

2005 Health Manpower Survey on Pharmacists

Key Findings

- The pharmacists covered in the 2005 HMS were pharmacists registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Chapter 138) as at the survey reference date i.e. 31.8.2005.
- The number of pharmacists covered in the 2005 HMS was 1 567.
- Of the 1 567 registered pharmacists covered, 1 006 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 64.2%. As at 31.8.2005, 818 of the responding pharmacists were economically active*† (active) while 180 reported to be economically inactive**‡ (inactive) in the local pharmacy profession (*See chart*).
- Of the 818 active pharmacists, 809 were practising in the local pharmacy profession, six were seeking jobs, and three were waiting to take up new job, expecting to return to their original job in the local pharmacy profession etc during the 30 days before the Survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 809 responding pharmacists practising in the local pharmacy profession as at 31.8.2005. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 809 active pharmacists enumerated, 387 (47.8%) were male, 421 (52.0%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 92 (males per 100 females). 14 pharmacists did not indicate their age, and the median age of the remaining 795 active pharmacists enumerated was 37.0 years old.
 - (ii) The distribution by sector of the main job§ showed that a large proportion was working in the private sector (66.3%), followed by those working in the Hospital Authority (27.6%), the Government (4.2%), and the academic and subvented sectors (1.5%).
 - (iii) Of the 809 active pharmacists enumerated, 73.9% spent most of their working time in service in pharmacy¶, administration / management¶¶ (9.9%), and manufacturing / marketing / sales** (9.4%).
 - (iv) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 809 active pharmacists enumerated was 44.0 hours. 109 (13.5%) pharmacists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts. Their median number of hours of on-call duty (excluding normal duty) per week amounted to 12.0 hours.
- Among the 180 inactive pharmacists (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 90 pharmacists reported practising overseas and four reported practising in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 86 pharmacists reported not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: working in other professions (59.3%), retired (20.9%) (with median age being 63 years old), undertaking studying (5.8%), and engaged in household duties (4.7%).

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

† “Economically active” pharmacists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” pharmacists. The “employed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while the “unemployed pharmacists” referred to those pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the local pharmacy 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 pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

‡ “Economically inactive” pharmacists comprised the responding pharmacists who were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the survey period and who were “unemployed”.

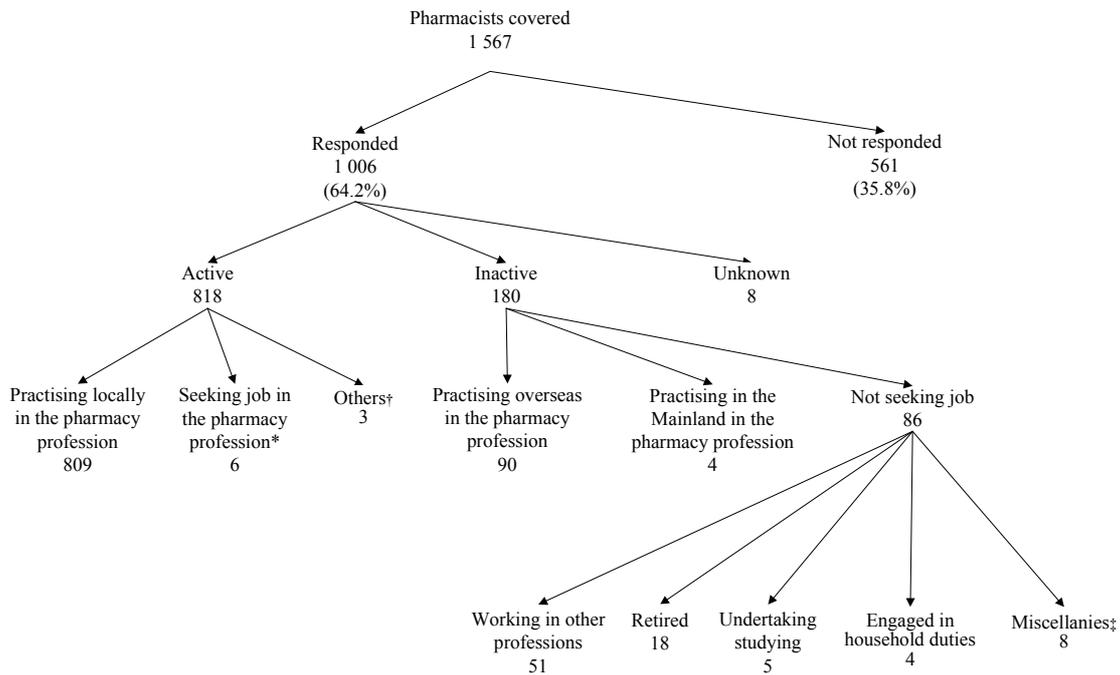
§ Main job referred to the job in which the pharmacists had spent most of their working time.

¶ Service in pharmacy referred to the work which had direct contact with patients in dispensing and patient counselling.

¶¶ Administration / Management referred to the work which was out of scope of pharmacy such as supervising staff, accounting, budget control, procurement of drugs, etc.

**Manufacturing / Marketing / Sales referred to the work involving in the pharmaceutical company (wholesaler) or pharmaceutical manufacturer such as manufacturing, marketing and sales.

Activity Status of Pharmacists Covered



- Notes:
- * Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during in the local pharmacy profession during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) had sought work in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey.
 - † Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during in the local pharmacy profession during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) were waiting to take up new job, expecting to return to their original job in the local pharmacy profession etc during the 30 days before the survey.
 - ‡ Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who reported emigrated, taking rest / no motive to work / no financial need, etc.