

2005 Health Manpower Survey on Doctors

Key Findings

- The doctors covered in the 2005 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. 31.8.2005.
- The number of doctors covered in the 2005 HMS was 10 427.
- Of the 10 427 doctors covered, 6 039 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 57.9%. As at 31.8.2005, 5 532 of the responding doctors were economically active‡§ (active) while 497 reported to be economically inactive¶ (inactive) in the local medical profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 5 532 active doctors, 5 498 were practising in the local medical profession, 23 doctors were seeking job in the local medical profession during the Survey period and 11 doctors had sought work, 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 5 498 responding doctors who were practising in the local medical profession as at 31.8.2005. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 5 498 active doctors enumerated, 4 037 (73.4%) were male and 1 458 (26.5%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 277 (males per 100 females). 32 doctors did not indicate their age. The median age of the remaining 5 466 active doctors enumerated was 42.0 years old.
 - (ii) The distribution by sector of the main job¶ showed that a large proportion was working in the Hospital Authority (46.7%), followed by those working in private sector (44.0%), the Government (5.5%), the academic and subvented sectors (3.5%)
 - (iii) Of the 5 498 active doctors enumerated, 58.0% spent most of their working time in specialist practice, general practice (34.0%), administration / management (2.2%) and teaching / education (0.3%).
 - (iv) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 5 498 active doctors enumerated was 48.0 hours. 2 693 (49.0%) doctors were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts. Their median number of hours of on-call duty (outside normal working hours) per week amounted to 20.0 hours.
- Among the 497 inactive doctors (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 226 doctors reported practising overseas and seven doctors reported practising in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 264 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 (78.0%) (with median age being 69.0 years old), working in other professions (6.8%) and engaged in household duties (5.7%).

* 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 2004 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.

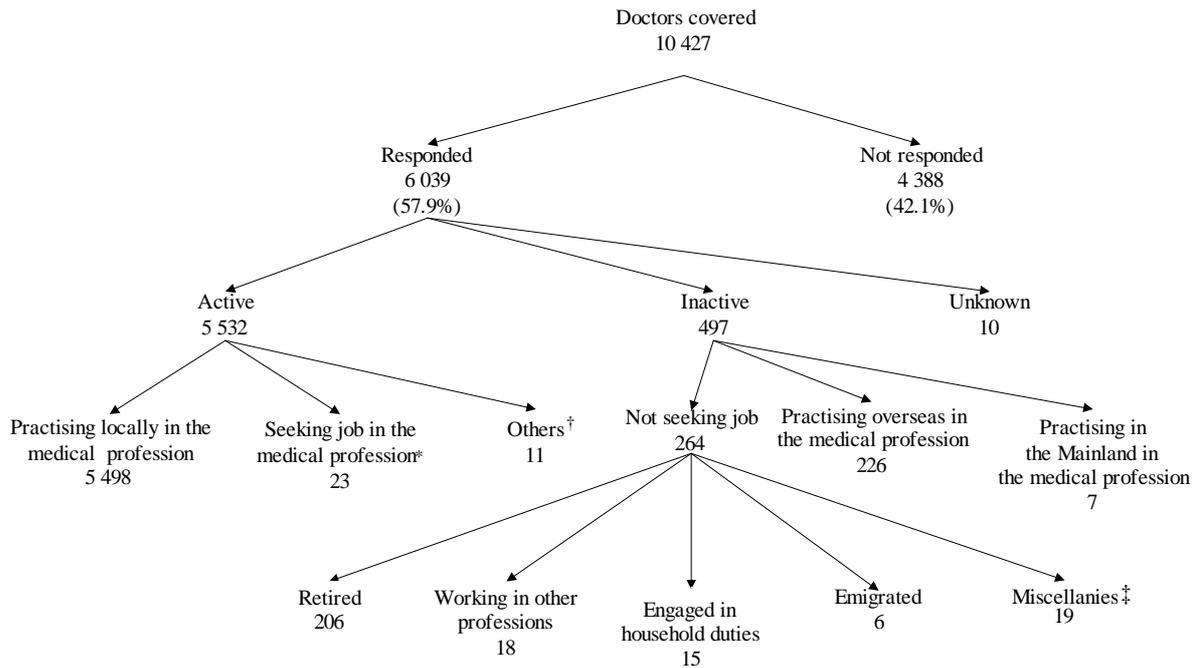
‡ In the Survey, the criteria used in defining economically active/inactive follow those recommended by the International Labour Organisation, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

§ “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 doctor had spent most of his or her 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, taking rest/no motive to work/no financial need, etc.

Updated in April 2007