NEWSFILE

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

Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Kenneth NG ACA Secretariat

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70th ACA Meeting

More about 70th ACA meeting held on 9 April 2010

~Calendar~
16 Sept 2010
19th CFA Meeting
29 Oct 2010
72nd ACA Meeting

1990 - 2010

Construction of Core Indicators for Hong Kong Using the UNGASS Framework for 2010 Reporting

- The meeting was introduced the paper which presented local data using the framework of the guidelines on construction of core indicators for 2010 Reporting issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS (UNAIDS) that could be used as the third set of core indicators for monitoring Hong Kong's response to HIV / AIDS. While the core indicators would facilitate Hong Kong to benchmark performance, cross comparison with other places should be interpreted with care since different countries might have different data collection and presentation methods. In addition, use of available data (with modification of indicators) and not data purposely collected from the outset for these UNGASS indicators precluded accurate reflection of what each indicator meant for. Moreover, several UNGASS indicators were irrelevant to Hong Kong. Given these limitations, instead of adopting further UNGASS indicators, it was highlighted that it might be more worthwhile to develop a local set of indicators to monitor and evaluate the local epidemic situation and response. The meeting then went through each indicator one by one in details.
- On drug cost front, it was suggested that the Hospital Authority could provide the HIV drug expenditure spent by the Hospital Authority. It was noted that the Secretariat had received the figures and would be incorporated into the paper.
- On the question of sex education in school, the meeting noted that knowledge based skills and values were taught in

Website: http://www.aca.gov.hk

- school in a holistic manner. AIDS education was included in the school curriculum, such as the subject of General Studies at primary level; the Personal, Social and Humanities Education; Science Education; Technology Education Key Learning Areas as well as the subject Liberal Studies at secondary level. To monitor the implementation of the curriculum, surveys, inspection as well as school visits would be conducted. While the school had not been asked specifically whether they had provided life-skills based HIV education, the Education Bureau would conduct holistic surveys to monitor the implementation of the curriculum. Members were informed that professional development programmes had been regularly organized for teachers to overcome their shyness in teaching subjects concerning AIDS. Furthermore, resources materials produced by the Education Bureau were available at the website for teachers' reference.
- Members noted that the Community Forum on AIDS had discussed the same issue on 18 March 2010 and it was suggested that the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organization could take up the task of coordinating the input from the civil society for preparing Part B of the National Composite policy Index questionnaire.

Continued on next page

Happy Mid-autumn Festival



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Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Workers (CRiSP) in Hong Kong 2009

- Members were presented the paper Community-based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey (CRiSP) 2009 which aimed to assess HIV prevention activities, HIV risk behavioural data and HIV seroprevalence among female sex workers (FSW) in Hong Kong. The meeting was introduced the methods and results of the second round of CRiSP. Several limitations of the survey such as inability to reach FSW like call girls and those working in hidden brothels, had been highlighted. It was concluded that CRiSP 2009 revealed a stable HIV prevalence, similar risk behaviours, comparable HIV testing rate and access to HIV prevention services among FSW in major sex work settings in Hong Kong when compared with 2006 data.
- Regarding the access of non-Chinese sex workers to assistance offered by non-governmental organizations, members noted that since NGOs had good connections with the responsible persons of venues like bars, they should have no problems to reach out their targets for HIV prevention and education testing though they might face access barrier to some venues like Karaoke.
- On the accessibility to HIV testing, the meeting noted that the NGOs would outreach to the venues and invite the potential clients to conduct testing.
- The meeting was informed that the focus groups had involved FSW working in different settings to discuss their work pattern, risk behaviour and access to various HIV prevention activities. Inputs from focus groups had allowed better design of questions of the survey to reflect the risk patterns. However, the answers given by the respondents should be interpreted with care given the various limitations.
- The meeting observed that about 10 % of respondents had been reported to have sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past. He considered that the co-existence of STI could facilitate HIV transmission which also implied that significant portion of activities had involved unsafe sex. Coupled with the information that the survey showed that there were infections which had not been properly been treated, consideration should be given to address health seeking behaviours.

Understanding the Epidemiology of HIV in the Pearl River Delta Region from a Collaborative Cyber Surveillance Platform

- The meeting was presented the paper on a Pearl River Delta HIV epidemiology electronic platform, which aimed to share and exchange key surveillance information among 12 Pearl River Delta (PRD) cities.
- HIV epidemiology cyber project of the PRD was successfully implemented in the last few years, and had gradually evolved into a mature platform for systematic data collection and interpretation. The meeting noted the following factors leading to its success:
- (a) the importance of appraising HIV/AIDS situation from a regional perspective was acknowledged by the stakeholders;
- (b) there was commitment and trust of the HIV public health professionals of the PRD, especially among several closer linked cities;
- (c) administrative and policy support was indispensable; and
- (d) instead of embarking on new surveys, existing surveillance data were collected from the participating cities, put together, collated and analysed.
- It was cautioned that the findings of the platform might not be directly comparable across cities due to different data sources. Rather, the trend of HIV situation over time for each city and the Region as a whole was more meaningful.
- It was concluded that since there would be ever-growing human mobility and interactions in the PRD against the continual integration in economic and other relationships, the future HIV risk and epidemic could remain dynamic across this Region and all of us should remain vigilant in monitoring the evolution for

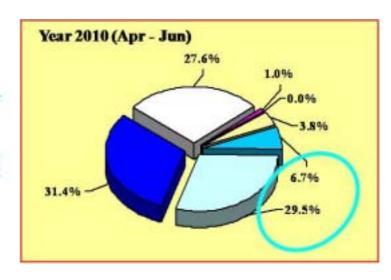
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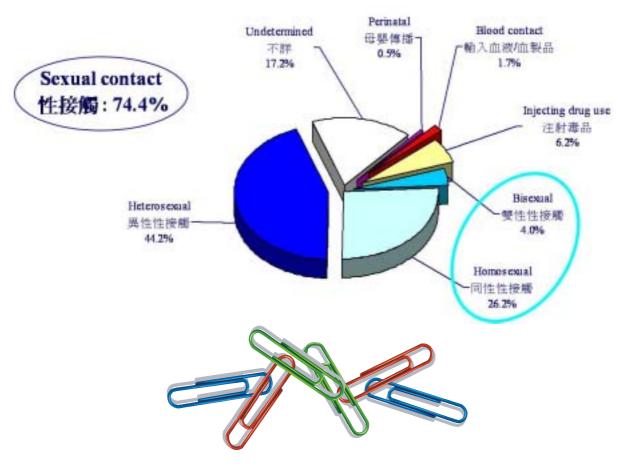
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Routes of transmission of HIV infection

感染愛滋病病毒人士之傳染途徑 1984 – June 2010 (N=4649)





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HIV/AIDS Situation in 2nd Quarter 2010

updated on 30 June 2010

		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	74	13	3724	975
	Female	31	3	925	166
Ethnicity	Chinese	66	12	3088	886
	Non-Chinese	39	4	1561	255
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	71	14	3459	984
	Heterosexual	33	8	2054	700
	Homosexual	31	5	1217	239
	Bisexual	7	1	188	45
	Injecting drug use	4	0	288	46
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	79	24
	Perinatal	1	0	25	7
	Undetermined	29	2	798	80
	Total	105	16	4649	1141

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