DATA FROM THE 2015–16 SURVEY OF DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS were examined to compare programs 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).

ACCEPTANCE RATES ARE HIGHEST among programs at private institutions (both non-profit and for-profit).

THE AVERAGE TOTAL COST of tuition and fees, plus related costs like textbooks, uniforms, and lab fees, is roughly three times as much at programs located in private schools than any type of public school.

THE STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO is lowest at public universities, while private for-profit programs have almost 5 times as many students per instructor.

ONLINE COURSES are offered by one quarter of dental assisting programs, but those at public universities are the most likely to utilize this method of instruction.


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