



## Executive Summary

### HA Survey on Doctors' Work Hours 2006

1. This survey looks into the **self-reported** weekly onsite work hours<sup>1</sup>(T) and maximum continuous work hours<sup>2</sup>(m) of HA doctors.
2. The findings of T are based on data (N=536 doctors) in 4 weeks from 18th September to 15th October 2006 while those of m on data (N=747) in the week of 18th September, 2006.

### Weekly Work Hours

3. It is estimated that around **18%** of HA doctors, exclusive of interns, work **more than 65 hours a week** (Fig. 1). The weekly work hour ranges from **38 to 91 hours**.
4. The first line doctors (medical officers "MO" resident specialists "RS" and residents "R", work the longest in the hospitals (Fig. 2). It is estimated that **24%** of these first line doctors work more than 65 hours per week.
5. The 5 top long-work-hour specialties are, in descending order, Neurosurgery (NS), Surgery (SUR), Obstetrics & Gynecology (O&G), Paediatrics (PAE), and Orthopaedics & Traumatology (O&T) (Table 1).
6. There is no significant statistical difference in T of doctors in different categories of hospitals.

### Maximum Continuous Work Hours

7. Around **35%** (N = 258) of the doctors, exclusive of interns, in the sample had done overnight onsite call. Their m data range from **24 to 37<sup>3</sup>** (Fig. 3).
8. Around **12%** of them had **full day** compensation and **52%** had **half day** compensation. The rest **36%** appeared to have **no immediate post call compensation** (m >30hr). The breakdown is detailed in Table 2.
9. The doctors in the two teaching hospitals tend to have a longer m than doctors in other hospitals (p<0.001). There is no significant statistical difference in m for doctors in different categories of hospitals other than the teaching hospitals (Fig. 4).

<sup>1</sup> Onsite work hours include meal time but exclude off-site call hours and offsite telephone consultation.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum continuous work hours refer to the total continuous work hours of an onsite call including both the onsite work hours preceding the commencement of that onsite call and those following that call without any break in continuity.

<sup>3</sup> Only one doctor who works in the Radiology Department of Queen Mary Hospital stayed up to 47 hour in the hospital for a weekend onsite call (Sat and Sun). This was very infrequent and the doctor was to be compensated one full day for her onsite work on Rest Day.

Fig 1: Distribution of HA doctors working at various hours/week

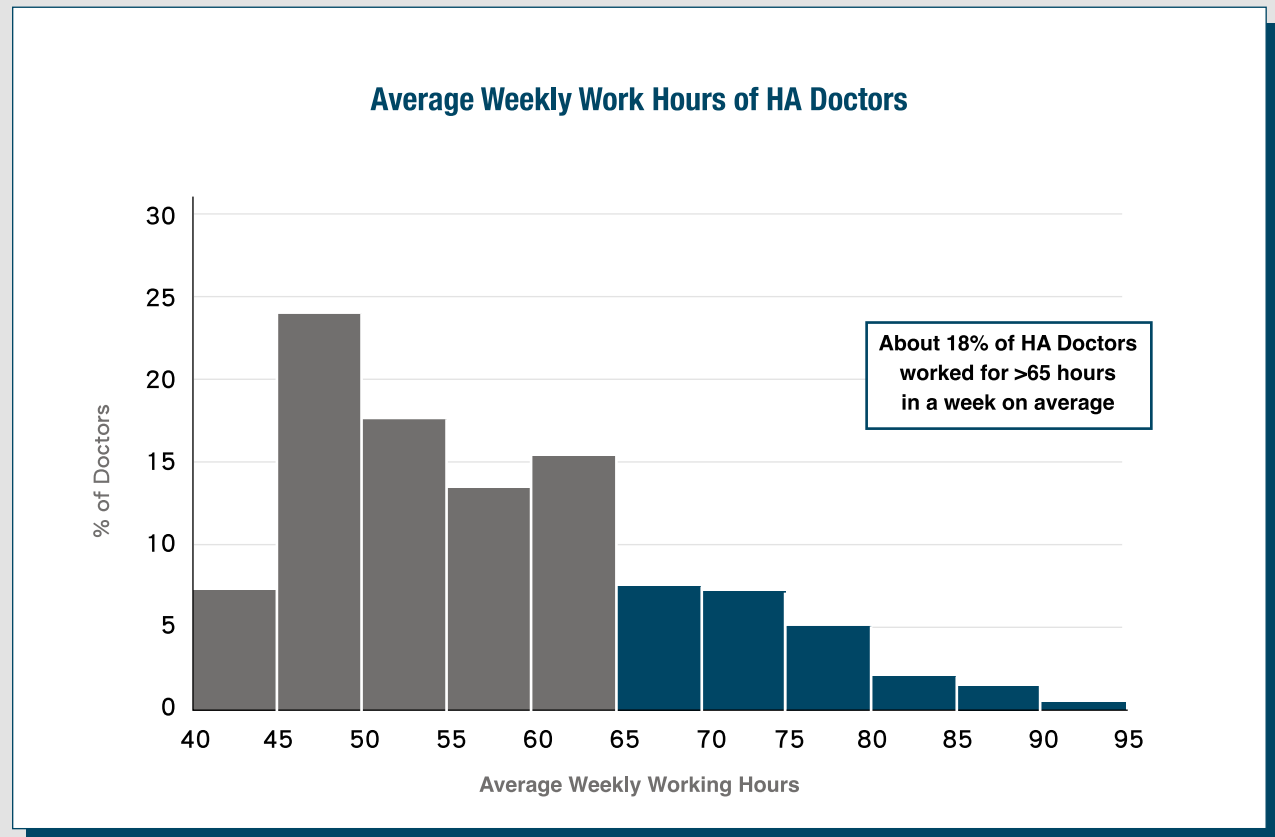


Fig 2: Proportion of doctors of different ranks working at various hours/week

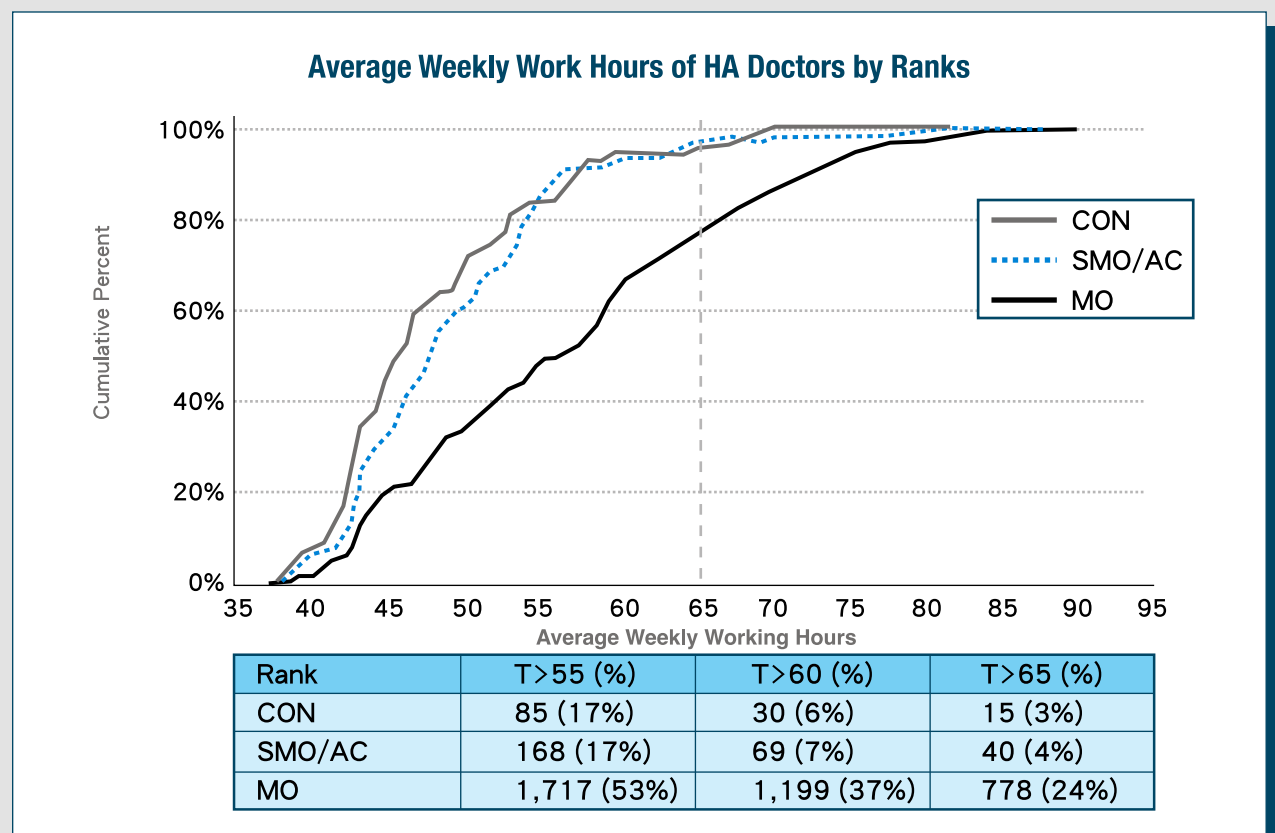


Fig 3: Frequency distribution of continuous work hour

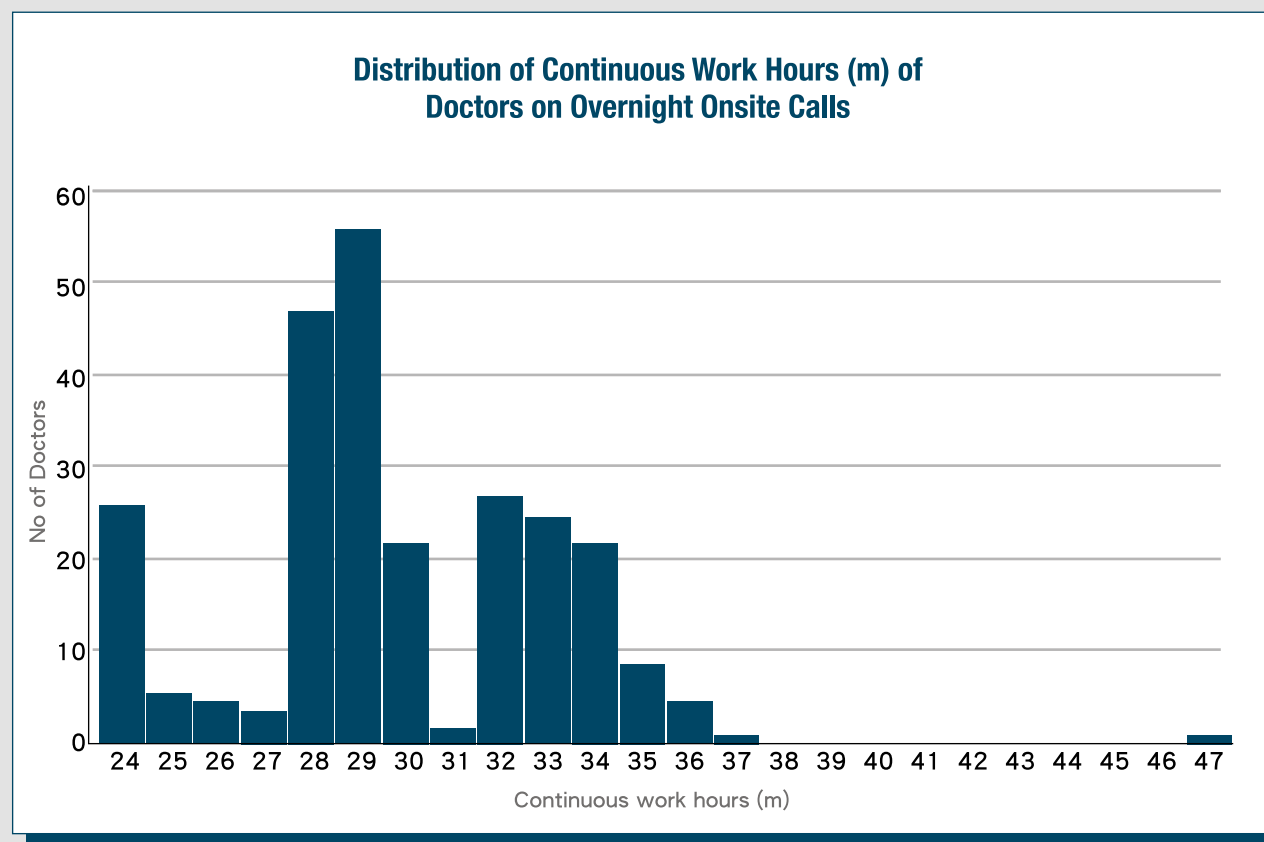


Fig 4: Distribution of m in different groups of hospitals

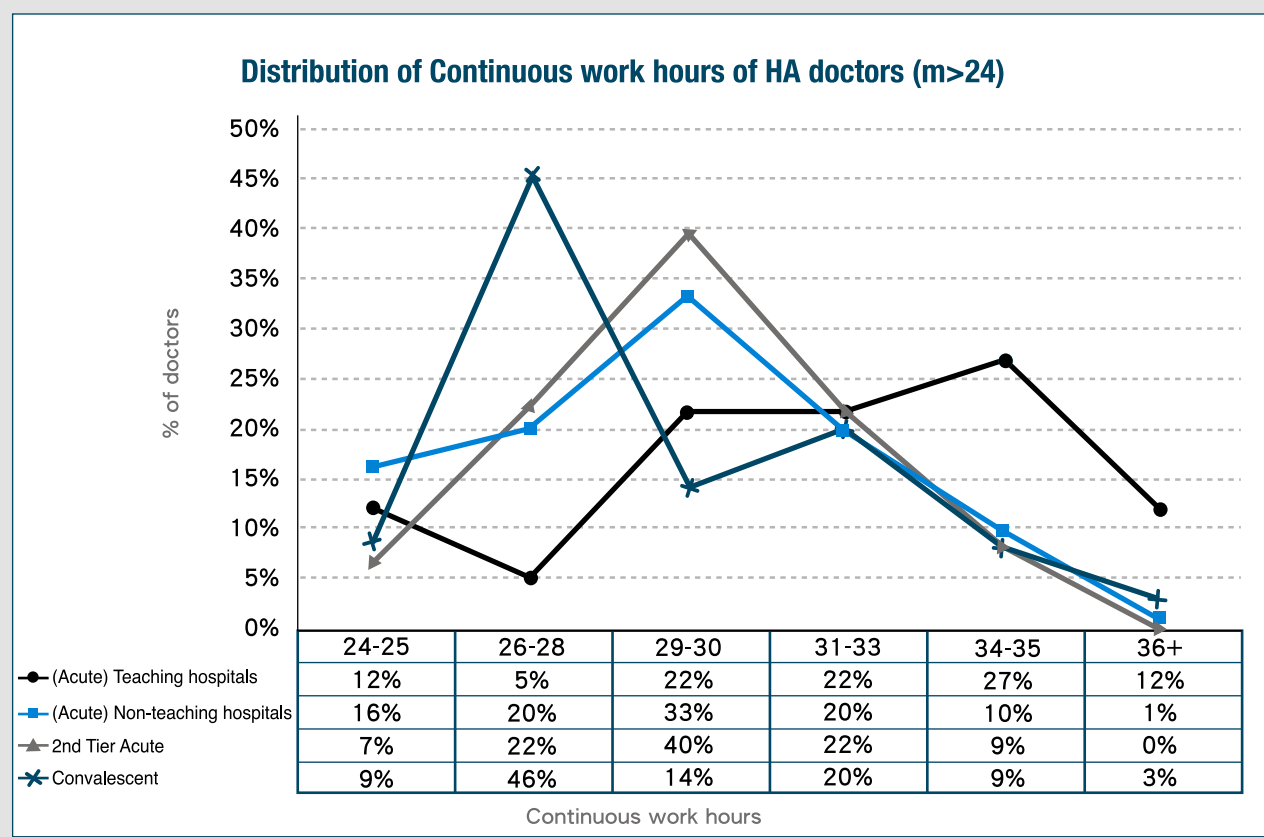


Table 1: Doctors' average weekly work hours (T) in different specialties

Specialty	Count	Min T	Max T	Mean T	T>65	% all T>65	% Con T>65	% SMO T>65	% MO T>65
NS	8	40	83	71.4	6	73%	33%	-	83%
SUR	48	43	91	63.5	22	45%	0%	0%	70%
O&G	22	44	85	63.9	9	40%	0%	17%	57%
PAE	33	42	84	60.9	13	40%	0%	10%	57%
O&T	32	44	75	60.1	9	29%	0%	0%	43%
ONC	12	46	77	59.7	3	26%	0%	0%	40%
CTS	5	46	75	58.3	1	22%	0%	0%	50%
MED	123	40	82	58.0	26	21%	7%	12%	25%
ENT	8	38	85	50.7	1	16%	0%	0%	25%
OPH	16	43	69	52.8	2	13%	0%	0%	18%
PSY	30	40	78	53.2	4	12%	0%	10%	14%
ICU	10	40	66	53.2	0	4%	33%	0%	0%
ANA	48	43	61	52.2	0	0%	-	0%	0%
RAD	25	40	55	46.8	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
A&E	43	40	59	46.3	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
PAT	20	40	57	46.2	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
FM & OP	53	40	61	45.2	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Overall	536	38	91	55.0	96	18%	3%	4%	24%

Table 2: Breakdown of continuous work hours of doctors on on-site call in different specialties

Specialty	Continuous Working Hours (m)				
	24 - 25	26 - 30	> 30	24+	% m>30
Surgery	2	10	30	42	71%
Medicine	1	53	17	71	24%
Orthopaedics	-	9	11	20	55%
Obstetrics & Gynecology	-	16	8	24	33%
Psychiatry	-	5	7	12	58%
Paediatrics	-	24	6	30	20%
Ophthalmology	-	-	5	5	100%
Ear, Nose & Throat	-	2	2	4	50%
Anaesthesia	14	1	2	17	12%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	-	-	1	1	100%
Radiology	-	-	1	1	100%
Oncology	1	4	1	6	17%
Neurosurgery	-	6	1	7	14%
Accident & Emergency	3	-	-	3	0%
Family Medicine	1	1	-	2	0%
Intensive Care	10	2	-	12	0%
Rehabilitative Medicine	-	1	-	1	0%
Total	32	134	92	258	