CENTRAL POLICY UNIT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

A STUDY ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

POLICY 21 LIMITED

JANUARY 2013

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A Study on New Arrivals from Mainland China

Final Report

Policy 21 Limited

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Executive Summary

Objectives of study

1. This study aims to address the research gap in Hong Kong by being the baseline survey of a future longitudinal investigation of new arrivals from Mainland China.

   (a) To obtain a better understanding of the nature and process of the social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration of new arrivals from the Mainland into the Hong Kong community.

   (b) To identify six categories of factors which facilitate or hinder the integration process, and thereby suggesting policy recommendations. The six categories of factors are economic situation, human capital characteristics, psychosocial stress, perceived opportunity for success and experiencing discrimination, social service programmes targeted to new arrivals, and cross-boundary visits and support.

Methodology

2. The survey's target population was new arrivals aged 11 or above from the Mainland who had been in Hong Kong for more than 9 months but less than 12 months for the purpose of family reunification.

3. A two-phase longitudinal design was adopted. The first phase interview was conducted at the Registration of Persons, in which a total of 16,380 new immigrants were sampled and 13,400 respondents were successfully recruited. The overall response rate was about 82%. Among the 13,400 respondents, 1,353 were children aged between 11 and 17. Among those aged 18 and above, 2,244 out of 12,047 were male adults.

4. All of the participants in the first phase of the study were asked to participate in

the second phase of the study, which was conducted about nine months after the first phase interviews in the form of household interviews. Among the 5,070 respondents who completed the interviews in the second phase interviews, 476 were children aged between 11 and 17, while among the 4,594 adult respondents, 705 were male adults, representing a response rate at about 70%.

5.　　Weighting was adopted by using post-stratification by age-sex groups and the ratio estimation method was used to blow up the survey data using the total number of new arrivals by age-sex groups during the period of the survey as the benchmark.

Main findings

Demographic and Socio-economic characteristics

6.　　About 20.3% of adult new arrivals and 51.9% of child new arrivals were males. Over 70.0% of the adult new arrivals were aged between 18 and 39. Among the adult new arrivals, slightly over 80% (82.1%) were currently married, 11.2% had never been married, and 5.1% were either separated or divorced.

7.　　About 45.9% of the adult new arrivals were employed and 47.3% were economically inactive such as retired, home-makers or students, and another 6.7% were neither at work nor at school. Most of the employed adult new arrivals committed were service and sales workers or elementary workers.

Household characteristics

8.　　About 40.2% of the adult new arrivals were living in private residential flats and 38.3% were living in Housing Authority (HA) / Housing Society (HS) public rental flats. About 66.7% of the adult new arrivals were sole tenants, 14.8% were owner-occupiers and about 10.2% of the households shared living quarters with other households.

9.　　Besides, about 7.2% of the new arrival families received Comprehensive Social

Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

10.   When the new arrivals were asked "In general, the economic situation of your family places you in which social class?", about 78.3% of the adult new arrivals and 81.2% of child new arrivals perceived their families belonged to the "middle lower" or "lower" class.

Human capital characteristics

11.   Only 5.8% of the adult new arrivals had a university or higher level of education; over half (55.1%) had a junior high school level education or below. There was gender difference in educational attainment as the male adult new arrivals tended to have a higher level of educational achievement than the female adult new arrivals ($\chi2(7)=54.1$, $p<0.01$). Among the child new arrivals, over half (51.7%) had a junior high school level education while about 16.4% had a senior high school level education or above.

12.   Among the new arrivals, over half spoke fluent Cantonese.

Acculturation Stress

13.   The measure of acculturative stress in the social, attitudinal, familial, and environmental contexts was based on a standardized 26-item measure scale - Social, Attitudinal, Familial, and Environment (S.A.F.E.). The total scores on the SAFE Acculturation Stress Scale ranged from 0 to 130; the mean was 30.0, with a standard deviation of 16.5 for the adult new arrivals. Among the child new arrivals, the mean was 25.9 with a standard deviation of 17.1. In the qualitative study, the main source of stress for the male and female adult new arrivals was financial burden and their poor living environment respectively.

Perceived Opportunity for Success in Hong Kong and Experiencing Discrimination

14.   Slightly less than one tenth (9.5%) of the adult new arrivals believed that they would be successful in Hong Kong. Among the child new arrivals, about 29.8%

believed that they would be successful in Hong Kong indicating that the child new arrivals were more optimistic than the adult new arrivals.

15.   More than half of the adult new arrivals experienced discrimination against them in their daily lives and about about 20% sometimes or frequently encountered such discrimination.

Programmes Targeted towards New Arrivals

16.   Only 10.5% of the adult new arrivals were aware of the pre-immigration social services provided by social service organizations, and only 1.5% of them had received those services in the Mainland prior to immigrating to Hong Kong.

17.   The utilization rate of post-immigration support services for adult new arrivals and child new arrivals in the previous 6 months was 10.2% and 15.6% respectively. In general, both child and adult new arrivals perceived these support services as useful or very useful.

Cross-boundary Visits and Support

18.   Almost half of the new arrivals had only visited Mainland China one or two times in the previous 6 months at the time of enumeration and about 9.5% of the adult new arrivals and 5.4% of the child new arrivals had travelled back to the Mainland frequently.

19.   The most popular type of cross-boundary support the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals received from family or friends members in Mainland China was spiritual and emotional support, followed by social companionship and giving advice on decision making.

Social Integration

20.   The adult new arrivals who were currently married were asked to rate items from the Marital Communication Scale (Cheung, 2000). The results indicated

that the marital communication of the married respondents was quite good.

21. The most popular family activity during holidays among the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals was shopping, followed by visiting relatives or friends in Mainland China or Hong Kong and playing sports.

22. Alarmingly, about 16.5% of the adult new arrivals did not have any friends in Hong Kong and about 30.8% had one to three friends even though they had been living in Hong Kong for more than 9 months. Among the child new arrivals, about 8.6% did not have any friends in Hong Kong and about 15.0% had one to three friends in Hong Kong.

23. Slightly more than half of the adult new arrivals (54.0%) did not know any of their neighbours, while 35.5% knew one to three households in their neighbourhood. The participation rate in afterwork activities with neighbours was low among the new arrivals. Specifically, only 7.4% of the adult new arrivals and 6.7% of the child new arrivals sometimes or often participated in these sorts of activities. The results indicated that adult new arrivals had small and weak social networks of neighbours.

24. In the community domain, over 95% of the adult new arrivals and the child new arrivals had not used facilities and services such as computer rooms, employment service, family services, individual counselling services, babysitting, childcare service and elderly services in the previous 6 months. Only about 13.4% of the adult new arrivals and 4.5% of the child new arrivals had participated in the activities organized by community centres. Less than 1% of the adult new arrivals and the child new arrivals had participated in activities organized by district council offices, incorporated owners' committees or trade union.

Economic Integration

25. The unemployment rate among these male new arrivals was approximately 14.3%, which was much higher than the rate among the general population at

the survey period in the fourth quarter in 2011 (about 3.3%).

26. The utilization rate of employment-related skills training of the adult new arrivals was very low (less than 4%). Among those adult new arrivals who were currently working, 28.0% had received on-job training.

Political Integration

27. In general, the civic mindedness of the new arrivals was very high. For instance, more than 90% of the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals reported that the electorate should vote in every election. However, only 0.1% of them had participated in activities organized by political parties in the previous 6 months.

Cultural Integration

28. About 65.0% of the adult new arrivals reported that they were Chinese, while about 29.7% reported that they were Hongkongers. Among the child new arrivals, 43.6% of the child new arrivals indicated that they were Chinese, while about 51.1% reported that they were Hongkongers.

Educational Assimilation

29. Two thirds of the child new arrivals were studying in subvented schools and almost one quarter was studying in government schools. About 29.7% of the child new arrivals perceived that their academic performance in their first semester in Hong Kong was either very good or good, while 37.0% felt very satisfied or satisfied with their academic performance in the last semester. In general, the child new arrivals had high educational aspirations and positive attitude towards school.

行政撮要

研究目的

1. 本研究為探討內地來港新移民的基線調查，旨在

   (a) 了解內地來港新移民在社會、經濟、教育、政治和文化等方面如何融入本港社會，以及社會融入的性質和過程；及

   (b) 確認促進或妨礙融入過程的因素，包括經濟狀況、人力資本特徵、社會和心理壓力、對「出人頭地」機會和遭受歧視的理解、以新移民為目標的社會服務計劃和跨境探訪及支援，繼而提出政策建議。

研究方法

2. 研究對象為 11 歲或以上、從內地遷移來港多於 9 個月但少於 12 個月，而其來港的目的是家庭團聚的內地來港新移民。

3. 本研究包括兩個階段的追蹤訪問。第一階段訪問會在人事登記處進行，期間共有 16,380 名新移民到訪人事登記處，本研究成功邀請了其中的 13,400 名新移民進行訪問，回應率為約 82%。受訪者中，有 1,353 名為年齡介乎 11 至 17 歲的兒童，餘下的 12,047 名為 18 歲或以上的新移民。當中，男性受訪者有 2,244 名，佔受訪人士約 22%。

4. 研究第一階段的受訪者均獲邀參與第二階段研究。第二階段的訪問在第一階段訪問完成後九個月，訪問員會到受訪者的住所進行訪問。此階段成功與 5,070 名受訪者完成訪問，其中 476 名為年齡介乎 11 至 17 歲的兒童，其餘的 4,594 名成年受訪者中。當中，男性受訪者有 705 名。

5. 本研究在參考本港整體新移民的年齡及性別分佈等特徵後，對調查訪問所得

的數據進行加權處理，並以此來進行分析。

研究結果要點

人口及社經背景特徵

6. 從性別來看，在成年新移民中，約 20.3%是男性，至於在未成年的新移民中，約 51.9%為男性。從年齡來看，成年新移民中超過 70.0%的年齡介乎 18 至 39 歲。從婚姻狀況來看，成年新移民中 82.1%為已婚人士，11.2%從未結婚，以及 5.1%為分居或離婚人士。

7. 在成年新移民中，約 45.9%為受僱人士，當中以從事服務及商業工作者或非技術工人為主；另有 47.3%為非從事經濟活動人士，包括退休人士、家庭主婦或學生；其餘 6.7%為非在職或非在學人士。

家庭特徵

8. 依居所類別劃分，約 40.2%成年新移民居住在私人住宅單位，及 38.3%居住在房屋委員會/房屋協會公營租住房屋。依租置類別劃分，約 66.7%成年新移民為全租租戶，14.8%為自置物業及約 10.2%為與其他家庭合租單位。

9. 此外，約 7.2%新移民家庭有領取綜援。

10. 當被問及「總的來說，您認為您家的經濟狀況在香港屬於甚麼階層？」，約 78.3%成年新移民及 81.2%兒童新移民認為其家庭屬於「中下」或「低下」階層。

人力資本特徵

11. 從學歷來說，超過半數(55.1%)成年新移民持有初中學歷或以下，持有大學或專上學位只佔少數(5.8%)。此外，男性成年新移民較女性成年新移民傾向擁

有較高的教育程度(χ2(7)=54.1，p<0.01)。至於兒童新移民方面，超過半數(51.7%)擁有初中教育程度，而約 16.4%擁有高中教育程度或以上。

12. 在新移民中，超過半數能說流利的廣東話。

文化適應導致的壓力

13. 綜合社會、態度、家庭和環境等層面的因素(Social, Attitudinal, Familial, and Environment (S.A.F.E.))，本研究計算出的文化適應壓力比率顯示，文化適應壓力比率的總分數由 0 到 130 不等，平均數爲 30.0，成年新移民的標準偏差是 17.1。男性和女性成年新移民的壓力來源並不相同，男性成年新移民的主要壓力是經濟困難，而女性的主要壓力是居住環境不理想。

對在港出人頭地的機會的認知及遭受歧視

14. 成年新移民中，只有近十分一(9.5%)相信自己在香港會出人頭地。兒童新移民中，約 29.8%相信自己會在香港出人頭地。兒童新移民似乎較成年新移民樂觀。

15. 超過半數成年新移民在日常生活曾遭受歧視，約 20%表示有時或經常遭受歧視。

爲新移民舉辦的活動

16. 只有少數成年新移民(10.5%)表示知道有社會服務機構提供來港前服務，而其中更只有 1.5%成年新移民在移民香港前於內地接受相關社會服務。

17. 大約一成(10.2%)成年新移民表示在訪問時的六個月內，有參與新來港家居支援服務，而兒童新移民則爲 15.6%。成年和兒童新移民認爲這些支援服務是有用或非常有用。

18. 約半數新移民表示在訪問時的前六個月內返回內地 1 至 2 次，另有約 9.5% 的成年新移民及 5.4%兒童新移民則表示經常往返內地。

19. 成年和兒童新移民從內地家人或朋友最常接受到的是精神和情緒支持，其次 是社交聯誼和在作決定時提供意見。

社會融和

20. 已婚的成年新移民獲邀就夫婦溝通量表的項目評分。結果顯示已婚受訪者在 婚姻上的溝通頗良好。

21. 成年和兒童新移民在假期最常進行的家庭活動是逛街購物，其次是探訪在港 或內地的親戚或朋友，再其次是運動。

22. 令人擔心的是，約 16.5%成年新移民在港沒有任何朋友，及約 30.8%的受訪 者即使在港居住超過 9 個月也只有 1 至 3 名朋友。在兒童新移民中，約 8.6% 在港沒有任何朋友，約 15.0%在港有 1 至 3 名朋友。

23. 成年新移民的鄰居社交網絡很小，與鄰居的關係也十分疏離。稍多於半數成 年新移民(54.0%)表示不認識鄰居，約 35.5%表示認識 1 至 3 戶鄰居。新移民 中，與鄰居一同參加工餘/課餘活動的參與率很低，只有 7.4%成年新移民和 6.7%兒童新移民間中或經常參與這類活動。

24. 超過 95%成年及兒童新移民在訪問時的前六個月內沒有使用例如電腦室、就 業服務、家庭服務、諮詢及輔導服務、子女託管、兒童照顧服務及長者服務 等。只有約 13.4%成年新移民及 4.5%兒童新移民曾參與社區中心舉辦的活 動，少於 1%的成年新移民和兒童新移民曾參加區議員辦事處、業主立案法 團或政黨所舉辦的活動。

經濟融和

25. 男性新移民的失業率約爲 14.3%，遠高於 2011 年第四季一般人口的失業率(約 3.3%)。

26. 成年新移民對與工作有關的技巧培訓的使用率很低(少於 4%)。在職成年新移民中，28.0%曾接受在職培訓。

政治融和

27. 一般而言，新移民的公民意識很高，例如超過 90%成年新移民和兒童新移民表示選民應積極參與選舉投票。但是，只有 0.1%受訪者在訪問時的前六個月內曾參與政黨所舉辦的活動。

文化融和

28. 成年新移民中，約 65.0%表示自己是中國人，另有約 29.7%表示自己是香港人。在兒童新移民中，43.6%表示自己是中國人，約 51.1%表示自己是香港人。

教育同化

29. 三分二的兒童新移民在資助學校就讀，而接近四分一在官立學校就讀。約 29.7%兒童新移民認爲他們在香港第一個學期的學業表現很好或好，而 37.0%則感到非常滿意或滿意他們在最後一個學期的學業表現。一般而言，兒童新移民有很高的學業期望和對學校有正面的態度。

Chapter 1   Introduction

Immigration in Hong Kong

1.1.   Hong Kong is a society that is predominantly made up of immigrants from Mainland China (Chow & Ho, 1996; HKISS, 1997; Lai, 1997; K.C. Lam & Liu, 1998a; Siu, 2009; So, 2003). Immigrants from Mainland China have never stopped flowing into this small city, and eventually they came to form a significant proportion of Hong Kong's total population. As there have been several waves of immigration from Mainland China over the course of Hong Kong's history, the immigration policy of Hong Kong has continued to evolve in order to adapt to the changing political, economic, social, and labour situations in both Hong Kong and Mainland China.

1.2.   Historically, different immigration waves have brought different groups of immigrants, expertise, and problems to Hong Kong because, over time, both the criteria for granting immigration permits and the profiles of immigrants have changed significantly. Early immigrants from Mainland China to Hong Kong brought with them both human and financial capital (K.C. Lam & Liu, 1993). In the late 1940s and early 1950s, immigrants were workers from Guangdong and entrepreneurs from Shanghai, and these people provided Hong Kong with a large supply of cheap labour as well as financial capital. During the 1960s and 1970s, immigrants were mainly young male workers, who provided a large supply of cheap labour for Hong Kong's manufacturing industry at that time.

1.3.   In 1983, in order to control and reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering Hong Kong, the government of Hong Kong negotiated with the Chinese government and eventually the one-way permit (OWP) quota system was introduced (K.C. Lam & Liu, 1998a). Initially, a strict daily quota of 75 Chinese were permitted to immigrate to Hong Kong. The number was increased to 105 in 1993 and then further increased to 150 in 1995, and the number has remained unchanged since then (HKISS, 1997; HKSAR

Government, 2003; Siu, 2009; So, 2003). The introduction of the OWP quota system marked a change in the profile of immigrants from predominately young working males and entrepreneurs to middle-aged married females with low educational attainment and their young dependent children (So, 2003; S. Wong, 2007).

1.4.   The previous cohorts of immigrants before the implementation of the OWP quota integrated remarkably well into Hong Kong society due to the rapid economic growth that occurred during the period between the 1960s and 1980s. The recent shift in economic conditions in Hong Kong has hindered the integration of new immigrants due to the rise in income inequality, slow economic growth, and stagnating earnings. The deterioration of economic conditions in Hong Kong has been accompanied by the negative framing of new arrivals as a hostile invasion force that threatens to become a burden on Hong Kong's social resources. Thus, all of these changes cast doubt on the successful integration of the current cohort of new immigrants in Hong Kong. However, as yet, few studies have been conducted to observe and understand the process of the integration of individual immigrants over time and the policy implications for these people and their next generations. There is therefore a need for a study to better gauge the profile of new arrivals, their experiences of life in Hong Kong, the process of integration, their service needs, and the barriers affecting their integration into mainstream society. **The current study aims to address this research gap in Hong Kong by being the baseline survey of a future longitudinal investigation of new arrivals in Hong Kong.**

Integration of Immigrants

1.5.   Integration is a multidimensional process of interactions between immigrants and the host society. Integration not only refers to ensuring immigrants' economic, social, political, and cultural participation in the host society but also includes the acquisition of identity with the host society and respect for the host society's values and basic rules (Council of Europe, 1997; Lacroix, 2010). Some areas, such as the labour market, education and language training, housing, social and health services, cultural environment, and citizenship,

require more careful scrutiny. It is clear that integration policies should create favourable conditions for immigrants' social, economic, educational, political, and cultural participation in order to realize the potential of immigration.

Social Integration

1.6. In the context of immigrants integration, the extent to which immigrants engage in social interactions with the natives in the host country can be labelled social integration (Brissette, Cohen, & Seeman, 2000; Martinovic, Van Tubergen, & Maas, 2009). When discussing the social interaction and the relationship between a person and his or her social environment, Lin (1986) proposed three different layers of social relations: intimate relationships and family, friendship and neighbours, and community. Based on the literature, **in this study, social integration is examined on three levels: spouse and family, neighbours and friends, and community.** The integration process actually takes place through daily encounters at these three different social network levels.

Social Integration: Marital Relationship and Family

1.7. Limited attention has been paid to the marital satisfaction in, and the functioning of, marital unions among immigrants (Bryant, Taylor, Lincoln, Chatters, & Jackson, 2008; Rehman & Holtzworth-Munroe, 2007). However, if the new immigrant is the spouse of a local who migrated to Hong Kong for family reunion reasons, the cultural dissonance between spouses might cause tension in the marital relationship because although people in Hong Kong and Mainland China share the same ethnic heritage, the social and living conditions in the two societies differ significantly. Thus, the social values and practices of Chinese immigrants are quite different to those of Chinese living in Hong Kong (D. F. K. Wong, 2001). While trying to adapt to their new life in Hong Kong, married migrants also have to face the weakened marital relationships that have resulted from prolonged separation. In addition, the typical "old husband and young wife" phenomenon, that is, a much older man who is permanent citizen of Hong Kong married to a much younger woman from

Mainland China (Ma, Lin, & Zhang, 2010; D. F. K. Wong, 2008), makes maintaining a healthy marital relationship even more difficult and stressful.

1.8. Family relationships have traditionally been regarded as one of the key determinants of social cohesion and solidarity in modern society. The family is the base from which family members participate in society, and family relationships also have significant consequences for individual well-being (Ingoldsby & Smith, 1995), especially for new immigrants (Lerner, Kertes, & Zilber, 2005). A strong family orientation, usually described as a cultural value that is related to a strong attachment to nuclear and extended families as well as to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviours of loyalty, connectedness, obligation, responsibility, and solidarity that family members have for each other, is an important characteristic of collectivistic societies such as Chinese society.

1.9. Immigrants are often thought of as individual actors, but research during the past decade has demonstrated that individuals' choices and chances – the decision to migrate, the choice of destination, and the strategies for building a successful life in that destination – are inextricably linked with their family ties and bonds. The needs of family members motivate migration, families make collective decisions about who migrates, family members are the key sources of social and instrumental support for new migrants, and family relationships are altered, stressed, and strengthened by the migration process (Massey, Fischer, & Capoferro, 2006; Perreira, Chapman, & Stein, 2006; Settles, 2001; Treas, 2008). **Based on the literature review, in this study, we examine marital relationships, participation in family activities, and the social support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong in the family domain of social integration.**

Social Integration: Friends and Neighbours

1.10. From the adaptation perspective, social support from friends could act as a buffer against stressful and frustrating life experiences and could help to facilitate a smooth transition process; if immigrants could better utilize the available social support, the stress of acculturation would likely be diminished

to a great extent (J.W. Berry, 2005; J.W. Berry, Kim, Minde, & Mok, 1987; Cohen, Arad, Lorber, & Pollack, 2007; House, 1987; Hovey & Magaña, 2000; Krause, 1987; Kuo & Tsai, 1986; Lynam, 1985; Mak & Lau, 1992; Meadows, Brown, & Elder, 2006).

1.11. Most of the past studies on immigrants and their social network of friends focused on immigrants who are of a different ethnicity to the majority group (Cohen et al., 2007; Han, Kim, Lee, Pistulka, & Kim, 2007; McMichael & Manderson, 2004; Ryan, Sales, Tilki, & Siara, 2008): for example, exploring the ways Polish immigrants access existing networks or establish new network ties in London (Ryan et al., 2008); assessing the relationship between psychological distress and social support among Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in Israel (Cohen et al., 2007); examining the relationships between acculturation stress, social support, and depression among Korean immigrants in the United States (Han et al., 2007); and exploring how the erosion of social relationships contributes to distress and sadness among Somali immigrants in Australia (McMichael & Manderson, 2004).

1.12. Local studies have indicated that married female immigrants display a greater preference for support from their informal networks, such as close friends (Chow & Ho, 1996; Ho, 2006; Lai, 1997; Mo, Mak, & Kwan, 2006; D. F. K. Wong, 2001). Although new immigrants rely heavily on informal networks for instrumental and informational support, they do not have a strong social networks in Hong Kong (HKISS, 1997; Mo et al., 2006; W. C. K. Wong, 2006). **Based on the literature, we examine the number of friends that new arrivals have in Hong Kong and the social support they receive from friends in Hong Kong**.

1.13. The social importance of neighbouring has been debated extensively in the social sciences (Kearns & Parkinson, 2001; Galster, 2001; Germain and Gagnon, 1999; Galster et al., 1999; Galster & Killen, 1995). Neighbouring behaviour can range from acquaintance with neighbours and offering and receiving mutual assistance to strong friendships and/or attachment to a place expressed by feelings of belonging and trust in one's neighbours (Keller, 1968).

Although most neighbouring consists of weak ties that link people who have little in common other than a shared residential location (Bridge et al. 2004; Forrest and Kearns, 2001; Wellman, 1996), these links can be crucial sources of information (Granovetter, 1973) or the basis for a sense of belonging (Henning & Lieberg, 1996).

1.14. Few studies have examined the qualities and characteristics of neighbouring behaviour among immigrants. The strong and weak relationships that exist between individuals and their neighbours may promote a sense of belonging, especially for immigrants settling in a new society (Hagan, 1998). A study conducted in Canada found that new immigrants to the country are less likely than the natives to know most of their neighbours and to receive help from neighbours, but no difference was found between immigrants and natives in terms of a sense of belonging to the local neighbourhood (Ray & Preston, 2009). To our knowledge, no local study has been conducted to examine the qualities and characteristics of neighbouring behaviour among new arrivals. **In this study, we examine three components of neighbouring behaviour: participation in afterwork activities with neighbours, the number of neighbours new arrivals know, and perceived relationship with neighbours.**

Social Integration: Community

1.15. Although the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and many community organizations are actively involved in providing various kinds of social support services to new arrivals to help them through the stressful adaptation process, studies have found that these formal social support services, such as those provided by social service organizations and government departments, are underutilized (Chow & Ho, 1996; Ho, 2006; Lai, 1997; Mo et al., 2006; D. F. K. Wong, 2001; D. F. K. Wong & Song, 2006). In a cross-sectional study of married migrants in Hong Kong, Lai (1997) found that the new arrivals in her study rarely utilized the assistance provided by community organizations or government departments simply because they

were unfamiliar with the way these services were operated, and some had no knowledge about them.

1.16.   On the other hand, in a 2006 household survey of new arrivals in Hong Kong, it was reported that 13.3% of the new arrivals surveyed had used various kinds of social welfare services (Census and Statistics Department, 2006a). Among these new arrivals, 44.4% had used "small group services", 43.1% a "counselling service", 23.9% a "family life education programme", and 22.6% "services for helping to understand the right and responsibilities of citizens". **In this study, we examine participation in activities organized by social service organizations, the utilization of facilities and services provided by social service organizations, and participation in activities organized by community centres, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees in the community domain of social integration.**

Economic Integration

1.17.   Economic integration is important for immigrants because being economically integrated increases the sense of belonging and ultimately the likelihood of being fully assimilated into the receiving country. The most widely recognized indicator of successful economic integration is connected with the participation of immigrants in the labour market, and successful labour market participation is often understood as having paid employment (Entzinger & Biezeveld, 2008). The literatures consistently indicate that immigrants face various disadvantages in the labour market; they typically face unemployment, unequal working conditions, occupational downgrading, labour market exploitation, and lower salaries compared to the natives (Borjas, 1987; Hernández-Plaza, Alonso-Morillejo, & Pozo-Muñoz, 2006; Remennick, 2005). In other words, new immigrants' world of work is characterized by long working hours, low wages, cash payment, few benefits, little job security, double shifts, and multiple jobs worked back to back in order to raise earnings. Therefore, the exclusive use of paid employment to assess a person's level of economic integration may be misleading.

1.18. Using cross-sectional data, studies have shown that immigrants from Mainland China face disadvantages in terms of their initial social position, subsequent mobility, and income attainment (Chiu, Choi, & Ting, 2005; K.C. Lam & Liu, 1998b; Lui, 1997). However, mixed findings have been reported in terms of the effect of residence duration on economic integration (Chiu et al., 2005; K. C. Lam & Liu, 2002; Liu, Zhang, & Chong, 2004). In a recent study using a series of population census and by-census data from 1991 to 2006, it was found that at time of entry, Mainland immigrants (a) were less likely to be employed, (b) more likely to be trapped in elementary occupations, and (c) earned much less than the natives (Zhang & Wu, 2011). The study found that as the length of their stay increased, the gaps tended to decrease, but most of the immigrants were unable to reach parity with the natives with respect to earnings throughout their working lives.

1.19. In a household survey of new arrivals conducted in 2006, among those who planned to work in Hong Kong in the coming year, 81.6% reported that they needed job-related training. Specifically, they required training in computer-related office skills, the skills required to be a domestic helper, and job-seeking and interview skills (Census and Statistics Department, 2006a). Due to the long working hours of employed new arrivals, they may find that work interferes greatly with family life. **In this study, we focus on the status of economically active immigrants, employment and unemployment rates, the utilization of employment-related training, on-job training, receipt of subsidies from the Continuing Education Fund, and work-family balance.**

Educational Integration

1.20. For school-age immigrants, educational integration is important because education is related to individuals' future life chances and opportunities for economic integration and intergenerational upward mobility. Based on Alba and Nee's (2003) definition of assimilation, educational assimilation refers to the convergence in educational attainment or achievement between immigrants and natives. In the United States, the characteristics of immigrant students and the quality of their schools and neighbourhoods matter to their success in

school. Immigrants whose parents are married, have a high income, and are well educated and who are themselves natives and fully proficiency in English outperform those who do not have these characteristics (Glick & White, 2003; Hirschman, 2001; Kao & Tienda, 1995; Perreira, Harris, & Lee, 2006; S. L. Pong & Hao, 2007). Children with cultural values regarding academic achievement that help them succeed even in the face of low levels of human capital (Kao, 2004; Perreira, Harris, et al., 2006; S. L. Pong, Hao, & Gardner, 2005). Immigrants who attend schools with highly qualified teachers and high-achieving peers fare better than those in less endowed educational settings (Hao & Pong, 2008; Perreira, Harris, et al., 2006; S. L. Pong & Hao, 2007; Portes & MacLeod, 1996), and the human capital of the neighbourhood has a modest influence on immigrant students' achievement (Perreira, Harris, et al., 2006; S. L. Pong & Hao, 2007).

1.21. Mixed findings have been reported in relation to educational assimilation among children of immigrant families. In a recent 3-year longitudinal study of secondary school students (from Form 1 to Form 3), migrant students (born in Mainland China) outperformed local students in Chinese, mathematics, science, and social studies but not in English (S. L. Pong & Tsang, 2010). Another study indicated that there were few significant differences in terms of university attendance between native-born children and new arrivals who came to Hong Kong before the age of 9 (Post, 2004). However, a recent study has shown that 15-year-old children of immigrants were poor in mathematics, reading, and science literacy tests compared to children of the same age from local families (S.L. Pong, 2009). In the same study, it was also found that school adjustment was significantly slower for children from immigrant families than for children from local families and that the former were less likely to expect to have a university-level education than the latter. **In this study, we examine the following in relation to educational integration: type of schools, perceived academic performance, educational aspiration, attitude to school, and school life satisfaction.**

Political Integration

1.22. Integration is not limited to the social and economic dimensions; political and cultural integration (or acculturation) are also receiving increasing attention. The level of civic participation is significantly lower among immigrants than among native born Hongkongers (DeSipio, 2011; Lien, Conway, & Wong, 2004). Immigrants are less likely to have the individual resources, such as time and financial capacity, necessary for regular engagement in civic participation. Moreover, immigrants are also less likely to be mobilized to participate (Verba, Lehman, & Brady, 1995). To our knowledge, no study has been conducted to investigate political or civic participation among new arrivals in Hong Kong. **In this study, we examine civic mindedness and general political knowledge among new arrivals.**

Cultural Integration

1.23. Cultural integration (acculturation) is multidimensional, consisting of cultural practices (language use, media preferences, social affiliations, and cultural customs and traditions), cultural values (belief system associated with a culture, such as the value placed on the family), and cultural identifications (attachments to cultural groups and the positive esteem drawn from these attachments) (J. W. Berry, Phinney, Sam, & Vedder, 2006; Chirkov, 2009; Rudmin, 2009). Cultural identity is a complex and multifaceted construct that consists of three aspects (Ferdman & Horenczyk, 2000; Benish-Weisman & Horenczyk, 2010): (1) the construction of the in-group and its characteristics (features may vary across persons and subgroups); (2) the individual's feelings about and evaluation of the cultural features he or she ascribes to the group; and (3) the individual's view of the extent to which the group's characteristics are reflected in the self.

1.24. Lau (1997) proposed four main cultural identity options, namely "Hongkongers", "Chinese", "both", and "neither". He found a consistently strong sense of Hong Kong identity using a series of surveys conducted before

the 1997 handover, although a slow but long-term increase in the proportion of people claiming a dual identity as both Hongkongers and Chinese was identified (Lau, 1997). In 2006, slightly more than half (52.8%) of 848 respondents aged 18 and above identified themselves as Hongkongers, 36.3% described themselves as Chinese, and 9.4% said both (K. Y. Wong & Wan, 2007). Similar surveys were conducted by the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong using four different categories: Hong Kong citizen, Chinese Hong Kong citizen, Hong Kong Chinese citizen, and Chinese citizen. In December 2010, out of 1,013 respondents, 35.5% claimed that they were Hongkongers, 27.6% Chinese Hongkongers, 13.8% Hong Kong Chinese, and 21.1% Chinese; however, there was no clear trend over the period between 1997 and 2011 (Public Opinion Programme, 2012). Moreover, people who were born in Hong Kong were more likely to claim to be Hongkongers, while immigrants from Mainland China were more likely to identify themselves as Chinese. **In terms of cultural integration, we examine cultural identity and the acceptance of Hong Kong core values as indicators of cultural acculturation.**

Welfare and Poverty

1.25.   New policies introduced in 2004 that limit the access of new arrivals to the cash benefits available under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme may undermine integration (HKSAR Government, 2003). The new laws drew more distinct lines between permanent citizens and new arrivals, and some critics have suggested that this has led to discrimination. While immigrants' access to basic constitutional protections is broad, no such right appears to hold for public benefits. Immigrants' eligibility for public welfare such as CSSA and public housing has basically been determined by the length of their stay in Hong Kong. The new policy introduced in 2004 represented a major departure in immigrant integration policy in Hong Kong. Following the policy, adult immigrants arriving after 2004 were barred from receiving CSSA and public housing for 7 years.

1.26.   One argument put forward for barring new arrivals from being eligible for these benefits was that there was already considerable discrepancy in terms of eligibility for various privileges among residents with different lengths of residence (HKSAR Government, 2003). In 2003, the length of residence required varied from 1 year in the case of CSSA to 7 years in the case of public rental housing. Secondly, it was argued that the public expenditure arising from the provision of CSSA to new arrivals was increasing rapidly. Therefore, Hong Kong needed to ensure that its social resources were allocated on a rational basis, particularly in view of the government's severe fiscal deficit at that time.

1.27.   Although new arrivals aged 18 and below are exempted from this residency bar to receiving CSSA, there may be a spillover effect for children living in immigrant families when their newly arrived immigrant parents are not eligible to receive CSSA. Using the 2006 By-Census data, it was found that the risk of child poverty is about three times greater for children living in migrant families (at least one immigrant parent) than for those living in local families (both parents locals) (36% vs 12%) (K. L. Chou, 2012a). On the other hand, it is well established that child poverty is linked with a number of developmental and schooling difficulties (Glick & White, 2003; Lichter, 1997) as well as with poor socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood such as intergenerational poverty (Lichter, 1997; McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994; Stier & Teinda, 2001). Therefore, it is important to ensure that children living in migrant families can achieve educational integration. **In this study, we examine how receiving CSSA and household income affect the integration of new arrivals.**

Human Capital Theory

1.28.   According to the human capital theory (Becker, 1964), the human capital that immigrants bring to or acquire in the new community determine to a large extent their economic position in the new place of settlement. Human capital is the notion that knowledge and skills, derived from education, training, and experience, represent some of the most valuable human resources. Immigrants who move at a young age, have settled for longer periods, and have higher educational attainment, more work experience, and a better command of the

destination language often perform better economically (Chiswick & Miller, 2002; Remennick, 2004).

1.29. Besides the disadvantages related to educational level and working experience, one of the problems commonly faced by many new arrivals is the language barrier (HKISS, 1997; Lai, 1997; Mo et al., 2006; D. F. K. Wong, 2008; W. C. K. Wong, 2006). Although Mainland Chinese and Hong Kong Chinese share the same ethnicity, there are still observable differences in terms of the use of language. The simplified Chinese characters used in Mainland China are substantially different to the traditional complex Chinese characters used in Hong Kong. Apart from the difference in written Chinese, different dialects, pronunciations, and slang are still commonly observed among many married migrants, and these could be one source of stress for these migrants when they are trying to adapt to their new life in Hong Kong (HKISS, 1997; Lai, 1997; Mo et al., 2006). **In this study, we focus on two human capital characteristics, namely, education and fluency in Cantonese, and how they are associated with the integration of new arrivals.**

Psychosocial Stress

1.30. The acculturation process can result in biological and psychological changes. Although not all change is inherently stressful, there are times and situations in which changes associated with the acculturation process can be distressing (J.W. Berry et al., 1987). Acculturation stress is a physiological and psychological state brought about by culture-specific stressors rooted in the process of acculturation. Acculturation stress impacts the physical, psychological, and social domains of functioning, and acculturation stressors include social (e.g. learning new social norms and interacting with culturally diverse individuals) (Ward & Kennedy, 1999), familial (e.g. culture-specific intergenerational conflict) (R. M. Lee, Choe, Kim, & Ngo, 2000), and environmental (e.g. lack of cultural diversity in community) (Benet-Martinez & Haritatos, 2005; J.W. Berry et al., 1987) stressors.

1.31. Acculturation stressors also include perceived difficulties across a number of culture-specific life domains, including language, education, work, intercultural interactions, values, and world views (Gil, Vega, & Dimas, 1994; Padilla, Cervantes, Maldonado, & Garcia, 1988). Ultimately, acculturation stress can lead to a reduction in health status, causing anxiety, depression, psychosomatic symptoms, feelings of isolation, and sociocultural adjustment difficulties (Hwang & Ting, 2008; J. S. Lee, Koeske, & Sales, 2004; Oh, Koeske, & Sales, 2002; Ying, 2005). Acculturation stress may have a detrimental impact on social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration among new arrivals in Hong Kong. Therefore, **in this study, we examine how acculturation stress influences the integration of new arrivals.**

Perceived Opportunity for Success and Experiencing Discrimination

1.32. For most members of a host society, it is the responsibility of immigrants to adapt to the new environment without imposing costs or inconvenience on the natives and without changing the life of the host society as it existed before their arrival. However, recent studies have shown that immigrant assimilation is more complex than this one-way street process as assimilation is very much a two-way street process in the sense that welcoming attitudes and behaviours on the part of the natives facilitate integration, while discrimination or hostile attitudes and actions retard integration (Alba & Nee, 2003; Massey & Sanchez, 2010). In the extreme case, discrimination in form of the rejection and exclusion of immigrants by members of the host society might lead to reactive ethnicity, that is, the rise of defensive identities and solidarities to counter the "adverse native mainstream" (Portes & Rumbaut, 2001).

1.33. Due to the negative stereotype images of new arrivals prevalent in Hong Kong society, they face discrimination simply because they are new arrivals from the Mainland (K. M. W. Lee, 2004; G. Lin & Ma, 2008; Mo et al., 2006; So, 2003). They are being discriminated against and condemned as being the cause of Hong Kong's social and economic problems and are often stigmatized as being poorly educated, impolite, and greedy; having poor personal hygiene; and being unable to tune in to Hong Kong (So, 2003). In a recent study, it was

found that perceived discrimination was significantly associated with depressive symptoms 1 year later after adjusting for depressive symptoms at baseline assessment, socio-demographic characteristics, social support, and neighbourhood collective efficacy (K. L. Chou, 2012b).

1.34. Although most new arrivals come to Hong Kong for family reunions, most of them have one broad goal in common: to improve their lives. Their perception of the opportunity to become successful in Hong Kong enable us to assess both the dreams and disappointments faced by new arrivals in Hong Kong (Massey & Sanchez, 2010). **In this study, we examine how the perception of the opportunity for success in Hong Kong and experiencing discrimination affect the integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong.**

Programmes Targeted towards New Arrivals

1.35. Various government bureaus and departments have been providing a range of services and programmes to meet the service needs of new arrivals, such as social welfare services, educational support, employment assistance, and housing services. Programmes targeted towards new arrivals are also provided by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to help new arrivals integrate into the community. In terms of support services for new arrivals from the Mainland, HAD updates the comprehensive "Service Handbook for New Arrivals" on a regular basis, provides adaptation courses, and subsidizes community activities organized by local organizations so as to help new arrivals learn more about Hong Kong and adapt to local life as soon as possible.

1.36. The Chief Executive announced in the 2010-11 Policy Address that the Government would enhance its collaboration with nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and local organizations in order to step up efforts to facilitate the early integration of new arrivals into the community. In the 2011-12 Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary announced that HAD would set up a dedicated team to strengthen and integrate the support services for new arrivals. In 2011-12, HAD set up this dedicated team and introduced three major initiatives, namely, "district-based integration programmes",

"expectation management programmes", and the "Ambassador Scheme", for new arrivals through district offices, NGOs, and local organizations.

1.37. The district-based integration programmes aim to help new arrivals to better understand Hong Kong, encourage them to participate more in the community, and facilitate their early integration into society. Since April 2011, these programmes have been implemented by the relevant district offices in districts where there is a higher demand for services for new arrivals. In October 2011, HAD commissioned two NGOs that have good networks in the Mainland to implement expectation management programmes in Shenzhen and Guangzhou so as to help prospective settlers gain a better understanding of the circumstances in Hong Kong before deciding to live there by providing community education, a support network for prospective settlers, and training courses. The Ambassador Scheme aims to provide outreach services to disadvantaged groups of new arrivals using volunteers with a similar background and experience.

1.38. The HKSAR Government's policies have supported the educational integration of Mainland Chinese immigrant students. The Education Bureau has implemented a number of policies in support of integrating Mainland students. These policies include the School-based Support Scheme Grant, the Induction Programme, the Full-time Initiation Programme, and placement services. They provide funding for supplementary lessons in schools, tailoring the curriculum, the purchase of teaching aids and resource materials, and organizing orientation programmes, guidance programmes, and extracurricular activities. They also provide services to induct Mainland immigrant children so that they learn to be familiar with the local community and culture. As English instruction in Mainland China lags behind Hong Kong, which has a history of English-medium schools, government funding is provided to run English remedial classes. Other remedial classes in written Chinese are also provided because Mainland Chinese use simplified Chinese characters while Hong Kong people use traditional ones. Finally, education initiatives have also been introduced to improve Mainland children's study skills, to foster personal

development and social adjustment, and to give newly arrived migrant children exposure to Hong Kong classroom situations.

1.39.   In addition, HAD has implemented two assistance programmes for new arrivals under the Community Care Fund. The first programme is the trial scheme on the provision of financial assistance to new arrivals to take language examinations that has been rolled out since September 2011. The purpose of this scheme is to subsidize eligible new arrivals to take international public examinations to achieve the proficiency in Chinese and English required for continuing education or employment, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and enabling their early integration into the community. The second is the trial scheme on the provision of a subsidy to new arrivals to enrol in language courses that was launched in the first quarter of 2012. The purpose of this scheme is to enhance the employability of low-income and non-school-attending new arrivals and to facilitate their integration into the community. Despite all of these efforts, the utilization rate of services targeted towards new arrivals is largely unknown, and, more importantly, the effectiveness of these programmes has not been systematically examined. **In this study, we examine whether pre- and post-immigration services targeted towards new arrivals affect the integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong.**

Cross-boundary Links

1.40.   A new phenomenon in immigration is transnationalism, which refers to immigrants channelling their efforts and earnings into projects in the sending country when upward mobility is blocked in the host society. Immigrants save money in the host country and then spend and invest their savings in ways that bring real improvements in status and material well-being to them and their families in the sending country. Immigrants move back and forth between the sending and host countries, and over time, these exten sive movements produce "transnational circuits" (Smith, 2006), within which people move to create "transnational social spaces" (Faist & Ozveren, 2004) and "transnational social fields" (Levitt & Schiller, 2004). The rise of

transnationalism is still relatively new, and many questions remain unanswered. Although the circulation of migrants and their social and financial remittances have been well documented (Levitt & Jaworsky, 2007), it remains unclear whether transnationalism facilitates or hinders the integration of immigrants into the host society.

1.41. Due to the close relationship and proximity between Hong Kong and Mainland China, new arrivals may frequently visit their home towns in Mainland China. Some may plan to settle down in Mainland China after their retirement from work in Hong Kong. Due to the rapid economic development in Mainland China, the second generation of immigrants may well plan to establish their careers in Mainland China after their education in Hong Kong. All of these plans may either facilitate or hinder the integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong, especially their cultural integration in terms of cultural identity, because many of them have a sense of exclusion from the local population and tend to develop interpersonal ties with other immigrants and establish social support networks among them (Ho, 2006). In a survey conducted by the Caritas Community Development Service, these immigrants were found to rely heavily on support from their friends in Mainland China, and they seek emotional support from their friends back in Mainland China when they encounter any problems (W. C. K. Wong, 2006). **In this study, we examine how cross-boundary visits and support determine the integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong.**

Chapter 2   Study Objectives

Aims of the Study

2.1   The first aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of the nature and process of the social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration of new arrivals from the Mainland into the Hong Kong community. In terms of social integration, we examine three levels: marital relations and family, friends and neighbours, and community life.

2.2   The second aim of this study is to identify six categories of factors which facilitate or hinder the integration process and to suggest policy recommendations. These six categories of factors are economic situation, human capital characteristics, psychosocial stress, perceived opportunity for success and experiencing discrimination, social service programmes targeted to new arrivals, and cross-boundary visits and support.

Specific Objectives of the Study

2.3   Regarding the marital relationship and family level of social integration, we examine marital relationship, family activities, and social support received from family members in Hong Kong among new arrivals.

2.4   In terms of the friends of social integration of new arrivals, we examine the number of friends new arrivals have in Hong Kong and the social support they receive from friends in Hong Kong.

2.5   In terms of the neighbours in social integration, we study neighbourhood networks, neighbouring activities, and perceived relationship with neighbours among new arrivals.

2.6   In the community domain of social integration, we examine new arrivals'
        participation in activities organized by social service organizations, their
        utilization of facilities and services provided by social service organizations,
        and their participation in activities organized by community centres, district
        council offices, and incorporated owners' committees.

2.7   With regard to economic integration, we examine the status of the
        economically active, employment and unemployment rates, the utilization of
        employment-related and work-related training, and the work-family balance
        among new arrivals.

2.8   In terms of educational integration, we examine types of school, perceived
        academic performance, educational aspiration, attitude to school, and school
        life satisfaction among school-age new arrivals.

2.9   We examine new arrivals' political integration, which includes civic
        mindedness, political knowledge, and participation in activities organized by
        political parties.

2.10   In terms of cultural integration, we examine cultural identity and the
        acceptance of Hong Kong core values as indicators of cultural acculturation.

2.11   We also identify and describe factors that facilitate or hinder the process of
        social, economic, political, and cultural integration. These factors include the
        economic situation of households with new arrivals, human capital
        characteristics, psychosocial stress, perceived opportunity for success and
        experiencing discrimination, social service programmes targeted towards new
        arrivals, and cross-boundary visits and support.

2.12   Finally, we identify areas for improvement, and, in a broader context, advise
        the Government on the long-term policy for immigration and immigrant
        integration.

Chapter 3   Methodology

Target Population

3.1   The survey's target population was new arrivals aged 11 or above from the Mainland who had been in Hong Kong for more than 9 months but less than 12 months for the purpose of family reunification.

3.2   Since one of the main purposes of the study was to gain a better understanding of the nature and process of the social and economic integration of new arrivals from the Mainland into the Hong Kong community, it was believed that those who had just arrived in Hong Kong or had been living in Hong Kong for a very short period of time were unlikely to have much experience of integrating into the Hong Kong community in terms of their experiences of life in Hong Kong, their perceived service needs, and the barriers affecting their integration into mainstream society. We therefore restricted the study's target respondents to those who had been in Hong Kong for more than 9 months but less than 12 months.

Sampling Frame

3.3   A sampling frame of new arrivals from the Mainland was not readily available. Nevertheless, it was noted that new arrivals from the Mainland have to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card at the Registration of Persons - Kowloon Office. Hence, the sampling frame was constructed from those immigrants appearing at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card. By systematically and randomly selecting respondents from among new arrivals from the Mainland who appeared at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office, a representative sample of new arrivals from the Mainland was obtained.

3.4   It was noted that new arrivals from the Mainland apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card shortly after coming to Hong Kong, especially if they are eager to find a job. It was noted that they usually apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card within 2 weeks of arriving in Hong Kong. It is also the practice that when they first come to Hong Kong, they are given an appointment date to go to the Immigration Department to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card.

3.5   In other words, most of the new arrivals sampled at the Registration of Persons - Kowloon Office were likely to have been residing in Hong Kong for a very short period of time. They were unlikely to have much experience of integrating into the Hong Kong community in terms of experience of life in Hong Kong, their perceived service needs, and the barriers affecting their integration into mainstream society. Given these circumstances, we recruited our sample at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office and then interviewed them at a later stage after they had been residing in Hong Kong for at least nine months. In other words, a two-phase interviewing method was used. The first phase interview was conducted at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office, and the second phase was conducted about nine months after the first phase interviews in the form of household interviews.

3.6   It was noted that the majority of new arrivals from the Mainland are female. The proportion of new arrivals who were female was 68% in 2008 and 72% in the first three quarters of 2009. In 2008, about 18% of new arrivals were under 11 years of age and only about 19% were males aged 15 or above.[1] To ensure that a sufficient number of male new arrivals, including adult males aged 20 or above, was sampled, a disproportionate stratified sampling design was used, with the stratification factors being the gender and age of the respondents.

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[1] Home Affairs Department and Immigration Department (2009), "Statistics on new arrivals from the Mainland, (third quarter of 2009)".

Sample Size

3.7   The first phase was conducted over a period of 7 months between April 15, 2010 and October 30, 2010. We randomly selected female new arrivals, with a sampling fraction of 1/3, and selected all male new arrivals. A short interview was conducted with those aged 11 or above sampled in the first phase to obtain their consent for participation in the survey, their contact information, and brief information on their socio-demographic profile.

3.8   In the first phase of the study, a total of 16,380 new immigrants were sampled, from which 13,400 respondents were successfully recruited. The overall response rate was about 81.8%. Among the 13,400 respondents, 1,353 were children aged between 11 and 17. Among those aged 18 and above, 2,244 out of 12,047 were male adults.

Table 3.1 Number of enumerated new arrivals in the first phase of the study by age group and sex

	Total	Male	Female
Number sampled (No.)	16,380	4,586	11,794
Number enumerated (No.)	13,400	2,942	10,458
Adults	*12,047*	*2,244*	*9,803*
Children	*1,353*	*695*	*658*
Response rates (%)	81.8%	64.2%	88.7%

3.9   All of the participants in the first phase of the study were asked to participate in the second phase of the study. Among the 5,070 respondents who completed the interviews, 476 were children aged between 11 and 17, while among the 4,594 adult respondents, 705 were male adults. Table 3.2 shows the enumeration results for the second phase of the study.

Table 3.2 Enumeration results for the second phase of the study

Total number of cases (the First Phase of the Study)			13,400
Invalid cases (No.)			*6,163*
(1)	Non-residential[2]		21
(2)	Sampled quarters unoccupied		412
(3)	Sampled addresses that could not be located		819
(4)	Invalid contacts		4,911
Valid cases (No.)			*7,237*
(1)	Successfully enumerated		5,070
	(i)	Fully enumerated	5,070
		Questionnaire A-Adult	4,594
		Questionnaire A-Child	476
		Questionnaire B-Adult	0
		Questionnaire B-Child	0
	(ii)	Partially enumerated	0
(2)	Not successful cases		2,167
	(iii)	Refusal	1,275
	(iv)	Non-contact[3]	892
	Refusal rate (%) [(2)(iii) / Valid cases]		18%
	Non-contact rate (%) [(2)(iv) / Valid cases]		12%
Response rate (%) [(1)(i) / Valid cases]			*70%*

3.10   Four sets of questionnaires, namely, Questionnaire A – Adult, Questionnaire A – Children, Questionnaire B – Adult and Questionnaire B – Children were designed covering all the new arrivals sampled in Phase I with different living patterns in Hong Kong. For those respondents who stayed in Hong Kong for at least one night per week on average in the past one month at the time of enumeration, Queationnaire A would be used for the interviews. For those respondents who did not stay in Hong Kong for at least one night per week on average in the past one month at the time of enumeration, Questionnaire B would be used.

3.11   For Questionanire B, efforts were made to contact those living in the Mainland

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[2] Non-residential refers to the addresses provided by the respondents were not for residential use. It included commercial buidilngds and industrial buildings.
[3] Non-contact defines the target respondents that could not be successfully contacted for at least 5 times at different time and different dates.

and among the refusal cases, about half of them informed that they would not come back to Hong Kong very often and refused to conduct the interviews via telephone as it would take them at least an hour to complete an interview. Therefore, no interviews with those not living in Hong Kong were conducted (Questionnaire B).

Systematic Sampling

3.12   As the target respondents were sampled as they arrived at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office, systematic sampling was used based on the order the target respondents arrived at the site. Female new arrivals were sampled at the interval of 1 in 3; all male new arrivals were sampled. Interviews were conducted with those aged 11 or above. After obtaining permission from the Immigration Department, interviewers from Policy 21 were stationed in the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office to conduct the sample selection and interviews.

3.13   Systematic selection of new arrivals was conducted throughout the day on every day that the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office was open for business. The recruitment process was conducted for 7 months.

Weighting

3.14   As disproportionate sampling was adopted, weighting was adopted by using post-stratification by age-sex groups and the ratio estimation method was used to "blow up" the survey data using the total number of new arrivals by age-sex groups during the period of the survey as the benchmark. Based on the information collected from the individuals interviewed during the First Phase of the Study, the situation relating to the total number of new arrivals to Hong Kong in 2010 can be inferred. Tables 3.3 and 3.4 show the number of completed cases and percentage distribution in the survey classified by age group and sex, and the corresponding figures for OWP holders entering Hong Kong from the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) are also illustrated.

Table 3.3 Number of enumerated new arrivals in the first phase of the study by age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Survey			C&SD, 2010[4]		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
11–14	326	310	636	1,669	1,502	3,171
15–17	368	347	715	1,149	1,106	2,255
18–19	270	270	540	766	738	1,504
20–24	353	542	895	744	1,318	2,062
25–29	249	2,484	2733	746	6,650	7,396
30–34	319	2,473	2792	919	6,277	7,196
35–39	340	1716	2056	1,093	4,451	5,544
40–44	285	1,188	1473	862	2,805	3,667
45–49	189	604	793	601	1,595	2,196
50–54	99	238	337	294	682	976
55–59	45	122	167	138	344	482
60–64	41	85	126	158	270	428
65 or above	42	60	102	151	214	365
Total	2,926	10,439	13,365	9,290	27,952	37,242

Table 3.4 Percentage distribution of enumerated new arrivals in the first phase of the study by age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Survey			C&SD, 2010		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
11–14	2.4%	2.3%	4.8%	4.5%	4.0%	8.5%
15–17	2.8%	2.6%	5.3%	3.1%	3.0%	6.1%
18–19	2.0%	2.0%	4.0%	2.1%	2.0%	4.0%
20–24	2.6%	4.1%	6.7%	2.0%	3.5%	5.5%
25–29	1.9%	18.6%	20.4%	2.0%	17.9%	19.9%
30–34	2.4%	18.5%	20.9%	2.5%	16.9%	19.3%
35–39	2.5%	12.8%	15.4%	2.9%	12.0%	14.9%
40–44	2.1%	8.9%	11.0%	2.3%	7.5%	9.8%
45–49	1.4%	4.5%	5.9%	1.6%	4.3%	5.9%
50–54	0.7%	1.8%	2.5%	0.8%	1.8%	2.6%
55–59	0.3%	0.9%	1.2%	0.4%	0.9%	1.3%
60–64	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.7%	1.1%
65 or above	0.3%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%
Total	21.9%	78.1%	100.0%	24.9%	75.1%	100.0%

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[4] Altogether, there were 26 age-sex subgroups: 13 age groups (10-14, 15-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, and 65+) × 2 sex groups (male/female).

3.15　A ratio estimation method was adopted to derive estimates at the person level based on a set of independent estimates on the sex and age distribution of the total number of new arrivals in 2010. The gross-up factors are illustrated in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Gross-up factors for weightings[5] in the first phase of the study

Age Group / Sex	Male	Female
11–14	5.12	4.85
15–17	3.12	3.19
18–19	2.84	2.73
20–24	2.11	2.43
25–29	3.00	2.68
30–34	2.88	2.54
35–39	3.21	2.59
40–44	3.02	2.36
45–49	3.18	2.64
50–54	2.97	2.87
55–59	3.07	2.82
60–64	3.85	3.18
65 or above	3.60	3.57

3.16　Based on the information collected from the individuals interviewed during the Second Phase of the Study, the situation relating to the total number of new arrivals to Hong Kong in 2010 can be inferred. Tables 3.6 and 3.7 show the number of completed cases and percentage distribution in the survey classified by age group and sex, and the corresponding figures for OWP holders entering Hong Kong from the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) are also illustrated.

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[5]　There were 35 cases without information on age or sex. Weights were not applied to these cases.

Table 3.6 Number of enumerated new arrivals in the second phase of the study by age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Survey			C&SD, 2010		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
11–14	94	98	192	1,669	1,502	3,171
15–17	130	154	284	1,149	1,106	2,255
18–19	47	56	103	766	738	1,504
20–24	99	149	248	744	1,318	2,062
25–29	73	837	910	746	6,650	7,396
30–34	98	1,104	1,202	919	6,277	7,196
35–39	133	690	823	1,093	4,451	5,544
40–44	96	525	621	862	2,805	3,667
45–49	78	292	370	601	1,595	2,196
50–54	45	127	172	294	682	976
55–59	12	57	69	138	344	482
60–64	11	34	45	158	270	428
65 or above	13	18	31	151	214	365
Total	929	4,141	5,070	9,290	27,952	37,242

Table 3.7 Percentage distribution of enumerated new arrivals in the second phase of the study by age group and sex

Age group / Sex	Survey			C&SD, 2010		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
11–14	1.9	1.9	3.8	4.5	4.0	8.5
15–17	2.6	3.0	5.6	3.1	3.0	6.1
18–19	0.9	1.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	4.0
20–24	2.0	2.9	4.9	2.0	3.5	5.5
25–29	1.4	16.5	17.9	2.0	17.9	19.9
30–34	1.9	21.8	23.7	2.5	16.9	19.3
35–39	2.6	13.6	16.2	2.9	12.0	14.9
40–44	1.9	10.4	12.2	2.3	7.5	9.8
45–49	1.5	5.8	7.3	1.6	4.3	5.9
50–54	0.9	2.5	3.4	0.8	1.8	2.6
55–59	0.2	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.9	1.3
60–64	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.1
65 or above	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.0
Total	18.3	81.7	100.0	24.9	75.1	100.0

3.17   A ratio estimation method was adopted to derive estimates at the person level based on a set of independent estimates on the sex and age distribution of the total number of new arrivals in 2010. The gross-up factors are illustrated in Table 3.5.

Table 3.8 Gross-up factors for weighting in the second phase of the study

Age Group / Sex	Male	Female
11–14	17.76	15.33
15–17	8.84	7.18
18–19	16.30	13.18
20–24	7.52	8.85
25–29	10.22	7.95
30–34	9.38	5.69
35–39	8.22	6.45
40–44	8.98	5.34
45–49	7.71	5.46
50–54	6.53	5.37
55–59	11.50	6.04
60–64	14.36	7.94
65 or above	11.62	11.89

Data Collection

3.18   The first phase of the study was confined to soliciting information on residence addresses for the purposes of the second phase visit and on the demographic profile of the new arrivals. The first phase survey consisted of short face-to-face interviews conducted at the Registration of Persons – Kowloon Office. As this office is quite congested, we kept the interviews as short as possible in order to avoid causing inconvenience to both the respondents and other users in the office. Furthermore, as the interview venue was a public place, it was also not advisable to gather in-depth information from the respondents on such topics as their plans in Hong Kong. The questionnaire used in the first phase of the study is attached in Annex.

3.19 In the second phase, which took place about nine months after the new arrivals came to Hong Kong, data collection was conducted through face-to-face household interviews. The second phase took place during the period between April 15, 2011 and October 15, 2011. The procedure we adopted was a multiwave, multicontact approach;[6] the aim of using this approach was to increase the proportion of respondents willing to cooperate in the survey and the chance of contacting the target respondents. Specifically, before data collection, the target respondents were contacted at least once by telephone to update their contact information after the first phase of the study. Then, a notification letter was sent to the respondents, reminding them of the purposes of the survey and reassuring them that the data collected in the survey would be kept strictly confidential. An enquiry hotline telephone number and details of a contact person were also be included to enable the respondents to clarify any questions they may have had about the survey or to make an appointment for their preferred survey time. The interviewers carried an identity card to verify their identity if required.

3.20 During the data collection, face-to-face interviews were conducted to obtain the required information. If the first visit was not successful, the interviewer was required to make at least five call backs, at different times of the day and on different days of the week, to minimize noncontact. If a refusal was encountered, the fieldwork managers or fieldwork supervisors took over the case. The managers either reassigned the case to another interviewer, accompanied the interviewer to make a second attempt, or took over the case. This arrangement was both for quality control and to minimize nonresponse. Briefing and debriefing sessions were arranged during the data collection to ensure that the interviewers adequately understood the fieldwork procedures and that problems encountered could be resolved and shared among the interviewers concerned as soon as practicable.

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[6] This is the approach adopted by many statistical agencies: for example, see the U.S. household survey on energy consumption.

Measurements

3.21   We obtained data on individual socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, marital status, place of birth) and household information on perceived social class, family receiving welfare, and household income.

3.22   Besides education, we also measured fluency in Cantonese as one of indicators of human capital. Moreover, acculturation stress was also measured as independent variables for various kinds of immigrant integration. In terms of dreams and disappointments, we also measured the perceived discrimination, the perceived opportunity for success, and the perceived inequality in Hong Kong. We also measured the utilization rates of programmes targeted towards new arrivals and cross-boundary visits and support.

3.23   With regard to social integration, we collected data on three levels: spouse and family; friends and neighbours, and community. Regarding spouse and family, data were collected on the respondents' marital relationship, their family activities, and the social support they received from family members in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

3.24   In terms of friends, we examined the number of friends they had in Hong Kong and the social support they received from friends in Hong Kong. With regard to neighbours, data on the size of their neighbourhood networks, their neighbouring activities, and their perceived relationship with neighbours were collected.

3.25   In the community domain, data on their participation in activities organized by social service organizations, utilization of facilities and services provided by social service organizations, and participation in activities organized by community centres, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees were collected.

3.26   The data obtained on work included economic activity status, employment and unemployment status, work-related training received, on-job training received, subsidies from the Continuing Education Fund received, and work-life balance.

3.27   In the school domain, we collected data on types of school, perceived academic performance, satisfaction with academic performance, educational aspiration, attitude to school life, and school satisfaction.

3.28   In terms of cultural integration, data on cultural identity (Hongkonger vs Chinese) were collected.

3.29   In terms of political integration, we measured civic mindedness, political knowledge, and participation in activities organized by political parties.

3.30   Two sets of questionnaire were designed: one for adults aged 18 or above and the other for children aged 17 or younger (See Appendices II and III for details).

Measurement Scales

3.31   Marital Communication Scale (Cheung, 2000) – This is an 11-item scale measuring marital relationship. The respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed that the items applied to their marriage on a 6-point scale, ranging from 1 *(totally agree)* to 6 *(totally disagree)*. The higher the score, the more open and constructive the marital communication between the respondent and his or her partner.

3.32   Civic Mindedness Scale (Kam et al., 1999) – This is a 10-item scale measuring respondents' political trust, public interest, and civic responsibility. The respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with the 10 statements.

3.33   Social, Attitudinal, Familial and Environmental (SAFE) Acculturation Stress Scale (Hovey and Magana, 2000) – This is a 26-item scale measuring acculturation stress in social, attitudinal, familial, and environmental contexts. The respondents were asked to rate items on a 6-point scale, ranging from 0 (*no such experience*) and 1 (*not stressful*) to 5 (*extremely stressful*). Higher scores indicated a higher level of acculturation stress.

3.34   School Attitude Screening Scale (Cheng & Chan, 2003) – This is a 9-item scale that was validated using a sample of Hong Kong secondary school students. Students were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the items on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*). This School Attitude Screening Scale measures general attitude towards school, with higher scores indicating more favourable beliefs, emotions, and behavioural intentions in relation to school life.

In-depth Interviews

3.35   Besides the quantitative study using the structured questionnaires, 40 participants were selected to participate in a qualitative study. These participants were interviewed four times over a period of 17 months in order to capture their social and economic integration experiences in their first one and half years in Hong Kong.

3.36   For the purposes of quality control, the interviews were recorded and transcriptions were prepared for each and every interview. An experienced researcher (Ms Winky Wong) conducted the in-depth interviews. All of the qualitative data collected at the interviews were interpreted, summarized, and analysed systematically (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Miles & Huberman, 1994; Patton, 1990).

3.37   The objective of the face-to-face in-depth interviews was to gain a better understanding of the nature and process of the social and economic integration into the Hong Kong community of the new arrivals from the Mainland in five areas, namely family, school, work, neighbourhood, and community.

3.38   During the face-to-face interviews with the respondents, we explored in more detail a number of areas which enabled a more qualitative understanding of their integration process to be obtained. Each interview was based on an interview guide containing questions exploring the interviewee's family relationships, family values, marriage values, employment history, school life, social support, relationships with neighbours, and community life (see Appendices IV and V for the interview guide). In particular, we examined the problems or discrimination they had encountered in integrating into Hong Kong society and how these problems had been overcome and the changes that had occurred during the first one and half years of their stay in Hong Kong. We also investigated the extent to which these problems might have hindered their integration into Hong Kong society and how the respondents perceived their own future in Hong Kong.

3.39   The interview questions were designed to probe deeply into the backgrounds and experiences of respondents and to unravel the complexities of their experiences through conversation and discussion rather than specific "yes" or "no" answers. The interviews typically took about one hour and were tape-recorded and later transcribed for future reference.

3.40   A total of 40 new arrivals were selected for the face-to-face interviews according to gender and age group and were divided into three main groups: male arrivals aged 18 or above (13 respondents), female arrivals aged 18 or above (13 respondents), and new arrivals aged 11 to 17 (14 respondents). All of them had arrived in Hong Kong between May and August 2010 on an OWP.

3.41   We conducted four rounds of interviews with each of these 40 respondents over a period of 17 months in order to capture their social and economic integration experiences in their first one and half years in Hong Kong. The first round of interviews was conducted during July and August 2010, the second round during November and December 2010, and the third round during March and April 2011. The final round of interviews was supposed to have been conducted during July and August 2011; however, in order to capture how students had settled into their schools when the new school term began in September, the last round of interviews was postponed until September and October 2011.

3.42   For confidentiality purposes, pseudonyms are used throughout this report in order to maintain the research participants' identities.

Chapter 4　Findings of the Study

Demographic and Socio-economic characteristics

4.1　In this chapter, the findings are analyzed by child new arrivals who were aged 17 or below and adult new arrivals who were aged 18 or above. After weighting, it was estimated that about 20.3% of adult new arrivals and 51.9% of child new arrivals were males.

Table 4.1 Gender

	Children (%)	Adult (%)
Male	51.9	20.3
Female	48.1	79.7
Total	100.0	100.0

4.2　About 40.0% of the adult new arrivals were aged between 30 and 39, while slightly over one third (34.5%) of the adult new arrivals were aged 29 or younger. Moreover, the findings indicated that the male adult new arrivals were slightly older than the female adult new arrivals. The median age of the children was 14 years old.

Table 4.2 Age group

		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Children	11-13	42.2	42.9	42.5
	14-17	57.8	57.1	57.5
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age (years old)		*14*	*14*	*14*
Adult	18-29	34.9	34.4	34.5
	30-39	31.1	42.3	40.0
	40-49	22.6	17.4	18.4
	50+	11.4	6.0	7.1
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age (years old)		*35*	*32*	*32*

4.3   Among the adult new arrivals, slightly over 80% (82.1%) were currently married, 11.2% had never been married, and 5.1% were either separated or divorced. A gender difference in terms of marital status was found ($\chi2(6)=346.5$, $p<0.01$); specifically, a higher proportion of the female adult new arrivals (86.0%) were currently married than male adult new arrivals (66.8%), and the male adult new arrivals (27.3%) were more likely to have never been married than the female adult new arrivals (7.0%) even though, as reported above, they were older than the female adult new arrivals.

Table 4.3 Marital status

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Never married	99.4	27.3	7.0	11.2
Cohabitating	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Married	0.6	66.8	86.0	82.1
Widowed	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.3
Separated	0.0	1.4	2.0	1.8
Divorced	0.0	4.0	3.1	3.3
Refused to answer	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.4   About 45.1% of the adult new arrivals were born in rural areas, 31.7% in villages or towns, and 22.5% in cities. There were slight gender differences in terms of place of birth as the female adult new arrivals were more likely to have been born in rural areas, while the male adult new arrivals were more likely to have been born in villages or towns. Among the child new arrivals, about 43.4% were born in cities, 28.9% in rural areas and 27.8% in village or towns.

Table 4.4   Place of birth

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Rural	28.9	39.9	46.4	45.1
City	43.4	36.0	30.7	31.7
Village or town	27.8	23.4	22.3	22.5
Refused to answer	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.5   The distribution of place of living before immigrating to Hong Kong among the new arrivals are shown below. About 57.0% of the adult new arrivals and 49.0% of child new arrivals were living in cities just before they moved to Hong Kong, while only about 16.9% of the adult new arrivals and 25.3% of child new arrivals were living in village or towns. There were no gender differences in terms of place of living before the adult new arrivals immigrated to Hong Kong ($\chi 2(3)=7.7$, $p>0.05$).

Table 4.5 Place of living just before immigrating to Hong Kong

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Rural	22.4	22.7	23.5	23.4
City	49.0	54.8	57.5	57.0
Village or town	25.3	18.4	16.5	16.9
Refused to answer	3.3	4.1	2.5	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.6   About 45.9% of the adult new arrivals were employed (2011 Population Census: 49.9%). 47.3% (2011 Population Census: 39.2%) were economically inactive, such as retired, home-makers or students, and another 6.7% were neither at work nor at school. 75.4% of the male adult new arrivals were employed, and less than 1% was home-makers. Regarding the female adult new arrivals, 38.4% of them were employed, 56.9% were economically inactive who were homemakers (52.7%), retired (1.3%) or students (2.9%). The majority of child new arrivals (93.9%) were students.

Table 4.6 Economic activity status

	Children (%)	Adult			2011 Population Census (%)[7]
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	
Employees	3.6	70.2	37.2	43.9	44.5
Employers	0.0	1.7	0.3	0.6	2.4
Self-employed	0.0	3.5	0.9	1.4	3.0
Home-makers	0.0	0.9	52.7	42.1	7.9
Students	93.9	6.5	2.9	3.6	16.5
Retired persons	/	2.9	1.3	1.6	14.8
Others	2.5	14.3	4.7	6.7	10.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.7   Among the employed persons, the adult new arrivals were mainly service and sales workers (43.7%, 2011 Population Census: 16.2%) and elementary workers (35.3%, 2011 Population Census: 19.5%). About 23.6% of the male adult new arrivals and 63.2% of the female adult new arrivals were service and sales workers. 39.1% of the male new adult arrivals and 15.2% of the female adult new arrivals were elementary workers.

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[7] Census and Statistics Department: 2011 Population Census – Summary Results

Table 4.7 Occupations for those employed

	Children (%)	Adult			2011 Population Census (%)
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	
Managers and administrators	0.0	2.5	1.1	1.2	10.1
Professionals	0.0	1.9	1.1	1.7	6.5
Associate professionals	0.0	2.1	1.2	0.3	19.6
Clerical support workers	0.0	1.8	5.2	0.9	15.6
Service and sales workers	54.5	23.6	63.2	43.7	16.2
Craft and related workers	19.3	7.3	0.4	2.9	7.4
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.0	4.2	0.3	1.4	5.0
Elementary occupations	23.1	39.1	15.2	35.3	19.5
Skilled agricultural, fishery workers; and occupations not classifiable	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Others	0.0	10.3	4.2	6.4	/
Refused to answer	3.1	6.9	8.1	7.7	/
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of samples	28	549	1525	2074	/

Household Characteristics

4.8   Among the adult new arrivals, 7.2% of their families received welfare, namely Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme at the time of the survey. As at 31 July 2012, the number of total families in Hong Kong receiving CSSA were 273,542 and the number of domestic households were 2,368,796, the percentage of general families on CSSA was 11.5% approximately in 2011. Comparing new arrivals families to general families, the percentage of new arrivals' families receiving CSSA was lower than that for the general ones. Female adult new arrivals (7.6%) were more likely to live in families receiving CSSA than male adult new arrivals (5.7%). Among the child new arrivals, 9.2% of their families were on CSSA.

Table 4.8 Whether the families were on CSSA

	Children (%)	Adult			2011 Population Census (%)
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	
Yes	9.2	5.7	7.6	7.2	11.5
No	88.8	92.4	91.4	91.6	88.5
Refused to answer	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.2	/
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.9   When the new arrivals were asked "In general, the economic situation of your family places you in which social class?", about 78.3% of the adult new arrivals and 81.2% of child new arrivals reported that their families belonged to the "middle lower" or "lower" class and only 12.8% perceived their families as belonging to the "middle class". Female adult new arrivals (13.9%) were more likely than male adult new arrivals (8.5%) to classify themselves as middle class.

Table 4.9 Perceived social class

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Upper class	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4
Middle upper class	0.7	1.3	1.4	1.3
Middle class	13.5	8.5	13.9	12.8
Middle lower class	39.6	24.6	30.9	29.6
Lower class	41.6	56.8	46.6	48.7
Refused to answer	4.3	8.7	6.8	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.10   Excluding the 16.5% of the adult new arrivals who refused to provide their household income, the median monthly household incomes illustrated in range of new arrivals by household size by gender are shown in table below. Moreover, 4.3% of the adult new arrivals reported that they did not have any household income.The median monthly household incomes did not change much as household size increased from 3 to 5. It seems that household income may not provide an accurate picture of the financial circumstances of immigrant families.

*Table 4.10   Median monthly household incomes illustrated in range by household
size of adult new arrivals and gender (HKD)*

Household size	Number of samples	Median monthly household income		
		Male (HKD)	Female (HKD)	Both sexes (HKD)
1	1121	7,000-7,999	6,000-6,999	6,000-6,999
2	6053	9,000-9,999	9,000-9,999	9,000-9,999
3	8840	10,000-12,499	10,000-12,499	10,000-12,499
4	5858	12,500-14,999	10,000-12,499	10,000-12,499
5+	4685	12,500-14,999	12,500-14,999	12,500-14,999

4.11   About 40.2% of the adult new arrivals were living in private residential flats and
38.3% were living in Housing Authority (HA) / Housing Society (HS) public rental
flats. Among the child new arrivals, about 40.2% were living in private residential
flats and 34.4% were living in Housing Authority (HA) / Housing Society (HS)
public rental flats.

Table 4.11   Type of quarters

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
HA / HS public rental flats	34.4	34.2	39.4	38.3
HA public rental flats (Tenants Purchase Scheme/The Buy or Rent Option)	7.6	4.0	3.4	3.5
HA public sale flats (Tenants Purchase Scheme/The Buy or Rent Option)	0.8	0.6	1.7	1.5
HA / HS subsidized sale flats (with premium paid and cannot be traded in the open market)	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.8
HA / HS subsidized sale flats (without premium paid and can be traded in the open market)	0.6	0.9	3.8	3.2
Private residential flats	39.6	47.5	38.4	40.2
Villas / Bungalows / Modern village houses / Simple stone structures / Traditional village houses	8.7	5.3	6.4	6.2
Others	7.9	6.6	5.6	5.8
Refused to answer	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.12   About 66.7% of the adult new arrivals were sole tenants, 14.8% were owner-occupiers and about 10.2% of the households shared living quarters with other households, i.e. they were either main tenants, sub-tenants or co-tenants. Among the child new arrivals, about 74.4% indicated that their households were sole tenants and 18.0% were either main tenants, sub-tenants or co-tenants.

Table 4.12   Tenure of accommodation

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Owner-occupier	5.9	7.3	16.7	14.8
Sole tenant	74.4	70.7	65.7	66.7
Co-tenant/Main tenant / Sub-tenant	18.0	14.6	9.1	10.2
Rental free	1.6	5.5	5.1	5.2
Provided by the company / employer	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Others	0.0	1.0	2.1	1.9
Refused to answer	0.0	0.8	1.1	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Human Capital Characteristics

4.13   Only 5.8% of the adult new arrivals had a university or higher level of education; over half (55.1%) had a junior high school level education or below. There was gender difference in educational attainment as the male adult new arrivals tended to have a higher level of educational achievement than the female adult new arrivals ($\chi^2(7)=54.1$, $p<0.01$). Among the child new arrivals, over half (51.7%) had a junior high school level education while about 16.4% had a senior high school level education or above.

Table 4.13   Educational attainment

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
No formal education/ pre-school education	1.0	1.3	2.5	2.3
Elementary school	30.8	9.7	13.1	12.4
Junior high school	51.7	34.1	42.0	40.4
Senior high school	16.0	39.3	30.8	32.5
Diploma	0.4	7.3	5.9	6.2
University graduate	/	5.6	4.1	4.4
Postgraduate	/	2.4	1.2	1.4
Refused to answer	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.14   The table below shows the level of fluency in Cantonese among the new arrivals. About two thirds of the adult new arrivals (63.2%) spoke fluent Cantonese. There was gender difference in terms of fluency in Cantonese ($\chi 2(3)=33.3$, $p<0.01$), more male (6.4%) than female (2.3%) adult new arrivals could not speak Cantonese at all.   Among the child new arrivals, over half (56.7%) spoke fluent Cantonese.

Table 4.14   Fluency in Cantonese

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Fluent in Cantonese	56.7	63.7	63.0	63.2
Moderate level of Canton	34.9	29.2	33.8	32.8
Cannot speak Cantonese	6.7	6.4	2.3	3.1
Refused to answer	1.8	0.7	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Acculturation Stress

4.15 The measure of acculturative stress in the social, attitudinal, familial, and environmental contexts was based on a standardized 26-item measure scale—Social, Attitudinal, Familial, and Environment (S.A.F.E.). Respondents were asked to rate each item on a 6-point Likert scale, ranging from 0 = no such experience, 1 = not stressful to 5 = extremely stressful. Higher scores indicate higher level of acculturation stress.

4.16 The table below illustrates the new arrivals' responses to the SAFE Acculturation Stress Scale items. The total scores on the SAFE Acculturation Stress Scale ranged from 0 to 130; the mean was 30.0, with a standard deviation of 16.5 for the adult new arrivals. Among the child new arrivals, the mean was 25.9 with a standard deviation of 17.1.

Table 4.15   The SAFE Acculturation Stress Scale

	Children	Adult		
		Male	Female	Both sexes
Mean	25.9	29.5	30.1	30.0
Standard deviation	17.1	16.4	16.5	16.5

4.17 Among the male adult new arrivals interviewed in our qualitative study, the main source of stress came from their financial burden. For example, John (interview case number: 46) said that he had many relatives and clans in Hong Kong, but he did not contact them because of his tight financial situation. Also, he did not keep in contact with his friends and his parents in Mainland China because everybody in Mainland China thought that he had a good life in Hong Kong. He did not want to lie to them, and therefore he chose not to contact them. Peter (interview case number: 25) had similar thoughts; he refused to contact his friends in Hong Kong because if he went out with them, he would need money to participate in social activities.

4.18 For the female adult new arrivals, the major source of stress was their poor living environment. For example, Jenny (interview case number: 33) and her

husband, who had a 5-year-old son, were living in a small rented room in Wanchai. Jenny thought that the room was far too small for the three of them. Therefore, she rented an apartment in Shenzhen and spent 3 hours travelling back and forth every day.

4.19   For the school children, apart from the stress involved in adjusting to school life, the major problem they faced was their relationship with their step-fathers. Among the 14 children we interviewed, 6 had step-fathers. Except for Kathy (interview case number: 15), who claimed that her relationship with her step-father was very good, all of the other five children were having problems with their step-fathers to a certain degree.

Perceived Opportunity for Success in Hong Kong and Experiencing Discrimination

4.20   The table below shows how the new arrivals perceived the opportunity of becoming successful in Hong Kong. Slightly less than one tenth (9.5%) of the adult new arrivals believed that they would be successful in Hong Kong, and the male adult new arrivals (11.7%) were more optimistic than the female ones (8.9%). The results indicated that the vast majority of these adult new arrivals come to Hong Kong not believing that they would be successful there. Among the child new arrivals, about 29.8% believed that they would be successful in Hong Kong indicating that the child new arrivals were more optimistic than the adult new arrivals.

Table 4.16   Perception of opportunity for success in Hong Kong

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Very high	3.5	0.6	0.3	0.4
High	26.3	11.1	8.6	9.1
Moderate	38.7	29.2	27.7	28.0
Low	11.3	17.0	18.4	18.1
Very low	3.7	26.6	30.6	29.8
Don't know / No opinion	15.1	14.6	12.7	13.1
Refused to answer	1.5	0.8	1.6	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.21   Some of the new arrivals who participated in the in-depth interviews admitted that Hong Kong is a place for them to make good money in the short period of time. For example, Ken (interview case number: 33), who had finished his college degree and had 6 years' digital door lock sales experience in Mainland China, realized that his educational qualifications and work experience were useless in Hong Kong; he therefore accepted a very low-end job as a construction worker. On the other hand, he still had his own manufacturing factory in Mainland China, and his partner was running this business. He stated that he plans to move back to Mainland China when his children grow up because he thinks that being a new immigrant, there is not much choice of jobs for him either in the hospitality industry or the construction industry.

4.22   The table below shows how the new arrivals responded to two items related to their experience of discrimination. More than half of the adult new arrivals experienced discrimination against them in their daily lives and about about 20% sometimes or frequently encountered such discrimination. There was a slight gender difference in the frequency of being discriminated against as the male adult new arrivals were more likely than the female adult new arrivals to report that they never felt discriminated against, while the female adult new arrivals were more likely than their male counterparts to report that they rarely felt discriminated against. The results suggest that many adult new arrivals experience discrimination in their daily lives.

4.23   Among the child new arrivals, about 7.4% sometimes or frequently felt discriminated against in their daily lives, while about two-thirds (66.8%) never felt discriminated against.

Table 4.17   Feeling discriminated against in daily life due to status as new arrivals

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Feeling discriminated against due to status as new arrivals				
Never	66.8	46.5	40.0	41.3
Rarely	24.5	29.8	34.1	33.2
Sometimes	6.9	20.5	22.6	22.1
Frequently	0.5	2.6	2.4	2.4
Refused to answer	1.4	0.6	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Feeling of being treated badly due to status as new arrivals				
Never	74.6	47.3	41.7	42.9
Rarely	19.3	31.9	36.7	35.7
Sometimes	4.7	18.1	18.8	18.7
Frequently	0.0	2.0	1.7	1.8
Refused to answer	1.4	0.6	1.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.24   According to those who participated in the in-depth interviews in our qualitative study, discrimination is prevalent in the daily lives of new arrivals. This discrimination comes not only from local people but also from Mainland immigrants who migrated to Hong Kong much earlier. In general, discrimination was not prevalent at the workplace, especially for the male immigrants because the majority of them were working as construction workers and were expected to work independently on the site. However, discrimination based on their educational qualifications, skills, and experience was a serious issue for these new arrivals. Therefore, the majority of them had had to take unskilled jobs unrelated to their experience and qualifications. Among the 18 male and female respondents who had working experience in Mainland China, only 1 had been able to find a job which was relevant to their qualifications or experience.

4.25   Our qualitative study also indicated that compared with the male adult respondents, discrimination was more prevalent among the female adult respondents. Among the female adult respondents, one claimed that she was being discriminated against in terms of the nature of her job (as a tutor, she was

asked to clean the toilets as well), one in terms of her job capability (she was assumed to have poor English skills, despite her 7 years of experience teaching English in a high school), one in job applications (was asked if she was from Mainland China; no interview was granted), one by customers (as a facial beautician), and one by local born colleagues (as a waitress). The child respondents reported that they did not feel that they were discriminated against at school. Instead, they found that many people (e.g. school social workers, teachers, and senior students) were trying to help them to adjust to school life. However, they admitted that they preferred to hang out with students who were immigrants from Mainland China.

Programmes Targeted towards New Arrivals

4.26   Programmes targeted towards new arrivals can be divided into two groups: programmes delivered to new arrivals while they are still in the Mainland (i.e. pre-immigration services) and programmes delivered to them after they have immigrated to Hong Kong (i.e. post-immigration services). Only 10.5% of the adult new arrivals were aware of the pre-immigration social services provided by social service organizations, and only 1.5% of them had received those services in the Mainland prior to immigrating to Hong Kong. The results indicated that the vast majority of the adult new arrivals did not know about the pre-immigration social services and that the utilization rate of these services was extremely low.

4.27   Among the child new arrivals, only 7.8% were aware of the pre-immigration social services provided by social service organizations, and about 9.1% of them had received those services in the Mainland prior to immigrating to Hong Kong. The participation rate for the child new arrivals was higher than that of the adult new arrivals.

Table 4.18   Awareness and participation rate of pre-immigration programmes

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Awareness of pre-immigration social services				
Aware	7.8	10.0	10.6	10.5
Not aware	90.7	88.1	88.1	88.1
Refused to answer	1.5	2.0	1.3	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Participation rate of pre-immigration social services				
Participated	9.1	1.3	1.5	1.5
Did not participate	89.2	96.4	96.9	96.8
Refused to answer	1.7	2.3	1.5	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.28   The utilization rate of support services for adult new arrivals and child new arrivals in the previous 6 months was at 10.2% and 15.6% respectively. The results indicated that the utilization rate of support services of the female adult new arrivals (11.1%) was higher than the male adult new arrivals (6.7%).

Table 4.19   Utilization rate of support services for new arrivals in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Used the support services	15.6	6.7	11.1	10.2
Did not use the support services	84.4	93.0	88.7	89.6
Refused to answer	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.29   The most popular support service for the adult new arrivals was occupational skills training (5.4%), followed by employment counselling (2.0%) and language class (1.9%).

4.30   Among those adult new arrivals who had utilized the support services in the previous 6 months, the perceived usefulness of these support services was high. For example, for those adult new arrivals who had attended the occupational skill training and conducted the employment counselling, about 80.6% and 95.0% indicated that the training was useful or very useful respectively.

Table 4.20   Utilization rate of each support service for adult new arrivals in the previous 6 months and their perceived usefulness

Type of service	Adult utilization rate (%)	Adult new arrivals who had utilized the support services in the previous 6 months (%)				
		Not useful at all	Not so useful	A little useful	Useful	Very useful
Occupational skills training	5.4	1.5	6.1	11.9	74.0	6.6
Employment counselling	2.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	92.7	2.3
Language class	1.9	0.9	3.5	28.4	55.8	11.4
Adaptation class	1.2	0.0	3.5	6.0	85.7	4.8
Counselling service	0.9	2.7	7.1	27.1	48.3	14.8
Sharing group	0.3	5.4	0.0	18.4	76.4	0.0
Policy and life seminar	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.3	7.7
Visiting activities	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Material or financial assistance	0.2	0.0	0.0	14.6	39.3	46
Family travel, knowing about community activities	0.1	0.0	0.0	18.1	54.4	27.6

4.31   The most popular support service for the child new arrivals was adaptation class (9.0%), followed by language class (5.3%) and visiting activities (3.3%).

4.32   Among those child new arrivals who had utilized the support services in the previous 6 months, the perceived usefulness of these support services were high. For example, for those child new arrivals who had attended the adaptation class and language class, about 83.1% and 86.7% indicated that the training was useful or very useful respectively.

Table 4.21   Utilization rate of each support service for child new arrivals in the previous 6 months and their perceived usefulness

Type of service	Child utilization rate (%)	Child new arrivals who had utilized the support services in the previous 6 months (%)				
		Not useful at all	Not so useful	A little useful	Useful	Very useful
Adaptation class	9.0	0.0	0.0	16.9	63.4	19.7
Language class	5.3	0.0	7.8	5.5	71.9	14.8
Visiting activities	3.3	0.0	0.0	4.1	58.2	37.8
Family travel, knowing about community activities	1.9	0.0	0.0	15.2	68.9	15.9
Sharing group	1.7	0.0	0.0	19.2	61.6	19.2
Occupational skills training	1.3	0.0	0.0	38.4	36.0	25.6
Employment counselling	1.3	0.0	25.6	12.8	36.0	25.6
Counselling service	1.1	0.0	0.0	58.7	41.3	0.0
Policy and life seminar	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0

Cross-boundary Visits and Support

4.33   Table 4.22 shows the number of visits to Mainland China made by the new arrivals in the previous 6 months. During this period, almost half of the new arrivals had only visited Mainland China one or two times and about 9.5% of the adult new arrivals and 5.4% of the child new arrivals had travelled back to the Mainland frequently, i.e. more than seven times in this study.

4.34   Among those who participated in the in-depth interviews, the main reason for them visiting Mainland China frequently was because they had no friends or family in Hong Kong. For example, Eric (interview case number: 31) used to visit his wife and children almost every weekend. However, after staying in Hong Kong for about a year, he met some friends at work. Since then, he has preferred to stay in Hong Kong during holidays. Sometimes, he has even sent money to his wife instead of taking the money back to Mainland China himself.

4.35 When James (interview case number: 20), a single man who migrated to Hong Kong to join his elderly parents, first migrated to Hong Kong, he did not visit Mainland China very often; he spent time travelling around Hong Kong and trying to meet friends. After staying in Hong Kong for a while, he preferred to spend his holidays visiting his friends in Shenzhen because the amount of money he earned in Hong Kong enabled him to have luxury holidays in Mainland China.

Table 4.22   Number of visits made to Mainland China by the new arrivals in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
0	16.0	12.1	15.8	15.0
1	30.2	23.6	30.0	28.7
2	19.0	23.3	20.7	21.2
3	13.9	12.8	11.9	12.1
4 to 6	12.2	15.6	13.0	13.5
7+	5.4	12.7	8.6	9.5
Refused to answer	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.36 The most popular type of support the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals received from family members in Mainland China was spiritual and emotional support, followed by social companionship and giving advice on decision making.

4.37 On the other hand, over three quarters of the adult new arrivals indicated that they did not receive any support of teaching/training, information on immigration/legal advice, help with daily household chores, financial assistance and assistance in job hunting from family members in Mainland China. Among the child new arrivals, over three quarters of the child new arrivals indicated that they did not receive any support of information on immigration/legal advice (86.9%), assistance in job hunting (86.6%), accommodation (80.08%), teaching/training (78.5%), help in looking after family members (77.5%) and help with daily household chores (76.7%) from family members in Mainland China.

Table 4.23   *Frequency of receiving support from family members in Mainland China*

	Children (%)					Adult (%)				
	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day
Teaching / training	78.5	11.6	8.9	0.9	0.0	81.2	11.5	7.1	0.2	0.0
Information on immigration / legal advice	86.9	9.7	2.8	0.5	0.0	80.3	9.6	9.9	0.2	0.0
Help with daily household chores	76.7	13.7	8.9	0.4	0.4	77.3	14.9	6.8	0.8	0.1
Financial assistance	68.7	18.6	11.1	1.6	0.0	76.7	15.3	7.2	0.7	0.0
Assistance in job hunting	86.6	10.5	2.5	0.4	0.0	76.1	16.8	6.6	0.4	0.0
Assistance with personal care	71.2	14.7	13.0	0.7	0.4	73.6	11.7	14.0	0.6	0.1
Accommodation	80.0	12.2	7.5	0.4	0.0	67.2	21.1	10.6	0.9	0.1
Help in looking after family members	77.5	12.8	8.5	0.9	0.4	66.7	18.1	11.7	2.4	1.1
Giving advice on decision making	47.2	28.0	22.3	2.1	0.4	35.4	37.3	23.2	4.1	0.1
Social companionship	25.5	33.9	37.3	3.0	0.4	15.2	34.6	44.7	5.3	0.2
Spiritual and emotional support	14.1	26.3	45.0	13.6	1.0	9.9	29.6	47.0	12.6	0.9

4.38   The most popular type of support the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals received from friends in Mainland China was spiritual and emotional support, followed by social companionship and giving advice on decision making.

4.39   On the other hand, over three quarters of the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals indicated that they did not receive any support of help with daily household chores, financial assistance, accommodation, teaching/training, information on immigration/legal advice, help in looking after family members, assistance with personal care and assistance in job hunting from friends in Mainland China.

Table 4.24   Frequency of receiving support from friends in Mainland China

	Children (%)					Adult (%)				
	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day
Help with daily household chores	87.1	8.5	3.8	0.7	0.0	84.6	12.2	3.0	0.2	0.1
Financial assistance	86.7	7.5	4.5	1.3	0.0	83.8	11.6	4.3	0.3	0.0
Accommodation	89.6	7.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	81.3	15.7	2.8	0.3	0.0
Teaching / training	82.2	9.0	8.2	0.7	0.0	81.0	12.2	6.6	0.2	0.0
Information on immigration / Legal advice	89.7	7.4	2.2	0.7	0.0	80.2	10.8	8.8	0.2	0.0
Help in looking after family members	87.3	9.6	1.8	1.4	0.0	80.1	15.9	3.3	0.5	0.0
Assistance with personal care	81.6	11.8	6.5	0.2	0.0	76.7	12.7	10.3	0.3	0.0
Assistance in job hunting	88.2	8.0	3.0	0.8	0.0	74.7	18.2	6.3	0.8	0.0
Giving advice on decision making	62.0	18.3	15.9	3.4	0.3	41.1	39.1	16.7	3.1	0.0
Social companionship	35.2	33.9	26.8	3.9	0.1	19.0	34.3	40.7	6.0	0.1
Spiritual and emotional support	17.1	23.9	38.4	19.4	1.3	8.8	33.0	46.9	10.4	0.9

Social Integration: Marital relationship

4.40   About 82.1% of the adult new arrivals (see table 4.3) were currently married, and the age differences between spouses are shown in Table 4.25. A significant gender difference was found in terms of age difference between spouses. More than half (61.2%) of the male new arrivals were at least one year older than their spouses. Slightly more than one third (35.9%) of the female adult new arrivals were 11 or more years younger than their husbands. This finding is consistent with our perception that most female adult new arrivals are married to much older men: the "young wife and old husband" phenomenon.

4.41   The problems associated with the "young wife and old husband" phenomenon were observed in the in-depth interviews. For example, Mary (interview case number: 34) was divorced with two children (aged 11 and 4), and her current husband was 60 years old. Not long after she migrated to Hong Kong, she

separated from her husband because he did not trust her. Her husband was a semiretired construction worker who relied on CSSA to survive; therefore, Mary wanted to get a job so as to share the financial burden. However, her husband accused her of having the intention of meeting another man; they ended up fighting all the time, and eventually they separated.

4.42 The marital relationship between Lucy (interview case number: 33) and her husband (interview case number: 52) was also not very close. Lucy's husband was a driver and was stationed in Mainland China. After Lucy migrated to Hong Kong, she seldom went back to Mainland China to visit her husband; instead, she would meet her husband when he came to Hong Kong for work, which was very rare. Apart from the marital relationship issue, Fanny (interview case number: 30) faced other difficulties as a result of marrying a much older man (interview case number: 51). Fanny said that all of her husband's friends were about the same age as her husband, and she found it very difficult to make friends with them because there was a communication gap. Therefore, she has had to find her own ways of expanding her social networks in Hong Kong.

Table 4.25   Age differences between the new arrivals and their spouses

	Adult Male (%)		Adult Female (%)
Age of husband > age of wife by 6 to 30 years	11.9	Age of wife > age of husband by 6 to 30 years	0.2
Age of husband > age of wife by 1 to 5 years	49.3	Age of wife > age of husband by 1 to 5 years	4.7
Same age	18.1	Same age	5.1
Age of wife > age of husband by 1 to 5 years	15.8	Age of husband > age of wife by 1 to 5 years	28.7
Age of wife > age of husband by 6 to 10 years	3.8	Age of husband > age of wife by 6 to 10 years	25.4
Age of wife > age of husband by 11 to 15 years	0.9	Age of husband > age of wife by 11 to 15 years	17.0
Age of wife > age of husband by 16 years or above	0.2	Age of husband > age of wife by 16 years or above	18.9
Total	100.0		100.0

4.43 The adult new arrivals who were currently married were asked to rate items

from the Marital Communication Scale (Cheung, 2000). The results indicated that the marital communication of the married respondents was quite good. For instance, 57.8% strongly agreed or agreed and 30.8% tended to agree that they were very satisfied with how they and their partners talked to each other. On the other hand, one third of the new arrivals agreed or tended to agree with the following statements: "Whenever we engage in any arguments, my wife/husband gives me the cold shoulder" and "Sometimes, I dare not tell my wife/husband exactly what is on my mind". Almost 56.6% of the married adult new arrivals agreed, tended to agree or strongly agreed with the statement "To avoid making her/him angry, I will not always tell my wife/husband about my displeasure." The results suggest that a substantial proportion of married adult new arrivals may have communication problems with their spouses.

Table 4.26   Responses to Marital Communication Scale items

Items	Adult new arrivals who were currently married (%)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
When communicating with my wife/ husband, I can say whatever is on my mind.	3.3	47.7	24.3	17.2	7.3	0.2
Whenever we engage in any arguments, my wife/husband gives me the cold shoulder.	0.4	12.3	21.4	33.2	30.0	2.8
My wife/husband will intermittently say things that embarrass me.	0.4	6.6	13.5	39.0	36.9	3.6
Sometimes, I dare not tell my wife/ husband exactly what is on my mind.	0.3	10.3	22.9	34.2	31.7	0.6
Sometimes, I think that I cannot fully believe what my wife/husband says to me.	0.3	9.6	14.6	40.4	33.9	1.1
Even if I do not spell it out clearly, being my wife/husband, she/he should know my feelings.	0.3	32.3	36.3	18.4	12.5	0.2
I am extremely pleased with the method of communication between myself and my wife/husband.	3.5	54.3	30.8	8.3	2.8	0.4
To avoid making her/him angry I will not always tell my wife/husband about my displeasure.	0.5	21.3	34.8	28.8	14.4	0.2
My wife/husband usually listens patiently to what I have to say.	1.8	39.8	40.9	12.2	5.0	0.4
I will intermittently say embarrassing things to my wife/husband.	0.4	6.8	14.4	38.5	36.3	3.7
Whenever I quarrel with my wife/husband, I give her/him the cold shoulder.	0.3	13.2	19.8	35.3	28.2	3.1

4.44   The most popular family activity during holidays among the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals was shopping, followed by visiting relatives or friends in Mainland China or Hong Kong and playing sports.

Table 4.27   Participation rate in family activities during holidays in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male(%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Shopping	76.4	77.4	82.8	81.7
Visiting relatives or friends in Mainland China	76.3	71.8	69.3	69.8
Visiting relatives or friends in Hong Kong	50.0	52.9	56.1	55.4
Sport	35.6	15.7	14.6	14.8
Local trip	17.6	7.2	8.0	7.8
Watching a movie	14.5	7.8	9.0	8.7
Joining community activities	8.8	2.2	3.6	3.3

4.45   In general, the frequency of receiving social support from Hong Kong family members living apart was low. The most popular type of support the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals received from Hong Kong family members living apart was spiritual and emotional support, followed by social companionship and giving advice on decision making.

4.46   On the other hand, over two-thirds of the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals indicated that they did not receive any support of teaching/training, accommodation, financial assistance, help with daily household chores, information on immigration/legal advice, help in looking after family members, assistance in job hunting and assistance with personal care from Hong Kong family members living apart.

Table 4.28   Frequency of receiving support from Hong Kong family members living apart

	Children (%)					Adult (%)				
	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day
Teaching / training	74.4	11.6	11.1	3	0.0	80.7	12.8	6.2	0.2	0.0
Accommodation	78.2	9.1	9.1	3.6	0.0	80.1	13.1	4.9	1.1	0.7
Financial assistance	67.1	16.8	14.7	1.4	0.0	80.0	13.3	5.8	0.9	0.1
Help with daily household chores	75.2	12.4	9.9	1.7	0.8	79.3	13.5	6.1	0.9	0.2
Information on immigration /legal advice	88.2	9.3	2.3	0.2	0.0	77.4	13.8	8.6	0.2	0.0
Help in looking after family members	77.8	11.3	7.0	3.9	0.0	73.9	17.3	6.9	1.7	0.2
Assistance in job hunting	84.8	6.4	8.4	0.4	0.0	73.1	20.1	6.1	0.7	0.0
Assistance with personal care	72.8	14.6	10.5	2.1	0.0	70.6	14.4	14.4	0.6	0.1
Giving advice on decision making	51.8	22.1	21.6	4.5	0.0	41.7	35.9	19.1	3.1	0.1
Spiritual and emotional support	22.8	21.0	39.0	16.9	0.4	16.8	36.1	35.4	10.8	0.9
Social companionship	19.6	29.6	42.5	8.4	0.0	14.2	35	44.5	6.0	0.3

Social Integration: Friendship

4.47   Table 4.29 shows the number of friends that the new arrivals had in Hong Kong. Alarmingly, about 16.5% of the adult new arrivals did not have any friends in Hong Kong and about 30.8% had one to three friends even though they had been living in Hong Kong for more than 9 months. Among the child new arrivals, about 8.6% did not have any friends in Hong Kong and about 15.0% had one to three friends in Hong Kong.

4.48   Our in-depth interviews showed that this issue of having no or few friends was particular alarming among the male adult respondents, especially those who had migrated to join their aged parents in Hong Kong. Among the 11 male respondents who were married, 3 had migrated alone and their wives and children were still in Mainland China. Since these respondents did not have a very close relationship with their parents, they were in desperate need of friends in Hong Kong. However, many of their co-workers of their age had their families in Hong Kong; therefore, these respondents did not find it easy to expand their social support network in Hong Kong.

Table 4.29   Number of friends in Hong Kong of new arrivals

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
0	8.6	17.0	16.4	16.5
1	2.2	1.1	2.9	2.5
2	4.1	14.0	13.2	13.4
3	8.7	11.7	15.7	14.9
4	9.6	10.7	12.4	12.0
5	11.7	11.0	12.5	12.2
6–10	21.1	23.1	20.3	20.8
11+	31.3	11.4	6.6	7.6
Refused to answer	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.49   In general, the frequency of receiving social support from friends in Hong Kong living apart was low. The most popular type of support the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals received from friends in Hong Kong living apart was spiritual and emotional support, followed by social companionship and giving advice on decision making.

4.50   On the other hand, over two-thirds of the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals indicated that they did not receive any support of teaching/training, accommodation, financial assistance, help with daily household chores, information on immigration/legal advice, help in looking after family members, assistance in job hunting and assistance with personal care from friends in Hong Kong living apart.

Table 4.30   Frequency of receiving support from friends in Hong Kong living apart

	Children (%)					Adult (%)				
	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Often	Almost every day
Financial assistance	88.7	6.1	4.8	0.4	0.0	86.3	10.2	3.1	0.4	0.0
Accommodation	90.8	6.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	85.0	11.5	2.8	0.5	0.2
Help with daily household chores	86.7	7.6	4.4	1.2	0.0	84.9	12.2	2.6	0.2	0.0
Help in looking after family members	90.8	6.1	2.1	1.1	0.0	80.1	14.7	4.5	0.7	0.0
Teaching / training	76.2	6.4	14.6	2.8	0.0	80.0	13.7	6.3	0.0	0.0
Information on immigration / Legal advice	92.5	6.1	0.8	0.6	0.0	79.1	13.5	7.2	0.1	0.0
Assistance with personal care	87.1	9.3	3.5	0.1	0.0	75.1	14.5	10.2	0.2	0.0
Assistance in job hunting	87.1	6.8	4.4	1.6	0.0	69.6	19.7	9.6	1.0	0.0
Giving advice on decision making	61.2	17.2	18.9	2.6	0.0	42.7	37.5	17.4	2.4	0.0
Social companionship	30.5	25.3	33.6	10.1	0.3	14.3	34.9	43.8	6.5	0.5
Spiritual and emotional support	12.4	21.5	40.3	24.0	1.7	9.8	34.1	44.0	11.3	0.8

Social Integration: Neighbours

4.51   The participation rate in afterwork activities with neighbours was low among the new arrivals. Specifically, only 7.4% of the adult new arrivals and 6.7% of the child new arrivals sometimes or often participated in these sorts of activities.

Table 4.31   Frequency of participation of afterwork activities with neighbours

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Never	78.6	81.8	74.8	76.2
Seldom	14.8	14.6	15.9	15.7
Sometimes	6.5	2.8	7.4	6.4
Often	0.2	0.5	1.1	1.0
Refused to answer	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.52   Slightly more than half of the adult new arrivals (54.0%) did not know any of their neighbours, while 35.5% knew one to three households in their neighbourhood. The results indicated that adult new arrivals had small and weak social networks of neighbours. Among the child new arrivals, about 64.4% did not know any of their neighbours and 27.8% knew one to three households in their neighbourhood.

Table 4.32   Number of households in neighbourhood the new arrivals knew

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
0	64.4	61.9	52.0	54.0
1 to 3	27.8	30.3	36.8	35.5
4 to 7	6.7	6.5	8.6	8.2
8 or above	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.6
Refused to answer	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.53   The table below shows the new arrivals' perception of their relationships with their neighbours. With regards to these relationships, over three quarters of the adult new arrivals perceived them as casual (77.0%) and only 6.5% perceived them as close or very close. On the other hand, about 15.5% of the adult new arrivals perceived their relationship with their neighbours as being very poor or poor. Among the child new arrivals, about 59.5% perceived them as causal and 34.9% perceived their relationship with neighbours as being poor. The results indicate that there is a lot of room for improvement in terms of new arrivals' relationships with their neighbours.

Table 4.33   New arrivals' perception of their relationships with neighbours

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Very poor	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
Poor	34.9	19.0	13.8	14.9
Casual	59.5	76.6	77.1	77.0
Close	4.8	2.9	6.9	6.1
Very close	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.4
Refused to answer	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.54   Among the 40 respondents we interviewed in our qualitative study, 3 had started to build a close neighbourhood network. Ken (interview case number: 33), who was living in a public rental housing apartment, approached his neighbours and introduced himself as a handyman for home repairs in the hope of creating a watch out scheme for people in the neighbourhood because one of his neighbours had some kind of mental illness. Keith (interview case number: 35), who had migrated to Hong Kong alone, was living with his parents in an old building in Sham Shui Po. During the summer months, after dinner, he used to go on to the roof of the building, which was shared by all of the residents in the building. He sometime met his neighbours and had some short chats and a beer with them on the roof. Fanny (interview case number: 30) met an old lady who was living in the same building, and she paid the old lady to look after her 11-month-old daughter while she was working part-time early in the morning.

Social Integration: Community Participation

4.55   In the community domain, we examined the new arrivals' participation in activities organized by social service organizations, utilization of facilities and services provided by social service organizations, and participation in activities organized by community centres, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees. In the previous 6 months, about 13.4% of the adult new arrivals and 30.4% of the child new arrivals had participated in at least one activity organized by social service organizations. Among all the adult new arrivals, the two most popular activities were study classes (5.7%) and family and children activities (4.5%). While among all the child new arrivals, the two most popular activities were volunteer work (13.5%) and tutorial classes for children (12.8%).

Table 4.34   New arrivals' participate rate of activities organized by social organizations in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Participated in at least one activity	30.4	6.2	14.7	13.4
Participated in				
Study classes	*2.5*	*3.8*	*6.2*	*5.7*
Family and children activities	*3.7*	*1.2*	*5.3*	*4.5*
Volunteer work	*13.5*	*1.1*	*2.5*	*2.2*
Interest classes	*6.1*	*0.1*	*2.1*	*1.7*
Tutorial classes	*12.8*	*0.8*	*2.0*	*1.7*
Seminars	*1.0*	*0.3*	*1.9*	*1.6*
Recreational activities	*5.2*	*0.6*	*1.6*	*1.4*
Did not participate	69.6	93.8	85.3	86.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.56   Among the new arrivals who had participated in activities organized by social service organizations in the previous 6 months, the adult new arrivals conducted volunteer work for 3.8 times and attended interest classes for 3.5 times in average in the previous 6 months. The child new arrivals attended tutorial classes for children for 12.9 times in average in the previous 6 months.

Table 4.35   Number of times new arrivals participated in activities organized by social service organizations in the previous 6 months

| | New arrivals who had participated in activities | | | |
| | | Adult | | |
	Children (Mean)	Male (Mean)	Female (Mean)	Both sexes (Mean)
Volunteer work	3.3	2.1	4.0	3.8
Interest classes	3.4	2.0	3.6	3.5
Family and children activities	1.8	3.9	2.7	2.8
Recreational activities	2.0	1.6	2.6	2.5
Study classes	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.4
Seminars	3.7	1.0	2.2	2.1
Tutorial classes	12.9	1.0	2.1	2.0

4.57   In the previous 6 months, about 44.0% of the adult new arrivals and 64.9% of the child new arrivals had used at least one facility and service provided by social service orgnanizations. Among all the adult new arrivals, the most popular facility used during the previous 6 months was the library (29.4%), followed by outpatient clinic (17.2%), hospital (12.7%) and new arrival support services (9.6%).

4.58   Over 95% of the adult new arrivals and the child new arrivals had not used facilities and services such as computer rooms, employment services, family services, individual counselling services, babysitting, childcare services and elderly services in the previous 6 months. The results indicated that the utilization rate of the various facilities and services provided by social service organizations was very low among these new arrivals.

Table 4.36   Whether the new arrivals had used facilities and services provided by social service organizations in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Used at least one facility	64.9	27.6	48.2	44.0
Used facilities				
Library	*59.9*	*18.1*	*32.3*	*29.4*
Outpatient clinic	*10.2*	*7.2*	*19.7*	*17.2*
Hospital	*6.9*	*6.9*	*14.2*	*12.7*
New arrival support services	*15.6*	*6.5*	*10.4*	*9.6*
Self-study room	*19.1*	*3.2*	*2.2*	*2.4*
Computer room	*4.0*	*0.7*	*1.1*	*1.1*
Employment services	*0.0*	*0.3*	*0.5*	*0.5*
Family services	*0.1*	*0.0*	*0.5*	*0.4*
Individual counselling services	*0.2*	*0.2*	*0.4*	*0.4*
Babysitting	*0.3*	*0.0*	*0.3*	*0.2*
Childcare services	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.1*
Elderly services	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*
Did not used any facilities	35.1	71.9	51.2	55.4
Refused to answer	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.59   Table 4.37 shows the number of times the new arrivals had used the facilities and services provided by social service organizations in the previous 6 months. Among the new arrivals who had participated in activities organized by social service organizations, the adult new arrivals used the babysitting services for 9.1 times and went to the library for 8.0 times in average in the previous 6 months. The child new arrivals went to the library for 12.4 times and the self-study room fir 10.5 times in average in the previous 6 months.

Table 4.37   Number of times new arrivals used facilities and services provided by social service organizations in the previous 6 months

| | New arrivals who had participated in activities | | | |
| | Children (Mean) | Adult | | |
		Male (Mean)	Female (Mean)	Both sexes (Mean)
Babysitting	6.0	0.0	9.1	9.1
Library	12.4	7.5	8.1	8.0
Computer room	4.5	6.1	6.4	6.4
Self-study room	10.5	6.3	5.7	5.9
Elderly services	0.0	6.0	4.1	4.6
Childcare service	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0
New arrival support services	3.1	4.5	3.7	3.8
Individual counselling service	3.0	6.0	3.1	3.5
Hospital	1.9	2.8	2.6	2.7
Outpatient clinic	2.1	1.8	2.6	2.6
Employment service	0.0	1.3	1.6	1.6
Family services	3.0	0.0	1.5	1.5

4.60   Table 4.38 shows that the participation rate of the new arrivals in activities organized by community centres, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees. About 13.4% of the adult new arrivals and 4.5% of the child new arrivals had participated in the activities organized by community centres, the participate rate of female adult new arrivals (15.2%) was higher than that of male adult new arrivals (6.3%). Specifically, less than 1% of the adult new arrivals and the child new arrivals had participated in activities organized by district council offices and incorporated owners' committees. Among those adult new arrivals who were currently employed, less than 1% had joined a trade union.

4.61   Due to the low utilization rate of facilities and services provided by social service organizations and the low participation rate in activities organized by community centres, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees in the previous 6 months, only participation in activities organized by social service organizations was used as an indicator of community participation in assessing social integration.

Table 4.38   Participation in activities provided by organizations and Trade Union membership in the previous 6 months

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Community Centre	4.5	6.3	15.2	13.4
District Council Office	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.6
Incorporated Owners' Committee	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Trade uninon in the last 6 months (for employed only)	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.4

4.62   From the in-depth interview data, we found that compared to the male respondents, the female respondents were more likely to participate in social activities. For example, Amy (interview case number: 36) joined the mother-child playgroup with her 4-year-old son; Lucy (interview case number: 33) and Fanny (interview case number: 30) enrolled in English and accounting courses organized by a local political party; and Betty (interview case number: 29) went to church with her children. Among the 13 male adult respondents we interviewed, Paul (interview case number: 28) was the only one who had participated in a social activity which was organized by a NGO, namely an outing for families receiving CSSA; he went to Disneyland with his family.

4.63   None of the other 12 male adult respondents had joined a community centre or participated in any social activities organized by a community centre. Their focus was on work, and they typically worked long hours. Even when they were bored, they would rather stay at home or go to a nearby park than go to a local community centre. They felt uncomfortable or embarrassed about going to a community centre; in fact, many of them did not know where their local community centre was.

4.64   We found that the child respondents had joined various kinds of community activities. During the first round of interviews, Bruce (interview case number: 11), Harry (interview case number: 13), Roy (interview case number: 15), Janet (interview case number: 17), and Alan (interview case number: 16) stated that they had enrolled in the adaptation programme for new arrivals; Harry had also

joined many other activities organized by his local community centre, such as outings to Victoria Park and the mangroves. However, when they started school in September, all of them stopped going to the community centres; they joined the social activities organized by their schools instead.

Economic Integration

4.65   Almost half of the adult new arrivals (45.9%) were currently employed (employees, self-employed, or employers) and 42.1% were homemakers. The unemployment rate among these male new arrivals was approximately 14.3%, which was much higher than the rate among the general population at the survey period in the fourth quarter in 2011 (about 3.3%)[8].

Table 4.39   Economic activity status

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Employees	3.6	70.2	37.2	43.9
Employers	0.0	1.7	0.3	0.6
Self-employed	0.0	3.5	0.9	1.4
Home-makers	0.0	0.9	52.7	42.1
Students	93.9	6.5	2.9	3.6
Retired persons	/	2.9	1.3	1.6
Others	2.5	14.3	4.7	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.66   The utilization rate of employment-related skills training of the adult new arrivals was very low (less than 4%). The most popular training was job-seeking and job-interview skills training (3.3%), followed by security and estate management skills (2.7%) and language skills (2.7%). The utilization rate of all of these types of employment-related skills training was slightly greater among those who were economically active than among all adult new arrivals.

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[8] The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) is 3.3% in October to December 2011. Source: Census and Statistics Department: Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics September 2012

*Table 4.40   Utilization rate of employment-related training of adult new arrivals
and those who were economically active*

	Adult who were economically active (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Job-seeking and interview skills	4.4	2.6	3.5	3.3
Security and estate management skills	3.9	4.7	2.1	2.7
Language skills	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.7
Home helper skills	2.6	0.7	2.5	2.2
Computer-related clerical skills	1.9	1.4	2.1	2.0
General clerical skills	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2
Construction and maintenance skills	1.3	2.9	0.7	1.1

4.67   Among those adult new arrivals who were currently working, 28.0% had received on-job training. There was no difference between male and female adult new arrivals.

Table 4.41   Whether the adult new arrivals who were currently employed received on-job training

	Adult who were economically active		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Received on-job training	28.0	28.1	28.0
Did not receive on-job training	64.9	62.4	63.2
Refused to answer	7.1	9.5	8.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.68   The proportion of employed adult new arrivals who had received subsidies from the Continuing Education Fund was 1.1%.

Table 4.42   Whether the adult new arrivals who were currently employed received the Continuing Education Fund (CEF)

	Adult new arrivals who were currently employed		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Received subsidies from CEF	0.5	1.4	1.1
Did not receive subsides from CEF	99.4	97.4	98.1
Refused to answer	0.1	1.2	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.69   Among the 26 adult respondents we interviewed in the qualitative study, more female than male respondents had utilized employment-related skills training. Among the 13 male adult respondents, only one had enrolled in a course (a construction and renovation course) offered by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB). The female adult respondents had enrolled in a diverse range of courses offered by the ERB: one had enrolled in a beautician training course, two in a personal care worker training course, one in a hotel housekeeping course, and one in a postnatal care worker training course. Others had taken part-time courses offered by local political parties, such as a bookkeeping course and an English course.

4.70   The results indicated that work interfering with family life was more common than the other way around. Specifically, slightly over 40.9% of the new arrivals reported work interfering with family life, i.e. "when I arrived home after work, I am so exhausted that I cannot do any housework", while about 14.6% reported family life interfering with work, i.e. "because of my duties at home, I am so exhausted that I cannot do my best at work".

Table 4.43   Responses of new arrivals in full-time work to items related to work-family balance

	Adult new arrivals who were currently employed (%)			
	Never	1-2 times in the past 3 months	Several times a month	Several times a week
When I arrived home after work, I am so exhausted that I cannot do any housework.	35.3	23.8	21.6	19.3
Because I spent so much time on my work, I cannot carry out my responsibilities at home.	48.8	21.9	17.8	11.6
Because of my duties at home, I am so exhausted that I cannot do my best at work.	64.5	20.8	11.1	3.5
Because of my duties at home, it is very difficult for me to concentrate on my job when I am working.	66.3	21.4	9.6	2.8

4.71   Long working hours may be one of the reasons for work interfering with family life. Slightly less than half of adult new arrivals (43.2%) worked for about 8 hours per day, while 17.3% worked 10 hours per day and about 8.8% worked 11 hours or more per day.

Table 4.44   Working hours of those adult new arrivals who were currently employed

	Adult new arrivals who were currently employed		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Less than 8 hours per day	8.0	26.7	20.8
8 to 9.9 hours per day	51.7	39.3	43.2
10 to 10.9 hours per day	19.9	16.1	17.3
11 hours or more per day	10.8	7.9	8.8
Refused to answer	9.6	10.1	9.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.72   All of the adult respondents we interviewed who had worked or were working
        in Hong Kong found working in Hong Kong a lot harder than it was in
        Mainland China. All of them complained about the long working hours, the
        much shorter lunch break, much harder and demanding jobs, and less holidays
        in Hong Kong.

Political Integration

4.73   In general, the civic mindedness of the new arrivals was very high. For
        instance, more than 90% of the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals
        reported that the electorate should vote in every election. However, only 0.1%
        of them had participated in activities organized by political parties in the
        previous 6 months.

Table 4.45   Positive responses to Civic Mindedness Scale items

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Every citizen should be concerned with public affairs.	96.4	93.4	95.0	94.7
The electorate should vote in every election.	85.7	89.6	91.2	90.9
Voting is a way to express an opinion about public affairs; it is worth doing.	92.0	90.3	91.4	91.2
No matter what a person's political beliefs are, he or she is entitled to the same legal rights as everyone else.	91.3	93.6	93.7	93.7
It is necessary that all, regardless of their views, be allowed to express themselves freely.	85.0	92.2	93.2	93.0
Economic development is more important than democracy in Hong Kong.	49.0	74.5	74.3	74.4
Political activity should maintain prosperity and security in Hong Kong.	95.3	93.0	94.2	93.9
Voting for a representative helps to improve the community.	92.1	87.5	89.5	89.1
If one sees things that hurt the community interest, one should oppose them.	87.5	90.0	89.0	89.2
We should only vote for the candidates who are competent enough to solve the problems relating to citizens' livelihood.	88.3	89.7	91.7	91.2

4.74   General political knowledge was assessed by asking the new arrivals four factual knowledge questions: two questions required them to name two specific top-level government officials in Hong Kong; the third question asked when the election of the Chief Executive of Hong Kong would take place; and the fourth question asked them to give the number of directly elected legislators in the Legislative Council. Table 4.46 shows that only 12.5% male adult new arrivals and 6.6% female adult new arrivals answered the four factual knowledge questions correctly. Child new arrivals had a significantly better knowledge naming top-level government officials (42.9%).

4.75   Although many of the male respondents we interviewed in the qualitative study admitted that living in Hong Kong did not give them a sense of belonging, the majority of the respondents stated that they would participate in voting when they qualified to register to vote. Most of the respondents did not agree with the protest culture in Hong Kong. Compared to the male respondents, fewer female respondents expressed their interest in voting when they are entitled to vote; this is probably women are in general less interested in politics.

Table 4.46   Correct answers to general political knowledge questions among new arrivals

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Names of Secretary for Justice, Chief Secretary for Administration, and Financial Secretary	42.9	12.5	6.6	7.8
Year of next Chief Executive election	14.2	25.2	21.7	22.4
Number of directly elected legislators in the Legislative Council	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.3

Cultural Integration

4.76   In terms of national identity, about 65.0% of the adult new arrivals reported that they were Chinese, while about 29.7% reported that they were Hongkongers. Among the child new arrivals, 43.6% of the child new arrivals indicated that they were Chinese, while about 51.1% reported that they were

Hongkongers.

Table 4.47   Political identity

	Children (%)	Adult		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
I am a Hongkonger	12.2	7.1	8.6	8.3
I am Chinese	31.9	60.6	58.5	58.9
I am a Chinese in Hong Kong	11.7	6.3	6.1	6.1
I am a Hongkonger in China	38.9	21.4	21.4	21.4
Refused to answer	5.3	4.6	5.4	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.77   During the in-depth interviews, all of the respondents were found to have quite similar attitudes towards their political identity. They typically argued that "Hongkongers and Chinese are the same". Many of them seemed to be uncertain of their identity, which changed randomly from interview to interview.

4.78   Some of them thought that they were "Hongkongers" as soon as they arrived, especially when they received their Hong Kong Identity Card. Some of them admitted that they did not have a sense of belonging to Hong Kong even after living there for a year. Some of them complained about the harsh life and poor living conditions in Hong Kong. For them, having their own apartment was very important. They said that it was very difficult to have a sense of belonging to Hong Kong without having a reasonably comfortable apartment and employment.

Educational Assimilation

4.79   Among the child new arrivals aged 11 to 17 who were studying in school, two thirds (65.3%) were studying in subvented schools and almost one quarter (23.0%) were studying in government schools.

Table 4.48   Types of school attended by child new arrivals

	Children		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Government	23.9	22.1	23.0
Subvented	63.5	67.2	65.3
Private	6.1	2.4	4.3
Self-financed	2.0	5.7	3.8
Others	2.1	0.9	1.5
Refused to answer	2.4	1.7	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.80   Perceived academic performance was assessed by the two items listed in table below. About 29.7% of the child new arrivals reported that their academic performance in their first semester in Hong Kong was either very good or good, while 37.0% felt very satisfied or satisfied with their academic performance in the last semester.

Table 4.49   Child new arrivals' perception of their academic performance

	Children		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
The academic performance during the first academic semester in Hong Kong			
Very good	5.1	10.6	7.8
Good	17.1	26.9	21.9
Fair	47.4	42.3	44.9
Poor	19.8	13.8	16.9
Very poor	3.8	0.6	2.2
Refused to answer	6.8	5.9	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
The satisfaction of the academic performance in the last semester			
Very satisfied	1.4	3.1	2.2
Satisfied	34.8	34.8	34.8
Fairly satisfied	32.8	37.1	34.9
Unsatisfied	22.9	17.3	20.1
Very unsatisfied	0.0	0.6	0.3
Refused to answer	8.2	7.2	7.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.81 The child new arrivals had high educational aspirations; more than 80% anticipated that they would complete at least university-level education in the future.

Table 4.50   Educational aspirations of child new arrivals

	Children		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Primary school	3.4	4.3	3.8
Secondary school Form 3	0.0	0.9	0.4
Secondary school Form 6	12.3	2.4	7.4
Diploma or associate degree	4.8	5.9	5.3
Bachelor's degree	64.5	71.8	68.1
Master's degree	3.8	6.2	5.0
Doctoral degree	2.4	1.2	1.8
Refused to answer	8.9	7.4	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.82 In general, the attitude of the child new arrivals towards school was very positive. For instance, almost two thirds (63.9%) strongly agreed or agreed that they participated actively in their school lives, while over three quarters (77.7%) strongly disagreed or disagreed that school life is boring and uninteresting.

Table 4.51   Responses to School Attitude Screening items

(%)	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I consider the things I am doing in school worthless.	21.1	50.2	11.6	13.6	3.5
I have no sense of belonging to the school.	20.5	45.6	14.9	16.4	2.5
I participate actively in school life.	1.1	5.3	29.6	53.6	10.3
I believe school can help me to become a mature person.	0.3	6.8	21.4	60.7	10.7
I obtain a sense of achievement from school.	0.7	6.0	32.5	54.0	6.8
If the opportunity arises, I would rather leave school and get a job.	39.7	44.4	8.7	6.3	0.9
It is still worthwhile going to school even though it cannot help me get a job.	10.2	14.1	24.6	45.7	5.4
School life is boring and uninteresting.	18.3	59.4	14.5	6.5	1.2
I work hard so as to learn a lot of things.	0.2	4.7	22.3	52.7	20.1

4.83   In our qualitative study, we interviewed 14 school-age respondents: 7 of them had to repeat their grade, 5 had been demoted, and only 2 had been promoted to the next grade in Hong Kong. In fact, two of them had been demoted two grades, which could have a significant impact on their school performance and psychological well-being. One of the boys, who was 16 years old, finished Form 3 in Mainland China but started in Form 1 in Hong Kong. He only went to school for about two months and then quit because he thought that his classmates were childish and he hated studying in Form 1.

4.84   Of the 12 respondents who were either demoted or had to repeat their grade in Hong Kong, 4 actually did very well at school. They passed all of their subjects and achieved top grades. Three of them wanted to change to a better school.

4.85   Apart from the higher English standard expected in Hong Kong, another issue that concerned many students before they started school in Hong Kong was that there were some subjects that they have never studied in Mainland China (e.g. General Education). In fact, a few students asked what "General Education" was during the first round of interviews in July and August 2010. After they started school, none of them had a problem with the General Education course. The most difficult subject for them was English; among the 13 students who continued their schooling in Hong Kong, 6 failed in English.

4.86   Some of the students complained about Hong Kong students being too lazy and obsessed with computer games. They thought that Hong Kong students were spoiled and spent too much time on karaoke and wandering around shopping centres.

4.87   Despite facing various adjustment challenges, all of the respondents (except for one who had quit school) enjoyed studying in Hong Kong for a variety of reasons, such as less homework, shorter school hours, more school activities, no physical punishment, smaller classes, and nicer teachers.

4.88   School life satisfaction was assessed using the 12 items listed below. In general, most of the child new arrivals were satisfied with their school life.

Table 4.52   Responses to 12 items related to School Life Satisfaction

(%)	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Students in my school are trying to do their best work.	1.4	9.8	14.3	70.4	4.1
Students in my school daydream.	7.3	48.5	18.5	25.1	0.6
During class, students are constantly checking the time.	5.7	52.8	14.2	26.9	0.4
Most of the students concentrate in class.	1.7	14.5	12.6	66.9	4.1
Teachers rarely take the time to chat with students.	6.8	52.7	12.2	27.7	0.6
Teachers are very concerned about students' daily life.	0.5	6.8	8.5	78.1	6.1
Teachers are more friends than authority figures.	1.5	12.2	15.7	64.4	6.2
Teachers will put their work aside and help students.	1.1	9.9	9.8	72.5	6.5
Examinations in my school are Stressful.	4.9	41.5	10.6	37.2	5.8
Coursework in my school is stressful.	4.1	51.8	9.7	30.2	4.2
Overall, I am satisfied with school life.	1.9	7.6	8.5	75.6	6.4
Overall, I am satisfied with academic performance	2.4	24.5	10.9	58.6	3.7

Factors Affecting Integration of New Arrivals

4.89   Six groups of factors affecting the social, economic, political, and cultural integration were examined and they included receiving welfare and household income; human capital characteristics; psychosocial stress; dreams and disappointments; programmes targeted towards new arrivals; and cross-boundary visits and support. Bivariate correlation were computed to assess the associations of these factors with social, economic, political, and cultural integration among new arrivals.

Welfare Recipient and Household Income

4.90   The association of receiving CSSA and household income with social, economic, educational, and cultural integration is shown in Table 4.53. Receiving CSSA was statistically negatively associated with marital communication, employment status, and all indicators of educational integration. On the other hand, household income was statistically positively associated with employment status and two indicators of educational integration, namely perceived academic performance and educational aspiration. The results indicated that receiving welfare had a moderate negative impact on marital relationship and educational integration while household income had a strong positive effect on two indicators of educational integration. The findings also suggested that among the new arrivals, receiving CSSA and household income had little or no effect on neighbouring behaviour or political and cultural integration.

Table 4.53   Association of Receipt of Welfare and Household Income with Indicators of Social, Economic, Educational, and Cultural Integration

	CSSA	Household Income[a]
Social Integration: Families		
Marital communication	**-0.082*****	--
Family activities	--	--
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	-0.034*	--
Social Integration: Friends		
Number of friends in Hong Kong	-0.045**	0.049**
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	--	0.037*
Social Integration: Neighbours		
Activities with neighbours	--	--
Number of neighbours	--	--
Relationship with neighbours	--	--
Social Integration: Community		
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	0.035*	-0.036*
Economic integration		
Employment status	**-0.121*****	**0.123*****
Educational integration		
Perceived academic performance	**-0.059*****	**0.247*****
Educational aspirations	**-0.061*****	**0.239*****
School attitude	**-0.074*****	0.041**
School satisfaction	**-0.056*****	0.06*
Political integration		
Civic mindedness	--	--
Political knowledge	--	--
Cultural integration		
Hongkonger identity	--	--

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$. –not reported due to $p \geq 0.05$.

Human Capital Characteristics

4.91   The relationship between human capital characteristics and social, economic, and cultural integration is shown in Table 4.54. Education was statistically positively associated with marital relationship, participation in family activities, number of friends in Hong Kong, and all indicators of political integration (i.e. civic mindedness and political knowledge). Fluency in Cantonese was positively associated with the number of neighbours, employment status, political knowledge, and cultural identity but negatively related to support received from friends in Hong Kong and civic mindedness.

4.92   Our qualitative study also showed that human capital, education specifically, did not help the economic integration of the new arrivals in Hong Kong. Among the 18 male and female respondents we interviewed who had working experience in Mainland China, only 1 was able to find a job which was relevant to his qualifications or experience. We also found no association between education level and political awareness or cultural identity. Among the 26 respondents we interviewed, 9 had a college or above level of education and 5 had a senior high school qualification, but only 1 (Roger, 37) showed any interest in or concern about political issues in Hong Kong. Roger, who had a high school qualification, told me that he was very interested in learning about democracy, something which he was not allowed to "touch" in Mainland China. He bought many political magazines in Hong Kong which were unavailable in Mainland China.

Table 4.54   Association of Human Capital Characteristics with Indicators of Social, Economic, and Cultural Integration

	Education	Fluency in Cantonese
Social Integration: Families		
Marital communication	**0.115*****	--
Family activities	**0.106*****	0.031*
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	--	-0.048**
Social Integration: Friends		
Number of friends in Hong Kong	**0.122*****	--
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	--	**-0.138*****
Social Integration: Neighbours		
Activities with neighbours	--	--
Number of neighbours	--	**0.075*****
Relationship with neighbours	--	0.042**
Social Integration: Community		
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	--	--
Economic integration		
Employment status	-0.052*	**0.074*****
Political integration		
Civic mindedness	**0.072*****	**-0.132*****
Political knowledge	**0.116*****	**0.122*****
Cultural integration		
Hongkonger identity	--	**0.073*****

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$. – not reported due to $p \geq 0.05$.

Psychosocial Stress

4.93   Acculturation stress was consistently and significantly associated with most indicators of social integration, all indicators of educational integration, one indicator of political integration, and cultural integration. Specifically, acculturation stress was negatively related to marital relationship, participation in family activities, number of friends in Hong Kong, participation in activities organized by social service organizations, school attitude, school satisfaction, civic mindedness, and cultural identity and positively related to support received from family members and friends in Hong Kong, participation in activities with neighbours, number of neighbours, and two indicators of educational integration (perceived academic performance and educational aspiration). The results indicated that acculturation stress had a strong harmful effect on marital relationship and political integration and a mixed effect on the family and friendship aspects of social integration and educational integration.

4.94   According to the respondents we interviewed in the qualitative study, acculturation stress has negative impacts on marital relationship. For example, John (interview case number: 46), a construction worker with two children, worked very hard to maintain his family in this expensive city. However, his son had become very lazy and obsessed with computer games since moving to Hong Kong. John complained about his wife, who was not working, being unable to monitor and correct his son's problem. His relationship with his wife had worsened. He found his hard working life in Hong Kong to have no meaning or value. During the last round of interviews, John was showing signs of depression.

Table 4.55   Association of Acculturation Stress with Indicators of Social, Economic, Educational, and Cultural Integration

	Acculturation Stress
Social Integration: Families	
Marital communication	**-0.159*****
Family activities	**-0.134*****
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	**0.219*****
Social Integration: Friends	
Number of friends in Hong Kong	**-0.122*****
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	**0.219*****
Social Integration: Neighbours	
Activities with neighbours	**0.226*****
Number of neighbours	**0.130*****
Relationship with neighbours	0.051**
Social Integration: Community	
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	-0.038*
Economic integration	
Employment status	--
Educational integration	
Perceived academic performance	**0.140*****
Educational aspiration	**0.141*****
School attitude	**-0.127*****
School satisfaction	**-0.257*****
Political integration	
Civic mindedness	**-0.368*****
Political knowledge	--
Cultural integration	
Hongkonger identity	**-0.071*****

* p < 0.05. ** p <0.01. *** p <0.001. – not reported due to p ≥ 0.05.

4.95   The association of perceived low opportunity for success and experiencing discrimination in daily life with social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration is shown in Table 4.56. Perceived low opportunity for success was negatively related to number of friends in Hong Kong, all indicators of neighbouring behaviour, two indicators of educational integration (attitude to school and school satisfaction), political knowledge, and cultural identity. Surprisingly, perceived low opportunity for success in Hong Kong was positively related to educational aspiration and civic mindedness.

4.96   Experiencing discrimination had a profound negative impact on educational, political, and cultural integration among the new arrivals. Specifically, experiencing discrimination was negatively related to attitude to school, school satisfaction, civic mindedness, political knowledge, and cultural identity. On the other hand, experiences of discrimination had a mixed effect on social integration. Experiencing discrimination was negatively related marital relationship, participation in family activities, and number of friends in Hong Kong, but it was positively associated with support received from family members and friends and participation in activities with neighbours. Lastly, experiencing discrimination was not significantly related to employment status.

4.97   Our qualitative data showed that no significant association between experience of discrimination and employment status was found among the respondents we interviewed. Although discrimination on the basis of qualifications, skills, and experience was a serious issue, all of the male and female respondents who had worked or were working in Hong Kong admitted that it was not difficult to find a job in Hong Kong. They typically found their jobs from street posters or through their own networks, such as friends, relatives, or former co-workers. When they were being discriminated against at work, they quit their jobs and moved to another one.

4.98   The inverse association between the perceived opportunity for success and educational integration and the number of friends in Hong Kong was confirmed among some of the school-age children we interviewed in the qualitative study. For example, Roy (interview case number: 15) had very high expectations of the education system in Hong Kong and believed that he could get into a university and become a lawyer in Hong Kong. After migrating to Hong Kong, he repeated Form 2 and constantly achieved top grades. However, he was very disappointed with the academic standard of his school and the learning attitude of his classmates. He had no friends at school, and his focus was on changing schools one day. He stated that he generally goes to library after school until 10 p.m., when the library closes for the day, and then has dinner on his own before going home.

Table 4.56   Association of Indicators of Low Opportunity for success and Experiencing Discrimination with Indicators of Social, Economic, Educational, and Cultural integration

	Low Opportunity of Success	Experiencing Discrimination
Social Integration: Families		
Marital communication	-0.046*	**-0.181***
Family activities	-0.033*	**-0.114***
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	--	**0.120***
Social Integration: Friends		
Number of friends in Hong Kong	**-0.094***	**-0.096***
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	--	**0.098***
Social Integration: Neighbour		
Activities with neighbours	**-0.207***	**0.073***
Number of neighbours	**-0.182***	0.037*
Relationship with neighbours	**-0.083***	--
Social Integration: Community		
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	-0.042**	-0.030*
Economic integration		
Employment status	--	-0.042*
Educational integration		
Perceived academic performance	0.118**	0.042**
Educational aspiration	**0.126***	0.042**
School attitude	**-0.122***	**-0.121***
School satisfaction	**-0.122***	**-0.161***
Political integration		
Civic mindedness	**0.086***	**-0.177***
Political knowledge	**-0.138***	**-0.106***
Cultural integration		
Hongkonger identity	**-0.167***	**-0.116***

$* p < 0.05.$ $** p < 0.01.$ $*** p < 0.001.$ – not reported due to $p \geq 0.05.$

Programmes Targeted towards New Arrivals

4.99   The association between programmes targeted towards new arrivals and social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration are shown in Table 4.57. There was no significant association between either pre- or post-immigration services and any of the indicators of social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration. While participation in post-immigration services was positively associated with participation in activities organized by social service organizations, surprisingly, among the child new arrivals, it was negatively associated with all indicators of educational integration.

4.100   Given the low utilization of programmes for new arrivals, especially among the adult new arrivals, it is not surprising that in our qualitative study, we found no association between these programmes and their integration. Among the 26 adult respondents we interviewed in our qualitative study, none had joined any of the programmes targeted towards them. Instead of joining programmes for new arrivals, some of the female respondents had enrolled in courses designed for the general population in order to gain employment. As for the male respondents, they found going to a community centre or joining programmes targeted towards them uncomfortable or embarrassing; in fact, many of them did not know where their local community centres were. Compared to the adult respondents, more of the school-age respondents had participated in programmes for new arrivals. Surprisingly, this was negatively associated with their educational integration; a possible explanation for this may be that they only joined these programmes during the summer holidays. All of the child respondents we interviewed had stopped going to the community centres when they started school in September.

Table 4.57 *Association of Participation in Programmes for New Arrivals with Indicators of Social, Economic, Educational, and Cultural Integration*

	Pre-im migration services	Post-im migration services
Social Integration: Families		
Marital communication	--	--
Family activities	--	--
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	--	--
Social Integration: Friends		
Number of friends in Hong Kong	--	--
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	--	--
Social Integration: Neighbours		
Activities with neighbours	--	--
Number of neighbours	--	--
Relationship with neighbours	--	--
Social Integration: Community		
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	--	**0.132*****
Economic integration		
Employment status	-0.048*	--
Educational integration		
Perceived academic performance	--	**-0.060*****
Educational aspiration	--	**-0.059*****
School attitude	0.03*	**-0.102*****
School satisfaction	--	**-0.077*****
Political integration		
Civic mindedness	--	--
Political knowledge	0.075**	--
Cultural integration		
Hongkonger identity	--	--

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$. – not reported due to $p \geq 0.05$.

Cross-boundary Visits and Support

4.101   The relationship of the number of visits to the Mainland and the social support received from family members and friends in the Mainland with social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration is shown in Table 4.58. The number of visits to the Mainland had a mixed impact on social integration. While it was negatively associated with support received from friends in Hong Kong and relationship with neighbours, it was positively related to participation in family activities and number of friends in Hong Kong.

Table 4.58   *Association of Cross-boundary Visits and Support with Indicators of*
Social, Economic, Educational, and Cultural Integration

	Visits to the Mainland	Support received from family members in the Mainland	Support received from friends in the Mainland
Social Integration: Families			
Marital communication	0.035*	**-0.147*****	**-0.117*****
Family activities	**0.161*****	-0.031*	**-0.057*****
Support received from family members living apart in Hong Kong	--	**0.540*****	**0.053*****
Social Integration: Friends			
Number of friends in Hong Kong	**0.074*****	--	0.037*
Support received from friends in Hong Kong	**-0.069*****	**0.609*****	**0.667*****
Social Integration: Neighbours			
Activities with neighbours	-0.042**	**0.154*****	**0.132*****
Number of neighbours	--	**0.054*****	**0.059*****
Relationship with neighbours	**-0.067*****	--	0.034*
Social Integration: Community			
Participation in activities organized by social service organizations	--	--	--
Economic integration			
Employment status	--	--	0.029*
Educational integration			
Perceived academic performance	--	--	--
Educational aspiration	--	--	--
School attitude	--	--	--
School satisfaction	--	--	--
Political integration			
Civic mindedness	--	**0.060*****	0.036*
Political knowledge	0.065**	**-0.120*****	**-0.171*****
Cultural integration			
Hongkonger identity	--	**-0.070*****	**-0.097*****

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$. – not reported due to $p \geq 0.05$.

4.102   Support received from family members in the Mainland had a harmful effect on marital relationship and cultural identity and a mixed impact on social and political integration. Support received from family members and from friends

both had a harmful impact on cultural identity. In general, both were positively associated with indicators of social integration, with a few exceptions. Specifically, both were positively related to support received from family members and friends in Hong Kong, participation in activities with neighbours, and number of neighbours, but support received from friends was negatively related to participation in family activities. Lastly, both were negatively associated with political knowledge, but support received from family members in the Mainland was positively associated with civic mindedness.

4.103 Our qualitative study shows that most of the respondents, including the school-age children, travelled to Mainalnd China whenever they had holidays. The main purpose of these visits was to visit their friends and relatives and maybe for emotional support. For example, Vicky (interview case number: 30) met many friends at work; however, these friends were not able to provide sufficient emotional and practical support to her after her miscarriage. She therefore quit her job and went to Mainland China and stayed with her mother for over a month. The case of John (interview case number: 46), who migrated with his two children to join his wife in Hong Kong, was the exception in terms of the purpose of visits to the Mainland. John and his family were staying with his parent-in-law in a small apartment which was far too small, and therefore John wanted to move out. Not long after he migrated to Hong Kong, he asked his wife to go to Mainland China and borrow money from her relatives.

4.104 While some travelled to Mainland China to seek support from their relatives and friends in Mainland China, some relied on their relatives in Mainland China to provide support for them in Hong Kong. For example, Amy (interview case number: 36) and Fanny (interview case number: 30) relied on their mothers visiting Hong Kong on a 90-day visa to look after their children while they were working. Kelly (interview case number: 25) wanted to start working and therefore applied for her mother to be allowed to visit Hong Kong. Jason (interview case number: 33) had also applied for his mother to be allowed to visit Hong Kong because his wife, who used to be a full-time housewife, had found a part-time job.

Chapter 5   Discussion

5.1   Population debates in Hong Kong have traditionally almost entirely been concerned with questions about who, how many, and what kinds of immigrants should be admitted to Hong Kong. In contrast, although the integration of immigrants is the ultimate test of whether immigration succeeds, integration policies have not been systematically investigated. The purpose of this report is to analyse the social, economic, educational, political, and cultural integration of new arrivals and to propose policies that facilitate the integration of immigrants in Hong Kong.

5.2   The meaning of the term integration – and even the use of the term itself – can be controversial. In this report, integration is defined as the process of economic mobility and the social inclusion of new arrivals. Integration implies a two-way process that involves changes not just on the part of new arrivals but also on the part of members of the receiving society (in this case, Hong Kong). Successful integration builds societies that are stronger economically and more inclusive socially and culturally. Hong Kong has a history of comparatively successful integration, but the past may not be an entirely reliable guide to the future. The knowledge-based economy and the increasingly hostile attitude of locals to new arrivals have changed the situation in Hong Kong in ways that might affect the integration of current and future new arrivals.

5.3   If one compares the immigration policies of Hong Kong during the past three decades with those of countries such as Canada and Australia, it becomes apparent that Hong Kong's policies have been characterized by reactive, short-sighted measures with an emphasis on control. An integration policy should be a crucial part of any immigration policy strategy. Hong Kong cannot close its doors to all those who want to migrate from the Mainland to Hong Kong for family reunion reasons; therefore, it is essential to assist them to integrate into Hong Kong society as soon as possible. One of Hong Kong biggest tests in the years to come will be how it manages immigration and integration. If Hong Kong rises to this challenge, it will be able to harness the

benefits that immigration can trigger in the social and economic dimensions. If Hong Kong fails to do so, immigration could harm Hong Kong's long-term economic and social prospects or create social divisions.

Integration of New Arrivals

5.4   In this study, we have examined five aspects of the integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong: social, economic, educational, political, and cultural. With regard to marital relationship, about 20% to 30% of the new arrivals reported a poor communication pattern with their spouses, which might lead to poor marital relationships. The most popular family activity during holidays among the adult new arrivals and child new arrivals was shopping, followed by visiting relatives or friends in Mainland China or Hong Kong and playing sports.

5.5   When we examined the data related to the social support received from family members living apart, the findings were quite alarming. Slightly more than one third of the new arrivals never received spiritual or emotional support or social companionship, while over 80% never received financial assistance; help with daily household chores; help in looking after family members; assistance in job hunting, accommodation, teaching, or training; information on immigration; or legal advice. Our findings suggest that the marital relationships of one fifth of new arrivals are weak and that there is infrequent family activity and low family support among new arrivals. We have very little knowledge on the social integration of new arrivals; for instance, we do not even know whether the divorce rate is higher among migrant families than among local families.

5.6   One strong indicator of social integration is the number of friends that new arrivals make in Hong Kong. Surprisingly, about 16.5% of the adult new arrivals in this study did not have any friends in Hong Kong, and 30.8% had only one to three friends even though they had been in Hong Kong for at least 9 months. On the other hand, the support they received from their friends was, in general, stronger than the support they received from their family members living apart. In particular, their friends provided a lot of support in terms of

emotional support, giving advice, social companionship, and job seeking. In terms of neighbours, half of the adult new arrivals did not know any neighbours at all and only 6.5% perceived their relationships with their neighbours as being close or very close. In other words, there is much room for improvement in this area of social integration. At the community level, both participation in activities organized by social service organizations and the utilization of facilities and services provided by social service organizations, district council offices, and incorporated owners' committees were very low (< 2%,), except in the case of some facilities and services (e.g. libraries, outpatient clinics, and family and children activities).

5.7   In terms of economic integration, apart from the half of female new arrivals who were housewives, most of the new arrivals in this study were economically active, even though the unemployment rate among them was much higher than it was among the general population. The economic integration of new arrivals in Hong Kong has been extensively investigated in previous studies using census data (Chiu et al., 2005; K. L. Chou & Chow, 2009; K.C. Lam & Liu, 1993; K. C. Lam & Liu, 2002; Zhang & Wu, 2011), and we believe that it is time for the HKSAR Government to bring in measures to address the disadvantages that new arrivals face in the labour markets due to their low human capital characteristics and their family obligations to take care of their children.

5.8   In terms of educational integration, approximately 37.0% of the school-age new arrivals in this study were satisfied with their academic performance last year, and they had high educational aspirations. Specifically, 80.2% of them anticipated that they would complete at least university-level education in the future. It will be a challenge for them, their families, their schools, their neighbourhoods, and the HKSAR Government to make their dreams come true. In general, the school-age new arrivals held positive views on their school life: over 70% were satisfied with their school life. However, about 20% to 30% of the school-age new arrivals had a negative attitude towards their schooling and were not satisfied with their school life. Mixed findings were reported regarding the educational integration of school-age new arrivals in Hong Kong,

and given the high child poverty risk associated with immigrant families, it is important to monitor the educational integration, especially in tertiary education, of children in immigrant families using the 2011 Population Census data and to design, implement, and evaluate an intervention targeted at children living in immigrant families.

5.9   Even though the civic mindedness of the new arrivals in this study was high, only a few of them had participated in activities organized by political parties and their general political knowledge was low. It is uncertain whether they will engage in voting after they become eligible to vote and participate in political elections after a 7-year stay in Hong Kong. Regarding cultural identity, only about one third of the new arrivals claimed that they are Hongkongers. Our results also indicate that Hongkonger identity has a beneficial effect on marital relationship ($r = 0.08$, $p<0.001$), family activities ($r = 0.09$, $p<0.001$), number of friends ($r = 0.04$, $p<0.01$), attitude to school ($r = 0.14$, $p<0.01$), community participation ($r = 0.03$, $p<0.05$), civic mindedness ($r = 0.04$, $p<0.01$), and general political knowledge ($r = 0.11$, $p<0.001$). Therefore, the results demonstrate the importance of cultural identification in the social and political integration of new arrivals.

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