



# ADVOCACY FOR AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO DAA THERAPY FROM THE **Community Perspective:**

## LESSONS FROM **MALAYSIA**

**YATIE JONET (PLHCV – WUD)**

ADVOCACY OFFICER (SHIFT PROJECT)

MALAYSIAN AIDS COUNCIL

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### WHERE IS MALAYSIA?

A map of Southeast Asia is shown in a light orange color. A blue speech bubble points to the country of Malaysia. Inside the speech bubble, the text 'KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA' is written in black.

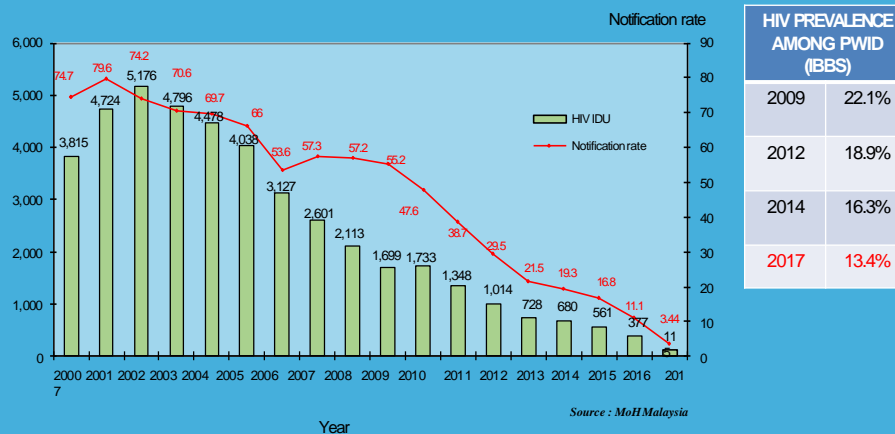
KUALA  
LUMPUR,  
MALAYSIA

- Multiracial and multicultural country
- Pop : 32.4 million (2018)
- 13 states and 2 federal territories
- Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak (Island of Borneo)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- SNAPSHOT –Hepatitis C in Malaysia  
MOH, IBBS, PSE, Hep C
- Successes vs Challenges & Recommendations
- Community Mobilisations Initiated since 2015
- Future efforts to be anticipated today

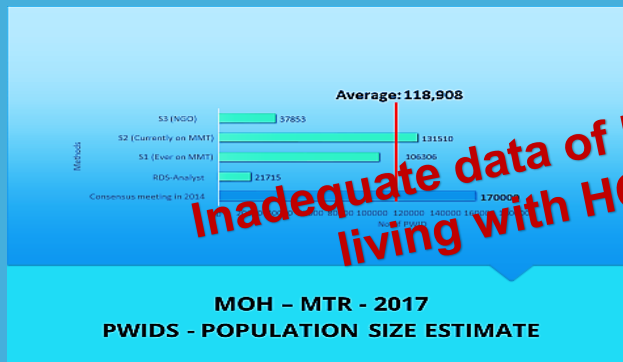
## REPORTED HIV CASES ATTRIBUTED TO IDU, MALAYSIA 2000 - 2017



## DATA AT A GLANCE - PWID

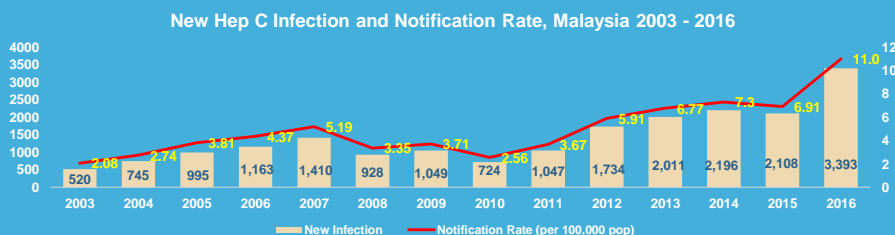
### Population Size Estimate (2017)

### 118,908 PWIDs in Malaysia



## DATA AT A GLANCE – HEP C

Estimated that at least  
453 000 people are infected with  
Hepatitis C virus (HCV)



## ■ My Experience before 2015...

- Harm reduction program from 2011
- 2013 went to FBC - **HCV REACTIVE**
- MO advised use condom and **DON'T GET PREGNANT**
- Family members to go HCV screening
- **PAID LAB** – Genotyping
- 3 MONTH **W . A . I . T . I . N . G**
- Genotype **UNDETECTED** (< 2000)
- Come back NEXT YEAR.....

## Community Activities 2015-2016

**PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HEPATITIS C REMAINS UNACCEPTABLY LOW** - Less than **3/10** people knew what hepatitis C was before their diagnosis.

**Wider awareness of hepatitis C and its impact is required to improve treatment success and disease prevention.**

- ✓ PWID program to actively promote awareness on HCV status
- ✓ MTAAG is actively advocating on the ground for HCV testing and access to affordable treatment
- ✓ HCV Advocacy Training (building PWID awareness on HCV to advocate for access to treatment)

- ✓ Participated in First Meeting of Hepatitis Programme Focal Points from High Burden Countries in Asia (22-24 June 2016)



*"I really want to try these DAAs but I can't afford them. These DAAs are good, right? I have only just found out about them and I think the government should offer them to us."*

✓ DAA trial treatment is ongoing in Malaysia by DNDi with 200++ PWIDs patient

*"I can't afford DAAs.....If I am meant to die because of HCV, then let it be. ....It is up to the government if they want to help drug users like me...."*

<https://myxhepc.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MYxHEPC/>



Towards the vision of "...a world where viral hepatitis transmission is halted and everyone living with viral hepatitis has access to safe, affordable and effective prevention, care and treatment services".

– WHO Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, 2016

FIG. 2.1. The HCV treatment cascade



**Put into consideration: We can't do it alone!**

Only a collaborative effort bridging science and policy and uniting multiple public health stakeholders will succeed in ensuring no patients are left behind.

**HEPC – CURABLE!**

## CSO & MOH WORKS & STILL

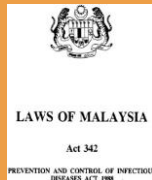
### Political Will

- Commitment, Funding, Priority



### Policy

- Workable policy.... impact

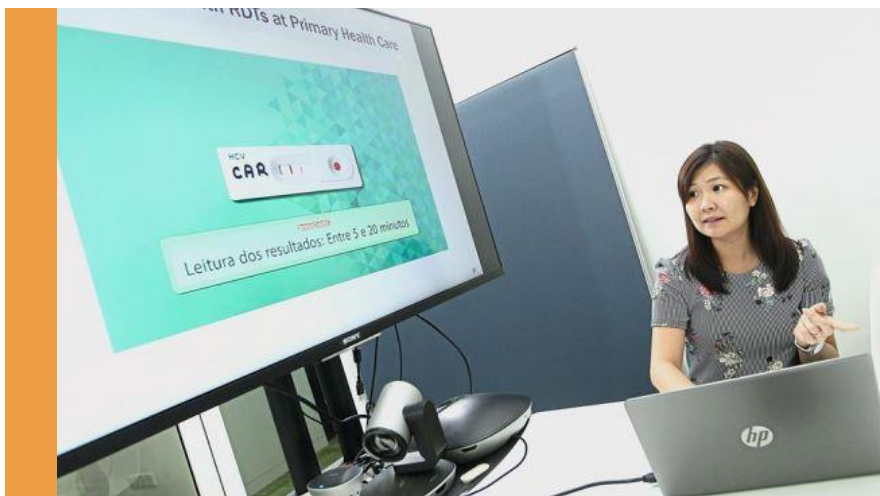


### Participation

- Shared responsibility



3P



<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2018/07/28/wait-over-for-hep-c-screening-50000-rapid-diagnostic-kits-to-be-available-in-selected-clinics/>

*"Our core business in the Ministry of Health is **to provide affordable, accessible and equitable healthcare for the citizens of Malaysia**," said Dr Hisham Abdullah Director-General of Health Malaysia. "The evidence generated by both the FIND and DNDi projects will be used to update national guidelines that will cover **HCV screening, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring, for an effective HCV public health approach in Malaysia.**"*

## ■ KEY CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

### CHALLENGES

Community awareness on HCV (we need more KP led)

#### **No specific funding**

Punitive drug laws (fear to seek treatment)  
 KP usually not prioritised  
 TOP to BOTTOM  
 administrations creates  
 GAPS: HCP - PWIDs

### SUCCESSES

- Compulsory Licensing
- Health care system in Malaysia – heavily subsidised
- **Join forces MAC-MOH-MTAAG+**
- **DAA Trial Studies**

## ■ REFLECTING ON FUTURE EFFORTS

- Data on PWUDs living with HCV vs. treatment vs. follow up
  - Based on Gender (Male, Female, TG)
- Use our HIV experiences in HCV programmes
- Include HCV with HIV screening among PWIDs, at the same time educating them when obtaining informed consent

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## TAKE HOME MESSAGES =)

- L - ead
- I - nitiate
- V- ocal
- E - ducate
- R - eview

©YJ

# OBRIGADO!

## Any questions?

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You can find me at:

[yatiejonet@gmail.com](mailto:yatiejonet@gmail.com)

[haryati@mac.org.my](mailto:haryati@mac.org.my)