

ORAL HEALTH SUPPLY AND DEMAND PROJECTION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

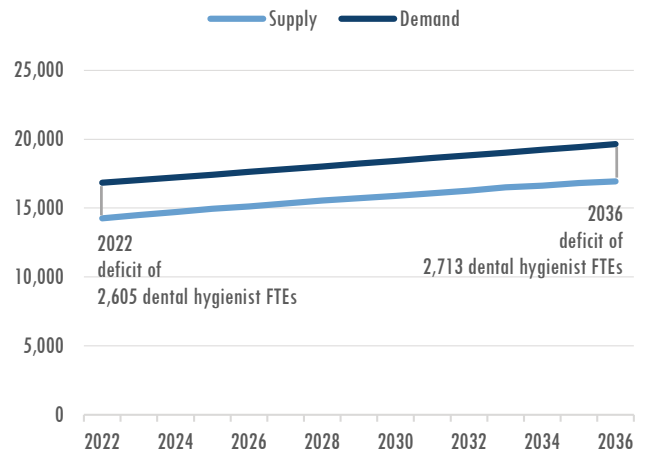
The Health Professions Resource Center has contracted with GlobalData to apply the same models used by the Health Resources and Services Administration to estimate Texas oral healthcare workforce supply and demand, utilizing Texas-specific data when available. The following figures show the projected full-time equivalent (FTE) statewide supply and demand for oral health professions through 2036, with a baseline year of 2022. Demand projections are based on recent national health care use and delivery patterns. As access to care changes and models of care transform, health care use and delivery patterns may change the demand for oral health professionals over time. Projections are not predictions, as there are a number of factors that can influence demand and supply over time.

Key Findings

Dental Hygienists

- The 2022 projected supply of dental hygienists was 14,244 FTEs, while the 2022 projected demand for dental hygienists was 16,849 FTEs, leading to a deficit of 2,605 FTEs.
- By 2036, the dental hygienist supply is projected to grow by 18.9% to 16,930 FTEs, while demand is projected to grow by 16.6% to 19,643 FTEs, leading to a deficit of 2,713 FTEs.
- Between 2022 and 2036, statewide supply of dental hygienists is not projected to meet demand. Based on these projections, 13.8% of the demand for dental hygienists will not be met in 2036.

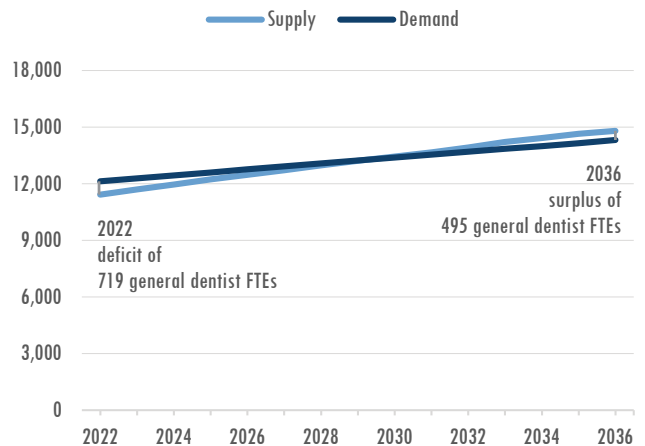
Figure 1. Dental Hygienist FTE Supply and Demand, 2022-2036



General Dentists

- The 2022 general dentist projected supply was 11,415 FTEs, and the projected demand was 12,134 FTEs, leading to a deficit of 719 FTEs.
- By 2036, the general dentist supply is projected to increase by 29.7% to 14,808 FTEs while demand is projected to grow by 17.9% to 14,313 FTEs, leading to a surplus of 495 FTEs.
- Between 2022 and 2029, statewide demand for general dentists is projected to exceed supply. By 2030, the deficit of general dentist FTEs is projected to become a surplus.

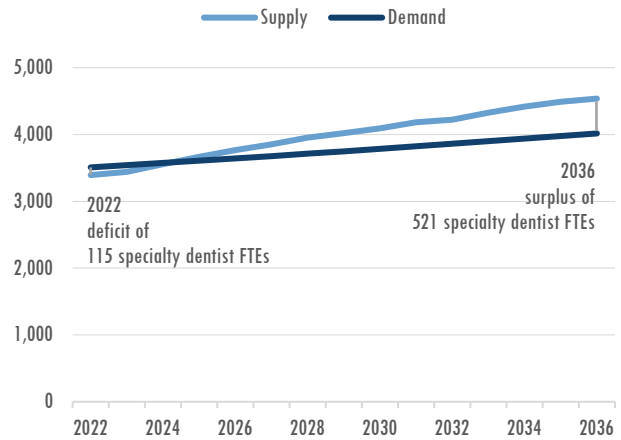
Figure 2. General Dentist FTE Supply and Demand, 2022-2036



Specialty Dentists

- The 2022 specialty dentist projected supply was 3,394 FTEs, and the projected demand was 3,509 FTEs, leading to a deficit of 115 FTEs.
- By 2036, the specialty dentist supply is projected to grow by 33.7% to 4,538 FTEs, while demand is projected to grow by 14.5% to 4,017 FTEs, leading to a surplus of 521 FTEs.
- Between 2022 and 2024, statewide demand for general dentists is projected to exceed supply. By 2025, the deficit of specialty dentist FTEs is projected to become a surplus.

Figure 3. Specialty Dentist FTE Supply and Demand, 2022-2036



Unmet Demand for Specialty Dentists

- The overall supply of specialty dentists is projected to surpass demand by 2036, and unmet demand is projected to decrease from 2022 to 2036 for all specialties.
- Orthodontists and pediatric dentists are projected to have a surplus of FTEs by 2036 as supply exceeds demand.
- Pediatric dentists were excluded from Figure 4, as demand was fully met in 2022 and is projected to remain fully met by 2036.
- Demand is projected to exceed supply in 2036 for endodontists, oral surgeons, and periodontists.

Figure 4. Unmet Demand by Specialty, 2022-2036

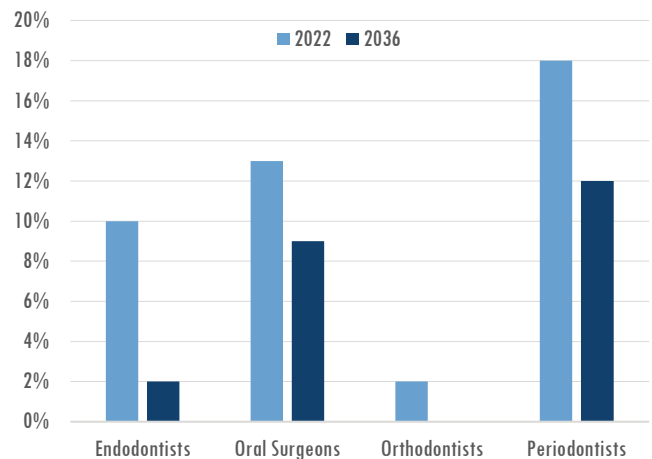


Table 1. Unmet Demand for Specialty Dentists, 2022-2036

	Endodontists	Oral Surgeons	Orthodontists	Periodontists
2022 Unmet Demand	10%	13%	2%	18%
2036 Unmet Demand	2%	9%	0%	12%

Conclusion

Based on Texas-specific data using the Health Workforce Model, Texas is projected to face a deficit of dental hygienists from 2022 through 2036. Supply and demand for general dentists is nearly balanced, with a slight deficit in 2022 projected to shift to a slight surplus by 2036. Specialty dentists show a similar trend, with a projected surplus by 2036. However, while orthodontists and pediatric dentists are projected to have a surplus, current shortages in oral surgeons, periodontists, endodontists, and other dental specialties are projected to persist through 2036. However, there are several limitations to consider when interpreting these data.

Caveats and Limitations

First, it should be noted that these projections are not predictions. They can be used to inform policy, strategies, plans and programs to improve the Texas health care workforce. However, there are many factors that can influence either supply of or demand for oral health providers. Changes in healthcare coverage, access, and delivery could affect demand for services. Likewise, the supply of oral health professionals could be impacted by changes in the economic climate or in the ability to attract, educate and retain oral health professionals.

Other factors to consider are the diversity of the providers and their geographic distribution. Diversity in the health workforce helps to foster delivery of culturally competent care, and an adequate distribution of providers helps to increase access to care. Moreover, a well-distributed and diverse mix of specialized behavioral health providers ensures that specific skill demands are met.

For more data, including projections by geographic region, oral health provider type, and the methods used to create the projections, visit Texas Health Data at <https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/health-care-workforce/hprc/workforce-supply-and-demand-projections>.