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Editorial Board

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A Summary of the 115 ACA Meeting held on 9 July 2021

Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020-2024

DH briefed members on the overview of the Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020-2024 and highlighted some actions with particular relevance to HIV prevention and care services. Members opined that integration and synergy between HIV and hepatitis programmes should be further enhanced.

Members discussed the bundling of testing for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C in primary care setting due to their shared modes of transmission, hence the possible co-infection in high-risk populations. Issues on serologic testing for HIV patients taking hepatitis B vaccines were also addressed. DH clarified that routine post-vaccination serologic testing was not required for the general public because 95% of whom would have adequate antibodies induced after vaccination. However, for groups with higher exposure risk, (such as babies born to mothers with hepatitis B and health care workers) and for patients with clinical indications (such as HIV patients), serologic testing one to three months after completion of vaccination would be suggested. If antibodies were found inadequate, another course of hepatitis B vaccination would be arranged.

Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members noted the summary report and discussions of the 57th CFA Meeting held on 11 June 2021. A summary of this CFA Meeting was contained in the ACA Newsfile (Vol. 28, No. 8 – August 2021).

ACA NEWSFILE

Analytic gaps in the epidemiological assessment of HIV infection in Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong presented the gaps identified when assessing the HIV/AIDS surveillance and reporting systems, including the uncertainty in determining the prevalence of men who have sex with men (MSM) and limitations of the HIV reporting system, which could affect the estimation of people living with HIV when constructing the HIV treatment cascade.

Apart from the estimation of MSM prevalence, Members opined to focus on the change of sexual risk behaviour such as chemsex and internet dating. They also suggested some ways to encourage the community to perform HIV testing such as promotion of home-based testing and provision of HIV test as routine services in healthcare setting. The importance of monitoring the trend and demographics of newly infected cases was stressed. It was considered that the role of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and its model of delivery as HIV prevention programme would need to be reviewed and deliberated when formulating the upcoming ACA Strategies.

A brief overview of the UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026

DH presented the latest UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy, which was issued in April 2021. The new Strategy was one of the key documents to take reference from for the next ACA Strategies. The UNAIDS Strategy set out evidence-based priority actions and bold targets to get every country/region and every community on-track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Members opined that the UNAIDS Strategy provided an overall direction and approach to take reference from, while it might not be applicable to all country/region as individual situation varied. Previous ACA Strategies took WHO and UNAIDS Strategies as references but it would be important to formulate its own strategies based on local context.

Welcome new ACA Members and thank outgoing ACA Members

We warmly welcome the following newly appointed ACA Members for a term of two years, with effect from August 2021 –

- ◆ Mr. CHAU Yui-chi, Eugene 周裔智先生
- ◆ Ms. YAN Tsz-mei, Kammy 殷子媚女士

We sincerely thanked the following outgoing ACA Members for their valuable contributions and support to the work of ACA –

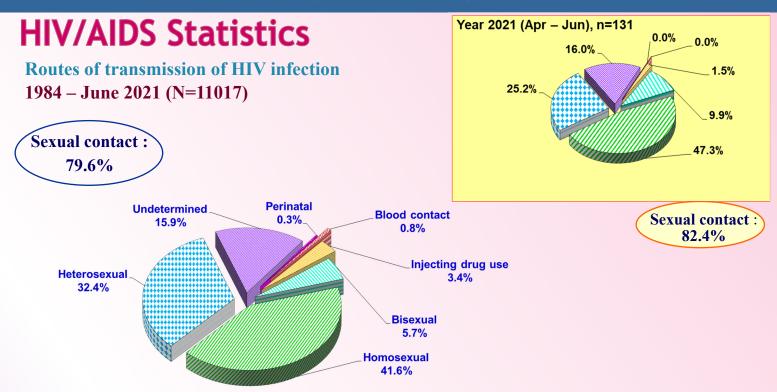
- Mr. LEUNG Ka-ki, Nickson 梁嘉棋先生
- ◆ Mr. MUI Wai-keung, Moses 梅偉強先生

ACA NEWSFILE

HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong - Updated 30 June 2021

		Q2 2021	Q2 2021		Cumulative (since 1984)	
		HIV	AIDS	HIV	<u>AIDS</u>	
Sex	Male	109	21	9,029	1,890	
	Female	22	5	1,988	390	
Ethnicity	Chinese	107	21	7,695	1,763	
	Non-Chinese	21	5	3,030	517	
	Unknown	3	0	292	0	
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	108	25	8,770	2,024	
	- Heterosexual	33	11	3,568	1,157	
	- Homosexual	62	11	4,578	715	
	- Bisexual	13	3	624	152	
	Injecting drug use	2	1	372	68	
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	85	25	
	Perinatal	0	0	35	11	
	Undetermined	21	0	1,755	152	
Total		131	26	11,017	2,280	

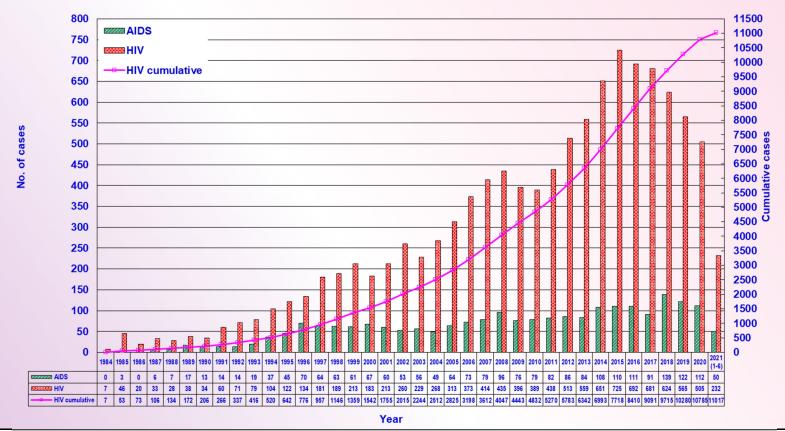
ACA NEWSFILE



Note: The percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Annual HIV/AIDS Statistics

1984 – June 2021, Hong Kong (N=11017/2280)



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