Strengthening Families in Hong Kong: Everybody's Responsibility

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Emerging Family Phenomenon:
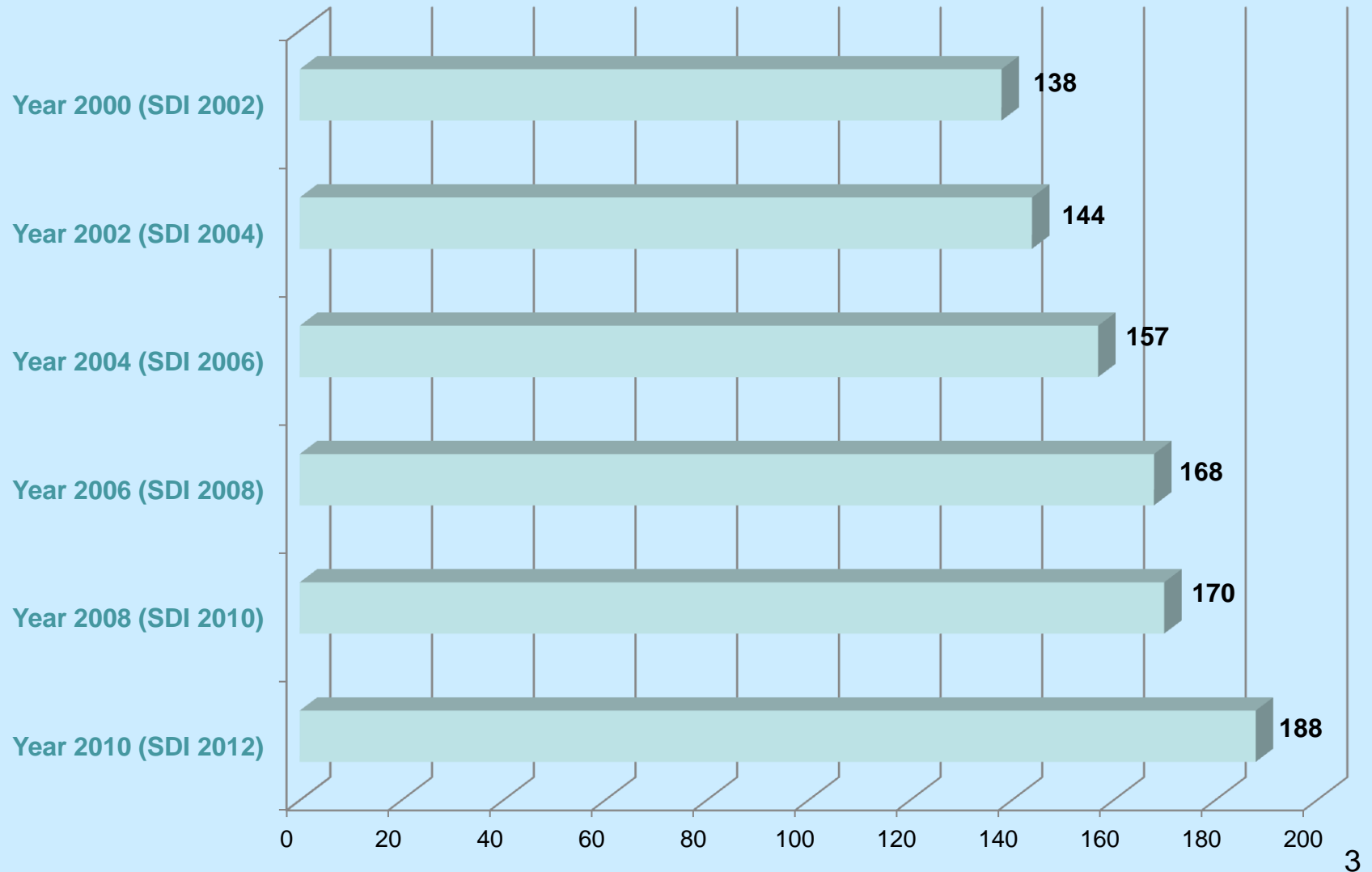
Drop in Family Solidarity

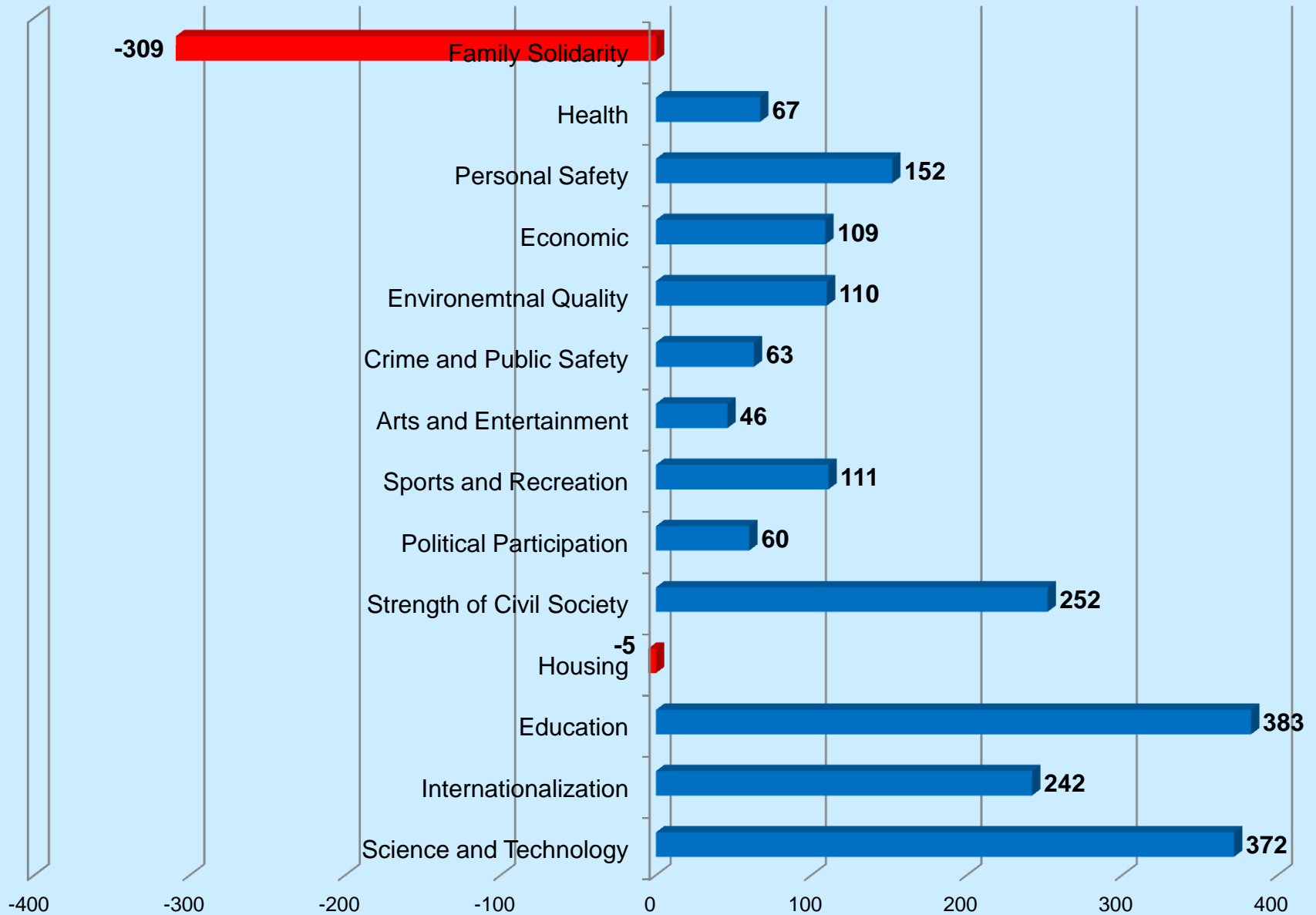## Social Development Index 2012
The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
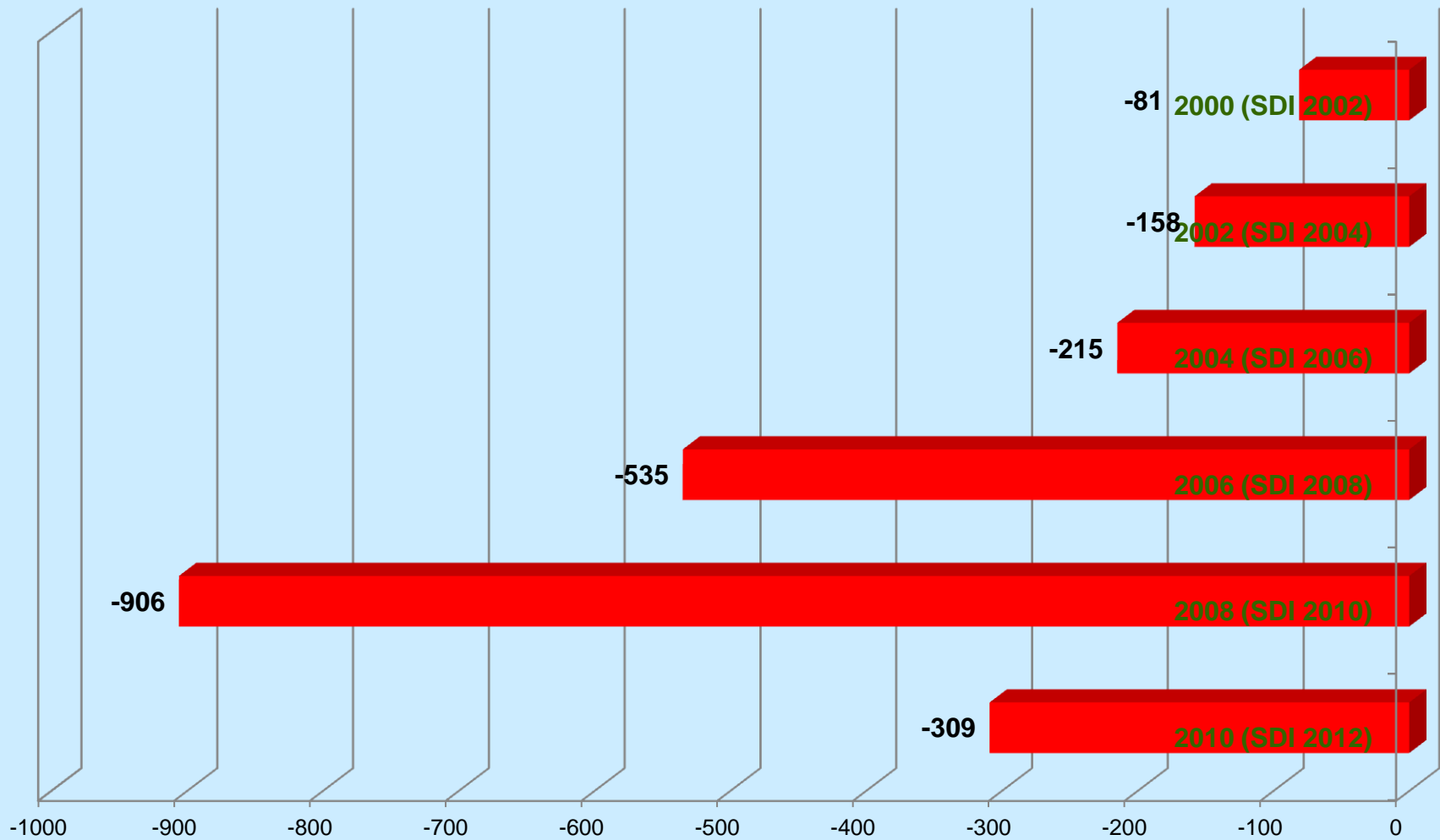
HKCSS 社聯

香 港 公 益 金
THE COMMUNITY CHEST

Standardized Weighted Social Development Index Scores
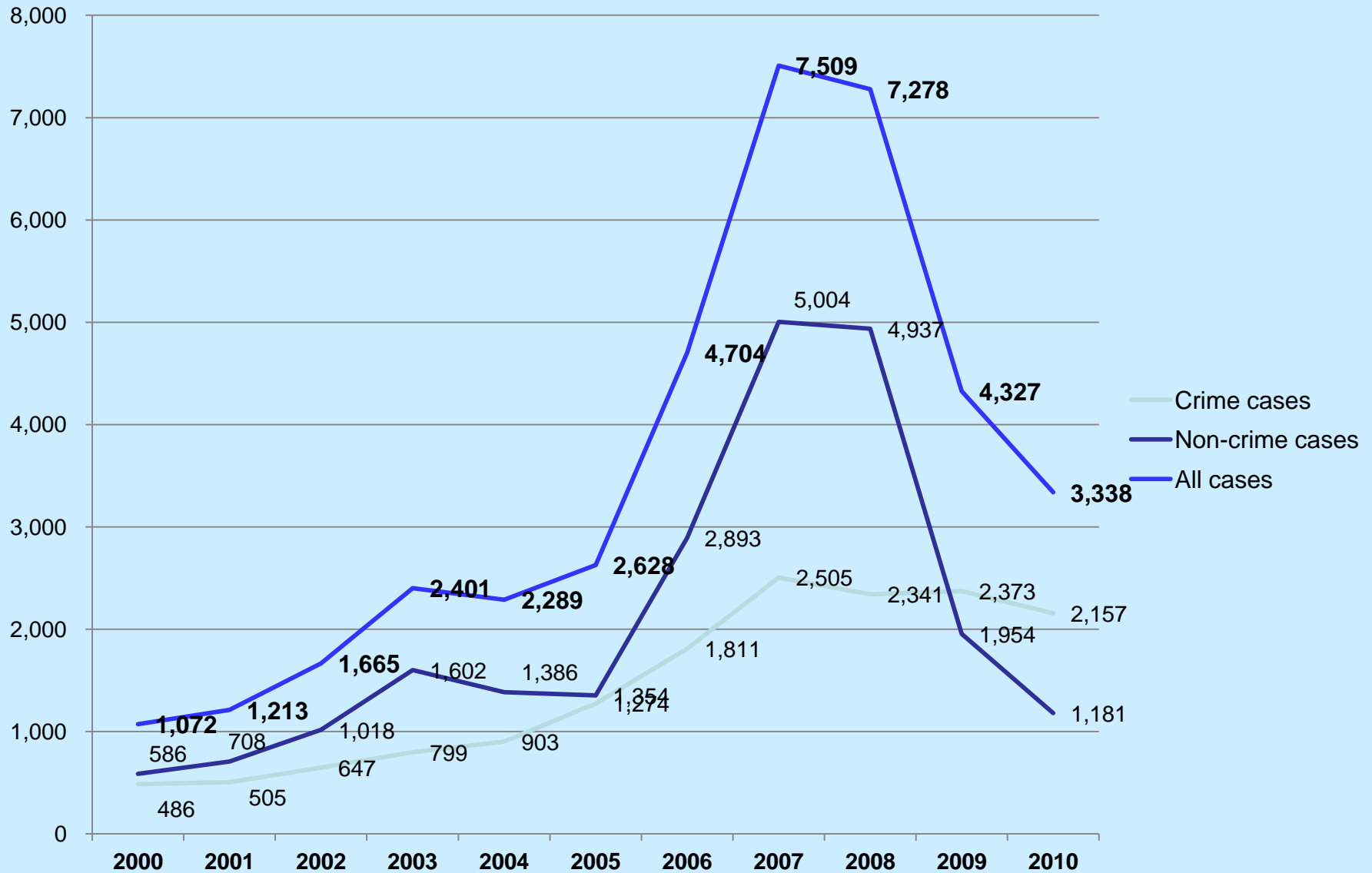
Overview of Social Development Sub-indexes

SDI - Family Solidarity Sub-index

☐ Family solidarity sub-index has improved, though it remains at the negative.

Number of Domestic Violence Cases

Source: Police Force, 2011

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Number of Child Abuse Cases
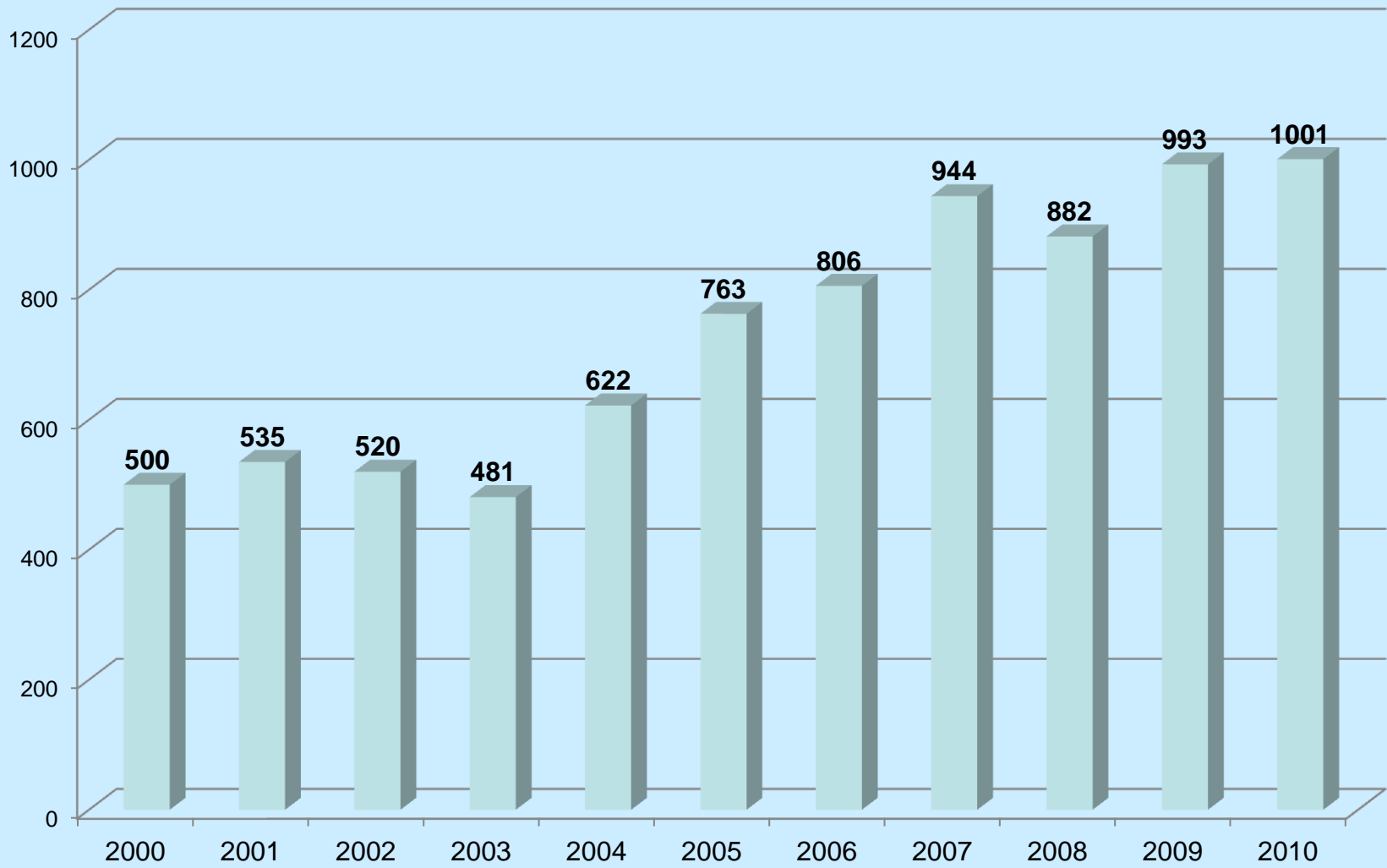
Source: Social Welfare Department, 2011

Emerging Family Issues

1. Decreasing number of marriages (lower tendency to get married)
2. Increase in cohabitation
3. Increase in cross-border marriages
4. Increase in non-intact families (divorce, re-marriage)
5. Increase in child abuse and battered spouse cases
6. Increase in extra-marital affairs

Emerging Family Issues

7.   Decreasing number of children

8.   Increase in cross-border child birth

9.   Long and increased working hours

10. Increase in families with economic disadvantage

11. Increase in families with children with special needs

12. Increase in families with children with mental health problems

BUT …

主題性住户統計調查

香港家庭

十八歲及以上人士與父母的關係

佔十八歲及以上而父母健在的人士的百分比

經常／很經常：

	與父母同住	非與父母同住
向父母提供金錢支援	42%	36%
就重要事情向父母提供意見	25%	23%
聆聽父母心事和看法	22%	22%
幫助父母做家務和照顧小孩或家人	18%	4%
獲父母金錢支援	19%	2%
獲父母就重要事情提供意見	29%	12%
獲父母聆聽心事和看法	22%	14%
獲父母幫助做家務和照顧小孩或家人	53%	3%
滿意/非常滿意與父母的關係	90%	88%

圖例：
■ 與父母同住
□ 非與父母同住
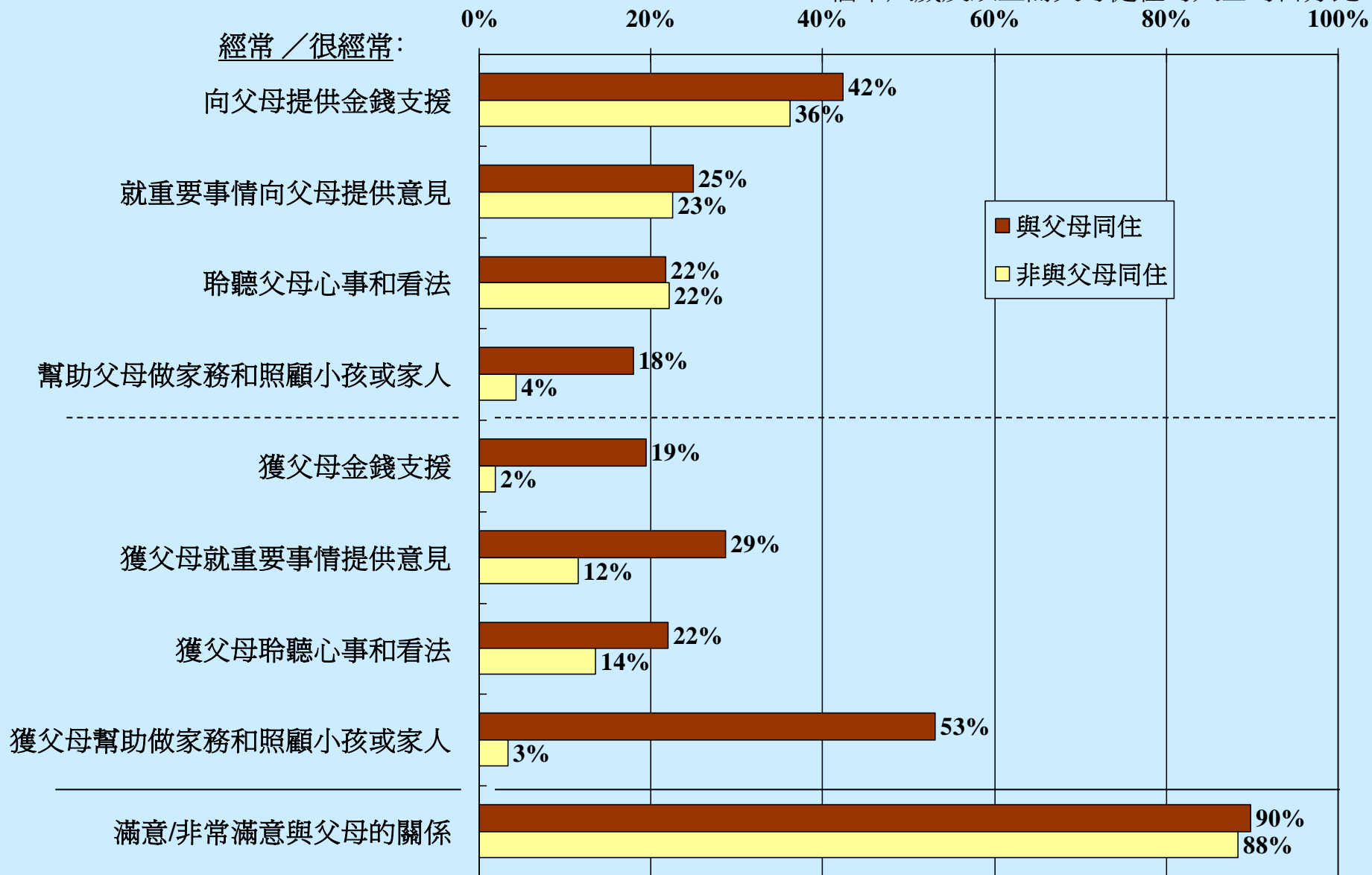
Family Survey 2011
Salient Findings

Home Affairs Bureau
Family Council

Satisfaction with Family Life

81% satisfied / very satisfied with their family life

Category	All	Male	Female
Very dissatisfied	0.8%	0.5%	1.1%
Dissatisfied	2.4%	2.7%	2.1%
Average	15.2%	15.9%	14.5%
Satisfied	60.9%	62.3%	59.8%
Very satisfied	19.6%	17.7%	21.2%
No information provided	1.1%	0.9%	1.2%
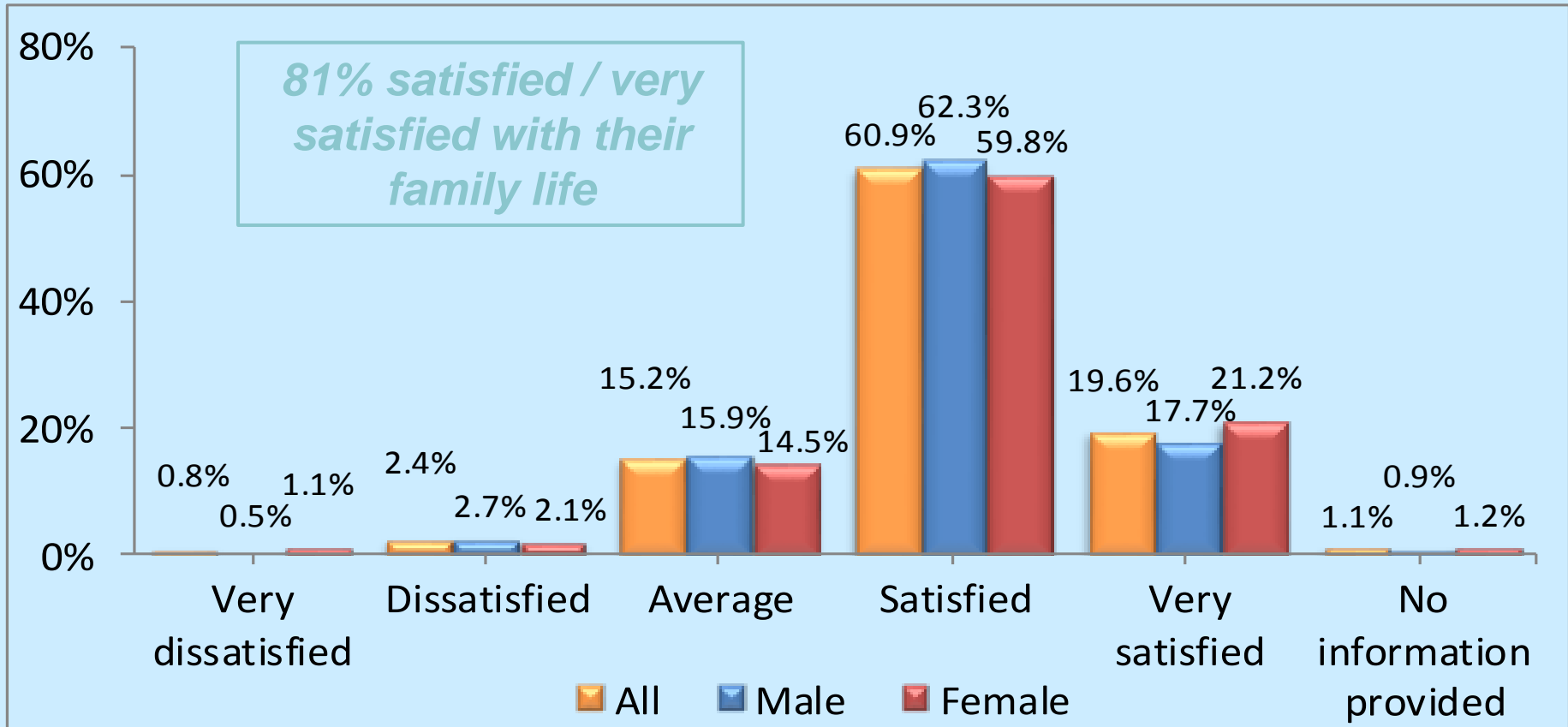
Strengthening Families in Hong Kong

Government's Responsibility

Family Council

- to advocate for cherishing the family as a main driver for social harmony
- to advise the Government on the formulation of policies and strategies
- to advise the Government on the integration of family policies and related programmes
- to plan/implement programmes and activities (different populations)
- to initiate family research

Family Perspectives in Policy Formulation

– mandatory assessment of family implications for all policies

– encouraging Government Bureaux/departments to consult the Council

– Basis: family core values (Love and Care; Respect and Responsibilities; Communication and Harmony

– Basis: family's structure and functions

– Subcommittees on promotion of family core values, family support and family education

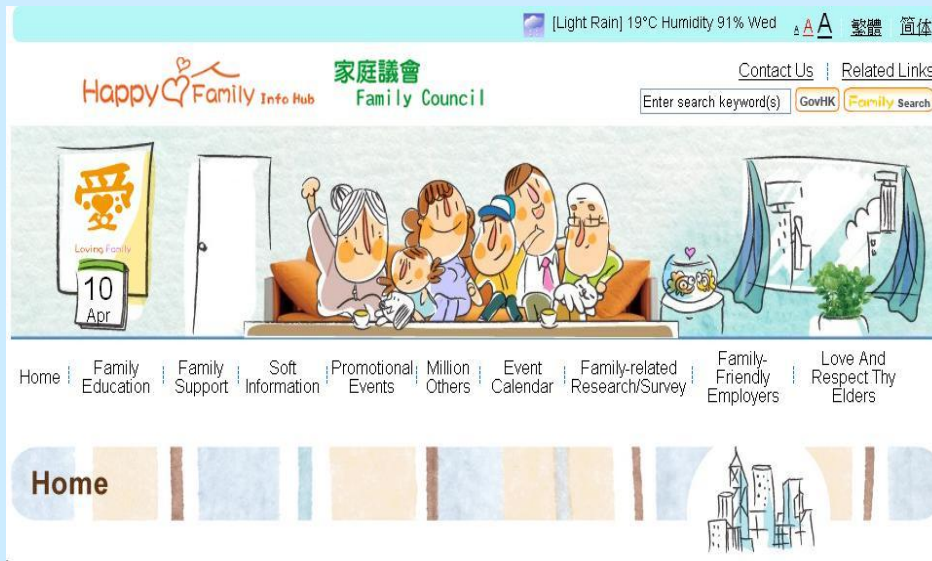# Family as a main driver for social harmony

Love and Respect Thy Elders Campaign
- theme song 「親」
  - singer: Ms Miriam Yeung (楊千嬅)

- announcement of public interest

- press advertorials

- musical

Family as a main driver for social harmony

Happy Family Info Hub
(**www.familycouncil.gov.hk**)

- **A one-stop platform allowing easy access to a wide range of information, including -**

Family Education
Family Support
Promotional Events
Soft Information
Event Calendar
Family-related Research/Survey
Family-friendly Employment Practices

Creating a pro-family environment

- Two-year Pilot Scheme on Family Mediation Service (2012-2014)
- Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme 2011
- In the pipeline: Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme 2013/14

Research to promote understanding on matters of family

Researches in the pipeline

– Study of the Phenomenon of Divorce

– Family Survey 2013

Researches completed

– Consultancy Study on Family Education

– Family Survey 2011

– Four thematic studies on youth drug abuse, youth prostitution, child neglect and elderly neglect

Promotion of Family Education

Family Education Packages

- 18 Handy Tips for Parents

- Family Therapy Package

- Marital Relationship

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Private Sector's Responsibility

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Corporate Social Responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while *improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families* *as well as of the local community and society at large.*

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (1999), *Corporate Social Responsibility. Meeting Changing Expectations*, http://www.wbcsd.org.

The Pyramid of CSR

Philanthropic Responsibilities

Be a good corporate citizen.
Contribute resources to the
community; improve quality of life.

Ethical Responsibilities

Be ethical.
Obligation to do what is right, just,
and fair. Avoid harm.

Legal Responsibilities

Obey the law.
Law is society's codification of right and wrong.
Play by the rules of the game.

Economic Responsibilities

Be profitable.
The foundation upon which all others rest.

Carroll, A. B. (1991). The pyramid of corporate social responsibility: Toward the moral management of organizational stakeholders. *Business Horizons*, (July-August) (1991): 39-48.

Family Friendly Policies

- parental leave (e.g., getting report cards)
- paternity leave
- time off for family emergencies
- "genuine" job sharing
- working at home during normal working hours (a question of trust)
- workplace or other nursery provision
- flexi-time (a question of trust)
- Issue: question of trust
- Issue: more time = better family quality?
- Issue: More evaluation needed

Corporate Involvement in Mentoring Programs

- Holds great potential for fostering competency in the context of significant threats to development

- Research shows one ''good'' relationship can serve an important ameliorative function, which can place high-risk youth on positive developmental trajectories

- Mentoring families with greater needs?

Strengthening Families in Hong Kong

Non-Governmental Sector's Responsibility

Lack of Measures of Chinese Family Quality of Life

- Translated family measures included measures of family burdens, marital adjustment, parenting, parent-child relationship, and family functioning
- Few indigenously developed family functioning measures such as the Family Assessment Instrument and parenting have been developed
- Implications for evidence-based family practice

Evidence-Based Family Enhancement Programs

•There was a paucity of evidence-based adolescent developmental programs in different Chinese contexts
•A similar conclusion can be applied to evidence-based family programs
•Four types of programs that are needed -validated parenting programs with local materials; marital enrichment programs; family therapy programs; family life education programs for adolescents

The Quest for
Effective Family Enhancement Program

6 Possible types of programs:

1.   Ineffective or harmful intervention
2.   Intervention unlikely to be beneficial
3.   Intervention with unknown effectiveness
4.   Intervention with both benefits and adverse effects
5.   Intervention likely to be beneficial
6.   Intervention is effective reflected by clear evidence

Do we have effective parent education programs?

Shek, D.T.L. (2008) Enthusiasm-based or evidence-based charities: personal reflections based on the Project P.A.T.H.S. in Hong Kong. *TheScientificWorldJOURNAL:* TSW Holistic Health & Medicine **8,** 802–810.

Strengthening Families in Hong Kong

Parents' Responsibility

Emergent Parenting Issues

- "Strict fathers, kind mothers" to "strict mothers, kind fathers" and "involved mothers, detached fathers)

- Over-emphasis on academic excellence

- Psychological control over behavioral control

- Withering of "family teaching"

- Withering of "role models"

- Families with young adults

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Children's Responsibility

Emergence of Popular and Youth Cultures in Hong Kong

- Decline in respect for parents:「黑白天鵝，日哦夜哦」
- Detachment between parents and their adolescent children:「冇大冇細」
- Focus on self: 「你有你要求，我有我感受」,「意見接受，做法照舊」
- Fast food culture: 「百份百感覺」,「啱feel」,「勉強無幸福」,「不在乎天長地久，只在乎曾經擁有」
- Divergent standards in human relationships:「如果踩親你 ... 咪對唔住囉」

Shek, D.T.L. (2006). Perceived parental behavioral control and psychological control in Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. *The American Journal of Family Therapy, 34*(2), 163-176.

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Conflict between Traditional Cultural Values and Popular Culture

Traditional Chinese Culture	*Contemporary Hong Kong Culture*
Patience	Speed
Enduring relationship; spiritual	Transient relationship; sensational
"Feeling correct"	"Feeling good"
Focus on "we"	Focus on "me"
Vertical relationship	Horizontal relationship
Duty	Right

Preparing Children and Adolescents for Healthy Family Life

- We are not ready!
- Lack of psychosocial competencies in dealing with interpersonal issues (e.g., lower emotional expression among men)
- over-emphasis of academic achievement leading to unbalanced development
- "problem free is not fully prepared" (Karen Pittman)