

Registration statistical report

2019

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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 qualification from within the EU, EEA, or Switzerland.
- A recognised overseas qualification.
- An assessment of suitability to register, via an independent 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.

*This includes Licence in Dental Surgery (LDS).

Registrant statistics

The total number of dentists and DCPs on the registers as of 31 December 2019

This table illustrates the total number of individuals on the dentists and DCP registers. There was a 1% increase in the total number of individual registrants from 112,276 at the end of 2018 to 113,439 at the end of 2019¹.

Table 1

| Registration type | Number of registrants | % of total |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| DCP | 70,969 | 63% |
| Dentist | 42,470 | 37% |
| Total | 113,439 | 100% |

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 registers by dental grouping as of 31 December 2019²

Table 2

| Reg title | Number of registrants | % of total titles on the register | Number of new titles added in 2019 | % of total newly added in 2019 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dental nurse | 58,898 | 49% | 4,350 | 61% |
| Dentist | 42,470 | 36% | 1,737 | 24% |
| Dental hygienist | 7,563 | 6% | 435 | 6% |
| Dental therapist | 3,620 | 3% | 323 | 5% |
| Dental technician | 5,776 | 5% | 187 | 3% |
| Orthodontic therapist | 695 | 1% | 69 | 1% |
| Clinical dental technician | 375 | <1% | 18 | <1% |
| Total | 119,397 | 100% | 7,119 | 100% |

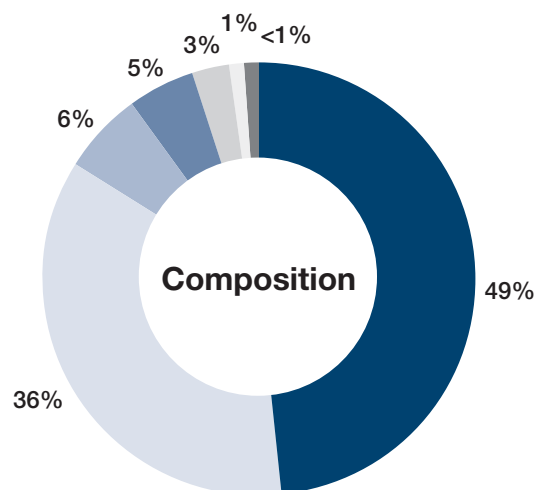
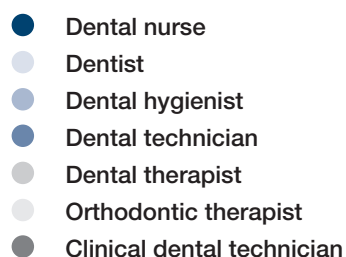
There was a 1.4% increase in the overall number of registered titles in 2019, from 117,726 in 2018 to 119,397 in 2019.

¹ Please note 67 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 members of each type of dental professional on the registers. A dental professional who has more than one title is counted once for each title that they hold. Therefore, the total for this table will be greater than the overall total number of individuals registrants.

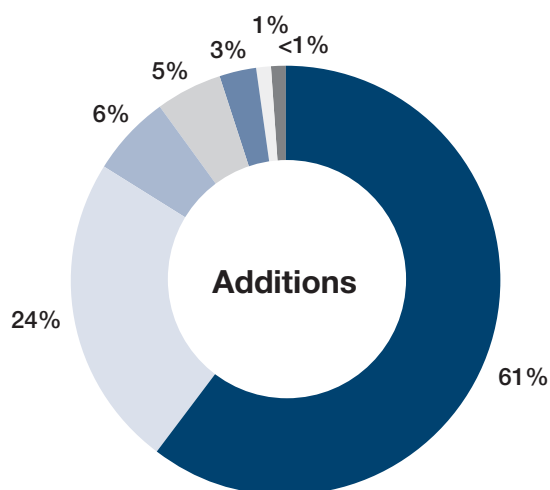
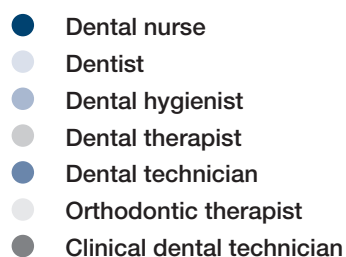
Graph 1

The composition of the registers by dental grouping at 31 December 2019



Graph 2

Additions to the registers in 2019 by dental grouping



Restorations to the registers in 2019 by title

During 2019, there were 1,208 registrants who re-joined the registers through the restoration process³:

Table 3

| Registration type | Number of registrants | % of total |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Dental nurse | 868 | 72% |
| Dentist | 227 | 19% |
| Dental technician | 53 | 4% |
| Dental hygienist | 38 | 3% |
| Dental therapist | 17 | 1% |
| Orthodontic therapist | 4 | <1% |
| Clinical dental technician | 1 | <1% |
| Total | 1,208 | 100% |

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.

Graph 3

Dentists and DCPs on the registers as of 31 December 2019 by region of qualification

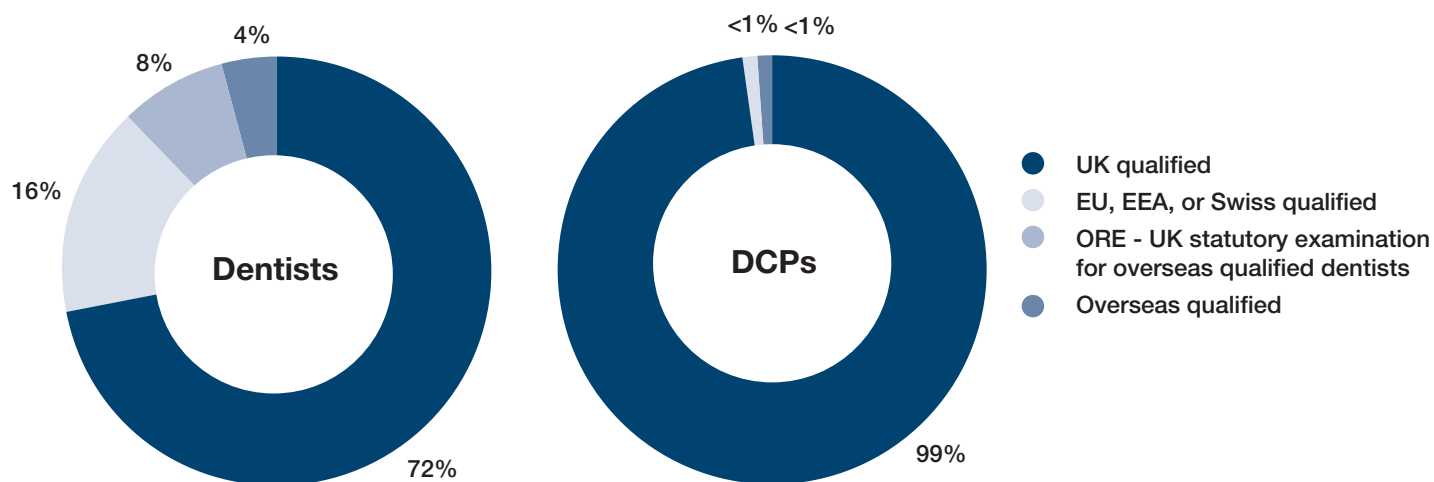


Table 4

a) Dentists, by region of qualification

| Region of qualification | Number | % of total |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| UK qualified | 30,463 | 72% |
| EU, EEA, or Swiss qualified | 6,881 | 16% |
| ORE - UK statutory examination overseas qualified dentists | 3,591 | 8% |
| Overseas qualified | 1,535 | 4% |
| Total | 42,470 | 100% |

Table 5

b) DCPs, by region of qualification

| Registration type | UK qualified | EU, EEA, or Swiss qualified | Overseas qualified | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Dental nurse | 58,752 | 172 | 88 | 59,012 |
| Dental hygienist | 7,231 | 258 | 182 | 7,671 |
| Dental technician | 5,635 | 133 | 16 | 5,784 |
| Dental therapist | 3,541 | 4 | 110 | 3,655 |
| Orthodontic therapist | 692 | 2 | 6 | 700 |
| Clinical dental technician | 375 | 1 | 2 | 378 |
| Total | 76,226 | 570 | 404 | 77,200 |

Graph 4

Dentists and DCPs added to the registers in 2019, by region of qualification

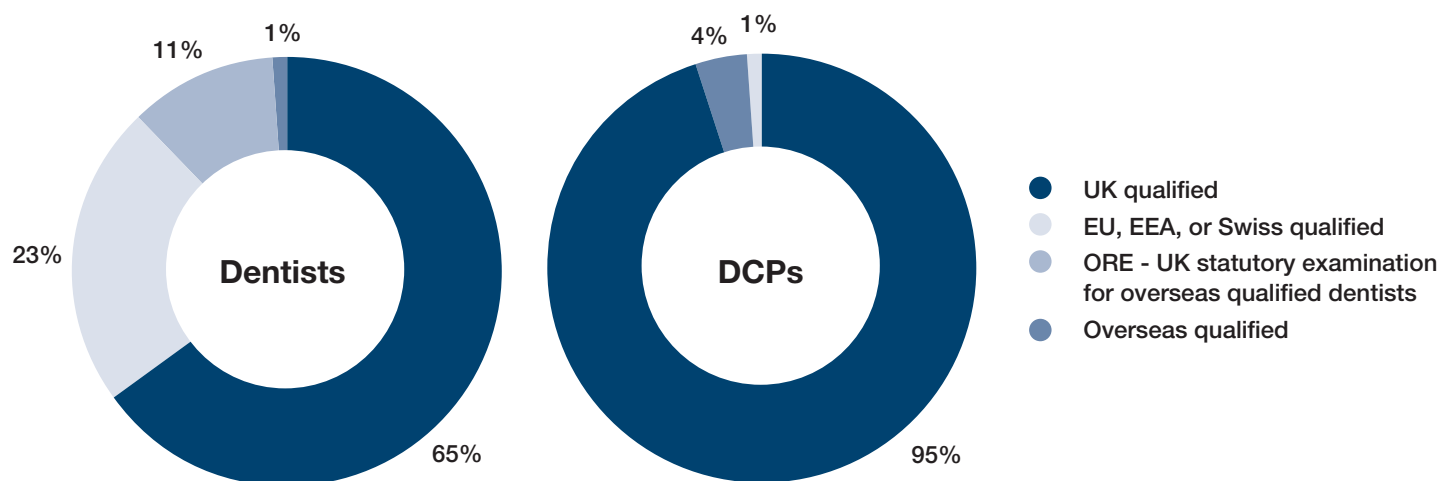


Table 6

a) New additions to the dentist register in 2019, by region of qualification

| Region of qualification | Dentists | % of total |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| UK qualified | 1,131 | 65% |
| EU, EEA, or Swiss qualified | 398 | 23% |
| ORE - UK statutory examination for overseas qualified dentists | 195 | 11% |
| Overseas qualified | 13 | 1% |
| Total | 1,737 | 100% |

Table 7

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

| Registration type | UK qualified | EU, EEA, or Swiss qualified | Overseas qualified | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Dental nurse | 4,318 | 29 | 49 | 4,396 |
| Dental hygienist | 355 | 20 | 101 | 476 |
| Dental therapist | 272 | | 72 | 344 |
| Dental technician | 163 | 22 | 2 | 187 |
| Orthodontic therapist | 68 | 1 | 3 | 72 |
| Clinical dental technician | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Total | 5,194 | 72 | 227 | 5,493 |

Graph 5

Dentists and DCPs removed from the registers in 2019, by reason for removal

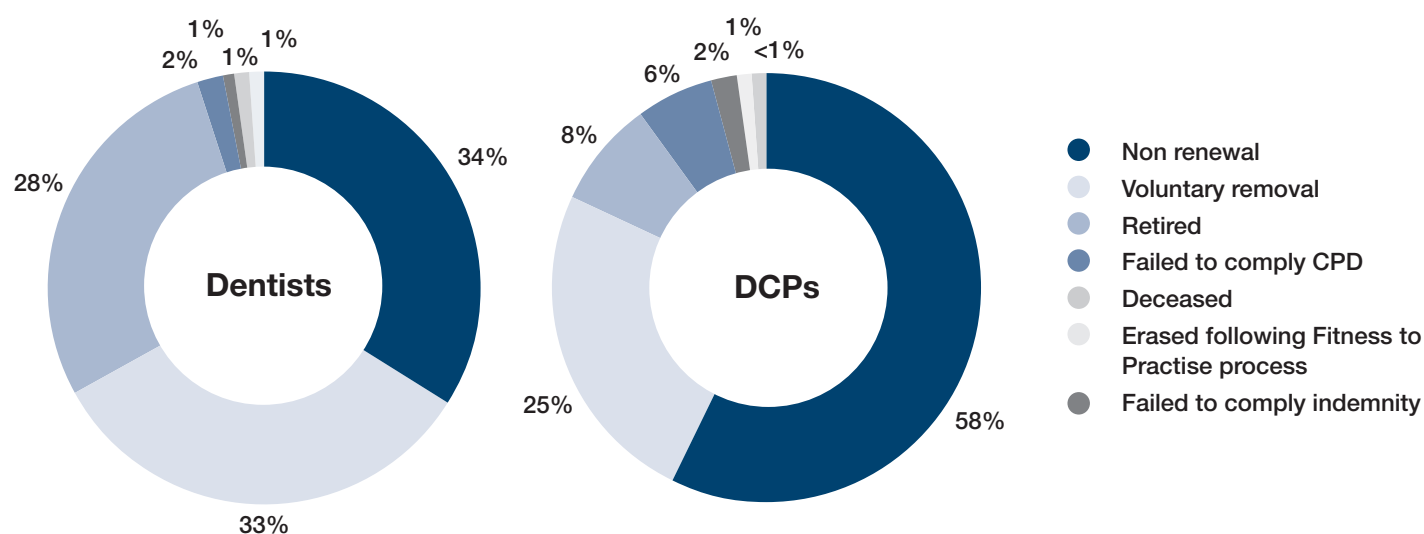


Table 8

a) Removal from the dentist register in 2019, by reason for removal

| Removal reason | Dentists | % of total |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Non renewal | 542 | 34% |
| Voluntary removal | 522 | 33% |
| Retired | 455 | 28% |
| Failed to comply CPD | 31 | 2% |
| Failed to comply indemnity | 23 | 1% |
| Deceased | 18 | 1% |
| Erased following Fitness to Practise process | 15 | 1% |
| Total | 1,606 | 100% |

There was a 1.7% decrease in the overall number of dentists removed from the register in 2019, from 1,633 in 2018 to 1,606 in 2019.

Table 9

b) Removal from the DCP register in 2019, by reason for removal

| Removal reason | DCPs | % of total |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Non renewal | 2,643 | 58% |
| Voluntary removal | 1,140 | 25% |
| Retired | 362 | 8% |
| Failed to comply CPD | 293 | 6% |
| Failed to comply indemnity | 93 | 2% |
| Erased following Fitness to Practise process | 52 | 1% |
| Deceased | 11 | <1% |
| Total | 4,594 | 100% |

There was a 6% decrease in the overall number of DCPs removed from the register in 2019, from 4,887 in 2018 to 4,594 in 2019.

Table 10

The composition of specialist lists at the end of 2019⁴

| Specialty type | Titles | % of total |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Orthodontics | 1,378 | 32% |
| Oral surgery | 731 | 17% |
| Prosthodontics | 439 | 10% |
| Periodontics | 376 | 9% |
| Endodontics | 303 | 7% |
| Restorative dentistry | 292 | 7% |
| Special care dentistry | 289 | 7% |
| Paediatric dentistry | 238 | 6% |
| Dental public health | 96 | 2% |
| Oral medicine | 69 | 2% |
| Oral and maxillofacial pathology | 34 | 1% |
| Dental and maxillofacial radiology | 28 | 1% |
| Oral microbiology | 7 | <1% |
| Total | 4,280 | 100% |

⁴ Note on specialist lists: there was a decrease of 2% in the number of speciality titles at the end of 2019, from 4,357 titles in 2018 to 4,280 titles in 2019. 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 characteristics⁵. 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.

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

An updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy is under development. This will include working with existing dental professionals to improve the quality of the diversity data that we collect. We will achieve this by communicating the benefits of accurate diversity information, including how improved data will enable us to better understand the composition of diverse dental professionals base to ensure our policies and processes are fair, reasonable and transparent, and better meet their needs.

Table 11

The composition of the registers by gender of dentists and dental care professionals as of 31 December 2019⁶

| Reg type | Male | % of total | Female | % of total | Total |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| DCP | 5,373 | 7.6% | 65,596 | 92.4% | 70,969 |
| Dentist | 21,141 | 49.8% | 21,329 | 50.2% | 42,470 |
| Total | 26,514 | 23.4% | 86,925 | 76.6% | 113,439 |

Table 12

The gender composition of dentists and DCPs added to the registers in 2019⁷

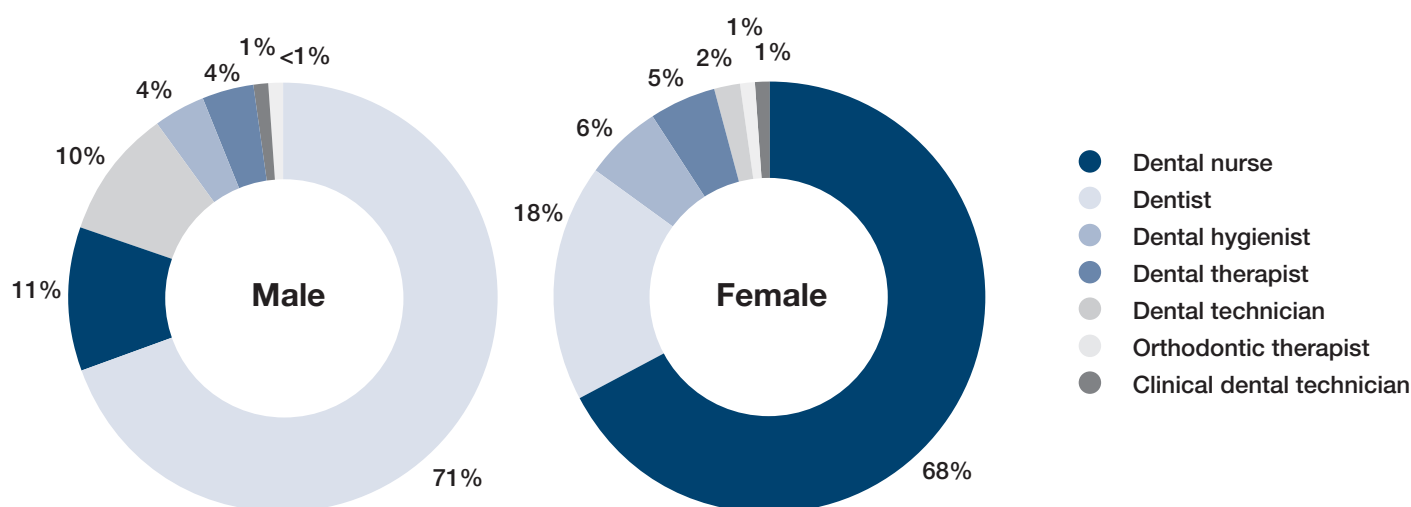
| Registration title | Female % | % of total | Male % | % of total | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Dental nurse | 4,248 | 98% | 102 | 2% | 4,350 |
| Dentist | 1,099 | 63% | 638 | 37% | 1,737 |
| Dental hygienist | 397 | 91% | 38 | 9% | 435 |
| Dental therapist | 291 | 90% | 32 | 10% | 323 |
| Dental technician | 106 | 57% | 81 | 43% | 187 |
| Orthodontic therapist | 67 | 97% | 2 | 3% | 69 |
| Clinical dental technician | 7 | 39% | 11 | 61% | 18 |
| Total | 6,215 | | 904 | | 7,119 |

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 registers. The numbers presented in this table match table one.

7 Restorations are not included.

Graph 6

Dentists and DCPs added to the registers in 2019 by gender⁸**Registrants with disabilities as of 31 December 2019**

98% of dentists registered with the GDC, reported as not having a disability, less than 1% reported as having a disability and 1% is unknown.

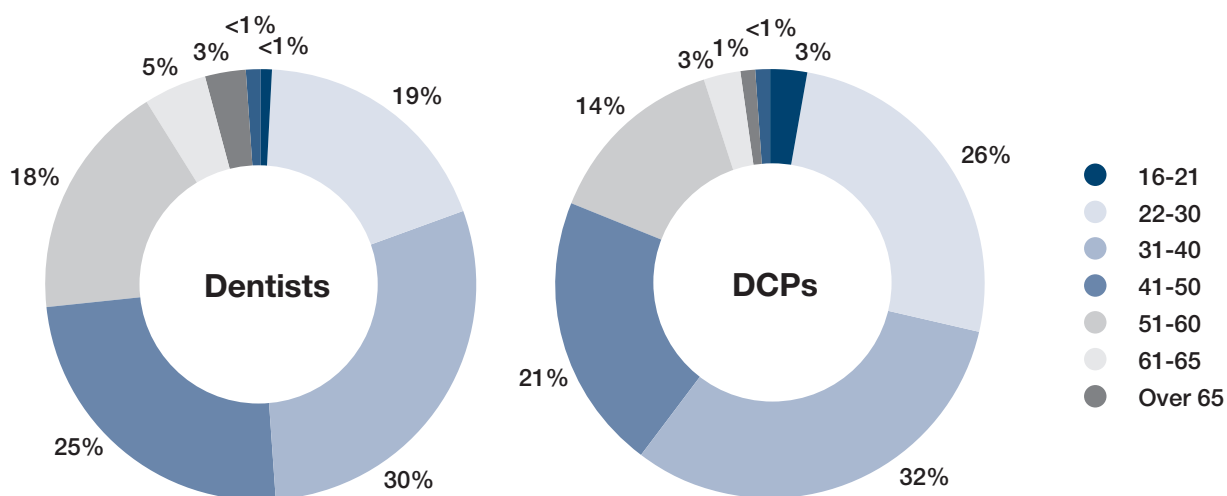
98% of DCPs registered with the GDC, reported as not having a disability, less than 1% reported as having a disability and 1% is unknown.

The response rate is very high with 99% of registrants responding. These figures remain unchanged since the 2017 report.

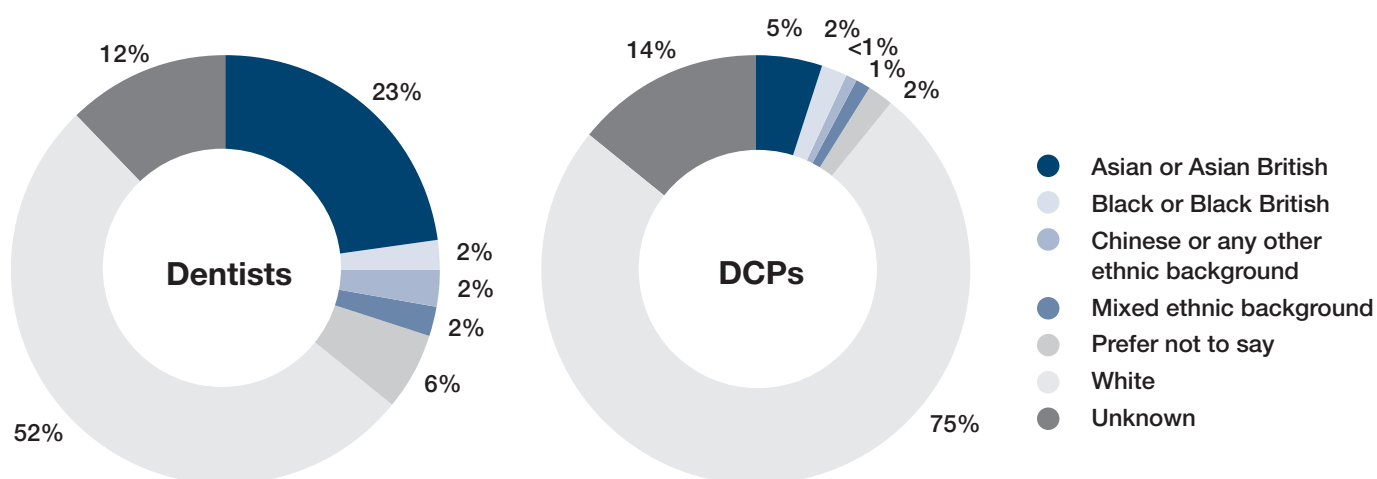
When compared to the UK Employment Statistics (ONS - Annual Population Survey April 2018 - Mar 2019), where 11% of the employed UK population identify as having a disability or a long-term health condition, the difference is stark. Going forward, we intend to make the definitions of this area as clear as possible, so that responses consider hidden disability and mental health, in addition to physical disability and disease.

⁸ Please note the graph relating to 'Male' and 'Female' looks at each dental professional type as a % of the total of males or females added in 2019.

Graph 7
Registrant age groupings as at 31 December 2019

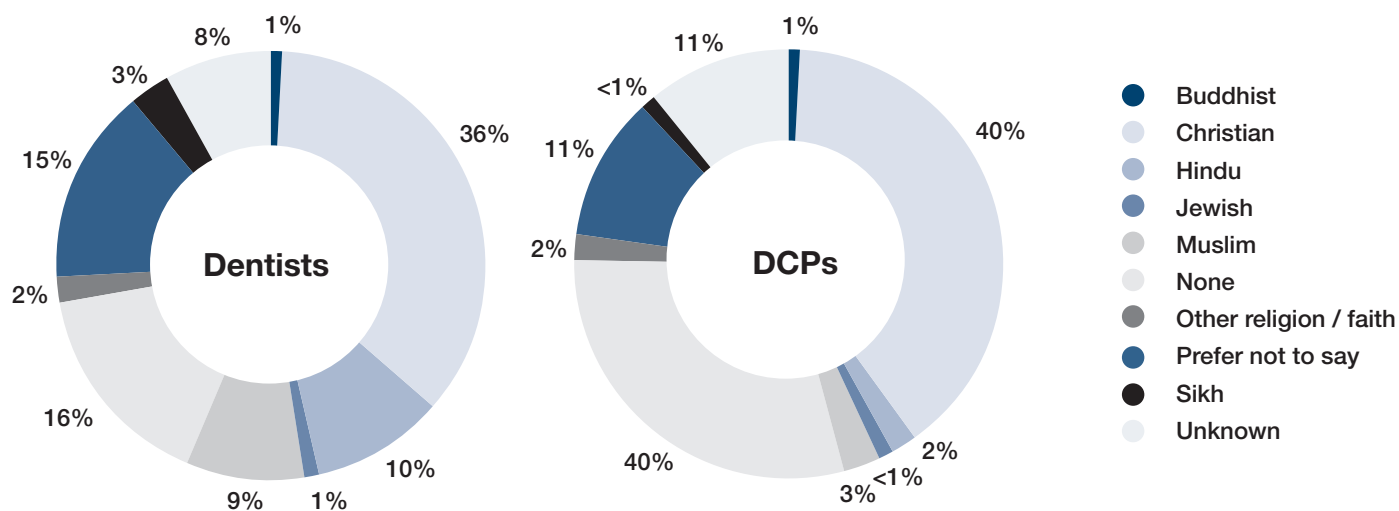


Graph 8
Registrant ethnic groupings as of 31 December 2019



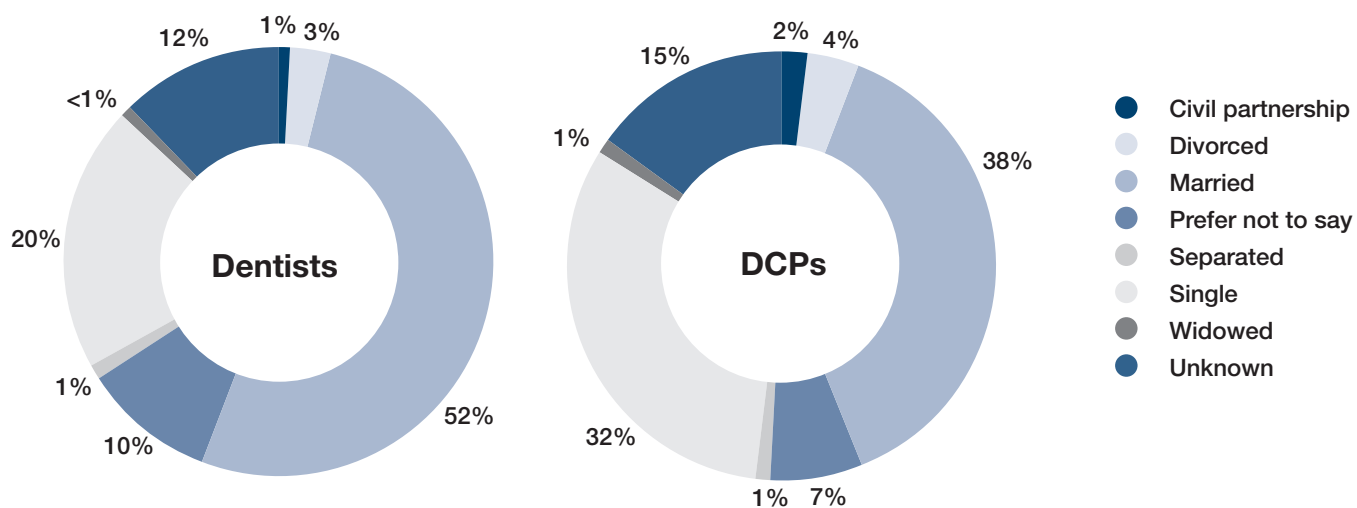
Graph 9

Registrant religious groupings as of 31 December 2019



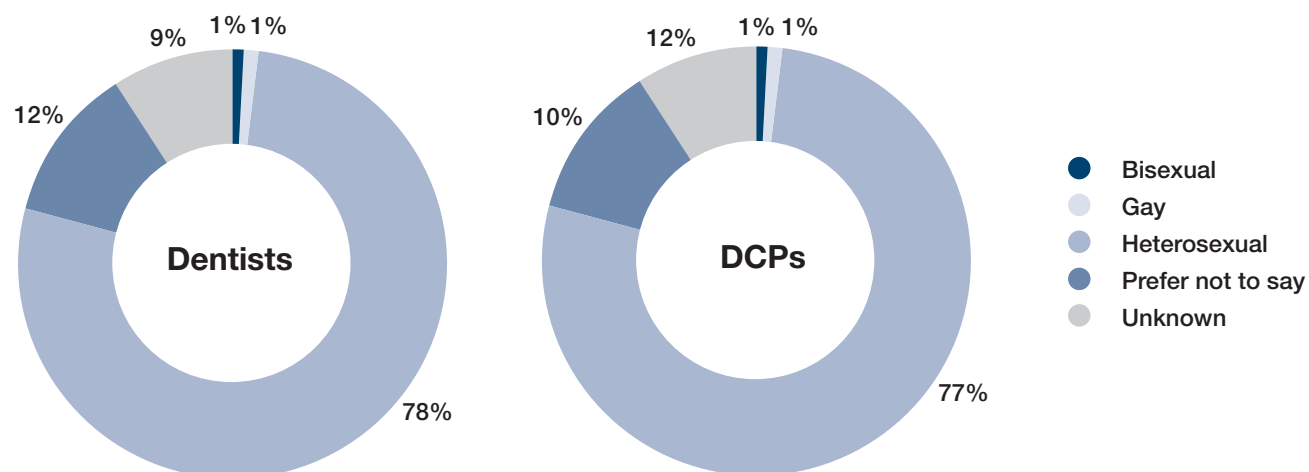
Graph 10

Registrant marital status as of 31 December 2019



Graph 11

Registrant sexual orientation as of 31 December 2019



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