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MEDIA STATEMENT

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CHILDREN STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, 2024

***Physical sexual assault on a child offence in 2023 recorded 1,389 cases,
a significant increase of 21.1 per cent***

PUTRAJAYA, 1st November 2024 – Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) published **Children Statistics, Malaysia, 2024**. This report presents selected statistics on population, health, education, child protection and children involved in crime. These statistics are among the indicators used in measuring the children's quality of life and well-being in accordance with the concepts and guidelines recommended by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

According to Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, "Children are the nation's assets, ensuring the continuity of the country's development in the future. Based on the population estimates statistics for 2024, **children under 18 years old** (under-18) are 9.14 million, which is 26.9 per cent of Malaysia's total population (34.06 million). The number of boys and girls under-18 are 4.72 million and 4.42 million respectively. Meanwhile, the composition of children under 5 years of age (under-5) in 2024 is 2.36 million or 6.9 per cent of the total number of children in Malaysia. The number of boys and girls under-5 are 1.22 million and 1.14 million respectively".

W.P. Putrajaya recorded the highest percentage of children under-18 in 2024 which is 40.5 per cent of the total population of W.P. Putrajaya, 0.12 million. This was followed by Kelantan (34.0%) and Terengganu (33.2%). Meanwhile, W.P. Kuala Lumpur recorded the lowest percentage of 21.6 per cent. However, Selangor recorded the highest number of children under-18 at 1.83 million followed by Sabah (1.12 million) and Johor (1.11 million). The lowest number of children under-18 was recorded in W.P. Labuan which was 0.03 million.

For **children involved in crime**, the number of sexual offences involving children cases reported to the Royal Malaysia Police increased by 26.5 per cent in 2023 to 1,567 cases as compared to 1,239 cases in 2022. Physical sexual assault on a child offence in 2023 recorded a significant increase of 21.1 per cent at 1,389 cases as compared to 1,147 cases in 2022. Non-physical sexual assault on a child and child pornography offences recorded 91 cases and 67 cases respectively in 2023.

Based on the perspective of **child protection**, the number of children in need of care and protection recorded by the Department of Social Welfare in 2023 increased by 26.1 per cent to 8,536 children as compared to 6,770 children in 2022. There were more girls in need of care and protection recording 5,418 children as compared to boys (3,118 children). However, boys in need of care and protection recorded a higher increase of 26.4 per cent as compared to girls (25.9%) in the same period.

Looking at the **education** aspect, the number of pupils in government and government-aided schools in 2023 increased by 4.6 per cent from 4,962.9 thousand pupils (2022) to 5,192.6 thousand pupils. Meanwhile, the number of pupils in private schools in 2023 recorded a increase of 3.6 per cent to 442.9 thousand pupils from 427.6 thousand pupils in 2022.

From the aspects of child's **health** level, it was found that Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period remained as the principal causes of death (medically certified) for children under-5 in 2023 at 36.4 per cent. This was followed by Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (27.5%), Pneumonia (2.6%), Transport accidents (1.5%) and Meningitis (0.7%).

In terms of immunisation coverage, all types of immunisation coverage for infant has improved in 2023. Hepatitis B recorded the highest increase of 10.6 percentage points to 107.7 per cent as compared to 97.1 per cent in 2022. This was followed by Polio, DTP and HIB increasing by 10.5 percentage points to 107.7 per cent respectively as compared to 97.2 per cent in 2022. Meanwhile, BCG recorded the lowest increase of 1.0 percentage points to 98.7 per cent (2023) as compared to 97.7 per cent (2022).

Children Statistics, Malaysia, 2024 can be downloaded for free on the Department of Statistics, Malaysia portal (www.dosm.gov.my).

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on 20th October. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life". DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

Table 1: Population by age group and sex, Malaysia, 2023 and 2024^P

('000)

Age group and sex	Total		Boys		Girls	
	2023	2024 ^P	2023	2024 ^P	2023	2024 ^P
Total population	33,401.8	34,058.8	17,472.3	17,882.7	15,929.5	16,176.1
Under-18	9,154.6	9,145.6	4,725.4	4,723.0	4,429.1	4,422.6
Under-5	2,366.5	2,360.2	1,215.7	1,217.7	1,150.8	1,142.6

Notes:

i. ^P Preliminary

ii. The data refers to the mid-year current population estimates based on the Population and Housing Census Malaysia, 2020

iii. The added total may differ due to rounding

Exhibit 1: Children (0 to <18 years) by state Malaysia, 2024^P



■ Percentage of children ■ Number of population ('000) ■ Number of children ('000)

Notes:

i. ^P Preliminary

ii. The data refers to the mid-year current population estimates based on the Population and Housing Census Malaysia, 2020

iii. The added total may differ due to rounding

Table 2: Sexual offences involving children by type of offences, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

Type of offences	2022	2023	Percentage share (%)
Child pornography	28	67	4.3
Sexually communicating with a child	15	16	1.0
Child grooming	2	4	0.3
Meeting following child grooming	1	0	0.0
Physical sexual assault on a child	1,147	1,389	89.2
Non-physical sexual assault on a child	46	91	5.8
Total	1,239	1,567	100.0

Source: Royal Malaysia Police

Table 3: Principal causes of under-5 death (medically certified), Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

Principal causes of death	2022		2023	
	(%)			
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	34.2	36.4		
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	25.3	27.5		
Pneumonia	3.6	2.6		
Transport accidents	1.3	1.5		
Meningitis	0.7	0.7		

Table 4: Number of pupils in government and government-aided schools by level of education, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

	2022	2023	Growth rate (%)
Pre-school	207,867	214,296	3.1
Primary level	2,770,015	2,993,084	8.1
Lower secondary level	1,240,969	1,206,976	-2.7
Upper secondary level	744,026	778,242	4.6
Total	4,962,877	5,192,598	4.6

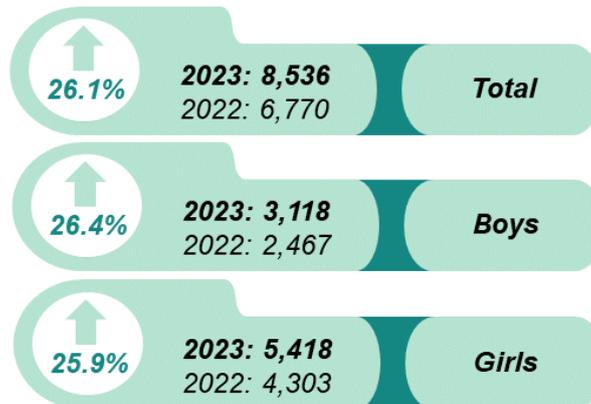
Source: Ministry of Education Malaysia

Table 5: Number of pupils in private schools by level of education, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

	2022	2023	Growth rate (%)
Kindergarten	283,436	300,408	6.0
Primary school	41,108	41,653	1.3
Secondary school	103,042	100,842	-2.1
Total	427,586	442,903	3.6

Source: Ministry of Education Malaysia

Exhibit 2: Number of children in need of care and protection by sex, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023



Source: Department of Social Welfare

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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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