

Dentists and Demographics

New Dentist-to-Population Ratios for Various Dates

American Dental Education Association

Compared to 1980, the ratio of graduating dentists to US population in 1990, 2000, and 2010 is significantly different.

In 1980, there were more than 6,000 graduates and the US population was about 227 million, or a ratio of about one graduating dentist for every 38,000 Americans.

In 1990, there were less than 4,000 graduates and the US population was about 250 million, or a ratio of about one graduating dentist for every 62,500 Americans.

In 2000, there were about 4,200 graduates and the US population was about 281 million, or a ratio of about one graduating dentist for every 67,000 Americans.

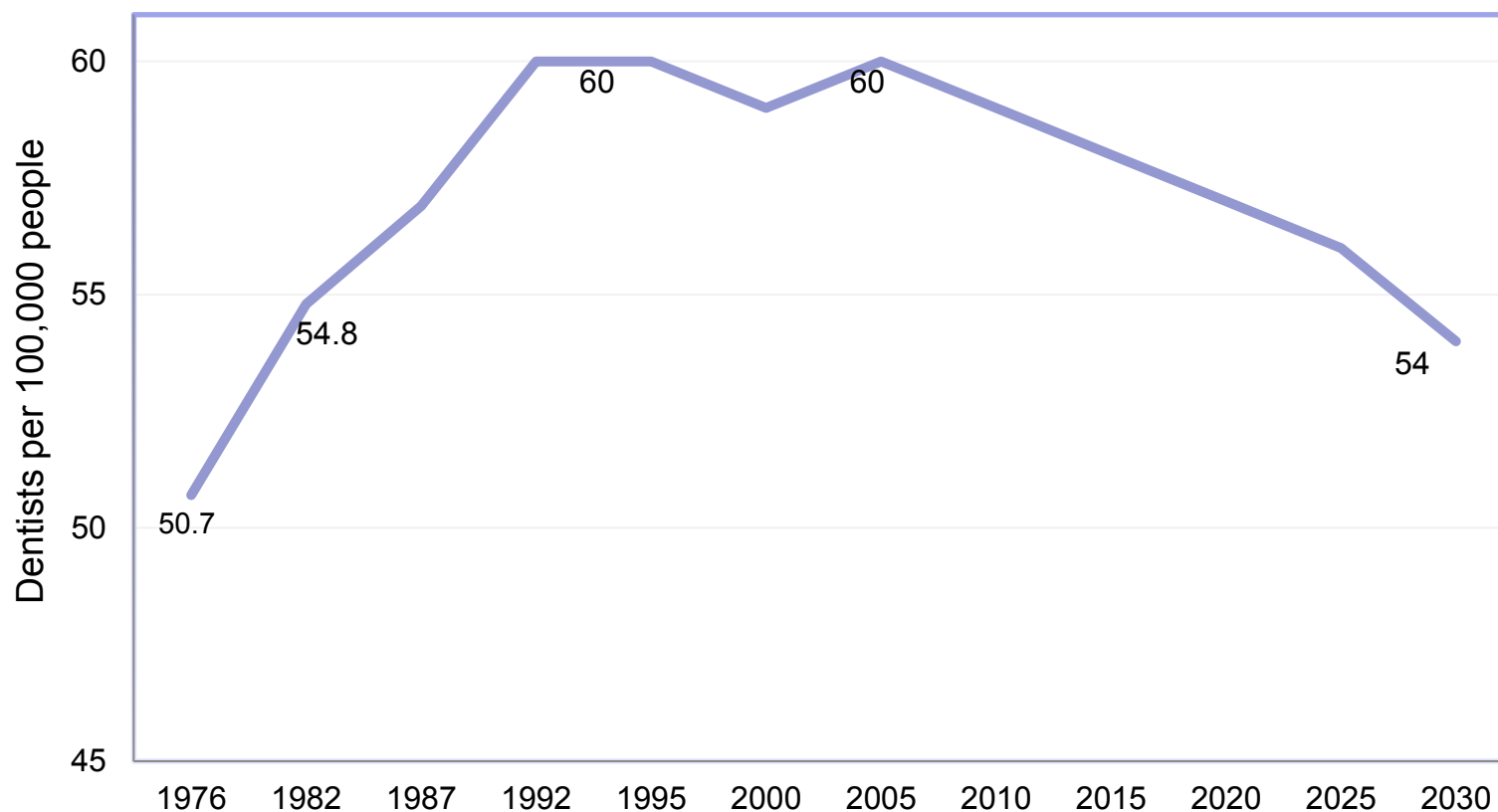
In 2010, there were about 4,800 graduates and the US population was about 308 million, or a ratio of about one graduating dentist for every 64,000 Americans.

In 2020, if we assume that every one of the new schools under consideration was to open with an average class size of 85 (graduating class size of about 6,200) and the US population is estimated to be 335 million, then the ratio would be about one graduating dentist for every 54,000 Americans. We know that all of these new dental schools under consideration are not going to open. If we assume a more reasonable graduating class size of about 5,600, then the ratio in 2020 would be about one graduating dentist for every 60,000 Americans.

Professionally Active Dentists per 100,000 U.S. Population, 1976 to 2030



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* Number from 2010 to 2030 was projected.

Source: [American Dental Association, Survey Center, Dental Workforce Model 2008-2030](#)

Race/Ethnic Composition of the Resident Population of the United States, 2010 to 2050



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