



2020 Annual Report

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

ABOUT THE BOARD



Image of field by David Mark from Pixabay

The Board's mission is to ensure that all Iowans receive professional, competent, and safe dental health care of the highest quality.

The Iowa Dental Board is the state agency charged with the overall responsibility for regulating the professions of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting in the state of Iowa. In pursuit of this mission, the Iowa Dental Board performs these primary functions:

- Issues licenses, registrations, and permits to qualified dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants;
- Sets standards for the licensure or registration of practitioners and applicable permits;
- Enforces Iowa laws that regulate the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental assisting and investigates complaints concerning violations of the dental practice act and Board rules;
- Conducts disciplinary hearings and actively monitors the compliance of licensees with Board orders; and
- Adopts rules and establishes standards for practitioners pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On March 26, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a proclamation of disaster emergency which mandated that dental offices cease all nonessential services. Despite this incredible hardship, what would transpire over the coming weeks within the dental community was generosity, kindness, and collaboration. Spearheaded by the Iowa Dental Association, dentists donated PPE in droves. Stakeholder groups came together regularly, often at a minute's notice, to collaborate on needs. Despite challenges, the emergency needs of patients continued to be met.

On May 8, 2020, dental offices were permitted to resume the regular practice of dentistry provided offices complied with the Guidelines for the Safe Transition Back to Practice. These Guidelines, approved by the Board on May 5, 2020, were another significant collaborative effort between the Board and a Task Force led by the Iowa Dental Association. Participants included the Iowa Dental Hygiene Association, The University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Delta Dental and the Iowa Department of Public Health. We are incredibly thankful for the efforts of so many this past year.

The pandemic also resulted in a shift regarding patient-based examinations for the purposes of licensure. While the Board had started studying this issue before the pandemic, this was escalated due to the inability of students to use patients in an exam. In early 2020, the Board approved rule waivers in record numbers, which allowed 2020 dental and dental hygiene graduates to complete manikin exams. Rules are now in place which permanently permit this pathway to licensure.

Additional highlights from 2020 include:

- Held 1 in-person Board meeting and 14 videoconferences
- Issued 1,362 licenses, registrations and permits. **This is an 84.5% increase from 2010.**
- Renewed 1,946 dental licenses.
- Issued 37 temporary licenses to dental hygiene applicants unable to take their clinical exam due to COVID-19.
- Issued 28 public orders.
- Issued 22 confidential letters of information and 29 confidential letters of warning concerning licensee conduct or practice.
- Per the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency enforced compliance with the Board Guidelines for the Safe Transition Back to Practice
- Conducted 17 on-site sedation inspections for moderate and general anesthesia permit holders across the state.
- Continued working on upgrades to our database, with the ultimate goal of improving online licensure and renewal functions.
- Hosted ongoing quarterly phone calls with dental hygiene and dental assisting educators.
- Wrapped up a 5-year strategic plan, with all goals met or exceeded.

Lastly, the time has come for me to say goodbye to the Dental Board. It has been a great privilege to do this work, and to get to know so many of you over the last 7 years. Your commitment to the oral healthcare of Iowans is truly astounding. Thank you for all that you do.



Jill Stuecker, M.P.A., M.A.
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2020 was poised to be a productive, yet ordinary, year for the Iowa Dental Board. However, we all know our world was turned upside down when the pandemic hit. This crisis posed particular concerns to dentistry due to the nature of our procedures, especially the aerosols. The Board proactively worked with our colleagues at IDPH, IDA, IDHA, and the University of Iowa to provide guidance to our providers and the Governor's office to establish protocols and guidelines for safe dental practice in Iowa.

Other highlights from the year:

- Passed legislation regarding setting limitations for dental hygiene services and eliminated legislative intent language, which prohibited the Board from permitting dental assistants to place sealants.
- Welcomed Tiffany Allison as Associate Director.
- Thanked Mary Kelly, R.D.H. (9 years) and Michael Davidson, D.D.S. (3 years) for their service on the Board.
- Welcomed Jonathan DeJong, D.D.S. and Jillian Travis, R.D.H. to the Board.
- Joined The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) as a member state.
- Approved waivers permitting dental and dental hygiene students to take clinical exams on manikins and started the rulemaking process to permit this change permanently.

It was an honor to work with a talented and dedicated team as we navigated unprecedented challenges. Everyone from the Board, staff, and our collaborating organizations selflessly dedicated their time to ensure dentistry remained safe and functional. I am looking forward to moving on with more normal agendas soon, but I will always be humbled and inspired by this experience.



Will McBride, D.D.S.
Board Chair, Iowa Dental Board

BOARD MEMBERS

The Iowa Dental Board is composed of five licensed dentists, two licensed dental hygienists, and two members who represent the public. Members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Appointments are for a three-year term. Board members are eligible to serve up to three terms or a maximum of nine years. Members receive a per diem and expenses when conducting Board business.

Annually, the Board elects officers: a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The following committees are established pursuant to Iowa Code Section 153 and Iowa Administrative Code 650: the Dental Hygiene Committee, the Continuing Education Advisory Committee, the Anesthesia Credentials Committee, and the Iowa Practitioner Review Committee. The Iowa Dental Board may also appoint other committees as deemed necessary.

<u>2019-2020 MEMBERS* & OFFICERS</u>	<u>APPOINTED</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
William McBride, D.D.S., Iowa City, Chair	2015, 2018	April 30, 2021
Monica Foley, D.D.S., Bettendorf, Vice-Chair	2016, 2019	April 30, 2022
Mary C. Kelly, R.D.H., Des Moines, Secretary	2011, 2014, 2017	April 30, 2020
Michael Davidson, D.D.S., Urbandale	2017	April 30, 2020
Jonathan DeJong, D.D.S., Fort Dodge	2020	April 30, 2023
Gregory Ceraso, D.D.S., Johnston	2019	April 30, 2022
Lisa Holst, D.D.S., Des Moines	2019	April 30, 2022
Nancy Slach, R.D.H., West Branch	2012, 2015, 2018	April 30, 2021
Jillian Travis, R.D.H., Sidney	2020	April 30, 2023
Lori Elmitt, Johnston	2012, 2015, 2018	April 30, 2021
Bruce Thorsen, Clive	2017, 2020	April 30, 2023

*Licensees and members of the public, who are interested in serving on the board can complete an application online at <https://openup.iowa.gov/>

The Dental Hygiene Committee

All matters regarding the practice, discipline, education, examination, and licensure of dental hygienists will be initially directed to the Dental Hygiene Committee. The committee shall have the authority to adopt recommendations regarding the practice, discipline, education, examination, and licensure of dental hygienists and shall carry out duties as assigned by the Board.

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTED</u>
Mary Kelly-Grief, R.D.H., Chair**	2011 – 2020
Nancy Slach, R.D.H., Chair**	2012 – Present
Jillian Travis, R.D.H.	2020 – Present
Michael Davidson, D.D.S.	2018 – 2020
Gregory Ceraso, D.D.S.	2020 – Present

** Ms. Kelly served as committee chair until April 30, 2020. Thereafter, Ms. Slach served as chair.

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2020 BOARD MEETINGS

Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting (only in-person meeting in 2020)	January 24, 2020
Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting	April 3, 2020
Board Meeting	April 8, 2020
Board Meeting	April 17, 2020
Board Meeting	April 24, 2020
Board Meeting	May 1, 2020
Board Meeting	May 5, 2020
Board Meeting	May 15, 2020
Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting	June 5, 2020
Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting	August 7, 2020
Board Meeting	September 4, 2020
Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting	September 25, 2020
Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting	November 13, 2020
Board Meeting	December 9, 2020

IOWA DENTAL BOARD COMMITTEES

A special thanks to all committee members for volunteering their time and expertise to further the mission of the Iowa Dental Board.

Anesthesia Credentials Committee

Greg Ceraso, D.D.S., Chair
Jonathan DeJong, D.D.S.
Steven Clark, D.D.S.
John Frank, D.D.S.
Karen Potaczek, D.D.S.
Gary Roth, D.D.S. (through June 2020)
Kurt Westlund, D.D.S.
Darrick Zirker, D.D.S. (appointed in June 2020)

License and Registration Committee

Monica Foley, D.D.S.
Lisa Holst, D.D.S.
Lori Elmitt

Continuing Education Advisory Committee

Lori Elmitt, Chair
Will McBride, D.D.S.
Monica Foley, D.D.S. (through June 2020)
Lisa Holst, D.D.S. (appointed in June 2020)
Stephanie Chickering, R.D.H.
Marijo Beasler, R.D.H. (through June 2020)
Jillian Travis, R.D.H. (appointed in June 2020)
Kristee Malmberg, R.D.A.
Joni Miller, R.D.A.

DENTAL BOARD BUDGET FY2020

FY2020 started July 1, 2019 and ended on June 30, 2020.

Revenue

The Board is funded by fees in accordance with Iowa Code Section 147.80 and is not appropriated funds by the state of Iowa. The Iowa Dental Board's revenue for FY2020 was \$1,304,316. Unused revenue from the previous fiscal year carries over to the next fiscal year. Fees for application and renewal have not been increased since FY2007.

The Board's anticipated revenue for FY2021 is \$1,240,295.

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Renewal	\$874,714	67.1%
Carryover from FY2019	\$183,824	14.1%
Applications	\$132,255	10.1%
Purchases	\$105,123	8.1%
IOWAccess Grant (for website)	\$8,400	0.6%
Total:	\$1,304,316	100%

Expenditures

The Iowa Dental Board's expenses for FY2020 were \$1,000,818. IT & telecommunications includes costs of the annual maintenance agreement for the Dental Board's licensing database, server storage and maintenance, technical support from the state of Iowa and outside vendors, and telephones.

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Board Payroll, Per Diem	\$758,619	75.8%
IT & Communications	\$92,772	9.2%
Rent, Building Services	\$52,645	5.3%
Fiscal Year Start-Up	\$40,000	4.0%
Attorney General Counsel	\$33,481	3.2%
Misc. Board Operations	\$13,778	1.5%
Board Consultants	\$4,950	0.50%
Travel, Mileage	\$4,573	0.50%
Total:	\$1,000,818	100%

IOWA PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

The Dental Board established the Iowa Practitioner Review Committee (IPRC) to evaluate, assist and monitor the recovery or rehabilitation of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants who self-report possible impairments.

Under Board rules, impairment means an inability to practice dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting with reasonable safety and skill as a result of alcohol or drug abuse, dependency, or addiction, or any mental or physical disorder or disability. Self-report means that the licensee has reported any possible impairment to the Board, prior to the Board receiving a complaint alleging an impairment.

Self-reports made by licensees are reviewed by the Iowa Practitioner Review Committee (IPRC) to determine eligibility for participation in the program. The IPRC then designs an individualized recovery or rehabilitation program to meet the specific needs of the licensee; providing ongoing monitoring and guidance. Participants sign contracts agreeing to adhere to strict guidelines, which often includes weekly urine analysis testing, a practice monitor and mandated treatment.

The goal of the program is to support practitioners who seek the program's assistance and to protect the public by carefully monitoring practitioners with diagnosed impairments that may affect their ability to practice. Participants who violate their contract can be reported to the Board for public action. The committee and program are defined in Iowa Administrative Code 650, Chapter 35.

The committee held four meetings in 2020 and had meetings with nine program participants. All in-state participants appear before the committee annually. The program is funded through licensure fees. Licensees pay a quarterly monitoring fee of \$100 and are responsible for all costs associated with drug screening, therapy and treatment.

Staff members of the Board manage the program. The members of the committee, in addition to legal counsel from the Attorney General's office, provide guidance on case issues. Members of the IPRC in 2020:

- Gordon Anderson, Alcohol and Drug Counselor
- Fred Marsh, M.D.
- James Gallagher, M.D.
- Randy Swarts, D.D.S.
- Jill Stuecker, Board Executive Director

State law mandates that information in the possession of the IPRC be kept confidential. Accordingly, participation in the program is not a matter of public record. The committee meets quarterly.

A total of 59 practitioners have participated in the program since its inception.
In 2020, there were 14 practitioners under contract with the program.

Website: <https://dentalboard.iowa.gov/practitioners/iowa-practitioner-program>

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The Iowa Dental Board's administrative rules are located in Iowa Administrative Code 650. Before the Board can adopt new rules or amend existing rules, the intended action item must be noticed publicly, published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and made available for public comment. The proposed changes are also subject to review by the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC). In addition, the public can petition the Board to adopt, amend or repeal an administrative rule.

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the operations of state government. As a result, most rulemaking was halted for approximately four months. During this time, rulemaking was primarily limited to amendments related to the pandemic.

CHAPTER 25, *"Continuing Education"*: The amendments updated the requirements for mandatory reporter training in accordance with 2019 Iowa Acts, HF 288. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 8/7/2019 (ARC 4661C); Adopted: 11/15/2019 (ARC 4846C); Effective: 2/5/2020.

CHAPTER 20, *"Dental Assistants"*: The amendments eliminated the requirements for remedial education for dental assistants prior to retesting following a second or subsequent failure. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 9/27/2019 (ARC 4741C); Adopted: 1/24/2020 (ARC 4948C); Effective: 4/1/2020.

CHAPTER 25, *"Continuing Education"*: The amendments allowed continuing education credit for the purposes of renewal for the volunteering of dental services. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 8/7/2020 (ARC 5193C); Adopted: 11/13/2020 (ARC 4318C); Effective: 1/20/2021.

CHAPTER 11, *"Licensure to Practice Dentistry or Dental Hygiene"* and CHAPTER 12, *"Dental and Dental Hygiene Examinations"*: The amendments updated the minimum scoring requirements for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist. Additionally, it allowed for permanent acceptance of the CRDTS and CDCA non-patient, manikin-based examinations for dentists. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 9/25/2020 (ARC 5264C); Adopted: 12/9/2020 (ARC 5366C); Effective: 2/3/2021.

CHAPTER 11, *"Licensure to Practice Dentistry or Dental Hygiene"*; CHAPTER 20, *"Dental Assistants"*; CHAPTER 30, *"Discipline"*; CHAPTER 50 (new), *"Use of Criminal Convictions in Eligibility Determinations and Initial Licensing Decisions"*; and CHAPTER 52, *"Military Service and Veteran Reciprocity"*: The proposed amendments implement the provisions of 2020 Iowa Acts, HF 2627, which related to licensure or registration in Iowa. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 11/13/2020 (ARC 5371C).

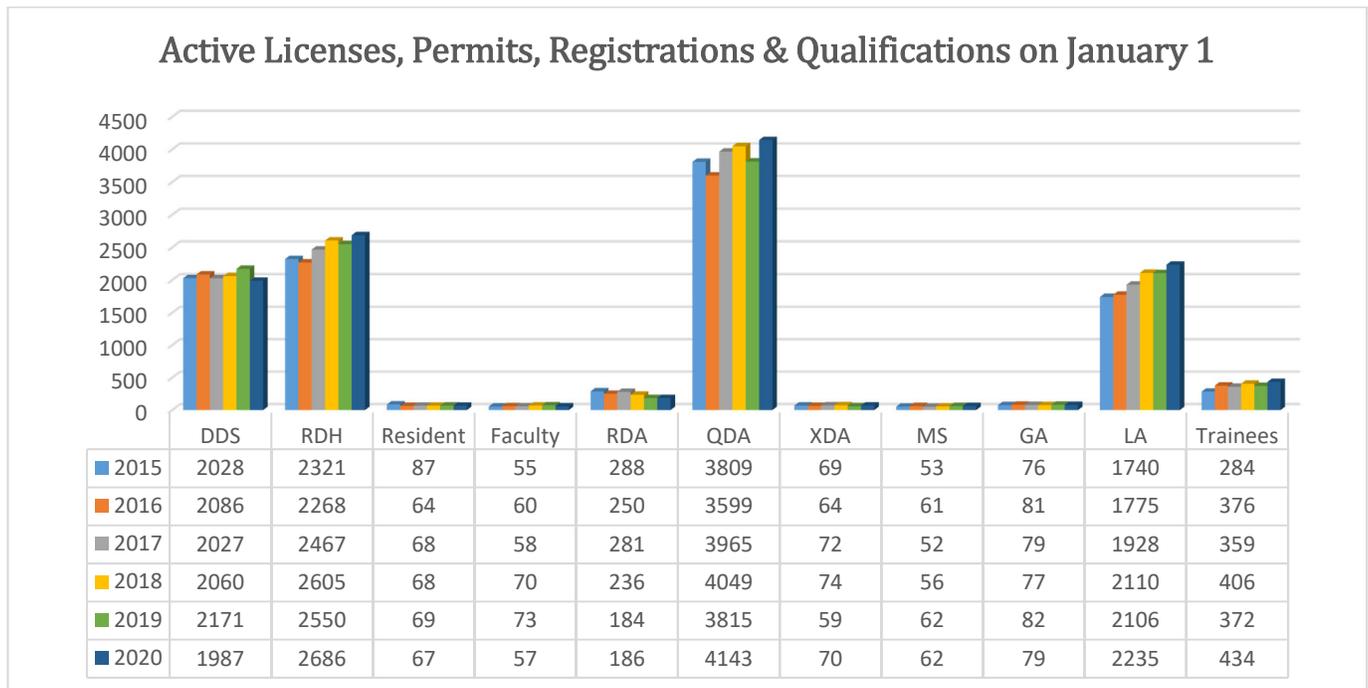
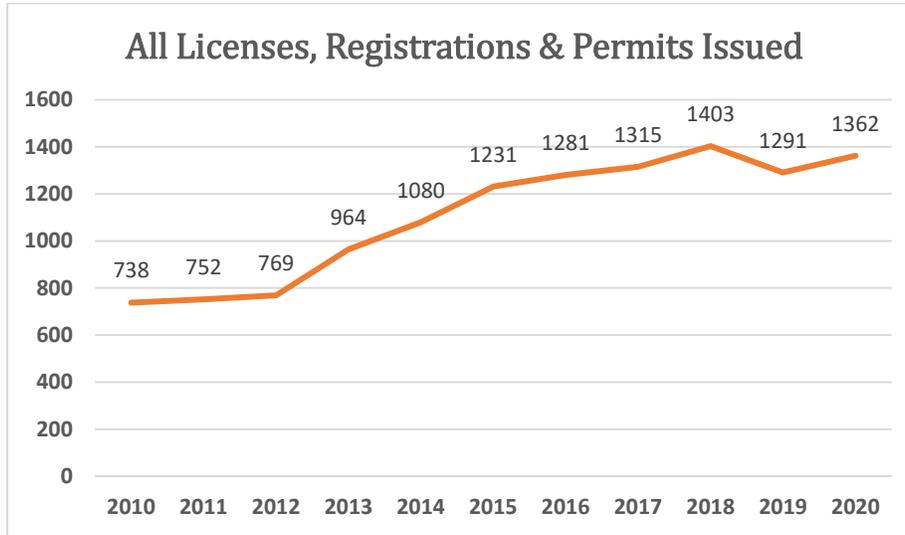
CHAPTER 11, *"Licensure to Practice Dentistry or Dental Hygiene"*: The proposed amendments would allow the permanent acceptance of the CRDTS, CDCA, and WREB non-patient, manikin-based examinations for dental hygienists. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 11/13/2020 (ARC 5382C).

CHAPTER 23, *"Expanded Functions"*: The proposed amendments implement 2020 Iowa Acts, HF 2267 and would allow expanded function dental assistants who completed training to place sealants. Notice of Intended Action Approved: 11/13/2020 (ARC 5382C).

LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

Please note: The Iowa Dental Board transitioned to a new licensure database (AMANDA) on June 3, 2013. This affects some of the data, which are available in this report.

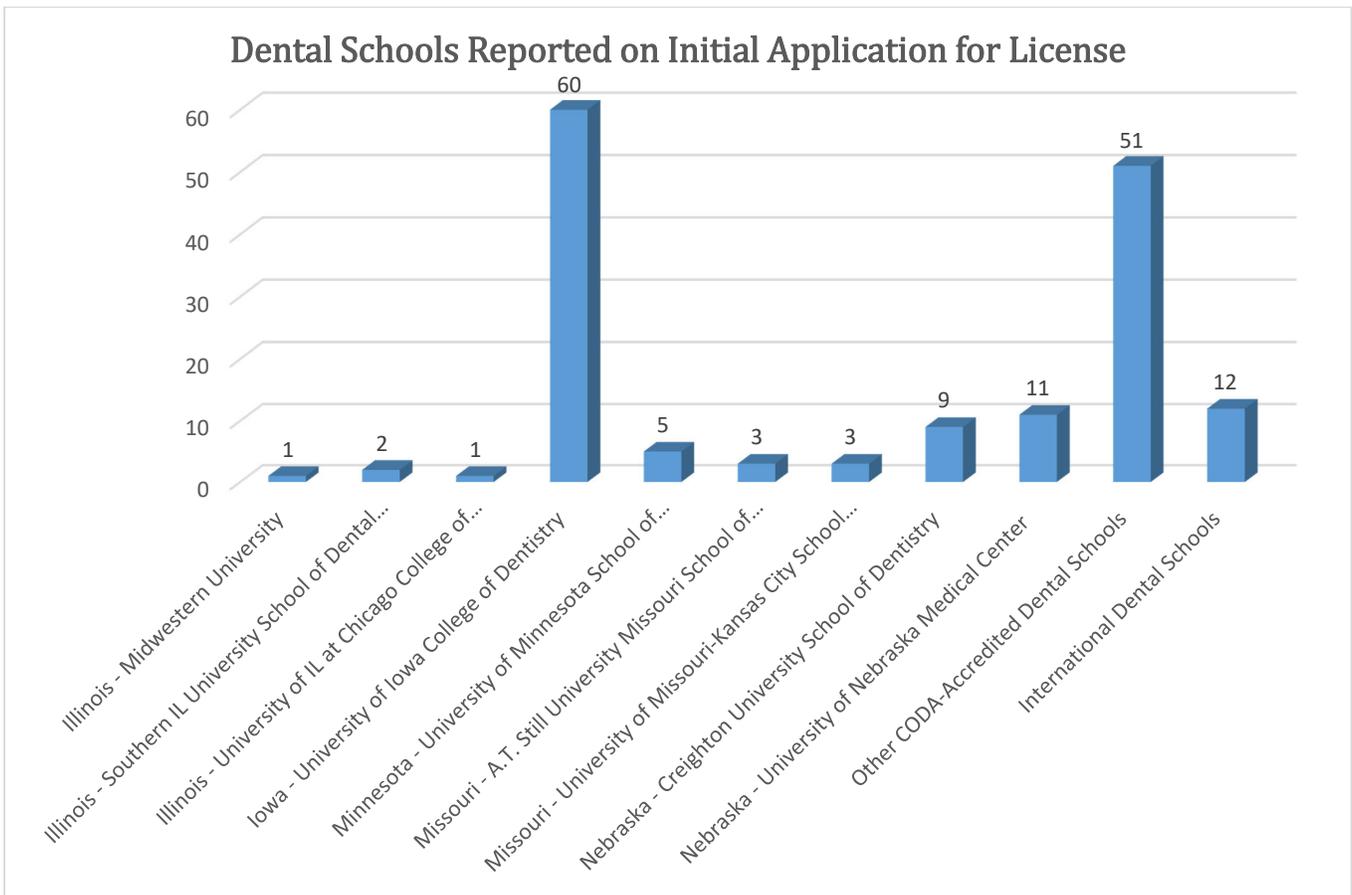
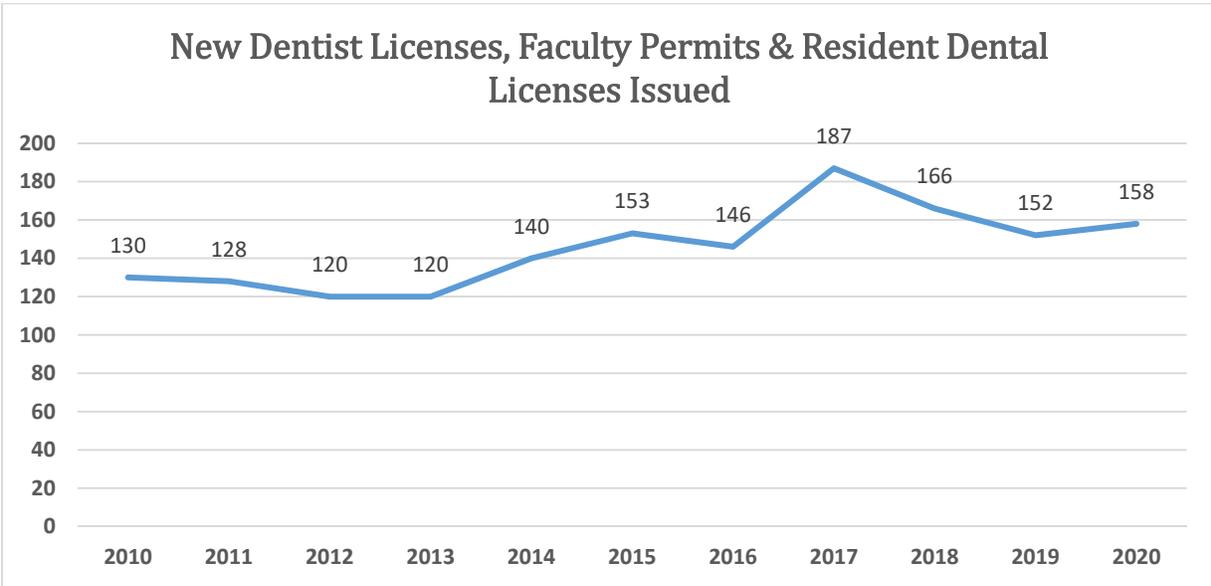
The following graphs include licenses, registrations, qualifications and permits issued for dentist, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and dental assistant trainees. Since 2010, there has been an 85% increase in the total number of licenses, registrations, permits and qualifications issued by the Iowa Dental Board.



RDA = Registered Dental Assistant; QDA = Registered Dental Assistant with Qualification in Dental Radiography; XDA = Not-Registered with Qualification in Dental Radiography (licensed nurses).

LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

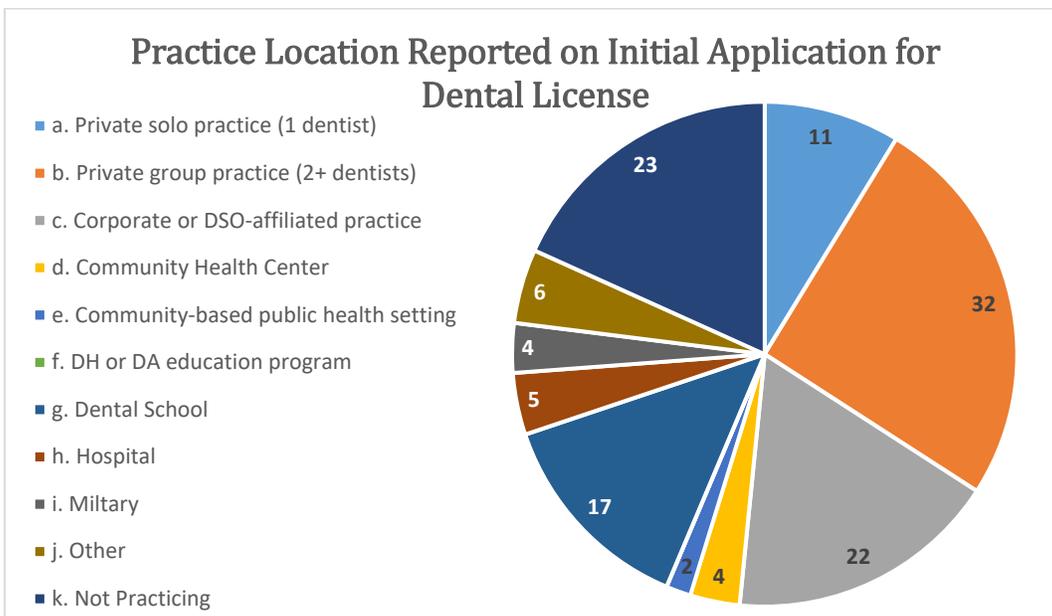
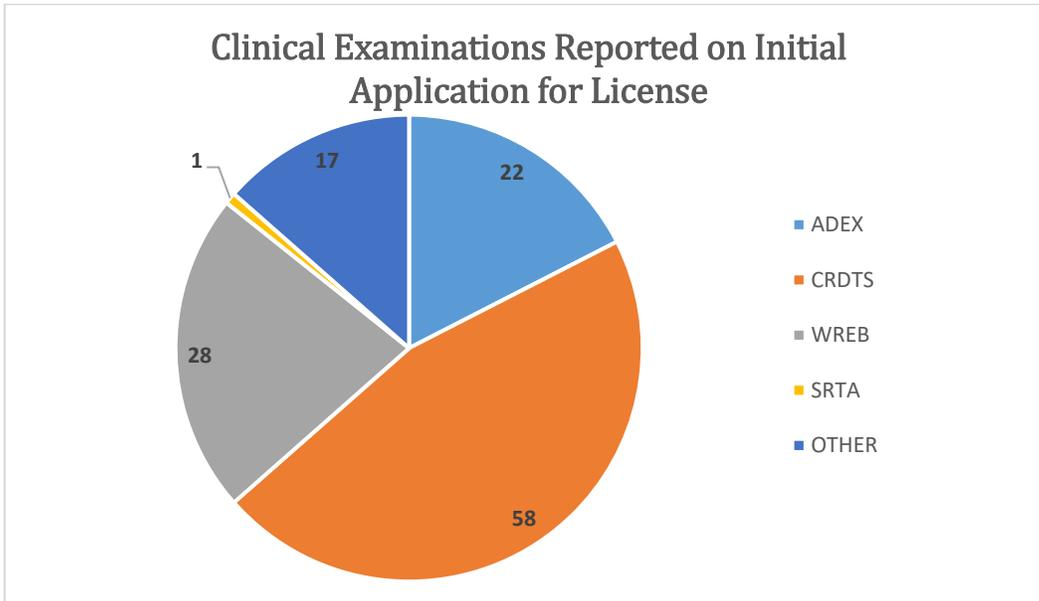
Initial Licensure: Dentists



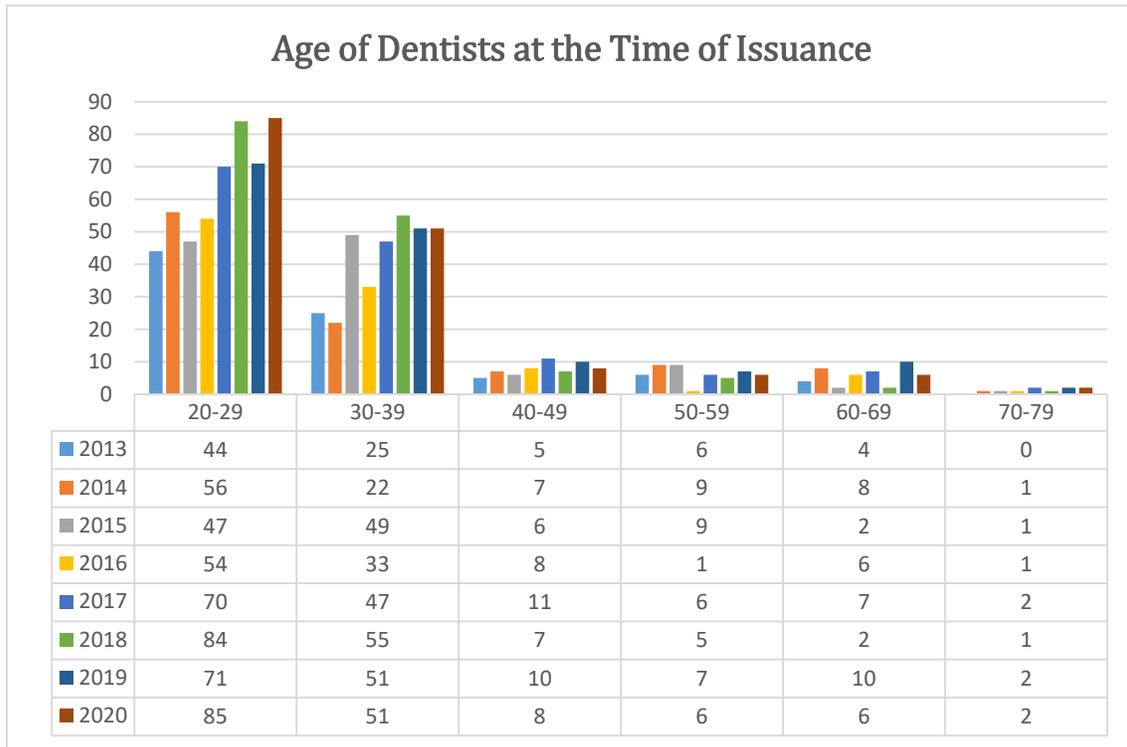
LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of educational programs in the spring of 2020. As a result, testing agencies began exploring non-patient testing options for licensure. The regional testing agencies developed manikin-based examinations, which were offered to some of the 2020 graduates. As a result of the manikin-based testing options, the Board received and approved rule waivers to allow the acceptance of the manikin-based examinations for the purposes of licensure.

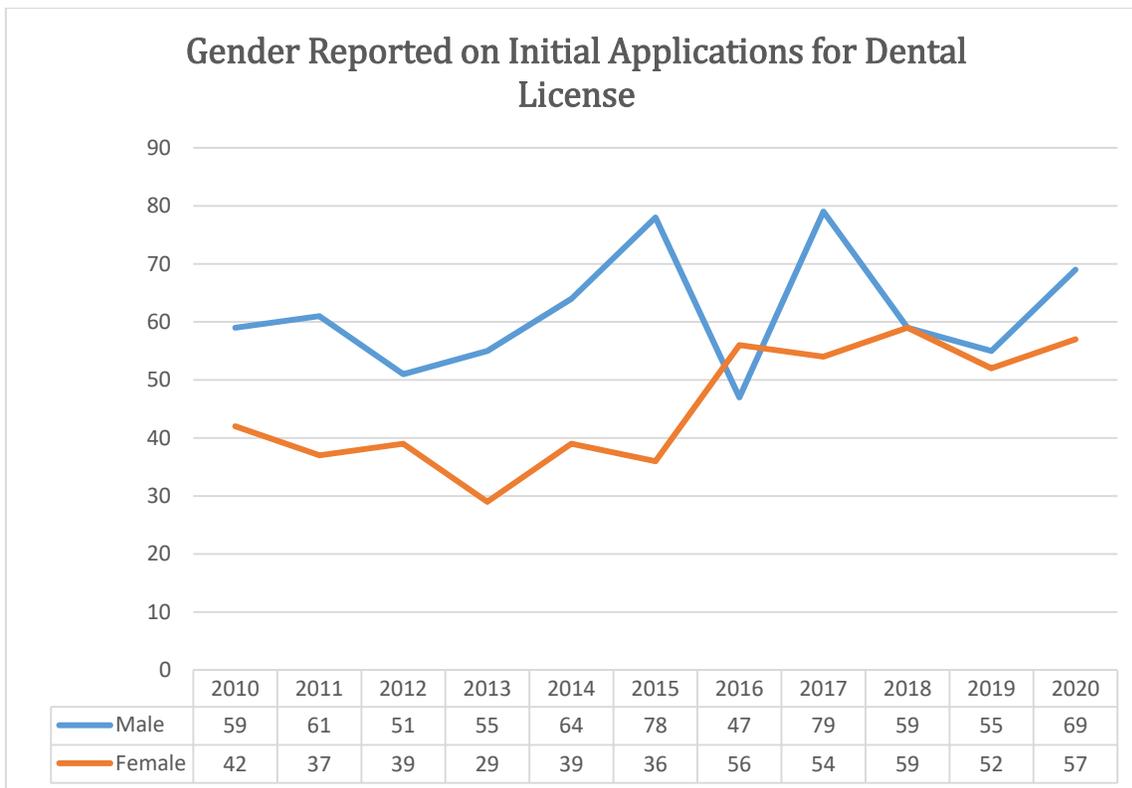
The following data represents the examinations reported in the applications for licensure. **Note:** The following data do not reflect whether a patient-based or manikin-based examination was completed.



LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

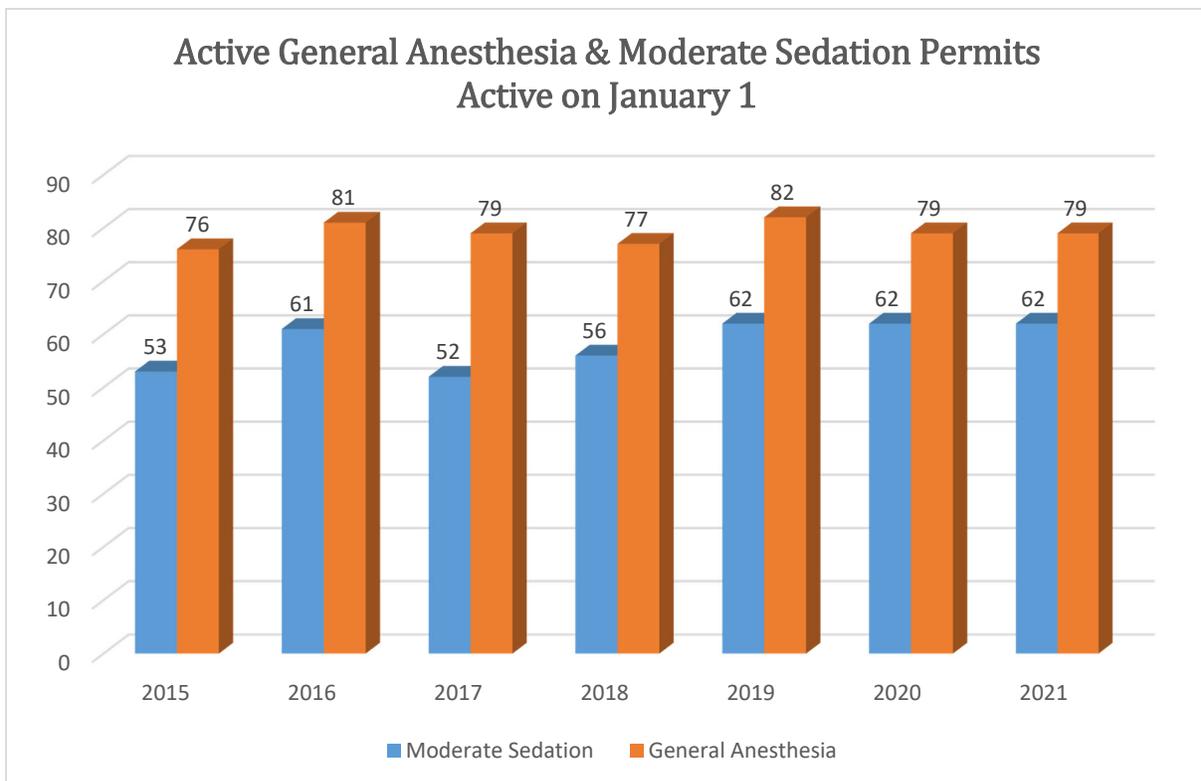
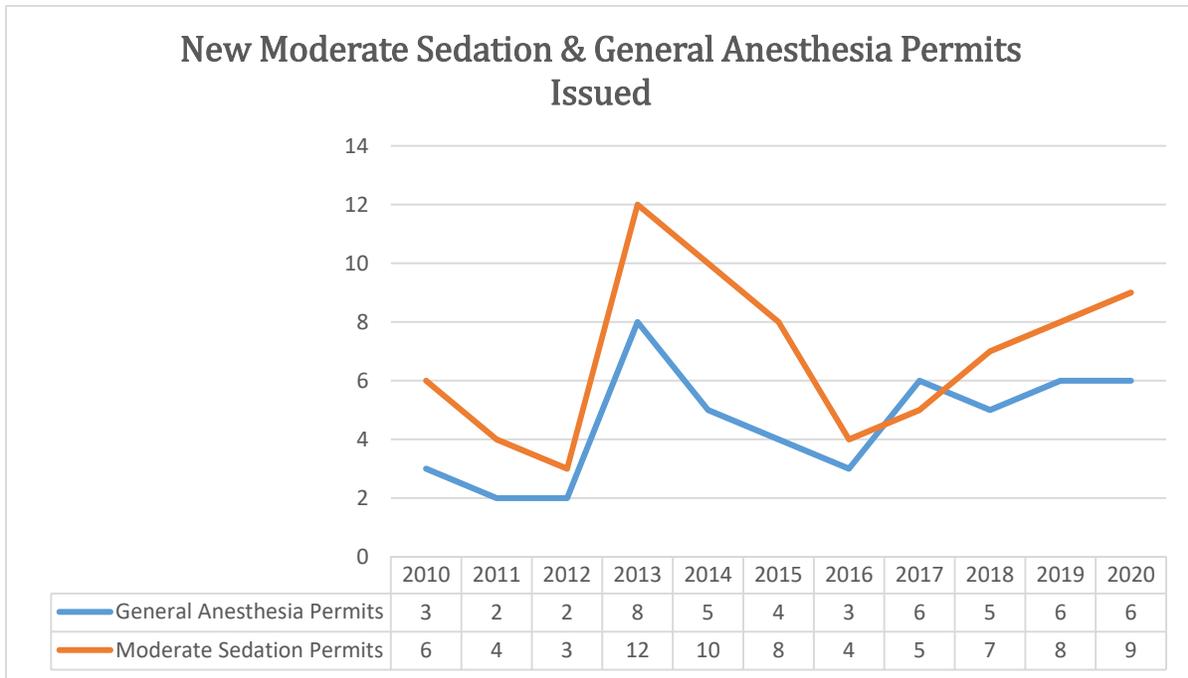


*This information also includes data about the age at the time of reinstatement and reactivation of an Iowa license, in addition to applications for initial license.



LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

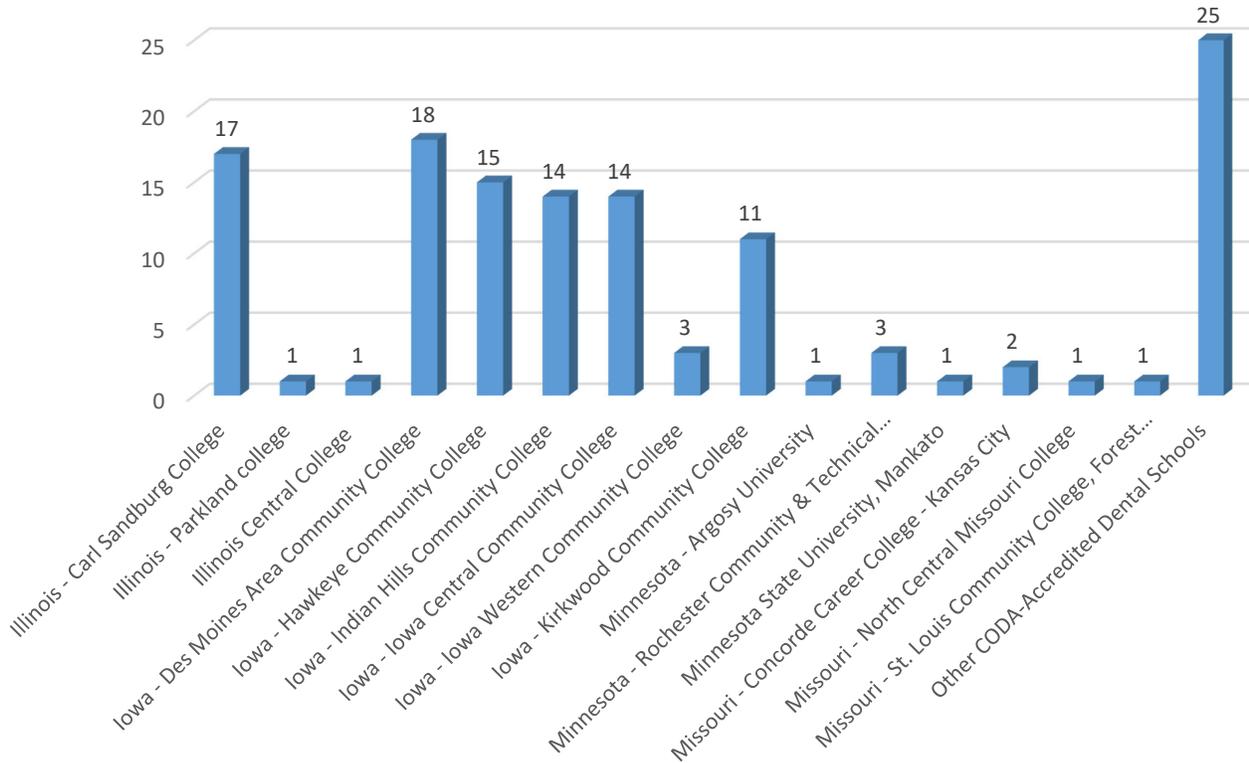
Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 650 – Chapter 29, dentists who wish to administer moderate sedation, deep sedation or general anesthesia in Iowa, must obtain a sedation permit.



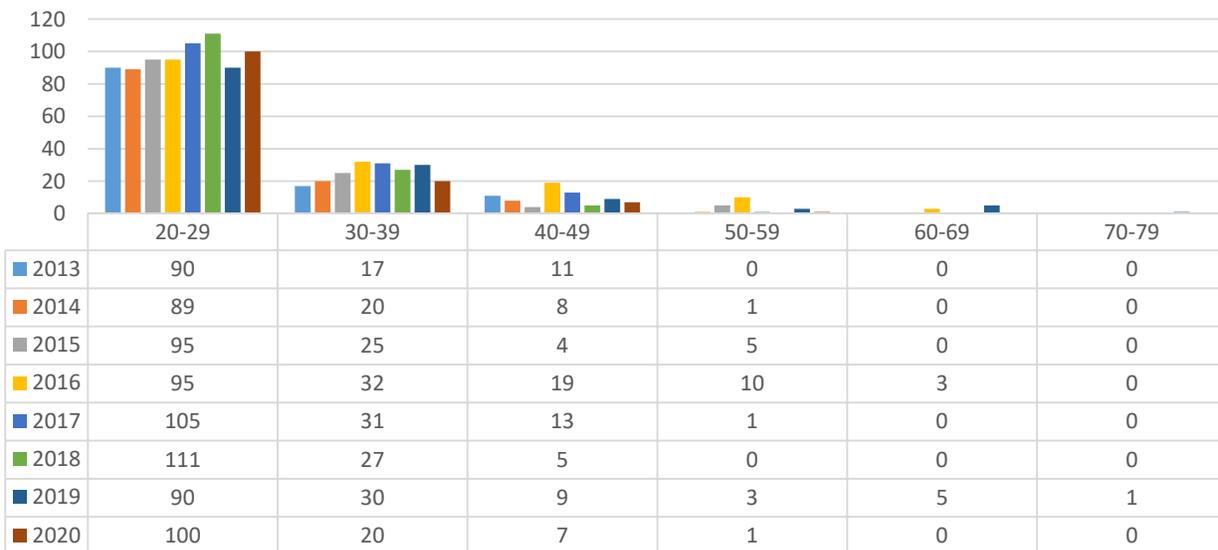
LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

Initial Licensure: Dental Hygienists

Dental Hygiene School Reported on Initial Application for License



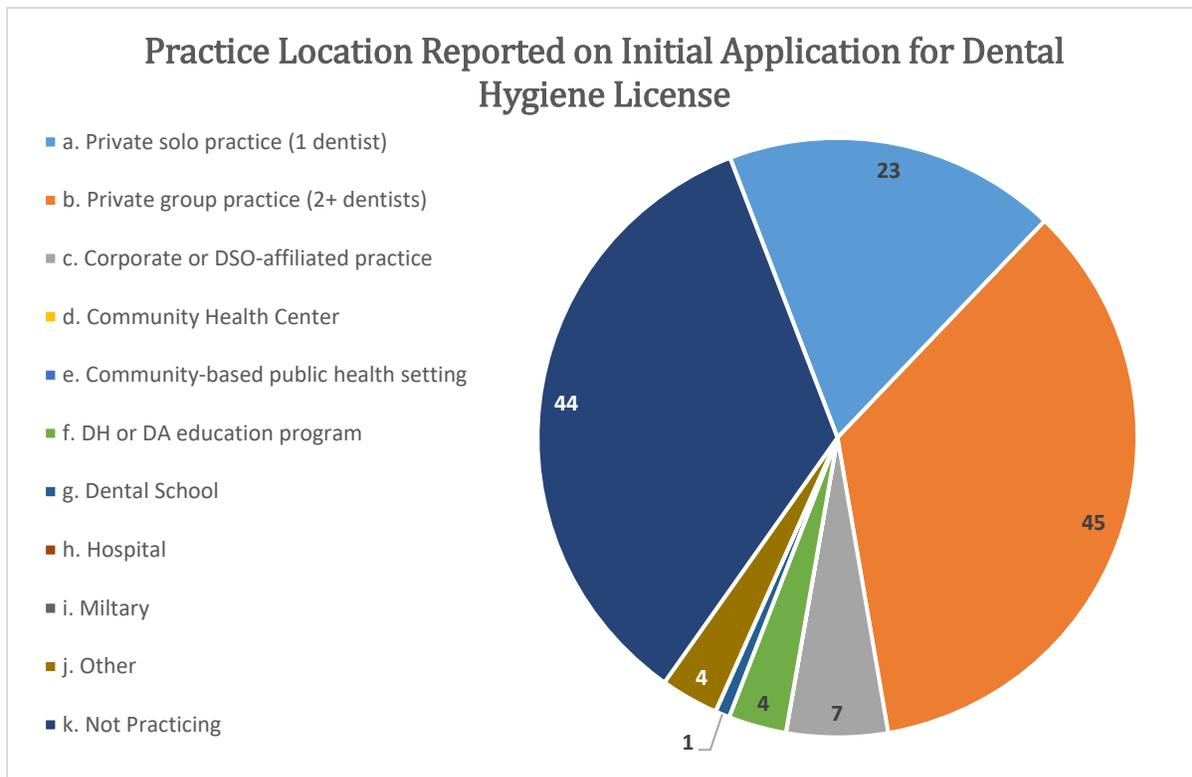
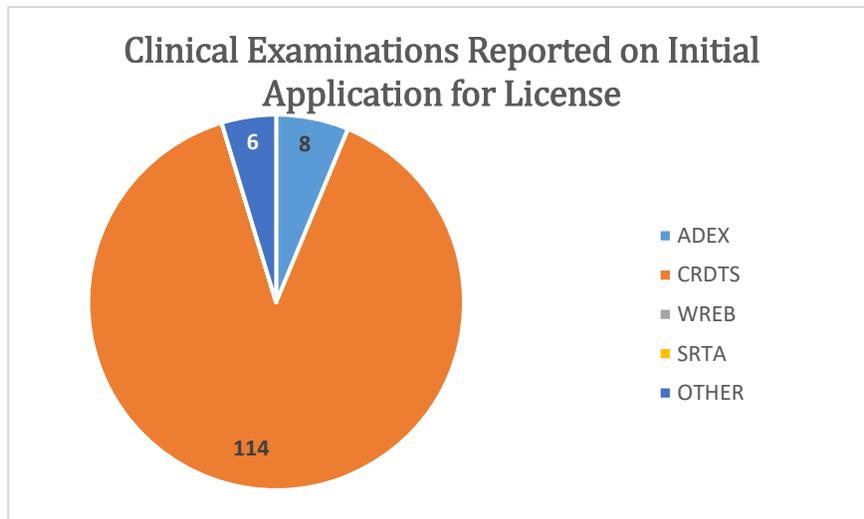
Age of Dental Hygienists at the Time of Issuance



LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected dental hygiene students. The regional testing agencies developed manikin-based examinations, which were offered to some of the 2020 dental hygiene graduates. As a result of the manikin-based testing options, the Board approved rule waivers to allow the acceptance of the manikin-based examinations for the purposes of licensure.

The following data represent the examinations reported in applications for license. **Note:** It does not reflect whether a patient-based or manikin-based examination was completed.



LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

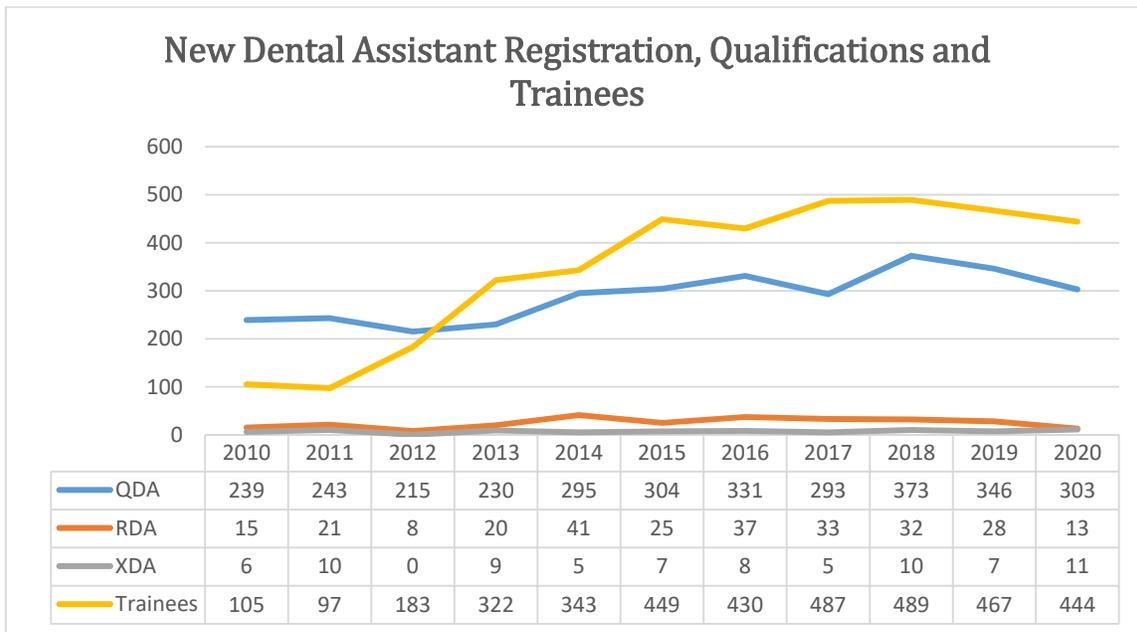
Initial Registration: Dental Assistants

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 650 – Chapter 20, dental assistants may practice in Iowa upon being issued registration as a dental assistant or being issued dental assistant trainee status.

Iowa has several classifications for dental assistants:

- **Dental assistant trainees** are dental assistants who work under personal supervision while they are being trained as dental assistants. Personal supervision requires that another licensee or registrant be in the room with them at all times. A dental assistant trainee must complete a minimum of six months of practice to be eligible for registration.
- **Registered dental assistants (RDA)** may practice as dental assistants but are prohibited from taking dental radiographs.
- **Registered/qualified dental assistants (QDA)** may practice as dental assistants and may also take dental radiographs.
- **Non-registered qualified assistants (XDA)** are Iowa-licensed nurses who are allowed to take dental radiographs.

Prior to becoming registered as a dental assistant, applicants must meet education and training requirements and successfully complete the required examinations. Applicants are tested in the areas of infection control/hazardous materials, jurisprudence and dental radiography.

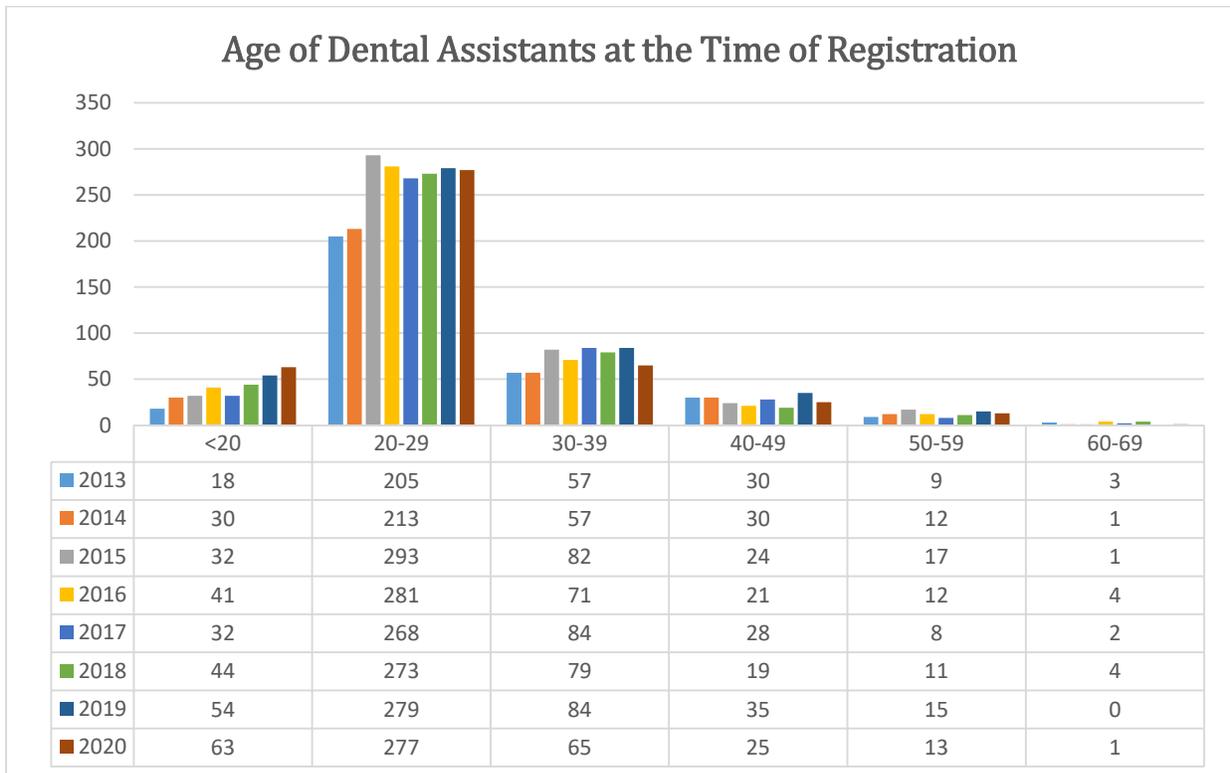
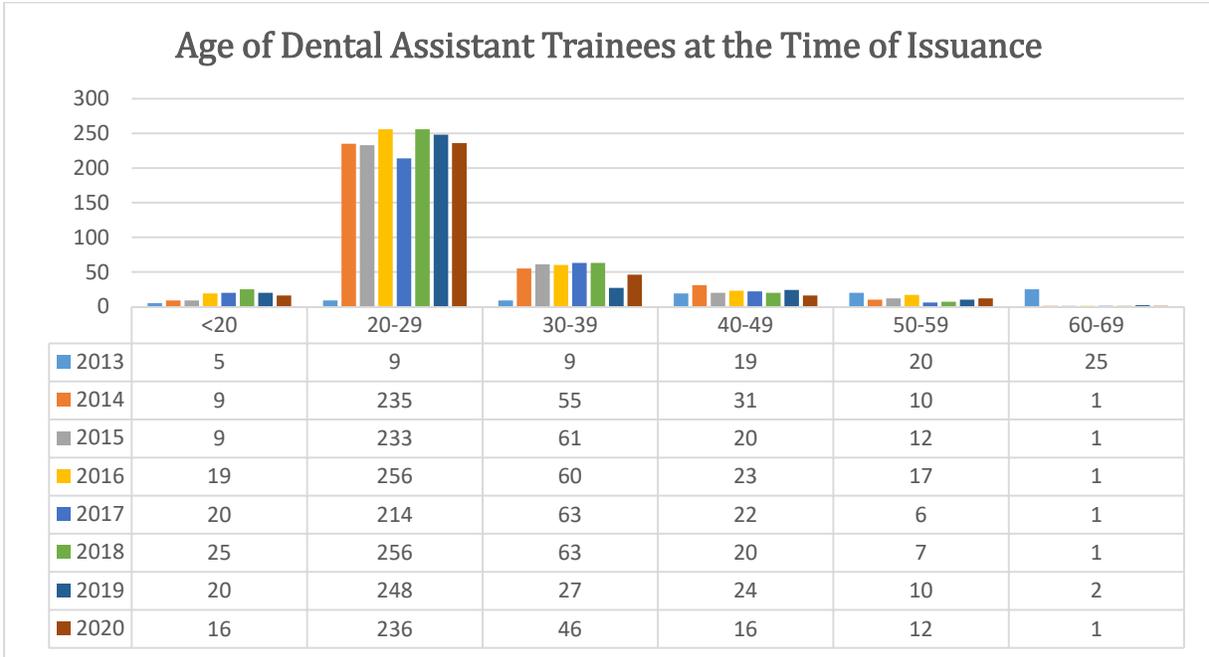


In some cases, dental assistant trainees apply for a restart of the dental assistant trainee status to have additional time to complete the requirements for registration. Restarts were issued as follows:

Dental Assistant Trainee Restarts							
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
18	31	41	50	65	59	66	88

LICENSURE & REGISTRATION DATA

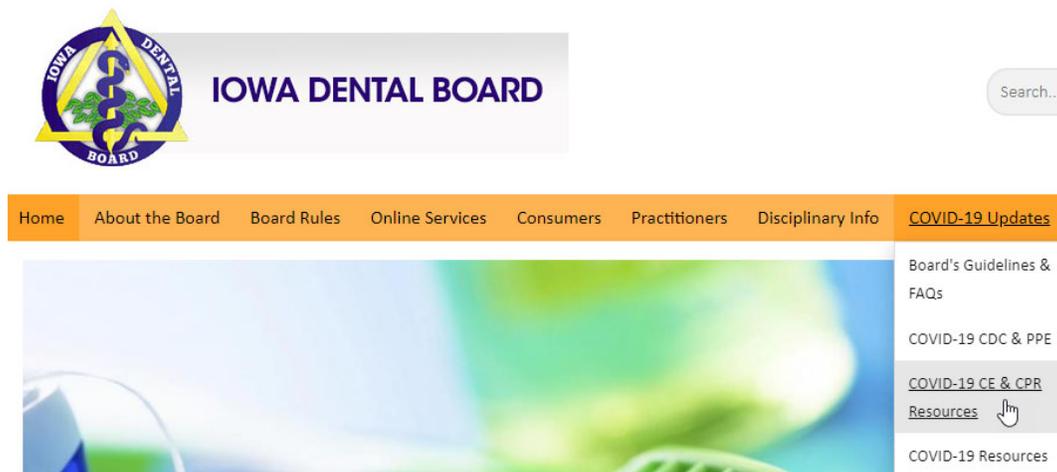
The following data show the age of the applicants at the time of issuance. Age at the time of registration also includes applications for reinstatement or reactivation.



RENEWAL & THE PANDEMIC

Governor Reynolds, in the Proclamation of Emergency Disaster dated March 22, 2020, provided regulatory relief to professions that require a license to practice, including dentistry. The Board implemented the provisions of the proclamation by waiving the self-study limits for continuing education for the 2020 and 2021 renewals. Licensees and registrants were also allowed to complete CPR recertification courses online without the requirement for the hands-on component if the CPR certification expired in 2020. Additionally, the Board clarified the definition of self-study continuing education: live webinars, wherein attendees can participate or ask questions, are not considered to be self-study hours for the purposes of renewal.

Many continuing education providers pivoted and provided courses using online platforms to make courses more widely available. Board staff updated the website to include a page that provided online resources for continuing education courses that would meet the requirements for renewal. The resources were intended to be a starting point for licensees and registrants, who needed assistance locating courses. Board staff continues to update the website as additional information becomes available.



As of December 31, 2020, almost 90% of dentists completed the renewal of their Iowa licenses. Licensees who have additional questions about renewal may forward those questions to IDB@iowa.gov.

BOARD STAFF

The Iowa Dental Board is staffed by dedicated personnel who take their jobs, and the Board's mission, seriously. Every day these experienced employees perform licensure and regulatory enforcement duties that enable the Board to protect the dental health of Iowans.

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

400 SW Eighth Street, Suite D
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686

HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

PHONE: 515-281-5157

FAX: 515-281-7969

E-MAIL: idb@iowa.gov

WEB: <https://dentalboard.iowa.gov/>

IOWA DENTAL BOARD STAFF

Jill Stuecker*

Executive Director

*Through March 2021

Tiffany Allison**

Associate Director

**Started November 2020

Christel Braness

Program Planner

David Schultz

Investigator

Phil McCollum

IT Specialist

Iowa Attorney General's Office

Laura Steffensmeier, J.D.

Assistant Attorney General

Dee Ann Argo

Administrative Assistant

Angela Davidson

Administrative Assistant

Amy Jackson

Secretary

Stephanie Thomson Bowers

Clerk Specialist

