



Residential care services for the elderly

Figure 1 – Living arrangement of the elderly

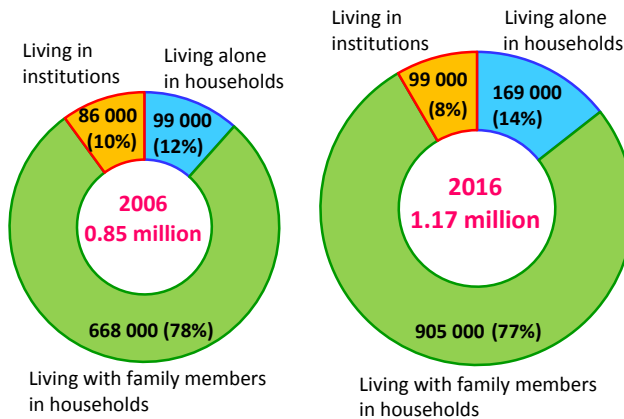
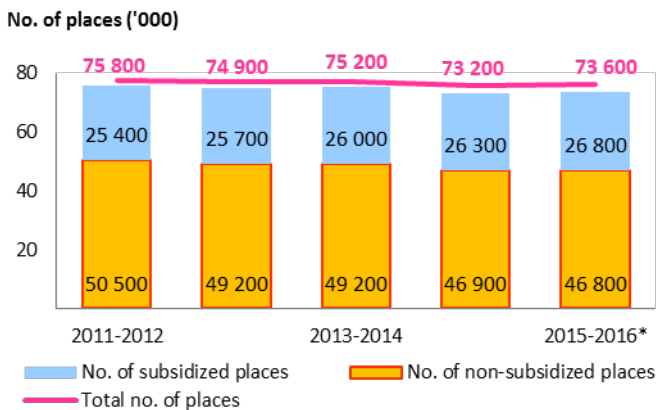
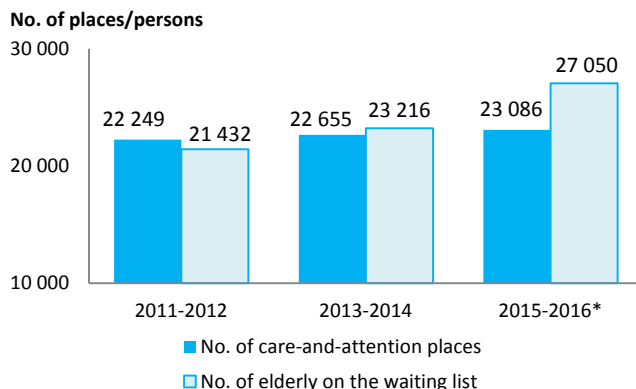


Figure 2 – Provision of residential care places



* Data as at December 2015.

Figure 3 – Provision of subsidized care-and-attention places



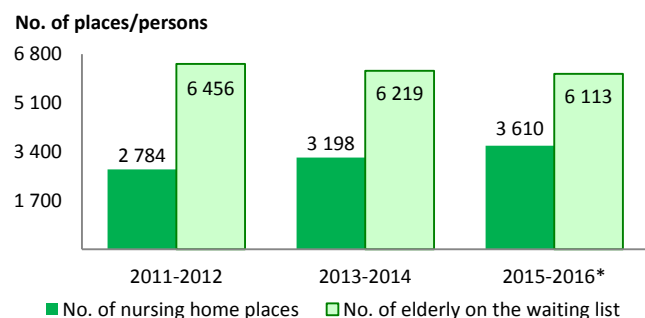
* Data as at December 2015.

Highlights

- The policy objective of elderly care has been "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up" since the late 2000s. Among the 1.17 million local elderly aged 65 and above in 2016, the majority of 77% lived with family members, while 14% lived alone in domestic households. Only a small proportion of 8% lived in institutions predominantly in residential care homes (Figure 1).
- In 2015-2016, about 26 800 or 36% of the places in residential care homes were subsidized by the Government. The rest of the 64% places were provided by the private institutions without subsidy. This relative proportion was broadly similar to that five years earlier. However, the total number of these places available in residential care homes has fallen by 3% over the past five years, contrasted against the 24% rise in the elderly population over the same period (Figure 2).
- Within the subsidized places, there are two kinds of care provided to the elderly recipients, i.e. ordinary care-and-attention ("C&A") homes for providing care for the moderately impaired elderly and nursing homes for providing more intensive care for the frail elderly. For C&A homes, the Government provided a monthly subsidy of HK\$14,200 for each place in 2015-2016. While the number of C&A places had increased by a total of 4% in five years to 23 100 in 2015-2016, the number of elderly applicants on the waiting list rose faster by 26% (Figure 3).

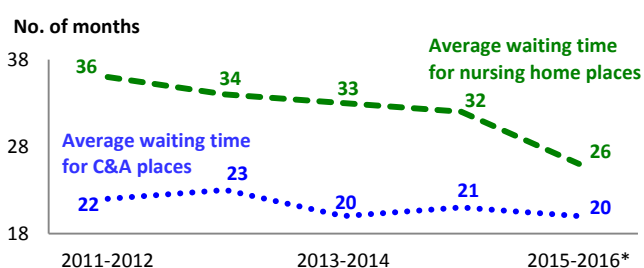
Residential care services for the elderly (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Provision of subsidized nursing home places



* Data as at December 2015.

Figure 5 – Waiting time for residential care places



* Data as at December 2015

Figure 6 – Number of elderly passed away before admission

Residential care places	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
• C&A places	3 049	3 184	3 290	3 657	3 882
• Nursing home places	1 925	1 973	1 729	1 911	1 999
Total	4 974	5 157	5 019	5 568	5 881

Figure 7 – Monitoring of residential care homes

Residential care homes	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016*
No. of inspections	5 373	5 313	5 254	5 445	3 949
No. of advisory letters issued	3 097	3 042	3 204	3 028	2 028
No. of warning letters issued	377	348	364	320	297
No. of prosecutions	5	10	11	2	2

* Nine months figures as at December 2015.

Highlights

- For intensive care at nursing homes, the Government provided a higher monthly subsidy of HK\$21,400 for each place in 2015-2016. Likewise, places at nursing home are under keen demand. In spite of the 30% rise of places in five years to 3 610 in 2015-2016, the number of elderly on the waiting list was still 69% more than the available places (**Figure 4**).
- Over the past five years up to 2015-2016, the average waiting time for both C&A and nursing home places had been shortened by two months and 10 months respectively (**Figure 5**).
- That said, some 5 881 elderly applicants on the waiting list passed away before admission to such care services in 2015, up by 18% over that in 2011 (**Figure 6**).
- As regards service quality of the residential homes, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") conducts surprise inspections regularly. Advisory letters will be issued as request for improvement or warning letters for more serious non-compliant cases. SWD may consider prosecution for serious non-compliance or failure to take remedial measures. A total of 30 prosecutions were filed for the last five years (**Figure 7**). In view of the members' concern of the service quality of the residential care homes, the Government has planned to review the relevant legislation and Codes of Practice to enhance the service quality and establish a dedicated inspectorate team to strengthen monitoring in 2017.

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

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