

## HIV Among Gay Men in Malaysia: from Integrated Bio-Behavioural Survey 2014

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** HIV cases are high among the gay or known as men having sex with men (MSM). The aim of this study is to describe the socio-demographic and sexual behaviours of MSM in Malaysia and also to determine the prevalence of HIV among them. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study was conducted between December 2014 and March 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Penang and Sabah. The total sample recruited was 531 respondents using respondent-driven sampling **METHODS:** (RDS). Descriptive analyses were done using SPSS. **RESULTS:** Majority of MSM (47.8%) were less than 24 years old with median age of 25. 44.8% were Malays, unmarried (89.8%) and 4.9% were married to woman. 60% of the MSM have attained at least secondary school and 70.6% were employed. The median age of anal sex debut was 17 years old and the median duration of risk behaviour was 7 years. More than half of the respondents (55.3%) reported they have permanent partners, in which, 43.0% were male sexual partners, 11.6% female sexual partners and 2.6% transgender partners. As for condom and substance use, 56.7% reported they used condom during last anal sex. 38.7% reported they consumed alcohol and 19.3% used syabu before sex. 40.9% had HIV test in the last 12 months and 47.9% have adequate awareness on HIV. The prevalence of HIV among the MSM was 8.9% in Malaysia. **DISCUSSION:** HIV prevention efforts and enforcement on sexual education and awareness need to scale up to reduce the prevalence of HIV especially among the young people.

**KEYWORDS:** Integrated Bio-behavioural Survey, MSM, Malaysia

## Household Food Insecurity and Its Determinants in the Rural Area of Central River Region, Gambia

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Food insecurity is a major challenge for rural households in the Central River Region. However, little is known about its determinant's factors. The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors affecting household food security. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 334 households who have been recruited through multistage random sampling in Gambia. Women, as a proxy to the household, consented for the study were then interviewed the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) questionnaire. Data were analysed using SPSS version 24 and multiple logistic regression was conducted. **RESULT:** 334 households were included in this study. Three-quarters of the households (73.4%) were food insecure, 9.0% households mildly food insecure, 14.1% moderately food insecure and 50.3% severely food insecure. Female household headed (aOR: 4.8, 95%CI: 1.01, 5.84), household size of  $\geq 7$  members (aOR: 4.5, 95%CI: 1.18, 5.92), household income (aOR: 14.8, 95%CI: 3.74, 15.67), absence of livestock (aOR: 3.42, 95%CI: 1.21, 4.85), women's occupation (aOR: 10.5, 95%CI: 1.31, 14.47), spouse's occupation (aOR: 4.55, 95%CI: 2.08, 9.75), lack of financial assistance (aOR: 2.42, 95%CI: 1.03, 5.67) and lack of market access to food (aOR: 2.2, 95%CI: 1.18, 4.10), were factors associated with household food insecurity. **DISCUSSION:** This current study found that there was a high prevalence of household food insecurity in Central River Region, Gambia. Future studies are needed to provide evidence in another region of Gambia in order to generate policy so that measures are taken against this food insecurity problem.

**KEYWORDS:** food insecurity, prevalence, Gambia