

Physician and Dentist Basic Demographics:

Race and Ethnicity

Matt McNeill, BS

Research Assistant, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association

At the writing of this report, data on race and ethnicity of Delaware Healthcare Providers (including physicians and dentists), was not readily available. However, in a study published by Mitchell et al¹ we obtain a glimpse at this information juxtaposed against that of the total population of Delaware when looking at primary care physicians (see tables 1 & 2).

Table 1. Race and Ethnicity of Delaware Primary Care Physicians

	Percentage of Primary Care Physicians in Delaware	Total Population of Delaware by Percentage
Non-Hispanic Black	6.6%	23%
Hispanic/Latin	4.4%	9.5%
Asian	22.6%	5.9%
White	66.7%	61.9%

While generalization from this focused examination is difficult, it does suggest a larger trend where Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic/Latin physicians are underrepresented relative to population percentages. On the other hand, White and Asian primary care physicians are both represented at higher rates than in population percentages.

The authors go on to state

“[t]hese disparities are consistent within the medical school applicant pool, with far less URM (underrepresented minority) students applying to and matriculating into medical school even after Liaison Committee of Medical Education diversity accreditation guidelines were established in 2009. As the United States becomes more diverse, action must be taken now to better address health disparities by ensuring that the future physician workforce is more diverse and better reflects the makeup of the communities that they serve ... [d]iversity in our healthcare workforce is an effective strategy to increase patient satisfaction, decrease health workforce shortages, improve the cultural competence of health systems, and ultimately decrease health disparities.”¹

Table 2. Gender of Delaware Dentists and Physicians, Compared to Demographics^{1,2}

License Type	Gender	Record Count	Percentage
Dentist (N=540)	No Data	3	0.55
	Male	340	62.96
	Female	197	36.48
Physician (DO) (N=933)	No Data	21	2.25
	Male	543	58.2
	Female	369	39.55

Physician (MD) (N=5,308)	No Data	87	1.64
	Male	3,265	61.51
	Female	1,956	36.85
Total		6,781	
Delaware Population (N=998,619)	Male	483,332	48.4
	Female	515,287	51.6

References

1. Mitchell, K., Iheanacho, F., Washington, J., & Lee, M. (2020, Aug). Addressing health disparities in Delaware by diversifying the next generation of Delaware's physicians. *Dela J Public Health*, 6(3), 26-38. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8389095/>
2. Delaware Population. 2022. (n.d.) World Population Review. Retrieved from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/delaware-population>

Copyright (c) 2022 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.