



## Workforce

### How many dentists are there in the U.S?

As of 2020, there are 201,117 **dentists working in dentistry** (dentists using their dental degree in some fashion) in the U.S.

Source: [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2020](#) (Tables in Excel).

### What is the dentist-to-population ratio in the United States?

As of 2020, there are 61.04 **dentists working in dentistry** per 100,000 U.S. population. Ratios vary by state.

Source: [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2020](#) (Tables in Excel).

### How many dentists are female?

Among the 201,117 **dentists working in dentistry** as of 2020, 34.5% are female.

Source: [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2020](#) (Tables in Excel).

### What percentage of dentists are specialists?

As of 2020, about one in five professionally active dentists (21.2%) reported that their practice, research, or administration area is an ADA-recognized specialty.

Source: [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2020](#) (Tables in Excel).

### What is the age breakdown of dentists in the United States?

Among the 201,117 **dentists working in dentistry** as of 2020, 17.0% are under age 35, 24.0% are ages 35 - 44, 21.6% are ages 45 - 54, 21.1% are ages 55 - 64, and 16.3% are age 65 and older.

Source: [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2020](#) (Tables in Excel).

### What is the average age of retirement among dentists?

In 2020, the average age of retirement age among U.S. dentists was 68.2, close to 68.1 in 2010.

Source: Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA Masterfile.

**Does the ADA have any projections for the number of dentists in the U.S.?**

The research brief *Supply of Full-Time Equivalent Dentists in the U.S. Expected to Increase Steadily* projects the future supply of dentists in the U.S. based on various sources of outflows from and inflows to the dental profession.

Source: [Supply of Full-Time Equivalent Dentists in the U.S. Expected to Increase Steadily](#) (Health Policy Institute Research Brief).

Related item: State-level workforce projections are available from the [Projected Supply of Dentists for Select States](#).