

This research highlight is based on **NHMS 2020: Communicable Diseases. Volume I**

Who is this publication for?

- Disease Control Division, MOH
- Health Education Division, MOH

Purpose of this summary

This summary are intend for stakeholders, malaria personnel, health and education practitioners to inform the knowledge of malaria including symptoms and risk activities. In the hope that this information can accelerates the process of eliminating malaria in Malaysia.



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ARE MALAYSIANS FORGETTING ABOUT MALARIA?

ISSUE

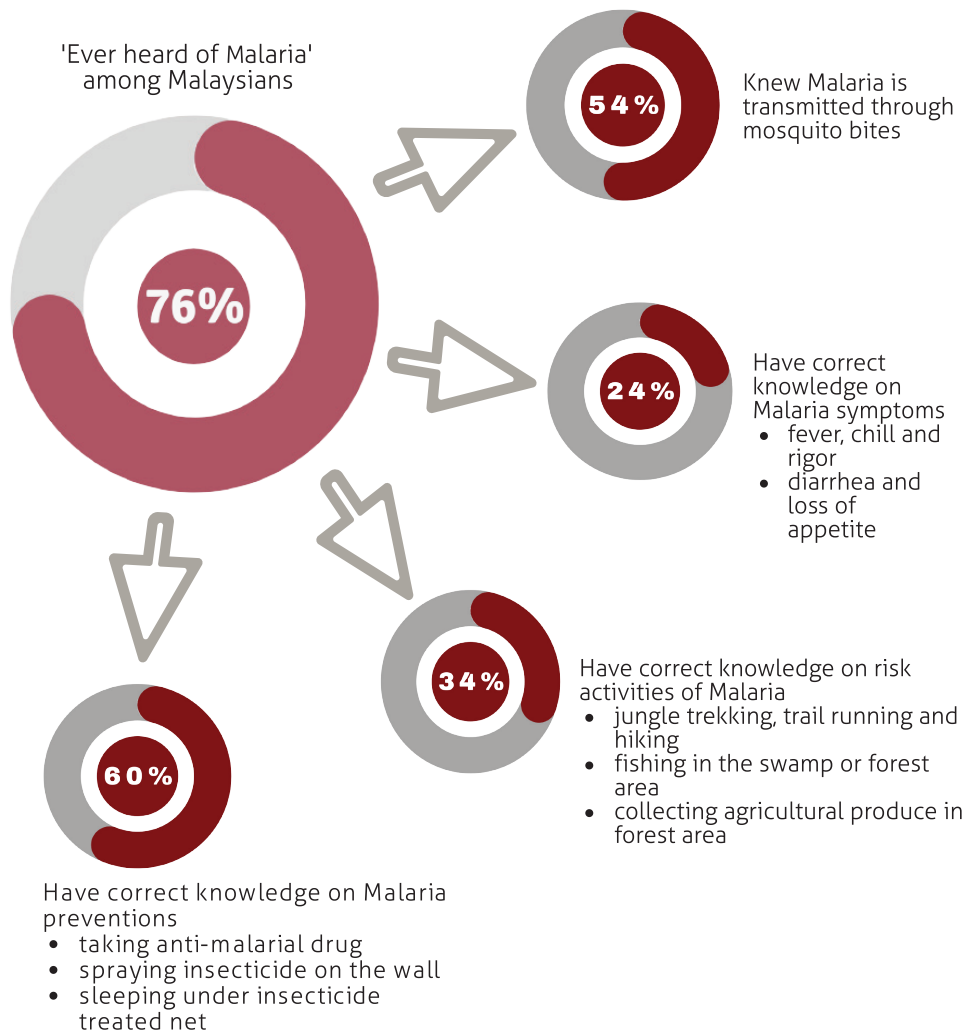
The danger of being complacent with malaria

Malaysia has successfully achieved zero local (indigenous) human malaria infection for three consecutive years since 2018. Thus, Malaysia is qualified for the Human Malaria Elimination Certification from the WHO in 2021 [1].

Sri Lanka has recorded re-emerged of local human malaria cases after six years of malaria elimination declaration. This is a good reminder for stakeholders not to be complacent after achieving international success and recognition [2]. Therefore, the surveillance of disease and vector should be strengthened and continuously implemented.

WHO reported that having good knowledge regarding malaria (i.e. causes, signs and symptoms, mode of transmission and preventive measures) would improve health-seeking behavior [3]; essential in sustaining zero malaria transmission status.

KEY MESSAGES



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

For policy makers

- Disease Control Division, MOH
 - Enhancing knowledge on malaria among high risks communities living in malaria receptive localities or groups of uninformed individuals with high-risk hobbies or lifestyles (i.e. jungle goers/trekkers).
- Health Education Division, MOH
 - Diversify delivery methods on malaria core key messaging by using latest technology and social media platforms that relevant for community at risk.

METHODS

We used data from the National Health & Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2020 to focus on communicable diseases. The NHMS 2020 was a nationwide community-based cross-sectional study design using a multistage stratified random sampling method. The survey included respondents living in non-institutionalized living quarters from 113 enumeration blocks in Malaysia. Data were analysed in account for complex survey analysis to obtain population estimates. A validated bi-lingual (Bahasa Melayu and English) and pre-tested questionnaire was used. Six structured questionnaires adapted from Malaria Indicator Survey was used to collect the data. Questionnaire manual was used as a guide during data collection. The NHMS 2020 official report has further details on the methodology used.

REFERENCES

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2. Nasir, S.M.I., Amarasekara, S., Wickremasinghe, R. *et al.* Prevention of re-establishment of malaria: historical perspective and future prospects. *Malaria Journal* **19**, 452 (2020).
3. World Health Organization. The E-2020 initiative of 21 malaria-eliminating countries: 2019 progress report. World Health Organization; 2019.

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Disclaimer

The views, interpretation, implications, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the investigators participating in the project nor the views or policy of the Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

This research highlight is part of a collection from the NHMS 2020:

- 1) Are you at risk of Hepatitis B?
- 2) Hepatitis B: A healthy carrier among us!
- 3) Stigma towards people living with HIV
- 4) Poor HIV knowledge among youth
- 5) Ignoring TB-like symptoms in Malaysia
- 6) Antibiotic resistance: How doctors and pharmacist could help?
- 7) **Are Malaysians forgetting about Malaria?**
- 8) Search destroy the facts
- 9) Dog ownership in Malaysia: Licensing & vaccination practices
- 10) Dog bite injuries: Intention vs practise of good health seeking behaviour

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