

Executive Summary

The Youth Indicators of Macao 2004 represents the final product of the Phase I research work of the Data Collection Programme (2004-2006) which forms a key part of the Macao Youth Indicators Profile Project. Forty-two indicators are presented in this report. The entire project encompasses 80 indicators. This report thus represents 52.5% of the research work. The remaining two phases i.e. Phase II and III will be completed in 2005 and 2006 respectively, covering altogether 38 indicators.

Macao Youth Indicators Profile Project comprises 10 areas. The 42 indicators covered by Phase I of the research project are classified according to the 10 areas as follows:

- (1) Population, Marriage and Family (5 indicators)
Proportion of youth in total population; composition of youth population; average age at first marriage; fertility rates and mortality rates; marriage rates and divorce rates.
- (2) Physical and Mental Health (5 indicators)
Physique and physical fitness; Average sleeping time; smoking and drinking habits; interpersonal relationship; suicide rates (statistics).
- (3) Education and Training (8 indicators)
Distribution of students and teachers by education level of schools; local university students by disciplines; adult education and vocational training; young teachers as a percentage of total teacher population; literacy Rate and educational attainment; promotion rates in schools at various education levels; drop-out rates; distribution of students by type of school.
- (4) Labour Force and Employment (4 indicators)
Employment situation of young people; average income of young people; composition of youth labour force and their skills; relationship between educational attainment and income.
- (5) Cultural, Leisure, Recreational and Sports Activities (6 indicators)
Number of books owned per capita; average reading time per day; leisure activities and leisure time allocation; libraries in Macao and utilization rates; participation rate in cultural activities; participation rate in sports activities.
- (6) Civic Duties and Social Participation (2 indicators)
Participation in elections (political) and exercising voting rights; participation in the community (including voluntary service).
- (7) Youth Crime and Deviant Behaviours (4 indicators)
Statistics and classification of young offenders; reasons for committing crime and classification; drug addiction and substance abuse; changes in the number of delinquents in juvenile probation centres and prisons.
- (8) Values (2 indicators)
Attitude towards values in life; family values.
- (9) Consumption and Quality of Life (4 indicators)
Housing situation; income and source of income; expenses (amount) and allocation ratios; family commitment.
- (10) Social Environment and Youth Policy (2 indicators)
Degree of societal concern on youth problem; information technology and growth of young people.

Information on indicators presented in each chapter is summarized below:

Chapter 1: Population, Marriage and Family

According to available statistics, there were 118,817 persons in the age range of 13 to 29 in 2003, accounting for 26.5% of the total population. Males aged 13-29 made up 12.7% of the total population, whilst females in the same age range made up 13.8%. Among young people aged between 13 and 29, those aged 14, 15 and 16 together made up the highest proportion of the entire Macao youth population, with each age group accounting for 7.3% of the total. The lowest percentage was recorded by the 26 age group, being only 4.8% of the total youth population. For both male and female youths, the highest proportion was registered in the 16 age group. The median age at first marriage for females was 25.7, while that for males was 26.7.

The fertility rates of female youth aged 13-29 is 123 live babies per 10,000 women while the mortality rate is 3 per 10,000 persons. The marriage rate was 8 cases per 1,000 persons, whilst the divorce rate was 6 cases per 10,000 persons.

Chapter 2: Physical and Mental Health

According to the Year 2000 statistics, the average height of boys in the 17 age group was 171cm, whilst the average height of girls in the 16 age group was 157cm. Both conformed with or approaching the respective maximum standard average height. The average weight for boys and girls in the 13 age group were 47kg and 46 kg respectively, whilst the corresponding figures for the 18 age group were 62kg and 50kg. Boys in the 16 and 17 age groups had the best average performance for the 1500m stamina run. The average performance of girls aged 12 in the 1000m stamina run was significantly better than those of the other age groups 13 to 18. The best average time for the 50m run was recorded by boys in the 16 age group, while for girls, the best time for same track event was achieved at aged 13.

Results of a survey conducted in 2004 showed that the average sleeping time per day for young people aged 13-29 was 6 hours 57 minutes. The difference in average sleeping time between male and female is not significant. Smoking and drinking habits in the survey revealed that 10% of young people have tried smoking, of which about 30% said they started smoking at the age of 13 to 14. There were more male than female smokers. More than 9 out of 10 of the respondents think smoking does have negative impact on health. 37.6% of the young respondents said they consume alcoholic beverages. Amongst all the alcohol-drinking respondents, about 40% claimed they first tasted alcoholic beverages at the age of 14 to 16. As in smoking, male alcoholic drinkers outnumbered female drinkers. More than 7 out of 10 respondents think drinking has negative impact on health. On interpersonal relationship, 66.3% of youths said their relationship with family members is "good", while 2.8% said "poor". 75.7% of the respondents said their relationship with schoolmates/colleagues is "good", whilst 1.8% said "poor". 70.3% of the respondents said their relationship with peers/other communities is "good", while 4.8% said "poor". Survey results on suicide showed 11.8% of the young people interviewed have contemplated committing suicide, 1.2% have actually tried.

Chapter 3: Education and Training

According to figures for the 2002/2003 academic year, there were a total of 99,183 kindergarten pupils, primary students and secondary students in Macao. Among the kindergarten pupils, 8% enrolled in public schools, while 92% enrolled in private schools. 5% of the primary school students enrolled in public schools, while 95% of them enrolled in private schools. In the case of secondary school students, 6% enrolled in public schools, while 94% were in private schools. As for special education, 65% of all students receiving this type of education enrolled in public schools, whilst 35% enrolled in private schools.

In the same period, the total number of kindergarten teachers, primary school teachers and secondary school teachers in the territory stood at 4,077. 9% of all kindergarten teachers served in public schools, whilst 91% served in private schools. 8% of all primary school teachers served in public schools, while 92% served in private schools. 9% of all secondary school teachers served in public schools, while 91% served in private schools. 43% of all teachers in special education were employed by public schools, with the remaining 57% employed by private schools. There were 1,316 teachers who were under the age of 29, making up 32% of all in-service teachers (4,077) in the same period.

For the 2003/2004 academic year, the majority of local university students (classified according to types of degree and diploma) were enrolled in bachelor degree programmes, which made up 51% of the total. Only 0.5% pursued doctoral degrees, the least of all. Female local university students outnumbered male university students by 16%. Students aged between 15 and 29 who had registered for adult education programmes accounted for about 40% of the total population in those age groups. In addition, students aged 15-29 who had registered for adult education programmes

made up about 50% of all those enrolled for such programmes.

According to 2001 statistics, the literacy rate among young people aged between 15 and 29 was 99.4%. Analysis of the young resident population aged 13-29 revealed that the majority has completed only lower secondary education (33.5%), the next biggest group was those who have finished primary schooling (30.8%). Of all the young people in these age groups, 20.6% have completed upper secondary education, whilst 9.7% completed higher education.

In the 2002/2003 academic year, the promotion rates for primary and secondary schools were 92.3% and 81.6% respectively. In the 2001/2002 academic year, the drop-out rate for students aged 15-19 was 0.4%.

Chapter 4: Labour Force and Employment

In 2003, amongst the youth population i.e. aged 14-29, for every 1,000 men, 439 were available to participate in economic activities, while the participation rate for women was 479 per 1000 in the same age range. Statistics on the unemployment situation showed that for every 1,000 working men in the labour force aged 14-29, 121 were unemployed, while the number of unemployed women per 1000 working women in the same age range was 53. On the other hand, 19 out of 1,000 working men aged between 14 and 29 were underemployed, while the underemployment rate for working women was 10 per 1000 in the same age range. In the youth labour force i.e. aged 14-29, the unemployment rates for the three age groups of 14-19, 20-24, and 25-29 were 21.8%, 9.6% and 4.8% respectively.

In 2003, for the youth employed population i.e. employed individuals aged 14-29, the overall median monthly employment earnings was 4,403 Macao patacas (MOP). The median figures for the age groups of 14-19, 20-24 and 25-29 were MOP 2,531, 3,734 and 5,691 respectively. A further analysis by educational attainment of the workers showed that the median monthly earnings was MOP 3,275 for those who have never attended school or with only pre-school education, whilst the respective figures for those individuals with only primary education, secondary education, and higher education were MOP 3,550, 3,734 and 7,691 respectively.

Chapter 5: Cultural, Leisure, Recreational and Sports Activities

According to a survey conducted in 2004, during the past year, young people aged 13-29 on average owned 29 books, of which 17 were leisure reading and 12 non-leisure reading books. The majority of respondents spent 2-3 hours per day on school books/learning materials. The majority spent less than 1 hour per day on leisure reading. The three most popular leisure activities of both young males and females were: "watching TV", "Internet surfing" and "strolling/shopping".

As of 30 November 2003, there were a total of 242 libraries and reading rooms in Macao, of which 19.4% were public libraries, 6.6% were libraries (library rooms) in universities and professional training colleges, 35.1% were specialized libraries (library rooms), and 38.9% were school libraries/reading rooms. According to figures provided by the Macao Central Library under the Cultural Institute, 5,706 persons aged 13-29 applied for library user cards in 2003. Amongst these applicants, the majority were aged 13, while the 27 age group recorded the least number. Female applicants outnumbered male applicants.

A survey conducted in 2004 showed the three most popular cultural activities of young people aged 13-29, in descending order of popularity, were: "attending cultural and artistic events at the cultural centre"; "visiting museums"; and participating in "traditional Chinese/Western cultural activities". Figures on young people's participation in sports activities reflected in the usage of sports facilities by individuals in the same age range indicated that the highest figure was recorded by the 13-15 age group whilst the lowest figure was registered by the 28-29 age group.

Chapter 6: Civic Duties and Social Participation

According to statistics in March 2004, registered voters aged 18-29 are 23,093 persons, those at the age of 29 made up the highest proportion across all age groups in that range, accounting for 12% of the total number of registered voters in that range groups. The lowest percentage was recorded by the 18 age group, accounting for a mere 1.6% of all registered voters in that age range. Male registered voters outnumbered female voters by 2.7%.

Results of a survey conducted in 2004 showed that three-quarters of the young people aged 13-29 said they intended to "register as voters". Over 60% of the young people interviewed said they intended to "participate and cast vote in the Legislative Assembly Election". Gender does not seem to have any influence on the desire to register as voters or to cast vote. Furthermore, 13.4% of the young people interviewed said they would "stand for the Legislative Assembly Election". Male youths are more interested in running for Legislative Assembly seats than female.

A survey conducted in 2004 showed the three most popular community activities among young respondents were: “helping out on flag days and charitable activities”; “keeping track of events and affairs in the community”; and “voluntary service”.

Chapter 7: Youth Crime and Deviant Behaviours

Based on information provided by the Security Forces Coordination Office, in the period from January to December 2003, the number of offenders aged 13 or above (across all nationalities) stood at 9,739. Amongst all the offenders aged 13-20 (617 persons), the majority committed offences against property, and the second biggest group of delinquents committed offences against the person. For both types of crime, male offenders outnumbered female offenders. In 2003, 24 of the illicit drug traffickers arrested (Macao residents only) were aged 13-29, of whom 18 were male and 6 were female. The majority of these trafficked in heroin or marijuana, very few were involved with ketamine. Most young illicit drug traffickers fell in the older age groups.

In 2003, 76 persons aged 13-29 sought help from the Drug Treatment Complex Centre under the Social Welfare Bureau. They were mostly single and the male had 163 persons. Female had 13 persons only.

In 2003, there were 92 delinquents (aged 13-20) detained in youth reformatory centres in Macao, of whom 75 were male and 17 were female. Among the male probationers, the majority were aged 15, while most of the female probationers were aged 15 or 16.

During the same period, there were 549 offenders aged 16-29 detained in prisons across Macao, of whom 490 were male and 59 were female. Among the male prisoners, the majority were aged 26, while those aged 21, 25 and 28 made up the majority of the female prisoners.

Chapter 8: Values

Results of a survey conducted in 2004 indicated that the young people aged 13-29 in Macao have positive attitude towards life. 93.7% of the respondents agree to the statement: “One must set goals in life before one can achieve anything”; whilst 88.2% agree that “Life is full of hopes”. As for family values, most respondents tend to agree to positive family values.

Chapter 9: Consumption and Quality of Life

According to a survey conducted in 2004, 78.9% of young people aged 13-29 lived in “private housing”, and amongst them, some 40% had their own room. The average principal income per month of young people in this age range was MOP 3,424.9, the top source of income being from parents. The average personal expenses for the past month for the young people interviewed was MOP 1,898.2, with the greatest amount of money spent on food and drinks. There was a significant difference in average personal expenses between male and female, with the figure for males exceeding that of females by MOP 567.8.

24.3% of the young people (aged 13-29) interviewed had to provide monthly financial support for their family. In addition, the top two principal family tasks undertaken by the young people interviewed were “cleaning/general housework” and “chores before and after meals”. Female respondents spent more time than their male counterparts in two tasks, viz. “buying food at the market/cooking/shopping”; and “chores before and after meals”. Male respondents on the other hand spent more time in “maintaining and repairing household appliances”.

Chapter 10: Social Environment and Youth Policy

Results of a survey conducted in 2004 showed the two issues which young people aged 13-29 considered important and require public concern were: education/training; and crime/drug abuse. 50% of the respondents think the general public’s concern towards youth problems is inadequate or seriously inadequate.

With regard to information technology, 88.4% of young people aged 13-29 became acquainted with or began using information technology in primary school or lower secondary school. 95.1% respondents think knowledge of information technology is important or very important. 65.2% respondents say they are interested or very interested in learning information technology.

Majority of the young respondents (37.2%) spend 1-2 hours on average on the computer every day. 67.7% of young people think the greatest influence information technology has on themselves is in the area of learning.