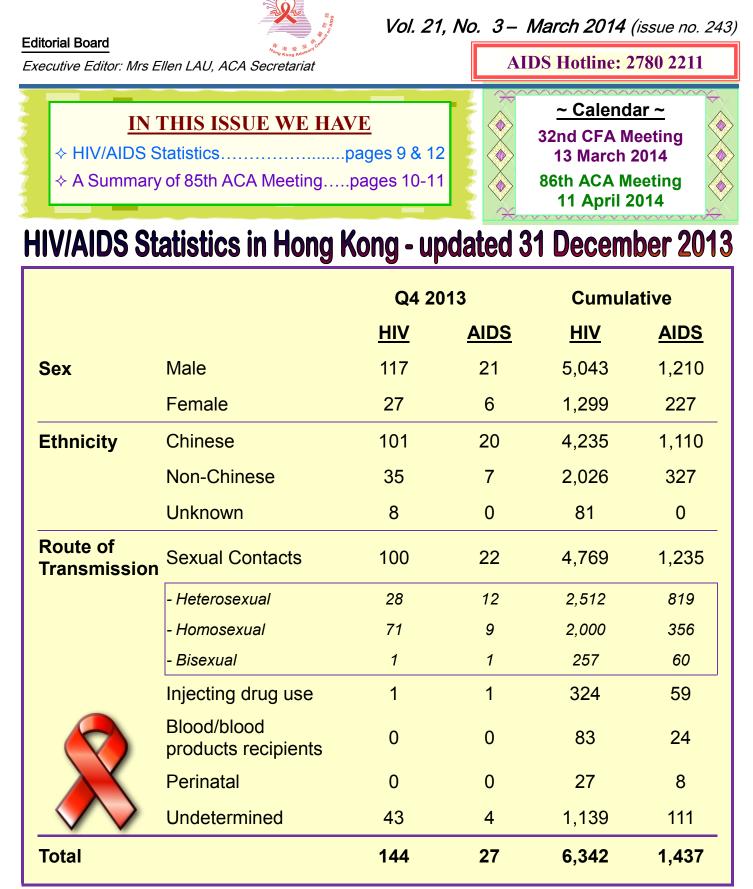
ACA NEWSFILE

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



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A Summary of 85th ACA Meeting held on 10 January 2014

HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2013 – Gauging the latest HIV risk behaviours and sero-prevalence among female sex workers (FSW)

The HARiS 2013 – FSW found that venue-recruited FSW, who were in general older than the internet-recruited counterparts (median age: 36 vs 20), showed higher rates of consistent condom use (>92% vs <65%); lower HIV testing rate in the past 12 months (61.0% vs 76.2%); and greater tendency to seek formal medical advice for STI (54.5% vs 42.8%). Among those aged \leq 24, although 96% realized that condom could help prevent HIV, their STI knowledge was in general inadequate. Urine tests found 8.2% infected with chlamydia but none was positive for HIV. When compared to CRiSPs 2006 and 2009, both the rates of condom use and HIV testing had increased.

ACA observed that internet-recruited FSW, being relatively young, might lack the bargaining power for condom use. Efforts should be stepped up to promote HIV prevention through the use of electronic platforms. NGOs were encouraged to apply for funding from ATF to explore innovative projects for hard-to-reach FSW.

HARiS 2013 – Preliminary findings of injecting drug users (IDU)

The HARiS 2013 – IDU found that although 63.7% IDU had HIV test within the past 12 months, 23.4% Chinese IDU had never been tested before. Methadone users were 3.6 times more likely to have had HIV test in past 12 months. The overall condom use rate with regular partners was low (39.3%). Sharing injection equipment was not common (9.4%). Nepalese IDU, when compared to the Chinese IDU, were younger and more likely to be involved in commercial sex and drug injection.

The different results between HARiS 2013 and the Street Addict Survey (SAS) shed light on the possible difference of risky behaviours among IDU subgroups (eg. different ethnic groups). Future HARiS should consider segregated analysis of different ethnicities of IDU.

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World AIDS Campaign (WAC) 2013 in Hong Kong

The activities organized by SPP for World AIDS Day 2013 included a series of radio programmes, a "Safe Journey" drama premiere cum ceremony, reciprocal participation of activities between Macao and Shenzhen health authorities, and distribution of related materials including WAC posters and calendars.

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

The Education Bureau (EDB) and the Department of Health (DH) had issued letters to primary and secondary schools on 3 January 2014 to –

(a) announce the survey findings;

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- (b) encourage schools to strengthen LSB HIV/AIDS and sex education by inviting NGOs to deliver programs or by joining the Red Ribbon in Action Education Funding Scheme of DH; and
- (c) invite them to join the multi-sectoral seminar in March 2014.

The relevant materials were uploaded onto both the DH and EDB websites. The Task Force would continue to follow up the issue.

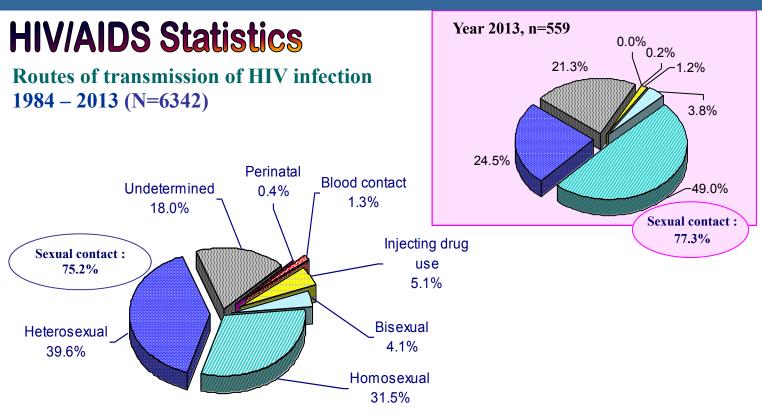
Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members noted the discussion of the 31st CFA Meeting held on 11 December 2013, a summary of which was given in the February 2014 issue of ACA Newsfile. The Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC)'s practice of excluding MSM from blood donation was discussed. The ACA understood that that infusion or injection of blood or blood products into the human body always carried risk, and HKRC's goal was to reduce the risk as far as possible through the current measures. Members agreed that the issue should be decided by the experts and professionals in HKRC. The ACA Secretariat would refer this matter to HA for information and consideration.

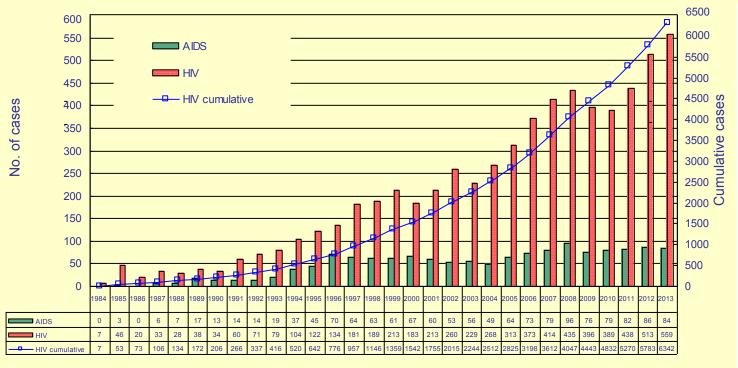
A Summary of the 28th SCAS Meeting

A Summary of the 28th Meeting of SCAS held on 22 October 2013 was tabled at the meeting and noted.





Annual HIV/AIDS Statistics 1984 – 2013, Hong Kong (N=6342/1437)



Year

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