

27% population aged under 18: Statistics Dept

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of children under 18 in Malaysia in 2023 is estimated to be 9.13 million, which accounts for 27.4% of the country's total population of 33.38 million.

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said based on the Children Statistics Malaysia 2023 data published by the Statistics Department yesterday, the number of boys and

girls under the age of 18 is 4.72 million and 4.42 million respectively.

"The composition of children under five years old in 2023 is 2.35 million, with 1.21 million boys and 1.14 million girls. This group covers 25.7% of the total number of children in Malaysia," he said in a statement yesterday.

According to Mohd Uzir, the Federal Territory of Putrajaya recorded the highest percentage of children under 18 in 2023 with 41.1% of the population, followed by Kelantan with 34.4% and Terengganu at 33.5%.

The Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur recorded the lowest percentage at 22.6%.

"However, Selangor recorded the highest number of children under 18 at 1.81 million, followed by Johor with 1.11 million and Sabah with 1.1 million. The lowest number of children under 18 was recorded in the Federal Territory of Labuan at 0.03 million."

The statistics also indicate that children under the age of five experiencing severe malnutrition increased slightly to 0.3% in 2022 compared with 0.2% in 2021.

In terms of education, the number of pupils in government and government-aided schools in 2022 was 4.96 million, an increase of 0.6% from 4.93 million the previous year.

During the same period, the number of pupils in private schools dropped 1.2% to 0.42 million from 0.43 million, he added.

From the child protection perspective, the number of children needing care and protection in 2022 increased by 10.2% to 6,770 (4,303 girls and 2,467 boys) compared with 6,144 individuals in 2021.

The majority of children in need of care and protection are Bumiputera (73.5%), followed by Indians (9%), Chinese (7.5%) and others (10.1%).

According to the statistics, the number of children involved in crime in 2022 dropped by 12.8% to record 3,013 cases compared with 3,457 cases in 2021, while the number of sexual crime cases involving children increased by 9.5% in 2022 with 1,621 cases compared with 1,481 cases in 2021.

The Children Statistics Malaysia 2023 can be downloaded from the department's official website at www.dosm.gov.my. – Bernama

Children Statistics Malaysia 2023

■ 2023^P ■ 2022 ■ 2021

POPULATION¹

Total population
33.38 million
32.70 million



Children
9.19 million | 9.19 million



Boys
4.72 million
4.74 million



Girls
4.42 million
4.44 million

Notes:
^P Preliminary
¹ Refers to the mid-year current population estimates
The total may differ due to rounding

EDUCATION

Transition rate of enrolment



Primary to lower secondary level
90.76%
90.88%

Lower secondary to upper secondary level
99.35%
99.28%

Upper secondary to post-secondary level
3.98%
2.79%

Note: Refers to government and government-aided schools

Source: Ministry of Education Malaysia

HEALTH

Number of live births
423.1 thousand | 439.7 thousand
Boys
218.3 thousand | 226.9 thousand
Girls
204.8 thousand | 212.8 thousand

Immunisation coverage for infant

Hepatitis B
97.1%
93.0%

HIB
97.2%
94.2%

Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (DTP)
97.2%
94.2%

Poliomyelitis (Polio)
97.2%
94.0%

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)
97.1%
98.8%

Source: Ministry of Health Malaysia

CHILD PROTECTION



Child in need of care and protection
6,770 persons
6,144 persons



Cummulative number of registered Children with Disabilities cases

152,038 persons
148,013 persons

Source: Department of Social Welfare

CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CRIME

Sexual crimes involving children 1,621 cases | 1,481 cases

Total

Sexual harassment 35 cases
44 cases

Unnatural sex 63 cases
62 cases

Rape² 1,277 cases
1,123 cases

Molest 11 cases
30 cases

Incest 235 cases
222 cases

Note:
² Includes gang rape

Source: Royal Malaysia Police