

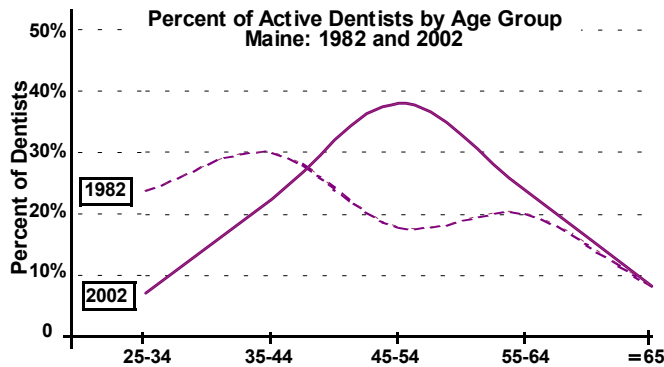
# MAINE DENTISTS: 2002

Data are from the  
MAINE COOPERATIVE HEALTH MANPOWER RESOURCE SYSTEM

- ➔ In 2002, 589 dentists reported that they were working in Maine, an increase of 8 dentists since 1998.
- ➔ Between 1998 and 2002, Maine's population increased at a greater rate than the pool of practicing dentists. This resulted in an increase in the ratio of population per dentist in 2002 to 2,165 residents for each dentist, a ratio slightly higher than it was in 1998 (2,138 residents/dentist).
- ➔ Nationally, the ratio of population per dentist was 1,656 residents<sup>1</sup> for every dentist - a ratio significantly lower than Maine's.
- ➔ Maine's most populous county, Cumberland, also had the greatest number of practicing dentists in 2002. The ratio of population to dentist in Cumberland county was the smallest in the state, 1,355 residents/dentist.

POPULATION PER DENTIST BY COUNTY: Maine, 2002			
Cumberland	➔ 1,355	York	➔ 3,012
Knox	➔ 1,723	Aroostook	➔ 3,215
Kennebec	➔ 1,920	Franklin	➔ 3,274
Androscoggin	➔ 2,118	Washington	➔ 3,394
Hancock	➔ 2,158	Oxford	➔ 3,422
Lincoln	➔ 2,241	Piscataquis	➔ 3,447
Penobscot	➔ 2,415	Somerset	➔ 3,635
Sagadahoc	➔ 2,515	Waldo	➔ 4,535

- ➔ Over the past 20 years, the age composition of Maine's dentist profession changed. In 1982, over 50% of all Maine dentists were younger than 45. By 2002, this group represented just 30% of the profession.
- ➔ Over the same period, the age group with the greatest growth, dentists 45 - 54 years old, increased in numbers from 86 to 225. As a group, dentists 45 - 54 grew from representing 18% of the profession in 1982 to 38% in 2002. In 2002, the average age of Maine dentists was 50.5 years old; 16 years earlier, in 1986, it was 45.5 years old.
- ➔ In 2002, 78% (445) of the dentists who reported specialty information gave "general practice" as their primary practice area. The next most frequently reported specialties - orthodontics (39 dentists) and oral surgery (33 dentists) - together represented just 13% of the profession.



Notes: A significant difference in ratios means that the difference between them could not be accounted for by chance alone.

<sup>1</sup> Health, United States, 2002. A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, BUREAU OF HEALTH  
at 161 Capitol Street, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
The contact person is: Kim Haggan - (207) 287-5500 287-2070 (TTY)

**For program information, please contact: Judith Feinstein at 287-3267**

Visit our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor

