

Health, Welfare & Food Bureau

SARS Bulletin

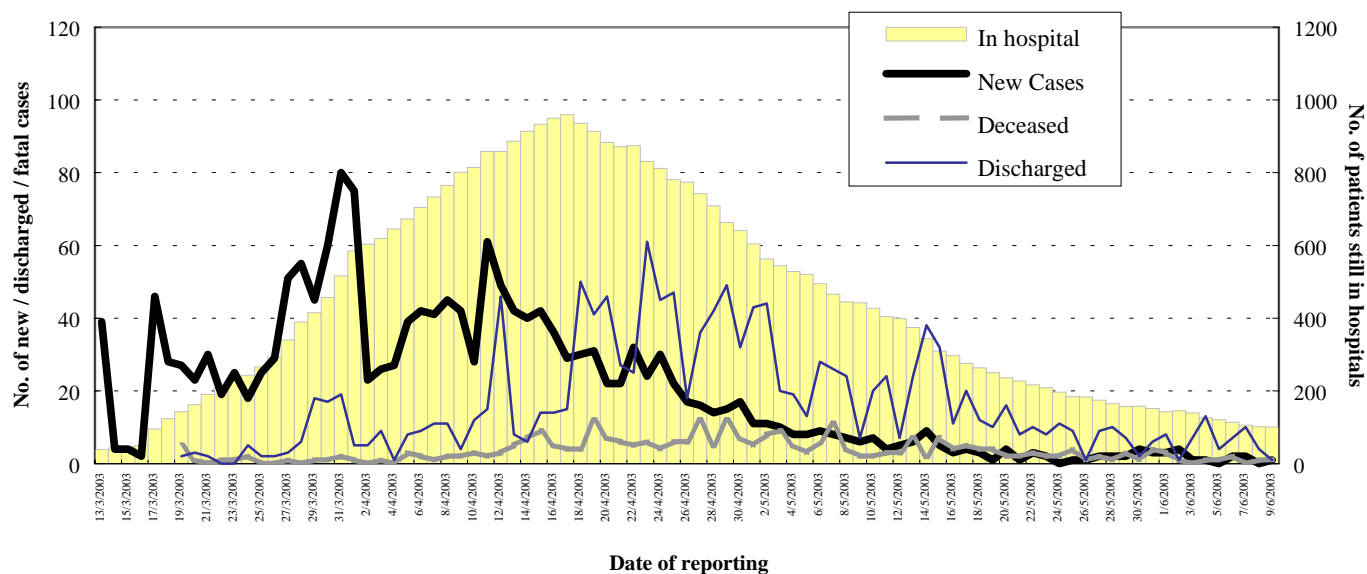
(10 June 2003)

Summary of Cases

On 9 June, one more patient with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) had recovered from the disease and been discharged from hospitals, hence increasing the total number of recovered patients to 1,365 (i.e., 77.9% of all 1,753 SARS cases). Out of the 1,753 cases, 386 involved health care workers or medical students. There were 100 SARS patients remaining in hospitals, in which 34 patients were undergoing convalescence before discharge and 19 patients were receiving treatment in the intensive care units. There were 4 suspected cases under treatment, and the cumulative total of fatal cases was 288.

2. On 9 June, one more patient was confirmed to have SARS. Since 16 May, the daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases has fallen below 5 for the 25th consecutive day, and the average number of newly confirmed cases in the past week was 1 per day. *Figure 1* shows the daily number of newly confirmed cases, discharged cases and fatal cases according to the date of reporting, and the number of patients still in hospital on the corresponding date.

Figure 1



3. Figure 2 is the epidemic curve of 9 June showing the dates of onset of 1,729 patients (the dates of onset of the remaining 24 cases are to be confirmed). The distribution of cases by age group and gender is shown in Table 1.

Figure 2

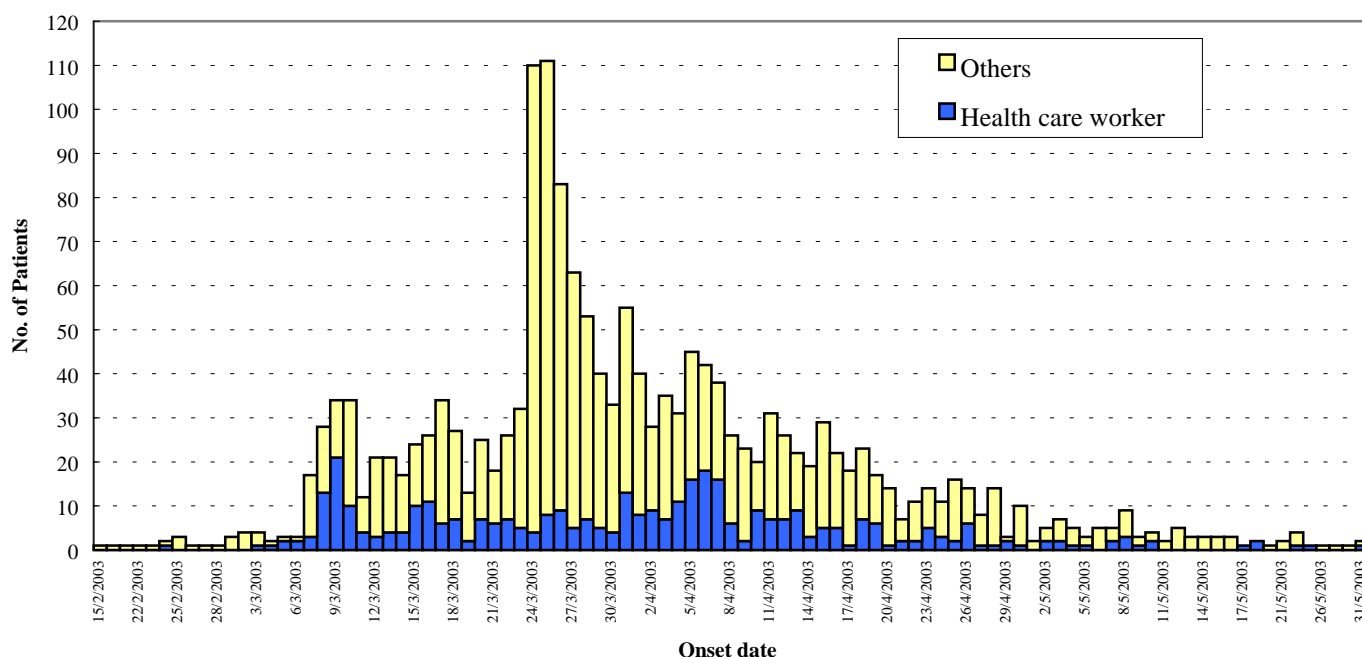


Table 1

Age group	Male	Female
0-14	2%	2%
15-24	4%	6%
25-34	9%	15%
35-44	9%	12%
45-54	6%	9%
55-64	4%	4%
65-74	4%	4%
75 or above	6%	4%
Total	44%	56%

4. Information on the occupation of 1,614 patients (92.1% of all 1,753 SARS cases) has been collected and analysed. 964 of them (59.7%) belong to the working population, in which “Health Care Workers” is the largest single occupational group, representing 23.7% of all these 1,614 cases. The breakdown of the cases by the patient’s occupation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Working Group	Percentage	Non-working Group	Percentage
Health Care Workers	23.7%	Retired	11.7%
Domestic Helpers	1.8%	Housewives	10.5%
Food Handlers	1.7%	Students	8.2%
School Staff	1.4%	Pre-school Children	0.6%
Disciplinary Force	0.6%	Visitors/Tourists	0.2%
Others (e.g. drivers, clerical and administrative personnel)	30.5%	Others (e.g. unemployed)	9.0%
Total	59.7%	Total	40.3%

Note: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

Ongoing Development

Health Checks at Border Points

5. Since 29 March, medical posts have been set up at the airport, ports and border points to watch for travellers displaying symptoms of SARS, and all incoming travellers are required to complete a health declaration. To enhance the preventive measures in containing the spread of SARS, temperature checks for all arriving, departing and transit passengers at the Hong Kong International Airport have also been implemented since mid-April. Since 14 April, all close contacts of SARS patients are also barred from leaving Hong Kong during the home confinement period.

6. As regards other control points, arriving passengers via ports and land boundary crossings are subject to temperature screening in addition to health declaration with effect from 26 April. Since mid-May, departing passengers from the Hong Kong Macao Ferry Terminal and the China Ferry Terminal, and all people departing for the Mainland by through trains from the Hung Hom Station are required to undergo temperature checks before leaving Hong Kong.

7. As at 9 June, 2 passengers had been confirmed to have SARS since the

implementation of all the above health checking measures.

Home Confinement

8. All household contacts of confirmed or suspected SARS patients are required to undergo home confinement for monitoring and treatment up to a maximum of 10 days. As at 9 June, 10 persons (from 3 households) were under this home confinement requirement. So far, a total of 1,262 persons (from 493 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom 34 of them were later confirmed to have SARS.

Further Information

9. To empower the public in fighting against the SARS, DH has issued advice and guidelines on prevention of the disease for various sectors. Publicity programmes have been made to educate the public on all aspects of the disease, including the symptoms, the mode of transmission, the importance of seeking early treatment and various preventive measures namely personal and environmental hygiene. Health education information is available on the 24-hour pre-recorded hotlines (2833 0111) and has been uploaded onto a designated webpage of DH (<http://www.info.gov.hk/info/sars/eindex.htm>). A hotline (187 2222) has also been provided for public enquiries.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region