

Chapter 9

Public Order

Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world and, in 2025, the law and order situation was stable. The Security Bureau and its disciplined services, through innovative technology, strive to provide the public with more convenient services and to enhance law enforcement capability, as well as the efficiency of rescue operations.

The Security Bureau is responsible for security-related policies, including the maintenance of law and order, exercising immigration and customs control, rehabilitating offenders and drug abusers, and providing emergency fire and rescue services.

Fight Crime Committee

The Fight Crime Committee advises on ways to prevent and reduce crime, coordinates crime-fighting efforts and monitors their results. In 2025, it monitored the overall crime situation, the trend of commercial crime and technology crime, the progress of the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme, youth crime, the drug situation and the Correctional Services Department's publicity campaign for rehabilitated people. Its 2025-26 publicity strategy targets deception, drug abuse, burglary and theft, and promotes the law-abiding awareness of young people.

Working with the committee are 18 District Fight Crime Committees, which monitor the crime situation at the district level, reflect community concerns about law and order, and organise district publicity programmes to enhance crime prevention awareness.

Police Force

The Hong Kong Police Force is committed to maintaining law and order to ensure Hong Kong continues to be one of the world's safest and most stable cities. At the end of 2025, the police had about 33,000 and 4,600 police officer and civilian posts respectively, reinforced by some 3,400 volunteers serving in the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

Crime

In 2025, 89,137 crimes were recorded, a decrease of 5.9 per cent on the 94,747 in 2024. The crime rate dropped by 6 per cent to 1,189 cases per 100,000 population.

There were 8,823 violent crime cases, down 15.9 per cent year on year. Major crimes that recorded increases included homicide, missing motor vehicles and serious drug offences. Declines were recorded in most other major crimes, such as robbery, burglary, rape, indecent assault, wounding and serious assault, theft, criminal damage, blackmail, youth crimes and triad-related crimes. Among these, the number of robbery cases decreased by 26.7 per cent to 66 cases, while the number of burglary cases decreased by 33.1 per cent to 816. Both robbery and burglary figures were the lowest since records began in 1969. Their detection rates were the second highest on record, reaching 90.9 per cent and 41.1 per cent respectively.

Deception cases also showed a declining trend. In 2025, a total of 43,212 cases were recorded, representing a decrease of 2.9 per cent compared with 2024. The amount of losses dropped from approximately \$9.2 billion to about \$8.1 billion, a decline of 11.3 per cent.

Of the reported crimes, 30.3 per cent, or 27,004 cases, were detected. Excluding deception cases, the detection rate rose to 49.3 per cent. In 2025, a total of 31,082 individuals were arrested. Among them, 1,038 were aged between 10 and 15, while 1,624 were aged between 16 and 20. The majority of the juveniles detained were arrested for wounding and serious assault, deception or miscellaneous thefts.

The number of triad-related crimes decreased by 16.4 per cent year on year to 1,944, accounting for 2.2 per cent of all reported crimes in 2025. The police combat triad activities through enforcement actions and intelligence-led operations, targeting triad expansion and sources of income.

Commercial Crime

Working closely with the banks, the police's Anti-deception Coordination Centre intercepted around \$2.09 billion of crime proceeds from local and overseas accounts and successfully intervened in 4,060 ongoing deception cases in 2025. The average response time for processing stop-payment requests has been shortened to one hour. During the year, the Anti-Scam Helpline 18222 handled more than 110,000 enquiries.

Cyber Security and Technology Crime

The police combat technology crime through partnerships with the community, stakeholders and overseas law enforcement agencies. During the year, 31,571 technology crimes were reported, involving \$6.3 billion in losses. In October, the Scameter+ mobile application was upgraded with an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered analysis module, enabling faster and more accurate fraud alerts. Since its launch in 2022, Scameter+ has recorded more than 1.15 million downloads and issued more than 1.52 million scam and cybersecurity risk warnings to the public.

Through collaboration with the Office of the Communications Authority and Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the Scameter database is shared with telecommunications service providers, banks and stored value facility providers for issuing alerts, filtering, and blocking. The 'suspicious account alert' mechanism now covers all transactions made on the Faster Payment System, at bank branches or through e-banking and ATMs, as well as Payment Connect, which has been on trial since June, for cross-border remittances using Chinese Mainland mobile numbers as receiving accounts.

In October, the police took the lead to establish the Virtual Asset Intelligence Taskforce, a public-private collaboration platform comprising the Customs and Excise Department, HKMA, Securities and Futures Commission and licensed virtual asset service providers, to address emerging crime challenges posed by Web3 technologies.

Dangerous Drugs

The police tackle drug abuse and trafficking by seeking to reduce the supply and demand for drugs. They also maintain strategic partnerships with local, Chinese Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat international drug trafficking involving Hong Kong. During the year, 3,586 individuals were arrested for drug offences, mostly involving etomidate (23.5 per cent) and cocaine (16.4 per cent).

Financial Investigation

During the year, 923 individuals were convicted of money-laundering offences, with criminal assets of about \$261 million restrained and \$125 million confiscated. The police worked with the Department of Justice to seek longer sentences as appropriate in money-laundering cases

involving stooge accounts. During the year, 232 stooge account holders had their sentences extended by two to 18 months, representing a sentence increase of between 14.3 and 33.3 per cent.

Forensic Support

The police collect and compare fingerprints, examine firearms, take photographs and gather DNA evidence from crime scenes to support investigations and prosecutions. In 2025, fingerprint evidence linked 1,575 individuals to 1,283 criminal cases.

Liaison

The police have established a designated unit responsible for liaison with law enforcement agencies outside Hong Kong on crime investigation, mutual legal assistance, surrender of fugitive offenders, and notifications under the Reciprocal Notification Mechanism with the Chinese Mainland. As a sub-bureau of the Interpol National Central Bureau in China, the unit also deals with Interpol-related matters.

Counter-terrorism

The government set up the Three-tier Prevention Framework during the year, following its announcement in the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address. The framework's tiers are: the Chief Executive's Counter-terrorism Steering Group (CESG); the Secretary for Security Counter-terrorism Co-ordinating Group; and seven interdepartmental working groups. The aim is to strengthen counter-terrorism preparedness in various areas, including enhancing intelligence exchange, strengthening community prevention and control, raising public awareness, improving critical infrastructure security and optimising information security and technological applications.

Under the framework, the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit continued to advance the preparedness efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. In August, following the steer of the CESG, the unit conducted a large-scale interdepartmental counter-terrorism exercise at Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to strengthen coordination in responding to terrorist attacks. The exercise was broadcast live for the first time via television and online platforms to further raise public counter-terrorism awareness.

National Security

The National Security Department safeguards national security and is responsible for collecting and analysing intelligence, investigating offences endangering national security, conducting counter-interference operations and national security reviews, and carrying out national security education and publicity campaigns. The department operates a reporting hotline that has received more than 1.1 million pieces of information to date.

In 2025, 'safeguarding national security' and 'patriotism with affection for our country and Hong Kong' were incorporated into the police force's Vision, Common Purpose and Values, underscoring its shared commitment to national security.

Traffic

During the year, there were 17,320 traffic accidents involving casualties, of which 92 were fatal and 467 were serious. As compared with 2024, the figures represented 6 per cent fewer accidents involving casualties in total, 11 per cent more fatal accidents and 38 per cent fewer serious accidents.

The police launched the Traffic Penalty Ticket Digitalisation and eTraffic Ticket Platform on 15 June. These initiatives enhanced operational efficiency and provided the public with more convenient services. By the end of 2025, the platform had recorded more than 1.7 million user visits.

Public Events

Hong Kong residents have freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly and procession. The police endeavour to ensure that such events are conducted in a peaceful and lawful manner, while safeguarding national security, public order and safety through comprehensive risk assessments and deploying adequate resources for crowd management. In 2025, 16,560 public meetings and 371 public processions were held.

Major Events

With the commissioning of the Kai Tak Sports Park, Hong Kong hosted multiple international mega events during the year, and the police closely coordinated and collaborated with organisers and relevant stakeholders to ensure the events were conducted in a safe, orderly and secure manner.

Drone Policing

In May, the police launched the Pilot Scheme for 'Operational Deployment of Drones' in the Kowloon West Region and Border District, which enhanced the efficiency of patrol and optimised resource allocation. The scheme is expanding to the Peak, Cheung Chau and other regions, with a view to further enhancing the efficiency of police work.

Public Relations

In 2025, the police continued to strengthen communication and engagement with the media and public. Large-scale publicity events featuring anti-scam mascot the Little Grape were organised to educate the public on preventing scams and combating crime.

In addition to collaborating with traditional media outlets to produce television programmes and films, the police disseminated crime prevention information through various social media platforms, showcasing the positive image of the police.

Engaging the Community

A diverse range of activities were held in 2025, including the Junior Police Call Summer Camp, Junior Police Call Innovation and Technology Competition, Senior Police Call Share the Love, Senior Police Call Anti-deception and Health Campaign, and the Good Citizen Award Presentation Ceremony, to promote crime prevention awareness among all sectors of society.

To encourage public participation in combating animal cruelty, the police have implemented the Animal Watchers Programme to mobilise community resources, enhance reporting mechanisms and promote animal welfare awareness.

The annual 'Let's T.A.L.K. Child Protection Campaign' was launched in September, featuring a series of activities, including a multi-disciplinary seminar on tackling online child sexual grooming and a family-fun carnival, to spread the message of child protection throughout society.

Through initiatives including the Leadership Institute on Narcotics, the Interactive Anti-Drug Theatre and Anti-Drug Promotion Truck, the police continued to disseminate the message 'Drugs? Never, ever!' to the public, especially the youth, and raise their awareness of the dangers posed by emerging drugs such as etomidate.

To further strengthen crime detection and prevention through community partnerships, 102 SafeCity Ambassadors have been appointed since 2023, to work with the police to disseminate crime prevention messages, reaching more than 3.61 million people weekly through their networks.

Planning and Development

Several new police infrastructure projects entered their final stages during the year, including the Hong Kong Police College Integrated Training Centre (Kong Nga Po), the Vehicle Detention and Examination Centre (Hong Kong Island) at Chai Wan Government Complex and Vehicle Depot, and the Chek Lap Kok Operational Base at Hong Kong International Airport, all of which are scheduled for commissioning in 2026. Construction of the operational facilities at the new Huanggang Port building is also expected to be commissioned in 2026.

Information and Communications Technology

In August, the police launched the updated 'Hong Kong Police Mobile App' that integrates more than 50 police e-services and features the AI chatbot 'YesSir', enabling the public to access police services at all times. In addition, to ensure the safe and orderly conduct of the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games competitions, the police adopted multiple self-developed information and communications technology solutions to enhance operational efficiency.

Training

As a Programme Area Accreditation operator, the Police College operates its Qualifications Framework-recognised training programmes up to Level 5 for both new recruits and serving officers.

The college has collaborated with the School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, to provide an Executive Master of Public Administration programme since 2021. So far, five cohorts with a total of 148 police officers have been admitted.

The college continues to work with Chinese Mainland and overseas law enforcement and training institutions. In 2025, the college embarked on training exchanges to various countries,

including the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kazakhstan, with a memorandum of understanding signed with the academy, fostering collaboration in police training and development.

Complaints and Internal Investigations

Under the statutory two-tier police complaint handling system, the Complaints Against Police Office handles public complaints against the police and works with the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in performing its statutory functions and duties. The office received 2,010 reportable complaints in 2025, 8.3 per cent higher than in 2024. The police's Internal Investigations Office and Integrity Audit Action Group reinforce ethics and integrity in the force through education and cultural activities, governance and control, enforcement and deterrence, and reintegration and support.

Independent Police Complaints Council

The IPCC is an independent statutory body. Its members, appointed by the Chief Executive, are drawn from a wide spectrum of society. Its key functions are to:

- observe, monitor and review the police'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 to make recommendations accordingly;
- advise the Commissioner of Police and/or the Chief Executive of its opinions and/or recommendations in connection with reportable complaints; and
- promote public awareness of the role of the IPCC.

The IPCC administers the Observers Scheme. Observers are appointed by the Secretary for Security. IPCC members and observers may attend interviews and site visits to observe the collection of evidence in the police investigation of reportable complaints to ensure investigations are conducted fairly and impartially.

In 2025, the IPCC examined and endorsed the findings in 1,979 investigation reports on reportable complaints received during the year or carried forward from previous years, involving 2,706 allegations. Of these, 82 allegations were found to be substantiated, and the police have taken appropriate action against the officers involved.

Correctional Services Department

The Correctional Services Department runs programmes under two broad categories: prison management and rehabilitation of offenders.

As at 31 December, the department was managing 29 correctional facilities, with 6,263 staff managing 10,678 persons in custody and 1,153 people under statutory 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 male and female adults and young persons in custody. Young offenders aged between 14 and 20 may be admitted to a training or rehabilitation centre. The detention centre programme is designed for males aged between 14 and 24. Drug addicts found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment may be placed in a drug addiction treatment centre.

The diets of persons in custody follow approved scales of nutritional values and take into account 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, security ratings, personal experience and balance of sentence. They receive earnings, which may be used to buy canteen items, as an incentive to acquire good working habits and vocational skills. They can watch television and read newspapers and library books. They may send and receive letters, receive visits and take part in religious services.

The department has been developing smart prison technology to promote the modernisation of correctional facilities and enhance the efficiency of prison management, level of security and effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes. Further to the implementation of the General Visit e-Booking Service and the Approved Hand-in Articles e-Ordering Service, the department has rolled out the Video Visit e-Booking Service, offering an additional way to arrange to visit persons in custody.

Correctional Facilities

Among the 29 correctional facilities, nine are for adult males and two are for adult females. Young males are housed in one correctional institution, one detention centre, one training centre and two rehabilitation centres, while young females are accommodated in one correctional institution and two rehabilitation centres. Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, along with certain facilities in Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Lo Wu Correctional Institution and Lai King Correctional Institution, accommodates convicted drug addicts. Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre separately houses males and females of all categories who require psychiatric treatment or assessment. Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution are used for detaining adult males and females respectively under the Immigration Ordinance. Nine of the correctional facilities cater for remanded people of different age groups. Two wards in public hospitals accommodate persons in custody who need special medical care or surgery. Three halfway houses help those released under supervision reintegrate into society. Their residents may go out to work or attend school during daytime.

Number of Admissions

During the year, 9,671 adults (6,532 males and 3,139 females) were sentenced to imprisonment, 6,583 adults (4,984 males and 1,599 females) were remanded, 139 young persons (101 males and 38 females) were sentenced to imprisonment, and 331 young persons (263 males and 68 females) were remanded.

In addition, 151 offenders (128 males and 23 females) were sentenced to detention in the training centre, rehabilitation centres or the detention centre; 394 offenders (281 males and 113 females) were placed in drug addiction treatment centres; and 833 offenders (692 males and 141 females) were remanded pending suitability reports for sentencing to one of these centres. Besides, 274 males and 614 females were detained in Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution respectively under the Immigration Ordinance.

Pre-sentence Assessment

Young offenders and offenders with drug addictions who are sentenced to imprisonment may be remanded for up to three weeks to assess which correctional facility is suitable for them. The department's Rehabilitation Unit prepares suitability reports for the courts, while the Young Offender Assessment Panel, comprising Correctional Services Department and Social Welfare Department representatives, considers cases referred by the courts and recommends the most suitable rehabilitation programmes for young offenders.

In 2025, the unit recommended 217 males and 34 females for admission to a rehabilitation, training or detention centre, and 325 males and 136 females as suitable for a drug addiction treatment centre. The panel received 101 cases from the courts for assessment.

Training, Detention and Rehabilitation Centres

The training centre provides young persons in custody with correctional training for six months to three years, comprising half-day educational classes and half-day vocational training. They can also take part in a character development programme in the form of scouting and guiding. Upon release, they are subject to three-year statutory supervision.

At the detention centre, males aged between 14 and 20 go through one to six months of detention, and males aged between 21 and 24, three to 12 months. Its programmes incorporate counselling and emphasise strict discipline and a hard-working attitude. After release, they are placed under one-year statutory supervision.

The rehabilitation centres provide a sentencing option for the courts to deal with young offenders aged between 14 and 20 who need a short-term residential rehabilitation programme. Those released are put through one-year statutory supervision.

Drug Addiction Treatment

Convicted drug addicts undergo a compulsory treatment programme as an alternative to imprisonment. Young addicts aged between 14 and 20 are accommodated separately from the adults. They receive two to 12 months of on-site treatment followed by one year of statutory supervision.

Health Care

All correctional institutions have on-site hospitals with qualified personnel providing basic health care. Persons in custody who need specialist treatment are referred to visiting specialists or public hospitals.

Education

The department provides persons in custody under 21 with half-day education programmes, and assists adult persons in custody to participate in continuing education voluntarily. It also assists persons in custody to obtain accredited qualifications by taking public examinations. Those pursuing further studies may apply for financial help from the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund and other subsidy schemes.

The Ethics College, set up by the department, provides a one-year full-time Diploma of Applied Education programme for adult persons in custody, with 75 graduates in the academic year of 2024-25. Graduates of the diploma programme are offered a two-year full-time Associate of General Studies programme in distance-learning mode or a half-day part-time Associate of General Studies programme and half-day vocational training.

Vocational Training

Eligible adult persons in custody have the option of taking market-oriented vocational training courses that issue accredited and recognised qualifications. Persons in custody under 21 may take half-day vocational training programmes. Sixteen correctional facilities offered more than 40 full-time and part-time courses in 2025.

Correctional Services Industries

The department arranges work for adult persons in custody to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills to facilitate their reintegration into society.

In 2025, a daily average of 4,788 persons in custody were engaged in productive work, providing government departments, public bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with goods and services that included office furniture, uniforms, leather products, hospital linen, personal protective equipment, fibreglass products, traffic signs, envelopes, laundry, book binding and printing. The market value of these goods and services was \$448 million in 2025.

Welfare and Counselling

Rehabilitation officers handle the welfare of persons in custody and help them with personal problems arising from their detention or imprisonment. The officers provide counselling and rehabilitation programmes. Pre-release reintegration orientation courses supply information on community resources to help persons in custody reintegrate into society.

Psychological Services

The department provides psychological counselling services for persons in custody with a view to improving their mental health and institutional adjustment, as well as changing their offending behaviours. Clinical psychologists and trained Correctional Services Department officers provide treatments for sex offenders, violent offenders, drug addicts and young persons in custody, and implement gender-specific treatment programmes as well as animal-assisted therapies. They submit assessment reports to the courts, review boards and institutional management on request.

Multi-purpose family and rehabilitation service centres also provide psychological and counselling services for rehabilitated offenders and their families.

Targeted Rehabilitation Services

In 2025, the department launched the Jockey Club Project ReBond in collaboration with an NGO to provide one-stop rehabilitation services for persons in custody serving sentences of less than one year, covering both their incarceration and post-release periods, and to track and research their rehabilitation situation.

Research for Rehabilitation Services

The Correctional Rehabilitation Research Unit, through conducting relevant empirical research and professional exchange with international research experts and correctional counterparts, provides scientific insights for the strategic planning of rehabilitation policies and crime prevention to deliver effective rehabilitation services to persons in custody and supervisees.

Statutory Supervision

Statutory supervision aims to help supervisees reintegrate into society. It is provided to young persons discharged from custody, people discharged from training, rehabilitation, detention and drug addiction treatment centres, and those discharged under various statutory schemes. A breach of the supervision conditions may result in recall for a further period of training, treatment or imprisonment. At year-end, 1,153 people were under active statutory supervision.

Community Support

Community acceptance and support are paramount to an offender's rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The non-statutory Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders, appointed by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, advises on rehabilitation, reintegration and publicity measures. It comprises community leaders, professionals and representatives of NGOs and government departments.

Community Education

The Correctional Services Pioneer Project, previously known as the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project, encourages young people to safeguard their country and home, and stay away from crime and drugs. The project also supports offender rehabilitation through various community education programmes.

Visiting Justices

Two Justices of the Peace (JPs) visit each correctional institution fortnightly or monthly, depending on the type of facility. They receive and investigate complaints from persons in custody, inspect their diets and examine their living and working conditions.

Complaints

The department's Complaints Investigation Unit handles and investigates complaints related to the department. Investigation reports are examined by the Correctional Services Department Complaints Committee. A complainant dissatisfied with the investigation outcome may appeal to the Correctional Services Department Complaints Appeal Board. Persons in custody may

lodge complaints with any department officer or through other channels, such as the visiting JPs, the Ombudsman and Legislative Council members.

Customs and Excise Department

The Customs and Excise Department is committed to safeguarding national security and responsible for the collection of revenue on dutiable goods, prevention of duty evasion, suppression of drug trafficking and abuse, prevention and detection of smuggling, protection of intellectual property rights, combating money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, and regulation of money service operators and dealers in precious metals and stones. The department also enforces legislation to protect consumer interests, safeguard and facilitate legitimate trade and industry, uphold Hong Kong's trading integrity and fulfil relevant international obligations. At the year end, it had 7,516 posts.

Revenue Protection and Collection

The department collects excise duties from commodities stipulated in the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance: liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil and methyl alcohol. It administers a licensing and permit system to ensure that dutiable commodities, whether imported or locally manufactured, are only released for local consumption after full duty has been paid. During 2024-25, the department collected \$7.3 billion in excise duties, 33 per cent less than in 2023-24.

The department assesses the taxable values of motor vehicles according to the Motor Vehicle (First Registration Tax) Ordinance. In 2024-25, there were 50,648 first-registered motor vehicles, resulting in the collection of \$4.8 billion first registration tax by the Transport Department.

The Customs and Excise Department takes sustained enforcement action against illicit cigarette activities and cooperates with Chinese Mainland and overseas customs authorities to stamp out cross-boundary cigarette smuggling through intelligence exchange.

In 2025, the department detected 29,037 cases involving the smuggling, storage, distribution and peddling of illicit cigarettes, a 36 per cent increase from 2024, and seized 604 million illicit cigarettes, a 2 per cent decrease from 2024. Fines were imposed on 26,985 travellers, a year-on-year rise of 41 per cent, for bringing into Hong Kong a total of 3.39 million cigarettes in excess of their duty-free concession.

The department also acts to stamp out illicit fuel activities. In 2025, it detected 57 illicit fuel cases, arrested 53 people and seized 119,800 litres of illicit fuel. The number of cases increased 1.3 times compared with 2024.

Anti-narcotics Operations

The department takes robust 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. To combat cross-boundary drug trafficking, the department deploys officers and detector dogs at boundary control points, and maintains close cooperation, exchanges intelligence and mounts joint operations with local, Mainland

and overseas law enforcement agencies. A mechanism for communication and intelligence exchange with the logistics industry is in place to strengthen enforcement on the import and export of cargoes.

In 2025, the department dealt with 605 drug trafficking cases, smashed 21 drug storage and distribution centres and four manufacturing and attenuating centres, seized 7,523 kilograms of assorted dangerous drugs and arrested 416 people. Cross-boundary enforcement cooperation led to the seizures of 441kg of dangerous drugs and the arrest of 45 people in the Chinese Mainland and overseas.

As part of the government's efforts to combat youth drug abuse, the department works with NGOs to encourage young people to stay away from drugs and lead a healthy life.

Anti-smuggling Operations

Based on risk assessment, the department inspects cargoes imported and exported by air, land and sea; and examines passengers and their baggage at entry and exit points, so as to prevent and detect smuggling activities. During the year, 39,857 smuggling cases were detected, with 34,974 people arrested and \$8.2 billion worth of goods seized.

The department keeps abreast of smuggling trends and strengthens its enforcement efforts against the illicit import and export of goods accordingly. It also works with other law enforcement agencies to combat smuggling through intelligence exchange and joint operations.

Fire Services Department

The Fire Services Department fights fires and protects life and property in the event of fires and other calamities. The department also provides an emergency ambulance service, and formulates and enforces fire safety policies and measures. It plans and builds fire stations and ambulance depots to meet the territory's development and service needs and implement the government's policy of providing the fastest possible response to emergencies.

Its Fire and Ambulance Services Academy provides training services for the department and other public and private organisations, as well as its Chinese Mainland and overseas counterparts.

The department has well-trained personnel, advanced communications systems and modern equipment. As at end-December, it had 10,755 uniformed and 783 civilian posts, and operated 498 fire appliances, 570 ambulances, 245 supporting vehicles and 32 fire vessels.

Firefighting and Rescue

Of the 35,972 fire calls received in 2025, four were classified as major fires and triggered the No 3 alarm or above. Accidents while cooking were the major cause of fires, accounting for 1,395 cases. General electrical faults caused 1,066 fires, while the careless handling or disposal of lighted materials, such as cigarette ends, matches, joss sticks, joss papers and candles, caused

723 fires. Unwanted alarms, triggered mainly by faulty automatic alarm systems, made up 75 per cent of the total number of fire calls.

The department also provides rescue services for traffic accidents, shipwrecks, people trapped in lifts or locked in premises, leakages of gas or other hazardous materials, building collapses, floods, landslides, industrial accidents, people stranded on hillsides and attempts to jump from a height. It handled a total of 42,485 such calls in 2025.

Ambulance Service

The department's Ambulance Command operates a fleet of emergency ambulances, rapid response vehicles and emergency medical assistant motorcycles driven by paramedics. All vehicles are fully equipped with life-support equipment such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and selected drugs for conditions including diabetes, shock, heart attack, shortness of breath, convulsion, cardiac arrest, anaphylaxis and drug overdose. The command handled a daily average of 2,222 calls in 2025.

The department trains frontline firefighters to become first responders who can provide basic life support for casualties and patients before the arrival of an ambulance crew. In 2025, first responders responded to 41,011 cases.

Communications Centre

The 24-hour Fire Services Communications Centre mobilises firefighting and ambulance resources to provide timely services for the public. It also receives complaints about fire hazards and dangerous goods, and acts as an emergency coordinator for other government departments and public utilities during major emergencies. The centre provides post-dispatch advice to callers over the phone on more than 30 types of injuries and sicknesses, including burns, cardiac arrest, haemorrhage and childbirth, after dispatching ambulances. Callers receive immediate advice to help stabilise patients before an ambulance crew arrives.

At the scene of an incident, a digital trunked radio system is used to ensure effective and efficient radio communications.

Fire Safety

The Fire Safety Command draws up fire safety policies and formulates fire safety measures for buildings and mass transit systems. Its work includes upgrading fire safety in old buildings, initiating fire safety inspections and raising public awareness of emergency preparedness.

In 2025, the command vetted 12,632 building plans, including those for tunnels and bridges, handled 216 submissions in relation to fire engineering reports, and offered fire safety advisory services on 874 occasions concerning the development of Hong Kong International Airport.

On railway infrastructure projects, the command formulates fire safety requirements and recommendations, and scrutinises the associated consultancy study reports, building plans and technical drawings of fire service installations (FSIs). In 2025, the command handled 1,839 submissions and carried out 1,783 inspections of FSIs at railway stations, and of alterations, additions and extensive station improvement works for existing lines.

The Licensing and Certification Command regulates the manufacture, storage, conveyance and use of dangerous goods and takes enforcement action against related offences. In 2025, it issued or renewed 4,308 storage licences for dangerous goods or timber, and 1,732 dangerous goods vehicle licences. The command also works with other law enforcement agencies to combat illicit fuelling. During the year, the Anti-illicit Fuelling Activities Task Force carried out more than 2,000 inspections and 25 interdepartmental enforcement operations, seized more than 530,000 litres of fuel and instituted prosecution in 239 cases.

The command monitors the status of FSIs in buildings, handles complaints and oversees the professional standards of registered FSI contractors. In 2025, it conducted 83,742 compliance inspections of FSIs in new buildings and developments, and another 94,290 inspections of existing FSIs. It issued 3,845 fire hazard abatement notices against irregularities found and took 1,555 legal actions against, among others, owners of FSIs and registered FSI contractors for regulatory contraventions.

In addition, the command formulates and enforces fire safety policies for licensed premises and takes enforcement action against fire hazards. It advises licensing authorities on fire protection and carries out fire safety compliance certification relating to the licensing and registration of food premises, places of public entertainment, places of public amusement, converted schools, child care centres, massage establishments, private columbaria, electronic waste disposal facilities, drug treatment and rehabilitation centres and other types of premises. In 2025, it carried out 75,708 inspections of such premises and issued 1,416 fire hazard abatement notices, of which 100 resulted in prosecution.

The One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance was established in March to provide all-in-one services to enhance the overall efficiency of FSI acceptance inspections of new residential buildings and projects that facilitate business operations and benefit the public. Since the office's establishment, the FSI acceptance inspections for all regular scale projects were completed within the target timeframe of 35 working days for non-public housing projects and 22 working days for public housing projects.

Community Collaboration Network

The Community Collaboration Network, comprising the chairpersons of the 18 District Fire Safety Committees, facilitates the implementation of the department's policies and measures, and disseminates messages on fire safety and community emergency preparedness at the district level.

Resuscitation Alliance

The Resuscitation Alliance, comprising the Fire Services Department, Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS), Civil Aid Service (CAS), Hong Kong Red Cross, Hong Kong St John Ambulance, Hospital Authority, Resuscitation Council of Hong Kong, Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Hong Kong Foundation, and Hong Kong College of Cardiology, promotes community resuscitation. In October, two more organisations, the Scout Association of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Girl Guides Association, also joined the alliance. As of end-2025, around 247,000 citizens had completed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training and become alliance members.

Community Emergency Responder Scheme

The aim of the Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder Scheme is to further enhance the fire safety awareness and emergency response capability of the public. Apart from the conventional fire prevention education, the scheme also covers response capability in case of emergencies and the operation of AEDs and administration of CPR. The scheme enhances the emergency response capability of volunteers and deepens cross-sectoral collaboration with local organisations and enterprises.

Youth Development

The Fire and Ambulance Services Teen Connect (FAST Connect) uniformed group aims to help young people cultivate positive thinking, aspirations to serve the community, law-abiding awareness, discipline and team spirit through various activities. With a view to promoting this learning platform to more young people, FAST Connect has been expanding its membership to primary school students and promoting it in all 18 districts. Children of serving members of the department are also invited to join. As at end-2025, there were more than 2,000 members.

Government Flying Service

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

It has a staff of 270 disciplined and 61 civilian members. In 2025, members flew a total of 6,096 hours, helped in 556 search and rescue operations and took 2,044 people to hospitals by helicopter. By end-2025, it had three fixed-wing aircraft and nine helicopters for operations and flight training.

Immigration Department

The Immigration Department exercises immigration control, issues HKSAR identity cards and travel documents, handles nationality and residency matters, and registers births, deaths and marriages. It had 7,221 and 1,517 disciplined and civilian posts respectively at end-2025.

Immigration Control

In accordance with the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government exercises immigration control on entry into, stay in and departure from Hong Kong. Immigration officers conduct checks at control points and vet entry applications to detect undesirable people, including international criminals and dubious visitors. The entry of 32,002 people was refused in 2025.

Hong Kong welcomes visitors and adopts an open visa policy. People from about 170 countries and territories may visit Hong Kong visa-free for seven to 180 days. Around 335 million people entered and left the city in 2025, a rise of about 12 per cent from 2024.

The e-Channel is an electronic system installed at boundary crossings. It provides automated immigration clearance for Hong Kong residents, enrolled Consular Corps Identity Card holders and eligible visitors. The Smart Departure service allows eligible visitors holding electronic travel

documents to perform automated departure clearance through e-Channels without prior enrolment. In 2025, the department adjusted the eligible age for using e-Channel service to seven years old or above. Reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance services is in place with Australia, Germany, Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

The Contactless e-Channel for Hong Kong residents provides a faster and more convenient automated immigration clearance service. It allows enrolled residents to use their identity card or generate an encrypted QR code on their smartphone for self-service immigration clearance through facial verification technology, without touching any shared equipment throughout the process. Eligible Hong Kong and Macao residents can make use of the Mutual Use of QR Code between HKSAR and Macao SAR Clearance Service to generate a QR code before departure in order to use self-service immigration clearance on arrival.

Following the launch of the Flight Token e-Channel for Hong Kong residents at Hong Kong International Airport, the department launched the Face Easy e-Channel service in September. Eligible Hong Kong residents can complete the departure and arrival clearance by facing the cameras of the e-Channel for identity verification.

In November, the government further expanded the Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors to cover five new sectors, in addition to the original 12 designated sectors, with the addition of more authorised organisations and specified short-term activities. The scheme enables visitors invited by authorised host organisations to participate in specified short-term activities without an employment visa.

As at end-2025, 46,372 non-local talents had benefited, including those participating in the International Chinese New Year Night Parade, Asian Financial Forum, Hong Kong Sevens and other major events.

A self-service immigration clearance system utilising facial recognition technology was launched at four control points to provide highly efficient immigration clearance service to athletes and accompanying staff of the 15th National Games, 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and 9th National Special Olympic Games.

Right of Abode

Article 24 of the Basic Law states that Hong Kong permanent residents, regardless of their nationality, have the right of abode in the HKSAR and may obtain permanent identity cards.

Entry for Residence

The Chinese Mainland is the major contributor to Hong Kong's immigrant population. In 2025, about 25,000 Mainlanders joined families in Hong Kong under the One-way Permit Scheme, which has a daily quota of 150.

Personal Documentation

Travel Documents

The department issues HKSAR passports to Hong Kong permanent residents who are Chinese nationals with the right of abode in the HKSAR holding valid Hong Kong permanent identity cards. In 2025, the department received 701,747 HKSAR passport applications, including 4,291 from overseas and 2,025 from the Chinese Mainland.

The department lobbies for greater travel convenience for HKSAR passport holders. As of December, 174 countries and territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders.

The Document of Identity for Visa Purposes (Doc/I) is issued for international travel to Hong Kong residents who are not eligible for the HKSAR passport and are unable to obtain a travel document of any other country or territory. The Re-entry Permit (REP) is issued to eligible Hong Kong residents for travel to the Chinese Mainland and Macao. During the year, 32,945 Doc/Is and 31,785 REPs were issued.

Identity Cards

The department issues two types of identity cards to Hong Kong residents: the Hong Kong permanent identity card for residents who have the right of abode in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong identity card for those who do not.

Smart Identity Cards

The smart identity card has enhanced security features and chip technology that provide better protection of personal data against counterfeiting, and its contactless chip interface enables faster clearance at e-Channels. During the year, 790,144 new smart identity cards were issued. Old form of smart identity card became invalid by phases in 2025.

Illegal Immigration

The department keeps a close watch on illegal immigration and liaises closely with overseas, Chinese Mainland, Macao and local law enforcement agencies on illegal migration.

In 2025, the city arrested 214 Mainland illegal immigrants and 378 non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants.

Combating Illegal Employment

The department combats illegal employment. It conducted 19,980 raids and arrested 3,708 illegal workers in 2025. Illegal workers are fined and/or jailed before being sent back to their places of origin. Their employers are also liable to prosecution.

Combating Use of Forged Travel Documents

The department takes strict measures against the use of forged travel documents and carries out special operations against forgery syndicates. In 2025, it detected 370 forged documents.

Deportation and Removal

The department processes deportation and removal orders. During the year, 1,158 people were deported, meaning they are prohibited from returning. Another 1,758 people were removed from Hong Kong, comprising 647 illegal immigrants, 1,065 people who had breached their conditions of stay and 46 people who were refused entry.

Investigation and Prosecution

The department lays charges against persons who commit immigration offences, including remaining illegally in Hong Kong, breaching conditions of stay, making false statements or representations, using forged travel documents, illegal employment, and criminal offences related to registrations of birth, death and marriage. Illegal immigrants, persons subject to removal or deportation orders, overstayers or persons who are refused entry are prohibited under section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance from taking employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining any business.

Combating Trafficking in Persons

The department's screening mechanism identifies victims of trafficking in persons. A designated section is responsible for the early identification of potential victims and exploitation by screening foreign domestic helper visa applications, and investigating related immigration offences. Identified victims are referred to relevant departments to receive protection and support according to their situation, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling and shelter.

Counter-terrorism

The department exchanges counter-terrorism intelligence with local, Chinese Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and exercises effective immigration control, to prevent entry of undesirable persons who may pose a threat to the law and order of Hong Kong. The department also organises regular counter-terrorism training and drills to enhance the knowledge and awareness of related issues among its staff, with a view to strengthening the interception of suspicious visitors suspected of being involved in terrorist activities.

Nationality Matters

The department is authorised by the Central People's Government to handle Chinese nationality applications from Hong Kong residents. In 2025, there were 310 applications for change of nationality, 2,209 applications for naturalisation as Chinese nationals, 447 applications for renunciation of Chinese nationality and eight applications for restoration of Chinese nationality.

Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Outside Hong Kong

The department's Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit works closely with the Security Bureau, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, overseas Chinese diplomatic and consular missions, foreign consulates in Hong Kong, HKSAR Government offices outside Hong Kong and other government departments to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong. In 2025, the unit handled 3,388 assistance requests.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Couples may marry at any of the six marriage registries or 271 licensed places of worship, or engage a civil celebrant to celebrate their marriage at any other place in Hong Kong. During the year, 21,142 marriages were celebrated in marriage registries, 940 in licensed places of worship and 20,207 by civil celebrants.

Five district birth registries provide birth registration services. During the year, 31,714 live births were registered.

Three death registries and 15 designated police stations in the New Territories and outlying islands handle death registrations. During the year, 51,750 deaths were registered.

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Hong Kong prides itself on its clean civil service, level playing field for doing business and a society intolerant of corruption. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) safeguards the city's deep-rooted culture of probity through stringent law enforcement, systemic prevention and community education. Its independence is enshrined in the Basic Law, and its operation is sustained by the government's strong commitment to weed out corruption. The ICAC Annual Survey consistently shows that the community is highly intolerant of corruption. The majority of respondents indicated they had not encountered corruption personally in the preceding 12 months prior to the interviews, reaffirming the stable probity situation of Hong Kong.

In 2025, the ICAC received 1,780 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints¹), representing a year-on-year decrease of 14 per cent. Of these complaints, around 70 per cent concerned the private sector, 24 per cent involved government departments and 6 per cent related to public bodies. During the year, the ICAC received 27 election complaints, most of which (24 complaints) concerned the Legislative Council General Election held in December.

Enforcement

During the year, 182 people were prosecuted, 34 were cautioned for minor offences and 71 were warned for minor breaches of the electoral law. A total of 174 people in 85 cases were convicted, representing an 81 per cent in person-based and 90 per cent case-based conviction rates respectively. By year-end, 1,105 cases, including 32 election cases, were under investigation.

Prevention and Integrity Education

The ICAC examines the systems and procedures of government departments and public bodies to identify corruption risks, and gives advice on plugging any loopholes. In 2025, it completed 67 assignment reports and offered prevention advice on 508 occasions. Integrity training programmes were provided to more than 40,000 government officers and staff of public bodies.

¹ Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance.

Confidential corruption prevention advice is given free to private sector entities on request. During the year, the ICAC offered advice on 1,004 occasions. It also provided free integrity training to more than 140,000 employees in the private sector, including imported workers and incoming talent.

To cultivate important values such as law-abiding awareness, honesty and a sense of responsibility among young people, the ICAC implements moral education programmes from kindergartens to tertiary institutions, engaging more than 230,000 students during the year.

In addition to reaching out to promote integrity messages, the ICAC is also committed to welcoming the public. In 2024, it opened a cafe for the public inside its headquarters and, in May, it relaunched its upgraded Exhibition Hall, creating a new landmark for integrity education.

It has also produced a range of integrity promotion videos. The microfilm series *Coffee War* has had more than 9.5 million views across social media platforms, while another animation made to promote clean elections combines creativity and technology by using AI.

International Cooperation and Mainland Liaison

The ICAC strives to expand its international network, including promoting Hong Kong's robust rule of law and anti-corruption experience to countries in the Belt and Road Initiative, and enjoys close collaboration with anti-corruption agencies in the Chinese Mainland and Macao.

The Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption delivered 20 international and 11 local training programmes in 2025. The academy also collaborated with Mainland, Hong Kong and overseas experts and academics to conduct anti-corruption research and promote exchange.

The International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, presided over by the ICAC Commissioner, increased its membership to 193 worldwide. In December, the ICAC collaborated with the association's annual conference, held in Doha, Qatar. The event attracted over 250 graft fighters, government officials, international organisation representatives and prominent scholars from 80 member organisations to chart the path for enhancing global anti-corruption capability. Through the partnership formed by the ICAC, academy and association, international training and experience sharing activities were hosted to promote Hong Kong's probity culture overseas.

As part of its strategic partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the ICAC co-organised the Mastering Artificial Intelligence and Technologies in Anti-Corruption programme and is co-developing the Integrity Behind Bars: Guide on Corruption Risk Management in Prison Systems.

Checks and Balances

The ICAC functions independently and is accountable to the Chief Executive. Its work is subject to the scrutiny of four independent committees: the Advisory Committee on Corruption, Operations Review Committee, Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee and Citizens

Advisory Committee on Community Relations. Each committee submits an annual work report to the Chief Executive.

All corruption complaints, whether or not pursuable, must be reported to the Operations Review Committee for scrutiny. The ICAC would not curtail investigations that have not been reviewed by the committee. An independent ICAC Complaints Committee, comprising members of the Executive Council and Legislative Council, as well as prominent members of the community appointed by the Chief Executive, monitors and, where appropriate, reviews the ICAC's handling of non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its staff.

Narcotics Division

The Narcotics Division coordinates policies and measures to combat the drug problem. It also supervises designated non-financial businesses and professions to ensure their compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism legislation.

Anti-drug Strategy and Coordination

The government's anti-drug strategy involves preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, external cooperation, and research.

The Action Committee Against Narcotics advises the government on anti-drug policy and measures. Chaired by a non-official, it comprises non-official members from the medical, legal, education, media, business, community and social service sectors, and official members, namely the Commissioner for Narcotics and representatives from the Education Bureau, police and departments of Customs and Excise, Health, and Social Welfare. Under a reciprocal arrangement with Singapore, the Director of Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore also sits on the committee.

Preventive Education and Publicity

In view of the threat posed by the spread of etomidate, formerly known as 'space oil drug', the division launched sets of TV and radio Announcements in the Public Interest in February to step up its promotion against the harm of the drug and again in August when etomidate replaced 'space oil drug' in the publicity. Advertisements were placed throughout the territory in various locations and also online.

To mark its 60th anniversary, the Action Committee Against Narcotics co-organised a series of commemorative events with the Narcotics Division, including community engagement activities and competitions, an interactive roving exhibition in education institutions and the community, a large-scale anti-drug variety TV programme *Let's Stand Firm. Knock Drugs Out!* and anti-drug segments in children's TV programming. It also published a commemorative book that records its history in August which is available in public libraries.

The committee and division also jointly organised the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Anti-drug Summit in Hong Kong on 5 September. The summit brought together around 300 participants, who were the representatives from about 40 government agencies

and community anti-drug organisations in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, as well as representatives from Singapore, to share insights on major anti-drug topics.

In addition, the division stepped up its cooperation with the school and professional sectors to promote preventive education in the community, especially for the youth.

The government encourages drug abusers to seek help early. The division's 24-hour anti-drug hotline 186 186 and instant messaging service 98 186 186 via WhatsApp or WeChat are operated by social workers to provide help for people with drug problems. Drug abusers are referred to NGOs for treatment and rehabilitation.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre is equipped with multimedia interactive facilities and features where activities, including guided tours, parental talks, thematic exhibitions and hands-on workshops, are organised to deepen public understanding on drugs and promote positive healthy lifestyles. A special Etomidate Corner has been established to raise public awareness about this emerging drug.

The division also works with the Education Bureau to help students, both inside and outside the classroom, understand the dangers of drugs and the consequences of engaging in drug-trafficking activities.

The Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component is a school-based initiative to strengthen students' resolve in refusing drugs and to foster a drug-free campus. In the 2025-26 school year, 268 secondary schools, partnering with NGOs, implemented the programme. To keep up with the latest situation, the programme has added etomidate to its voluntary school drug testing in the 2025-26 school year.

The Beat Drugs with Sports programme is a student-led initiative that promotes a healthy lifestyle and an anti-drug culture in secondary schools through students' participation in sports and health activities. There were 157 participating secondary schools in 2025-26.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

Treatment and rehabilitation services are available to drug abusers with different needs. The Correctional Services Department implements a compulsory treatment programme, the Department of Health provides a voluntary outpatient methadone treatment programme, and the Hospital Authority operates substance abuse clinics at all seven hospital clusters. NGOs run voluntary residential programmes in 30 drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, and provide community-based services in 11 counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers and one centre for drug counselling with two sub-bases.

The division coordinates initiatives in partnership with stakeholders to implement the strategic directions recommended in its Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong for 2024-2026.

Legislation and Enforcement

On 18 July, six substances (N-Pyrrolidino protonitazene, N-Pyrrolidino metonitazene, N-Piperidinyl etonitazene, N-Desethyl isotonitazene, hexahydro derivatives of cannabinal and their 3-alkyl homologues and Carisoprodol), and all analogues of etomidate were controlled under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. Before that, etomidate and three of its analogues had been controlled under the law as dangerous drugs from 14 February.

During the year, the police and Customs and Excise Department seized about 11,170kg of major types of drugs and arrested 4,108 people for drug-related offences.

Drug Abuse Statistics and Trends

The Central Registry of Drug Abuse compiles drug abuser statistics filed by a reporting network that includes law enforcement agencies, treatment and welfare agencies, tertiary institutions, hospitals and clinics.

The registry recorded 5,077 drug abusers in 2025, of whom 38 per cent were newly reported, 14 per cent were aged under 21 and 24 per cent abused more than one drug. Heroin continued to be reported as the most commonly abused single drug in Hong Kong, afflicting 35 per cent of drug abusers. Psychotropic substances were abused by 73 per cent of drug abusers. Commonly abused psychotropic substances included cocaine (19 per cent), methamphetamine (also known as 'Ice' 19 per cent), cannabis (14 per cent), etomidate (12 per cent) and ketamine (11 per cent). Half of the newly reported drug abusers had abused drugs for at least 5.1 years before their drug abuse was reported, the same as that in 2024.

External Cooperation

Hong Kong works with its counterparts in the Mainland and elsewhere to combat drug crimes. Three international conventions apply to Hong Kong: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In 2025, government representatives, as members of the Chinese delegation, joined the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs convened in Vienna.

Research

Drug-related research helps formulate anti-drug measures. The findings of a 2023-24 survey of drug use among students at upper primary to post-secondary levels were released in August.

Beat Drugs Fund

The Beat Drugs Fund supports anti-drug community efforts by financing projects and research, helping treatment and rehabilitation centres to meet statutory licensing requirements, and supporting schools in implementing anti-drug initiatives. In 2025, the fund approved about \$207 million to support about 280 projects and programmes.

Under the fund, a total of \$9 million standard funding has been granted to the 18 District Fight Crime Committees for the fifth round of the three-year Anti-drug Community Awareness

Building Programme to sustain the momentum in community-driven anti-drug work. Taking into account the evolving anti-drug need of local communities over time, each committee can apply for an optional additional funding of \$100,000 in the fifth round if it is demonstrated with sufficient grounds and detailed information that there is a need for extra funding.

To tackle the problem of etomidate abuse, districts have used the funding to develop a range of initiatives directed at high-risk youths and families, as well as frontline staff such as security guards and property management officers, to share with them how to identify signs of drug trafficking and hidden drug abuse.

Anti-money Laundering and Counter-financing of Terrorism

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau coordinates overall policies on anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism. The Narcotics Division oversees the implementation of relevant measures in two main areas: facilitating regulatory bodies' risk-based supervision of designated non-financial businesses and professions and raising awareness of relevant measures among these trades, including lawyers, accountants, estate agents and dealers in precious metals and stones; and maintaining a declaration and disclosure system for the cross-boundary movement of large quantities of physical currency and bearer negotiable instruments.

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance

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 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.

A secretariat assists the commissioner in performing the commissioner's statutory duties, which include overseeing and conducting reviews on the compliance by LEAs and their officers with the ordinance's relevant requirements; carrying out examinations upon applications 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 or the provisions of the code of practice.

The commissioner submits annual reports to the Chief Executive with statistical information and his assessment of overall compliance with the ordinance's requirements. The 2024 annual report was submitted to the Chief Executive in June 2025 and tabled in the Legislative Council in October.

Government Laboratory

The Government Laboratory provides forensic services to law enforcement agencies. Its Forensic Science Division has two operational groups.

The Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group undertakes analysis of abused drugs, testing of drugs in urine and hair, investigation of drink and drug driving, toxicological examination, as well as handwriting and documents examination.

The Criminalistics and Quality Management Group undertakes forensic tests on trace evidence, marks and impressions, and human DNA. It provides crime scene investigation and consultation service, covering fire investigation, traffic accident reconstruction and bloodstain pattern analysis.

Auxiliary Medical Service

The AMS is a government department under the Security Bureau, with 98 civil servants, around 3,600 adult volunteers and 2,200 cadets. It reinforces regular medical and ambulance services during emergencies and provides backup under normal circumstances. Volunteers come from different walks of life, including healthcare professionals such as doctors and nurses.

The AMS provides first aid services during natural disasters, large-scale incidents and public activities. It deploys members to operate first aid stations in country parks on Sundays and public holidays, and deploys its First Aid Bicycle Teams to patrol cycling tracks across the territory during weekends and public holidays. Apart from first aid services, the AMS also maintains an ambulance fleet to provide inter-hospital transfer and other conveyance services of a non-emergency nature. In addition, the AMS organises courses on CPR, the use of AEDs and first aid for individuals from different sectors of the community.

As a 'little cradle' for nurturing healthcare professionals, the AMS has collaborated with various local tertiary institutions to provide cadets aged 12 to 17 with healthcare industry-related information and career-oriented training. The AMS also provides national security education and discipline training, organises a variety of team-building activities, and arranges Mainland and overseas exchange and study programmes for its cadets.

Civil Aid Service

The CAS is a government auxiliary emergency service with around 3,100 adult members and 4,100 cadets, who receive training, administrative and logistics support from 106 civil servants.

The service augments the regular front-line emergency forces in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies such as mountain search and rescue, vegetation fire-fighting, flood rescue, typhoon duties, landslide rescue, infectious disease support, post-disaster community recovery and crowd management in large-scale public events. In 2025, the CAS completed 61 mountain search and rescue assignments.

The CAS Cadet Corps helps young people aged 12 to 17 develop leadership potential and cultivate civic awareness through patriotic and national security education as well as training in Chinese-style foot drill, basic emergency rescue, crowd management, first aid, canoeing and operating small unmanned aircrafts and leadership. The School Partnership Scheme, implemented by the CAS, offers discipline and leadership training to junior secondary students.

In 2025, more than 900 students from 29 secondary schools applied to join the Cadet Corps after participating in relevant activities.

The CAS also cooperates with different government departments, NGOs and schools to provide tailor-made public education training, visits and talks for the young people. In 2025, more than 2,800 young people participated in the public education programmes organised by the CAS, with over 1,000 students receiving training specifically related to Chinese-style foot drill and flag-raising, and personal and public safety. These activities not only cultivate positive thinking and enhance young people's competence, but also foster a sense of national identity and belonging.

Websites

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Civil Aid Service: www.cas.gov.hk

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance: www.sciocs.gov.hk

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Government Flying Service: www.gfs.gov.hk

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