

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics – 2002 Edition

INTRODUCTION

This paper:-

- (a) presents the draft 2002 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” prepared by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) scheduled for publication around July 2002;
- (b) highlights from the draft publication the key statistical profile of women and men in Hong Kong; and
- (c) invites Members’ comments on the draft publication prior to release.

BACKGROUND

2. In August 2001, C&SD published the first edition of the statistical publication “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” (2001 edition), which serves as a ready source of information on the profile of women and men in Hong Kong. C&SD has updated the statistical information in the light of the 2001 data from the 2001 Population Census (01C) and has expanded the coverage of the earlier edition in the light of the comments of the Women’s Commission.

NEW INFORMATION IN THE 2002 EDITION

3. The Women’s Commission has furnished useful comments on the 2001 edition of the publication in March and August 2001. After thorough study, many of the comments have been taken on board in preparing the 2002 edition as far as possible. The comments of the Women’s Commission on

the 2001 edition and the responses of C&SD are summarised in Annex A for Members' reference.

PROFILE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN HONG KONG

Demographic Characteristics

4. The population continues to show an aging trend from 1986 to 2001. The proportion of population aged 29 and below decreased from 53% in 1986 to 38% in 2001. Changes in the age structure for both males and females were virtually the same. In addition, the following changes are observed:-

- (a) the sex ratio of Hong Kong resident population decreased continuously from 1,087 males per 1,000 females in 1981 to 956 males per 1,000 females in 2001. In 2001, females out-numbered males aged between 20 to 44, as well as 70 and above. This is attributed to the large inflow of female one-way permit holders from the Mainland joining their husbands in Hong Kong and the importation of a large number of female foreign domestic helpers. When foreign domestic helpers are excluded, the sex ratio became 1,021 males per 1,000 females in 2001;
- (b) the annual numbers of female live births and deaths were consistently lower than their male counterparts;
- (c) females had longer life expectancy at birth than males; and
- (d) with the inflow of female one-way permit holders joining their husbands in Hong Kong, the sex ratio of one-way permit holders decreased from 672 males per 1,000 females in 1986 to 527 in 2001.

Marriage, Fertility and Family Conditions

5. On marriage, fertility and family conditions, the followings are observed:-

- (a) the proportion of females aged 15 and over who were married increased from 55.6% in 1986 to 58.7% in 1996 but then decreased to 57.4% in 2001. The corresponding proportion for males increased from 56.8% to 61.9% over the same period;
- (b) the crude marriage rates for both females and males recorded an increase from 9.0% and 9.3%, respectively, in 2000, to 9.5% and 9.9% in 2001 respectively;
- (c) the age-specific fertility rates for all age groups, except the age group 35-39, dropped to the record low in 2001;
- (d) the number of females living alone increased significantly by 118.6% to 127,001 during 1986 to 2001. On the other hand, the number for males only increased by 25.8% to 162,031 over the same period; and
- (e) the number of households with female single parents increased from 23,059 in 1991 to 30,402 in 1996 and further to 45,072 in 2001. Meanwhile, the number of households with male single parents slightly increased from 11,479 in 1991 to 13,388 in 2001.

Education Characteristics

6. As regards education characteristics, it can be observed that:-
- (a) the proportion of females in the population aged 15 and over having attained secondary education or above was growing faster than that of males;
 - (b) both females and males of school ages had broadly similar school attendance rate, except that proportionally more females than males were attending school in the age group of 17-18; and
 - (c) in 2001, for programmes funded by University Grants Committee, more female than male students enrolled in the fields of “Arts and Humanities”, “Education”, “Social Sciences”, “Business and Management” and “Medicine, Dentistry and Health”.

Labour Force Characteristics

7. As regards labour force characteristics, Members may wish to note that:-

- (a) during the past 16 years, the female labour force participation increased for all age groups, except for those aged 15-19 and 60 and above. In contrast, the male labour force participation rate substantially decreased for all age groups;
- (b) the female labour force increased by 474,300 (or 48.1%), which was nearly double that of the increase recorded for males (249,600 or 14.6%) over the same period. The increase could be partly due to the fact that more Hong Kong women could join the labour force with their housework taken up by foreign domestic helpers;
- (c) in 2001, female employed persons were mostly engaged in the “Community, Social and Personal Services” (36.6%), followed by “Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels”(34.3%) and “Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services” (14.0%);
- (d) in 2001, 55.2% of female employed persons worked as clerks and workers in elementary occupations; and
- (e) females had consistently lower unemployment and underemployment rates than males. Female unemployed persons also had consistently shorter duration of unemployment than their male counterparts.

Employment Earnings

8. The median monthly employment earnings of employed females was \$8,500 in 2001 while that for males was \$12,000. The discrepancy could be attributed to a host of factors including the differences between employed females and males in industrial and occupational distributions, educational attainment and working experience. Also, there were a large number of

female foreign domestic helpers working in Hong Kong. If foreign domestic helpers were excluded, the median monthly employment earnings of employed females would be \$10,000 vs. \$12,000 for males in 2001.

Social Welfare

9. There were more females amongst the recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in the categories “Single Parent Family” (61.0%), “Old Age” (52.8%) and “Low Earnings” (51.9%) in 2001.

Medical and Health

10. In 2001, females with disabilities out-numbered their male counterparts, particularly in the age groups of 60 and above. This was because there were more females than males aged 70 and above.

Law and Order

11. There were fewer females (9,052) arrested for crime than males (29,777) in 2001. The proportion of female offenders committing more serious offences was also lower than that of male offenders.

Participation in Public Affairs

12. Both females and males had similar numbers of registered electors and voter turnout in Legislative Council elections and District Board elections. The relative percentage share of female directorate officers in civil service increased from 4.9% in 1981 to 23% in 2001.

13. Summary of the relevant statistics is presented in Annex B for Members’ reference.

WAY FORWARD

14. Subject to any further views from Members, C&SD plans to publish the 2002 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” around July 2002.

ADVICE SOUGHT

15. Members are invited to:-
- (a) consider the draft 2002 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” prepared by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD);
 - (b) note the highlighted key statistical characteristics of women and men in Hong Kong; and
 - (c) give comments and views on the draft publication.

Census and Statistics Department
21 June 2002

Comments of the Women's Commission on "Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics" in 2001 and C&SD's Responses

<u>Comments from Women's Commission</u>	<u>C&SD's Responses</u>
A. Households with single parents	
1. To make available more up-to-date statistics in the upcoming issue.	1. Figures in Tables 2.8 and 2.9 have been updated to 2001 position using the 01C results.
2. To include information on the occupation of single parents and the geographical distribution of these households.	2. The objective of the publication is to highlight the basic profile of women and men in Hong Kong. The publication (Tables 2.8 and 2.9) has included tables showing the basic gender characteristics of the households with single parents. Information on the occupation of single parents and the geographical distribution of these households is considered too detailed for this exercise.
3. To include information on single parent households with dependent members who are still studying and are aged over 18.	3. Statistics on single parents are compiled by Social Welfare Department (SWD) to collect information on persons who were widowed, divorced or separated, and living with child(ren) aged under 18 only.

4. To indicate whether median income in table 2.8 refers to the total income of all members in the household or the income of the household head only.	4. The definition of household income has been added to Table 2.8 and the “definitions and terms” (definition 2.4) to be the total cash income (including earnings from all jobs and other cash incomes) received by all members of the household.
5. For Table 2.9, to include the information on tenure of accommodation for households with single parents living in private housing	5. The figures for private permanent housing in Table 2.9 have been separated into “Owner-occupied households” and “Non-owner-occupied households”.
6. For Table 6.1, to clarify whether the number of CSSA recipients refers to the number of principal applicants or the total number of CSSA recipients in the households; and if the figures refer to the latter, it may warrant a separate statistical table to show the number of “principal applicants” only.	6. The figures in Table 6.1 include all recipients of CSSA in the households and not just principal applicants. According to SWD, CSSA is granted to a principal applicant according to needs of the household (e.g. he/she may be a single parent and is unemployed and has old age members in the household). Singling out the “type of case” by gender of principal applicants may be misleading. It is therefore suggested not to present such statistics in the publication.

B. New Arrivals	
7. Table 1.8 shows the number of one-way permit holders entering Hong Kong in a particular year but not the number of such persons who had stayed in Hong Kong for less than seven years.	7. Based on the results of the Population Census/By-census, a table showing the number of persons from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years by sex and duration of residence in Hong Kong analysed by sex and duration of residence has been included in the publication (Table 1.9).
8. To include a table to show new arrivals who have stayed in Hong Kong for, say, five/six years, etc.	8. Same as above.
9. To include tables on the number of newly arrived persons from other countries by country/place of origin and by age group.	9. A table showing the number of people from places other than the Mainland who have resided in Hong Kong less than seven years is included. While breakdown by countries of origin is available, it is considered too detail for the purpose of this publication.
10. To present the demographic details of new arrivals from the Mainland, such as their educational attainment, family status and the number of children in these households.	10. Tables showing the basic gender characteristics of the new arrivals have been included in the publication (Tables 1.8 and 1.9). Information on their educational attainment, family status and the number of children in these households are

	considered too details for this publication.
11. To show women's participation in retraining / on-the-job training programmes (conducted by Employees Retraining board (ERB), Vocational Training Council (VTC), etc.), especially female new arrivals.	11. Table 3.6 of the report shows the number of graduates of retraining programmes run by the ERB, including programmes for new arrivals. VTC does not run courses specifically for new arrivals. Furthermore, ERB and VTC do not distinguish trainees/ retrainees by whether or not they are new arrivals. It is not suggested that such breakdown should be presented in the publication.
C. Women with Disabilities	
12. To include the gender profile of people with disabilities in the publication.	12. A statistical table showing the people with disabilities by sex and age compiled from the results of the special topic enquiry conducted via GHS has been included in the publication (Table 7.5).
D. Self-employed	
13. To include tables showing the situation of Hong Kong people working in the Mainland.	13. Statistical tables showing the number of employed persons who had worked in the Mainland analysed by industry/occupation and sex compiled from the results of special topic enquiry conducted via GHS have been added to the publication (tables 4.8 and 4.9).

E. People in Social Roles	
14. To include tables showing the gender of people in high social roles such as company directors, members of school boards and professionals and the level of involvement of women in different advisory boards and committees.	14. The information about social roles is considered too detail to be collected in general household surveys. Information about women's participation in advisory boards and committees has been included.
F. Other Observations	
15. To provide information on the coverage of the GHS.	15. The required information has been included in the "special notes".
16. For Table 9.1, to include appointed members of District Council.	16. Information on appointed members has been included in the Table 9.1.
17. For Table 3.5, to consider breaking down the group "post-secondary colleges and UGC-funded institutions" into two separate groups.	17. The required breakdowns have been added to the statistical table.
18. To include a statistical table showing the school attendance rate by sex and age group.	18. A statistical table showing the school attendance rates of population aged 3 to 18 by sex and age compiled from the results of Censuses/By-Censuses has been added to the publication (Table 3.2).

19. To include a table showing the median duration of unemployment by sex.	19. A statistical table showing the median duration of unemployment by sex has been added to the publication (Table 4.15).
20. To include the definitions for economically inactive population, unpaid family workers and household income.	20. The required definitions have been included in the “definitions and terms” (para 2.4, 4.2 and para 4.4(d)).

Key Statistics on the Profile of Women and Men for Selected Years

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
<u>Demographic Characteristics</u>					
Proportion of population aged 29 and below(%)					
Female	57.1	52.4	46.4	41.2	37.1
Male	57.2	52.9	46.4	41.6	38.5
Sex ratio(Number of males per 1000 females)					
Including foreign domestic helpers	1 087	1 062	1 044	1 001	956
Excluding foreign domestic helpers	-	-	-	1 048	1 021
Annual number of live births					
Female	42 141	34 703	33 084	30 627	23 059
Male	44 610	36 917	35 197	32 664	25 160
Annual number of deaths					
Female	11 064	11 482	12 503	13 943	-
Male	13 735	14 401	15 902	18 171	-
Sex ratio of one-way permit holders (Number of males per 1000 females)	-	672	615	493	527
<u>Marriage, Fertility and Family Conditions</u>					
Proportion of person aged 15 and over who were married(%)					
Female	-	55.6	57.1	58.7	57.4
Male	-	56.8	59.8	62.1	61.9
Crude marriage rate(%)					
Female	17.5	14.0	14.1	11.0	9.5
Male	16.1	13.2	13.6	11.0	9.9
Persons living alone					
Female	-	58 088	78 581	103 938	127 001
Male	-	128 753	155 342	172 968	162 031
Households with single parents					
Female single parents	-	-	23 059	30 402	45 072
Male single parents	-	-	11 479	11 907	13 388

Key Statistics on the Profile of Women and Men for Selected Years

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
<u>Educational Characteristics</u>					
Proportion of population aged 15 and over having attained secondary education or above(%)					
Female	-	50.0	56.5	62.9	67.5
Male	-	61.0	65.3	70.6	74.9
School attendance rates of persons aged 17-18 (%)					
Female	-	-	63	69	74
Male	-	-	54	60	68
Students of programmes funded by University Grants Committee					
Female	-	15 609	25 452	42 835	42 911
Male	-	31 795	39 490	42 715	36 001
<u>Labour Force Characteristics</u>					
Labour force					
Female	-	986 000	1 048 000	1 236 100	1 460 300
Male	-	1 713 700	1 756 100	1 924 700	1 963 300
Labour force participation rate(%)					
Including foreign domestic helpers					
Female	-	48.9	47.9	47.8	50.7
Male	-	80.5	78.9	75.7	72.9
Excluding foreign domestic helpers					
Female	-	-	-	-	47.3
Male	-	-	-	-	72.9
Number of employed persons					
Female	-	961 000	1 031 400	1 207 400	1 403 900
Male	-	1 662 600	1 722 300	1 865 900	1 845 200
Underemployment rate(%)					
Female	-	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.7
Male	-	1.9	1.9	2.2	3.1
Unemployment rate(%)					
Female	-	2.5	1.6	2.3	3.9
Male	-	3.0	1.9	3.1	6.0

Key Statistics on the Profile of Women and Men for Selected Years

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
Median duration of unemployment(days)					
Female	-	56	49	71	74
Male	-	65	56	73	76
<u>Employment Earnings</u>					
Median monthly employment earnings(\$)					
Including foreign domestic helpers					
Female	-	2,000	4,500	8,000	8,500
Male	-	3,000	6,000	10,000	12,000
Excluding foreign domestic helpers					
Female	-	-	-	-	10,000
Male	-	-	-	-	12,000
<u>Social Welfare</u>					
Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance					
Female	-	-	-	110 244	206 791
Male	-	-	-	113 140	190 677
Recipients of Social Security Allowance					
Female	-	-	-	282 426	307 834
Male	-	-	-	224 411	251 565
<u>Medical and Health</u>					
Persons with disability					
Female	-	-	-	-	143 400 [@]
Male	-	-	-	-	126 100 [@]
<u>Law and Order</u>					
Persons arrested for crime					
Female	-	-	5 679	8 293	9 052
Male	-	-	38 380	38 864	29 777
Reported drug abusers					
Female	797	1 236	1 283	2 433	2 840
Male	14 271	16 362	13 980	17 240	15 546

Key Statistics on the Profile of Women and Men for Selected Years

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
<u>Participation in Public Affairs</u>					
Civil servants					
Female	38 279	51 967	59 448	59 173	58 498
Male	111 359	126 127	127 558	125 069	116 051
Directorate officers in Civil Services					
Female	35	57	129	208	297
Male	679	901	1 182	1 147	992

Note : @ The figures are compiled based on the results of the Special Topic Enquiry on persons with disabilities and chronic diseases conducted in 2000.

- Not available