

2006 Health Manpower Survey on Pharmacists

Key Findings

- The pharmacists covered in the 2006 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. 31.8.2006.
- The number of pharmacists covered in the 2006 HMS was 1 622.
- Of the 1 622 registered pharmacists covered, 1 007 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 62.1%. As at 31.8.2006, 809 (80.3%) of the responding pharmacists were economically active*[†] (active) while 197 (19.6%) reported to be economically inactive**[‡] (inactive) in the local pharmacy profession (*See chart*).
- Of the 809 active pharmacists, 798 (98.6%) were practising in the local pharmacy profession and 11 (1.4%) were seeking jobs in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 798 responding pharmacists practising in the local pharmacy profession as at 31.8.2006. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Two pharmacists did not indicate their sex. Among the remaining 796 active pharmacists enumerated, 388 (48.7%) were male, 408 (51.3%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 95 (males per 100 females). 19 pharmacists did not indicate their age. The median age of the remaining 779 active pharmacists enumerated was 37.0 years.
 - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job[§] showed that 526 (65.9%) were working in the private sector, followed by 228 (28.6%) working in the Hospital Authority, 34 (4.3%) in the Government, and 7 (0.9%) in the academic sector.
 - (iii) Of the 798 active pharmacists enumerated, 608 (76.2%) spent most of their working time in service in pharmacy^{||}. Those who spent most of the working time in administration / management[¶] and manufacturing / marketing / sales** attributed to 76 (9.5%) to 65 (8.2%) respectively.
 - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 798 active pharmacists enumerated was 44.0 hours. 112 (14.0%) pharmacists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 10.0 hours of on-call duty (excluding normal duty) per week.
- Among the 197 inactive pharmacists (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 96 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 (54.2%), retired (16.7%) (with median age being 65 years), engaged in household duties (10.4%), wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need (8.3%), undertaking study (5.2%), etc.
 - (ii) 95 pharmacists reported practising overseas and four reported practising in the Mainland.

* 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. “Employed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while “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”.

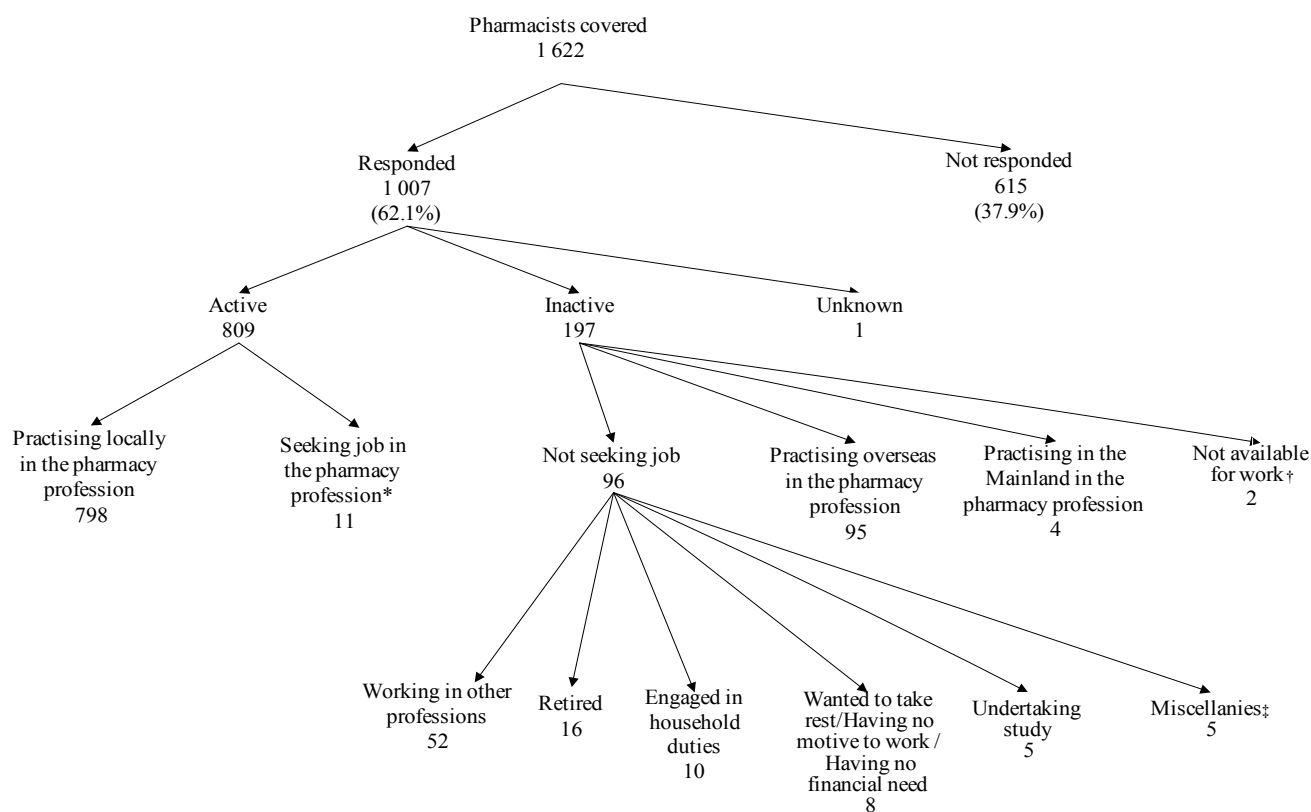
[§] Main job referred to the job in which the pharmacists had spent most of their working time.

^{||} 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 practicing in the pharmacy 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 pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

‡ Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who reported emigrated, etc.