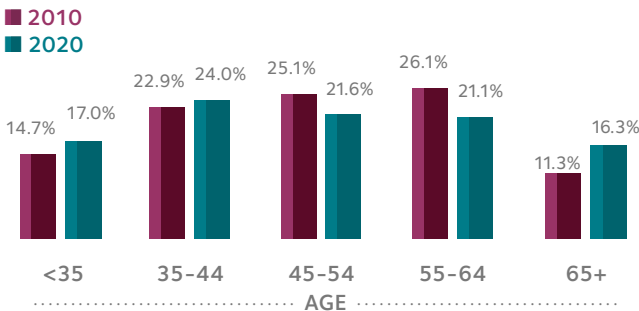


The Dentist Workforce – Key Facts

THE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DENTIST WORKFORCE IS SHIFTING

The average dentist's age was 49.4 in 2010 and 49.3 in 2020.



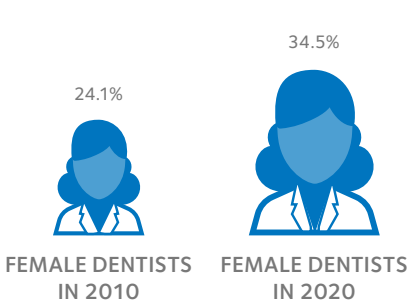
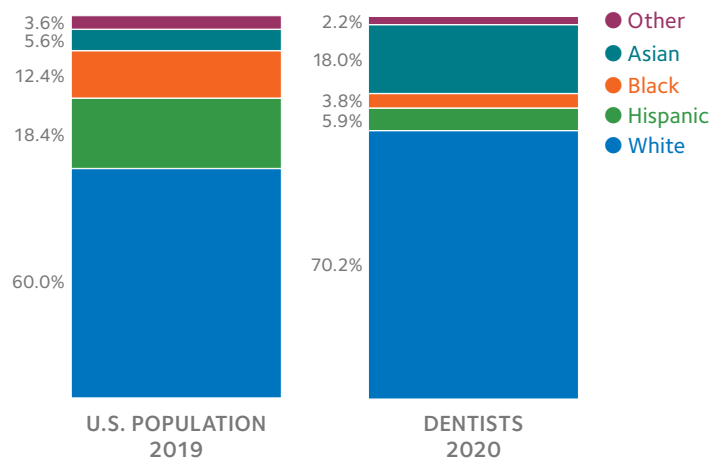
DENTISTS' AVERAGE RETIREMENT AGE PEAKED AND DECLINED



Dentists' average age at retirement was 68.1 in 2010 and 68.2 in 2020, after peaking at 69.1 in 2018.

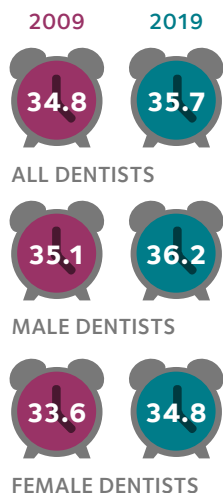
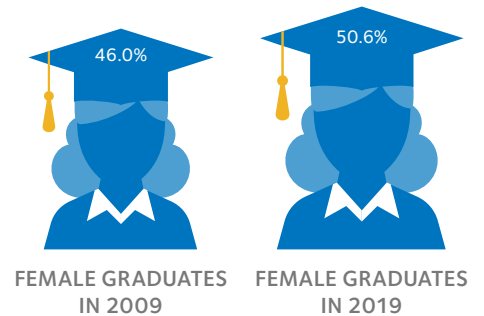
ETHNIC AND RACIAL DIVERSITY AMONG DENTISTS DOES NOT MIRROR THAT OF THE U.S. POPULATION

In terms of race and ethnicity, white and Asian dentists are proportionally more represented in the profession when compared to the U.S. population. Hispanic and Black dentists, as well as dentists who identify themselves as another race or ethnicity, are proportionally less represented in the profession when compared to the U.S. population.



A HIGHER SHARE OF DENTISTS IS FEMALE

Between 2010 and 2020, the percentage of female dentists in the workforce increased from 24 percent to 35 percent. This increase is expected to continue for several more years, as is evident in the growth of the proportion of female dental school graduates.



FEMALE DENTISTS WORK SLIGHTLY FEWER HOURS PER WEEK

The average number of hours a dentist works per week increased slightly from 2009 to 2019. However, female dentists work slightly fewer hours than their male peers.

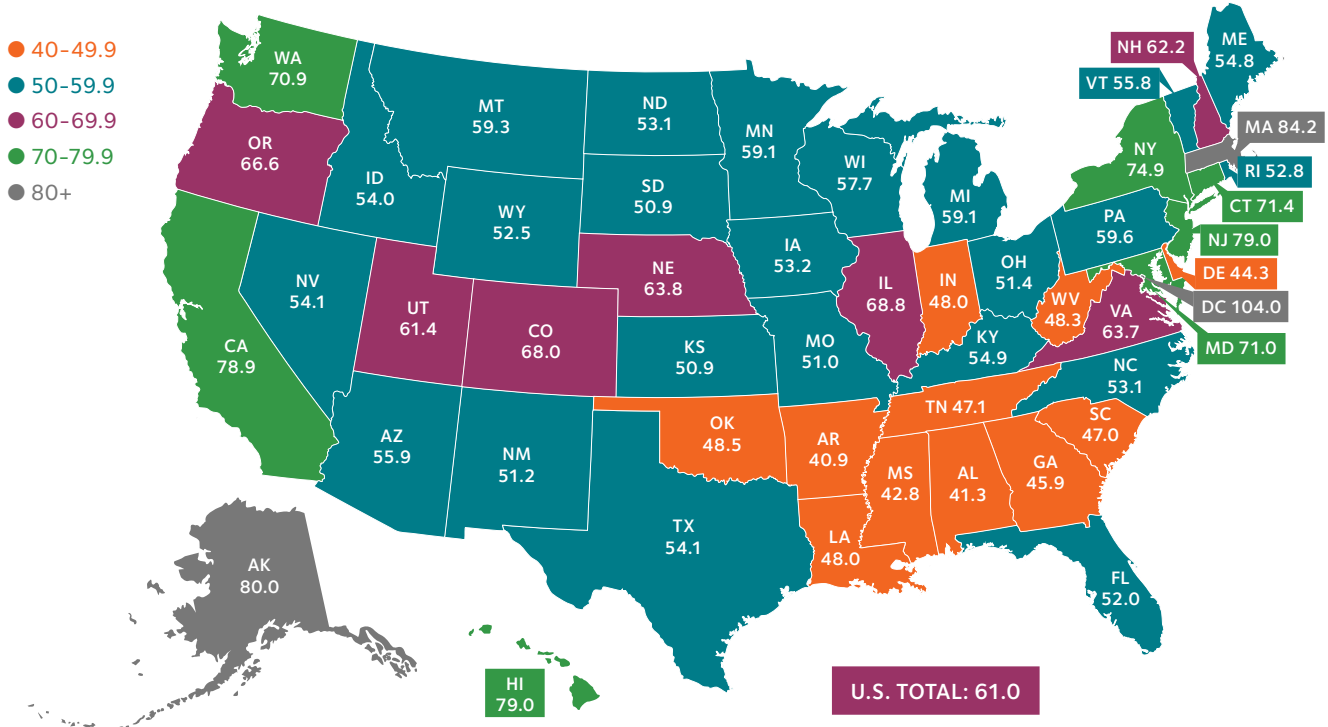


HALF OF PRIVATE PRACTICE DENTISTS WORK SOLO

"Solo" denotes a dentist who is the sole dentist in a dental office. They made up 50 percent of dentists in 2019.

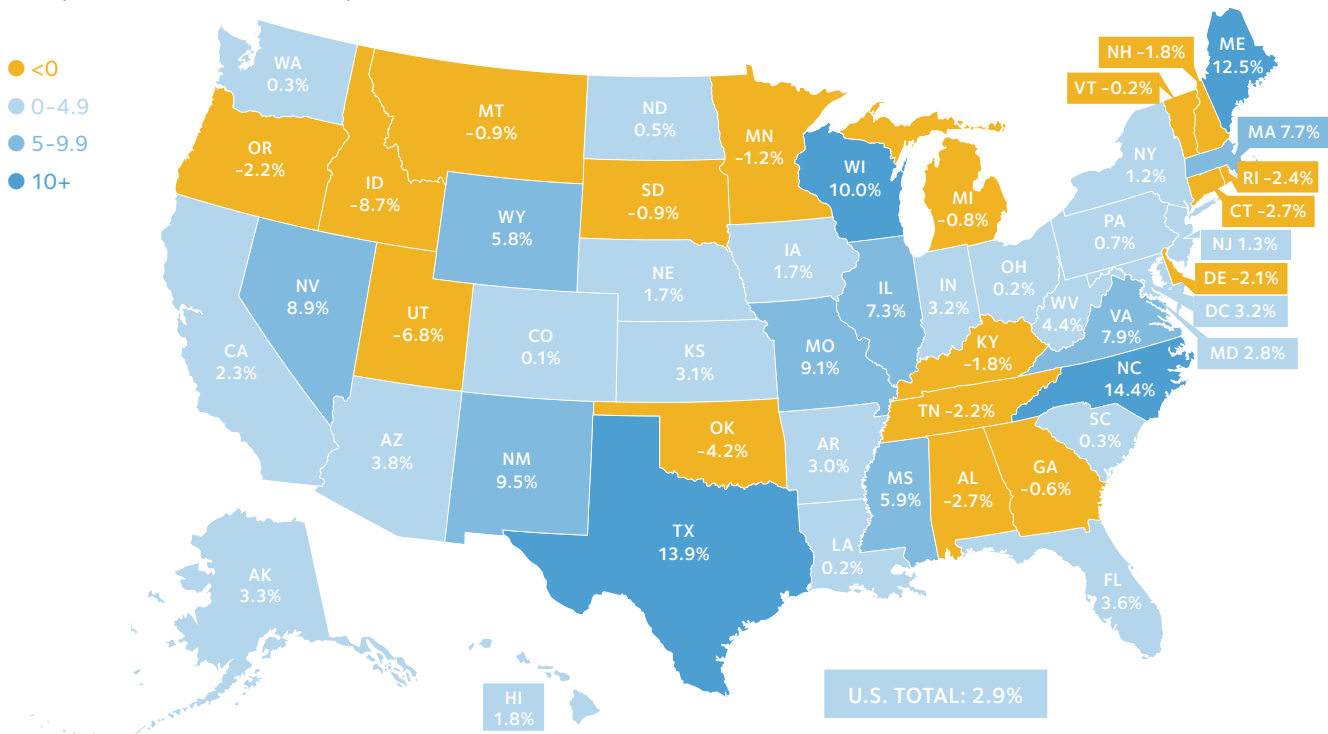
DENTIST-TO-POPULATION RATIOS VARY ACROSS STATES

The number of dentists per 100,000 population in the United States was 61 in 2020 and varied across states. The District of Columbia (104), Massachusetts (84.2) and Alaska (80) had the highest ratios in the nation.



DENTIST-TO-POPULATION RATIOS INCREASED FOR MOST STATES IN THE PAST DECADE

The states where the dentists per 100,000 population increased the most between 2010 and 2020 were North Carolina (14.4 percent), Texas (13.9 percent) and Maine (12.5 percent). Seventeen states experienced decreases, ranging from -0.2 percent (Vermont) to -8.7 percent (Idaho).



Sources: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile, Distribution of Dentists survey, Survey of Dental Education, Survey of Dental Practice, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Published in February 2021.

For more information, visit [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI) or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.