

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE



Health and Social Welfare

The Government's long-term policy objectives are to enhance the quality of medical services, and improve medical and health care facilities, thus safeguarding and improving public health. The health departments have been continually accelerating the establishment of different kinds of facilities, improving the medical and health systems, raising the level of medical services, and increasing health care resources at the community level.

In the scope of social service, it is the policy of the Government to strengthen the provision of community services, focus on securing and improving people's standard of living, helping the underprivileged in the community, and ensuring family harmony and social inclusiveness. The Government is committed to helping individuals, families and members of vulnerable groups in distress, enabling them to reassume their social functions, enhance their living skills and acquire a better quality of life.

Public Health

Macao's standard of public health care is comparable to that of developed countries and regions. According to Health Bureau statistics for 2025, the ratio of doctors to residents was three per thousand residents; that of nurses to residents was 4.4 per thousand residents; and that of hospital beds to residents was 2.7 per thousand residents. The general mortality rate in 2025 was 3.5 per thousand inhabitants, while the mortality rate for infants was one per thousand live births. The average life expectancies for men and women in Macao were 80.6 and 86.3 years (2022-2025), respectively, which are among the highest in the world.

According to the ICD-10-CM classification system (International Classification of Disease, Tenth Edition, Clinical Modification), malignant tumours were the main cause of death in Macao, while circulatory diseases and respiratory diseases ranked second and third, respectively. In 2025, these three categories accounted for 41.3 percent, 26.5 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively, of all deaths during the year.

Health Bureau

The main functions of the Health Bureau are to coordinate health-related activities of public and private institutions, and to protect public health through specialist medical and health services and community health care services, disease prevention measures and hygiene promotion work.

Medical Benefits

The Government devotes considerable resources to medical and health care to optimise medical services and various health care facilities. In 2025, total expenditure on medical and health services was about 9.53 billion patacas, representing an increase of 7.4 percent from the 2024 figure.

The Government takes great responsibility for public health, so Macao residents can enjoy a comprehensive coverage of medical benefits. All legal residents of Macao, regardless of their

age or occupation, are entitled to free services at Health Centres and supplementary check-ups at Conde S. Januario Hospital by referral from Health Centres, while non-residents are required to pay for such services according to rates established by the Health Bureau. Services provided by the Conde S. Januario Hospital are chargeable except for people specified by the Government, but Macao residents may enjoy a waiver of 30 percent of the charges. Conde S. Januario Hospital also provides assistance to Macao residents who have financial difficulties.

In addition, the Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College (Macao Union Hospital) is a public medical institution providing free specialist out-patient consultation, examination and treatment services, as well as private medical and healthcare services, with priority given to public medical and healthcare services. A three-tier fee structure has been introduced, in which the first tier is for free medical care, targeting at Macao residents entitling to free medical care, who can retain the same benefits following a referral by the Health Bureau to the Macao Union Hospital. The second tier is fee-for-service medical care, with Macao residents enjoying a 70 percent discount (limited to consultation fees, treatment and hospitalisation, etc; excluding medicine fees). Normal fees are charged for non-Macao residents who stay long-term and hold a foreign employee identification, student visa or special stay permit. The third tier is international and private medical services, which will provide higher-end choices of medical services, with fees comparable to the market prices of high-end private medical services in neighbouring regions. Appropriate concessions are considered for Macao residents.

Additionally, there are medical entities subsidised by the Government and other institutions, such as Kiang Wu Hospital, the Workers' Clinic and Tung Sin Tong Clinics, as well as various private clinics and laboratories.

Specialist Medical and Health Services

Conde S. Januario Hospital is a modern medical institution with advanced and comprehensive facilities. The hospital has received international accreditation for its management. It has 29 specialist departments providing 73 types of specialist outpatient services, including specialist outpatient, specialist medical examination and treatment outpatient services, and consultations and lectures organised by the outpatient department. The specialist medical services provided by Conde S. Januario Hospital and the community medical services provided by various health centres in Macao are fully coordinated through two-way referrals, to provide appropriate medical services to the public. The hospital also provides 24-hour emergency medical services, including specialists on rotating rosters, surgeries and specialist in-patient services. The hospital has also established the Island Emergency Station, the Community Rehabilitation Ward, the Dementia Medical Centre, the Children's Integrated Assessment Centre, and the Emergency Service Building, to optimise medical services and the consultation environment.

According to statistics provided by the Health Bureau, in 2025 Conde S. Januario Hospital had 423 doctors, 1,083 nurses and 1,198 beds (976 inpatient beds and 222 outpatient beds). It received 529,465 outpatients and 284,249 emergency cases, and 23,395 inpatient cases. The bed occupancy rate was 81.2 percent, and patients stayed in the hospital for an average of 10.8 days. The daytime hospital treated 72,226 patients; surgical operations were performed on 10,581 occasions, and 1,208 women gave birth in the hospital. A total of 8,886,268 diagnoses and medical examinations

were conducted.

Community Health Care Services

To realise the objective of “Health for All” advocated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Health Bureau has established Health Centres throughout the territory. The establishment of a community health care services network, with health centres as its operational units, provides Macao people with easy access to community health care services in their own neighbourhoods.

There are nine health centres and four health stations offering adult health care, child health care, oral health care and fillings, school health care, pre-natal health care, women’s health care, Chinese medicine and acupuncture, psychological health care, tobacco quitting consultations, nutrition consultations, cervical cancer, breast cancer and colorectal cancer screening, health screening and immunisation services. At the end of 2025, there were 164 doctors (including general practitioners, dentists and Chinese medicine practitioners) and 251 nurses providing community health care services to 916,590 outpatients. The most sought-after outpatient services were adult health care, non-scheduled consultations, and Chinese medicine and acupuncture, which accounted for 43.4 percent, 27.6 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively, of total outpatient visits to the community health care services. Another 18,431 service sessions were provided by the Physical Examination Centre for Civil Servants.

Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine Services

The Health Bureau has always upheld the development of traditional Chinese medicine, fully leveraging the unique characteristics and advantages of traditional Chinese medicine to provide appropriate medical services to residents. In 2022, the Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Service Development was established to further popularise the application of traditional Chinese medicine services in the community, formulate service quality standards and strengthen talent training. To facilitate the comprehensive development of traditional Chinese medicine services, it actively conducts popular science education on traditional Chinese medicine, and disseminates information on health care, disease prevention and treatment to residents, achieving the goal of enhancing residents’ health.

Cooperation with Non-profit-making Medical Institutions

The Government cooperates with many non-profit-making medical institutions to provide various services to residents including specialist health care (inpatient, emergency and cardiac surgery), Chinese medicine and dental care, rehabilitation, home care, cervical cancer screening, colorectal cancer screening and psychological consultation. It also provides education programmes on AIDS prevention, mental health and promotion of tobacco-free lifestyles.

Since 2009, the Government has implemented a medical subsidy scheme, distributing health care vouchers to every Macao permanent resident on an annual basis to enhance public health consciousness and subsidise medical expenses, as well as foster development of private medical units. In 2018, the Government issued electronic vouchers. Through application of big data,

the Government is able to better analyse and review the usage of health care vouchers, thereby enhancing the development of smart health care. Since 2024, the medical subsidy scheme has been expanded to cover the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Under the 2025 medical subsidy scheme, the value of the health care vouchers has been increased to 700 patacas.

Public Hygiene and Disease Prevention

Following World Health Organisation guidelines, the Health Bureau continues to conduct regular disease monitoring; enhance prevention of and responses to seasonal influenza, Covid-19, dengue fever, chikungunya virus and enteroviruses; strengthen education on screening for and prevention of AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C; conduct intervention measures for tuberculosis high-risk groups; refine health and disease prevention systems at boundary checkpoints; maintain cooperation with neighbouring regions; and optimise regional collaboration mechanisms.

In actively responding to national healthcare policy, the MSAR Government issued the Healthy Macao Blueprint in July 2024, proposing three major policy directions and three major action plans, to promote comprehensive full-life-cycle health protection for local residents. The Healthy Enterprise Programme, Healthy Campus, the Healthy Eating Scheme and tobacco and alcohol control are expected to help foster healthy lifestyles. Through cross-departmental collaboration, the Healthy City Committee has been commissioned to strengthen chronic disease prevention and control, promote screening instructions for common chronic diseases, cancer screening and other programmes such as health self-management. The Government also aims to enhance digital health management tools, to raising active health management abilities within the community.

In March 2025, the MSAR Government launched the “Healthy Community” programme. Adhering to a community-based and resident-centred philosophy, the initiative empowers healthcare roles within the community and integrates health into daily life through cross-departmental collaboration and partnerships with social organisations. Developed in synergy with the “Healthy Enterprise” and “Healthy Campus” programmes, it builds a health promotion system covering life, work, and study to help achieve the goals of the “Healthy Macao Blueprint”. Throughout 2025, a total of 197 large-scale activities were held – including healthy community consultation stations and pop-up stations, reaching a cumulative total of 140,048 participants.

In 2025, there were 23,692 cases of infectious diseases requiring mandatory declaration, the top three of which were influenza (20,041 cases), enteroviruses (1,244 cases) and scarlet fever (534 cases). In order to minimise any outbreak of influenza and reduce the risk of severe and fatal cases, the Health Bureau prioritised providing free influenza vaccinations for high-risk people, and opened free vaccinations to all other Macao residents once vaccination of priority groups was essentially complete. As of 31 December 2025, the Health Bureau’s 2025-2026 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme had provided 185,967 people with free influenza vaccinations.

To ensure public health, the Public Health Laboratory conducts chemical and microorganism tests for food safety, water quality, medicine, cigarettes, and clinical samples, as well as diagnostic services for some infectious diseases. In 2025, it received 176,192 samples, and conducted 445,481 tests.

Tobacco and Alcohol Control

The Health Bureau continued to promote a smoke-free environment through legislation, law enforcement, publicity and education, and incentives for quitting smoking. Law No. 6/2023 – “Regime of Prevention and Control of Underage Alcohol Consumption” came into effect on 5 November 2023, aiming to reduce the health risks or damage to minors that may arise from the consumption of alcoholic beverages. In 2025, aiming for tobacco and alcohol control, a total of 240,727 inspections were conducted at various types of establishments that are regulated by law, and there were 5,458 prosecutions for breaches of the tobacco control law and 16 for breaches of the alcohol control law.

Blood Collection

Macao adopts a voluntary, no rewards and anonymous blood donation policy. The Blood Transfusion Centre is responsible for promoting non-remunerated blood donation and blood collection to provide adequate amounts of safe blood / blood composition and blood services to patients in need in Macao, and a consultation service for immunohaematology to hospitals. In 2025, 13,942 residents registered as blood donors, and the centre collected 19,025 units of blood and prepared 44,495 units of blood components for 3,669 patients. Professional inspections and related consultation services were provided in 170 cases involving non-common blood types referred by hospitals.

Health Care Specialists and Establishments

In 2025, there were 7,251 health care professional licensees, 490 health care establishments and four private hospitals, as well as 477 internship licensees registered under the Health Bureau, with a total of 8,222 issuances of health care licences/permits, remaining the same as the figure in 2024. Among the persons receiving licences, there were 2,110 practising doctors and 3,039 practising nurses.

Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau

Established on 1 January, 2022, the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau is responsible for studying, coordinating and implementing policies regarding drug supervision and administration in the MSAR, especially drug registration and pharmaceutical activities, registration of medical devices, record and business activity supervision, the pharmacy profession and the management of drug and related product advertising activities, encompassing Chinese medicine. It also aims to promote and support the healthy and orderly development of the traditional Chinese medicine and health industry.

Pharmaceutical Approval

The Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau evaluates drugs according to the law, to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of drugs circulating in Macao. As of December 2025, there were 9,668 western medicines circulating in Macao, including 2,710 over-the-counter medicines, 6,279 prescription medicines and 679 medicines for hospital use only. There were also 4,120 traditional

Chinese medicines and 277 natural medicines circulating in Macao.

Pharmaceutical Establishments

The Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau issues licenses to pharmaceutical establishments that meet the requirements according to the law. As of December 2025, there are 687 pharmaceutical establishments in Macao, including 351 pharmaceutical stores, 138 Chinese herbal stores, 23 pharmaceutical dealers, 166 import and export wholesale stores, three Western pharmaceutical factories and six Chinese medicine pharmaceutical factories. Among these, two Western pharmaceutical factories and one Chinese medicine pharmaceutical factory (granule and pill production lines) comply with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Pharmaceutical Products.

Regulation of the Pharmaceutical Market

The Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau continues monitoring compliance with pharmaceutical regulations in the industry, through routine and impromptu inspections. Inspectors check imported drugs and products arriving at Macao's ports daily, and conduct regular inspections of pharmaceutical establishments to ensure that facilities, equipment, drug storage, sales and employees comply with regulations. In 2025, there were 1,534 inspections of imported drugs and related products, 2,583 inspections of pharmaceutical establishments, and 186 inspections of non-pharmaceutical establishments. Through strict regulation of the pharmaceutical market, the industry is encouraged to operate legally, boosting the confidence of residents and tourists in the Macao pharmaceutical market and promoting the healthy development of the pharmaceutical industry.

Regulation of Pharmaceutical Advertisements

The Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau processes applications to advertise medicines and products with claimed health benefits according to the law. In 2025, a total of 766 advertising applications were approved, including 396 exhibition advertisements, 131 medicine advertisements and 239 advertisements for products with claimed health benefits.

Pharmaceutical Professionals

As of December 2025, there were 737 licensed pharmacists, 32 licensed Chinese medicine practitioners, and 320 assistant pharmacy technicians in Macao, practising in pharmaceutical establishments, hospitals, healthcare service locations, and public departments in Macao, respectively.

The Islands Healthcare Complex – Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital

The Islands Healthcare Complex - Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital,

abbreviated as “Macao Union Hospital”, officially became operational on 16 September 2024, and achieved full commencement of basic operations in 2025. Through collaboration with the Health Bureau, it has optimised resource allocation, effectively set up a patients triage system, and shortened waiting times for specialist outpatient services and examinations, while also cooperating on surgeries such as cataract and prostate operations, to increase the supply of public medical services.

As a public medical institution, Macao Union Hospital operates on the principle of prioritising public healthcare services and has established a two-way referral mechanism with the Health Bureau. During the year, it launched 27 free specialist outpatient clinics, 40 paid specialist outpatient clinics, and 26 international medical outpatient clinics. It handled 34,926 specialist outpatient visits, 26,024 imaging examinations, and 33,553 tests, with ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MR), X-ray, and radiotherapy services being the most used services.

Macao Union Hospital has built the largest oncology radiotherapy centre in Macao, where three state-of-the-art linear accelerators of the highest standard in Hong Kong and Macao are fully operational, completing 4,367 radiotherapy sessions during the year. In July, the dialysis centre and assisted reproductive Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) services were launched, with In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) services being gradually introduced. These initiatives meet the needs of dialysis patients and align with relevant assisted reproduction legislation to respond to diverse medical demands.

In 2025, Macao Union Hospital had a total of 719 staff members, with medical-related personnel accounting for approximately 68 percent, including an expert team from Peking Union Medical College Hospital to advance the diagnosis and treatment of difficult and rare diseases. The hospital collaborated with the Health Bureau to launch the first residency training programme, recruiting 28 local young doctors for a six-year training period, to elevate the standard of specialist medical care.

Kiang Wu Hospital

Kiang Wu Hospital is a non-governmental medical and health institution administered by the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association of Macao. Established in 1871, it has a 155-year history. It is a charitable hospital founded and managed by Chinese people with the principles of running the hospital diligently and frugally, providing treatments with a caring heart, treating people with courtesy and putting patients first. Kiang Wu Hospital has developed into a modern general hospital that integrates treatment, prevention, teaching and research; and it is currently implementing a modern information management system in phases. In 2025, the hospital had 2,144 staff: 384 doctors, 685 nurses, 163 technical professionals and 912 other employees.

Kiang Wu Hospital has the following departments: Emergency, Outpatient, Inpatient, an Intensive Care Unit (ICU/CCU), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Baby Unit (NICU&SBU), Breast Health Centre, Endoscopy Centre, Plastic Surgery Centre, Physical and Mental Health Centre, and Assisted Reproductive Centre. The hospital’s clinical services also cover medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, emergency, otorhinolaryngology, head and neck surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, stomatology, rehabilitation, Chinese medicine, family medicine, integrated physical examination, oncology and anaesthesiology. In addition, the hospital has supporting departments dedicated to various areas including medical imaging, pharmacy, pathology

and general examination. The Dr Henry Y. T. Fok Specialist Medical Centre was completed and commenced operation in August 2009 to offer various specialty outpatient services to the public.

Kiang Wu Hospital has four outpatient departments and two emergency departments, on the Macao Peninsula and Taipa, respectively. During 2025, its emergency and outpatient departments treated over 1,401,074 patients, an average of 4,329 each day. Its emergency department and outpatient department on the Macao peninsula treated over 1,241,298 patients during 2025, an average of 3,816 per day; the Taipa Medical Centre received patients seeking emergency and outpatient services on 159,776 occasions, an average of 513 patients per day. A total of 28,755 inpatients were discharged from the hospital during the year.

University Hospital

The University Hospital, an institution under the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) Foundation, was formerly the Chinese medicine clinic of the MUST. In March 2006, the University Hospital was formerly established through the approval of the Health Bureau of the MSAR, with western medicine being integrated with the original Chinese medicine service, further enhancing the scope of medical services. Now the University Hospital has developed into a modern integrated hospital incorporating the strengths of both Chinese and western medicines, and serves as the clinical and teaching base for the Faculty of Chinese Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine of the MUST, making it the only university-supported hospital in Macao.

The hospital comprises various specialties of western and Chinese medicines, providing general outpatient services as well as comprehensive medical services that include integrated tumour treatment, medical beauty and clinical genetics. The hospital also features technology-intensive facilities that include interventional catheterisation, surgery rooms and an Intensive Care Unit, as well as various service centres including International Medical Service, Specialist Centre of Chinese Medicine Faculty, Executive Health Management Centre, Integrated Rehabilitation Service Centre, Medical Imaging Diagnostic Centre, Clinical Laboratory Diagnostic Centre, Endoscopy Centre, haemodialysis centre, and Medical Cosmetology Centre.

The hospital has 108 beds, with 60 beds in inpatient department and 48 beds in the haemodialysis centre.

Environmental Hygiene

One of the major tasks of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is to improve the urban environment, maintain a clean and tidy city, as well as refuse collection. The bureau continues to replace street litterbins with compacting bins and closed refuse tips. In 2025, the bureau installed 135 compacting bins and 116 closed refuse tips, reducing the number of street litterbins from more than 1,600 in the past to 89 at present, which greatly reduces environmental hygiene problems arising from litterbins. The bureau also handles complaints about environmental hygiene, inspects urban hygiene, monitors the waste-disposal franchise company, manages landfills, improves the facilities and distribution of refuse stations, organises city cleaning campaigns to promote awareness of environmental hygiene, maintains and manages public conveniences and prevents rat problems.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau handled 5,930 complaints about environmental hygiene in 2025.

Cemeteries

Macao has six public cemeteries and 11 private cemeteries. The public cemeteries are Macao St Michael's Cemetery, Macao Our Lady of Piety Cemetery, Sa Kong Cemetery and Carmo Cemetery on Taipa, Municipal Cemetery and Va Ian (Chinese) Cemetery on Coloane. The private cemeteries are the Parsee Cemetery; the Old Protestant Cemetery; Mong Ha New Cemetery; Muslim Cemetery; Kai Fong (Neighbourhood) Cemetery, Pao Choc (Firecrackers) Cemetery, and Hao Si Cemetery on Taipa; and Kok Ip Cemetery, Ha Sac Cemetery, Ka Ho Cemetery and Son I Cemetery on Coloane.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau is responsible for managing public cemeteries and supervising the operation of private cemeteries. To provide a variety of funeral services to residents, it started to provide cremation services and green (tree) burial services in September 2014 and September 2015, respectively. In view of the increasing public acceptance of green burials, the bureau introduced garden burials in March 2023.

In 2025, the bureau conducted 84 cremations and 101 green (tree and garden) burials.

Public Toilets

The Municipal Affairs Bureau has implemented various measures to optimise the distribution and services of Macao's public toilets. At present, the bureau manages 91 street toilets, distributed across various districts and open to citizens and tourists free of charge.

Environmental Protection and Clean City Education

To raise residents' awareness of keeping the city clean, reducing waste at source, and safeguarding against rodents and dengue fever, the Municipal Affairs Bureau continued organising a variety of city cleaning publicity and promotion activities. In 2025, a total of 990 education and publicity activities on environmental hygiene were held, with over 345,000 people participating.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau formulated special publicity plans for different target groups – including Macao residents, students, volunteers, tourists, non-resident employees and foreigners, and organised a variety of environmental hygiene promotion events together with other government departments and organisations. The bureau also distributed information through various media. It also continued promoting the “Refuse Collection Facilities Decoration Scheme”, to decorate the closed refuse tips and compacting bin stations. In 2025, the “Compacting Bin Surface Design Competition” was held, with winning entries featured in decorative adhesive stickers to add vibrancy to the streets and deepen the vision of “Macao is our home, let's keep it clean together”.

Environment Information Centre

In 2025, the Municipal Affairs Bureau continued optimising the Mong Ha Environment Information Centre, providing a high-quality environmental education venue for schools and residents. The centre organised diverse workshops and activities, including seven sessions of the “KABO Study Tour - Seeing Otto Again” parent-child activity and 15 sessions of the “DIY Creative KABO

Doll Workshop,” to encourage public participation in keeping the city clean and maintaining environmental hygiene. Throughout the year, the centre recorded 16,410 visitors.

Volunteers for Clean-up Campaign

The “Friends of Macao City” volunteer team was established in 2012. Its members are ambassadors for community environmental hygiene, environment protection and food safety. They spread messages about keeping the city clean, reducing waste at source and obeying environmental hygiene laws among Macao residents, tourists and foreigners living in Macao.

Oscar’s Farm

Oscar’s Farm is located on Estrada de Choc Van and covers an area of around 133,868 square metres. The site has facilities such as livestock pens, composting areas, charcoal kilns, leisure cabins, activity shelters, farmland, and natural wells, and is open to the public free of charge throughout the year.

It employs organic farming, avoiding the use of pesticides or synthetic fertilisers. It usually collects the faeces of raised livestock and green waste (dead branches and leaves), puts them through a wood grinder, and then regenerates them into natural organic fertiliser through composting.

The farm has a kiln for making charcoal from dead branches, which is used to improve the soil quality in various green areas; the leisure cabin area is available for groups to apply for camping educational activities, for which a fee is required. The livestock pens are the only place in Macao where livestock can be seen. It is suitable for residents and tourists to enjoy a half-day or weekend outing.

Happy Farm

Happy Farm opened in 2016, with an original area of 5,972 square metres. After expansion work in mid-2020, the total area is now 22,995 square metres with the number of farming plots increased to 140. It includes a farming area, a herb garden, a flower garden, a fruit tree garden, a sapling area, a display area for seasonal vegetables, a natural water conservation area and an insect museum – and was established in the hope of allowing visitors to spend time away from the hustle and bustle of the city, and enjoy the countryside.

As the farm has been integrated into the overall planning of the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experience Camp, it is scheduled for renovation in 2026. Relevant functions and activities have been transferred to the newly completed Hac Sa Plant Nursery.

Hac Sa Plant Nursery

Located next to the Hac Sa Youth Activity Development Base, the Hac Sa Plant Nursery covers an area of approximately 1.6 hectares. The site was reclaimed by the MSAR Government in 2022 and handed over to the Municipal Affairs Bureau for temporary management in 2023. It was officially named in 2024, upon the completion of its planning and renovation.

The facility is divided into a nursery zone and a farming activity zone. The nursery zone is primarily used for the temporary storage and cultivation of plants for events, as well as nurturing lotus seedlings for the Lotus Festival. In 2025, the farming activity zone launched the “Farming Experience Activity”. Residents can apply online via the “Macao One Account”, and successful applicants pay a fee to participate in a four-month farming programme, allowing them to enjoy idyllic pleasures and peaceful holidays.

Food Hygiene

The laws of Macao stipulate that most imported foods (primarily animal and plant products) are subject to compulsory hygiene quarantine and can only be placed on the market after passing verification through health documents and quarantine inspections. The Municipal Affairs Bureau’s quarantine personnel conduct hygiene inspections at the Border Gate Checkpoint, Macao boundary crossing area of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Ilha Verde quarantine station, the New Wholesale Market, the Slaughter House, piers of the Inner Harbour, Ka Ho Harbour, the airport and other quarantine points, covering imported livestock, meat, vegetables, fresh fruits and fishery products, food products originating from animals, and fresh perishable products.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau continues quarantining imported livestock and animal-derived foods, to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases. Imported food items such as vegetables, seafoods and their products, meats and their products, milk and dairy products, eggs, fruits and animal-derived canned goods are subject to inspection, quarantine, and monitoring through sampling.

The bureau is responsible for food hygiene inspections of shops selling meat, vegetables and fish in accordance with the Registration System for Retail Establishments of Fresh and Live Food. It regularly implements concerted efforts focused on hygiene, and has introduced a grading system to monitor the hygiene and safety of live food.

In addition, it carries out quality control for food produced in Macao and issues health certificates for food produced in Macao that meets export requirements. By-law No. 1/2024 on the Registration System for Retail Establishments of Fresh and Live Food came into effect on 1 February 2024, simplifying administrative procedures. As of 2025, the Municipal Affairs Bureau had issued 422 registration certificates for retail fresh and live food establishments.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau ensures food safety by monitoring, inspections, food testing, publicity and education, as well as establishing standards and guidelines according to the Food Safety Law, and continuously following up regarding existing food safety standards and supporting measures (such as databases and guiding documents).

By 2025, the Government had established 13 sets and updated two sets of food safety standards: Maximum Residue of Veterinary Medicines in Food, List of Substances Prohibited from Use in Food, Maximum Levels of Radionuclides in Food, Maximum Levels of Bacterial Pathogens in Infant Formula, Maximum Levels of Pathogenic Micro-organisms in Dairy Products, Maximum Levels of Mycotoxins in Food, Requirements on Nutrition Contents of Infant Formula, Standards for Use of Food Colourings in Food, Standards for Use of Sweeteners in Foods, Maximum Levels of Heavy Metal Contaminants in Food, Rules on the Use of Preservatives and Antioxidants in Foodstuffs, Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues in Foodstuffs. In 2025, the bureau updated

and optimised the Standards for the Use of Food Additives in Food and modified the supplementary documents related to the Maximum Levels of Heavy Metal Contaminants in Food. To date, 78 sets of Food Safety Guidelines have been published, to instruct the industry to comply with food safety and hygiene specifications.

To enhance food safety, the Municipal Affairs Bureau regularly monitors foods sold in local markets, to understand the level of food hygiene. In 2025, three sampling tests of seasonal foods – Chinese New Year confectionery, sticky rice dumplings of the Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival mooncakes – were conducted, and a total of 170 samples were taken, achieving a 100 percent pass rate; two studies and investigations of specific foods were conducted – a study and background investigation of roasted meat, marinated food and cold dishes sold in the market; and a study of grains and their products sold in the market. A total of 250 samples were collected, and there was a 100 percent pass rate. Routine sampling tests of food sold in the market were conducted throughout the year, with 2,493 samples tested, achieving a pass rate of 99.6 percent.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau performs risk monitoring and assessment in response to international food safety issues. In 2025, 17 food safety alerts were issued, and the Database of Contact Information for Specific Macao Merchants was established to increase the target recipients of these alerts. Also, the bureau completed the “Food Safety Alert” distribution channel of the Food Safety Risk Monitoring, Assessment, and Forecasting Early-Warning Platform, enabling one-click sending of emails and SMS messages, to enhance efficiency and assist the industry in promptly responding to actual or potential risks.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau continued to educate and communicate with the public about food safety risks. In 2025, 49 talks and visits, seven seminars on risks, nine food hygiene supervisor courses and 13 food safety and environmental hygiene courses were organised.

To educate the public about food safety risks, the bureau issued seven risk bulletins and two reports on specific food surveys and analyses, and three risk assessment reports along with related briefings (covering the acrylamide content in coffee products, the glycidyl ester content in edible vegetable oils and fats, and the acrylamide content in key foods), to analyse food risks related to public health, and maintain food safety. Talks covering 24 themes in three categories – risk prevention, risk awareness, and food and nutrition, along with 402 seminars and activities, were organised for the public.

In alignment with “World Food Safety Day,” a series of activities was organised in June, including a food safety forum, youth visits to the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, dedicated lectures for residents, and food safety pop-up stations. Community outreach was continuously promoted through fun days and pop-up stations, utilising interactive games and exhibition boards to remind the public of key food safety precautions for the autumn and winter seasons.

Veterinary Health

Monitoring animal hygiene is an important integral part of preventing animal pandemics and securing public health. The Inspection and Veterinary Control Division, under the supervision of the Municipal

Affairs Bureau, is mainly responsible for supervising and managing animal hygiene in Macao. Its duties include animal protection, animal management, prevention and control of pandemic animal diseases, quarantine of imported and exported animals and animal food, and publicity, promotion and civic education regarding animal protection and animal hygiene.

For maintaining public hygiene, public safety, and animal protection, in 2025 the Municipal Affairs Bureau vaccinated 4,535 dogs and 1,150 cats against rabies for three years, issued 3,855 dog licences, and captured 1,118 stray dogs and cats. It also prosecuted 350 cases violating Law No. 4/2016 – “Animal Protection Law”.

To prevent avian flu, the Municipal Affairs Bureau collects wild bird carcasses from all around Macao on an on-going basis, and in 2025 a total of 800 carcasses were collected. It also collected faecal samples at the habitats of migratory birds and aviaries for avian influenza screening, and during the year a total of 1,010 wild bird carcasses and faecal samples were screened. The results of all such screenings were negative and no avian influenza was found.

To enhance veterinary health in Macao, Law No. 7/2020 – Animal Pandemic Prevention Law came into effect on 1 September 2020. No local or imported positive cases of avian influenza, rabies, equine infectious metritis, equine infectious anaemia or equine piroplasmiasis have been found during routine disease surveillance work. In 2025, Macao maintained zero cases of African horse sickness, and applied for World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) veterinary certification through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

To further improve the animal protection and animal quarantine systems, and promote the development of animal treatment and related businesses in Macao, Law No. 4/2023 - “Law on Veterinary Clinical Care and Commercial Activities” came into force on 1 April 2024, establishing a system for admission and supervision of veterinary qualifications, and animal treatment, breeding, trading and boarding establishments. As of 2025, a cumulative total of 84 veterinary surgeon registration certificates, 28 licences for veterinary clinical care establishments, and 62 licences for establishments with commercial activities involving animals had been issued.

Wet Markets

Currently, there are eight wet markets in Macao: seven on the Macao peninsula and one in Taipa. These house a total of 1,063 market stalls.

In 2025, 746 market stalls were rented on a monthly basis, involving a total of 1,707 operators, of whom 747 were stall tenants, 510 were stall assistants and 450 were employees. The Municipal Affairs Bureau is responsible for wet market management and tenant management.

The Public Markets Management Regime Law came into effect on 1 January 2022, as did the by-law Complementary Rules for the Allocation and Leasing of Public Market Stalls. The Municipal Affairs Bureau has developed a series of related guidelines and promotional work. During inspections, market inspectors provide guidance and education to stall operators regarding any non-compliant behaviour, and guide them to comply with relevant regulations. Since the implementation of the new law, the operations and services of public markets have been significantly improved, especially in terms of price transparency, environmental cleanliness and tenants’ business initiatives.

Hawkers

The Municipal Affairs Bureau licenses, manages and monitors hawkers, and manages large temporary sales activities. By 2025, the bureau had issued 515 hawkers' licences, including 78 cooked food stall licences and 65 special permits (to flower hawkers from Wanzai District, Zhuhai); 43 lower than in 2024, representing a decrease of 7.7 percent.

The Slaughter House

In accordance with relevant regulations, livestock such as pigs, cattle and sheep must be slaughtered at the Slaughter House. The Municipal Affairs Bureau stations veterinarians and quarantine personnel in the slaughterhouse to supervise its operations and hygiene. All the animals must be checked before and after slaughter before products from them can be sold. The bureau is also responsible for protecting animal rights, preventing abuse, supervising the transportation of livestock and destroying sub-standard meat. In 2025, the Slaughter House butchered 1,186 heads of cattle and 112,502 pigs: a total of 113,688 animals.

Social Welfare Services

The MSAR Government designs its social welfare policies in conjunction with non-governmental agencies, to deliver practical social services that meet residents' needs, aiming to solve individual, family and social problems, raise residents' quality of life, and jointly build social harmony and love-filled families.

Social Welfare Bureau

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) is a government department that helps draft, coordinate, liaise, drive and execute the social work policies and social welfare of the MSAR. It provides individual and family assistance, and services for children and teenagers, and the elderly. It also offers rehabilitation services, anti-drug-dependence services, problem gambling prevention services, and social rehabilitation services. The social service facilities under its umbrella include the Social Services Centres, a casualty centre for victims of disasters, Assessment Centre for Rehabilitation, Drug Treatment Centres (Methadone), Healthy Life Education Centre and Chi Ai Hin (Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment).

In 2025, the Social Welfare Bureau allocated about 3.916 billion patacas to the social services sector, representing an increase of about 15.79 percent, which includes various subsidies for social services and expenditure on welfare benefits and assistance. The major subsidies and welfare expenditure were as follows:

- Subsidies totalling about 1.662 billion patacas to 245 social service organisations/facilities/programmes with more than 4,900 beneficiaries, including for activities, maintenance, and equipment purchases;
- Continued disbursements of Old Age Allowances to Macao permanent residents aged 65

or above, with each person receiving 10,000 patacas. There was a total of 145,880 eligible cases (including 3,198 backdated cases), and the allowances amounted to 1.456 billion patacas;

- Continued disbursements of disability gratuities to Disability Assessment Card holders who are permanent residents, with an ordinary gratuity amount of 10,000 patacas and a special gratuity amount of 20,000 patacas, for a total of 21,733 eligible cases (including 1,109 backdated cases), involving a total of 281 million patacas;
- Caregiver allowances of 2,175 patacas per month, with a cumulative total of approximately 5.02 million patacas were granted to 213 caregivers;
- The Child Care Allowance Scheme was introduced in 2025, disbursing an annual amount of 18,000 patacas for a duration of one to three years, with a total of approximately 277 million patacas distributed to 15,390 eligible cases; and
- An additional full amount of financial aid was provided to families benefiting from financial assistance. In all, 2,003 families benefited, with aid totalling approximately 12 million patacas.

As of December 2025, 2,370 people had been recognised by professional accreditation for social workers, and 1,517 people had valid social worker registration certificates.

The Social Welfare Bureau continued supervising the implementation of infectious disease prevention and control work in social service facilities, including hiring epidemic prevention officers, together with managing epidemic prevention materials, infectious disease emergency response planning, infectious disease surveillance, and notification mechanisms. In addition, the bureau followed up on cases and provided technical support to the facilities.

In 2025, the bureau organised briefing sessions on influenza prevention and control, seminars on preventing dengue fever and chikungunya virus, and training regarding mosquito killing. The bureau also urged 239 social service facilities to update their contingency plans, conduct table-top drills and arrange outreach vaccinations for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.

In 2025, the measures under the Macao Women's Development Goal (2019-2025) were completed. Over the past seven years, the MSAR Government has achieved fruitful results in various fields, including gender mainstreaming. Also, a new phase of Macao Women's Development Goals (2026-2032) has been formulated. Covering eight areas, 25 policy objectives, and 66 measures, this phase will be implemented and executed by 21 public departments.

Family and Community Services

The Social Welfare Bureau has established four social services centres and one branch centre in districts, providing individuals and families in need with counselling, financial aid, round-the-clock support, disaster relief, referral and legal consultation services. The bureau also provides counselling and support for victims of domestic violence, and distributes benefits and allowances including old age allowances and disability gratuities.

In 2025, 3,210 cases were handled by four social services centres and one branch centre, and

9,007 services of different types were provided, resulting in 2,428 families receiving regular subsidies, benefiting 3,711 individuals.

In 2025, Macao had one public shelter, 11 integrated family and community service centres, 13 community centres, 11 project-based services, and four shelters and temporary shelters, the majority of them being subsidised by the Social Welfare Bureau and operated by non-governmental organisations.

During 2025, 27 people were admitted to the Ilha Verde shelter, and the cold and heat shelters provided services to 126 people and 10 people, respectively. The 11 integrated family and community services centres provided services to 1,229,701 people; the 13 community centres provided services to 1,342,599 people; 11 community-specific services provided services to a total of 460,746 people; and the four shelters and temporary shelters provided services for 288 people.

In 2025, the bureau continued promoting the “Family Life Education Programme”, coordinating with non-governmental institutions to host approximately 1,000 activities for around 110,000 participants. In addition, over 700 promotional and educational activities on psychological resilience were organised, attracting more than 60,000 participants and generating nearly 600,000 online views.

To enhance welfare recipients’ incentives to work and assist them to re-enter the labour market, the IAS and four non-governmental agencies cooperated in implementing the Community Employment Assistance Scheme. By the end of 2025, the scheme had a cumulative total of 673 participants. Additionally, by the end of 2025, the Positive Life Programme, which was launched to encourage employment, attracted cumulative participation by 1,074 individuals, 427 of whom had already received employment counselling and accepted job referrals.

In 2025, the IAS’s 24-hour psychological counselling hotline received 2,112 calls, mostly spanning consultations, health, family relationships, marital relationships, and academic/employment issues.

In 2025, the IAS received 2,158 cases involving notifications through the Family Crisis Hotline. After eliminating duplicate cases, 1,518 cases were identified, including 819 involving family disputes, conflicts and initial suspected domestic violence, and 699 other cases. Among the 81 preliminary cases of suspected domestic violence, 48 cases were assessed and identified, 18 of which involved spouses, 24 involved children, and six involved violence between family members.

Children’s and Youth Services

In 2025, drawing on the experience from the Child-care Service Plan 2023-2025, the Child-care Services Development Plan 2026-2030 was formulated to optimise child care services and alleviate the pressure of family care.

In 2025, Macao had 56 child-care centres, 38 of which received regular subsidies from the Social Welfare Bureau. Child-care services in Macao offered quotas totalling 7,684, and a total of 4,712 children enrolled in them. One of the centres was funded by the bureau, and provided parent-child services to 40,841 people during 2025, promoting play time between parents and children and creating harmonious family relationships. The Government provided the Priority Child Care Service for Children from Disadvantaged Families, so that disadvantaged families were given priority in

receiving services in subsidised child-care centres.

There are nine homes for children and adolescents in Macao offering short or long-term care and counselling for orphans, as well as children and adolescents who have been abandoned, who lack family care, or who are on the verge of a crisis as a result of family or social conflicts. In 2025, these homes housed 297 children and youngsters.

There are four community youth social work teams in Macao, comprising social workers who conduct outreach work in various places such as amusement game centres, sports grounds and fast-food restaurants. They get in touch with youths who are more vulnerable to life crises and provide counselling services, and assist them with facing personal, family and social problems. The teams also provide youth career development services, support services to families with children and youth at risk, community support services and drug abuse prevention services. During 2025, 19,164 people participated in activities and groups organised by the teams.

There are two Youth and Family Integrated Service Centres in Macao to organise youth development activities, provide youth counselling and supporting services, organise family life education and family activities, and provide family counselling and supporting services, as well as school supporting services. In 2025, the centres had 37,708 members receiving these services.

The Social Welfare Bureau is the only authorised organisation in Macao that deals with adoption services. It handled 10 such cases in 2025. The bureau is responsible for providing assistance to minors who become involved in judicial actions, in accordance with the social protection system. During 2025, the bureau processed 354 such cases. Moreover, the bureau, in conjunction with the community youth social work teams, provides counselling services under the community support scheme to youths between 12 years to 16 years of age who have committed criminal offences or misdemeanours. During 2025, there were no such cases.

Services for the Elderly

In 2025, the Social Welfare Bureau continued providing subsidies and technical support to community organisations, for establishing various social facilities and support services, and promoting the improvement of services. The aim was to improve the service quality and thus provide appropriate services to elderly persons in need, so they can enjoy their remaining years in comfort.

In 2025, the measures under the Plan for the Elderly Services for 2016-2025 were completed in an orderly manner. The interdepartmental steering group on Macao's retirement protection mechanism has formulated the Ten-year Action Plan for the Provision of Services for the Elderly for 2026-2035, focusing on key developmental areas including big health, smart technology, the elderly-oriented industry, and an elderly-friendly and inclusive environment.

In 2020, the MSAR Government proposed the establishment of government-built housing for senior citizens, aimed at prioritising the care of elderly residents living in tenement units and those who are financially capable, to boost their quality of life. The housing project is a government pilot scheme. The housing project provides 1,815 open-plan residential units with basic amenities together with a wide range of gerontechnology facilities, plus diverse ancillary services, to provide a comfortable and safe living environment for the elderly.

According to Order No. 129/2025 issued by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, eligible applicants for government housing for senior citizens who applied and were accepted on or before 31 December 2026, and who completed the selection of accommodation units and signed the usage agreement within the specified period, can enjoy a 20 percent discount on the usage fee for a maximum of six years.

The government housing for senior citizens began accepting applications on 6 November 2023 and was put into service on 15 October 2024, and regular applications began in 2025. As of 31 December 2025, a total of approximately 1,150 units had been occupied with agreements signed. Additionally, a survey on the current living conditions of elderly residents in the government housing for senior citizens has been launched.

In 2025, Macao had 25 homes for the elderly, providing residential care services for infirm elderly persons; 15 of them are subsidised by the Social Welfare Bureau. These 25 homes for the elderly provided around 2,700 beds, and 2,364 senior citizens were housed in homes for the elderly. In addition, there were 10 elderly service facilities providing day-care services to elderly persons with health problems who are unable to take care of themselves. There were 10 other elderly day-care centres, and 24 neighbourhood social centres providing entertainment services for the elderly.

In 2025, 685 senior citizens received services at day care centres, 10,172 senior citizens received services at elderly day centres, and 9,685 senior citizens used the services provided at social centres.

Macao's home care services are provided through one home care service team and seven home care and support service teams operating under the three elderly day-care centres, two daycare centres and two multi-service centres. The teams provide household and home care services to elderly persons who are weak and need others to take care of them, so that they receive proper concern and care. In 2025, 1,526 cases were handled, 612 of which involved senior citizens living alone, with the remaining 914 cases involving senior citizens who were not living alone.

Additionally, the Tele-Assistant “Peng On Tung” and the “Elderly Care Service Network” providing services such as telephone greetings, visits, community activities, and 24-hour emergency call services to elderly people living alone. As of 31 December 2025, a total of approximately 10,600 people were using these services, including about 5,500 elderly people living alone and 4,107 elderly couples.

The Social Welfare Bureau, in collaboration with private organisations, launched a pilot programme for supporting elderly people living alone, which officially started on October 2024. Through a mobile app, the programme monitors the activities of elderly singletons and couples to provide support. The first phase of the programme is being implemented in government housing for senior citizens, and in January 2025 was expanded to also include the Ilha Verde and Tamagnini Barbosa. As of 31 December 2025, there was a cumulative total of approximately 1,350 applicants, including around 660 elderly singletons and about 690 elderly couples.

On 18 September 2025, the Social Welfare Bureau, in conjunction with over 70 social service organisations, launched the first phase of work to conduct surveys and register elderly singletons and couples. As of 31 December 2025, approximately 6,600 elderly persons had been surveyed.

Senior Citizen's Card

Citizens holding Macao Resident Identity Cards aged 65 or above are eligible to apply for the Senior Citizen's Card. Senior Citizen's Card holders are entitled to the welfare and benefits offered by the public organisations and enterprises that have signed cooperation agreements with the IAS. By the end of 2025, the Social Welfare Bureau had issued a total of 148,966 Senior Citizen's Cards. A total of 7,046 senior citizens had obtained their electronic cards. In addition, the card holders can include the electronic card in the electronic card package of the One-stop Public Services Account.

Rehabilitation Services

In 2025, the measures under the Ten-year Plan for Rehabilitation Services 2016 – 2025 were completed. The interdepartmental steering group on the ten-year plan for rehabilitation services has formulated the Ten-year Action Plan for Rehabilitation Services 2026 – 2035, focusing on key developmental areas including smart technology, accessible construction, and a socially inclusive environment.

Macao had 11 rehabilitation homes, of which nine provide accommodation, training, social and leisure activities to mentally handicapped adults or chronic mental patients, and children aged 15 below with mental or physical disabilities; and two combine halfway house and supported hostel for people recovering from mental illness. Moreover, there are 12 day-centres which provide independent living training, group studies, rehabilitation treatment, regular activities and individual assistance to the hearing impaired, the mentally handicapped, people recovering from mental illness and the visually impaired. In 2025, the 11 rehabilitation homes provided services to 825 people, while 12 rehabilitation day-centres provided services to 12,071 people.

There were six sheltered workshops, vocational training centres and supported employment centres in Macao. Services were provided to 457 people. There were also five pre-schools/education centres to provide early special education and training, and assistance for children with development disorders and impaired hearing. In 2025, the five pre-schools/education centres served 662 children.

There were two comprehensive rehabilitation service centres providing residential care. One centre provides residential training for individuals aged 16 or above with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities and autism. In 2025, this centre served 23 people, and family resource services were used 11,654 times. The other centre provides residential and day activity services for individuals aged 16 or above with moderate or above intellectual disabilities and autism, as well as day respite services for children and teenagers aged 6 to 15 with developmental disabilities; in 2025, it provided residential services to 87 people, day activity services to 65 people, and day respite services to 36 people.

Macao had four daytime comprehensive rehabilitation service centres. Two of these centres provide vocational training and day activity services, and in 2025 served a total of 175 people. One centre provides vocational training, day activity services, and support services for people with high-functioning autism, serving 48 people in 2025. Another centre provides vocational training, day activity services, and respite services. The centre was put into service at the end of December 2025, and had no service users by the end of the year.

The rehabilitation bus service in Macao is operated by two agencies. The IAS subsidises the cost of purchasing and operating rehabilitation buses. The service primarily enables people with impaired mobility, physically disabled persons and patients requiring haemodialysis to commute between their homes and hospitals. A feeder service was also provided, allowing people with disabilities to commute for outdoor activities. In 2025, the two agencies served 42,188 passengers. Additionally, an assistive device resource centre served Macao residents 28,669 times throughout the year.

In 2025, the “Barrier-free Assistive Officer Scheme” became a regular initiative. As of December, it had expanded to 68 venues across 36 public departments, to assist in receiving people with disabilities and those in need.

The Social Welfare Bureau provides professional assessment services to Macao residents who need to apply for or use rehabilitation services operated by agencies funded by the bureau, so they can find the most appropriate services. There were 192 cases of providing these services in 2025.

As at the end of December 2025, the Disability Assessment Cards had attracted 36,219 new applications and 14,279 renewal applications, and 28,723 new cards were issued by the IAS.

Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence

The prevention of drug abuse mainly targets school, family and community in organising anti-drug abuse promotion and education activities. The activities aim at widely spreading and promoting the message of anti-drug abuse through seminars, training programmes, advertisements, games, a website, enquiries hotline, reception service and other cultural and leisure activities. Funding and technical support are also available to assist non-governmental institutions in organising anti-drug activities.

In 2025, the IAS organised a series of activities for the “25th Anniversary of the Healthy Life Education Programme”, conducting 14 interactive educational theatre tours under the theme of “Healthy Living and Prevention of Addictive Behaviours,” which attracted approximately 2,700 participants.

The IAS also continued promoting the “Macao International Youth Anti-Drug Ambassador Training Programme,” with its promotional activities reaching over 130,000 people. The IAS organised training courses and seminars on anti-drug abuse for schools, the community and professionals, attracting a total of 123 participants. The Healthy Life Education Centre provides anti-drug education, as well as various cultural, physical and art activities for participants, with 4,903 people participating during 2025. The Healthy Life Education programme, which is conducted for primary school students, attracted participation by 17,868 primary school students from 67 schools, and four in-campus activities attracted participation by 1,042 people. The drug education programme “Thinking It Through” for secondary school students attracted participation by 9,514 secondary school students from 18 secondary schools. In addition, four online game activities were held, for a total of 2,241 participants. To promote anti-drugs education at home and school, the IAS held five parent-child seminars, with participation by 155 people.

There are four drug abuse prevention service organisations in Macao, providing services including youth recreation and sports activities, mobile health counselling centres, community promotions,

seminars, group and case counselling and parent-child activities, with a total of 141,880 people served in 2025. The subsidised organisations organised healthy-campus promotion activities for tertiary students, with a total of 52 activities attracting 26,234 participants in 2025.

Under the guidance of the Office of the China National Narcotics Control Commission, the IAS in collaboration with the Office of the Narcotics Control Commission of Guangdong Province, the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government, as well as multiple government departments and non-governmental organisations, co-organised the “Scientific Exhibition on Drug Awareness in the Greater Bay Area”, which attracted over 120,000 visitors.

The IAS and two community drug treatment centres provide comprehensive voluntary treatment and rehabilitation services for drug-dependent people. They include outpatient and residential drug addiction treatment, as well as drug counselling services. During 2025, 418 drug addicts sought help, 46 of whom were seeking help for the first time.

In 2025, a comprehensive drug rehabilitation centre provided accommodation for 56 people, family support services for 464 people, career development services for 859 people, and community outreach services for 11,443 people.

In 2025, an outreach treatment service for drug-dependent youths and two drug rehabilitation outreach services provided outreach services for 33,077 people; outreach services designed for drug-dependent youngsters and problem juveniles were used by 1,704 people; family services used by 354 people; and the community promotion activities reached a total of 9,657 people. A career development programme for youth abstaining from drugs organised 14 training courses attended by 791 people, and provided internships for 27 participants. Four participants were successfully employed. The retention rate of youth participating in the programme was 99 percent. A range of support was also provided to 272 family members. A total of 25,988 people were served during the year.

To strengthen the follow-up support for rehabilitated drug abusers reintegrating into society, in 2025 the IAS cooperated with private organisations to extend the Methadone Case Support Programme, serving 78 cases on 929 occasions. The IAS also cooperated with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and non-governmental organisations to launch the “Hold on to Hope” Vocational Training Internship Programme, holding more than 10 training sessions with 859 participants, 16 of whom participated in various internships; nine participants were successfully recruited and reintegrated into the community, and the case retention rate reached 100 percent.

Regarding promotion of drug rehabilitation services, the IAS held a sharing session on cooperation in drug abuse prevention services and healthcare seminars, attracting a total of 3,420 participants, including 2,685 healthcare professionals. In addition, the IAS was able to uncover more than 32,888 drug-related messages using big data, visiting more than 10 popular teenage websites, social media platforms and discussion forums, conducting a total of 427 online outreach sessions and publishing more than 140 educational posts on drug prevention.

Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling

The Chi Ai Hin of the Social Welfare Bureau is a service unit responsible for providing gaming-

related counselling services, professional training, community education, responsible gaming promotion and related surveys and studies. In 2025, the Central Registry System of Individuals with Gambling Disorders received 168 new cases of people seeking assistance. Community organisations were also commissioned to provide a round-the-clock gaming counselling hotline and online counselling service, which received 662 and 1,867 requests for assistance through telephone calls and online platforms, respectively. To strengthen community education, 17 community talks regarding prevention of gaming disorders were organised, attended by 662 participants.

Responsible gaming seminars were conducted for the elderly in various district elderly day centres and social centres, covering 22 centres and nearly 1,071 participants in 2025. The centre collaborated with community organisations in launching the Smart Money Management Programme, and organised 370 classroom sessions for nearly 12,000 students. Two training sessions on teaching kits for teachers were also organised for 118 people. In 2025, the IAS subsidised “Bosco Youth Service Freeland” of the Bosco Youth Service Network, to implement addiction prevention services for young people. During the year, 300 sessions were organised, serving more than 33,000 participants.

To enhance social participation by gaming practitioners and strengthen their physical and mental health, the gambling disorder prevention and treatment organisations received subsidies for organising various activities, such as the responsible gaming advanced learning programme, career workshops, and volunteer commendation ceremonies, reaching over 72,000 people throughout the year.

In 2025, three professional training courses and four workshops were organised, with 347 members of the social service and gaming sectors obtaining certificates. The training courses included the “Certificate in Macao Responsible Gaming Advisor”, to cultivate local advisor talents, with 16 individuals attaining the advisor qualification.

Regarding responsible gaming, Responsible Gaming Indicators were launched by the inter-departmental Working Group of the MSAR Government. As of 2025, a total of 13 organisations collaborating in gaming disorder prevention and 37 casinos had been awarded the “Responsible Gaming Implementation Model Unit” qualification.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of “Chi Ai Hin”, the “Academic Forum on the Prevention and Treatment of Gambling Disorders 2025” was held under the theme “Two Decades of Transformation in Gambling Disorder Prevention and Treatment Services,” attracting over 320 online and offline participants. By 2025, a total of 59 Responsible Gaming Kiosks had been set up in communities, entertainment venues, and other gaming locations. Throughout the year, there was a total of 19,230 accesses to the information.

In 2025, the “Survey on Macao Youth Participation in Gaming Activities” was launched, to understand the gaming situation among young people and assist in formulating a blueprint for prevention and treatment work.

Social Rehabilitation Services

Social rehabilitation services mainly assist the court with implementing non-custodial sentences and measures, such as parole, supervision for probationers, labour in lieu of penalty, suspension

of proceedings, judicial restoration, and implement education and supervision orders for youth offenders, such as rehabilitation, community service order, rule abiding order, probation order and half-way home order, aiming to assist offenders with restoring law-abiding lives and reintegrating into society.

During 2025, 647 and 291 cases of discharged offenders and young offenders were handled, respectively. In addition, a half-way house for discharged offenders and a half-way house for young offenders provided services for 27 people and 18 people, respectively.

For the effective implementation and promotion of community correctional work, the IAS utilises three sets of correctional programmes, including the “Correctional Courses” for rehabilitated offenders, the “Crime Prevention for Youth” for juvenile offenders, and the “Correctional Courses” for special offenders. Through educational content such as personal growth, legal education, civic education, therapeutic courses and social services, these programmes aim to enhance users’ law-abiding awareness and positive lifestyles. In 2025, 147 courses were held, for a total of 1,300 participants.

The IAS provides halfway houses, the “Caring Employer Scheme,” and other supporting services for rehabilitated offenders, serving a total of 612 participants in 2025.

Diverse activities such as drug abuse prevention, crime prevention, and family support are provided for juvenile offenders, attracting a total of 885 participants in 2025.

Social Security Fund

The Social Security Fund Authority is under the supervision of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and is responsible for implementing various policy measures concerning social security and managing relevant resources.

The Social Security Fund was set up on 23 March, 1990, with a primary objective of providing social security to local employees at that time. With the exacerbated social phenomenon of ageing, residents’ demand for universal coverage is growing. In November 2008, the Government announced the Social Security and Old-age Pension System Reform Programme. Its core aim is to build a double-tier social security system, founded on the first-tier social security system, so that all Macao residents can enjoy basic social protection, particularly old-age protection, to improve their quality of life, with more ample protection for retirement life supported by the second-tier, non-mandatory Central Provident Fund.

Social Security System

Law No. 4/2010 – “Social Security System” came into effect on 1 January 2011. It is the first tier of the double-tier social security system. This system operates according to the principle of social insurance covering the entire population of Macao, with the aim of providing residents with basic social security and particularly pension security. Its income derives from contributions from gaming, a one-percent sharing from the recurrent income of the Government’s annual General Budget, three percent of the central executive budget balance by the end of every fiscal year, the contributions of

employees, employers and arbitrary contributors, employment fees for non-resident workers, and the income of the investment of the Social Security Fund.

Starting from 2022, the Social Security Fund has fully implemented the “Periodic Adjustment Mechanism of Social Security Fund’s Benefits”, under which pension and other benefits are reviewed and adjusted in a more scientific and systematic manner, thereby ensuring basic pension protection for residents and the sustainability of the social security mechanism. In 2025, the MSAR Government increased the amounts of various benefits and launched a study on optimising the mechanism.

Contribution

The Social Security System comprises an obligatory contribution system and an arbitrary contribution system. Employees and their employers are required to make obligatory contributions to the Social Security Fund, at an amount of 90 patacas per month (60 patacas by employers and 30 patacas by employees), and other Macao residents who comply with the relevant legal requirements can make contributions by enrolling in the arbitrary system, with the full amount of contributions – 90 patacas per month, to be paid by the beneficiaries themselves.

In 2025, a total of 350,000 beneficiaries made their contributions. They included around 280,000 employees and 70,000 voluntary contributors (including in-service public servants registered in the retirement and pension system). The contributions totalled around 380 million patacas.

Social Security Payments

According to the current social security system, eligible beneficiaries are legally entitled to pensions, disability allowance, unemployment allowance, sickness allowance, birth allowance, marriage allowance, funeral allowance, and compensation for respiratory occupational diseases.

In 2025, pensions and disability allowances were given to 174,000 people, 159,000 of whom received pensions. Besides, allowances were received by 14,000 people. Social security payments totalled about 6.85 billion patacas, including around 6.03 billion patacas for pensions (including an additional payment in January).

Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System

Law No. 7/2017 – “Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System” (or non-mandatory CPF) came into effect on 1 January 2018. It is the second tier in the double-tier social security system, aiming at enhancing retirement protection for citizens of the Macao SAR, and to fill a gap in the existing social security system.

The non-mandatory CPF comprises a contribution system and an allocation scheme. An account holder may make regular contributions via a contribution plan, and seek wealth accumulation through investment, to better prepare for a financially sound retirement.

In 2025, the Social Security Fund released the Review of the Current Status and Development of the Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System, which reported that the Non-Mandatory

Central Provident Fund System has been functioning smoothly and the public broadly accepts the concept of a mandatory system; however, due to the uneven pace of recovery across various industries, it is advised to keep non-mandatory participation for the time being. Following the report's recommendations, the Social Security Fund will collect economic data and gradually advance the Central Provident Fund System based on the principle of "forging consensus and gradually implementing".

Individual Account of Non-mandatory CPF

MSAR citizens falling into the following categories may become individual account holders of non-mandatory CPF:

1. Aged 18 or above;
2. Under the age of 18, but registered into the social security system in accordance with the law

An individual account of non-mandatory CPF comprises a sub-account managed by the government, a contribution sub-account, and a preserved sub-account.

Contribution System

There are a joint provident fund scheme and an individual provident fund scheme under the non-mandatory CPF. A joint provident fund scheme is designed for employees. The monthly contributions of a participating employee and his or her employer are calculated based on the employee's basic salary, being equivalent to five percent of the basic salary. The maximum and minimum caps to the contributions are linked to the Law on the Minimum Wage for Employees. An individual provident fund scheme is designed for all account holders with a monthly minimum contribution of 500 patacas, and a maximum amount linked to Law on the Minimum Wage for Employees, which is currently 3,500 patacas (and will be increased to 3,600 patacas starting from 2026). The contributions can be invested into the pension funds under non-mandatory CPF and managed by qualified fund management entities. By the end of 2025, there were eight fund management entities providing 53 open-end pension funds. In 2025, 332 employers and around 34,000 employees joined the non-mandatory CPF scheme; about 84,000 people joined the individual non-mandatory CPF scheme; and about 10,000 people opened or retained sub-accounts.

Upon termination of employment, the employee may be entitled to the accumulated benefits in the employer's part, according to the length of contribution and the applicable vesting schedule. Since an individual non-mandatory CPF account is portable, the benefits in the joint provident fund scheme will not be cleared and withdrawn due to employment termination, and can maintain the account for continued investment.

Allocation Scheme

Account holders who are alive on 1 January in the allocation year, and meet the following requirements within the year prior to the allocation, are eligible for a one-off Incentive Basic Fund of 10,000 patacas:

1. Permanent residents of the Macao Special Administrative Region;
2. Aged 22 or above; and
3. Resided in Macao for at least 183 days.

If the Government's budget implementation in previous fiscal years allows, account holders who fulfil the above requirements may receive the special allocation of funds if there is a budget surplus. These amounts are recorded in sub-accounts managed by the Government. The funds provided may be kept for accumulation, or transferred to the contributor's sub-account or preserved sub-account for investment through proper transfer application.

In 2025, there were 629,000 non-mandatory CPF individual account holders, of whom 419,000 were eligible for fund allocation, and the Government released 7,000 patacas to each account. Also, about 14,000 people received incentive allowances of 10,000 patacas. At the end of January 2026, the maximum accumulated appropriation and interest income of an account holder's sub-account managed by the Government was 91,000 patacas. If an account owner was eligible for the special allocation of a budget surplus since 2010, and has never transferred out, transferred or withdrawn funds from the government-managed sub-account, the accumulated interest income was up to 24,579 patacas.

Fund Withdrawal

To meet the objective of providing account holders more ample retirement protection, in general, an account holder must be aged 65 or above, or must fulfil other withdrawal conditions, before he or she can apply for fund withdrawal from his or her individual account. In 2025, there were about 11,000 approved applications for withdrawals, resulting in a total disbursement of 1.83 billion patacas.



Healthy Community Programme



The “Healthy Community” programme was launched on 24 March. Through cross-departmental collaboration within the MSAR Government, and engagement from associations and institutions across all sectors, the programme creates synergies focused on two key directions: promoting healthy behaviours and proactive health management. Together with the existing “Healthy Enterprises” and “Healthy Campus” programmes, the “Healthy Community” programme comprehensively addresses life, work and study, to collectively achieve the various goals of the Healthy Macao Blueprint, improve residents’ health, sense of fulfilment and wellbeing; and inject new vitality into a “Happy Macao”.



