



## Editorial Board

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### IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- ◆ Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2015 ..... pages 17-19
- ◆ Agenda of 40th CFA Meeting ..... page 20

### ~ Calendar ~

40th CFA Meeting  
13 June 2016

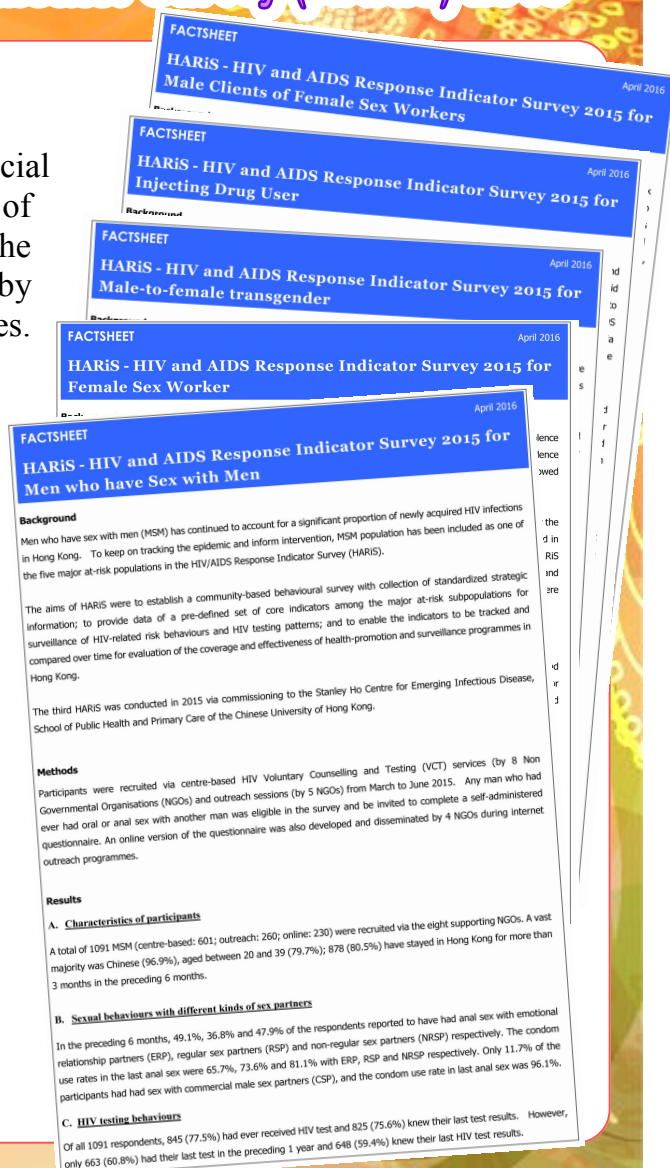
## Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2015

### Background

As a continuation of HARiS 2013, the Special Preventive Programme (SPP) of the Department of Health (DH) conducted HARiS 2015 to monitor the risk behaviours of at-risk populations accessed by NGOs through their HIV community programmes. The five at-risk populations comprised men who have sex with men (MSM), male-to-female transgender persons (TG), clients of female sex workers (SWC), female sex workers (FSW) and injecting drug users (IDU). The same set of common response indicators developed by Dr. Tim Brown, external consultant from East West Center, continued to be used.

### Methodology

The survey was conducted from April to June for MSM, TG and SWC; and from June to August for FSW and IDU. Fourteen NGOs participated in the survey. Subjects were recruited in various settings and through different channels including NGOs' service centres, bars, saunas, massage parlors, construction sites, vicinity of Methadone Clinics (through venue outreach) and social media and discussion forums (through online outreach).



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**Table 1. Results of HARiS 2013 to 2015**

	HARiS 2013 (%)	HARiS 2014 (%)	HARiS 2015 (%)
<b>MSM</b>			
Condom use in last anal sex in past 6 months			
Emotional relationship partner	63.7	65.0	65.7
Regular sex partner	76.7	70.3	73.6
Non-regular sex partner	79.5	80.6	81.1
Commercial sex partner	69.9	89.1	96.1
HIV test within past 12 months	57.0	62.3	60.8
Knew the result	54.2	58.6	59.4
<b>TG<sup>#</sup></b>			
Condom use in last sex in past 6 months			
Emotional relationship partner	-	75.8	82.1
Regular sex partner	-	90.0	85.7
Non-regular sex partner	-	76.9	91.9
Commercial sex partner	-	76.3	93.8
HIV test within past 12 months		50.8	60.6
Knew the result	-	47.5	54.5
<b>SWC</b>			
Condom use in last sex in past 12 months			
Female sex worker	89.0	88.1	81.5
Regular sex partner	54.9	58.5	54.7
Non-regular sex partner	70.3	74.5	70.6
HIV test within past 12 months	29.6	37.3	36.5
Knew the result	26.3	35.6	32.6
<b>FSW</b>			
Condom use in last sex in past 6 months			
Regular client	97.2	93.6	97.4
Casual client	99.0	98.1	99.1
HIV test within past 12 months	61.5	74.7	73.1
Knew the result	58.7	67.3	65.2
Seek formal medical advice (doctor/NGO) when having sexually transmitted infections	56.7	63.6	81.1
<b>IDU<sup>#</sup></b>			
Condom use in last anal sex in past 6 months			
Regular sex partner	-	70.6	69.9
Non-regular sex partner	-	88.4	96.5
Commercial sex worker	-	98.7	99.5
HIV test within past 12 months	-	77.4	72.2
Knew the result	-	58.9	63.0
Sharing injection equipment in past 1 month	-	24.3	13.9
Sharing injection equipment outside usual network in past 1 month	-	3.3	4.1

<sup>#</sup> Sampling methods for IDU and TG were different in 2013, hence results could not be directly compared with 2014 and 2015

## Conclusion

Compared to HARiS 2014, condom use rate improved among MSM, TG, FSW and IDU, but decreased in SWC. However, the condom use rate of MSM when having sex with emotional relationship partner and regular sex partner was sub-optimal. The target recommended in the ACA strategies (2012-2016) is that last sex condom use should be at least 70%.

HIV testing rate among five groups was generally similar to last year, being highest among FSW and IDU (>70% tested in previous one year) and lowest in SWC (36% tested in previous one year). However, considering the high risk of HIV infection among MSM and TG, their current past year testing rate of 60% was below optimal levels. With the rising trend of newly reported MSM HIV infections in recent years, promotion of annual HIV testing should be strengthened among the MSM community.

Although needle sharing rate in IDU dropped significantly by over 10%, sharing outside usual network (such as with strangers and pick up used needles) remained similar to last year. The number of newly reported HIV infection among IDU remained low in recent years, but the potential risk of local cluster outbreak and sudden upsurge of HIV infection in this population should not be underestimated. HIV prevention efforts and education on the risk of needle sharing are crucial and should be maintained.

The results have been compiled into factsheets with both English and Chinese versions available on the Virtual AIDS Office website (<http://www.aids.gov.hk>).

## Farewell to the Executive Editor of the ACA Newsfile

Mrs Ellen LAU, the former Executive Editor of the ACA Newsfile has proceeded on pre-retirement leave and her successor Miss Louisa HUNG has taken over from her with effect from 1 April 2016.

The Editorial Board wishes Ellen a happy retirement.

## 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.

## 40th CFA Meeting

Date : 13 June 2016 (Monday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Conference Room, Red Ribbon Centre  
2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic  
200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

### Two main items on the Agenda

- ◆ A randomized controlled trial evaluating efficacy of promoting home-based HIV testing with online counseling in increasing HIV testing among MSM
- ◆ Increasing the accessibility of testing service: Sharing on the experience of mobile HIV rapid test

## Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 40th CFA Meeting to be held on 13 June 2016, please complete the application form (available for download from [http://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa\\_observers\\_form.pdf](http://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf)) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by **30 May 2016**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat