

# 2007 Health Manpower Survey on Doctors

## Key Findings

- The doctors covered in the 2007 HMS were doctors registered\* with the Medical Council of Hong Kong on the resident list† under the Medical Registration Ordinance (Chapter 161) as at the survey reference date i.e. 31.8.2007.
- The number of doctors covered in the 2007 HMS was 10 951.
- Of the 10 951 doctors covered, 6 060 had responded to the survey, giving an overall response rate of 55.3%. Of the 6 060 responding doctors, 5 466 (90.2%) were economically active‡§ (active) while 594 (9.8%) reported to be economically inactive‡|| (inactive) in the local medical profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 5 466 active doctors, 5 444 (99.6%) were practising in the local medical profession, 12 (0.2%) doctors were seeking job in the local medical profession during the survey period and three (<0.1%) reported as having temporary sickness. Seven (0.1%) active doctors were believing no work available, expecting to return to their original jobs, 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 5 444 responding doctors who were practising in the local medical profession as at 31.8.2007. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
  - (i) Among the 5 444 active doctors enumerated, 3 903 (71.7%) were male and 1 541 (28.3%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 253 (males per 100 females). The median age of the active doctors enumerated was 43.0 years.
  - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job¶ showed that a large proportion was working in the private sector (45.7%), followed by those working in Hospital Authority (45.6%), the Government (5.3%), the academic and subvented sectors (3.3%).
  - (iii) 3 498 (64.3%) spent most of their working time in specialist practice, followed by general practice (32.8%), administration /management (2.0%) and teaching / education (0.3%).
  - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 5 444 active doctors enumerated was 48.0 hours. 2 569 (47.2%) doctors were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 20.0 hours of on-call duty (outside normal working hours) per week.
- Among the 594 inactive doctors (*See Chart*):-
  - (i) 247 doctors reported practising overseas and 11 doctors reported practising in the Mainland.
  - (ii) 329 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 234 (71.1%) (with median age being 70.0 years), wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need 28 (8.5%), working in other professions 24 (7.3%), engaged in household duties 13 (4.0%), emigrated 12 (3.6%), etc.

\* 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 2007 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.

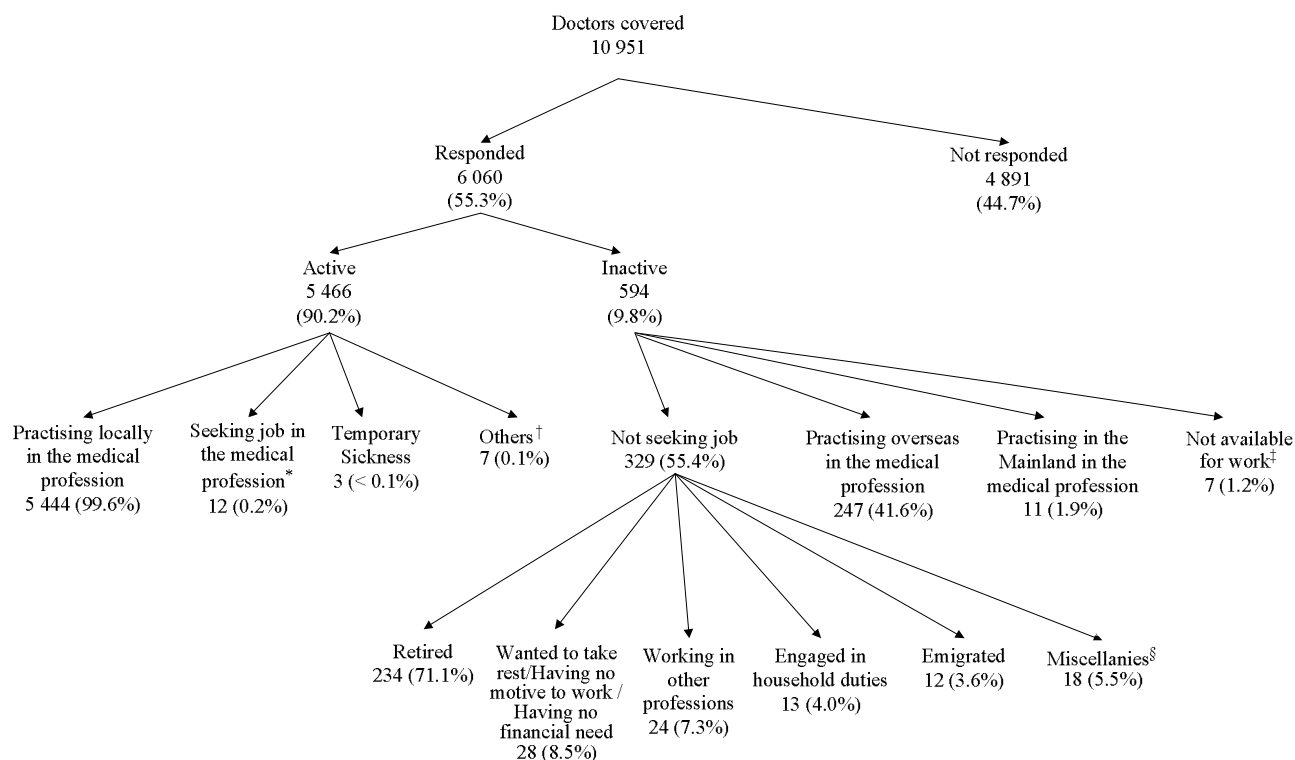
‡ In the survey, the criteria used in defining economically active/inactive follow those recommended by the International Labour Organisation, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

§ “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 those who were economically active but “unemployed”.

¶ Main job refers to the job in which the doctors had spent most of their 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 local 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 believing no work available, 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 local 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 not 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.

§ Figure refers to other reasons including the number of responding doctors who reported undertaking study, etc.