

*The Vermont Department of Health*

# 2013 DENTIST SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

*Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection*

July, 2015

 VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## OUTLINE

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

# **SURVEY OVERVIEW**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION**

Completed by most dentists online with the license renewal in late summer 2013

Followed-up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 99.5%

- 1 dentist refused, 1 left area and not reached

## 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

## KEY FINDINGS

- There were 369 dentists working in Vermont
- 81% were primary care dentists, including:
  - *286 general dentists*
  - *12 pediatric dentists*
- 23% work 40 or more hours per week, while 55% work between 30 and 40 hours per week. (*This only counts direct patient care and does not include practice management*)
- 15% practice in more than one location

## KEY FINDINGS (continued)

- The 369 dentists correspond to 290.8 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) (1 FTE = 40 hours/week)
- 48% of the dentists are 55 or older
- 21% are 65 or older
- 6 of the 12 pediatric dentists are 60 or older
- 8 of the 24 orthodontists are 60 or older
- 5 of the 11 endodontists are 60 or older

## KEY FINDINGS (continued)

As compared with 2011:

- There is 1 more dentist in total
- There are 6 more dentists under age 35 – but 3 fewer in the age group 35-54
- There are the same total number of dentists age 55 or older
- However, in 2013 there are 13 fewer in the 55-64 age group, and 13 more who are 65 or older, than there were in 2011.



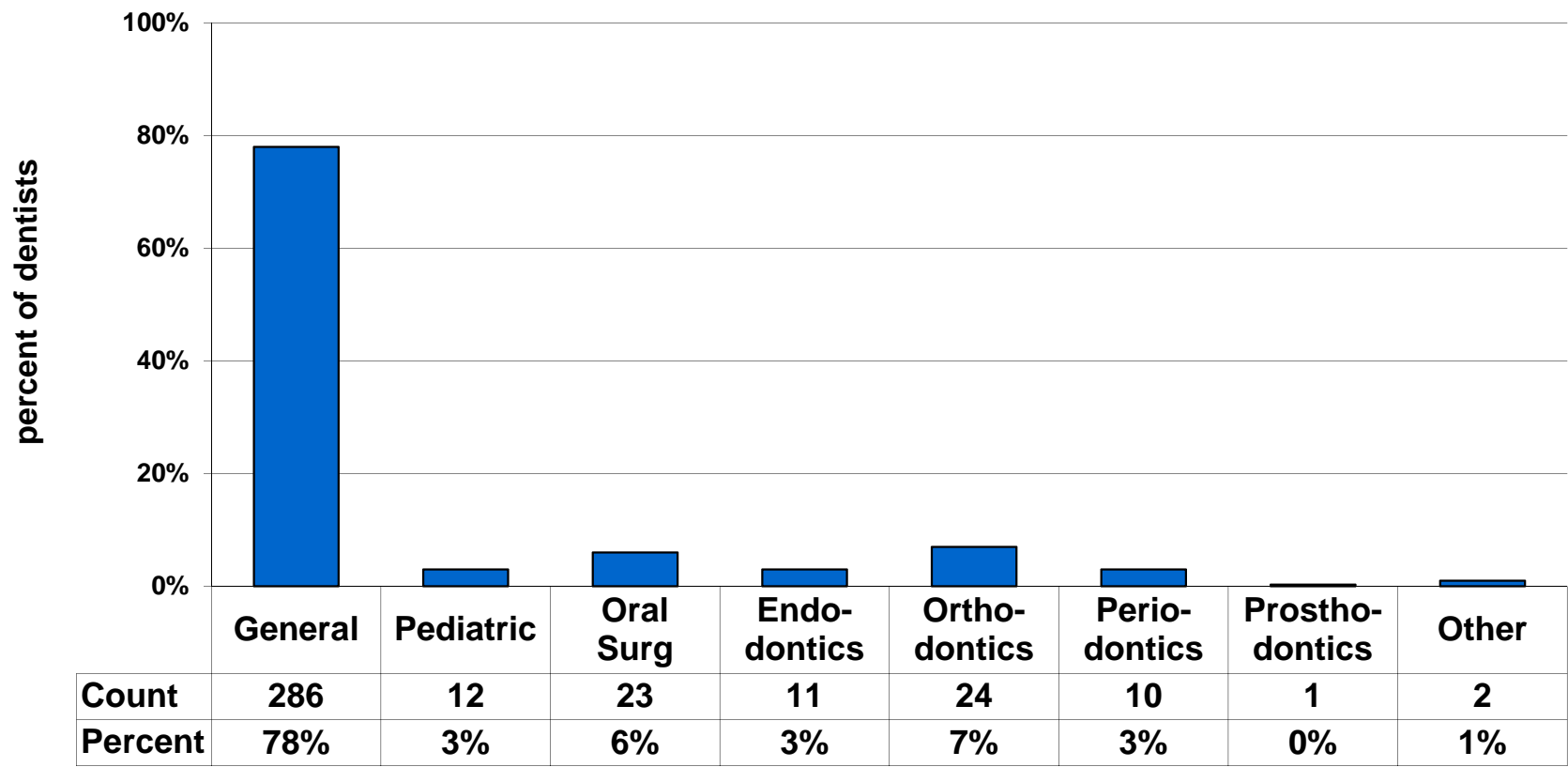
## KEY FINDINGS (continued)

As compared with 2011:

- More dentists are working 40+ hours per week
- There are 9.4 more FTEs in primary care, and 0.3 more FTEs in specialty care
- Notable shift from 2-dentist to 3+-dentist practices
- Percentage accepting new Medicaid patients has decreased from 69% to 64%
- Only 36% accept 5+ new Medicaid patients / month
- Average wait time to primary care appointment has increased from 2.8 to 3.2 weeks

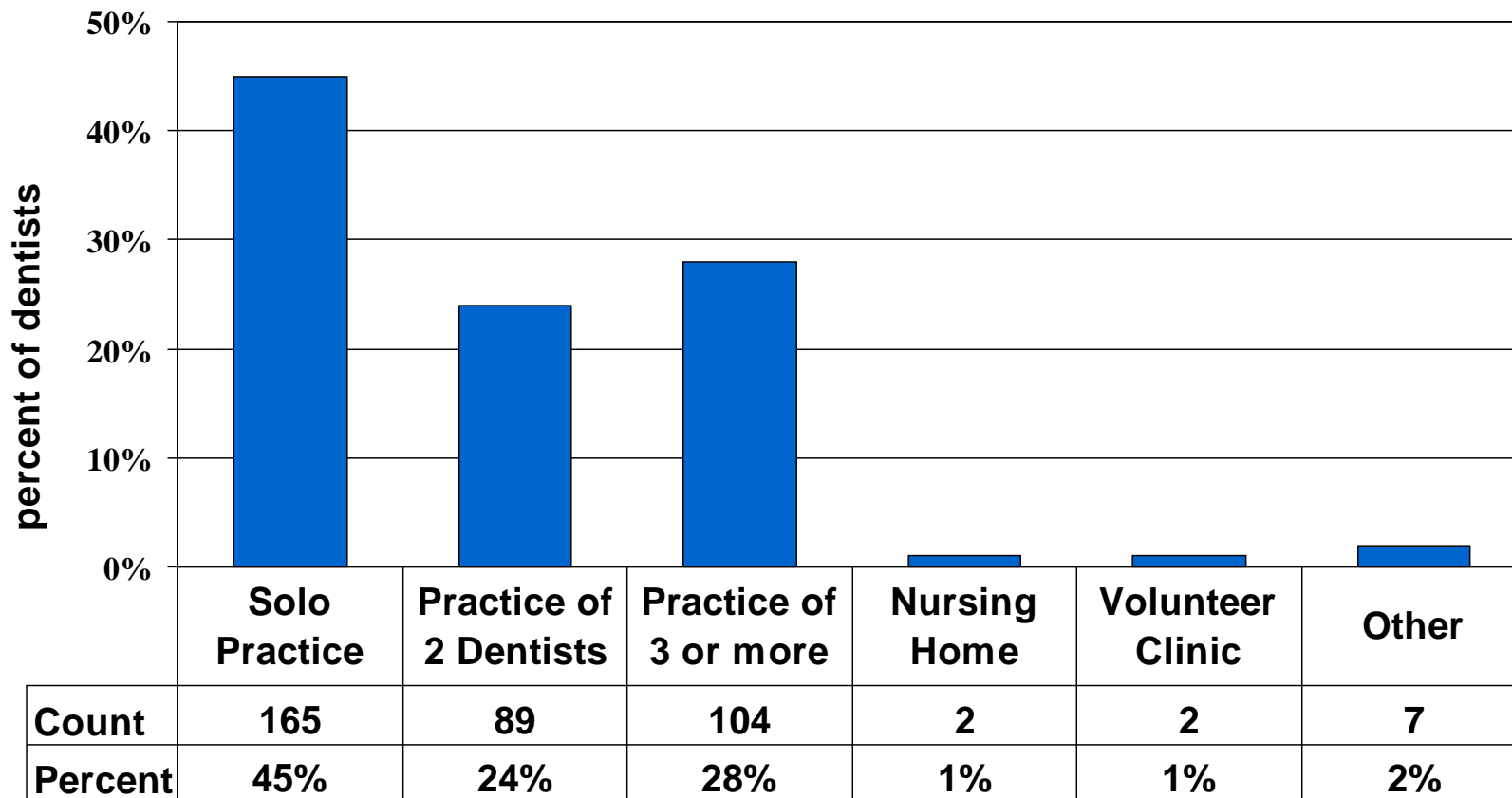
# **SURVEY QUESTION ANALYSIS**

# SPECIALTY



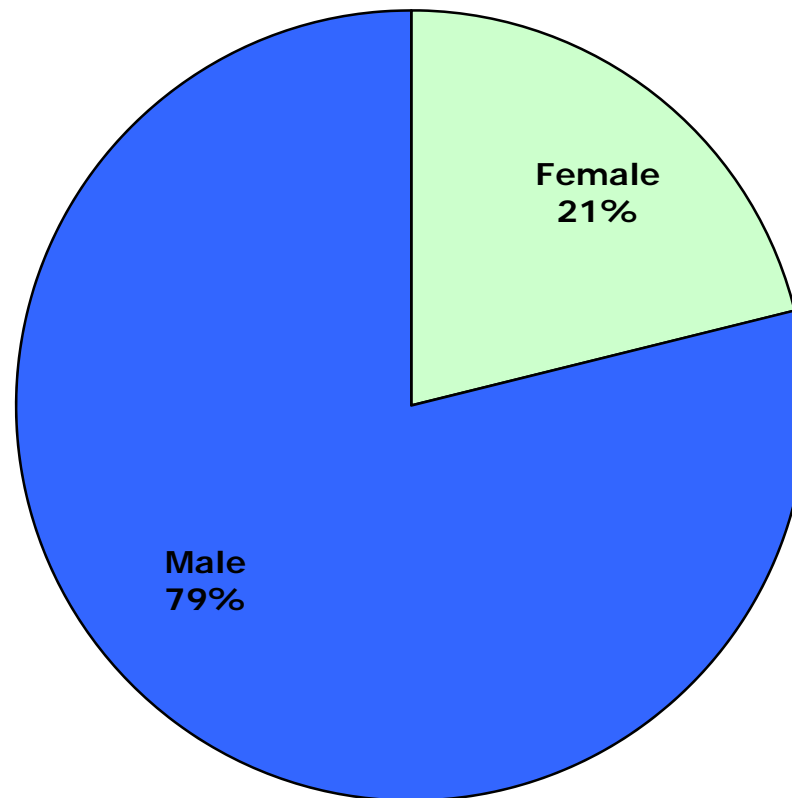
81% of dentists provide primary care (general or pediatric)

## PRACTICE SETTING



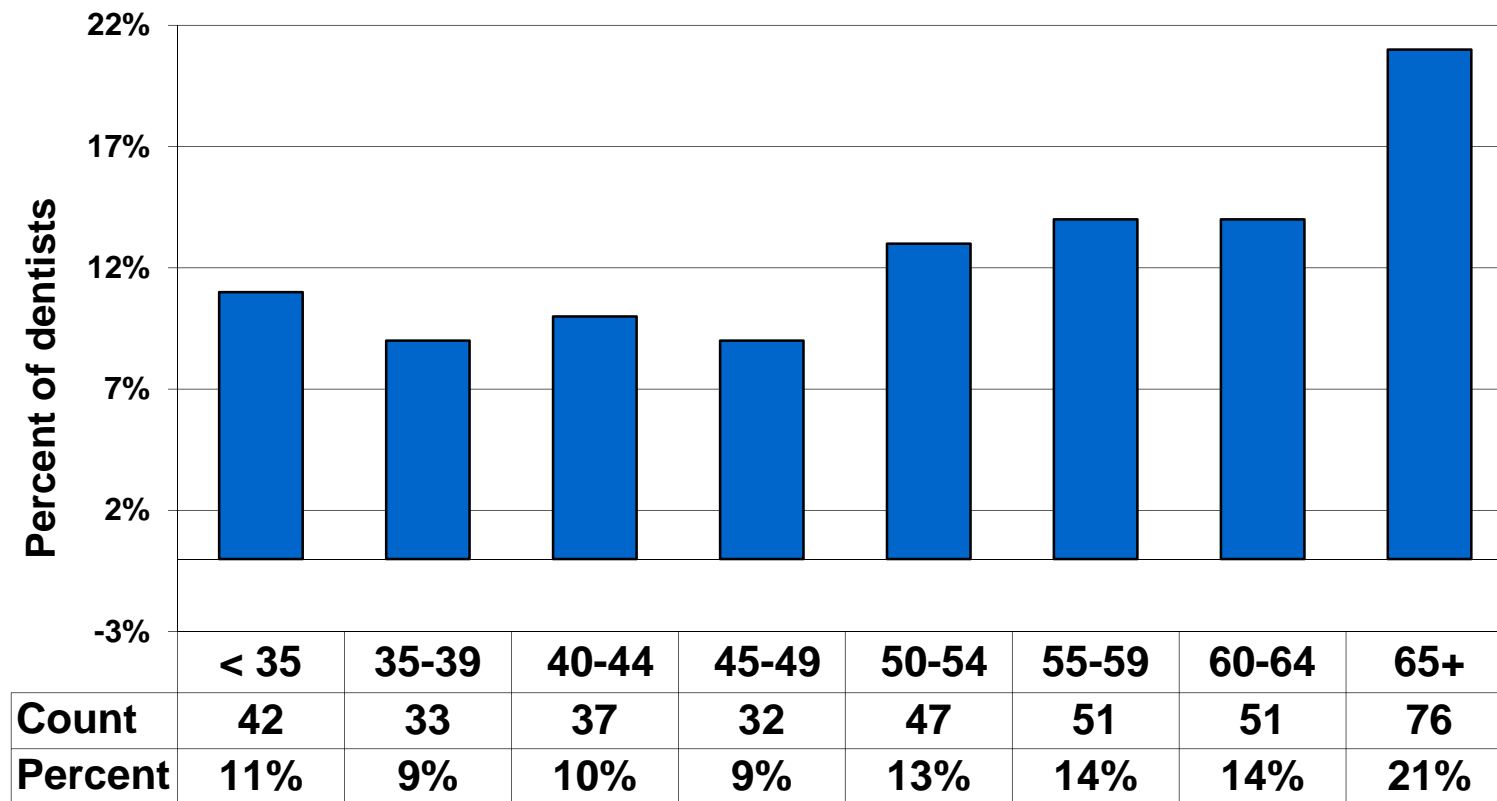
52% of dentists work in a group practice

## GENDER



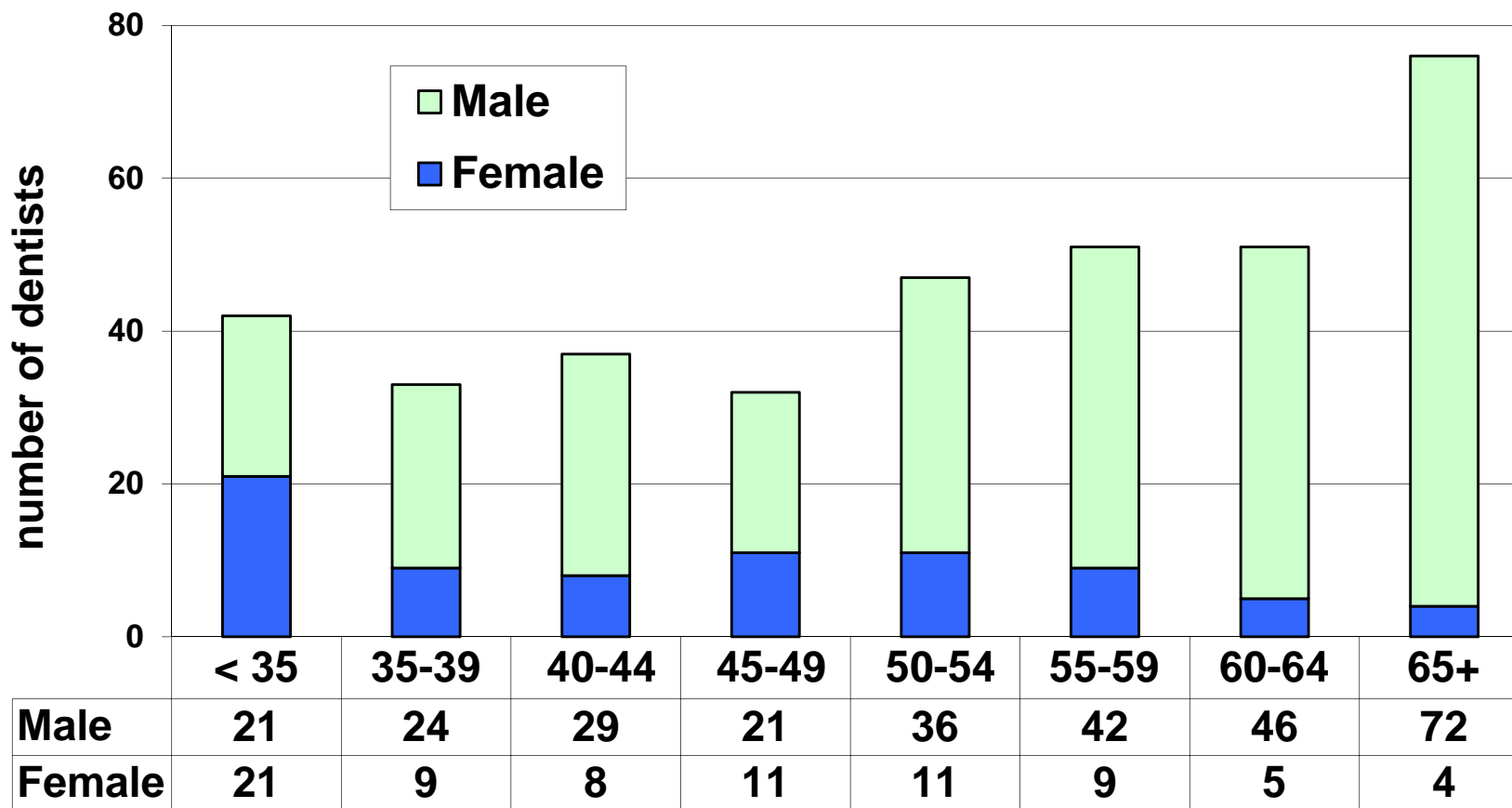
291 of the dentists are male, 78 are female

## AGE DISTRIBUTION



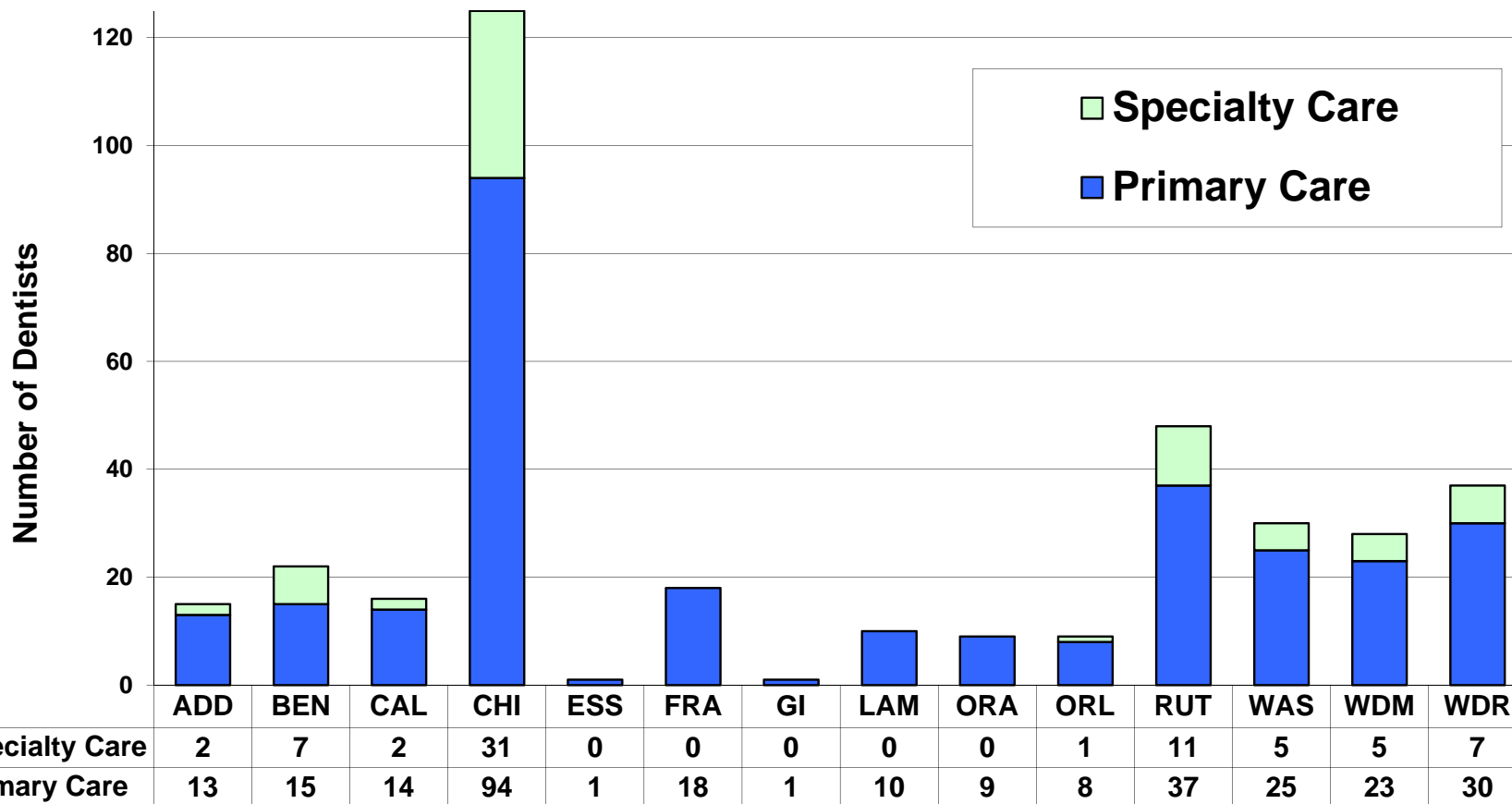
48% of all dentists are age 55 or older

## AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



41% of the males, but only 12% of the females, are age 60 or older

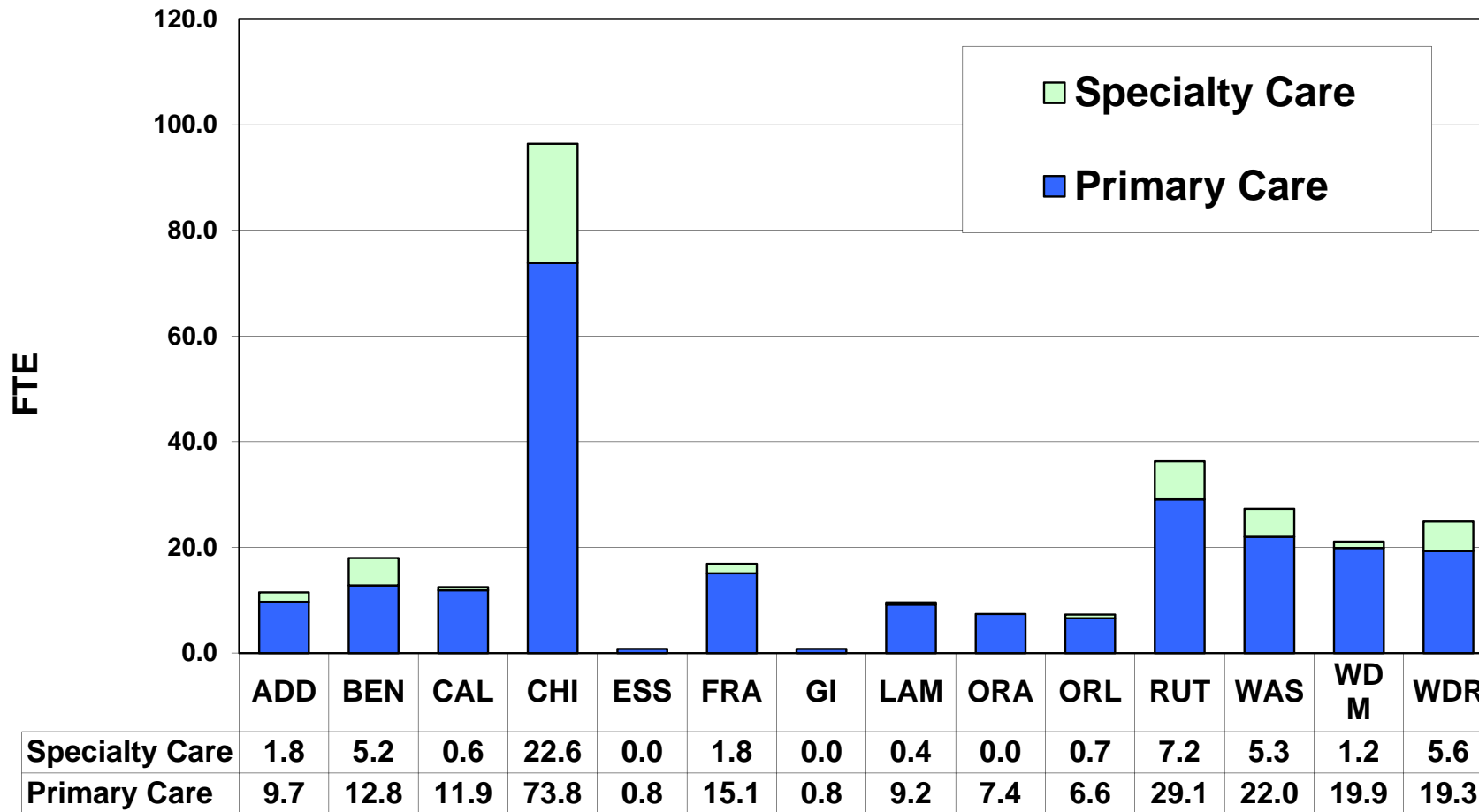
## NUMBER OF DENTISTS BY COUNTY



32% of primary care dentists, and 44% of specialists, work in Chittenden County

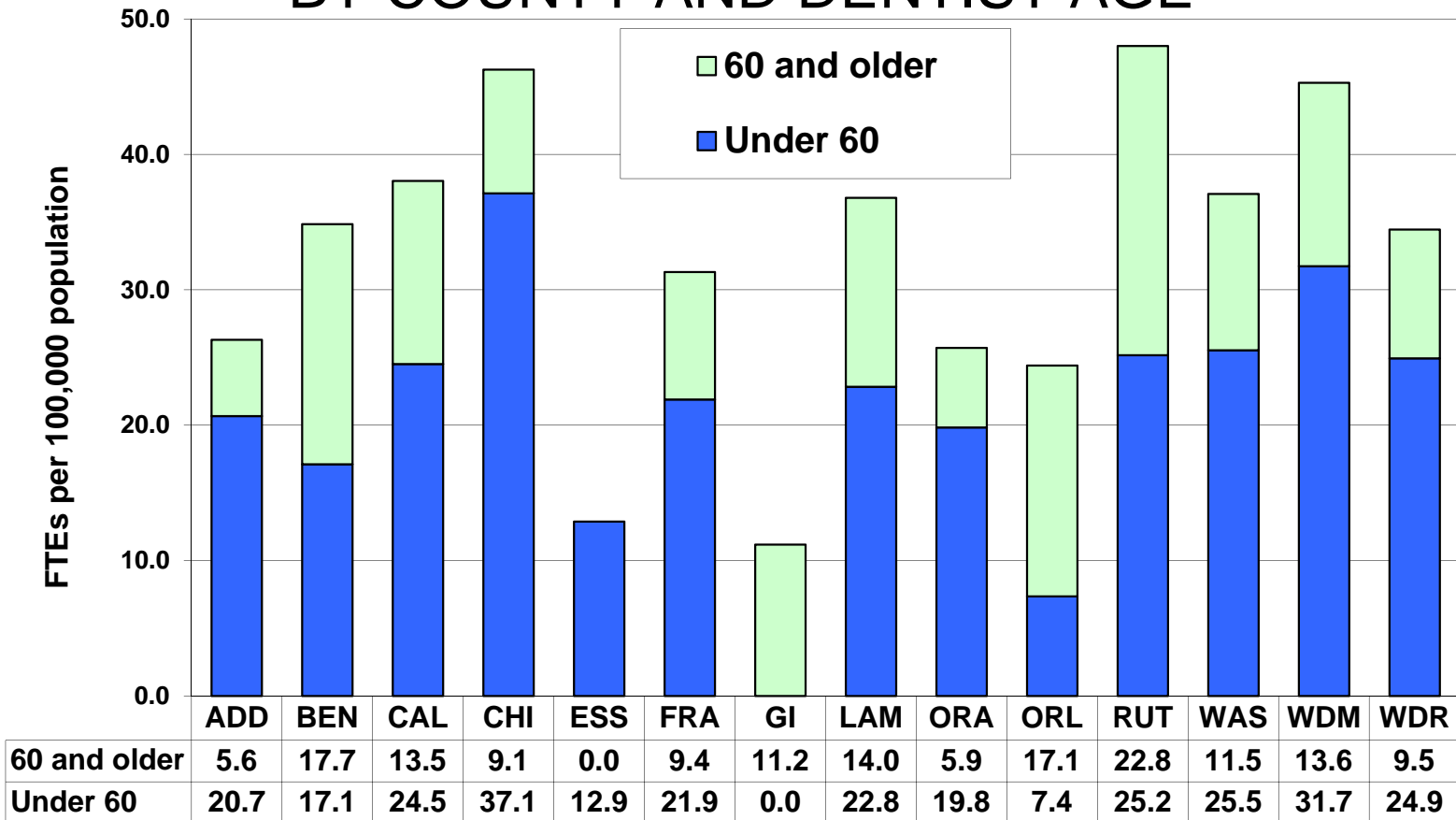


## FULL TIME EQUIVALENT DENTISTS BY COUNTY



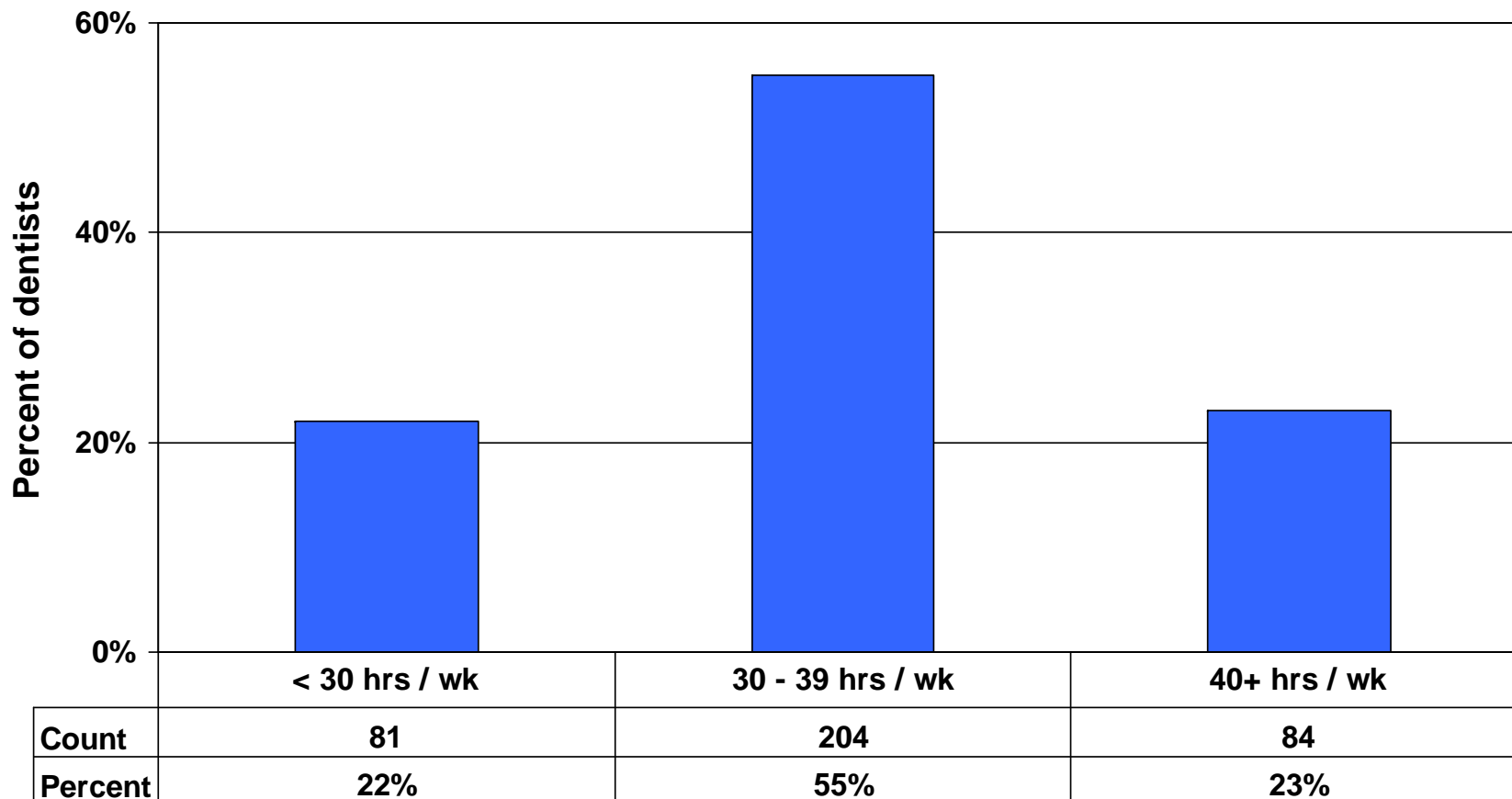
31% of primary care FTEs, and 43% of specialists, are in Chittenden County

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



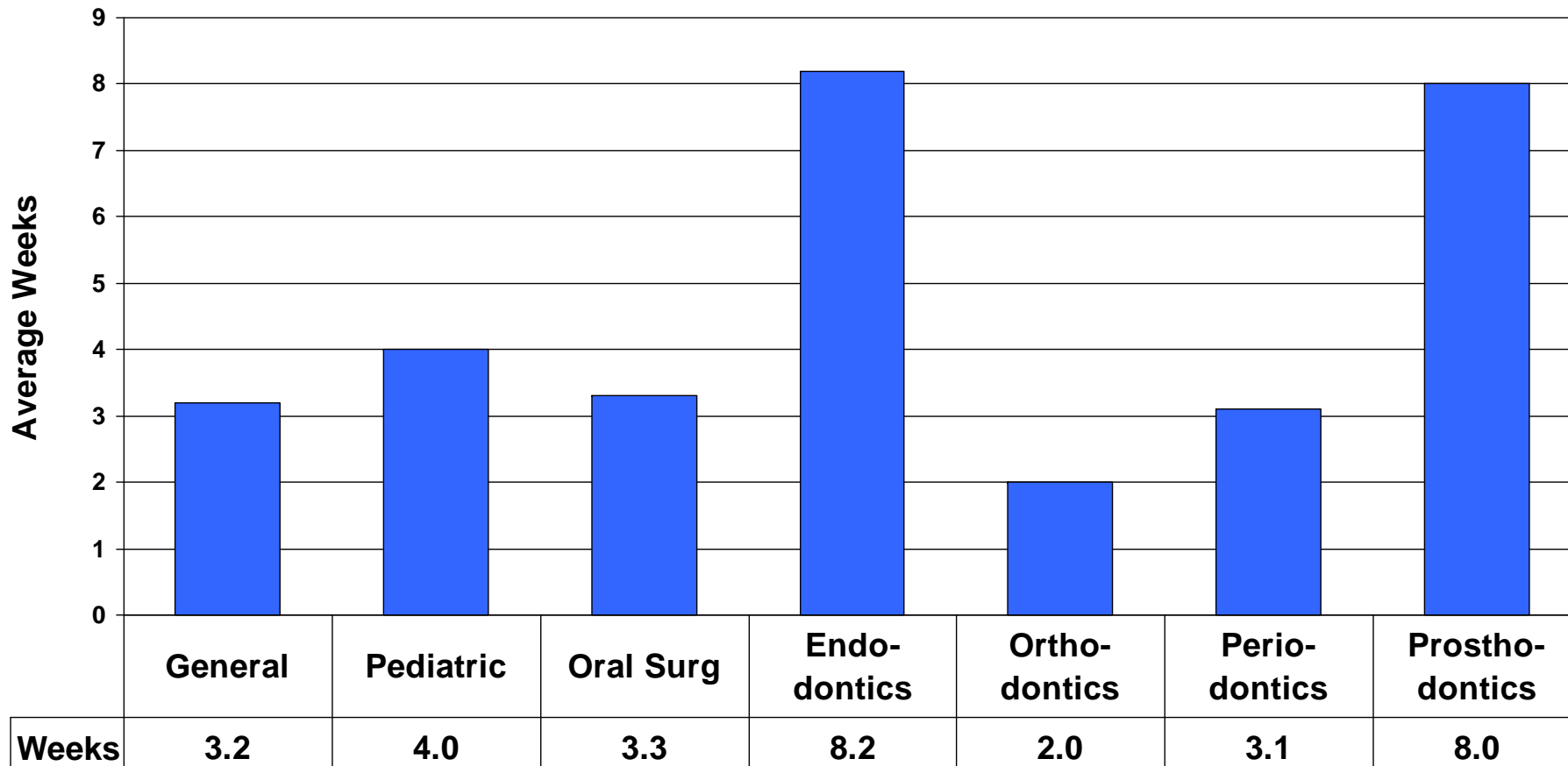
Rutland County has the highest ratio – but also highest ratio of age 60 and older

## PATIENT CARE HOURS PER WEEK



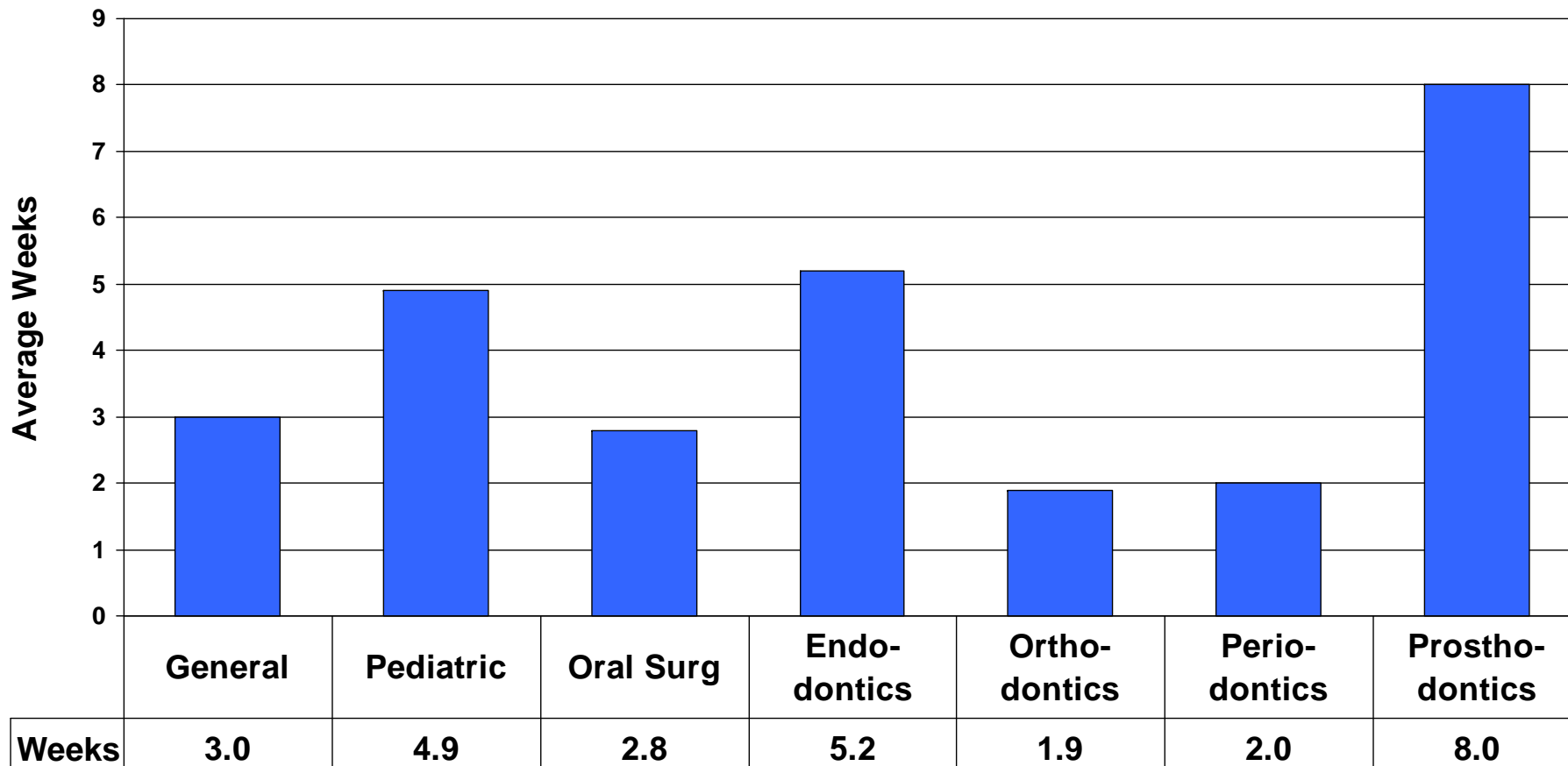
The average dentist provides 33 hours per week of patient care

## AVERAGE WAIT TIME FOR NEW PATIENTS



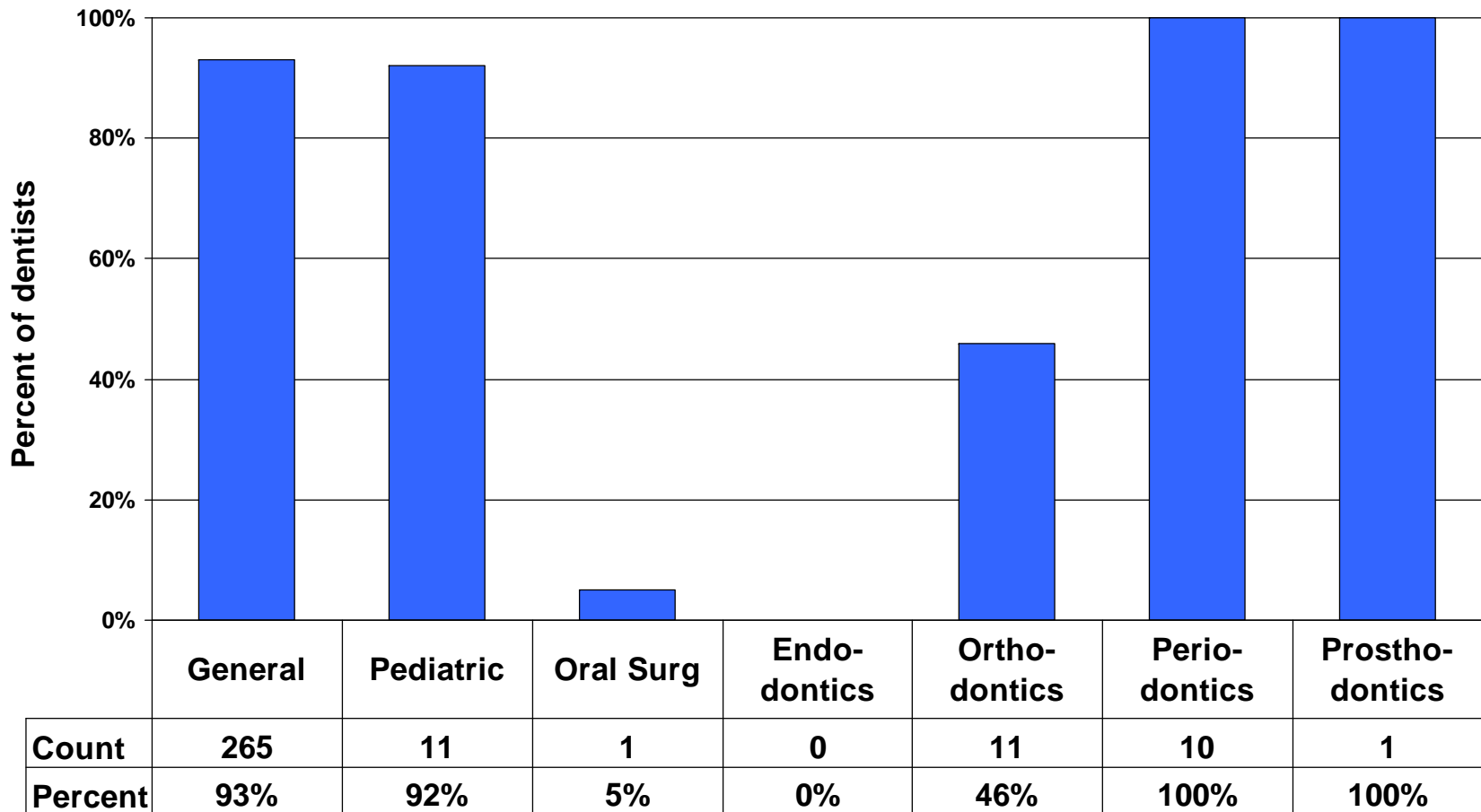
Average wait times have increased since 2011

## AVERAGE WAIT TIME FOR CURRENT PATIENTS



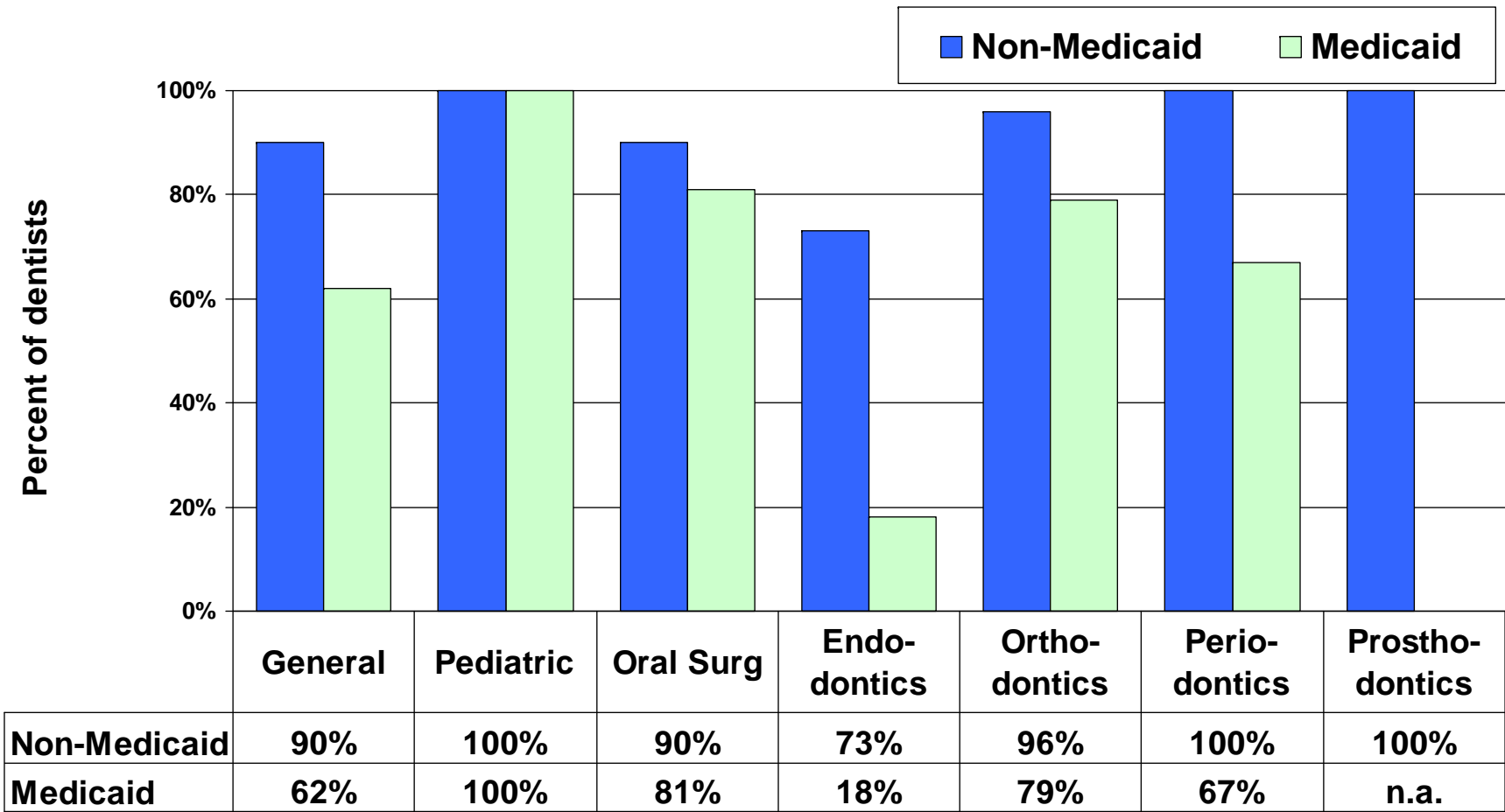
Average wait times have increased since 2011

## WORK WITH HYGIENISTS



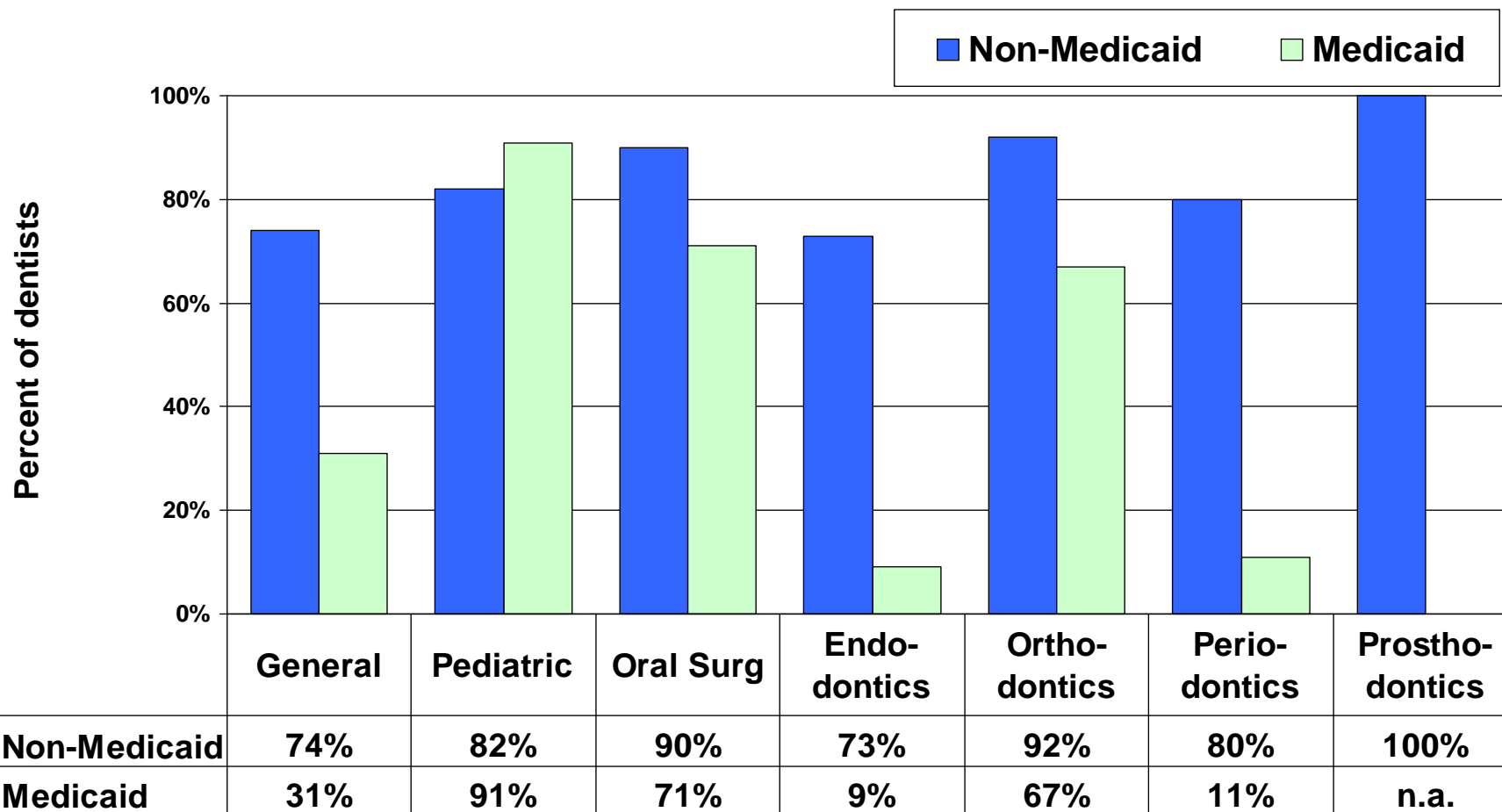
Overall 82% of dentists work with hygienists

# ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



91% accepted new non-Medicaid patients, 64% accepted new Medicaid patients

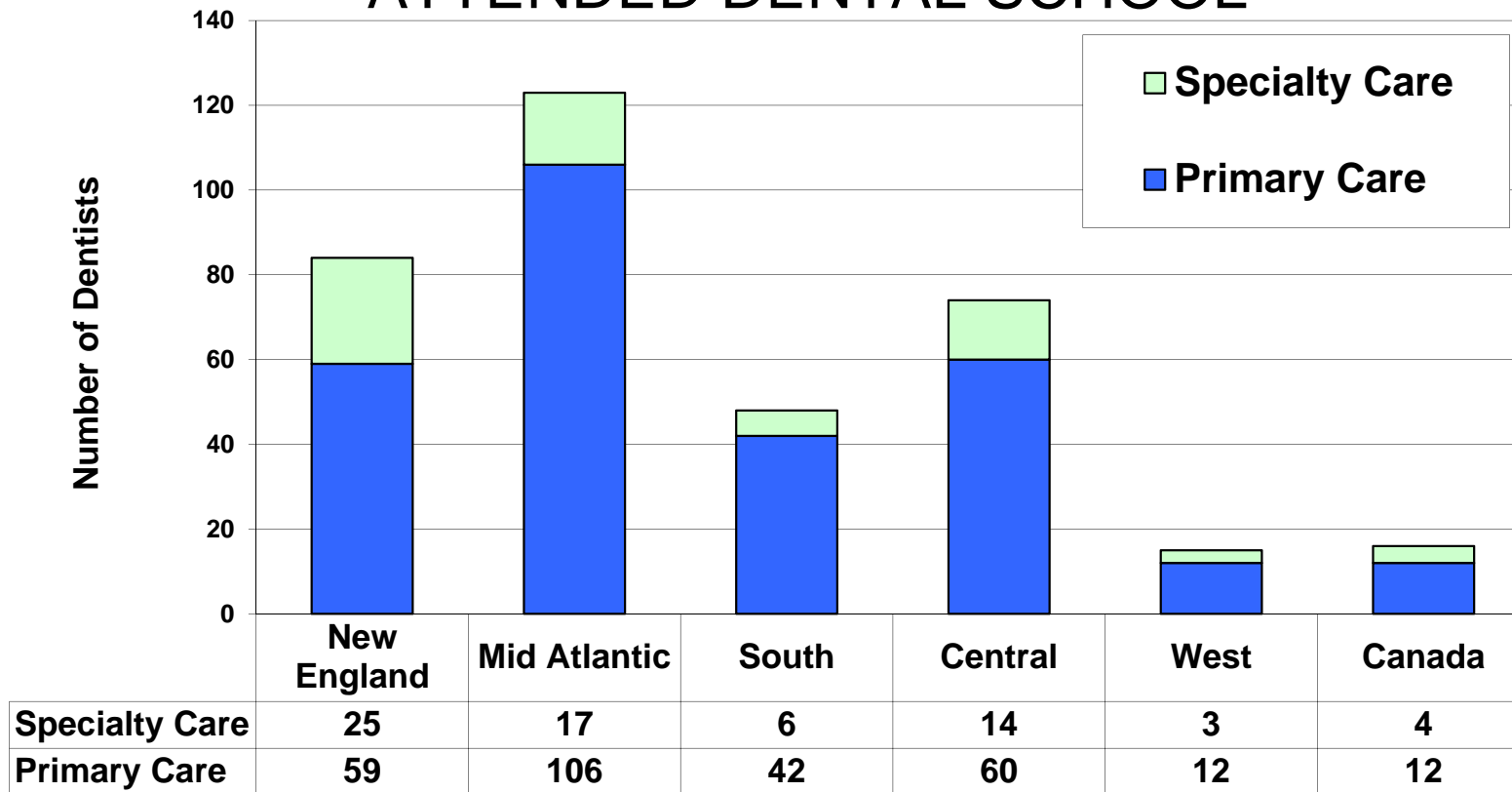
# ACCEPTING 5+ NEW PATIENTS / MONTH



77% accepted 5+ new non-Medicaid patients, 36% accepted 5+ new Medicaid patients

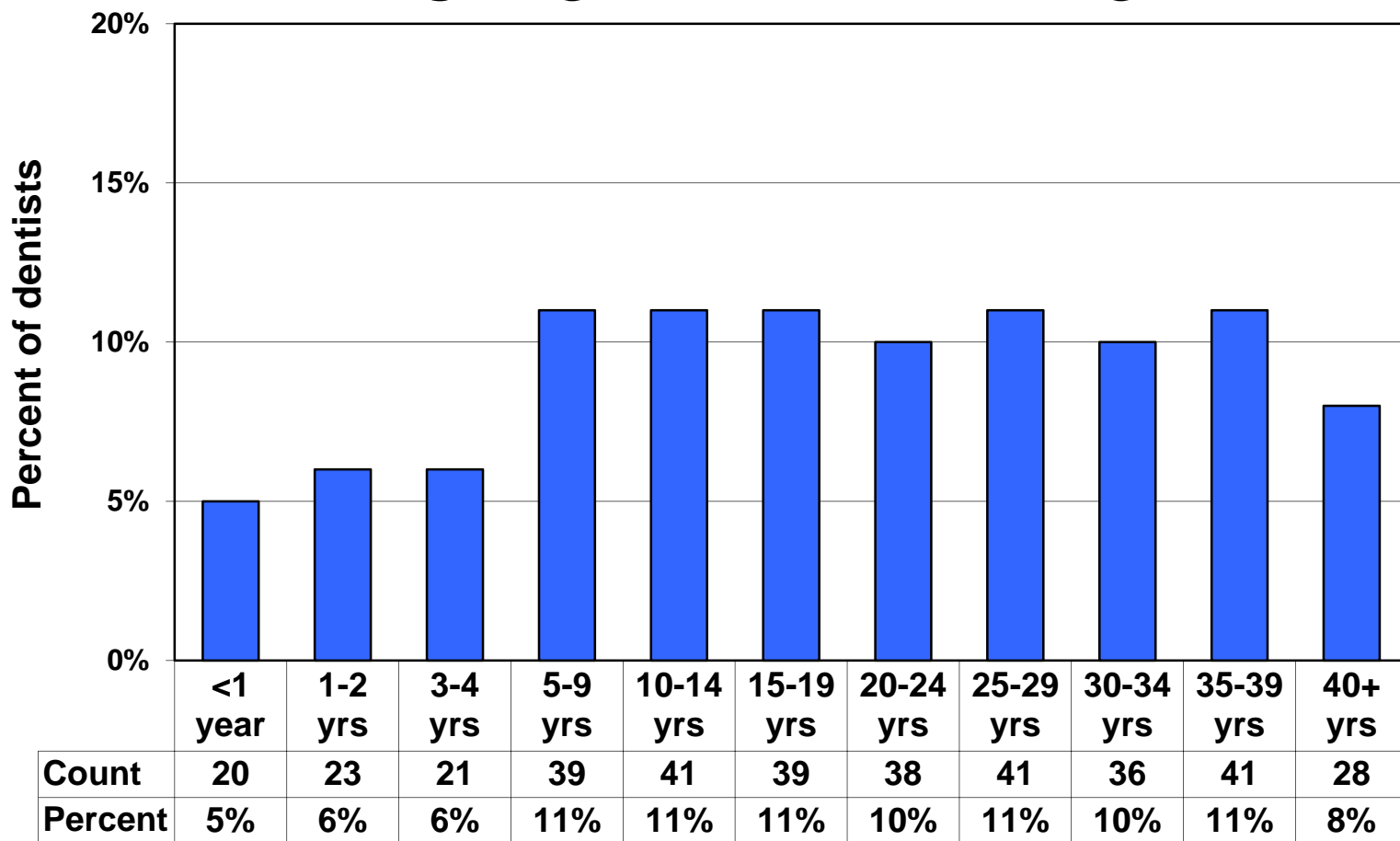


## WHERE VERMONT DENTISTS ATTENDED DENTAL SCHOOL



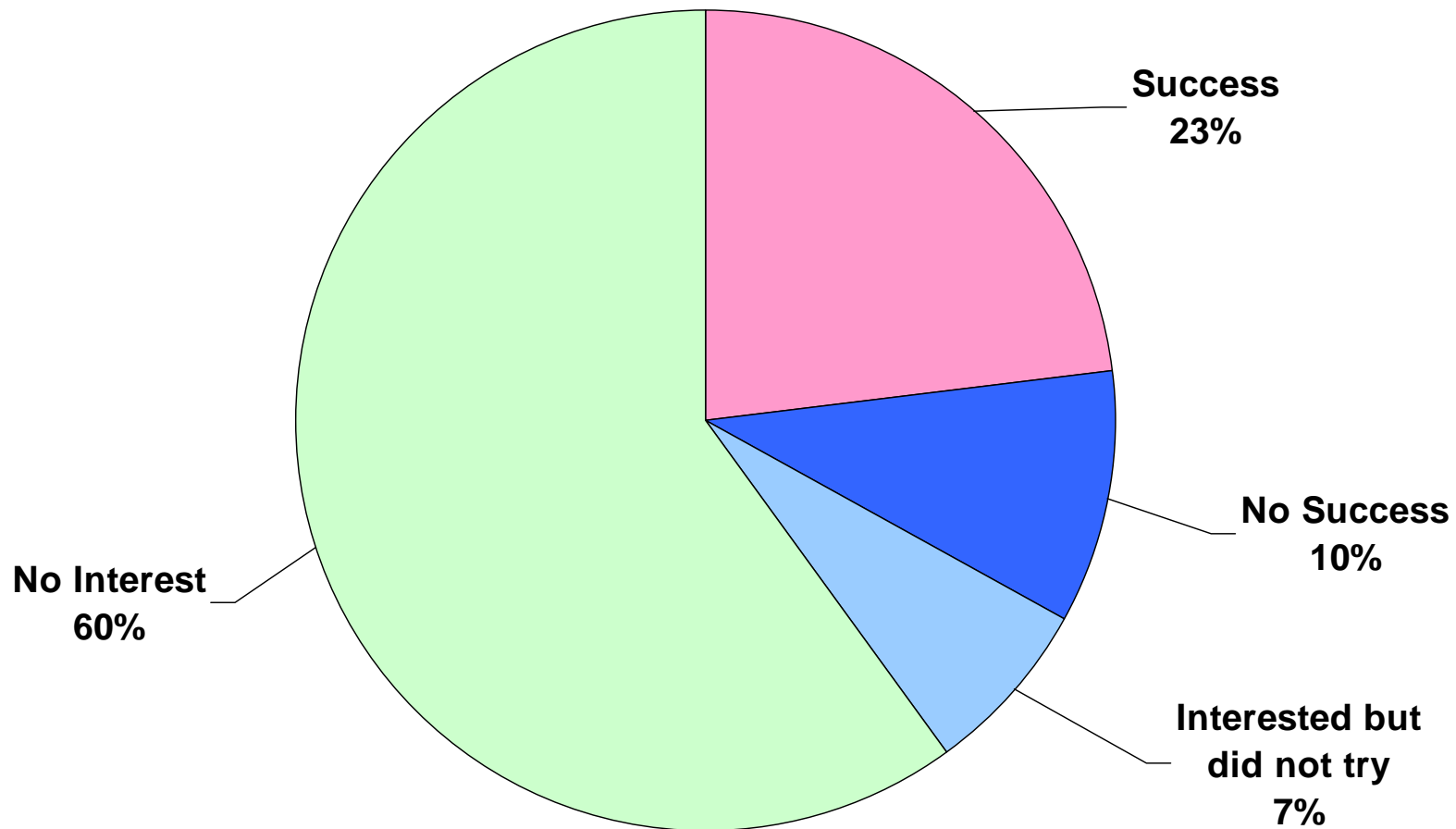
36% of primary care dentists were trained in the mid-Atlantic region.  
 36% of all specialty care dentists were trained in New England.

## YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT



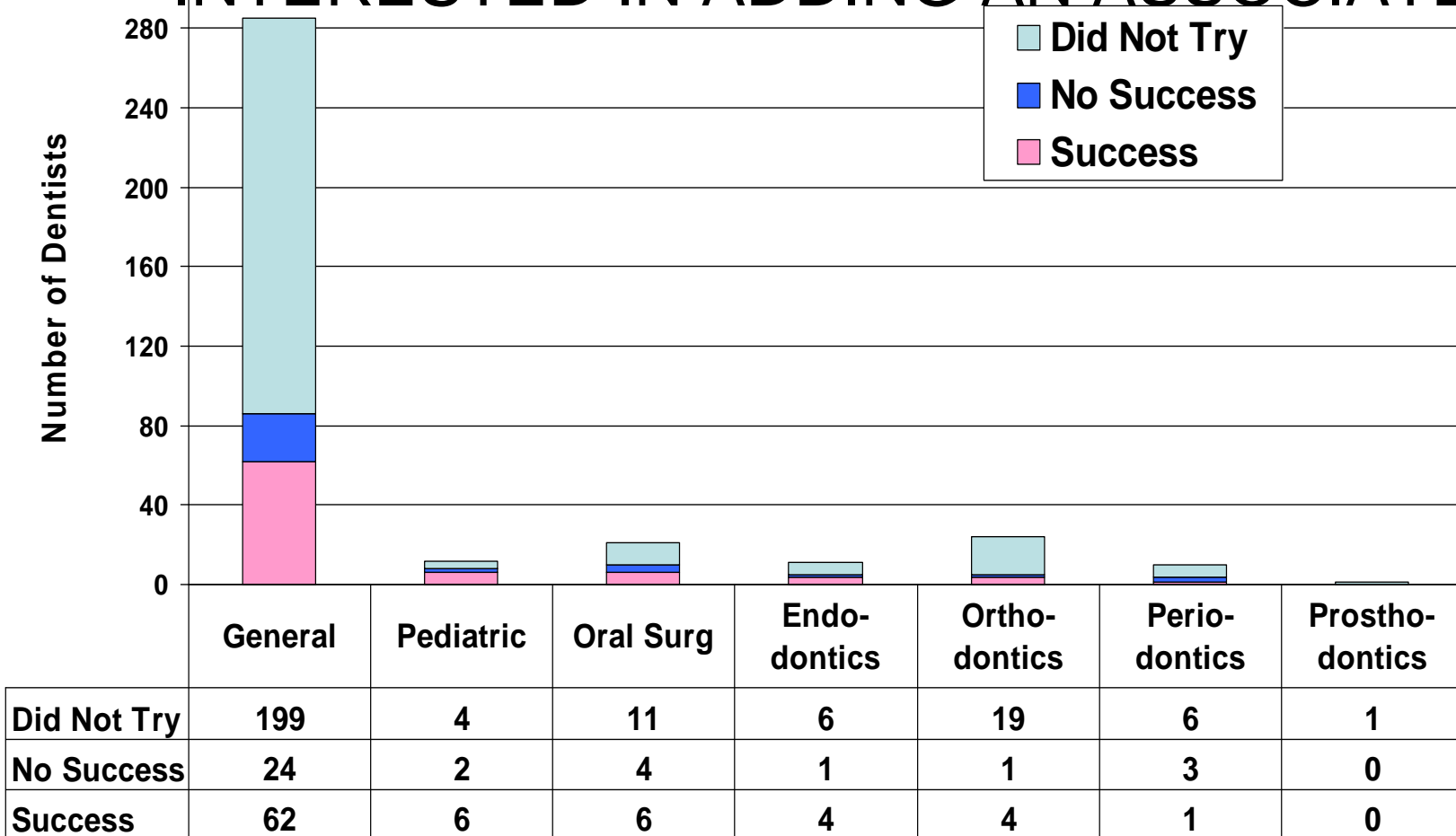
40% of the dentists have worked in Vermont for 25 or more years.

## INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



2013 Dentist Census

# INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



Overall, 40% of dentists were interested in recruiting an associate

# **COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

## Numbers of Dentists by Specialty, 2003-2013

	Count by main specialty					
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
Total active dentists	367	352	355	366	368	369
Primary care dentists	293	278	282	292	297	298
General practice	284	269	272	280	288	286
Pediatric dentistry	9	9	10	12	9	12
Specialist dentists	74	74	73	74	71	71
Oral Surgery	22	19	24	26	23	23
Endodontics	10	9	7	9	10	11
Orthodontics	26	27	27	24	25	24
Periodontics	10	12	11	12	11	10
Prosthodontics	3	4	2	2	1	1
Other Specialties	3	3	2	1	1	2

## Full Time Equivalents by specialty, 2003-2013

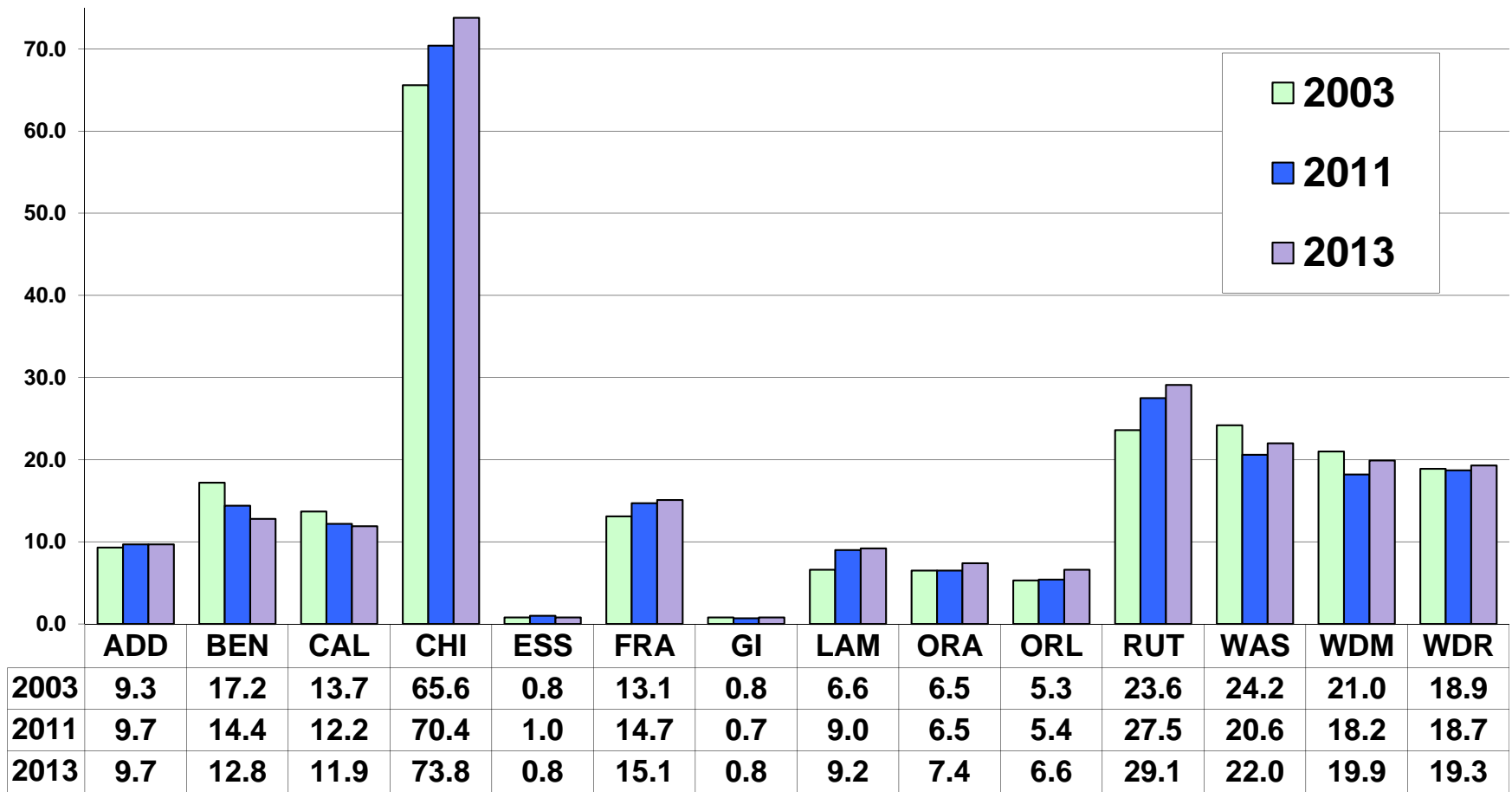
	Full Time Equivalents (FTE)					
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
Total active dentists	280.8	267.1	269.8	271.6	281.2	290.8
Primary care dentists	226.7	216.0	221.6	217.7	229.0	238.4
General practice	219.8	209.1	214.9	209.9	222.6	230.4
Pediatric dentistry	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.8	6.5	8.0
Specialist dentists	54.1	51.1	48.2	53.9	52.1	52.4
Oral Surgery	17.1	15.1	16.2	19.0	17.6	16.4
Endodontics	8.6	7.1	6.4	7.0	7.1	9.2
Orthodontics	17.5	16.9	17.2	17.4	17.9	17.1
Periodontics	6.5	7.2	5.7	7.8	7.7	7.0
Prosthodontics	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.6	0.9	0.9
Other Specialties	2.6	2.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.8

## Selected indicators, 2003-2013

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>
Total number of active dentists	367	352	355	366	368	369
Percent age 55 or older	35%	41%	44%	47%	49%	48%
Percent age 60 or older	17%	22%	26%	30%	34%	34%
Percent age 65 or older	6%	9%	10%	13%	17%	21%
Average patient care hours per week	31	31	31	30	31	33
<b>Primary care:</b>						
FTEs / 100,000 population	36.7	34.8	35.5	34.8	36.6	38.0
% accepting new patients	88%	88%	90%	92%	92%	90%
% accepting new Medicaid patients	57%	59%	60%	65%	69%	63%
Average weeks wait - new patients	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.8	3.2
Percent working with dental hygienists	88%	88%	90%	91%	92%	93%
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	29%	29%	30%	31%	31%	31%
<b>Specialty care:</b>						
FTEs / 100,000 population	8.8	8.2	7.7	8.6	8.3	8.4
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	44%	44%	44%	42%	41%	43%

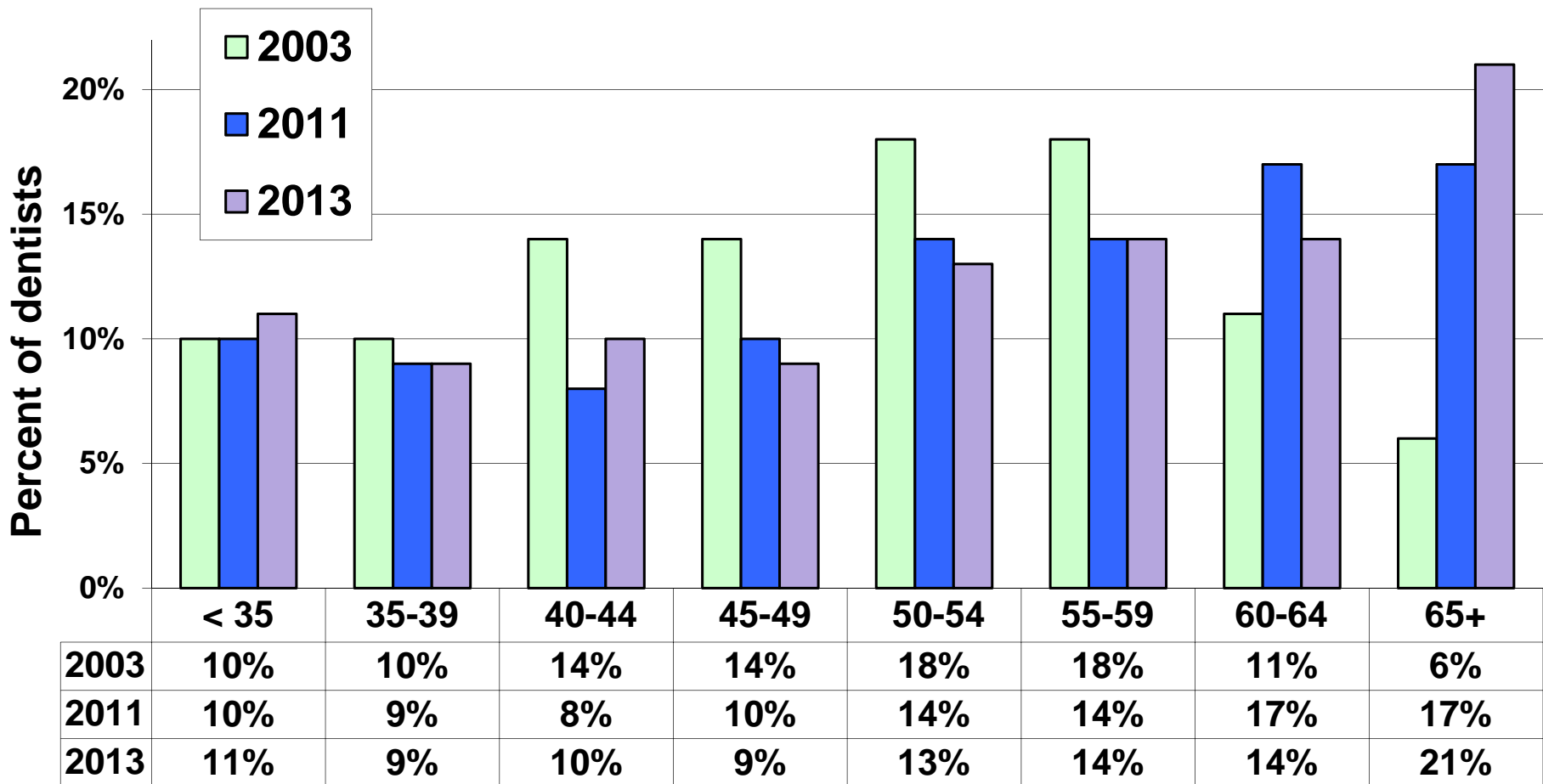


## PRIMARY CARE FTEs, BY COUNTY, 2003-2013



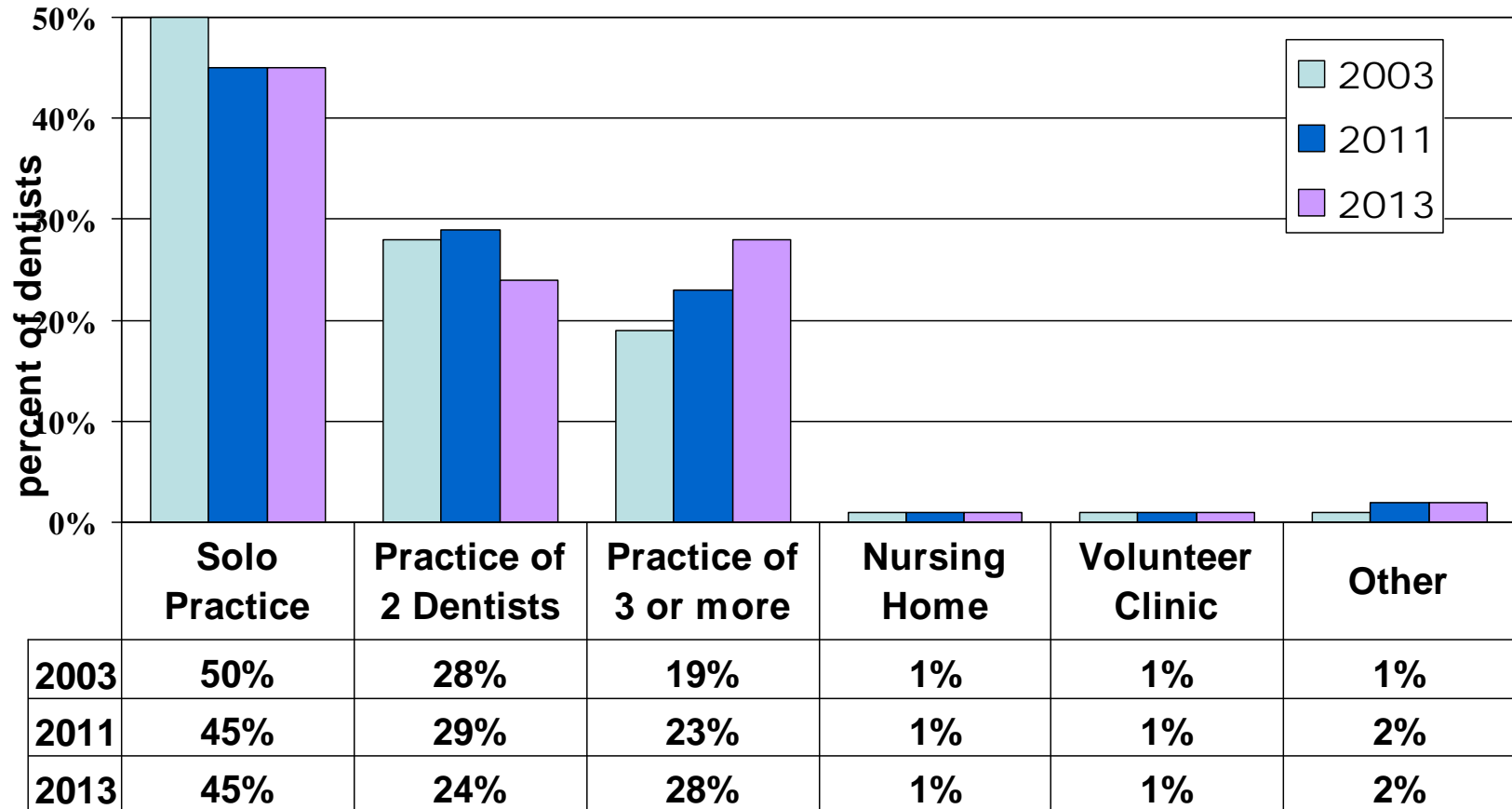
Bennington County saw a marked decline in FTEs

## AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2003-2013



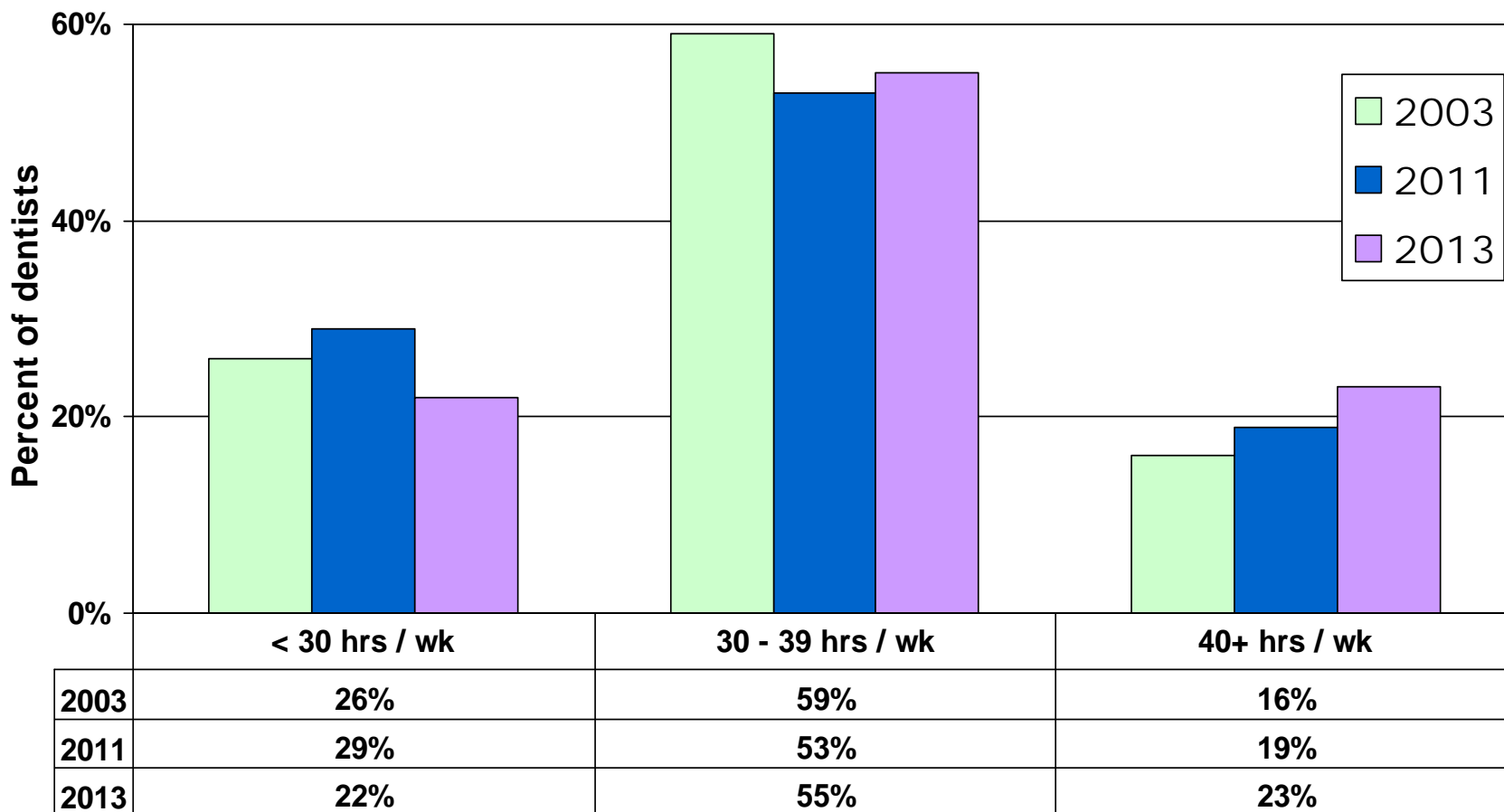
The dentist workforce is getting older

## PRACTICE SETTING, 2003-2013



Many dentists shifted from a 2-dentist to a 3+-dentist practice since 2011

# PATIENT CARE HOURS PER WEEK



More dentists work 40+ hours a week than in the past