

# Home safety and gap in related community service for Hong Kong elderly

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## Background

Elders tend to stay at home most of the time. Without high awareness on home safety problems, severe injuries like falls could cause degradation in mobility and threaten elderly's ability to self-care. It is essential to acknowledge home safety issues and promote adequate related community care.

## Method

A questionnaire that asks about (150 Hong Kong residents participated) :

- living environment i.e. potential home safety issues
- views on home safety information and services available in the community

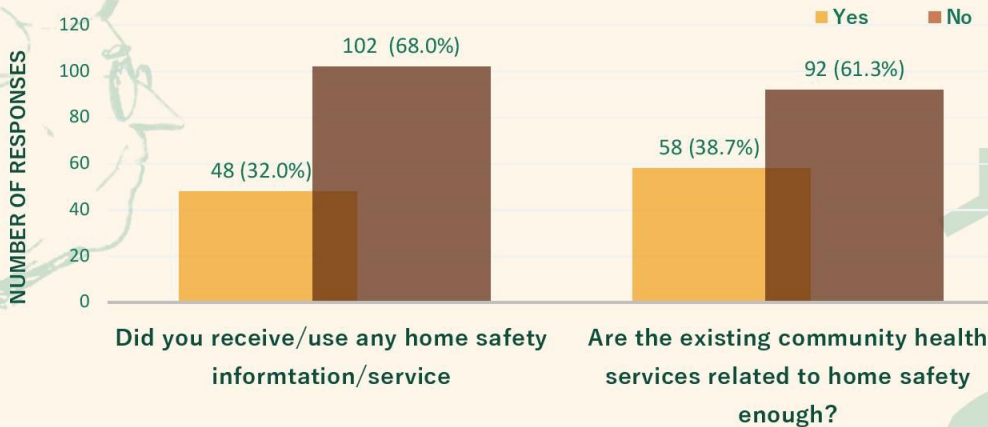


## Results

- Age group of above 55 to 59 was more likely to have injury/fall at home
- 44.2% of participants living alone had injury/fall at home
- 75.7% of them that are not living alone had not had injury/fall at home

Home area	Top safety problem	Responses
Entrance to front door	Lack of an outdoor grab bar	71 (47.3%)
Hallway or foyer	Cluttered area	29 (19.3%)
Living room	Not enough space to move around	48 (32%)
Kitchen	Cabinet is too high to reach things	76 (50.7%)
Bedroom	Lack of device to get in and out of bed	53 (35.3%)
Bathroom	Lack of grab bars in the bathroom	74 (49.3%)

## Views on home safety information and services



## Recommendations on promoting home safety

- Conduct in-home safety assessment → home-screening tests and safety checklists → direct observation and communication → tailor accessibility features
- Increase safety information in the community → educational events → intervene fall prevention behaviours
- Emerge assistive technology → motion and pressure sensors, audio reminder systems, sensors with alarms and vibration