

HIV cases on the rise

DOUBLED: 7.9pc involved unprotected sex among bisexuals, homosexuals

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THE number of new HIV cases caused by unprotected sex in the state doubled between 2010 and last year.

State Health director Dr Mohammad Omar yesterday said records showed that of the total new cases in 2010, 15.6 per cent were infections passed on through sexual contact, but in 2015, this figure had more than doubled to 34.6 per cent.

“Of that figure, 79 per cent involved unprotected sex among homosexuals and bisexuals.

“Between January and June this year, 66 cases of new infections were recorded in the state, of which 13.7 per cent were sexually transmitted,” he said in conjunction with World AIDS Day.

Dr Mohammad said there was a decrease in infections through sharing of needles among drug addicts,



Terengganu Health director **Dr Mohammad Omar** (left), with (from right) Terengganu deputy health director (public health) **Dr Mohd Jusoh** and Hulu Terengganu district officer **Azmi Razik** at the launch of World AIDS Day **in Kuala Terengganu** yesterday. Pic by Rozainah Zakaria

with 102 cases reported last year compared with 292 cases in 2010.

He blamed poor awareness of how HIV could be passed, adding that there was an apathy where availability of treatment was concerned, resulting in only a third of the victims seeking help.

“The Health Ministry is aiming to reduce the stigma and discrimina-

tion against those infected with HIV and is working towards a zero-HIV statistic by 2020,” he said.

Statistics revealed that Terengganu recorded 9,563 HIV cases from 1988 to June this year.

Dr Mohammad said to check the spread of HIV, a rehabilitation centre was set up in Baitul Cakna, Kampung Baru Ajil, here.