

Needle sharing is uncommon in drug users in Hong Kong

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Background

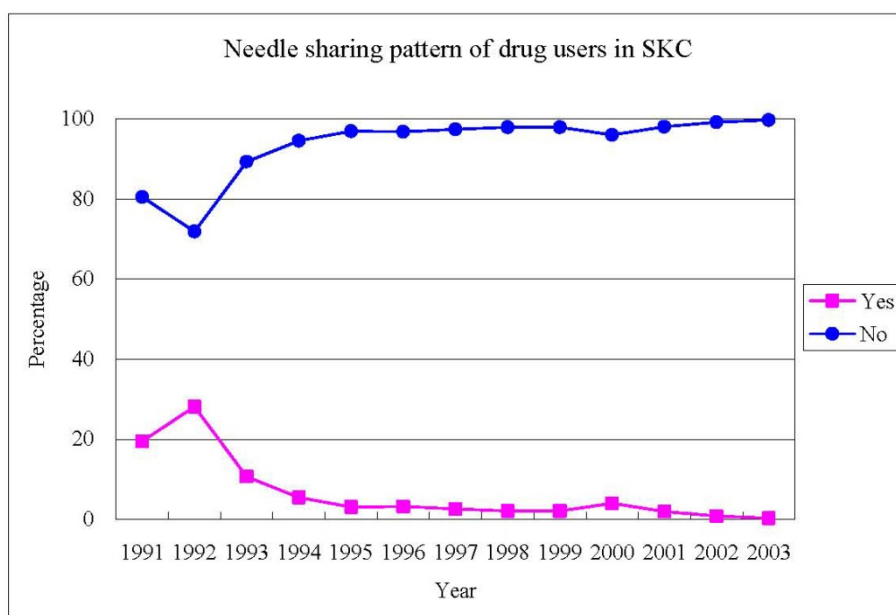
About 10 injecting drug users were recently reported to be HIV infected in Hong Kong every year. The data from the admission interviews at Shek Kwu Chau Drug Treatment Centre (SKC), an in-patient treatment centre, can serve as a surrogate to understand the HIV risk in the community.

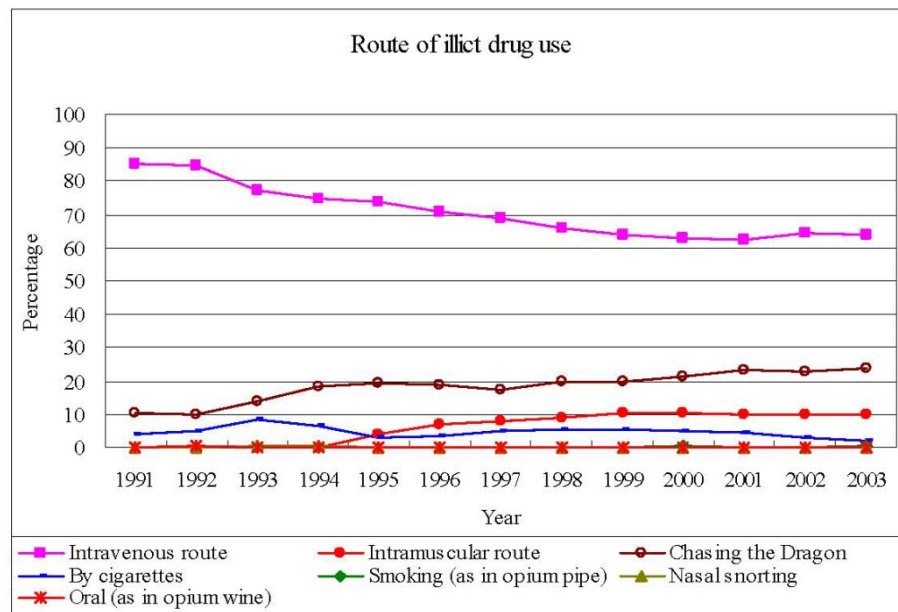
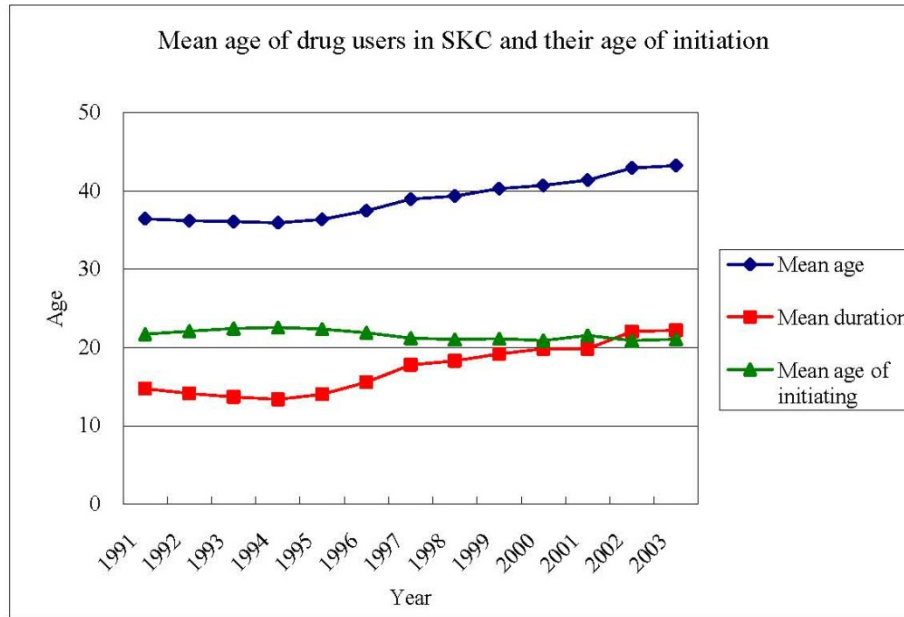
Method

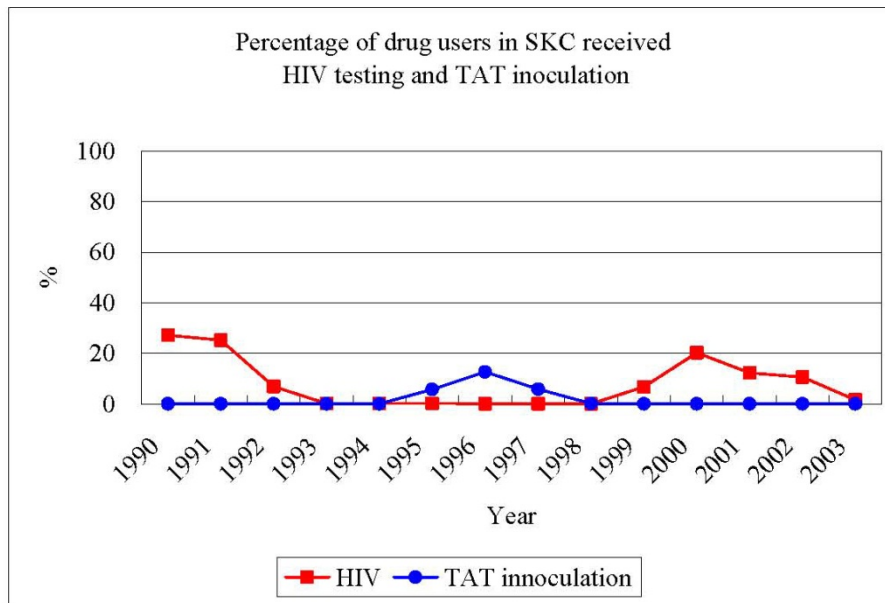
A behavioural monitor study in SKC has been conducted since 1990. Face-to-face interviews with standardised questionnaire with 10 questions, on drug use behaviour, needle sharing, history of attending SKC and HIV testing, were conducted for all newly admitted inmates. The data was collated for trend yearly.

Result

In 1991-2003, 26305 interviews were conducted. Nearly all of them used heroin with 75% taking by injecting. Most of them (> 95%) did not share needle with others recently. The mean age of admission changed from 37 in 1996 to 43 in 2003 while the median number of admission was higher in 2003 than in 1996, which was 5 and 3 respectively. Only 20% of drug user received HIV testing.







Conclusions

Needle sharing is uncommon among drug users in Hong Kong although most heroin users take drug by injection. There is room for HIV testing promotion in drug users.