

2003 DENTIST SURVEY

Vermont Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



OUTLINE

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

SURVEY OVERVIEW

SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to dentists along with the license renewal forms in late summer 2003

Followed-up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 99%

- 3 dentists refused to participate and 2 could not be located

SURVEY DESCRIPTION (continued)

Questions asked of dentists included:

- Gender and age
- Practice type (specialty)
- Years worked in Vermont
- Efforts to hire an associate
- Retirement plans
- Location, setting and hours of practice
- Availability to new and current patients
- Whether they work with hygienists

KEY FINDINGS

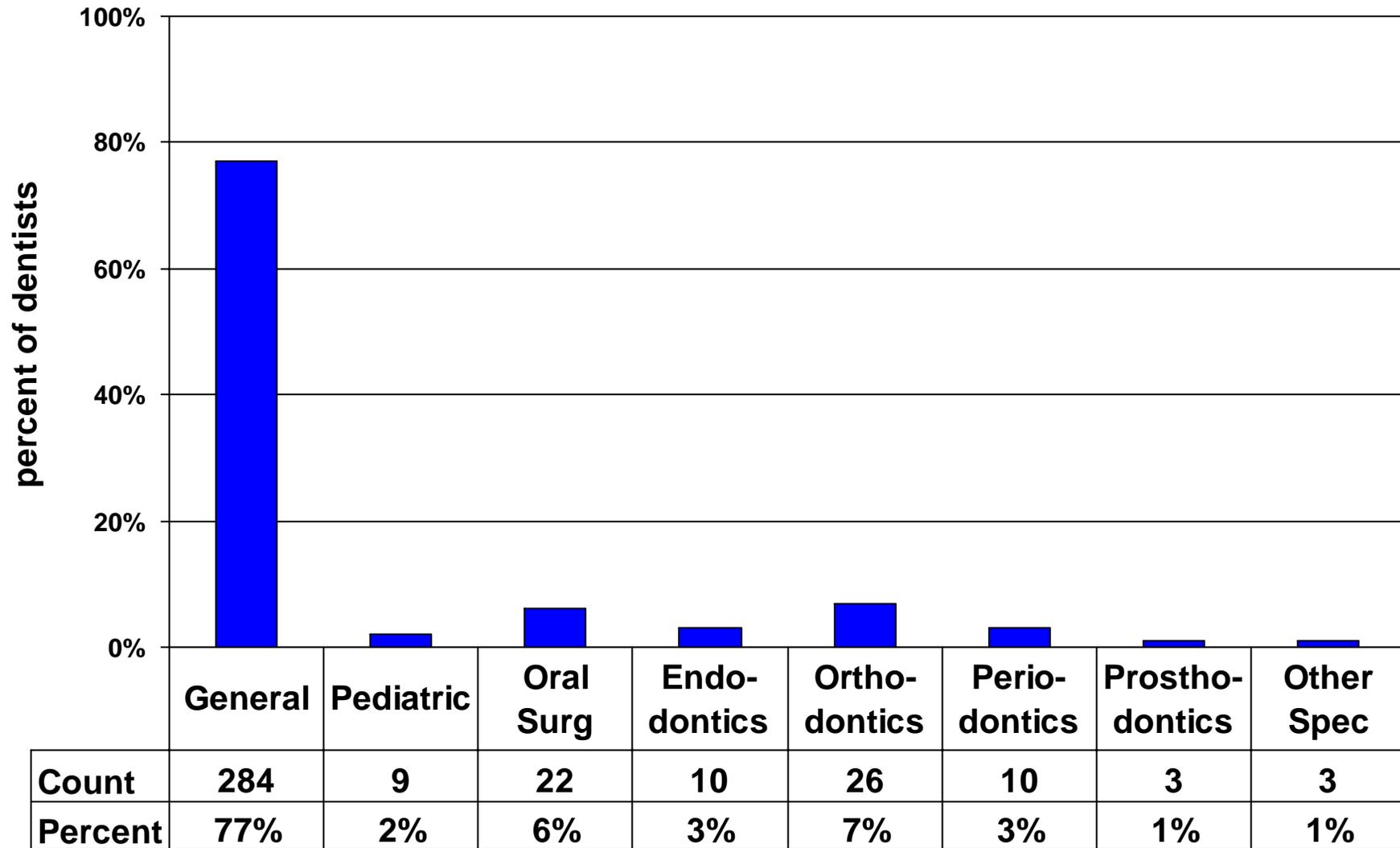
- There were 367 dentists working in Vermont
- 80% were primary care dentists, including:
 - 284 in general dentistry
 - 9 in pediatric dentistry
- 16% work 40 or more hours per week, 59% work between 30 and 40 hours per week.
- The 367 dentists correspond to 280.8 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)
- 194 of the dentists are 50 or older, and 129 of these are 55 or older
- 7 of the 9 pediatric dentists are 50 or older

KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

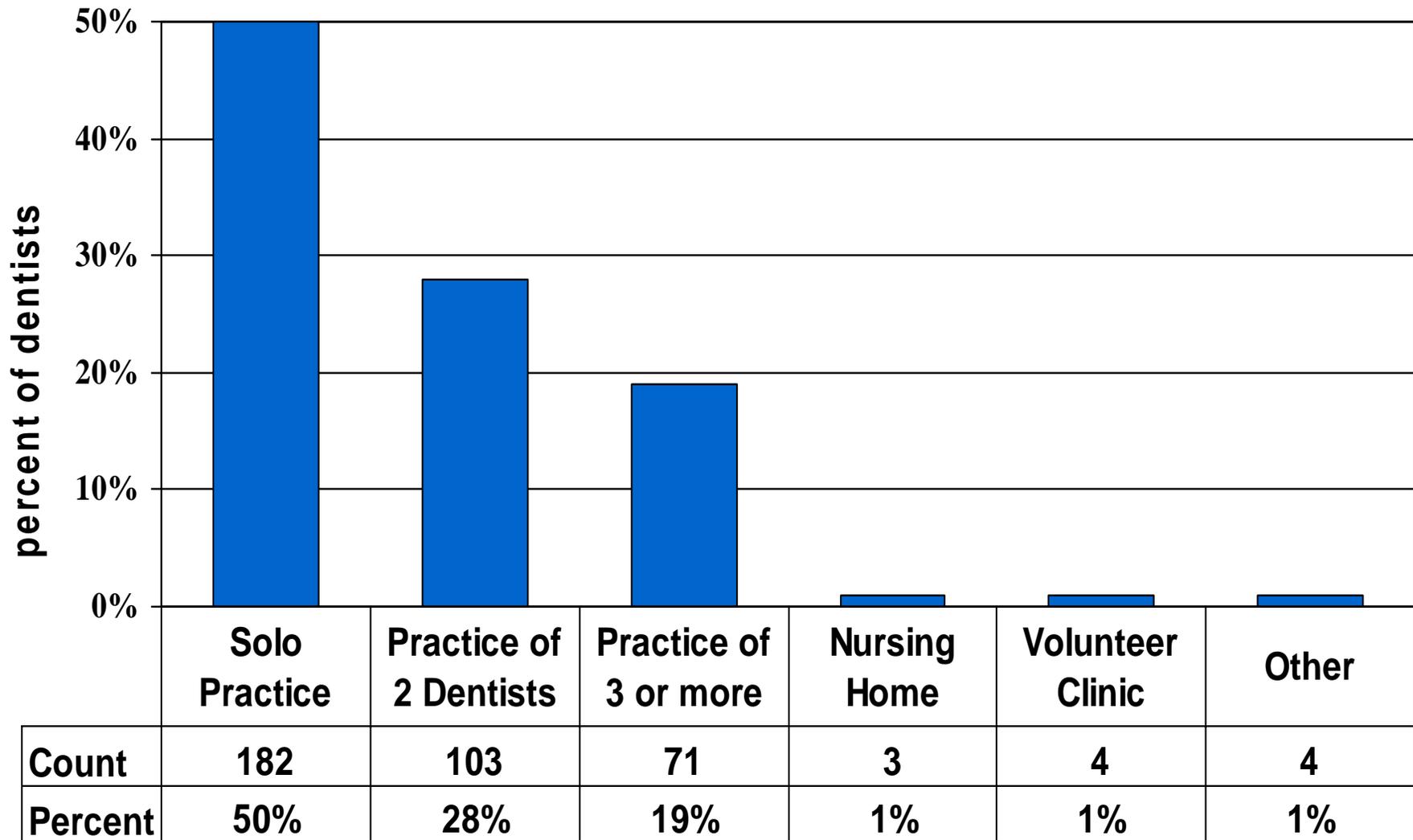
- As compared with 2001:
 - There are 11 fewer dentists in the 45 to 54 age range, and 27 more dentists 55 and older
 - Fewer dentists are working 40 hours or more, and fewer are working at more than one site
 - There are only 3.3 more FTEs in primary care, some areas have seen a drop in primary care
 - There has also been an overall drop in specialty care FTEs
 - Percentage accepting new patients has increased, and weeks wait for an appointment has decreased

SURVEY QUESTION ANALYSIS

Practice Type (specialty)

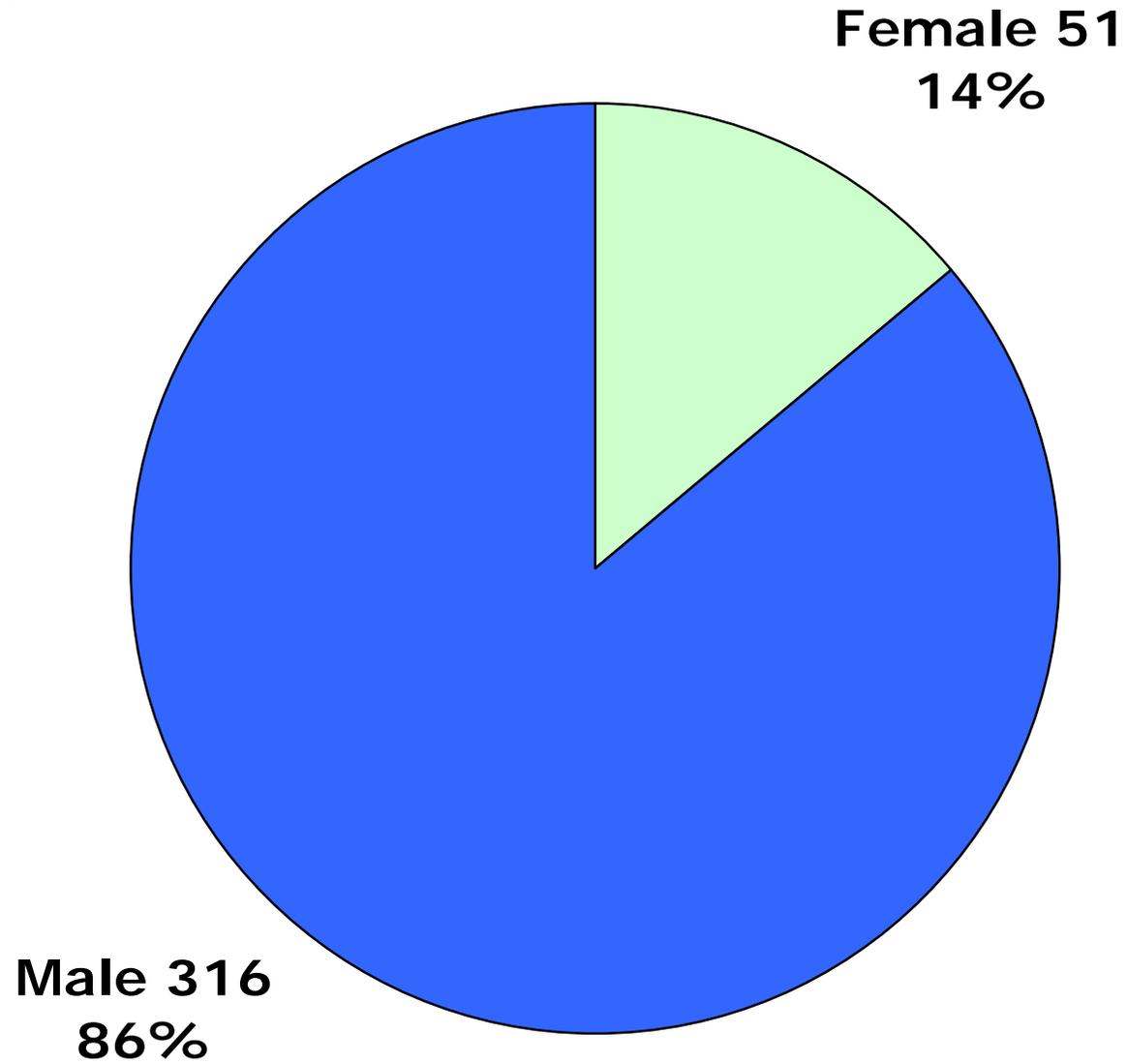


Practice Setting

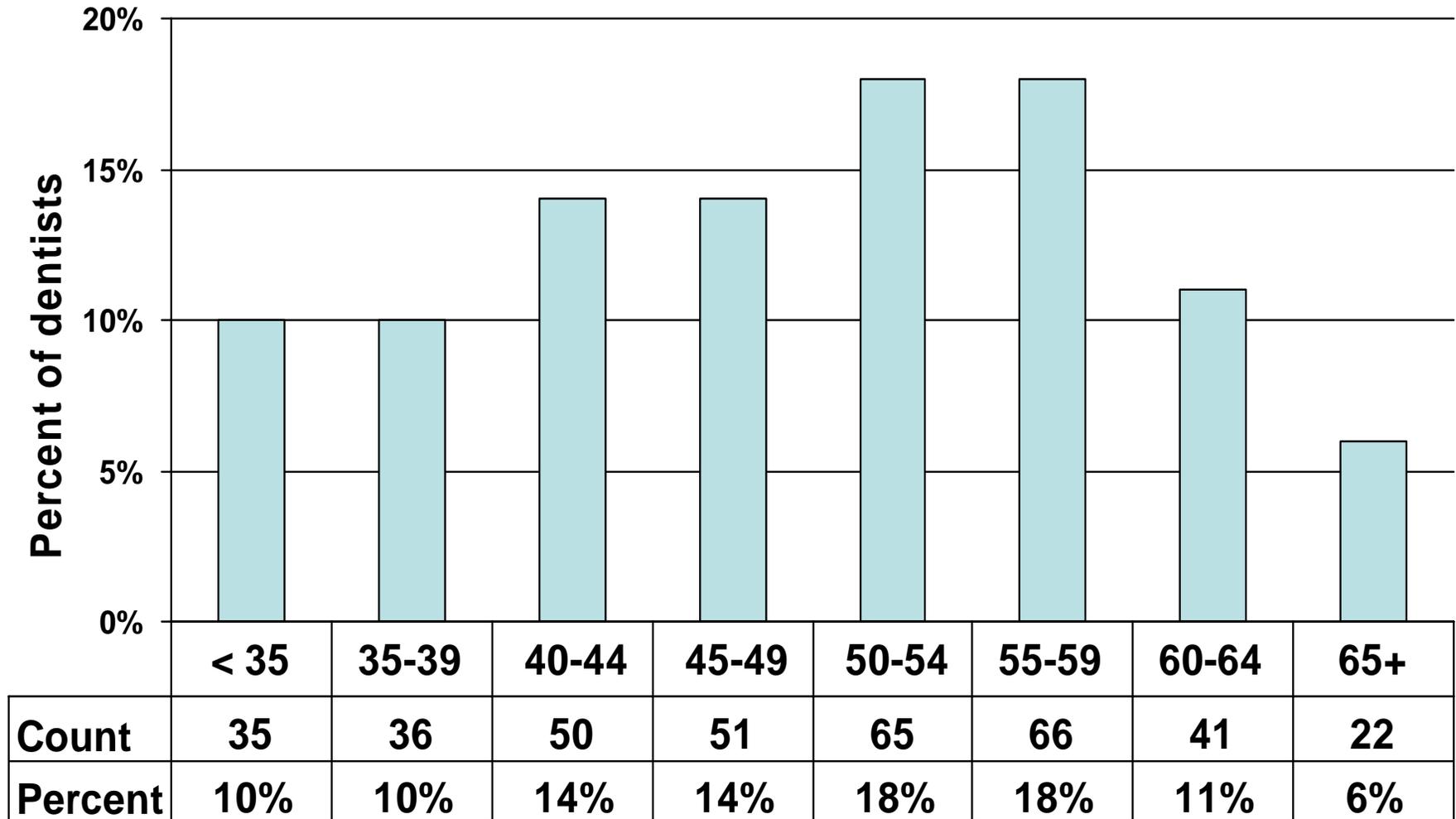


Each dentist is counted once, in main practice setting

GENDER

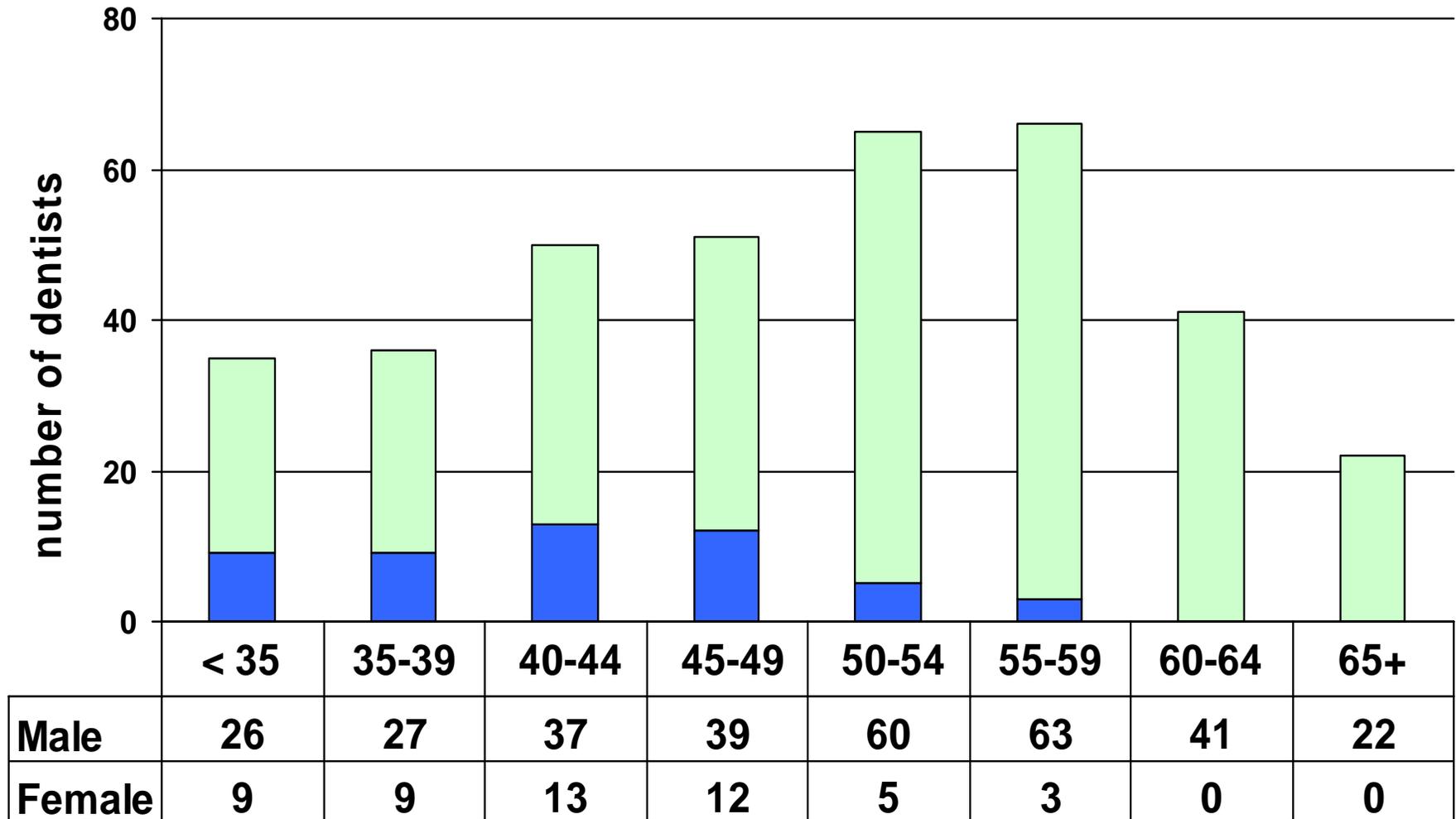


AGE DISTRIBUTION



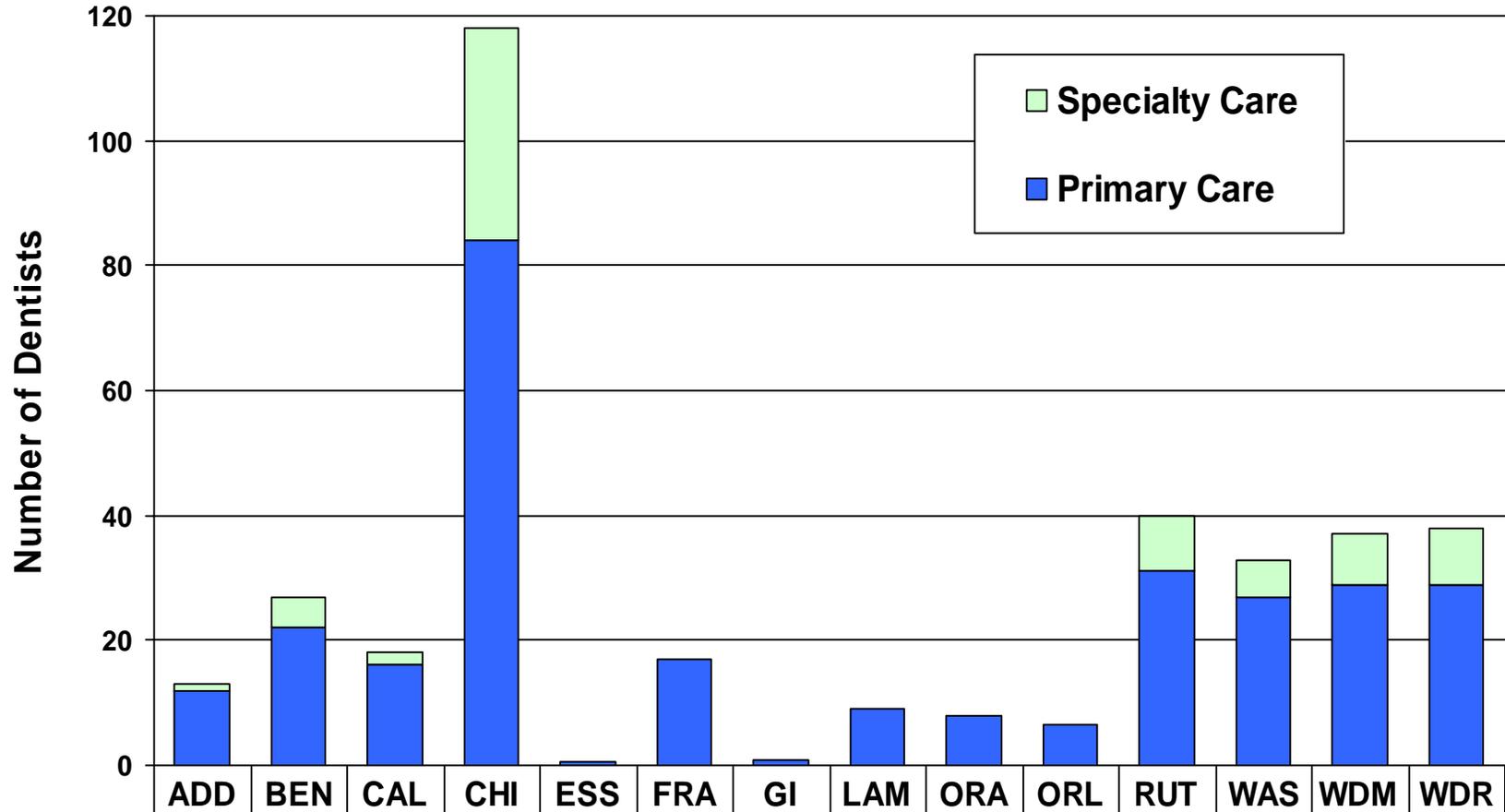
53% of all dentists, and 7 of the 9 pediatric dentists, are age 50 or older

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



59% of the males, but only 16% of the females, are age 50 or older

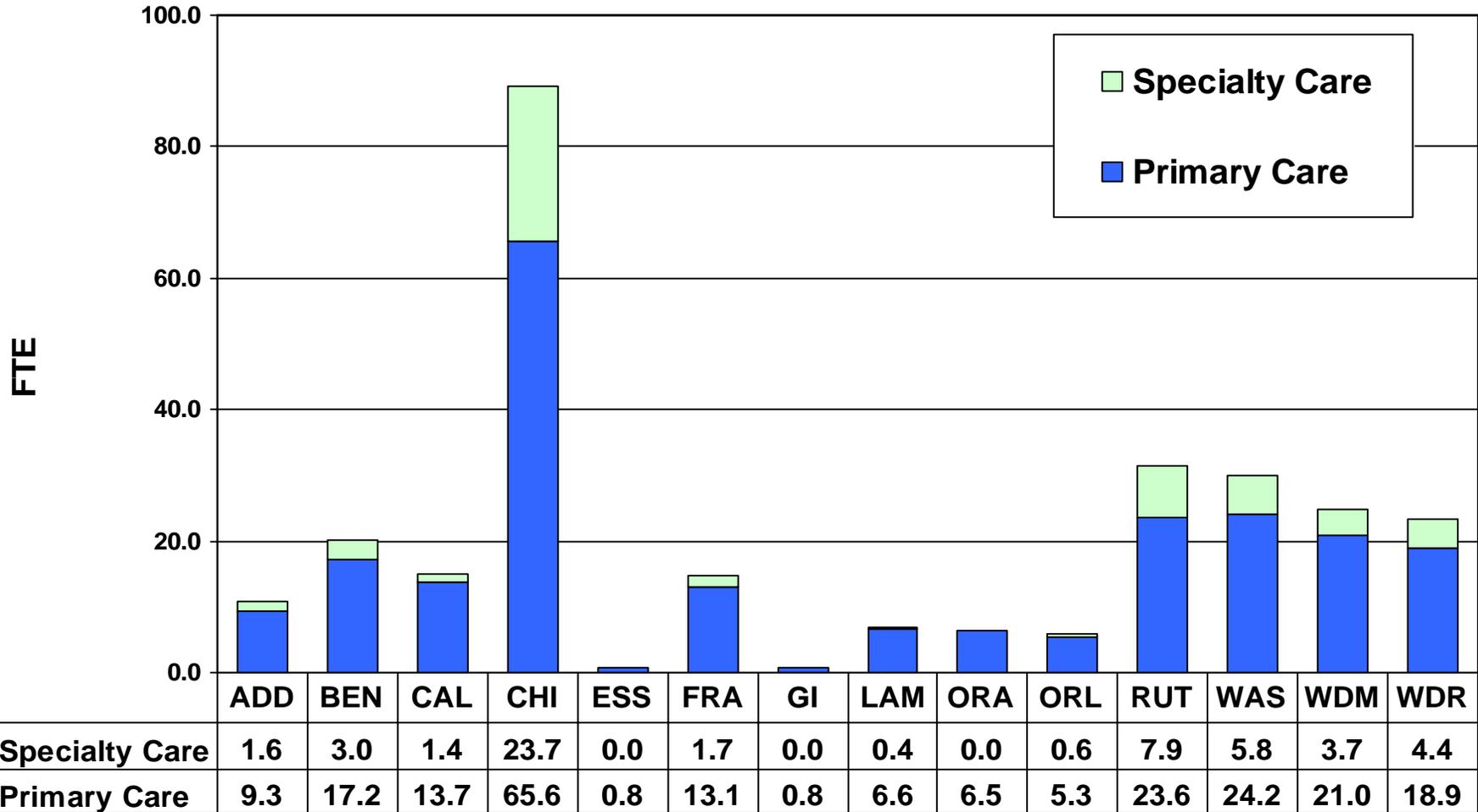
NUMBER OF DENTISTS BY COUNTY



	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
Specialty Care	1	5	2	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6	8	9
Primary Care	12	22	16	84	1	17	1	9	8	7	31	27	29	29

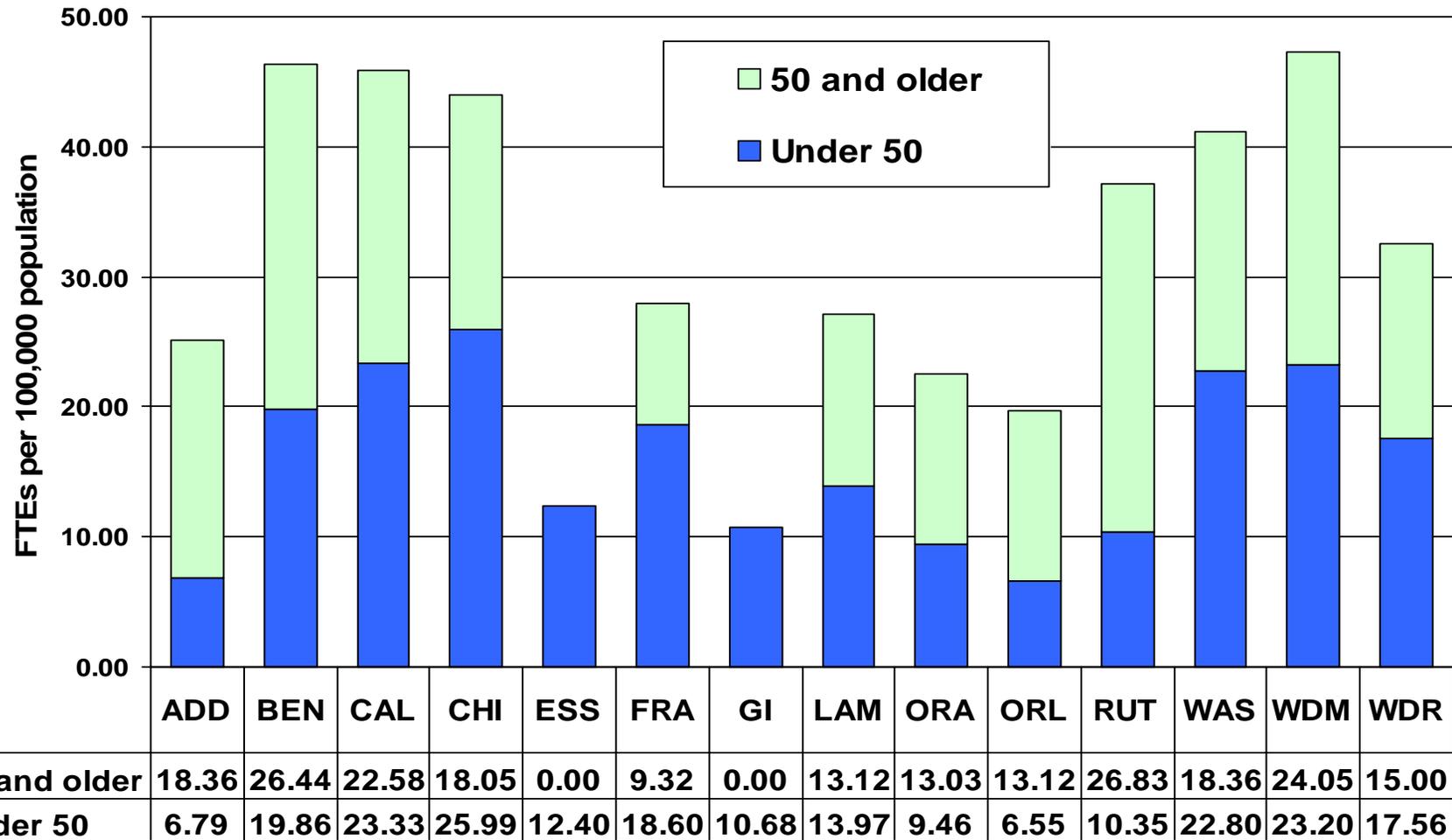
Providers are counted only once in their type of practice and in their main county of practice.

NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT DENTISTS BY COUNTY



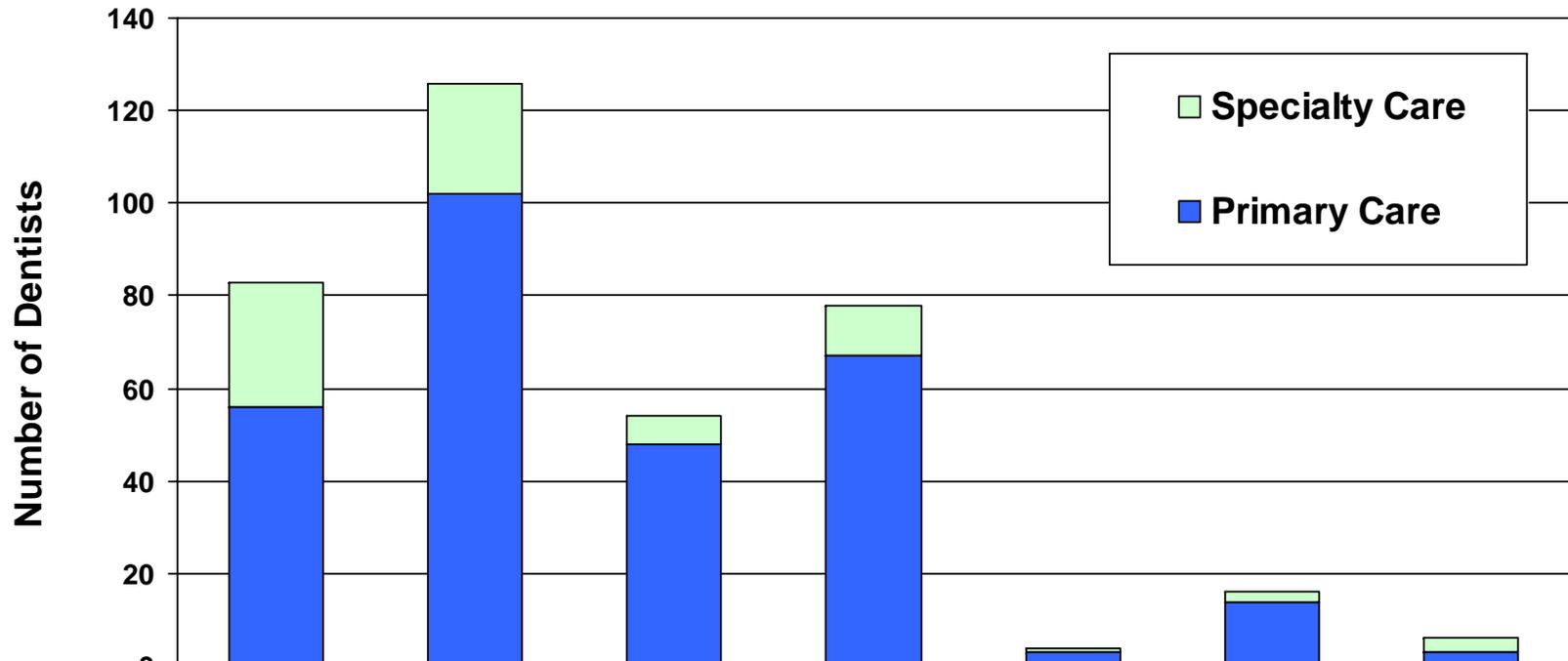
Providers may be counted in more than one county.
One FTE is defined as 40 (or more) hours per week.

PRIMARY CARE DENTIST TO POPULATION RATIOS, BY AGE GROUP, BY COUNTY



2003 population estimates, revised November 2004

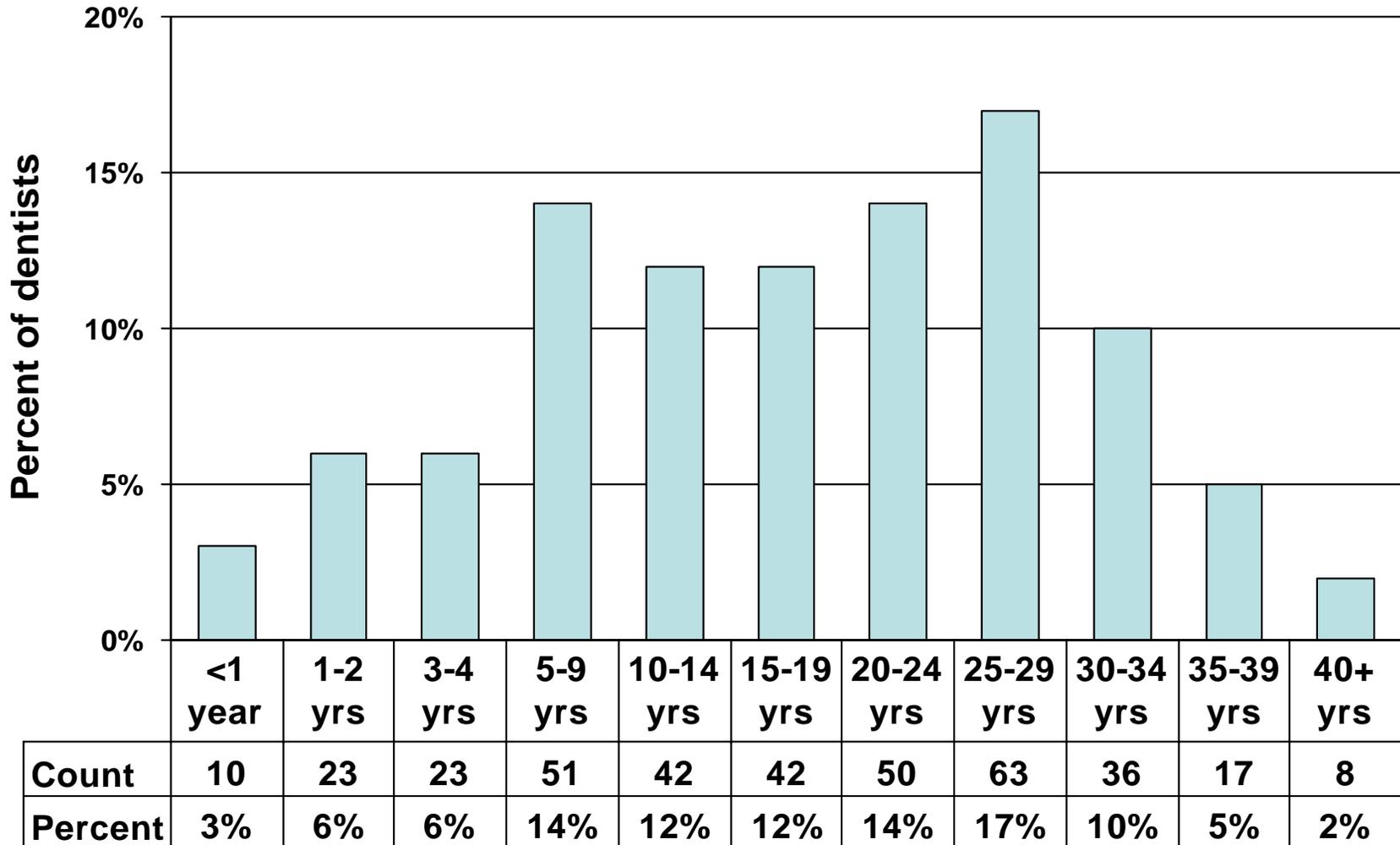
WHERE VERMONT DENTISTS ATTENDED DENTAL SCHOOL



	New England	Mid Atlantic	South	Central	West	Canada	Unknown
Specialty Care	27	24	6	11	1	2	3
Primary Care	56	102	48	67	3	14	3

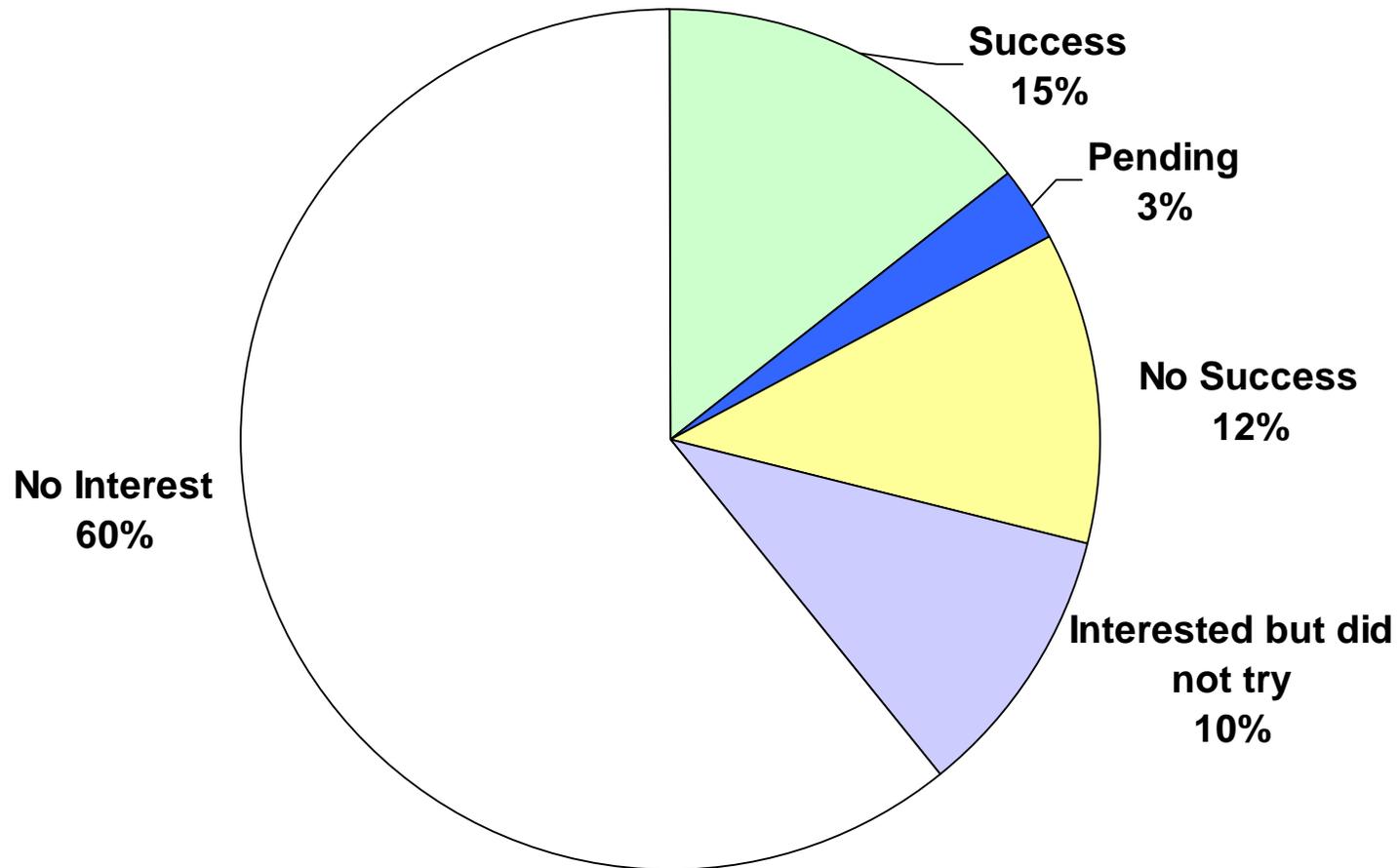
35% of all Vermont dentists and 35% of primary care dentists were trained in the mid-Atlantic region.
 38% of all specialty care dentists were trained in New England.

YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT



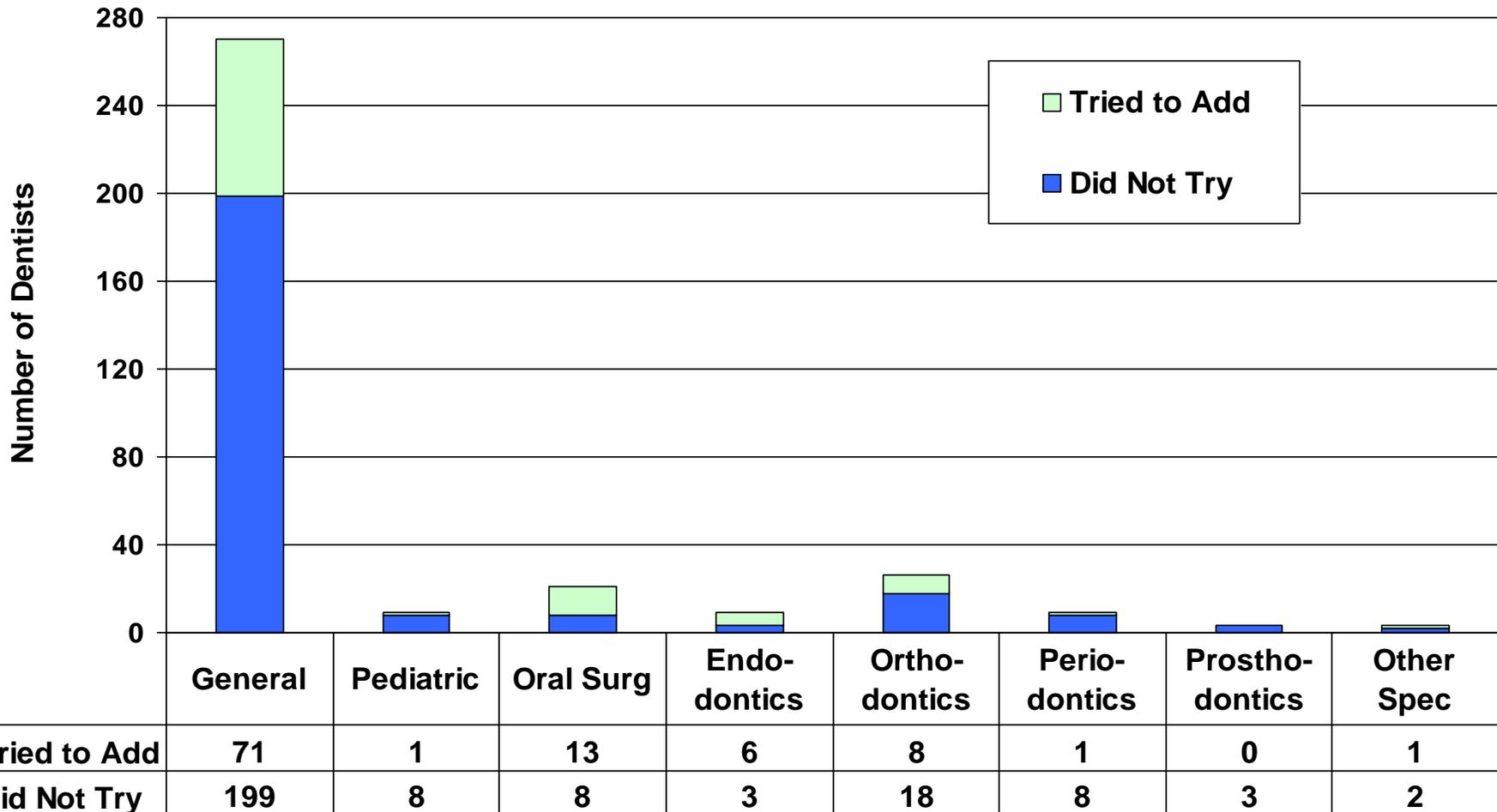
48% of the dentists surveyed had worked in Vermont for 20 or more years.
 Years worked in Vermont was unknown for 2 dentists.

INTEREST IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



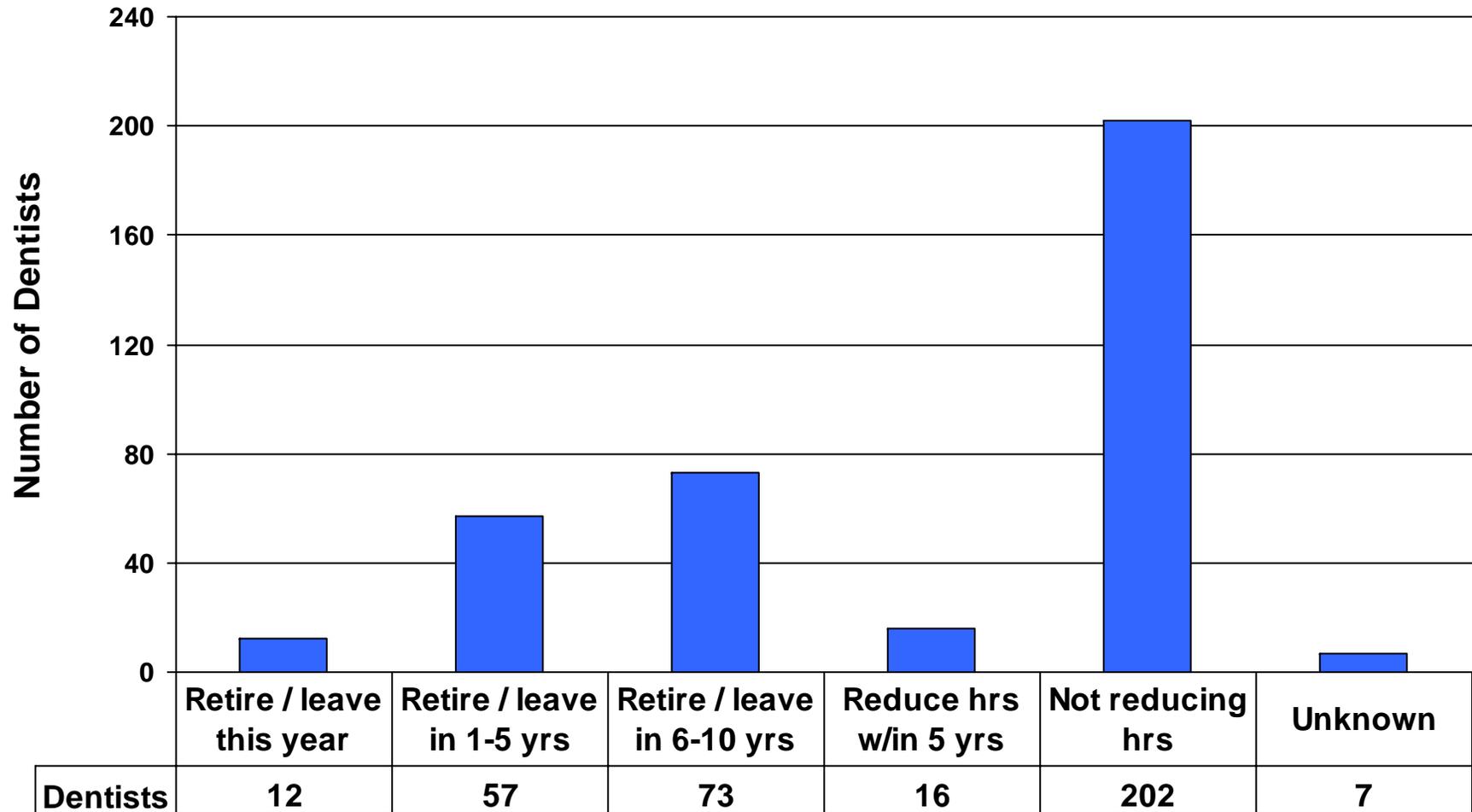
17 of 367 dentists did not reply to this question.

INTEREST IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE

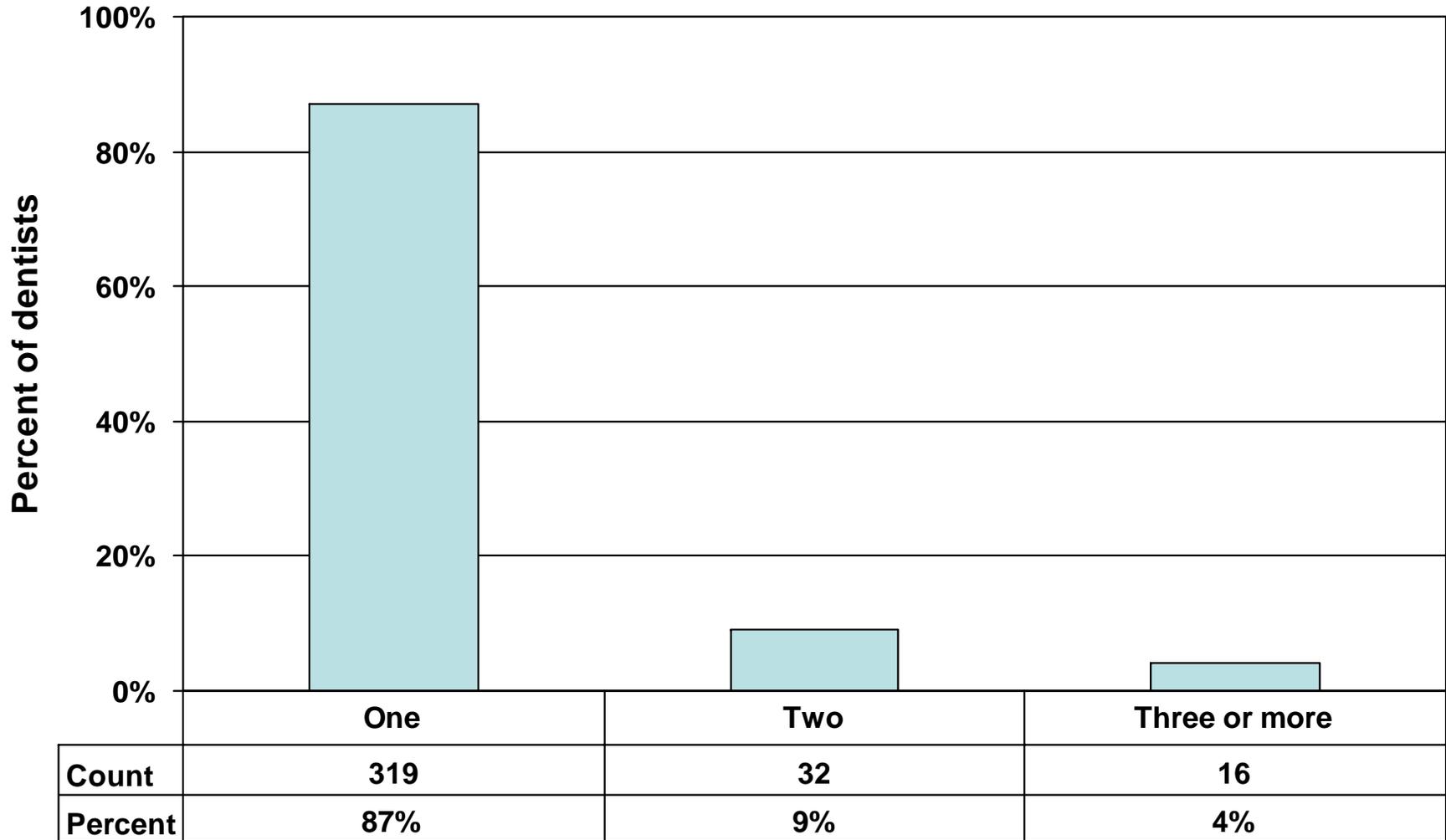


Tried to add - Includes responses "Success," "Pending" and "No success".
 Did not try - Includes responses "Interested" and "No interest".
 17 dentists did not reply to this question.

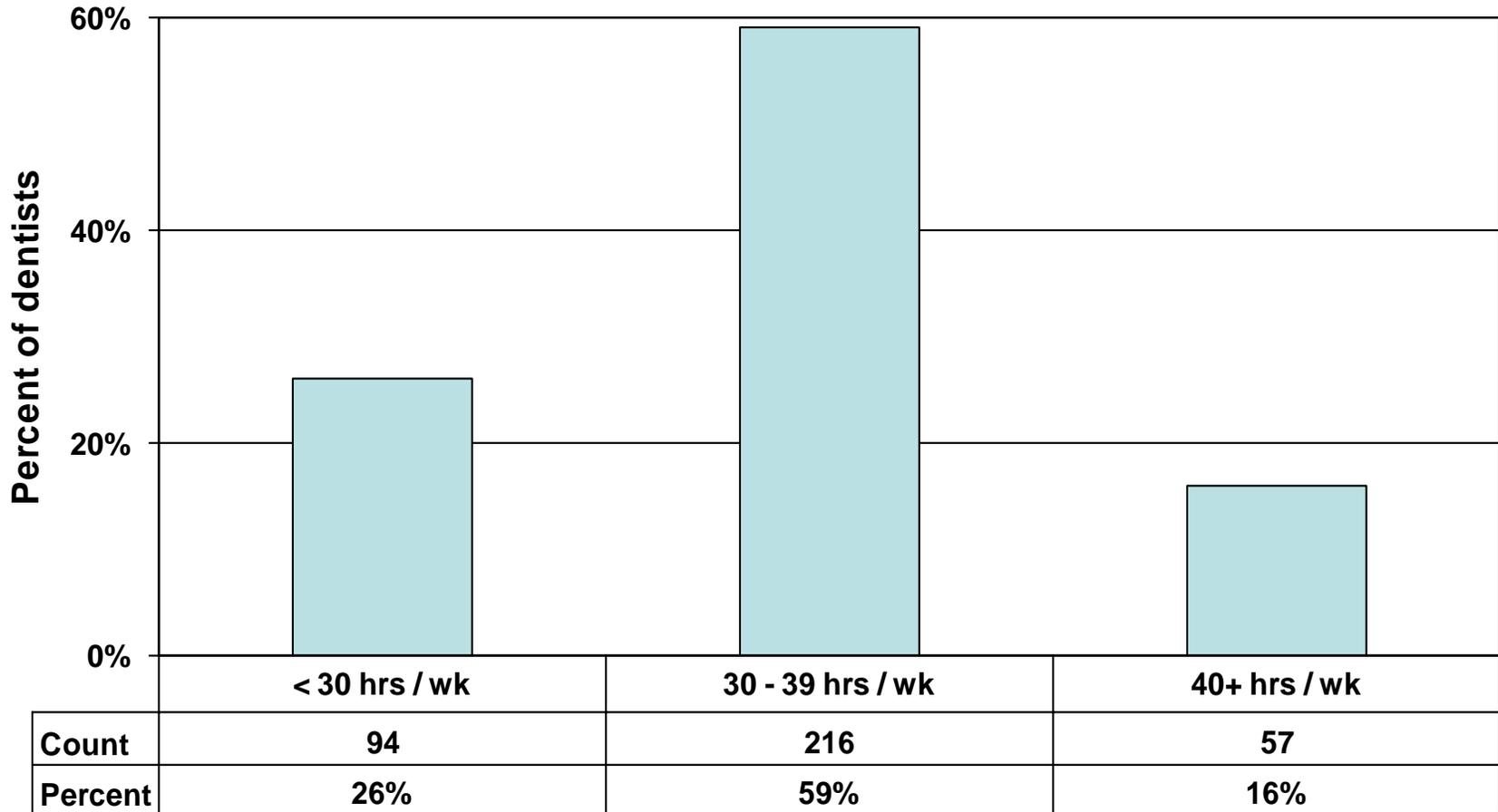
PLANS TO RETIRE, LEAVE, OR REDUCE HOURS



NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE

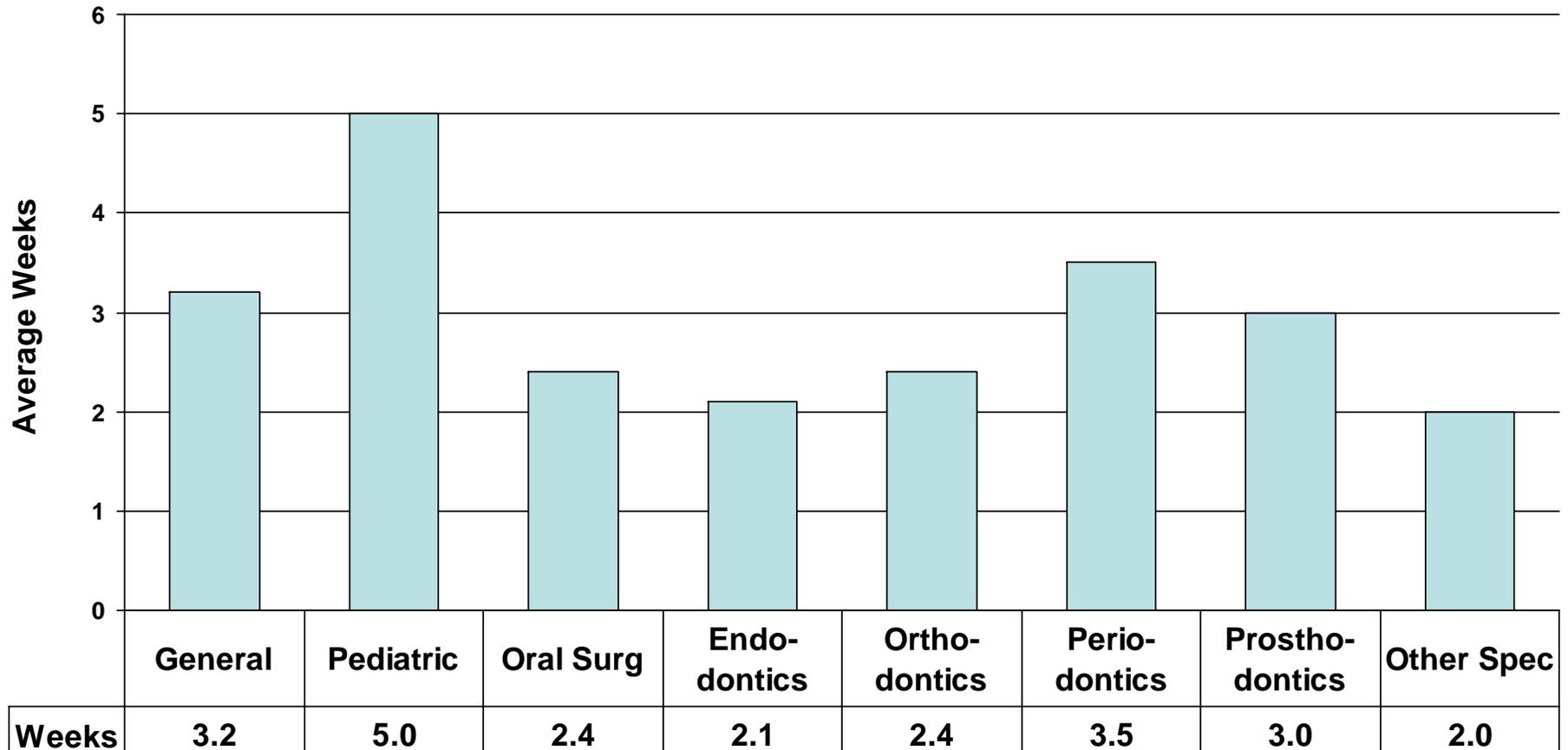


HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



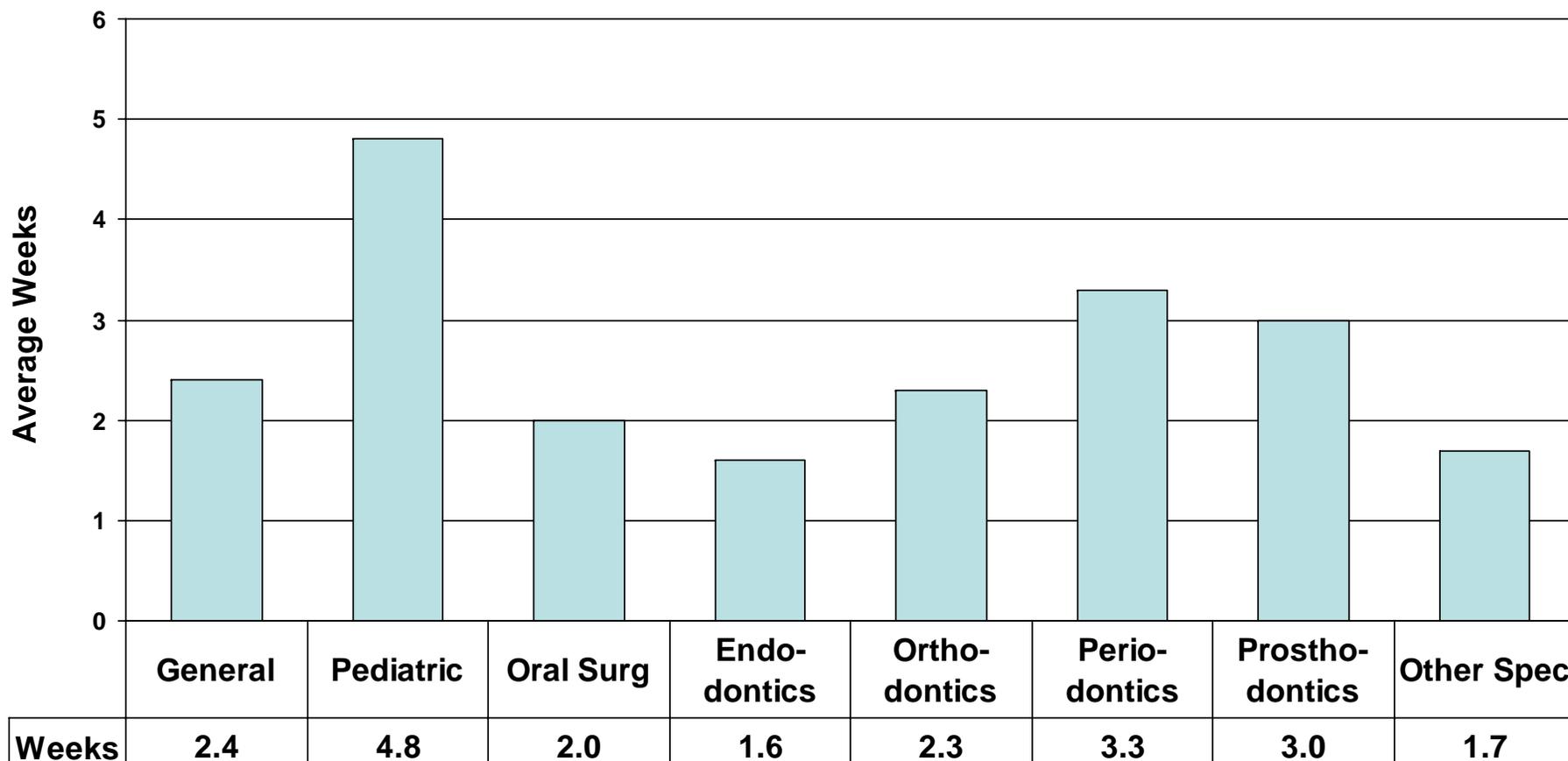
16% of the dentists worked 40 or more hours per week.

WEEKS WAIT FOR NEW PATIENT



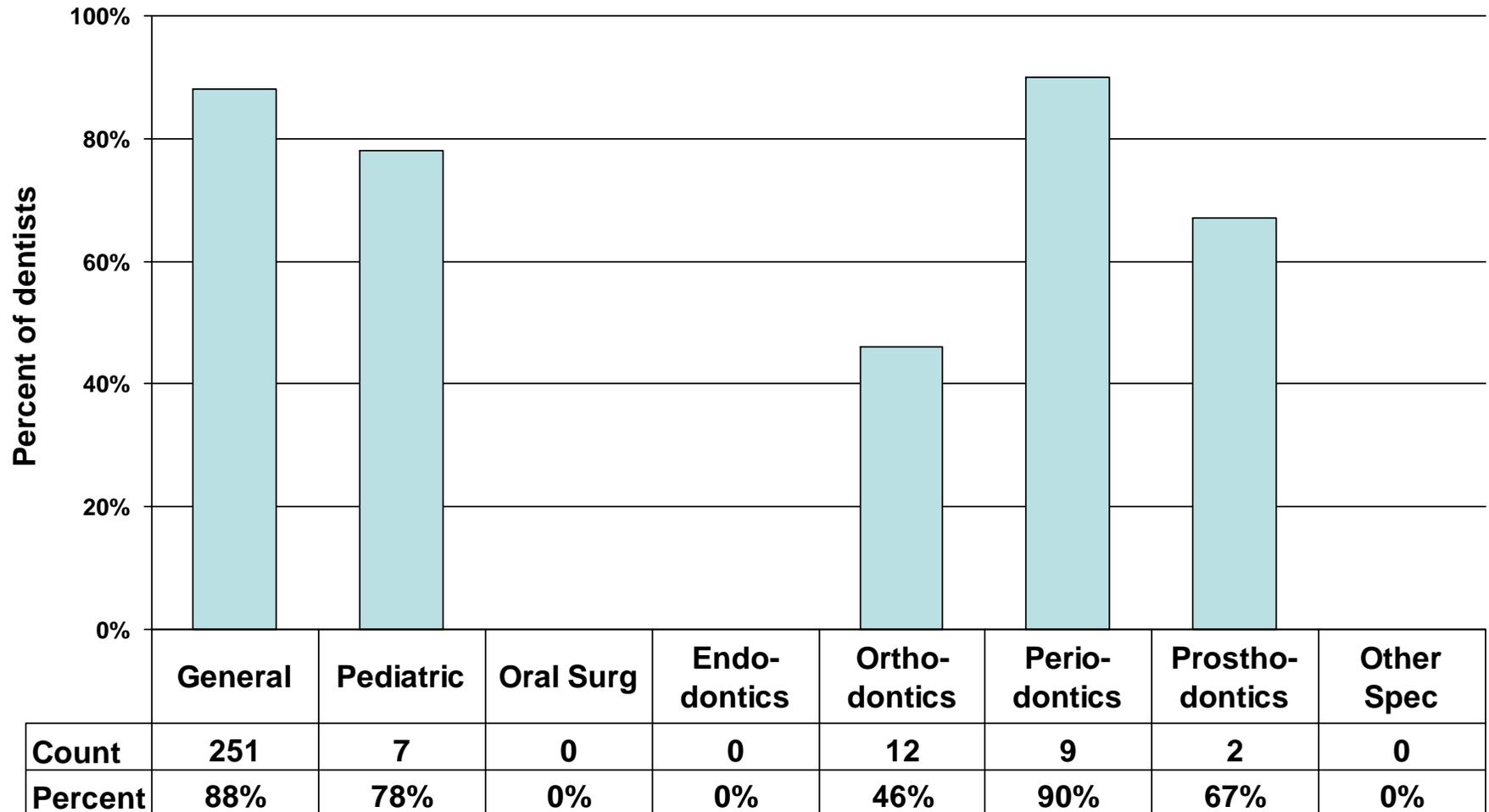
Average wait time for an appointment for new dental patients was 3.1 weeks.
Office settings only. Each site a provider practices in is counted separately.

WEEKS WAIT FOR CURRENT PATIENT



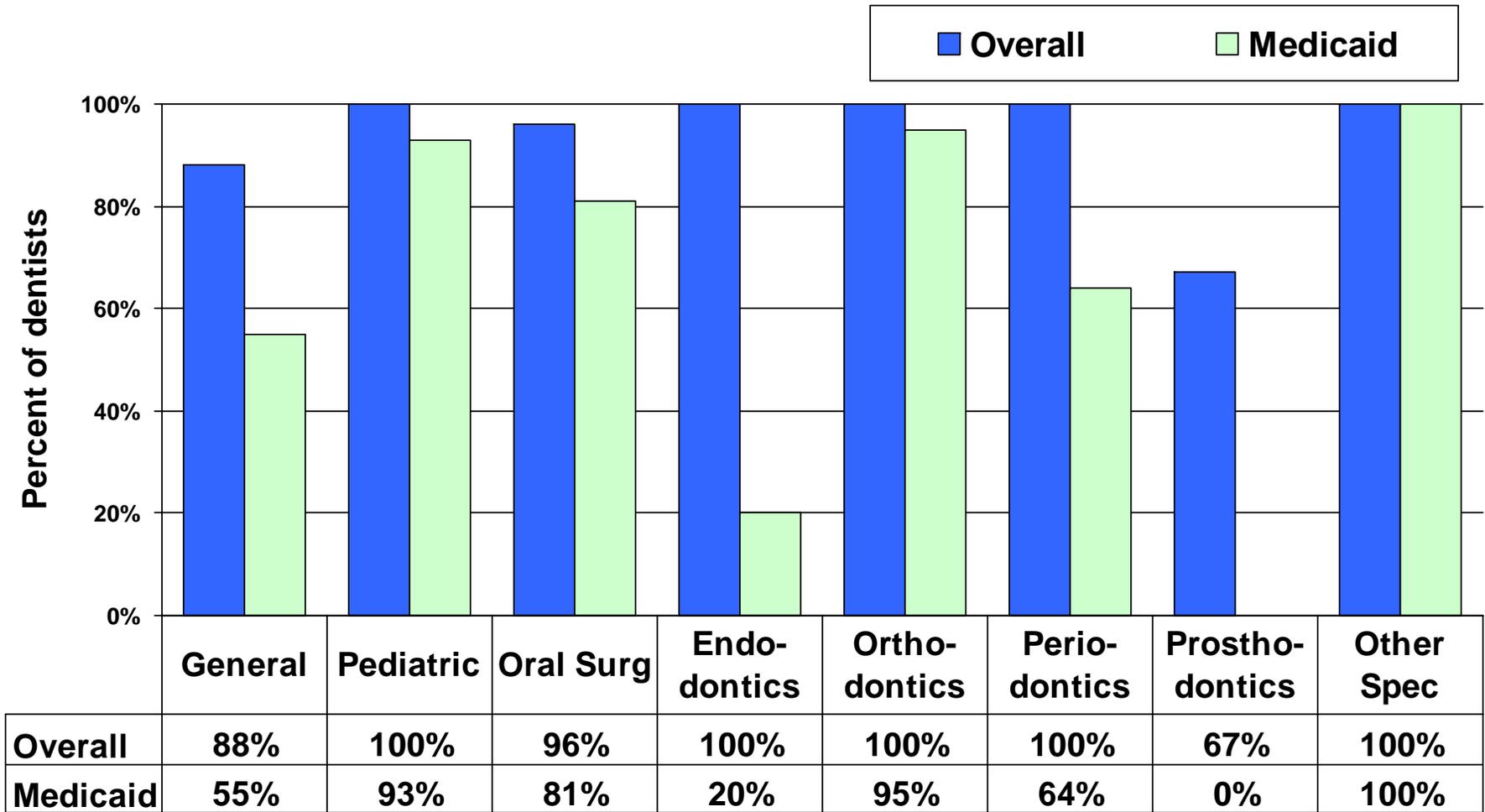
Average wait time for an appointment for current patients was 2.5 weeks.
Office settings only. Each site a provider practices in is counted separately.

WORK WITH HYGIENISTS



Overall rate was 77%.
Multiple Dentists may work with the same hygienist(s).

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



91% accepted new patients overall, 63% accepted new medicaid patients.
Each site a provider practices in is counted separately.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

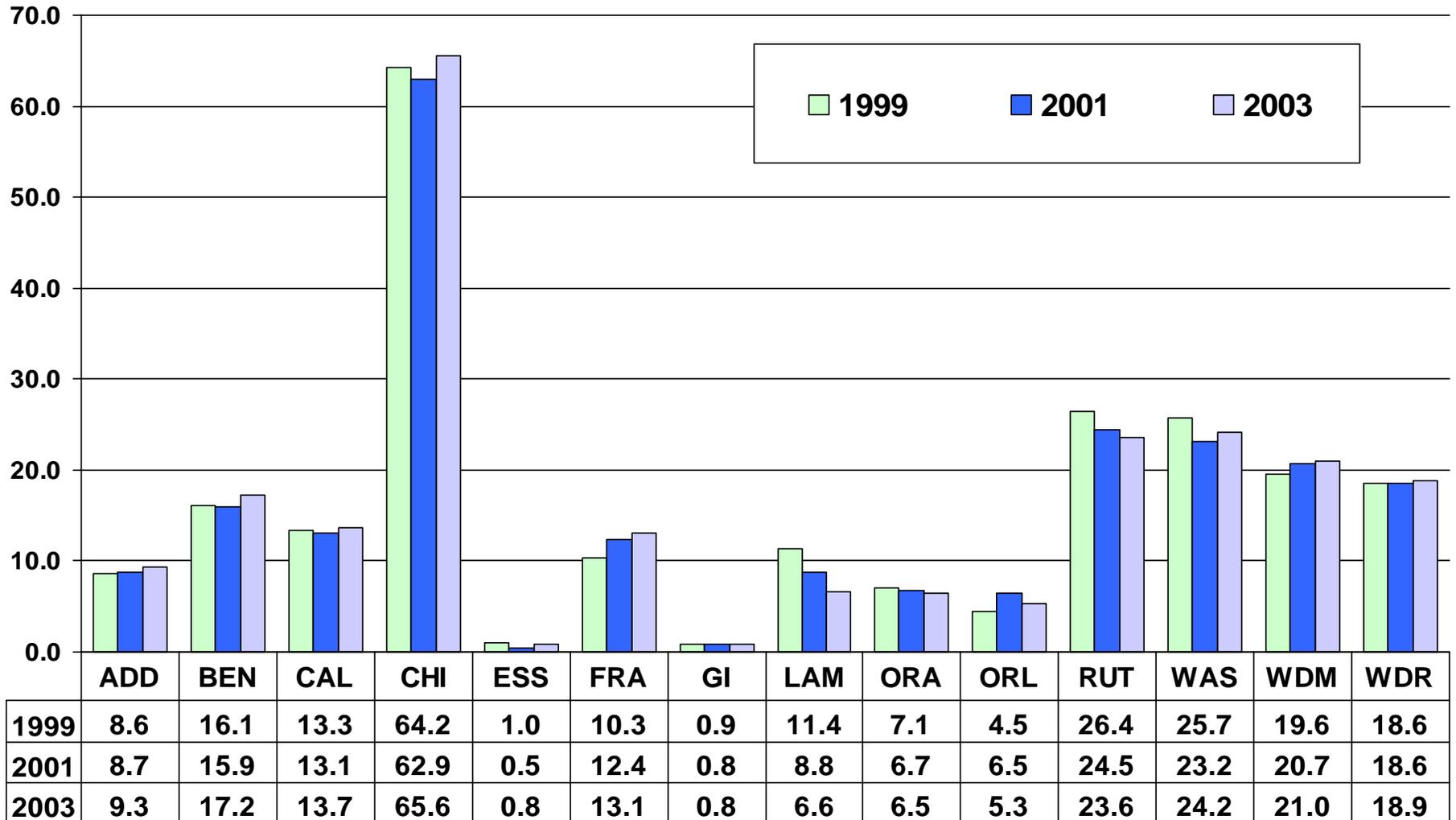
Numbers and FTEs in each specialty, 1999-2003

	Count by main specialty			Total Full Time Equiv.		
	1999	2001	2003	1999	2001	2003
Total active dentists	347	354	367	290.2	284.6	280.8
Primary care dentists	272	277	293	228.4	223.4	226.7
General practice	262	268	284	221.7	216.4	219.8
Pediatric dentistry	10	9	9	6.7	6.9	6.9
Specialist dentists	75	77	74	61.8	61.3	54.1
Oral Surgery	21	23	22	18.9	19.7	17.1
Endodontics	10	10	10	9.2	8.9	8.6
Orthodontics	28	27	26	21.6	19.7	17.5
Periodontics	12	11	10	9.0	8.1	6.5
Prosthodontics	4	4	3	3.1	3.0	1.7
Other Specialties	-	2	3	-	1.9	2.6

Selected indicators, 1999-2003

	1999	2001	2003
Total number of active dentists	347	354	367
Percent age 50 or older	46%	49%	53%
Percent age 55 or older	25%	29%	35%
Average patient care hours per week	35	33	31
Primary care:			
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	28%	28%	29%
FTEs / 100,000 population	37.8	36.5	36.6
% accepting new patients	85%	85%	88%
accepting new medicaid patients	43%	37%	57%
Average weeks wait - new patients	4	4.2	3.3
Plan to retire, leave, or reduce hours within 5 years	n.a.	20%	23%
Percent working with dental hygienists	87%	86%	88%
Specialty care:			
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	44%	46%	44%
FTEs / 100,000 population	10.2	10.0	8.7

PRIMARY CARE FTEs, BY COUNTY, 1999-2003



All provider work sites are counted in this graph.
 One FTE is defined as 40 (or more) hours per week.