

2019 Dentist Workforce Report

Based on 2017-2019 Licensure Renewal Data



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Published Summer 2020

Characteristics of Licensed Dentists Practicing in Georgia, 2019

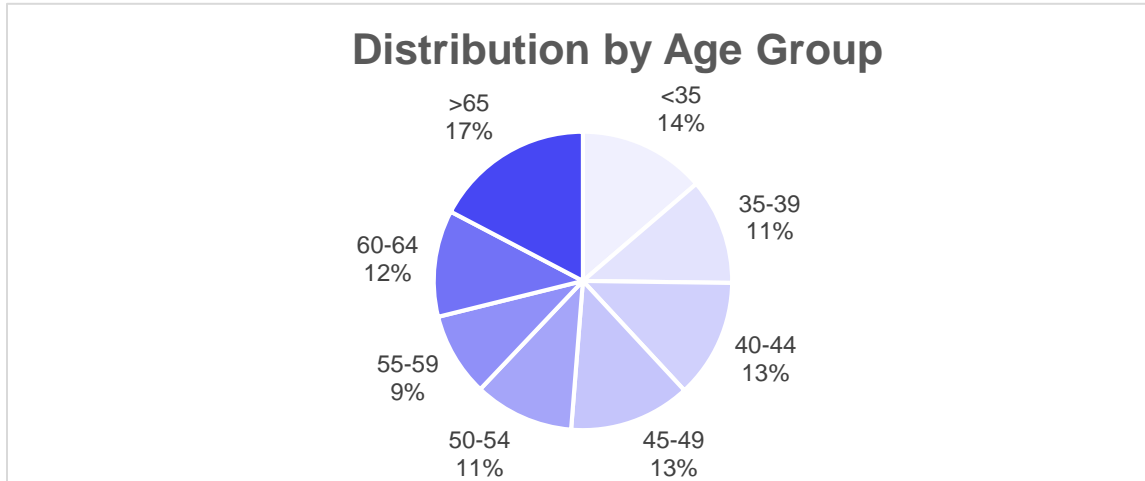
In 2019, there were 5,143 dentists actively practicing in the state of Georgia. Between 2017 and 2019, there has been an increase of 450 dentists practicing in Georgia, or a growth of 9.6% since 2017. The rate of dentists per 100,000 people is 48.43 in 2019 (using the Census 2019 population estimate of 10,617,423)¹. This represents an increase of 2.94 dentists per 100,000 population from the 2017 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 2018², which places Georgia's rate among the lowest 20% of states. There were 21 counties with no dentists, which represents a population of 179,685 (using Census 2019 population estimate). This is a decrease of 19,632 Georgians who do not have a dentist practicing in their county from 2017. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook shows that the dentist occupation is expected to grow by 7% between 2018-2028, which is faster than the average for other occupations³.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/GA#>

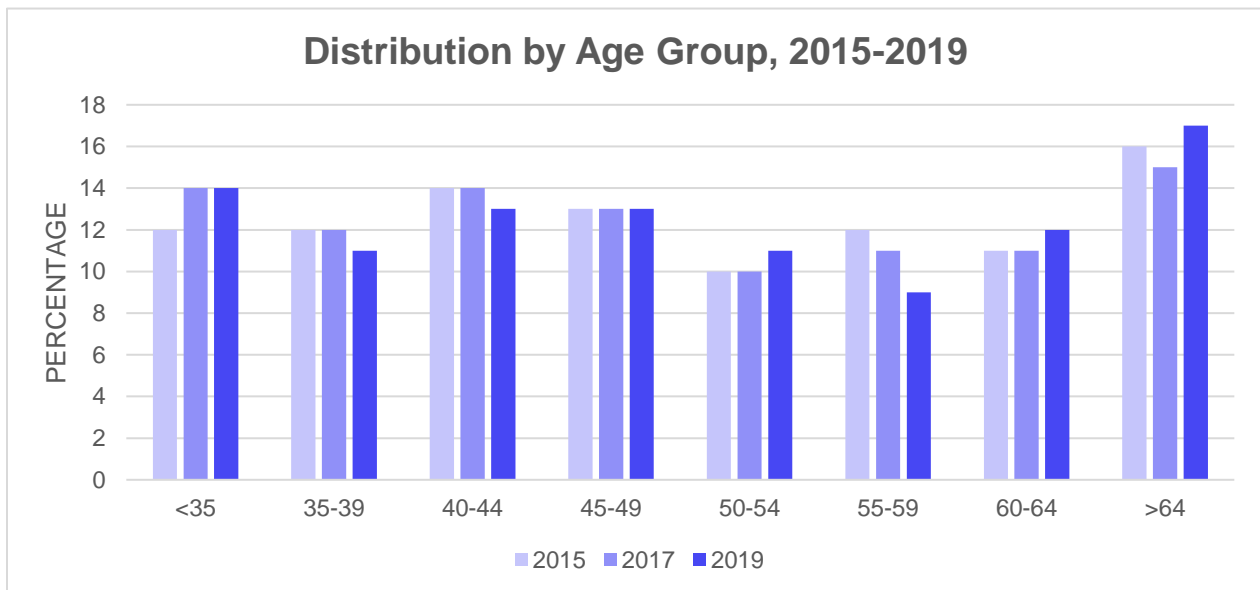
² <https://www.ada.org/en/science-research/health-policy-institute/dental-statistics/workforce>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm>

Distribution of Dentists by Age Group

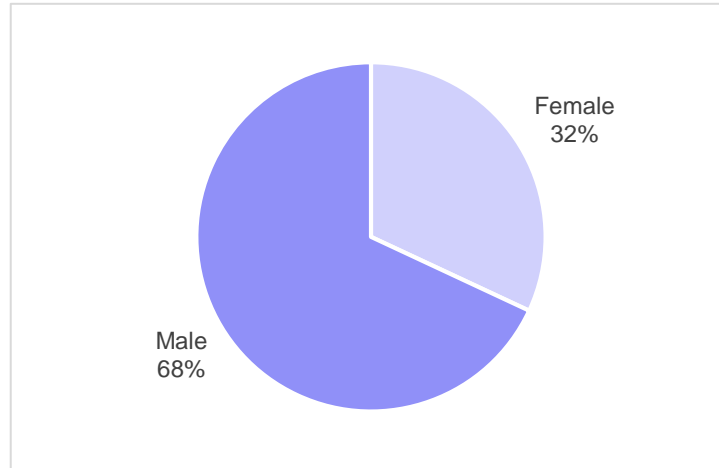


The 2019 Dental Survey indicates the average age of licensed dentists actively practicing in Georgia is 50.27 years old. The largest age group consists of those 65 or older, constituting 17% of the total. The smallest age group is those aged 55-59, which is 9% of the total. The ADA stated that the largest age group nationally was 35-44, at 23.4% of the total dentists in the U.S.² In addition, a slightly smaller percentage of dentists nationally were over age 65 (15.8% from ADA)². Together this indicates that Georgia's dentist workforce is older than that of the national average.

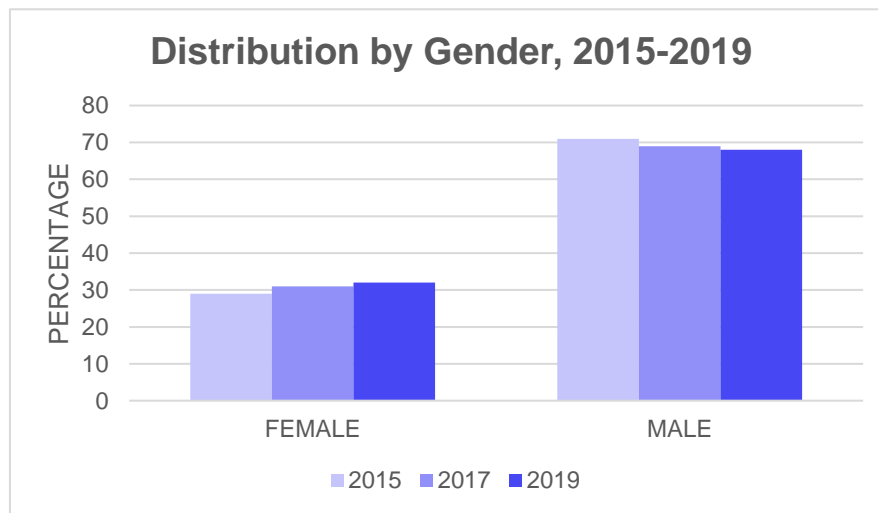


Since 2015, the percentage of dentists in the <35, 50-54, 60-64, and >64 age groups has increased. The percentage of dentists in the 35-39, 40-44, and 55-59 age groups has decreased, while the 45-49 age group has stayed approximately the same.

Distribution of Dentists by Gender



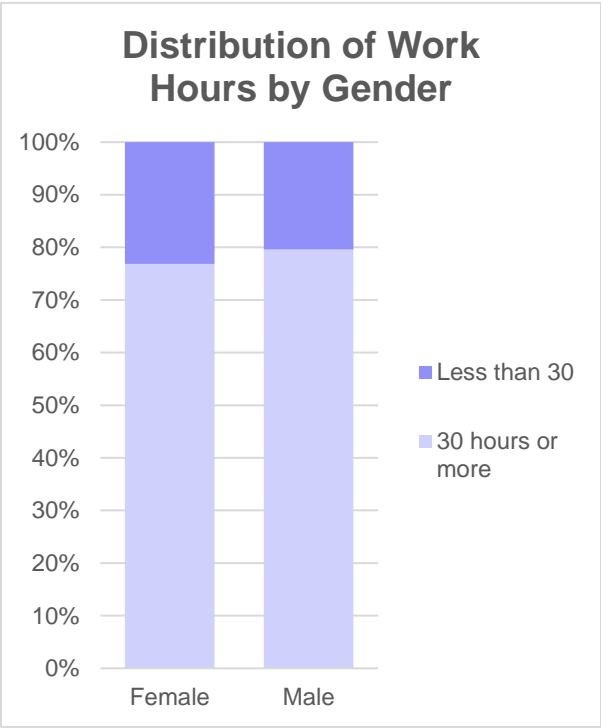
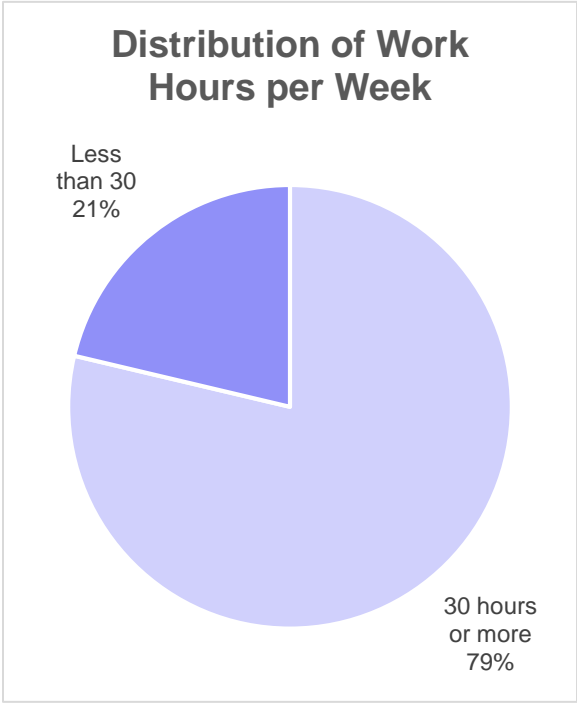
Of the 5,143 respondents in 2019, 3,408 (68%) are male and 1,600 (32%) are female. This represents a small increase in the percentage of female dentists since 2017, when 31% of respondents identified as female. In 2018, the ADA stated that 32.3% of dentists nationally were female⁴. In comparison with the ADA's dentist data for other states, Georgia's percentage female is above the national average.



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 22.8% since 2015 (from 1,303 in 2015 to 1,600 in 2019).

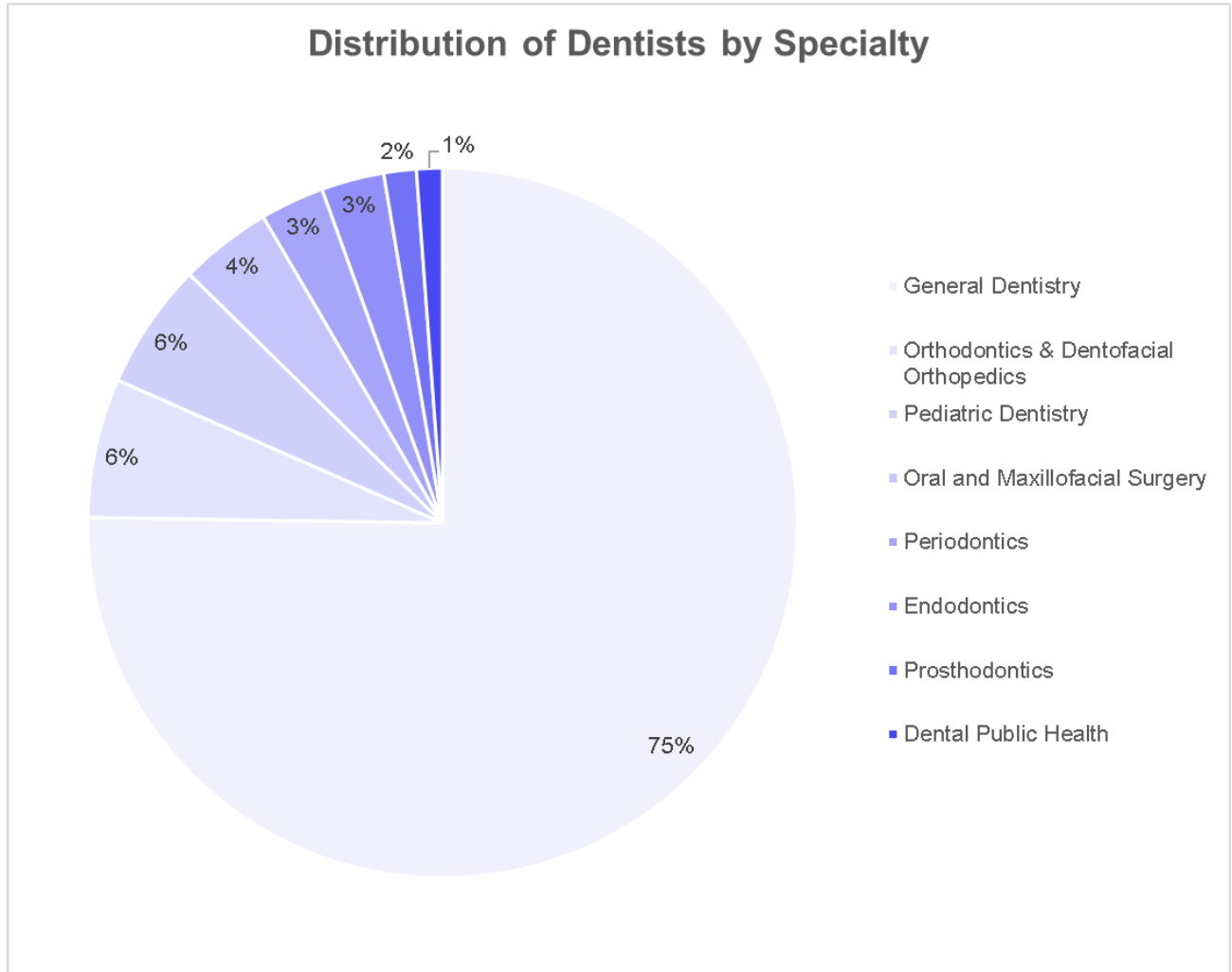
⁴ <https://www.ada.org/en/science-research/health-policy-institute/dental-statistics/workforce>

Distribution of Work Hours per Week



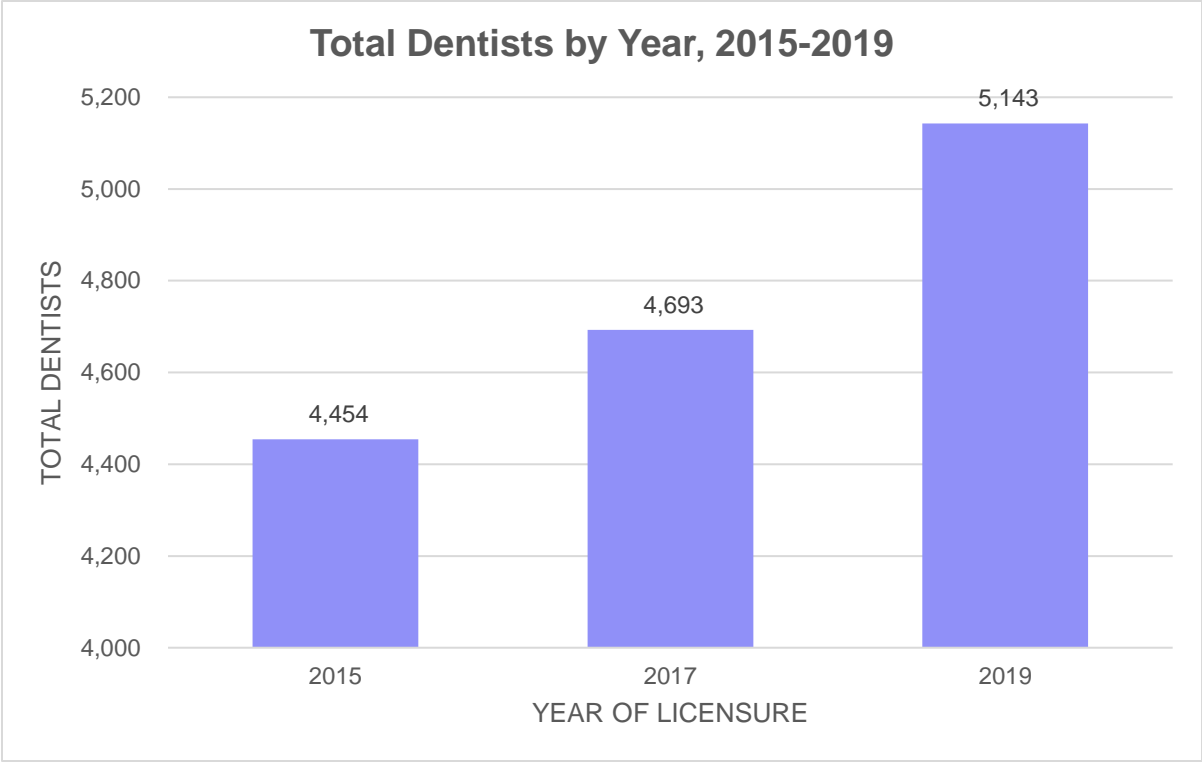
In 2019, 79% of dentists reported working 30 hours or more per week, which is down from 80% of dentists in 2017. In 2019, male dentists are more likely to report working 30 hours or more per week than female dentists.

Distribution of Dentists by Specialty



The vast majority of dentists (75%) practice in general dentistry in 2019. The remaining 25% of dentists practice in other specialties, namely orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (6%), pediatric dentistry (6%), oral and maxillofacial surgery (4%), periodontics (3%) and endodontics (3%).

Distribution of Practicing Dentists in Georgia, 2015-2019



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%.

Distribution of Practicing Dentists by Georgia County, 2015-2019

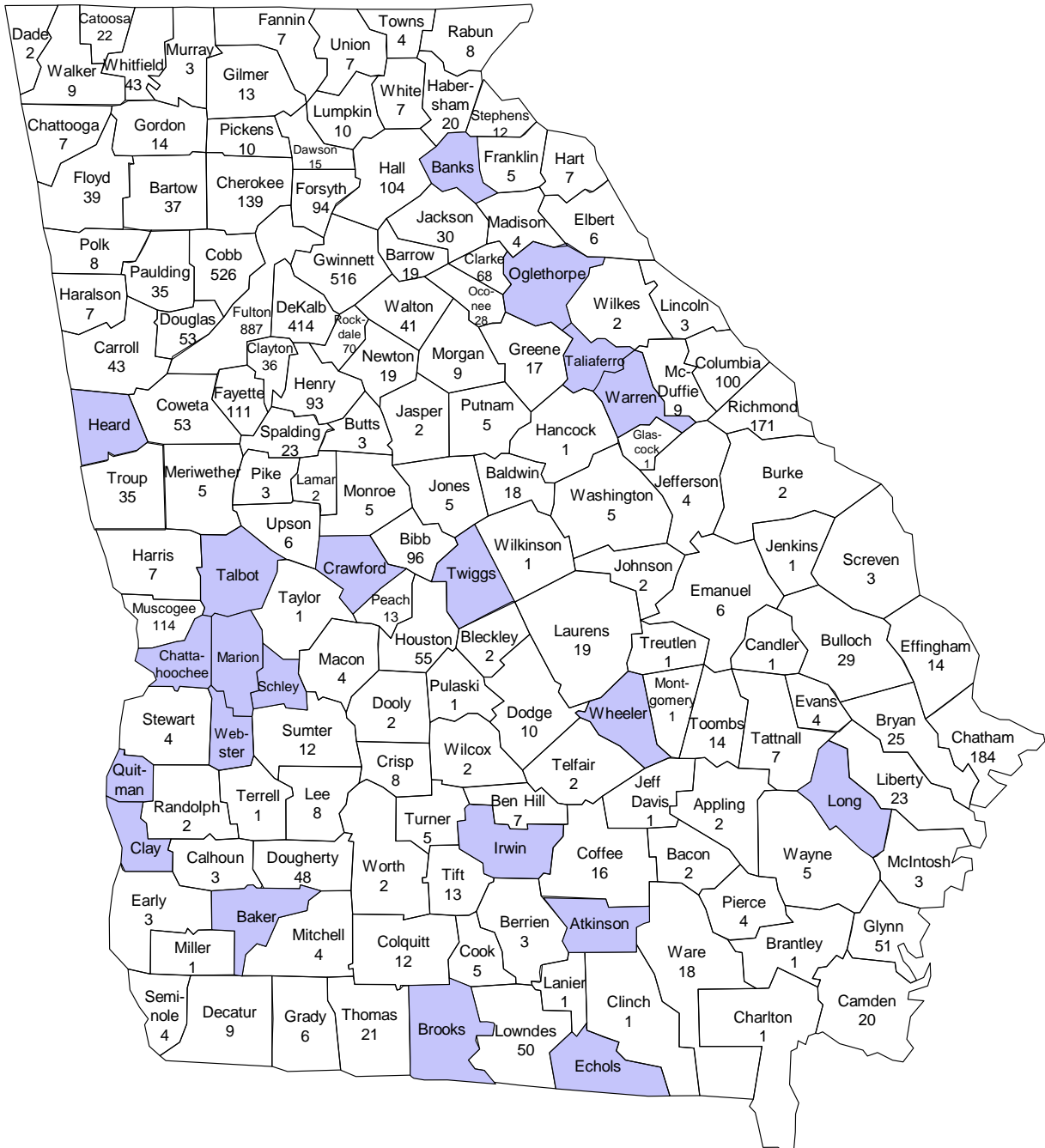
COUNTY	GENERAL DENTISTRY	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE	TOTAL DENTISTS	POPULATION (2019)	RATE PER 100,000
STATE OF GEORGIA	3,764	1,379	5,143	10,617,423	48.4
APPLING	2	0	2	18,386	10.9
ATKINSON	0	0	0	8,165	0.0
BACON	2	0	2	11,164	17.9
BAKER	0	0	0	3,038	0.0
BALDWIN	15	3	18	44,890	40.1
BANKS	0	0	0	19,234	0.0
BARROW	18	1	19	83,240	22.8
BARTOW	28	9	37	107,738	34.3
BEN HILL	7	0	7	16,700	41.9
BERRIEN	3	0	3	19,397	15.5
BIBB	68	28	96	153,159	62.7
BLECKLEY	2	0	2	12,873	15.5
BRANTLEY	1	0	1	19,109	5.2
BROOKS	0	0	0	15,457	0.0
BRYAN	14	11	25	39,627	63.1
BULLOCH	21	8	29	79,608	36.4
BURKE	2	0	2	22,383	8.9
BUTTS	3	0	3	24,936	12.0
CALHOUN	3	0	3	6,189	48.5
CAMDEN	17	3	20	54,666	36.6
CANDLER	1	0	1	10,803	9.3
CARROLL	35	8	43	119,992	35.8
CATOOSA	14	8	22	67,580	32.6
CHARLTON	1	0	1	13,392	7.5
CHATHAM	127	57	184	289,430	63.6
CHATTAHOOCHEE	0	0	0	10,907	0.0
CHATTOOGA	7	0	7	24,789	28.2
CHEROKEE	94	45	139	258,773	53.7
CLARKE	53	15	68	128,331	53.0
CLAY	0	0	0	2,834	0.0
CLAYTON	31	5	36	292,256	12.3
CLINCH	1	0	1	6,618	15.1
COBB	377	149	526	760,141	69.2
COFFEE	12	4	16	43,273	37.0
COLQUITT	10	2	12	45,600	26.3
COLUMBIA	62	38	100	156,714	63.8
COOK	5	0	5	17,270	29.0
COWETA	39	14	53	148,509	35.7
CRAWFORD	0	0	0	12,404	0.0
CRISP	8	0	8	22,372	35.8
DADE	1	1	2	16,116	12.4
DAWSON	11	4	15	26,108	57.5
DECATUR	8	1	9	26,404	34.1
DEKALB	307	107	414	759,297	54.5
DODGE	9	1	10	20,605	48.5
DOOLY	2	0	2	13,390	14.9
DOUGHERTY	36	12	48	87,956	54.6
DOUGLAS	36	17	53	146,343	36.2
EARLY	3	0	3	10,190	29.4

COUNTY	GENERAL DENTISTRY	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE	TOTAL DENTISTS	POPULATION (2019)	RATE PER 100,000
ECHOLS	0	0	0	4,006	0.0
EFFINGHAM	12	2	14	64,296	21.8
ELBERT	4	2	6	19,194	31.3
EMANUEL	6	0	6	22,646	26.5
EVANS	3	1	4	10,654	37.5
FANNIN	7	0	7	26,188	26.7
FAYETTE	76	35	111	114,421	97.0
FLOYD	25	14	39	98,498	39.6
FORSYTH	68	26	94	244,252	38.5
FRANKLIN	5	0	5	23,349	21.4
FULTON	606	281	887	1,063,937	83.4
GILMER	11	2	13	31,369	41.4
GLASCOCK	1	0	1	2,971	33.7
GLYNN	41	10	51	85,292	59.8
GORDON	13	1	14	57,963	24.2
GRADY	5	1	6	24,633	24.4
GREENE	12	5	17	18,324	92.8
GWINNETT	373	143	516	936,250	55.1
HABERSHAM	15	5	20	45,328	44.1
HALL	76	28	104	204,441	50.9
HANCOCK	1	0	1	8,457	11.8
HARALSON	7	0	7	29,792	23.5
HARRIS	7	0	7	35,236	19.9
HART	7	0	7	26,205	26.7
HEARD	0	0	0	11,923	0.0
HENRY	70	23	93	234,561	39.6
HOUSTON	40	15	55	157,863	34.8
IRWIN	0	0	0	9,416	0.0
JACKSON	23	7	30	72,977	41.1
JASPER	2	0	2	14,219	14.1
JEFF DAVIS	1	0	1	15,115	6.6
JEFFERSON	4	0	4	15,362	26.0
JENKINS	1	0	1	8,676	11.5
JOHNSON	2	0	2	9,643	20.7
JONES	5	0	5	28,735	17.4
LAMAR	2	0	2	19,077	10.5
LANIER	1	0	1	10,423	9.6
LAURENS	16	3	19	47,546	40.0
LEE	8	0	8	29,992	26.7
LIBERTY	18	5	23	61,435	37.4
LINCOLN	3	0	3	7,921	37.9
LONG	0	0	0	19,559	0.0
LOWNDES	38	12	50	117,406	42.6
LUMPKIN	8	2	10	33,610	29.8
MACON	3	1	4	12,947	30.9
MADISON	1	3	4	29,880	13.4
MARION	0	0	0	8,359	0.0
MCDUFFIE	9	0	9	21,312	42.2
MCINTOSH	3	0	3	14,378	20.9
MERIWETHER	4	1	5	21,167	23.6
MILLER	1	0	1	5,718	17.5
MITCHELL	4	0	4	21,863	18.3
MONROE	5	0	5	27,578	18.1
MONTGOMERY		1	1	9,172	10.9
MORGAN	8	1	9	19,276	46.7
MURRAY	3	0	3	40,096	7.5

COUNTY	GENERAL DENTISTRY	OTHER PRACTICE TYPE	TOTAL DENTISTS	POPULATION (2019)	RATE PER 100,000
MUSCOGEE	79	35	114	195,769	58.2
NEWTON	16	3	19	111,744	17.0
OCONEE	20	8	28	40,280	69.5
OGLETHORPE	0	0	0	15,259	0.0
PAULDING	30	5	35	168,667	20.8
PEACH	13	0	13	27,546	47.2
PICKENS	9	1	10	32,591	30.7
PIERCE	4	0	4	19,465	20.5
PIKE	3	0	3	18,962	15.8
POLK	7	1	8	42,613	18.8
PULASKI	1	0	1	11,137	9.0
PUTNAM	4	1	5	22,119	22.6
QUITMAN	0	0	0	2,299	0.0
RABUN	8	0	8	17,137	46.7
RANDOLPH	1	1	2	6,778	29.5
RICHMOND	103	68	171	202,518	84.4
ROCKDALE	47	23	70	90,896	77.0
SCHLEY	0	0	0	5,257	0.0
SCREVEN	3	0	3	13,966	21.5
SEMINOLE	4	0	4	8,090	49.4
SPALDING	17	6	23	66,703	34.5
STEPHENS	9	3	12	25,925	46.3
STEWART	4	0	4	6,621	60.4
SUMTER	11	1	12	29,524	40.6
TALBOT	0	0	0	6,195	0.0
TALIAFERRO	0	0	0	1,537	0.0
TATTNALL	6	1	7	25,286	27.7
TAYLOR	1	0	1	8,020	12.5
TELFAIR	2	0	2	15,860	12.6
TERRELL	1	0	1	8,531	11.7
THOMAS	15	6	21	44,451	47.2
TIFT	10	3	13	40,644	32.0
TOOMBS	12	2	14	26,830	52.2
TOWNS	4	0	4	12,037	33.2
TREUTLEN	1	0	1	6,901	14.5
TROUP	29	6	35	69,922	50.1
TURNER	5	0	5	7,985	62.6
TWIGGS	0	0	0	8,120	0.0
UNION	7	0	7	24,511	28.6
UPSON	5	1	6	26,320	22.8
WALKER	9	0	9	69,761	12.9
WALTON	35	6	41	94,593	43.3
WARE	15	3	18	35,734	50.4
WARREN	0	0	0	5,254	0.0
WASHINGTON	4	1	5	20,374	24.5
WAYNE	4	1	5	29,927	16.7
WEBSTER	0	0	0	2,607	0.0
WHEELER	0	0	0	7,855	0.0
WHITE	7	0	7	30,798	22.7
WHITFIELD	32	11	43	104,628	41.1
WILCOX	2	0	2	8,635	23.2
WILKES	2	0	2	9,777	20.5
WILKINSON	1	0	1	8,954	11.2
WORTH	2	0	2	20,247	9.9

Counties with no Dentists, 2019

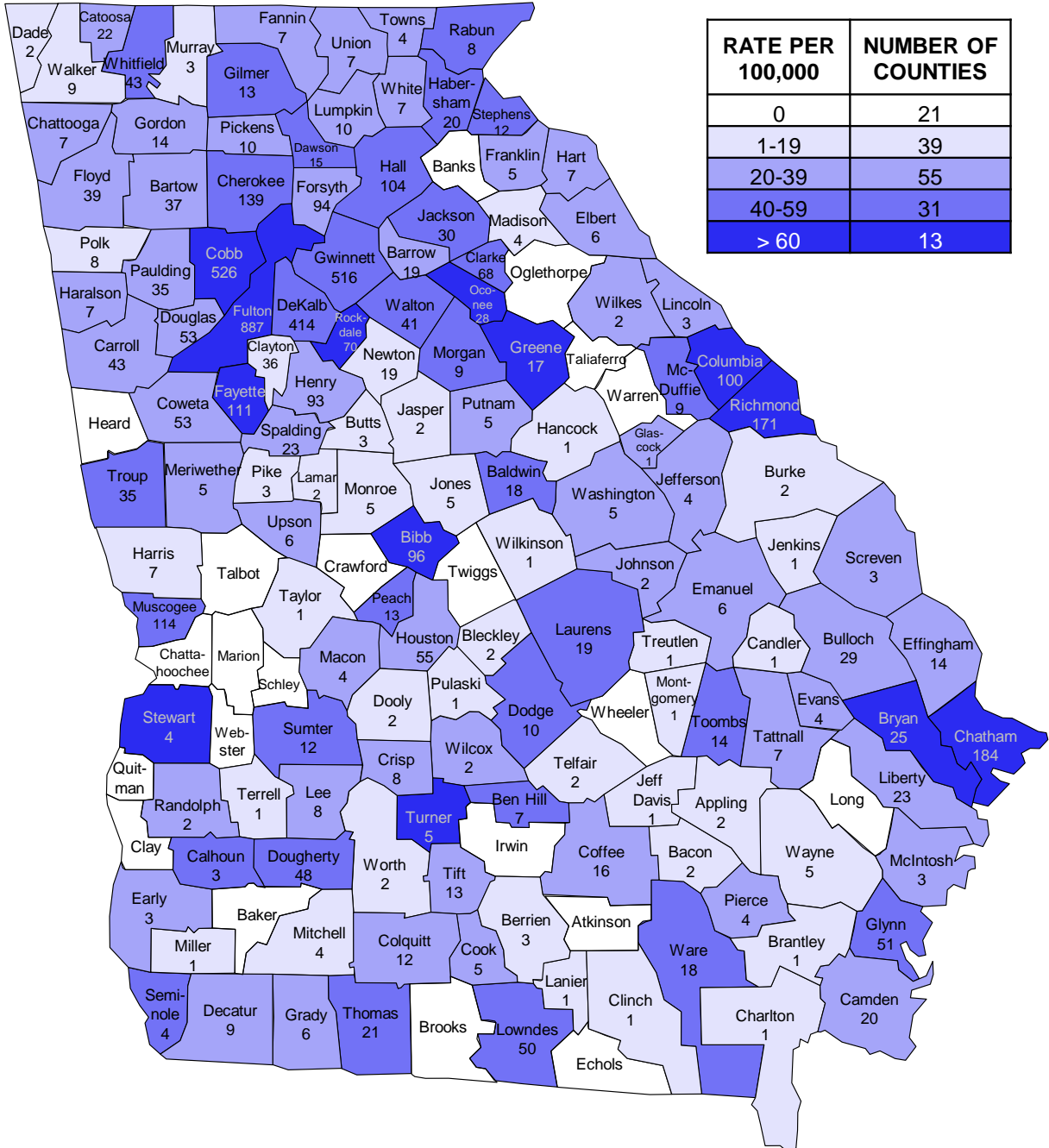
Note: the number of dentists is listed below each county name



In the 2017 Dentist Workforce Report, twenty-three counties had no dentists practicing there. This year, twenty-one counties have no dentists practicing there. Since 2017, six counties have gained a dentist: Hancock, Jenkins, Pulaski, Montgomery, Crawford, and Randolph. However, three counties have lost a dentist since 2017: Wheeler, Talbot, and Irwin.

Concentration of Dentists, Rate of Dentists per 100,000 2019

Note: the number of dentists is listed below each county name



Acknowledgements

This report was produced under the direction of LaSharn Hughes, MBA, 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.

Please follow us on Twitter: @GABoardHCW