

Provision of CSSA to New Arrivals

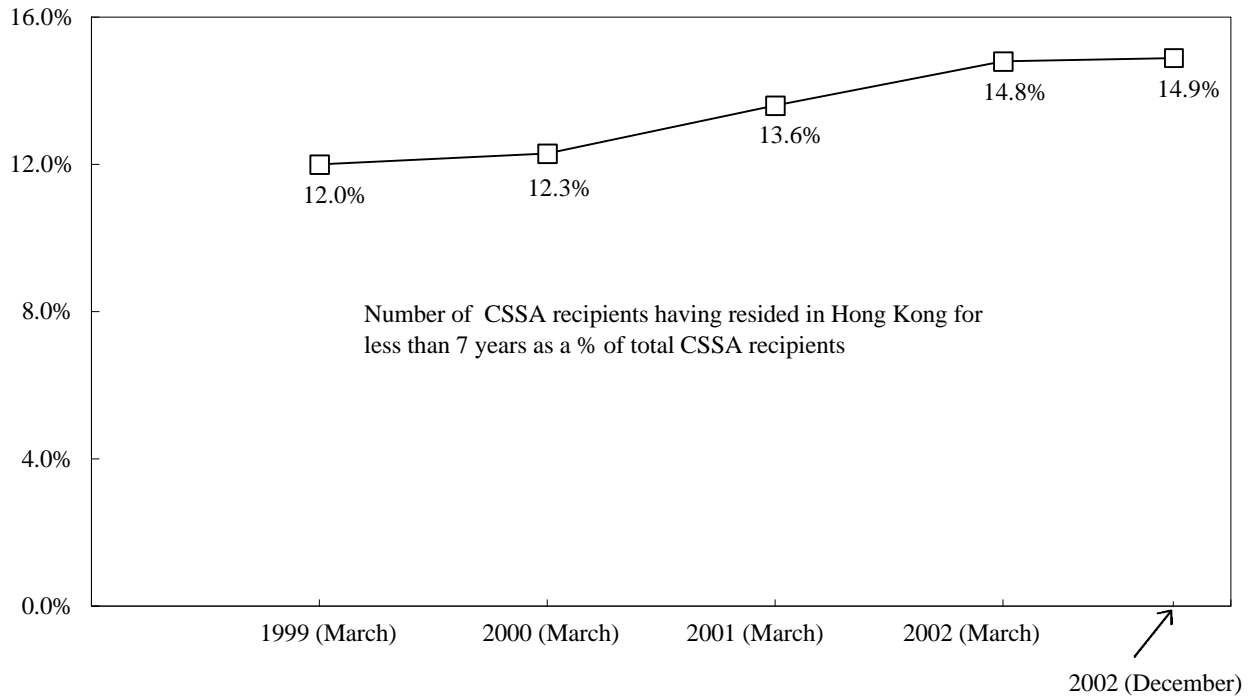
According to the records of Social Welfare Department, there were 69 345 CSSA recipients who were new arrivals in December 2002, 14.9% of all CSSA recipients,²² an increase of 2.9 percentage points from March 1999 (12%). Between March 1999 and December 2002, the number of new arrivals receiving CSSA benefits has increased from 45 945 to 69 345 (a rise of 51%), while the total number of recipients has increased from 382 454 to 466 868 (a rise of 22%).

New arrival CSSA recipients

	<u>New arrivals receiving CSSA</u>	<u>Total CSSA recipients</u>
March 1999	45 945	382 454
March 2000	45 477	370 231
March 2001	50 146	367 470
March 2002	60 982	410 995
December 2002	69 345	466 868

²² New Arrivals on CSSA benefits may include non-Mainland immigrants, though the great majority are new arrivals from the Mainland.

CSSA recipients involving new arrivals

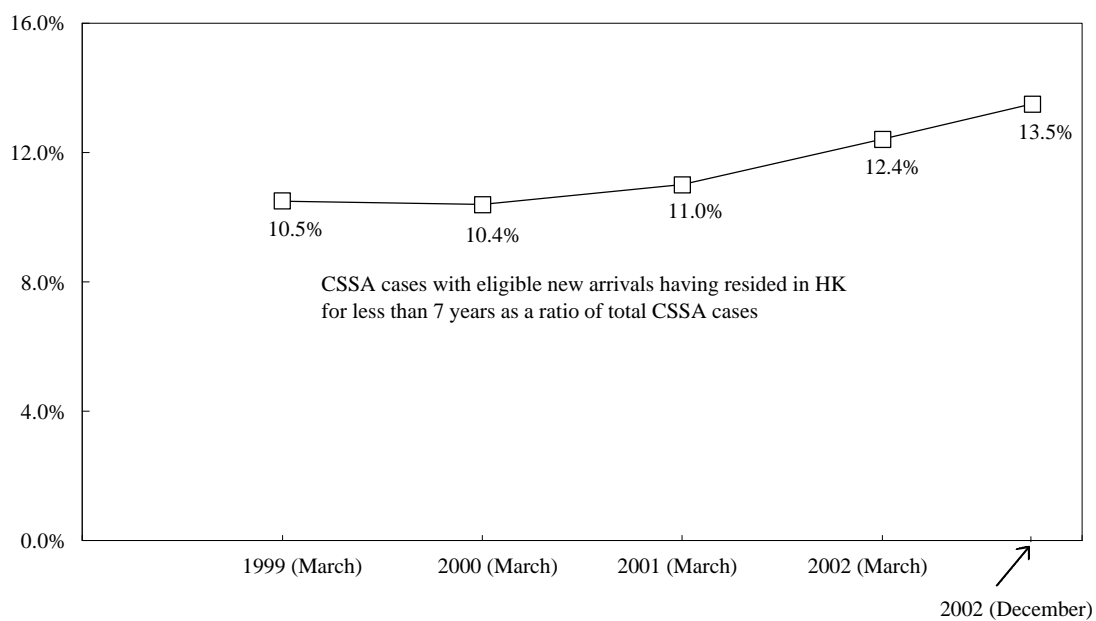


The 69 345 new arrival CSSA recipients came from 36 023 cases, which is 13.5% of the total cases in December 2002, an increase of 3 percentage points from March 1999 (10.5%). Between March 1999 and December 2002, the number of these cases involving new arrivals has increased from 24 400 to 36 000 (+48%), while the total cases have increased from 232 800 to 266 600 (+14%).

CSSA cases with eligible new arrivals

	CSSA cases with recipients Having resided in Hong <u>Kong for less than 7 years</u>	<u>Total CSSA cases</u>
March 1999	24 389	232 819
March 2000	23 708	228 015
March 2001	25 032	228 263
March 2002	30 639	247 192
December 2002	36 023	266 571

Ratio of CSSA cases involving new arrivals



Between March 1999 and June 2002, it is estimated that new arrivals on CSSA benefits rose from 14.3% to 16.6% of all new arrivals.²³ On the other hand, the rest of the population that were CSSA recipients rose from 5.4% in June 1999 to 5.7% in June 2002.

²³ The statistics should be read with caution as those new arrivals are in fact the cumulative number of OWP holders over the past five years prior to the given date. They may have included those who, despite being OWP holders, were not in Hong Kong at the given date.