

Chapter 8

Use of Health Services

Hong Kong residents have access to different health care services provided by organisations in both public and private sectors. This Chapter reports on the pattern of health care services used, including persons having a family doctor, type of doctor consultation and treatment received when they were ill or encountered health problems, hospitalisation, consultation with mental health professionals and level of satisfaction with the health care system in Hong Kong.

Snapshot of Population's Use of Health Services

Indicator	Female	Male	Overall
Proportion of population who had a family doctor	45.1%	42.4%	43.8%
Proportion of population who had experienced health problem(s) in the 30 days preceding the survey	61.4%	52.1%	57.0%
Proportion of population with hospital admission in the 12 months preceding the survey	11.7%	10.1%	11.0%
Proportion of population who had consultation with mental health professionals in the 12 months preceding the survey	1.9%	1.5%	1.7%
Overall satisfaction with the health care system (mean score in a scale of 0-100)			
• Public sector	67.3	66.6	66.9
• Private sector	75.5	75.1	75.3

8.1 Persons Having a Family Doctor

A “family doctor” is a doctor whom a person would consult for different health problems. Family doctor can provide patients with comprehensive and continuing health care.

Overall, 43.8% of persons aged 15 or above (45.1% for females and 42.4% for males) reported that they had a family doctor whom they would usually consult first for their health problems (Table 8.1a). Across all age groups, the highest proportion of persons reported having a family doctor was in the age group of 35-44 (48.2%) whereas the lowest proportion was reported by persons aged 75-84 (38.4%) (Table 8.1b).

Table 8.1a: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had a family doctor by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	1 436.4	45.1%	1 227.7	42.4%	2 664.1	43.8%
No	1 739.2	54.6%	1 657.9	57.3%	3 397.1	55.9%
Not Sure	9.4	0.3%	9.6	0.3%	19.0	0.3%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Table 8.1b: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had a family doctor by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	321.3	40.1%	422.2	43.9%	492.2	48.2%	540.8	45.7%	477.1	44.8%	223.6	39.6%	135.3	38.4%	51.7	39.5%	2 664.1	43.8%
No	476.2	59.4%	536.7	55.8%	527.5	51.7%	637.4	53.9%	584.9	54.9%	338.8	60.1%	216.4	61.4%	79.1	60.5%	3 397.1	55.9%
Not Sure	4.1	0.5%	2.5	0.3%	1.5	0.1%	4.8	0.4%	3.5	0.3%	1.6	0.3%	1.0	0.3%	-	-	19.0	0.3%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Analysed by household income group, it showed that the lowest proportion (31.0%) of persons reported having a family doctor was in persons with a monthly household income between \$5,000 and \$9,999 and the highest proportion (56.2%) was reported by persons with a monthly household income of \$50,000 or above (Table 8.1c). Majority (96.3%) of persons who reported having a family doctor reported that their family doctors were Western medicine practitioners (Table 8.1d and Table 8.1e).

Table 8.1c: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had a family doctor by monthly household income

	Less than \$5,000		\$5,000 - \$9,999		\$10,000 - \$19,999		\$20,000 - \$29,999		\$30,000 - \$39,999		\$40,000 - \$49,999		\$50,000 or 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)	%
Yes	150.1	34.2%	115.3	31.0%	378.4	36.9%	501.6	40.4%	455.0	45.7%	324.5	47.4%	734.6	56.2%	2 659.6	43.9%
No	285.9	65.2%	255.8	68.8%	643.5	62.7%	734.5	59.2%	537.3	54.0%	359.1	52.5%	568.0	43.5%	3 384.2	55.8%
Not Sure	2.6	0.6%	0.6	0.2%	4.3	0.4%	4.0	0.3%	3.3	0.3%	0.6	0.1%	3.7	0.3%	19.0	0.3%
Total	438.6	100.0%	371.7	100.0%	1 026.2	100.0%	1 240.1	100.0%	995.6	100.0%	684.2	100.0%	1 306.3	100.0%	6 062.7	100.0%

Base: All respondents who had provided information on monthly household income.

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

Table 8.1d: Distribution of population aged 15 or above who had a family doctor by type of family doctors and gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Western medicine practitioner	1 367.5	95.2%	1 198.8	97.6%	2 566.2	96.3%
Chinese medicine practitioner	68.9	4.8%	29.0	2.4%	97.9	3.7%
Total	1 436.4	100.0%	1 227.7	100.0%	2 664.1	100.0%

Base: All respondents who had a family doctor.

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

Table 8.1e: Distribution of population aged 15 or above who had a family doctor by type of family doctors and age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Western medicine practitioner	313.2	97.5%	406.0	96.1%	469.9	95.5%	520.0	96.2%	462.0	96.8%	216.0	96.6%	129.2	95.5%	49.9	96.5%	2 566.2	96.3%
Chinese medicine practitioner	8.1	2.5%	16.3	3.9%	22.3	4.5%	20.7	3.8%	15.1	3.2%	7.5	3.4%	6.1	4.5%	1.8	3.5%	97.9	3.7%
Total	321.3	100.0%	422.2	100.0%	492.2	100.0%	540.8	100.0%	477.1	100.0%	223.6	100.0%	135.3	100.0%	51.7	100.0%	2 664.1	100.0%

Base: All respondents who had a family doctor.

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

8.2 Persons without a Family Doctor

Among persons aged 15 or above who did not report having a family doctor, most (92.3%) would usually consult only Western medicine practitioners (90.4% for females and 94.2% for males), as compared to 5.0% who would usually consult only Chinese medicine practitioners (6.2% for females and 3.8% for males) when they were ill, and 2.7% (3.4% for females and 2.0% for males) would consult both Chinese and Western medicine practitioners (Table 8.2a). Across all age groups, people aged 55-64 had the highest proportion reporting that they would consult Chinese medicine practitioners only (6.3%) or both types of doctors (3.6%), while people in the age groups of 15-24 (94.7%) and 85 or above (95.1%) were most likely to consult Western medicine practitioner only when they were ill (Table 8.2b).

Table 8.2a: Type of medicine practitioners usually consulted by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Western medicine practitioner	1 580.2	90.4%	1 571.3	94.2%	3 151.5	92.3%
Chinese medicine practitioner	108.5	6.2%	62.8	3.8%	171.4	5.0%
Both	59.9	3.4%	33.4	2.0%	93.2	2.7%
Total	1 748.6	100.0%	1 667.5	100.0%	3 416.1	100.0%

Base: All respondents who did not have a family doctor.

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

Table 8.2b: Type of medicine practitioners usually consulted by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Western medicine practitioner	454.8	94.7%	499.8	92.7%	489.5	92.5%	584.3	91.0%	530.2	90.1%	315.3	92.6%	202.3	93.1%	75.3	95.1%	3 151.5	92.3%
Chinese medicine practitioner	15.9	3.3%	22.6	4.2%	27.1	5.1%	37.0	5.8%	37.1	6.3%	18.1	5.3%	10.1	4.6%	3.5	4.4%	171.4	5.0%
Both	9.7	2.0%	16.8	3.1%	12.4	2.3%	20.9	3.3%	21.1	3.6%	7.0	2.1%	5.0	2.3%	0.3	0.4%	93.2	2.7%
Total	480.3	100.0%	539.2	100.0%	529.0	100.0%	642.2	100.0%	588.4	100.0%	340.4	100.0%	217.4	100.0%	79.1	100.0%	3 416.1	100.0%

Base: All respondents who did not have a family doctor.

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

8.3 Type of Health Service Providers usually Consulted

Among persons aged 15 or above who would usually consult a Western medicine practitioner or both Western and Chinese medicine practitioners when they were ill, 83.6% reported that they would usually consult doctors in private clinics or hospitals (Table 8.3a). The proportion of persons who would usually consult public clinics or hospitals under Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health (DH) generally increased with age from 7.7% in those aged 25-34 to 43.2% in those aged 85 or above (Table 8.3b).

Table 8.3a: Type of healthcare settings usually visited to consult a doctor when they were sick by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Private clinics or hospitals	2 498.6	83.1%	2 362.0	84.3%	4 860.6	83.6%
Public clinics or hospitals (including HA and DH)	499.9	16.6%	433.1	15.4%	932.9	16.1%
Non-profit organisations or universities	9.0	0.3%	8.4	0.3%	17.4	0.3%
Total	3 007.5	100.0%	2 803.4	100.0%	5 810.9	100.0%

Base: The respondents who would see Western medicine practitioners or both Chinese and Western medicine practitioners.

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

Table 8.3b: Type of healthcare settings usually visited to consult a doctor when they were sick by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Private clinics or hospitals	699.8	90.0%	849.5	92.1%	888.6	91.4%	990.0	88.0%	802.1	79.2%	363.2	67.5%	196.2	58.3%	71.2	56.8%	4 860.6	83.6%
Public clinics or hospitals (including HA and DH)	73.6	9.5%	70.9	7.7%	82.2	8.5%	133.5	11.9%	208.8	20.6%	170.5	31.7%	139.2	41.4%	54.3	43.2%	932.9	16.1%
Non-profit organisations or universities	4.2	0.5%	2.1	0.2%	1.1	0.1%	1.7	0.2%	2.4	0.2%	4.6	0.9%	1.2	0.4%	-	-	17.4	0.3%
Total	777.7	100.0%	922.5	100.0%	971.8	100.0%	1 125.3	100.0%	1 013.3	100.0%	538.3	100.0%	336.5	100.0%	125.5	100.0%	5 810.9	100.0%

Base: The respondents who would see Western medicine practitioners or both Chinese and Western medicine practitioners.

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

8.4 Health Problems and Treatment Received

In the 30 days preceding the survey, 57.0% of persons aged 15 or above reported that they had experienced some kinds of health problems (e.g. feeling unwell, being sick or injured) and it was more common in females (61.4%) than in males (52.1%) (Table 8.4a). The proportions of people experiencing health problems in the 30 days preceding the survey increased with age, from 46.2% in those aged 15-24 to 75.6% in those aged 85 or above (Table 8.4b).

Table 8.4a: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had experienced health problem in the 30 days preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	1 955.4	61.4%	1 508.9	52.1%	3 464.3	57.0%
No	1 229.6	38.6%	1 386.3	47.9%	2 615.9	43.0%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Table 8.4b: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had experienced health problem in the 30 days preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	370.2	46.2%	485.9	50.5%	525.0	51.4%	703.7	59.5%	641.2	60.2%	381.2	67.6%	258.4	73.3%	98.9	75.6%	3 464.3	57.0%
No	431.4	53.8%	475.5	49.5%	496.2	48.6%	479.3	40.5%	424.3	39.8%	182.8	32.4%	94.3	26.7%	31.9	24.4%	2 615.9	43.0%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Among persons aged 15 or above who had experienced health problems in the 30 days preceding the survey, 39.3% received treatment from Western medicine practitioners in private clinics / hospitals, 8.6% received treatment from Western medicine practitioners in public clinics or hospitals, 11.1% consulted Chinese medicine practitioners, 23.7% did nothing and ignored the health problems and 25.3% consumed over-the-counter medication including Western (20.2%) or Chinese (5.7%) medication (Table 8.4c and Table 8.4d).

Table 8.4c: Treatment for health problems experienced in the 30 days preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons (‘000)	%	No. of persons (‘000)	%	No. of persons (‘000)	%
Treatment by Western medicine practitioners in private clinics / hospitals	781.6	40.0%	580.0	38.4%	1 361.6	39.3%
Did nothing and ignored the health problem	449.1	23.0%	372.8	24.7%	822.0	23.7%
Consumed over-the-counter Western medication	406.6	20.8%	293.2	19.4%	699.8	20.2%
Just took rest and did nothing else	402.5	20.6%	263.9	17.5%	666.4	19.2%
Treatment by Chinese medicine practitioners	232.2	11.9%	153.6	10.2%	385.7	11.1%
Treatment by Western medicine practitioners in public clinics / hospitals (including HA and DH)	160.5	8.2%	137.9	9.1%	298.4	8.6%
Consumed over-the-counter Chinese medication or herbs	111.2	5.7%	86.3	5.7%	197.5	5.7%
Modified dietary habit	113.0	5.8%	75.7	5.0%	188.7	5.4%
Unconventional / non-mainstream treatment such as chiropractic, osteopathy, homeopathy and reflexology	16.7	0.9%	7.6	0.5%	24.3	0.7%
Acupuncture	15.0	0.8%	6.9	0.5%	21.9	0.6%
Occupational, physio- or speech therapy	12.3	0.6%	7.7	0.5%	20.0	0.6%
Bonesetting	8.5	0.4%	9.6	0.6%	18.1	0.5%

Base: The respondents who had experienced health problems in the 30 days preceding the survey.

Notes: Ranked in descending order of the percentages of the treatment for health problems experienced by the respondents.

Multiple answers were allowed.

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

Table 8.4d: Treatment for health problems experienced in the 30 days preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Treatment by Western medicine practitioners in private clinics / hospitals	157.7	42.6%	215.0	44.3%	243.4	46.4%	276.6	39.3%	221.8	34.6%	130.0	34.1%	88.6	34.3%	28.4	28.8%	1361.6	39.3%
Did nothing and ignored the health problem	64.7	17.5%	94.1	19.4%	115.7	22.0%	163.4	23.2%	180.3	28.1%	106.7	28.0%	68.6	26.5%	28.5	28.8%	822.0	23.7%
Consumed over-the-counter Western medication	110.9	30.0%	116.4	24.0%	111.5	21.2%	152.5	21.7%	110.3	17.2%	49.2	12.9%	37.4	14.5%	11.5	11.6%	699.8	20.2%
Just took rest and did nothing else	56.4	15.2%	95.7	19.7%	84.1	16.0%	127.5	18.1%	132.2	20.6%	81.4	21.4%	56.3	21.8%	32.8	33.2%	666.4	19.2%
Treatment by Chinese medicine practitioners	34.0	9.2%	50.9	10.5%	61.6	11.7%	87.0	12.4%	76.9	12.0%	44.1	11.6%	21.2	8.2%	10.0	10.1%	385.7	11.1%
Treatment by Western medicine practitioners in public clinics / hospitals (including HA and DH)	13.4	3.6%	22.4	4.6%	25.6	4.9%	46.2	6.6%	63.3	9.9%	59.1	15.5%	51.2	19.8%	17.3	17.5%	298.4	8.6%
Consumed over-the-counter Chinese medication or herbs	14.7	4.0%	24.5	5.0%	29.0	5.5%	44.0	6.3%	37.6	5.9%	30.7	8.1%	11.9	4.6%	5.0	5.1%	197.5	5.7%
Modified dietary habit	31.3	8.5%	43.5	8.9%	31.5	6.0%	39.3	5.6%	25.5	4.0%	9.4	2.5%	6.6	2.6%	1.7	1.7%	188.7	5.4%
Unconventional / non-mainstream treatment such as chiropractic, osteopathy, homeopathy and reflexology	1.1	0.3%	0.9	0.2%	5.7	1.1%	8.2	1.2%	6.1	0.9%	1.9	0.5%	0.6	0.2%	-	-	24.3	0.7%
Acupuncture	-	-	1.1	0.2%	4.2	0.8%	3.4	0.5%	6.9	1.1%	2.4	0.6%	3.8	1.5%	-	-	21.9	0.6%
Occupational, physio- or speech therapy	0.5	0.1%	2.8	0.6%	7.2	1.4%	4.4	0.6%	3.8	0.6%	1.4	0.4%	-	-	-	-	20.0	0.6%
Bonesetting	2.0	0.5%	1.9	0.4%	3.9	0.7%	2.9	0.4%	3.5	0.5%	3.6	0.9%	-	-	0.4	0.4%	18.1	0.5%

Base: The respondents who had experienced health problems in the 30 days preceding the survey.

Notes: Ranked in descending order of the percentages of the treatment for health problems experienced by the respondents.

Multiple answers were allowed.

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

8.5 Hospitalisation

The survey asked the respondents whether they had been admitted to hospital in the 12 months preceding the survey, including all admissions that required registration, no matter staying overnight in the hospital or not. 11.0% of persons aged 15 or above reported that they had been admitted to hospital, the proportion was 11.7% for females and 10.1% for males (Table 8.5a). The proportion of hospitalisation increased with age, with people aged 85 or above had the highest proportion of 30.1% (Table 8.5b).

Table 8.5a: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had been hospitalised in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	374.2	11.7%	291.6	10.1%	665.8	11.0%
No	2 810.8	88.3%	2 603.6	89.9%	5 414.4	89.0%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Table 8.5b: Proportion of population aged 15 or above who had been hospitalised in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	42.5	5.3%	92.4	9.6%	96.3	9.4%	108.0	9.1%	115.5	10.8%	99.7	17.7%	72.0	20.4%	39.3	30.1%	665.8	11.0%
No	759.1	94.7%	869.0	90.4%	924.9	90.6%	1 075.0	90.9%	950.0	89.2%	464.3	82.3%	280.7	79.6%	91.5	69.9%	5 414.4	89.0%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

8.5.1 Type of Hospitals Admitted

Among those who were admitted to hospitals in the 12 months preceding the survey, 74.2% were admitted to public hospitals under HA, 24.4% were admitted to private hospitals and 1.5% had been admitted to both types of hospitals (Table 8.5.1a). The proportions admitted to private hospitals were relatively higher in the age groups 25 to 64 than those of other age groups (Table 8.5.1b).

Table 8.5.1a: Type of hospitals which persons were admitted to in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
	('000)		('000)		('000)	
Public hospitals under HA	272.3	72.8%	221.7	76.0%	493.9	74.2%
Private hospitals	97.1	25.9%	65.1	22.3%	162.2	24.4%
Both	4.9	1.3%	4.8	1.6%	9.7	1.5%
Total	374.2	100.0%	291.6	100.0%	665.8	100.0%

Base: The respondents who had been admitted to hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

Table 8.5.1b: Type of hospitals which persons were admitted to in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or above		Total	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
	('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)	
Public hospitals under HA	33.7	79.3%	64.4	69.7%	52.5	54.5%	70.0	64.7%	84.0	72.7%	84.5	84.8%	66.9	92.9%	38.0	96.7%	493.9	74.2%
Private hospitals	8.4	19.8%	25.4	27.5%	42.2	43.8%	38.1	35.3%	29.4	25.5%	13.6	13.7%	4.1	5.7%	0.9	2.2%	162.2	24.4%
Both	0.4	1.0%	2.5	2.8%	1.6	1.7%	-	-	2.1	1.8%	1.5	1.6%	1.0	1.4%	0.4	1.1%	9.7	1.5%
Total	42.5	100.0%	92.4	100.0%	96.3	100.0%	108.0	100.0%	115.5	100.0%	99.7	100.0%	72.0	100.0%	39.3	100.0%	665.8	100.0%

Base: The respondents who had been admitted to hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

8.5.2 Frequency of Hospital Admissions

The frequency of hospital admissions was measured by the number of admissions in the 12 months preceding the survey among those who had reported at least one episode of hospitalisation. Of those who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA, 80.0% had one admission in the 12 months preceding the survey; 13.3% twice; and 6.7% three or more times. As regards those who had been admitted to private hospitals, 93.6% had been admitted to hospitals once in the 12 months preceding the survey; 5.2% twice; and 1.1% three or more times (Table 8.5.2a). The proportion of persons who had three or more admissions to public hospitals increased sharply in the age groups 75 or above (Table 8.5.2b).

Table 8.5.2a: Number of hospital admissions in the 12 months preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Public hospitals under HA¹						
Once	225.0	81.2%	177.8	78.5%	402.9	80.0%
More than once	52.1	18.8%	48.6	21.5%	100.7	20.0%
<i>Twice</i>	34.0	12.3%	32.8	14.5%	66.8	13.3%
<i>3 - 10 times</i>	18.1	6.5%	15.8	7.0%	33.9	6.7%
Total	277.2	100.0%	226.4	100.0%	503.6	100.0%
Mean	1.3		1.4		1.3	
Private hospitals²						
Once	96.4	94.6%	64.5	92.3%	160.9	93.6%
More than once	5.6	5.4%	5.4	7.7%	10.9	6.4%
<i>Twice</i>	4.1	4.0%	4.9	7.0%	9.0	5.2%
<i>3 - 10 times</i>	1.4	1.4%	0.5	0.7%	1.9	1.1%
Total	102.0	100.0%	69.9	100.0%	171.8	100.0%
Mean	1.1		1.1		1.1	

Bases: 1. The respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA in the 12 months preceding the survey.

2. The respondents who had been admitted to private hospitals in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

Table 8.5.2b: Number of hospital admissions in the 12 months preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or above		Total		
	No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		No. of		
	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	
	('000)		('000)	('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)	
Public hospitals under HA¹																			
Once	29.4	86.3%	57.0	85.1%	45.1	83.3%	57.2	81.7%	70.8	82.3%	65.4	76.0%	50.0	73.6%	28.0	73.0%	402.9	80.0%	
More than once	4.7	13.7%	10.0	14.9%	9.1	16.7%	12.8	18.3%	15.3	17.7%	20.7	24.0%	17.9	26.4%	10.4	27.0%	100.7	20.0%	
<i>Twice</i>	3.2	9.4%	5.9	8.8%	5.9	10.9%	8.8	12.5%	10.2	11.9%	15.4	17.9%	12.0	17.6%	5.5	14.3%	66.8	13.3%	
<i>3 - 10 times</i>	1.5	4.3%	4.1	6.1%	3.1	5.8%	4.0	5.8%	5.1	5.9%	5.3	6.2%	5.9	8.7%	4.9	12.7%	33.9	6.7%	
Total	34.1	100.0%	66.9	100.0%	54.1	100.0%	70.0	100.0%	86.1	100.0%	86.0	100.0%	67.9	100.0%	38.4	100.0%	503.6	100.0%	
Mean	1.2		1.3		1.3		1.3		1.3		1.4		1.4		1.5		1.3		
Private hospitals²																			
Once	8.2	93.2%	25.7	91.9%	41.9	95.5%	35.1	92.3%	29.4	93.2%	14.2	93.3%	5.1	100.0%	1.3	100.0%	160.9	93.6%	
More than once	0.6	6.8%	2.3	8.1%	2.0	4.5%	2.9	7.7%	2.1	6.8%	1.0	6.7%	-	-	-	-	10.9	6.4%	
<i>Twice</i>	0.6	6.8%	2.3	8.1%	1.0	2.3%	2.0	5.1%	2.1	6.8%	1.0	6.7%	-	-	-	-	9.0	5.2%	
<i>3 - 10 times</i>	-	-	-	-	0.9	2.1%	1.0	2.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9	1.1%	
Total	8.8	100.0%	28.0	100.0%	43.8	100.0%	38.1	100.0%	31.5	100.0%	15.2	100.0%	5.1	100.0%	1.3	100.0%	171.8	100.0%	
Mean	1.1		1.1		1.1		1.2		1.1		1.1		1.0		1.0		1.1		

Bases: 1. The respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA in the 12 months preceding the survey.

2. The respondents who had been admitted to private hospitals in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

8.5.3 Length of Hospital Stay

Regarding the length of stay during the last hospital admission among those who had been admitted to public or private hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey, three-quarters (74.9%) of those admitted to public hospitals under HA and 89.0% of those admitted to private hospitals stayed less than five days. In contrast, 5.3% of those admitted to public hospitals under HA stayed in hospital for more than 14 days, while only 0.7% of those admitted to private hospitals stayed for such long time. The mean duration of hospital stay during the last episode of admission for those who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA was 4.7 days, which was about double the mean duration of hospital stay for those admitted to private hospitals (2.3 days). Females tended to stay longer than males for those admitted to public hospitals under HA with mean duration of hospital stay of 4.8 days for females in their last hospital admissions compared to the corresponding mean of 4.5 days for males. However, the opposite was observed for those admitted to private hospitals with mean duration of hospital stay of 2.1 days for females and 2.6 days for males (Table 8.5.3a).

Table 8.5.3a: Duration of hospitalisation during the last hospital admission by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Public hospitals under HA¹						
Less than 5 days	202.4	74.3%	167.3	75.5%	369.7	74.9%
5 – 14 days	54.0	19.8%	43.8	19.8%	97.9	19.8%
More than 14 days	15.8	5.8%	10.5	4.7%	26.3	5.3%
Total	272.3	100.0%	221.7	100.0%	493.9	100.0%
Mean *	4.8		4.5		4.7	
Private hospitals²						
Less than 5 days	88.9	91.6%	55.5	85.2%	144.4	89.0%
5 – 14 days	8.2	8.4%	8.4	13.0%	16.6	10.3%
More than 14 days	-	-	1.2	1.8%	1.2	0.7%
Total	97.1	100.0%	65.1	100.0%	162.2	100.0%
Mean *	2.1		2.6		2.3	

Bases: 1. The respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA only in the 12 months preceding the survey.

2. The respondents who had been admitted to private hospitals only in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Notes: * The duration of hospital stay of the respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA or private hospitals for less than one day were counted as 0.5 day.

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

Caution must be taken in regard to various data limitations when interpreting and making comparison with the statistics on the duration of hospital stay. The limitations include the survey coverage and the possibility of non-contact with those who were admitted to hospitals frequently or stayed in hospitals for a long period of time during the fieldwork period of the survey.

Analysed by age group, elder persons aged 85 or above stayed in hospitals the longest with their mean duration of stay of 7.8 days and 6.5 days for those admitted to public hospitals under HA and private hospitals in their last hospital admissions respectively (Table 8.5.3b).

Table 8.5.3b: Duration of hospitalisation during the last hospital admission by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Public hospitals under HA¹																		
Less than 5 days	30.4	90.2%	53.5	83.2%	43.3	82.5%	55.2	78.9%	66.3	79.0%	57.3	67.8%	44.8	67.0%	18.8	49.5%	369.7	74.9%
5 - 14 days	2.7	8.1%	9.8	15.3%	5.7	10.8%	11.9	17.0%	14.4	17.2%	22.8	27.0%	16.2	24.2%	14.3	37.6%	97.9	19.8%
More than 14 days	0.6	1.8%	1.0	1.6%	3.5	6.7%	2.9	4.1%	3.2	3.8%	4.4	5.2%	5.9	8.8%	4.9	12.8%	26.3	5.3%
Total	33.7	100.0%	64.4	100.0%	52.5	100.0%	70.0	100.0%	84.0	100.0%	84.5	100.0%	66.9	100.0%	38.0	100.0%	493.9	100.0%
Mean *	2.2		3.8		4.5		4.7		4.4		4.5		5.4		7.8		4.7	
Private hospitals²																		
Less than 5 days	7.9	94.4%	21.5	84.6%	37.7	89.3%	33.7	88.6%	27.4	93.0%	13.0	95.7%	3.1	75.2%	-	-	144.4	89.0%
5 - 14 days	0.5	5.6%	3.9	15.4%	4.5	10.7%	3.2	8.3%	2.1	7.0%	0.6	4.3%	1.0	24.8%	0.9	100.0%	16.6	10.3%
More than 14 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	3.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	0.7%
Total	8.4	100.0%	25.4	100.0%	42.2	100.0%	38.1	100.0%	29.4	100.0%	13.6	100.0%	4.1	100.0%	0.9	100.0%	162.2	100.0%
Mean *	1.9		2.4		2.2		2.7		2.1		1.7		3.6		6.5		2.3	

Bases: 1. The respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA only in the 12 months preceding the survey.

2. The respondents who had been admitted to private hospitals only in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Notes: * The duration of hospital stay of the respondents who had been admitted to public hospitals under HA or private hospitals for less than one day were counted as 0.5 day.

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

Caution must be taken in regard to various data limitations when interpreting and making comparison with the statistics on the duration of hospital stay. The limitations include the survey coverage and the possibility of non-contact with those who were admitted to hospitals frequently or stayed in hospitals for a long period of time during the fieldwork period of the survey.

8.5.4 Operations Performed during Hospitalisation

Among persons aged 15 or above who had been admitted to hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey, 32.0% had an operation performed in the operating theatre during their last hospital admission (32.5% in females and 31.2% in males) (Table 8.5.4a). Analysed by age group, the proportions were relatively higher among those aged 25 to 64, with the highest proportion reported by persons aged 35-44 (39.7%) and the lowest proportion reported by persons aged 15-24 and 85 or above (both at 20.2%) (Table 8.5.4b).

Table 8.5.4a: Proportion of hospitalised persons who had an operation performed in the operating theatre during their last hospital admission in the 12 months preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	121.8	32.5%	90.9	31.2%	212.7	32.0%
No	252.4	67.5%	200.6	68.8%	453.0	68.0%
Total	374.2	100.0%	291.6	100.0%	665.8	100.0%

Base: The respondents who had been admitted to hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

Table 8.5.4b: Proportion of hospitalised persons who had an operation performed in the operating theatre during their last hospital admission in the 12 months preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	8.6	20.2%	29.6	32.1%	38.2	39.7%	36.1	33.4%	42.9	37.1%	30.9	31.0%	18.5	25.7%	7.9	20.2%	212.7	32.0%
No	33.9	79.8%	62.7	67.9%	58.1	60.3%	72.0	66.6%	72.7	62.9%	68.8	69.0%	53.5	74.3%	31.4	79.8%	453.0	68.0%
Total	42.5	100.0%	92.4	100.0%	96.3	100.0%	108.0	100.0%	115.5	100.0%	99.7	100.0%	72.0	100.0%	39.3	100.0%	665.8	100.0%

Base: The respondents who had been admitted to hospitals in Hong Kong in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

8.6 Consultations with Mental Health Professionals

Overall, 1.7% of persons aged 15 or above (1.9% in females and 1.5% in males) reported that they had consulted mental health professionals, such as a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, or medical social worker, for their mental health problem in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 8.6a). Analysed by age group, persons aged 15-24 had the highest proportion (3.1%) of consulting a mental health professional, whilst the proportions among other age groups ranged from 1.1% to 2.0% (Table 8.6b).

Table 8.6a: Proportion of population who had consulted a mental health professional in the 12 months preceding the survey by gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	59.1	1.9%	42.6	1.5%	101.6	1.7%
No	3 125.9	98.1%	2 852.6	98.5%	5 978.6	98.3%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

Table 8.6b: Proportion of population who had consulted a mental health professional in the 12 months preceding the survey by age group

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or 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)	%	No. of persons ('000)	%
Yes	25.1	3.1%	11.8	1.2%	13.2	1.3%	23.6	2.0%	14.7	1.4%	7.7	1.4%	4.0	1.1%	1.6	1.3%	101.6	1.7%
No	776.5	96.9%	949.6	98.8%	1 008.0	98.7%	1 159.4	98.0%	1 050.8	98.6%	556.3	98.6%	348.7	98.9%	129.2	98.7%	5 978.6	98.3%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%

Base: All respondents.

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

8.7 Satisfaction with the Health Care System

Respondents were asked to rate public and private sectors of the health care system in Hong Kong on an overall satisfaction scale of 0-100 where 0 represents the lowest and 100 the highest level of satisfaction. The average satisfaction scores given to the public health care sector and private health care sector were 66.9 and 75.3 respectively (Table 8.7a).

Table 8.7a: Overall satisfaction with the health care system by gender

Scores	Female		Male		Total	
	No. of persons (‘000)	%	No. of persons (‘000)	%	No. of persons (‘000)	%
Public sector						
0 - 19	20.7	0.7%	21.5	0.7%	42.2	0.7%
20 - 39	66.7	2.1%	79.4	2.7%	146.1	2.4%
40 - 59	472.2	14.8%	438.0	15.1%	910.2	15.0%
60 - 79	1 469.8	46.1%	1 345.7	46.5%	2 815.5	46.3%
80 - 100	836.0	26.2%	727.5	25.1%	1 563.5	25.7%
Don't know	319.5	10.0%	283.2	9.8%	602.7	9.9%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%
Mean	67.3		66.6		66.9	
Private sector						
0 - 19	1.8	0.1%	3.0	0.1%	4.8	0.1%
20 - 39	6.7	0.2%	7.4	0.3%	14.1	0.2%
40 - 59	152.6	4.8%	131.7	4.5%	284.3	4.7%
60 - 79	1 095.7	34.4%	1 042.1	36.0%	2 137.8	35.2%
80 - 100	1 593.6	50.0%	1 405.2	48.5%	2 998.8	49.3%
Don't know	334.5	10.5%	305.9	10.6%	640.4	10.5%
Total	3 185.0	100.0%	2 895.2	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%
Mean	75.5		75.1		75.3	

Base: All respondents.

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

Across the age groups, the range of average satisfaction scores for the public sector was from 64.6 to 73.8 with a general trend of increasing score with age. The average satisfaction scores for the private sector had a narrower range from 73.9 to 76.1 (Table 8.7b).

Table 8.7b: Overall satisfaction with the health care system by age group

Scores	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 or above		Total	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
	('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)		('000)	
Public sector																		
0 - 19	7.6	0.9%	7.1	0.7%	5.4	0.5%	10.3	0.9%	8.2	0.8%	2.3	0.4%	1.3	0.4%	-	-	42.2	0.7%
20 - 39	18.7	2.3%	29.9	3.1%	26.2	2.6%	36.6	3.1%	22.0	2.1%	6.9	1.2%	5.0	1.4%	0.8	0.6%	146.1	2.4%
40 - 59	131.6	16.4%	169.3	17.6%	180.9	17.7%	181.1	15.3%	143.9	13.5%	64.0	11.3%	31.3	8.9%	8.0	6.1%	910.2	15.0%
60 - 79	371.2	46.3%	477.9	49.7%	503.5	49.3%	572.5	48.4%	494.7	46.4%	231.8	41.1%	120.2	34.1%	43.6	33.4%	2 815.5	46.3%
80 - 100	173.1	21.6%	182.9	19.0%	212.2	20.8%	282.5	23.9%	312.6	29.3%	206.2	36.6%	149.0	42.3%	44.9	34.4%	1 563.5	25.7%
Don't know	99.4	12.4%	94.3	9.8%	92.8	9.1%	100.0	8.5%	84.1	7.9%	52.8	9.4%	45.8	13.0%	33.4	25.5%	602.7	9.9%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%
Mean	65.3		64.6		65.3		66.0		68.1		70.9		73.2		73.8		66.9	
Private sector																		
0 - 19	-	-	0.4	<0.05%	0.4	<0.05%	3.1	0.3%	0.5	<0.05%	-	-	0.4	0.1%	-	-	4.8	0.1%
20 - 39	2.2	0.3%	3.9	0.4%	0.5	<0.05%	2.9	0.2%	2.6	0.2%	0.9	0.2%	1.1	0.3%	-	-	14.1	0.2%
40 - 59	35.2	4.4%	37.3	3.9%	43.9	4.3%	56.1	4.7%	57.3	5.4%	24.1	4.3%	23.3	6.6%	7.2	5.5%	284.3	4.7%
60 - 79	287.7	35.9%	359.5	37.4%	354.3	34.7%	429.2	36.3%	387.0	36.3%	183.7	32.6%	99.5	28.2%	37.0	28.3%	2 137.8	35.2%
80 - 100	391.0	48.8%	500.2	52.0%	558.2	54.7%	598.5	50.6%	517.1	48.5%	256.3	45.4%	139.0	39.4%	38.4	29.3%	2 998.8	49.3%
Don't know	85.4	10.7%	60.2	6.3%	63.9	6.3%	93.2	7.9%	101.1	9.5%	99.0	17.6%	89.3	25.3%	48.2	36.9%	640.4	10.5%
Total	801.6	100.0%	961.4	100.0%	1 021.2	100.0%	1 183.0	100.0%	1 065.5	100.0%	564.0	100.0%	352.7	100.0%	130.8	100.0%	6 080.2	100.0%
Mean	75.1		75.5		76.0		75.0		74.9		76.1		74.8		73.9		75.3	

Base: All respondents.

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