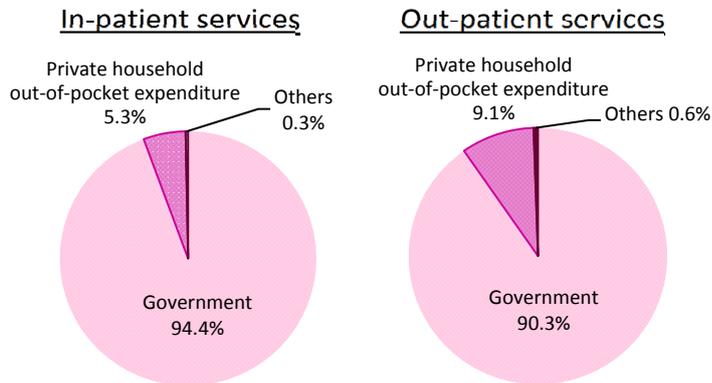




## Health expenditure in Hong Kong

**Figure 1 – Sources of financing of public health services in 2012-2013**



**Figure 2 – Waiting time for public specialist out-patient services**

	2013-2014	2015-2016
<b>New case bookings for 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of routine cases</b>		
- Orthopaedics and Traumatology	125 wk <sup>(1)</sup>	133 wk
- Gynaecology	77 wk	113 wk
- Psychiatry	88 wk	98 wk
- Medicine	75 wk	95 wk
- Surgery	98 wk	78 wk

Note: (1) Number of weeks.

**Figure 3 – Average waiting time for public accident and emergency services for semi-urgent patients**

Semi-urgent patients	2011-2012	2015-2016 <sup>(1)</sup>
- Overall	76 min <sup>(2)</sup>	107 min
- United Christian Hospital	126 min	152 min
- Kwong Wah Hospital	118 min	171 min
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital	96 min	140 min

Notes: (1) Figures as at 31 December 2015.

(2) Number of minutes.

**Figure 4 – Average waiting time for public accident and emergency services for non-urgent patients**

Non-urgent patients	2011-2012	2015-2016 <sup>(1)</sup>
- Overall	103 min <sup>(2)</sup>	130 min
- United Christian Hospital	221 min	227 min
- Kwong Wah Hospital	140 min	194 min
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital	130 min	180 min

Notes: (1) Figures as at 31 December 2015.

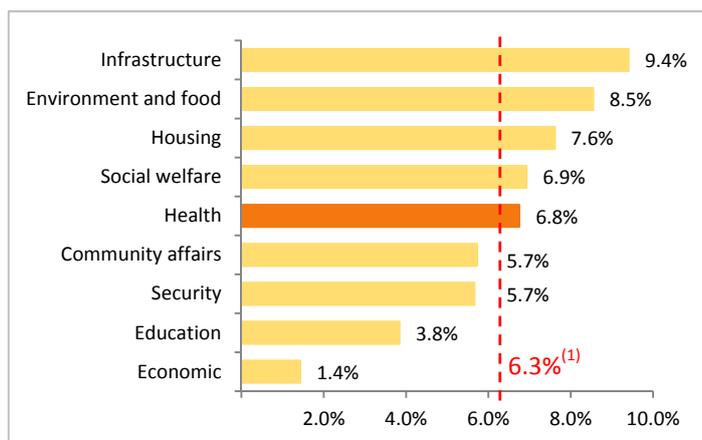
(2) Number of minutes.

## Highlights

- In Hong Kong, the public healthcare system provides a comprehensive range of health services at very low fees. The subsidization rates for in-patient and out-patient services were 94% and 90% respectively in 2012-2013 (**Figure 1**).
- At present, public hospitals provide nearly 90% in-patient services (in terms of bed-days). The number of attendances of public primary care and specialist out-patient services also increased by around 20% between 2005-2006 and 2014-2015.
- While the public healthcare system has been heavily relied upon by the patients, the Hospital Authority only employs around 40% of doctors in Hong Kong.
- The long waiting time for specialist out-patient services (**Figure 2**) reflected that the public healthcare system has been overstretched. Likewise, the average waiting time for semi-urgent and non-urgent patients of public accident and emergency services increased by 31 minutes and 27 minutes respectively between 2011-2012 and 2015-2016 (**Figures 3 and 4**). The longest waiting time for non-urgent patients in 2015-2016 was recorded at the United Christian Hospital (3.8 hours) followed by the Kwong Wah Hospital (3.2 hours) and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (3 hours).

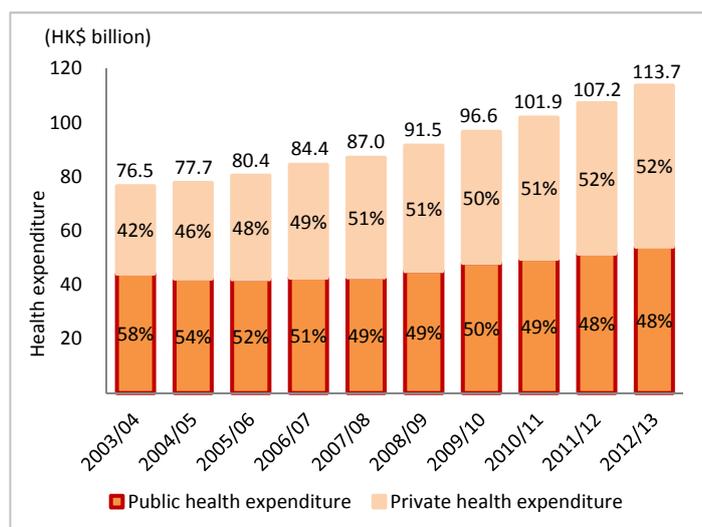
## Health expenditure in Hong Kong (cont'd)

**Figure 5 – Average annual growth of public expenditure by policy area, FY2006-2007 to FY2015-2016**



Note: (1) Average annual growth of total public expenditure.

**Figure 6 – Total health expenditure (at constant 2013 prices)**



### Highlights

- Amid the heavy reliance on the public hospital system, public health expenditure increased by an annual average of 6.8% between FY2006-2007 and FY2015-2016 (Figure 5). While the growth rate was slightly higher than that of total public expenditure (6.3%), it was lower than that of other policy group areas such as infrastructure, environment and food, housing and social welfare.
- In recent years, the overstretched public hospitals might have channelled patients into the private health system. Probably reflecting this, private consumption expenditure on health services increased more rapidly than public health expenditure by an annual average of 8.8% between FY2006-2007 and FY2015-2016. This resulted in an increasingly higher share of private consumption expenditure on health services to total health expenditure, as evidenced by the latest health expenditure figures provided by the Food and Health Bureau (Figure 6).

Data sources: Latest figures from Budget Speech, Census and Statistics Department, Food and Health Bureau and Hospital Authority.

Research Office  
Information Services Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
24 October 2016  
Tel: 2871 2143

*Statistical Highlights are compiled for Members and Committees of the Legislative Council. They are not legal or other professional advice and shall not be relied on as such. Statistical Highlights are subject to copyright owned by The Legislative Council Commission (The Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of Statistical Highlights for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library. The paper number of this issue of Statistical Highlights is ISSH03/16-17.*