West Virginia's Dental Workforce

Assessing The Present & Future for Dentists and Dental Hygienists in WV

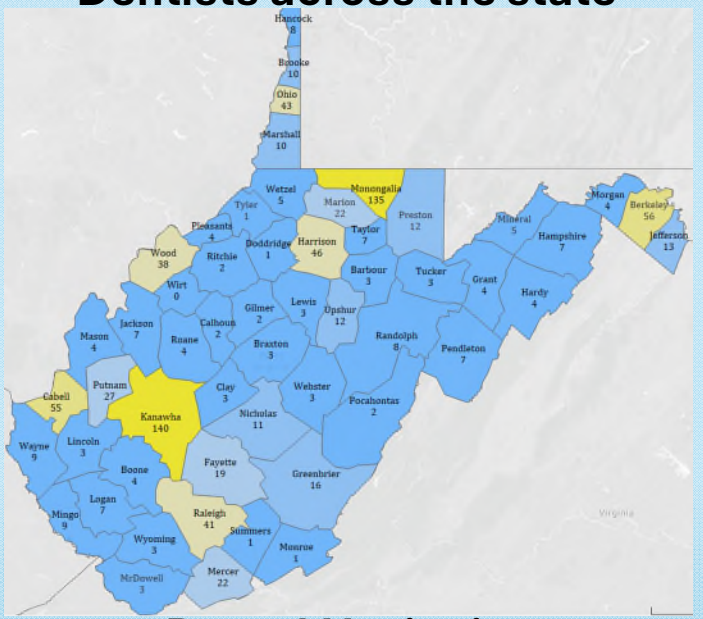
Methods

In 2024, The West Virginia (WV) Department of Health, Oral Health Program, in Cooperation with the WV Board of Dentistry, sent a workforce survey to WV dentists and WV Dental hygienists seeking a 2024 license renewal. A total of 1195 dentists and 1428 dental hygienists renewed their license.

Dentists

- More women are entering West Virginia's dental workforce
  - 34 % of the 2024 dentists were female, compared to 22 % in 2012
- Most dentists in West Virginia are Non-Hispanic white
  - 89 % of the 2024 dentists were white
- Most practicing dentists (54 %), work 30+ hours a week
- 69 % of WV dentists work in solo or group practices
- West Virginia's dental workforce is aging
  - 39 % of dentists are 55 years or older
  - 37 % of dentists plan to retire within the next 10 years

Dentists across the state



Dental Hygienists

- Most dental hygienists in West Virginia (98 %) are women
- Most dental hygienists in West Virginia (97 %) are white
- 81 % of WV hygienists are currently practicing dental hygiene
- Majority of practicing hygienists (51 %), work 30+ hours per week
  - 19 % of licensed hygienists are not currently practicing clinical dental hygiene
- When compared to dentists', West Virginia dental hygienists' workforce is young
  - 18 % of the hygienists are 55 years or older
  - 26 % of the hygienists plan to retire within the next 10 years

Data source: 2024 Dentist and Dental hygienist license renewal surveys

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