

## ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TREND IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST DECADE

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Hong Kong has a population of about 6.8 million and 522,912 licensed vehicles as at 30 June 2003. The existing road network comprises 1,932 km of roads, with 111 km being expressways, serves the 1,102 km<sup>2</sup> Special Administrative Region.

### 2. GENERAL TRENDS OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

The historical trend of the total number of traffic accidents provides a comparison of the road safety performance in the past decade. From 1993 to 2002, the number of traffic accidents increased from 15,469 to 15,576. Notwithstanding the slight rise of about 0.7% in the number of accidents, the number of fatal traffic accidents significantly dropped by about 52% (from 336 to 162) and that of serious accidents by 8.5% (from 3,406 to 3,118). In terms of accident rates per 10,000 population and per 1,000 licensed vehicles, a respective drop of about 12% (from 26.13 to 22.95) and about 19% (from 36.5 to 29.7) were recorded (See Figures 1–4).

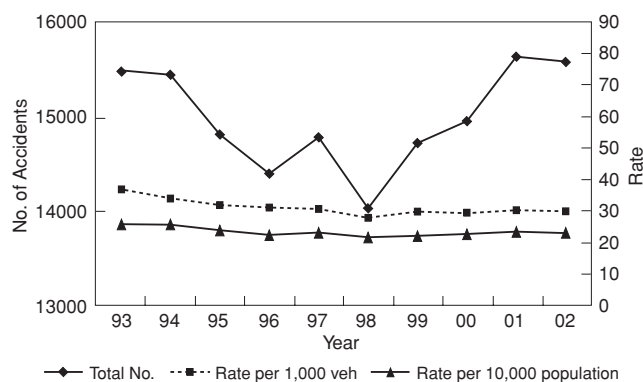


Fig.1 Traffic accident trend (1993–2002)

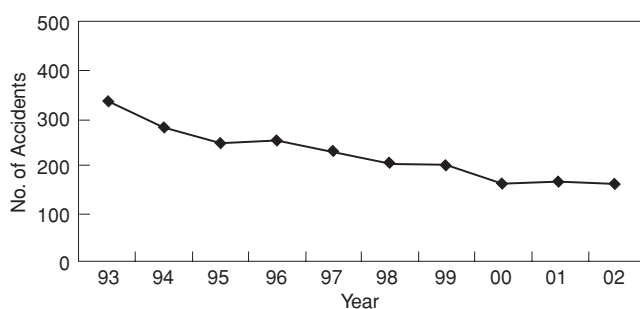


Fig.2 No. of traffic accidents (1993–2002) – Fatal

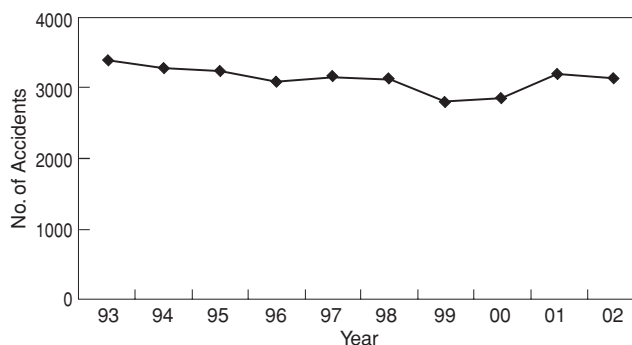


Fig.3 No. of traffic accidents (1993–2002) – Serious

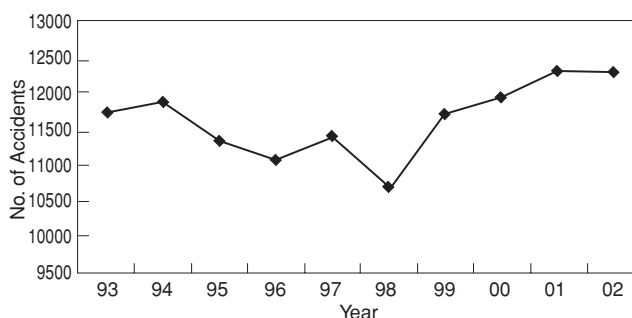


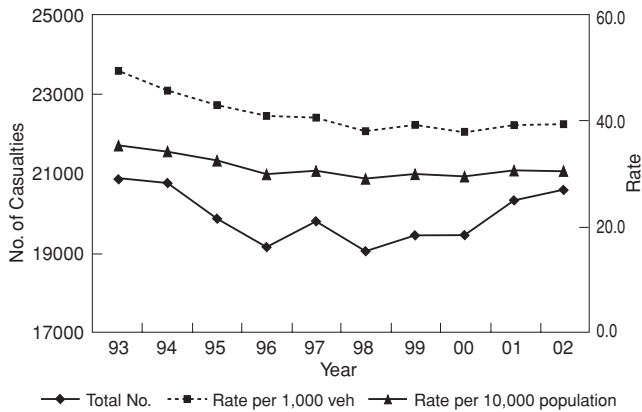
Fig.4 No. of traffic accidents (1993–2002) – Slight

### 3. CASUALTY TREND

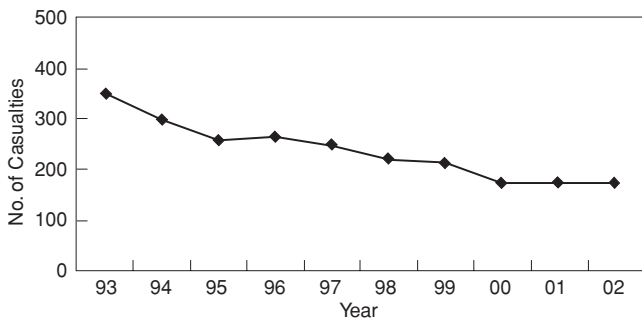
The number of casualties involved in traffic accidents between 1993 and 2002 exhibited a trend similar to that of the total number of traffic accidents. During the same period, the total number of casualties were reduced from 20,909 to 20,600, representing a 1.5% reduction. The number of fatalities and serious injuries fell by about 51% from 351 to 171 and about 10% from 3,819 to 3,426 respectively. Yet, the number of slight injuries increased by about 1.6% from 16,739 to 17,003 (see Figures 5–8).

### 4. COMPARISON OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RATES WITH OTHER MAJOR CITIES

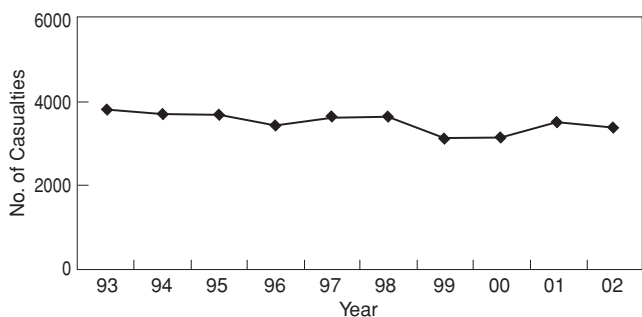
With statistics provided by other major cities in the world, Figures 9–10 show Hong Kong's ranking among other major cities in terms of the road traffic fatality rate per million population and per kilometer of road. A similar comparison on the number of road accidents per year



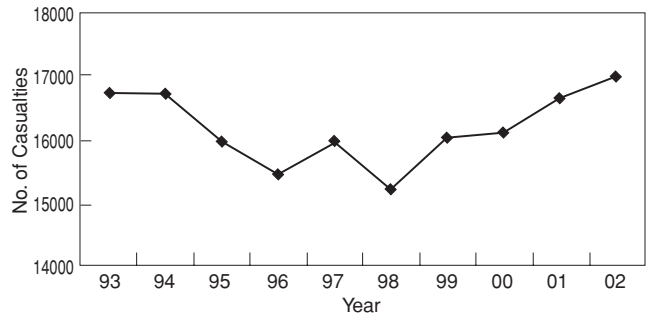
**Fig. 5 Total No. of traffic accident casualties (1993–2002)**



**Fig. 6 No. of traffic accident casualties (1993–2002) – Fatal**



**Fig. 7 No. of traffic accident casualties (1993–2002) – Serious**



**Fig. 8 No. of traffic accident casualties (1993–2002) – Slight**

are shown in Figures 11–12. Hong Kong has one of the lowest rates in terms of fatalities per million population and accidents per 1,000 population. In terms of fatalities and number of accidents per kilometer of road, Hong Kong is one of the cities with higher rates.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The overall view of the general trends of road traffic accident in the past decades is quite encouraging. Notwithstanding the increase in total number of licensed vehicles from about 423,966 in 1993 to about 525,111 in 2002, the fatalities and serious casualties exhibited marked reductions during the same period. A similar reduction was recorded for the casualty rates.

As compare with other major cities, Hong Kong’s safety performance is favorable for the per population accident rate but less favorable in terms of the rate per kilometer of road probably due to the total length of roads in Hong Kong is relatively short but the road usage is high.

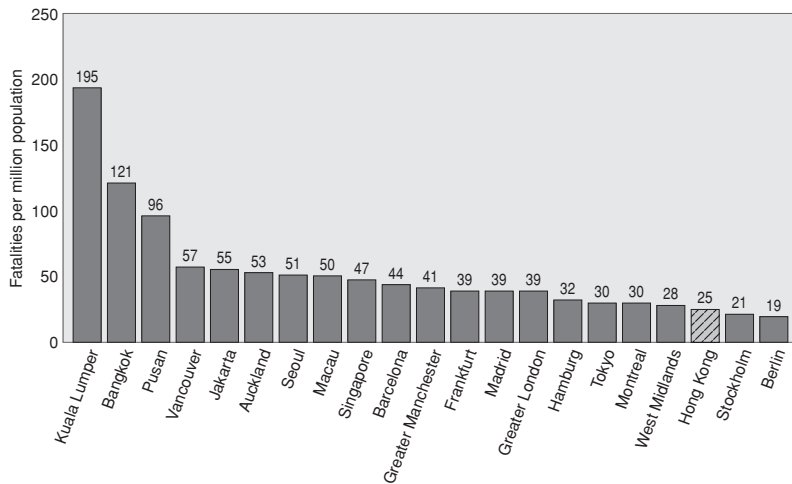


Fig. 9 Fatality rate per million population in different cities

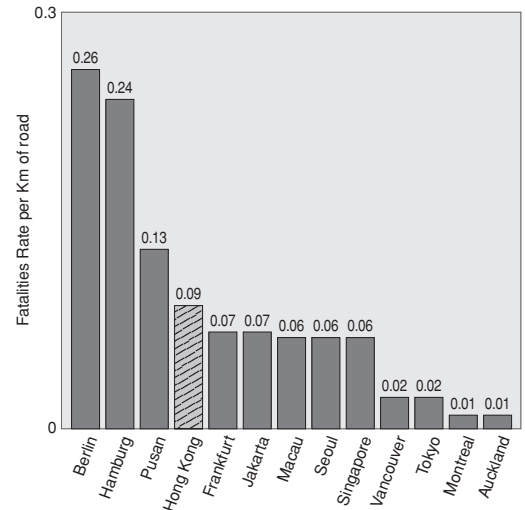


Fig. 10 Fatalities rate per km of road in different cities

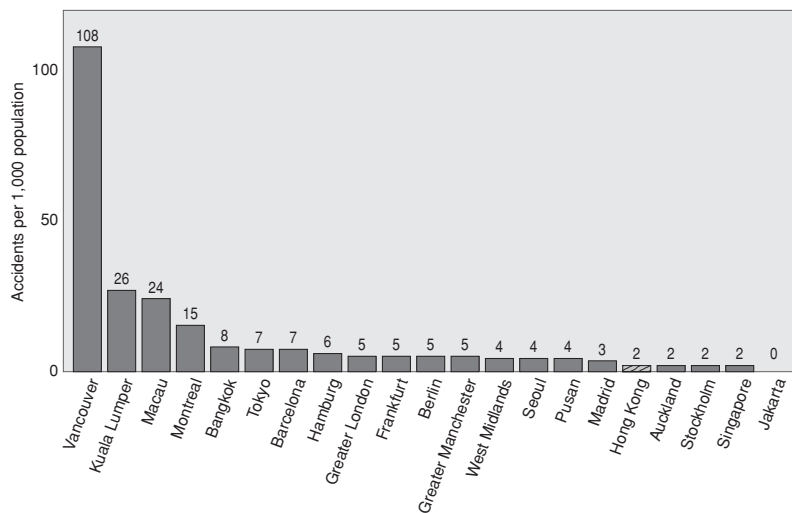


Fig. 11 Accident rate per 1,000 population in different cities

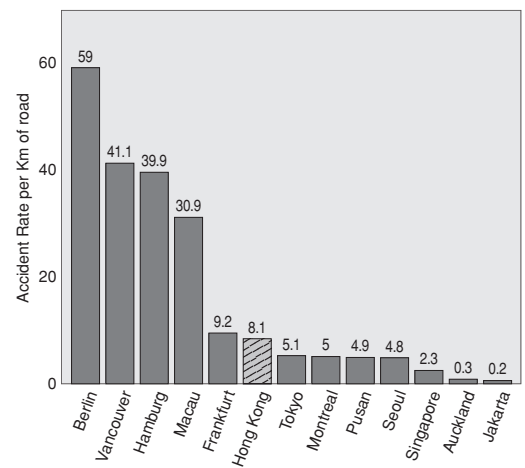


Fig. 12 Accident rate per km of road in different cities