

# MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE FIRST PEOPLE IN PAHANG. CHALLENGES AND HOPES.

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## INTRODUCTION

Orang Asli are indigenous people that commonly understood as the first people or the original inhabitants of Malaysia. As of 2021, Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia accounted for 0.7% (209,575) of the Malaysia's populations<sup>1</sup>. In the face of modernisation, they encounter challenges including limited access to healthcare and education, poverty, and discrimination<sup>2</sup>. The Ministry of Health Malaysia has introduced mobile health clinics for Orang Asli since 2012 to reduce the gap for healthcare inequalities among Orang Asli especially in reducing the morbidity and mortality.

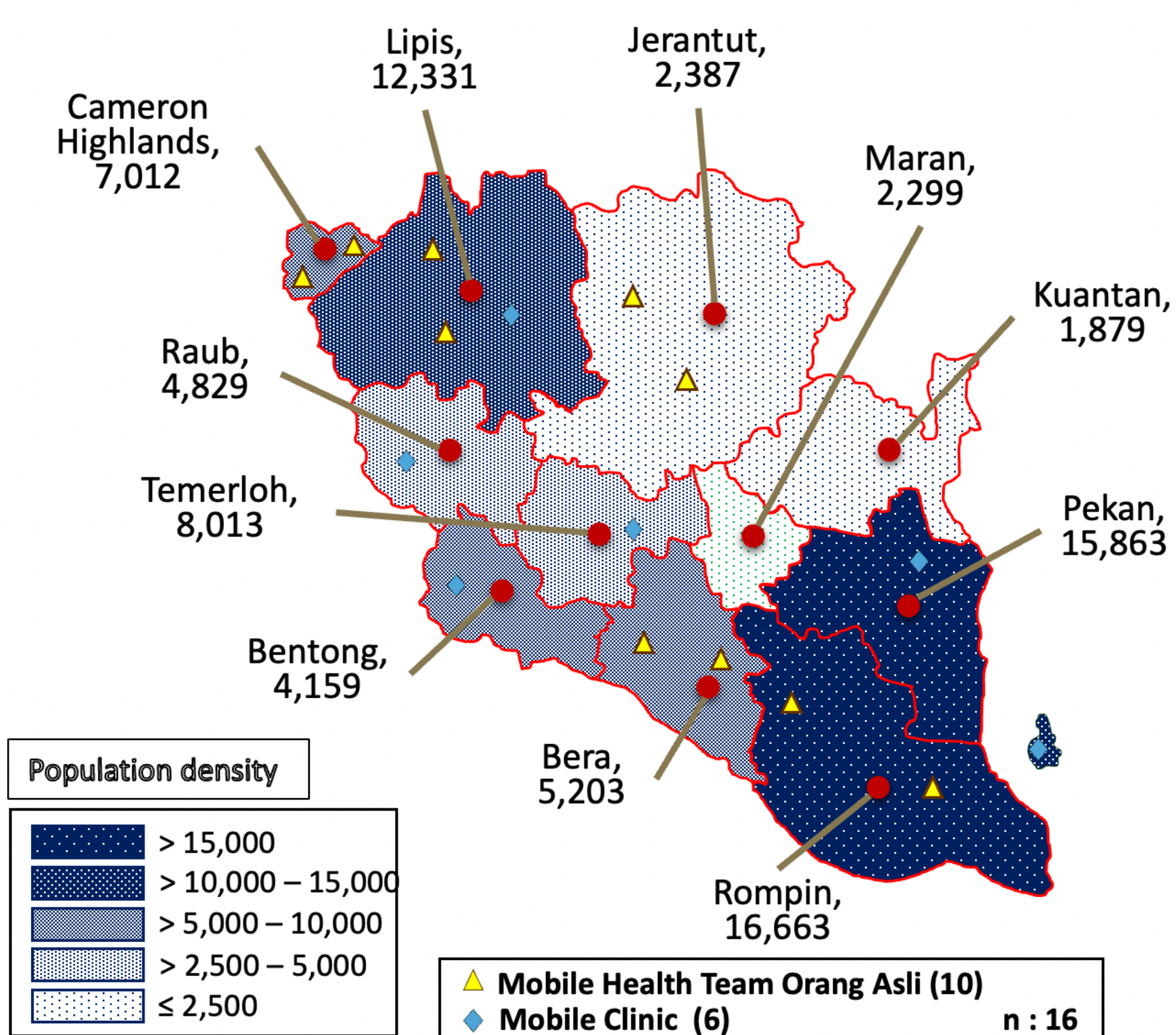
## OBJECTIVES

- To describes mobile health services for Orang Asli in the state of Pahang including the demographics of the clients in 348 villages, type of services provided, numbers of mobile clinics available and clinic workloads.
- To demonstrates the trend of under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births among Orang Asli in the state of Pahang over the past 10 years.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

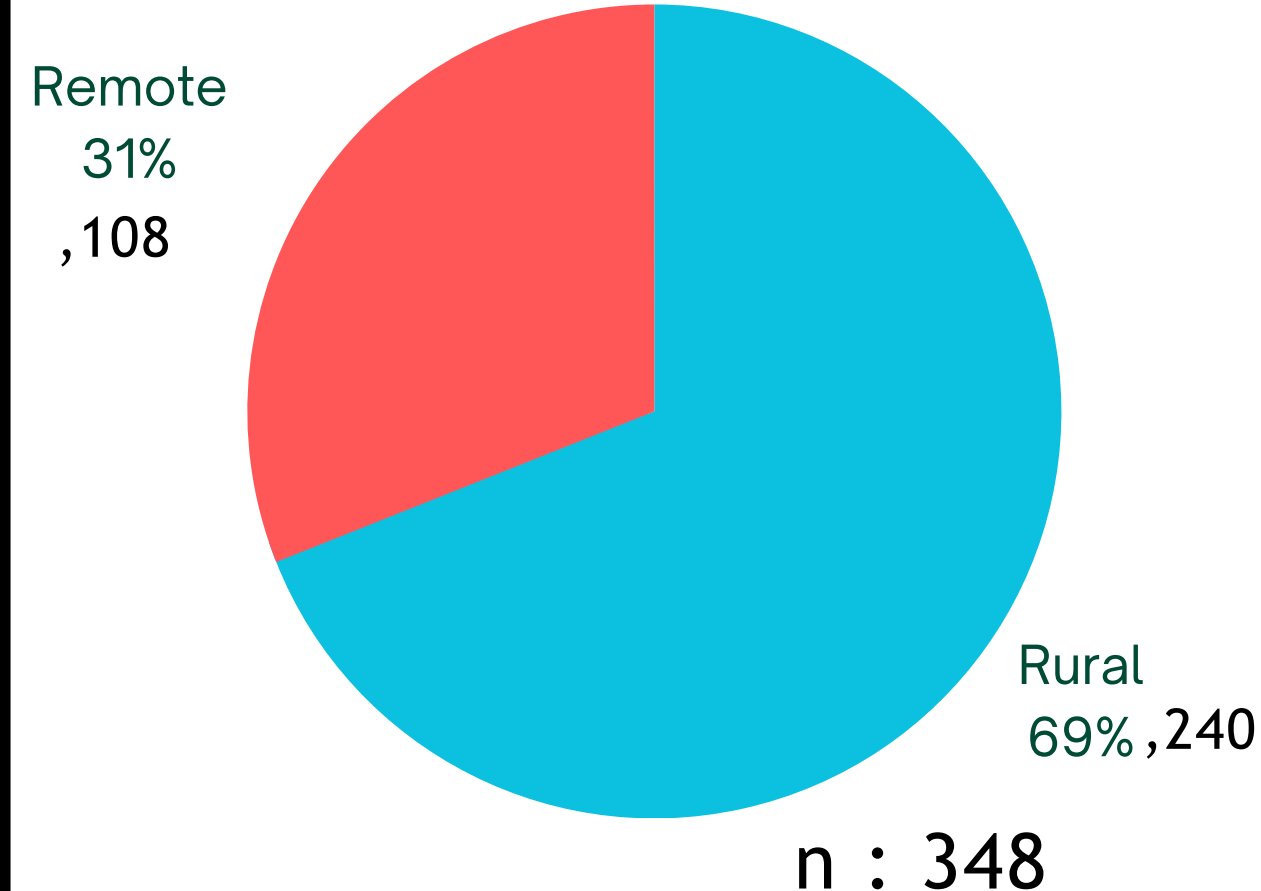
Data from 16 mobile health clinic for Orang Asli from 9 districts health offices in Pahang was collected and analysed in the form of secondary data. Descriptive analysis of demographics of the clients, services provided, numbers of mobile clinics available and clinic workloads were quantified from 2018 till 2022, yearly. This study also tabulates the trend of under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births among Orang Asli in the state of Pahang for the 10 years duration. Data were analysed using Excel software for reporting.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

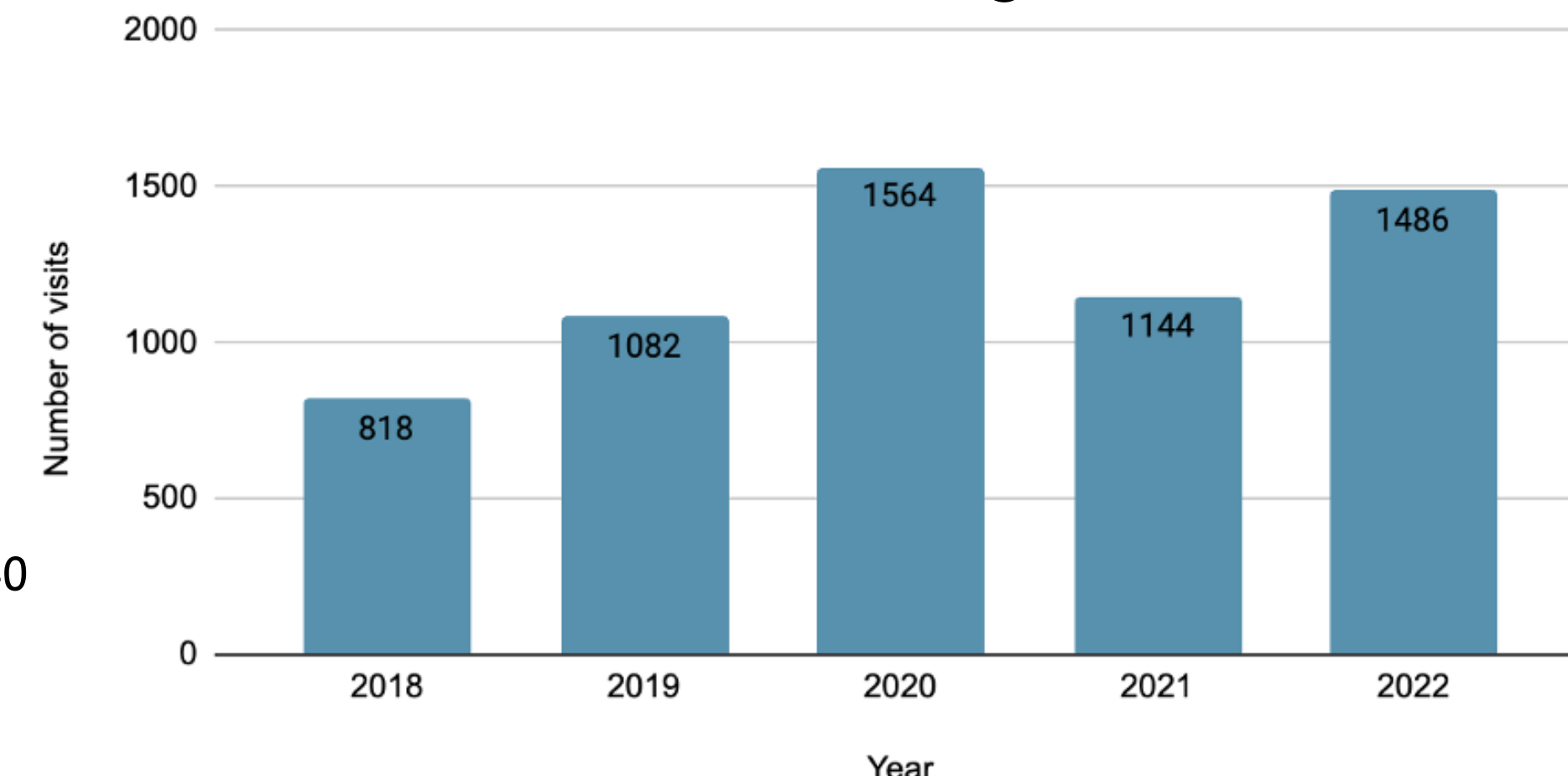


Source : Data mapping by Primary Health & Mother and Child Health Unit JKPN 2023

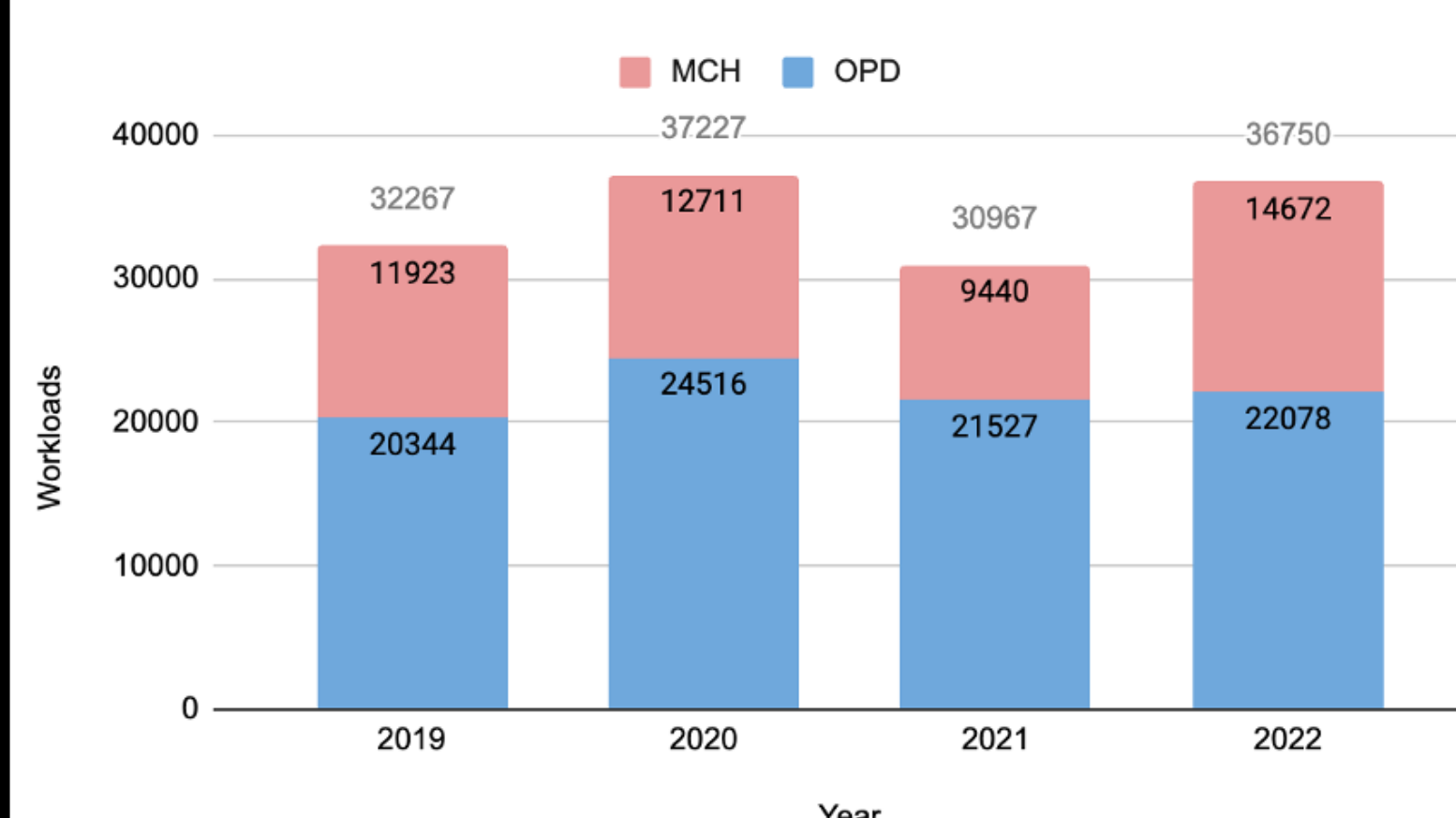
### Type of settlements



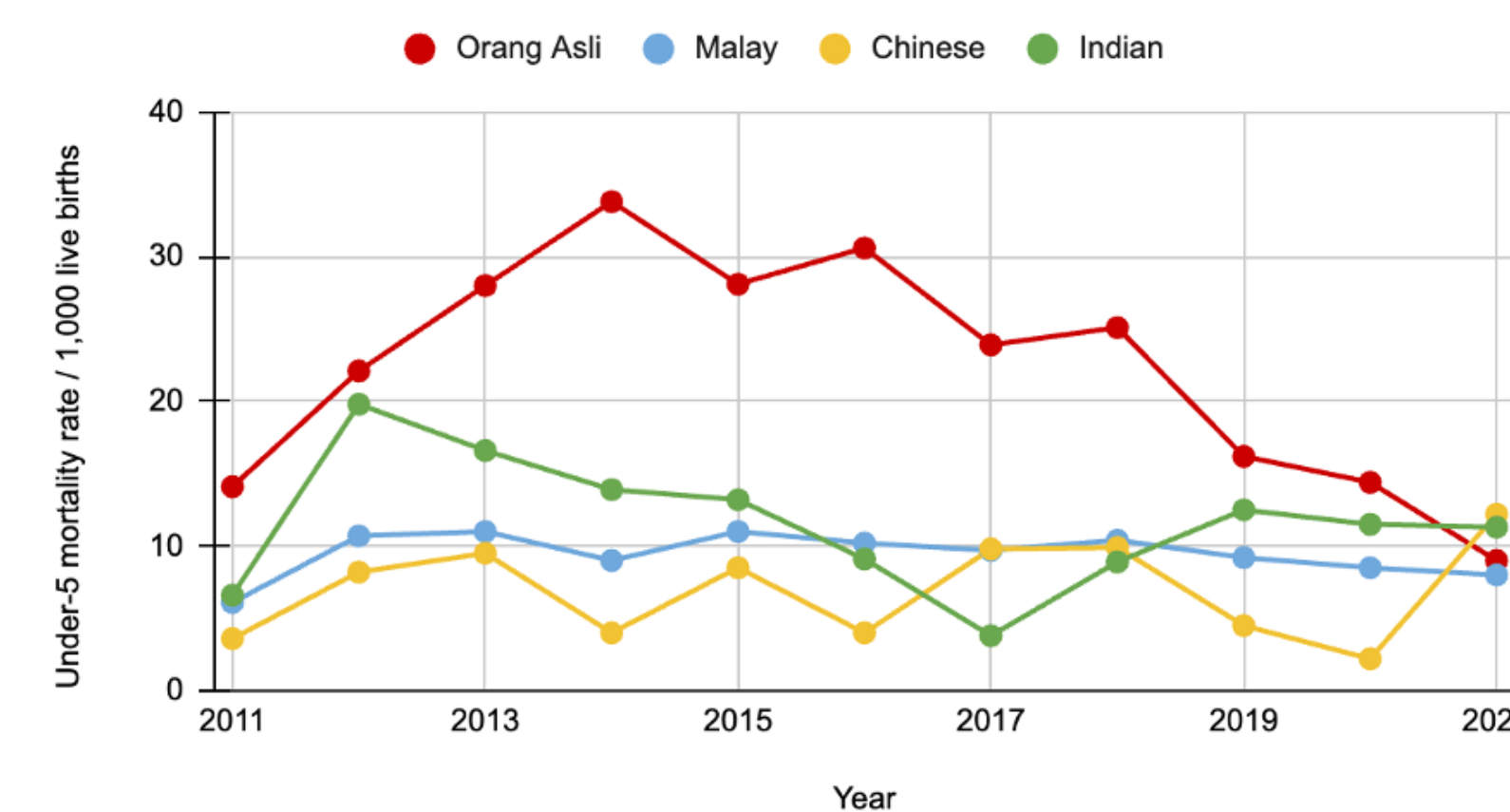
### Number of visits by mobile health clinic for Orang Asli in Pahang



### Workloads of mobile health services for Orang Asli in Pahang



### Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births in Pahang



- Pahang has the highest numbers of Orang Asli at 78,6153<sup>3</sup>. The state has 336 static government facilities that offer primary health care services via 93 health clinics, 231 rural health clinics, 3 mother and child health clinics, and 9 community clinics.
- To supplement those static healthcare facilities, there are a total of 16 mobile health services in Pahang, whereby 10 are the mobile health teams for Orang Asli in remote residencies while the other 6 are in the form of mobile clinics for Orang Asli who lives in rural areas.
- Among the 16 mobile health services for Orang Asli that reported on the number of visits, the median number of annual visits was 1082 with an interquartile range of 818 to 1564. The median number of cases attended by mobile health services annually was 34,508 with an interquartile range of 30967 to 37227 cases.
- Female patients make up a slight majority with an average of 59%. The majority of the services provided are outpatient care and mother and child health.
- Over the past 10 years, we observed a significant reduction in the trend under-five mortality rate among the Orang Asli population in the state of Pahang especially following 2013.
- Although this study does not aim to show any causal relationship between the data studies, among other responsible factors, the significant drop is partly contributed by the healthcare services offered via mobile teams for the Orang Asli in Pahang.

## CONCLUSION

Mobile health services for Orang Asli in Pahang play a significant role in addressing healthcare disparities, improving health outcomes, and reducing the rate of mortality. Despite various challenges to expand services, continuous efforts are deemed important to ensure the accessibility of healthcare services for Orang Asli in Pahang.

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