

**General
Dental
Council**

Registration
Statistical Report
2023

2023



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Introduction

Overview

We maintain a register of dental professionals who meet our standards and can lawfully practise dentistry 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.

There are several routes to registration:

- A recognised UK qualification.
- A relevant European diploma.
- 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.

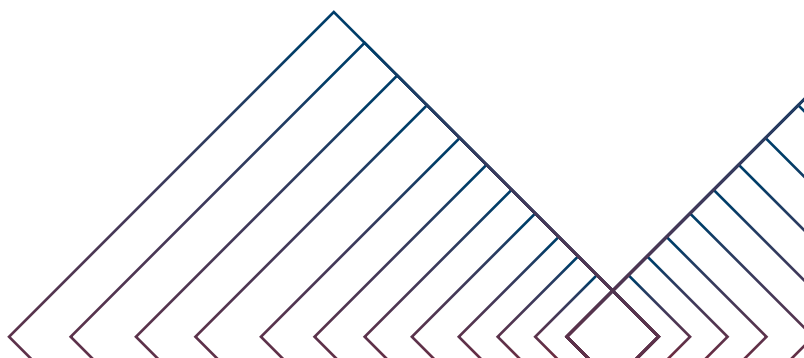
We register the whole dental team, across the four nations of the UK. This includes dentists, dental nurses, dental hygienists, dental therapists, orthodontic therapists, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians.

Specialist lists

We maintain lists of dentists who are suitably qualified or experienced to be considered specialists in specific areas of dentistry.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

All dental professionals must keep their skills and knowledge up to date during their career. Undertaking CPD is a requirement of registration with the GDC. These requirements vary by dental profession, but all dental professionals must complete at least ten hours of CPD over each two-year period.



Registration Statistics 2023

Dental professional numbers

The total number of dentists and DCPs on the register

This table shows the total number of dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) on the register as of 31 December 2023. DCPs who have more than one title, for example a dental hygienist who is also a dental therapist, are only counted once in this table.

There was a 3.9% increase in the total number of dental professionals on our register, from 115,541 at the end of 2022 to 120,030 at the end of 2023.¹

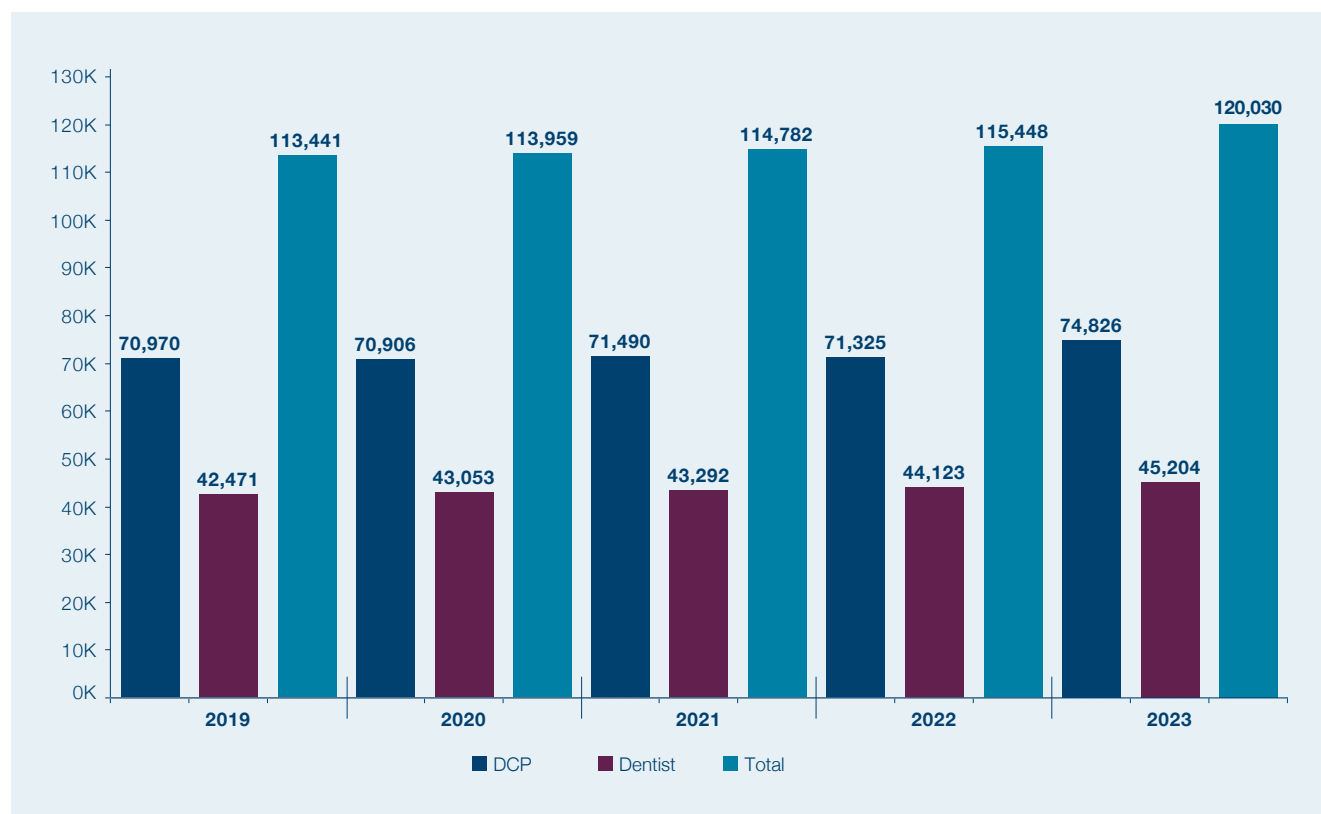
Registration type	Number of dental professionals	% of total
DCP	74,826	62%
Dentist	45,204	38%
Total	120,030	100%

The number of dentists on the register has increased over each of the last five years.

In 2023 the number of dentists increased by 2.4%, compared to 2022.

The total number of DCPs on the register increased by 4.9% in 2023 compared to 2022.

Total number of dentists and DCPs on the register 2019 – 2023



1. Note 227 Dentists are also registered as DCPs therefore are included in both numbers in the table

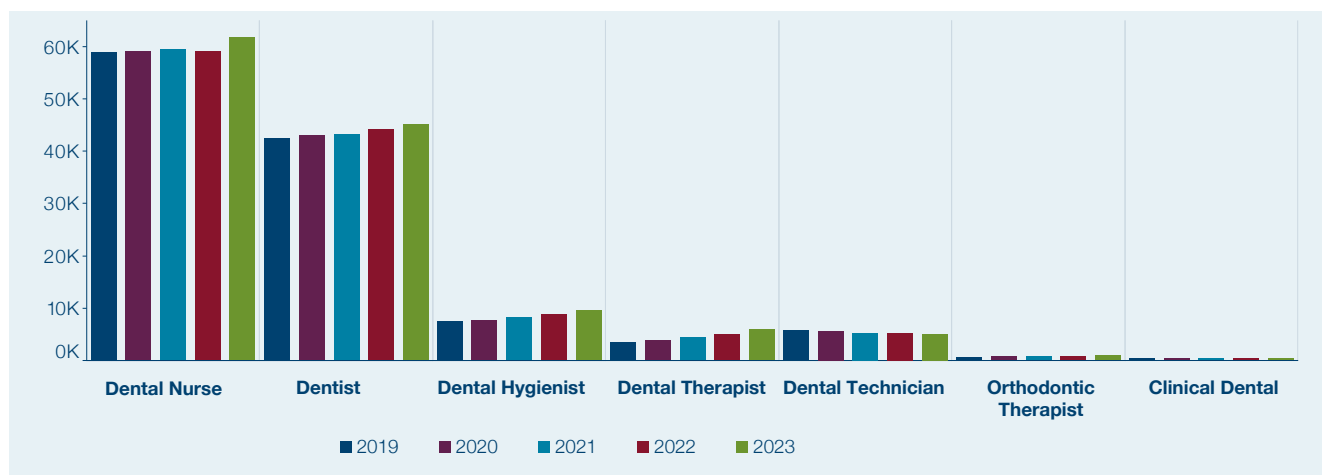
The composition of the register by profession

Registration title	Number of dental professionals	% of total titles on the register	Number of new titles added	% of total
Dental Nurse	61,774	47.87%	5,330	55.1%
Dentist	45,204	35.03%	2,130	22.0%
Dental Hygienist	9,572	7.42%	910	9.4%
Dental Therapist	5,961	4.62%	1,020	10.5%
Dental Technician	5,092	3.95%	139	1.4%
Orthodontic Therapist	1,021	0.79%	117	1.2%
Clinical Dental Technician	428	0.33%	35	0.4%
Total	129,052	100%	9,681	100%

This table includes the number of registered titles. As some individuals have more than one title, for example a dental hygienist may also be a dental therapist, the total number by title is higher than the number of individuals on the register.

There was a 5.4% increase in the overall number of registered titles in 2023, from 122,432 in 2022 to 129,052 in 2023

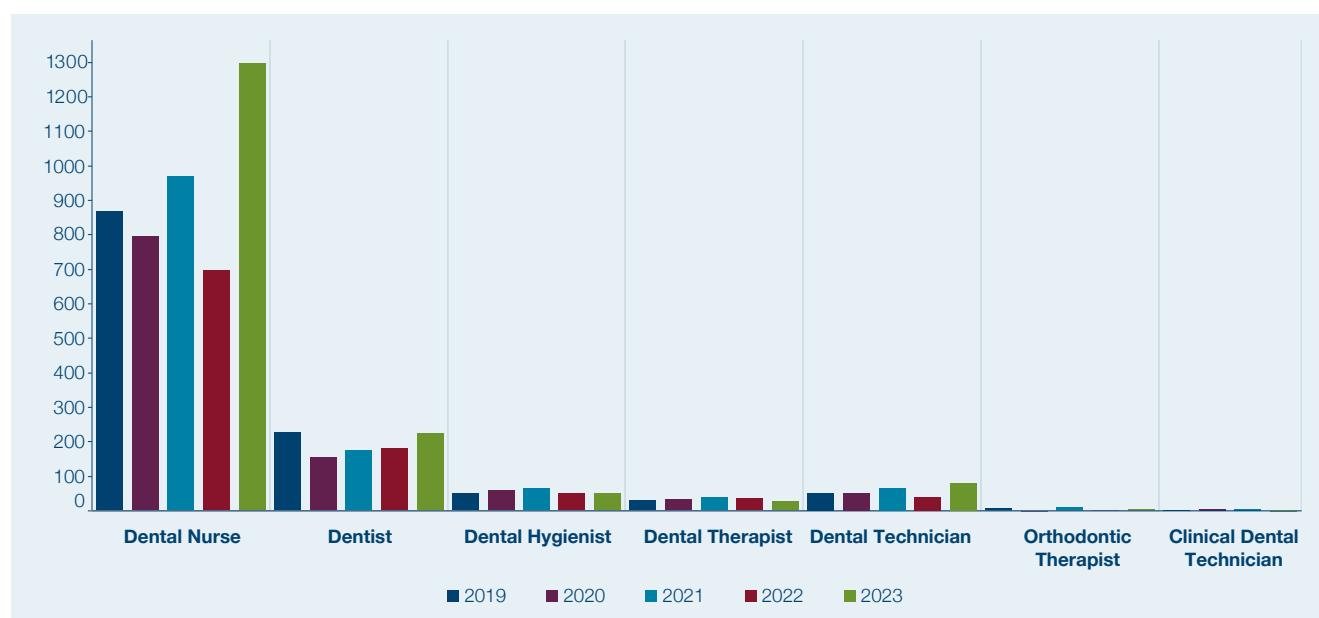
Number of dental professionals on the register 2019 – 2023 by profession



	Dental Nurse	Dentist	Dental Hygienist	Dental Technician	Dental Therapist	Orthodontic Therapist	Clinical Dental Technician
2019	58,882	42,471	7,562	5,776	3,620	696	375
2020	58,978	43,053	7,824	5,533	3,947	735	368
2021	59,480	43,292	8,312	5,319	4,408	829	390
2022	59,021	44,123	8,832	5,153	5,013	914	401
2023	61,774	45,204	9,572	5,092	5,961	1,021	428

Restorations to the register from 2019 – 2023

Restoration is the process an individual who has previously been registered with the GDC goes through to re-join the register. During 2023, there were 1,692 dental professionals who re-joined the registers through the restoration process:



	Dental Nurse	Dentist	Dental Hygienist	Dental Technician	Dental Therapist	Orthodontic Therapist	Clinical Dental Technician
2019	870	227	53	53	30	8	2
2020	796	156	58	50	33	1	4
2021	968	175	63	66	39	9	5
2022	697	181	51	38	35	3	-
2023	1,298	225	52	80	29	5	1

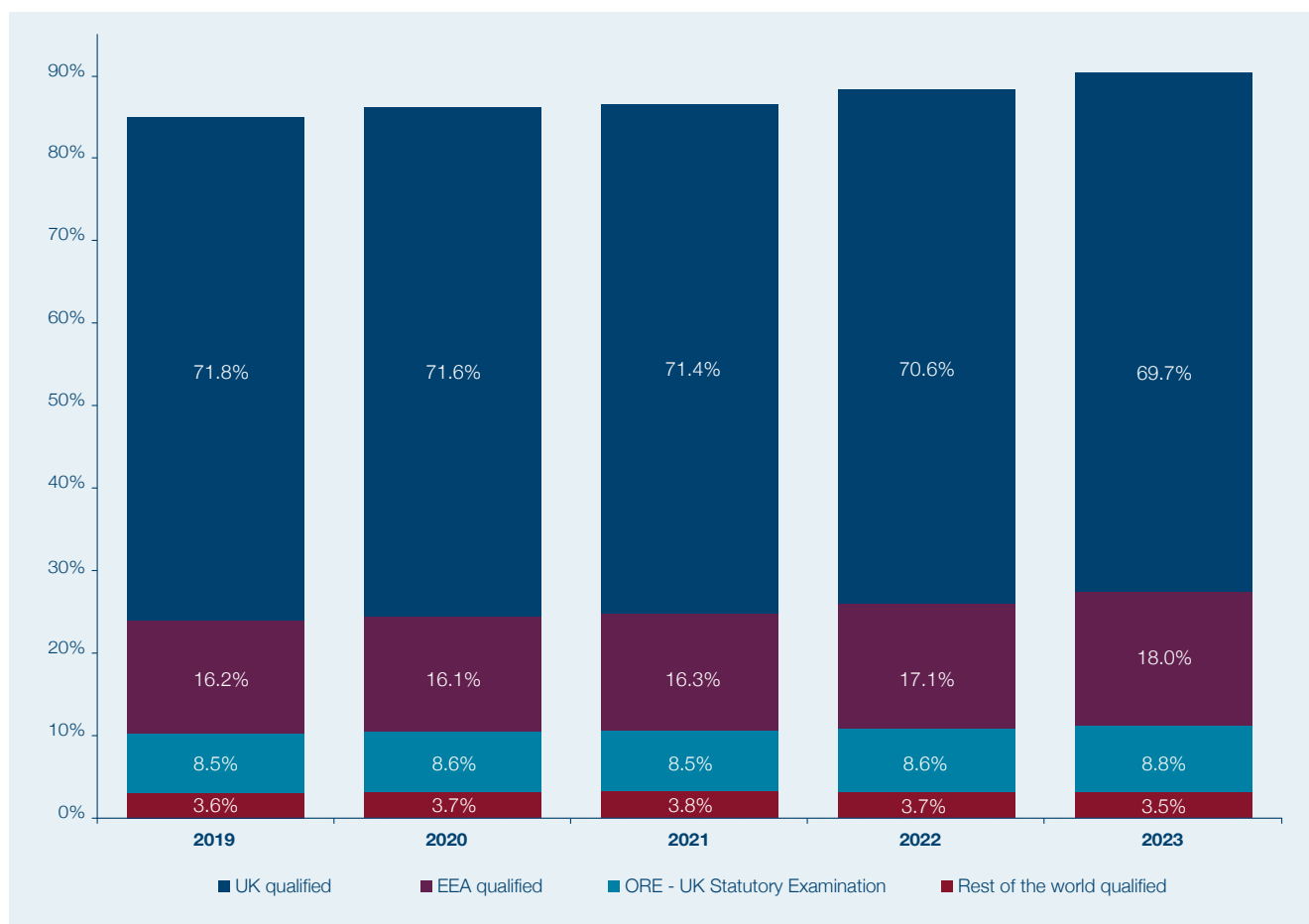
Dental professionals on the register by region of qualification

Dentists, by region of qualification 2023

Region of qualification	Number of registrants	% of total
UK qualified	31,471	69.7%
EEA qualified	8,142	18%
ORE - UK Statutory Examination	3,988	8.8%
Rest of the world qualified	1,603	3.5%
Total	45,204	100%

Overseas Registration Examination (ORE) and Rest of the world qualified both represent overseas qualified dentists who are registered to practise in the UK. They both hold a primary dental qualification equivalent from a Non-EEA country. The ORE is a statutory examination and the Rest of the world qualified have demonstrated suitability via the registration assessment route.

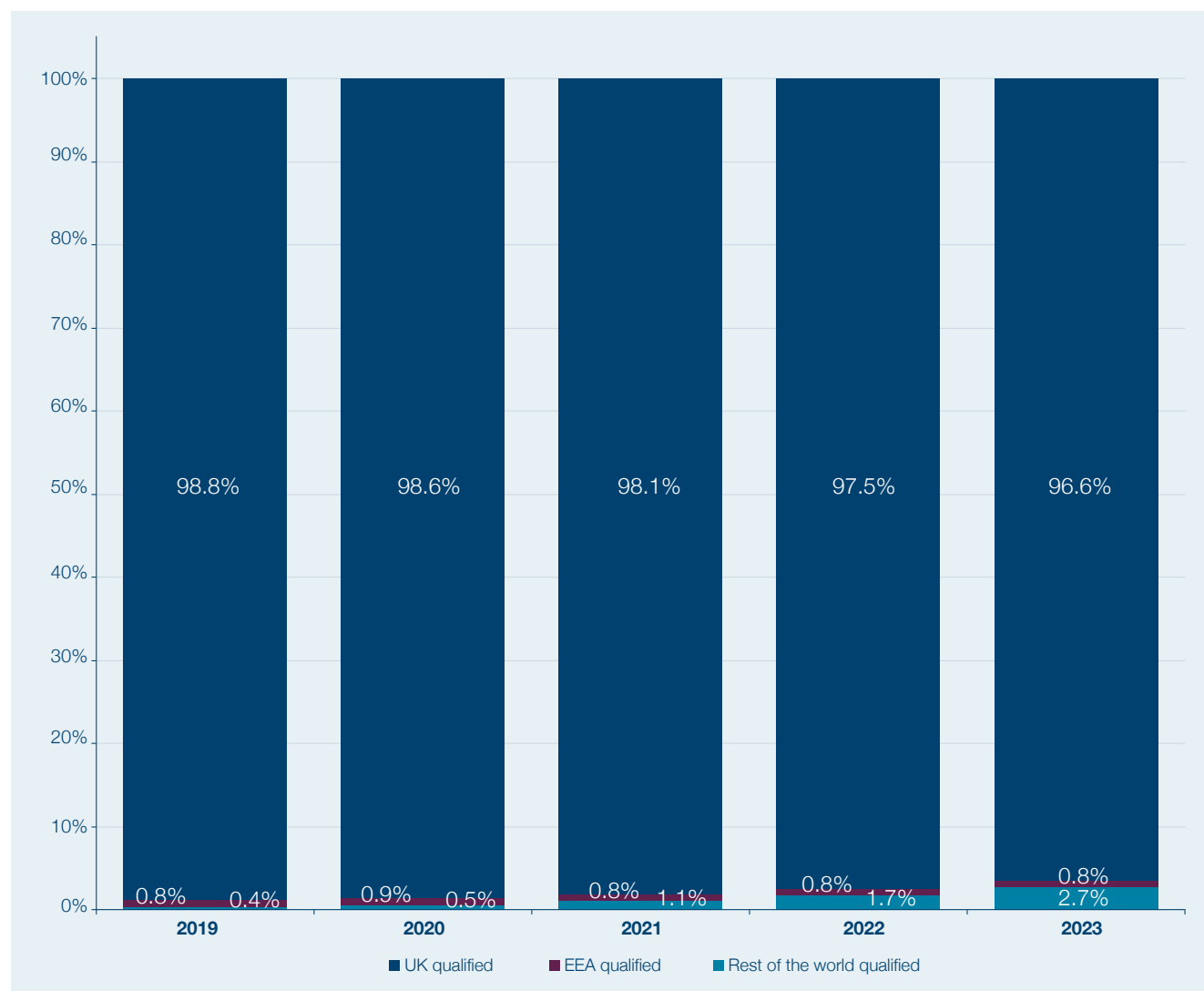
Dentists on the register by region of qualification 2019 – 2023



DCPs, by region of qualification

DCP Title	UK qualified	EEA qualified	Rest of world qualified	Total
Dental Nurse	61,563	143	68	61,774
Dental Hygienist	7,606	459	1,507	9,572
Dental Therapist	4,436	3	1,522	5,961
Dental Technician	4,873	197	22	5,092
Orthodontic Therapist	957	2	62	1,021
Clinical Dental Technician	426		2	428
Total	79,861	804	3,183	83,848

DCPs on the register by region of qualification 2019 – 2023



Dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2023, by region of qualification

In 2023, the Registration function concluded 11,476 applications across all routes, a significant increase on a previous maximum of 8,979 applications, completed in 2015. In addition, the time taken to progress all applications for all routes to registration improved in each area.

Following the substantial and unprecedented number of international DCP applications (circa 5,700) received by 8 March 2023 (when this route to registration closed), we recruited additional Caseworkers to support the progression of all application routes. By the end of 2023 over 2,000 applications had been assessed by registration assessment panels, resulting in over 1,200 registrations.

We continue to progress this high number of applications, and this continues to be a focus for the department.

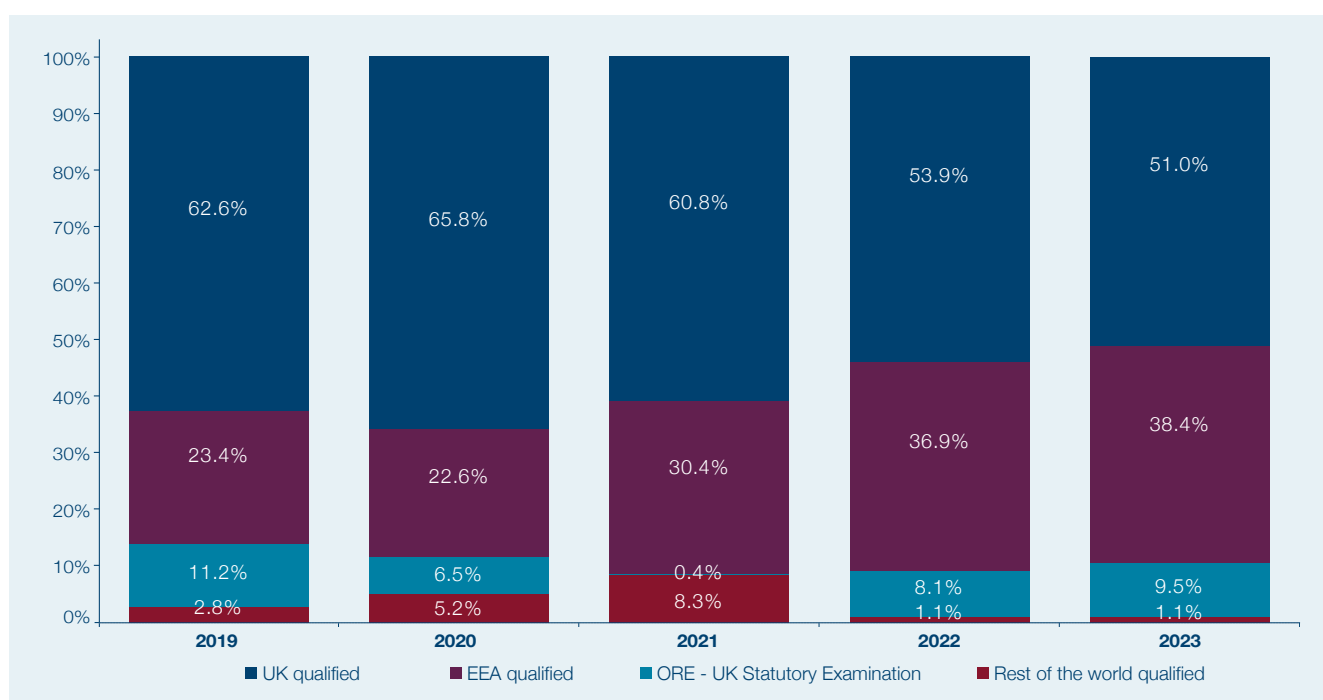
New additions to the dentist register in 2023, by region of qualification

Dentist applications region	Number of applications	% of total
UK qualified	1,087	51.0%
EEA qualified	818	38.4%
ORE - UK Statutory Examination	203	9.5%
Rest of the world qualified	22	1.1%
Total	2,130	100%

New additions to the DCP register in 2023, by region of qualification

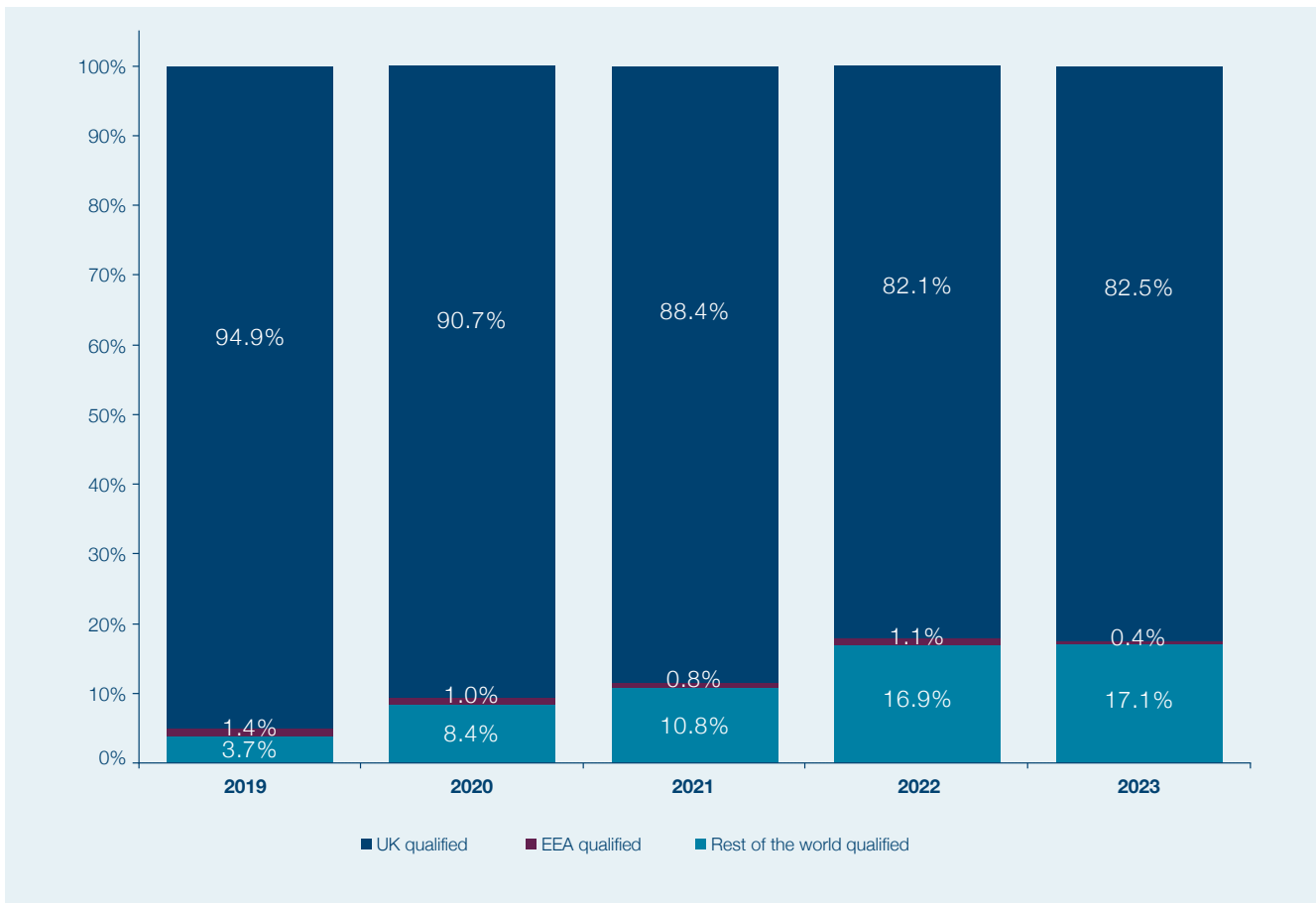
DCP title	UK Qualified	EEA Qualified	Rest of the world qualified	Total
Dental Nurse	5,306	2	22	5,330
Dental Hygienist	383	21	506	910
Dental Technician	131	5	3	139
Dental Therapist	337		683	1,020
Orthodontic Therapist	86		31	117
Clinical Dental Technician	35			35
Total	6,278	28	1,245	7,551

New additions to the dentist register by region of qualification 2019 – 2023

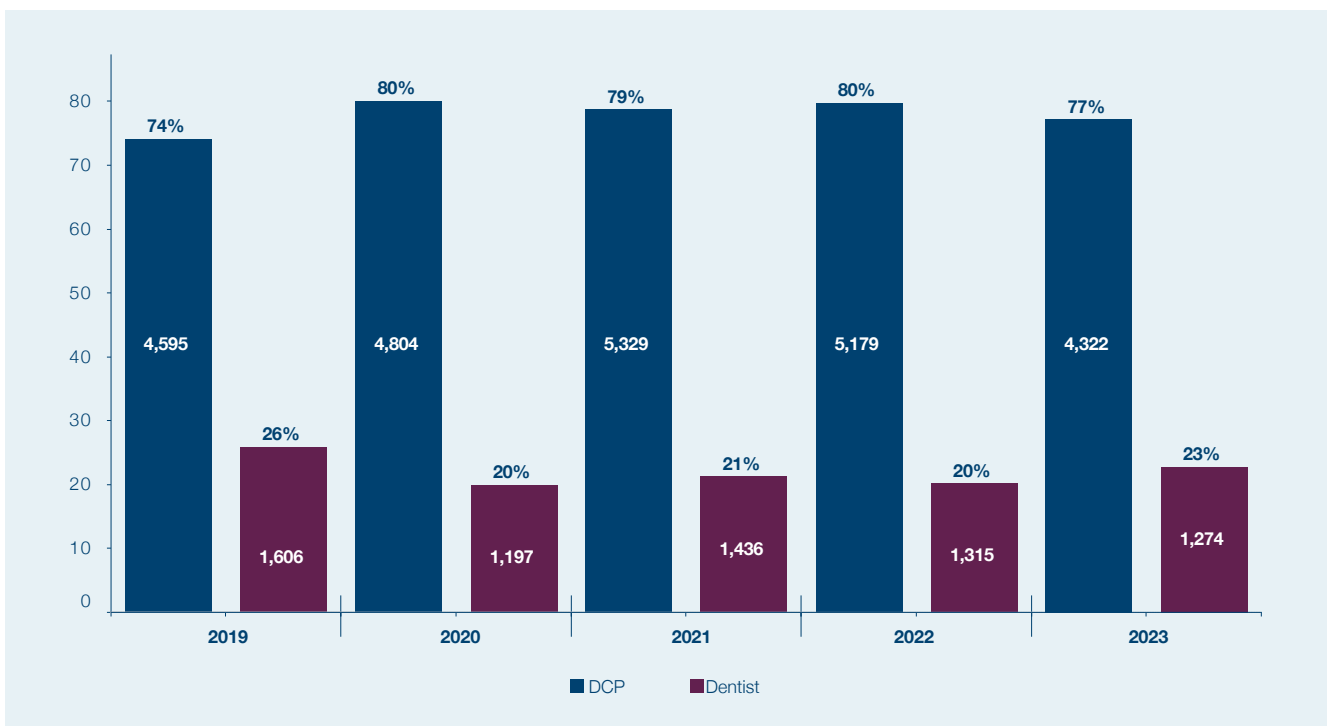


Due to the pandemic, the ORE Part 2 (an in-person examination) was not held between February 2020 and December 2021.

New additions to DCP register by region of qualifications 2019 – 2023



Removals from the register 2019 – 2023

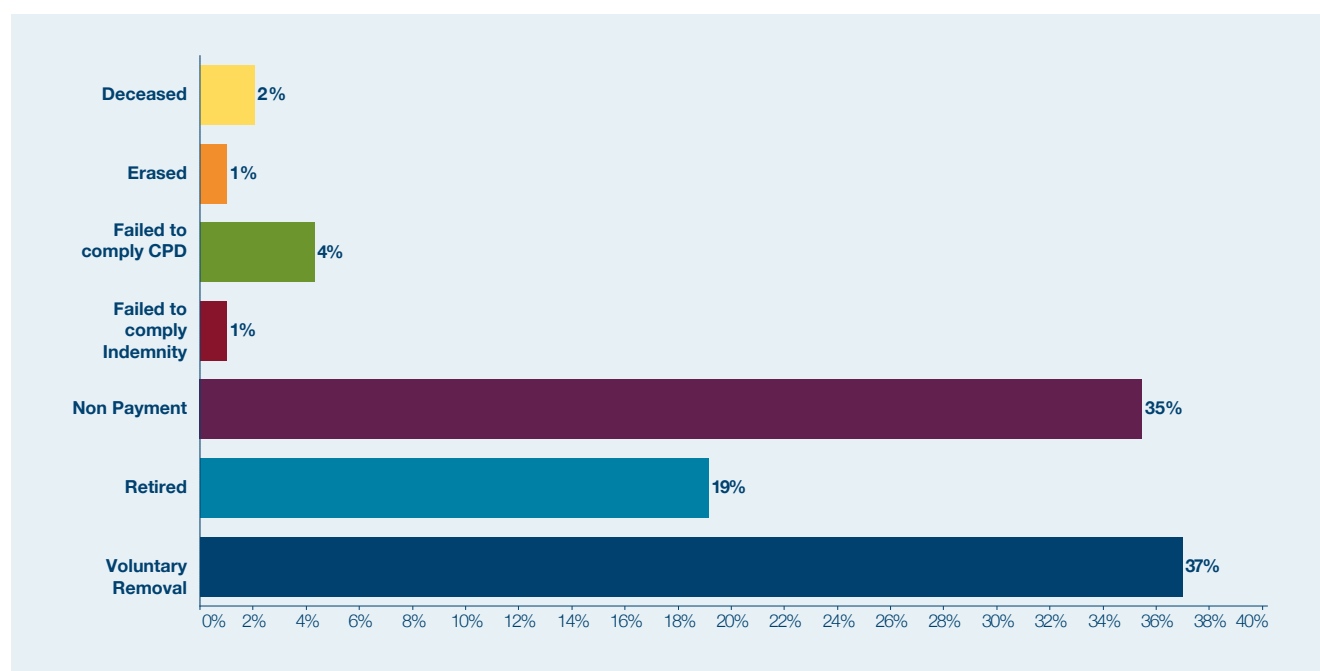


Dentists and DCPs removed from the register in 2023

Removals from the dentist register in 2023

Removal reason	Number of registrants	% of total
Deceased	26	2%
Erased	13	1%
Failed to comply CPD	55	4%
Failed to comply Indemnity	13	1%
Non Payment	452	35%
Retired	244	19%
Voluntary Removal	471	37%
Total	1,274	100%

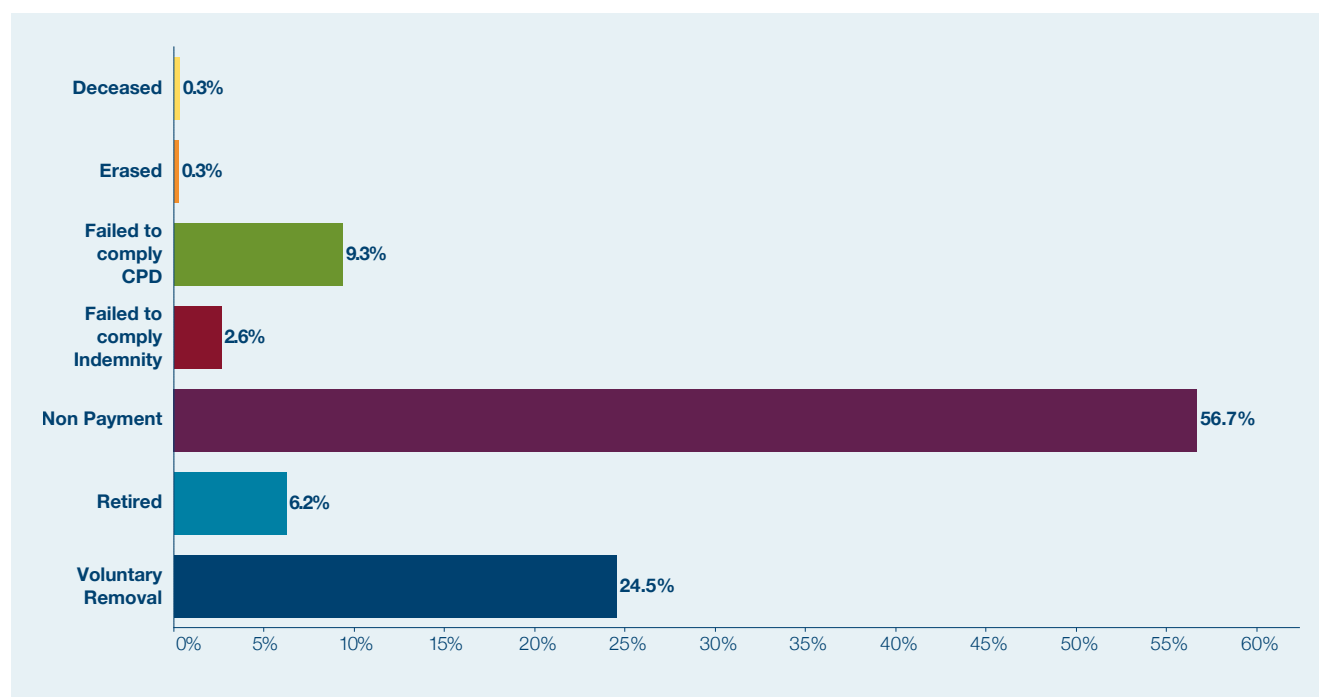
There was a 3% decrease in the overall number of dentist removals, from 1,315 in 2022 to 1,274 in 2023. Of these removals, 114 went on to restore to the register in 2023.



Removals from the DCP register in 2023

Removal reason	Number of registrants	% of total
Deceased	14	0.3%
Erased	12	0.3%
Failed to comply CPD	404	9.3%
Failed to comply Indemnity	114	2.6%
Non Payment	2,449	56.7%
Retired	269	6.2%
Voluntary Removal	1,060	24.5%
Total	4,322	100.0%

There was a 17% decrease in the overall number of DCP removals², from 5,179 in 2022 to 4,322 in 2023. Of these removals, 356 went on to restore to the register in 2023.



2. The Deceased category is completed only when we are informed by family member or next of kin.

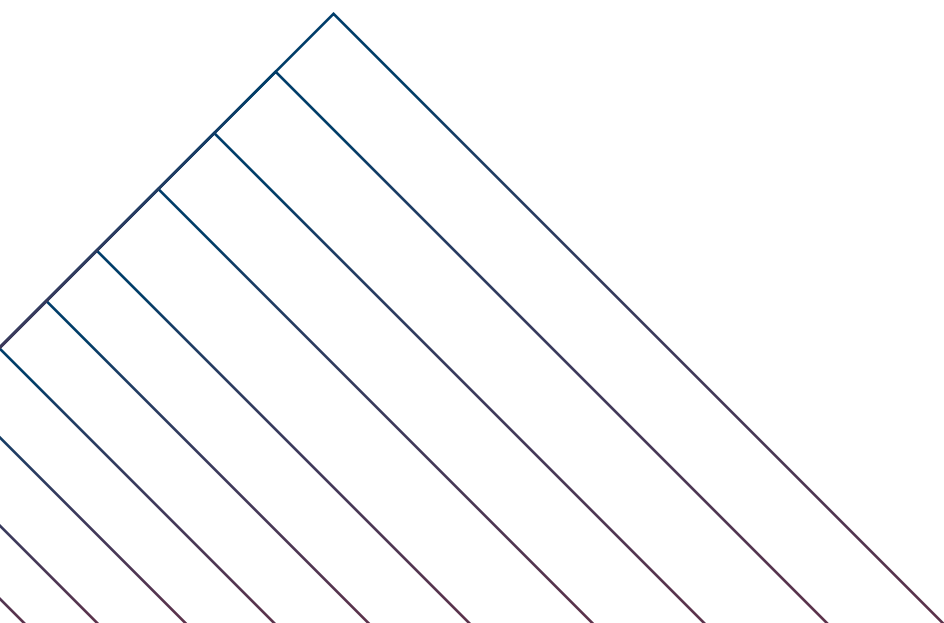
The composition of dentist specialist lists 2019 – 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology	28	29	30	31	32	32
Dental Public Health	103	98	95	89	85	83
Endodontics	308	315	322	321	324	324
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	36	34	35	35	39	38
Oral Medicine	70	70	70	66	71	72
Oral Microbiology	7	7	6	6	5	5
Oral Surgery	741	743	758	750	753	747
Orthodontics	1,412	1,405	1,399	1,400	1,401	1,382
Paediatric Dentistry	242	249	250	251	262	261
Periodontics	379	388	388	395	400	408
Prosthodontics	446	455	451	453	452	446
Restorative Dentistry	302	302	303	300	306	299
Special Care Dentistry	299	296	297	278	274	260
Total	4,373	4,391	4,404	4,375	4,404	4,357

Working pattern date

In March 2024 we published, for the working pattern data for dentists. This was data provided voluntarily by dentists as part of their annual renewal process. We are completing a similar exercise for DCPs as part of their annual renewal process later in 2024.

Details of the dentist working pattern data can be found on the [reports section of our website](#).



Register profile – equality and diversity

The charts below show our registrant profile analysed with reference to the nine Equality Act protected characteristics³.

The EDI data we hold about dental professionals is provided by them voluntarily. We currently hold EDI data for around 94% of dental professionals. ,

We encourage all dental professionals to provide their EDI details as part of our commitment to store the right data in the right format to help assess the proportionality of its processes.⁴

We continue to develop our understanding of what this data is telling us, and more importantly how we can use this data to analyse these characteristics within the context of our registers.

One of the key objectives in our 2021 – 2023 Strategy was to better understand the diversity of those we regulate. Now we have this data we will use it to inform our policies and procedures and to ensure that we are proportionate and fair.

We also use registrant EDI data to understand the changing profile of the register and whether some groups are more likely to join or leave the register. It is important that we collect this data as part of our role as a regulator, to show we understand the diverse nature of the dental workforce. We also collect protected characteristic data on GDC panellists and associates to help us ensure both groups have a diverse population.

Our updated EDI Strategy is currently being finalised and will build on the ambitions of our existing strategy. Our aspiration is to work with the wider profession to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion not just across what the GDC does, but also around how dental professionals work with patients and each other going forward. This will include encouraging others to put EDI at the forefront of their working practices.

Dental professionals with disabilities in 2023

Less than 1% of dentists or 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 carry out normal activities. This could include long-term health conditions, depression, and anxiety, and neurodivergent conditions.

3. Age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

4. We currently do not collect data on pregnancy / maternity. Bases sizes for disability status and Gender Identity categories did not provide enough variation to report on. Overall counts can be found in the registration report.

Gender

The composition of the register by gender

Registration type	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Total
Dentist	21,400	23,801	47.3%	52.7%	45,201	100%
DCP	5,437	69,389	7.3%	92.7%	74,826	100%
Total	26,837	93,190	22.3%	77.7%	120,027	100%

The gender of dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2023⁵

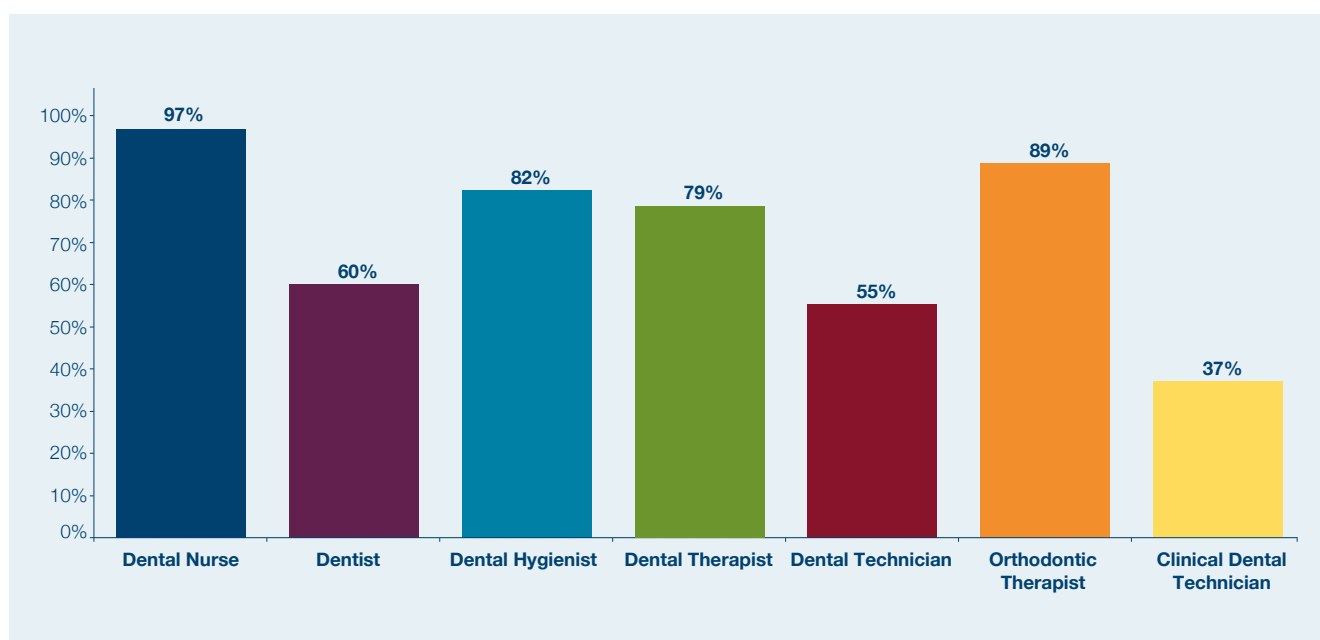
Registration title	Number of new titles added		Percentage of total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Dental Nurse	5,159	171	97%	3%
Dentist	1,281	849	60%	40%
Dental Hygienist	749	161	82%	18%
Dental Therapist	803	217	79%	21%
Dental Technician	77	62	55%	45%
Orthodontic Therapist	104	13	89%	11%
Clinical Dental Technician	13	22	37%	63%
Total	8,186	1,495	84%	16%

5. Restorations are not included.

Female dentists and DCPs added to the register 2019 – 2023

Registration title	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dental Nurse	3,960	3,421	4,122	3,364	5,159
Dentist	1,097	1,014	876	1,155	1,281
Dental Hygienist	386	434	630	677	749
Dental Therapist	288	335	460	558	803
Dental Technician	96	48	74	73	77
Orthodontic Therapist	66	45	92	91	104
Clinical Dental Technician	5	1	5	6	13
Total	5,898	5,298	6,259	5,924	8,186

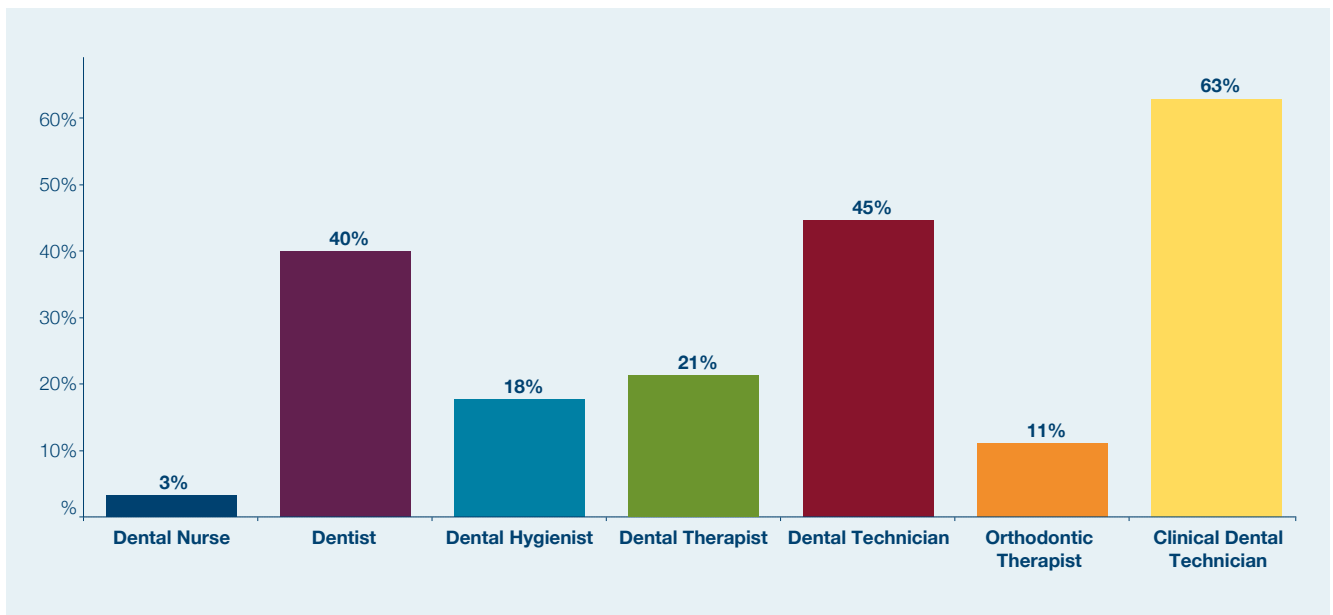
The proportion of females who were new to the register in 2023⁶



Male dentists and DCPs added to the register 2019 – 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dental Nurse	87	65	107	90	171
Dentist	639	612	623	812	849
Dental Hygienist	37	63	99	106	161
Dental Therapist	31	50	78	138	217
Dental Technician	70	30	37	41	62
Orthodontic Therapist	2	3	8	5	13
Clinical Dental Technician	11	1	19	13	22
Total	877	824	971	1,205	1,495

The proportion males who were new to the register in 2023



6. This graph looks at the percentage of the total added to the register for each dentist and DCP title in 2023 who identified as female

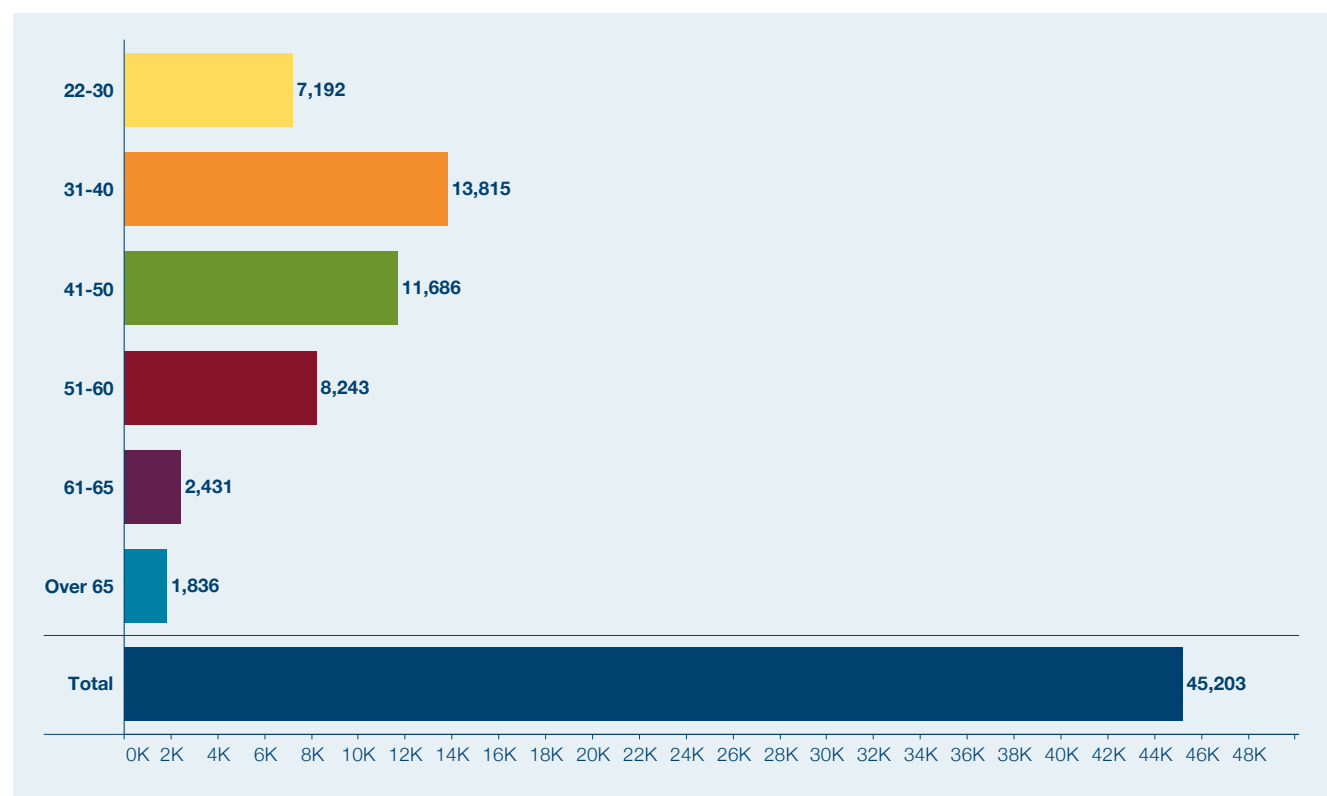
Register profile – equality and diversity 2019 – 2023

Age

Dentist age groupings 2019 – 2023

Age group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
22-30	19.5%	19.1%	18.6%	18.7%	15.9%
31-40	29.8%	29.6%	30.0%	30.2%	30.6%
41-50	24.8%	25.2%	25.4%	25.3%	25.9%
51-60	18.4%	18.2%	18.1%	17.9%	18.2%
61-65	4.6%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	5.4%
Over 65	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	4.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

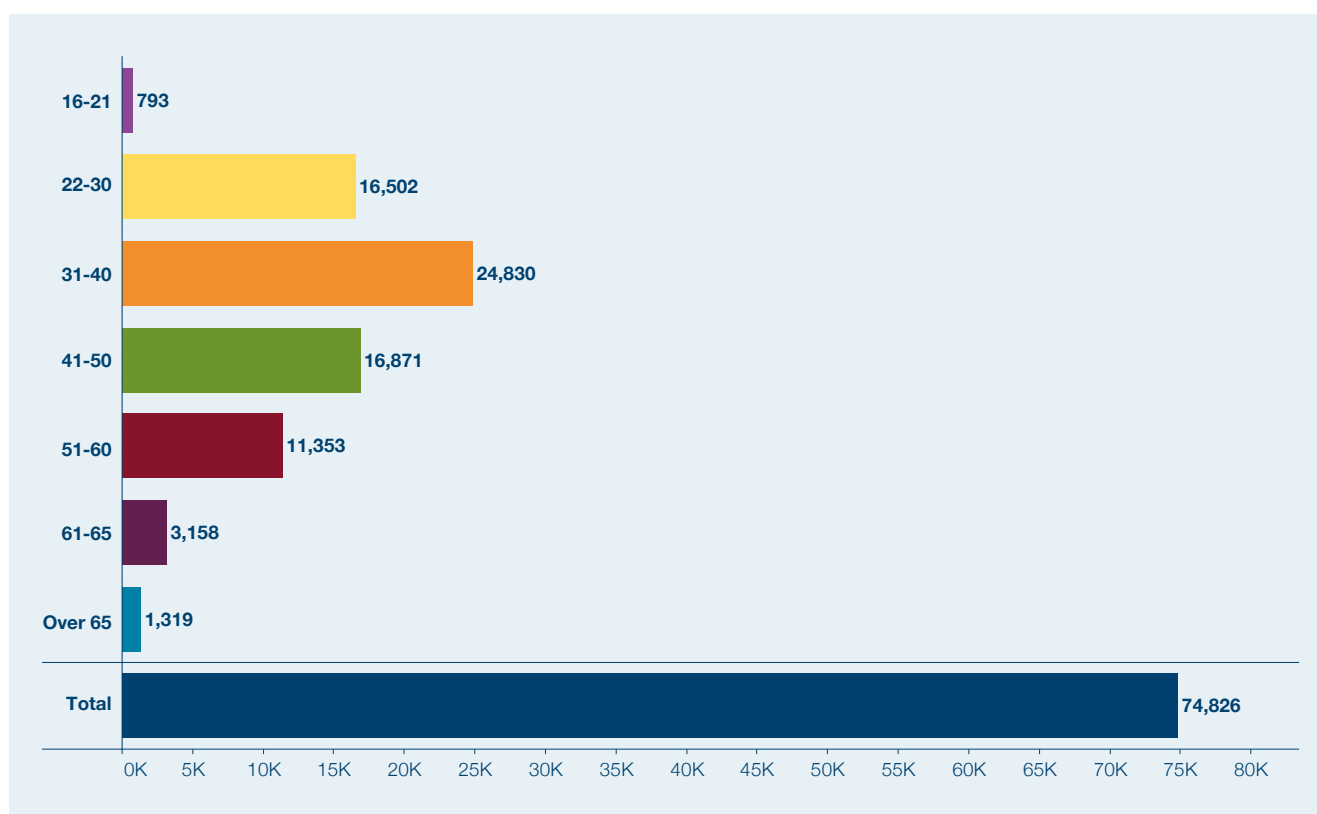
Dentist age groupings as of 31 December 2023



DCP age groupings 2019 – 2023

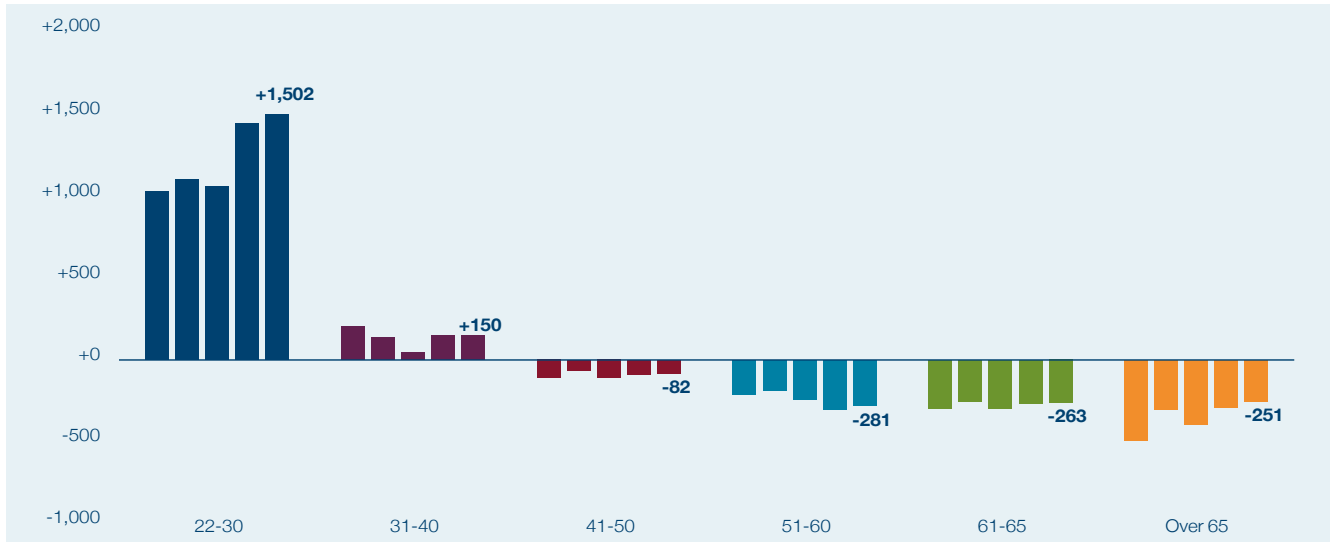
Age group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
16-21	2.8%	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	1.1%
22-30	26.4%	25.3%	24.7%	23.8%	22.1%
31-40	31.4%	32.0%	32.4%	32.8%	33.2%
41-50	20.9%	21.3%	21.5%	21.8%	22.5%
51-60	14.3%	14.4%	14.5%	14.8%	15.2%
61-65	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	4.2%
Over 65	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.8%
Total	100%	1100%	100%	100%	100%

Dental care professional age groupings as of 31 December 2023



Age group growth and decline

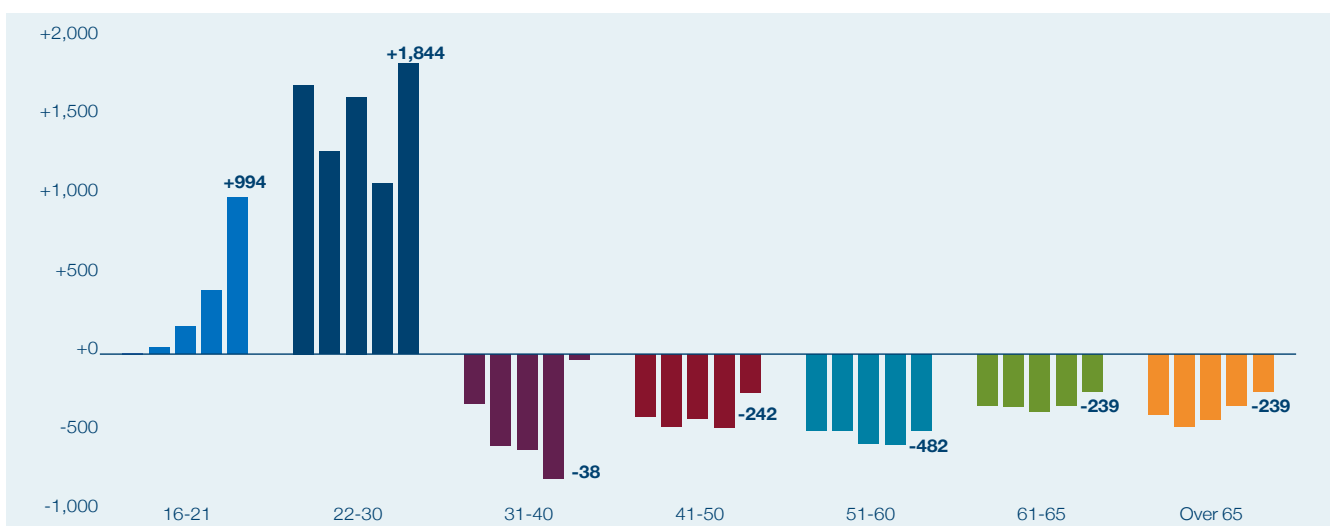
Net growth or decline in dentist age group 2019 – 2023



The 22-30 is the largest age group in positive net growth. In 2022, we saw a 36% year on year increase in the net positive growth (i.e more people joining the register at this age, than leaving the register).

In 2023, this increased volume of net positive growth was still present (With 1,502 more people joining the register than leaving it).

Net growth or decline in DCP age group 2019 – 2023



The 16-21 and 22-30 age groups have both seen growth in numbers since 2019, however the pattern is quite different. The number of 16-21 year olds on the DCP register, grew by nearly a thousand (994) in 2023. However, the next age-group (22-30 year olds) grew by nearly double this number in 2023 (1,844).

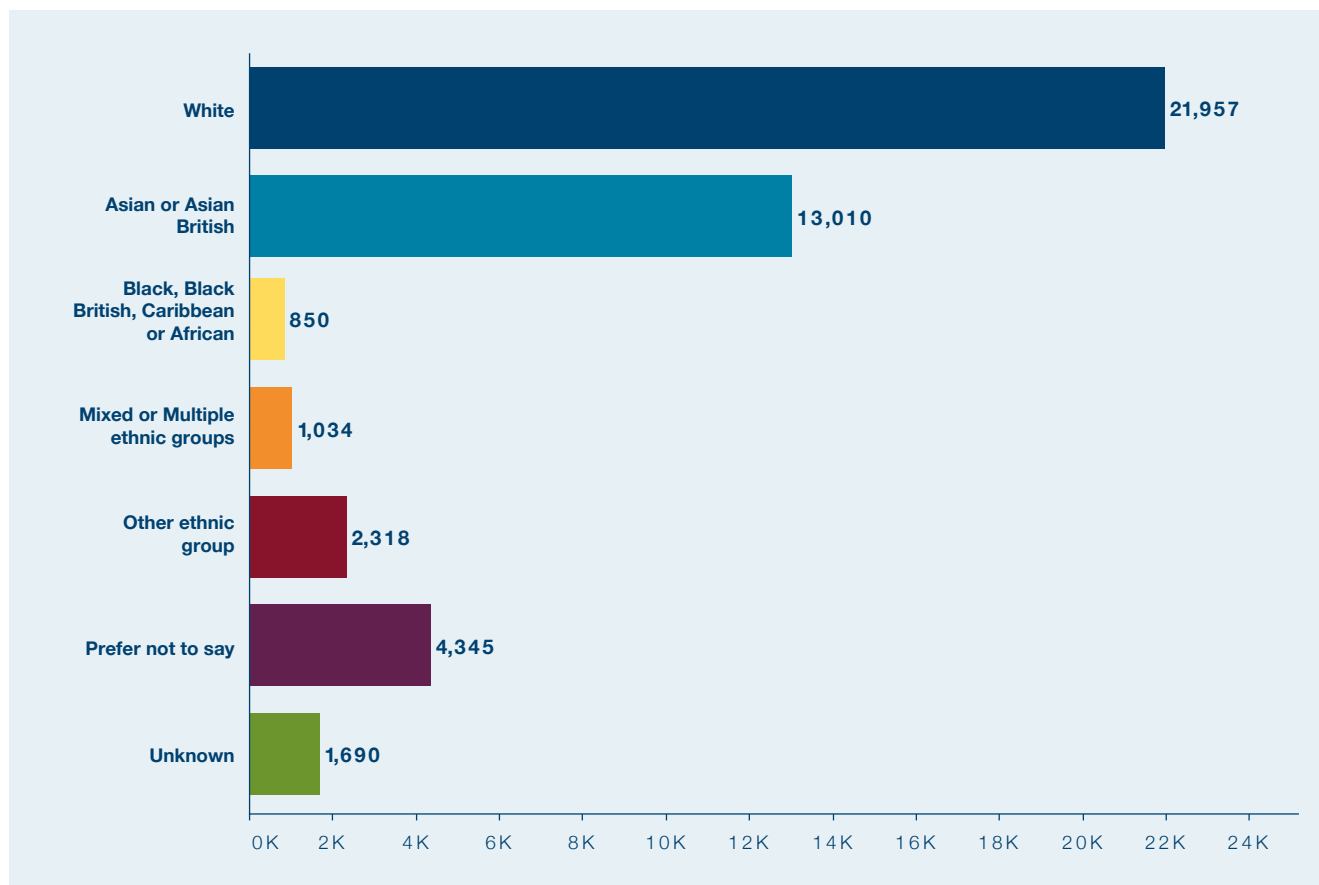
The other age groups all show a consistent trend of more registrants leaving the register than joining (net decline).

Ethnicity

Dentist ethnic groupings 2019 – 2023

Ethnic group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	51.5%	51.9%	50.8%	49.8%	48.6%
Asian or Asian British	23.9%	25.3%	26.3%	27.6%	28.8%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%
Other ethnic group	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%	4.8%	5.1%
Prefer not to say	8.5%	9.4%	9.4%	9.8%	9.6%
Unknown	9.1%	5.7%	5.5%	4.1%	3.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

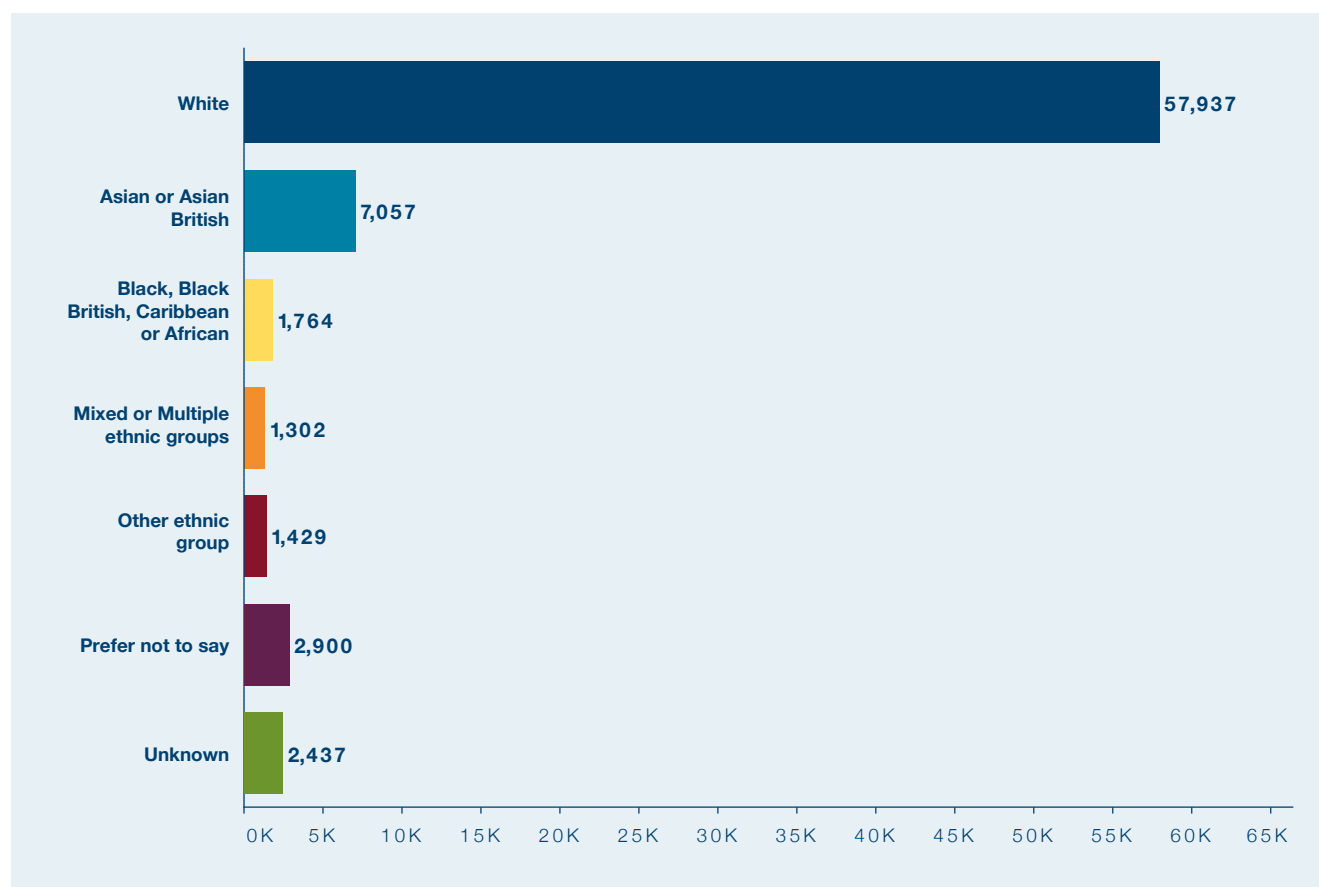
Dentist - ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2023



DCP ethnic groupings 2019 – 2023

Ethnic group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	78.0%	78.4%	77.0%	78.1%	77.4%
Asian or Asian British	5.9%	6.6%	7.3%	8.3%	9.4%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%
Other ethnic group	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	1.9%
Prefer not to say	3.1%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%
Unknown	8.7%	6.6%	7.2%	4.4%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DCP - ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2023

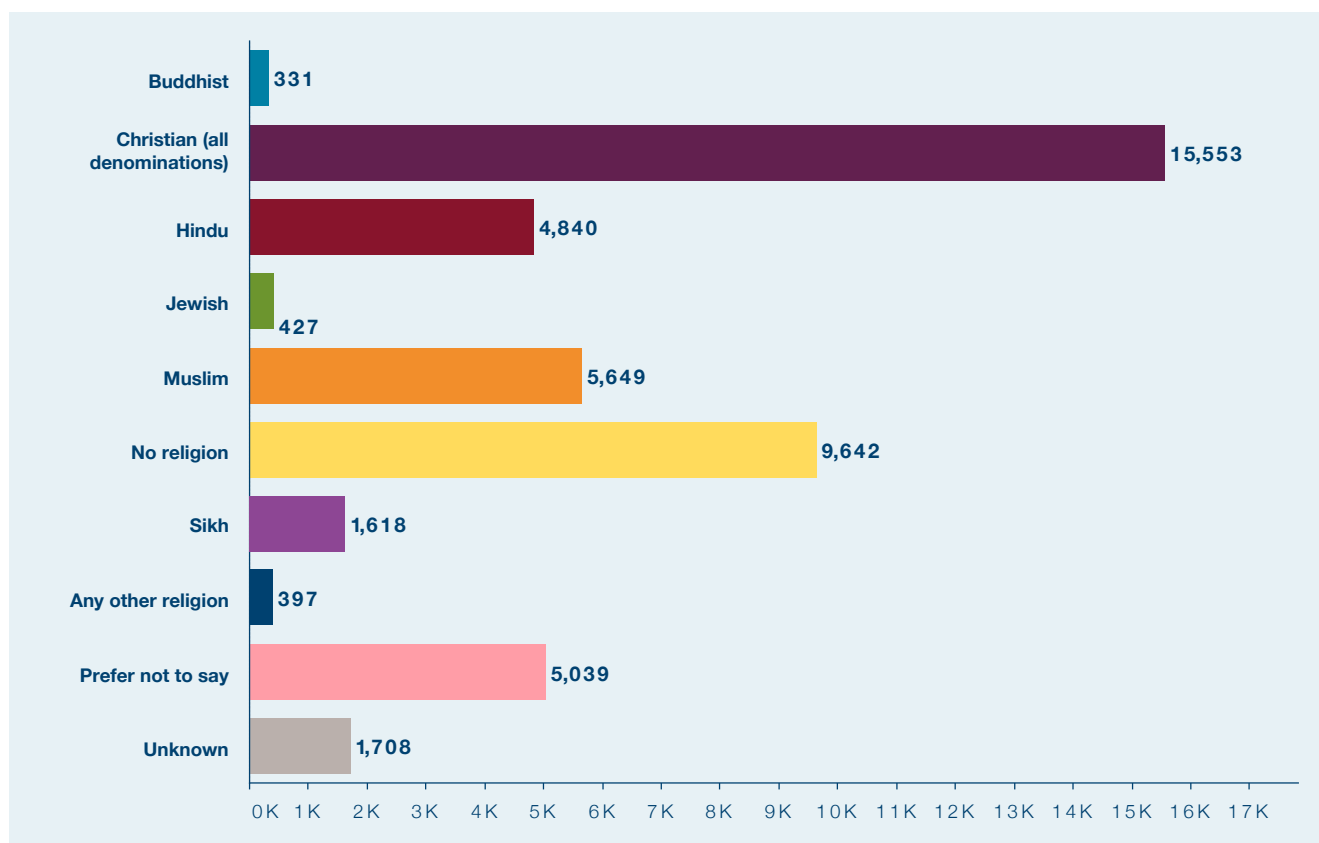


Religion

Dentist religion 2019 – 2023

Religion	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Buddhist	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Christian (all denominations)	35.9%	36.5%	35.9%	35.3%	34.4%
Hindu	9.8%	10.3%	10.5%	10.6%	10.7%
Jewish	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%
Muslim	9.0%	9.8%	10.5%	11.5%	12.5%
No religion	17.9%	19.4%	19.5%	20.9%	21.3%
Sikh	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%
Any other religion	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%
Prefer not to say	11.0%	12.0%	11.9%	11.4%	11.1%
Unknown	10.5%	5.8%	5.5%	4.1%	3.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

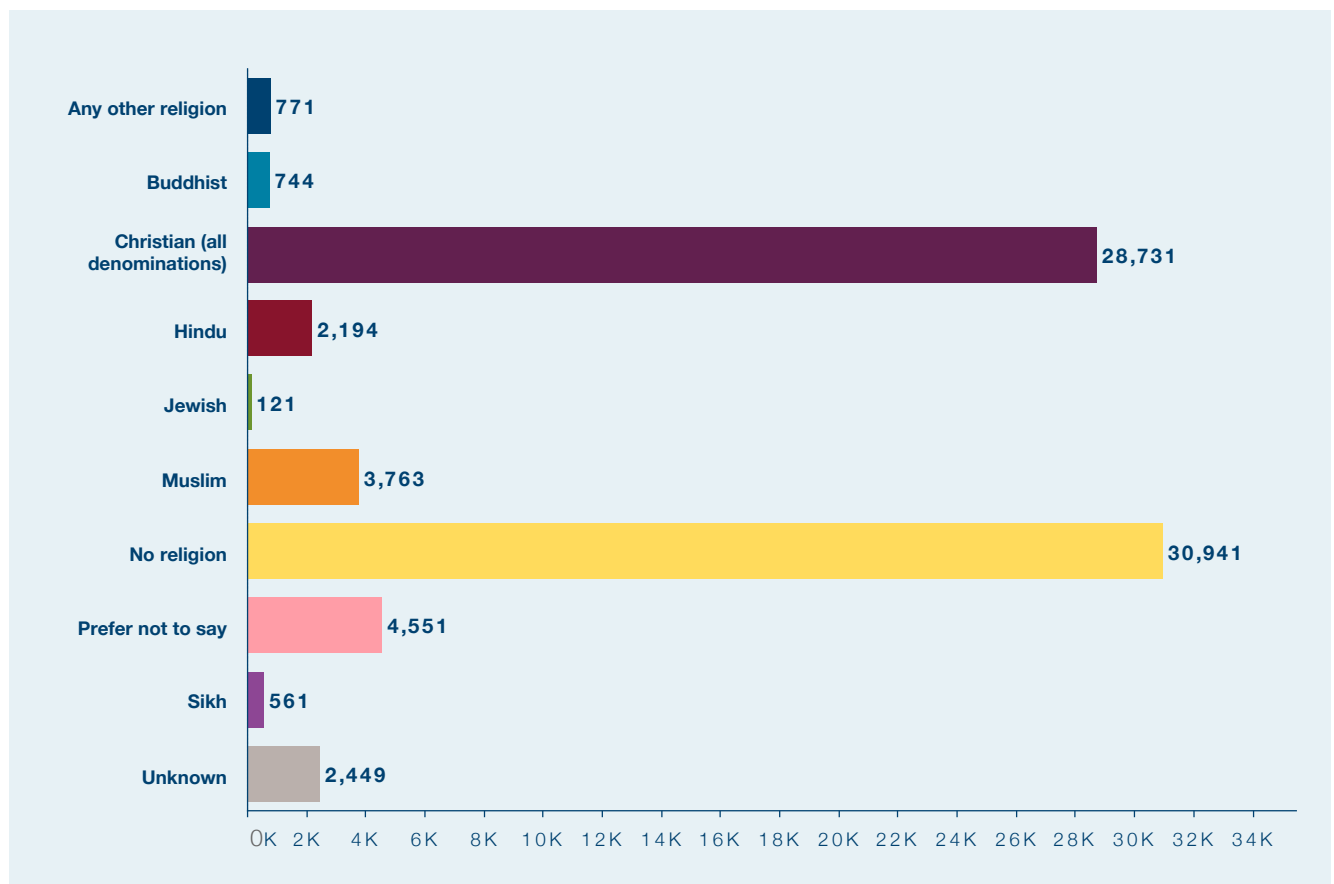
Dentist numbers by religion - 2023



DCP religion 2019 – 2023

Religion	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Any other religion	1.3%	1.6%	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%
Buddhist	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Christian (all denominations)	39.7%	40.7%	39.7%	39.3%	38.4%
Hindu	1.8%	2.0%	2.2%	2.6%	2.9%
Jewish	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Muslim	2.9%	3.2%	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%
No religion	33.6%	35.9%	36.3%	39.7%	41.4%
Prefer not to say	6.6%	8.1%	7.6%	6.6%	6.1%
Sikh	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%
Unknown	12.6%	6.8%	7.3%	4.5%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DCP numbers by religion 2023

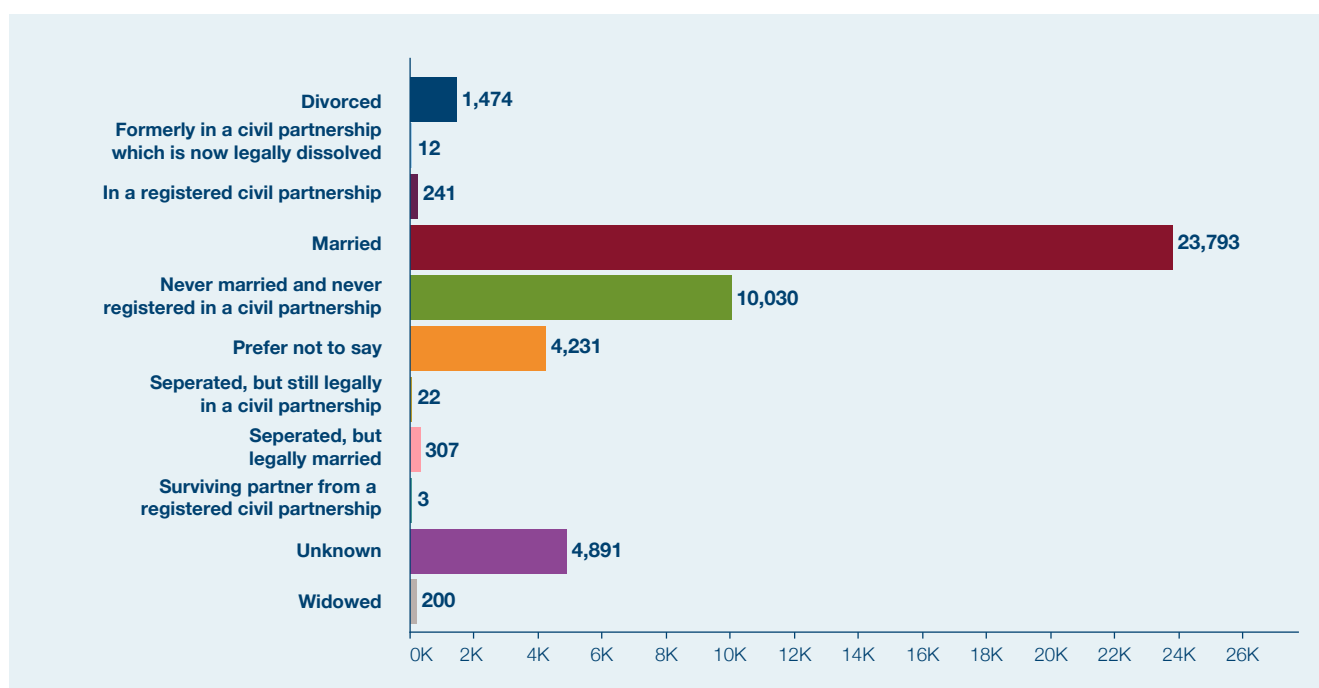


Marital status

Dentist marital status 2019 – 2023

Marital status	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Divorced	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
In a registered civil partnership	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Married	54.3%	55.3%	54.0%	54.4%	52.6%
Never married and never registered in a civil partnership	9.8%	10.8%	13.2%	18.8%	22.2%
Prefer not to say	8.7%	9.6%	9.4%	9.6%	9.4%
Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Separated, but still legally married	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%
Surviving partner from a registered civil partnership	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	22.2%	19.0%	18.3%	11.9%	10.8%
Widowed	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

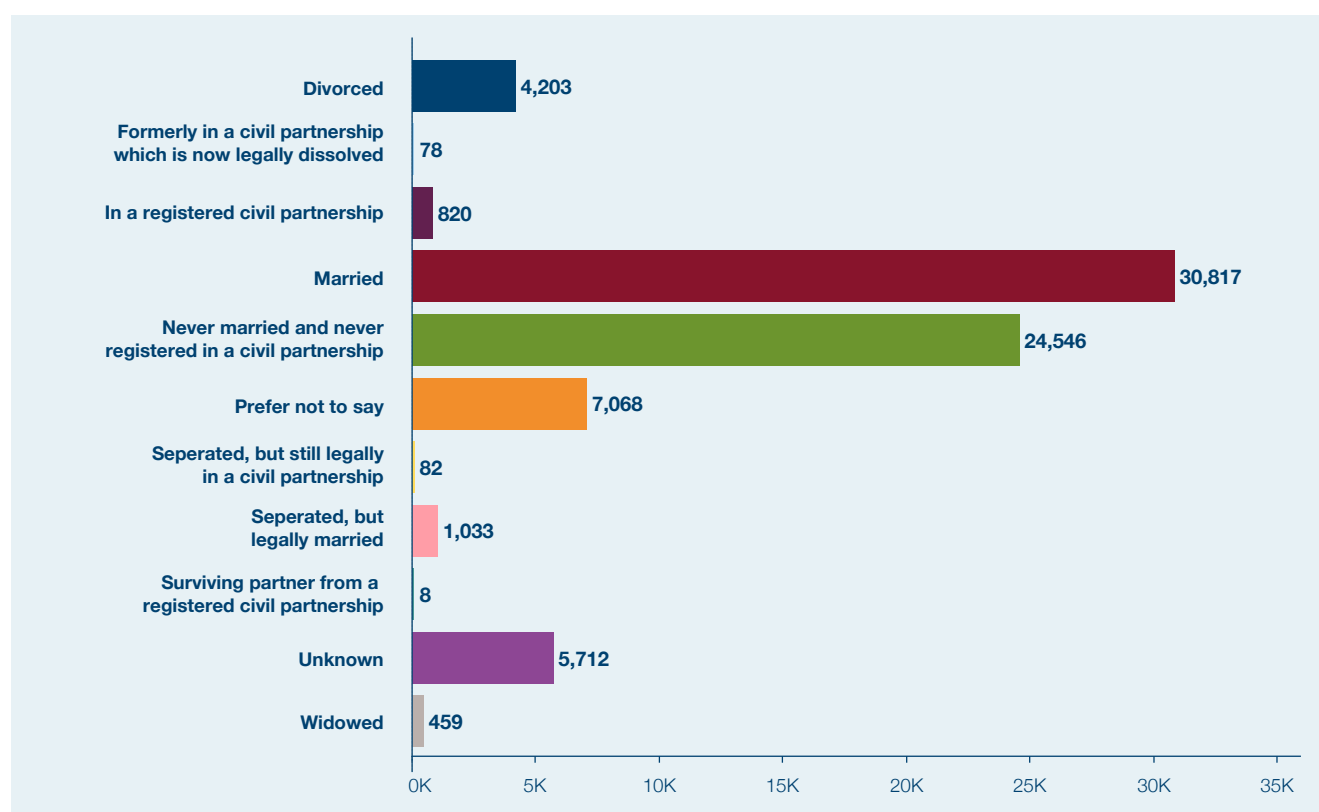
Dentist numbers by marital status 2023



DCP marital status 2019 – 2023

Marital status	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Divorced	5.2%	5.5%	5.3%	5.7%	5.6%
Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
In a registered civil partnership	1.3%	1.7%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%
Married	40.5%	41.3%	40.0%	41.1%	41.2%
Never married and never registered in a civil partnership	16.7%	17.7%	21.3%	28.8%	32.8%
Prefer not to say	7.4%	8.6%	8.6%	9.1%	9.4%
Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Separated, but still legally married	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%
Surviving partner from a registered civil partnership	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	27.1%	23.4%	21.6%	11.9%	7.6%
Widowed	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DCP numbers by marital status 2023

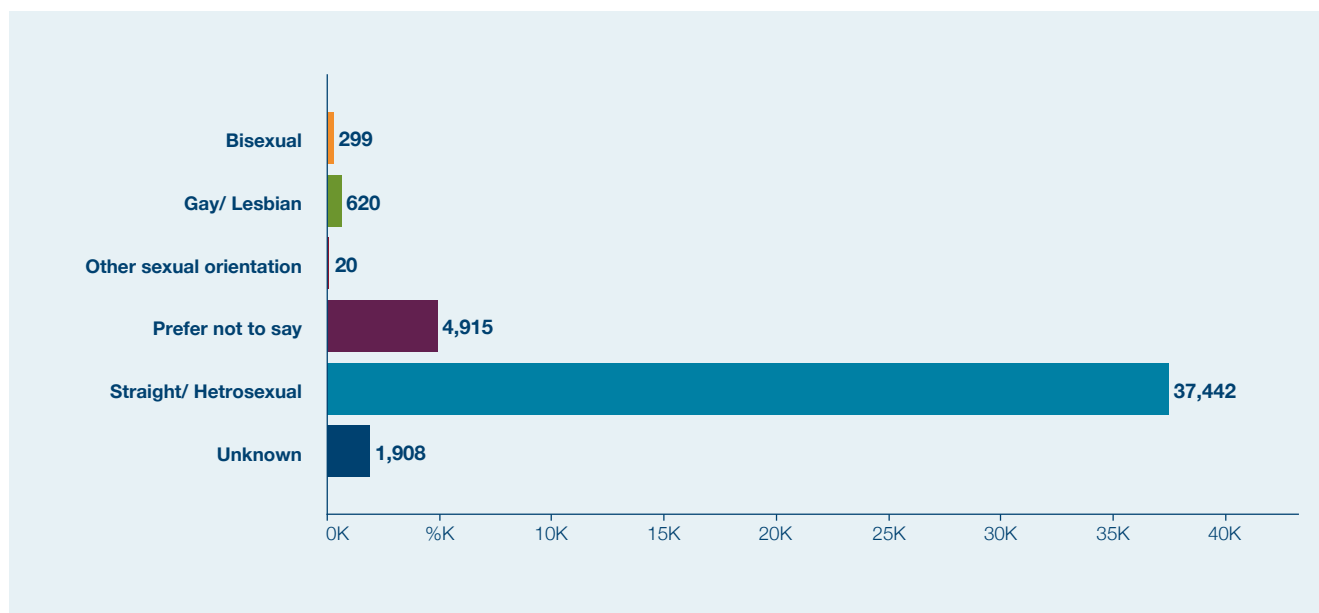


Sexual orientation

Dentist sexual orientation 2019 – 2023

Sexual orientation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bisexual	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Gay/Lesbian	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%
Other sexual orientation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	10.1%	11.3%	11.1%	11.2%	10.9%
Straight/Heterosexual	77.8%	80.2%	80.6%	82.2%	82.8%
Unknown	10.3%	6.5%	6.2%	4.6%	4.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

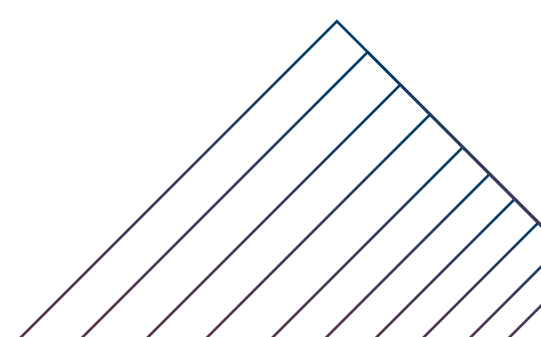
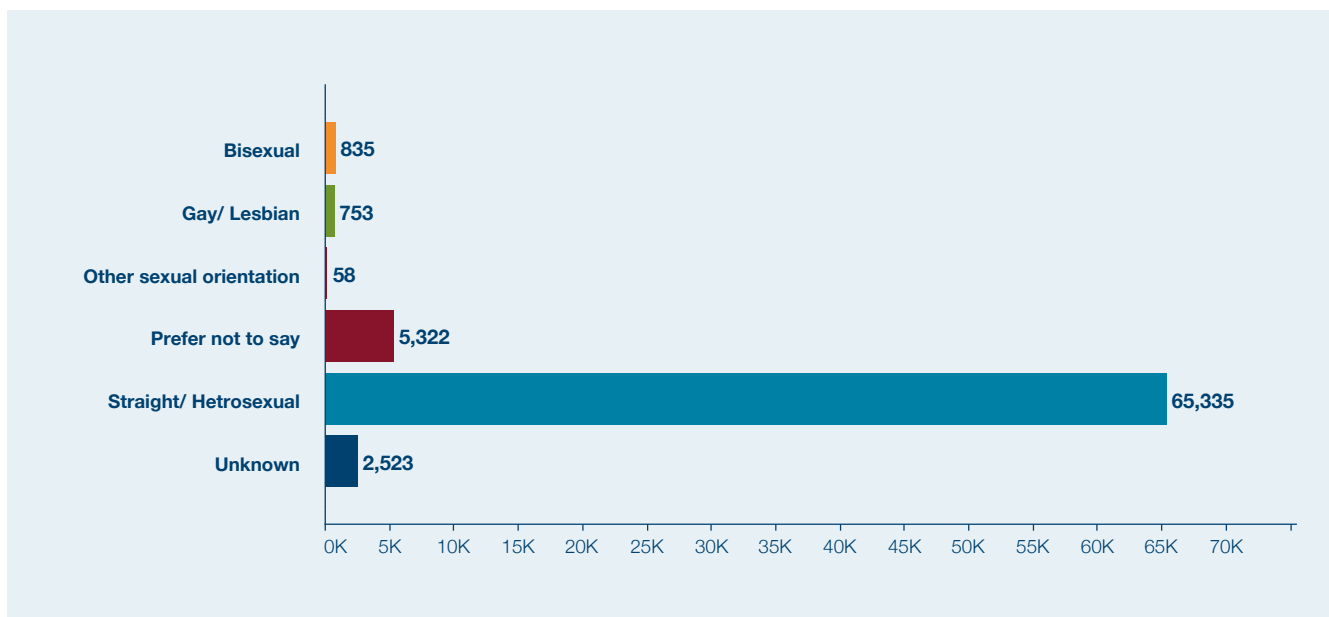
Dentist numbers by sexual orientation 2023



DCP sexual orientation 2019 – 2023

Sexual orientation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bisexual	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Gay/Lesbian	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Other sexual orientation	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Prefer not to say	7.3%	8.6%	8.2%	7.5%	7.1%
Straight/Heterosexual	80.5%	82.5%	82.3%	85.8%	87.3%
Unknown	10.5%	6.9%	7.5%	4.6%	3.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DCP numbers by sexual orientation 2023



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