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**1,829 school kids on drugs, says  
Nada**



*Datuk Dr Abdul Halim Mohd Hussin*

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Anti-Drug Agency (Nada) has identified 1,829 schoolchildren who abused drugs.

They had been identified during tests conducted at primary and secondary schools between January last year and January this year.

Urine tests were conducted on 370,285 students, and the 2,000 who tested positive for drugs were students from 178 schools.

Nada director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Halim Mohd Hussin said many factors needed to be taken into consideration in determining why so many schoolchildren were into drugs.

"I have to admit that the number looks significant.

"There could be many reasons. Before this, we never tested schoolchildren.

"But the Education Ministry has ordered schools not to hide anything if they have a drug problem.

"So, we have seen a rise in the number of cases. But there are other factors involved.

"We want to see this (the increase in number of cases) in a more positive light.

"It is better to identify students who abuse drugs than not being able to identify them. This is because they are not addicts yet, so we can rehabilitate them."

Halim said Nada was working with the Education Ministry to treat and rehabilitate students who tested positive for drugs.

"We have found that they got into drugs because of peer pressure, family problems and influence from their environment."