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Hilmi: Fewer addicts after therapy treatment

THE methadone replacement therapy reduced the number of drug addiction, including heroin, from 21,981 in 2005 to 7,180 last year.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said the treatment also resulted in reduced HIV infections through intravenous drug use from 66 per cent in 2005 to 29.5 per cent in 2012.

"Following the effectiveness of this programme, the ministry plans to increase the number of

treatment centres.

"There are now 333 methadone therapy clinics, with 221 of them under the ministry, 44 under the National Anti-Drug Agency, 18 under the prison authorities while the rest are private clinics," he said in reply to a question from Senator Dr Syed Husin Ali at the Dewan Negara yesterday.

Dr Hilmi said so far, there had been no reported death caused by the therapy among heroin addicts.

— Bernama