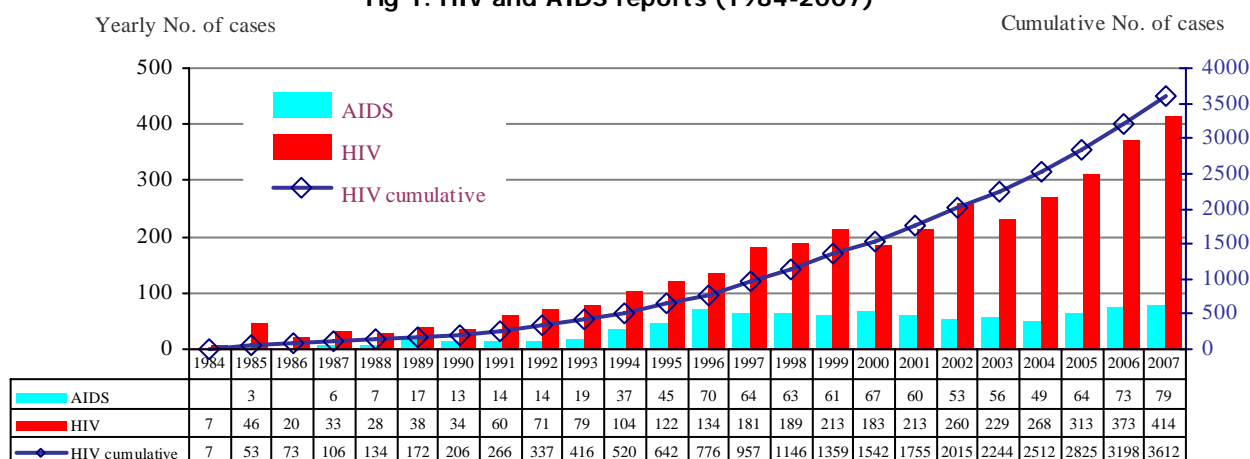


• Annual reported figures continue to rise

The first case of HIV infection in Hong Kong was reported in 1984. The Department of Health has received a cumulative total of 3612 reports of HIV infection under the voluntary and anonymous HIV/AIDS reporting system as of year 2007 (Fig. 1). The number of reports increased gradually over the past few years. The number of HIV reports in 2007 was 414. People with HIV infection develop into AIDS when they suffer from immunodeficiency due to HIV infection. The increasing trend of AIDS reports was ceased in 1997, most likely contributed by the introduction of effective highly active anti-retroviral treatment (HAART) at around the same time. A slight rise in AIDS cases was observed in recent years but the proportion of HIV infections progressed to AIDS remained stable. In 2007, 79 AIDS reports were received. The most common illnesses presenting at AIDS are Tuberculosis and *Pneumocystis pneumonia*.

According to World Health Organization's definition, the HIV prevalence in Hong Kong is low from available data. It was estimated that there were about 3600 people living with HIV in the territory as of 2007. The overall prevalence in adult population was estimated to be less than 0.1%, as determined in surveys of different populations.

Fig 1. HIV and AIDS reports (1984-2007)



* AIDS cases are included in the HIV cases

• Most infections were in adult, men and Chinese

A majority of the HIV reports belonged to men and Chinese. In 2007, eight out of ten reports were men. Chinese accounted for 63% of the reported cases. Most (85%) infected people were diagnosed at the age between 20 and 49 (Fig.2-4).

Fig 2. HIV reports by age group and gender (2007)

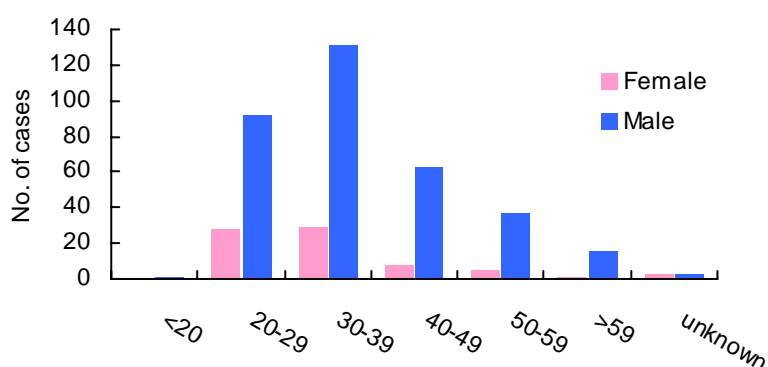


Fig 3. HIV reports by gender (2007)

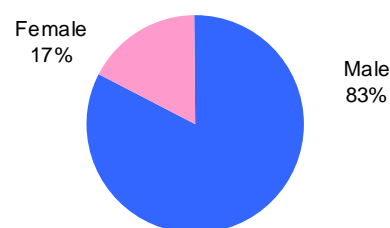
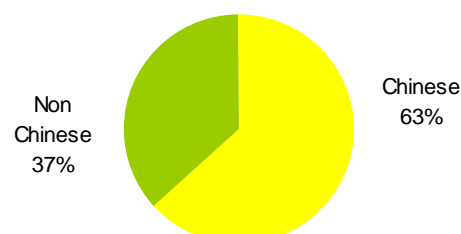


Fig 4. HIV reports by ethnicity (2007)



● **Unprotected sexual contact is the main risk for HIV**

The HIV epidemic in Hong Kong started off in a group of about seventy recipients of HIV-contaminated blood or blood products who were diagnosed in the mid 1980s, and a few isolated cases believed to have contracted the virus outside Hong Kong. Afterwards, sexual contact has become and remained the most important risk for HIV transmission. A proportion of cases did not have risk factor ascertained due to inadequate information.

Fig 5. Suspected route of HIV transmission (2007)

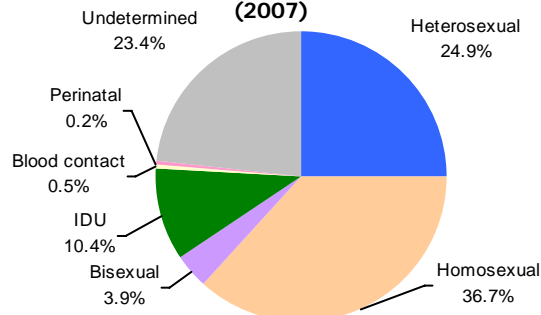
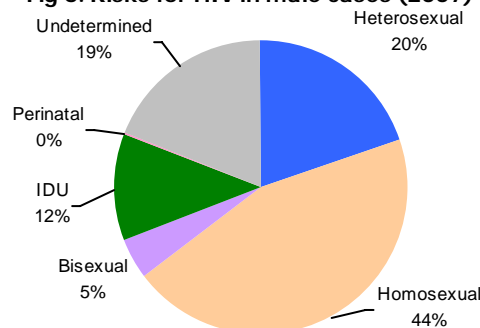


Fig 6. Risks for HIV in male cases (2007)



● **A dynamic rising trend of infections among men having sex with men (MSM)**

HIV infection among MSM is a particular cause for concern in recent years. Homosexual and bisexual contacts as route of transmission contributed to 41% of all HIV cases and nearly half of infections in men in 2007 (Fig. 5 & 6). MSM accounted for a rapidly increasing proportion. A definitive rise in the number of reports was also observed after 2003 (Fig. 7). The number of HIV reports from MSM was persistently higher than that from heterosexual men since 2005. A community-based

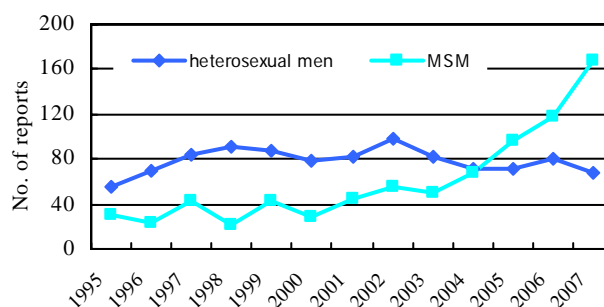
survey in 2006 revealed that 4% of MSM visiting gay saunas and bars were HIV positive. Three clusters of HIV-1 Subtype B infections with similar gene sequencing have been identified and reported since 2006. Most cases in these clusters reported homosexual or bisexual contacts. These indicated a rapid and local HIV transmission was occurring in the MSM population in Hong Kong. Epidemiologic investigation suggested cluster strain has become prevalent and endemic in the MSM community.

Heterosexual transmission used to be the major route of transmission in Hong Kong in the beginning of this decade. In 2007, it only accounted for 25% of all HIV reports (Fig. 5) and about one fifth of male cases (Fig. 6).

Over the last 2 decades, infection among injecting drug users (IDU) only accounted for 6% of all HIV reports. Infections among IDU contributed to 10% of all reports in 2007 and most were non-Chinese. However, the prevalence of HIV among methadone clinic attendees remained at a consistently low level of 0.2-0.3% from 2004 to 2007.

There was one report of perinatal HIV transmission in 2007. The prevalence of pregnant women in public antenatal clinics remained stable.

Fig 7. HIV reports in heterosexual men and MSM (1995-2007)



- In 2007:**
- ◆ One in every 15,000 new blood donors was tested HIV positive
 - ◆ One in every 5,000 pregnant women attending public antenatal services was tested HIV positive
 - ◆ One in every 700 attendees in STD clinics was tested HIV positive
 - ◆ One in every 300 drug users in methadone clinics was tested HIV positive