CHILDREN STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Children Statistics, Malaysia, 2023 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).

POPULATION

Based on the population estimates for 2023, the number of children under 18 years of age (under-18) is estimated at 9.13 million, covering 27.4 per cent of Malaysia's total population of 33.38 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 2023 is 2.35 million with 1.21 million boys and 1.14 million girls. This age group covers 25.7 per cent of the total number of children in Malaysia.

Table 1: Population by age group and sex, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023[p]

(million)

Age group and sex	Total		Boys		Girls	
	2022	2023[p]	2022	2023[p]	2022	2023[p]
Total population	32.70	33.38	17.04	17.46	15.66	15.92
Under-18	9.19	9.13	4.74	4.72	4.44	4.42
Under-5	2.37	2.35	1.21	1.21	1.16	1.14

Notes:

[p] Preliminary
Refers to the mid-year current population estimates
The total may differ due to rounding

Health

The malnutrition indicators reported in this publication are based on children under-5 who attended health facilities. At national level, children under-5 who are severely malnourished increased marginally to 0.3 per cent in 2022 as compared to 2021 (0.2%). Children under-5 who are moderately malnourished in Malaysia increased by 0.1 percentage points to 1.4 per cent in 2022 as compared to 2021 (1.3%).

Table 2: Children under-5 with moderate and severe malnutrition by state, Malaysia, 2021 and 2022

Year / State	Moderate malnutrition (%)		Severe malnutrition (%)	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Malaysia	1.3	1.4	0.2	0.3
Johor	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.1
Kedah	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2
Kelantan	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.2
Melaka	1.4	2.7	0.3	0.3
Negeri Sembilan	2.0	1.7	0.4	0.4
Pahang	2.9	2.8	0.6	0.6
Perak	2.9	3.0	0.4	0.3
Perlis	1.7	2.6	0.7	0.9
Pulau Pinang	1.0	1.1	0.1	0.2
Sabah	1.6	2.1	0.3	0.4
Sarawak	3.0	3.8	0.7	0.9
Selangor	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.0
Terengganu	0.9	1.0	0.2	0.1
W.P. Kuala Lumpur	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.2
W.P. Labuan	2.1	3.4	1.2	0.8
W.P. Putrajaya	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.2

Note: Based on children under-5 who attended health facilities (new attendance)

Source: Ministry of Health Malaysia

EDUCATION

The number of pupils in government and government-aided schools in 2022 were 4,962.9 thousand, increased by 0.6 per cent from 4,934.0 thousand in 2021. This increase is mainly due to an increase of 25.8 thousand pupils (2.1%) at the lower secondary level as compared to the previous year. At the same time, primary level enrolment increased by 3.8 thousand to 2,770.0 thousand as compared to 2,766.2 thousand in 2021.

Table 3: Number of pupils in government and government-aided schools by level of education, Malaysia, 2021 and 2022
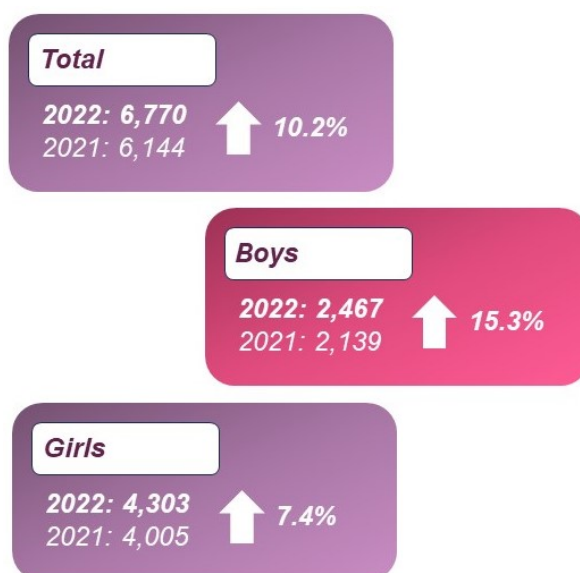
	2021	2022	Growth rate (%)
Pre-school	207,943	207,867	-0.0
Primary level	2,766,234	2,770,015	0.1
Lower secondary level	1,215,123	1,240,969	2.1
Upper secondary level	744,664	744,026	-0.1
Total	**4,933,964**	**4,962,877**	**0.6**

CHILD PROTECTION

The number of children in need of care and protection in 2022 increased by 10.2 per cent to 6,770 persons as compared to 6,144 persons in 2021. There were more girls in need of care and protection recording 4,303 persons as compared to boys (2,467 persons) in 2022.

Exhibit 1: Number of children in need of care and protection by sex, Malaysia, 2021 and 2022

Total

2022: 6,770
2021: 6,144 ⬆ 10.2%

Boys

2022: 2,467
2021: 2,139 ⬆ 15.3%

Girls

2022: 4,303
2021: 4,005 ⬆ 7.4%

Source: Department of Social Welfare

CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CRIME

The number of children involved in crime in 2022 recorded a decrease of 12.8 per cent which is 3,013 cases as compared to 3,457 cases in 2021. The composition of children involved in crime are Bumiputera (82.2%), Chinese (8.8%), Indians (4.9%) and Others (4.1%).

Table 4: Number of children involved in crime by ethnic group, Malaysia, 2021 and 2022

Ethnic group	2021	2022	Percentage share (%)	Percentage change (%)
Bumiputera	2,734	2,478	82.2	-9.4
Chinese	348	265	8.8	-23.9
Indians	253	147	4.9	-41.9
Others[1]	122	123	4.1	0.8
Total	3,457	3,013	100.0	-12.8

Note: [1]Include non-citizens

Source: Department of Social Welfare

SDG INDICATORS RELATED TO CHILDREN STATISTICS

Malaysia has achieved the target for Indicator 3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate since 1984 (22.8). The mortality rate of children under-5 for 2022 remained unchanged at 8.6 per 1,000 live births in 2021 and 2022. The mortality rate for boys and girls in 2022 also remained unchanged at the same figures from 2021 which are 9.4 and 7.8 per 1,000 live births respectively.

Exhibit 2: Under-5 mortality (number and rate), Malaysia, 2021 and 2022

Boys
2022: 2,051
2021: 1,758

Girls
2022: 1,604
2021: 1,487

Number
2022: 3,655
2021: 3,245

Boys
2022: 9.4
2021: 9.4

Girls
2022: 7.8
2021: 7.8

Rate
2022: 8.6
2021: 8.6

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