



Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mrs Ellen LAU, ACA Secretariat

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211



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~ Calendar ~

**31st CFA Meeting
11 December 2013**

**85th ACA Meeting
10 January 2014**



A Summary of 84th ACA Meeting held on 4 October 2013



Review on the first year implementation of ACA Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies 2012-2016

The Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, 2012 – 2016 (the Strategies) were released by ACA in April 2012. For closer monitoring of the progress of implementing the Strategies and earlier identification of any gaps in existing programmes, it had been agreed that an annual review would be conducted. Relevant input had been sought from CFA members and 33 parties in the public sector and community organizations between June and September 2013. Based on the information gathered, a list of known initiatives corresponding to the five priority action areas of the Strategies, and a quantitative summary of the major interventions at individual and group level were compiled. The list of known initiatives related to the Strategies were further discussed.

Taking into account the comments and discussions, the Secretariat had prepared and uploaded the summary list of known initiatives related to the Recommended Strategies to the ACA website on 30 October 2013.



ACA NEWSFILE



more about 84th ACA Meeting held on 4 October 2013



Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members were briefed on the major discussion of the 30th CFA Meeting held on 11 September 2013 (and a summary of this CFA Meeting was given in the ACA Newsfile issued in October 2013).



Draft ACA Annual Report (2011-12)

The draft ACA Annual Report (2011-12) had been sent to all members. Taking into consideration members' comments, the Secretariat would revise the draft and arrange for printing of the report.



Preliminary results of the first HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) – MSM and male clients of female sex workers (SWC)

The preliminary results of HARiS concerning the two populations of MSM and SWC were presented during the meeting. Members noted that the purpose of HARiS was to measure the effectiveness of the HIV prevention response conducted by various NGOs as a whole and over time, instead of assessment of HIV epidemics and sexual and health service seeking behaviours of the four target populations over our local territory. For the SWC, the HIV testing rate in the past one year was 30.9%, and the condom use rate at the last vaginal sex with regular sex partners was 55.6%. Private sector was their most common testing venue. For the MSM, the HIV testing rate in the past one year was 60.1%, and the condom use rate in the last anal sex ranged from 67.0% to 86.4% depending on partner types. Possibility of replacing PRiSM by HARiS would be explored as results of both surveys were similar. The Chairperson opined that HARiS could be conducted more frequently as it was quick and simple while PRiSM could be carried out when more detailed information was deemed necessary. The Secretariat would present the second part of HARiS on female sex workers and injection drug users in the next ACA Meeting in January 2014.



Baseline study on life-skills based (LSB) HIV education in secondary schools

Members were briefed on a document titled “Finalized action plan to promote Life Skills-based HIV education in junior levels of secondary schools (Action Plan)”. The major categories covered in this Action Plan included advocacy to schools, provision of technical support and empowerment of teachers. Members exchanged their views and generally agreed with the various measures proposed in this Action Plan. The Chairperson considered that the Task Force should continue to follow up on its implementation and emphasized that HIV education should be incorporated into sex education in order to enhance its relevance within the school setting.

Discussion on abandoning condom as prostitution evidence

ACA had sent a further letter to the Police on 3 September 2013, copied to Secretary of Justice, Secretary for Security and Secretary for Food and Health. A reply letter dated 25 September 2013 was subsequently received from the Police. In brief, the Police reiterated that prostitution itself was not illegal in Hong Kong, and their enforcement priority was against those organized prostitution activities that exploit sex workers and prostitution involving underage persons and visitors. The Police also mentioned that condom as prostitution evidence had not occurred to be a concern during regular meetings and communications with their representatives such as the sex workers concern groups and relevant NGOs in the past few years. Although the Police’s line remained status quo, they explicitly stated *“Please be reassured that only items with absolute evidential value would be seized and law enforcement action has not been and would not be solely based on possession of condoms”*. They would continue to address sex workers’ concerns and enhance mutual understanding through their established channels by explaining their enforcement priority. Members further discussed the matter and agreed that CFA members and NGOs would be informed about the actions that ACA had taken and the response and reassurance from the Police. NGOs would be encouraged to bring to ACA’s attention any encounter with Police action that contravenes what was stated in the reply from the Police. The Police’s reply in extract form was conveyed to members of CFA and other NGOs in early November 2013.



HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong - updated 30 September 2013

		Q3 2013		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	125	21	4,926	1,189
	Female	28	2	1,272	221
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Ethnicity	Chinese	114	19	4,125	1,090
	Non-Chinese	29	4	1,990	320
	Unknown	10	0	83	0
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Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	112	19	4,645	1,212
	- <i>Heterosexual</i>	34	6	2,480	806
	- <i>Homosexual</i>	70	13	1,910	347
	- <i>Bisexual</i>	8	0	255	59
	Injecting drug use	2	2	323	58
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	83	24
	Perinatal	0	0	27	8
Undetermined	39	2	1,120	108	
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Total		153	23	6,198	1,410

