



**HKU** LKS Faculty of Medicine  
**Med** The University of Hong Kong  
香港大學李嘉誠醫學院

Department of Medicine  
LKS Faculty of Medicine, HKU

**HKU Studies the Prevalence of Viral Hepatitis  
in Hong Kong –  
The First Largest Population Territory-based Study  
Identifies Areas of Need in Combating Liver Diseases**

Press Conference

March 5, 2019



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## **Professor Richard Yuen Man-fung**

Chair Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation Professor in Medicine  
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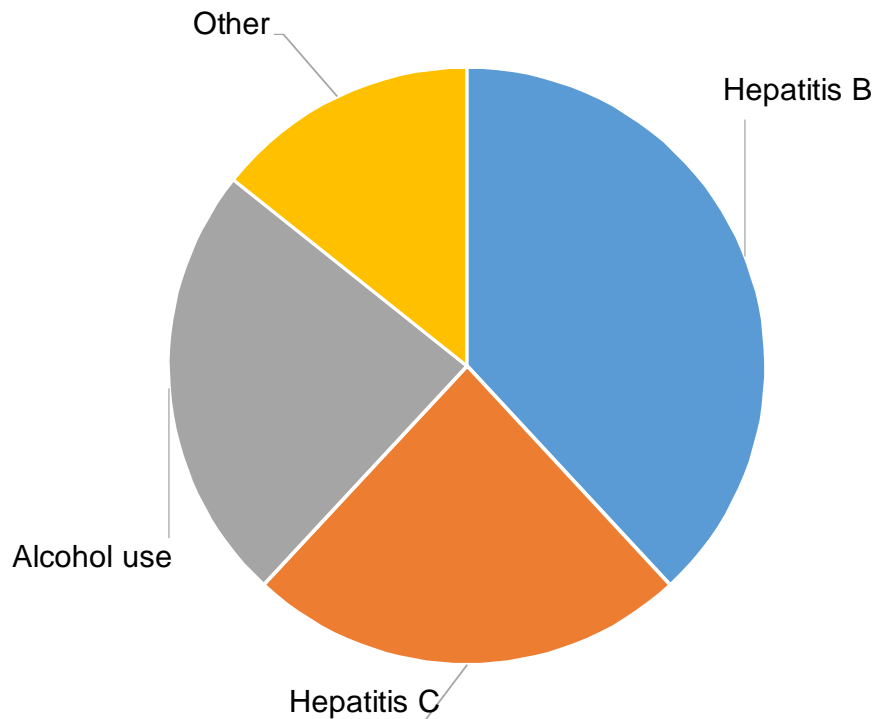
## **Dr Walter Seto Wai-kay**

Clinical Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine  
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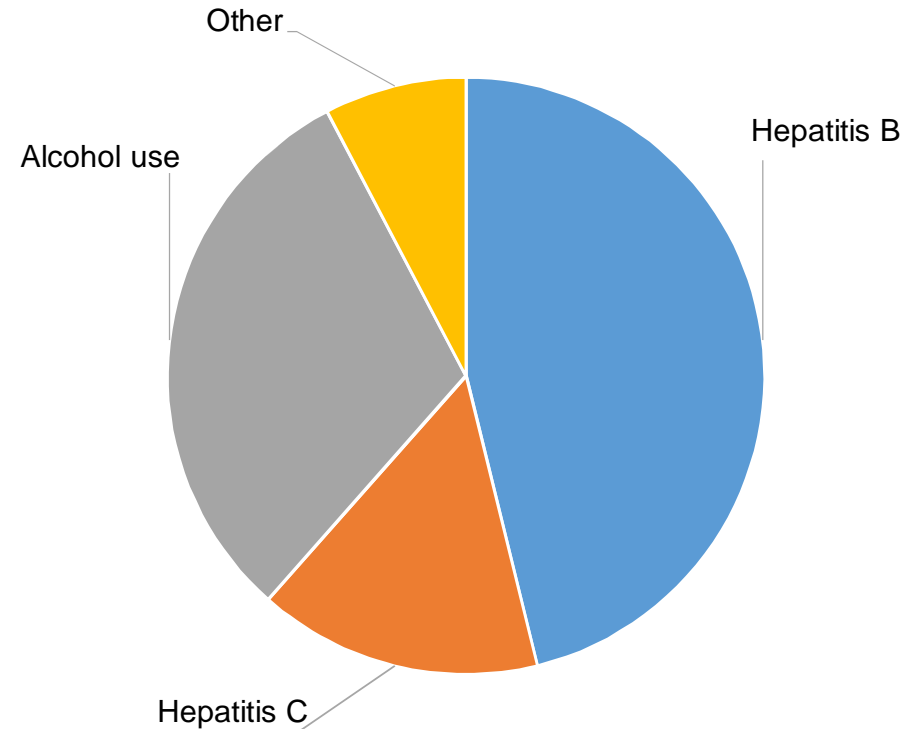


## Hepatitis B and C Infections are the main causes of liver-related death in the world

**1,162,000 deaths due to liver cirrhosis**

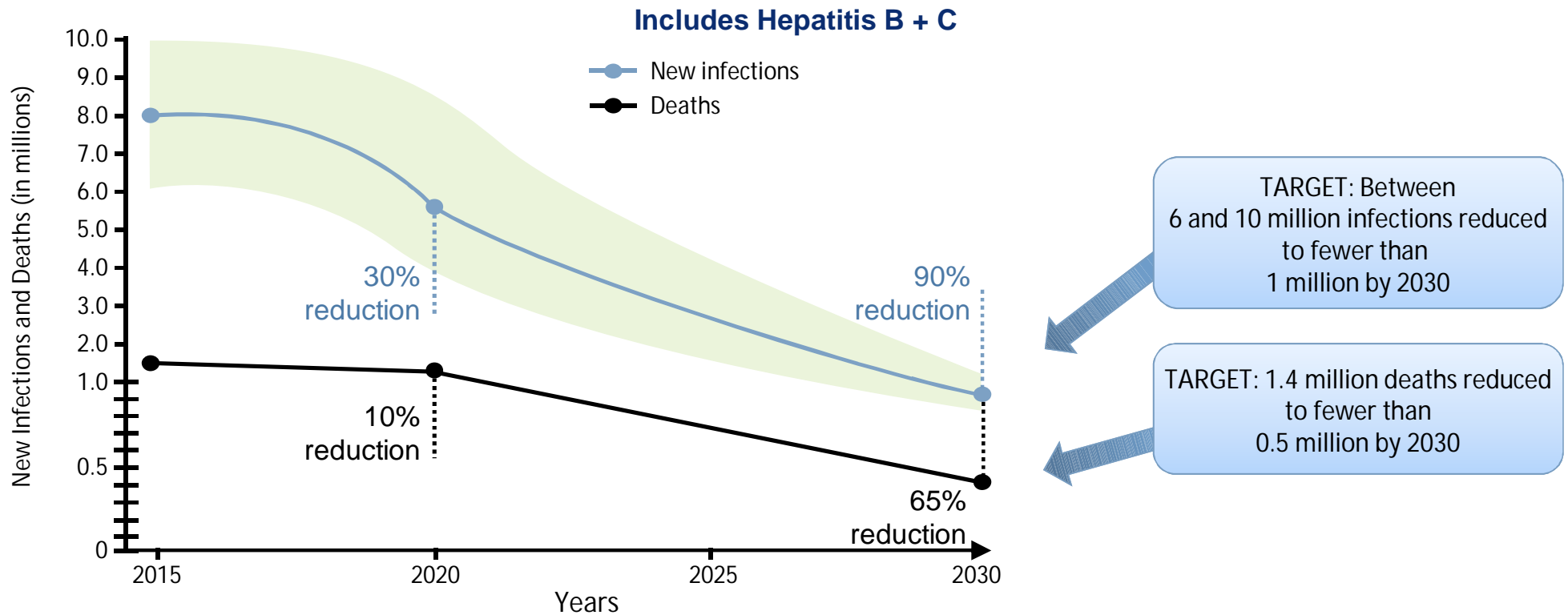


**788,000 deaths due to liver cancer**





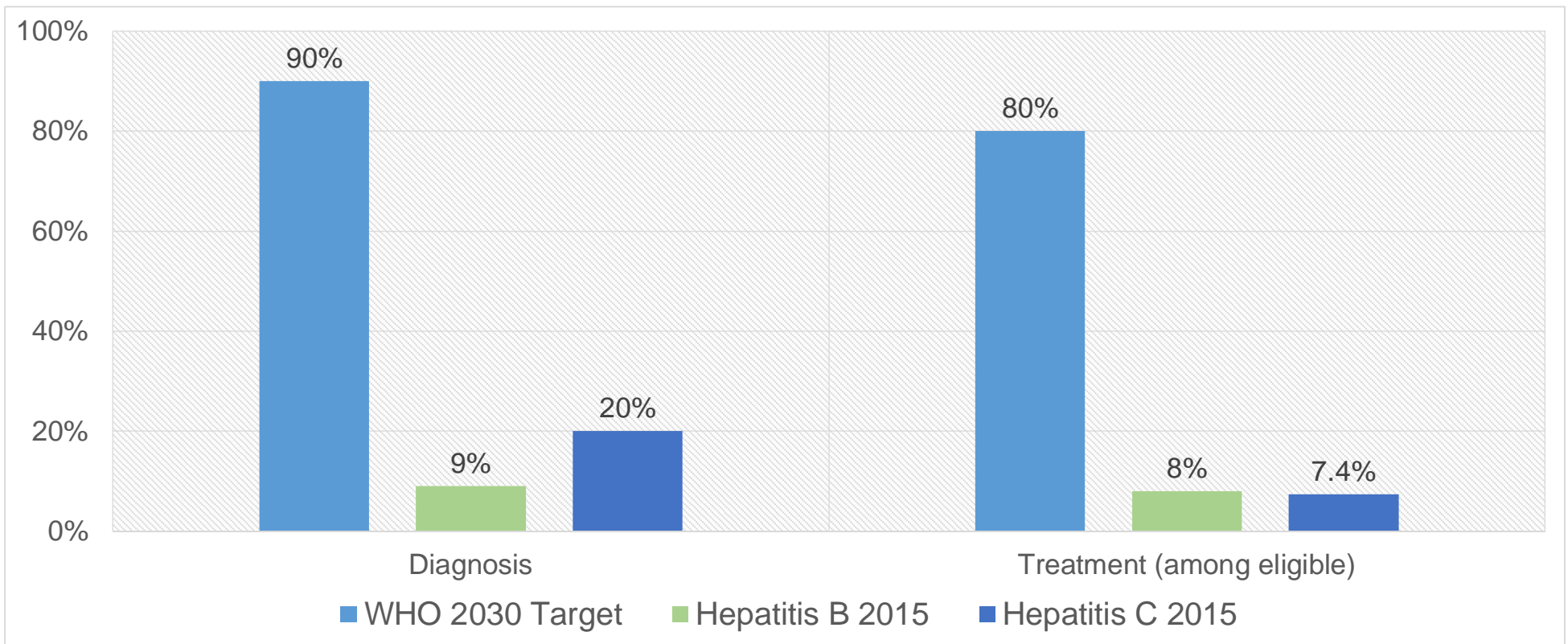
## The WHO Global Health Sector has Established the Goal of Hepatitis Elimination as a Major Public Health Target by 2030





# Diagnosis and Treatment Coverage

*World Health Organization*





## The First and the Largest Community Screening Study on all 5 common viral hepatitis in Hong Kong

### Organizations

- 1) Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, HKUMed
- 2) Hong Kong Liver Foundation
- 3) School of Public Health, HKUMed

- Study period: **Feb 2015 – Jul 2016**
- Visit different districts every month
  - to give health promotion lectures on viral hepatitis
  - to complete a 2-page questionnaire by participants
  - to **test for hepatitis serology (A, B, C, D, E)** in participants
- Inclusion criteria
  - Han Chinese ethnicity
  - Age 18 – 75
- **Referral letters were given to participants tested positive for HBV or HCV**





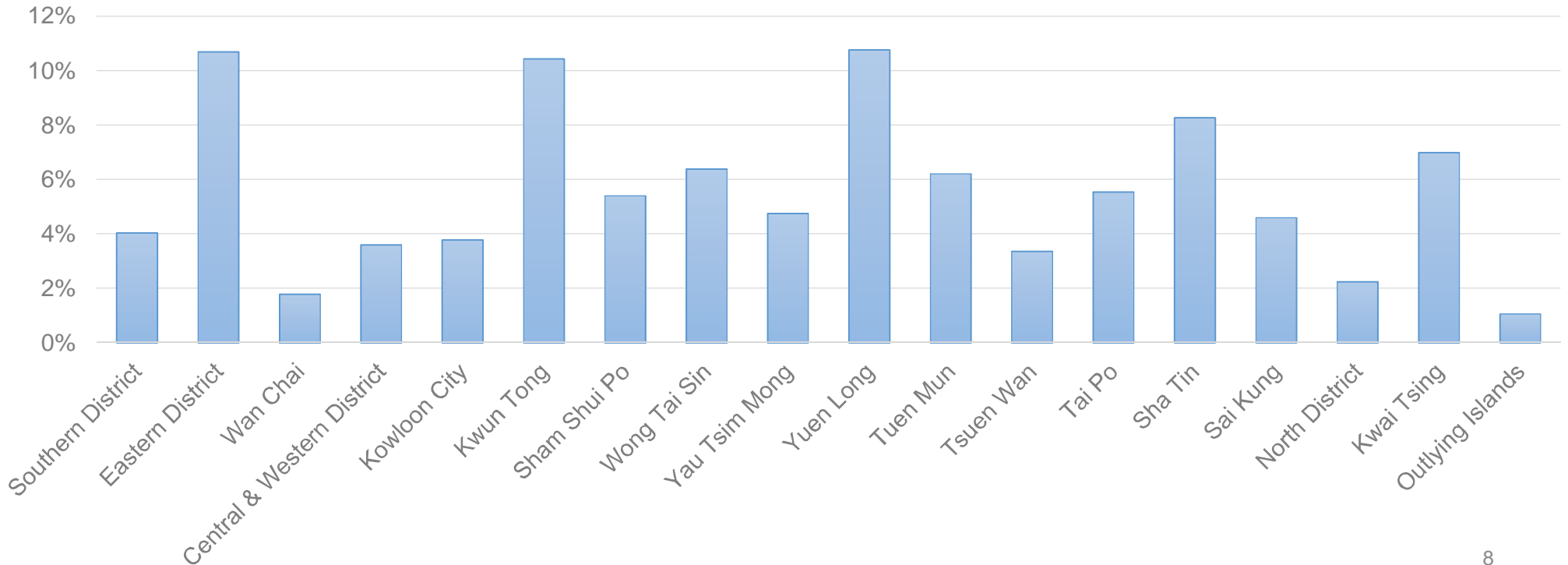
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# Demographics

- Recruited **10,256** subjects over 19 months
- Mean age: Male  $50.4 \pm 16$  years; Female  $52.3 \pm 14$  years

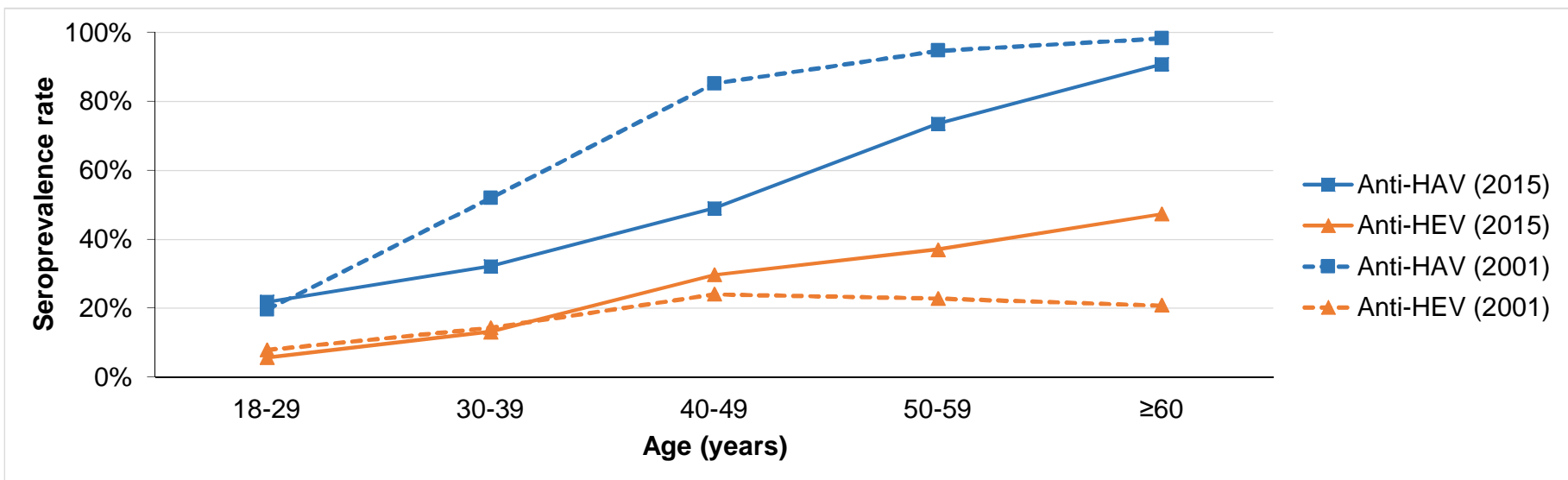






# Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>
<u>% of people with antibodies to hepatitis A</u>	71%	65.1%
<u>% of people with antibodies to hepatitis E</u>	18.8%	33.3%

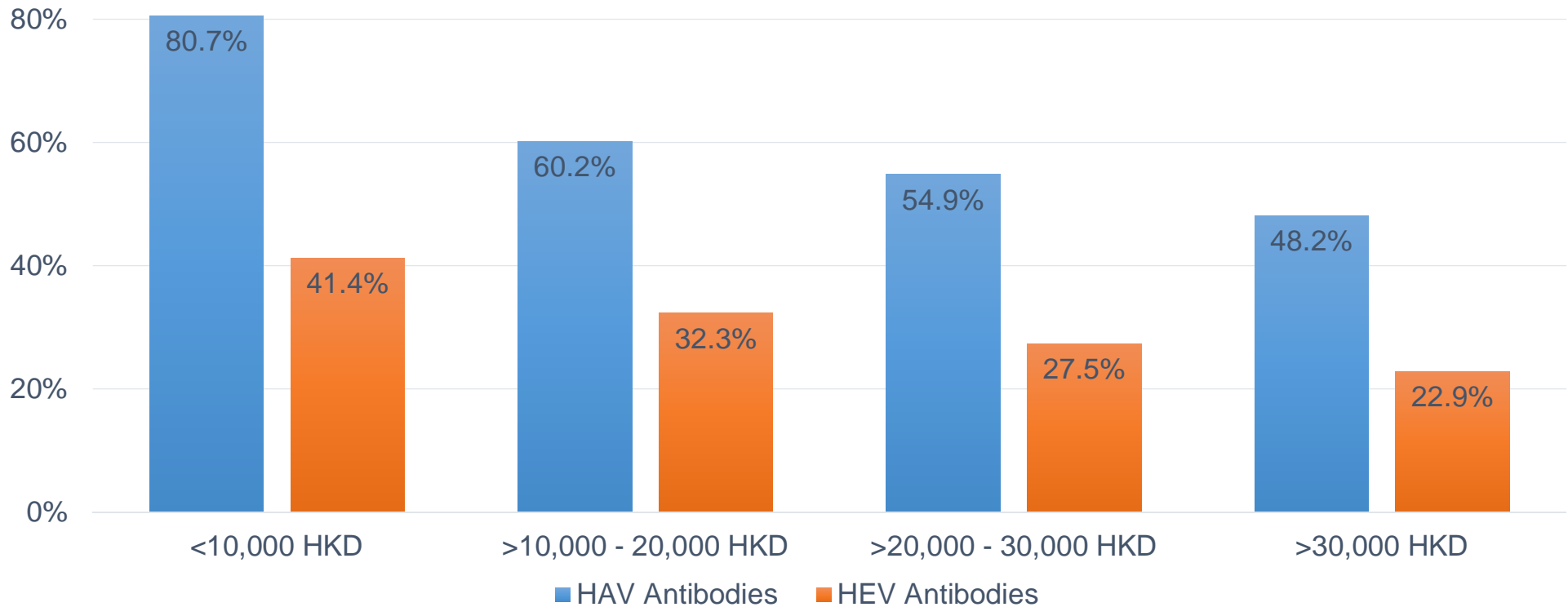


Infection rate increased with older age



# Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E

*Family Income (per month)*

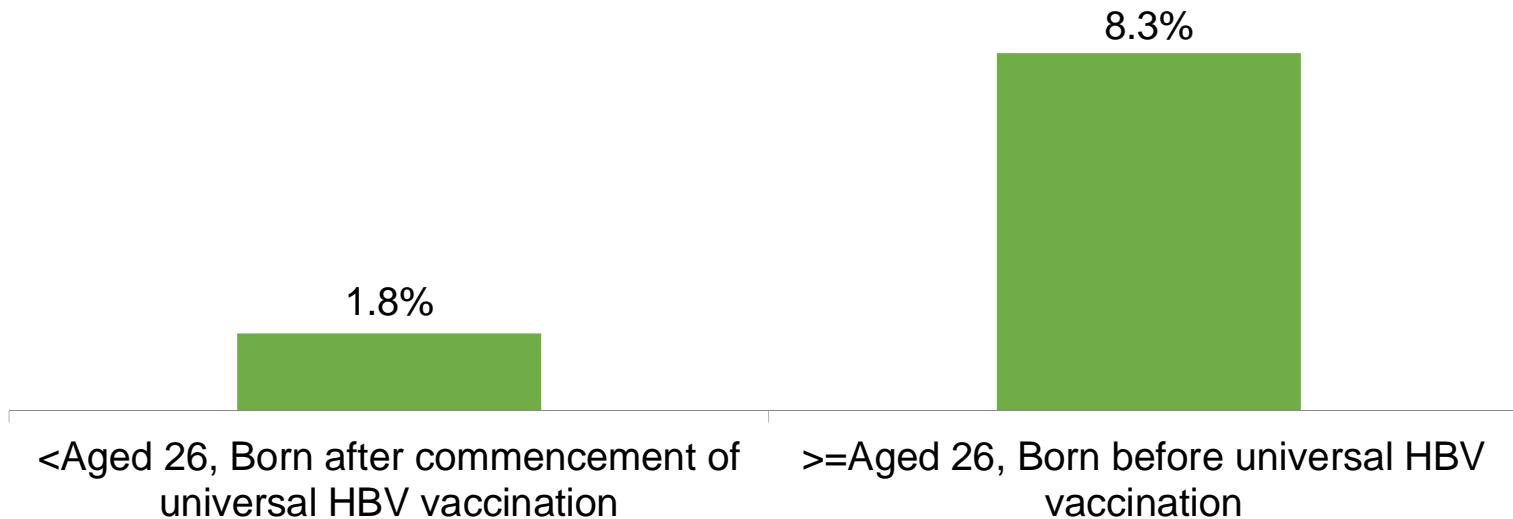


Infection rate increased in low income groups



# Hepatitis B

- Overall HBV prevalence **7.8%** (8.8% in 2001)
- Male 8.8%; Female 7.3%
- **48%** HBV patients did not know their hepatitis B status prior to this study
- In relationship to commencement of universal vaccination:





# Hepatitis B

- Risk Factor
  - Male > female (1.2 fold)
  - Mother also Hepatitis B (4.8 folds)
  - Other family members also Hepatitis B (3.4 folds)
- Protective factor
  - Vaccination (reduced by 85%)

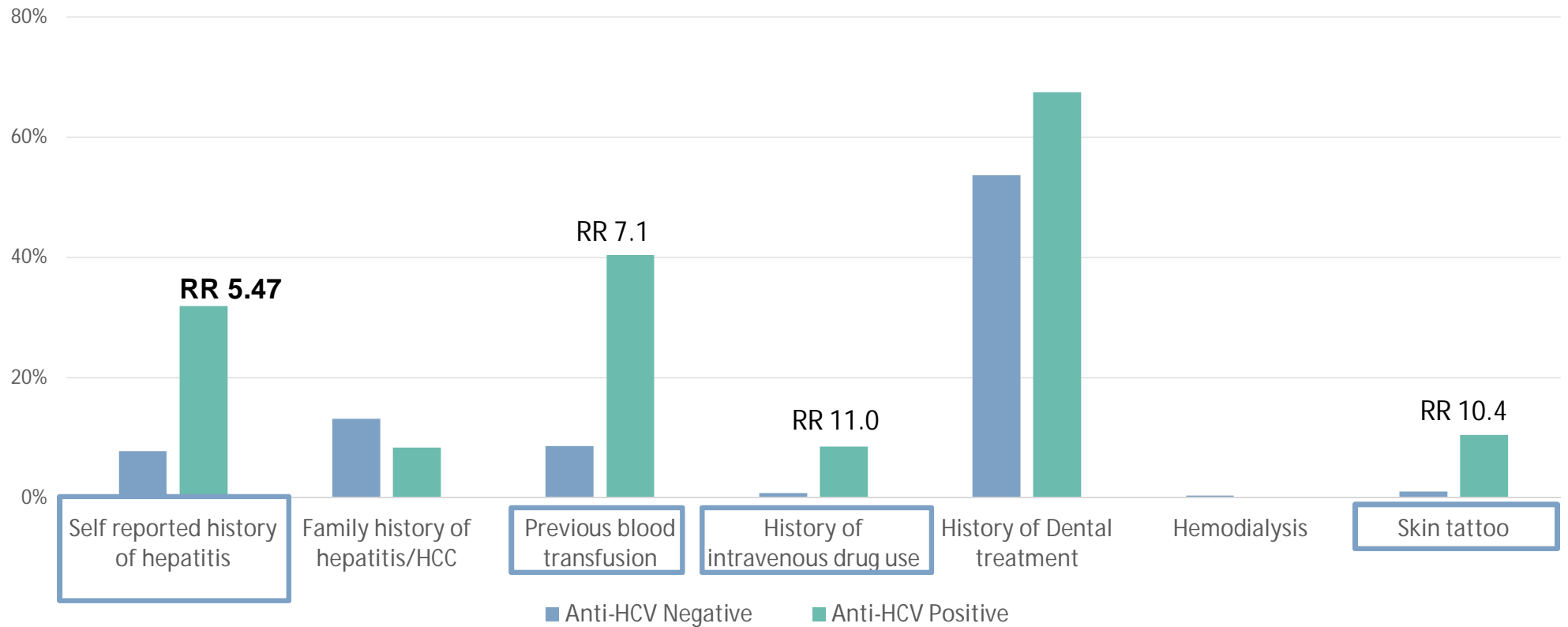


# HCV remains to have low prevalence in Hong Kong

- **0.5%** (n= 48) were tested anti-HCV positive
- **0.3%** (n= 29) were hepatitis C carriers



# Risk factors for hepatitis C





# Summary

- Hepatitis B is still a very common disease in Hong Kong
- Support the effectiveness of universal hepatitis B vaccination programme
- Significant change in hepatitis A and E prevalence over the years
- Support the importance of raising public awareness of chronic hepatitis B and screening



# What's next in Hong Kong?

- To achieve the goal of WHO in 2030, tremendous efforts needed to be made
  - Implement population based vaccination programme for hepatitis B and hepatitis A
  - Implement whole population screening for hepatitis B
  - Implement high risk group screening for hepatitis C
  - Layout health care strategy for the Hong Kong population: get diagnosed, get treated and get the risk of liver cancer and cirrhosis down in Hong Kong!
- It's time to **ACT NOW!**