

Health of Adolescents in Malaysia

Malaysia is located in South-East Asia and is composed of a peninsula bordering Thailand as well as one third of the island of Borneo. Malaysia is a multiracial country made up of 54.9% Malay, 24.5% Chinese, 11.9% indigenous, 7.4% Indian and 1.3% of other groups.¹ Malaysia is at an epidemiological transition stage with both noncommunicable and communicable diseases presenting as disease burdens.² Improvements in health have been achieved because of a well-developed primary health care system and substantial investments made to ensure access to quality reproductive health services, water, sanitation and nutrition. The government also recognizes the need to resolve social and economic disparities to prevent the marginalization of communities.³

GENERAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY

In 1997, 4.5% of the total deaths in the country pertained to young people aged 15–24. In that age group, male deaths were 3.5 times that of female deaths. The primary causes of youth mortality – accidents and violence – were different from that of the general population.⁴ (Table 1)

POPULATION

Adolescents aged 10-19 make up 19.2% of the total population.⁵ (Table 2)

1 Yearbook of Statistics, Malaysia. Publication of the Department of Statistics. Malaysia, Department of Statistics, 2009 (Yearbook of Statistics Malaysia Series, ISSN 0127 – 2624). Available from: http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=414:free-download&catid=61&Itemid=53&lang=en

2 Malaysia: country context. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific. [Cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/2009/maa/>

3 Malaysia: background. United Nation's Children Fund. [Updated 14 February 2006, cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/malaysia_2412.html

4 Youth in Malaysia: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes. Malaysia, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2002. Available from: http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/youth/youth_malaysia.pdf

5 Yearbook of Statistics, Malaysia. Publication of the Department of Statistics. Malaysia, Department of Statistics, 2009 (Yearbook of Statistics Malaysia Series, ISSN 0127 – 2624). Available from: http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=414:free-download&catid=61&Itemid=53&lang=en

Area: 330 803 sq km^a
Population, 2011: 28 514 923^b
Rural-Urban Population, 2009: 28.7/71.3%^c
Crude birth rate / Crude death rate, 2008: 17.8 per thousand / 4.7 per thousand^d
Annual population growth rate, 2009: 2.1%^e
Human Development Index (HDI), 2010: 0.744 in 2007 (Rank: 57 of 169 countries)^f
Human Poverty Index, 2009: 6.1% (Rank: 25th of 135 countries)^g
Gross National Income per capita (PPP int. US\$), 2009: US\$ 13 710^h
Population living on <US\$ 1 (PPP int. US\$) a day, 2004: 2.0%ⁱ
Population below the national income poverty line, 2007: 3.6%^j

Table 1: Number of deaths by medically certified or inspected causes, 1997

	Adolescents aged 15–19 years	
	Boys	Girls
Accidents	582	90
Violence	280	54
Diseases of the circulatory system	69	25
Infectious and parasitic diseases	50	32
Malignant neoplasms	35	22
Obstetric causes and conditions in the perinatal period	-	17

Source: Youth in Malaysia: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes. Malaysia, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2002. Available from: http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/youth/youth_malaysia.pdf

EDUCATION

Legislation: The Education Act states that a child is to be enrolled as a pupil in a primary school if the child has attained the age of six years on the first day of January of the current school year and is to remain a pupil for the duration of the compulsory primary level education.⁶

6 Act 550, Education Act 1996. The Commissioner of Law Revision, Malaysia, 2006. Available from: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2011/Act%20550.pdf>

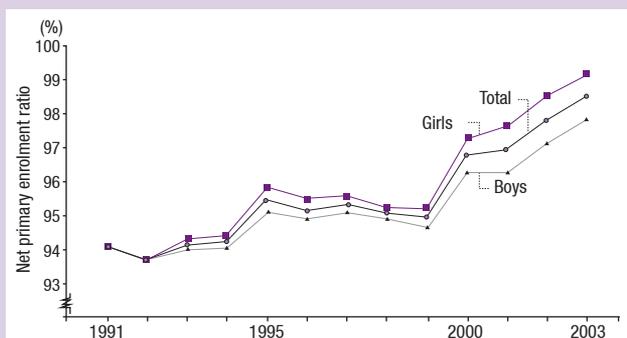
Table 2: Midyear population estimates by age group and sex, 2009

Age Group	Number (% of total population)		
	Total	Boys	Girls
10–14	2 790 000 (9.9%)	1 436 900 (5.0%)	1 353 100 (4.9%)
15–19	2 622 600 (9.3%)	1 349 000 (4.7%)	1 273 600 (4.6%)
20–24	2 525 100 (8.9%)	1 284 800 (4.5%)	1 240 300 (4.4%)

Source: Yearbook of Statistics, Malaysia. Publication of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, Department of Statistics, 2009 (Yearbook of Statistics Malaysia Series, ISSN 0127 – 2624).

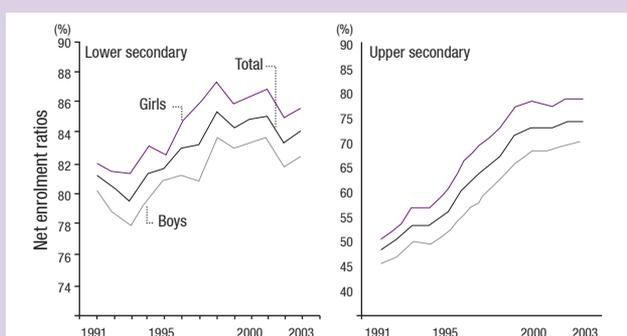
Student enrollment: In 2003, net enrollment ratio (NER) for primary education was about 98%, 84% for lower and 75% for upper secondary level.⁷ (Figures 1 and 2)

Figure 1: NER in primary schools, Malaysia, 1991–2003



Source: Extracted from Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals -- Successes and Challenges. Malaysia, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department and the United Nations Country Team, 2005.

Figure 2: NER at lower and upper secondary levels by sex, Malaysia, 1991–2003

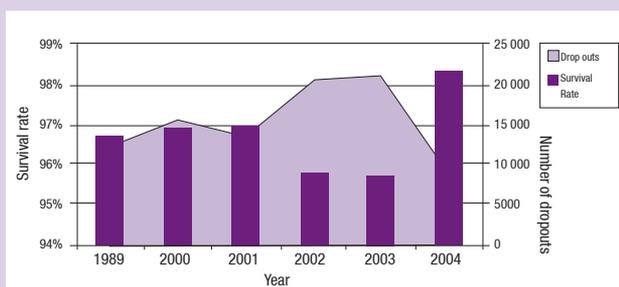


Source: Extracted from Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals -- Successes and Challenges. Malaysia, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department and the United Nations Country Team, 2005.

7 United Nations Development Programme. Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Successes and Challenges. Malaysia, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, 2005. Available from: <http://www.epu.gov.my/html/themes/epu/images/common/pdf/publication/UNDP1.pdf>

Primary school retention rate: In 2004, the survival rate to Grade 6 was more than 98% and primary school drop-outs numbered almost 10 000.⁸ (Figure 3)

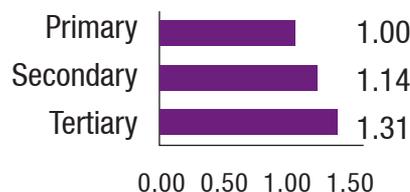
Figure 3: Survival Rates to Grade 6 and Primary School Drop-outs, 1989–2004



Source: Malaysia: Education for All. Mid-Decade Assessment: Report 2000–2007. Malaysia, Ministry of Education, 2008. Available from: http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Malaysia/Malaysia_EFA_MDA.pdf

Gender parity index: For primary education, the ratio of girls to boys was 1.00 in 2004 and for secondary and tertiary education, more girls were enrolled than boys.⁹ (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Ratio of girls to boys in education levels, 2004



Source: Supporting National Development Aspirations. Malaysia, United Nations Development Programme; c2010. Available from: <http://www.undp.org.my/mdgs/what-are-the-mdgs/mfg3>

ECONOMICS

Legislation: The Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act of 1966 stipulates that children under age 14 and young people under age 16 may be employed under certain conditions specified in the act, mainly light work and work that is nonhazardous to their health. The law also restricts the number of working hours and working days.¹⁰

8 Malaysia: Education for All. Mid-Decade Assessment: Report 2000–2007. Malaysia, Ministry of Education, 2008. Available from: http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Malaysia/Malaysia_EFA_MDA.pdf

9 Supporting National Development Aspirations. Malaysia, United Nations Development Programme; c2010. Available from: <http://www.undp.org.my/mdgs/what-are-the-mdgs/mfg3>

10 Act 350: Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act 1966. Malaysia, The Commissioner of Law Revision, 2006. Available from: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%207/Act%20350.pdf>

Table 3: Percentage distribution of employed people by age group, 2005–2009

Age Group	(% of total employed persons)				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
15–24	18.4	18.2	17.7	17.5	16.7
25–34	31.1	31.1	31.0	31.3	31.6
35–44	26.0	25.8	25.8	25.7	25.7
45–54	18.1	18.3	18.7	18.7	18.8
55–64	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Yearbook of Statistics, Malaysia. Publication of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, Department of Statistics, 2009 (Yearbook of Statistics Malaysia Series, ISSN 0127 – 2624). Available from: http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=414:free-download&catid=61&Itemid=53&lang=en

Table 4: Percentage distribution (%) of unemployed people by age, sex and location, 2000

Age Group	Total	Male	Female	Urban			Rural		
				Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15–19	29.5	27.7	32.7	24.3	23.9	24.9	35.1	32.0	40.0
20–24	36.1	33.8	40.1	37.6	34.3	44.1	34.4	33.2	36.4

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia. Extracted from Situation of Young Workers in Malaysia. Malaysia: Malaysian Trades Union Congress. Available from: http://www.mtuc.org.my/young_workers.htm

Table 5: Youth (Age 15–39) employment by sector, 2000 and 2005

Sector	Number ('000s)		% of Total	
	2005	2005	2005	2005
Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock, & Fishing	751.1		11.3	
Mining & Quarrying	21.2		0.3	
Manufacturing	1603.5		24.0	
Electricity, Gas & Water	29.2		0.4	
Construction	598.6		9.0	
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	493.4		7.4	
Transport, Storage & Communications	326.0		4.9	
Wholesale and Retail Trade & Restaurants	1588.8		23.8	
Other Services	1259.5		18.9	
Total	6671.3		100.0	

Source: Yunus, F. Youth Employment and Employability in Malaysia. Malaysian Youth Report: youth for nation building. University of Malaya, 2007.

Employment: The percentage distribution of employed people among those aged 15–24 slightly has decreased from 18.4% in 2005 to 16.7% in 2009. The 25–34 group forms the largest group of employed people among the total population. (Table 3)

Unemployment: In 2000, 29.5% of total unemployed were adolescents aged 15–19.¹¹ (Table 4)

Type of work: As shown in Table 5, the main area of employment for youths (defined in this report as those aged between 15 and 39 years) is the manufacturing sector (24%), followed by the wholesale and retail trade, restaurants (23.8%) and other services (18.9%).¹²

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Legislation: (i) The Penal Code Act 574 states that a man is said to commit rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman with or without her consent when she is under 16 years old.

(ii) Under the Malaysian Syariah Law (for Muslims), the minimum age for marriage for women is 16 years and for men 18. Under the Civil Marriages Law (for non-Muslims), the minimum age for marriage for both women and men is 18.¹³ (iii) The Penal Code permits termination of pregnancy when the life or health of the woman is threatened. The fatwa (Muslim ruling) on termination of pregnancy permits it with no conditions within 40 days of conception and between 40 and 120 days on the condition that

continuation of the pregnancy would endanger the health or life of the mother and fetus.

Sexual behaviour: The 2004 Malaysia Community and Family Study (MCF5) conducted by the National Population and Family Board (LPPKN) found that among youths aged 15–24, 2.2% have had sexual intercourse, 26.2% have indulged in kissing and heavy petting while 16.6% have engaged in fondling with the opposite sex. Of those aged 15–19, 1.4% have had intercourse and 22.2% have indulged in kissing and heavy petting.¹⁴

11 Situation of Young Workers in Malaysia. Malaysia: Malaysian Trades Union Congress. Available from: http://www.mtuc.org.my/young_workers.htm

12 Yunus, F. Youth Employment and Employability in Malaysia. Malaysian Youth Report: youth for nation building. University of Malaya, 2007. Available from: http://www.google.com.sg/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CBUQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipbpm.gov.my%2Fv2%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_rubberdoc%26view%3Ddoc%26id%3D136%26format%3Ddraw%26Itemid%3D25%26lang%3Dbm&ei=lnT0TKyFDM-5cbi8lfe&usq=AFQjCNFdO5BgsecdjWV-RbzQLTINzLPzRw

13 Malaysia – Marriage and Family Formation Patterns. Malaysia; c2010. Available from: <http://family.jrank.org/pages/1090/Malaysia.html>

14 Malaysia: Sex education is already being taught in school. But is it enough? International Planned Parenthood Federation, 2010. [Updated 19 July 2010, cited 20 December 2010.] Available from: <http://www.ippf.org/NR/exeres/882C9235-D3BE-4178-889D-5EE8FDDFE98.htm>

From the 1996 National Health and Morbidity Survey, 1.8% of 30 000 school-going respondents said that they had had sexual intercourse. Male students were twice as likely to be sexually involved as female students (2.5% vs. 1.2%). Of those who had sexual intercourse, 19.9% were homosexual and 9.4% had sex with prostitutes.¹⁵

Another study conducted by the Ministry of Health, Malaysia, in 1992 found that 52% of the youth aged 17-24 have had more than one sex partner and half of them had engaged in premarital sex.¹⁶

Marriage: From the 2000 census, both male and female adults are marrying at a later age. The mean age at first marriage was 28.6 years for males and 25.1 years for females.¹⁷ There were 11 400 children under 15 years old who were married – 6800 girls and 4600 boys.¹⁸ Of the currently married females, 1.2% were aged 15–19, down from 5.4% in 1970.¹⁹ A 2004 report by the United Nations estimated that 5% of Malaysian girls aged 15–19 were married, divorced or widowed.²⁰

Contraceptive knowledge and use: The 2004 MCF5 showed that 53.7% of girls and 39.1% of boys knew of contraceptive methods. When asked about family planning methods, 70.1% of boys and 82.9% of girls knew about pills as a contraceptive method and that 67.4% of boys and 45.6% of girls knew about condoms as a contraceptive method. Knowledge seemed to increase with age, with only 26.9% of youth under age 15 being aware of contraceptive methods while knowledge among those aged 15-19 was found to be 52.3%. Similarly, while 68.5% of youth under 15 knew about condoms as a contraceptive method, 77.3% of youth aged 15-19 were aware of it and 41.3% of youth under

15 knew about the pill as a contraceptive method compared with 55.7% of youth aged 15-19.²¹

According to the 2004 MCF5, among female adolescents aged 15–19, 25.0% of those living in urban areas and 44.4% of those in rural areas currently used modern methods of family planning. Of these, 85.7% used the pill and 14.3% used the condom. The highest proportion of female adolescents who currently used modern methods of family planning were those with lower secondary education (36.4%) followed by those with primary level education (33.3%) and upper secondary level education (28.6%).²²

Child-bearing: The total births for those under 19 years old in Peninsular Malaysia have declined from 23 113 live births in 1980 to 12 320 live births in 1998.²³ (Table 6)

Table 6: Number and percentage of live births in Peninsular Malaysia from 1980 to 1998, by age of mother.

Age Group	1980	1985	1990	1995	1998
< 15 years	165 (0.05%)	130 (0.03%)	133 (0.03%)	164 (0.04%)	132 (0.03%)
15–19 years	22 948 (6.6%)	17 645 (4.3%)	13 433 (3.4%)	13 110 (3.0%)	12 188 (2.8%)

Source: Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.

Adolescent birth rate: Nationwide population statistics showed that the age-specific fertility rate for adolescents aged 15–19 was 13 per thousand women in 2007 while that for those aged 15-24 declined from 446 in 1958 to 83 per thousand in 2007.²⁴

Abortion: There are no official statistics available, but a random survey by several private clinics suggests that there may be one abortion for every five pregnancies.²⁵

15 Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.

16 Huang, M. Communication and Advocacy Strategies: Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health. Case Study. Malaysia, United Nations Population Fund, 1999.

17 Demographic Trend in Malaysia with Special Focus on Women. In: 20th Population Census Conference, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 19-21 June 2002. Utilization and Analysis of the 2000 Round of Census. Available from: <http://www.ancsdaap.org/cencon2002/papers/Malaysia/Malaysia--REVISED.PDF>

18 Asiaone News. Child marriage still alive in Malaysia. Malaysia: New Straits Times; c2010 [13 June 2010.] Available from: <http://www.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne+News/Malaysia/Story/A1Story20100613-221834.html>

19 Demographic Trend in Malaysia with Special Focus on Women. In: 20th Population Census Conference, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 19-21 June 2002. Utilization and Analysis of the 2000 Round of Census. Available from: <http://www.ancsdaap.org/cencon2002/papers/Malaysia/Malaysia--REVISED.PDF>

20 Gender equality and social institutions in Malaysia. Social Institutions and Gender Index. OECD Development Centre. [Cited 20 December 2010.] Available from: <http://genderindex.org/country/malaysia>

21 Malaysian Population and Family Study 2004. Malaysia: National Population and Family Development Board, Ministry of Women, Family and Community, 2009

22 Ibid.

23 Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005. Ibid.

24 Population Statistics, Malaysia. Time series data. Malaysia, Department of Statistics, 2009. [Cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.my/ccount12/click.php?id=1678>

25 Ng CY, Abd Rahman Z and Raman A. One abortion for every five pregnancies, says survey. Malaysia: The Star [online]. [Updated 26 May 2009, cited 20 December 2010.] Available from: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/5/26/nation/3977852&sec=nation>

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): From the national study on reproductive health and sexuality of adolescents during the period 1994-1995, 65.3% of adolescents have ever heard of STIs.²⁶

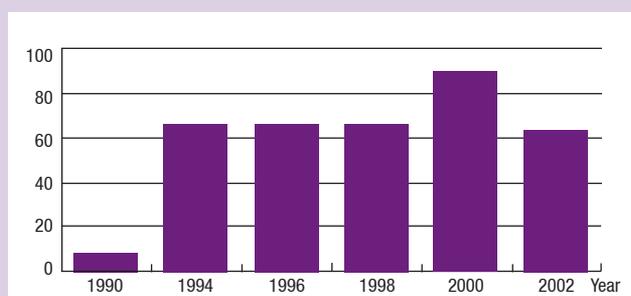
HIV: In 2007, the cumulative reported HIV cases among adolescents aged 13–19 was 1140. The 30–39 age group had the highest cumulative reported HIV cases (34 770) followed by the 20–29 age group (27 955).²⁷

The number of HIV/AIDS cases detected among youths aged 13–19 increased from eight cases in 1990 to more than 60 in 2002. (Figure 5) In 2002, 4.0% of HIV-infected people seen at government clinics were in the 13–19 year old age group and 30.4% were in the 20–29 year old age group.²⁸

HIV transmission: HIV/AIDS in Malaysia is caused mainly by intravenous drug use (70.6%) followed by heterosexual transmission (16.9%) and homosexual or bisexual contact (2.0%).²⁹

HIV knowledge: From the 2008 National Service Survey, 22.6% of adolescents aged 17–19 had comprehensive knowledge of HIV.³⁰

Figure 5: Number of HIV-positives detected among 13–19 year olds, 1990 to 2002.



Source: Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.

26 Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.
 27 Country Review: Malaysia. HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia-Pacific. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization and Asian Development Bank. Available from: <http://www.junima.org/docs/NationalResponseMalay.pdf>
 28 Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.
 29 United Nations General Assembly on Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) 2010 UNGASS Country Progress Report: Malaysia. Malaysia, AIDS/STD Section, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, Government of Malaysia, 2010.
 30 Ibid.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS

Table 7 shows the percentage of children and adolescents who were underweight, stunted, overweight and obese, surveyed in the following two studies.

Table 7: Percentage of children and adolescents who were underweight, stunted, overweight and obese (Findings from studies in 2004 and 2006)

	Total	Boys	Girls
Percentage of children aged 0-18 who were underweight (NHMS III, 2006)	13.2	14.5	12.0
Percentage of children aged 0-18 who were stunted (NHMS III, 2006)	15.8	16.6	15.0
Percentage of children aged 0-18 who were overweight (NHMS III, 2006)	5.4	6.0	4.7
Percentage of adolescents aged 15-19 who were obese (Cross-section study, 2004)	6.5	7.2	5.8

Sources: (1) Tee, S. 23rd Scientific Conference of the Nutrition society of Malaysia. Malaysian Journal of Nutrition, 14(2), 2008, S1 - S87. Available from: <http://psasir.upm.edu.my/6543/1/supplement.pdf>; (2) Rampal, L. A National Study on the Prevalence of Obesity among 16 127 Malaysians. Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 16(3), 2007, 561-566.

Data from the Third National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS III) 2006 found that 13.2% of children aged 0 to under 18 were underweight, 15.8% were stunted and 5.4% were overweight. The prevalence was higher among boys than girls in all categories. In rural areas, prevalence of underweight and stunting also was higher (16.0% and 19.4%, respectively) than in urban areas (11.4% and 13.5%, respectively).³¹

A population-based cross-sectional study conducted in all states of Malaysia in 2004 found that 6.5% of youth aged 15-19 were obese. The prevalence of obesity was higher in boys than in girls and slightly higher in urban areas (12%) than in rural areas (11.3%), although the difference was not statistically significant.³²

MENTAL HEALTH

The 2006 National Health and Morbidity Survey III found that the prevalence of acute suicidal ideas was highest among youth aged 16–24 at 6.4% compared with an overall

31 Tee, S. 23rd Scientific Conference of the Nutrition society of Malaysia. Malaysian Journal of Nutrition, 14(2), 2008, S1 - S87. Available from: <http://psasir.upm.edu.my/6543/1/supplement.pdf>
 32 Rampal, L. A National Study on the Prevalence of Obesity among 16,127 Malaysians. Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 16(3), 2007, 561-566

prevalence of 11%.³³ The Malaysia National Mental Health Survey in 2000 showed that 49% of Malaysian youth have emotional problems and 41% display aggressiveness.³⁴

SUBSTANCE USE

Legislation: (i) The Control of Tobacco Products Regulations 1993 states that people under 18 years old are prohibited from purchasing or possessing tobacco.³⁵ (ii) The age limit for purchasing alcoholic beverages is 18. However, there are exceptions to this restriction due to state laws which specify otherwise. Under the Entertainment (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) Act 1992, the sale or supply of alcohol to adolescents under the age of 21 is prohibited in places of entertainment located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.³⁶ Under the Syariah law, which applies only to Islamic people, the consumption of any intoxicating drink is prohibited.³⁷

Tobacco use: The Malaysia Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2003 found that almost one third (32.6%) of students aged 13–15 have ever smoked cigarettes, and 19.9% are current cigarette smokers. Slightly more than 50% of never-smokers were exposed to second-hand smoke in their homes.

Alcohol use: A survey on alcohol use of Malaysians aged 13–18 years found that the prevalence of those having ever consumed alcohol was 7%, with 2% having consumed alcohol in the past month; the prevalence was higher among males (3.3%), urban dwellers (3%), the Chinese (8.6%) and Christian (10.8%) demographic groups. The percentage of adolescent binge drinking among those who consumed alcohol in the past month was 25%.³⁸

CRIMES AND VIOLENCE

Crimes: The number of juveniles in prison increased from 2308 offenders in 2000 to 2964 offenders in 2004. Statistics show

Table 8: Results from 2003 Malaysia Global Youth Tobacco Survey

	Students aged 13–15 years		
	Total	Boys	Girls
Percentage of students who are current cigarette smokers	19.9	35.5	4.3
Percentage of students who are current tobacco product users (other than cigarettes)	7.9	8.6	7.3
Percentage of students who smoke who desire to stop	80.2	79.4	89.2
Percentage of students who were exposed to smoke from others in their home (among never-smokers)	51.9	51.0	52.5

Sources: Malaysia: Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2003. Malaysia, Non Communicable Disease Control Section, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, 2003.

that 42.1% of juveniles (1246) are involved in crimes under the Penal Code, particularly theft and 14.6% (431) under the Dangerous Drugs Act for possession and abuse of drugs.³⁹

Domestic and sexual violence: In 2004, the Royal Malaysian Police received 3101 reports of domestic violence compared to 2555 in 2003. The most common perpetrator was the father (2018 of total cases). The number of child abuse cases was 158 in 2004, of which 42 were committed by “unknown persons”, 37 by the father and 30 by the mother.⁴⁰

In 2006, up until August, the number of incest cases reported was 209.⁴¹ In 2004, the figure was 334. Of these, 29.6% were by the father, 18% by an uncle, 18% by the step-father and 12.3% by a cousin.⁴²

33 Mental health status of Malaysians. In: The 3rd National and Health Morbidity Survey, 2006. Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas. [Updated 1 December 2008, cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: http://www.dhrramalaysia.org.my/dhrramalaysia/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=171:mental-health-status-of-malaysians-the-3rd-national-and-health-morbidity-survey-nhms&catid=66:general&Itemid=105

34 Teoh, H.J. Malaysian Youth Mental Health and Well-Being Survey. Available from: http://www.ipbpm.gov.my/v2/index.php?option=com_rubberdoc&view=category&id=40&Itemid=46&lang=en

35 Morrow, M. Tobacco control and gender in Southeast Asia. Part I: Malaysia and the Philippines. *Health Promotion International*. 18(3), 2003, 255–264. Available from: <http://heapro.oxfordjournals.org/content/18/3/255.full>

36 Act 493, Entertainment (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) Act 1992. Malaysia, The Commissioner of Law Revision, 2006. Available from: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2010/Act%20493.pdf>

37 Act 559, Syariah Criminal Offences (Federal Territories) Act 1997. Malaysia, The Commissioner of Law Revision, Malaysia, 2006. Available from: http://www.mylawyer.com.my/pdf/Syariah_Criminal_Offences_Federal_Territories_Act.pdf

38 Institute for Public Health. Health and Morbidity Survey 2006, vol. 2, topic 10b, 5.2.10, page 182. Ministry of Health, Malaysia, 2007.

39 Bin Kassim, Abd Wahab. Juveniles on remand: trends and practices in Malaysia. Resource Material Series No. 68. Malaysia, Malaysia Prison Department. In: 129th International Senior Seminar Participant's Papers. [Cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: http://www.unafei.or.jp/english/pdf/PDF_rms/no68/13_Malaysia_p196-208.pdf

40 Jonit, N. Malaysia: Country report. Malaysia, Sexual Investigation Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police. [Cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: www.unafei.or.jp/english/pdf/PDF_rms/no69/09_P118-130.pdf

41 Stop violence against children! Situation in Malaysia. The Convention on the Rights of the Child. Malaysia, United Nations Children's Fund. [Updated December 2009, cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: www.unicef.org/malaysia/Factsheet-Child-Protection-Child-Abuse-in-Malaysia.pdf

42 Jonit, N. Malaysia: Country report. Malaysia, Sexual Investigation Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police. [Cited 20 November 2010.] Available from: www.unafei.or.jp/english/pdf/PDF_rms/no69/09_P118-130.pdf

ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES

For reproductive health, information on the access to related health services for adolescents is limited. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that married adolescents had easier access through the public health systems than unmarried adolescents.⁴³ One source of family planning and reproductive health services for young people is the Federation of Family Planning Associations of Malaysia (FFPAM), a nongovernmental organization (NGO). FFPAM has branches in all of the states and provides static as well as outreach reproductive health services throughout the country.⁴⁴

Adolescent health issues are addressed by different ministries, government agencies, private sectors and NGOs. The major agencies are the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysian Islamic Development Department, Federation of Family Planning Association Malaysia, Malaysian Medical Association, Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health, Malaysian Mental Health Association and Malaysian AIDS Council.⁴⁵

LIST OF LEGISLATION THAT IMPACTS ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Employment

- Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act of 1966
- Employment Act 1955

Education

- Education Act 1996
- Private Higher Education Institution Act 1996
- National Council on Higher Education Act 1996
- Universities and University Colleges Act 1996

Sexual & Reproductive Health

- Child Act 2001
- Syariah Criminal Offences (Federal Territories) Act 1997
- Penal Code 1996
- Islamic Family Law Act, 1984
- Civil Law Reform Act, 1982

- Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976
- Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965

Mental Health

- Mental Health Act 2001

Substance Use

- National Kenaf and Tobacco Board Act 2009
- Customs Duties Order of 1996
- Control of Tobacco Products Regulations 1993
- Entertainment (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) Act 1992
- Road Transport Act 1987
- Food Act 1983
- Excise Act 1976

Crimes, Violence and Injuries

- Child Act 2001
- Penal Code 574 (revised 1997)
- Domestic Violence Act 1994
- Road Transport Act 1987
- Legal Aid Act 1971
- Evidence Act 1950

Convention

- World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2005
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1995
- International Labor Organization's (ILO) Convention No182 "Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention", 2000

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Note: This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all relevant government initiatives.

General Adolescent Health and Well-Being

- 10th Malaysian Plan, 2011-2015
- National Adolescent Health Plan of Action, 2006-2020
- National Youth Development Action Plan, 2004
- National Plan of Action for Children, 2001-2020
- National Adolescent Health Policy, 2001
- National Social Welfare Policy, 1990
- National Youth Development Policy, 1997

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44 Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Malaysia. A Review of Literature and Projects. Manila, Philippines, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2005.

45 National Adolescent Health Plan of Action, 2006-2020. Malaysia, Ministry of Health, 2007.

- National Policy on Women Action Plan
- Reproductive and Social Health Education modules, 2006
- Family Health Education, 1994

Education

- National Education Policy and the Education Development Plan, 2001-2010
- Literacy and Numeracy Screening Programme, 2010-2012

STIs & HIV/AIDS

- National Advisory Committee on AIDS, 2006
- National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, 2006-2010
- PROSTAR – Programme for Healthy Youths without AIDS (Program Sihat Tanpa AIDS Remaja) (2004)
- Sentinel surveillance and routine screening of various groups in government clinics and health centres

Nutrition & Physical Activity

- National Plan of Action for Nutrition II, 2006-2015

Mental Health

- National Suicide Prevention Plan
- Mental Health Policy and Framework for Mental Health Service Delivery, 2002
- National Mental Health Framework, 2001
- National Mental Health Policy, 1998

Substance Use

- Tak Nak/CERAH (Anti-tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse programme), 2004

Crimes, Violence & Injuries

- Victim Care Centres
- Women Against Violence (WAVE) campaign

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