

1996 Health Manpower Survey

Summary of the Characteristics of Dentists Enumerated

1. Characteristics of Dentists Enumerated

1.1 The 1996 Health Manpower Survey (HMS) covered all dentists registered as at 1.7.1996 on the local list of the Dental Register maintained by the Dental Council of Hong Kong under the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Chapter 156).

1.2 A total of 1 478 dentists were covered in the 1996 HMS, representing an increase of 1.4% over the 1992 HMS (1 458).

1.3 Of the 1 478 dentists covered in the 1996 HMS, 70.4% had responded to the survey. Among them, 977 were practising in the dentistry profession locally as at 1.7.1996 whilst 64 were reported to be inactive with migration and retirement being the common reasons cited. Based on the data collected on the 977 enumerated personnel, their characteristics were analysed and the details were presented below.

1.4 Among the 977 dentists successfully enumerated, 79.7% were males, giving a sex ratio of 393 (males per 100 females). The overall mean age was 38.9.

1.5 Most of the dentists enumerated worked in the private sector (76.2%) and the government (20.3%).

1.6 The dentists enumerated had a mean duration of 13.4 years in the dentistry profession.

1.7 87.9% of the dentists enumerated were found to be practising mainly in general dentistry.

1.8 47.7% of the dentists enumerated were locally trained with Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree. Another 30.0% held bachelor degree in dental surgery issued overseas whereas 21.0% possessed other basic qualifications such as Doctor of Dental Surgery/Dental Science.

1.9 24.2% of the dentists enumerated held additional qualification(s), with Diploma in General Dental Practice, U.K. being the most common one reported.

2. Inter-sector Flow of Dentists Enumerated

2.1 Among the 977 dentists enumerated, 810 reported to be practising in the dentistry profession locally as at 1.7.1992. Whilst most of them remained in the same sector, 4.4% of those working in the government and 5.1% of the private sector had undergone inter-sector flow between 1.7.1992 and 1.7.1996.

2.2 On the other hand, 167 of the dentists enumerated reported to be not practising locally in the dentistry profession as at 1.7.1992. At that time, they were studying for the dentistry profession, working in the dentistry profession abroad or working in other professions etc. Among them, 74.3% joined the private sector and 18.6% were employed by the government after 1.7.1992.

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