

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 2 NOVEMBER 2023
 AKHBAR : THE SUN
 MUKA SURAT : 2

27% population aged under 18: Statistics Dept

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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

