

Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update

- a quarterly surveillance report

Department of Health

4th Quarter 1995 Vol.1 No.4

HIV/AIDS among drug users in Hong Kong

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In Hong Kong, the first case of HIV-infected drug user was reported in 1985. As of the end of 1995, there were 13 drug users reportedly infected with the virus. This corresponded to about 2% of the local cumulative HIV infections. Eleven drug users were male and 5 were ethnic Chinese. Three patients had progressed to AIDS and two were known to have died. Other risk factors had been identified for some cases - 3 had heterosexual contact. Also, two female patients with heterosexually acquired HIV infection had the habit of drug use.

As reported data carries the inherent limitations of under-diagnosis and under-reporting, additional surveillance mechanisms have been employed to provide better insight into the problem. They were comprised of the voluntary HIV testing and unlinked anonymous screening (UAS) conducted at Methadone clinics and other drug rehabilitation institutions. More than 20,000 HIV tests have so far been done for the attendants of these centres since 1985, and five positive samples were identified. The exact reasons underlying the low HIV prevalence among drug users in Hong Kong are often a matter of debates. Nevertheless, the main reasons are generally believed to be the lawful availability of cheap syringes and the easy accessibility of drug rehabilitation, medical and allied support services for drug users.

The existing low HIV prevalence in local drug users should, however, not be a reason for complacency. The world has witnessed many examples of rapid spread of HIV among injecting drug users. High level of needle-sharing and mixing of these drug users fuel the swift spread. HIV infection rate has exploded from 2% to nearly 50% in injecting drug users of Bangkok in the late 1980s. This triggered a wave of intense heterosexual transmission and further spread of HIV into the low-risk general population. Our "privileged" situation of low HIV prevalence in drug users serves to remind us of the importance of sustaining and enhancing efforts of public health surveillance and control. ☾

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Reported HIV/AIDS Quarterly Statistics

4th Quarter, 1995

	This Quarter		Cumulative	
	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
1. Sex				
Male	32	13	575	160
Female	8	1	67	15
2. Ethnicity/race				
Chinese	29	11	428	121
Non-Chinese	11	3	214	54
<i>Asian</i>	6	1	55	17
<i>White</i>	3	2	122	35
<i>Black</i>	0	0	8	2
<i>Others</i>	2	0	29	0
3. Age at diagnosis				
Adult	39	13	618	169
Child (age 13 or less)	1	1	24	6
4. Exposure category				
Heterosexual	25	11	292	72
Homosexual	10	2	177	61
Bisexual	1	0	43	19
Injecting drug user	1	0	13	3
Blood/blood product infusion	0	0	66	12
Perinatal	1	1	3	2
Undetermined	2	0	48	6
5. Total	40	14	642	175

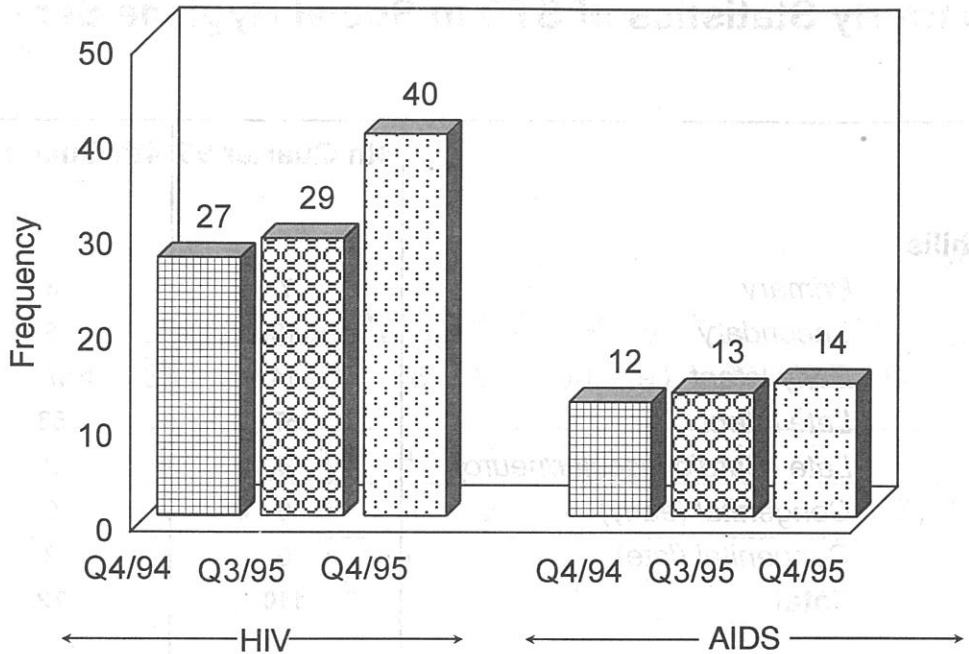
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Quarterly Statistics of STD in Social Hygiene Service

	4th Quarter 95	4th Quarter 94
Syphilis		
<i>Primary</i>	7	3
<i>Secondary</i>	18	5
<i>Early latent</i>	14	7
<i>Late latent</i>	67	53
<i>Late (Cardiovascular/neuro)</i>	4	2
<i>Congenital (early)</i>	0	0
<i>Congenital (late)</i>	0	2
Total	110	72
Gonorrhoea	563	547
Non-gonococcal urethritis	1259	1106
Chancroid/Lymphogranuloma venereum	2	7
Genital Wart	799	676
Herpes Genitalis	262	205
Pediculosis pubis/Scabies	200	138
Non-specific genital infection	755	761
Trichomonas/Monilia vaginitis	641	502
Molluscum Contagiosum	58	18
Genital Ulcer	23	14
Others	31	7
Total	4703	4053

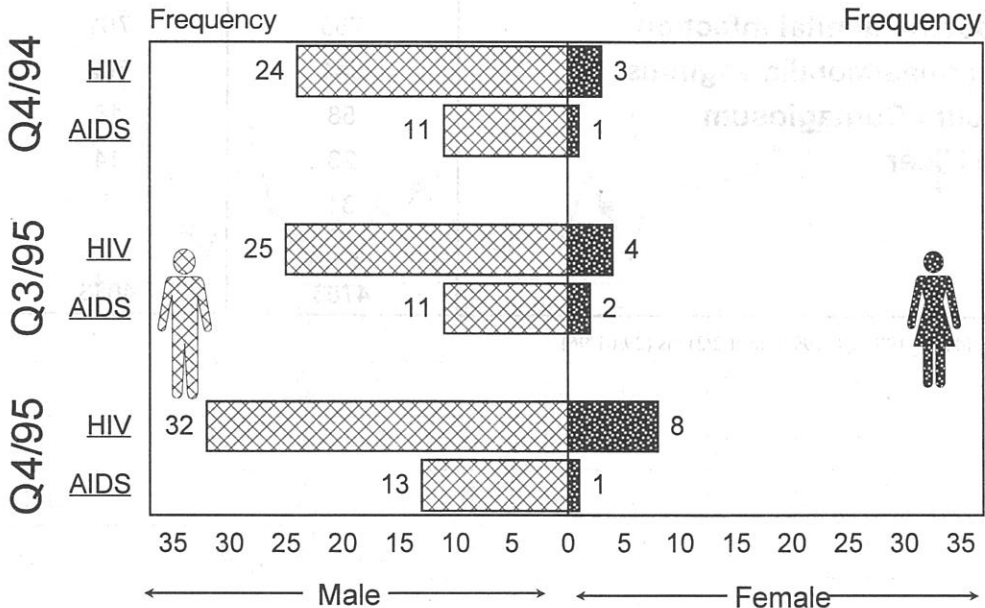
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Quarterly Reported HIV/AIDS - 4th Quarter, 1995



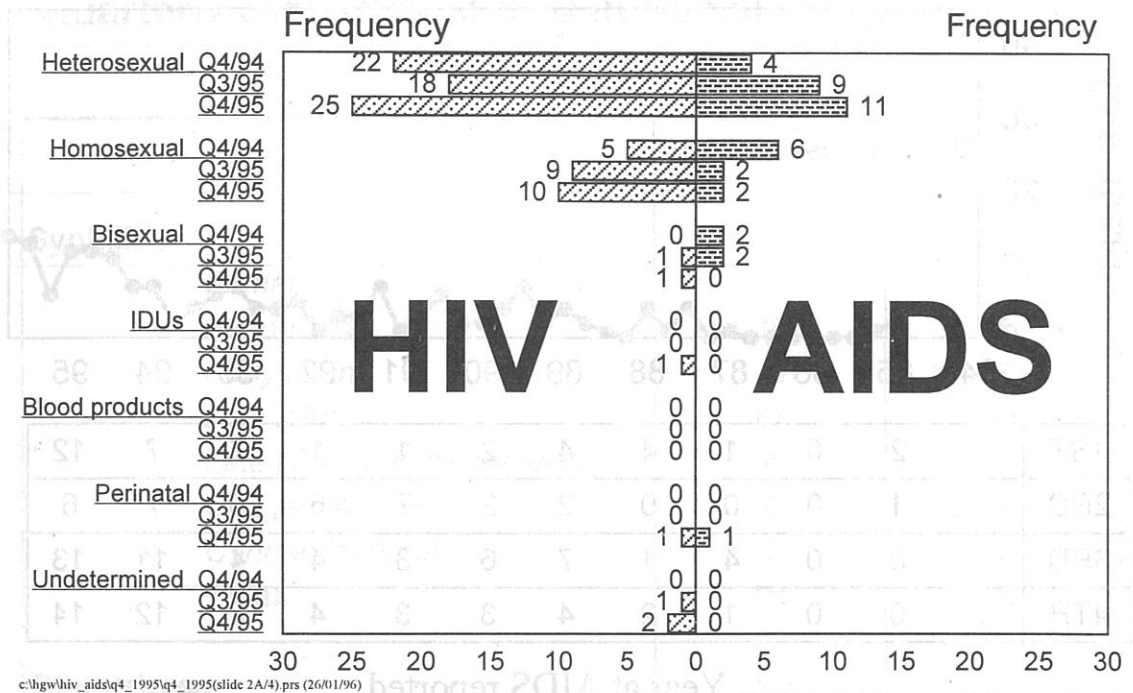
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Quarterly Reported HIV/AIDS - By Sex 4th Quarter, 1995

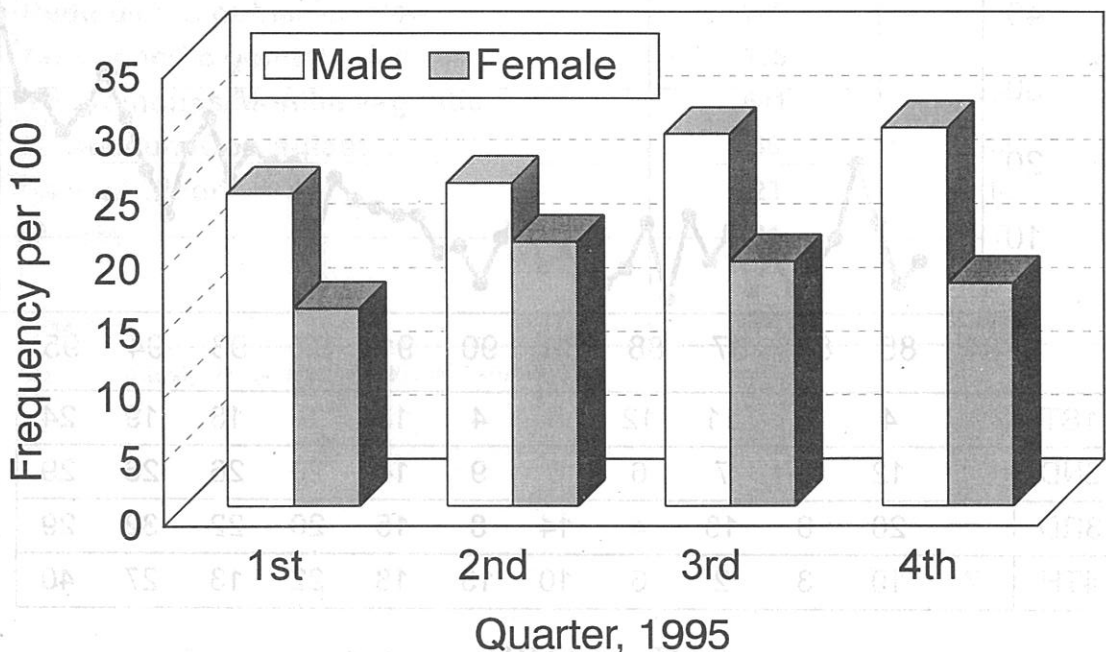


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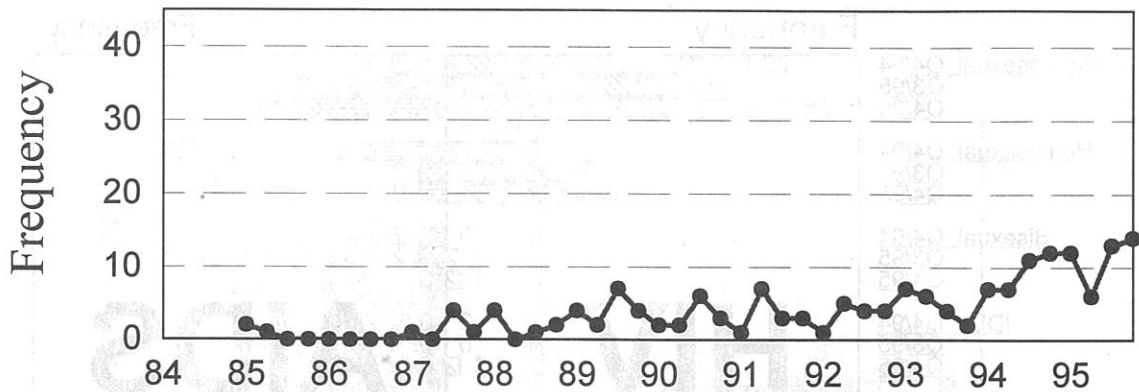
Quarterly Reported HIV/AIDS - By Exposure Category 4th Quarter, 1995



Reported Incidence of STDs in Social Hygiene Service by Sex, 1995



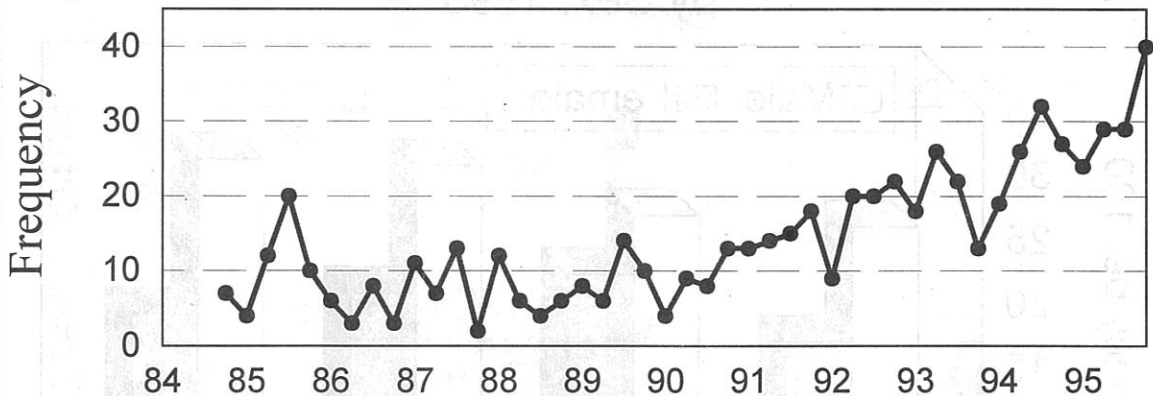
Quarterly Reported AIDS in Hong Kong



1ST	2	0	1	4	4	2	1	1	7	7	12
2ND	1	0	0	0	2	2	7	5	6	7	6
3RD	0	0	4	1	7	6	3	4	4	11	13
4TH	0	0	1	2	4	3	3	4	2	12	14

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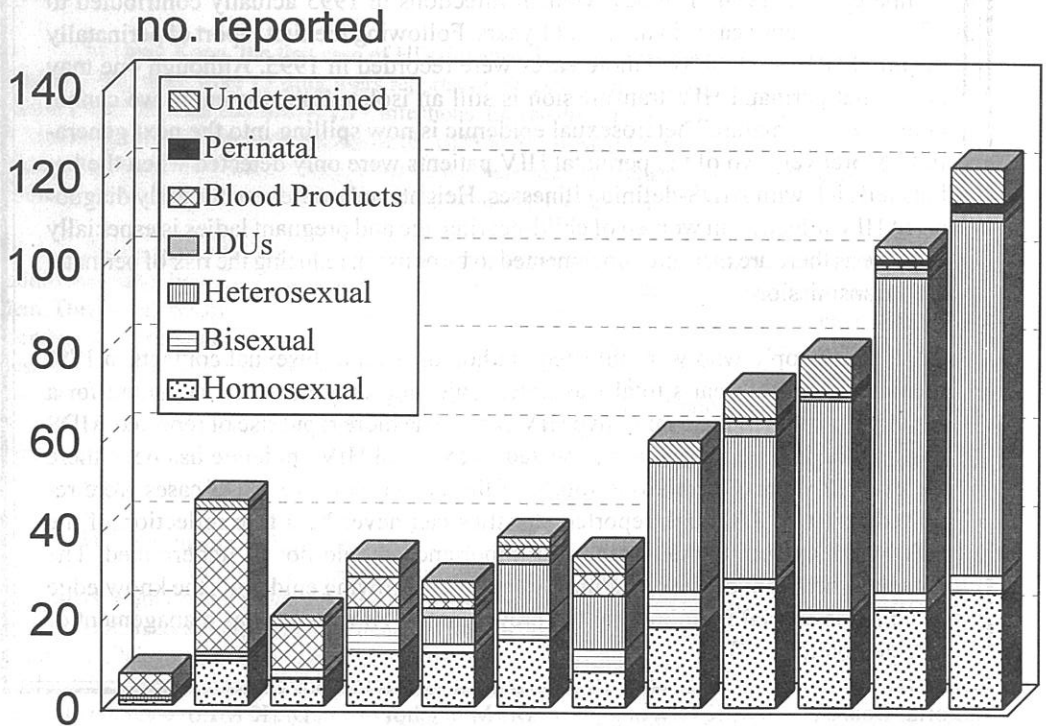
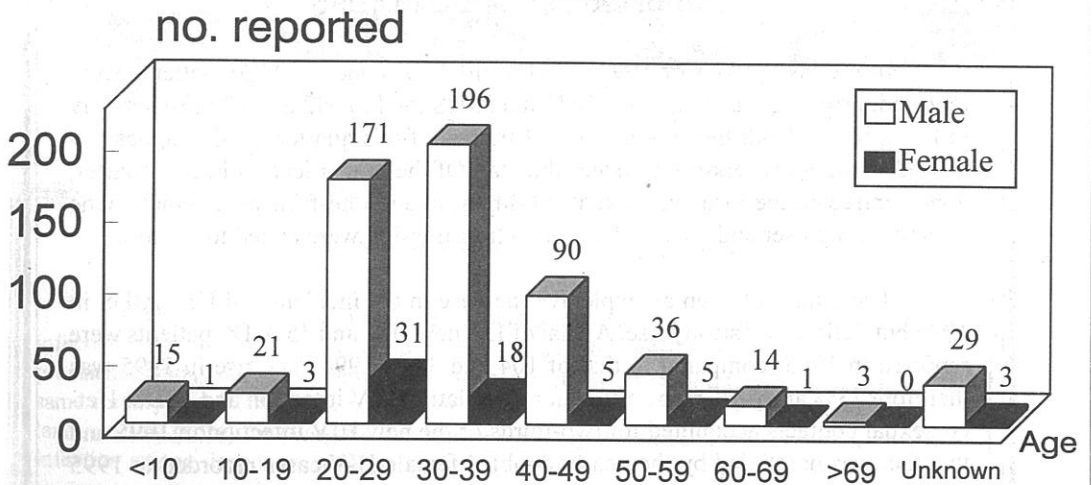
Quarterly Reported HIV in Hong Kong



1ST	4	6	11	12	8	4	13	9	18	19	24
2ND	12	3	7	6	6	9	14	20	26	26	29
3RD	20	8	13	4	14	8	15	20	22	32	29
4TH	7	10	3	2	6	10	13	18	13	27	40

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Reported HIV Infection in Hong Kong 1984 - 1995



	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95
Undetermined	0	2	2	4	4	2	4	5	6	8	3	8
Perinatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Blood Products	5	32	10	7	2	2	5	0	1	1	1	0
IDUs	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	2
Heterosexual	1	0	0	3	6	11	12	29	32	47	71	80
Bisexual	0	1	2	7	2	6	5	8	2	2	4	4
Homosexual	1	10	6	12	12	15	8	18	27	20	22	26

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