

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB469**

**(Question Serial No. 5778)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the respective annual occupancy rates of correctional facilities in the past 5 years? What are the annual numbers of persons in custody who are smokers or drug addicts in the past 3 years? As regards the enhanced promotional efforts on anti-smoking messages and the provision of drug addiction treatment programmes for persons in custody, what are the details of work, expenditure and manpower involved and their effectiveness each year?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the average occupancy rates of correctional facilities under the Correctional Services Department (CSD) are as follows:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Occupancy Rate (%)	87.0	80.7	79.9	76.6	75.6

Adult persons in custody (PICs) can choose to smoke whereas young PICs cannot. In the past 3 years, the percentages of adult PICs who indicated that they were smokers upon admission to correctional institutions are as follows:

Year	Male	Female	Total
2015	81.8%	53.8%	76.1%
2014	87.9%	55.0%	80.8%
2013	90.4%	43.2%	81.5%

In the past 3 years, the numbers of PICs who indicated that they were drug addicts when they were sentenced to correctional institutions are as follows:

Year	2013	2014	2015
Number of Persons	4 971	4 285	4 096

In October 2011, CSD implemented a smoking cessation counselling programme under which nicotine patches were provided to PICs who participated in smoking cessation courses. Besides, Tung Tau Correctional Institution and Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution were officially designated as “No Smoking Correctional Facility” in January 2013 and December 2014 respectively to accommodate only non-smoking PICs. CSD has also been gradually setting up “Smoke-free Prison Zone” in the designated areas of other institutions (including Stanley Prison and Lo Wu Correctional Institution).

CSD deploys existing resources to carry out the work related to anti-smoking publicity. In 2016-17, the estimated expenditure for purchasing nicotine patches for PICs who participate in smoking cessation courses is \$10,000.

As regards drug addiction treatment programmes, CSD has to provide 2 to 12 months’ drug addiction treatment for PICs who are sentenced to drug addiction treatment centres by the court according to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance (Cap. 244). The treatment programme is based on discipline and outdoor activities with emphasis on both counselling and therapy programmes. The discharged drug addicts are subject to one-year post-release statutory supervision. A Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (DATC) case is considered successful if the supervisee is able to meet the requirements of “not relapsing to drug abuse” and “not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong” during the supervision period. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, the success rates of such cases were 46.8%, 51.4% and 52.8% respectively. The success rates of DATC cases are affected by a number of personal and social factors, which include the criminal conviction and drug abuse history of supervisees (such as the number of previous criminal convictions, the duration of drug abuse history and the nature of their offences, etc), the motivation and determination of supervisees to stay away from drugs, the support of the community and their family members, as well as the prevalence of the drug problem in the community, etc.

CSD has proactively implemented various new measures such as enhancing the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, organising enhanced anti-drug groups and strengthening counselling services for recalled supervisees at DATC so as to reinforce their determination to stay away from drugs. Moreover, the Department has stepped up the checking and surveillance of drug testing procedures of supervisees. Once the supervisees are found in violation of any supervision requirements, they will be immediately recalled to receive further training and counselling at DATC. The purpose of the recall is to effect appropriate intervention as early as possible before they commit offences or relapse to drug abuse again.

The DATC Programme is one of the rehabilitation services provided by the Department under the Programme “Re-integration”. The estimate for the Programme for 2016-17 is \$1.0128 billion, including manpower and other related expenses. The breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for the DATC Programme is not available.