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College *	College of Dentistry
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Title of Research *	IDENTIFYING GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN DENTIST WORKFORCE AND SUPPLY MEASURES
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Introduction & Purpose *	<p>Dental researchers and planners commonly use headcounts of available professionals to measure regional workforce supply. However counts lack the accuracy that full-time equivalency (FTE) calculations can provide. Despite the reliance on them in workforce research and shortage area designations, it is unknown how well headcounts approximate FTEs in dentistry.</p> <p>The objectives of this research are to:1) Compare supply measures (headcounts and FTEs) for primary care dentists and 2) Identify dentist characteristics associated with part-time practice.</p>
Experimental Design *	Full-time equivalencies (FTEs) for primary care dentists in private practice(n=1140) were calculated based on reported average hours worked per week. FTEs and dentist headcounts were aggregated to the city, county, and state level. State maps were generated to display geographic variation of workforce measures. In order to analyze characteristics that were associated with dentists working less than full-time(≤ 32 hours/week), dentist FTEs were categorized as either full-time or part-time.
Results *	<p>In 2009, primary care dentists worked a mean of 35.0 hours/week(SD 6.0). Hours/week ranged from 4 to 40. As dentist supply was aggregated to larger geographic levels, headcounts significantly overestimated the available FTE workforce by approximately 12.5%. Female gender and greater age were significantly associated with part-time status($p < .05$). Females worked approximately 2 hours less per week than males ($p < .0001$). Practice arrangement and practicing in a metropolitan county were not associated with part-time status. However, females were more likely than males to work in a metropolitan county(OR 1.5, $p = .008$).</p>
Conclusions *	FTEs provide more accurate measures of area dentist supply than headcounts. Dentist gender and age are important factors to consider in workforce planning when more detailed information about hours worked per week are not available.

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