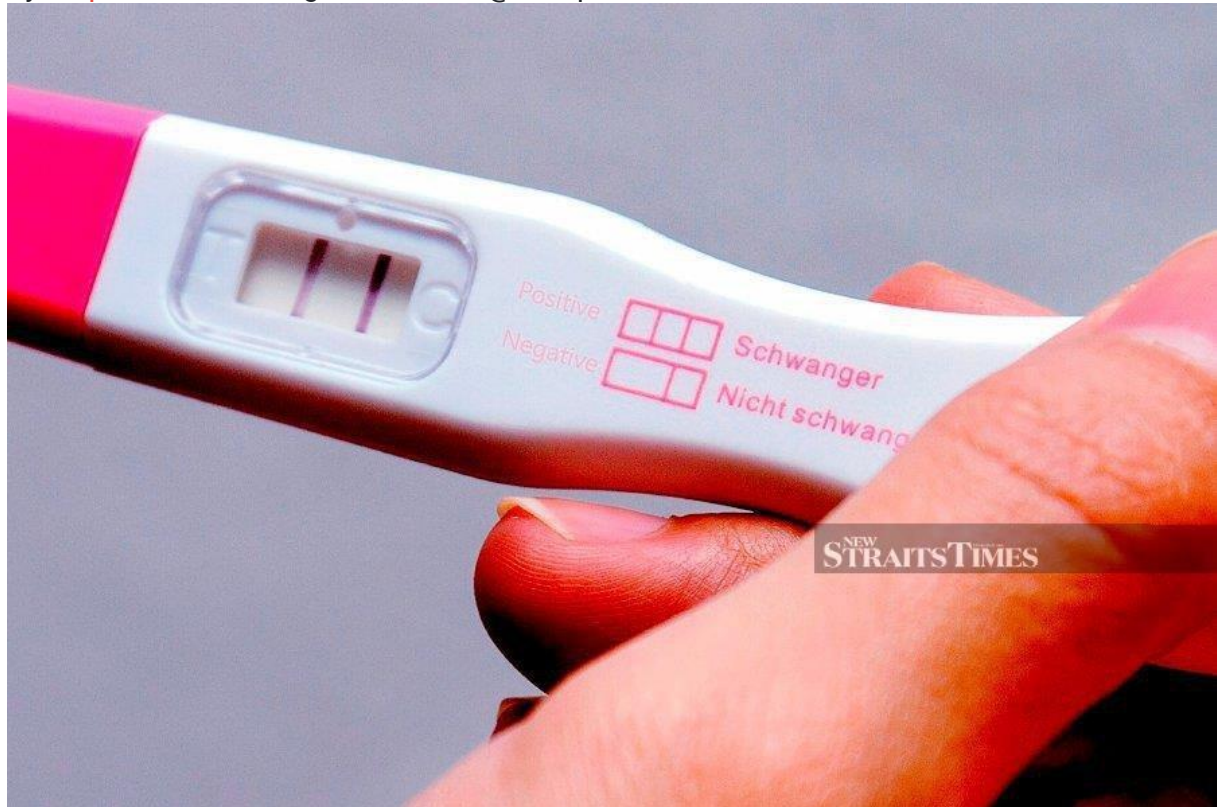


Address unplanned pregnancies in Health White Paper, urges group

By [Luqman Hakim](#) - August 27, 2022 @ 2:29pm



The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has called for the issue of unplanned pregnancies to be addressed in the Malaysian Health White Paper. - NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has called for the issue of unplanned pregnancies to be addressed in the Malaysian Health White Paper.

"Nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended, according to the United Nations Population Fund's State of the World Population 2022 report.

"Over 60 per cent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion and an estimated 45 per cent of all abortions are unsafe, causing five to 13 per cent of all maternal deaths," said MMA president Dr Koh Kar Chai in a statement.

He said the report warned that the current human rights crisis would have far-reaching consequences for societies, women, girls and global health.

"This will impact the world's ability to reach sustainable development goals."

Dr Koh said that some indicators to evaluate a health system include the stillbirth rate, perinatal mortality rate, neonatal mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio (MMR).

"Although the rates have been improving in recent years, as stated in the Malaysian Health Facts 2021, there is still room for improvement."

He said based on the Health Facts 2021, MMR was at 24.9 per 100,000 live births.

The ratio, he said, measured a country's level of human and social development.

"It also demonstrates a failure to fulfil women's reproductive rights, as well as a failure of the system to respond to women's needs.

"It is well understood that the two most important factors that can further reduce the MMR are adequate antenatal care (during pregnancy), safe delivery and the use of contraceptives (birth control pills).

"It is difficult to bring the subject of unplanned pregnancies up for discussion as it is deemed sensitive most of the time."