Dewabhrata et al

Table 3. Correlates of severe drug addiction by location and sex in Indonesia 2019-2020.

	URBAN (N=4323)		RURAL (N=2272)		MALE (N=	:5888)	FEMALE (N=707)	
	OR	OR (95% CI)		(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)
	[2]		[3]		[4]		[5]	
Poor psychiatric cor	ndition							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	3.03**	(2.11,4.36)	4.81**	(2.83,8.15)	4.66**	(3.29,6.59)	2.30*	(1.09,4.87)
Serious work-related	d issue							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	1.80**	(1.43,2.26)	3.14**	(2.25,4.38)	2.06**	(1.69,2.51)	2.72**	(1.72,4.30)
Poor medical condit	tion							
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	1.91**	(1.18,3.10)	2.39*	(1.02,5.58)	2.11**	(1.32,3.37)	1.52	(0.55,4.24)
Serious family and s	social proble	ms						
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.55**	(2.07,3.15)	2.83**	(2.06,3.89)	3.03**	(2.48,3.71)	1.39	(0.92,2.09)
Age								
<20 years	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
20-39 years	1.44**	(1.19,1.74)	1.36*	(1.06,1.75)	1.35**	(1.15,1.58)	1.26	(0.81,1.95)
40-65 years	1.38*	(1.05,1.82)	1.1	(0.73,1.64)	1.1	(0.87,1.39)	2.55*	(1.20,5.40)
Marital status								
Not married	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Married	1.18*	(1.01,1.39)	1.05	(0.83,1.34)	1.16*	(1.01,1.34)	0.94	(0.64,1.38)
Sex								
Female	Ref		Ref					
Male	1.89**	(1.53,2.34)	1.50**	(1.10,2.03)	n/a		n/a	
Educational level								
Primary	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Secondary	1.13	(0.97,1.32)	1.02	(0.82,1.27)	1.08	(0.95,1.24)	0.84	(0.58,1.20)
Tertiary	0.87	(0.68,1.11)	0.99	(0.63,1.57)	0.87	(0.69,1.09)	0.78	(0.41,1.50)
Residing location								
Rural					Ref		Ref	
Urban	n/a		n/a		1.25**	(1.10,1.41)	0.88	(0.61,1.25)
Sumatera								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.64**	(2.22,3.14)	0.88	(0.70,1.11)	1.79**	(1.55,2.07)	1.18	(0.79,1.75)
Kalimantan								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.17**	(1.79,2.63)	2.52**	(1.58,4.03)	1.87**	(1.55,2.25)	2.38**	(1.43,3.98)

(Continued)

Table 3. (Continued)

	URBAN (N=4323)		RURAL (N	RURAL (N=2272)		=5888)	FEMALE (N=707)	
	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)
	[2]	-	[3]	_	[4]	_	[5]	_
Sulawesi								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.84**	(2.24,3.61)	1.70**	(1.17,2.49)	2.16**	(1.74,2.67)	3.21**	(1.87,5.50)
Eastern region								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.12**	(1.62,2.78)	0.54**	(0.38,0.76)	1.32*	(1.06,1.65)	0.54	(0.28,1.06)

Abbreviations: N, sample; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; Ref, reference group; n/a, not available.  $^*P < .05. ^{**}P < .01.$ 

 Table 4. Correlates of severe drug addiction by region in Indonesia 2019-2020.

	SUMATERA (N=2391)		JAVA (N	= 1860)	KALIMA	NTAN (N=1029)	SULAWESI (N=786)		EASTERN (N=529)	
	OR	(95% CI)	OR (95% CI) OR		OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)
	[2]	_	[3]	_	[4]	_	[5]	_	[6]	_
Poor psychiatric	c conditio	n								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	5.17**	(2.45,10.91)	3.06**	(1.99,4.72)	3.81**	(1.59,9.11)	2.94*	(1.24,6.97)	4.19**	(1.61,10.86)
Serious work-re	elated iss	ue								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.10**	(1.50,2.95)	1.74**	(1.26,2.39)	3.15**	(1.87,5.32)	2.41**	(1.38,4.21)	2.87**	(1.32,6.22)
Poor medical c	ondition									
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	2.62	(0.99,6.94)	2.70**	(1.35,5.39)	1.35	(0.61,2.97)	1.05	(0.29,3.80)	2.39	(0.54,10.58
Serious family a	and socia	l problems								
No	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Yes	3.25**	(2.17,4.86)	2.68**	(2.03,3.54)	2.04**	(1.29,3.22)	2.12**	(1.39,3.24)	3.28**	(1.76,6.10)
Age										
<20 years	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
20-39 years	1.22	(0.93,1.59)	1.49**	(1.13,1.95)	1.60*	(1.09,2.33)	1.49	(0.93,2.40)	1.21	(0.67,2.16)
40-65 years	1.13	(0.78,1.64)	1.32	(0.87,2.02)	1.25	(0.73,2.14)	1.7	(0.76,3.83)	0.99	(0.33,3.02)
Marital status										
Not married	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Married	1.08	(0.88,1.33)	1.24	(0.97,1.60)	1.15	(0.82,1.61)	0.85	(0.50,1.45)	1.51	(0.86,2.64)
Sex										
Female	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Male	2.31**	(1.67,3.20)	1.60**	(1.20,2.14)	1.36	(0.83,2.22)	1.06	(0.63,1.80)	4.66**	(2.39,9.10)

(Continued)

Dewabhrata et al 9

Table 4. (Continued)

	SUMATERA (N=2391)		JAVA (N=1860)		KALIMA	KALIMANTAN (N=1029)		SULAWESI (N=786)		EASTERN (N=529)	
	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	OR	(95% CI)	
	[2]	_	[3]	_	[4]	_	[5]	_	[6]	_	
Educational lev	vel										
Primary	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		
Secondary	0.98	(0.80,1.20)	1.24	(0.97,1.58)	0.94	(0.68,1.31)	1.39	(0.93,2.09)	1.22	(0.71,2.09)	
Tertiary	0.88	(0.62,1.26)	0.85	(0.59,1.23)	0.86	(0.47,1.57)	1.68	(0.63,4.45)	0.76	(0.30,1.93)	
Residing locati	ion										
Rural	Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		Ref		
Urban	1.99**	(1.66,2.38)	0.57**	(0.46,0.71)	0.55*	(0.35,0.88)	1	(0.68,1.46)	2.45**	(1.65,3.65)	
Sumatera											
No	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
Yes											
Kalimantan											
No	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
Yes											
Sulawesi											
No	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
Yes											
Eastern region											
No	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
Yes											

Abbreviations: N, sample; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; Ref, reference group; n/a, not available.  $^*P < .05. ^{**}P < .01.$ 

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## **Author Contributions**

WD contributed to project conceptualization, monitoring all stages of the project, and proofread the manuscript; AA and AB contributed to conceptualization, data collection, and proofread the manuscript; NA prepare and proofread the manuscript, DK contributed to the project conceptualization; YBAP editing the format of final manuscript. All authors agree with the manuscript.

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