

2021 Dental Hygienist Workforce Report

Based on 2020-2021 Licensure Renewal Data



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Winter 2022

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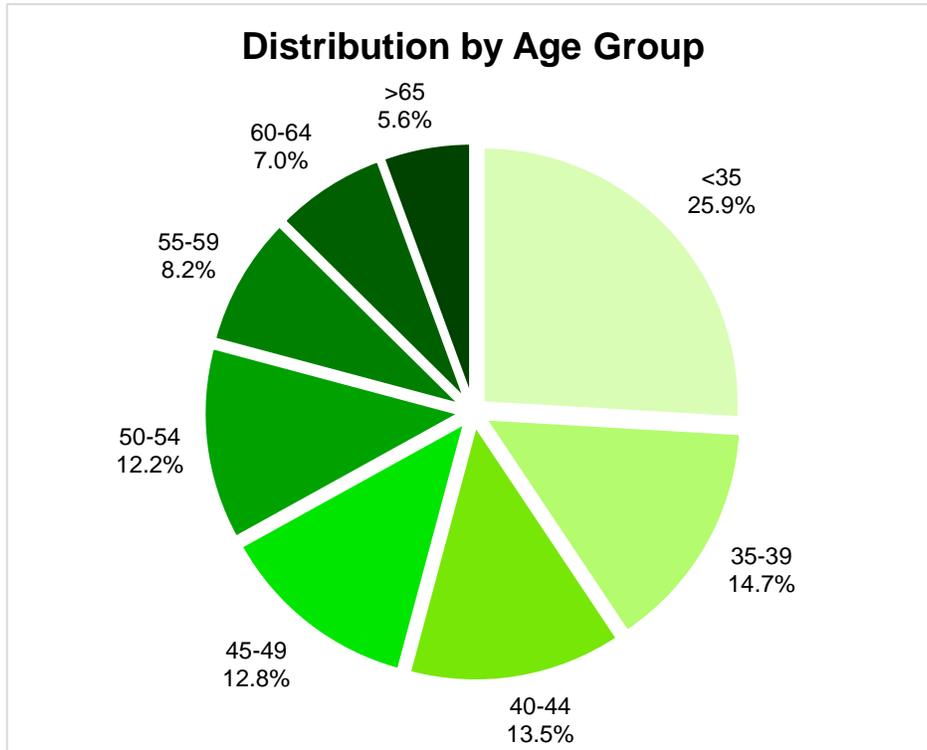
Characteristics of Licensed Dental Hygienists Practicing in Georgia, 2021

In 2021, there were 6,194 actively practicing dental hygienists in the state of Georgia. The rate of dental hygienists per 100,000 people is 57.8 in 2021 (using the Census 2020 population of 10,711,908)¹. According to the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), the rate of dental hygienists to 100,000 population in the entire United States was 68.0 in 2021². Georgia had 22 counties with no dental hygienists in 2021, which represents a population of 175,797.

¹ [U.S. Census "2020 Georgia Census-State Profile"](#)

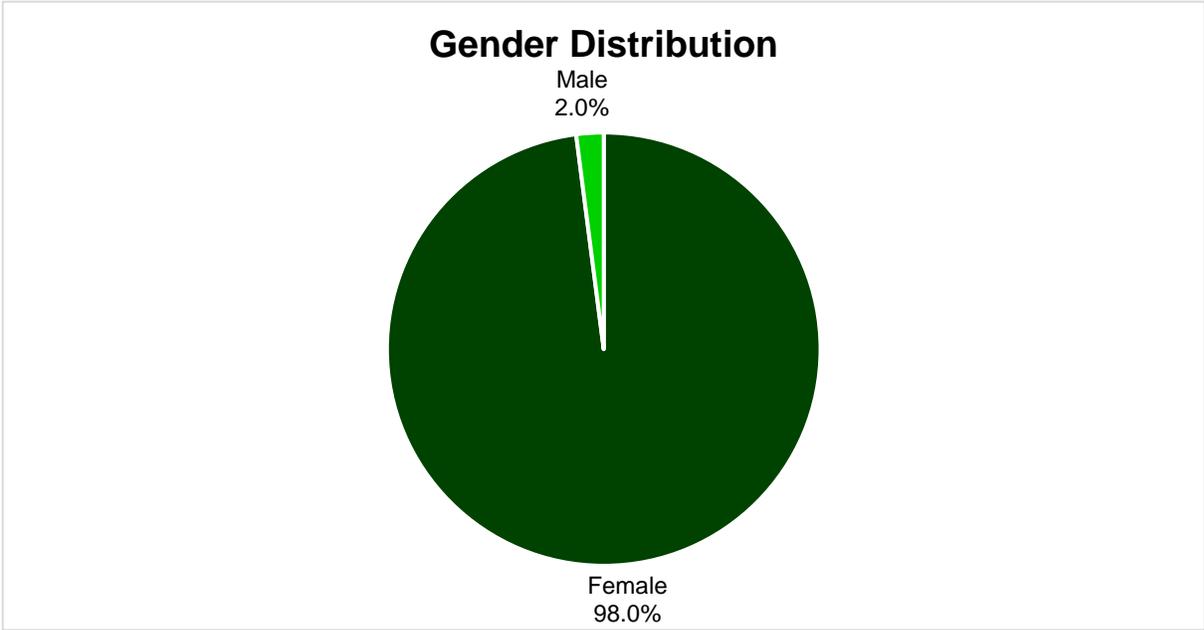
² [American Dental Hygienists' Association "Facts About the Dental Hygiene Workforce in the US"](#)

Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Age Group



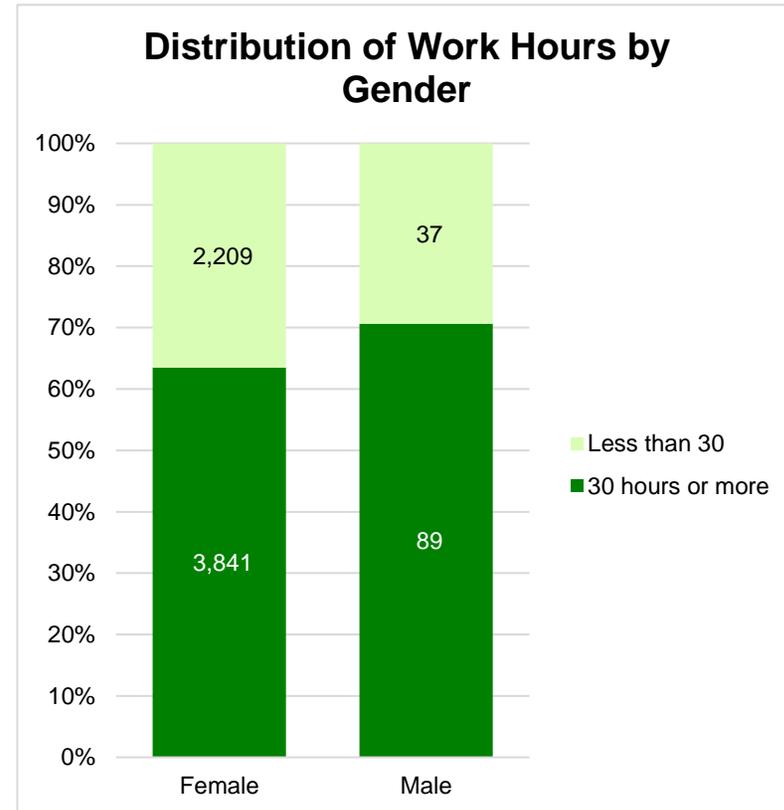
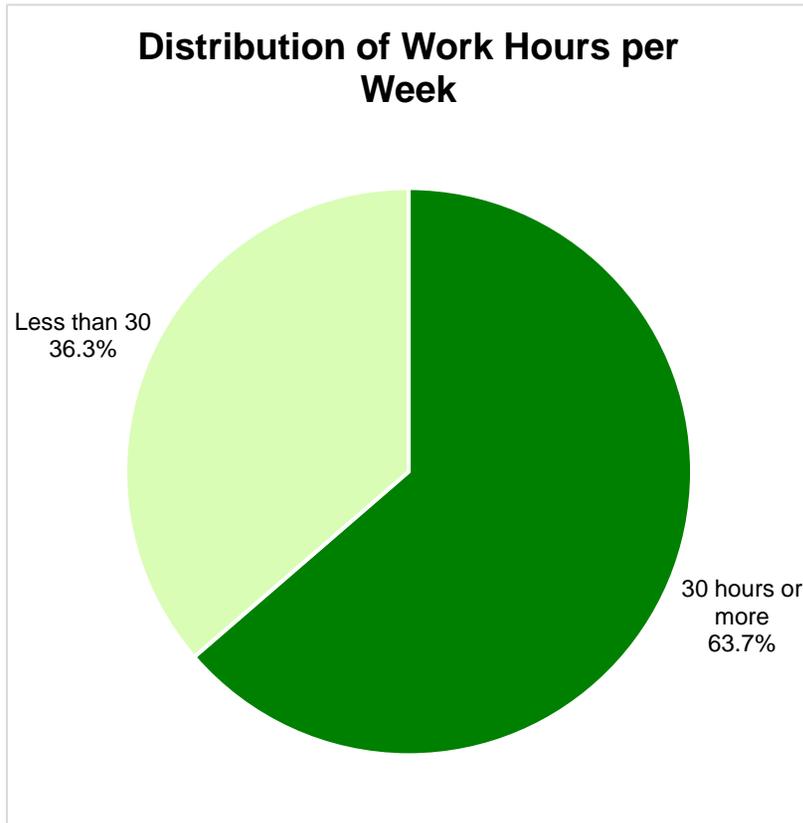
The 2021 Dental Hygienist Census indicates the average age of licensed dental hygienists actively practicing in Georgia is 43.8 years old. The largest age group consists of those 35 or younger, constituting 25.9% of the total. The smallest age group is those aged 65 or older, which is 5.6% of the total.

Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Gender



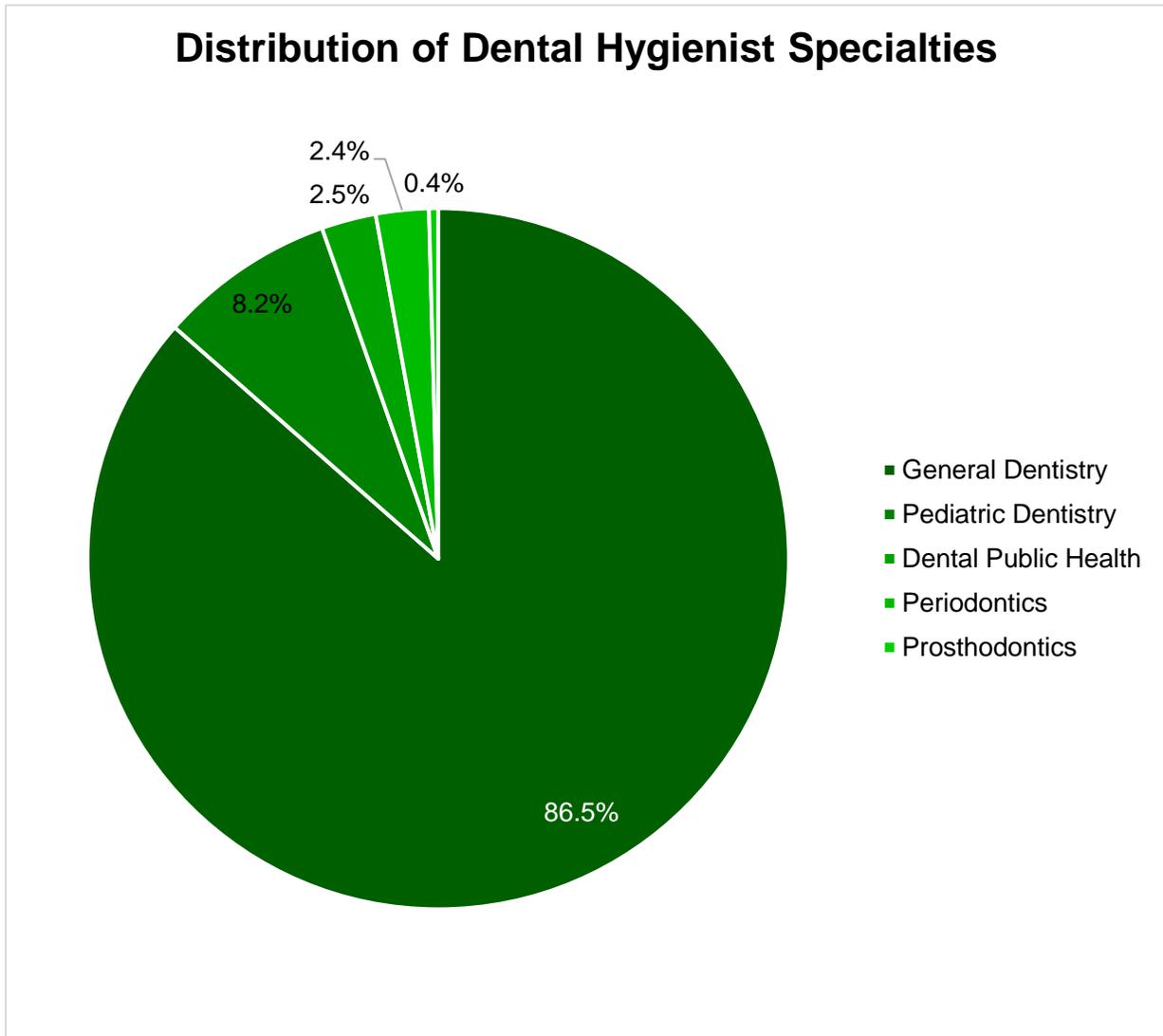
Of the 6,194 dental hygienists practicing in Georgia in 2021, 126 (2.0%) are male and 6,058 (98.0%) are female.

Distribution of Work Hours per Week



In 2021, 63.7% of dental hygienists reported working 30 hours or more per week. In 2021, male dental hygienists are more likely to report working 30 hours or more per week than female dental hygienists.

Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Specialty



The vast majority of dental hygienists (86.5%) practice in general dentistry in 2021. The remaining 13.5% of dental hygienists practice in other specialties, namely pediatric dentistry (8.2%), dental public health (2.5%), periodontics (2.4%), and prosthodontics (0.4%).

Distribution of Practicing Dental Hygienists by Georgia County, 2021

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2020 POPULATION	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
STATE OF GEORGIA	6,194	10,711,908	57.8
APPLING	7	18,444	38.0
ATKINSON	0	8,286	0.0
BACON	2	11,140	18.0
BAKER	0	2,876	0.0
BALDWIN	21	43,799	47.9
BANKS	0	18,035	0.0
BARROW	25	83,505	29.9
BARTOW	46	108,901	42.2
BEN HILL	11	17,194	64.0
BERRIEN	2	18,160	11.0
BIBB	137	157,346	87.1
BLECKLEY	4	12,583	31.8
BRANTLEY	4	18,021	22.2
BROOKS	0	16,301	0.0
BRYAN	30	44,738	67.1
BULLOCH	48	81,099	59.2
BURKE	3	24,596	12.2
BUTTS	4	25,434	15.7
CALHOUN	4	5,573	71.8
CAMDEN	32	54,768	58.4
CANDLER	3	10,981	27.3
CARROLL	73	119,148	61.3
CATOOSA	34	67,872	50.1
CHARLTON	0	12,518	0.0
CHATHAM	245	295,291	83.0
CHATTAHOOCHEE	0	9,565	0.0
CHATTOOGA	9	24,965	36.1
CHEROKEE	164	266,620	61.5
CLARKE	99	128,671	76.9
CLAY	0	2,848	0.0
CLAYTON	43	297,595	14.4
CLINCH	1	6,749	14.8
COBB	538	766,149	70.2
COFFEE	26	43,092	60.3
COLQUITT	17	45,898	37.0
COLUMBIA	146	156,010	93.6
COOK	6	17,229	34.8
COWETA	83	146,158	56.8
CRAWFORD	1	12,130	8.2
CRISP	9	20,128	44.7
DADE	3	16,251	18.5
DAWSON	16	26,798	59.7
DECATUR	10	29,367	34.1
DEKALB	337	764,382	44.1
DODGE	10	19,925	50.2

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2020 POPULATION	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
DOOLY	7	11,208	62.5
DOUGHERTY	75	85,790	87.4
DOUGLAS	77	144,237	53.4
EARLY	5	10,854	46.1
ECHOLS	0	3,697	0.0
EFFINGHAM	21	64,769	32.4
ELBERT	5	19,637	25.5
EMANUEL	8	22,768	35.1
EVANS	9	10,774	83.5
FANNIN	17	25,319	67.1
FAYETTE	149	119,194	125.0
FLOYD	69	98,584	70.0
FORSYTH	127	251,283	50.5
FRANKLIN	6	23,424	25.6
FULTON	851	1,066,710	79.8
GILMER	13	31,353	41.5
GLASCOCK	0	2,884	0.0
GLYNN	57	84,499	67.5
GORDON	27	57,544	46.9
GRADY	12	26,236	45.7
GREENE	22	18,915	116.3
GWINNETT	533	957,062	55.7
HABERSHAM	23	46,031	50.0
HALL	139	203,136	68.4
HANCOCK	0	8,735	0.0
HARALSON	12	29,919	40.1
HARRIS	8	34,668	23.1
HART	17	25,828	65.8
HEARD	0	11,412	0.0
HENRY	124	240,712	51.5
HOUSTON	130	163,633	79.4
IRWIN	2	9,666	20.7
JACKSON	54	75,907	71.1
JASPER	4	14,588	27.4
JEFF DAVIS	0	14,779	0.0
JEFFERSON	7	15,709	44.6
JENKINS	1	8,674	11.5
JOHNSON	2	9,189	21.8
JONES	10	28,347	35.3
LAMAR	4	18,500	21.6
LANIER	6	9,877	60.7
LAURENS	30	49,570	60.5
LEE	17	33,163	51.3
LIBERTY	32	65,256	49.0
LINCOLN	2	7,690	26.0
LONG	1	16,168	6.2
LOWNDES	102	118,251	86.3
LUMPKIN	11	33,488	32.8
MACON	3	12,082	24.8
MADISON	4	30,120	13.3

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2020 POPULATION	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
MARION	0	7,498	0.0
MCDUFFIE	11	21,632	50.9
MCINTOSH	1	10,975	9.1
MERIWETHER	1	20,613	4.9
MILLER	3	6,000	50.0
MITCHELL	5	21,755	23.0
MONROE	11	27,957	39.3
MONTGOMERY	0	8,610	0.0
MORGAN	13	20,097	64.7
MURRAY	6	39,973	15.0
MUSCOGEE	177	206,922	85.5
NEWTON	31	112,483	27.6
OCONEE	45	41,799	107.7
OGLETHORPE	0	14,825	0.0
PAULDING	68	168,661	40.3
PEACH	18	27,981	64.3
PICKENS	11	33,216	33.1
PIERCE	5	19,716	25.4
PIKE	7	18,889	37.1
POLK	16	42,853	37.3
PULASKI	5	9,855	50.7
PUTNAM	4	22,047	18.1
QUITMAN	0	2,235	0.0
RABUN	9	16,883	53.3
RANDOLPH	1	6,425	15.6
RICHMOND	122	206,607	59.0
ROCKDALE	77	93,570	82.3
SCHLEY	1	4,547	22.0
SCREVEN	3	14,067	21.3
SEMINOLE	3	9,147	32.8
SPALDING	37	67,306	55.0
STEPHENS	12	26,784	44.8
STEWART	2	5,314	37.6
SUMTER	13	29,616	43.9
TALBOT	0	5,733	0.0
TALIAFERRO	0	1,559	0.0
TATTNALL	10	22,842	43.8
TAYLOR	0	7,816	0.0
TELFAIR	3	12,477	24.0
TERRELL	2	9,185	21.8
THOMAS	30	45,798	65.5
TIFT	38	41,344	91.9
TOOMBS	16	27,030	59.2
TOWNS	6	12,493	48.0
TREUTLEN	3	6,406	46.8
TROUP	47	69,426	67.7
TURNER	5	9,006	55.5
TWIGGS	0	8,022	0.0
UNION	17	24,632	69.0
UPSON	14	27,700	50.5

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2020 POPULATION	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
WALKER	16	67,654	23.6
WALTON	58	96,673	60.0
WARE	22	36,251	60.7
WARREN	0	5,215	0.0
WASHINGTON	8	19,988	40.0
WAYNE	12	30,144	39.8
WEBSTER	0	2,348	0.0
WHEELER	1	7,471	13.4
WHITE	15	28,003	53.6
WHITFIELD	51	102,864	49.6
WILCOX	3	8,766	34.2
WILKES	1	9,565	10.5
WILKINSON	5	8,877	56.3
WORTH	5	20,784	24.1

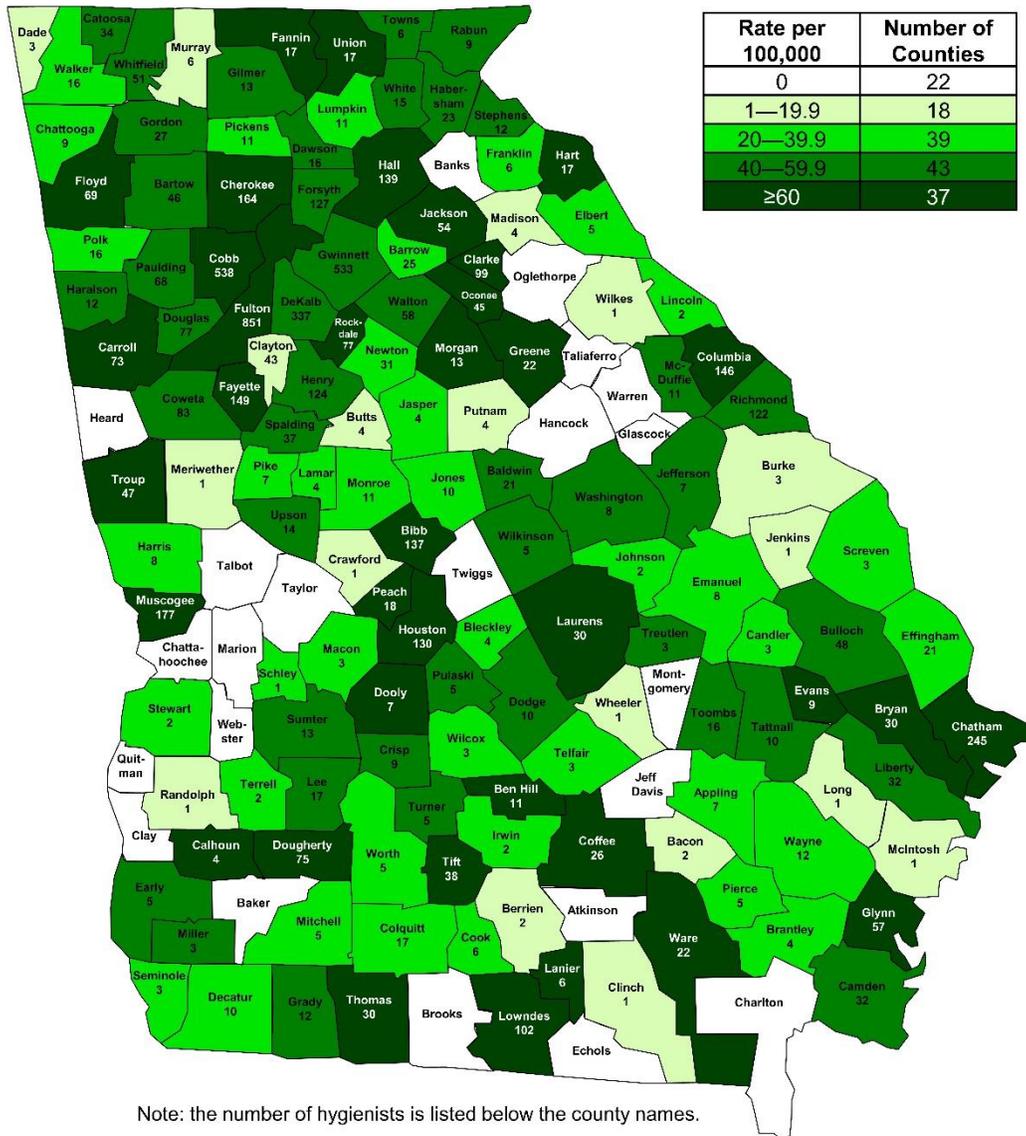
Counties with no Dental Hygienists, 2021



In 2021, 22 counties have no dental hygienists practicing there.

Rate of Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population, 2021

Rate of Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population, 2021



The map above shows the rate of dental hygienists per 100,000 county residents, with darker colors indicating higher rates. In general, the metro areas of Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah have higher rates of dental hygienists than more rural areas

Acknowledgements

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