

2021 Dentist Workforce Report

Based on 2020-2021 Licensure Renewal Data



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

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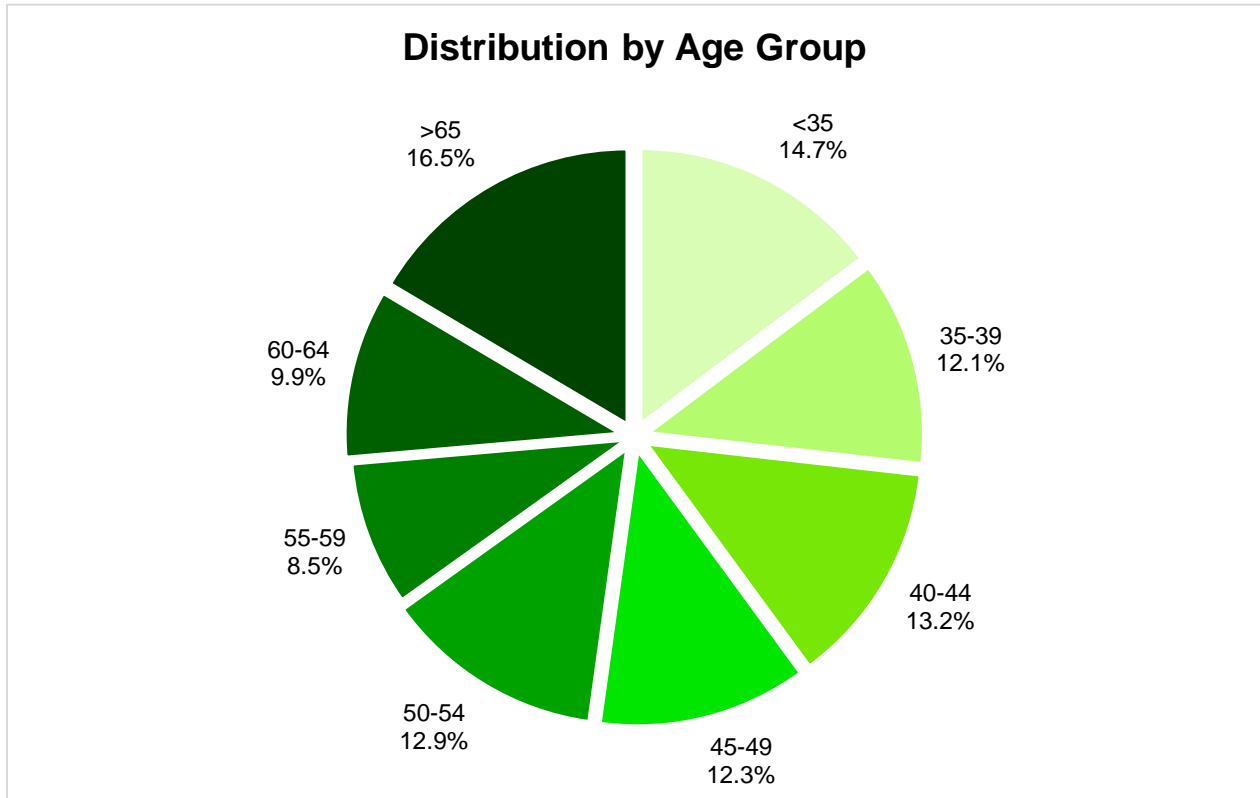
Characteristics of Licensed Dentists Practicing in Georgia, 2021

In 2021, there were 5,212 actively practicing in the state of Georgia. Between 2019 and 2021, there has been an increase of 96 dentists practicing in Georgia, or a growth of 1.3% since 2019. The rate of dentists per 100,000 people is 48.7 in 2021 (using the Census 2020 population of 10,711,908)¹. This represents an increase of 0.3 dentists per 100,000 population from the 2019 report. According to the American Dental Association (ADA), the rate of dentists to 100,000 population in the entire United States was 61.0 in 2020², which places Georgia's rate among the lowest 20% of states. There were 22 counties with no dentists, which represents a population of 196,988. This is an increase of 17,303 Georgians who do not have a dentist practicing in their county from 2019.

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

² [American Dental Association "The Dentist Workforce-Key Facts"](#)

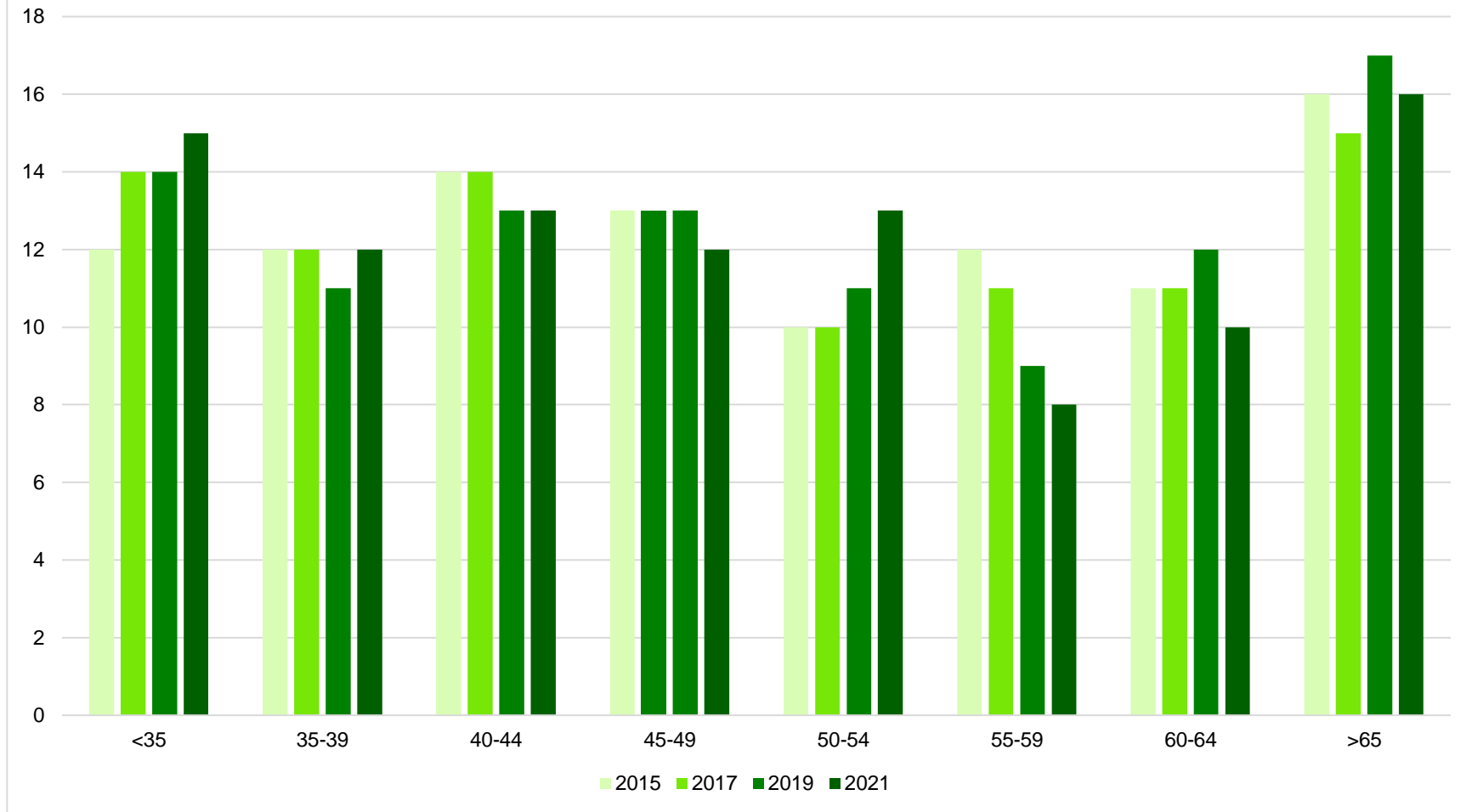
Distribution of Dentists by Age Group



The 2021 Dental Census indicates the average age of licensed dentists actively practicing in Georgia is 49.6 years old, which is slightly older than the ADA's nationwide average age of 49.4 years old³. The largest age group consists of those 65 or older, constituting 16.5% of the total. The smallest age group is those aged 55-59, which is 8.5% of the total. The smallest and largest age groups in Georgia are the same in 2021 as they were in 2019.

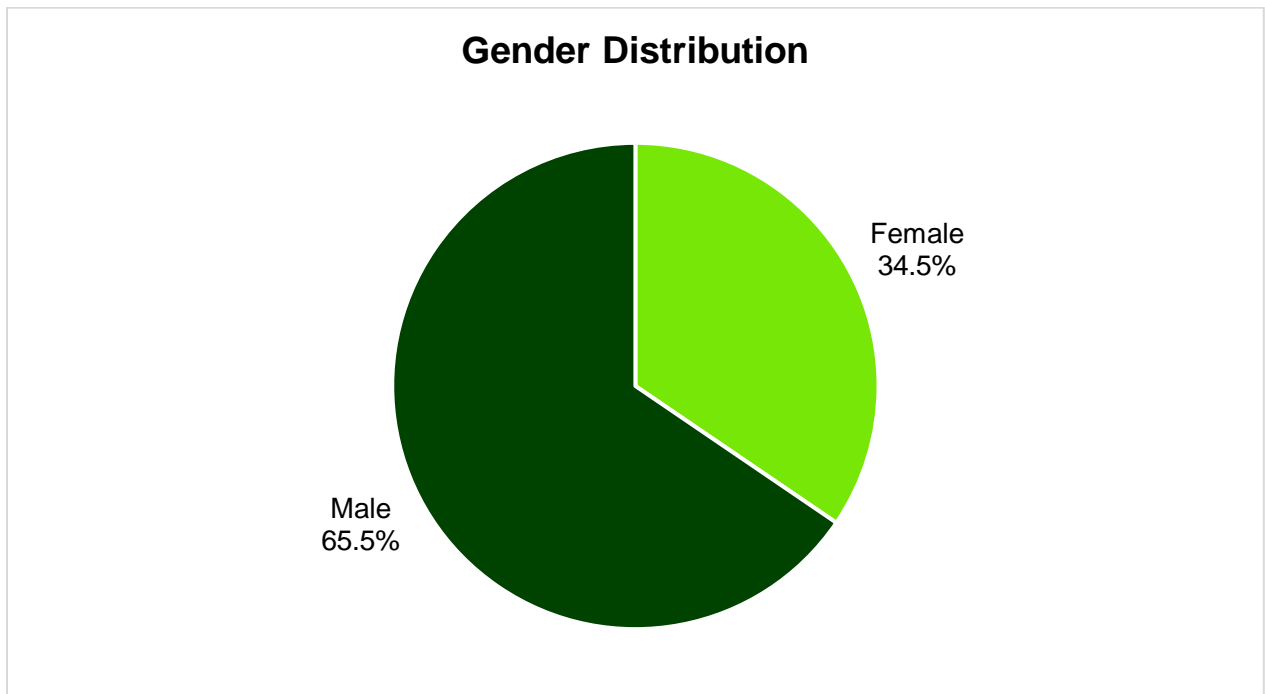
³ [American Dental Association "The Dentist Workforce-Key Facts"](#)

Distribution by Age Group, 2015-2021



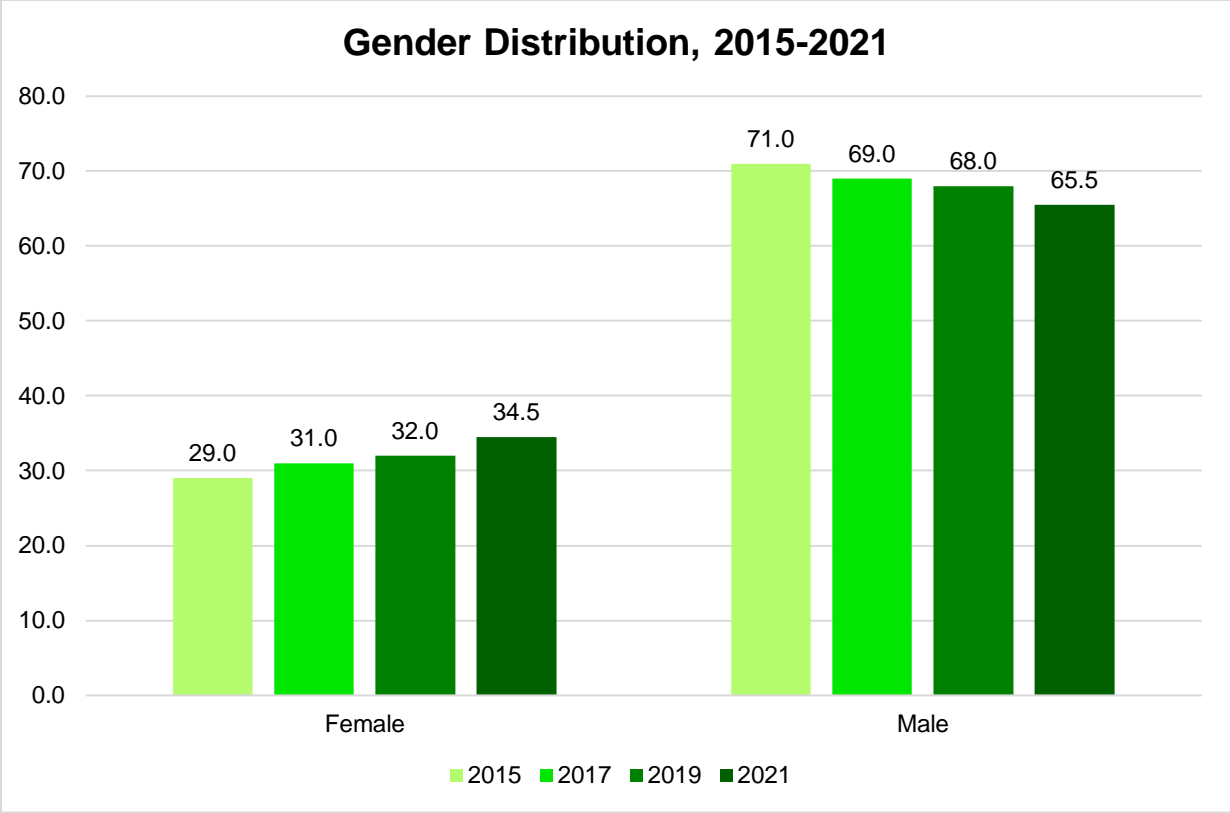
Since 2015, the percentage of dentists in the <35 and 50-54 age groups has increased, while the percentage of dentists in the 40-44, 45-49, 55-59, and 60-64 age groups have decreased. As has been the case since 2015, the >65 age group constitutes the largest percentage of dentists, with 407 dentists (7.8% of the total practicing in Georgia) being over 70 years old.

Distribution of Dentists by Gender



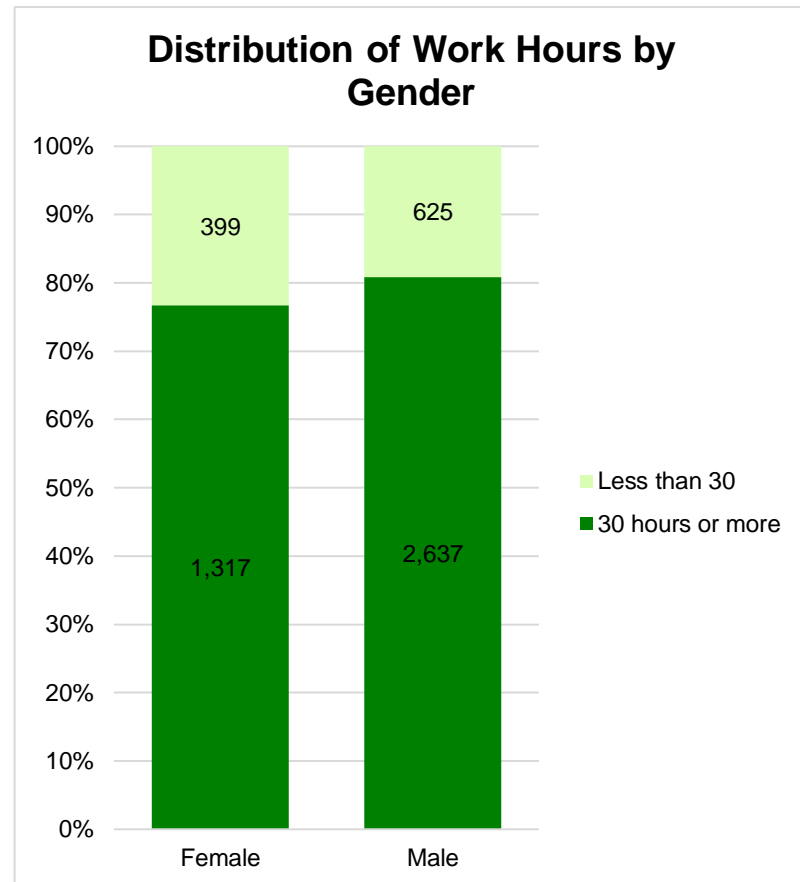
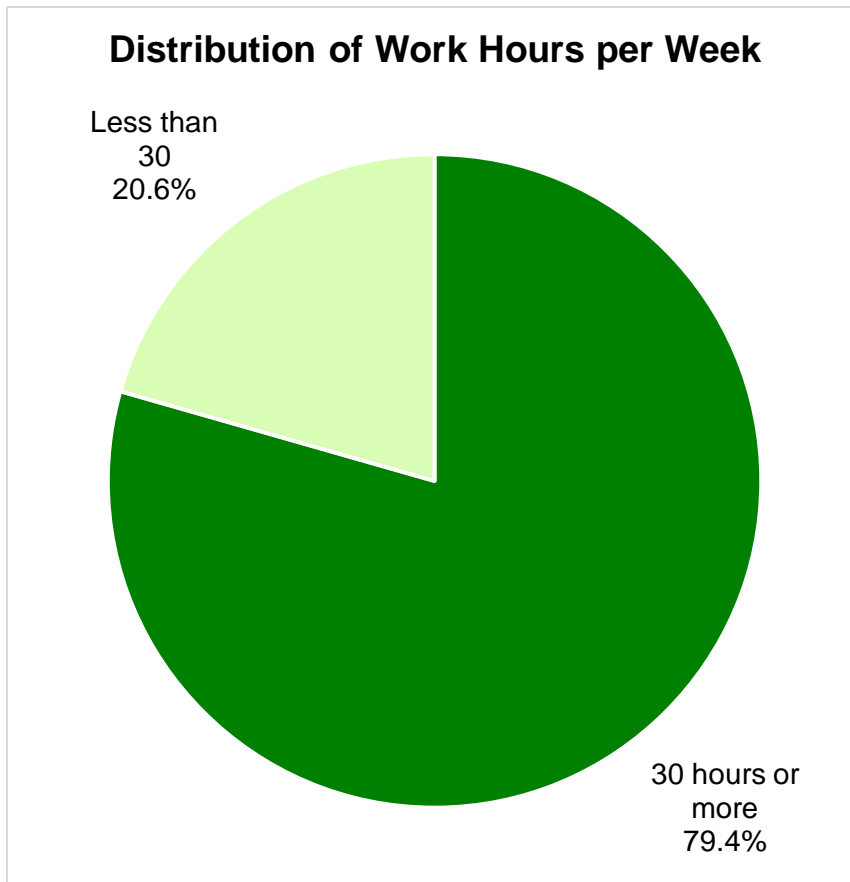
Of the 5,212 dentists practicing in Georgia in 2021, 3,266 (65.5%) are male and 1,721 (34.5%) are female. This represents a small increase in the percentage of female dentists since 2019, when 32.3% of dentists identified as female. In 2020, the ADA stated that 34.5% of dentists nationally were female⁴. This indicates that Georgia's percentage of female dentists is approaching the national average.

⁴ [American Dental Association "The Dentist Workforce-Key Facts"](#)



Since 2015, the percentage of dentists who identify as female has increased, while the percentage male has decreased. The number of female dentists has increased by 32.1% since 2015 (from 1,303 in 2015 to 1,721 in 2021) and 7.6% since the last report in 2019 (from 1,600 in 2019 to 1,721 in 2021).

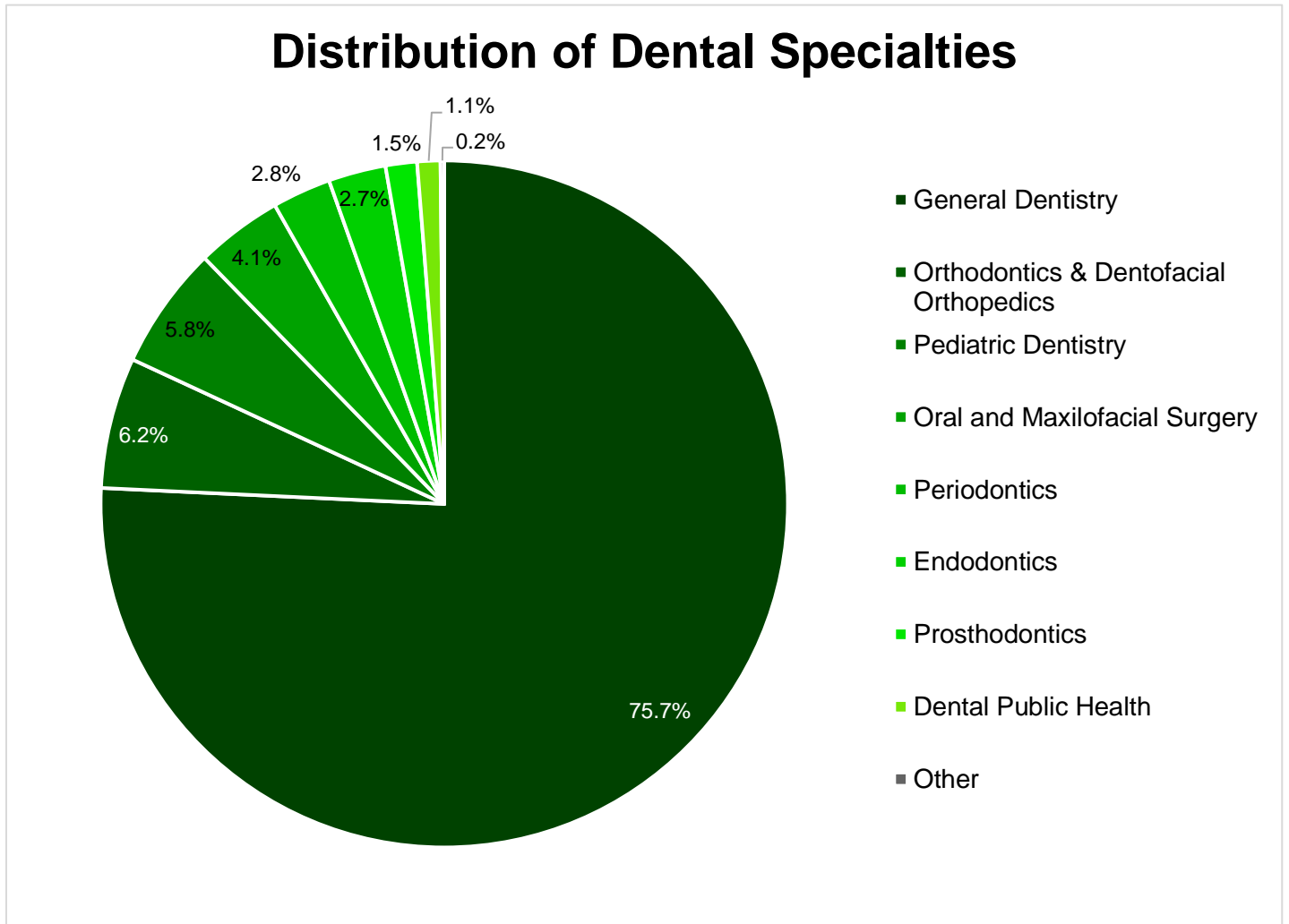
Distribution of Work Hours per Week



In 2021, 79.4% of dentists reported working 30 hours or more per week, which is the same as reported in 2019. In 2021, male dentists are more likely to report working 30 hours or more per week than female dentists. This is in keeping with the ADA’s nationwide data, which shows that female dentists tend to work fewer hours than male dentists.⁵

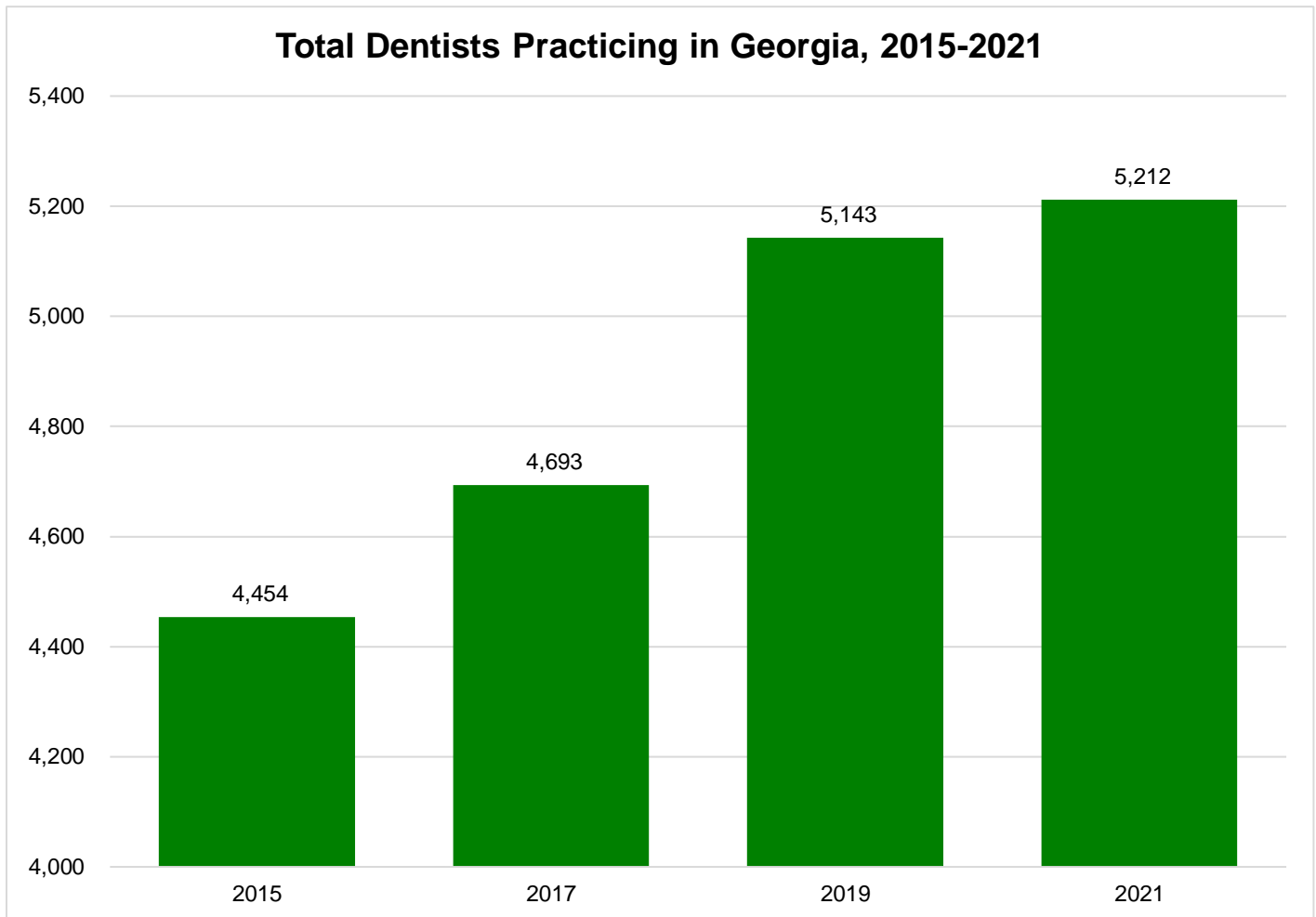
⁵ [American Dental Association “The Dentist Workforce-Key Facts”](#)

Distribution of Dentists by Specialty



The vast majority of dentists (75.7%) practice in general dentistry in 2021. The remaining 24.3% of dentists practice in other specialties, namely orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (6.2%), pediatric dentistry (5.8%), oral and maxillofacial surgery (4.1%), periodontics (2.8%) and endodontics (2.7%).

Distribution of Practicing Dentists in Georgia, 2015-2021



GBHCW began reporting on the dentist supply and distribution in Georgia in 2015. Between 2015 and 2017, the percentage growth in total dentists was 5.4%. Between 2017 and 2019, the percentage growth in total dentists was 9.6%. Between 2019 and 2021, the percentage growth in total dentists is 1.3%.

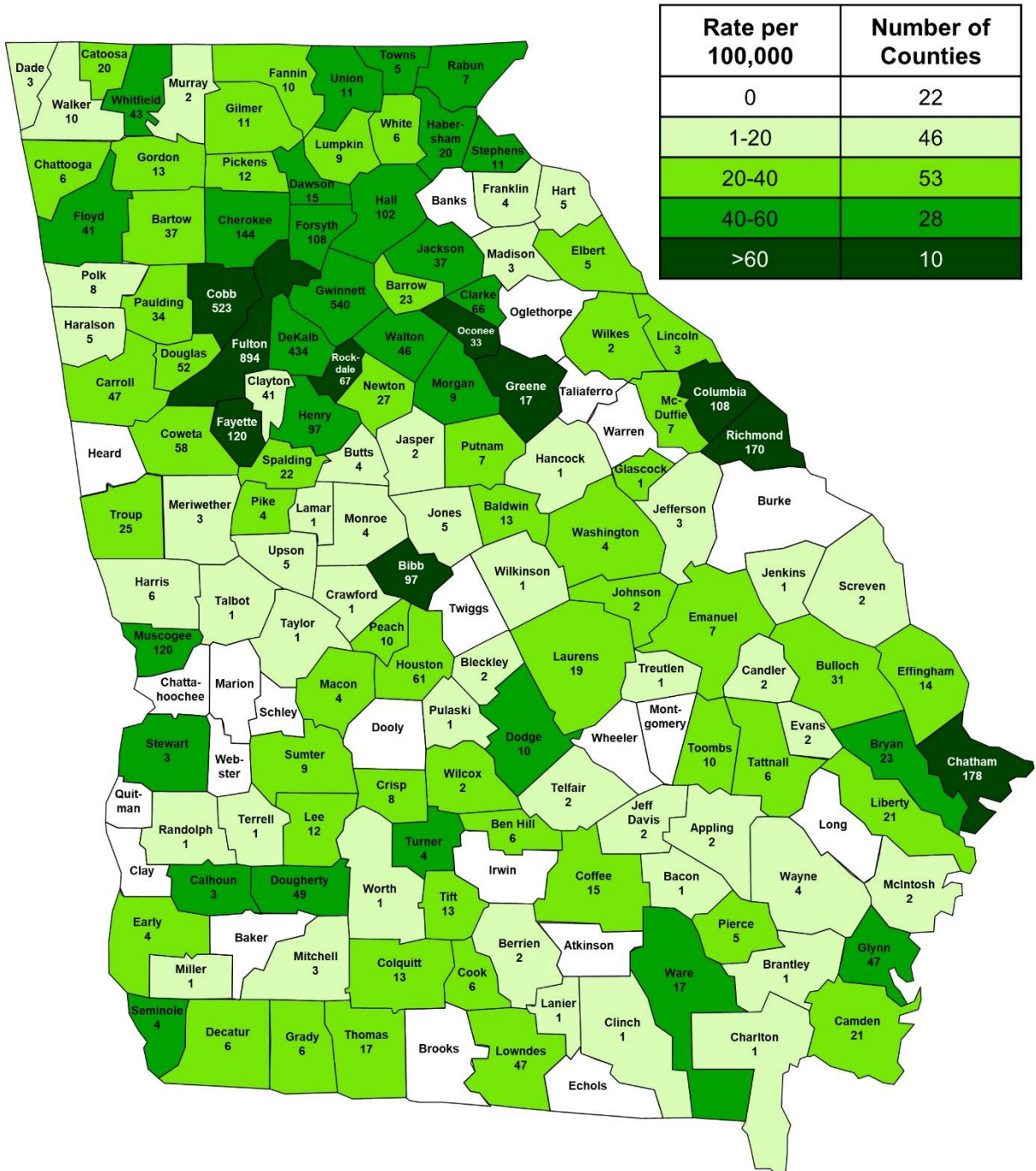
Distribution of Practicing Dentists by Georgia County, 2021

COUNTY	2020 POPULATION	GENERAL DENTISTS	GENERAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	TOTAL DENTISTS	TOTAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE
STATE OF GEORGIA	10,711,908	3,894	36.4	5,212	48.7	1,318
APPLING	18,444	2	10.8	2	10.8	0
ATKINSON	8,286	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
BACON	11,140	1	9.0	1	9.0	0
BAKER	2,876	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
BALDWIN	43,799	11	25.1	13	29.7	2
BANKS	18,035	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
BARROW	83,505	21	25.1	23	27.5	2
BARTOW	108,901	30	27.5	37	34.0	7
BEN HILL	17,194	6	34.9	6	34.9	0
BERRIEN	18,160	2	11.0	2	11.0	0
BIBB	157,346	73	46.4	97	61.6	24
BLECKLEY	12,583	2	15.9	2	15.9	0
BRANTLEY	18,021	1	5.5	1	5.5	0
BROOKS	16,301	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
BRYAN	44,738	14	31.3	23	51.4	9
BULLOCH	81,099	22	27.1	31	38.2	9
BURKE	24,596	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
BUTTS	25,434	4	15.7	4	15.7	0
CALHOUN	5,573	3	53.8	3	53.8	0
CAMDEN	54,768	18	32.9	21	38.3	3
CANDLER	10,981	2	18.2	2	18.2	0
CARROLL	119,148	39	32.7	47	39.4	8
CATOOSA	67,872	15	22.1	20	29.5	5
CHARLTON	12,518	1	8.0	1	8.0	0
CHATHAM	295,291	126	42.7	178	60.3	52
CHATTAHOOCHEE	9,565	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
CHATTOOGA	24,965	6	24.0	6	24.0	0
CHEROKEE	266,620	96	36.0	144	54.0	48
CLARKE	128,671	52	40.4	66	51.3	14
CLAY	2,848	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
CLAYTON	297,595	35	11.8	41	13.8	6
CLINCH	6,749	1	14.8	1	14.8	0
COBB	766,149	378	49.3	523	68.3	145
COFFEE	43,092	12	27.8	15	34.8	3
COLQUITT	45,898	11	24.0	13	28.3	2
COLUMBIA	156,010	74	47.4	108	69.2	34
COOK	17,229	5	29.0	6	34.8	1
COWETA	146,158	44	30.1	58	39.7	14
CRAWFORD	12,130	0	0.0	1	8.2	1
CRISP	20,128	8	39.7	8	39.7	0
DADE	16,251	2	12.3	3	18.5	1
DAWSON	26,798	11	41.0	15	56.0	4
DECATUR	29,367	5	17.0	6	20.4	1
DEKALB	764,382	326	42.6	434	56.8	108
DODGE	19,925	10	50.2	10	50.2	0
DOOLY	11,208	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
DOUGHERTY	85,790	36	42.0	49	57.1	13
DOUGLAS	144,237	36	25.0	52	36.1	16
EARLY	10,854	4	36.9	4	36.9	0
ECHOLS	3,697	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
EFFINGHAM	64,769	12	18.5	14	21.6	2
ELBERT	19,637	3	15.3	5	25.5	2
EMANUEL	22,768	7	30.7	7	30.7	0

COUNTY	2020 POPULATION	GENERAL DENTISTS	GENERAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	TOTAL DENTISTS	TOTAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE
EVANS	10,774	2	18.6	2	18.6	0
FANNIN	25,319	10	39.5	10	39.5	0
FAYETTE	119,194	79	66.3	120	100.7	41
FLOYD	98,584	27	27.4	41	41.6	14
FORSYTH	251,283	81	32.2	108	43.0	27
FRANKLIN	23,424	4	17.1	4	17.1	0
FULTON	1,066,710	640	60.0	894	83.8	254
GILMER	31,353	10	31.9	11	35.1	1
GLASCOCK	2,884	1	34.7	1	34.7	0
GLYNN	84,499	36	42.6	47	55.6	11
GORDON	57,544	12	20.9	13	22.6	1
GRADY	26,236	6	22.9	6	22.9	0
GREENE	18,915	12	63.4	17	89.9	5
GWINNETT	957,062	395	41.3	540	56.4	145
HABERSHAM	46,031	17	36.9	20	43.4	3
HALL	203,136	73	35.9	102	50.2	29
HANCOCK	8,735	1	11.4	1	11.4	0
HARALSON	29,919	5	16.7	5	16.7	0
HARRIS	34,668	6	17.3	6	17.3	0
HART	25,828	5	19.4	5	19.4	0
HEARD	11,412	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
HENRY	240,712	74	30.7	97	40.3	23
HOUSTON	163,633	46	28.1	61	37.3	15
IRWIN	9,666	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
JACKSON	75,907	31	40.8	37	48.7	6
JASPER	14,588	2	13.7	2	13.7	0
JEFF DAVIS	14,779	1	6.8	2	13.5	1
JEFFERSON	15,709	3	19.1	3	19.1	0
JENKINS	8,674	1	11.5	1	11.5	0
JOHNSON	9,189	2	21.8	2	21.8	0
JONES	28,347	5	17.6	5	17.6	0
LAMAR	18,500	1	5.4	1	5.4	0
LANIER	9,877	1	10.1	1	10.1	0
LAURENS	49,570	16	32.3	19	38.3	3
LEE	33,163	12	36.2	12	36.2	0
LIBERTY	65,256	15	23.0	21	32.2	6
LINCOLN	7,690	3	39.0	3	39.0	0
LONG	16,168	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
LOWNDES	118,251	36	30.4	47	39.7	11
LUMPKIN	33,488	8	23.9	9	26.9	1
MACON	12,082	3	24.8	4	33.1	1
MADISON	30,120	1	3.3	3	10.0	2
MARION	7,498	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
MCDUFFIE	21,632	7	32.4	7	32.4	0
MCINTOSH	10,975	2	18.2	2	18.2	0
MERIWETHER	20,613	3	14.6	3	14.6	0
MILLER	6,000	1	16.7	1	16.7	0
MITCHELL	21,755	3	13.8	3	13.8	0
MONROE	27,957	4	14.3	4	14.3	0
MONTGOMERY	8,610	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
MORGAN	20,097	8	39.8	9	44.8	1
MURRAY	39,973	2	5.0	2	5.0	0
MUSCOGEE	206,922	86	41.6	120	58.0	34
NEWTON	112,483	22	19.6	27	24.0	5
OCONEE	41,799	25	59.8	33	78.9	8
OGLETHORPE	14,825	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
PAULDING	168,661	29	17.2	34	20.2	5

COUNTY	2020 POPULATION	GENERAL DENTISTS	GENERAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	TOTAL DENTISTS	TOTAL DENTISTS RATE PER 100,000	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE
PEACH	27,981	10	35.7	10	35.7	0
PICKENS	33,216	10	30.1	12	36.1	2
PIERCE	19,716	5	25.4	5	25.4	0
PIKE	18,889	4	21.2	4	21.2	0
POLK	42,853	7	16.3	8	18.7	1
PULASKI	9,855	1	10.1	1	10.1	0
PUTNAM	22,047	6	27.2	7	31.8	1
QUITMAN	2,235	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
RABUN	16,883	7	41.5	7	41.5	0
RANDOLPH	6,425	1	15.6	1	15.6	0
RICHMOND	206,607	111	53.7	170	82.3	59
ROCKDALE	93,570	45	48.1	67	71.6	22
SCHLEY	4,547	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
SCREVEN	14,067	2	14.2	2	14.2	0
SEMINOLE	9,147	4	43.7	4	43.7	0
SPALDING	67,306	17	25.3	22	32.7	5
STEPHENS	26,784	8	29.9	11	41.1	3
STEWART	5,314	3	56.5	3	56.5	0
SUMTER	29,616	9	30.4	9	30.4	0
TALBOT	5,733	1	17.4	1	17.4	0
TALIAFERRO	1,559	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
TATTNALL	22,842	6	26.3	6	26.3	0
TAYLOR	7,816	1	12.8	1	12.8	0
TELFAIR	12,477	2	16.0	2	16.0	0
TERRELL	9,185	1	10.9	1	10.9	0
THOMAS	45,798	14	30.6	17	37.1	3
TIFT	41,344	10	24.2	13	31.4	3
TOOMBS	27,030	9	33.3	10	37.0	1
TOWNS	12,493	5	40.0	5	40.0	0
TREUTLEN	6,406	1	15.6	1	15.6	0
TROUP	69,426	20	28.8	25	36.0	5
TURNER	9,006	4	44.4	4	44.4	0
TWIGGS	8,022	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
UNION	24,632	9	36.5	11	44.7	2
UPSON	27,700	4	14.4	5	18.1	1
WALKER	67,654	10	14.8	10	14.8	0
WALTON	96,673	42	43.4	46	47.6	4
WARE	36,251	15	41.4	17	46.9	2
WARREN	5,215	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
WASHINGTON	19,988	3	15.0	4	20.0	1
WAYNE	30,144	3	10.0	4	13.3	1
WEBSTER	2,348	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
WHEELER	7,471	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
WHITE	28,003	5	17.9	6	21.4	1
WHITFIELD	102,864	31	30.1	43	41.8	12
WILCOX	8,766	2	22.8	2	22.8	0
WILKES	9,565	2	20.9	2	20.9	0
WILKINSON	8,877	1	11.3	1	11.3	0
WORTH	20,784	1	4.8	1	4.8	0

Rate of Dentists per 100,000 Population, 2021



The map above shows the rate of dentists 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 dentists than more rural areas.

Acknowledgements

This report was produced under the direction of Freeman Montaque, MA, Interim Executive Director; Leanna Greenwood, MA, Senior Data Analyst; G.E.Alan Dever, MD, PhD; and Jocelyn Hart, Data Analyst.

The Board would like to thank the Georgia Board of Dentistry for providing dentist renewal survey data.

The Dentist Workforce Report can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <https://healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov/dentistry-workforce-reports>.

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce welcomes comments and suggestions for future editions of this report. Please send comments to leanna.greenwood@dch.ga.gov.

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