

HONG KONG, CHINA

Summary

Since the first HIV/AIDS cases were reported in 1984, there has been a slow increase in reported cases in Hong Kong, China. At the end of June 1999, 1255 cases (including 409 AIDS cases) had been reported. The best estimate of HIV prevalence as of early 1999 was about 2000-3000. Although there is a steady increase in the number of HIV cases, the prevalence rate is estimated to be <0.1% in the adult population. The majority of reported cases occurred among men (84%). Mode of transmission was largely through either heterosexual contact (56%) or homo-bisexual contact (26%).

STI are reported only from social hygiene clinics (SHC), with data showing an increase in reported STI over time. Periodic surveys of private medical practitioners are conducted to complement passive STI surveillance. However, it appears that only about 20% of all STI are taken care of by public doctors. Gonococcal antimicrobial resistance has increased. Data on HIV/STI risk behaviour are available through monitoring of STI patients, methadone clinic attendees and prison inmates.

Surveillance Structure

- The modified 1993 CDC definition is used for the diagnosis of AIDS.
- The reported HIV/AIDS statistics are updated quarterly based on the data reported from medical practitioners and laboratories through voluntary reporting to the Department of Health. In addition, seroprevalence monitoring of selected groups and unlinked anonymous screening are conducted to supplement the surveillance data. Population groups surveyed included STI clinic patients, blood donors, and drug users.
- Reporting systems for curable STI exist only in the public health sector. STI in the private sector have been estimated periodically (every 5 years) through surveys of private medical practitioners.
- HIV sentinel surveillance was established in 1994 and continues to be conducted every year.

HIV/AIDS

Reported cases as of June 1999

The first case was reported in 1984, and reported cases have gradually increased. By the end of June 1999, 1255 cases including 409 AIDS cases and 196 HIV/AIDS-related deaths had been reported (Table 1). Of these, 84% occurred among men. Heterosexual HIV transmission was identified for 56% of reported cases (Table 2). The percentage of reported HIV infections due to heterosexual contact increased over the last 8 years.

Table 1: Reported cases of HIV/AIDS by year of diagnosis in Hong Kong, China as of June 1999

	1984	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	Total
AIDS	0	3	0	6	7	17	13	14	14	19	37	45	70	64	63	37	409
HIV/AIDS	7	46	20	33	28	38	34	60	71	79	104	122	134	181	189	109	1255

Table 2: Distribution of cumulative reported HIV/AIDS cases by sex and mode of transmission in Hong Kong, China as of June 1999

	HIV (%)	AIDS (%)
Sex		
Male	84	89
Female	16	11
Mode of transmissio		
Homo-/bisexual	26	28
IDU	2	2
Heterosexual	56	60
Blood products	5	4
Mother to infant	<1	1
Other/unknown	10	5

Active HIV/AIDS surveillance

Population groups surveyed for HIV include STI clinic patients, blood donors, and drug users (Table 3). Although serological studies show slight a increase between 1994 and 1996 in some target groups, HIV prevalence remains low.

Unlinked anonymous screening among TB patients found an HIV prevalence rate of 0.22% in 1995 and 0.40% in 1996. Unlinked anonymous screening among women delivering babies in hospitals showed an increase from zero in 1994 to 0.03% in 1996.

Table 3: HIV seroprevalence rate (%) in selected populations in Hong Kong, China

	1985	1994	1996	1998
Blood donors	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.003
STI patients	0.06	0.1	0.07	0.06
Drug abusers*	0	0.05	0.03	0.21

* methadone clinic attendees

Estimates and projections for HIV/AIDS

In 1994, the cumulative number of HIV infections was estimated at 3000 (prevalence rate at <0.1% among general population aged 15-49 years). The best estimate of HIV prevalence as of early 1999 remains at about two to three thousand. Up to June 1999, the cumulative reported number of HIV cases constituted about 38% to 57% of the estimated cumulative HIV numbers.

Table 4: HIV/AIDS epidemiological features in Hong Kong, China (1999 estimates)

HIV	Prevalence	2000 to 3000
	Prevalence rate in adults (15-49)*	<0.1%
	Women among HIV infected population	40%
HIV Infection by mode of transmission	Sexual contact	80%
	Injecting drug use	15%
	Others	5%
	Estimated reporting rate for HIV	38%-57%
	Estimated reporting rate for AIDS	38%

* Estimated population aged 15 to 49 years in Hong Kong, China in 1998 was 3 388 600.

STI other than HIV

Reported cases of STI from Government social hygiene clinics

Data on reported STI indicate an increase from 1989 to 1996 in the number of all STI, with the exception of gonorrhoea (Table 5).

Table 5: Trends in number of STI reported in Hong Kong, China Government social hygiene clinics

	Year		
	1989	1994	1996
Syphilis	382	384	1053
Gonorrhoea	3075	2521	2775
NGU	2330	3431	7247
NSGI	1745	2759	5549
Herpes Genitals	834	766	1343
Genital wart	2007	2418	3641
Other	2118	2569	5157
Total STI	12491	14848	26765

Active STI surveillance

A survey on Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV2) seroprevalence among risk groups conducted in 1995 showed prevalence rate of 17-18% in the general population, 12.8% among antenatal clinic attendees, and 77.5% among FSWs.

Estimates for STI

In early 1997, a survey of medical practitioners involved suggested that about 80% of STI patients were managed in the private sector and 20% in the public sector.

Gonococcal antimicrobial resistance

Data from the GASP showed that the percentage of gonococcal isolates resistant to penicillin ranged from 66% to 78% from 1992 to 1998. Resistance to quinolones increased from 3% to 49% over the same period.

HIV and STI Risk Behaviour Surveillance

Information is not available.