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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

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Early Marriage in Blitar Regency

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ABSTRACT

Early marriage can cause several negative impacts, including vulnerability to incidents of domestic violence, an increased risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth, and cutting off opportunities to continue education. By looking at some of the negative impacts as described above, prevention of early marriage is a very important effort in order to improve the reproductive health of the nation's future generations. That is why efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage are one of the main programs in the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection in Blitar Regency, Indonesia. In order to participate in increasing the achievement of the aforementioned program, it is necessary to conduct a study to describe the achievement of the program to reduce the early marriage rate in Blitar Regency, so that in turn a recommendation can be proposed for improving strategies so that a reduction in the rate of early marriage in Blitar Regency can be realized in next year. This study is a descriptive study that aims to describe the achievement of the "Population, Family Planning and Family Development" program of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency, in 2018, especially efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage. This study was conducted during November 2018 in the working area of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection in Blitar Regency. The variable in this study is the age of marriage. Data was collected through a documentation study of secondary data in the form of raw data that is already available at the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods, which consisted of the proportion of incidence of early marriage according to month-based time, prediction of the proportion of incidence of early marriage in the future (month-based), and the proportion of early marriage incidence according to sub-district-based clusters. The results showed that: 1) the proportion of the incidence of early marriage from month to month was not much different, with irregular fluctuations, 2) based on the proportion of early marriages per month, a trend line was drawn in the form of a polynomial equation, namely: $y = 0.0011x^2 - 0.0123x + 0.1357$, 3) the average incidence of early marriage was 11.01, the sub-districts that had a high proportion of early marriage were Udanawu, Srengat, Kademangan, Bakung, Kanigoro, Garum, Sutojayan, Wlingi and Selopuro Districts. Furthermore, it was concluded that early marriage in Blitar Regency has an increasing trend, with a striking difference between sub-districts with the highest and lowest incidence of early marriage.

Keywords: early marriage; Blitar Regency; predictive proportions

INTRODUCTION

Background

Indonesia is one of the countries with the largest population in the world, but progress in the population sector is still relatively low when compared to other countries. The indicators that are easy to identify are the absolute poverty rate, the ranking of corruption incidents, as well as relatively weak social and cultural capital. The population progress ranking in Indonesia (rank 71) is lower than that of other South Asian countries, such as the Philippines (44), Sri Lanka (43), and Vietnam (61) ⁽¹⁾.

Domestic problems also have a negative impact on the condition of the population in Indonesia. In the last two decades from the reform era to the unstable era of regional autonomy, it can be seen that the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has not decreased significantly, meanwhile the Population Growth Rate (PGR) is still fluctuating today ⁽²⁾. In more detail, Sudarmi (2015) states that there are five population problems currently occurring in Indonesia, namely: 1) a large population (fourth in the world), 2) a high population growth rate, 3) the number of population deaths, especially the death rate. mother, 4) number of population births, and 5) population mutation, especially urbanization ⁽³⁾.

Population problems as described above will have a bad impact if they are not handled properly, such as: health problems, decreased community economic resilience, lack of equitable education, social problems, law enforcement and so on. Therefore, the five population problems as described above have inspired the government to propose programs that can solve population problems in the country, namely Population, Family Planning, and Family Development ⁽³⁾.

In the Appendix to Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, letter N states that the division of government affairs in the field of population control and family planning is divided into 3 sub-affairs, namely population control sub-affairs, family planning sub-affairs and prosperous family sub-affairs. Regarding population control, the central government implements the integration and synchronization of policies and determination of national population control estimates. The integration and synchronization of these policies is carried out by local governments. Meanwhile, at the provincial level, the authority to control population estimates is not given, but instead becomes a mapping of the estimated population control over the provincial area. Regency / city governments also only map estimated population control in addition to integrating and synchronizing population policies ⁽⁴⁾.

Regarding family planning, the central government handles five matters relating to: 1) preparation of program design and management of advocacy for "communication, information and education" population control; 2) management of family planning extension workers / field officers for family planning; 3) management and provision of contraceptives for couples of childbearing age; 4) management and control of family information systems; and 5) empowerment and increased participation of community organizations in controlling services and fostering participation in family planning programs. Of the five functions carried out by the central government, there are two functions that are delegated authority to the provincial government, namely: 1) development of program design, management and implementation of advocacy for "communication, information and education" and 2) empowerment and enhancement of the role of community organizations in the province in management of services and fostering participation in family planning. Meanwhile, the regency / city government is entrusted with the authority covering four functions, namely: 1) implementing advocacy "communication, information and education", population control; 2) utilization of family planning extension personnel; 3) controlling and distributing contraceptives as well as implementing family planning services in the regions; and 4) empowerment and increasing the participation of community organizations in the implementation of services and guidance ⁽⁴⁾.

Regarding prosperous families, the authority of the central government is about developing the design of family development programs through fostering family resilience, the authority of the provincial government is to manage the implementation of the design, while the authority of the regency / city government is to carry out the design implementation ⁽⁴⁾.

Thus, it is clear that the regency / city government has a very big role in the implementation of the Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs in order to solve population problems in local regency / cities in particular, and population problems at the provincial and national levels in general. Thus, the regency / city government through the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection or other relevant agencies must carry out the Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs which become their maximum and sustainable authority, because of the success of the program of Population, Family Planning and Family Development at the regency / city level are the foundation for the success of the Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs at the provincial and national levels.

Based on the problems described above and also considering the authority that the Regency / City Population, Family Planning, and Family Development Office should carry out, the Department of Population

Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Blitar Regency views the implementation of the program of Population, Family Planning and Family Development must always experience improvement from time to time, both in terms of input (human resources, facilities and infrastructure, data sources, etc.), processes (data collection, data processing, data analysis, and so on), as well as output (information generated from data analysis). This is important, because data analysis will produce information. If the data analysis is done properly, it will produce good information. If data analysis is carried out honestly, correct information will be generated.

The information generated from data analysis on Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs will be the main consideration for decision making in the context of solving population problems. With quality information, accurate decisions can be made, in the sense of a logical decision in accordance with the problems that occur. Therefore, it has been decided that the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency, needs to build cooperation with credible scientific institutions in order to improve the quality of data analysis related to Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs.

One of the focuses of the Population, Family Planning and Family Development program in Blitar Regency is efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage. This is important because early marriage can have negative effects, including:

1. Vulnerable to incidents of violence in household
According to Plan's findings, 44 percent of girls who marry early experience domestic violence with a high level of frequency. The rest, 56 percent of girls experienced domestic violence in low frequency.
2. Risk of death
Early marriage has a negative impact on the reproductive health of girls. Girls aged 10-14 years are five times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth, compared to women aged 20-25 years. Meanwhile, children who are married at the age of 15-19 are twice as likely to die.
3. Cut off access to education
In the field of education, early marriage results in the child being unable to achieve higher education. Only 5.6 percent of children who were married early, still continue their schooling after marriage ⁽⁵⁾.

By looking at some of the negative impacts of early marriage as described above, prevention of early marriage is a very important effort in order to improve the reproductive health of the nation's future generations. That is why efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage are one of the main programs in the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency.

In order to participate in increasing the achievement of the aforementioned program, it is necessary to conduct a study to describe the achievement of the program to reduce the early marriage rate in Blitar Regency, so that in turn a recommendation can be proposed for improving strategies so that a reduction in the rate of early marriage in Blitar Regency can be realized in next year.

Objective

The general objective of this scientific activity is to analyze the achievement of the "Population, Family Planning and Family Development" program of the the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency, in 2018, especially efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage.

In particular, the objectives of this scientific activity are described as follows:

1. Describe the proportion of early marriage with female partners <20 years old according to a sub-district based cluster
2. Describe the proportion of early marriage with the age of the female partner <20 years according to the month-based time cluster
3. Predicting the incidence of early marriage in the coming year

Benefits

The benefits of the results of this activity are as follows:

1. Provide an overview of the level of achievement of the program to reduce early marriage rates in the work area of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency in 2018.
2. Provide a reference for the Head of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency in making decisions related to efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage in the work area of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Blitar Regency in 2018.

3. Provide additional reference material for efforts to develop science related to efforts to reduce the rate of early marriage

METHODS

Type of Study

This activity was classified as a descriptive survey research because it aims to describe the existing conditions in the field as they are, namely a description of the achievements of the Blitar Regency Population, Family Planning and Family Development program in 2018, especially early marriage. However, in addition to presenting a portrait of current data and information, a simple prediction can also be made about the achievement of the program for the following year.

Time and Place

The analysis of the achievement of the program to reduce the early marriage rate in Blitar Regency was held within 1 month, namely during November 2018. Activities were carried out in the working area of the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency.

Generalization Target

The general target of the analysis of the achievements of the program of Population, Family Planning and Family Development is the entire population of Blitar Regency in 2018. In addition to the general target, there are cluster targets, in this case, sub-district-based clusters throughout the Blitar Regency.

Variable

The variable analyzed in this study was age of marriage. Operationally, this variable was focused on the proportion of early marriage with a female partner age <20 years.

Data Collection Technique

Data on the age of marriage were collected through a documentation study of secondary data in the form of raw data that was already available at the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency. This data is part of the documents resulting from population data collection which is carried out routinely by the the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency.

The stages taken in this process include:

1. Preparatory meeting involving the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency and the Health Scientific Forum (FORIKES) as the implementer of data analysis
2. Compilation of data collection instruments in the form of a checklist covering the required variables and complementary elements, referring to the activity objectives that had been previously set. In this case, the checklist included age of marriage, new family planning participants, active family planning participants, and unmet needs
3. Coordination meeting which aimed to equalize the perceptions of the personnel involved in data analysis activities, both from the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency and the Health Scientific Forum (FORIKES). This activity was necessary so that the data collection process can be carried out in accordance with expected standards, as well as the realization of the same standards for each of the personnel involved.
4. The process of collecting data in the field was a documentation study carried out by personnel from the Health Scientific Forum, facilitated by personnel from the Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency, with the supervision of local supervisors.
5. The data processing process included: 1) editing, namely ensuring that the data obtained was correct and complete, 2) coding of qualitative data into numbers according to coding guidelines (especially for data requiring coding), 3) tabulation, namely entering the codes into the table were available using digital software. This data processing stage was carried out by a team of experts from the Health Scientific Forum (FORIKES), and this process was facilitated by personnel from the Department of Population Control,

Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of Blitar Regency, with supervisory supervision.

Analysis and Presentation of Data

The process of analyzing and presenting data was analyzing data using descriptive statistical methods ⁽⁶⁾, which consist of:

1. Proportion of incidence of early marriage according to time based on month, with data presentation using a bar diagram equipped with a trendline polynomial for prediction purposes.
2. Prediction of the proportion of incidence of early marriage in the future (month-based) using linear equations referring to trendline polynomials.
3. Proportion of incidence of early marriage according to district-based clusters, with data presentation using bar diagrams and line diagrams with a standard in the form of district-level proportions of early marriage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Proportion of time-based (per-month) early marriages in Blitar 2018

No	Month	Proportion of early marriages
1	January	12.42%
2	February	11.03%
3	March	12.49%
4	April	9.56%
5	May	9.26%
6	June	10.69%
7	July	10.75%
8	August	10.91%
9	September	11.31%

Table 1 shows that the proportion of the incidence of early marriage from month to month was not much different, with irregular fluctuations, in the sense that it was not linearly clear that there is an increasing or decreasing trend (Figure 1).

Based on the proportion of the incidence of early marriage per month, a trend line is drawn in the form of a polynomial equation, namely:

$$y = 0.0011x^2 - 0.0123x + 0.1357$$

The equation above can be used to predict the incidence of early marriage (y) in the future, in the month "x". For example, if the demographic conditions and population programs do not change significantly, then at the beginning of the following year (month "x = 13"), the proportion of early marriage (y) incidence in Blitar Regency can be predicted using the polynomial equation above, namely :

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 0.0011x^2 - 0.0123x + 0.1357 \\ &= 0.0011.13^2 - 0.0123.13 + 0.1357 \\ &= 16.17\% \end{aligned}$$

It appears that it is predicted that there will be an increase in the proportion of early marriages in early 2019, if the demographic conditions and population program efforts are still relatively stagnant or in other words there is no acceleration of population control efforts, especially regarding the postponement of the age of

marriage.

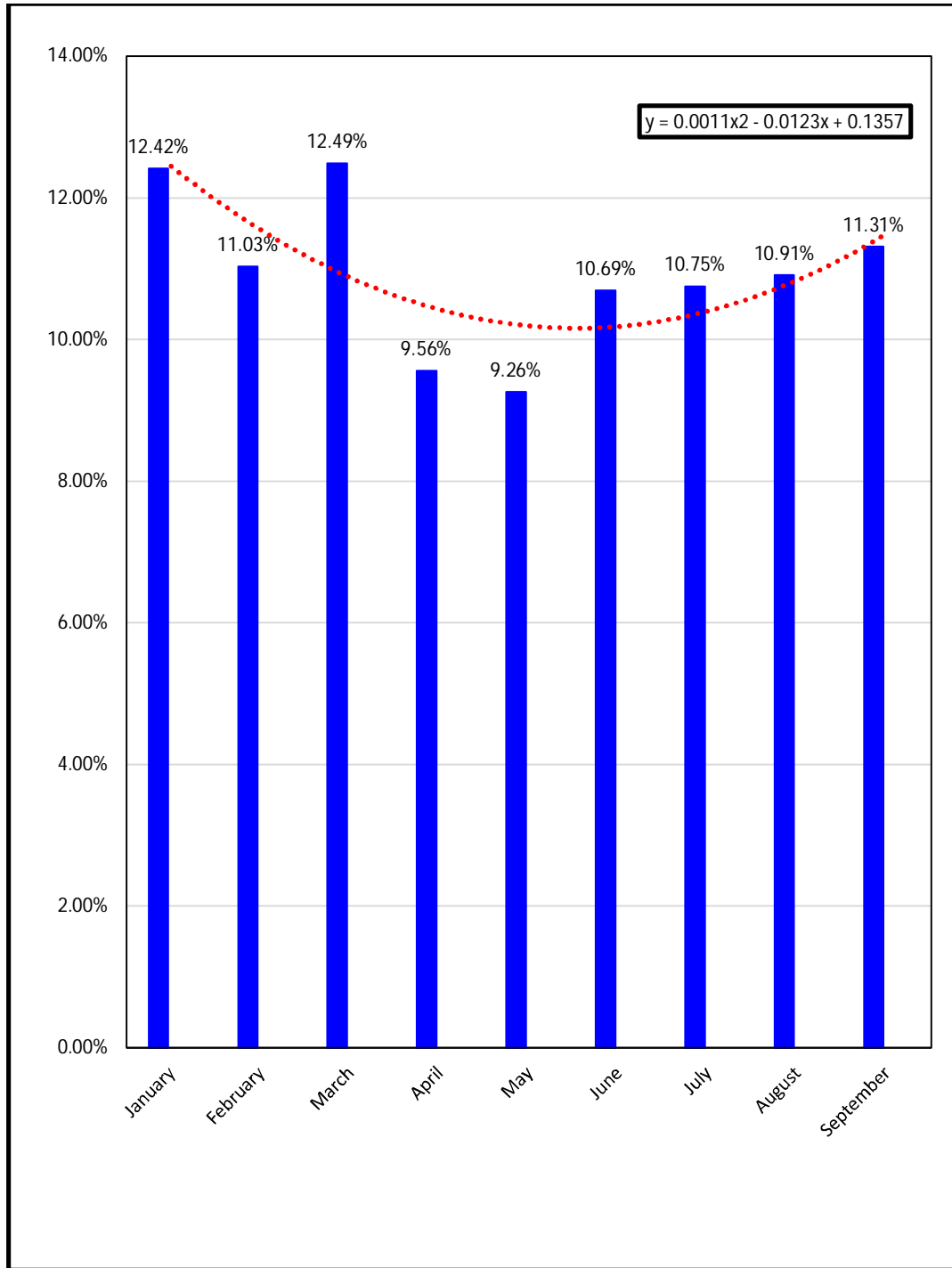


Figure 1. Proportion of time-based early marriage incidence (per-month) in Blitar 2018

Table 2. Proportion of cluster-based (per-district) early marriage incidence in Blitar Regency, 2018

No	Sub-district	Incidence of early marriage
1	Wonodadi	7.00%
2	Udanawu	11.89%
3	Srengat	13.42%
4	Kademangan	27.80%
5	Bakung	19.40%
6	Ponggok	8.30%
7	Sanan Kulon	9.57%
8	Wonotirto	9.79%
9	Nglegok	3.80%
10	Kanigoro	19.31%
11	Garum	14.81%
12	Sutojayan	13.91%
13	Panggungrejo	8.58%
14	Talun	4.91%
15	Gandusari	2.84%
16	Binangun	10.77%
17	Wlingi	16.86%
18	Doko	8.55%
19	Kesamben	6.71%
20	Wates	6.88%
21	Selorejo	3.02%
22	Selopuro	16.30%
	Kabupaten Blitar	11.01%

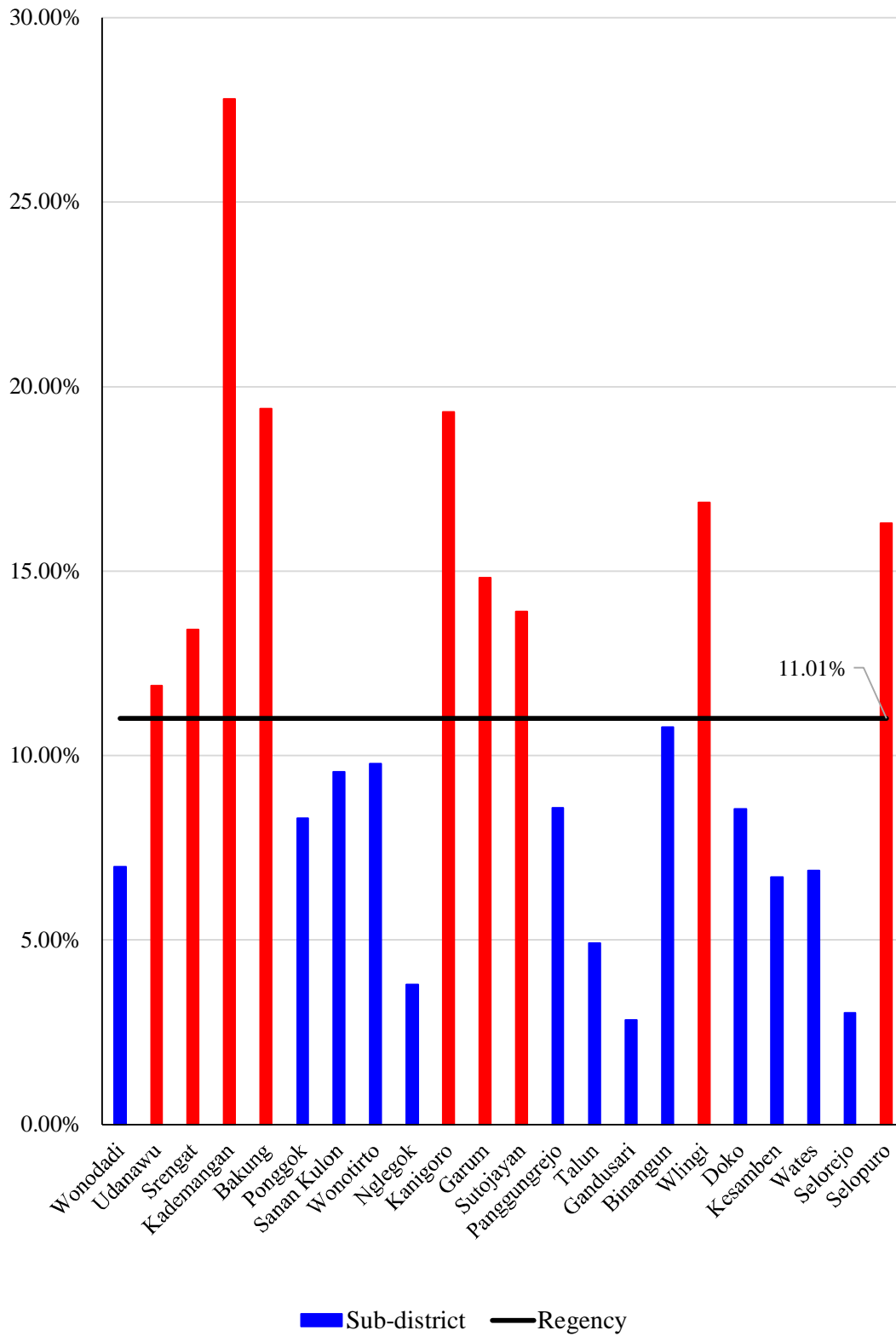


Figure 2. Proportion of cluster-based (per-subdistrict) early marriage incidence in Blitar Regency, 2018

Referring to Table 2 and Figure 2, it appears that the mean value of the incidence of early marriage in Blitar Regency was 11.01. In this case, the sub-districts that have a high proportion of early marriage (exceeding the district level) were sub-district of Udanawu, Srengat, Kademangan, Bakung, Kanigoro, Garum, Sutojayan, Wlingi and Selopuro. It appears that there were quite striking differences between the clusters with a high incidence of early marriage (in red) and clusters with high incidence of early marriage (in blue). This information indicates that these sub-districts need more attention in efforts to reduce the incidence of early marriage.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that early marriage in Blitar Regency has an increasing trend, with a striking difference between the sub-districts with the highest and lowest incidence of early marriage. Based on these conclusions, it is suggested that the Blitar Regency Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office immediately make efforts to reduce the predicted fluctuations in the incidence of early marriage in the following year.

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