



## Editorial Board

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### ~ Calendar ~

51st CFA Meeting  
17 June 2019

## A Summary of the 50th CFA Meeting held on 15 March 2019

### **HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2018**

DH presented and members noted about the situation of HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong in 2018. The number of newly reported cases (624 cases) had slightly decreased in 2018, but MSM still dominated the epidemic (58.2%).

Cumulatively, DH received 9715 HIV reports and 1996 AIDS cases as of 2018. The number of HIV reports decreased by about 8.4% in 2018 as compared with 2017.

Of the 624 HIV cases, 530 males and 94 females, reported in 2018, 363 (58%) acquired the infection via homosexual or bisexual contact, 138 (22%) via heterosexual contact and three (0.5%) via drug injection. The routes of transmission of the remaining 120 cases (19.2%) have yet to be determined due to inadequate information at the time of reporting.

Majority of the cases (nearly 80%) were diagnosed HIV-positive at the age range of 20-49 years old. The overall median age of cases in 2018 was 36. MSM cases (median age of 31) were younger than heterosexual female cases (41.5) and heterosexual male cases (44). Seventy-two percent of the cases were of Chinese ethnicity.

## More about the 50th CFA Meeting

### Results of Street Addict Survey 2018

The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) presented the Street Addict Survey 2018. The survey recruited around 700 active drug users (mainly injecting drug users) over the street, to explore their level of awareness of HIV transmission, high risk behaviour and practice in drug administration, hence better understand their risk of HIV infection.

Members noted that shared needle rate was unsatisfactory albeit a drop of overall percentage of sharing syringe and needles in the past month (10.1% in 2018 vs 13.2% in 2017) and those who had shared needle were usually of older age. From the experience of SARDA's frontline, the younger generation seldom injected drugs now but psychotropic substance users would become heroin users in the long run. Other core indicators such as condom use rate in last sex and HIV testing rate in the past one year was similar as last year.

### Preliminary result on MSM mental health, substance use and sexual health survey

DH presented the preliminary result on MSM mental health, substance use and sexual health survey. DH also shared the preliminary analysis findings of associations between unsafe sex, substance use and syndemic factors such as mental health disorders and lifestyle risk factors. The primary outcome were sexual health (unsafe sex) and substance use (chemsex) and the associations with various social factors, mental health conditions and lifestyle risk factor such as smoking and drinking habit were explored. Substance use among all GBT subjects (not confined to MSM) was also included in this survey for the first time. Further analysis would be performed on the findings.

Members noted that the survey could only tell if there was possible association but could not explain the causes of those associations. Other local qualitative studies might be able to explain the findings. Nevertheless, the survey provided useful information to better understand the biosocial factors which may have negative impact on control of HIV epidemic. Early intervention on social factors and mental disorders is necessary before a person starts taking substance or having unsafe sex. All parties including NGOs might be able to assess their clients, identify the psychosocial needs and provide early interventions if necessary. Members discussed and suggested the funding body may consider injecting funding on programmes targeting those adverse social components.

## Arrangement for attending CFA as 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.

## 51st CFA Meeting

Date : 17 June 2019 (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

- ◆ Experience sharing: Self test Hong Kong by AIDS Concern
- ◆ Experience sharing on establish a drug rehabilitation service for Chemfun users

## Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 51st CFA Meeting to be held on 17 June 2019, 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 **28 May 2019**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat