

*The Vermont Department of Health*

# 2005 DENTIST SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

*Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection*

 VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## OUTLINE

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

# **SURVEY OVERVIEW**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION**

Mailed to dentists with the license renewal forms in late summer 2005

Followed-up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 99%

- 3 dentists did not respond to the survey

## SURVEY DESCRIPTION (continued)

### **Questions asked of dentists included:**

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

## KEY FINDINGS

- There were 352 dentists working in Vermont
- 79% were primary care dentists, including:
  - *269 in general dentistry*
  - *9 in pediatric dentistry*
- 14% work 40 or more hours per week, 56% work between 30 and 40 hours per week.
- The 352 dentists correspond to 267.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)
- 200 of the dentists are 50 or older, and 142 of these are 55 or older
- 7 of the 9 pediatric dentists are 50 or older, and 2 of the 4 prosthodontists are 60 or older

## KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

As compared with 2003:

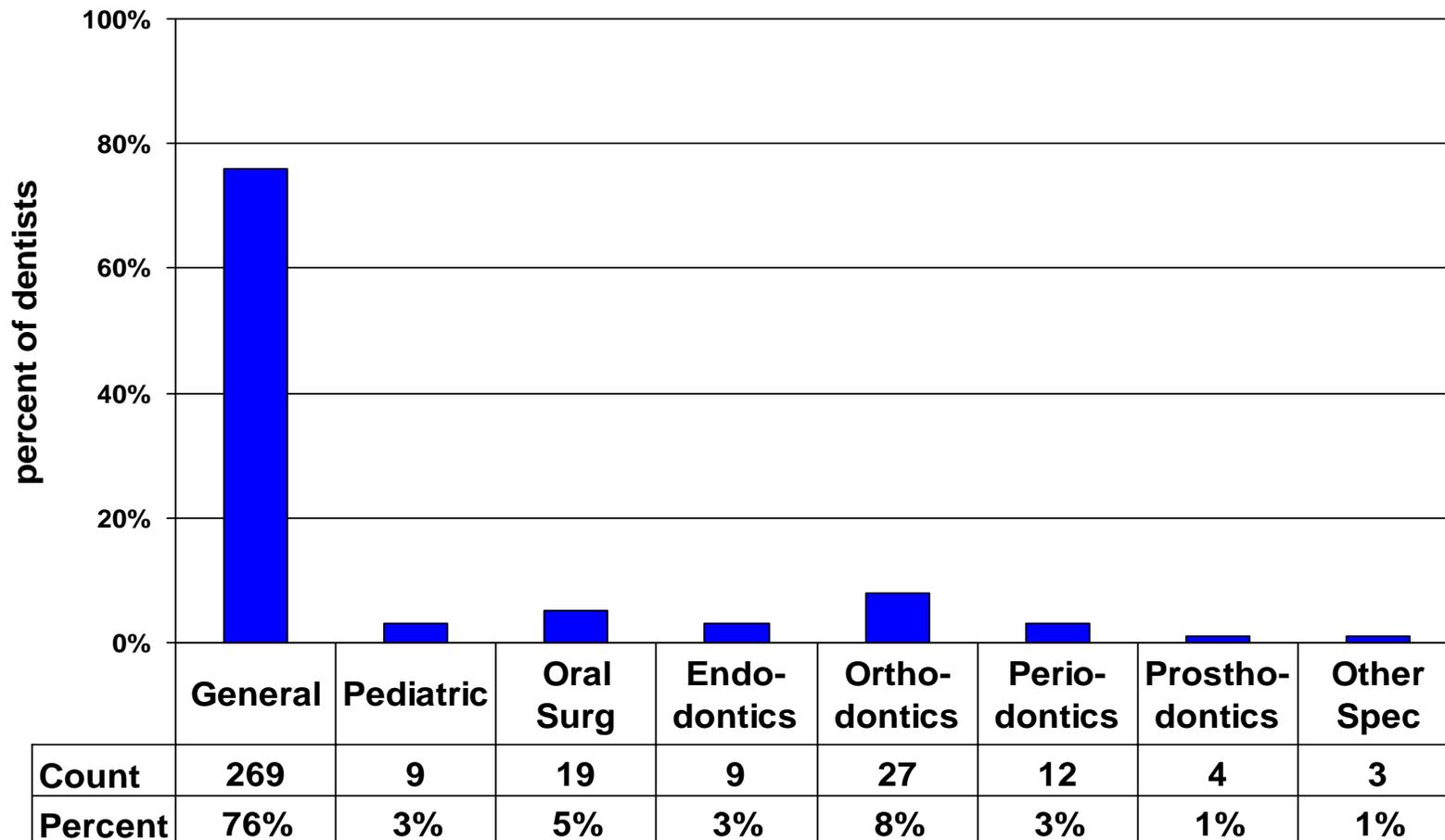
- *There are 15 fewer dentists in total*
- *Fewer dentists are working 40 hours or more, and fewer are working at more than one site*
- *There are 10.7 fewer FTEs in primary care*
- *There are 3.0 fewer FTEs in specialty care*
- *Percentage accepting new patients, and weeks wait for an appointment, have remained the same*

As compared with 2001:

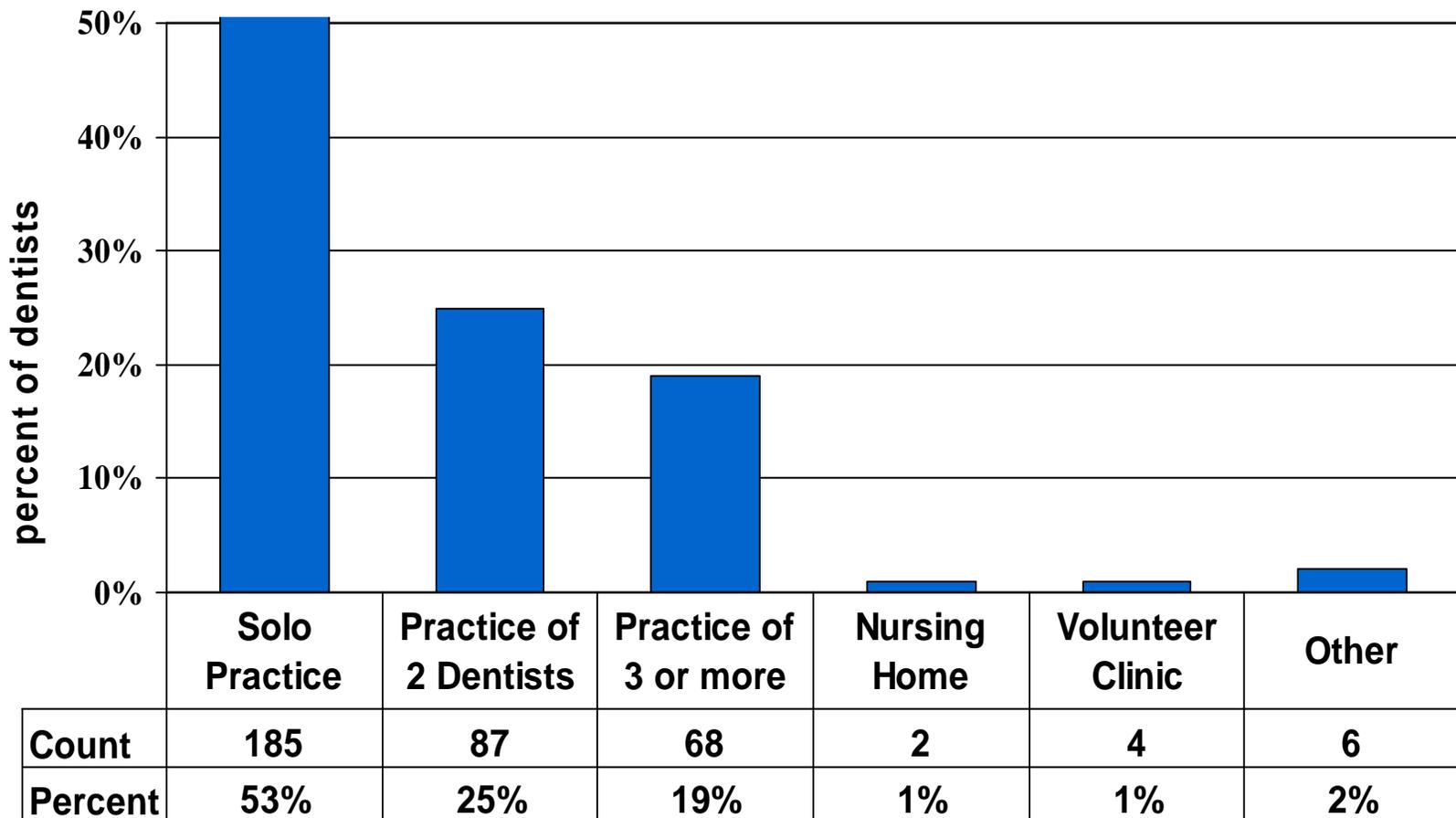
- *There are 15 fewer dentists in the 45 to 54 age range, and 40 more dentists 55 and older*

# **SURVEY QUESTION ANALYSIS**

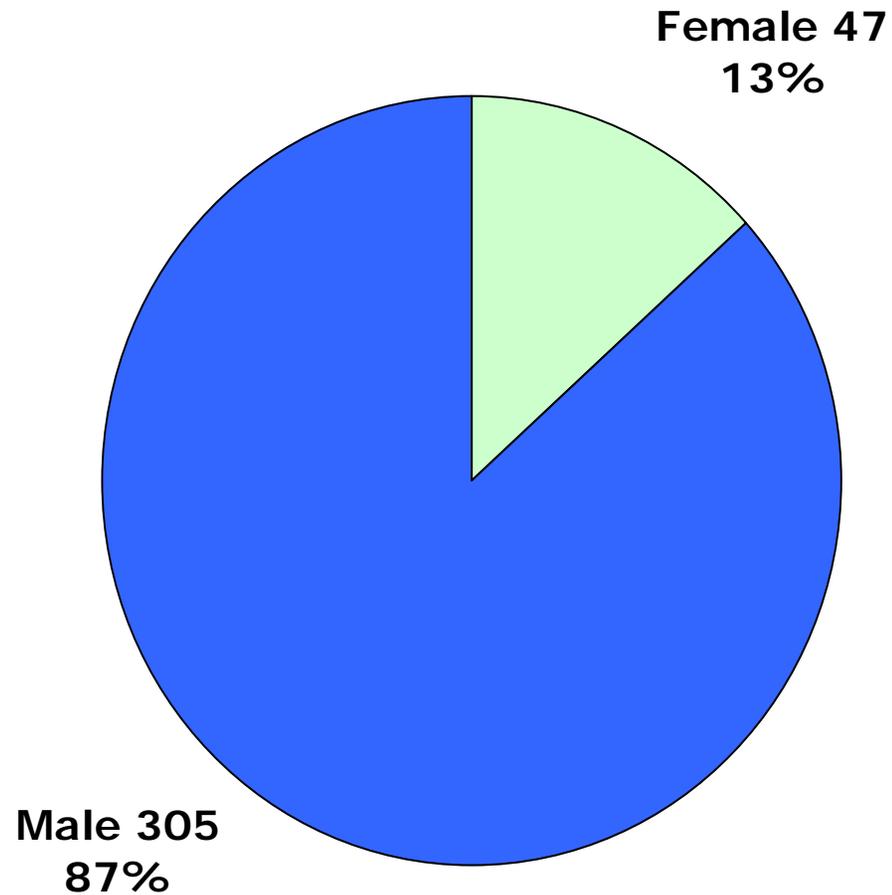
## Practice Type (specialty)



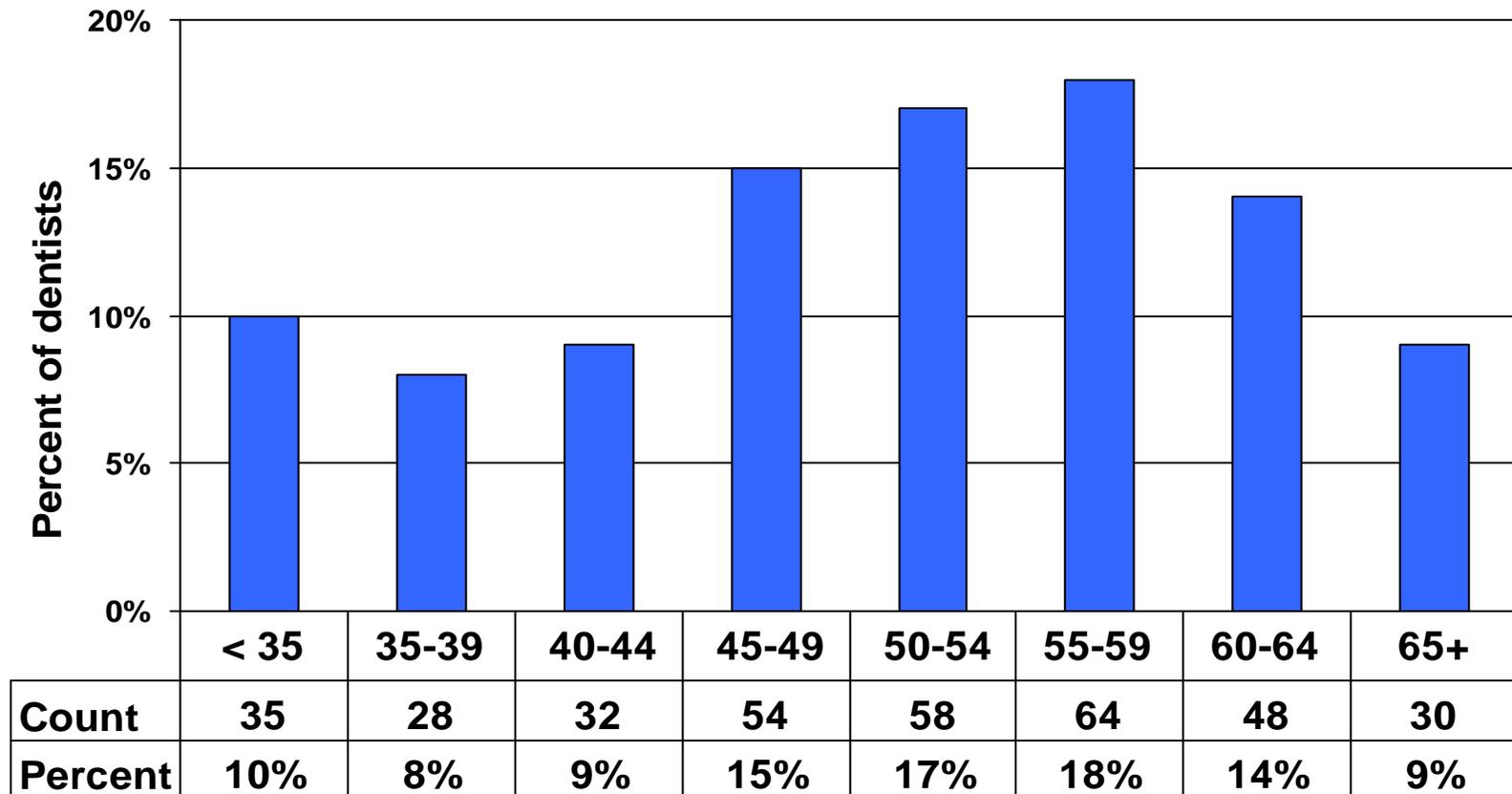
## Practice Setting



## GENDER

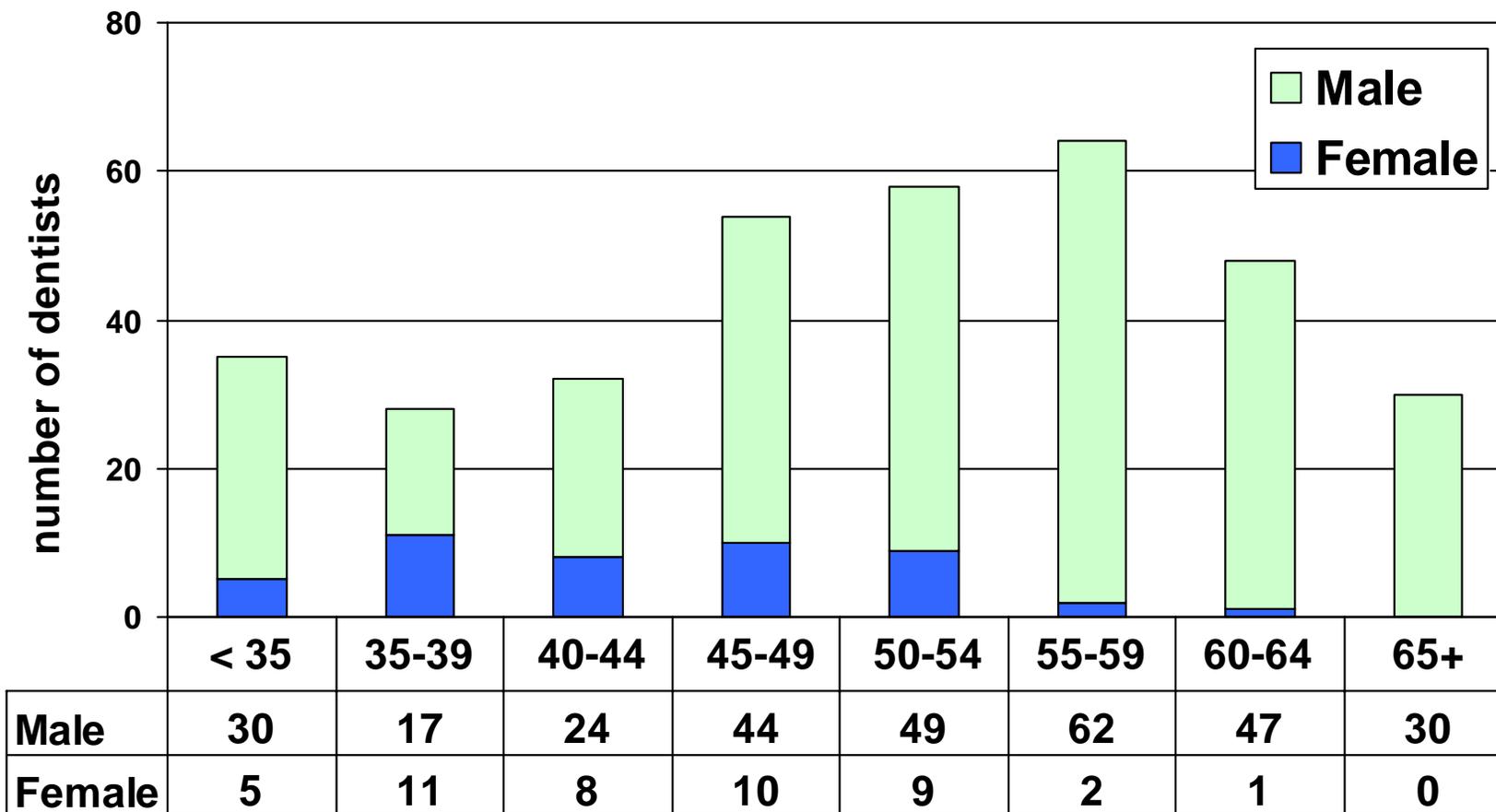


## AGE DISTRIBUTION



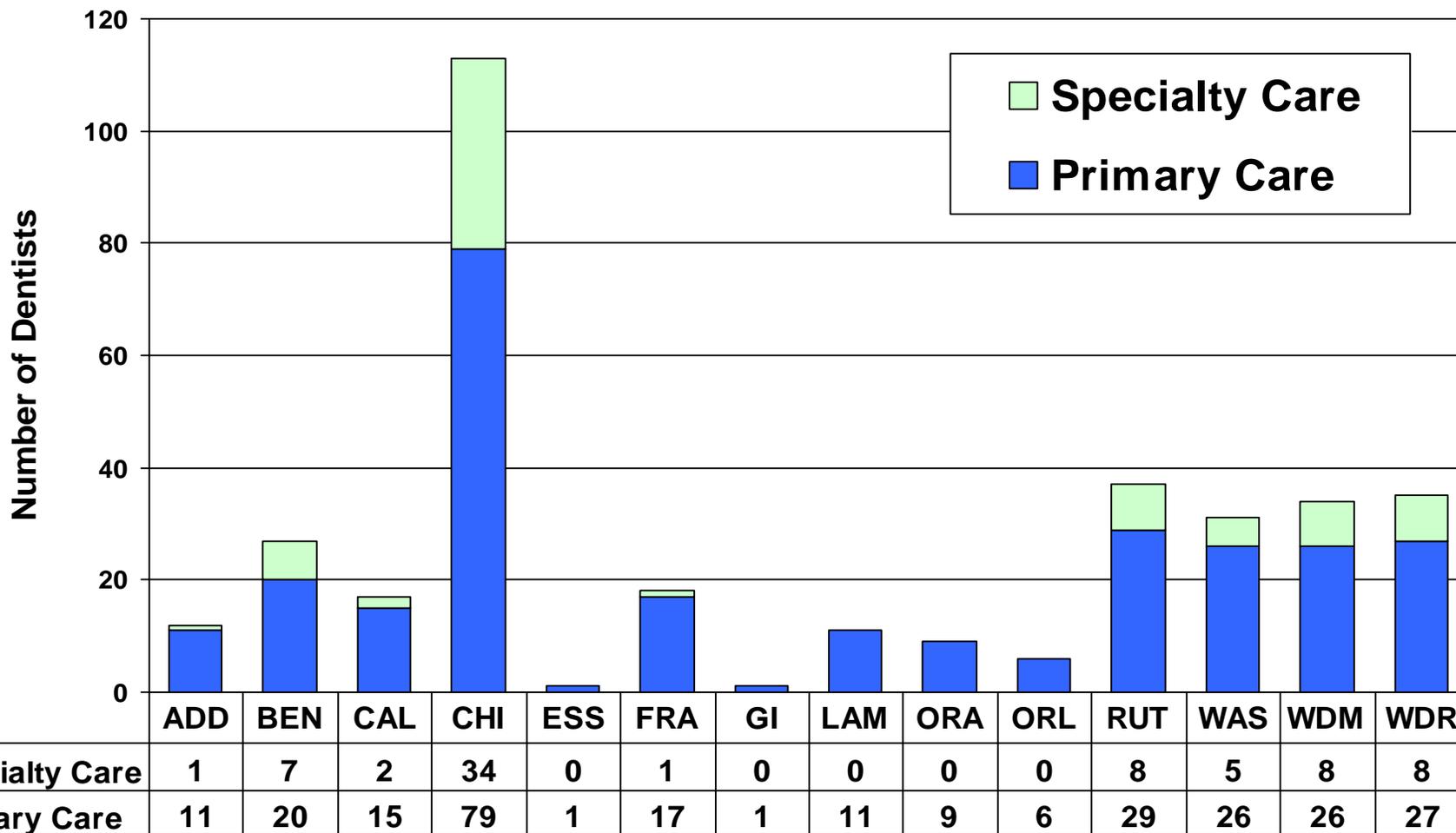
57% of all dentists, and 7 of the 9 pediatric dentists, are age 50 or older

## AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

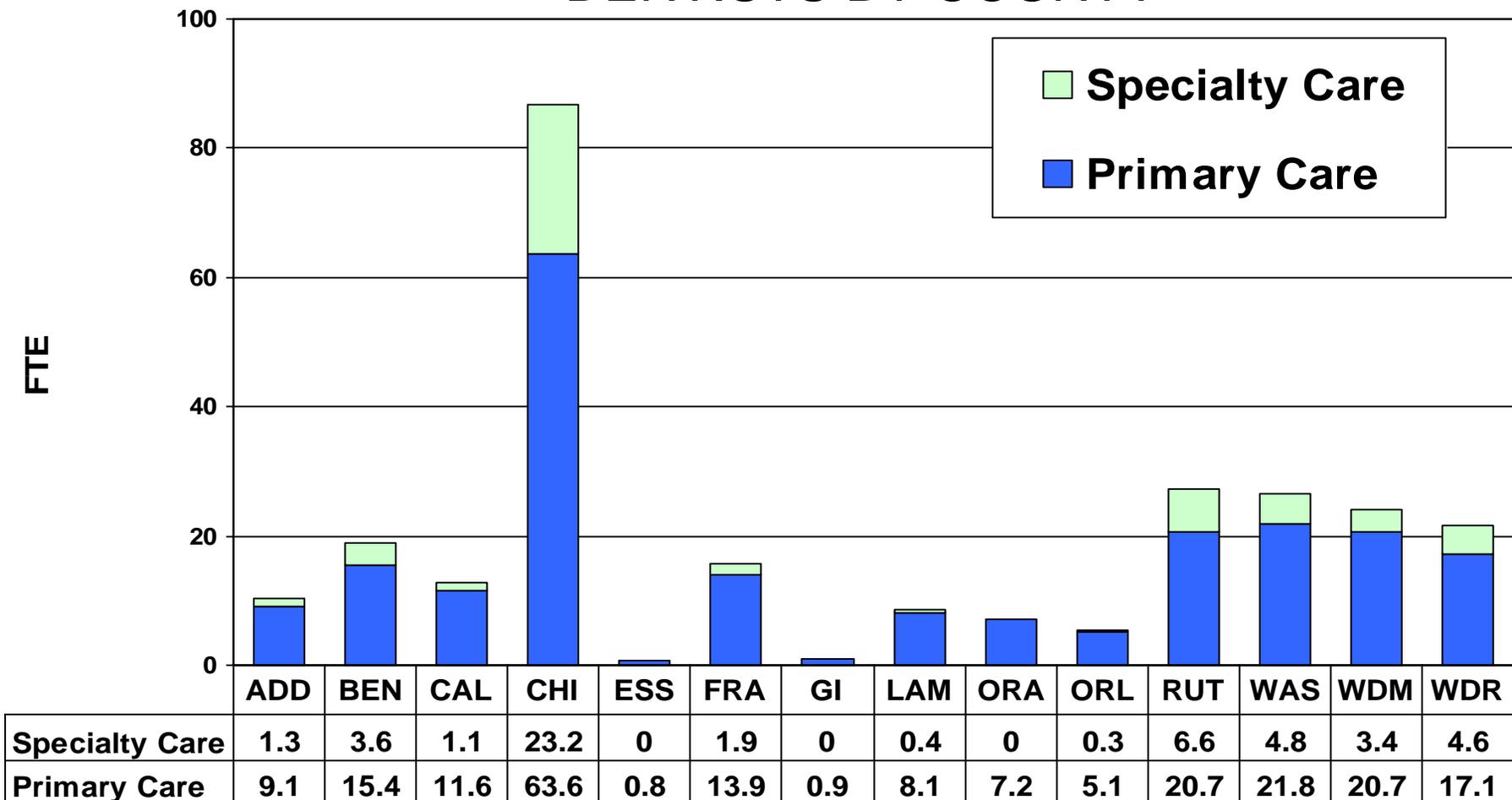


62% of the males, but only 26% of the females, are age 50 or older

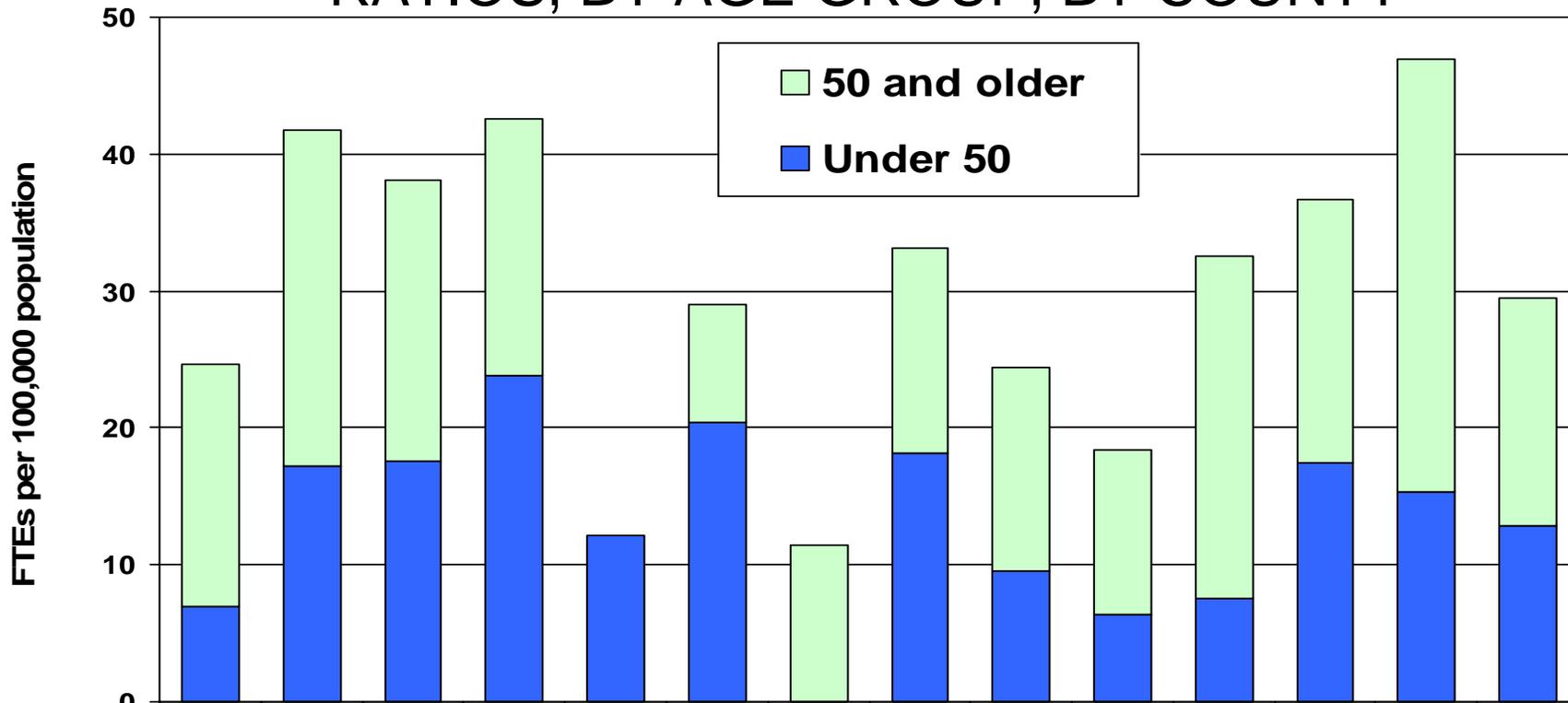
## NUMBER OF DENTISTS BY COUNTY



## NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT DENTISTS BY COUNTY

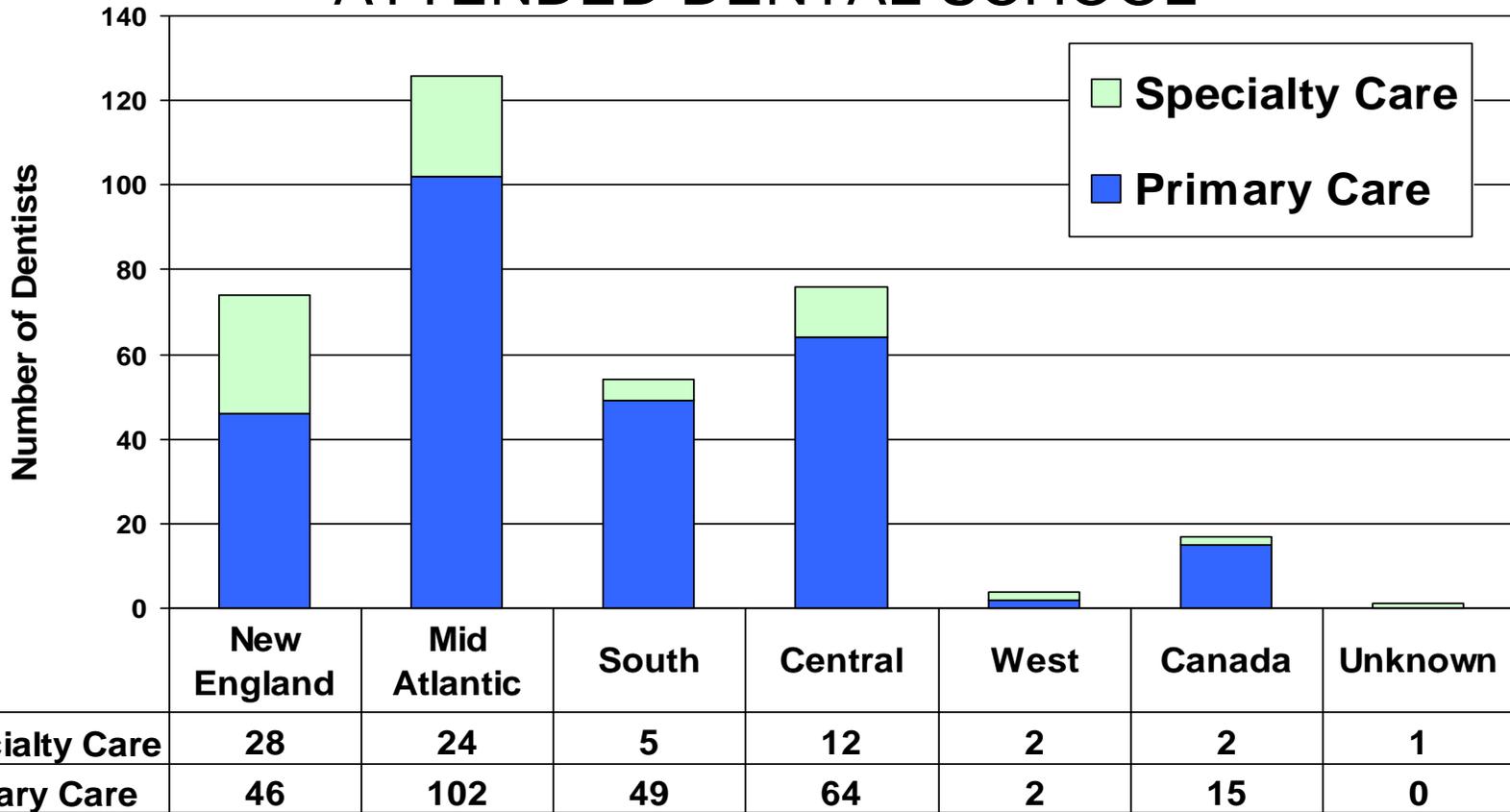


## PRIMARY CARE DENTIST TO POPULATION RATIOS, BY AGE GROUP, BY COUNTY



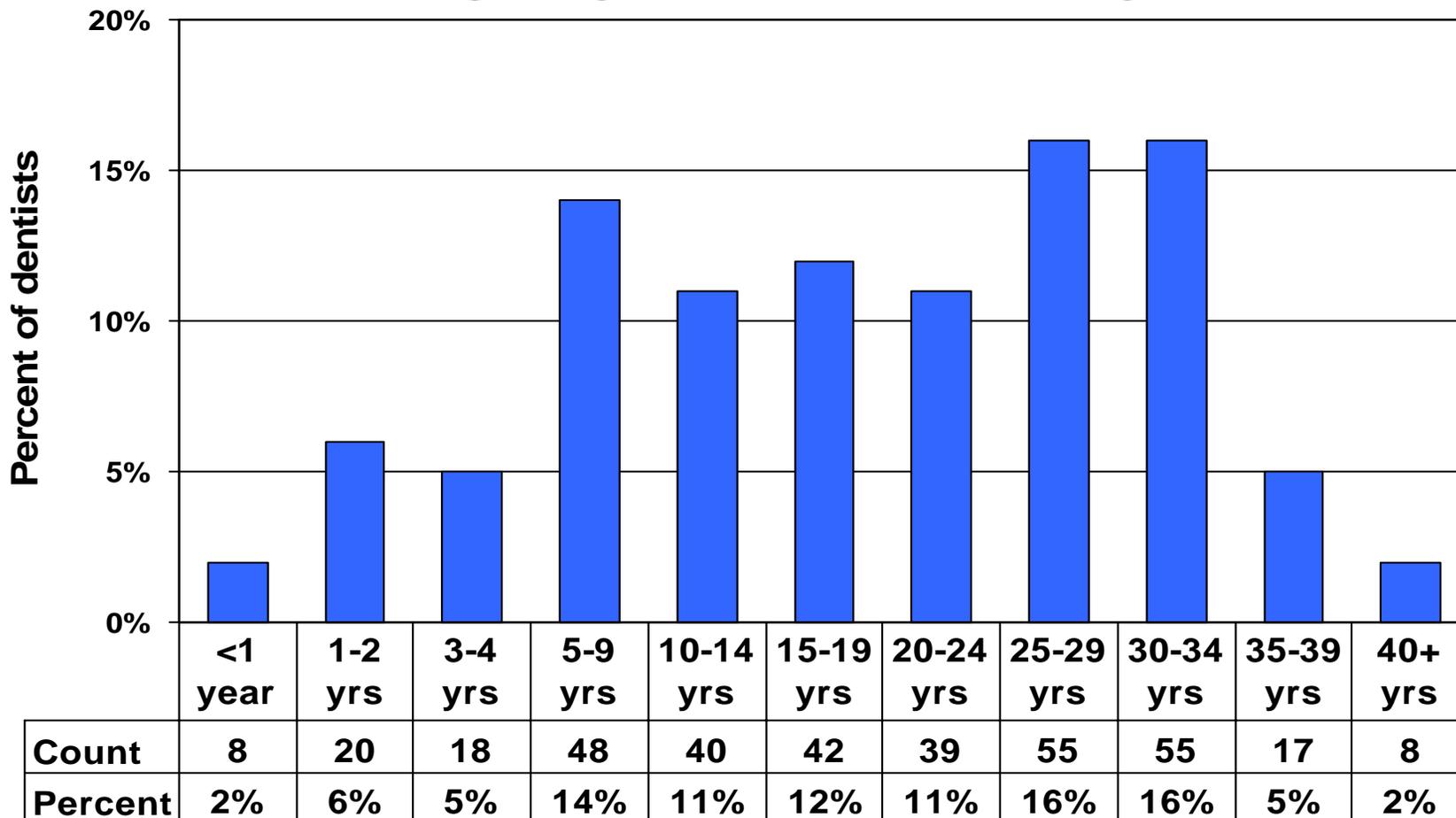
	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
50 and older	17.8	24.5	20.4	18.7	0	8.56	11.4	14.9	14.9	12.1	25	19.2	31.6	16.7
Under 50	6.93	17.2	17.6	23.8	12.1	20.4	0	18.2	9.56	6.33	7.5	17.4	15.4	12.8

## WHERE VERMONT DENTISTS ATTENDED DENTAL SCHOOL



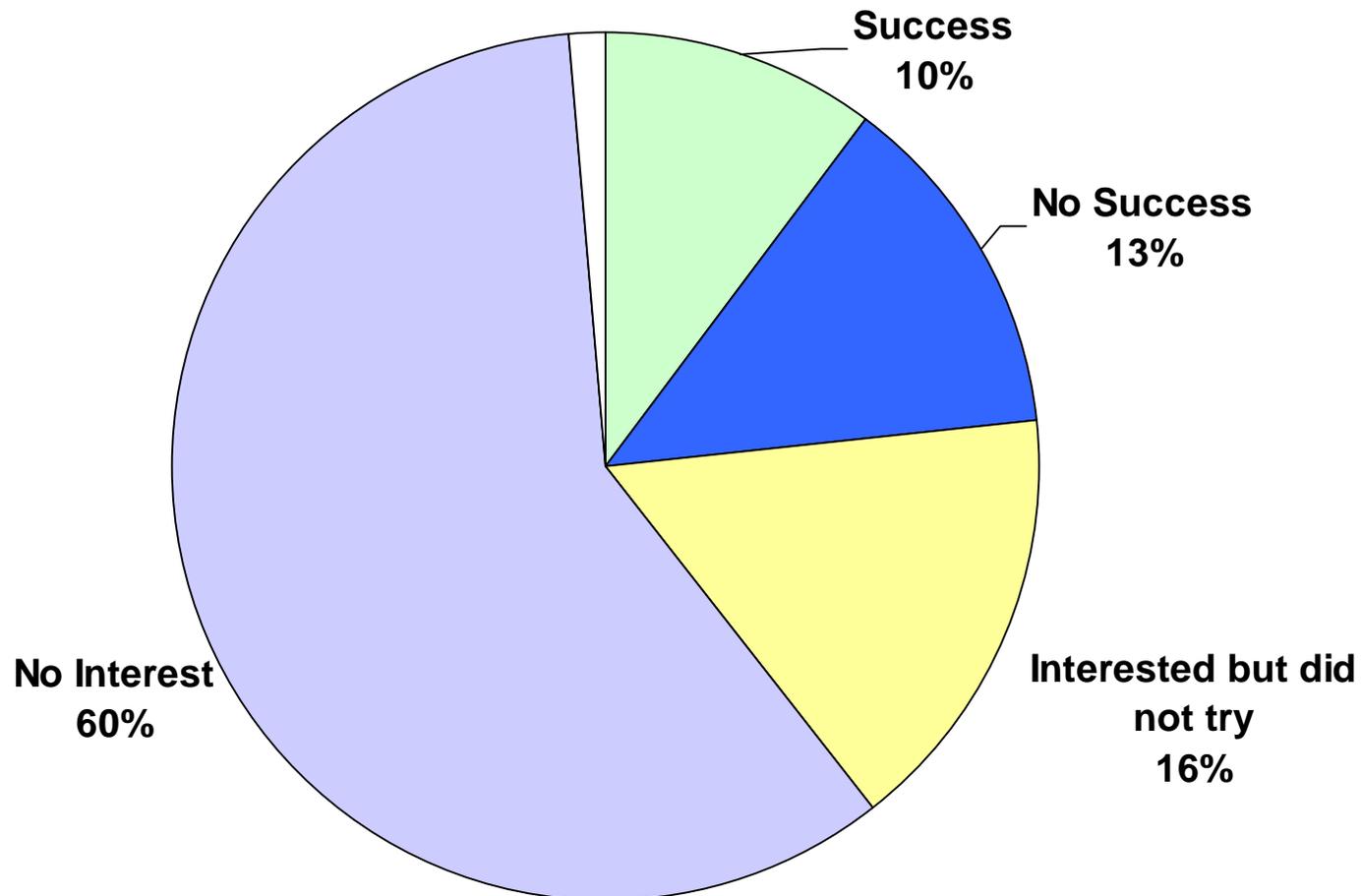
36% of all Vermont dentists and 37% of primary care dentists were trained in the mid-Atlantic region.  
 38% of all specialty care dentists were trained in New England.

## YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT



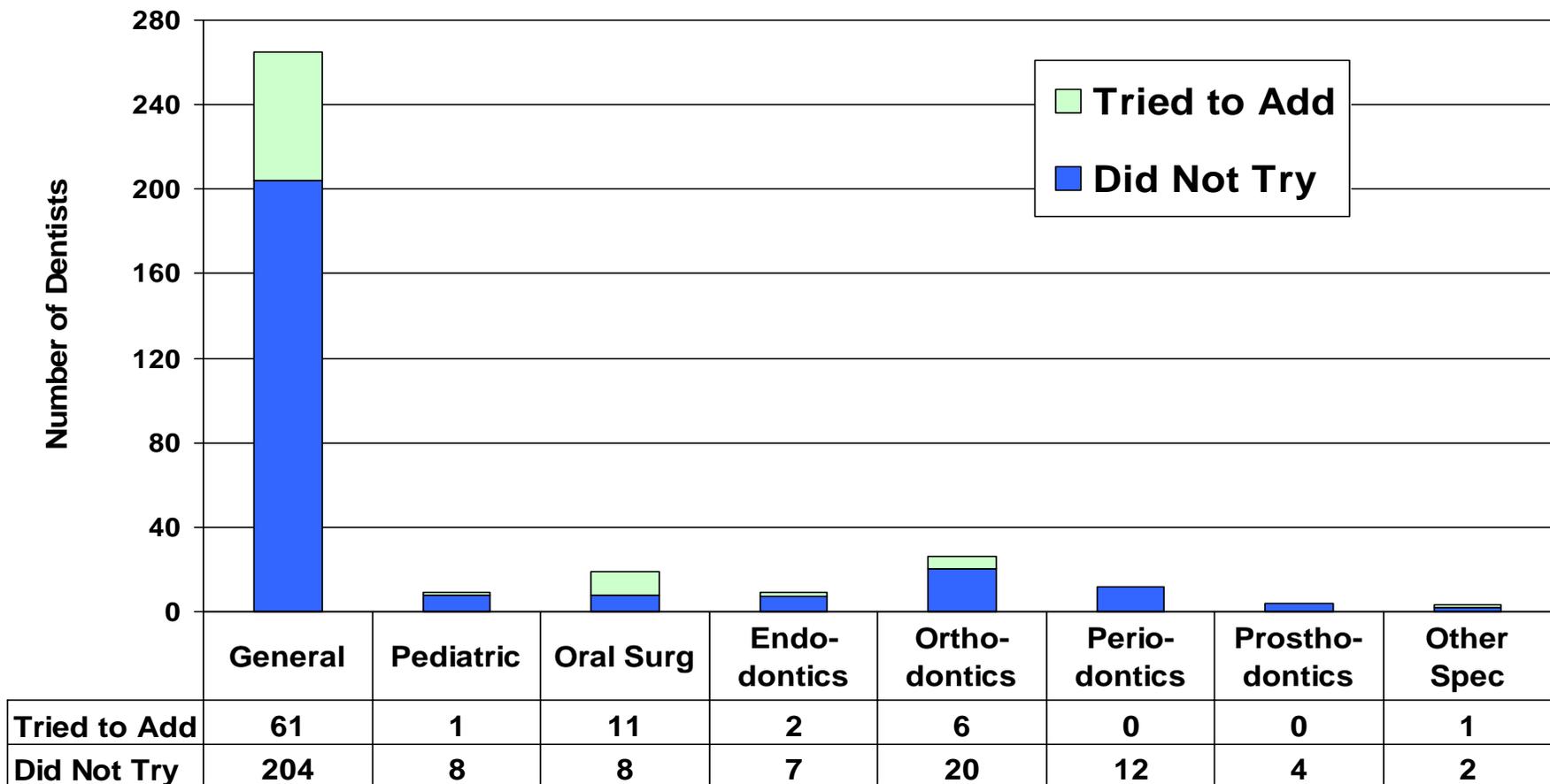
50% of the dentists surveyed had worked in Vermont for 20 or more years.

## INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE



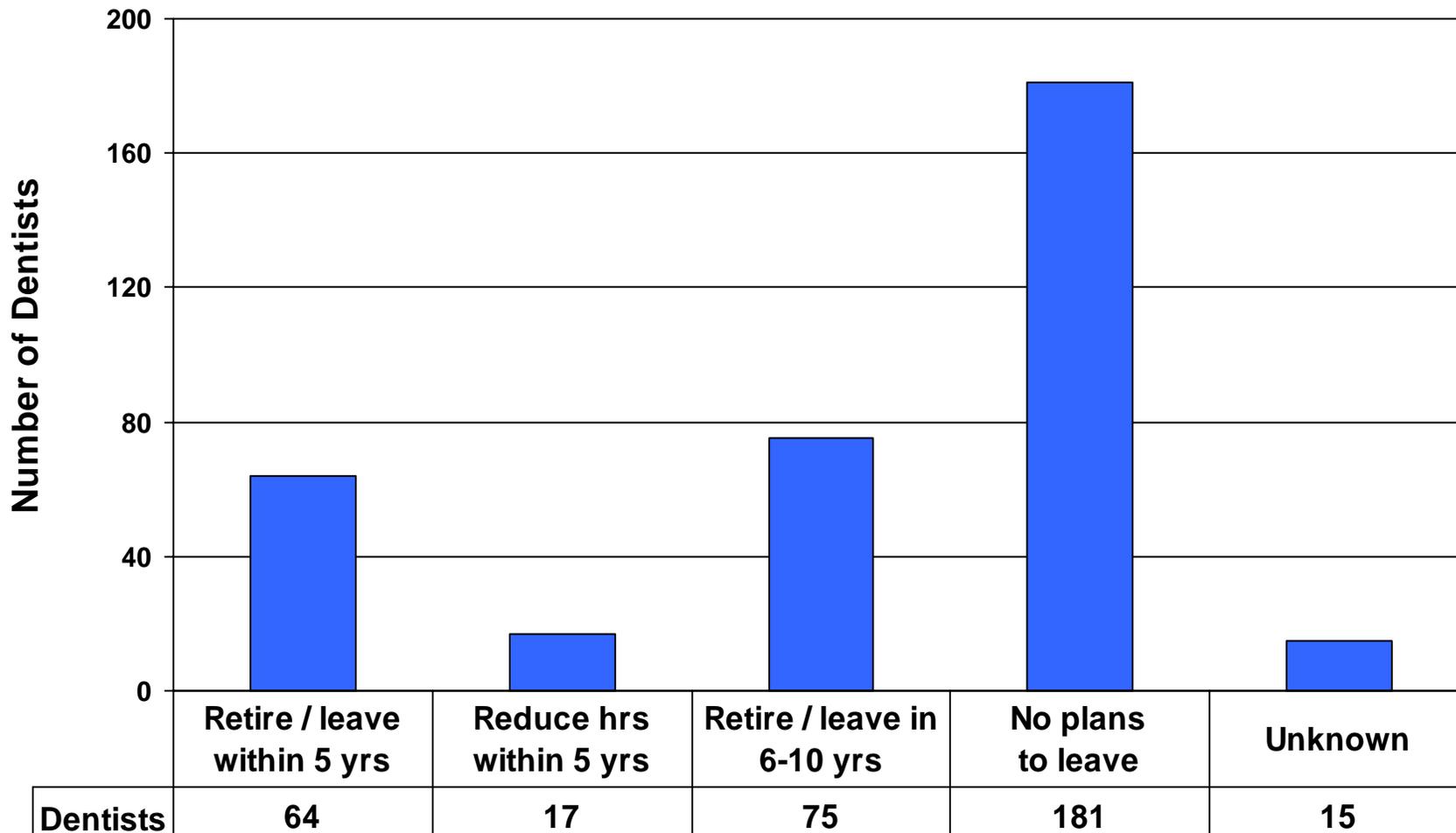
2005 Dentist Survey

## INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ASSOCIATE

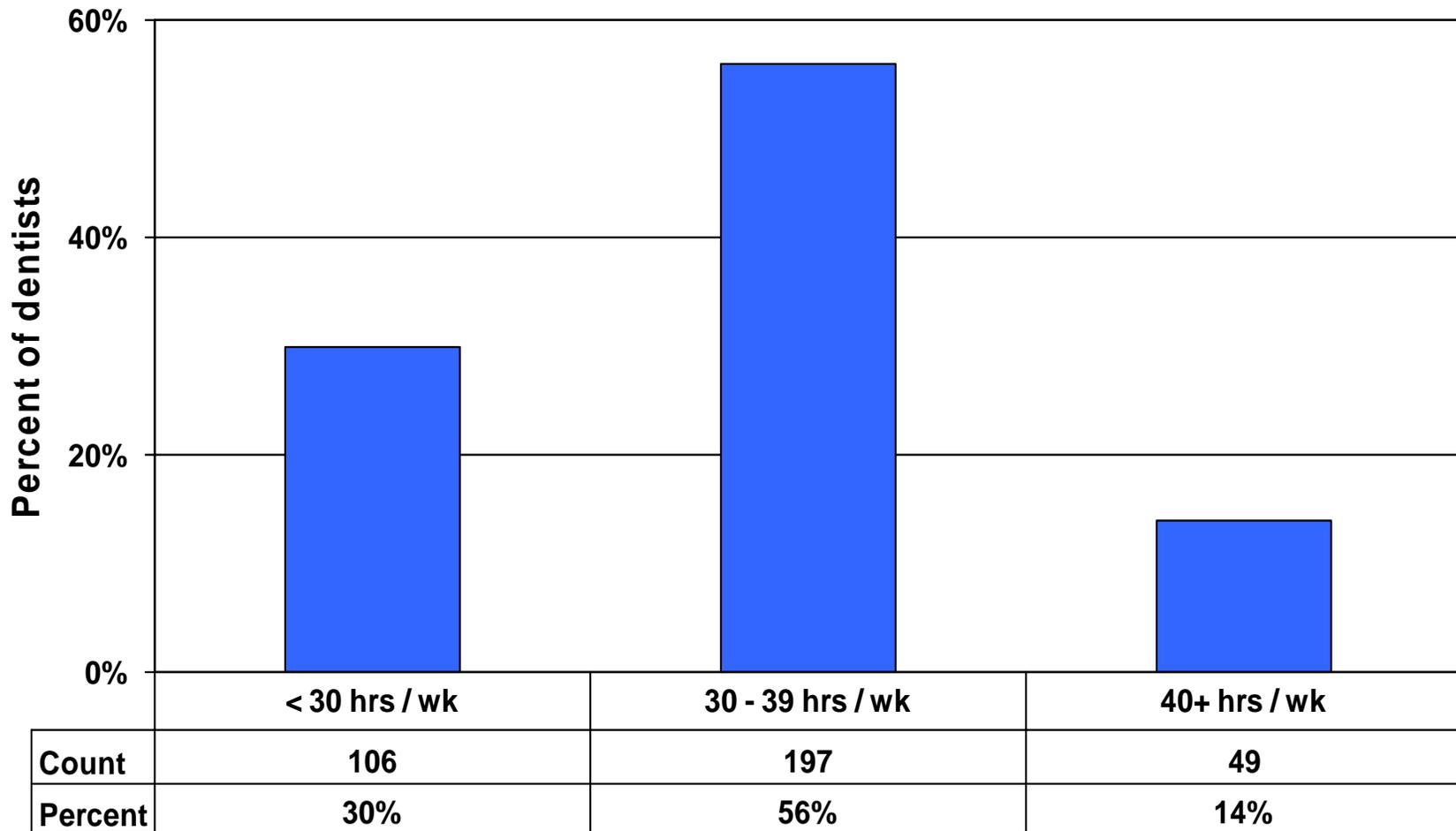


Tried to add - Includes responses "Success" and "No success".  
 Did not try - Includes responses "Interested" and "No interest".

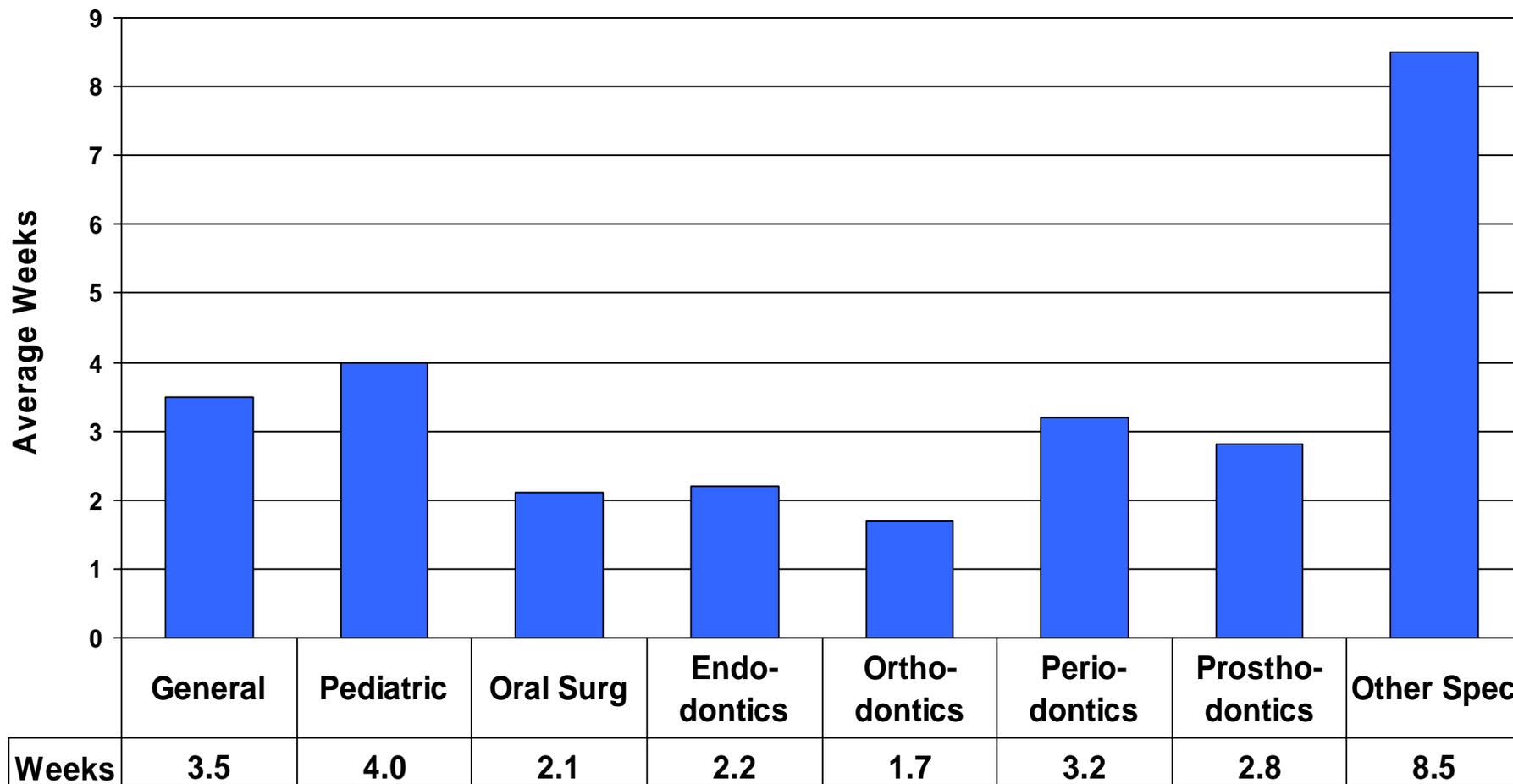
## PLANS TO RETIRE, LEAVE, OR REDUCE HOURS



## PATIENT CARE HOURS PER WEEK

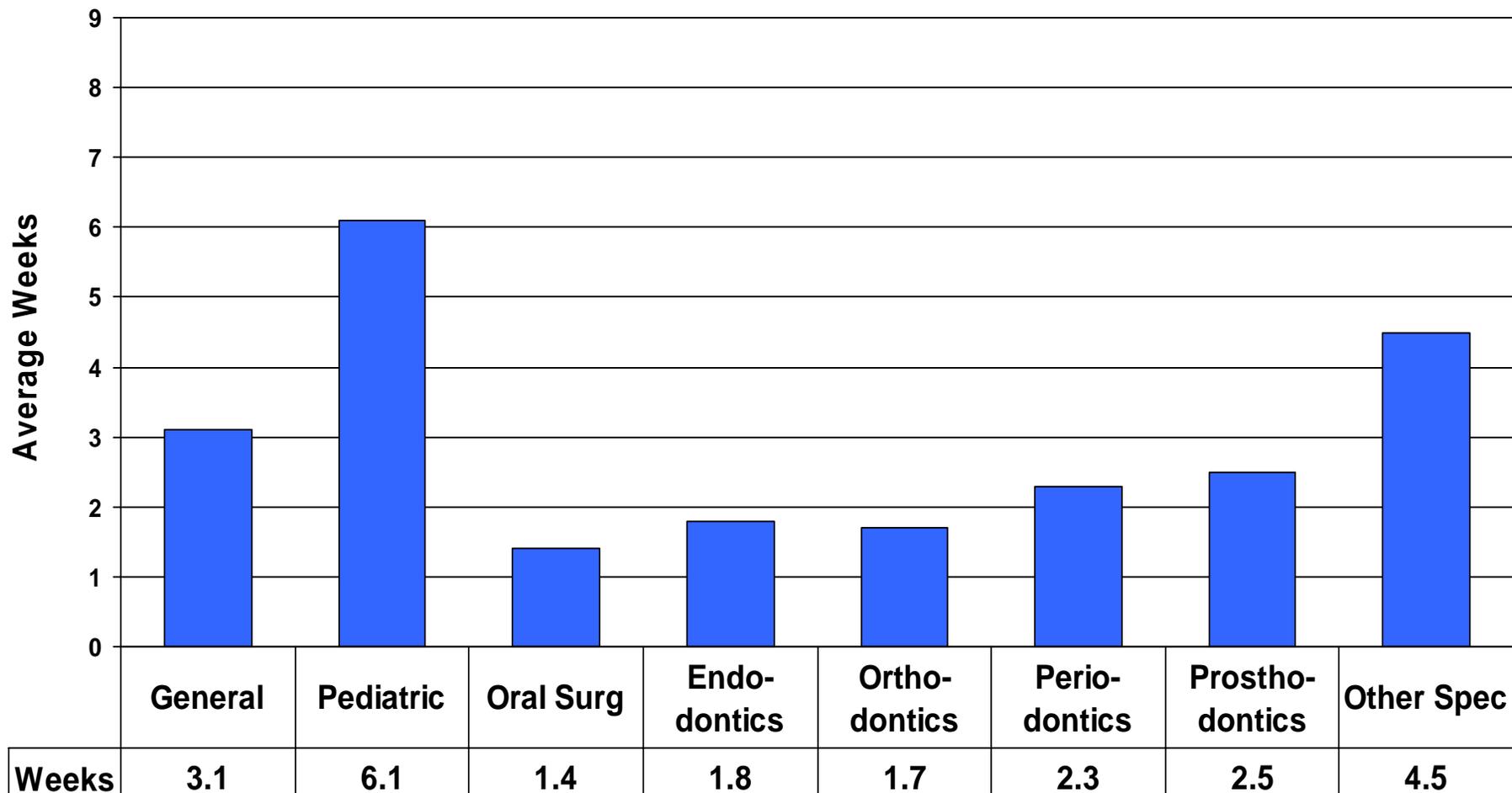


## WEEKS WAIT FOR NEW PATIENT



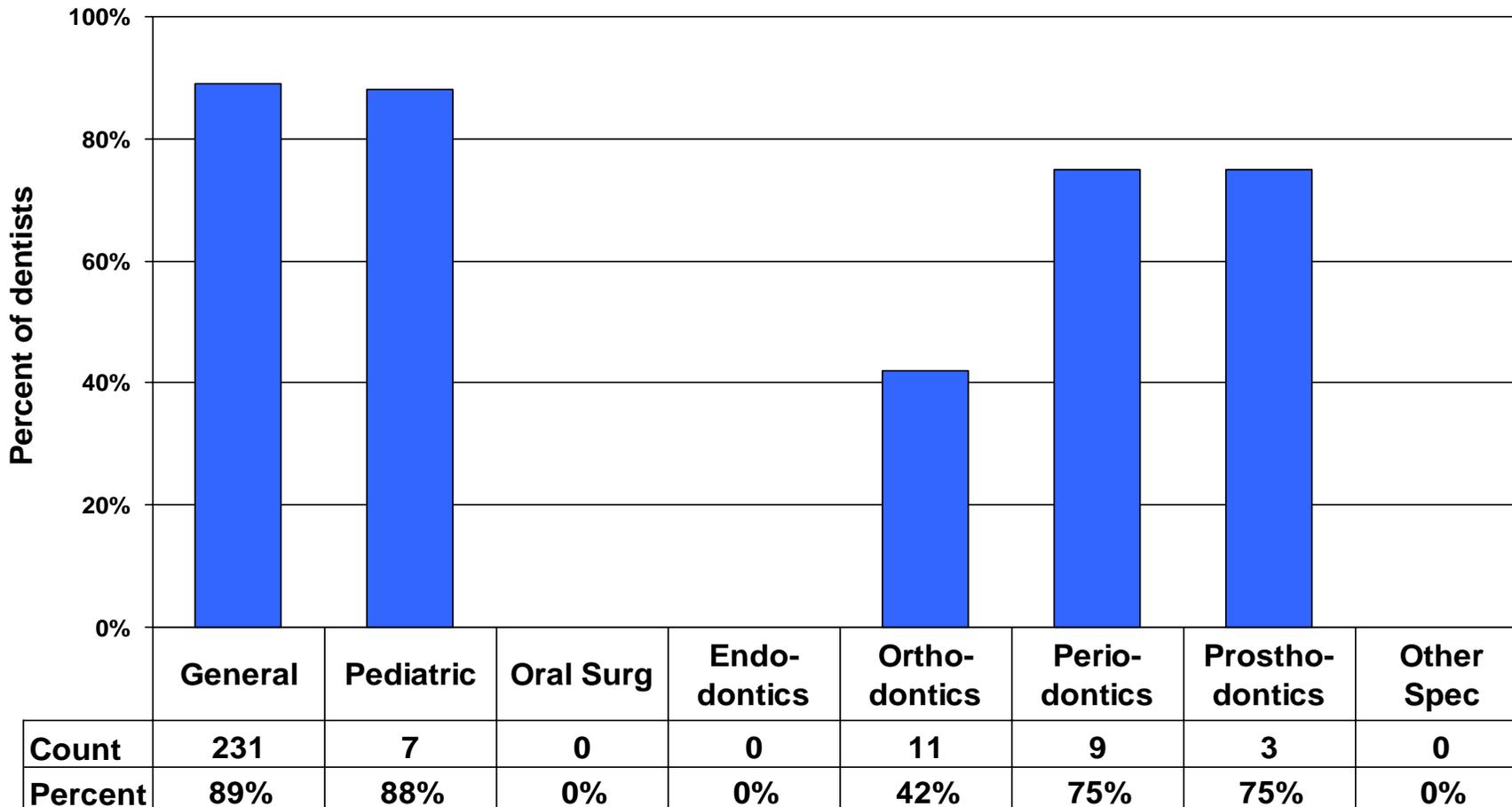
Average wait time for an appointment for new dental patients was 3.2 weeks.

## WEEKS WAIT FOR CURRENT PATIENT



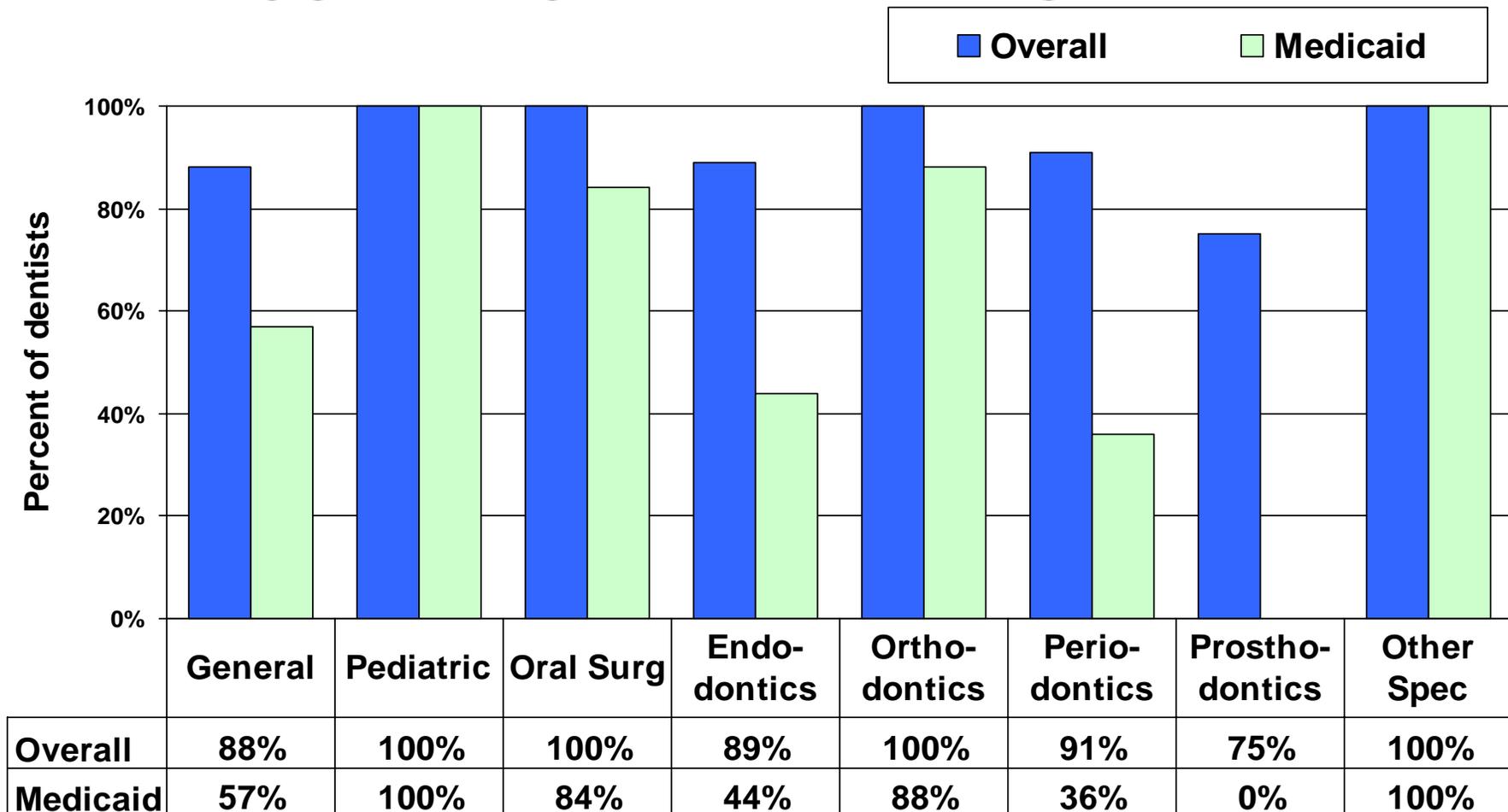
Average wait time for an appointment for current patients was 2.9 weeks.

# WORK WITH HYGIENISTS



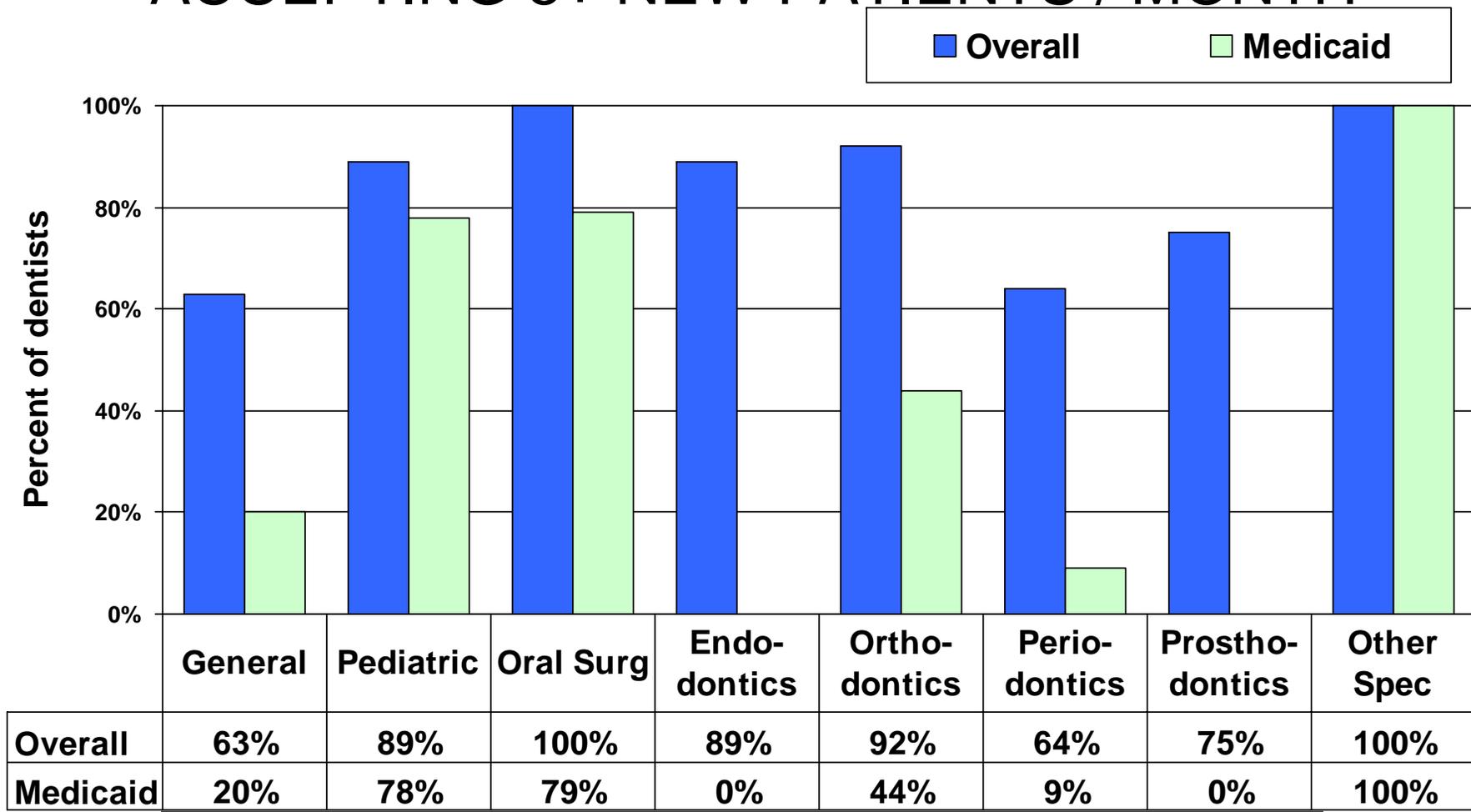
Overall rate was 76%.  
Multiple Dentists may work with the same hygienist(s).

# ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



90% accepted new patients overall, 61% accepted new Medicaid patients.

# ACCEPTING 5+ NEW PATIENTS / MONTH



69% accepted 5+ new patients overall, 26% accepted 5+ new Medicaid patients.

# **COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

## Numbers of Dentists in Each Specialty, 1999-2005

	<b>Count by main specialty</b>			
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>
Total active dentists	347	354	367	352
Primary care dentists	272	277	293	278
General practice	262	268	284	269
Pediatric dentistry	10	9	9	9
Specialist dentists	75	77	74	74
Oral Surgery	21	23	22	19
Endodontics	10	10	10	9
Orthodontics	28	27	26	27
Periodontics	12	11	10	12
Prosthodontics	4	4	3	4
Other Specialties	-	2	3	3

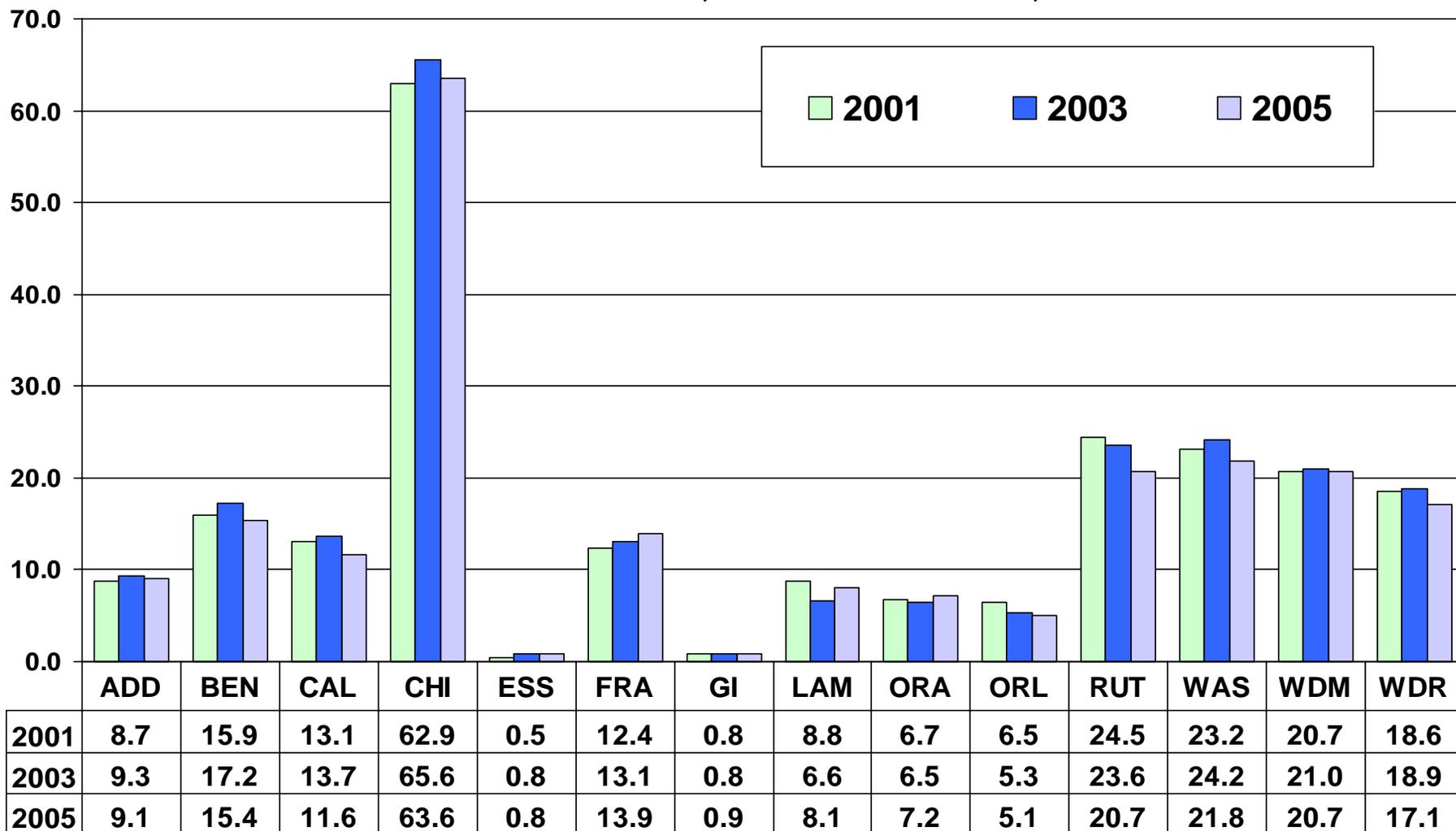
## Full Time Equivalents in each specialty, 1999-2005

	<b>Full Time Equivalents (FTE)</b>			
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>
Total active dentists	290.2	284.6	280.8	267.1
Primary care dentists	228.4	223.4	226.7	216.0
General practice	221.7	216.4	219.8	209.1
Pediatric dentistry	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.9
Specialist dentists	61.8	61.3	54.1	51.1
Oral Surgery	18.9	19.7	17.1	15.1
Endodontics	9.2	8.9	8.6	7.1
Orthodontics	21.6	19.7	17.5	16.9
Periodontics	9.0	8.1	6.5	7.2
Prosthodontics	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.9
Other Specialties	-	1.9	2.6	2.7

## Selected indicators, 1999-2005

	1999	2001	2003	2005
Total number of active dentists	347	354	367	352
Percent age 50 or older	46%	49%	53%	57%
Percent age 55 or older	25%	29%	35%	41%
Average patient care hours per week	35	33	31	31
Primary care:				
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	28%	28%	29%	29%
FTEs / 100,000 population	37.8	36.5	36.6	34.7
% accepting new patients	85%	85%	88%	88%
accepting new medicaid patients	43%	37%	57%	59%
Average weeks wait - new patients	4	4.2	3.3	3.5
Plan to retire, leave, or reduce hrs within 5 yrs	n.a.	20%	23%	23%
Percent working with dental hygienists	87%	86%	88%	88%
Specialty care:				
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	44%	46%	44%	44%
FTEs / 100,000 population	10.2	10.0	8.7	8.2

## PRIMARY CARE FTEs, BY COUNTY, 2001-2005



## AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2001-2005

