

Benchmark Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong

Key Statistics

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Key Statistics

1. The Survey

Survey Period:
September 2004 – March 2005

Survey Coverage:
Youth aged 15 - 24 in Hong Kong

Sample Size:
3 556

Survey Method:
Face-to-face interviews (Household visits)

Household Response Rate:
76.1%

Margin of Error of Key Statistics:
+/-1.6% at 95% confidence level

2. Civic engagement and social networks

(a) Network qualities

(i) Trust in people

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Disagree</i>
<hr/>		
<i>Family members and friends</i>		
Most family members can be trusted (Q.46d)	92	7
Most friends can be trusted (Q.46e)	93	6
Most schoolmates can be trusted (Q.46f)	86	13
<i>Neighbours</i>		
I believe my neighbour will help me if I need (Q.47g)	71	23
I will help my neighbour if he/she needs (Q.47h)	84	12
Most neighbours can be trusted (Q.46h)	68	20
<i>Other people</i>		
Generally HK people do not help each others (Q.46b)	41	58
Generally HK people do not trust each others (Q.46c)	50	49
Most colleagues cannot be trusted (Q.46g)	34	37

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Disagree</i>
<i>Hong Kong as a place</i>		
Generally HK people are friendly (<i>Q.46a</i>)	87	12
I believe I am part of Hong Kong society (<i>Q.47a</i>)	96	3
I believe I am part of the district where I live (<i>Q.47b</i>)	94	5
HK people care about and are helpful to each others (<i>Q.47c</i>)	84	14
People in my district care about and are helpful to each others (<i>Q.47d</i>)	79	18
HK will be better if people like me can cooperate (<i>Q.45d</i>)	79	15
<i>Leave HK / living community</i>		
I am sure that I will emigrate and leave HK if there is a chance (<i>Q47e</i>)	44	51
I am sure that I will leave my living community if there is a chance (<i>Q47f</i>)	49	47
Index of trust in people (<i>Q45d, Q46a-h, Q47a-d, g, h</i>): 5.1 (Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)		

(ii) Trust in institutions

	% of respondents	
	Totally / Quite / Slightly Trust	Totally / Quite / Slightly Distrust
Administration		
Chief Executive (Q.48a)	52	42
Executive Council (Q.48b)	53	39
Accountability System of Principal Officials (Q.48c)	44	48
Senior Civil Servants (e.g. Deputy Director / Permanent Secretary) (Q.48d)	55	37
Political institutions		
Directly elected Legislative Councillors (Q.48e)	65	28
Legislative Councillors of Functional Constituencies (Q.48f)	59	32
District Council (Q.48g)	67	25
Local Mass Media (Q.48h)	51	44
Political Parties (Q.48i)	49	42
Law enforcement		
Judicial System (Q.48j)	76	18
Police (Q.48k)	86	12
ICAC (Q.48l)	92	5
Office of the Ombudsman (Q.48m)	84	9

Index of trust in institutions (Q48a-m): 4.6

(Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)

(iii) Sense of control and efficacy

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Disagree</i>
People like me do not have a say in government policies (<i>Q.45a</i>)	49	47
People like me cannot possibly understand government policies (<i>Q.45b</i>)	41	54
The Government generally treats me fairly (<i>Q.45c</i>)	65	30

(b) Network structure

(i) Participation in the activities of the following organizations

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Mutual aid committees, Kai Fong associations & owners' corporations (Q.30a)	2
Labor unions, trade associations (Q.30b)	2
Professional associations (Q.30c)	3
Church / religious organizations (Q.30d)	17
Parent / teacher associations, alumni, school boards & other educational groups (Q.30e)	9
Cultural / recreational organizations & ethnic associations (e.g. Youth associations, South China Athletic Association, etc.) (Q.30f)	5
Social services groups (e.g. Rotary Club) (Q.30g)	8
Uniformed groups (e.g. Boy scout) (Q.30h)	9
Pressure groups / other interest groups (e.g. environmental protection groups, human rights groups, patients' rights groups) (Q.30i)	3
Political parties (Q.30j)	1

33% of respondents had participated in at least one activities organized by the civic organizations.

(ii) Extent of participation in most active organization

	<i>% of respondents who had participated in at least one civic organizations #</i>
Participated in activities organized by the group (only participation without giving any assistance) (Q.30l)	71
Participated as a volunteer (Q.30m)	52
Assisted in planning and organizing the activities (Not only assisting on the date when the activities were held) (Q.30n)	35
Being executive, committee member, director of the organization (Q.30o)	18

33% of respondents had participated in at least one activities organized by the civic organizations.

(iii) Whether willing to make friends with the following groups of people

	% of respondents	
	<i>Very / Quite / Slightly Willing</i>	<i>Very / Quite / Slightly Unwilling</i>
<i>Different groups</i>		
Very different educational level (<i>Q.44a</i>)	94	4
Very different wealth (<i>Q.44b</i>)	93	5
Very different job position (<i>Q.44c</i>)	87	5
Older than you (<i>Q.44d</i>)	93	5
Different race (<i>Q.44e</i>)	90	8
Different religion (<i>Q.44f</i>)	91	5
Different political views (<i>Q.44g</i>)	86	8
New immigrants from Mainland China (<i>Q.44h</i>)	88	10
New immigrants from other countries (<i>Q.44i</i>)	90	7
<i>Disadvantaged groups</i>		
Recovered mental patient (<i>Q.44j</i>)	79	17
Mentally retarded (<i>Q.44k</i>)	73	22
Disabled (<i>Q.44l</i>)	81	15
Homosexual (<i>Q.44m</i>)	69	26
Drug addict (<i>Q.44n</i>)	37	59
Ex-prisoner (<i>Q.44o</i>)	61	34

Index of diversity of friendship (*Q44a-o*): 5.3

(Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)

(iv) Informal socializing

<i>Participation in social activities with following people in the past 12 months</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Good friends (Q36a)	98
Classmates (Q36b)	94
Colleagues* (Q36c)	88
Ordinary friends (Q36d)	74

* Base: Those who were employed

(c) Network transactions

(i) Voting in elections

<i>Whether voted in the following elections</i>	<i>% of respondents aged 18-24 who were registered voters[#]</i>
<i>Legislative Council election (Q.27)</i>	
Every time	42
Most of the time	16
Sometimes	11
Seldom	7
Never	20
<i>District Councils election (Q.28)</i>	
Every time	33
Most of the time	13
Sometimes	10
Seldom	8
Never	33

[#] 50% aged 18-24 respondents had registered as voters.

(ii) Participation in signature campaigns/rallies/demonstration/protest

<i>Whether had participated in signature campaigns/rallies/demonstration/protest in the past 12 months (Q.29)</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Yes	16
No	83

(iii) Participation in volunteer work

<i>Frequency in the past 12 months (Q31)</i>	<i>% of respondents who had participated in volunteer work[#]</i>
49 times or above	1
37-48 times	0.4
25-36 times	1
13-24 times	3
12 times or less	69
Had not participated in volunteer work in the past 12 months	7

<i>No. of hours in the past 12 months (Q31)</i>	<i>% of respondents who had participated in volunteer work in the past 12 months</i>
201 hours or above	0.4
151-200 hours	1
101-150 hours	1
51-100 hours	4
50 hours or less	71

[#] 48% of respondents had participated in volunteer work.

(iv) Donations

*% of respondents who had made donations
in the past 12 months[#]*

Recipient organizations (Q33)

Social services / charitable organizations	72
Schools / school sponsoring bodies	52
Religious groups	24
Professional associations	6
Political parties	2
Others	0.2

Amount donated (Q34)

Less than \$100	62
\$100 –\$500	28
\$501 – \$1,000	5
\$1,001 – \$2,000	2
\$2,001 – \$5,000	1
\$5,001 – \$10,000	0.3
Over \$10,000	0.0

[#] 59% of respondents had made donations in the past 12 months.

(v) Attitude towards volunteering

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Strongly / Quite / Slightly Disagree</i>
<i>Motivation</i>		
I am concerned about those people who are unfortunate (<i>Q32a</i>)	94	4
I believe it is important that people should help each others (<i>Q32b</i>)	97	2
Taking part in volunteer work can help me realize my own ability (<i>Q32c</i>)	83	12
<i>Participation</i>		
I have undertaken a lot of volunteer work (<i>Q32d</i>)	45	48
I understand the nature of volunteer work (<i>Q32e</i>)	68	26
<i>Intention</i>		
It is a waste of time to take part in volunteer work (<i>Q32f</i>)	23	72
I would take up volunteer work if I have the chance to do so (<i>Q32g</i>)	78	17
Index of attitude towards volunteering (<i>Q32a-g</i>): 5.1 (Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)		

(vi) Faith-based engagement (*Q35*)

	<i>% of respondents who had religion[#]</i>
Protestant	71
Buddhist	16
Catholic	12
Taoist	1
Others	1
<i>Extent of devotion</i>	
Very/Quite/Slightly Devoted	84
Slightly not devoted / Not quite devoted / Not devoted at all	13

25% of respondents had religion.

3. Use of services and social support network

(a) Use of services

(i) Use of community services

<i>Type of services</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Family education services (Q22a)	14
Youth services (Q22b)	39
Employment services (Q22c)	21
Student tutorial services (Q22d)	25
Social / recreation activities (Q22e)	43
Community centre facilities (e.g. study room, library services) (Q22f)	70

77% of respondents had used at least one type of community services or facilities.

(ii) Participation in programmes organized by the Government

<i>Type of services and programmes</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (Q23a)	7
Project Yi Jin (Q23b)	4
Retraining Programmes of Employees Retraining Broad (Q23c)	4
Skills upgrading programmes (Q23d)	6
Courses sponsored by Continuing Education Fund (Q23e)	10
Employment referral services of the Labour Department (Q23f)	16

26% of respondents had used at least one type of services and programmes provided by the Government.

(iii) Channels of information about Government services to the public (Q25)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Television / Radio	84
Newspapers	71
Teachers	23
Friends	18
Family members	14
Community Centres / Social service organizations	11
Internet	6
Companies	2
Churches	2
Unions	1
Other sources	1
Do not know what the Government has done for the general public	2

(iv) Expectation of community / Government services (Q24)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Find employment	58
Increase knowledge on employment / further education	46
Find schools or tertiary education places	38
Raise self-confidence, problem-solving skills	31
Relieve mental pressure	31
Improve family relationship	11
Improve relationship with neighbours	9
Others	1

(b) Social support network

(i) Whom to seek help / advice on financial problems (Q39)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Parents	77
Best friends	49
Brothers / sisters	33
Relatives	9
Banks	4
Spouse	3
Government departments	1
Social services organizations	1

(ii) Whom to seek help / advice on emotional problems (Q40)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Best friends	81
Parents	37
Brothers / sisters	24
Relatives	6
Spouse	5
Social services organizations	2
Teachers	2
Social workers	1
Classmates	1

(iii) Availability of help from friends

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Very / Quite / Slightly Helpful / Supportive</i>	<i>Slightly / Quite Unhelpful / Unsupportive / Not Helpful / Supportive at all</i>
<hr/>		
<i>Non-economic</i>		
When you are sick (<i>Q41a</i>)	87	11
When you need to make an important decision (<i>Q41b</i>)	91	8
When you have serious dispute with your family members (<i>Q41c</i>)	82	14
When you are depressed and upset (<i>Q41d</i>)	92	7
When your academic performance is poor or below passing marks (<i>Q41e</i>)	80	16
<i>Economic</i>		
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job (<i>Q41f</i>)	60	16
When you have financial problems (<i>Q41g</i>)	70	21
<hr/>		
Index on availability of help (<i>Q41a-g</i>): 5.3 (Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)		

(iv) Rendering help to friends and neighbours in the past 12 months

	<i>% of respondents</i>			
	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Seldom</i>	<i>Never</i>
<i>Help rendered to friends (Q42)</i>				
Housework (e.g. looking after children or elderly, shopping, cooking, renovation)	2	18	28	47
Financial problems (e.g. borrowing or being a guarantor)	3	25	30	38
Emotional problems (listening to others / giving opinion on important issue)	28	46	14	11
<i>Help rendered to neighbours (Q43)</i>				
Housework (e.g. looking after children or elderly, shopping, cooking, renovation)	1	6	15	73
Financial problems (e.g. borrowing or being a guarantor)	0.1	2	10	82
Emotional problems (listening to others / giving opinion on important issue)	2	4	12	76

Index on rendering help(Q42-43): 2.0

(Index is compiled based on 1-5 scores.)

(v) Contacts with neighbours (Q37)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
No contact	12
Some contact	78
Often contact	6

(vi) Nature of contacts with neighbours (Q38)

	<i>% of respondents</i>
Greeting	86
Chat over the phone	10
Help buying things	6
Taking care of family members	5
Taking part in activities together	5
Others	0.4

4. Personal well-being and family functioning

(a) Satisfaction with the environment and facilities of the district

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Highly / Quite / Slightly Satisfied</i>	<i>Highly / Quite / Slightly Unsatisfied</i>
<i>Environment</i>		
Environmental quality (e.g. cleanliness of streets, air quality, etc.) (Q21a)	84	15
Law and order (Q21b)	86	14
<i>Facilities</i>		
Transportation situations (Q21c)	85	14
Education (Q21d)	81	15
Medical services (Q21e)	80	17
Community facilities (Q21f)	75	22

Index of satisfaction on the community (Q21a-f): 5.2

(Index is compiled based on 1-7 scores.)

(b) Mental health status

(i) Mental health

	<i>% of respondents</i>			
	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>No more than usual</i>	<i>Rather more than usual</i>	<i>Much more than usual</i>
<i>Anxiety</i>				
Found everything getting on top of you (Q.54)	28	43	24	5
Felt unhappy or depressed (Q.55)	38	44	16	3
Felt nervous and strung-up all the time (Q61)	48	37	12	2
Felt constantly under strain (Q49)	28	51	17	4
Felt you couldn't overcome your difficulties (Q50)	31	54	12	2
Found life a struggle all the time (Q51)	36	33	25	6
Got scared or panicky for no good reason (Q53)	53	33	11	2

	<i>% of respondents</i>			
	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>No more than usual</i>	<i>Rather more than usual</i>	<i>Much more than usual</i>
<i>Confidence</i>				
Lost confidence in yourself (Q.56)	46	39	13	3
Thought of yourself as a worthless person (Q.57)	60	30	8	2
Felt that life is entirely hopeless (Q58)	71	23	5	1
Felt that life is not worth living (Q62)	79	17	3	1
Found at times you couldn't do anything because your nerves were too bad (Q63)	53	36	10	2

<i>Happiness</i>	% of respondents			
	<i>More so than usual</i>	<i>Same as usual</i>	<i>Less so than usual</i>	<i>Much less than usual</i>
Could enjoy your normal day-to-day activities (Q52)	15	71	12	2
		<i>About the same as usual</i>	<i>Less so than usual</i>	<i>Much less than hopeful</i>
Felt hopeful about your own future (Q59)	18	71	9	2
		<i>About the same as usual</i>	<i>Less so than usual</i>	<i>Much less than usual</i>
Felt reasonably happy, all things considered (Q60)	20	69	11	1
Index of mental health (Q49-63): 3.2 (Index is compiled based on 1-4 scores.)				

(ii) Perception of life

	% of respondents	
	<i>Strongly agree/Agree / Slightly agree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree / Disagree / Slightly disagree</i>
<i>Satisfaction with life</i>		
In most ways my life is close to my ideal (Q64)	54	46
The conditions of my life are excellent (Q65)	58	42
I am satisfied with my life (Q66)	72	28
<i>Accomplishments in life</i>		
So far I have gotten the important things I want in life (Q67)	39	61
If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing (Q68)	36	65
Index of perception of life (Q64-68): 3.5 (Index is compiled based on 1-6 scores.)		

(c) Self-esteem

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Strongly agree/ Agree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree/ Disagree</i>
<hr/>		
<i>Usefulness</i>		
At times I think I am no good at all (<i>Q.105</i>)	27	73
I certainly feel useless at times (<i>Q.109</i>)	29	71
All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure (<i>Q.112</i>)	16	84
<i>Self-regard</i>		
I feel that I have a number of good qualities (<i>Q106</i>)	90	10
I am able to do things as well as most other people (<i>Q107</i>)	82	18
I feel I do not have much to be proud of (<i>Q108</i>)	27	73
I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal basis with others (<i>Q110</i>)	86	14
<i>Satisfaction</i>		
On the whole, I am satisfied with myself (<i>Q104</i>)	83	17
I wish I could have more respect for myself (<i>Q111</i>)	88	12
I take a positive attitude toward myself (<i>Q113</i>)	90	10
<hr/>		
Index of self-esteem (<i>Q104-113</i>): 3.0		
(Index is compiled based on 1-4 scores.)		

(d) Family functioning

(i) Family relationship

	<i>% of respondents</i>				
	<i>Yes: Fits our family very well</i>	<i>Yes: Slightly fits our family</i>	<i>Some: Fits our family some</i>	<i>No: Slightly not fit our family</i>	<i>No: Does not fit our family</i>
<i>Harmony</i>					
Family members support each other (Q69)	35	46	14	3	1
Family members love each other (Q70)	35	45	16	3	1
Family members care each other (Q72)	34	47	15	3	1
Mutual consideration (Q73)	27	45	21	6	2
Family members understand each other (Q74)	24	42	26	7	2
Family members talk to each other (Q75)	27	37	24	10	2
Arranging family activities (Q76)	12	25	27	25	12
Family members are cohesive (Q77)	26	40	24	8	3
Family members enjoy getting together (Q78)	24	36	26	10	4
Not much barrier among family members (Q79)	23	37	24	12	4
Family members get along well (Q83)	27	44	23	5	2
Good family relationship (Q85)	26	44	23	5	2
Family members trust each other (Q89)	30	48	17	4	1
<i>Mutuality</i>					
Not much quarrel among family members (Q82)	16	28	28	19	9
Family members tolerate each other (Q86)	20	44	28	6	1
Family members forebear each other (Q87)	20	44	28	6	2
Family members accommodate each other (Q88)	23	47	23	5	1

	<i>% of respondents</i>				
	<i>Yes: Fits our family very well</i>	<i>Yes: Slightly fits our family</i>	<i>Some: Fits our family some</i>	<i>No: Slightly not fit our family</i>	<i>No: Does not fit our family</i>
<i>Conflict</i>					
No mutual concern (<i>Q71</i>)	2	7	15	36	40
Much friction among family members (<i>Q80</i>)	3	15	26	34	22
Frequent fighting among family members (<i>Q81</i>)	1	4	13	26	56
Lack of harmony among family members (<i>Q84</i>)	2	7	19	39	34
Poor marital relationship of parents (<i>Q101</i>)	6	9	16	23	47
Index of family relationship (<i>Q69-89, 101</i>): 3.8 (Index is compiled based on 1-5 scores.)					

(ii) Parent-child relationship

	<i>% of respondents</i>				
	<i>Yes: Fits our family very well</i>	<i>Yes: Slightly fits our family</i>	<i>Some: Fits our family some</i>	<i>No: Slightly not fit our family</i>	<i>No: Does not fit our family</i>
<i>Care</i>					
Parents love their children (Q90)	45	40	10	3	2
Parents do not concern their children (Q91)	4	7	11	33	44
Parents take care of their children (Q92)	41	41	15	2	1
<i>Connectedness</i>					
Parents know children's need (Q93)	20	34	32	11	3
Parents understand children's mind (Q94)	15	31	34	15	5
Parents often talk to children (Q95)	20	36	27	13	4
Parents share children's concern (Q96)	16	32	30	17	5
Children are filial (Q100)	22	46	26	5	1
<i>Conflict</i>					
Parents scold and beat children (Q97)	1	6	15	33	45
Parents force children to do things (Q98)	2	11	23	31	32
Parental control too harsh (Q99)	3	11	26	33	27

Index of parent-child relationship (Q90-100): 3.8

(Index is compiled based on 1-5 scores.)

(iii) Family functioning in general

	<i>% of respondents</i>				
	<i>Functions very well together</i> ⑤	④	③	②	<i>Does not function well together at all</i> ①
My family (Q102)	27	43	27	3	1
	<i>Dependent</i> ⑤	④	③	②	<i>Independent</i> ①
My family members are (Q103)	24	41	28	5	1