

JAYAPURA, Dec. 10 – The Health Office of Papua Province said that 4,745 people in the Indonesian easternmost province carried HIV/AIDS, a local official has said.

The head of the Papua AIDS Eradication Commission drh. Constant Karma said here recently that 94 percent of the HIV/AIDS cases was caused by free sex, with men giving the biggest contribution to the HIV/AIDS infection in Papua.

"The situation will be constantly monitored," he said.

Constant Karma added that the number of HIV/AIDS sufferers in West Papua Province has also reached an alarming level of 1,500 cases.

Meanwhile, the AIDS patients in Papua who had succumbed in 2009 reached 400. "Some of them died in their villages, but they were not recorded," said Constant.

Therefore, he called on the people to stay alert of this infectious disease and hoped that the messages conveyed through the mass media may serve as information and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and its prevention.

"We always carry out campaigns and disseminate information on HIV/AIDS to make people aware of the danger of practically incurable disease," he said. (PNA/Antara)