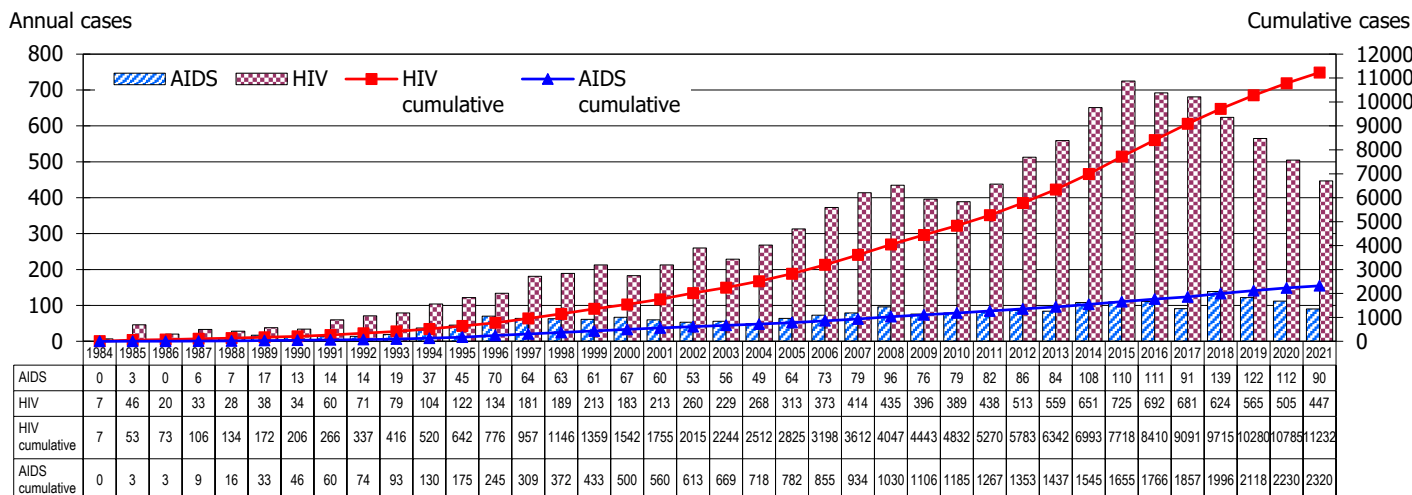


The number of annual reported cases decreased in recent years

The first case of HIV infection in Hong Kong was reported in 1984. As of 2021, the Department of Health has received a cumulative total of 11,232 reports of HIV infection and 2,320 AIDS cases under the voluntary and anonymous HIV/AIDS reporting system (Figure 1). The number of HIV reports in 2021 was 447, 11.5% decrease compared to the 505 cases in 2020. People infected with HIV progress to AIDS when they suffer from clinical complications of severe immunodeficiency due to HIV. In 2021, 90 AIDS reports were received. The most common AIDS-defining illnesses were *Pneumocystis pneumonia* and tuberculosis.

Figure 1. HIV infection and AIDS reports (1984 – 2021)



* AIDS cases are included in the HIV cases

Most infections were in male, Chinese and young adult

A majority of the HIV reports in 2021 are male (82.1%) and Chinese (70.7%). Most (71.4%) infected people were diagnosed at the age between 20 and 49 (Figures 2 to 4).

Figure 2. HIV reports by gender (2021)

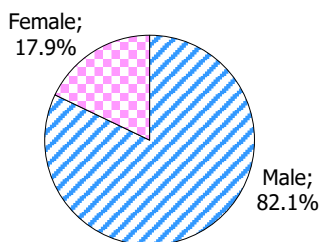


Figure 3. HIV reports by ethnicity (2021)

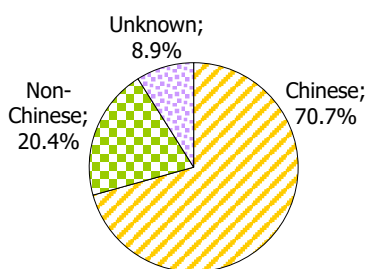
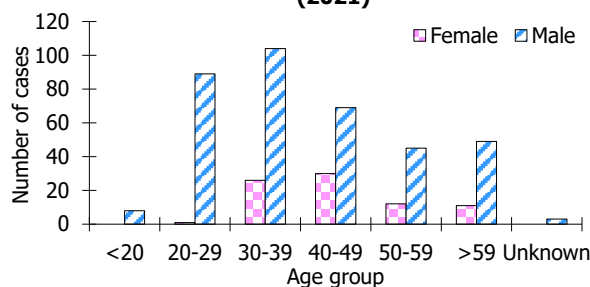


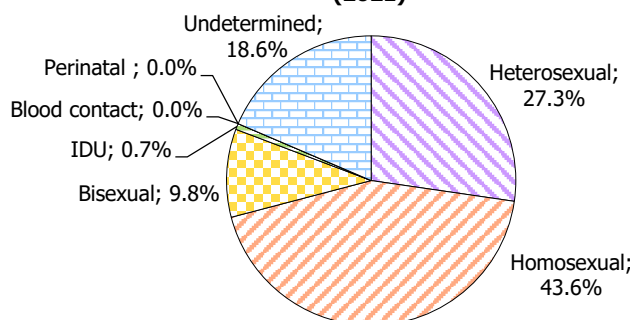
Figure 4. HIV reports by gender and age (2021)



Sexual contact remained the major route of transmission for HIV

In 2021, sexual contact contributed to 80.8% of all reported HIV cases (homosexual 43.6%, heterosexual 27.3%, bisexual 9.8%). There were 3 cases of infection via injecting drug use (IDU). No cases were reported to have been transmitted via blood contact or perinatal route. 18.6% of cases did not have risk factors ascertained due to inadequate information (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Suspected route of HIV transmission (2021)



Most of the cases were infected locally

In 2021, over half (60.4%) of reported cases were assessed to have contracted the virus in Hong Kong, 6.3% in Mainland China and 8.7% in other places respectively. 24.6% did not have the place of infection ascertained due to inadequate information (Figure 6). Moreover, a majority of men who have sex with men (MSM) cases (77.8%) contracted the virus in Hong Kong (Figure 7) as compared to nearly three-fourths (72.6%) of heterosexual male cases (Figure 8).

Figure 6. Suspected place of infection (2021)

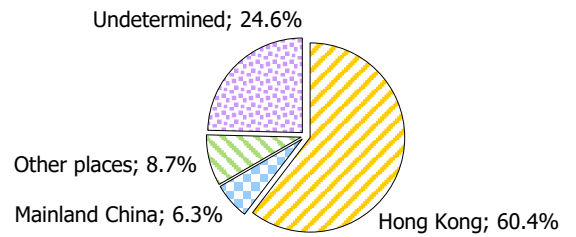


Figure 7. Suspected place of infection among MSM cases (2021)

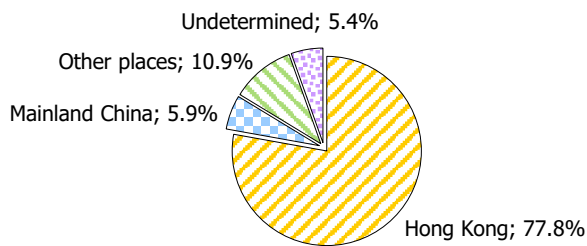
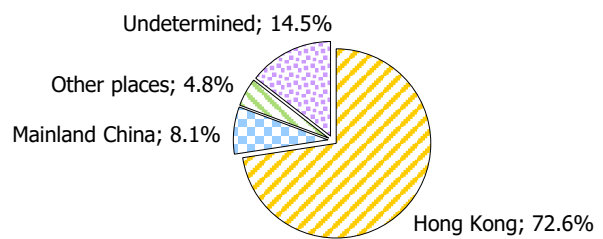


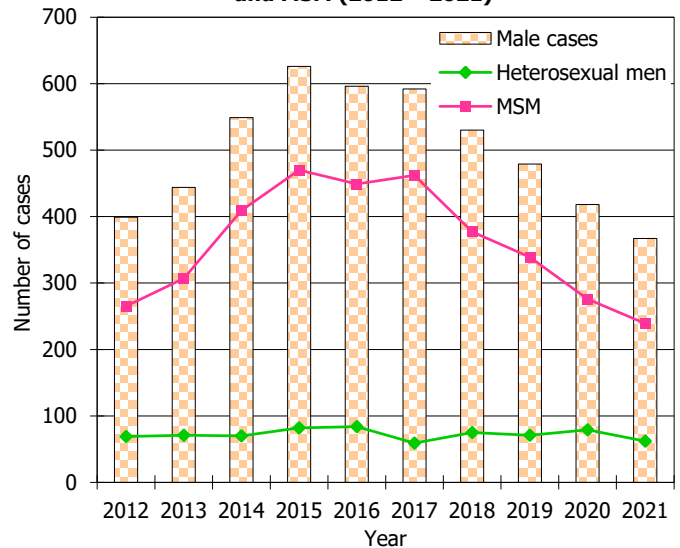
Figure 8. Suspected place of infection among heterosexual male cases (2021)



A concentrated epidemic among MSM warrants our sustained attention

HIV infection among MSM persistently predominated a high proportion of new infections. The number was 239 in 2021. MSM cases, with homosexual and bisexual contacts as the route of transmission, contributed to 53.5% of all HIV reported cases and 65.1% in all-male cases. The number of HIV reports from MSM has been persistently higher than that from heterosexual men since 2005, and the trend has continued to the present, although the number of MSM cases has decreased by 49.1% when compared to the peak in 2015 (470 cases) (Figure 9). Meanwhile, the number of heterosexual male cases remained stable in the past few years (ranging from 59 to 79 cases from 2017 to 2021).

Figure 9. HIV reports in heterosexual men and MSM (2012 – 2021)



In 2021:

- One in every 10,088 new blood donors was tested HIV positive.
- One in every 3,876 pregnant women attending public antenatal services was tested HIV positive.
- One in every 265 attendees in STD clinics was tested HIV positive.
- One in every 81 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 <https://www.aids.gov.hk>.

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 Issued by Special Preventive Programme
 Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health
 Telephone: 3143 7225 Facsimile: 2780 9580
 Website: <https://www.aids.gov.hk> Email: aids@dh.gov.hk
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