



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Profiling of mentally-ill offenders in the custodial health setting in Hong Kong: a 5-year retrospective case study review**

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#### **Introduction**

The Forensic Psychiatric Department of Castle Peak Hospital, which was established in 1995, provides territory-wide forensic psychiatric services in Hong Kong.

Psychiatrists from the Department are responsible for providing outreach psychiatric services to the Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre (SLPC) of the Correctional Services Department of Hong Kong. The SLPC is a purpose-built correctional facility, the only of its kind in Hong Kong, that receives mentally-ill offenders who are sentenced by the courts for compulsory psychiatric inpatient treatment. The SLPC also receives remanded persons and sentenced prisoners who require psychiatric assessment and treatment referred by courts of all levels and all the other correctional institutions in Hong Kong. To date, there were no epidemiological data on the population of mentally-ill offenders in Hong Kong and the appropriateness of referral for forensic psychiatric services has never been evaluated.

#### **Objectives**

We aimed to examine the characteristics of mentally-ill offenders seen by psychiatrists in Hong Kong and to explore the current pattern of forensic psychiatric services utilisation as a basis for service review and reforms.

#### **Methodology**

This retrospective case note study reviewed all cases admitted to the SLPC, the only purpose-built correctional facility for mentally-ill offenders in Hong Kong, from 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2016.

#### **Result**

Of the 4492 cases studied, three quarters were males and their mean age was 40.6 years (SD=13.2). Two-thirds were remanded cases referred by the courts for psychiatric reports and the other one-third were remanded or sentenced cases referred by other correctional institutions for psychiatric assessment and treatment. The commonest psychiatric diagnoses were schizophrenia and related disorders, mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use, and mood disorders. In terms of index offences, "theft" and "acts intended to cause injury" were

the two most common criminal offences. The sample of this study is a highly representative sample of mentally-ill offenders in Hong Kong, where the forensic psychiatric services link to courts and prisons can detect nearly all presentations to the criminal justice services. Our results provide valuable cross-sectional data of mentally-ill offenders in Hong Kong.