

**Public Opinion Programme
The University of Hong Kong**

Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor

*Survey on Hong Kong Public's Attitudes
Towards Rights of People of Different
Sexual Orientations*



Research Report

Compiled by

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7 November 2012

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Dr Robert Chung is fully responsible for the work of the POP.

Survey on Hong Kong Public's Attitudes Towards Rights of People of Different Sexual Orientations

Research Team Members

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Contact Information

Date of survey	: November 1 to 6, 2012
Survey method	: Telephone survey conducted by telephone interviewers
Target population	: Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who speak Cantonese
Sampling method	: Telephone numbers were selected randomly from residential telephone directories and mixed with additional numbers generated by the computer. If more than one subject had been available, the one who had his/her birthday next was selected.
Sample size	: 1,022 successful cases (At least 503 successful cases for sub sample of each question)
Overall response rate	: 66.8%
Std. sampling error	: Less than 2.2% (at 95% confidence level, the maximum sampling error of all percentages should be no more than +/-4.5 percentage points)

Part I. Overall contact information and response rateTable 1 *Contact information*

	Frequency	Percentage
Respondents' ineligibility confirmed	3,880	31.7%
<i>Fax/ data line</i>	310	2.5 %
<i>Invalid number</i>	3,180	25.9%
<i>Call-forwarding/ mobile/ pager number</i>	31	0.3%
<i>Non-residential number</i>	276	2.3%
<i>Special technological difficulties</i>	36	0.3%
<i>No eligible respondents</i>	47	0.4%
Respondents' eligibility not confirmed	3,497	28.5%
<i>Line busy</i>	360	2.9 %
<i>No answer</i>	2,434	19.9%
<i>Answering device</i>	126	1.0%
<i>Call-blocking</i>	25	0.2%
<i>Language problem</i>	120	1.0%
<i>Interview terminated before the screening question</i>	431	3.5%
<i>Others</i>	1	0.0%
Respondents' eligibility confirmed, but failed to complete the interview	3,857	31.5%
<i>Household-level refusal</i>	5	0.0 %
<i>Known respondent refusal</i>	14	0.1%
<i>Appointment date beyond the end of the fieldwork period</i>	3,715	30.3%
<i>Partial interview</i>	58	0.5%
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	65	0.5%
Successful cases	1,022	8.3%
Total	12,256	100.0%

Table 2 *Calculation of overall response rate*

Overall response rate
= $\frac{\text{Successful cases}}{\text{Successful cases} + \text{Incomplete cases}^* + \text{Refusal cases by eligible respondents}^\wedge}$
= $\frac{1,022}{1,022 + (58 + 431) + (5 + 14)}$
= 66.8%

* Including "partial interview" and "Interview terminated before the screening question"

^ Including "household-level refusal" and "known respondent refusal"

Part II. Research Background

- 2.1 In October 2012, Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor commissioned the Public Opinion Programme (POP) at the University of Hong Kong to conduct this “Survey on Hong Kong Public’s Attitudes Towards Rights of People of Different Sexual Orientations”, which targeted at Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who speak Cantonese. The survey was specifically designed to understand citizens’ attitudes towards the rights of people of different sexual orientations and related opinions on them.
- 2.2 The survey questionnaire was designed independently by POP after consulting Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor, all fieldwork operations, data collection and analysis were also carried out independently by POP, and POP would take full responsibility for all the findings reported herewith. The survey methodology and results are open to the public.

Part III. Research Design

- 3.1 This was a random telephone survey conducted by interviewers under close supervision. To minimize sampling bias, telephone numbers were first drawn randomly from the residential telephone directories as “seed numbers”, from which another set of numbers was generated by computer, in order to capture the unlisted numbers. Duplicated numbers were then filtered, and the remaining numbers were mixed in random order to produce the final telephone sample.
- 3.2 All data were collected by our interviewers using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system which allowed real-time data capture and consolidation. To ensure data quality, on top of on-site supervision, voice recording, screen capturing and camera surveillance were used to monitor the interviewers’ performance.
- 3.3 The target population of this survey was **Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who spoke Cantonese**. When telephone contact was successfully established with a target household, one person of age 18 or above who spoke Cantonese was selected. If more than one subject had been available, selection was made using the “next birthday rule” which selected the person who had his/her birthday next.
- 3.4 Telephone interviews were conducted during the period of **1 to 6 November, 2012**. A total of **1,022 eligible Hong Kong residents** of age 18 or above were successfully interviewed. As shown from the calculation in Appendix 1, the overall response rate of this survey was **66.8%** (Table 2), and the standard sampling error for percentages based on this sample was less than 2.2 percentage points. In other words, the sampling error for all percentages using the total

sample was less than plus/minus 4.5 percentage points at 95% confidence level. The survey should have been completed as a whole, however, due to technical problems the survey was conducted in two phases at the end. The first phase was conducted from 1 to 3 November, each interviewee had to answer Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 and Q6. The second phase was conducted from 5 to 6 November, each interviewee had to answer Q5 and one question from Q1(v), Q2, Q3 and Q6. Hence, the final sample size for each question was from 503 to 641.

- 3.5 To ensure representativeness of the findings, the raw data collected have been weighted according to provisional figures obtained from the Census and Statistics Department regarding the gender-age distribution of the Hong Kong population in 2012 mid-year. All figures in this report are based on the weighted sample.

Part IV. Survey findings

Note: The question order of this section is ranked according to its relevance and is different from the order in the questionnaire. Some question order was even randomized by computer in the actual survey.

Table 3 [Q1(i)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *individuals of different sex* from being discriminated against?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Yes	337	67.0%
No	93	18.5%
Don't know/hard to say	73	14.5%
Total	503	100.0%

Table 4 [Q1(ii)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *disabled individuals* from being discriminated against?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Yes	398	79.1%
No	63	12.5%
Don't know/hard to say	42	8.4%
Total	503	100.0%

Table 5 [Q1(iii)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *individuals of different races* from being discriminated against?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Yes	365	72.5%
No	86	17.1%
Don't know/hard to say	53	10.4%
Total	503	100.0%

Table 6 [Q1(iv)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *working individuals from being discriminated against because of family status*?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Yes	249	49.4%
No	153	30.4%
Don't know/hard to say	102	20.2%
Total	503	100.0%

Table 7 [Q4] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect working individuals from being discriminated against because of their family status such as taking care of family members or children ? (Interviewer probe intensity)

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Very much should	233	46.4%
Somewhat should	153	30.4%
Half-half	19	3.8%
Somewhat should not	38	7.6%
Totally should not	28	5.5%
Don't know / hard to say	32	6.3%
Total	503	100.0%
Mean*	4.1	
Standard error	0.05	
Base	471	

* The mean value is calculated by quantifying all individual responses into 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 marks according to their degree of positive level, where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest, and then calculate the sample mean.

Table 8 [Q1(v)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting individuals of *different of sexual orientations* from being discriminated against?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=632)
Yes	199	31.6%
No	297	47.0%
Don't know/ hard to say	135	21.4%
Total	632	100.0%

Table 9 [Q2] Do you think Hong Kong people in general discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=632)
A large extent	60)	9.5%)
A certain extent) Discrimination	158) 479	25.1%) 75.8%
A small extent	261)	41.2%)
No discrimination at all) No discrimination	105) 105	16.5%) 16.5%
Don't know / hard to say	49	7.7%
Total	632	100.0%

Table 10 [Q3] Do you think you discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=628)
A large extent	23)	3.7%)
Certain extent) Discrimination	25) 169	4.0%) 26.9%
A small extent	121)	19.2%)
No discrimination at all) No discrimination	449) 449	71.5%) 71.5%
Don't know / hard to say	10	1.6%
Total	628	100.0%

Table 11 [Q5] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect individuals with different sexual orientations from being discriminated against? (Interviewer probe intensity)

	Frequency	Percentage (Base=519)
Very much should) Yes	114) 331	22.0%) 63.8%
Somewhat should	217)	41.8%)
Half-half	59	11.4%
Somewhat should not) No	39) 75	7.5%) 14.4%
Totally should not	36	6.9%
Don't know/ hard to say	54	10.4%
Total	519	100.0%
Mean*	3.7	
Standard error	0.05	
Base	465	

* The mean value is calculated by quantifying all individual responses into 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 marks according to their degree of positive level, where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest, and then calculate the sample mean.

Table 12 [Q6] To what extent do you support or oppose to the legislation of same sex marriage or registered partnerships? (Interviewer probe intensity)

		Frequency	Percentage (Base=641)
Very much support) Support	67	10.5%
Somewhat support		143	22.3%
Half-half		119	18.5%
Somewhat oppose) Oppose	101	15.8%
Very much oppose		148	23.1%
Don't know / hard to say		63	9.8%
Total		641	100.0%
Mean*		2.8	
Standard error		0.06	
Base		578	

* The mean value is calculated by quantifying all individual responses into 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 marks according to their degree of positive level, where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest, and then calculate the sample mean.

Part V. Demographics

Table 13 Gender

	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Male	395	38.6%	466	45.6%
Female	627	61.4%	556	54.4%
Total	1,022	100.0%	1,022	100.0%

Table 14 Age

	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 19	36	3.6%	28	2.8%
20 – 29	133	13.1%	162	16.0%
30 – 39	103	10.2%	188	18.6%
40 – 49	174	17.2%	202	20.0%
50 – 59	253	25.0%	197	19.5%
60 – 69	191	18.9%	115	11.4%
70 or above	122	12.1%	120	11.8%
Total	1,012	100.0%	1,012	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>10</i>	

Table 15 Education Attainment

	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Primary or below	201	19.7%	157	15.4%
Secondary	487	47.8%	462	45.3%
Postgraduate or above	330	32.4%	400	39.3%
Total	1,018	100.0%	1,018	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	4		4	

Table 16 Occupation

	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Professionals and semi-professionals	211	21.0%	269	26.8%
Clerk and service workers	184	18.3%	200	20.0%
Production workers	73	7.3%	78	7.8%
Students	70	7.0%	72	7.2%
Housewives	205	20.4%	161	16.1%
Others	263	26.1%	223	22.2%
Total	1,006	100.0%	1,002	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	16		20	

Appendix

Questionnaire

**Public Opinion Programme
The University of Hong Kong**

Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor

Jointly conduct

*Survey on Hong Kong Public's Attitudes
Towards Rights of People of Different
Sexual Orientations*

Questionnaire (Final)

31 October 2012

Part I Introduction

Hello, my name is X. I'm an interviewer from the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong. We would like to ask for your opinion on equal rights which would only take you a few minutes, and you can choose to terminate the interview any time. Please rest assured that your phone number is randomly selected by our computer and your information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used for aggregate analysis only. If you have any questions about the research, you can call xxxx-xxxx to talk to our supervisor. If you want to know more about the rights as a participant, please contact the University of Hong Kong (full name: Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong) at xxxx-xxxx during office hours. For quality control purpose, our conversation may be recorded but will be destroyed shortly after our quality control process is complete. Is it okay for us to start this survey?

[S1] Is the telephone number here xxxx-xxxx?

Yes

No (skip to end)

Part II Selection of Respondents

[S2] Are there any **Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above** in your household? (If no one is eligible, interview ends: thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye)

Yes → Interview begins [If the qualified family member is not at home, interviewer please arrange another time for interview]

Yes, more than one, _____ (exact number) → S3

No → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

Refuse to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

[S3] Since there is more than one available, we hope that all qualified family members have the equal chance to be interviewed, I would like to speak to the one who will have his / her birthday next. (Interviewer can ask: "is there anyone whose birthday is in October/November or the coming three months?") Is it okay for us to start now?

Yes - The one answered the phone is the respondent → Start the interview

Yes - Another family member is the respondent 【 interviewer please repeat the self-introduction】

→ Start the interview

The qualified family member is not at home / not available 【 interviewer please arrange another time for interview】

No - Family member refuses to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

No - Respondent refuses to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

Part III Opinion Questions

[Q1] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong ... (Interviewers read out options i-v, order to be randomized by the computer)

	Yes	No	Don't know / hard to say	Refuse to answer
i. protecting individuals of different sex from being discriminated against				
ii. protecting disabled individuals from being discriminated against				
iii. protecting individuals of different races from being discriminated against				
iv. protecting working individuals from being discriminated against because of family status				
v. protecting individuals of different of sexual orientations from being discriminated against				

[Q2] Do you think Hong Kong people in general discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

Yes, a large extent

Yes, a certain extent

Yes, a small extent

No discrimination at all

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q3] Do you think you discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

Yes, a large extent

Yes, a certain extent

Yes, a small extent

No discrimination at all

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q4] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect working individuals from being discriminated against because of their family status such as taking care of family members or children (Interviewer probe intensity)

Very much should

Somewhat should

Half-half

Somewhat should not

Totally should not

Don't Know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q5] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect individuals with different sexual orientations from being discriminated against? (Interviewer probe intensity)

Very much should

Somewhat should

Half-half

Somewhat should not

Totally should not

Don't Know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q6] To what extent do you support or oppose to the legislation of same sex marriage or registered partnerships? (Interviewer probe intensity)

Very much support

Somewhat support

Half-half

Quite oppose

Somewhat oppose

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

Part IV Demographics

We would like to ask you some personal information for aggregate analyses. Please rest assured that your information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

[DM1] Gender

Male

Female

[DM2a] Age

_____ (Exact age)

Refuse to answer

[DM2b] 【For those who do not want to tell their exact age】 Age interval (Interviewer can read out the intervals)

18 – 19

20 – 29

30 – 39

40 – 49

50 – 59

60 – 69

70 or above

Refuse to answer

[DM3] Education Attainment

Primary or below

Secondary

Matriculation

Tertiary, non-degree

Tertiary, degree

Postgraduate or above

Refuse to answer

[DM4] Occupation

Managers / administration staff

Professional

Associate professional

Clerk

Service worker and Shop & market sales worker

Skilled agricultural & fishery worker

Craft & related trade worker

Plant & machine operator / assembler

Unskilled worker

Students

Homemakers

Retired

Unclassified

Others (Unemployed and non-workers included)

Refuse to answer

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions regarding this interview, you can call xxxx-xxxx to talk to our supervisor, or the Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong at xxxx-xxxx during office hours to verify this interview's authenticity and confirm my identity. Good-bye!