

**Legislative Council Bills Committee on
Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2014
Follow-up to the sixth meeting
on 5 June 2014**

This paper responds to Members' enquiries raised at the sixth Bills Committee meeting on 5 June 2014 about the prevalence rates of people suffering from gender identity disorder (GID) worldwide and detailed information on such rates by countries and regions.

2. According to the presentation by Dr HO Pui-tat, Associate Consultant of Kwai Chung Hospital, on GID at the captioned meeting, the prevalence rate for male-to-female GID is 1 in 11 000 to 1 in 30 000, while the prevalence rate for female-to-male GID is 1 in 20 000 to 1 in 100 000.

3. As advised by the Hospital Authority, the prevalence information was quoted from a recently published paper in 2013¹, which summarized a number of studies by different countries at different times. The purpose of pointing out these figures in Dr Ho's presentation was to illustrate how rare GID was and the wide variation of prevalence figures reported in the literatures rendering them not directly comparable may be due to the following reasons –

- (1) different inclusion criteria, some studies included patients who have undergone sex re-assignment surgery (SRS), while some included all those under assessment;
- (2) different diagnostic criteria, basically older studies used older versions of disease classifications, while recent studies used newer versions;
- (3) different study periods;
- (4) difference in social acceptance towards transsexuals; and
- (5) availability of service, including insurance coverage for SRS.

¹ "Prevalence of Gender Identity Disorder and Suicide Risk Among Transgender Veterans Utilizing Veterans Health Administration Care", John R. Blosnich, PhD, George R. Brown, MD, Jillian C. Shipherd, PhD, Michael Kauth, PhD, Rebecca I. Piegari, MS, and Robert M. Bossarte, PhD. 2013

4. As also acknowledged in *the Standard of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People* by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, formal epidemiologic studies on the incidence and prevalence of transsexualism specifically or transgender and gender-nonconforming identities in general have not been conducted, and efforts to achieve realistic estimates are fraught with enormous difficulties.

5. Likewise, as there are no formal epidemiologic studies on the prevalence of GID in Hong Kong, the estimation of local prevalence figure is not available.

Security Bureau
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