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 5,783 reports of HIV infection under the voluntary and anonymous HIV/AIDS reporting system as of year 2012 (Fig. 1). The number of annual reports was a record high of 513 cases in 2012, 17% increase compared to 2011. People infected with HIV progress to AIDS when they suffer from clinical complications of severe immunodeficiency due to HIV. In 2012, 86 AIDS reports were received. The most common illnesses presenting at AIDS were *Pneumocystis* pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Most infections were in adult, male and Chinese

A majority of the HIV reports are male and Chinese. In 2012, 78% of the reports were men. Chinese accounted for 66% of the reported cases. Most (85%) infected people were diagnosed at the age between 20 and 49 (Fig.2-4).

Unprotected sexual contact was the main risk for HIV

Sexual contact remained the most important risk for HIV transmission in Hong Kong since mid 1980s. Sexual contact contributed to around 74% of all reported HIV cases in 2012. A proportion of cases (24% in 2012) did not have risk factor ascertained due to inadequate information. (Fig 5).
Hong Kong remained the major suspected place of infection

In 2012, around 44% of reported cases were assessed to have contracted the virus in Hong Kong, 12% in mainland China, 13% in other places and 31% did not have the place of infection ascertained due to inadequate information (Figure 7). In 2012, most MSM cases (68%) contracted the virus in Hong Kong. (Fig 8) Around one-third of heterosexual male cases contracted the virus in Hong Kong and in China respectively (Fig 9).

A high level of infections among men having sex with men (MSM) continues to be a concern

HIV infection among MSM became a prominent epidemiologic feature in recent years, after the marked rise in 2004. Homosexual and bisexual contacts as route of transmission contributed to nearly 50% of all HIV cases and 64% of the infections in men in 2012 (Fig. 5 & 6). The record high of 254 MSM infections reported in 2012 contributed to the high overall number. The number of HIV reports from MSM has been persistently higher than that from heterosexual men since 2005, and the trend continue to widen in the past few years (Fig. 10).

Heterosexual transmission remained relatively stable over the last decade. In 2012, it accounted for 25% of all HIV reports (Fig. 5) and about 16% of male cases (Fig. 6). The number of infection among injecting drug users (IDU) showed a decrease from 14 cases in 2011 to 7 cases in 2012. Infections among IDU contributed to 1% of all reports in 2012.

One case transmitted via perinatal route and one case transmitted via blood/blood product outside Hong Kong was reported in 2012.

In 2012:
- One in every 14,000 new blood donors was tested HIV positive
- One in every 6,000 pregnant women attending public antenatal services was tested HIV positive
- One in every 480 attendees in STD clinics was tested HIV positive
- One in every 160 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 [2012]
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March 2013