

Dental Hygienist Workforce Report 2025

Based on 2024-2025 Licensure Renewals and
New Licensees



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Summer 2025

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Overview: Georgia's Dental Hygienist Workforce

2025

ABOUT

This document provides a comprehensive summary of the characteristics of dental hygienists practicing in Georgia in 2025. It includes key demographic information such as age and gender, as well as data on employment characteristics, including hours worked and geographic distribution. The data visualizations, summaries, and conclusions are based on the Dental Hygienist Census data provided by the [Georgia Board of Dentistry](#).

These figures aim to highlight the geographic disparities in the availability of dental hygienists, which can affect access to dental care services.

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Georgia had 7,330 actively practicing dental hygienists, equating to a rate of 65.6 per 100,000 residents, based on the 2024 Census population estimate of 11,180,878¹. There were 13 counties in Georgia that had no practicing dental hygienists in 2025, affecting a combined population of approximately 77,458 residents.

At the time this report was created, the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) had not provided an exact national average of dental hygienists per 100,000 people for 2025; however, an estimate can be calculated using available data. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,² as of 2025, approximately 214,100 dental hygienists were employed in the U.S., with the U.S. Census estimating the 2024 population at 340,110,988.³ This results in an estimated national average of 62.9 dental hygienists per 100,000 people.

¹ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Georgia](#)

² [Dental Hygienists: Occupational Outlook Handbook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

³ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States](#)

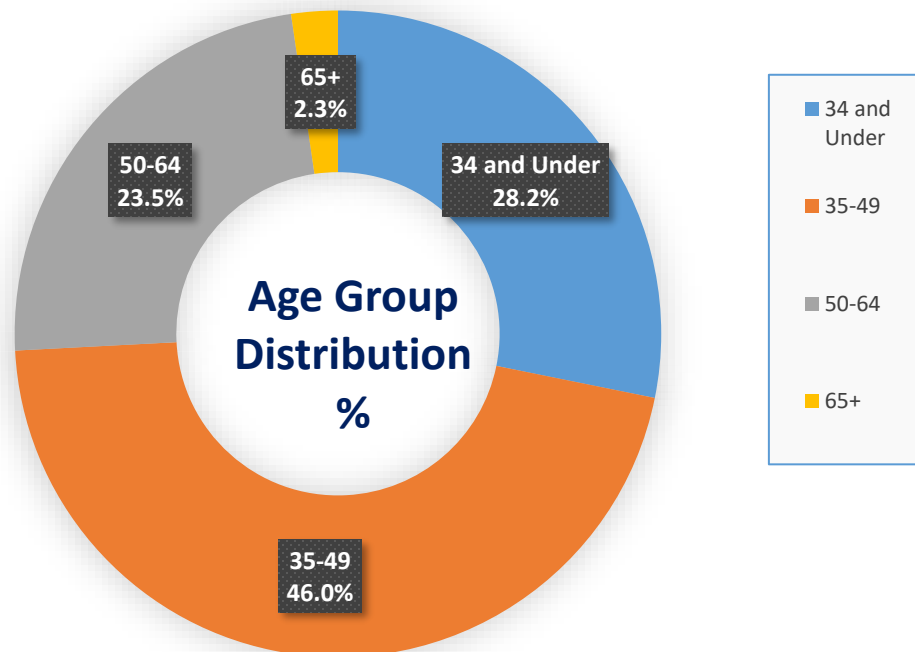
Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Age Group

2025

AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

According to the 2025 Dental Hygienist Census data, the average age of licensed dental hygienists actively practicing in Georgia is 42. This conclusion is drawn from responses provided by 6,373 dental hygienists who reported their age. The largest group consists of hygienists aged 35-49, representing 46.0% of the workforce, while the smallest group - those aged 65 and older - accounts for 2.3%.

The American Dental Association (ADA)⁴ publishes several reports on the dental workforce demographics. Based on their sources, examining workplace demographics, such as age groups, provides valuable insights into several key areas, including:



- **Workforce Sustainability & Planning** – predicts retirement trends and future staffing needs.
- **Knowledge Transfer & Mentorship** – a mix of experienced professionals mentoring early-career professionals.
- **Education & Licensing Policy** – continuing education requirements, license renewal, and retention initiatives.
- **Adaptability & Innovation** – early career professionals can often bring new technologies, digital tools, and updated techniques.

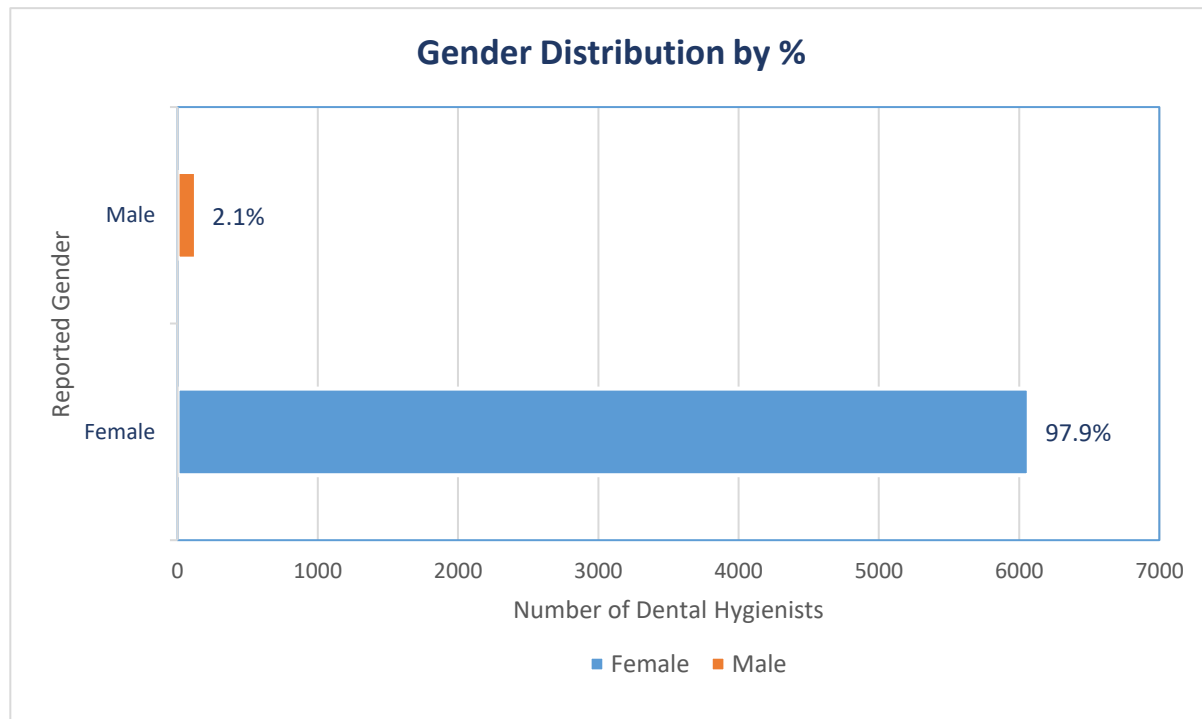
⁴ [American Dental Association: Demographics](#)

Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Gender

2025

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

As we continue to analyze insights from the 2025 Dental Hygienist Census, the data reveals that 6,200 dental hygienists reported their gender as male or female. Of those respondents, 97.9% identified as female and 2.1% as male. Based on the reported data, we can conclude that there were significantly more female than male dental hygienists, with a difference of 95.8 percentage points between the two groups.

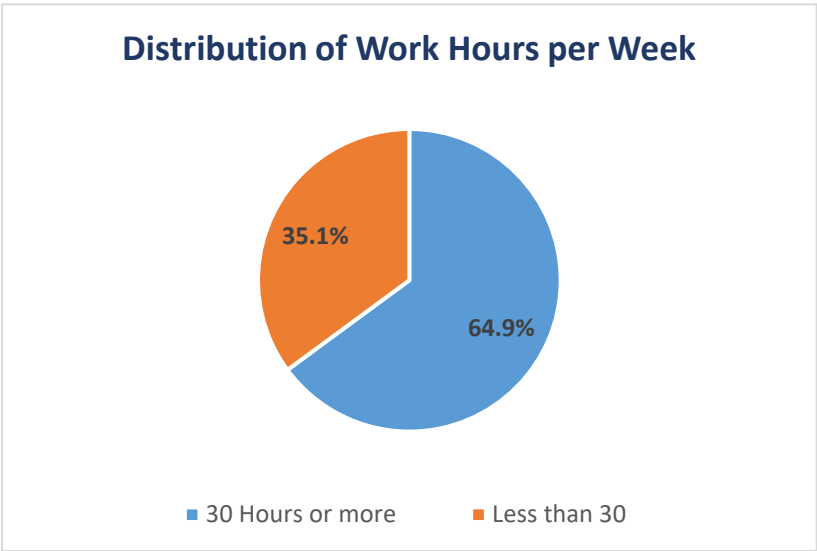


Distribution of Work Hours Per Week

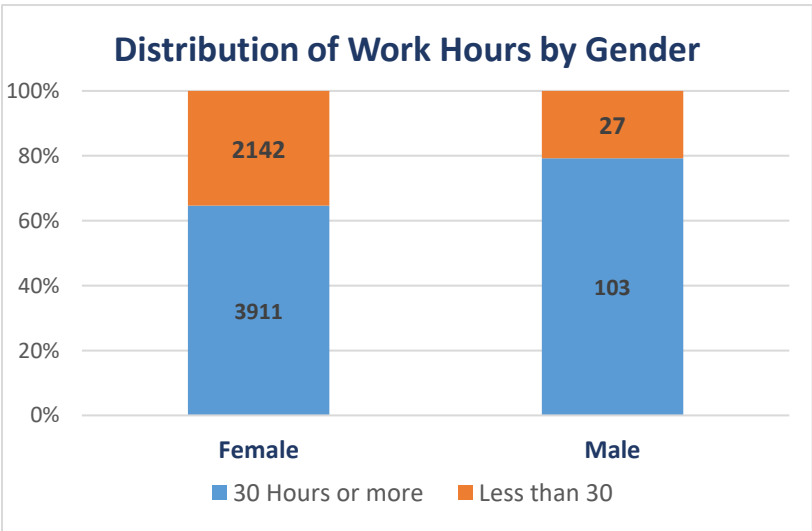
2025

WORK HOURS ANALYSIS

In addition to demographic characteristics, the 2025 Dental Hygienist Census also provides insight into the distribution of weekly work hours among actively practicing dental hygienists. Understanding the number of hours dental hygienists work each week offers valuable context for assessing workforce capacity and availability. The Dental Hygienist Census data categorizes work hours into two groups: less than 30 hours per week and 30 or more hours per week. A total of 6,187 dental hygienist residents reported working within one of these two categories.



In 2025, 64.9% of dental hygienists reported working 30 hours or more per week, while 35.1% reported working less than 30 hours per week.



A closer look at the data shows that 6,183 dental hygienists reported both their work hours and gender. When examined by gender, 64.6% of female dental hygienists reported working 30 hours or more per week, compared to 79.2% of male dental hygienists. Despite being the smallest respondents, male dental hygienists are more likely to work full-time.

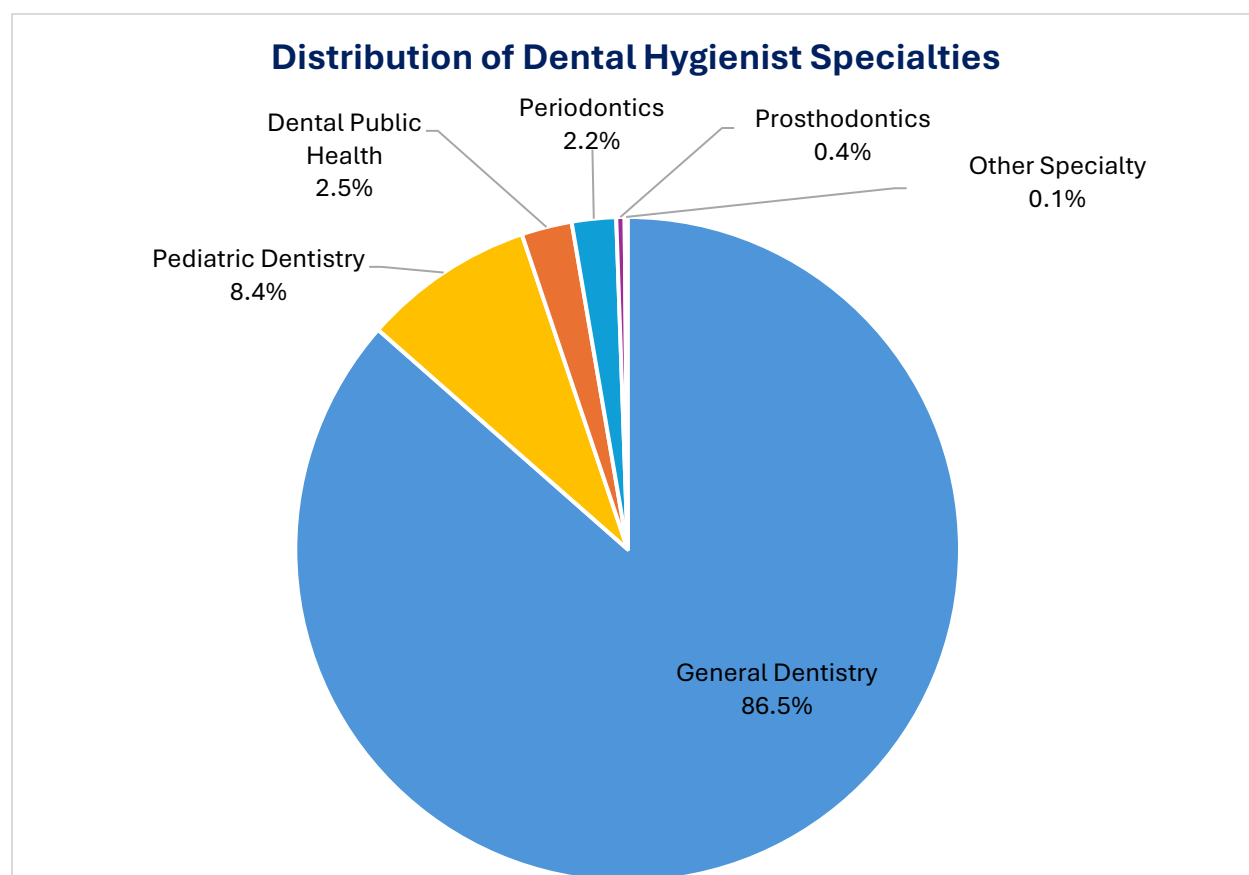
Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Specialty

2025

SPECIALTY DISTRIBUTION

In the 2025 Dental Hygienist Census, 6,185 dental hygienists who reported a specialty were distributed across various categories, including Dental Public Health, Endodontics, General Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Prosthodontics.

The distribution of dental hygienists across specialties⁵ shows that the largest percentage, 86.5%, was in the General Dentistry category. In contrast, the Other Specialty category had the smallest⁶ representation, with only 0.1% of dental hygienists working in that area.



⁵ [National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards: Recognized Dental Specialties](#)

⁶ The "Other Specialty" category includes the following specialties appearing as less than 0.0% when rounded: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (0.05%); Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics (0.05%); Endodontics (0.03%), and Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (0.02%).

Distribution of Dental Hygienists per 100,000

2025

DISTRIBUTION per 100,000 POPULATION

The 2025 Census data for dental hygienists practicing in Georgia are presented below, charted across the state's 159 counties to reflect the total number of dental hygienists per 100,000 population.

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2024 POPULATION CENSUS (ESTIMATE)	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
STATE OF GEORGIA	7,330	11,180,878	65.6
APPLING	10	18,669	53.6
ATKINSON	0	8,435	0.0
BACON	6	11,045	54.3
BAKER	1	2,732	36.6
BALDWIN	29	43,644	66.4
BANKS	3	20,318	14.8
BARROW	39	96,294	40.5
BARTOW	65	117,508	55.3
BEN HILL	12	16,945	70.8
BERRIEN	5	18,666	26.8
BIBB	156	157,056	99.3
BLECKLEY	9	12,626	71.3
BRANTLEY	3	18,795	16.0
BROOKS	2	16,344	12.2
BRYAN	43	51,105	84.1
BULLOCH	55	85,454	64.4
BURKE	3	24,472	12.3
BUTTS	12	27,127	44.2
CALHOUN	3	5,441	55.1
CAMDEN	34	59,099	57.5
CANDLER	4	11,130	35.9
CARROLL	96	129,911	73.9
CATOOSA	35	68,940	50.8
CHARLTON	0	13,021	0.0
CHATHAM	271	307,336	88.2
CHATTAHOOCHEE	0	8,548	0.0
CHATTOOGA	12	25,306	47.4
CHEROKEE	216	293,513	73.6

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2024 POPULATION CENSUS (ESTIMATE)	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
CLAY	0	2,815	0.0
CLAYTON	81	297,703	27.2
CLINCH	1	6,871	14.6
COBB	590	787,538	74.9
COFFEE	31	43,851	70.7
COLQUITT	23	46,977	49.0
COLUMBIA	178	167,472	106.3
COOK	10	17,984	55.6
COWETA	123	158,233	77.7
CRAWFORD	2	12,349	16.2
CRISP	7	19,468	36.0
DADE	4	16,068	24.9
DAWSON	27	33,748	80.0
DECATUR	15	29,391	51.0
DEKALB	390	770,307	50.6
DODGE	12	19,630	61.1
DOOLY	5	11,186	44.7
DOUGHERTY	70	82,418	84.9
DOUGLAS	90	151,887	59.3
EARLY	4	10,444	38.3
ECHOLS	0	3,698	0.0
EFFINGHAM	29	73,148	39.6
ELBERT	5	20,152	24.8
EMANUEL	10	23,224	43.1
EVANS	10	10,869	92.0
FANNIN	22	25,854	85.1
FAYETTE	169	125,107	135.1
FLOYD	76	101,390	75.0
FORSYTH	158	280,096	56.4
FRANKLIN	11	25,208	43.6
FULTON	890	1,090,354	81.6
GILMER	16	33,327	48.0
GLASCOCK	0	3,008	0.0
GLYNN	59	86,540	68.2
GORDON	33	60,765	54.3
GRADY	13	26,271	49.5
GREENE	23	21,091	109.1
GWINNETT	653	1,003,869	65.0

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2024 POPULATION CENSUS (ESTIMATE)	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
HABERSHAM	26	49,665	52.4
HALL	150	221,745	67.6
HANCOCK	1	8,683	11.5
HARALSON	22	32,404	67.9
HARRIS	16	36,929	43.3
HART	12	28,052	42.8
HEARD	2	12,119	16.5
HENRY	181	259,315	69.8
HOUSTON	152	174,897	86.9
IRWIN	4	9,155	43.7
JACKSON	72	93,825	76.7
JASPER	6	17,219	34.8
JEFF DAVIS	1	15,119	6.6
JEFFERSON	11	15,019	73.2
JENKINS	1	8,836	11.3
JOHNSON	3	9,178	32.7
JONES	16	29,047	55.1
LAMAR	8	20,690	38.7
LANIER	8	10,464	76.5
LAURENS	37	50,287	73.6
LEE	18	34,073	52.8
LIBERTY	40	68,607	58.3
LINCOLN	3	8,049	37.3
LONG	3	20,439	14.7
LOWNDES	118	122,082	96.7
LUMPKIN	17	36,016	47.2
MACON	4	21,764	18.4
MADISON	8	11,800	67.8
MARION	1	11,831	8.5
MCDUFFIE	14	32,771	42.7
MCINTOSH	2	7,635	26.2
MERIWETHER	3	21,439	14.0
MILLER	4	5,824	68.7
MITCHELL	10	20,329	49.2
MONROE	13	31,437	41.4
MONTGOMERY	1	8,566	11.7
MORGAN	17	21,940	77.5
MURRAY	5	41,316	12.1
MUSCOGEE	193	201,830	95.6

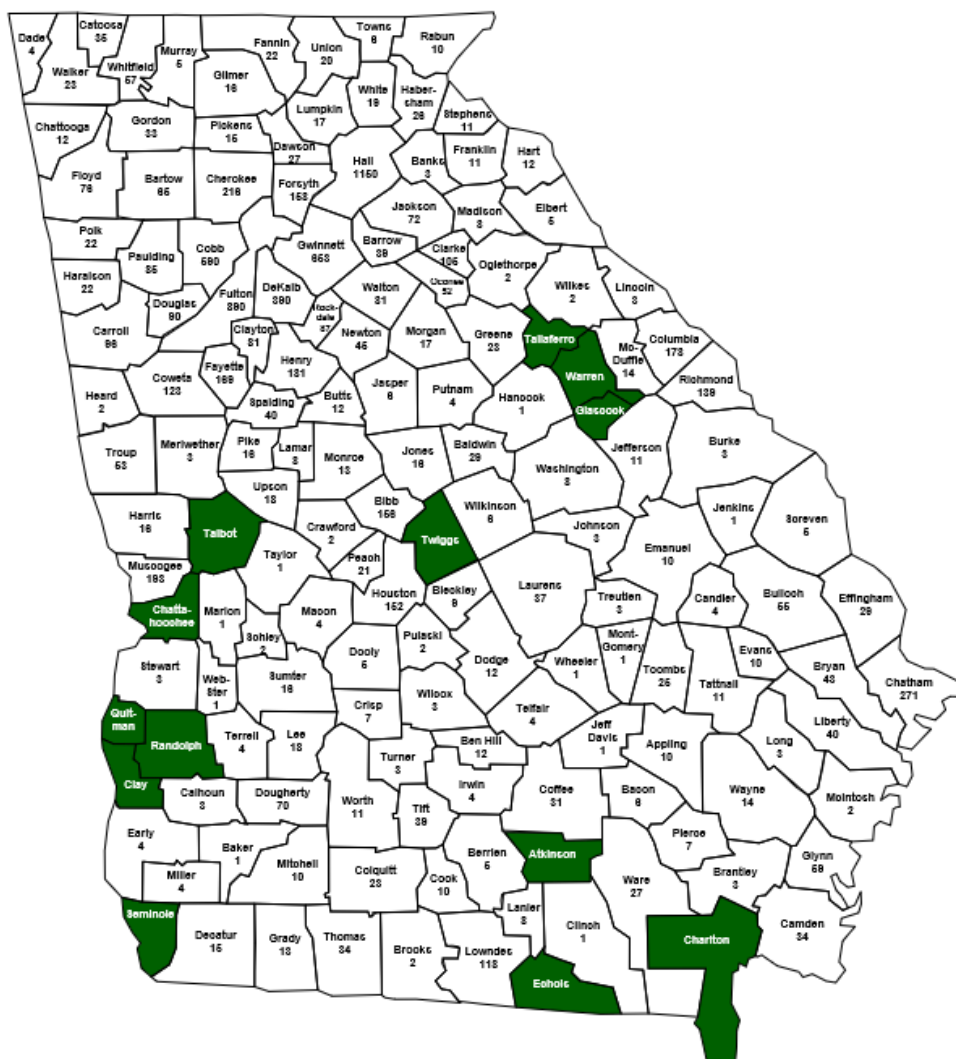
COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2024 POPULATION CENSUS (ESTIMATE)	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
NEWTON	45	124,010	36.3
OCONEE	52	44,751	116.2
OGLETHORPE	2	16,172	12.4
PAULDING	85	188,549	45.1
PEACH	21	29,213	71.9
PICKENS	15	36,580	41.0
PIERCE	7	20,669	33.9
PIKE	16	20,669	77.4
POLK	22	44,610	49.3
PULASKI	2	10,180	19.6
PUTNAM	4	23,383	17.1
QUITMAN	0	2,323	0.0
RABUN	10	17,711	56.5
RANDOLPH	0	6,085	0.0
RICHMOND	139	206,303	67.4
ROCKDALE	87	97,610	89.1
SCHLEY	2	4,503	44.4
SCREVEN	5	14,325	34.9
SEMINOLE	0	9,274	0.0
SPALDING	40	70,292	56.9
STEPHENS	11	27,498	40.0
STEWART	3	4,809	62.4
SUMTER	16	28,972	55.2
TALBOT	0	5,755	0.0
TALIAFERRO	0	1,620	0.0
TATTNALL	11	24,275	45.3
TAYLOR	1	7,783	12.8
TELFAIR	4	11,000	36.4
TERRELL	4	8,698	46.0
THOMAS	34	46,054	73.8
TIFT	39	41,708	93.5
TOOMBS	25	27,488	90.9
TOWNS	6	13,184	45.5
TREUTLEN	3	6,420	46.7
TROUP	53	71,513	74.1
TURNER	3	9,023	33.2
TWIGGS	0	7,728	0.0
UNION	20	27,601	72.5
UPSON	18	28,358	63.5

COUNTY	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS	2024 POPULATION CENSUS (ESTIMATE)	TOTAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION
WALKER	23	69,340	33.2
WALTON	81	109,792	73.8
WARE	27	36,222	74.5
WARREN	0	5,148	0.0
WASHINGTON	8	19,834	40.3
WAYNE	14	32,132	43.6
WEBSTER	1	2,315	43.2
WHEELER	1	7,076	14.1
WHITE	19	29,668	64.0
WHITFIELD	57	105,070	54.2
WILCOX	3	8,904	33.7
WILKES	2	9,567	20.9
WILKINSON	6	8,667	69.2
WORTH	11	20,262	54.3

Counties with no Dental Hygienists

2025

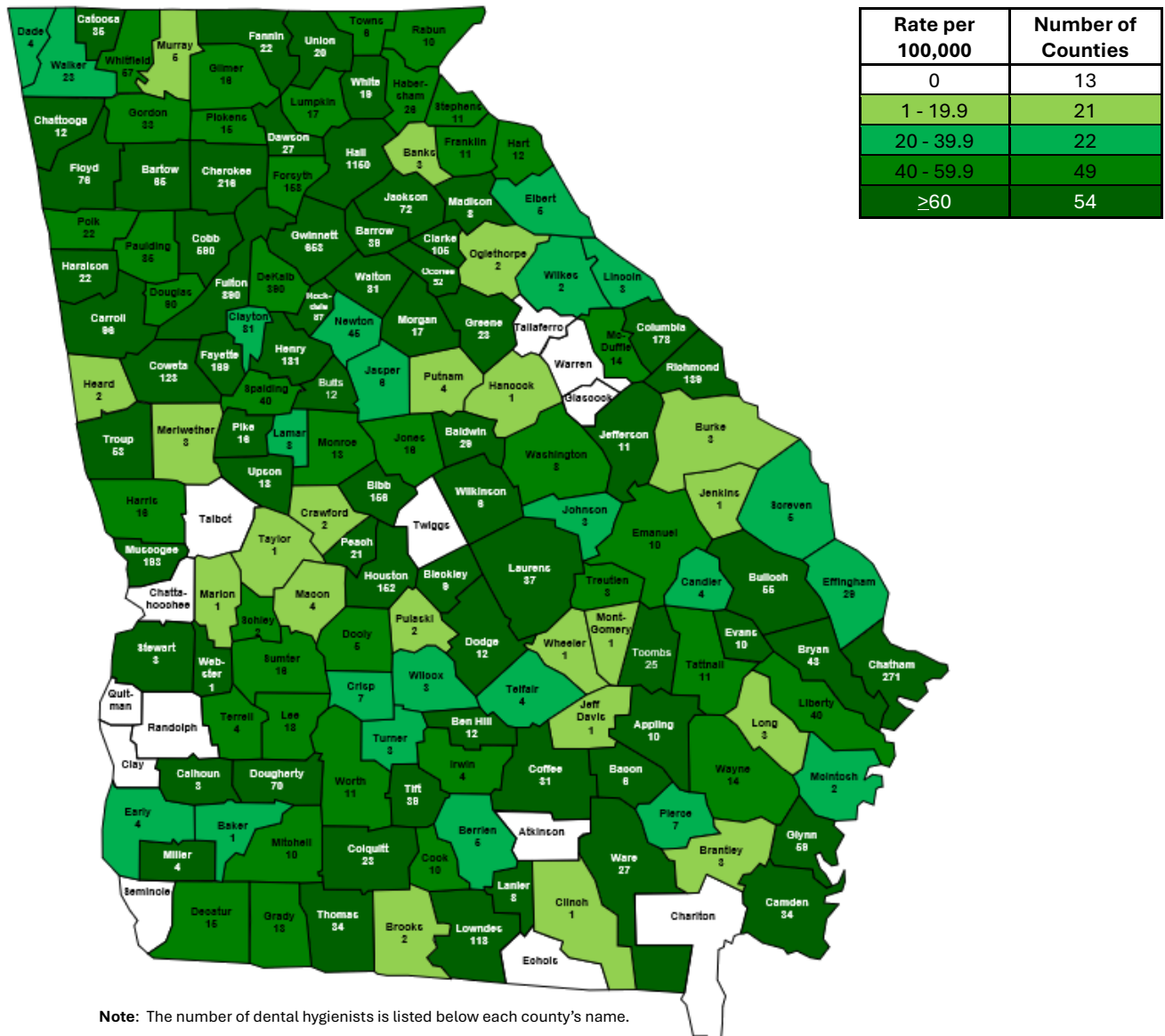
Upon further evaluation of the 2025 Dental Hygienist Census, the data reveals which counties in Georgia had no actively practicing dental hygienists during that year. The accompanying map provides a high-level visualization of these areas. Out of Georgia's 159 counties, 13 had no practicing dental hygienists in 2025, indicating that approximately 8.2% of the state lacked active dental hygiene professionals. In comparison, the 2021 Dental Hygienist Census showed 22 counties (13.8%) without practicing dental hygienists. This represents a decrease of 9 counties and a 41.0% improvement in geographic distribution over the four-year period. *The availability of dental hygienists by county is based on addresses reported by the hygienists, which may be either a practice address or another publicly reported address. Self-reported information may reflect the presence of a dental hygienist in areas where no dentist is present.*



Rate of Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population

2025

The 2025 Dental Hygienist Census data shows that 13 out of 159 counties lacked active practicing dental hygienists, while the remaining 146 counties of varying population sizes had active dental hygienists. The chart below illustrates the availability of dental hygiene professionals relative to population size, using color to highlight areas with higher or lower rates of dental hygienists per 100,000 population.







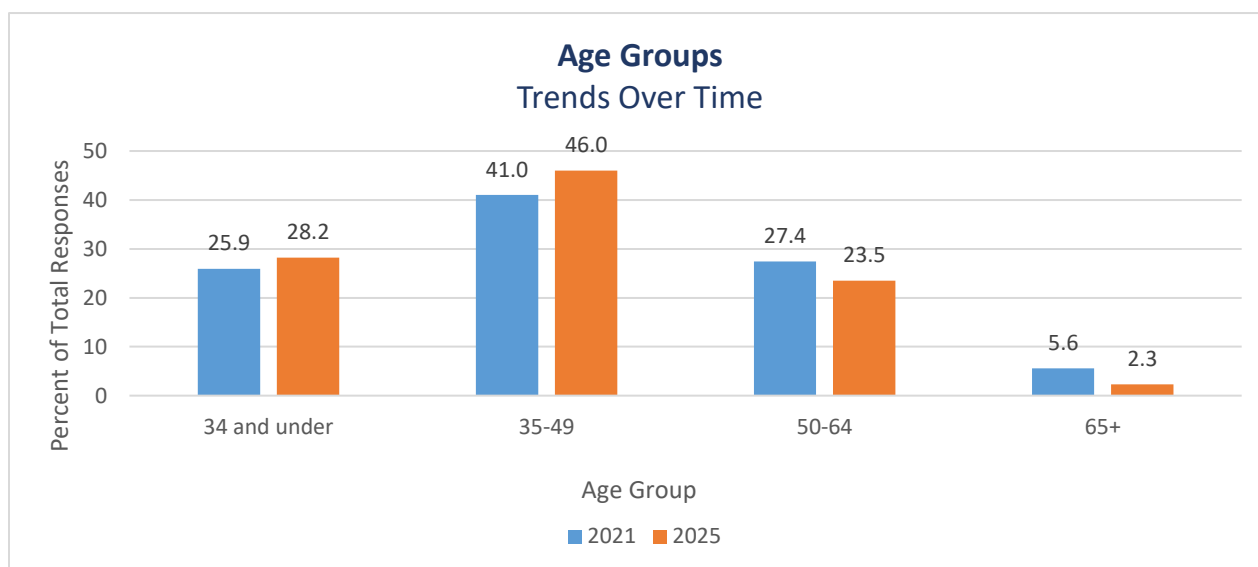
Overall, metro counties such as Fulton, Cobb, and Gwinnett tend to have more dental hygienists, but do not necessarily have the highest per capita rates.

Trends Over Time Comparisons

AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION TRENDS OVER TIME

The chart below displays dental hygienists who self-reported their age in 2021 and 2025. A detailed analysis of the age distribution over this period reveals the following findings:

Category (by Age)	2021 (%)	2025 (%)	Change in (%)
34 and under	25.9	28.2	+8.9 
35-49	41.0	46.0	+12.2 
50-64	27.4	23.5	-14.2 
65+	5.6	2.3	-58.9 



Key Insights

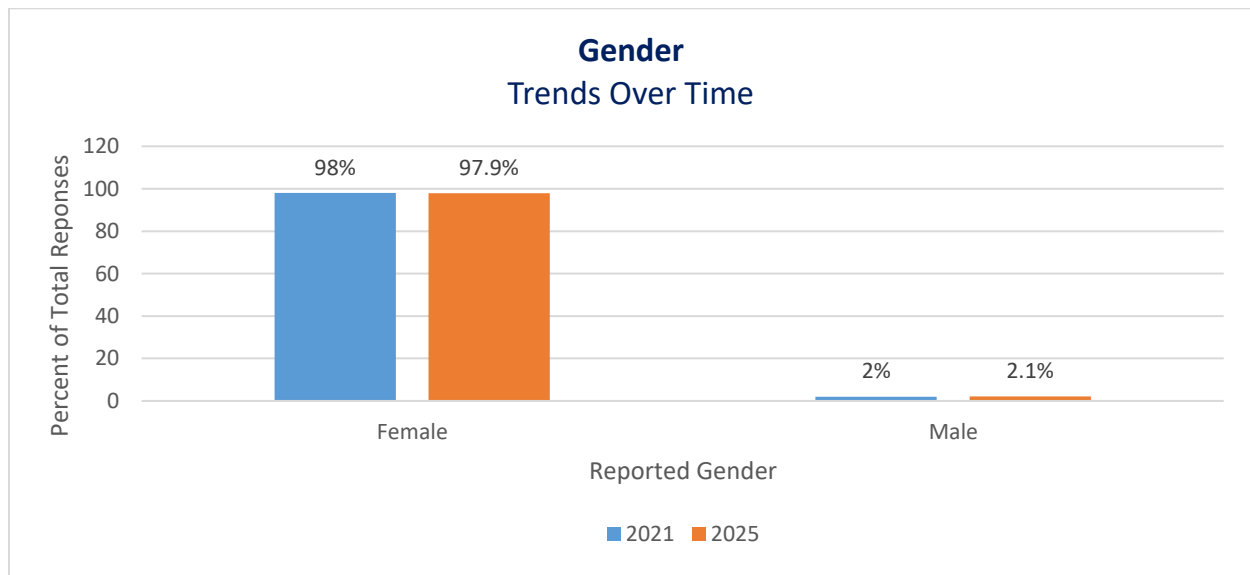
- Age Group 34 and under:**
 - In 2021, 25.9% of licensed dental hygienists in Georgia were aged 34 and under. By 2025, this increased to 28.2%, representing an 8.9% growth.
- Age Group 35-49**
 - The age group 35-49 is the fastest growing group from 2021 (41.0%) to 2025 (46.0%).
- Age Group 50-64**
 - The percentage of dental hygienists aged 50 to 64 declined from 27.4% to 23.5% in 2025- a 14.2% decrease.
- Age Group 65 and older**
 - This group saw a significant decline from 5.6% in 2021 to 2.3% in 2025, a 58.9% drop.

Trends Over Time Comparisons

GENDER DISTRIBUTION TRENDS OVER TIME

The chart below reflects dental hygienists who identified as male or female. A detailed analysis of gender distribution from 2021 to 2025 reveals the following findings.

Category (by Gender)	2021 (%)	2025 (%)	Change in (%)
Female	98.0	97.9	-0.1 ▼
Male	2.0	2.1	+5.0 ▲



Key Insights

1. Female Representation Remains Dominant

- In 2021, 98.0% of dental hygienists identified as female. By 2025, this figure slightly declined to 97.9%, reflecting a minimal decrease of 0.1 percentage points. Despite the small change, females continue to represent the vast majority in the profession.



2. Male Representation Sees Minor Growth

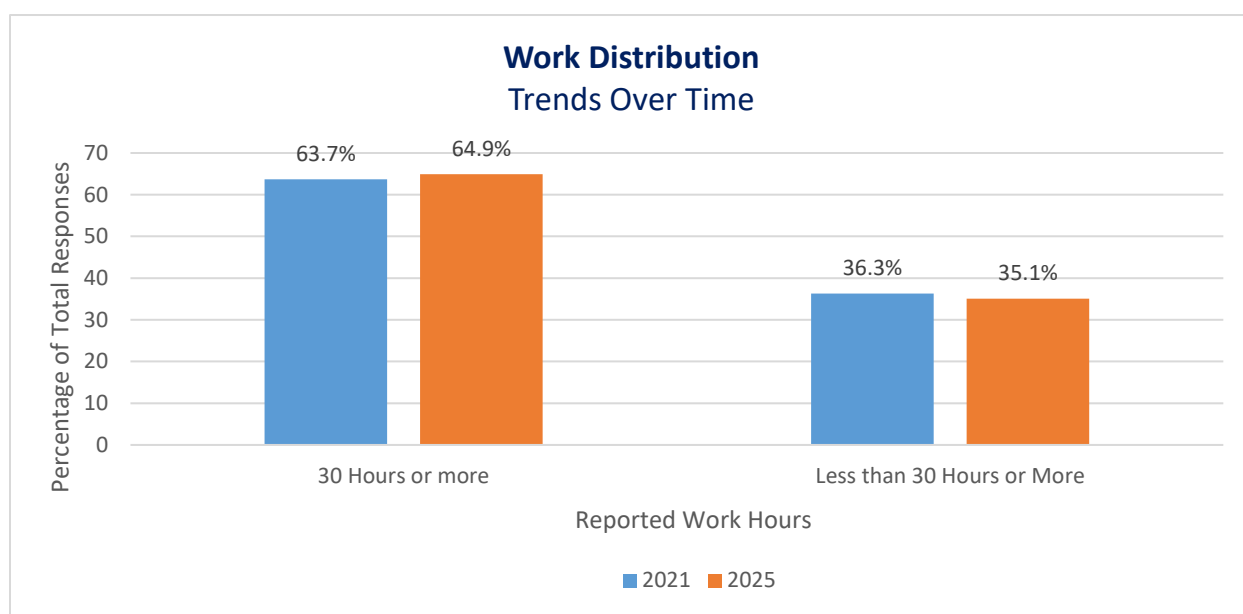
- The percentage of male dental hygienists increased slightly from 2.0% in 2021 to 2.1% in 2025. While the absolute change is just 0.1 percentage points, this reflects a relative growth of 5.0%, indicating a small but gradual increase in male representation.

Trends Over Time Comparisons

WORK HOURS DISTRIBUTION TRENDS OVER TIME

Dental hygienists self-reported working either 30 hours or more per week or less than 30 hours. The chart below highlights a detailed analysis of the work-hour distribution trends from 2021 to 2025.

Category (per week)	2021 (%)	2025 (%)	Change in (%)
30 Hours or More	63.7	64.9	+1.9 
Less than 30 Hours	36.3	35.1	-3.3 



Key Insights

1. Increase in 30 Hours or More Group

- The percentage of dental hygienists working 30 hours or more per week increased from 63.7% in 2021 to 64.9% in 2025 (1.9 relative increase).

2. Decrease in Less than 30 Hours Work Group:

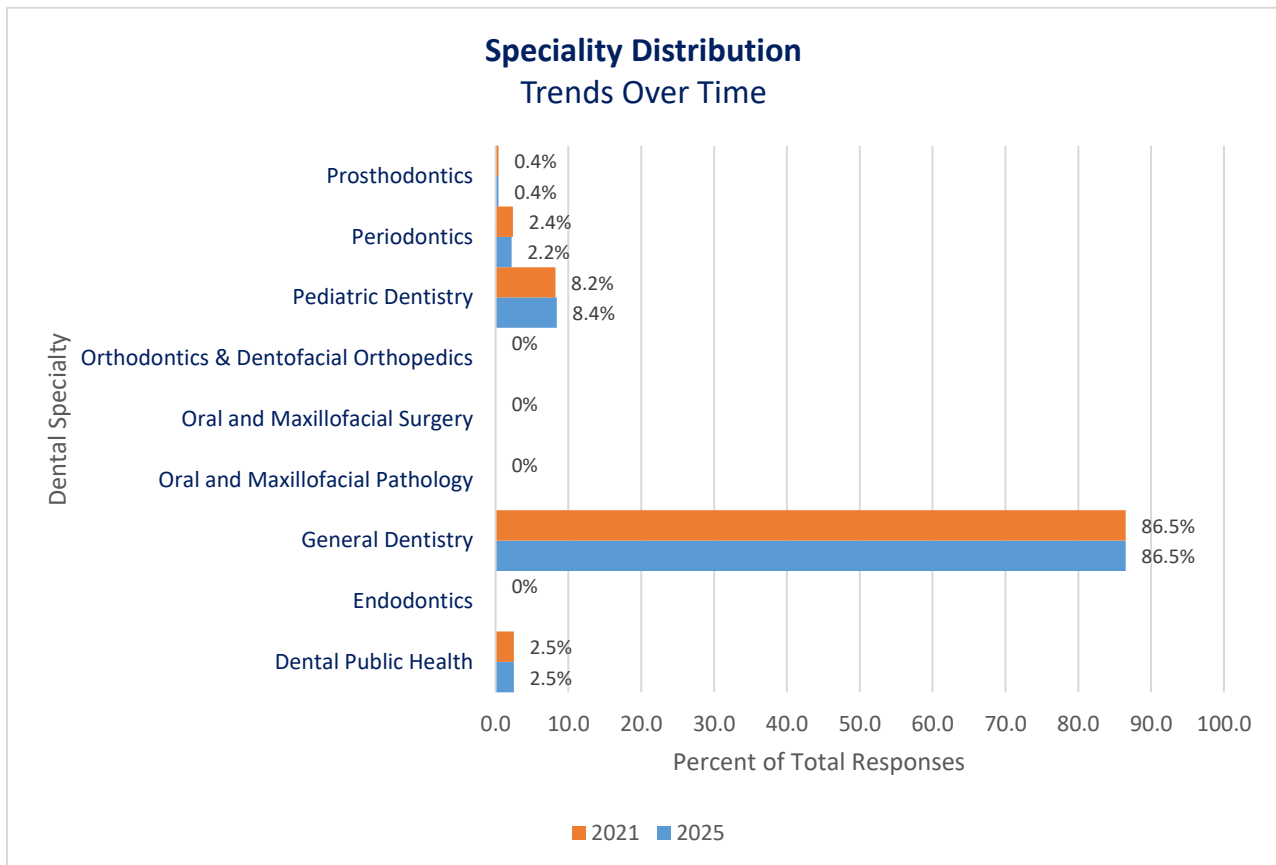
- Those working less than 30 hours decreased from 36.3% in 2021 to 35.1% in 2025, which is a 3.31% relative decrease.

Trends Over Time Comparisons

SPECIALTY DISTRIBUTION TRENDS OVER TIME

The Dental Hygienists Census outlines the specialties in which dental hygienists practice. A comparison of practice specialties between 2021 and 2025 highlights changes in dental hygienists' work.

Category (Specialty)	2021 (%)	2025 (%)	Change (%)
Dental Public Health	2.5	2.5	0.0
Endodontics	n/a	0.0	n/a
General Dentistry	86.5	86.5	0.0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	n/a	0.0	n/a
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	n/a	0.0	n/a
Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics	n/a	0.0	n/a
Pediatric Dentistry	8.2	8.4	+2.4 ▲
Periodontics	2.4	2.2	-8.3 ▼
Prosthodontics	0.4	0.4	0.0



Trends Over Time Comparisons

1. **Stability in General Dentistry and Dental Public Health:**

- The percentages for General Dentistry and Dental Public Health remain unchanged from 2021 to 2025. General Dentistry continues to account for 86.5%, while Dental Public Health stays at 2.5%.

2. **Slight Increase in Pediatric Dentistry:**

- Pediatric Dentistry shows a modest increase from 8.2% in 2021 to 8.4% in 2025, reflecting a 2.4% growth.

3. **Newly Reported Specialties:**

- Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral Surgery, and Orthodontics now each have newly reported percentages in 2025.

Unknown Data

About Unknown Data

The data in this document is based on self-reported responses from dental hygienists across the previously discussed categories. Any missing or unreported information has been excluded, so the figures reflect only those who provided responses. The charts below illustrate the number and percentage of hygienists who did not submit data in each category for 2025. These percentages are calculated using the total number of actively practicing dental hygienists in Georgia: 7,330.

Age Groups (Unknown)

No Response	Percentage
957	13.1%

Gender (Unknown)

No Response	Percentage
1130	15.4%

Work Hours (Unknown)

No Response	Percentage
1143	15.6%

Work Hours by Gender (Unknown)

No Response	Percentage
1147	15.6%

Specialties (Unknown)

No Response	Percentage
1145	15.6%

Acknowledgements

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The Board extends its appreciation to the Georgia Board of Dentistry for providing the Dental Hygienist Census data.

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