TRENDS, DISTRIBUTION, AND DEMOGRAPHICS

DENTISTS

Dentist Growth Trends

This fact sheet is an overview of the trends, distribution, and demographics of dentists in Texas. In 2020, there were 14,445 actively licensed dentists in Texas.

- This number represented a 11.0% increase since 2015 and a 27.8% increase since 2010.
- Relative to population growth, the size of the dentist workforce has improved by 8.5% over the past 10 years.

Despite these improvements, Texas still had fewer dentists per capita than the national average. In 2020, there were 149 dental health professional shortage areas in Texas.

Figure 1. Total Dentists¹

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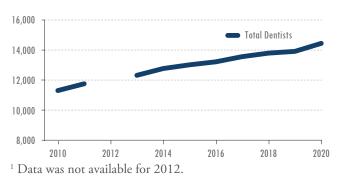
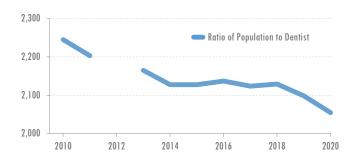


Figure 2. Ratio of Population to Dentist¹



Geographic Distribution of Dentists

Figure 3. Ratio of Texas Population to Dentist by County

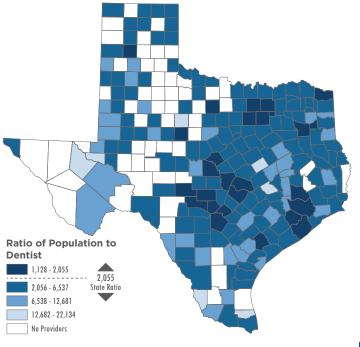


Table 1. Ratio of Texas Population to Dentist by Geographic Designation

Geographic Designation	Ratio of Population to Dentist	
Metropolitan	1,943	
Non-metropolitan	4,034	
Border	3,692	
Non-border	1,962	
Texas	2,055	

Dentists were not evenly distributed throughout the state.

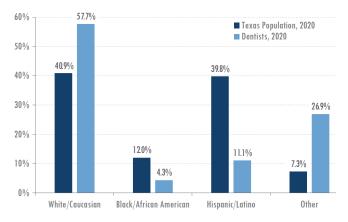
- Per capita, metropolitan counties had 2.1 times as many dentists as non-metropolitan counties.
- Per capita, non-border counties had 1.9 times as many dentists as border counties.

Demographics of Dentists

Race/Ethnicity of Dentists

Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino dentists were underrepresented when compared to the Texas population.²

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Texas Population and Dentists

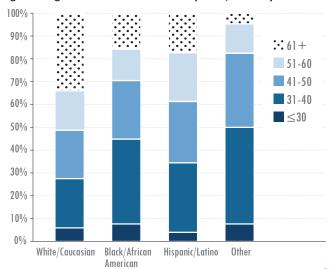


² Race/ethnicity data were available for 13,272 of 14,445 dentists.

Age Distribution of Dentists by Race/Ethnicity

- 34.0% of white/Caucasian dentists were 61 years of age or over, while 27.6% were aged 40 years or under.
- 25.7% of black/African American dentists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 44.9% were aged 40 years or under.
- 26.9% of Hispanic/Latino dentists were between 41 and 50 years of age, and 34.4% were aged 40 years or under.

Figure 5. Age Distribution of Dentists by Race/Ethnicity



Gender of Dentists

- In 2020, 36.3% of dentists were female and 63.7% were male.³
- In 2010, 27.3% were female and 72.7% were male.
- Among dentists aged 40 years or under in 2020, 48.9% were female and 51.1% were male.

Age Distribution of Dentists by Gender

Within 10 years, 29.7% of the current Texas dentist workforce will be over 65 years of age.⁴

- 13.1% of active dentists in Texas were over 65 years of age in 2020.
- Among dentists over 55 years of age, males comprised 83.4% of the dentist workforce.

Table 2. Age Distribution of Dentists by Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤30	603	508	1,111
31-35	1,032	1,056	2,088
36-40	995	1,182	2,177
41-45	838	1,120	1,958
46-50	645	989	1,634
51-55	404	753	1,157
56-60	317	803	1,120
61-65	231	1,034	1,265
>65	162	1,722	1,884
Total	5,227	9,167	14,394

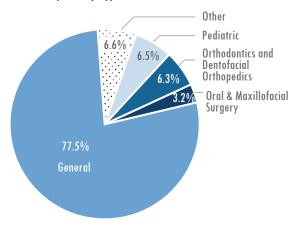
³ Gender data were available for 14,394 of 14,445 dentists.

⁴ The earliest retirement age for social security is 62.

Practice and Education of Dentists

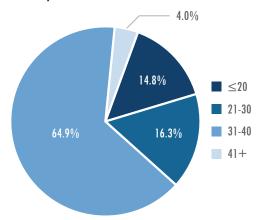
Practice of Dentists

Figure 6. Dentist Specialty Types⁵



⁵ Data were available for 12,247 of 14,445 dentists.

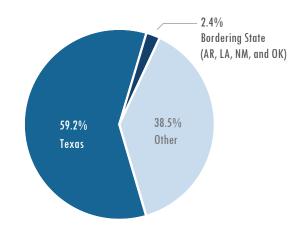
Figure 7. Weekly Practice Hours⁶



⁶ Data were available for 12,041 of 14,445 dentists.

Training of Dentists

Figure 8. State of Dental School⁷



⁷ Data were available for 12,939 of 14,445 dentists.

June 2021