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HIV/AIDS epidemic characteristics in northeast province of China men who had sex with men made a tremendous contribution to the growth of the HIV epidemic

Fuxiang Wang¹, Bing Shao², Yi Li³, Lan Yu³, Kaili Wang³ and Binyou Wang²

¹Fourth Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, China

²Public Health College of Harbin Medical University, China

³Heilongjiang Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

Objective: To investigate the characteristics and trends of the HIV epidemic in Heilongjiang province of China between 1993 and 2012.

Methods: Data from the provincial surveillance system for HIV infections and AIDS were reviewed. Local health staff reviewed medical records, including dates of HIV/AIDS diagnose and deaths, exposure category, treatment, laboratory testing, and demographics.

Results: By 31 October 2012, a total of 3062 HIV-infections were reported with 426 deaths, 38.1% of whom were diagnosed as AIDS. Since 2007, homosexual transmission has increased and become the dominant route of HIV transmission, accounting for 57.9% of cases during 2009-2010, and 69.0% during 2011-2012. Men who have sex with men (MSM) with HIV-infections had the following characteristics: 21-30 year age group (42.4%); unmarried (61.6%); urban residents (46.7%); and college or higher education (36.8%). In addition, the proportion of MSM <30 years of age and rural residents showed an uptrend across the study years.

Conclusions: The HIV/AIDS epidemic has continued to increase in Heilongjiang province, and has shown an explosive growth since 2009, with MSM making a tremendous contribution to the HIV outbreak. Homosexual contact has become the dominant route of HIV transmission. Urgent intervention is needed to recognize this target population, especially those <30 years of age, unmarried, and urban residents.

Biography

Fuxiang Wang has completed his PhD at the age of 33 years from the Fourth Military Medical University. He is the director of department of infectious diseases, the fourth affiliated hospital of Harbin Medical University. He has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals.

wangfuxiang999@hotmail.com