



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

42nd CFA Meeting
6 December 2016

Public consultation for the Formulation of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)

The Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) is in the process of formulating its next set of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021). A draft Strategies document has been uploaded to the ACA website (www.aca.gov.hk) for public consultation.

The ACA welcomes views and comments on the draft Strategies. They can be sent by –

- ♦ mail (address: Secretariat, Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS, 3/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon, Hong Kong); or
- ♦ facsimile (fax number: [2337 0897](tel:23370897)); or
- ♦ email (email address: aca@dh.gov.hk).

The deadline for submission of opinion is **31 December 2016**.

A Summary of the 41st CFA Meeting held on 12 September 2016

Preliminary results of HARiS 2016 - Men who have sex with men and male-to-female transgender

The Chinese University of Hong Kong presented the results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2016 on two populations (a) men who have sex with men (MSM); and (b) male-to-female transgender (TG).

A key finding was the drop in condom use among MSM across all types of sex partners. The apparent decline could be due to (a) difference in sampling as a larger proportion of subjects in this round of HARiS were recruited on-line and generally younger; and (b) normal variation within statistical limits. HIV testing rate also fell slightly from 62.3% in 2014 to 58.5% in 2016. Further analysis would be conducted to compare the results of MSM participants recruited through different channels and of different age groups, and to examine the relationship with drug use.

Some NGOs commented that MSM recruited online might be more representative of the community than those recruited at centre or gay venues. They further suggested NGOs to review whether their HIV prevention programmes could reach different subgroups of MSM.

Similar results were found among TG with decreases in condom use and HIV testing rate. As the sample size of this population was small (N=87), no statistically significant conclusion could be drawn.

In summary, HARiS provided timely update on the behavioural change of target groups. The information would be useful reference for resources allocation. Changes in behavioural trends should be examined in the context of whether NGOs' programmes were effectively reaching more at-risk populations. The coming HIV/AIDS Strategies were expected to place more focus on young MSM and those with drug use.

Highlights of HIV projections, scenarios and recommendations from the AIDS Epidemic Model

DH colleague introduced the HIV projections and recommendations put forward by Dr Tim BROWN. Overall, MSM will continue to dominate the future epidemic. Dr BROWN therefore recommended (i) doubling the number of HIV testing in the coming years and promoting annual testing in MSM; (ii) strengthening referral to HIV clinics and encouraging PLHIV to receive treatment; and (iii) establishing early the norm of condom use in MSM and increasing the consistent condom use rate to 70%.

Participants suggested that HIV clinics should address the problems of higher default rate and lower drug compliance of the young patients, and to provide sufficient psychosocial support to them. They also suggested expanding the testing coverage of MSM by involving doctors in both public and private sectors. Extending services to more deprived areas such as the northwest part of the New Territories could also be considered.

Results of internal audit on HIV voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) in community settings 2015

DH colleague presented the results of the 2015 round of internal audit, which showed significant improvements in various areas among NGOs in successive years. The number of NGOs that joined this exercise had increased from seven to eleven; record management, staff training and infection control had also improved. Though the number of NGOs that could obtain external control kits for HIV rapid test had increased, the availability of such kits remained a problem for some NGOs. They were advised to explore the feasibility of collaborating with other NGOs to acquire the external control kits.

Other issues

DH colleague briefed members about the HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of men who have sex with men and transgender women (PRiSM) in 2017. Methodology such as sampling, sample size estimation, recruitment channels, incentives and human resources were discussed.

Upcoming MSM events including the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival spanning September and October and the Hong Kong Pride Parade in November were introduced.

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.

42nd CFA Meeting

Date : 6 December 2016 (Tuesday)

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

- ◆ Preliminary results of HARiS 2016 - Injecting Drug Users
- ◆ Report on MSM HIV prevention programme in 2016

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 42nd CFA Meeting to be held on 6 December 2016, 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 **24 November 2016**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat