

Dental Professionals

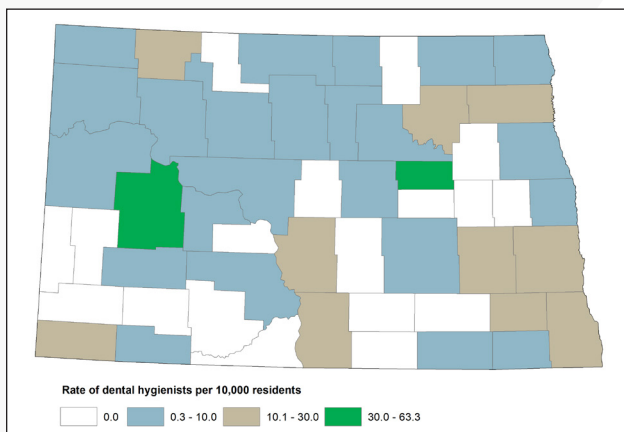
Dental Professionals are professionals who examine, diagnose, treat, repair, prescribe, or perform surgery of or for any disease, disorder, deficiency, deformity, discoloration, condition, lesion, injury, or pain of the human oral cavity, teeth, gingivae, and soft tissues. Their scope of work also includes the diagnosis, surgical, and adjunctive treatment of the diseases, injuries, and defects of the upper and lower human jaw and associated structures. Professionals such as dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are important health care providers.

Licensed Dental Hygienists

To be licensed as a dental hygienist in North Dakota, an individual must satisfy all criteria below:

- Graduate from a dental hygiene school accredited by the American Dental Association.
- Pass an examination of the national dental examinations.
- Pass a clinical competency examination.
- Pass a written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in the state within one year before applying for licensure.
- Have no violations of any code of action and ethics against license and certificate.

Figure 1. Rate of Dental Hygienists per 10,000 North Dakota Residents by County



There are 9.7 dental hygienists per 10,000 North Dakota residents working in North Dakota. Dental hygienists working in North Dakota have been in practice, on average, for 15 years and 11 months (SD = 12 yrs, 5 mos).

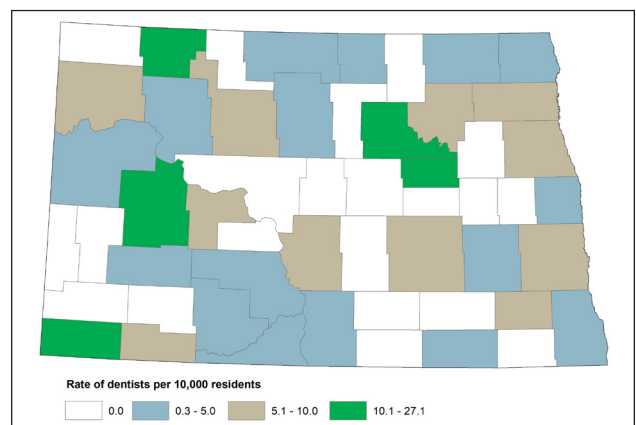
Licensed Dentists

To be licensed as a dentist in North Dakota, an individual has to:

- Have a doctorate of dental surgery or doctorate of dental medicine degree from an accredited dental school.
- Pass the examination administered by the joint commission on national dental examinations or the national dental examining board of Canada.
- Pass a clinical competency examination.
- Pass a written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in the state within one year before applying for licensure.
- Not violate any code of action and ethic against license and certificate.

It was found that there are 410 licensed dentists in North Dakota, which amounts to 5.4 dentists per 10,000 North Dakota residents licensed and working in North Dakota. Licensed dentists have been practicing, on average, for 16 years and 9 months (SD = 13 yrs, 9 mos).

Figure 2. Rate of Dentists per 10,000 North Dakota Residents by County



Dentists Practice Area

About 19% of the dentists in North Dakota reported working in specialty areas, the majority reported oral and maxillofacial surgery, followed by orthodontics. Other areas included pediatric dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

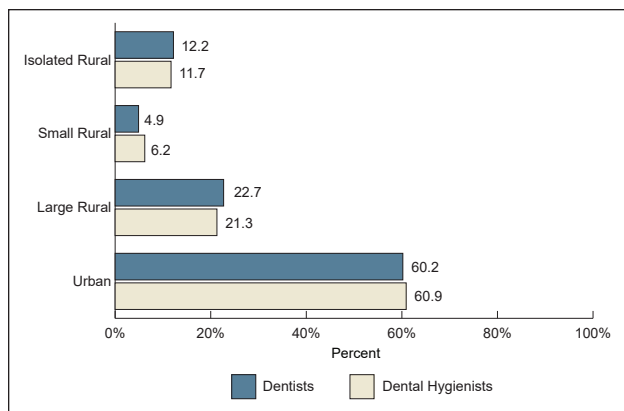
Table 1. Specialty Area of North Dakota Dentists

ADA Specialty	Frequency	Percent
Endodontics	13	16.7
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	22	28.2
Orthodontics	18	23.1
Pediatric Dentistry	16	20.5
Periodontics	5	6.4
Prosthodontics	4	5.1

Frequency Missing = 332

Most licensed dentists working in North Dakota work in urban areas, followed by large rural areas, isolated rural areas, and small rural areas. Dental hygienists followed the same pattern. Overall, 163 (39.8%) of the dentists working in North Dakota work in rural areas, and 267 (39.2%) dental hygienists work in rural areas.

Figure 3. Rural-Urban Designation for Dental Professionals in North Dakota



Conclusions

- There are 410 licensed dentists in North Dakota, which amounts to 5.4 dentists per 10,000 North Dakota residents licensed and working in North Dakota.
- Most licensed dentists in North Dakota work in urban areas (60.2%), followed by large rural areas (22.7%), isolated rural areas (12.2%), and small rural areas (4.9%).

Data

ND State Board of Dental Examiners (2020). LAWS AND RULES. Retrieved from nddentalboard.org