

Dentists

In 2017 the Montana the population to general dentist ratio was 2,170:1. The Department of Labor and Industry reported there were 821 total licensed dentists, 653 of those have a Montana address. Survey data indicates that 69% of licensees are actively practicing. The number of licensees kept pace with population growth, increasing by 6.2% from 2011 to 2017.

- Most dentists (87%) practice in private dental offices.
- In 2017 there were 353 private dental practices, and 15 community health center dental clinics.
- Ten counties in Montana have no practicing dentists (Figure).
- In a 2017 survey, 74 dentists were accepting new adult Medicaid patients and 149 were accepting new children.

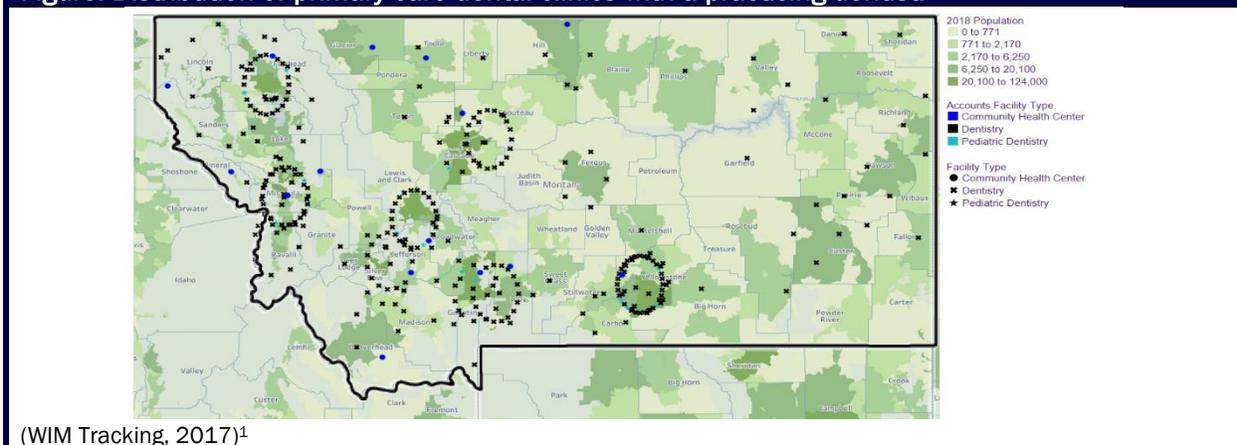
Dental Hygienists

The distribution of dental hygiene providers is like dentist providers, with more providers in urban areas of the State. Department of Labor and Industry data indicates there are 859 licensed dental hygienists, 739 with a Montana address. The number of licensees with a Montana address increased by over 18% from 2011 to 2017. Sixty-two dental hygienists hold an endorsement to practice in public health settings, but only 35% reported actively practicing in a public health setting.

Dental Assistants

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor estimated there were 1,340 dental assistants practicing in Montana. Data on the dental assisting workforce is limited due to the lack of licensure or survey data.

Figure. Distribution of primary care dental clinics with a practicing dentist.



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¹ Each point represents an actively practicing general dentist and their practice location by zip code. The dentists represented practice at a facility available to the general public. If more than one dentist is in the same zip code, the points are jittered around the zip code. The jittering technique is used to separate overlapping marks by plotting them in a circular pattern around the origin.