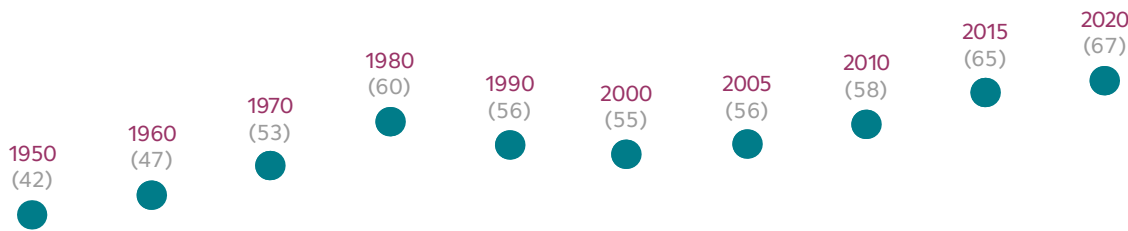


# Trends in U.S. Dental Schools



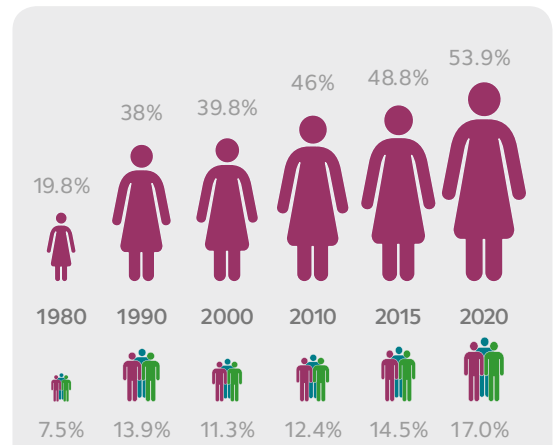
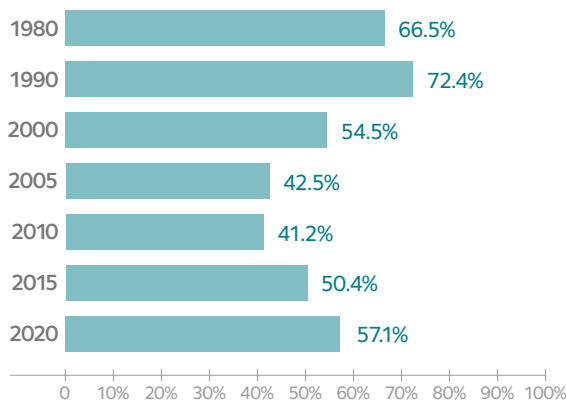
**THE NUMBER OF DENTAL SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.** steadily increased from the 1950s into the 1980s, reaching a then-peak of 60. A wave of closures occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Since 1997, there has been a net gain of 13 dental schools (14 opened and one closed), bringing the current total to 67. Eleven of these 14 new schools have opened since 2008.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).

## THE PERCENTAGE OF DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICANTS ACCEPTED

followed a wave-like pattern between 1980 and 2020.

Sources: American Dental Education Association, U.S. Dental School Applicants and Enrollees Report, 2020 Entering Class, Table 1. Available here. Accessed July 20, 2021.

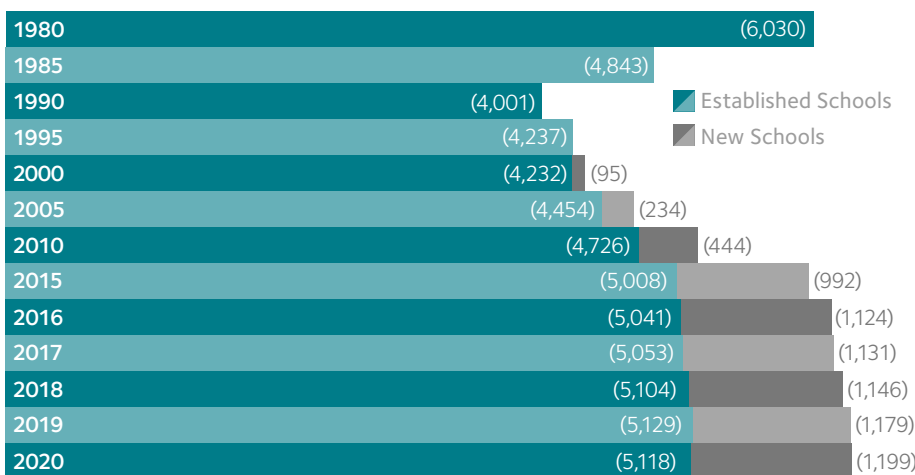


## FEMALE AND UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY\* (URM) FIRST-YEAR DENTAL STUDENTS

as a percentage of enrollment nearly doubled during the 1980s. Since 1990, the percentage of female students has increased at a much slower pace, while the percentage of URM students has fluctuated. In 2018 female dental students outnumbered male students for the first time, and continued to increase in the two years since.

\* Includes students who identify as Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino, or American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).



**FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT** decreased during the 1980s, after reaching a high at the time of 6,030 in 1980. Since 1990, first-year enrollment has increased nearly every year. Although much of the surge has been driven by the new dental schools that opened since 1997, they did not contribute to the entire gain; first-year enrollment also increased by almost 900 students at the 53 established dental schools since 2000.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).