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15,688 HIV-AIDS deaths since 1993

> Sex is now the main mode of transmission with women numbers on the increase

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deaths totaling 15,688 due to HIV-AIDS related conditions were recorded between 1993 and 2012 in the country. However, Sungai Buloh hospital infectious diseases specialist Datuk Dr Christopher Lee said the mode of high-risk transmission of HIV-AIDS had changed since 2010.

“Sexual transmission is now the main mode of getting HIV-AIDS. Previously, it was transmitted through drug use and homosexuality and this is a change in the epidemic we have to deal with in our prevention methods,” said Lee.

He said this at a press conference during the 2013 International AIDS Memorial Day awareness campaign which was co-organised with Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB) in KL Sentral here yesterday.

He said the rate of infection among

Malaysian women was also on the rise.

Statistics provided at the press conference showed the rate of females aged 13 to 19 who contracted HIV-AIDS has been increasing at an annual rate of 3% to 5% from 1986 to 2012.

The majority of new female HIV cases involved women between 20 and 39 years old, and 40% to 45% of all new female cases involved housewives.

The statistics were released at the launch of the KTMB-Hospital Sungai Buloh “United for AIDS - We Walk The Streets” programme which ends on May 18.

Speaking about the campaign, KTMB Commuter Services general manager Mohd Hider Yusoff said KTMB would be spreading awareness of the disease through advertisements on board trains and displays in KTM Komuter stations.

The campaign is set to end with a candlelight vigil and solidarity walk from the Sungai Buloh KTM station to Hospital Sungai Buloh on May 18.