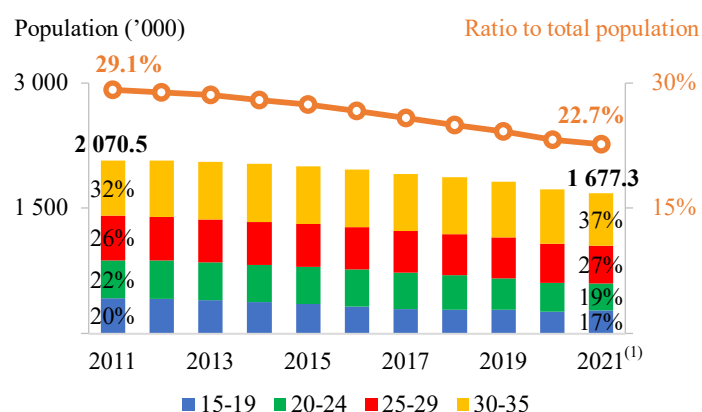




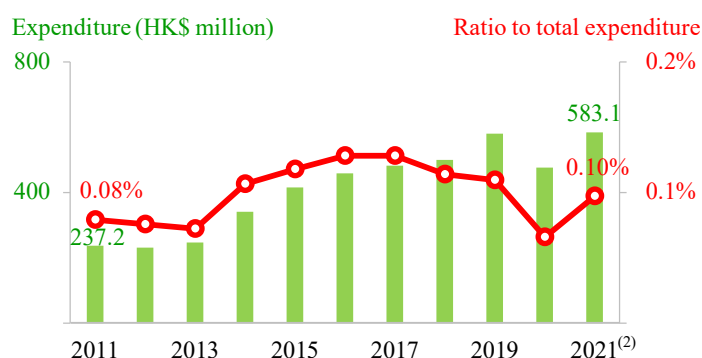
Youth development policy in Hong Kong

Figure 1 – Youth population by major age group



Note: (1) Provisional figure.

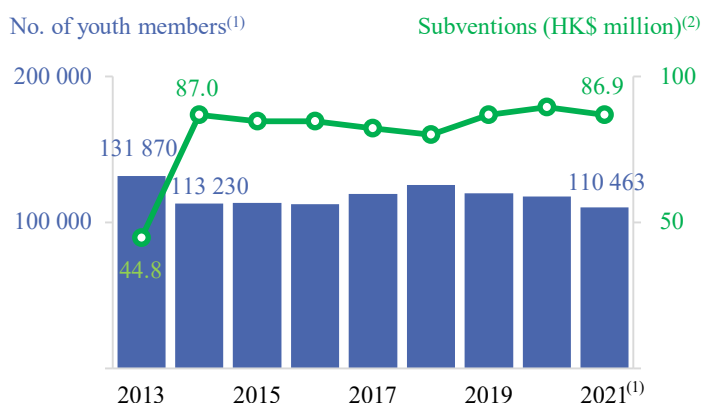
Figure 2 – HAB's youth and related expenditure⁽¹⁾



Notes: (1) Financial provision for HAB's "Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education". Figures are for fiscal years beginning in April.

(2) Revised estimate for 2021-2022.

Figure 3 – Subventions to uniformed groups



Notes: (1) Figures at year-end.

(2) Figures are for fiscal years beginning in April.

Highlights

- The Government first set up the Commission on Youth in February 1990 for incorporation of policy advice on youth-related matters, followed by its restructuring into Youth Development Commission in March 2018 for enhanced policy coordination across bureaux. Most recently in January 2022, the Government unveiled a proposal on reorganizing "Home Affairs Bureau" ("HAB") into a new "Youth and District Affairs Bureau", with a view to offering a one-stop platform on youth policy initiatives.
- So far, there is no clear delineation of the target age groups for formulation of local youth policy. As a broad indication, young persons aged 15-35 amounted to 1.68 million in 2021, taking up 22.7% of local population (**Figure 1**). During 2011 to 2021, youth population has fallen by a total of 19%, mainly attributable to decades-long downtrend in local fertility.
- Youngsters aged 15-35 are mostly engaged in full-time study, vocational training or employment, which fall under policy purview of Education Bureau and Labour and Welfare Bureau respectively. As such, commentators noted that other youth-related issues overseen by HAB are rather "fragmented". As a matter of fact, in spite of a 146% upsurge in 10 years to HK\$583.1 million in 2021-2022, youth and related expenditure incurred by HAB represents just 0.1% of overall government expenditure (**Figure 2**).
- More specifically on **non-formal education and training**, membership in uniformed groups (e.g. Scout and Girl Guides) helps foster positive values and whole-person development. During 2013 to 2021, annual subventions to 11 uniformed groups increased by 94% to HK\$86.9 million, taking up 15% of youth and related expenditure (**Figure 3**). Yet youth membership aged 8-26 to these uniformed groups declined by 16% to 110 500 concurrently, due in part to obstacles in recruiting youngsters.

Youth development policy in Hong Kong (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Participants to youth exchange and internship programmes

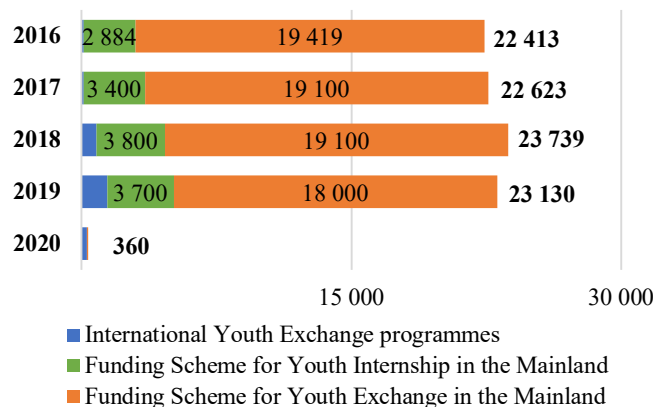
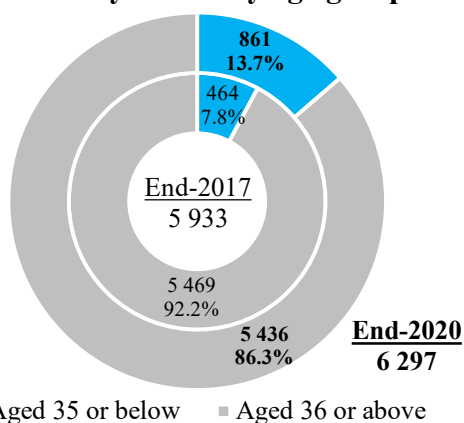


Figure 5 – Place offered under Youth Hostel Scheme

Non-governmental organization	Location	Completion year	Hostel places	Construction cost (HK\$ million)
1. Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Tai Po	2019	80	158.1
2. Po Leung Kuk	Yuen Long	2022	1 680	1,513.0
3. Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Jordan	2024	576	781.3
4. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Sheung Wan	2024	302	449.9
5. Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	Mong Kok	TBC	90	TBC
6. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Yuen Long		190	
7. Salvation Army	Wan Chai		510	
Sub-total			3 428	2,902.3⁽¹⁾

Note: (1) Total construction cost of the first four projects.

Figure 6 – Appointed members in Advisory and Statutory bodies by age group⁽¹⁾



Note: (1) Covering only non-official members with age information on their first appointment.

Highlights

- To broaden the horizons of local youths, the Government also organizes a host of **exchange and internship** programmes in over 30 provinces or municipalities in the Mainland, and 40 other places around the globe (**Figure 4**). On average, over 22 000 youth benefitted from these programmes each year during 2016 to 2019 (but most of these activities were suspended amidst the pandemic in 2020 and 2021). Over 90% of the participants considered that these programmes had deepened their understanding of the Mainland and the rest of the world.
- On **youth housing**, many youngsters aspire to have their own living space after starting their career. Back in 2011, the Government launched the Youth Hostel Scheme, with partnerships eventually expanded to seven non-governmental organizations (“NGO”). Subject to income and asset tests, working youth aged 18-30 can apply for a hostel place for two to five years, with rentals kept below 60% of market rent in nearby areas. A total of 3 428 hostel places are planned under the Scheme, but only 80 places in Tai Po or 2% of total are completed so far, whereas 1 680 places in Yuen Long are scheduled for completion by end-2022 (**Figure 5**). A lack of residential building experience of these NGO and inadequate government support are cited as reasons for slow progress in these projects.
- On **civic awareness and political participation**, the Government introduced the Member Self-Recommendation Scheme for Youth in 2017, targeting to double the proportion of young members aged 18-35 in advisory and statutory bodies (“ASBs”) from 7.8% to 15% in five years. A total of 102 posts were offered for recruitment during 2017 to 2021, attracting over 6 800 applications. By end-2021, 270 young people were offered new appointments to 440 posts in ASBs, boosting the ratio of young members to 13.7% in 2020 (**Figure 6**). The preliminary figure for 2021 stood at 14.8%.

Data sources: Latest figures from Home Affairs Bureau and Census and Statistics Department.

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