

*The Vermont Department of Health*

# 2009 DENTIST SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

*Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection*



## OUTLINE

- **Overview and Key Findings**
- **Survey Question Analysis**
- **Comparison with Previous Surveys**

# **SURVEY OVERVIEW**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION**

Mailed to dentists with the license renewal forms in late summer 2009

Followed-up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 99.7%

- 1 dentist refused to provide practice information

## SURVEY DESCRIPTION (continued)

### **Questions asked of dentists included:**

- Gender and age
- Specialty
- Location and hours of practice
- Whether they were accepting new patients
- Whether they work with hygienists
- Years worked in Vermont
- Efforts to hire an associate
- Retirement plans

## KEY FINDINGS

- There were 366 dentists working in Vermont
- 80% were primary care dentists, including:
  - *280 in general dentistry*
  - *12 in pediatric dentistry*
- 12% work 40 or more hours per week, 53% work between 30 and 40 hours per week. *(This only counts direct patient care and does not include practice management.)*

## KEY FINDINGS (continued)

- The 366 dentists correspond to 271.6 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) (1 FTE = 40 hours/week)
- 62% of the dentists are 50 or older, 47% are 55 or older, and 30% are 60 or older
- 8 of the 12 pediatric dentists are 55 or older
- 12 of the 26 oral surgeons are 55 or older

## KEY FINDINGS (continued)

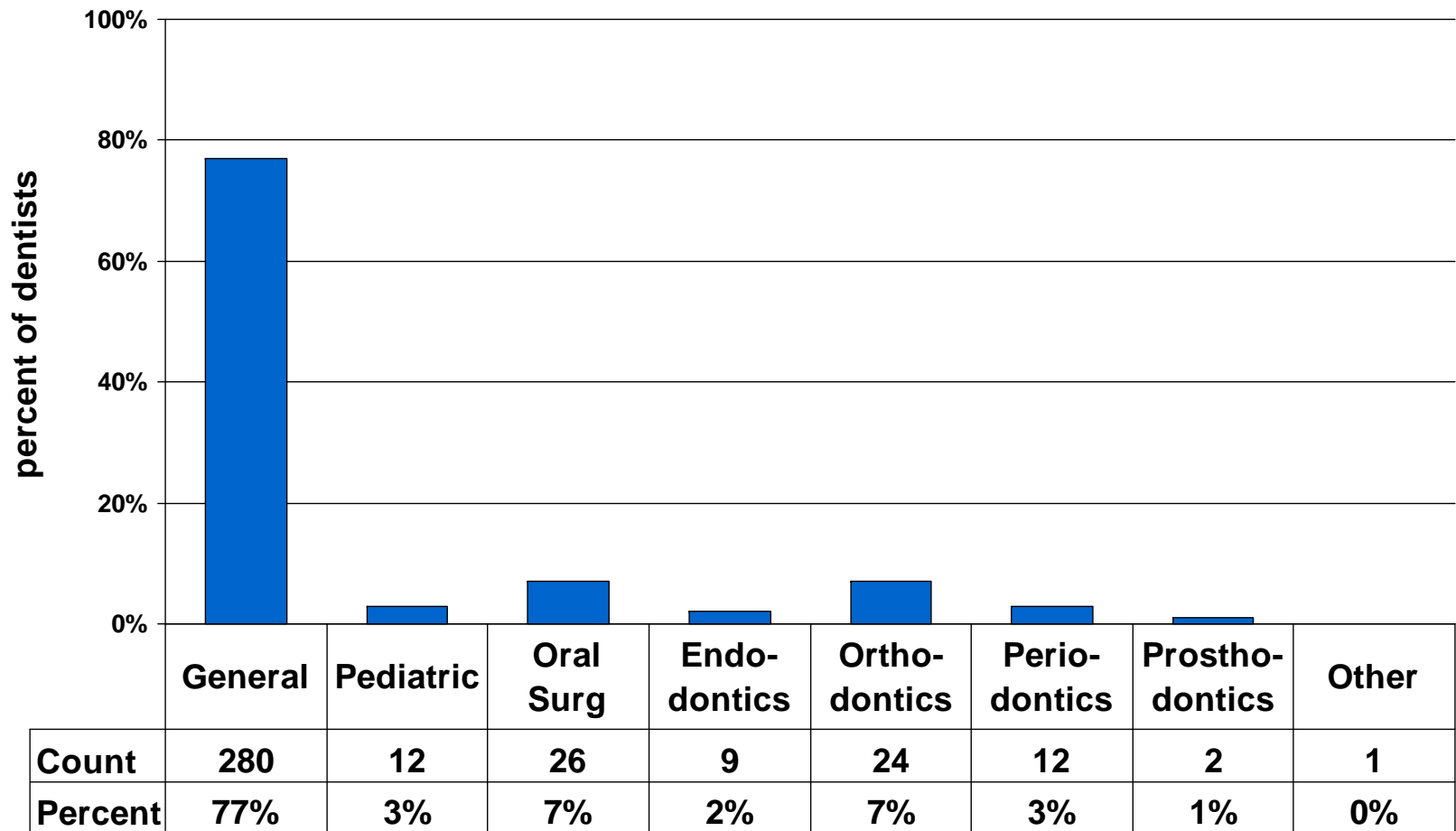
As compared with 2007:

- *There are 11 more dentists in total*
- *There are 3 more dentists under age 35*
- *There are 11 fewer dentists age 35-59*
- *There are 19 more dentists age 60 or older*
- *More dentists are working < 30 hours per week*
- *There are 5.7 more FTEs in specialty care, but 3.9 fewer FTEs in primary care*
- *Percentage accepting new patients has increased*
- *Average time to appointment has decreased*

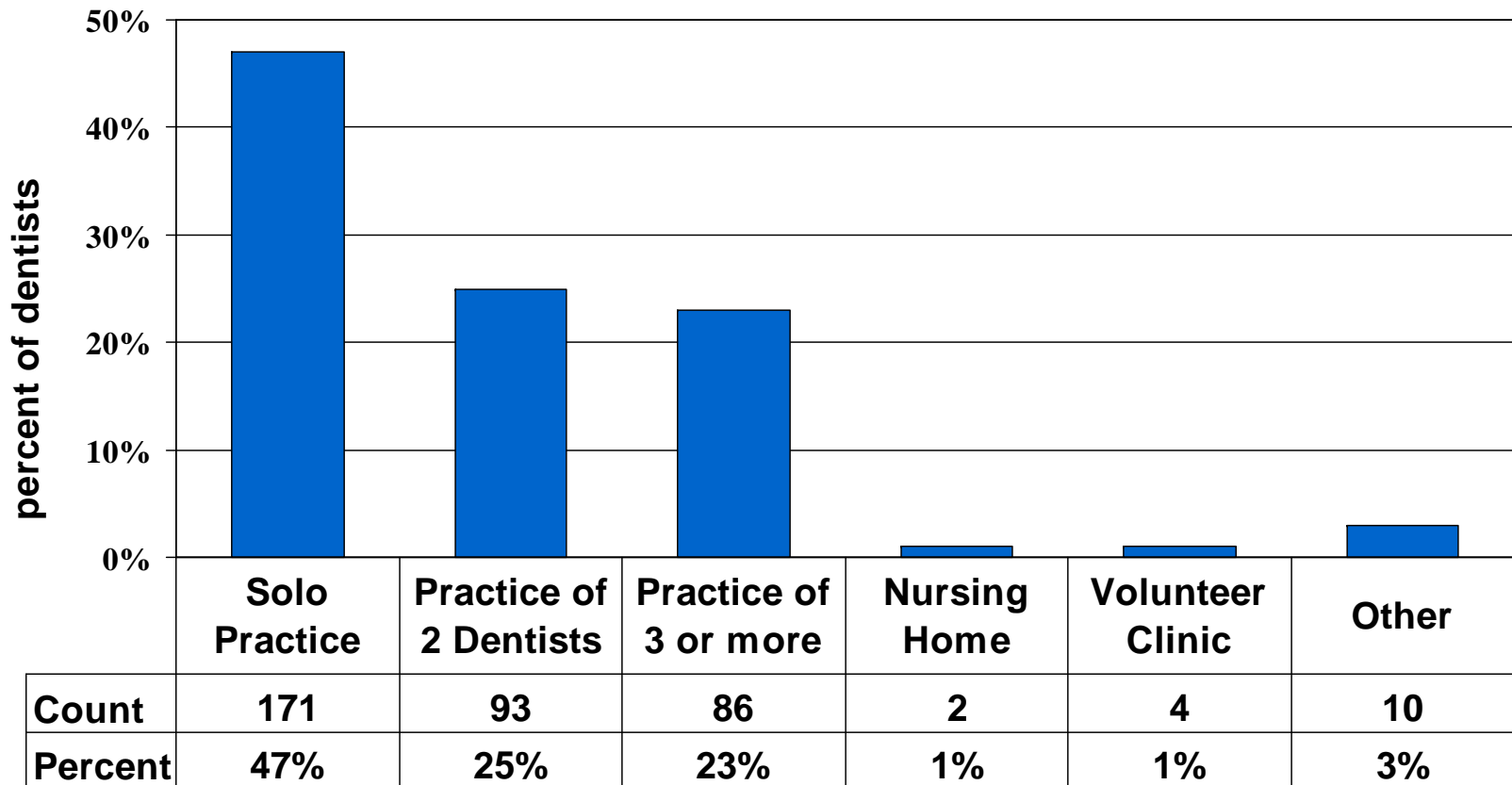


# **SURVEY QUESTION ANALYSIS**

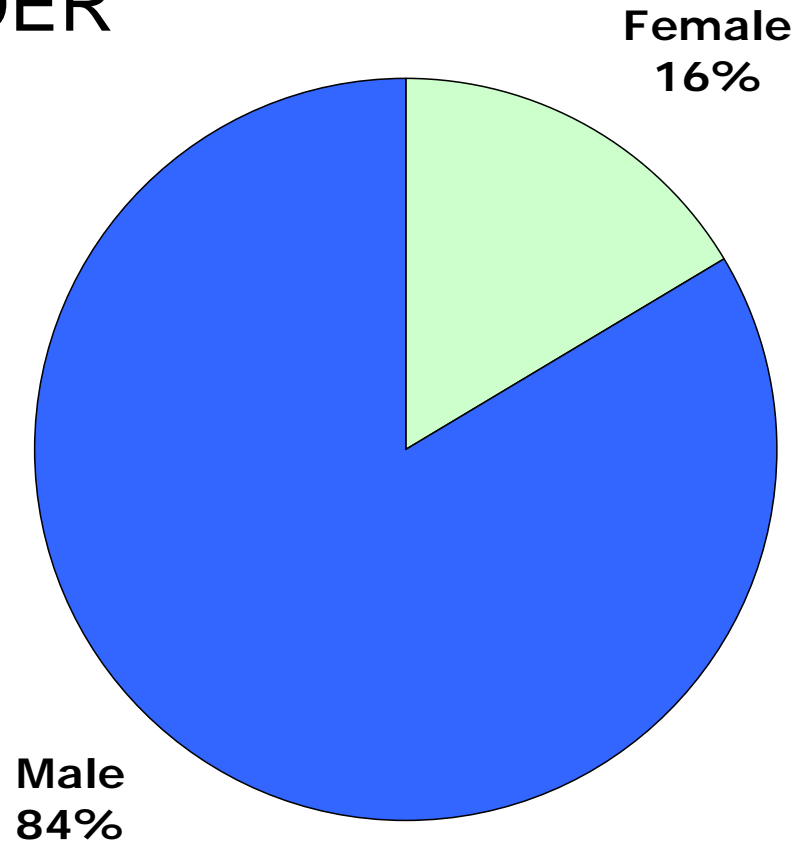
# SPECIALTY



## PRACTICE SETTING

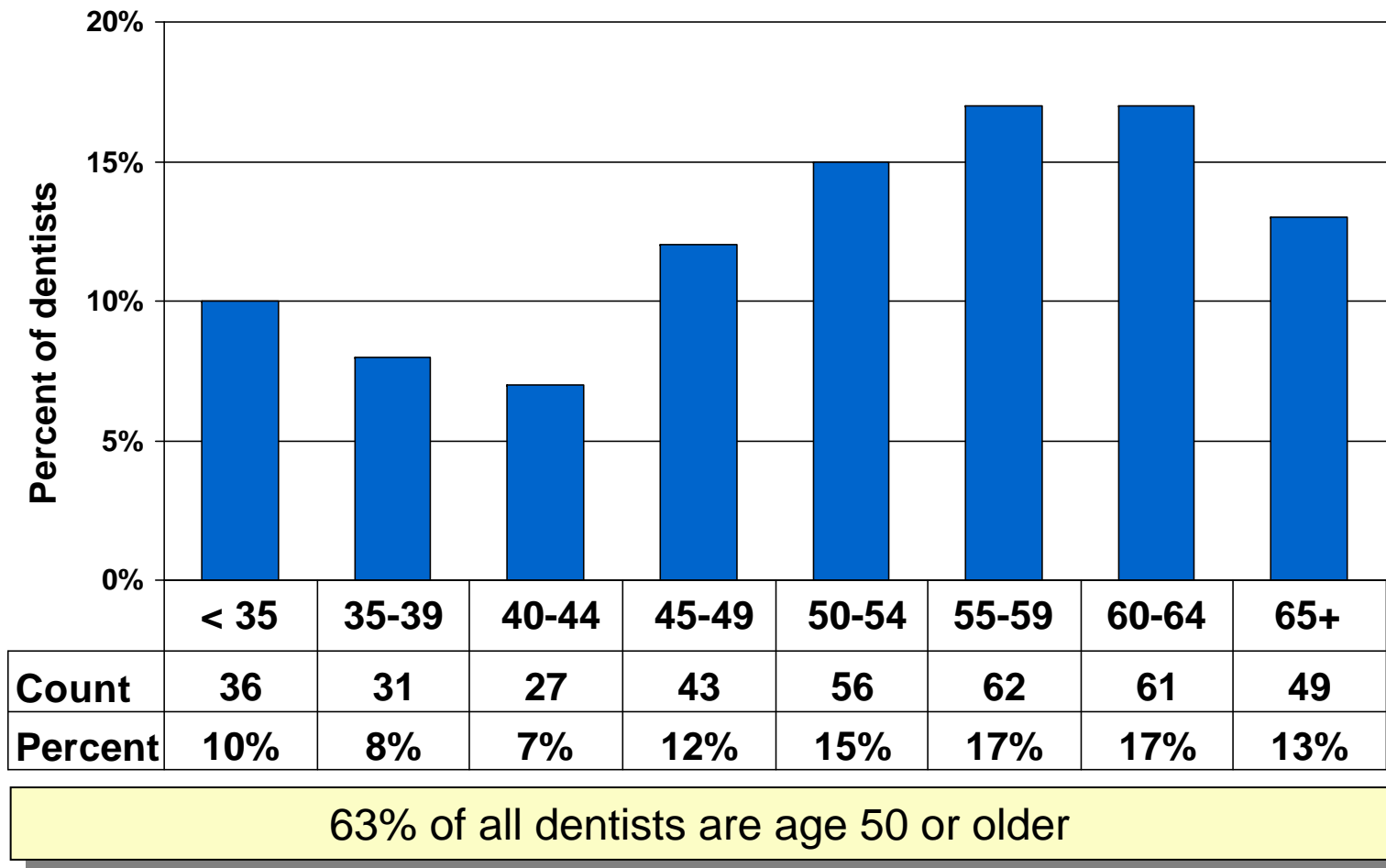


## GENDER

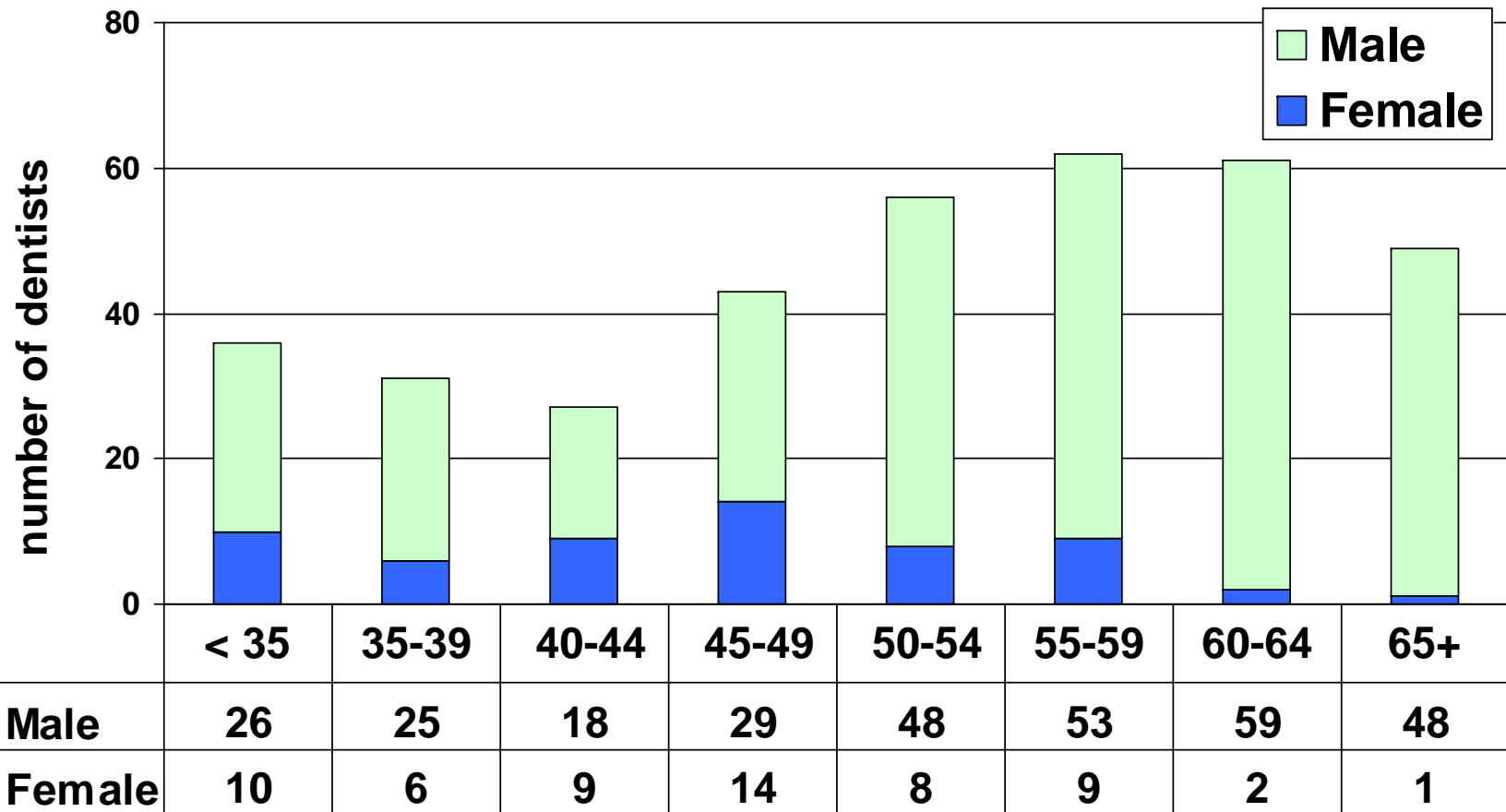


306 of the dentists are male, 60 are female

# AGE DISTRIBUTION

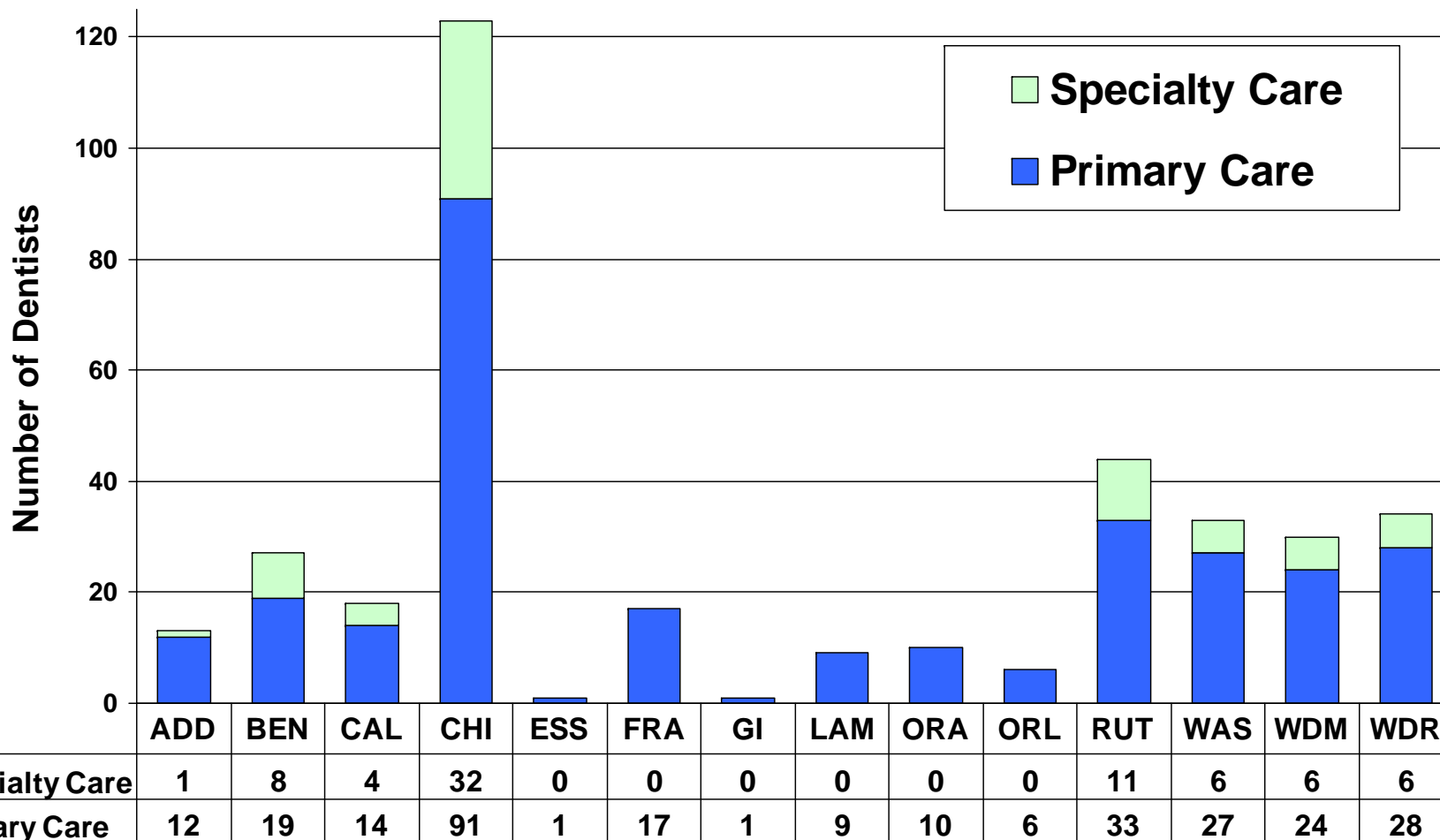


## AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

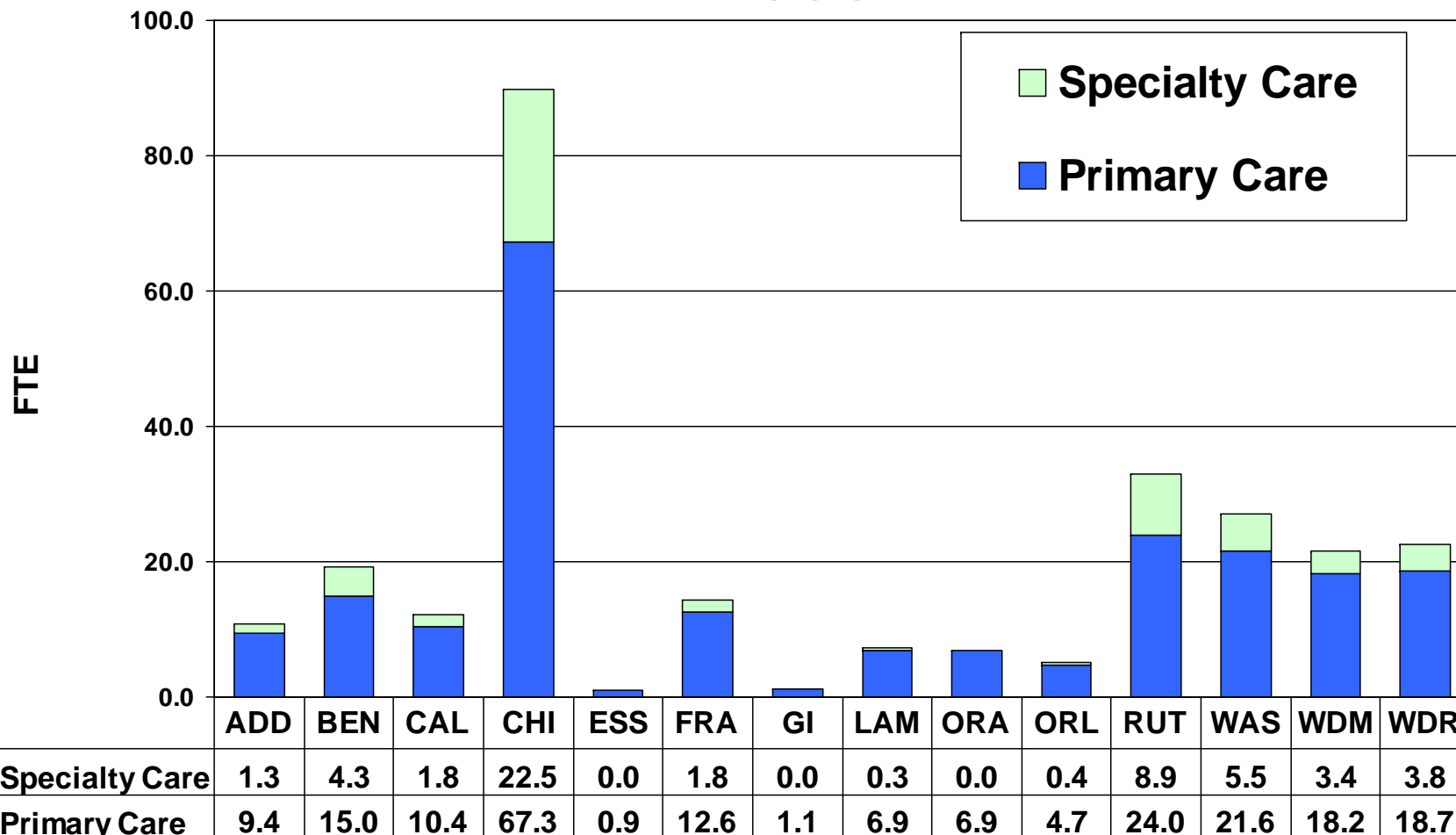


68% of the males, but only 34% of the females, are age 50 or older

# NUMBER OF DENTISTS BY COUNTY

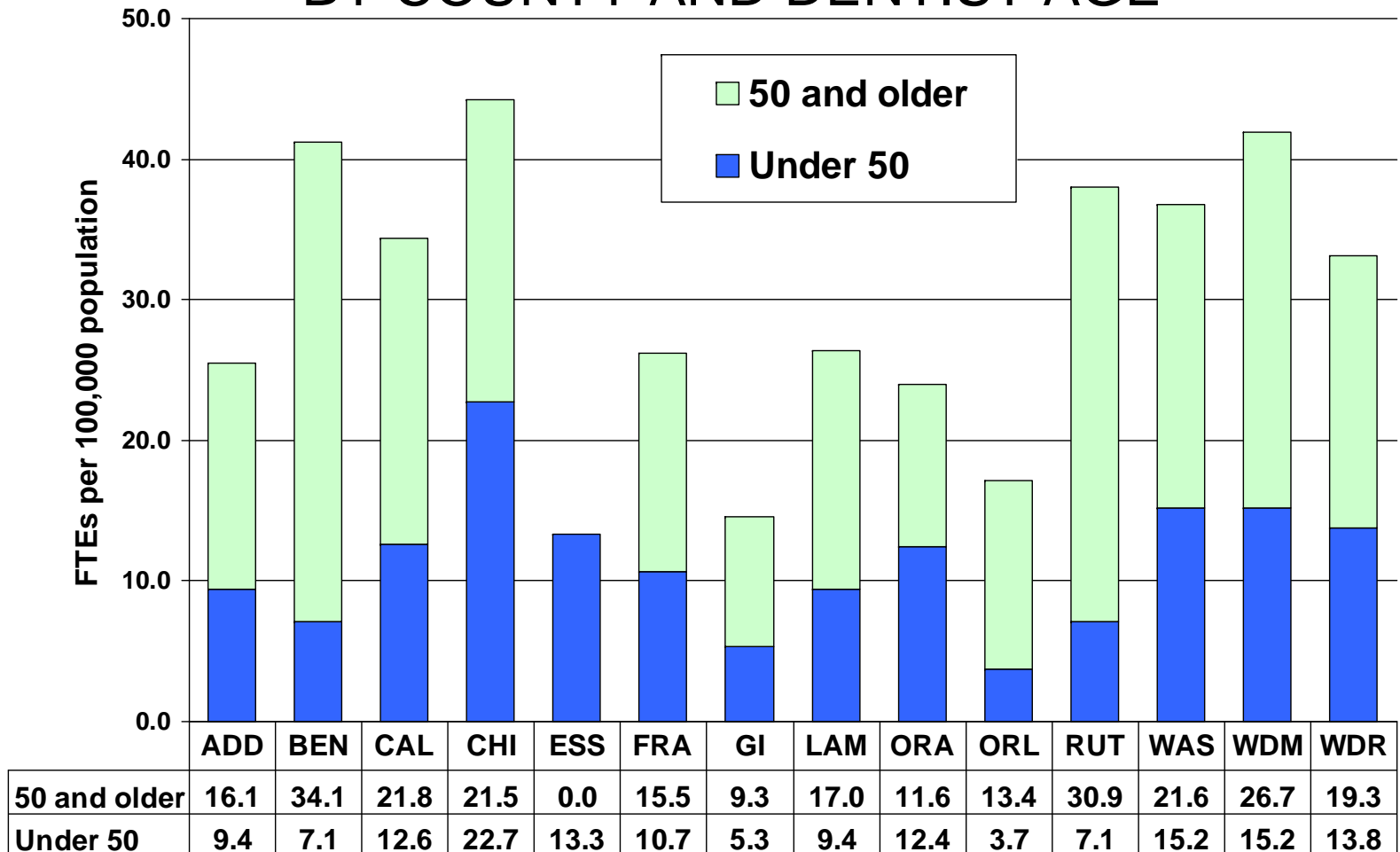


## NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT DENTISTS BY COUNTY

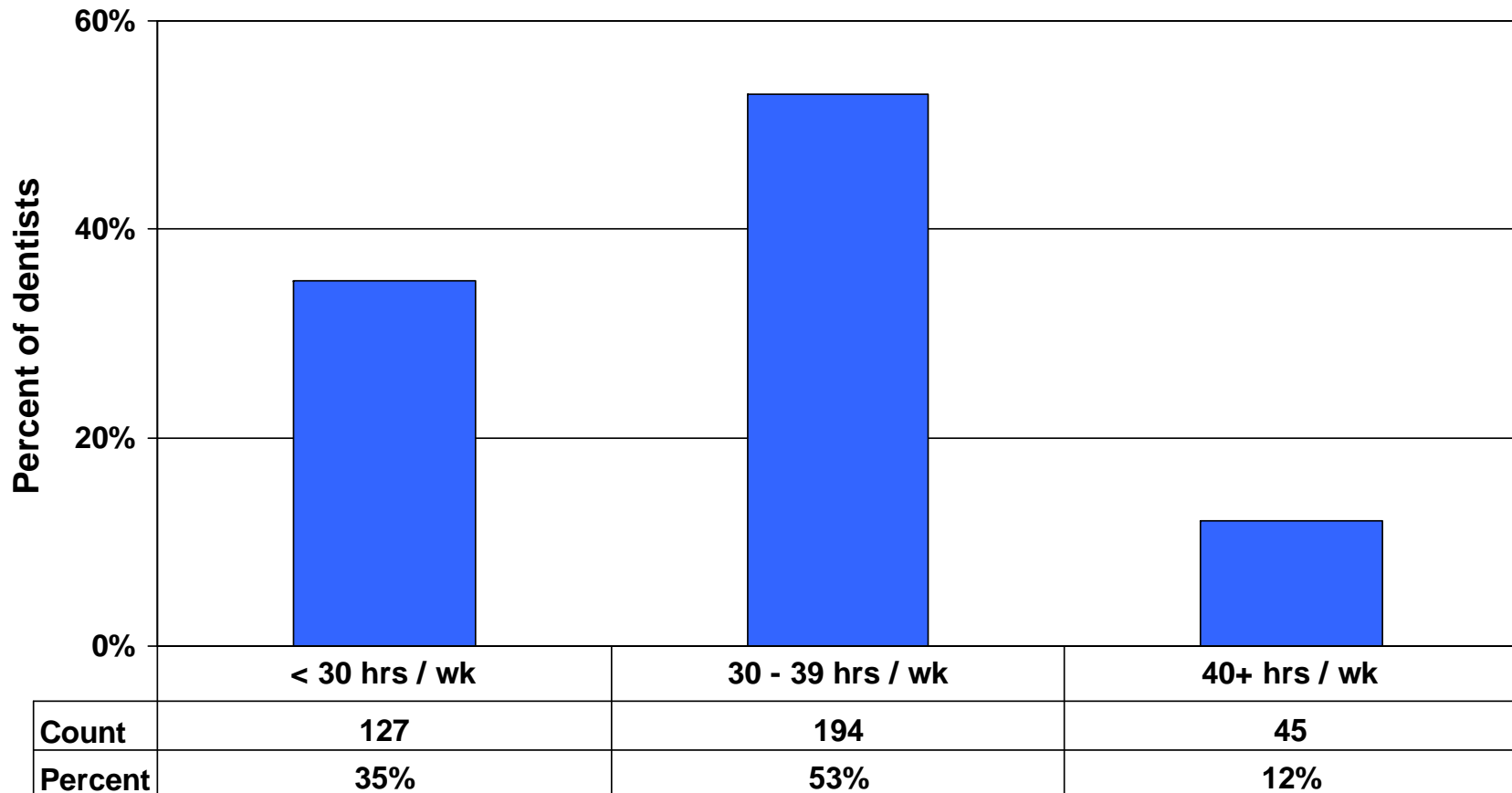




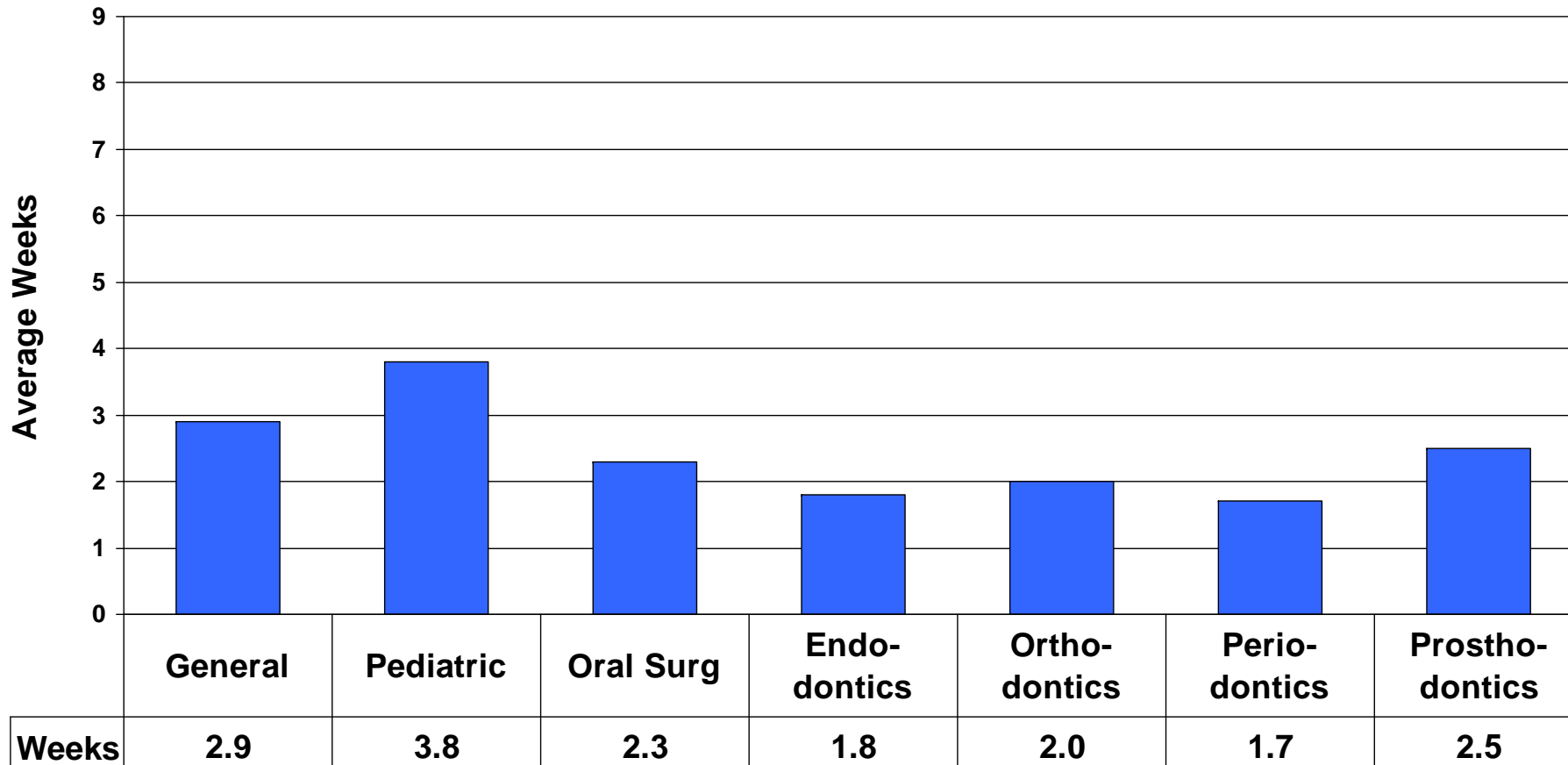
## PRIMARY CARE DENTIST TO POPULATION RATIOS BY COUNTY AND DENTIST AGE



## PATIENT CARE HOURS PER WEEK

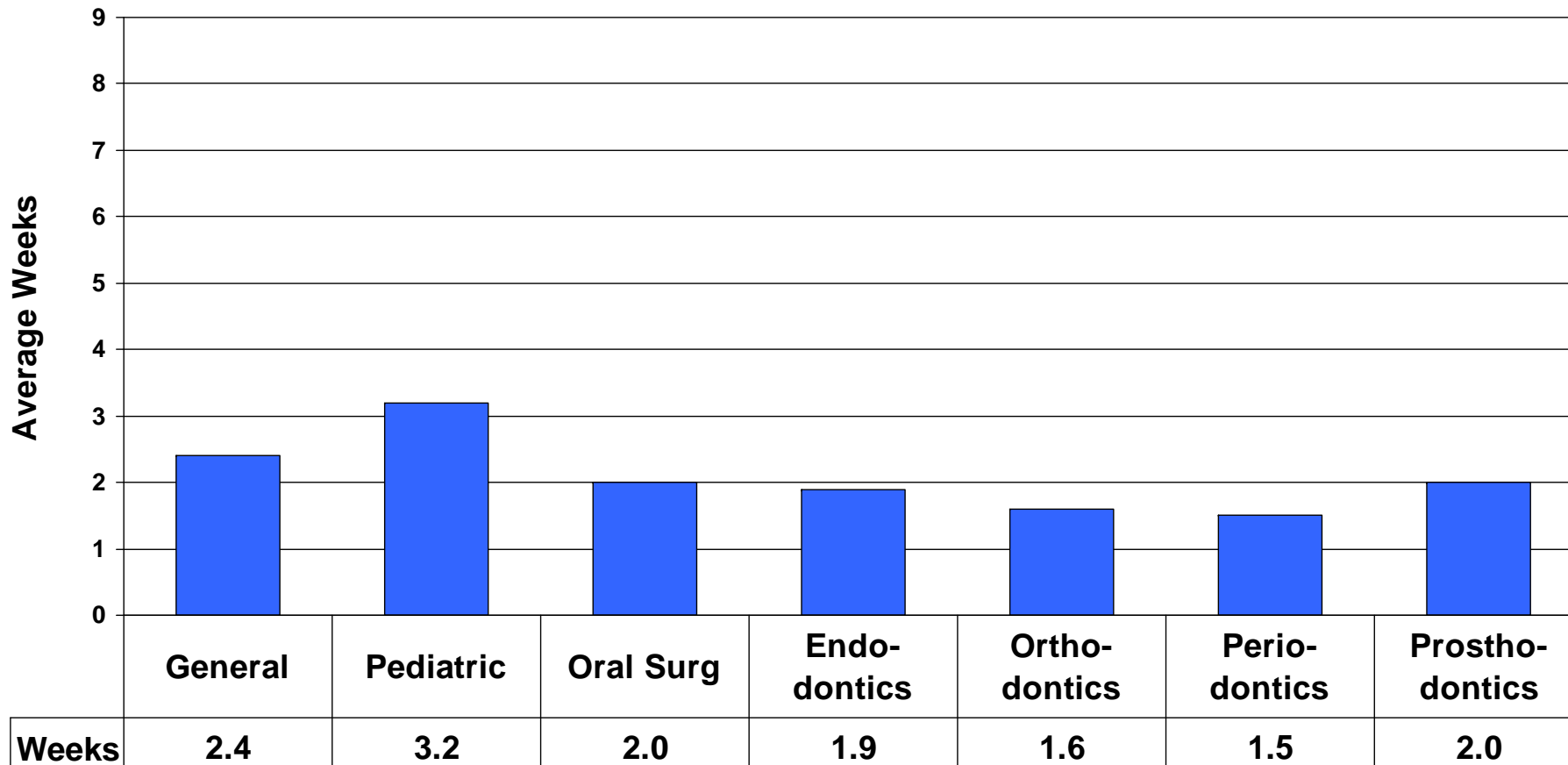


## AVERAGE WAIT TIME NEW PATIENTS



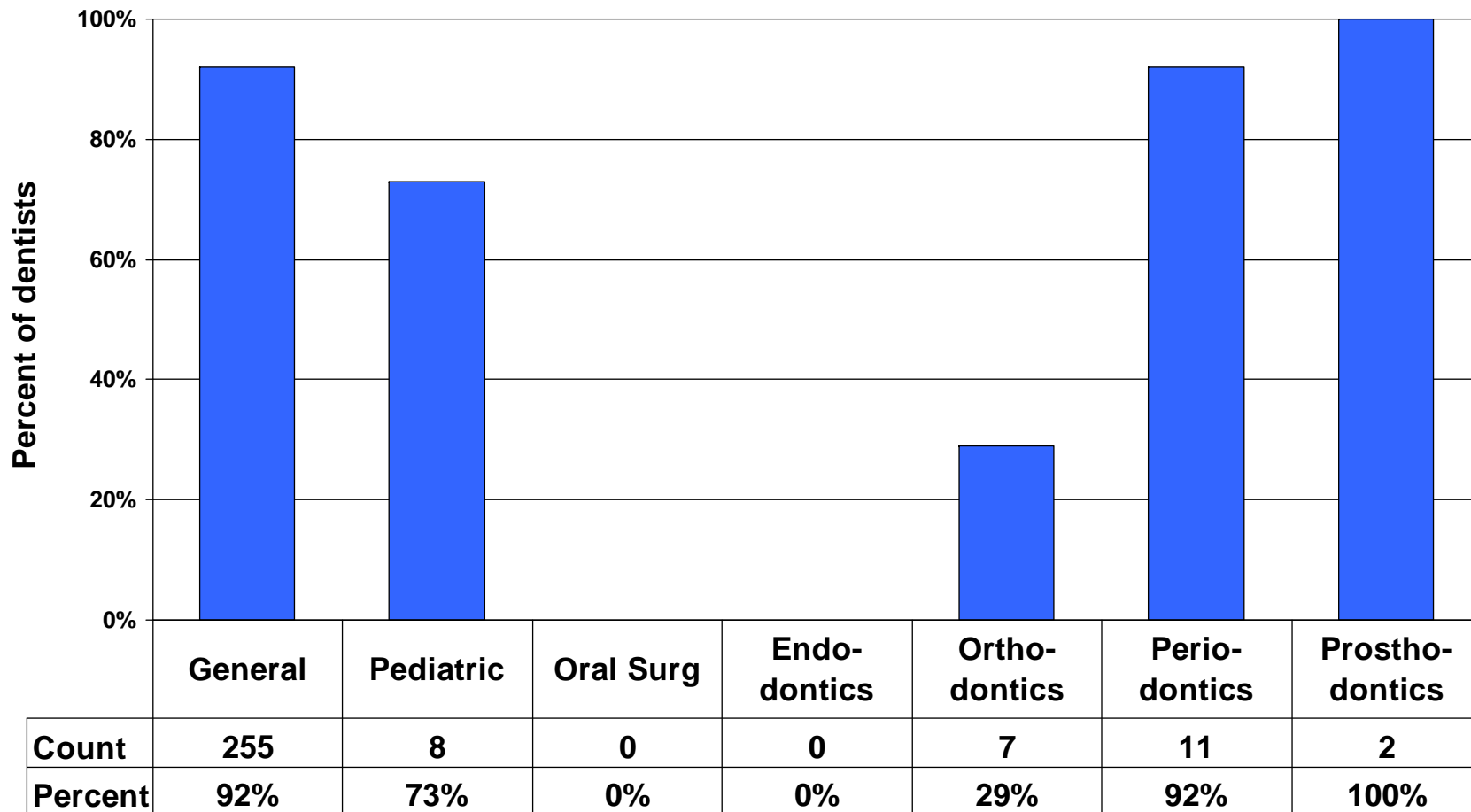
Average wait time for an appointment for new dental patients was 2.8 weeks.

## AVERAGE WAIT TIME FOR CURRENT PATIENTS



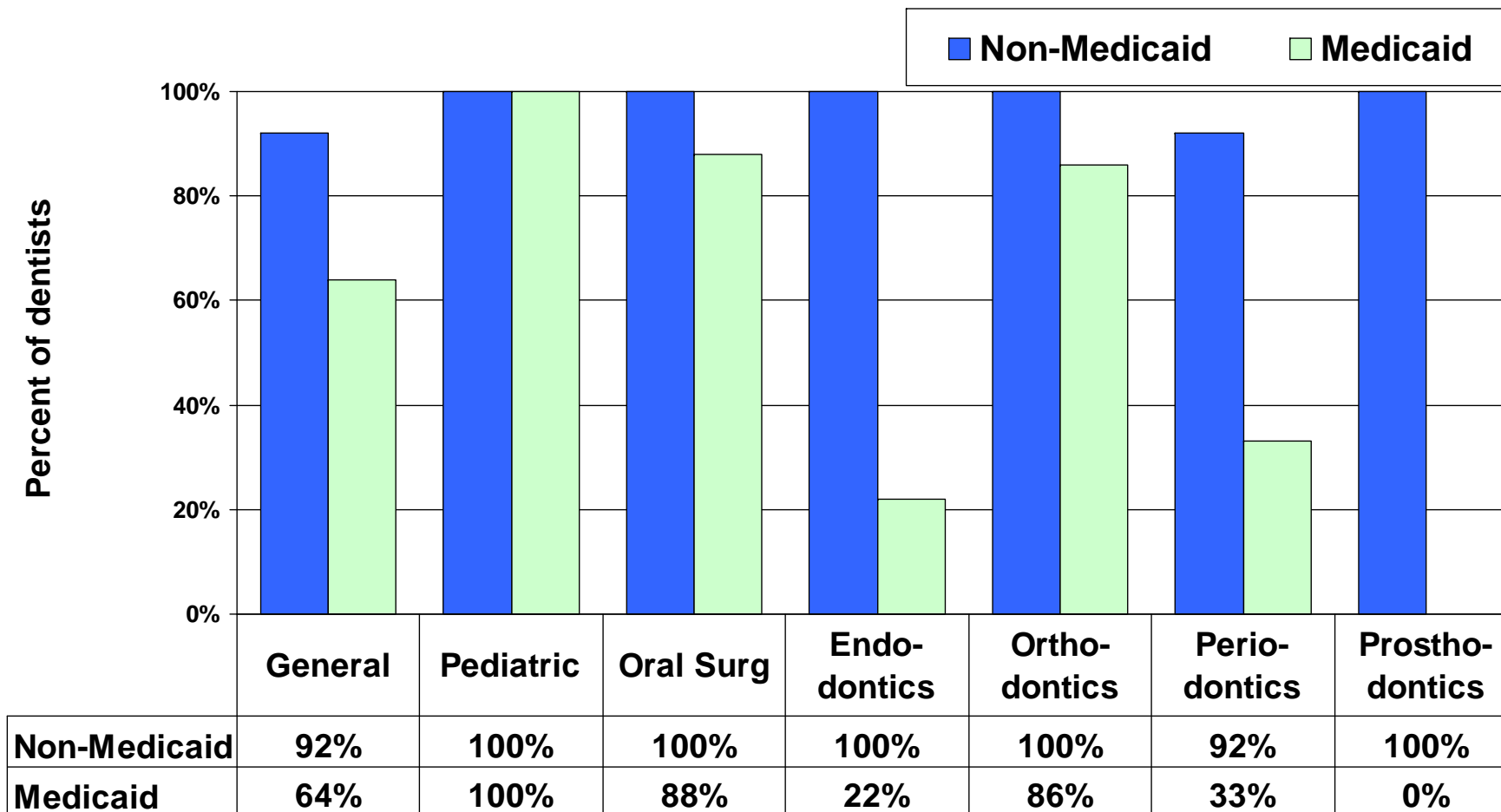
Average wait time for an appointment for current patients was 2.3 weeks.

# WORK WITH HYGIENISTS



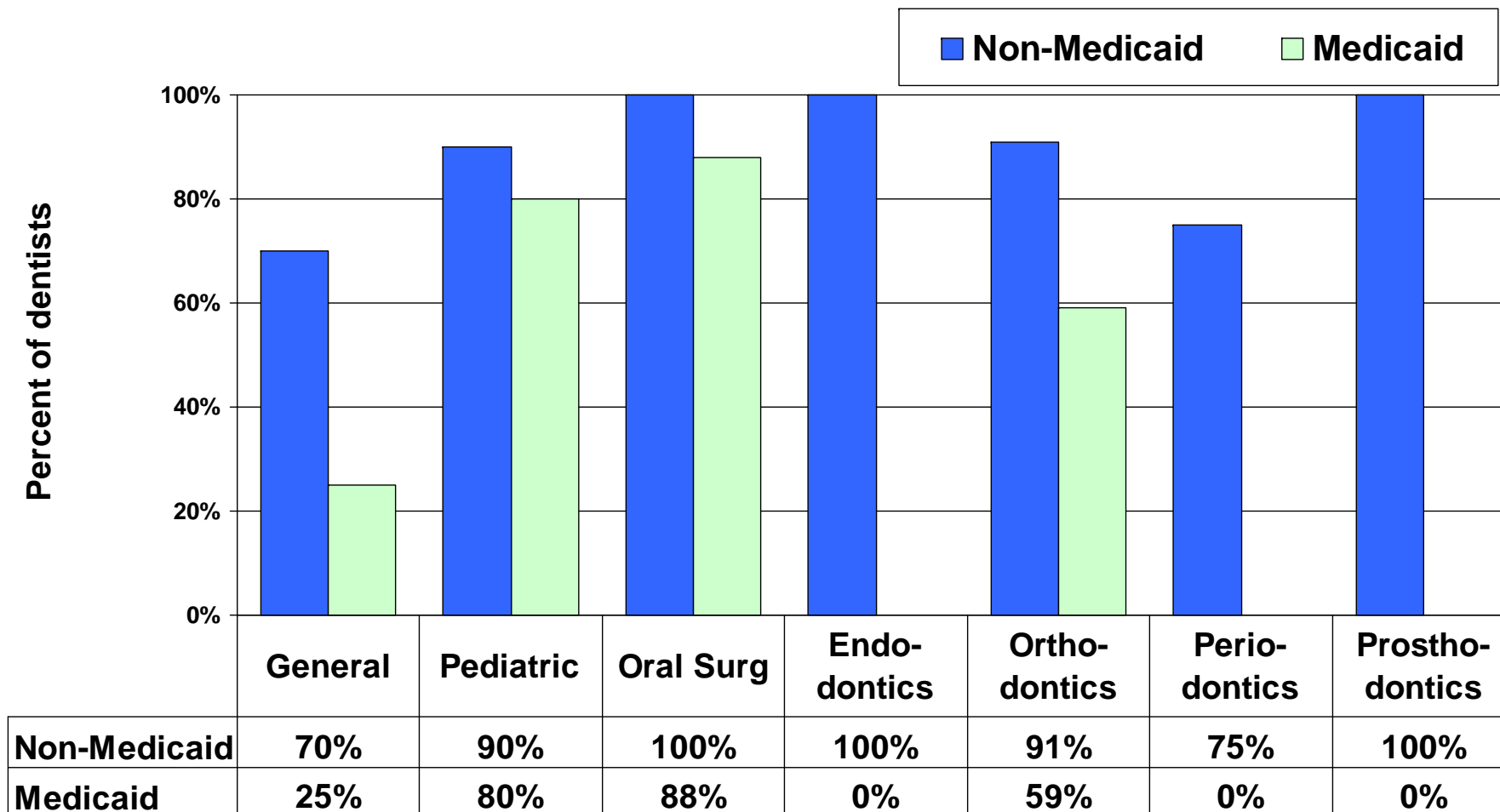
Overall rate was 78%.  
Multiple Dentists may work with the same hygienist(s).

# ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



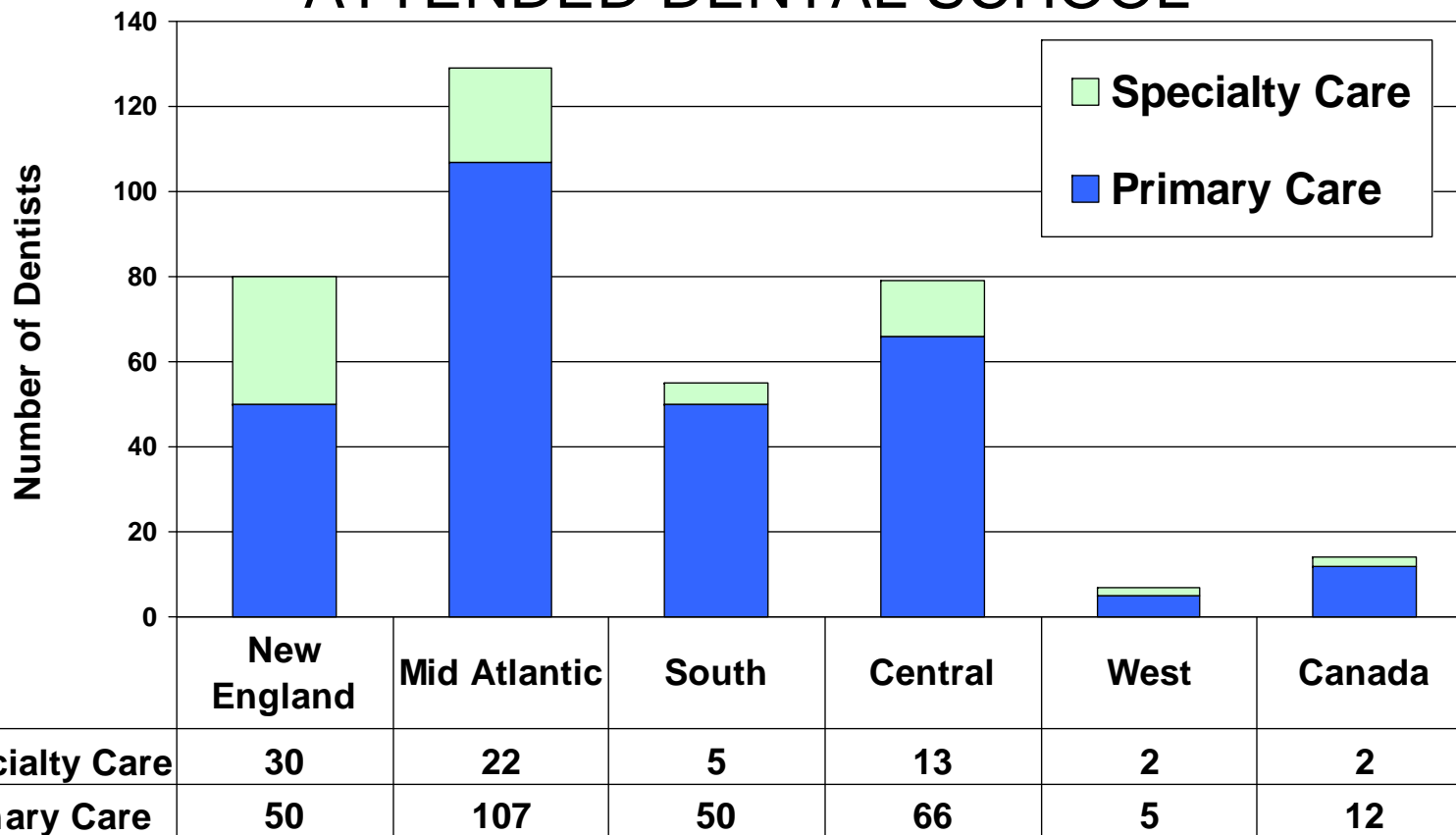
93% accepted new non-Medicaid patients, 65% accepted new Medicaid patients.

# ACCEPTING 5+ NEW PATIENTS / MONTH



75% accepted 5+ new non-Medicaid patients, 32% accepted 5+ new Medicaid patients.

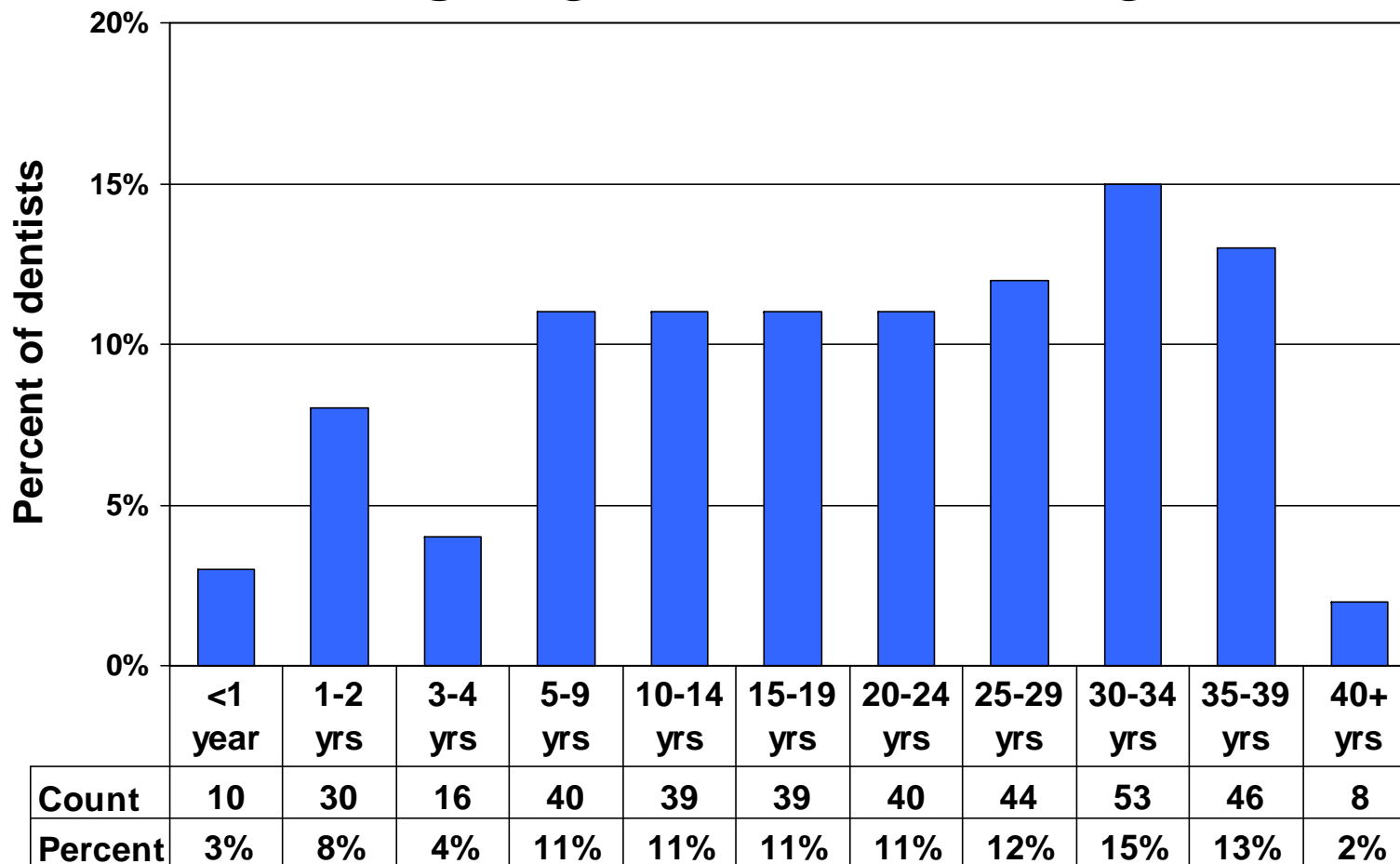
## WHERE VERMONT DENTISTS ATTENDED DENTAL SCHOOL



35% of all Vermont dentists and 37% of primary care dentists were trained in the mid-Atlantic region.  
 41% of all specialty care dentists were trained in New England.

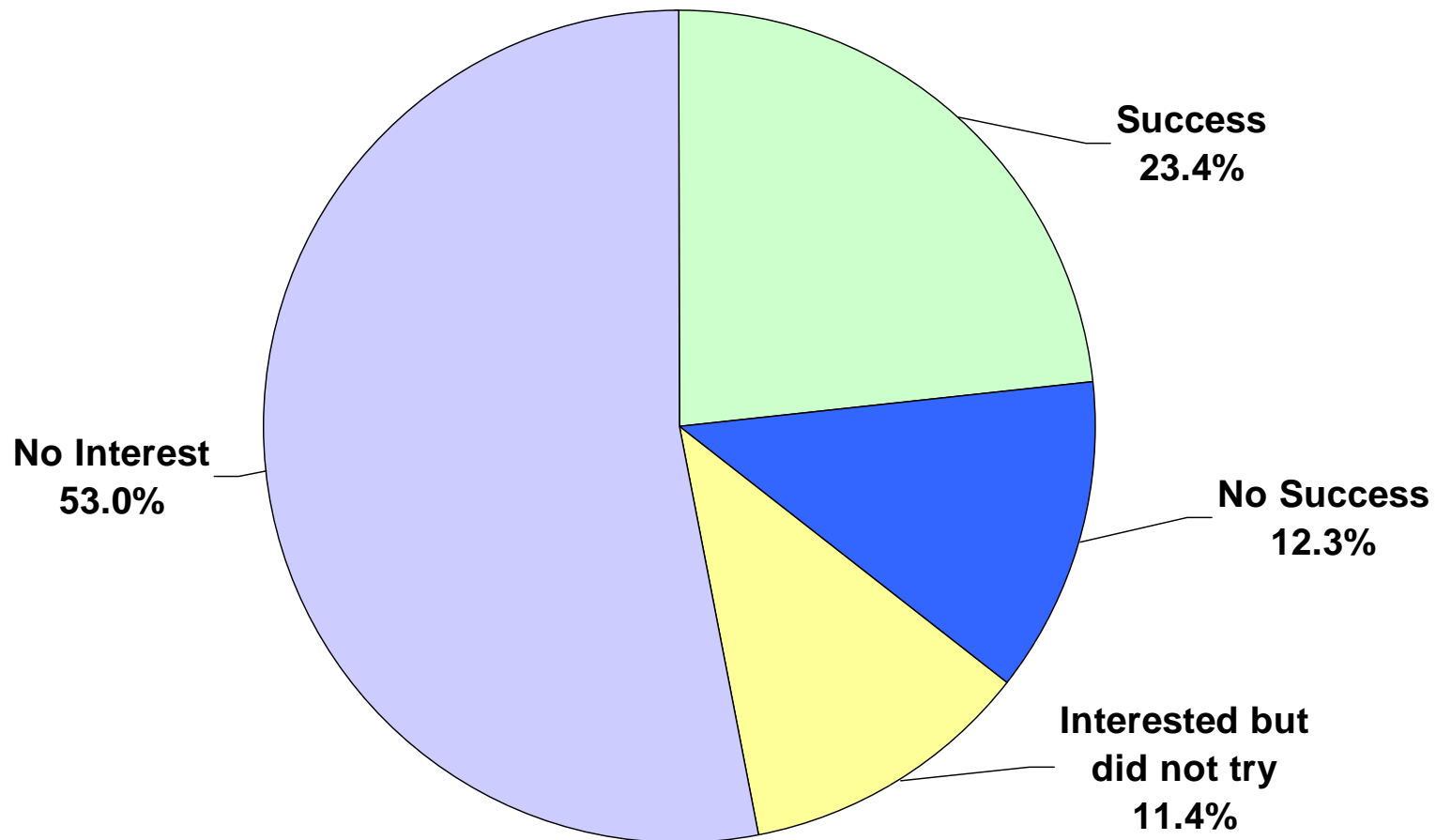


## YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT



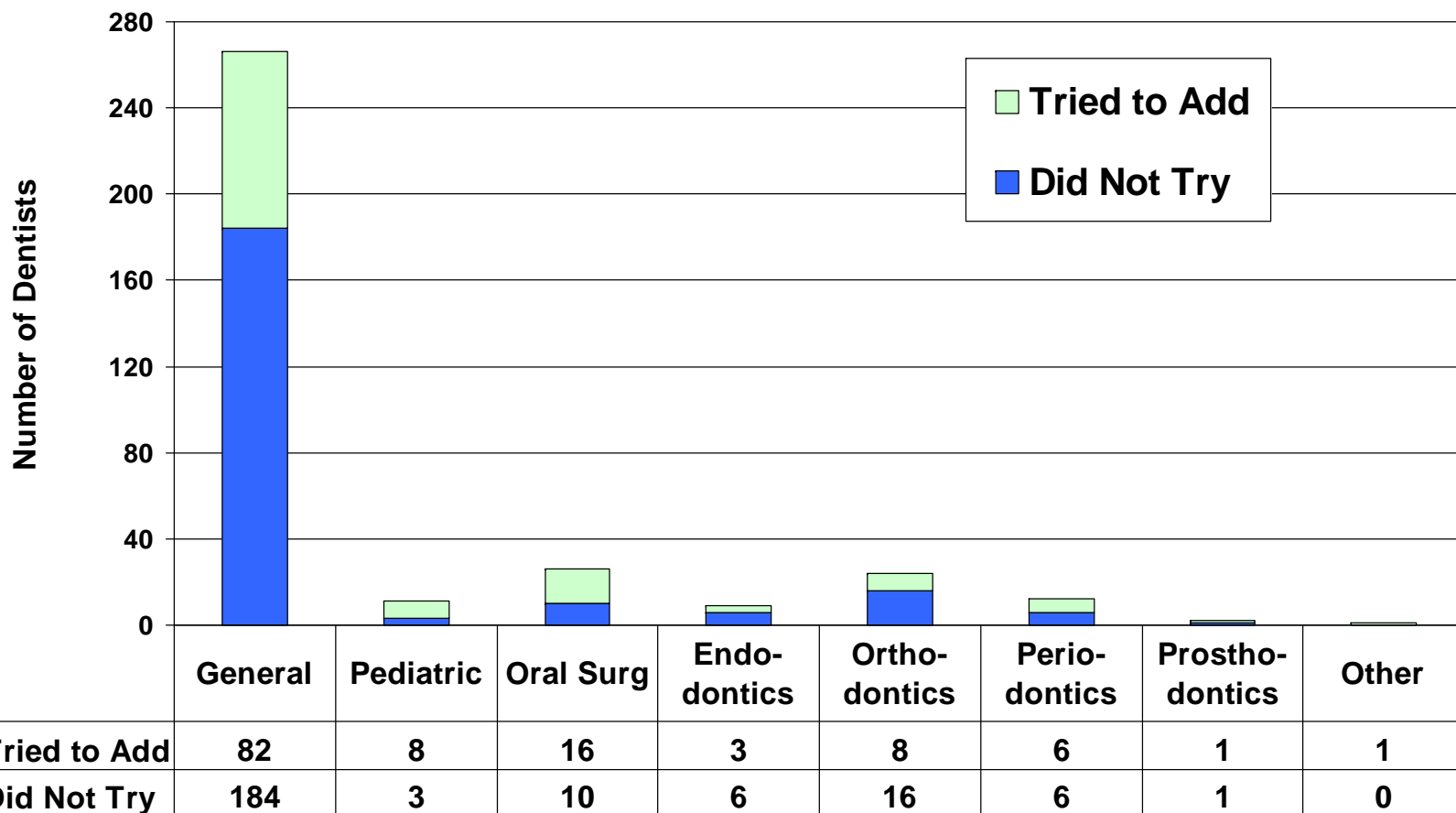
52% of the dentists have worked in Vermont for 20 or more years.

## INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



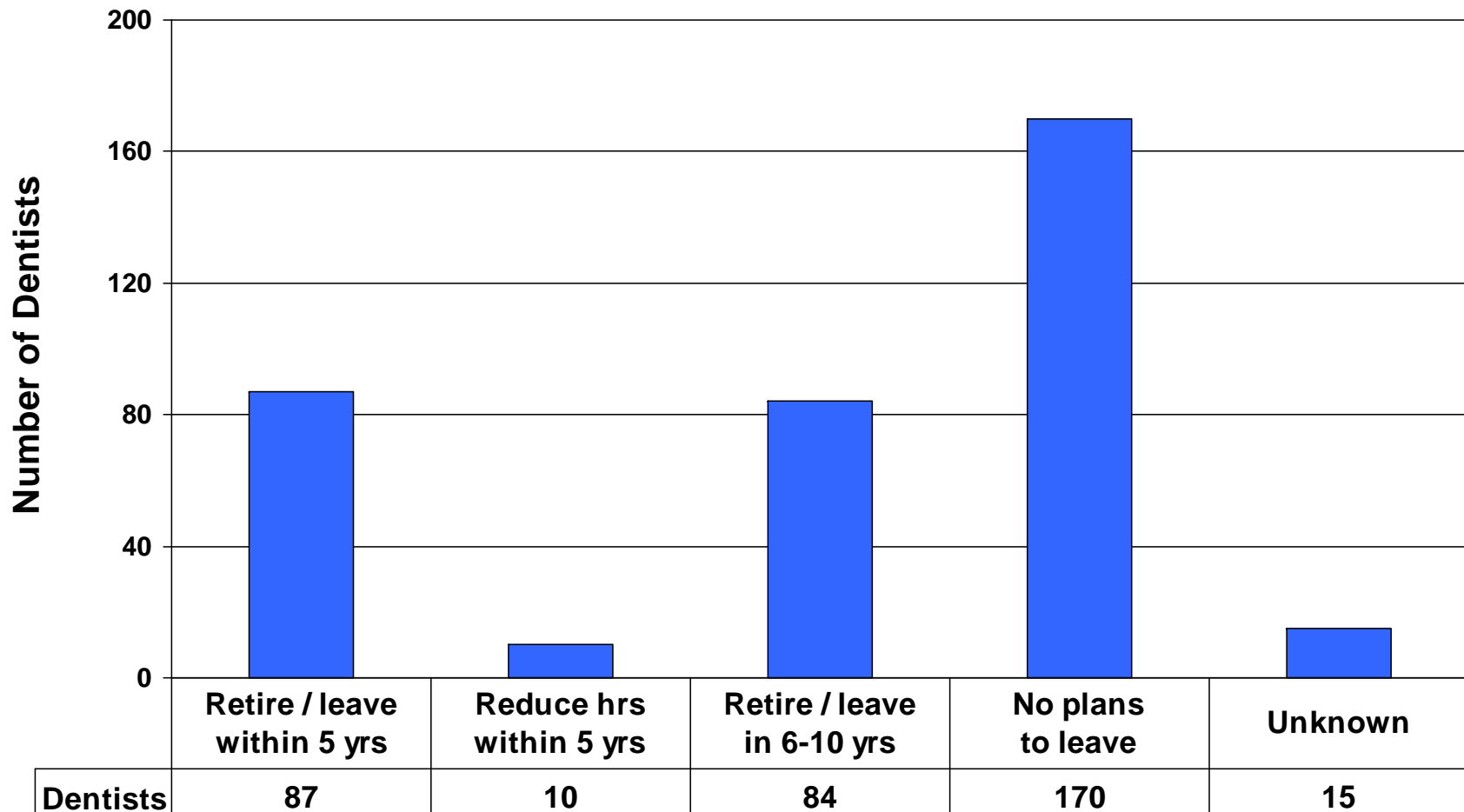
2009 Dentist Survey

# INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



Tried to add - Includes responses "Success" and "No success".  
 Did not try - Includes responses "Interested" and "No interest".

## PLANS TO RETIRE, LEAVE, OR REDUCE HOURS



# **COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

## Numbers of Dentists by Specialty, 2001-2009

	<b>Count by main specialty</b>				
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>
Total active dentists	354	367	352	355	366
Primary care dentists	277	293	278	282	292
General practice	268	284	269	272	280
Pediatric dentistry	9	9	9	10	12
Specialist dentists	77	74	74	73	74
Oral Surgery	23	22	19	24	26
Endodontics	10	10	9	7	9
Orthodontics	27	26	27	27	24
Periodontics	11	10	12	11	12
Prosthodontics	4	3	4	2	2
Other Specialties	2	3	3	2	1

## Full Time Equivalents by specialty, 2001-2009

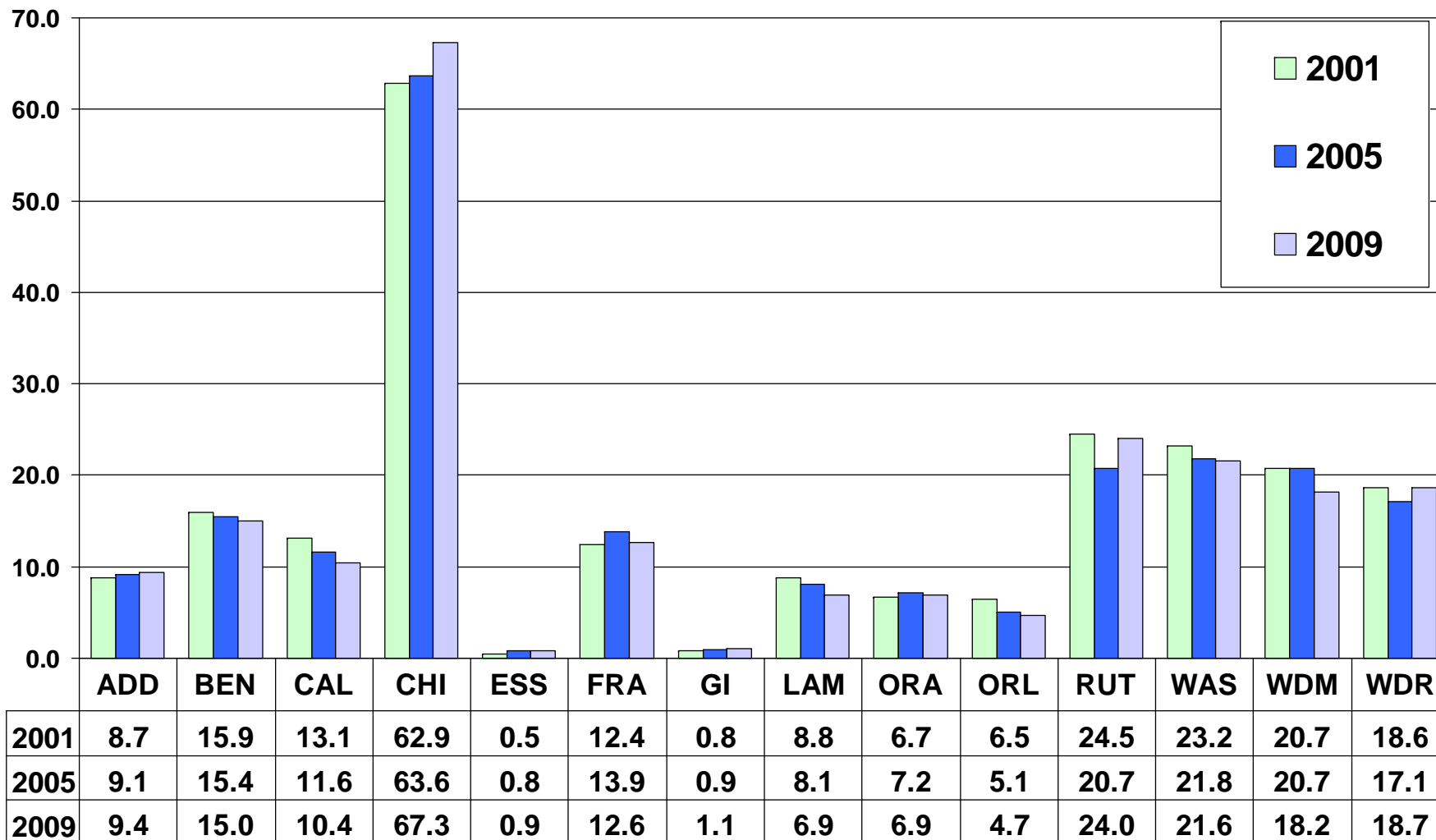
	<b>Full Time Equivalents (FTE)</b>				
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>
Total active dentists	284.6	280.8	267.1	269.8	271.6
Primary care dentists	223.4	226.7	216.0	221.6	217.7
General practice	216.4	219.8	209.1	214.9	209.9
Pediatric dentistry	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.8
Specialist dentists	61.3	54.1	51.1	48.2	53.9
Oral Surgery	19.7	17.1	15.1	16.2	19.0
Endodontics	8.9	8.6	7.1	6.4	7.0
Orthodontics	19.7	17.5	16.9	17.2	17.4
Periodontics	8.1	6.5	7.2	5.7	7.8
Prosthodontics	3.0	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.6
Other Specialties	1.9	2.6	2.7	1.2	1.0

## Selected indicators, 2001-2009

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
Total number of active dentists	354	367	352	355	366
Percent age 50 or older	49%	53%	57%	59%	62%
Percent age 55 or older	29%	35%	41%	44%	47%
Average patient care hours per week	33	31	31	31	30
Primary care:					
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	28%	29%	29%	30%	31%
FTEs / 100,000 population	36.5	36.6	34.7	35.7	35.0
% accepting new patients	85%	88%	88%	90%	92%
accepting new medicaid patients	37%	57%	59%	60%	65%
Average weeks wait - new patients	4.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	2.9
Plan to retire, leave, or reduce hrs within 5 yrs	20%	23%	23%	24%	29%
Percent working with dental hygienists	86%	88%	88%	90%	91%
Specialty care:					
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	46%	44%	44%	44%	42%
FTEs / 100,000 population	10.0	8.7	8.2	7.8	8.7



## PRIMARY CARE FTEs, BY COUNTY, 2001-2009



## AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2001-2009

