

1996 Health Manpower Survey

Summary of the Characteristics of Allied Health Personnel Enumerated

Department of Health
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1. Types of Allied Health Personnel Enumerated

1.1 The 1996 Health Manpower Survey (HMS) enumerated the following types of allied health personnel practising in Hong Kong as at 1.7.1996:

- (i) audiologists/audiology technicians (page 2)
- (ii) speech therapists (page 3)
- (iii) chiropractors (page 3)
- (iv) dietitians (page 4)
- (v) medical laboratory technologists (page 4)
- (vi) medical laboratory assistants (page 5)
- (vii) occupational therapists (page 5)
- (viii) occupational therapy assistants (page 6)
- (ix) optometrists (page 6)
- (x) optical technicians (page 7)
- (xi) orthoptists (page 7)
- (xii) pharmacists (page 7)
- (xiii) dispensers (public sector) (page 8)
- (xiv) physiotherapists (page 8)
- (xv) physiotherapy assistants (page 9)
- (xvi) prosthetist-orthotists (page 9)
- (xvii) clinical psychologists (page 9)
- (xviii) educational psychologists (page 10)
- (xix) diagnostic radiographers (page 10)
- (xx) therapeutic radiographers (page 11)
- (xxi) X-ray technicians/assistants (page 12)
- (xxii) mould laboratory technicians (page 12)

Based on the data collected on these types of enumerated personnel, their characteristics were analysed and presented in the summary below. There were also other types of allied health personnel enumerated in the survey. As the numbers were small, in order to safeguard confidentiality of information provided by individual personnel, their characteristics were not presented in this summary.

2. Characteristics of Audiologists/Audiology Technicians and Speech Therapists Enumerated

2.1 Audiologists/Audiology technicians

2.1.1 Audiologists refer to the personnel who hold a Master of Science in Audiology, or equivalent. These include those Scientific Officers (Medical) with relevant qualifications working in the audiometric service in the Hospital Authority (HA) or the Department of Health. On the other hand, audiology technicians refer to the personnel who hold the Certificate of Audiology Technicians' Training Course and the Certificate of qualifying examinations issued by the British Association of Audiology Technicians, or equivalent. Accordingly, a total of 37 audiologists/audiology technicians were enumerated in the 1996 HMS. This was slightly less than the corresponding figure of the 1992 HMS (40).

2.1.2 Among the 37 audiologists/audiology technicians enumerated, 73.0% were males, giving an overall sex ratio of 270 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 36.8.

2.1.3 Of the audiologists/audiology technicians enumerated, 35.1% and 45.9% worked in the government and the HA respectively.

2.1.4 The two common basic qualifications held by the 37 audiologists/audiology technicians enumerated were Master of Science in Audiology (40.5%) and Member of the British Association of Audiology Technicians (35.1%).

2.1.5 70.3% of the audiologists/audiology technicians enumerated reported to be practising locally in the audiology profession as at 1.7.1992. About half of those working in the government as at 1.7.1992 had shifted to the HA and private sector between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. As regards those working in other sectors, only a few of them had undergone inter-sector flow during the period. On the other hand, 29.7% of the audiologists/audiology technicians enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the audiology profession, working as audiologists/audiology technicians abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, majority joined the government and the HA after 1.7.1992.

2.2 Speech therapists

2.2.1 Speech therapists refer to the personnel who hold a Degree in Speech Therapy and Language Therapy, or equivalent. Accordingly, a total of 79 speech therapists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, which was almost double of that of the 1992 HMS (41).

2.2.2 Among the 79 speech therapists enumerated, 86.1% were females, giving a sex ratio of 16 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 29.6.

2.2.3 Of the speech therapists enumerated, 44.3% worked in the subvented sector, followed by the HA (35.4%), the government (15.2%) and the private sector (5.1%).

2.2.4 96.2% of the speech therapists enumerated held a Degree in Speech Therapy or Degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences as their basic qualification.

2.2.5 22 of the speech therapists enumerated reported to be practising locally in the speech therapy profession as at 1.7.1992. Only a few of them had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 57 of the speech therapists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the speech therapy profession, working as speech therapists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 56.1% joined the subvented sector after 1.7.1992, followed by the HA (31.6%) and other sectors (12.3%).

3. Characteristics of Chiropractors Enumerated

3.1 Chiropractors refer to the personnel who were trained and qualified in the practice of chiropractic. Accordingly, a total of 24 chiropractors were enumerated in the 1996 HMS.

3.2 Majority of the 24 chiropractors enumerated were males. Their overall mean age was 43.0. They were all practising in the private sector.

3.3 As revealed in the survey, 70.8% of the chiropractors enumerated possessed doctoral degree in chiropractic as their basic qualification.

3.4 Among the 24 chiropractors enumerated in the survey, 70.8% reported to be practising locally in the chiropractic profession as at 1.7.1992. They all remained in the private sector between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 29.2% of the chiropractors enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, most of them were practising or studying in chiropractic abroad.

4. Characteristics of Dietitians Enumerated

4.1 Dietitians refer to the personnel who possess a degree or a postgraduate diploma in dietetics recognized by the British Dietetic Association for Membership, or equivalent. Accordingly, 61 dietitians were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, which was the same as that of the 1992 HMS.

4.2 Among the 61 dietitians enumerated, only 4 were males, giving a sex ratio of 7 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 36.8. 83.6% of them were employed by the HA.

4.3 50.8% of the dietitians enumerated possessed bachelor's degree in dietetics/nutrition/food whereas 18.0% held postgraduate diploma in dietetics as their basic qualification.

4.4 33 of the dietitians enumerated reported to be practising locally as dietitians as at 1.7.1992. Majority of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 28 of the dietitians enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, most of them were practising or studying in dietetics abroad, or working in other profession etc. Among them, 82.1% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

5. Characteristics of Medical Laboratory Technologists Enumerated

5.1 Medical laboratory technologists

5.1.1 Medical laboratory technologists refer to the personnel who are registered with the Medical Laboratory Technologists Board of Hong Kong under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Chapter 359). Accordingly, 1 715 medical laboratory technologists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing a decrease of 0.9% compared with the 1992 HMS (1 731).

5.1.2 Among the 1 715 medical laboratory technologists enumerated, 52.7% were females, giving a sex ratio of 90 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 34.5.

5.1.3 54.3% of the medical laboratory technologists enumerated worked in the HA, followed by the private sector (26.5%), the government (12.0%) and other sectors (7.1%).

5.1.4 96.9% of the medical laboratory technologists enumerated obtained relevant academic qualification in the profession. Of these, Diploma/Higher Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Ordinary/Higher Certificate in Medical Laboratory Science/Technology issued by the University of Hong Kong were the two most popular ones recorded.

5.1.5 Among the medical laboratory technologists enumerated in the survey, 1 380 reported to be practising medical laboratory technology locally as at 1.7.1992. For the medical laboratory technologists working in the HA, the private sector and the government as at 1.7.1992, only 2.1%, 6.5% and 13.5% had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996 respectively. However, the corresponding figure for those working in other sectors was as high as 55.2%. On the other hand, 335 of the medical laboratory technologists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying medical laboratory science, practising as medical laboratory technologists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 58.2% joined the HA after 1.7.1992, followed by the private sector (18.2%), the government (12.5%) and other sectors (11.0%).

5.2 Medical laboratory assistants

5.2.1 Medical laboratory assistants refer to the personnel who assist medical laboratory technologists in practising medical laboratory technology. Accordingly, 128 medical laboratory assistants were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, of whom 53.1% were females, giving a sex ratio of 88 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 38.0. 47.7% of them were working in the HA, followed by the private sector (35.2%), the subvented/academic sector (10.9%) and the government (6.3%).

6. Characteristics of Occupational Therapists Enumerated

6.1 Occupational therapists

6.1.1 Occupational therapists refer to the personnel who are registered with the Occupational Therapists Board of Hong Kong under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Chapter 359). Accordingly, 490 occupational therapists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 35.4% over the 1992 HMS (362).

6.1.2 Of the 490 occupational therapists enumerated, 66.1% were females, giving a sex ratio of 51 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 29.8.

6.1.3 71.2% of the occupational therapists enumerated worked in the HA, followed by the subvented/academic sector (19.0%), the private sector (6.3%) and the government (3.5%).

6.1.4 94.3% of the occupational therapists enumerated possessed Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on or after 1.1.1994 or Professional Diploma in Occupational Therapy issued by the former Hong Kong Polytechnic before 1.1.1994 as their basic qualification.

6.1.5 276 of the occupational therapists enumerated reported to be practising locally in the occupational therapy profession as at 1.7.1992. Whilst majority of the occupational therapists working in the HA and the government as at 1.7.1992 remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996, 37.6% and about half of those working in the subvented/academic and private sectors respectively as at 1.7.1992 had undergone inter-sector flow during the same period. On the other hand, 214 of the occupational therapists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the occupational therapy profession, working as occupational therapists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 80.4% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

6.2 Occupational therapy assistants

6.2.1 Occupational therapy assistants refer to the personnel who, under the supervision of occupational therapists, assist in carrying out medically oriented vocational, educational and recreational activities designed to rehabilitate the physically and mentally disabled persons. Accordingly, a total of 194 occupational therapy assistants were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, of whom 50.5% were females, giving a sex ratio of 98 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 40.8. 78.4% of them were found in the HA.

7. Characteristics of Optical Personnel Enumerated

7.1 Optometrists

7.1.1 Optometrists refer to the personnel who are registered with the Optometrists Board of Hong Kong under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Chapter 359). Accordingly, a total of 1 054 optometrists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS. Comparisons with previous years were however not available as the need for a person practising optometry in Hong Kong to hold a valid practising certificate has only become a mandatory requirement since April 1996.

7.1.2 Of the 1 054 optometrists enumerated, 84.4% were males, giving a sex ratio of 543 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 39.9. 96.6% of them worked in the private sector.

7.1.3 32.4% of the optometrists enumerated were found to have obtained basic qualification registrable with the Optometrists Board. Of these, Degree in Optometry, Professional Diploma in Optometry (H.K.) and Certificate/Higher Certificate in Optometry (H.K.) were the three most common ones recorded. The remaining 67.6% of the optometrists enumerated possessed no academic qualification but had acquired substantial knowledge, experience and skill in the practice of their profession.

7.1.4 Among the optometrists enumerated in the survey, 979 reported to be practising locally in the optometry profession as at 1.7.1992. Most of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 75 of the optometrists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the optometry profession, working as optometrists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 84.0% joined the private sector after 1.7.1992.

7.2 Optical technicians

7.2.1 Optical technicians refer to the personnel who perform grinding and glazing of spectacle lenses in their frames and the fitting of the same and sight-testing for spectacles and refraction. Accordingly, 605 optical technicians were enumerated in the 1996 HMS.

7.2.2 Of the 605 optical technicians enumerated, 97 were females, giving a sex ratio of 524 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 29.8. Nearly all of them were found in private sector.

7.3 Orthoptists

7.3.1 Orthoptists refer to the personnel who possess a diploma or degree in orthoptic, or equivalent. Accordingly, a total of 12 orthoptists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS.

7.3.2 Of the 12 orthoptists enumerated, 50.0% were females. Their overall mean age was 34.3. 7 of them worked in the HA and the remaining 5 were found in the government and the private sector. They all possessed the Diploma of the British Orthoptic Council or the Diploma of Applied Science in Orthoptic as their basic qualification.

8. Characteristics of Pharmacists and Dispensers Enumerated

8.1 Pharmacists

8.1.1 Pharmacists refer to the personnel who are registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Chapter 138). Accordingly, a total of 610 pharmacists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 39.0% over the 1992 HMS (439).

8.1.2 Of the 610 pharmacists enumerated, 57.5% were males, giving a sex ratio of 136 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 37.1.

8.1.3 63.0% of the pharmacists enumerated worked in the private sector, followed by the HA (29.3%), the government (5.9%) and the subvented/academic sector (1.8%).

8.1.4 93.8% of the pharmacists enumerated possessed Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy as their basic qualification.

8.1.5 Among the pharmacists enumerated in the survey, 366 reported to be practising locally in the pharmacy profession as at 1.7.1992. Majority of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996, except that 19.6%, 8.7%, 33.3% and 5.4% of those working in the HA, the government, the subvented/academic sector and the private sector respectively as at 1.7.1992 had undergone inter-sector flow during the period. On the other hand, 244 of the pharmacists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the pharmacy profession, working as pharmacists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 55.7% joined the private sector after 1.7.1992, followed by the HA (36.9%), the government (4.5%) and the subvented/academic sector (2.9%).

8.2 Dispensers (public sector)

8.2.1 Dispensers refer to the personnel who have completed a 3-year classroom and on-the-job training in dispensing and obtained the Certificate in Dispensing Studies awarded by the Vocational Training Council, or equivalent. Only those reported to be practising in the public sector, including the government, HA and subvented/academic sector, were covered in the HMS. Accordingly, a total of 591 dispensers (public sector) were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 1.4% over the 1992 HMS (583).

8.2.2 Among the 591 dispensers (public sector) enumerated, 58.4% were males, giving a sex ratio of 140 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 34.8.

8.2.3 40.8% of the dispensers (public sector) enumerated worked in the government. Of the remaining 59.2%, majority were employed by the HA while only a few were enumerated in the academic sector.

8.2.4 78.8% of the dispensers (public sector) enumerated were locally trained with the Certificate of Competence (Dispenser) or the Certificate in Dispensing Studies. It was also found that 11.5% of the dispensers (public sector) enumerated possessed Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy issued overseas as their basic qualification.

8.2.5 Among the dispensers (public sector) enumerated in the survey, 433 and 56 reported to be working locally as dispensers (public sector) and student dispensers (public sector) respectively as at 1.7.1992. Most of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 102 of the dispensers (public sector) enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession in public sector as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the dispensing profession, working as dispensers in private sector or abroad, or working in other professions etc. Among them, 87.3% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

9. Characteristics of Physiotherapists Enumerated

9.1 Physiotherapists

9.1.1 Physiotherapists refer to the personnel who possess Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy or equivalent. Accordingly, 693 physiotherapists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 28.6% over the 1992 HMS (539).

9.1.2 Of the 693 physiotherapists enumerated, 58.0% were females, giving a sex ratio of 72 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 30.3.

9.1.3 76.3% of the physiotherapists enumerated were employed by the HA. The remaining were shared among the private sector (11.8%), subvented/academic sector (10.7%) and the government (1.2%).

9.1.4 66.1% and 26.0% of the physiotherapists enumerated possessed the Professional Diploma in Physiotherapy issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Bachelor in Physiotherapy/Rehabilitation respectively as their basic qualification.

9.1.5 Among the physiotherapists enumerated in the survey, 399 reported to be practising locally in the physiotherapy profession as at 1.7.1992. 4.4% of those who previously worked in the HA as at 1.7.1992 had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996, which was smaller than the corresponding figures of the private sector (20.0%) and subvented/academic sector (32.0%). It was further revealed that all of the physiotherapists working in the government as at 1.7.1992 remained in the government between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 294 of the physiotherapists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the physiotherapy profession, working as physiotherapists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 79.6% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

9.2 Physiotherapy assistants

9.2.1 Physiotherapy assistants refer to the personnel with no relevant professional qualification but are working in the field of physiotherapy. Accordingly, 100 physiotherapy assistants were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, of whom 72.0% were females, giving a sex ratio of 39 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 41.5. The private sector and the HA each accounted for 44.0% of the physiotherapy assistants enumerated.

10. Characteristics of Prosthetist-orthotists Enumerated

10.1 Prosthetist-orthotists refer to the personnel who possess a Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics (H.K.) or equivalent. Accordingly, 56 prosthetist-orthotists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, which was slightly smaller than the corresponding figure of the 1992 HMS (59).

10.2 All the 56 prosthetist-orthotists enumerated were males. Their mean age was 33.6. 53 of them were employed by the HA.

10.3 As revealed in the survey, nearly all the prosthetist-orthotists enumerated possessed the Certificate/Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics as their basic qualification.

10.4 43 of the prosthetist-orthotists enumerated reported to be practising locally as prosthetist-orthotists and another 10 were in the student rank as at 1.7.1992. Among these 53 prosthetist-orthotists, only a few had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 3 prosthetist-orthotists reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were either not at work or working in other professions. They all joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

11. Characteristics of Psychologists Enumerated

11.1 Clinical psychologists

11.1.1 Clinical psychologists refer to the personnel who hold a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology or equivalent. Accordingly, 92 clinical psychologists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, which was more than double of that of the 1992 HMS (45).

11.1.2 Of the 92 clinical psychologists enumerated, 66.3% were females, giving a sex ratio of 51 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 37.1.

11.1.3 Most of the clinical psychologists enumerated were employed by the HA (44.6%) and the government (41.3%).

11.1.4 89.1% of the clinical psychologists enumerated possessed the Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology as their basic qualification.

11.1.5 Among the 92 clinical psychologists enumerated in the survey, 55.4% reported to be practising locally in the clinical psychology profession as at 1.7.1992. Most of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996, except that over half of the clinical psychologists working in the subvented/academic sector as at 1.7.1992 had undergone inter-sector flow during the period. On the other hand, 44.6% of the clinical psychologists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the clinical psychology profession, working as clinical psychologists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 53.7% and 34.1% joined the HA and the government respectively after 1.7.1992.

11.2 Educational psychologists

11.2.1 Educational psychologists refer to the personnel who hold a Master's Degree in Psychology, or an Honours Degree in Psychology, or equivalent, and with two years' post-graduate experience in educational psychology. Accordingly, 32 educational psychologists were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, which was the same as that of the 1992 HMS.

11.2.2 Among the educational psychologists enumerated, 26 were females, giving a sex ratio of 23 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 38.8.

11.2.3 71.9% of the educational psychologists enumerated were found in the government.

11.2.4 Majority of the educational psychologists enumerated possessed a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology as their basic qualification.

11.2.5 Among the 32 educational psychologists enumerated in the survey, 59.4% reported to be practising locally in the educational psychology profession as at 1.7.1992. All of them remained in the respective sectors between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 40.6% of the educational psychologists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the educational psychology profession, working as educational psychologists abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 46.2% were employed by the government after 1.7.1992. The rest joined either the private or subvented/academic sectors.

12. Characteristics of Radiographers and Radiological Workers Enumerated

12.1 Diagnostic radiographers

12.1.1 Diagnostic radiographers refer to the personnel who possess the Professional Diploma or Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Radiography issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University or equivalent, and are practising in diagnostic radiology. Accordingly, 657 diagnostic radiographers were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 55.7% over the 1992 HMS (422).

12.1.2 Among the 657 diagnostic radiographers enumerated, 52.2% were males, giving a sex ratio of 109 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 34.2.

12.1.3 Majority of the diagnostic radiographers enumerated worked in the HA (65.0%) and the private sector (32.1%).

12.1.4 55.7% and 18.9% of the diagnostic radiographers enumerated possessed the Professional Diploma in Diagnostic Radiography and Certificate/Higher Certificate in Diagnostic Radiography respectively as their basic qualification.

12.1.5 Among the diagnostic radiographers enumerated in the survey, 496 reported to be practising locally in the diagnostic radiography profession as at 1.7.1992. Only 3.6% of them had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 161 of the diagnostic radiographers enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the diagnostic radiography profession, working as diagnostic radiographers abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 80.1% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

12.2 Therapeutic radiographers

12.2.1 Therapeutic radiographers refer to the personnel who possess the Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Radiography issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University or have passed the examination organized by the College of Radiographers or equivalent, and are practising in therapeutic radiology. Accordingly, 88 therapeutic radiographers were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 46.7% over the 1992 HMS (60).

12.2.2 Among the 88 therapeutic radiographers enumerated, 68.2% were males, giving a sex ratio of 214 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 32.9.

12.2.3 Of the 88 therapeutic radiographers enumerated, 89.8% were employed by the HA. The remaining worked in the universities and private sector.

12.2.4 Most of the therapeutic radiographers enumerated held the Diploma of College of Radiographers (Therapeutic) (U.K.) (75.0%) or Bachelor of Science in Radiography (15.9%) as their basic qualification.

12.2.5 Among the therapeutic radiographers enumerated in the survey, 48 and 11 reported to be practising locally as therapeutic radiographers and student therapeutic radiographers respectively as at 1.7.1992. Only a few of them had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996. On the other hand, 29 of the therapeutic radiographers enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the therapeutic radiography profession, working as therapeutic radiographers abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 89.7% joined the HA after 1.7.1992.

12.3 X-ray technicians/assistants

12.3.1 X-ray technicians/assistants refer to the personnel who perform radiography and related technical duties under the supervision of a doctor or a radiographer. Accordingly, 153 X-ray technicians/assistants were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing a decrease of 5.0% over the 1992 HMS (161).

12.3.2 Of the 153 X-ray technicians/assistants enumerated, 55.6% were females, giving a sex ratio of 80 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 43.2.

12.3.3 61.4% of the X-ray technicians/assistants enumerated were working in the private sector. Of the remaining 38.6%, majority were employed by the government and the HA.

12.4 Mould laboratory technicians

12.4.1 Mould laboratory technicians refer to the personnel who have completed a three-year training and passed the Mould Laboratory Technicians Examination. Those working in the private hospitals with formal on-the-job training but did not possess relevant professional qualification were also included. Accordingly, a total of 17 mould laboratory technicians were enumerated in the 1996 HMS, representing a decrease of 15.0% over the 1992 HMS (20).

12.4.2 Of the 17 mould laboratory technicians enumerated, 76.5% were males, giving a sex ratio of 325 (males per 100 females). Their overall mean age was 32.2. Majority of them were employed by the HA.

12.4.3 All the mould laboratory technicians working in the HA held the Certificate/Diploma in Mould Laboratory Technology as their basic qualification. Those working in private institutions had undergone on-the-job training only but did not possess any relevant professional qualification.