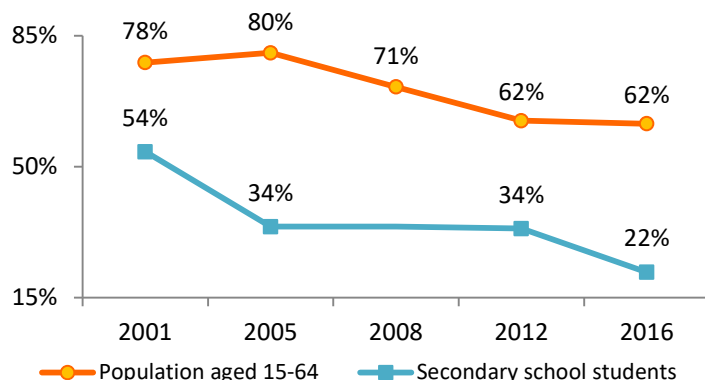




Gambling in Hong Kong

Figure 1 – Participation rate of gambling amongst persons aged 15-64 in Hong Kong, 2001-2016⁽¹⁾



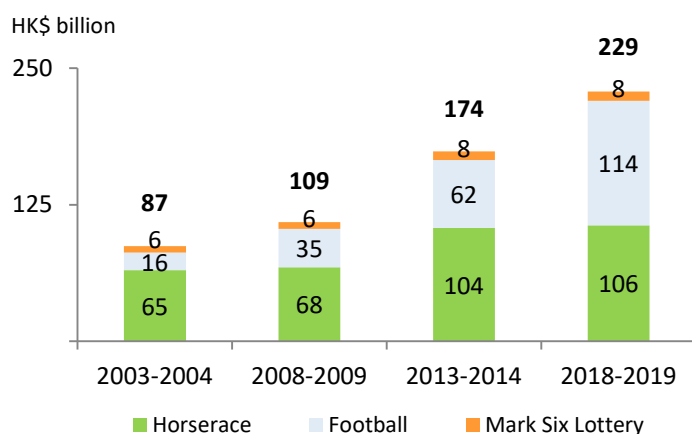
Note: (1) Gambling activities included Mark Six lottery, horserace betting, football betting, Macau casino wagering, gambling in mahjong house or casino ship, and social gambling.

Figure 2 – Average monthly spending on gambling activities of HKJC, 2001-2016

	2001	2008	2012	2016	Percentage change during 2001-2016
	(HK\$)				
Horserace betting	517	733	944	5,611	+985%
Mark Six lottery	50	90	129	160	+220%
Football betting	-	700	618	1,599	+129% ⁽¹⁾

Note: (1) Change during 2008-2016.

Figure 3 – Local betting turnover of HKJC by major category, 2003-2019⁽¹⁾



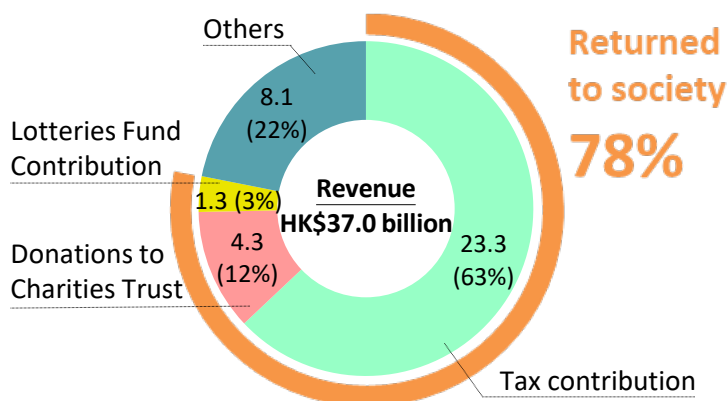
Note: (1) Financial years ended 30 June.

Highlights

- The propensity of the population in Hong Kong to participate in gambling has been on a visible downtrend over the past 15 years, conceivably in part due to enhanced public education. Based on studies commissioned by the Government, about 62% of local citizens aged 15-64 participated in various gambling activities in 2016, down from the peak of 80% in 2005 (Figure 1). The respective decline in gambling propensity was more significant amongst secondary school students over the same period, halving from 54% to 22%.
- Despite the downtrend in gambling propensity, the stakes in those authorized gambling activities offered by the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC") have increased significantly in money terms. During 2001-2016, the average monthly amount of horserace betting surged by 985% to HK\$5,611 per gambler, and that on Mark Six lottery by 220% to HK\$160 (Figure 2). Both outpaced the concurrent inflation of 34%. For football betting which was legalized in August 2003, the average monthly spending leaped by 129% to HK\$1,599 in 2016.
- As such, the betting turnover of HKJC almost tripled from HK\$87 billion in 2003-2004 to HK\$229 billion in 2018-2019 (Figure 3). While HKJC allocated 84% of this turnover as prizes, dividends and rebates to customers, the remaining 16% was revenue to the HKJC. Within the turnover, football betting is now the largest contributor, with its share surging from 18% in 2003-2004 to 50% in 2018-2019. This is followed by horserace betting, with its share in turnover receding from 75% to 46% over the same period.

Gambling in Hong Kong (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Distribution of HKJC revenue in 2018-2019⁽¹⁾



Note: (1) Financial year ended 30 June.

Figure 5 – Person arrested and bet seized in operations against illegal gambling, 2009-2018

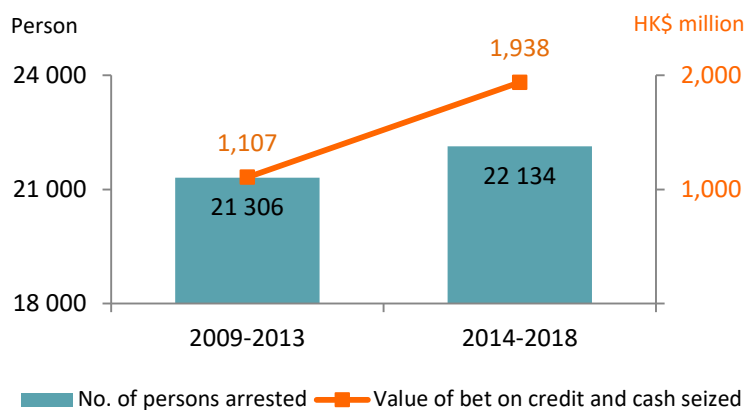
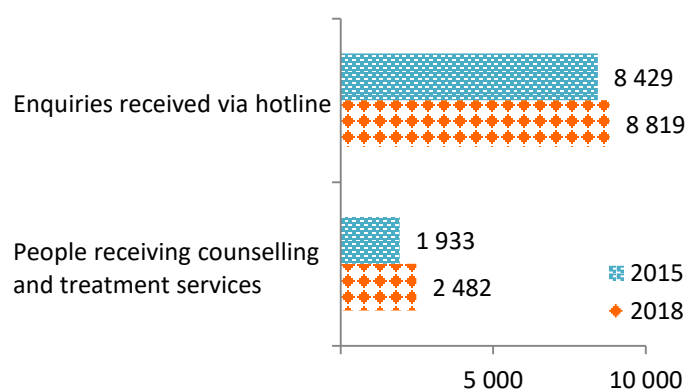


Figure 6 – Enquiries and people receiving treatment against gambling, 2015 and 2018



Highlights

- Betting duty (i.e. bets and sweeps tax) provides a stable source of revenue to the Government, taking up 4.6%-5.2% of annual government revenue during 2008-2018. For HKJC alone, it disbursed some HK\$23.3 billion to the Government either in the forms of betting duty or profits tax in its financial year 2018-2019, making it the largest single taxpayer in Hong Kong (Figure 4). This apart, HKJC donated a total of HK\$5.6 billion to charities and Lotteries Fund. Taking into account both donation and tax payment together, HKJC returned a total of HK\$28.9 billion or 78% of its revenue to the society in 2018-2019.
- For illegal gambling falling outside the ambit of HKJC, the Government has been stepping up law enforcement, with the number of persons arrested for illegal gambling increasing by 4% from 21 306 during 2009-2013 to 22 134 during 2014-2018 (Figure 5). The value of bet on credit and cash seized in such operations increased more significantly, by 75% to HK\$1,938 million over the same period.
- To address gambling disorder in society, the Government established the Ping Wo Fund in September 2003, financing counselling and treatment services in four dedicated centres. By 2018, annual funding reached HK\$22 million. During 2015-2018, the enquiries received via the Fund's hotline increased by 5% to 8 819, while the number of recipients of counselling and treatment services increased more significantly by 28% to 2 482 (Figure 6).

Data sources: Latest figures from Home Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong Jockey Club, Hong Kong Police Force, Ping Wo Fund and The Treasury.

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