



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

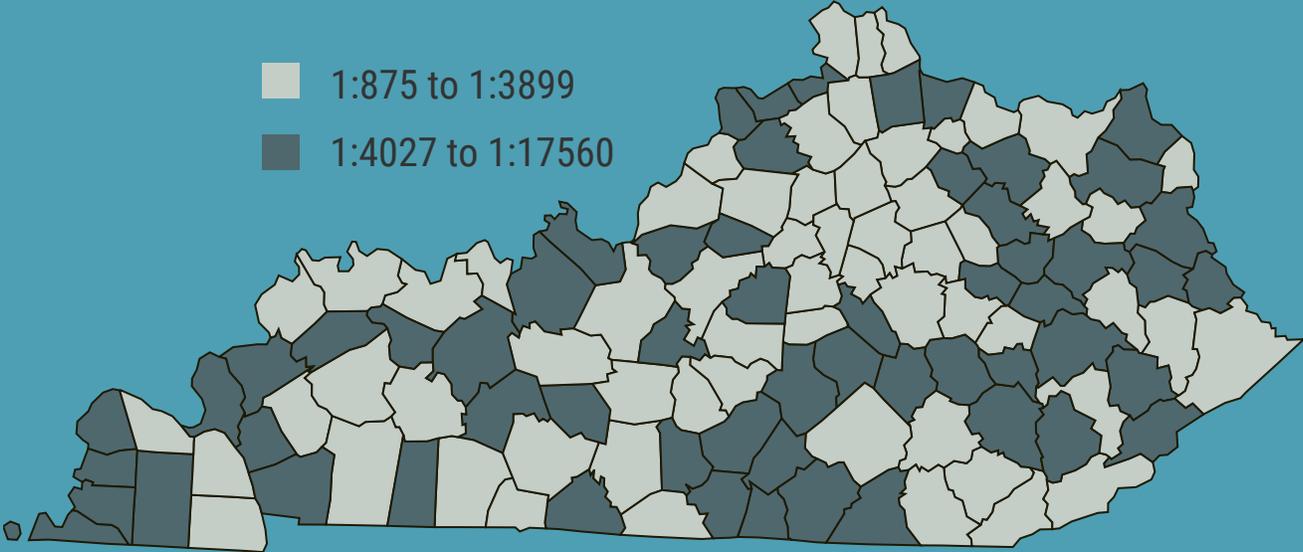


Figure 1 illustrates the counties in reference to the recommended ratio of dental providers (1:4000 (for high need areas)). The lightest counties in the legend are below or at the provider recommendation and the darker colored counties are higher than the recommended ratio.

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.