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BMJ Open Impact of non-communicable disease multimorbidity on health service use, catastrophic health expenditure and productivity loss in Indonesia: a population-based panel data analysis study

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ABSTRACT

Objectives To examine non-communicable diseases (NCDs) multimorbidity level and its relation to households' socioeconomic characteristics, health service use, catastrophic health expenditures and productivity loss.

Design This study used panel data of the Indonesian Family Life Survey conducted in 2007 (Wave 4) and 2014 (Wave 5).

Setting The original sampling frame was based on 13 out of 27 provinces in 1993, representing 83% of the Indonesian population.

Participants We included respondents aged 50 years and above in 2007, excluding those who did not participate in both Waves 4 and 5. The total number of participants in this study are 3678 respondents.

Primary outcome measures We examined three main outcomes; health service use (outpatient and inpatient care), financial burden (catastrophic health expenditure) and productivity loss (labour participation, days primary activity missed, days confined in bed). We applied multilevel mixed-effects regression models to assess the associations between NCD multimorbidity and outcome variables.

Results Women were more likely to have NCD multimorbidity than men and the prevalence of NCD multimorbidity increased with higher socioeconomic status. NCD multimorbidity was associated with a higher number of outpatient visits (compared with those without NCD, incidence rate ratio (IRR) 4.25, 95% CI 3.33 to 5.42 for individuals with >3 NCDs) and inpatient visits (IRR 3.68, 95% CI 2.21 to 6.12 for individuals with >3 NCDs). NCD multimorbidity was also associated with a greater likelihood of experiencing catastrophic health expenditure (for >3 NCDs, adjusted OR (aOR) 1.69, 95% CI 1.02 to 2.81) and lower participation in the labour force (aOR 0.23, 95% CI 0.16 to 0.33) compared with no NCD.

Conclusions NCD multimorbidity is associated with substantial direct and indirect costs to individuals, households and the wider society. Our study highlights the importance of preparing health systems for addressing

Strengths and limitations of this study

- To our knowledge, our study provides the first comprehensive analysis using the single largest longitudinal survey in Indonesia, which examined the impact of multimorbidity on health service use, catastrophic health expenditure and productivity loss.
- This study applied multilevel mixed-effects regression models to examine factors associated with multimorbidity and its relationship to the outcome variables, while taking into account the hierarchical (nested) nature of the dataset.
- Our findings should be interpreted with caution since the assessment of non-communicable diseases was mostly based on self-reporting, which may not capture the true prevalence rate.
- Despite the fifth waves of Indonesian Family Life Survey dataset was conducted between 2014 and 2015, the longitudinal design of the survey is extremely useful for measuring the impact of chronic diseases, accounting for within-individual variations over-time.

the burden of multimorbidity in low-income and middle-income countries.

INTRODUCTION

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to be the leading cause of global burden of diseases, with 78% of NCD-related mortality concentrated in low/middle-income countries (LMICs).¹ The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights that the presence of NCDs can increase the fatality risk of a communicable disease.² Indonesia, the third most populous country among LMICs (after China and India) with a population of 270

million, has seen rapid demographic and epidemiological transitions over the last few decades. The threat of NCDs is expected to rise with the ageing population (population aged 65 or above), which is projected to account for a quarter of the population by 2070.³ Concurrently, the prevalence of NCD multimorbidity, defined as the presence of two or more NCDs, is expected to rise rapidly in many LMICs, as both life expectancy and exposure to risk factors increase.⁴ Indonesia has started recognising the burden of NCDs due to its substantial contribution to the top causes of death and disability-adjusted life years.⁵ However, current Indonesia health programmes remain limited to curative services, focusing on single chronic disease as opposed to assessing and mitigating the impact of multimorbidity on the individual, health system and wider society.

The growing burden of multimorbidity in LMICs was highlighted in the United Nations High-Level Meetings on NCDs in 2011, 2014 and 2018.⁶ LMICs typically have low levels of government expenditure for health and inadequate health insurance coverage, which often results in higher levels of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) and risk of impoverishing patients with chronic health conditions.^{7 8} The economic burden of multimorbidity is further compounded by the fact that multiple health-care specialists typically manage multimorbid patients in LMICs.⁹ This leads to inefficiencies with numerous different hospital visits, polypharmacy and suboptimal disease management.^{9 10}

While the Indonesian health system is mainly funded by the government, it only spends around 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health, which is significantly lower than other LMICs with comparable income level.¹¹ Approximately half of all health spending is covered by the public sector and one-third comes from OOP payment.¹² While the primary healthcare (PHC) centres are designed as gatekeepers for primary prevention for NCDs, studies have found limited capacity of PHC in proper management of NCDs.^{13–15} There is also high public funding allocations to curative services at the hospital-level,¹⁶ with limited investment in preventive and promotive health services.¹² Further, the poor and those living in limited-resource regions have generally lower hospital utilisation due to geographical barriers and high transportation costs.^{17 18} Low overall government health spending, coupled with limited investment in PHC and the high burden of NCDs may further increase the high OOPE in Indonesia and inequitable access to care.⁵

The Indonesian national health insurance programme expansion in 2014 was designed to achieve universal coverage by 2019.¹⁹ However, as of August 2020, the insurance coverage was only at 85.5%,²⁰ leaving around 40 million people remained uncovered. Furthermore, the insurance programme has been in funding deficit since its inception and recent studies identified that it may not be financially sustainable.^{1 2} Further, NCDs were responsible for around 60% of total spending of the insurance programme. Therefore, addressing NCDs through

preventive and promotive programmes is pertinent to strengthen the Indonesian health system and the sustainability of its health insurance programme.

Evidence from high-income countries (HICs) has found that apart from the negative impact on health outcomes, multimorbidity imposes substantial economic costs on individuals and households. This is because patients with multimorbidity incur large medical expenditures and are more likely to be absent from work.^{8 21 22} However, there is no previous study in Indonesia that has examined the economic burden of NCD multimorbidity, as earlier studies have focused on the burden of a single NCD.²³ Results from this study may inform health systems reform across the region and be applicable to similar LMICs. We present the first study that uses longitudinal data to examine NCD multimorbidity levels, and their relationship to households' socioeconomic characteristics, health service use, catastrophic health expenditures and productivity loss.

METHODS

Sample and data

We used panel data from two waves of the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) conducted in 2007 (Wave 4) and 2014 (Wave 5). IFLS is an ongoing longitudinal survey that started in 1993 with four subsequent rounds of data collection (1997/1998, 2000, 2007/2008 and 2014/2015). The original sample was based on 13 out of 27 provinces in 1993, representing 83% of the population. Wave 5 was conducted between September 2014 and March 2015, with 76% re-contact rate from the main respondents of Wave 1. The dataset contains information at the individual-level and household-level, including sociodemographic characteristics, healthcare utilisation and expenditure, and labour participation. The objectives and methods of the IFLS are detailed elsewhere.^{24 25} This study included respondents aged 50 years and above in 2007 who participated in both Waves 4 and 5, and excluded those with missing values for the study variable. Our final sample is 3678 respondents and a sample flow-chart is presented in online supplemental figure S1.

Variables

Multimorbidity

Our main variable of interest was NCD multimorbidity. Fourteen types of NCDs were included in Wave 5, but only 10 NCDs in Wave 4. For consistency, our main analysis used 10 NCDs that were available in both waves, as the following: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, heart attack/coronary heart diseases, liver disease, stroke, cancer, arthritis/rheumatism, hypercholesterolaemia and depression/mental illness. The four NCDs that were only included in Wave 5 were: prostate diseases, kidney diseases (excluding malignancy), digestive diseases and memory-related diseases.

NCD status was either identified through self-reporting or physical examination. In the self-report section,

respondents who answered affirmatively to the question, 'Has a doctor/paramedic/nurse/midwife ever told you that you had any of these conditions?', were defined as reporting an NCD. For hypertension and hypercholesterolaemia, the diagnoses were confirmed through a physical examination conducted by trained nurses, that is, blood pressure and total cholesterol levels. All IFLS respondents aged 15 years and older had their blood pressure recorded three times on alternate arms using Omron self-inflating sphygmomanometers by trained nurses.^{24 25} In our analysis, a respondent was categorised as having hypertension if the mean measurement of systolic blood pressure was ≥ 140 mm Hg and/or mean diastolic blood pressure was ≥ 90 mm Hg or the respondent self-reported having been diagnosed with hypertension.²⁶ We also included hypercholesterolaemia, defined as total blood cholesterol value ≥ 240 mg/dL, as morbidity.²⁷ It is important to note that different measurements of hypercholesterolaemia were used in Wave 4 and 5. Blood test for total cholesterol was performed in Wave 4 as opposed to self-reporting of hypercholesterolaemia in Wave 5.

A total of 10 NCDs were used to quantify the number of NCDs (0, 1, 2, 3 or more) and respondents with two or more NCDs were categorised as having multimorbidity (0 or 1). Previous studies have typically considered hypertension, obesity and hypercholesterolaemia as risk factors of NCDs and their inclusion in the multimorbidity clustering remains inconsistent.^{23 28} Therefore, in the sensitivity analysis, we included obesity, defined as having body mass index ≥ 25 kg/m², in the clustering of multimorbidity.²⁹ All statistical analyses were conducted using STATA V.14.2 SE.

Outcome variables

The three main outcomes are: health service use and financial burden as the direct cost and productivity loss as the indirect cost of multimorbidity. Respondents were asked about the number of outpatient visits (in the last 4 weeks) and inpatient visits (in the last 12 months) and OOPE. The data on OOPE was also collected with 4 weeks and 12 months recall period for outpatient and inpatient visits, respectively. We calculated the total annual OOPE by multiplying OOPE for outpatient visits with 13 (as the reference period of outpatient expenditure in the IFLS is 4 weeks and a year consists of 52 weeks), and added OOPE for inpatient visits. The total OOPE reflects all costs associated with outpatient or inpatient visits, including medication, medical consultation and laboratory tests.

Catastrophic health expenditure occurs when OOPE exceeds certain thresholds of a household's expenditure. The thresholds used in this study were 10% and 25% of total household expenditure (as proposed by the sustainable development goal 3 targets), and the WHO's recommendation at 40% of household's capacity to pay. Capacity to pay is defined as the household's ability to pay for other expenses, including medical costs, after having household subsistence needs met.³⁰ Household subsistence needs are proxied by the household non-food

expenditure variable. Catastrophic health expenditure ($cata_h$) occurrence is expressed as follows:

$$cata_h = 1 \text{ if } \frac{HS_h}{THE_h} \text{ or } \frac{HS_h}{CTP_h} > z, \text{ and otherwise is zero.}$$

Where HS_h is the total OOPE for health, THE_h is the total household expenditure, CTP_h is capacity to pay and z is the threshold of capacity to pay. In using the proportion of total OOPE for health to total household expenditure (THE), the threshold z was set at 10% and 25%. Further, in using the proportion of OOPE for health to capacity to pay, the threshold z was set at 40%. All monetary values were adjusted for inflation and converted to 2014 International Dollars.³¹

Productivity loss was assessed based on: (1) labour participation; (2) the number of days of primary activity missed due to poor health and (3) number of days confined to bed. Labour participation status was defined as the respondent's employment status at the time of the survey. The number of days of primary daily activity missed and days confined to bed were included in the health conditions section of the survey, with a 4-week recall period.

Covariates

Sociodemographic factors included were: sex, age groups (50–60, 61–70, above 70 years), marital status (currently and not currently married), education (no education, primary, junior high school, senior high school, tertiary), ethnicity (Javanese, Sundanese, others), coverage of health insurance (no, yes), type of work (unemployed, casual, self-employed, government/private) and respondents' economic status (per capita expenditure for consumption). The economic status was categorised into quintiles: Q1 (lowest) to Q5 (highest). We also included residency (rural, urban), region of residency (Java-Bali, Sumatra, Nusa Tenggara, Kalimantan, Sulawesi) and period (using wave 2007 as the reference group) as covariates. Detailed definitions and categorisations are available in online supplemental table S1. It should be noted that IFLS did not include the eastern regions which are considered to be underdeveloped.

Statistical analysis

We described the patterns of multimorbidity across different population subgroups and presented the weighted percentages with 95% CI. Taking into account the hierarchical (nested) nature of the dataset (ie, observations nested within individuals, and individuals nested within households and districts),³² a multilevel level model approach was used to examine factors associated with multimorbidity and its relation to the outcome variables. Multilevel negative binomial regression models were performed to examine the association between multimorbidity and the numbers of outpatient visits and days in the hospital. We used negative binomial models instead of Poisson models due to the over-dispersion of the count data variable. We applied multilevel logistic regression models to observe binary outcome variables and calculated the intra-class correlation coefficients

(ICC). The multilevel analyses were conducted using unweighted data, since rather than deriving nationally representative estimates, our aim was on testing the association between multimorbidity and the outcomes and examine the mixed effects.³³ We conducted a robustness check to investigate the association between multimorbidity and costs using the 2014 cross-sectional dataset, that contains information for four additional NCDs than the 2007 IFLS.

Patient and public involvement

Neither patients nor the public were involved in this secondary data analysis.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

Table 1 and online supplemental table S2 presents the respondents' characteristics by multimorbidity status in 2007 and 2014. The median age in 2007 was 58 years (IQR 54–65), 53.9% were women, 74.4% were married, 16.5% had at least secondary education level or above and only 25.5% had health insurance coverage. In 2014, the median age was 65 years (IQR 60–72), and health insurance coverage increased to 42.8%.

A similar prevalence of NCD multimorbidity was observed between 2007 (21.0%, 95% CI 19.6 to 22.6) and 2014 (22.0%, 95% CI 20.6 to 23.6). The prevalence of multimorbidity increased with rising socioeconomic status. For example, in 2014, the prevalence increased from 18.0% (95% CI 16.9 to 20.7) to 41.2% (95% CI 31.6 to 51.6) between respondents with no education and those with tertiary education. Similarly, the prevalence increased from 13.5% (95% CI 11.1 to 16.2) to 36.2% (95% CI 32.2 to 40.5) between the lowest and highest wealth quintiles. The trend of increasing multimorbidity was observed for all age groups, shown in [figure 1](#), where the fifth and fourth wealth quintiles had a higher prevalence of NCD multimorbidity than the lower quintiles. The prevalence of multimorbidity by level of education is available in online supplemental figure S2.

The regression results show that NCD multimorbidity was more likely among those with higher socioeconomic status ([table 1](#)). Respondents in the highest wealth quintile were more likely to report NCD multimorbidity, compared with those in the lowest quintile (adjusted OR (aOR) 2.22, 95% CI 1.72 to 2.86). Compared with those with lower educational attainment, respondents with higher educational attainment were more likely to experience NCD multimorbidity (aOR 1.54, 95% CI 1.01 to 2.34 for tertiary level completed). Additionally, the prevalence of multimorbidity was higher in women than men (aOR 1.74, 95% CI 1.46 to 2.08) and those living in urban areas (aOR 1.41, 95% CI 1.19 to 1.67). The ICC shows that above 53% ($1-[0.34+0.13]$) of the variance can be ascribed to between-individual level differences (online supplemental table S3).

Multimorbidity and health service use

The probability of using outpatient and inpatient care and the number of visits increased with more NCD diagnoses ([tables 2 and 3](#)). Respondents with a single NCD were 1.35 times more likely (95% CI 1.15 to 1.58) to have experienced an outpatient visit in the past 4 weeks compared with those without an NCD. The odds of an outpatient visit increased to 4.66 times (95% CI 3.55 to 6.11), while the incidence rate increased by 4.25 times (95% CI 3.33 to 5.42) in those with three or more NCDs. Furthermore, the incidence of inpatient visits was 3.68 times (95% CI 2.21 to 6.12) higher in those with three or more NCDs, compared with those without an NCD.

We reported the results of ICC in online supplemental table S3. We found that 14% and 11% of the variance in the outpatient visit were attributable to the differences within-individuals and households, respectively. Between-individual variation accounted for the largest variation, where it explained 75% ($1-[0.14+0.11]$) and 65% ($1-[0.25+0.12]$) of outpatient and inpatient visit, respectively. No influence of district-level variables was found (ICC=0).

Multimorbidity and financial burden

Table 2 presents the mean OOPE based on 2014 IFLS. The mean OOPE for outpatient care incurred by respondents during the last 4 weeks increased from INT\$17 in those without any NCDs to INT\$60 in those with three or more NCDs in 2014. Similarly, for inpatient visits, having three or more NCDs resulted in a higher mean OOPE of \$762 (SD $\pm$ \$1421) compared with \$566 (SD $\pm$ \$1880) for those without any NCDs. The total annual OOPE also increased from \$295 (SD $\pm$ \$977), among those without any NCDs, to \$968 (SD $\pm$ \$4313) among those with three or more NCDs. **Table 2** also presents the proportion of respondents with catastrophic health expenditure using different thresholds. The results using 10% and 25% of THE, and 40% of non-food consumption thresholds found that households with more than two NCDs had a higher proportion of catastrophic health expenditure compared with households without any member having any NCDs.

Table 4 presents the logistic regression results for the proportion of respondents who experienced catastrophic health expenditure using different thresholds. At 10% of THE as the threshold, having two NCDs increases the odds of catastrophic health expenditure to 1.58 times (95% CI 1.06 to 2.35), compared with having no NCD. These odds increased to 1.69 times for those having three NCDs or more (95% CI 1.02 to 2.81). At 25% and 40% thresholds, we found no significant association between the number of NCD and the incidence of catastrophic health expenditure.

Multimorbidity and productivity loss

More NCDs diagnoses were associated with greater productivity loss ([tables 2 and 5](#)). For example, among those aged 50–60 years old, only 49.8% (95% CI 36.7 to 62.9) of respondents with three or more NCDs were

Table 1 Sample characteristics and factors associated with multimorbidity

Characteristics	2007		2014		Factors associated with multimorbidity	
	Total n (%)	Multimorbidity† % (95% CI)	Total n (%)	Multimorbidity† % (95% CI)	aOR (95% CI)‡	P value
Overall	3678 (100%)	21.0 (19.6 to 22.6)	3678 (100%)	22.0 (20.6 to 23.6)		
Sex						
Male	1664 (46.1%)	14.1 (12.3 to 16.1)	1664 (46.1%)	19.4 (17.3 to 21.6)	1	
Female	2014 (53.9%)	26.9 (24.8 to 29.2)	2014 (53.9%)	24.3 (22.3 to 26.4)	1.74 (1.46 to 2.08)	<0.0001
Age						
50–60 years	2210 (59.8%)	19.9 (18.1 to 21.8)	966 (25.6%)	23.5 (20.7 to 26.7)	1	
61–70 years	1069 (29.9%)	21.9 (19.2 to 24.8)	1562 (42.9%)	21.6 (19.4 to 23.9)	1.10 (0.93 to 1.31)	0.257
71+ years	399 (10.3%)	25.2 (20.6 to 30.4)	1150 (31.4%)	21.4 (18.8 to 24.2)	1.09 (0.87 to 1.38)	0.444
Marital status						
Not currently married	927 (25.6%)	26.1 (23.0 to 29.4)	1338 (36.3%)	23.3 (20.9 to 25.9)	1	
Currently married	2751 (74.4%)	19.3 (17.7 to 21.1)	2340 (63.7%)	21.3 (19.5 to 23.2)	1.03 (0.86 to 1.24)	0.742
Educational level						
No education	2049 (58.7%)	20.4 (18.5 to 22.5)	2098 (60.6%)	18.0 (16.2 to 19.8)	1	
Primary	903 (24.8%)	19.7 (17.0 to 22.7)	862 (23.0%)	24.0 (20.9 to 27.3)	1.19 (0.98 to 1.44)	0.081
Junior high school	273 (6.4%)	25.9 (20.5 to 32.3)	271 (6.3%)	36.3 (30.2 to 43.0)	1.50 (1.12 to 2.02)	0.007
Senior high school	324 (7.2%)	20.5 (15.8 to 25.9)	307 (7.0%)	29.5 (24.1 to 35.5)	0.96 (0.71 to 1.29)	0.778
Tertiary	129 (2.9%)	34.4 (25.2 to 44.8)	140 (3.1%)	41.2 (31.6 to 51.6)	1.54 (1.01 to 2.34)	0.043
Ethnicity						
Javanese	1684 (51.8%)	19.4 (17.4 to 21.5)	1781 (55.8%)	19.7 (17.8 to 21.8)	1	
Sundanese	424 (15.9%)	29.1 (24.8 to 33.9)	438 (16.3%)	27.3 (23.1 to 31.8)	1.38 (1.08 to 1.77)	0.01
Others	1570 (32.3%)	19.6 (17.4 to 22.0)	1459 (27.9%)	23.6 (21.2 to 26.2)	1.10 (0.90 to 1.33)	0.355
Insurance coverage						
No	2652 (74.5%)	20.3 (18.6 to 22.1)	1950 (57.2%)	18.7 (16.9 to 20.7)	1	
Yes	1026 (25.5%)	23.2 (20.4 to 26.4)	1720 (42.8%)	26.4 (24.2 to 28.9)	1.18 (1.01 to 1.39)	0.035
Type of work						
Unemployed	951 (24.7%)	31.4 (28.1 to 34.9)	1483 (38.9%)	29.9 (27.4 to 32.6)	1	
Casual	674 (19.1%)	16.9 (13.9 to 20.4)	562 (14.1%)	13.8 (10.7 to 17.6)	0.47 (0.37 to 0.60)	<0.0001
Self-employed	1630 (45.2%)	16.8 (14.9 to 18.9)	1464 (40.1%)	17.4 (15.4 to 19.7)	0.61 (0.51 to 0.73)	<0.0001
Government/ private	423 (10.9%)	22.2 (18.0 to 27.1)	269 (7.0%)	21.0 (15.8 to 27.4)	0.60 (0.45 to 0.79)	<0.0001
Per capita household expenditure						
Q1 (the lowest)	728 (22.9%)	15.8 (13.0 to 18.9)	813 (25.2%)	13.5 (11.1 to 16.2)	1	
Q2	785 (22.4%)	17.9 (15.1 to 21.2)	746 (21.4%)	18.9 (15.9 to 22.3)	1.28 (1.01 to 1.62)	0.04
Q3	743 (20.1%)	20.5 (17.4 to 24.0)	757 (20.4%)	22.1 (18.9 to 25.7)	1.37 (1.08 to 1.74)	0.009
Q4	744 (18.4%)	23.6 (20.3 to 27.3)	681 (17.2%)	25.3 (21.9 to 29.0)	1.84 (1.44 to 2.33)	<0.0001
Q5 (the highest)	678 (16.1%)	30.4 (26.5 to 34.7)	681 (15.8%)	36.2 (32.2 to 40.5)	2.22 (1.72 to 2.86)	<0.0001
Residency						
Rural	1958 (63.4%)	18.1 (16.3 to 20.1)	1682 (52.8%)	16.9 (15.1 to 19.0)	1	
Urban	1720 (36.6%)	26.1 (23.8 to 28.6)	1996 (47.1%)	27.7 (25.5 to 30.0)	1.41 (1.19 to 1.67)	<0.0001
Region						
Java-Bali	2413 (77.5%)	21.6 (19.9 to 23.5)	2417 (77.6%)	21.1 (19.3 to 22.9)	1	
Sumatra	691 (14.5%)	19.6 (16.7 to 22.8)	690 (14.5%)	26.6 (23.3 to 30.2)	1.06 (0.85 to 1.33)	0.602
Nusa Tenggara	239 (2.4%)	14.5 (10.6 to 19.5)	239 (2.4%)	14.5 (10.5 to 19.6)	0.59 (0.40 to 0.87)	0.008
Kalimantan	168 (1.8%)	17.9 (12.7 to 24.5)	168 (1.7%)	34.2 (27.4 to 41.7)	1.35 (0.92 to 1.98)	0.129
Sulawesi	167 (3.8%)	19.6 (14.1 to 26.6)	164 (3.7%)	23.7 (17.6 to 31.0)	0.89 (0.59 to 1.34)	0.569

Continued

Table 1 Continued

Characteristics	2007		2014		Factors associated with multimorbidity	
	Total n (%)	Multimorbidity† % (95% CI)	Total n (%)	Multimorbidity† % (95% CI)	aOR (95% CI)‡	P value

*Values are unweighted counts and weighted percentages unless otherwise indicated.

†We defined multimorbidity if the respondents reported that they had two or more chronic conditions related to non-communicable diseases. Chronic diseases included: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, heart attack/coronary heart diseases, liver disease, stroke, cancer, arthritis/rheumatism, hypercholesterolaemia and mental illness.

‡Adjusted odds ratio (aOR) was estimated using multilevel logistic regression model of 2007 and 2014 Indonesian Family Life Survey.

employed, compared with 84.3% (95% CI 79.8 to 88.0) of respondents without NCD (table 2). The mean number of days of primary daily activity missed increased from 2.7 days (SD ± 6.0), for those without any NCDs, to 10.1 days (SD ± 12.1) for those with three or more NCDs. The mean number of days confined to bed also increased among those with three or more NCDs.

Individuals diagnosed with three or more NCDs were 0.23 times less likely (95% CI 0.16 to 0.33) to be employed compared with those without NCD (table 5). Compared with those without NCD, being diagnosed with three or more NCDs were expected to have a higher incidence rate of missing days of primary activity (IRR 2.59, 95% CI 1.97 to 3.41) as well as days confined in bed (IRR 2.64, 95% CI 1.60 to 4.36). We found that 48% of the variance in labour participation was due to within-individual variations, while between-individual variation accounted for 23% ($1 - [0.48 + 0.28 + 0.01]$) (online supplemental table S3).

Robustness check

Our robustness analysis using 2014 cross-sectional dataset that consists of 14 physical NCDs (online supplemental tables S4–S7) showed consistent results with our original findings. Higher household expenditure and higher

education were associated with a greater burden of multimorbidity. Multimorbidity was also associated with higher healthcare use, higher incidence of catastrophic health expenditures, and lower productivity. The association between multimorbidity and catastrophic health expenditure was more pronounced in the cross-sectional analysis. Our inclusion of obesity in the clustering of multimorbidity also yields consistent results (online supplemental tables S8–S10).

DISCUSSION

Our study provides the first comprehensive analysis of multimorbidity in Indonesia using the only large panel dataset in Indonesia. Our study reveals that almost one in four of our study population has at least two NCDs, with 6.5% having three or more in 2014. Our findings show a higher prevalence of multimorbidity in wealthier population groups. Multimorbidity was associated with a higher use of healthcare services, higher probability of catastrophic health expenditure and a reduction in productivity.

Analyses of socioeconomic gradients of NCDs in HICs routinely find negative socioeconomic gradients. However, this is not the case for LMICs, which have a more mixed pattern of the distribution of risk factors.^{34 35}

Other studies find a similar pattern with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in LMICs undergoing epidemiological transition.³⁵ These conditions predominate in high-income quintiles in early stages of transition, which may explain our findings on the higher prevalence of NCD multimorbidity among more affluent population. We also found that obesity was more prevalent in wealthier quintiles. As obesity is associated with several NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, stroke, cancer, arthritis and hypercholesterolaemia),³⁶ this may explain our findings on socioeconomic gradients of NCDs. Further, our results on socioeconomic patterning of multimorbidity can be explained by the fact that higher-income and higher-educational groups have better health literacy and access to healthcare services and thus, are more likely to have NCDs diagnosed than lower socio-income groups.

Our findings showing the association between having more NCDs and greater use of health services are in line with earlier studies from both HICs and LMICs.^{9 28 37} The presence of NCD multimorbidity was also associated with

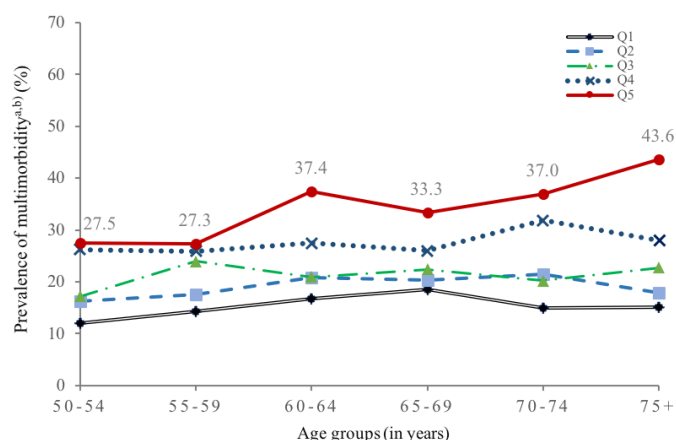


Figure 1 Prevalence of multimorbidity by age group and per capita household expenditure. ^aRespondents who reported that they had two or more chronic conditions related to non-communicable diseases. ^bPooled sample of Wave 4 and Wave 5. Q1–Q5 refer to household expenditure quintiles, where Q1 is the lowest and Q5 the highest household expenditure quintile.

Table 2 Descriptive summary of health service use-financial burden and productivity outcomes by the number of NCDs (2014 Indonesian Family Life Survey)

	No NCD	1 NCD	2 NCDs	+3 NCDs
Overall (n, %)	1052 (100%)	1751 (100%)	627 (100%)	248 (100%)
Health service use				
<i>Outpatient services*</i>				
Any visit (%; 95% CI)	15.5% (13.3 to 17.9)	21.7% (19.5 to 23.9)	35.7% (31.7 to 40.0)	55.9% (49.0 to 62.6)
Number of visits (mean, SD)	0.24±0.72	0.41±1.1	0.78±1.6	1.4±2.1
<i>Inpatient services†</i>				
Any visit (%; 95% CI)	3.3% (2.3 to 4.8)	4.6% (3.5 to 6.0)	8.3% (6.1 to 11.0)	20.8% (15.7 to 27.0)
Number of visits (mean, SD)	0.04±0.30	0.06±0.31	0.14±0.65	0.35±0.96
Financial burden				
OOPE for outpatient care (mean, SD)*‡	\$17±47	\$17±58	\$15±40	\$60±321
OOPE for inpatient care (mean, SD)†‡	\$566±1880	\$527±2115	\$792±1706	\$762±1421
Annual Total OOPE (mean, SD)	\$295±977	\$292±1239	\$336±950	\$968±4313
<i>Catastrophic health expenditure (%; 95% CI)</i>				
>10% of total household expenditure	5.0% (3.7 to 6.6)	6.9% (5.6 to 8.5)	10.3% (7.9 to 13.4)	12.5% (8.7 to 17.7)
>25% of total household expenditure	1.5% (0.6 to 2.5)	1.5% (0.9 to 2.3)	2.8% (1.6 to 4.8)	2.8% (1.3 to 6.3)
>40% of total non-food expenditure	1.8% (1.1 to 2.8)	2.7% (1.9 to 3.6)	4.0% (2.6 to 6.2)	3.6% (1.8 to 6.8)
Productivity loss				
<i>Labour participation (%; 95% CI)</i>				
50–60 years§	84.3% (79.8 to 88.0)	74.3% (69.3 to 78.8)	72.3% (64.3 to 79.1)	49.8% (36.7 to 62.9)
61–70 years§	78.3% (74.0 to 82.1)	65.2% (61.1 to 69.1)	54.3% (47.1 to 61.3)	42.8% (32.6 to 53.8)
71+ years§	51.4% (44.7 to 58.1)	45.0% (40.5 to 49.5)	28.4% (21.6 to 36.3)	17.3% (8.1 to 33.4)
Number of days of primary activity missed (mean, SD)	2.7±6.0	3.6±6.8	6.5±9.8	10.1±12.1
Number of days lying in bed (mean, SD)	0.80±3.4	0.99±3.6	1.9±6.0	2.4±6.3

Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) medical expenses were converted to 2014 International Dollars (INT\$).

Bootstrapping with 400 times replications was performed to estimate the SE and 95% CI.

*In the last 4 weeks.

†In the last 12 months.

‡OOPE were only asked to those who used outpatient and/or inpatient services.

§The percentages were calculated based on the total number of respondents by aged groups. Total respondents aged 50–60 years, 61–70 years and 71+ years are 966, 1592 and 1150 respondents.

NCD, non-communicable disease.

Table 3 The effect of multimorbidity on health service use

Variables	Health service use							
	Outpatient				Inpatient			
	Any visit*		Number of visits†		Any visit*		Number of visits†	
	aOR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value
Number of NCDs (ref. no NCD)								
Single NCD	1.35 (1.15 to 1.58)	<0.0001	1.45 (1.24 to 1.69)	<0.0001	1.07 (0.78 to 1.48)	0.671	1.06 (0.75 to 1.50)	0.755
Two NCDs	2.43 (2.00 to 2.95)	<0.0001	2.45 (2.04 to 2.93)	<0.0001	1.78 (1.23 to 2.57)	0.002	2.07 (1.39 to 3.08)	<0.0001
Three or more NCDs	4.66 (3.55 to 6.11)	<0.0001	4.25 (3.33 to 5.42)	<0.0001	3.69 (2.35 to 5.79)	<0.0001	3.68 (2.21 to 6.12)	<0.0001
Period (ref. 2007)								
2014	1.40 (1.22 to 1.61)	<0.0001	1.46 (1.29 to 1.65)	<0.0001	1.79 (1.36 to 2.36)	<0.0001	2.20 (1.63 to 2.98)	<0.0001
Sex (ref. male)								
Female	1.26 (1.08 to 1.47)	0.003	1.20 (1.04 to 1.39)	0.013	0.93 (0.70 to 1.24)	0.626	0.85 (0.62 to 1.16)	0.300
Age (ref. 50–60 years)								
61–70 years	1.01 (0.86 to 1.18)	0.905	1.00 (0.87 to 1.16)	0.969	1.07 (0.78 to 1.45)	0.677	1.17 (0.84 to 1.65)	0.351
71+ years	1.10 (0.90 to 1.34)	0.351	1.06 (0.88 to 1.27)	0.567	1.49 (1.03 to 2.15)	0.034	1.66 (1.11 to 2.49)	0.014
Marital status (ref. not married)								
Currently married	1.14 (0.97 to 1.34)	0.105	1.15 (0.99 to 1.34)	0.069	1.04 (0.77 to 1.40)	0.815	0.98 (0.71 to 1.37)	0.914
Educational level (ref. no education)								
Primary	1.06 (0.90 to 1.25)	0.496	0.96 (0.82 to 1.13)	0.629	1.09 (0.80 to 1.50)	0.578	0.97 (0.69 to 1.38)	0.882
Junior high school	1.04 (0.80 to 1.35)	0.786	1.00 (0.78 to 1.28)	0.993	1.23 (0.78 to 1.95)	0.368	1.48 (0.90 to 2.42)	0.120
Senior high school	1.05 (0.81 to 1.36)	0.706	0.91 (0.71 to 1.17)	0.473	0.91 (0.57 to 1.46)	0.699	0.82 (0.49 to 1.37)	0.448
Tertiary	1.29 (0.90 to 1.84)	0.167	0.93 (0.66 to 1.32)	0.697	0.98 (0.53 to 1.80)	0.937	0.85 (0.42 to 1.69)	0.640
Ethnicity (ref. Javanese)								
Sundanese	0.92 (0.74 to 1.14)	0.464	0.95 (0.77 to 1.16)	0.617	0.90 (0.61 to 1.34)	0.609	1.14 (0.75 to 1.76)	0.536
Others	1.06 (0.89 to 1.25)	0.525	0.99 (0.84 to 1.16)	0.877	0.90 (0.65 to 1.23)	0.495	1.08 (0.76 to 1.52)	0.676
Insurance coverage (ref. no)								
Yes	1.48 (1.28 to 1.70)	<0.0001	1.51 (1.32 to 1.72)	<0.0001	1.90 (1.45 to 2.50)	<0.0001	1.65 (1.23 to 2.21)	0.001
Type of work (ref. unemployed)								
Casual	0.76 (0.62 to 0.95)	0.014	0.69 (0.57 to 0.85)	<0.0001	0.49 (0.31 to 0.78)	0.003	0.44 (0.27 to 0.73)	0.001
Self-employed	0.85 (0.73 to 1.00)	0.056	0.82 (0.70 to 0.95)	0.008	0.60 (0.44 to 0.82)	0.001	0.60 (0.43 to 0.83)	0.002
Government/private	0.75 (0.58 to 0.96)	0.025	0.72 (0.57 to 0.92)	0.008	0.63 (0.39 to 1.04)	0.071	0.77 (0.46 to 1.31)	0.335
Per capita household expenditure (ref. Q1)								

Continued

Table 3 Continued

Variables	Health service use							
	Outpatient				Inpatient			
	Any visit*		Number of visits†		Any visit*		Number of visits†	
	aOR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value
Q2	1.50 (1.21 to 1.86)	<0.0001	1.50 (1.23 to 1.84)	<0.0001	1.25 (0.81 to 1.92)	0.307	1.07 (0.67 to 1.70)	0.777
Q3	1.76 (1.42 to 2.18)	<0.0001	1.74 (1.42 to 2.13)	<0.0001	1.64 (1.08 to 2.49)	0.020	1.71 (1.10 to 2.66)	0.018
Q4	1.73 (1.38 to 2.15)	<0.0001	1.80 (1.46 to 2.21)	<0.0001	1.42 (0.91 to 2.20)	0.121	1.36 (0.86 to 2.18)	0.192
Q5	1.90 (1.51 to 2.40)	<0.0001	2.09 (1.68 to 2.59)	<0.0001	2.48 (1.60 to 3.85)	<0.0001	2.52 (1.59 to 4.00)	<0.0001
Residence (ref. rural)								
Urban	0.92 (0.80 to 1.07)	0.283	0.95 (0.83 to 1.10)	0.500	0.96 (0.72 to 1.26)	0.744	1.05 (0.78 to 1.42)	0.726
Region (ref. Java-Bali)								
Sumatra	0.83 (0.68 to 1.00)	0.052	0.98 (0.81 to 1.17)	0.798	1.23 (0.87 to 1.74)	0.236	1.25 (0.86 to 1.82)	0.250
Nusa Tenggara	0.64 (0.46 to 0.89)	0.007	0.60 (0.43 to 0.82)	0.002	1.25 (0.71 to 2.18)	0.437	1.11 (0.60 to 2.03)	0.745
Kalimantan	1.03 (0.74 to 1.43)	0.873	1.21 (0.89 to 1.65)	0.228	1.09 (0.58 to 2.05)	0.799	0.94 (0.47 to 1.89)	0.865
Sulawesi	0.64 (0.45 to 0.93)	0.019	0.63 (0.44 to 0.90)	0.011	0.63 (0.30 to 1.35)	0.235	0.63 (0.29 to 1.38)	0.249

*Multilevel logistic regression model.

†Multilevel negative binomial regression model.

aOR, adjusted OR; IRR, incidence rate ratio; NCD, non-communicable disease.

a greater financial burden, which is mainly driven by higher healthcare use. These findings are consistent with earlier studies.^{10 28 37 38} Based on a previous Indonesian study, four NCDs (hypertension, diabetes, heart problems and stroke) are the leading causes of mortality and were estimated to account for 12% of Indonesia's OOE in 2020.²² Furthermore, the impoverishment effect of multimorbidity has been previously documented and is confirmed in our study.^{7 21 22 37}

This study contributes to the growing evidence that multimorbidity has a substantial impact on disability and productivity.^{7 9 22} Interventions that can help effectively prevent and manage multimorbidity have the potential for generating substantial returns on improved health, work productivity and social benefits. However, a large portion of the Indonesia government health expenditure is still geared towards curative care.⁵ Renewing the focus on health promotion and NCD prevention requires a strong PHC system.⁹ PHC is the entry point of a sustainable health system for the early detection of risk factors and initiation of a treatment-seeking pathway for patients with NCDs, and thus, plays a crucial role for NCD prevention and provision of long-term integrated care. Such policies would be in line with the current programme of the Ministry of Health in Indonesia to

reorient public PHC to provide more promotive and preventive health services, such as through the implementation of Chronic Diseases Management Programme (Prolanis) in PHC.^{12 39} However, the participation in this programme remains low due to the poor access to PHC facilities, especially in non-Java-Bali regions. Engaging the private sector, which makes up 60% of health facilities in Indonesia, is warranted to expand the coverage of NCDs promotive and prevention activities.⁴⁰ Furthermore, the development of digital health solution and telehealth for NCDs prevention and control should be included in the national plan.⁴¹

Although most countries and international health organisations have recognised the importance of multimorbidity,⁴² most health policies and programmes still focus on single diseases, including in Indonesia. Therefore, the health systems need to shift from single-disease models to new financing methods and service delivery to more effectively manage multimorbidity.^{43 44} At the PHC level, this can be done through improved prevention and treatment of multimorbidity, underpinned by multidisciplinary teams led by general practitioners.⁴² There is also a need to strengthen the coordination of patient management between primary and secondary care. Similar to many LMICs and neighbouring countries in Asia,

Table 4 The effect of multimorbidity on catastrophic expenditure

Variables	Catastrophic health expenditure					
	10% of total household expenditure*		25% of total household expenditure*		40% of non-food expenditure*	
	aOR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value
Number of NCDs (ref. no NCD)						
Single NCD	1.11 (0.76 to 1.62)	0.591	0.81 (0.49 to 1.34)	0.417	0.86 (0.52 to 1.43)	0.561
Two NCDs	1.58 (1.06 to 2.35)	0.026	1.39 (0.79 to 2.45)	0.250	1.27 (0.69 to 2.35)	0.437
Three or more NCDs	1.69 (1.02 to 2.81)	0.042	0.96 (0.40 to 2.34)	0.937	0.72 (0.27 to 1.89)	0.503
Period (ref. 2007)						
2014	1.42 (1.12 to 1.80)	0.003	1.27 (0.83 to 1.95)	0.271	1.18 (0.77 to 1.80)	0.442
Sex (ref. male)						
Female	0.89 (0.64 to 1.23)	0.480	0.90 (0.57 to 1.42)	0.645	0.83 (0.52 to 1.33)	0.432
Age (ref. 50–60 years)						
61–70 years	1.15 (0.79 to 1.69)	0.461	1.46 (0.90 to 2.36)	0.125	1.43 (0.85 to 2.38)	0.175
71+ years	1.13 (0.66 to 1.92)	0.663	1.01 (0.51 to 2.01)	0.975	1.24 (0.60 to 2.55)	0.563
Marital status (ref. not married)						
Currently married	1.59 (1.22 to 2.09)	0.001	1.68 (0.98 to 2.87)	0.060	1.83 (1.01 to 3.33)	0.047
Educational level (ref. no education)						
Primary	0.96 (0.67 to 1.38)	0.841	0.90 (0.52 to 1.55)	0.708	0.85 (0.48 to 1.52)	0.589
Junior high school	0.97 (0.64 to 1.47)	0.902	1.21 (0.58 to 2.55)	0.610	0.60 (0.25 to 1.48)	0.271
Senior high school	0.93 (0.61 to 1.42)	0.735	1.22 (0.59 to 2.52)	0.595	0.81 (0.34 to 1.92)	0.627
Tertiary	0.45 (0.22 to 0.90)	0.023	0.11 (0.01 to 0.94)	0.043	0.12 (0.02 to 0.84)	0.032
Ethnicity (ref. Javanese)						
Sundanese	0.87 (0.62 to 1.23)	0.433	1.80 (0.98 to 3.33)	0.060	1.14 (0.52 to 2.48)	0.748
Others	0.76 (0.56 to 1.02)	0.065	1.01 (0.58 to 1.78)	0.959	0.56 (0.28 to 1.09)	0.088
Insurance coverage (ref. no)						
Yes	0.89 (0.67 to 1.20)	0.451	0.83 (0.53 to 1.31)	0.425	0.80 (0.49 to 1.32)	0.390
Type of work (ref. unemployed)						
Casual	0.59 (0.33 to 1.07)	0.082	0.58 (0.29 to 1.17)	0.128	0.41 (0.20 to 0.84)	0.015
Self-employed	0.60 (0.36 to 1.01)	0.056	0.58 (0.35 to 0.96)	0.033	0.45 (0.27 to 0.76)	0.003
Government/private	0.58 (0.34 to 1.02)	0.058	0.78 (0.35 to 1.70)	0.527	0.39 (0.16 to 0.95)	0.038
Per capita household expenditure (ref. Q1)						
Q2	1.04 (0.071 to 1.52)	0.834	1.60 (0.71 to 3.57)	0.257	1.34 (0.62 to 2.90)	0.459
Q3	1.37 (0.97 to 1.95)	0.076	1.71 (0.77 to 3.80)	0.188	1.19 (0.54 to 2.61)	0.669
Q4	1.98 (1.40 to 2.81)	<0.0001	3.11 (1.43 to 6.76)	0.004	2.73 (1.23 to 6.03)	0.013
Q5	3.13 (2.28 to 4.31)	<0.0001	5.91 (2.72 to 12.85)	<0.0001	8.45 (3.70 to 19.32)	<0.0001
Residence (ref. rural)						
Urban	0.94 (0.61 to 1.45)	0.785	0.76 (0.46 to 1.24)	0.273	0.75 (0.43 to 1.31)	0.309
Region (ref. Java-Bali)						
Sumatra	0.78 (0.56 to 1.09)	0.146	0.73 (0.38 to 1.38)	0.328	1.08 (0.52 to 2.24)	0.846
Nusa Tenggara	0.64 (0.34 to 1.21)	0.175	0.98 (0.32 to 2.99)	0.968	0.93 (0.22 to 3.83)	0.917
Kalimantan	0.78 (0.39 to 1.52)	0.460	0.64 (0.19 to 2.24)	0.488	0.64 (0.15 to 2.77)	0.548
Sulawesi	0.80 (0.43 to 1.48)	0.478	1.21 (0.41 to 3.57)	0.724	1.31 (0.33 to 5.17)	0.701

*Multilevel logistic regression model.

aOR, adjusted OR; NCD, non-communicable disease.

Table 5 The effect of multimorbidity on productivity loss

Variables	Productivity loss					
	Labour participation*		Days primary activity missed†		Days confined in bed†	
	aOR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value	IRR (95% CI)	P value
Number of NCDs (ref. no NCD)						
Single NCD	0.65 (0.54 to 0.79)	<0.0001	1.25 (1.08 to 1.43)	0.002	1.09 (0.84 to 1.43)	0.509
Two NCDs	0.45 (0.35 to 0.57)	<0.0001	1.90 (1.58 to 2.29)	<0.0001	1.87 (1.33 to 2.61)	<0.0001
Three or more NCDs	0.23 (0.16 to 0.33)	<0.0001	2.59 (1.97 to 3.41)	<0.0001	2.64 (1.60 to 4.36)	<0.0001
Period (ref. 2007)						
2014	0.69 (0.59 to 0.81)	<0.0001	1.66 (1.46 to 1.88)	<0.0001	1.79 (1.40 to 2.29)	<0.0001
Sex (ref. male)						
Female	0.21 (0.17 to 0.26)	<0.0001	0.99 (0.86 to 1.14)	0.912	0.92 (0.70 to 1.21)	0.567
Age (ref. 50–60 years)						
61–70 years	0.37 (0.31 to 0.45)	<0.0001	0.99 (0.86 to 1.14)	0.859	1.07 (0.81 to 1.41)	0.617
71+ years	0.10 (0.07 to 0.13)	<0.0001	1.20 (1.00 to 1.44)	0.047	1.93 (1.37 to 2.72)	<0.0001
Marital status (ref. not married)						
Currently married	1.51 (1.23 to 1.84)	<0.0001	1.13 (0.98 to 1.31)	0.089	0.88 (0.67 to 1.17)	0.395
Educational level (ref. no education)						
Primary	0.89 (0.71 to 1.11)	0.305	0.92 (0.79 to 1.07)	0.263	1.00 (0.75 to 1.33)	0.999
Junior high school	0.41 (0.29 to 0.57)	<0.0001	0.94 (0.74 to 1.20)	0.631	0.87 (0.54 to 1.40)	0.570
Senior high school	0.41 (0.29 to 0.58)	<0.0001	0.68 (0.53 to 0.87)	0.002	0.81 (0.51 to 1.28)	0.362
Tertiary	0.51 (0.31 to 0.82)	0.006	0.54 (0.38 to 0.78)	0.001	0.37 (0.18 to 0.78)	0.009
Ethnicity (ref. Javanese)						
Sundanese	0.50 (0.37 to 0.67)	<0.0001	1.35 (1.11 to 1.65)	0.003	1.28 (0.89 to 1.85)	0.179
Others	0.77 (0.61 to 0.98)	0.033	1.11 (0.95 to 1.30)	0.188	1.12 (0.84 to 1.49)	0.436
Insurance coverage (ref. no)						
Yes	0.85 (0.72 to 1.01)	0.071	1.08 (0.95 to 1.22)	0.258	1.05 (0.82 to 1.34)	0.704
Type of work (ref. unemployed)						
Casual	N/A	N/A	0.62 (0.51 to 0.75)	<0.0001	0.32 (0.22 to 0.47)	<0.0001
Self-employed	N/A	N/A	0.62 (0.53 to 0.71)	<0.0001	0.42 (0.32 to 0.56)	<0.0001
Government/private	N/A	N/A	0.57 (0.45 to 0.72)	<0.0001	0.45 (0.28 to 0.73)	0.001
Per capita household expenditure (ref. Q1)						
Q2	1.37 (1.08 to 1.75)	0.011	1.03 (0.86 to 1.23)	0.744	1.05 (0.74 to 1.49)	0.769
Q3	1.33 (1.03 to 1.71)	0.028	1.15 (0.96 to 1.38)	0.130	1.06 (0.75 to 1.50)	0.737
Q4	1.12 (0.87 to 1.46)	0.379	1.05 (0.87 to 1.27)	0.627	1.02 (0.71 to 1.46)	0.914
Q5	1.34 (1.01 to 1.77)	0.043	1.29 (1.05 to 1.58)	0.015	0.92 (0.63 to 1.35)	0.668
Residence (ref. Rural)						
Urban	0.44 (0.35 to 0.54)	<0.0001	0.93 (0.81 to 1.07)	0.296	0.70 (0.54 to 0.89)	0.004
Region (ref. Java-Bali)						
Sumatra	0.95 (0.73 to 1.25)	0.735	1.13 (0.94 to 1.36)	0.194	1.01 (0.73 to 1.40)	0.956
Nusa Tenggara	0.74 (0.48 to 1.14)	0.177	0.90 (0.68 to 1.20)	0.472	1.14 (0.67 to 1.93)	0.638
Kalimantan	1.21 (0.75 to 1.94)	0.440	0.90 (0.67 to 1.22)	0.511	0.89 (0.51 to 1.57)	0.688
Sulawesi	0.39 (0.24 to 0.62)	<0.0001	0.99 (0.72 to 1.36)	0.948	0.94 (0.53 to 1.69)	0.845

*Multilevel logistic regression model.

†Multilevel negative binomial regression model.

aOR, adjusted OR; IRR, incidence rate ratio; NCD, non-communicable disease.

healthcare delivery in Indonesia remains fragmented and hospital-centred, with little coordination among healthcare providers across different tiers of the system.⁴⁵

Furthermore, under the current national health insurance scheme, the hospital reimbursement system that uses case-based groups has created significant gaps between

reimbursable costs and actual hospital expenses.⁴⁶ The reimbursement system, which is mainly based on primary diagnosis, limits the hospital's capacity and willingness to treat complicated cases such as those with multimorbidity.⁴⁷ Thus, while clinical guideline for single NCD still has a prominent role, it also important for LMICs to develop a clinical guideline for multimorbidity, along with payment systems that would ensure quality health services at both primary and secondary levels of care for patients with multimorbidity.^{9 40} It is also worth noting that Indonesia is still facing the double burden of infectious and chronic diseases. Therefore, multimorbidity care delivery model needs to pay attention to the management of NCDs alongside infectious diseases.

There are several limitations to our study. First, the IFLS-5 was conducted between 2014 and 2015, which may not be able to capture the current prevalence of multimorbidity in Indonesia. Despite this limitation, IFLS is the only longitudinal survey available in Indonesia that is useful to produce more accurate estimates compared with using a cross-sectional dataset (eg, the National Socioeconomic Survey). Second, our findings should be interpreted with caution since the assessment of NCDs was mostly based on self-reporting. This may cause misreporting of the true diagnoses and prevalence of multimorbidity. The health service use and OOEPE were also based on self-reporting and may be prone to recall bias.⁴⁸ The use of self-reported diagnoses limits our assessment of the actual severity of the diseases, which may vary across socioeconomic status. Future studies should consider using different datasets (such as clinical dataset from the hospital) and applying clinical metrics such as Charlson index, which could more objectively capture disease severity and predict the health outcomes.⁴⁹ Third, the IFLS sample did not include eastern Indonesia. There is a need to extend the multimorbidity assessment to the remaining regions. Finally, this research intentionally focused on the older population due to a significantly higher burden of NCDs in this population group. Future research should use cohort data to follow patients over a more extended time period to examine the impact of multimorbidity and its effects in younger population groups in LMICs.²²

CONCLUSION

Multimorbidity poses substantial costs to individuals, households, health system and the wider society in Indonesia, which has an increasingly ageing population. Policymakers and employers in Indonesia should carefully design and invest in targeted public health and workplace interventions at the individual and population level to avert the adverse health and economic consequences of NCD multimorbidity.

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