

Youth Drug Abuse - Follow-up Actions

(a) A projection of the number of young drug abusers from the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA)

The CRDA is a voluntary reporting system which records information of drug abusers who have come into contact with and been reported by reporting agencies, including law enforcement departments, treatment and rehabilitation organisations, welfare agencies, hospitals, etc. The CRDA does not measure the exact size of the drug abusing population in Hong Kong at any particular time but its figures should reflect the trend over time. Since the records of CRDA do not represent a scientifically selected random sample, it would be statistically unsound or biased to project the number of drug abusers or young drug abusers in Hong Kong based solely on the CRDA data. Government would supplement CRDA data with information from other sources such as surveys of drug use among students, thematic research projects, drug-related arrests, drug seizures, treatment and rehabilitation statistics, etc to monitor the drug abuse situation. On-going efforts will be made to consider further means to enhance understanding of the situation.

(b) Information on the number of outreaching social workers deployed in Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan/Kwai Ching and Tai Po/North

The provision of outreaching social workers to the four districts is as follows –

District	Number of workers
Sha Tin	21
Yuen Long	31
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Ching	31
Tai Po/North	31

Another 21 social workers serving the New Territories East and West which cover the above districts also provide outreaching social work

service to youths who are cautioned by police superintendents for minor offences.

(c) Information on the targeted and actual number of young drug abusers served by the five substance abuse clinics (SACs) of the Hospital Authority (HA)

According to the information provided by HA, the number of first, follow-up and total attendances at the five SACs are set out in the table below. HA does not maintain a targeted number of young drug abusers served by the SACs or routinely collate further breakdown figures for follow-up and total attendances by different age groups.

	2005		2006		2007 Q1-Q3	
First Attendances	All Ages	Aged below 21	All Ages	Aged below 21	All Ages	Aged below 21
Substance Abuse Clinics	845	172	707	124	404	62
Queen Mary Hospital*	43	3	22	2	18	5
Follow-up Attendances for All Ages						
Substance Abuse Clinics	10 465		11 865		8 072	
Queen Mary Hospital*	1 020		1 232		891	
Total Attendances for All Ages						
Substance Abuse Clinics	11 310		12 572		8 476	
Queen Mary Hospital*	1 063		1 254		909	

* Although there is no designated SAC in the Queen Mary Hospital, its psychiatric outpatient departments provide consultation on substance abuse cases.