Current Demographics and Future Trends of the Dentist Workforce

Institute of Medicine

The U.S. Oral Health Workforce in the Coming Decade: A Workshop

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Dentists in the United States, 2006*

- There are about ~230,000 dentists in the U.S.
- ~78% (180,000) are professionally active
- ~72% (165,000) are in private practice

Source: American Dental Association, 2008

*Numbers are approximate.
General Dentistry vs. Specialty*

All Dentists in Private Practice

- 80% Gen Dent
- 20% Specialty

Source: American Dental Association, 2008

*Numbers are approximate
Distribution of Specialists, 2006

Breakdown by Specialty

- OMFS, 18.5%
- Ortho, 26.8%
- Perio, 13.8%
- Endo, 12.5%
- Pedo, 14.5%
- Prosth, 8.9%
- Public Health, 3.8%
- Rad, 0.30%
- Path, 1.0%

Source: American Dental Association, 2008
Gender Distribution Among Professionally Active Dentists*

All Graduates
- Male: 80%
- Female: 20%

Dentists Graduating from 1997-Present
- Male: 64%
- Female: 36%

Source: American Dental Association, 2008
*Numbers are approximate
Distribution of Race and Ethnicity: Professionally Active Dentists, 2006

White, 86.2%

Hispanic, 3.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander, 6.9%

American Indian, 0.12%

African American, 3.4%

Source: American Dental Association, 2008
Minority Applicants to U.S. Dental Schools: 1990 - 2007

Source: American Dental Education Association
Age Distribution of Professionally Active Dentists, 2006

Percentage of Professionally Active Dentists by Age Bracket

- 65+ 10.5%
- 55-64 23.4%
- 45-54 23.3%
- 35-44 30.5%
- Under 35 12.3%

Source: American Dental Association, 2008
Dentists in the United States, 2006*

- Nearly 65% of dentists are 45 years of age or older
- The average age of dentists in the U.S. is about 50 years of age

Source: American Dental Association, 2008 *Numbers are approximate
Distribution of Dentists in the U.S.

Dental Health Professions Shortage Areas ("Dental HPSAs")

- In 2000, ~1,275 Dental HPSAs in U.S. in which 28,000,000 people resided
- In 2008, >4,000 Dental HPSAs in U.S. in which 48,000,000 people reside

Source: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, 2009
The American Dental Association estimates that the national supply of dental services will increase due to a significant increase in dental productivity.

Dental productivity is expected to increase through increased employment of allied dental professionals.

United States Dental Schools, 2008

Public Dental Schools
- Blue

Private Dental Schools
- Red

Private/State-Related
- Orange Triangle

Puerto Rico
- Light Blue Circle

Source: American Dental Education Association, Applicant Analysis Survey
1982 and 2000: seven dental schools closed

Class sizes at many remaining schools were reduced

6,300 dental graduates in 1977

3,979 dental graduates in 1989

~4,700 dental graduates in 2008

*Numbers are approximate
## Closings and Openings of Dental Schools*

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<th><strong>4 accredited dental schools have opened since 2000</strong></th>
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<td>- Nova Southeastern, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Midwestern University (Arizona Campus)</td>
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<th><strong>2 new dental schools are seeking accreditation</strong></th>
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<td>- Western University of Health Sciences, East Carolina University</td>
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<th><strong>6 new dental schools are under consideration</strong></th>
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<td>- Arkansas, California, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, Texas</td>
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<th><strong>12 new schools since 2000, but net increase of only 5 compared to 1982</strong></th>
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<td>- 7 of these are associated with universities that have osteopathic medical schools</td>
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Observations

- Increases in the U.S. dentist workforce are not consistent with increases in the U.S. population.

- Closure of dental schools and reductions in class sizes between 1982 and 2000 are having a long-term impact on the U.S. dentist workforce.
Observations

- The effect of the openings of new dental schools will be in the long-term and not the short-term.

- There are definite trends reflecting increasing percentages of women and under-represented minorities in the U.S. dentist workforce.
THANK YOU