

This research highlight is based on NHMS 2020 : Communicable Diseases: Cognitive, Affective & Behaviour. Volume II

Who is this publication for?

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government
- Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Commission

Purpose of this summary

To share the main findings of Dengue NHMS 2020 and to recommend appropriate strategies in strengthening awareness of dengue prevention among population.



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The Institute for Health Behavioural Research provides evidence to policy makers and health managers at every level, to enable them to make evidence-based decision making on health matters.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

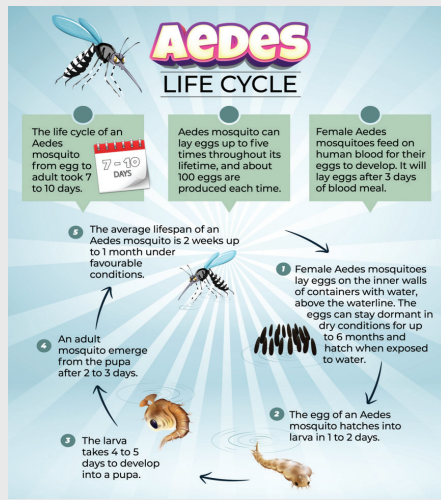
NATIONAL HEALTH AND MORBIDITY SURVEY 2020 — DENGUE PREVENTION

SEARCH & DESTROY THE FACTS



ISSUE

The 'ACTION' that MATTERS MOST



Source: Health Education Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia. Aedes Life Cycle. 2021 [1]

To reduce the risk of getting dengue, one of the best preventive measure suggested by WHO is to destroy the mosquitoes' egg-laying sites at least once a week. This is to stop the life cycle of mosquito which take as little as 7 to 10 days [2].

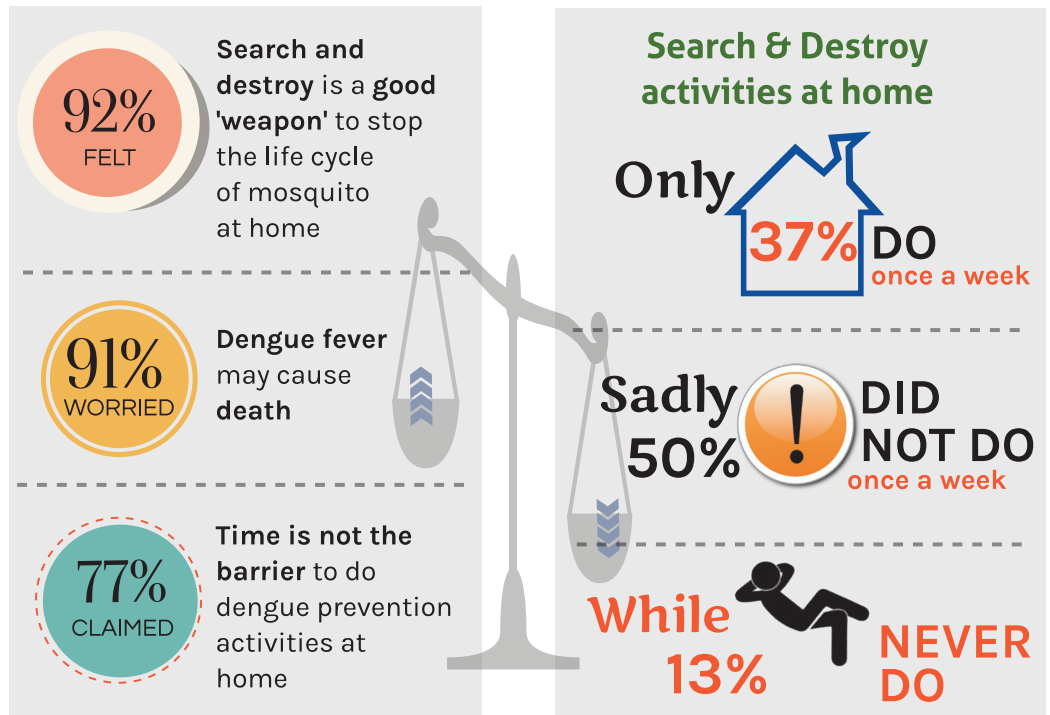
In 2019, a study in Malaysia showed, community claimed that 'search and destroy mosquito breeding sites was the most preferred preventive method during the high abundance of mosquitoes [3].

Despite that, a total of 90,304 dengue cases with 145 deaths have been reported in the country in the year 2020 [4].

KEY MESSAGES

Dengue Prevention in Malaysia

PERCEPTION *VERSUS* PRACTISE



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Ministry of Health (KKM) & Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT)

- Health Education Division (KKM) to enhance relevant information to all layers of communities on:
 - The importance of 'Self-search and Destroy Breeding Site'.
 - Why once a week?
 - Do it right!
Through some fresh urban and rural marketing tactics (e.g. graffiti & street art, graphic on retailer's shopping bag, etc.) using creative and dramatic messages.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of search and destroy activities in Communication-for-Behavioural-Impact (COMBI) programme.
- To emphasize inspection activities at high-risk area identified by District Health Office (KKM) or local authorities (PBT) (eg: Premises at Dengue hotspots localities).

Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Commission (KKMM)

MOH collaborate with KKMM in dengue prevention by:

- Creating creative advertisement or short emotional commercials that evoke feelings of fear or sadness
- Disseminating the information for all via social media (e.g YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, etc), television and radio during prime time and popular slot to increase reach

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. Respondents aged 13 years and above were involved in this survey. This survey uses a validated CAB-IHBR-Dengue-A-01 instrument tool which consists of awareness of Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI), perceived threat of dengue, perceived effectiveness of dengue control activities, perceived barrier for non-participation in dengue control activities, and public's participation in dengue control activities at community and individual level. The NHMS 2020 official report has further details on the methodology used.

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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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