

**General
Dental
Council**

Registration Statistical
Report **2021**



Published August 2022

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Introduction

Overview

Dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) must be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) to practise in the UK. Everyone who joins our registers must be suitably qualified or pass an assessment, and meet the health, character and English language requirements to be considered fit to practise as a member of the dental team.

Applications can be made in several ways, by demonstrating one of the following:

- A recognised UK qualification.
- A relevant European diploma.
- A recognised overseas qualification.
- An assessment of suitability to register, via a GDC panel assessment of skills and knowledge.
- A pass in Parts 1 and 2 of the Overseas Registration Examination.

Specialist lists

We also maintain lists of dentists who are suitably qualified or experienced to be considered specialists in specific areas of dentistry.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Undertaking CPD is a compulsory part of registration with the GDC. Dental professionals must meet our CPD requirements to maintain their registration.

We also require evidence of up to date CPD from anyone wishing to re-join the register.

Registration Statistics 2021

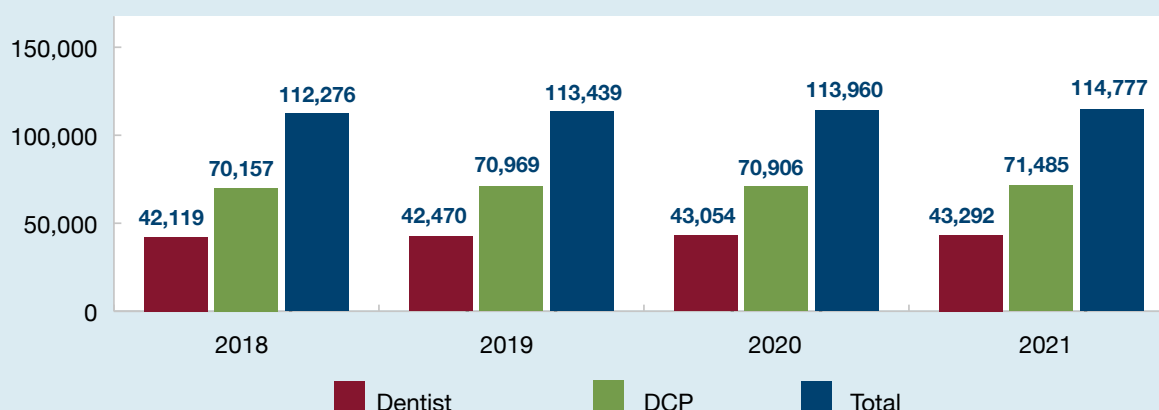
The total number of dentists and DCPs on the register as of 31 December 2021

This table shows the total number of individuals on the dentist and DCP registers. There was a 0.7% increase in the total number of dental professionals from 113,960 at the end of 2020 to 114,777 at the end of 2021.¹

Registration type	Number of registrants	% of total
Dentist	43,292	38%
DCP	71,485	62%
Total	114,777	100%

The number of individuals on both registers as increased slightly over each of the last four years.

Number of dentists and DCPs on the register



The composition of the register by dental grouping as of 31 December 2021

Registration title	Number of registrants	% of titles on register	Number added in 2021	% added in 2021
Dental Nurse	59,399	49%	4,693	58%
Dentist	43,292	35.5%	1,500	18.5%
Dental Hygienist	8,261	7%	922	11%
Dental Technician	5,289	4%	141	1.5%
Dental Therapist	4,378	3.5%	705	8.5%
Orthodontic Therapist	822	<1%	108	1.5%
Clinical Dental Technician	383	<1%	24	<1%
Total	121,824	100%	8,093	100%

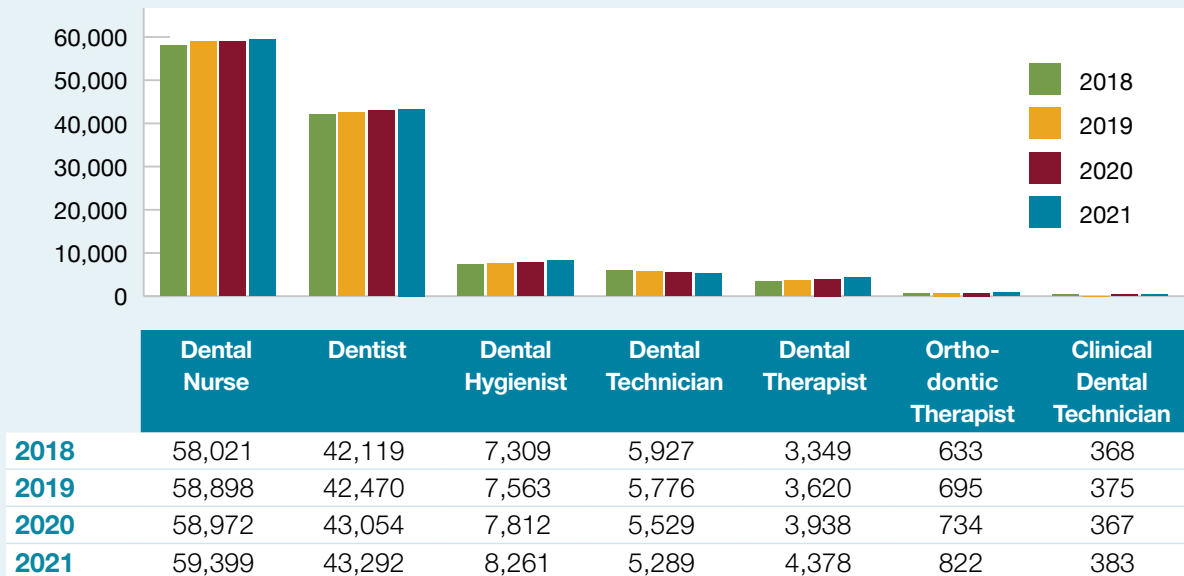
¹ 94 Dentists are also registered as DCPs therefore are included in both numbers in the table



The table includes the number of registered titles. Because some individuals have more than one title, for example a dental hygienist may also be a dental therapist, the total numbers by title exceed the actual number of individuals on the register.

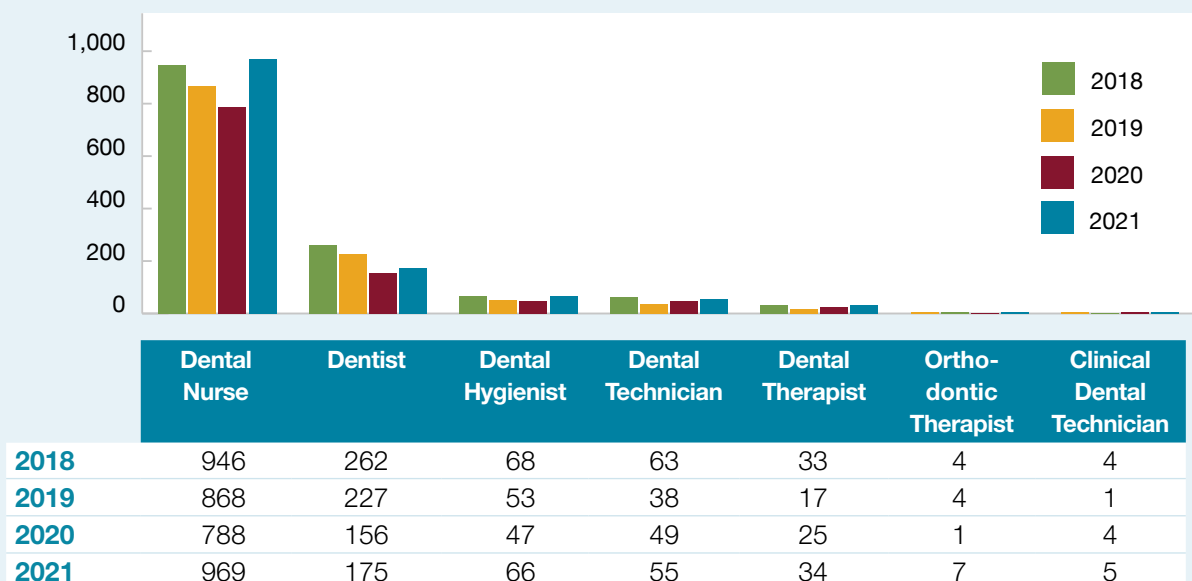
There was a 1.2% increase in the overall number of registered titles in 2021, from 120,406 in 2020 to 121,824 in 2021.

Number of dental professionals



Restorations to the registers from 2018 - 2021 by title

Restoration is the process an individual who has previously been registered with the GDC goes through to re-join the register. During 2021, there were 1,311 registrants who re-joined the registers through the restoration process:



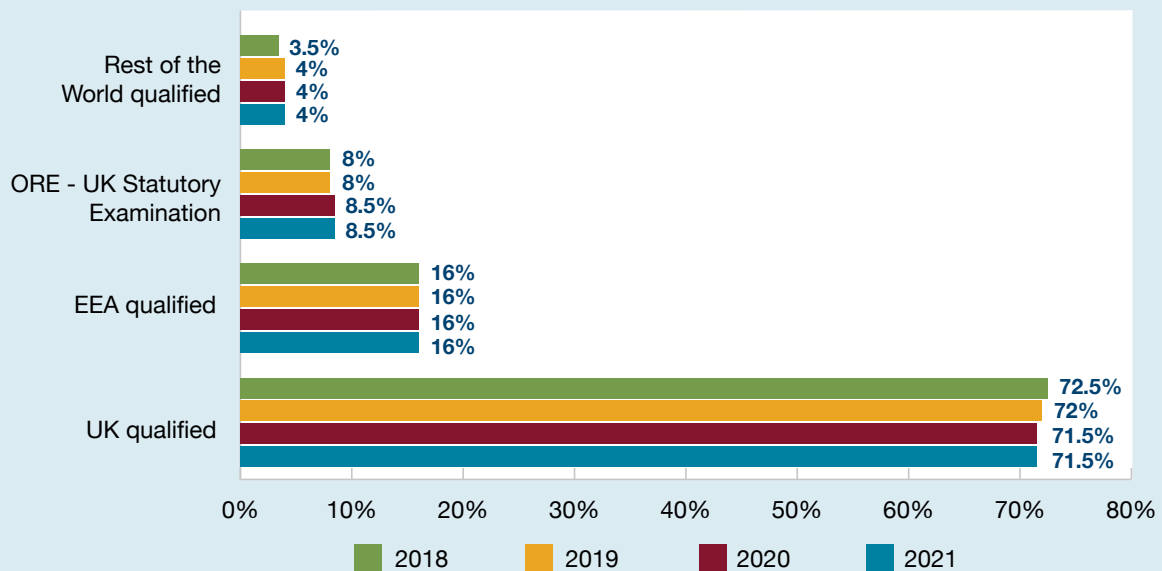


Dentists on the register as of 31 December 2021 by region of qualification

Dentists, by region of qualification

Region of qualification	Amount	% of total
UK qualified	30,885	71.5%
EEA qualified	7,091	16%
ORE – UK Statutory Examination	3,663	8.5%
Rest of the world qualified	1,653	4%
Total	43,292	100%

Dentists on the register by region of qualification 2018 – 2021

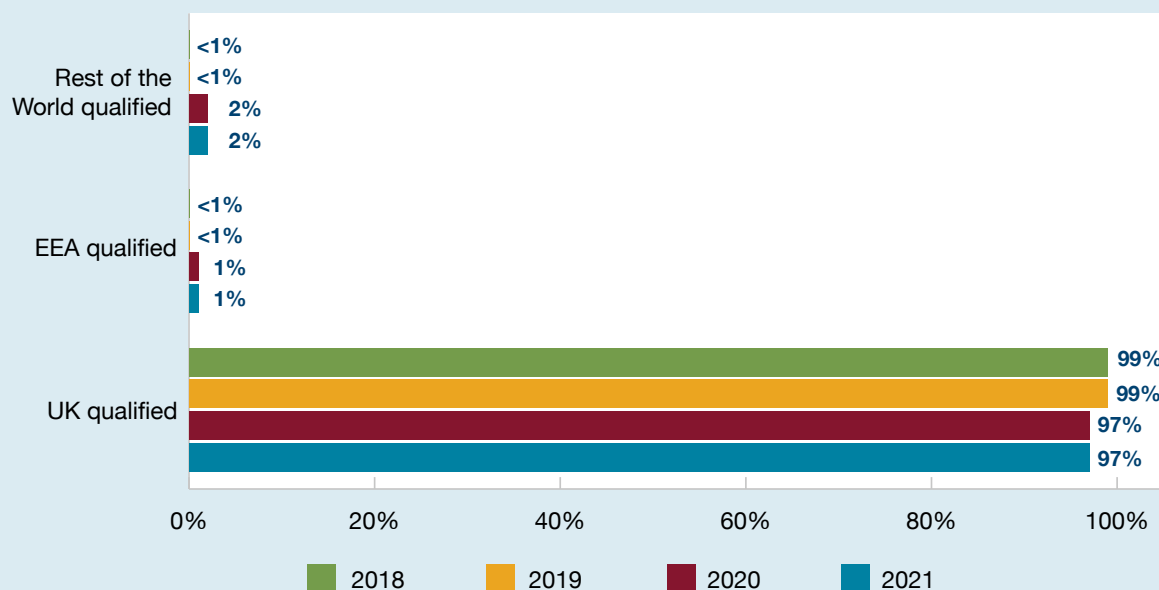


DCPs on the register as of 31 December 2021 by region of qualification

DCPs, by region of qualification

Registration type	UK qualified	EEA qualified	Rest of world qualified	Total
Dental Nurse	59,206	146	47	59,399
Dental Hygienist	7,184	386	691	8,261
Dental Technician	5,070	198	21	5,289
Dental Therapist	3,892	1	485	4,378
Orthodontic Therapist	803	1	18	822
Clinical Dental Technician	381	0	2	383
Total	76,536	732	1,264	78,532

DCPs on the register by region of qualification 2018 – 2021



Dentists and DCPs added to the register in 2021, by region of qualification

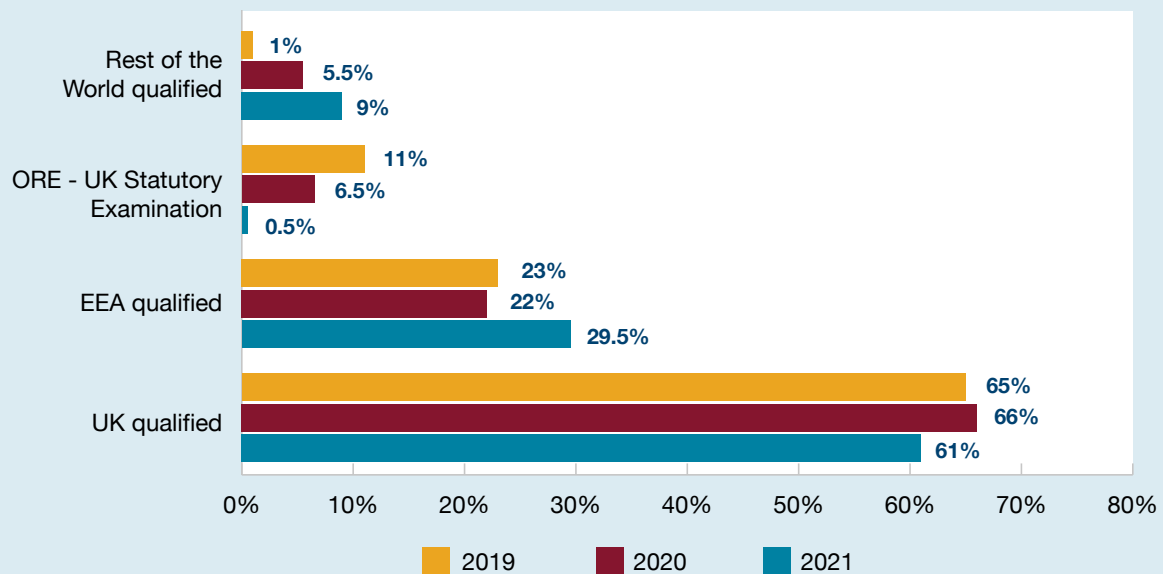
a) New additions to the dentist register in 2021, by region of qualification

Region of qualification	Number of registrants	% of total
UK qualified	912	61%
EEA qualified	446	29.5%
ORE – UK Statutory Examination	5	0.5%
Rest of the world qualified	137	9%
Total	1,500	100%

b) New additions to the DCP register in 2021, by region of qualification

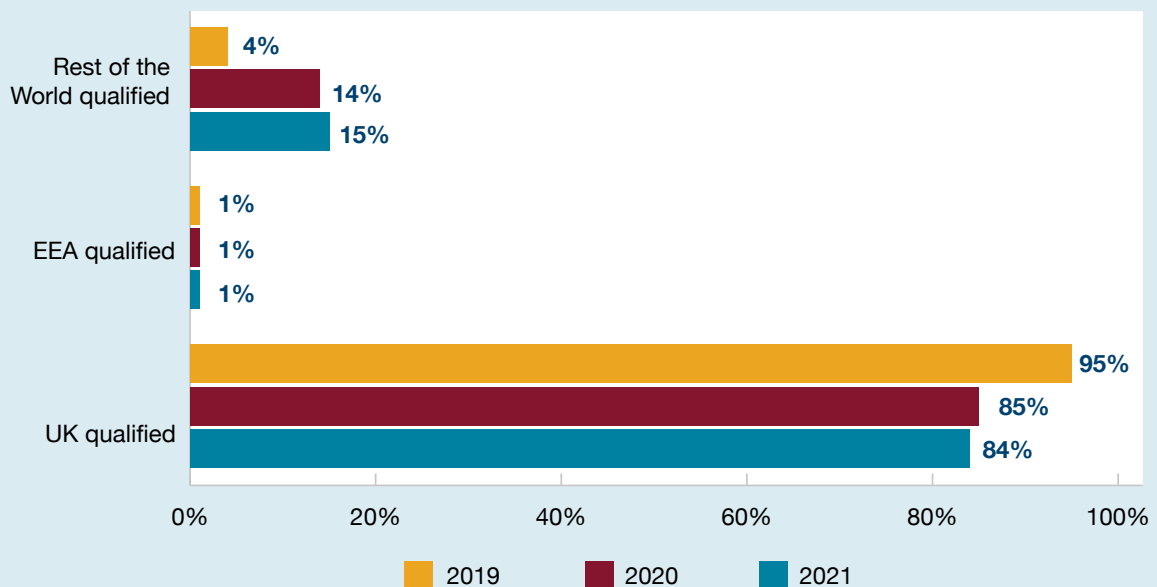
DCP title	UK qualified	EEA qualified	Rest of world qualified	Total
Dental Nurse	4,566	27	100	4,693
Dental Hygienist	395	30	497	922
Dental Therapist	313	2	390	705
Dental Technician	128	7	6	141
Orthodontic Therapist	92	0	16	108
Clinical Dental Technician	24	0	0	24
Total	5,518	66	1,009	6,593

New additions to the dentist register by country of qualification 2019 - 2021



Due to the pandemic, the ORE Part 2 was not held between February 2020 and December 2021. This has resulted in a reduction in registration via the ORE route. Those registered in 2021 via the ORE route would have passed their exam at an earlier exam sitting.

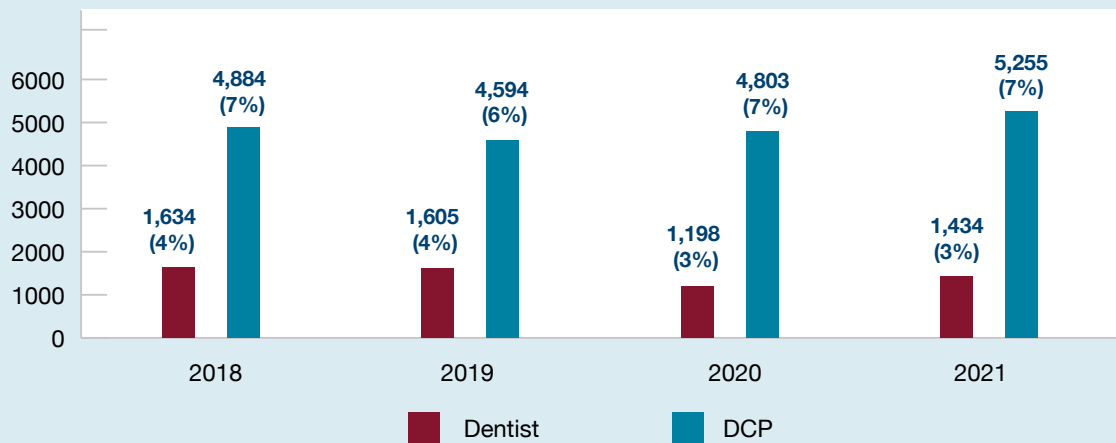
New additions to DCP register by country of qualifications 2019 – 2021



The significant increase in ‘rest of world qualified’ registrants in 2020 and 2021 is due to the increase in overseas qualified dentists applying for registration as a hygienist and/or a therapist. This followed an increase in awareness of this route to DCP registration for overseas qualified dentists, at a time when the ORE was suspended due to COVID restrictions.

Removals from the register 2018 – 2021

Removals from the register / % overall register



Dentists and DCPs removed from the register in 2021

a) Removal from the Dentist register in 2021

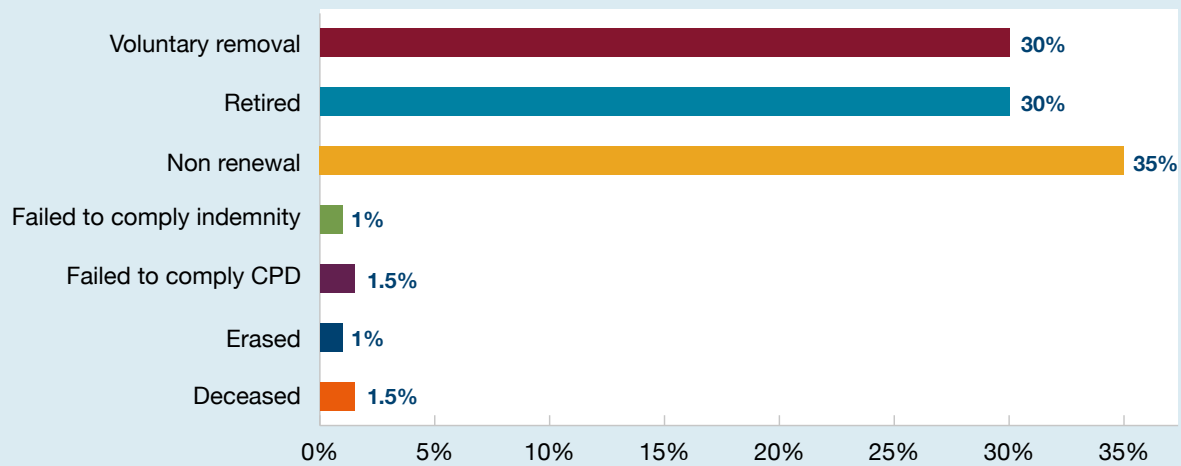
Removal reason	Dentists	% of Total
Deceased	22	1.5%
Erased	13	1%
Failed to comply CPD	24	1.5%
Failed to comply indemnity	10	1%
Non renewal	500	35%
Retired	428	30%
Voluntary removal	437	30%
Total	1,434	100%

Although there was a 20% increase in the overall number of dentist removals, from 1,198 in 2020 to 1,434 in 2021, this was still a lower number compared to both 2018 and 2019.

80 of the 1,434 removals went on to the restore in the same year.



Dentist removals from the register in 2021 by removal reason



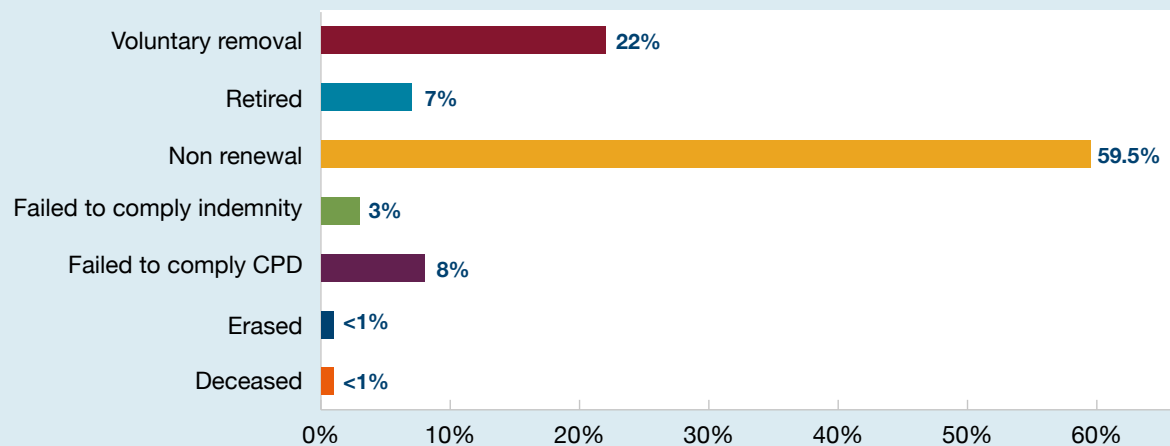
b) Removal from the DCP register in 2020, by reason for removal

Removal reason	DCPs	% of Total
Deceased	6	<1%
Erased	7	<1%
Failed to comply CPD	409	8%
Failed to comply indemnity	141	3%
Non renewal	3,166	59.5%
Retired	389	7%
Voluntary removal	1,137	22%
Total	5,255	100%

There was a 9% increase in the overall number of DCP removals, from 4,803 in 2020 to 5,255 in 2021.

Of the 5,255 removals 390 went onto restore in the same year.

DCP Removals from the register in 2020 by removal reason





The composition of specialist lists at the end of 2018 to 2021²

Specialty Type	2018	2019	2020	2021
Orthodontics	1,396	1,378	1,361	1,392
Oral Surgery	741	731	721	751
Prosthodontics	443	439	441	450
Periodontics	385	376	376	387
Endodontics	296	303	306	319
Restorative Dentistry	301	292	293	302
Special Care Dentistry	307	289	287	295
Paediatric Dentistry	240	238	238	247
Dental Public Health	105	96	92	94
Oral Medicine	72	69	69	70
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	35	34	34	35
Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology	28	28	28	30
Oral Microbiology	8	7	7	6
Total	4,357	4,280	4,253	4,378

² Note on specialist lists: there was a increase of 3% in the number of speciality titles at the end of 2021, from 4,253 titles in 2020 to 4,378 titles in 2021. Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest whole number.



Register profile – equality and diversity

The charts below show our registrant profile analysed with reference to the Equality Act protected characteristics³. All dental professionals are given the option to provide and update this information voluntarily.

Several of the characteristics do not have full responses on the charts, categorised as 'unknown'. Providing this data is not mandatory, although we encourage people to provide this information to help us improve our services and processes and ensure that any potential discrimination or inequities can be identified and removed.

We will publish additional data sets with regards to equality and diversity in future publications as we build further data in this area.

[Our EDI Strategy for 2021-23](#) sets out our objectives to ensure that we are an active champion of diversity, equality and inclusion inside our organisation and the sector we regulate.

Registrants with disabilities as of 31 December 2021

Less than 1% of dentists or DCPs identified as having a disability. The numbers here are exceptionally small, which may be due to the understanding of what is meant by the term 'disability.' Under the Equality Act 2010, a disability is described as a physical or mental impairment that has substantial and long-term negative effect on the ability to carry out normal activities. This could include long-term health conditions, depression, and anxiety, and neurodivergent conditions.

³ Age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.



The composition of the register by gender of dentists and dental care professionals as of 31 December 2021⁴

Registration type	Male	% of total	Female	% of total	Total
Dentist	20,987	48.5%	22,305	51.5%	43,292
DCP	5,157	7.2%	66,328	92.8%	71,485
Total	26,144	22.8%	88,633	77.2%	114,777

The gender composition of dentists and DCPs added to the registers in 2021⁵

Registration title	Female	% of total	Male	% of total	Total
Dental Nurse	4,562	97%	131	3%	4,693
Dentist	876	58%	624	42%	1,500
Dental Hygienist	790	86%	132	14%	922
Dental Therapist	592	84%	113	16%	705
Dental Technician	83	59%	58	41%	141
Orthodontic Therapist	98	91%	10	9%	108
Clinical Dental Technician	5	21%	19	79%	24
Total	7,006	87%	1,087	13%	8,093

Female dentists and DCPs added to the register 2019 to 2021

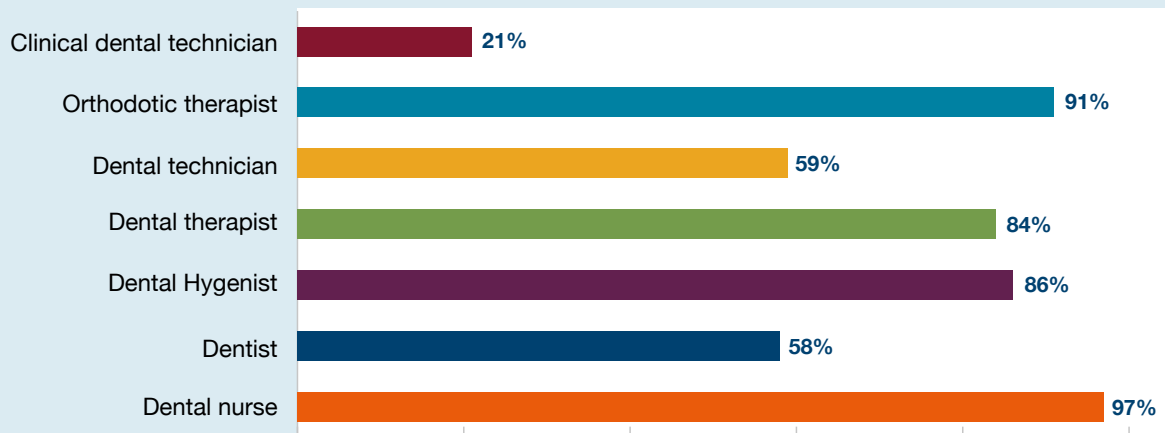
Registration Title	2019	2020	2021
Dental Nurse	98%	98%	97%
Dentist	63%	62%	58%
Dental Hygienist	91%	86%	86%
Dental Therapist	90%	85%	84%
Dental Technician	57%	61%	59%
Orthodontic Therapist	97%	87%	91%
Clinical Dental Technician	39%	0%	21%

⁴ Percentages represent the proportion of gender composition to the overall register. The numbers presented in this table match table one.

⁵ Restorations are not included.



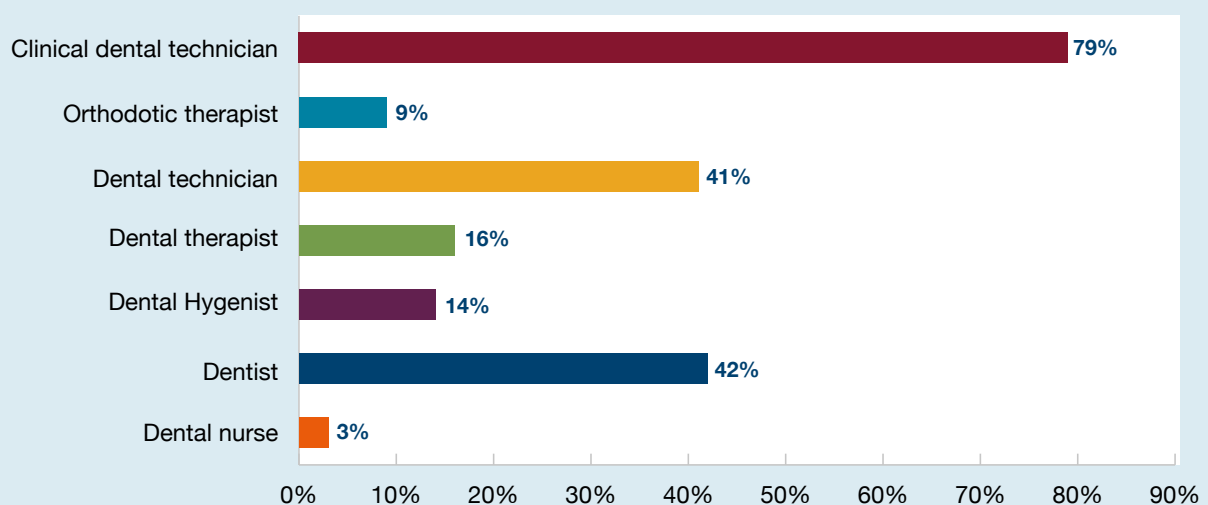
Females added to the register in 2021⁶



Male dentists and DCPs added to the register 2019 to 2021

Registration Title	2019	2020	2021
Dental Nurse	2%	2%	3%
Dentist	37%	38%	42%
Dental Hygienist	9%	14%	14%
Dental Therapist	10%	15%	16%
Dental Technician	43%	39%	41%
Orthodontic Therapist	3%	13%	9%
Clinical Dental Technician	61%	100%	79%

Males added to the register in 2021⁷



6 This graph looks at the percentage of the total added for each Dentist and DCP title in 2021 who identified as female

7 This graph looks at the percentage of the total added for each Dentist and DCP title in 2021 who identified as male



Register profile – equality and diversity 2019 to 2021

Dentist registrant age groupings 2019 to 2021

Age Group	2019	2020	2021
16-21	0%	0%	0%
22-30	19%	19%	18.5%
31-40	30%	30%	30%
41-50	25%	25%	25.5%
51-60	18%	18%	18%
61-65	5%	5%	5%
Over 65	3%	3%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

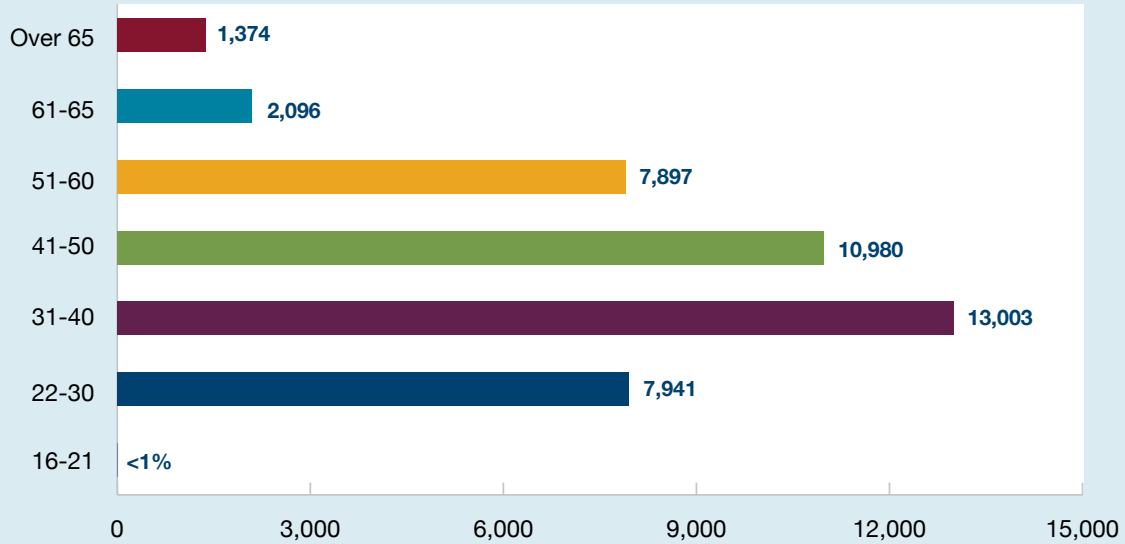
DCP registrant age groupings 2019 to 2021

Age Group	2019	2020	2021
16-21	3%	2.5%	2%
22-30	26%	25.5%	24.5%
31-40	32%	32%	32%
41-50	21%	21.5%	21.5%
51-60	14%	14.5%	15%
61-65	3%	3%	4%
Over 65	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	<1%	<1%	<1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

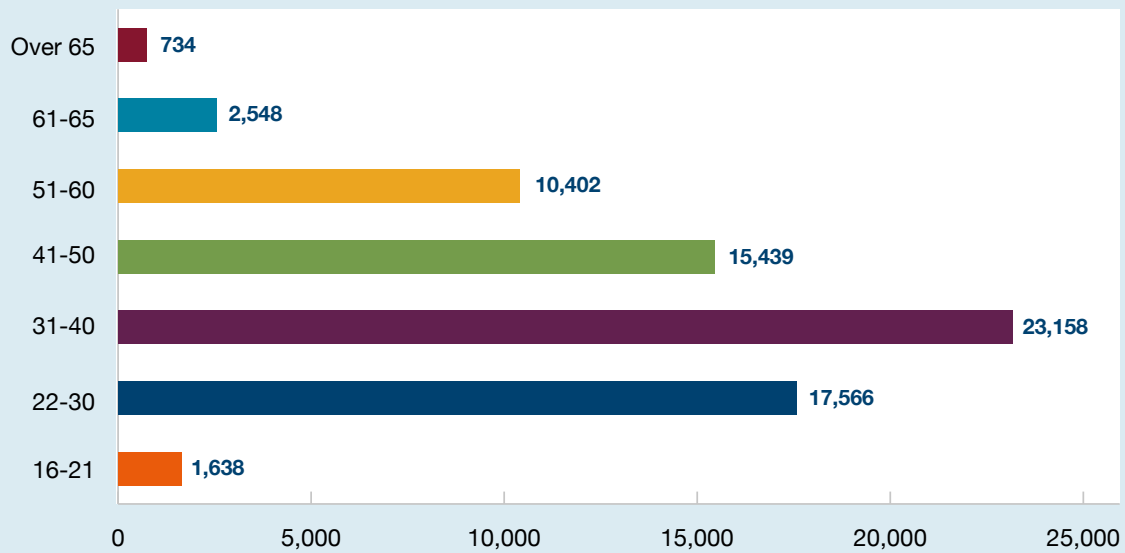


Registrant age groupings as of 31 December 2021

Dentist - Age groupings as at 31 December 2021



DCP - Age groupings as at 31 December 2021

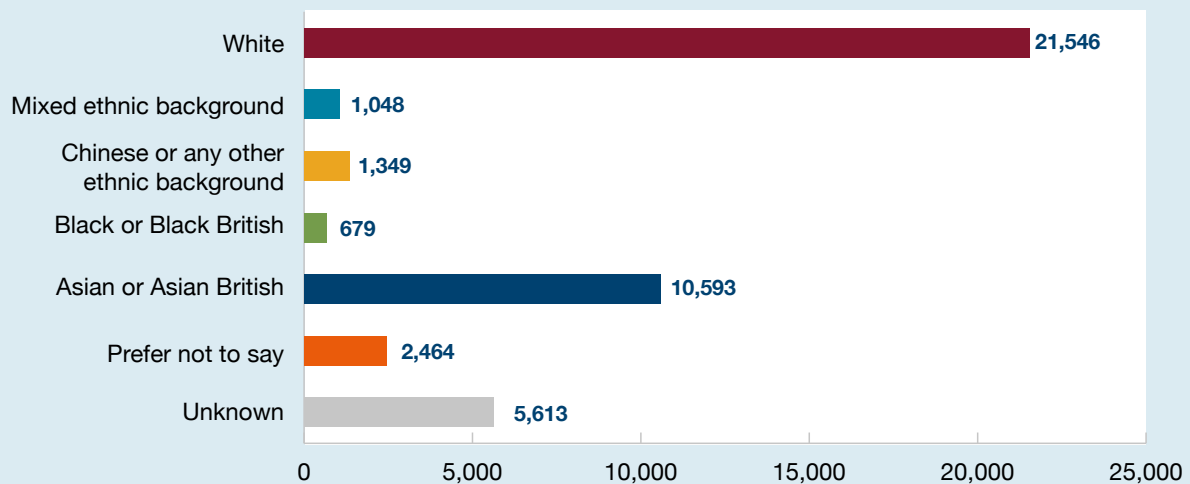




Dentist registrant ethnic groupings 2019 to 2021

Ethnic Group	2019	2020	2021
White	52%	52%	50%
Asian or Asian British	23.5%	24%	24%
Black or Black British	1.5%	2%	2%
Chinese or any other ethnic background	3%	3%	3%
Mixed ethnic background	2%	2%	2%
Prefer not to say	6%	6%	6%
Unknown	12%	11%	13%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Dentist ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2021

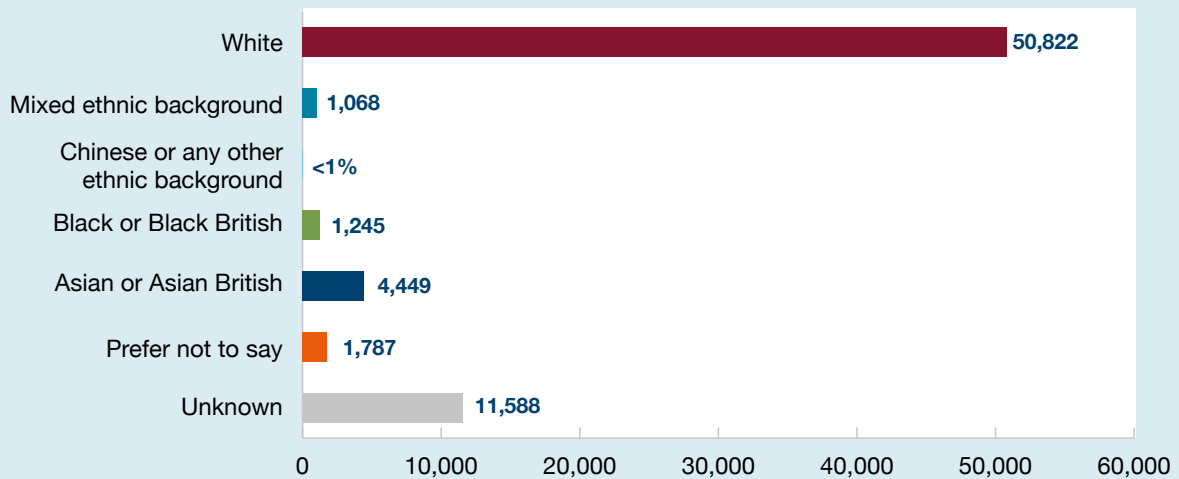




DCP registrant ethnic groupings 2019 to 2021

Ethnic Group	2019	2020	2021
White	75%	75.5%	71%
Asian or Asian British	5.5%	6%	6%
Black or Black British	2%	2%	2%
Chinese or any other ethnic background	1%	1%	1%
Mixed ethnic background	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Prefer not to say	2%	3%	2.5%
Unknown	13%	11%	16%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

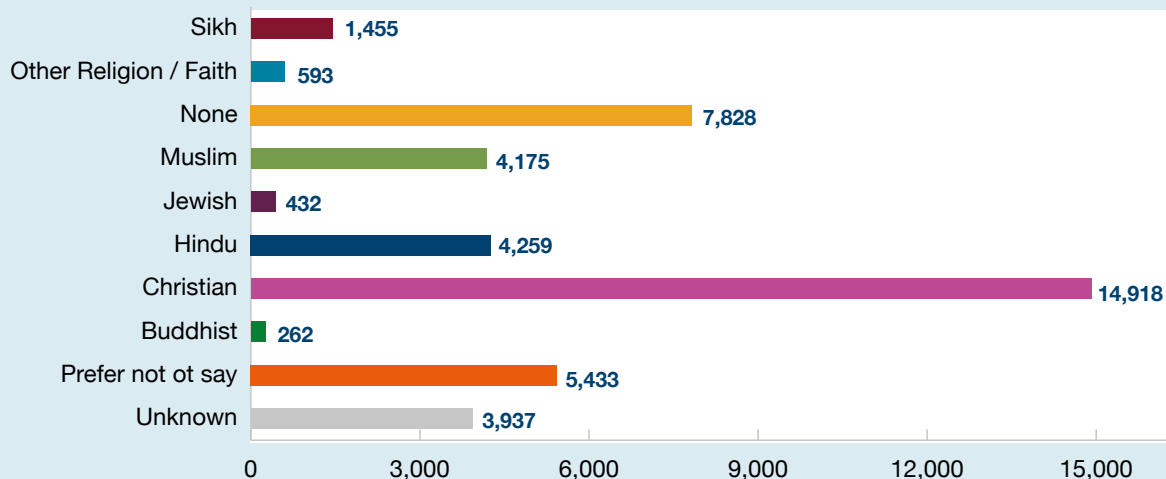
DCP – ethnic groupings as at 31 December 2021



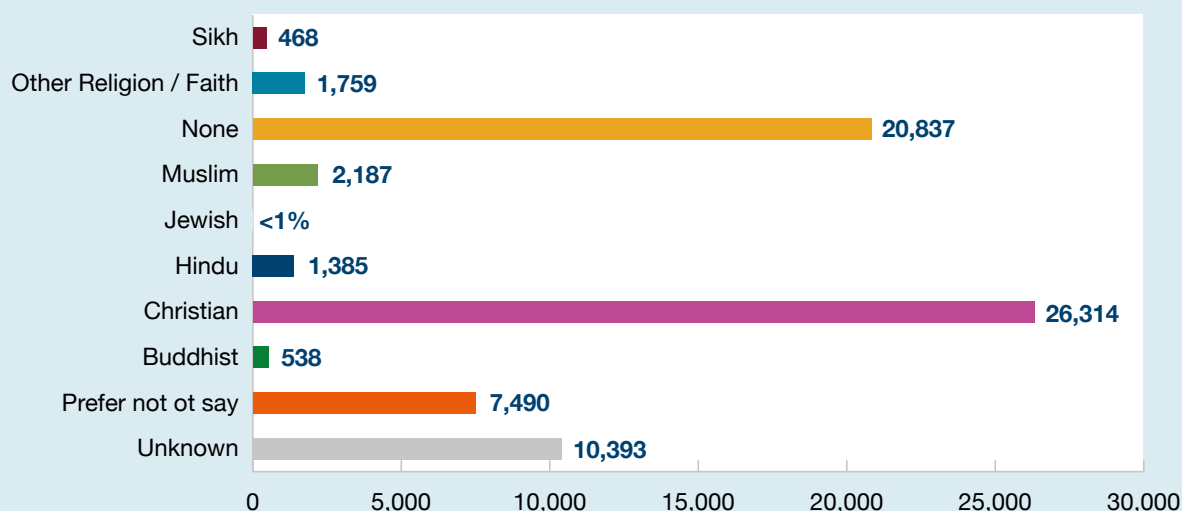


Registrant grouping by religion as of 31 December 2021

Dentist - grouping by religion as at 31 December 2021



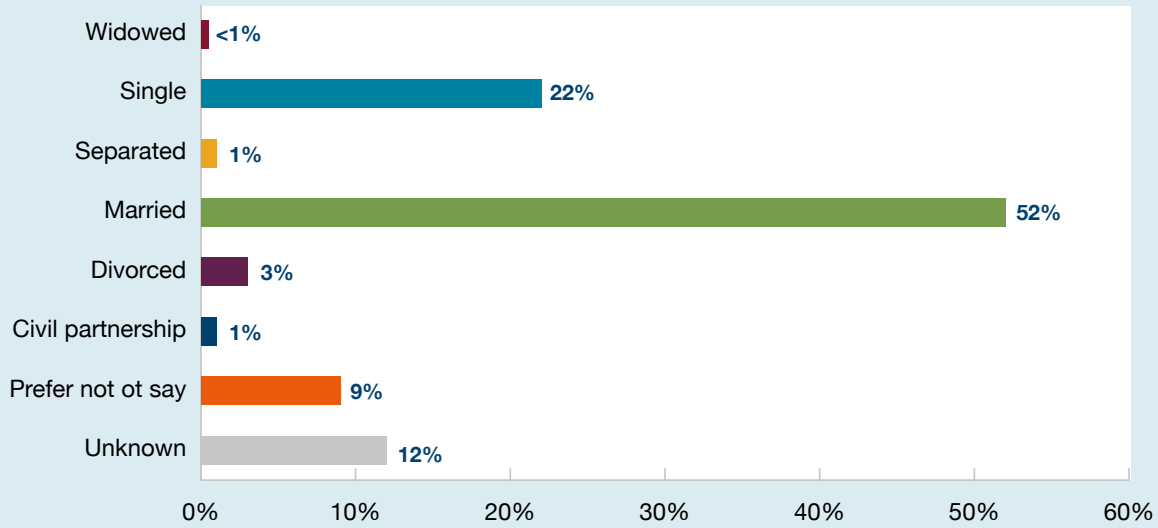
DCP - grouping by religion as at 31 December 2021



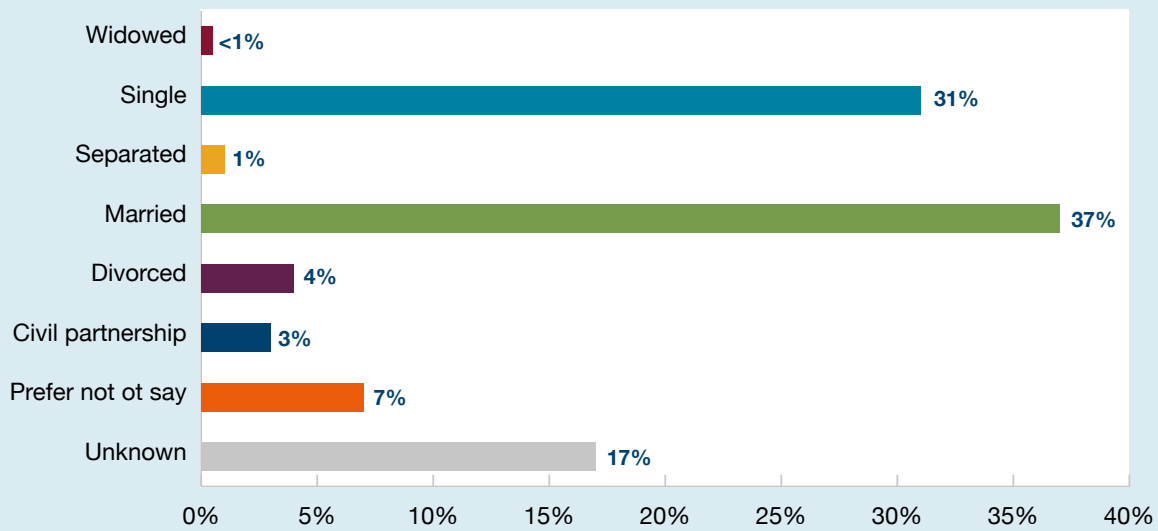


Registrant marital status as of 31 December 2021

Dentist - marital status groupings as at 31 December 2021



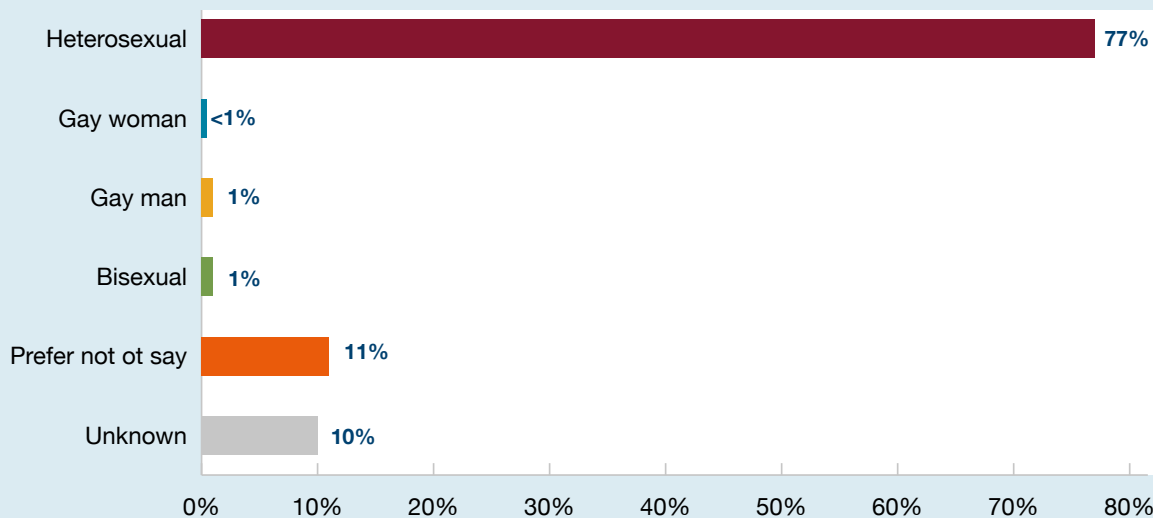
DCPs - marital status groupings as at 31 December 2021



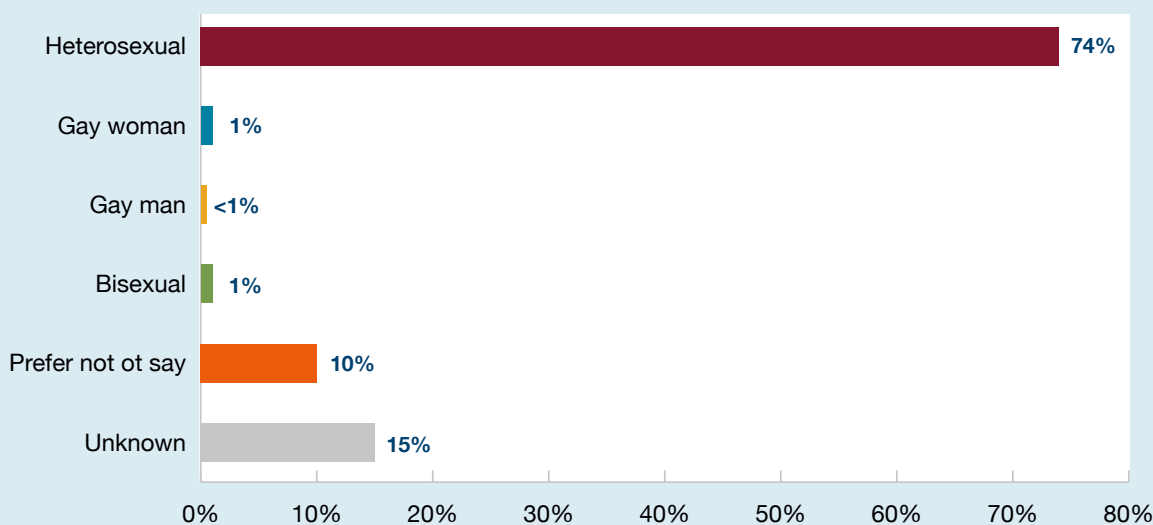


Registrant sexual orientation as of 31 December 2021

Dentists - sexual orientation at 31 December 2021



DCP - sexual orientation at 31 December 2021



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