

2005 Health Manpower Survey on Dentists

Key Findings

- The dentists covered in the 2005 HMS were those registered with the Dental Council of Hong Kong on the list* of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong under the Dental Registration Ordinance (Chapter 156) as at the survey reference date i.e. 31.8.2005.
- The number of dentists covered in the 2005 HMS was 1 753.
- Of the 1 753 dentists covered, 1 173 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 66.9%. As at 31.8.2005, 1 118 of the responding dentists were economically active†‡ (active) while 44 reported to be economically inactive†§ (inactive) in the local dental profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 1 118 active dentists, 1 111 were practising in the local dental profession, and seven had sought work, were expecting to return to their original job, starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 1 111 responding dentists practising in the local dental profession as at 31.8.2005. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 1 111 active dentists enumerated, 800 (72.0%) were male and 311 (28.0%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 257 (males per 100 females). The median age of the 1 111 active dentists enumerated was 41.0 years old.
 - (ii) The distribution by sector of the main job|| showed that a large proportion was working in the private sector (74.3 %), followed by those working in the Government (18.1%), the academic¶ sector (4.5%) and the subvented sector (2.1%).
 - (iii) Of the 1 111 active dentists enumerated, 87.2% spent most of their working time in general dentistry, specialist practice (9.6%), teaching / education (1.5%) and administration / management (0.9%).
 - (iv) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 1 111 active dentists enumerated was 44.0 hours. 84 (7.6%) dentists 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 10.0 hours.
- Among the 44 inactive dentists (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 25 dentists reported practising overseas.
 - (ii) 18 dentists reported not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: retired (44.4%) (with median age being 63.5 years old), working in other professions (33.3%), undertaking study (11.1%) and emigrated (11.1%).

* As the 2005 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/inactive followed those recommended by the International Labour Organisation, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

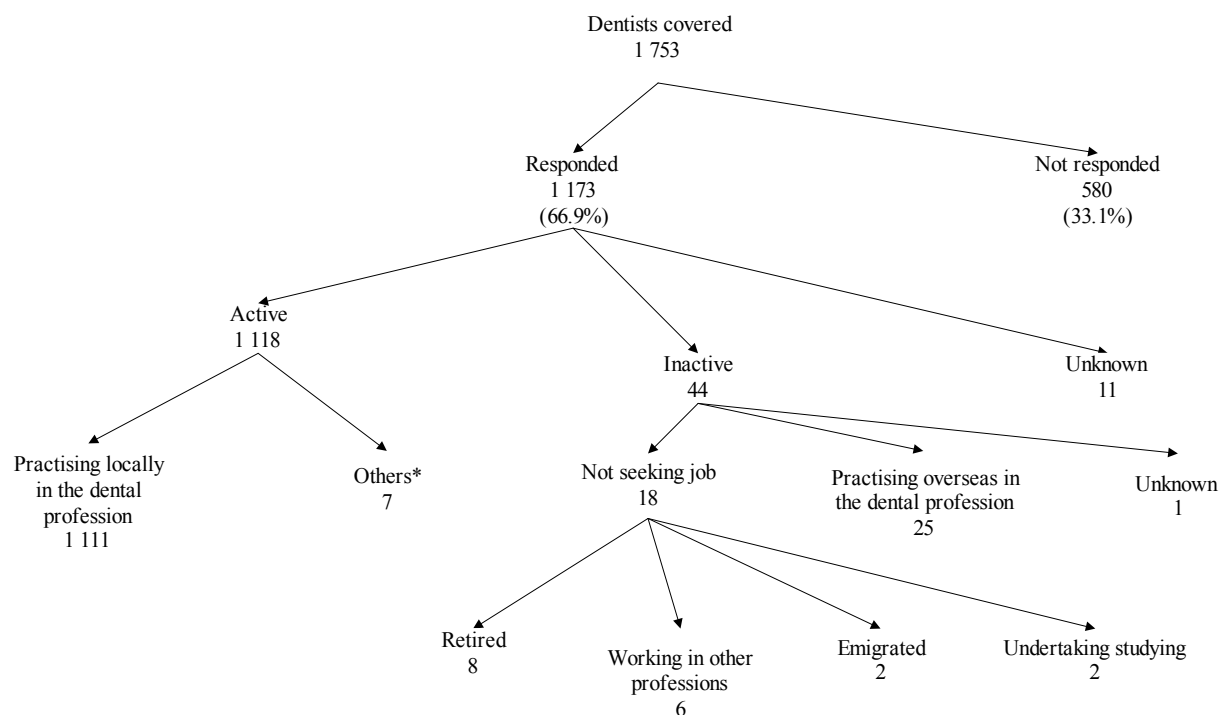
‡ “Economically active” dentists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” dentists. The “employed” dentists referred to those dentists practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while the “unemployed dentists” referred to those dentists who (a) were not practising in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

§ “Economically inactive” dentists comprised the responding 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 dentists had spent most of their working time.

¶ Includes universities and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

Activity Status of Dentists Covered



Notes:

* Figures refer to the number of responding dentists who (a) were not practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work in the local dental profession during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) had sought work, were expecting to return their original job, starting business at subsequent date or waiting to take up new job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey.