



# Association between sociodemographic factors and HIV knowledge among Hong Kong citizens: a cross-sectional study

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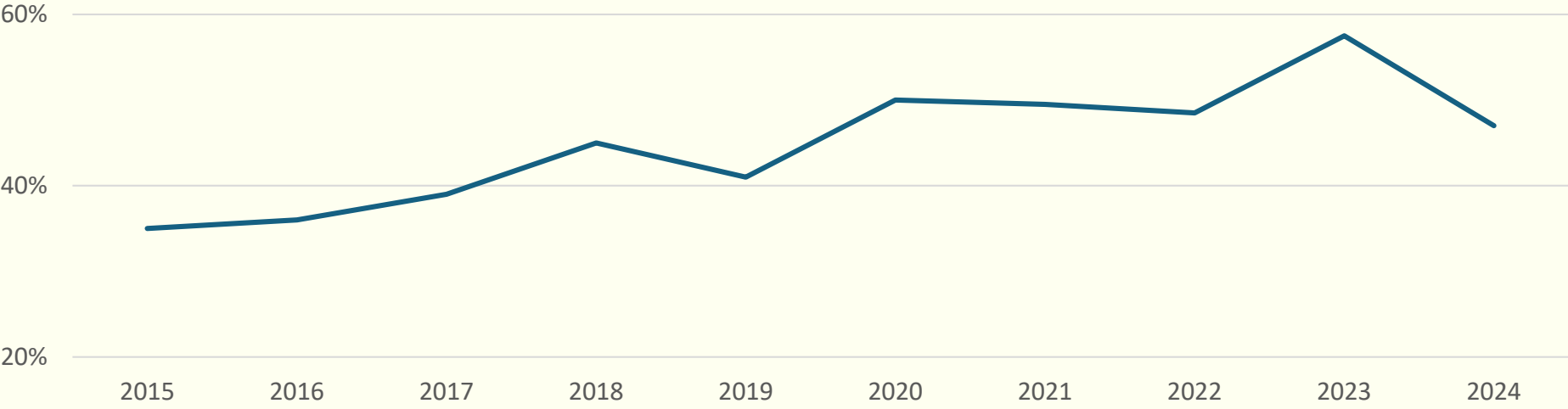
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## Introduction

HIV, a manageable chronic infection, as with other sex-related issues, has long been a taboo that Hong Kong citizens avoid talking about, hence leading to insufficient understanding about such diseases. The increasing proportion of late presenters, especially people who are older, in Hong Kong indicated the HIV knowledge and testing rate in the society is suboptimal.

Proportion of late presenters (2015 - 2024)



Year	Proportion of late presenters (%)
2015	35
2016	38
2017	42
2018	45
2019	40
2020	50
2021	48
2022	48
2023	55
2024	45

## Objective

To investigate the **relationship between sociodemographic factors and HIV knowledge level** among Hong Kong citizens

## Methods

Study design: cross-sectional study

Recruitment method: online advertisement via social media platforms  
Survey instrument: self-administered online questionnaire

Measured items in questionnaire:

- Perception** towards Hong Kong’s public health system
- Knowledge** regarding HIV
  - Prevention, transmission, and treatment
- Opinion** towards HIV-related matters
  - Patient rehabilitation, recovery facilities, testing importance, etc.
- Personal experience** related to HIV
  - Testing and prevention history, etc.
- Attitude** towards ethical matters
- Sociodemographic factors**
  - Age, sex, ethnicity, marital status, religious status, salary, education, place of residence, personal relationships

Statistical methods:


- Mann-Whitney U test: to compare a continuous variable (HIV knowledge score) with a categorical variable (sociodemographic factor)

## Results

483 responses are collected between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

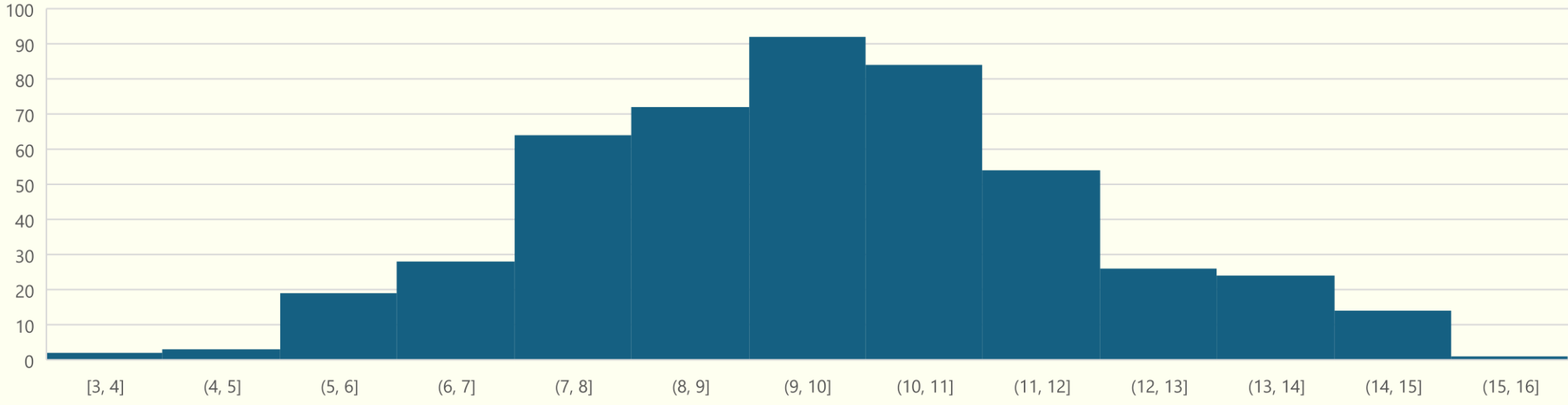
Sociodemographic factors	
Age (Median)	45 (IQR: 35-56)
Male	218 (45.1%)
Chinese	472 (97.7%)
Married	246 (50.9%)
Religious	342 (70.8%)
Received tertiary education	347 (71.8%)
With salary of over HKD\$ 30000	223 (46.2%)
Diagnosed with chronic illness	118 (24.4%)
Worked in medicinal and/or social welfare sector	92 (19.0%)
Knows someone with HIV	26 (5.4%)

Median HIV Knowledge Score: 10 (Maximum: 19)



52.6%

HIV Knowledge Score



Score Range	Frequency
[3, 4]	2
(4, 5]	5
(5, 6]	15
(6, 7]	25
(7, 8]	65
(8, 9]	75
(9, 10]	90
(10, 11]	85
(11, 12]	55
(12, 13]	25
(13, 14]	20
(14, 15]	15
(15, 16]	10

Significant sociodemographic factors affecting HIV knowledge score:

Sociodemographic factors	Group 1 median Score	Group 2 median score	p value
Age	> 30: 10	<= 30: 11	< 0.0001
Education	Secondary or Below: 9	Tertiary: 11	< 0.0001
Worked in medicinal and/or social welfare sector	Yes: 11	No: 10	< 0.0001
Knows someone with HIV	Yes: 11	No: 10	0.0005

## Conclusion

The average Hong Kong citizen holds a **moderate level** of HIV knowledge, with certain sociodemographic factors, such as age, education level, personal relationships, etc., having **apparent effects** on the difference in HIV knowledge level between individuals. In addition, citizens who are **older** and have a **lower educational level** have **lower HIV knowledge levels**. The government may focus propaganda and place more resources on these groups of people.

## References

Continued decline in new HIV cases in 2024 reflects success of prevention and control efforts in Hong Kong. [Internet]. Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong. 2025. Available from [https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/FACTSHEET on HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong \[2024\].](https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/FACTSHEET%20on%20HIV/AIDS%20Situation%20in%20Hong%20Kong%20[2024].) [Internet]. Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong. 2025. Available from [https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/sur\\_report/hiv\\_fc2024e.pdf](https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/surveillance/sur_report/hiv_fc2024e.pdf)