Number of annual reported cases remained high in 2016

The first case of HIV infection in Hong Kong was reported in 1984. As of 2016, the Department of Health has received a cumulative total of 8,410 reports of HIV infection and 1,766 AIDS cases under the voluntary and anonymous HIV/AIDS reporting system (Fig. 1). The number of HIV reports in 2016 was 692, 5% decrease compared to the 725 cases in 2015. People infected with HIV progress to AIDS when they suffer from clinical complications of severe immunodeficiency due to HIV. In 2016, 111 AIDS reports were received. The most common illnesses presenting at AIDS were Pneumocystis pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Most infections were in young adult, male and Chinese

A majority of the HIV reports in 2016 are male (86%) and Chinese (72%). Most (79%) infected people were diagnosed at the age between 20 and 49 (Fig.2-4).

Sexual contact remained the major route of transmission for HIV

Sexual contact contributed to around 83% of all reported HIV cases in 2016 (homosexual 55 %, heterosexual 21%, bisexual 7%). (Fig 5). There were 6 cases of infection via injecting drug use (IDU) and no case was reported to have been transmitted via perinatal route in 2016. 17% of cases in 2016 did not have risk factor ascertained due to inadequate information.

Note: The percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Most of the cases were infected locally

In 2016, over half (58%) of reported cases were assessed to have contracted the virus in Hong Kong, 10% in Mainland China and 10% in other places respectively. 9% did not have the place of infection ascertained due to inadequate information (Figure 6). In 2016, a majority of MSM cases (75%) contracted the virus in Hong Kong (Fig 7) as compared to just more than half (54%) of heterosexual male cases. (Fig 8).

Note: The percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The major concern was continual rise in infections among men who have sex with men (MSM)

A continuously rising trend of HIV infection among MSM was observed since 2004. The number was 424 in 2016. In 2016, homosexual and bisexual contacts as route of transmission contributed to 63% of all HIV reported cases and 73% in all male cases in 2016. 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. 9). In contrast, heterosexual male cases showed a decreasing proportion in past few years (13% of all male cases in 2016).

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

In 2016:
- One in every 11,900 new blood donors was tested HIV positive
- One in every 5,700 pregnant women attending public antenatal services was tested HIV positive
- One in every 210 attendees in STD clinics was tested HIV positive
- One in every 90 users in methadone clinics was tested HIV positive

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