

Headline	Sabah HIV/AIDS cases dip but natives still top list		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	04 Dec 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	Nation	Circulation	30,557
Page No	1	Readership	97,836
Language	English	ArticleSize	131 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 675
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 2,025



Sabah HIV/AIDS cases dip but natives still top list

Mary Chin

KOTA KINABALU: There has been a drop in the number of reported cases of HIV, AIDS and deaths in Sabah this year.

State Health Director Dr Mohd Yusof Hj Ibrahim said data shows that between January and September 2011, there were 107 reported cases of HIV, 20 AIDS cases and four deaths compared with 129 HIV cases, 28 AIDS cases and 17 deaths in the corresponding period last year.

"Of the HIV cases, 67.3pc were males and 37.3pc females for the same period. The majority of the patients were Sabah Bumiputeras (57.9pc), followed by foreigners (18.7pc), Chinese (13.1pc), Malays (6.5pc), Indians (1.9pc) and Sarawak Bumiputeras (1.9pc)," he said in conjunction with World AIDS Day this year.

Quoting statistics, the Director said 36.4pc of the reported HIV cases are in the 20-29 years age range, followed by 29.9pc in the 30-39 years age group and 12.1pc in the 40-49 years age range.

Others are in the 13-19 years age group (10.3pc), 50 years and above (8.4pc) and aged two years and below (2.8pc).

On the mode of transmission, Dr Mohd Yusof said HIV infection is mainly spread through heterosexual relations (97.2pc) while the remaining 2.8pc is via vertical transmission (that is, from mother to child).

Going by occupation, Dr Mohd Yusof said



Dr Yusof

45.8pc of those with HIV infection constitute people who don't have permanent jobs while 25.2pc make up other categories of employment.

The rest of the breakdown is: 9.3pc (housewives), 9.3pc (unemployed), 8.4pc (government officers) and 2pc (members of uniformed bodies).

Enlightening the public on possible exposure to the risk of HIV infection, Dr Mohd Yusof said this could happen to anyone in the event of the following circumstances.

- Having a spouse or partner who is HIV-infected
- If one is a prostitute or has visited a prostitute
- A partner who is homosexual
- Having multiple sex partners
- Having sexual relations with a spouse or partner who is a drug addict
- A drug addict who had previously shared injection needles

"As such, anyone who is engaged in high-risk behaviour is advised to undergo anonymous HIV screening at any of the government health clinics.

"The test is easily available, brief and painless," said Dr Mohd Yusof.

According to him, clients confirmed as HIV-positive will be referred to a health clinic or hospital which offers HIV management service.

Such service covers counselling, health examination, laboratory test and treatment.

KASIH'S WORLD AIDS DAY AT GAYA STREET TODAY