



ACA NEWSFILE

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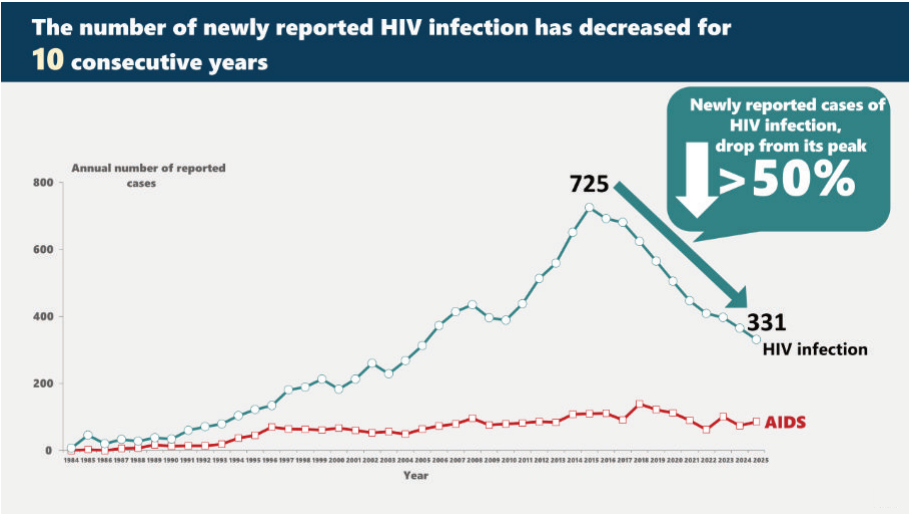


Department of Health
HIV Testing Service

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

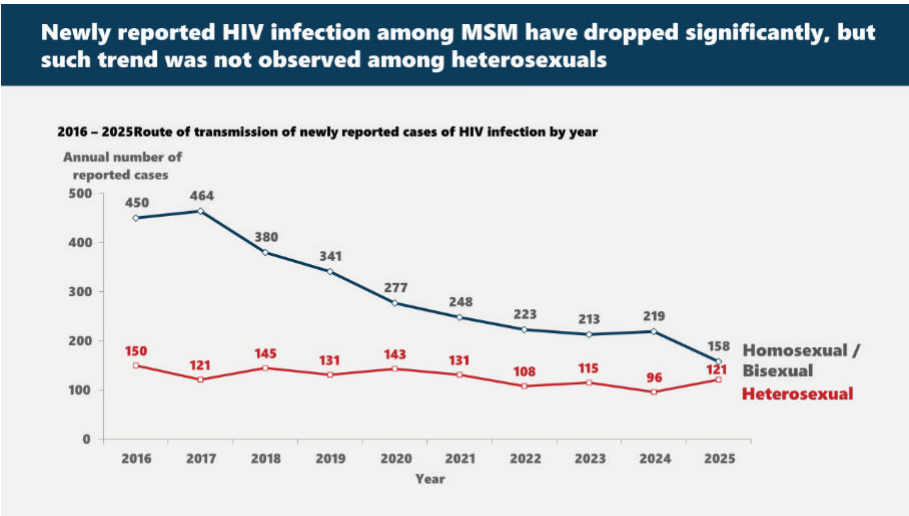
A Review of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in 2025

In 2025, DH received 331 new reports of HIV infection and 86 AIDS reports, bringing the cumulative totals to 12,734 reports of HIV infection and 2,643 AIDS cases by the end of 2025. The number of new HIV cases had declined for 10 consecutive years, reflecting the success of Hong Kong's prevention and control efforts.



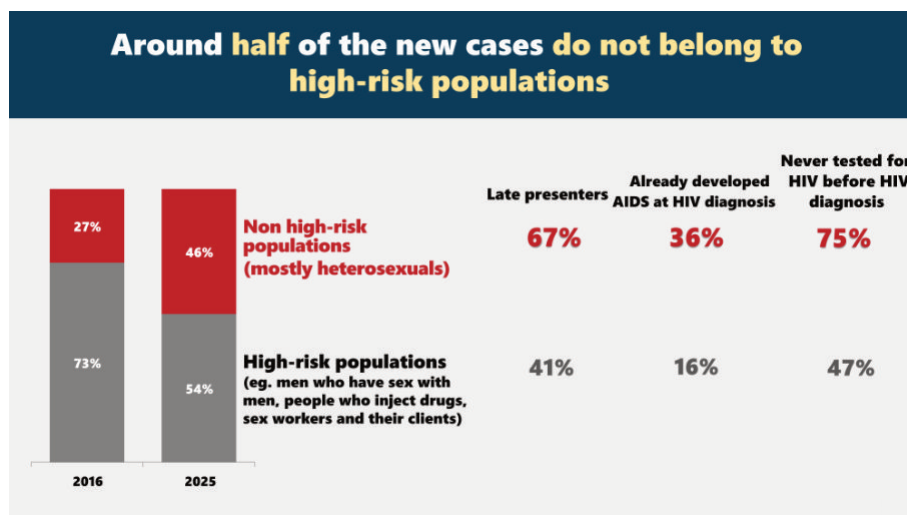
Annual number of newly reported cases of HIV infection and AIDS

Details of the newly reported cases were summarised in the table on page 13. Sexual contact remained the predominated route of transmission, accounting for 98.6% of all new HIV cases with a reported route in 2025. The number of new cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) had dropped significantly in recent years, while cases among heterosexuals showed no significant decline.



Annual number of newly reported HIV cases by route of transmission

The proportion of cases outside high-risk populations rose to 45.8% in 2025. These individuals were more likely to present late and to have progressed to AIDS at the time of HIV diagnosis. Notably, 74.8% of non-high-risk cases had never undergone HIV testing before their diagnosis, indicating that many individuals were not diagnosed or treated in a timely manner.



Characteristics of cases not belonging to high-risk populations

Late presentation often stems from low-risk perception. The public should not underestimate the risk of HIV infection or the consequences of late diagnosis. Anyone who has ever had sex is advised to undergo HIV testing at least once to monitor their health status.

For detailed statistics, please refer to:

https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/latest_stat.html



Live interview on NowTV 《時事全方位》 on 1 April 2026



Press briefing on 31 March 2026

(Please refer to <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/31/P2026033100291.htm>)



Summary table on the latest HIV/AIDS situation as of December 2025

	Year 2025		Cumulative (since 1984)	
	HIV infection	AIDS	HIV infection	AIDS
1. Gender				
Man	258	61	10,422	2,180
Woman	73	25	2,312	463
2. Age				
Age range (years)	6 - 76	24 - 76	0 - 96	0 - 86
3. Ethnicity				
Chinese	225	60	8,764	2,035
Non-Chinese	69	24	3,368	606
Unknown	37	2	602	2
4. Route of Transmission				
Homosexual/bisexual contact	158	28	6,145	1,038
Heterosexual contact	121	48	4,081	1,319
Injecting drug use	1	0	384	70
Transfusion of blood/blood products	1	0	88	26
Mother-to-child transmission	2	0	42	12
Undetermined	48	10	1,994	178
Total	331	86	12,734	2,643

Partnership Programme for Community Engagement



Launched on 1 April 2026, the Partnership Programme for Community Engagement marked a significant step in strengthening Hong Kong's HIV response. As part of DH's multifaceted collaboration model, the Programme leverages NGOs' community networks to build a more accessible and sustainable system of HIV prevention, control and support. Two pilot initiatives were introduced under this Programme:



01 Priority Populations Testing and Counselling Programme

This Programme promotes early testing and prevention to align with the DH's core objectives of expanding testing services and implementing target-based prevention, control and intervention for the priority populations identified in the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027). Eight subsidised NGOs provide target participants with free HIV and syphilis antibody testing, personalised psychological support and counselling, and health advice on safer sex and methods to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. When necessary, service recipients will be referred to other services for prevention, diagnosis or follow-up care. Outreach teams are deployed to reach communities directly, ensuring accessibility. By combining testing with psychological support and tailored health advice, the programme aims to normalise testing, reduce stigma and strengthen early linkage to care.



02 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) Support Services Programme



This Programme is designed to strengthen holistic support for PLHIV and their families, complementing the care provided at public HIV clinics. Five subsidised NGOs deliver comprehensive services using a holistic care approach that integrates medical, psychological and social dimensions. The programme helps PLHIV adjust, sustain their well-being, build resilience and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.



To facilitate smooth referral and continuity of care, DH convened a coordination meeting with the three HIV clinics on 26 March 2026 to establish referral criteria, workflows and transitional arrangements. This alignment between clinics and NGOs ensures that service users are seamlessly connected to appropriate support, with clear pathways for follow-up and ongoing care.

The Programme was introduced at a press conference on 31 March 2026, followed by a Briefing Session on 15 April 2026 with nearly 30 participants from the 13 commissioned NGOs. Their active engagement demonstrated strong commitment to responsive, community-based HIV services.

A Summary of the 131st ACA Meeting

■ HIV Epidemiology in Hong Kong 2025

DH presented the 2025 HIV epidemiology report, which showed that new HIV cases had continued to decline over the past decade, with numbers now less than half of the 2015 peak. The downward trend was most evident among men who have sex with men (MSM), reflecting the impact of expanded testing, early treatment, and preventive measures such as PrEP.

Members noted, however, that late presentation remained a significant concern, particularly among heterosexual men and women, as well as non-key populations, who often had limited prior testing and faced barriers related to age, stigma, or minority status. The discussion emphasised the need to normalise HIV testing across healthcare settings, strengthen case reporting, and expand molecular epidemiology to better understand transmission dynamics. Members further stressed the importance of tailored strategies for ethnic minority communities and non-key groups, alongside sustaining prevention efforts in MSM.

Overall, the meeting concluded that Hong Kong's HIV epidemic had shown encouraging progress, but continued vigilance and inclusive approaches were required to address late diagnosis and evolving population needs.



HIV Epidemiology in Hong Kong 2025

DH reviewed the history and current status of HIV surveillance among people who inject drugs (PWID). It was noted that HIV prevalence in local PWID had remained relatively low compared with global figures, though the risk of outbreaks persisted due to regional trends and cross-border exposures. Cases attributed to injecting drug use continued to account for a small proportion of total cases in Hong Kong, while the age profile of affected individuals had shifted upwards and reporting sources diversified, with methadone clinics playing an increasingly important role.



The methadone programme was highlighted as a cornerstone of harm reduction, offering daily contact with clients and serving as a platform for testing and health education. Following the discontinuation of urine HIV antibody in 2025, rapid blood-based tests were adopted, enabling integrated screening for HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis, alongside behavioural surveys.

DH shared the interim findings of the pilot “Methadone Clinic Universal Testing 2.0 (MUT 2.0)” programme launched in early 2026. Within six weeks, 346 participants, mostly older adults, were tested, with notable detection of viral hepatitis infection and syphilis. The pilot ran smoothly, with strong engagement from doctors, social workers and peer counsellors.

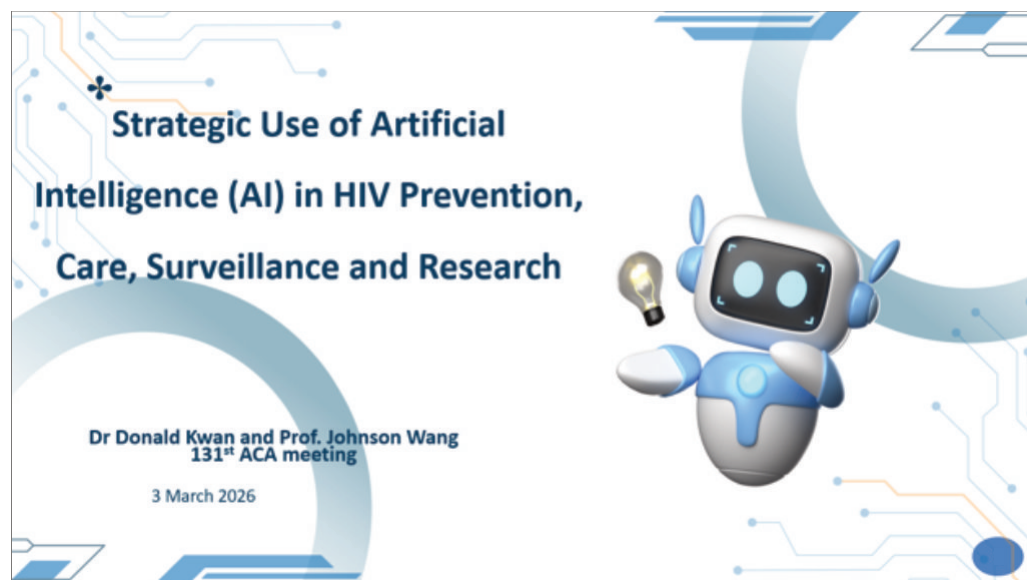
Members emphasised the importance of sustaining harm reduction services, expanding testing coverage, and strengthening behavioural monitoring. They also discussed the need to remain vigilant against imported risks and to adapt strategies to emerging patterns of drug use, including sexualised drug use. The meeting concluded that Hong Kong’s PWID surveillance had provided valuable insights and should continue to evolve to safeguard public health.



Strategic Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in HIV Prevention, Care, Surveillance and Research

Two local academics, Dr Donald KWAN (關子浩博士) and Prof Johnson WANG (王子昕教授), delivered a presentation on the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in HIV surveillance, prevention, service delivery and research. They highlighted how AI tools such as chatbots could support self-testing and counselling, offering cost-effective, 24/7 assistance with strong uptake among key populations.

AI was also noted to enhance surveillance by integrating molecular and behavioural data to map transmission networks, prioritise PrEP resources, and identify risk factors. Members discussed barriers, ethical safeguards and capacity considerations, stressing the importance of privacy, transparency, and culturally sensitive design. The meeting concluded that AI held promise to expand reach, reduce stigma, and strengthen public health responses, provided its use was guided by robust ethical and practical frameworks.



RRC Seminar for NGO staff 2026



■ Sexual Health Essentials: Clinical Foundations and Counselling

Red Ribbon Centre will hold its annual seminar for NGO staff on 9 June 2026 to strengthen capacity in delivering health programmes related to HIV and sexual health in the community. The full-day programme will be conducted in hybrid mode, featuring updates on HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, PEP/PrEP, and related counselling topics shared by doctors, nurses and a clinical psychologist. NGO staff engaged in HIV/AIDS and STI prevention are welcome to join either in person at the Red Ribbon Centre or online via Zoom.

Date:	09 June 2026 (Tuesday)
Time:	AM session: 09:00 - 13:00 PM session: 14:15 - 17:30
Format:	Hybrid mode (Red Ribbon Centre / Zoom)
Venue:	Red Ribbon Centre, 2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East (near Lok Fu MTR Station)
Target audience:	NGO staff involved in HIV/AIDS & STI prevention and related community services
Language:	Cantonese (supplemented with English)

Registration link



Time	Topics
AM session (09:00-13:00)	• Basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS • Basic knowledge of viral hepatitis • Fast-track linkage to healthcare at Yau Ma Tei Integrated Treatment Centre for people who receive a screening positive result • Introduction of services at Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre • Basic knowledge of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
PM session (14:15-17:30)	• Updates on Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) • Updates on Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) • Autonomy in sexual health: Introduction of sexual health service at "The Commons" • Applying LGBT+ Affirmative Therapy for client with chemsex

RRC Seminar for NGO Staff 2026

Sexual Health Essentials:
Clinical Foundations and Counselling

