



Editorial Board

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118th ACA Meeting
8 April 2022

Agenda of 118th ACA Meeting

Date : 8 April 2022 (Friday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Video Conference

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ♦ HIV situation analysis and projection for supporting the development of prevention and control strategies in Hong Kong
- ♦ Draft of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027) – for stakeholders' and public consultation
- ♦ Results of a study of web-based delivery of HIV self-testing with online targeted promotion among key populations in Hong Kong

A review of HIV/AIDS epidemiology in 2021

(prepared by the Surveillance Office, Special Preventive Programme, Department of Health)

There were a total of 447 HIV cases and 90 AIDS cases reported to the Department of Health (DH) in 2021. Cumulatively, DH received 11,232 HIV reports and 2,320 AIDS cases as of 2021. The number of HIV reports decreased by about 11.5% in 2021 as compared with 2020.

Of the 447 HIV cases, 367 males and 80 females, reported in 2021, 239 (53%) acquired the infection via homosexual or bisexual contact, 122 (27%) via heterosexual contact and three (0.7%) via drug injection. The routes of transmission of the remaining 83 cases (19%) have yet to be determined due to inadequate information at the time of reporting.

Majority of the cases (over 70%) were diagnosed HIV-positive at the age range of 20-49 years old. The overall median age of cases in 2021 was 39. MSM cases (median age of 34) were younger than heterosexual female cases (45) and heterosexual male cases (47.5). 316 cases (71%) of the cases were of Chinese ethnicity, 64 (14%) were non-Chinese Asian, 18 (4%) were white, 6 (1.3%) were black, 3 (0.7%) were from other non-Chinese ethnic groups, while the ethnicities of the remaining 40 (9%) were unknown at the time of reporting. Of the 64 Asian non-Chinese cases, the top 3 ethnicities reported were Indonesian (14 cases), Filipino (12 cases) and Thai (6 cases).

The commonest reporting source in 2021 was public hospitals/clinics/laboratories (44.3%), followed by DH's Social Hygiene Clinics (16.1%) and private hospitals/clinics/laboratories (13.9%).

More about HIV/AIDS epidemiology in 2021

A majority of the 90 AIDS cases reported in 2021 were male (84%) and Chinese (79%); 54% acquired the virus through homosexual or bisexual contact and 41% via heterosexual route. Most AIDS patients had their HIV infections diagnosed at public hospitals and clinics (87.8%).

Pneumocystis pneumonia and tuberculosis were the two commonest AIDS-defining illnesses (ADI) in Hong Kong in 2021. They accounted for 66.7% of all new AIDS reports in 2021.

Guidance Notes on COVID-19 Vaccination for People (Adults) with HIV

Guidance Notes on COVID-19 Vaccination for People (Adults) with HIV has been issued by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS) and uploaded onto the webpage of the Centre for Health Protection.

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidance_notes_covid19_vaccination_hiv_feb_2022.pdf



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI

Guidance Notes on COVID-19 Vaccination
for People (Adults) with HIV

Introduction

The emergence of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2 has seeded a pandemic since late 2019. Different SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) have evolved with different phenotypic characteristics leading to differences in terms of transmissibility, disease severity, risk of reinfection, and impacts on diagnostic and therapeutic options, vaccine efficacy, or other public health and social measures¹.

2. Despite initial smaller scale studies showing contradictory findings, subsequent data from larger observational studies indicate that a subset of people with HIV are at increased risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, such as hospitalisations, admissions to intensive care units, and in-hospital mortality²⁻⁵. Age above 60, and the presence of comorbidities have been identified as the most consistent factors that are associated with increased severity of COVID-19 in the general population⁶. Many people with HIV have one or more comorbidities that may put them at increased risk for a more severe course of COVID-19. Those with advanced HIV disease or AIDS with uncontrolled viraemia and low CD4 count or CD4 nadir are also demonstrated to be at increased risk for developing severe disease¹⁰.



衛生防護中心為衛生署
轄下執行預防及
疾病控制的專業機構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention
and control