General Dental Council

Registration Statistical Report 2020
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Introduction

Dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) must be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) to practise lawfully in the UK. Everyone who joins the register must be suitably qualified, or pass an assessment, and meet health, character and English language requirements to be considered fit to practise as a member of the dental team.

Applications can be made in several ways. The applicant must show that they have one of the following:

- A recognised UK qualification.
- A recognised European qualification.
- A recognised overseas qualification.
- An assessment of suitability to register, via a GDC panel assessment of skills and knowledge.
- A pass in Parts 1 and 2 of the Overseas Registration Examination.

Specialist lists

The GDC also maintains lists of dentists who are suitably qualified or experienced to be considered specialists in specific areas of dentistry.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Undertaking CPD is a compulsory part of registration with the GDC. A dental professional must meet our CPD requirements to maintain registration. We also require evidence of CPD from any dental professional wishing to re-join the register.
Registrant statistics

The total number of dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) on the register as of 31 December 2020

This table illustrates the total number of individuals on the dentists and DCP registers. There was a 0.5% increase in the total number of individual registrants from 113,439 at the end of 2019 to 113,960 at the end of 2020.¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration type</th>
<th>Number of registrants</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>43,054</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>70,906</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113,960</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below sets out the number of registered titles. Because some individuals have more than one title, for example a dental hygienist may also be a dental therapist, the total numbers by title exceed the actual number of individuals on the register.

The composition of the register by dental grouping as of 31 December 2020²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration title</th>
<th>Number of Registrants</th>
<th>% of total titles on the Register</th>
<th>Number of new titles added in 2020</th>
<th>% of total newly added in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse</td>
<td>58,972</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3,813</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>43,054</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>7,812</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Technician</td>
<td>5,529</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Therapist</td>
<td>3,938</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontic Therapist</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dental Technician</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120,406</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>6,765</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a 0.8% increase in the overall number of registered titles in 2020, from 119,397 in 2019 to 120,406 in 2020.

¹ Please note 78 dentists are also registered as DCPs therefore are included in both numbers in the table.
² This table is a count of the number of dental professionals on the register by title. A dental professional who has more than one title is counted once for each title that they hold. Therefore, the total for this table is greater than the overall total number of individuals registrants.
The composition of the register by dental grouping as of 31 December 2020

- Dental Nurse: 49%
- Dentist: 36%
- Dental Hygienist: 6%
- Dental Technician: 5%
- Dental Therapist: 3%
- Orthodontic Therapist: 1%
- Clinical Dental Technician: <1%

Addition to the register by dental grouping

- Dental Nurse: 56%
- Dentist: 24%
- Dental Hygienist: 10%
- Dental Technician: 8%
- Dental Therapist: 1%
- Orthodontic Therapist: 0%
- Clinical Dental Technician: 0%
Restorations to the registers in 2020 by title

During 2020, there were 1,070 registrants who re-joined the registers through the restoration process ³:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration title</th>
<th>Number of registrants</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Technician</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Therapist</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontic Therapist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dental Technician</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,070</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dentists on the register as of 31 December 2020, by region of qualification

a) Dentists, by region of qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of qualification</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK qualified</td>
<td>33,151</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEA qualified</td>
<td>6,966</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORE – UK statutory examination</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the world qualified</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,054</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ Restoration is the process an individual who has previously been registered with the GDC goes through when they wish to re-join the register.
\[ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Registration type} & \text{UK qualified} & \text{EEA qualified} & \text{Rest of world qualified} & \text{Total} \\
\hline
\text{Dental Nurse} & 58,538 & 258 & 176 & 58,972 \\
\text{Dental Hygienist} & 6,636 & 462 & 714 & 7,812 \\
\text{Dental Technician} & 5,268 & 225 & 36 & 5,529 \\
\text{Dental Therapist} & 3,414 & 2 & 522 & 3,938 \\
\text{Orthodontic Therapist} & 709 & 4 & 21 & 734 \\
\text{Clinical Dental Technician} & 363 & 0 & 4 & 367 \\
\hline
\text{Total} & 74,928 & 951 & 1,473 & 77,352 \\
\hline
\end{array} \]

**DCPs on the register as of 31 December 2020 by region of qualification**

- UK qualified: 97%
- EEA qualified: 1%
- Rest of the world qualified: 2%
Dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2020, by region of qualification

a) New additions to the dentist register in 2020, by region of qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of qualification</th>
<th>Number of registrants</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK qualified</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEA qualified</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORE – UK statutory examination</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the world qualified</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,627</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) New additions to the DCP register by region of qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DCP title</th>
<th>UK qualified</th>
<th>EEA qualified</th>
<th>Rest of world qualified</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse</td>
<td>3,697</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Therapist</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Technician</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontic Therapist</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dental Technician</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,371</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>708</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,138</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New additions to the Dentist register in 2020 by region of qualification

- UK qualified: 66%
- EEA qualified: 22%
- ORE - UK statutory examination: 7%
- Rest of the world qualified: 6%

New additions to the DCP register in 2020 by region of qualification

- UK qualified: 85%
- EEA qualified: 14%
- Rest of the world qualified: 1%
Dentists and DCPs removed from the register in 2020, by reason for removal

a) Removal from the Dentist register in 2020, by reason for removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Removal reason</th>
<th>Dentists</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erased</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed to comply CPD</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed to comply Indemnity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non renewal</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary removal</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,198</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a 25% decrease in the overall number of Dentist Removals in 2020, from 1,606 in 2019 to 1,198 in 2020.

Dentist Removals from the register in 2020 by removal reason
b) Removal from the DCP register in 2020, by reason for removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Removal reason</th>
<th>DCPs</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erased</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed to comply CPD</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed to comply Indemnity</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non renewal</td>
<td>3,082</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary removal</td>
<td>1,218</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,803</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a 5% increase in the overall number of DCP Removals in 2019, from 4,594 in 2019 to 4,803 in 2020.
The composition of specialist lists at the end of 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty type</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontics</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Surgery</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosthodontics</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontics</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endodontics</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorative Dentistry</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Care Dentistry</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatric Dentistry</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Public Health</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Microbiology</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,253</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note on specialist lists: there was a decrease of 1% in the number of speciality titles at the end of 2020, from 4,280 titles in 2019 to 4,253 titles in 2020. Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Register profile – equality and diversity

The charts below show our registrant profile analysed with reference to protected characteristics\(^5\). All registrants are given the option to update this information voluntarily.

Several of the characteristics do not have full responses on the charts, categorised as ‘unknown’. While providing this data is not mandatory, we encourage registrants to provide this information to help us improve our services and processes and ensure that any potential discrimination or inequities can be identified and removed.

We will publish additional data sets with regards to equality and diversity in future publications as we build further data in this area.

Our new, updated EDI Strategy for 2021-23 can be located on our [website](#) and sets out our objectives to ensure that the GDC is an active champion of diversity, equality and inclusion inside our organisation and in the sector we regulate.

**The composition of the register by gender of dentists and DCPs as of 31 December 2020\(^6\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>21,121</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>21,933</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>43,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>5,213</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>65,693</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>70,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The gender composition of dentists and DCPs added to the registers in 2020\(^7\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration title</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse</td>
<td>3,737</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>1,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Therapist</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Technician</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontic Therapist</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dental Technician</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,864</td>
<td></td>
<td>902</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^5\) Under the Equality Act 2010, the following are protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

\(^6\) Percentages represent the proportion of gender composition to the overall register. The numbers presented in this table match table one.

\(^7\) Restorations are not included.
Female dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2020

Please note this graph looks at the percentage of the total added for each dentist and DCP title in 2020 who identified as female.

Male dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2020

Please note this graph looks at the percentage of the total added for each dentist and DCP title in 2020 who identified as male.
Registrant age groupings as of 31 December 2020

Dentist - age groupings as at 31 December 2020

- 16-21 (0%)
- 22-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-65
- Over 65
- Unknown (0%)

25%
30%
19%
18%
25%
3%
5%

DCP - age groupings as at 31 December 2020

- 16-21
- 22-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-65
- Over 65
- Unknown (0%)

32%
21%
14%
4%
3%
1%
Registrant ethnic groupings as of 31 December 2020

Dentists – ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Asian or Asian British: 24%
- Black or Black British: 6%
- Chinese or any other ethnic background: 2%
- Mixed ethnic background: 2%
- Prefer not to say: 3%
- White: 76%
- Unknown: 1%

DCP – ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Asian or Asian British: 11%
- Black or Black British: 6%
- Chinese or any other ethnic background: 2%
- Mixed ethnic background: 1%
- Prefer not to say: <1%
- White: 76%
- Unknown: 3%
Registrant religious groupings as of 31 December 2020

Dentist - religious groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Buddhist: 3%
- Christian: 36%
- Hindu: 13%
- Jewish: 1%
- Muslim: 10%
- None: 1%
- Other Religion / Faith: 1%
- Prefer not to say: 2%
- Sikh: 7%
- Unknown: 1%

DCP - religious groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Buddhist: 31%
- Christian: 2%
- Hindu: 11%
- Jewish: 2%
- Muslim: 3%
- None: 1%
- Other Religion / Faith: 1%
- Prefer not to say: 1%
- Sikh: 10%
- Unknown: 1%
Registrant marital status as of 31 December 2020

Dentist - marital status groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Civil partnership: 1%
- Divorced: 10%
- Married: 53%
- Prefer not to say: 9%
- Separated: 21%
- Single: 1%
- Widowed: 1%
- Unknown: <1%

DCP - marital status groupings as at 31 December 2020

- Civil partnership: 3%
- Divorced: 12%
- Married: 40%
- Prefer not to say: 8%
- Separated: 32%
- Single: 1%
- Widowed: 1%
- Unknown: 4%
Registrant sexual orientation as of 31 December 2020

Dentists - sexual orientation at 31 December 2020

- Bisexual: 1%
- Gay Man: 1%
- Gay Woman: 8%
- Heterosexual: 12%
- Prefer not to say: 1%
- Unknown: 78%

DCPs - sexual orientation at 31 December 2020

- Bisexual: 1%
- Gay Man: <1%
- Gay Woman: 10%
- Heterosexual: 78%
- Prefer not to say: 1%
- Unknown: 1%

Registrants with disabilities as of 31 December 2020

Less than 1% of both dentists and DCPs identified as having a disability. The numbers here are exceptionally small, which may be due to the understanding of what is meant by the term ‘disability.’ Under the Equality Act 2010, a disability is described as a physical or mental impairment that has substantial and long-term negative effect on the ability to do normal activities. This could be inclusive of long-term health conditions, depression, and anxiety, and neurodivergent conditions.