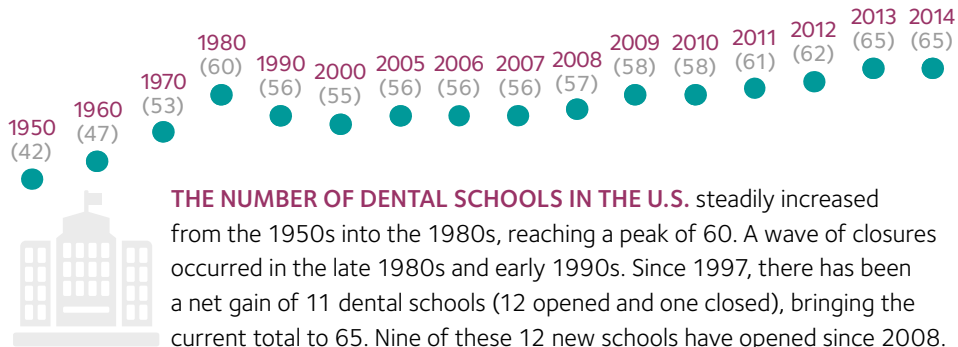
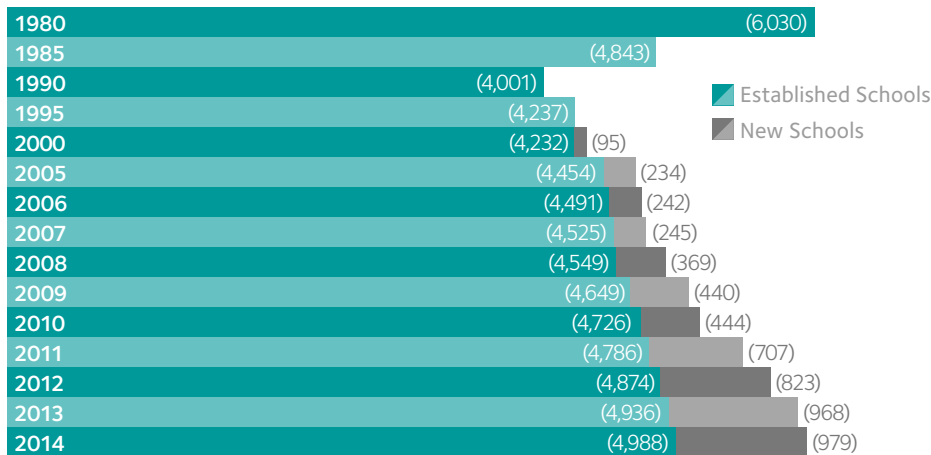


# Trends in U.S. Dental Schools



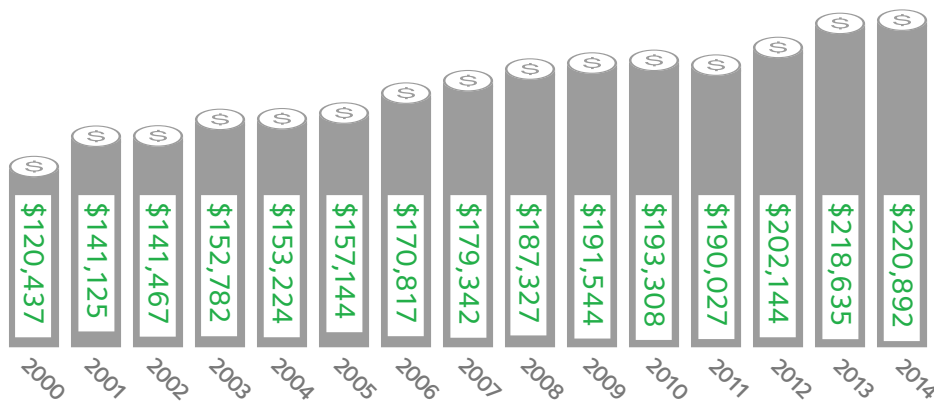
**THE NUMBER OF DENTAL SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.** steadily increased from the 1950s into the 1980s, reaching a peak of 60. A wave of closures occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Since 1997, there has been a net gain of 11 dental schools (12 opened and one closed), bringing the current total to 65. Nine of these 12 new schools have opened since 2008.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).



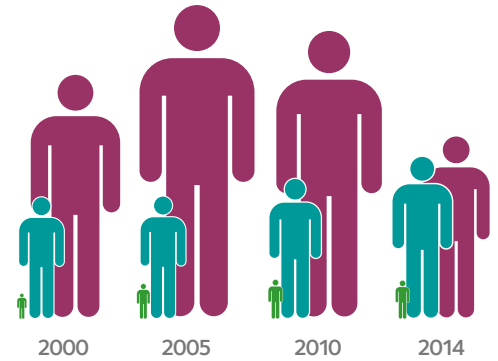
**FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT** decreased during the 1980s, after reaching an all-time high of 6,030 in 1980. Beginning in 1990, first-year enrollment has increased nearly every year. Although much of the surge has been driven by the 12 new dental schools that opened since 1997, they did not contribute to the entire gain; first-year enrollment also rose at the 53 established dental schools between 1997 and 2014.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).



**AVERAGE EDUCATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS** of graduating dental students has increased an average of 4.4% annually between 2000 and 2014 after adjusting for inflation.

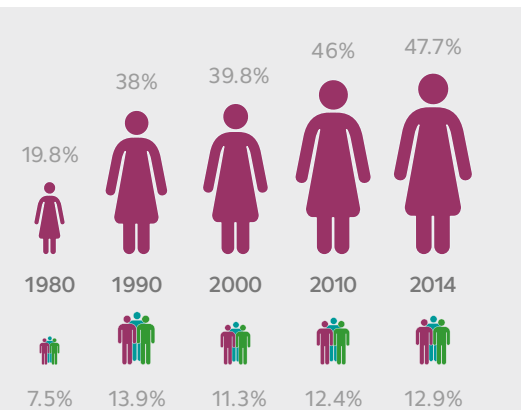
Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2014 Graduating Class.



Dental School  
 Medical School  
 Law School

**APPLICANTS TO DENTAL SCHOOLS** between 2000 and 2014 grew at a faster rate (51.1%) than either applicants to medical schools (33.2%) or law schools (25.3% decrease).

Sources: (dental) American Dental Education Association, Applicants and First-time Enrollees, 1980-2014. Available [here](#). Accessed January 15, 2016. (medical) Association of American Medical Colleges, 2015 Applicant and Enrollment Data Charts. Available [here](#). Accessed January 7, 2016. (law) Law School Admission Council, Inc., End-of-Year Summary: ABA, LSATs, Credential Assembly Service. Available [here](#). Accessed January 8, 2016.



**FEMALE AND UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY (URM) FIRST-YEAR DENTAL STUDENTS** The 1980s were a transformative period for dental schools in terms of gender composition and URM first-year students, as the percentage of each nearly doubled. Since 1990, the percentage of female students has increased at a much slower pace, while the percentage of URM students has fluctuated.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Survey of Dental Education (various years).