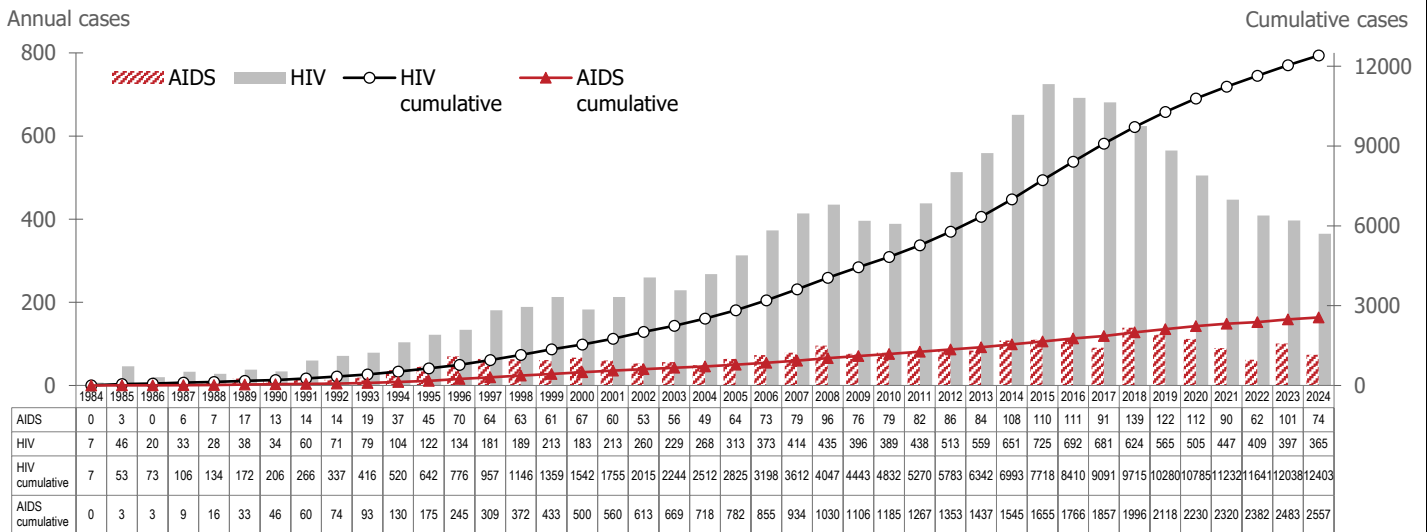


The number of newly reported HIV infection has decreased for the ninth consecutive year

The first case of HIV infection in Hong Kong was reported in 1984. As of 2024, the Department of Health has received a cumulative total of 12,403 reports of HIV infection and 2,557 AIDS cases under the HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system (Figure 1). The number of newly reported HIV infection in 2024 was 365, representing an 8.1% decrease compared to 397 in 2023. People infected with HIV progress to AIDS when they suffer from clinical complications of severe immunodeficiency due to HIV. In 2024, 74 new AIDS reports were received. The most common AIDS-defining illnesses were *Pneumocystis pneumonia* and tuberculosis.

Figure 1. HIV infection and AIDS reports (1984–2024)



Most newly reported HIV cases were men, Chinese and young adults

The majority of newly reported cases in 2024 were men (81.4%) and Chinese (71.8%). More than two thirds (69.6%) were diagnosed between 20 and 49 years old (Figures 2 to 4).

Figure 2. HIV reports by gender (2024)

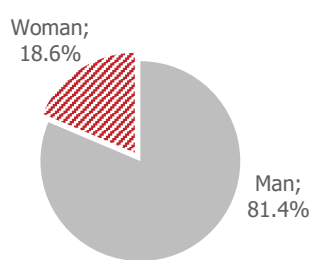


Figure 3. HIV reports by ethnicity (2024)

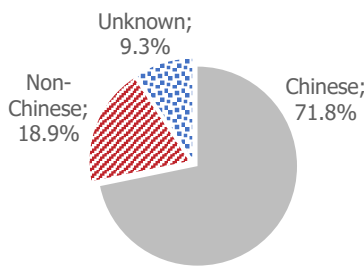
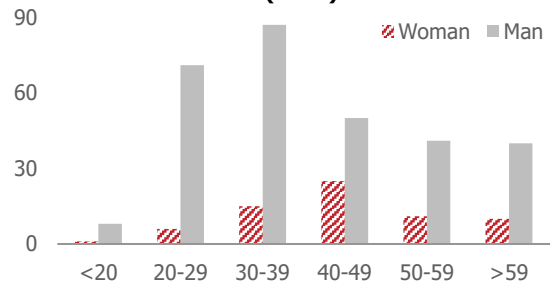


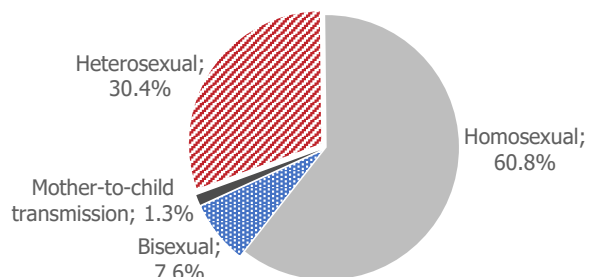
Figure 4. HIV reports by gender and age (2024)



Sexual contact remained the major route of transmission for HIV

In 2024, sexual contact contributed to 98.7% of all newly reported HIV cases with a reported route of transmission (homosexual, 60.8%; heterosexual, 30.4%; bisexual, 7.6%). Four cases acquired the infection via mother-to-child transmission outside Hong Kong (Figure 5). The routes of transmission of 49 cases were yet to be determined due to incomplete information.

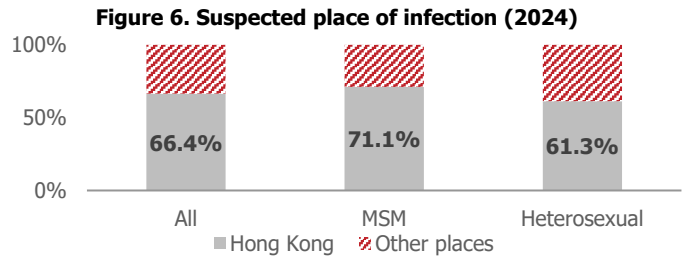
Figure 5. Suspected route of transmission (2024)



Note: Cases without a known route of transmission were excluded. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Most newly reported HIV cases acquired the infection locally

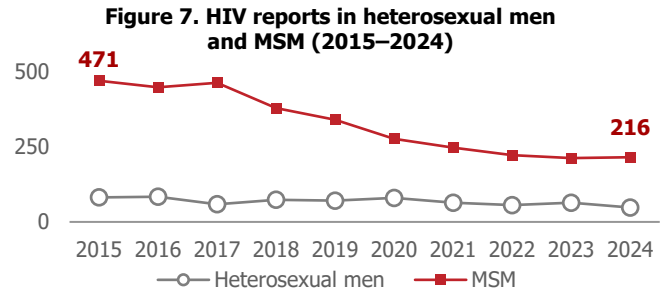
In 2024, two thirds (66.4%) of the newly reported HIV cases with an ascertained place of infection reported to have contracted the virus in Hong Kong. Around 70% of men who have sex with men (MSM) cases and 60% of heterosexual cases contracted the virus in Hong Kong (Figure 6).



Note: Cases without a known place of infection were excluded.

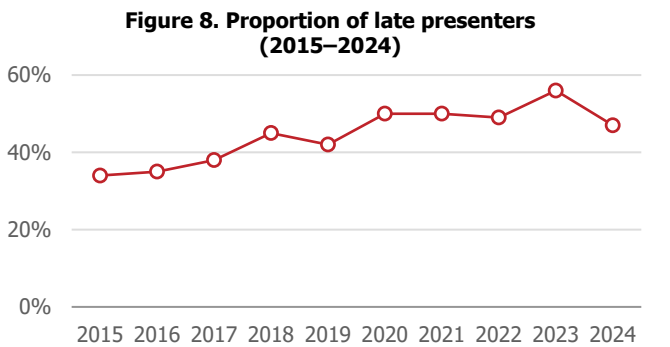
A concentrated epidemic among MSM warrants sustained attention

In Hong Kong, the concentrated epidemic among MSM warrants continuous attention. Although the number of newly reported HIV cases among MSM has decreased by 54.1% from the peak in 2015, its rate of decline has moderated in recent years. Meanwhile, the number of newly reported HIV cases among heterosexual men has not shown any significant decline (Figure 7).



Almost half of the newly reported HIV cases were late presenters

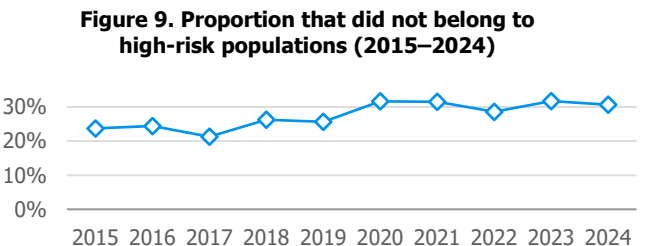
Late presenters refer to individuals whose CD4 cell count is less than 200 cells/mm³ or who have progressed to AIDS at the time of HIV diagnosis. Late presentation leads to increased risk of opportunistic infections, higher mortality, and increased risk of HIV transmission in the community. The proportion of late presenters among newly reported HIV cases has risen to over 40% in recent years (Figure 8), indicating that many were not diagnosed and put on treatment in a timely manner at the early stage of infection.



Note: Cases with incomplete information were excluded.

Nearly one third of newly reported HIV cases did not belong to high-risk populations

The proportion of newly reported HIV cases not belonging to high-risk populations (including MSM, sex workers, and people who inject drugs) has risen to over 30% in recent years (Figure 9).



- Over 95% of newly reported HIV cases acquired the infection via sexual contact.
- The latest “Recommendations on HIV Testing in Hong Kong” from the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI advised that people who have had sex should get HIV testing at least once to keep track of their health status.

Figures provided are provisional and subject to change.

Finalised figures will be published in the Annual HIV Surveillance Report. <https://www.aids.gov.hk>

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