



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

08/19/2025 10:00AM-2:30PM

Oral Health Plan Advisory Group Meeting

Oral Health Program

Agenda

- Welcome and Logistics
- Department of Health Updates
- Ice Breaker/Introductions
- Subject Matter Experts
- OHPAG Member Sharing
- Evaluation Update
- Update on Progress
- Table Discussions
- Meeting Summary/Steps



Department of Health Updates

Federal Grants

- CDC
- HRSA
- Block Grant

Other Projects

- Maternal Health
- SHIP
- ADA Project



Introductions – Facilitation Team

Department of Health Oral Health Program

- Dr. Jonise McDaniel, Public Health Dental Director
- Jan Miller, Public Health Program Administrator
- Sarah Welch, Public Health Program Administrator

PA Coalition for Oral Health

- Helen Hawkey, Executive Director
- Amy Tice, Operations and Communications Coordinator
- Lia BenYishay, Program and Evaluation Coordinator

Consultants

- Dr. Harry Goodman, Dental Consultant
- Laura Crawford, Evaluation Consultant



Member Introductions

- Your name
- Your organization
- One thing that you are currently working on or excited about professionally



OHPAG Terms/Roles

TERMS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027

Name	Organization	Sector	Term Ends
Dr. James Mancini	PA Dental Association	Association	July 1, 2027
Dr. Dana Chianese	Temple University Hospital	Community Org	July 1, 2027(2 nd term starts 1/1/2026))
Kristie Lenze	Keystone Rural Health Consortia	Community Org	July 1, 2027
Dr. Nyla Balakrishnan	University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine	Education	July 1, 2027
Jacqueline Pugliese	PA Chapter, AAP	Association	July 1, 2027
Kelly Braun	PA Office of Rural Health	Government	July 1, 2027 (2 nd term)
Dr. Michael Verber	Verber Dental Group	Health Provider	July 1, 2027
Dr. Joseph Mountain	Family First Health	Individual	July 1, 2027
Dr. Janine Burkhardt	Project HOME	Community Support	July 1, 2027
Jessica Rhodes	UPMC for You	Insurance	July 1, 2027 (2 nd term)

OHPAG Terms/Roles

TERMS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2026

Name	Organization	Sector	Term Ends
Dr. Malini Moni	Berks Community Health Center	Community Support	July 1, 2026 (2 nd term)
Kelanie Yordy	PA Assoc. of Community Health Centers	Association	July 1, 2026
Andrea Moore	Quality Insights	Government	July 1, 2026
Kristi Mattzela	Centre Volunteers in Medicine	Health Provider	July 1, 2026
Dr. Ben Fredrick	PA Area Health Education Center	Education	July 1, 2026
Dan White	The Wright Center	Community Org	December 31, 2025
Darcie Schaffer	Volunteers in Medicine	Individual	July 1, 2026
Vacant		Insurance	July 1, 2026
Dr. Mark Wolff	University of Pennsylvania	Funder	July 1, 2026 (2 nd term)

Subject Matter Experts

- Department of Human Services
- Department of Aging
- Bureau of Epidemiology





Pennsylvania
Department of Health

Dental Workforce Survey 2023

Jennifer Burroughs, DVM, MPH
Epidemiology Program Specialist
Bureau of Epidemiology
Bureau of Health Promotion & Risk Reduction

ORAL HEALTH PLAN ADVISORY GROUP
8/19/2025

Survey Design & Methods

- Biennial administration
- First survey in 2003
- Collaboration between Department of State and Department of Health
- Invalid/inactive/expired license numbers removed from analysis
- Results reported in aggregate form only



Survey Design & Methods

- Survey Limitations
 - Renewal licenses only – initial licensees not included
 - Recall bias
 - Question design constraints



Dentist Findings



All Respondents Highlights

Total
9,002

Sex

65.7% Male
34.3% Female

Age

25-29 years – 4.0%
30-39 years – 24.3%
40-49 years – 17.9%
50-59 years – 18.6%
60-64 years – 11.1%
65+ years – 24.1%

Race

White 70.0%
Asian 14.7%
Unknown 8.3%
Black 2.7%
Hispanic/Latino 2.4%
Other 1.5%



Employed in Dentistry (Total 8,327 - 92.5%)

- Pennsylvania
 - 64.2 dentists per 100,000
- United States
 - 60.4 dentists per 100,000

Employment Areas

Direct Patient Care 85.4%

Education 4.9%

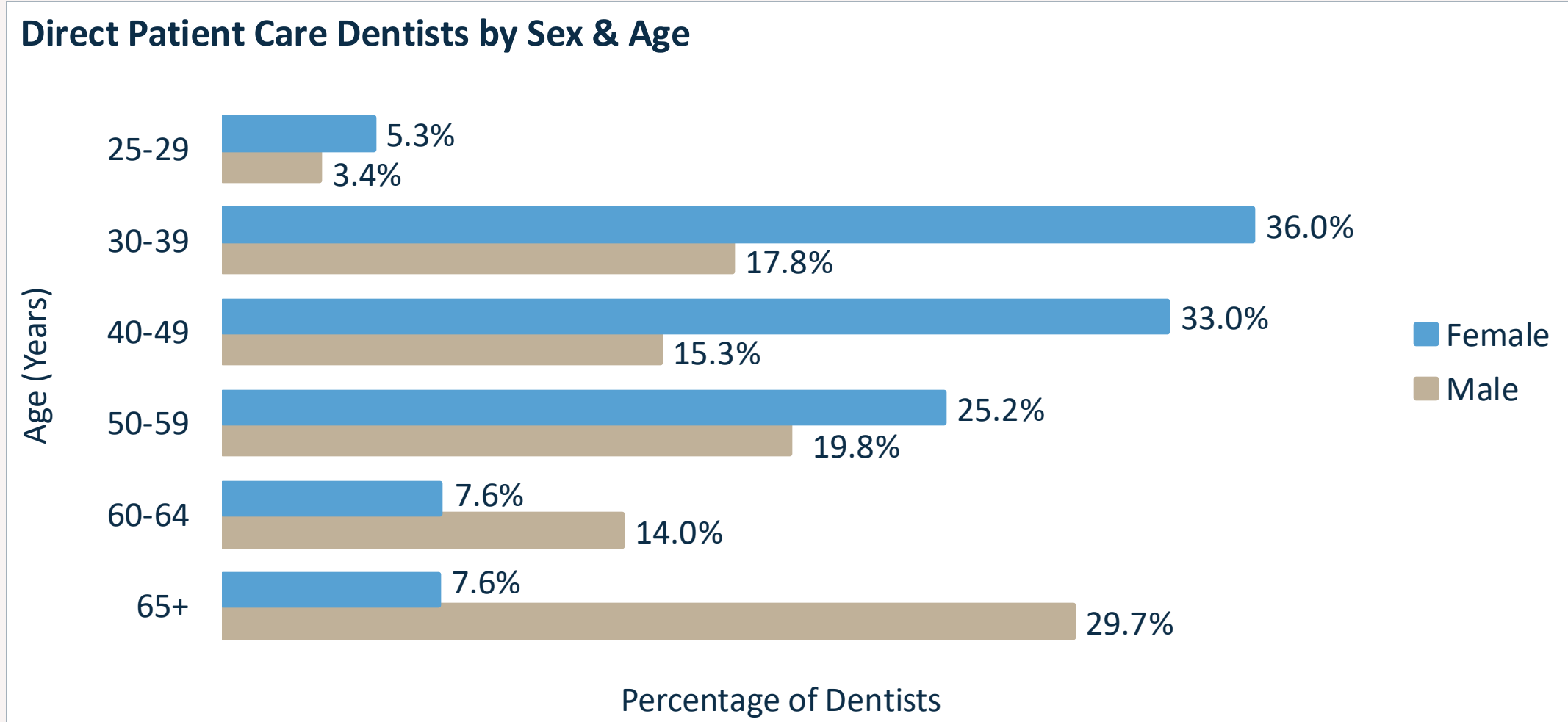
Administration 1.3%

Other 1.8%

Research 0.2%

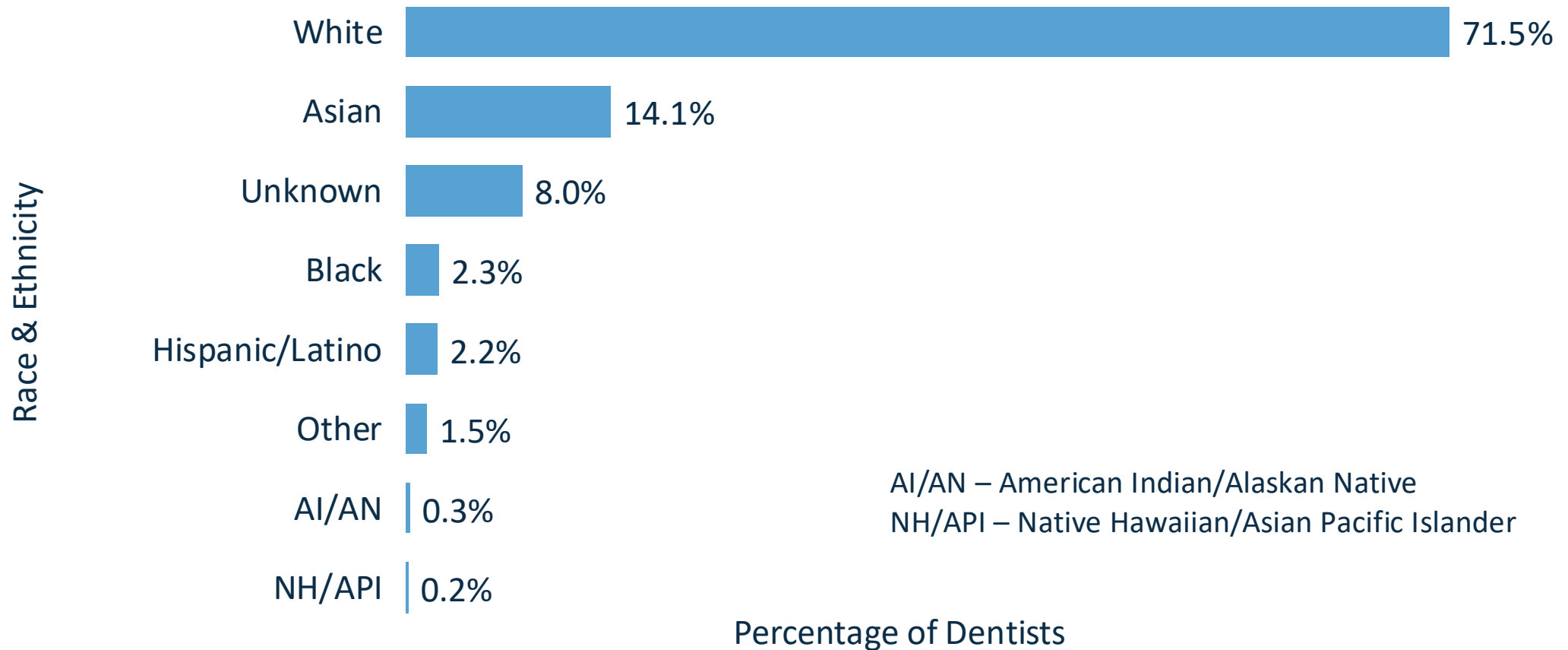


Direct Patient Care (Total 6,569 – 73.0%)

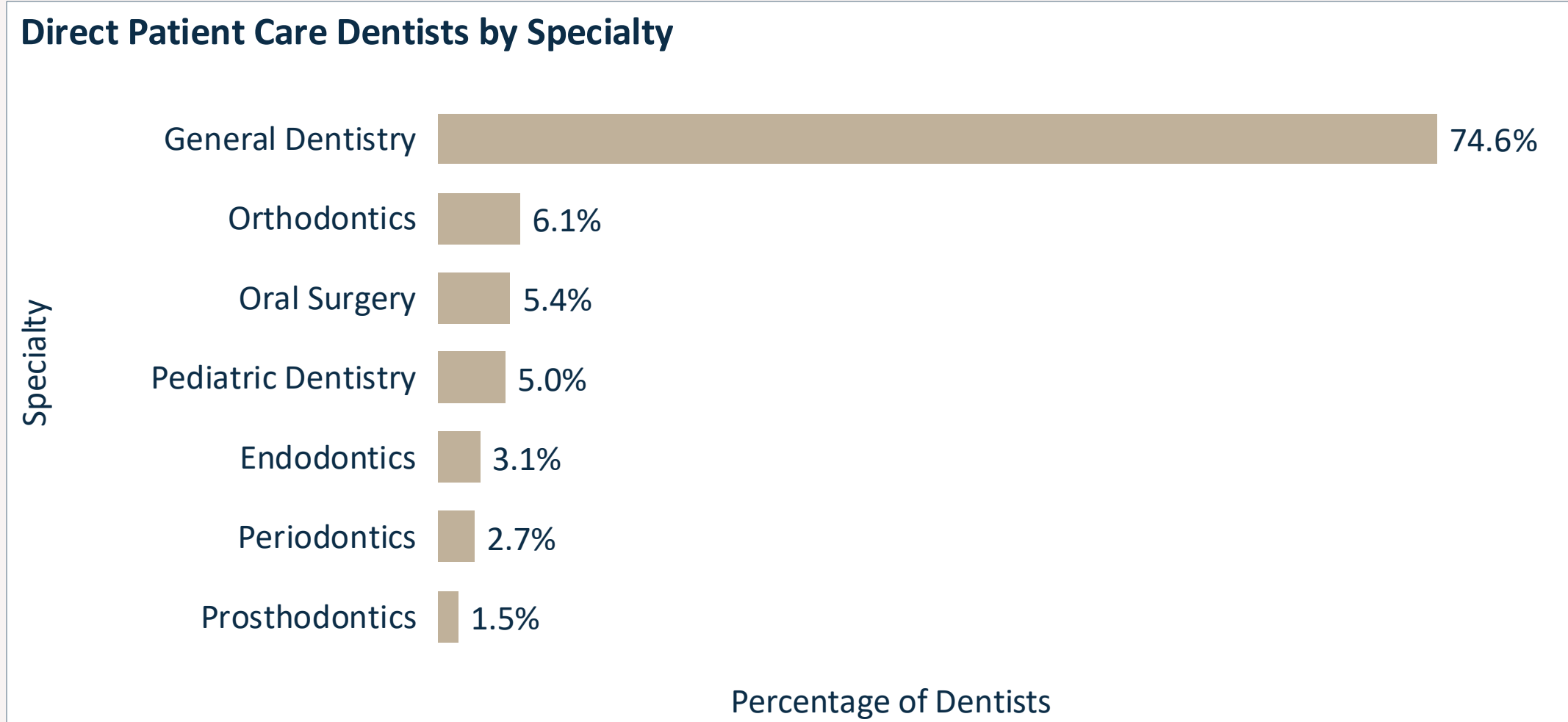


Direct Patient Care

Direct Patient Care Dentists by Race & Ethnicity



Direct Patient Care



Direct Patient Care Services Provided

41.0%

Patients with
developmental or
physical limitations
or disabilities

85.0%

Geriatric patients

87.1%

Children

< 1 year – 11.5%

1 year – 10.2%

2 years – 13.1%

3 years – 21.7%

4 years – 5.5%

> 5 years – 25.1%



Dental Hygienist Findings



All Respondents Highlights

Total
8,752

Sex

1.5% Male
98.5% Female

Age

18-29 years – 11.8%
30-39 years – 24.7%
40-49 years – 22.1%
50-59 years – 23.3%
60-64 years – 10.7%
65+ years – 7.4%

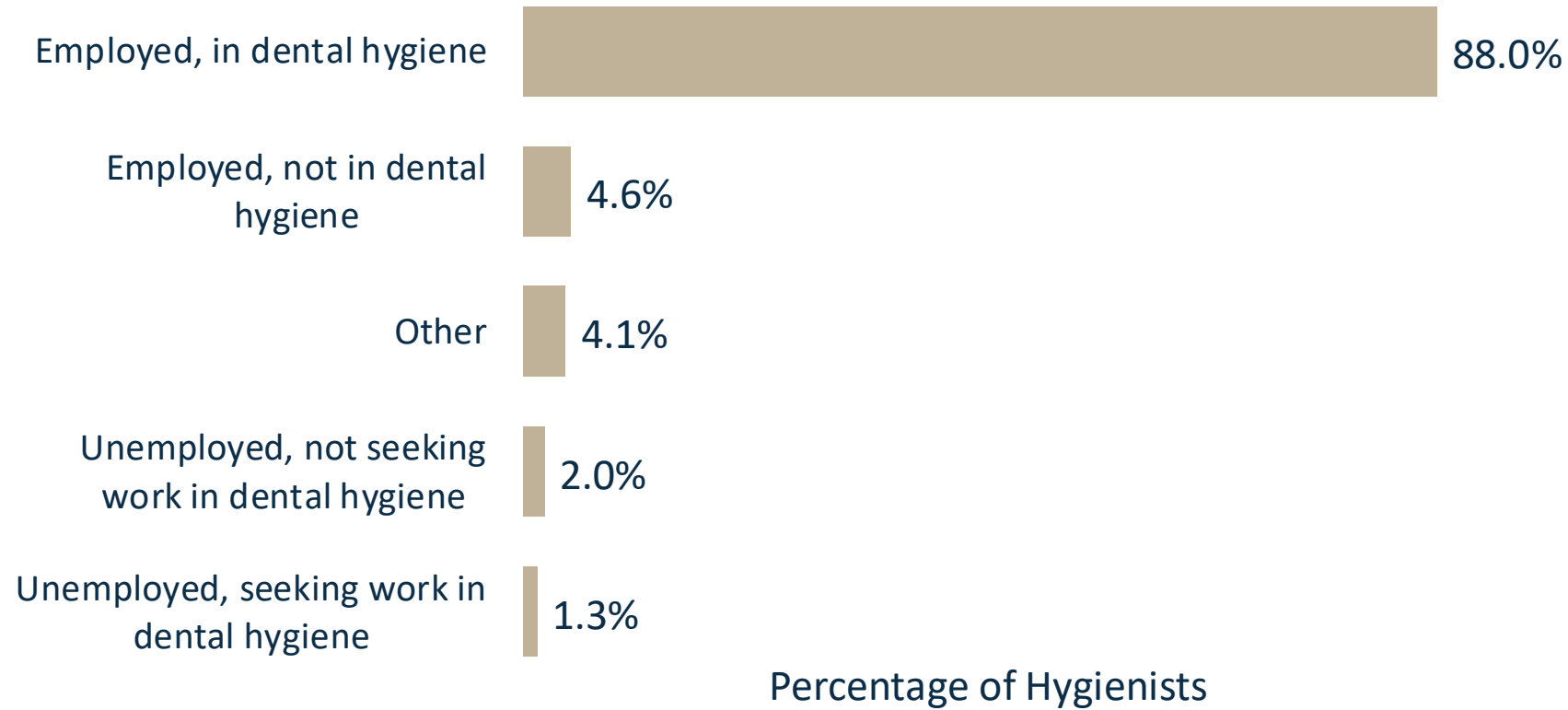
Race

White 88.3%
Unknown 4.8%
Hispanic/Latino 2.4%
Asian 2.2%
Black 1.6%
Other 0.3%



Employment

Hygienists by Employment

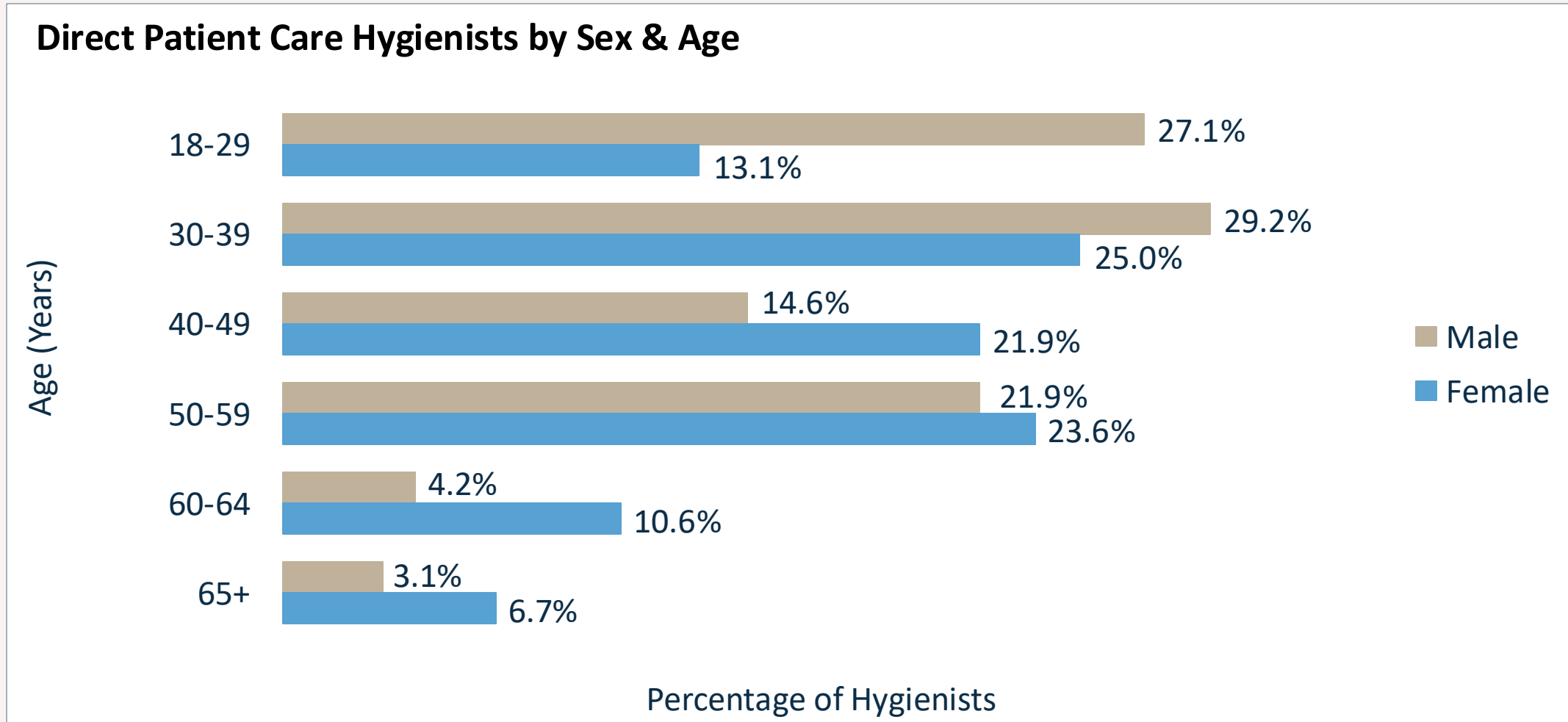


Dental Hygiene Employment Areas

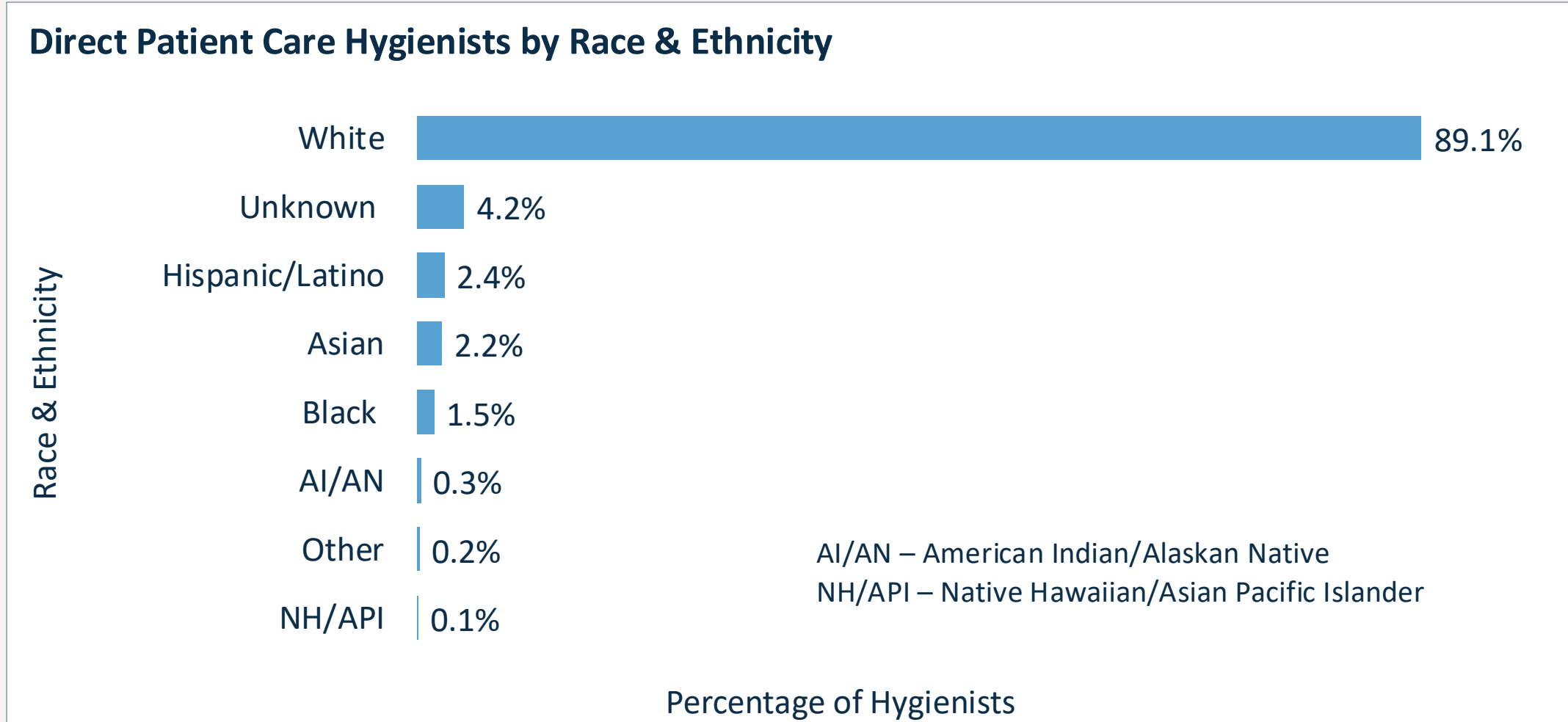
- Direct Patient Care 95.3%**
- Education 2.1%**
- Administration 1.6%**
- Other 1.0%**
- Research 0.04%**



Direct Patient Care (Total 6,651 – 86.4%)



Direct Patient Care



Direct Patient Care Certifications & Permits

3.1%

Expanded Function
Dental Assistant
Certificate

2.7%

School Dental
Hygiene Certificate

10.8%

Public Health Dental
Hygiene Practitioner

51.7%

Local Anesthesia
Permit



Access to Dental Care



Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

- Designated by Human Resources & Services Administration
- Population to provider ratio of at least 5000 to 1
- Three designation types:
 - Geographic
 - Population
 - Facility

**148 DHPSAs
across 42
counties in PA**

**PA ranks 20th
nationwide for
DHPSAs**



Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

- **Priority Scores**

- Range 0-26
- Philadelphia County District 1 (45 census tracts) = Score 21
- Venango County (entire county) = Score 7

- **Full-Time Equivalent Practitioners Needed**

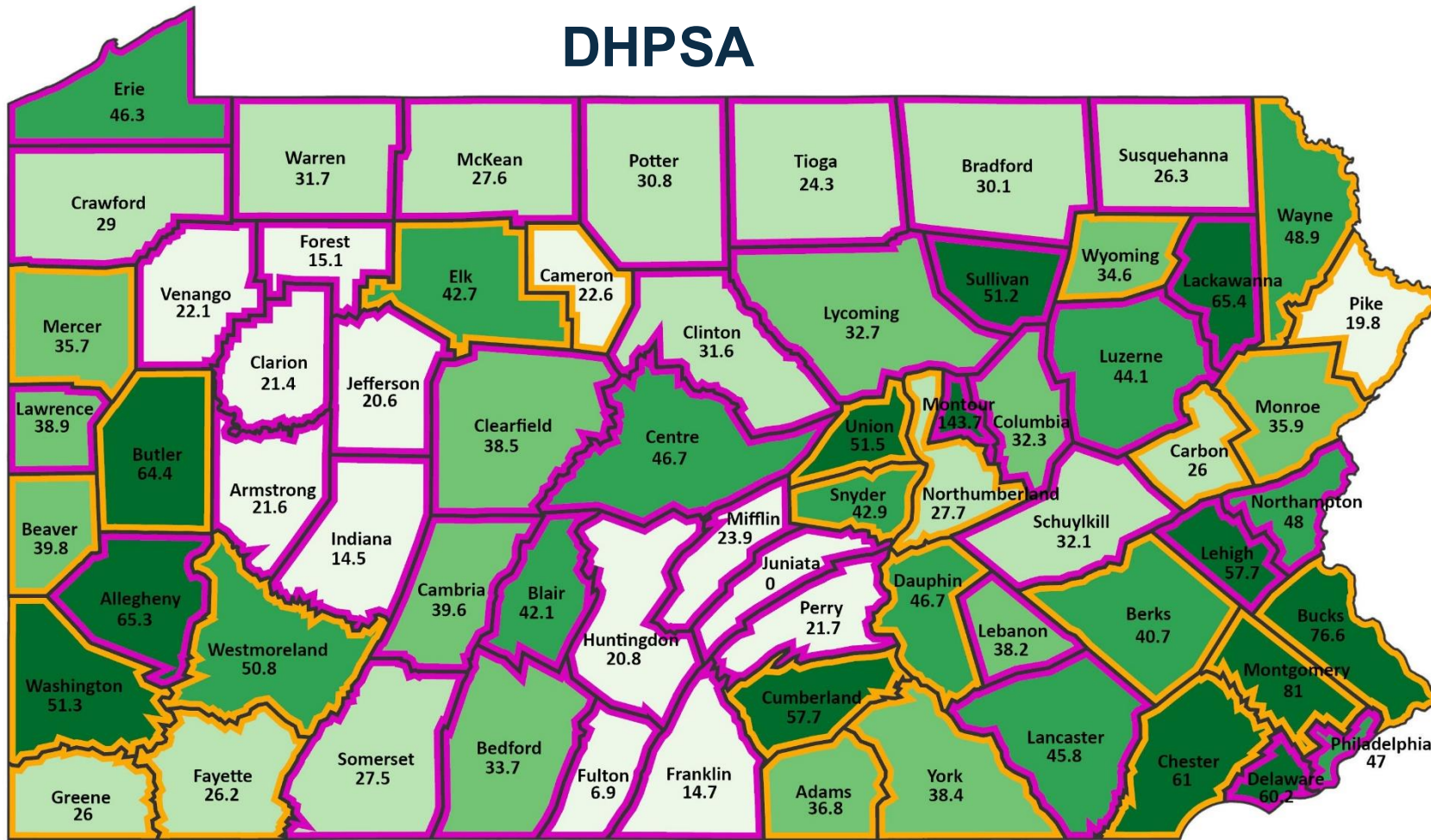
- Philadelphia County District 5 (83 census tracts) = 30.81
- Franklin County (2 townships) = 0.08



DENTISTS

Direct Patient Care

PA rate
50.7 per 100,00



DHPSA:

Population to provider:

> 5000 to 1

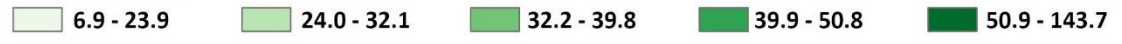
42 DHPSA counties

Dentist rate per 100,00:

DHPSA – 47.4

Non-DHPSA – 55.2

Dentists per 100,000 Population



Dental Care Shortage Area



Direct Patient Care

PA rate
51.1 per 100,00

DHPSA:

Population to provider:

> 5000 to 1

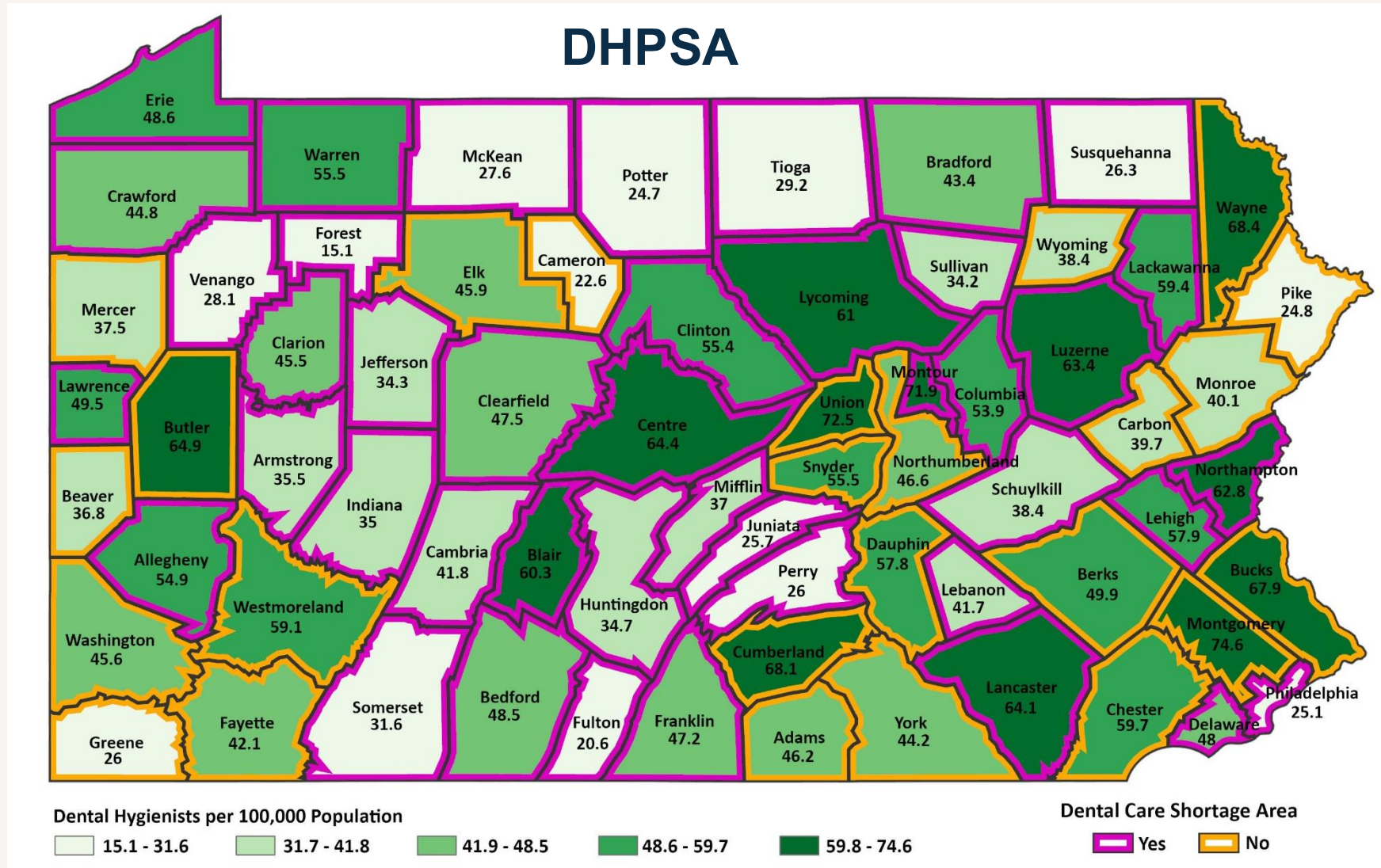
42 DHPSA counties

Hygienist rate per

100,00:

DHPSA – 46.7

Non-DHPSA – 57.3



Direct Patient Care

PA rate
50.7 per 100,00

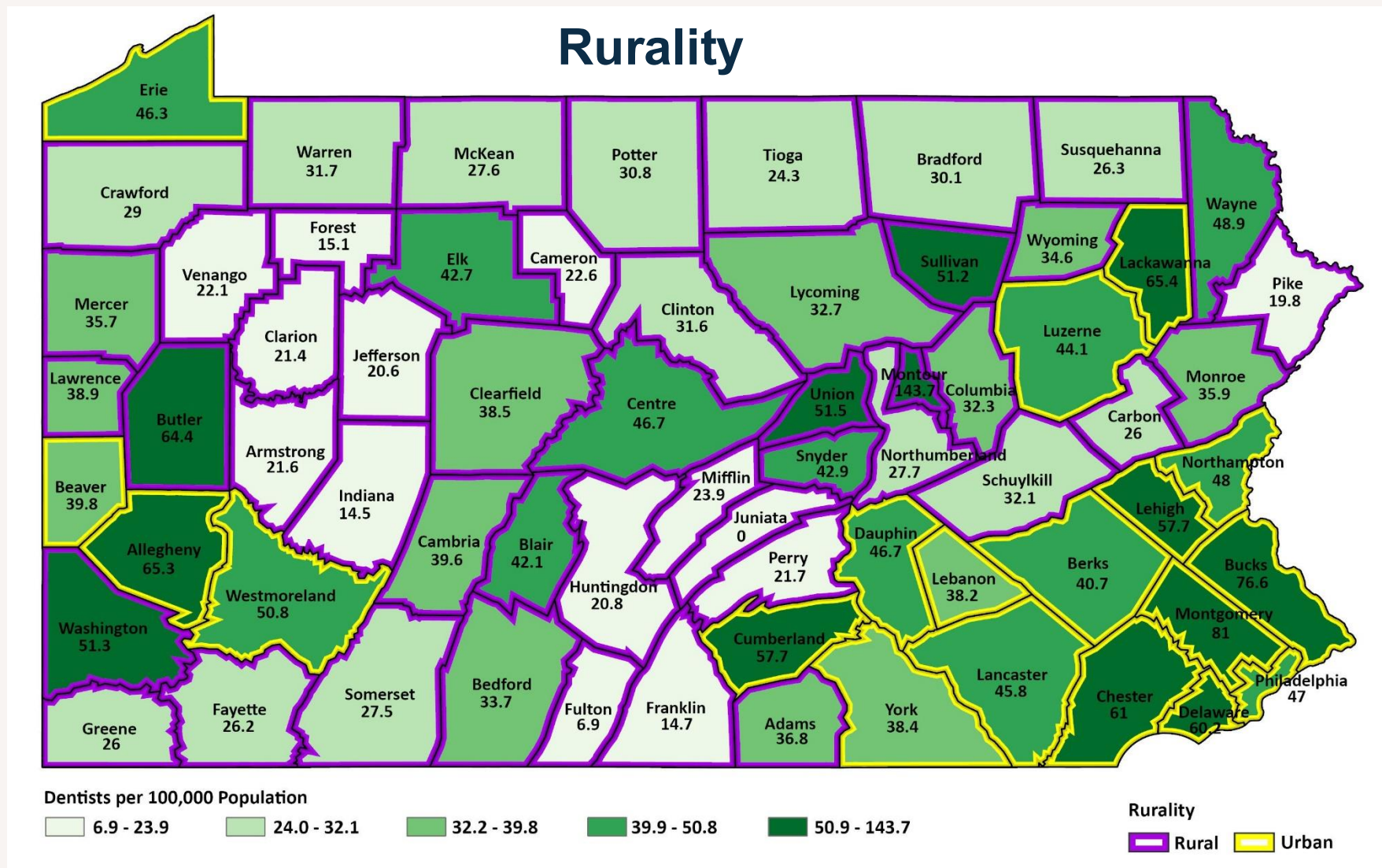
Rural Definition:
< 291 people
per square mile

48 rural counties

Dentist rate per 100,00:

Rural – 34.9

Urban – 56.1



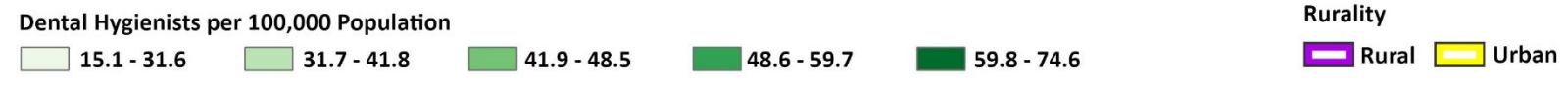
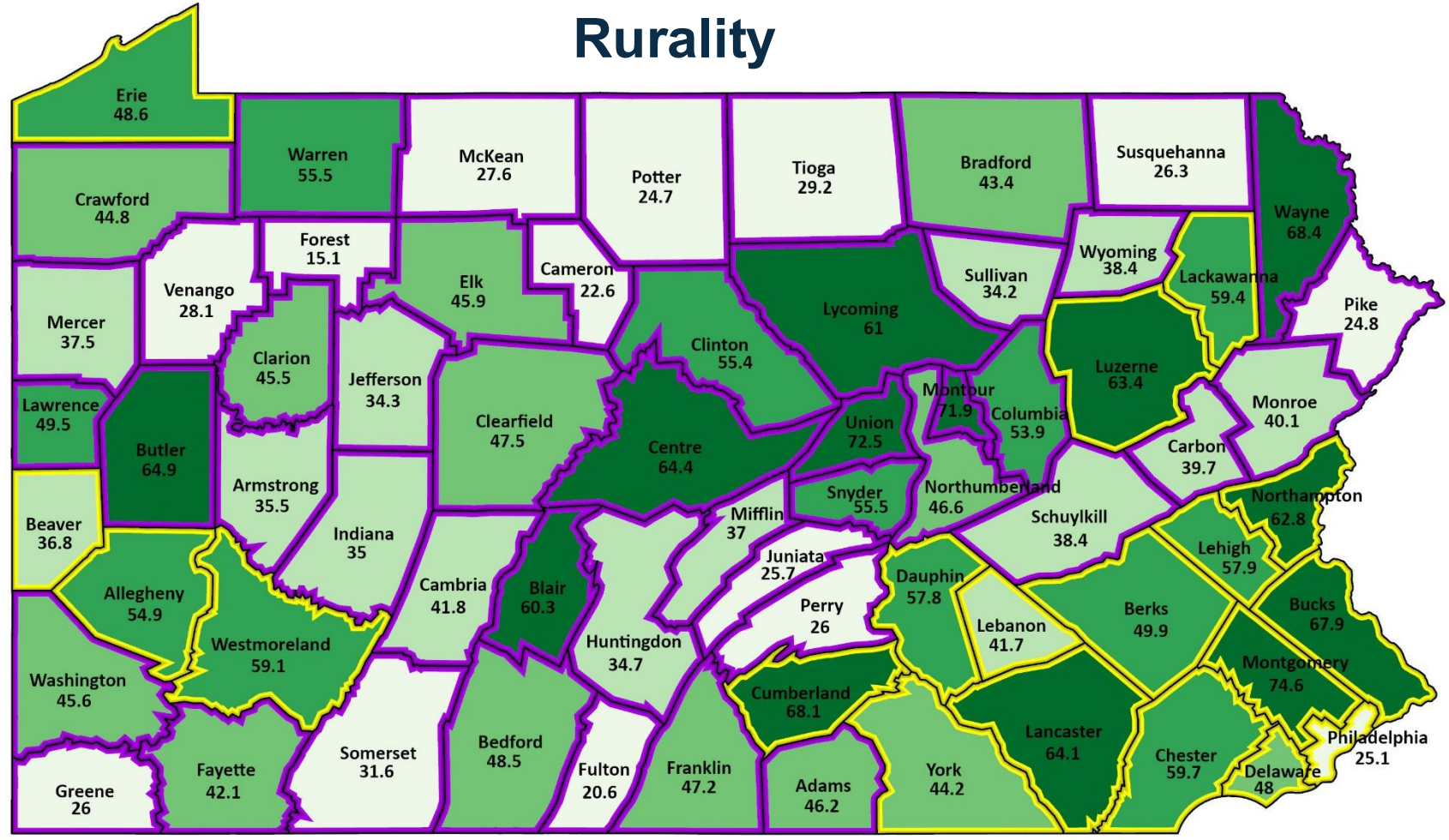
Direct Patient Care

PA rate
51.1 per 100,00

Rural Definition:
< 291 people
per square mile

48 rural counties

Hygienist rate per
100,00:
Rural – 45.6
Urban – 53.0



Looking Forward

Address changes in workforce demographics

Address differences in workforce geographic distribution

Address access to care concerns



Contact Information

PA Oral Health Program

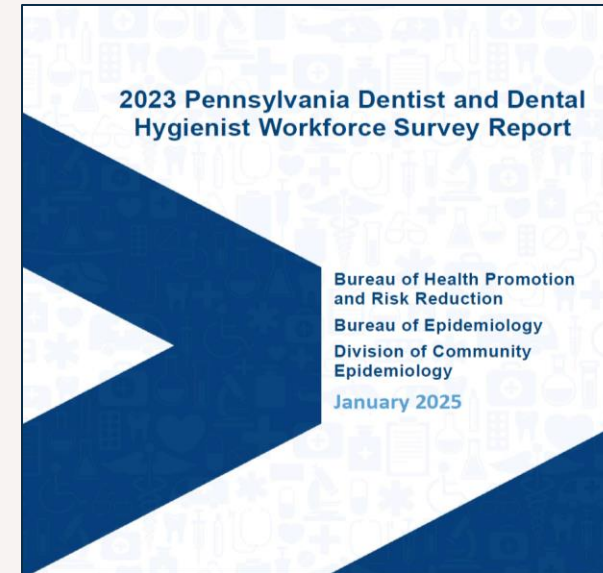
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/healthy-living/oral-health.html>

Jennifer Burroughs

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Jun Yang

juyang@pa.gov



OHPAG Member Sharing



Networking Lunch

- Please take the opportunity to meet and mingle with members you do not know well.



Selected Action Steps 2024-2025

Access, Prevention, and Education

- Incorporate oral disease prevention messaging into other health fields including physical, mental, and behavioral health
- Advocate for the use of an oral health curriculum and training program for certified CHWs to assist them in assessing oral disease risk and appropriate referrals
- Promote dental provider use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) for dental caries control for individuals who cannot receive traditional restorative treatment
- Encourage bi-directional referrals between dental and medical offices

Workforce

- Promote and support the use of community health workers/navigators in traditionally underserved communities
- Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse oral health workforce


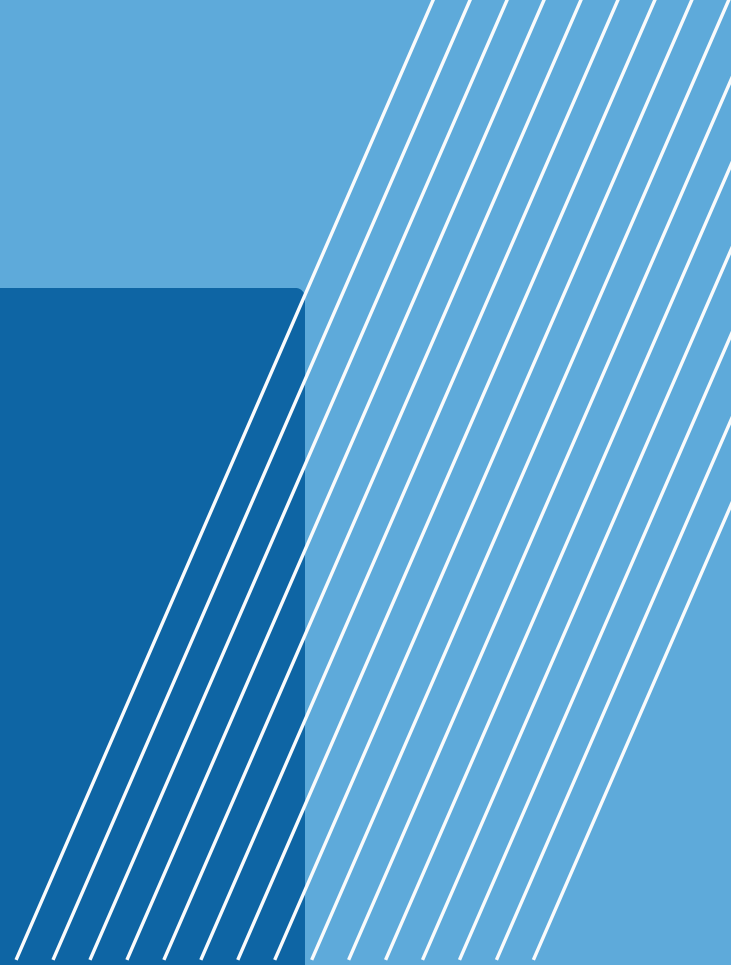
Infrastructure

- Share evidence-based data and information to promote collaboration and awareness among dental and non-dental providers as well as the public



UPDATE ON PROGRESS

2020-2030 State Oral Health Plan
April 2025-August 2025

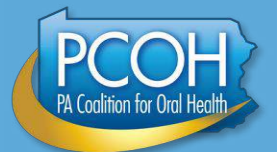


Action Step #1

Incorporate oral disease prevention messaging into other health fields including physical, mental, and behavioral health

- Finalized sugar-sweetened beverage project
- Maternal health project with DOH, DHS, and PCOH working on improving oral health services on the medical side with obstetricians and other maternity care providers

More Info:
www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag



Action Step #2

Advocate for the use of an oral health curriculum and training program for certified CHWs to assist them in assessing oral disease risk and appropriate referrals

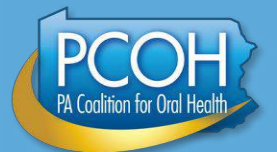
- Oral health voices in the PA Community Health Worker Collaborative; promotion of online courses housed on the PCOH course portal
- Plan mini-grant: Eastcentral PA AHEC for Sonrisas Saludables (Healthy Smiles): comprehensive oral health series in Spanish for community health workers (CHWs)
- Presentation accepted at state CHW conference for September
- 13 current programs – need to complete another assessment

Action Step #3

Promote dental provider use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) for dental caries control for individuals who cannot receive traditional restorative treatment

- PA managed care organization designing a minimally invasive care pilot program; state highlighted at national meeting in Arizona in May
- PCOH presented a minimally invasive care CE course at Temple in May and through an online webinar format in August
- PA State Oral Health Summit will include presentations on SDF

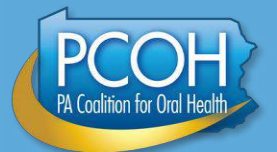
More Info:
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Action Step #4

- Encourage bi-directional referrals between dental and medical offices
 - Pennsylvania participation in the Building State Capacity for Integration (BSCI) Learning Collaborative; work will encourage OB providers to talk about oral health; sending informational packets this fall
 - Continue to focus on oral health for patients with diabetes as part of the state's CDC grant

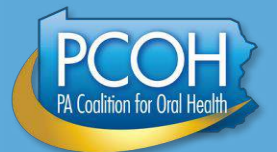
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Action Step #5

- Promote and support the use of community health workers/navigators in traditionally underserved communities
- Continue to support PACHW Collaborative and state waiver submission to allow CHWs to bill Medicaid
- Additional oral health training offered to CHWs through zoom
- Focus on community health centers and hospitals

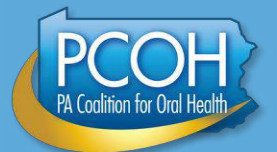
More Info:
www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag



Action Step #6

- Identify and support pipeline program development to ensure a competent and diverse oral health workforce
 - Two dental schools actively starting new rural residency opportunities
 - Re-engaged with Penn HOSA to discuss current workforce issues and future collaboration with students
 - Workforce "Hot Topic" webinar held on January 31 focused on AHEC high school recruitment for dental careers
 - Dental Assistant Radiology Training (DART) held to help dental assistants prepare to pass the radiology exam
 - Funding secured for a Speakers Bureau of dental providers throughout the state interested in speaking to local students about dental career opportunities
 - DOH published the 2023 Licensure Survey Report
 - Upcoming: ARC ARISE implementation grant

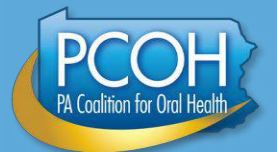
More Info:
www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag



Action Step #7

- Share evidence-based data and information to promote collaboration and awareness among dental and non-dental providers as well as the public
- Oral Health Program (OHP) is collaborating with DHS and the Diabetes Program as part of the CDC grant
- Five water systems have shared monthly quality data this year.
- As part of a CareQuest grant, PCOH published a report on school health in PA.
- Working on ideas for change in dental office infection control
- Sugar-sweetened beverage campaign wrapped up

More Info:
www.paoralhealth.org/ohpag



EVALUATION of the PENNSYLVANIA ORAL HEALTH PLAN 2020 – 2030: YEAR 5, 2025

1

**Priority Outcomes
Parallel Data
Tracking Charts**

2

**Contributions &
Programs

Outcome
Alignment Table**

3

**Summary
&
Recommendations**

Parallel Data Tracking Chart

A1. Increase percentage of people served by community water systems receiving optimally fluoridated water

A2. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children

A3. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for children with special health care needs

A4. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for pregnant women

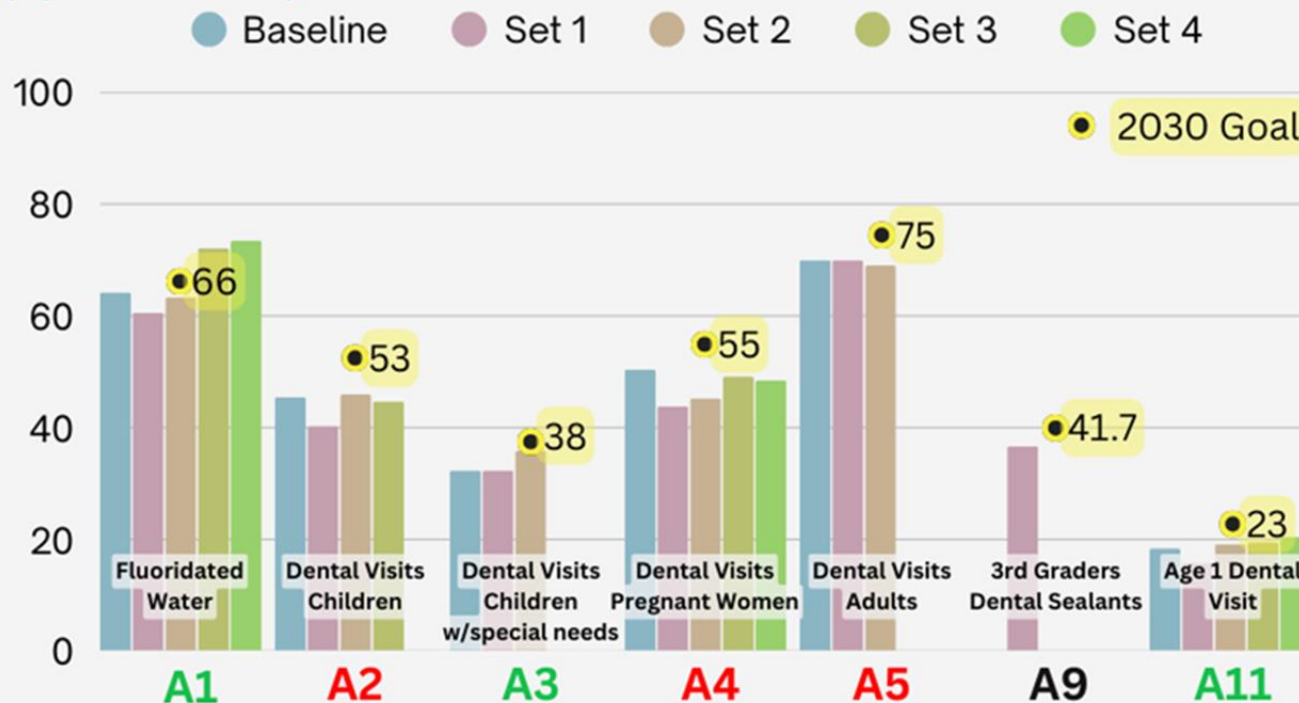
A5. Increase preventive oral health care (dental visit) for adults

A9. Increase the percentage of third grade children with dental sealants

A11. Increase the number of underserved children with an age one dental visit

Parallel Data Tracking Chart
Annual Progress
2025

Priority A Outcomes – Access, Prevention and Education (Upward Focus)



PENNSYLVANIA
ORAL HEALTH PLAN
2020-2030

Negative Progression

- A2 (-1.16%)
- A4 (-5.10%)
- A5 (-1.90%)

Positive Progression

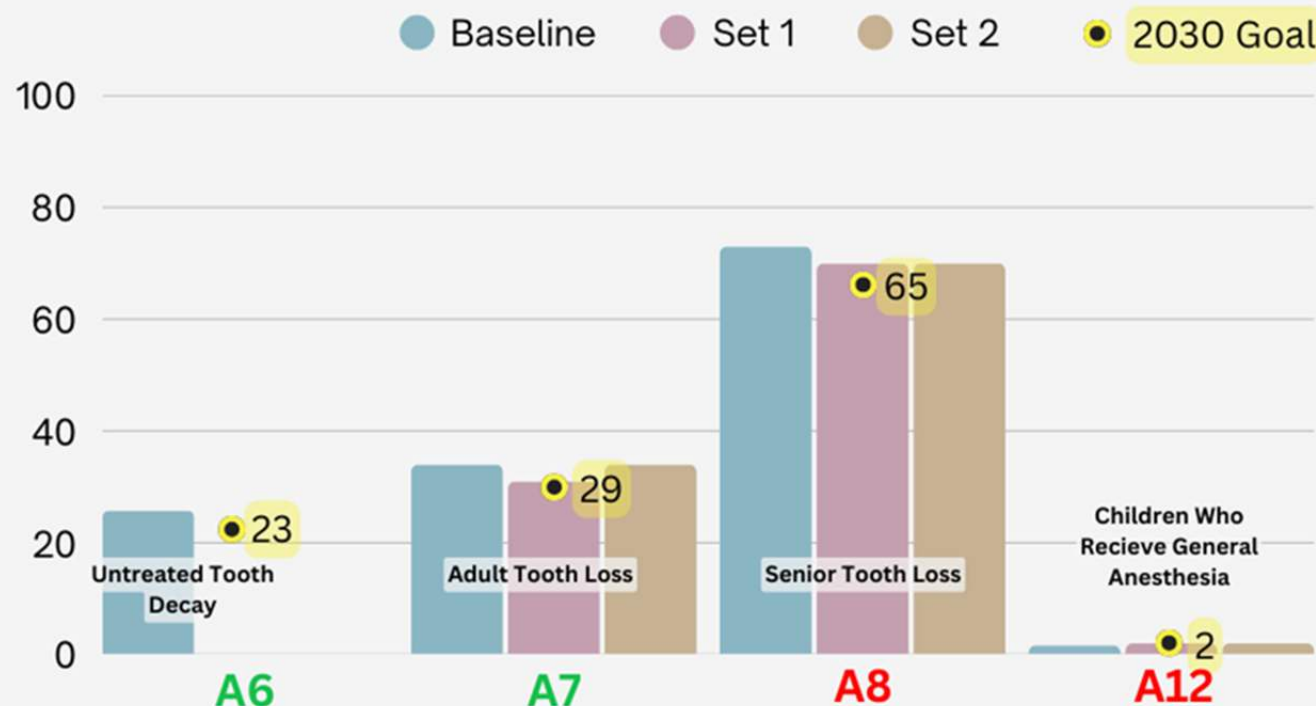
- A1 (+9.24%)
- A3 (+2.66%)
- A11 (+1.97%)

Parallel Data Tracking Chart

A6. Reduce percentage of untreated decay in children
A7. Reduce incidence of any tooth loss in adults 18-64
A8. Reduce incidence of any tooth loss in seniors 65+
A12. Reduce the incidence of children receiving dental services under general anesthesia

Priority A Outcomes – Access, Prevention and Education (Downward Focus)

Parallel Data Tracking Chart
Annual Progress
2025



**PENNSYLVANIA
ORAL HEALTH PLAN
2020-2030**

No Progression/Baseline

- A6 (+0/-0) Awaiting 2027 Data
- A7 (+0/-0) No change

Positive Progression

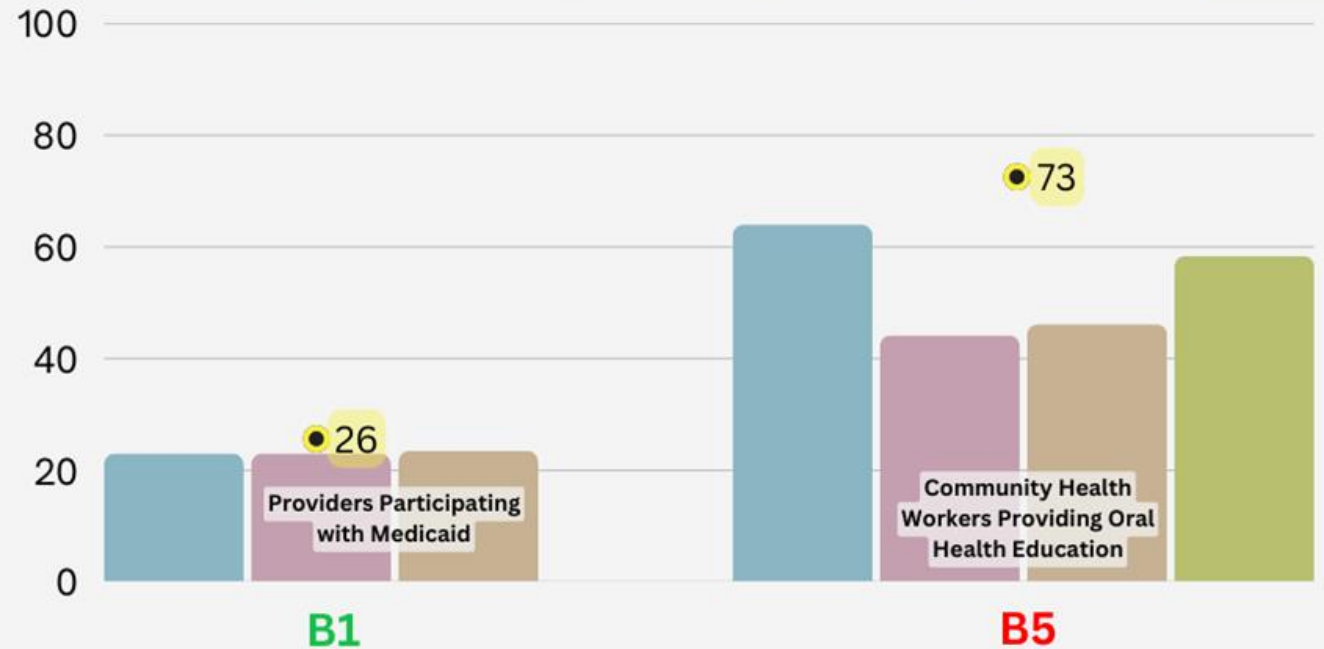
- A8 (+3.00%)
- A12 (+0.35%)

Parallel Data Tracking Chart

Parallel Data Tracking Chart
Annual Progress
2025

Priority B Outcomes - Workforce (Upward Focus)

● Baseline ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2030 Goal



PENNSYLVANIA
ORAL HEALTH PLAN
2020-2030

Positive Progression

● B1 (+0.43%)

Negative Progression

● B5 (-5.40%)

B1. Increase the percentage of hygienists, general dentists, and specialists participating in the Medicaid program

B5. Increase the number of community health workers (or similar) providing oral health education to their clients either in community health centers or place of residence

Not included in chart:

B2. Increase the number of general dentists who bill \$10,000+ per year in the Medicaid program (Goal 1,181) (-245)

B3. Decrease the number of DHPSA county-level designations (Goal 38) (-7)

B4. Increase the number of primary care medical providers who bill Medicaid for oral health services (Goal 1,500) (+132)

Contributor(s)/Programs	Outcome Alignment	Description
BSCI Learning Collaborative	B5	Supports medical dental integration, encourages OB providers to include oral health in patient conversations, embeds oral health prevention and education into prenatal care
OHP Campaign	A3, CA3	Aimed at reducing sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among youth ages 11-17 in specific PA counties, includes social media videos, posters in community centers, takeaway materials in dental settings, launched in April and runs through June
PACHC	C2, C3	New Oral Health Program Specialist at PACHC, background in dental hygiene, dental assisting, and education, looking forward to working in public health
PACHC Workforce Training	B5	Training for clinical directors, sold out and successful, helped new clinical directors understand their role, improve clinic, and retain staff, ten dentists in attendance
PACHC Regional Trainings	A3, B5	Hosting regional training across PA in June in collaboration with Department of Health Title V grants, focused on serving children with special healthcare needs, focus on medical-dental integration, partnering with health centers to host
Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health (PORH)	B5, C3	Rural & Integration Systems Coordinator at PA Office of Rural Health (PORH), hosted the Pennsylvania Rural Community and Public Health Conference in State College
PORH	B5	Teaching community health worker training to cohort from Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), cohort included community health workers that spoke multiple languages
NRHA Oral Health Task Force	A1, C3	Met recently to determine priorities, discussed workforce, community water fluoridation, accepting best practices for programs that can be shared nationally
Temple Univ. Hospital	A2, A3, A6, A9	Part of Pediatric Dental Residency Program with Temple University Hospital, appreciated being part of group and sharing updates from work and with students
SDOH Focus	A2, A3, A6, A9	Developed validated tools to screen children for SDOH with prevalence of early childhood caries, seven questions on SDOH factors, ongoing project, significant correlation between SDOH score and early childhood caries
HPV Vaccine Class	A13, B5	Class focusing on SDOH and accessibility to HPV vaccine, could help with destigmatizing HPV and talking about vaccine in dental community
Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11	Dean at University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Penn Dental saw 50,000 patients over 178,000 visits, nearly 7,000 visits in immigrant health centers with refugee care, mobile dental office saw about 1,600 patients
Care for Patients with Disabilities	A3	Six hundred patients treated at Woods Center, extensive curriculum on teaching how to care for persons with disabilities, curriculum for primary healthcare providers available on website
Online Courses	B5	Series of online courses available for free on websites for health professionals with CE credits, consumer items with courses
Survey of Caregivers	B5	Conducted survey of caregivers to see what they need, materials will be available for caregivers, patients, and providers in next year
Mobile Dental Clinic	A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11	Expensive venture for operations costs will not continue due to financial constraints, looking to expand services through FQHCs outside Philadelphia
PCOH	A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11	Units in state where dental assistant or someone on staff has CDL to drive, very little flexibility in providing care in school setting, hard to run van efficiently with school structure
UPMC	A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11	UPMC had success with leveraging space in existing environment with portable equipment, ran into similar issues with mobile van, offered to share resources and toolkits on mobile dentistry
Alliance with PHMC at Cedar	B5	Successful, medical records integrated with dental records, helps with future research
Northampton Smile Saturday	A9	Smile Saturday was implemented on March 23, 2024. 32 “children were given sealants.”
HealthLink Dental Clinic	A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11	679 patients served between September 2023 and May 2024, providing 9.2% more appointments than the previous year.
Westmoreland County Community College	A13	Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) equipped the dental hygiene program with Oral ID devices in December 2024

Recommendations

WORKFORCE EXPANSION AND INNOVATION

Support legislation that enables expanded scopes of practice for dental hygienists. Promote training programs for community health workers (CHWs) to support oral health education and navigation services.



Expanded scope of practice

Training programs

MEDICAL-DENTAL INTEGRATION

Mandate oral health screenings and preventive treatments (like fluoride varnish) in pediatric and prenatal care settings. Encourage the inclusion of oral health in family medicine and OB/GYN training.



Pediatric care

Prenatal care

Family medicine

TARGETED OUTREACH AND HEALTH LITERACY

Use culturally and linguistically tailored campaigns to improve utilization among pregnant women, seniors, and immigrant communities. Distribute toolkits and oral health kits in WIC offices, community clinics, FQHCs, and CHWs.



Pregnant women

Seniors

Toolkits and oral health kits

INCENTIVIZING PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

Implement tax credits, loan repayment, and increased reimbursement rates to attract and retain providers serve Medicaid populations, particularly in underserved areas.



Tax credits

Loan repayment

Increased reimbursement rates

POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Secure state funding to support ongoing surveillance systems and hire a dedicated oral health epidemiologist. Advocate for the continuous inclusion of oral health in Title V and State Health Improvement Plans.



State funding

Oral health epidemiologist

State Health Improvement Plans

Navigating the Data

Priority Area

Outcome A2

Preventive Oral Health Care for Children

Measurable Outcome

25%

In 2019, only 25% of children had received preventive dental care, highlighting the critical need for improvement in oral health practices among younger populations.

Baseline

"Oral health is essential to overall health."

American Dental Association

Goal 2030

35%

By 2021, the percentage of children receiving preventive care increased to 35%, indicating a positive trend in awareness and accessibility.

40%

In 2022, the rate rose to 40%, demonstrating ongoing efforts to promote regular dental visits among children.

Interpretation

45%

As of 2023, the percentage is 45%, reflecting consistent advancements in preventive health measures.

50%

The target of 50% by 2030 is within reach, and continuous efforts are essential for achieving this goal.

Recommendation

Enhancing children's access to preventive oral health care is vital for their long-term well-being. Community programs, policies, and education can significantly improve these statistics, ensuring every child receives essential dental care. Achieving a 50% increase by 2030 is possible through collaboration among health providers, legislators, and awareness efforts.



Table Discussion

- 30 minutes to review progress and challenges at your seats with your table
- 15 minutes to select top 3-2-1 of the action steps
- Survey link will be provided after the meeting to complete final selections

Member Discussion

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Summary
- Next Steps
 - ▣ Fill out In-Kind Forms
 - ▣ Review notes
 - ▣ Visit paoralhealth.org/OHPAG to review materials
 - ▣ Ongoing: Submit success stories
 - ▣ Send comments/additional materials to info@paoralhealth.org
 - ▣ Next meeting is virtual in January 2026: Doodle poll to come



Thank you for attending!



Pennsylvania
Department of Health