

# ACHIEVING THE U.N.'S MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL IN COMBATING HIV AND AIDS: THE MALAYSIA SCENARIO

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## ABSTRACT

*HIV is the most common notifiable communicable disease in Malaysia after Tuberculosis, with a staggering 8,000 or more cases per year detected in recent years. As at 2009, we have a cumulative figure of 87,701 HIV cases and 15,317 AIDS cases. HIV/AIDS related death totalled 13,394 cases. The majority of cases have remained among the drug-using sub-population but, twenty years into its progression, the epidemic has now begun to reveal a diversion in its course – that of increasing heterosexual transmission and, what is termed an increasing feminisation of the epidemic. That is, more people are becoming infected through heterosexual transmission and, increasingly, more women are now living with HIV. The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS for 2006-2010, focus on 6 strategies: strengthening leadership and advocacy, training and capacity enhancement, reducing HIV vulnerability injecting drug users and their partners, reducing HIV vulnerability of young people and children, reducing HIV vulnerability of marginalized and vulnerable populations and*

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*improving access to treatment, care and support. Activities include the co-ordination of outreach services provided by non-governmental organisations by providing technical and financial assistance in HIV/AIDS programs. Intensified HIV/AIDS and health education, promotion and media campaigns are continuously carried out in the country. HIV prevention program at drug rehabilitation centres and prisons was also initiated in 1988. Sex education and harm reduction program aims to reduce the high risk behavior between intravenous drug users, e.g., sharing contaminated needles, unprotected sex. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission program was launched in 1998 at all government antenatal clinics. HIV and STI management at primary health care level was started in 2000 in health clinics throughout the country. Anonymous voluntary HIV testing was implemented, and in certain states in the country, pre-marital HIV screening was carried out. The anti-retroviral treatment program was also scaled up. Due to all these education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitative programs, incidence of HIV has decreased over the past years but more efforts are needed to halt HIV, malaria and other infectious diseases by year 2015 in the country.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Infectious Disease, Millenium Development Goals, Health Indicator, Developing Country, Epidemiology*