

Dentists

This section provides a detailed analysis of the number, distribution, and selected characteristics of dentists currently practicing in Wyoming.

Verification Data

Overview³⁸

In 2007, 462 dentists held active licenses to practice dentistry in the Wyoming, according to the Wyoming Board of Dental Examiners.³⁹ A list of these active licensees was used to conduct a Wyoming Oral Health Survey that gathered data on dentists practicing in the state through various methods such as paper survey, phone survey, and website searches. This approach produced a 98% verification rate of dentists currently practicing in Wyoming. While this multi-mode process was ideal for obtaining basic practice information, it did not accumulate complete survey data for all practicing dentists. **Therefore, the first part of this section presents basic information gathered through the overall verification process (N=254), while the remainder of the section presents data collected only from returned paper surveys (N=199).**

As shown in Figure 62, 254 (55%) of Wyoming's 462 dentists with active licenses are currently practicing at least part-time in Wyoming. These 254 represent 49 dentists per 100,000 population, well below the national average of 66 (see Figure 63).⁴⁰

Figure 62: Wyoming Dentists N=254

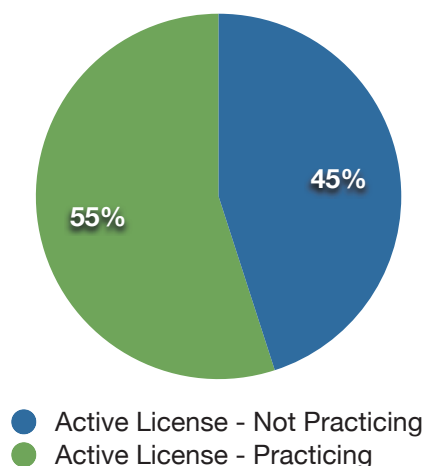
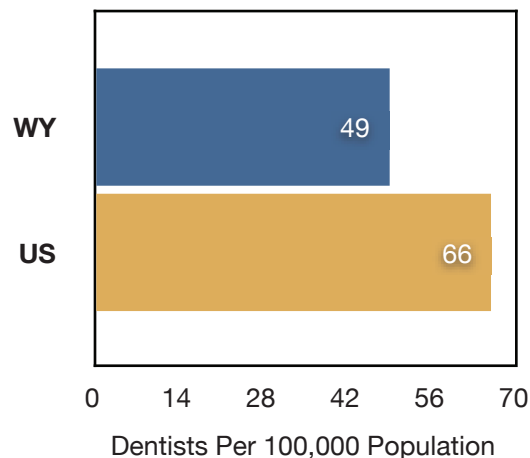


Figure 63: Wyoming Dentists to Population Ratio N=254



³⁸ The Dentist Overview section relies upon all collected data, including returned paper surveys, phone calls, and other collection means.

³⁹ There is currently one dentist licensed in Wyoming working solely in a federal facility in Wyoming.

⁴⁰ Data on dentists per 100,000 civilian population was retrieved on November 19, 2007 from the Kaiser Family Foundation at <http://www.kff.org/insurance/7031/ti2004-5-8.cfm>. All Wyoming population data was retrieved on November 19, 2007 from the US Census Bureau at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/56000.html>.

Figure 64 indicates the total number of dentists working in each of Wyoming’s 23 counties. Laramie County has the most practicing dentists in the state (17% of the state total), while Niobrara County presently does not have a practicing dentist. Laramie and Natrona County dentists currently account for nearly one-third (31%) of all practicing dentists in the state.

Figure 64: Total Practicing Dentists by County N=254

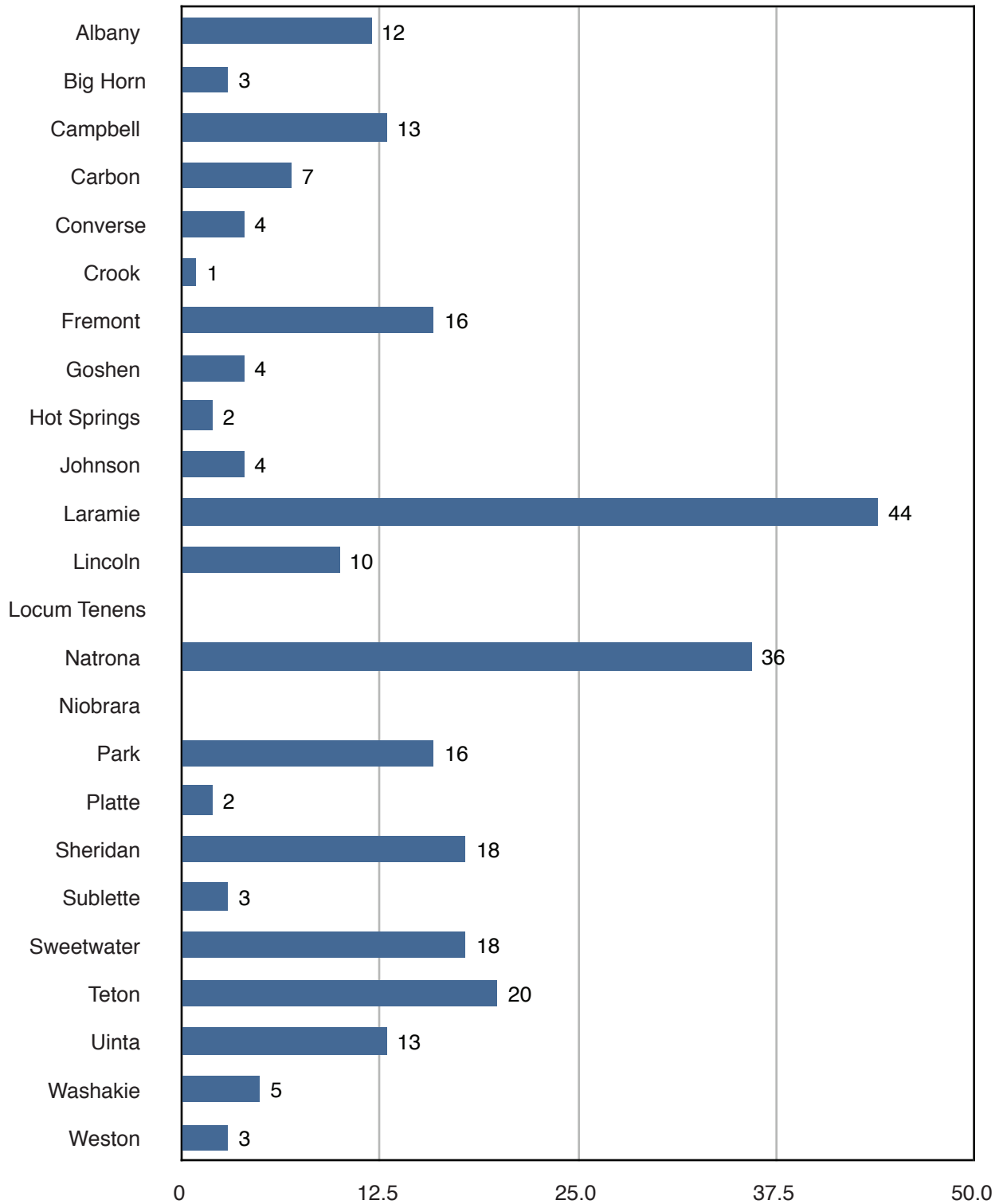
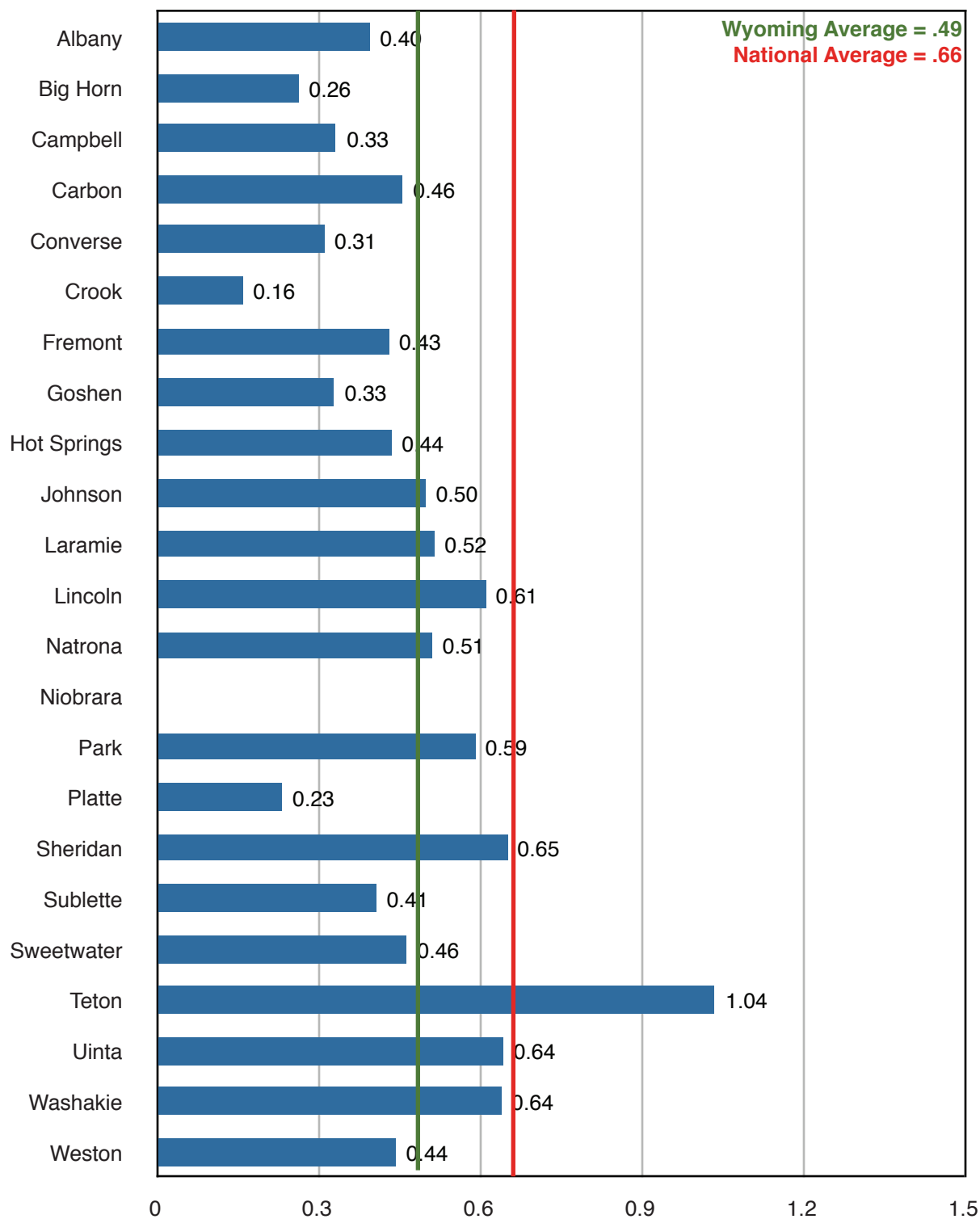


Figure 52 displays the total number of practicing dentists per 1,000 inhabitants in each of Wyoming's 23 counties. Teton County has the highest number of dentists per 1,000 population with 1.04, over twice the state average of 0.49. Sheridan County is second highest with 0.65. Niobrara County has the fewest dentists with zero, and Crook County only has 0.16 dentists per 1,000 population.

Figure 65: Total Practicing Dentists Per 1,000 County Population N=254



Wyoming is a frontier state, where an estimated 515,004 people live in 97,100 square miles (5.3 persons per square mile). The United States Census Bureau has designated Laramie and Natrona counties as Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Albany, Campbell, Fremont, Sheridan, Sweetwater, Teton, and Unita Counties as Micropolitan Statistical Areas. A Metropolitan area contains a core urban area population greater than 50,000, and a Micropolitan Statistical Area contains a core urban area population between 10,000 and 50,000. All other Wyoming counties are designated as rural. Rural refers to any area containing a population of less than 10,000. Figures 66 and 67 break down Wyoming's population by Census designation and illustrate the geographic distribution of dentists in the state based upon the same criteria.⁴¹ Figure 68 displays the geographic distribution of dentists in Wyoming topographically.

Figure 66: Wyoming Population Distribution

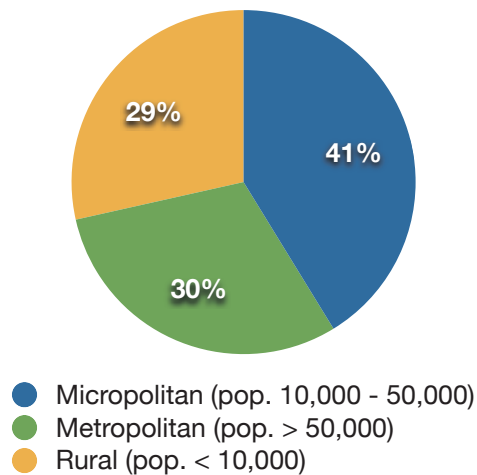
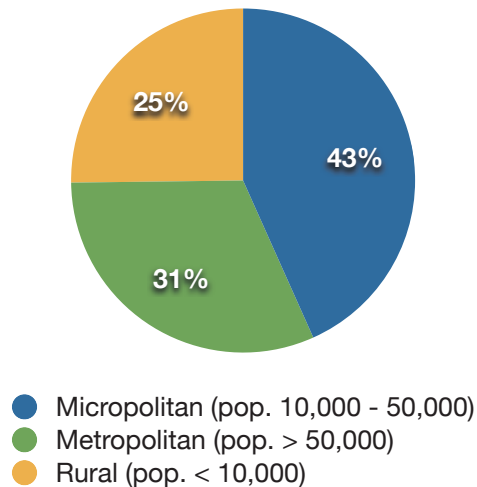
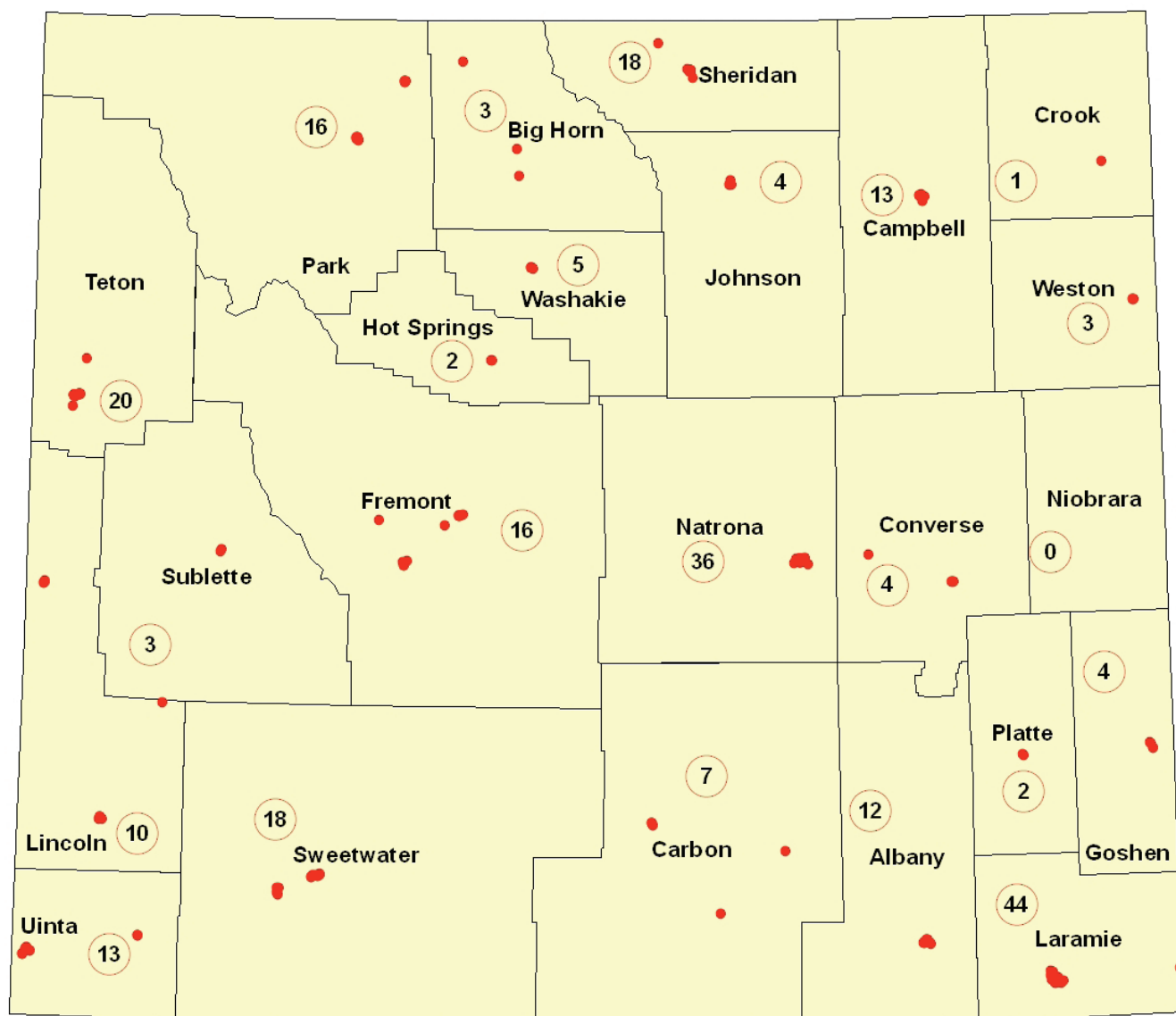


Figure 67: Wyoming Dentist Distribution N=254



⁴¹ US Census Bureau designations retrieved November 21, 2007 from http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro_general/2006/List1.txt.

Figure 68: Wyoming Dentist Distribution Map N=254⁴²



⁴² **Note:** Points on the map indicate dentist locations and the numbers surrounded by circles indicate the total number of dentists in the county.

Survey Response Data

The remainder of the dentist section relies upon the data collected from the returned surveys, as well as supplemental data from sources such as the Kaiser Family Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Work Status

Overall, 78% of Wyoming's dentists responded to the Oral Health Workforce Survey. As shown in Figure 69, less than half of all practicing dentists reported working forty-hours or more per week (48%). Figure 70 displays dentist work status by county, showing Laramie County as having the largest percentage of practicing dentists (18% of the state total), followed by Natrona County (14%). Table 31 provides a detailed analysis by county of the actual number of dentists who responded to the survey.

Figure 69: Dentist Work Status N=199

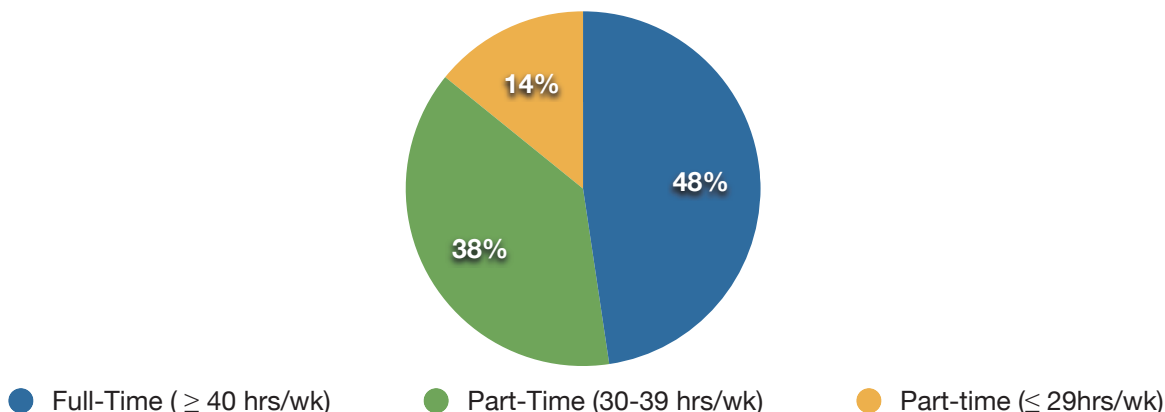


Figure 70: Dentist Work Status by County N=199

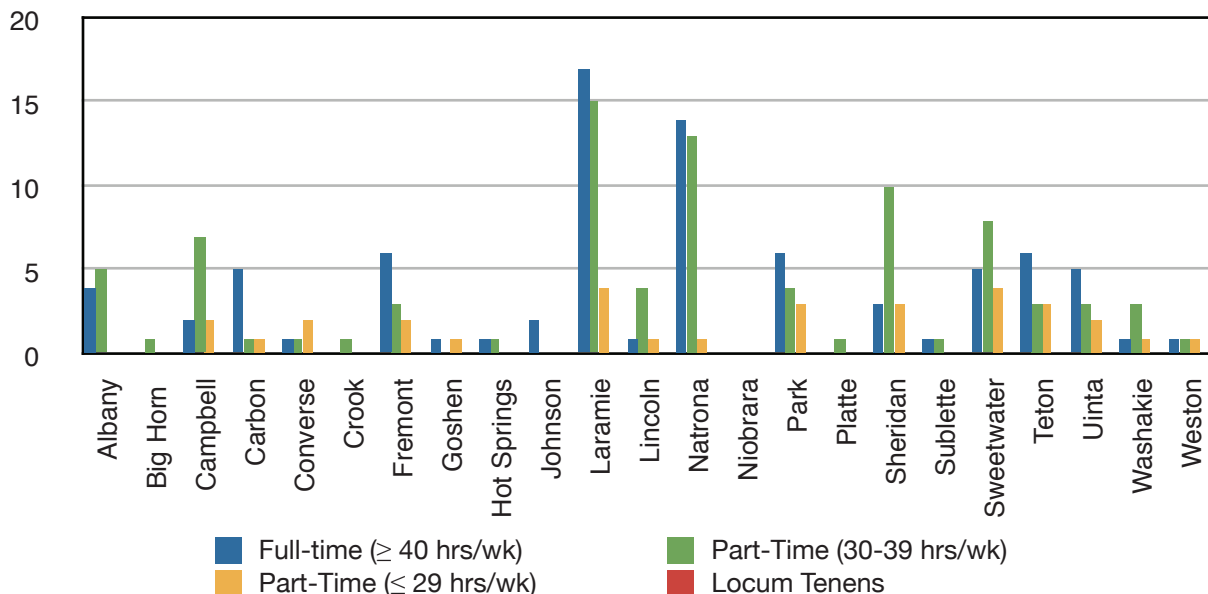


Table 31: Dentist Work Status by County N=199

County	Full-Time (\geq 40 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (30-39 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (\leq 29 hrs/wk)	Locum Tenens	Percentage of Verified Dentists	Total Number of Providers
Albany	4 (44%)	5 (56%)			75%	9
Big Horn		1 (100%)			33%	1
Campbell	2 (18%)	7 (64%)	2 (18%)		85%	11
Carbon	5 (71%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)		100%	7
Converse	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	2 (50%)		100%	4
Crook		1 (100%)			100%	1
Fremont	6 (55%)	3 (27%)	2 (18%)		69%	11
Goshen	1 (50%)		1 (50%)		50%	2
Hot Springs	1 (50%)	1 (50%)			100%	2
Johnson	2 (100%)				50%	2
Laramie	17 (47%)	15 (42%)	4 (11%)		82%	36
Lincoln	1 (17%)	4 (67%)	1 (17%)		60%	6
Natrona	14 (50%)	13 (46%)	1 (4%)		78%	28
Niobrara						
Park	6 (46%)	4 (31%)	3 (23%)		81%	13
Platte		1 (100%)			50%	1
Sheridan	3 (19%)	10 (63%)	3 (19%)		89%	16
Sublette	1 (50%)	1 (50%)			67%	2
Sweetwater	5 (29%)	8 (47%)	4 (24%)		94%	17
Teton	6 (50%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)		60%	12
Uinta	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	2 (20%)		77%	10
Washakie	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	1 (20%)		100%	5
Weston	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)		100%	3
Wyoming	82 (41%)	86 (43%)	31 (16%)			199

Demographics

As seen in Figure 71, 88% of dentists are male, higher than the national average of 78%.⁴³ Figure 72 displays dentist ethnicity: 96% reported their ethnicity as White/Caucasian. As shown in Figure 73, over one-half (56%) of all practicing dentists reported being over the age of fifty-one.

Figure 71: Dentist Gender N=199

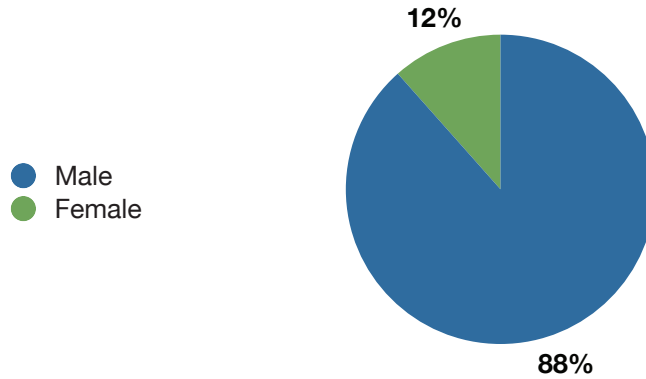


Figure 72: Dentist Ethnicity N=199

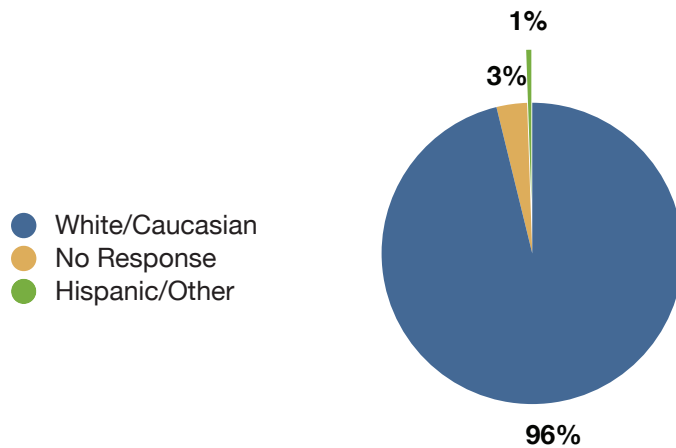
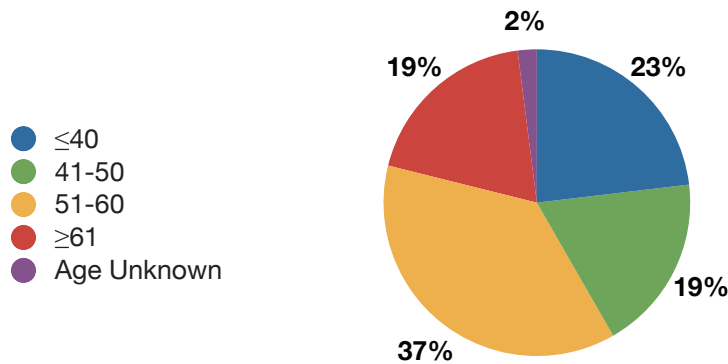


Figure 73: Dentist Age N=199



⁴³ National data on dentist gender retrieved November 19, 2007 from the Kaiser Family Foundation at <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=443&cat=8>.

Table 32: Dentists by Age and Gender N=199

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤ 40	9 (19.6%)	37 (80.4%)	46 (23.1%)
41-50	9 (24.3%)	28 (75.7%)	37 (18.6%)
51-60	2 (2.7%)	72 (97.3%)	74 (37.2%)
≥ 61	2 (5.3%)	36 (94.7%)	38 (19.1%)
age unknown	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4 (2%)
Total	23 (11.6%)	176 (88.4%)	199

Specialties

As shown in Table 33, the majority of dentists currently practicing in Wyoming specialize in General Dentistry (85%), followed by Orthodontics (6%).

Table 33: Self-Reported Dental Specialties N=199⁴⁴

Specialty	Number of Dentists	Female (%)	Male (%)
Total	199	23 (12%)	176 (88%)
Endodontic	4 (2%)		4 (100%)
General Dentistry	169 (85%)	22 (13%)	147 (87%)
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Radiology	2 (1%)		2 (100%)
Oral Surgery	3 (1.5%)		3 (100%)
Orthodontic	11 (6%)	1 (9%)	10 (91%)
Pediatrics	5 (3%)		5 (100%)
Periodontics	5 (3%)		5 (100%)

⁴⁴ **Note:** Formal training and/or certification for **self-reported** specialty designation has not been verified.

Table 34: Self-Reported Dental Specialties N=199

Specialty	Total	Albany	Big Horn	Campbell	Carbon	Converse	Crook	Fremont	Goshen	Hot Springs	Johnson	Laramie	Lincoln	Natrona	Niobrara	Park	Platte	Sheridan	Sublette	Sweetwater	Teton	Uinta	Washakie	Weston
Total	199	9	1	11	7	4	1	11	2	2	2	36	6	28		13	1	16	2	17	12	10	5	3
Endodontic	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
General Dentistry	169	8	1	10	7	4	1	10	2	2	2	26	6	22		12	1	14	2	13	8	10	5	3
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Radiolog	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Orthodontic	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3		1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Pediatrics	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Periodontics	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Educational Background

Figure 74 displays the location of the high schools from which Wyoming dentists graduated: 45% of all dentist respondents reported graduating from a Wyoming high school and there was little difference between the number of Wyoming dentists graduating from a high school in the Wyoming Area (i.e., a Wyoming border state)⁴⁵ or elsewhere.

Figure 74: Dentist High School Location N=199

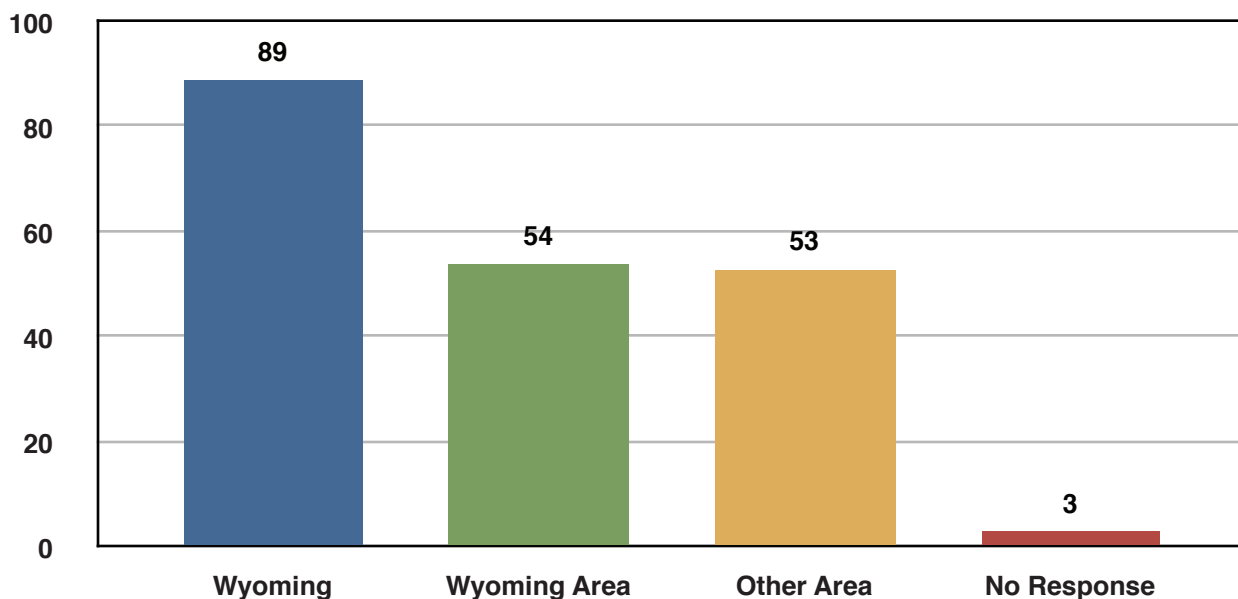


Table 35 details the education of Wyoming dentists by state. Wyoming dentists receive their dental education from Nebraska at the highest rate (50%), followed by Illinois (6%) and Missouri (5%). .

⁴⁵ Wyoming Area includes Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah.

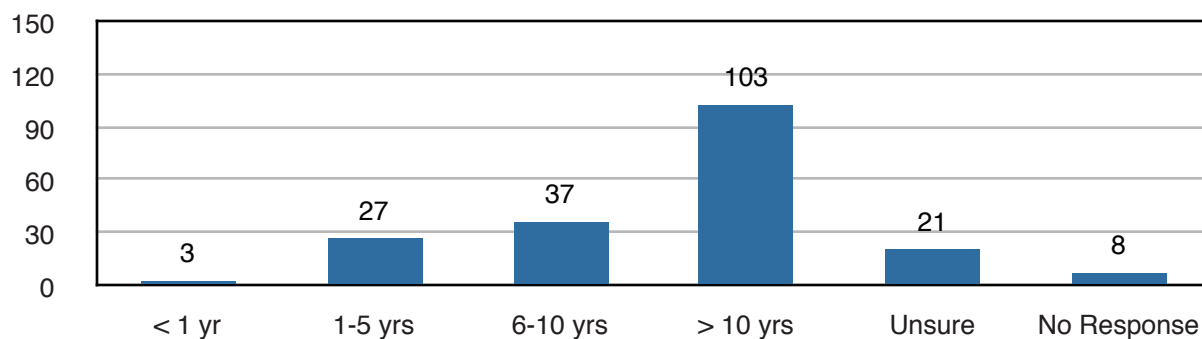
Table 35: Self-Reported Dentist Education by State N=199

State	Total	Dental	Dental Specialty	Medicine	Other	Post Graduate	Residency	Undergraduate
Total	557	228	37	1	8	7	17	259
Nebraska	155	114	7			1	3	30
Wyoming	83					2		81
Utah	61					1	1	59
Minnesota	24	10	2					12
Missouri	21	12	2			1	2	4
California	20	9	4		2	1		4
Colorado	18	5	2				1	10
Illinois	18	14	1		1		1	1
Iowa	16	11	1		1			3
Ohio	14	7	3				1	3
Texas	12	4	4				2	2
Kentucky	9	7			1			1
Idaho	8							8
Pennsylvania	8	3	3					2
South Dakota	7				1			6
Indiana	6	2						4
Michigan	6	2					1	3
New York	6	1	3					2
Oregon	6	5		1				
Wisconsin	6	3	1					2
Virginia	5	3			1		1	
West Virginia	5	3						2
Georgia	4	1	1				1	1
Massachusetts	4	3	1					
Washington	4	1				1	1	1
Louisiana	3	2						1
Maryland	3	1						2
North Carolina	3	1						2
Tennessee	3	1					1	1
Foreign	3	1						2
Arizona	2						1	1
Montana	2							2
Oklahoma	2							2
Alabama	1		1					
Arkansas	1							1
District Of Columbia	1		1					
Florida	1	1						
Kansas	1							1
North Dakota	1							1
New Mexico	1							1
Nevada	1							1
South Carolina	1	1						
Vermont	1				1			

Relocation Timeframes

Figure 75 reports the relocation plans of practicing Wyoming dentists. The majority of practicing dentists (52%) reported no plans to change practice for ten years or more, while only three dentists reported plans to change practice in less than one year. Twenty-seven dentists (14%) reported plans to change practice within five years.⁴⁶

Figure 75: Dentist Relocation Timeframes N=199



Openings

Table 36 reports the number of dentist openings (both replacement openings and expansion openings) self-reported by practice locations.

Table 36: Dentist Openings by County N=473

County	Total	Replacement	Practice Expansion
Total	1	1	0
Albany			
Big Horn			
Campbell			
Carbon			
Converse			
Crook			
Fremont	1	1	
Goshen			
Hot Springs			
Johnson			
Laramie			
Lincoln			
Natrona			
Niobrara			
Park			
Platte			
Sheridan			
Sublette			
Sweetwater			
Teton			
Uinta			
Washakie			
Weston			
Locum Tenens	0	0	0

⁴⁶ Dentists were not asked separate questions regarding relocation and retirement. They were asked in one question about their plans to leave practice.

Dental Locations

Table 37 details the locations where Wyoming dentists reported practicing. Laramie and Natrona counties contain nearly one-third of all dental locations in Wyoming (30%). Niobrara County does not have a dental location.

Table 37: Dental Locations by County and City N=199

County	City	Number of Dental Locations
	Total All Cities	241
Albany	Laramie	13
	Subtotal	13
Big Horn	Basin	1
	Greybull	1
	Lovell	1
	Shell	
	Subtotal	3
Campbell	Gillette	14
	Wright	
	Subtotal	14
Carbon	Baggs	
	Elk Mountain	1
	Hanna	
	Medicine Bow	
	Rawlins	2
	Saratoga	2
	Subtotal	5
Converse	Douglas	4
	Glenrock	2
	Subtotal	6
Crook	Hulett	
	Moorcroft	1
	Sundance	1
	Subtotal	2
Fremont	Arapahoe	1
	Dubois	1
	Fort Washakie	1
	Lander	6
	Riverton	9
	Subtotal	18
Goshen	Torrington	4
	Subtotal	4
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	2
	Subtotal	2
Johnson	Buffalo	5
	Kaycee	
	Subtotal	5
Laramie	Cheyenne	37
	FE Warren Afb	
	Pine Bluffs	1

County	City	Number of Dental Locations
	Subtotal	38
Lincoln	Afton	4
	Alpine	1
	Cokeville	
	Diamondville	2
	Kemmerer	2
	Thayne	1
	Subtotal	10
Natrona	Casper	35
	Subtotal	35
Niobrara	Lusk	
	Subtotal	
Park	Cody	8
	Mammoth	
	Powell	5
	Yellowstone National	
	Subtotal	13
Platte	Guernsey	
	Wheatland	2
	Subtotal	2
Sheridan	Ranchester	1
	Sheridan	15
	Subtotal	16
Sublette	Big Piney	1
	Marbleton	1
	Pinedale	3
	Subtotal	5
Sweetwater	Green River	8
	Point Of Rocks	
	Rock Springs	11
	Subtotal	19
Teton	Jackson	14
	Teton Village	
	Wilson	
	Subtotal	14
Uinta	Evanston	7
	Lyman	2
	Subtotal	9
Washakie	Worland	5
	Subtotal	5
Weston	Newcastle	2
	Upton	1
	Subtotal	3
Locum Tenens	Subtotal	