Trends in Dentists' Income, Revenue, and Hours Worked

Update based on the ADA Health Policy Institute's
2025 Survey of Dental Practice and other sources

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Overall Takeaways

- General practitioner (GP) dentists' incomes have decreased in recent years due to growing practice expenses and decreasing revenue. According to HPI survey data, the average net income of GP dentists was $207,980 in 2024.
- The gender income gap has narrowed over time, though male dentists, on average, still have higher incomes than female dentists. The income gap between owner and employee/associate dentists is shrinking over time as well.
- GP dentists are working slightly more hours each week due to extra time spent on non-clinical duties.
- The gender gap in hours worked has also narrowed considerably among GP dentists. Female dentists, on average, worked 2% fewer hours than their male counterparts in 2024, a much smaller gap than a decade earlier.
- Owner dentists work an average 5 hours more per week than employee/associate dentists. The difference in hours may be partly attributable to financial pressures stemming from decreasing revenue.

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Dentists' Income and Revenue

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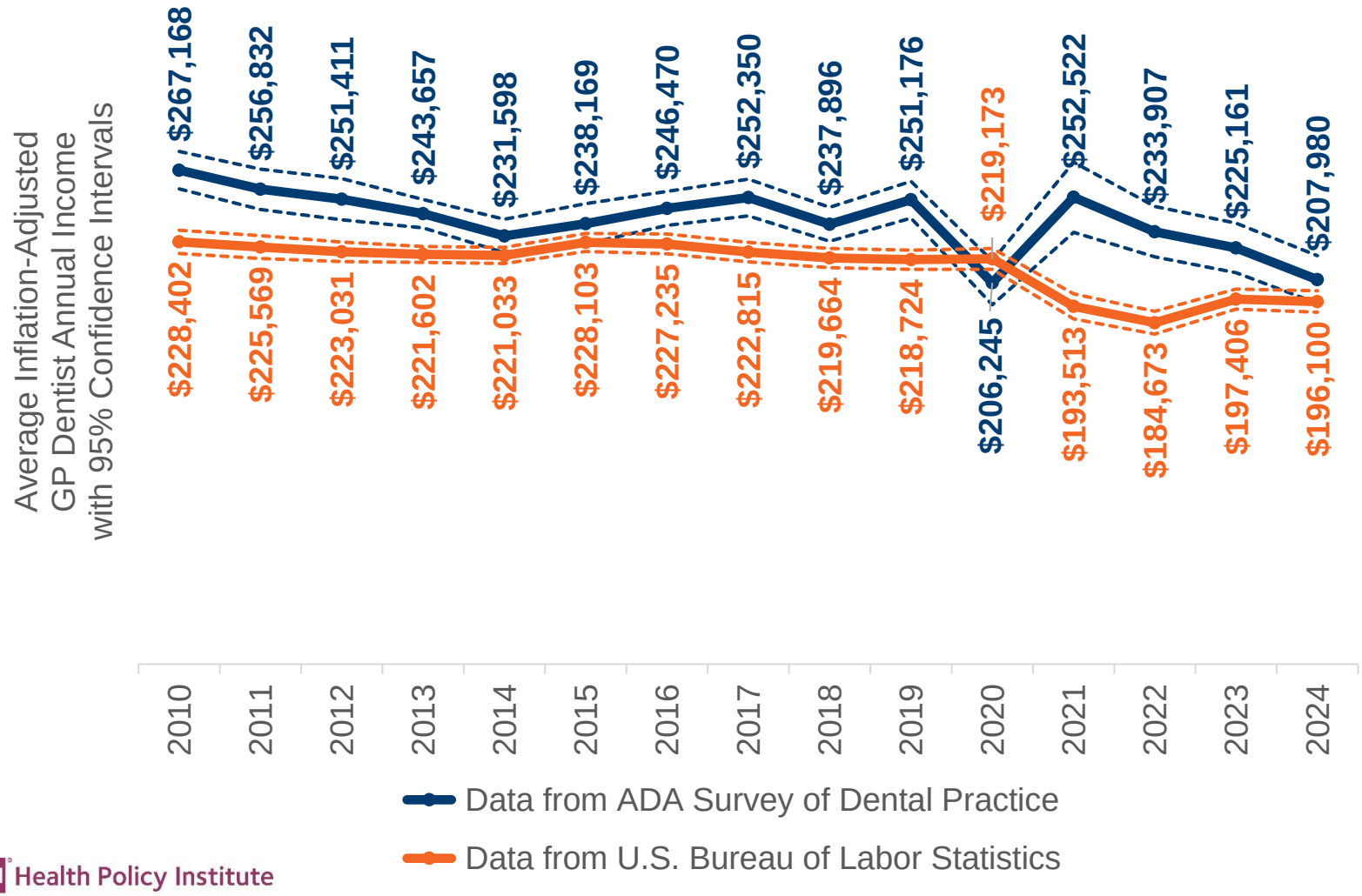
GP Dentists' Average Net Income Declining



- Data from both the ADA and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show a decline in average inflation-adjusted income for GP dentists over 14 years.
- Average income for GPs five years after graduation was $166,676 in 2022.

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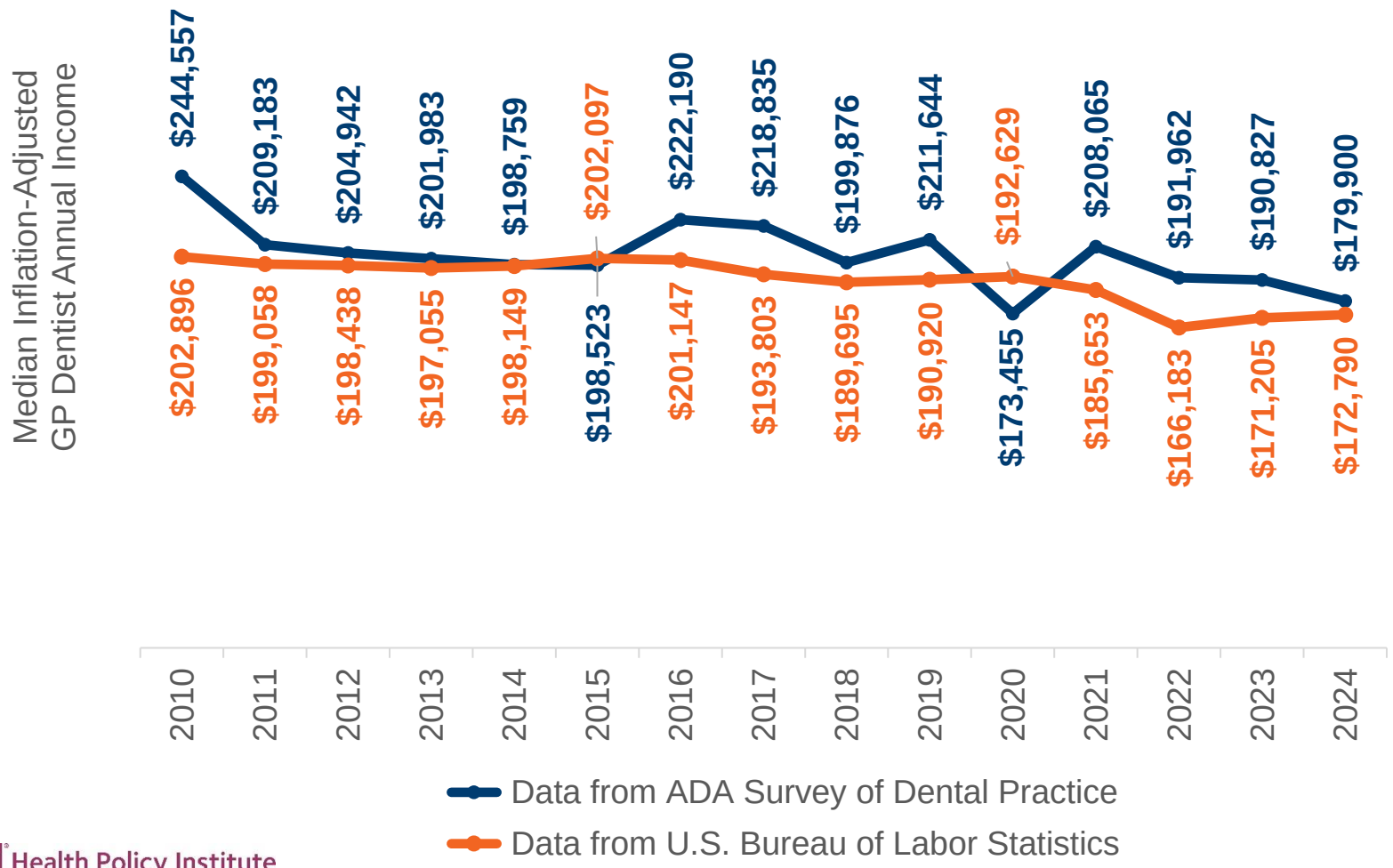
GP Dentists' Median Net Income Declining



- GP dentist inflation-adjusted median net income has also decreased over 14 years.
- The median is the middle value; half of GP dentist incomes are higher, and half are lower.

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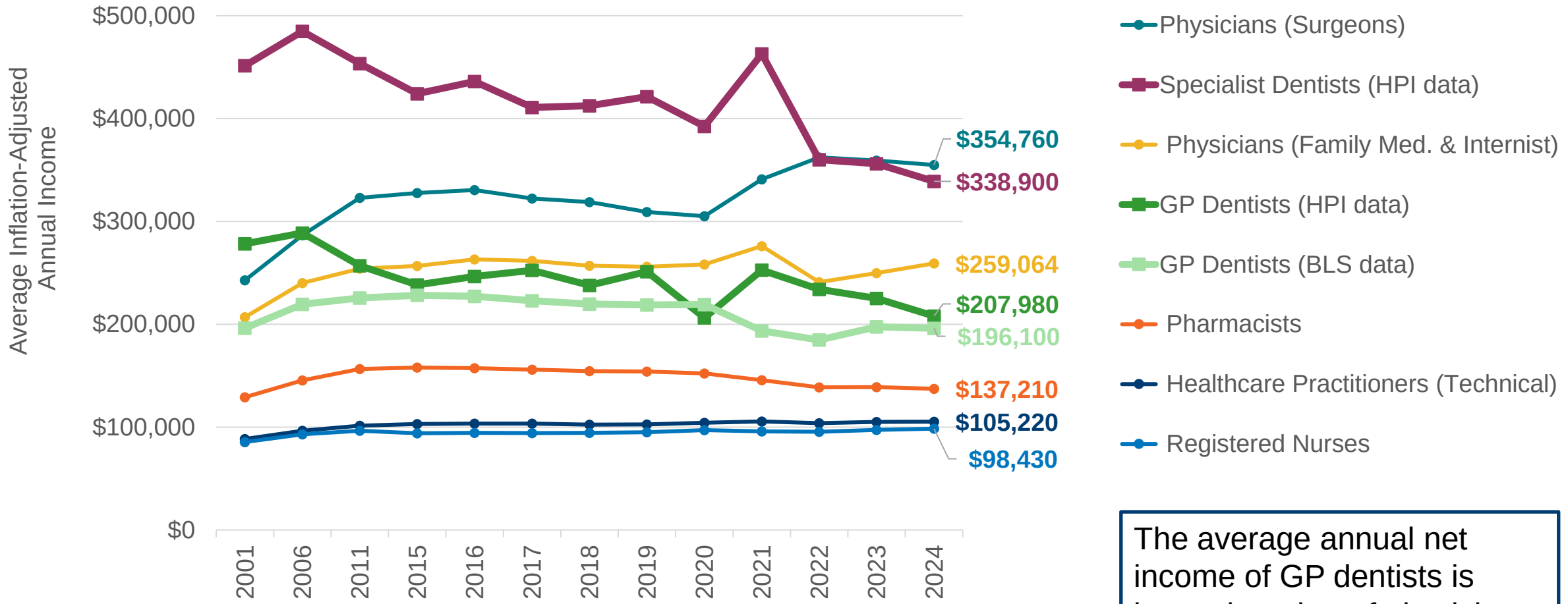
Incomes of Dentists and Other Health Professionals



The average annual net income of GP dentists is lower than that of physicians.

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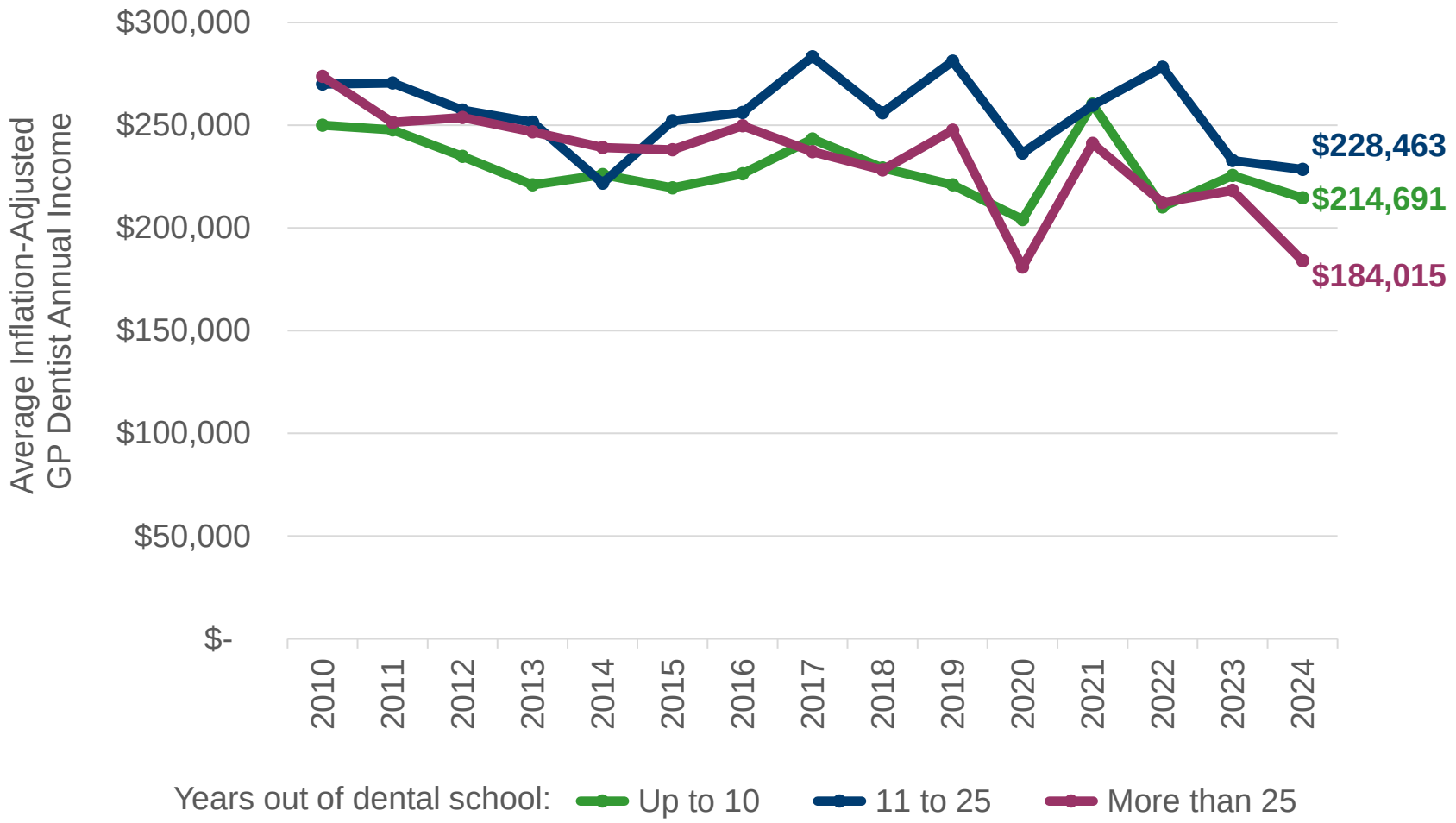
GP Dentists' Income Trends Similar by Career Stage



- A drop in GP dentist net income was seen for all career stages between 2023 and 2024.
- In recent years, GP dentists 11 to 25 years out of dental school had higher incomes than those with more or fewer years of experience.

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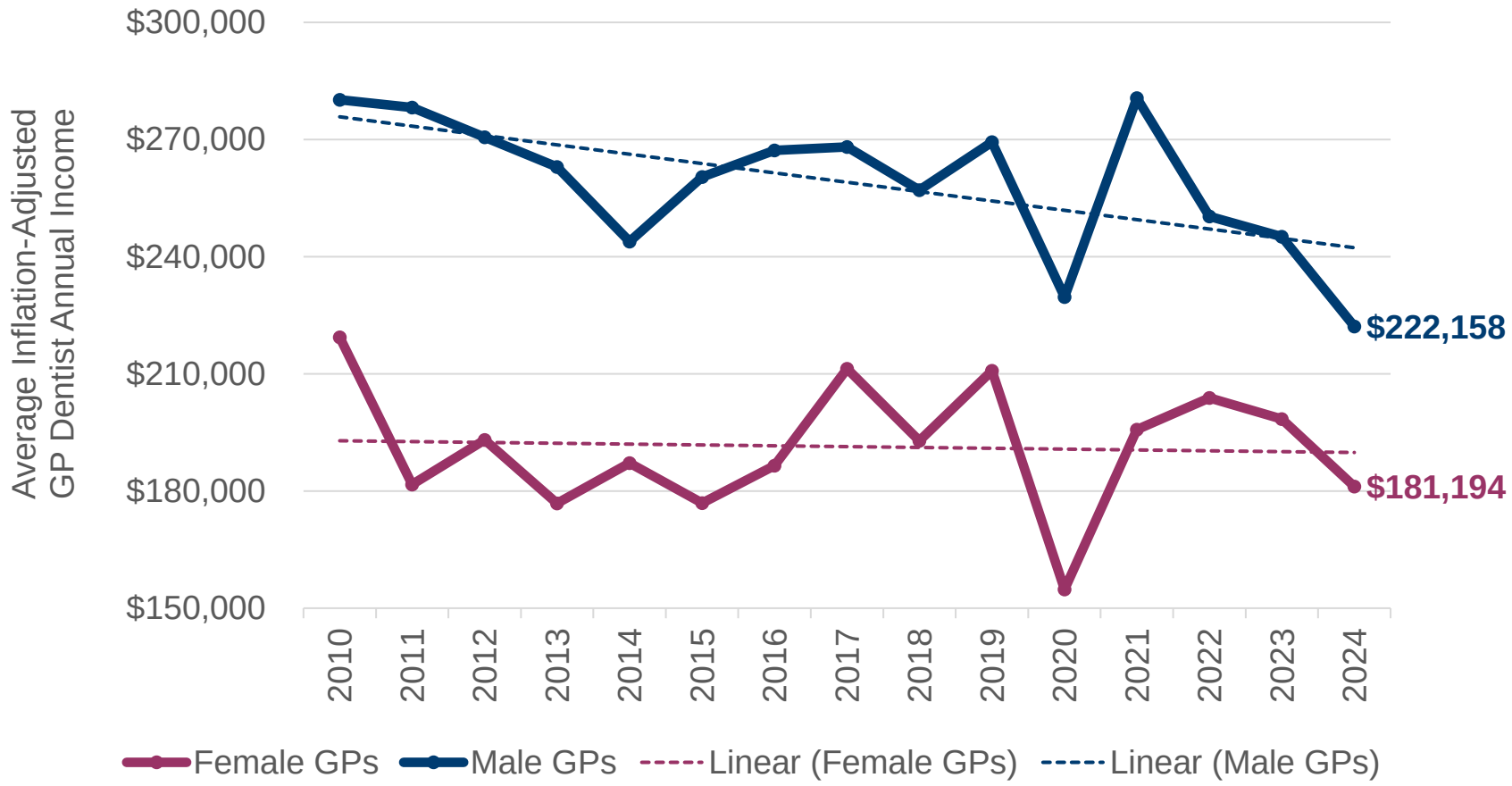
Gender Income Gap Among GP Dentists Narrows

- The gender gap in GP dentist incomes is narrowing.
- Comparing the 5-year period 2010-2014 to 2020-2024, inflation-adjusted incomes fell by $23,000 for male GPs. The comparable decrease was only $3,000 for female GPs.



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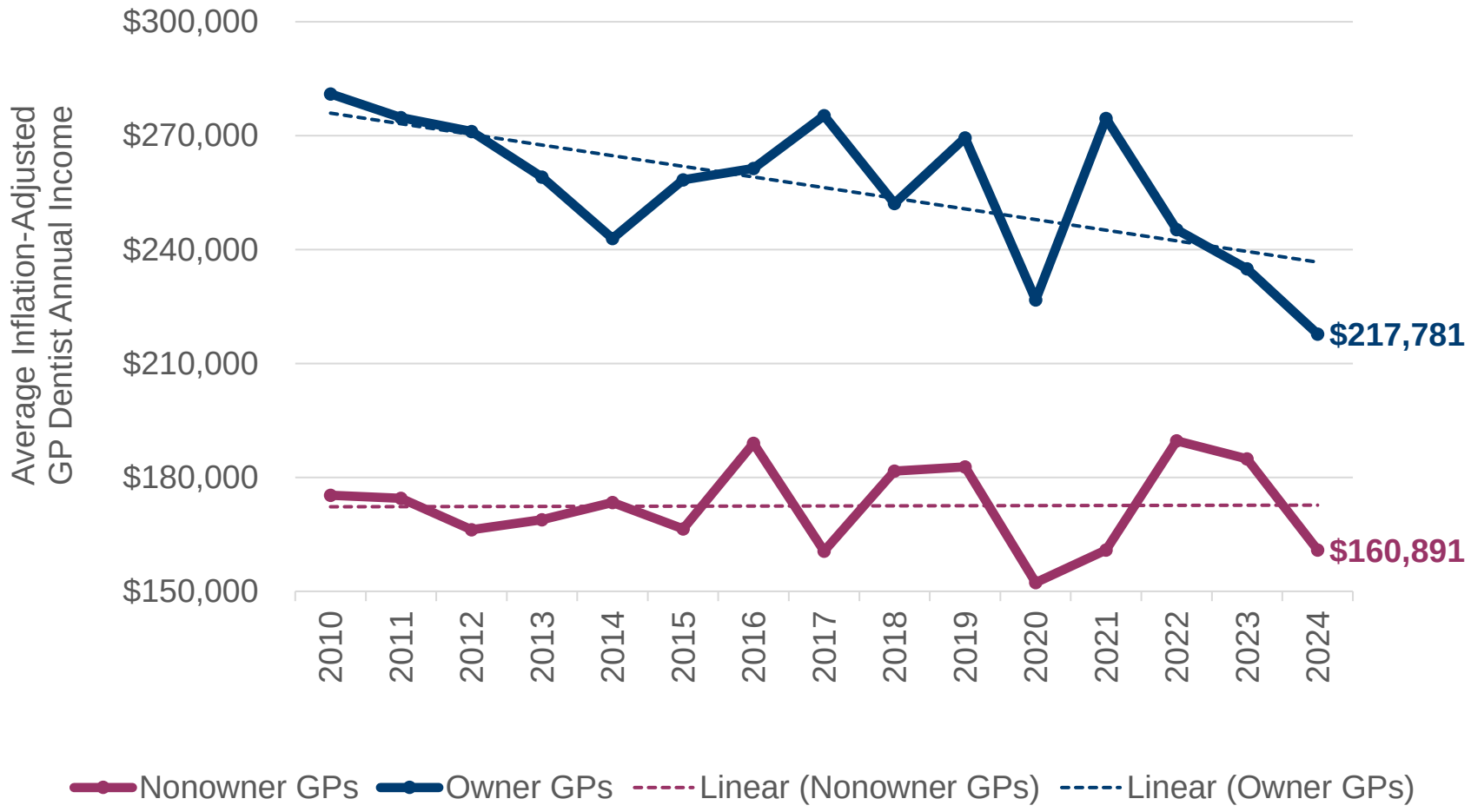
GP Owner/Nonowner Income Gap Narrows

- The income gap between owner and nonowner GP dentists is shrinking over time.
- Comparing the 5-year period 2010-2014 with 2020-2024, inflation-adjusted incomes fell by $26,000 for owner GPs. The comparable decrease was only $2,000 for nonowner GPs.



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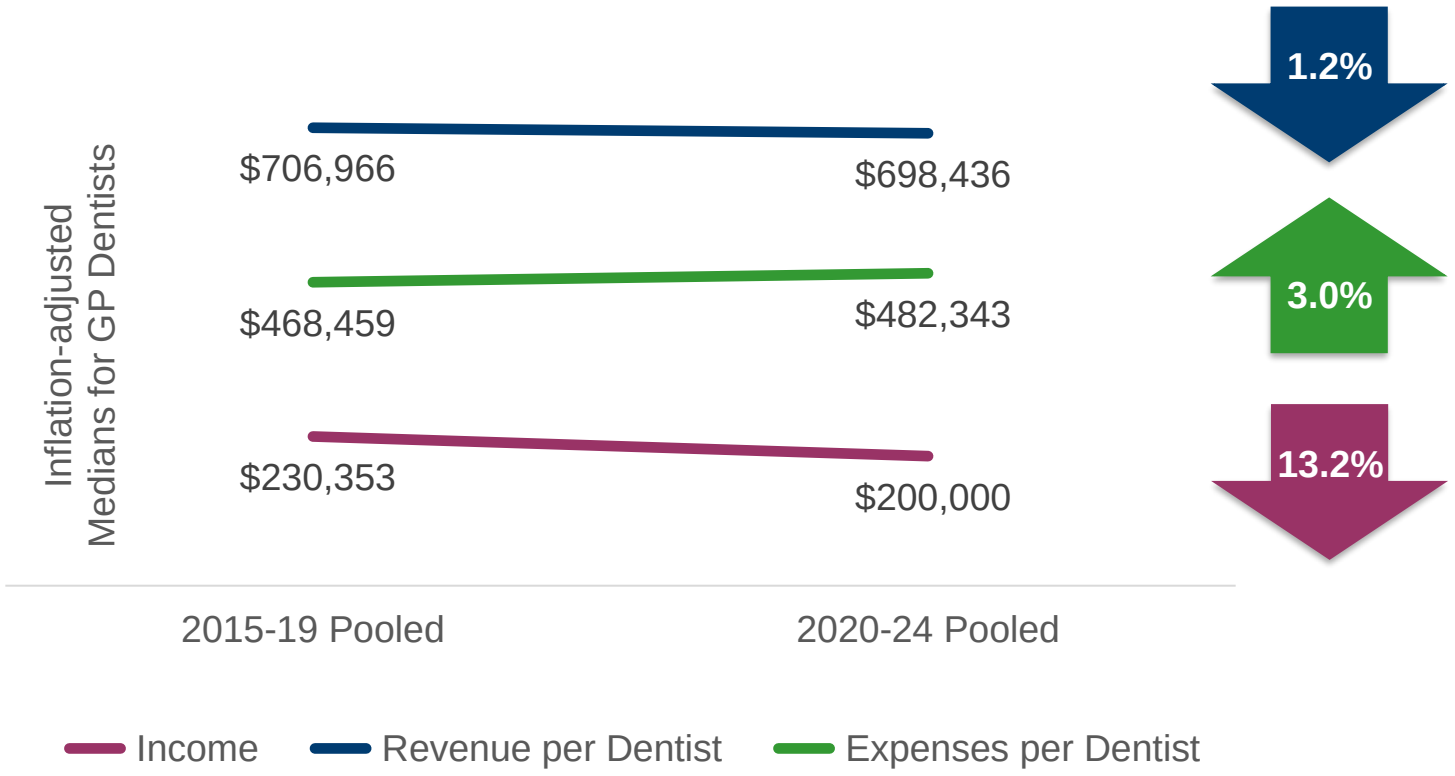
Expenses Rising, Revenue Down Slightly



- Expenses per dentist are rising while revenue per dentist is down slightly.
- Rising expenses and decreasing revenue are driving the downward trend in GP dentist net incomes.

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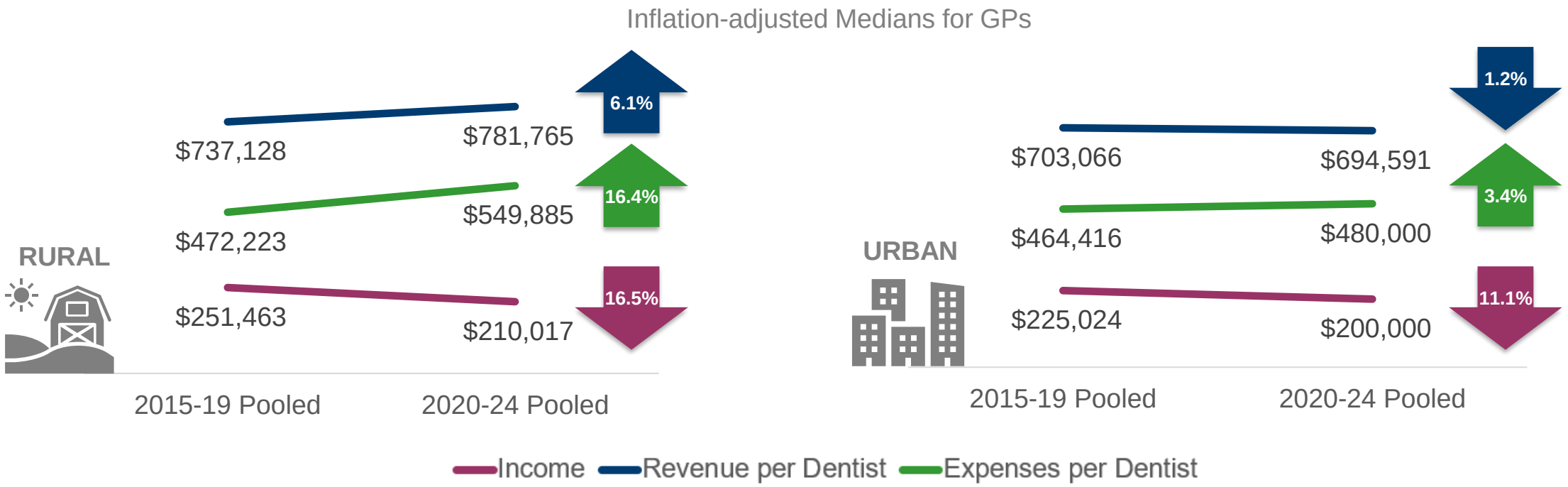
Revenue Per Dentist Higher in Rural Areas



- On average, dental practices in rural areas experienced a 6.1% increase in revenue per dentist between combined periods of 2015-19 and 2020-24, while urban practices saw a 1.2% decrease.
- Both rural and urban dentists saw a decrease in median annual income, though the decrease was more for rural dentists compared to urban dentists..

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Dentists' Hours Worked

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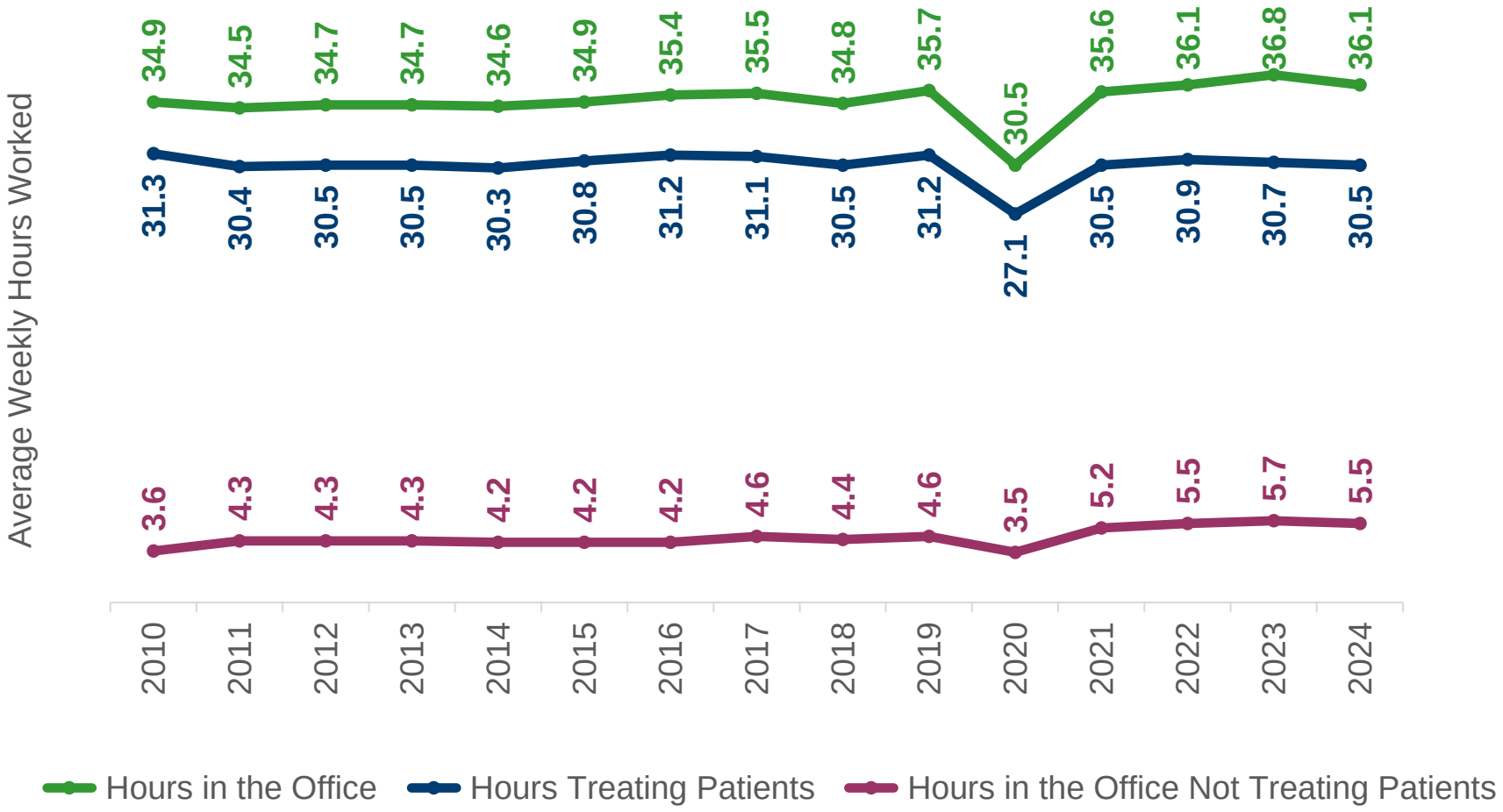
Dentists Spending More Time on Non-Clinical Hours



- From 2010 through 2019, dentists averaged 35 hours per week in the office.
- In comparison, from 2021 through 2024, the average hours worked was 36.2, an increase of 1.2 hours. The increase is entirely due to additional office time not treating patients.

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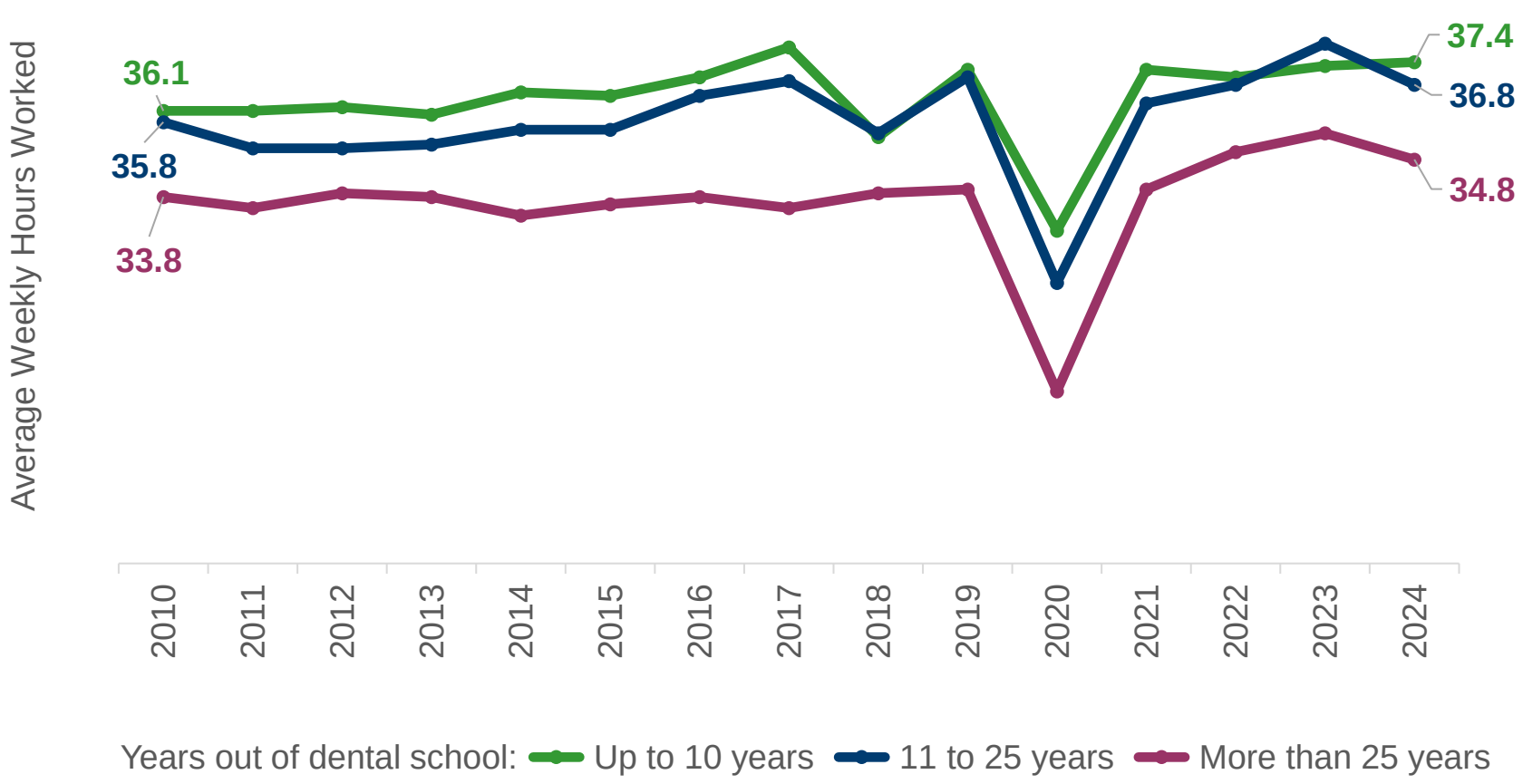
Newer Dentists Work the Most Hours



- All dentists, regardless of career stage, are working slightly more hours in 2024 than in 2010.
- More experienced dentists tend to work fewer hours per week compared to less experienced dentists.

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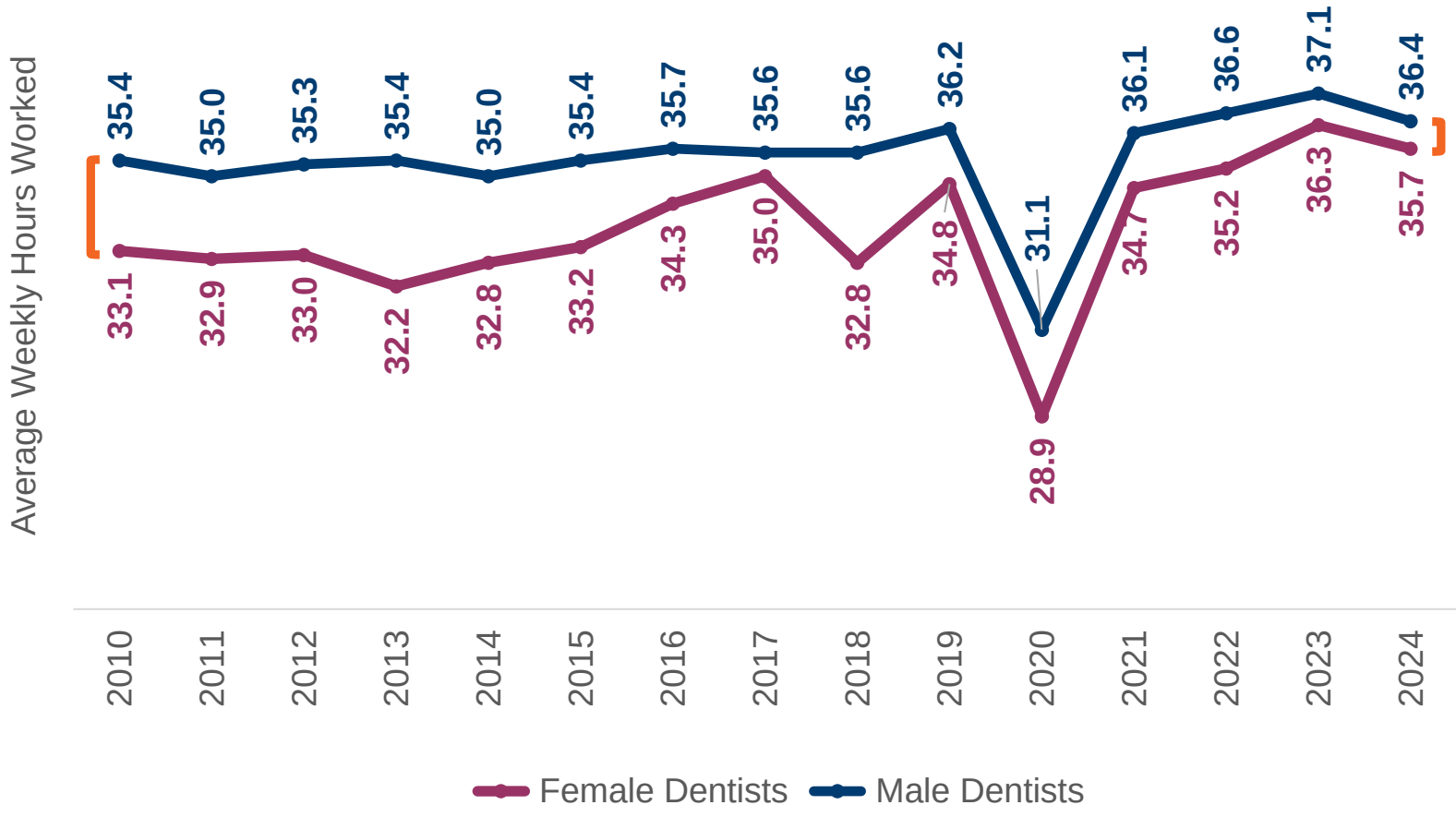
Gender Gap in Hours Worked Has Narrowed



- The dentist gender **gap** in weekly hours worked has decreased from 140 minutes (2010) to 42 minutes (2024).
- Female dentists worked 98% as many hours per week as male dentists in 2024 compared to 94% in 2010.

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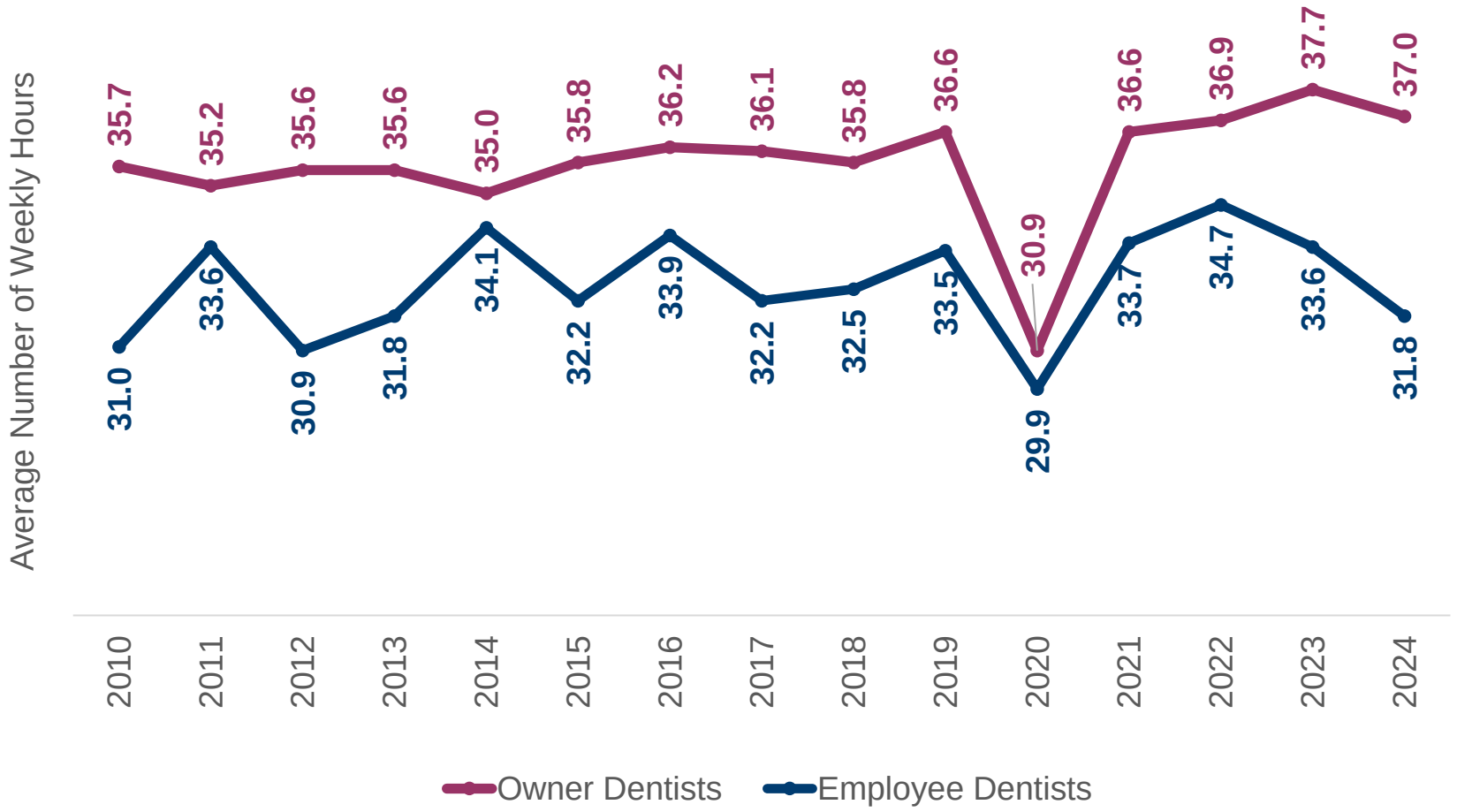
Owner Dentists Work More Hours



In 2024, employee (or associate) dentists, on average, worked 5.2 fewer hours per week than owner dentists.

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Data Sources and Methods

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Data Sources and Methods

Dentists Surveyed	Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)	HPI Survey of Dental Practice (SDP)
Private practice owners (incorporated)	Yes	Yes
Private practice owners (unincorporated)	No	Yes
Private practice nonowners	Yes	Yes
Dentists in non-private practice settings (education, government, hospitals)	Yes	No

Items Included in Income Calculation	Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)	HPI Survey of Dental Practice (SDP)
Salary, commission, production bonuses	Yes	Yes
End-year bonuses, non-production bonuses	No	Yes
Payments made to a retirement plan	No	Yes

BLS and SDP income trends differ because of differences in the data collection method. These tables illustrate the differences.

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Data Sources and Methods

Slides 4-6

Sources: ADA Health Policy Institute Survey of Dental Practice.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm, accessed April 3, 2025.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index. Available at https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm, accessed April 3, 2025.

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard. Available at https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data, accessed June 24, 2024.

Notes: Survey of Dental Practice results are weighted to compensate for oversampling and nonresponse bias. Dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation using the All-Item Consumer Price Index. All values are in constant 2024 dollars. Survey of Dental Practice methods available at https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/hpidata_sdpi_2024.xlsx.

The “Physicians (Family Medicine and Internist)” category is a combination of the "Family Medicine Physicians" and "General Internal Medicine Physicians" categories weighted by their job counts.

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Data Sources and Methods

Slides 4-6 (continued)

Notes: For “Average income for GPs 5 years after graduation,” earnings are reported for those individuals who received federal financial aid. In this analysis, about 68% of dental school graduates received federal financial aid and, therefore, are included in the sample. Earnings were measured in 2020 and 2021 and inflation-adjusted to 2022 dollars. The earnings measurement represents the sum of wages and deferred compensation from all non-duplicate W-2 forms and positive self-employment earnings from IRS Form 1040 Schedules SE (Self-Employment Tax) for each dentist measured. National average annual earnings are the average of the institutions' median earnings, weighted by the number of graduates per institution. College Scorecard methods available at https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/assets/FieldOfStudyDataDocumentation.pdf. Accessed June 24, 2024.

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Data Sources and Methods

Slides 7-10, 13-16

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute Survey of Dental Practice.

Notes: Survey of Dental Practice results are weighted to compensate for oversampling and nonresponse bias. Dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation using the All-Item Consumer Price Index. All values are in constant 2024 dollars. Survey of Dental Practice methods available at https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/hpidata_sdpi_2024.xlsx.

Slide 11

Sources: ADA Health Policy Institute annual *Survey of Dental Practice;* Health Resources & Services Administration, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) Data Files, available from https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/what-is-rural/data-files.

Notes: Survey of Dental Practice results are weighted to compensate for oversampling and nonresponse bias. Dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation using the All-Item Consumer Price Index. All values are in constant 2024 dollars.

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Suggested Reference

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Suggested Reference

American Dental Association. Trends in Dentists' Income, Revenue and Hours Worked. Health Policy Institute. November 2025. Available from: https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/trends_in_dentists_income_revenue_hours_worked.pdf.

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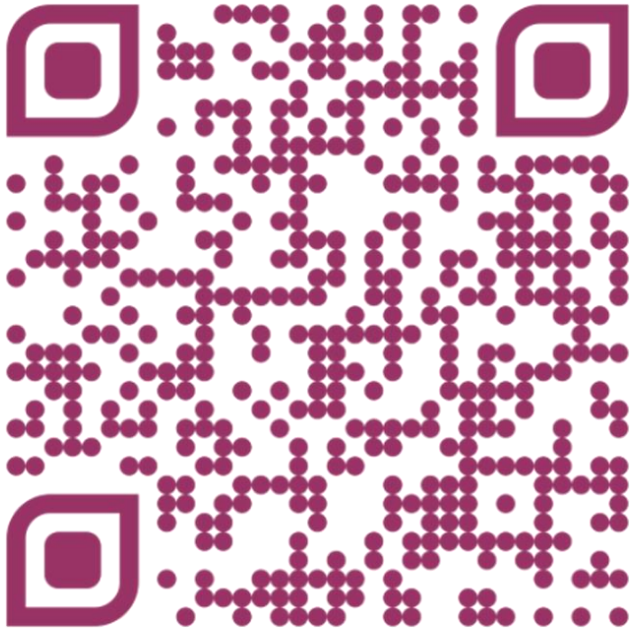
Thank you!



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