Poverty in Hong Kong:
Challenges and opportunities

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The poverty situation in Hong Kong

Figure 2.9: Poor population and poverty rate, 2009-2016

Source: Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2016

Our earlier work identified Seven “Poverty Clusters”

- e.g., 元朗 and 天水圍 (high concentration of new arrivals and young-ages in poor families and they are relatively deprived in health and cultural and entertainment services)

Source: 2011 Census Data, Census and Statistics Department
Using the GIS technique, we can further locate the disadvantaged youths from a geographical sense. High concentration of disadvantaged youths are in 天水圍, 屯門西, 荃灣東, 牛頭角, where large public housing estates are located. Many of them only have low education attainment (e.g. secondary education).
Hong Kong Panel Survey for Poverty Alleviation

- A two-wave longitudinal panel household survey in Hong Kong

- The survey included five sections:
  - Personal information (of household head)
  - Family information
  - Poverty and social stratification
  - Social communication, support and inclusion
  - Physical health, mental health and living experiences

- Sample size of the Panel Survey
  - First-wave (baseline): 2,002 households involving 5,922 individuals
  - Second-wave (follow-up): 1,010 households involving 2,863 individuals

Transition matrix of poverty status

- Based on pre-subsidy household income
  - Pre-subsidy poverty rate (baseline) = 35.0%
  - Pre-subsidy poverty rate (follow-up) = 32.8%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline \ Follow-up</th>
<th>Non-poor</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-poor</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>642</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Based on post-subsidy household income
  - Post-subsidy poverty rate (baseline) = 28.9%
  - Post-subsidy poverty rate (follow-up) = 26.8%

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<th>Poor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-poor</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>470</td>
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</tbody>
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Acknowledgements

- Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
- Labour and Welfare Bureau
- Census and Statistics Department
- Lands Department for GIS
- Supported by the CE Community Project

THANK YOU!