Introduction

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is The Voice of Dental Education. Its members include all 76 U.S. and Canadian dental schools, over 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, 66 corporations and more than 20,000 individuals. The mission of ADEA is to lead institutions and individuals in the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the overall health and safety of the public.

ADEA is committed to conducting research into contemporary and emerging issues that are likely to impact decisions in the dental education and policy-making communities. Each year, ADEA collects data on topics of particular interest to dental school deans, program directors, faculty, students, residents and fellows. The resulting ADEA Snapshot of Dental Education presents findings on discrete subject areas to help the ADEA membership and related stakeholders better understand the academic dental profession and its role in health and health care.

The information in this report is taken from data compiled by ADEA, the American Dental Association and other sources. The associated online resources are updated regularly and are available for download at: adea.org/snapshot.

ORDERS

Additional copies are available from:
American Dental Education Association
655 K Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
202-289-7201
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Carnegie Classifications of U.S. Dental Schools' Parent Institutions

 RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity) 27
 RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity) 8
 Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research doctoral degrees during the academic year

 Research Doctorate-granting Universities 58% 38

 Special Focus Institutions 33% 22
 Institutions awarding the baccalaureate or higher-level degree where a high concentration of degrees (above 75%) is in a single field or set of related fields

 Master's Colleges & Universities 8% 5
 Generally includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 research doctoral degrees during the academic year

 Other 1% 1

Note: Carnegie Classification, Basic Classification, 2010
Total Educational Debt, 2015 Graduating Class

Total educational debt is the sum of college debt and dental school debt.

- 34% with $300,000 or more debt
- 27% with $200,000 to $300,000 debt
- 27% with less than $200,000 debt
- 12% with no debt

Average 2015 Educational Debt

- Students With Debt: $255,567
- All Students: $223,984

Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2015 Graduating Class
### Intended Primary Professional Activity for New Dental School Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice Dentist</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Graduate Student/Resident/Intern</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformed Services Dentist</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USPHS Commissioned Corps</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Position Related to Dentistry</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Service (e.g., VA)</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Type of Student</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State or Local Government Employee</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Member at a Dental School</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Position Not Related to Dentistry</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a new private practice</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed as an independent contractor in a private practice</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase an existing private practice as a partner</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase an existing private practice as the sole proprietor</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in a group practice that has a single location</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Employed in a corporate-owned group practice</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in a group practice that has multiple locations</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed as an associate dentist in an existing private practice with a sole proprietor</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In 2015, the question structure regarding employment in a corporate-owned group practice changed from “Select All That Apply” to “Select Only One.” As such, no comparisons can be made between the 2015 responses and previous years.

Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2015 Graduating Class
**Number of Applications and First-Year Enrollment for Advanced Dental Education Programs**

*2014-15 academic year. Application figures represent the total number of applications submitted by all programs, and counts applicants more than once if they applied to multiple programs.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Number of Programs</th>
<th>Number of Applications</th>
<th>First-Year Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All General Dentistry*</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>1,912</td>
<td>1,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Dentistry</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontics</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endodontics</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontics</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosthodontics</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Public Health</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All General Dentistry includes General Practice Residency, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine, and Orofacial Pain.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2014-15 Survey of Advanced Dental Education
Gender Diversity in Dental School Faculty

Faculty by age and gender, 2013-14 academic year

Note: Faculty included are full time and part time unless otherwise indicated; voluntary faculty are not included.
Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Faculty, 2013-14
Entry to and Separation From Academic Life, Full-Time Faculty

2013-14 academic year

INTO ACADEMIA

Percent

From Another Dental School 32%
From Private Practice 27%
From an Advanced Education Program 19%
From the Uniformed Services 5%
Immediately After Graduation 4%
From Another Hospital 3%
Other 10%

LEAVING ACADEMIA

Percent

Retired 31%
To Another Dental School 22%
Other 17%
To Private Practice 16%
Finished Fixed-Term Appointment 7%
To a Hospital or Advanced Education Program 5%
Deceased 2%

Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Faculty, 2013-14
Graduates of Accredited Dental
and Allied Dental Education Programs

2003-04 to 2012-13 academic years

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Surveys of Dental Hygiene Education Programs, Surveys of Dental Assisting Education Programs, Surveys of Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, and Surveys of Dental Education
First-Year Enrollment in Accredited Allied Dental Education Programs

1990-2014

Dental Assisting
Dental Hygiene
Dental Laboratory Technology

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Surveys of Dental Hygiene Education Programs, Surveys of Dental Assisting Education Programs, and Surveys of Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs
## Dental School Enrollees by Race and Ethnicity

**2010 and 2014**

### 2010 Enrollees by Race and Ethnicity

- **58.4%** White
- **23.0%** Asian
- **7.2%** Hispanic or Latino
- **5.4%** Black or African American
- **3.3%** Two or More Races
- **0.2%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **3.1%** Do Not Wish to Report or Unknown

**TOTAL ENROLLEES 2010** 4,947

### 2014 Enrollees by Race and Ethnicity

- **53.7%** White
- **23.4%** Asian
- **8.5%** Hispanic or Latino
- **4.3%** Black or African American
- **3.0%** Two or More Races
- **3.7%** Do Not Wish to Report or Unknown
- **0.3%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

**TOTAL ENROLLEES 2014** 5,892

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**Source:** American Dental Education Association, U.S. Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, 2010 and 2014 Entering Classes

ADEA adheres to the revised federal guidelines for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity. Percentages may add up to more than 100% due to rounding.
Distribution of Dental Schools in North America

Source: American Dental Education Association
**What a Difference a Generation Makes**

*Over the course of just one generation,* two areas in particular demonstrate significant improvements in both the oral health of the public and the ability of dental education to not only adapt, but also lead by example in new health care workforce models.

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**Percentage of U.S. population receiving fluoridated water**

- **1992:** 56%
- **2012:** 67%

The number of U.S. communities with fluoridated water increased 11 percentage points over a 20-year period, allowing millions more American children and adults to reduce their chance of dental caries. With over 3 million patient visits at academic dental institutions annually, dental educators and clinics are uniquely situated to provide accurate information to students, patients and their communities about the benefits of optimal community water fluoridation.


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**Number of dental schools with active interprofessional education programs**

- **1997:** 2
- **2014:** 53

Dentistry is now recognized as an integral and integrated part of the interprofessional health care team. The marked increase in formal interprofessional education programs at dental schools in less than 20 years demonstrates the commitment of academic dentistry to prepare students, residents and fellows for a future in collaborative care.

Dentistry exemplifies the most prominent trends in health care delivery and is well positioned to improve the health of the public.

1. We see a significant portion of the population—500,000,000 dental patient encounters annually.

2. The oral–systemic connection is fundamental to overall health.

3. Dentistry already embodies team-based care in the relationship between dentists and allied personnel.

4. The dental profession arguably represents the most respected preventive model in health care, including fluoridation as one of the most celebrated public health successes of modern time.