

DoSM: Children under 18 make up 27.4 pct of Malaysia's population

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of children in Malaysia under the age of 18 in 2023 is estimated to be 9.13 million, which accounts for 27.4 per cent 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 published by the Department of Statistics (DoSM) yesterday, the number of boys and girls under 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 per cent of the total number of children in Malaysia," he said in a statement.

According to Mohd Uzir, the Putrajaya recorded the highest percentage of children under 18 in 2023 with 41.1 per cent of the population, followed by Kelantan (34.4 per cent) and Terengganu (33.5 per cent).

Kuala Lumpur recorded the lowest percentage at 22.6 per cent.

"However, Selangor recorded the highest number of children under 18 at 1.81 million, followed by Johor (1.11 million) and Sabah (1.1 million).

The lowest number of children under 18 was recorded in Labuan at 0.03 million," he said.

The statistics also indicate that children under the age of five experiencing severe malnutrition increased slightly to 0.3 per cent in 2022 compared to 0.2 per cent 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 per cent from 4.93 million in the previous year.

During the same period, the number of pupils in private schools dropped by 1.2 per cent 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 per cent to 6,770 persons (4,303 girls, 2,467 boys) compared to 6,144 persons in 2021.