

2006 Health Manpower Survey on Dentists

Key Findings

- The dentists covered in the 2006 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. 31.8.2006.
- The number of dentists covered in the 2006 HMS was 1 794.
- Of the 1 794 dentists covered, 1 084 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 60.4%. Of the 1 084 responding dentists, 1 039 (95.9%) were economically active^{†‡} (active) while 45 (4.2%) reported to be economically inactive^{‡§} (inactive) in the local dental profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 1 039 active dentists, 1 031 (99.2%) were practising in the local dental profession, and five were seeking jobs in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey. Three were starting business at subsequent date, waiting to take up new job or expecting to return to the original job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 1 031 responding dentists practising in the local dental profession as at 31.8.2006. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 1 031 active dentists enumerated, 756 (73.3%) were male and 275 (26.7%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 275 (males per 100 females). The median age of the 1 031 active dentists enumerated was 42.0 years.
 - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job^{||} showed that 801 (77.7 %) were working in the private sector, followed by 134 (13.0%) working in the Government, 52 (5.0%) in the academic[¶] sector, and 21 (2.0%) in the subvented sector.
 - (iii) Of the 1 031 active dentists enumerated, 898 (87.1%) spent most of their working time in general dentistry. Those who spent most of the working time in specialist practice and teaching / education attributed to 99 (9.6%) and 15 (1.5%) respectively. Another ten (1.0%) spent most of the working time on administration / management.
 - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 1 031 active dentists enumerated was 45.0 hours. 67 (6.5%) dentists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 10.0 hours of on-call duty (outside normal working hours) per week.
- Among the 45 inactive dentists (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 19 dentists reported practising overseas/in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 26 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 (46.2%) (with median age being 67.0 years), working in other professions (23.1%), emigrated (11.5%), undertaking study (11.5%) and wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need (7.7%).

* As the 2006 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.

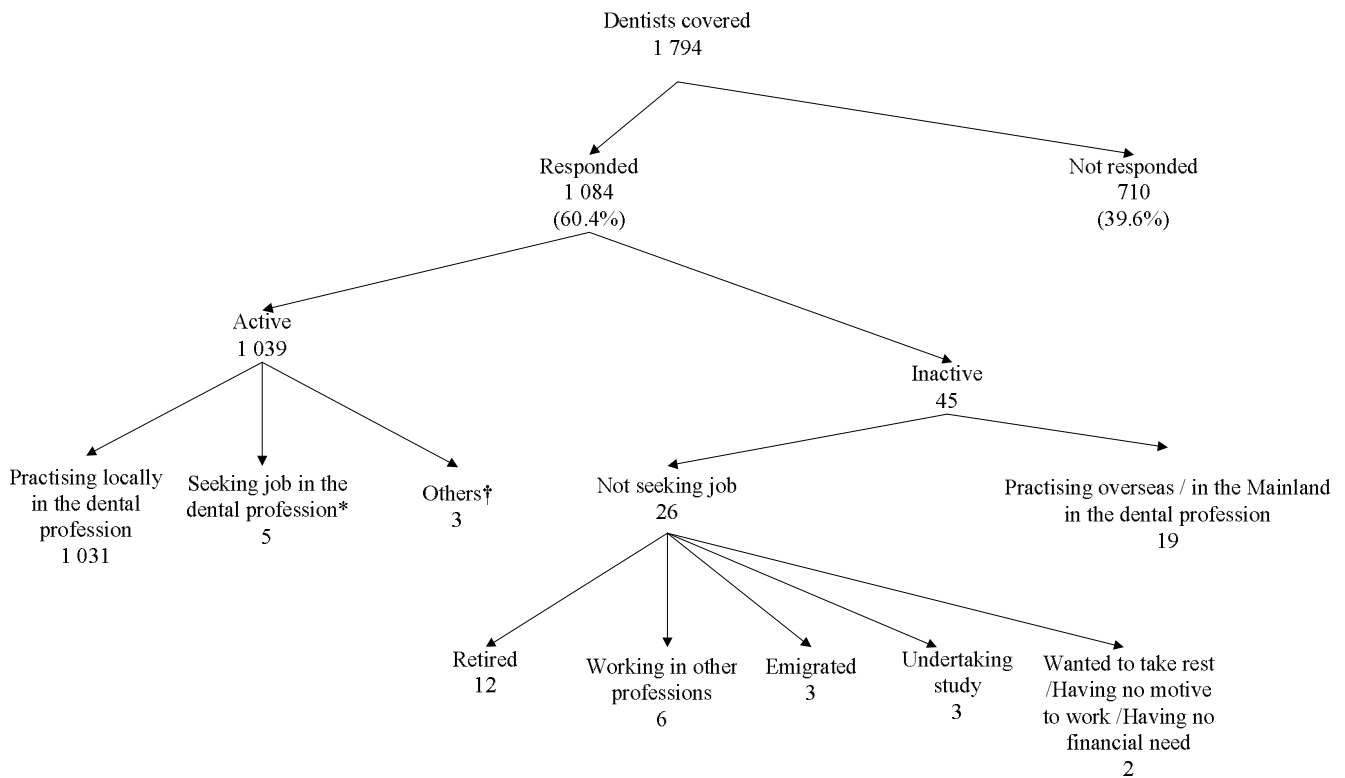
‡ “Economically active” dentists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” dentists. “Employed” dentists referred to those dentists practising in the dental profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while “unemployed dentists” referred to those dentists who (a) were not practising in the local 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:

* Figure refers 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 in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey.

† Figure refers 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 during the seven days before the Survey; and (c) were starting business at subsequent date, waiting to take up new job or expecting to return to the original job in the local dental profession during the 30 days before the Survey.