

Characteristics of dentists in the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network



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OBJECTIVES

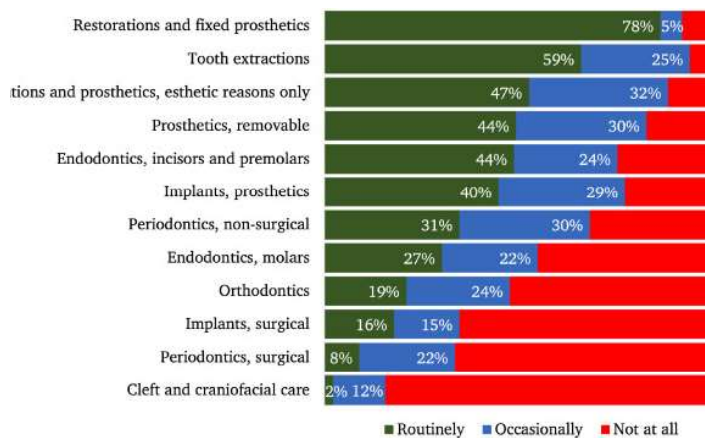
Our aims are to describe the characteristics of dentists, members of the US National Dental practice-based research network (PBRN) in the United States, and determine how often these dentists provide specific dental procedures.

METHODS

Dentists completed a questionnaire when they enrolled in the Network about their demographic and training characteristics and characteristics of their practices and patients. Dentists also reported the frequency of providing specific dental procedures. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS

Of 4,483 dentists in active clinical practice, 34% identified as females, 70% as white, and 73% as general dentists. Most dentists practiced in large metropolitan areas (87%) and in solo or small practices (72%). On average, they reported about one-half of their patients were children or older adults, a third were from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and one-quarter were covered by public insurance. Most dentists routinely performed restorations and fixed prosthetics (78%), extractions (59%), removable prosthetics (44%) and implant (40%) prosthetics, and endodontics on incisor and premolar teeth (44%).



RESULTS cont'd

Table 1

Characteristics of dentists who are active members of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network in 2023.

	N n = 4483	%
Age		
Under 35	171	4%
35 to 44	946	21%
45 to 54	1086	24%
55 to 64	962	21%
65 and older	1318	29%
Sex		
Female	1518	34%
Male	2965	66%
Race and ethnicity		
White	3128	70%
Asian, not East Indian	518	12%
Asian, East Indian	118	3%
Middle Eastern	65	1%
Hispanic or Latino (a), any race	305	7%
Black or African American	193	4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	11	0.2%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	0.2%
Other race	44	1%
More than one race	61	1%
Year of graduation from dental school		
1954–1979	601	13%
1980–1989	1089	24%
1990–1999	902	20%
2000–2009	1085	24%
2010–2022	781	18%
Type of provider		
General dentist	3255	73%
Specialist	1178	27%
Hours worked, per week		
Less than 32 h	822	18%
32 or more hours	3661	82%

*Information was not reported for race and ethnicity (n = 31), graduation year (n = 25), type of provider (n = 50).

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Characteristics of National Dental PBRN dentists suggest that a broad range of dentists is interested in participating in national-level research studies, thereby enabling an array of clinical study settings and topics that can optimize the generalizability of study findings. Dentists participating in the National Dental PBRN have much in common with dentists at large. The network has a broad representation of dentists, practice types, patient populations, and treatments offered, including diversity regarding race/ethnicity, gender, insurance, and geography of its practitioners and patients.