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New HIV cases expected to drop further by year-end

KUALA TERENGGANU: The rate of new HIV infections reported to the Health Ministry is expected to drop to 11.5 cases per 100,000 people in the country by the year-end compared to 11.5 over the same period last year.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said based on the monitoring of cases, it was a big success for the ministry through the various HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities compared to 24.7 cases for every 100,000 people in 2001.

“In curbing HIV infection, the government had taken the initiative of introducing the Harm Reduction Programme for intravenous drug users, which clearly has had a big impact on the problem of drug abuse in the country.

“The rate of new HIV infections among drug addicts has dropped from 74.7 per cent in year 2000 to 29.5 per cent this year, and the government is targeting 80 of drug addicts to receive medication for harm reduction by the end of 2015.” — Bernama