

# Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update

## - a quarterly surveillance report

Department of Health

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### Editorial

To conclude the year 1999, 213 HIV infections and 61 AIDS were reported giving the cumulative total of 1,359 HIV infections and 433 AIDS since 1984. These annual figures are very similar to those of 1998 in terms of sex, ethnicity and number of newly reported HIV cases. However, there is a major increase in the number of injecting drug users (IDU) infected with HIV and the number is 2,1 and 6 in the year 1997, 1998 and 1999 respectively while the cumulative figure is 23. Although the absolute number is still small compared with other modes of transmission, the worrying fact is that there is a preceding increase in the prevalence of HIV antibody (0.21%) among methadone clinic users detected by the Unlinked Anonymous Screening (UAS) in 1998, the highest one ever recorded since 1992. Although, the UAS prevalence drops back to 0.11% in 1999, the voluntary HIV testing done in drug treatment centres in year 1999 show a prevalence of 0.4% which is higher than previous years. Nonetheless, the surveillance office will continue to monitor the trend closely.

Sexual contact remains to be the most important mode of transmission, accounting for 82% of cumulative total. In the mid to late 80's, among all the infected cases transmitted through sexual route, 50% to 100% of HIV cases were either homosexual or bisexual. However, the proportion of homosexual and bisexual cases started to drop since early 90's and now the combined figures stabilizes in the range of 14% to 27% in recent few years.

In 1999, four vertical transmissions were reported, giving a total of 10 known HIV infected babies. Six babies had their HIV diagnosis made before the age of 2. The rest were diagnosed from age 2 to 5. Four of them have progressed to AIDS. UAS has been conducted in neonates since 1990. The prevalence of HIV infection among neonate is quite steady which is about 0.03% in recent few years. Over 80% of the mothers' diagnosis were only made after their babies were found to be HIV positive. The role of universal antenatal screening for HIV needs much debate and discussion.

The number of various STDs recorded by government Social Hygiene Service (SHS) has been increasing since the 90's. The rise was particularly rapid between 1997 - 1999. The number of primary syphilis increased by 18 times and secondary syphilis by 7 times from 1990 to 1999. The number of gonorrhoea, though had been stabilized in the mid 90's, started to increase since 1997 to more than 3,000 in 1999. The number of genital herpes and wart increased by about 2 times from 1990 to 1999. It is strategically important to develop special health education for these groups of people as they may have multiple concurrent partners making a real risk of propagation of HIV within the population.

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## Reported HIV/AIDS Quarterly Statistics

4th Quarter (October - December) 1999

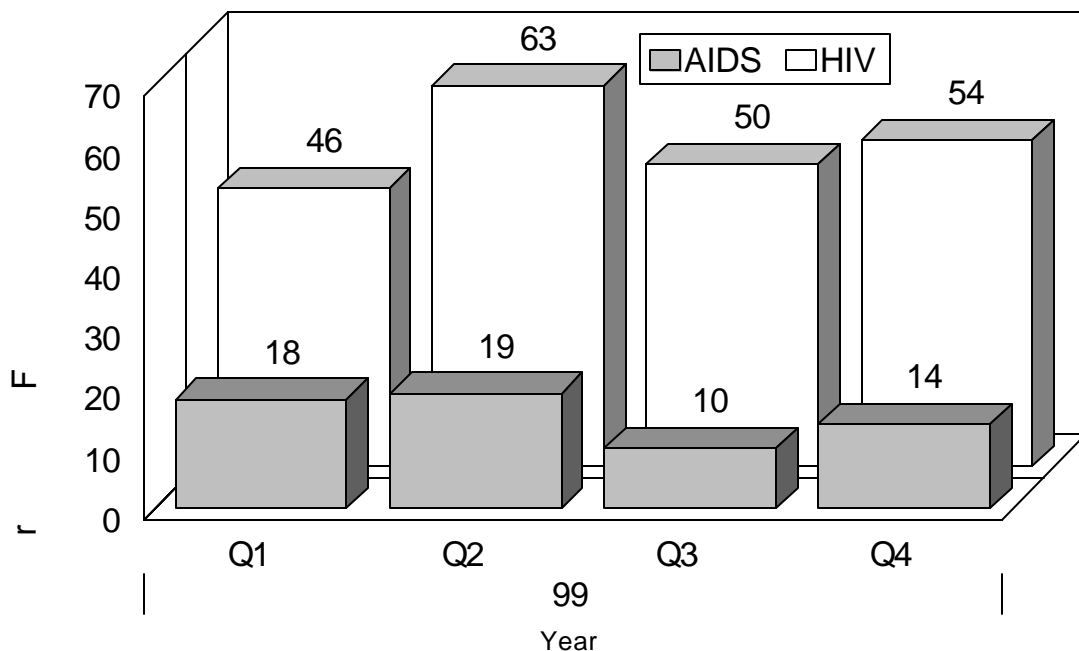
	This Quarter		Cumulative	
	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	43	13	1138	386
Female	11	1	221	47
<b>Ethnicity/race</b>				
Chinese	37	11	940	329
Non-Chinese	17	3	419	104
<i>Asian</i>	13	2	189	50
<i>White</i>	1	0	170	51
<i>Black</i>	0	0	13	2
<i>Others</i>	3	1	47	1
<b>Age at diagnosis</b>				
Adult	53	14	1328	425
Child (age 13 or less)	1	0	31	8
<b>Exposure category</b>				
Heterosexual	33	11	762	265
Homosexual	4	1	278	91
Bisexual	4	0	72	25
Injecting drug user	2	0	23	6
Blood/blood product infusion	0	0	68	18
Perinatal	1	0	10	4
Undetermined	10	2	146	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>433</b>

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reporting at  
Government Social Hygiene Service  
4th Quarter (October - December) 1999**

	<b><u>This Quarter</u></b>	<b><u>Same Quarter Last Year</u></b>
<b>Syphilis</b>		
<i>Primary</i>	58	70
<i>Secondary</i>	14	15
<i>Early latent</i>	62	86
<i>Late latent</i>	66	144
<i>Late (cardiovascular/neuro)</i>	0	1
<i>Congenital (early)</i>	0	0
<i>Congenital (late)</i>	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>316</b>
 <b>Gonorrhoea</b>	 815	 708
<b>Non-gonococcal urethritis (Male)</b>	1940	1963
<b>Non-specific genital infection (Female)</b>	1810	1456
<b>Genital wart</b>	855	1028
<b>Herpes genitalis</b>	350	395
<b>Pediculosis pubis/Scabies</b>	143	202
<b>Trichomonas/Monilia vaginitis</b>	854	892
<b>Molluscum contagiosum</b>	68	58
<b>Genital ulcer</b>	173	108
<b>Chancroid/Lymphogranuloma venereum</b>	2	6
<b>Others</b>	63	95
 <b>Total</b>	 <b>7276</b>	 <b>7227</b>

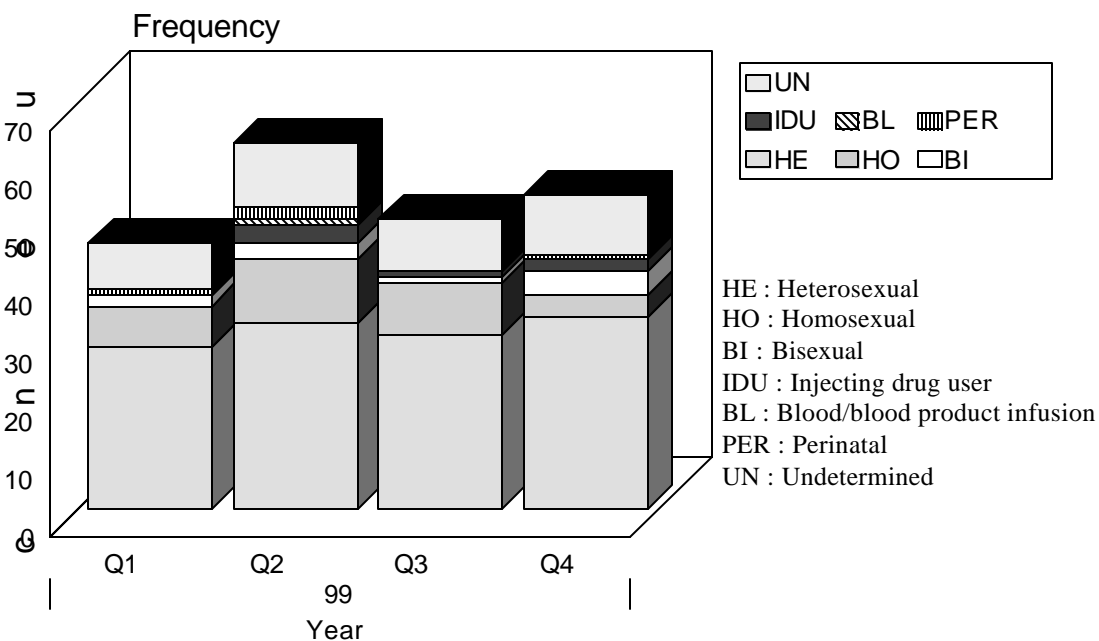
# Hong Kong HIV/AIDS Voluntary Reporting

(4th Quarter, 1999) Hong Kong



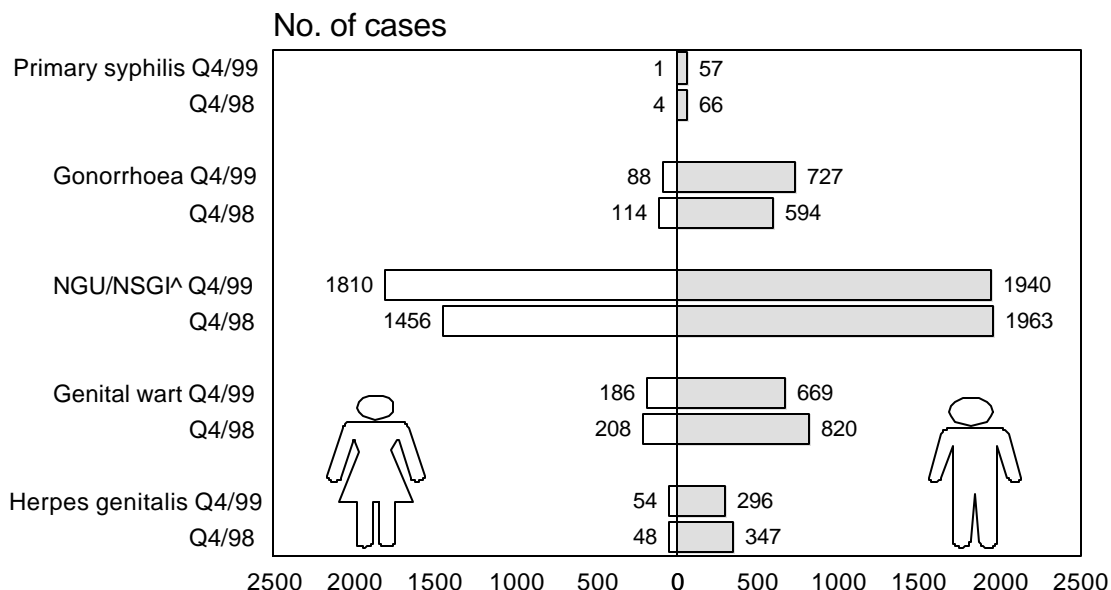
## Hong Kong HIV Voluntary Reporting

By Exposure Category (4th Quarter, 1999) Hong Kong



# Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reporting at GSHS\*

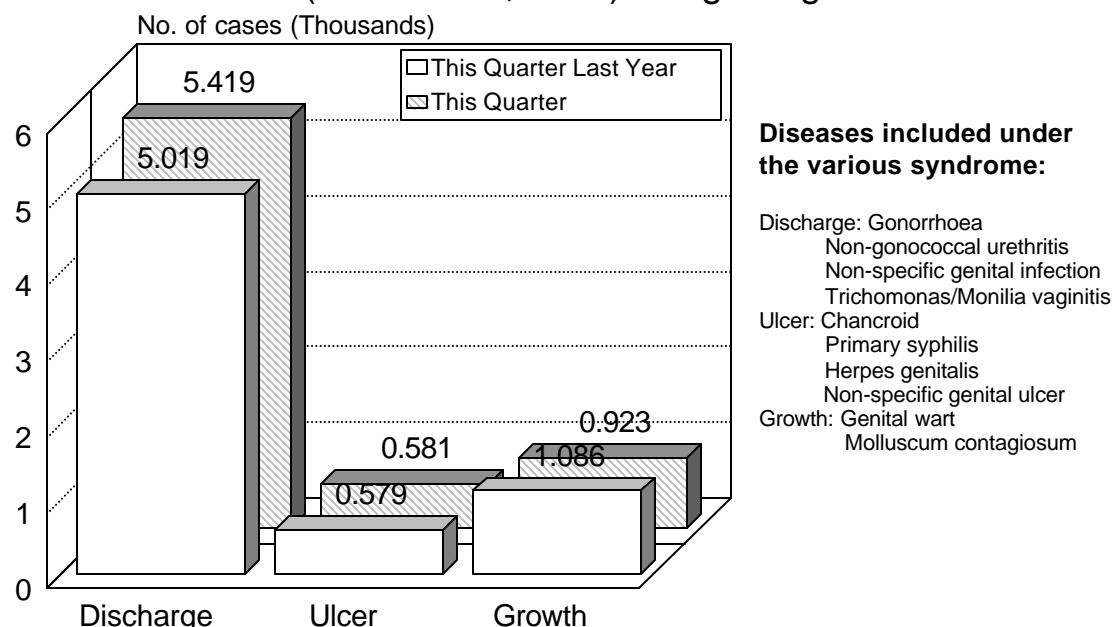
By sex (4th Quarter, 1999) Hong Kong



\* GSHS : Government Social Hygiene Service ^ NGU/NSGI : Non-gonococcal urethritis/Non-specific genital infection

## Syndrome Presentations of STD in GSHS\*

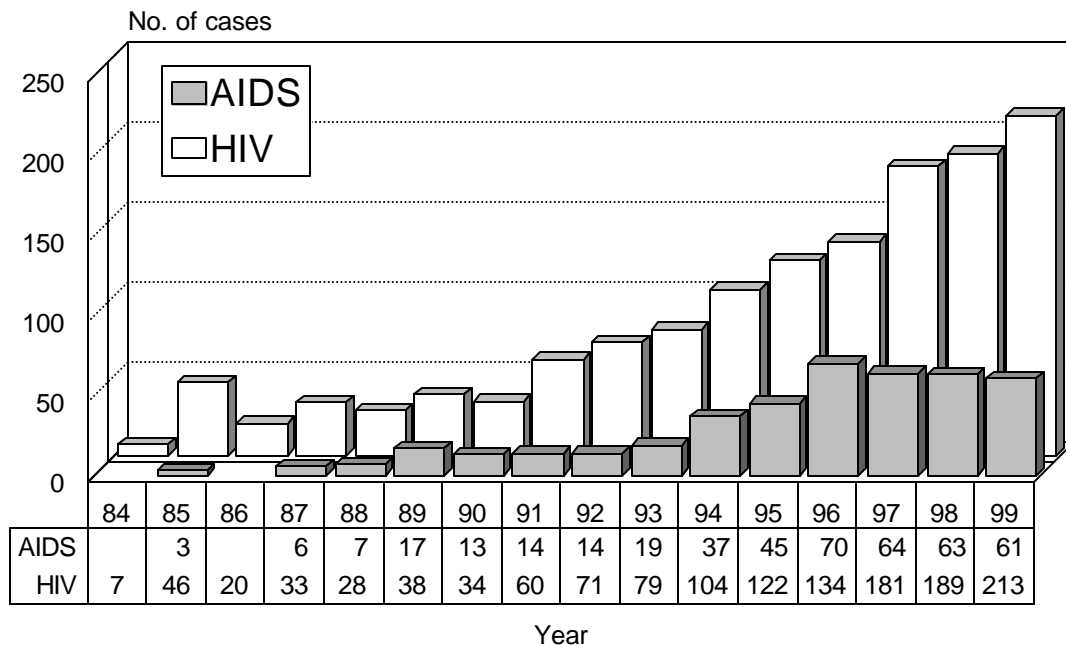
(4th Quarter, 1999) Hong Kong



\* GSHS : Government Social Hygiene Service

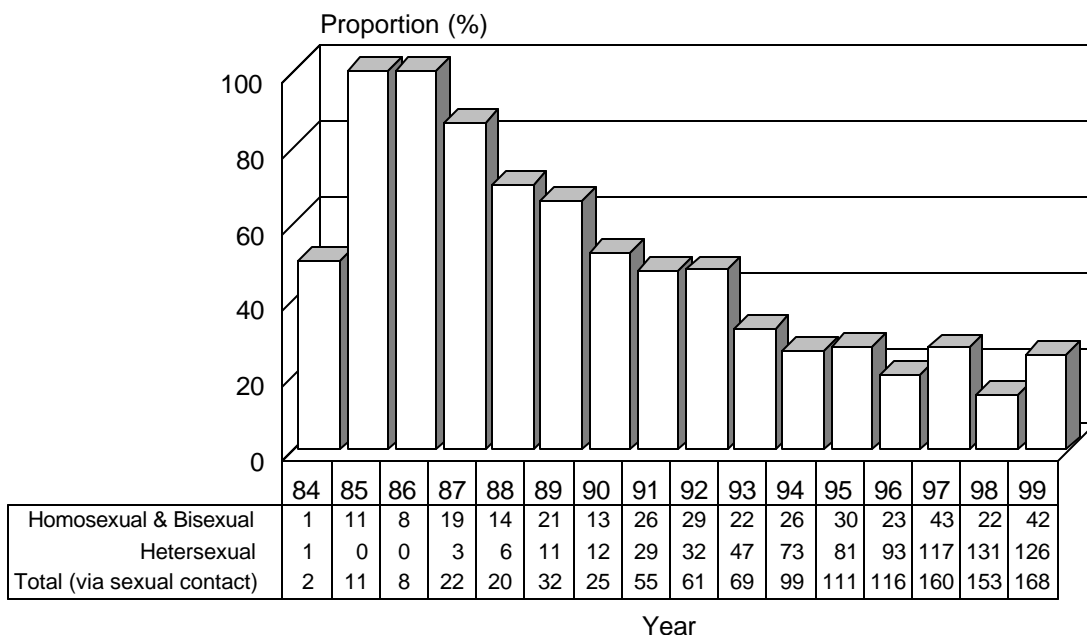
# Annual HIV/AIDS Statistics

1984 - 1999, Hong Kong (N=1359)

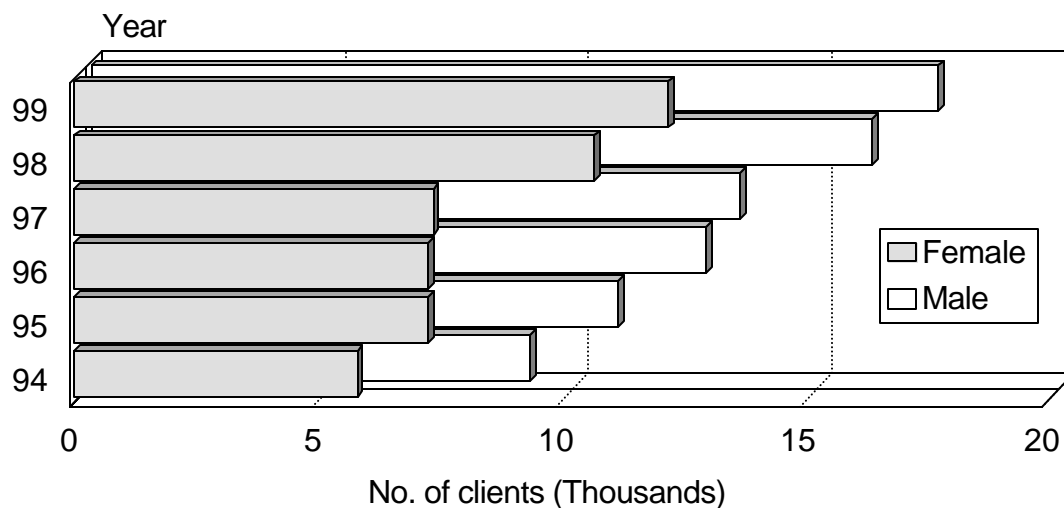


## Proportion of reported HIV infection through homosexual and bisexual contact versus all sexual contacts

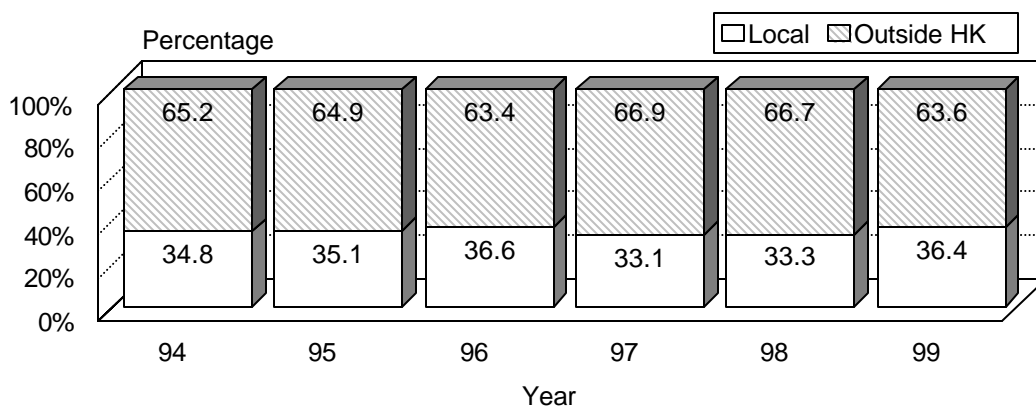
(1984 - 1999) Hong Kong



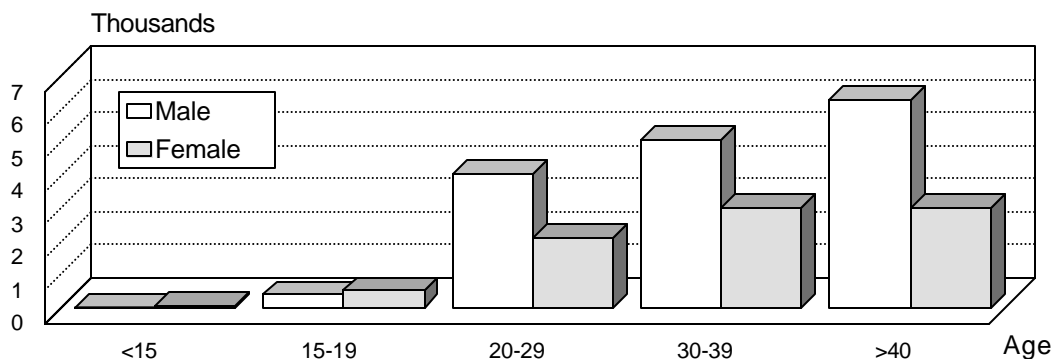
## New STD cases in both sex (1994-1999)



## Source of sex contact of male clients



## Age distribution of five major common STDs\*



\* Five major STDs : Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Herpes genitalia, Genital wart, NSGI/NGU

### **Sentinel behavioural surveillance of clients attending government sexually transmitted disease clinics**

Since 1996, the Department of Health has been regularly monitoring HIV-related risk behaviour of clients attending Social Hygiene Clinics via a pre-medical consultation assessment form. The data of 6310 new clients (about 8-9% of total new clients within the period) were analyzed. Male accounted for 70% of the total population. The mean age was 38 and 36 for male and female respectively. More than 90% were ethnic Chinese. More than 80% of the male and 60-70% female clients attended because of STD symptoms.

More than 80% of the male clients had their last casual sex with commercial sex workers for the four years. About two-thirds of the last casual sex were claimed to happen outside Hong Kong, with 57-63% in the Mainland China. More than 50% of the sex acts were without condom use during their last casual sex while two-thirds of the males did not use condom with their regular partners. Yet there seems to be a slight improvement of condom usage for casual sex in the past 3 months: 33.2% (96) to 42.4% (99) and 29.3% (96) to 18.2% (99) for sometimes and never use condom respectively.

The frequency of casual sex ranges from one to a few times per month in 28-36% to once to a few times per week in 4-8% for the male clients. Only 2% of the male admitted having sex with men.

Findings of the high risk sex behaviours of the STD clients echoed the rise in new STD incidence of Social Hygiene Clinics for more than 50% from 1996 to 1999. There were no prominent changes in behavioural pattern of people attending government STD clinics over the past four years. Though STD clinic attendee is a highly selected group who have failed sexual protection, the trend of their risk behaviours warrants concern. This reminded us of the importance of effecting behaviour change, and not just imparting knowledge, for prevention of STD/HIV. Targeted prevention programmes for people with high risk behaviours, e.g. sex workers, their clients, and STD patients, need to be strengthened.

**Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update can be viewed via the Internet at :**

***<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>***

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**\*Erratum : Please note that some of the figures quoted by the last issue on 3rd Quarter Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reporting at Government Social Hygiene Service (Page 3) were incorrect. A revised table is attached for reference.**



**Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reporting at  
Government Social Hygiene Service**  
3rd Quarter (July - September) 1999

	<u><b>This Quarter</b></u>	<u><b>Same Quarter Last Year</b></u>
<b>Syphilis</b>		
<i>Primary</i>	79	90
<i>Secondary</i>	27	26
<i>Early latent</i>	71	73
<i>Late latent</i>	104	91
<i>Late (cardiovascular/neuro)</i>	0	2
<i>Congenital (early)</i>	0	0
<i>Congenital (late)</i>	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Gonorrhoea</b>	866	723
<b>Non-gonococcal urethritis (Male)</b>	2261	2083
<b>Non-specific genital infection (Female)</b>	1839	1711
<b>Genital wart</b>	1017	1027
<b>Herpes genitalis</b>	410	339
<b>Pediculosis pubis/Scabies</b>	164	199
<b>Trichomonas/Monilia vaginitis</b>	865	904
<b>Molluscum contagiosum</b>	69	55
<b>Genital ulcer</b>	182	189
<b>Chancroid/Lymphogranuloma venereum</b>	2	2
<b>Others</b>	43	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>7587</b>