

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND  
PERCEPTION RELATED TO HIV  
INFECTION AMONG UITM PUNCAK  
ALAM STUDENTS**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection often associated with rate of morbidity and mortality in the world. The new cases of HIV infection among young people in age 19 to 29 years old still increases which need to be concern as young people is the future of a country.

**Objective:** This study aimed to determine the level of knowledge, attitude and perception of HIV among undergraduate students in UiTM Puncak Alam.

**Method:** Cross-sectional study was conducted at UiTM Puncak Alam via convenience sampling method. The data was collected using validated questionnaire. The sample size of this study was 372 out of 1137 undergraduate students.

**Result:** The analysis of this study indicated that overall students had good knowledge (Mean = 2.26), regarding HIV mode of transmission but misconception toward HIV infection still need to be concern. Students who had good knowledge about HIV, illustrate positive attitude and perception toward PLWHA. Another results shows field of study is the only demographic data that has been a relationship toward knowledge of HIV infection,  $X^2(1, n= 372) = 8.86, p= .03$ . It was reported that there are positive but weak correlation between knowledge and attitude ( $p < 0.05$ ). There is also positive but weak correlation between knowledge and perception of HIV infection among students ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** The misconceptions regarding HIV transmission need to be enhance for knowledge about HIV among students. The positive attitude and perception should be improved to reduce the stigma and discrimination toward people living with HIV/AIDS by implement continuing education program among young people as prevention method.

**Keywords:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Knowledge, Attitude, Perception, undergraduate students.

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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.0 Background information

Since Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) debuted in 1981 in the United State, nearly 35 million people were infected worldwide and 39 million people died due to this virus (World Health Organization [WHO], 2015). HIV does not have a cure but can be controlled by antiretroviral therapy (ART). Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) can occur when HIV attacks and destroys a specific cell of the immune system called CD4 cell or T cell. Once infected, the immune system becomes weaker, thus the body cannot fight against any infection and disease (Centre of Diseases Control [CDC], 2015).

Malaysian HIV/AIDS cases have been reported since 1986 by the Ministry of Health that there were 101, 672 confirmed HIV infected cases and 16,360 deaths in the year of 2013. In 2014, The Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) also state that AIDS-related mortality increase about 20% in Malaysia between 2005 and 2013. Besides that, between January to June 2014, 1,676 cases of HIV and 598 cases of AIDS with 402 deaths were recorded. Out of this new infection, 79.7% were men. Moreover, this case also increased rapidly among young people (Wong, Chin, Low, & Jaafar, 2008).

UNAIDS Malaysia, estimated that total adult aged between 15 to 49 years old that have been infected with HIV was 73,005 in 2014. These facts will be a nightmare for our country if reasonable attention was not given to it, especially the young people are the future generation of our country. Thus, preventive measures should be taken to reduce the spreading of these harmful diseases.