



**Editorial Board**

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~ **Calendar** ~  
111<sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting  
10 July 2020

## Agenda of 111<sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting

Date : 10 July 2020 (Friday)  
Time : 2:30 pm  
Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 17/F, Wu Chung House,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong

**Three main items on the Agenda -**

- ◆ Preliminary results of the feasibility study of using web-based ordering and result upload to support HIV self-testing among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Hong Kong
- ◆ Updates on the development of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention
- ◆ 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (1990-2020)

## Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2019

### Background

The HARiS survey has been conducted every year since 2013. The aim is to establish a mechanism for a regular community-based survey where AIDS non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would help collect information on HIV-related behaviours for the at-risk populations by using the same indicators.

Five major at-risk populations comprising Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Male-to-Female Transgender (TG), female sex workers (FSW), male clients of female sex workers (MCFSW) and people who inject drugs (PWID) are covered by HARiS. Participants are interviewed by AIDS NGOs with a structured, self- or interviewer-administered questionnaire. Each questionnaire contains a standard set of core indicators as recommended by Dr. Tim Brown, Senior Fellow of the East-West Centre of the University of Hawaii. Each set of core indicators was designed specifically for a population to monitor their HIV-related behaviours. As the same indicators are in use, behaviours of the at-risk populations and the effectiveness of HIV programmes could be compared over time and across the NGOs.

FACTSHEET Jun 2020  
HARiS - HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey 2019 for Injecting Drug User

FACTSHEET Jun 2020  
HARiS - HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey 2019 for Male Clients of Female Sex Workers  
Background

FACTSHEET Jun 2020  
HARiS - HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey 2019 for Female Sex Worker  
Background

**Background**  
Female sex workers (FSW) is one of the at-risk populations of HIV infection. In order to keep track the HIV prevalence and the related risky behaviours among this population, the first Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Worker in Hong Kong (CRISP) was launched in 2006 and repeated in 2009. Both surveys showed low HIV prevalence with the results of 0.19% and 0.05% respectively.

Despite the low HIV prevalence, a regular public health surveillance programme should be in place to closely monitor the situation of HIV infection among FSW. A similar integrated biobehavioural survey for FSW was therefore developed in 2013 by incorporating into the newly launched HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARIS) programme. The HARIS for FSW was repeated in 2014, 2015 and 2017. This year, its fifth round was conducted via commissioning to the Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong. The results were summarised as below.

**Methods**  
Participants were recruited via centre-based HIV Voluntary, Counselling and Testing (VCT) services (by 4 NGOs) and during the outreach sessions (4 NGOs) from June to August 2019. Any female who had ever had sex with someone for money, drugs or other goods in the past 1 year was eligible and be invited to complete an interviewer-administered structured questionnaire. The respondents were also asked to provide urine specimen to the Department of Health for HIV antibody test on a surveillance purpose.

**Results**  
**(A) Characteristics of participants**  
A total of 579 respondents were recruited (centre-based : 343; outreach : 233). About one-third (31.6%) of respondents had ever worked in a one-woman brothel, 19.7% in karaoke/night clubs, 25.9% had worked in street, 8.1% in bars/pubs, and 4.3% in massage parlors/sauna. A vast majority was Chinese (91.4%) and majority were 30-49 years old (66.7%). More than half (81.2%) had stayed in Hong Kong for more than 3 months in the preceding 6 months.

**(B) Sexual behaviours**  
Condom use rate was 94.9% in the last sexual intercourse with regular clients and 98.3% with casual clients. The condom use rate remained high, as in 2017 (95.6% and 99.1% respectively).

**(C) HIV testing behaviours**  
Among all 579 respondents, 488 (84.3%) had ever received HIV test and 458 (79.1%) knew their last test results. However, only 370 (63.9%) had their last test in the preceding 1 year and 349 (60.3%) knew their last HIV test results.

## Methodology

The HARiS 2019 survey was conducted from June to August 2019 for FSW, MCFSW and PWID. Ten NGOs joined the survey. Participants were recruited in various settings and through different channels, including NGOs' service centres, one-woman brothels, bars, karaoke/night clubs, massage parlors, saunas, construction sites, the vicinity of Methadone Clinics (through venue outreach), and social media and discussion forums (through online outreach).

## Results

Please refer to **Table** for the summary of results from 2015 to 2019.

## Conclusion

Condom use rates were generally similar to 2017 among FSW but decreased in MCFSW. For PWID, the condom use rate generally decreased when compared to 2018, especially when having sex with regular sex partners and commercial sex workers. Health promotion on safer sex about consistent condom use with all partner types should be strengthened.

HIV testing rates among FSW and MCFSW had decreased when compared to 2017. For PWID, the rate was maintained at a similar level. HIV testing rate was the highest among IDU (>80% tested in previous 1 year) and lowest in MCFSW (34% tested in previous 1 year), and there was a significant decrease in MCFSW (43.4% in 2017 vs. 34.4% in 2019). HIV testing has not yet been the norm among these target groups and promotion of regular HIV testing should be strengthened.

The needle sharing rate in IDU was 11.1% which was similar to 2018 (11.7%) and was close to the ACA target (<10%). Despite the relatively low number of newly reported HIV infections among IDU in recent years, the potential risk exists of a local outbreak and sudden upsurge of HIV infection among injecting drug users. Effort to promote HIV prevention and education on the risk of needle sharing among the population is crucial and should be sustained.

Summary of the survey results are available as factsheets on the "Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong" website

English

[https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/off\\_surreport.html](https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/off_surreport.html)

Chinese

[https://www.aids.gov.hk/chinese/surveillance/off\\_surreport.html](https://www.aids.gov.hk/chinese/surveillance/off_surreport.html)

**Table. Comparison of response indicators of HARiS 2015 - 2019**

	HARiS 2015	HARiS 2016	HARiS 2017	HARiS 2018	HARiS 2019
<b>Female Sex Worker (FSW)</b>	<b>N=494</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>N=495</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>N=579</b>
Condom use in last vaginal sex in past 6 months					
● Regular client	97.4%	NA	95.6%	NA	94.9%
● Casual client	99.1%	NA	99.1%	NA	98.3%
HIV test within past 12 months					
● Knew the result	65.2%	NA	68.9%	NA	60.3%
Having accessed at least one item of HIV combination prevention services* in the past one year	92.9%	NA	91.7%	NA	86.9%
Received free condoms in the past 1 year	86%	NA	84.4%	NA	75.1%
<b>Male Clients of Female Sex Workers (MCFSW)</b>	<b>N=405</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>N=327</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>N=398</b>
Condom use in last vaginal sex in past 12 months					
● Regular sex partner (RSP)	54.7%	NA	61.0%	NA	62.1%
● Non-regular sex partner (NRSP)	70.6%	NA	76.4%	NA	75.0%
● Commercial sex partner (CSP)	81.5%	NA	84.1%	NA	79.4%
HIV test within past 12 months					
● Knew the result	32.6%	NA	27.8%	NA	29.4%
<b>People who inject drugs (PWID)</b>	<b>N=781</b>	<b>N=713</b>	<b>N=791</b>	<b>N=741</b>	<b>N=808</b>
Condom use in last sex in past 6 months					
● Regular sex partner (RSP)	69.9%	77.3%	80.8%	90.8%	79.3%
● Non-regular sex partner (NRSP)	96.4%	77.1%	92.8%	95.5%	97.3%
● Commercial sex worker (CSW)	99.5%	96.4%	99.5%	100%	88.3%
Drug use before/during sex	50.6%	41.3%	45.7%	43.9%	50.2%
HIV test within past 12 months					
● Knew the result	63.0%	55.8%	67.1%	74.8%	75.4%
Drug injection in past 1 month	89.1%	91.0%	90.5%	89.2%	78.2%
Sharing injection equipment in past 1 month	13.9%	15.9%	17.6%	11.6%	11.1%
Sharing injection equipment with people outside usual network in the past 1 month	4.1%	6.2%	6.3%	2.7%	3.3%

\* Such services may include free condoms, HIV testing, free new syringes, HIV prevention messages, or PrEP  
 Remarks: HARiS 2016/2018 did not cover FSW and MCFSW