

2004 Health Manpower Survey on Pharmacists

Key Findings

- The pharmacists covered in the 2004 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 - 31.8.2004.
- The number of pharmacists covered in the 2004 HMS was 1 512.
- Of the 1 512 registered pharmacists covered, 756 had responded to the Survey, giving an overall response rate of 50.0%. As at 31.8.2004, 623 of the responding pharmacists were economically active*[†] whereas 133 reported to be economically inactive*[‡] in the local pharmacy profession (*Annex*) (thereafter referred to as “active” and “inactive” respectively).
- Of the 623 active pharmacists, ten pharmacists were seeking jobs in the local pharmacy profession during the survey period.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 613 responding pharmacists who were practising in the local pharmacy profession as at 31.8.2004. As certain questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 613 active pharmacists enumerated, 299 (48.8%) were male and 314 (51.2%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 95 (males per 100 females). Three pharmacists did not indicate their age, and the median age of the remaining 610 active pharmacists enumerated was 36.0 years old.
 - (ii) Regarding the main job[§], the distribution by sector showed that a large proportion was working in the private sector (65.7%), followed by the Hospital Authority (28.1%). Those working in the Government comprised 4.6%, and the academic and subvented sectors 1.5%.
 - (iii) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 613 active pharmacists enumerated was 44.0 hours, while 68 (11.1%) pharmacists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts. Their median number of hours of on-call duty (excluding normal duty) per week amounted to 14.0 hours.
 - (iv) Analysed by the highest percentage of time spent on the area of work of the main job found that 78.5% (481) of the 613 active pharmacists spent most of their working time on service in pharmacy, followed by administration / management 16.2% (99).
 - (v) 29 (4.7%) reported that they had had second jobs[§].
- The distribution of the 133 inactive pharmacists was as follows (*Annex*):-
 - (i) 61 reported practising overseas and three reported practising in the Mainland.
 - (ii) 69 reported not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey. Among these, the reasons reported included: working in other professions (62.3%), retired (17.4%) (with median age being 56.0 years old) and undertaking study (4.3%). The remaining 15.9% reported emigrated, being engaged in household duties, etc.

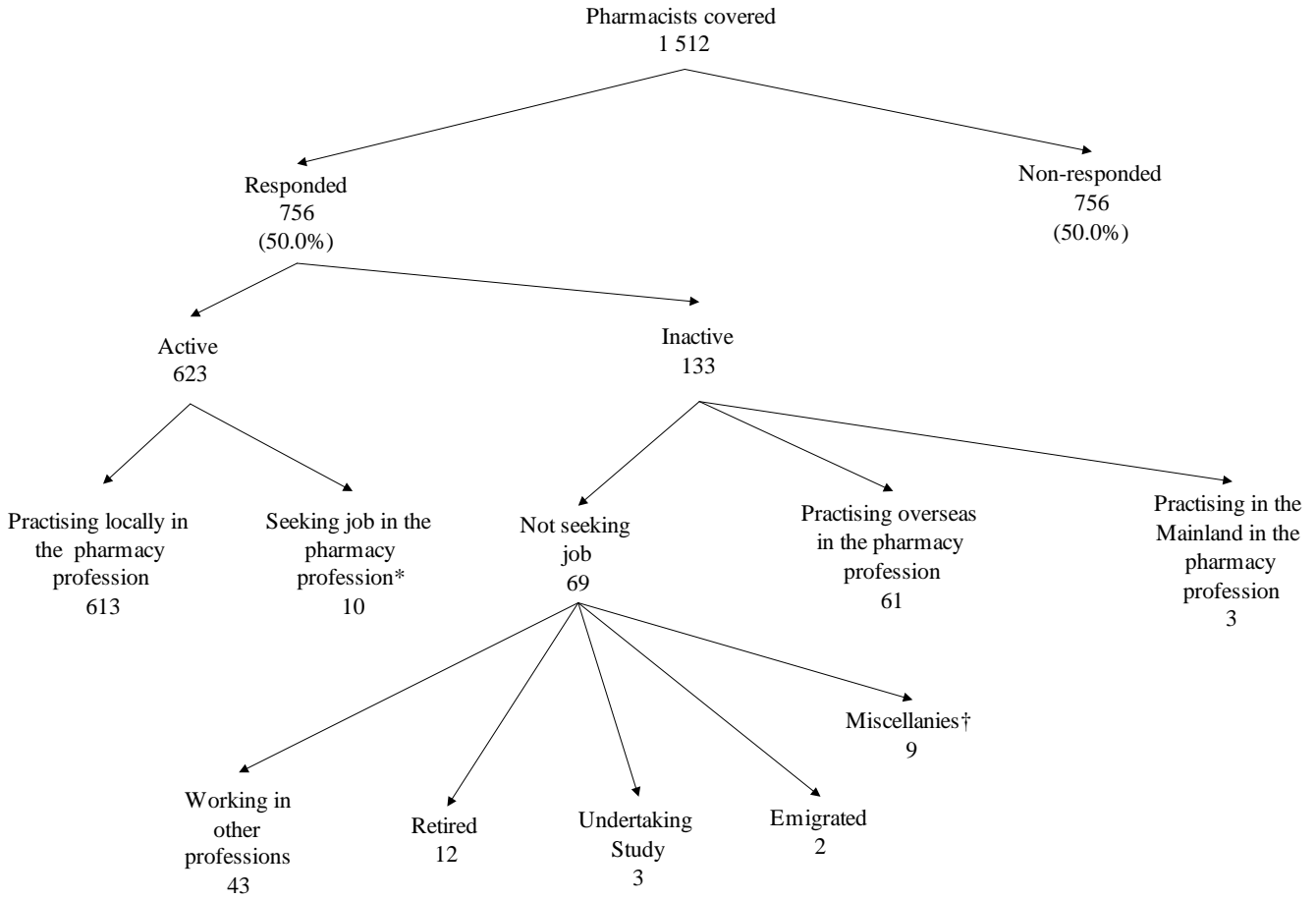
* In the Survey, the criteria used in defining economically active and inactive followed those recommended by the International Labour Organization, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

[†] “Economically active” pharmacists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” pharmacists. The “employed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the Survey period, while the “unemployed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the local pharmacy profession during the Survey period; and (b) had sought work in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the Survey; and (c) had been available for work during the seven days before the Survey.

[‡] “Economically inactive” pharmacists comprised the 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 jobs referred to the jobs in which the pharmacists had spent most of their working time, whereas the second jobs could be part-time jobs.

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; and (b) had sought work in the local pharmacy 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 responding pharmacists who reported being engaged in household duties, etc.