

## Researcher's Note

This statistical profile has been compiled to provide policy makers, service planners, youth workers, and the general public with details of the demographic, health, educational, economic, social, and political characteristics of young people in Hong Kong. Two previous profiles of the same nature had been published in 1988 and 1992.

As the third edition of the series, efforts have been made to improve the content and presentation of the profile. In terms of content, the present profile contains much more information than its predecessors. The topic on health, for example, has been expanded into two separate sections. Additional contents such as new arrivals have also been added. In terms of presentation, all the tables are presented in a compressed format for better viewing. An introduction and summary observations are also added in each section to give the readers a better frame of reference. Moreover, a complete bibliography and a list of tables have also been added to facilitate information search, and additional references have also been included at the end of each section to help readers identify sources of useful information on top of those already incorporated in the report.

Except for special cases, the statistics contained in the profile are based mainly on published sources. Efforts have been made to scrutinize the data for validity and reliability. Because of the nature of the profile, only results from territory wide studies have been included. To avoid presentation and interpretation problems, the report only contains quantitative data and analyses which are clear and easy to understand from the readers' perspective.

Finally, it should be noted that the term 'youth' is often being defined differently across contexts. The Commission on Youth, for example, defines 'youth' as those aged 15 to 24 with a margin of five years on either side of the age group, whereas the Hong Kong Police classifies persons from 7 to 15 as juveniles, persons 16 to 20 as young persons, and persons 21 or above as adults. Readers are thus advised to check the exact age range of the targets under study which are clearly stated in the report for the statistics presented.

Dr. Chor-fai Au