Census and Statistics Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Thematic Household Survey Report - Report No. 87 - Health, Elderly Care and Social Inclusion of Elderly Persons

(Survey period: April - August 2024)

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Note(s)

1. This report presents the key findings of the Thematic Household Survey on health, elderly care and social inclusion in respect of Hong Kong elderly population.
2. Elderly persons in this report refer to persons aged 65 and over residing in households.

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1. Key Figures

Emotional well-being

		2024	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Persons aged 65 and over	Had feelings of loneliness during the week before enumeration	232.0	14.1

Elderly care

		2024	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Persons aged 65 and over	Had received community support or care services during the 12 months before enumeration	59.3	3.6

			2024	
			No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)
Persons aged 65 and over	Preference for elderly care model in the coming 2 years	Ageing in place	1 258.3	76.3
		Residential care	43.4	2.6
		Not yet decided	347.4	21.1

Social inclusion

		2024	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Persons aged 65 and over	Had contacted family members, relatives or friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration	1 579.3	95.8
	Had participated in community or volunteer activities during the 3 months before enumeration	225.3	13.7

Note:

1. As a percentage of all persons aged 65 and over.

2. Emotional Well-being

- In 2024, about 232 000 persons aged 65 and over had feelings of loneliness during the week before enumeration, representing 14.1% of the respective population.
- Analysed by age group, the rates for persons aged 65-79 and 80 and over who had feelings of loneliness were 12.1% and 21.0%, respectively.

Table 2.1 : Persons aged 65 and over who had feelings of loneliness during the week before enumeration by age group

Survey year			2024	
			Number of elderly persons	
			No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Whether had feelings of loneliness during the week before enumeration	Age group			
Yes	≥65	65-79	156.2	12.1
		≥80	75.8	21.0
		≥65	232.0	14.1

1 As a percentage of all persons in the respective age groups.

3. Elderly Care

Use of community support or care services

- In 2024, some 59 300 persons aged 65 and over had received community support or care services for the elderly during the 12 months before enumeration, constituting 3.6% of the respective population.

Table 3.1 : Persons aged 65 and over who had received community support or care services during the 12 months before enumeration by age group

Survey year			2024	
			Number of elderly persons	
			No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Whether had received community support or care services during the 12 months before enumeration	Age group			
Yes	≥65	65-79	30.4	2.4
		≥80	28.8	8.0
		≥65	59.3	3.6

1 As a percentage of all persons in the respective age groups.

Preference for elderly care model

- Of all persons aged 65 and over, some 1 258 300 (76.3%) had a preference for ageing in place in the coming 2 years, while about 43 400 (2.6%) preferred residential care in the coming 2 years. Around 20% (21.1%) had not yet decided.
- Analysed by age group, the rate for persons aged 80 and over having a preference for residential care in the coming 2 years (5.9%) was higher than that for persons aged 65-79 (1.7%).

Table 3.2 : Persons aged 65 and over by age group and preference for elderly care model in the coming 2 years

Survey year			2024	
			Number of elderly persons	
			No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)
Age group		Preference for elderly care model in the coming 2 years		
≥65	65-79	Ageing in place	985.1	76.5
		Residential care	22.0	1.7
		Not yet decided	280.6	21.8
		Overall	1 287.7	100.0
	≥80	Ageing in place	273.2	75.6
		Residential care	21.4	5.9
		Not yet decided	66.8	18.5
		Overall	361.4	100.0
	≥65	Ageing in place	1 258.3	76.3
		Residential care	43.4	2.6
		Not yet decided	347.4	21.1
		Overall	1 649.1	100.0

4. Social Inclusion

Contacts with persons living apart

- In 2024, about 1 579 300 persons aged 65 and over had contacted family members, relatives or friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration, constituting 95.8% of the respective population.
- Among those having contacts with family members or relatives living apart, over 40% had contacts with family members or relatives living apart at least once a week, while another 40% had such contacts at least once a month but less than once a week. A similar pattern was observed for contacts with friends living apart.

Table 4.1 : Persons aged 65 and over who had contacted family members, relatives or friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration by person contacted

Survey year		2024	
Age group		≥65	
		Number of elderly persons	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Whether had contacted family members, relatives or friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration	Person contacted (2)		
Yes	Family members or relatives living apart	1 514.8	91.9
	Friends living apart	1 336.7	81.1
	Overall	1 579.3	95.8

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 65 and over.
2 Multiple answers were allowed.

Table 4.2 : Persons aged 65 and over who had contacted family members or relatives living apart during the 3 months before enumeration by frequency of contact

Survey year		2024	
Age group		≥65	
		Number of elderly persons	
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)
Whether had contacted family members or relatives living apart during the 3 months before enumeration	Frequency of contact		
Yes	At least once a week	685.6	45.3
	At least once a month but less than once a week	614.5	40.6
	At least once every 3 months but less than once a month	178.6	11.8
	On an irregular basis / could not remember	36.2	2.4
	Total	1 514.8	100.0

Table 4.3 : Persons aged 65 and over who had contacted friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration by frequency of contact

Survey year		2024	
Age group		≥65	
		Number of elderly persons	
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)
Whether had contacted friends living apart during the 3 months before enumeration	Frequency of contact		
Yes	At least once a week	565.4	42.3
	At least once a month but less than once a week	532.8	39.9
	At least once every 3 months but less than once a month	180.5	13.5
	On an irregular basis / could not remember	58.0	4.3
	Total	1 336.7	100.0

Participation in community or volunteer activities

- In 2024, some 225 300 persons aged 65 and over had participated in community or volunteer activities during the 3 months before enumeration, accounting for 13.7% of the respective population.
- Analysed by frequency of participation, about half (50.0%) had participated in community or volunteer activities at least once a week, while another 30% (31.4%) had such participation at least once a month but less than once a week.

Table 4.4 : Persons aged 65 and over who had participated in community or volunteer activities during the 3 months before enumeration by frequency of participation

Survey year		2024		
Age group		≥65		
		Number of elderly persons		
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)
Whether had participated in community or volunteer activities during the 3 months before enumeration	Frequency of participation			
Yes	At least once a week	112.5	50.0	-
	At least once a month but less than once a week	70.8	31.4	-
	At least once every 3 months but less than once a month	26.5	11.8	-
	On an irregular basis / could not remember	15.4	6.8	-
	Overall	225.3	100.0	13.7

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 65 and over.
- Not applicable

5. Explanatory Notes

Survey coverage and methodology

This round of the Thematic Household Survey (THS) was conducted from April to August 2024 which covered the land-based non-institutional population of Hong Kong Resident Population (i.e. comprising Usual Residents and Mobile Residents), but did not include foreign domestic helpers.

Some 10 100 households within a scientifically selected sample of quarters were successfully enumerated in this survey, constituting a response rate of 75%. Within each enumerated household, all persons aged 65 and over (excluding foreign domestic helpers) were selected for interview. For details of survey methodology, information collected and reliability of the estimates for this round of THS, please refer to Part 1 of the **Explanatory Notes (Complete Version)**.

Rounding of figures

Figures in the tables may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Terms and definitions

- **Feeling of loneliness** refers to the feeling of lacking companionship, feeling left out or feeling isolated from others.
- **Community support or care services** refer to the community support services or community care services provided by the government-subsidised and non-government-subsidised service units for elderly persons. As far as this survey is concerned, community support services for elderly persons cover District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, Social Centres for the Elderly, etc. Community care services for elderly persons cover Day Care Centres / Units for the Elderly, Home Care Services for Frail Elderly Persons, Community Care Service Vouchers for the Elderly, etc.

For the full list of terms and definitions (including common terms and definitions of the socio-economic characteristics of population) for this round of THS, please refer to Part 2 of the **Explanatory Notes (Complete Version)**.

Explanatory Notes (Complete Version)

Explanatory Notes (Complete Version)

6. Enquiries

Social Surveys Section (1)
Census and Statistics Department
Tel. : (852) 3863 2622
Email : **thematic@censtatd.gov.hk**