

General
Dental
Council

Registration Statistical Report 2024



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Introduction

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 (ORE).

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 every two years.



Registration Statistics 2024

Dental professional numbers

Number of dentists and dental care professionals (DCP) on the register

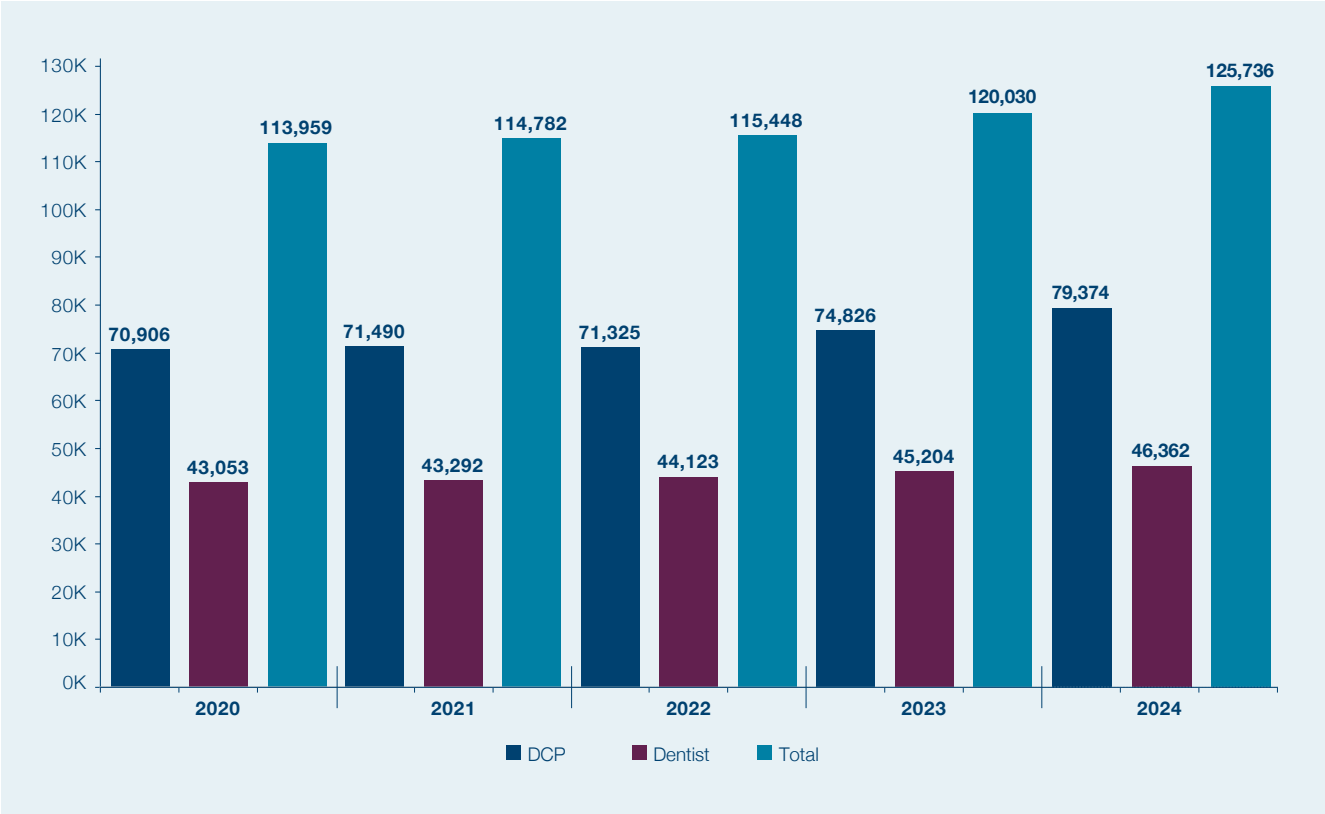
There were 125,736 dental professionals on our register at the end of 2024 (2023: 120,030). This was a 4.8% increase compared to last year. DCPs who have more than one title, for example, a dental hygienist who is also a dental therapist is only counted once in this table.¹

Registration type	Number of dental professionals	Percentage
Dentist	46, 362	37%
DCP	79,374	63%
Total	125,736	100%

The number of dentists on the register increased by 2.6%, and the number of DCPs increased by 6.1%, compared to 2023.

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

Number of dentists and DCPs on the register 2020 – 2024



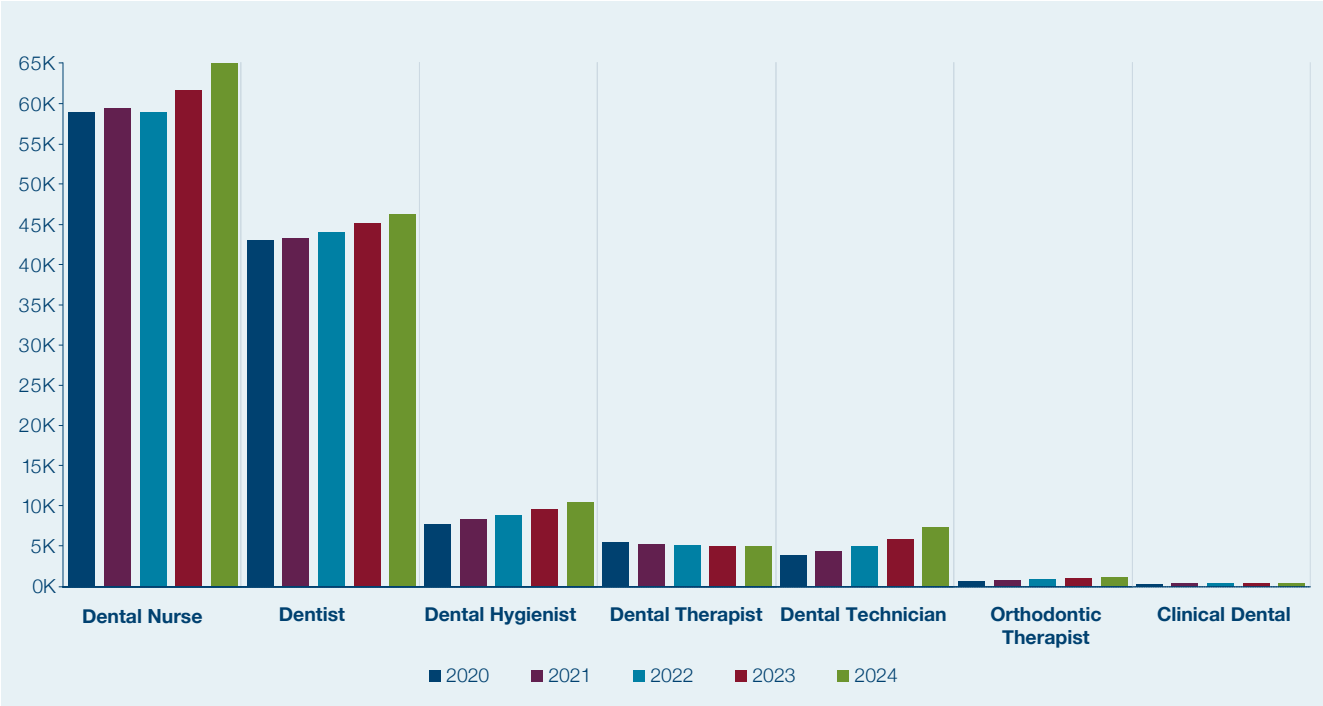
Composition of the register by professional title

Registration title	Number of registered titles	Percentage	Number of new titles added in 2024	Percentage
Dentist	46,362	34.1%	2,164	18.2%
Dental Nurse	65,123	47.9%	6,670	56.1%
Dental Hygienist	10,493	7.7%	1,189	10.0%
Dental Technician	5,025	3.7%	168	1.4%
Dental Therapist	7,363	5.4%	1,567	13.2%
Orthodontic Therapist	1,157	0.9%	123	1.0%
Clinical Dental Technician	439	0.3%	13	0.1%
Total	135,962	100%	11,894	100%

This is the total number of registered titles. Some individuals hold more than one title, for example a dental hygienist may also be registered as a dental therapist. Therefore, the total number of titles is higher than the number of people on the register.

There was a 5.4% increase in the total number of registered titles (2023: 129,052).

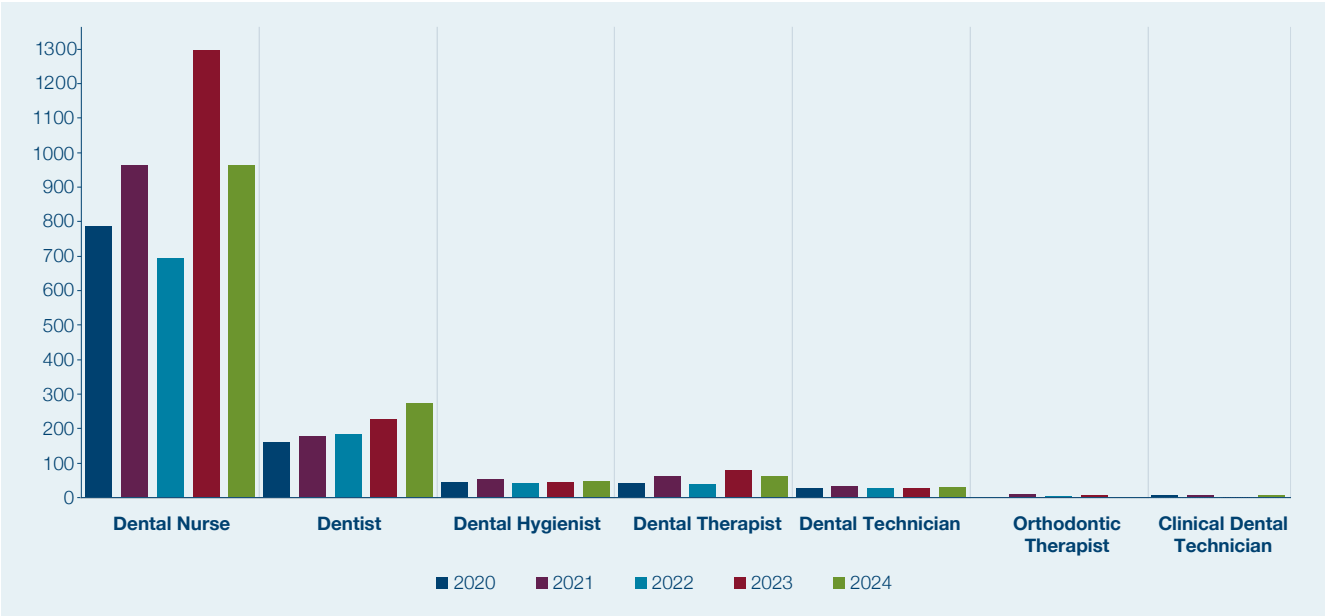
Number of dental professionals on the register 2020 – 2024 by professional title



	Dental Nurse	Dentist	Dental Hygienist	Dental Technician	Dental Therapist	Orthodontic Therapist	Clinical Dental Technician
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
2024	65,123	46,362	10,493	5,025	7,363	1,157	439

Restorations to the register 2020 – 2024²

Restoration is how someone who has previously been registered with the GDC re-joins the register. In 2024, 1,363 dental professionals restored to the register (2023: 1,692).



2. There was logic adjustment in 2024 to more accurately report DCP title restorations. This resulted in changes the 2020 to 2023 figures, compared to published 2023 Registration Statistical Report. Dentist numbers were unchanged.

Dental professionals on the register by route to registration

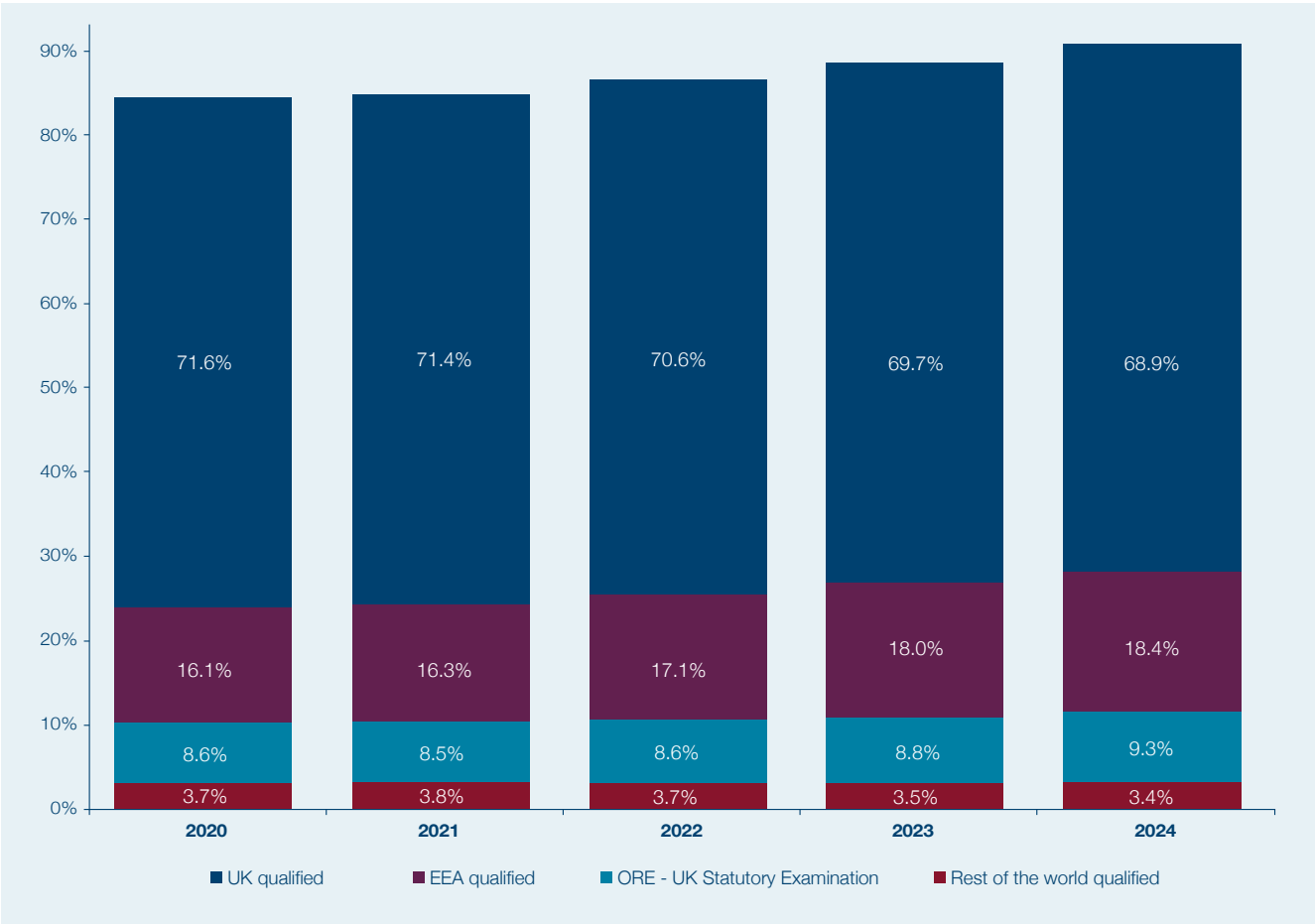
Dentists, by route to registration 2024

Route to registration	Number of dentists	Percentage
UK qualified	31,953	68.9%
EEA qualified	8,514	18.4%
ORE – UK statutory examination	4,326	9.3%
Rest of world qualified	1,569	3.4%
Total	46,362	100%

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.

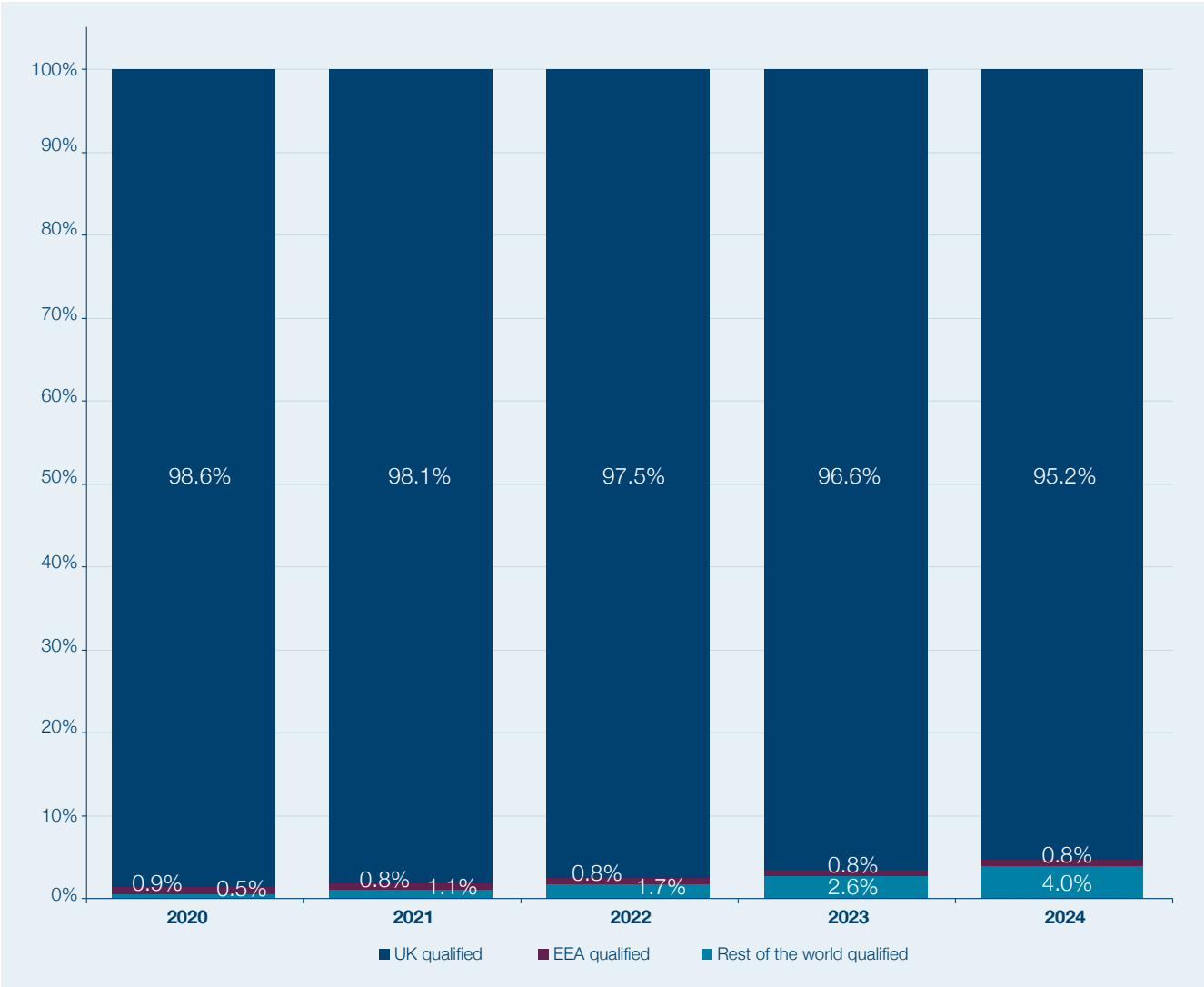
Dentists by route to registration 2020 – 2024



DCPs, by route to registration

DCP Title	UK qualified	%	EEA qualified	%	Rest of world qualified	%	Total
Dental Nurse	64,904	99.7%	136	0.2%	83	0.1%	65,123
Dental Hygienist	7,865	74.9%	478	4.6%	2,150	20.5%	10,493
Dental Technician	4,783	95.2%	211	4.2%	31	0.6%	5,025
Dental Therapist	4,745	64.4%	4	0.1%	2,614	35.5%	7,363
Orthodontic Therapist	1042	90.0%	2	0.2%	113	9.8%	1,157
Clinical Dental Technician	436	99.3%	-	0%	3	0.7%	439
Total	83,775	-	831	-	4,994	-	89,600

DCPs by route to registration 2020 – 2024



Dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2024, by route to registration

In 2024, the Registration function concluded 12,978 applications across all routes, an increase on a previous maximum of 11,476 applications, completed in 2023.

Following the substantial and unprecedented number of international DCP applications (circa 5,700) received in 2023 (when this route to registration closed), we recruited 22 additional caseworkers to support the progression of these applications. We also increased the capacity of the assessment panels from 150 to 300 a month. In 2024, over 2,600 applications were assessed by registration assessment panels, resulting in over 844 registrations.

The international DCP backlog made up of applications received pre-9 March 2023, was significantly reduced with only 34 cases from the backlog yet to be processed at the end of 2024. Assessment and re-assessment panels are likely to continue until mid-2025. Clearing the backlog while maintaining rigorous standards and ensuring public protection continues to be a priority for the Registration team, who scrutinised all received applications.

New additions to the dentist register in 2024, by route to registration

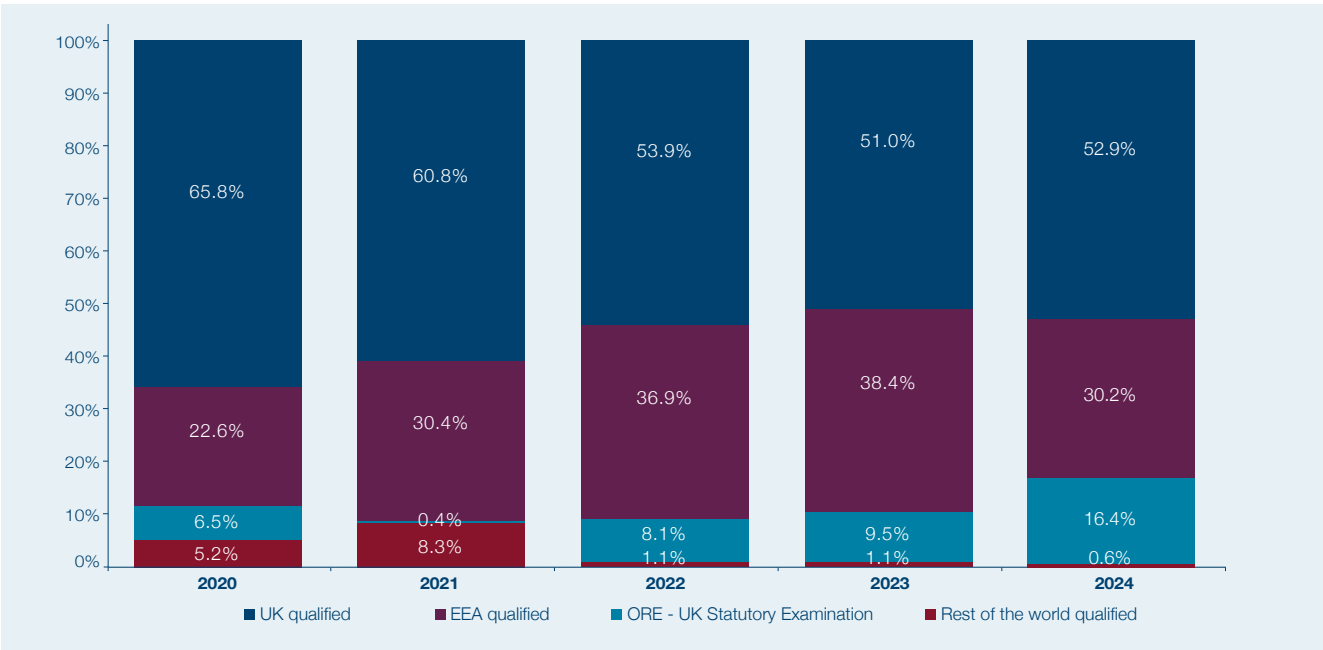
Route to registration	Number of new additions	% of total
UK qualified	1,144	52.8%
EEA qualified	654	30.2%
ORE - UK statutory examination	354	16.4%
Rest of the world qualified	12	0.6%
Total	2,164	100%



New additions to the DCP register in 2024, by route to registration

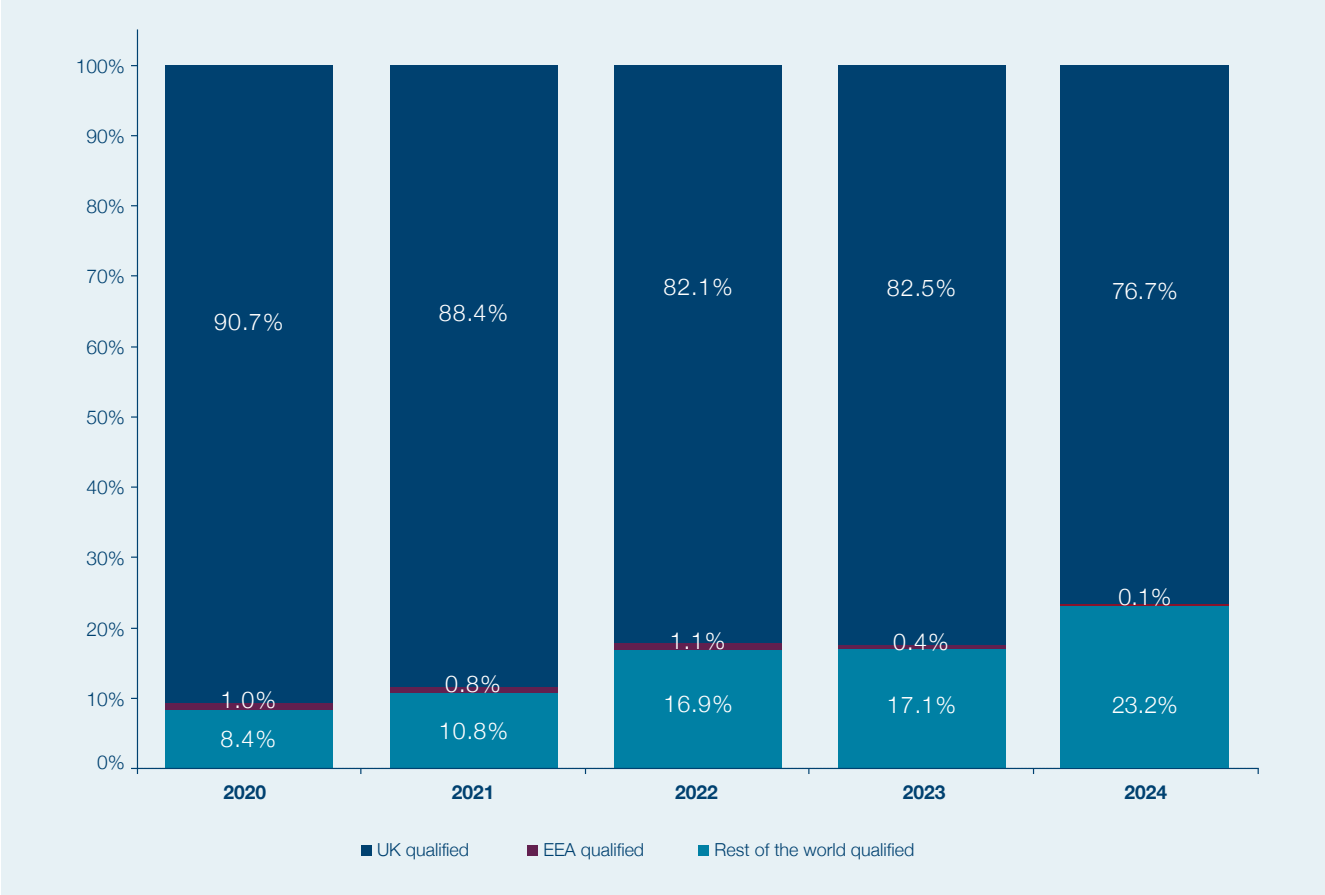
DCP Title	UK qualified	%	EEA qualified	%	Rest of world qualified	%	Total
Dental Nurse	64,904	99.7%	136	0.2%	83	0.1%	65,123
Dental Hygienist	7,865	74.9%	478	4.6%	2,150	20.5%	10,493
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Clinical Dental Technician	436	99.3%	-	0%	3	0.7%	439
Total	83,775	-	831	-	4,994	-	89,600

New additions to the dentist register by route to registration
2020 – 2024

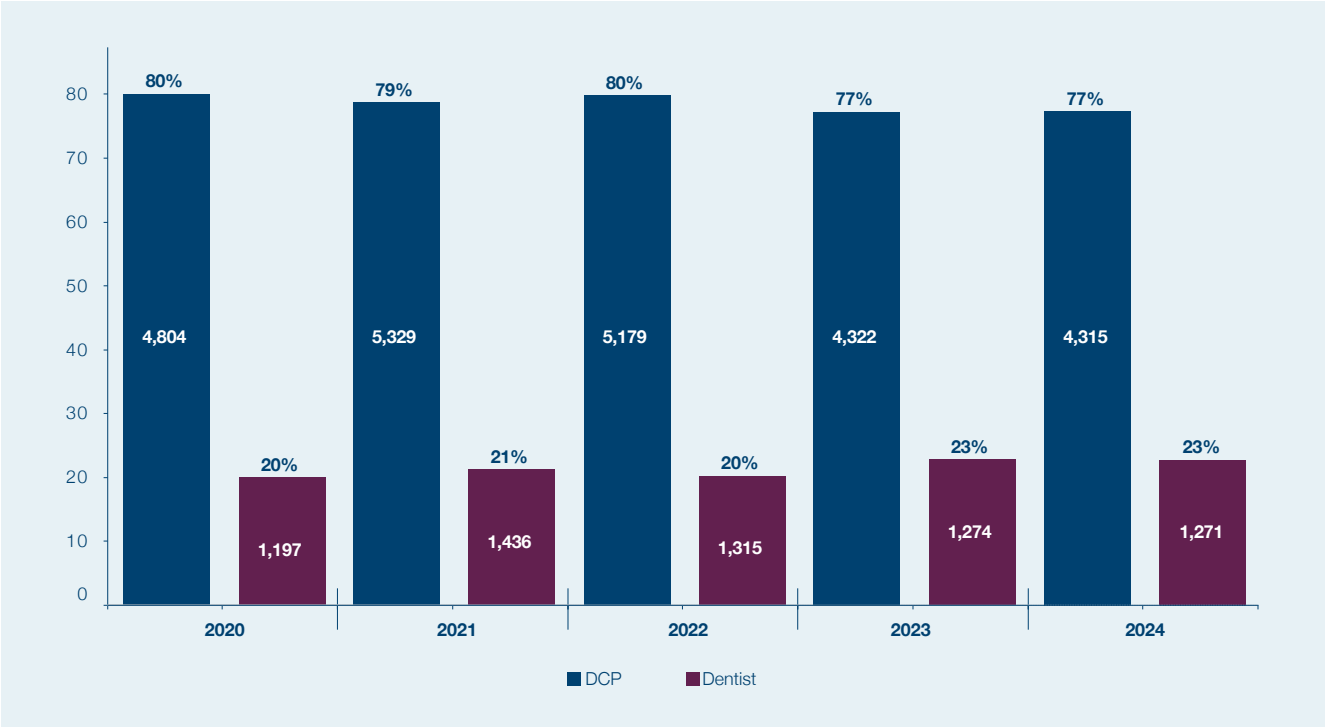


The ORE Part 2 was not held between February 2020 and December 2021 (due to pandemic).

New additions to DCP register by route to registration 2020 – 2024



Removals from the register 2020 – 2024

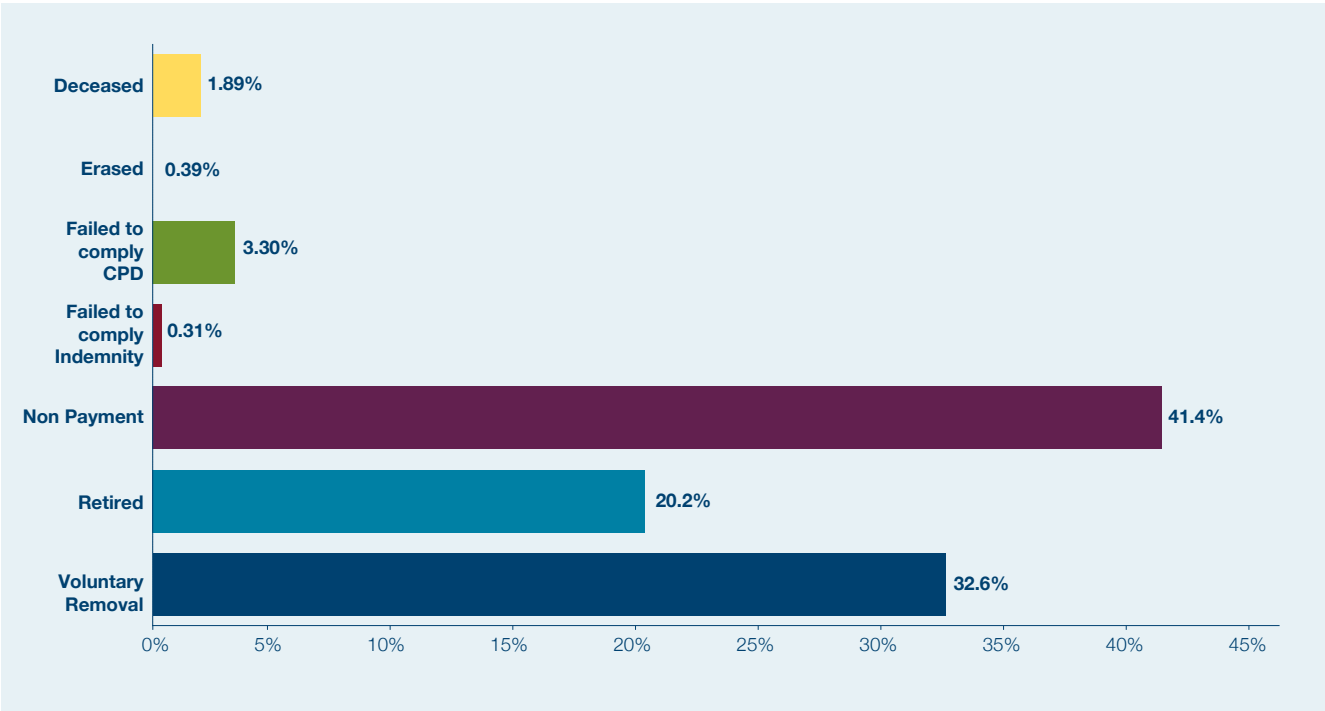


Dentists and DCPs removed from the register in 2024

Dentist removals in 2024

Removal reason	Number	% of total
Deceased	24	1.9%
Erased	5	0.4%
Failed to comply - CPD	42	3.3%
Failed to comply - Indemnity	4	0.3%
Non-payment	525	41.3%
Retired	257	20.2%
Voluntary Removal	414	32.6%
Total	1,271	100%

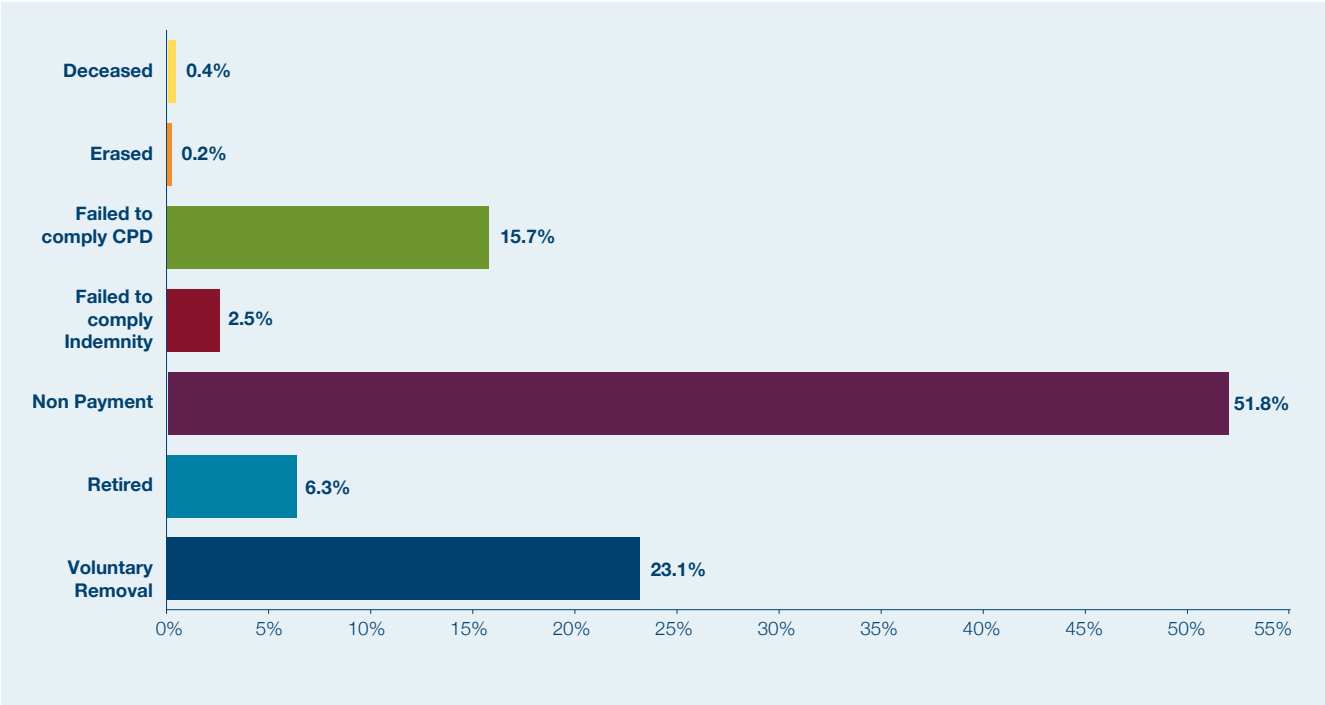
There was a 0.2% decrease in the number of dentist removals (2023: 1,274). 166 of these subsequently restored to the register.



DCP removals in 2024

Removal reason	Number of registrants	% of total
Deceased	16	0.4%
Erased	10	0.2%
Failed to comply - CPD	676	15.7%
Failed to comply - Indemnity	110	2.5%
Non-payment	2,236	51.8%
Retired	272	6.3%
Voluntary Removal	995	23.1%
Total	4,315	100%

There was a 0.2% decrease in the overall number of DCP removals (2023: 4,322). 317 of these subsequently restored to the register.



Dentist specialist lists 2020 – 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology	29	30	31	32	33
Dental Public Health	98	95	89	85	83
Endodontics	315	322	321	324	334
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	34	35	35	39	40
Oral Medicine	70	70	66	71	77
Oral Microbiology	7	6	6	5	5
Oral Surgery	743	758	750	753	771
Orthodontics	1,405	1,399	1,400	1,401	1,406
Paediatric Dentistry	249	250	251	262	274
Periodontics	388	388	395	400	414
Prosthodontics	455	451	453	452	448
Restorative Dentistry	302	303	300	306	309
Special Care Dentistry	296	297	278	274	263
Total	4,391	4,404	4,375	4,404	4,457

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

Register profile – equality and diversity

The following charts show our register profile analysed with reference to the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics⁴.

There are nine protected characteristic fields (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

The demographic data we hold about dental professionals is provided voluntarily. Around 96% of dental professionals have provided this data.

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. This includes identifying new training for our staff and making changes to our physical environments.

We use demographic data to identify trends to commission research to establish the causes, to understand the changing profile of the register and if 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. This will help us to engage more effectively with dental professionals when they interact with us.

We can also inform education providers of the groups and communities where there is missed talent, so they can then develop recruitment strategies to better engage with these groups. In addition, we collect protected characteristic data from GDC panellists and associates, to help us ensure both groups have a diverse population.

We published our EDI Strategy for 2024–2025, in May 2024. Our ambitions remain unchanged and build on the ambitions of our previous strategy. We must continue working with the wider profession to embed EDI across all our work, and around how dental professionals work with patients and each other. This includes encouraging others to put EDI at the forefront of their working practices.

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

5. 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.

Dental professionals with disabilities

Less than 1% of dental professionals identified as having a disability in 2024. These numbers are exceptionally small, which may be due to a lack of understanding of 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.

Composition of the register by Sex

Registration type	Number		Percentage		Number	Percentage
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Total
Dentist	21,701	24,656	46.8%	53.2%	46,357	100%
DCP	5,916	73,458	7.5%	92.5%	79,374	100%
Total	27,617	98,114	22.0%	78.0%	125,731	100%

Note: Five dentists did not provide their sex details.

Sex of dental professionals added in 2024⁶

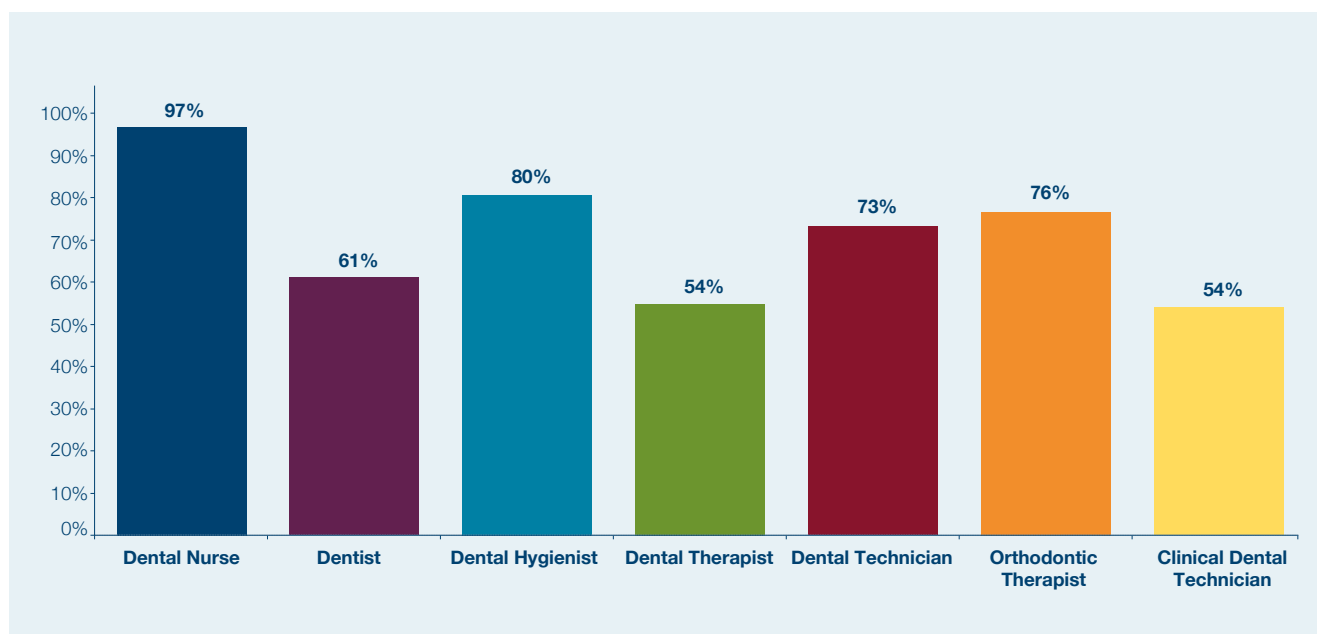
Registration title	Number of new titles added		Percentage of total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Dental Nurse	229	6,441	3%	97%
Dentist	845	1,319	39%	61%
Dental Hygienist	232	955	20%	80%
Dental Therapist	77	91	46%	54%
Dental Technician	424	1,143	27%	73%
Orthodontic Therapist	29	94	24%	76%
Clinical Dental Technician	6	7	46%	54%
Total	1,842	10,050	15%	85%

6. Restorations are not included.

Females added to the register 2020 – 2024⁷

Registration title	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental Nurse	3,778	4,573	3,695	5,830	6,441
Dentist	1,014	876	1,155	1,281	1,319
Dental Hygienist	419	635	692	798	953
Dental Technician	47	83	81	82	93
Dental Therapist	327	459	582	860	1,143
Orthodontic Therapist	18	43	56	71	94
Clinical Dental Technician	-	4	3	9	7
Total	5,603	6,673	6,264	8,931	10,050

Proportion of females who joined the register in 2024⁸



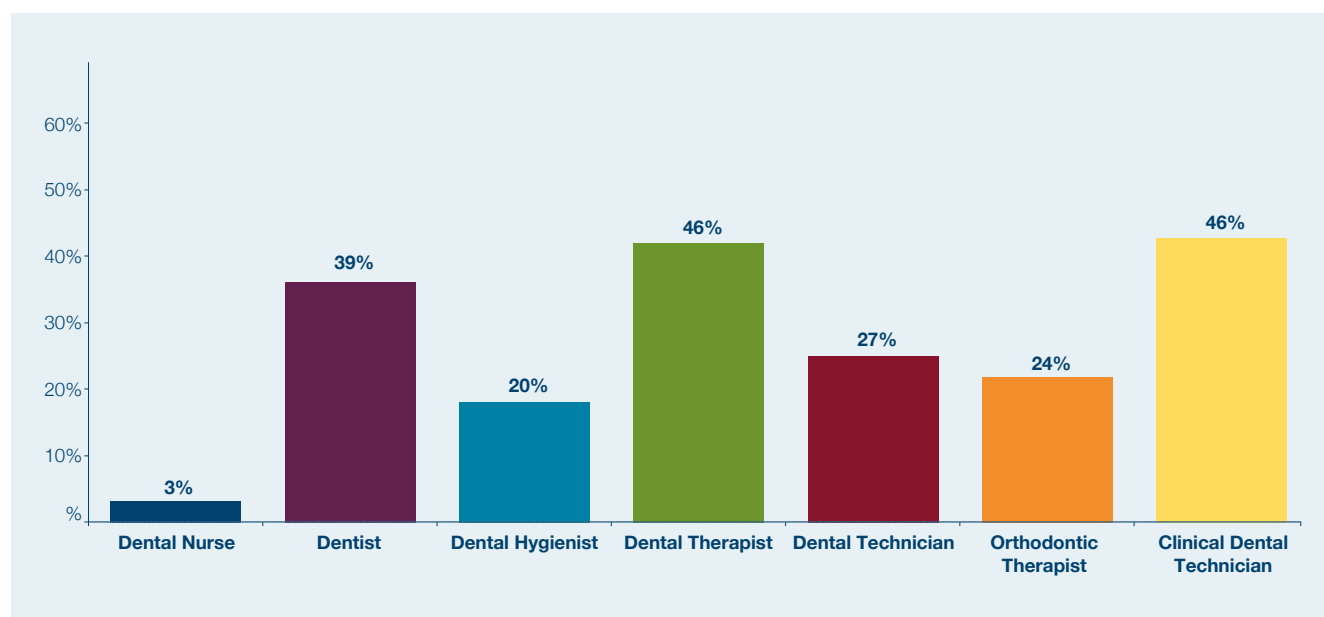
7. Please note historical numbers for DCP female additions to the register have changed following analysis of our data. The new logic reports additions by the 6 titles more accurately. Please note dentist figures remain the same.

8. This graph looks at the percentage of the total added for each dentist and DCP title in 2024 who identified as female.

Males added to the register 2020 – 2024⁹

Registration title	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental Nurse	71	118	96	185	229
Dentist	612	623	812	849	845
Dental Hygienist	59	106	107	171	232
Dental Technician	32	46	50	75	77
Dental Therapist	47	86	141	224	424
Orthodontic Therapist	2	6	5	15	29
Clinical Dental Technician	1	7	3	6	6
Total	824	992	1,214	1,525	1,842

Proportion of males who joined the register in 2024



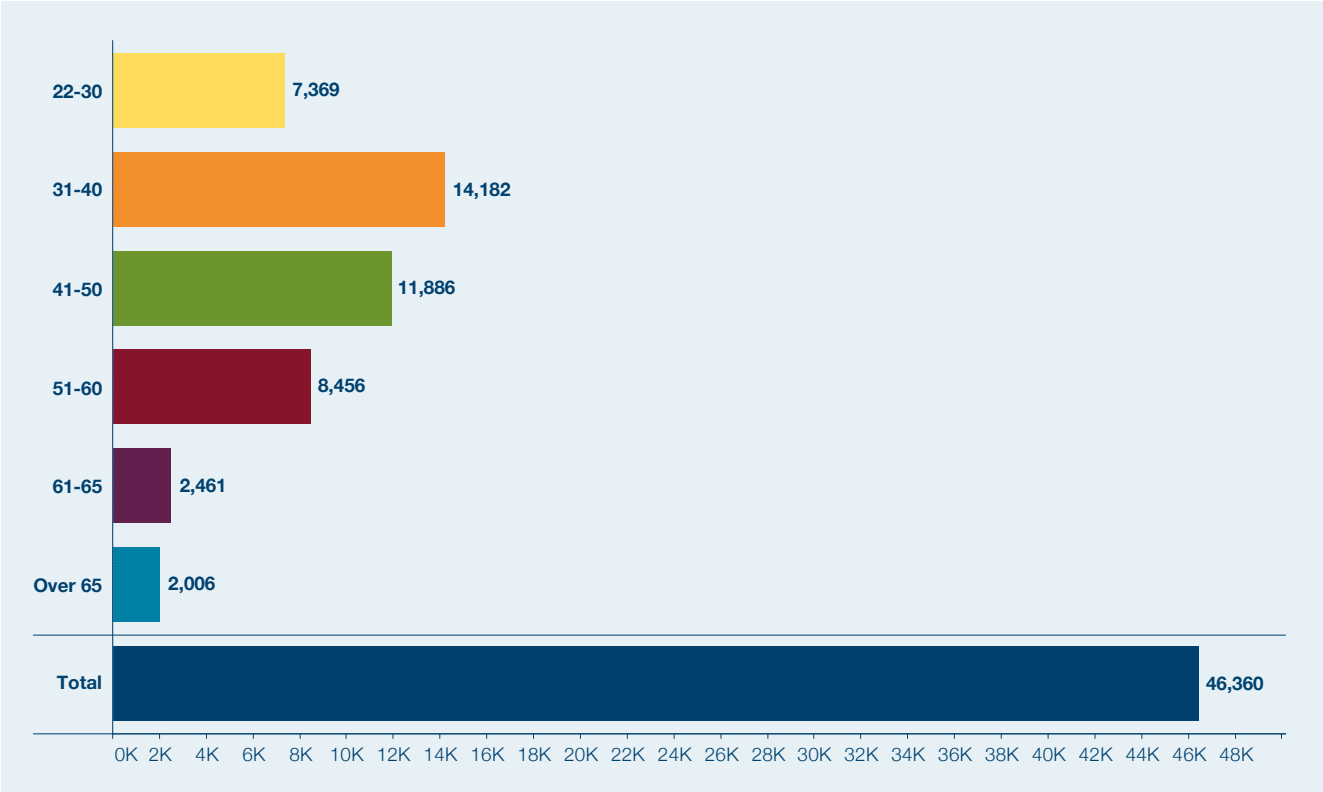
9. Please note historical numbers for DCP male additions to the register have changed following analysis of our data. The new logic reports additions by the 6 titles more accurately. Please note dentist figures remain the same.

Age

Dentist age groupings 2020 – 2024

Age group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
22-30	19.1%	18.6%	18.7%	15.9%	15.9%
31-40	29.6%	30.0%	30.2%	30.6%	30.6%
41-50	25.2%	25.4%	25.3%	25.9%	25.6%
51-60	18.2%	18.1%	17.9%	18.2%	18.2%
61-65	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	5.4%	5.4%
Over 65	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	4.1%	4.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Dentist age groupings 2024¹⁰

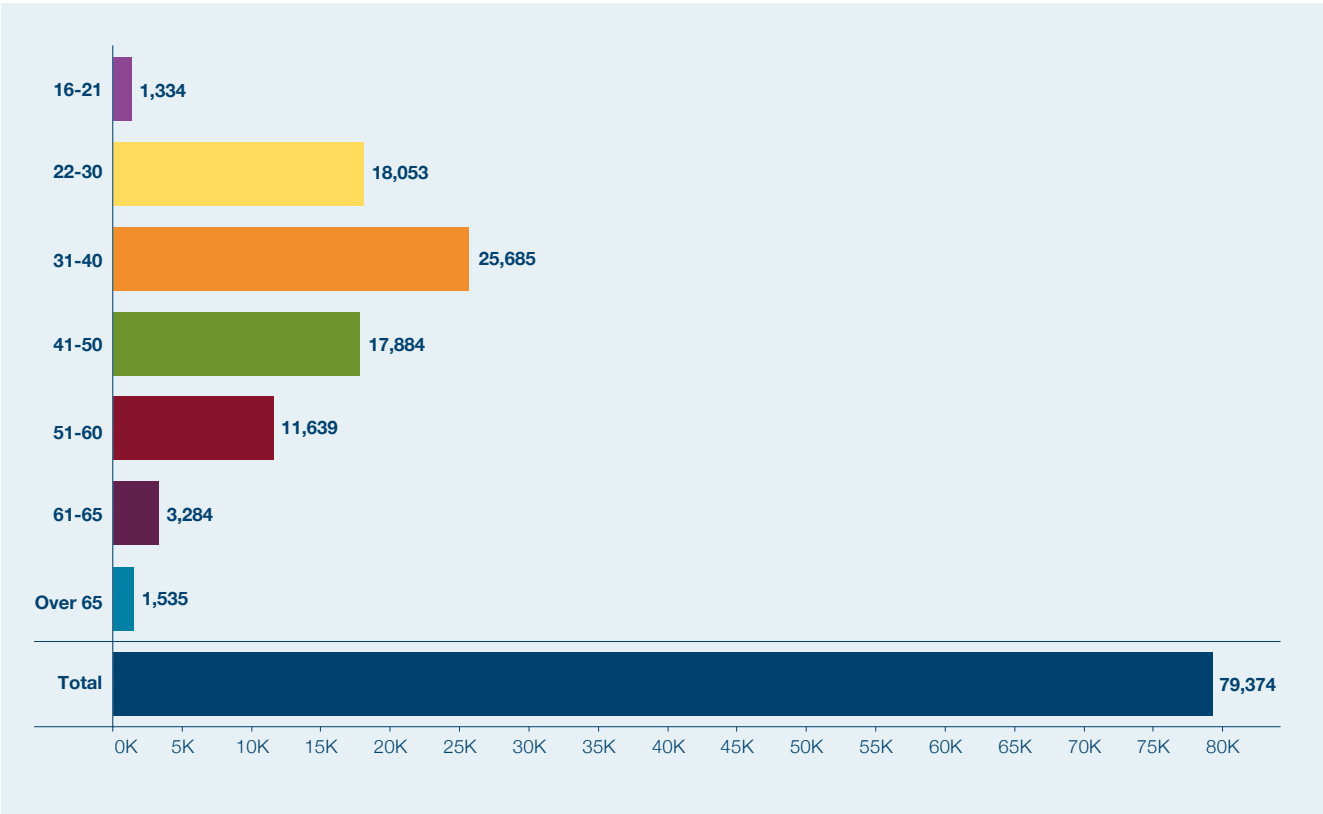


10. Note 2 registrant's age are unknown

DCP age groupings 2020 – 2024

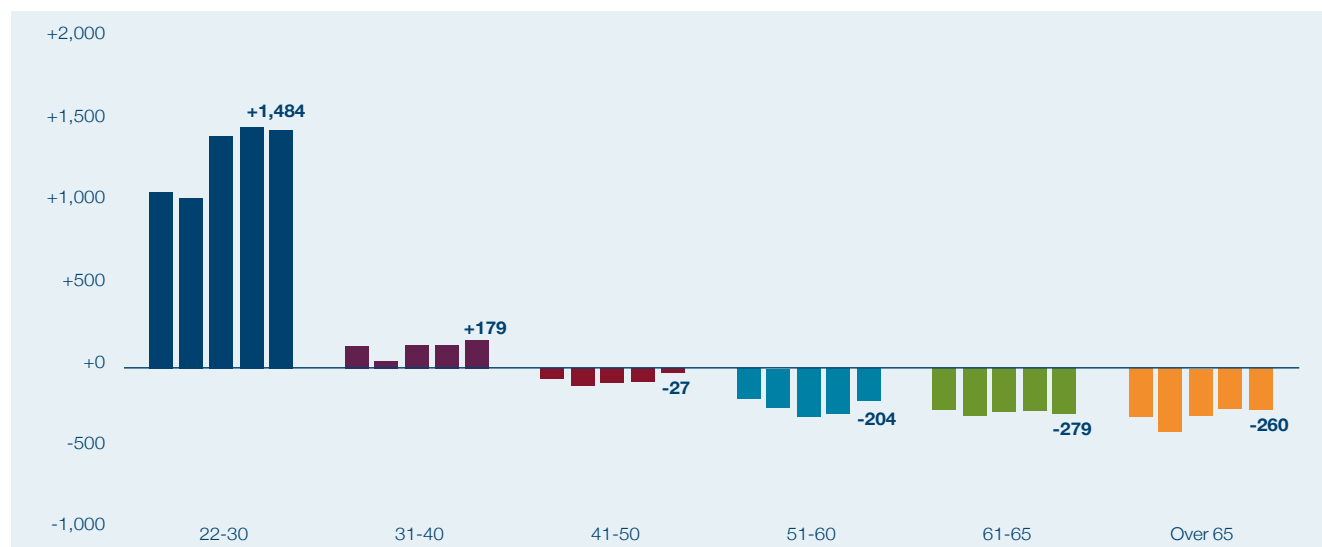
Age group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
16-21	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	1.1%	1.7%
22-30	25.3%	24.7%	23.8%	22.1%	22.7%
31-40	32.0%	32.4%	32.8%	33.2%	32.4%
41-50	21.3%	21.5%	21.8%	22.5%	22.5%
51-60	14.4%	14.5%	14.8%	15.2%	14.7%
61-65	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	4.2%	4.1%
Over 65	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.8%	1.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DCP age groupings 2024



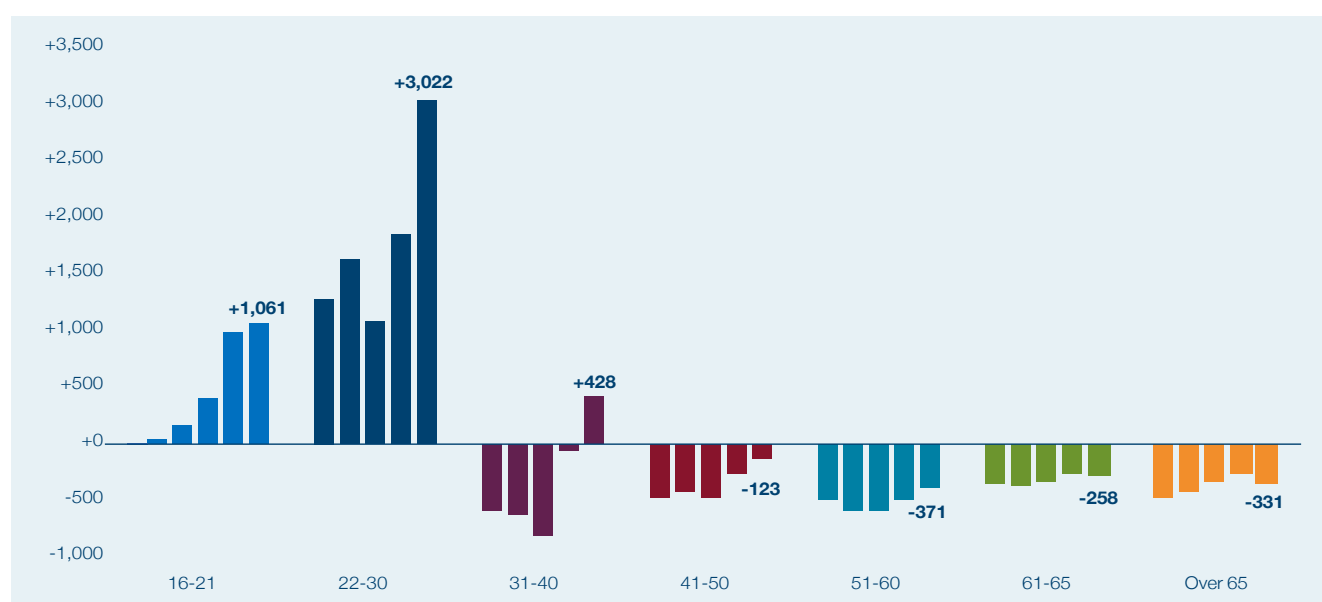
Age group growth and decline

Net growth or decline in dentist age group 2020 – 2024



22-30 is the largest age group in positive net growth over the last five years. In 2022, there was 36% increase in the net positive growth compared to 2021 (i.e. more people joining the register at this age, than leaving the register). In 2024, this increased volume of net positive growth was still consistent in the 22-30 age group, with 1,484 more people joining the register than leaving.

Net growth or decline in DCP age group 2020 – 2024



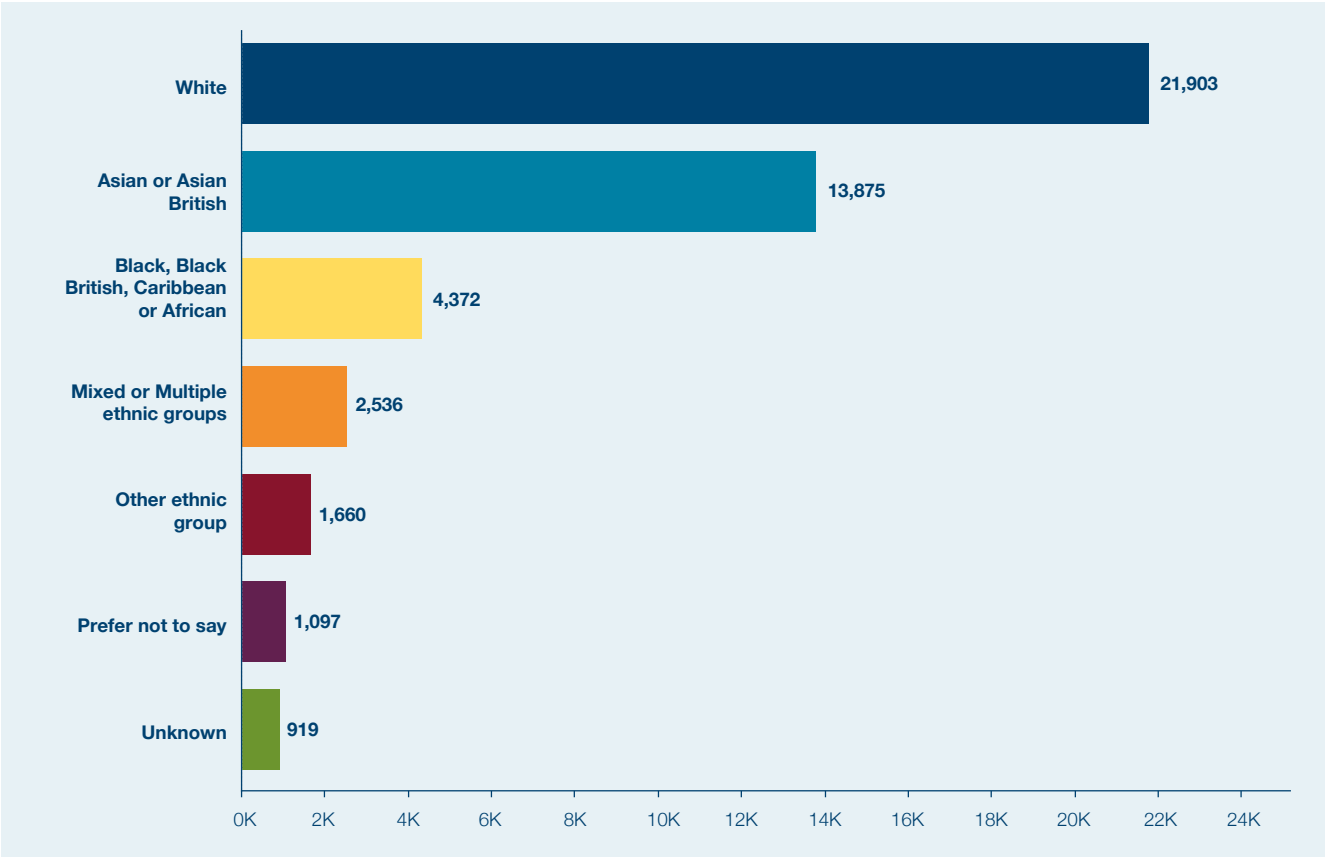
The 16-21 and 22-30 age groups have both seen growth in numbers since 2020, however the patterns are quite different. The number of 16–21-year-olds, grew by over a thousand (1,061) in 2024. However, the next age-group (22–30-year-olds) grew by over double this number in 2024 (3,022). The number of 31–40-year-olds grew for the first time in 2024, by 428. Although the reasons for this are unclear, it may be because of the increased numbers of overseas qualified dental professionals who joined the register in 2023 and 2024. The other age groups all show a net decline, which is a consistent trend of more registrants leaving the register than joining.

Ethnicity

Dentist ethnic groupings 2020 – 2024

Ethnic group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
White	51.9%	50.8%	49.8%	48.6%	47.2%
Asian or Asian British	25.3%	26.3%	27.6%	28.8%	29.9%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%
Other ethnic group	3.9%	4.1%	4.8%	5.1%	5.5%
Prefer not to say	9.4%	9.4%	9.8%	9.6%	9.4%
Unknown	5.7%	5.5%	4.1%	3.7%	3.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

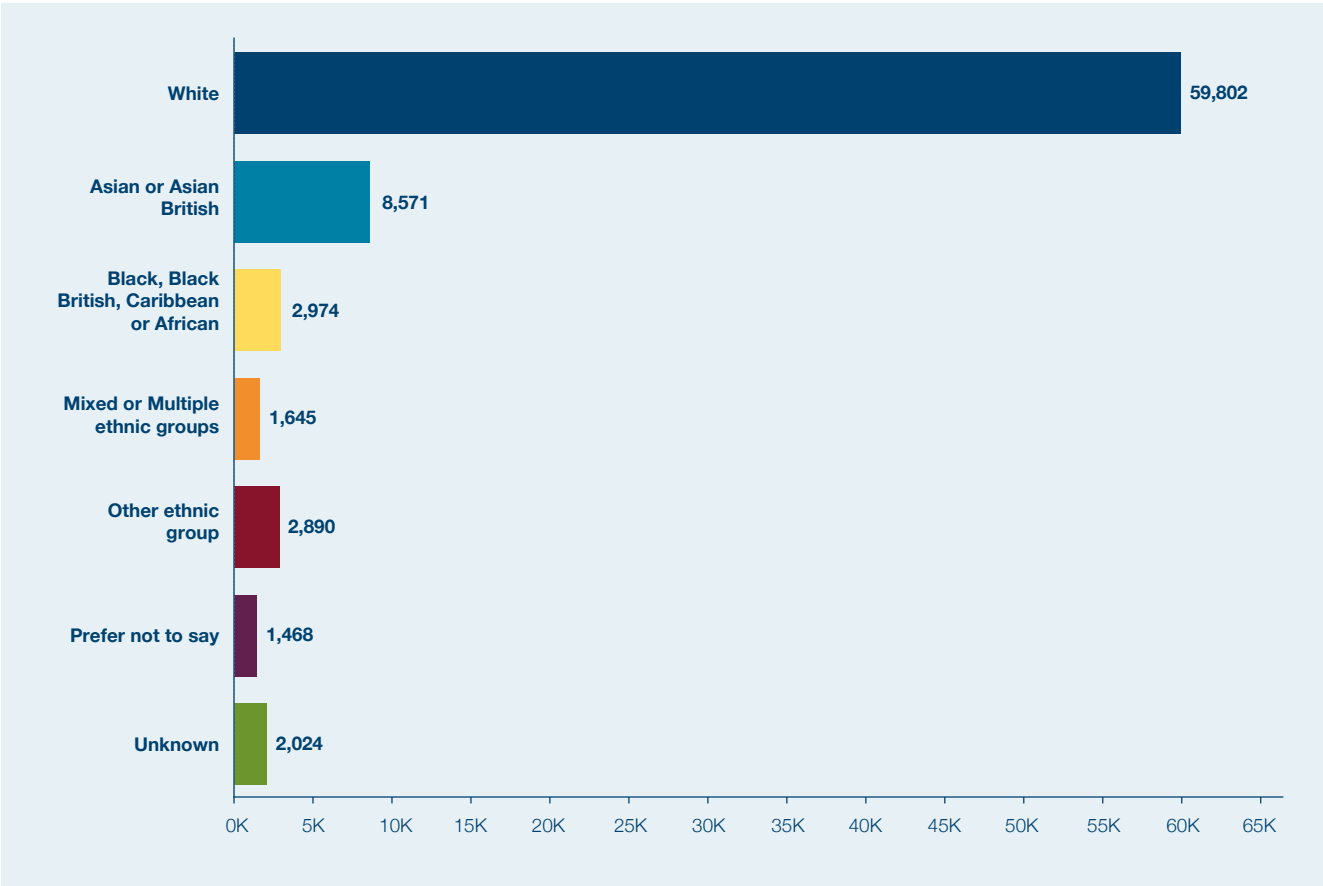
Dentist - ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2024



DCP ethnic groupings 2020 – 2024

Ethnic group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
White	78.4%	77.0%	78.1%	77.4%	75.3%
Asian or Asian British	6.6%	7.3%	8.3%	9.4%	10.8%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.6%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%
Other ethnic group	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	1.9%	2.1%
Prefer not to say	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	3.7%
Unknown	6.6%	7.2%	4.4%	3.3%	3.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DCP - ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2024

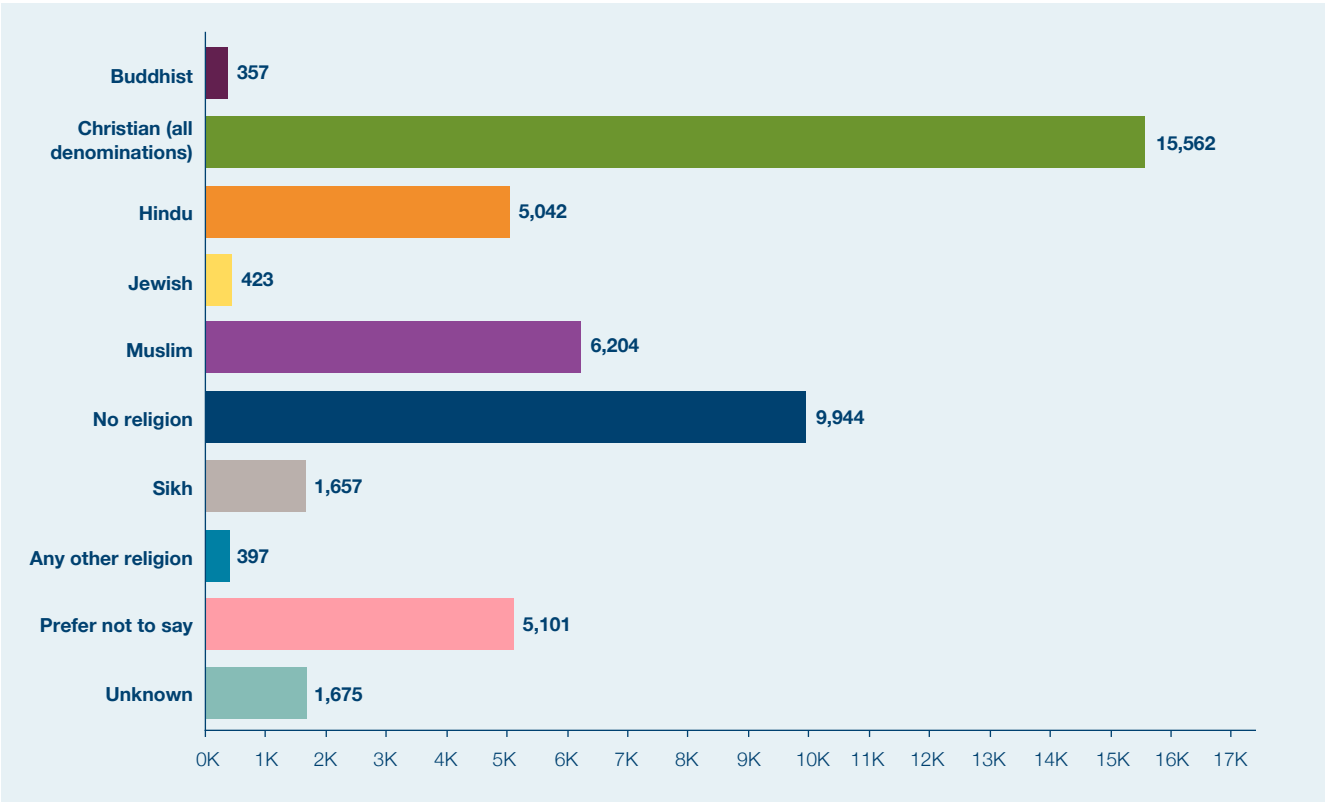


Religion

Dentist religion 2020 – 2024

Religion	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Buddhist	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Christian (all denominations)	36.5%	35.9%	35.3%	34.4%	33.6%
Hindu	10.3%	10.5%	10.6%	10.7%	10.9%
Jewish	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
Muslim	9.8%	10.5%	11.5%	12.5%	13.4%
No religion	19.4%	19.5%	20.9%	21.3%	21.5%
Sikh	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
Any other religion	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Prefer not to say	12.0%	11.9%	11.4%	11.1%	11.0%
Unknown	5.8%	5.5%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

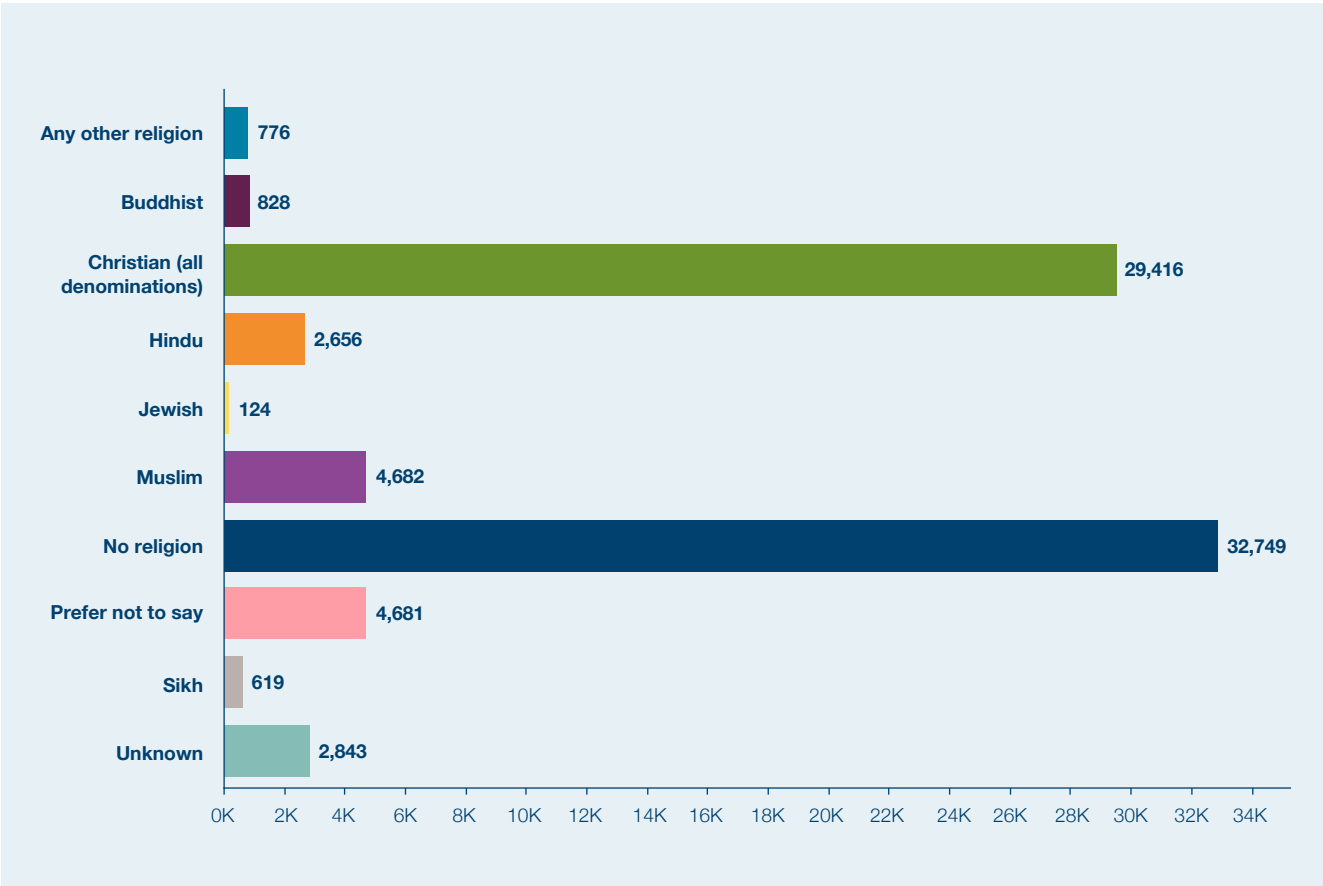
Dentist numbers by religion - 2024



DCP religion 2020 – 2024

Religion	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Any other religion	1.6%	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%
Buddhist	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Christian (all denominations)	40.7%	39.7%	39.3%	38.4%	37.1%
Hindu	2.0%	2.2%	2.6%	2.9%	3.3%
Jewish	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Muslim	3.2%	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%	5.9%
No religion	35.9%	36.3%	39.7%	41.4%	41.3%
Prefer not to say	8.1%	7.6%	6.6%	6.1%	5.9%
Sikh	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Unknown	6.8%	7.3%	4.5%	3.3%	3.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DCP numbers by religion 2024

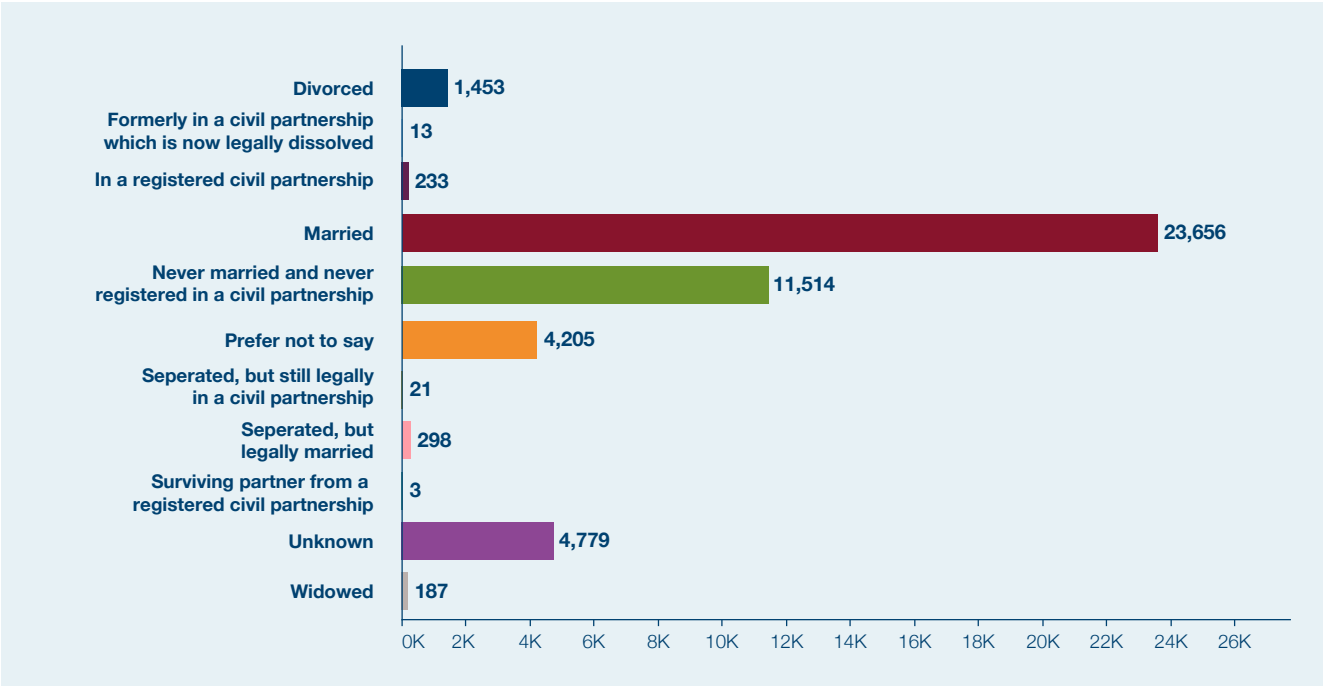


Marital status

Dentist marital status 2020 – 2024

Marital status	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Divorced	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	3.1%
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	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Married	55.3%	54.0%	54.4%	52.6%	51.0%
Never married and never registered in a civil partnership	10.8%	13.2%	18.8%	22.2%	24.8%
Prefer not to say	9.6%	9.4%	9.6%	9.4%	9.1%
Seperated, but still legally in a civil partnership	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Seperated, but still legally married	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Surviving partner from a registered civil partnership	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	19.0%	18.3%	11.9%	10.8%	10.3%
Widowed	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

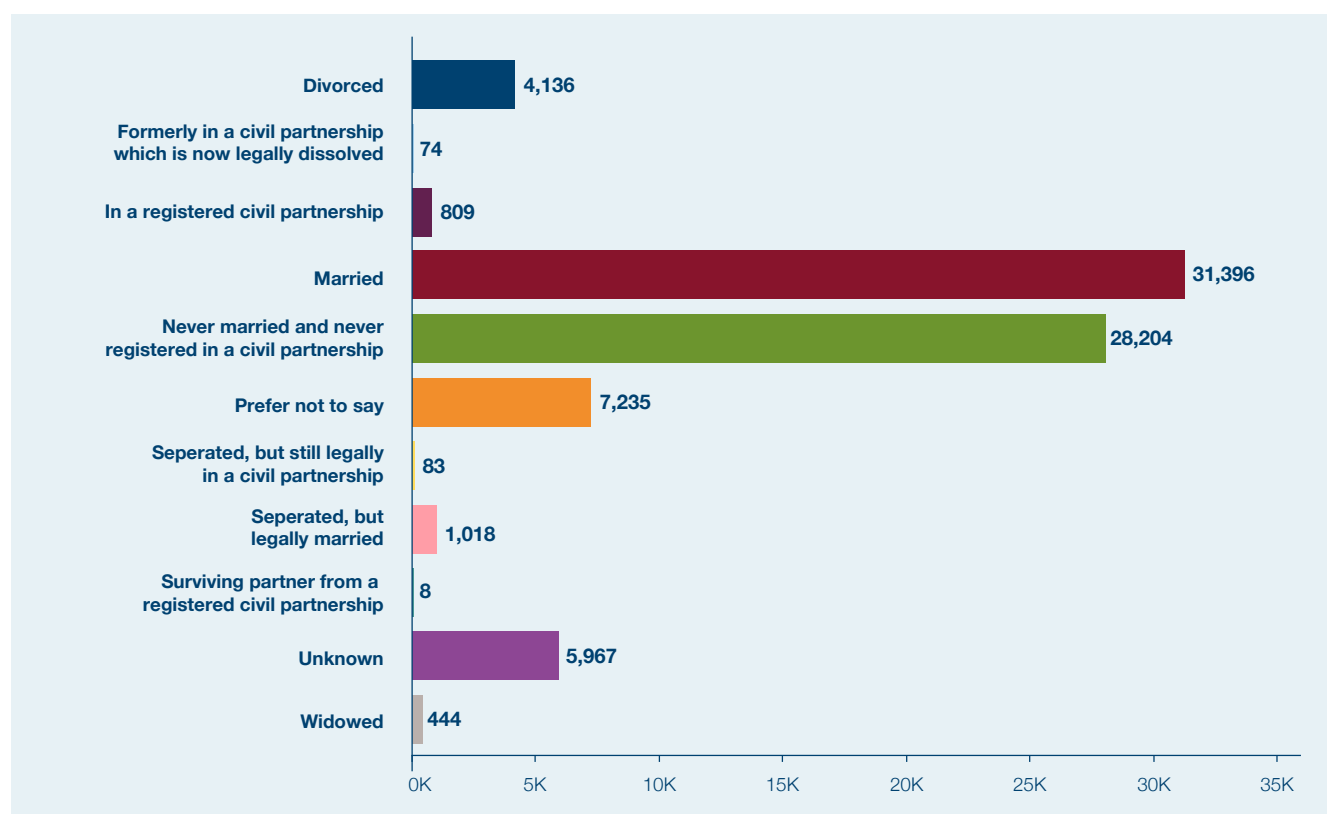
Dentist numbers by marital status 2024



DCP marital status 2020 – 2024

Marital status	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Divorced	5.5%	5.3%	5.7%	5.6%	5.2%
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	1.7%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%
Married	41.3%	40.0%	41.1%	41.2%	39.6%
Never married and never registered in a civil partnership	17.7%	21.3%	28.8%	32.8%	35.5%
Prefer not to say	8.6%	8.6%	9.1%	9.4%	9.1%
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%	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%
Surviving partner from a registered civil partnership	1.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	23.4%	21.6%	11.9%	7.6%	7.5%
Widowed	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DCP numbers by marital status 2024

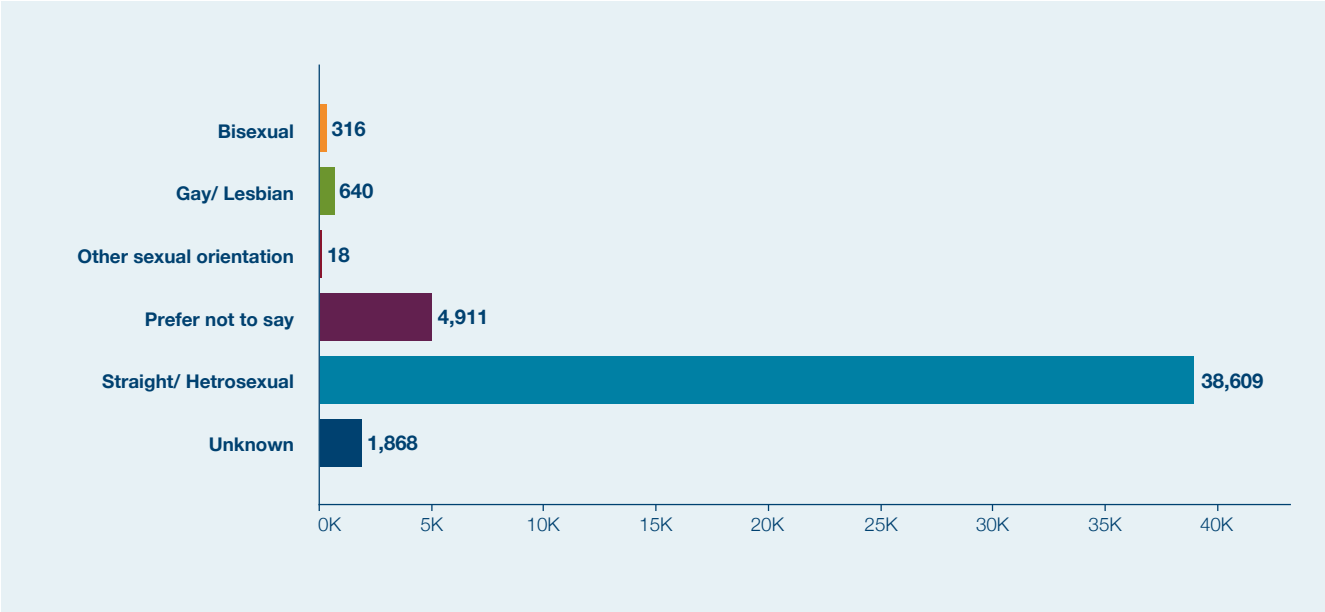


Sexual orientation

Dentist sexual orientation 2020 – 2024

Sexual orientation	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bisexual	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Gay/Lesbian	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Other sexual orientation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	11.3%	11.1%	11.2%	10.9%	10.6%
Straight/Heterosexual	80.2%	80.6%	82.2%	82.8%	83.3%
Unknown	6.5%	6.2%	4.6%	4.2%	4.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

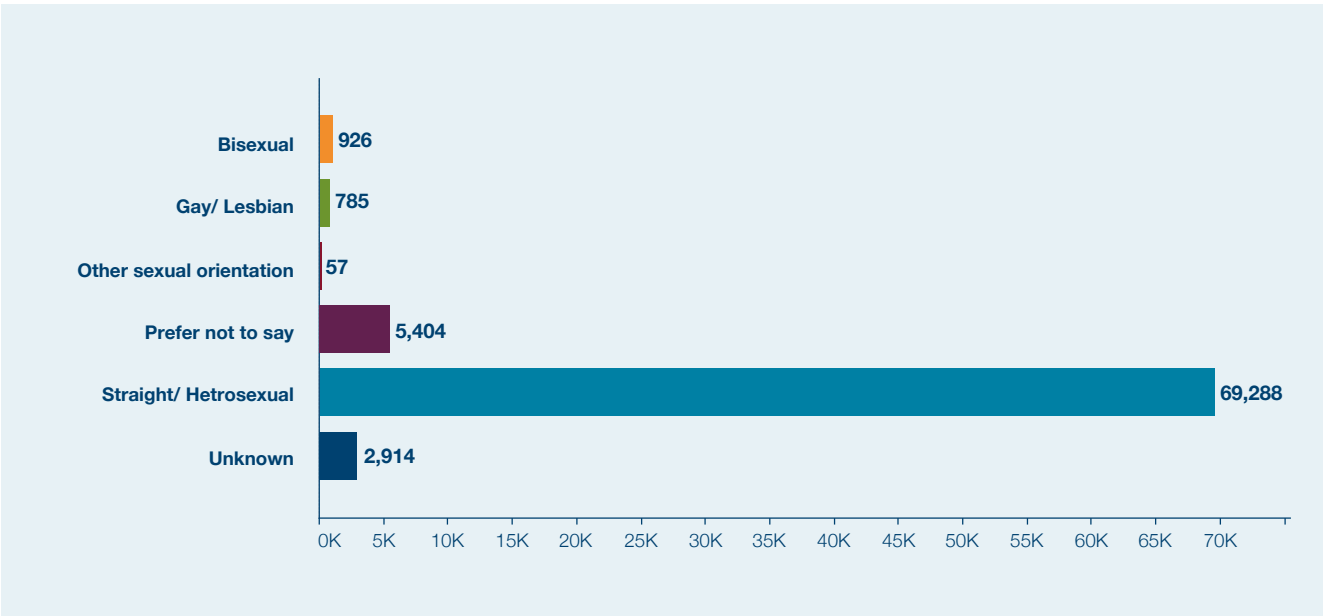
Dentist numbers by sexual orientation 2024



DCP sexual orientation 2020 – 2024

Sexual orientation	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bisexual	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Gay/Lesbian	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Other sexual orientation	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Prefer not to say	8.6%	8.2%	7.5%	7.1%	6.8%
Straight/Heterosexual	82.5%	82.3%	85.8%	87.3%	87.3%
Unknown	6.9%	7.5%	4.6%	3.4%	3.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DCP numbers by sexual orientation 2024



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