

Chapter 2

Representativeness of Sample, and Characteristics of the Households and the Study Population

This chapter describes the sample representativeness, along with a portrayal of the characteristics of the households as well as the study population.

2.1 Sample Representativeness

Comparisons were made between the PHS data and the population compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) on the dimensions of age, sex and highest education level attained. It was found that the relative differences in these dimensions between the two sets of data were small. The small effect sizes for the variables of age, sex and highest education level attained (i.e. 0.10, 0.06 and 0.11 respectively) as shown in Table 2.1 indicate that the sample used in this study was representative.

Table 2.1: Sample Representativeness

	PHS 2003/04 Proportion (weighted)	C&SD Population Proportion*	Effect size ¹
Age (years)			0.10
15 – 24	0.16	0.15	
25 – 34	0.16	0.19	
35 – 44	0.23	0.24	
45 – 54	0.20	0.19	
55 – 64	0.11	0.10	
65 – 74	0.09	0.08	
≥ 75	0.05	0.06	
Sex			0.06
Male	0.45	0.48	
Female	0.55	0.52	
Highest education level attained[†]			0.11
No schooling / kindergarten	0.06	0.07	
Primary	0.22	0.21	
Secondary	0.56	0.52	
Tertiary or above	0.16	0.20	

Notes: Total may not be summed to 1 due to rounding.

Three levels of effect sizes – 0.1 for ‘small’, 0.3 for ‘medium’ and 0.5 for ‘large’.¹

*Data relating to age and sex are obtained from 2003 mid-year population estimate whereas those relating to highest education level attained are averages of the relevant figures obtained from the General Household Survey for the four quarters of 2002.

† For aged 15 and above.

2.2 Characteristics of the Households

About 30% of the households in the survey contained 4 members, and about 10% of the surveyed households had one or more members who were temporarily away. The majority (98.1%) of the households had one family. In terms of the housing type, most households either lived in private housing (46.7%) or public rental housing (42.8%). Analyzed by District Council districts, the Tuen Mun district contained the highest number of households, whereas the Islands contained the least (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Characteristics of the households

	%
Number of persons in the household	
1	10.4%
2	20.0%
3	24.7%
4	30.5%
5	10.0%
6 and more	4.3%
Total	100.0%
Number of persons who were temporarily absent from the household	
0	89.5%
1	8.2%
2	1.6%
3 and more	0.7%
Total	100.0%
Type of housing	
Public rental housing	42.8%
Subsidized sale flats	10.5%
Private housing	46.7%
Others	<0.05%
Total	100.0%

Table 2.2: Characteristics of the households (continued)

	%
Number of families in the household	
1	98.1%
2	0.8%
3	0.2%
4 and more	0.9%
Total	100.0%
Form of tenure	
Owned	51.7%
Sole tenant rented	45.9%
Others	2.4%
Total	100.0%
Residential district	
Central and Western	3.2%
Wan Chai	3.1%
Eastern	8.2%
Southern	3.4%
Yau Tsim Mong	2.8%
Sham Shui Po	7.7%
Kowloon City	5.4%
Wong Tai Sin	7.0%
Kwun Tong	8.7%
Kwai Tsing	7.9%
Tsuen Wan	4.1%
Tuen Mun	11.1%
Yuen Long	6.7%
Northern	3.4%
Tai Po	3.5%
Sha Tin / Ma On Shan	8.9%
Sai Kung / Tseung Kwan O	4.0%
Islands	0.8%
Total	100.0%

Base: All households.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2.3 Characteristics of the Study Population

The key characteristics of the study population are highlighted below:

2.3.1 Sample Size, Sex and Age

There were a total of 7 084 respondents. This represents roughly a population of 5.68 million. Among them, 54.7% were females while the rest were males (45.3%). The largest proportion of the females (24.4%) and males (21.1%) were the 35-44 years old group. As a whole, the median age was 42 and 43 for females and males respectively (Table 2.3.1).

Table 2.3.1: Age group by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
15-24	455.3	14.6%	442.5	17.2%	897.8	15.8%
25-34	519.7	16.7%	401.6	15.6%	921.2	16.2%
35-44	759.2	24.4%	542.1	21.1%	1 301.2	22.9%
45-54	648.4	20.9%	490.6	19.1%	1 139.0	20.0%
55-64	320.7	10.3%	315.1	12.2%	635.7	11.2%
65-74	241.5	7.8%	270.0	10.5%	511.5	9.0%
75 and above	165.0	5.3%	112.3	4.4%	277.4	4.9%
Total	3 109.8	100.0%	2 574.1	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%
Mean	43.4		43.5		43.5	
Median	42.0		43.0		42.0	
Standard Deviation	16.8		17.4		17.1	

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2.3.2 Marital Status

Regarding marital status, majority of the people aged 15 and above (63.0% for females; 62.6% for males) were married. Singles accounted for 26.3% and 33.3% among the females and males, respectively (Table 2.3.2a). In terms of the relation between marital status and age group, majority of individuals aged 35 and above were married while majority of individuals aged 34 and below were single (Table 2.3.2b).

Table 2.3.2a: Marital status by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Single	816.4	26.3%	857.6	33.3%	1 674.0	29.5%
Married	1 959.0	63.0%	1 611.0	62.6%	3 570.0	62.8%
Divorced/Separated	89.8	2.9%	47.2	1.8%	137.0	2.4%
Widow	242.6	7.8%	56.6	2.2%	299.2	5.3%
Unknown/Missing	2.0	0.1%	1.7	0.1%	3.7	0.1%
Total	3 109.8	100.0%	2 574.1	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Table 2.3.2b: Marital status by Age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 and above		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Single	876.2	97.6%	502.0	54.5%	183.7	14.1%	66.7	5.9%	22.2	3.5%	8.9	1.7%	14.3	5.2%	1 674.0	29.5%
Married	20.5	2.3%	399.8	43.4%	1 061.2	81.6%	1 014.6	89.1%	542.0	85.3%	388.6	76.0%	143.2	51.6%	3 570.0	62.8%
Divorced/ Separated	0.6	0.1%	18.5	2.0%	45.8	3.5%	36.0	3.2%	21.2	3.3%	10.6	2.1%	4.3	1.5%	137.0	2.4%
Widow	-	-	0.9	0.1%	10.5	0.8%	21.7	1.9%	49.7	7.8%	102.2	20.0%	114.2	41.2%	299.2	5.3%
Unknown/ Missing	0.5	0.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	0.1%	1.2	0.2%	1.3	0.5%	3.7	0.1%
Total	897.8	100.0%	921.2	100.0%	1 301.2	100.0%	1 139.0	100.0%	635.7	100.0%	511.5	100.0%	277.4	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2.3.3 Birthplace

As for birthplace, 56.4% of the females and 60.8% of the males were born in Hong Kong. The remaining persons were mainly born in the Guangdong Province of China (27.1%) (Table 2.3.3a). Regarding the relation between birthplace and age group, it was found that individuals belonging to the younger age groups were more likely to be born in Hong Kong, whereas older persons were more likely to be born in the Guangdong Province. Among those aged 15-24, 82.5% were born in Hong Kong, whereas 61.6% of individuals aged 75 and above were born in the Guangdong Province (Table 2.3.3b).

Table 2.3.3a: Place of birth by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Hong Kong	1 755.4	56.4%	1 566.0	60.8%	3 321.4	58.4%
Guangdong Province	843.4	27.1%	696.0	27.0%	1 539.4	27.1%
Macau	35.6	1.1%	26.1	1.0%	61.7	1.1%
Other provinces in China	381.5	12.3%	239.2	9.3%	620.7	10.9%
Others	91.7	2.9%	45.8	1.8%	137.5	2.4%
Unknown/Missing	2.3	0.1%	0.9	0.0%	3.2	0.1%
Total	3 109.8	100.0%	2 574.1	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Table 2.3.3b: Place of birth by Age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 and above		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Hong Kong	740.6	82.5%	685.0	74.4%	913.7	70.2%	629.7	55.3%	213.7	33.6%	97.6	19.1%	41.2	14.9%	3 321.4	58.4%
Guangdong Province	107.5	12.0%	119.6	13.0%	235.8	18.1%	330.4	29.0%	278.7	43.8%	296.6	58.0%	170.9	61.6%	1 539.4	27.1%
Macau	2.2	0.2%	1.6	0.2%	7.2	0.6%	22.2	1.9%	13.1	2.1%	8.9	1.7%	6.5	2.3%	61.7	1.1%
Other provinces in China	41.4	4.6%	102.2	11.1%	119.8	9.2%	121.1	10.6%	95.7	15.1%	91.4	17.9%	49.1	17.7%	620.7	10.9%
Others	6.1	0.7%	12.0	1.3%	24.8	1.9%	35.1	3.1%	34.6	5.4%	16.0	3.1%	8.9	3.2%	137.5	2.4%
Unknown/Missing	-	-	0.9	0.1%	-	-	0.6	0.1%	-	-	1.0	0.2%	0.7	0.2%	3.2	0.1%
Total	897.8	100.0%	921.2	100.0%	1 301.2	100.0%	1 139.0	100.0%	635.7	100.0%	511.5	100.0%	277.4	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Among the non-locally born persons, it was observed that females tended to have resided shorter in Hong Kong compared to their male counterparts. While 21.3% of females stayed in Hong Kong for less than 10 years, 7.9% of males spent less than 10 years in Hong Kong (Table 2.3.3c).

Table 2.3.3c: Number of years the non-Hong Kong born persons living in Hong Kong by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
0-9	287.3	21.3%	79.6	7.9%	366.9	15.6%
10-19	192.7	14.3%	108.7	10.8%	301.5	12.8%
20-29	258.3	19.1%	234.8	23.3%	493.0	20.9%
30-39	110.1	8.1%	122.2	12.1%	232.3	9.8%
40-49	166.0	12.3%	168.4	16.7%	334.3	14.2%
50-59	134.6	10.0%	135.5	13.5%	270.1	11.4%
60-69	43.2	3.2%	25.0	2.5%	68.2	2.9%
70-79	13.2	1.0%	9.5	0.9%	22.6	1.0%
80-89	3.9	0.3%	-	-	3.9	0.2%
Unknown/Missing	142.8	10.6%	123.7	12.3%	266.4	11.3%
Total	1 352.1	100.0%	1 007.2	100.0%	2 359.3	100.0%

Base: The respondents who reported not born in Hong Kong.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2.3.4 Highest Educational Attainment

In terms of highest educational attainment, majority of females (53.8%) and males (55.9%) had attained the level of F.1 to F.7. It was also observed that there were more males than females who had attained a tertiary qualification (17.5% versus 13.5%) (Table 2.3.4).

Table 2.3.4: Highest Educational attainment by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
No formal education or kindergarten	264.0	8.5%	91.2	3.5%	355.3	6.3%
P.1 to P.6	681.4	21.9%	522.6	20.3%	1 204.0	21.2%
F.1 to F.7	1 673.4	53.8%	1 439.1	55.9%	3 112.5	54.8%
Tertiary or above	420.4	13.5%	450.7	17.5%	871.1	15.3%
Unknown/Missing	70.5	2.3%	70.5	2.7%	141.1	2.5%
Total	3 109.8	100.0%	2 574.1	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2.3.5 Occupation

In terms of occupation, most commonly females (33.6%) were home makers, whereas most males were retired (17.9%) or in the services or sales-related occupation (13.2%) (Table 2.3.5a).

Table 2.3.5a: Occupation by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Managerial and administrative	91.7	2.9%	142.2	5.5%	233.9	4.1%
Professional	92.6	3.0%	156.6	6.1%	249.2	4.4%
Associate-professional	87.2	2.8%	88.3	3.4%	175.5	3.1%
Clerical	475.6	15.3%	190.8	7.4%	666.4	11.7%
Services and sales related	374.6	12.0%	339.8	13.2%	714.4	12.6%
Craft related	32.7	1.1%	153.6	6.0%	186.3	3.3%
Mechanical and machine operator	20.6	0.7%	220.7	8.6%	241.3	4.2%
Non-skilled worker	148.9	4.8%	279.2	10.8%	428.1	7.5%
Agricultural or fishery	1.2	<0.05%	3.5	0.1%	4.7	0.1%
Unemployed	111.7	3.6%	171.2	6.7%	282.9	5.0%
Full-time student	273.5	8.8%	286.3	11.1%	559.8	9.8%
Home maker	1 045.5	33.6%	2.1	0.1%	1 047.6	18.4%
Retired	312.3	10.0%	460.0	17.9%	772.3	13.6%
Unknown/Missing	41.8	1.3%	79.7	3.1%	121.6	2.1%
Total	3 109.8	100.0%	2 574.1	100.0%	5 683.9	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

For those who were employed (i.e. earning a profit / wage from his or her occupation) at the time of the survey, nearly half (44.5%) earned below HK\$ 10,000 a month. It was also observed that more females than males earned at this level (52.9% versus 37.4%). The reverse is observed for monthly income over HK\$ 10,000 and above (40.5% in females versus 54.9% in males) (Table 2.3.5b).

Table 2.3.5b: Monthly income by Gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Below \$10,000	700.6	52.9%	588.9	37.4%	1 289.5	44.5%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	353.6	26.7%	582.5	37.0%	936.0	32.3%
\$20,000 and above	183.4	13.8%	282.1	17.9%	465.5	16.1%
Not willing to answer	86.2	6.5%	120.6	7.7%	206.8	7.1%
Unknown/Missing	1.2	0.1%	0.6	<0.05%	1.8	0.1%
Total	1 325.0	100.0%	1 574.6	100.0%	2 899.7	100.0%

Base: The respondents who were employed and reported their occupations.

Note: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Reference

1. Cohen J. Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences (2nd edition) 1998. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum