

**Home Affairs Bureau**

**Family Survey 2011**

**Prepared by  
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## **Executive Summary**

### ***Objectives***

The primary purpose of the Family Survey 2011 (the Survey) is to gather relevant information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong. Main areas of concern are:-

- (a) to assess the existing concept of family among the public in the following areas:
  - (i) importance of family; and
  - (ii) satisfaction of family life;
- (b) to ascertain whether the respondents are aware of any family-related promotion from the Government and/or other organizations;
- (c) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b);
- (d) to construct relevant indices on item (a) with breakdown by districts; and
- (e) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among members of the public.

### ***Research Methodology***

2. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted in the study, including focus group discussions and a territory-wide household survey. Prior to the Survey, literature research was also conducted with a view to gathering more relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries. Experience in other countries as well as views gathered from the focus group discussions provided the theoretical framework on design of the questionnaire for the territory-wide household survey which was conducted through face-to-face interviews. A representative sample of 2,000 persons aged 15 or above was successfully enumerated during the period from June to August 2011, with a response rate of 66%.

### ***Demographic Characteristics***

3. The target respondents of this household survey were Hong Kong residents aged 15 or above (excluding foreign domestic helpers). Among the 2,000 respondents,

46% were males (57% were either married or co-habiting) and 54% were females (54% were either married or co-habiting), with age distribution as follows: 15-34 (31%), 35-54 (39%) and 55 or above (30%).

4. On educational level, 21% of them had attained post-secondary education or above. 55% of the respondents attained secondary educational level, and 24% had primary or below education. Concerning employment status, 50% of the respondents were employed. 43% were economically inactive such as retirees, homemakers or students, and another 6% were neither at work nor at school.

### *Importance of Family*

5. During the interview, a number of questions covering the following dimensions were asked to ascertain their attitudes on importance of family:

- a) traditional family values;
- b) importance of core values;
- c) ideal family;
- d) living with parents;
- e) marriage and having child;
- f) involvement of grand-parents in family matters;
- g) singlehood;
- h) cohabitation; and
- i) divorce.

6. Results of the Survey indicated that ***most of the traditional family values were still prevalent, though not very strong***. Besides, ***most people still considered that family core values (including love, care, respect, responsible, filial piety, tolerance, communication and harmony) are important***. 90% rated their importance as high or very high, indicating that most people considered these family core values very important in maintaining a harmonious family.

7. ***Attitudes towards ideal family varied***. 62% of the respondent agreed that “a nuclear family is more ideal than a childless couple”. At the same time, 50% also agreed that “a 3-generation extended family (i.e. three generations live together within a household) is more ideal than a nuclear family” and 43% also expressed that “a childless couple can also be an ideal family”.



8. Regarding the attitudes towards living with parents, **69% of the respondents were willing to live with parents and 85% agreed to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them.** Amongst all age groups, younger people (aged 15-34) showed more readiness to live with parents and support their parents' living even though they did not live with them.

9. **Most respondents agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life.** 66% and 59% of the respondents agreed that “marriage is a necessary step in life” and “child bearing is important in marriage” respectively. It is also interesting to note that male respondents who were divorced/separated had the highest proportion who agreed that “marriage is a necessary step in life” (84%). Even though 66% of the respondents agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life, **attitudes towards cohabitation varied.** 40% accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married”, while 36% disagreed. At the same time, 41% accepted “cohabitation before marriage”, while another 31% disagreed. Besides, results of the Survey also indicated that younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept cohabitation.

10. Regarding singlehood, **attitudes of respondents also varied.** 40% accepted the view that “being single and not having any plan to get married”, while 35% disagreed and 25% remained neutral. At the same time, 47% of the respondents did not accept a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married, and only 28% agreed. Results of the Survey also indicated that younger people aged 15-54 were more likely to accept singlehood (46%) and “woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married” (33%).

11. Concerning the attitudes on divorce, results of the Survey indicated that **majority of the respondents accepted “divorce being the best solution for a married couple who could not live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children”** (57%), only 18% disagreed. Besides, 48% of the respondents accepted marrying a divorced person, while 15% did not accept.

12. On involving grandparents in family matters, **most respondents valued the contribution and help of grandparents.** 59% agreed that “many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give” and “with so many working mothers, families needed grandparents to help more”.

## *Parenthood*

13. Concerning parenthood, a number of questions covering the following dimensions were asked:

- a) attitudes towards parenthood;
- b) impact on having and raising children;
- c) intention to have children;
- d) role models; and
- e) parenting method.

14. ***Raising children was stressful.*** 62% of the parents agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. Majority of the parents were willing to spend time with their children, especially those middle-aged parents (94%). However, ***views on raising their children by grandparents were diversified.*** We have solicited views of the respondents as to whether their parents render assistance in taking care of their grandchildren. Views were diversified (44% agreed, whereas 34% disagreed).

15. ***51% of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future.*** The major reasons were (a) “I am too old” (31%) and (b) “I do not have a partner/not married” (32%).

16. ***Most parents agreed to set role models for their children.*** Majority of the parents agreed to set good examples to their children (88%), to admit fault when doing wrong (83%), to explain to their children when they do something wrong (80%) and to set a good example to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents (79%).

17. ***Parenting methods were on the whole gentle.*** Parents with children aged 18 or below indicated that they used non-physical approaches (i.e., a verbal reprimand, withdrawal of privileges, sending the child to his or her room and a “time out”) much more frequently than “spanking” when disciplining their children. In fact, 68% reported that they never spanked their children and only 28% had spanked their children.

## *Family Functioning*

18. Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction and parenting. To assess the family functioning in Hong Kong, the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)<sup>1</sup> was adopted in this Survey. It is a 33-item instrument which can be classified in the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness, (3) Conflict and Harmony, (4) Parental Concern, and (5) Parental Control.

19. Result of the Survey indicated that *families functioned very well in general* (79%). Respondents considered that (a) there was mutual trust and concern among family members, (b) a very good parent-child relationship was maintained and (c) parent showed concern about their children. In addition, respondents also considered that they (d) communicated quite well and their families were cohesive in general.

## *Satisfaction with Family Life*

20. Concerning satisfaction with family life, questions focusing on the following main areas were asked:

- a) satisfaction with family life;
- b) satisfaction with the relationship of family members;
- c) time spent with family members;
- d) communication with family members; and
- e) the perception of home.

21. *On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with their family life.* 81% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life.

22. Besides, *relationship with family members was fairly close in general.* 84% of the respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with their fathers and 89% with their mothers. 95% had close relationship with their partners and 90% with their children. Nevertheless, the Survey results showed that *time spent with parents was limited.* 40% of respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week and 23% had not talked to their fathers and 19% had not

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1 "Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong" by Andrew M.H. Siu and Daniel T.L. Shek, 2005

talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. When compared with communication with parents, *partners communicated with each other more frequently*, with only 8% did not speak to each other; 30% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 11% for 2 to 4 hours, 14% for 1 to 2 hours, and 26% for less than half hour a week. 32% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 21% did not talk to each other at all.

23. *In general, home was considered comfortable and a place where family members loved to stay.* 58% of respondents frequently perceived their home as “a place where he/she felt safe and loved”; for another 37% sometimes. 55% and 40% frequently and sometimes considered their home “a place where each one trying to love each other” respectively.

### ***Balancing Work and Family***

24. Work-life balance continues to remain a challenge in Hong Kong. *One quarter of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities.* 25% of the respondents who were currently at work shared the views that “I want to spend more time with my family but am afraid that it would have negative impact on career advancement” and “I often felt guilty about the amount of time I spent at work and not with my family”.

25. *Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.* On the whole, 45% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that the need of striking a balance of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress. For those at work, 49% of the middle-aged people and 53% of the male respondents who were married or cohabiting were more likely to have stress in balancing work and family.

## ***Social Support Network***

26. Social support network refers to a social structure which made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organizations. Views on social support network were asked to collect opinions on:

- a) help seeking behavior; and
- b) availability of assistance from social support network.

27. ***Majority of the respondents indicated that they would seek help or advice from their “close friends” and “spouses” when they encountered difficulties.*** When financial problems were encountered, 55% of the respondents would seek help from spouse, 28% from parents, 28% from close friends and 24% from brothers/sisters. When emotional problems were encountered, 54% and 53% of the respondents sought help from spouse and close friends respectively.

28. ***When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.*** The respondents considered their family members were supportive when they were sick (72%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (67%), when they needed to make an important decision (64%), when they had financial problems (59%) and when they were depressed and upset (54%).

## ***Awareness and Participation of Family-related Programmes***

29. Information on the level of awareness and the reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes was also collected in the Survey.

30. ***Half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or other non-government organizations (NGOs).*** 50% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 40% had heard of such programmes but had not participated. Only 8% had participated in programmes organized by the government or NGOs.

31. Survey results show that those who had participated in such programmes rated the importance of all traditional family values as high. Likewise, those who were not aware of these programmes gave a lower importance rating for all core values. Similar pattern was also observed for rating on “satisfaction with family life”.

## *Analysis from a district perspective*

32. The Survey also attempted to provide quantitative information on existing situation of families in Hong Kong at district level in the following dimension:

- a) importance of family;
- b) parenthood;
- c) family functioning and satisfaction with family life;
- d) balancing work and family;
- e) social support network; and
- f) awareness of family-related programmes.

Detailed analysis is set out in Chapter 11.

## *Recommendations*

### *Work-Life Balance*

***It is recommended that necessary steps should be taken to promote family-friendly policy amongst employers on a continuous basis***

33. Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family life indicating that work life balance is still an issue in Hong Kong. Long working hours and heavy workload bring immense stress. With a view to creating a more conducive environment to work-life balance, proactive steps should be taken to encourage employers to develop flexible employment practices, flexible working environment and conditions for employees, etc. This will lead to a win-win situation in which both the employers and employees will benefit.

### *Strengthen Parent Education*

***It is recommended that proactive steps should be taken to strengthen parent education***

34. 62% of parents found the stress of raising their children overwhelming,

indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. This notwithstanding, they were, at the same time, prepared to set role models for their children and shoulder responsibility of teaching their children the right values. To this end, promotion of parent education will be effective as preventive and intervention strategies. It is also desirable to encourage more communications between parents and their children, through more frequent discussions, help seeking, sharing or participation in the family activities.

### *Promotion of family-related programmes/activities*

***It is recommended that action should be taken to promote the family-related activities or programmes through different channels to general public***

35. Awareness of family-related activities/programmes organized by both the Government and NGOs by members of the public was relatively low. Survey findings showed that those who had participated in such activities had a higher rating on the importance of all traditional core values and were more likely to be satisfied with their family life. To this end, the Government and the NGOs alike should promote and organize more family-related programmes.

## Chapter 1 | Introduction

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Family Council, set up in December 2007, is an advisory body to the Government. It provides a high-level platform for examining family-related policies and promoting a culture of loving families in the community. The Family Council is also actively promoting family core values including Love and Care (愛與關懷), Respect and Responsibility (責任與尊重), and Communication and Harmony (溝通與和諧).

1.1.2 To gather relevant information and data on the existing situation of families in Hong Kong, Policy 21 Ltd was engaged to conduct the “Family Survey 2011” (The Survey).

### 1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 Objectives of the Survey are:

- (f) to assess family attitude in the following areas:
  - (iii) importance of family; and
  - (iv) satisfaction of family life;
- (g) to ascertain whether members of the public are aware of any family-related promotion by the Government and/or other organizations;
- (h) to conduct correlation analysis between (a) and (b);
- (i) to construct relevant indices on item (a) with breakdown by districts; and
- (j) to make recommendations based on the results of the Survey for the promotion of family core values among members of the public.



## Chapter 2 | Methodology

### 2.1 Method of Data Collection

2.1.1 This Survey collected both qualitative and quantitative data. While quantitative data were collected through a household survey, qualitative information was collected through focus group discussions and interviews. Prior to conducting the Survey, literature research to gather more relevant information in Hong Kong and other countries was also conducted. Information collected through overseas research and views obtained through focus group discussions provided the basis for the design of the questionnaire and household survey.

2.1.2 A pilot survey was conducted to pre-test the operation of the household survey. Based on feedback of the pilot survey, the questionnaire was further enhanced. It is composed of two components: the “Household Questionnaire” (household characteristics and demographic characteristics of individual household members) (**Annex 1**), and the “Personal Questionnaire” (personal views on existing situation of families in Hong Kong) (**Annex 2**).

2.1.3 Four sessions of focus group discussions were organised in March and April 2011, with two research staff acting as facilitators. Participants in the focus group discussions were drawn from different age-sex and socio-economic groups. Information obtained from the focus group discussions had facilitated the design of the questionnaire for the household survey and permit an insight into views of general public covered in the study.

**Table 1: Focus groups conducted**

Focus Group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Target respondents	Students	Employed	Homemakers	Retired
Age group	15-24	15-59	25 or above	55 or above
Date conducted	31 March 2011	31 March 2011	1 April 2011	1 April 2011
No. of participants	8	7	7	9

2.1.4 A total of 3,500 living quarters (LQs) were randomly sampled from the frame of quarters.<sup>2</sup> A total of 2,000 quarters (with eligible respondents aged 15 or above) were successfully enumerated, representing a response rate of 66%. Sample size and enumeration results are shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Sample size and enumeration results**

	Number	%
Total no. of living quarters (LQs) sampled	3,500	100.0
No. of invalid LQs excluded	450	12.9
No. of eligible sample	3,050	87.1
Total no. of effective sampled LQs	3,050	100.0
No. of LQs refused to be interviewed	436	14.3
No. of non-contact LQs	614	20.1
No. of LQs successfully enumerated	2,000	65.6
No. of respondents successfully interviewed	2,000	

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<sup>2</sup> A two-stage stratified sample design was adopted. The frame of living quarters (LQs) maintained by Census & Statistics Department (C&SD) was first stratified by geographical area and type of quarter. In the second stage, a household member aged 15 or above in the household sampled was randomly selected for interview. The selection method was based on “Last birthday method”.

## 2.2 *Statistical Analyses*

2.2.1 Survey results were weighted (i.e. grossed-up) to infer the population in Hong Kong.<sup>3</sup> On the basis of the ratio between the data collected from the survey and the data on the 2011 mid-year population released by the Census & Statistics Department, the population aged 15 or above were estimated using ratio estimation method. The survey data were adjusted proportionally to account for gender, age, and location of residence of the population. The resulted estimation of population aged 15 or above reconciled with the mid-year population in 2011 (i.e. 6,270,500 for those aged 15 and over). The estimated number of households was 2,225,600.

2.2.2 Descriptive statistics were used to summarize findings of the Survey. This report focused on (a) the holistic picture of existing situation of families in Hong Kong, and (b) its associations with critical social demographic variables such as sex, age, marital status and district, where appropriate.

2.2.3 Attention is drawn to the fact that some figures might not add up to total or 100% due to rounding. Likewise, summation of percentages might exceed 100% since more than one answer(s) might be selected for some questions. In most cases, “agree” included “agree” and “strongly agree” and “disagree” included “disagree” and “strongly disagree”, unless otherwise specified. The same manner applied to “satisfy” and “dissatisfy”.

2.2.4 With an effective sample size of 2,000 at simple random sampling for the 2011 Survey, the precision level of the estimates was within the range of  $\pm 2.2$  percentage points at 95% confidence level.

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<sup>3</sup> The grossed-up population aged 15 or above reconciled with the mid-year population in 2011 (i.e. 6,270,500 for those aged 15 and over). The grossed-up number of households was 2,225,600.

## Chapter 3 | Demographic Characteristics

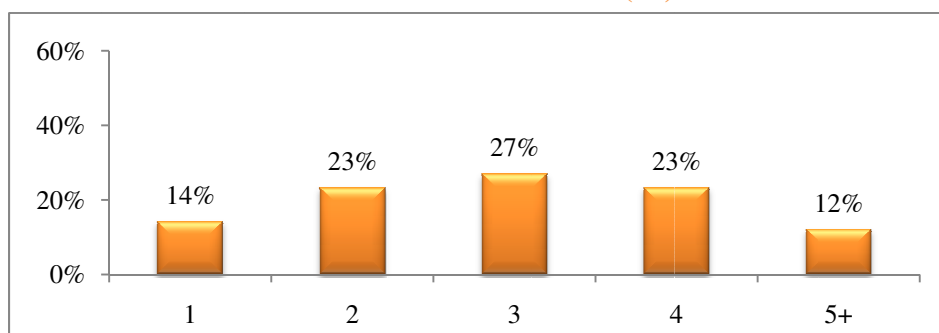
### 3.1 Household Characteristics

3.1.1 Information on the household characteristics, including household size, tenure accommodation and household income was collected.

#### Household Size

3.1.2 Small households predominated: 27% were 3-person households, 23% were 2-person and 4-person households. Households with one person and with 5 or more persons accounted for 14% and 12% respectively.

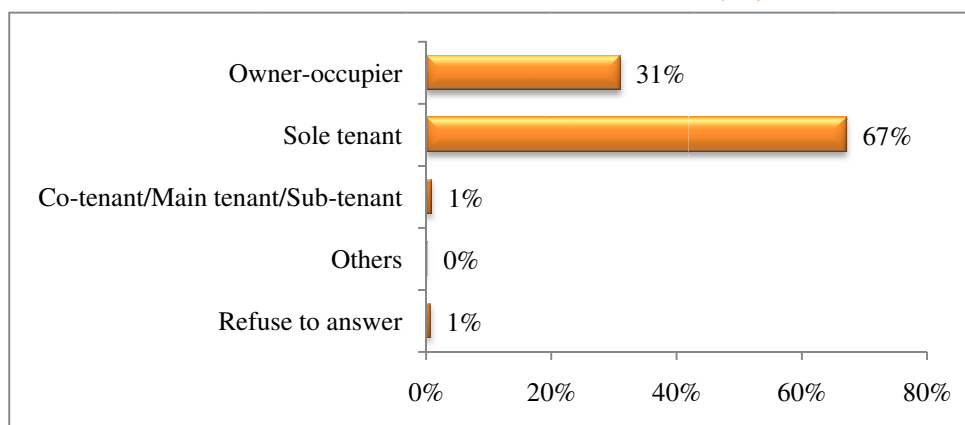
Chart 3: Household size (%)



#### Tenure of Accommodation

3.1.3 67% of the households were sole tenants and 31% were owner-occupiers. Only 1% of the households shared living quarters with other households, i.e. they were either main tenants, sub-tenants or co-tenants.

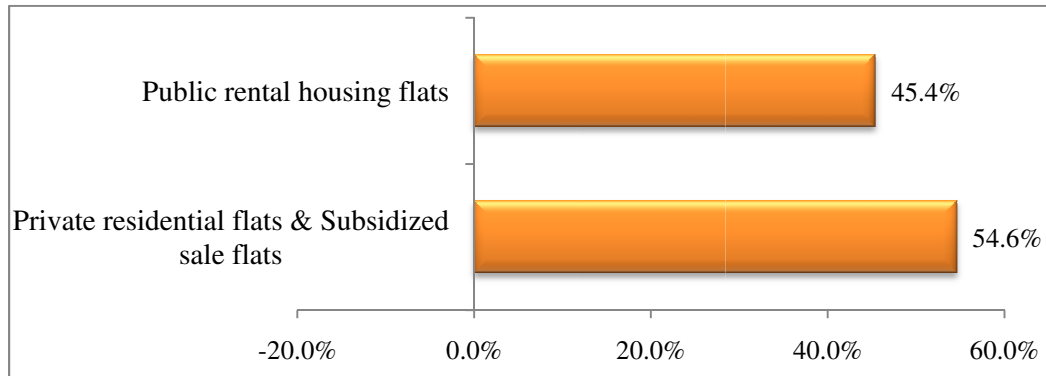
Chart 4: Tenure of accommodation (%)



### Type of quarters

3.1.4 55% of the households were living in private residential flats or subsidized sale flats while 45% were living in public rental housing flats.

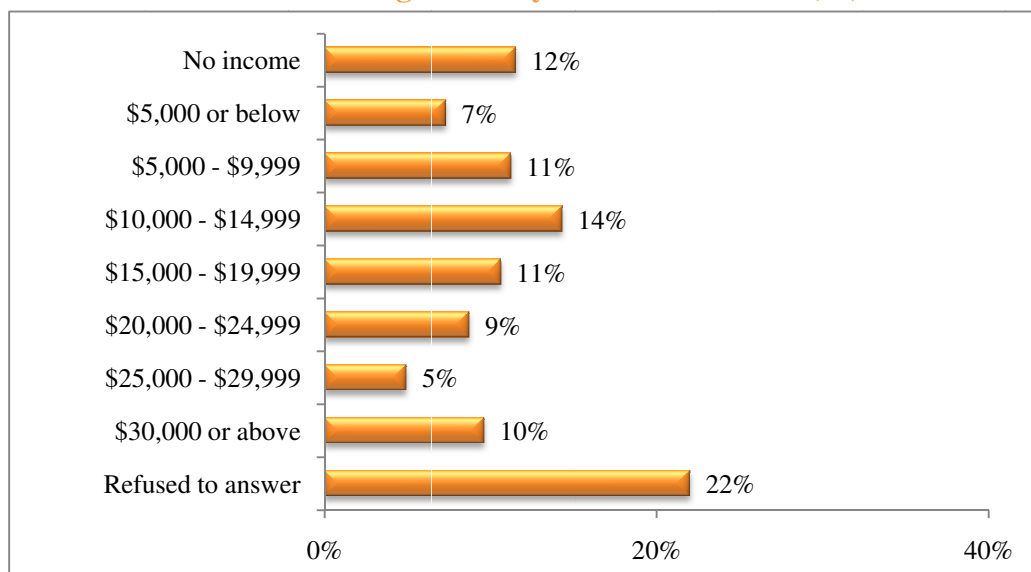
Chart 5: Type of quarters (%)



### Monthly Household Income

3.1.5 25% of the households had an average monthly household income<sup>4</sup> of \$10,000 to \$19,999, 19% had monthly household income below \$10,000, 14% had monthly household income of \$20,000 to \$29,999 and 10% had monthly household income at \$30,000 or more a month. The Survey results also indicated that 12% of the households had no income at all (e.g. the retired couples). It is worth noting that 22% of the respondents refused to provide household income information. In view of the high refusal rate, care should be taken in interpreting the findings on income.

Chart 6: Average monthly household income (%)



<sup>4</sup> Monthly household income refers to the total cash income (including earnings from all jobs and other cash incomes and not including CSSA or other assistance) received in the month before enumeration by all members of the household.

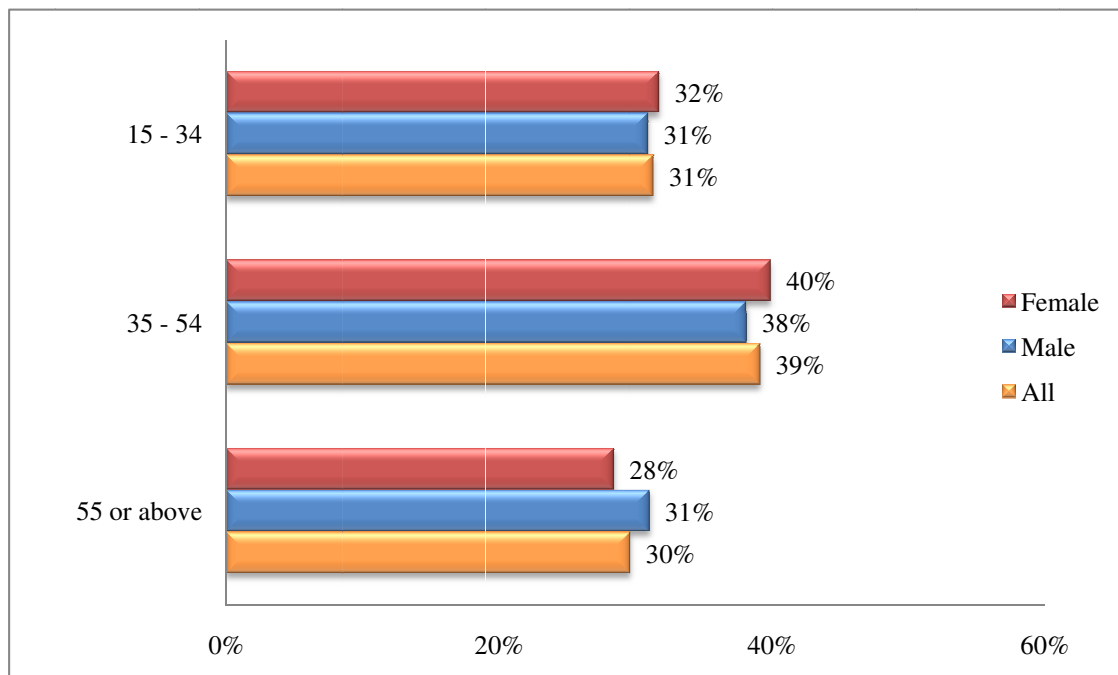
## 3.2 Demographic Characteristics

3.2.1 Information on the demographic characteristics of individual household members including sex, age, marital status, educational attainment, economic activity status, occupation, average working hours per week and length of residence in Hong Kong was collected. An analysis of their socio-economic characteristics is set out in the following paragraphs.

### Age and Sex

3.2.2 54% of the respondents were female and 46% were male. 31% were between the age of 15 and 34, 39% aged 35-54 and the remaining 30% were aged 55 or above.

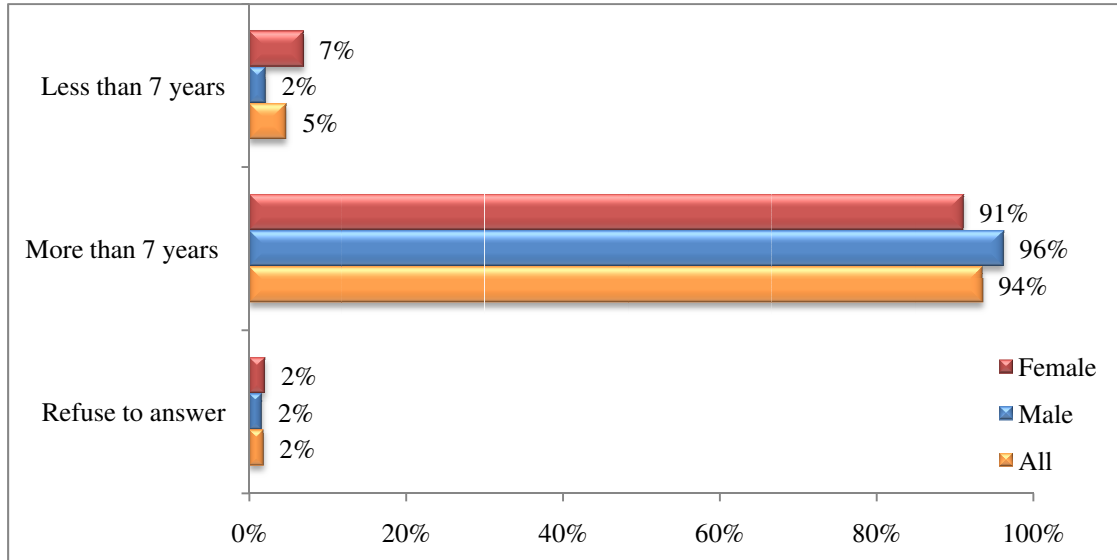
Chart 7: Age group (%)



### *Length of Residence in Hong Kong*

3.2.3 94% of the respondents lived in Hong Kong for more than 7 years and 5% of them were new arrivals who have lived in Hong Kong for less than 7 years.

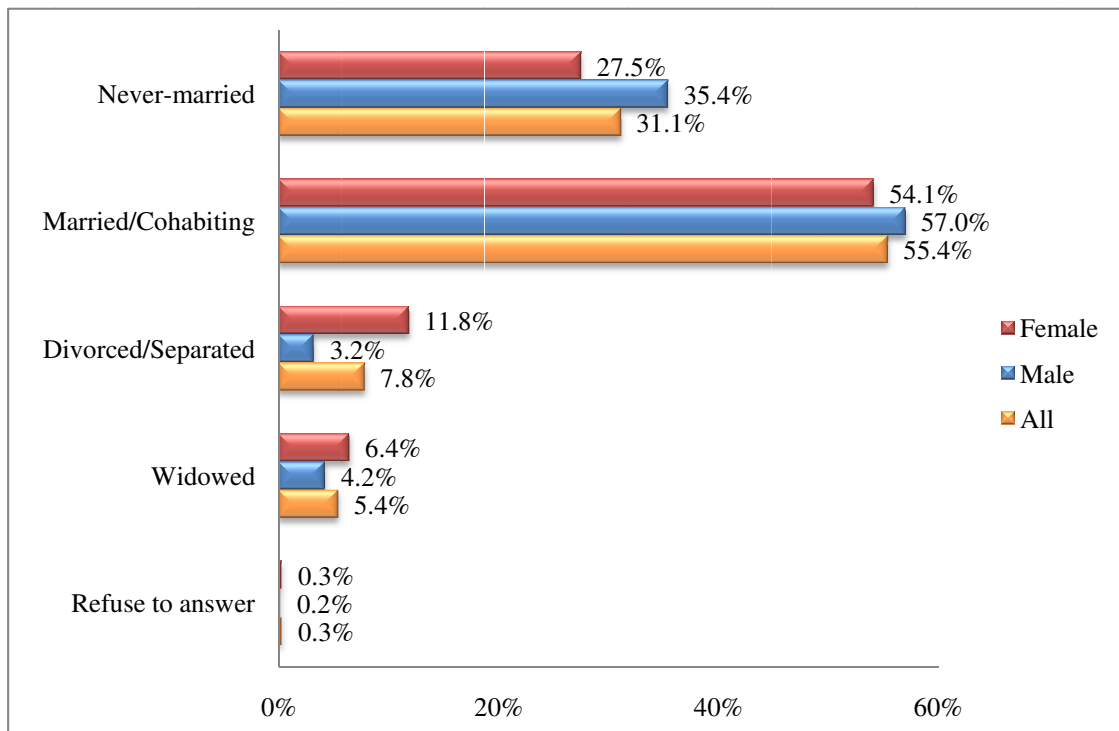
**Chart 8: Length of residence in Hong Kong (%)**



### Marital Status

3.2.4 55% of the respondents were either married or cohabiting and 31% were not yet married. Divorced/separated and widowed constituted the remaining 14%. It was also noticeable that the number of female respondents who were either divorced or separated was nearly four times more than that of male respondents.

Chart 9: Marital status (%)

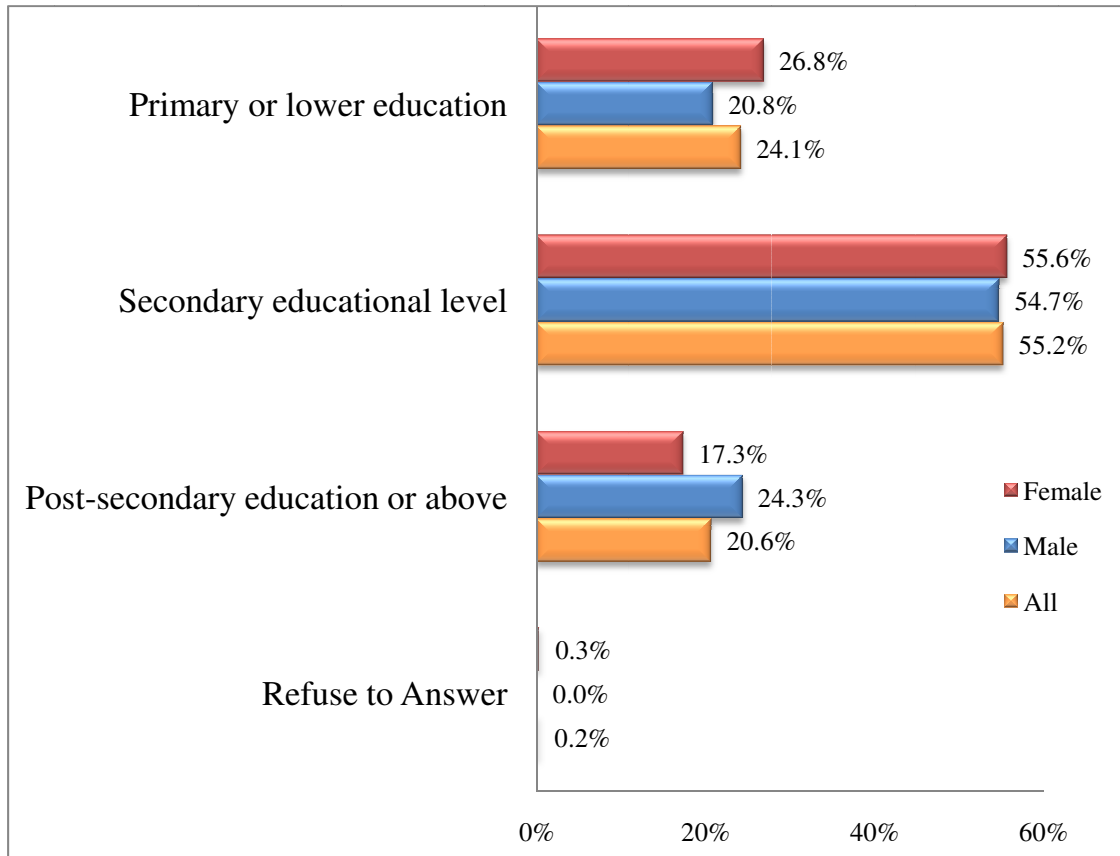




### *Educational Level*

3.2.5 21% of them had post-secondary education or above, 55% of the respondents attained secondary educational level and 24% had primary education or below. The educational level of male respondents was higher than that of female respondents in general.

**Chart 10: Educational level (%)**

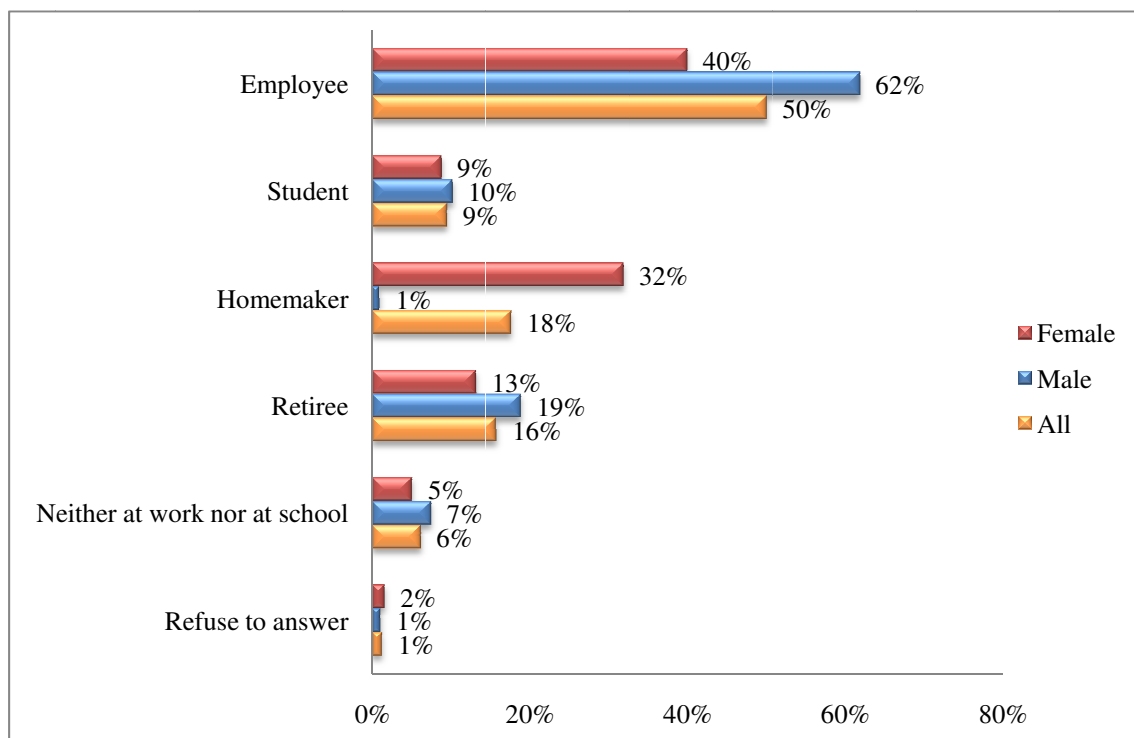


### *Economic Activity Status*

3.2.6 50% of the respondents were employed. 43% were economically inactive, such as retired, home-makers or students, and another 6% were neither at work nor at school.

3.2.7 62% of the male respondents were employed, and less than 1% was home-makers. Regarding the female respondents, 40% of them were employed, 54% were economically inactive who were homemakers (32%), retired (13%) or students (9%). Another 5% were neither at work nor at school.

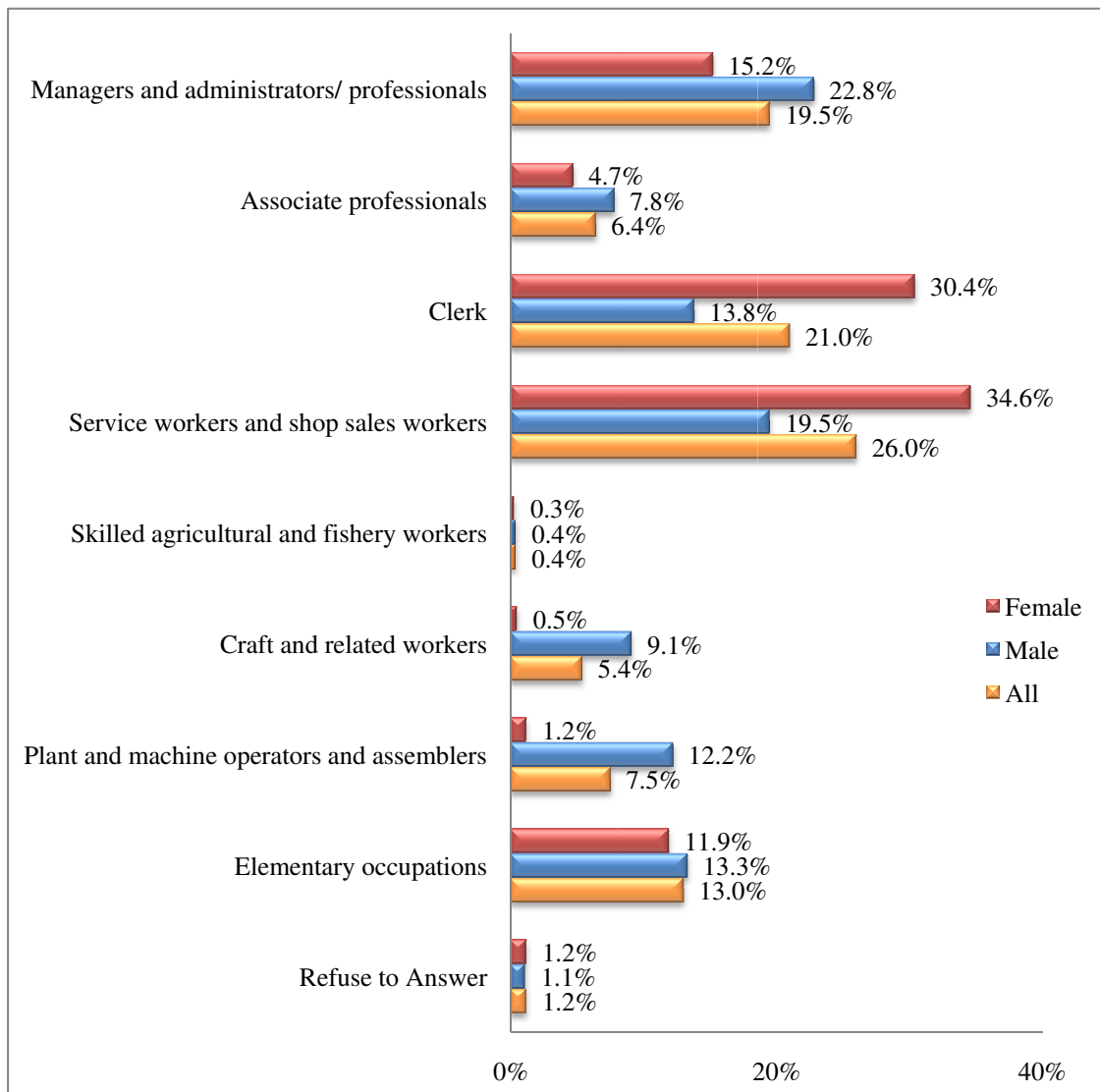
**Chart 11: Economic activity status (%)**



## Occupation

3.2.8 Of the employed persons, 20% of the male respondents and 35% of the female respondents were service and shop sales workers. 23% of the male respondents and 15% of the female respondents were managers and administrator/professionals, 14% of the male respondents and 30% of female respondents were clerks. Survey results showed that females worked fewer hours per week than males. On average, the male respondents worked 48.6 hours, while the female respondents worked 44.6 hours a week.

**Chart 12: Distribution of employed persons by occupation (%)**

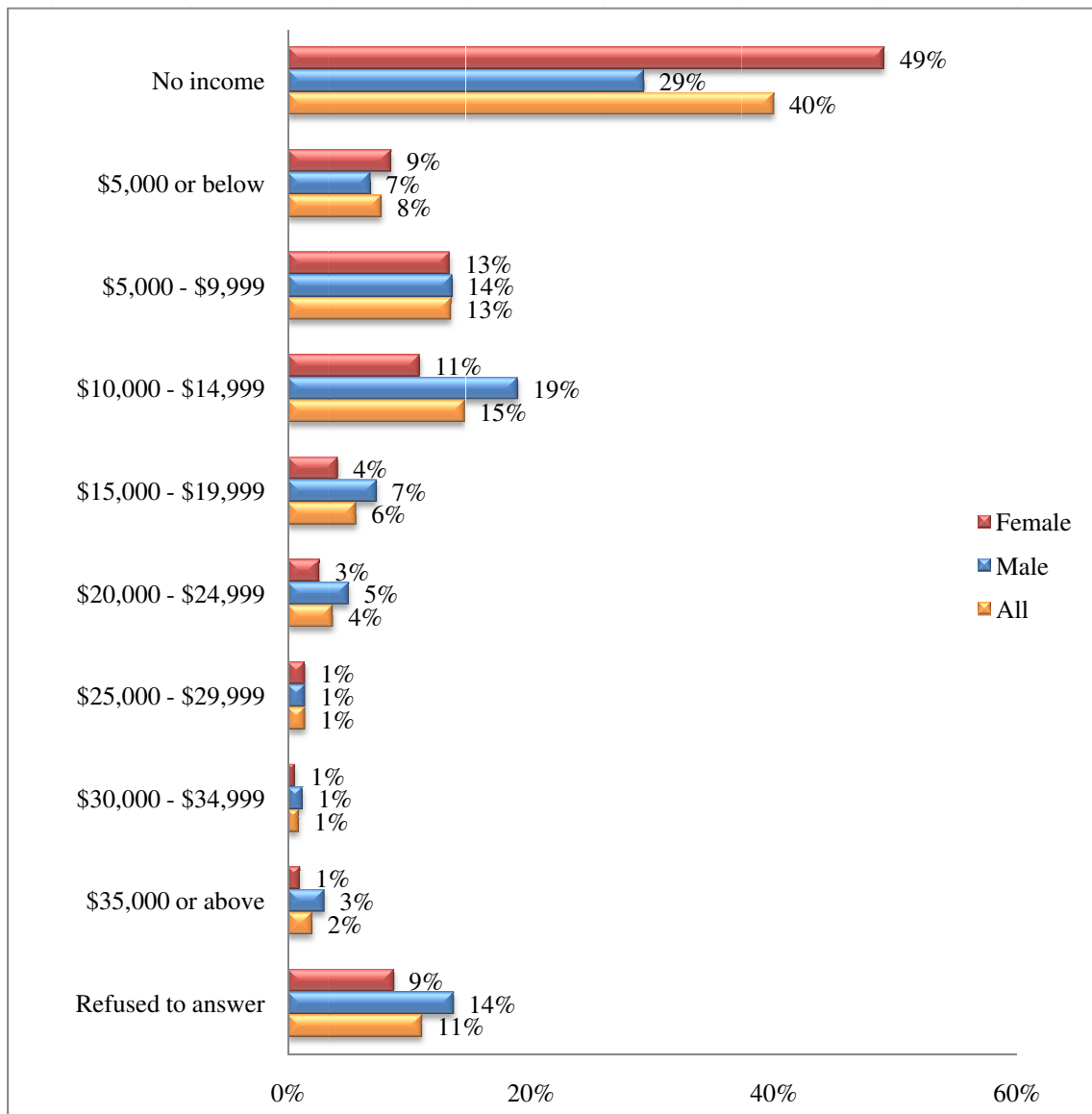


5 Elementary occupations – including street vendors; domestic helpers and cleaners; messengers; private security guards; watchmen; freight handlers; lift operators; construction labourers; hand packers; agricultural and fishery labourers.

### Monthly Personal Income

3.2.9 On the whole, 40% of the respondents had no monthly personal income<sup>6</sup>. Monthly personal income of male respondents was higher than that of the female respondents. Overall, 21% of the respondents earned \$10,000 or less, 20% earned \$10,000 to \$19,999. Only 2% of the respondents earned \$35,000 or above. This notwithstanding, care should be taken in interpreting the figures as 11% of the respondents refused to provide information on monthly personal income.

**Chart 13: Monthly personal income distribution (%)**



<sup>6</sup> Personal income included earnings from employment and other cash income such as rent, dividend, cash gift received and other capital gains.

## Chapter 4 | Importance of Family

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Family is the basic unit of a community, while individual is the basic element within this unit. Thus, behaviour and attitudes of individuals towards family affect harmonious relationship among family members, which in turn may lead to many social problems, and affect harmony of the community.

4.1.2 Family attitudes refer to attitudes of individuals towards a wide range of family issues, including the role of men and women, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, parenthood, childlessness, premarital and extramarital sex, as well as childbearing.<sup>7</sup> Questions covering the following dimensions were asked to ascertain their family attitudes:

- a) traditional family values;
- b) importance of core values;
- c) ideal family;
- d) living with parents;
- e) marriage and having child;
- f) involvement of grandparents in family issues;
- g) singlehood;
- h) cohabitation; and
- i) divorce.

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<sup>7</sup> Excerpt of “Trend in family attitudes and values in Hong Kong” by Professor Nelson Chow and Dr Terry Lum, University of Hong Kong, August 2008.

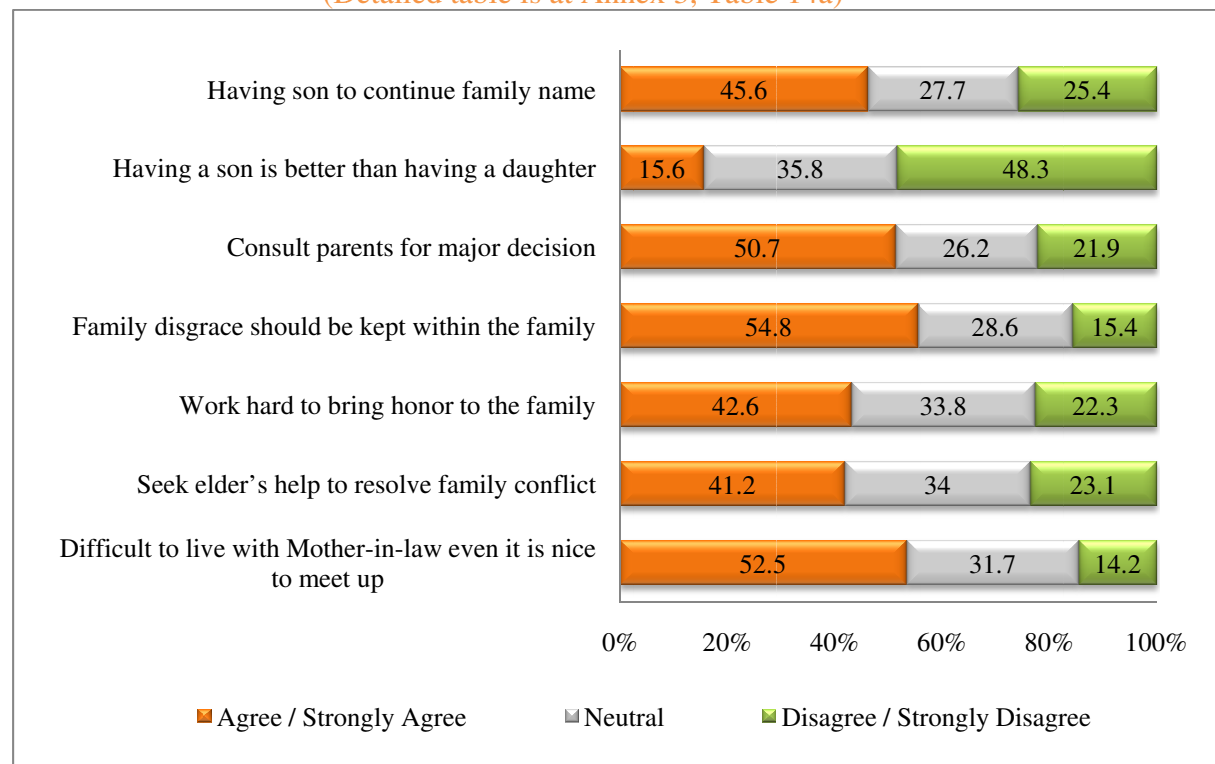
## 4.2 Attitudes towards Traditional Family Values

### 4.2.1 Most traditional family values were still quite prevalent, but not strong.

For various traditional views about family (including having son to continue family name, having a son is better than having a daughter, consult parents for major decisions etc), the percentage of those agreed/strongly agreed ranged from 41% to 55%, with the exception on “having a son is better than having a daughter”. Only 16% of the respondents showed agreement.

**Chart 14a: Attitudes towards traditional family values (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 14a)



4.2.2 Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree with the traditional family values, such as “family disgrace should be kept within the family” (61%), “having son to continue family name” (54%).

**Table 14b: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 14b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having son to continue family name	42.3	41.9	54.0
Having a son is better than having a daughter	12.5	14.5	20.3
Consult parents for major decision	53.7	48.9	49.7
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	49.0	54.7	61.3
Work hard to bring honor to the family	43.3	37.7	48.3
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	44.7	37.4	42.7
Difficult to live with Mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	44.7	58.4	53.0

4.2.3 Analysed by marital status, male respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that “family disgrace should be kept within the family” (75%), “having son to continue family name” (67%) and “having son is better than having a daughter” (40%).

**Table 14c: Agreement on attitudes towards traditional family values by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 14c)

	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Having son to continue family name	43.3	38.4	35.3	30.9	56.3	43.2	67.0	53.0	43.7
Having a son is better than having a daughter	18.3	10.8	16.4	15.4	17.5	13.8	40.4	20.2	4.6	11.9
Consult parents for major decision	47.1	57.1	36.6	49.4	49.3	53.3	52.6	52.5	51.5	43.5
Family disgrace should be kept within the family	52.0	47.0	57.6	50.2	62.0	54.2	74.8	57.6	64.7	47.9
Work hard to bring honor to the family	47.5	41.4	43.4	27.1	44.7	39.2	48.0	51.8	39.1	38.2
Seek elder's help to resolve family conflict	43.8	44.8	37.5	41.4	40.4	38.8	49.5	41.9	43.2	36.0
Difficult to live with Mother-in-law even it is nice to meet up	44.9	44.3	57.9	62.4	55.4	55.2	46.4	56.3	63.6	57.0

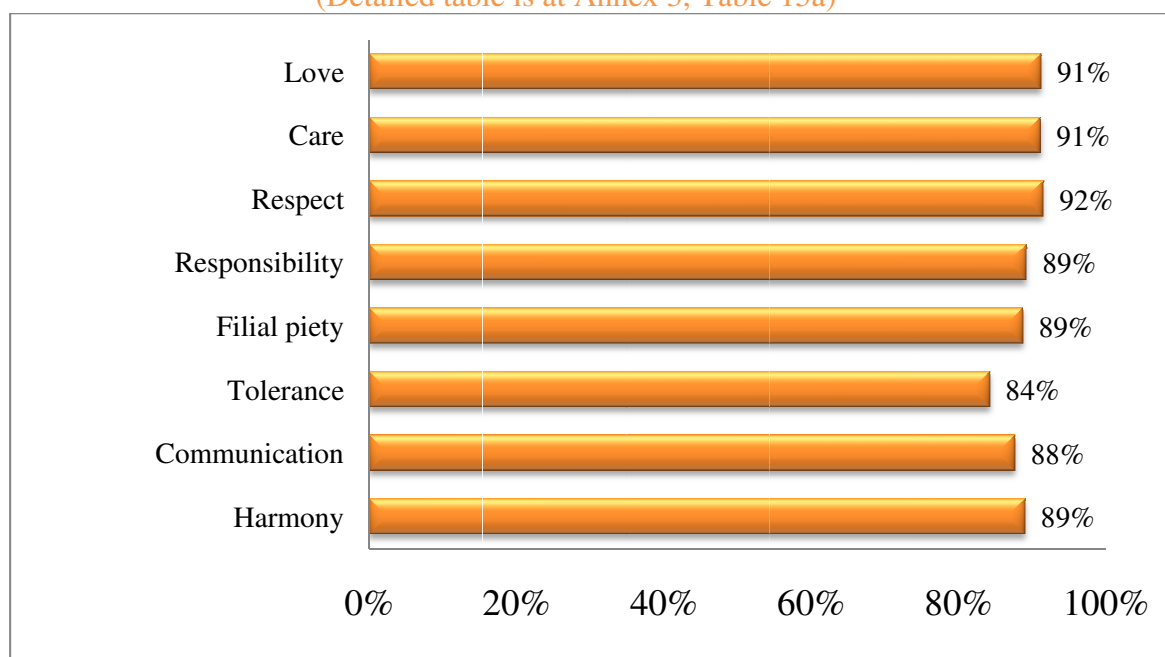
### 4.3 Importance of Family Core Values

#### 4.3.1 *Most respondents still considered that family core values as important.*

Respondents were asked to rate importance of family core values (including Love, Care, Respect, Responsibility, Filial piety, Tolerance, Communication and Harmony). For these family core values, nearly 90% of the respondents rated their importance as “High” (40%) or “Very high” (50%), indicating that most people considered these family core values very important in maintaining a harmonious family.

**Chart 15a: Importance of family core values (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 15a)





4.3.2 Analysed by age group, consensus was found in all age groups. Most people across different age groups agreed that these family core values were highly important to family.

**Table 15b: Importance of family core values by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 15b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Love	92.7	91.6	88.9
Care	89.8	92.0	91.1
Respect	91.8	91.8	90.7
Responsibility	89.1	89.6	88.6
Filial piety	89.7	88.7	87.4
Tolerance	84.1	84.2	84.2
Communication	88.9	87.4	86.5
Harmony	89.4	88.9	88.6

4.3.3 Analysed by marital status, the percentage of widowed male respondents who rate the importance of all family core values as “Low” or “Very low” were relatively higher than that of all the other respondents.

**Table 15c: Importance of family core values by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 15c)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
		Love	High	91.6	90.2	94.7	90.4	90.0	92.8	89.6	91.0
	Low	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.8	5.2	1.5	10.0	0.0
Care	High	89.6	86.3	94.7	94.1	90.5	94.5	86.0	93.3	84.6	94.8
	Low	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.0	7.3	0.9	11.4	0.0
Respect	High	91.1	89.1	88.1	97.1	90.8	94.3	88.0	93.8	85.4	91.6
	Low	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.0	5.2	0.4	10.0	0.0
Responsibility	High	87.5	87.0	86.0	89.6	89.1	92.4	79.9	91.5	87.1	92.1
	Low	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.9	5.2	1.0	8.9	0.8
Filial piety	High	88.3	89.8	81.0	83.5	88.7	91.5	79.1	89.3	84.9	90.2
	Low	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.6	1.7	5.2	0.4	10.4	0.0
Tolerance	High	83.7	83.3	83.6	87.6	82.8	86.1	79.9	86.2	75.4	89.0
	Low	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.7	5.2	1.0	13.6	2.3
Communication	High	86.7	89.5	80.5	88.2	86.7	89.2	82.9	89.2	80.5	93.4
	Low	0.6	0.4	1.7	1.8	0.9	2.0	7.0	1.0	12.1	2.1
Harmony	High	89.5	89.2	82.6	92.6	88.6	89.0	88.6	92.1	82.9	93.3
	Low	0.3	0.4	0.0	1.8	0.4	1.8	5.2	1.0	10.0	0.0

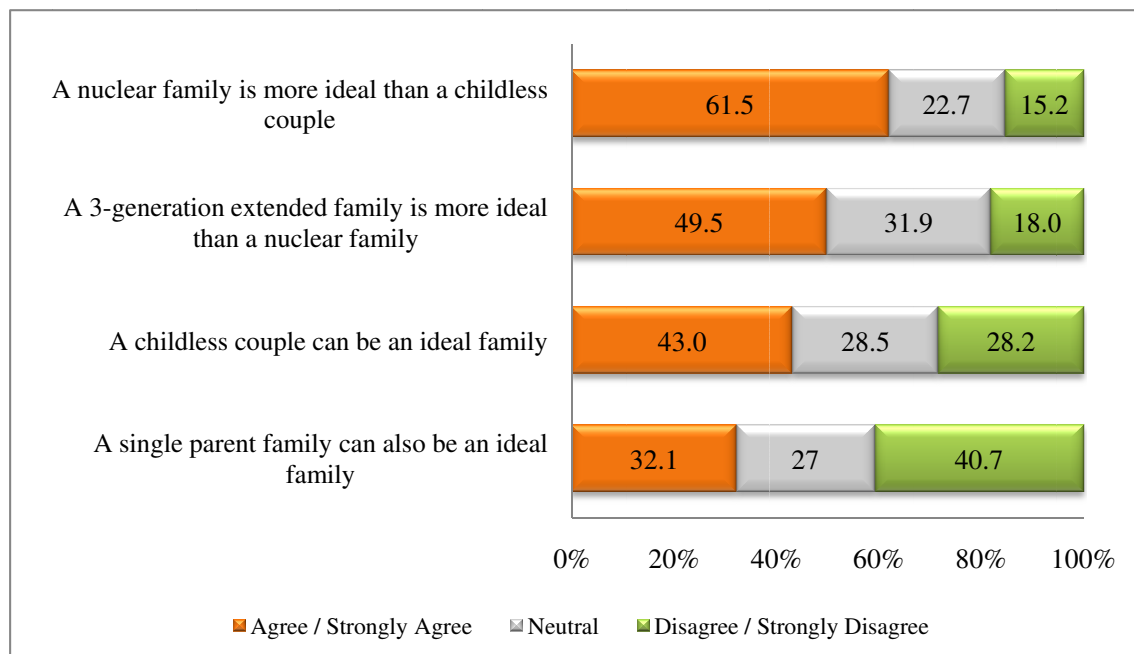
## 4.4 Attitudes towards Ideal Family

4.4.1 *Attitudes towards ideal family varied.* 62% of the respondents agreed that “a nuclear family<sup>8</sup> is more ideal than a childless couple”. However, 43% of the respondents also expressed that “a childless couple can also be an ideal family”.

4.4.2 At the same time, 50% of the respondents agreed that “a 3-generation extended family (i.e. three generations live together within a household) is more ideal than a nuclear family”. Only 32% agreed that “a single parent family can also be an ideal family”.

**Chart 16a: Attitudes towards ideal family (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 16a)



4.4.3 Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above were more likely to agree that “nuclear family is more ideal than a childless couple” (70%) and “a 3-generation extended family is more ideal than a nuclear family” (61%). On the other hand, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to agree that “a childless family can be an ideal family” (51%) and “a single parent family can also be an ideal family” (41%) when compared with other age group.

<sup>8</sup> A nuclear family is (i) a couple and all of their children who has never been married; or (ii) a single parent (father or mother) and all of his / her children who has never been married.

**Table 16b: Agreement on attitudes towards ideal family by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 16b)

(Agree / Strongly agree)	15-34	35-54	55 or above
A nuclear family is more ideal than a childless couple	53.1	61.8	70.1
A 3-generation extended family is more ideal than a nuclear family	42.9	46.2	61.0
A childless couple can be an ideal family	50.8	46.3	30.5
A single parent family can also be an ideal family	41.0	33.2	21.2

4.4.4 Analysed by marital status, male respondents who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that “a nuclear family is more ideal than a childless couple” (85%) and “a 3-generation extended family is more ideal than a nuclear family” (66%).

**Table 16c: Agreement on attitudes towards ideal family by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 16c)

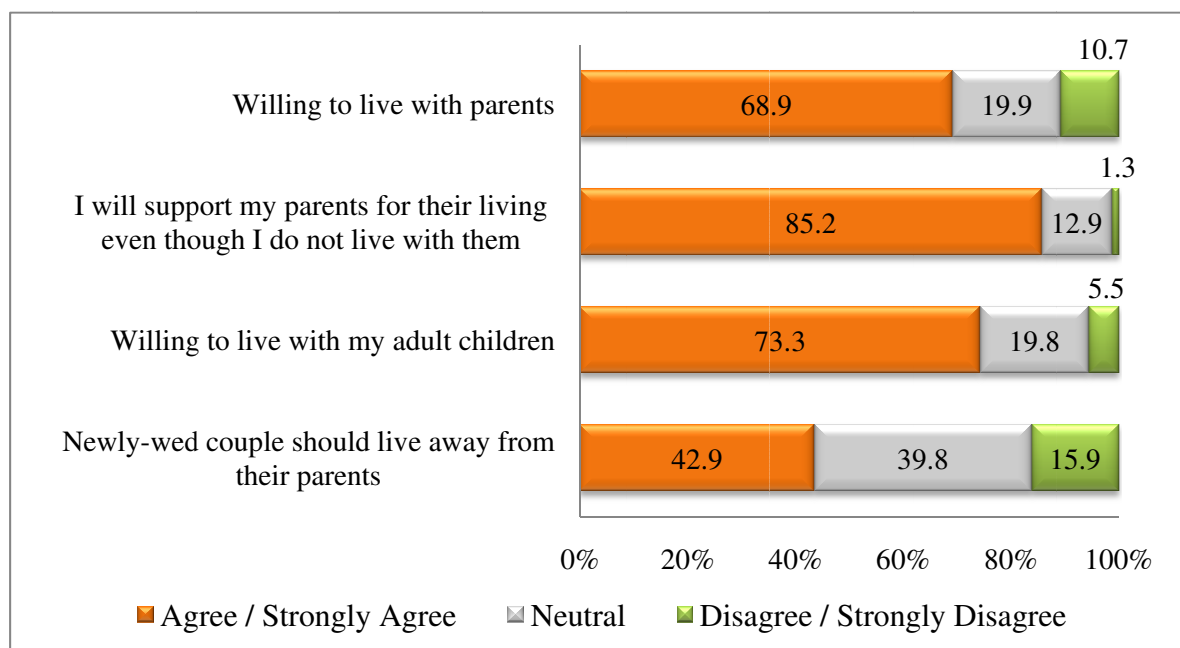
	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	A nuclear family is more ideal than a childless couple	49.5	48.5	56.7	32.5	68.8	73.2	84.7	67.5	67.7
A 3-generation extended family is more ideal than a nuclear family	42.2	43.8	32.4	30.9	55.1	55.9	65.5	61.5	41.8	45.5
A childless couple can be an ideal family	52.3	58.3	58.0	62.8	35.5	34.2	20.1	25.9	44.4	47.2
A single parent family can also be an ideal family	40.8	46.5	25.1	33.9	23.8	25.7	20.3	22.7	47.0	50.4

## 4.5 Attitudes towards Living with Parents

4.5.1 **Majority of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and support their living even though they did not live with them.** 69% of the respondents were willing to live with their parents and 85% agreed to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them. 73% agreed "to live with their adult children". At the same time, only 43% of the respondents agreed that "newly-wed couple should live away from their parents".

**Chart 17a: Attitudes towards living with parents (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 17a)



4.5.2 Similar views were held by the respondents across all age groups. However, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (74%) than those in the older age groups. Majority of the respondents were willing to support their parents' living even though they did not live with them, especially the younger people aged 15-34 (90% of them sharing such a view).

**Table 17b: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 17b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Willing to live with parents	74.4	66.7	66.0
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	89.5	86.3	79.0
Willing to live with adult children	73.5	77.3	67.8
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	39.5	43.3	46.0

4.5.3 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were never married were more likely to be willing to live with their parents (80%) and support their parents' living even though they did not live with them (90%).

**Table 17c: Agreement on attitudes towards living with parents by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 17c)

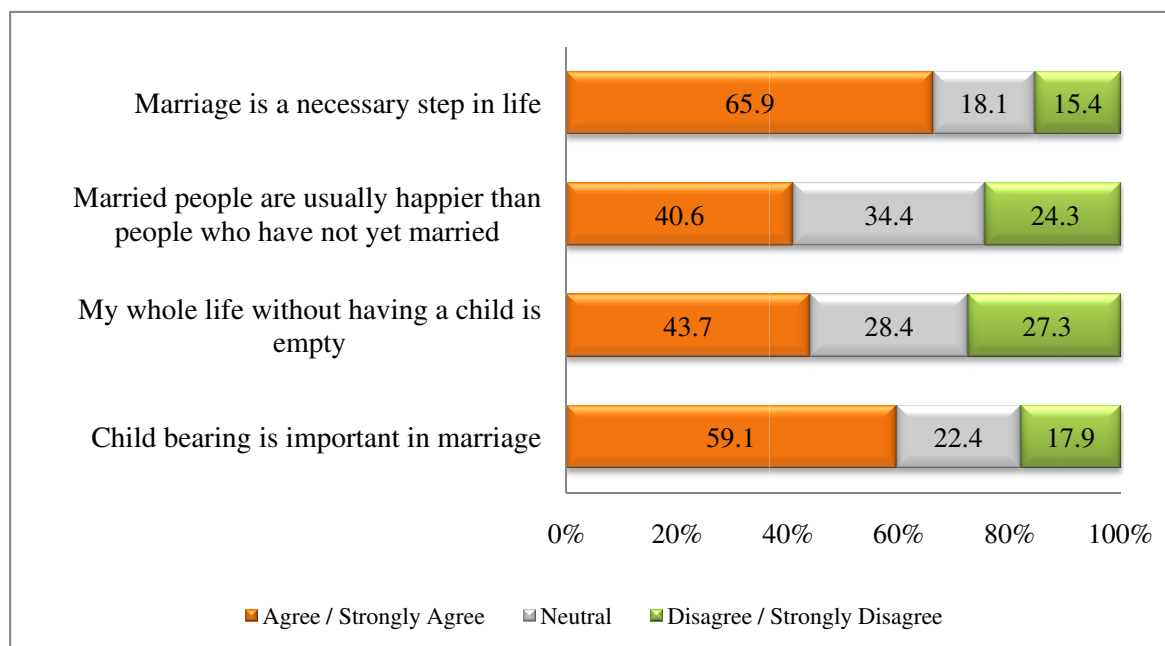
	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Willing to live with parents	71.8	79.8	66.4	60.7	67.1	67.0	60.2	60.8	62.7
I will support my parents for their living even I do not live with them	86.3	90.4	82.7	87.6	82.4	88.7	73.5	73.5	74.8	85.1
Willing to live with adult children	69.6	71.9	53.9	70.9	78.0	80.9	66.9	65.5	51.7	69.7
Newly-wed couple living away from their parents	40.2	38.5	44.4	45.0	42.3	48.2	55.3	38.0	36.0	46.5

## 4.6 Attitudes towards Marriage and Having Child

4.6.1 **Most people agreed that marriage is a necessary step in life.** 66% and 59% of the respondents agreed that “marriage is a necessary step in life” and “child bearing is important in marriage” respectively. 44% of the respondents also agreed that “my whole life without having a child is empty”. Higher proportion of respondents (41%) agreed that married people are usually happier than those who have not married.

**Chart 18a: Attitudes towards marriage and having child (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 18a)



4.6.2 Older people aged 55 or above and those who were divorced/separated were more likely to agree that “marriage is a necessary step in life” (71% and 79%), “child bearing is important in marriage” (69%), “life without having a child is empty” (59%) and “married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married” (49% and 44%).

**Table 18b: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 18b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Marriage is a necessary step in life	64.9	63.0	70.9
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	32.7	40.4	49.1
Life without having a child is empty	31.6	41.4	59.2
Child bearing is important in marriage	49.8	59.0	69.0

**Table 18c: Agreement on attitudes towards marriage and having child by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 18c)

	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Marriage is a necessary step in life	57.6	52.4	51.0	58.2	75.6	72.8	84.1	74.3	67.6	57.2
Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married	33.0	25.5	46.6	35.0	47.8	48.6	42.5	46.2	30.8	29.4
Life without having a child is empty	29.4	24.1	27.9	27.8	53.3	55.4	59.2	59.2	40.2	53.4
Child bearing is important in marriage	48.8	40.2	50.5	39.8	70.5	69.5	72.8	64.3	61.4	57.3

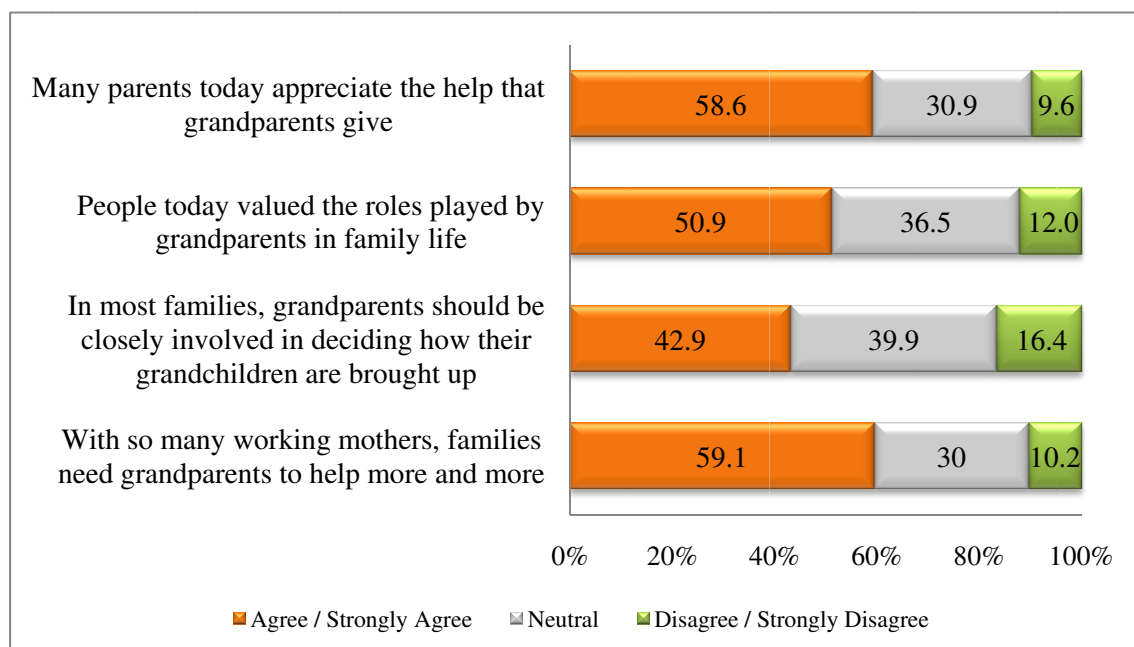


## 4.7 Attitudes towards Involvement of Grandparents in Family Matters

4.7.1 **Most people valued the contribution and help of grandparents.** 59% of the respondents agreed that “many parents today appreciated the help that grandparents give” and “with so many working mothers, families needed grandparents to help more”. At the same time, 51% of the respondents also agreed that “people today valued the roles played by grandparents in family life”. 43% agreed that “grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grand-children are brought up”.

**Chart 19a: Attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 19a)



4.7.2 In general, older people aged 55 or above and those married/cohabiting with child were more likely to agree that “with so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more” (65% and 64%) and “many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give” (62% and 63%).

**Table 19b: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 19b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	59.2	55.9	61.6
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	53.5	46.2	54.3
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	42.6	39.1	48.0
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	54.9	58.1	64.8

**Table 19c: Agreement on attitudes towards involvement of grandparents in family matters by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 19c)

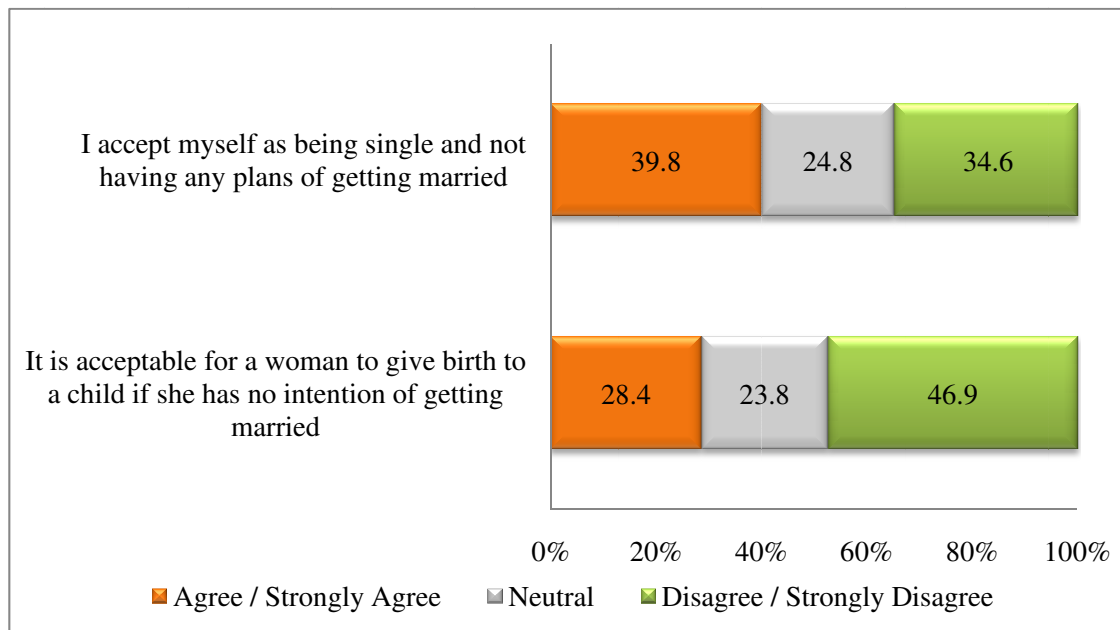
	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Many parents today appreciate the help that grandparents give	57.4	57.3	39.7	45.7	65.7	59.8	56.9	60.6	52.7	58.3
People today place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life	49.6	49.8	34.5	48.7	53.3	54.5	40.5	54.4	47.5	44.7
In most families, grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up	39.4	42.9	28.4	34.1	47.7	42.2	33.3	54	42.5	47.2
With so many working mothers, families need grandparents to help more and more	52.6	54.9	54.1	53.3	63.9	64.8	51.6	62.9	54.3	52.1

## 4.8 Attitudes towards Singlehood

4.8.1 *Attitudes towards singlehood varied.* 40% of the respondents accepted the view of “being single and not having any plan to get married”. At the same time, only 28% of the respondents found it acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she had no intention of getting married.

**Chart 20a: Attitudes towards singlehood (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 20a)



4.8.2 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to agree that “being single and not having any plan to get married” (46%) and “woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married” (33%).

**Table 20b: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 20b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	45.7	43	29.3
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married	32.5	31.2	20.6

4.8.3 Analysed by marital status, male respondents who were widowed were more likely to accept themselves as “being single and not having any plan to get married” (68%) and that for “a woman to give birth to a child if she had no plan to get married” (56%).

**Table 20c: Agreement on attitudes towards singlehood by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 20c)

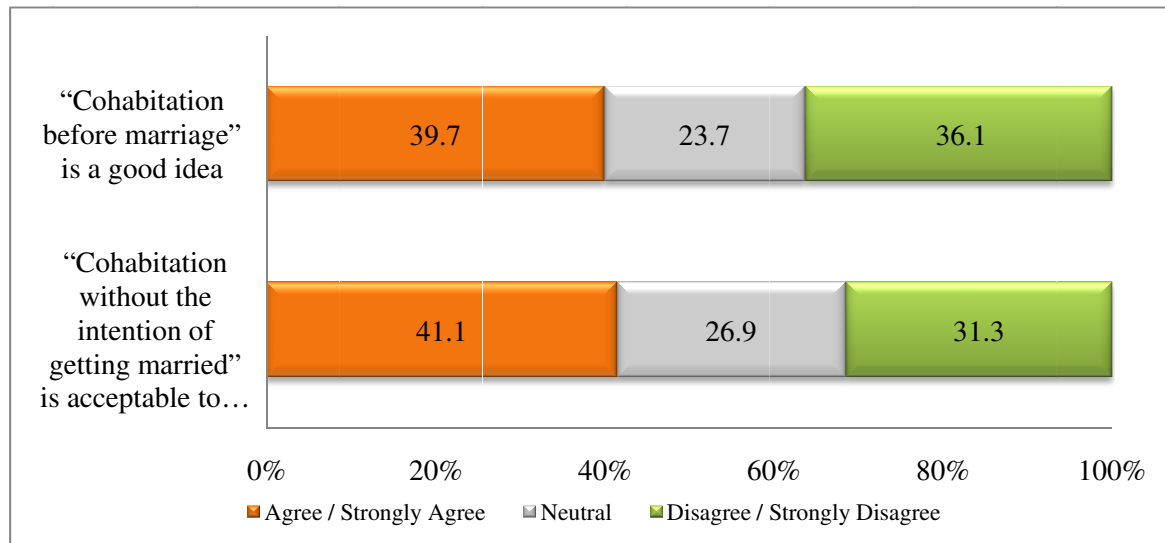
	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	I accept myself as being single and not having any plans of getting married	50.8	60.6	31.2	45.1	31.4	27.1	31.7	28.1	67.8
It is acceptable for a woman to give birth to a child if she has no intention of getting married	32.2	36.5	27.1	28.1	25.5	22.8	22.1	19.0	55.7	46.5

## 4.9 Attitudes towards Cohabitation

4.9.1 *Attitudes towards cohabitation varied.* Results of the Survey show that 40% of the respondents accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married”. 41% accepted that “cohabitation before marriage is a good idea”.

**Chart 21a: Attitudes towards cohabiting (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 21a)



4.9.2 Even though quite a high proportion of the respondents accepted “cohabitation without intention of getting married” and “cohabitation before marriage is a good idea”, at the same time, 36% showed disagreement to “cohabitation without intention of getting married” and 31% disagreed that “cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea. (Annex 3 – Table 20a)

4.9.3 Analysed by age group, younger people aged 15-34 were more likely to accept “cohabitation without intention of getting married” (49%) and “cohabitation before marriage” (50%). On the other hand, older people (50% of respondents aged 55 or above) showed disagreement to “cohabitation without the intention of getting married”.

**Table 21b: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 21b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
“Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” is acceptable to me	49.4	42.4	25.8
“Cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea	49.5	42.5	30.3

4.9.4 Irrespective of age groups, male respondents were more likely to accept “cohabitation without the intention of getting married” and “cohabitation before marriage”. Likewise, respondents (male and female alike) who were divorced/separated had the smallest proportion of accepting cohabitation.

**Table 21c: Agreement on attitudes towards cohabitation by marital status and gender (%)**

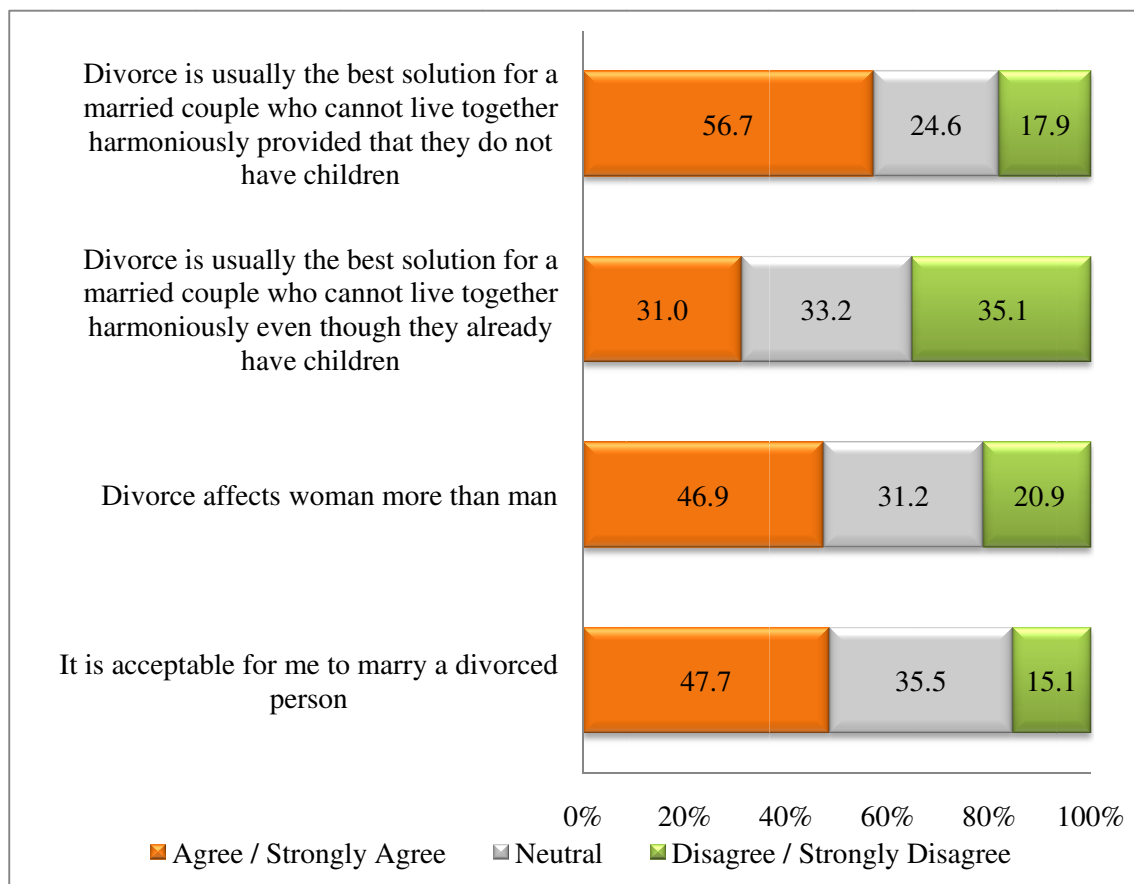
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 21c)

	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	“Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” is acceptable to me	57.7	43.6	51.8	46.7	33.4	32.4	30.9	16.3	62.4
“Cohabitation before marriage” is a good idea	54.5	46.3	53.3	48.1	35.2	34.8	44.4	23.8	55.5	36.5

## 4.10 Attitudes towards Divorce

4.10.1 Majority of respondents accepted “divorce being the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children” (57%). However, there was no consensus when the couple already had children. Only 31% of the respondents indicated agreement on “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children”. At the same time, 48% accepted marrying a divorced person. 47% agreed that divorce affected women more than men.

**Chart 22a: Attitudes towards divorce (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 22a)



4.10.2 Compared with other age groups, middle-aged respondents (35 – 54) were more likely to support divorce as the best solution for a couple who could not get along well with each other if the couple had no child (61%) and they were also likely to accept marrying a divorced person (53%).

**Table 22b: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 22b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	54.6	60.8	53.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	28.9	32.9	30.8
Divorce affects woman more than man	49.9	46	45.2
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	49.7	53.4	38.1



4.10.3 Analysed by marital status, widowed respondents were more likely to agree that “divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot get along well with each other if the couple had no child (82%) or with child (62%)”. Likewise, they were more likely to accept marrying a divorced person. It is also worth noting that, only 30% of female respondents who were divorced/separated accepted themselves marrying a divorced person.

**Table 22c: Agreement on attitudes towards divorce by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 22c)

	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously provided that they do not have children	54.4	59.7	47.0	64.6	56.8	54.5	39.4	51.7	86.2	76.8
Divorce is usually the best solution for a married couple who cannot live together harmoniously even though they already have children	31.4	32.6	23.2	33.4	27.1	29.1	32.7	26.1	65.4	58.2
Divorce affects woman more than man	43.3	47.3	48	56	41.7	54	39.6	44.9	31.5	50.6
It is acceptable for me to marry a divorced person	53.6	49.1	48	55.8	44.3	45.9	43	29.5	76	61.6

## Chapter 5 | Parenthood

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Different parenting style has different impact on children. The questions from the Canadian family survey<sup>9</sup> are adopted in our focus group discussions and public survey. Main areas of concern are:

- a) attitudes towards parenthood;
- b) impact on having and raising children;
- c) role models; and
- d) parenting method

5.1.2 There is no single or definitive model of parenting. What may be right for one child may not be suitable for another. Parenting strategies also play a significant role in a child's development. Information on parenting, including the types of approaches adopted in disciplining children such as a verbal reprimand, withdrawing privileges, sending the child to his/her room and a "time out" and spanking, was gathered in the Survey.

5.1.3 It is worth noting that family size decreased in recent years. More and more couples indicated no intention to have children. Views on the likelihood of having children for those non-parents and the reasons were solicited from the respondents in the Survey.

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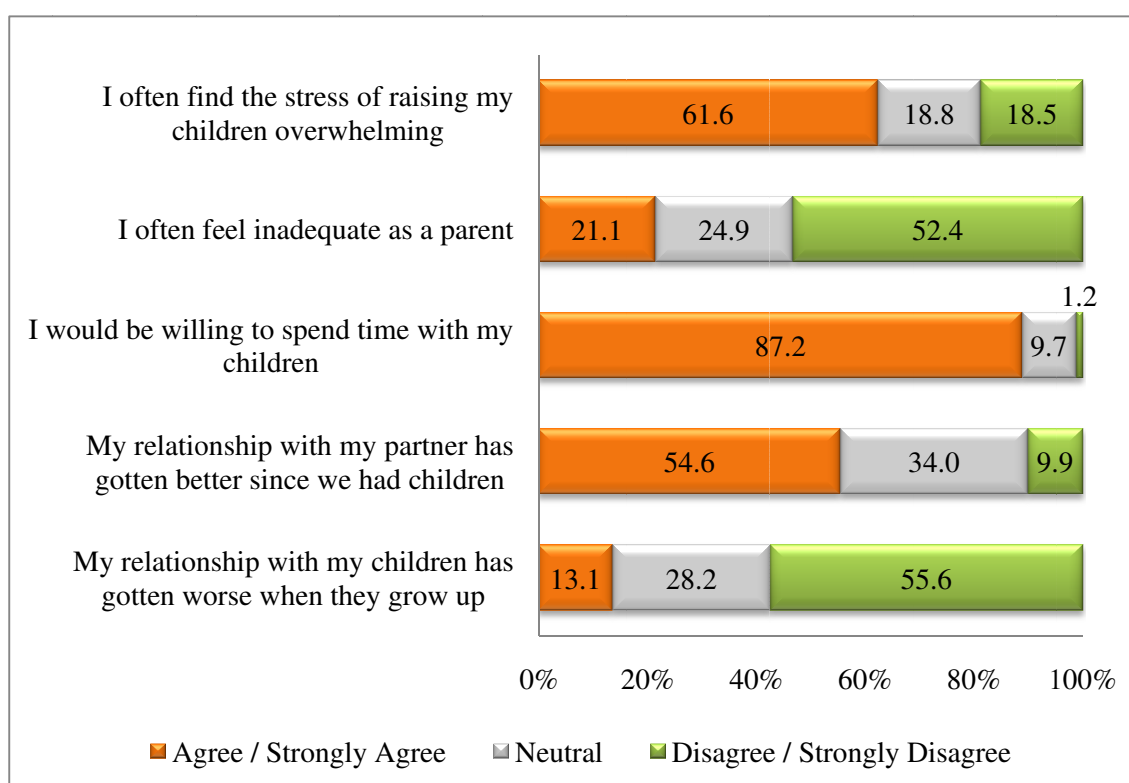
<sup>9</sup> Canadian Attitudes on the Family: The Complete Report 2002, Focus on the Family Canada Association

## 5.2 Attitudes towards Parenthood

5.2.1 **Raising children was stressful for some parents.** 62% of the parents<sup>10</sup> agreed that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. At the same time, 87% of the parents indicated that they would be willing to spend time with their children and 55% considered that their relationship with their partner got better after they had children. It is also interesting to note that there was only 13% of them agreed that their relationship with their children had gotten worse when they grew up and 21% agreed that they often felt inadequate as a parent.

**Chart 23a: Attitudes towards parenthood (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 23a)



<sup>10</sup> Questions in the section 5.2 -5.3 were asked to the respondents who had children (parents). Total number of respondents for those who have children = 939

5.2.2 Analysed by age group, middle-aged parents (35-54) were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising their children overwhelming (64%). The majority of the parents were willing to spend time with their children, especially the middle-aged parents (94%).

**Table 23b: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 23b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	53.0	64.0	60.8
I often feel inadequate as a parent	22.7	22.2	19.4
I would be willing to spend time with my children	88.5	93.7	79.9
My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children	54.5	52.8	56.6
My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up	9.3	11.4	15.8

5.2.3 Male respondents who were never married were more likely to agree that they often found the stress of raising children overwhelming (88%). For those respondents who were widowed, the male respondents (31%) and the female respondents (37%) were more likely to consider that they often felt inadequate as a parent. An interesting observation was also made. All female respondents, irrespective of marital status, were more willing than the male counterparts to spare time with their children.

**Table 23c: Agreement on attitudes towards parenthood by marital status and gender (%)**

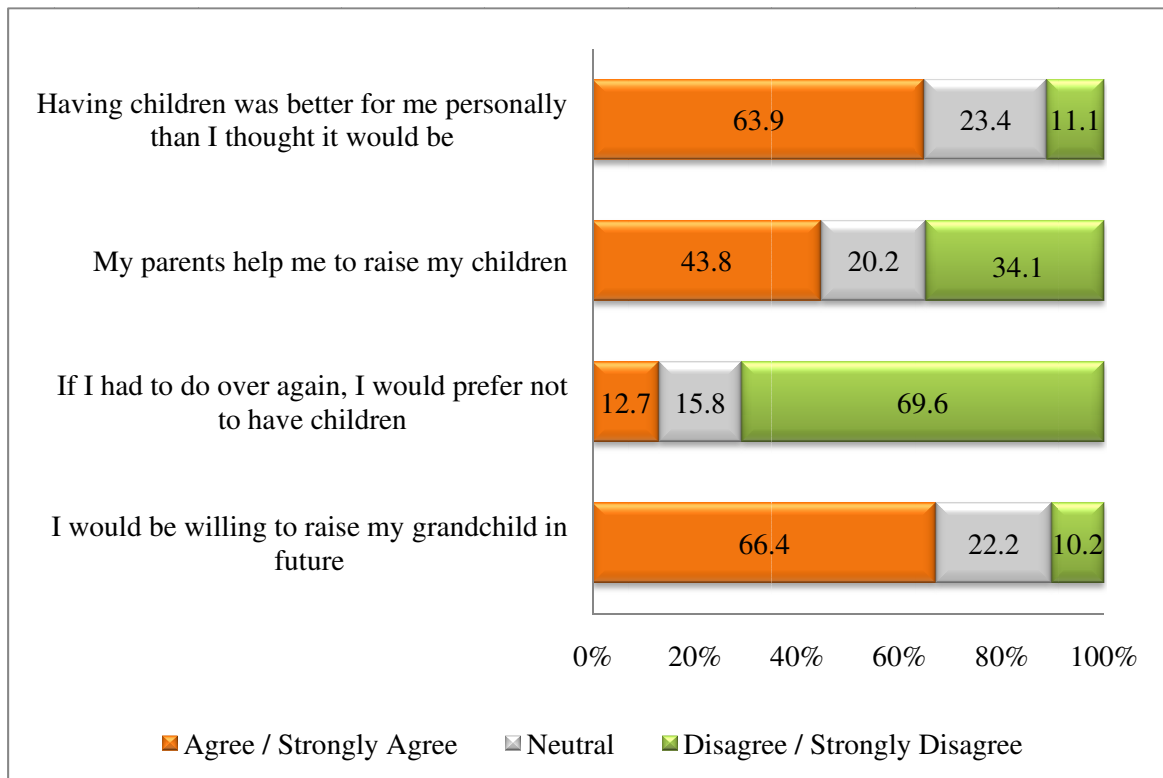
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 23c)

(Strongly Agree / Agree)	Never-married		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I often find the stress of raising my children overwhelming	88.4	40.1	56.3	63.7	47.4	69.8	60.7	73.6
I often feel inadequate as a parent	25.3	19.9	18.0	20.9	16.7	23.3	30.6	36.9
I would be willing to spend time with my children	78.9	89.8	85.6	91.3	60.9	85.6	82.1	85.1
My relationship with my partner has gotten better since we had children	74.3	100.0	58.5	56.6	56.3	50.4	26.5	27.5
My relationship with my children has gotten worse when they grow up	44.7	11.0	14.3	10.5	6.3	12.4	24.1	21.6

### 5.3 Impact of Raising Children

5.3.1 *The views on raising their children by grandparents were diversified.* We have solicited views of the respondents as to whether their parents rendered assistance in taking care of their children (44% agreed, whereas 34% disagreed). On the other hand, 66% of the parents agreed that “I would be willing to raise my grandchildren in future” and “having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be” (64%). It is also interesting to note that only 13% of the respondents would prefer not to have children if they had to do over again.

**Chart 24a: Impact on having and raising children (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 24a)



5.3.2 Analysed by age group, there was no significant difference of views on raising children across different age and sex groups. In general, older parents aged 55 or above were more likely to agree that they would be willing to raise their grandchild in future (69%).

**Table 24b: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 24b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	67.4	62.3	64.9
My parents help me to raise my children	47.1	44.6	42.0
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	14.9	12.5	12.4
I would be willing to raise my grandchild in future	59.2	65.9	68.6

5.3.3 Analysed by marital status, for both male and female respondents who were widowed, divorced/separated, they were more likely to agree that if they had to do over again, they would prefer not having children, as compared to other groups.

**Table 24c: Agreement on impact on having and raising children by marital status and gender (%)**

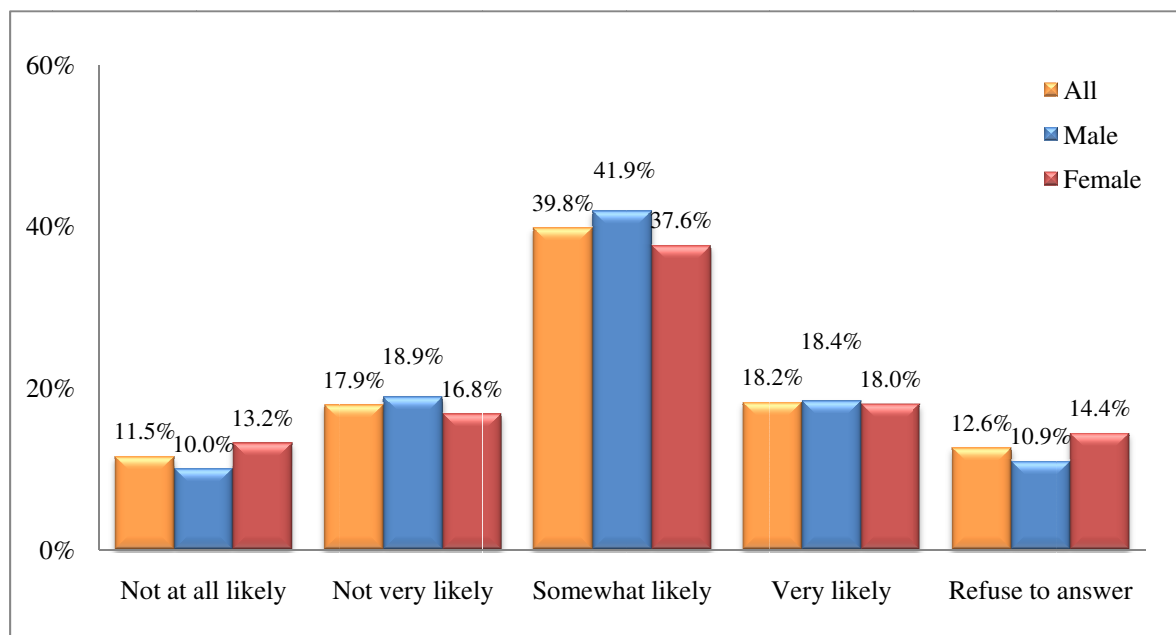
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 24c)

	Never-married		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Having children was better for me personally than I thought it would be	74.3	29.9	66.3	66.5	46.2	59.0	61.0	49.0
My parents help me to raise my children	65.7	37.0	47.9	42.6	22.7	38.6	32.9	46.2
If I had to do over again, I would prefer not to have children	9.5	11.0	9.4	12.7	10.8	14.6	31.7	24.3
I would be willing to raise my grandchild in future	37.5	47.0	72.3	64.8	38.9	61.4	51.1	72.7

## 5.4 Intention to have children

5.4.1 Attitude towards non-parent respondents on their intention to **have children in the future varied**. 58% of the non-parent respondents<sup>11</sup> indicated that they were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future. At the same time, 29% of the non-parent respondents indicated that they were not very likely or not at all likely to have children in the future.

**Chart 25a: Intention to have children in the future (%)**



<sup>11</sup> Questions in the section 5.4 were asked to the respondents who had no children (non-parents). Number of respondents for those who without children = 1061



5.4.2 *Nearly half of those non-parents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future.* 51% of those non-parent respondents aged 35-54 had no intention to have children in the future. It is noticeable that younger people aged 15-34 and those never married were very likely or somewhat likely to have children in the future (76% and 62%). Besides, it is noteworthy that the difference in attitudes between male (60%) and female (56%) was quite significant.

**Table 25b: Intention to have children in the future by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 25b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Not at all likely	2.2	15.7	60.6
Not very likely	9.7	34.9	24.4
Somewhat likely	50.2	28.8	2.5
Very likely	25.8	6.6	0.0

**Table 25c: Intention to have children in the future by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 25c)

	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Not at all likely	7.0	9.4	15.0	21.4	66.9	40.9	26.4	65.9
Not very likely	18.4	15.3	19.1	21.1	16.9	23.3	34.0	34.1
Somewhat likely	44.1	43.9	37.6	18.8	0.0	21.0	25.9	0.0
Very likely	19.9	17.7	16.7	21.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

5.4.3 Major reasons for non-parent respondents for not having children were (a) “I am too old” (31%), (b) “I do not have a partner/not married” (32%).

**Table 26: Reasons for non-parents not to have children in the future (%)**

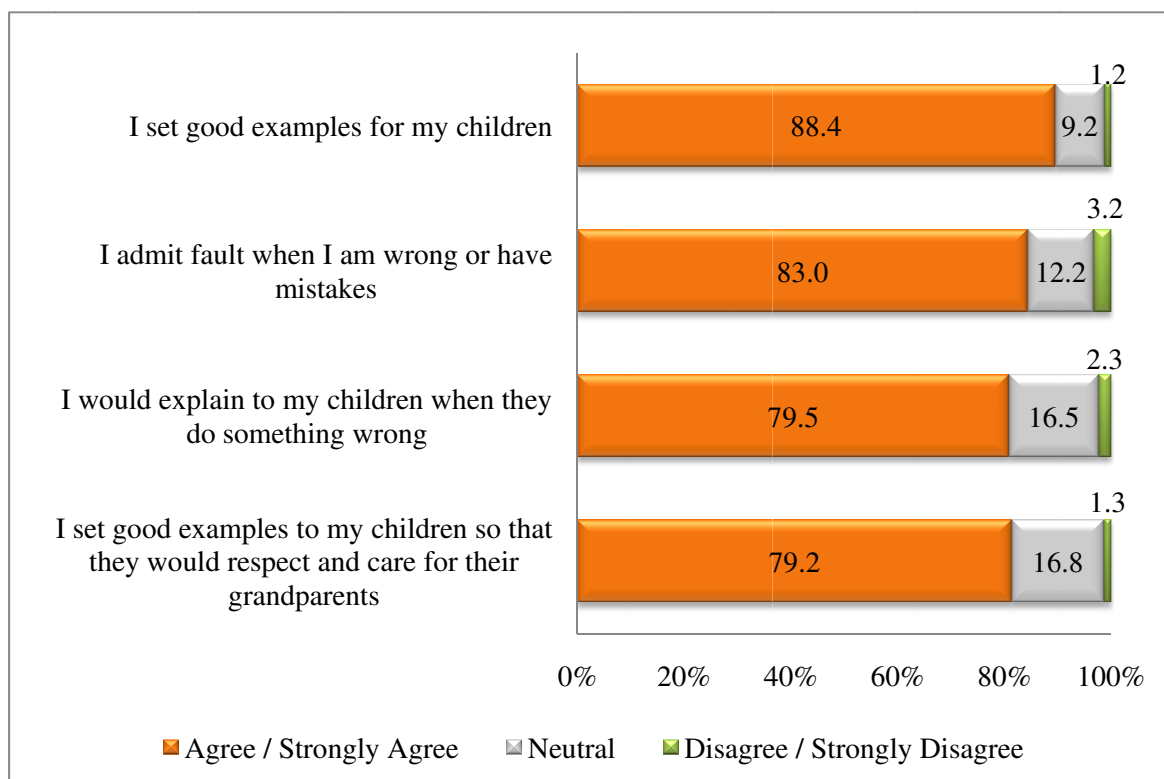
	All	Male	Female
I do not have a partner/Not married	32.0	32.8	31.2
We are too old	30.5	33.3	27.6
I do not want any/Do not like children	16.9	14.9	19.1
Wanted simply to enjoy life and experience more of it	10.8	11	10.7
Would not have time/Too busy	9.1	8.4	9.7
Wanted to be financially stable	8.8	9.1	8.4
Wanted to have house first	5.1	5	5.2
My spouse/partner was not ready	2.6	4.2	0.9
Wanted to get established in career	2.4	2.9	1.8
Wanted to but were unable to conceive	1.9	1	3
No one to take care the children	0.9	1.7	0
Others	6.4	5.2	7.7

## 5.5 Role models

5.5.1 **Most parents agreed to set role models for their children.** Majority of the parents<sup>12</sup> agreed to set good examples to their children (88%), to admit fault when doing wrong (83%), to explain to their children when they do something wrong (80%) and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and care take of their grandparents (79%).

**Chart 27a: Attitudes towards role models (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 27a)



12 Questions in the section 5.5 were asked to the respondents who had children (parents).

5.5.2 Consensus of views was found in all groups, irrespective of age, gender and marital status. Most of the parents agreed to set good examples, to admit wrong, to tell them when they did something wrong and to set good examples to children so that they would respect and take care of their grandparents.

**Table 27b: Agreement on attitudes towards role models by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 27b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
I set good examples for my children	87.1	92.7	83.9
I admit when I am wrong or have mistakes	88.0	85.8	78.8
I would explain to my children when they do something wrong	79.0	82.7	76.2
I set a good example to my children so that they would respect and care for their grandparents	75.7	81.5	77.4

**Table 27c: Agreement on attitudes towards role models by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 27c)

	Never-married		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I set good examples for my children	76.8	65.2	89.9	89.2	69.2	86.7	85.3	90.3
I admit when I am wrong or have mistakes	78.9	89.8	80.2	87.3	54.9	78.3	85.1	88.5
I would explain to my children when they do something wrong	78.9	100.0	80.9	79.8	57.2	81.3	74.7	76.0
I set a good example to my children so that they would respect and care for their grandparents	40.4	100.0	80.0	81.3	64.9	78.7	64.0	74.6

5.5.3 85% of the parents considered that parents were the most suitable persons to teach their children the right values. 62% and 25% believed that teachers in schools and their grandparents shouldered such duty respectively. This notwithstanding, only 13% of the respondents shared the view that the government played a role in imparting right values to their children.

**Table 28: Teaching right values (%)**

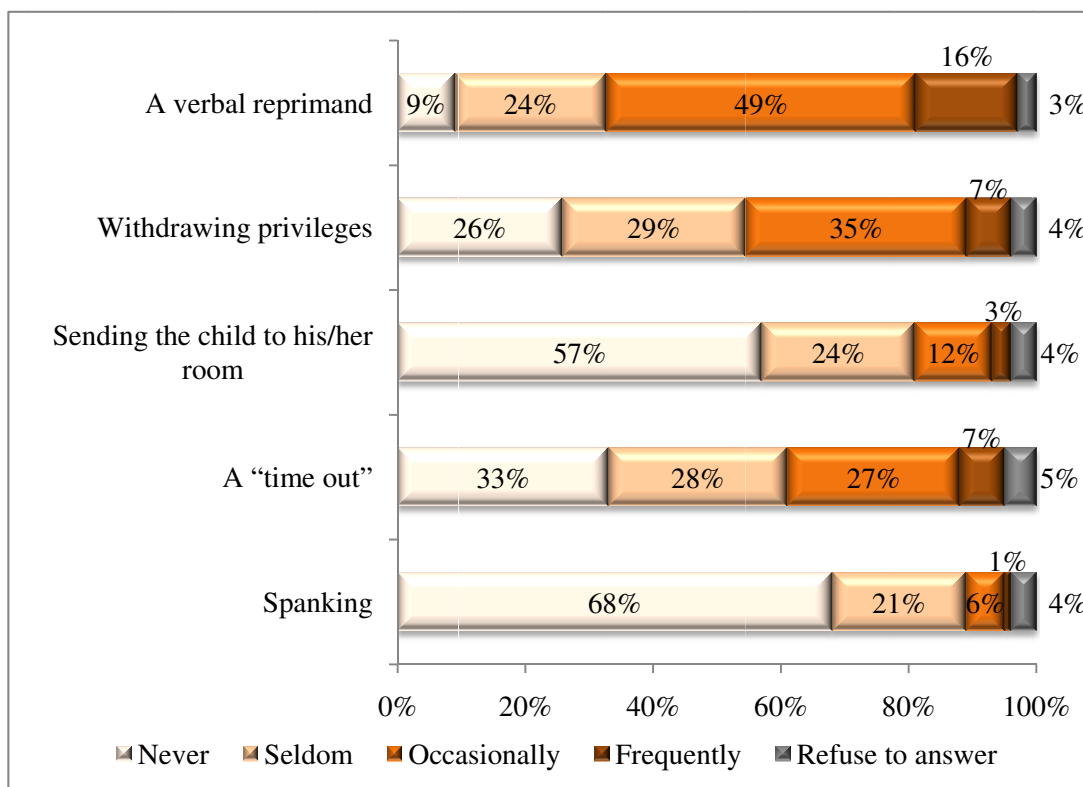
	All	Male	Female
Their parents	85.4	86.5	84.6
Their grandparents	24.5	27.3	22.4
Maids in the home	2.9	3.3	2.7
Their teachers in schools	61.8	62.5	61.2
Their friends	28.9	24.5	32.1
Religious communities	18.9	17.5	19.8
The mass media	24.4	24.2	24.5
Governmental efforts	13.4	14.1	13.0
Others	0.8	0.6	0.9

*Note: Respondents were allowed to give more than one choice.*

## 5.6 Parenting Method

5.6.1 **Parenting methods were on the whole gentle.** Parents with children aged 18 or below<sup>13</sup> indicated that they used non-physical approaches (i.e., a verbal reprimand, withdrawal of privileges, sending the child to his or her room and a “time out”) much more frequently than “spanking” when disciplining their children. In fact, 68% reported that they never spanked their children and 28% had spanked their children either frequently (1%), occasionally (6%), and rarely (21%). For non-physical approaches, 88% adopted verbal reprimand either frequently (16%), occasionally (49%), and rarely (24%) and rarely (24%).

**Chart 29a: Parenting method (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 29a)



13 Questions in the section 5.6 were asked to the respondents who had children aged 18 or below.

5.6.2 Analysed by age group, older parents aged 55 or above (33%) expressed that they had used physical approaches (i.e. spanking) when disciplining their children, as compared with those aged 35-54 (29%) and those aged 15-34 (21%).

**Table 29b: Frequently employed parenting method by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 29b)

	15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
A verbal reprimand	18.1	15.1	15.1
Withdrawing privileges	8.9	6.5	3.9
Sending the child to his/her room	5.8	2	2.6
A “time out”	14.4	5.8	6.5
Spanking	3.4	0.8	0

5.6.3 Analysed by marital status, more widowed parents (36%) indicated that they had used physical approaches (i.e. spanking) when disciplining their children, as compared with those were divorced/separated (29%), those were married or cohabiting (28%) and those were never married (28%).

**Table 29c: Frequently employed parenting method by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 29c)

	Never married		Married / cohabiting with child		Divorced / separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A verbal reprimand	0.0	15.7	14.5	17.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	24.2
Withdrawing privileges	64.5	0.0	7.6	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3
Sending the child to his/her room	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.7	0.0	4.6	0.0	2.7
A “time out”	0.0	0.0	7.9	7.8	0.0	5.7	0.0	5.6
Spanking	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0

## Chapter 6 | Family Functioning

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Family functioning comprises two components: family interaction, and parenting. The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI) was adopted in this Survey to assess family functioning.<sup>14</sup> The CFAI is a 33-item instrument which can be classified into the following five dimensions to assess family functioning: (1) Mutuality, (2) Communication and Cohesiveness, (3) Conflict and Harmony, (4) Parental Concern, and (5) Parental Control. Classification of these 33 items is shown in table below.

**Table 30: Classification of CFAI**

<p><b><u>Mutuality</u></b>            Family members support each other            Family members love each other            Family members care each other            Mutual consideration            Family members understand each other            Family members get along well            Good family relationship            Family members tolerate each other            Family members forebear each other            Family members accommodate each other            Family members trust each other            Children are filial</p>	<p><b><u>Communication</u></b>            Family members talk to each other            Arranging family activities            Family members are cohesive            Family members enjoy getting together            Not much barrier among family members            Parents know children’s need            Parents understand children’s mind            Parents often talk to children            Parents share children’s concern</p>
<p><b><u>Control</u></b>            Parents scold and beat children            Parents force children to do things            Parental control too harsh</p>	<p><b><u>Conflict</u></b>            No mutual concern            Much friction among family members            Frequent fighting among family members            Not much quarrel among family members            Lack of harmony among family members            Poor marital relationship of parent</p>
<p><b><u>Concern</u></b>            Parents do not concern their children            Parents love their children            Parents take care of their children</p>	

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14 “Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument in Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong” by Andrew M.H. Siu and Daniel T.L. Shek, 2005



## 6.2 The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)

6.2.1 Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with “1” denoting “does not fit our family” and “5” denoting “very fit our family”. Mean scores are computed for the five classifications by aggregating ratings of these 33 items. A lower total score on the subscales indicated a higher level of dysfunction in family functioning.

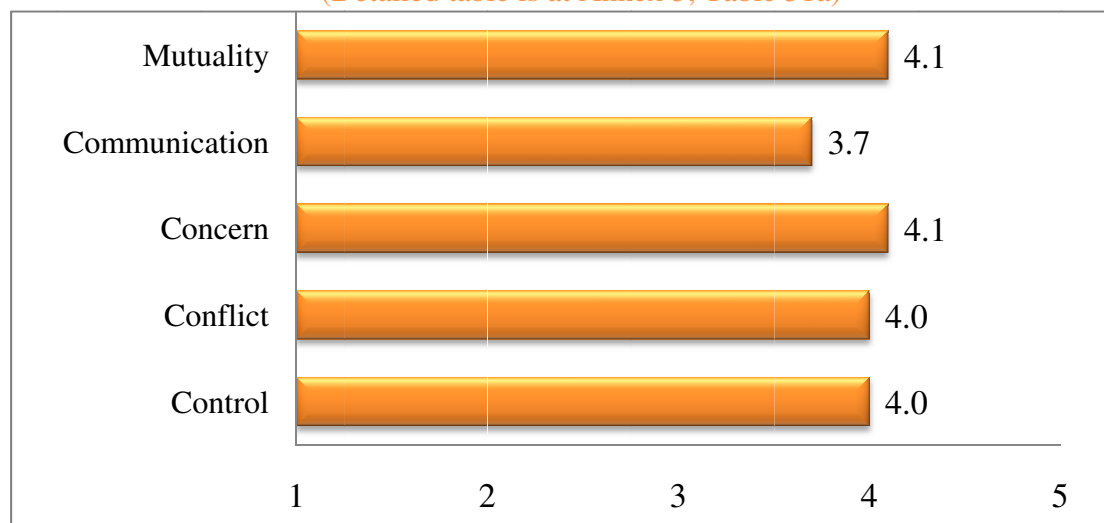
6.2.2 For the dimensions of “Mutuality”, “Communication” and “Concern”, higher mean value implied more mutual concern of family members, better relationship and better communication within the family. For the dimensions of “Control” and “Conflict”, lower mean value implied that the family has conflict such as fighting and quarrelling sometimes or even frequently, and parents’ control on children is tight within the family.

6.2.3 The results showed that the mean scores of “Mutuality” and “Concern” were at 4.1 implying that respondents in general considered there was mutual trust and concern among family members and most of the families maintained a very good parent-child relationship. The mean score of “Communication” was at 3.7 implying that in general the respondents communicated quite well and their families were cohesive, and parents understood their children’s need and thinking.

6.2.4 The results showed that the mean scores of “Conflict” and “Control” were at 4.0 implying that the families were quite harmonious, without much conflict between family members. Besides, parents did not exercise tight control on their children.

**Chart 31a: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 31a)



6.2.5 Tables below showed the analysis by age group as well as marital status.

**Table 31b: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by age group**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 31b)

	Overall	15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
Mutuality	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
Communication	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6
Concern	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Conflict	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Control	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1

**Table 31c: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by marital status and gender**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 31c)

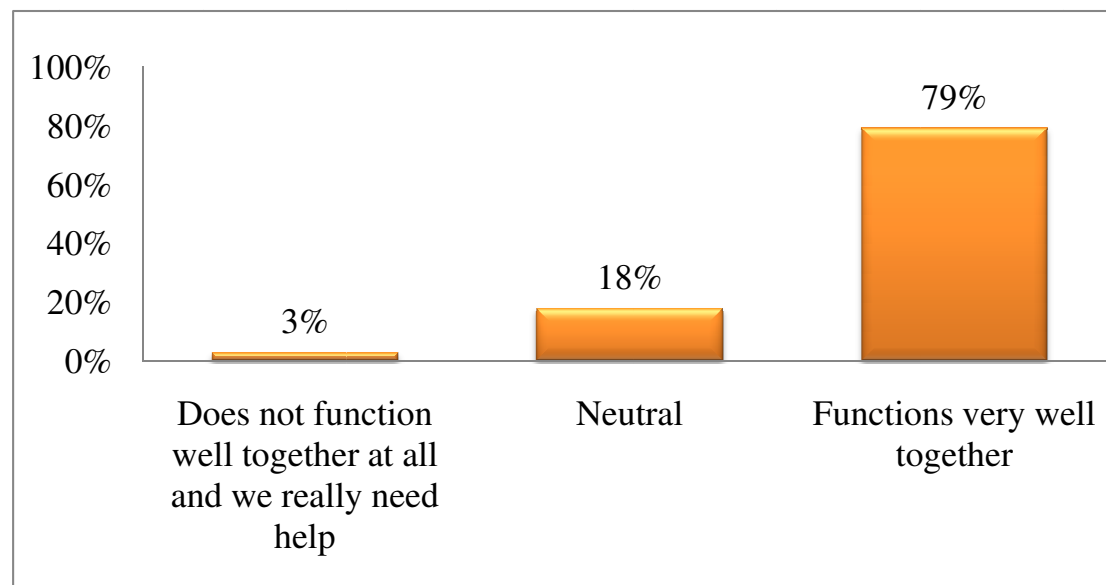
	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mutuality	3.9	4.1	4	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.9
Communication	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.6
Concern	4	4.1	3.8	4	4.2	4.2	4	4.1	3.9	4
Conflict	3.9	4	4	4.1	4.1	4	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6
Control	4	4	3.8	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.9

## 6.3 Family Functioning

6.3.1 At the same time, comments were collected from respondents on the functioning of their families. Survey results indicated that **most families functioned very well**. 79% of the respondents considered that their family functioned very well together. Only 3% of the respondents indicated that their family did not function very well together at all and they needed help.

**Chart 32a: Family functioning (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 32a)



6.3.2 Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above were more likely to report that their family did not function well together at all and they really needed help (4%).

**Table 32b: Family functioning by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 32b)

My family	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Functions very well together	79.3	81	75.6
Neutral	18.1	16.3	19.6
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	2.1	2.2	4.4

6.3.3 Analysed by marital status, female respondents who were widowed, divorced or separated were more likely to report that their family did not function well together at all and they really needed help (7%).

**Table 32c: Family functioning by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 32c)

My family	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Functions very well together	70.7	79.8	84.6	78.7	84.4	85.1	69.8	70.2	51.9	64.3
Neutral	24.4	17.4	14.4	18.7	14.5	12.5	27.1	20.4	43.8	27.7
Does not function well together at all and we really need help	4.5	1.9	1.0	0.8	1.1	2.3	3.1	8.0	4.3	7.0

## Chapter 7 | Satisfaction with Family Life

### 7.1 *Introduction*

7.1.1 The following questions about satisfaction with family life of the respondents were asked:

- a) relationship with family members;
- b) dependence of the family members; and
- c) satisfaction with family life.

7.1.2 Communications between members of the households were also crucial to harmonious family relationships. Information on time spent and communication with family members (such as talking about personal concern, seeking advice, feeling proud of family members, having dinner with family members and participation in family activities) were collected.

7.1.3 Furthermore, satisfaction with family life depends largely on how people feel about their homes, whether it gives every family member a shelter. Information on how home was perceived by respondents was collected in the Survey.

## 7.2 Satisfaction with Family Life

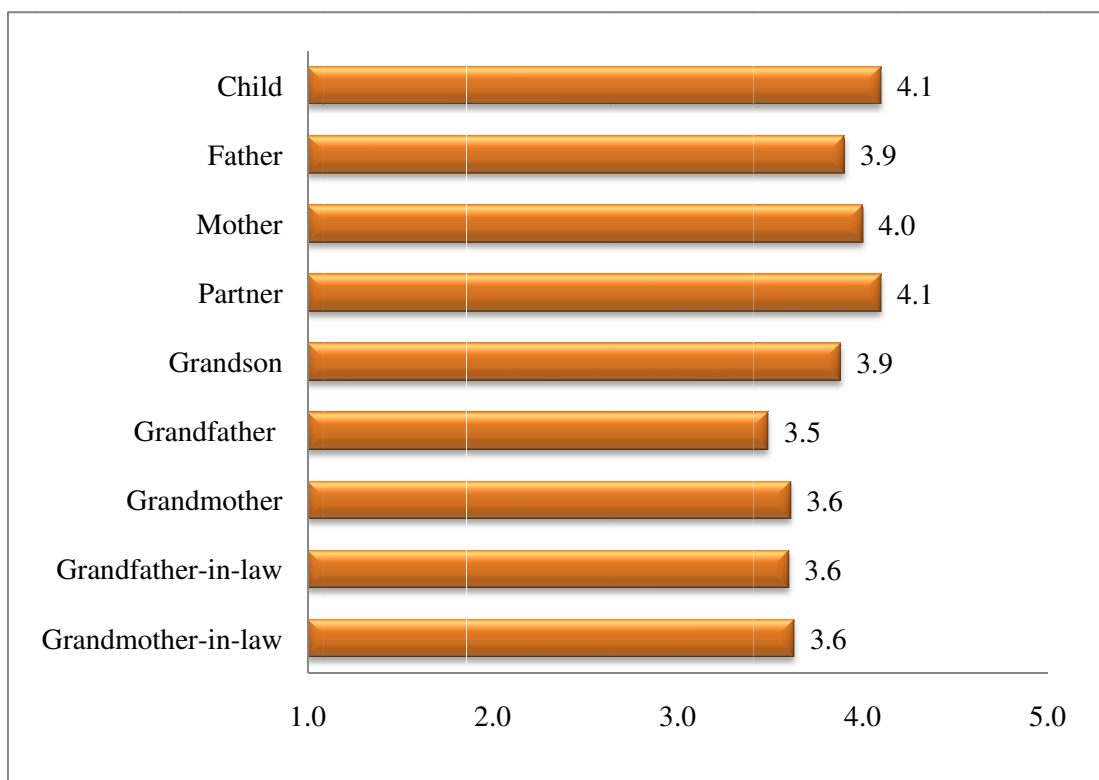
### *Satisfaction with the relationship with family members*

7.2.1 ***On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life.*** Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction over their relationship with each of their family members. Ratings were expressed in a Likert scale of 5, with “1” denoting “very dissatisfied” and “5” denoting “very satisfied”. A mean rating of 4 or above implied that the respondent was satisfied or very satisfied with the particular family member, whereas mean score below 3 did not.

7.2.2 On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members. The overall mean score was 4.1 for partner, 4.1 for children, 4.0 for mother, 3.9 for father, 3.9 for grandson and 3.5 to 3.6 for grandparents.

**Chart 33a: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 33a)



7.2.3 Analysed by age, the mean score of satisfaction with parents were slightly below 4 across all age group. It is interesting to note that for the younger respondents aged 15 – 34, the mean score of satisfaction with their children (4.2) and their partners (4.2) was relatively high indicating that they were most satisfied with the relationship with their children and partner.

**Table 33b: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members by age group**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 33b)

	Total	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Child	4.05	4.21	4.12	3.95
Father	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.88
Mother	3.97	4.01	3.93	4.00
Partner	4.08	4.17	4.09	4.04
Grandfather	3.49	3.47	3.50	4.00
Grandmother	3.61	3.62	3.46	4.03
Grandfather-in-law	3.60	3.64	3.40	3.75
Grandmother-in-law	3.63	3.63	3.62	3.79
Grandson	3.88	-	4.16	3.87

7.2.4 It is worth to note that for the married/cohabiting female without child, the mean score of satisfaction with their partners was as high as 4.2 and the mean score with their parents was 4.1.

**Table 33c: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with family members by marital status and gender**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 33c)

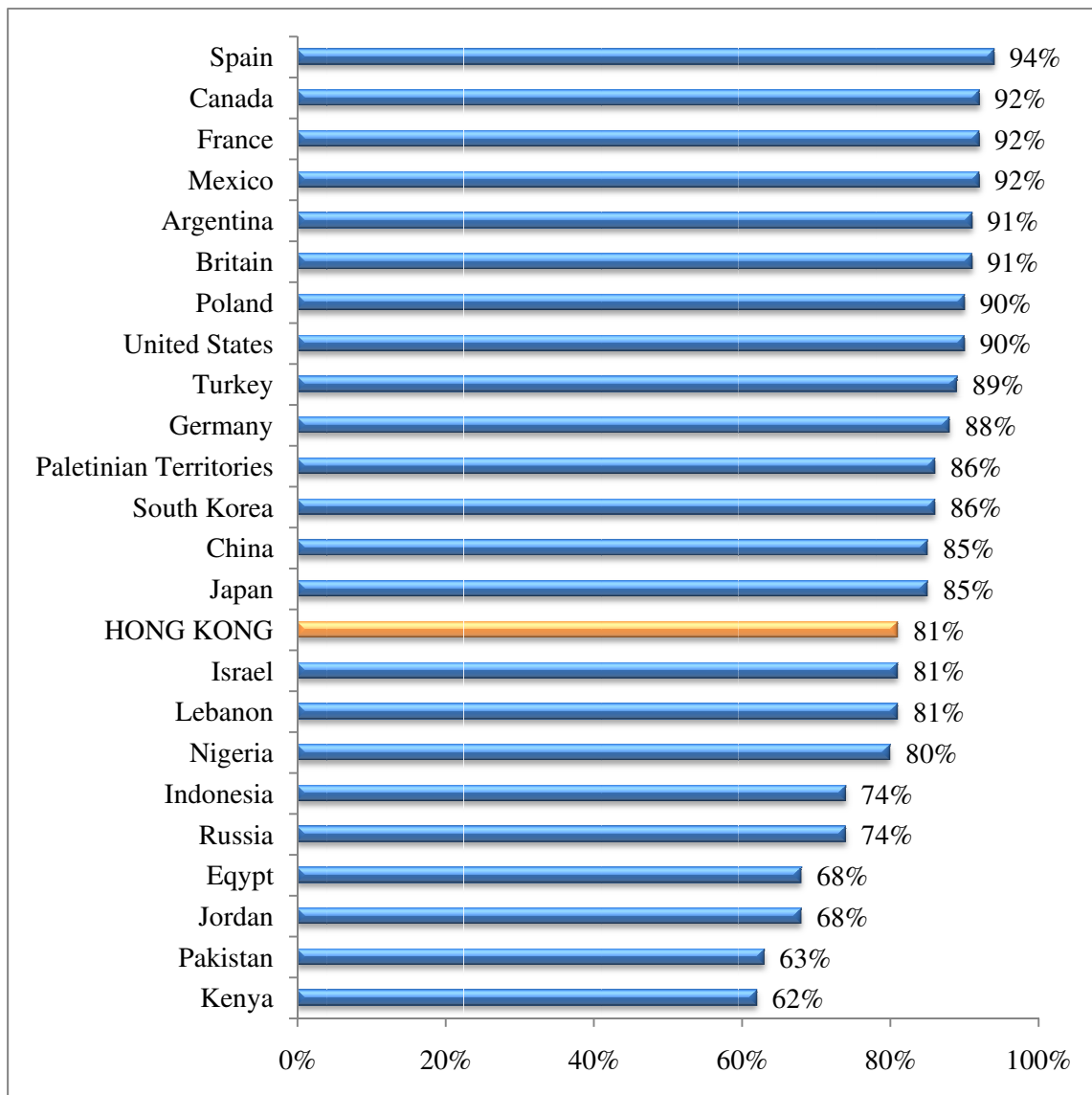
	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Child	-	-	-	-	4.02	4.16	3.83	3.89	3.90	3.87
Father	3.68	3.92	4.13	4.04	3.86	3.91	4.00	3.94	4.10	3.91
Mother	3.88	4.04	4.15	4.16	3.93	3.99	4.00	3.74	3.70	3.96
Partner	-	-	4.25	4.23	4.09	4.07	-	-	3.79	2.50
Grandfather	3.43	3.47	2.78	3.50	3.85	3.53	-	-	-	3.61
Grandmother	3.56	3.65	3.53	3.23	3.77	3.78	-	-	-	3.26
Grandfather-in-law	3.60	3.63	4.00	3.41	3.76	3.55	-	-	-	3.37
Grandmother-in-law	3.65	3.56	3.84	3.48	3.82	3.61	3.00	4.00	-	3.55
Grandson	3.59	4.00	-	-	3.93	3.91	3.80	3.79	4.35	3.62



### Satisfaction with family life

7.2.5 In Hong Kong, 81% of the respondents were satisfied with their family life. When making comparison with similar statistics found in other countries<sup>15</sup>, it was found that the proportion of respondents in Hong Kong that were satisfied with their family life were comparable to some of the Asian countries like, South Korea (86%), China (85%), and Japan (85%).

Chart 34a: Satisfaction with family life worldwide (%)

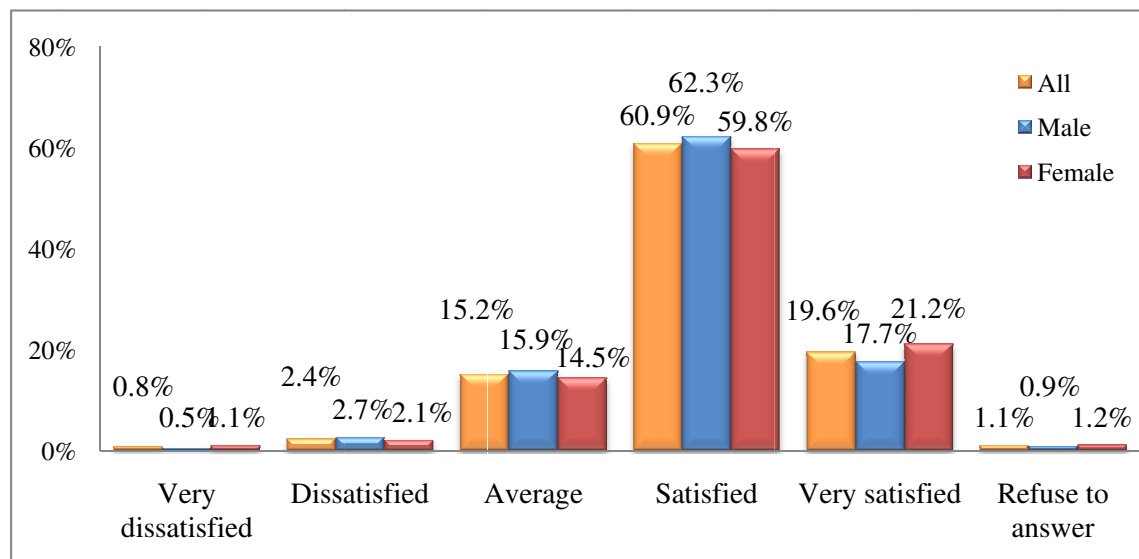


15 The Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project: conducted in 2009

7.2.6 81% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life, both males and females alike. Only 3% were not satisfied with their family life.

**Chart 34b: Satisfaction with family life (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 34b)



7.2.7 Analysed by age, sex, marital status and educational attainment, consensus was found in all groups. Majority of the respondents were satisfied with their family life.

**Table 34c: Satisfaction with family life by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 34c)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Satisfied	80.6	81.8	78.7
Dissatisfied	3.5	2.3	4.1

**Table 34d: Satisfaction with family life by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 34d)

	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Satisfied	74.7	80.3	84.7	87.4	85.1	85.9	73.5	66.5	58.5	70.0
Dissatisfied	4.8	3.2	3.9	0.6	1.9	1.9	1.6	8.4	5.3	6.9

**Table 34e: Satisfaction with family life by educational attainment and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 34e)

	Primary or lower education		Secondary educational level		Post-secondary education or above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Satisfied	70.4	78.1	83.4	82.0	83.4	87.7
Dissatisfied	4.9	4.7	2.6	3.6	3.3	0.0

7.2.8 Analysed by occupations, managers and administrators (92%) were most satisfied with their family life, while the skilled agricultural and fishery workers (58%) were least satisfied with their family life.

**Table 34f: Satisfaction with family life by occupations (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 34f)

	Satisfied	Average	Dissatisfied
Managers and administrators	92.1	5.9	2.0
Professionals	84.2	15.8	0.0
Associate professionals	84.2	15.8	0.0
Clerk	87.0	10.9	2.2
Service workers and shop sales workers	76.9	18.3	4.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	57.8	42.2	0.0
Craft and related workers	81.3	16.9	1.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	86.1	12.7	1.2
Elementary occupations	81.8	14.7	3.5

## Dependence of family members

7.2.9 According to the Survey results, most of family members were dependent on each other. 78% of the respondents indicated that their family members were dependent on each other.

**Table 35a: Dependence of family members by gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 35a)

	All	Male	Female
Dependent	78.3	75.4	80.8
Neutral	17.4	19.4	15.8
Independent	4.2	5.3	3.4

7.2.10 Analysed by age, sex and marital status, older people aged 55 or above as well as male widowers expressed that their family members were independent (7% and 16%).

**Table 35b: Dependence of family members by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 35b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Dependent	77.1	81	73.8
Neutral	19.6	14.6	18.4
Independent	2.8	3.5	6.7

**Table 35c: Dependence of family members by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 35c)

	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Dependent	64.8	78.9	85.3	78.4	83.5	85.1	64.9	69.3	52.4
Neutral	27.2	16.5	14.7	17.1	12.2	12.1	31.9	21.7	30.4	23.4
Independent	7.3	3.1	0.0	1.9	4.0	2.5	3.1	7.4	15.8	5.6

## Relationship with Family Members

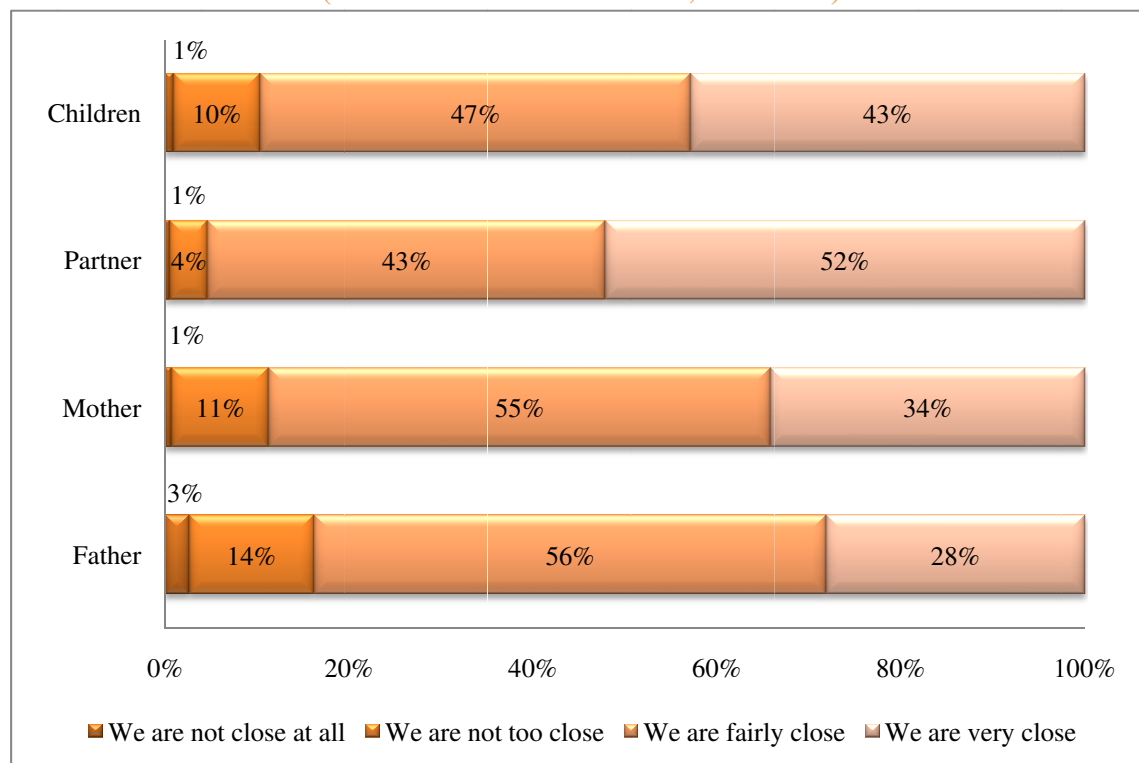
### 7.2.11 Relationships with family members was fairly close in general.

Respondents were asked to rate their relationship with family members and express their ratings in a Likert scale of 4, with “1” denoting “we are not close at all” and “4” denoting “we are very close”.

7.2.12 Relationships with members was fairly close in general. 84% of the respondents considered their relationship close (fairly close and very close) with their fathers and 89% with their mothers. 95% had close relationship with their partners (of which 52% were very close), and 90% with their children (of which 43% were very close).

**Chart 36a: Relationship with family members (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 36a)



7.2.13 Analysed by age group, most of the youngest respondents aged 15-34 and the eldest age 55 or above had a close relationship with their partners. The middle-aged between 35-54 had a closer relationship with their children than their partners. Besides, it was also noted that divorced/separated male respondents had a close relationship with their parents.

**Table 36b: Relationship with family members by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 36b)

		15-34	35-54	55 or above
Father	Not close	16.4	14.8	29.8
	Close	83.6	85.2	70.2
Mother	Not close	8.9	12.5	17.3
	Close	91.1	87.5	82.7
Partner	Not close	0.5	5.5	5.4
	Close	99.5	94.5	94.6
Children	Not close	3.7	3.2	13.4
	Close	96.3	96.8	86.6

**Table 36c: Relationship with family members by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 36c)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Father	Not close	21.7	16.2	12.1	13.9	13.4	13.1	0.0	16.3	42.5	11.6
	Close	78.3	83.8	87.9	86.1	86.6	86.9	100.0	83.7	57.5	88.4
Mother	Not close	13.1	8.6	12.7	3.9	11.3	9.6	0.0	16.5	44.4	14.8
	Close	86.9	91.4	87.3	96.1	88.7	90.4	100.0	83.5	55.6	85.2
Partner	Not close	-	-	2.3	5.3	2.1	6.0	-	-	43.1	90.4
	Close	-	-	97.7	94.7	97.9	94.0	-	-	56.9	9.6
Children	Not close	-	-	-	-	6.3	4.4	24.7	17.0	15.0	15.7
	Close	-	-	-	-	93.7	95.6	75.3	83.0	85.0	84.3

### 7.3 Time Spent with Family Members

7.3.1 **Time spent with parents was limited.** 40% of respondents talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week. 23% had not talked to their fathers, while 19% had not talked to their mothers at all in the week prior to enumeration. Partners communicated with each other more frequently, with only 8% did not speak to each other; 30% talked to each other for more than 4 hours, 11% for 2 to 4 hours, 14% for 1 to 2 hours, and 26% for less than half hour a week.

7.3.2 32% chatted with their children for less than 30 minutes a week and 21% did not talk to each other at all. On the other hand, 19% talked to their children for more than 4 hours.

**Table 37a: Time spent in talking with family members (%)**

	Father	Mother	Partner	Children <sup>16</sup>
0	22.8	19.1	8.4	20.5
< 30 minutes	40.1	38.8	25.5	32.0
31 – 60 minutes	8.2	8.9	11.2	10.4
1 hour to < 2 hours	11.1	11.4	14.1	10.6
2 hours to < 4 hours	6.2	8.9	10.7	7.5
≥ 4 hours	11.6	12.8	30.1	19.0
Overall	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.3.3 Analysed by age group, older people aged 55 or above older were less likely to talk with their parents, 77% and 75% of them talked to their father and mother for less than 30 minutes a week or did not talk at all respectively.

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16 One child is selected randomly.

**Table 37b: Time spent in talking with family members by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 37b)

		15 - 34	35 - 54	55 or above
Father	< 30 mins	56	70.5	77.2
	31 – 60 mins	9.1	7.1	7.4
	> 1 hour	34.9	22.4	15.5
Mother	< 30 mins	44.5	68.5	74.6
	31 – 60 mins	10.7	7.7	5.8
	> 1 hour	44.9	23.8	19.6
Partner	< 30 mins	25.8	32.3	39.6
	31 – 60 mins	13.8	10.4	11.5
	> 1 hour	60.3	57.3	48.9
Child	< 30 mins	59.3	46.8	56.5
	31 – 60 mins	4.7	9	12.7
	> 1 hour	35.9	44.2	30.8

7.3.4 Analysed by marital status, respondents who were married or cohabiting with child were less likely to talk to their parents. 69% of them talked to their father and mother for less than 30 minutes a week or did not talk at all.

**Table 37c: Time spent in talking with family members by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 37c)

		Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Father	< 30 mins	60.7	54.0	62.0	59.8	68.4	70.2	0.0	32.2	70.0	80.3
	31 – 60 mins	6.4	8.1	6.3	6.0	7.1	11.7	100.0	5.8	22.4	3.0
	> 1 hour	32.9	37.9	31.7	34.2	24.6	18.1	0.0	62.1	7.6	16.6
Mother	< 30 mins	52.4	38.3	69.5	53.0	68.6	67.9	100.0	50.5	83.7	61.5
	31 – 60 mins	12.2	6.2	5.5	7.8	7.5	9.5	0.0	11.5	9.9	10.8
	> 1 hour	35.4	55.5	25.0	39.2	23.9	22.6	0.0	38.1	6.4	27.6
Partner	< 30 mins	-	-	26.6	26.3	36.0	34.3	-	-	43.1	100.0
	31 – 60 mins	-	-	16.9	12.7	11.5	10.4	-	-	0.0	0.0
	> 1 hour	-	-	56.5	61.0	52.5	55.3	-	-	56.9	0.0
Children	< 30 mins	-	-	-	-	56.8	47.0	82.9	54.1	54.7	44.7
	31 – 60 mins	-	-	-	-	9.2	11.3	2.7	15.0	2.0	4.5
	> 1 hour	-	-	-	-	34.0	41.7	14.4	30.9	43.4	50.8



## 7.4 Communication with Family Members

7.4.1 Respondents were asked to rate the frequency of communication with family members and involvement in family functions. Rating on frequency was expressed in a Likert scale of 4, with “1” denoting “almost never” and “4” denoting “frequently”.

7.4.2 Talk about personal concern - Overall, talking about personal concern to partner was frequent (47% frequently and 33% sometimes, while only 6% almost never talked to partner about personal concern). 22% of the respondents talked frequently and 35% sometimes to their mothers about personal concern. The corresponding percentages were 17% and 34% respectively for talking to fathers. 58% talked about personal concern to their child sometimes or frequently.

**Table 38: Talking about personal concern (%)**

Personal Concern	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	14.1	12.7	5.8	16.2
Not often	35.1	30.1	14.4	26.2
Sometimes	34.0	35.1	33.2	34.4
Frequently	16.8	22.2	46.6	23.1

7.4.3 Seeking advice from family member - Similar pattern was observed in respect of seeking advice. Most respondents sought advice from their fathers (53%), mothers (56%) sometimes or frequently.

**Table 39: Seeking advice from family member (%)**

Personal Concern	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	12.5	11.0	4.6	16.1
Not often	34.4	33.5	12.4	26.5
Sometimes	35.7	35.2	40.1	35.8
Frequently	17.3	20.3	42.9	21.7

7.4.4 **Feeling proud of family member** – Majority of the respondents were proud of their parents (64% father, 69% mother). Amongst them, 26% were frequently proud of their father and 28% proud of their mothers. 90% of respondents were proud of their partners (37% frequently).

**Table 40: Feeling proud of family member (%)**

Personal Concern	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	11.7	8.1	7.1	7.4
Not often	24.3	23.3	15.1	14.4
Sometimes	38.5	40.7	41.7	42.1
Frequently	25.5	27.8	36.1	36.1

7.4.5 **Having dinner with family members** – Majority of the respondents had dinner sometimes or frequently with their partners (97%), children (80%), and parents (68%). Survey results also showed that 83% of the respondents frequently had dinner with their partners, 56% frequently with children and over one-third with parents.

**Table 41: Having dinner with family member (%)**

Personal Concern	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	4.7	3.1	0.9	2.1
Not often	29.0	28.1	5.7	18.0
Sometimes	31.9	30.3	10.5	23.6
Frequently	34.4	38.5	83.0	56.3

7.4.6 **Participation in family activities** - Similarly, respondents participated with their closest family members (partners, children and parents) in family activities sometimes, but not frequently. A higher proportion participated in family activities with children and partners more frequently.

**Table 42: Participate in family activities (%)**

Personal Concern	Father	Mother	Partner	Children
Almost never	8.7	7.0	2.5	4.3
Not often	37.1	36.7	17.5	26.7
Sometimes	36.5	35.6	27.7	31.8
Frequently	17.6	20.7	52.4	37.1

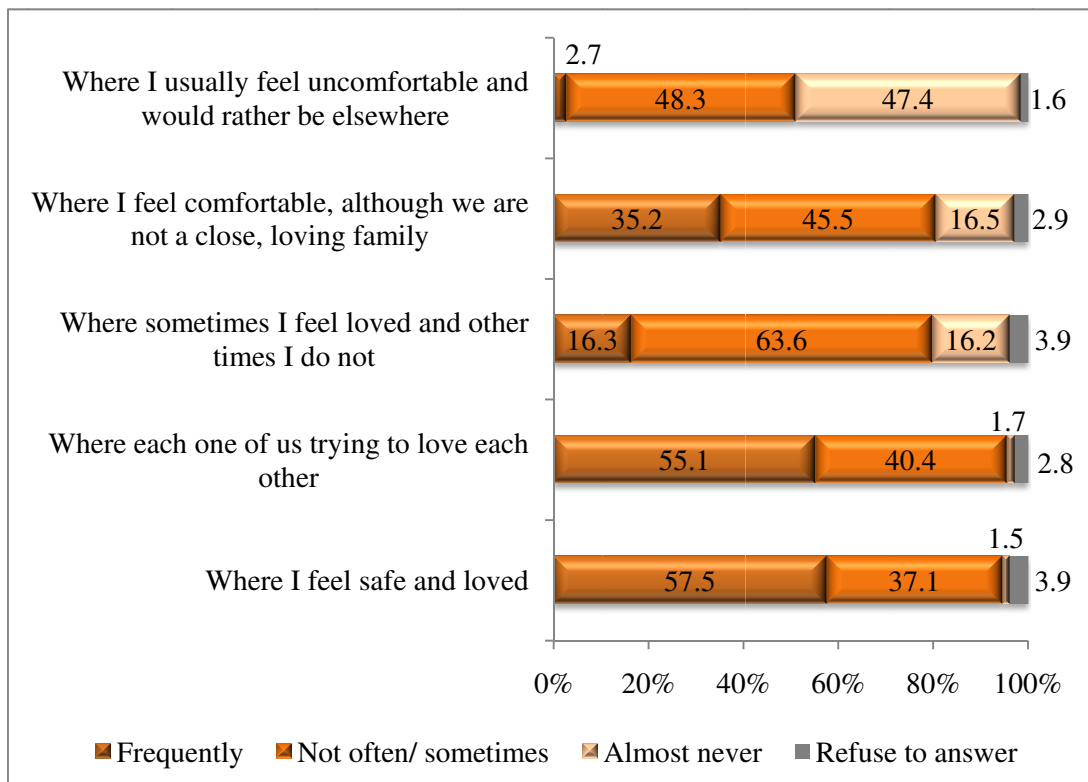
## 7.5 Perception of Home

7.5.1 *In general, home was considered to be comfortable where family members loved to stay.* Satisfaction with family life depends largely on how people felt about their homes, whether it gave every family member a shelter. Information on how home was perceived by respondents was collected in the Survey.

7.5.2 58% of respondents frequently perceived their home as “a place where he/she feel safe and loved”. 55% frequently considered their home “a place where each one trying to love each other”. 35% felt that their home was “comfortable although they are not a close, loving family”.

**Chart 43a: The perception of home (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 43a)



7.5.3 Analysed by age group, consensus was found in all groups. Majority of the respondents felt their home safe and loved, or “trying to love each other”.

**Table 43b: The perception of home by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 43b)

Home feel	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Where I usually feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere	2.7	1.5	4.2
Where I feel comfortable, although we are not a close, loving family	36.4	34.2	35.3
Where sometimes I feel loved and other times I do not	16.8	14.5	18.1
Where each one of us trying to love each other	55.9	57	51.7
Where I feel safe and loved	59.4	57.9	54.9

7.5.4 Nearly all married/cohabiting respondents, with or without children, felt that their home “a place where everyone loves each other” and where “he/she feels safe and loved”. Such feeling was comparatively not so strong for the widowed and the divorced/separated. The never-married men (61%) and women (52%) sometimes felt their home uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere.

**Table 43c: The perception of home by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 43c)

Home feel	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Where I usually feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere	2.4	3.6	0.9	0.7	3.4	1.9	1.5	5.4	2.4
Where I feel comfortable, although we are not a close, loving family	29	36.9	40.5	40.1	35.1	40.3	25.5	31.4	16.6	32.3
Where sometimes I feel loved and other times I do not	10.9	15	18.5	16.7	16	21.6	14.8	15.3	10	13.4
Where each one of us trying to love each other	46.7	52.7	60.9	59.7	60.1	61.9	35.8	44.9	34.2	53.1
Where I feel safe and loved	47.3	58.7	65.1	59.6	61.2	64.7	42.2	49.5	37.5	48.8

## Chapter 8 | Balancing Work and Family

### 8.1 *Introduction*

8.1.1 Nowadays in Hong Kong, it is getting more and more stressful to strike for work-life balance. We attempt to gather information on views and attitudes regarding balancing work and family. The questions were adopted from the Canadian family survey<sup>17</sup>.

8.1.2 Stress is prevalent in today's workplace. Spending too much time working or being forced to deal with excessive amount of work may cause a great deal of stress. Therefore, we will also gather information on (a) the level of stress resulting from efforts to meet competing demands of work and family as well as (b) satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work with family.

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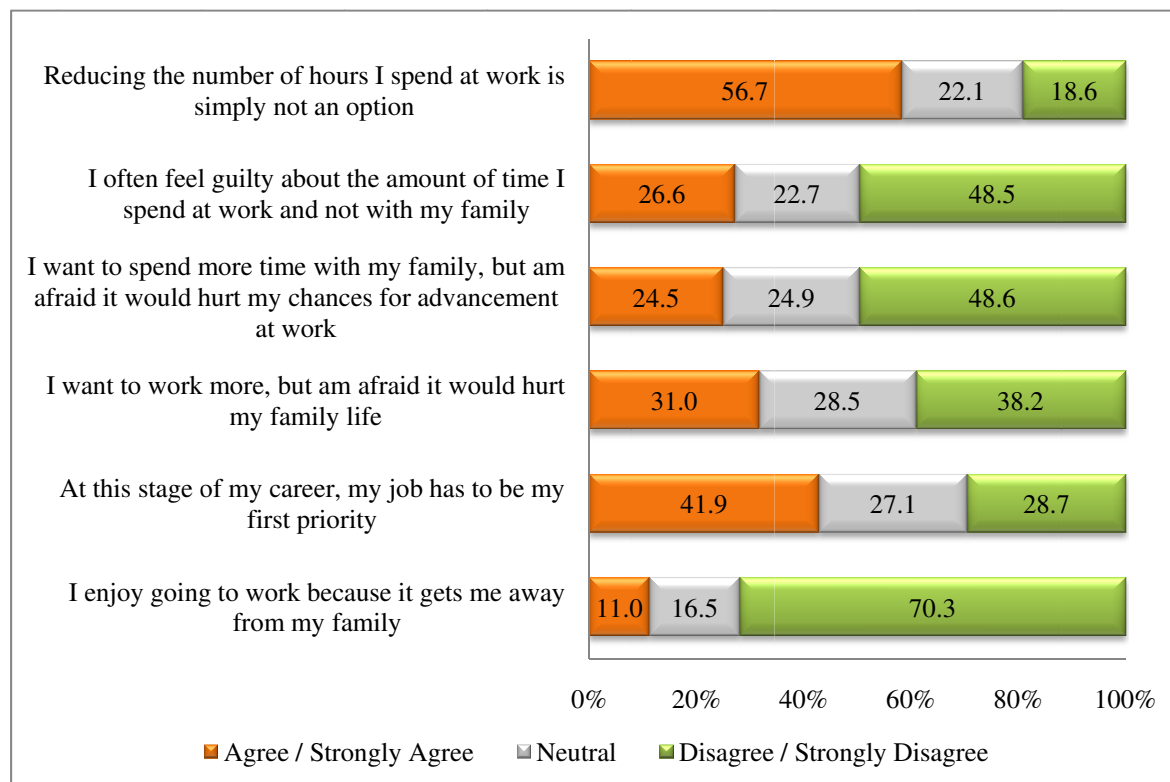
17 Canadian Attitudes on the Family: The Complete Report 2002, Focus on the Family Canada Association

## 8.2 View on Balancing Work and Family

8.2.1 *One quarter of those at work found it difficult to strike a balance between work and family in view of competing priorities.* It was worth noting that 25% of the respondents at work shared the views that “I want to spend more time with my family but am afraid that it had negative impact on advancement at work” and “I often felt guilty about the amount of time I spent at work and not with my family”. Furthermore, 31% agreed that “I want to work more but am afraid that it would affect my family life”. On the other hand, 57% of them indicated that reducing the number of hours they spent at work was simply not an option in balancing work and family. And 42% agreed that “At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority”.

**Chart 44a: Views on balancing work and family (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 44a)



8.2.2 Across all age groups, quite a high proportion of respondents found it difficult to reduce the number of hours spent at work; and a relatively lower proportion of respondents enjoyed going to work in order to get away from their family.

**Table 44b: Agreement on views on balancing work and family by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 44b)

Statements	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Reducing the number of hours I spend at work is simply not an option	56.3	58.8	52.4
I often feel guilty about the amount of time I spend at work and not with my family	29.9	27.1	14.5
I want to spend more time with my family, but am afraid that it had negative impact on my chances for advancement at work	28.2	24.5	13.2
I want to work more, but am afraid that it would affect my family life	31.7	32.9	21
At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority	43.1	42.8	35.3
I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family	12.6	9.4	9.2

8.2.3 Over 30% of those at work and married or cohabiting (with or without child) were more likely to agree with the view that “I want to work more but am afraid that it would affect my family life”.

**Table 44c: Agreement on views on balancing work and family by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 44c)

Statements	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Reducing the number of hours I spend at work is simply not an option	58.5	55.8	52.1	54.1	61.7	53	100	43.7	63.2
I often feel guilty about the amount of time I spend at work and not with my family	25.4	26.7	20.1	33.8	29.8	24.4	0	11.3	30.9	27
I want to spend more time with my family, but am afraid that it had negative impact on my chances for advancement at work	22	27	27.6	16.4	25.7	26.7	0	6.9	16.5	27.5
I want to work more, but am afraid that it would affect my family life	25.8	28.8	33.9	32.9	36	34	0	16.1	9.3	31.6
At this stage of my career, my job is my first priority	62.3	47.8	52	35.4	38.7	18.9	46.9	38.4	26.4	33.6
I enjoy going to work because it gets me away from my family	14.8	11.9	13.9	19.1	7.1	5.7	0	17.9	8.6	6.2

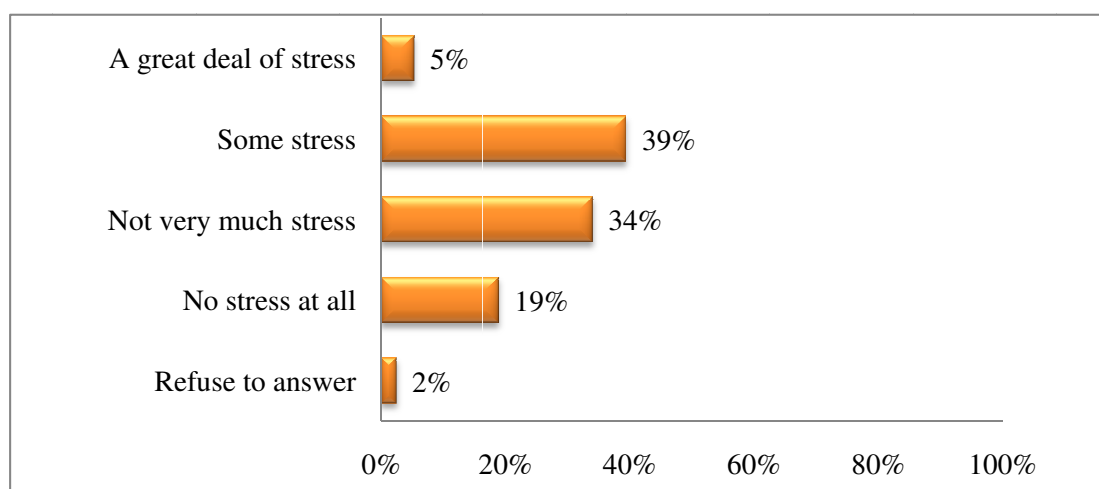


### 8.3 Stress and time spent at work and family

8.3.1 *Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family.* On the whole, 45% of the respondents who were currently at work reported that balancing the competing demands of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress. 34% did not have very much stress and 19% did not have stress at all.

**Chart 45a: Stress in balancing work and family (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 45a)



8.3.2 When compared with other age groups, middle-aged respondents had the highest proportion of respondents who were more likely to have stress in balancing the demands of work and family. Similar observations were also made for respondents who were married/cohabiting (with or without child).

**Table 45b: Stress in balancing work and family by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 45b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
A great deal of stress/some stress	44.4	48.5	30.7
Not very much stress/no stress at all	51.9	50	66.8

**Table 45c: Stress in balancing work and family by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 45c)

	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A great deal of stress/some stress	35.8	40.3	52.7	35.7	53.3	49.2	26.9	33.5	17.4	45.6
Not very much stress/no stress at all	62.4	55.2	44.7	64.3	46.2	47.5	73.1	66.5	80.2	46.8

8.3.3 Notwithstanding the fact that quite a number of respondents reported stress in balancing the competing demands of work and family, 62% of the respondents who were currently at work were satisfied with the amount of time spent at work and with family. Only 8% were not satisfied.

**Table 46: Satisfaction with time spent at work and family (%)**

	All	Male	Female
Dissatisfied	7.7	7.1	8.6
Average	27.7	29.5	25.3
Satisfied	61.6	61.6	61.5
Refuse to answer	3.0	1.8	4.5

## Chapter 9 | Social Support Network

### 9.1 *Introduction*

9.1.1 A social support network refers to a social structure which is made up of individuals such as family members, friends and peers or organizations. A strong social support network can be critical in helping one through the stress of tough times. In this Chapter, we will focus on the “help seeking” behaviors of respondents when they encountered financial and emotional problems, and the persons whom they would approach for assistance or advice.

9.1.2 In addition, information on the helpfulness or the strength of support from their family members in six scenarios, namely (i) When you are sick (ii) When you need to make an important decision (iii) When you are depressed and upset (iv) When you are unemployed and cannot get a job (v) When you have financial problems (vi) When you want to share your happiness with your family members was gathered in the Survey.

## 9.2 Help Seeking Behavior

9.2.1 *People indicated that they would seek help or advice from their “close friends” and “spouses” when they encountered difficulties.* When financial problems were encountered, over 63% of the female respondents would seek help from spouse, 28% from parents, 25% from brothers/sisters and 24% from close friends. For the male respondents, 46% of them would seek help from spouse, 28% from parents and close friends. Male respondents were more likely to seek help from banks (12%) than the female respondents.

9.2.2 When emotional problems were encountered, 54% and 53% of the respondents sought help from spouse and close friends respectively. 23% sought help from brothers/sisters and 22% from children. Less than 4% sought help from social services organizations (3%) or government departments (1%).

**Table 47a: Help seeking behavior (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 47a)

	Financial problems			Emotional problems		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Spouse (for those married)	54.8	46.2	62.5	53.7	55.6	51.9
Close friends	28.3	33.3	24.1	53.3	55.3	51.6
Parents	27.7	27.9	27.6	18.6	16.2	20.6
Brothers/ sisters	24.2	22.7	25.4	23.4	17.5	28.5
Children (for those having children)	23.3	17.7	27.1	21.9	14.8	26.8
Banks	8.0	12.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government departments	4.3	4.4	4.2	0.8	0.6	0.9
Social services organisations	3.7	4.0	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1
Relatives	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.0	1.3	2.5
Grand children	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5
Old neighbour	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Current neighbours	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5
Others	5.0	5.6	4.5	5.2	5.9	4.5

Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

9.2.3 The top 5 most supportive/helpful parties identified by the respondents were parents, brothers/sisters, spouse, children and close friends. 62% of younger respondents aged 15 – 34 considered their parents most supportive. 55% of older respondents aged 55 or above considered their children most supportive, and 44% aged 35 – 54 considered their spouse most helpful when they face financial problems.

**Table 47b: Top 5 most helpful/supportive parties by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 47b)

Top 5 parties	15-34	35-54	55 or above
<b>Financial problems</b>			
Parents	61.5	18.6	4
Brothers/ sisters	28.9	28.6	13.3
Spouse (for those married)	19.4	44	26.3
Children (for those having children)	0	10.2	54.9
Close friends	42.3	29.4	12.1
<b>Emotional problems</b>			
Parents	40.8	13	2.4
Brothers/ sisters	29.9	25.6	13.7
Spouse (for those married)	17	40.5	31.4
Children (for those having children)	2.5	14.5	41.8
Close friends	72.4	54.4	31.6

9.2.4 81% of the married or cohabiting without child considered their spouse most supportive. For those who were never-married, 55% of the male respondents and 60% of the female respondents chose their parents as the most supportive person. For those who were divorced/separated, 68% of the male respondents and female respondents considered their children most supportive especially in solving financial problems.

**Table 47c: Top 5 most helpful/supportive parties by marital status and gender (%)**

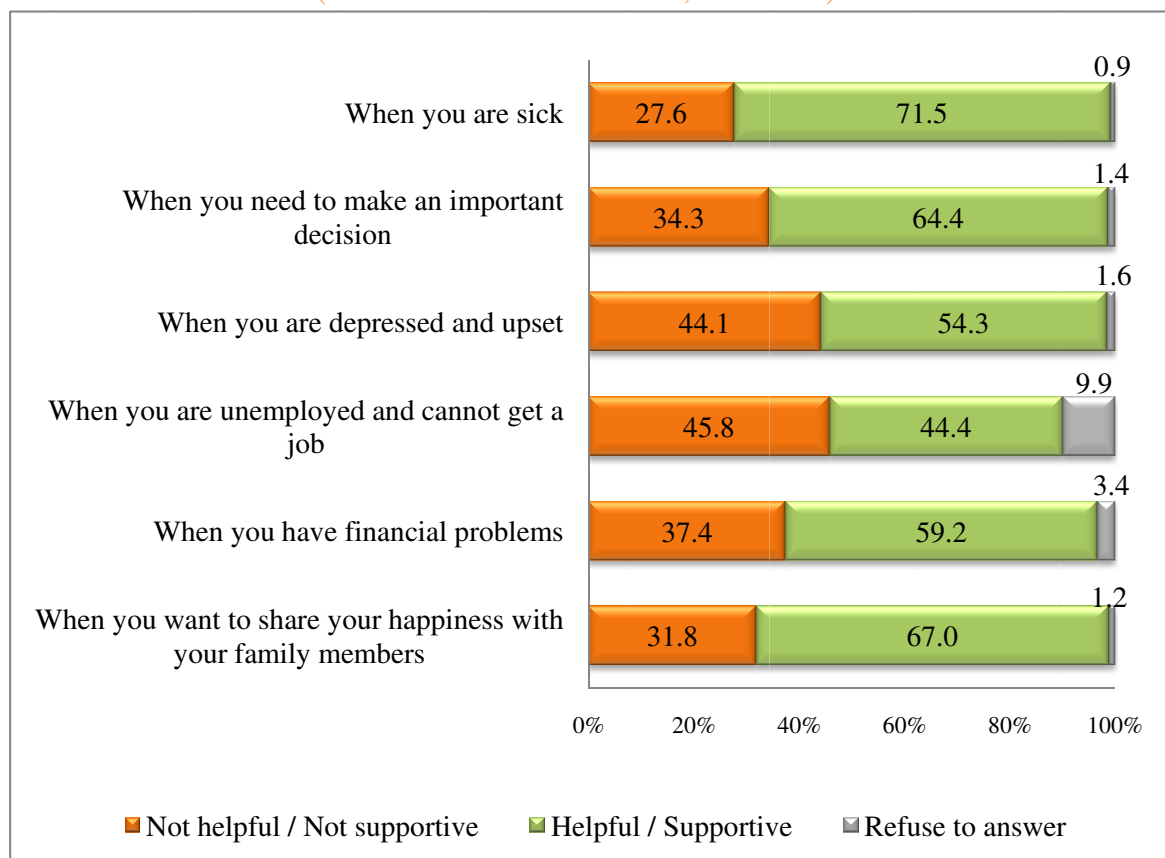
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 47c)

Top 5 parties	Never Married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	<b>Financial problems</b>									
Parents	54.5	60.0	29.8	35.2	10.9	14.6	3.6	2.1	9.3	21.8
Brothers/ sisters	27.3	34.8	19.4	30.3	20.6	22.0	8.7	11.3	26.5	30.9
Spouse (for those married)	2.2	1.0	63.1	80.6	43.4	59.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.2
Children (for those having children)	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	16.1	22.4	68.2	67.6	12.3	23.5
Close friends	48.0	38.9	34.4	22.7	25.2	18.9	6.6	12.0	20.2	23.9
<b>Emotional problems</b>										
Parents	32.3	41.9	17.1	25.3	5.9	13.2	3.6	1.3	5.5	14.1
Brothers/ sisters	21.7	34.7	10.5	43.0	16.1	26.2	9.6	14.2	18.3	30.5
Spouse (for those married)	2.6	1.4	60.8	68.1	54.6	49.4	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.2
Children (for those having children)	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	13.4	23.5	49.8	52.4	19.1	27.4
Close friends	77.1	69.9	57.4	47.0	41.5	48.2	35.8	29.7	42.3	44.9

### 9.3 Availability of Assistance

9.3.1 *When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.* The respondents considered their family members supportive (slightly supportive or very supportive) when they were sick (72%), when they wanted to share the happiness with their family members (67%), when they needed to make an important decision (64%), when they had financial problems (59%) and when they were depressed and upset (54%).

**Chart 48a: Availability of assistance (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 48a)



9.3.2 On the other hand, some respondents considered their family members not helpful or supportive when they needed to make an important decision (34%), when they had financial problems (37%) and when they were depressed and upset (44%).

9.3.3 Analysed by age group and marital status, consensus was found in all groups. Most of the respondents considered their family members supportive and helpful.

**Table 48b: Availability of assistance by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 48b)

Problems	15-34	35-54	55 or above
When you are sick	90.6	89	81.4
When you need to make an important decision	85.3	86.1	79.5
When you are depressed and upset	80.7	79.1	74.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	70.1	65.5	57
When you have financial problems	83.6	78.2	74.1
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	87.9	87.8	79.1

**Table 48c: Availability of assistance by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 48c)

Problems	Never married		Married/cohabiting without child		Married/cohabiting with child		Divorced/separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	When you are sick	82.9	88	89.7	95	90.6	92.4	69	73.2	66.7
When you need to make an important decision	75	81.8	85.5	91.4	88.6	91.8	75.7	72.1	68	71.1
When you are depressed and upset	71.8	77.3	72.7	84.9	83.8	87.3	62.8	60.6	41.2	71.4
When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	55.2	70.8	69.2	80.4	69.2	69.1	35.4	45.8	45.3	49
When you have financial problems	71.9	80.8	77	88.9	79.4	87	71	66.9	58.3	64
When you want to share your happiness with your family members	75.8	86.4	82.7	91.7	89.5	92.9	68.9	72.4	60.1	83.3



## Chapter 10 | Awareness of Family-related Programmes

### *10.1 Introduction*

10.1.1 The Government and quite a number of non-government organizations (NGOs) organised family-related activities/programmes from time to time. However, majority of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or other organisations. Apart from gathering information on the level of awareness, reasons for not participating in family-related activities/programmes was also collected in the Survey.

10.1.2 In addition, the correlations between the level of awareness of any family-related promotion of the Government and / or other organizations and the existing concept of family among the public in two areas, namely importance of family and satisfaction with family life were also examined in this Chapter.

## 10.2 Awareness of Family-related Programmes

10.2.1 *Half of the respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or other NGOs.* 50% of the respondents were not aware of such programmes and 40% had heard of such programmes but had not participated. Only 8% participated in programmes organized by government and/or NGOs.

10.2.2 46% of the respondents who had not participated in those family-related programmes indicated that the reason for not participating was mainly due to “no time” or “too troublesome” (i.e. too many procedures). Another major reason was that the respondents were not interested in such programmes (38%).

**Table 49a: Awareness of family-related activities (%)**

	%	All	Male	Female
Participated in the activities/ programmes		7.8	6.6	8.9
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate		39.7	41.8	37.9
<i>Reasons:</i>				
<i>Not interested</i>		37.6	40.5	34.9
<i>No chance to get in/Don't know ways to get in</i>		8.2	7.0	9.4
<i>No time/Too many procedures</i>		45.5	45.1	45.8
<i>Others</i>		5.7	5.3	6.0
<i>Refuse to answer</i>		3.1	2.1	3.9
Not aware of those activities/ programmes		49.8	49.1	50.4
Refuse to answer		2.7	2.5	2.8

10.2.3 Across all age groups, participation rate of those family-related programmes was relatively low (from 4.1% to 10.5%). Relatively speaking, middle-aged respondents were the most active.

10.2.4 Amongst all age groups, the younger respondents aged 15-34 had the lowest level of awareness. More than half of the respondents from this group were not aware of these activities.

**Table 49b: Awareness of family-related activities by age group (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 49b)

	15-34	35-54	55 or above
Participated in the activities / programmes	4.1	10.5	8.2
I have heard about such activities/ programmes but did not participate	36.7	43.4	37.9
Not aware of those activities/ programmes	55.5	43.7	51.9

10.2.5 59% of male respondents who were divorced/ separated were not aware of family-related programmes. 55% of male respondents who were married without child had heard of such programmes but did not participated. Participation rate of family-related programme was higher for those who were married and with child (10% of males and 12% of females). However, the participation rate for those married and without child was very low.

**Table 49c: Awareness of family-related activities by marital status and gender (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 49c)

	Never married		Married/ cohabiting without child		Married/ cohabiting with child		Divorced/ separated		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Participated in the activities / programmes	3.5	4.0	0.0	1.3	10.2	12.4	6.2	8.1	7.3	14.7
I have heard about such activities / programmes but did not participate	37.4	36.5	55.1	46.2	44.4	39.0	33.6	31.4	27.9	39.6
Not aware of those activities / programmes	55.0	56.1	44.9	48.7	44.2	46.9	58.7	54.9	55.2	44.7

### 10.3 Family-related Programmes and Family Core Values

10.3.1 Statistics depicted that participation in family-related programmes organized by government or NGOs correlated positively with traditional family core values. Those who had participated in such programmes had a higher rating on the importance of all traditional core values. Those who were not aware of family-related programmes gave a lower importance rating for all core values, as compared to those who had participated in such programmes and those who had heard of such programmes but had not participated.

**Table 50: Family-related promotion from the Government and/or other organisations by importance of family (%)**

Family core value	Degree of importance	Participated in the family-related activities/programmes		
		Participated in the activities / programmes	Heard about such activities/programmes but did not participate	Not aware of those activities/programmes
Love	High	97.7	91.8	90.2
	Average	1.5	7.9	7.3
	Low	0.0	0.1	1.7
Care	High	96.1	91.8	90.7
	Average	3.5	7.8	7.1
	Low	0.0	0.2	1.6
Respect	High	96.1	92.0	91.3
	Average	3.5	7.5	6.8
	Low	0.0	0.1	1.5
Responsibility	High	93.7	90.5	88.4
	Average	5.9	8.7	9.4
	Low	0.0	0.1	1.6
Filial piety	High	96.6	89.7	87.5
	Average	2.9	10.0	10.4
	Low	0.0	0.1	1.6
Tolerance	High	87.9	86.1	82.7
	Average	11.6	12.6	14.3
	Low	0.0	0.8	2.5
Communication	High	92.6	88.6	87.0
	Average	7.0	10.6	10.7
	Low	0.0	0.6	2.0
Harmony	High	93.8	89.9	88.5
	Average	5.8	9.8	8.8
	Low	0.0	0.0	1.8

10.3.2 Correlating participation in family-related programmes and satisfaction with family life, a similar pattern was also observed. For those who had participated, they were more likely to be satisfied with their family life. At the same time, for those who were not aware of such programmes, they were also least satisfied.

**Table 51: Family-related promotion by Government and/or other organizations by satisfaction of family life (%)**

Satisfaction with family life	Participated in the family-related activities/programmes		
	Participated in the activities / programmes	I have heard about such activities/programmes but did not participate	Not aware of those activities/programmes
Satisfied	84.7	84.7	77.6
Average	12.8	12.2	17.6
Dissatisfied	2.5	2.4	4.0

## Chapter 11 | Analysis at District Level

### 11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This Chapter provides quantitative information on existing situation of families in Hong Kong at district level in the following dimensions:

- (1) importance of family;
- (2) parenthood;
- (3) family functioning;
- (4) satisfaction with family life;
- (5) balancing work and family;
- (6) social support network; and
- (7) awareness of family-related programmes.

11.1.2 To ascertain the attitude of the public on the importance of family, we have asked the respondents on a wide range of family issues (Chapter 4 refers). In terms of district analysis, no significant variation was observed on such issues, including traditional family values, family core values, form of ideal family, willingness to live with their parents and support their parents' living, family involvement of grandparents in family matters, singlehood, cohabitation and divorce. However, some interesting observations were made concerning (a) traditional view on having son to continue family name, (b) importance of core values, (c) newly-wed couple should live away from their parents, (d) attitudes towards marriage and (e) having child and cohabitation without intention of getting married. Details of which are set out in Chapter 11.2.

11.1.3 On parenthood, we also attempted to analyse stress of parents of raising their children at district level. Irrespective of districts, it is worth noting that majority of the parents often found it stressful of raising their children. Further district analysis will be covered in Chapter 11.3.

11.1.4 In general, most families functioned very well across all districts. Details of the district analysis are at Chapter 11.4

11.1.5 Concerning satisfaction with family life, respondents across districts were quite satisfied with the relationships with their family members. Analysis at district level is at Chapter 11.5.

11.1.6 On work-life balance, nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family irrespective of district. The stress faced at work and their time spent at work and with their family at district level would be covered in Chapter 11.6. Last but not the least, we will also present on the availability of assistance and level of awareness of family-related programmes by districts.



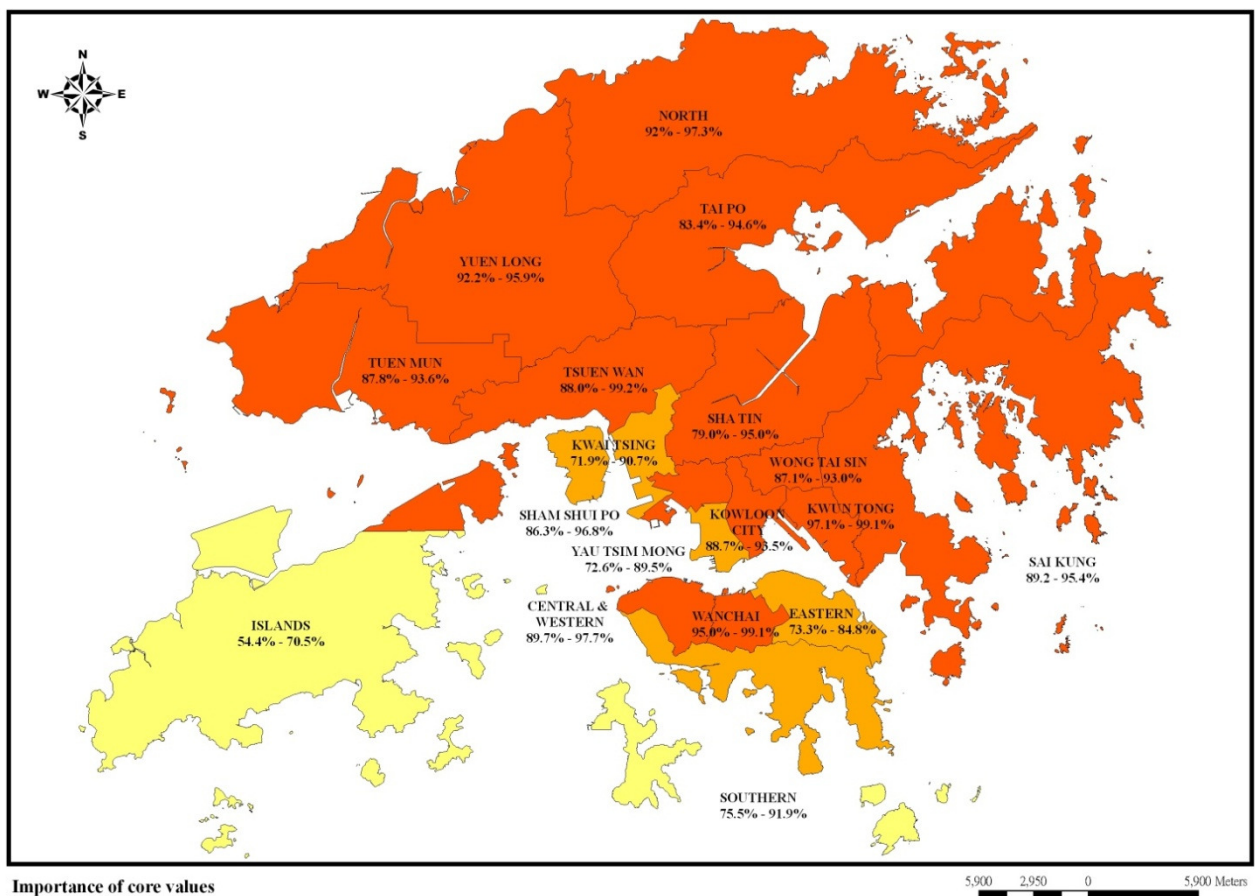
## 11.2 Importance of Family

### Importance of Core Values

11.2.1 *Most people still considered family core values as important. This statement is true across districts.* Majority of the respondents across different districts expressed that these family core values (including Love, Care, Respect, Responsibility, Filial Piety, Tolerance, Communication and Harmony) were important to family.

**Chart 52: Importance of core values (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 52)



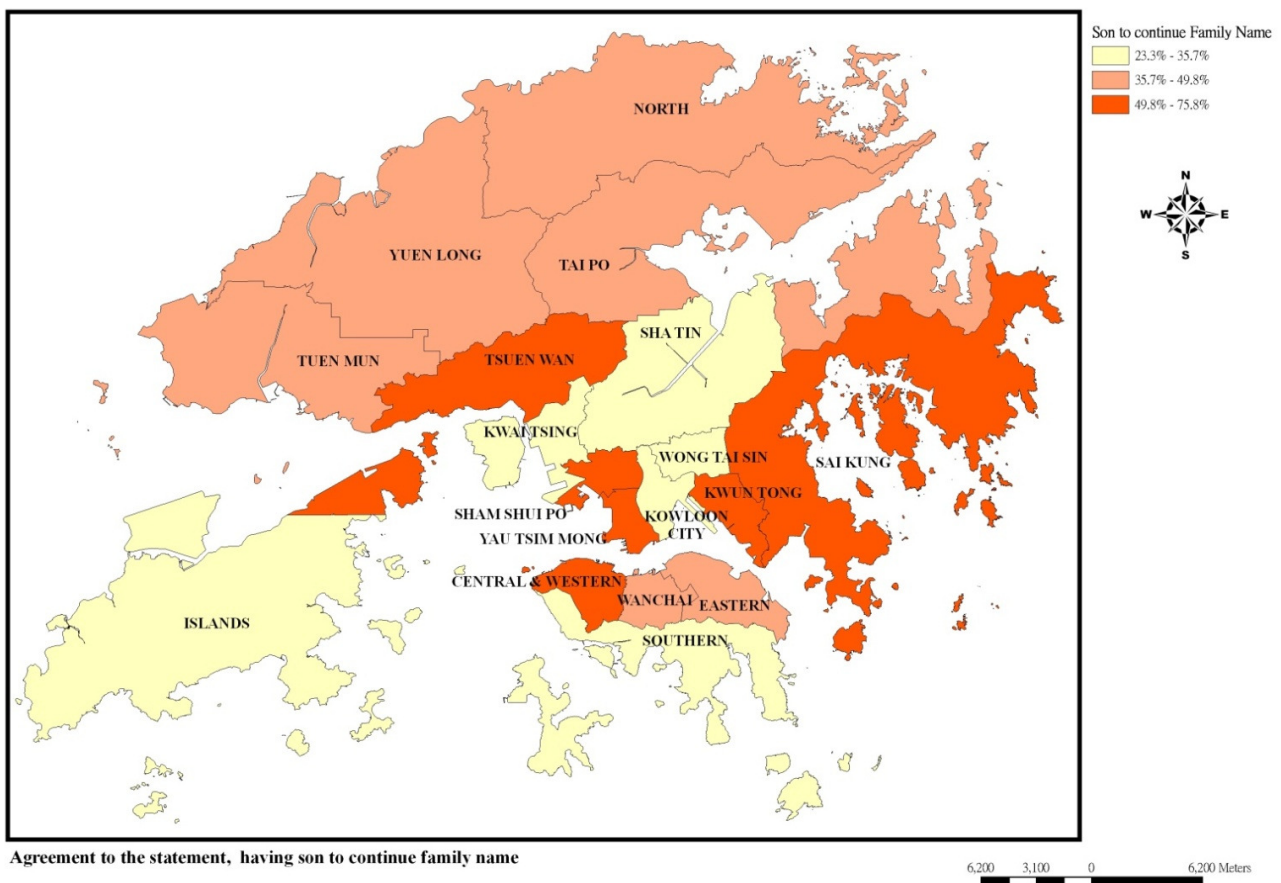
Importance of core values

5,900 2,950 0 5,900 Meters

### Traditional family values

11.2.2 *In Hong Kong, most traditional views about family were still quite prevalent, but not strong* (Chapter 4.2 refers). No obvious differences at district level were observed regarding their attitudes on “Having a son is better than having a daughter”, “Consult parents for major decisions”, “Family disgrace should be kept within the family”, “Work hard to bring honour to the family”, “Seek elder’s help to resolve family conflict” and “Difficult to live with mother-in-law even though it is nice to meet up”. However, there were some significant variation at district level on the attitude towards “Having son to continue family name”. It was noted that respondents living in Tsuen Wan (76%), Central & Western (61%), Sham Shui Po (57%), Yau Tsim Mong (56%), Sai Kung (55%) and Kwun Tong (54%) agreed more with the statement “Having son to continue family name” than other districts.<sup>18</sup>

**Chart 53: Agreement to the statement “Having son to continue family name” (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 53)



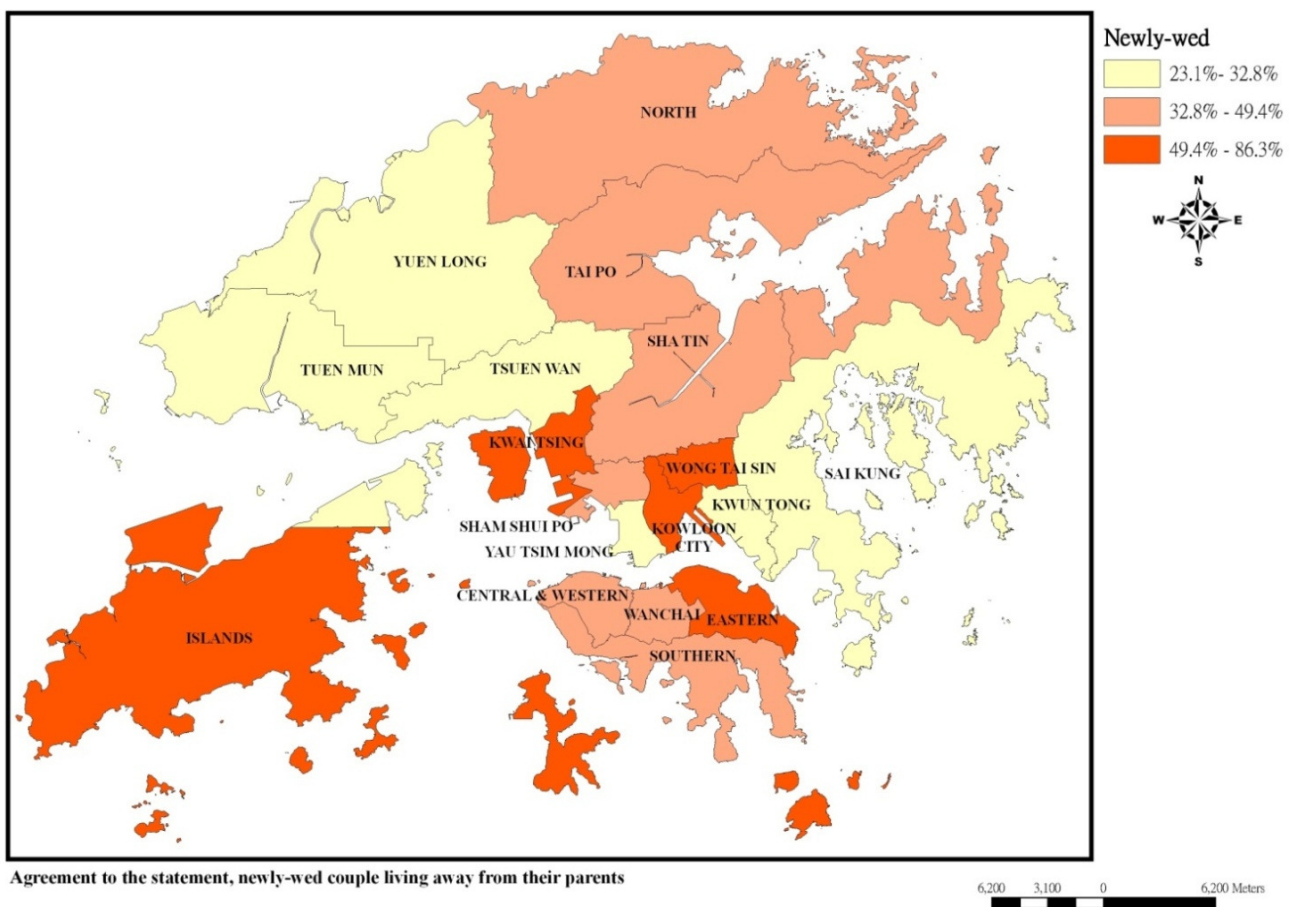
18 Mapping and visualization method are used in this Chapter: Natural breaks (Jenks) is adopted such that classes are based on natural grouping inherent in the data. Break points are identified by picking the classes breaks that best group similar values and maximize the differences between classes.

### *Attitudes towards living with parents*

11.2.3 Analysis at district level indicated that attitudes towards ideal family are in line with the general findings (Chapter 4.5 refers). However, it was interesting to note that respondents living in Kwai Tsing (86%), Eastern (67%), Wong Tai Sin (60%), Kowloon City (58%) and Islands (57%) tended to agree more with the statement that “newly-wed couple should live away from their parents” than other districts.

**Chart 54: Agreement to the statement “Newly-wed couple living away from their parents” (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 54)

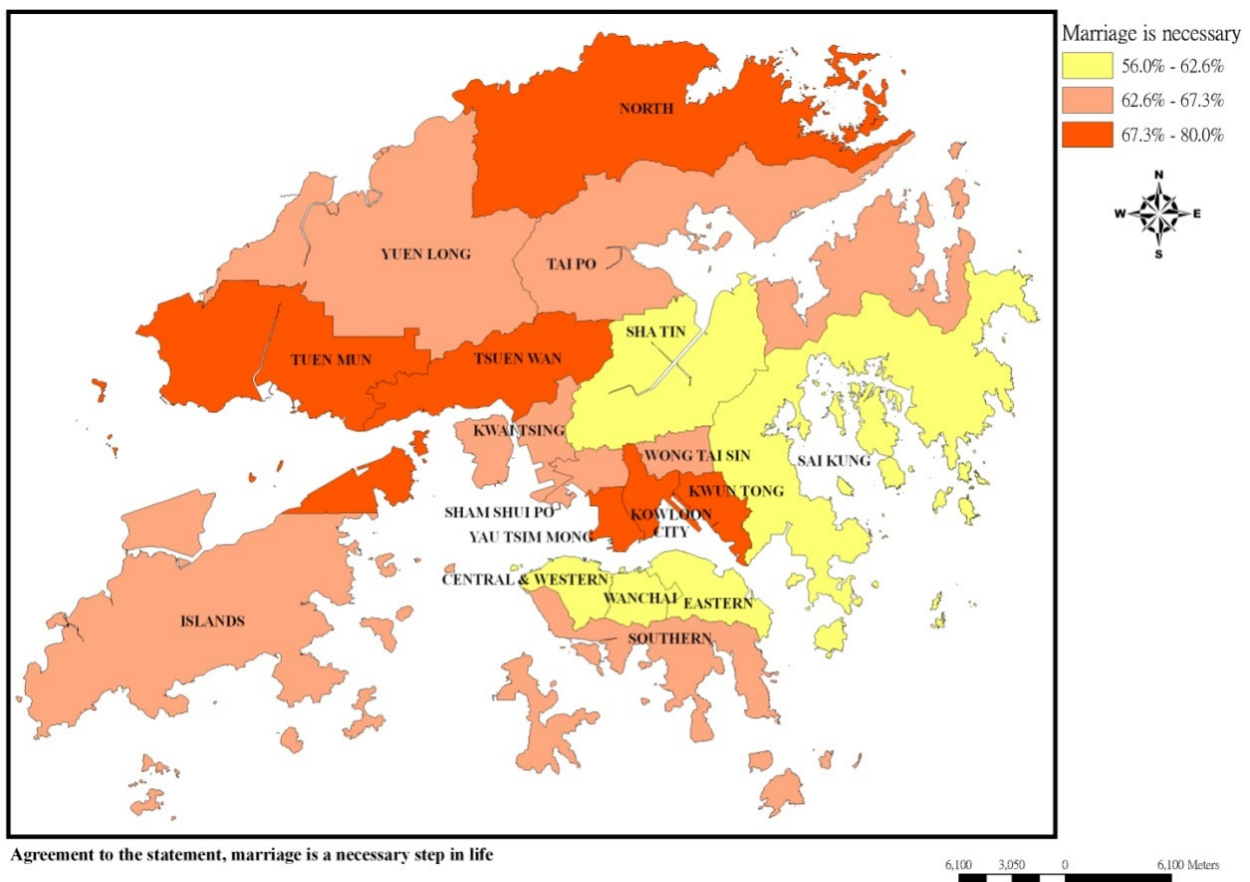


### Attitudes towards Marriage and Having Child

11.2.4 Irrespective of districts, majority of the respondents agreed that “marriage is a necessary step in life” and “child bearing is important in marriage”. At the same time, the Survey also noted that a very high proportion of respondents living in Kowloon City agreed that “married people are usually happier than who have not yet married” (68%) and “life without having a child is empty” (61%) when compared with other districts.

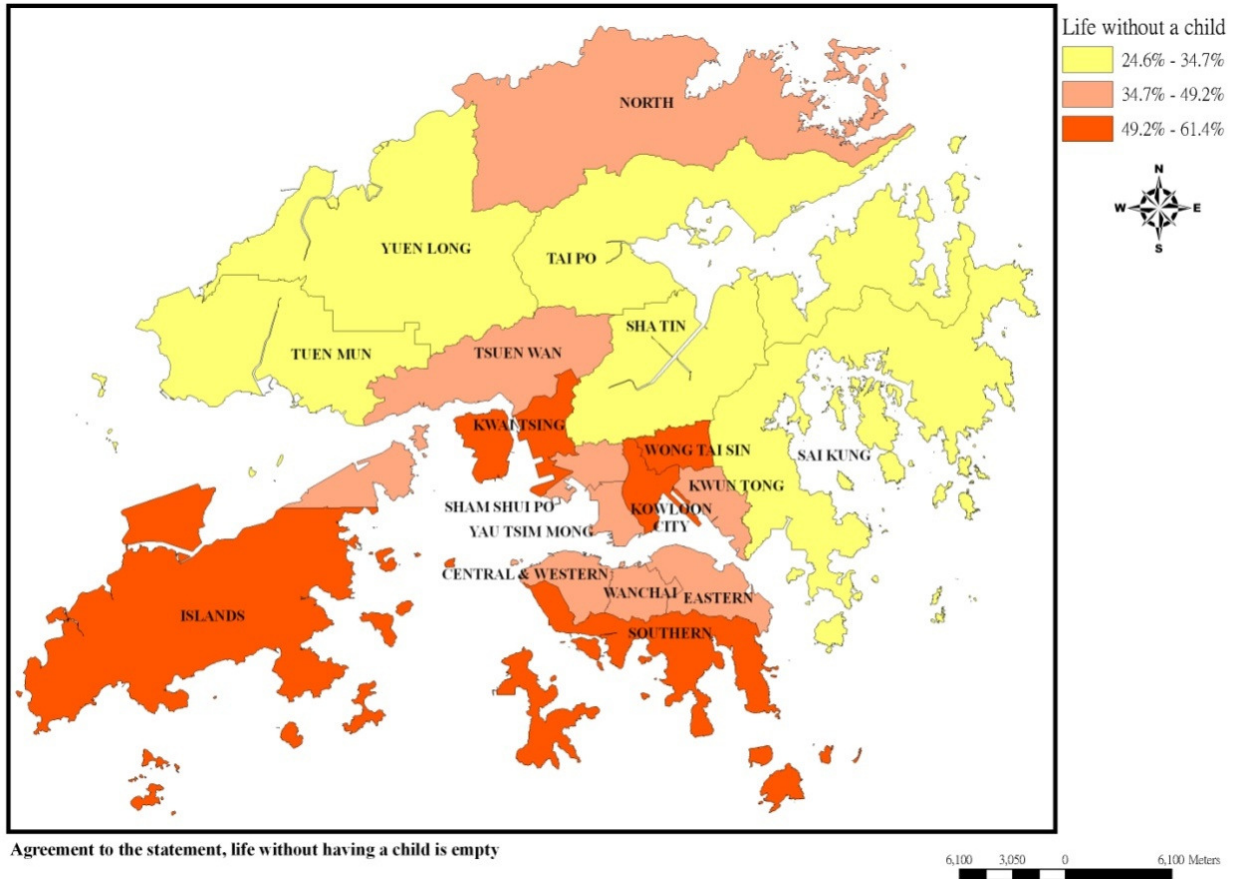
**Chart 55a: Agreement to the statement “Marriage is a necessary step in life” (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 55)



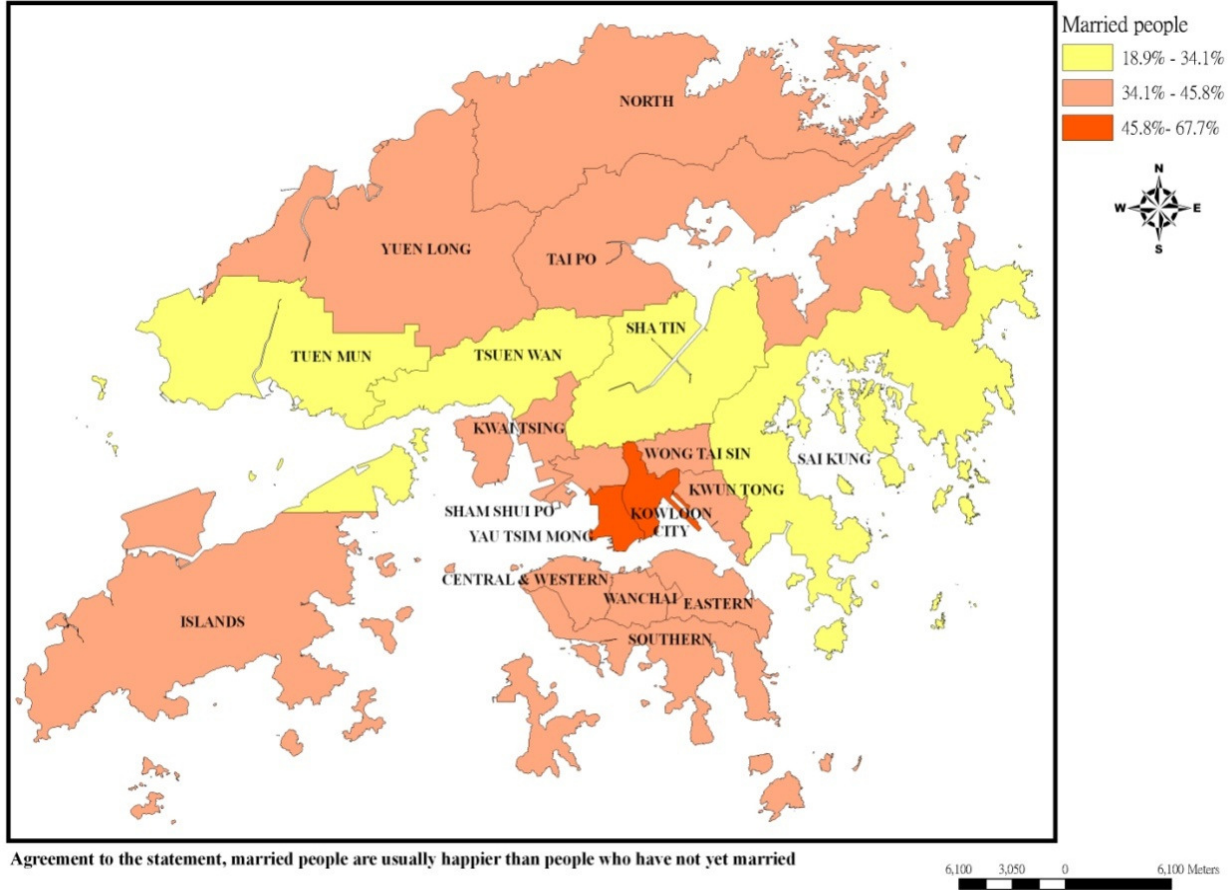
**Chart 55b: Agreement to the statement “Child bearing is important in marriage”  
(%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 55)



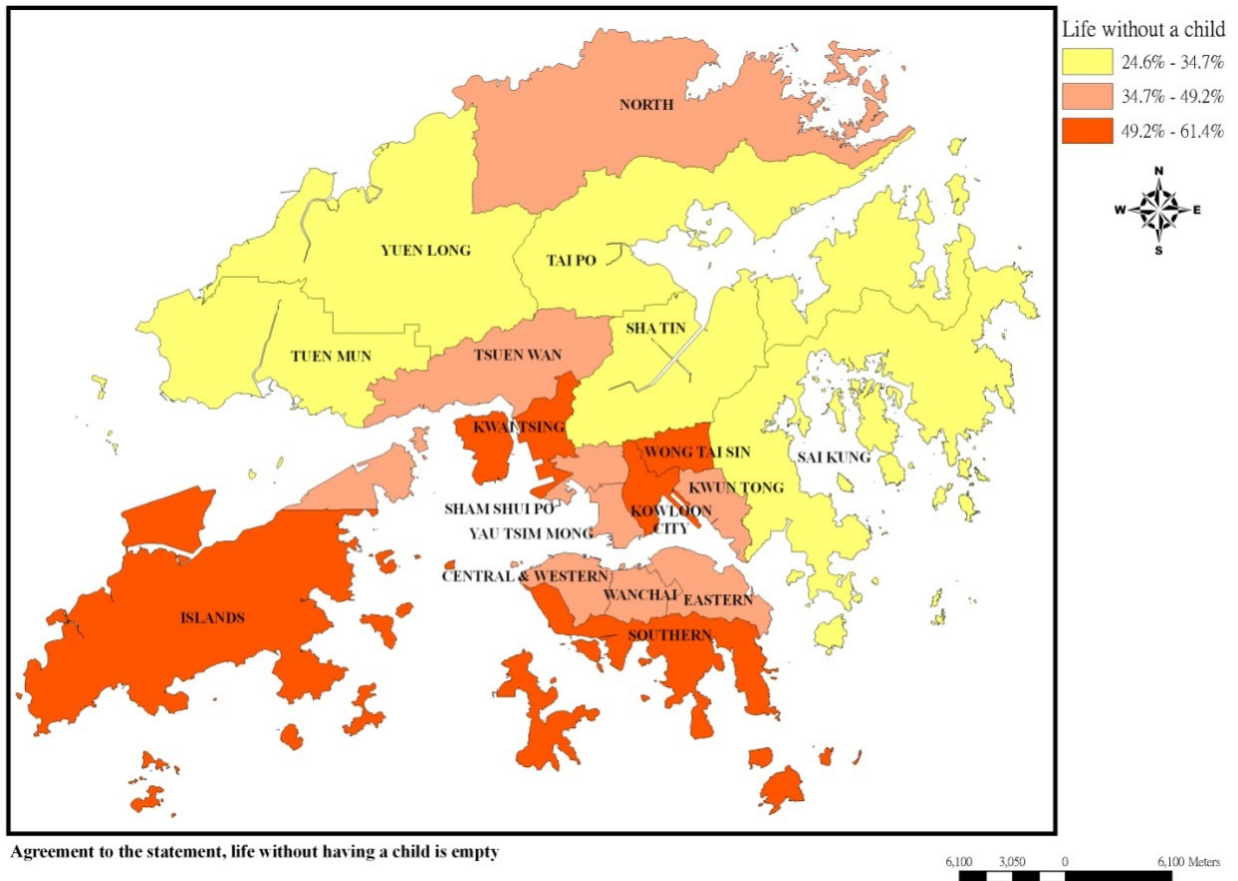


**Chart 55c: Agreement to the statement “Married people are usually happier than people who have not yet married” (%)**  
 (Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 55)



**Chart 55d: Agreement to the statement “Life without having a child is empty”  
(%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 55)

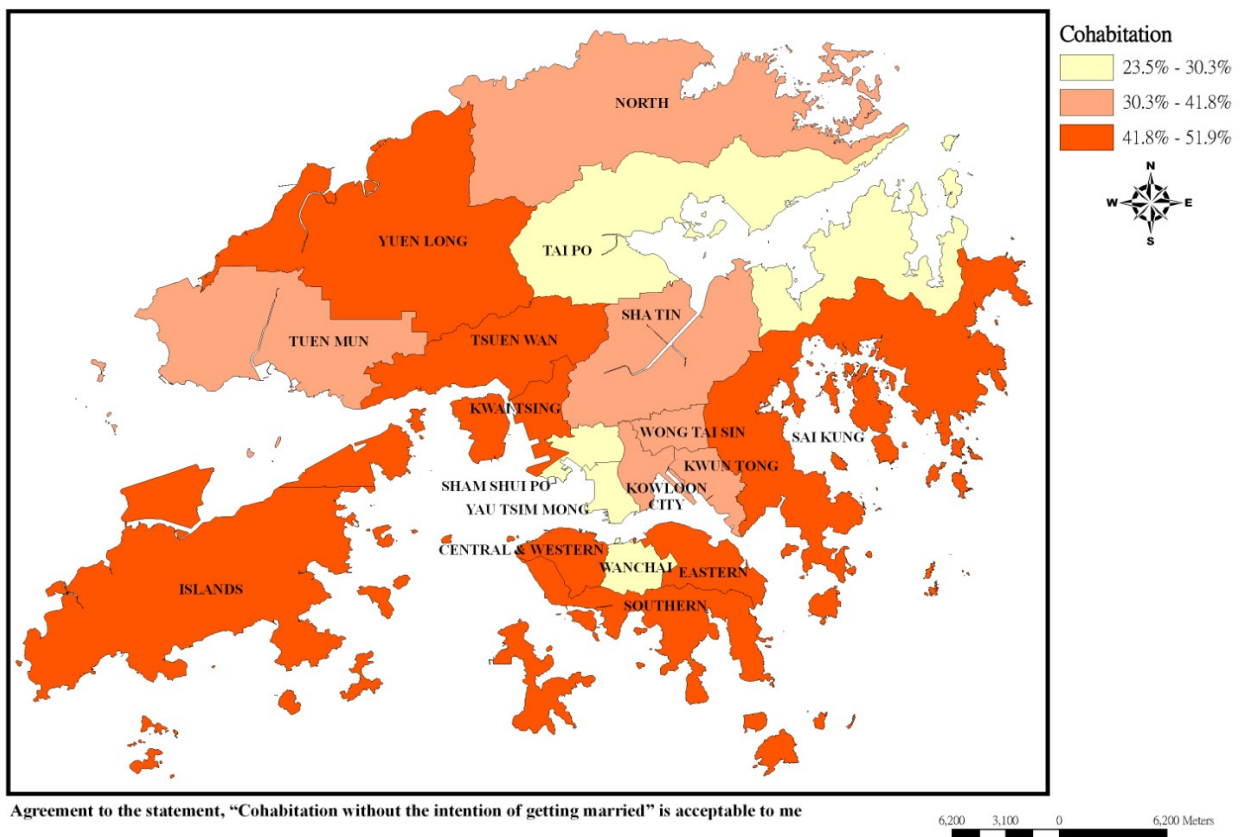


### Attitudes towards Cohabitation

11.2.5 Analysis at district level indicated that attitudes towards cohabitation are in line with the general findings (Chapter 4.9 refers). Analysed by districts, it is noted that in Sai Kung (52%), Eastern (51%), Yuen Long (50%), Islands (49%), Southern (46%), Tsuen Wan (45%), Kwai Tsing (44%) and Central & Western (43%) had the largest proportion of respondents who agreed “cohabitation without intention of getting married”.

**Chart 56: Agreement to the statement “Cohabitation without the intention of getting married” (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 56)





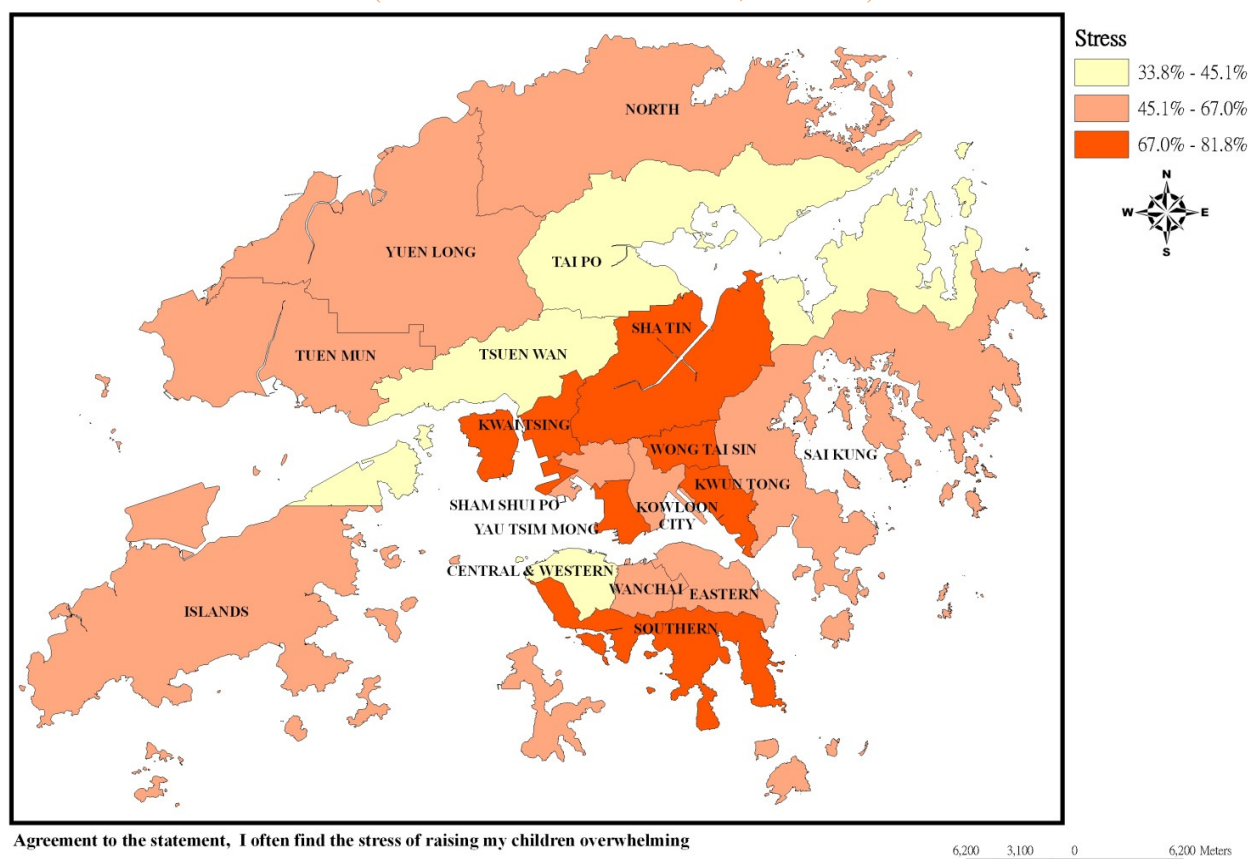
## 11.3 Parenthood

### Attitudes towards Parenthood

11.3.1 Territory-wide Survey showed that 62% of the respondents found the stress of raising their children overwhelming (Chapter 5.2 refers). Analysis at district level indicated that attitudes of the respondents towards stress of raising their children, willingness to spend time with their children and etc were in line with the general findings. This notwithstanding, it was worth noting that a higher proportion of respondents living in Kwai Tsing (82%), Shatin (75%), Kwun Tong (74%), Wong Tai Sin (70%), Southern (70%) and Yau Tsim Mong (68%) tended to “find the stress of raising children overwhelming”.

**Chart 57: Agreement to the statement “I often find the stress of raising children overwhelming” (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 57)

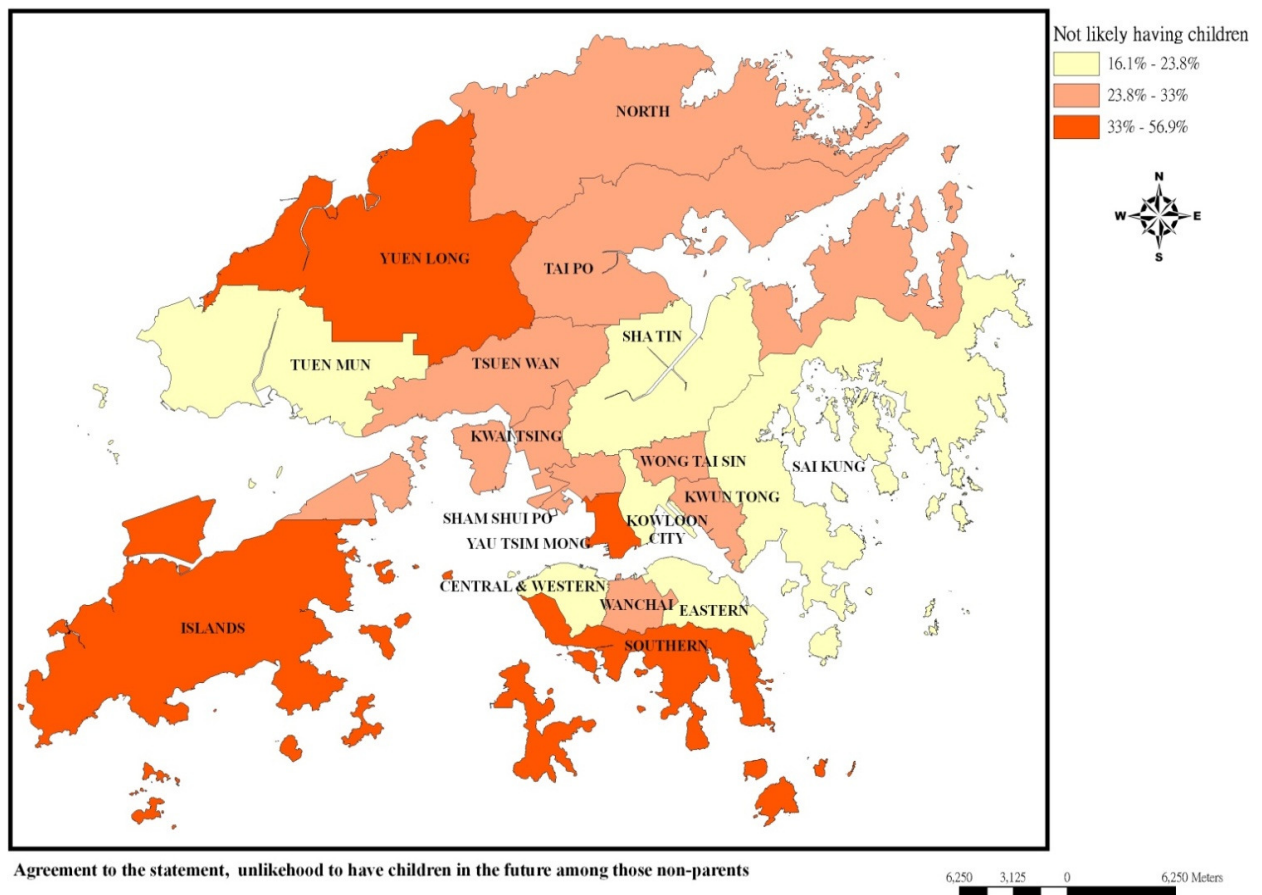


**Intention to have children**

11.3.2 On the attitudes towards intention to have children, territory-wide Survey showed that 29% of the respondents (without children) were not very likely or not at all likely to have children in the future (Chapter 5.4 refers). This notwithstanding, it was interesting to note that respondents living in Yau Tsim Mong (57%), Islands (41%), Southern (40%) and Yuen Long (37%) showed a higher proportion of respondents who were not very likely or not at all likely to have children in the future.

**Chart 58: Intention to have children in the future among the respondents without children (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 58)

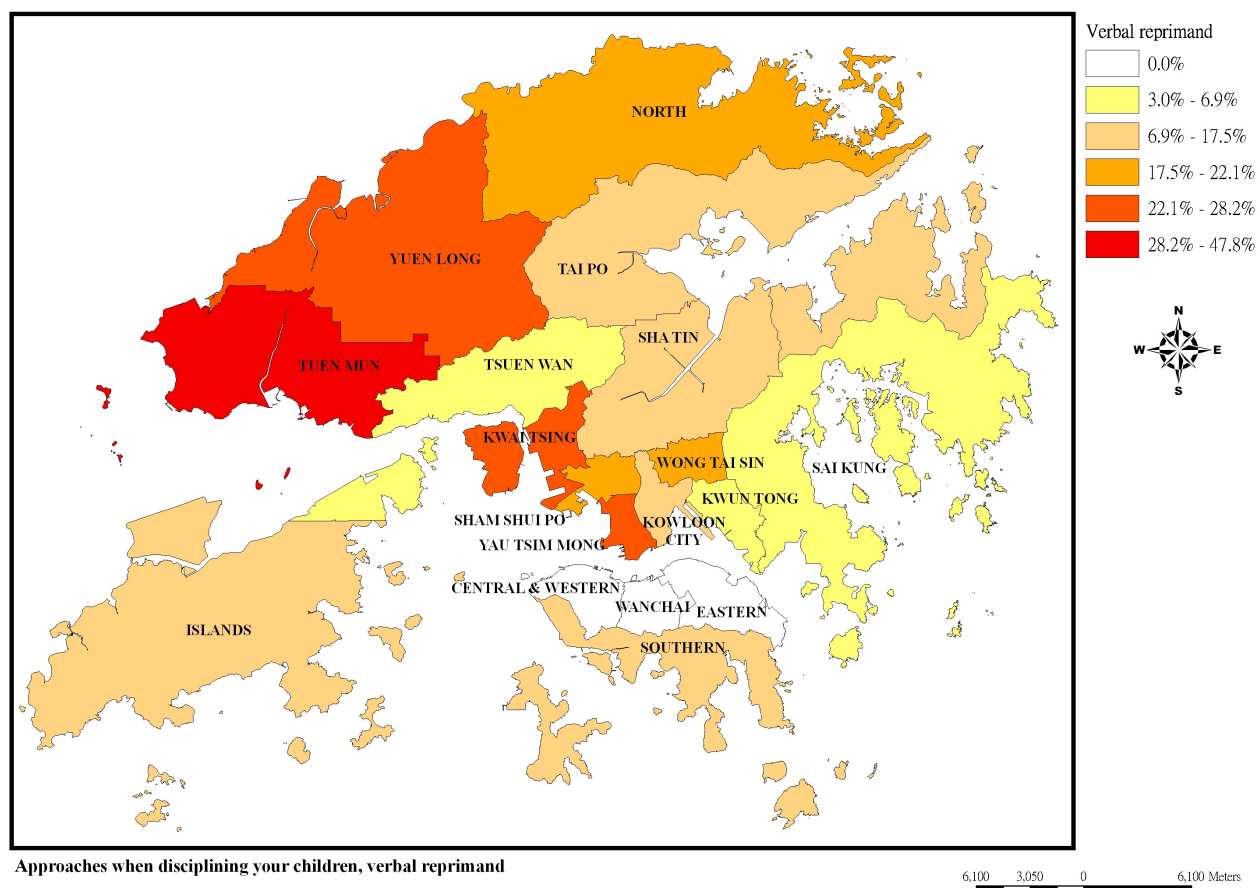


## Parenting Method

11.3.3 Territory-wide Survey indicated that parenting methods were on the whole gentle. Parents with children aged 18 or below used verbal reprimand much more frequently when disciplining their children (Chapter 5.6 refers). Analysed by districts, those parents with children aged 18 or below in Tuen Mun (47.8%), Yuen Long (28.2%), Kwai Tsing (25.0%) and Yau Tsim Mong (23.9%) adopted a verbal reprimand approach much more frequently when disciplining their children.

**Chart 59: Verbal reprimand cases (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 59)



Approaches when disciplining your children, verbal reprimand

6,100 3,050 0 6,100 Meters

## 11.4 Family Functioning

### *The Chinese Family Assessment Instrument (CFAI)*

11.4.1 **Mutuality** - The territory-wide Survey showed that the mean score of “Mutuality” was at 4.1. The respondents in general considered that there was mutual trust and understanding among family members, and everyone in the family loved and accommodated each other. District level analysis indicated that the mean score in Kowloon City, Eastern, Southern and Kwai Tsing was at 3.8.

11.4.2 **Concern** – The territory-wide Survey showed that the mean score of “Concern” was at 4.1. Most families maintained a very good parent-child relationship, and parent showed concern about their children. District level analysis showed that the mean scores in Eastern were at 3.7 and Kwoloon City at 3.6 respectively.

11.4.3 **Communication** - The territory-wide Survey showed that the mean score of “Communication” was at 3.7, demonstrating that in general the respondents communicated quite well and their families were cohesive, and parents understood their children’s need and thinking. District level analysis indicated that the mean scores in Kwai Tsing were at 3.4 and Southern at 3.3 respectively.

11.4.4 **Conflict** - The territory-wide Survey showed that the mean score of “Conflict” was at 4.0, implying that most families were quite harmonious, without much conflict between family members. However, district level analysis indicated that the mean scores in Eastern (at 3.6), Wong Tai Sin (at 3.6) and Kwoloon City (at 3.5) were lower than that of the general mean score.

11.4.5 **Control** - The territory-wide Survey showed that the mean score of “Control” was at 4.0, indicating that most parents did not exercise tight control on their children. However, district level analysis indicated that the mean scores in Wong Tai Sin (at 3.7), Kwoloon City (at 3.6) and Eastern (at 3.6) were lower than that of the general mean score at 4.0.

**Table 60: Mean scores of the Chinese Family Assessment Instrument by district**

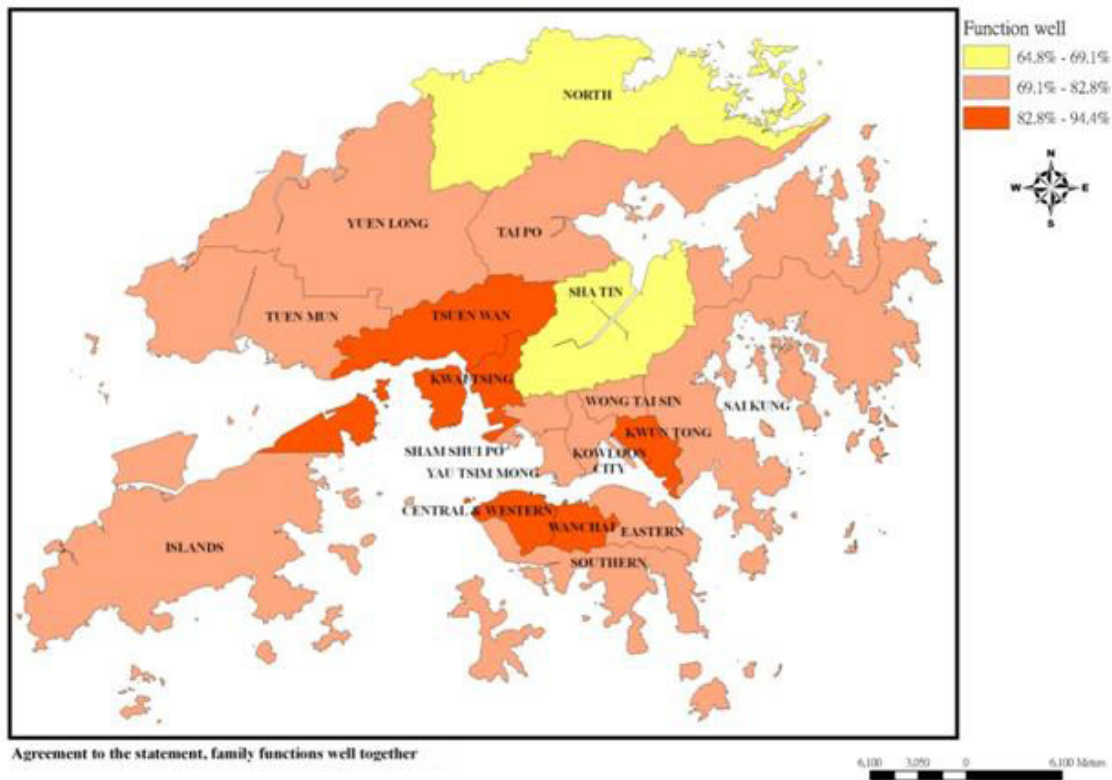
District	Mutuality	Concern	Communication	Conflict	Control
Kowloon City	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.6
Tai Po	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.3
Central & Western	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2
Yuen Long	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.8
Tuen Mun	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.0	3.9
North	4.1	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.9
Sai Kung	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1
Sha Tin	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.2
Eastern	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6
Yau Tsim Mong	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.8
Southern	3.8	3.9	3.3	3.8	3.9
Tsuen Wan	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.3
Sham Shui Po	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.0
Wong Tai Sin	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7
Kwai Tsing	3.8	4.1	3.4	3.8	4.0
Islands	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.8
Wan Chai	4.4	4.6	3.9	4.4	4.4
Kwun Tong	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5

## Family functioning

11.4.6 Territory-wide Survey indicated that family functioned quite well together (Chapter 6.3 refers). District level analysis also generated similar result (Chart 60a), with the exception of Shatin and North.

**Chart 61a: Family functioning - Functions well by district (%)**

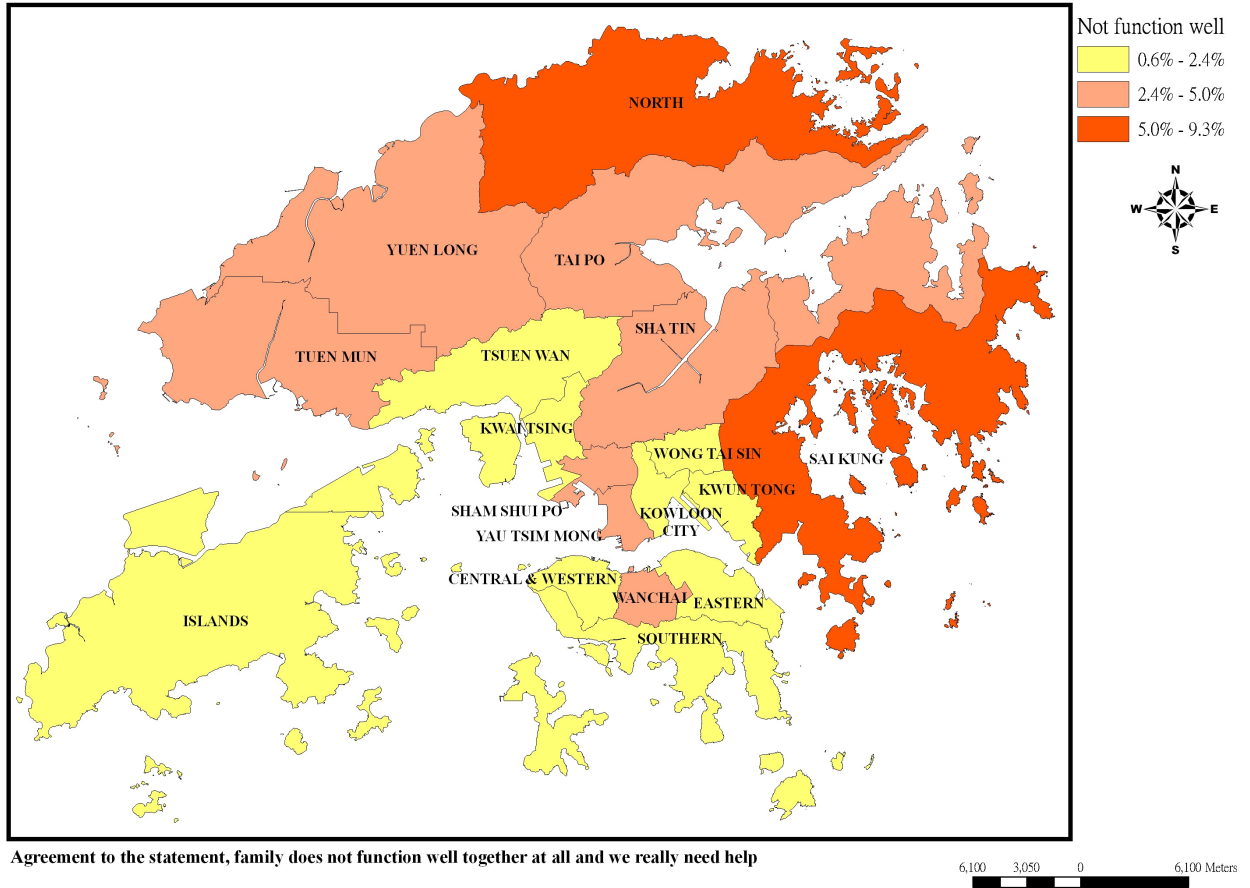
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 61)



11.4.7 Similarly, the Survey indicated that North and Sai Kung had a highest proportion of respondents who reported their family does not function well together.

**Chart 61b: Family functioning - Does not function well at all and we really need help by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 61)





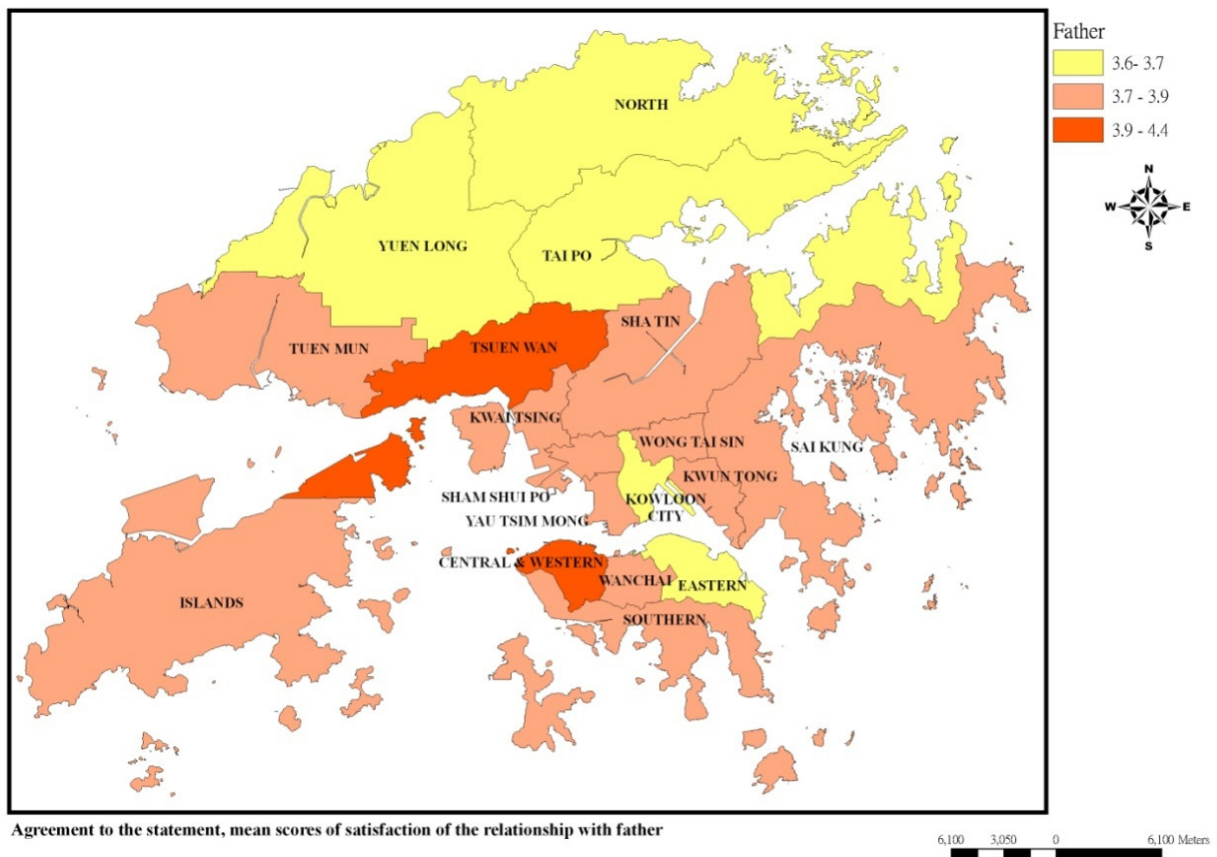
## 11.5 Satisfaction with Family Life

### Satisfaction with the relationship with family members

11.5.1 Like the territory-wide Survey, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members across all the districts.

**Chart 62a: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with father by district**

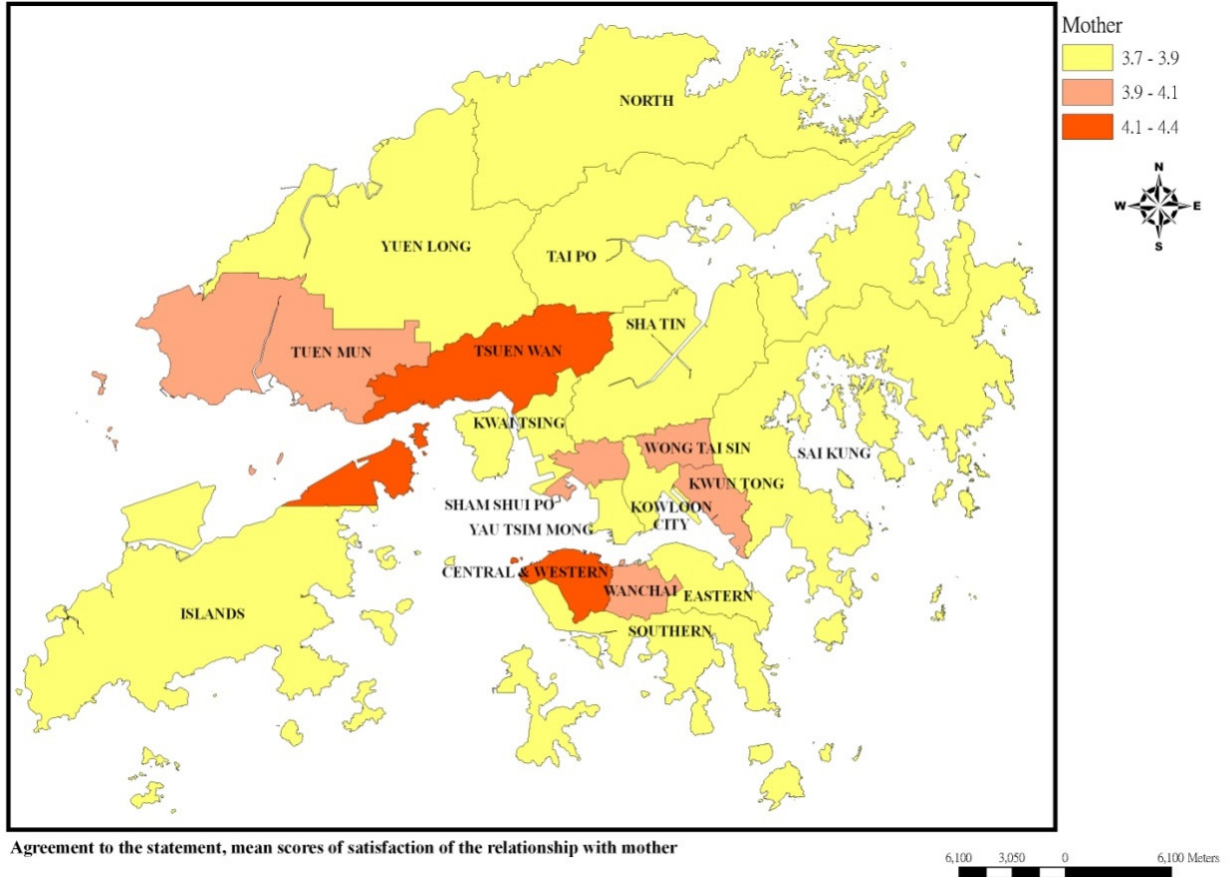
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 62)





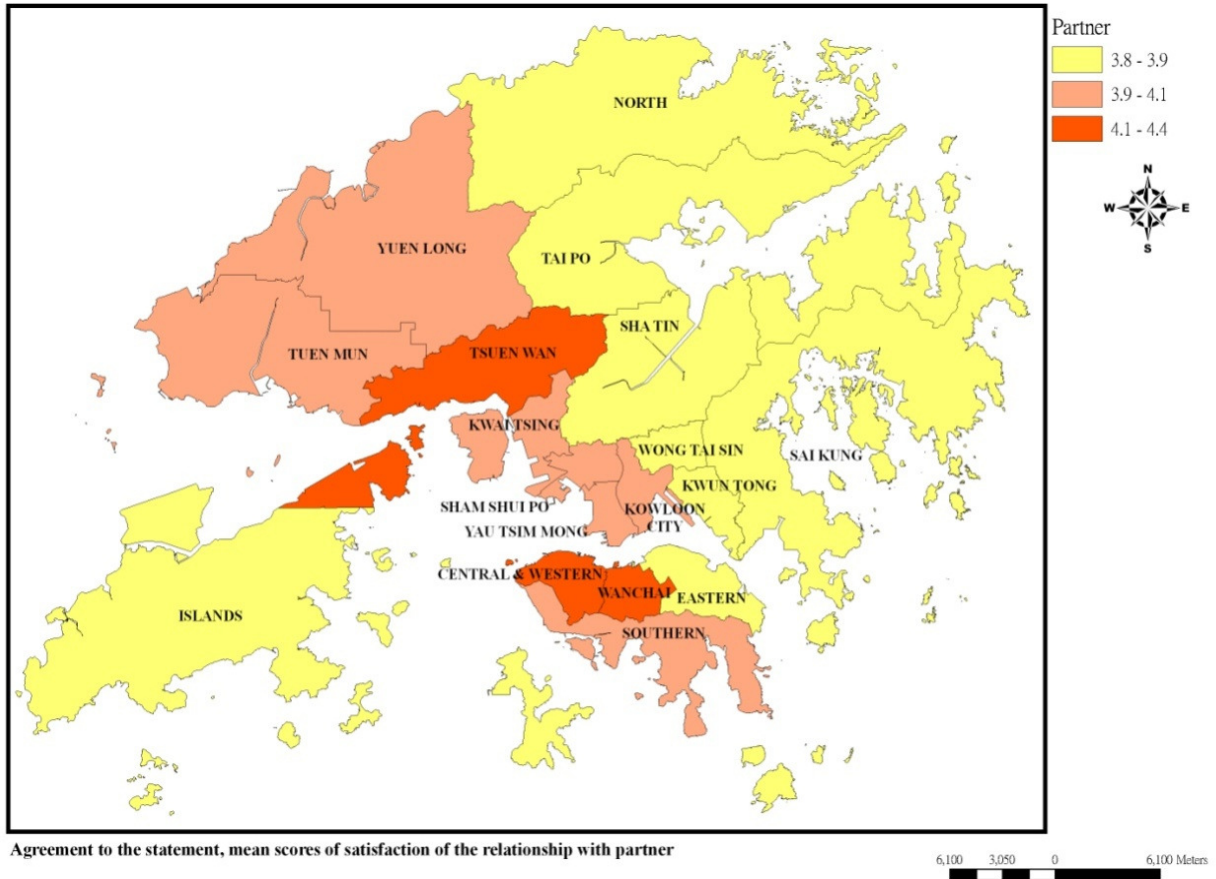
**Chart 62b: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with mother  
by district**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 62)



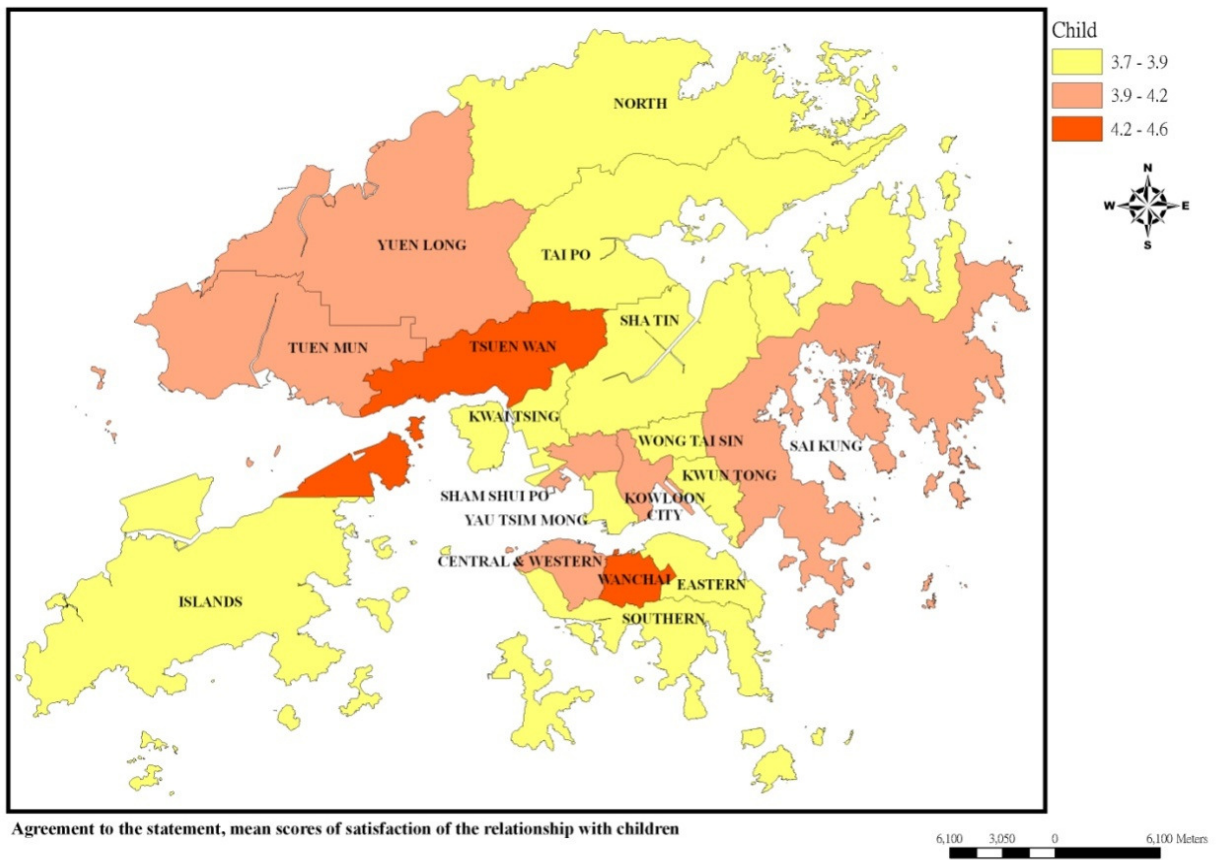
**Chart 62c: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with partner  
by district**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 62)



Agreement to the statement, mean scores of satisfaction of the relationship with partner

**Chart 62d: Mean scores of satisfaction with the relationship with child by district**  
 (Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 62)

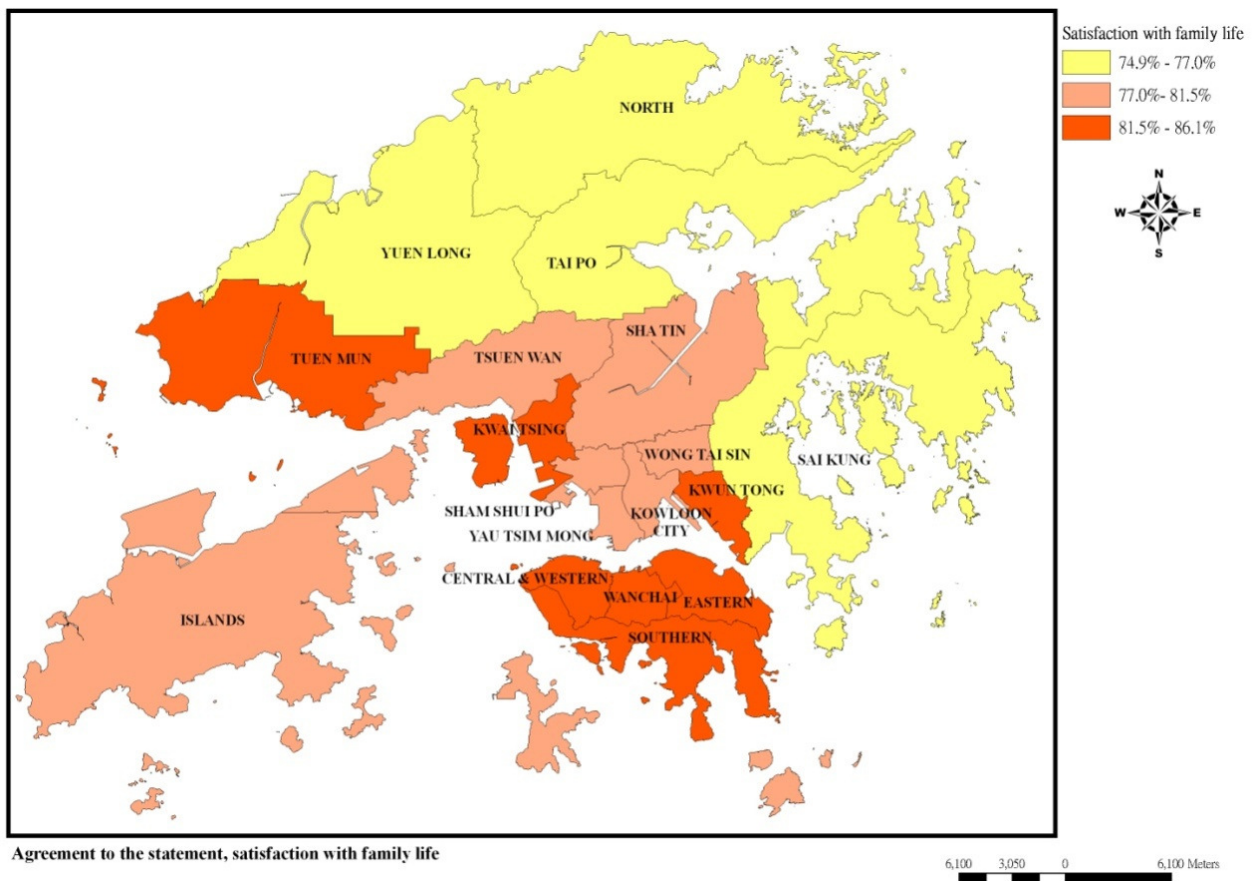


Agreement to the statement, mean scores of satisfaction of the relationship with children

### Satisfaction with Family Life

11.5.2 According to the territory-wide Survey, 81% of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life (Chapter 7.2.5 refers). District level analysis also illustrated that majority of the districts had quite a high proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life. Only Tai Po (77%), North (76%), Sai Kung (76%) and Yuen Long (75%) which had a relatively lower proportion of respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life.

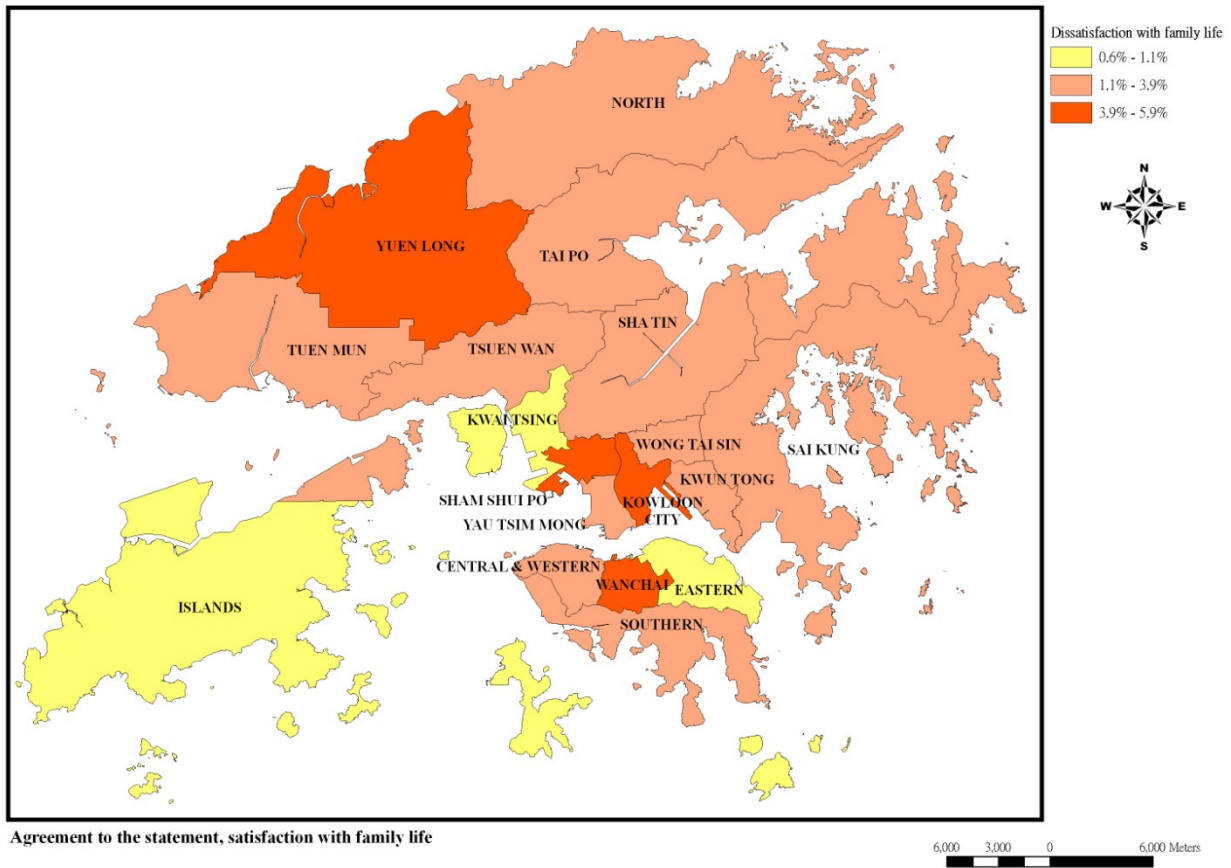
**Chart 63a: Satisfaction with family life by district (%)**  
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 63)



11.5.3 Territory-wide Survey also indicated that only 3% of the respondents who were very dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their family life (Chapter 7.2.5 refers). District level analysis also illustrated that majority of the districts had only a small proportion of respondents who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their family life. Only Kowloon City (6%), Sham Shui Po (6%), Yuen Long (5%) and Wanchai (5%) had a relatively higher proportion of respondents who indicated that they were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with their family life.

**Table 63b: Dissatisfaction with family life by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 63)



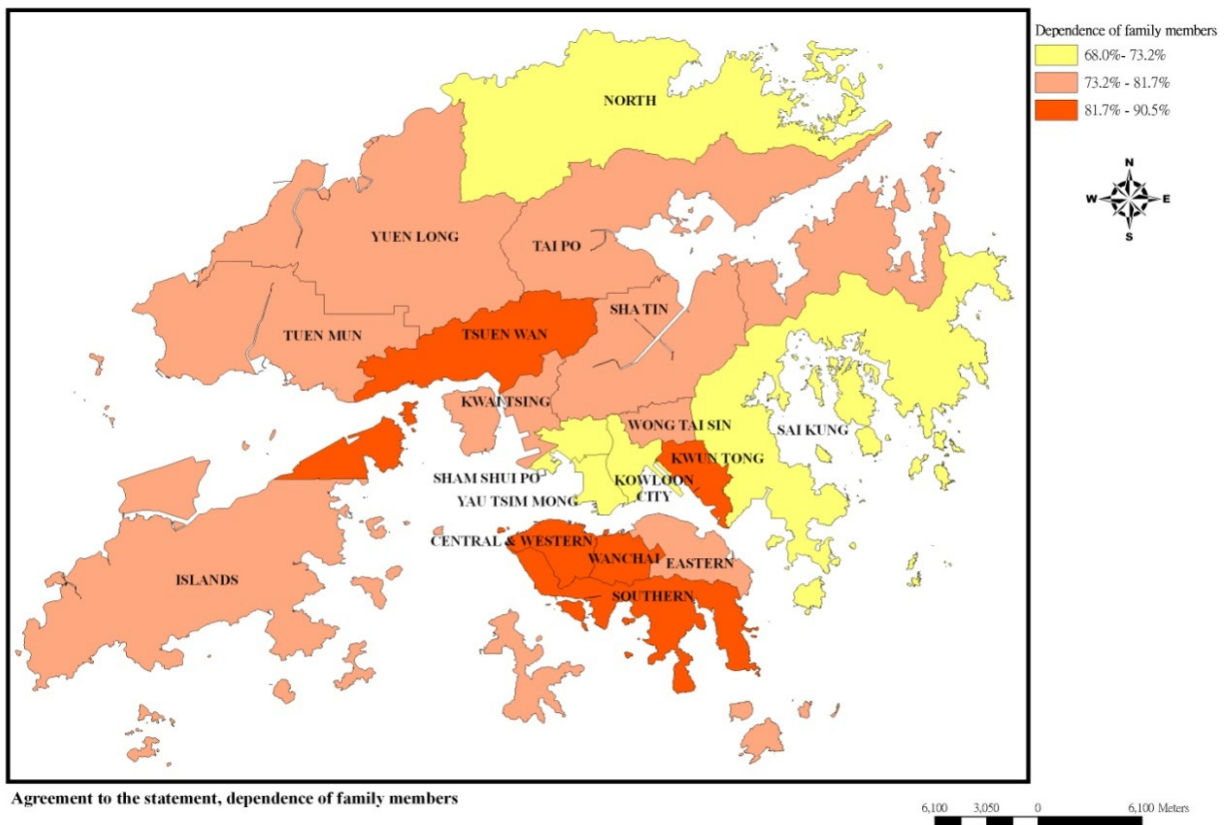


### Dependence of family members

11.5.4 According to the territory-wide Survey, 78% of the respondents indicated that their family members were dependent on each others (Chapter 7.2.7 refers). District level analysis also showed that majority of the districts had quite a high proportion of respondents indicating their family members were dependent on each other. Only Kwoloon City (73%), Yau Tsim Wong (73%), Sham Shui Po (72%), Sai Kung (70%) and North (68%) had a relatively lower proportion of respondents who indicated that their family members were dependent on each other.

**Chart 64a: Dependence of family members by district (%)**

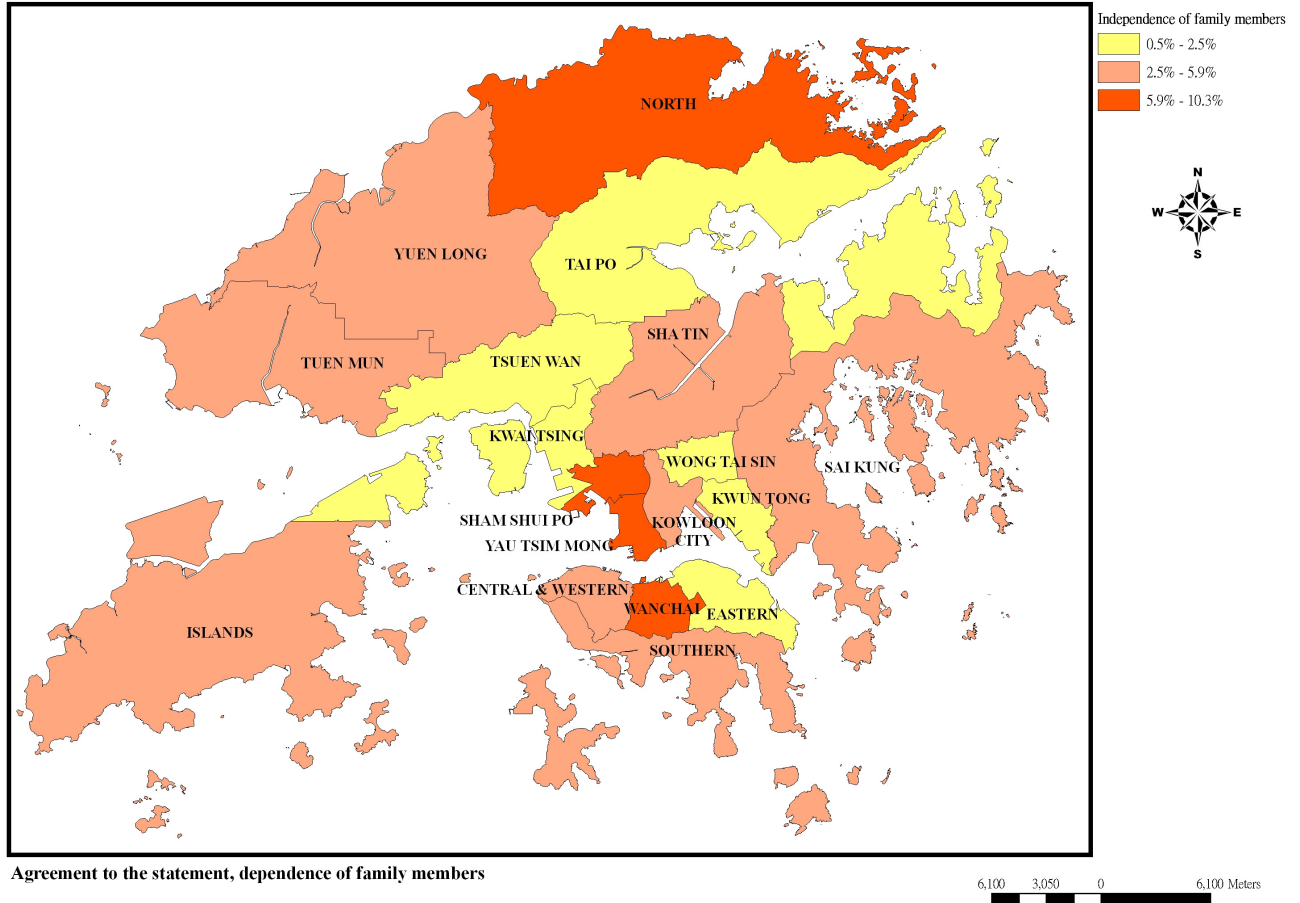
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 64)



11.5.5 At the same time, it was also interesting to note that there was a higher proportion of respondents in North (10%), Sham Shui Po (7%), Wanchai (6%) and Yau Tsim Mong (6%) who indicated that their family members were independent.

**Table 64b: Independence of family members by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 64)

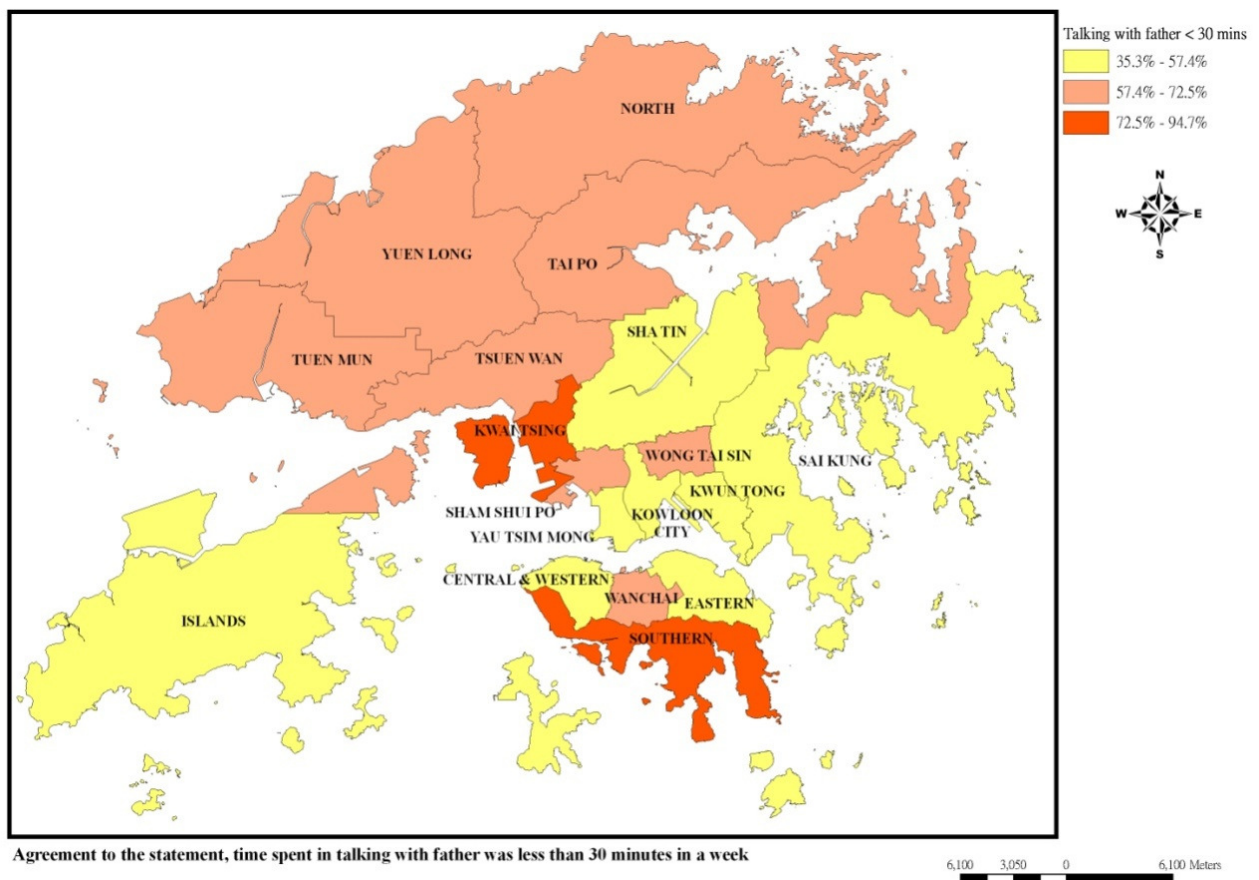


### Time Spent with Family Members

11.5.6 Territory-wide Survey showed that time spent with parents was limited (Chapter 7.3 refers). 40% of the respondents talked to their parents less than 30 minutes a week. District level analysis also generated similar findings. Quite a significant proportion of respondents in Southern (95%) and Kwai Tsing (94%) talked to their parents for less than 30 minutes a week or not at all.

**Chart 65a: Time spent in talking with father by district (%)**

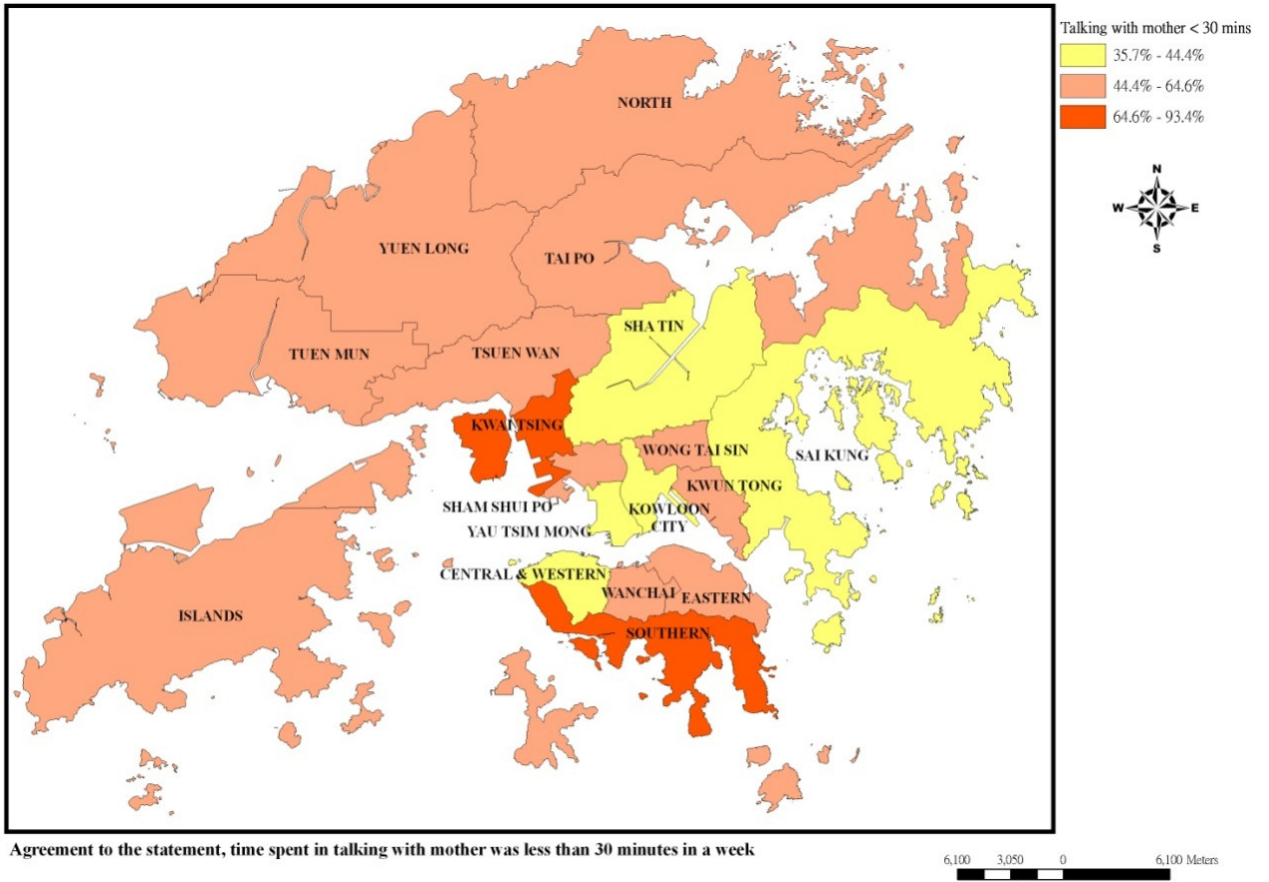
(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 65)





**Chart 65b: Time spent in talking with mother by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 65)



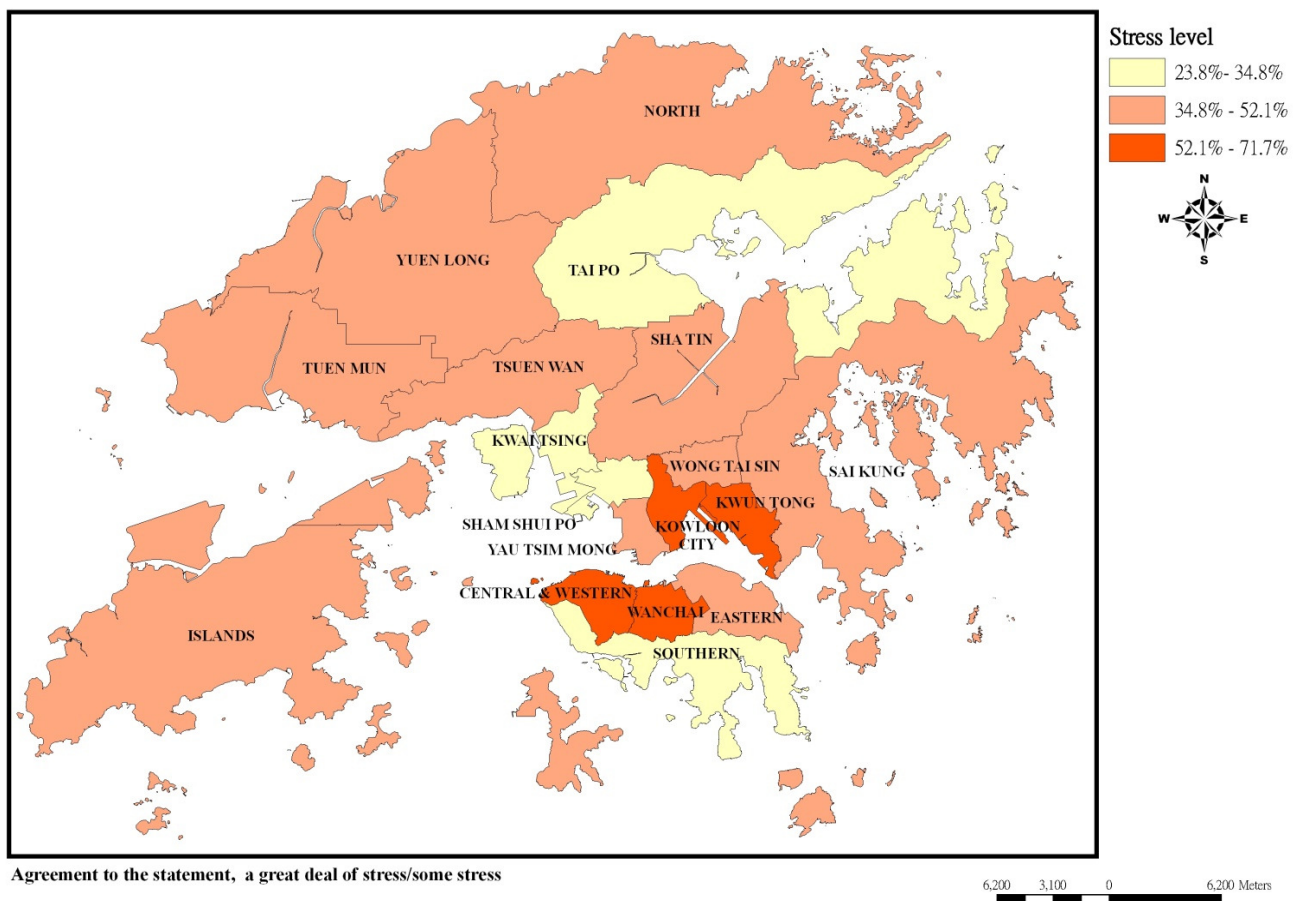
## 11.6 Balancing Work and Family

### Stress and time spent at work and family

11.6.1 Territory-wide Survey indicated that 43% of respondents who were currently at work reported that balancing the competing demands of work and family caused them a great deal of stress (Chapter 8.2 refers). District level analysis also generated similar results. Only Kowloon City (72%), Kwun Tong (59%), Wan Chai (58%) and Central & Western (56%) had a higher proportion of respondents who reported that balancing the demands of work and family caused them a great deal of stress or some stress.

**Chart 66: Stress in balancing work and family (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 66)



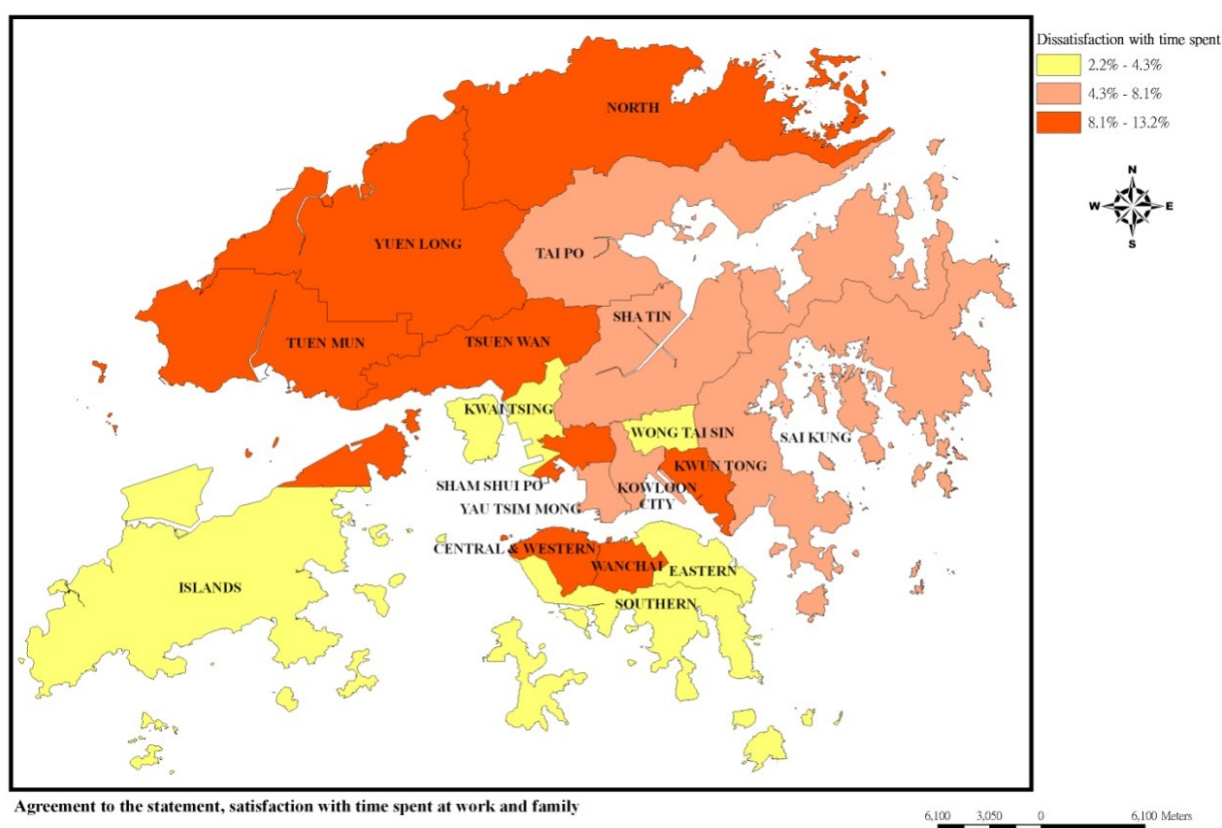
Agreement to the statement, a great deal of stress/some stress

6,200 3,100 0 6,200 Meters

11.6.2 Territory-wide Survey also covered the satisfaction with the amount of time spent at work and family (Chapter 8.3 refers). The Survey results indicated that 8% of the respondents were dissatisfied. District level analysis showed that majority of the districts had less than 8% of the respondents who were dissatisfied, with the exception of North (13%), Yuen Long (13%), Wan Chai (12%), Central & Western (12%), Tsuen Wan (12%), Tuen Mun (11%), Sham Shui Po (10%) and Kwun Tong (10%). These seven districts had a relatively higher proportion of respondents who were dissatisfied with the level of time spent at work and with family.

**Chart 67: Dissatisfaction with time spent at work and family by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 67)



## 11.7 Social Support Network

### Availability of assistance

11.7.1 Similar to the results of the territory-wide Survey, district level analysis indicated that most of the respondents, across different districts, considered that their family members were supportive and helpful.

**Table 68: Availability of assistance by district (%)**

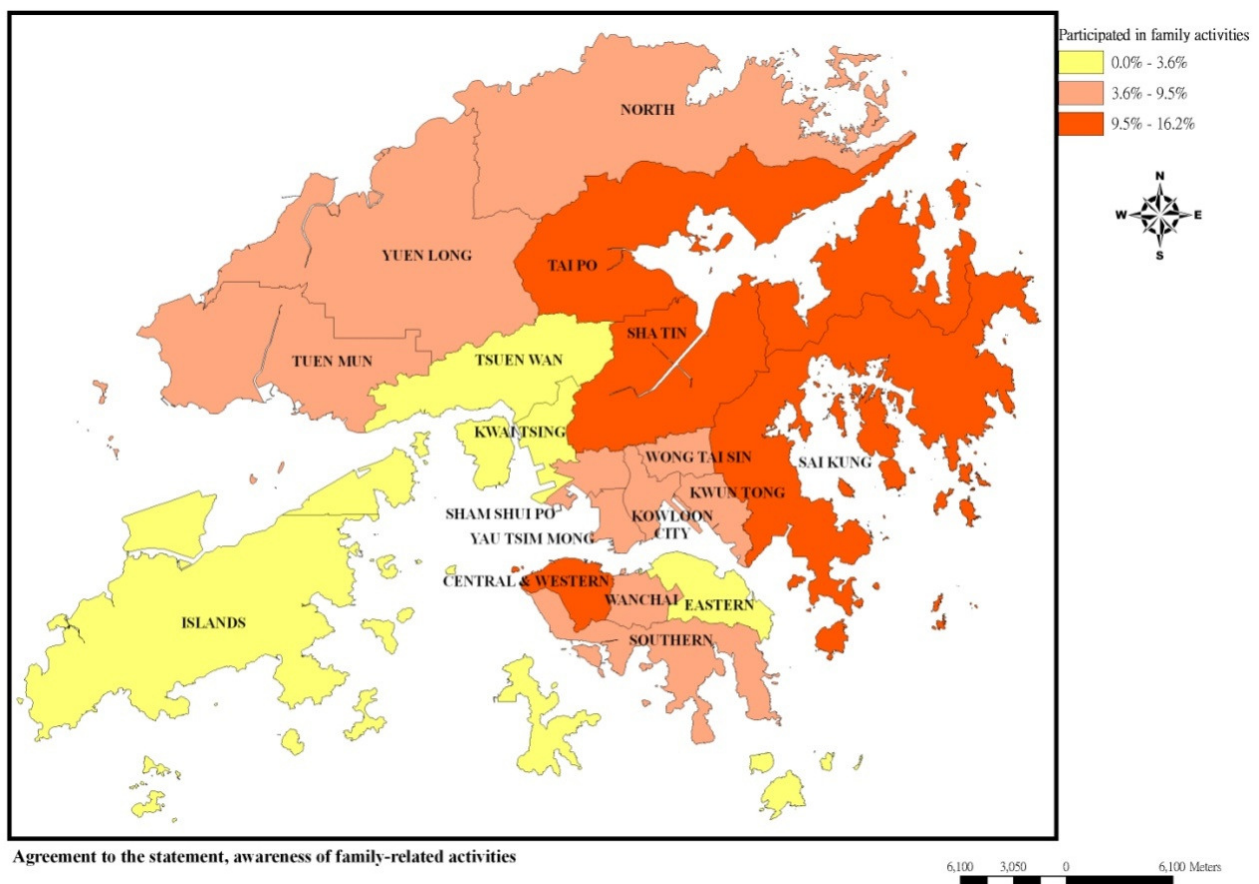
Helpful (%)	When you are sick	When you need to make an important decision	When you are depressed and upset	When you are unemployed and cannot get a job	When you have financial problems	When you want to share your happiness with your family members
Kowloon City	72.1	72.9	73.0	70.3	68.9	73.9
Tai Po	92.3	84.3	85.2	56.8	82.9	87.6
Central & Western	82.0	80.4	80.7	62.6	77.9	83.5
Yuen Long	90.0	80.8	77.5	63.7	79.4	92.2
Tuen Mun	84.1	85.6	75.0	57.9	76.8	90.0
North	93.6	87.8	84.3	81.0	82.8	91.0
Sai Kung	91.6	96.3	84.9	77.3	83.3	91.3
Sha Tin	94.8	92.3	90.2	78.9	89.7	94.2
Eastern	79.9	72.6	62.8	54.9	72.1	74.1
Yau Tsim Mong	92.7	91.1	77.5	61.9	77.8	91.7
Southern	90.3	78.3	65.8	38.0	76.7	76.1
Tsuen Wan	89.9	81.7	76.9	66.3	82.1	86.9
Sham Shui Po	93.3	90.8	83.1	64.1	73.6	87.1
Wong Tai Sin	85.4	83.4	80.9	77.9	80.4	84.8
Kwai Tsing	90.6	85.1	75.0	72.3	83.3	84.9
Islands	80.2	78.9	72.3	54.5	68.7	76.2
Wan Chai	75.7	76.9	74.4	70.7	73.5	77.6
Kwun Tong	90.5	89.5	87.8	47.4	86.0	89.5

## 11.8 Awareness of Family-related Programmes

11.8.1 Across all the districts, the participation rate in the family-related programmes/activities was relatively low (from 0% to 16%). Participation rate was the highest in Sha Tin (16%), Tai Po (15%), Central & Western (13%) and Sai Kung (12%). Awareness was also low. Nine districts had more than half of the respondents who were not aware of any family-related programmes/activities organised by the Government and /or NGOs. Kwai Tsing (70%), Islands (63%), Wong Tai Sin (62%), Eastern (62%) and Southern (62%) had the highest proportion.

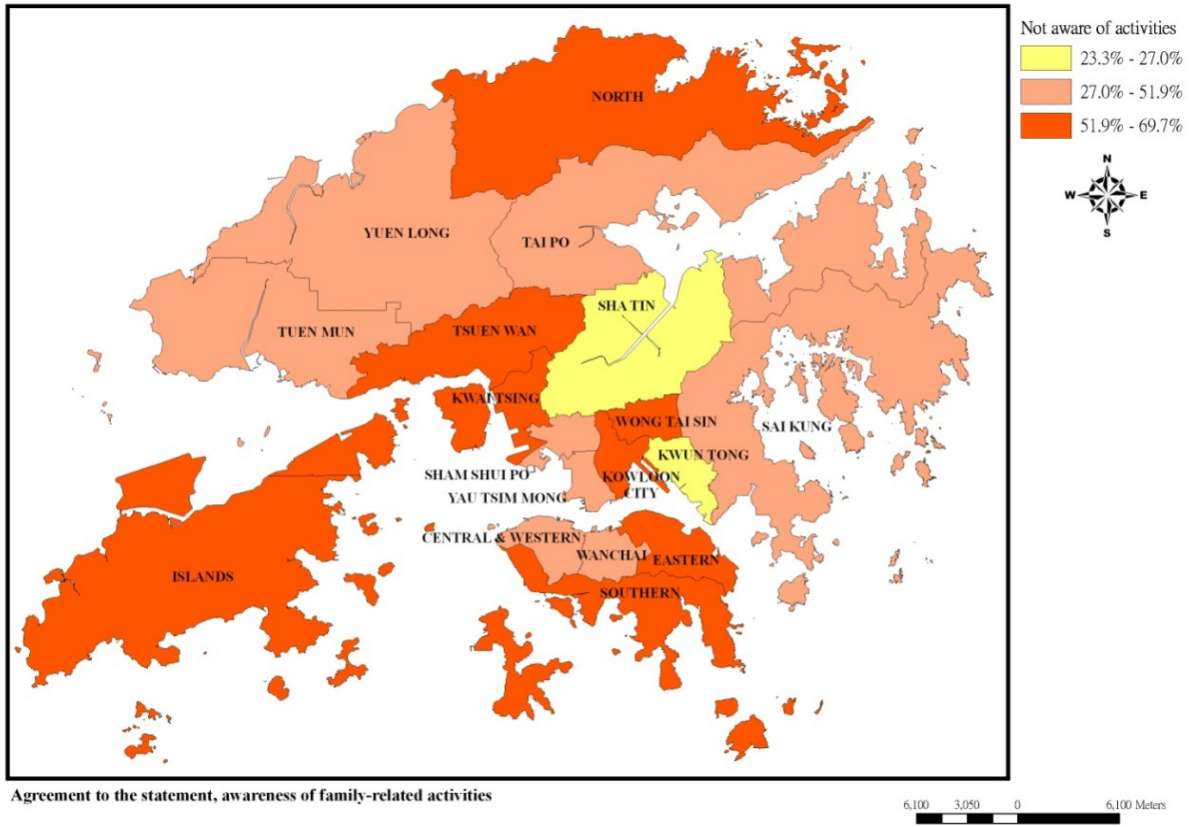
**Chart 69a: Participation in family-related activities by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 69)



**Chart 69b: Awareness of family-related activities by district (%)**

(Detailed table is at Annex 3, Table 69)



Agreement to the statement, awareness of family-related activities



## Chapter 12 | Conclusions and Recommendations

12.1 Family is the basic building block of society and is traditionally used to denote a unit of several adults living together with at least one child. The society has changed significantly in recent decades so that the family structure and family values have undergone tremendous change. In this report, the actual behaviour and perception towards family, including attitudes and values, are illustrated. The report also focuses on attitudes towards a wide range of family issues, including marriage, divorce, childlessness, cohabitation, singlehood and traditional views.

### *Importance of family*

12.2 Results of the household survey indicated that most of the traditional core values (such as having son to continue family name, family disgrace should be kept within the family and etc.) were still prevalent, though not very strong. Besides, the general value of filial piety such as willing to live with parents and supporting their parents' living was still prevalent. In addition, more people valued the contribution and help of grandparents.

12.3 Most people still hold fast to family core values (including Love, Care, Respect, Responsibility, Filial piety, Tolerance, Communication and Harmony) and rated them as important. On the other hand, traditionally held attitudes towards marriage and having child continued to be widely accepted. Besides, divorce was more acceptable and no more a stigma nowadays. However, attitudes towards singlehood and cohabitation were quite diverse.

### *Parenthood*

12.4 Raising children was stressful for some parents. Besides, most parents agreed to set role models for their children and to shoulder the responsibility of teaching their children the right values. Parenting methods were on the whole gentle. Parents with children aged 18 or below indicated that they used non-physical approaches (i.e., a verbal reprimand, withdrawal of privileges, sending the child to his or her room and a "time out") much more frequently than "spanking" when disciplining their children.

12.5 Nearly half of those aged 35-54 who had no child had no intention to have children in the future. The major reasons for those not having children were “we are too old” (31%) and “I do not have a partner/not married” (32%).

### *Family functioning*

12.6 Most of families functioned very well. 79% of the respondents considered that their family functioned very well together. The respondents in general considered there was mutual trust and concern among family members and most of the families maintained a very good parent-child relationship, and parent showed concern about their children. In addition, the respondents communicated quite well and their families were cohesive, and parents understood their children’s need and thinking.

### *Satisfaction with family life*

12.7 On the whole, respondents were quite satisfied with the relationship with their family members and their family life. The overall mean score was 4.1 for partner, 4.1 for children, 4.0 for mother and 3.9 for father in a scale of 5. Besides, 81% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their family life.

12.8 In general, home was comfortable and a place where family members loved to stay. 58% of respondents frequently perceived their home as “a place where he/she feel safe and loved”; for another 37%, sometimes. 55% and 40% frequently and sometimes considered their home “a place where each one trying to love each other” respectively.

### *Balancing work and family*

12.9 One quarter of those at work were worried about striking a balance between work and family. On the other hand, generally, 60% of those at work were satisfied with their work/life balance.

### *Social support network*

12.10 People indicated that they would seek help or advice from their “close friends” and “spouses” when they encountered difficulties. When problems encountered, family members were helpful and supportive.

### *Awareness of family-related programmes*



12.11 Half of respondents were not aware of any family-related promotional activities or programmes organized by the Government and/or other organisations. Only 8% of respondents participated in such programmes. Furthermore, participation in family-related programmes organized by government or social services organizations correlated positively with traditional family core values and satisfaction with family life.

### ***Recommendations***

#### ***Work-Life Balance***

***It is recommended that necessary steps should be taken to promote family-friendly policy among employers on a continuous basis***

12.12 Nearly half of those at work reported stress in balancing work and family life indicating that imbalance between work and family life is common among Hong Kong people. Long working hours and heavy workload bring immense stress. For instance, employers should be encouraged to develop flexible employment practices, flexible working environment and conditions for employee, so that employees can attain work life balance. This would lead to increased work productivity which in turn would enhance the competitive power of the company. Furthermore, relieving the stress faced by people may allow family members to contribute more of their time and energy to perform important role in the family.

#### ***Strengthen Parent Education***

***It is recommended that steps should be taken to strengthen the education of family life and personal development for parents and children.***

12.13 62% parents found the stress of raising their children overwhelming, indicating that most were not confident of their ability in both raising children and handling the associated stress. On the other hand, they were prepared to set role models for their children and shoulder the responsibility of teaching their children the right values. To this end, promotion of parent education will be effective as a preventive and intervention strategies, including child development, child care and effective discipline techniques. It is also desirable to encourage more communications between parents and their children, through more frequent discussions, help seeking, sharing or participation in the family activities.

### *Promotion of family-related activities*

***It is recommended that action should be taken to promote the family-related activities or programmes through different channels.***

12.14 The awareness of family-related activities organized by both the Government and NGOs was relatively low. The Survey findings show that those who had participated in such activities had a higher rating on the importance of all traditional core values and were more likely to be satisfied with their family life.