
INFORMATION NOTE

Cross-boundary families

1. Background

1.1 The purpose of this information note is to provide the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families with background information on cross-boundary families. Cross-boundary families refer herein to those families with (a) at least one family member (either parent or any of the children) leading a cross-boundary life and (b) either the father, the mother or one of the children usually residing on the Mainland. This information note will make reference to statistics relating to cross-boundary marriages, cross-boundary births and the characteristics of cross-boundary families. It will also discuss the social concerns arising from the increasing trend of cross-boundary marriages and cross-boundary births evidenced over the recent years.

2. Cross-boundary marriages

2.1 The number of cross-boundary marriages has been on the increase amid the increasing interactions between Hong Kong and the Mainland. According to the Census and Statistics Department (CS&D), the number of Hong Kong people working on the Mainland increased by more than five times from 42 300 in 1988 to 228 900 in 2005, accounting for 6.8% of the total number of employed persons in the year¹. The Hong Kong people working on the Mainland are more likely to come into contact with Mainland residents, and this has helped boost the number of cross-boundary marriages. In the past two decades, the number of cross-boundary marriages increased from 16 451 in 1986 to 26 203 in 2007. Within this total, the number of cross-boundary marriages registered in Hong Kong increased significantly from 782 in 1986 to 18 387 in 2007, representing 38.7% of the total number of marriages registered in Hong Kong during the year.

2.2 Most of the cross-boundary marriages involve Hong Kong male residents marrying female residents from the Mainland. The number of such cross-boundary marriages increased from 15 776 in 1986 to 21 888 in 2007². Due to increasingly easier access to Hong Kong after the reunification in 1997, more Hong Kong male residents have chosen to marry their Mainland spouses in Hong Kong. The number of such marriages increased by about 23 times from 703 in 1986 to 15 978 in 2007.

¹ Please see 政府統計處 (2003) and (2005).

² During the same period, the number of cross-boundary marriages with Hong Kong female residents marrying males from the Mainland increased from 675 in 1986 to 4 315 in 2007.

Table 1 – Number of marriages registered in Hong Kong with bridegrooms/brides from the Mainland and successful applicants of the Certificate of Absence of Marriage Record (CAMR) for the purpose of marrying on the Mainland

Year	Marriages registered in Hong Kong	Issue of CAMR	Total ⁽¹⁾	Year	Marriages registered in Hong Kong	Issue of CAMR	Total ⁽¹⁾
Bridegrooms are Hong Kong residents and brides from the Mainland				Brides are Hong Kong residents and bridegrooms from the Mainland			
<u>Male</u>				<u>Female</u>			
1986	703	15 073	15 776	1986	79	596	675
1996	2 215	22 349	24 564	1996	269	1 552	1 821
1997	2 269	26 040	28 309	1997	366	1 824	2 190
1998	2 685	16 416	19 101	1998	390	1 313	1 703
1999	3 054	14 752	17 806	1999	369	1 118	1 487
2000	3 834	13 886	17 720	2000	546	1 142	1 688
2001	5 169	13 211	18 380	2001	723	1 636	2 359
2002	7 724	10 127	17 851	2002	977	1 394	2 371
2003	10 185	7 501	17 686	2003	1 324	1 083	2 407
2004	13 126	7 842	20 968	2004	1 888	1 504	3 392
2005	16 775	8 094	24 869	2005	2 726	2 193	4 919
2006	18 182	9 963	28 145	2006	3 406	3 077	6 483
2007	15 978	5 910	21 888	2007	2 409	1 825	4 315

Note: (1) Since successful applicants of CAMR (the purpose of which is to marry on the Mainland) may not eventually get married, the total figure above only gives a crude indicator of the total number of cross-boundary marriages.

Source: 政府統計處.

3. Cross-boundary births

3.1 The number of Mainland mothers giving birth in Hong Kong has increased rapidly since 2002. The number of births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women increased from 7 810 in 2001 to 30 230 in the first 11 months of 2008, which accounted for 42.5% of the total number of births born in Hong Kong during the period.

Table 2 – Number of live births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women

Year	Total number of live births	Of which number of live births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women			Sub-total
		Whose spouses are Hong Kong permanent residents	Whose spouses are not Hong Kong permanent residents ⁽¹⁾	Others ⁽²⁾	
1996	63 291	–	–	–	6 494
1997	59 250	–	–	–	5 830
1998	52 977	5 651	458	–	6 109
1999	51 281	6 621	559	–	7 180
2000	54 134	7 464	709	–	8 173
2001	48 219	7 190	620	–	7 810
2002	48 209	7 256	1 250	–	8 506
2003	46 965	7 962	2 070	96	10 128
2004	49 796	8 896	4 102	211	13 209
2005	57 098	9 879	9 273	386	19 538
2006	65 626	9 438	16 044	650	26 132
2007	70 875	7 989	18 816	769	27 574
January- November 2008	71 153	6 553	22 713	964	30 230

Notes: (1) Hong Kong non-permanent residents include Hong Kong residents (such as persons from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years) and non-Hong Kong residents.

(2) Mainland mothers who chose not to provide the father's residential status during birth registration.

(–) Not available.

Source: 政府統計處.

3.2 For the cross-boundary births, the number of babies whose fathers are Hong Kong permanent residents amounted to 7 190 in 2001, compared with 6 553 in the first 11 months of 2008. In contrast, the numbers of births born to parents who are both Hong Kong non-permanent residents increased significantly from 620 to 22 713 over the same period³.

4. Characteristics of cross-boundary families

4.1 Notwithstanding the increasing trend in the number of cross-boundary families, official information and statistics on the characteristics of such families are scanty. In this connection, this information note will make use of the government statistics on new arrivals from the Mainland (new arrivals) to infer the characteristics of cross-boundary families. It will also make reference to a survey report published by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in 2008 which contains statistics relating to the characteristics of cross-boundary families⁴. The following paragraphs summarize the characteristics of cross-boundary families based on the afore-mentioned government statistics and the HKCSS report.

³ According to 陳衍標 (2008), the increase in the number of births born to parents who are both Hong Kong non-permanent residents has something to do with the "Planned Birth Policy" being implemented on the Mainland. Giving births in Hong Kong might spare these parents from the financial penalty of paying "social fostering fee for out-of-plan birth" ("超計劃生育社會撫育費") for each additional baby born (超生). Children born in Hong Kong are also entitled to the right of abode, as well as the welfare and education services in the territory. Visa-free access granted to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport holders by a number of countries serves as another incentive. Furthermore, Mainland parents generally consider Hong Kong's medical services as more reliable.

⁴ In June 2008, HKCSS sent out questionnaires to collect information on the lifestyles of cross-boundary families and their preparation for settlement in Hong Kong. The questionnaires were sent to parents of cross-boundary students via 27 kindergartens and primary and secondary schools in the North District, and 815 valid questionnaires were received as a result.

Household composition

4.2 In general, there are one to two young children living with their parents in a cross-boundary family. According to the 2006 Population By-census conducted by CS&D, among the households with new arrivals in 2006, 8.4% were families with all members being new arrivals. For the remaining 91.6% of households, they were families with new arrivals living together with non-new arrivals. Non-new arrivals include Hong Kong permanent residents and people born outside the Mainland with Hong Kong as their usual place of residence. For the households comprising both new and non-new arrivals, about 31% of the new arrivals were children aged 15 or below. This group of households also tended to have more children with an average of 1.4 children living with their parents⁵. The above figures showed that many of the families with members coming from the Mainland for reunion in Hong Kong comprised one to two young children. The same observation also holds for the HKCSS report, which showed that 95% of the cross-boundary families surveyed had children aged 14 or below. In addition, nearly 85% of the children surveyed were attending kindergartens or primary schools and 7% were junior secondary students.

4.3 In general, there is only one income-earner in a cross-boundary family and in these families, it is usually the husband who goes out to work. In 2006, in the households comprising both new and non-new arrivals, the proportion of female new arrivals was higher than those of males and children⁶. Among the female new arrivals, the labour force participation rates for young and middle-aged women were particularly low. Indeed, many of them were wives to Hong Kong male residents, and came to Hong Kong to join their families and took up the role of housewives⁷. The above figures should reflect the predominance of the Hong Kong male residents as the main income-earners in cross-boundary families. The HKCSS report also exhibited a similar trend, which indicated that 75% of the mothers of cross-boundary students surveyed were not engaged in any full-time paid jobs at all. The majority of them were housewives fully occupied with taking care of their families.

⁵ A similar trend was observed for the 2001 Population By-census. In 2001, among the households with new arrivals living with non-new arrivals, about 36.4% of the new arrivals were children aged 15 or below. There were an average of 1.6 children living with their parents in such households. Please see 政府統計處 (2002).

⁶ In 2006, 52.4% of the new arrivals were females aged 15-54 and such percentage was higher than that of males (29%) and children (31%). The corresponding figures in 2001 were 45.4% (females), 32.2% (males) and 36.4% (children). Please see 政府統計處 (2002) and (2007a).

⁷ For example, the labour force participation rates for female new arrivals aged 25-34 and 35-44 were 42.2% and 48.2% respectively in 2006. They were lower than the corresponding rates for the same age group in the overall female population, which stood at 81.8% and 69.2% respectively. A similar trend was observed for the 2001 Population By-census. In 2001, the labour force participation rates for female new arrivals aged 25-34 and 35-44 stood at 44.6% and 43.6% respectively. In contrast, the corresponding rates for the same age group in the overall female population were as high as 80% and 63.9%.

Age difference between the couple

4.4 The age difference between the husband and wife is comparatively larger in a cross-boundary family. In 2006, married female new arrivals were on average seven years younger than their husbands, compared with three years for all married women in Hong Kong. For married women who are more than 15 years younger than their spouses, the proportion of which was much higher in female new arrivals than the whole female population of Hong Kong (19.9% versus 4.7%)⁸.

Academic attainment

4.5 According to the HKCSS report, 40% of the parents in cross-boundary families had attained senior secondary education. The proportions of fathers and mothers with higher academic attainment, at post-secondary education level or above, were 16.3% and 9.8% respectively. In 1996, only 4.5% of the husbands of female new arrivals had attained post-secondary education. The above figures should reflect that for those Hong Kong residents marrying females from the Mainland, they are no longer confined to males with low educational attainment, and their spouses had by and large attained similar level of education.

Household income

4.6 Cross-boundary families are generally less-affluent families with their household income below the median income of all domestic households in Hong Kong. According to CS&D⁹, the monthly income of domestic households with new arrivals has been on the decline over the past decade. These households recorded a 7.7% decline in their median monthly income from HK\$13,000 in 1996 to HK\$12,000 in 2006, equivalent to 69.6% of the median monthly income for all domestic households in the year (HK\$17,250). Likewise, the monthly household income of more than 80% of the cross-boundary families surveyed in the HKCSS report was lower than the median monthly income of all domestic households in Hong Kong. Half of these low-income families even earned less than HK\$8,600 a month.

⁸ In 2001, the median age difference between married female new arrivals and their spouses was higher than that for all married couples in Hong Kong (six years versus three years). For married women who were more than 15 years younger than their spouses, the proportion of which was also higher in female new arrivals than the whole female population of Hong Kong (17.1% versus 4.1%).

⁹ Please see 政府統計處 (2007a).

Difficulties faced by cross-boundary families

4.7 According to the quarterly survey conducted by the Home Affairs Department in the third quarter of 2008¹⁰, 78.4% of the new arrivals reported that they had experienced difficulties in adapting to life in Hong Kong. The proportion had remained 68% and above since 2003. The greatest difficulty encountered by the respondents was employment (49%), followed by living environment (33.1%), language (26.5%) and family finance (22%).

Table 3 – Difficulties experienced by the new arrivals from the Mainland from 2003 to the third quarter of 2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008		
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3
Difficulties in adapting to life in Hong Kong								
Yes	75.7%	67.9%	79.3%	79.9%	81.7%	74.9%	76.8%	78.4%
<u>Difficulties</u>								
Work	49.9%	52.2%	54.3%	52.1%	59.7%	55.5%	50.3%	49.0%
Living environment	38.4%	21.6%	33.7%	32.0%	23.2%	25.9%	29.0%	33.1%
Language	16.2%	13.9%	12.7%	19.5%	25.7%	26.7%	26.4%	26.5%
Family finance	31.8%	31.2%	30.0%	26.0%	20.0%	19.5%	19.5%	22.0%
Living habits	18.2%	9.5%	12.2%	12.3%	9.9%	11.3%	11.8%	12.4%
Education system	14.5%	18.6%	21.7%	19.5%	9.3%	10.6%	11.6%	12.4%
Others	3.3%	7.2%	2.2%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%

Source: 民政事務總署(2008).

¹⁰ Please see 民政事務總處(2008).

Supporting services needed by cross-boundary families

4.8 The quarterly survey of the Home Affairs Department also revealed that the proportion of new arrivals requiring supporting services increased slightly from 82% in 2003 to 84.7% in the third quarter of 2008. Among the types of supporting services required, the two most popular ones were assistance in seeking employment (55.5%) and application for public housing (39.1%).

Table 4 – Service needs of new arrivals from the Mainland from 2003 to the third quarter of 2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008		
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3
Request for supporting services								
Yes	82.0%	71.7%	85.0%	86.4%	86.4%	80.8%	83.8%	84.7%
<u>Type of supporting services required</u>								
Assistance in seeking employment	54.3%	56.9%	60.2%	59.5%	64.4%	60.6%	57.2%	55.5%
Application for public housing	34.0%	21.6%	35.9%	36.1%	27.9%	29.5%	35.1%	39.1%
English course	29.5%	23.4%	30.7%	30.1%	31.9%	33.7%	35.1%	33.9%
Career training	31.0%	38.2%	42.8%	40.1%	41.0%	34.6%	34.0%	32.9%
Enrolment in school	13.1%	16.0%	17.6%	26.5%	23.5%	24.0%	25.1%	25.6%
Government financial assistance	14.5%	8.5%	10.5%	9.4%	8.7%	9.3%	10.8%	12.1%
Medical treatment	13.1%	12.3%	11.1%	8.8%	8.0%	8.0%	6.8%	7.6%
Child care services	7.3%	15.4%	8.4%	5.7%	6.0%	6.6%	7.7%	7.5%
Cantonese course	8.1%	6.8%	6.7%	6.1%	6.2%	6.6%	5.4%	5.0%
Family services	5.1%	14.0%	4.3%	3.2%	4.0%	3.5%	4.2%	4.9%
Others	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%	0.4%

Source: 民政事務總署(2008).

Incentive to seek help and family support

4.9 According to the HKCSS report, 45% of the surveyed families indicated that they seldom or had never sought help from their friends, relatives or others. In addition, more than 30% of the surveyed families reported that there was little or no assistance from their friends, relatives and neighbours when they had difficulties. There were also few surveyed families receiving assistance from professional services on family or parent-child relationship. The above figures reflect that cross-boundary families are not keen to seek help and seldom provided with family support. Should they settle in Hong Kong, the ensuing problems such as adapting to life in Hong Kong are likely to be remained hidden and degenerated into more serious family problems, such as divorce, child neglect, spouse abuse and poverty.

5. Concerns over cross-boundary families

5.1 Problems arising from the increasing number of cross-boundary marriages and cross-boundary births have raised wide public concerns. Problems such as those relating to cross-boundary students, Mainland mothers giving birth in Hong Kong, the One-way Exit Permit scheme, the marital and family relationship in cross-boundary families, as well as children education in cross-boundary families will be discussed in the paragraphs below.

Cross-boundary students

5.2 In recent years, there has been an increasing number of children who are Hong Kong residents but reside on the Mainland. Many of them have to travel across the boundary on a daily basis to attend schools in Hong Kong (especially those located in the North District). According to the Planning Department¹¹, the number of cross-boundary students totalled about 5 150 in 2007, representing a marked increase of 39.4% from the 3 690 students in 2006. Nearly all of them were residing in Shenzhen (99.9%)¹². In addition, 18.4% of cross-boundary students were aged five or below, 62.8% between 6 and 11, and the remaining 18.8% between 12 and 19.

¹¹ Please see 規劃署 (2008).

¹² According to the latest figures provided by the Education Bureau, there were 6 768 children who were Hong Kong residents but were residing in Shenzhen and attending schools in Hong Kong during the 2008-2009 school year. Of those 6 768 cross-boundary students, 1 780 were studying in kindergartens, 3 910 in primary schools and 1 078 in secondary schools. Please see 香港特別行政區政府 (2008d).

Table 5 – Number of cross-boundary students by sex and age

Sex/ Age group	1999 Survey		2001 Survey		2003 Survey		2006 Survey		2007 Survey	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
Male										
Aged 5 or below	#	0.8%	60	2.7%	90	3.6%	180	4.8%	200	3.8%
Aged 6 to 11	470	51.5%	800	36.9%	840	35.3%	1 460	39.6%	1 740	33.9%
Aged 12 to 19	60	6.6%	210	9.9%	410	17.2%	200	5.4%	500	9.8%
<i>Male Total</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>58.9%</i>	<i>1 070</i>	<i>49.5%</i>	<i>1 340</i>	<i>56.2%</i>	<i>1 840</i>	<i>49.8%</i>	<i>2 440</i>	<i>47.5%</i>
Female										
Aged 5 or below	#	#	70	3.2%	70	2.9%	150	4.1%	750	14.6%
Aged 6 to 11	320	35.7%	820	38.0%	800	33.5%	1 110	30.0%	1 490	29.0%
Aged 12 to 19	50	5.5%	200	9.4%	180	7.5%	600	16.1%	460	9.0%
<i>Female Total</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>41.2%</i>	<i>1 090</i>	<i>50.6%</i>	<i>1 050</i>	<i>43.9%</i>	<i>1 850</i>	<i>50.2%</i>	<i>2 710</i>	<i>52.5%</i>
Both sexes	910	100.0%	2 160	100.0%	2 390	100.0%	3 690	100.0%	5 150	100.0%

Notes: (1) # represents number less than 50 or percentage less than 0.05%.

(2) Figures may not add up to the corresponding totals due to rounding.

Source: 規劃規畫署 (2008).

Safety of cross-boundary students

5.3 Cross-boundary students incur long commuting time to travel between home and school. They are often required to take multi-transit trips to the boundary and catch the school buses to their schools in Hong Kong after crossing the boundary¹³. The return journey is equally burdensome¹⁴. As such, the traffic arrangements for cross-boundary students and the clearance procedures at boundary control points, as well as the related safety issues have aroused public concerns¹⁵.

5.4 To facilitate the movement of cross-boundary students, the Immigration Department has reserved designated counters at boundary control points during peak hours to expedite clearance for such students. Six "student e-Channels" have also been put into operation at Lo Wu Control Point to expedite their clearance. To further facilitate the clearance for cross-boundary students, the Administration has approved 20 special quotas for service providers to operate cross-boundary school coach services¹⁶. Added to this, "on-board clearance" for cross-boundary students has been put on trial on school coaches passing through Man Kam To Control Point. Such an arrangement provides more convenient border clearance services for cross-boundary students. They can travel directly to and from their schools by the school coaches, without the need to get off the coaches when crossing the control point.

Participation of cross-boundary students in extra-curricular activities

5.5 Some cross-boundary students have to travel long distances back home. This, coupled with the need to catch the school bus home during specified periods, has affected their participation in extra-curricular and after-school activities. In this connection, the Education Bureau has advised that schools should make necessary arrangements, such as scheduling counselling services before classes or during recesses, and where suitable, advancing after-school activities to the after-lunch time slot. School coach service operators should arrange their schedules flexibly and take cross-boundary students to and from their schools at flexible hours. Cross-boundary students might also choose from the trips provided by different operators according to the need of their schooling hours¹⁷.

¹³ According to 規劃署 (2008), the majority of cross-boundary students (75%) travelled to Hong Kong through Lo Wu. After crossing the boundary, most of them were taken to their schools by school buses waiting outside the Lo Wu Terminus.

¹⁴ Please see 香港教育學院 (2009).

¹⁵ According to 太陽報 (2008), students crossing the boundary by themselves were vulnerable to a number of potential risks, such as personal safety on public transport, possible disturbances from other commuters while crossing the boundary, and the possibility of losing their way.

¹⁶ According to 蘋果日報 (2008), the Chairman of the North District Primary School Headmasters Conference has advised that the operation of the cross-boundary school coach services could allow students to get on the coaches on the Mainland and travel directly to their schools in Hong Kong. However, the existing quotas could only serve about 900 students, falling short of meeting the underlying demand for the services.

¹⁷ Please see 香港特別行政區政府 (2008d).

Self-identity problems faced by cross-boundary students

5.6 The culture of Hong Kong can be very different from that of the Mainland. Cross-boundary students travelling back and forth between Hong Kong and the Mainland everyday may experience confusion of individual role and identity. According to the latest research conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Education, cross-boundary students travel frequently between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and the cultural difference between their study and living environments may confuse their recognition of individual identity. In addition, cross-boundary students are subject to the lack of common sense on social issues, as what they have learnt from the schools may be different from what they actually experience in daily life¹⁸.

Mainland mothers giving birth in Hong Kong

5.7 As mentioned above, the number of births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women has been increasing steadily since 2001. In order to ensure that local mothers would be provided with priority obstetric services, the Hospital Authority (HA) has implemented new arrangements for obstetric services provided to non-local pregnant women (including Mainland mothers) since 1 February 2007. The new arrangements include, among other things, the setting up of a booking system in public hospitals for the use of obstetric services. Furthermore, the obstetric service package charge has been revised from the original HK\$20,000 to HK\$39,000 for non-local pregnant women with a booking, and HK\$48,000 for those without prior booking.

5.8 To complement the new obstetric service arrangements, the Immigration Department has stepped up arrival checks for all non-local pregnant women who are at an advanced stage of pregnancy (28 weeks or above). Those visitors whose purpose of visit is suspected to be giving birth in Hong Kong are required to produce booking confirmation certificates issued by Hong Kong hospitals, as a proof that a local hospital has confirmed the arrangements for their admission to the hospital. Those who fail to do so may be persuaded to return to their last port¹⁹.

¹⁸ Please see 文匯報 (2009).

¹⁹ Between 1 February and 31 December 2007, a total of 32 468 non-local pregnant women visiting Hong Kong were invited for secondary examination, of which 2 499 (7.7%) failed to meet immigration requirements and were persuaded to return to their last port. In 2008, 1 971 non-local pregnant women failed to meet immigration requirements and were persuaded to leave, accounting for 5.4% of the 36 836 non-local pregnant women being examined in the year. Please see 香港特別行政區政府 (2008a) and (2009).

5.9 According to HA, the implementation of the new obstetric service arrangements and the complementary immigration measures have helped moderate the number of deliveries by non-local pregnant women in HA's hospitals to 8 627 in 2007 and 10 442 in 2008. The figures represented respective decreases of 27.8% and 12.6% over the 11 945 deliveries recorded in 2006. On the other hand, the numbers of deliveries by local pregnant women in HA's hospitals increased to 30 556 in 2007 and 30 588 in 2008, representing respective increases of 8.7% and 8.8% over the corresponding figure in 2006^{20, 21}.

Table 6 – Number of births in hospitals under the Hospital Authority between 2003 and 2008

Year	Local pregnant women		Non-local pregnant women		Total
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	
2003	26 807	75.5%	8 692	24.5%	35 499
2004	26 552	70.5%	11 116	29.5%	37 668
2005	27 342	66.3%	13 917	33.7%	41 259
2006	28 118	70.2%	11 945	29.8%	40 063
2007	30 556	78.0%	8 627	22.0%	39 183
2008 ⁽¹⁾	30 588	74.6%	10 442	25.4%	41 030

Note: (1) Provisional figures.

Source: 醫院管理局.

²⁰ The number of deliveries by non-local pregnant women through emergency admission via the Accident and Emergency Department totalled 1 723 in 2007 and 1 009 in 2008, declining by 82.4% and 89.7% respectively over the corresponding figure in 2006. Please see 請參閱醫院管理局(2009).

²¹ According to 大公報(2009), the overall debt settlement rate for HA's obstetric services by Mainland mothers giving birth in Hong Kong rose from 87% in 2007 to 96% in 2008. This reflected an improvement in the arrears of obstetric service charges owed by Mainland mothers.

5.10 While HA's new service package charge scheme appears to have eased the pressure on public hospitals, the number of births in private hospitals has been on the increase²². It was reported that the number of births in private hospitals reached a record high in 2008. The Hong Kong Baptist Hospital recorded the highest ever number of births, at 12 246, in 2008 and 75% of which were born to Mainland mothers. During the same year, the Union Hospital also recorded a 26% year-on-year increase in the number of births to 5 633, of which 60% were born to Mainland mothers. The two Adventist Hospitals each recorded more than 1 000 births last year. The respective percentage shares of babies born to Mainland mothers were 20%-30% in the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, and about 50% in the Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital. The booking for obstetric services in private hospitals this year has also been scheduled for six to eight months²³.

5.11 Under HA's new service package charge scheme, Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents are required to pay a higher fee for obstetric services than local pregnant women. They are subject to the same treatment as those Mainland mothers whose spouses are Hong Kong non-permanent residents. Such arrangement raised criticism from some social groups and individuals. They considered the new service package scheme as being unfair to those Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents giving birth in Hong Kong. Apart from staging protests by the social groups concerned, a Hong Kong male resident, together with his Mainland daughter-in-law, applied for a judicial review of HA's new service scheme in August 2007²⁴. The Mainland woman concerned was pregnant and had yet to obtain the right of abode in Hong Kong. In December 2008, the High Court dismissed the case on the grounds that the Mainland pregnant woman only gave birth in Hong Kong as a visitor and should not be entitled to the medical benefits enjoyed by Hong Kong female residents. Moreover, the foetus she was bearing was not an independent existence and could only enjoy the rights of Hong Kong people after it was born²⁵.

²² According to Parry (2008), the fees charged by private hospitals for obstetric services were only 20% to 30% higher than those in public hospitals after the implementation of HA's new service package charge scheme. As a result, some Mainland mothers chose to give birth in private hospitals.

²³ Please see 星島日報 (2009), 太陽報 (2009) and 明報 (2009).

²⁴ Please see 新報 (2007) and 明報 (2007).

²⁵ Please see 新報 (2008).

Settlement of babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women in the territory

5.12 There have been extensive discussions on the extent to which babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women would come to settle in the territory, and the ensuing impacts so generated. Of particular relevance is the additional demand generated by these new arrivals for social services such as housing, education, welfare and health care. According to CS&D's 2006 Population Projections, the number of babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women is projected to remain steady at 30 000 per annum. Among them, 10 000 are those babies whose fathers are permanent residents of Hong Kong (Type I babies) and the rest are not (Type II babies)²⁶.

5.13 Based on the "Survey on Babies Born in Hong Kong to Mainland Women" conducted at the Birth Registries by CS&D, about 65% of the parents of Type I babies indicated that their children would stay in Hong Kong. For the other 35%, they would bring their children back to the Mainland. Nearly all of these babies would return to the Mainland before reaching the age of one. For these babies, about 90% of their parents indicated that they intended to bring their children back to Hong Kong. Among these, about 80% would return at or before the age of three and about 93% at or before the age of six²⁷.

5.14 As for Type II babies, only about 9% of their parents indicated that their children would stay in Hong Kong. For the other 91%, their parents indicated that they intended to bring their children back to the Mainland. Nearly all of these babies would return to the Mainland before reaching the age of one. For these babies, about 58% of their parents indicated that they intended to bring their children back to Hong Kong. Among these, about 51% would return at or before the age of three and about 85% at or before the age of six.

²⁶ Please see 香港特別行政區政府 (2008b) and 政府統計處 (2007b).

²⁷ Ibid.

Revised policy on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance

5.15 In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the number of Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong. Some of them have left their children behind in Hong Kong to the care of their friends and relatives. There have been cases for these children applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) on their own or through their guardians in Hong Kong. In the past, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had been lenient with such applications. However, it had received complaints that the CSSA payments were sent to the children's parents on the Mainland or used by the Mainland parents during their stay in Hong Kong on Two-way Exit Permits (TWPs). Against this, SWD has tightened up its CSSA policy since February 2008 in order to pre-empt any abuse of the CSSA system. Under the revised policy, SWD rejects independent applications for CSSA by children who are aged below 18 and born in the territory to non-Hong Kong permanent residents. Only under exceptional cases would the director or assistant directors of SWD exercise the discretionary power to vet and approve such applications²⁸. In addition, applications made by the guardians of children born to non-Hong Kong residents are also required to be submitted on a household basis. Apart from the policy change, SWD also calls for the Mainland parents to consider raising their children on the Mainland by themselves. As an alternative, these Mainland parents could send their children to those relatives or friends who are financially capable of supporting them, or to SWD for admission to its foster homes or Po Leung Kuk²⁹.

²⁸ In the past, district officers of SWD were also empowered to approve CSSA applications lodged by the children on their own. Under the revised CSSA policy, only the director or assistant directors of SWD could exercise the discretionary power to vet and approve such applications. Please see 香港經濟日報 (2008) and 西貢區議會 (2008).

²⁹ The tightening up of SWD's CSSA policy has raised objections from some groups and individuals. According to 楊媚 (2008) and 壹線牽 (2009), while the policy change aims at addressing the abuse of the CSSA system, it may, in practice, affect those families which are in genuine hardship. For example, children born to Hong Kong fathers may need to be looked after by their Mainland mothers due to the disappearance or death of their fathers, or the divorce of their parents. The Mainland mothers travelling on TWPs may live on the monthly CSSA payments granted to their Hong Kong-born children during their stay in Hong Kong. For these cases, the children may be disqualified from applying for CSSA under the revised SWD policy if they are mistakenly classified by SWD as children born to non-Hong Kong permanent residents. Jackie Hung Ling-yu, Project Officer of the Justice & Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, also pointed out that the revised SWD policy was allegedly to prevent the abuse of the CSSA system. Indeed, it served to cover up the inefficiency of SWD in monitoring the disbursement of CSSA payments to eligible applicants. Hung also considered that it was difficult to ensure the use of every dollar of the CSSA payments by the child recipient concerned only. Please see 中國評論新聞網 (2008).

One-way Exit Permit scheme

5.16 The One-way Exit Permit (OWP) scheme, with an existing quota of 150 places per day, aims at helping Mainland residents seek reunion with their family members in Hong Kong. Priority is given to those applications submitted by Mainland children and spouses holding the right of abode in Hong Kong³⁰. However, the average waiting time for their settlement in Hong Kong may take several years. Furthermore, the Mainland authorities may not process concurrently the applications by Mainland children and their parents for settlement in Hong Kong. This would result in family separation as they cannot move to settle in Hong Kong together. According to CS&D³¹, there were 14 512 new arrivals aged below 18 in Hong Kong who were living with either their father or mother in 2006, and among them, 44.7% were living only with their father. This should reflect that many Mainland wives are still residing on the Mainland waiting to come to Hong Kong.

5.17 While waiting for the issue of OWPs, many Mainland wives of local residents travel frequently to Hong Kong on TWPs, seeking reunion with their family members and taking care of them³². During their stay in Hong Kong, they are not permitted to work and are completely dependent on the income of their husbands. In addition, these Mainland wives could only stay with their family for a limited period, as they are required to return to the Mainland to apply for renewal of their TWPs. It may be a problem for some of the Mainland wives to look for people who could take care of their children in Hong Kong during their absence there.

5.18 While the Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents have to wait for several years for the issue of OWPs, the daily quota of 150 places under the OWP scheme were not filled in 2007. The number of Mainland arrivals under the OWP scheme reduced to about 33 865 or a daily average of 93 in the year, the lowest since the reunification of Hong Kong. The number of Mainland children born to Hong Kong residents settled in the territory under the OWP scheme exhibited a similar trend in 2007, as evidenced by the underutilization of the daily sub-quota of 60 places for children holding the Certificate of Entitlement (CoE children)³³. Of the daily arrival of 93 OWP holders in 2007, only 13 of them were Mainland-born children holding CoE.

³⁰ Of the existing daily OWP quota of 150 places, 60 places are allocated to Mainland children born to Hong Kong residents and holding the Certificate of Entitlement (CoE), 30 to spouses separated for at least 10 years and their accompanying children, and the remaining 60 to applicants belonging to other categories.

³¹ Please see 政府統計處 (2007a).

³² Please see So (2003).

³³ According to 民政事務總署 (2008), the number of CoE holders among new arrivals decreased from 13 350 in 2003 to 4 487 or a daily average of 13 in 2007.

Table 7 – Number of holders of the One-way Exit Permit and the Certificate of Entitlement from 2003 to the third quarter of 2008

	2003 Annual	2004 Annual	2005 Annual	2006 Annual	2007 Annual	2008		
						Q1	Q2	Q3
No. of OWP holders	53 507	38 072	55 106	54 170	33 865	11 637	9 911	12 829
No. of CoE holders	13 350	10 314	7 062	5 325	4 487	1 285	1 101	1 340

Source: 民政事務總署 (2008).

5.19 In 2008, the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre (Bauhinia Foundation) published a report³⁴ proposing measures to address the problem of the under-utilization of OWP quota, particularly the "children sub-quota". In the report, the Bauhinia Foundation proposed to the Government to negotiate with the Mainland authorities for transferring the unused "children sub-quota" to Mainland spouses, thereby shortening the latter's waiting time for settlement in Hong Kong from the current five years to three years³⁵.

5.20 According to the Bauhinia Foundation, children born in Hong Kong to Mainland parents have the Hong Kong permanent resident status from birth. These children could help ease the problems of low fertility and ageing population if they have received education in Hong Kong and have become fully integrated into the labour force. In order to tap into this potential pool of human resources, the Bauhinia Foundation considers the need for new policy initiative to facilitate the settlement of the Mainland parents of Hong Kong-born children in the territory. Under the existing OWP scheme, they would only be allowed in as dependents when their Hong Kong-born children reach adult age. As such, the Bauhinia Foundation proposes the introduction of a new points scheme or additional quota to facilitate the early arrivals of the Mainland parents as a family.

³⁴ In September 2008, the Bauhinia Foundation published a report entitled "The Past and Future of the One Way Permit Scheme in the Context of a Population Policy for Hong Kong", which studies the current arrangement of admitting Mainland residents into Hong Kong under the OWP scheme.

³⁵ According to the Bauhinia Foundation, the estimated additional costs on education and social welfare as a result of reducing the waiting time by two years would be less than HK\$620 million per year. In return, the estimated long-term economic benefits derived from the early arrivals of OWP holders would be as high as HK\$4,619 million to HK\$7,372 million.

5.21 In response to the Bauhinia Foundation's report, a Government spokesman reiterated that the setting up and operation of the OWP scheme fell within the purview of the Central Government, with the objective of regulating the orderly entry of Mainland residents for settlement in Hong Kong and facilitate family reunion. The existing mechanism and arrangements were appropriate and there was no plan to recommend to the Mainland authorities any major changes in the scheme³⁶. This apart, some academics and organizations have also expressed reservation about the proposals put forward in the Bauhinia Foundation report³⁷.

Marital and family relationship in cross-boundary families

5.22 Several social service organizations in Hong Kong have conducted surveys on the marital and family relationship in cross-boundary/new immigrant families over recent years. The results of these surveys are summarized as follows:

Marital relationship

5.23 Amid the increasing number of cross-boundary marriages, the Caritas Family Crisis Support Centre conducted a telephone survey during March-May 2008 and successfully reached 316 respondents who were married, remarried or undergoing divorce. According to the survey, new immigrant couples had a greater chance (15 percentage points higher) of having arguments between them than local couples. While allowing grievances to pile up without resolving them, nearly 40% of the new immigrants surveyed had domestic violence problem, which was twice the number of Hong Kong-born respondents with the same problem³⁸.

³⁶ Please see 政府新聞公報 (2008c).

³⁷ For example, Nelson Chow Wing-sun, Professor of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of Hong Kong University, considered that there had been a marked shortening of the waiting time for the settlement of the Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents in Hong Kong over recent years. These Mainland spouses could now settle in Hong Kong within three to five years even without the additional OWP quota granted to them. Indeed, further shortening of the waiting time might lead to malpractices such as bogus marriages. Furthermore, Professor Chow opposed to the proposal of granting residence for Mainland parents of Hong Kong-born children. This might convey a wrong message to Mainland residents of exploiting giving birth in Hong Kong as a means of obtaining residence in Hong Kong. On the other hand, Sze Lai-shan, Community Organizer of the Society for Community Organization, agreed to the increase in the OWP quota for Mainland spouses. However, she expressed concern over relaxing the residency requirement for Mainland parents of Hong Kong-born children, as it might lead to an influx of more Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong and overburdening of the local medical facilities as a result. Please see 明報 (2008), 東方日報 (2008) and 周永新 (2008a) and (2008b).

³⁸ Please see 明愛向晴軒 (2008).

5.24 In addition, the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch³⁹ has pointed to a combination of factors undermining the marital relationship in cross-boundary families. Factors affecting the couples in these families were the lack of mutual understanding and weakened emotional relationship due to prolonged separation, differences in culture and living habits between Hong Kong and the Mainland, discrepancy between expectations of and reality in marriage, and the repercussions of extra-marital affairs. Likewise, according to the HKCSS report mentioned above, about 20% of the cross-boundary families surveyed reported that prolonged separation had affected the marital relationship. The couples in these families also reported that the lack of time for them staying together had undermined their mutual trust.

Parent-child relationship

5.25 According to the HKCSS report, there was a lack of time for members of the cross-boundary families staying together, as the fathers and mothers were living in different places. Nearly 25% of the fathers in cross-boundary families surveyed spent no more than nine days each month with their children, and among them, 50% spent not more than four days a month. Cross-boundary living also reduced the quality time the parents spent with their children, particular the time the fathers spent on playing and talking with their children.

Children education in cross-boundary families

5.26 Since 1979, the Education Bureau has conducted regular surveys on the children from the Mainland newly admitted to primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. These survey results should reflect the problems likely to be faced by children from cross-boundary families when admitted to local schools.

Over-age

5.27 Between 2003 and 2007, a high proportion of pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to primary schools in Hong Kong were over-aged (i.e. with age over the normal age of the individual grades). In 2007, about half of the pupils (52.6%) from the Mainland were over-aged, which was higher than the proportion of over-aged pupils among all primary pupils in Hong Kong (9.2%).

³⁹ Please see 陳義飛 (2008).

Table 8 – Comparison of percentage of over-aged pupils among newly admitted primary pupils from the Mainland and in all primary pupils in Hong Kong from 2003 to 2007

Year	Newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in primary schools ⁽¹⁾			All primary pupils
	Total	No. of over-aged pupils	Percentage of over-aged pupils	Percentage of over-aged pupils
2003	6 989	3 804	54.4%	10.8%
2004	5 223	2 474	47.4%	9.5%
2005	6 125	3 543	57.8%	9.0%
2006	10 545	7 132	67.6%	9.3%
2007	5 463	2 873	52.6%	9.2%

Note: (1) Figures include all ordinary primary schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years. The number of Primary One pupils include pupils from the Mainland who had attended kindergartens in Hong Kong.

Source: 教育局 (2008).

5.28 The over-age problem was even more serious for the pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to secondary schools in Hong Kong during the period of 2003 to 2007. In 2007, 87.5% of the pupils were over-aged, which was considerably higher than the percentage of over-aged pupils among all secondary pupils in Hong Kong (23.6%).

Table 9 – Comparison of percentage of over-aged pupils among newly admitted secondary pupils from the Mainland and in all secondary pupils in Hong Kong from 2003 to 2007

Year	Newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in secondary schools ⁽¹⁾			All secondary pupils
	Total	No. of over-aged	Percentage of over-aged	Percentage of over-aged
2003	2 011	1 820	90.5%	26.0%
2004	1 415	1 245	88.0%	25.8%
2005	2 570	2 296	89.3%	25.4%
2006	5 507	5 027	91.3%	24.6%
2007	2 842	2 488	87.5%	23.6%

Note: (1) Figures include all ordinary secondary day schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years.

Source: 教育局 (2008).

Repetition rate

5.29 The repetition rate of newly admitted primary pupils from the Mainland in primary schools was about 50% between 2003 and 2004. However, such rates were over 60% in the three consecutive years after 2004. A notably higher repetition rate of 66.4% was even recorded in 2006.

Table 10 – Number of repeaters among pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to primary schools and the repetition rate from 2003 to 2007

Year	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in primary schools⁽¹⁾	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland being repeaters	Repetition rate (%)
2003	5 371	2 863	53.3%
2004	3 910	1 904	48.7%
2005	4 917	3 025	61.5%
2006	9 144	6 073	66.4%
2007	3 998	2 486	62.2%

Note: (1) Figures include all ordinary primary schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years. The number of Primary One pupils does not include pupils from the Mainland who had attended kindergartens in Hong Kong.

Source: 教育局(2008).

5.30 Between 2003 and 2007, the repetition rate of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in secondary schools was higher than that in primary schools. For example, the repetition rates for these two groups of pupils stood at 71.4% and 62.2% respectively in 2007.

Table 11 – Number of repeaters among pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to secondary schools and the repetition rate from 2003 to 2007

Year	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in secondary schools⁽¹⁾	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland being repeaters	Repetition rate (%)
2003	2 011	1 522	75.7%
2004	1 415	1 017	71.9%
2005	2 570	1 932	75.2%
2006	5 507	4 127	74.9%
2007	2 842	2 030	71.4%

Note: (1) Figures include all ordinary secondary day schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years.

Source: 教育局(2008).

Academic attainment

5.31 In 2007, 51.6% of the newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in primary schools were weak in English (i.e. with the level of attainment below the present level), 19.1% weak in Chinese and 14.4% weak in Mathematics. For those who were weak in English, generally their standard of English was substantially lower than that of other pupils attending the same grade. For example, 65.1% of all newly admitted pupils from the Mainland studying Primary 3 were weak in English, and the proportion considered to have a standard only at Primary 1 level or below was 28.7%. For those who were weak in Chinese or Mathematics, the majority had a standard equivalent to one grade below the grade they were studying.

Table 12 – Percentage of pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to primary schools being weak in Chinese, English and Mathematics from 2003 to 2007

Year	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in Primary Schools ⁽¹⁾	Percentage who were weak in		
		Chinese	English	Mathematics
2003	6 989	17.2%	47.0%	13.0%
2004	5 223	17.8%	46.2%	12.4%
2005	6 125	17.4%	53.3%	13.4%
2006	10 545	21.1%	58.9%	16.4%
2007	5 463	19.1%	51.6%	14.4%

Note: (1) Figures include all ordinary primary schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years. The number of Primary One pupils includes pupils from the Mainland who had attended kindergartens in Hong Kong.

Source: 教育局 (2008).

5.32 In 2007, 56.4% of the newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in secondary schools were weak in English, 16.6% in Mathematics and 15.8% in Chinese. Same as the case in primary schools, pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to secondary schools were generally weak in English.

Table 13 – Percentage of pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to secondary schools being weak in Chinese, English and Mathematics from 2003 to 2007

Year	No. of newly admitted pupils from the Mainland in Secondary Schools ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of pupils who were weak in		
		Chinese	English	Mathematics
2003	2 011	13.8%	58.6%	12.8%
2004	1 415	15.8%	57.2%	13.4%
2005	2 570	14.4%	52.4%	11.6%
2006	5 507	16.5%	52.8%	15.0%
2007	2 842	15.8%	56.4%	16.6%

Note: (1) Figures refer to the situation in all ordinary secondary day schools (excluding special schools, English Schools Foundation schools and other international schools) as at September of the respective years.

Source: 教育局 (2008).

Prepared by Michael YU
25 March 2009
Tel: 2869 9621

Information notes 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. Information notes are subject to copyright owned by the Legislative Council Commission (the Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of the information notes for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library.

References

1. Parry, H. (2008) Urgently wanted: midwives. *South China Morning Post*. 26 October.
2. So, Alvin. (2003) Cross-border Families in Hong Kong: The Role of Social Class and Politics. *Critical Asian Studies*, Volume 35, No.4, pp. 515-534.
3. 中國評論新聞網(2008) :《內地來港產子五年增廿五倍，港府擬收緊綜援》，3月10日，網址：<http://gb.chinareviewnews.com/doc/1005/8/8/1/100588124.html?coluid=7&kindid=0&docid=100588124> [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
4. 民政事務總署(2008) :《內地新來港定居人士服務 — 問卷調查的季度報告》，網址：http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/tc/documents/about_us/organization/responsibilities/report_2008q3.pdf [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
5. 西貢區議會(2008) :《二〇〇八年第四次會議記錄》，4月1日。網址：http://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/sk_d/chinese/doc/Minutes/DC_08_4_mc.pdf [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
6. 明愛向晴軒(2008) :《「婚姻衝突及和諧」研究調查(撮要版)》，6月4日，網址：<http://fcsc.caritas.org.hk/article.html> [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
7. 政府統計處(2002) :《香港二零零一年人口普查主題性報告 — 內地來港定居未足七年人士》，網址：http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/population_and_vital_events/index_tc_cd_B1120034_dt_detail.jsp [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
8. 政府統計處(2003) :《從綜合住戶統計調查搜集所得的社會資料：專題報告書 — 第三十五號報告書》，網址：http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/social_data/index_tc_cd_B1130135_dt_latest.jsp [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
9. 政府統計處(2005) :《從綜合住戶統計調查搜集所得的社會資料：專題報告書 — 第四十二號報告書》，網址：http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/social_data/index_tc_cd_B1130142_dt_latest.jsp [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。

10. 政府統計處(2007a)：《香港二零零六年中期人口統計主題性報告 — 內地來港定居未足七年人士》，網址：http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/population_and_vital_events/index_tc_cd_B1120049_dt_latest.jsp [於2009年2月12日登入]。
11. 政府統計處(2007b)：《香港人口推算 2007-2036》，網址：http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/population_and_vital_events/index_tc_cd_B112001503_dt_latest.jsp [於2009年2月12日登入]。
12. 香港社會服務聯會(2008a)：《跨境家庭生活現況及來港生活計劃研究報告》，11月。
13. 香港社會服務聯會(2008b)：《新聞發布：跨境家庭的生活狀況及來港生活計劃》，9月15日，網址：<http://www.hkcss.org.hk/cm/cc/press/detail.asp?id=316> [於2009年2月12日登入]。
14. 香港特別行政區政府(2008a)：《政府新聞公報：入境事務處二零零七年工作回顧》，1月28日。網址：<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200801/28/P200801280277.htm> [於2009年2月12日登入]。
15. 香港特別行政區政府(2008b)：《政府新聞公報：立法會十七題：內地女子在港所生的嬰兒》，4月9日。網址：<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200804/09/P200804090254.htm> [於2009年2月12日登入]。
16. 香港特別行政區政府(2008c)：《政府新聞公報：政府回應智經研究中心人口政策報告》，9月12日。網址：<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200809/12/P200809120235.htm> [於2009年2月12日登入]。
17. 香港特別行政區政府(2008d)：《政府新聞公報：立法會八題：跨境學童》，10月22日。網址：<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200810/22/P200810220138.htm> [於2009年2月12日登入]。
18. 香港特別行政區政府(2009)：《政府新聞公報：入境事務處二零零八年工作回顧主要工作》，1月19日。網址：<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200901/19/P200901190235.htm> [於2009年2月12日登入]。

19. 香港教育學院(2009) :《內地跨境及新來港兒童的校本支援計劃：跨境學童》，網址：http://www.ied.edu.hk/sbss/cross_border_students_c_.htm [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
20. 教育局(2008) :《二零零六年十月至二零零七年九月內地來港兒童首次入讀學校統計調查》，6 月版。
21. 規 劃 署 (2008) :《北往南來 2007》，網址：http://www.pland.gov.hk/p_study/comp_s/index_c.html [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
22. 陳義飛(2008) :《跨境家庭離婚問題探討與服務建議》，香港國際社會服務社，網址：http://www.hkcss.org.hk/fs/Sem_Mar508/Speeches/Chan%20Yee%20Fei1.pdf [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
23. 陳衍標(2008) :《內地婦女來港產子的前因後果》，載於趙文宗、陳高凌編：《跨境家庭：踰越與對話》，藍天圖書，第 47-54 頁。
24. 壹線牽(2009) :《收緊綜援趕內地人子女：18 歲以下禁申請，被轟剝奪公民權》，1 月 4 日，網址：<http://www.one-forum.com/viewthread.php?action=printable&tid=89926> [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
25. 智經研究中心(2008) :《從單程證制度探索香港的人口政策》，網址：http://www.bauhinia.org/publications/tchi_OWP_Report.pdf [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
26. 楊媚(2008) :《中港跨境家庭的多樣性和困境》，載於趙文宗、陳高凌編：《跨境家庭：踰越與對話》，藍天圖書，第 10-21 頁。
27. 醫院管理局(2009) :《就題灣仔區議會第八次會議(有關「內地婦女到港產子對香港的影響」提出的問題的回覆》，1 月 19 日。
28. 衛生福利及食物局(2007) :《內地婦女使用產科服務對公營醫院資源的影響》，1 月 8 日，立法會 CB(2)761/06-07(03)號文件。網址：<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/chinese/panels/hs/papers/hs0108cb2-761-3-c.pdf> [於 2009 年 2 月 12 日登入]。
29. 周永新(2008a) :《單程證與人口政策》，《信報》，9 月 25 日。
30. 周永新(2008b) :《削減單程證名額》，《信報》，10 月 2 日。

31. 《內地媳婦來港驗身昂貴，港漢申覆核挑戰醫管局》，《明報》，2007年，8月18日
32. 《男子求覆核內地產婦收費》，《新報》，2007年11月2日。
33. 《內地父母港生童，綜援收緊防濫用》，《香港經濟日報》，2008年3月1日。
34. 《領綜援新移民數字智經調查遠低政府》，《明報》，2008年9月13日。
35. 《港人內地配偶擬增名額》，《東方日報》，2008年9月13日。
36. 《八萬人兩年後一試定生死，末代會考生壓力特別大》，《蘋果日報》，2008年9月26日。
37. 《學童自行過關危機四伏》，《太陽報》，2008年11月19日。
38. 《嬰未出生母不能享港人福利，內地婦分娩費覆核駁回》，《新報》，2008年12月18日。
39. 《跨境學童社會常識欠佳，對兩地社會均不了解，自我身份模糊》，《文匯報》，2009年1月14日。
40. 《08年出生率創25年新高，半年料三萬嬰公院出世》，《星島日報》，2009年1月29日。
41. 《去年誕逾萬BB，浸會醫院創紀錄》，《太陽報》，2009年1月29日。
42. 《去年新生嬰料破24年前紀錄、鼠BB超金豬、港婦生育高峰》，《明報》，2009年1月29日。
43. 《海嘯衝擊怕辛苦如牛，今年出生率料大幅回落》，《大公報》，2009年1月29日。