

Migration of U.S. Dentists Across State Lines, 2019-2024

Based on the latest data as of April 2026

 **HPI** Health Policy Institute

ADA American Dental Association®

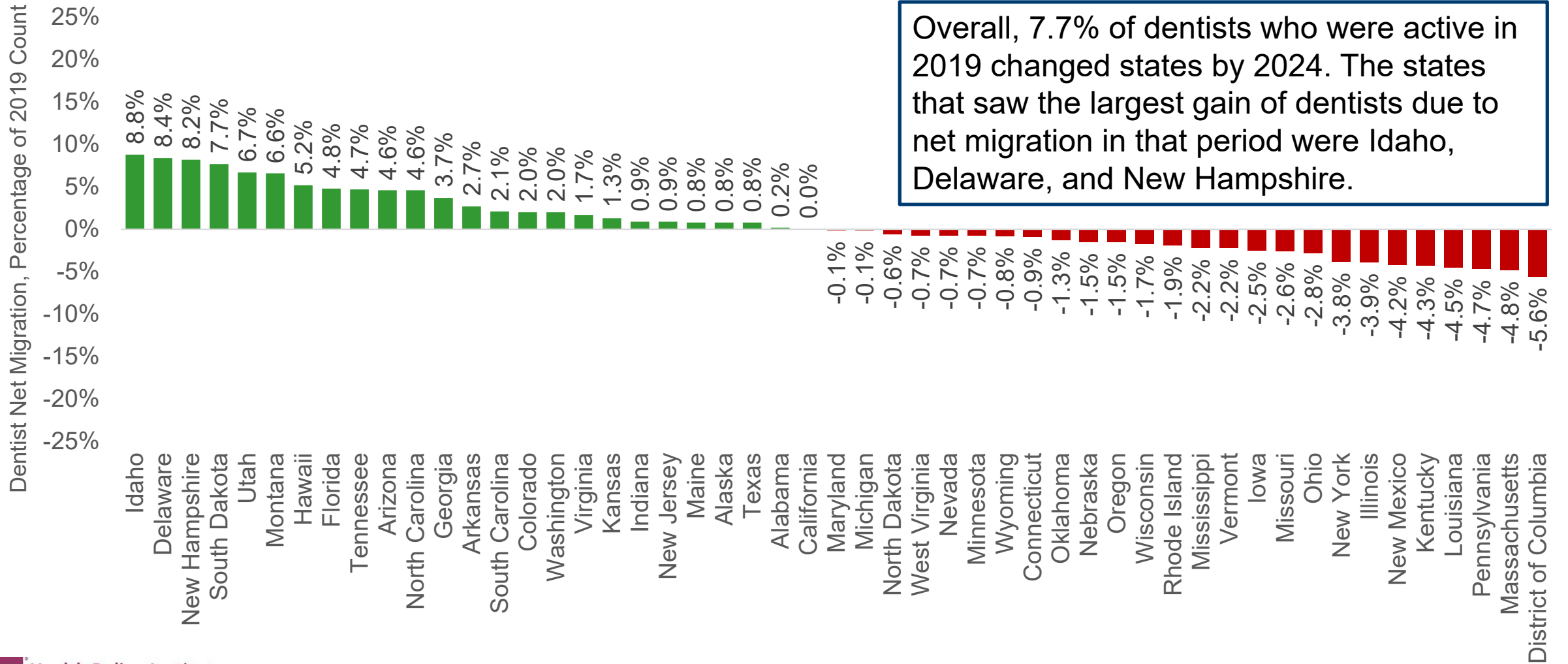
Overall Takeaways

The ADA Health Policy Institute analyzed the migration patterns of U.S. dentists across state lines from 2019 to 2024 and how these patterns compare to those of the U.S. population. This report includes breakdowns by dentist experience level as measured by the number of years out of dental school.

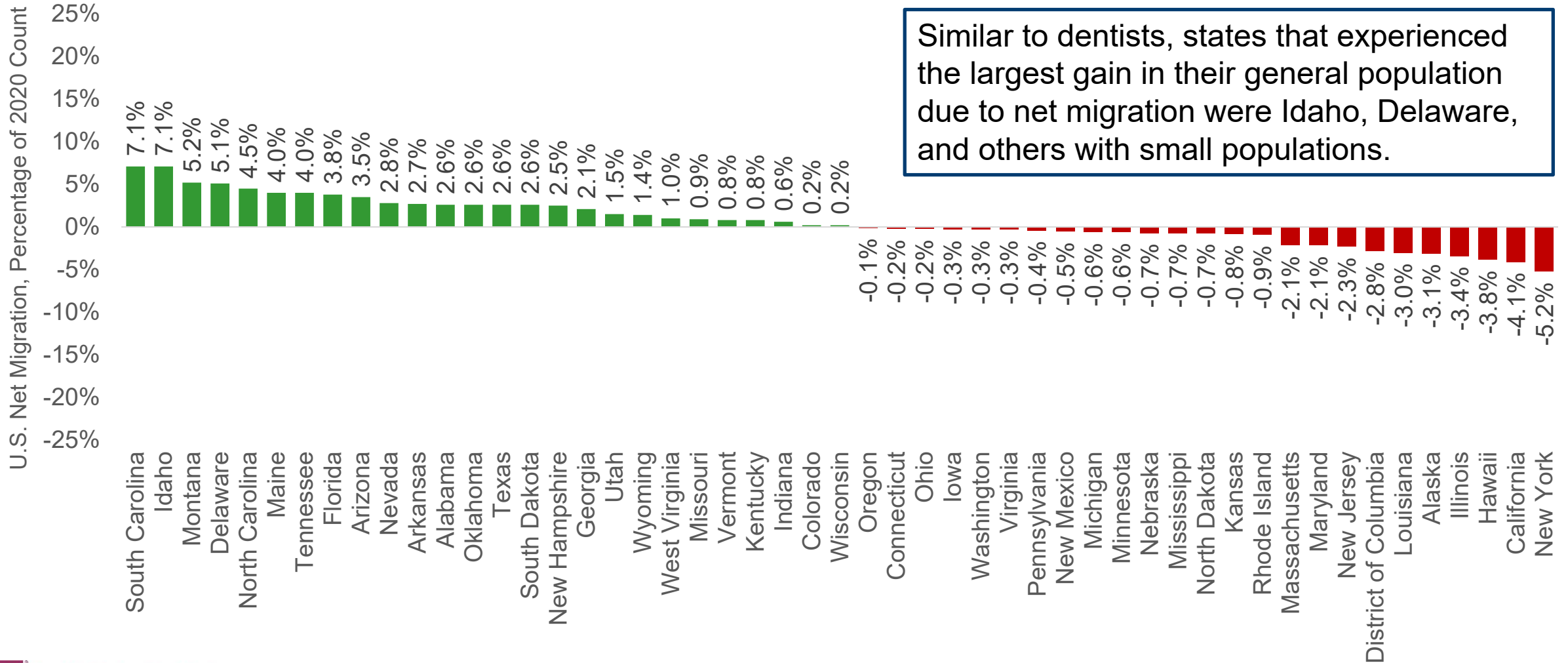
- Among all U.S. dentists active in 2019 and 2024, 7.7% moved from one state to another. Dentists less than 10 years out of dental school in 2019 were more than twice as likely to make a move and had a **net migration rate of 17.3%** compared to 3.6% of dentists 10 or more years out of dental school.
- For dentists who were less than 10 years out of dental school in 2019, the states that saw the highest gains due to net migration between 2019 and 2024 relative to their supply were **Hawaii**, **New Hampshire**, and **Delaware**. Hawaii is noteworthy because it is a state that experienced a loss in net migration of its general population between 2020 and 2025 (-3.8%) yet had more newer dentists entering than leaving.
- Overall migration trends alone cannot determine if access to dental care for a state's population is changing. More research is needed on where dentists settle within a state to practice and if they opt for underserved areas.

Migration Patterns of Dentists and the U.S. Population

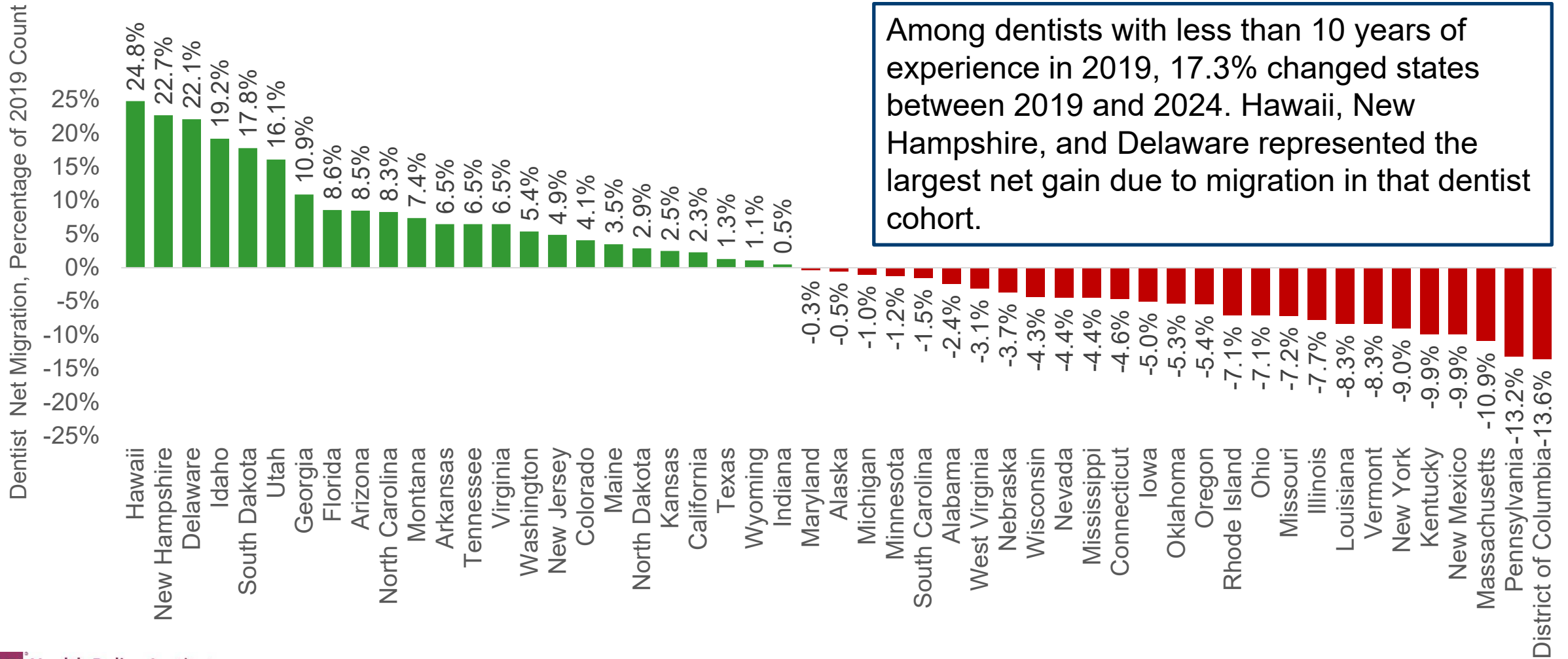
Migration, All Dentists, 2019 to 2024



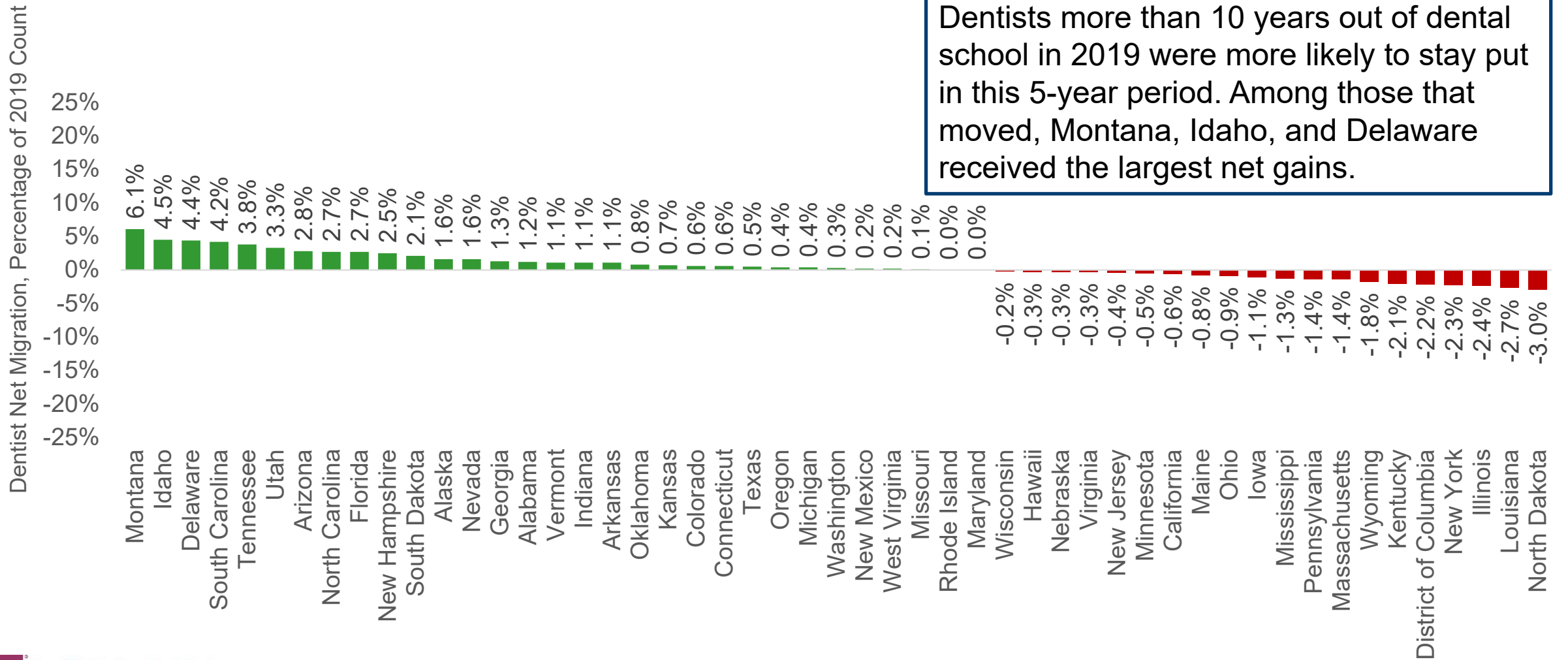
Migration, U.S. Population, 2020 to 2025



Migration, Dentists <10 Years of Experience, 2019 to 2024



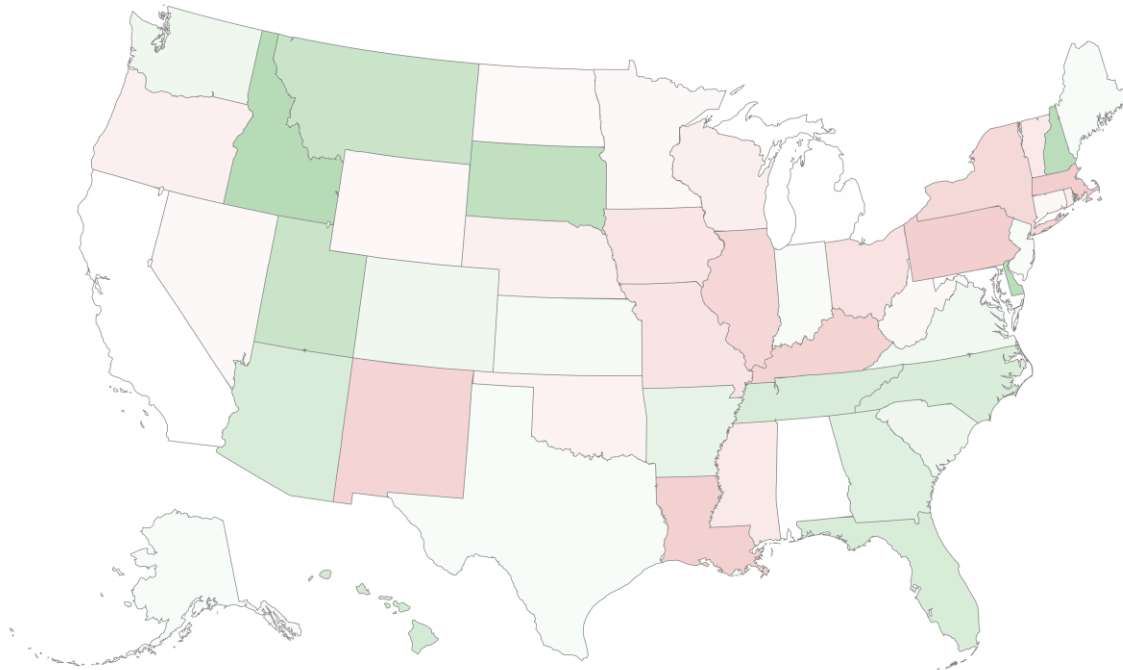
Migration, Dentists 10+ Years of Experience, 2019 to 2024



Migration, All Dentists vs. Dentists <10 Years of Experience

All Dentists

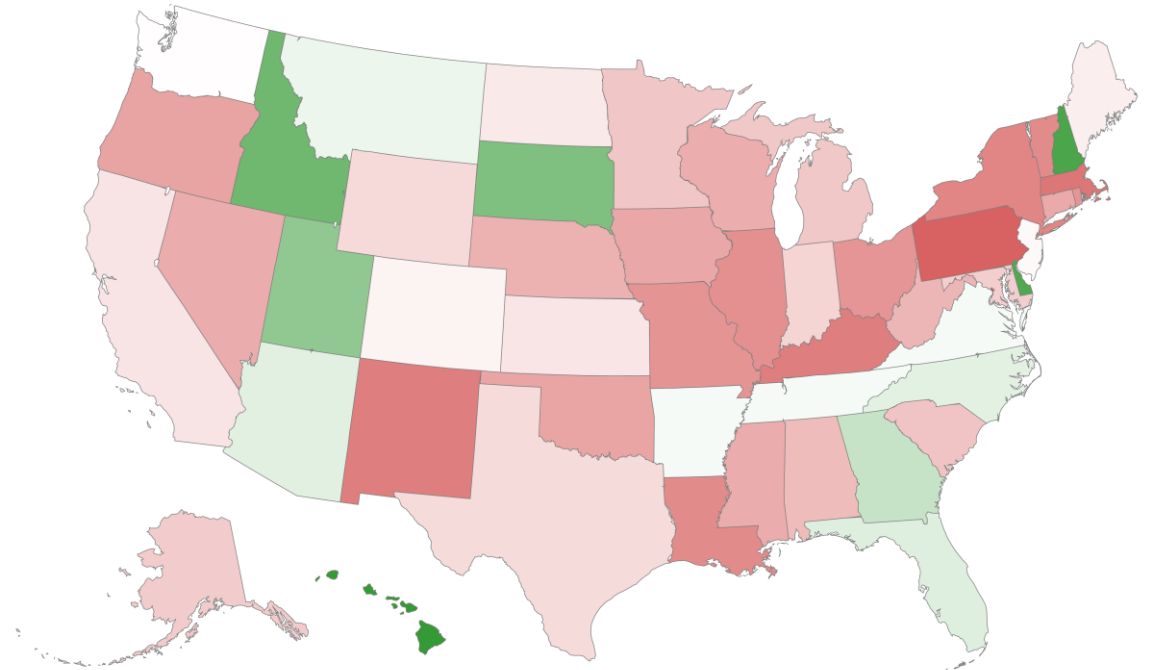
Net Migration as Percent of 2019 Count -25.0% 25.0%



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom

Dentists With Less than 10 Years of Experience

Net Migration as Percent of 2019 Count -25.0% 25.0%



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom

Data Sources and Methods

Data Sources and Methods

- **Slide 4**

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile.

Notes: The percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated as the difference between the number of dentists entering a state and the number of dentists leaving a state for the years 2020-2024 divided by the total number of dentists in that state in 2019.

- **Slide 5**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau State Population Totals, available from: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>.

Notes: Migration of the U.S. population was calculated as the cumulative domestic migration for the years 2021-2025 divided by the state's population estimate for 2020.

Data Sources and Methods

- **Slides 6-7**

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile.

Notes for slide 6: The percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated as: $(\text{the number of dentists entering a state}) - (\text{the number of dentists leaving a state}) / (\text{count of dentists in that state in 2019})$. Dentists with less than 10 years of experience were those who graduated from dental school after 2009.

Notes for slide 7: The percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated by: $(\text{the number of dentists entering a state}) - (\text{the number of dentists leaving a state}) / (\text{count of dentists in that state in 2019})$. Dentists with 10 or more years of experience were those who graduated from dental school in 2009 or before.

- **Slide 8**

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile; U.S. Census Bureau State Population Totals, available from: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>.

Notes: For dentists, the percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated as: $(\text{the number of dentists entering a state}) - (\text{the number of dentists leaving a state}) / (\text{count of dentists in that state in 2019})$. For the U.S. population, migration was calculated as the cumulative domestic migration for the years 2021-2025 divided by the state's population estimate for 2020.

Data Sources and Methods

- **Slide 9**

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile.

Notes for slide 6: The percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated as: $(\text{the number of dentists entering a state}) - (\text{the number of dentists leaving a state}) / (\text{count of dentists in that state in 2019})$. Dentists with less than 10 years of experience were those who graduated from dental school after 2009.

- **Slide 10**

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile; U.S. Census Bureau State Population Totals, available from: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>.

Notes: For dentists, the percent change in the supply of dentists in each state to yield net migration was calculated as: $(\text{the number of dentists entering a state}) - (\text{the number of dentists leaving a state}) / (\text{count of dentists in that state in 2019})$. For the U.S. population, migration was calculated as the cumulative domestic migration for the years 2021-2025 divided by the state's population estimate for 2020.

Related Reports

Related Reports

This report is based in part on several annually updated reports by the ADA Health Policy Institute. See the reports below for publicly available data at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

- [Migration of Dentists within the U.S.: 2019 – 2024](#) (XLSX) – migration rate of dentists per state as well as by dentist experience level, migration rate of U.S. population per state (2020-2025). This also include counts of dentists entering and leaving per state.
- [Supply of Dentists in the U.S.: 2001 – 2024](#) (XLSX) – data on supply of dentists per state, dentists per 100,000 population, supply of dentists by specialty (national numbers only), supply of dentists by age and gender.

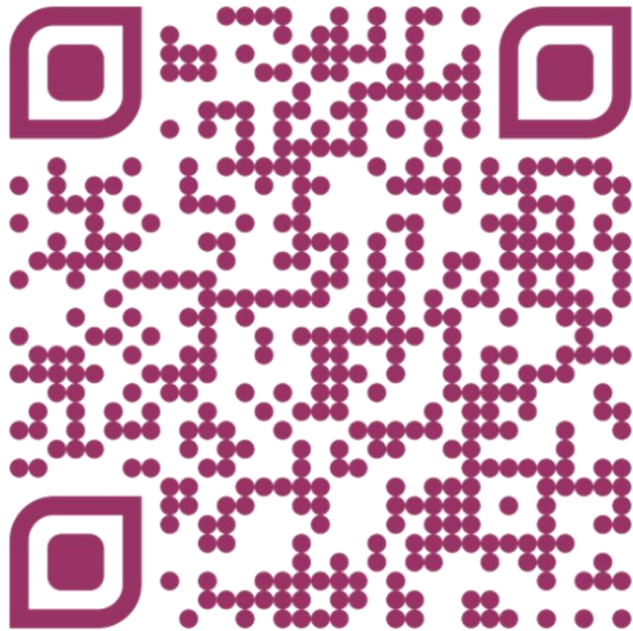
For more information, please contact hpi@ada.org.

Suggested Reference

Suggested Reference

American Dental Association. Migration of U.S. Dentists Across State Lines, 2019-2024. Health Policy Institute. April 2026. Available from: https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/US_dentist_migration_2026.pdf.

Thank you!



[ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI)

hpi@ada.org