



2021

2020 Kentucky Dental Workforce Update

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2020 Kentucky Dental Workforce Update

- **3,045** dentists renewed their Kentucky dental licensure in 2020.
- **2,733** dentists report working within the state of Kentucky.
- Of the dentists **working in Kentucky**, **82.3%** describe themselves as "general dentists".

Licensure Type	Number	Percent
General Dentist	2,250	82.3%
Specialist	488	17.7%

- **17.7%** describe themselves as "specialists" and the majority practice orthodontistry.

Specialty Type	Number	Percent
Orthodontist	136	28%
Pediatric Dentistry	121	25%
Oral Surgeon	107	22%
Periodontist	59	12%
Endodontist	46	10%
Prosthodontist	13	2%
Oral Pathologist	5	1%
Oral Radiologist	1	0.001%

- There continues to be a maldistribution of dentists in Kentucky.
- The table below illustrates the ratio of providers to individuals in geographic catchments of interest:

Geographical catchment	Number of Counties	Population	Number of Dentists	Ratio
Kentucky	120	4,468,402	2,289	1:1,952
Appalachia	54	1,163,748	395	1:2,946
Rural	86	1,844,565	561	1:3,288
Urban	34	2,623,837	1,654	1:1,586

- Seven counties have **no** dentist (Ballard, Fulton, Garrard, Jackson, Owsley, Robertson, and Trimble), four of which are rural Appalachian, two are rural, and one is urban.
- 33% of dentists in Kentucky are working in either Fayette (12%) or Jefferson (21%) county.
- 60 out of 120 Kentucky counties have less than 5 dentists working in those counties, 50 of those counties are either Appalachian, rural, or rural Appalachian.

There is also a maldistribution of specialty dental providers in Kentucky:

	Specialty Providers
Appalachia	56
Rural	100
Urban	348

Note: There are some counties that are both rural and Appalachian, therefore there will be some overlap in the total numbers

Geographical Distribution of Dentists in Kentucky by Recommended Dental Provider Ratios

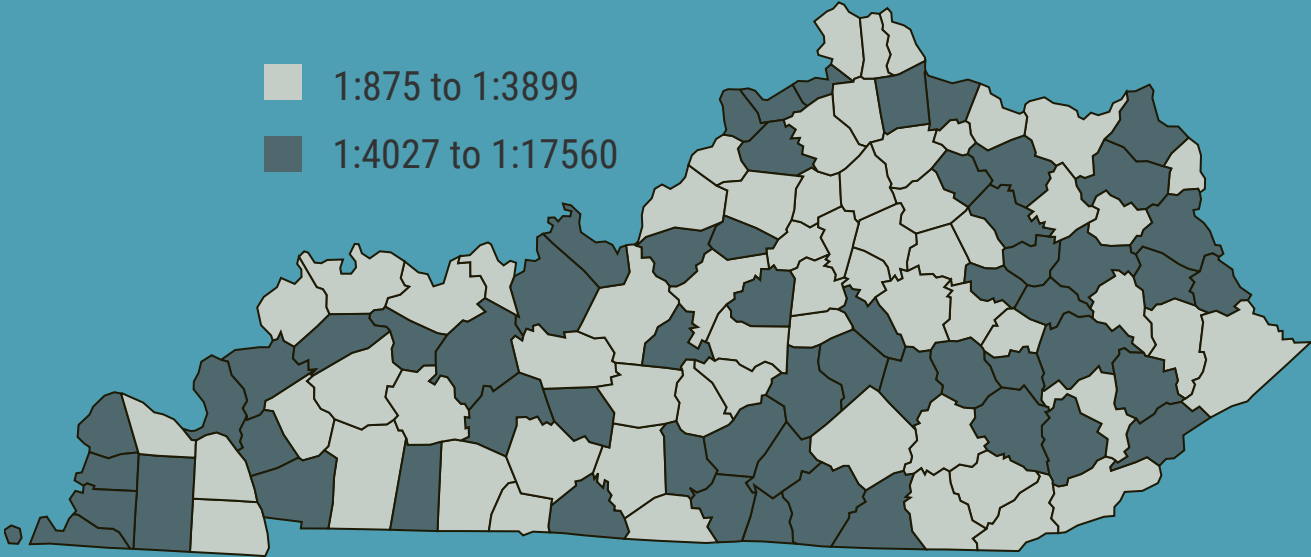


Figure 1 illustrates the counties in reference to the recommended ratio of dental providers (1:4000 (for high need areas)). The lightest counties in the legend are below or at the provider recommendation and the darker colored counties are higher than the recommended ratio.

Methods: Kentucky Board of Dentistry licensure was accessed on 2/19/2020. Data was cleaned by removing duplicate cases (541 or 15.1% of the original data were duplicates). Missing and incorrect county information was recoded using the data in the city column. Trigg county was included in the rural calculations as all tracts within Trigg are identified as rural. Frequencies and descriptions were calculated using IBM SPSS version 26.