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Schedule

- **59th ACA Meeting on 6 July 2007**
- **7th CFA Meeting on 26 June 2007**



ACA and CFA meeting with Dr Tim Brown

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health has engaged Dr Tim Brown, Senior Fellow, the Population and Health Studies of the East-West Centre into a 2-year external consultancy on supporting the strengthening of HIV prevention and control in response to rising epidemic in Hong Kong since the beginning of the year 2007. Dr Brown was visiting Hong Kong from 19 to 26 May 2007 in relation to his consultancy study.

ACA and CFA had taken the opportunity to hold special meetings with Dr Brown on the afternoons of 21 and 25 May 2007 respectively at the Conference

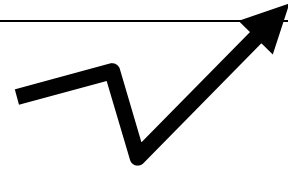
Room of the Red Ribbon Centre. Dr. Brown discussed with members on the recently released ACA strategies and prioritisation of programmes according to epidemiological data as well as the latest epidemic and communities responses.

During his stay in Hong Kong, Dr Brown also met with members of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund for understanding the existing funding mechanism and held a workshop on Translating data into actions – To discuss the application of data analysis in programme planning and facilitate an evidence-based practice in prevention actions.





HIV/AIDS situation in first quarter of 2007



Number of new infections

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health on 29 May 2007 revealed that **91** people were tested positive for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus - the cause of AIDS) antibody in the first quarter of 2007, bringing the cumulative total of reported HIV infections to **3,289**. The 91 cases comprised **72** males and **19** females.

There were **20** new cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) reported in the same quarter, bringing to **875** the total number of confirmed AIDS cases reported since 1985.

Route of transmission

It was reported that the predominant route of HIV transmission in this quarter remained to be sexual contact. Of the 91 new HIV cases reported, **20** acquired the infection via heterosexual contact, **35** via homosexual or bisexual contact, **seven** via injection of drug and **one** case of blood/blood product infusion. The routes of transmission of the remaining **28** cases were undetermined due to insufficient data.

Source of reporting

The newly diagnosed cases of this quarter were reported by four major sources: public hospitals and clinics (37), private hospitals and clinics (25), Social Hygiene Clinics (11) and the DH's AIDS Counselling and Testing Service (13). Of the newly reported cases in this quarter, 56 (61.5%) have received care at the HIV specialist services of the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority.

Clusters of HIV infection

People with a history of unprotected sex were called on to go for an HIV test. The appeal was made after one of the clusters of HIV infection, with similar genetic sequencing was found to have expanded, echoing rising number of reported HIV infections in men who have sex with men. These suggested the presence of a rapid local HIV transmission among the affected people in Hong Kong.

The cluster had expanded from 34 to 53 cases as at the end of March this year. These cases belonged to HIV-1 Subtype B, a type of HIV infection. They were all men aged between 22 and 54. Of them, forty-six were Chinese. Most newly added cases were reported between October, 2006, and March, 2007. Homosexual and bisexual contacts (sex between men) were the most common mode of transmission in this cluster, which accounted for 79%.

Summary

- 91 HIV infection were reported to DH in the first quarter of 2007.
- 20 AIDS reports were received, a stable level in the past few years.
- No. of HIV reports through MSM transmission is increasing.
- One of HIV-1 Subtype B clusters expanded from 34 to 53 HIV infections. Most newly added cases were reported between October 2006 and March 2007.
- These suggested the presence of a local HIV transmission in Hong Kong.

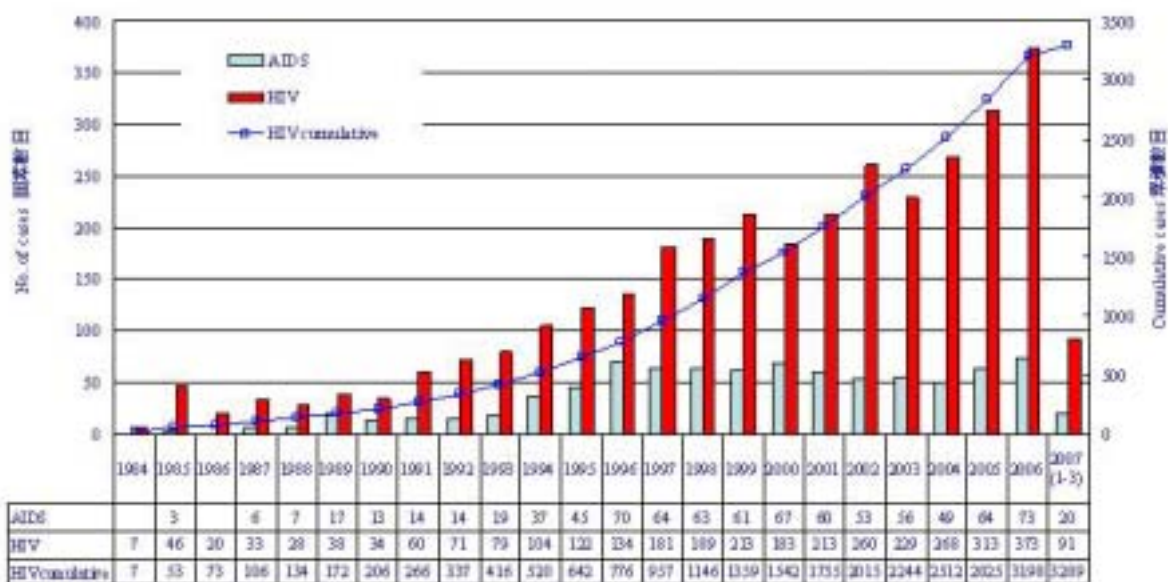




Annual HIV/AIDS Statistics

香港每年愛滋病病毒感染及愛滋病統計

1984 – March 2007, Hong Kong (N=3289/875)



資料來源

6

HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG		updated 31 March 2007			
		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		HIV	AIDS	HIV	AIDS
Sex	Male	72	17	2649	749
	Female	19	3	640	126
Ethnicity	Chinese	56	15	2233	680
	Non-Chinese	35	5	1056	195
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	55	12	2473	755
	Heterosexual	20	8	1630	562
	Homosexual	31	4	708	157
	Bisexual	4	0	135	36
	Injecting drug use	7	3	181	28
	Blood/blood products recipients	1	0	73	21
	Perinatal	0	0	19	6
	Undetermined	28	5	543	65
Total		91	20	3289	875

The Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health reported two clusters of HIV-1 Subtype B infections with similar gene sequencing last year. As at the end of March 2007, one of them expanded from 34 to 53 HIV infections.

What is a cluster of HIV-1 infections with similar gene sequencing?

- HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, can further be classified into different subtypes according to their genetic makeup.
- HIV is prone to mutate during replication. Therefore the gene sequencings of HIV infection in different individuals vary.
- HIV infections between closely related individuals may present with similar gene sequencing.
- The detection of a cluster of HIV infection suggests the presence of a rapid local HIV transmission among the affected people.
- The Public Health Laboratory Centre, CHP examines the gene sequences of most confirmed HIV positive blood specimens.

Characteristics of Cluster I

Number of cases	53
Gender	All male
Ethnicity	46 Chinese (87%) with 45 known HK residents
Date of HIV report	November 2003 to March 2007
Age range	22-54 (33)
Major source of reporting	Social Hygiene clinics, Public hospitals and Private clinics
Reported route of transmission	Homosexual and bisexual

Time of reporting of cases in Cluster I

2003 –2007 Q1 (N=53)

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 Q1
No. of cases in Cluster I	2	8	12	20	11
No. of MSM	2	6	9	16	9
No. of cases with heterosexual contact	0	1	2	3	1
No. of blood contact	0	0	1	0	0
No. of cases with undetermined risk	0	1	0	1	1

★Special Project Fund

The AIDS Trust Fund successfully launched a Special Project Fund (SPF) for HIV prevention project targeting MSM on 1 December 2006. There was an encouraging response in the first round of application. A total of 15 out of 24 applications were approved by the Council, amounting to HK\$4,316,146. We are also delighted that proposals from new community groups and MSM groups were received. Most proposals were meaningful and innovative.

The second round of the SPF applications opens on 1 June 2007 and closes on 1 August 2007. Please refer to application guidelines for details.

Applicants are encouraged to submit project proposals in the following target areas in the second

round:-

- A4-Reducing HIV risk in the context of recreational drug abuse;
- B3-Promote holistic approach to the promotion of sexual health and management of sexually transmitted infections among MSM; and
- RA2-Pattern of use of drug abuse/recreational drug use and its associated risk for HIV infection.
- RA4-Awareness and attitudes towards HIV testing among MSM and their testing pattern

★The application form and guidelines are available on <http://www.info.gov.hk/atf/english/spf.html>. For enquires, please contact the ATF Secretariat at atf@dh.gov.hk.