

Dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists

SNAPSHOT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023



5,314 registered dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists in Australia¹

20.6% of the dental profession

0.6% of regulated health practitioner workforce

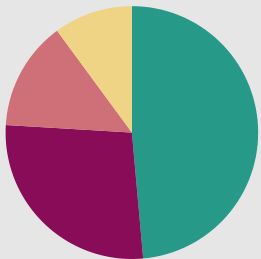
20.1 per 100,000 head of population²

Registration types



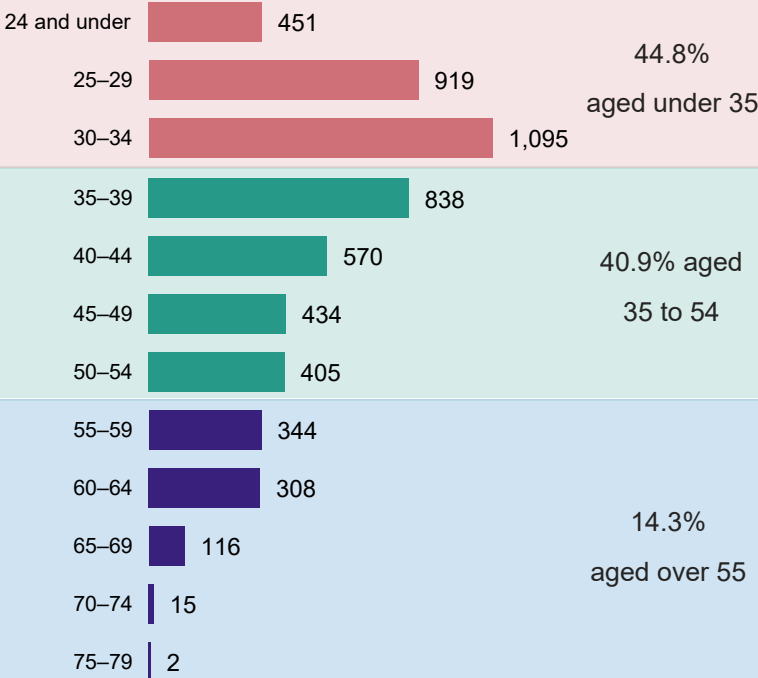
96.7% General registration
3.3% Non-practising registration

Divisions



54.0% Oral health therapist
36.0% Dental hygienist
20.8% Dental therapist
10.8% Multiple oral health divisions

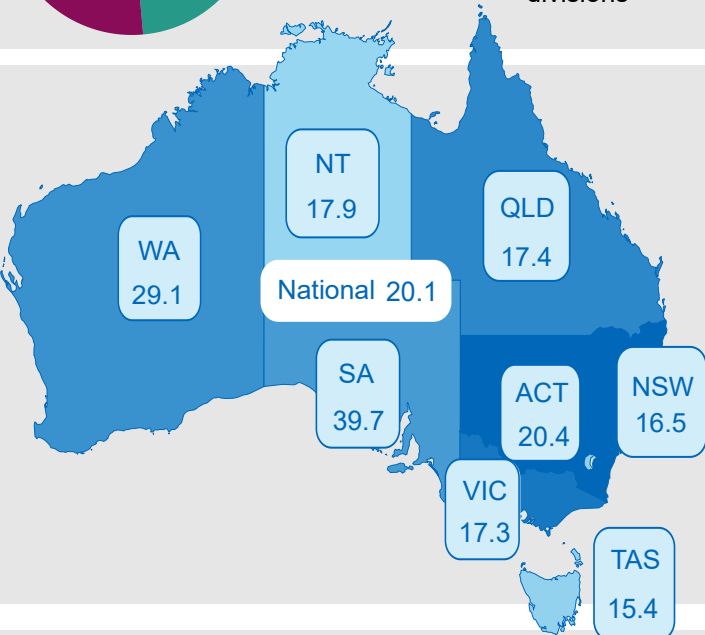
Age range at 2022/23



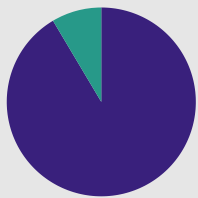
Average age

43.5 years

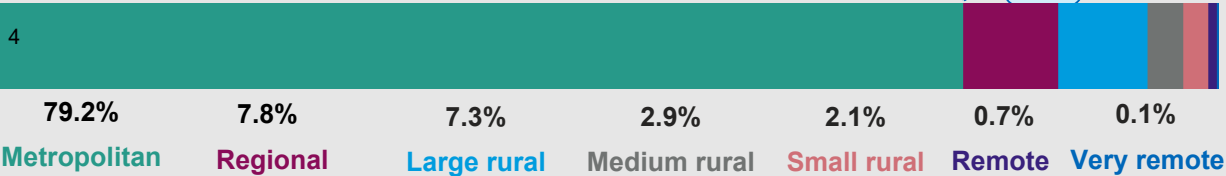
Practitioners per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants³



Gender



91.3% Female
8.7% Male



1. Excludes non-practising registrants, unless otherwise stated.

2. Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics population data as at March 2023.

3. See above.

4. Remoteness data excludes practitioners who did not provide a valid postcode for principal place of practice (PPP).

Dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists

FIVE-YEAR TREND FROM 2018/19 TO 2022/23

Registered dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists⁵

4,736	5,497	▲
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce		
0.6%	0.6%	●
Practitioners per 100,000 head of population ⁶		
18.4	20.8	▲
Age		
Percentage of practitioners under the age of 35		
44.3%	44.8%	●
Percentage of practitioners aged 35 to 54		
40%	40.9%	●
Percentage of practitioners aged 55 and over		
15.7%	14.3%	▼
Gender		
Percentage of female practitioners		
92.5%	91.3%	▼
Percentage of male practitioners		
7.7%	8.7%	▲

Five-year trend from 2018/19 to 2022/23

Table key

2018/19

2022/23

Trend down



Trend stable



Trend up



14.5% increase in registered dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists

Changes to registration categories

General registration		
97.5%	96.7%	●
Non-practising registration		
2.5%	3.3%	●

5. Includes non-practising practitioners.

6. See above.

Dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists

FIVE-YEAR TREND FROM 2018/19 TO 2022/23

Changes to workforce across states and territories⁷

95	99	+4.2 %	▲
NSW			
1,186	1,421	+19.8 %	▲
NT			
46	47	+2.2 %	▲
QLD			
886	980	+10.6 %	▲
SA			
652	755	+15.8 %	▲
TAS			
87	89	+2.3 %	▲
VIC			
966	1,202	+24.4 %	▲
WA			
776	854	+10.1 %	▲

Changes to workforce across remoteness areas⁸

Major cities			
3,638	4,248	+16.8 %	▲
Inner regional			
363	420	+15.7 %	▲
Large rural			
319	391	+22.6 %	▲
Medium rural			
139	153	+10.1 %	▲
Small rural			
103	111	+7.8 %	▲
Remote			
34	35	+2.9 %	▲
Very remote			
10	7	-30.0 %	▼

7. Excludes practitioners who do not have a PPP in Australia recorded on the public register. These practitioners usually reside overseas or have not provided a valid PPP.

8. See above.

Dental hygienists

SNAPSHOT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

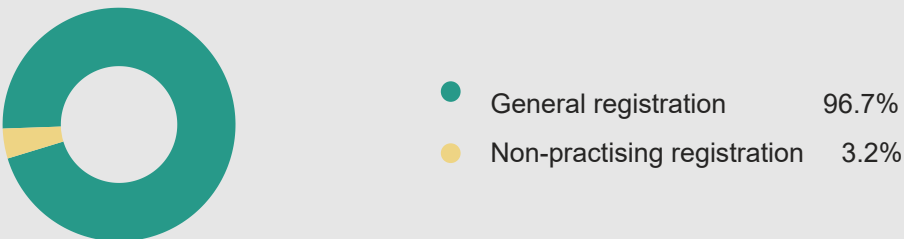


1,898 registered dental hygienists in Australia⁸

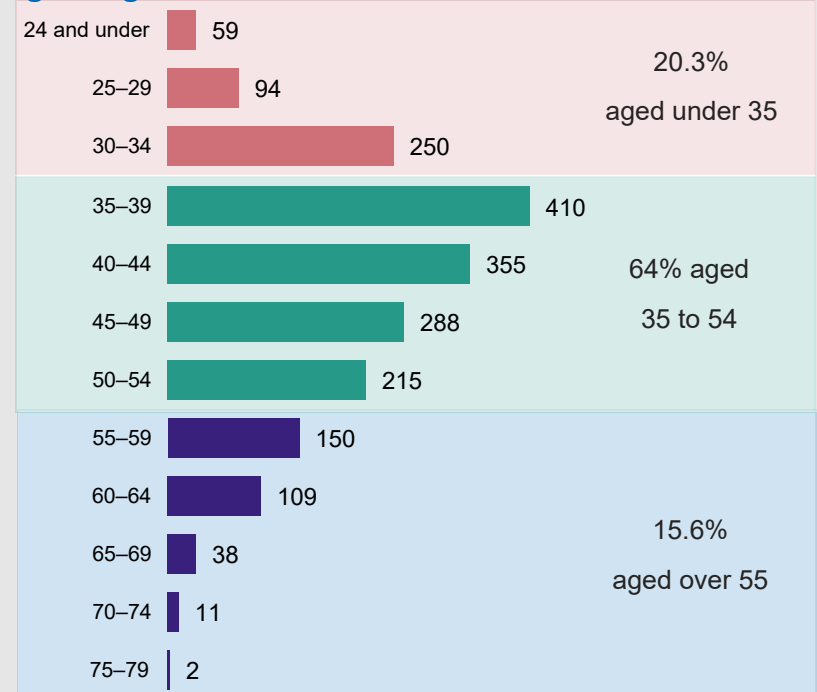
0.2% of regulated health practitioner workforce

7.2 dental hygienists per 100,000 head of population⁹

Registration types



Age range at 2022/23



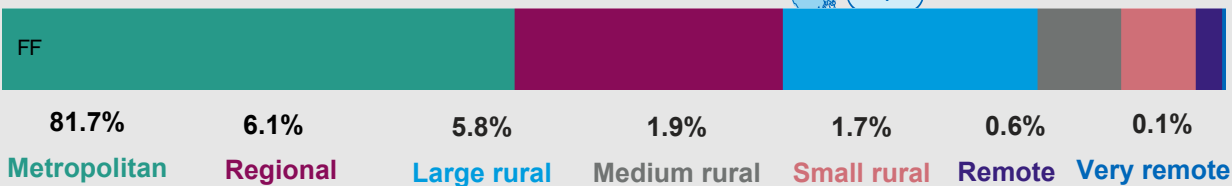
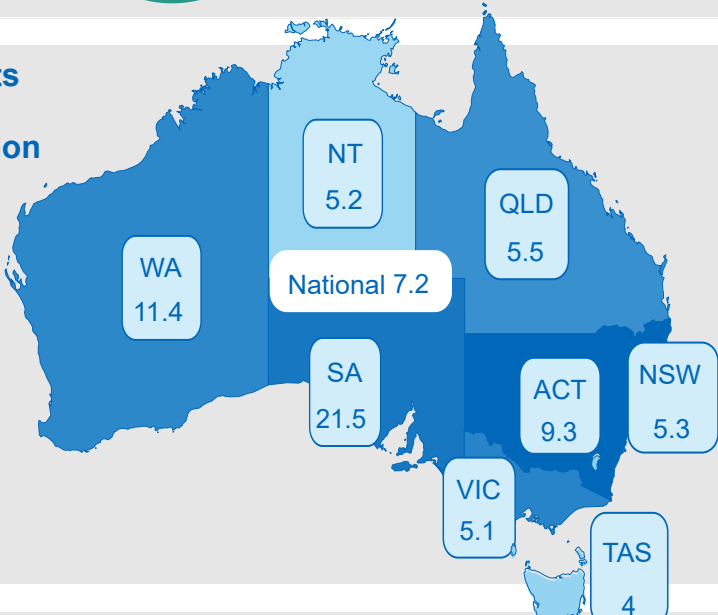
Average age

43.5 years

Gender



Dental hygienists per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants⁹



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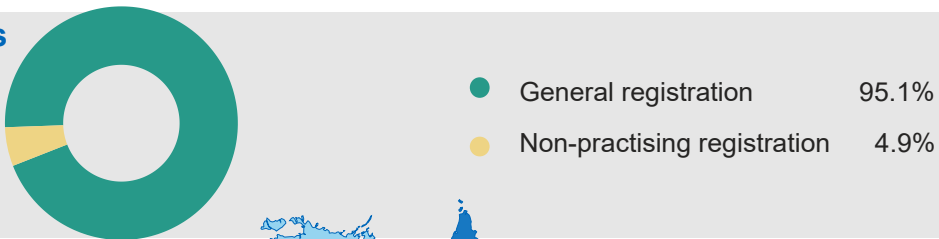
Dental therapists

SNAPSHOT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

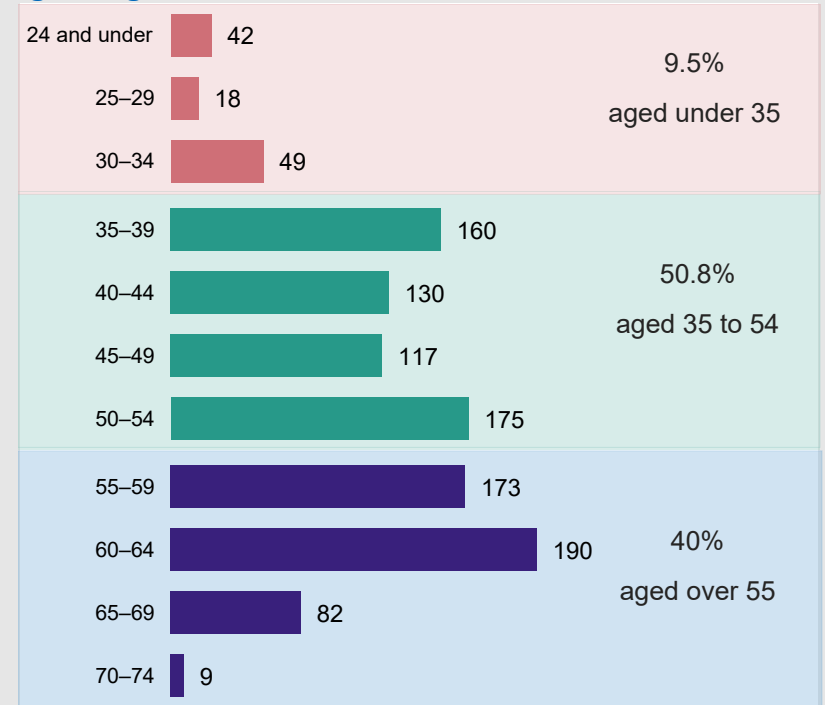


1,089 registered dental therapists in Australia¹²
0.2% of regulated health practitioner workforce
4.1 dental therapists per 100,000 head of population¹³

Registration types



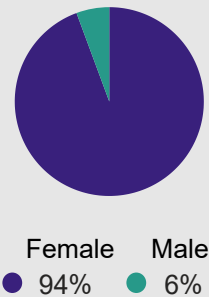
Age range at 2022/23



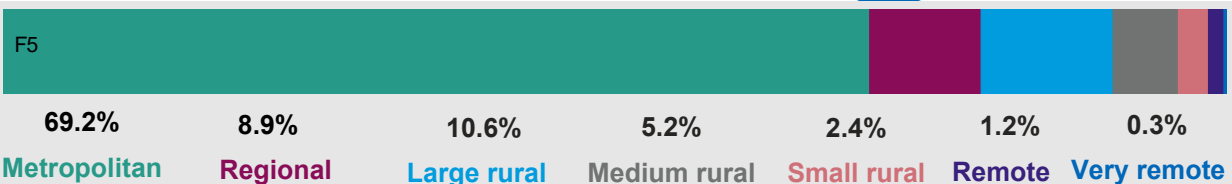
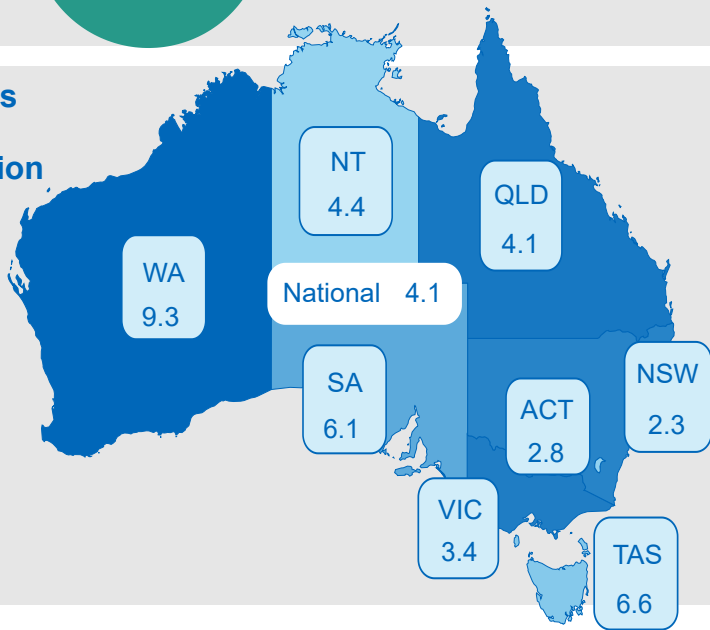
Average age

43.5 years

Gender



Dental therapists per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants¹⁴



12. Excludes non-practising registrants, unless otherwise stated.
13. Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics population data as at March 2023.
14. See above.
15. Remoteness data excludes practitioners who did not provide a valid postcode for principal place of practice (PPP).

Oral health therapists

SNAPSHOT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

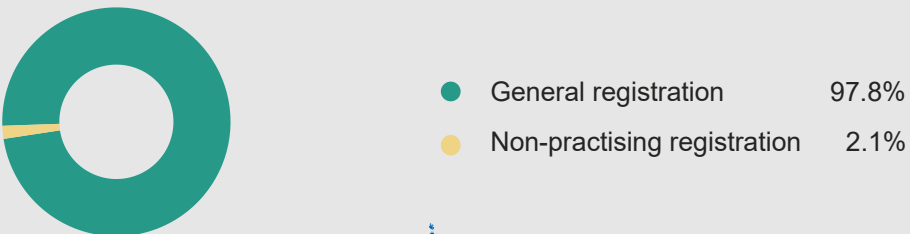


2,905 registered oral health therapists in Australia¹⁶

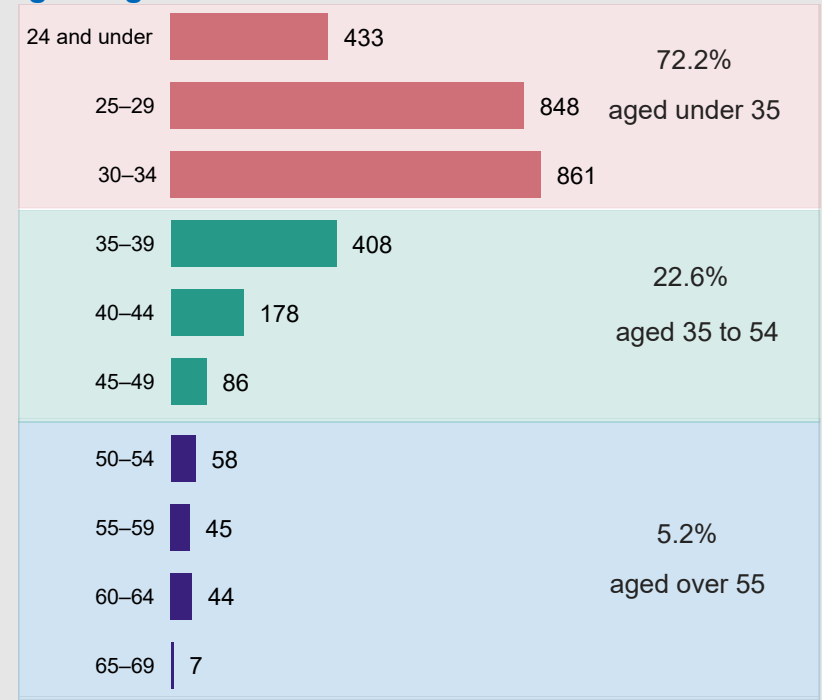
0.3% of regulated health practitioner workforce

11 oral health therapists per 100,000 head of population¹⁷

Registration types



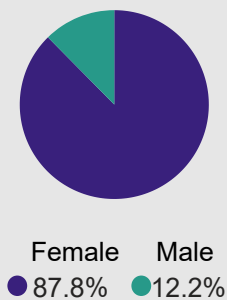
Age range at 2022/23



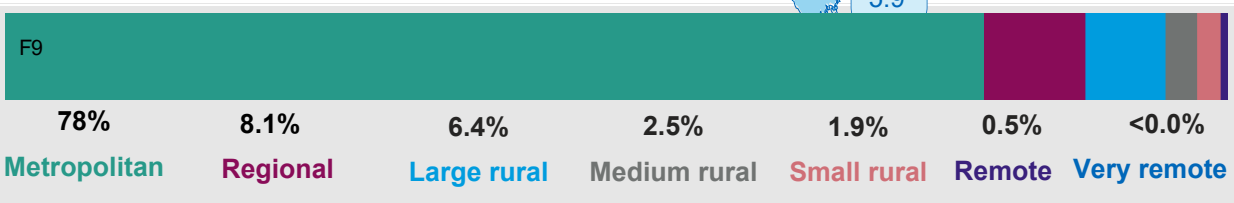
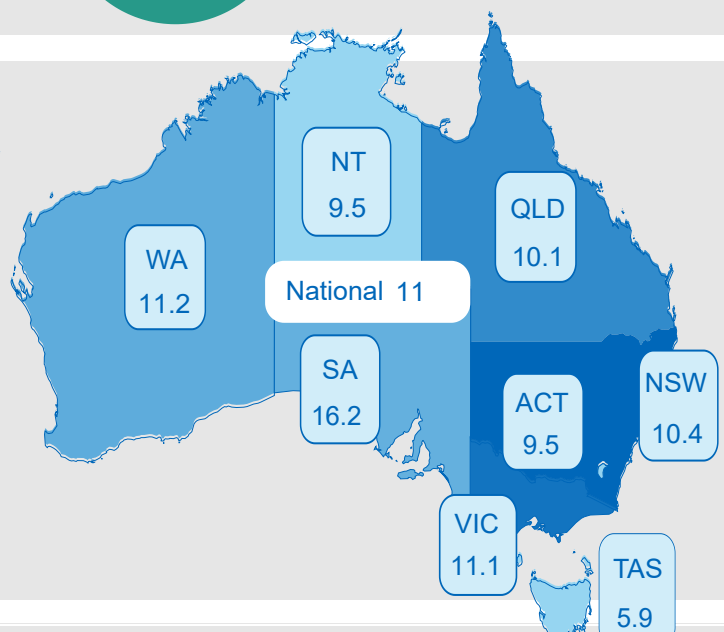
Average age

43.5 years

Gender



Oral health therapists per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants¹⁸



16. Excludes non-practising registrants, unless otherwise stated.

17. Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics population data as at March 2023.

18. See above.

19. Remoteness data excludes practitioners who did not provide a valid postcode for principal place of practice (PPP).