



Original Research

## Demographical Factors, Not Lifestyle Factors, Associated with the Increase of Random Blood Glucose in Coastal Areas

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Blood glucose is an important component in the body produced by the consumption of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. A blood glucose imbalance causes an increase in the blood glucose level in the body. The occurrence of economic changes due to tourism may lead to a change in diet that can lead to increased blood glucose levels. This study aims to analyse the factors related to random blood glucose in people living in coastal tourism areas in Banyuwangi

**Methods:** The study used a cross-sectional survey. A total of 112 respondents were recruited using the random sampling method, using two-stage cluster sampling techniques taken from the Head of household data in multiple villages. The factors studied included demographic, socioeconomic, lifestyle, and family health history.

**Results:** The results showed that men had 28% higher random blood glucose compared to woman. People living in Bangsring had 31% higher random blood glucose compared to those in Buluagung.

**Conclusion:** Local health care services should put extra effort into include men and those living in Bangsring in programs to prevent Diabetes Mellitus in coastal areas.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: April 19, 2018

Accepted: June 22, 2018

### KEYWORDS

random blood glucose; coastal area; tourism

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**Cite this as:** Sari, N., Sebayang, S., Puspikawati, S., Dewi, D., Mandagi, A., & Astutik, E. (2018). Demographical Factors, Not Lifestyle Factors, Associated with the Increase of Random Blood Glucose in Coastal Areas. *Jurnal Ners*, 13(1), 87-92. [doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.20473/jn.v13i1.8148](http://dx.doi.org/10.20473/jn.v13i1.8148)

## INTRODUCTION

Diabetes Mellitus is now a serious health problem in the community. This disease has become a burden on a global level. Since 2000, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that Asia would become the continent with the world's largest number of Diabetes Mellitus sufferers, reaching 82 million people. The number would continue to increase for the next 25 years (Sucipto, 2012). Meanwhile, Diabetes Mellitus prevalence in Indonesia had increased by 1% from 2007 to 2013. The three provinces with the highest frequency of Diabetes Mellitus are Yogyakarta, Jakarta and North Sulawesi (Fehni et al., 2017).

People with random blood glucose are at a higher risk of developing Diabetes Mellitus. Uncontrolled Diabetes Mellitus disease can have both long-term and short-term effects that are harmful to overall health. Long-term effects that may occur include the

emergence of other degenerative diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, nerves, kidneys, and other health disorders. Meanwhile, in the short term, Diabetes Mellitus causes visual disturbances, fatigue, frequent thirst, and increased urination (Arif, 2014). In addition, this disease can affect quality of life. Efforts to manage living with Diabetes Mellitus are not easy and can even cause stress, triggered by the fear of complications (American Diabetes Association, 2000).

The increase of Diabetes Mellitus is not only happening in urban areas, but also in rural, coastal and tourism areas. Tourism indirectly affects the health of the community living near to the tourism destination. Influential factors such as age, sex, education, occupation, lifestyle, and health history play an important role. This needs to be resolved and a solution found in order to maintain optimal public health status.

There are many items of literature that have analysed the determinants of high blood glucose. A study conducted by Sudaryanto (2014) states that those with a family health history of high blood glucose levels had a 25-fold chance of the incidence of Type II Diabetes Mellitus in the working area of the community health centre of Nusukan, Banjarsari. In addition, there was also a relationship between age and the incidences of Diabetes Mellitus in the community health centre of Nipah Panjang East Jabung regency, with those aged > 45 years having the highest risk (Erris, 2015). A study conducted by Wicaksono (2011) showed that those who were overweight respondents had double, those with smoking habits had triple, and those with bad dietary pattern had double the risk of developing type II Diabetes Mellitus.

However, studies on the determinant of high blood glucose level in coastal tourism areas in Indonesia are scarce. This has become an important problem, considering the increasing number of coastal tourism destinations. Economic improvements in the coastal tourism areas may change dietary patterns and lifestyle, and thus increase the overall blood glucose level of the community. Therefore, this study assessed the determinants of elevated blood glucose levels in people living in coastal tourism areas in Banyuwangi, which included demographic, socioeconomic, lifestyle, and family history factors.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study analysed the data taken from the results of a cross-sectional survey that assessed the factors related to Metabolic Syndrome in people living in coastal tourism areas in Banyuwangi. The survey was conducted from September to November 2016. The survey was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Airlangga.

### Sampling

Two-stage cluster sampling was employed in order to select the participants. Participating sub-districts included all of the 5 sub-districts with coastal tourism destinations in Banyuwangi. Of the 52 villages in the participating sub-districts, 22 villages had a coastline and thus fell within the selection criteria. Based on this, 5 villages were randomly selected to become the study locations: Kampung Mandar (Banyuwangi Sub-district), Ketapang (Kalipuro Sub-district), Grajagan (Purwoharjo Sub-district), Bangsring (Wongsorejo Sub-district), and Buluagung (Siliragung Sub-district). A sample of 112 respondents were randomly selected from a list of Heads of the household. The inclusion criteria were that the participants were within the age range of 18 – 59 years old, and looked healthy. The number of samples was sufficient enough to detect a 67% difference in the proportion of the determinants of elevated blood glucose levels with a 5% error, 90%

power, 2 design effects and 25% rejection probability (Lemeshow et al, 1990).

### Data Collection

The data was collected by trained officers consisting of students with a Public Health Science background who had taken at least 3 semesters of university-level education. Blood collection was done by a trained nurse using Accu Check. Anthropometric measurements were performed by the students using SECA 213 for stature and SECA 869 for the scales. The participant's mental and emotional status was measured using a Self-Reported Questionnaire used by the National Survey in Indonesia (Basic Health Research, 2007). The research questionnaire was tested for validity and reliability in Kapatihan Village in Banyuwangi District on October 1st, 2016. The Cronbach alpha was 0.72. The questionnaire was found to be valid as the r count was greater than the r table.

### Data Analysis

The dependent factor in this study was random blood glucose. This was transformed using log transformation because the distribution was skewed to the right. The independent factors consisted of demographic factors (age, sex, location), socioeconomic factors (education level, occupation, socioeconomic status), lifestyle factors (smoking habit, stress level and nutritional status) and family health history, which included any one of the three following diseases: Diabetes Mellitus, high blood pressure, and obesity.

The demographic factors included age, sex, and location. Age was categorised into: young (<43 years) and old (≥43 years) based on the median value. Sex was divided into men and women. The location of the research were the five aforementioned study locations. The socioeconomic factors included levels of education: low (no school, not finished primary school, finished primary school), medium (finished junior high school or high school), and high (had higher education). Occupation was categorised into not working and working. Wealth status was obtained using a Principal Component Analysis of the respondent's asset ownership and was grouped into very poor, poor, medium, rich, and very rich. Lifestyle factors included smoking habits (smoking and non-smoking), as well as mental-emotional status score: low (value <6) and high (value ≥6); and nutritional status: normal (BMI <24.9) and overweight (≥25). Family health history was divided into their relatives having at least one history of disease and not having any history of hypertension, obesity, and Diabetes Mellitus.

Bivariate and multivariate analysis was done using a Linear Regression Test. The factors that have an association with blood glucose level with  $p < 0.25$

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

Factor	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Means (log Blood Glucose)
<b>Demographic Factors</b>			
<b>Age</b>			
Young < 43 years	53	47.3	4.63
Old ≥ 43 years	59	52.7	4.79
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	67	59.8	4.60
Male	45	40.2	4.89
<b>Location</b>			
Buluagung	18	16.1	4.56
Kampung Mandar	19	17	4.80
Ketapang	21	18.8	4.78
Bangsring	30	26.8	4.77
Grajagan	24	21.4	4.64
<b>Socio-Economy Factors</b>			
<b>Level Of Education</b>			
Low	27	24.1	4.64
Medium	69	61.6	4.70
High	16	14.3	4.92
<b>Work</b>			
Not Working	46	41.1	4.70
Working	66	58.9	4.73
<b>Social Economy</b>			
Very Rich	20	17.9	4.62
Rich	21	18.8	4.70
Medium	26	23.2	4.75
Poor	21	18.8	4.77
Very Poor	24	21.4	4.76
<b>Life Style Factors</b>			
<b>Smoking</b>			
Smoking	21	18.8	4.72
Non-Smoking	91	81.3	4.69
<b>Stress Level</b>			
High ≥6	29	25.9	4.69
Low <6	83	74.1	4.72
<b>Nutritional Status Based On IMT</b>			
Normal	42	37.5	4.70
Overweight	70	62.5	4.72
<b>Family Health History Factors</b>			
With History	28	25.0	4.70
No History	84	75.0	4.72

were included in the multivariate analysis. The final regression model was selected using a backward elimination technique. The assumption for regression was also tested.

## RESULTS

The study was conducted with the participation of 112 respondents, 99.1% of which had breakfast before their blood was drawn. The results showed that 52.7% of the respondents were ≥ 43 years old. More than half of the respondents were women (59.8%) and the largest number of respondents came from Bangsring (26.8%). The least number came from Buluagung (16.1%). Most of the respondents had a medium level of education, i.e. they had attended junior and senior high school (61.6%) and most of the respondents worked (58.9%). For the lifestyle factors, most of the respondents did not smoke (81.3%) and 25.9% had a high-stress level. In addition, most of the respondents were overweight (80.4%). When viewing the family health history, 75% of the respondents did not have any history of

health problems associated with increased blood glucose in their family (Table 1).

Based on the bivariate analysis, age, gender, location, education, and social economy were associated with random blood glucose with a p-value <0.25. After backward elimination was conducted in the multivariate analysis, sex and location had a significant relationship with increased random blood glucose. Age was maintained in the final model because of its confounding with gender. When we used age as a continuous variable, the association remained insignificant. After adjustment for the covariates, the male respondents had 28% higher blood glucose levels than the women (95% CI: 10.5 – 49.2,  $p < 0.001$ ). The respondents in Bangsring had 31% higher blood glucose levels than those in Buluagung (95% CI: 5.1 – 61.6,  $p = 0.02$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Our study showed that there was a significant relationship between increased random blood glucose levels and the demographic factors

Table 2. Determinants of Increased Random Blood Glucose Levels

Factors	Category	Coef.	95% CI	P Value	Adjusted Coefficient	95% CI	P Value
<b>Demographic Factors</b>							
<b>Age</b>	< 43 years	<b>Ref</b>			<b>Ref</b>		
	≥ 43 years	0.17	0.02 – 0.31	0.03	0.12	-0.04 – 0.27	0.13
<b>Sex</b>	Female	<b>Ref</b>			<b>Ref</b>		
	Male	0.29	0.15 – 0.43	0.00	0.25	0.10 – 0.40	0.00
<b>Location</b>	Buluagung	<b>Ref</b>			<b>Ref</b>		
	KampungMandar	0.24	-0.01 – 0.49	0.06	0.23	-0.10 – 0.46	0.06
	Ketapang	0.22	-0.03 – 0.47	0.08	0.20	-0.03 – 0.43	0.08
	Bangsring	0.20	-0.02 – 0.43	0.08	0.27	0.05 – 0.48	0.02
	Grajagan	0.08	-0.16 – 0.32	0.50	0.07	-0.15 – 0.29	0.54
<b>Socio-Economy Factors</b>							
<b>Level of Education</b>	Low	<b>Ref</b>					
	Medium	0.06	-0.11 – 0.24	0.49			
	High	0.29	0.05 – 0.53	0.02			
<b>Work</b>	Not Working	<b>Ref</b>					
	Working	0.02	-0.13 – 0.17	0.80			
<b>Social Economy</b>	Very Rich	<b>Ref</b>					
	Rich	0.08	-0.15 – 0.32	0.49			
	Medium	0.13	-0.09 – 0.35	0.24			
	Poor	0.16	-0.08 – 0.39	0.19			
	Very Poor	0.13	-0.09 – 0.38	0.28			
<b>Life Style Factors</b>							
<b>Smoking</b>	Smoking	<b>Ref</b>					
	Non Smoking	0.05	-0.15 – 0.24	0.64			
<b>Stress Level</b>	High ≥6	<b>Ref</b>					
	Low <6	0.03	-0.13 – 0.20	0.69			
<b>Nutritional Status Based On IMT</b>							
	Weigt	<b>Ref</b>					
	Overweight	0.02	-0.13 – 0.17	0.80			
<b>Family Health History Factors</b>							
	With History	<b>Ref</b>					
	No History	0.03	-0.15 – 0.20	0.77			

represented by sex and the location of the study, but not with socioeconomic status, lifestyle, or family health history. The male respondents had higher random blood glucose levels compared to women, and those living in Bangsring village had higher random blood glucose levels than those living in Buluagung.

Our results showing that men had more elevated blood glucose levels compared to women, which is not in line with the research conducted by Wicaksono (2011) and Tjekyan in the Palembang Municipality (2010). Another study showed that women experience more dramatic changes in relation to hormones and their bodies due to the reproductive factors that fluctuate over the duration of their lifetime. Therefore, women have higher blood glucose levels than men (Willer, et al., 2016). In addition, another study focused on the coastal area of India showed that women had a 1.4 times greater risk of mild diabetes (Rao et al., 2010), which is different from our results. However, in line with our study, Ohta et al. (2014) showed that increased levels of blood glucose characterised by hyperglycemia occurred faster in male compared to female rats.

We cannot offer an explanation as to why men had higher blood glucose level compared to women in our study, other than the possibility of having a higher food intake during breakfast. Those living in Bangsring had higher blood glucose levels compared to Buluagung. Although not statistically significant, those living in Ketapang and Kampung Mandar also had similar estimates to Bangsring. Two possible explanations for this was that people in these villages depend more on fishing and have a lower socioeconomic status. The lack of association between random blood glucose and lifestyle may indicate that the lifestyle factors may not have changed much within this particular community.

To date, this is the first study on random blood glucose level focused on the coastal areas of Banyuwangi. The advantages of this study are that we assessed various determinants, including the demographic, social economy, lifestyle, and family health history factors. The study, however, did not measure fasting and two hours post-prandial blood glucose level. Therefore, it is not known with certainty the tendency for Diabetes Mellitus. However, random blood glucose tests were been used

to screen for Diabetes Mellitus. In addition, the study did not measure food intake and thus, we could not take into account this important factor as a possible determinant.

The results showed that men and those living in Bangsring Village may need extra attention when it comes to Diabetes Mellitus prevention programs. A previous research study showed that more women in the community sought access to the available health care services compared to men (Sebayang, 2017). The large number of men with potential Diabetes Mellitus may neglect their health, and this must be addressed immediately. One thing that can be done is to optimise the implementation of Posbindu PTM (Integrated Non-Communicable Disease Management Post) for both women and men with anthropometric measurements, blood pressure measurements, blood glucose checks, cholesterol checks and health counselling regularly and periodically, especially for those living in Bangsring. Future studies need to look for changes in food intake in this community and to assess its possible impact on health.

## CONCLUSION

Research conducted in the coastal tourism areas of Banyuwangi showed that demographic factors had a significant association with elevated random blood glucose levels in the male respondents. Those living in Bangsring also had a higher random blood glucose. The health care system should make an extra effort to include men and those living in Bangsring in their Diabetes Mellitus prevention program.

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