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## Women with HIV/AIDS on the rise

**SEREMBAN:** A total of 5,645 cases of HIV/AIDS were reported in Negri Sembilan between 1986 and last year, with an increasing number of women affected.

State executive councillor for Women and Family Development, Zainab Nasir said last year, 48 women and children in the state were infected with the deadly disease.

She said that this was a common scenario nationwide, with women making up 16 per cent of the 85,630 HIV/AIDS patients and 16.3 per cent of 80,938 cases recorded in 2007.

"The increasing number of women patients is worrying and we realise that the main reason for this is the lack of awareness."

She called on all quarters, especially non-governmental organisations, to assist the government in organising more campaigns and workshops to educate the people on the dangers of the disease.

She noted that unprotected sex and drug addiction and the "sharing of needles" was among the main causes of the increase in the number of women sufferers.