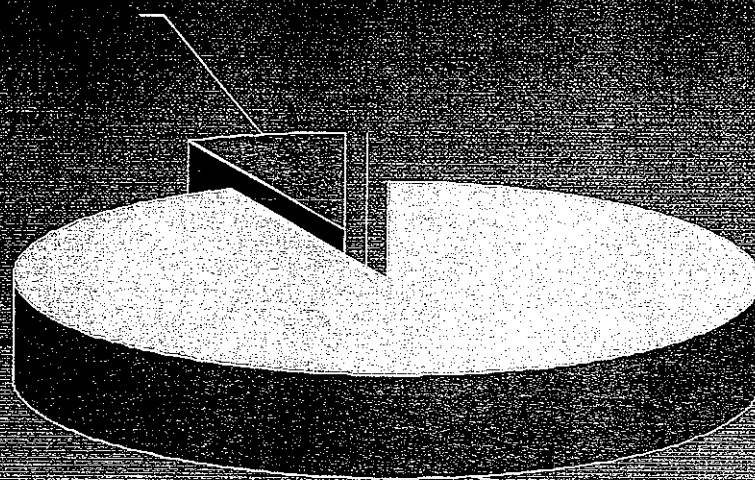


Measures to Prevent the Spread of SARS among Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

Department of Health
10 July 2003

Elders in Hong Kong



747,000 (11%
of population)

Living in
Community
93%

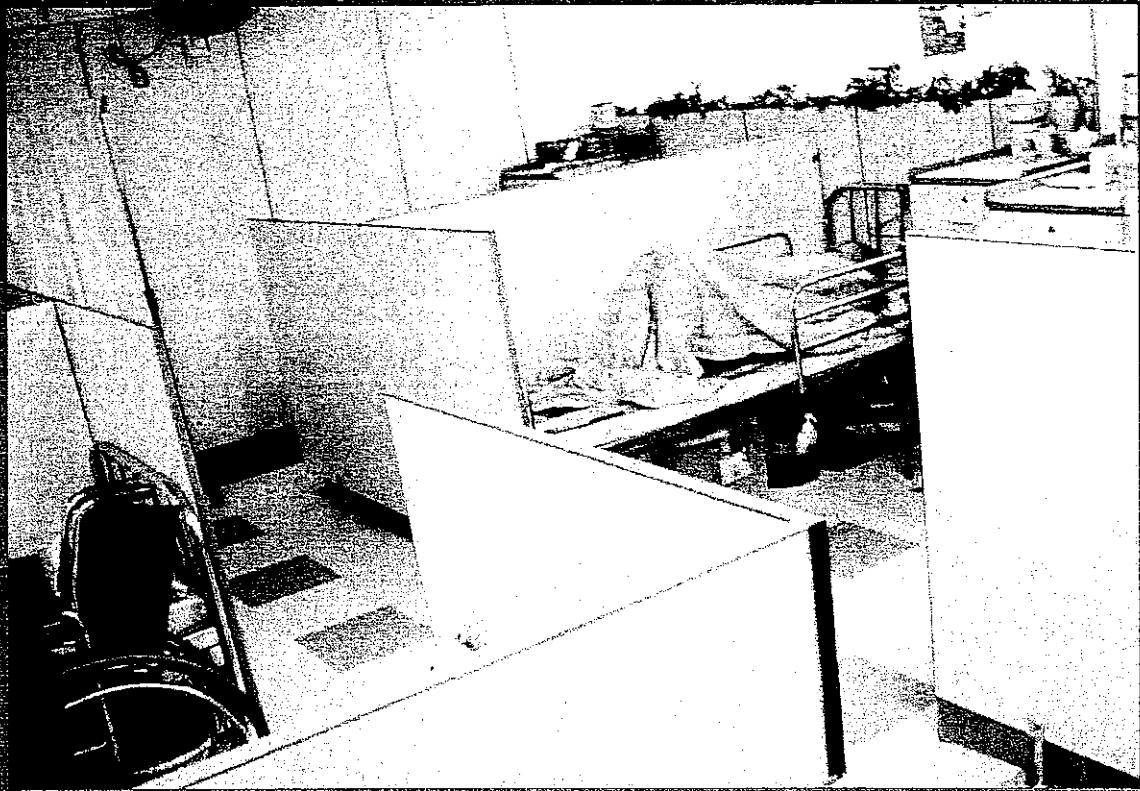
RCHEs in Hong Kong

Licensed by SWD

55,000 Residents

▪ Subvented	144
▪ Self-financing	38
▪ Private	577





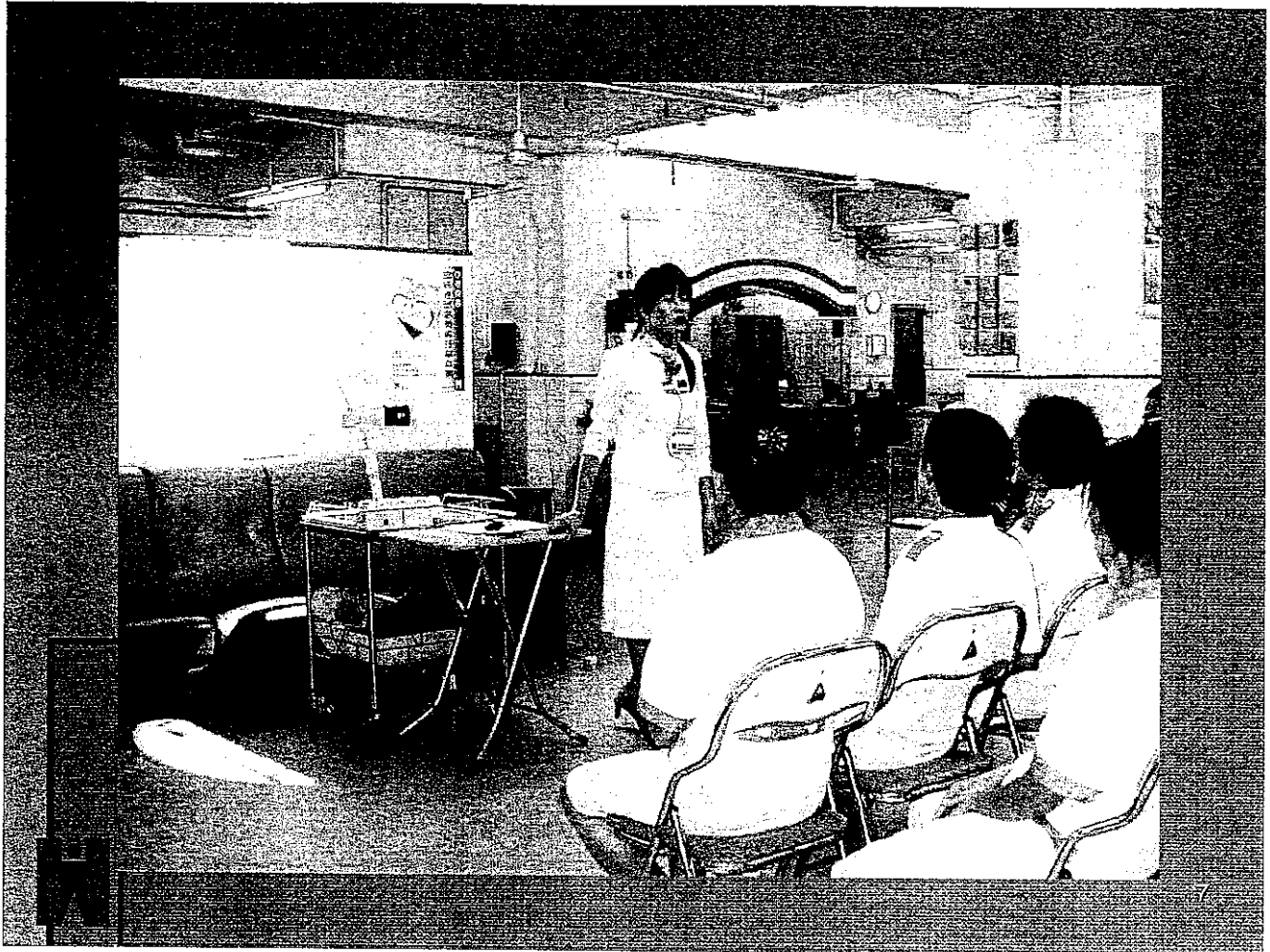
Support Services for RCHes

Elderly Health Services (EHS)

- Outreach health education and training for elders and carers in RCHes
- Private Home Improvement Project (97% coverage)

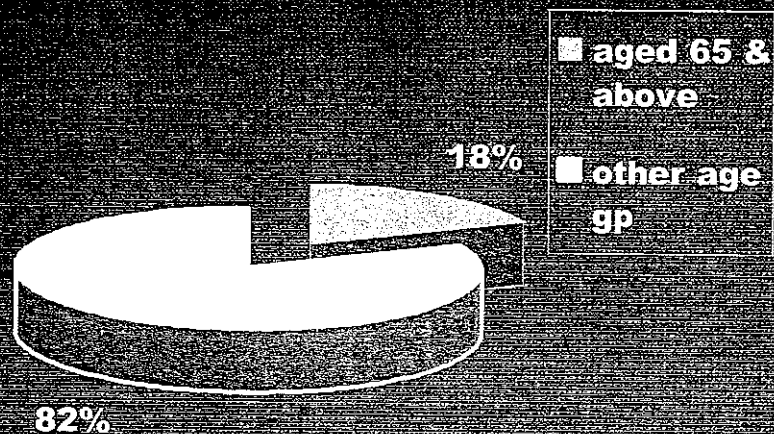
Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT)

- Outreach geriatric assessment and medical service in RCHes

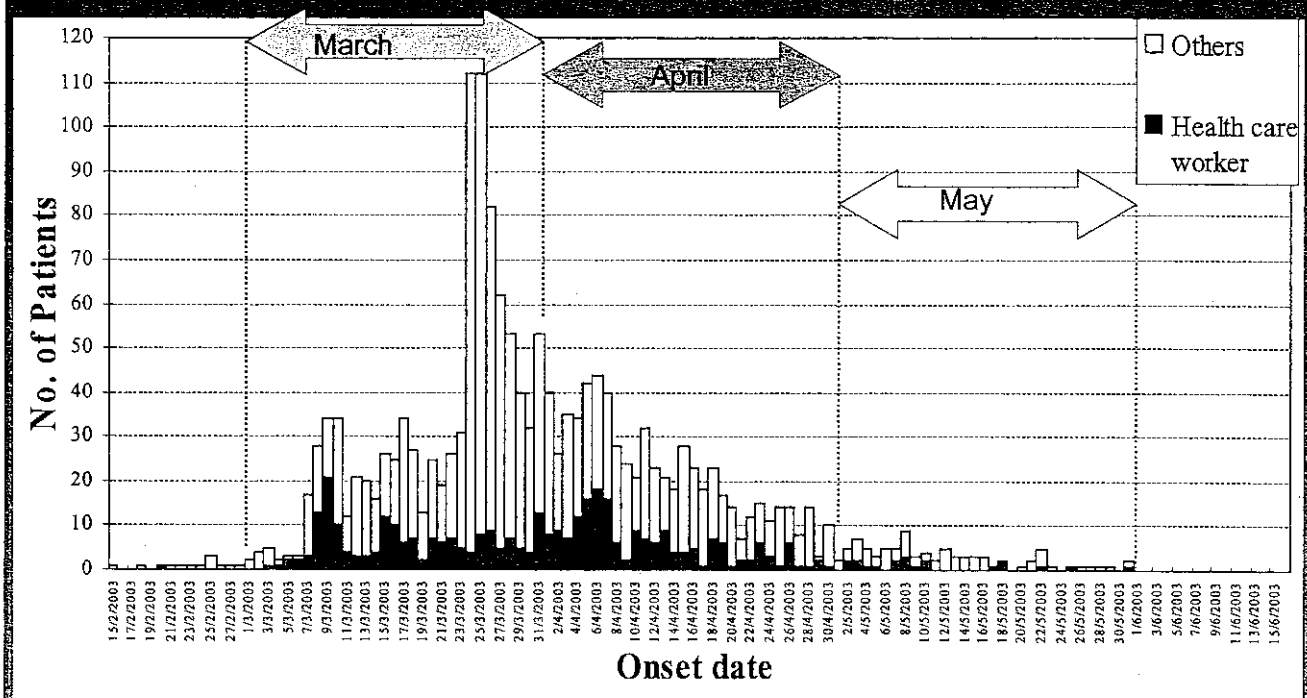


SARS Outbreak

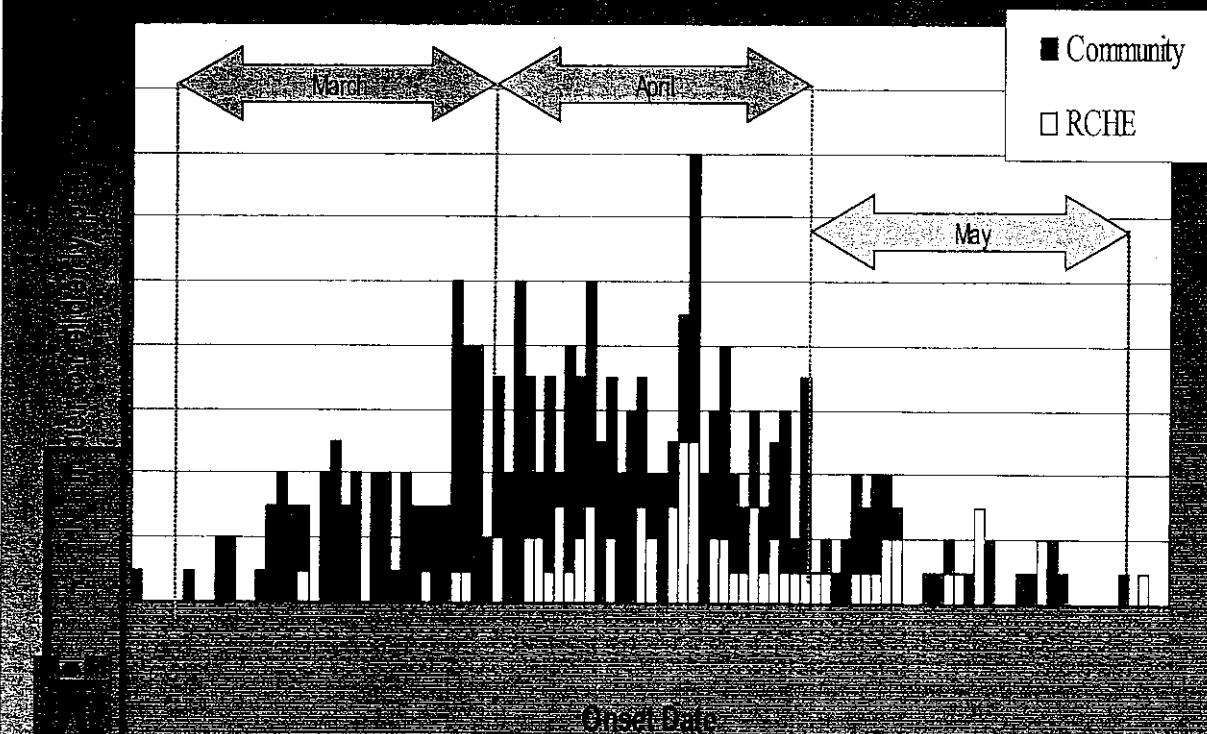
■ 1,755 SARS cases



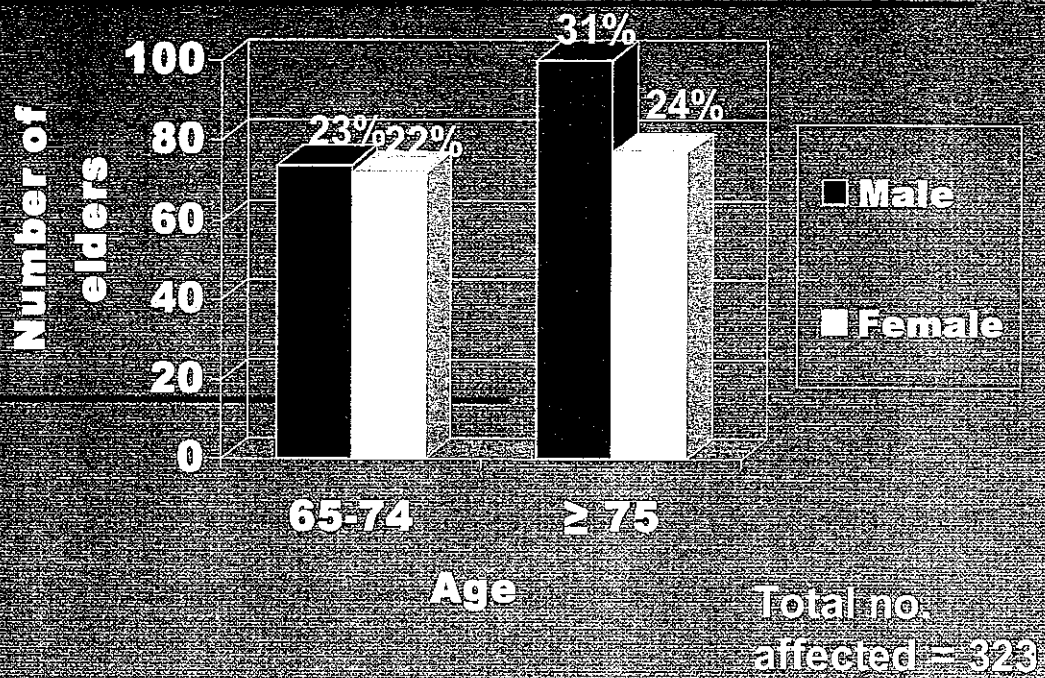
Epidemic Curve (Overall)



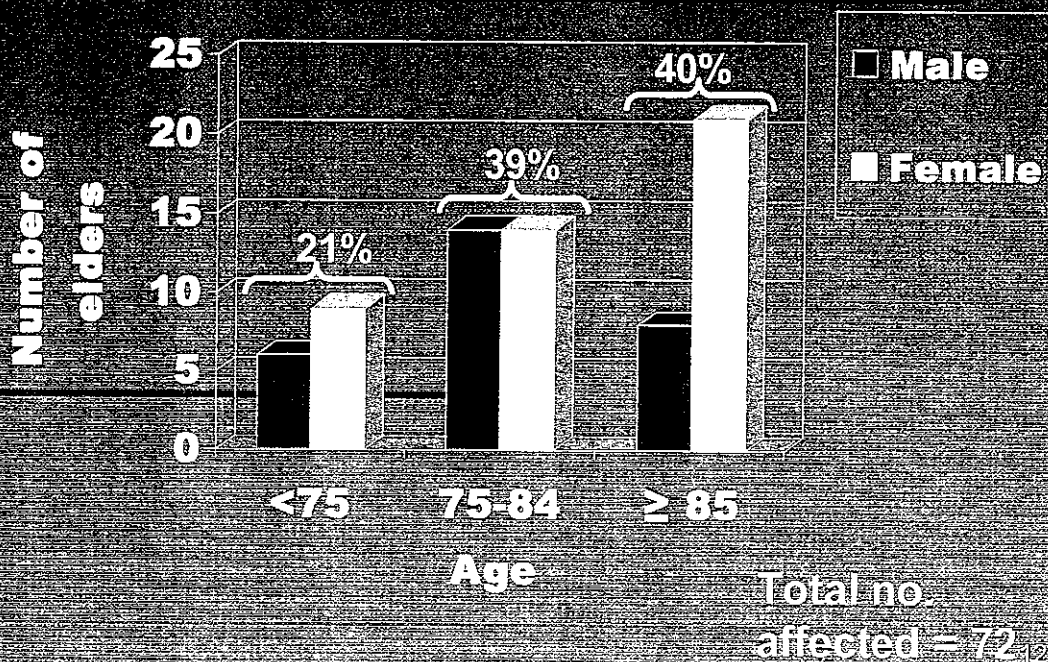
Epidemic Curve (Elders)



SARS among Elders



SARS in RCHes



RCHEs with SARS (1)

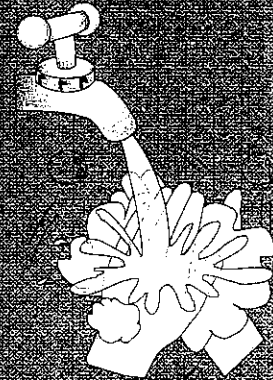
HK	K	NTE	NTW	Total
0	8	31	12	51
(0)	(9)	(48)	(15)	(72)

RCHEs with SARS (2)

	No. of homes	Total no. of cases
Homes with 1 case only	38	38
Homes with ≥ 2 cases which show no linkage	8	20
Homes with ≥ 2 cases which show linkage	5 *	12 + 2 *
Total	51	72

* includes a home with also 2 cases which show no linkage

Preventive Measures



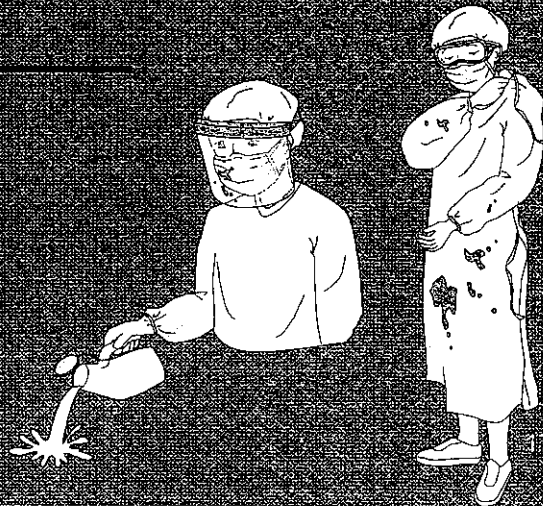
Approach

- Early detection and treatment
- Contact tracing
- Isolation and quarantine
- Containment measures
- Health education and publicity



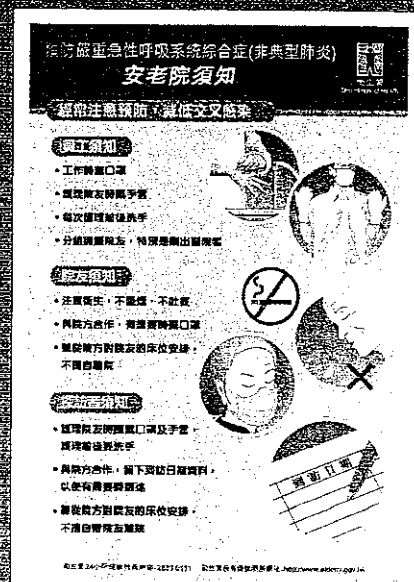
Measures in RCHEs

- Health education and guidelines
- Investigation and on-site health advice
- Medical surveillance
- Resource support
- Psychological counselling



Role of EHS

- Health education & publicity - guideline, health talk, website, media interview, poster, video
- Medical surveillance
- Data collation - collection, updating, analysis and reporting
- Liaison, communication and information flow



Medical Surveillance

- Conducted by EHS since early April in homes with confirmed / suspected SARS / contacts
- On-site advice on cohorting and isolation, surveillance, referrals, resources support, psychological counseling
- Collaboration and information sharing among DH, HA, and SWD
- Liaison with NGOs and operators
- Covered 300 homes, 700 elders

3/10

Concern Visits

- Visited some 730 homes to ascertain compliance in infection control measures and assess need for enhanced health education
- Gift packs – gloves, masks, bleach, soap



Cohorting Arrangement

- Aimed to prevent cross infection
- Elders “cohorted” in hospital before discharged back to RCHE
- Standard precautions for all hospital discharges
- Cohorting of discharges in RCHE – professional support by EHS

Outreach Medical Support

- Aimed to reduce hospital admission
- Strengthened CGAT coverage by HA through collaboration with VMOs
- Supported by Hong Kong Medical Association
- 200+ GPs appointed as VMOs



Way Forward

預防非典型肺炎
衛生執到正 健康有保證



Collaboration among DH, HA, SWD, and RCHEs

- Reduce hospital admissions
- Review RCHE situation
- Revise guidelines for RCHEs
- Enhance staff training on infection control, contingency measures, environmental hygiene
- Health education for elders and general public

Join Hands to Combat SARS

Sustained Efforts by All

~The End~

