

## **Introduction**

The idea for this statistical profile originated from the Commission on Youth of the Government of Hong Kong in 2002, in response to the growing need for youth statistical data. It provides a baseline of information that will be updated on a regular basis to give policy and program analysts the most current and relevant information. Social Sciences Research Centre (SSRC), the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) were invited by the Commission to work on *Youth in Hong Kong – A Statistical Profile 2002*.

The SSRC was responsible for collecting data related to youth and preparing a descriptive report that provides an overview of the lives of youth in Hong Kong, using selected statistical data. The objectives of the descriptive report are:

1. to increase awareness and understanding of a variety of issues facing Hong Kong youth today;
2. to assist policy analysts, communications officers, and program developers in planning and evaluating policies and programs in a youth-sensitive manner;
3. to provide baseline data which can be updated on a regular basis in order to provide the most comprehensive and current information; and
4. to provide a comparison between the lives of young people in Hong Kong and other countries.

This statistical profile serves as an update to *Youth in Hong Kong – A Statistical Profile 1997* that provided a statistical overview of Hong Kong youth and identified the concerns and priorities of youth in the territory.

A number of selected areas including cultural capital, social capital, human capital, employment and unemployment, substance abuse and crime, and poverty on youth's lives have been included. The statistical profile will highlight areas where youth's problems appear to exist and where policy may need to be focused or altered. Thus, in addition to facilitating statistical analysis, this profile is likely to identify areas for further research, discussion and policy/program focus.