

Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

15 Mar 2011 - 21st CFA Meeting

8 Apr 2011- 74th ACA Meeting

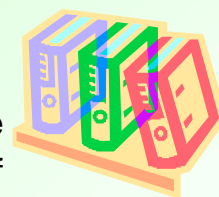
A Summary of the 72nd ACA Meeting held on 29 October 2010



Technical Consultation on Community Assessment and Evaluation for the ACA Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies 2012 -2016

Members noted that the paper served to outline the approach of community consultation for providing input towards the development of HIV/AIDS Strategies in Hong Kong from year 2012 to 2016 by Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS. It was agreed that the community assessment and consultation was one key component in mapping out the strategy. Taking reference on the experience of formulating previous strategies, involvement of a wider community including community experts, key agencies, stakeholders and other persons through a multi-day stakeholders consultation meeting was suggested rather than setting up a few working groups on vulnerable populations. Since there could be stakeholders and interested public who could not attend the consultation meeting, an online opinion collection channel would be opened to gauge any views on the new Strategies.

CFA agreed to join hands with Hong Kong Coalition on AIDS Service Organizations for organizing the consultation meeting in the first quarter of 2011. The aim of the Working Group for the Community Stakeholders Consultation Meeting was to generate informed discussion and insights that were useful for formulating the next ACA Recommended Strategies. The outcome of the Meeting would be summarized in a synthesis report and made available to community partners and service organizations. The synthesis report, together with findings of the online opinion survey would be put forward to ACA in its April 2011 Meeting for consideration.



Continued on next page.....

Continued - Summary of 72nd ACA Meeting



Asia Internet MSM Sex Survey 2010



Members noted that HIV infection among men having sex with men (MSM) had become a particular concern in recent years with rising number of reports since 2003. Homosexual and bisexual contacts as route of transmission contributed to at least 40% of all HIV cases and 53% of infections in men in 2009. Studies suggested that internet use correlated closely with sex networking among MSM. Studies concerning MSM were mainly based on sampling at gay venues presenting a need for further studying MSM via targeted internet survey.

In early 2010, the Department of Health (DH) collaborated with Fridae Hong Kong Limited which runs the most popular wide coverage gay website in Asia including Hong Kong, www.fridae.com, in conducting its internet-based MSM survey, namely Asia Internet MSM Sex Survey (AIMSS), which was one of the biggest of its kind in Asia.

The meeting noted that AIMSS 2010 provided some epidemiological information which was relevant to the planning of preventive intervention. First, it revealed that, regardless of which partner type, condom use during first anal sex was significantly associated with consistent condom use in recent anal sex. With more than two-third of MSM having their first anal sex aged 15 to 24 and another 4% even aged below 15, promoting condom use at first anal sex with a target at young MSM appeared to be one reasonable approach in boosting consistent condom use in subsequent anal sex, especially in light of high proportions of their first anal sex being unprotected (over 40%) and receptive (about 74%) which carried HIV risk double to that of insertive unprotected anal intercourse.

Although HIV testing promotion targeting at aged 60 could potentially identify more MSM who had recreational drug consumption and other higher behavioural risks, data suggested more efforts were also needed for those aged 30-59 who were less likely to have recent HIV testing (i.e. within the past year), particularly among the Chinese. Reinforcing the use of both STI testing and partner referral would offer reasonable platform for improving recent HIV testing as they were both significantly associated with recent HIV testing behaviour, which could pick up HIV positive cases earlier for treatment and care.

It was concluded that in view of the comparatively higher level of risk behaviours but lower level of prevention received by the internet-based MSM, this specific population demanded attention. Clearly, more could be done to design and review preventive interventions, so as to better penetrate the internet-based MSM segment, with joint effort of community organizations and the population at large, taking into reference the various predictors associated with certain important risk behaviors. Furthermore, surveillance efforts covering as many high risk MSM segments as possible would still be needed to gauge the coverage of such preventive actions and its effectiveness in reducing the risk of HIV transmission for MSM.

Regarding members' suggestion on increasing the target internet viewers/respondents by using poly-lingual questionnaire, the meeting noted that suggestion would be made to Fridae Hong Kong Limited to include Japanese, Napalese, Indian, Pakistan languages in future survey.

The meeting considered that since the survey shed valuable light on MSM sexual behaviour, it should be provided to the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) for reference. As to whether such a survey would be conducted in future, the meeting agreed that it was worthwhile to continue with such a survey but attention should be drawn to less than expected response rate if the in-between time of similar survey was short since the internet respondents might not complete the questionnaires again.



Report on the 18th International AIDS Conference, Vienna, July 2010

Members noted the theme of the Vienna AIDS Conference being "Rights Here, Right Now". This was to highlight the critical connection between human rights and HIV, and the pressing need to meet the universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by year 2010 as set by world leaders. Considerable attention was also given to examine counterproductive drug policies and call for the incorporation of scientific evidence into the reform of illicit drug policies through the Vienna Declaration.

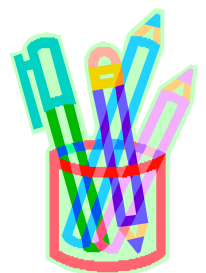
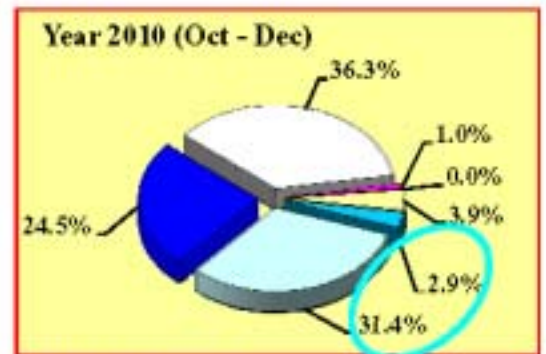
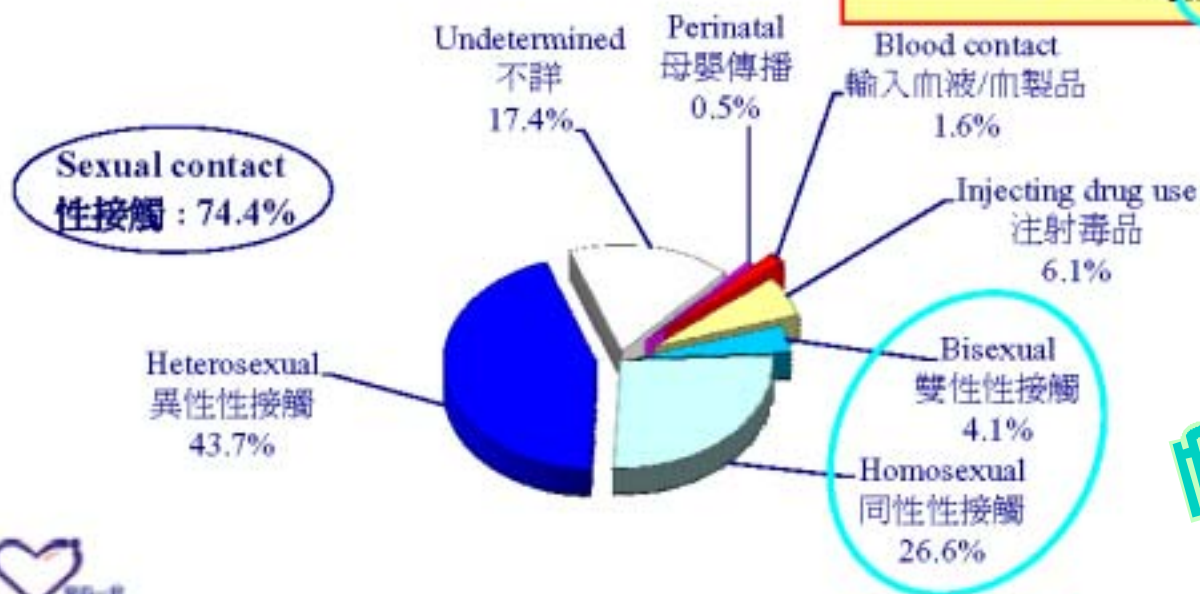
It was concluded that with early introduction of a fairly comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support programme, multi-sectoral participation and a supportive environment in Hong Kong, the HIV prevalence among general populations and at-risk populations had been kept at a low/relatively low level. Nonetheless, Hong Kong was a dynamic society with high population mobility and constant economic & socio-cultural influence from vicinity areas as well as the rest of the world. It was prudent to remain vigilant, regularly monitor the situations and review the latest evidence, and respond with the right strategies on both prevention and care.

HIV/AIDS Situation

Routes of transmission of HIV infection


感染愛滋病毒人士之傳染途徑

1984 – 2010 (N=4832)



HIV/AIDS Situation

HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong - updated 31 December 2010

		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	67	11	3857	1010
	Female	35	3	975	175
Ethnicity	Chinese	58	8	3202	918
	Non-Chinese	44	6	1630	267
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	60	10	3593	1021
	Heterosexual	25	5	2111	719
	Homosexual	32	4	1283	254
	Bisexual	3	1	199	48
	Injecting drug use	4	2	295	48
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	79	24
	Perinatal	1	1	26	8
	Undetermined	37	1	839	84
	Total	102	14	4832	1185