



HONG KONG PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
香港民意研究所

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# Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute Hong Kong Public Opinion Program (HKPOP)

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## Special Report on the Effect of CE's Announcement of Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation

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### Research Report

**8 October 2019**

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## Background

Hong Kong Public Opinion Program (HKPOP) under the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) conducts regular surveys to measure public sentiment on various issues like the popularity of Chief Executive (CE), and publish the results for public consumption. In the course of conducting a tracking survey on 30 September to 3 October 2019, CE had not yet announced the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation, but there were news on 3 October that the preparation of legislation was almost completed. Finally CE Carrie Lam on 4 October at around 3pm announced the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance. In order to gauge the effect of this announcement, HKPOP immediately made the following arrangements: 1) conduct a special analysis of the survey findings by splitting the survey sample by date; 2) design a HKPOP Panel follow-up survey on 5-7 October.

Breakdown analysis of tracking survey shows that the news on the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation seems to have no significant effect on CE's popularity. In order to examine the effect of CE's announcement, HKPOP quickly conducted an online survey from 5-7 October with a non-probability based HKPOP Panel known as the Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel and successfully interviewed 22,756 citizens. It is an opt-in panel started in July 2019 open to any person in Hong Kong of age 12 or above. Because it is an opt-in panel, the views collected cannot be taken as representative of the Hong Kong population. However, when analyzed together with the findings of the random sampled tracking survey, findings from different sub-sectors of the panel have added to the explanatory power of the random telephone survey, as explained in the latter part of this report.

By design, the panel survey has copied two questions from the random telephone survey questions, namely, CE rating and CE approval, for running in-depth analyses. Besides that, one opinion question on CE's announcement of the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation is added.

## Survey Findings

Herewith the contact information and results of the tracking survey followed by those of the panel survey:

### HKPOP Tracking Survey

Table 1: Contact information of tracking survey

Date of survey	: 30/9-3/10/2019
Survey method	: Random telephone survey conducted by real interviewers
Target population	: Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above
Sample size <sup>[1]</sup>	: 1,004 (including 504 landline and 500 mobile samples)
Effective response rate <sup>[2]</sup>	: 64.5%

Sampling error <sup>[3]</sup>	: Sampling error of percentages not more than +/-4%, that of net values not more than +/-6% and that of ratings not more than +/-2.3 at 95% confidence level
Weighting method <sup>[4]</sup>	: Rim-weighted according to figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department. The gender-age distribution of the Hong Kong population came from “Mid-year population for 2018”, while the educational attainment (highest level attended) distribution and economic activity status distribution came from “Women and Men in Hong Kong - Key Statistics (2018 Edition)”.

- [1] The landline and mobile sample ratio was revised to 2 to 1 in April 2018 and further revised to 1 to 1 in July 2019.
- [2] Before September 2017, “overall response rate” was used to report surveys’ contact information. Starting from September 2017, “effective response rate” was used. In July 2018, POP further revised the calculation of effective response rate. Thus, the response rates before and after the change cannot be directly compared.
- [3] All error figures in this release are calculated at 95% confidence level, meaning that if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times with different random samples, we would expect 95 times having the population parameter within the respective error margins calculated. Because of sampling errors, when quoting percentages, journalists should refrain from reporting decimal places, whereas one decimal place can be used when quoting rating figures.
- [4] In the past, the mobile sample would be rim-weighted according to the basic Public Sentiment Index (PSI) figures collected in the landline sample. In July 2018, POP further refined the weighting method. The landline sample and the mobile sample would no longer be processed separately. The mobile sample would also no longer be adjusted using the basic PSI figures collected in the landline sample. The overall effect is that the importance of the mobile sample would be increased.

**Table 2: Results of tracking survey by survey date**

Date of survey	<u>30/9/19</u>	<u>2/10/19</u>	<u>3/10/19</u>	<u>30/9-3/10/19</u> <i>(Full sample)</i>
Sample size	356	399	249	<b>1,004</b>
Rating of CE Carrie Lam	23.2+/-3.2	20.6+/-3.0	23.6+/-3.8	<b>22.3+/-1.9</b>
Vote of confidence in CE Carrie Lam	16+/-4%	12+/-3%	17+/-5%	<b>15+/-2%</b>
Vote of no confidence in CE Carrie Lam	79+/-4%	82+/-4%	77+/-5%	<b>80+/-3%</b>
Net approval rate	-63+/-8%	-70+/-7%	-60+/-9%	<b>-65+/-5%</b>

Result of statistical analysis shows that the changes by survey date are all within sampling errors.

### **HKPOP Panel Survey**

**Table 3: Contact information of panel survey**

Date of survey	: 5-7/10/2019
Survey method	: Online survey
Target population	: Members of HKPOP Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel
Sample Size	: 22,756
Response rate	: 71.3%

Tables 4-6: Results of panel survey

After adjusting the findings of the key question of the panel survey according to the distribution of CE rating figures in the whole random telephone survey (1,004 respondents), the findings of the Panel Survey are as follows:

CE rating	Raw figures of the HKPOP Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel	Adjusted results according to the random telephone survey	Adjustment factor (the larger the value, the larger the magnitude of adjustment)
0 分	89%	52%	0.6
1-9 分	5%	3%	0.5
10-19 分	2%	5%	1.9
20-29 分	1%	5%	4.7
30-39 分	1%	5%	8.8
40-49 分	<1%	3%	8.0
50 分	<1%	11%	31.5
51-60 分	<1%	4%	10.7
61-70 分	<1%	3%	12.7
71-80 分	<1%	4%	15.0
81-90 分	<1%	1%	7.6
91-99 分	<1%	<1%	2.5
100 分	<1%	3%	11.8

The government has invoked emergency laws and announced a ban on face masks during all protests. How much do you support or oppose to the government's move?	Raw figures of the HKPOP Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel	Adjusted results according to the random telephone survey
Very much support	2%	25%
Somewhat support	<1%	4%
Half-half	1%	3%
Somewhat oppose	2%	3%
Very much oppose	95%	64%
Don't know / hard to say	<1%	<1%
Net support rate	-94%	-38%

Further cross-tabulating the key question with panel sub-groups yield the following results:

	The government has invoked emergency laws and announced a ban on face masks during all protests. How much do you support or oppose to the government's move?						Net support rate	Valid sample size
	Very much support	Somewhat support	Half-half	Somewhat oppose	Very much oppose	Don't know / hard to say		
CE rating:								
0 mark	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	98%	<1%	-99%	18,899
1-9 marks	1%	<1%	1%	4%	93%	1%	-96%	1,117
10-19 marks	2%	1%	5%	8%	84%	<1%	-88%	515
20-29 marks	8%	5%	7%	16%	63%	2%	-65%	243
30-39 marks	28%	13%	7%	17%	34%	2%	-11%	112
40-49 marks	43%	14%	13%	11%	14%	4%	33%	83
50 marks	69%	16%	9%	1%	5%	0%	78%	77
51-60 marks	80%	17%	0%	2%	1%	0%	93%	84
61-70 marks	87%	9%	0%	0%	4%	0%	93%	54
71-80 marks	91%	5%	0%	0%	4%	0%	93%	57
81-90 marks	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	35
91-99 marks	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	7
100 marks	89%	2%	0%	0%	9%	0%	82%	57
Those approving Carrie Lam as CE	77%	6%	0%	<1%	16%	0%	66%	202
Those disapproving Carrie Lam as CE	1%	<1%	1%	2%	96%	<1%	-97%	22,101

Besides, there is a follow-up question probing the different stance of respondents about their views on “anti-mask law”. After classifying according to the respondents’ stance, researchers made use of computer software to analyze thousands of words provided and tease out the most crucial or similar keywords. The different keywords were repacked into semantic-similar concepts. Herewith the popular qualitative comments from those who “support” or “oppose” the legislation:

Views from those who support:

- Follow the examples from foreign regions
- Assist law enforcement
- Be responsible for crimes committed

Views from those who oppose:

- Harm the balance of power
- Set a bad precedence
- Create white terror
- Useless measure; inadequate to control the situation
- Cannot enforce effectively

### **Observations**

The telephone survey conducted from 30 September to 3 October shows that the popularity rating of CE Carrie Lam stood at 22.3 marks overall. Breakdown analysis shows that her popularity rating per day hit a record low of 20.6 marks on 2 October. Her previous record low per poll was 24.6 registered in 15-20 August. Adjusted results using the post-announcement CE popularity figures projects that more than two-thirds of the general population objected to the legislation, and for those who gave zero marks to the CE, or who disapproved Carrie Lam as CE, opposition rate was as high as 98% to 99%. For those who approved Carrie Lam as CE, 83% supported the legislation.