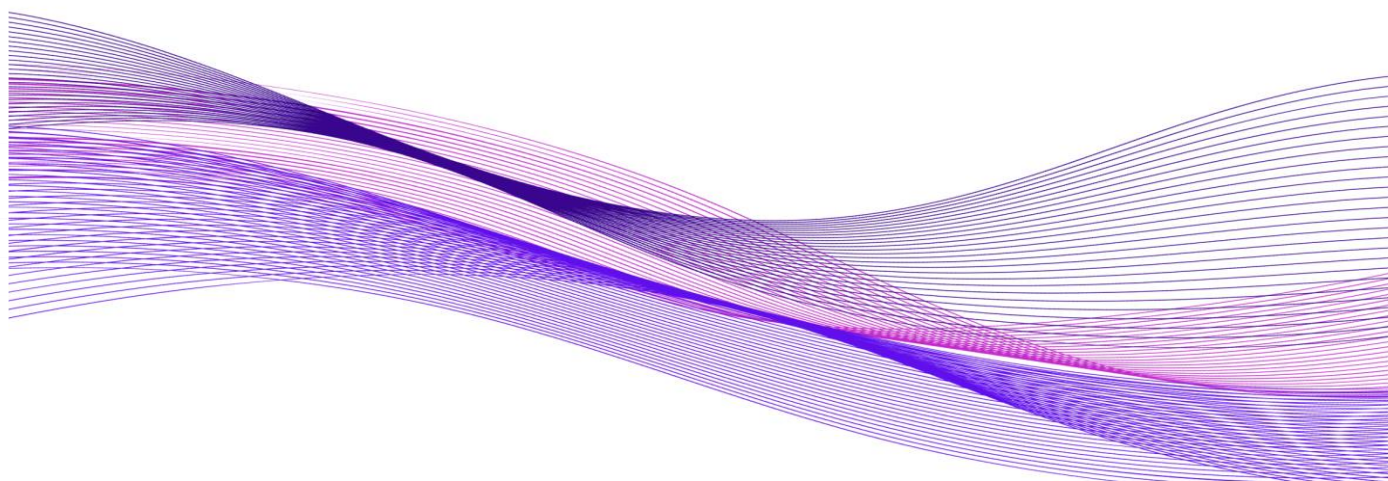




# TERM REPORT

**AUGUST 2020 – JULY 2023**



# *Preface*

This ACA report covers the 12<sup>th</sup> ACA term from 2020 to 2023, a particularly memorable and challenging term for the ACA. This term marked the ACA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its contribution, commitment and achievements in local HIV/AIDS control. This term also witnessed unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic had casted a profound impact on the global HIV/AIDS response, and Hong Kong was no exception. I am immensely proud of the tireless dedication and endeavours of all our partners - healthcare professionals, academic institutions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) - who had worked tirelessly to sustain essential HIV/AIDS services and programmes during the pandemic. The continued reduction in the number of newly reported HIV cases is a testament to the collaborative efforts of all sectors. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our members, partners, and the community for their unwavering support and invaluable contributions.

During this challenging period, the ACA accomplished the task of publishing the sixth set of strategies "Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027)", based not only on the latest scientific development and evolving international guidance on best practices, but more importantly, the highly valued community-based consultation which brought insights into adapting the strategies according to our local context. This guideline set out a strategic blueprint and coordinated response for the coming few years. We are grateful to all parties for their contributions and inputs, and trust that these Strategies will continue to guide and support the various endeavours in our fight against HIV/AIDS.

Furthermore, in the midst of social distancing measures due to COVID-19, we continued to conduct surveillance, including the Department of Health's HIV Prevalence and Risk Behavioural Survey on MSM and Transgenders (PRiSM TG). The coordinated and prompt response between the government and NGOs in response to the upsurge cases among female sex workers signified our ongoing collaboration in outbreak detection and control.

Entering the fifth decade of our fight against HIV/AIDS, we must remain vigilant and continue to adapt our strategies to address the emerging needs of the society as a whole and those among the vulnerable populations. Building on the foundations of past efforts and experiences, we are to maintain our momentum and devise innovative approaches to combat the disease in its fast-changing and challenging field.

Dr LI Chung-ki, Patrick, B.B.S., J.P.  
Chairperson  
Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS  
December 2024

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# Chapter 1

## HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong

AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). In the absence of treatment, approximately half of the HIV-infected people will progress to AIDS in 10 years' time. The main routes of HIV transmission are: sexual transmission, injecting drug use, blood-borne and from mother-to-child. Hong Kong's first HIV case was reported in 1984. Similar to the trend in many other developed countries, the early HIV infections mainly arose from blood or blood products transfusion. Later, sexual transmission, including heterosexual and homosexual contacts, became the commonest route of HIV transmission. It accounted for over 95% of newly reported cases with known transmission routes in the past decade.

2. Monitoring and understanding the current HIV/AIDS situation are crucial for the planning and implementation of prevention and care. HIV/AIDS surveillance comprises a framework of systematic and consistent monitoring, encompassing the key components of collection, collation and analysis of HIV/AIDS data, followed by the interpretation and dissemination of the relevant information. Timely information derived from HIV/AIDS surveillance is indispensable for developing effective prevention and control programmes.

### HIV/AIDS Surveillance

3. The Special Preventive Programme (SPP) of the Department of Health (DH) maintains the HIV/AIDS surveillance system. To provide a detailed description of the local HIV/AIDS situation, this system comprises five major programmes, namely (a) voluntary HIV/AIDS case-based reporting system; (b) HIV prevalence surveys; (c) sexually transmitted infections (STI) caseload statistics; (d) behavioural studies; and (e) HIV-1 genotyping studies.

4. The surveillance definition of AIDS for adults and adolescents was drawn up by the Scientific Committee on AIDS in 1995. The most commonly reported AIDS defining illnesses have been *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (previously named *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia) followed by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

5. Based on the associated HIV risks, the target populations for seroprevalence surveillance are grouped under three categories: (a) community with predisposing risk factors; (b) community without known risk factors; and (c) community with undefined risk.

#### A. Voluntary Reporting

6. The voluntary HIV/AIDS reporting system has been implemented since 1984. This is an anonymous reporting system under which laboratories and medical practitioners report newly

diagnosed HIV infections and AIDS cases to DH through the special HIV/AIDS report form DH2293.

7. As at 30 June 2023, 11 830 HIV infections had been reported to this system. Among them, 2 425 had progressed to AIDS. The number of new HIV cases has dropped for the seventh consecutive year when compared with the peak of 725 cases recorded in 2015. The drop was mainly contributed by a decrease of cases transmitted via homosexual/bisexual route (MSM) (average of 118 MSM per quarter in 2015 vs 56 in 2022). On the other hand, the annual number of reported AIDS cases with the peak of 139 cases recorded in 2018, as compared to 62 cases in 2022. It could be seen that AIDS had declined from its peak.

8. HIV infection affected more males than females with the ratio in the region of 4.6:1 as of June 2023.

9. The majority (69.7%) of reported HIV infections in Hong Kong belonged to ethnic Chinese as of June 2023.

10. Sexual transmission remained the major mode of transmission, accounting for 79.8% among the reported cases in Hong Kong as of June 2023. Cumulatively, MSM accounted for 47.7% and heterosexuals accounted for 32.1% of all reported cases as of June 2023. As at June 2023, the number of HIV infections related to injecting drug use remained low at 380 cases (3.2%) while the total number of perinatal HIV transmission cases now stands at 35.

#### **B. Unlinked Anonymous Screening**

11. The Unlinked Anonymous Screening programme in Hong Kong was started in November 1990. The HIV prevalence of drug users attending inpatient drug treatment centres/institutions was 0.8% in 2021 (*The programme was withheld in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, and suspended in 2022 due to the laboratory resources released for PRiSMTG*). The HIV prevalence of inmates newly admitted into correctional institutes was 0.73%, 1.03%, 0.95% and 0.77% in 2018 to 2021 respectively (*The programme was suspended in 2017 and 2022 due to the laboratory resources released for PRiSMTG*).

#### **C. Seroprevalence in Selected Populations**

12. The HIV positivity rate were 0.003%, 0.002% and 0.002% from all the blood donations in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively carried out by the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. The HIV antibody positivity rates among Social Hygiene Clinic attendees were 0.441%, 0.377% and 0.495% in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.

13. The Universal HIV Antibody Testing Programme was introduced in 2001 in all antenatal clinics of the Hospital Authority and Maternal and Child Health Clinics of DH. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, 34 049, 31 007 and 28 906 tests were performed respectively of which five, eight and two were found positive, indicating a prevalence of 0.01%, 0.03% and 0.01%.



**Table 1. Antenatal HIV Testing**

Year	No. of tests	HIV+	%	Opt-Out (%)
<b>2001 (Sep to Dec)</b>	12 965	7	0.05	3.4
<b>2002</b>	41 932	8	0.02	2.8
<b>2003</b>	36 366	6	0.02	3.1
<b>2004</b>	41 070	6	0.01	2.1
<b>2005</b>	42 750	5	0.01	1.9
<b>2006</b>	43 297	9	0.02	2.0
<b>2007</b>	47 472	11	0.02	2.6
<b>2008</b>	51 737	2	0.00	1.8
<b>2009</b>	51 227	7	0.01	1.7
<b>2010</b>	54 360	10	0.02	1.4
<b>2011</b>	55 984	6	0.01	1.2
<b>2012</b>	53 117	9	0.02	1.4
<b>2013</b>	48 871	7	0.01	1.5
<b>2014</b>	51 263	2	0.004	1.7
<b>2015</b>	51 338	5	0.01	1.5
<b>2016</b>	51 519	9	0.02	0.01
<b>2017</b>	48 500	7	0.01	0.01
<b>2018</b>	45 530	4	0.01	0
<b>2019</b>	42 670	3	0.01	0
<b>2020</b>	34 049	5	0.01	0.01
<b>2021</b>	31 007	8	0.03	0.003
<b>2022</b>	28 906	2	0.01	0.003

**D. Universal HIV Antibody (Urine) Testing Programme in Methadone Clinics**

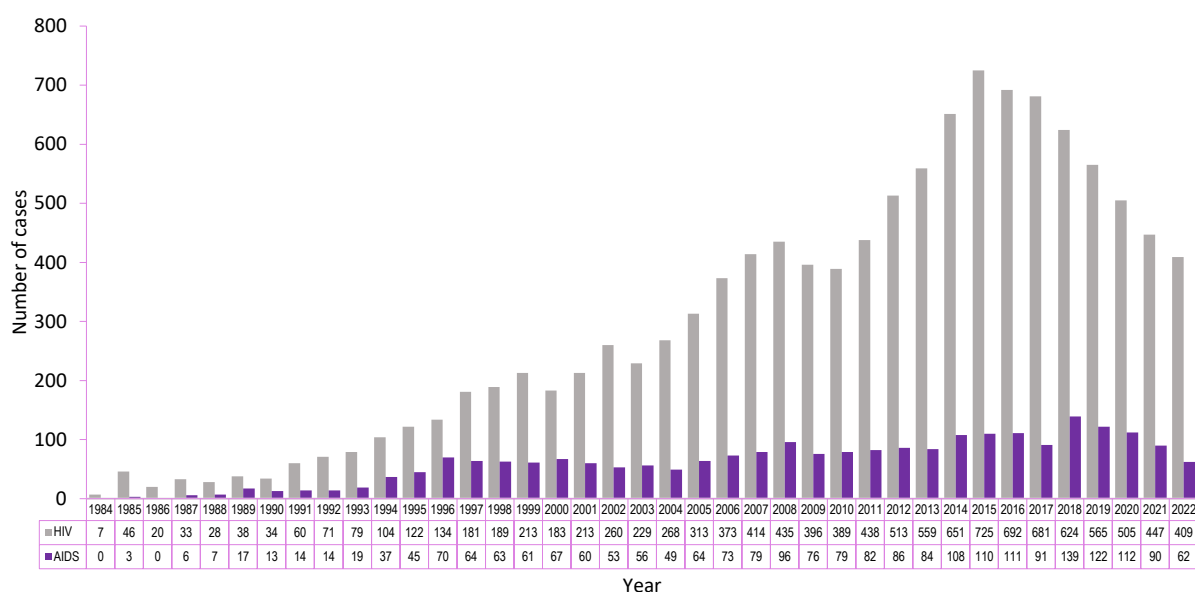
14. The Universal HIV Antibody (Urine) Testing Programme (MUT Programme) was piloted in 2003 and rolled out to all Methadone Clinics of DH in 2004. In 2020, 39 out of 3 670 samples (1.06%) were tested HIV positive. The positivity rate in 2021 was 41 out of 3 312 (1.24%) and 37 out of 2 806 (1.32%) in 2022.

**Table 2. Methadone Clinic Testing**

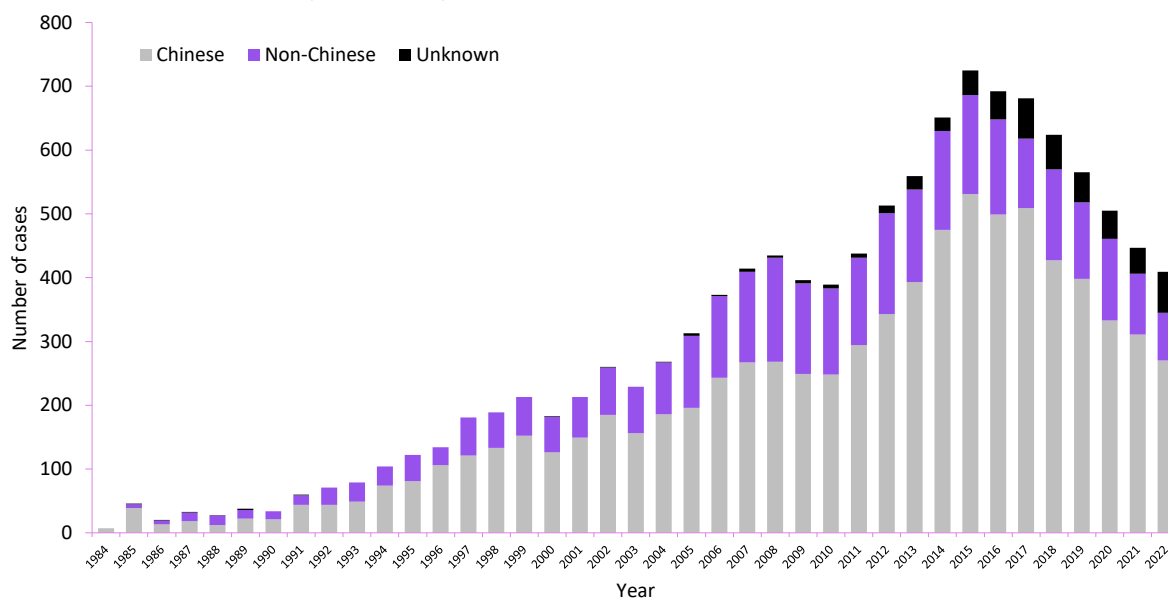
Year	No. of tests	HIV+	%
<b>2003 (Jul to Sep)</b>	1 834	9	0.49
<b>2004</b>	8 812	18	0.20
<b>2005</b>	8 696	28	0.32
<b>2006</b>	7 730	28	0.36
<b>2007</b>	7 314	26	0.36
<b>2008</b>	7 955	37	0.47
<b>2009</b>	7 765	38	0.49
<b>2010</b>	7 445	36	0.48
<b>2011</b>	6 960	37	0.53
<b>2012</b>	6 742	42	0.62
<b>2013</b>	6 925	47	0.68

Year	No. of tests	HIV+	%
2014	6 527	53	0.81
2015	6 056	61	1.01
2016	5 066	57	1.13
2017	4 913	41	0.83
2018	4 730	43	0.91
2019	4 184	42	1.00
2020	3 670	39	1.06
2021	3 312	41	1.24
2022	2 806	37	1.32

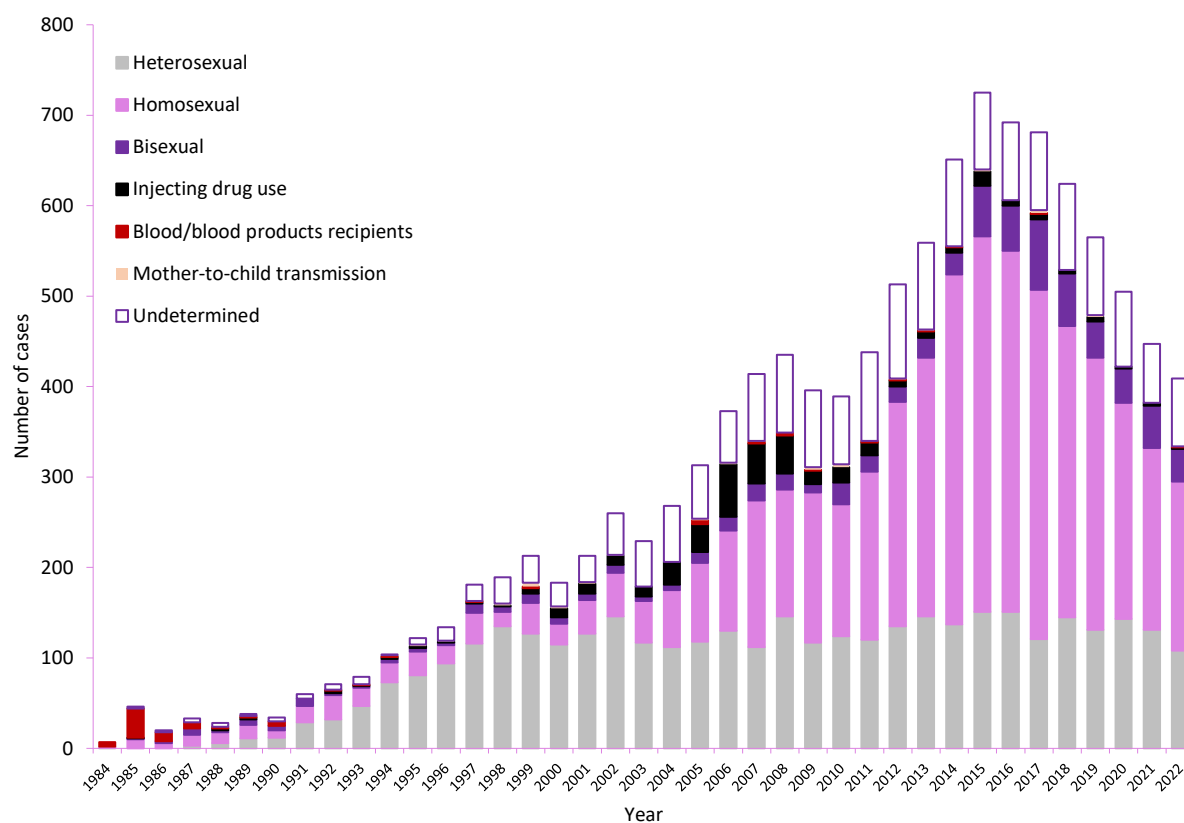
**Figure 1: Yearly number of newly reported HIV/AIDS cases in Hong Kong 1984–2022 (N=11 641/2 382)**



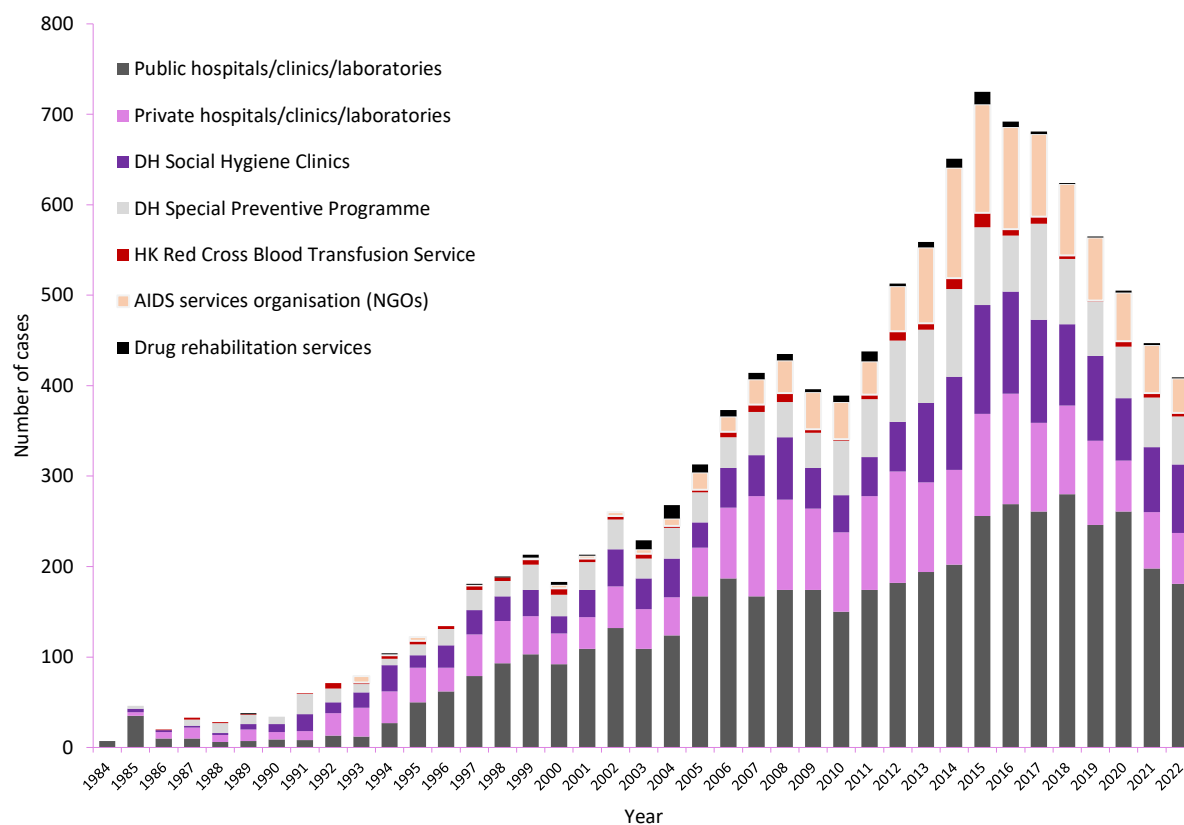
**Figure 2: Ethnicity of newly reported HIV cases in Hong Kong 1984–2022 (N=11 641)**



**Figure 3: Route of transmission of newly reported HIV cases in Hong Kong 1984–2022 (N=11 641)**

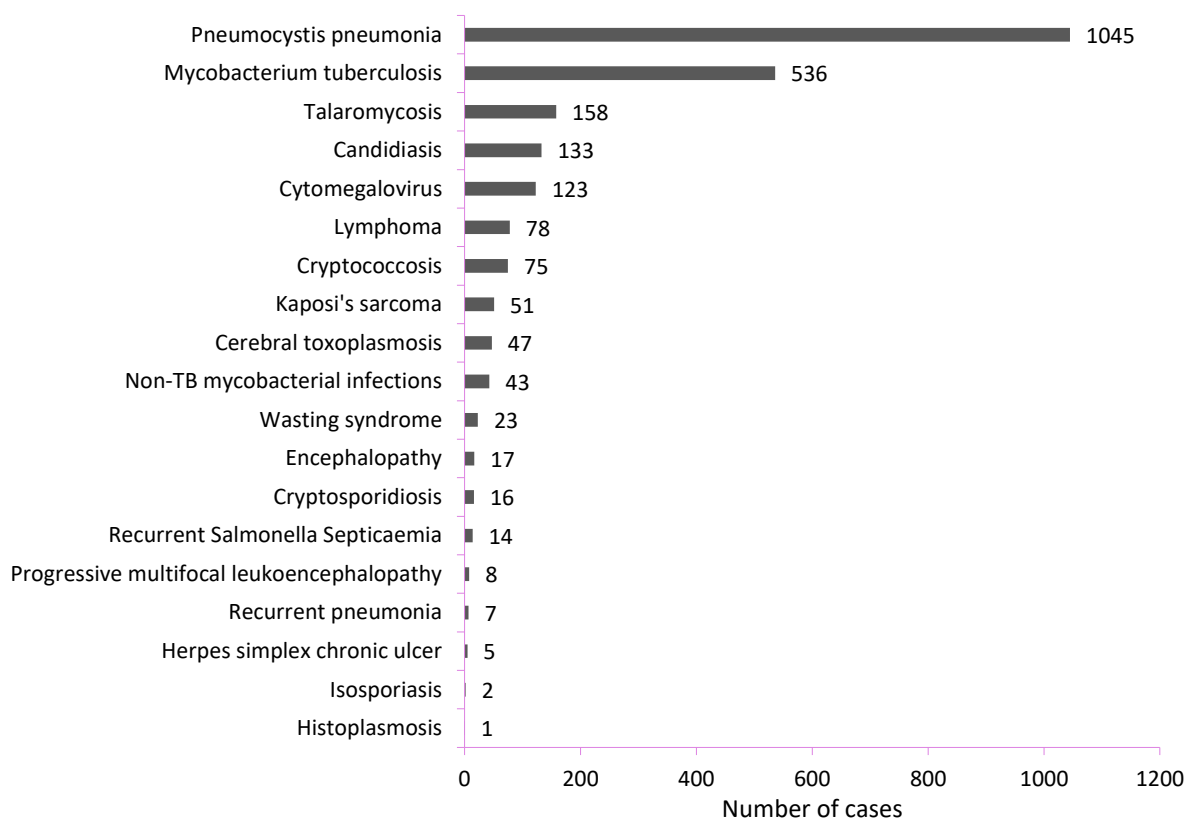


**Figure 4: Source of referral of newly reported HIV cases in Hong Kong 1984–2022 (N=11 641)**

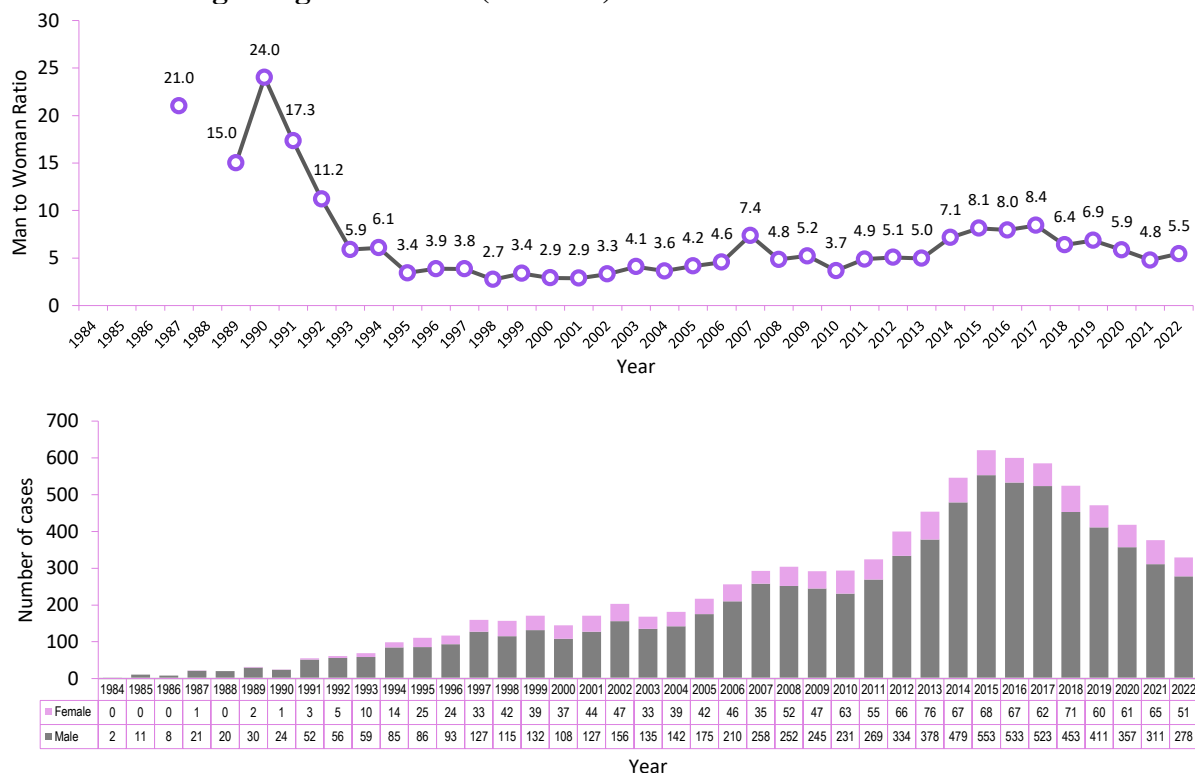




**Figure 5: Primary AIDS-defining illness of newly reported AIDS cases in Hong Kong 1985–2022 (N=2 382)**



**Figure 6: Gender of newly reported HIV cases transmitted through sexual contact\* in Hong Kong 1984–2022 (N=9 292)**



\* Includes heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual contact

## Chapter 2

# HIV/AIDS Programmes in Hong Kong

15. HIV/AIDS programmes in Hong Kong are developed in response to changes in the epidemic and the needs of various populations. They closely follow the direction set by the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong issued by the ACA. Over the years, there have been significant changes concerning the organisations involved in planning and implementing HIV/AIDS programmes, their respective roles and functions, and the scope of HIV prevention, treatment and support. The historical development of HIV/AIDS Programme is set out in **Appendix A**.

16. Currently the main types of organisations involved in HIV/AIDS programmes are: (A) advisory bodies; (B) DH; (C) other governmental departments or public organisations; and (D) non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

### **A. Advisory bodies**

17. The two major Government-appointed advisory bodies involved in HIV/AIDS response are –

- (1) **The Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)** – reviews the latest developments and provides policy advice on all aspects of related to HIV/AIDS; and
- (2) **The Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS)** under the Centre for Health Protection of DH – formulates technical guidance and recommendations on public health and clinical practice.

18. The ACA is underpinned by the Community Forum on AIDS (CFA) which provides a platform for sharing and exchange among community stakeholders, and for dialogue with ACA members.

### **B. Department of Health (DH)**

19. **SPP** of DH serves the following four areas –

- (1) *Clinical service* – includes the AIDS Hotline, AIDS Counselling and Testing Service (ACTS), clinical consultation and treatment, nursing care and psychosocial support for people living with HIV (PLHIV);
- (2) *Health promotion at community level* – mainly delivered through the Red Ribbon Centre (RRC), by collaborating with both local and regional health authorities and community agencies to undertake education projects and epidemiological surveys, and provide training and technical support for NGOs;

- (3) *Policy development* – provides secretariat and operational support to the ACA and its CFA; and
- (4) *Surveillance and research* – monitors the local HIV situation through a range of surveillance systems in collaboration with various stakeholders, and announces the most updated HIV situation every quarter.

20. **Other related DH services include -**

- (1) *Social Hygiene Service* – provides STI prevention, counselling and treatment;
- (2) *Tuberculosis and Chest Service* – manages HIV/TB co-infection;
- (3) *Public Health Laboratory Services Branch* – provides HIV and related laboratory services;
- (4) *Methadone Clinics* – provides Methadone Treatment Programme and other harm reduction activities for opioid dependent persons; and
- (5) *Family Health Service and Student Health Service* – provides sexual health services to women of reproductive age and school students respectively.

**C. Other governmental departments and public organisations**

21. **Government departments / policy bureaux** with active involvement in the HIV/AIDS programme include -

- (1) *Correctional Services Department* – involves in health education and sentinel surveillance;
- (2) *Education Bureau* – involves in sex/AIDS education and professional development of teachers;
- (3) *Information Services Department* – involves in mass communication on HIV prevention; and
- (4) *Social Welfare Department* – involves in subvention of social and rehabilitation services related to HIV prevention among marginalised populations and support of PLHIV.

22. **Hospital Authority** and **Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service** provide hospital-based clinical services and ensure the supply of safe blood and blood products respectively. Infected adults may receive care by the Special Medical Service at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital, while affected children are managed by the Paediatrics units of Queen Mary Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

23. The **AIDS Trust Fund (ATF)** provides financial support to people with haemophilia who acquired HIV infection prior to August 1985, and to agencies working on HIV/AIDS prevention, patient support and for research activities. Over the years, NGOs have been active in raising funds for their operations and services to support community-based projects. From 2020/21 to 2022/23, a total of 36 programmes or projects were funded by ATF, amounting to a total of HK\$106 million.

Financial Year	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		Total	
	No.	Amount (\$M)	No.	Amount (\$M)	No.	Amount (\$M)	No.	Amount (\$M)
<b>Publicity and Public Education</b>	5	32.806	5	15.900	8	35.003	18*	83.708
<b>Medical and Support Services</b>	9	8.315	4	5.501	5	8.219	18*	22.034
<b>Ex-gratia Payments</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	0.000
<b>Additional Ex-gratia Payment</b>	23	8.322	23	8.372	22	7.884	68*	24.578
<b>Special Project Fund</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0*	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>49.443</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29.772</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>51.106</b>	<b>104*</b>	<b>130.320</b>

#### **D. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)**

24. **AIDS NGOs** are heavily involved in the implementation of AIDS programme and related activities, in particular –

- (1) *Conducting HIV preventive activities at the front-line* – including venue-based and on-line outreach, publicity and education, community programmes, condom distribution, and media advocacy; some also provided HIV testing and counselling services;
- (2) *Providing support services to PLHIV and their carers* – through visits, home care, referral, free transport and escort to clinic follow-up, counselling, support groups, and rehabilitation programmes;
- (3) *Partnership with the government* – participating in community-based surveys such as (a) HIV Prevalence and Risk Behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men and transgenders in Hong Kong (PRiSMTG) and HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS); (b) formulating guidelines; and (c) advocacy; and
- (4) *Fund raising* – for their operation and services to support community-based projects.

## Chapter 3

# Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

25. Established in 1990, the terms of reference of the ACA in the current term are –
- (1) to keep under review local and international trends and development relating to HIV infection and AIDS;
  - (2) to advise Government on policy relating to the prevention, care and control of HIV infection and AIDS in Hong Kong; and
  - (3) to advise on the co-ordination and monitoring of programmes on the prevention of HIV infection and the provision of services to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong.
26. ACA members are drawn from diverse sectors of the community, particularly professionals and community leaders. The membership between August 2020 and July 2023 is shown in **Appendix B**.
27. The major issues and papers examined and reviewed by the ACA in the period covered by this report are in **Appendix C**. During the ACA Meeting held in October 2014, all members supported listing the overall attendance rate of the meetings in the ACA report. In this connection, the overall attendance rates of the 22 gazette members in the past twelve ACA Meetings are shown in **Appendix D**.
28. A two-tier system of interaction has been adopted since 2005 in which the functions of coordinating agencies working on HIV prevention and care and promoting acceptance of PLHIV were taken up by the CFA.

### AIDS Policy

29. In 1994, the ACA published its first policy document titled “*Strategies for AIDS Prevention, Care and Control in Hong Kong*”. Regular reviews of local AIDS situation and programmes have been conducted thereafter, with six more Strategies issued, namely *AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 1999-2001*, *Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2002 to 2006*, *Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007 to 2011*, *Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016*, *Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017 – 2021)* and the latest *Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027)*.

## **Building Community Partnership**

30. The ACA organised familiarisation visits to various NGOs and government units working on HIV/AIDS. These visits provided invaluable opportunities for both ACA members and NGO frontline workers to engage in meaningful dialogues about the challenges affecting community's AIDS responses and strengthen community partnerships. In this term, the visits were arranged in phases, with two to three organisations of different scope of services visited per day.

## **Website**

31. The ACA Newsfile, a monthly bulletin of the ACA, keeps ACA and CFA members posted on the most updated HIV/AIDS situation, the development of local programmes, highlights of discussion in ACA and CFA, and HIV/AIDS related news and activities. Launched in January 1994, a total of 355 issues have been published up to July 2023.

32. Other HIV related publications produced by DH are also distributed to ACA and CFA members, including Red Ribbon Bulletin, AIDS Newsletter, the Node, and Networking Voice.

33. The ACA homepage is a bilingual website accessible to the public at <https://www.aca.gov.hk>.

34. Information uploaded onto the ACA website during the reporting period included –

- (1) ACA Newsfile (36 issues);
- (2) Report of ACA (August 2018 – July 2020);
- (3) Agenda of twelve ACA meetings; and
- (4) Agenda of eleven CFA meetings.

## Chapter 4

# Community Forum on AIDS (CFA)

35. The CFA was established in 2005 to replace two previous committees, namely: (1) the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC), which was set up in 1999 to enhance the quality of HIV prevention and care activities in Hong Kong; and (2) the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CPA), which was formed in 1999 to coordinate and recommend strategies for promoting acceptance of PLHIV.

36. The CFA provides a platform where the views and expertise of organisations and individuals involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy, education and services can be directly shared and collected, to support strategy formulation at the ACA level.

37. The CFA has the following terms of reference in the current term –

- (1) to enhance communication between the Council and frontline HIV/AIDS service delivery organisations and workers;
- (2) to examine needs and identify gaps in the community;
- (3) to recommend measures conducive to promoting acceptance of PLHIV;
- (4) to provide a platform for collaboration in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic and facilitate dialogue with other stakeholders in related fields;
- (5) to enhance the quality of HIV/AIDS service through development of best practices and indicators; and
- (6) to advocate and facilitate capacity building with other relevant parties.

38. The CFA comprises members drawn from agencies specialising in HIV prevention and care; mainstream NGOs whose activities encompass HIV/AIDS; representatives of communities vulnerable to HIV/AIDS; individuals with expertise in related fields, and ACA members. The membership of the 6<sup>th</sup> term of CFA (2020-2023) is shown in **Appendix E**.

39. An Observer system was introduced in the 25<sup>th</sup> CFA meeting on 14 June 2012. Members of the public may register with the CFA Secretariat to attend CFA meetings.

40. The major issues and papers examined and reviewed by the CFA in the period covered by this report can be seen in **Appendix F**.



## Chapter 5

# Highlights of the Term

(August 2020 to July 2023)

### 1. Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027)

In November 2022, the ACA published the “*Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027)*”, the sixth set of strategies developed by the ACA since 1994. The Strategies served as the blueprint for a co-ordinated and consolidated response on local HIV prevention and control including key policy recommendations and priority areas for action for the next five years. It set out clear visions and time-bound objectives and targets to be achieved by 2026 and identifies six priority populations, with recommended priority actions under eight key strategic areas. The process of its formulation adopted a wide-based approach of engaging different parties, including a Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting and gathering the input of individuals, groups and organisations as well as the general public during the subsequent stakeholders' and public consultations.

### 2. Exploring the use of web-based ordering and result upload of HIV self-test

DH commissioned a feasibility study on the delivery of HIV self-testing (HIVST) through internet-based channels in Hong Kong, focusing specially on priority populations. The study was conducted in two phases: (1) oral fluid-based HIV self-tests for local MSM from September 2019 to June 2020; and (2) blood-based and oral fluid-based HIV self-tests for local MSM and transgender women from 28 December 2020 to 31 December 2021. In view of the positive response, DH had plans to expand these services to reach broader targets.

### 3. Collaborative community actions in response to female sex workers upsurge cases

Action for REACH OUT reported a surge of newly diagnosed HIV cases among local female sex workers in May 2022. Subsequently, a total of five cases of new HIV infection were identified, with the date of diagnosis falling within the period from August 2021 to June 2022. SPP, together with Social Hygiene Service, of DH had undertaken and collaborated with five AIDS NGOs to strengthen health promotion for heterosexuals with risk exposure in Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po districts, including outreach sessions and publicities to raise awareness, reinforce testing, and promote safer sex practices.

#### **4. Virtual HIV-STI Conference for Primary Health Care Professionals**

The RRC and the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians jointly organised an online “HIV-STI Conference for Primary Health Care Professionals” on 28 November 2020. The conference offered a comprehensive coverage of topics including the latest local HIV situation, diagnosis and treatment of HIV and STIs, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), HIV self-testing, mental health of sexual minorities, and a role-play session demonstrating the techniques to communicate with sexual minorities. Local experts from both private and public sectors as well as academia specialised in their respective fields were invited to deliver presentations and share their experiences. About 580 healthcare workers attended the conference online.

#### **5. Coordination of community-wide surveys**

Community-based behavioural surveys conducted in collaboration with NGOs are one of the crucial components of local surveillance system to collect information on HIV-related behaviours of the at-risk populations by using the same set of indicators. Despite that AIDS services provided by NGOs were variably affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, several large scaled community-wide surveys had been accomplished, including the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2020 on MSM, Street Addict Surveys in 2020 to 2022 on drug users and PRiSMTG in 2022 on MSM and transgender people. The information collected was shared on various platforms including ACA and CFA meetings and had provided invaluable insights towards the monitoring of local HIV/AIDS responses and in guiding strategies formulation.

## Chapter 6

# Photos Gallery

**Photo taken during the 123<sup>rd</sup> ACA Meeting on 14 July 2023**



**Photo taken during the 65th CFA Meeting on 6 June 2023**





**ACA familiarisation visits to NGOs & government units working on HIV/AIDS  
(June 2021 – July 2023)**



AIDS Concern



Hong Kong AIDS Foundation



Family Planning Association of Hong Kong



Red Ribbon Centre



The Society for AIDS Care



The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation  
of Drug Abusers (SARDA)-cum-Pui Hong  
Self-Help Association



SideBySide



## ACA familiarisation visits to NGOs & government units working on HIV/AIDS (June 2021 – July 2023)



Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre



Midnight Blue



The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of  
Hong Kong



Teen's Key



Community Health Organisation for  
Intervention, Care and Empowerment



Action for REACH OUT

# *Historical Development of Hong Kong's AIDS Programme*

The development of Hong Kong's AIDS programme can be broadly divided into the following phases –

## 1. The Initial Response Phase (1984 – 1986)

- **Expert Committee on AIDS** was set up within the then Medical and Health Department in November 1984 to discuss and review the medical aspects of AIDS and to work out a plan necessary for monitoring and managing the disease;
- **Scientific Working Group on AIDS (SWG)** was formed subsequently in 1985 to initiate and implement medical, surveillance and public health activities in HK; **AIDS counselling clinic** and a hotline was established;
- Safeguarded supply of **safe heat-treated blood products** through blood-screening by the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (HKRCBTS);
- **The HIV/AIDS surveillance system** was initiated; and
- **HIV antibody testing service** was provided to people at risk of infection.

## 2. Enhanced Public Education Phase (1987 – 1989)

- **Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)** and a publicity working group were formed by the Medical and Health Department to initiate, implement and co-ordinate publicity and educational programmes;
- **The AIDS Counselling and Health Education Service** of DH was expanded to become an operational arm of the committee to organise activities; and
- **Public education** was systematically introduced with Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio to arouse public awareness.

## 3. Consolidation Phase (1990 – 1993)

- **The ACA** was established in March 1990;
- **First two AIDS NGOs** were formed: AIDS Concern (1990) and the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation (1991);
- **The AIDS Trust Fund (ATF)** was set up in 1993 by the Government to provide ex-gratia payment to HIV-infected haemophiliacs and transfusion recipients, and to finance education and AIDS care projects;

- **Unlinked anonymous screening (UAS)** was started in 1990, and has since been included into the HIV/AIDS surveillance system; and
- The **AIDS Unit** of DH was established, which was evolved from the original counselling service.

#### 4. Wider Community Participation Phase (1994 – 1997)

- The ACA's **first official strategy document**, "*Strategies for AIDS Prevention, Care & Control in Hong Kong*" was published in 1994;
- **More new NGOs** involved in HIV prevention were founded – Action for REACH OUT, Society for AIDS Care, AIDS Memorial Quilt Project, HIV Information & Drop-In Centre of the St John's Cathedral, and the Teen AIDS;
- **Traditional organisations incorporated AIDS programmes** in its conventional activities through new initiatives, e.g. the Community Charter on AIDS by the Lions Club International District 303 Hong Kong and Macao; and
- **Education programmes** on awareness and prevention were expanded with the participation of more NGOs and the re-organised CEPAIDS.

#### 5. Expanded Response Phase (1998 – 2001)

- The **Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organisations (HKCASO)** was formed in 1998. It provides a platform for collaboration and experience sharing among various NGOs working in HIV-related areas;
- The **AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 1999-2001** was published by the ACA in 1998, after incorporating the result of a review done in 1998;
- **Ten targets**, ranging from early targets, through-period targets, and end-of-period targets were set up in the new Strategy. The key foci were -
  - (a) **Focus on Prevention on the vulnerable groups** through community's participation and the promotion of acceptance to people living with HIV/AIDS;
  - (b) **Ensure Quality Care** is provided to meet the needs of people with HIV/AIDS, and in promoting HIV testing; and
  - (c) **Strengthen Partnership** through setting of a common programme direction, expanding responses through Community Planning, conducting evaluations to check the progress, and strengthening surveillance system.

#### 6. Building on Success Phase (2002 – 2005)

- The ACA published its **Strategies 2002 to 2006** in a background of low prevalence of HIV (< 0.1%) in the general population;
- The **CFA** of the ACA was set up in 2005 to provide a platform for sharing and exchange of ideas and for direct dialogue with ACA members; and
- The **Scientific Committee on AIDS** was subsumed under the scientific advisory structure of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of DH since August 2005, and the committee took sexually transmitted infections (STI) on board, subsequently renamed as **Scientific Committee on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (SCAS)**.



## 7. Enhanced Targeted Response Phase (2006 – now)

- ATF launched a two-year Special Project Fund between December 2006 and August 2008 in view of rising number of HIV cases transmitted through MSM, and revised its funding priorities accordingly;
- The ACA published its ACA's Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011 with MSM first listed as the top priority area of action;
- Enhanced community-based surveillance for at-risk populations;
  - (a) Roll-out of the first HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) in 2013;
  - (b) Roll-out of the first community-based survey for Transgender women in 2017;
  - (c) Roll-out of the first EM sexual health survey in May 2019;
  - (d) The first local mental and sexual health survey of sexual minority (GBT) was conducted in Pride Parade 2018;
- ATF has received an additional injection of HKD350 million in 2013 to sustain its funding and support for HIV prevention programmes and HIV-related researches;
- The first survey on HIV/AIDS and sex education in junior secondary level in Hong Kong was conducted in 2013;
- Roll-out **life skills-based education programme** on HIV/AIDS and sex in secondary schools in 2014;
- The first internal audit of voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) in community settings was launched in 2014;
- Enhanced **capacity building for healthcare workers** - the first HIV pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis workshop for NGO workers was held in 2016; and
- The first territory-wide **HIV self-testing programme targeting MSM** with online ordering of test kits was commenced in 2019.

# *ACA Membership List*

*August 2020 – July 2023*

**Chairperson:**

Dr. LI Chung-ki, Patrick, B.B.S., J.P.

**Vice-Chairman:**

***Department of Health:***

Dr. CHAN Hon-ye, Constance, J.P. (*up to 20 September 2021*)

Dr. LAM Man-kin, Ronald, J.P. (*from 21 September 2021*)

**Members:**

Dr. CHAN Mei-lo, Elda (*up to 31 July 2022*)

Ms. CHAN Shan (*from 1 August 2022*)

Hon. CHAN Siu-hung, J.P.

Mr. CHAU Yui-chi, Eugene (*from 1 August 2021*)

Dr. CHENG Mei-ching, Joanne (*up to 31 July 2022*)

Ms. CHOW Yee-ling, Cassie (*from 1 August 2022*)

Dr. CHUNG Kar-kin, Albert

Mrs. Eva Charisa HSU (*from 1 August 2022*)

Mr. KAM Hugh Alexander Tsun-ting

Dr. KONG Shiu-ki, Travis

Mr. KWOK Lap-shu

Dr. LAM Wai-cheung, Mona (*from 1 August 2022*)

Mr. LEE Wai-kwong, Sunny, J.P.

Mr. LEUNG Ka-ki, Nickson (*up to 31 July 2021*)

Dr. LUI Chung-yan, Grace

Mr. MUI Wai-keung, Moses (*up to 28 April 2021*)

Ms. SUN Hau-kei, Binky (*up to 31 July 2022*)

Mr. TONG Tak-fai, Edmond

Dr. WONG Chi-wai, William

Ms. WONG Hang-yee, Sandy, J.P.

Ms. YAN Tsz-mei, Kammy

Ms. YU Po-chu, Pansy (*up to 31 July 2022*)

***Education Bureau:***

Secretary for Education or Representative

***Food and Health Bureau / Health Bureau:***

Secretary for Food and Health or Representative (*up to 30 June 2022*)

Secretary for Health or Representative (*from 1 July 2022*)

***Hospital Authority:***

Chief Executive of Hospital Authority or Representative

***Social Welfare Department:***

Director of Social Welfare or Representative

***Secretary:***

***Department of Health:***

Dr. CHAN Chi-wai, Kenny (*up to 2 July 2021*)

Dr. WONG Ka-hing, J.P. (*from 9 August 2021*)

***Council Secretariat:***

***Department of Health:***

Senior Medical and Health Officer (Special Preventive Programme) 3

Senior Executive Officer (Special Preventive Programme)

Assistant Clerical Officer (Special Preventive Programme)

Clerical Assistant (Special Preventive Programme) 1

## *Topics / Issues Discussed at ACA Meetings*

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Topics / Issues Discussed at ACA Meetings</b>
112 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 9 October 2020 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed schema of operation for the ACA (2020-20223) (ACA Paper No. 1/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. ATF: Funding support for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 2/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Current HIV situation and AIDS programme in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 3/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
113 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 8 January 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong: Sexuality Education Programs for Youth (ACA Paper No. 4/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2020 – Men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs (ACA Paper No. 5/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Highlights of World AIDS Campaign 2020 (ACA Paper No. 6/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
114 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 9 April 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2020 (ACA Paper No. 7/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Framework for the formulation of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong beyond 2021 (ACA Paper No. 8/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. HIV treatment and prevention in the time of COVID-19 (ACA Paper No. 9/2020-2023)</li> </ol>

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at ACA Meetings
115 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 9 July 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analytic gaps in the epidemiological assessment of HIV infection in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 10/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020-2024 (ACA Paper No. 11/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. A brief overview of the UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 (ACA Paper No. 12/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
116 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 8 October 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Study on social and legal marginalisation experienced by transgender people in Hong Kong: Implications for HIV-related behaviours and HIV service provision (ACA Paper No. 13/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Report on the Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021 for the development of the Recommended HIV/AIDS strategies for Hong Kong               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Men who have sex with men,</li> <li>(b) People living with HIV,</li> <li>(c) Adolescent and youth,</li> <li>(d) People who inject drugs,</li> <li>(e) Female sex workers and their male clients,</li> <li>(f) Transgender people,</li> <li>(g) Ethnic minorities</li> </ol>               (ACA Paper No. 14/2020-2023)             </li> </ol>
117 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 14 January 2022 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Framework of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027) (ACA Paper No. 15/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Ageing with HIV (ACA Paper No. 16/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Highlights of World AIDS Campaign 2021 (ACA Paper No. 17/2020-2023)</li> </ol>

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at ACA Meetings
118 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 8 April 2022 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HIV situation analysis and projection for supporting the development of prevention and control strategies in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 18/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Draft of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027) – for stakeholders’ and public consultation (ACA Paper No. 19/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Results of a study of web-based delivery of HIV self-testing with online targeted promotion among key populations in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 20/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
119 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 8 July 2022 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final draft of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027) – Revised after stakeholders’ and public consultation (ACA Paper No. 21/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. A brief overview of the WHO’s Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV 2022-2030 (ACA Paper No. 22/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
120 <sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting 14 October 2022 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report on Youth Sexuality Study 2021 (Secondary School Survey) (ACA Paper No. 23/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Guidance on the use of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Hong Kong by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (August 2022) (ACA Paper No. 24/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Highlights of 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022), Montreal, Canada (ACA Paper No. 25/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
121 <sup>st</sup> ACA Meeting 20 January 2023 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report on Street Addict Survey 2022 (ACA Paper No. 26/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Progress on the support services offered to people with haemophilia and HIV infection (ACA Paper No. 27/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Report on local female sex worker HIV outbreak and intervention in 2022 (ACA Paper No. 28/2020-2023)</li> </ol>

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at ACA Meetings
122 <sup>nd</sup> ACA Meeting 14 April 2023 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2022 (ACA Paper No. 29/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Results of PRiSMTG 2022 - HIV prevalence and risk behavioural survey of men who have sex with men and transgender people in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 30/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
123 <sup>rd</sup> ACA Meeting 14 July 2023 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stigma and discrimination against PLHIV in Hong Kong (ACA Paper No. 31/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Review on the Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers (ACA Paper No. 32/2020-2023)</li> </ol>



## *Overall Attendance Rate of the ACA Members*

ACA meeting	Date	Attendance of 22 gazette members	Overall attendance rate (%)
<b>112<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	19 October 2020	20	91%
<b>113<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	8 January 2021	21	95%
<b>114<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	9 April 2021	19	86%
<b>115<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	9 July 2021	17	81%*
<b>116<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	8 October 2021	18	82%
<b>117<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	14 January 2022	20	91%
<b>118<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	8 April 2022	18	82%
<b>119<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	8 July 2022	14	64%
<b>120<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>	14 October 2022	20	91%
<b>121<sup>st</sup> meeting</b>	20 January 2023	14	64%
<b>122<sup>nd</sup> meeting</b>	14 April 2023	17	77%
<b>123<sup>rd</sup> meeting</b>	14 July 2023	17	77%

\* Since one member resigned from ACA with effect from 28 April 2021 and a replacement member was in effect on 1 August 2021, the number of gazette members was reduced to 21 in the 115<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

## ***CFA Membership List***

### **Convener:**

Mr. CHU Muk-wah, Daniel (*up to 31 December 2022*)

Mr. TONG Tak-fai, Edmond (*from 20 January 2023*)

### **Members:**

Mr. CHAN Chi-ho, Emmanuel ( <i>from 30 November 2021 to 17 February 2022</i> )	Christian Action
Mr. CHAU Chun-yam ( <i>up to 30 November 2021</i> )	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms. CHEUNG Hiu-man, Elle ( <i>up to 15 February 2021</i> )	Christian Action
Ms. CHEUNG Wun-ting, Janet ( <i>up to 29 November 2021</i> )	Hong Kong Red Cross
Ms. CHO Mei-wah ( <i>up to 1 January 2021</i> )	SARDA
Dr. CHU Chung-man, Ferrick	
Ms. CHUI Man-chi, Cherry ( <i>from 1 March 2023</i> )	Action for REACH OUT
Dr. CHUNG Siu-Fung ( <i>from 13 May 2021</i> )	CARAM Asia
Mr. CHUNG Siu-kay, Ken ( <i>from 18 June 2023</i> )	A-Backup
Ms. Elijah FUNG ( <i>up to 26 February 2021</i> )	St. John's Cathedral Life Enrichment Centre
Ms. HO Pik-yuk, Shara	C.H.O.I.C.E.
Miss HUI See-yau, Ivy	The Society for AIDS Care
Mr. KWOK Lap-shu, Emil	Heart to Heart/ACA member
Mr. KO Lin-ki, Alvin ( <i>from 1 December 2021 to 31 September 2022</i> )	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms. LAU Sun-sun, Eris ( <i>up to 28 March 2022</i> )	Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
Mr. LAU Tsz-chun, Jason ( <i>up to 31 October 2021</i> )	AIDS Concern
Ms. LEE Wing-chong, Carol ( <i>from 18 February 2023</i> )	Christian Action

Ms. LEUNG Ka-wai, Heidy <i>(up to 29 November 2021 and from 17 May 2023)</i>	Hong Kong Red Cross
Ms LI Wing-yin, Ruby <i>(from 30 November 2021 to 16 May 2023)</i>	Hong Kong Red Cross
Mr. NGAI Tak-kin	Midnight Blue
Mr. PUI Wing-tai, Beethoven <i>(up to 17 June 2023)</i>	A-Backup
Mr. TANG Siu-kei, Tommy <i>(from 16 February 2021 to 29 November 2021)</i>	Christian Action
Mr. TANG Yiu-kwong, Francis	Gay Harmony
Mr. Henry TSE	Transgender Resource Center
Mr. WONG Chi-shing, Milo <i>(from 1 October 2022)</i>	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Mr. WONG Chun-man, Christopher	
Mr. WONG Ka-ming <i>(from 1 November 2021)</i>	AIDS Concern
Mr. WONG Lai-yin, Anthony	SideBySide
Mr. WONG Man-tat, Timothy <i>(from 29 March 2022)</i>	Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
Mr. YEUNG Yuk <i>(from 2 January 2021)</i>	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA)
Ms. YIK Kwan-pik	Teen's Key
Ms. YIM Kit-sum, Kendy <i>(up to 28 February 2023)</i>	Action for REACH OUT
Ms. YU Po-chu, Pansy	ACA member

**Secretaries:**

***Department of Health:***

Medical and Health Officer (Special Preventive Programme) 3

Senior Executive Officer (Special Preventive Programme)

## *Topics / Issues Discussed at CFA Meetings*

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at CFA Meetings
55 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 18 January 2021 (Monday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2020 - Men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs (CFA Paper No. 1/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Results of the feasibility study of using web-based ordering and result upload to support HIV self-testing among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Hong Kong (CFA Paper No. 2/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
56 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 12 March 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGOs - (i) The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (ii) Christian Action</li> <li>2. HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2020 (CFA Paper No. 3/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
57 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 11 June 2021 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGO - Hong Kong Red Cross</li> <li>2. Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 - 2024 (CFA Paper No. 4/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
58 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 13 September 2021 (Monday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGOs - (i) C.H.O.I.C.E (ii) The Society for AIDS Care</li> <li>2. Highlights of the Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021 (CFA Paper No. 5/2020-2023)</li> </ol>

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at CFA Meetings
59 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 8 December 2021 (Wednesday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Results of Street Addict Survey 2021 by The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers</li> <li>2. Experience sharing by NGO - Hong Kong AIDS Foundation</li> <li>3. A brief overview on indicators for monitoring HIV responses to achieve the targets set in the “UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026”</li> </ol>
60 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 14 March 2022 (Monday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGOs - (i) AIDS Concern (ii) Midnight Blue</li> <li>2. HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2021 (CFA Paper No. 6/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Results of a study of delivery of HIV self-test (HIVST) through internet-based channel with online targeted promotion among key populations in Hong Kong (CFA Paper No. 7/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
61 <sup>st</sup> CFA Meeting 23 June 2022 (Thursday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGOs - (i) A-Backup (ii) Gay Harmony</li> <li>2. Review of the sexual risk behaviour for clients attending Social Hygiene Clinics</li> </ol>
62 <sup>nd</sup> CFA Meeting 9 September 2022 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGO - The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong</li> <li>2. Updates on local HIV outbreak among high risk heterosexuals and intervention (CFA Paper No. 8/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. Highlights of the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS)</li> </ol>
63 <sup>rd</sup> CFA Meeting 8 December 2022 (Thursday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Results of Street Addict Survey 2022 by The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers</li> <li>2. Experience sharing by NGOs - (i) The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (ii) Teen’s Key</li> </ol>

Date of Meeting	Topics / Issues Discussed at CFA Meetings
64 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 17 March 2023 (Friday)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience sharing by NGO - Action for REACH OUT</li> <li>2. Preliminary result of PRiSMTG 2022 (CFA Paper No. 9/2020-2023)</li> <li>3. HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2022 (CFA Paper No. 10/2020-2023)</li> </ol>
65 <sup>th</sup> CFA Meeting 6 June 2023 (Tuesdays)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data analysis of local female sex worker HIV outbreak in 2022 (CFA Paper No. 11/2020-2023)</li> <li>2. Opinion and recommendation on operation of Community Forum on AIDS</li> </ol>

### **ACA Secretariat**

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