

Health, Welfare & Food Bureau
SARS Bulletin
(7 June 2003)

Summary of Cases

On 6 June, 2 more patients were confirmed to have Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and the total number of SARS cases in Hong Kong reached 1,750 (including 386 health care workers or medical students). Since 16 May, the daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases has fallen below 5 for the 22nd consecutive day, with an average of 2 newly confirmed cases per day. Although the decreasing trend in the number of new cases over the past 10 weeks was encouraging (please refer to *Table 1*), we still urge the public to continue good hygienic practice and guard against lapses in personal and environmental hygiene.

Table 1

Period	Daily number of new cases reported	
	Range	Average
29 March - 4 April	23 - 80	48
5 April - 11 April	28 - 61	43
12 April - 18 April	29 - 49	38
19 April - 25 April	22 - 32	26
26 April - 2 May	11 - 17	14
3 May - 9 May	6 - 10	8
10 May - 16 May	3 - 9	6
17 May - 23 May	1 - 4	3
24 May - 30 May	0 - 4	2
31 May - 6 June	0 - 4	2

2. On 6 June, 7 more patients with SARS had recovered from the disease and been discharged from hospitals, hence increasing the total number of recovered patients to 1,350 (i.e., 77% of all 1,750 SARS cases). There were 114 SARS patients remaining in hospitals, in which 43 patients were undergoing convalescence before discharge and 23 patients were receiving treatment in the intensive care units. Eight suspected cases were under treatment, and the cumulative total of fatal cases was 286.

3. The distribution of cases by age group and gender is shown in *Figure 1*

and the age-gender specific incidence is shown in *Figure 2* on page 3. The gender ratio is 792 male per 1,000 female. In 54% of male cases and 63% of female cases, the patient concerned was aged between 25 and 54 years old. About 10% of cases were elderly patients (aged 75 or above), and 5% of cases were children aged below 15. The children group had the lowest incidence rate (0.7 SARS cases per 10 000 children aged below 15) while the elderly group had the highest (5.5 SARS cases per 10 000 population aged 75 or above), especially in the elderly male group (7.7 SARS cases per 10 000 men aged 75 or above). The incidence rate among the group aged 25 – 34 was the second highest (3.8 SARS cases per 10 000 population aged 25 – 34).

Figure 1

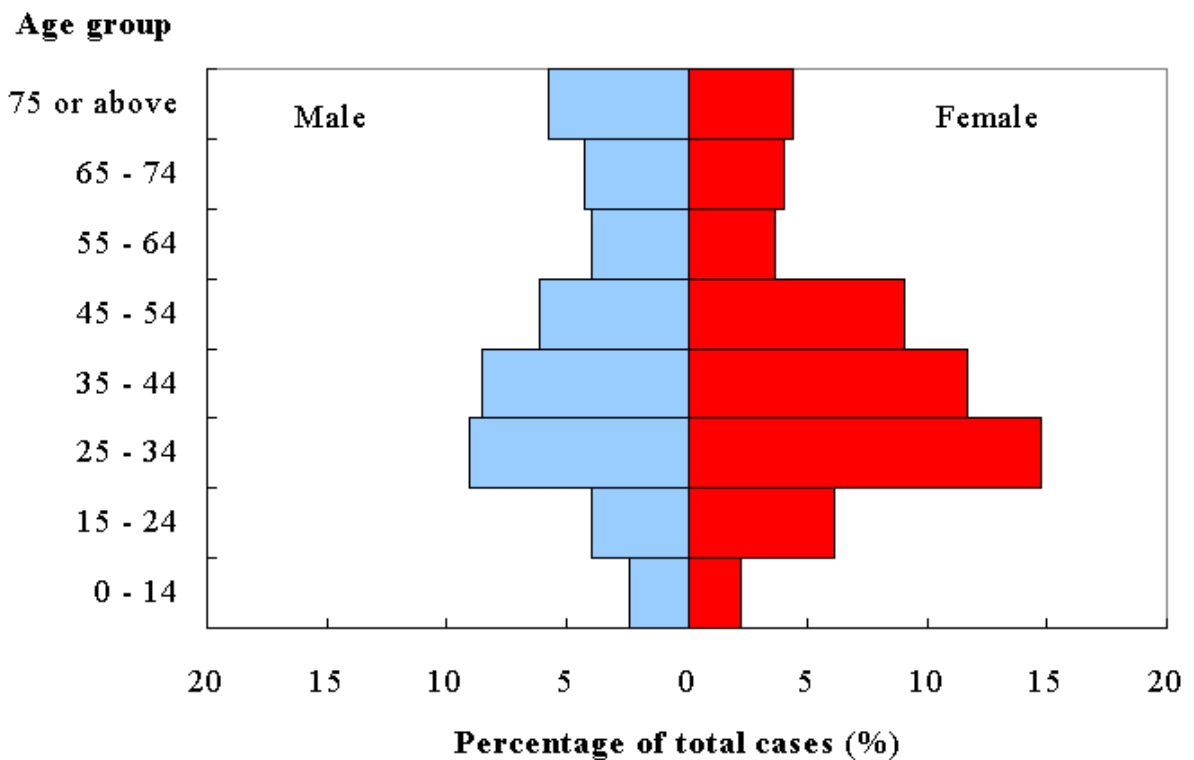
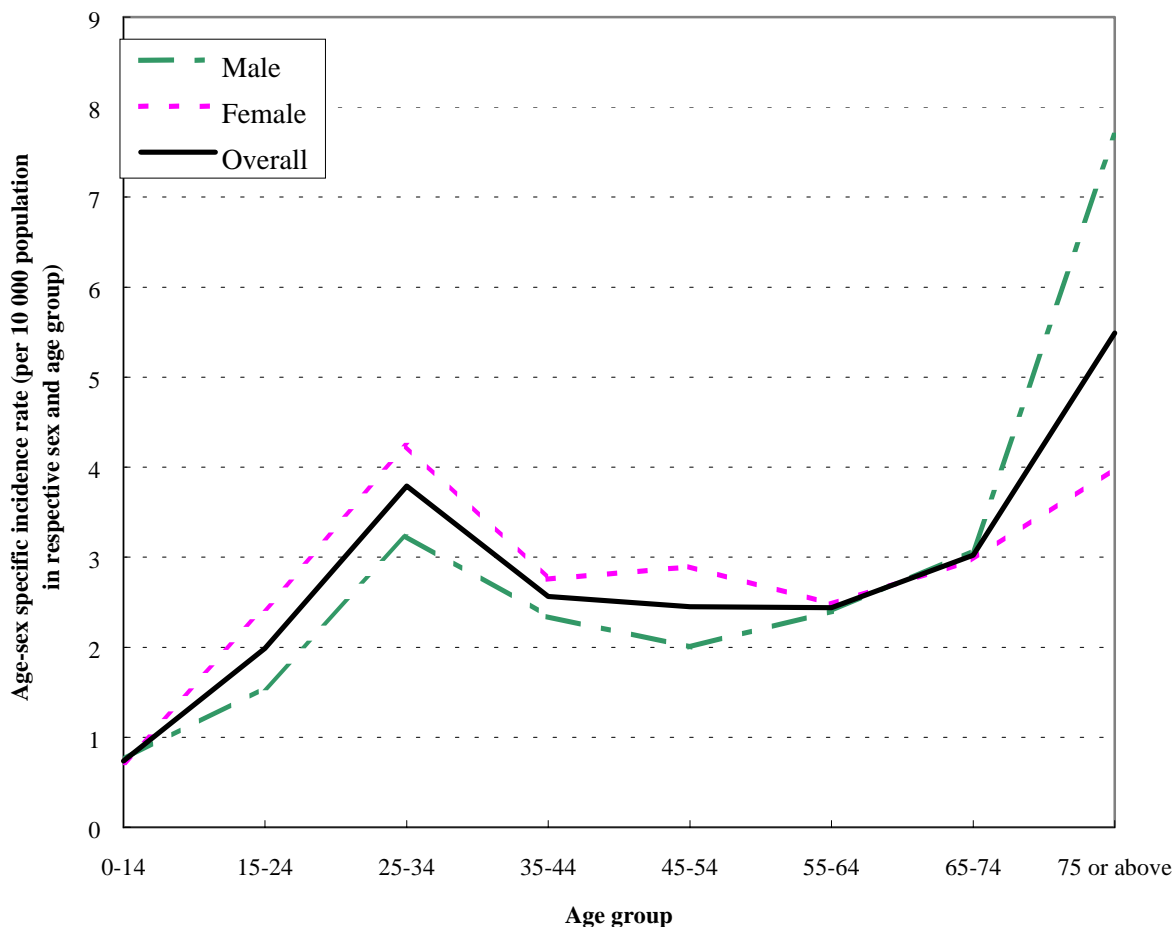


Figure 2



Ongoing Development

Health Checks at Border Points

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. As at 6 June, 2 passengers had been confirmed to have SARS since the implementation of all the above health checking measures.

Home Confinement

7. 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 6 June, 17 persons (from 6 households) were under this home confinement requirement. So far, a total of 1,256 persons (from 492 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom 34 of them were later confirmed to have SARS.

Further Information

8. 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.

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Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region