



Crime and police

Figure 1 — Trend of reported crime in Hong Kong

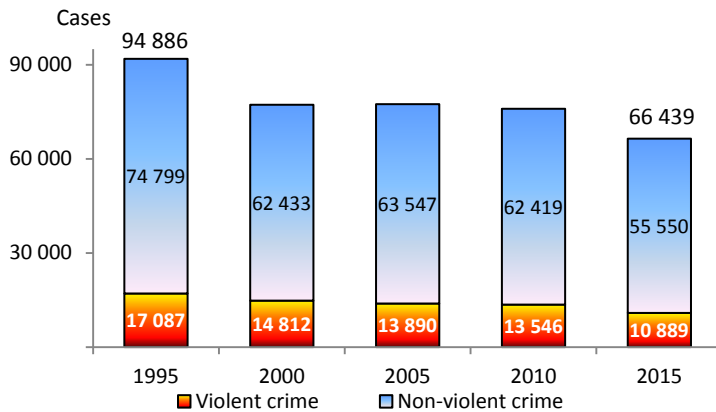
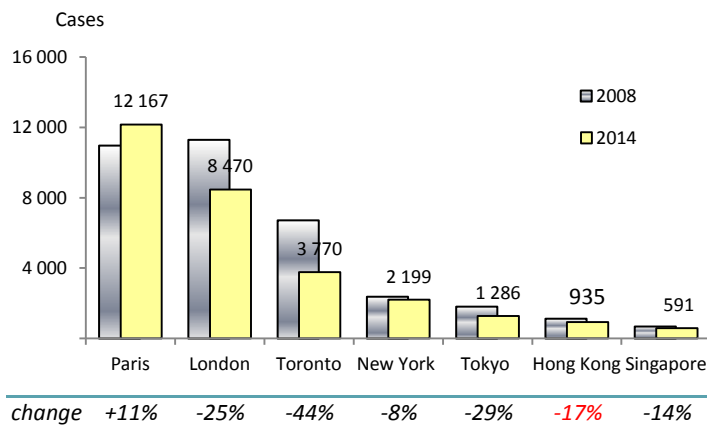
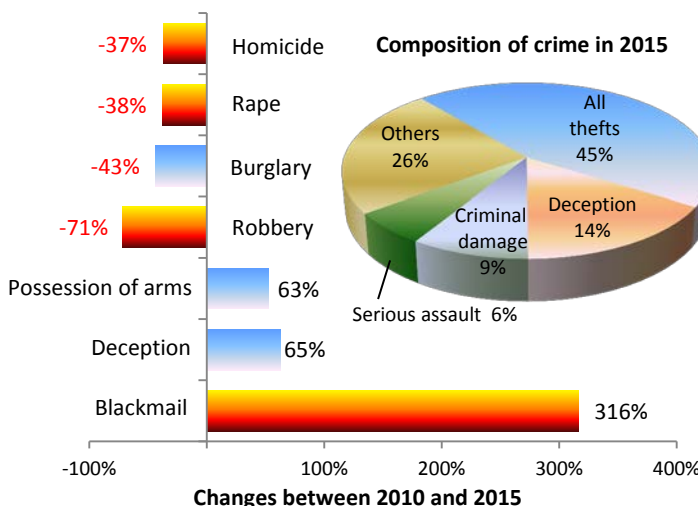


Figure 2 — Crime rate in selected cities



Note: Crime rate is measured by the number of crime per 100 000 population. Classification of crime may differ among cities.

Figure 3 — Composition of crime in 2015 and major changes between 2010 and 2015



Highlights

- Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world, taking the 6th position in a comparative study on personal safety among 50 cities in 2015. Over the past 20 years, the number of reported crime has declined significantly by 28% to 66 439 cases, with bigger reduction in violent crime (36%) than non-violent crime (26%) (**Figure 1**).
- As such, the number of crime per 100 000 population in Hong Kong fell by 17% to 935 in 2014, compared with 2008. Among the seven big cities selected for comparison, Hong Kong recorded the second lowest crime rate in 2014, only next to Singapore. Yet, it compared favourably with other cities including London and New York. Similar to Hong Kong, all these cities except Paris, were on a downward trend of reported crime (**Figure 2**).
- Analysed by crime category, thefts including shop theft and burglary is the largest category of crime in Hong Kong, accounting for 45% of all reported crime in 2015. It is followed by deception, with a share of 14%. Bucking the overall downtrend in crime rate, blackmail cases have quadrupled over the past 5 years, while cases of deception and possession of arms (including offensive weapons and ammunitions) increased by 65% and 63% respectively (**Figure 3**).

Crime and police (cont'd)

Figure 4 — Strength of Hong Kong Police Force

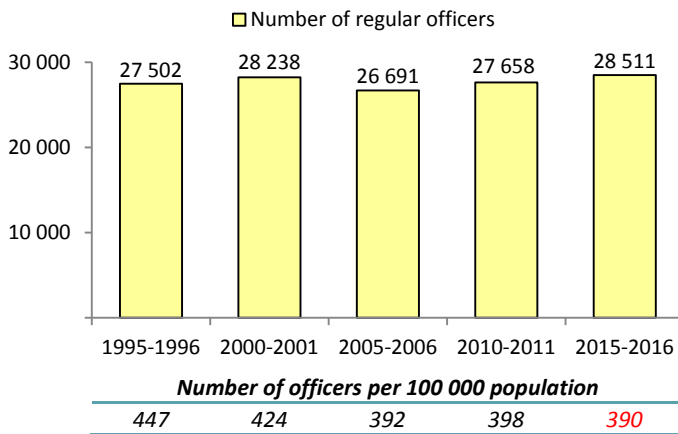
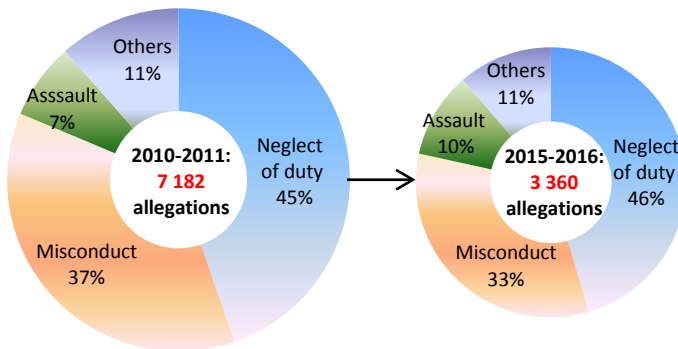
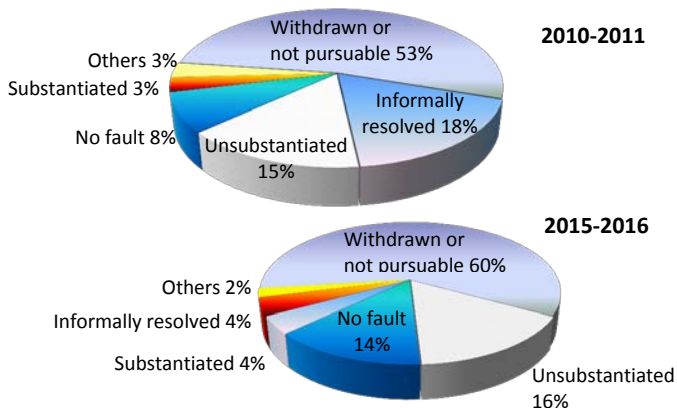


Figure 5 — The nature of complaints against police



Note: The above figures only show the allegations of complaints endorsed by IPCC. Each complaint may comprise more than one allegation.

Figure 6 — Investigation results of the allegations



Highlights

- The decline in crime was matched with a modest improvement of the strength of Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF"). In the past 20 years, the number of regular police officers (excluding auxiliary and civilian officers) has increased by a total of 3.6% to 28 511 in 2015. Nevertheless, after taking into account population growth, the ratio of police officers per 100 000 population fell by 12.7% to 390 over the same period (Figure 4).

- According to the Independent Police Complaints Council ("IPCC") which is responsible for monitoring complaints investigation by HKPF, the number of allegations of complaints against police has dropped by 53% from 7 182 to 3 360 respectively between 2010-2011 and 2015-2016. The most common allegation was "neglect of duty" (51%) followed by "misconduct" (34%) in 2015-2016 (Figure 5).

- The Complaints Against Police Office of HKPF is responsible for investigating the complaints it receives. In 2015-2016, 60% of the allegations of the complaints were withdrawn or not pursuable. Only about 4% of the allegations were found substantiated, with the rest being unsubstantiated (16%), no fault (14%) or informally resolved (4%) (Figure 6).

Data sources: Latest figures from Hong Kong Police Force, IPCC and Census and Statistics Department.

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