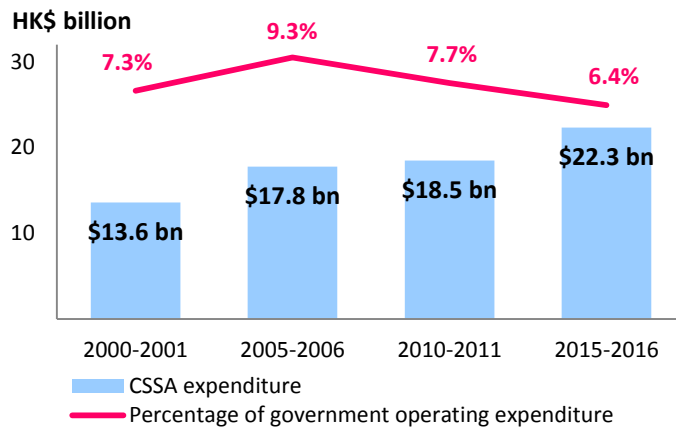


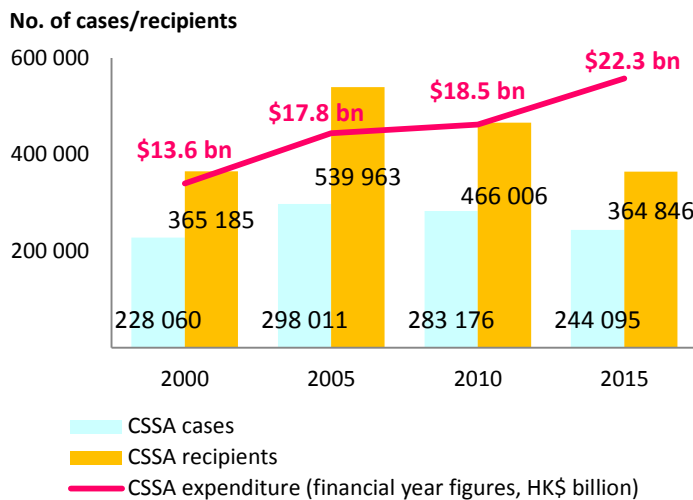


## Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

**Figure 1 — CSSA expenditure**



**Figure 2 — CSSA caseload and recipients**



**Figure 3 — CSSA caseload by category**

Case category	2005		2015	
Old age	151 934	(51%)	146 083	(60%)
Single parent	39 755	(13%)	28 403	(12%)
Ill health	23 962	(8%)	24 458	(10%)
Permanent disability	17 482	(6%)	17 914	(7%)
Unemployment	41 436	(14%)	16 332	(7%)
Low-earnings	18 089	(6%)	6 335	(3%)
Others	5 353	(2%)	4 570	(2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>298 011</b>	<b>(100%)</b>	<b>244 095</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis denote percentage share in total.

### Highlights

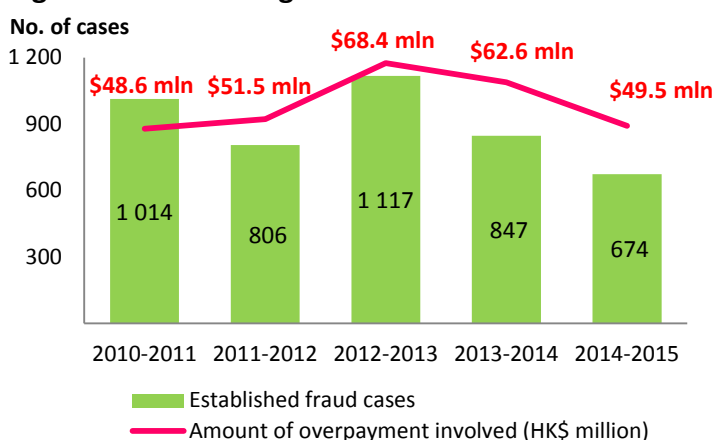
- In Hong Kong, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme provides the major safety net to those who cannot support themselves financially and it is means-tested. From 2000-2001 to 2015-2016, the CSSA expenditure had increased 64% to HK\$22.3 billion. However, its percentage share of the government operating expenditure decreased from its peak of 9.3% in 2005-2006 to 6.4% in 2015-2016 (**Figure 1**).
- Under the CSSA Scheme, the number of cases is different from the number of recipients as one case may involve more than one recipient, e.g. a single parent with two children. Despite the overall rising trend of CSSA expenditure, the number of cases and recipients have showed visible decrease since 2005. This trend is more significant in terms of the number of CSSA recipients, with 32% decrease from 2005 to 2015 (**Figure 2**).
- Among all the caseload, old age is the largest category amidst the ageing trend in the society, accounting for 60% of the overall caseload in 2015. Meanwhile, the relative proportions of permanent disability and ill health also witnessed increases to 7% and 10% over the past decade (**Figure 3**). The number of unemployment cases plummeted by more than half within a decade to 16 332 in 2015 with the lowering of unemployment rate to 3.3%.

## Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (cont'd)

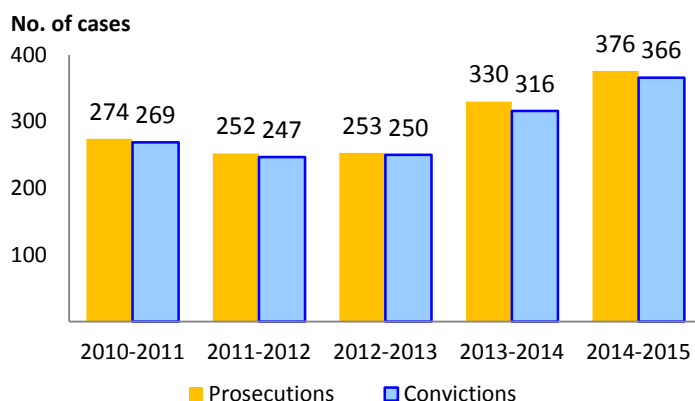
**Figure 4 – Median duration of stay on CSSA (years)**

Case category	2010-2011	2014-2015	Difference
Permanent disability	8.7	10.5	↑ 1.8
Old age	8.4	10.2	↑ 1.8
Low-earnings	7.2	9.0	↑ 1.8
Ill health	6.1	6.7	↑ 0.6
Unemployment	4.5	6.0	↑ 1.5
Single parent	6.3	5.9	↓ 0.4
Others	3.1	3.9	↑ 0.8
Overall	7.5	8.8	↑ 1.3

**Figure 5 – Defrauding of CSSA**



**Figure 6 – Prosecution of fraud cases**



### Highlights

- Analysed by duration of stay on CSSA, the time span of all categories stretched except for single parent cases. While the overall duration of receiving CSSA of all cases increased 1.3 years within five years from 2010 to 2015, single parent cases showed shortening period of 0.4 years from 6.3 years in 2010-2011 to 5.9 years in 2014-2015 (**Figure 4**).
- Concerning the figures related to fraudulent claims, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") has a special team to handle reported suspected cases. Within the last five years, the number of fraud cases has been decreasing from its peak (1 117 cases in 2012-2013) to 674 in 2014-2015 (**Figure 5**).
- SWD would issue warnings to those fraudulent claimants to recover overpayment and a portion of cases would be transferred to the Police for possible prosecution. In 2014-2015, there were 376 prosecuted cases and the conviction rate remained high at 97% (**Figure 6**).

Data sources: Latest figures from Census and Statistics Department and Social Welfare Department.

Research Office  
Information Services Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
25 November 2016  
Tel: 2871 2114

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