

# **Chapter Three**

## **Human Capital**

## Section A. Education

### 29. School Attendance Rates

**Table 3.1: School Attendance Rates\* of Population Aged 3-24 by Sex, Age Group and Broad Area, 2001**

	Age Group	HK Island	New Towns and Kowloon	Other Areas and Marine	The Whole Territory
<b>Male</b>	3-5	95	94	93	95
	6-11	100	100	100	100
	12-16	97	97	93	97
	17-18	74	64	56	68
	19-24	29	25	25	27
<b>Female</b>	3-5	95	95	94	95
	6-11	100	100	100	100
	12-16	98	98	97	98
	17-18	79	71	64	74
	19-24	28	25	19	26
<b>Both sexes</b>	3-5	95	95	93	95
	6-11	100	100	100	100
	12-16	98	97	95	97
	17-18	76	68	60	71
	19-24	28	25	22	26

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)**

\* The percentage of population studying full-time in school or educational institution in the respective age group.

**Table 3.2: School Attendance Rates\* by Sex, Age Group, 1991, 1996, 2001**

	Age Group	1991	1996	2001
<b>Male</b>	3-5	94.9	94.6	94.6
	6-11	99.8	99.8	99.9
	12-16	91.8	95.2	96.9
	17-18	54.3	59.5	68
	19-24	16.2	21.5	26.8
<b>Female</b>	3-5	94.9	94.6	94.7
	6-11	99.8	99.8	99.9
	12-16	95.6	96.8	98
	17-18	62.7	68.7	74.1
	19-24	13.9	20.5	26.1
<b>Both sexes</b>	3-5	94.9	94.6	94.7
	6-11	99.8	99.8	99.9
	12-16	93.6	96	97.5
	17-18	58.3	63.9	71
	19-24	15.1	21	26.4

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)**

School attendance rates of youth have continuously increased from 1991 to 2001. Youth in Hong Kong Island have the highest school attendance rates.

## 29. School Attendance Rates

**Table 3.3: Population Aged 15 and Over with Tertiary Education\* by Sex, Age Group and Whether Studying, 1991, 1996 and 2001**

Sex	Age Group	Studying full-time		Studying part-time and distance learning course		Had completed study/ Withdrew	
		1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001
Male	15-19	80.7	88.3	14	9.2	5.3	2.5
	20-24	52	54.8	13.7	11.4	34,3	33.8
Female	15-19	7&6	88.9	14.9	7.7	6.5	3.4
	20-24	44.6	50.1	13.9	11.3	41.4	38.6
Both Sexes	15-19	79.7	88.6	14.4	8.4	5.9	3
	20-24	48,2	52.3	13.8	11.4	38	36.4

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

\* The figure refer to persons with educational attainment (highest level attended) as "Tertiary Education"

**Table 3.4: School Attendance Rates\* of Population Aged 3-18 by Sex and Age Group**

Sex	Age Group	1991	1996	2001
F	3-5	95	95	95
	6-11	100	100	100
	12-16	96	97	98
	17-18	63	69	74
M	3-5	95	95	95
	6-11	100	100	100
	12-16	92	95	97
	17-18	54	60	68

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Note: \* The percentage of population attending full-time schools or educational institutions in the respective sex-age groups.

Compared with 1996, young people with educational attainment of highest level as "Tertiary Education" has also increased by the way of studying full-time in 2001. From 1991 to 2001, school attendance rates rose among teenagers 3 to 16 years old. Since 1991, changes in attendance rates for this age group generally have been small. Attendance rates for 17- to 18-year-olds rose rapidly from 58 percent to 71 percent during the 1991-2001.

## 30. Educational Attainment

**Table 3.5: Youths by Educational Attainment (Highest Level Attended), 1991, 1996 and 2001**

Educational Attainment (Highest Level Attended)	1991		1996		2001	
	Youths	Whole Population	Youths	Whole Population	Youths	Whole Population
	Aged 15 and Over		Aged 15 and Over		Aged 15 and Over	
Number (Percentage <sup>(1)</sup> )						
No schooling/ Kindergarten	4 096 (0.5)	557 297 (12.8)	2 693 (0.3)	480 852 (9.5)	1 923 (0.2)	469 939 (8.4)
Primary	29 131 (3.5)	1 100 599 (25.2)	18 652 (2.1)	1 146 882 (22.6)	15 965 (1.7)	1 148 273 (20.5)
Lower Secondary	208 841 (24.9)	837 730 (19.1)	176 989 (20.4)	958 245 (18.9)	150 937 (16.4)	1 060 489 (18.9)
Upper Secondary	414 367 (49.3)	1 169 271 (26.7)	409 658 (47.1)	1 403 211 (27.7)	401 981 (43.7)	1 473 681 (26.3)
Matriculation <sup>(2)</sup>	68 128 (8.1)	214 577 (4.9)	100 350 (11.5)	308 808 (6.1)	172 396 (18.7)	528 090 (9.4)
Tertiary Non-degree course	74 789 (8.9)	234 912 (5.4)	61 733 (7.1)	243 004 (4.8)	44 976 (4.9)	209 878 (3.7)
Degree course	40 489 (4.8)	255 979 (5.9)	99 436 (11.4)	525 516 (10.4)	132 267 (14.4)	708 622 (12.7)
Sub-total	115 278 (13.7)	490 891 (11.2)	161 169 (18.5)	768 520 (15.2)	177 243 (19.3)	918 500 (16.4)
Total	839 841 (100.0)	4 370 365 (100.0)	869 511 (100.0)	5 066 518 (100.0)	920 445 (100.0)	5 598 972 (100.0)

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)**

Notes: (1) Figures in brackets represent the percentage in respect of the total.

(2) The Figures include the equivalent educational attainment (highest level attended) of "Technician level (other further non-advance education)" in the 1996 Population By-census and "Diploma/certificate courses in Institute of Vocational Education / former polytechnics" in the 2001 Population Census. However, the similar group "Diploma/certificate courses in technical institutes / polytechnics" was included under "Tertiary: Non-degree courses" in the 1991 Population Census. The Figures include the equivalent educational attainment (highest level attended) of "Technician level (other further non-advance education)" in the 1996 Population By-census and "Diploma/certificate courses in Institute of Vocational Education / former polytechnics" in the 2001 Population Census. However, the similar group "Diploma/certificate courses in technical institutes / polytechnics" was included under "Tertiary: Non-degree courses" in the 1991 Population Census.

## 30. Educational Attainment

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**Table 3.6: Educational Level\* of Hong Kong Youth aged between 15-39 (Highest Educational Level)**

No education/kindergarten	7
Primary	5.6
Lower Secondary	19
Upper Secondary	37.4
Matriculation	13.5
Degree	18.5
Non-degree	5.3

**Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)**

*\* Figures represent the percentage in respect of the total*

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According to Census and Statistics Department (2001), Youth in Hong Kong have experienced a continued growth in educational attainment over the past few years. In 2001, the percentage of youth reporting a university degree as their highest level of education was 14.4%, up from 11.4% in 1996. When viewed over time, it is clear that the number and proportion of university degrees held by youth in Hong Kong has increased significantly. In 1991, only 4.8% of youth reported university degrees their highest level of education (Table 3.5). For those aged 15-39, 18.5% of Hong Kong young people held university degrees in 2001 (Table 3.6)

## 31. School enrolment

**Table 3.7: Enrolment in Private Day Schools Offering Adult Education/  
Tutorial/Vocational Courses by Type of Course by Sex, 2001**

All Type of Course	Enrolment		
	Male	Female	Total
Commercial Course	4256	6390	10646
Technical/Vocational Course	648	920	1568
English Tutorial Classes	10595	12195	22790
Other Languages Tutorial Classes	1958	2731	4689
Primary & Secondary Tutorial Classes	10558	9235	19793
Other Tutorial Classes	7788	8416	16204
Other Courses	6675	6603	13278

Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)

*Note: Some of the students enrolled in Adult Education/Tutorial/Vocational Courses might have also enrolled in primary or secondary day schools at the same time.*

**Table 3.8 Enrolment in Evening Schools Offering Adult Education/  
Tutorial/Vocational Courses by Type of Course by Sex, 2001**

Sector	Type of Course	Enrolment		
		Male	Female	Total
All Sectors Government	All Type of Course	42048	53272	95320
	All Types of Course	4451	7849	12300
	English Course	1015	3040	4055
	Evening Secondary School Course	2838	3450	6288
	Secondary 5 Classes for repeaters	467	429	896
	Adult Education Courses (General Background)	131	930	1061
Private	Commercial Course	7077	8502	15579
	Technical/Vocational Course	1361	1698	3059
	English Tutorial Classes	12134	14755	26889
	Other Languages Tutorial Classes	3308	5314	8622
	Primary & Secondary Tutorial Classes	3358	2862	6220
	Other Tutorial Classes	7959	9003	16962
	Other Courses	2400	3289	5689

Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)

*Note: Some of the students enrolled in Adult Education/Tutorial/Vocational Courses might have also enrolled in primary or secondary day schools at the same time. Information of Government Evening Schools is provided by the Services and School Activities Section of the Education and Manpower Bureau.*

## 31. School enrolment

**Table 3.9 Population with Tertiary Education by Type of Tertiary Education and Sex, 1991, 1996 and 2002**

Year	Type of Tertiary Education	Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991	<b>Non-degree courses</b>						
	Higher diploma/diploma/certificate courses	75630	26.3	48967	24.0	124597	25.4
	Associate-ship or equivalent courses	7750	2.7	3079	1.5	10829	2.2
	Other courses	43109	15.0	56377	27.7	99486	20.3
	<b>Degree courses</b>						
	First degree courses	147584	51.4	89913	44.2	237497	48.4
	Postgraduate courses	13186	4.6	5296	2.6	18482	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>287259</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>203632</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490891</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
1996	<b>Non-degree courses</b>						
	Higher diploma/diploma/certificate courses	66635	15.5	33388	9.8	100023	13.0
	Associate-ship or equivalent courses	6295	1.5	3116	0.9	9411	1.2
	Other courses	55316	12.9	78254	23.0	133570	17.4
	<b>Degree courses</b>						
	First degree courses	252025	58.8	203216	59.8	455241	59.2
	Postgraduate courses	48313	11.3	21962	6.5	70275	9.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>428584</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>339936</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>768520</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
2001	<b>Non-degree courses</b>						
	Higher diploma/diploma/certificate courses	63380	13.2	49981	11.4	113361	12.3
	Associate-ship or equivalent courses	8405	1.7	6168	1.4	14573	1.6
	Other courses	32371	6.7	49573	11.4	81944	8.9
	<b>Degree courses</b>						
	First degree courses	300687	62.4	285033	65.3	585720	63.8
	Postgraduate courses	77016	16.0	45886	10.5	122902	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>481859</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>436641</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>918500</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Note: The 1991 figures include persons with educational attainment (highest level attended) of "Diploma/certificate courses in technical institutes/polytechnics".

In 2001, there were 918,500 students enrolled in degree courses in Hong Kong. More than 63% of these students were enrolling in first degree courses and 13% enrolled in postgraduate courses. A further 113,361 youth, nearly 12% of the total population of 918,500 were enrolled in Higher Diploma, Diploma, or Certificate courses. In 1996, there were 768,520 youth enrolled at the universities. Of these young people, approximately 59% were enrolled in First Degree courses and only 9% enrolled in Postgraduate courses.

## 32. Special education

Table 3.10 Enrolment in Special Education by Category by Level, 2001

Type of Special Education School	All Levels	Preparatory	Primary	Secondary
<b>Total Enrolment in Special Education</b>	9511	72	4301	5138
<b>Special School</b>	7522	72	4166	3284
Visually Impaired	164	26	88	50
Hearing Impaired	427	22	164	241
Physically Handicapped	732	24	428	280
Mentally Handicapped				
-Mild & Moderate	4331	-	2412	1919
-Severe	776	-	476	300
Hospital School	428	-	355	73
School for Social Development	664	-	243	421
English Schools Foundation Special School	57	-	32	25
Physically Handicapped/Severe Mentally Handicapped				
Practical School	1068	-	-	1068
Skills Opportunity School	707	-	-	707
Special Class in Ordinary School	157	-	103	54
Visually Impaired	30	-	13	17
Hearing Impaired	81	-	71	10
Moderate Learning Difficulties	46	-	19	27
Other	-	-	-	-

Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)

Special schools were offered to cater for partially-sighted, partially-hearing, and physically and mentally handicapped children. In addition, there were also practical school and skills opportunity schools offering skills-orientated curriculum to help students who had severe learning problems. Table 3.10 indicates the enrolment figures in special education in 2001 by category and by level.



### 33. Post-secondary and tertiary education

**Table 3.11: Students of Program Funded by University Grants Committee by Level of Study and Sex**

Level of Study	Sex	1986	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Sub-degree	F	8949 (30.3)	9619 (36.3)	13896 (60.8)	14603 (63.6)	13943 (63.6)	13758 (65.8)	12451 (66.8)	10299 (66.0)
	M	20551 (69.7)	16877 (63.7)	8970 (39.2)	8375 (36.4)	7973 (36.4)	7158 (34.2)	6198 (33.2)	5316 (34.0)
Undergraduate	F	5373 (37.8)	13689 (43.5)	24052 (49.6)	24308 (50.3)	24531 (51.5)	24919 (52.5)	25261 (53.1)	25605 (53.3)
	M	8829 (62.2)	17797 (56.5)	24473 (50.4)	24037 (49.7)	23113 (48.5)	22548 (47.5)	22345 (46.9)	22449 (46.7)
Taught postgraduate	F	1186 (37.1)	1775 (32.5)	3819 (36.2)	4229 (38.3)	4644 (41.8)	5078 (44.7)	5282 (46.9)	5321 (48.5)
	M	2012 (62.9)	3680 (67.5)	6720 (63.8)	6827 (61.7)	6459 (58.2)	6272 (55.3)	5973 (53.1)	5638 (51.5)
Research postgraduate	F	101 (20.0)	369 (24.5)	1068 (29.5)	1157 (30.3)	1270 (32.8)	1402 (34.9)	1494 (37.7)	1686 (39.4)
	M	403 (80.0)	1136 (75.5)	2552 (70.5)	2666 (69.7)	2605 (67.2)	2619 (65.1)	2468 (62.3)	2598 (60.6)
Total student enrolment	F	15609 (32.9)	25452 (39.2)	42835 (50.1)	44297 (51.4)	44388 (52.5)	45157 (53.9)	44488 (54.6)	42911 (54.4)
	M	31795 (67.1)	39490 (60.8)	42715 (49.9)	41905 (48.6)	40150 (47.5)	38597 (46.1)	26984 (45.4)	36001 (45.6)
	Total	47404	64942	85550	86202	84538	83754	81472	78912

**Source: University Grants Committee (2001)**

*Notes: Figures in brackets denote the percentage share of female and male students in each level of study in a particular year. The Hong Kong Institute of Education came under the aegis of the University Grants Committee with effect from 1 July 1996.*

Female students outnumbered male students in the undergraduate and sub-degree program funded by University Grants Committee except taught and research postgraduate degree program where they make up 48.5% and 39.4% respectively. Female students particularly outnumbered males in the sub-degree program, where they comprised 66% of the student population.

## 34. After school activities

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**Table 3.12: Where will you spend time after school?**

	Percentage
Stay in the school	33.7%
Shopping plaza in the district	20.9%
Library/ Study room	19.8%
Classmate/ Friend's home	18.5%
Playground	15.0%
Youth centre/ Community centre	12.0%
Tuition centre	11.0%
Restaurant	10.0%
Shopping plaza outside the district	8.0%
Park	5.0%
TV game centre	4.0%
Cinema	3.0%
Karaoke	2.0%
Part-time working venue	1.0%
Church	1.0%
Other	1.0%
Go home	5.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (1999)

**Table 3.13: Activities most frequently done by youth after school**

Male		Female	
Watch TV	71.1%	Watch TV	77.8%
Sport / Football	64.7%	Sport / Football	49.6%
Read Comic Book	52.0%	Read Comic Book	45.8%
Play TV Game	50.6%	Play TV Game	41.6%
Use Computer / online	40.9%	Use Computer / online	37.9%

Source: Breakthrough (1998)

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Table 3.12 indicates that staying in the school, going to the plaza in the district and studying in the library were the popular activities after school. Table 3.13 shows that the most activities most frequently done by youth after school was watching television, followed by playing sport or football and reading comic book.

## 35. Information technology proficiency

**Table 3.14: On average, how much time do you spend on the Internet a day?**

	Frequency	Percent
Sometimes/ Occasionally/ Rarely	190	28.9%
Less than 1 hour	177	27.0%
1 hour to less than 2 hours	177	26.9%
2 hour to less than 3 hours	71	10.8%
3 hour to less than 4 hours	23	3.5%
4 hour to less than 5 hours	11	1.7%
5 hour to less than 6 hours	4	0.6%
6 hour or above	4	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2000)

**Table 3.15: On average, how much time do you spend on the Internet a day?**

	Education		
	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Sometimes/ Occasionally/ Rarely	176 31.9%	14 13.4%	190 28.9%
Less than 2 hours	296 53.6%	58 55.9%	354 54.0%
More than 2 hours	80 14.5%	32 30.7%	112 17.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>552</b> 100.0%	<b>104</b> 100.0%	<b>656</b> 100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2000)

**Table 3.16: Where is the computer you use to access the Internet?**

	Frequency	Percent
At home	547	83.1%
At school (Classes, libraries, computer centres)	219	33.3%
At the homes of schoolmates/ friends/ relatives	79	12.0%
At public libraries	10	1.5%
At Internet shops/ Computer centres	5	0.7%
At youth centres/ At community centres/ At private tuition classes	4	0.6%
At non-computer centres (coffee shops, bookshops etc.)	3	0.4%
Other	2	0.3%
Don't know / hard to tell	1	0.1%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2000)

## 35. Information technology proficiency

**Table 3.17: What kinds of activity do you pursue most often on the Internet?**

	Frequency	Percent
Reading newspapers/ Collecting information	400	60.7%
Using ICQ/ Chat Room	302	45.8%
Reading entertainment news	130	19.8%
Using e-mail	106	16.1%
Playing games	73	11.1%
Downloading materials	61	9.3%
Doing homework	58	8.8%
No Specific activity/ Just Browsing	36	5.5%
Joining news group	33	5.1%
Designing web sites	8	1.3%
Shopping / For consumption	2	0.3%
Other	1	0.1%
Don't know / hard to tell	2	0.3%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2000)

**Table 3.18: Persons aged 12 and over who had used Internet at home by age and sex**

Age group	Male			Female			Overall		
	No. of persons ('000)	%	Rate*	No. of persons ('000)	%	Rate*	No. of persons ('000)	%	Rate*
12-19	35.6	16.7	9.3	23.1	19.7	6.1	58.7	17.8	7.7
20-29	78.5	36.8	16.6	47.4	40.5	9	125.9	38.1	12.6

Source: Census and Statistics Department (1998)

Notes: \* As a percentage of all persons aged 12 and over in the respective age and sex sub-group. For example, among all males aged 12-19, 9.3% had used Internet at home. # Figures in brackets represent the percentages in respect of all persons aged 12 and over who had used Internet at home.

Table 3.15 indicates that a considerable number of respondents (28.9%) browsed the Internet occasionally and this was particularly the case of secondary school students. Meanwhile, Table 3.14 shows that about 54% of respondents spent on average less than 2 hours on the Internet each day. In other words, a total of 83% of respondents spent no more than 14 hours on the Internet per week. A large portion of respondents (83%) said that they usually surfed the Internet at home (Table 3.16). About two-third of the respondents (60.7%) used the Internet to read news and collect information (Table 3.17).

## 35. Information technology proficiency

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**Table 3.19: Households with personal computer (PC) at home connected to Internet by household size/number of persons aged 12 and over who had used Internet at home**

Household size/number of persons aged 12 and over who had used Internet at home	No. of households ('000)	Percentage (%)
<b>Household size*</b>		
1	22	9.5
2	43.1	18.6
3	40.3	17.4
4 or above	125.7	54.4
<b>Number of persons aged 12 and over who had used Internet at home</b>		
0#	4.2	1.8
1	144.5	62.5
2	66	28.5
3 or above	16.5	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>231.1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (1998)**

*Notes: \* Households size refers to the number of persons who usually lived in the household.; #There were some cases in which none of the persons aged 12 and over in the household with PCs at home connected to Internet had ever used Internet at home before the time of enumeration for one reason or another (e.g. the Internet account was newly opened and not yet used by anyone, or the PC connected to Internet at home was used only by persons in order households).*

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Table 3.19 indicates that most of the respondents had computers at home connect to the Internet. Although most schools provide Internet surfing facilities to students under the current educational policy, only 33.3% of respondents said that they accessed the Internet at school (Table3.16).

## Section B. Investment on Education and School Dropouts

### 36. Expenditure on education

**Table 3.20: Total Government / Public Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product, 1997-98-2002-03**

Fiscal Year	Total Public Expenditure on Education * \$Mn (A)	Gross Domestic Product \$Mn (B)	Percentage (%) (A)/(B)
1997-98	47025	1346815	3.5
1998-99	48480	1260829	3.8
1999-2000	50305	1264066@	4.0
2000-01	51410	1289433@	4.0
2001-02+	52595	1270925@	4.1

Sources: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Education and Manpower Bureau (2002)

Notes: \* Rounded to the nearest \$5 million; + Revised estimates; \* Revised figure; @ Figures are subject to revision later as more data become available

**Table 3.21: Amount spent on each student in the school years 1997/98 to 2001/02**

Education Period		1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02
Kindergarten		na	na	na	na	na
Primary Education		18500	20000	20600	22700	23600
Secondary Education	F.1-F.5	25800	28500	30300	32100	33600
	F.6-F.7	42400	46800	49600	52300	54200
Tertiary Education	Associate Degree	155000	152000	156000	161000	na
	Degree	241000	226000	233000	247000	na
	Postgraduate Programme	320000	315000	329000	332000	na

Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2002)

Many students access funds from various sources in order to finance their education. Government provides public financial aid to the students for their development and improvement of occupational skills. Total government public expenditure on education as a percentage of gross domestic products has been increased from 3.5% to 4.1%. In addition, amount spent on each student in the school years 1997 – 2002 is also trended upwards.

## 37. School Dropouts

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**Table 3.22: Statistics on dropout students aged between 6 and 15**

School years	1997/98			1998/99		
Levels	S1-S3	P1-P6	TOTAL	S1-S3	P1-P6	TOTAL
<b>Dropout Cases</b>	1660	339	1999	1352	246	1598
<b>Enrolment</b>	246713	461812	708525	238877	476682	715559
<b>Dropout Rate</b>	0.673%	0.073%	0.282%	0.566%	0.052%	0.223%
School years	1999/2000			2000/2001		
Levels	S1-S3	P1-P6	TOTAL	S1-S3	P1-P6	TOTAL
<b>Dropout Cases</b>	1106	256	1362	1114	219	1333
<b>Enrolment</b>	235873	491851	727724	241616	493979	735595
<b>Dropout Rate</b>	0.469%	0.052%	0.187%	0.461%	0.044%	0.181%

**Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)**

*Notes:*

*S1-S3 = Secondary 1 - Secondary 3; P1-P6 = Primary 1 Primary 6; Dropout Cases = Students (aged between 6 and 15) leaving school / School Transfers / Those left HK / Those admitted to Boys' and Girls' Homes;*

*Dropout Rate = Dropout Cases / Enrolment X 100*

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The proportion of primary and secondary students who were dropouts fell between 1997 and 2001. The dropout rate for the secondary students fell more rapidly, from 0.673 percent in 1997 to 0.461 percent in 2001.

## Section C. New Immigrants

### 38. New Immigrants – Demographic characteristics

**Table 3.23: One-way permit holders entering Hong Kong by age group and sex**

Age group	1986	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>Male</b>								
<b>0-4</b>	1473	1156	3600	1127	1182	4711	3699	4859
<b>5-9</b>	1612	1497	6380	2576	6315	4271	2721	2271
<b>10-14</b>	1672	1499	3157	3962	7989	2922	3503	1925
<b>15-19</b>	1232	1298	1977	1704	1386	1210	1316	779
<b>20-24</b>	1070	1083	911	1297	723	331	382	412
<b>25-29</b>	859	953	1069	629	107	840	1637	1502
<b>Female</b>								
<b>0-4</b>	1150	1102	3199	1012	1090	4433	3352	4276
<b>5-9</b>	1173	1160	5858	2411	5815	4129	2649	2268
<b>10-14</b>	1157	1187	3022	3762	7780	3244	3700	1977
<b>15-19</b>	861	841	2192	1781	1520	1210	1338	727
<b>20-24</b>	1534	1344	2359	2777	899	394	461	506
<b>25-29</b>	2232	2916	5291	4146	1026	3643	5631	6896

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Table 3.23 shows that the age distribution of the new immigrants. It can be noted that a high proportion of new arrivals were children aged 0-4 and young women aged 25-29



## 38. New Immigrants – Demographic characteristics

**Table 3.24 Youths from the Mainland Having Resided in Hong Kong for Less Than 7 Years**

Sex	Age Group	Duration of Residence in Hong Kong (Year)					Youth Population
		<1	1-<3	3-<5	5-<7	Total	
Male	15-19	1 000 (2.6)	3 124 (8.0)	5 435 (13.9)	4 563 (11.7)	14 122 (36.2)	231 329 (25.1)
	20-24	335 (0.9)	737 (1.9)	1 664 (4.3)	2 706 (6.9)	5 442 (13.9)	225 310 (24.5)
	Sub-total	1 335 (3.4)	3 861 (9.9)	7 099 (18.2)	7 269 (18.6)	19 564 (50.1)	456 639 (49.6)
Female	15-19	943 (2.4)	3 163 (8.1)	5 718 (14.6)	3 810 (9.8)	13 634 (34.9)	218 990 (23.8)
	20-24	465 (1.2)	829 (2.1)	2 148 (5.5)	2 415 (6.2)	5 857 (15.0)	244 816 (26.6)
	Sub-total	1 408 (3.6)	3 992 (10.2)	7 866 (20.1)	6 225 (15.9)	19 491 (49.9)	463 806 (50.4)
Both Sexes	15-19	1 943 (5.0)	6 287 (16.1)	11 153 (28.6)	8 373 (21.4)	27 756 (71.1)	450 319 (48.9)
	20-24	800 (2.0)	1 566 (4.0)	3 812 (9.8)	5 121 (13.1)	11 299 (28.9)	470 126 (51.1)
	Sub-total	2 743 (7.0)	7 853 (20.1)	14 965 (38.3)	13 494 (34.6)	39 055 (100.0)	920 445 (100.0)

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

**Table 3.25: Population Aged 5 and Over Having Moved into Hong Kong during the Past Five Years\* by Age Group and Sex, 2001**

Age Group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
	Number	Number	Number
5- 9	23971	21782	45753
10-14	25941	25183	51124
15-19	15147	17110	32257
20-24	13987	44294	58281
25-29	20822	63202	84024

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Notes: \* Refer to persons residing outside Hong Kong five years ago

According to the 2001 Population Census, there were 4.2% of youths coming from the Mainland and resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years (Table 3.24)

## 39. New Immigrants – Education

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**Table 3.26 Number of Newly Admitted Pupils from the Mainland in Primary Schools by Grade, 1997-2001\***

Grade	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>P1</b>	5282 (43.6)	4295 (24.1)	4800 (27.4)	3534 (30.4)	3567 (40.6)
<b>P2</b>	1629 (13.4)	2474 (13.9)	3214 (18.3)	1737 (14.9)	1304 (14.9)
<b>P3</b>	1637 (13.5)	2974 (16.7)	3145 (18.0)	1742 (15.0)	1200 (13.7)
<b>P4</b>	1629 (13.4)	3309 (18.6)	2617 (14.9)	1854 (15.9)	1031 (11.7)
<b>P5</b>	1368 (11.3)	3280 (18.4)	2250 (12.8)	1811 (15.6)	1017 (11.6)
<b>P6</b>	567 (4.7)	1467 (8.2)	1492 (8.5)	952 (8.2)	656 (7.5)
<b>All Grades</b>	12112 (100.0)	17799 (100.0)**	17518 (100.0)	11630 (100.0)	8775 (100.0)

**Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)**

*Notes: \*Year 1997 refers to the period from October 1996 to September 1997 and so forth; Figures in brackets denote the percentages share out of our grade; Percentages might not add up to total due to rounding.*

**Table 3.27 Number of Newly Admitted Pupils from the Mainland in Secondary Schools by Grade, 1997-2001\***

Grade	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>S1</b>	1057 (42.6)	1178 (37.5)	746 (28.5)	950 (31.4)	445 (32.4)
<b>S2</b>	814 (32.8)	1076 (34.3)	1273 (48.7)	1015 (33.5)	437 (31.9)
<b>S3</b>	440 (17.7)	635 (20.2)	433 (16.6)	678 (22.4)	310 (22.6)
<b>S4</b>	152 (6.1)	214 (6.8)	145 (5.5)	307 (10.1)	146 (10.6)
<b>S5</b>	20 (0.8)	37 (1.2)	17 (0.7)	78 (2.6)	34 (2.5)
<b>S6</b>	1 (#)	1 (#)	/ (-)	2 (0.1)	/ (-)
<b>S7</b>	/ (-)	/ (-)	/ (-)	/ (-)	/ (-)
<b>All Grades</b>	2484 (100.0)	3141 (100.0)	2614 (100.0)	3030 (100.0)	1372 (100.0)

**Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)**

*Notes: \*Year 1997 refers to the period from October 1996 to September 1997 and so forth; Figures in brackets denote the percentages share out of our grade; Percentages might not add up to total due to rounding.*

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Table 3.26 and 3.27 shows that there are decreasing numbers of new pupils from the Mainland admitted in the upper grades of the primary and secondary schools.

## 39. New Immigrants – Education

**Table 3.28: Number of Newly Admitted Pupils from the Mainland in Secondary Schools by Age and Sex, 1997-2001\***

Age	Sex	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
11 and below	Male	6	13	14	10	2
	Female	13	22	12	13	2
	Sub-total	19 (0.8)	35 (1.1)	26 (1.0)	23 (0.8)	4 (0.3)
12-14	Male	482	608	666	535	248
	Female	495	696	517	683	346
	Sub-total	977 (39.3)	1304 (41.5)	1183 (45.3)	1218 (40.2)	594 (43.3)
15-16	Male	556	623	657	482	231
	Female	631	762	505	660	314
	Sub-total	1187 (47.8)	1385 (44.1)	1162 (44.5)	1142 (37.7)	545 (39.7)
17 and over	Male	126	160	145	266	85
	Female	175	257	98	381	144
	Sub-total	301 (12.1)	417 (13.3)	243 (9.3)	647 (21.4)	229 (16.7)
Total	Male	1170	1404	1482	1293	566
	Female	1314	1737	1132	1737	806
	Sub-total	2484 (100.0)	3141 (100.0)	2614 (100.0)	3030 (100.0)	1382 (100.0)

**Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)**

*Notes: \*Year 1997 refers to the period from October 1996 to September 1997 and so forth; Figures in brackets denote the percentages share out of our grade; Percentages might not add up to total due to rounding.*

**Table 3.29: Number of Newly Admitted Pupils from the Mainland in Primary Schools by Age and Sex, 1997-2001**

Age	Sex	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
5	Male	276	201	195	172	209
	Female	248	204	205	200	192
	Sub-total	524 (4.3)	405 (2.3)	400 (2.3)	372 (3.2)	401 (4.6)
6-11	Male	4867	6536	6892	4313	3496
	Female	4556	5939	6558	4184	3387
	Sub-total	9423 (77.8)	12455 (70.1)	13450 (76.8)	8497 (73.1)	6883 (78.4)
12-14	Male	1100	2467	1691	1329	715
	Female	946	2299	1821	1336	732
	Sub-total	2406 (16.9)	4766 (26.8)	3512 (20.0)	2665 (22.9)	1447 (16.5)
15 and over	Male	65	83	70	43	24
	Female	54	70	86	53	20
	Sub-total	119 (1.0)	153 (0.8)	156 (0.9)	96 (0.8)	44 (0.5)
Total	Male	6308	9287	8848	5857	4444
	Female	5804	8512	8670	5773	4331
	Sub-total	12112 (100.0)	17799 (100.0)	17518 (100.0)	11630 (100.0)	8775 (100.0)

**Source: Education and Manpower Bureau (2001)**

*Notes: \*Year 1997 refers to the period from October 1996 to September 1997 and so forth; Figures in brackets denote the percentages share out of our grade; Percentages might not add up to total due to rounding.*

Table 3.28 and 3.29 indicate the decrease in proportion of new immigrants entering primary and secondary schools for the period between 1998 and 2001

## 40. New Immigrants – Housing and Income

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**Table 3.30: A study on new arrivals from the Mainland**

	Percentage
Public rental housing	45.3%
Private rental room/ bed	26.0%
Simple-stone house/ Wood house/ Quarter/ Roof	9.3%
Private rental housing	7.9%
Private residential flats	7.9%
Housing Authority Subsidized Sale flats	2.0%
Government temporarily housing	1.6%
Total	100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (1999)

**Table 3.31: Monthly Household Income of New Arrival**

Monthly household income (H.K. Dollars)	Percentage
Less than 3000	12.6%
3000-4999	9.8%
5000-6999	20.1%
7000-8999	25.3%
9000-10999	18.9%
11000-12999	5.8%
13000-14999	2.6%
15000+	2.9%
Don't know	2.0%
Total	100.0%
Monthly median Household Income (H. K. Dollars)	7500

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (1999)

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According to the study of Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group, about half of the new arrivals (45.3%) were living in public rental housing (Table 3.30). In 1999, the median monthly household income of new immigrants is \$7,500 (Table 3.31).

## Section D: Health

### 41. Expectation of life

Table 3.32: Expectation of Life at Birth of Selected Countries 1989 to 1998

	Sex	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Hong Kong SAR**</b>	Male	75.2	74.8	75.3	75.7	76	76.2	76.4	76.9
	Female	80.7	80.7	80.9	81.5	81.5	81.8	82	82.2
<b>China</b>	Male	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	68	68	68.8
	Female	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.5	71	71	73.2
<b>Taiwan</b>	Male	71.8	71.8	71.6	71.8	71.9	71.9	71.9	72
	Female	77.2	77.2	77.6	77.8	77.8	77.8	77.8	77.9
<b>Japan***</b>	Male	76.1	76.1	76.3	76.6	76.4	77	77.2	77.2
	Female	82.1	82.2	82.5	83	82.9	83.6	83.8	84
<b>Singapore</b>	Male	73.4	73.8	74	74.2	4.2	74.6	75	75.2*
	Female	77.9	78.2	78.3	78.5	78.7	79	79.2	79.3
<b>Rep. of Korea</b>	Male	67.7	68.8	68.8	68.8	69.6	69	70.6	-
	Female	75.7	76.9	76.8	76.9	77.4	76	78.1	-
<b>Thailand</b>	Male	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
	Female	71	71	71	71	71.7	71.7	71.7	71.7
<b>Australia</b>	Male	74.4	74.5	75	75	75	75.9	75.9	75.9
	Female	80.3	80.4	80.8	80.8	80.8	81.5	81.5	81.5
<b>New Zealand</b>	Male	72.9	72.9	73.1	73.4	74.3	74.3	74.3	-
	Female	78.7	78.7	78.9	79.1	79.6	79.6	79.6	-
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Male	74.6	74.9	74.9	75.1	75.3	75.7	75.8	-
	Female	80.9	81.2	81	81.1	81.4	81.4	-	-
<b>U.S.A.</b>	Male	72	72.3	72.2	72.4	72.5	73.1	73.6	73.8
	Female	78.9	79.1	78.8	79	78.9	79.1	79.4	79.5
<b>U.K.</b>	Male	78.8	78.9	79.1	79.2	79.4	79.5	79.7	-
	Female	73.2	73.4	73.7	73.9	74.1	74.3	74.6	-
<b>Sweden</b>	Male	74.9	75.4	75.5	76.1	75.9	76.5	76.6	76.9
	Female	80.5	80.8	80.8	81.4	81.3	81.5	81.8	81.9

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Notes: N.A. Not applicable / Not available

\*Provisional/Preliminary figure

\*\* Statistics from 1996 onwards are those compiled based on the 'resident population' approach. They are thus not strictly comparable with those of earlier years. \*\*\* Data only cover persons of Japanese nationality.

According to Census and Statistics Department, life expectancy is a measurement of the average age an individual can expect to live given the current probability of dying at each age. Women in Hong Kong can expect to live longer, on average, than men. The life expectancy for women in Hong Kong was 82.2 years as compared to 76.9 years for males. In recent years, the gap between the life expectancy of females and males in Hong Kong has narrowed.

## 42. Mortality rates

**Table 3.33: Age-specific Mortality Rate by Sex**

Age group	1981	1986	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Male</b>								
<1	10.7	7.5	6.2	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.5
1-4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
5-9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
10-14	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
15-19	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
20-24	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5
25-29	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7
<b>Female</b>								
<1	9.2	7.1	6.8	3.5	3.5	2.8	2.8	3
1-4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
5-9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
10-14	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
15-19	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
20-24	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
25-29	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)**

*Note: Figures in the table are compiled based on the dates of deaths*

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the mortality rate differs between the sexes. Throughout the age range 1-14, the young male rate of death surpasses the female rate primarily due to external factors such as injury and poisoning. As might be expected, the highest death rates are for infants (first year of life).

## 42. Mortality rates

Table 3.34: Number of Deaths by Leading Causes of Death by Sex by Age, 2000

Rank	Cause of Death	Sex	Age Group	
			1 - 4	5 - 14
1	Malignant neoplasms (ICD9: 140-208)	Male	3	14
		Female	2	11
		<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>
2	Heart diseases, including hypertensive heart disease (ICD9: 390-429)	Male	0	6
		Female	2	4
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
3	Cerebrovascular disease (ICD9: 430-438)	Male	0	1
		Female	0	3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
4	Pneumonia, all forms (ICD9: 480-486)	Male	4	4
		Female	2	2
		<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
5	Injury and Poisoning (ICD9: 800-999)	Male	6	23
		Female	3	10
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>
6	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (ICD9: 580-589)	Male	0	1
		Female	0	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
7	Diabetes mellitus (ICD9: 250)	Male	0	0
		Female	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (ICD9: 571)	Male	1	0
		Female	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
9	Septicaemia (ICD9: 038)	Male	2	1
		Female	2	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
10	Aortic aneurysm (ICD9: 441)	Male	0	0
		Female	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	All other causes	Male	14	6
		Female	13	8
		Unknown	1	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>
	All causes (ICD9: 001-999)	Male	30	56
		Female	24	40
		Unknown	1	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>96</b>

Source: Hospital Authority (2002)

Note: The classification of diseases and causes of death is based on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD) 9th Revision. The disease codes according to the classification are shown in brackets.

## 42. Mortality rates

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**Table 3.35: In-patients Discharged and Deaths in Hospital Authority Hospitals by Age Group and Sex**

Age group	Sex	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
0-4	F	26 071	26 633	25 813	25 128	25 114
	M	35 063	35 830	34 458	33 474	32 780
5-14	F	10 684	12 031	11 997	12 246	14 143
	M	18 014	19 471	19 836	20 528	21 653

Source: Hospital Authority (2001)

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Mortality or death rates are often used as an indicator of the health and/or wellness of Hong Kong population. When examining the total number of deaths between 1981 and 2000, it is clear that young females are disproportionately represented in the number of deaths. Of all the deaths recorded between 1981 and 2001, 35% were women and 65% were men.

This discrepancy might be explained by the nature of work performed by women and men. According to the data reported by Hospital Authority in 2002, one possible explanation would be that death by accident while at work may be more likely for men than for women in Hong Kong. Young men are more likely than young women to work in the goods-producing sectors of the economy. In 2000, 41% of young male deaths and 25% of female deaths resulted from injury, accident or poisoning.



## 43. Fertility rates

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**Table 3.36: Age-specific Fertility Rate\***

Age group of mother	1981	1986	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
15-19	11.7	7.0	6.5	5.6	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1
20-24	85.9	48.6	39.1	35.9	32.2	30.1	30.3	31.2	29.0
25-29	153.0	111.9	97.4	80.6	72.5	64.0	62.0	65.4	58.2

**Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)**

*Note: \*Number of live births per 1000 women*

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Just as mortality rates provide some insight into the health of young population, so do fertility rates. Over the past decade, the number of births has fluctuated from year to year, showing a general pattern of decline in the number of births since the early 1980s. The following data reflects the number of births that occurred in Hong Kong but does not include women who delivered babies outside the region.

Youth fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1,000 women between the ages 15 and 29. Over the last 10 years, the birth rate for Hong Kong women aged 25-29 has ranged from a high of 97.4 births per 1,000 women in 1991, to a low of 58.2 births per 1,000 women in 2001. As the pattern of births would indicate, the birth rate in the Hong Kong has tended to decline since 1991.

## 44. Physical disabilities

**Table 3.37: Persons with Disabilities\* by Age Group and Sex**

Age group	Sex	2000
<15	F	3.4
	M	5.6
15-29	F	5.6
	M	7.6

Source: Census and Statistics Department (2001)

Note: \* Excluding mentally handicapped persons as they are considered to be subject to under-estimation.

A crude statistical assessment shows that the total number of mentally handicapped persons in Hong Kong might be in the region of 62 000-87 000.

**Table 3.38: Number of Registrants by Type and Degree of Disability by Age Group as at 31 March 2001**

**Table 3.38(a) Hearing Impairment**

Age group	Hearing loss > 70bd	Hearing loss 40 - 70bd	Hearing loss 26 -40 bd	Not reported/ unknown	Total
0 - 3	9	4	0	0	13
4 - 5	48	14	3	0	65
6 - 11	261	140	16	15	432
12 - 14	149	127	17	10	303
15 - 15	72	53	5	6	136
16 - 17	173	106	17	16	312
18 - 20	232	181	32	24	469
21 - 24	477	338	56	93	964
25 - 29	375	481	93	102	1,051

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

**Table 3.38(b) Visual Impairment**

Age group	Severe low vision to totally blind	Moderate low vision	Mild low vision	Not reported/ unknown	Total
0 - 3	2	0	0	0	2
4 - 5	6	10	7	0	23
6 - 11	49	22	20	7	98
12 - 14	67	15	12	9	103
15 - 15	28	3	7	8	46
16 - 17	38	15	12	12	77
18 - 20	63	78	14	30	185
21 - 24	107	156	23	44	330
25 - 29	158	75	21	46	300

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

## 44. Physical disabilities

**Table 3.38(c) Physical Handicap**

Age group	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Not reported/ unknown	Total
0 - 3	5	4	3	0	12
4 - 5	20	17	17	3	57
6 - 11	408	76	57	116	657
12 - 14	505	54	65	216	840
15 - 15	200	30	35	110	375
16 - 17	321	129	97	197	744
18 - 20	520	259	270	306	1,355
21 - 24	580	212	137	534	1,463
25 - 29	611	189	89	663	1,552

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

**Table 3.38(d) Speech Impairment\***

Age group	Total
0 - 3	21
4 - 5	64
6 - 11	380
12 - 14	246
15 - 15	105
16 - 17	183
18 - 20	199
21 - 24	135
25 - 29	97

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

Note: \*Figures on degree of disability are not available

**Table 3.38(e) Mental Handicap**

Age group	IQ < 25	IQ 25- 49	IQ 50 -70	Not reported / unknown	Total
0 - 3	6	6	13	1	26
4 - 5	22	22	27	1	72
6 - 11	193	625	848	257	1,923
12 - 14	136	569	1,200	304	2,209
15 - 15	39	224	472	77	812
16 - 17	98	469	959	398	1,924
18 - 20	195	774	1,596	682	3,247
21 - 24	289	1,060	1,901	459	3,709
25 - 29	369	1,308	1,935	403	4,015

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

## 44. Physical disabilities

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**Table 3.38(f) Autism\***

Age group	Total
0 - 3	27
4 - 5	92
6 - 11	452
12 - 14	313
15 - 15	114
16 - 17	242
18 - 20	330
21 - 24	231
25 - 29	82

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

Note: \*Figures on degree of disability are not available

**Table 3.38(g) Mental Illness**

Age group	Psychoses	Neuroses	Other mental disorders	Total
0 - 3	0	0	0	0
4 - 5	0	0	1	1
6 - 11	10	2	5	17
12 - 14	30	2	11	43
15 - 15	11	1	3	15
16 - 17	25	6	4	35
18 - 20	38	11	24	73
21 - 24	173	21	47	241
25 - 29	461	27	66	554

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

**Table 3.38(h) Visceral Disability\***

Age group	Total
0 - 3	4
4 - 5	15
6 - 11	154
12 - 14	87
15 - 15	32
16 - 17	57
18 - 20	94
21 - 24	103
25 - 29	179

Source: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (2002)

Note: \*Figures on degree of disability are not available

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Table 3.37 and 3.38(a-h) shows the age distribution of the youth population in Hong Kong in 2001 as registrants of physical and mental disablement.

## 45. Attitudes to and awareness of health problems

**Table 3.39: Health awareness of youth**

	Appearance awareness	Health awareness	Awareness of healthy diet	Awareness of skin care
Not pass	3.9%	4.8%	8.7%	12.9%
Merely pass	12.6%	17.8%	21.7%	24.2%
Pass	83.3%	77.4%	69.4%	62.8%
Don't know / hard to tell	0.2%	--	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Mean</b>	70.4	66.4	62.9	61.8
<b>Median</b>	70.0	70.0	60.0	60.0
<b>Mode</b>	80.0	70.0	70.0	50.0
<b>Minimum</b>	0	5.0	0	0
<b>Maximum</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (1997)

**Table 3.40: Health awareness and skin care awareness of youth\***

	Health awareness		Awareness of skin care	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Not pass	18 7.1%	7 2.6%	48 18.8%	19 7.2%
Merely pass	51 20.0%	42 15.8%	83 32.5%	43 16.2%
Pass	186 72.9%	217 81.6%	124 48.6%	203 76.6%
<b>Total</b>	255 100.0%	266 100.0%	255 100.0%	265 100.0%
<b>Mean</b>	65.2	67.5	56.2	67.1
<b>Median</b>	70.0	70.0	50.0	70.0
<b>Mode</b>	70.0	70.0	50.0	70.0
<b>Minimum</b>	5.0	0	0	10.0
<b>Maximum</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (1997)

Table 3.39 and 3.40 shows that most of the youth were awarded of health and appearance.

## 46. Medical Consultation

**Table 3.41: Clients Seeking Doctor Consultation at Public Day Government General Out-patient Clinics by Age Group and Sex**

Age group	Sex	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
0-4	F	1 859	2 118	1 756	1 581	1 462	1 218
	M	2 229	2 366	2 166	1 753	1 700	1 406
5-9	F	1 563	1 640	1 738	1 561	1 774	1 435
	M	1 809	2 008	2 026	1 759	1 978	1 670
10-14	F	1 236	1 291	1 305	1 132	1 200	1 112
	M	1 344	1 587	1 428	1 206	1 315	1 213
15-19	F	1 096	1 279	1 372	1 198	1 207	1 029
	M	1 020	1 297	1 164	1 085	1 154	945
20-24	F	791	901	1 001	885	914	940
	M	649	764	824	848	888	798
25-29	F	1 020	1 147	1 179	1 117	1 176	1 053
	M	777	765	854	890	930	823

Source: Department of Health (2001)

Notes: Excluding clients with unknown age or sex.

**Table 3.42: Number of In-patients Staying in Hospital Authority Hospitals by Age and Sex**

Age group	30 September 1999				31 March 2000			
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%
0-4 *	521	398	919	4.30%	622	428	1050	4.60%
5-9	160	118	278	1.30%	179	117	296	1.30%
10-14	146	105	251	1.20%	146	107	253	1.10%
15-19	177	176	353	1.60%	179	158	337	1.50%
20-24	265	284	549	2.50%	292	283	575	2.50%
25-29	397	493	890	4.10%	401	485	886	3.90%

Age group	30 September 2000				31 March 2001			
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%
0-4 *	534	427	961	4.60%	531	416	947	4.30%
5-9	144	110	254	1.20%	171	135	306	1.40%
10-14	132	100	232	1.10%	134	129	263	1.20%
15-19	203	127	330	1.60%	173	136	309	1.40%
20-24	286	304	590	2.80%	271	284	555	2.50%
25-29	406	440	846	4.00%	404	392	796	3.60%

Source: Hospital Authority (2001)

Notes: \* Well babies were excluded from enumeration.

It can be noted that children aged 0-4 have high proportion of both out-patient and in-patient visits in the clinics and hospitals.

## 47. Abortion

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**Table 3.43 Abortion-No. of legal Termination of Pregnancy (TOP), 1996-2000**

Age Group	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Aged under 20	2106	2024	1899	1843	1923
20-24	5619	5337	4804	4547	4855
25-29	5452	5148	4872	4518	4551

Source: Department of Health (2002)

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Between 1996 and 1997, a total of 59,498 legal abortions were performed by young people aged under 30. Numbers of abortions have fluctuated over the years, as shown in Table 3.43.

Abortion rates are calculated by determining the number of legal abortions per 1,000 females age 15-49 in a given population. The majority of abortions were for women under the age of 25. Of the 59,498 abortions performed between 1996 and 2000, 58.8% were for women under the age of 25.

## 48. Physical and Mental diseases

Table 3.44: Physical and Mental diseases of youth in 1997-2001

1997	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
Infectious and parasitic diseases	4.1%	3.8%	3.3%	2.5%
Neoplasms	3.6%	3.3%	2.5%	2.4%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	2.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	2.2%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%
Mental disorders	2.3%	4.9%	5.0%	4.0%
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	6.6%	4.4%	3.0%	2.3%
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.6%	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%
Diseases of the respiratory system	12.3%	7.5%	5.1%	3.4%
Diseases of the digestive system	8.3%	11.1%	10.4%	7.7%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	9.6%	5.8%	6.5%	6.4%
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.4%	11.2%	31.8%	47.7%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	4.9%	5.2%	3.4%	2.5%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3.6%	3.9%	3.2%	2.4%
Congenital anomalies	4.6%	2.0%	0.8%	0.5%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	12.0%	13.7%	11.0%	8.2%
Injury and poisoning	25.3%	24.1%	17.1%	12.2%
Other Diagnosis*	6.9%	5.9%	5.4%	6.1%
Unknown Diagnosis	3.3%	3.1%	2.4%	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
1998	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
Infectious and parasitic diseases	3.6%	2.9%	3.0%	2.2%
Neoplasms	3.3%	2.8%	2.6%	2.3%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	2.5%	1.6%	1.1%	1.4%
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	2.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Mental disorders	2.4%	5.0%	5.1%	4.5%
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	6.3%	4.9%	3.4%	2.5%
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%
Diseases of the respiratory system	14.9%	8.7%	5.9%	4.0%
Diseases of the digestive system	8.7%	11.4%	10.6%	8.1%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	8.5%	6.1%	6.3%	6.3%
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.3%	10.7%	30.1%	45.1%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	4.8%	5.3%	3.4%	2.9%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3.4%	3.9%	3.2%	2.8%
Congenital anomalies	4.1%	2.0%	0.8%	0.5%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	12.5%	14.5%	11.9%	9.1%
Injury and poisoning	24.8%	23.6%	17.9%	12.2%
Other Diagnosis*	9.6%	6.7%	7.2%	8.4%
Unknown Diagnosis	1.7%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hospital Authority (2002)



## 48. Physical and Mental diseases

1999	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
Infectious and parasitic diseases	3.4%	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%
Neoplasms	3.6%	3.2%	2.4%	2.5%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	2.8%	1.5%	1.0%	1.2%
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	2.2%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%
Mental disorders	2.4%	5.3%	5.4%	4.8%
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	7.1%	5.1%	3.2%	2.5%
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%
Diseases of the respiratory system	11.5%	8.0%	5.6%	3.9%
Diseases of the digestive system	9.9%	11.6%	10.4%	7.9%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	8.9%	6.4%	6.9%	6.4%
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.2%	10.0%	29.9%	44.3%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	5.2%	5.6%	4.0%	3.0%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3.8%	4.3%	3.6%	2.9%
Congenital anomalies	4.3%	1.9%	0.8%	0.5%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	13.7%	14.5%	13.0%	9.8%
Injury and poisoning	24.7%	24.2%	16.5%	11.9%
Other Diagnosis*	7.6%	6.2%	7.1%	8.4%
Unknown Diagnosis	1.2%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
2000	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
Infectious and parasitic diseases	2.8%	2.5%	2.4%	2.0%
Neoplasms	3.7%	3.4%	2.4%	2.3%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	2.9%	1.6%	0.9%	1.0%
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	2.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.6%
Mental disorders	2.4%	5.2%	5.6%	4.6%
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	7.2%	5.3%	3.3%	2.6%
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%
Diseases of the respiratory system	12.2%	8.6%	5.8%	4.0%
Diseases of the digestive system	9.9%	11.2%	11.0%	7.7%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	7.9%	6.2%	6.8%	6.6%
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.2%	9.2%	29.1%	44.1%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	5.0%	5.2%	3.7%	2.9%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3.6%	4.0%	3.6%	2.9%
Congenital anomalies	4.3%	1.8%	0.8%	0.5%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	15.2%	16.5%	14.1%	10.9%
Injury and poisoning	24.1%	22.8%	16.2%	11.6%
Other Diagnosis*	8.5%	7.1%	9.2%	11.6%
Unknown Diagnosis	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hospital Authority (2002)

## 48. Physical and Mental diseases

2001	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
Infectious and parasitic diseases	2.8%	2.7%	2.3%	1.9%
Neoplasms	3.6%	3.3%	2.3%	2.5%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	3.2%	1.8%	1.1%	1.2%
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	2.1%	1.5%	0.9%	0.6%
Mental disorders	2.0%	4.9%	5.6%	5.0%
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	6.9%	5.3%	3.2%	2.7%
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%
Diseases of the respiratory system	14.7%	8.3%	5.8%	4.2%
Diseases of the digestive system	9.9%	11.3%	10.8%	7.8%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	7.2%	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.2%	8.5%	27.5%	40.3%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	4.7%	5.6%	3.9%	3.1%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3.5%	4.2%	3.7%	3.2%
Congenital anomalies	4.4%	2.1%	0.8%	0.5%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	14.8%	17.0%	15.6%	12.5%
Injury and poisoning	21.4%	21.3%	15.7%	11.8%
Other Diagnosis*	9.3%	7.9%	10.2%	13.7%
Unknown Diagnosis	2.9%	2.2%	2.0%	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hospital Authority (2002)

Table 3.45: Health problem of secondary and primary students

	Year			
	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
<b>Vision:</b>				
Sensitivity of vision	19.4%	19.9%	20.2%	19.0%
Color vision problem	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%
Three dimension of vision problem	1.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%
<b>Growth:</b>				
Obese	12.1%	12.7%	13.6%	14.1%
Thin	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%
Tall	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%
Short	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%
<b>Psychological/Social:</b>				
Low self-esteem	4.9%	5.6%	6.0%	5.9%
Behavior problem	5.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5.6%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

In Hong Kong, young people have benefited from advanced medicine made against such a lot of diseases. The proportion of cases of each disease remained steady between 1997 and 2001. The number of reported cases of injury and poisoning were relatively high for the youth aged 10-19. In addition, the proportion of vision and obesity problem is also relatively higher for primary and secondary students.

## 48. Physical and Mental diseases

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**Table 3.46: Number of cases of mental health problem aged 15 or above in the out-patient clinic of Hospital Authority**

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Development	450	579	815
Behavior	326	470	700
Emotion and Depression	107	105	155
Other	472	524	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>1678</b>	<b>2321</b>

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

**Table 3.47: Age distribution of patient with emotion problem**

Age group	Worries	Depression	Social Isolation
15-24	17%	16%	25%
25-34	27%	27%	19%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

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Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups' study (2001) found that among the youth population, young people aged 25-34 were more easily affected by depression and worries and there were increasing number of cases of mental problem in the out-patient clinics of Hospital Authority from 1998 to 2001.

## 49. Help Seeking Patterns

**Table 3.48: Scope of Seeking help by telephone counseling**

	1998		1999		2000	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
School life	9142	30.7	12679	27.9	11356	28.8
Family problem	4214	14.2	6013	13.2	4934	12.5
Love and dating problem	4931	16.6	5042	11.1	4758	12.1
Sex related problem	1606	5.4	2388	5.3	2064	5.2
Employment	1404	4.7	2030	4.5	2342	5.9
Peer relation	1025	3.4	1667	3.7	1375	3.5
Psychological problem	1046	3.5	1544	3.4	2157	5.5
Emotional problem	1535	5.2	1441	3.2	1225	3.1
Self-image	551	1.9	675	1.5	753	1.9
Marriage	302	1.0	335	0.7	354	0.9
Suicide	193	0.6	223	0.5	179	0.5
Health	183	0.6	260	0.6	326	0.8
Finance/Housing	127	0.4	189	0.4	183	0.5
Triad society/Criminal activity	138	0.5	185	0.4	172	0.4
Behavior problem	56	0.2	110	0.2	88	0.2
Drug abuse	50	0.2	78	0.2	102	0.3
Others	5745	19.3	14262	31.4	10187	25.8
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>29759</b>		<b>45436</b>		<b>39465</b>	

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups' study (2001) found that about 30% of the young people interviewed would seek help by telephone counseling for school life, followed by family problem, and love and dating problem.

## 50. Youth Suicide Rate

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**Table 3.49: Number of suicide of people aged 0-39 in 1996-2000**

	0-9 age	10-19 age	20-29 age	30-39 age	Total
1996	1	37	128	151	317
1997	1	27	90	98	216
1998	0	36	161	139	336
1999	1	25	108	197	331
2000	0	26	137	175	338

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

**Table 3.50: Percentage of suicide aged 0-39 by occupation (1996-2000)**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Unemployed	45.7%	42.1%	47.0%	44.4%	44.7%
Student	8.2%	8.3%	6.0%	6.6%	7.4%
Housewife	7.3%	4.6%	5.4%	6.9%	7.1%
White color	9.5%	10.2%	6.8%	6.6%	5.3%
Blue color	8.2%	4.2%	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%
Disciplinary personnel	0.9%	0.0%	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%
Teacher	0.9%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Businessmen	2.8%	2.8%	1.8%	1.5%	0.9%
Patient	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other	16.1%	27.3%	27.7%	28.1%	27.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2001)

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Table 3.49 and 3.50 indicate that within the youth population, the number of suicide of young people had shown little changes over the years of 1996-2000 across the age groups and occupation. It can be noted that unemployed youth had the highest rate of suicide.

## 51. Attitudes and Behavior Towards Dating and Love

Table 3.51: A snap shot of love among young people

	Most important	Second Most important	Third most important	Fourth Most important	Fifth most important	Average Value
Love between you and your parents	358 71.6%	106 21.2%	28 5.6%	5 1.0%	2 0.5%	4.62
Love Between you and your boyfriend/ girlfriend or your spouse	99 19.8%	123 24.7%	128 25.6%	92 18.3%	58 11.6%	3.22
Love between you and your siblings	9 1.9%	196 39.1%	190 38.0%	80 16.0%	25 4.9%	3.17
Love between you and your friends	32 6.4%	59 11.8%	96 19.2%	175 35.1%	138 27.5%	2.34
Love between you and your relatives	1 0.3%	16 3.1%	58 11.6%	148 29.6%	277 55.5%	1.6

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2002)

Table 3.52: Who would respondents consider to be the person cared for the most?

	Frequency	Percent
My mother	208	40.9%
My wife/ My husband	53	10.5%
My father	46	9.0%
My boyfriend/ My girlfriend	37	7.2%
My child	31	6.2%
Myself	24	4.8%
My grandparents	22	4.3%
My siblings	17	3.3%
My friends	14	2.7%
My teachers	4	0.7%
Relatives	3	0.6%
My idols	1	0.3%
Others	4	0.9%
None	17	3.3%
Don't know/ hard to say	27	5.2%
Total	508	100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2002)

Table 3.53: One can be engaged in more than one relationship at a time?

	Male	Female	Total
Agree	66 26.4%	31 12.3%	97 19.3%
Disagree	184 73.6%	222 87.7%	406 80.7%
Total	250 100.0%	253 100.0%	503 100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (2002)

## 51. Attitudes and Behavior Towards Dating and Love

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**Table 3.54: What do respondents consider most ideal? (Read out the options)**

	Frequency	Percent
Courtship followed by marriage	398	77.3%
Trial marriage followed by marriage	51	9.9%
Only cohabitation, no marriage	21	4.2%
Marriage after the birth of a baby	16	3.1%
Only courtship, no marriage	10	1.8%
Others	6	1.2%
Don't know / hard to say	13	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2000)

**Table 3.55: Are respondents confident that respondents can sustain a marriage forever?**

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Confident:</b>	356	69.2%
Very confident	138	26.8%
Somewhat confident	218	42.4%
<b>Not Confident:</b>	135	26.3%
Not confident as such	111	21.6%
Not confident at all	24	4.7%
Don't know / hard to say	24	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2000)

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According to the study of Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, it is noted that most of the young people disagree that one can be engaged in more than one relationship at a time. “Courtship followed by marriage” was the most popular among respondents. A majority of respondents considered getting married the final goal. A relatively high number of respondents had a positive attitude, saying that they were confident in sustaining a marriage forever.

## 52. Attitudes and Behavior Towards Marriage

**Table 3.56: Please state whether respondents accept or not accept the following situations.**

	Accept		Not accept		Don't know/ hard to say	Total
	Very accept	Quite accept	Not accept as such	Not accept at all		
Would you accept woman to take the initiative to arrange for a date?	18.9%	68.5%	9.0%	2.4%	1.2%	100%
Would you accept looking for a marriage partner through matchmaking service centres?	3.5%	47.1%	35.3%	13.1%	1.1%	100%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2000)

**Table 3.57: What is the ideal age for getting married?**

	Frequency	Percent
Below 16	2	0.3%
16-17	1	0.2%
18-20	6	1.1%
21-24	44	8.5%
25-29	292	56.7%
Don't know/ hard to say	14	2.7%
Total	514	100.0%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2000)

**Table 3.58: How far did the marriage of parents affect respondents' views?**

	Agree		Disagree		Don't know/ hard to say	Total
	Strongly agree	Quite agree	Not agree as such	Strongly disagree		
One should have a financial base before getting married	43.7%	48.1%	6.7%	1.5%		100%
One Should have one's own accommodation before getting married	28.4%	52.4%	17.8%	1.1%	0.2%	100%

Source: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (2000)

According to the study of Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, it is illustrated that respondents supported women taking the initiative to arrange for a date, accounting for 87.4% of respondent's answers. Statistically, men were more open-minded towards women taking the initiative to arrange for a date. When asked what age would be the most suitable to get married, slightly more than 50% of respondents said that it should be between 25 and 29, while 30% opted for 30 or older. Regarding the pre-conditions for getting married, the survey illustrated that an overwhelming majority of 92% of respondents agreed that one should have a sound financial base before getting married.