The number of CODA-accredited Dental Public Health (DPH) education programs in the U.S. has fluctuated since 1971, when data were first available. Starting with 6 programs in 1971, there were as many as 22 DPH programs by 1995. This number fell to 10 by 2010 and stood at 14 in 2020.

The number of applications received per DPH program remained relatively steady, with between 2.9 to 3.9 applications per program, from 1990 to 2005. Since then, the ratio has increased five-fold, and reached 15.1 in 2020.

Graduates of DPH programs have followed a wave-like pattern since 1990. Starting at 12, the number of graduates doubled to 25 in 2000, fell to 11 in 2005, then tripled to 33 by 2020.

The percentage of DPH students/residents who are graduates of international dental schools increased four-fold overall, from 18.4% in 1990 to 76.0% in 2020.

For more information, visit ADA.org/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.

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