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## No new cases of HIV recorded in Pahang

**TEMERLOH:** There has been no new HIV-positive cases in Pahang, said State Local Government, Environment and Health Committee chairman Datuk Hoh Khai Mun.

He said, as of November last year, there were 9,029 HIV-positive cases while AIDS patients numbered 1,195.

"The majority of the cases involve people above 20 years in age, but there were three aged below 15 years," he said after launching the state-level World AIDS Day celebrations at Felda Lakum here.

He added that 89% of the victims were males and more than 85% were infected through the use of contaminated needles by drug addicts.

Hoh said, since the introduction of a screening exercise two years ago for marrying couples, 13,148 couples tested negative while 17 were found positive for HIV.

He said the pre-marriage screening was to prevent the spread of HIV.



**Creating awareness:** Hoh (left) viewing a bunting after launching the state's World AIDS Day celebration at Felda Lakum in Temerloh recently.

"Some women did not know their husbands were HIV positive and were subsequently infected. They, in turn, could infect their babies if they got pregnant.

"In Pahang, the number of HIV-positive women increased from 3.1% in 2002 to 11% in 2009," he said.

There was counselling and treatment available for people living with HIV, he added.