

WHO HAVE A HIGHER RISK OF FALLING INTO CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EXPENDITURES?

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ABSTRACT

Catastrophic health expenditure is one of the challenges Indonesia faces in achieving Universal Health Coverage. Aside from being a financial disaster, the incident caused by out-of-pocket health expenditure exceeding a fixed limit can drive people into poverty. Unfortunately, the availability of the data causes the limitation of the study in Indonesia. This study aims to analyze the association between catastrophic health expenditure and several social-economic factors by using the latest data of out-of-pocket expenditure collected at the individual level from the 2019 Susenas Module of Health and Housing. Using the Chi-square test, this study confirms a significant association between catastrophic health expenditures and the following social-economic factors: outpatient and inpatient service use, health insurance ownership, age, sex, marital status, educational level, work status, welfare status, type of area, and geographic location. From the logistic regression, the probability of the population to experience catastrophic health expenditure is higher for people in the following categories: use inpatient or outpatient services, do not have health insurance, are elderly, ever-married, not working, not poor, and live in the rural areas or Java island. Disaggregation by outpatient and inpatient service use shows the large gap in the probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditures. The probability for people who used inpatient service is more than four times people who never used the service. Meanwhile, for outpatient service, the probability is almost three times. Therefore, people can strengthen preventive care, especially those with low or no cost, to avoid falling into catastrophic health expenditure.

Keywords: health expenditure, out-of-pocket expenditure, universal health insurance

ABSTRAK

Pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik merupakan salah satu tantangan yang dihadapi Indonesia dalam mewujudkan Cakupan Kesehatan Semesta. Selain dapat menyebabkan bencana keuangan, insiden yang disebabkan pengeluaran kesehatan *out-of-pocket* melebihi batas tertentu ini dapat mendorong penduduk jatuh ke jurang kemiskinan. Hal yang patut disesali, ketersediaan data menyebabkan terbatasnya penelitian sejenis di Indonesia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hubungan antara pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik dengan beberapa faktor sosial ekonomi menggunakan data terbaru pengeluaran kesehatan *out-of-pocket* yang dikumpulkan pada tingkat individu melalui Susenas Modul Kesehatan dan Perumahan 2019. Dengan menggunakan Uji *Chi-square*, penelitian ini mengkonfirmasi adanya hubungan yang signifikan antara pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik dan faktor sosial-ekonomi berikut: rawat jalan, rawat inap, kepemilikan jaminan kesehatan, umur, jenis kelamin, status perkawinan, tingkat pendidikan, status kerja, status kesejahteraan, tipe daerah, dan lokasi geografi. Dari regresi logistik diketahui bahwa peluang penduduk untuk mengalami pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik lebih tinggi pada kelompok berikut: pernah rawat inap atau rawat jalan, tidak memiliki jaminan kesehatan, berusia lanjut, pernah kawin, tidak bekerja, tidak miskin, dan tinggal di daerah pedesaan atau di Pulau Jawa. Disagregasi menurut rawat jalan dan rawat inap memperlihatkan perbedaan yang besar terkait peluang untuk mengalami pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik. Peluang untuk penduduk yang pernah rawat inap lebih dari empat kali penduduk yang tidak pernah rawat inap. Adapun untuk rawat jalan, peluangnya hampir tiga kali lipat. Oleh karena itu, penduduk dapat melakukan pemeliharaan kesehatan, utamanya yang berbiaya rendah atau tidak berbiaya sama sekali agar dapat terhindar dari pengeluaran kesehatan katastrofik.

Keywords: pengeluaran kesehatan, pengeluaran *out-of-pocket* jaminan kesehatan universal

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Introduction

In 2019, health insurance ownership in Indonesia had reached 66%.¹ Even though they already have health insurance, people often need to spend money to obtain health services. People finance direct health care payments or out-of-pocket health expenditures from their household's income, savings, or loans and include no third-party payer reimbursement.² If the expenditures exceed a fixed threshold, it could cause households to experience financial difficulties and even fall into poverty.³ It is known as catastrophic health expenditures. As one country that strives to achieve universal health coverage, the government needs to pay special attention to catastrophic health expenditures. It is undoubtedly contrary to financial protection in obtaining health services and can lead to the country's failure to achieve universal health coverage.

At the global level, many researchers carried out studies on catastrophic health expenditure. They used several thresholds to define the catastrophic health expenditure. Some researchers used the cut-off point of 10%⁴⁻⁶ and 25%⁴ as in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicator 3.8.2,² and others used 40%.⁶⁻⁹ In this study, we use the lowest threshold of 10% to define the incidence of catastrophic health expenditure. Several studies on catastrophic health expenditure at the global level tried to estimate the incidence,^{4,5,9,10} linking the incidence to various macroeconomic indicators,⁴ and others aimed to find the determinants.^{6-8,10}

Meanwhile, studies on this topic in Indonesia are still limited. The researchers conducted a study in 2017 to find determinants of household catastrophic health expenditure by using the 2014 Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS).¹¹ In the same year, a study was also conducted using four waves of the IFLS years 1993, 1997, 2000, and 2007 to estimate the incidence of catastrophic health expenditure.¹² Later, in 2018, the researchers also conducted a study using data from the 2012 National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) to determine the effect of health insurance ownership on household catastrophic health expenditure.³

The limited studies on catastrophic health expenditure in Indonesia and the availability of the out-of-pocket health expenditure data are inseparable. Thus, since 2018 Statistics Indonesia (BPS) collects out-of-pocket health expenditures at the household level twice a year using the Susenas. Through the 2019 Susenas Module of Health and Housing, BPS explicitly prepared the questionnaire to collect out-of-pocket health expenditures data at the individual level. This availability of data makes it possible to analyze at the individual level.

This study aims to analyze the association between catastrophic health expenditure in Indonesia and several social-economic factors. Therefore, we can get insight into who has a higher risk of falling into catastrophic health expenditures. Previous studies confirmed outpatient service use,¹⁰ inpatient service use,^{8,10} health insurance ownership,^{6,10} age,¹⁰ sex,³ marital status,³

educational level,^{6,9,10} work status,¹⁰ welfare status,^{8,10} type of area,¹⁰ and geographic location,^{6,9} determine catastrophic health expenditure. We hope that this study can provide an overview of catastrophic health expenditures in Indonesia. Thus, the government can utilize it in formulating policies to achieve universal health coverage in this country.

Method

This study uses secondary data, namely the 2019 Susenas Module of Health and Housing. Therefore, the concepts used in this study refer to those used in the survey. BPS carries out the survey once every three years. Sample as many as 75,000 households spread across 34 provinces in Indonesia.¹³ Since there were household samples that no-response, the number of samples used in this study is 74,284 households or 278,004 people.

The 2019 Susenas Module of Health and Housing collected out-of-pocket health expenditure data at the individual level. In this study, we generate out-of-pocket health expenditures by adding up out-of-pocket spending for the following components in a month: (1) medicine costs for practicing self-medication, (2) outpatient costs in the government hospital, private hospital, doctor/midwife service, clinic/doctor's joint service, public health center/subsidiary of the public health center, (3) inpatient costs in the government hospital, private hospital, midwife service, clinic/doctor's joint service, public health center, (4) cost of medical equipment, health test, and health maintenance.

We obtain the population's catastrophic health expenditure status by comparing out-of-pocket health expenditures at the household level in a month with the total monthly household expenditures multiplied by 100%. If the proportion is more than 10%, the population is experiencing catastrophic health expenditures. We use this cut-off point based on one of the thresholds used to estimate Indicator 3.8.2 in SDGs. The previous study in Indonesia also used this cut-off point to define the catastrophic health expenditure.³

Each independent variable in this study consists of two categories. Therefore, we group the categories in the microdata for health insurance ownership, age, marital status, educational level, and geographic location. In outpatient service use, we define people who used outpatient service if they have health problems and used outpatient service in the last month. Meanwhile, for inpatient service use, people have used inpatient service if they have been used inpatient service in the last year. We define the work status by considering the work activities carried out last week or temporarily not working. Lastly, the welfare status is obtained by sorting all sample households' average monthly per capita expenditure and dividing them into two categories (40% lowest and 60% highest).

In this study, we conduct a Chi-square test to see the association between variables. The Chi-square test of independence can determine the independence between two categorical variables in a

single sample.¹⁴ We use the weight that is available in the microdata. We also conduct an inferential analysis using logistic regression and a goodness-of-fit test for the model.¹⁵ We use the p-value for each category and odds ratios from logistic regression to answer who is experiencing catastrophic health expenditure. For all the analyses, we use an alpha of 0.05.

Results

In terms of the number of samples, variables of inpatient service use show the largest gap. The percentage of samples who use inpatient service is below 5%. Therefore, the percentage of people who do not use inpatient services use is above 95%. The number of samples by age also shows a ratio that is similar to inpatient service use. The percentage of elderly in samples is 5,8% meanwhile the other category is 94,2%. The number of samples in outpatient service use, health insurance ownerships, and geographic location also show the large gap between categories. The ratio between categories in those three variables is about 7:3. The number of samples is bigger for people who do not use outpatient services, own health insurance and live outside Java Island. It can be seen in Table 1.

The variables of marital status, educational level, work status, welfare status, and type of area show a ratio that does not have much difference between categories. However, the number of samples is higher in the following categories: ever married, highest level education completed is a primary school or lower, not working, and not poor, and live in the rural area. Meanwhile, for the variable of sex, the percentage of males and females is balanced.

Table 1. The Characteristics of Samples

	Variable	Total	Percent
Outpatient service use	Do not use outpatient service	239,897	86.3
	Use outpatient service	38,107	13.7
Inpatient service use	Do not use inpatient service	264,746	95.2
	Use inpatient service	13,258	4.8
Health insurance ownership	Do not own health insurance	82,121	29.5
	Own health insurance	195,883	70.5
Age	Not elderly	261,852	94.2
	Elderly	16,152	5.8
Sex	Male	139,526	50.2
	Female	138,478	49.8
Marital status	Single	124,904	44.9
	Ever married	153,100	55.1
Educational level	≤ primary school	167,086	60.1
	> primary school	110,918	39.9
Work status	Not working	145,252	52.2
	Working	132,752	47.8
Welfare status	Not poor	166,802	60.0
	Poor	111,202	40.0
Type of area	Rural	159,470	57.4
	Urban	118,534	42.6
Geographic location	Outside Java Island	194,015	69.8
	Java Island	83,989	30.2

The Chi-square test shows outpatient and inpatient service use, health insurance ownership, age, sex, marital status, educational level, work status, welfare status, type of area, and geographic location have p-value less than the alpha of 0.05. It can be seen in Table 2. It means all of the variables are significantly associated with catastrophic health expenditure. Therefore, all of the variables will be used in the logistic regression. The goodness-of-fit test for the logistic regression model using survey data shows a p-value of 0.7. Since the p-value is more than the alpha of 0.05, it indicates that the model adequately describes the data.

Table 2. The Chi-Square Test of Independent

Variable	Chi-Square Value	P-Value
Outpatient service use	2,140,188.7	0.000*
Inpatient service use	3,325,341.4	0.000*
Health insurance ownership	202,821.7	0.000*
Age	331,347.0	0.000*
Sex	5,319.7	0.000*
Marital status	121,417.3	0.000*
Educational level	16,456.9	0.000*
Work status	26,991.6	0.000*
Welfare status	179,656.3	0.000*
Type of Area	9.0	0.003*
Geographic location	429,634.8	0.000*

Note: *Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$

Table 3. The Results of Logistic Regression

Variable	t	P-Value	Odds Ratio	
Outpatient service use	Do not use outpatient service			
	Use outpatient service	24,0	0.000*	2.5
Inpatient service use	Do not use inpatient service			
	Use inpatient service	30,1	0.000*	4.1
Health insurance ownership	Do not own health insurance			
	Own health insurance	-13,8	0.000*	0.6
Age	Not elderly			
	Elderly	5,9	0.000*	1.4
Sex	Male			
	Female	-1,9	0.061	0.9
Marital status	Single			
	Ever married	3.5	0.000*	1.2
Educational level	≤ primary school			
	> primary school	0.5	0.645	1.0
Work status	Not working			
	Working	-2.2	0.026*	0.9
Welfare status	Not poor			
	Poor	-9,3	0.000*	0.7
Type of area	Rural			
	Urban	-4,1	0.000*	0.9
Geographic location	Outside Java Island			
	Java Island	16,0	0.000*	1.7
Constant		-79.9	0.000*	0.0

Note: *Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$

Outpatient and inpatient service use significantly affect the probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditures. The probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health

expenditure for people who used inpatient service in the past year was more than four times people who never used the service. Meanwhile, the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure for people who had health problems and used outpatient service in the last month was almost three times people who never used the service. As in health insurance ownership, the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure is lower for those with health insurance. It can be seen in Table 3.

In terms of age, the elderly, or the population in unproductive age of 65 years old and over has probability 1.4 times higher to fall into catastrophic health expenditure than the population age 0-64 years old. The probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure for ever-married people is 1.2 times higher than the single ones. Meanwhile, the probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditures between males and females is not different.

Similar to sex, the probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditure for educational level is the same between each category on those variables. As in work status, the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure is lower for working. Based on welfare status, the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure is higher in the population who belongs to the highest 60% group or are not poor.

The probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditure is higher for the population living in rural areas than those living in urban areas. Meanwhile, for the last variable, i.e., geographic location, the population living in Java Island has probability 1.7 times higher to fall into catastrophic health expenditure than those living outside Java Island.

Discussion

Our results indicate an association between outpatient and inpatient service use with catastrophic health expenditure.^{8,10} Our results also confirm that people who use outpatient or inpatient services have more risk of experiencing catastrophic health expenditures. It is because they are more likely to spend out-of-pocket health expenditures. Thus, when these expenditures and income increase do not balance, people can fall into catastrophic health expenditures.

To avoid using outpatient or inpatient services, people can maintain their health with low-cost to no-cost activities. They can try to eat nutritious food or do light exercise activities at home regularly. On the other hand, the government can promote healthy living, for example, by strengthening the movement of Clean and Healthy Lifestyle or *Perilaku Hidup Bersih dan Sehat* (PHBS) and the Peoples Healthy Lifestyle Movement or *Gerakan Masyarakat Hidup Sehat* (GERMAS).

Health insurance can act as a safety net for financial needs in obtaining health services. The ownership of health insurance can reduce out-of-pocket health expenditure.¹⁶ Therefore, this can also decrease the risk of experiencing catastrophic health expenditures.^{6,10} In reality, having health

insurance does not always make our out-of-pocket health expenditures equal zero in outpatient and inpatient services. People who use inpatient rooms or drugs at a higher rate than their health insurance coverage will need to pay the remaining costs. Some people even choose not to use their health insurance to obtain healthcare in healthcare facilities.

In 2020, 3.6% of people who have National Health Insurance (BPJS Kesehatan)/Regional Health Insurance (Jamkesda) never utilized their health insurance for medical examination, including outpatient service in the last year due to long waiting time. While the other 0.7% consider the procedures/requirements are hard to fulfill. As for inpatient service, the percentage is 0.4% and 0.2%.¹ On the contrary, there are also cases when the condition forces people to spend out-of-pocket health expenditure when using inpatient or outpatient services. For example, spending for drugs uncovered by health insurance or the healthcare facilities does not accept their health insurance.

Age groups are significantly associated with catastrophic health expenditures. The previous study in Bangladesh found the positive influence of out-of-pocket health expenditures and old age.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the study in Nepal stated that households tend to face catastrophic health expenditures if the households consist of one/more elderly members.¹⁸ A systematic review conducted in 2019 also confirms this finding. It stated that the presence of an elderly member was one of the common factors that significantly associated with catastrophic health expenditures.¹⁹

In 2019, 51.1% of people aged 60 years or more in Indonesia had health problems last month. Meanwhile, the percentage in 2020 is 48.1%. The percentage of elderly that have a health problem is the highest than another age group.¹ People who have health problems will increase their chances of seeking treatment. Therefore, it will also increase the possibility of spending out-of-pocket health expenditures. This finding supports our results that the probability of the elderly falling into catastrophic health expenditures is higher than the other age group.

In Indonesia, there is a program called the Integrated Service Post (Posyandu). Other than Posyandu for children, there is Posyandu for the Elderly. This program aims to maintain and improve the health level of the elderly. Healthy elderly can reduce out-of-pocket health spending while avoiding catastrophic health expenditures. A study in Surabaya, Indonesia, stated that behavioral control is one aspect that affects the activity of the elderly in attending the Posyandu for the Elderly. Some of the components included in this aspect are ease of access, including distance, the energy needed, and time.²⁰

This study found no difference in the probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditure between males and females. The result of this study does not in line with the previous study using data from 2012 in Indonesia that showed females have a positive relationship with catastrophic health expenditures.³ Meanwhile, ever-married people have a higher probability of

falling into catastrophic health expenditure. This condition is more likely related to the relationship between marital status on health care utilization.^{21,22}

Similar to sex, the probability between population with highest level education completed is a primary school or lower and more than primary school also shows no difference. Meanwhile, for work status, people that are not working have a higher probability of falling into catastrophic health expenditure. A previous study confirmed that the head of a household that was not employed increased the likelihood of catastrophic health expenditure.¹⁰

Wealth is one of the factors that was significantly influencing higher out-of-pocket health expenditures. In this study, the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure is higher in the group of highest 60% or not poor. This finding is in line with a study conducted in Indonesia in 2017 using the 2014 Susenas. It stated that out-of-pocket health expenditures increased along with improving economic status.²³ The previous study in India also confirmed that the higher expenditure quintile is a significant predictor of high out-of-pocket health expenditures.²⁴ This is likely related to the advantages possessed by the people with better levels of welfare or economic status. They have the option of obtaining healthcare. Although, they have to spend a large amount of money in return, increasing the risk of falling into catastrophic health expenditure.

Regarding variables related to territoriality, both types of area and geographic location are significantly associated with catastrophic health expenditure. People that live in rural areas, more likely to fall into catastrophic health expenditure.^{3,10} Meanwhile, people in Java Island have a higher probability of experiencing catastrophic health expenditure. One thing to note, we do not differentiate health expenditures by the healthcare facility. Thus, the results of this study do not imply that health costs in urban areas or on Java Island are more expensive than in rural areas or outside Java Island.

A previous study stated that zone association with catastrophic health expenditure could be due to variations regarding financing, delivery, or provision of health care services.⁶ The decentralization of the health sector implemented in Indonesia affects health services, especially in access to and management of the health system. Therefore, the central government, regional governments, the private sector, and the community need to cooperate to maximalized the benefit that came from the decentralization.²⁵

Conclusion

One of the problems in achieving universal health coverage in Indonesia is catastrophic health expenditure. This study confirms the relationship between catastrophic health expenditure and its determinants, i.e., outpatient and service use, health insurance ownership, age, sex, marital status, educational level, work status, welfare status, the type of area, and geographic location. The

probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure is higher for people who use inpatient or outpatient services. The probability is also higher for people in the following categories: do not have health insurance, are elderly, ever-married, not working, not poor, and live in the rural area or Java island. The disaggregation by outpatient and inpatient service use show a big difference in the probability of the population experiencing catastrophic health expenditure. Therefore, people need to maintain their health with low-cost to no-cost activities to avoid using outpatient or inpatient services. On the other hand, the government needs to promote healthy living, for example, by strengthening the PHBS or GERMAS Movement. In the future, we hope that studies on catastrophic health expenditure in Indonesia can be continued, for example, by using other statistical inferential tools. Thus, these studies can provide more comprehensive information about the phenomenon. Therefore, the government can also use it as input to achieve universal health coverage in Indonesia.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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