

An evaluation of community care services in Hong Kong

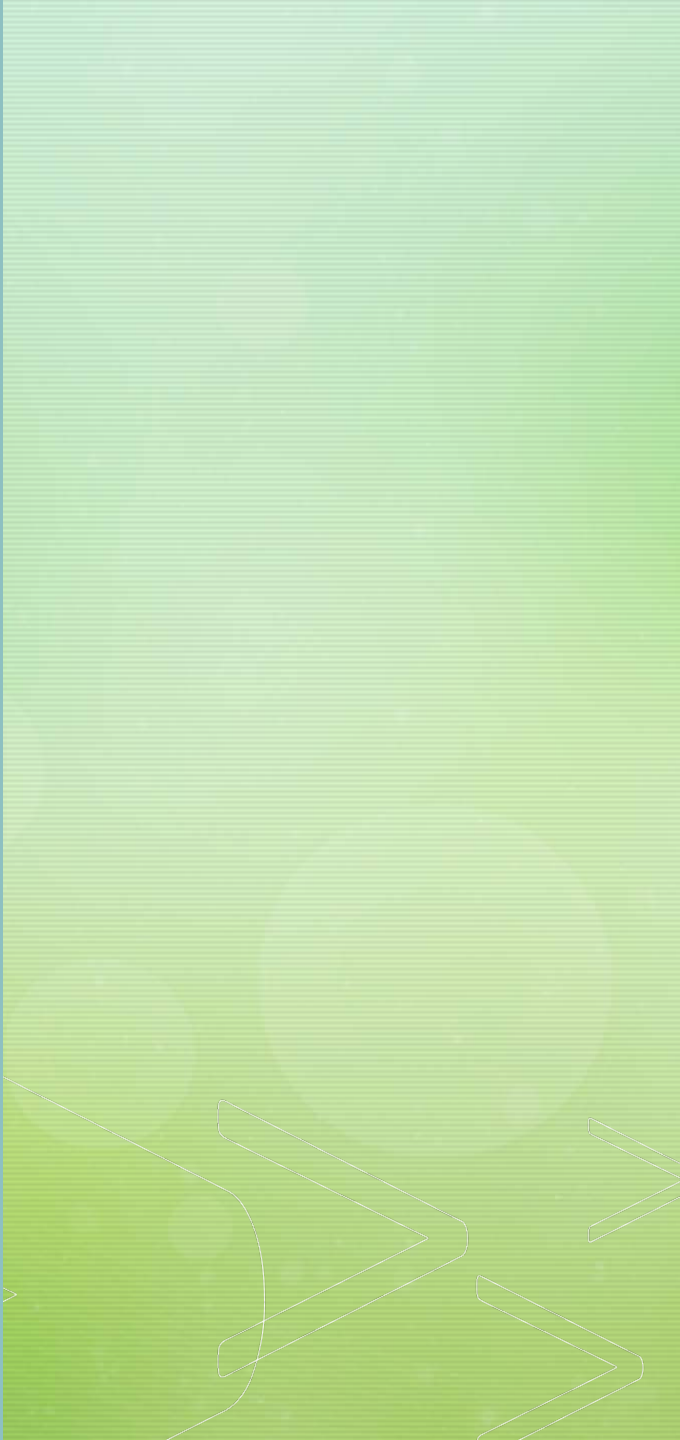


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Outline

- Aging policy
- Community care and support services
- Insufficient supply of subsidized CCS
- Structural and cultural barriers of aging in place



Background

- Elders aged 65 years or older: 17.4% of the total population in 2018
- Life expectancy at birth:
 - Males: 82
 - Females: 88

Aging policy

Aging in place as the core

- It assigns top priority to encouraging elders to stay at home.
- To prevent unnecessary or misplaced institutionalisation

Institutional care as backup

- To provide a wide variety of residential care services (RCSs)

Continuum of care

- To accommodate the varying degrees of needs of elders who are unable to take care of themselves at home.
- To encourage elders to stay at the same residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), even if their health conditions deteriorate.

Community care and support services

Centre-based services

- e.g. meal and laundry services, drop-in service and social and recreational activities

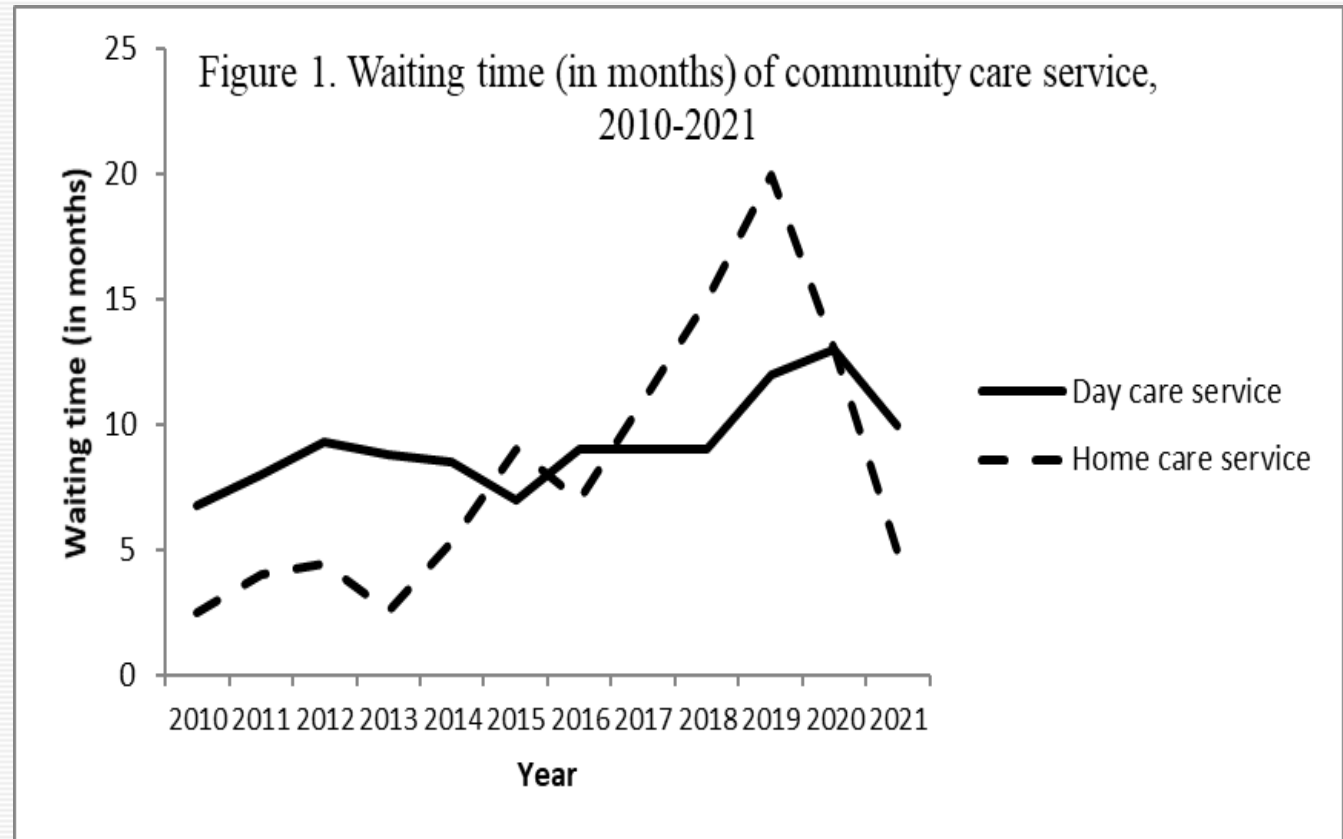
Home-based services

- e.g. personal care, rehabilitation exercises, day care services, cooking and meal delivery services, transportation and attendant services.

Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (CCSV)

- a money-follows-the-user approach
- The voucher holder must make a co-payment.
- The elders can choose a service provider and the type of service.
- 3 phases

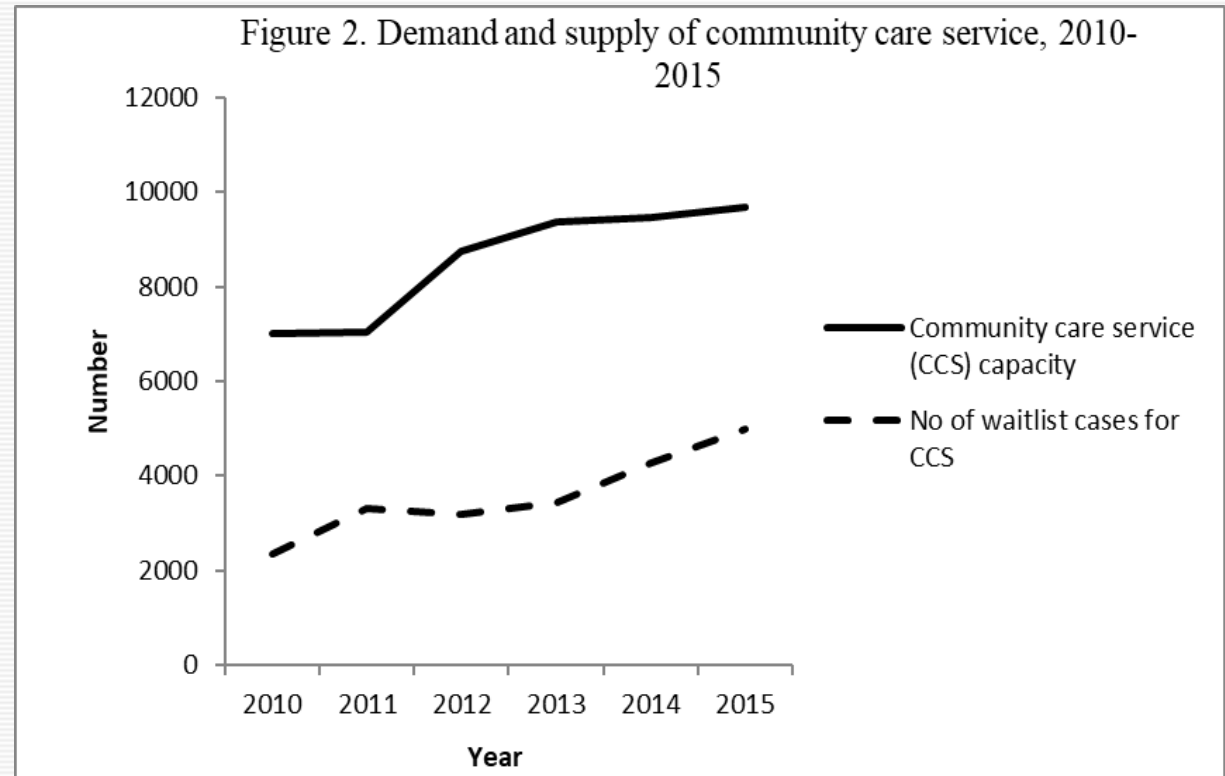
Insufficient supply of subsidized CCS



Sources: Audit Commission Hong Kong (2014), “Provision of long-term care services for the elderly”, available at: http://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e63ch01.pdf (accessed 5 October 2021).

Social Welfare Department (2021), “Waiting list for subsidised community care services for the elderly”, available at: [https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/2789/en/LTC_Statistics_CCs\(Eng\)\(Sep_2021\).pdf](https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/2789/en/LTC_Statistics_CCs(Eng)(Sep_2021).pdf) (accessed 5 October 2021).

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2019), “LCQ15: Home and community care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities”, available at: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201902/20/P2019022000632.htm> (accessed 5 October 2021).



Sources: Audit Commission Hong Kong (2014), “Provision of long-term care services for the elderly”, available at: http://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e63ch01.pdf (accessed 5 October 2021).

Institutionalisation rate

Regions	institutionalisation rate
Hong Kong	6.8%
Japan	2.9%
Singapore	2.9%
China	1.7%

The utilisation rate of CCS

Regions	the utilisation rate of CCS
Hong Kong	0.8%
Japan	5.5%
Taiwan	1%
China (i.e. Shenzhen)	19%

Structural and cultural barriers of aging in place

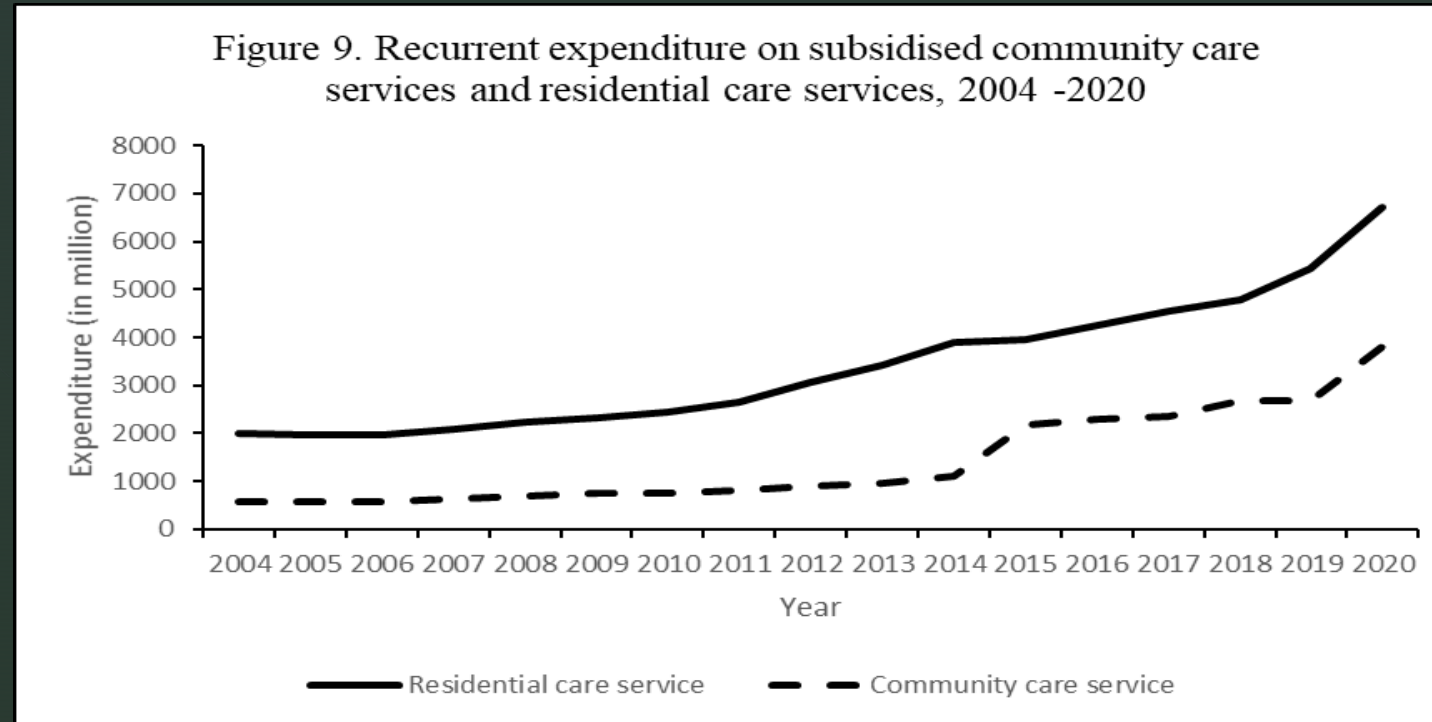
Structural barriers

- The funding mode of LTC (the underdeveloped private market of CCS vs. a mixed economy of care of RCS)
- The imbalanced budget allocation to RCS and CCS

Cultural barriers

- The decline in the traditional Chinese values of filial piety

The imbalanced budget allocation to RCS and CCS



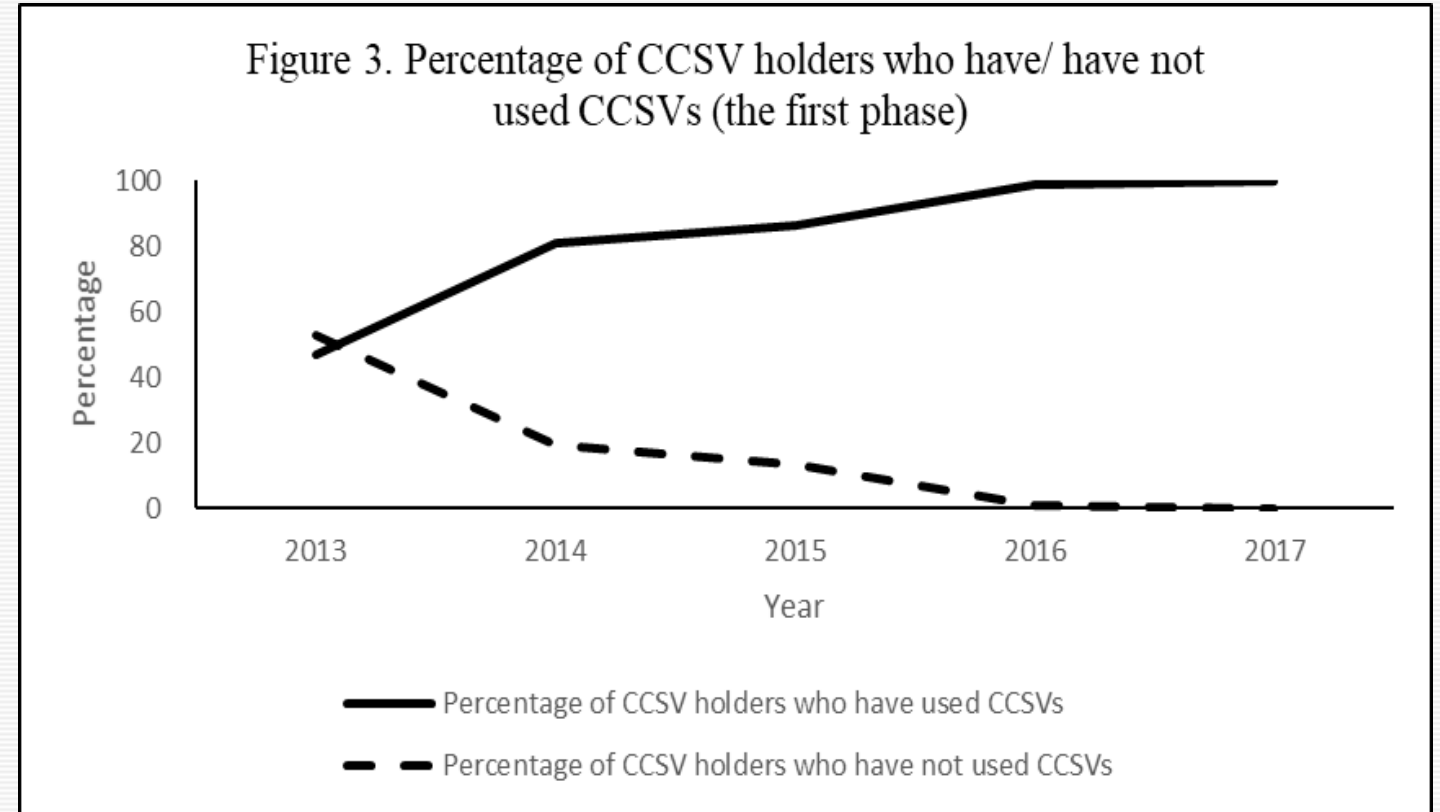
Sources: Audit Commission Hong Kong (2014), “Provision of long-term care services for the elderly”, available at: http://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e63ch01.pdf (accessed 5 October 2021).

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<https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/english/1920rt02-government-expenditure-on-the-elderly-20191213-e.pdf> (accessed 5 October 2021).

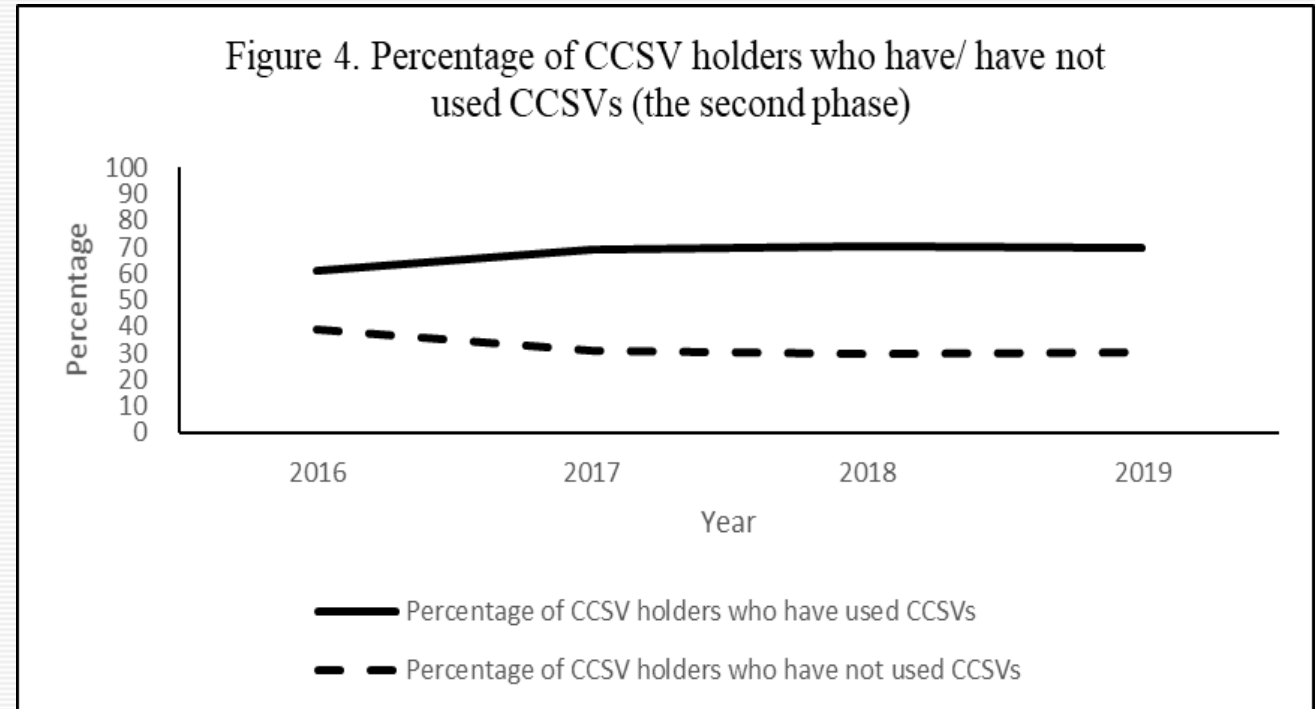
A voucher system

- It's a 'money-follows-the-user' approach, and the co-payment scheme.
- The SWD will send invitation letters to anyone on the central waiting list for either CCS or residential care service (RCS).
- 3 phases:
 - 2013 to 2017 (1,000 vouchers)
 - 2016 to 2020 (7,000 vouchers)
 - From October 2020 onward (8,000 vouchers)

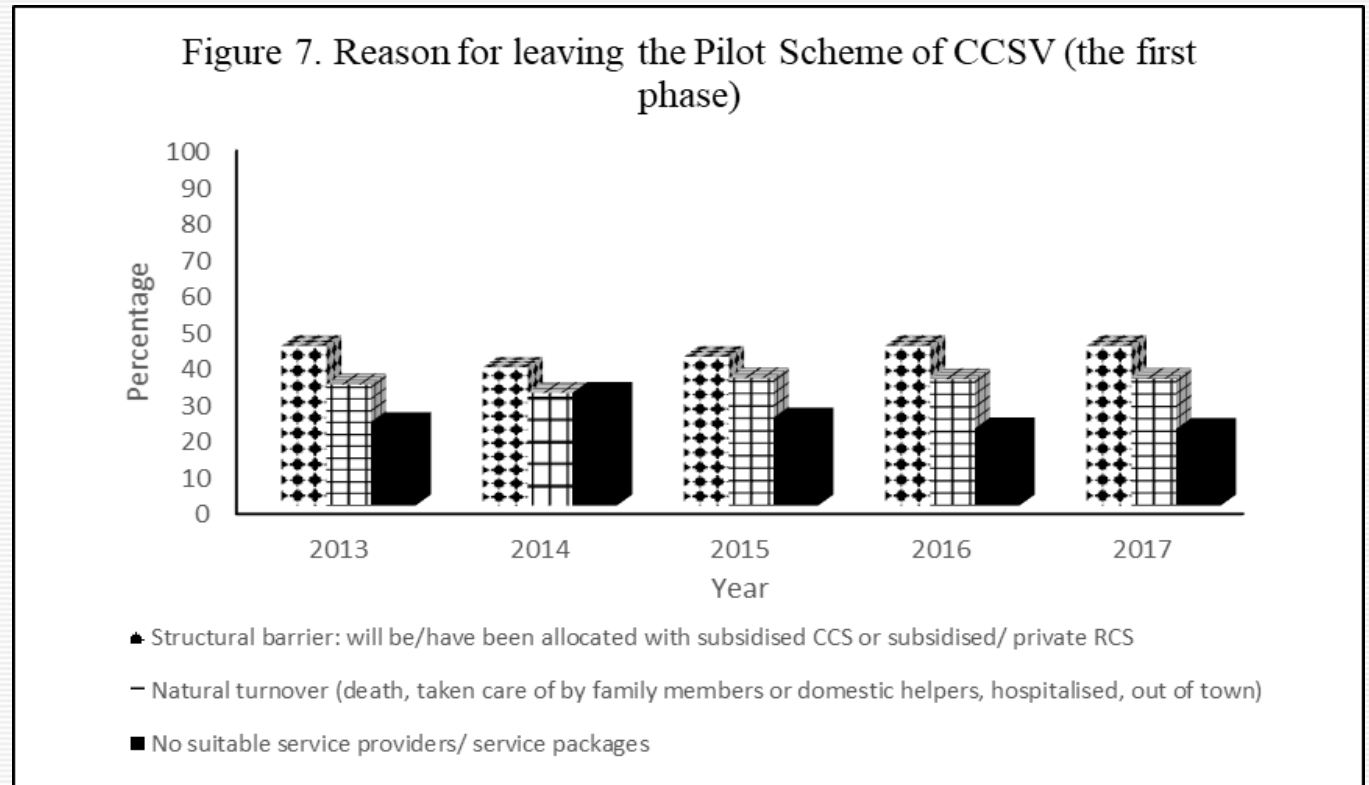


Source: compiled from The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2020), “LCQ20: Pilot schemes on elderly care service vouchers”, available at:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/08/P2020010800383.htm>
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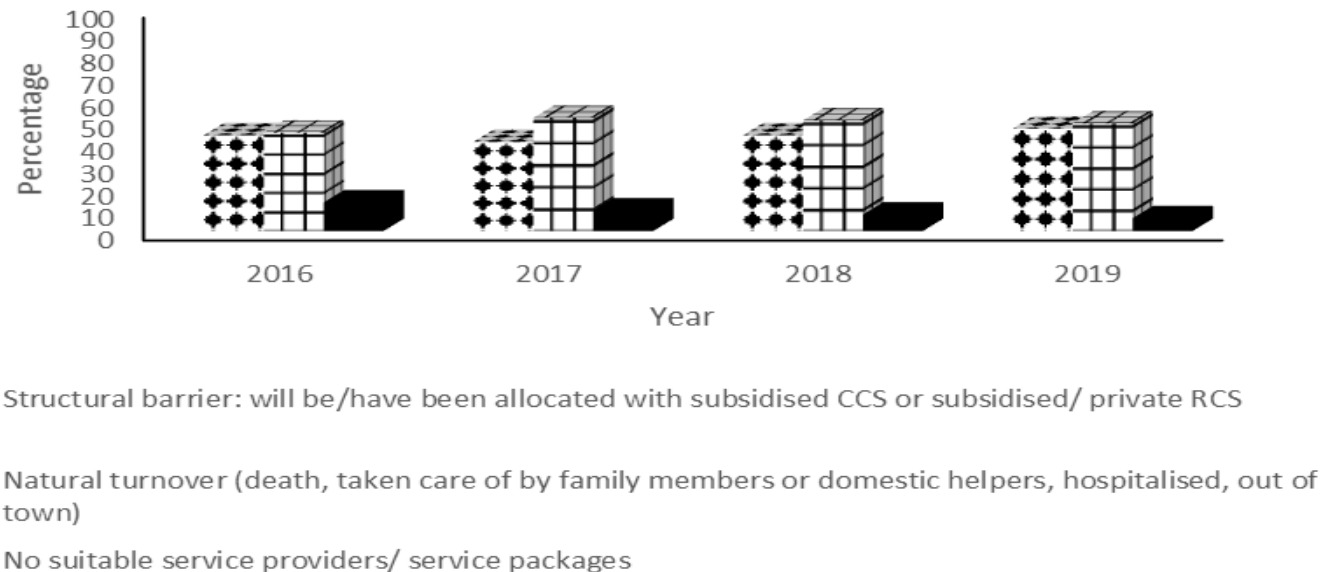
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Figure 8. Reason for leaving the Pilot Scheme of CCSV (the second phase)



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- Audit Commission Hong Kong (2014), “Provision of long-term care services for the elderly”, available at: http://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e63ch01.pdf (accessed 5 September 2019).
- Social Welfare Department (2021), “Waiting list for subsidised community care services for the elderly”, available at: [https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/2789/en/LTC_Statistics_CCS\(Eng\)\(Sep_2021\).pdf](https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/2789/en/LTC_Statistics_CCS(Eng)(Sep_2021).pdf) (accessed 5 October 2021).
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- The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2019), “LCQ15: Home and community care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities”, available at: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201902/20/P2019022000632.htm> (accessed 5 October 2021).
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