

Headline	Number getting HIV from sex rising Group		
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## Number getting HIV from sex rising: Group

KOTA BARU: Drug addicts continue to top the list of those infected with HIV in the country, but the number of Malaysians who contracted the disease through sexual contact is on the rise.

Malaysian Society for HIV Medicine president Dr Mahiran Mustafa said if this trend continued, sexual contact might become the No.1 cause of HIV in the country.

She said 10 years ago, the number of people who acquired HIV through sexual contact was about only eight percent, but the figure had since doubled.

“If you look at countries such as the United States, this group (tops the HIV list) as they have a bigger number of gays and lesbians.

“Although the numbers are smaller here, if the trend increased, then it is possible that sexual contact might become the No.1 cause of HIV in the country.”

Dr Mahiran was speaking after the launching of an event to commemorate World AIDS Day here.

The event was launched by state deputy director of health Dr Wan Mansor Hamzah.

She said many Kelantan residents who got married to Thais had contracted HIV as there was not HIV-screening for those planning to get married in the country.

“Another group is Malaysians who elope and get married in Thailand to avoid the screening. These couples get married although they know that their partners have HIV.”

“We traced these cases when we screened the women during their pregnancy.”