

2004 Health Manpower Survey on Dentists

Key Findings

- The dentists covered in the 2004 HMS were dentists registered* with the Dental Council of Hong Kong on the list† of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong as at the survey reference date - 31.8.2004.
- The number of dentists covered in the 2004 HMS was 1 714.
- Of the 1 714 dentists covered, 952 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 55.5%. As at 31.8.2004, 920 of the responded dentists were economically active‡§ whereas 32 reported to be economically inactive¶ in the local dental profession (*Annex*) (thereafter referred to “active” and “inactive” respectively).
- Of the 920 active dentists, two dentists were seeking job and another two dentists were waiting to take up new job in the local dental profession during the Survey period.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 916 responded dentists practising in the local dental profession as at 31.8.2004. As certain questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 916 active dentists enumerated, 657 (71.7%) were male and 259 (28.3%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 254 (males per 100 females). The median age of 916 active dentists enumerated was 40.0 years old.
 - (ii) Regarding the main job¶, the distribution by sector showed that a larger proportion was working in the private sector (72.7%) and the Government (19.2%), followed by the academic** sector (4.3%) and the subvented sector (3.3%).
 - (iii) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 916 active dentists enumerated was 44.0 hours, while 54 (5.9%) dentists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts. Their median number of hours of on-call duty (excluding normal working hours) per week amounted to 9.5 hours.
 - (iv) Analysed by the highest percentage of time spent on the field of practice for the main job, 89.0% of the 916 active dentists spent most of their working time on general dentistry, followed by specialist practice†† (7.8%), teaching / education (1.3%) and administration / management (1.1%).
 - (v) 130 (14.2%) reported that they had had second jobs¶.
- The distribution of the 32 inactive dentists was as follows (*Annex*):-
 - (i) 11 dentists reported practising overseas.
 - (ii) 21 dentists reported not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey. Among these, it was noted that 61.9% reported retired with median age being 65.0 years old, 19.0% reported undertaking study and 9.5% reported working in other professions.

* Refer to dentists registered on the Dental Register maintained by the Dental Council of Hong Kong under the Dental Registration Ordinance (Chapter 156).

† As the 2004 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 and 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” dentists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” dentists. The “employed” dentists referred to those dentists practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period, while the “unemployed dentists” referred to those dentists who (a) were not practising in the local dental profession during the Survey period; and (b) had sought work in the local dental profession during the thirty days before the Survey; and (c) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey.

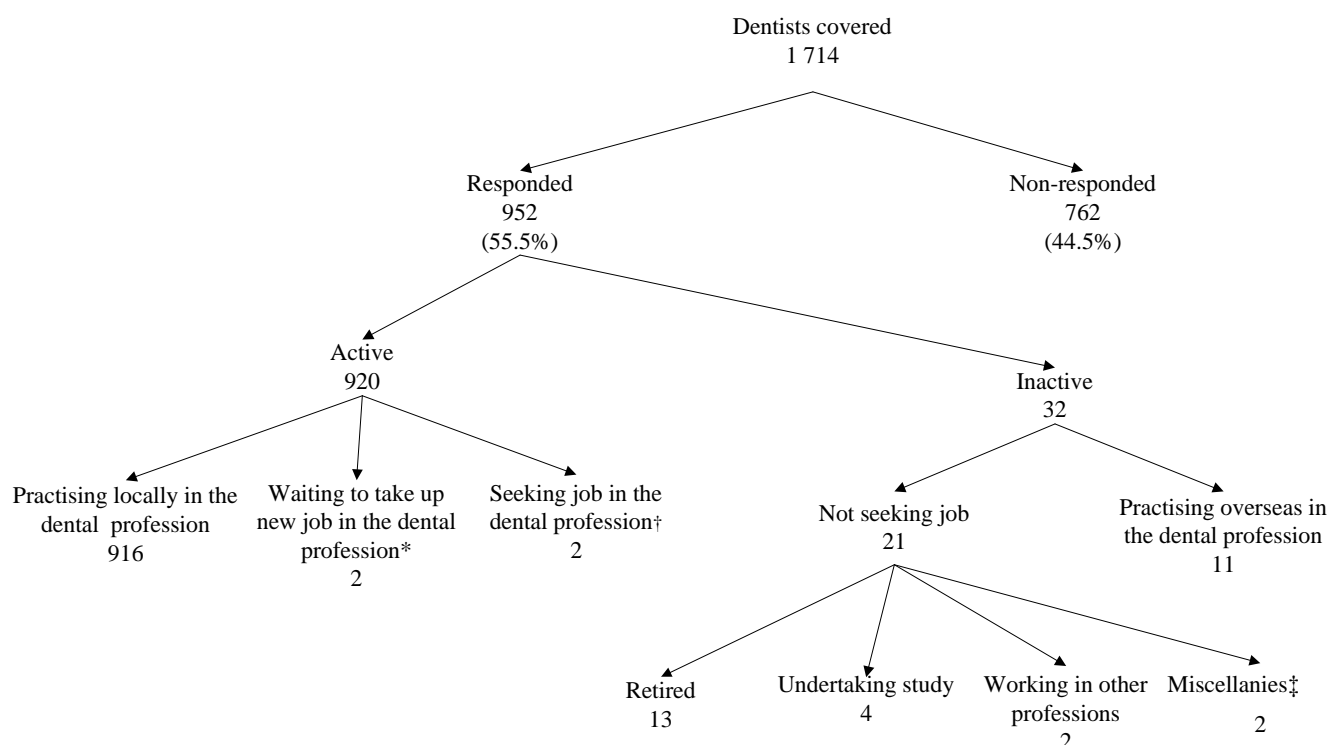
¶ “Economically inactive” dentists comprised the responded dentists who were not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the survey period and who were “unemployed”.

¶ Main job refers to the job in which the dentist had spent most of his or her working time, whereas the second job could be a part-time job.

** Includes universities and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

†† Refers to the specialists that listed under a sub-category named “Dental Specialists” and authorized by the Dental Council of Hong Kong to use a “specialist” title. It also refers to those active dentists enumerated who have not been granted approval by the Dental Council of Hong Kong to use specialist titles, but they claimed spending most of their working time on specialist practice.

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; and (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) waiting to take up new job 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 local dental profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period; and (b) had sought work in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey; and (c) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey.

‡ Figure refers to the number of responded dentists who reported engaging in household duties, emigrated, etc.