

2006 Health Manpower Survey on Doctors

Key Findings

- The doctors covered in the 2006 HMS were doctors registered* with the Medical Council of Hong Kong on the list† of registered doctors resident in Hong Kong under the Medical Registration Ordinance (Chapter 161) as at the survey reference date i.e. 31.8.2006.
- The number of doctors covered in the 2006 HMS was 10 695.
- Of the 10 695 doctors covered, 5 949 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 55.6%. Of the 5 949 responding doctors, 5 385 were economically active‡§ (active) while 564 reported to be economically inactive¶ (inactive) in the local medical profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 5 385 active doctors, 5 358 were practising in the local medical profession, 22 doctors were seeking job in the local medical profession during the Survey period and two reported as having temporary sickness. Three inactive doctors were expecting to return to their original job, starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the local medical profession during the 30 days before the Survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 5 358 responding doctors who were practising in the local medical profession as at 31.8.2006. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Four active doctors did not indicate their sex. Among the remaining 5 354 active doctors enumerated, 3 880 (72.5%) were male and 1 474 (27.5%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 263 (males per 100 females). 29 doctors did not indicate their age. The median age of the remaining 5 329 active doctors enumerated was 42.0 years.
 - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job¶ showed that a large proportion was working in the Hospital Authority 2 449 (45.7%), followed by those working in private sector 2 395 (44.7%), the Government 303 (5.7%), the academic and subvented sectors 186 (3.5%).
 - (iii) Of the 5 358 active doctors enumerated, 3 173 (59.2%) spent most of their working time in specialist practice. Those who spent most of the working time in general practice and administration /management attributed to 1 806 (33.7%) and 110 (2.1%) respectively. Another 12 (0.2%) spent most of the working time on teaching / education.
 - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 5 358 active doctors enumerated was 48.0 hours. 2 524 (47.1%) doctors were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 20.0 hours of on-call duty (outside normal working hours) per week.
- Among the 564 inactive doctors (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 231 doctors reported practising overseas and ten doctors reported practising in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 323 doctors reported not practising in the medical profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local medical profession during the 30 days before the Survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: retired (76.2%) (with median age being 68.0 years), working in other professions (6.8%), wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need (5.0%), engaged in household duties (4.6%), emigrated (2.8%), etc.

* Refer to doctors registered in Part I of the Medical Register maintained by the Medical Council of Hong Kong under the Medical Registration Ordinance (Chapter 161). These include doctors who hold Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery issued in Hong Kong (MBBS (HK) / MBChB (CUHK)), Licentiate of Medical Council of Hong Kong (LMCHK) or other overseas qualification registered with the Medical Council of Hong Kong.

† As the 2006 Health Manpower Survey only aimed at covering all doctors practising in Hong Kong, doctors on the non-resident list of the Medical Register were excluded from the Survey.

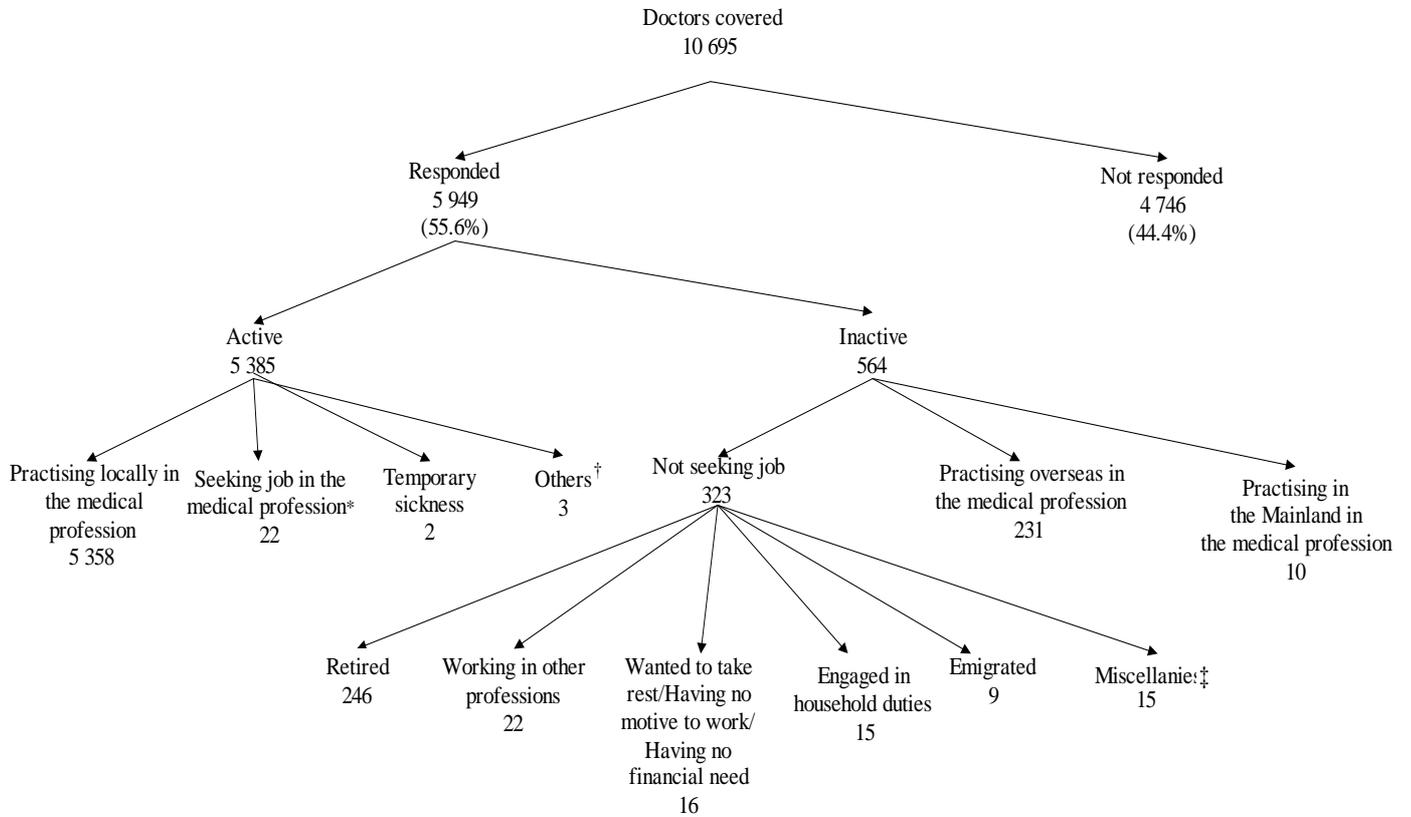
‡ In the Survey, the criteria used in defining economically active/inactive follow those recommended by the International Labour Organisation, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

§ “Economically active” doctors comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” doctors. “Employed” doctors referred to those doctors practising in the medical profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period, while “unemployed” doctors referred to those doctors who (a) were not practising in the local medical profession during the Survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) had sought work in the local medical profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

¶ “Economically inactive” doctors comprised the doctors who were not practising in the medical profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the Survey period and who were “unemployed”.

¶ Main job refers to the job in which the doctors had spent most of their working time.

Activity Status of Doctors Covered



Notes:

* Figure refers to the number of responding doctors who (a) were not practising in the medical profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey and (c) had sought work in the medical profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

† Figure refers to the number of responding doctors who (a) were not practising in the medical profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) were expecting to return to their original jobs in the medical profession, starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the medical profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

‡ Figure refers to the number of responding doctors who reported undertaking study, etc.