

1996 Health Manpower Survey

Summary of the Characteristics of Nurses and Allied Nursing Personnel Enumerated

1. Types of Nurses and Allied Nursing Personnel Covered

1.1 A total of 24 524 nurses and allied nursing personnel were covered in the 1996 Health Manpower Survey (HMS), representing an increase of 14.1% over the 1992 HMS (21 488). They could be categorized into six types, namely, registered nurses (RN), enrolled nurses (EN), student nurses (SN), pupil nurses (PN), registered midwives (RM) and other allied nursing personnel (OANP).

1.2 RN and EN refer to nursing personnel who possess the Certificate of Registration (Part I/II/III/IV) and the Certificate of Enrolment (Part I/II) respectively issued by the Nursing Board of Hong Kong under the Nurses Registration Ordinance (Chapter 164). SN and PN refer to those undergoing classroom and on-the-job training leading to the registration as RN and the enrolment as EN respectively.

1.3 RM refer to nursing personnel (excluding RN or EN with midwifery qualification) who possess the Certificate of Registration issued by the Midwives Board of Hong Kong under the Midwives Registration Ordinance (Chapter 162). OANP refer to nursing personnel with in-service nursing training in Hong Kong or formal nursing training in other countries who are neither registered nor enrolled with the Nursing and Midwives Boards of Hong Kong.

2. Registered Nurses and Student Nurses

2.1 12 260 RN were enumerated in the 1996 HMS. Among them, 92.4% were in the general stream whilst 7.6% were in the psychiatric stream. The sex ratio of the RN in the general stream was 9 (males per 100 females), which was much lower than the corresponding figure in the psychiatric stream (87). The overall sex ratio was 13 (males per 100 females). The mean age of the RN in the general stream (34.3) was lower than that in the psychiatric stream (35.6). The overall mean age was 34.4.

2.2 78.0% of the RN enumerated worked in the Hospital Authority (HA), followed by the private sector (10.0%) and the government (8.5%). Compared among different streams, the share for the HA was higher in the psychiatric (95.7%) than the general stream (76.5%).

2.3 50.9% of the RN enumerated had received additional training in nursing. The percentage of RN having received additional training was higher in the general stream (52.0%) when compared with the psychiatric stream (38.0%).

2.4 There were 2 256 SN enumerated in the survey. 92.2% and 7.8% of them were in the general and psychiatric streams respectively. All the SN in the psychiatric stream were receiving their training in the HA. For those in the general stream, HA accounted for 91.9% whereas the remaining 8.1% were receiving their training in private hospitals. Their overall sex ratio was 11 (males per 100 females) and their overall mean age was 22.9.

3. Enrolled Nurses and Pupil Nurses

3.1 4 774 EN were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, of whom 89.2% were in the general stream and 10.8% were in the psychiatric stream. The sex ratio for the EN in the general stream was 4 (males per 100 females), which was lower than the corresponding figure in the psychiatric stream (33). The overall sex ratio was 6 (males per 100 females). The mean age of the EN in the general stream (34.9) was higher than that in the psychiatric stream (33.2). The overall mean age was 34.7.

3.2 59.3% of the EN enumerated worked in the HA. Those in the government and other sectors accounted for 9.7% and 31.0% respectively. Compared among different streams, the share for the HA was higher in the psychiatric (92.8%) than the general stream (55.3%).

3.3 5.8% of the EN enumerated had received additional training in nursing. The percentage of EN having received additional training was higher in the general stream (6.2%) when compared with the psychiatric stream (2.7%).

3.4 There were 1 083 PN enumerated in the survey. 93.7% and 6.3% of them were in the general and psychiatric streams respectively. All the PN in the psychiatric stream were receiving their training in the HA. For those in the general stream, HA accounted for 81.8% whereas the remaining 18.2% were receiving their training in private hospitals. Their overall sex ratio was 10 (males per 100 females) and their overall mean age was 21.6.

4. Registered Midwives and Other Allied Nursing Personnel

4.1 154 RM were enumerated in the survey. All of them were females, with a mean age of 48.7. 46.1% of them worked in the government, followed by the HA (39.0%) and the private sector (14.9%).

4.2 There were 595 OANP enumerated in the survey, with a sex ratio of 18 (males per 100 females) and an overall mean age of 46.4. Majority of them worked in the private sector.

5. Inter-sector Flow of Nurses and Midwives Enumerated

5.1 Among the nurses and midwives enumerated in the survey, 8 755, 1 599, 3 329, 562 and 150 reported to be practising locally as RN, SN, EN, PN and RM respectively as at 1.7.1992. Majority of them remained working in the same sector between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996, and none of the 150 RM had undergone inter-sector flow during the period.

5.2 On the other hand, 1 906 RN, 883 EN and 4 RM enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the respective professions as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the respective professions, working in the same profession abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 73.7% of the RN and 69.1% of the EN were employed by the HA whilst all the 4 RM joined the private sector after 1.7.1992.