

Annual ADEA Survey of Dental School Seniors: 2008 Graduating Class

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The annual survey of U.S. dental school seniors conducted by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) collects information on selected characteristics of graduating dental school seniors. The survey seeks information regarding the reasons students pursued a career in dentistry, how students financed their dental education, students' educational debt and percent levels of debt, their practice and postdoctoral educational plans following graduation, and their opinions of the time spent on instruction in various subject areas.

ADEA distributes the survey instrument and response sheet to each dental school in the United States. Each school then uses its own distribution and collection system to obtain responses from their seniors. Once completed, the surveys are returned to ADEA for analysis. For the 2008 survey, the overall response rate was 78 percent (the total number of 2008 graduating seniors was obtained from the American Dental Association).

The following targeted summary focuses on presenting key findings and information from the 2008 survey. The appendix includes a selection of previously unpublished survey summary tables from the 2007 survey of dental school seniors.

Demographic, Parents', and Career Choice Information

Tables 1–7 present information on survey respondents' demographics, parental income and background, and factors related to students' decision to pursue dentistry as a career. Key findings are as follows:

- Of 2008 graduating seniors who completed the survey, 11 percent were from underrepresented minority groups, a similar percentage to previous years. The percentage of female graduating seniors (44 percent) was also similar to prior years' graduating classes.
- Two-thirds of dental school seniors did not decide to pursue a career in dentistry until after entering college. The top three reasons graduating seniors pursued dentistry as a career were the ability to control time for work in relation to family and personal interests, the desire to serve others, and the opportunity to be self-employed. The most influential factor reported by seniors as to why they choose dentistry was a dentist family member, relative, or friend.

Dental Education Expenses

Tables 8–16 present information on graduating seniors' educational debt, grants, loans, and scholarships, including information broken down by type of institution and race/ethnicity of students. Key findings are as follows:

- Nearly 60 percent of 2008 dental school seniors reported entering dental school without any educational debt.
- Between 2007 and 2008, across all schools, educational debt at graduation increased by 10 percent. In 2008, the average reported educational debt upon graduation from dental school was \$170,000. The average debt upon graduation was lower at public dental schools (\$143,000) than at private and state-related dental schools (\$205,000).

- Nine percent of graduating seniors reported leaving dental school without any educational debt. Over half of students reported having debt of \$175,000 or higher, including approximately 10 percent who reported debt higher than \$300,000.

Dental Preparedness and Care

Tables 17 and 18 present information on graduating seniors' attitudes and opinions about the amount of time they spent and sense of preparedness they gained across a wide range of instructional areas, training, situations, and professional obligations. Key findings are as follows:

- Across most education and training areas, such as basic sciences, restorative dentistry, and ethics, most graduating seniors reported that the time devoted to instruction was "just right." However, nearly 40 percent of seniors noted that "not enough" time was devoted to practice administration, orthodontics, implant dentistry, and organization and financing of health services.
- A robust majority of seniors reported feeling prepared to perform across a wide range of areas, including operative/restorative dentistry, pediatric oral health, and geriatric oral health care. In contrast, over three-quarters of seniors reported feeling less than prepared for practice administration.

Plans After Graduation

Tables 19–27 present information on graduating seniors' plans both immediately following graduation and ten years after graduation. Key findings are as follows:

- As in previous years, most graduating seniors (53 percent) planned to enter private practice or pursue advanced education (38 percent). A small percentage (6 percent) planned to pursue some kind of government service.
- In the longer term, nearly all graduating seniors (90 percent) planned to remain or move into private practice, while a fraction of seniors (3 percent) planned to remain or pursue government service or employment at a dental school/other academic-research setting.

Community-Based Dental Education

Tables 28–32 detail students' responses to and attitudes about their community-based clinic experiences. Key findings are as follows:

- Over the four years comprising dental school, 60 percent of seniors reported spending four weeks or longer providing dental care at an extramural clinic.
- Nearly 75 percent of seniors rated their extramural clinic experience as "positive" or "very positive." Almost half of the seniors reported that the experience improved their ability to care for racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse groups, while a much smaller percentage reported that the experience increased their interest in treating patients from underserved populations (28 percent) or in having any influence on practice plans (16 percent).

Attitudes About School Environment and Access to Oral Health Care

Tables 33–37 cover graduating seniors' attitudes about access to oral health care issues as well as the school environment. Key findings are as follows:

- Nearly three-quarters of all seniors reported that their school environment promotes acceptance of and respect for students and patients of different races, ethnicities, and cultures, although, across different race/ethnicity groups, slightly smaller percentages were reported by Native American and African American students.
- Seventy percent of graduating seniors felt that ensuring and providing care to all segments of society is an ethical and professional obligation and that access to oral health in the United States is a major problem. Nearly 60 percent of seniors thought that every individual is entitled to receive basic oral health care regardless of ability to pay.

Postdoctoral Education

Tables 38 and 39 include information on graduating seniors' specific postdoctoral education plans as well as their opinions about required postdoctoral dental education. Key findings are as follows:

- The percentage of 2008 seniors who reported having applied to a postdoctoral dental education program (48 percent) was nearly identical to prior years.
- About 35 percent of graduating seniors thought at least one year of postdoctoral dental education should be required, while half of students felt that zero years should be required.

Table 1. Gender and race/ethnicity of graduating seniors, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Percent of Respondents
Female/Male	44.3%/55.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	20.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.8%
Black/African American	4.6%
Hispanic/Latino	5.4%
White (Non-Hispanic)	62.3%
Multiracial	0.7%
Other or Not Reported	5.8%

Table 2. Level of education of parents of graduating seniors, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Father	Level of Education	Mother
43.5%	Graduate degree or some graduate school	23.5%
34.3%	College graduate or some college	49.3%
4.9%	Technical school	5.3%
11.2%	High school or some high school	16.2%
4.5%	Less than high school	4.5%
1.6%	Not reported or missing	1.1%

Note: Percentages in Mother column do not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 3. Parents' income of graduating seniors 1998–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001–\$70,000	\$70,001–\$100,000	\$100,001–\$150,000	\$150,001–\$200,000	\$200,001 or more
1998	32.4%	16.3%	16.1%	13.6%	7.2%	14.3%
1999	31.1%	17.6%	17.8%	14.0%	7.0%	12.5%
2000	30.7%	18.1%	17.1%	13.6%	6.7%	13.8%
2001	29.5%	16.5%	16.9%	14.7%	7.7%	14.6%
2002	27.1%	14.7%	18.5%	16.1%	8.0%	15.7%
2003	27.5%	14.6%	16.7%	16.0%	9.1%	16.0%
2004	25.9%	15.1%	17.2%	16.5%	7.4%	17.9%
2005	25.4%	14.2%	16.6%	16.0%	8.7%	19.0%
2006	25.8%	14.7%	15.3%	17.0%	7.6%	19.6%
2007	21.6%	13.5%	17.6%	17.8%	9.8%	19.8%
2008	21.2%	12.5%	23.4%	16.3%	10.6%	16.0%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 4. Timing of decision to pursue career in dentistry, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Before High School	10.6%
During High School	19.7%
1st Year of College	9.7%
2nd Year of College	16.7%
3rd Year of College	16.1%
4th Year of College	8.5%
After Graduation	18.7%

Table 5. Seniors' perceptions of importance of reasons for pursuing dentistry as a career, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Unimportant	Of little importance	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Control of time	1.5%	1.7%	8.1%	27.3%	61.4%
Service to others	0.0%	1.8%	10.7%	38.4%	49.1%
Self-employed	3.2%	3.2%	12.4%	31.1%	50.1%
Income potential	1.4%	2.9%	17.4%	43.7%	34.6%
Working with hands	1.9%	4.2%	19.0%	38.1%	36.8%
Career variety	4.0%	9.7%	26.2%	33.9%	26.2%
Status and prestige	5.8%	14.1%	29.5%	31.1%	19.5%
Care to underserved	4.6%	10.4%	31.0%	32.8%	21.1%
Service to own race	31.2%	21.2%	19.7%	15.6%	12.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 6. Seniors' perceptions of importance of selected reasons for pursuing dentistry as a career by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Race/Ethnicity	Service to Own Race/Ethnic Group					Service to Vulnerable and Low-Income Populations				
	Unimportant	Of little importance	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Unimportant	Of little importance	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Native American	28.6%	0.0%	21.4%	14.3%	35.7%	0.0%	7.1%	14.3%	35.7%	42.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10.5%	19.5%	30.6%	24.6%	14.9%	2.1%	8.0%	28.3%	37.1%	24.6%
Black/African American	2.9%	5.8%	20.2%	33.5%	37.6%	1.7%	3.5%	13.9%	34.7%	46.2%
Hispanic/Latino	4.9%	10.8%	25.5%	25.5%	33.3%	2.0%	5.9%	22.1%	36.3%	33.8%
White/Caucasian	4.9%	10.8%	25.5%	25.5%	33.3%	5.9%	12.5%	34.4%	30.8%	16.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 7. Perceived importance of factors influencing choice of dentistry as a career, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Unimportant	Of little importance	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Family member or friend who is a dentist	25.8%	8.1%	13.1%	21.8%	31.2%
My family dentist	24.2%	10.2%	18.2%	23.5%	23.9%
Awareness of dental market trends	21.4%	11.9%	23.3%	28.8%	14.6%
Family member or friend who is not a dentist	33.2%	11.4%	18.7%	20.5%	16.2%
Participation in a dental career development or school admissions program	52.6%	15.4%	14.8%	10.5%	6.6%
Dental school visit	44.8%	15.8%	19.9%	13.5%	6.0%
Career day or visit by dentist	58.3%	18.8%	11.5%	7.1%	4.3%
Recruitment by a school	59.1%	17.2%	12.3%	7.5%	3.8%
High school or college counselor	59.9%	19.1%	11.3%	6.1%	3.5%
Career brochure	58.3%	22.5%	11.1%	5.3%	2.7%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 8. Categories and average levels of indebtedness of all students, in selected years 1990–2008

	Entering Debt	Graduating Debt		
		All Schools	Public Schools	Private and Private State-Related Schools
1990	\$3,940	\$54,550	\$36,380	\$60,814
1996	\$5,415	\$75,748	\$60,441	\$101,627
1997	\$6,862	\$81,688	\$66,669	\$107,985
1998	\$10,027	\$84,089	\$70,752	\$105,474
1999	\$8,990	\$99,608	\$79,880	\$128,273
2000	\$9,475	\$87,605	\$68,841	\$111,602
2001	\$12,367	\$105,574	\$81,586	\$132,704
2002	\$10,068	\$107,503	\$85,840	\$136,060
2003	\$14,097	\$118,748	\$93,622	\$147,967
2004	\$19,369	\$122,263	\$99,553	\$155,234
2005	\$19,876	\$129,639	\$104,483	\$161,500
2006	\$23,365	\$145,465	\$124,700	\$174,241
2007	\$22,769	\$157,074	\$136,438	\$186,218
2008	–	\$170,367	\$142,671	\$204,734

Note: Entering debt figures for 2008 graduating seniors currently are unavailable.

Table 9. Average entering debt of those students with entering debt, 1996–2008

	Average Entering Debt	Median Entering Debt
1996	\$14,650	–
1997	\$19,823	–
1998	\$27,749	–
1999	\$21,589	\$10,000
2000	\$25,029	\$12,000
2001	\$28,413	\$15,000
2002	\$25,298	\$15,000
2003	\$33,207	\$15,000
2004	\$42,830	\$20,000
2005	\$44,382	\$17,050
2006	\$52,370	\$20,000
2007	\$52,481	\$20,000
2008	–	–

Note: Debt figures for 2008 currently are unavailable.

Table 10. Levels of seniors' educational debt 1996–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000–\$49,999	\$50,000–\$79,999	\$80,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	\$150,000+	
1996	10.1%	7.3%	16.2%	18.7%	22.8%	17.6%	7.3%	
1997	13.3%	6.8%	10.6%	23.6%	17.5%	18.7%	9.5%	
1998	7.0%	6.0%	7.9%	17.4%	18.9%	26.9%	15.3%	
1999	8.3%	5.6%	6.7%	15.8%	16.4%	25.2%	22.0%	
2000	17.1%	7.0%	5.5%	12.2%	13.1%	24.1%	20.9%	
2001	8.9%	5.5%	5.3%	11.8%	12.8%	27.7%	28.0%	
2002	11.9%	4.9%	5.0%	9.4%	10.0%	29.3%	29.4%	
2003	10.4%	4.0%	4.5%	8.7%	8.1%	30.3%	34.5%	
2004	9.9%	3.9%	3.7%	9.2%	7.2%	28.9%	37.2%	
2005	8.4%	9.0%	3.1%	6.5%	5.4%	23.5%	44.1%	
2006	10.3%	2.7%	2.7%	5.2%	4.1%	21.4%	53.5%	
	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000–\$49,999	\$50,000–\$79,999	\$80,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	\$150,000–\$174,999	\$175,000+
2007	9.0%	2.7%	2.8%	4.6%	3.3%	17.1%	15.9%	44.6%
2008	9.1%	2.6%	2.1%	3.6%	3.4%	13.4%	15.2%	50.7%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 11. Level of seniors' educational debt by type of school, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Level of Debt in Thousands	All Schools	Public Schools	Private and Private State-Related Schools
No debt	9.1%	9.8%	8.1%
\$29,999 or less	2.6%	3.1%	2.0%
\$30,000–\$49,999	2.1%	2.5%	1.7%
\$50,000–\$79,999	3.6%	4.4%	2.5%
\$80,000–\$99,999	3.4%	4.2%	2.3%
\$100,000–\$149,999	13.4%	17.4%	8.5%
\$150,000–\$174,999	15.2%	20.0%	9.2%
\$175,000 or more	50.7%	38.6%	65.6%

Table 12. Average graduating educational debt of graduates with debt by type of school, 1996–2008

	All Schools	Public Schools	Private and Private State-Related Schools
1996	\$84,247	\$66,153	\$116,407
1997	\$94,182	\$75,830	\$126,469
1998	\$97,961	\$80,216	\$128,947
1999	\$105,150	\$83,029	\$137,961
2000	\$105,969	\$82,963	\$136,319
2001	\$115,951	\$90,255	\$144,569
2002	\$122,491	\$97,370	\$155,984
2003	\$132,532	\$103,149	\$167,676
2004	\$135,721	\$110,686	\$171,928
2005	\$141,521	\$114,296	\$175,841
2006	\$162,155	\$137,792	\$196,636
2007	\$172,627	\$148,777	\$206,956
2008	\$187,394	\$158,217	\$222,944

Table 13. Level of educational debt of graduates by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Race/Ethnicity	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000–\$49,999	\$50,000–\$79,999	\$80,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	\$150,000–\$174,999	\$175,000+
Native American	7.1%	0.0%	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	28.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.4%	2.2%	1.4%	2.9%	3.2%	13.7%	14.1%	51.0%
Black/African American	10.4%	2.3%	1.2%	6.4%	6.4%	14.5%	18.5%	40.5%
Hispanic/Latino	5.9%	4.4%	2.5%	5.4%	7.4%	15.2%	14.7%	44.6%
White/Caucasian	8.1%	2.4%	2.4%	3.5%	3.0%	13.3%	15.6%	51.8%
Not Listed/Other	12.4%	4.1%	2.1%	2.9%	2.9%	9.1%	13.6%	52.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 14. Seniors' level of concern about financing their dental education by race/ethnicity, by percentage of 2008 respondents in each category

	None	Very Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much
All Students	17.8%	13.1%	31.3%	20.3%	17.5%
Native American	30.8%	15.4%	15.4%	23.1%	15.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.5%	10.4%	36.2%	19.1%	16.8%
Black/African American	15.8%	16.4%	25.7%	21.6%	20.5%
Hispanic/Latino	20.9%	10.4%	24.4%	23.9%	20.4%
White/Caucasian	17.7%	14.1%	30.8%	20.6%	16.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 15. Type of loans reported by seniors in selected years 1990–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

Type of Loan	1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Health Professions Student Loan	32.9%	33.2%	28.7%	27.0%	29.0%	28.8%	30.0%	30.0%	31.6%	32.9%	33.0%	31.3%
Perkins Loan	37.0%	32.4%	25.6%	25.3%	27.3%	26.3%	27.6%	30.4%	31.7%	32.6%	32.9%	29.7%
Stafford Loan (Subsidized)	79.4%	81.0%	72.5%	81.4%	82.5%	81.7%	81.5%	83.1%	82.6%	84.1%	84.8%	84.0%
Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized)	NA	43.8%	71.5%	73.8%	75.7%	76.1%	77.6%	75.9%	78.5%	80.2%	81.3%	79.7%
Health Education Assistance Loan	32.4%	41.9%	22.6%	10.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Supplemental Loans for Students	37.0%	53.8%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Personal Bank Loan	6.5%	8.1%	5.9%	4.6%	5.7%	6.5%	6.7%	8.0%	9.1%	10.3%	11.4%	7.9%
Family/Relative Loans	35.2%	29.0%	22.3%	21.4%	22.5%	21.4%	15.7%	17.3%	16.3%	15.9%	16.1%	10.1%
A-DEAL/Private Lender School Program	NA	3.0%	22.2%	29.8%	25.7%	26.8%	26.7%	25.3%	26.6%	26.5%	31.6%	29.2%
State Loan Program	NA	NA	11.9%	11.8%	10.4%	10.4%	8.8%	10.0%	9.1%	8.3%	7.6%	7.6%
Loans for Disadvantaged Students	NA	NA	3.0%	3.2%	3.5%	3.7%	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	5.1%	4.8%	4.7%
Other	NA	NA	4.0%	NA	5.3%	NA	1.8%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.6%
Credit Card	NA	NA	NA	12.9%	11.9%	11.8%	10.1%	10.5%	10.7%	10.1%	12.0%	9.4%

Note: Respondents could select more than one type of loan.

Table 16. Type of scholarships and grants seniors reported having received in selected years 1990–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

Type of Scholarship or Grant	1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
State	13.9%	15.6%	9.6%	13.4%	13.3%	12.3%	12.2%	12.0%	11.6%	10.9%	10.1%	11.7%
School	23.2%	29.7%	30.1%	31.6%	29.7%	29.9%	30.0%	32.3%	33.2%	30.9%	29.6%	30.7%
Federal	NA	8.1%	14.1%	16.4%	12.8%	13.8%	10.8%	11.2%	10.6%	11.3%	11.9%	11.8%
Other	9.1%	12.5%	10.0%	16.5%	12.9%	12.6%	11.3%	9.6%	8.8%	8.6%	11.8%	8.9%

Table 17. Seniors' perceptions of preparedness for practice in selected areas of education and training, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Underprepared	Somewhat underprepared	Prepared	Somewhat well prepared	Well prepared
Practice Administration	33.4%	33.4%	25.3%	4.0%	3.8%
Patient Evaluation	2.8%	16.4%	53.2%	13.3%	14.2%
Radiology	1.6%	13.7%	51.7%	16.3%	16.7%
Oral Pathology	2.4%	21.3%	50.5%	14.5%	11.3%
Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	2.4%	15.8%	47.4%	18.6%	15.8%
Integrating Oral Health Care with Medical Care	3.5%	21.2%	52.8%	13.6%	8.9%
Providing Emergency Treatment	2.9%	19.3%	49.2%	16.8%	11.7%
Therapeutics and Prescription Writing	4.5%	23.5%	49.9%	13.6%	8.6%
Anesthesiology/Sedation and Pain Control	4.6%	22.2%	48.0%	15.0%	10.2%
Preventive Practices and Patient Education	1.3%	11.5%	48.8%	19.2%	19.3%
Operative/Restorative Dentistry	1.3%	10.0%	40.9%	22.1%	25.7%
Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics	2.8%	14.6%	44.6%	21.8%	16.2%
Implant Dentistry	16.0%	29.7%	37.3%	9.6%	7.3%
Endodontics	5.8%	21.5%	46.8%	15.1%	10.9%
Periodontics	2.9%	15.4%	48.2%	18.2%	15.2%
Orthodontics	25.1%	28.3%	34.1%	6.4%	6.1%
Oral Surgery	2.6%	16.6%	47.8%	18.2%	14.8%
Pediatric Oral Health Care	4.0%	17.9%	50.4%	16.4%	11.3%
Geriatric Oral Health Care	3.5%	19.1%	54.0%	14.3%	9.2%
Oral Health Care for Disabled Patients	8.6%	29.1%	44.9%	9.8%	7.5%
Oral Health Care for Patients with HIV/AIDS	5.1%	20.6%	50.2%	13.4%	10.7%
Oral Health Care for a Diverse Society	2.6%	13.9%	51.4%	16.7%	15.4%
Adaptive Treatment Planning for Low-Income Populations/Individuals	3.7%	18.3%	48.0%	15.3%	14.7%
Oral Health Care for Rural Areas	4.5%	18.5%	50.7%	14.0%	12.3%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 18. Seniors' perceptions of time devoted to selected areas of education and training, by percentage of total 2008 respondents for each area

	Not enough	Just right	Too much	Not applicable
Restorative Dentistry	6.6%	87.8%	5.0%	.5%
Fixed Prosthodontics	12.9%	81.6%	4.8%	.6%
Oral Pathology	9.2%	81.2%	9.2%	.5%
Basic Sciences, Dental	10.3%	80.4%	8.1%	1.2%
Oral Surgery	13.3%	80.3%	5.9%	.5%
Anesthesiology/Pain Control	13.8%	80.2%	5.2%	.8%
Emergency Treatment	14.5%	79.2%	5.8%	.6%
Preventive Oral Health Promotion	7.4%	78.5%	13.4%	.6%
Patient Evaluation	15.2%	78.2%	5.5%	1.2%
Medical Emergencies	17.5%	76.7%	5.2%	.6%
Ethics	7.0%	76.4%	15.7%	.8%
Removable Prosthodontics	17.8%	74.7%	6.8%	.8%
Community Dentistry	12.3%	74.1%	11.5%	2.1%
Endodontics	20.7%	74.0%	4.6%	.7%
Social Determinants of Health	13.2%	73.7%	10.1%	3.0%
Pediatric Dentistry	17.1%	73.5%	8.8%	.6%
Periodontics	10.3%	73.4%	15.6%	.7%
Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	19.9%	73.1%	6.5%	.5%
Dental Materials	15.0%	71.8%	12.3%	.8%
Geriatric Dentistry	16.3%	71.6%	10.6%	1.4%
Oral Epidemiology	14.9%	71.0%	10.9%	3.1%
Basic Sciences, Medical	9.2%	68.6%	19.9%	2.4%
Gender-Related Health Issues	19.1%	68.4%	7.2%	5.4%
Dental Public Health	14.0%	67.8%	16.5%	1.7%
Dental Health Policy	21.2%	66.7%	8.3%	3.8%
Pharmacology	20.2%	66.4%	12.3%	1.1%
Behavioral Sciences	11.7%	66.1%	20.5%	1.7%
Occlusion/Temporomandibular Joint	28.3%	63.7%	7.3%	.8%
Cultural Competence	17.2%	63.0%	14.7%	5.2%
Hospital Dentistry	29.5%	61.2%	6.7%	2.6%
Implant Dentistry	36.9%	56.8%	5.6%	.7%
Practice Administration	38.6%	54.6%	5.7%	1.0%
Organization/Financing of Health Services	35.9%	53.9%	6.9%	3.3%
Orthodontics	38.5%	53.5%	7.3%	.8%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 19. Seniors' immediate plans upon graduation in selected years 1985–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

Immediate Plans	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Solo Private Practice	9.4%	5.8%	5.8%	5.5%	4.0%	4.7%	4.4%	4.1%	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	3.1%
Partner Group	14.3%	12.0%	11.1%	9.5%	7.7%	8.7%	7.4%	6.0%	6.1%	6.6%	6.0%	6.7%
Associate/Employed	34.4%	31.3%	32.9%	36.5%	41.1%	38.9%	38.5%	40.3%	41.8%	42.1%	42.8%	40.6%
Total Private Practice	58.1%	49.1%	49.8%	51.5%	52.8%	52.3%	50.3%	50.4%	51.6%	52.5%	52.6%	50.4%
Government Service	10.3%	11.6%	8.9%	11.0%	10.0%	9.3%	7.6%	7.5%	6.1%	5.9%	6.2%	5.9%
Teaching/Research/ Administration	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	1.9%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%
Advanced Education	23.6%	33.4%	36.0%	34.1%	34.4%	35.7%	37.1%	38.6%	38.6%	37.8%	38.0%	39.6%
Undecided	7.2%	4.9%	4.2%	2.9%	2.3%	2.2%	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	3.3%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 20. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by gender, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Immediate Plans	Male	Female
Solo Private Practice	4.0%	1.9%
Partnership/Group Private Practice	8.1%	4.8%
Private Practice/Employed	39.0%	42.7%
Total Private Practice	51.1%	49.4%
Advanced Education	38.3%	41.3%
Teaching/Research/Administration	0.7%	0.9%
Government Service	6.8%	4.7%
Undecided	3.1%	3.7%

Table 21. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each group

Immediate Plans	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	White/ Caucasian	Not Listed/ Other
Solo Private Practice	7.1%	2.4%	1.7%	3.4%	3.4%	3.0%
Partner/Group Private Practice	7.1%	4.7%	6.4%	8.9%	7.1%	7.2%
Private Practice/Employed	28.6%	43.5%	30.6%	40.9%	40.5%	40.1%
Total Private Practice	42.8%	50.6%	38.7%	53.2%	51.0%	50.3%
Government Service	35.7%	4.2%	8.7%	3.4%	6.3%	5.5%
Teaching/Research/Administration	0.0%	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	0.6%	1.7%
Advanced Education	21.4%	39.4%	48.6%	40.9%	39.3%	37.1%
Undecided	0.0%	4.9%	2.9%	1.0%	2.9%	5.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 22. Seniors' perceptions of degree to which educational debt is a factor influencing immediate plans following graduation, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Immediate Plans	No	Very Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much
Solo Private Practice	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Partner/Group Private Practice	5.2%	8.7%	6.1%	7.2%	7.1%
Associate/Employed	21.2%	33.1%	44.1%	60.9%	58.6%
Government Service	4.0%	3.3%	3.8%	7.2%	14.4%
Teaching/Research/Administration	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%	0.2%	0.5%
Advanced Education	63.2%	48.6%	37.4%	18.0%	12.0%
Undecided	2.4%	2.0%	3.9%	4.1%	5.0%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 23. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by level of graduating debt, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Immediate Plans	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000–\$49,999	\$50,000–\$79,999	\$80,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,000	\$150,000–\$174,000	\$175,000+
Solo Private Practice	3.3%	0.0%	1.3%	3.0%	0.0%	2.8%	3.7%	3.4%
Partner/Group Private Practice	7.9%	9.4%	3.8%	3.8%	4.8%	4.2%	7.2%	7.3%
Private Practice/Employed	29.4%	32.3%	23.8%	24.1%	35.7%	44.0%	40.0%	44.7%
Total Private Practice	40.6%	41.7%	28.9%	30.9%	40.5%	51.0%	50.9%	55.4%
Government Service	7.0%	16.7%	23.8%	24.8%	13.5%	8.2%	4.1%	2.5%
Teaching/Research/ Administration	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.7%
Advanced Education	44.8%	41.7%	46.2%	43.6%	44.4%	38.0%	40.1%	37.8%
Undecided	6.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.8%	1.6%	2.0%	3.5%	3.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 24. Seniors' long-term plans in selected years 1990–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

Long-Term Plans	1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Solo Private Practice	37.7%	42.1%	48.2%	37.6%	38.0%	37.7%	38.5%	36.9%	36.5%	36.6%	36.3%	34.2%
Partner/Group Private Practice	43.4%	38.9%	36.7%	49.2%	50.7%	48.8%	48.6%	49.7%	50.8%	49.6%	49.4%	48.9%
Private Practice/Employed	NA	4.1%	3.0%	3.5%	2.8%	4.0%	3.5%	4.0%	3.2%	4.3%	4.6%	6.4%
Community Clinic Practice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.7%
Teaching/Research/ Administration	NA	NA	2.8%	2.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%
Government Service	NA	NA	1.2%	1.8%	1.2%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
Undecided/Other	18.9%	10.6%	8.1%	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%	6.0%	6.2%	5.7%	5.7%	6.5%	5.8%

Note: Long-Term=10 years after graduation. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding or skipped questions.

Table 25. Seniors' long-term plans by gender, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Long-Term Plans	Male	Female
Solo Private Practice	38.4%	28.9%
Partner/Group Private Practice	47.6%	50.5%
Private Practice/Employed	4.3%	9.1%
Community Clinic Practice	1.3%	2.1%
Teaching/Research/Administration	1.8%	2.0%
Government Service	1.3%	1.0%
Undecided/Other	5.2%	6.4%

Note: Long-Term=10 years after graduation. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 26. Seniors' practice location plans by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Practice Location	Native American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Not Listed/Other	Total Respondents
Large city	7.1%	30.8%	29.5%	32.7%	17.6%	28.9%	22.4%
Mid-size city	35.7%	28.2%	31.8%	25.7%	27.0%	26.0%	27.4%
Urban fringe of large city	14.3%	14.3%	12.1%	9.4%	11.8%	11.5%	12.2%
Urban fringe of mid-sized city	7.1%	7.7%	7.5%	5.4%	7.7%	3.8%	7.3%
Large town	7.1%	5.3%	3.5%	6.4%	11.1%	7.2%	9.0%
Small town	7.1%	3.0%	4.6%	8.9%	13.3%	5.5%	10.0%
Rural	14.3%	1.2%	1.2%	3.5%	3.9%	1.7%	3.1%
Don't know	7.1%	9.1%	8.7%	7.9%	7.1%	12.8%	8.0%
Outside of the United States	0.0%	0.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.6%	2.6%	0.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 27. Percentage of their future patients seniors expect to be from underserved race/ethnic populations, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Percent of Patients from Underserved Race/Ethnic Populations				
	0%	1%–10%	11%–24%	25%–50%	>50%
Native Americans	0.0%	21.4%	14.3%	21.4%	42.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.8%	14.0%	14.8%	51.8%	16.6%
Black/African American	1.9%	7.1%	11.0%	43.2%	36.8%
Hispanic/Latino	2.1%	10.5%	12.6%	48.2%	26.7%
White/Caucasian	2.3%	31.7%	22.5%	37.0%	6.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 28. Total number of weeks seniors spent/expected to spend providing oral health care on extramural clinical rotations over four years of dental school, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Number of Weeks								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 to 11	12 or more
2008	3.6%	6.5%	12.0%	15.7%	11.0%	11.4%	6.9%	19.4%	13.5%

Table 29. Seniors' rating of technical quality and treatment of patients at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
Technical Quality					
Main Clinic	1.1%	2.3%	16.5%	37.3%	42.7%
Extramural Clinic	2.3%	5.5%	28.6%	38.1%	25.5%
Treatment of Patients					
Main Clinic	0.9%	2.3%	15.8%	34.9%	46.1%
Extramural Clinic	1.6%	5.4%	28.3%	37.3%	27.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 30. Seniors' perception of frequency of participation in quality assurance activities at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Frequently
Main Clinic	11.8%	14.8%	30.3%	43.0%
Extramural Clinic	45.2%	18.3%	22.1%	14.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 31. Seniors' perception of emphasis on preventive orientation and services provided at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

	Low Emphasis	Moderate Emphasis	High Emphasis
Main Clinic	2.9%	25.8%	71.3%
Extramural Clinic	13.4%	37.9%	48.7%

Table 32. Seniors' perception of effect of extramural experiences on their ability to care for diverse groups and practice plans, by percentage of total 2008 respondents

Effect on	None	Very Little	Some	Much	Very Much
Ability to care for diverse groups	7.6%	10.4%	35.4%	19.9%	26.7%
Practice plans	36.0%	18.7%	29.3%	8.3%	7.6%

Note: Practice plans percentages do not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 33. Seniors' agreement that environment of their school promotes acceptance and respect of students and patients of different races, ethnicities, and cultures, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	22.0%	52.3%	16.9%	5.9%	2.9%
Native American/Alaska Native	21.4%	35.7%	14.3%	28.6%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	23.9%	53.0%	13.9%	6.4%	2.8%
Black/African American	29.2%	36.3%	18.7%	9.9%	5.8%
Hispanic/Latino	31.0%	47.5%	11.0%	7.0%	3.5%
White/Caucasian	19.8%	54.0%	18.5%	5.2%	2.5%
Not Listed/Other	24.9%	50.2%	14.8%	5.5%	4.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 34. Seniors' agreement that access to oral health care is a societal good and right, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	24.6%	46.7%	16.1%	7.9%	4.7%
Native American/Alaska Native	35.7%	35.7%	14.3%	14.3%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	26.5%	50.6%	14.0%	4.6%	4.4%
Black/African American	39.8%	38.6%	14.0%	3.5%	4.1%
Hispanic/Latino	30.0%	50.5%	10.5%	4.5%	4.5%
White/Caucasian	22.1%	46.1%	17.4%	9.5%	4.9%
Other/Not Listed	26.4%	43.5%	16.3%	7.9%	5.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 35. Seniors' agreement that access to oral health care is a major problem in the United States, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	21.3%	49.2%	16.6%	9.4%	3.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	35.7%	35.7%	21.4%	7.1%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	20.8%	51.1%	18.2%	6.9%	3.0%
Black/African American	50.6%	27.3%	13.4%	3.5%	5.2%
Hispanic/Latino	30.8%	45.8%	12.9%	7.5%	3.0%
White/Caucasian	18.1%	50.8%	16.7%	10.7%	3.7%
Other/Not Listed	23.0%	46.9%	15.9%	10.5%	3.8%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 36. Seniors' agreement that providing care to all segments of society is a professional obligation, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	21.6%	47.9%	17.6%	9.2%	3.7%
Native American/Alaska Native	35.7%	35.7%	21.4%	7.1%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	22.6%	50.4%	16.2%	6.9%	4.0%
Black/African American	37.2%	39.5%	14.5%	4.1%	4.7%
Hispanic/Latino	32.0%	43.5%	13.5%	8.0%	3.0%
White/Caucasian	18.8%	48.8%	18.4%	10.4%	3.5%
Other/Not Listed	25.1%	41.8%	18.8%	9.6%	4.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 37. Seniors' agreement that everyone is entitled to receive basic oral health care regardless of ability to pay, by percentage of total 2008 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	15.7%	44.0%	21.2%	13.9%	5.2%
Native American/Alaska Native	35.7%	42.9%	14.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.0%	50.1%	21.3%	8.3%	3.3%
Black/African American	35.5%	36.6%	19.8%	5.2%	2.9%
Hispanic/Latino	27.4%	39.8%	15.9%	9.5%	7.5%
White/Caucasian	12.4%	43.1%	21.8%	16.8%	5.9%
Other/Not Listed	17.2%	41.2%	21.4%	14.7%	5.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 38. Seniors' pursuit of postdoctoral education 1999–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

	Applied for Training	Did Not Apply for Training
1999	45.7%	54.3%
2000	47.2%	52.8%
2001	47.6%	52.4%
2002	48.9%	51.1%
2003	49.0%	51.0%
2004	48.8%	51.2%
2005	47.5%	52.5%
2006	47.5%	52.5%
2007	47.3%	52.6%
2008	48.1%	51.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 39. Seniors' agreement that postdoctoral education should be required 1996–2008, by percentage of total respondents for each year

	Yes	No	No Opinion	No Response
1996	29.3%	63.1%	7.5%	–
1997	26.5%	66.3%	7.2%	–
1998	25.7%	66.8%	7.4%	–
1999	25.6%	65.5%	8.9%	–
2000	27.2%	70.9%	NA	1.9%
2001	27.7%	69.1%	NA	3.2%
2002	31.6%	64.5%	NA	3.9%
2003	28.5%	65.4%	NA	6.1%
2004	26.5%	69.7%	NA	3.8%
2005	27.5%	68.2%	NA	4.3%
2006	27.8%	67.3%	NA	4.9%
2007	28.0%	71.9%	NA	0.1%
2008	36.2%	51.2%	10.8%	1.8%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

APPENDIX

2007 Survey Summary Tables

The 2008 ADEA Survey of Dental Seniors underwent a number of revisions to facilitate more detailed and accurate collection of information. The summary tables presented in the body of this report reflect the 2008 survey; however, a range of summary tables from the 2007 ADEA survey of dental school seniors are presented here for informational purposes. For the 2007 survey, the overall response rate was 81 percent.

Table 40. Gender and race/ethnicity of graduating seniors, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Percent of Respondents	Percent of Senior Class
Female/Male	45.6%/54.4%	44.9%/55.1%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.9%	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	23.2%	22.7%
Black/African American	5.3%	5.1%
Hispanic/Latino	5.3%	5.9%
White (Non-Hispanic)	63.5%	63.8%
Other or Not Reported	1.8%	2.1%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 41. Level of education of parents of graduating seniors, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Father	Level of Education	Mother
46.6%	Graduate degree or some graduate school	28.1%
30.7%	College graduate or some college	44.2%
6.3%	Technical school	6.8%
12.7%	High school or some high school	17.7%
2.4%	Elementary education or some elementary education	2.4%
1.3%	Not reported	0.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 42. Timing of decision to pursue career in dentistry, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Before High School	11.1%
During High School	22.4%
1st Year of College	10.2%
2nd Year of College	14.1%
3rd Year of College	16.3%
4th Year of College	9.1%
After Graduation	16.8%

Table 43. Seniors' perceptions of importance of reasons for pursuing dentistry as a career, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Low	–	Somewhat	–	High
Control of time	1.1%	1.7%	7.9%	23.1%	66.2%
Service to others	1.0%	2.1%	11.1%	33.0%	52.8%
Self-employed	2.0%	3.0%	10.7%	26.4%	57.9%
Income potential	0.9%	2.2%	14.4%	39.0%	43.4%
Working with hands	1.4%	4.0%	18.0%	33.0%	43.6%
Career variety	3.3%	9.2%	26.6%	32.6%	28.2%
Status and prestige	5.4%	10.6%	28.2%	33.3%	22.5%
Care to underserved	7.3%	11.6%	30.9%	27.2%	23.0%
Service to own race	32.7%	17.9%	21.9%	13.4%	14.2%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 44. Seniors' perceptions of importance of selected reasons for pursuing dentistry as a career by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Race/Ethnicity	Service to Own Race/Ethnic Group					Service to Vulnerable and Low-Income Populations				
	Low	–	Somewhat	–	High	Low	–	Somewhat	–	High
Native American	17.1%	17.1%	20.0%	14.3%	31.4%	5.7%	8.6%	37.1%	20.0%	28.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10.9%	15.6%	32.2%	21.6%	19.7%	4.7%	6.2%	27.3%	31.8%	30.0%
Black/African American	4.0%	4.0%	16.0%	27.0%	49.0%	4.5%	3.0%	16.9%	26.9%	48.8%
Hispanic/Latino	8.0%	8.5%	21.5%	28.0%	34.0%	8.8%	14.7%	33.7%	25.4%	17.5%
White/Caucasian	45.4%	20.8%	18.6%	8.0%	7.3%	3.5%	7.5%	24.1%	30.2%	34.7%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 45. Perceived importance of factors influencing choice of dentistry as a career, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Low	–	Somewhat	–	High
Family member or friend who is a dentist	29.6%	6.8%	12.3%	17.2%	34.1%
My family dentist	27.6%	8.5%	16.8%	19.2%	27.9%
Awareness of dental market trends	25.2%	11.2%	22.5%	25.3%	15.7%
Family member or friend who is not a dentist	39.0%	10.4%	16.0%	17.0%	17.6%
Participation in a dental career development or school admissions program	56.2%	12.3%	12.7%	10.1%	8.7%
Dental school visit	54.1%	12.8%	16.3%	11.1%	5.9%
Career day or visit by dentist	66.7%	13.6%	10.3%	5.6%	3.8%
Recruitment by a school	67.2%	13.3%	10.9%	5.0%	3.5%
High school or college counselor	68.9%	12.5%	10.4%	4.3%	3.8%
Career brochure	67.4%	15.7%	10.0%	4.2%	2.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 46. Level of seniors' educational debt by type of school, by percentage of total 2007 graduates

Level of Debt	All Schools	Public Schools	Private and Private State-Related Schools
No debt	9.0%	8.3%	9.9%
\$29,999 or less	2.7%	3.1%	2.2%
\$30,000–\$49,999	2.8%	3.1%	2.3%
\$50,000–\$79,999	4.6%	5.6%	3.4%
\$80,000–\$99,999	3.3%	4.4%	1.7%
\$100,000–\$149,999	17.1%	23.9%	7.7%
\$150,000 or more	60.5%	51.7%	72.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 47. Level of educational debt of graduates by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Race/Ethnicity	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000–\$49,999	\$50,000–\$79,999	\$80,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	\$150,000–\$174,999	\$175,000+
Native American	16.7%	6.7%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	53.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13.0%	3.4%	3.0%	4.0%	2.3%	16.4%	15.8%	41.9%
Black/African American	6.8%	3.4%	1.1%	3.4%	5.7%	22.2%	15.3%	42.0%
Hispanic/Latino	7.0%	3.8%	6.5%	9.1%	5.4%	20.4%	10.8%	37.1%
White/Caucasian	7.2%	2.3%	2.6%	4.6%	3.3%	17.1%	16.6%	46.2%
Not Listed/Other	26.2%	1.5%	1.5%	3.1%	1.5%	9.2%	10.8%	46.2%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 48. Students' level of concern about financing their dental education by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	No	Very Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much
All Students	24.6%	16.4%	29.9%	13.9%	15.2%
Native American	25.7%	17.1%	11.4%	20.0%	25.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	22.4%	14.2%	31.6%	14.6%	17.2%
Black/African American	26.4%	13.9%	29.4%	13.9%	16.4%
Hispanic/Latino	21.9%	10.9%	27.4%	16.4%	23.4%
White/Caucasian	25.6%	17.8%	29.4%	13.6%	13.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 49. Seniors' perceptions of preparedness for practice in selected areas of education and training, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Not Well Enough Prepared		Prepared		Well Prepared
Practice Administration	26.0%	30.2%	30.9%	9.0%	4.0%
Patient Evaluation	1.5%	7.0%	46.8%	28.9%	15.8%
Radiology	0.9%	5.3%	46.2%	29.9%	17.7%
Oral Pathology	1.8%	10.2%	47.4%	27.0%	13.5%
Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	1.1%	7.1%	41.9%	31.5%	18.3%
Integrating Oral Health Care with Medical Care	2.1%	12.8%	50.8%	24.5%	9.9%
Interacting with Medical Colleagues	3.1%	14.7%	45.6%	25.2%	11.4%
Providing Emergency Treatment	2.3%	10.7%	45.0%	28.6%	13.4%
Therapeutics and Prescription Writing	3.3%	13.3%	47.4%	25.5%	10.5%
Anesthesiology/Sedation and Pain Control	3.9%	14.2%	46.8%	24.9%	10.2%
Preventive Practices and Patient Education	0.7%	3.8%	40.9%	31.9%	22.7%
Operative/Restorative Dentistry	0.8%	3.2%	33.9%	31.5%	30.7%
Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics	1.7%	7.0%	39.3%	33.4%	18.7%
Implant Dentistry	14.1%	24.5%	38.3%	16.9%	6.3%
Endodontics	4.0%	13.5%	44.7%	25.1%	12.7%
Periodontics	1.7%	7.1%	44.4%	30.2%	16.5%
Orthodontics	21.9%	24.5%	35.9%	12.3%	5.4%
Oral Surgery	1.4%	7.2%	43.8%	30.9%	16.7%
Pediatric Oral Health Care	2.1%	10.0%	48.3%	28.5%	11.0%
Geriatric Oral Health Care	2.9%	13.2%	51.2%	24.1%	8.6%
Oral Health Care for Disabled Patients	7.1%	23.4%	46.0%	17.1%	6.5%
Oral Health Care for Patients with HIV/AIDS	3.5%	14.0%	47.7%	23.4%	11.4%
Oral Health Care for a Diverse Society	1.7%	7.5%	46.1%	27.7%	17.0%
Adaptive Treatment Planning for Low-Income Populations/Individuals	3.5%	12.6%	45.2%	23.2%	15.4%
Oral Health Care for Rural Areas	4.4%	12.7%	47.3%	22.6%	12.9%

Note: Bold indicates areas in which over 25% of seniors reported feeling less than prepared. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 50. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by gender, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Immediate Plans	Male	Female
Solo Private Practice	5.3%	2.0%
Partnership/Group Private Practice	7.0%	4.9%
Private Practice/Employed	39.6%	46.6%
Total Private Practice	51.9%	53.5%
Advanced Education	38.3%	37.7%
Teaching/Research/Administration	0.2%	0.7%
Government Service	7.0%	5.2%
Undecided	2.5%	3.1%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 51. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Immediate Plans	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	White/ Caucasian	Not Listed/ Other
Solo Private Practice	0.0%	3.1%	2.5%	1.5%	4.3%	7.8%
Partner/Group Private Practice	28.6%	4.9%	5.0%	6.0%	6.3%	3.1%
Private Practice/Employed	28.6%	45.1%	33.2%	46.3%	42.7%	37.5%
Total Private Practice	57.2%	53.1%	40.7%	53.8%	53.3%	48.4%
Government Service	22.9%	3.8%	7.4%	6.5%	6.6%	9.4%
Teaching/Research/Administration	0.0%	0.2%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Advanced Education	17.1%	39.4%	46.5%	38.8%	37.0%	40.6%
Undecided	2.9%	3.4%	4.5%	1.0%	2.5%	1.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 52. Seniors' perceptions of degree to which educational debt is a factor influencing their immediate plans following graduation, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Immediate Plan	No	Very Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much
Solo Private Practice	37.5%	19.4%	22.9%	8.3%	11.8%
Partner/Group Private Practice	31.9%	16.6%	29.7%	11.8%	10.0%
Associate/Employed	21.3%	12.9%	32.8%	18.2%	14.8%
Government Service	15.8%	5.1%	21.4%	19.2%	38.5%
Teaching/Research/Administration	37.5%	18.8%	37.5%	0.0%	6.3%
Advanced Education	52.1%	19.7%	20.4%	5.2%	2.6%
Undecided	36.9%	5.8%	33.0%	9.7%	14.6%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 53. Seniors' immediate plans following graduation by level of graduating debt, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Immediate Plans	No Debt	Up to \$29,999	\$30,000– \$49,999	\$50,000– \$79,999	\$80,000– \$99,999	\$100,000– \$149,000	\$150,000– \$174,000	\$175,000+
Solo Private Practice	4.5%	4.2%	1.0%	3.0%	3.5%	2.5%	3.0%	4.7%
Partner/Group Private Practice	6.2%	3.2%	8.2%	6.6%	2.6%	3.8%	4.9%	6.9%
Private Practice/ Employed	36.0%	31.6%	27.6%	28.9%	38.3%	46.8%	43.6%	45.6%
Total Private Practice	46.7%	39.0%	36.8%	38.5%	44.4%	53.1%	51.5%	57.2%
Government Service	5.2%	23.2%	20.4%	22.3%	17.4%	6.4%	2.8%	3.3%
Teaching/Research/ Administration	0.6%	0.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%
Advanced Education	44.5%	36.8%	40.8%	37.3%	36.5%	38.0%	40.6%	36.8%
Undecided	2.9%	1.1%	0.0%	1.2%	1.7%	2.1%	4.9%	2.3%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 54. Seniors' long-term plans by gender, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Long-Term Plans	Male	Female
Solo Private Practice	41.2%	30.4%
Partner/Group Private Practice	47.5%	51.6%
Private Practice/Employed	3.0%	6.5%
Community Clinic Practice	0.5%	1.6%
Teaching/Research/Administration	1.3%	1.4%
Government Service	1.0%	1.0%
Undecided/Other	5.6%	7.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 55. Seniors' practice location plans by race/ethnicity, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Practice Location	Native American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Not Listed/Other	Total
Metropolitan area with population of 2.5 million or more	11.4%	18.6%	16.6%	20.6%	12.5%	16.7%	14.6%
Metropolitan area with 1 million to 2,499,999 population	11.4%	22.7%	15.1%	19.6%	13.8%	22.7%	16.3%
Metropolitan area with 100,000 to 999,999 population	31.4%	23.0%	31.7%	26.1%	25.2%	24.2%	25.1%
Metropolitan area with 50,000 to 99,999 population	8.6%	10.2%	12.1%	12.6%	12.6%	10.6%	12.0%
Urban/suburban area with 25,000 to 49,999 population	22.9%	21.4%	14.6%	16.1%	20.4%	19.7%	20.1%
Urban/suburban area with 10,000 to 24,999 population	5.7%	3.1%	4.5%	3.0%	12.8%	3.0%	6.7%
Urban/rural area with less than 10,000 population	8.6%	1.0%	5.5%	2.0%	6.9%	3.0%	5.2%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 56. Percentage of their future patients seniors expect to be from underserved race/ethnic populations, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Percent of Patients from Underserved Race/Ethnic Populations				
	0%	1%–10%	11%–24%	25%–50%	>50%
Native American	5.7%	34.3%	17.1%	11.4%	31.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7%	27.4%	40.0%	21.1%	8.8%
Black/African American	3.5%	15.8%	25.7%	33.7%	21.3%
Hispanic/Latino	3.4%	46.1%	34.5%	10.9%	5.1%
White/Caucasian	2.5%	19.2%	30.8%	26.3%	21.2%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 57. Total number of weeks seniors expected to spend providing oral health care on extramural clinical rotations 2003–07, by percentage of total respondents for each year

	Number of Weeks								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 to 11	12 or More
2003	14.5%	11.0%	16.9%	10.3%	10.4%	7.0%	6.0%	11.4%	12.5%
2004	13.5%	12.6%	16.2%	9.9%	13.6%	6.3%	6.2%	9.8%	11.9%
2005	11.5%	9.3%	13.0%	11.5%	11.6%	8.9%	7.0%	14.5%	12.8%
2006	12.1%	7.3%	12.3%	12.1%	10.9%	5.7%	8.0%	15.2%	16.4%
2007	11.3%	8.6%	12.1%	9.7%	13.0%	6.4%	7.7%	12.4%	18.8%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 58. Seniors' perception of whether time at extramural rotations was inadequate or excessive according to number of weeks spent on rotation 2003–07, by percentage of total respondents for each year in each category of weeks

	Number of Weeks								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 to 11	12 or More
Inadequate									
2003	63.6%	48.4%	31.6%	29.8%	20.4%	17.3%	22.0%	15.2%	8.2%
2004	57.4%	48.0%	35.5%	23.1%	18.6%	19.1%	20.6%	10.0%	7.5%
2005	56.5%	41.6%	28.8%	21.4%	17.2%	16.5%	13.5%	12.6%	8.4%
2006	59.7%	50.4%	27.1%	18.7%	18.1%	15.3%	15.4%	11.8%	9.0%
2007	61.0%	51.8%	30.9%	18.6%	19.8%	19.0%	22.0%	12.5%	8.5%
Excessive									
2003		3.2%	6.0%	4.2%	7.5%	13.6%	13.4%	13.4%	12.8%
2004		3.5%	3.5%	7.1%	8.4%	7.5%	14.9%	14.9%	13.3%
2005		4.5%	5.0%	7.1%	8.6%	7.6%	16.2%	16.2%	19.7%
2006		1.9%	7.1%	10.6%	9.8%	11.5%	10.2%	15.5%	17.5%
2007	4.4%	4.0%	6.5%	9.2%	10.9%	8.7%	10.7%	18.7%	19.2%

Table 59. Seniors' rating of technical quality and treatment of patients at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Very Poor	–	Fair	–	Excellent
Technical Quality					
Main Clinic	0.8%	2.5%	18.6%	50.1%	27.9%
Extramural Clinic	1.4%	4.8%	34.4%	41.9%	17.6%
Treatment of Patients					
Main Clinic	1.7%	5.5%	25.0%	40.1%	27.7%
Extramural Clinic	1.6%	4.1%	30.1%	41.4%	22.8%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 60. Seniors' perception of frequency of participation in quality assurance activities at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often
Main Clinic	14.5%	21.6%	32.4%	31.5%
Extramural Clinic	44.7%	26.0%	18.9%	10.3%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 61. Seniors' perception of emphasis on preventive orientation and services provided at main school and extramural clinics, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

	Low	–	–	–	High
Main Clinic	2.8%	6.6%	32.4%	32.8%	25.3%
Extramural Clinic	10.2%	16.0%	40.3%	21.1%	12.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 62. Seniors' perception of effect of extramural experiences on their ability to care for diverse groups and practice plans, by percentage of total 2007 respondents

Effect on	None	–	Somewhat	–	High
Ability to care for diverse groups	10.1%	12.8%	38.4%	23.3%	15.4%
Practice plans	31.9%	23.2%	30.9%	9.3%	4.7%

Table 63. Seniors' agreement that environment of their school promotes acceptance and respect of students and patients of different races, ethnicities, and cultures, by percentage of total 2007 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	36.9%	48.8%	11.2%	3.1%
Native American/Alaska Native	39.4%	45.5%	9.1%	6.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	29.8%	51.8%	15.0%	3.3%
Black/African American	33.7%	45.2%	16.6%	4.5%
Hispanic/Latino	36.8%	45.6%	12.4%	5.2%
White/Caucasian	39.7%	48.8%	9.1%	2.5%
Not Listed/Other	38.1%	33.3%	17.5%	11.1%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 64. Seniors' agreement that access to oral health care is a societal good and right, by percentage of total 2007 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	25.5%	55.2%	15.0%	4.2%
Native American/Alaska Native	25.0%	50.0%	15.6%	9.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	28.5%	56.3%	13.3%	1.9%
Black/African American	42.2%	44.2%	10.6%	3.0%
Hispanic/Latino	37.5%	45.8%	8.9%	7.8%
White/Caucasian	22.2%	56.7%	16.5%	4.6%
Other/Not Listed	22.2%	50.8%	17.5%	9.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 65. Seniors' agreement that access to oral health care is a major problem in the United States, by percentage of total 2007 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	23.5%	54.1%	19.6%	2.8%
Native American/Alaska Native	27.3%	48.5%	18.2%	6.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	22.8%	57.8%	17.1%	2.3%
Black/African American	41.4%	39.4%	16.2%	3.0%
Hispanic/Latino	36.3%	47.7%	12.4%	3.6%
White/Caucasian	21.2%	54.9%	21.1%	2.8%
Other/Not Listed	20.6%	42.9%	30.2%	6.3%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 66. Seniors' agreement that providing care to all segments of society is an ethical and professional obligation, by percentage of total 2007 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	26.6%	57.5%	13.4%	2.4%
Native American/Alaska Native	34.4%	46.9%	12.5%	6.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	28.0%	58.3%	12.0%	1.7%
Black/African American	45.7%	42.2%	9.0%	3.0%
Hispanic/Latino	41.8%	18.5%	6.7%	3.1%
White/Caucasian	23.3%	59.6%	14.7%	2.4%
Other/Not Listed	20.6%	50.8%	20.6%	7.9%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Table 67. Seniors' agreement that everyone is entitled to receive basic oral health care regardless of ability to pay, by percentage of total 2007 respondents in each category

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All Respondents	21.7%	54.6%	19.7%	4.0%
Native American/Alaska Native	21.9%	56.3%	12.5%	9.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	25.1%	58.0%	14.7%	2.1%
Black/African American	37.2%	47.2%	13.6%	2.0%
Hispanic/Latino	37.1%	47.9%	10.3%	4.6%
White/Caucasian	18.1%	54.6%	22.7%	4.6%
Other/Not Listed	15.9%	50.8%	23.8%	9.5%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.