

Minnesota's Dentists Workforce, 2014-2015

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2014-2015 DENTIST WORKFORCE SURVEYⁱ

Overall

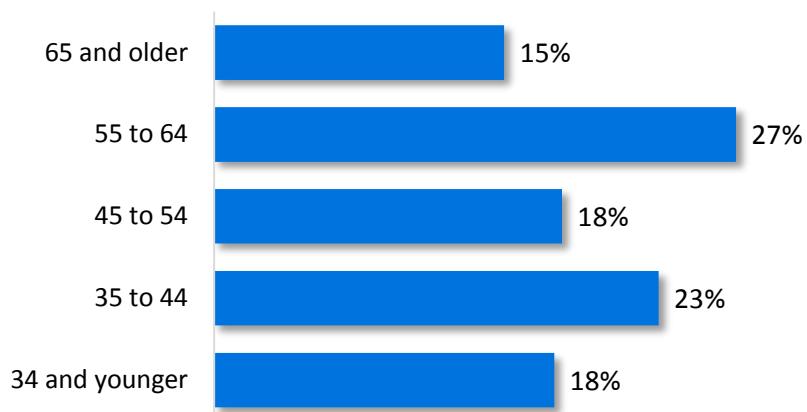
According to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, as of August 2015, there were **4,043** actively licensed dentists.ⁱⁱ

Demographics

Sex. In general, healthcare professions tend to be female-dominated, but dentists are still a majority male profession. Sixty-seven percent of Minnesota dentists are male, but this is changing with younger dentists. Fifty-six percent of dentists under 35 are female compared to 19 percent of those 55 to 64 (data not shown).

Age. Dentists are a slightly older profession with a median age of 49. In comparison, the median age of the Minnesota workforce is 41. The highest percentage of dentists are 55 to 64 (27 percent), followed by those 35 to 44 (23 percent).

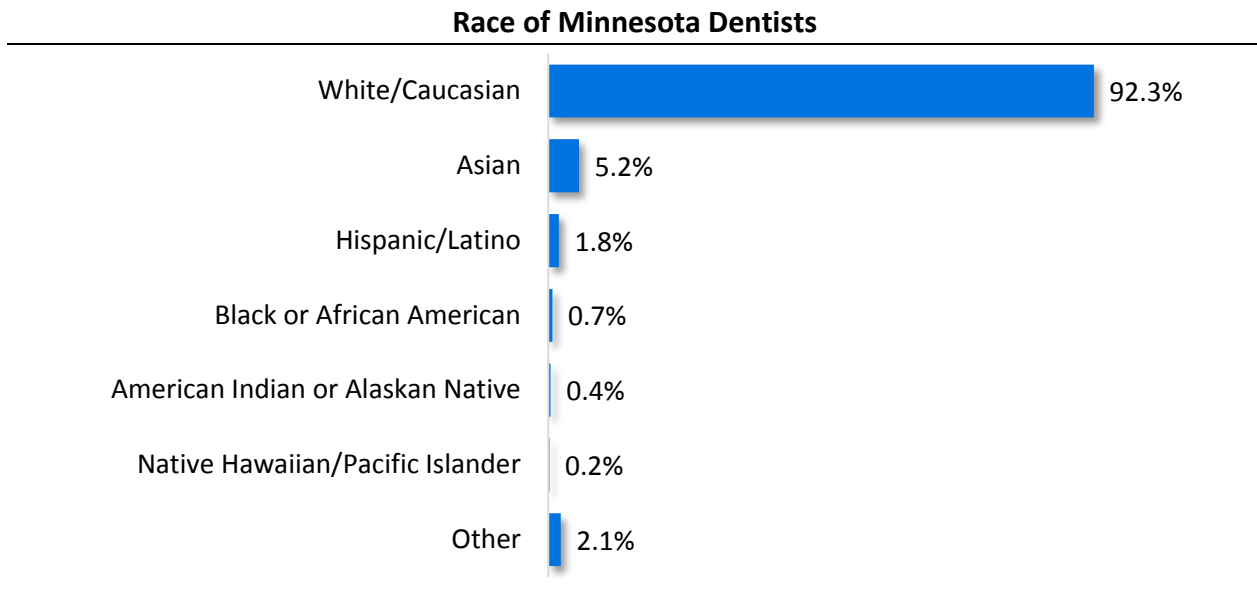
Age of Minnesota Dentists



Source: Minnesota Board of Dentistry, August 2015. Analysis done by MDH. Percentages are based on 4,043 Minnesota licensed dentists who provided valid birth dates to the Board.

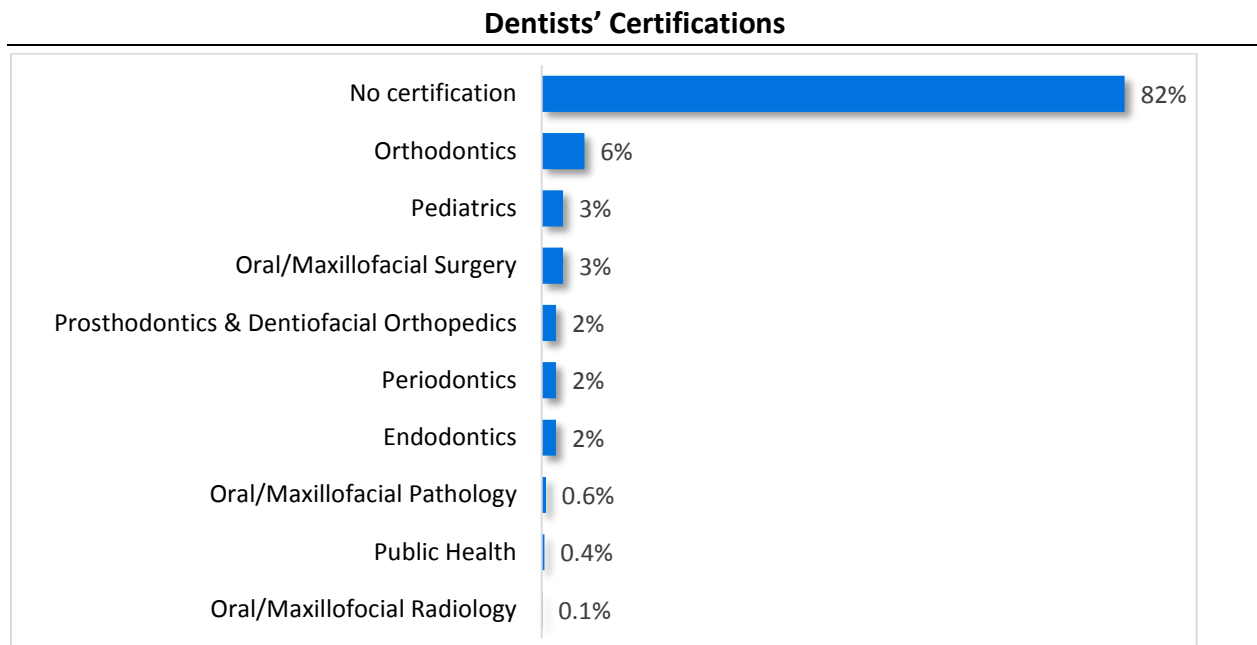
MINNESOTA DENTIST WORKFORCE, 2014-2015

Race. Typical of racial patterns among most health care professionals, the majority (92.3 percent) of dentists indicated that they were white. The second most common race for dentists was Asian.



Source: MDH Dentist Workforce Questionnaire, 2014-2015. Respondents could select as many races as applicable.

Certification. The majority of dentists—over 80 percent—indicated that they have no specialty certification. If they do have a certification, orthodontics is most common.



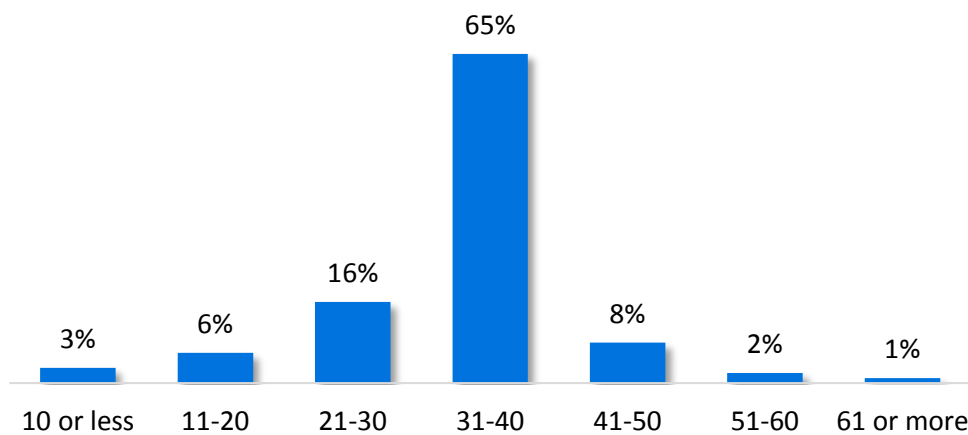
Source: MDH Dentist Workforce Questionnaire, 2014-2015. This chart is based on 1,968 dentists who provided responses to any of the options.

Employment

Share of Dentists Employed. An estimated **93.1 percent** of Minnesota licensed dentists reported on the MDH questionnaire that they were working in a position as a dentist. Of the small share *not* working as a dentist, most (3 percent of all dentists) indicated that they were retired. One percent reported they were seeking work in the field.

Hours Worked. In the oral health world, working slightly less than 40 hours per week is considered full-time. The median hours worked per week was 34 hours for dentists. Very few dentists worked more than 40 hours per week (11 percent).

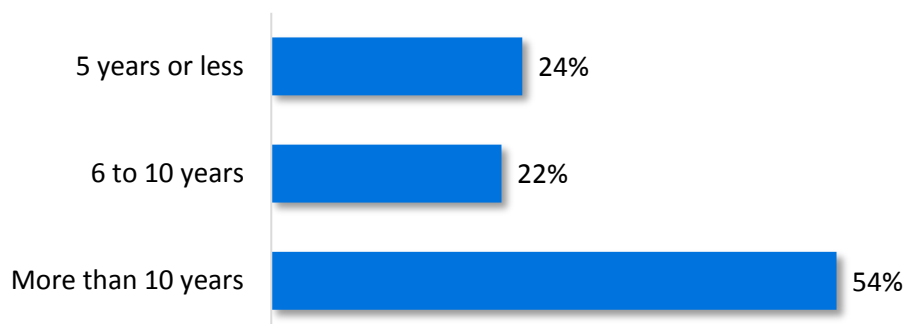
Hours Worked in a Typical Week



Source: MDH Dentist Workforce Questionnaire, 2014-2015. The chart is based on 2,007 survey responses.

Future Plans. Just under one quarter of dentists currently working in Minnesota indicated that they planned to leave the field within five years. Of those planning to leave, the majority (85 percent) indicated that they planned to retire.

“How long do you plan to continue practicing as a dentist in Minnesota?”



Source: MDH Dentist Workforce Questionnaire, 2014-2015. The chart is based on 1,571 responses.

Work Setting. The questionnaire asked dentists to identify their primary work setting. Forty percent of dentists reported that their primary work setting was a solo private practice, and another 36.8 percent reported that they primarily worked in a small group private practice. Work setting differs by age of dentist indicating a shift in pattern of where dentists work. For example, 47 percent of dentist under 35 were working a small group private practice compared to 33 percent of those 55 to 64. The highest percent of those 35 to 44 also work in small group private practices (43 percent). Those 45 and older all had the highest percent working in solo private practices (data not shown).

Dentists' Work Setting

| Setting | Share of Dentists Working in this Setting |
|---|---|
| Solo private practice | 40.4% |
| Small group private practice (2-4 dentists) | 36.8% |
| Large group private practice (5+ dentists) | 8.8% |
| College or University | 3.7% |
| Community or medical clinic | 3.2% |
| Hospital | 2.4% |
| Institution (group home, prison, etc.) | 0.4% |
| School clinic | 0.3% |
| Long-term care facility | 0.1% |
| Other | 4.0% |

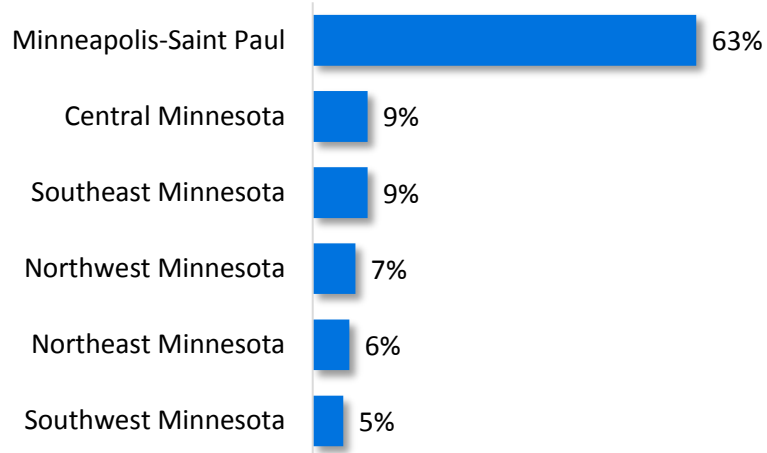
Source: MDH Dentist Workforce Questionnaire, 2014-2015. The chart is based on 1,952 survey responses.

Geographic Distribution

To get a sense of the accessibility of dentists' services around the state, the next two charts provide two different views of the geographic distribution of dentists. These analyses are based on geocoded addresses that are supplied to the Board of Dentistry at the time of license renewal.ⁱⁱⁱ

Distribution by Region. The first chart shows the distribution of dentists across the six planning areas around Minnesota. As shown, almost two-thirds of dentists (63 percent) are practicing in the Twin Cities metro area. The remainder of the state is home to significantly smaller shares of dentists who are roughly evenly distributed among regions. For reference, approximately 54 percent of the state's population lives in the Twin Cities metro area, compared to between 7 and 13 percent of Minnesotans in other regions. This suggests that the location of dentists is more concentrated in the Twin Cities area than the general population. Dentists are less concentrated in Central Minnesota than the population; 9 percent compared to 13 percent.

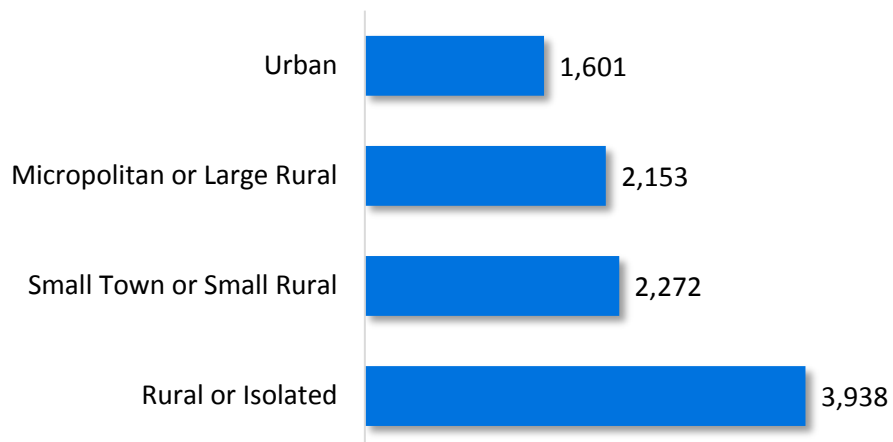
Dentists by Minnesota Region



Source: Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) geocoding and analysis of August, 2015 Minnesota Board of Dentistry address data. Percentages above are based on 2,981 valid Minnesota addresses.

Distribution across urban and rural areas. The chart below provides another view of the geographic distribution of dentists, showing the size of the population for every one dentist in urban, micropolitan, small town, and rural areas. As shown, there are 1,601 people for every one dentist in urban areas of Minnesota, compared to over twice that many in the most rural areas of the state. This pattern is typical of other healthcare professions, and reflects the relative inaccessibility of care in sparsely populated areas of Minnesota.

Minnesota Population-to-Dentist Ratio



Source: Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) geocoding and analysis of August, 2015 Minnesota Board of Dentistry address data. Percentages above are based on 2,981 valid Minnesota addresses.

MINNESOTA DENTIST WORKFORCE, 2014-2015

Visit our website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/data.html> to learn about the Minnesota healthcare workforce. County-level data for this profession is available at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/database/>.

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
85 East 7th Place, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55117
(651) 201-3838
health.orhpc@state.mn.us



ⁱ The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in cooperation with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry collected information on demographics, education, career and future plans of physicians during a workforce questionnaire in 2015. Unless noted, all data are based on information collected from that survey. The response rate for the 2014-2015 dentist survey was 55.9 percent.

ⁱⁱ Of the total licensed professionals, 3,099 have a practice status of “Active Practice in State.” Of these, 101 listed a practice address outside of Minnesota; and based on survey responses, 6.7% of the total licensees are not currently practicing as a dentist. Thus, not all actively licensed dentists are part of the Minnesota dental workforce.

ⁱⁱⁱ Addresses are generally practice locations, but a small number of dentists report home addresses. Additionally, the dentists providing out of state addresses or whose addresses could not be geocoded are not included in the analysis and could not be geocoded. These professionals may or may not be providing services in Minnesota.