

# 2014 Health Manpower Survey on Midwives

## Key Findings

- The midwives covered in the 2014 HMS were midwives registered with the Midwives Council of Hong Kong under the Midwives Registration Ordinance (Chapter 162) as at the survey reference date - 31.8.2014 and had to renew their practising certificates in 2014.
- The number of midwives covered was 3 968.
- Of the 3 968 midwives covered, 2 279 responded to the survey, giving an overall response rate of 57.4%. Of the 2 279 responding midwives, 1 825 (80.1%) were economically active\*<sup>†</sup> (active) whereas 454 (19.9%) reported to be economically inactive\*<sup>‡</sup> (inactive) in the local midwifery / nursing profession (*See Chart*).
- Of the 1 825 active midwives, 1 796 (98.4%) were practising in the local midwifery / nursing profession, 24 (1.3%) were seeking jobs, three (0.2%) had not been available for work because of temporary sickness and two (0.1%) were expecting to return to their original jobs in the local midwifery / nursing profession during the 30 days before the survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 1 796 responding midwives who were practising in the local midwifery / nursing profession as at 31.8.2014. As some questionnaires had missing responses, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
  - (i) Of the 1 796 active midwives enumerated, 1 669 (92.9%) were holding valid practising certificates in registered nurses and / or enrolled nurses. 105 (5.8%) were only holding valid practising certificates in midwifery.
  - (ii) All the 1 796 active midwives enumerated were female. 44 midwives did not indicate age and the median age of the remaining 1 752 active midwives enumerated was 51.0 years.
  - (iii) Distribution by sector of the main job<sup>§</sup> showed that 1 114 (62.0%) were working in the Hospital Authority, followed by 274 (15.3%) in the Government, 271 (15.1%) in the private sector, 74 (4.1%) in the subvented sector and 60 (3.3%) in the academic sector.
  - (iv) 26.4% spent most of their working time on obstetrics, followed by 10.5% on public health, 10.1% on medicine, 9.2% on administration / management, 7.9% on ambulatory / outpatients, 6.9% on surgery and 6.2% on paediatrics.
  - (v) The median number of hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 1 796 active midwives enumerated was 42.0 hours. 116 (6.5%) midwives were required to undertake on-call duty (excluding normal duty), with a median of 22.5 hours of on-call duty (excluding normal duty) per week.
  - (vi) Of the 1 796 active midwives enumerated, 84.0% held Student / Pupil Nurse Training, 6.6% held Pupil Midwife Training and 4.8% held Bachelor's Degree as their earliest basic qualifications.

\* 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.

<sup>†</sup> "Economically active" midwives comprised all "employed" and "unemployed" midwives. "Employed" midwives referred to those midwives practising in the midwifery / nursing profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while "unemployed" midwives referred to those midwives who (a) were not practising in the midwifery / nursing 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 midwifery / nursing profession during the 30 days before the survey.

<sup>‡</sup> "Economically inactive" midwives comprised the midwives who were not practising in the midwifery / nursing profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the survey period and who were "economically active" but "unemployed".

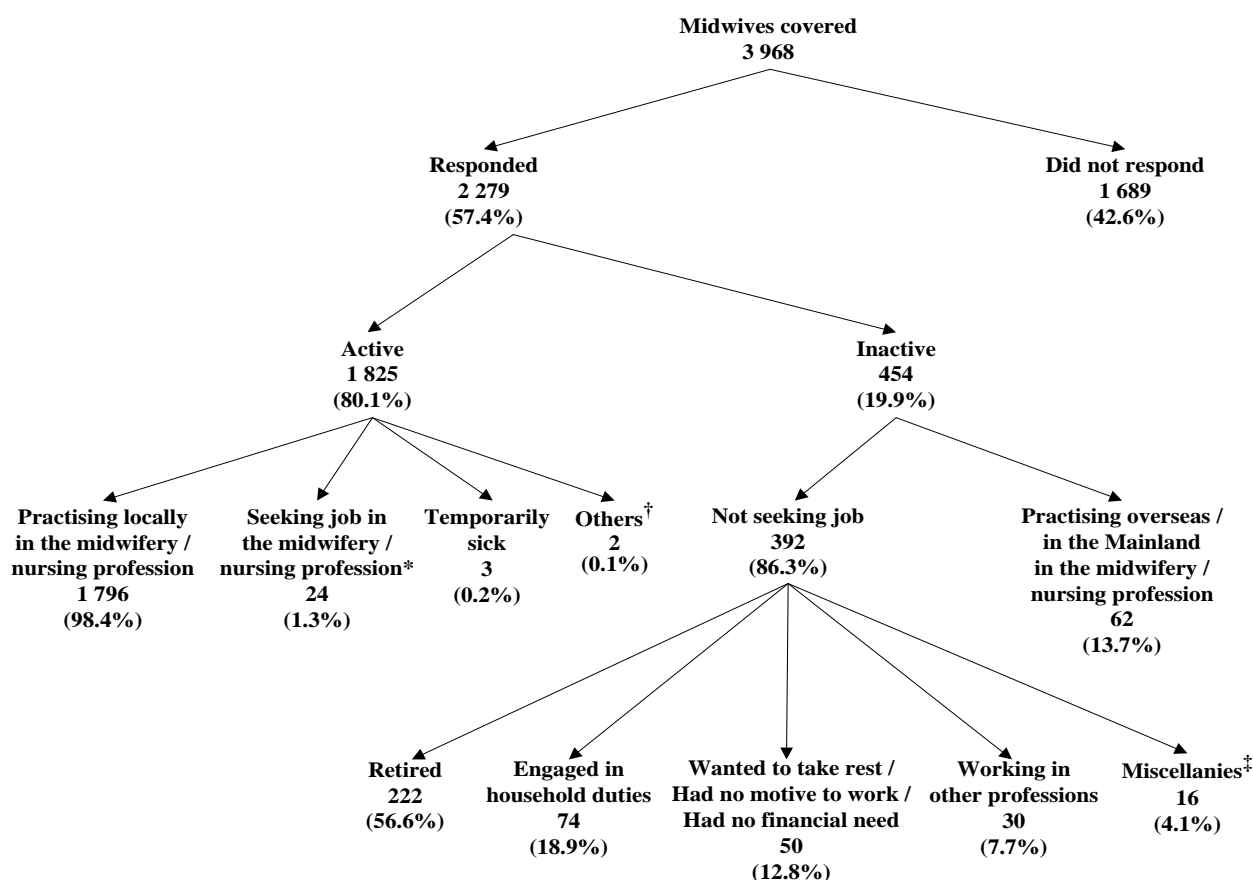
<sup>§</sup> Main jobs referred to the jobs in which the midwives had spent most of their working time.

- (vii) Of the 1 796 active midwives enumerated, 1 589 (88.5%) received / were receiving additional training. Of the 1 589 active midwives with additional training, four (0.3%) had not yet completed the additional training, 677 (42.6%) held Bachelor's Degree, 551 (34.7%) held Master's Degree and 160 (10.1%) held certificate as the highest qualification.
- (viii) Of the 1 589 midwives who received / were receiving additional training, 790 (49.7%) were trained in one field of additional training. Among them, 30.0% were trained in midwifery, 12.7% in general nursing, 11.8% in public health nursing, 4.4% in nursing administration and 4.3% in emergency / first aid nursing.

➤ Among the 454 inactive midwives (*See Chart*):

- (i) 62 midwives reported practising overseas or in the Mainland.
- (ii) 392 midwives reported not practising in the midwifery / nursing profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local midwifery / nursing profession during the 30 days before the survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: 222 (56.6%) were retired, 74 (18.9%) were engaged in household duties, 50 (12.8%) wanted to take rest / had no motive to work / had no financial need and 30 (7.7%) were working in other professions, etc.

### Activity Status of Midwives Covered



Notes: \* Figure refers to the number of responding midwives who (a) were not practising in the midwifery / nursing 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 midwifery / nursing profession during the 30 days before the survey.

† Figure refers to the number of responding midwives who (a) were not practising in the midwifery / nursing profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the survey; and (c) were expecting to return to their original jobs in the local midwifery / nursing profession during the 30 days before the survey.

‡ Figure refers to the number of responding midwives who reported emigrated, undertaking study, etc.