



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

- 51st CFA Meeting
17 June 2019
- 107th ACA Meeting
12 July 2019

A Summary of the 106th ACA Meeting held on 12 April 2019

HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2018

The Council was briefed on the local HIV and AIDS situation 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.

Members noted that HIV reporting system was important in monitoring of HIV/AIDS epidemiology and its situation in Hong Kong for over 30 years. One of the limitations was the time lag between diagnosis and the reporting of case information. Currently, a robust cohort surveillance system is in place to capture data of patients followed up by the 3 HIV clinics, and as reflected from the HIV treatment cascade presented earlier, the second and third “90”s targets had largely been achieved.

Members also proposed to focus more on the reasons of progress from HIV to AIDS so that relevant measures could be strengthened, such as further promotion of early HIV testing.

More about the 106th ACA Meeting

Mental health of men who have sex with men, their substance use and sexual health profile

DH presented the background and the preliminary findings of the DH's Mental Health Survey which explored the profile of mental health, substance use and sexual health among MSM in the community.

Members opined that this survey provided useful information on the correlation between sexual and mental health of MSM. A comprehensive service providing holistic care for MSM could be considered. It would be more cost effective to line up the existing mainstream services to provide more gay-friendly environment for MSM. However, members agreed that stigma related to services provided by medical sectors and NGOs might discourage service users who sought for support and HIV testings.

Members also noted that Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau had arranged training for enhancing sensitivity of medical and healthcare professionals towards sexual minorities.

Recommended Clinical Guidelines on the Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (November 2018)

DH presented the latest update of the Recommended Clinical Guidelines on the Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS), which was issued earlier in November 2018. The revised Guidelines included a new recommendation over the consideration of HIV retesting at third trimester when there was risk of new HIV acquisition during pregnancy. The recommended use of antiretroviral therapy during the antepartum and intrapartum period as well as postpartum period for neonatal prophylaxis was also reviewed in the Guidelines.

DH would send the revised recommendations to the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as the Departments of Paediatrics of HA Hospitals.

Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members noted the summary report and discussions of the 50th CFA Meeting held on 15 March 2019. A summary of this CFA Meeting was contained in the ACA Newsfile (Vol. 26, No. 5 – May 2019).

Training Workshop on Basic Knowledge of HIV/AIDS & STIs for NGO Staff

To provide a more comprehensive understanding on HIV and its risk factors, the annual NGO training workshop organised by the Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) was extended to three sessions for the first time. Staff working in HIV NGOs, drug NGOs or NGOs providing services to sexual minorities were invited to attend the workshop.

The three sessions of the training workshop were held on 4 and 11 April 2019 at the Lecture Theatre in the Centre of Health Protection and 69 NGO staff attended.

The first session covered basic knowledge of HIV and STIs, and services provided by HIV clinic and Social Hygiene Clinic services in Department of Health. Speakers included Dr Alfred SIT from RRC, Dr Heather TO and Ms Gladys YUEN from Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre and Dr KM HO from Social Hygiene Service.



The second session introduced the culture and need of sexual minority, the need of elderly of sexual minority and experience sharing by NGOs on providing LGBT-friendly services. Speakers included Mr CHAU Chun-yam and his client from the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, Dr Travis KONG from Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong, Mr YIP Wing-yue Samson from Project Hero-MSM Support Service, Hong Kong Christian Service and Mr LEE Kin-ying Kevin from SACH-IV Project, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.



The third session covered the topic of substance use, focusing on the current situation among MSM and people living with HIV, the mental health problems related to chemsex. Speaker from NGO also shared his experience to take history from a chemsex user. Speakers included Dr Alfred SIT from RRC, Dr Krystal LEE from Department of Psychiatry, Queen Mary Hospital and Mr LEUNG Ming-kei from Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment Limited.

