



Community and elite sports in Hong Kong

Figure 1 – Government expenditure on sports

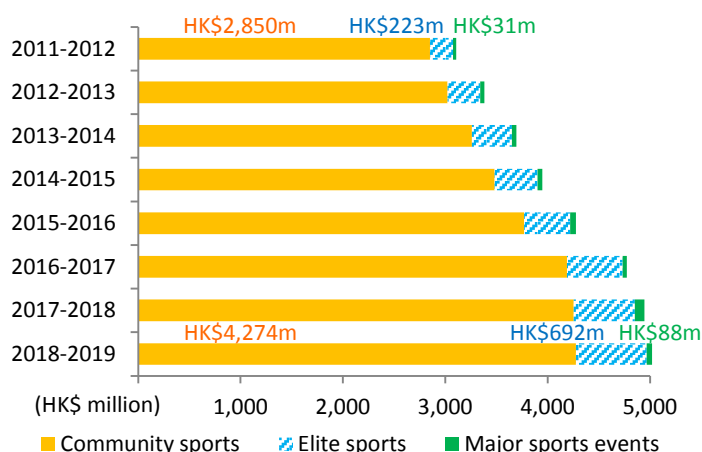
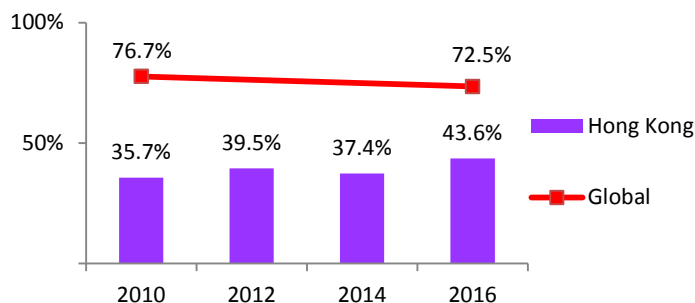


Figure 2 – Proportion of local adult population with sufficient physical activity*



Note: (*) WHO recommends that adults need to have at least 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week for healthy life.

Figure 3 – Number of selected public sports facilities

	No. of facilities in 2018	Planning standard	No. of facilities needed*	Derived shortfall
Sports centres	99	1:65 000	115	16
Sports grounds	25	1:250 000	30	5
Swimming pool complexes	44	1:287 000	26	--
Badminton courts	638	1:8 000	931	293
Basketball courts	521	1:10 000	745	224
7-a-side soccer pitches	198	1:30 000	248	50

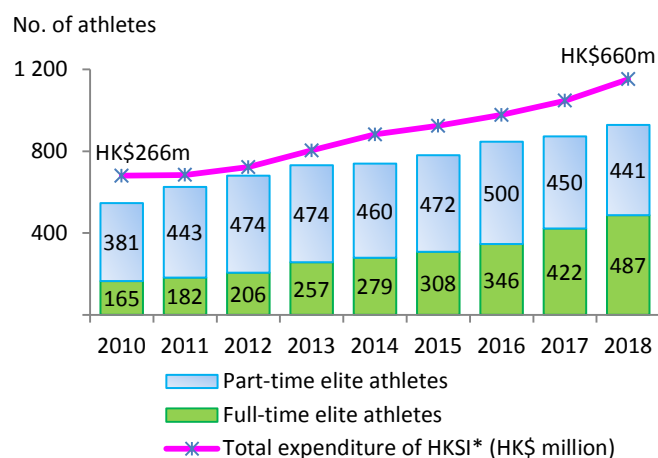
Note: (*) Figures are derived from the mid-2018 population (i.e. 7.45 million) and Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines 2018.

Highlights

- Over the past eight years, the recurrent government spending on sports development has surged by 63% to HK\$5.1 billion in 2018-2019. This was broadly similar to the respective growth of 67% in the overall recurrent spending. A bulk (85%) of this sports spending went to community sports in 2018-2019, followed by elites sports (14%) and major sports events (2%) (**Figure 1**).
- On community sports, there are concerns that more than half of the local population still do not have enough physical exercise. According to the health standard stipulated by the World Health Organization ("WHO"), each adult should exercise for at least 75-150 minutes each week. Yet only 44% of local adults could meet this guideline in 2016, far below the global figure of 73% (**Figure 2**).
- Inadequate sports facilities seem to have impeded community sports. Taking the sports centre as an illustration, based on the latest Hong Kong Planning Standard and Guidelines, there should be one such centre for 65 000 people, suggesting that some 115 sports centres should have been built with the current population. However, there were only 99 sports centres in Hong Kong right now, giving rise to a 14% shortfall (**Figure 3**). In the five-year plan announced in 2017, the Government plans to build or enhance 54 sports facilities (including one sports centre, two sports grounds, four swimming pool complexes, nine football pitches and 11 basketball courts). Yet they still appear to be too few to meet the service demand.

Community and elite sports in Hong Kong (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Number of elite athletes supported by Hong Kong Sports Institute



Note: (*) Financial year figures.

Figure 5 – Number of medals won in Asian Games, 2006-2018

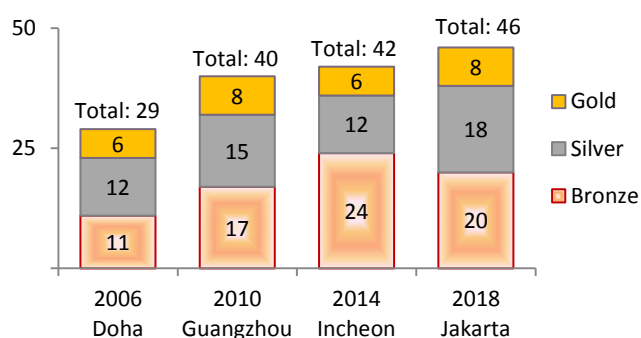
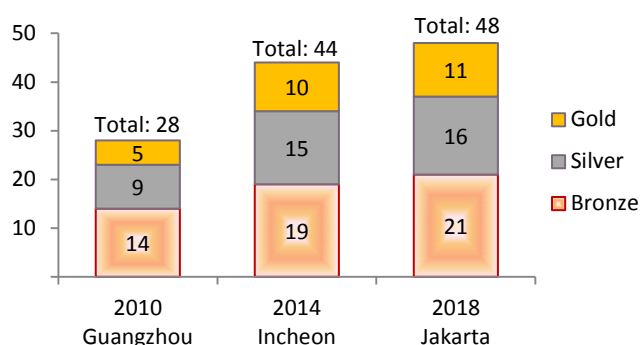


Figure 6 – Number of medals won in Asian Para Games, 2010-2018



Research Office
Information Services Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
17 April 2019
Tel: 2871 2139

Highlights

- Turning to elite sports, the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") has been responsible for grooming and supporting elite athletes since its foundation in 2004. With the establishment of Elite Athletes Development Fund as a stable source of income in 2011, the expenditure of HKSI staged a strong growth of 148% during 2010-2018 (**Figure 4**). The number of elite athletes supported by HKSI likewise increased significantly by 70% in eight years to 928 in 2018. For the full-time athletes, they increased much faster by 195% to 487 in 2018, close to the target of 500 by 2019.
- Including both full-time and part-time athletes, direct subsidies to elite athletes averaged at HK\$8,392 per month in 2017-2018, representing an increase of 45% over five years. Increased resource support seems to have contributed to better results in major sports competitions. In the 2018 Asian Games, Hong Kong athletes won a total of 46 medals, up from 42 medals in 2014 (**Figure 5**).
- For athletes with disabilities ("AWDs"), there have been concerns over inadequate support as they used to be trained on a part-time capacity. In December 2017, the Government began to provide full-time subsidies to about half of AWDs, resulting in a significant annual increase in the average monthly subsidy by 68% to HK\$6,633 in 2017-2018. In the third Asian Para Games in 2018, local AWDs won a total of 48 medals, up from the 44 medals in 2014 (**Figure 6**).
- In the 2019-2020 Budget, the Government allocated HK\$250 million to support livelihood of athletes after their retirement from elite sports. That would include more scholarships and cash awards. This apart, HK\$100 million was allocated to 60 national sports associations.

Data sources: Latest figures from Department of Health, Home Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong Sports Institute, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and World Health Organization.

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 ISSH24/18-19.