DATA FROM THE 2015–16 SURVEY OF DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS were examined to compare student characteristics by type of sponsoring institution and setting. Five different types of programs are compared: three public (those at a university, technical/vocational school, or community college), and two private (for-profit technical/vocational schools and non-profit colleges and universities).

THE MAJORITY OF DENTAL ASSISTING STUDENTS are under 24 years of age in all types of programs.

THE PERCENTAGE OF NON-WHITE1 STUDENTS is highest at both types of private institutions, though public institutions are close behind.

JOB OR FAMILY CARE responsibilities are common, regardless of the type of institution.

FINANCIAL AID is used by the majority of dental assisting students at each type of program.

MOST 2014 GRADUATES are participating in a dental-related activity.

1 Includes Hispanic, Black or African–American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and those reporting two or more races.


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