Malaysia
Key Data Issues and Suggestions
REFERENCE SOURCES

This review of reference sources is categorized into two groups, namely general sources and country sources. The general sources include the regional or global documents, such as the Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Towards Universal Access Progress Report, The World Health Report, World Health Statistics, State of World Population, The Human Development Report, and data from the UN Population Division, and The World Bank Database.

The country sources are classified into two: 1) surveys 2) others and 3) recent Journal Articles. The surveys include the HIV Sentinel Surveillance Survey (HSS), Behaviour Surveillance Survey (BSS), Integrated Biological and Behavioural Survey (IBBS). The others include studies, research and guidelines. Most reference documents utilized for Malaysia are available in electronic format and can be accessed through the internet. Some documents are available as hard copy version only.

GENERAL SOURCES

All the general sources of data on Malaysia are available. The socio-economic and demographic information/indicators are drawn from these sources. An overall picture of the HIV epidemic in Malaysia can be presented with the help of these general sources.

COUNTRY SOURCES

Surveys

Data from population-based survey such as DHS or MICS are not available for Malaysia.


Other Sources


Recent Journal Articles


**INDICATORS**

**HIV prevalence and epidemiological status:** HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) was piloted in 1993 in 4 states and it included ANC clinic attendees, new STI patients, and newly diagnosed TB patients. However, the system was discontinued at the end of 1997. To date, HIV surveillance comprised of HIV/AIDS case reporting and routine screening of 11 population groups, namely: ANC attendees (government facilities), blood donors, drug rehabilitation centers inmates, prison inmates, confirmed TB cases, STI (sexually transmitted infections) cases, patients with suspected clinical symptoms, traced contacts of confirmed persons with HIV, premarital couples, migrant workers, and participants of harm reduction programme. However, there is no established system for systematic case reporting of STI and limited data is available among key affected populations. Integrated Biological and Behavioural Survey (IBBS) conducted in Kuala Lumpur in 2009 could provide data on HIV prevalence among female sex workers, transgender, and people who inject drugs (PWID). HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) is also available from venue-based study in 2009. However, there is a paucity of data on HIV prevalence among key affected populations in the earlier years and it is difficult to observe the trends. Data on population size estimates of key affected populations and key populations at higher risk are available from the national consensus workshop 2009. HIV infection estimates are also available for 2001, 2007, and 2009.
Vulnerability and HIV knowledge: Data on HIV knowledge is limited among key affected populations as well as youth and general population. Knowledge data among sex workers (including transgender) is available from BSS 2004 and IBBS 2009 whereas the data is very limited among MSM. For PWID, it is available from BSS 2004, BSS 2006 and IBBS 2009. Though the full report is not available in the public domain, journal article on the findings of nationwide survey among Malaysian young adults in 2008 shed some light on the level of knowledge among young population. HIV knowledge among general population is not available.

Risk behaviours: Most recent data among key affected populations are available from IBBS 2009 and venue-based survey among MSM in 2009 though it is limited to Kuala Lumpur. Although the reports are not available in the public domain, BBS 2002 was conducted among PWID; BSS 2004 was carried out among PWID and male, female and transgender sex workers in five states; and BSS 2006 among PWID in Kuantan city respectively. The findings from one-time behavioural studies are also available through journal articles.

Socio-economic impact of the epidemic: HIV expenditure by spending categories and financing sources is available for 2008 and 2009. A few studies on impact of HIV/AIDS on household economies are available through journal articles.

National response: Data on HIV testing among key affected populations of female sex workers, PWID, and MSM are available for 2009 whereas the prevention coverage data is limited to female sex workers and PWID. Other indicators related to national response such as ART coverage and prevention-of-mother-to-child transmission related indicators are also available from the Universal Access reports and the Global Reports.

OVERALL IMPRESSION AFTER THE DATA REVIEW

Strengths

- Biological and behavioural data is available among transgender.
- Data on population size estimates are available from the national consensus report 2009.

Weaknesses

- Scarcity of serological and behavioural data among key affected populations to understand the epidemic and to observe the trends. In addition, most recent data available is not nationally representative and it is limited to Kuala Lumpur and its environs.
- Similarly, paucity of literature on other key populations at higher risk such as clients of sex workers.