

Headline	Fatimah Rise in STDs among housewives due to husbands reckless behaviour		
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## Fatimah: Rise in STDs among housewives due to husbands' reckless behaviour

**KUCHING:** The reckless behaviour of husbands is the number one cause of the rise in housewives contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah said anecdotal reports indicated that STDs among housewives in Sarawak was on the rise.

These husbands who sought sexual gratification outside their marriage were carriers of STDs to these housewives.

"Unfortunately, I cannot give you the figures off hand, but I was told that STD cases among housewives in Sarawak is increasing," she told a press conference during her ministry's outreach programme in Kota

Samarahan yesterday.

Fatimah said it was difficult to control STDs if the people did not have the desire to change.

She said husbands should be responsible to their wives and be willing to change their behaviour to prevent their partners from contracting the disease.

She said STDs, especially HIV/AIDS, were most worrying because it could affect the offspring of the couple, who were HIV/AIDS carriers.

"I would like to appeal to the husbands to stop their reckless behaviour for the sake of their wives and children," she said.

An individual will contract STDs

once he or she has sex with someone who has been infected with the disease. The causes of STDs are bacteria, parasites and viruses. There are more than 20 types of STDs. They include Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Genital Herpes, HIV/AIDS, HPV, Syphilis and Trichomoniasis.

Most STDs affect both men and women, but in many cases the health problems they cause can be more severe for women. If a pregnant woman contracts STDs, it can cause serious health problems to her baby.

STDs caused by bacteria or parasites, can be treated with antibiotics or other medicines but not those caused by viruses.