

HIV SURVEILLANCE REPORT
– 2020 UPDATE

**Special Preventive Programme
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
December 2021**

This report is produced and published by:

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PREFACE

The number of reported HIV infections in 2020 was 505. Sexual transmission remained as the major route of HIV transmission in Hong Kong, while transmission from other routes including drug injection had been staying at a relatively low level. Overall, Hong Kong continues to have a low prevalence of HIV infection in the general population.

Similar to many developed countries, Hong Kong is facing the ongoing challenge of a high level of HIV infection in the men who have sex with men (MSM) community in recent years. Besides their prominence in the number of reported cases, MSM was also shown to have the highest HIV prevalence among all at risk populations. Despite a relatively low prevalence among people who inject drugs (PWID, previously known as injecting drug users (IDU)), one should not be complacent as infection could surge quickly in this population given the opportunities.

With the expansion of community-based HIV voluntary testing services, non-governmental organisations have been playing an increasingly important role in the understanding of the local HIV epidemiology especially among the at-risk populations of MSM, PWID and female sex workers. Many non-governmental organisations have participated in HIV prevalence & behavioural surveys in different at-risk populations through their service networks.

This *annual surveillance report* is an initiative of Special Preventive Programme, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health. The report aims to provide strategic information to facilitate planning of services and intervention activities for the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS. Following a commentary, data collected from the five main components of our surveillance programme (the HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system, HIV prevalence surveys, sexually transmitted infections caseload statistics, behavioural studies and HIV-1 genotyping studies) were presented as tables and graphs. Findings of the risk behavioural surveys such as the HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARIS) and other studies were also included in this report.

Electronic copy of this report is accessible in our website <https://www.aids.gov.hk>. Moreover, the quarterly bulletins, factsheets on yearly situation and specific surveys, and other information relating to HIV surveillance and epidemiology are also available in the website. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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Department of Health
December 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is only achievable with the concerted efforts contributed by many different stakeholders. First and foremost, we would like to thank our colleagues of the Social Hygiene Service, the Narcotics and Drug Administration Unit, Tuberculosis & Chest Service, Family Health Service, Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch and the Virology Division of Public Health Laboratory Services Branch who have provided the necessary data and support over the years. For data collected in the prison setting, we are indebted to the staff of the Correctional Services Department for their invaluable assistance in carrying out HIV prevalence surveys on a regular basis.

Secondly, special thanks are due to the many agencies that have helped collect and update the relevant statistics included in this report. They included the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers, AIDS Concern, the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau, the Department of Microbiology of the University of Hong Kong, the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, many of our local AIDS and non-AIDS non-governmental organisations and various public hospitals / clinics, in particular the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital. We also take this opportunity to thank all doctors, other health care professionals and related workers who have contributed to HIV/AIDS reporting and other surveillance components.

Finally, we must thank the usual excellent support from the Special Preventive Programme staff in collecting, collating and analysing the information as well as the editing and production of this report.

ABBREVIATION

ACTS	AIDS Counselling and Testing Service
ADI	AIDS Defining Illness
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AC	AIDS Concern
AIMSS	Asia Internet MSM Sex Survey
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CRISP	Community based Risk behavioural and SeroPrevalence survey for female sex workers
CD4	Cluster of Differentiation (CD) 4 molecule
CHOICE	Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment
CRDA	Central Registry of Drug Abuse
CHP	Centre for Health Protection
CRF	Circulating Recombinant Form
DH	Department of Health
DRS-M	Drug Rehabilitation Services – Methadone clinics
DRS-S	Drug Rehabilitation Services – Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre
ELISA	Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay
FSW	Female Sex Worker
HE	Heterosexual
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
HARiS	HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ITC	Integrated Treatment Centre
MUT	Methadone Universal HIV Antibody (Urine) Testing
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NSGI	Non-specific Genital Infection
NGU	Non-gonococcal Urethritis
PCP	Pneumocystis Pneumonia
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PRISM	HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men
PWID	People who inject drugs
SARDA	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
SKC	Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SPP	Special Preventive Programme
SHS	Social Hygiene Service
SAS	Street Addict Survey
TB	Tuberculosis
ul	microlitre

1. SUMMARY REVIEW

Background

1. The HIV surveillance system in Hong Kong comprises 5 main programmes to provide a detailed description of the local HIV/AIDS situation. They are (a) voluntary HIV/AIDS case-based reporting; (b) HIV prevalence surveys; (c) sexually transmitted infections (STI) caseload statistics; (d) behavioural studies; and (e) HIV-1 genotyping studies. All data are collected, analysed and disseminated regularly by the surveillance team of Special Preventive Programme (SPP), Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Department of Health (DH). At present, the latest HIV/AIDS statistics are released at quarterly intervals with press releases issued and in electronic format (<https://www.aids.gov.hk>). Data from various sources are compiled annually and released in this report.

2. The following paragraphs highlight the main findings from HIV/AIDS surveillance activities undertaken in 2020 and before. Please refer to the following pages for details of the programmes.

HIV/AIDS reporting system

3. The Department of Health has implemented a voluntary anonymous case-based HIV/AIDS reporting system since 1984, which receives reports from doctors, AIDS service organisations and laboratories. They report newly diagnosed HIV cases by a standard form (DH2293) which was last revised in April 2019. Before 2006, only cases confirmed HIV antibody positive by Western Blot were counted as HIV infection for cases aged above 18 months. Since the 4th quarter of 2006, cases with PCR positive result and clinical or laboratory indication of recent infection have also been counted as confirmed HIV infection in the reporting system.

4. In 2020, DH received 505 HIV and 112 AIDS reports (Box 2.1). The number of reported HIV cases decreased by 10.6% to 505 in 2020 compared to 565 in 2019 and by around 30.3%

compared to the record high of 725 cases recorded in 2015. This brought the cumulative total to 10,785 and 2,230 for HIV and AIDS reports respectively. Public hospitals / clinics / laboratories were still the commonest source of HIV reports in 2020, which accounted for 51.7% of all. Social Hygiene Clinics and DH AIDS Unit were other common sources of HIV reports, accounting for 13.7% and 11.3% respectively (Box 2.2). The annual number of reported AIDS cases in 2020 was 112, a third highest number of yearly AIDS cases recorded since 1985.

5. In 2020, around 82.8% of reported HIV cases were male. The male-to-female ratio was 4.8:1 in 2020, which had decreased as compared to past year (5.6:1 in 2019). About 69.9% of reported cases were Chinese. Asian non-Chinese accounted for 18.4% of reports (Box 2.3). The median age of all reported HIV cases was 37 (Box 2.4) and 30-39 was the commonest age group in male cases and 40-49 in female cases. Around 82.4% of reported HIV cases were reported to have acquired the virus through sexual transmission in 2020, including homosexual (47.3%), heterosexual (27.7%), and bisexual exposure (7.3%). People who inject drugs accounted for 0.4% of reported HIV infections. There were no reported cases of HIV transmission via blood / blood product transmission and no reported cases of infection via perinatal route in 2020. The suspected routes of transmission were undetermined in around 17.2% of cases. This means that after excluding those with undetermined exposure category, sexual transmission accounted for about 99.5% among HIV reports with defined risks (Box 2.5(a)).

HIV Surveillance at a glance (2020)

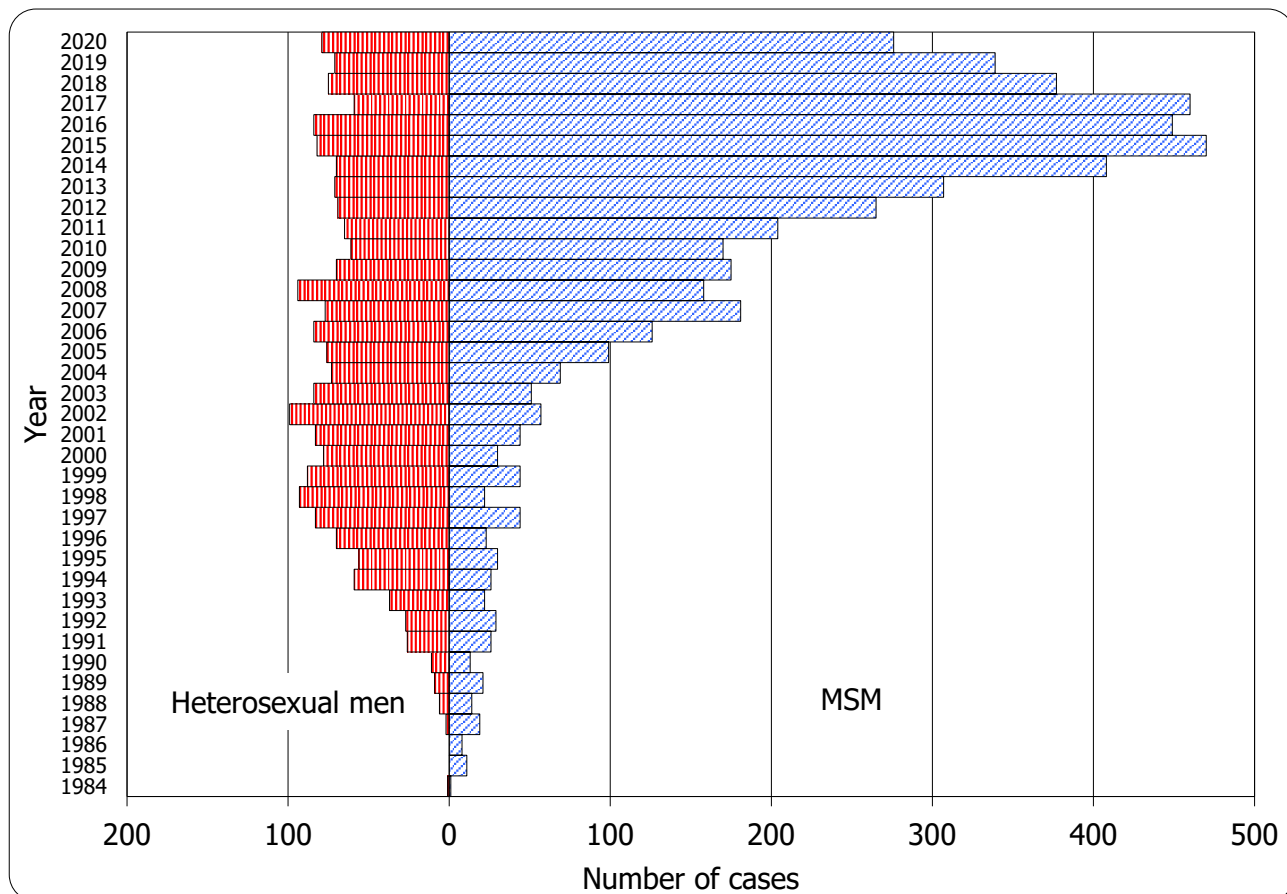
- 505 HIV reports and 112 AIDS reports
- Sex : 82.8% male
- Ethnicity : 69.9% Chinese
- Age : Median 37
- Risks:
 - 54.7% Homosexual / bisexual contact
 - 27.7% Heterosexual contact
 - 0.4% Injecting drug use
 - 17.2% Undetermined
- CD4 at reporting: Median 256.5/ul
- HIV-1 subtypes:
 - commonest is CRF01_AE, followed by B
- Commonest primary AIDS defining illness:
 - PCP, followed by TB
- HIV prevalence
 - Blood donors : < 0.01%
 - Antenatal women : 0.01%
 - STI clinic attendees : 0.44%
 - Methadone clinic attendees: 1.06%

Concerning was the predominance of infections among men who have sex with men (MSM)

6. Similar to previous few years, sexual contact including both heterosexual and homosexual / bisexual, remained the commonest route of HIV transmission in Hong Kong in 2020, which accounted for 82.4% of reported HIV cases. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the early years of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Hong Kong, more cases in MSM, who had homosexual or bisexual contacts, were reported as compared with heterosexual contact. In 1993, the trend began to reverse, with heterosexual transmission overtaking homosexual / bisexual transmission. Since 2004, a rising trend in MSM has been observed again. In 2005, MSM infections began to outnumber those by heterosexual transmission (Box 1.1). In 2020, there were 276 MSM cases (66.0%) identified out of 418 cases with defined risks (Box 2.5(a)).

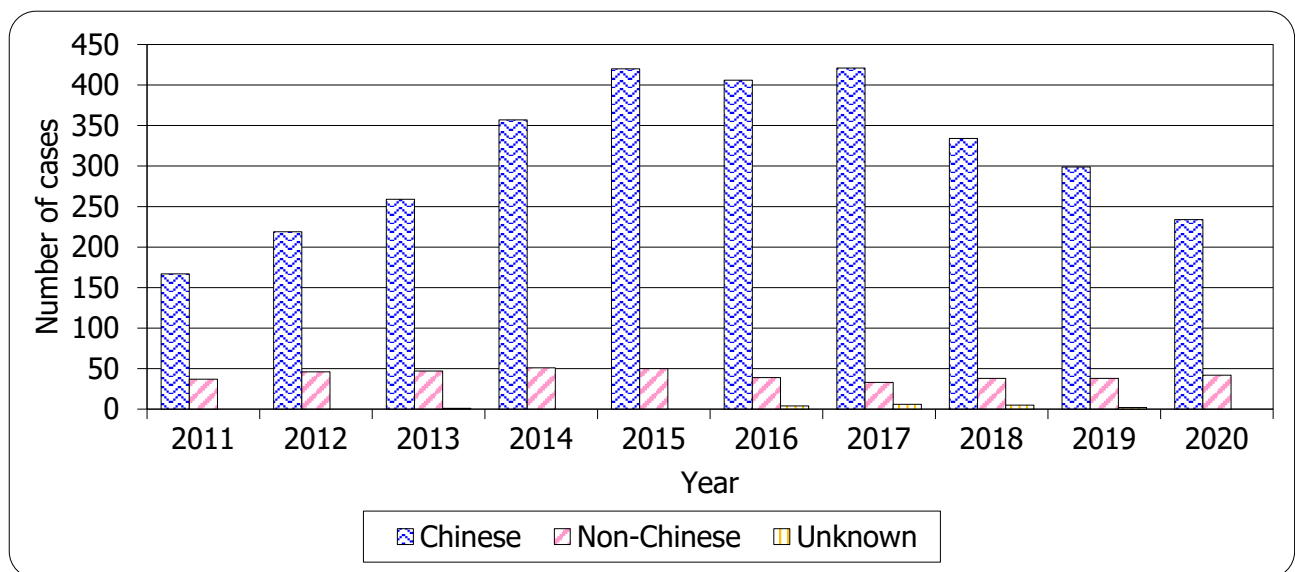
7. The high weighting of MSM among male HIV cases remained obvious. 66.0% of all male HIV reports in 2020 acquired the virus through homosexual or bisexual contact. Heterosexual contact in male cases accounted for 18.9%, whereas the routes of transmission were undetermined in another 14.6% of the male cases. The ratio of heterosexual men against MSM gradually dropped from its peak of 4.2:1 in 1998 to 0.8:1 in 2005 and further dropped to 0.3:1 in 2020 (Box 1.1 and Box 2.7(c)). A similar trend of increasing AIDS cases among MSM was observed; the ratio of heterosexual men against MSM decreased dramatically from 23.5:1 in 2000 to 0.4:1 in 2020.

Box 1.1 The number of MSM cases has exceeded that of heterosexual men in the reporting system since 2005

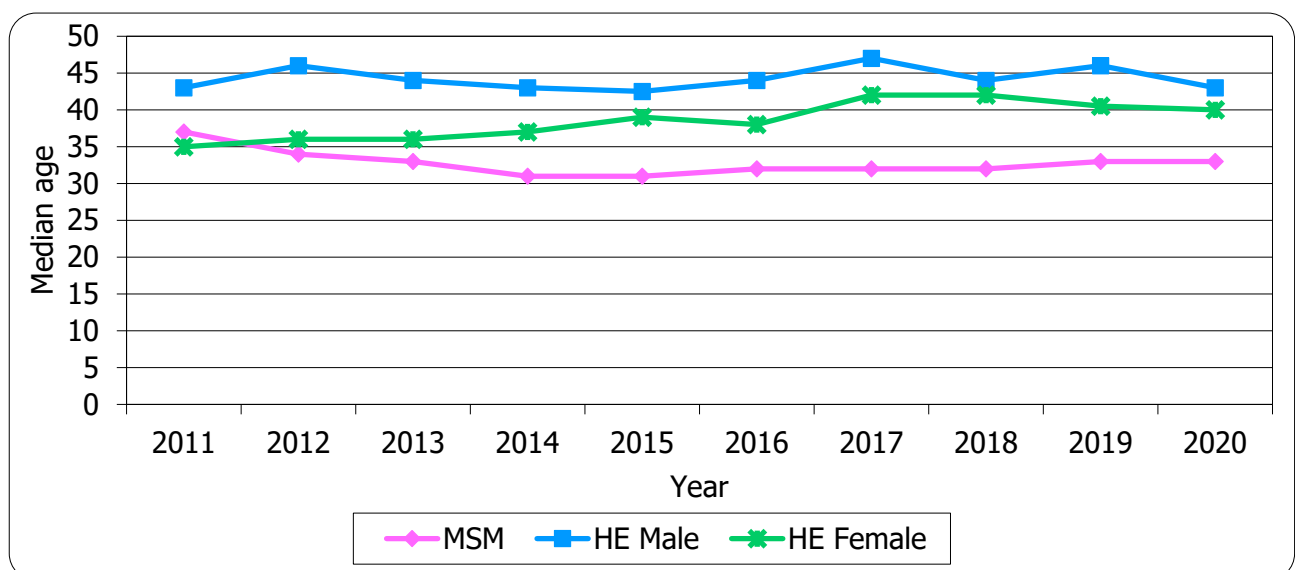


8. In 2020, the majority of the MSM cases were Chinese (84.8%). The number of reported Chinese MSM cases remained high in recent years (Box 1.2). In 2020, the median age of MSM cases at reporting was 33, which was much lower than that of heterosexual male cases at 43. The median age of HIV infected MSM population has shown a decreasing trend in the past few years from 37 in 2011 to 33 in 2020 (Box 1.3). In 2020, the age group of 20-29 was the largest, accounting for 36.6% of reported MSM cases, followed by that of 30-39 (30.4%) and that of 40-49 (15.6%) (Box 1.4). Reported data since 2011 showed that a relatively high proportion of MSM infections occurred in Hong Kong, as compared to a lower proportion in heterosexual men. In 2020, 69.9% of MSM infection reports cited Hong Kong as the suspected place of infection, while only 46.8% of heterosexual male infection was locally acquired (Box 1.5).

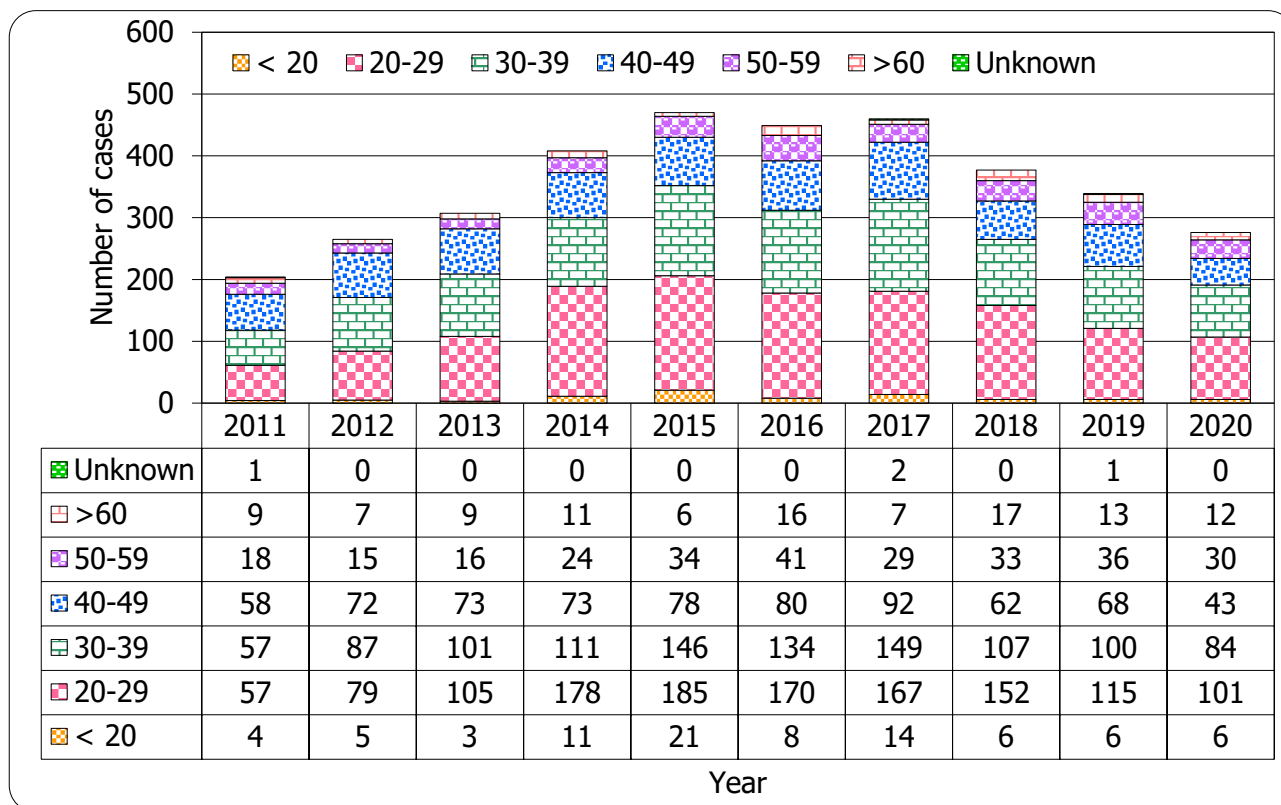
Box 1.2 Ethnicity breakdown of HIV-infected MSM cases (2011 – 2020)



Box 1.3 Median HIV reporting age of HIV-infected MSM cases, heterosexual men and heterosexual women (2011 – 2020)

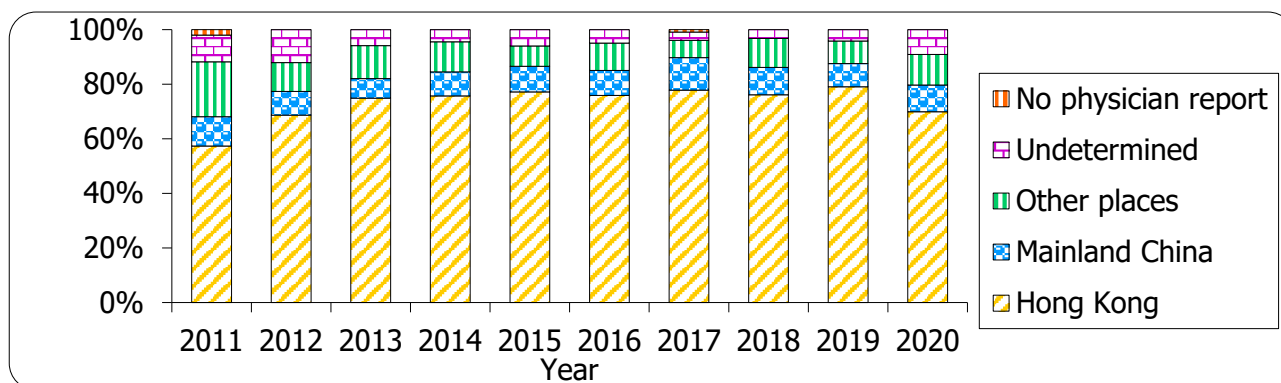


Box 1.4 Age breakdown of HIV-infected MSM cases (2011 – 2020)

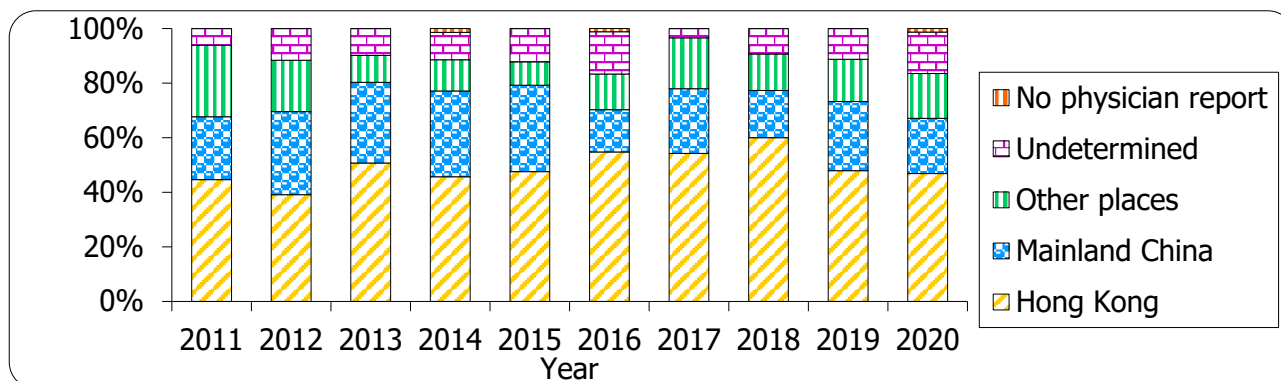


Box 1.5 Suspected location of HIV infection (2011 – 2020)

(a) MSM



(b) Heterosexual men



HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men was significantly higher than other at-risk populations

9. The fourth round of HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men in Hong Kong (PRiSM) conducted in 2017 showed an HIV prevalence of 6.54% among local sexually active MSM, showing that Hong Kong is an area of concentrated HIV epidemic according to the World Health Organization's definition. This figure was higher than the findings from the second HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) conducted in 2014 (5.85%) (Box 1.6 and Box 3.9). However, due to difference in methodology and recruitment strategies between PRiSM (community-based) and HARiS (venue-based), the rates could not be directly compared. Nevertheless, it is clear that the prevalence among MSM is significantly higher than other at-risk populations such as female sex workers (0.00% in HARiS 2019, Box 3.10) and drug users (Box 3.3 and Box 3.4).

10. AIDS Concern's voluntary HIV testing service targeting MSM provides another data source to estimate the HIV prevalence in the local MSM community, despite the fact that sampling bias could not be excluded. It showed a prevalence of 1.104% in 2020, compared to 1.794% in 2019 (Box 3.8).

Condom use and HIV testing among men who have sex with men generally showed a decreasing trend in recent years

11. In PRiSM 2017, the rate of consistent condom use (defined as always using a condom for anal sex in the preceding 6 months) reported by MSM respondents were 52.1% for receptive sex and 52.2% for insertive sex. The condom use rate in the last anal sex with emotional relationship partner, regular sex partner, non-regular sex partner and commercial male sex worker were 62.3%, 75.6%, 85.5% and 81.6% respectively. In the latest HARiS (2020) for MSM showed that the condom use rate in the last anal sex with emotional relationship partner, regular sex partner, non-regular sex partner and commercial male sex partner has decreased in recent few years (Box 1.6(a)). Usage of condoms in sex with all but commercial sex partners were found to be significantly lower for those who reported having used pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Effort to promote safer sex with all types of partners, irrespective of the relationship, should be enhanced among the MSM community.

12. In HARiS 2020, 81.9% of the respondents had ever had HIV testing and 61.3% of respondents had their recent tests performed in the previous year. The rates were lower when compared with HARiS 2018 (ever HIV testing rate, 83.0% and HIV testing rate in the previous year, 64.5%). Health promotion of regular HIV testing should be maintained among MSM.

Box 1.6(a) Results of PRiSM (MSM) in 2011 and 2017; HARiS (MSM) in 2013 – 2016, 2018 and 2020

Results	PRiSM 2011		HARiS 2013	HARiS 2014	HARiS 2015	HARiS 2016	PRiSM 2017	HARiS 2018	HARiS 2020
	Venue-based	Internet-based	Venue-based, centre-based and internet-based				Internet-based	Venue-based, centre-based and internet-based	
Sample Size	816	180	853	564	1,091	1,989	4,133	2,051	1,574
Adjusted HIV prevalence (PRiSM) / HIV prevalence (HARiS)	4.08% (95% CI 3.44% – 4.85%)	3.3% (95% CI 1.54% – 7.08%)	/	5.85% (95% CI 4.28% – 8.10%)	/	/	6.54% (95% CI 5.66% – 7.42%)	/	/
Condom use in last anal sex with:									
Emotional Relationship Partner	/	/	63.7%	65%	65.7%	59.9%	62.3%	60.2%	52.2%
Regular Sex Partner	61.9%	60.0%	76.7%	70.3%	73.6%	70.5%	75.6%	67.4%	62.2%
Non-regular Sex Partner	82.7% (in HK) 81.2% (outside HK)	81.4% (in HK) 79.2% (outside HK)	79.5%	80.6%	81.1%	79.9%	85.5%	78.8%	69.8%
Commercial Sex Partner	/	/	69.9%	89.1%	96.1%	89.1%	81.6% (commercial sex worker)	78.6%	74.2%
HIV testing:									
Ever tested for HIV	67%	63%	73.7%	78.5%	77.5%	75.8%	79.4%	83.0%	81.9%
HIV test within the past 12 months	40%	41%	57.0%	62.3%	60.8%	58.5%	52.6%	64.5%	61.3%

13. According to the survey conducted among the clients of the DH's AIDS Counselling and Testing Service (ACTS), the median number of casual sex partners in previous year among MSM was consistently higher than heterosexual men, being 2 in 2020 (Box 5.1). The consistent condom use rate among MSM with regular partners and casual partners showed a decrease in 2020, at 34.2% and 44.8% respectively, as compared with the rate of 41.9% and 51.4% in 2019 (Box 5.5(a)). Similarly, the rate of condom uses at last anal sex with regular partners and with casual partners showed a decrease (48.4% and 56.4% respectively) in 2020, as compared with 58.5% and 63.4% in 2019 respectively (Box 5.5(b)).

14. Additional behavioural data from MSM attending AIDS Concern's testing service showed that the rate of consistent condom use for boyfriend was relatively stable in 2020 at 34.7% but a drop was noted for sex with regular sex partners and casual sex partners, from 46.1% in 2019 to 41.4% in 2020 and 58.7% in 2019 to 51.1% in 2020 respectively (Box 5.5(a)). Consistent condom use was consistently lower for sexual partners with closer relationship.

Male-to-female transgender population

15. Male-to-female transgender has been a neglected and hard-to-reach community; yet various overseas studies have shown that their HIV prevalence can be high. To better study the situation in Hong Kong, male-to-female (m-t-f) transgender persons were included as one of the major at-risk populations in HARiS for the first time in 2014. In the survey, it was found that the overall HIV prevalence was 18.6% in m-t-f transgender. In PRiSM 2017, of the 104 participants recruited, 56 submitted urine specimens for HIV antibody testing. The overall HIV prevalence for sexually active m-t-f transgender was found to be 5.11% (Box 1.6(b)).

16. M-t-f transgender is a hard-to-reach population. Both the sample size and mix of ethnicity in surveys have varied. For example, in HARiS 2014, of the 59 m-t-f transgender persons recruited, only 69.5% of the participants were Chinese and a considerable proportion were non-Chinese (Filipino 16.9% and Thai 11.9%) while in PRiSM 2017 (N=104), 93.3% were Chinese. Due to the small sample size and different recruitment strategies between surveys, the survey findings should be interpreted cautiously. Overall, the condom use rate and HIV testing rate was unsatisfactory. Education on safer sex practices, including consistent and correct use of condom, and promotion of HIV testing should be reinforced.

Box 1.6(b) Results of HARiS (TG) in 2014 – 2016 and 2018; PRiSM (TG) in 2017

Results	HARiS 2014	HARiS 2015	HARiS 2016	PRiSM 2017	HARiS 2018
Sample Size	59	66	87	104	41
Adjusted HIV prevalence (PRiSM) / HIV prevalence (HARiS)	18.6% (95% CI 9.74% – 32.62%)	/	/	5.11% (95% CI 0.06% – 10.16%)	/
Condom use in last anal sex with:					
Emotional Relationship Partner	75.8%	82.1%	55.6%	55.6%	58.3%
Regular Sex Partner	90.0%	85.7%	63.0%	58.5%	76.5%
Non-regular Sex Partner	76.9%	91.9%	84.4%	68.3%	78.3%
Commercial Sex Partner	76.3%	93.8%	96.8%	60.0% (commercial sex worker)	90.0%
HIV testing:					
Ever tested for HIV	72.9%	78.8%	65.5%	72.1%	90.2%
HIV test within the past 12 months	50.8%	60.6%	57.5%	41.3%	65.9%

The proportion of heterosexual cases remained stable

17. In 2020, there was a total of 140 heterosexual cases reported, which accounted for more than one-fourth of all reported HIV cases (Box 2.5(a)). The proportion of heterosexual cases among all reported HIV cases dropped from its peak of 71.4% in 1998 to the lowest of 17.8% in 2017 then increased to 27.7% in 2020. In recent years, however, the female heterosexual cases rose slightly faster than the male cases, resulting in a gradual increase of female to male ratio for heterosexual cases from 0.53:1 in 2004 to 0.77:1 in 2020. The median age of heterosexual cases in 2020 was 40 for female and 43 for male (Box 1.3). In 2020, heterosexual male cases were mainly Chinese (67.1%) whereas Asian non-Chinese accounted for 50.8% for female heterosexual cases.

18. STI caseload statistics from Social Hygiene Clinics is an important component of the local HIV surveillance programme as the presence of STI is an indicator of high risk sexual behaviours. In 2020, 13.7% of reported cases were referred from Social Hygiene Clinics (Box 2.2(a)). The consistent condom use rate among heterosexual men attending Social Hygiene Clinics with commercial / casual partners in the past 3 months in 2020 was 41.3%, which was lower when compared to the rates in previous years (Box 5.4(a)). Moreover, around one third of the STI cases were asymptomatic, which may delay the diagnosis and the link to appropriate medical care (Box 4.5). The HIV prevalence of Social Hygiene Clinic attendees has remained stable in recent few years, being 0.44% in 2020 (Box 3.2). The total number of STI cases in Social Hygiene Clinics also remained relatively stable in the past few years despite a drop in 2020, with an aggregate of 9,638 cases in 2020 (Box 4.1 and Box 4.2).

19. On the other hand, the level of consistent condom use observed among heterosexual men attending AIDS Counseling and Testing Service (ACTS) decreased from 79.8% in 2019 to 68.0% in 2020 for commercial partners and from 64.9% in 2019 to 58.6% in 2020 for commercial / casual partners (Box 5.4(a)).

New HIV infection among drug users remained low but significant risk behaviours were reported

20. In 2020, the reporting system recorded 2 cases of HIV transmission through injecting drug use, which accounted for 0.4% of all reported cases. Historically, this number decreased from the peak of 58 cases in 2006 to less than 10 cases in 2012 and has since remained at a low level (except 2015, Box 2.5(a)). 2 cases reported in 2020 were male, involved 1 Chinese and 1 Asian non-Chinese (Box 2.6(a)). The median age was 34. All PWID cases were reported from Public hospitals / clinics / laboratories.

21. The Methadone Universal HIV Antibody (Urine) Testing Programme (MUT) has replaced the past unlinked anonymous screening (UAS) in methadone clinics since its launch in 2004. It aims to strengthen HIV surveillance among drug users as well as diagnosis and subsequent care of the HIV infected clinic attendees. Among the 6,620 methadone clinic attendees in 2020, 3,654 clients have been tested for HIV, giving an overall HIV testing coverage rate of 55.20%. A total of 39 clients were found to be positive for HIV, giving an overall HIV prevalence of around 1% among methadone clinic attendees in 2020 (Box 3.3).

22. The proportion of drug users who were currently injecting drugs ranged from 15.3% to 81.6% across different surveys in 2020 (Box 5.6). In addition, a community survey community-based survey showed a significant proportion of 20.1% of them practising needle sharing, which put them at risk of HIV (Box 5.7). Therefore, the potential risk of HIV outbreak among drug users cannot be neglected, despite the fact that the number of reported cases has remained small in recent years.

No case of transmission via blood / blood product transfusion reported

23. In 2020, there was no reported cases of HIV infection via contaminated blood or blood product transfusion (Box 2.5(a)). The HIV prevalence of new blood donors at Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service remained at a low level of 0.0163% in 2020 (Box 3.1(b)).

No case of perinatal transmission reported

24. In 2020, there was no perinatal transmission cases reported (Box 2.5(a)). The Universal Antenatal HIV Testing Programme (UATP) was launched in Hong Kong since September 2001, then it was supplemented with rapid HIV testing in labour wards of public hospitals since 2008 to fill the gap for late-presenting pregnant women without documented HIV status in the antenatal period. The coverage of the programme remained at very high level, with all cases (34,049) attending public antenatal services were tested in 2020 and the prevalence of HIV infection in pregnant women was found to be stable over the years (0.0147% in 2020) (Box 3.7).

New HIV infection among ethnic minorities warrants attention

25. Non-Chinese population constituted a certain proportion (25.3% in 2020) of newly reported HIV cases. In 2020, Asian non-Chinese accounted for 18.4% of reports (93 cases) (Box 2.3(a)). This was disproportionately higher than the 8.0% of ethnic minorities (EM) among the Hong Kong population and about half of the EM cases were Asian (non-Chinese) ethnicities. Among the 93 Asian non-Chinese new HIV cases, 43 were females and 50 were males. Around 80.6% of them acquired the virus through sexual transmission, including heterosexual (53.8%), homosexual (24.7%) and bisexual exposure (2.2%), while injecting drug use accounted for 1.1%. The remaining 18.3% of cases were undetermined route of transmission. Different from the Chinese population, the dominant route of transmission was heterosexual instead of homosexual. More cases were recorded among Filipinos, Indonesians and Thais.

26. A community-based sexual behavioural survey targeting local Filipinos and Indonesians was conducted in 2019. The results were summarised in a factsheet uploaded in <https://www.aids.gov.hk>. Key observations included the low condom use rates in last sex, irrespective of the kind of sexual partners for both group of respondents, especially for commercial sex partners (29.4% in Filipinos and 13.0% in Indonesians), as well as the low HIV testing rates with only 40.9% of Filipino and 27.5% of Indonesian respondents had ever tested for HIV. The survey also revealed that there was a general lack of HIV-related knowledge among EM participants and the perceived high cost of HIV testing hindered them to perform the test. The survey provided useful information to guide planning and implementing targeted health prevention programmes for this at-risk populations.

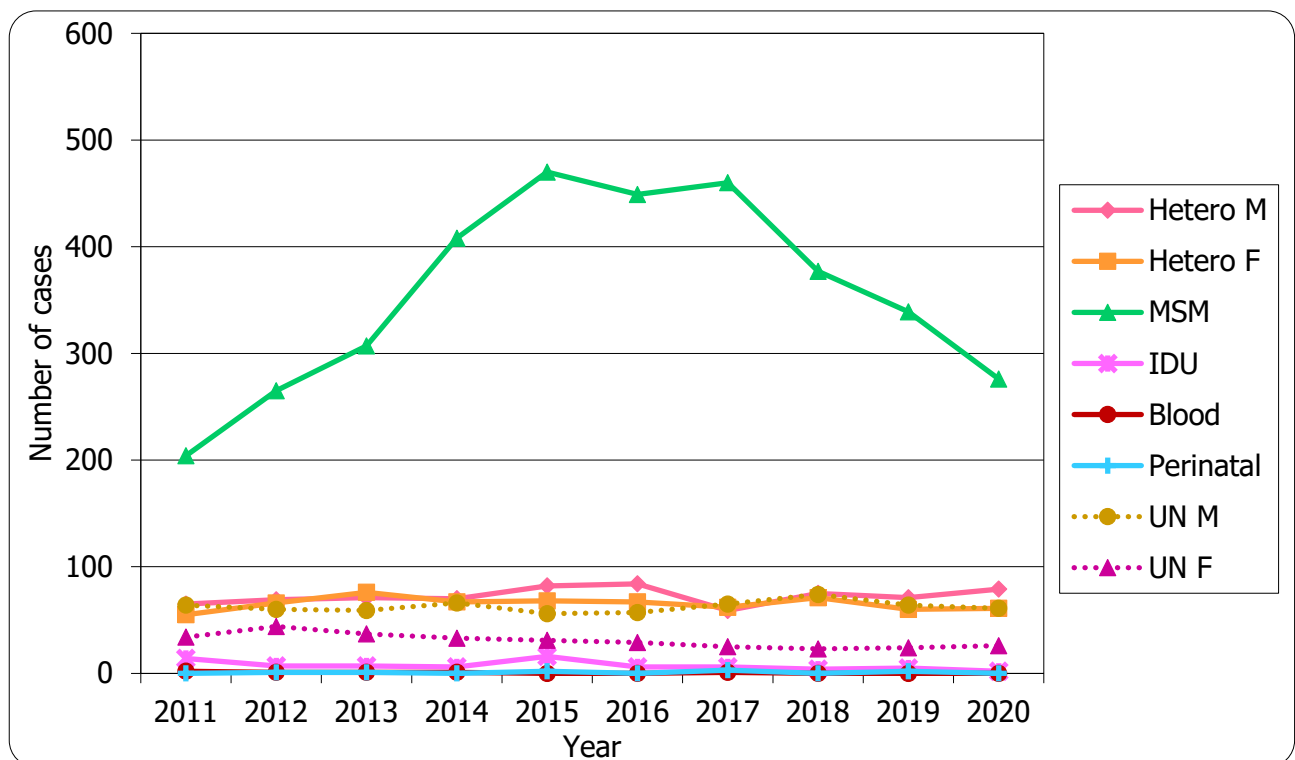
Reconstruction of risk factor for cases without reported route of transmission

27. As the HIV/AIDS case-based reporting system in Hong Kong is voluntary and anonymous, the completeness of the local surveillance database depends heavily on the percentage of cases with the report form DH2293 received from attending doctors / NGOs. Incomplete data without a reported risk factor may skew the local epidemic picture. In 2020, 17.2% of the infected cases did not have a suspected route of transmission reported, as compared to around 15.6% in 2019 (Box 2.5(a)). A systematic reconstruction method proposed by Dr. Tim Brown, Senior Fellow of the East-West Centre, Honolulu has been used since 2010 to factor in the weightings of undetermined risk cases, to assess the risk for local transmission and to plan and guide appropriate preventive actions.

28. Reconstruction was carried out by assigning one suitable route of transmission to the undetermined cases. After the analysis of the features of these cases with undetermined risk factor and the prevailing epidemic, it was assessed that all female infections shall be assumed to be acquired through heterosexual transmission, unless there is clear indication suggesting otherwise. As for the male cases of undetermined risk factor, it was assessed that they shall be assumed to be either heterosexual contact or homosexual contacts as the risk factor of transmission, subject to the observed ratio in the prevailing year between heterosexual and homosexual contact, providing there is no other indication suggesting otherwise.

29. The original 10-year data on risk factors from 2011 to 2020 was used for the reconstruction (Box 1.7(a)). After the reconstruction, the cases of MSM showed a marked increase up, while the change in heterosexual male appeared to be relatively modest (Box 1.7 (b and c)). Although this method might have oversimplified the complex local epidemic, it provides one possible solution to fill the gap in the HIV surveillance system information. Measures to promote the return rate of report forms from doctors have also been implemented in the past few years.

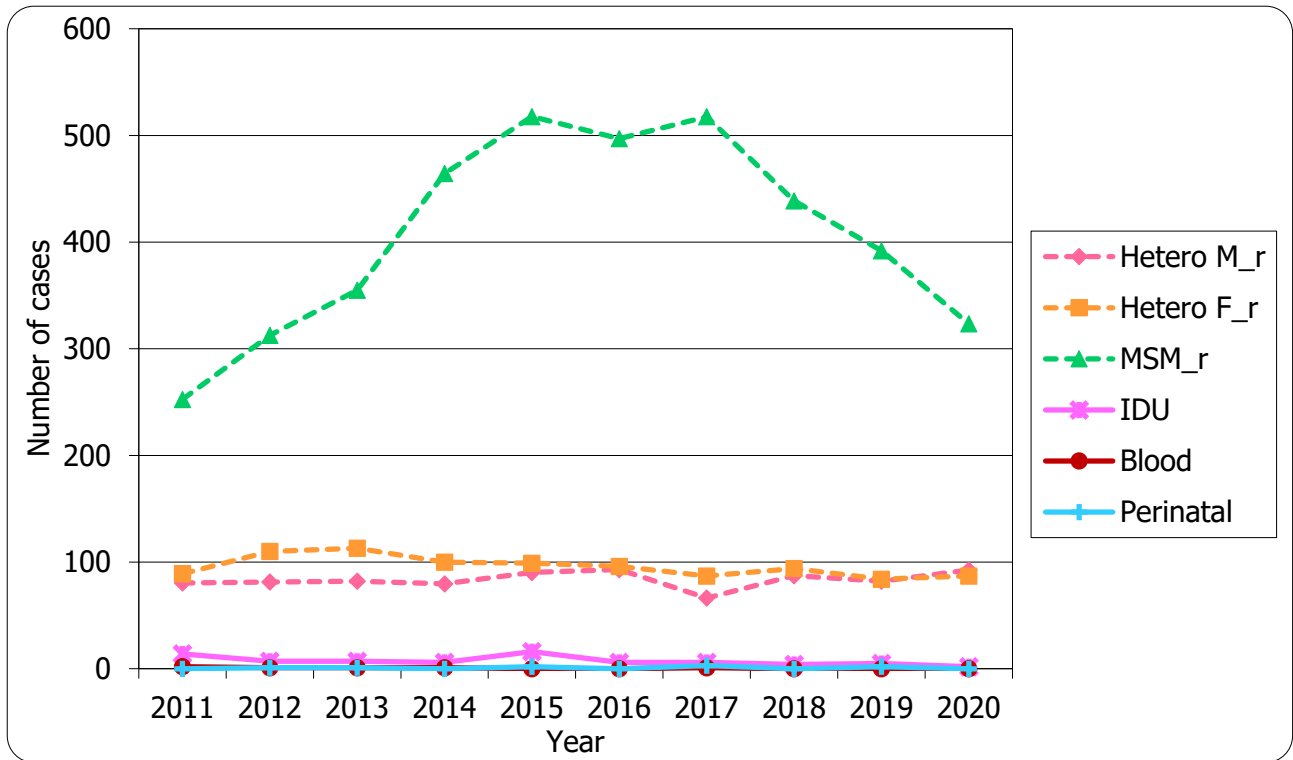
Box 1.7(a) HIV reports before risk factor reconstruction (2011 – 2020)



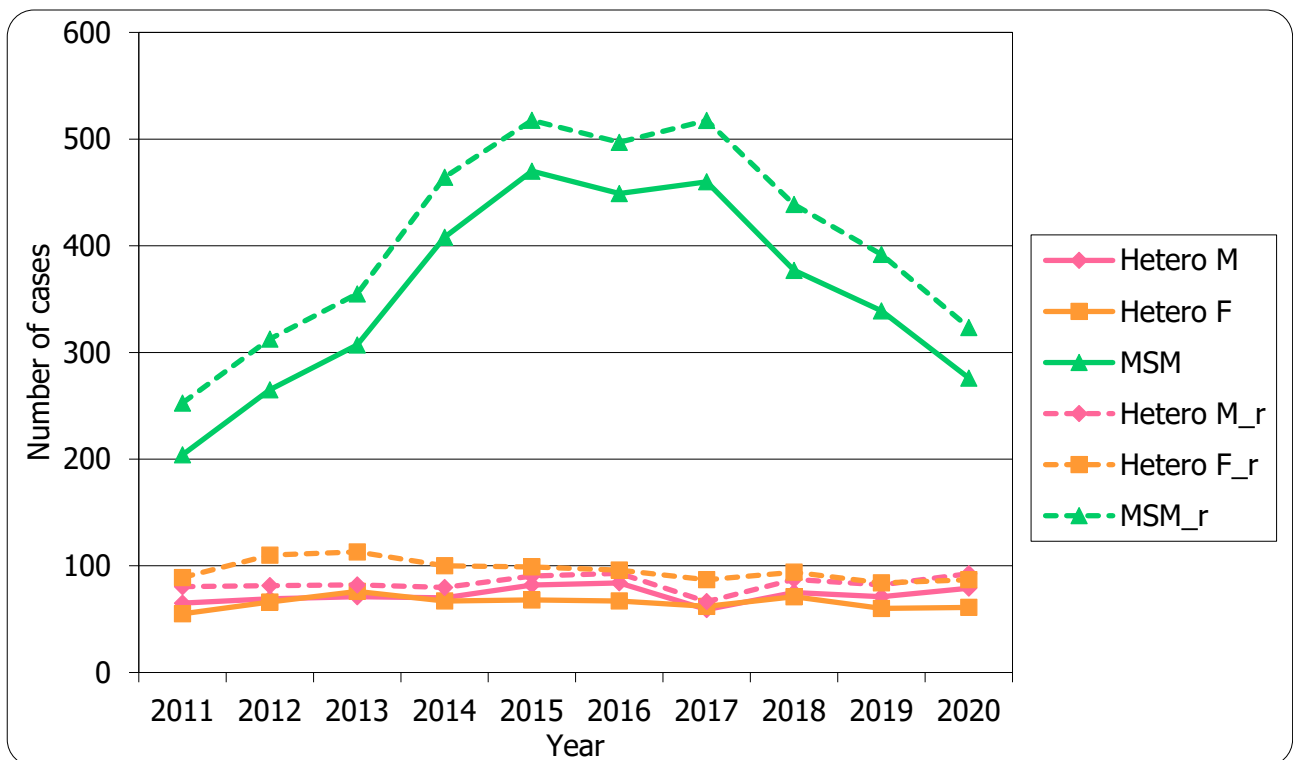
UN M refers to undetermined male

UN F refers to undetermined female

Box 1.7(b) HIV reports after risk factor reconstruction (2011 – 2020)



Box 1.7(c) HIV reports before and after risk factor reconstruction in MSM, heterosexual male and heterosexual female cases (2011 – 2020)



Hetero M_r refers to heterosexual male after risk factor reconstruction
 Hetero F_r refers to heterosexual female after risk factor reconstruction
 MSM_r refers to men who have sex with men after risk factor reconstruction

Regular HIV testing before diagnosis was still not a norm in Hong Kong

30. The HIV/AIDS Report Form (DH2293) was revised in 2010 with one data field added to capture the previously negative HIV result among the newly diagnosed cases. The data helps to inform the epidemiology of those cases who were recently infected. Among the 505 cases reported in 2020, data of the HIV/AIDS Report Form was available in 437 cases, of which only 84 cases (19.2%) had the data on previously negative HIV results, which implied regular testing among HIV patients before their diagnoses was uncommon. Among those 84 cases, 33 (39.3%) had previously negative HIV results within one year of the HIV diagnosis, suggesting recent infection within 1 year of the HIV diagnosis. For those whose last negative HIV results were beyond one year of HIV diagnosis, however, it was not possible to judge whether they were recently HIV seroconverted or not, as the observation was limited by the infrequent testing behaviour.

Pneumocystis pneumonia and tuberculosis remained the two commonest primary AIDS defining illnesses

31. The number of AIDS cases has been rising in recent years. It could be attributed to the rising number of HIV infections since a decade ago, of which some of the infections were not diagnosed until they progressed to AIDS in recent years. 112 AIDS cases were reported in 2020, compared with the peak of 139 cases in 2018 (Box 2.5(b)). The vast majority (95.5%) of the AIDS reports in 2020 had their AIDS diagnosis within 3 months of HIV diagnosis, suggesting late presentation of these cases.

32. *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia (previously known as *Pneumocystis carinii*) was the commonest ADI in Hong Kong in 2020, which accounted for 48.2% (54 cases). This proportion was slightly lower comparing to that in 2019 (51.6%). The second most common primary ADI (except "others" which accounted for 12.5%) reported in 2020 was *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* which accounted for 10.7% of the reported AIDS cases (12 cases). They were followed by other fungal infections (8.9%), *Penicilliosis* (7.1%) and *Cytomegalovirus* diseases (7.1%) (Box 2.8). The universal voluntary testing has replaced unlinked anonymous screening at TB & Chest Clinics since 2009 in informing the HIV prevalence among TB patients. In 2020, the HIV testing coverage in patients attending government TB & Chest Clinics was 93.4% and HIV prevalence was 0.53%, which remained at a low level of less than 1% in the past decade (except 2019, Box 3.6).

The median CD4 of newly reported HIV cases was lower in older patients

33. The median CD4 of newly reported HIV cases at the time of diagnosis in 2020 was 256.5/ul, with a decreasing trend in recent few years. The proportion with CD4 \geq 200/ul in 2020 was 57.9%, which was found to be lower when comparing to previous few years. Reporting of CD4 level has become a routine practice among doctors, providing useful information on the timing of diagnosis in the course of HIV infection. In 2020, 77.6% of HIV cases had their CD4 level at diagnosis reported, which was similar to the past few years (Box 1.8). The trend of declining median CD4 was noted for both age group - younger than 55 and aged 55 or above with the latter has decreased from 115/ul in 2019 to 79/ul in 2020. The median CD4 count was much lower than that in the younger group, suggesting that older patients were diagnosed at a relatively late disease stage (Box 1.9). As compared to the new cases acquired via homosexual / bisexual route, cases of heterosexual route were generally diagnosed at a later stage as evident by a smaller percentage of having positive laboratory test for specimens at diagnosis (positive Limiting Antigen avidity Enzyme Immunoassay, i.e. LAg avidity assay or PCR) or having a negative HIV antibody test within 1 year (Box 1.10).

Box 1.8 Reported CD4 levels at HIV diagnosis

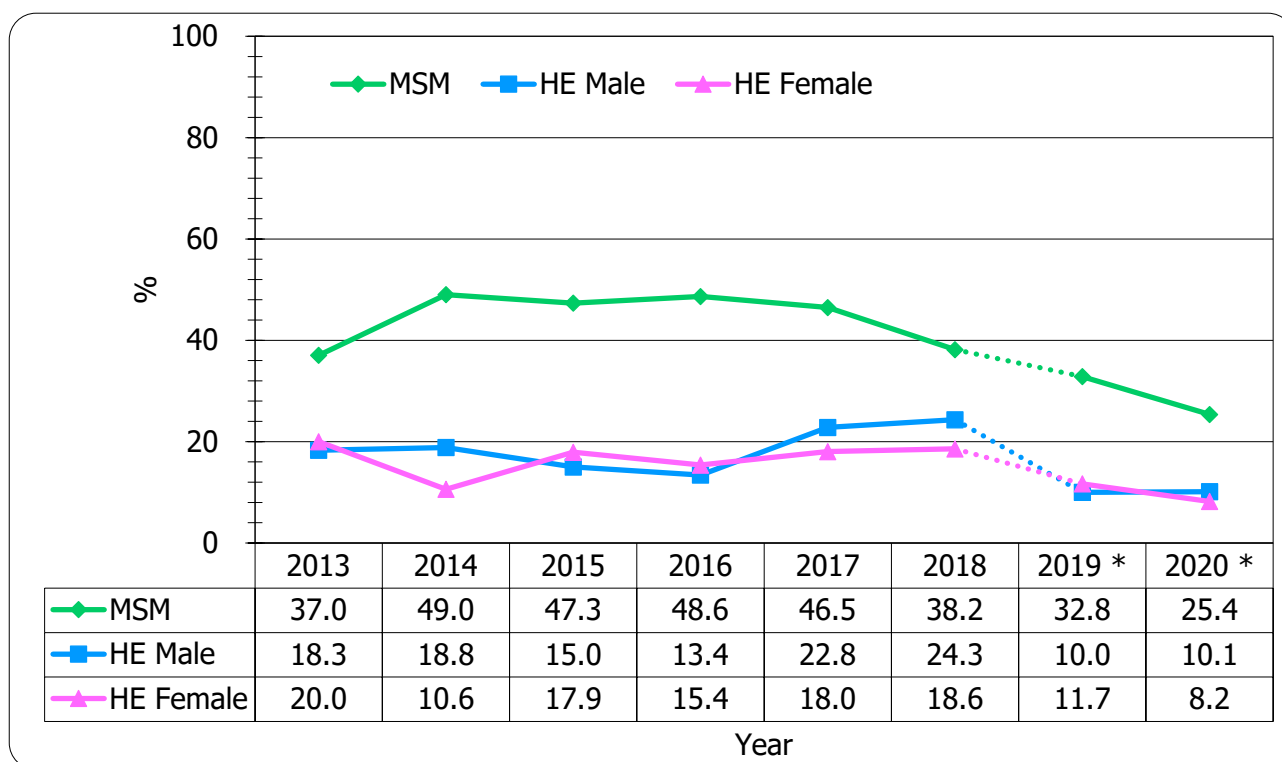
Year	Number of HIV reports	Number of CD4 reports (%)	Median CD4 (cell/ul)	CD4 \geq 200 (cell/ul) (%)
2011	438	325 (74.2%)	256	191 (58.8%)
2012	513	388 (75.6%)	279	251 (64.7%)
2013	559	449 (80.3%)	284	288 (64.1%)
2014	651	523 (80.3%)	320	375 (71.7%)
2015	725	602 (83.0%)	298	417 (69.3%)
2016	692	563 (81.4%)	283	373 (66.3%)
2017	681	573 (84.1%)	285	370 (64.6%)
2018	624	496 (79.5%)	261.5	299 (60.3%)
2019	565	456 (80.7%)	272.5	275 (60.3%)
2020	505	392 (77.6%)	256.5	227 (57.9%)

Box 1.9 CD4 Reports by age group *

Age	Year	Number of HIV reports	Number of CD4 reports (%)	Median CD4 (cell/ul)	CD4 ≥ 200 (cell/ul) (%)
< 55	2011	384	288 (75.0%)	275	177 (61.5%)
	2012	463	347 (74.9%)	300	231 (66.6%)
	2013	501	398 (79.4%)	308.5	272 (68.3%)
	2014	596	484 (81.2%)	330	362 (74.8%)
	2015	675	560 (83.0%)	306.5	402 (71.8%)
	2016	616	512 (83.1%)	292	353 (68.9%)
	2017	614	523 (85.2%)	300	348 (66.5%)
	2018	539	440 (81.6%)	273.5	275 (62.5%)
	2019	485	399 (82.3%)	287	256 (64.2%)
	2020	434	342 (78.8%)	276	212 (62.0%)
≥ 55	2011	53	37 (69.8%)	126	14 (37.8%)
	2012	48	41 (85.4%)	193	20 (48.8%)
	2013	58	51 (87.9%)	104	16 (31.4%)
	2014	53	39 (73.6%)	61	13 (33.3%)
	2015	48	42 (87.5%)	127	15 (35.7%)
	2016	68	51 (75.0%)	104	20 (39.2%)
	2017	61	50 (82.0%)	177.5	22 (44.0%)
	2018	81	56 (69.1%)	168.5	24 (42.9%)
	2019	77	57 (74.0%)	115	19 (33.3%)
	2020	66	50 (75.8%)	79	15 (30.0%)

* There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual reports in Box 1.9 and the figures showed in Box 1.8 because of unknown age.

Box 1.10 Recent HIV infections by route of transmission (2013 – 2020)



* Since 2019, BED assay was replaced by LAg avidity assay which was generally more specific in detecting recent infection.

The two commonest HIV-1 subtypes were CRF01 AE and B, but genetic diversity continued to increase. The level of drug resistance mutation remained low.

34. In 2020, about 73.3% of HIV reports had their subtypes documented, which had decreased as compared to past years (Box 6.1). Subtypes CRF01_AE and B remained the first and second most common subtypes identified among HIV type 1 or PCR positive case in Hong Kong, contributing to 42.5% and 30.9% of all cases with identified subtype from 2001 to 2020 respectively while CRF01_AE predominated in the past decade. In 2020, they together accounted for 66.5% of all HIV cases with subtype documented (Box 6.2). Over the past decade, CRF_01AE was found to be common in female, Asian non-Chinese, MSM and heterosexuals (Box 6.4). On the other hand, subtype B was commoner in male, Chinese and MSM. In 2020, subtype B was found to be most common in Chinese among all ethnicities (Box 6.5). Subtype C was commoner in female, Asian non-Chinese and heterosexual over the past decade (Box 6.6). A trend of increasing diversity in other subtypes and circulating recombinant forms was noted, in particular since 2009 (Box 6.3). Notably, the proportion of subtype CRF07_BC has increased from 4.3% in 2009 to 8.1% in 2020 while that subtype CRF08_BC increased from 1.7% to 11.9% respectively.

35. According to the HIV resistance threshold survey conducted since 2003, the prevalence of intermediate or high level drug resistance related mutations in 2019 was 6.7%, which was higher than levels recorded in previous years (ranging from 0% in 2006 to 5.4% in 2016) (Box 6.7). Among those patients with transmitted resistance, resistance to non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTI) was the most common.

Discussion

36. After a modest drop in 2009 and 2010, the number of newly reported HIV infection has steadily increased over the years, while it began to decline after reaching the peak in 2015. The total number of HIV reports in 2020 was 505, which had decreased by 10.6% as compared to the 565 cases in 2019. The decrease in the number of MSM cases was the major contributing factor for the decrease in the total number of HIV infection reported in 2020. The number of heterosexual transmission cases remained relatively stable and the number of cases among PWID also remained at a relatively low level of 1-15 cases per year in the last decade.

37. The decreasing trend in the number of reports of HIV infection among MSM in recent years was observed and this could be attributed to the rising coverage of treatment exerting its predicted impact on prevention. A higher than known usage of PrEP among high risk individuals, as reflected by higher awareness among the community, could also have contributed. Although the number of HIV reports involving **homosexual / bisexual transmission (MSM)** has decreased, it continued to remain high and accounted for the largest proportion of cases with defined risks in 2020 (66.0%). From the data of previous few years, this high level of infection will likely continue in the foreseeable future and play a significant role in the local epidemic. Using the reconstruction methodology described in paragraphs 27 and 28 above, we can readily observe the predominance of infection among MSM. PRiSM 2017 showed an HIV prevalence of 6.54%, which was higher than the findings from previous rounds of PRiSM (2011) and HARiS (2014). Notwithstanding methodological differences between surveys, these figures highlight the existence of a concentrated HIV epidemic among gay and bisexual men in Hong Kong with the majority of the MSM cases (69.9%) were infected locally in 2020. A decreasing median age of MSM cases was also noted (37 in 2011; 33 in 2020), signifying the importance of HIV prevention and publicity targeting the young population.

38. **Heterosexual transmission** remained relatively stable over the past few years and its proportion among the yearly new HIV infections has shown a general upward trend (17.8% in 2017; 27.7% in 2020) in tandem with the decreasing proportion of MSM. In 2020, the proportion of female fell slightly from 45.8% in 2019 to 43.6% in 2020. The HIV prevalence in Social Hygiene Clinic attendees and antenatal women remained at a relatively low level in the past decade and was 0.441% and 0.0147% in 2020 respectively. However, consistent condom use rates of commercial / casual sex especially gauged from the surveys of heterosexual male remained far from satisfactory and could pose a threat of rebound in the number of cases infected via the heterosexual route. In addition, EM accounted for around 45.0% of heterosexual cases. Of which, non-Chinese females accounted for 60.7% of heterosexual female cases; while non-Chinese males only accounted for 32.9% of heterosexual male cases. The situation of heterosexual transmission among EM needs continual monitoring.

39. The number of cases acquiring HIV via **injecting drug use** has remained stable. Despite that, the proportion of injection and risky needle-sharing behaviour among drug users as gauged from several surveys remained at a high level, which continued to pose a potential risk of cluster outbreak and rapid upsurge of infection in the population. Moreover, the HIV testing coverage in methadone clinics showed a decreasing trend in the past few years, which may miss or delay diagnosis and subsequent care of infected PWID. Remedial strategies to enhance HIV testing are underway, which will be evaluated periodically.

40. Regarding the HIV infections among **ethnic minorities**, the increase in non-Chinese HIV cases in 2020 could be attributed to the rising number of people with (known) HIV followed up elsewhere entering the local health system due to international travel ban in the time of COVID-19. Among the 93 Asian non-Chinese in 2020, 17 of them (18.3%) had HIV diagnosed outside Hong Kong, which was a great increase compared to 4.2% and 2.8% in 2019 and 2018 respectively. In addition, enhanced social media publicity targeting local Filipinos and Indonesians in 2020 Q2-3 by the Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) might increase their awareness to perform HIV testing. The overall trend should be closely monitored.

41. The decrease in reported HIV cases in 2020 might also be complicated by the outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic had severely interrupted the testing services by ACTS and AIDS NGOs with a reduction of 62.8% and 24.5% of HIV rapid tests done respectively in 2020 when compared to 2019. With the gradual resumption of social activities and testing services in 2021, the authority and all service providers should be watchful for the changing landscape of HIV prevention and control while the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing. Close monitoring of the accessibility of testing and treatment services is warranted, with continued surveillance of data for evaluating the HIV responses.

42. In conclusion, despite the fifth consecutive year of drop in new HIV infections from the peak in 2015, the number of cases in Hong Kong remained at a high level. Similar to the situation in many developed countries and neighboring areas, MSM infection particularly affecting the young population continued to dominate the HIV epidemic in Hong Kong. The situation of heterosexual population and PWID population has been relatively stable in recent few years. However, significant levels of risk behavior exist in the at risk populations. Apart from locally acquired infections, infections acquired outside Hong Kong could also play an important factor influencing the local HIV epidemiology. In 2020, the HIV prevalence among the general population in Hong Kong was estimated to remain at a low level of around 0.1%. To combat the HIV epidemic, continuous and collaborative effort in HIV prevention is essential.

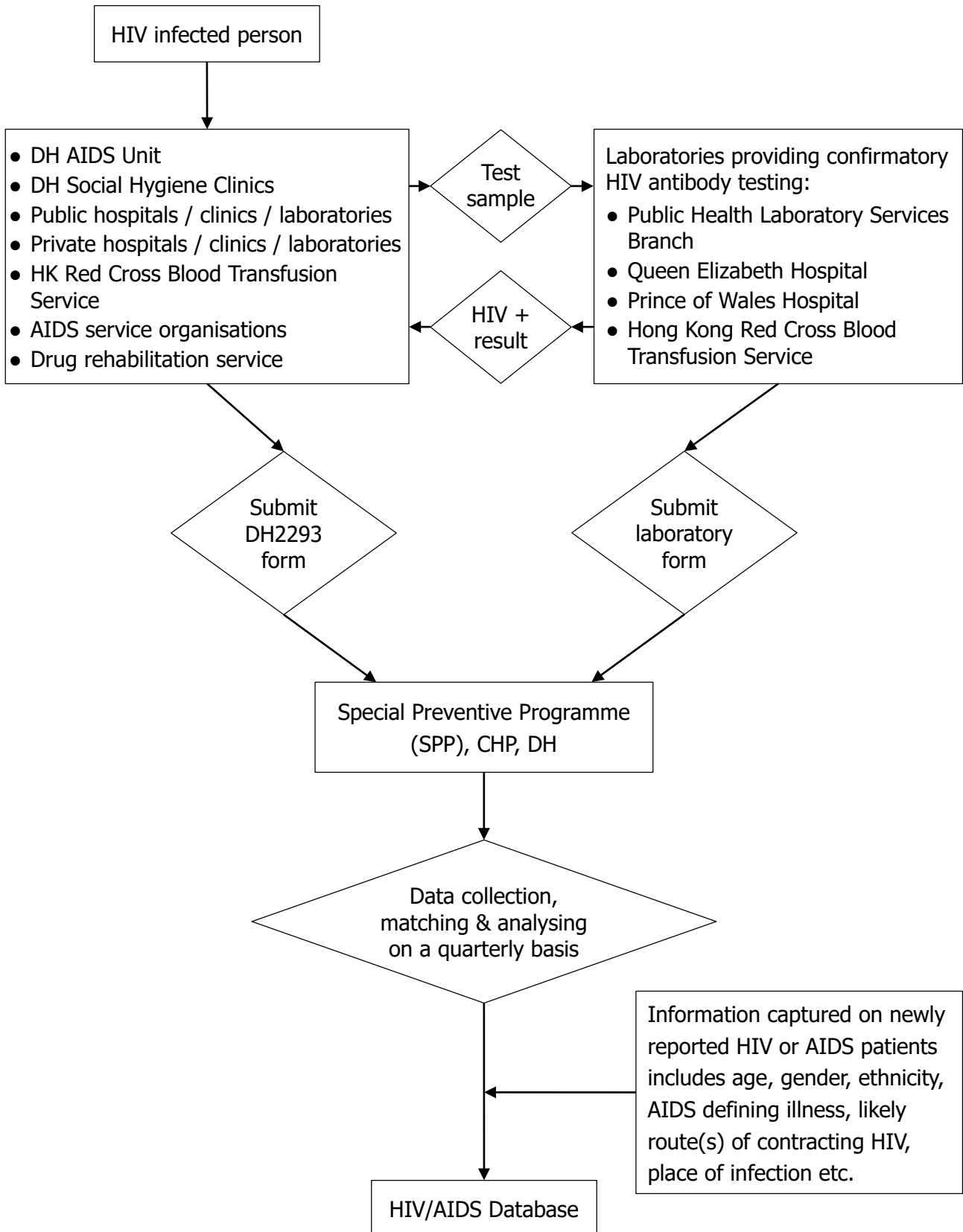
43. In line with the international recommendations, all patients diagnosed HIV positive will receive antiretroviral treatment irrespective of the stage of disease, with the goal of a sustained undetectable viral load. According to the latest HIV treatment cascade for Hong Kong (2019) projected using Asia Epidemic Model, 88.8% of cases diagnosed HIV positive were on sustained antiretroviral treatment (HAART) while 95.1% of them having their viral load suppressed to an undetectable level (defined as less than 200 copies per mL in the latest blood test).

2. TABULATED RESULTS OF HIV/AIDS REPORTING

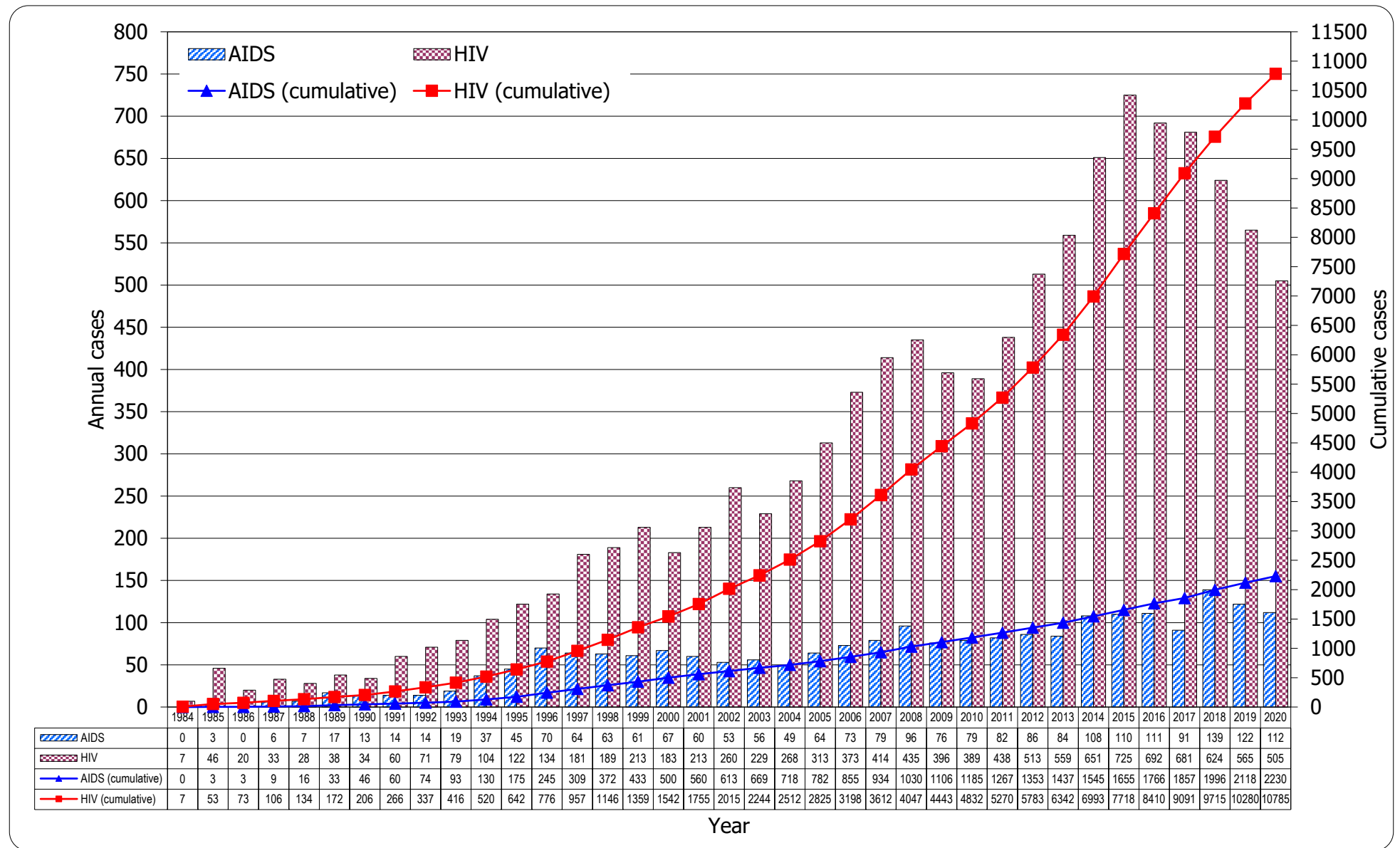
System description

- The HIV/AIDS reporting system is a case-based notification system conducted on a voluntary, anonymous and confidential basis since 1984, with input from physicians and laboratories.

System layout



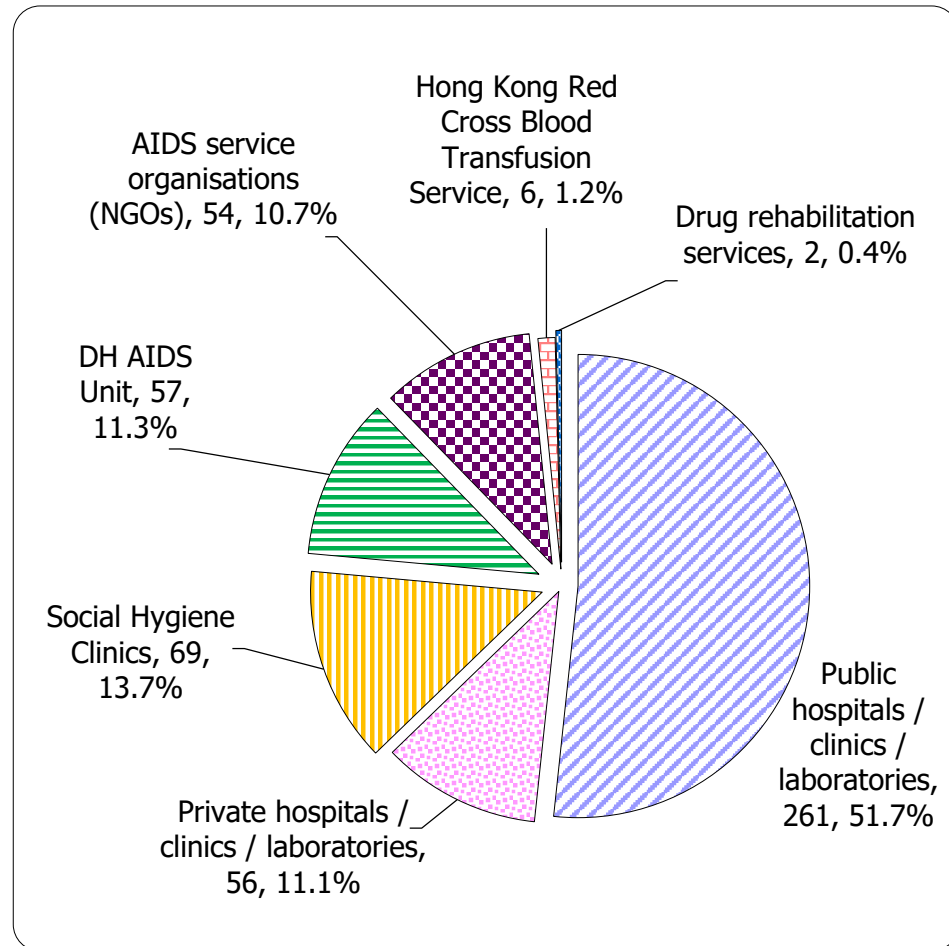
Box 2.1 Annual and cumulative reports of HIV/AIDS cases



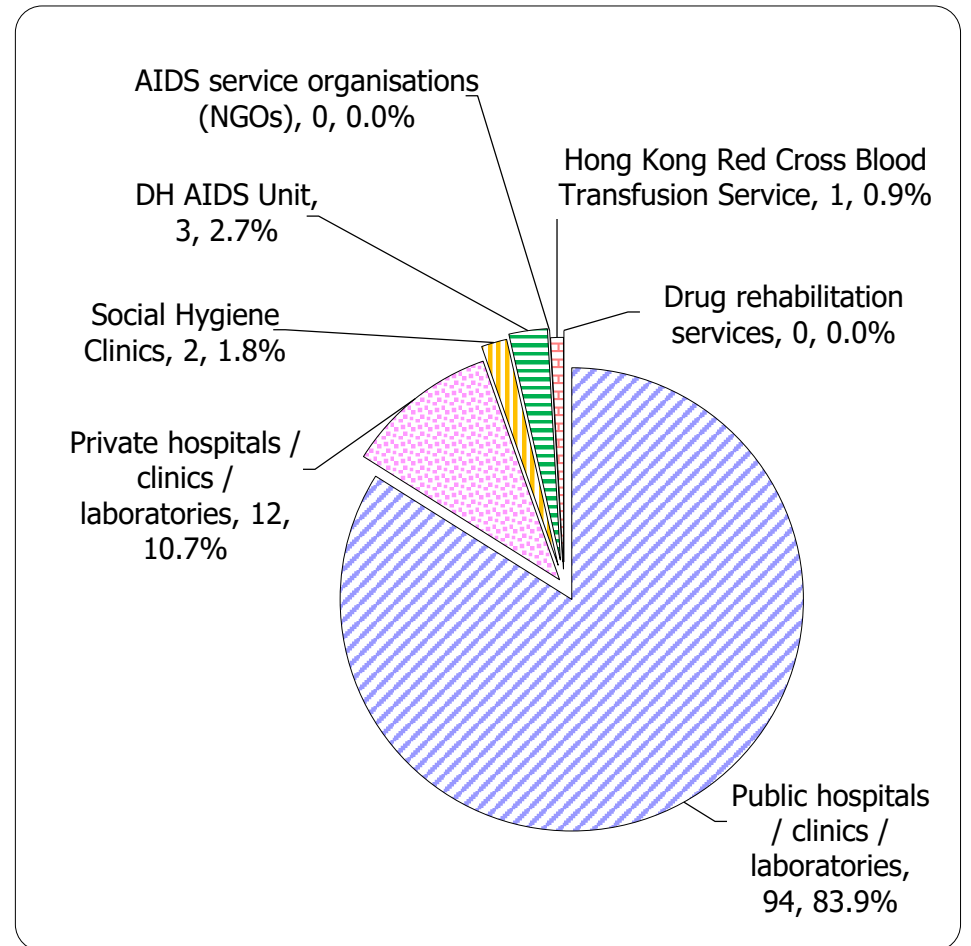
Box 2.2 Source of reporting of HIV/AIDS cases

(a) Year 2020

(i) HIV

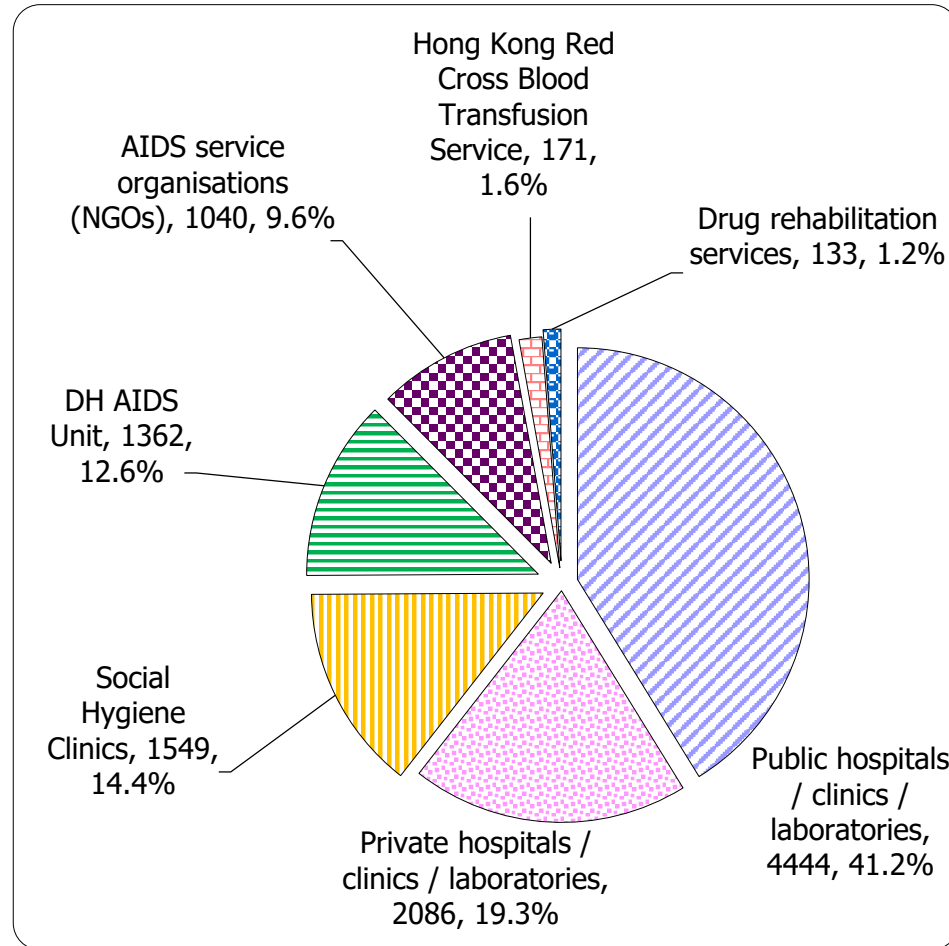


(ii) AIDS

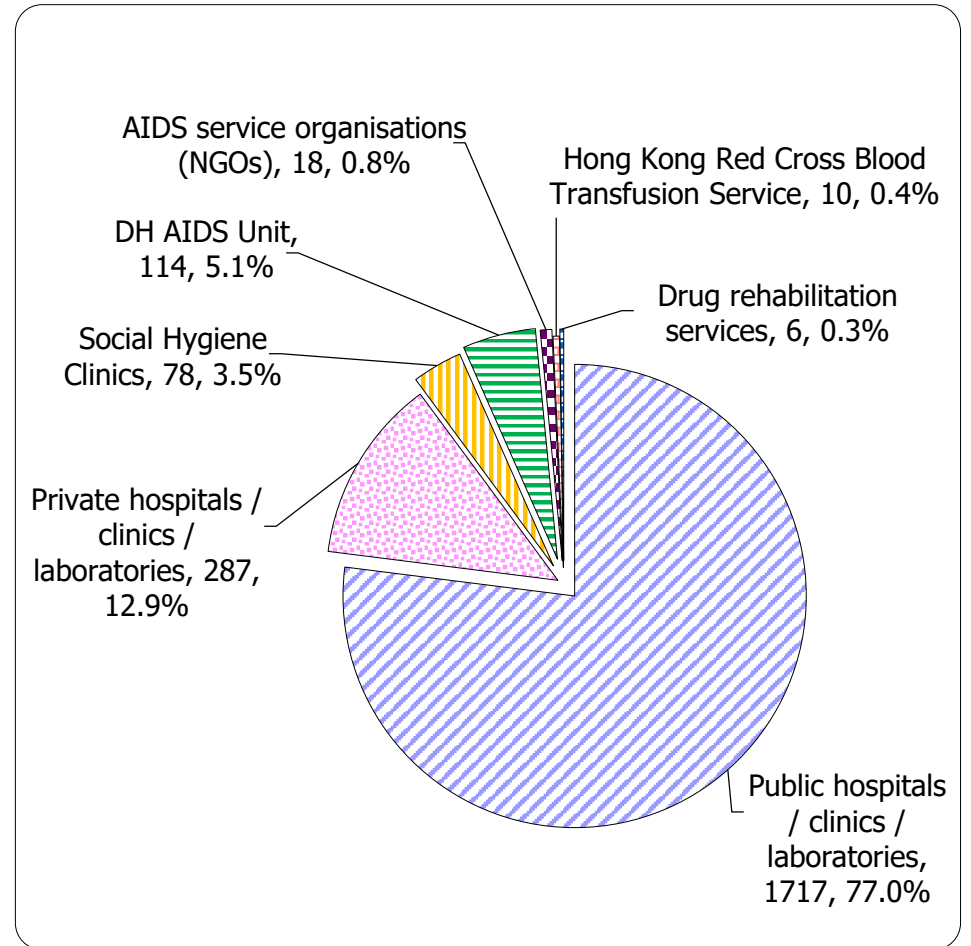


(b) Cumulative (1984 – 2020)

(i) HIV



(ii) AIDS



Box 2.3 Ethnicity & gender of reported HIV/AIDS cases

(a) Year 2020

Ethnicity	HIV			AIDS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Chinese	325 (77.8%)	28 (32.2%)	353 (69.9%)	76 (86.4%)	9 (37.5%)	85 (75.9%)
Non-Chinese	75 (17.9%)	53 (60.9%)	128 (25.3%)	12 (13.6%)	15 (62.5%)	27 (24.1%)
<i>Asian</i>	<i>50 (12.0%)</i>	<i>43 (49.4%)</i>	<i>93 (18.4%)</i>	<i>10 (11.4%)</i>	<i>14 (58.3%)</i>	<i>24 (21.4%)</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>21 (5.0%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>	<i>21 (4.2%)</i>	<i>2 (2.3%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>	<i>2 (1.8%)</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>3 (0.7%)</i>	<i>6 (6.9%)</i>	<i>9 (1.8%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>	<i>1 (4.2%)</i>	<i>1 (0.9%)</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>1 (0.2%)</i>	<i>4 (4.6%)</i>	<i>5 (1.0%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>	<i>0 (0.0%)</i>
Unknown	18 (4.3%)	6 (6.9%)	24 (4.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	418 (100%)	87 (100%)	505 (100%)	88 (100%)	24 (100%)	112 (100%)

(b) Cumulative (1984 – 2020)

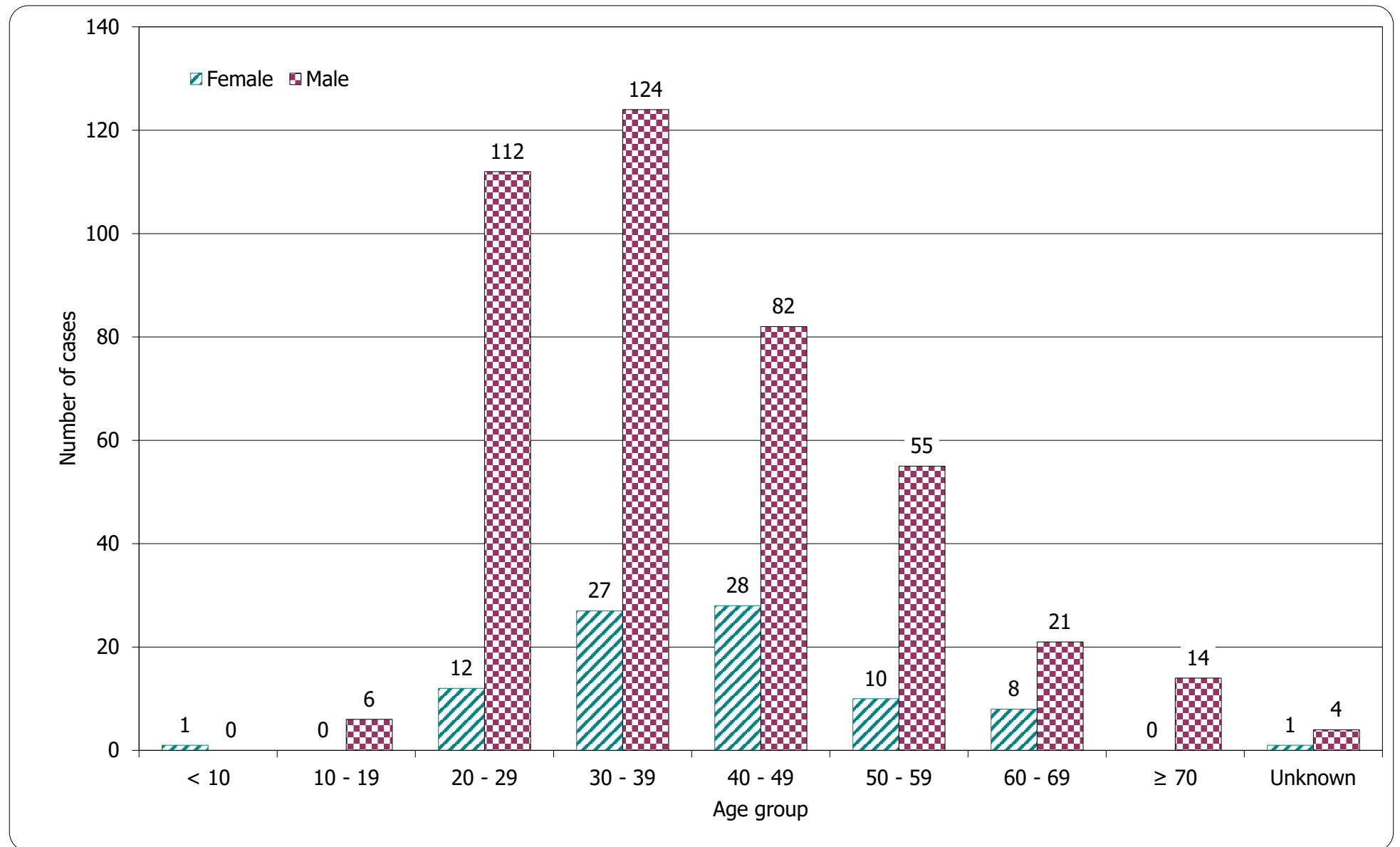
Ethnicity	HIV			AIDS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Chinese	6,777 (76.7%)	735 (37.7%)	7,512 (69.7%)	1,545 (83.6%)	176 (46.1%)	1,721 (77.2%)
Non-Chinese	1,809 (20.5%)	1,176 (60.2%)	2,985 (27.7%)	303 (16.4%)	206 (53.9%)	509 (22.8%)
<i>Asian</i>	<i>833 (9.4%)</i>	<i>682 (34.9%)</i>	<i>1,515 (14.0%)</i>	<i>172 (9.3%)</i>	<i>182 (47.6%)</i>	<i>354 (15.9%)</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>603 (6.8%)</i>	<i>26 (1.3%)</i>	<i>629 (5.8%)</i>	<i>98 (5.3%)</i>	<i>3 (0.8%)</i>	<i>101 (4.5%)</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>133 (1.5%)</i>	<i>127 (6.5%)</i>	<i>260 (2.4%)</i>	<i>27 (1.5%)</i>	<i>18 (4.7%)</i>	<i>45 (2.0%)</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>240 (2.7%)</i>	<i>341 (17.5%)</i>	<i>581 (5.4%)</i>	<i>6 (0.3%)</i>	<i>3 (0.8%)</i>	<i>9 (0.4%)</i>
Unknown	247 (2.8%)	41 (2.1%)	288 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	8,833 (100%)	1,952 (100%)	10,785 (100%)	1,848 (100%)	382 (100%)	2,230 (100%)

Box 2.4 Age distribution of reported HIV/AIDS cases

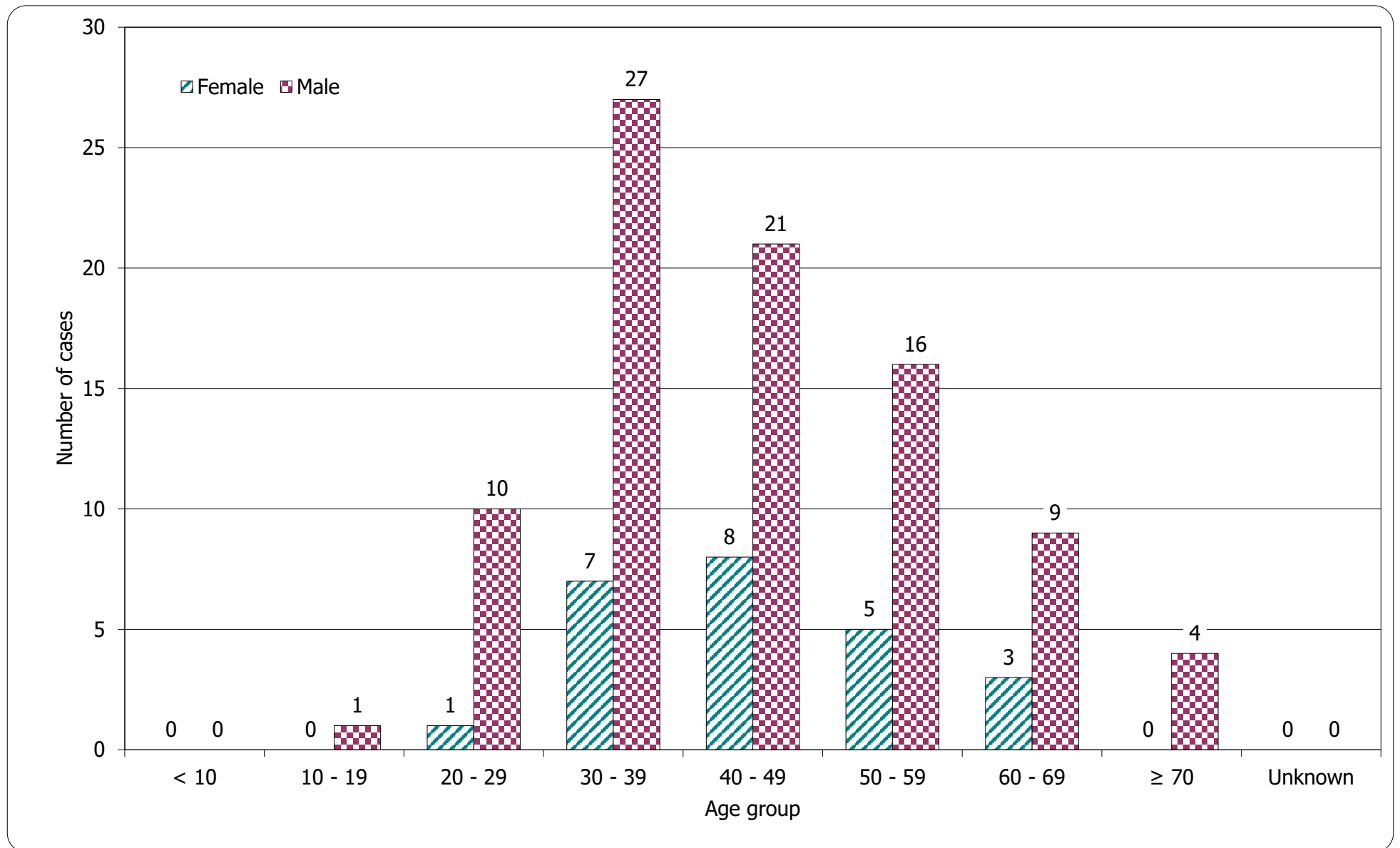
(a) Median age of reported HIV/AIDS cases

Year	HIV			AIDS		
	Median age	Inter quartile range		Median age	Inter quartile range	
		25%	75%		25%	75%
2001	34.5	29	42	38	30.75	46.25
2002	36	30	44	41	34	48
2003	36	31	45	39	35	49.25
2004	36	30	44	42	35	51
2005	36	30	44	40	33.75	47.25
2006	34	28	42	38	31	47
2007	34	29	41	41	34	50.5
2008	36	29	45	41	34	54
2009	36	29	44	41	34	51
2010	36	30	44	42	37	53
2011	37	30	47	41	34	48.75
2012	36	29	44	42	36	49
2013	36	29	44	43.5	36	49.25
2014	34	26	43	47	38	54.5
2015	34	27	43	41.5	33	52
2016	35	28	46	44	35	52
2017	35	27	44	41	35	49.5
2018	36	28	46.25	43	35	52.5
2019	38	29	48	46	37	55
2020	37	29	48	43.5	34	52.5
Cumulative (1984 – 2020)	35	28	44	41	34	50.25

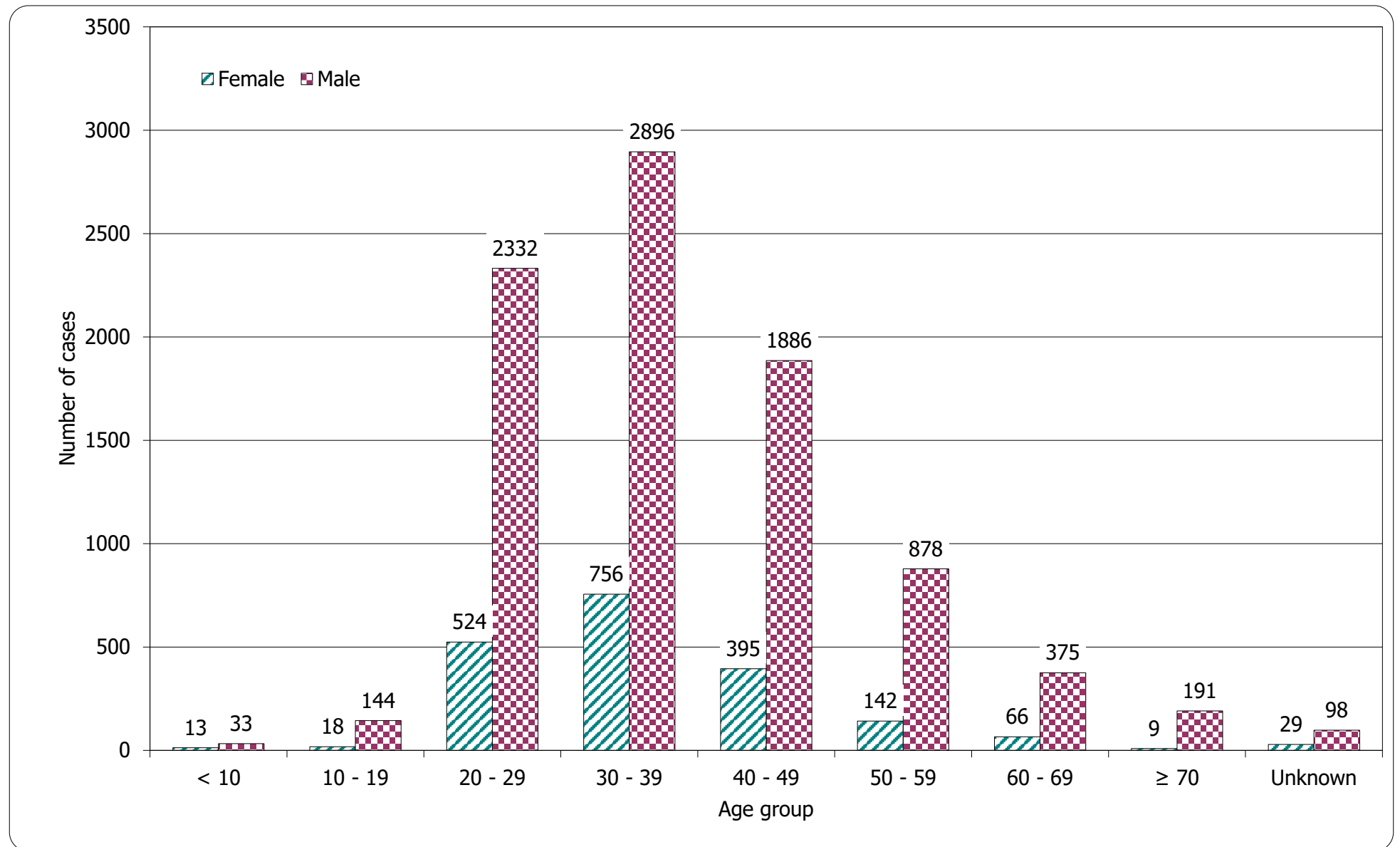
(b) Age & gender of reported HIV cases (Year 2020)



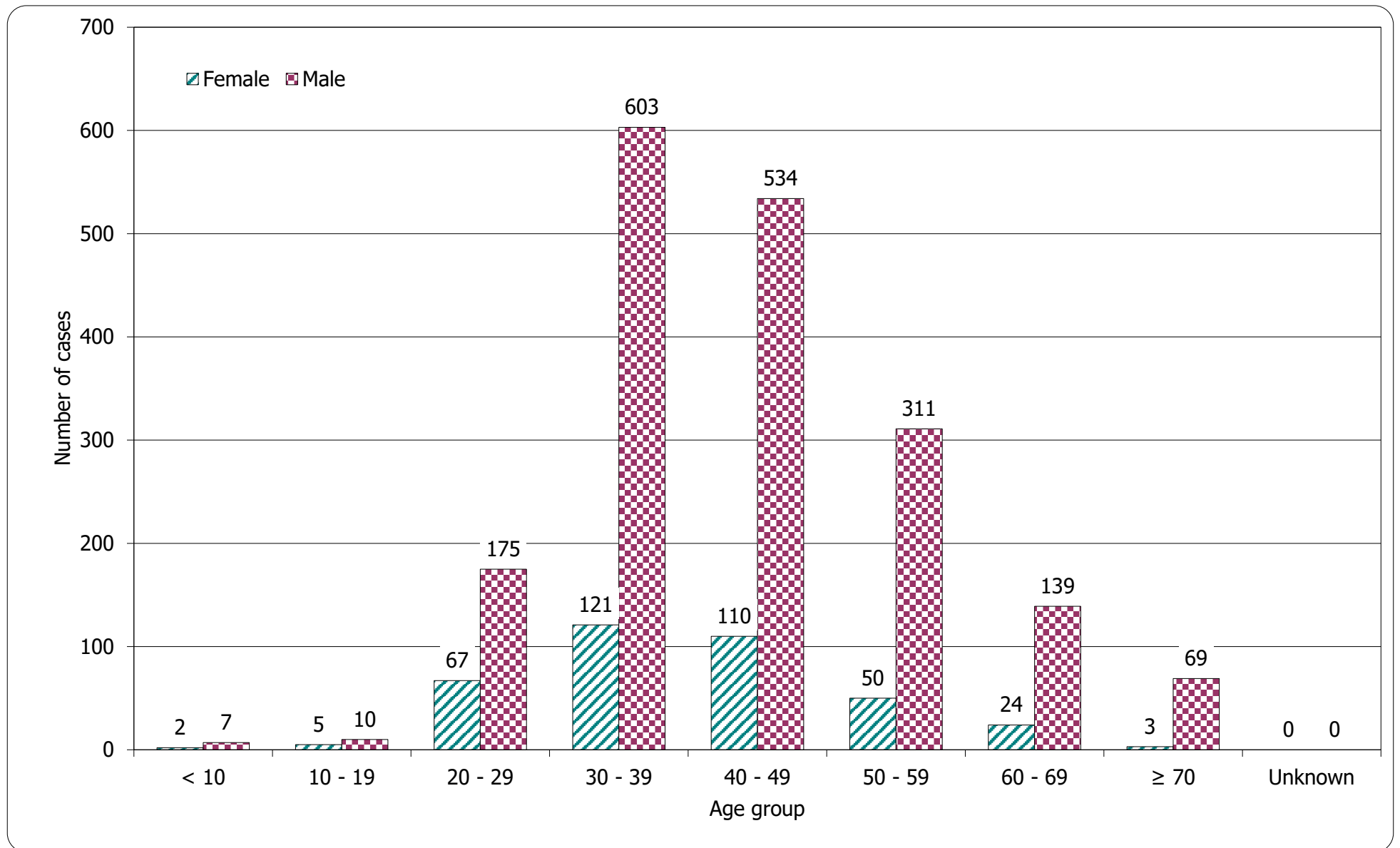
(c) Age & gender of reported AIDS cases (Year 2020)



(d) Age & gender of reported HIV cases (cumulative, 1984 – 2020)



(e) Age & gender of reported AIDS cases (cumulative, 1985 – 2020)



(f) Adults & children with reported HIV/AIDS in 2020

Age	HIV			AIDS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Adult	418	86	504	88	24	112
Children (age ≤ 13)	0	1	1	0	0	0
Total	418	87	505	88	24	112

Box 2.5 Exposure category of reported HIV/AIDS case

(a) Distribution of reported HIV cases by exposure category (2001 – 2020)

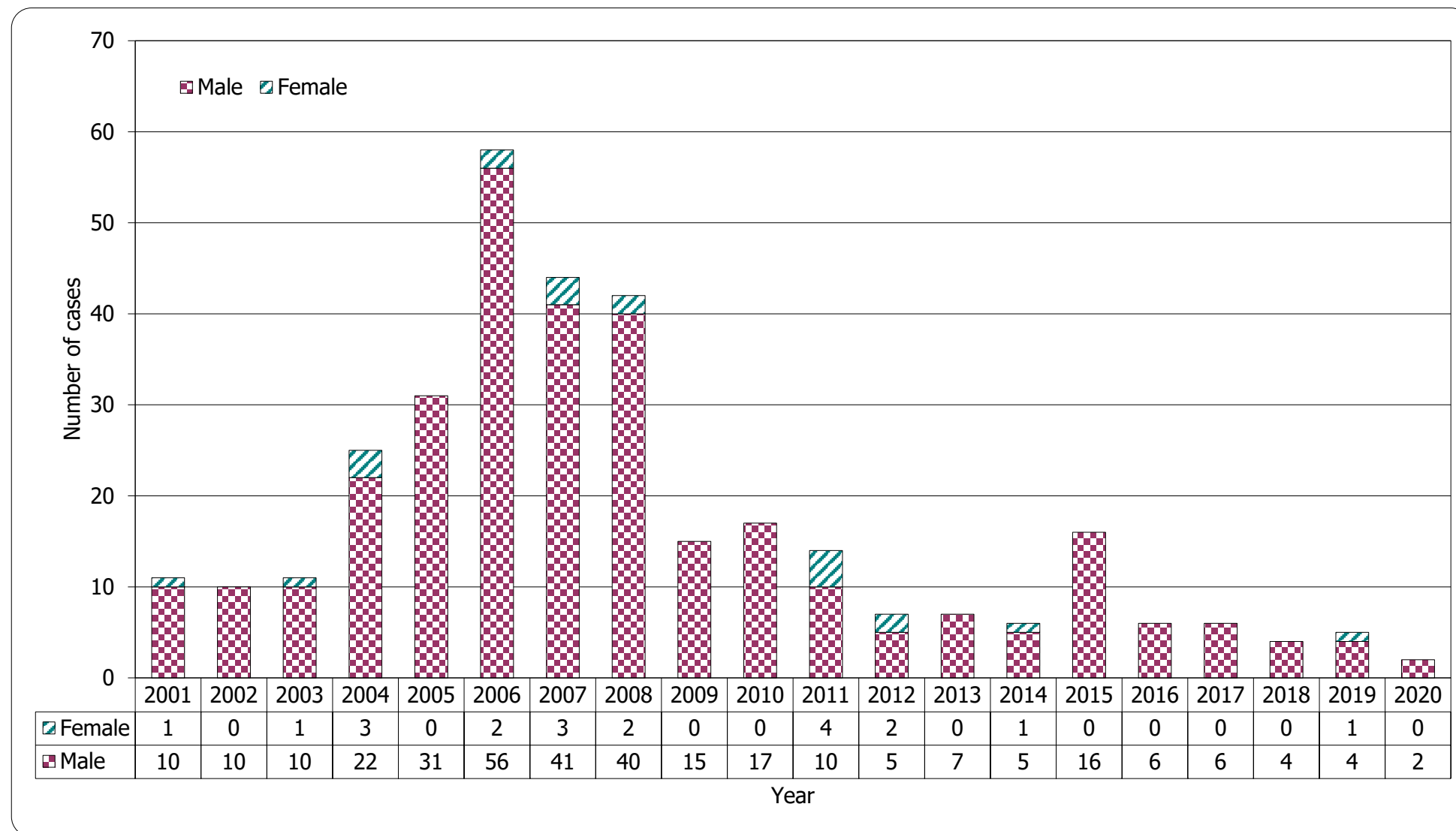
Exposure Category (%)	Year																				Cumulative (1984 – 2020)
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Heterosexual	127 (59.6%)	146 (56.2%)	117 (51.1%)	112 (41.8%)	118 (37.7%)	130 (34.9%)	112 (27.1%)	146 (33.6%)	117 (29.5%)	124 (31.9%)	120 (27.4%)	135 (26.3%)	147 (26.3%)	137 (21.0%)	150 (20.7%)	151 (21.8%)	121 (17.8%)	146 (23.4%)	131 (23.2%)	140 (27.7%)	3,509 (32.5%)
Homosexual	37 (17.4%)	48 (18.5%)	46 (20.1%)	63 (23.5%)	87 (27.8%)	111 (29.8%)	162 (39.1%)	140 (32.2%)	166 (41.9%)	146 (37.5%)	186 (42.5%)	248 (48.3%)	285 (51.0%)	384 (59.0%)	414 (57.1%)	399 (57.7%)	385 (56.5%)	319 (51.1%)	299 (52.9%)	239 (47.3%)	4,468 (41.4%)
Bisexual	7 (3.3%)	9 (3.5%)	5 (2.2%)	6 (2.2%)	12 (3.8%)	15 (4.0%)	19 (4.6%)	18 (4.1%)	9 (2.3%)	24 (6.2%)	18 (4.1%)	17 (3.3%)	22 (3.9%)	24 (3.7%)	56 (7.7%)	50 (7.2%)	75 (11.0%)	58 (9.3%)	40 (7.1%)	37 (7.3%)	600 (5.6%)
Injecting drug use	11 (5.2%)	10 (3.8%)	11 (4.8%)	25 (9.3%)	31 (9.9%)	58 (15.5%)	44 (10.6%)	42 (9.7%)	15 (3.8%)	17 (4.4%)	14 (3.2%)	7 (1.4%)	7 (1.3%)	6 (0.9%)	16 (2.2%)	6 (0.9%)	6 (0.9%)	4 (0.6%)	5 (0.9%)	2 (0.4%)	370 (3.4%)
Blood contact	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.5%)	3 (0.7%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	85 (0.8%)
Perinatal	2 (0.9%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.6%)	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.8%)	3 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	35 (0.3%)
Undetermined	29 (13.6%)	46 (17.7%)	50 (21.8%)	62 (23.1%)	59 (18.8%)	57 (15.3%)	74 (17.9%)	86 (19.8%)	85 (21.5%)	75 (19.3%)	98 (22.4%)	104 (20.3%)	96 (17.2%)	99 (15.2%)	87 (12.0%)	86 (12.4%)	90 (13.2%)	97 (15.5%)	88 (15.6%)	87 (17.2%)	1,718 (15.9%)
Total	213 (100%)	260 (100%)	229 (100%)	268 (100%)	313 (100%)	373 (100%)	414 (100%)	435 (100%)	396 (100%)	389 (100%)	438 (100%)	513 (100%)	559 (100%)	651 (100%)	725 (100%)	692 (100%)	681 (100%)	624 (100%)	565 (100%)	505 (100%)	10,785 (100%)

(b) Distribution of reported AIDS cases by exposure category (2001 – 2020)

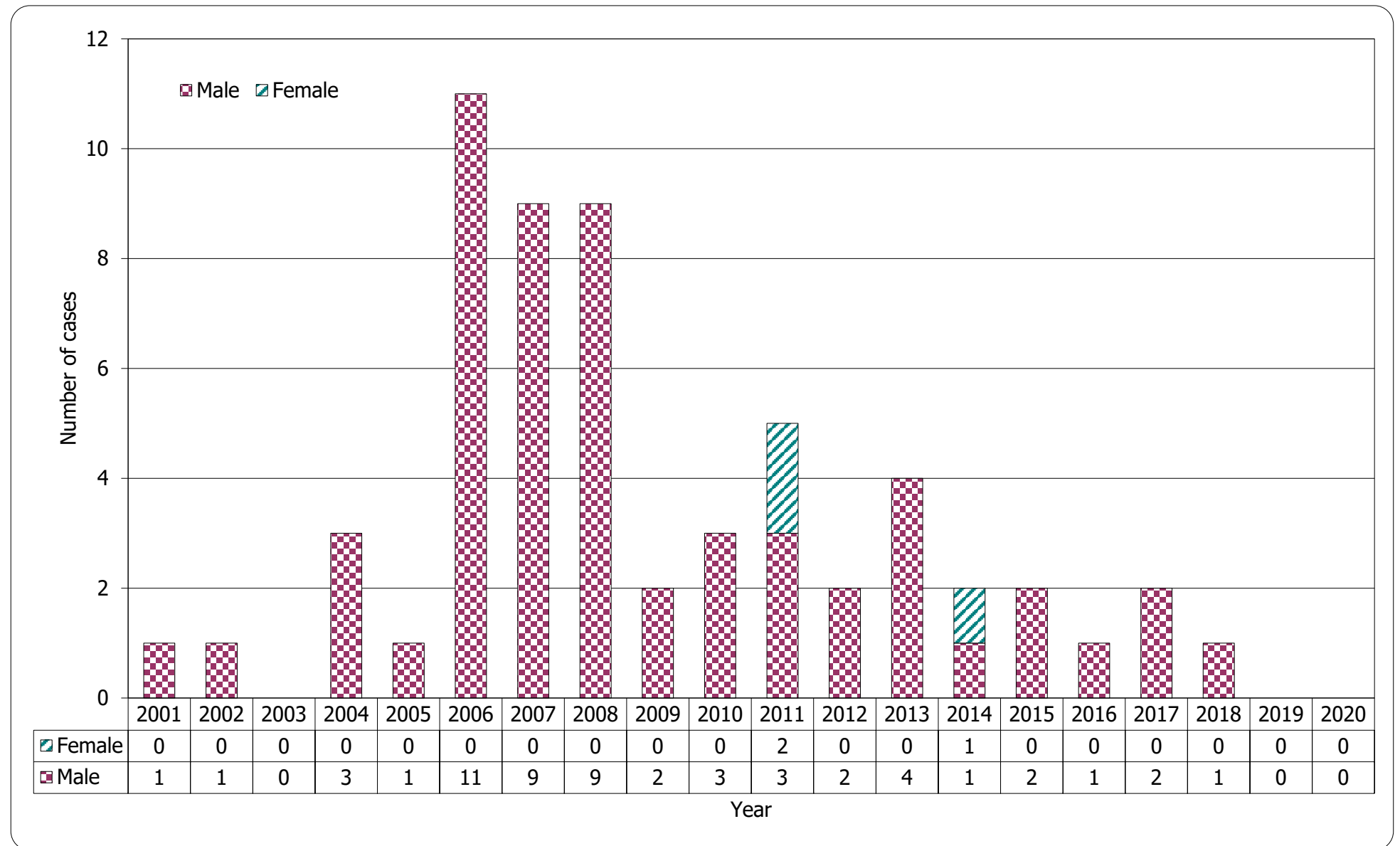
Exposure Category (%)	Year																				Cumulative (1985 – 2020)
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Heterosexual	49 (81.7%)	38 (71.7%)	46 (82.1%)	35 (71.4%)	38 (59.4%)	31 (42.5%)	40 (50.6%)	52 (54.2%)	35 (46.1%)	36 (45.6%)	31 (37.8%)	39 (45.3%)	31 (36.9%)	53 (49.1%)	46 (41.8%)	49 (44.1%)	27 (29.7%)	51 (36.7%)	43 (35.2%)	46 (41.1%)	1,137 (51.0%)
Homosexual	5 (8.3%)	8 (15.1%)	7 (12.5%)	8 (16.3%)	13 (20.3%)	21 (28.8%)	20 (25.3%)	25 (26.0%)	28 (36.8%)	27 (34.2%)	32 (39.0%)	34 (39.5%)	36 (42.9%)	39 (36.1%)	50 (45.5%)	41 (36.9%)	45 (49.5%)	62 (44.6%)	57 (46.7%)	45 (40.2%)	695 (31.2%)
Bisexual	2 (3.3%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (4.7%)	3 (4.1%)	1 (1.3%)	3 (3.1%)	3 (3.9%)	5 (6.3%)	4 (4.9%)	4 (4.7%)	5 (6.0%)	6 (5.6%)	7 (6.4%)	14 (12.6%)	11 (12.1%)	17 (12.2%)	15 (12.3%)	14 (12.5%)	145 (6.5%)
Injecting drug use	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (6.1%)	1 (1.6%)	11 (15.1%)	9 (11.4%)	9 (9.4%)	2 (2.6%)	3 (3.8%)	5 (6.1%)	2 (2.3%)	4 (4.8%)	2 (1.9%)	2 (1.8%)	1 (0.9%)	2 (2.2%)	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	67 (3.0%)
Blood contact	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	25 (1.1%)
Perinatal	1 (1.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)	1 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	11 (0.5%)
Undetermined	2 (3.3%)	4 (7.5%)	2 (3.6%)	3 (6.1%)	8 (12.5%)	7 (9.6%)	8 (10.1%)	5 (5.2%)	7 (9.2%)	7 (8.9%)	10 (12.2%)	7 (8.1%)	7 (8.3%)	8 (7.4%)	4 (3.6%)	6 (5.4%)	5 (5.5%)	8 (5.8%)	6 (4.9%)	7 (6.3%)	150 (6.7%)
Total	60 (100%)	53 (100%)	56 (100%)	49 (100%)	64 (100%)	73 (100%)	79 (100%)	96 (100%)	76 (100%)	79 (100%)	82 (100%)	86 (100%)	84 (100%)	108 (100%)	110 (100%)	111 (100%)	91 (100%)	139 (100%)	122 (100%)	112 (100%)	2,230 (100%)

Box 2.6 Reported HIV/AIDS cases in people who inject drugs (2001 – 2020)

(a) Reported HIV-infected people who inject drugs – by gender

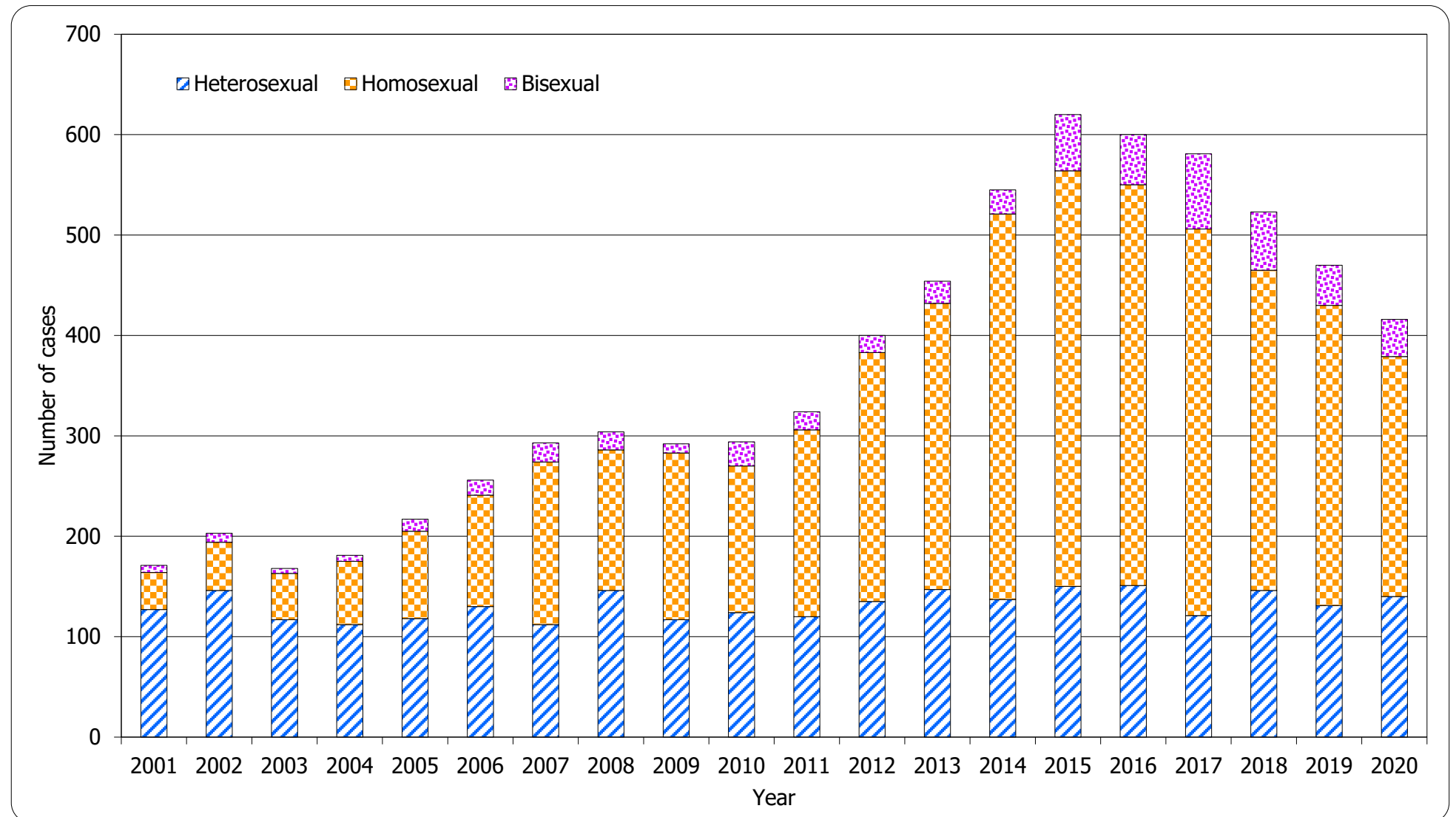


(b) Reported AIDS case in people who inject drugs – by gender

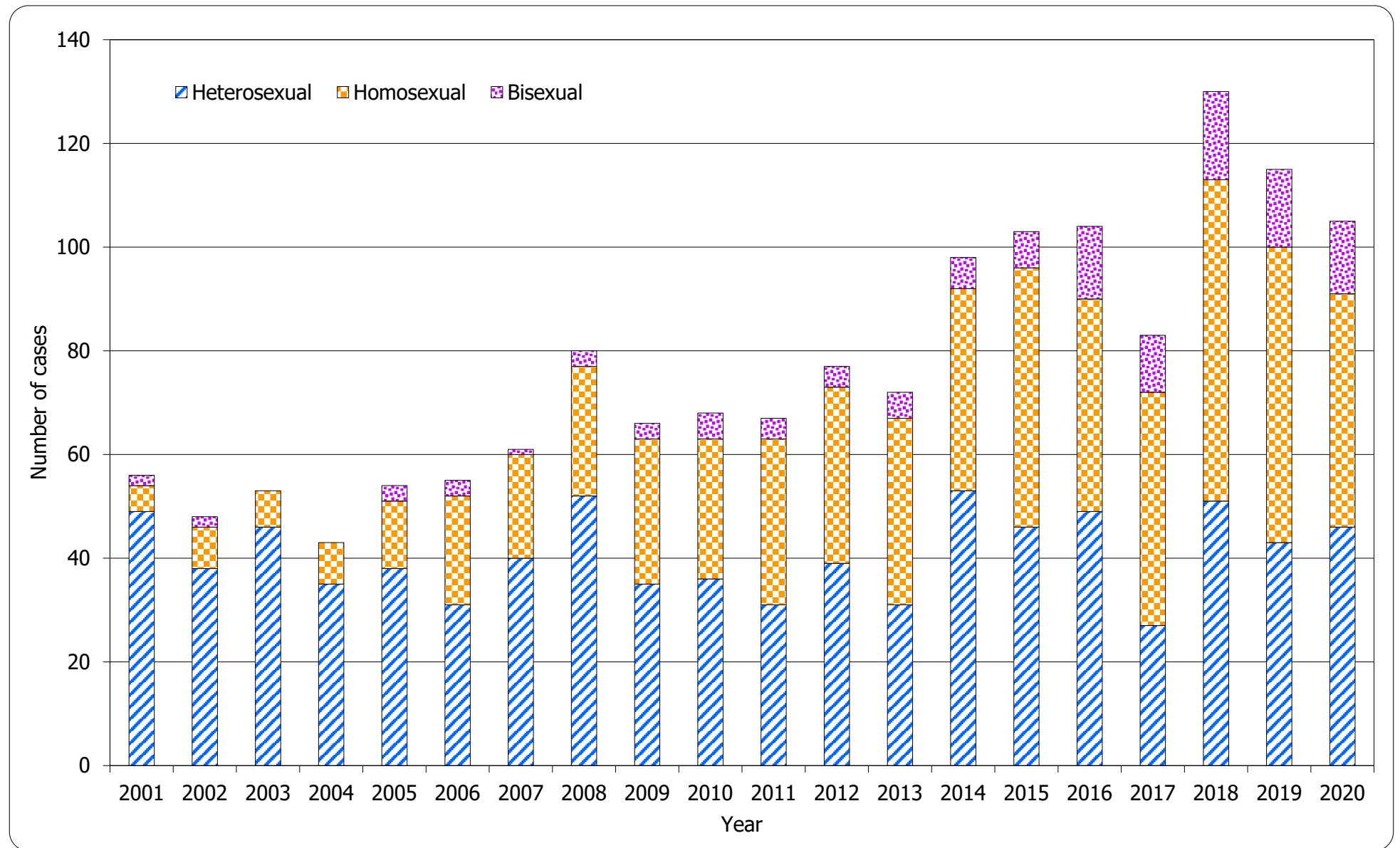


Box 2.7 Reported sexually acquired HIV/AIDS cases (2001 – 2020)

(a) Yearly reports of sexually acquired HIV cases



(b) Yearly reports of sexually acquired AIDS cases



(c) Ratio of heterosexual vs homosexual / bisexual men reported with HIV/AIDS

Year	HIV	AIDS
2001	1.9 : 1	5.3 : 1
2002	1.7 : 1	2.7 : 1
2003	1.6 : 1	4.9 : 1
2004	1.1 : 1	3.8 : 1
2005	0.8 : 1	1.8 : 1
2006	0.7 : 1	0.8 : 1
2007	0.4 : 1	1.5 : 1
2008	0.6 : 1	1.4 : 1
2009	0.4 : 1	0.8 : 1
2010	0.4 : 1	0.8 : 1
2011	0.3 : 1	0.4 : 1
2012	0.3 : 1	0.6 : 1
2013	0.2 : 1	0.4 : 1
2014	0.2 : 1	0.7 : 1
2015	0.2 : 1	0.5 : 1
2016	0.2 : 1	0.5 : 1
2017	0.1 : 1	0.3 : 1
2018	0.2 : 1	0.3 : 1
2019	0.2 : 1	0.4 : 1
2020	0.3 : 1	0.4 : 1
Cumulative (1984 – 2020)	0.4 : 1	0.9 : 1

Box 2.8 Profile of primary AIDS defining illnesses (ADI) (2001 – 2020)

ADI (%)	Year																				Cumulative (1985 – 2020)
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<i>Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)</i>	26 (43.3%)	25 (47.2%)	22 (39.3%)	22 (44.9%)	20 (31.3%)	27 (37.0%)	28 (35.4%)	37 (38.5%)	32 (42.1%)	36 (45.6%)	37 (45.1%)	39 (45.3%)	37 (44.0%)	46 (42.6%)	55 (50.0%)	48 (43.2%)	44 (48.4%)	70 (50.4%)	63 (51.6%)	54 (48.2%)	958 (43.0%)
<i>Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)</i>	17 (28.3%)	9 (17.0%)	15 (26.8%)	13 (26.5%)	25 (39.1%)	26 (35.6%)	32 (40.5%)	32 (33.3%)	24 (31.6%)	20 (25.3%)	22 (26.8%)	15 (17.4%)	17 (20.2%)	27 (25.0%)	17 (15.5%)	17 (15.3%)	17 (18.7%)	22 (15.8%)	28 (23.0%)	12 (10.7%)	516 (23.1%)
Other fungal infections	5 (8.3%)	8 (15.1%)	4 (7.1%)	6 (12.2%)	5 (7.8%)	4 (5.5%)	3 (3.8%)	3 (3.1%)	6 (7.9%)	5 (6.3%)	8 (9.8%)	10 (11.6%)	10 (11.9%)	12 (11.1%)	9 (8.2%)	11 (9.9%)	7 (7.7%)	14 (10.1%)	3 (2.5%)	10 (8.9%)	198 (8.9%)
Penicilliosis	1 (1.7%)	7 (13.2%)	5 (8.9%)	4 (8.2%)	7 (10.9%)	11 (15.1%)	4 (5.1%)	6 (6.3%)	1 (1.3%)	6 (7.6%)	2 (2.4%)	6 (7.0%)	3 (3.6%)	2 (1.9%)	6 (5.5%)	9 (8.1%)	7 (7.7%)	5 (3.6%)	6 (4.9%)	8 (7.1%)	148 (6.6%)
Cytomegalovirus diseases	2 (3.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.4%)	1 (2.0%)	2 (3.1%)	3 (4.1%)	4 (5.1%)	6 (6.3%)	3 (3.9%)	3 (3.8%)	5 (6.1%)	4 (4.7%)	4 (4.8%)	4 (3.7%)	7 (6.4%)	5 (4.5%)	8 (8.8%)	12 (8.6%)	5 (4.1%)	8 (7.1%)	115 (5.2%)
Non-TB mycobacterial infections	5 (8.3%)	2 (3.8%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (4.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.0%)	2 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (2.8%)	2 (1.8%)	3 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.8%)	40 (1.8%)
Kaposi's sarcoma	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)	4 (4.2%)	2 (2.6%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (2.4%)	1 (1.2%)	7 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.7%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.7%)	4 (3.3%)	4 (3.6%)	51 (2.3%)
Others	4 (6.7%)	2 (3.8%)	5 (8.9%)	1 (2.0%)	4 (6.3%)	1 (1.4%)	7 (8.9%)	7 (7.3%)	6 (7.9%)	8 (10.1%)	6 (7.3%)	9 (10.5%)	6 (7.1%)	14 (13.0%)	13 (11.8%)	15 (13.5%)	7 (7.7%)	15 (10.8%)	13 (10.7%)	14 (12.5%)	204 (9.1%)
Total	60 (100%)	53 (100%)	56 (100%)	49 (100%)	64 (100%)	73 (100%)	79 (100%)	96 (100%)	76 (100%)	79 (100%)	82 (100%)	86 (100%)	84 (100%)	108 (100%)	110 (100%)	111 (100%)	91 (100%)	139 (100%)	122 (100%)	112 (100%)	2,230 (100%)

3. TABULATED RESULTS OF HIV PREVALENCE SURVEYS

System description

- This is a collection of data from HIV prevalence studies and public service records that contribute to the understanding of the HIV situation in selected community groups or settings.

System layout

Target population	Setting	System	Since	Sample size	Data available in 2020
(a) Community with predisposing risk factors					
STI patients	Social Hygiene Clinics	Voluntary testing offered to clients	1985	Around 25,000 – 40,000/year	Yes
Drug users (1)	Methadone Clinics	Universal HIV Antibody (Urine samples) Testing Programme	2003	Around 6,000 – 9,000/year	Yes
Drug users (2)	Inpatient drug treatment centres / institution	Unlinked anonymous screening (Urine samples)	1998	Around 150 – 700/year	Yes
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	AIDS Concern	Voluntary testing offered to MSM (rapid tests)	2000	Around 200 – 1,500/year	Yes
	HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men in Hong Kong (PRISM)	Unlinked anonymous screening (urine samples) Voluntary testing (urine samples)	2006, 2008, 2011, 2017 rounds	Around 800/study (2006, 2008, 2011) and around 2,400 in 2017	No
Female Sex Worker (FSW)	Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong (CRISP)	Unlinked anonymous screening (urine samples) Voluntary testing (urine samples)	2006 round 2008 round	Around 900/study	No
	HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARIS)	Voluntary testing (urine samples)	2013	Around 600/study	Yes
(b) Community without known risk factors					
Blood donors	Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	A requirement for all potential donors	1985	Around 180,000 – 240,000/year	Yes
Antenatal women	All maternal and child health centres and public hospitals	Universal voluntary testing (blood samples)	Sept 2001	Around 40,000 – 50,000/year	Yes
(c) Community with undefined risk					
TB patients	TB and Chest Clinics of the Department of Health	Voluntary testing (blood samples)	1993	Around 2,000 – 4,500/year	Yes
Prisoners	Penal institutions	Unlinked anonymous screening (blood / urine samples)	1992	Around 1,500 – 2,500/year	Yes

Box 3.1 HIV prevalence in blood donors at Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

(a) HIV detection rate by number of donated blood units (2011 – 2020)

Year	Units of blood donated	Number of units anti-HIV+	Positive detection rate of donated units (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	234,086	5	0.0021	(0.0007 – 0.0050)
2012	241,804	8	0.0033	(0.0014 – 0.0065)
2013	244,198	7	0.0029	(0.0012 – 0.0059)
2014	250,959	11	0.0044	(0.0022 – 0.0078)
2015	257,859	16	0.0062	(0.0035 – 0.0101)
2016	254,850	7	0.0027	(0.0011 – 0.0057)
2017	241,607	9	0.0037	(0.0017 – 0.0071)
2018	225,583	5	0.0022	(0.0007 – 0.0052)
2019	222,595	2	0.0009	(0.0001 – 0.0032)
2020	199,666	5	0.0025	(0.0008 – 0.0058)

(b) HIV prevalence in new and repeat blood donors (2011 – 2020)

Year	New donors				Repeat donors			
	Number of donors	Number of donors anti-HIV+	HIV positivity rate (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)	Number of donors	Number of donors anti-HIV+	HIV positivity rate (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	42,684	2	0.0047	(0.0006 – 0.0169)	191,402	3	0.0016	(0.0003 – 0.0046)
2012	42,083	3	0.0071	(0.0015 – 0.0208)	199,721	5	0.0025	(0.0008 – 0.0058)
2013	40,315	1	0.0025	(0.0001 – 0.0138)	203,883	6	0.0029	(0.0011 – 0.0064)
2014	38,175	5	0.0131	(0.0043 – 0.0306)	212,784	6	0.0028	(0.0010 – 0.0061)
2015	36,183	6	0.0166	(0.0061 – 0.0361)	221,676	10	0.0045	(0.0022 – 0.0083)
2016	35,851	3	0.0084	(0.0017 – 0.0245)	218,999	4	0.0018	(0.0005 – 0.0047)
2017	32,919	4	0.0122	(0.0033 – 0.0311)	208,688	5	0.0024	(0.0008 – 0.0056)
2018	29,551	3	0.0102	(0.0021 – 0.0297)	196,032	2	0.0010	(0.0001 – 0.0037)
2019	29,342	1	0.0034	(0.0001 – 0.0190)	193,253	1	0.0005	(0.0000 – 0.0029)
2020	18,409	3	0.0163	(0.0034 – 0.0476)	181,257	2	0.0011	(0.0001 – 0.0040)

Box 3.2 HIV prevalence in clients attending Social Hygiene Services, from voluntary blood testing (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of blood samples	Number of samples tested anti-HIV+	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	25,599	44	0.172	(0.125 – 0.231)
2012	26,679	55	0.206	(0.155 – 0.268)
2013	26,470	90	0.340	(0.273 – 0.418)
2014	25,960	105	0.404	(0.331 – 0.490)
2015	26,117	119	0.456	(0.377 – 0.545)
2016	25,685	124	0.483	(0.402 – 0.576)
2017	27,476	118	0.429	(0.355 – 0.514)
2018	25,560	97	0.379	(0.308 – 0.463)
2019	24,564	95	0.387	(0.313 – 0.473)
2020	17,459	77	0.441	(0.348 – 0.551)

Box 3.3 HIV prevalence in drug users attending methadone clinics (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of urine samples	Number of samples tested anti-HIV+	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011 *	6,960	37	0.532	(0.374 – 0.733)
2012 *	6,742	42	0.623	(0.449 – 0.842)
Year	Total number of methadone clinic attendees tested for HIV	Total number of methadone clinic attendees tested positive for HIV	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2013 **	6,925	47	0.679	(0.499 – 0.903)
2014 **	6,527	53	0.812	(0.608 – 1.062)
2015 **	6,056	61	1.007	(0.770 – 1.294)
2016 **	5,066	57	1.125	(0.852 – 1.458)
2017 **	4,913	41	0.835	(0.599 – 1.132)
2018 **	4,730	43	0.909	(0.658 – 1.225)
2019 **	4,184	42	1.004	(0.723 – 1.357)
2020 **	3,670	39	1.063	(0.756 – 1.453)

* From the Universal HIV Antibody (Urine) Testing Programme in Methadone clinics.

** Overall figures from all methadone clinic attendees.

Box 3.4 HIV prevalence in drug users attending inpatient drug treatment centres / institutions, from unlinked anonymous screening (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of urine samples	Number of samples tested anti-HIV+	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	396	1	0.253	(0.006 – 1.407)
2012	205	2	0.976	(0.118 – 3.524)
2013	188	0	0	(--- – ---)
2014	365	1	0.274	(0.007 – 1.526)
2015	335	3	0.896	(0.185 – 2.617)
2016	321	2	0.623	(0.075 – 2.251)
2017	295	5	1.695	(0.550 – 3.955)
2018	262	1	0.382	(0.010 – 2.127)
2019	247	3	1.215	(0.250 – 3.549)
2020 *	0	0	N.A.	(--- – ---)

* The unlinked anonymous screening programme of the inpatient drug treatment centre in 2020 was withheld due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 3.5 HIV prevalence in newly admitted prisoners from unlinked anonymous screening (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of samples	Number of samples tested anti-HIV+	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	1,445	27	1.869	(1.231 – 2.718)
2012	1,493	11	0.737	(0.368 – 1.318)
2013	1,460	14	0.959	(0.524 – 1.609)
2014	1,344	14	1.042	(0.569 – 1.748)
2015	1,453	18	1.239	(0.734 – 1.958)
2016	1,384	13	0.939	(0.500 – 1.606)
2017	1,229	9	0.732	(0.335 – 1.390)
2018	1,266	13	1.027	(0.547 – 1.756)
2019	1,164	11	0.945	(0.472 – 1.691)
2020	1,169	9	0.770	(0.352 – 1.461)

Box 3.6 HIV prevalence in patients attending government TB & Chest Clinics, from voluntary blood testing (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of blood samples	Coverage *		Number of anti-HIV+	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
		A	B			
2011	3,656	90.6%	76.3%	33	0.903	(0.621 – 1.268)
2012	3,707	91.2%	76.3%	22	0.593	(0.372 – 0.899)
2013	3,536	88.2%	75.8%	24	0.679	(0.435 – 1.010)
2014	3,345	88.1%	71.1%	23	0.688	(0.436 – 1.032)
2015	3,291	91.1%	74.5%	24	0.729	(0.467 – 1.085)
2016	3,272	92.0%	75.3%	28	0.856	(0.569 – 1.237)
2017	3,256	93.9%	76.6%	31	0.952	(0.647 – 1.351)
2018	3,359	93.7%	78.7%	23	0.685	(0.434 – 1.027)
2019	3,107	94.1%	77.6% #	40	1.287	(0.920 – 1.753)
2020	2,813	93.4%	76.0% **	15	0.533	(0.298 – 0.879)

* A is the proportion of attendees of the government TB & Chest Clinics who have been tested for HIV in TB & Chest Clinics;
B is the proportion of total TB notifications from all sources, and the notified cases have been tested for HIV at government TB & Chest Clinics.

figures revised

** provisional figure

Box 3.7 HIV prevalence among antenatal women from Universal Antenatal HIV Antibody Testing Programme (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of blood samples	Coverage *	Number of positive tests	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	55,984	98.8%	6	0.0107	(0.0039 – 0.0233)
2012	53,117	98.6%	9	0.0169	(0.0077 – 0.0322)
2013	48,871	98.5%	7	0.0143	(0.0058 – 0.0295)
2014	51,263	98.3%	2	0.0039	(0.0005 – 0.0141)
2015	51,338	98.5%	5	0.0097	(0.0032 – 0.0227)
2016	51,519	100%	9	0.0175	(0.0080 – 0.0332)
2017	48,500	100%	7	0.0144	(0.0058 – 0.0297)
2018	45,530	100%	4	0.0088	(0.0024 – 0.0225)
2019	42,670	100%	3	0.0070	(0.0014 – 0.0205)
2020	34,049	100%	5	0.0147	(0.0048 – 0.0343)

* Coverage is the proportion of women attending public antenatal services who have been tested for HIV.

Box 3.8 HIV prevalence among MSM tested by AIDS Concern (2011 – 2020)

Year	Number of test *	Number of positive tests	Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2011	1,026	20	1.949	(1.191 – 3.011)
2012	1,492	30	2.011	(1.357 – 2.871)
2013	1,438	26	1.808	(1.181 – 2.649)
2014	2,054	42	2.045	(1.474 – 2.764)
2015	2,561	66	2.577	(1.993 – 3.279)
2016	3,481	78	2.241	(1.771 – 2.796)
2017	4,081	75	1.838	(1.446 – 2.304)
2018	3,661	47	1.284	(0.943 – 1.707)
2019	4,126	74	1.794	(1.408 – 2.252)
2020	2,356	26	1.104	(0.721 – 1.617)

* HIV rapid test

Box 3.9 HIV prevalence among MSM – PRiSM * (2006, 2008, 2011 and 2017), HARiS ** (2014)

Year	Number of urine specimen collected	Number of positive tests	Crude Prevalence (%)	Adjusted Prevalence (%)	95% C.I. for adjusted prevalence (%)
2006	859	37	4.31	4.05	(3.03 – 5.94)
2008	833	37	4.44	4.31	(2.95 – 5.67)
2011	816	30	3.68	4.08	(3.44 – 4.85)
2017	2,427	86	3.54	6.54 ^	(5.66 – 7.42)
Year	Number of urine specimen collected	Number of positive tests	Prevalence (%)		95% C.I. for prevalence (%)
2014	564	33	5.85		(4.2 – 8.1)

* PRiSM: HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men in Hong Kong, a venue based survey including bars and saunas both in 2006 and 2008 round. Beaches was also added in 2011 round.

^ PRiSM 2017: The HIV prevalence was estimated by addition of the self-reported HIV-positive (n=136) and projected positive cases among non-HIV-positive (by the positive test rate for HIV among non-HIV-positive) divided by the total number of sexually active MSM

** HARiS: HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey for Men who have sex with men, a combined venue-based, non-governmental organisations centre-based and internet-based survey.

Box 3.10 HIV prevalence among Female Sex Workers – CRiSP * (2006 and 2009), HARiS ** (2013 and 2019)

Year	Number of urine specimen collected	Number of positive tests	Adjusted Prevalence (%)
2006	996	5	0.19
2009	986	2	0.05
2013	605	0	0.00
2019	553	0	0.00

* CRiSP: Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong, a venue based survey including one woman brothels, bars, night clubs, sauna, karaokes, etc. in 2006 and 2009 round.

** HARiS: HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey for Female Sex Workers, a combined venue-based, non-governmental organisations centre-based and internet-based survey.

4. TABULATED RESULTS OF STATISTICS ON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

System description

- This is a clinic based disease reporting system contributed by Social Hygiene Service, Department of Health. Summary tables are submitted quarterly by Social Hygiene Service. The clinics included in this surveillance system are: Chai Wan, Lek Yuen¹, Wan Chai, Western², Yau Ma Tei, South Kwai Chung³, Yung Fung Shee, Tuen Mun, Fanling ITC⁴, Tai Po, and Shek Wu Hui⁵.

¹ Lek Yuen Clinic was closed in April 2005.

² Western Social Hygiene Clinic was merged with Wan Chai Social Hygiene Clinic and Sai Ying Pun Dermatology Clinic w.e.f. 2.7.2003.

³ South Kwai Chung Clinic was closed on 27.3.2004.

⁴ Venereal Diseases Clinics in Fanling ITC was commenced operation in part-time basis on 1.9.2003 by appointment only.

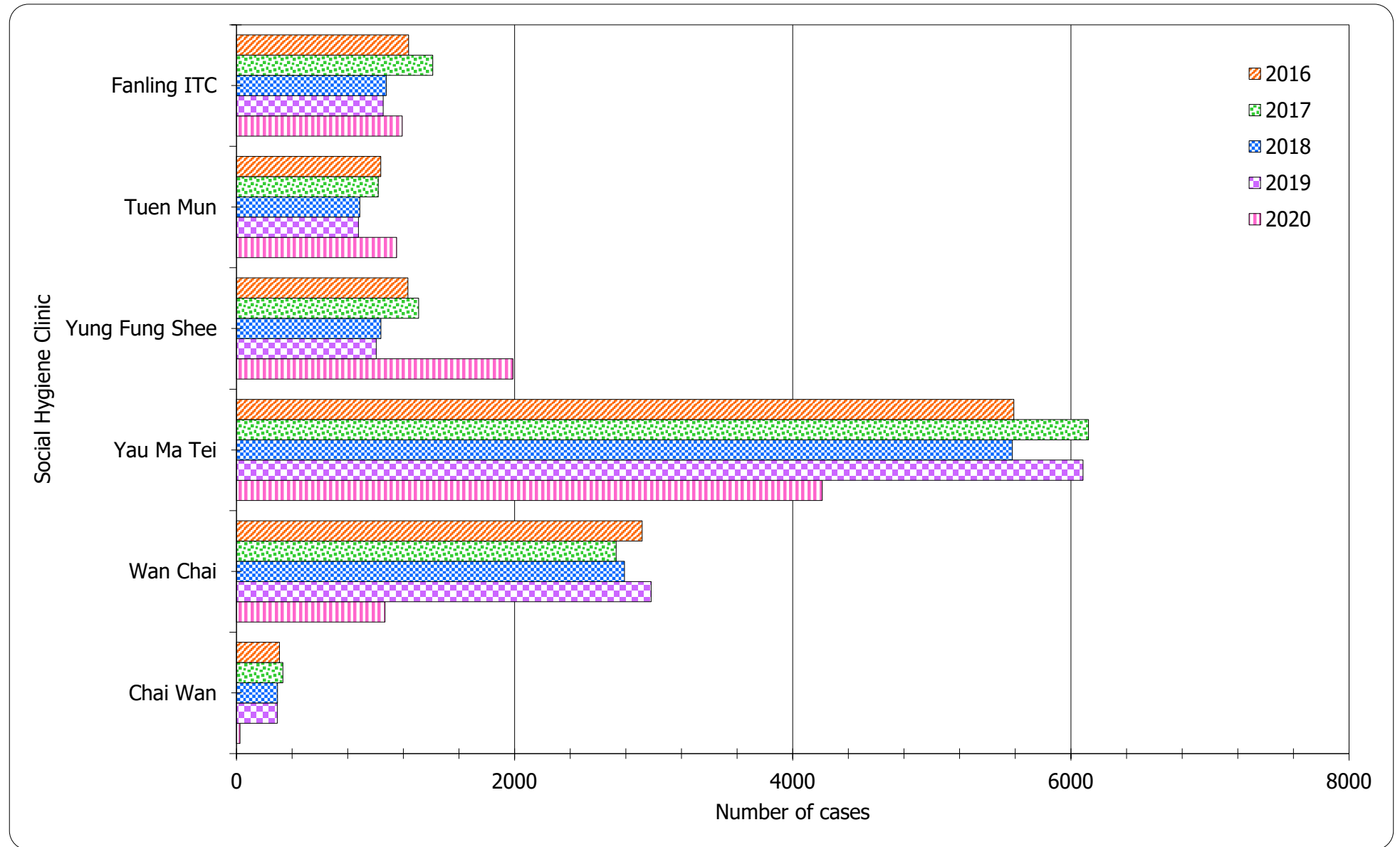
⁵ Tai Po and Shek Wu Hui clinics were closed since 2001.

Box 4.1 Total number of STI newly reported by individual Social Hygiene Clinic**(a) Year 2020**

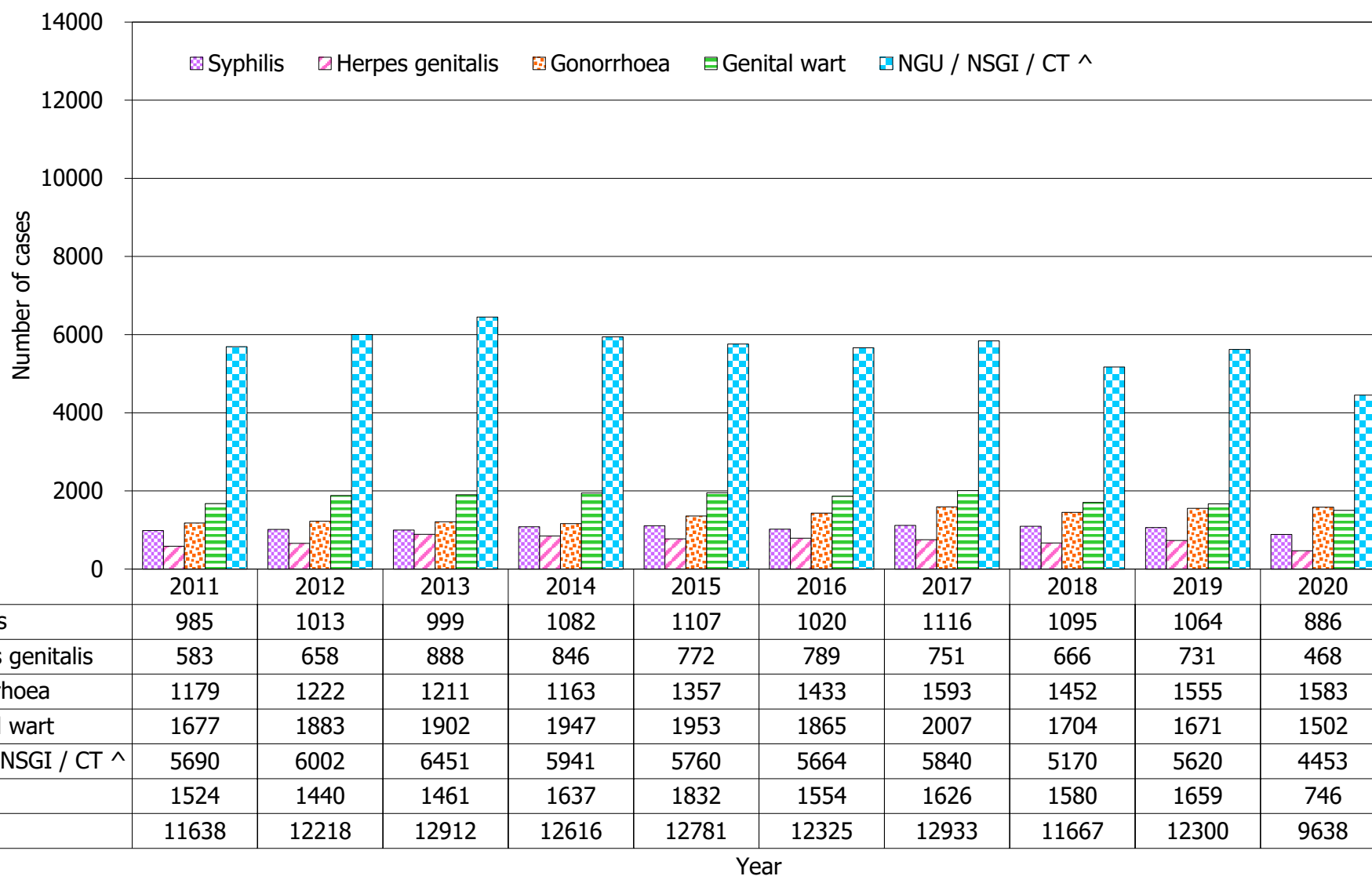
Social Hygiene Clinic	Male	Female	Total
Chai Wan	19	7	26
Wan Chai	549	519	1,068
Yau Ma Tei	4,005	207	4,212
Yung Fung Shee	936	1,052	1,988
Tuen Mun	638	514	1,152
Fanling ITC #	628	564	1,192
Total	6,775	2,863	9,638

Venereal Diseases Clinics in Fanling ITC commenced operation in part-time basis on 1.9.2003 by appointment only.

(b) 2016 – 2020



Box 4.2 Annual newly reported STIs in Social Hygiene Clinics

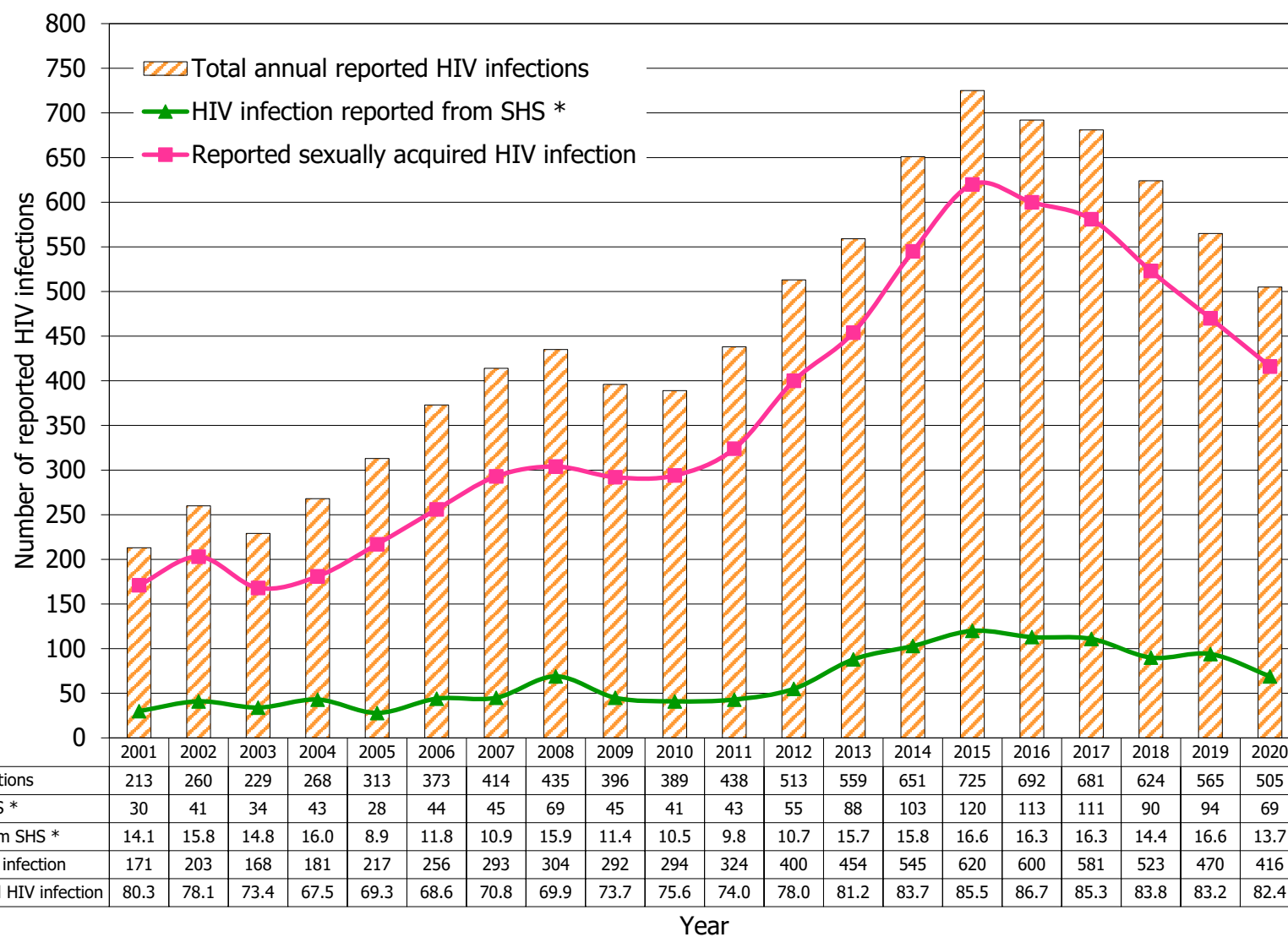


^ NGU / NSGI / CT: Non-gonococcal urethritis / Non-specific genital infection / Chlamydia trachomatis

Box 4.3 Syphilis newly reported by Social Hygiene Clinics (2016 – 2020)

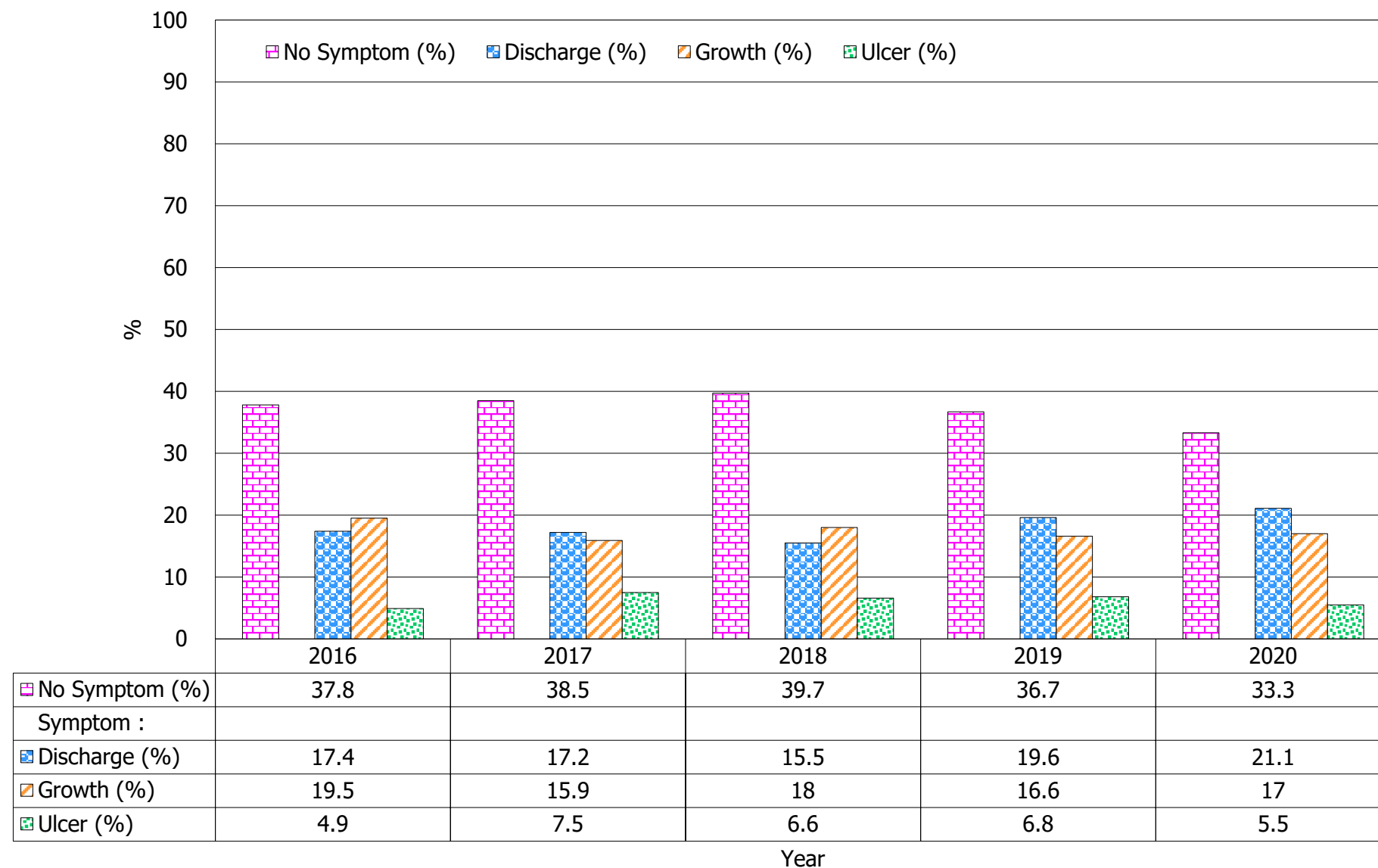
Syphilis \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Primary	40	69	50	74	72
Secondary	147	170	190	167	175
Early latent	170	178	289	252	221
Late latent	652	690	559	561	410
Late (cardiovascular / neuro / ocular)	7	6	7	9	7
Congenital (early)	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital (late)	4	3	0	1	1
Total	1,020	1,116	1,095	1,064	886

Box 4.4 Sexually acquired HIV infection in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)



* SHS: Social Hygiene Service

Box 4.5 Syndromic presentations of STI from Behavioural Survey of Social Hygiene Service (2016 – 2020)



5. TABULATED RESULTS ON BEHAVIOURAL MONITORING

System description

- This is a tabulation of HIV risky behavioural data collected from different sources in Hong Kong.

System layout

Source	Sexual behaviour	Drug-taking behaviour	Data available in 2020
AIDS Counselling and Testing Service (ACTS), Special Preventive Programme, CHP, DH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median number of sex partners in heterosexual men / MSM • Recent history of commercial sex in heterosexual men • Condom use in heterosexual men / MSM 		Yes
Social Hygiene Service (SHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent history of commercial sex / casual sex • Condom use in heterosexual men 		Yes
Methadone clinics (DRS-M)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of current injectors • Practice of current needle-sharing 	Yes
Shek Kwu Chau (SKC) Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (DRS-S)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of current injectors • Practice of current needle-sharing 	Yes
Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of current injectors among all reported drug abusers • Proportion of current injectors among newly reported drug abusers 	Yes
Street Addict Survey (SAS) (From the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of current injectors • Practice of current needle-sharing 	Yes
AIDS Concern testing service for MSM (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condom use in MSM 		Yes
HIV Prevalence and Risk behavioural Survey of Men who have sex with men in Hong Kong (PRiSM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condom use in MSM 		No
HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condom use in MSM 		Yes

Box 5.1 Median number of sex partners in the previous year among adult ^ heterosexual men / MSM attending AIDS Counselling and Testing Service (ACTS) (2011 – 2020)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heterosexual men – Regular sex partners *	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Heterosexual men – Commercial sex partners **	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Heterosexual men – Casual sex partners ***	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MSM – Regular sex partners *	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MSM – Commercial sex partners **	1	2	4.5	5	2	1	2	2	2	8
MSM – Casual sex partners ***	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	2	2

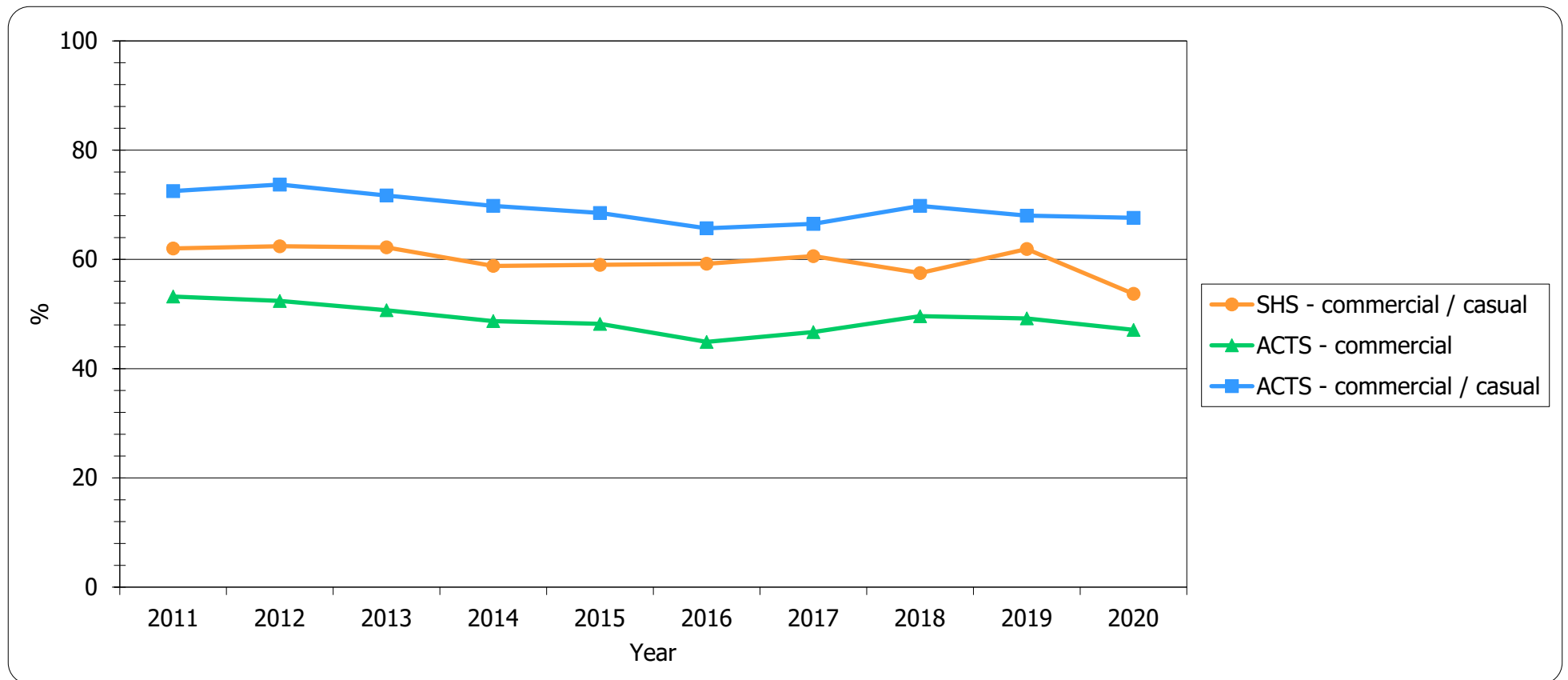
^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

* Regular sex partners used to refer to long-term sex partners including spouse, mistress, and steady boyfriends / girlfriends for at least one year, or if less than one year, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship. This definition of regular sex partners in 2008 has been further refined to include (other than the long-term sex partners) sex buddy that refers to regular sex only partner for at least 6 months, or if less than 6 months, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship.

** Commercial sex partners are defined as those who have sexual intercourse in exchange for money, goods or services. Examples are prostitutes and customers of prostitutes.

*** Casual sex partners, the two do not have steady relationship.

Box 5.2 Recent history * of commercial / casual sex among adult ^ heterosexual men (2011 – 2020)



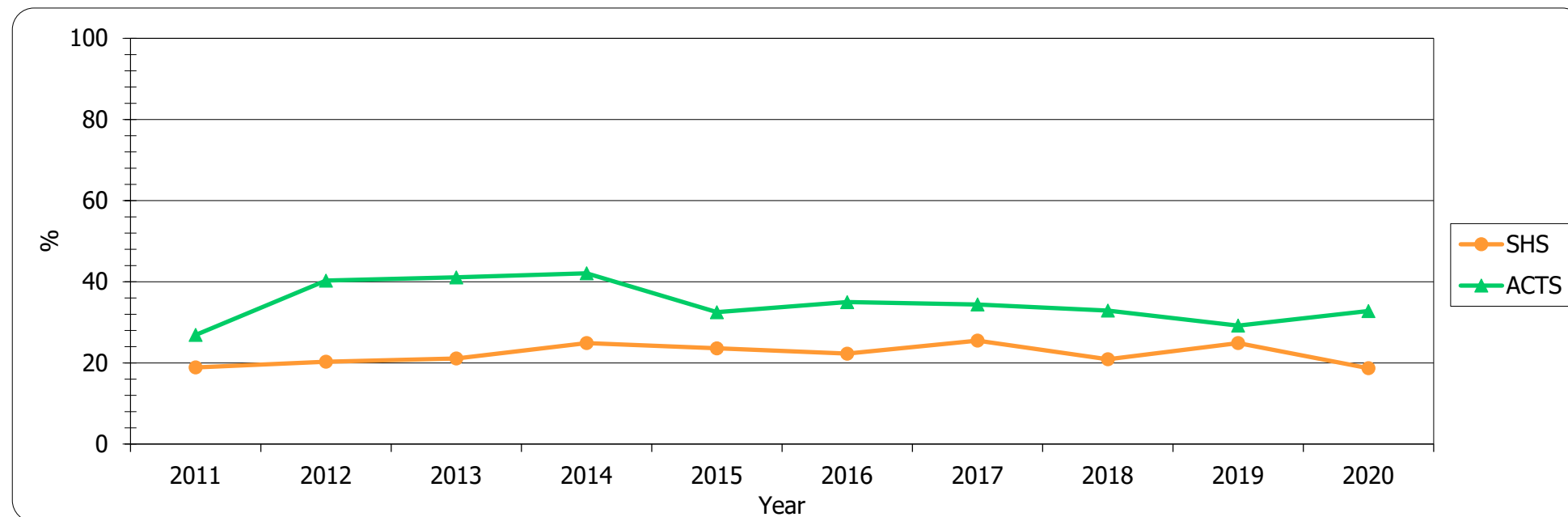
* Commercial sex partners are defined as those who have sexual intercourse in exchange for money, goods or services. Examples are female sex workers and their clients. Casual sex partners are defined as those who are non-regular and non-commercial. Examples are those on one-night stand. SHS & ACTS refers to such history in past one year.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: SHS – Social Hygiene Services
 ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

Box 5.3 Condom use with regular partners among adult heterosexual men

(a) Consistent condom use * with regular partners ** among adult ^ heterosexual men (2011 – 2020)



* Consistent condom use is defined as always or 100% of the time using a condom.

ACTS captures such condom usage in past one year while SHS captures such usage in past 3 months.

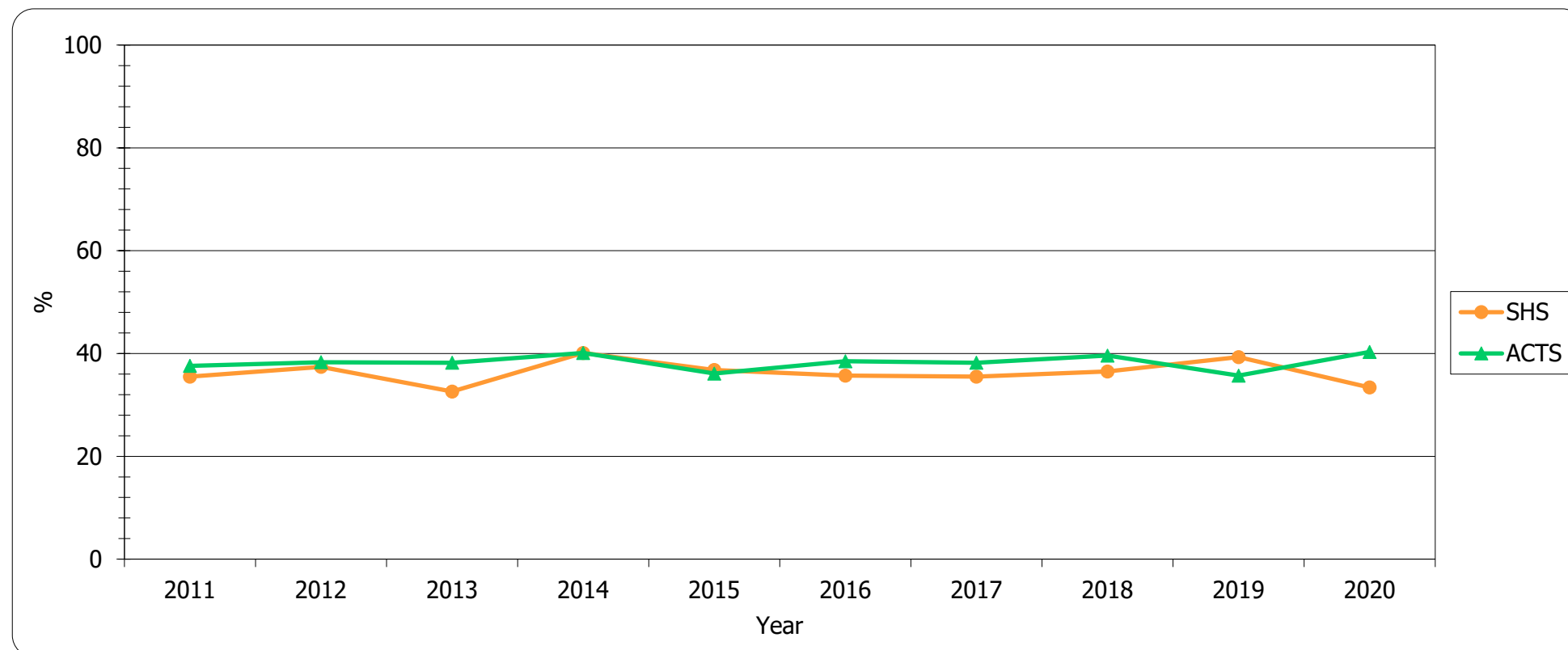
** Regular sex partners used to refer to long-term sex partners including spouse, mistress, and steady girl friends for at least one year, or if less than one year, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship. This definition of regular sex partners in 2008 has been further refined to include (other than the long-term sex partners) sex buddy that refers to regular sex only partner for at least 6 months, or if less than 6 months, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: SHS – Social Hygiene Services

ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

(b) Condom use for last sex with regular partners * among adult ^ heterosexual men (2011 – 2020)



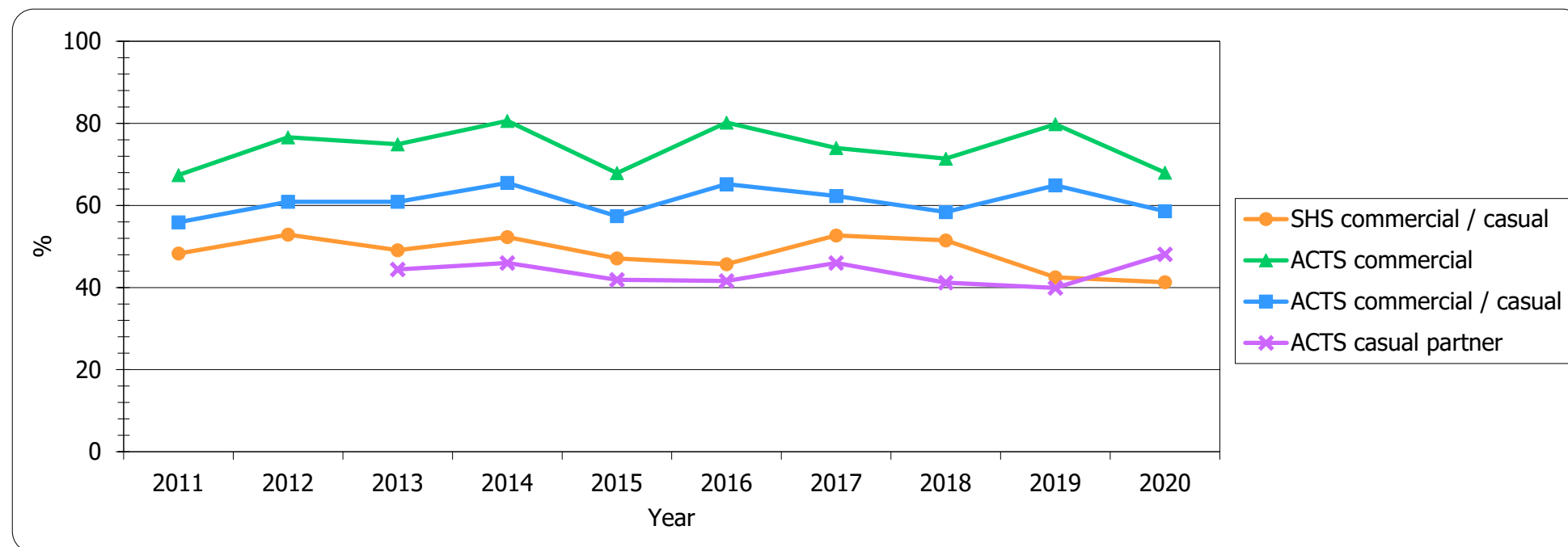
* Regular sex partners used to refer to long-term sex partners including spouse, mistress, and steady girl friends for at least one year, or if less than one year, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship. This definition of regular sex partners in 2008 has been further refined to include (other than the long-term sex partners) sex buddy that refers to regular sex only partner for at least 6 months, or if less than 6 months, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: SHS – Social Hygiene Services
ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

Box 5.4 Condom use with commercial / casual partners among adult heterosexual men

(a) Consistent condom use * with commercial / casual partners ** among adult ^ heterosexual men (2011 – 2020)



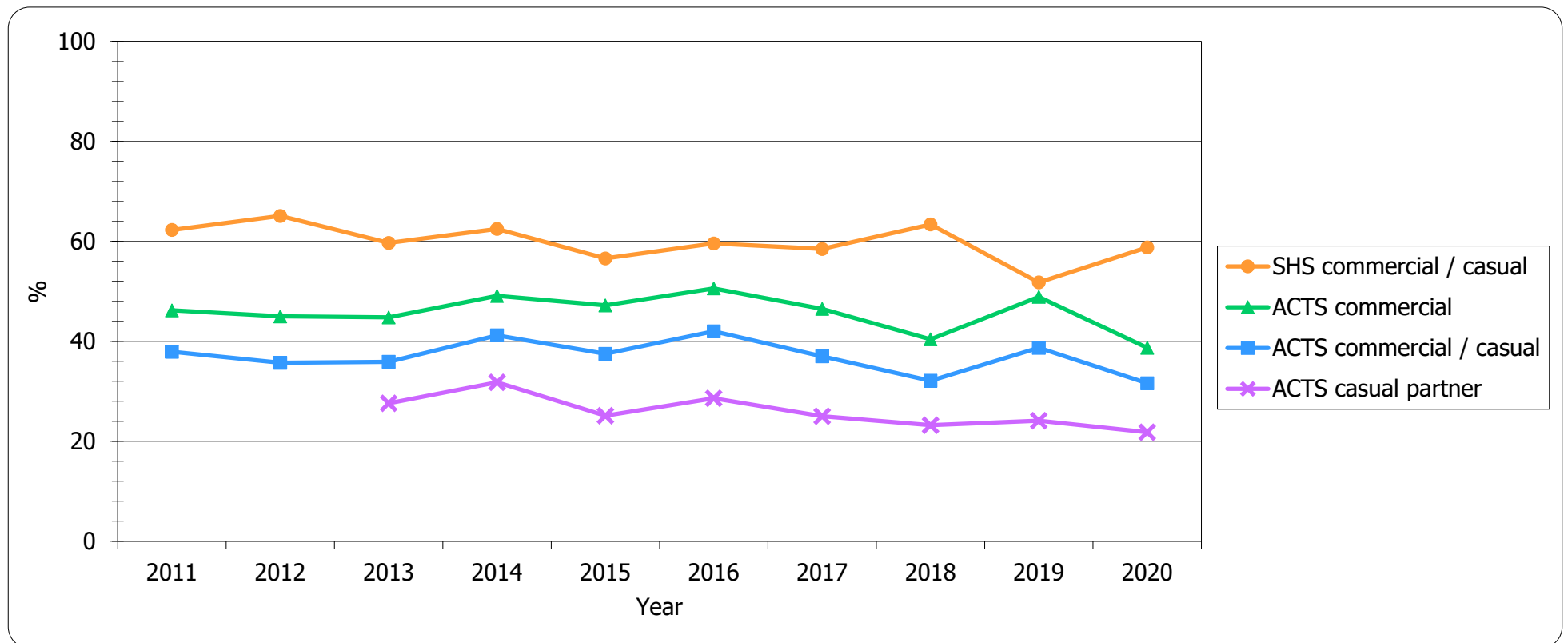
* Consistent condom use is defined as always or 100% of the time using a condom for vaginal or anal sex in past 1 year. ACTS captures such condom usage in past one year while SHS captures such usage in past 3 months.

** Commercial sex partners are defined as those who have sexual intercourse in exchange for money, goods or services. Examples are female sex workers and their clients. Casual sex partners are defined as those who are non-regular and non-commercial. Examples are those on one-night stand.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: SHS – Social Hygiene Services
ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

(b) Condom use for last sex * with commercial / casual partners ** among adult ^ heterosexual men (2011 – 2020)



* ACTS defined "condom use for last sex" as using a condom for the last (vaginal and / or anal and / or oral-genital) sex within the past 1 year.

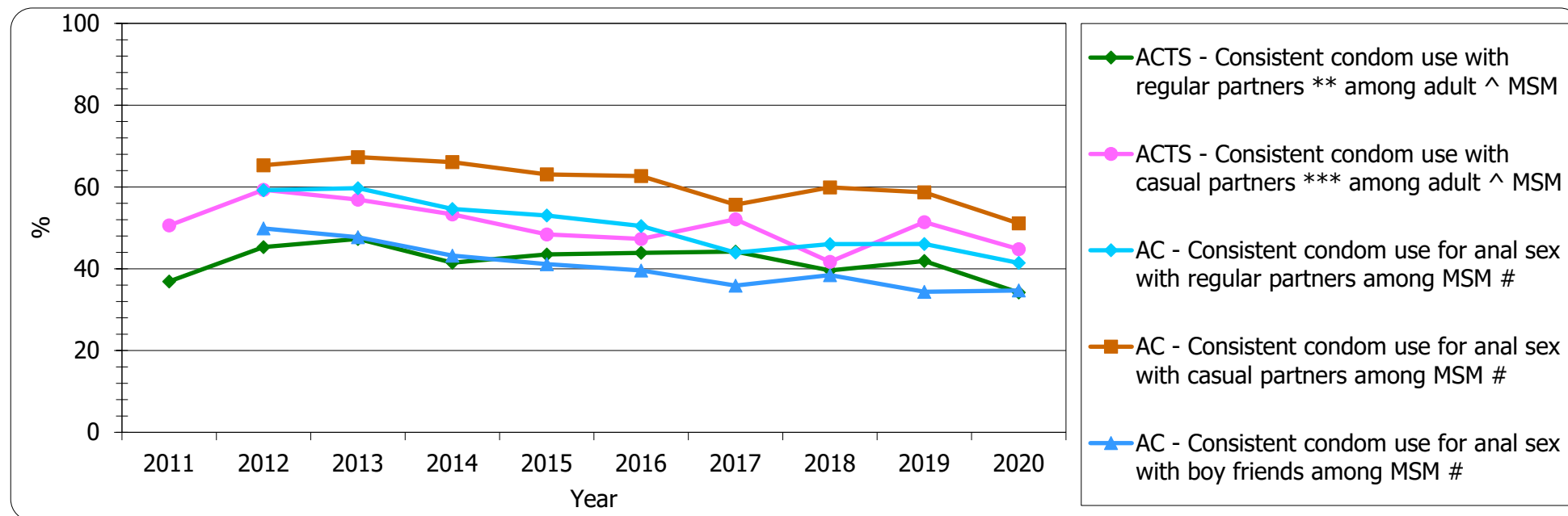
** Commercial sex partners are defined as those who have sexual intercourse in exchange for money, goods or services. Examples are female sex workers and their clients. Casual sex partners are defined as those who are non-regular and non-commercial. Examples are those on one-night stand.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: SHS – Social Hygiene Services
 ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

Box 5.5 Condom use among Men have Sex with Men (MSM)

(a) Consistent condom use * among MSM (2011 – 2020)



* Consistent condom use is defined as always or 100% of the time using a condom. ACTS captures such condom usage in past one year while AC captures such usage in past 3 months.

** Regular sex partners used to refer to long-term sex partners including spouse, mistress, and steady boy / girl friends for at least one year, or if less than one year, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship. This definition of regular sex partners in 2008 has been further refined to include (other than the long-term sex partners) sex buddy that refers to regular sex only partner for at least 6 months, or if less than 6 months, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship.

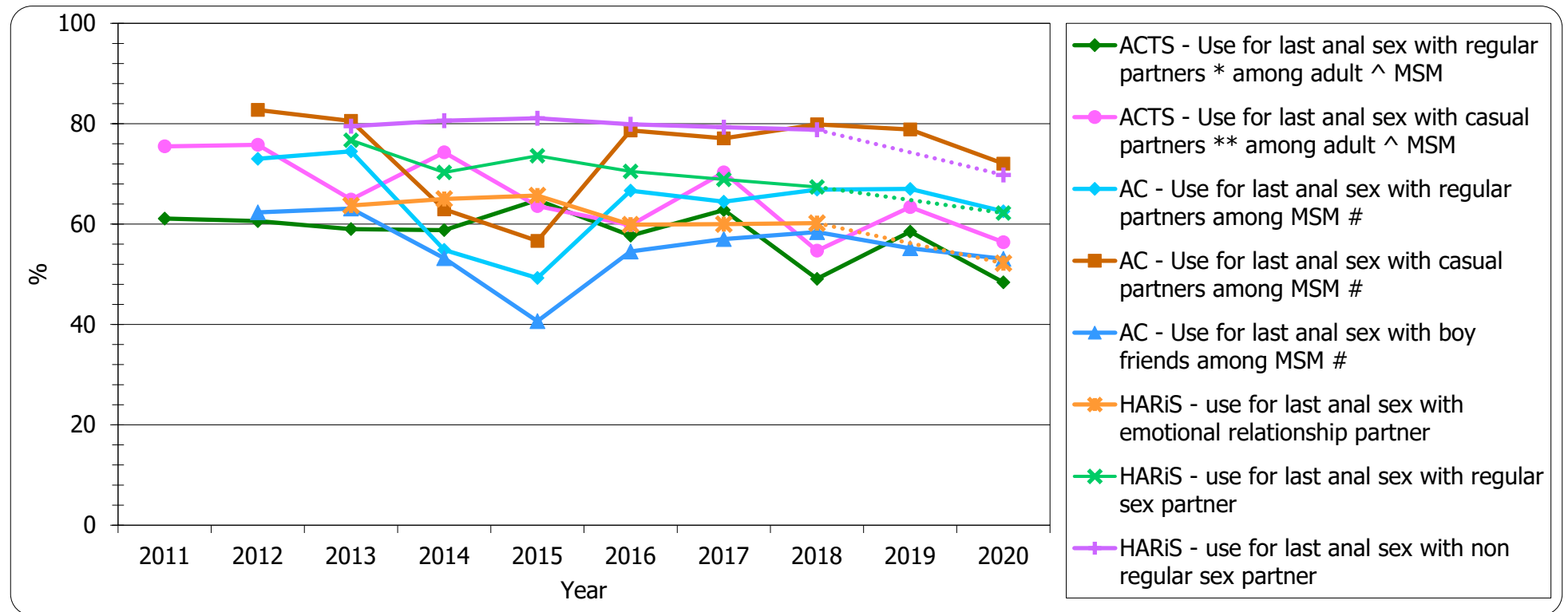
*** Casual sex partners, the two do not have steady relationship.

Since April 2012, the sex partner types from AC survey further breakdown into regular sex partner, casual sex partner and boyfriend.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Remarks: ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service, AC – AIDS Concern; please refer to the text above for PRiSM (2017) results on the rate of consistent condom use.

(b) Condom use for last anal sex among MSM (2011 – 2020)



* Regular sex partners used to refer to long-term sex partners including spouse, and steady boyfriends for at least one year, or if less than one year, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship. This definition of regular sex partners in 2008 has been further refined to include (other than the long-term sex partners) sex buddy that refers to regular sex only partner for at least 6 months, or if less than 6 months, one with whom is expected to continue sexual relationship.

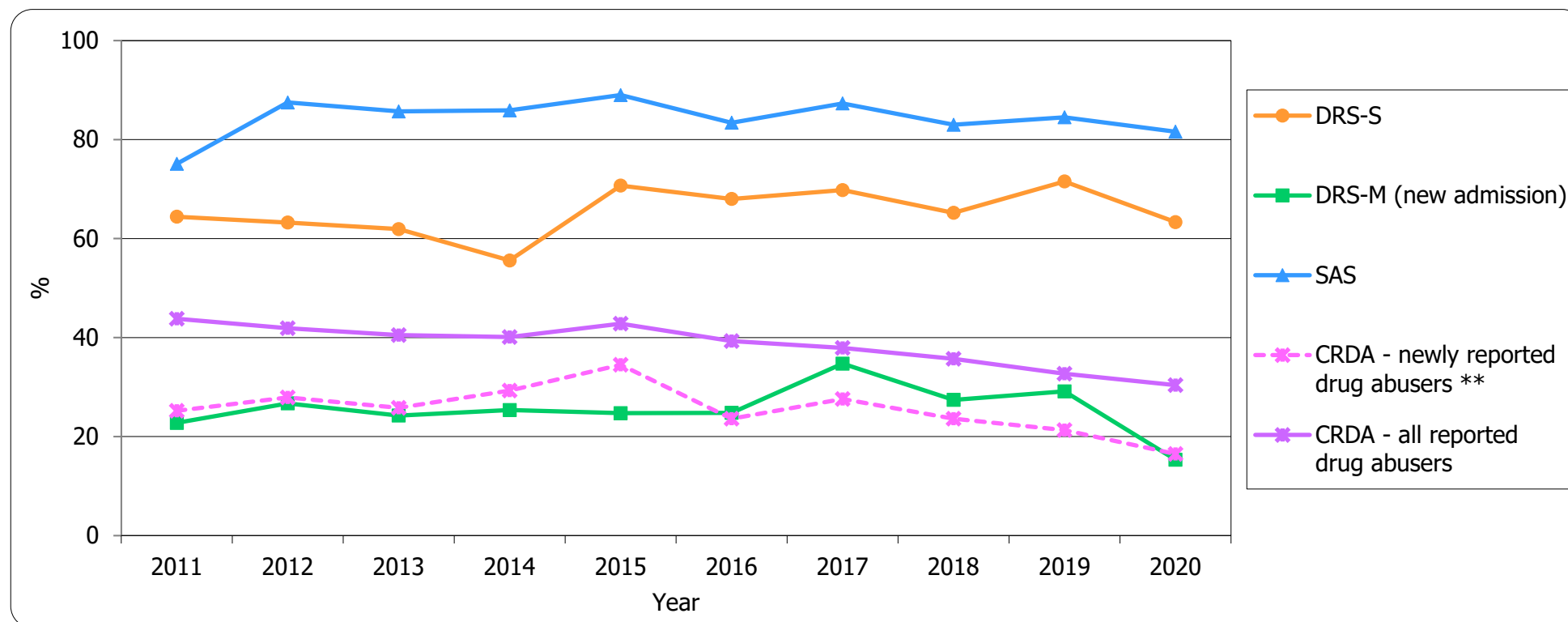
** Casual sex partners, the two do not have steady relationship.

^ Adult: aged 18 or above.

Since April 2012, the sex partner types from AC survey further breakdown into regular sex partner, casual sex partner and boyfriend.

Remarks: ACTS – AIDS Counselling and Testing Service, AC – AIDS Concern, HARiS – HIV and AIDS Response Indicator Survey

Box 5.6 Proportion of current injectors * (2011 – 2020)

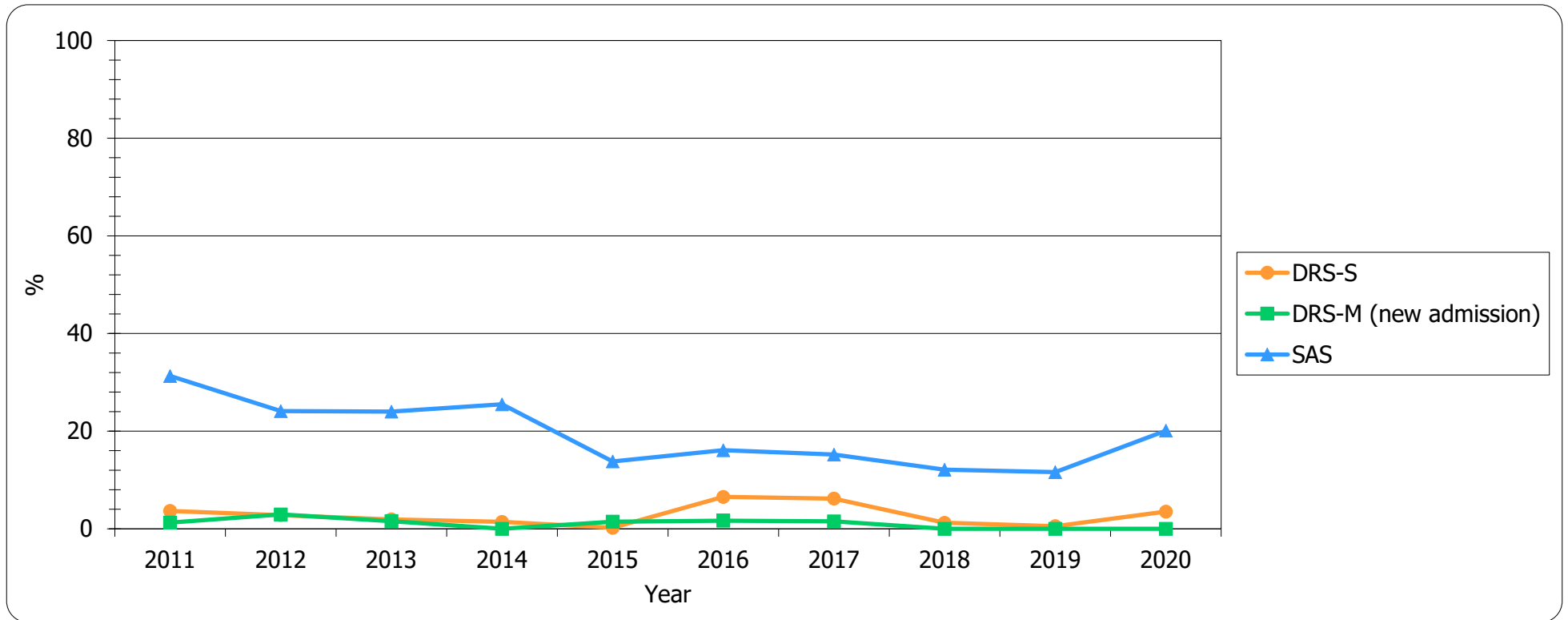


* Definitions differ for different data sources. DRS-S refers to drug injecting behaviour in past 6 months (before 2006, it referred to drug injecting at the time of programme admission); DRS-M refers to drug injecting at the time of programme admission; SAS refers to drug injecting behaviour in past 1 month (before 2007, it referred to drug injecting in past 3 months); CRDA refers to drug injecting behaviour in past 4 weeks.

** Newly reported drug abuser refers to a person who is known to the CRDA for the first time (i.e. no precedent reported case on him/her in the CRDA at the time of report).

Remarks: DRS-S – Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (Newly / Re-admitted case)
 DRS-M – Methadone clinics (Newly admitted case only)
 SAS – Street Addict Survey (From the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA))
 CRDA – Central Registry of Drug Abuse

Box 5.7 Proportion of current needle-sharers * (2011 – 2020)



* This figure referred to the proportion of current syringe sharing behaviour among current injectors. Definitions differ for different data sources. DRS-S refers to such sharing behaviour among those who injected drug in past 6 months (before 2006, it referred to such sharing behaviour in past 6 months among those who injected drug at the time of programme admission); SAS refers to such sharing behaviour among those who injected drug in past 1 month (before 2007, it referred to such sharing behaviour in past 3 months); DRS-M refers to such sharing behaviour in past 4 weeks among those who injected drug at the time of programme admission.

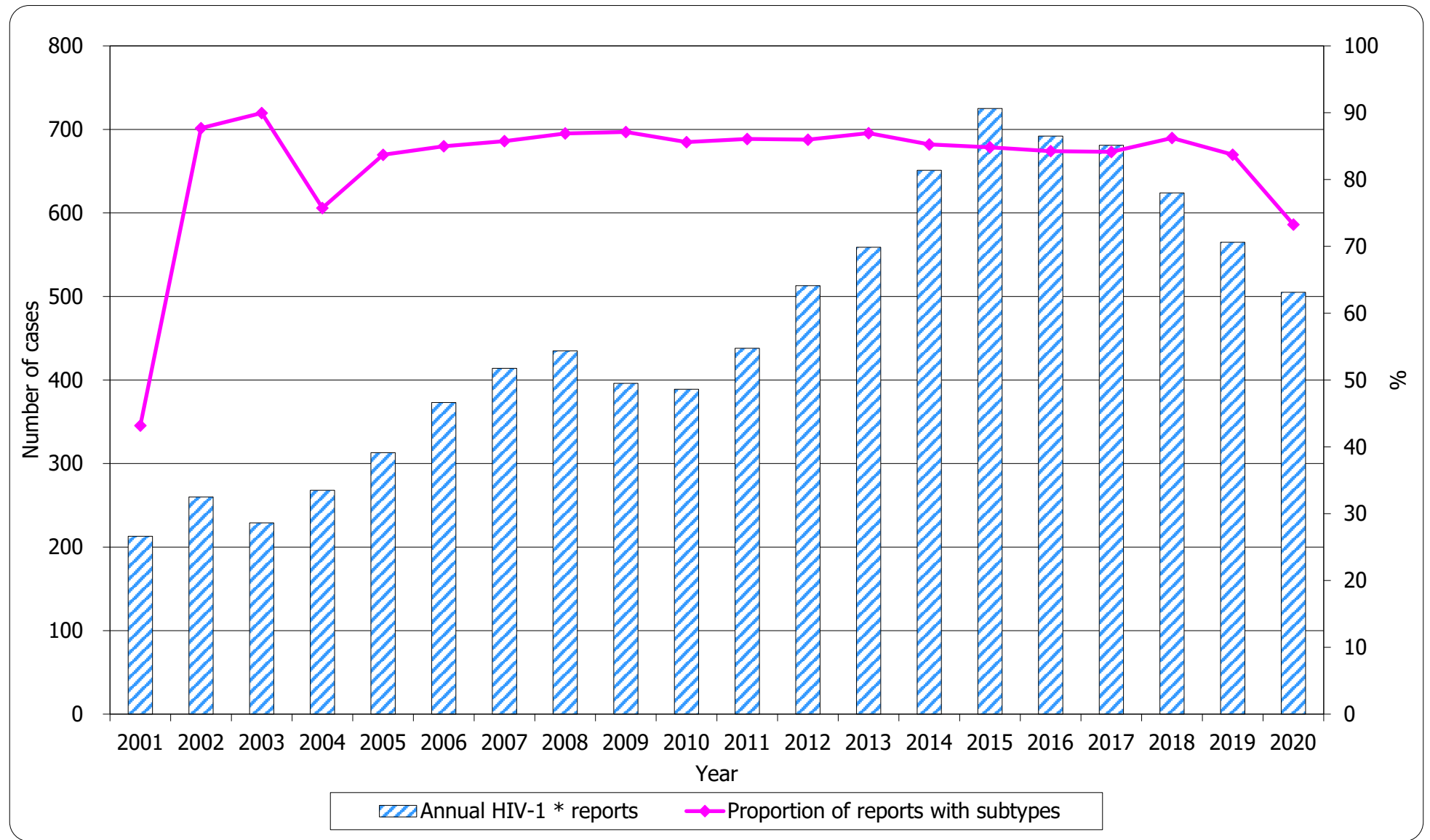
Remarks: DRS-S – Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (Newly / Re-admitted cases)
 DRS-M – Methadone clinics (Newly admitted case only)
 SAS – Street Addict Survey (From the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA))

6. TABULATED RESULTS OF HIV-1 GENOTYPING STUDIES

System description

- This is a laboratory based reporting system contributed by Virology Division of Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health. HIV viral isolates are collected from the confirmatory laboratories for subtype analysis which are collated with epidemiological information when available. Subtype results are submitted monthly by Virology Division. The confirmatory laboratories included in this surveillance system are: DH Public Health Laboratory Service Branch, Microbiology laboratories of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. Subtype analysis was commenced since 2001.

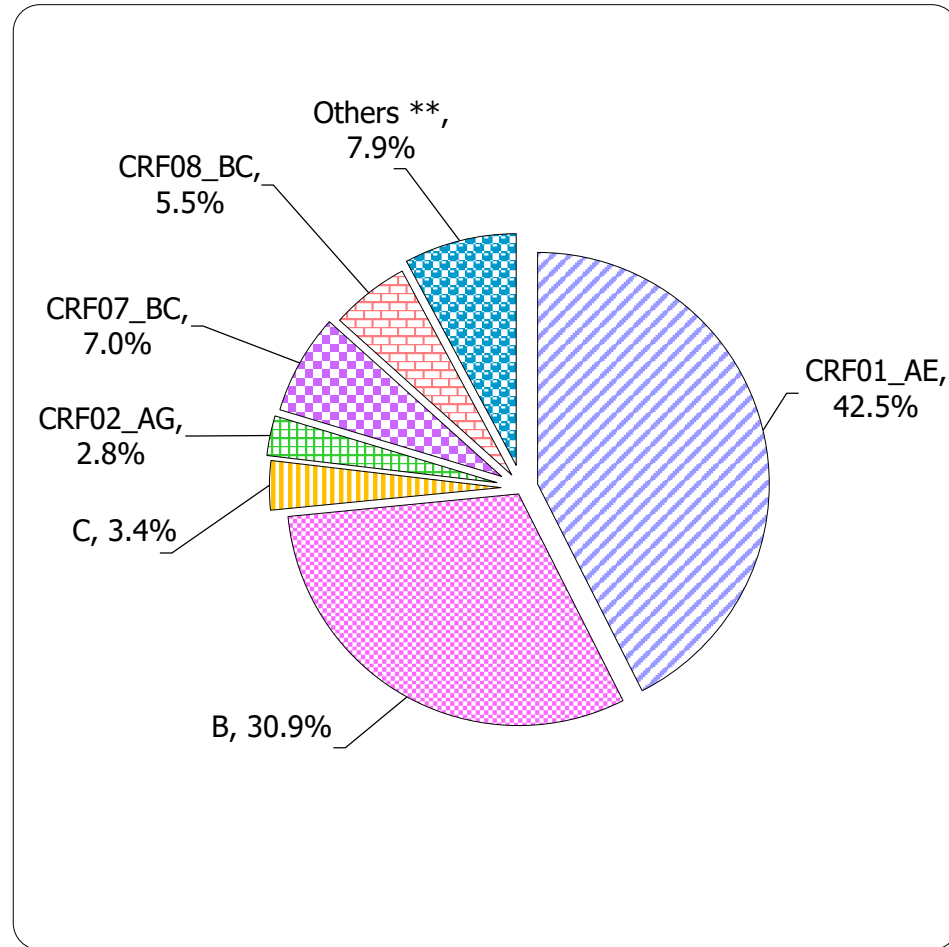
Box 6.1 Proportion of reports * with subtypes by year in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)



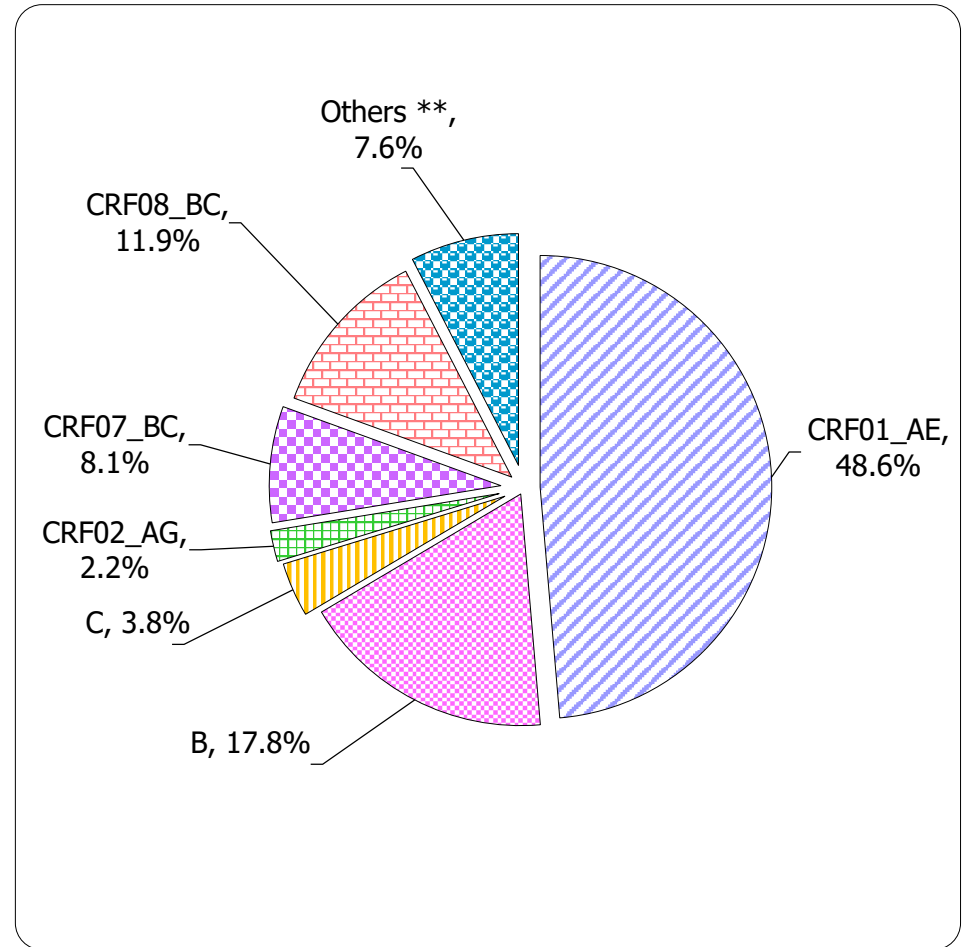
* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

Box 6.2 Distribution of HIV-1 * subtypes

(i) Cumulative (2001 – 2020)



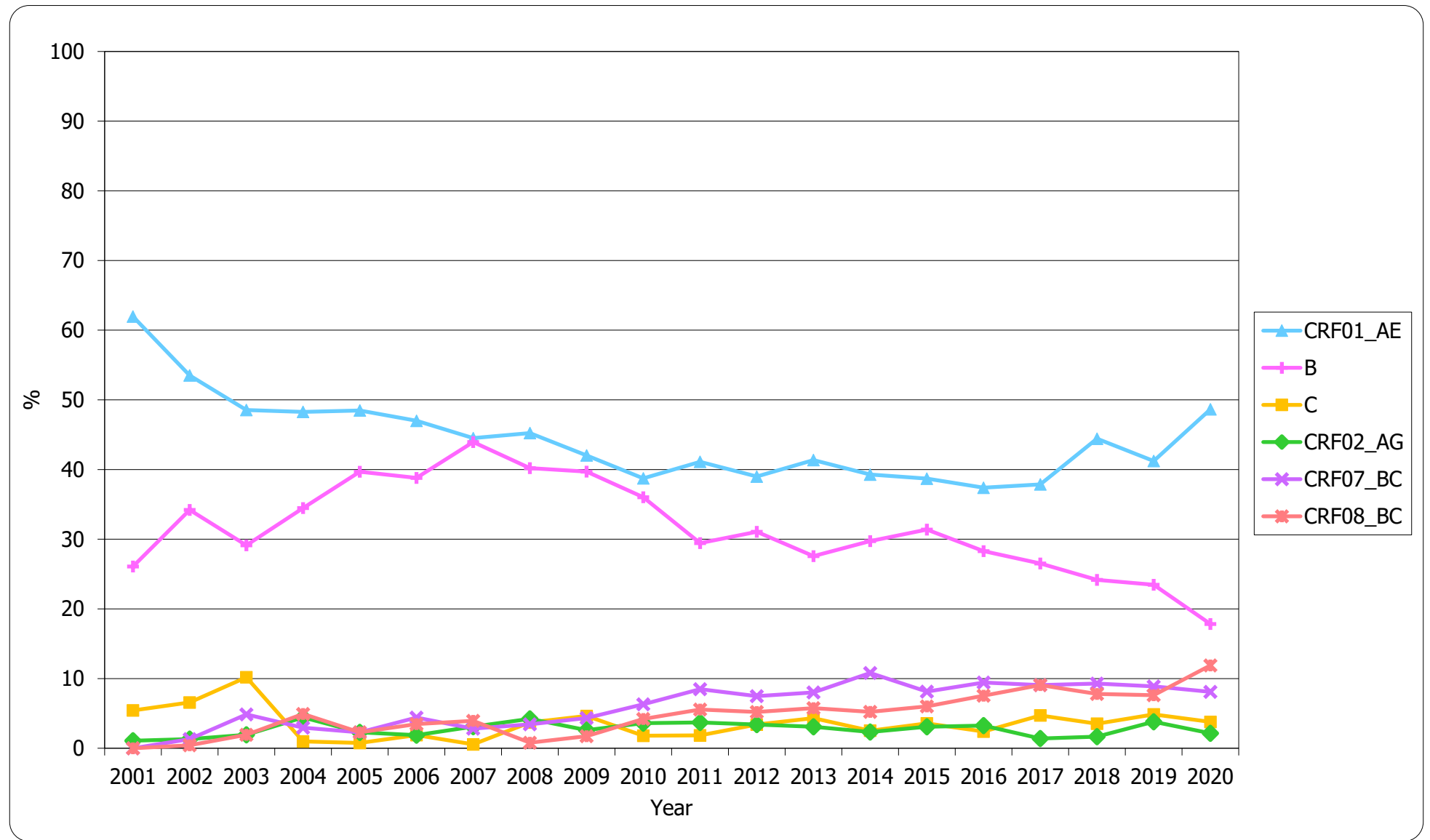
(ii) Year 2020



* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

** Including subtype A, A1, A2, B', D, F, F1, F2, G, CRF03_AB, CRF05_DF, CRF06_cpx, CRF09_cpx, CRF10_CD, CRF11_cpx, CRF12_BF, CRF13_cpx, CRF14_BG, CRF15_01B, CRF55_01B.

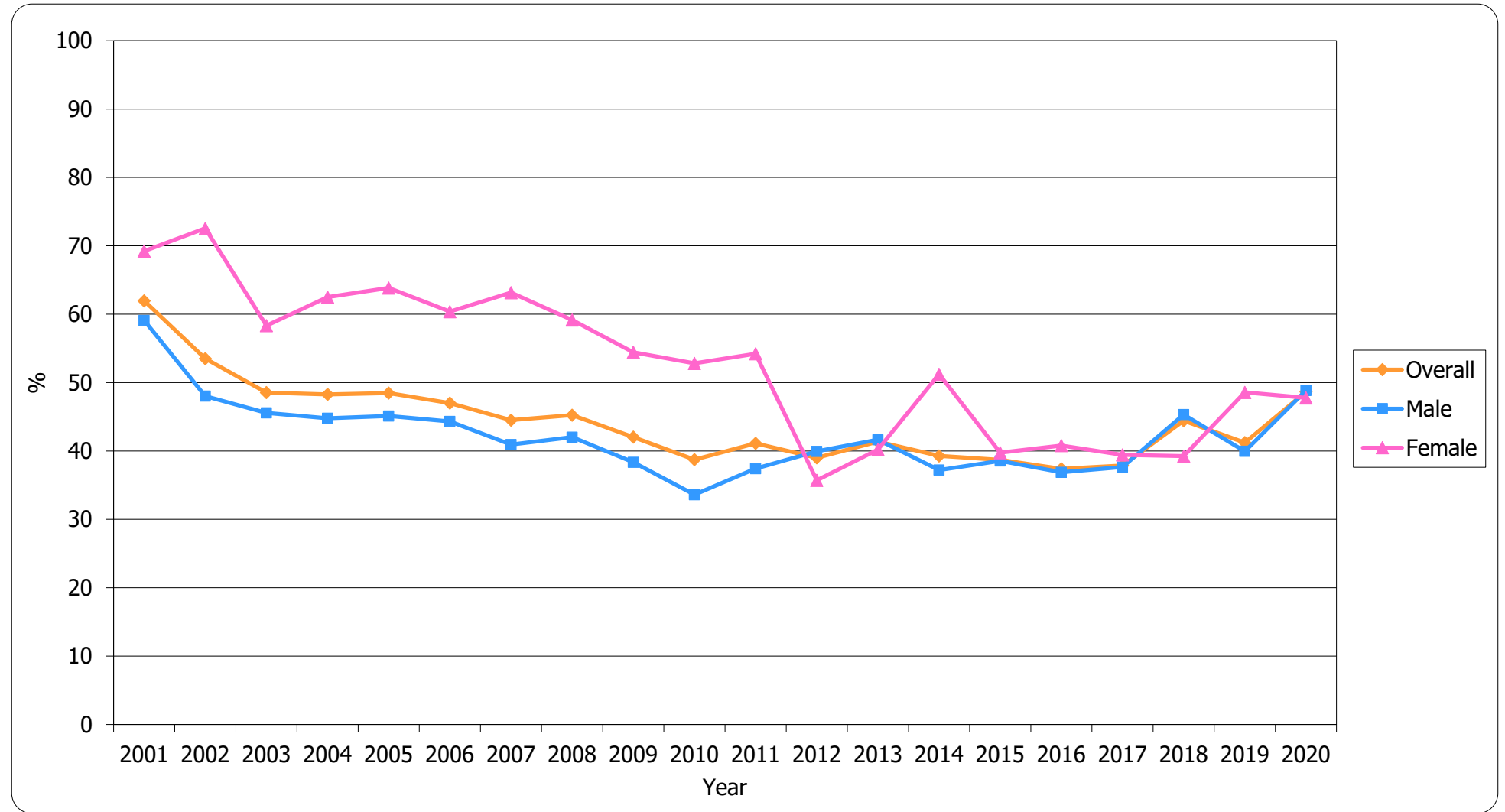
Box 6.3 Trend in the common HIV-1 * subtypes in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)



* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

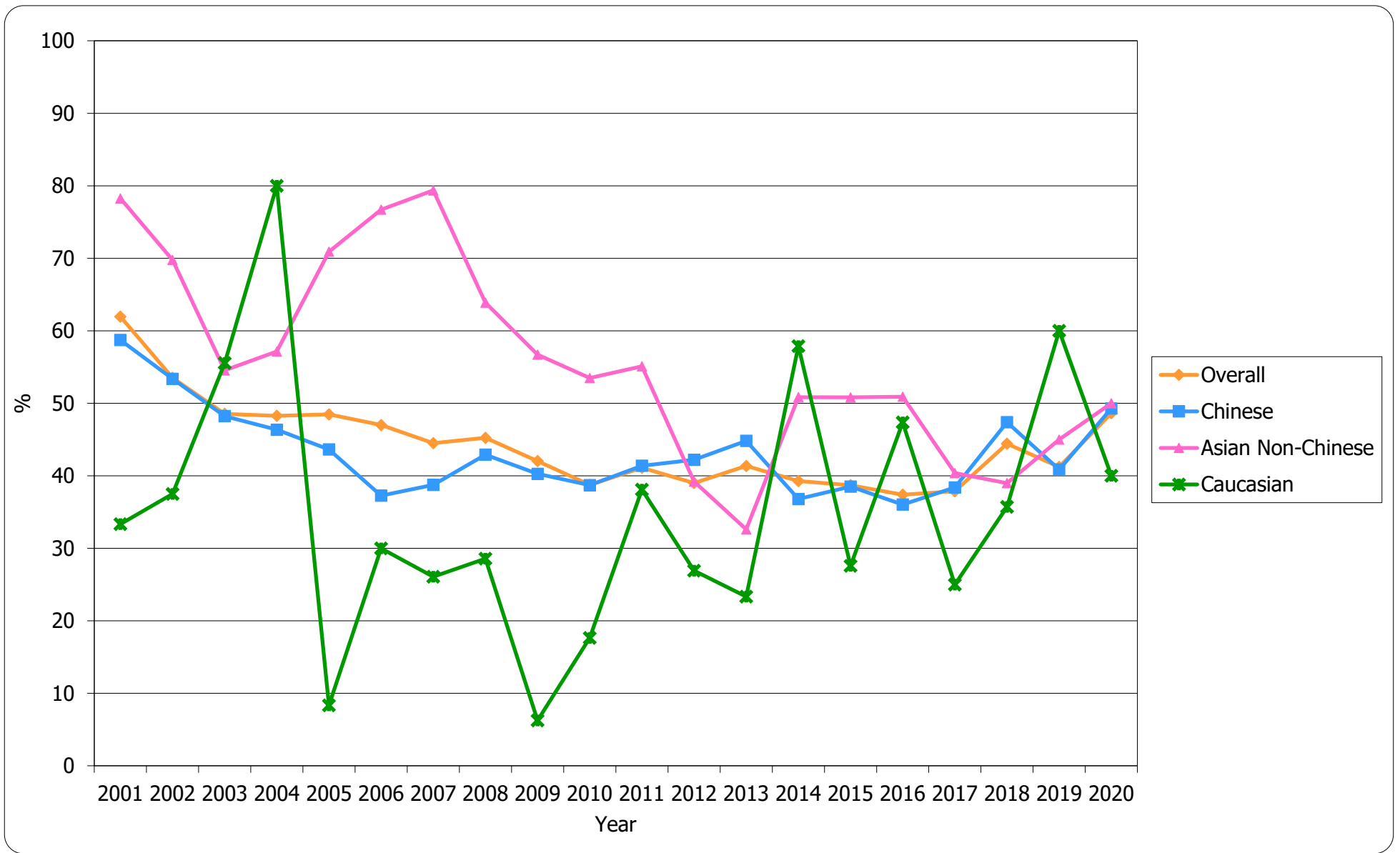
Box 6.4 Trend in HIV-1 * subtype CRF01_AE in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)

(a) By gender (proportion of cases with subtype CRF01_AE)

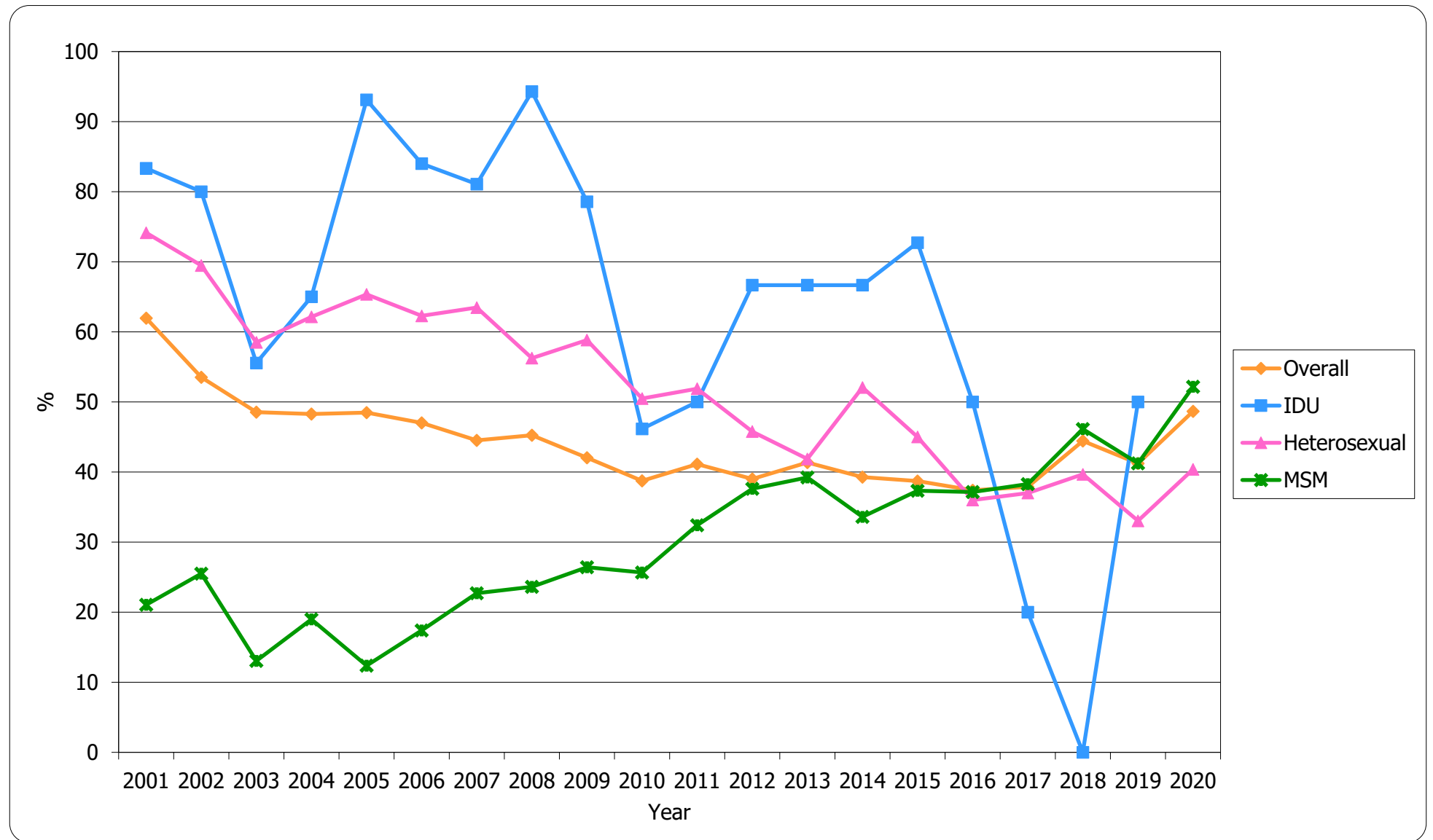


* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

(b) By ethnicity (proportion of cases with subtype CRF01_AE)



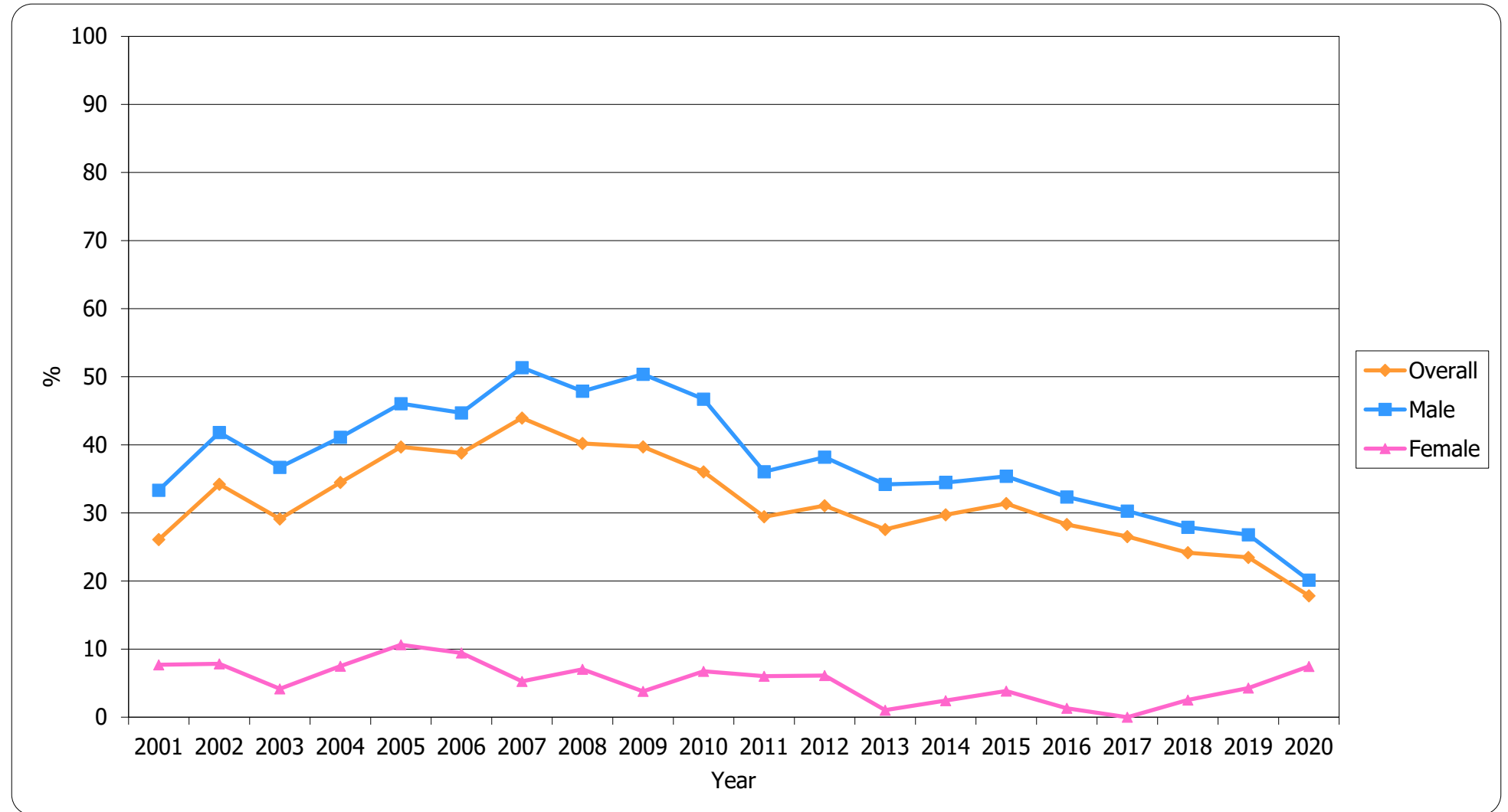
(c) By route of transmission (proportion of cases with subtype CRF01_AE)



* There are no subtypes of IDU cases in 2020.

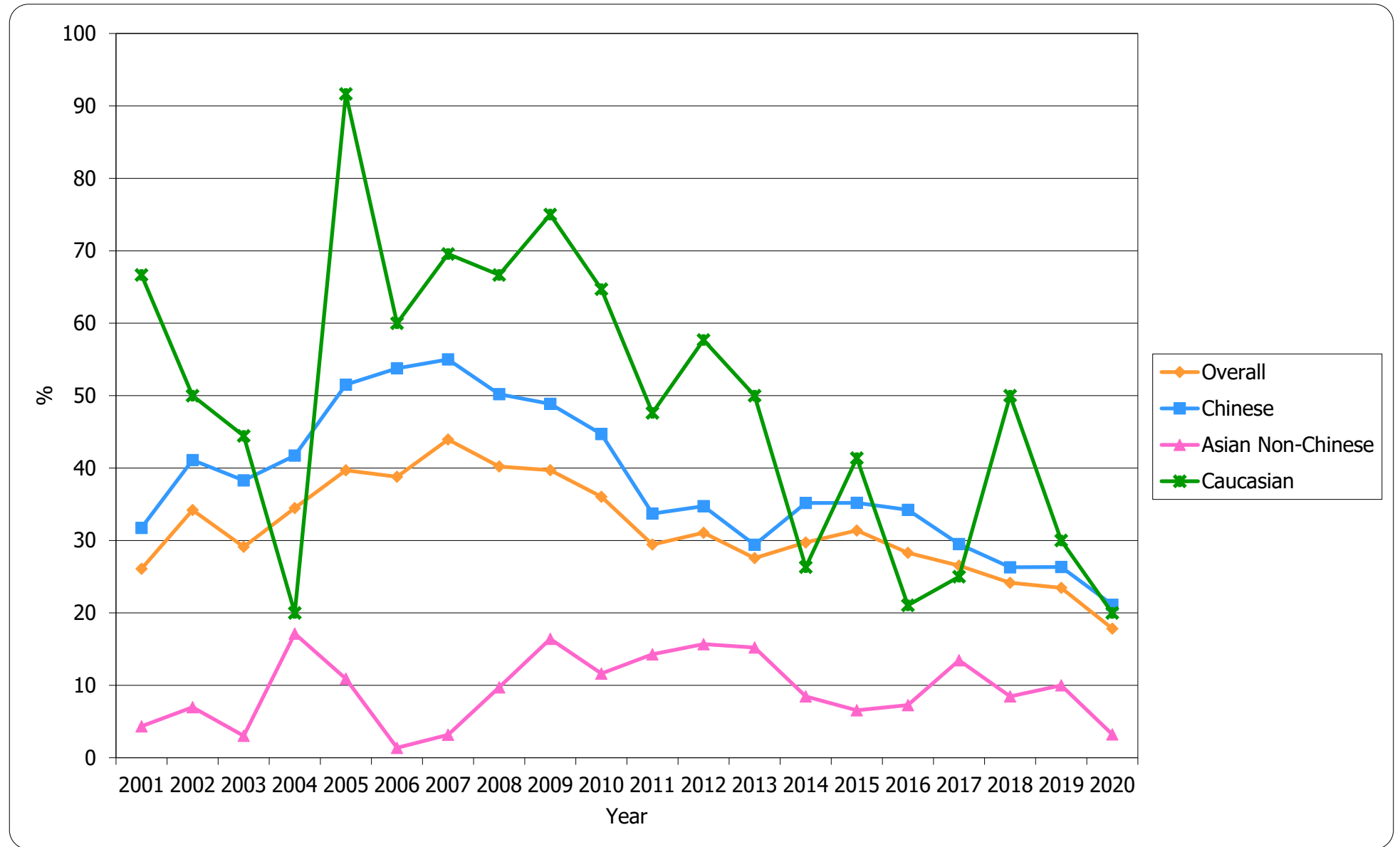
Box 6.5 Trend in HIV-1 * subtype B in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)

(a) By gender (proportion of cases with subtype B)

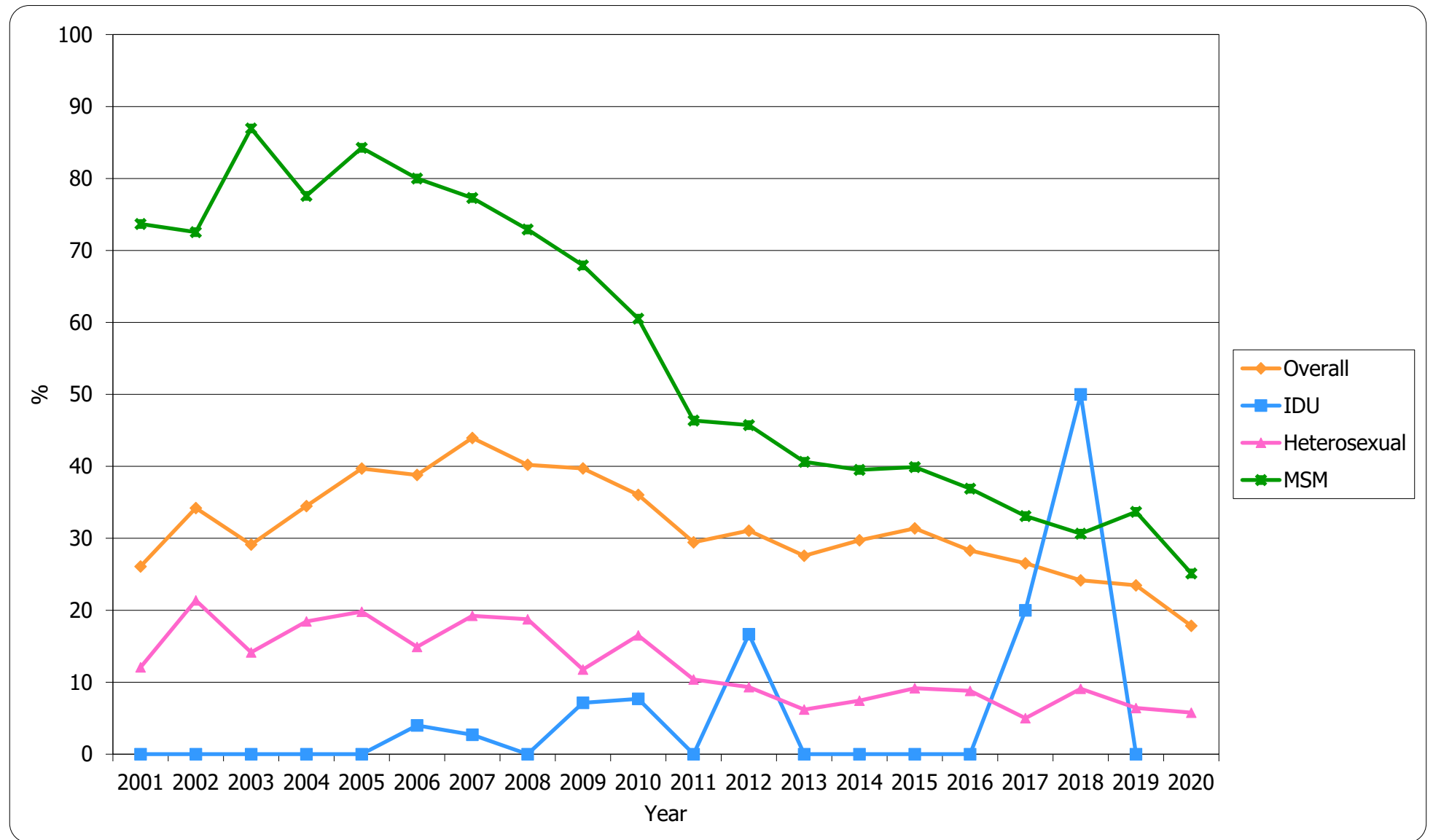


* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

(b) By ethnicity (proportion of cases with subtype B)



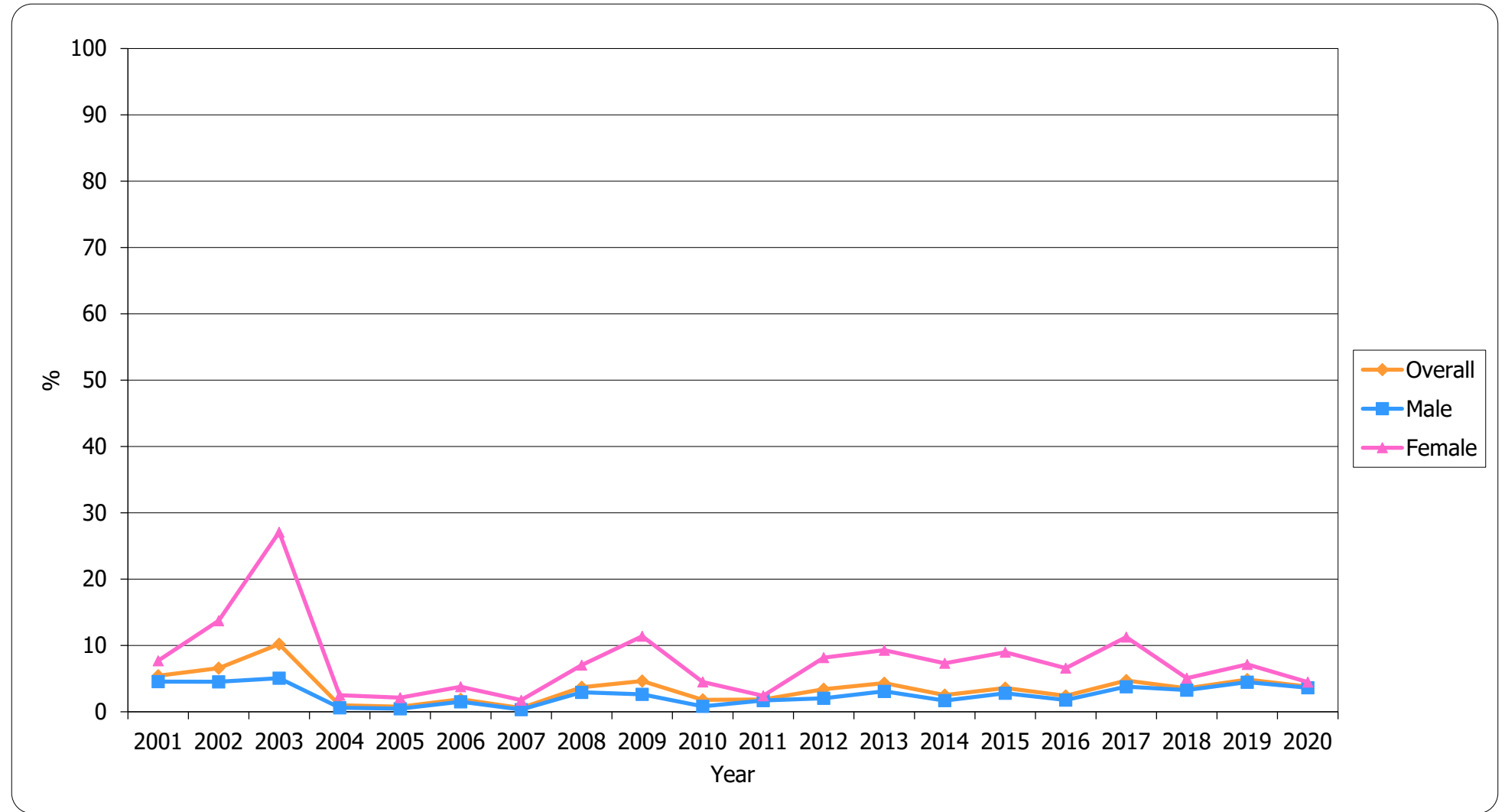
(c) By route of transmission (proportion of cases with subtype B)



* There are no subtypes of IDU cases in 2020.

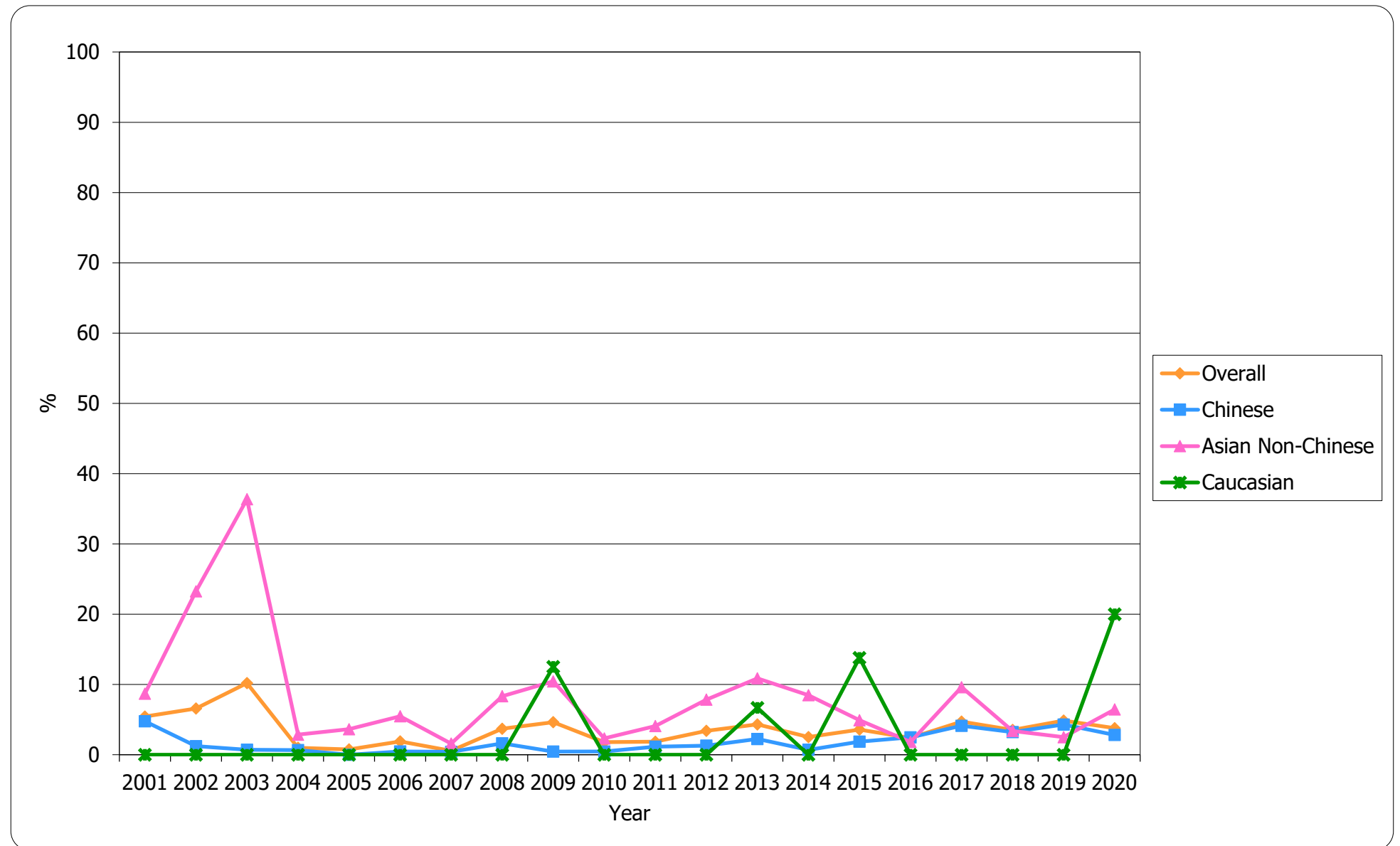
Box 6.6 Trend in HIV-1 * subtype C in Hong Kong (2001 – 2020)

(a) By gender (proportion of cases with subtype C)

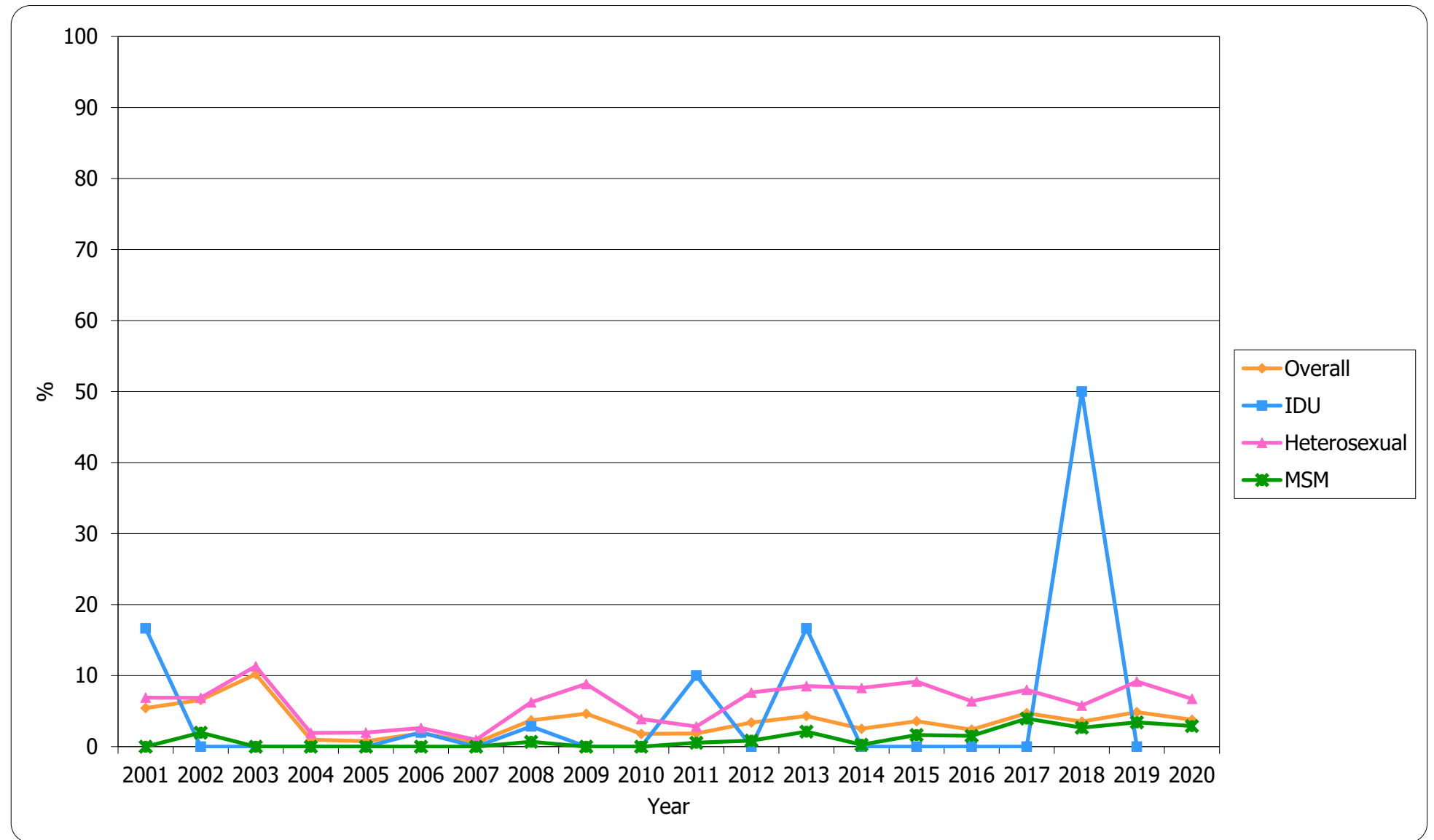


* Including cases with HIV type 1 or PCR positive result.

(b) By ethnicity (proportion of cases with subtype C)

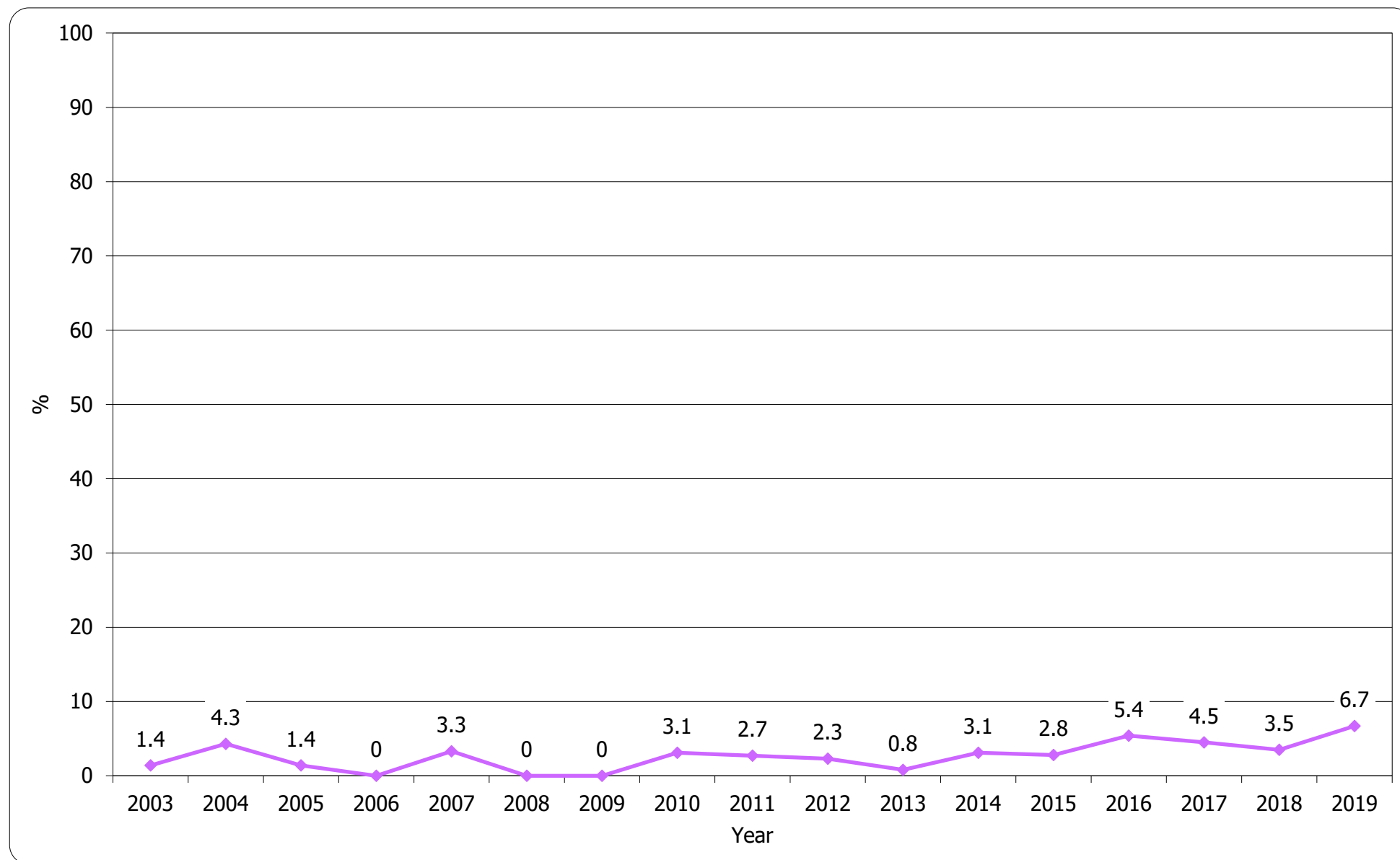


(c) By route of transmission (proportion of cases with subtype C)



* There are no subtypes of IDU cases in 2020.

Box 6.7 Prevalence of intermediate or high level drug resistance related mutation among newly diagnosed HIV patients (2003 – 2019)



Appendix I: HIV/AIDS report form (DH2293)

DH2293, revised April 2019

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HIV/AIDS Report Form

The HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system has been in place since 1984. All doctors are encouraged to report patients with HIV/AIDS and to update status of the previously reported cases where appropriate. This is an anonymous and confidential system. Data collected is crucial for understanding the HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong and is used in global analysis only. Aggregate statistics are released quarterly and can be obtained at www.aids.gov.hk. For any query, please call 3143 7225 or email us at aids@dh.gov.hk. Completed form can be faxed to 2297 3239 or mailed to Special Preventive Programme, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health.

Please complete ALL sections and '✓' in the appropriate box.

Section (A) – Report of HIV

[1] THIS is a NEW report or UPDATE of previous reported case

[2] Your reference code number: _____ [3] Does the patient have a HK identity card? Yes No

[4] Sex : M F For female, is she pregnant? No Yes If yes, go to Box 1

[5] Date of birth: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy) OR Age at last birthday: _____

[6] Ethnicity: Chinese Asian, specify: _____ Caucasian Black Others: _____ Unknown

[7] Suspected risk(s) for HIV infection²

Heterosexual Homosexual Bisexual

Injecting drug use

Transfusion of blood/blood products (Haemophilia: Yes No)

Perinatal

Others, please specify: _____

Asked, but risk undetermined

Not asked

Box 1

Gravida ____ Para ____ LMP ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

Obstetric follow up clinic/ hospital :

Plan: TOP Continue pregnancy

Expected hospital/place of delivery: _____

[8] Suspected place of infection: Hong Kong Mainland China, specify: _____ Others, specify: _____

Asked, but undetermined Not asked

[9] Date of laboratory diagnosis in HK: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[10] Confirmation test: Yes No If Yes, by Western Blot PCR others _____

[11] Name of Laboratory: _____ [12] Laboratory Number, if a/v: _____

[13] Previous HIV diagnosis outside HK: No Yes If yes, date: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy) place: _____

[14] Any previous negative HIV test: No Yes If yes, date of last negative HIV test ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[15] CD4 (cells/ μ l): _____ Date: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[16] HIV status of spouse/regular partner: HIV positive HIV negative Unknown No spouse/regular partner

Section (B) – Report of AIDS

[17] Has the patient developed AIDS³: Yes No (Go to Section C)

[18] If yes, the AIDS defining illness(es) is (are):

(i) _____ Date of diagnosis: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

(ii) _____ Date of diagnosis: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

(iii) _____ Date of diagnosis: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[19] CD4 (cells/ μ l) at AIDS: _____ Date: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

Section (C) – Report of Outcome

[20] Has the patient referred to/seen at public HIV clinic Yes No If yes, referred on/seen at: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[21] Has the patient defaulted follow up? Yes No If yes, last seen on: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[22] Is the patient under private HIV medical care Yes No

[23] Has the patient left HK? Yes No If yes, last seen on: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

[24] Has the patient died? Yes No If yes, date of death: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy) Cause: _____

Section (D) – Correspondence

Name of medical practitioner: _____ in private practice in public service

Correspondence Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Date: ____/____/____ (ddmmyyyy)

¹ Please put down any code of your choice (e.g. case number) for matching purpose only.

² Please tick the most likely risk for contracting HIV infection. If there is more than 1 suspected risk, please put down 1 & 2 in descending order of the two most likely risks.

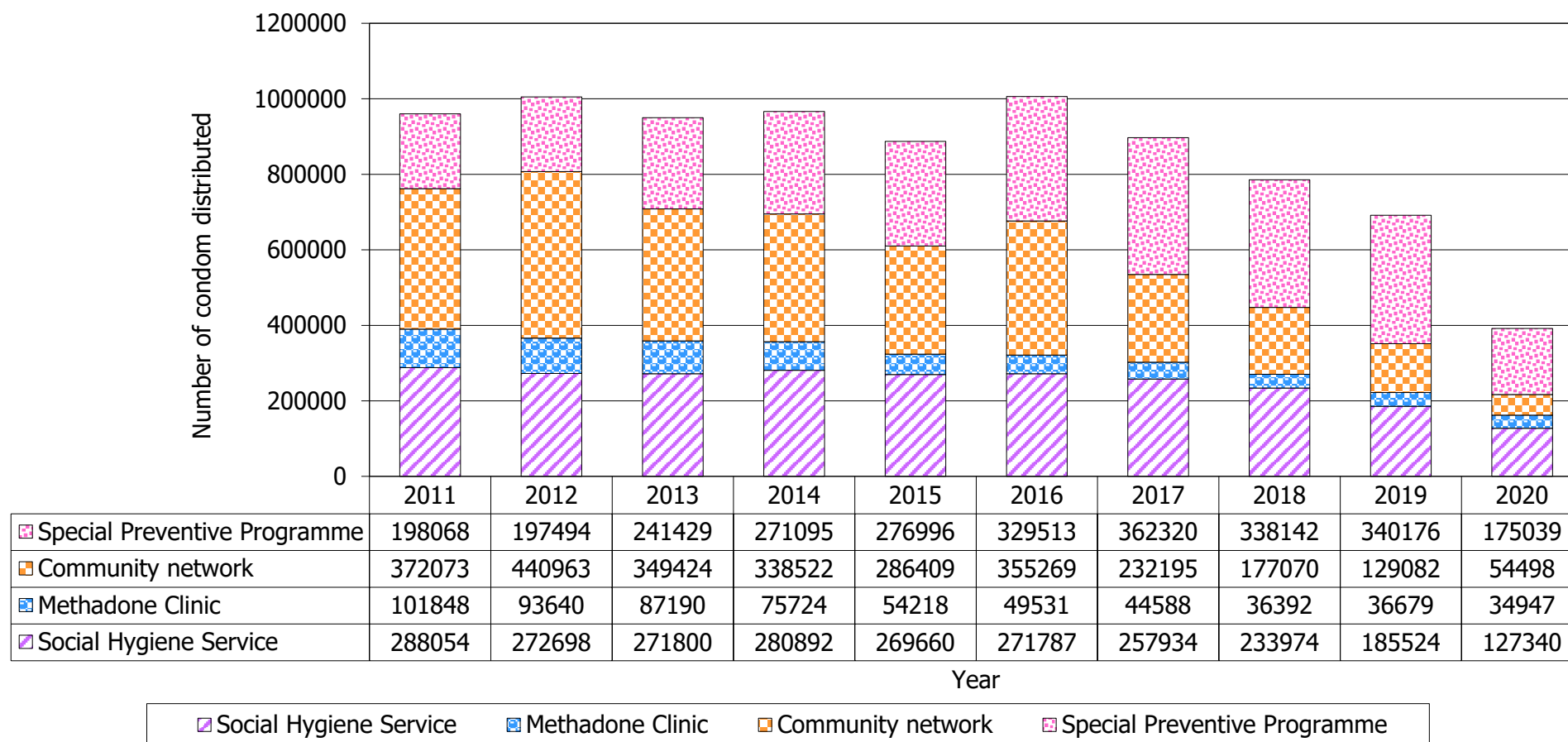
³ Surveillance definition of AIDS: a definitive laboratory diagnosis of HIV infection AND one or more of the AIDS indicator conditions (*July 1995, Scientific Committee on AIDS. Available at www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/definition.html*).

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

Appendix II: Classification system for HIV infection and surveillance case definition for AIDS in adolescents and adults in Hong Kong

<p>A definitive laboratory diagnosis of HIV infection normally by a positive screening test for HIV antibody (e.g. ELISA) supplemented by a confirmatory test (e.g. western blot)</p> <p>+</p> <p>one or more of the AIDS indicator conditions</p>	
<p>AIDS indicator conditions</p>	<p>Candidiasis of bronchi, trachea, or lungs</p> <p>Candidiasis, oesophageal</p> <p>Cervical cancer, invasive</p> <p>Coccidioidomycosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary</p> <p>Cryptococcosis, extrapulmonary</p> <p>Cryptosporidiosis, chronic intestinal (> 1 month's duration)</p> <p>Cytomegalovirus disease (other than liver, spleen or nodes)</p> <p>Cytomegalovirus retinitis (with loss of vision)</p> <p>Encephalopathy, HIV-related</p> <p><i>Herpes simplex</i>: chronic ulcer(s) (> 1 month's duration); or bronchitis, pneumonitis, or oesophagitis</p> <p>Histoplasmosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary</p> <p>Isosporiasis, chronic intestinal (> 1 month's duration)</p> <p>Kaposi's sarcoma</p> <p>Lymphoma, Burkitt's (or equivalent term)</p> <p>Lymphoma, primary, of brain</p> <p><i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>; extrapulmonary or pulmonary/cervical lymph node (only if CD4 < 200/ul)</p> <p>Pneumonia, recurrent</p> <p>Penicilliosis, disseminated</p> <p><i>Mycobacterium</i>, other species or unidentified species, disseminated or extrapulmonary</p> <p><i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia</p> <p>Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy</p> <p>Salmonella septicaemia, recurrent</p> <p>Toxoplasmosis of brain</p> <p>Wasting syndrome due to HIV</p>
<p>Hong Kong has adopted the 1993 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) AIDS classification with 3 modifications: (1) disseminated penicilliosis is added as one AIDS-defining condition, (2) pulmonary or cervical lymph node tuberculosis included only if CD4 < 200 µl, (3) a CD4 < 200 µl without any AIDS-defining condition is not counted as AIDS.</p>	

Appendix III: Condom distribution for the prevention of HIV and STI by Department of Health (2011 – 2020)



Note:

1. Community network includes collaborative projects with Action for REACH OUT, AIDS Concern, CHOICE, Phoenix Project of SARDA, Gay Harmony and Midnight Blue.
2. Special Preventive Programme and others condom distribution points, including Correctional Services Department, Port Health, Tuberculosis and Chest Service, Elderly Health Centres, Families Clinics and The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention.