



Department of
Safety and Professional Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Dan Hereth, Secretary

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Wisconsin DSPS Publishes 2025 Dental Workforce Report

Collaborative project aims to identify dental workforce trends and needs

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) has published the results of a workforce survey of Wisconsin dentists and hygienists, part of a collaboration with the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD).

The [Dental Workforce Report 2025](#) reveals insights from data gathered by DSPS during the previous dental license renewal in 2023 and then analyzed by MUSOD faculty. The report aims to help policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and public health advocates better understand the current make-up of the dental workforce in Wisconsin and provide insights into future trends/needs.

“Access to healthcare and challenges within our healthcare workforce are among the most pressing concerns for government leaders and policymakers. Determining where care is available—and where it isn’t — and then predicting how that landscape is going to change in the near future are critical to our understanding and decision making around these issues,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “Our data will be available to those working to ensure we have the healthcare workforce we need to provide the oral healthcare we need, when and where we need it.”

More than 5,500 Wisconsin dentists and hygienists completed the supplemental workforce survey in 2023. Dental faculty at Marquette University spent months analyzing the data and identified some positive trends, including a healthy pipeline of early-career dental professionals in areas of high demand, like southeastern Wisconsin.

The demographic data also pointed to potential concerns, like a general lack of diversity among licensed dentists with even wider gaps in rural areas. The findings also revealed a large imbalance between the number of men and women in solo practice.

“In addition to outstanding patient care, MUSOD also serves a vital role in its partnership with DSPS in collecting data from dentists statewide to better understand the workforce,” said Dean of the [Marquette University School of Dentistry](#), Elsbeth Kalendarian, DDS, MPH, PhD. “This information is necessary so policymakers, educators, employers and other stakeholders can make informed decisions that ensure that all people in Wisconsin have access to the oral health care that they need and deserve.”

Over the past year, DSPS has been strategically implementing workforce surveys at the point of license renewal for several professions, an effort by the department to support the health and wellbeing of people across the state by providing information to those who shape the future of licensed professional care.

“Our agency is uniquely positioned to do this work because we have access to 100% of Wisconsin’s licensed workforce,” Sec. Hereth explained, noting that the department has adopted the use of the [Cross Profession Minimum Data Set \(CPMDS\)](#), a standardized suite of survey tools, to expand data collection to new professions.

“This commitment to standardized data collection ensures that policymakers and stakeholders have access to consistent, actionable information across professions. The CPMDS empowers states to better understand workforce trends, identify gaps, and support strategic decision-making to improve public health outcomes. We commend Wisconsin for its leadership in advancing data-driven regulation,” said David Relling, board president of the [Healthcare Regulatory Research Institute](#).

DSPS adoption of the CPMDS to conduct workforce surveys is part of the department’s broader [Workforce Ready Wisconsin](#) initiative, using novel collaborations and data to speed the transition from classroom to jobsite and enhance Governor Tony Evers’ success in addressing our state’s workforce challenges.

Dentists and hygienists will have the opportunity to provide supplemental workforce data again during their 2025 renewal, which opens this week and closes on September 30.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.