

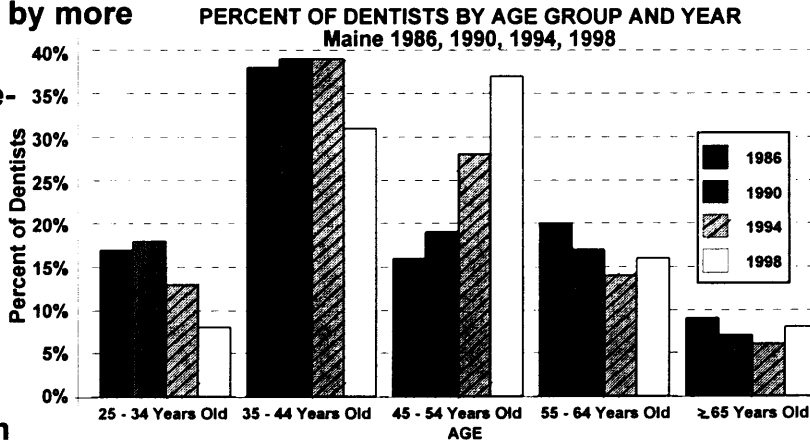
# GENERAL PRACTICE DENTISTS

Maine, 1998

➔ In 1998, 581 dentists reported practicing in Maine. Seventy five percent of the dentists reporting a primary specialty (393) reported that they were general practitioners - the same proportion as in 1994.

➔ Since 1986, the proportion of general practice dentists younger than age 35 has diminished by more

than half while the proportion of general practice dentists who are 45 - 54 years old has more than doubled, from 16% of all general practitioners to 37%.



➔ For the first time in 1998, dentists aged 45 to 54 made up the largest proportion (37%) of general practice dentists in Maine. In fact, less than 40% of general practitioners were younger than 45 in 1998, while 4 years earlier in 1994, 52% of these dentists were in that age group. The average age of general practice dentists was 48 years old.

➔ In 1998, there was 1 general practice dentist for each 3,160 residents; nationally, there was 1 general practice dentist for each 2,628 residents.<sup>1</sup>

POPULATION* PER GENERAL PRACTICE DENTIST IN RANK ORDER OF COUNTY			
COUNTY	POPULATION* / DENTIST	COUNTY	POPULATION* / DENTIST
Cumberland	2,286	Washington	3,599
Lincoln	2,633	Franklin	3,627
Kennebec	2,826	Piscataquis	3,663
Knox	2,888	York	3,692
Androscoggin	3,062	Somerset	4,747
Hancock	3,102	Waldo	5,146
Penobscot	3,184	Oxford	5,378
Sagadahoc	3,242	Aroostook	5,507

➔ Nearly 40% of Maine's general practice dentists would not accept Medicaid as payment for their services in 1998; 63% of them reported that they would consider accepting Medicaid payment if reimbursement were increased, paperwork were reduced, or there was payment for missed appointments.<sup>2</sup> Another 25% reported that they would not accept Medicaid payment even if all of these changes were made in the system.

\* Population data are for July 1997 and are from the data files of the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

Footnotes: FN1: National data were obtained from the American Dental Assoc. and are for 1996, the most current available data. FN2: Percentages exclude 41 dentists who did not answer these questions. Dentists could respond "yes" to all options that applied.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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