



ACA NEWSFILE

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In this issue we have

Agenda of the 131 st ACA Meeting	P.1
Partnership Programmes for Community Engagement	P.2
A Summary of the 72 nd CFA Meeting held on 19 December 2025	P.3-5
Agenda of the 73 rd CFA Meeting	P.6
Promotion of "HIV Testing Month 2025"	P.7-9

Agenda of the 131st ACA Meeting

Date: 3 March 2026 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Conference Room, Department of Health,
 21/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East,
 Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda

- HIV Epidemiology in Hong Kong 2025
- HIV Surveillance among People Who Inject Drugs in Hong Kong: A Review and the Way Forward
- Strategic Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in HIV Prevention, Care, Surveillance and Research

Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Ms Hilman WONG, ACA Secretariat

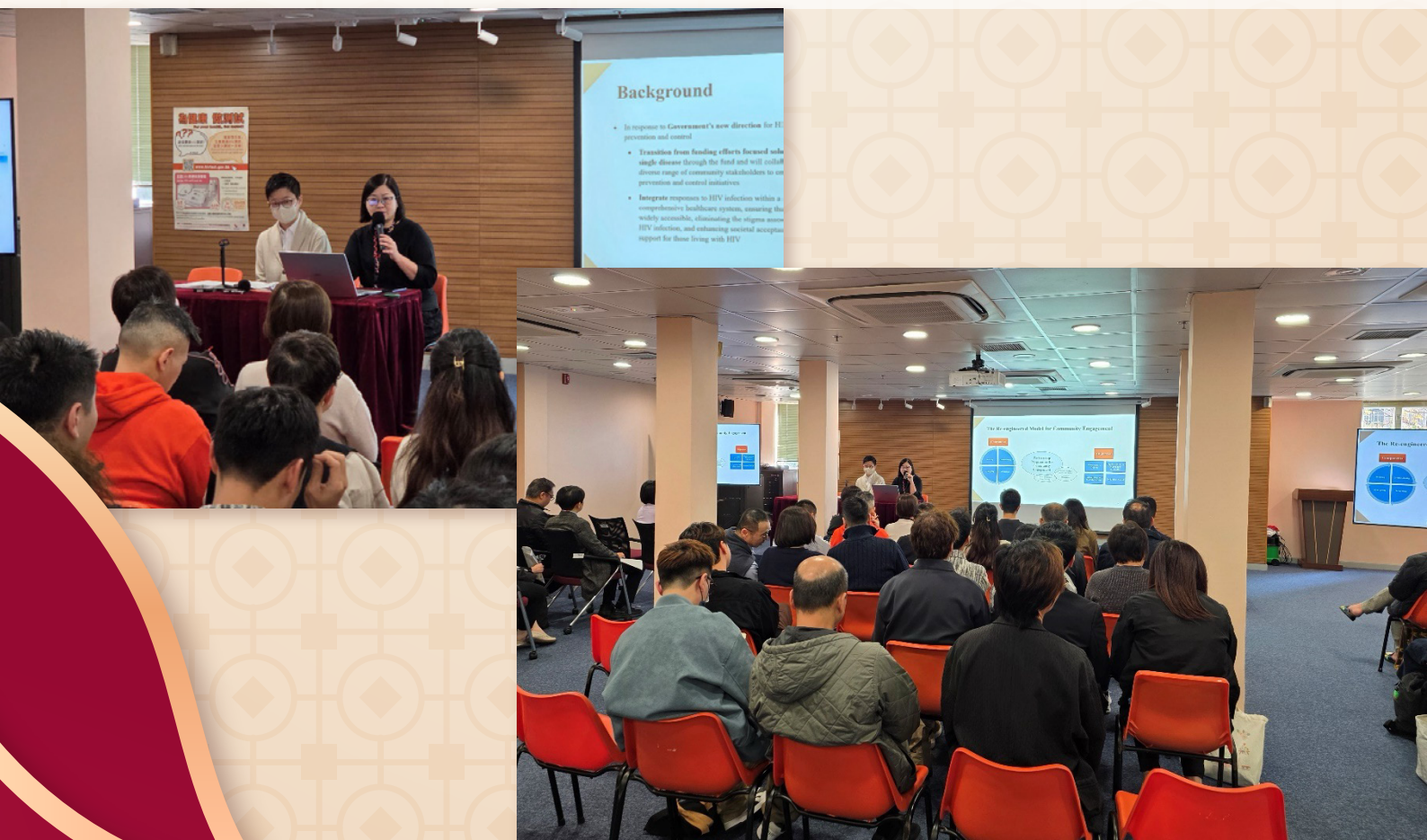


Department of Health
HIV Testing Service

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211
www.hivtest.gov.hk

Partnership Programmes for Community Engagement

In line with the strategic directive of the Government to restructure the funding framework for community engagement in HIV-related preventive and care services, SPP under DH will launch the "**Partnership Programme for Community Engagement**" to directly engage NGOs to implement programmes targeting specific population groups. Invitation for Proposals were issued on 7 January 2026 to NGOs to submit proposals. The Programme includes two pilot programmes, namely "Priority Population Testing and Counselling Programme" and "PLHIV Support Services Programme". A briefing session to introduce the overall arrangement and to answer enquiries from NGOs was held on 16 January with 32 NGO representatives in attendance.



A Summary of the 72nd CFA Meeting held on 19 December 2025

Results of Street Addict Survey 2025 by the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA)



SARDA presented the results of the Street Addict Survey 2025, covering 786 valid questionnaires collected on 26 and 27 July 2025. Respondents were predominantly male (92.4%) and over 50 years old (69.7%). More than 90% had experienced drug use by injection, 80% of whom had injected in the past month. The proportion of current needle-sharers was 13.4% among all respondents (16.7% among current injectors), which fell to the lowest in recent years. Polydrug use was common, with rising cocaine use linked

to lower street prices. Condom use during the last sex encounter increased among regular partners (82.9%) and remained close to 100% among casual partners. A total of 76.7% had undergone HIV testing within 1 year, and 92.9% had ever undergone HIV testing in the past, mostly at methadone clinics. Notably, cross-border injection activity rose after travel resumed. Overall, the results showed improved condom use and reduced needle sharing within usual networks, but identified ongoing risks and service gaps in STI screening and mental health support.



Experience sharing by (i) SideBySide; and (ii) SARDA



SideBySide introduced its “Mercury III Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood-borne Disease (水銀星三號健康教育計劃)”, which delivered preventive education with intensive care to target populations. The programme encompassed four projects tailored to four distinct target groups. During experience sharing, one of the projects -- the Project PATHS -- was highlighted. The project aimed to deliver HIV prevention education across correctional institutions, youth homes, immigration facilities and rehabilitation centres, while also promoting linkage to care for inmates diagnosed with HIV. In addition to health talks, quarterly in-depth workshops were organised at Sha Tsui, Pik Uk and other institutions, covering topics such as HIV, STIs, hepatitis, stigma and safer sex. An evaluation survey indicated good effectiveness, with 98% of participants reporting improved knowledge and greater willingness to use condoms.



自在共融
Everyone
deserves to
belong



水銀星三號健康教育計劃
愛滋病及血液傳染病預防教育

Mercury III –
Intensive Support and Preventive Programme
for AIDS and Blood-Borne Diseases

愛滋病信託基金贊助
Funded by AIDS Trust Fund



SARDA presented findings from a survey conducted in September and October 2025 among drug users of minority ethnic groups in Hong Kong. It offered a comprehensive overview of the situation faced by this community, highlighting both encouraging progress and areas requiring further attention. The survey revealed that around one quarter of respondents had a history of injection drug use, while 36% were current users. Notably, syringe sharing was not reported in 2025. Most participants were Nepalese men aged between 30 and 49, with heroin, methamphetamine, cannabis, and other substances commonly used. Regarding sexual health practices, condom use was inconsistent, particularly among those with regular partners. 73 respondents reported undergoing HIV testing before, mainly at methadone clinics, though many had not tested within the past year. Knowledge gaps were noted in relation to hepatitis C transmission and treatment, underscoring the need for strengthened education and service accessibility. While progress has been made, continued efforts are essential to safeguard health and reduce risks among vulnerable populations.

SARDA also highlighted the forthcoming *Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse* legislation, which came into effect on 20 January 2026. The Government's guidelines issued in September 2025 covering 25 designated professionals, including doctors, nurses and social workers, outlining their responsibilities under the new law. Neglect was identified as the most common form of child abuse, with physical abuse more easily detected and sexual abuse less frequently encountered in social work cases. Practical protocols were discussed, such as handling unattended children during home visits, recognising indicators of neglect, and ensuring clear internal reporting chains. CFA members raised questions on sensitive issues, including HIV testing for minors and consensual sexual activity. Legal and medical representatives stressed that mandatory reporting applied in cases of coercion, drugging or underage involvement. Participants further emphasised the importance of training, documentation, confidentiality, and scenario-based practice to safeguard staff and ensure compliance. Institutions were urged to establish clear policies, adopt group reporting mechanisms as relevant, and strengthen cross-sectoral support networks to meet the requirements of the new legislation.



Agenda of the 73rd CFA Meeting

Agenda of the 73rd CFA meeting

- Date:** 24 April 2026 (Friday)
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Activity Area, Red Ribbon Centre,
 2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic,
 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Two main items on the Agenda

- HIV Epidemiology in Hong Kong 2025
- Experience sharing by non-governmental organisations
 - i. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
 - ii. Teen's Key

Invitation

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 73rd CFA Meeting to be held on 24 April 2026, please complete the application form (available for download from https://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by 10 April 2026.



download
application form

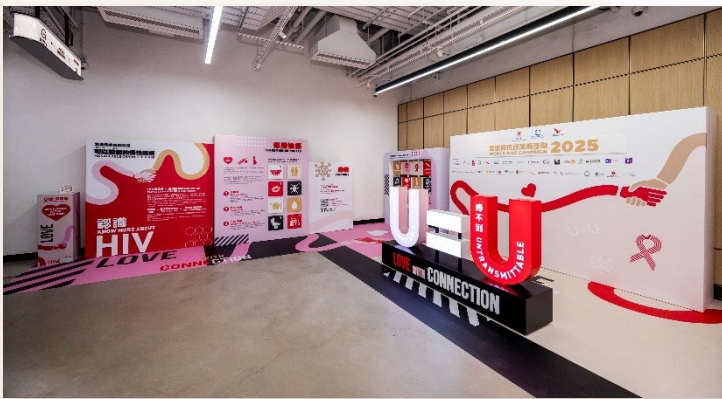
Arrangement for attending CFA as observers

The following arrangement was agreed during the CFA Meeting held in March 2012 -

- a. Upon the Convener's invitation/ agreement, people who are 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.

Promotion of "HIV Testing Month 2025"

To enhance normalisation of HIV testing, RRC launched a wide range of promotional activities under the "HIV Testing Month 2025" Campaign. Many of these activities extended beyond December 2025 into January 2026, ensuring sustained public engagement.



Health Exhibition:

RRC organised a health exhibition titled "Insights into HIV/AIDS and Real Stories" on 27–28 December at Central Market. The event combined interactive panels with strong community elements to raise awareness and foster inclusivity.



Eye-catching Public Advertisement:

Mini-bus were decorated with health messages to promote the theme of the World AIDS Campaign 2025 and the importance of HIV testing. Advertising routes covered varies districts across Hong Kong to maximise community reach.



Free Delivery Incentives for HIV Testing Kit Ordering:

A special promotional code offered free delivery of self-test kits ordered through the HIV Testing Service website during "HIV Testing Month", boosting health consciousness and participation.



Dynamic Multimedia Displays:

Health messages were prominently featured across public transport facilities, including in-bus cabin roller text, bus shelter panels, E-banner on mobile apps.



Engaging Media Outreach:

Campaign messages were disseminated through newspaper and promotional segments on RTHK radio channels.



Celebrity Participation:

Local celebrities were invited to produce promotional videos and share them on social media post platforms, amplifying the campaign's visibility and appeal.



Through partnerships with diverse community organisations, this initiative not only broadened coverage but also fostered acceptance and harmony around HIV testing, reinforcing its role as a routine and essential health practice.