

2007 Health Manpower Survey on Dentists

Key Findings

- The dentists covered in the 2007 HMS were those registered with the Dental Council of Hong Kong on the list* of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong as at the survey reference date - 31.8.2007.
- The number of dentists covered in the 2007 HMS was 1 838.
- Of the 1 838 dentists covered, 1 152 had responded to the survey, giving an overall response rate of 62.7%. Of the 1 152 responded dentists, 1 092 (94.8%) were economically active†‡ (active) whereas 60 (5.2%) reported to be economically inactive†§ (inactive) in the local dental profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 1 092 active dentists, 1 081 (99.0%) were practising in the local dental profession, and six were seeking jobs in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the survey. Five were starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 1 081 responded dentists practising in the local dental profession as at 31.8.2007. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 1 081 active dentists enumerated, 787 (72.8%) were male and 294 (27.2%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 268 (males per 100 females). The median age of the 1 081 active dentists enumerated was 43.0 years old.
 - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job|| showed that 794 (73.5 %) were working in the private sector, followed by 190 (17.6%) working in the Government, 62 (5.7%) in the academic¶ sector and 27 (2.5%) in the subvented sector.
 - (iii) 930 (86.0%) spent most of their working time in general dentistry, followed by 113 (10.5%) in specialist practice, 19 (1.8%) in teaching / education and 11 (1.0%) in administration / management.
 - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 1 081 active dentists enumerated was 44.0 hours. 75 (6.9%) dentists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 8.0 hours of on-call duty (outside normal working hours) per week.
- Among the 60 inactive dentists (*See Chart*):
 - (i) 29 dentists reported practising overseas/in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 28 dentists reported not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: retired (53.6%) (with median age being 73.0 years old), working in other professions (21.4%), wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need (14.3%), etc.

* As the 2007 Health Manpower Survey only aimed at covering all dentists practising in Hong Kong, dentists on the list of registered dentists outside Hong Kong of the Dental Register were excluded from the survey.

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

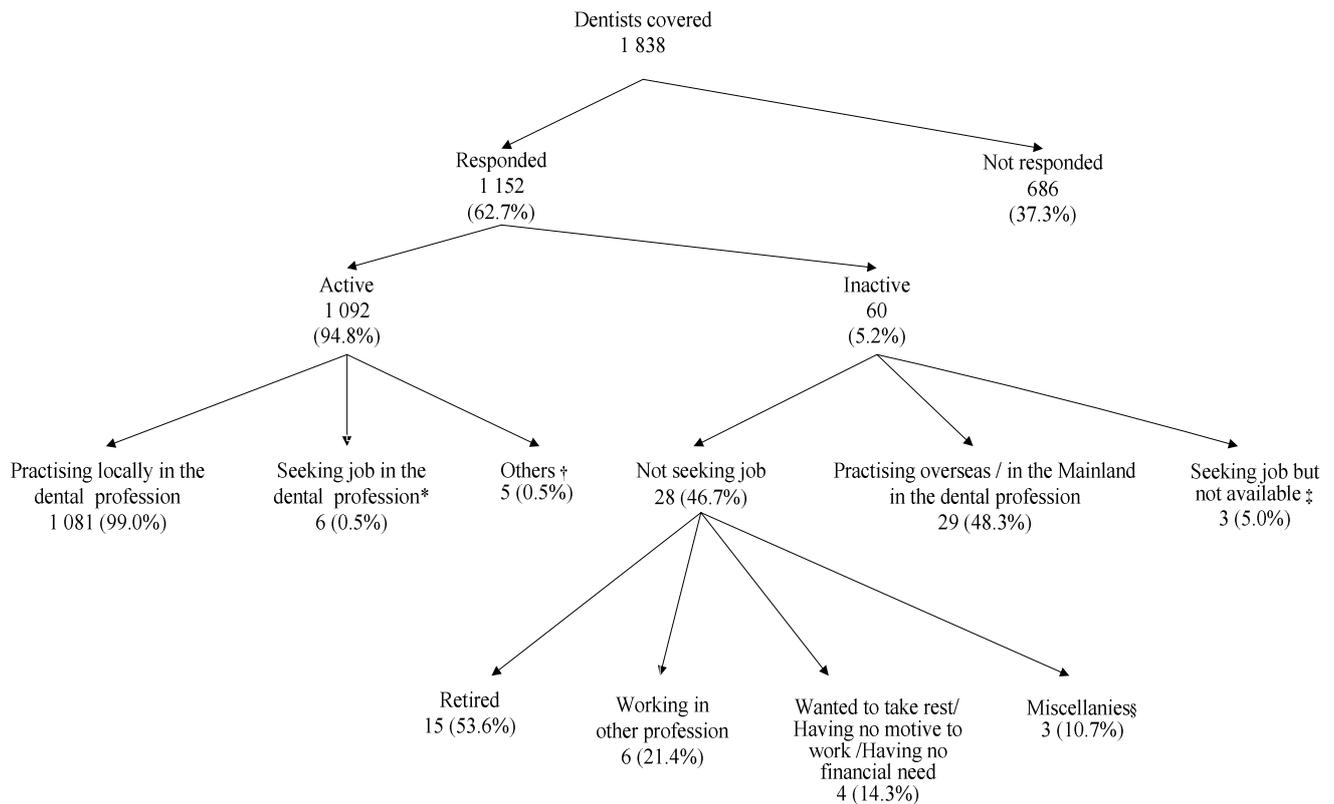
‡ “Economically active” dentists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” dentists. “Employed” dentists referred to those dentists practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while “unemployed dentists” referred to those dentists who (a) were not practising in the local dental 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 dental profession during the 30 days before the survey.

§ “Economically inactive” dentists comprised the responded dentists who were not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the survey period and those who were economically active but “unemployed”.

|| Main job refers to the job in which the dentists had spent most of their working time.

¶ Includes universities and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

Activity Status of Dentists Covered



- Notes:
- * Figure refers to the number of responded dentists who (a) were not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work in the local dental profession during the seven days before the survey; and (c) had sought work in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the survey.
 - † Figure refers to the number of responded dentists who (a) were not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the survey; and (c) were starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the survey.
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 - § Figure refers to the number of responded dentists who reported emigrated, undertaking study, etc.