

## ⌘ Calendar ⌘

**XLVI Meeting** of the  
Advisory Council on AIDS  
(ACA)

2:30 pm 2 April 2004

**XXXI Meeting** of the  
Scientific Committee on  
AIDS (SCA)

2:30 pm 30 March 2004

**XV Meeting** of the AIDS  
Prevention and Care  
Committee (APCC)

5:30 pm 19 March 2004

**XIII Meeting** of the  
Committee on Promoting  
Acceptance of People  
Living with HIV/AIDS  
(CPA)

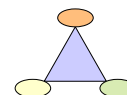
2:30 pm 18 March 2004

### IN THIS ISSUE:



We have  
**Haemophilia and HIV**  
on page 9  
**Council Meeting**  
on page 12  
**HIV Update**  
on pages 10 and 11  
**In and Around**  
**Hong Kong**  
on page 12

## Assessment of stresses and coping strategies of people living with haemophilia and HIV infection in Hong Kong



**Two decades** have elapsed since the HIV epidemic hit the haemophilic community. Once considered an acutely fatal disease, the advance of medical treatment using HAART around 1996 sparked an unprecedented optimism among those survived. They were given hopes to live and establish goals of longer term since then. The current medical and psychosocial needs of those survived are due to be re-evaluated and addressed.

According to the HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system, a total of 64 HIV infections were haemophilic patients who reported to have infected with HIV through transfusion of blood or blood products as of the end of 2003. Twenty of them were reported to have died. It is estimated that about 30 patients are surviving currently.

The ACA has been following up the issue closely. At the last ACA meeting held on 9 January 2004, the meeting agreed to proceed with an assessment plan to evaluate the current needs of the surviving HIV infected haemophiliacs in Hong Kong. Its objectives are:

- (a) To describe how persons living with haemophilia and HIV infection and their carers are coping with the medical and psychosocial stresses;
- (b) To identify areas where these stresses are causing significant problems currently, if any; and
- (c) To propose interventions in response to these problems identified in the study.

A steering group formed by the chair of ACA, CPA and APCC met on 20 January 2004 to deliberate how it might be done. The steering group has decided to invite a panel of advisors and to form a research team.

The assessment will be undertaken by using three different methods to provide detailed analyses and intervention proposal.

The assessment will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods to obtain a detailed understanding of the topic. It is anticipated that the assessment will begin in the second quarter of this year.

# AIDS situation in 2003

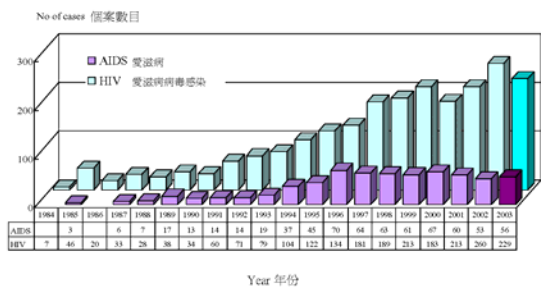
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In the year 2003, a total of 229 HIV cases were reported to the Department of Health (DH), compared to 260 in the preceding year.

## Annual HIV/AIDS statistics

每年愛滋病病毒感染及愛滋病統計

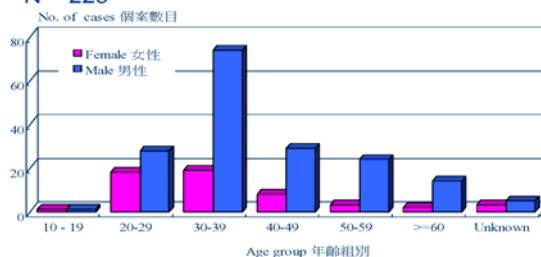
1984 – 2003 (N = 2244 / 669)



- Fourteen per cent of the sexually acquired HIV infection in 2003 were reported in people aged 55 or above, compared to that of less than ten per cent before 1997.

## Age group and gender of reported HIV infection in 2003

2003年感染愛滋病病毒人士之年齡及性別分佈  
N = 229

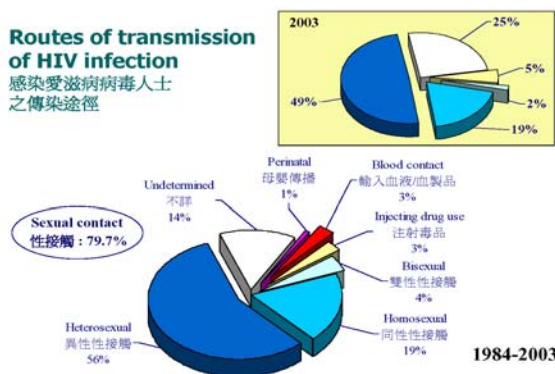


## The highlights of the review of the AIDS situation in Hong Kong are summarized below :

- Sexual transmission has continued to be the most important mode of HIV spread in Hong Kong. Seventy per cent of the newly reported HIV cases contracted HIV through sex.

### Routes of transmission of HIV infection

感染愛滋病病毒人士之傳染途徑



- Noting that infection in injection drug users still accounted for only five per cent of the reported cases, the significant proportion of this group of people in the new reports is a matter of concern.

- A pilot scheme was introduced offering voluntary HIV test to all attendees of the Methadone clinics, nine out of 1 834 people were tested positive in the scheme. The scheme has been rolled out to all methadone clinics on a yearly basis, beginning January 2004.

- Referring to mother-to-child transmission of HIV, this kind of transmission has become a rarity since the implementation of the Universal Antenatal HIV Testing Programme in September 2001. No new perinatal infections had been diagnosed since the introduction of the programme and only six HIV positive pregnant women were diagnosed in 2003.

- Though heterosexual transmission predominated 113 cases, 48 had occurred between men having sex with men.

- In 2003, 56 AIDS cases were reported to DH. The number of AIDS reports has remained stable since 1997, a phenomenon which is attributable to the use of effective HAART (highly active antiretroviral treatment) in HIV patients.

- Under the voluntary reporting system, some twenty-five per cent of the reports were incomplete, making the determination of the route of infection impossible.

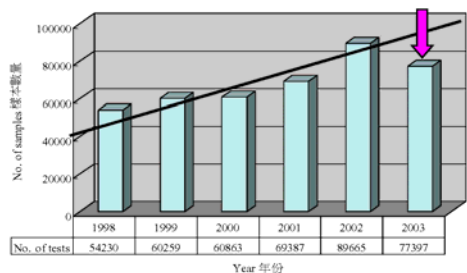
- It is estimated that over 3 000 persons are living with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. The high HIV rates in neighbouring cities, extensive human mobility across borders and the practice of risk behaviour are some of the factors that may predispose to a upsurge of the epidemic.

**There are four salient points in the review :**

- ✦ Fall in the number of reported HIV infection in 2003, probably as a result of the SARS outbreak that affected HIV testing behaviour.

**A drop in the number of HIV tests performed by DH in 2003**

二零零三年衛生署愛滋病毒抗體測試數目下降



- ✦ Reported AIDS was low at 56, parallel with improving mortality and morbidity
- ✦ Infection in young men (<25 years of age) and middle to elderly (age 55 or above) is a cause for concern.
- ✦ More drug users are becoming diagnosed with the infection.

**The three key messages are :**

- ❖ Go for blood test : 27802211
- ❖ Break the needle habit; Methadone does it
- ❖ Use condom for safer sex

**HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG**

香港愛滋病毒感染及愛滋病統計數字  
HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG

截至二零零三年十二月三十一日  
updated 31 December 2003

		2002		2003		累積個案 Cumulative	
		愛滋病 病毒感染 HIV	愛滋病 AIDS	愛滋病 病毒感染 HIV	愛滋病 AIDS	愛滋病 病毒感染 HIV	愛滋病 AIDS
		<b>性別</b> Sex	男 Male	201	41	175	44
	女 Female	59	12	54	12	432	93
<b>種族</b> Ethnicity	華裔 Chinese	185	42	158	45	1557	523
	非華裔 Non-Chinese	75	11	71	11	687	146
<b>傳染途徑</b> Route of Transmission	性行為 Sexual Contacts	202	47	161	53	1789	594
	異性性接觸 Heterosexual	146	37	113	46	1263	452
	同性性接觸 Homosexual	47	8	44	7	428	112
	雙性性接觸 Bisexual	9	2	4	0	98	30
	注射毒品人士 Injecting drug use	10	1	11	0	65	10
	輸入血液/血製品 Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	0	1	68	20
	母嬰傳播 Perinatal	1	0	0	0	15	6
	不詳 Undetermined	47	5	57	2	307	39
	<b>總數</b> Total	<b>260</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2244</b>	<b>669</b>

## The 13<sup>th</sup> CPA Meeting

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS has been postponed from 4 March 2004 to **18 March 2004** at 2:30 pm at the Red Ribbon Centre. There are three major items on the agenda:

- I. A review of progress of implementing the strategies adopted by the CPA
- II. Recommended ethical principles on partner counselling and referral for HIV infected individuals in Hong Kong
- III. Recommended ethical principles regarding the use of assisted reproduction in HIV infected individuals - A summary of feedback from consulted bodies and organizations.

If you want to know to what extent the CPA lives up to its strategies, keep up with the Newsfile.



Treating 3 million people by the end of 2005 will require concerted, sustained action by many partners. To chart the direction and to show what WHO itself will be doing to accelerate action, WHO has developed an initial strategic framework. WHO's 3 by 5 team assembled and refined the framework in intensive consultation with partners. This consultation will continue, and the framework itself will continue to evolve.

WHO's strategic framework for emergency scaling up of antiretroviral therapy contains 14 key strategic elements. These elements fall into five categories - the pillars of the 3 by 5 campaign:

- global leadership, strong partnership and advocacy
- urgent, sustained country support
- simplified, standardized tools for delivering antiretroviral therapy
- effective, reliable supply of medicines and diagnostics
- rapidly identifying and reapplying new knowledge and successes

Interested readers may visit [www.who.int/3by5](http://www.who.int/3by5) for details.



## Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS

The theme for the World AIDS Campaign 2004 is **Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS**. The year-long campaign, culminating in the World AIDS Day on 1 December, seeks to accelerate the global response to HIV and AIDS through a focus on women and girls - preventing new infections, promoting equal access to treatment and mitigating the impact of AIDS.

With the theme in mind, the Red Ribbon Centre - the UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support, has organized a street-roving exhibition bearing the theme of "Women and AIDS" in the streets of the territory throughout the year 2004. The aim of the exhibition is to increase women's knowledge of HIV/AIDS as well as the mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS so that they can protect themselves from getting the infection. So get a "safety" kit as the souvenir from the exhibition booth when you see one. Click on "What's New" at the Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong to check up on the time and location of the roving exhibition at: [www.aids.gov.hk](http://www.aids.gov.hk).

## 2004 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases

The Council Secretary, Dr SS LEE will attend the 2004 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases to be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia, USA from February 29 to March 3, 2004.

The conference brings together public health professionals to encourage the exchange of scientific and public health information on global emerging infectious disease issues. The programme will include plenary sessions and symposia with invited speakers and oral and poster presentations on emerging infections. Major topics include current work on surveillance, epidemiology, research, communication and training, bioterrorism, and prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases.

