

ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

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ACA Secretariat

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. Calendar.

XXXIInd Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30pm 7 April 2000

IInd Meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)

6:00pm 17 February 2000

XVIIIth Meeting of Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 11 February 2000

Ist Meeting of Committee on Promoting Acceptance for People affected by HIV/AIDS

2:30pm 9 March 2000

New Committee on Promoting Acceptance

AT the 31st meeting of the Council on 14 January 2000, it was endorsed that a Committee on promoting acceptance for people affected by HIV/AIDS shall be formed. This will be the third committee under the Council. Not only that care to people living with HIV/AIDS can be enhanced through promoting acceptance, this theme has also been put forth, by the Council, as a main prevention strategy locally to reduce HIV infection of vulnerable communities and the society at large.

Prof. CN Chen has agreed to be the Chairman of this Committee. Members will comprise people from a variety of background, including health care professionals, academics, marketing experts, religious leaders, AIDS workers, people with HIV/AIDS, lawyers, and community leaders. Ms. Wu Hung Yuk, Anna, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission will also join the Committee. The Council is impressed by the enthusiastic response of the community in pursuing with the mission. The Committee is expected to hold the first meeting in early March to kick off its work for the term. ♂



**The Advisory
Council on AIDS
wish ALL an
energetic and
fruitful Chinese New
Year of the Dragon**

Kung Hei Fat Choy



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Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

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Publication

THE Advisory Council on AIDS has lately published a book - "The first decade of AIDS in Hong Kong". The book contained a total of twelve essays contributed by many local workers, and also Prof. KL Zhang from Beijing. Owing to the lengthy process of liaising with University publishers, publication of the book was unexpectedly delayed for a long time.

The book covered different facets relating to prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS in a decade in local setting, with perspectives envisioned by the contributors. Some of the areas are: changing pattern of local infection, impacts of the disease to patients and the society, modalities of care and management, targeted prevention and education, programme evolution and AIDS in China. It enabled a re-collection of past experience and memories for bettering the development of our future programme. The book was edited by Dr. CW Chan and Dr. SS Lee. Complimentary copy can be obtained from the ACA Secretariat. ⌘



Dr. SEX Hotline
2337 2121

The "Ribbon" was relocated

THE sculpture "Ribbon", produced as a key activity of the World AIDS Campaign 1997, has been recently relocated from the Fleming Garden to the Kowloon Park. It is now situated close to the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of the Park. This twin-ribbon sculpture was then crafted by Mr. Van Lau to commemorate our

fight against HIV/AIDS. The art piece was erected by the ACA and five community partners: The Outstanding Young Persons' Association, Lions Club International District 303 (Hong Kong and Macau), Rotary International District 3450 (Hong Kong and Macau), Hong Kong Junior Chamber, and Zonta Club of Victoria. All are most welcome to visit the new "home" of the sculpture. ⌘



CPP Meeting

A "Community Planning Leadership Summit for HIV Prevention" will be held in the Los Angeles, US, from 29 March to 1 April 2000. "Many Paths, One Goal: Preventing HIV" is the theme for this year's Summit, which will offer some 60 workshops, institutes and other sessions designed to enhance the HIV prevention planning skills of participants.

The US Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) has been pushing community planning process (CPP) for more than five years in its country. While borrowing the ideas and principles from the US, it is important for us to develop a locally relevant model of CPP. Participation in the meeting will serve as one means to build up local capacity in taking the process forward. ⌘

Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office
<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

Year end review

THE Department of Health announced, on 1 February 2000, the updated HIV/AIDS statistics in Hong Kong. Fifty-four and fourteen new HIV and AIDS cases were reported respectively in the last quarter of 1999. Sexual transmission remained the most common risk factor, with cumulative heterosexual contacts to homo/bisexual contacts at a ratio of about 2 to 1.

A total of 213 HIV infections were reported in 1999, compared with that of 189 (1998) and 181 (1997). The annual number of AIDS cases dropped slightly to 61 last year, versus that of 63 (1998) and 64 (1997). Though the improved treatment has contributed to decline in AIDS, the often-late presentation of AIDS patients was still obvious. Other prominent features of the scene for 1999 were major relative rise in

reported infections due to injecting drug use (IDU) and mother-to-child transmission. More than 25% and 40% of the cumulative IDU-related and perinatal infections respectively were reported in 1999. The epidemic continued to present challenges to us: the number one sexual transmission, the potential for rapid increase in drug users, and the presence of effective prophylaxis for mother-to-child transmission are but some of them. ⌘

: AIDS Hotline :
: 2780 2211 :
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Spring reception

A spring reception - Charter into the new millennium - will be held at Red Ribbon Centre on 24 February 2000, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. First introduced in 1993, the Community Charter on AIDS was re-launched in 1998, with the Ambassador scheme added. The Charter has long been a local workplace programme, targeting AIDS education and rights for the workforce. A road show campaign is under planning for re-mobilising the signatories. Sharing of work experience is anticipated for sustaining AIDS prevention efforts into the new millennium. ⌘

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 December 1999		
		HIV (AIDS)
Gender	male	1138 (386)
	female	221 (47)
Ethnicity	Chinese	940 (329)
	non-Chinese	419 (104)
Transmission	heterosexual	762 (265)
	homosexual	278 (91)
	bisexual	72 (25)
	injecting drug use	23 (6)
	blood/bl products	68 (18)
	perinatal	10 (4)
	undetermined	146 (24)
TOTAL		1359 (433)

Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR

Current HIV situation in Mainland China

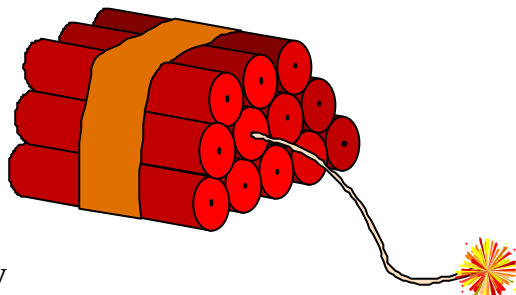
FOCUS

A compilation of the data on HIV/AIDS and its related factors could lead to a better appreciation of the current epidemic in Mainland China. Some of this information was recently collated by the UNAIDS China Office. Below were highlights of the current situation.

CHINA reported its first HIV/AIDS case in 1985. The number of reported cases was scarce in the initial few years and it was not until 1994/95 that a steep rise was witnessed. More than 3,000 new annual infections were found in 1997 and 1998. All 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have now reported incidences of HIV/AIDS.

As of the end of September 1999, a total of 15,088 HIV infections were reported. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Health and the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine have estimated that as of 1998/99, some 400,000 people have been infected with HIV/AIDS. It was further estimated that the figure may rise to 1.2 million by 2000 and to 1.5-10 million by year 2010, depending on the effectiveness of prevention programmes.

The drug-injecting populations have been at the forefront of China's HIV epidemic. Yunnan, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Sichuan and Guangdong were the five provinces most heavily hit. HIV positivity of male injecting drug users (IDU) ranged from 8 to >50%, as



detected at the sentinel surveillance sites of these provinces in 1998. The dynamic nature of the infection was well illustrated by Guangdong which recorded a rise from close to 0% in 1997 to 11% in 1998. Other provinces also have HIV rate rising in IDU, or at high risk of a rise from the common practice of needle-sharing among IDUs.

In 1998, Guangxi,

Xinjiang and Yunnan were the three places with the highest rate of HIV positivity found among sex workers. However, the story would be incomplete without considering the sexually transmitted diseases (STD) scenario. In 1998, 632,307 STD cases were recorded by the National STD Centre in Nanjing, an increase of 37 percent over 1997. But according to the government, this could represent just a tenth of the true figure.

For the STD sentinel surveillance sites, Zhejiang, Shanghai, Fujian, Guangdong and five others have STD incidences above average in 1998. The STD trend has been definitely on the rise over the past few years. The highest rate in 1998 was found to be about 900 annual incidences per 100,000 population. Rate of condom use among sex workers was looked into. On average, some half never used condom, and up to 90% in selected sites did not use condom. ♂