



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

36th CFA Meeting
10 June 2015

Announcement of HARiS 2014 factsheets

HARiS 2014 Factsheets

The results of HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2014 conducted by the Department of Health are now available. HARiS 2014 is a behavioural and seroprevalence survey that covered five vulnerable groups, namely men who have sex with men (MSM), male-to-female transgender persons (TG), clients of female sex workers (FSWC), female sex workers (FSW) and injecting drug users (IDU). HARiS also monitors the coverage and effectiveness of the collective community response. The HARiS findings have been compiled as factsheets with bilingual versions available at the Virtual AIDS Office website (<http://www.aids.gov.hk/>).



A Summary of the 35th CFA Meeting held on 18 March 2015

Review of local HIV situation 2014 and revision of HIV/AIDS Report Form

DH presented the local HIV situation in 2014 and the HIV care cascade. Issues about cases with undetermined route of transmission, refusing to receive medical care and loss to follow-up were discussed. DH emphasized that incomplete data collection by the HIV/AIDS Report Form (DH2293) had made analysis difficult. With recent revision and Chinese version available, members were reminded to submit the form for every confirmed positive case. They were also encouraged to continue their good effort in providing HIV testing so as to narrow down the largest gap of “link to diagnosis” along the HIV care cascade.

How life skills affect the sexual health status of youth community

AIDS Concern presented the findings of a survey on young people's knowledge on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and their sexual behaviours. They concluded that while the youth population had good knowledge on HIV and STIs, they lacked the life skills to practise condom use. They stressed the importance of life skills-based education (LSBE), targeted approach to young MSM and making use of outreach and online channels to close the gap between knowledge and practice. Others suggested sex education should be extended to the tertiary levels.

Supplementary results of HARiS 2014 – Injecting Drug Users (IDU)

DH presented the descriptive statistics of HARiS 2014 – IDU after incorporating data from SARDA. In summary, the needle sharing rate remained high (24.3%) and condom use at last sex with regular partners had dropped by around 10% compared to 2013. Members were reminded to remain vigilant for the situation of needle sharing in view of the drop in quality of heroin as well as its cost rise. The increase in tendency for local IDU to share needles with Mainlanders was also a concern.

Other issues

DH informed members of the new stand by Expert Panel for allowing HIV-infected health care workers to perform exposure prone procedures on a case-by-case basis under specified conditions. Regarding discussion about drug rehabilitation services provided by NGOs, members were advised to directly contact the Secretary of the Drug Liaison Committee of the Narcotics Division under Security Bureau for further follow-up.

Dr Tim Brown's Consultancy Visit (13 - 17 April 2015)

In March 2015, DH has engaged Dr Tim Brown as an external consultant to advise on the enhancement of HIV surveillance in Hong Kong and support strengthening the response. He is the Senior Research Fellow of the East-West Center in Hawaii and an international expert on HIV epidemiology and HIV/AIDS epidemic modelling. During his visit to Hong Kong in April 2015, he met with ACA members, DH and NGOs to share his views on the local HIV situation.

Meeting with NGOs



Dr Tim Brown met with representatives from nine AIDS NGOs to review HARiS 2013 & 2014 and discuss the way forward.

Familiarization workshop on applying the AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM) for Policy Analysis



Colleagues from Special Preventive Programme, Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch of Centre for Health Protection, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Public Health attended a two-day workshop on AEM conducted by Dr Tim Brown.

Presentation at the 90th ACA Meeting held on 17 April 2015



Dr Tim Brown presented his synthesis and interpretation of the current HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong.

Arrangement for Request of Attendance in CFA by Observers

The following arrangement was agreed during the CFA Meeting held in March 2012 -

- a. Upon the Convener's invitation/agreement, people who were interested to take part as observer might attend the whole or certain sessions of the meeting and speak up in the meeting at the Convener's discretion;
- b. The CFA Secretariat would announce the agenda on the ACA's website (in the ACA Newsfile) prior to each CFA Meeting. Interested parties could put up their requests to the CFA Secretariat for consideration;
- c. In case of over subscription, the CFA Secretariat would work out the list of participants by adopting a fair procedure deemed appropriate;
- d. Despite of this new administrative arrangement, the meeting would continue to be conducted in Cantonese only; and
- e. At the same time, the CFA Secretariat could invite relevant stakeholders to attend the meeting if deemed appropriate.

36th CFA Meeting

Date : 10 June 2015 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Red Ribbon Centre
2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic
200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Three main items on the Agenda

- ◆ Drug treatment and rehabilitation services provided by Hospital Authority and the referral system
- ◆ Results of internal audit on quality assurance on HIV voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) in community settings in 2014
- ◆ Dr Tim Brown's consultancy visit

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 36th CFA Meeting to be held on 10 June 2015, please complete the application form (available for download from http://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by **28 May 2015**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat