

Public Order

The law and order situation in Hong Kong improved further in 2013. The overall crime rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) fell by 4.3 per cent while the violent crime rate fell by 5.6 per cent compared to 2012. The overall crime detection rate was 43.2 per cent. Hong Kong retained its position as one of the safest cities in the world.

Fight Crime Committee

The Fight Crime Committee (FCC), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, provides advice and recommendations on the prevention and reduction of crime, co-ordinates crime-fighting efforts and monitors their results. In 2013, the FCC continued to monitor the overall crime situation, including the trend of various types of commercial crime, and the progress of the 'Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme', an alternative to prosecution where young offenders are concerned. The FCC targeted deception, sexual assault, theft and drug abuse in its 2013 publicity strategy. The FCC also discussed the proposed 'RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme', intended as an additional measure to help identify drug abusers as early as possible and offer them assistance to stay away from drugs.

Working with the FCC, the District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs) monitor the crime situation at district level and reflect community concerns about law and order issues. They help foster community awareness of crime prevention and encourage community participation in combating crime through publicity programmes in the districts.

To reinforce closer links with the DFCCs, FCC members took turns to attend DFCC meetings and functions to exchange views on topical crime issues and discuss ways to combat crime. In October, the FCC organised a reception for DFCC members to foster communication and discuss crime issues of public concern.

Police Force

Hong Kong remained one of the safest and the most stable cities in the world for residents and visitors. Day-to-day policing was handled through 23 police districts under five land regions and a marine region.

At the end of 2013, the Police Force had an establishment of about 28,500 police officers and 4,600 civilian staff, reinforced by some 4,000 volunteers serving in the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force. A total of 238 inspectors and 956 constables were appointed during the year.

Crime

Reported crimes in 2013 totalled 72,911, a decrease of 4 per cent compared with 75,930 in 2012. The crime rate stood at 1,015 cases per 100,000 population, a drop of 4.3 per cent compared with 1,061 in 2012. The decrease was mainly due to a drop in miscellaneous thefts, criminal damage, wounding and serious assault and burglary. The number of violent crimes decreased to 12,153, a drop of 5.2 per cent compared with 12,821 in 2012.

In 2013, there were 500 cases of robbery, a drop of 18.8 per cent compared with 616 in 2012. The last reported case of robbery with genuine firearms was in 2006. Regarding non-violent crimes, burglaries decreased from 4,214 in 2012 to 3,573, a decline of 15.2 per cent, while overall thefts decreased from 33,664 in 2012 to 31,598, a drop of 6.1 per cent.

Of the reported crimes, 43.2 per cent (or 31,479 crimes) were detected, resulting in the arrest of 36,609 persons. Among these, 2,083 were juveniles aged between 10 and 15 while 3,314 were young persons aged between 16 and 20. Arrests of youths were mostly for wounding and serious assault, miscellaneous thefts, serious drug offences and shop theft.

The number of triad-related crimes decreased to 2,035 compared with 2,340 in 2012, a drop of 13 per cent. This type of crime accounted for 2.8 per cent of all reported crimes during the year. To tackle triad problems, a large-scale anti-triad operation involving the police forces of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao was mounted in the second half of 2013, resulting in the arrest of 1,813 persons in Hong Kong.

The police also launched the 'RenoSafe Scheme' with four government departments and public organisations in September to raise public awareness of organised manipulation in building renovation works.

Publicity campaigns on crime prevention measures made use of a broad spectrum of media, including the 'Hong Kong Police Mobile Application', the 'Hong Kong Police YouTube channel' and the internet.

Commercial Crime

The Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) continued to tackle serious and complex frauds, technology crimes and counterfeiting of monetary instruments in Hong Kong and overseas. The overall situation remained stable despite emerging trends in fraudulent activities, including the use of new technology in the commission of commercial crime.

The CCB continued its close co-operation and liaison with its local, regional and international partners in order to interdict international and cross-boundary commercial crimes. In January, together with INTERPOL, the CCB hosted the First INTERPOL Project Anti-Transnational Financial Crime Working Group meeting. In September, together with the French National Police, the

CCB hosted a commercial crime conference in Hong Kong titled 'E-Crimes Without Borders – E-Crimes Sans Frontières' attended by over 100 delegates from Asia Pacific and Europe.

Technology Crime

With the ever-increasing application of technology in daily life, Hong Kong has seen an increase in technology crime (from 3,015 cases in 2012 to 5,133 in 2013, an increase of 70.2 per cent), including the exploitation of emails, social media and mobile device applications to commit crime. This is being tackled through close co-operation with overseas law enforcement agencies and private sector partners, as well as education of the public on crime prevention.

The Cyber Security Centre plays an important role in protecting critical infrastructure against cyber attacks, ensuring that Hong Kong's cyber security situation remains stable.

Dangerous Drugs

In 2013, the police tackled drug problems with a multi-faceted approach encompassing assistance from the community in disrupting illegal drug trafficking at different levels.

Ketamine and Methamphetamine continued to be the most commonly abused drugs, accounting for 58 per cent of the 5,542 persons arrested for dangerous drugs in 2013.

To tackle crimes perpetrated further afield, the Narcotics Bureau (NB) maintained its strategic partnership with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies (LEAs). These joint efforts led to the dismantling of three drug production sites and seizure of 677 kilograms of illegal drugs in the region.

The emergence of new drugs continued to pose challenges to regulators and LEAs around the globe. Co-ordinated by the Security Bureau, the NB has been working closely with other departments to devise timely and effective intervention strategies.

Financial Investigation

The Joint Financial Intelligence Unit (JFIU) and the Financial Investigations Division (FID) under the NB proactively combat money laundering and terrorist financing activities and 134 people were convicted of money laundering offences in 2013, with \$873 million of criminal assets restrained and \$684 million confiscated.

Through its website and the publication of quarterly analysis, the JFIU provided the public, regulators and Suspicious Transaction Reporting entities with the latest information on money laundering and the emerging trends. The JFIU and the FID continued to participate in international conferences of the Financial Action Task Force, the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, and organised two international financial investigation courses for 68 participants from Hong Kong and 13 other jurisdictions.

Forensic Support

The Identification Bureau played an important role in supporting crime investigations and prosecutions by providing fingerprint collection, firearms examination, photography services

and collecting DNA evidence from crime scenes. In 2013, it linked 1,597 people to 1,422 criminal cases.

Liaison

As the designated contact point with LEAs in the Mainland, Taiwan, Macao and overseas countries, the Liaison Bureau (LB) communicates with their liaison officers stationed in Hong Kong for all police-related matters. In addition, the LB operates as a sub-bureau of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau China in dealing with all Hong Kong's INTERPOL-related matters.

To strengthen international law enforcement co-operation to combat cross-boundary crime, the police signed a number of co-operation agreements with overseas strategic partners. Following the hot-air balloon accident in Luxor, Egypt, in which nine Hong Kong residents lost their lives in February, the LB collaborated with the Egyptian authorities on investigation and follow-up action.

Counter Terrorism

The police adopt a holistic counter terrorism strategy combining prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. To realise the strategy, the police maintained a high degree of vigilance and a state of operational readiness commensurate with the prevailing threat level. The police maintained close liaison with other government departments and those responsible for critical infrastructure on their security and counter terrorism measures. The police also conducted joint exercises to hone counter terrorism contingency plans and strengthen communication and co-ordination.

Traffic

In 2013, there were 16,089 traffic accidents involving casualties including 130 deaths, representing a 1.2 per cent increase and 8.3 per cent increase respectively compared with 2012. Annual enforcement figures increased by 6.9 per cent with 1,573,247 offences detected. This year also saw the installation of evidential breath test machines in all police stations to combat drink-driving and improved laser systems to tackle speed enforcement.

Public Relations

The Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB) continued to enlist public support in maintaining law and order by working in partnership with the media and the community. Information about police activities was disseminated to local and overseas media round-the-clock. The first phase of an interactive electronic platform for disseminating information on unforeseen incidents to the media was expected to commence service in the financial year 2013-14. The PPRB also assisted the Fight Crime Committee in planning and implementing its publicity campaigns.

The PPRB's *Police Magazine*, *Police Report* and *Police Bulletin* provided information on crime trends and crime prevention measures. Further to the 2012 launch of the 'Hong Kong Police Mobile Application', the police launched the 'Hong Kong Police YouTube channel' in March 2013 to enable members of the public to understand more about policing activities, crime prevention messages, etc. The PPRB also assisted local and overseas TV broadcasters and film-

production companies in producing TV dramas, documentaries and films related to police work, as well as liaising with other government agencies in relation to location filming.

During the year, the PPRB published a fortnightly newspaper, *OffBeat*; a monthly JPC newsletter; and *Hong Kong Police Review*, which won a Citation for Design in the Hong Kong Management Association's 2013 Best Annual Report Awards.

Engaging the Community

Members of the public were informed of police policies and operational priorities by Police Community Relations Officers, while the Junior Police Call (JPC) scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme served as bridges between the police and young people.

Police districts organised various programmes to engage members of the community who are not ethnic Chinese. Yau Tsim District and Yuen Long District respectively launched 'Project Gemstone' and 'Project Himalaya' to encourage them to join the Police Force and to provide them with relevant training. Police Community Liaison Assistants have been recruited in 14 police districts to help establish a long-term relationship between the police and members of the community who are not ethnic Chinese.

The PPRB plans to consolidate elderly projects in different police districts into a Senior Police Call scheme to enhance communication with the elderly, and so promote crime prevention and personal safety for the elderly.

In 2013, 80 persons received awards under the police's 'Good Citizen Award' scheme (sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce) to recognise their assistance to the police in fighting crime.

Planning and Development

The new police post at Yung Shue Wan on Lamma Island was opened in December to provide enhanced police facilities and a user-friendly environment for the public. Construction of the new Yau Ma Tei Divisional Police Station on the West Kowloon Reclamation commenced in 2013 for completion by 2016.

Information and Communication Technology

The Personnel Information Communal System II was put into operation in July. The new system provides tools to facilitate analysis of police officers' job-related competencies and will help manpower planning and raise the professional standards of policing.

Training

The Hong Kong Police College continued to strengthen its relationship with external training partners, including tertiary institutions and police training organisations. At INTERPOL's invitation, the police assisted in the design and delivery of the first INTERPOL Leadership Exchange Programme for INTERPOL's senior management. In July, the police and the Charles Sturt University in Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding which grants the police's Probationary Inspector Course graduates credit exemption for selected post-graduate courses.

In recognition of its achievements in manpower training and development and in promoting a knowledge-driven culture, in 2013 the police were awarded the status of Manpower Developer by the Employees Retraining Board, the Hong Kong Most Admired Knowledge Enterprise (MAKE) Award by the Knowledge Management and Innovation Research Centre of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the Asian MAKE Award and the Global MAKE Award (Independent Operating Unit) by Teleos.

Service Quality

The Service Quality Wing continued to promote integrity, professionalism, continuous improvement and innovation in police services. In 2013, it oversaw the publication of the biennial environmental scan to identify challenges in the police operating environment and assisted the senior management in formulating the Strategic Directions and Strategic Action Plan 2014-16 (scheduled to be published in February 2014) to meet these challenges.

Complaints and Internal Investigations

The Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch comprises the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) and the Internal Investigations Office (IIO). Under the statutory two-tier police complaints handling system, the CAPO handles all complaints lodged by the public against the police and supports the Independent Police Complaints Council in performing its statutory functions. The CAPO received 2,430 reportable complaints in 2013, 19 per cent less than the five-year average of 3,013.

In April, the CAPO successfully acquired ISO 10002 'Quality Management – Customer Satisfaction' Certification. It is an international standard for handling complaints in an organisation and reflects the commitment by the CAPO to ensuring a professional and transparent approach when handling complaints by the public.

To maintain public confidence, the IIO continued to embed ethics and integrity in the police through education and culture building, governance and control, enforcement and deterrent, and rehabilitation and support.

Independent Police Complaints Council

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is an independent statutory body established, among other things, to:

- observe, monitor and review the Police Force's handling and investigation of reportable complaints;
- monitor actions taken or to be taken in respect of any member of the Police Force by the Commissioner of Police in connection with reportable complaints;
- identify any fault or deficiency in police practice or procedure that has led to or might lead to reportable complaints and make recommendations accordingly;

- advise the Commissioner of Police and/or the Chief Executive of its opinion and/or recommendation in connection with reportable complaints; and
- promote public awareness of the role of the council.

Its 24 members, all appointed by the Chief Executive, are drawn from a wide spectrum of society with diverse expertise. In addition, the council had 110 observers at year-end. These observers, as well as the council members, may attend interviews and observe the collection of evidence conducted by the police in respect of reportable complaints on a pre-arranged or surprise basis, to ensure that investigations are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

In 2013, the IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings in 2,496 investigation reports on reportable complaints received in 2013 or carried forward from previous years, involving a total of 4,632 allegations. Of these, 200 allegations were found substantiated or partially substantiated and the police force has taken appropriate action against the officers involved.

Correctional Services Department

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) runs a comprehensive range of programmes for adult and young persons in custody under two broad headings: prison management and rehabilitation of offenders.

In 2013, the CSD managed 29 correctional facilities with 6,687 staff looking after a daily average of 9,240 persons in custody and 2,251 persons under supervision after discharge. Offenders sentenced to imprisonment are assigned to correctional institutions according to their gender, age and security ratings. Separate institutions are provided for males and females, and for adults and young persons in custody. Male and female young offenders aged between 14 and 20 may be admitted to a training centre or a rehabilitation centre. A detention centre programme is available for male offenders aged between 14 and 24. Drug addicts found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment may be placed in a drug addiction treatment centre.

All persons in custody receive proper care. Their diet follows approved scales of nutritional values with regard to their health, religious and dietary requirements. All convicted adults, unless certified physically unfit, are required to work six days a week. They are assigned to different work posts according to their fitness and security ratings, personal experience and balance of sentence. They receive earnings (which may be used to buy approved articles and canteen items) as an incentive to acquire good working habits and vocational skills. They can watch television and have access to newspapers and library books. They may send and receive letters, receive visits and participate in religious services.

Correctional Facilities

Among the 29 correctional facilities of different security grading managed by CSD, 10 are for adult males and two are for adult females. For young males, the department operates two correctional institutions, one training centre and two rehabilitation centres. Young females are accommodated at one correctional institution and two rehabilitation centres. Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, Lai Sun Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional

Institution accommodate convicted drug addicts. Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre separately houses male and female persons in custody of all categories who require psychiatric observation, treatment or assessment. Five of the correctional facilities cater for remanded males and females of different age groups. Each penal facility normally has dormitories, kitchens, dining rooms, laundries, workshops, areas for exercise and recreation, a library and a hospital. The CSD also manages two custodial wards in public hospitals for persons in custody who require special medical care or surgical operations.

In addition, the CSD operates three halfway houses to help those released under supervision to reintegrate into society. The residents may go out to work or attend school during daytime.

Penal Population

In 2013, 11,133 adults (7,728 men and 3,405 women) were sentenced to prison, 6,949 adults (5,267 men and 1,682 women) on remand were taken into custody, 354 young offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (267 males and 87 females), and 614 young persons on remand (505 males and 109 females) were taken into custody. In addition, 386 young offenders (348 males and 38 females) were sentenced to detention in training centres, rehabilitation centres or the detention centre, and 1,223 offenders (932 males and 291 females) were placed in drug addiction treatment centres; while 2,357 offenders (1,981 males and 376 females) were remanded pending reports on their suitability for sentencing to one of these centres.

Most of the correctional institutions' facilities have been in use for many years or are housed in buildings originally used for other purposes. A partial redevelopment of Tai Lam Centre for Women to provide around 100 additional penal places and enhance its facilities is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. The department will continue to explore other possible redevelopment projects and improvement works.

Assessment Services

Young offenders and offenders with drug addiction problems who are convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment may be remanded in custody for a period not exceeding three weeks for assessment of their suitability for admission to various types of correctional facilities. They include a training centre, rehabilitation centre, detention centre or drug addiction treatment centre for young people aged between 14 and 20; a detention centre for young men aged between 21 and 24 and a drug addiction treatment centre for offenders aged 21 or above with drug addiction problems.

In 2013, the Rehabilitation Unit prepared a total of 3,662 suitability reports for the courts, and recommended 676 males and 77 females suitable for admission to a rehabilitation centre, training centre or detention centre, and 1,502 males and 393 females suitable for a drug addiction treatment centre.

Young Offender Assessment Panel

The Young Offender Assessment Panel (YOAP), comprising representatives from the CSD and the Social Welfare Department, makes recommendations to magistrates and judges on the most appropriate rehabilitation programmes for remanded males aged between 14 and 24 and

females aged 14 to 20. In 2013, 139 cases were referred to the YOAP by the courts for assessment.

Training Centres, Detention Centre and Rehabilitation Centres

Training centres provide custodial correctional training for young persons for periods ranging from six months to three years, comprising half-day educational classes and half-day vocational training. They also receive character development training in the form of scouting, guiding or outward bound training. Upon release, they are subject to three-year statutory supervision.

The detention centre programme for young males aged between 14 and 20 is for a period between one and six months, and for young male adults aged between 21 and 24 for a period between three and 12 months. It emphasises strict discipline, strenuous training, hard work and a vigorous routine. After release, they are placed under one-year statutory supervision.

Rehabilitation centres provide a sentencing option for the courts to deal with young offenders aged between 14 and 20 who are in need of a short-term residential rehabilitation programme. Those released from rehabilitation centres are subject to one-year statutory supervision after release.

Education

Young offenders under 21 are required to attend educational classes conducted by qualified teachers. They are encouraged to take part in both local and overseas public examinations. Those pursuing further studies may apply for financial assistance from various charities: the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund, the Prisoners' Education Subsidy Fund, the New Life Foundation, the Care of Rehabilitated Offenders Association Foundation and the Angel Education Fund.

Vocational Training

To help young offenders reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens, the CSD provides half-day vocational training programmes for those under 21 years of age to enable them to acquire job skills, obtain accreditation and develop work habits. The CSD provides eligible adult offenders¹ wishing to participate in the programmes with pre-release vocational courses. Full-time and part-time courses are provided at the Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution, the Lo Wu Correctional Institution, the Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution, the Pik Uk Prison, the Tai Lam Correctional Institution, the Tong Fuk Correctional Institution and the Tung Tau Correctional Institution. Part-time courses are also held at five other institutions.

Correctional Services Industries

The CSD provides work for adult offenders as required by law to keep them gainfully employed and to help them develop good working habits, a sense of responsibility and self-confidence. Through the training received at work, they can also acquire work skills to facilitate their reintegration into society.

¹ 'Eligible adult offender' means an adult offender who is allowed to be employed or work and is not subject to any condition of stay in Hong Kong after discharge.

In 2013, a daily average of about 4,639 persons were engaged in productive work, providing government departments and subvented bodies with a wide range of goods and services. These include office furniture, uniforms, leather products, hospital linen, filter masks, fibreglass litter containers, traffic signs, precast concrete products and metal products, laundry services for hospitals and clinics, book binding for public libraries, printing work, file jackets and envelopes. The market value of these goods and services plus other domestic work and services provided by the CSD, was \$379.5 million in 2013.

Welfare and Counselling Services

Rehabilitation Officers look after the welfare of persons in custody, and help them deal with personal problems arising from their detention or imprisonment. They conduct individual and group counselling sessions and assist in running various rehabilitation programmes and services such as pre-release reintegration orientation courses, making arrangements for the persons in custody to meet their family members and supplying them with information on community resources.

Drug Addiction Treatment

The CSD runs a compulsory treatment programme for convicted drug addicts, which is an alternative to imprisonment. Young addicts aged between 14 and 20 are accommodated separately from the adults, but the length of treatment is the same and includes two to 12 months in-centre treatment, followed by one-year statutory supervision.

Medical Services

Most of the correctional facilities have a hospital to provide persons in custody with primary medical treatment, health care and dental services. Persons in custody who need specialist treatment are referred to visiting specialists or specialist outpatient clinics of the Hospital Authority or the Department of Health.

Psychological Services

Psychological services are provided to persons in custody to improve their psychological well-being and to change their offending behaviour. Clinical psychologists and trained officers provide special treatment programmes for sex offenders, violent offenders, offenders with drug addiction problems, and young persons and women in custody. They also provide assessment reports to the courts, review boards and institutional management on request. The CSD has adopted an empirically-based protocol and clinical measures for assessing the offender's risk of re-offending upon discharge.

Supervision Services

Statutory supervision is provided to young persons discharged from custody, people discharged from training, rehabilitation, detention and drug addiction treatment centres, those discharged under the Release Under Supervision, Pre-release Employment and Post-release Supervision schemes, and those discharged under a conditional release order or post-release supervision order. The aim of supervision is to help those supervised reintegrate into society. Any breach of the supervision conditions may result in recall for a further period of training, treatment or imprisonment.

In 2013, 2,124 persons were discharged under supervision and 1,180 people were recalled for breach of supervision conditions. Including those discharged in previous years and yet to complete their supervision, there were 2,251 people under the CSD's supervision at the end of 2013.

Community Support

Community acceptance and support are paramount to an offender's rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders is a non-statutory advisory body appointed by the Commissioner of Correctional Services to advise on rehabilitation programmes as well as strategies on reintegration and publicity. It comprises community leaders and professionals from various sectors and representatives of non-governmental organisations and government departments. The CSD also organises a variety of publicity activities to appeal for public support for rehabilitated offenders.

Information Technology and Management Services

The CSD continues to enhance the quality and efficiency of prison management and offender rehabilitation services through appropriate use of new technologies.

Visiting Justices

Justices of the Peace visit each penal institution fortnightly or monthly, depending on the type of facility. The Justices of the Peace receive and investigate complaints from persons in custody, inspect their diets and examine the living and working conditions in the facilities.

Quality Assurance

To uphold and continuously improve the department's service standards, CSD initiates enhancements through regular inspections and management studies.

Complaints

The Complaints Investigation Unit handles and investigates complaints in relation to the department's work. All investigation reports are scrutinised by the CSD Complaints Committee. Persons in custody may also lodge complaints with any CSD senior officer or duty officer, or through other channels such as the visiting Justices of the Peace, the Ombudsman and Legislative Councillors.

Customs and Excise Department

The Customs and Excise Department is responsible primarily for the collection of revenue on dutiable goods, prevention of duty evasion, suppression of drug trafficking and abuse, prevention and detection of smuggling of contraband, and protection of intellectual property rights. The department also enforces legislation to protect consumer interests, safeguard and facilitate legitimate trade and industry, uphold Hong Kong's trading integrity and fulfill relevant international obligations. At year-end, its establishment was about 5,840 staff. (See also Chapter 5).

Revenue Collection

The Customs and Excise Department is responsible for the collection of excise duties derived from dutiable commodities stipulated in the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance: liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil and methyl alcohol. During the financial year 2012-13, the excise duties collected amounted to \$8.98 billion, of which 59.2 per cent was from tobacco, 36.4 per cent from hydrocarbon oil, 4.3 per cent from liquor and 0.1 per cent from methyl alcohol and other alcohol products, representing a total increase of 16.2 per cent over 2011-12.

The department also assesses the taxable values of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles (First Registration Tax) Ordinance for the purpose of levying first registration tax. In 2013, the department registered 128 motor traders, assessed the provisional taxable value of 67,652 vehicles and re-assessed 16,213 of them, resulting in the collection of \$8.12 billion first registration tax by the Transport Department.

Revenue Control

The department administers a licensing and permit system to control the manufacture, import, export, storage and movement of dutiable commodities. It ensures that no dutiable commodities, whether imported or locally manufactured, are released for local consumption unless full duty has been paid.

Revenue Protection

The department strengthened the manpower of the Telephone Order Task Unit from 15 to 26 officers in April 2013 to take enforcement action against telephone orders and online sale of illicit cigarettes. In 2013, there were 1,995 cases involving smuggling, storage, distribution and peddling of illicit cigarettes (a decrease of 12.2 per cent compared with 2012) and 85.8 million sticks of illicit cigarettes were seized.

In 2013, 9,162 people were fined under the Compounding Scheme for abuse of duty-free cigarette concessions (an increase of 6.1 per cent compared with 2012), involving 3.3 million sticks of cigarettes.

The department continues co-operating with overseas customs administrations to stamp out transnational cigarette smuggling. In 2013, by monitoring suspicious shipments and through intelligence exchange, the department's efforts led to the seizure of eight million sticks of illicit cigarettes and 4,500 kilograms of illicit tobacco by overseas enforcement authorities.

The department takes sustained action to stamp out illicit fuel activities. In 2013, it solved 84 illicit fuel cases, arrested 103 people and seized 47,000 litres of illicit fuel. The number of cases was 55.6 per cent less than that of 2012.

Anti-narcotics Operations

The department continues to take vigorous enforcement action to prevent and suppress the unlawful manufacture, distribution and trafficking of dangerous drugs; to trace, confiscate and recover drug proceeds from illegal drug activities; and to prevent the diversion of chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of dangerous drugs. It also maintains close co-operation and

exchange of intelligence with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking.

In 2013, the department dealt with 231 drug trafficking cases and smashed 10 drug storage and distribution centres and one drug manufacturing and attenuating centre, seizing 445 kilograms of assorted dangerous drugs² and arresting 442 people. Between August and October, the department foiled three significant drug trafficking attempts at Hong Kong International Airport and seized a total of 77 kilograms of cocaine, including the single largest haul of drugs (48 kg) seized from an individual passenger. In addition, co-operation with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies resulted in the seizure of 42 kilograms of assorted dangerous drugs in the Mainland and overseas.

As part of the government's vigorous efforts to combat youth drug abuse, the department strengthened enforcement at boundary control points by stepping up checks on cross boundary coaches and private vehicles, deploying more detector dogs and plainclothes officers in operations, exchanging intelligence and mounting parallel operations with its Mainland counterparts. It also collaborated with non-governmental organisations to encourage young people to stay away from drugs and to lead a healthy life.

Anti-smuggling Operations

Smuggling carried out across the Hong Kong-Mainland boundary remains an enforcement concern. In 2013, 232 Hong Kong-Mainland smuggling attempts were detected, with 221 people arrested and \$511 million worth of smuggled goods seized. Computer parts, mobile phones and accessories were the main items smuggled into the Mainland. Cigarettes, which are cheaper in the Mainland, and counterfeit goods were often smuggled into Hong Kong.

The department collaborates with other law enforcement agencies to combat smuggling activities through exchange of intelligence and the mounting of parallel operations. The department works closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to detect and prevent the smuggling of food and animals.

Fire Services Department

The Fire Services Department (FSD) fights fires, protects life and property in the event of fires and other calamities, provides emergency ambulance services, and formulates and enforces fire safety policies and measures. The department has 9,347 uniformed and 695 civilian members and has well-trained personnel, advanced communications systems, and modern equipment and appliances.

Fire-fighting and Rescue

Of the 36,773 fire calls received in 2013, 11 were classified as major fires of No 3 alarm and above. Careless handling of lighted items or accidents in the process of cooking were the major cause of fires, accounting for 1,607 cases. Careless handling or disposal of lighted materials, such

² Not including 312 kg of Khat which contained substances subject to control under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.

as cigarette ends, matches and candles caused 1,043 fires, while electrical faults caused 767 fires. Unwanted alarms, triggered mainly by faulty automatic alarm systems, contributed to about 74 per cent of the total number of fire calls.

The department also provides a wide range of rescue services for incidents such as traffic accidents, shipwrecks, people trapped in elevators or locked in rooms, gas leakages, house collapses, flooding, landslides, industrial accidents and attempts by people to jump from heights. The department handled 31,115 such special service calls in 2013.

Ambulance Services

The Ambulance Command handled 720,179 calls in 2013, an average of 1,973 calls per day.

The department's ambulance fleet is manned by paramedics. All emergency ambulances and emergency medical assistant motorcycles are fully equipped with life-support equipment such as automated external defibrillators and selected drugs for conditions including diabetes, shock, heart attack, shortness of breath and drug overdose. To enhance the emergency ambulance service, the department provides simple Post Dispatch Advice (PDA) by phone on some easily identified conditions (general bleeding, bone fractures/dislocation to limbs, burns, convulsion, heat exposure and hypothermia) after dispatching an ambulance to the scene. The PDA includes simple first-aid and time-saving advice to facilitate the provision of prompt medical assistance to patients.

The department continues to train front-line firemen to become first responders to provide basic life-saving support to casualties and patients while ambulance crews are on their way to the scene. In 2013, first responders attended to 42,047 calls.

Communications

The Fire Services Communications Centre, manned round-the-clock and equipped with the Third Generation Mobilising System, is responsible for mobilising all fire-fighting and ambulance resources to provide timely fire and ambulance services to the community. The centre also receives complaints about fire hazards and dangerous goods and acts as an emergency co-ordinator for other government departments and public utilities during large-scale emergencies or major calamities.

The use of Digital Trunked Radio System ensures effective and efficient radio communication at scenes of incidents.

Fire Safety

The Fire Safety Command draws up fire safety policies and formulates fire safety measures for buildings and mass transit systems. It also devotes much of its efforts to upgrading arrangements and procedures to protect old buildings from fire and to raise awareness of fire safety. The command's two Building Improvement Divisions enforce the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and investigate reports of fire hazards in buildings. The Special Enforcement Unit conducts proactive inspections of old buildings and takes enforcement action against irregularities.

A Building Fire Safety Envoy Scheme trains owners or occupiers of buildings and staff of property management companies as envoys to help promote fire safety in buildings. At the end of 2013, 4,006 envoys had been trained.

The New Projects Division, in collaboration with the Buildings Department and other departments, vets new and amended building plans, including those for the mass transit system, tunnels, bridges and the airport. It also defines the fire protection needs of certain premises. In 2013, the division vetted 13,005 buildings plans.

The Railway Development Strategy Division scrutinises the railway infrastructure's fire safety requirements and carries out acceptance inspections of fire service installations of new railway projects. To encourage consistent fire safety design for new railway infrastructure, the department maintains a set of guidelines incorporating the latest fire safety measures and taking international standards and local experience into account. A bilingual version of the Guidelines on Formulation of Fire Safety Requirements for New Railway Infrastructures was published in September 2013.

The Support Division formulates, reviews and updates departmental policies on improving fire safety in buildings and strengthening public understanding of the need for fire safety. The division collaborated with Radio Television Hong Kong in producing a new series of the weekly radio programme, Happy Daily, in 2013 to enhance public knowledge of fire and ambulance services. A TV programme, aimed at promoting public awareness of domestic fire safety and to prevent hill-fires, was produced in October 2013. At the launch of the 2013 Fire Prevention Campaign, appreciation certificates were presented to village representatives from villages with no hill-fires during the Ching Ming Festival in April 2013.

By the end of 2013, 133,730 people had been trained as Fire Safety Ambassadors (FSA) and 343 community leaders appointed as FSA Honorary Presidents.

The Licensing and Certification Command formulates and enforces fire safety policies and regulations. The command supports the government's 'Be the Smart Regulator' Programme to improve business friendliness, efficiency and transparency without compromising fire safety. It also takes enforcement action against fire hazards in licensed/registered premises to enhance public fire safety.

The Fire Service Installations Task Force monitors the status of fire service installations (FSI) in all buildings and continues to strengthen public awareness of the need to maintain FSI in efficient working order. In 2013, 112,727 FSI inspections were made and 2,313 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices were issued. Legal action was taken against six owners of defective FSI and three FSI contractors for regulatory contraventions.

The department adopts a four-pronged approach (publicity, enforcement, checking and partnership) to tackle fire hazards in old buildings proactively and comprehensively. In 2013, this approach was applied to 23 buildings and it has been applied to a total of 163 target buildings since 2008.

To enhance fire safety of old buildings, FSD and the Buildings Department have commenced a joint operation to inspect the common means of escape of about 6,500 target buildings and take enforcement action to eradicate potential fire hazards. By the end of 2013, 5,310 target buildings had been inspected. Other irregularities such as change of land use were also referred to relevant departments for follow-up.

The department continues to promote fire safety awareness among owners, occupiers and property management staff of industrial buildings and takes enforcement action in those buildings.

Appliances and Equipment

The department has 972 fire appliances, ambulances and supporting vehicles and 21 fireboats to provide fire-fighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services.

New Development

The department continues to plan and build fire stations and ambulance depots to cope with the city's continuing development and growing service needs, and to adhere to the government's policy of providing the fastest response possible to emergencies. In July, the new Kai Tak Fire Station at Cheung Yip Street came into operation.

The Fire Services Training School in Pat Heung has been in use since 1968. To meet advances in technology and fire-fighting and rescue techniques, construction of a new Fire Services Training School at Pak Shing Kok, Tseung Kwan O, is under way and is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

Public Liaison Group

A public liaison group comprising 30 members of the public from different walks of life, appointed annually, encourages public participation in monitoring and improving the delivery of emergency fire and ambulance services.

Government Flying Service

The Government Flying Service (GFS) provides a wide range of flying services, including round-the-clock search and rescue coverage, casualty and medical evacuation, fire fighting and support for other government departments.

The GFS has an establishment of 170 disciplined and 57 civilian staff, and operates a fleet of four fixed-wing aircraft and seven helicopters. In 2013, it flew a total of 6,272 hours, assisted in 496 search and rescue operations and transported 2,040 people to hospitals by helicopters. It also flew 9,172 government officers and official visitors in the course of their duties and visit programmes. In addition, auxiliary flying doctors and nurses flew a total of 468 hours in 637 operations.

Immigration Department

Immigration Control

The Immigration Department plays an important role in maintaining law and order by controlling entry into Hong Kong. Through checks at control points and the vetting of entry applications, immigration officers detect undesirable people, including international criminals and dubious visitors. In 2013, 37,105 undesirable people were refused permission to enter Hong Kong.

Detection of Forged Travel Documents

Strict measures are taken to guard against the use of forged travel documents and the department carries out special operations against forgery syndicates. The department discovered 765 forged travel documents during the year, compared with 688 in 2012. The department maintains close contact with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and consulates, and exchanges information about these documents with them.

Interception of Target or Wanted Persons

In 2013, 326,883 targeted or wanted persons were intercepted at immigration control points, suspected of being connected with offences or court orders ranging from failure to settle outstanding fines to serious crimes.

Unlawful Employment

The Immigration Department's Anti-Illegal Workers Combat Squad combats illegal employment, conducting undercover patrols at illegal worker black spots. In 2013, 6,052 illegal workers were arrested in 13,708 raids, compared with 5,849 arrested in 13,701 raids in 2012. The vast majority of illegal workers were visitors who had breached their conditions of stay.

Illegal workers are fined and/or jailed before being sent back to their places of origin. Their employers are also liable to be prosecuted. In 2013, a total of 362 charges were laid against employers of illegal workers.

Deportation and Removal

The Immigration Department processes deportation and removal orders. In 2013, 7,579 people convicted of offences punishable with imprisonment for not less than two years were considered for deportation, and 581 were deported. Another 756 were removed from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), comprising 90 illegal immigrants and 666 people who had breached their conditions of stay.

Investigation and Prosecution of Immigration Offenders

During 2013, 5,532 charges were laid against people who had committed various immigration offences, including remaining illegally in Hong Kong, breaching conditions of stay, making false statements or representations, and using or possessing forged travel documents.

Illegal immigrants or persons subject to removal or deportation orders are prohibited under section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance from taking up employment, whether paid or unpaid, and 155 people were prosecuted under that provision in 2013.

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Hong Kong prides itself on its clean government, a society intolerant of corruption, and a level playing field for business. The Heritage Foundation's 2013 Index of Economic Freedom recognised 'a strong tradition of minimum tolerance of corruption' in Hong Kong, while the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index found corruption is considered one of the least problematic factor for doing business in the territory. Of 177 places polled, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 ranked Hong Kong the 15th least corrupt.

A holistic strategy of enforcement, prevention and education keeps corruption well under control. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) fights corruption impartially and effectively. Its independent status is guaranteed under the Basic Law.

In 2013, the ICAC received 2,652 corruption complaints (excluding election-related complaints), a decrease of 33 per cent from 2012. Among these complaints, 62 per cent concerned the private sector while government departments and public bodies respectively took up 30 and 8 per cent. A number of cases involving senior officials and prominent businessmen attracted considerable attention in 2013 and demonstrated that the ICAC enforces the law without fear or favour, regardless of the rank and status of those involved.

The 2013 ICAC Annual Survey found 95.3 per cent of respondents expressed support for the ICAC. The average corruption tolerance level remained low, with a mean score of 0.8 (with 0 representing total rejection and 10 representing total acceptance). The percentage of respondents willing to report corruption increased steadily from 75.9 per cent in 2010 to 80.6 per cent in 2013.

Enforcement

At year's end, 1,519 cases, including 345 related to elections, were under investigation. In 2013, 220 people were prosecuted and 28 were cautioned for minor offences on the advice of the Department of Justice. Prosecutions of major public interest included cases involving alleged corruption and misconduct by senior government officers, corrupt and illegal conduct at elections, and commercial fraud facilitated by corruption. Of the completed prosecutions, 81 per cent of cases resulted in convictions.

Most of the 559 election-related complaints received in 2013 related to the 2011 Election Committee Subsector Elections and the 2012 Legislative Council Election. To date, 48 persons have been convicted of offences relating to the 2011 District Council Election.

Prevention and Education

In 2013, corruption prevention guides were tailor-made for food assistance service providers (commonly known as 'food banks'), the Chinese medicine profession and the banking industry, and an e-learning package on law and professional ethics was produced for banking practitioners. To assist those conducting cross-boundary business, the ICAC distributed a guidebook on anti-corruption laws in Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao to small and medium enterprises through a network of business chambers and associations.

As building maintenance attracted numerous corruption complaints, and as such projects were expected to increase following the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, an updated Building Maintenance Toolkit was launched for property owners, owners' corporations and property management companies.

The ICAC continued to provide free corruption prevention advice to private organisations upon request on a confidential basis. Sixty-three detailed studies were undertaken to assist government departments and public bodies to reduce corruption risks and advice was offered on matters including new policies, laws and procedures on 575 occasions. A guide on civil servants' conduct and discipline, and reference material on the prevention and handling of conflicts of interest were distributed and workshops were organised for government Ethics Officers.

On the youth front, activities included a micro-film festival, an 'iTeen' Leadership Programme and interactive drama performances. All tertiary education institutions participated in the ICAC Ambassador Programme, and a Youth Integrity Project was launched.

New ICAC publicity initiatives in 2013 included an advertising campaign with the theme 'a clean future for our next generation' and an ICAC smart phone app. The ICAC's mobile exhibition vehicle continued to tour Hong Kong.

In 2013, the ICAC's Centre of Anti-Corruption Studies organised a regional seminar attended by over 200 experts, academics, professionals and government officials from Hong Kong and the Mainland. The ICAC Commissioner visited relevant government bodies and international organisations in the United States and the ICAC attended meetings of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

Checks and balances

Apart from judicial supervision, the work of the ICAC is subject to the scrutiny of four independent committees — the Advisory Committee on Corruption, the Operations Review Committee, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations. The committee chairmen host an annual press conference to account for their work in overseeing the ICAC.

All complaints, whether pursuable or not, must be reported to the Operations Review Committee for scrutiny. No investigations can be written off without that committee's endorsement.

An independent ICAC Complaints Committee, comprising members of the Legislative Council and prominent members of the community appointed by the Chief Executive, monitors and reviews all non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its officers.

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance

The Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance provides a statutory regime for the authorisation and regulation of interception of communications and covert surveillance

conducted by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to prevent or detect serious crime and protect public security. The Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance is an independent oversight authority, appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

The commissioner is assisted by a secretariat in performing his statutory duties, which include overseeing and conducting reviews of the compliance by LEAs and their officers with the ordinance's relevant requirements; carrying out examinations upon application from persons who suspect that they are subjects of interception or covert surveillance conducted by LEAs; giving notifications to those affected in cases of interception or covert surveillance without the authority of a prescribed authorisation; and making recommendations to the Secretary for Security on the code of practice issued under the ordinance and to the heads of LEAs to better carry out the objects of the ordinance and the provisions of the code of practice.

The commissioner submits annual reports to the Chief Executive with statistical information and the commissioner's assessment of the overall compliance with the ordinance's requirements during the year. The annual report for 2012 was submitted to the Chief Executive in June 2013 and tabled in the Legislative Council in November 2013.

Narcotics Division

The Security Bureau's Narcotics Division (ND) co-ordinates policies and measures to combat the drug problem. It also oversees anti-money laundering measures relating to the detection of physical cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments and the regulation of designated non-financial businesses and professions on customer due diligence and record-keeping requirements.

Overall Strategy and Co-ordination

The government adopts a five-pronged strategy in fighting drug abuse. It involves preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, external co-operation, and research.

The Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), a non-statutory body, advises the government on anti-drug strategies. Chaired by a non-official, ACAN comprises 17 non-official members from the medical, legal, education, media, business, community and social service sectors, and six official members (the Commissioner for Narcotics and representatives from the Education Bureau, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Department of Health, the Customs and Excise Department and the Social Welfare Department). Under a reciprocal appointment arrangement between Singapore and Hong Kong, the Director of Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau also sits on the committee. ACAN has two subcommittees: on preventive education and publicity; and on treatment and rehabilitation.

Preventive Education and Publicity

The ND continued to adopt 'Stand Firm! Knock Drugs Out!' as the main theme for anti-drug preventive education and publicity initiatives in 2013. In collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong, it launched a territory-wide campaign against youth drug abuse. Initiatives

included the launch of an anti-drug website, radio programmes featuring celebrities and former drug users, a musical and a large-scale event at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Sha Tin Racecourse in June to launch the campaign.

To enhance public awareness of the harm caused by drugs and encourage young people to refuse drugs, anti-drug messages were promoted through different media including television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest, a video-sharing website, and advertisements on mobile, online communication platforms and websites.

The ND enhanced the '186 186' anti-drug hotline to provide 24-hour service manned by professional social workers to provide an additional channel for people with drug problems to seek help early. Where necessary, cases are referred to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for treatment and rehabilitation services.

To enable the community to play a more active role in drug prevention, early identification and intervention, the ND launched the Anti-drug Community Awareness Building Programme providing a grant of \$3.6 million from the Beat Drugs Fund to 18 districts to support anti-drug activities.

The ND also continued to work with the Education Bureau to provide support for schools to conduct drug education programmes for students and provide structured professional training for school personnel to equip them with drug knowledge and skills to identify and offer early assistance to at-risk students.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre continued to be a focal point for promoting anti-drug education. In 2013, it received 32,988 visitors, including students, youth groups, district bodies, community organisations, overseas delegations, parent-teacher associations and uniformed groups.

Drug Testing

The government makes vigorous efforts to foster an anti-drug culture in schools and help young people understand the evils of drugs and resist temptation.

Following the success of the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, the government introduced the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component in the 2011-12 school year as a sustained, territory-wide, initiative. This is a school-based preventive education programme aimed at fostering students' resistance against the temptation of drugs. In 2013-14, 63 schools and 16 NGOs volunteered to implement the programme.

In September 2013, ACAN launched a four-month public consultation exercise on the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme (RDT). Under the proposed scheme, authorised and trained law enforcement officers would be empowered to require a person to undergo drug testing when there are reasonable grounds, based on strong circumstantial evidence, to suspect that the person has taken drugs. RDT would be an additional measure to help identify drug abusers as early as possible and to refer them to counselling and treatment programmes. This would help

to prevent serious or even irreversible impact on their health. The primary objective is to help those with drug problems, rather than to seek to punish them. ACAN will summarise the views received and make recommendations for the government's consideration.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

A variety of treatment and rehabilitation services is available to drug abusers with different needs. Major services include a compulsory drug treatment programme run by the Correctional Services Department, voluntary residential programmes run by NGOs in 40 centres, a voluntary methadone outpatient treatment programme operated by the Department of Health (DH), substance abuse clinics at all seven hospital clusters of the Hospital Authority, 11 counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers run by NGOs, and two centres for drug counselling.

The ND continued to implement and monitor the 'Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong' published in 2012. The plan sets out key recommendations for the development of these services between 2012 and 2014, and emphasises the importance of ensuring that treatment and rehabilitation measures complement other elements of the anti-drug strategy.

Legislation and Enforcement

The ND and relevant departments closely monitor the changing drug scene and regularly review existing laws to meet any emerging threat. The Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department and the DH take action against drug crimes: 748 kilograms and 119,851 tablets of dangerous drugs were seized in 2013 and 5,984 persons were arrested for drug-related offences.

Drug Abuse, Statistics and Trends

The Central Registry of Drug Abuse compiles statistics on drug abuse, collating information about drug abusers from a wide network of reporting agencies, including law enforcement departments, youth outreaching teams, treatment and rehabilitation agencies, hospitals and clinics.

In 2013, some 10,069 drug abusers were recorded in the registry, of which 25 per cent were new cases, 12 per cent were aged under 21, and 81 per cent were males. Heroin continued to be the most commonly abused drug in Hong Kong, with 51 per cent of drug abusers recorded in the registry being heroin abusers. The proportion of psychotropic substance abusers has grown greatly over the years, reaching 61 per cent in 2013, and 97 per cent of reported drug abusers under the age of 21 abused psychotropic substances. Commonly abused psychotropic substances by all age groups included ketamine (28 per cent), ice (18 per cent) and triazolam/midazolam/zopiclone (11 per cent). In 2013, about 22 per cent of drug abusers were reported to have abused more than one drug.

Fifty-two per cent took drugs only in their own homes or in friends' homes and 29 per cent at both homes and other places such as recreation areas, public gardens, public toilets and discos or karaoke halls, while the remaining 19 per cent took drugs wherever convenient. Five per cent of drug abusers were reported to have taken drugs in the Mainland, mostly in Shenzhen.

External Co-operation

Hong Kong supports international and Mainland action against drug abuse and drug trafficking and participates in a number of anti-drug related international and regional meetings and seminars. Three international anti-drug conventions, which provide a treaty-based framework for international co-operation to address the drug problem, apply to Hong Kong: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the Protocol of 1972, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In March, as members of the Chinese delegation, representatives from the ND, the Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department, the DH and the Social Welfare Department took part in the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna.

Research

Drug-related research studies assist the government's formulation of anti-drug strategies and programmes. The findings of a survey of drug use among students from upper primary to post-secondary conducted in the 2011-12 school year were released in 2013 and reaffirm the downward trend of drug-taking among students. However, hidden youth drug abuse continues to develop as about half of drug-taking students took drugs at home and the homes of friends and about 80 per cent never sought help. Three new research projects were launched in 2013 and seven existing research projects on various aspects of drug abuse continued.

The Beat Drugs Fund

With a capital base of \$3.35 billion, the Beat Drugs Fund aims to support community efforts to combat drug abuse through financing worthwhile community anti-drug projects, assisting drug treatment and rehabilitation centres to meet their statutory licensing requirements and supporting schools in implementing the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component.

In 2013, the fund approved about \$78 million to support 41 anti-drug projects/programmes.

Action Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

Hong Kong is committed to fighting money laundering and terrorist financing and has a robust system to combat these activities. Hong Kong is a member of the Financial Action Task Force, the international anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) standard setter, and is a founding member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau co-ordinates the overall AML/CFT policies, while the ND is responsible for implementing a system to detect cross-border transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments, as well as the formulation of customer due diligence and record-keeping requirements in respect of the designated non-financial businesses and professions, including lawyers, accountants, estate agents, trust and company service providers and dealers in precious metals and precious stones.

Government Laboratory

The Government Laboratory's Forensic Science Division provides a comprehensive forensic service to the criminal justice system in Hong Kong. It has two operational groups, the Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group and the Criminalistics and Quality Management Group.

The Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group examines cases in three areas:

- 1) Abused drugs. The number of examined cases was similar to that of 2012, with ketamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, cannabis and benzodiazepines, in descending order of encounters, contributing 87 per cent of the cases examined.
- 2) Urinalysis and analysis of blood and urine for drink-driving and drug-driving cases, hair drug testing to support the Healthy School Programme and toxicological examination. Compared to 2012, the demand for urinalysis, drink-driving, drug-driving and hair drug testing remained steady. The toxicological examination service seeks to ascertain the presence or otherwise of drugs and poisons where they are implicated in suspicious deaths and criminal offences.
- 3) The routine examination of handwriting and documents. The group also offers technical advice and testing to the Immigration Department in respect of the quality of HKSAR e-passports and identity cards. In 2013, the Hong Kong Identity Card continued to be the most commonly forged document, followed by foreign travel visas and Mainland travel documents.

The Criminalistics and Quality Management Group provides a wide range of support services to the law enforcement agencies. These include laboratory analysis of trace evidence retrieved from crime exhibits, such as paint and glass fragments and textile fibres by chemical means, and physical examination of tool-marks and shoeprints. A 24-hour, on-site service helps relevant agencies to investigate and collect evidence in suspicious fires, traffic accidents and violent crimes with blood spattering. The group also provides DNA analysis for biological exhibits. The DNA profiles generated are compared at two levels: first, those from convicted offenders, suspects and volunteers are compared with outstanding DNA profiles of crime exhibits in unsolved cases for a possible match, and second, outstanding DNA profiles of exhibits from different unsolved cases are compared amongst themselves for possible connections. In 2013, urgent DNA analysis performed in a tragic accident overseas involving Hong Kong travellers helped timely victim identification. In addition, the group carried out genetic tests for the Immigration Department in relation to right of abode applications, handling slightly more than in 2012.

Civil Aid Service

The Civil Aid Service (CAS) is a government auxiliary emergency service, established under the Civil Aid Service Ordinance. It has an establishment of 3,634 adult members, 3,232 cadets and 103 civil servants.

CAS members are trained to perform duties during various emergency situations such as typhoons, flooding and landslides. In 2013, CAS members were mobilised for three rescue operations during tropical cyclones and floods, 74 mountain search and rescue operations, and 13 vegetation fire-fighting operations. The CAS also provided emergency standby manpower during the passage of Typhoons Utor and Usagi in August and September respectively.

In response to the emergence of avian influenza A (H7N9) cases, CAS members were deployed on health surveillance duty at four boundary control points from April to October and December, and also assisted the Department of Health in managing the quarantine centre at Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung, in December.

The CAS endeavours to develop leadership potential and cultivate civic awareness among young people by recruiting those aged 12 to 17 into the CAS Cadet Corps. Besides participating in recreational activities, CAS cadets are taught various disciplines and skills, including foot drill, basic emergency rescue, crowd management, first aid and rock climbing. In 2013, the CAS Cadet Corps celebrated its 45th anniversary.

Websites

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance:

www.sciocs.gov.hk

Independent Commission Against Corruption: www.icac.org.hk

Security Bureau: www.sb.gov.hk (links to Disciplined Services)