

**MAINLAND MIGRANTS IN HONG KONG:
INTEGRATION AND PROBLEMS**

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Executive Summary

1. A 2012 survey found that 51% of Hong Kongers believed that fewer mainland immigrants should be allowed into Hong Kong. Fifty-three percent of them thought that new immigrants received welfare benefits but did not contribute to society.
2. While prejudices against the Mainlanders have long existed in Hong Kong, relations between the two peoples have been strained by a slew of incidents in recent years.
3. Up to 150 Mainlanders enter Hong Kong every day under the One Way Permit (OWP) scheme. More than 60% of these new arrivals have encountered difficulties adapting to life in Hong Kong.
4. In 2012, a two-year survey revealed that 25% of the 1,000 mainland respondents who had been in Hong Kong for ten years or less had experienced discrimination.
5. New arrivals from the Mainland are a disadvantaged community in Hong Kong society because they have generally lower education level and lower income, and are less skilled.
6. Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) applicants who are not Hong Kong residents may be exempted from the seven years residency requirement at the discretion of the Director of Social Welfare Department.
7. The percentage of unemployed new arrivals who received welfare (CSSA) had fallen from 24.2% in 2003 to 10.9% in 2011. At the same time, there has been a rise in single-parenthood among mainland welfare recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years.

8. The Hong Kong government's approach towards mainland new arrivals comprises identification and intervention, timely support, cross-sectoral collaboration and provision of specialized services.
9. There are already numerous measures in place to support new mainland migrants. Yet, despite all the existing measures, the median monthly household income of new migrant families remained a fraction that of all Hong Kong households.
10. While Hong Kong has the fiscal muscle for more generous handouts for new mainland arrivals, such a policy change is politically unviable given the current tension between the two peoples and Hong Kongers' rising sense of identity.