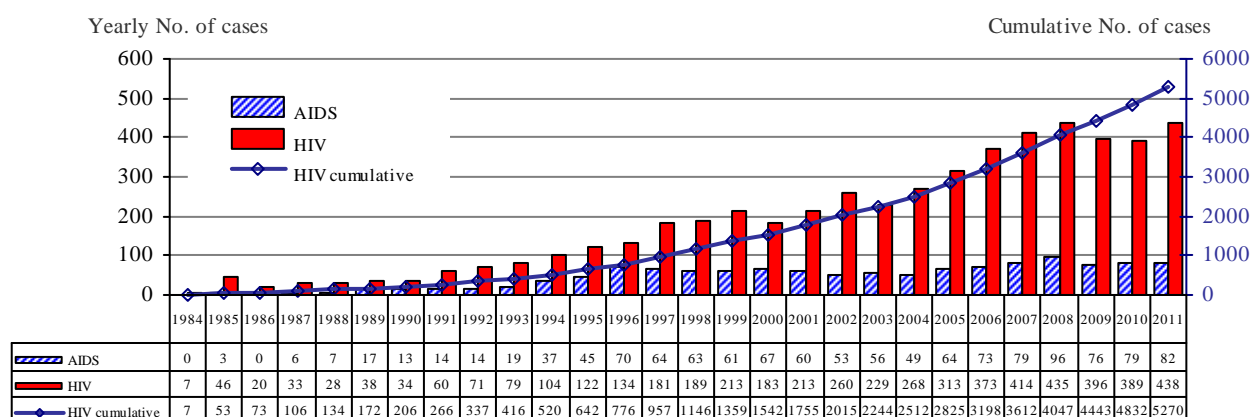


# HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong [2011]

## ● Annual reported cases reach record high number

The first case of HIV infection in Hong Kong was reported in 1984. The Department of Health has received a cumulative total of 5270 reports of HIV infection under the voluntary and anonymous HIV/AIDS reporting system as of year 2011 (Fig. 1). The number of annual reports increased to a record high of 438 cases in 2011, after a mild drop in 2009 and 2010. People infected with HIV progress to AIDS when they suffer from severe immunodeficiency due to HIV. Since the introduction of effective highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) around 1997, AIDS became largely a hallmark of late HIV diagnosis. The highest number of AIDS reports was recorded in 2008 at 96 cases. In 2011, 82 AIDS reports were received. The most common illnesses presenting at AIDS were *Pneumocystis pneumonia* and tuberculosis.

Fig 1. HIV and AIDS reports (1984-2011)



\* AIDS cases are included in the HIV cases

## ● Most infections were in adult, male and Chinese

A majority of the HIV reports belonged to male and Chinese. In 2011, 79% of the reports were men. Chinese accounted for 66% of the reported cases. Most (83%) infected people were diagnosed at the age between 20 and 49 (Fig.2-4).

Fig 2. HIV reports by age group and gender (2011)

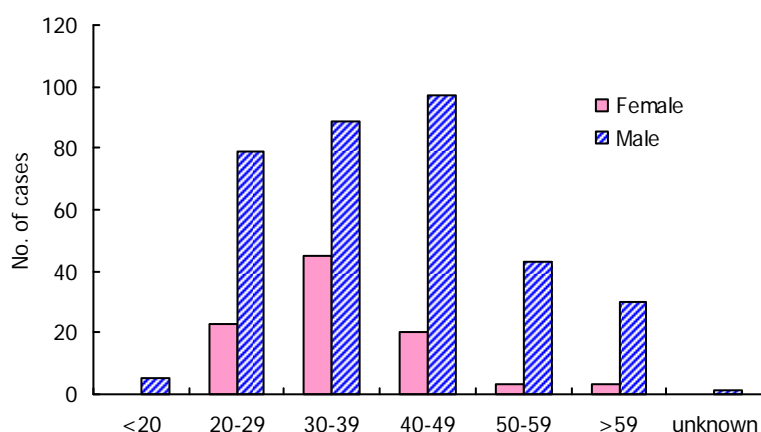


Fig 3. HIV reports by gender (2011)

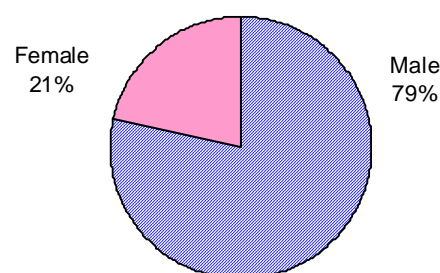
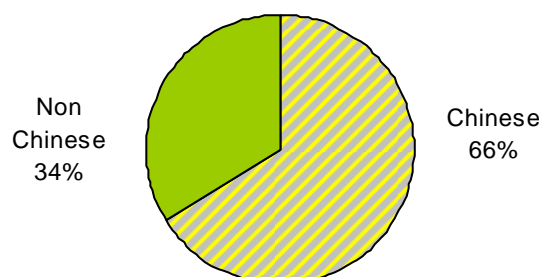


Fig 4. HIV reports by ethnicity (2011)



## ● Unprotected sexual contact was 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 via sexual transmission. Ever since, 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, although sexual transmission was the most probable cause.

Fig 5. Suspected route of HIV transmission (2011)

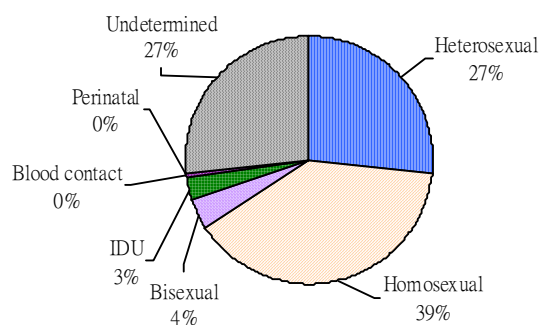
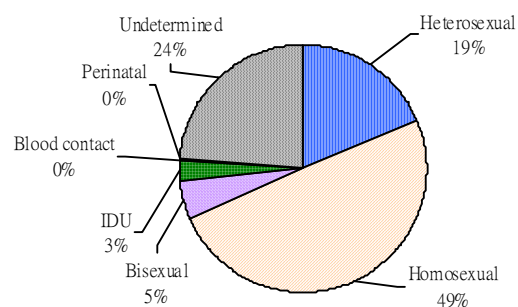


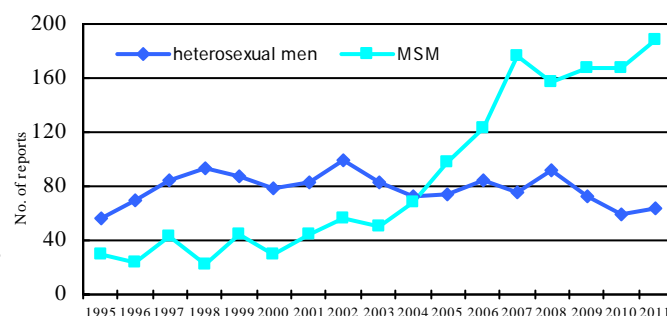
Fig 6. Risks for HIV in male cases (2011)



## ● A high level of infections among men having sex with men (MSM) remains a concern

HIV infection among MSM is a prominent epidemiologic feature in recent years, after a discernible rise in 2004. Homosexual and bisexual contacts as route of transmission contributed to 43% of all HIV cases and 54% of the infections in men in 2011 (Fig. 5 & 6). The record high 188 MSM infections reported in 2011 contributed to the high overall number. The number of HIV reports from MSM has been persistently higher than that from heterosexual men since 2005, with a continually widening trend (Fig. 7). Most cases contracted the virus through unprotected sex with men in Hong Kong. However, non-local infection is also a cause for concern, as more such cases were reported in 2011.

Fig 7. HIV reports in heterosexual men and MSM (1995-2011)



Heterosexual transmission remained relatively stable over the last decade. In 2011, it accounted for 27% of all HIV reports (Fig. 5) and about one fifth of male cases (Fig. 6).

The number of infection among injecting drug users (IDU) remained at a stable level in the past five years. Infections among IDU contributed to 3% of all reports in 2011 and 57% were Chinese. Besides, the prevalence of HIV among methadone clinic attendees remained stable, at a relatively low level of 0.53% in 2011.

Two cases transmitted via blood/blood product outside Hong Kong were reported in 2011. The prevalence of pregnant women in public antenatal clinics remained at a stable low level of 0.01% in 2011.

### In 2011:

- One in every 21,000 new blood donors was tested HIV positive
- One in every 9,400 pregnant women attending public antenatal services was tested HIV positive
- One in every 600 attendees in STD clinics was tested HIV positive
- One in every 200 drug users in methadone clinics was tested HIV positive

Other publications on HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong, such as *Annual HIV Surveillance Report*, *Quarterly STD/AIDS Update* are available at <http://www.aids.gov.hk>

FACTSHEET on HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong [2011]

Prepared by Special Preventive Programme

Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health

Telephone: 3143 7225 Fax: 2780 9580

Website: <http://www.aids.gov.hk> Email: [aids@dh.gov.hk](mailto:aids@dh.gov.hk)

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