



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our ref: HWF/1/19
Your ref:

Tel: (852) 2973 8121
Fax: (852) 2840 0467

9 January 2007

Ms Mary So
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central

Dear Ms So,

**Impact of use of obstetric services by Mainland women
on public hospital resources**

At the meeting of the Panel yesterday, Members requested for some supplementary information before the motion debate tomorrow. I now enclose updated birth statistics up to November 2006, a breakdown of the births in Hong Kong by private and public hospitals, and additional information on the behaviour of Mainland pregnant women using the obstetric services of public hospitals for Members' reference. However, more time is required to collate a breakdown of the birth statistics by each public hospital. As for the request for Government's estimate on the fertility rate in Hong Kong on the assumption that local women would have three children, we would refer the matter to relevant Government departments for advice and revert in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Cheng', written over a white background.

(Paul Cheng)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

cc Dr W L Cheung, Director (Cluster Services), Hospital Authority

Supplementary Information on Birth Statistics and Patient Behaviour

1. Total Number of Births in Hong Kong

| Year | Number of Births in Hong Kong |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2001 | 48 219 |
| 2002 | 48 209 |
| 2003 | 46 965 |
| 2004 | 49 796 |
| 2005 | 57 098 |
| 2006 (first 11 months) | 58 964 |

(Source: Census & Statistics Department)

2. Number of Births by Mainland Women in Hong Kong

| Year | Number of babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong | Of which, number of babies whose fathers are also non-Hong Kong residents | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---------|
| 2001 | 7 810 | 620 | (7.9%) |
| 2002 | 8 506 | 1 250 | (14.7%) |
| 2003 | 10 128 | 2 070 | (20.4%) |
| 2004 | 13 209 | 4 102 | (31.1%) |
| 2005 | 19 538 | 9 273 | (47.5%) |
| 2006 (first 11 months) | 23 435 | 14 219 | (60.7%) |

(Source: Census & Statistics Department and Immigration Department)

3. Total Number of Births in Hong Kong

| Year | Births in Public Hospitals | Births in Private Hospitals | Total |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 2001 | 35 949 | 12 149 | 48 219 |
| 2002 | 37 191 | 11 018 | 48 209 |
| 2003 | 35 499 | 11 466 | 46 965 |
| 2004 | 37 668 | 12 128 | 49 796 |
| 2005 | 41 259 | 15 839 | 57 098 |
| 2006 (first 11 months) | 36 819 | 22 145 | 58 964 |

(Source: C&SD and Hospital Authority)

4. Behaviour of Mainland pregnant women using obstetric services in public hospitals

- About 85% of Mainland pregnant women are admitted through the Accident and Emergency Departments
- Over 80% of Mainland pregnant women had little antenatal care or were unable to produce satisfactory evidence of such care
- The rate of default by Mainland pregnant women (in terms of the amount of medical fees in default) was 15% in 2005-06