



Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Miss Louisa HUNG, ACA Secretariat

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- ✧ HIV/AIDS Statistics pages 33 & 36
- ✧ A Summary of the 95th ACA Meeting ... pages 34-35

~ Calendar ~

41st CFA Meeting
12 September 2016

96th ACA Meeting
14 October 2016

HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong - Updated 30 June 2016

		Q2 2016		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	163	23	6,502	1,421
	Female	25	5	1,551	279
Ethnicity	Chinese	119	18	5,467	1,302
	Non-Chinese	38	10	2,414	398
	Unknown	31	0	172	0
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	133	25	6,206	1,481
	- <i>Heterosexual</i>	35	12	2,871	937
	- <i>Homosexual</i>	86	8	2,973	462
	- <i>Bisexual</i>	12	5	362	82
	Injecting drug use	1	0	348	63
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	84	24
	Perinatal	0	0	29	9
	Undetermined	54	3	1,386	123
Total		188	28	8,053	1,700



A Summary of the 95th ACA Meeting held on 16 June 2016

HIV projections, scenarios and recommendations from the AIDS Epidemic Model

With the use of the AIDS epidemic model, Dr Tim BROWN explained that the current level of HIV response was insufficient to control the local epidemic. Since consistent condom use could reduce the HIV transmission risk from an infected partner by around 70-80%, and ART by around 50%, he strongly advised to strengthen promotion of condom use and HIV treatment. The number of new infection would only be reduced by increasing the consistent condom use rate from current 60% to 70%.

Expanding HIV testing rate was an essential step to identify the infected people to receive treatment. Removal of barriers to access to HIV testing and care should be part of a comprehensive package of HIV strategies.

As pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was costly, PrEP programme should target high risk group to maximize its cost-effectiveness. More information was needed in this area.

Dr Tim BROWN also suggested conducting a study using social media to understand how the young MSM linked up with their sex partners for identifying who are of higher risk of infection. Research related to social science and behavioural aspects of the epidemic were also suggested. The actual impact of sexual orientation anti-discrimination laws on the HIV epidemic was unclear.



Framework of the next Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)

DH presented the framework, directions, guiding principles and schedule for the new HIV/AIDS Strategies. Members agreed that four areas would be highlighted in the new strategies, namely (1) Condom use and preventive measures; (2) Early and regular testing; (3) Linkage to care and adherence to treatment; and (4) Research and emerging issues. Stakeholder and public consultation of the draft Strategies would be conducted in late 2016.

Further discussion on controversial issues raised by the Community Stakeholders' Consultation

A few controversial recommendations collected during the Community Stakeholders' Consultation were discussed.

Comprehensive sex education should include life skills-based education and updated factual information. The relationship of teaching topic about sexual orientation and students' adoption of safer sex was unclear. Autonomy of schools should be recognized when teaching condom use. The breadth and depth of sex/HIV education could be further enhanced and teachers' training should be sustained.

WHO's recommendation regarding PrEP as an additional prevention choice in a comprehensive package of services for population with an HIV incidence of or above 3% was discussed. ACA agreed that further research should be considered in the local context, including its use in high risk population such as young MSM, cost effectiveness, impact on risk behaviours and drug resistance could help assess its potential benefit on HIV epidemic in HK. Currently, Truvada is available for off-label use for HIV prevention.

Equitable access of HIV services by all key populations including sexual minorities should be ensured, according to WHO and UNAIDS's strategies. The relationship of anti-discrimination legislation of sexual orientation on HIV epidemic is still unclear. ACA acknowledged the importance of the issue to sexual minorities and would keep in view its development and its impact on HIV epidemic in other countries. Further discussion of this issue in the society was welcomed.

ACA agreed that any deterrent to condom use was undesirable and should be minimized. Channels for direct dialogue between the Police and the affected community of sex workers had been established in the past few years and should be maintained to facilitate exchange of views. Community organisations could be mobilized to strengthen education to sex workers.

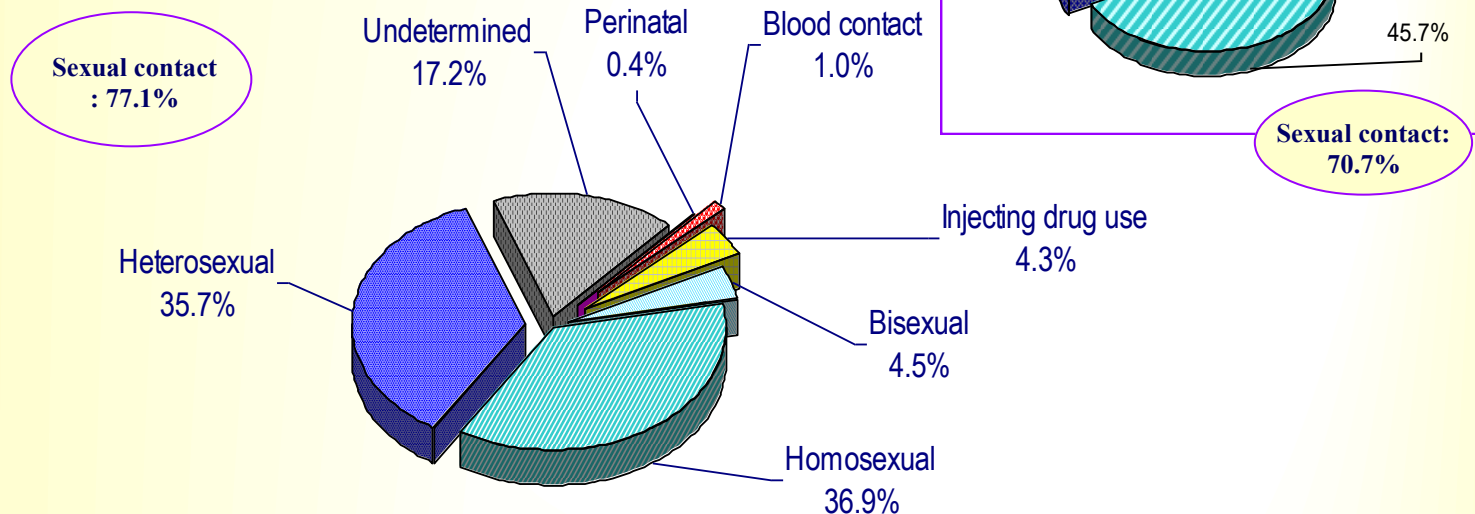
Education about the importance of using clean syringes, proper disposal and handling of used syringes should be provided to injecting drug users. Availability of clean syringes should be ensured.

Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

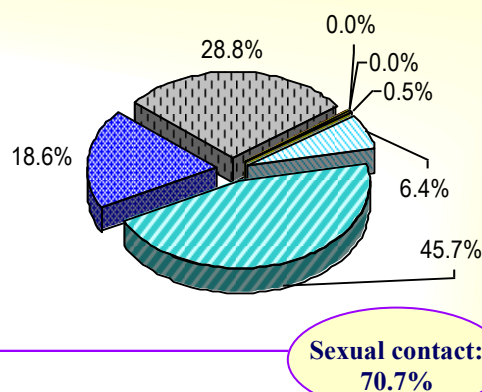
Members noted the summary report and discussions of the 40th CFA Meeting held on 13 June 2016 (a summary of this CFA Meeting was contained in the ACA Newsfile issued in August 2016).

HIV/AIDS Statistics

Routes of transmission of HIV infection
1984 – June 2016 (N=8053)



Year 2016 (Apr - Jun), n=188



Annual HIV/AIDS Statistics

1984 – June 2016, Hong Kong (N=8053/1700)

