



**The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston**

**Dental Branch**

# New Educational Models for a New Workforce: Oral Health

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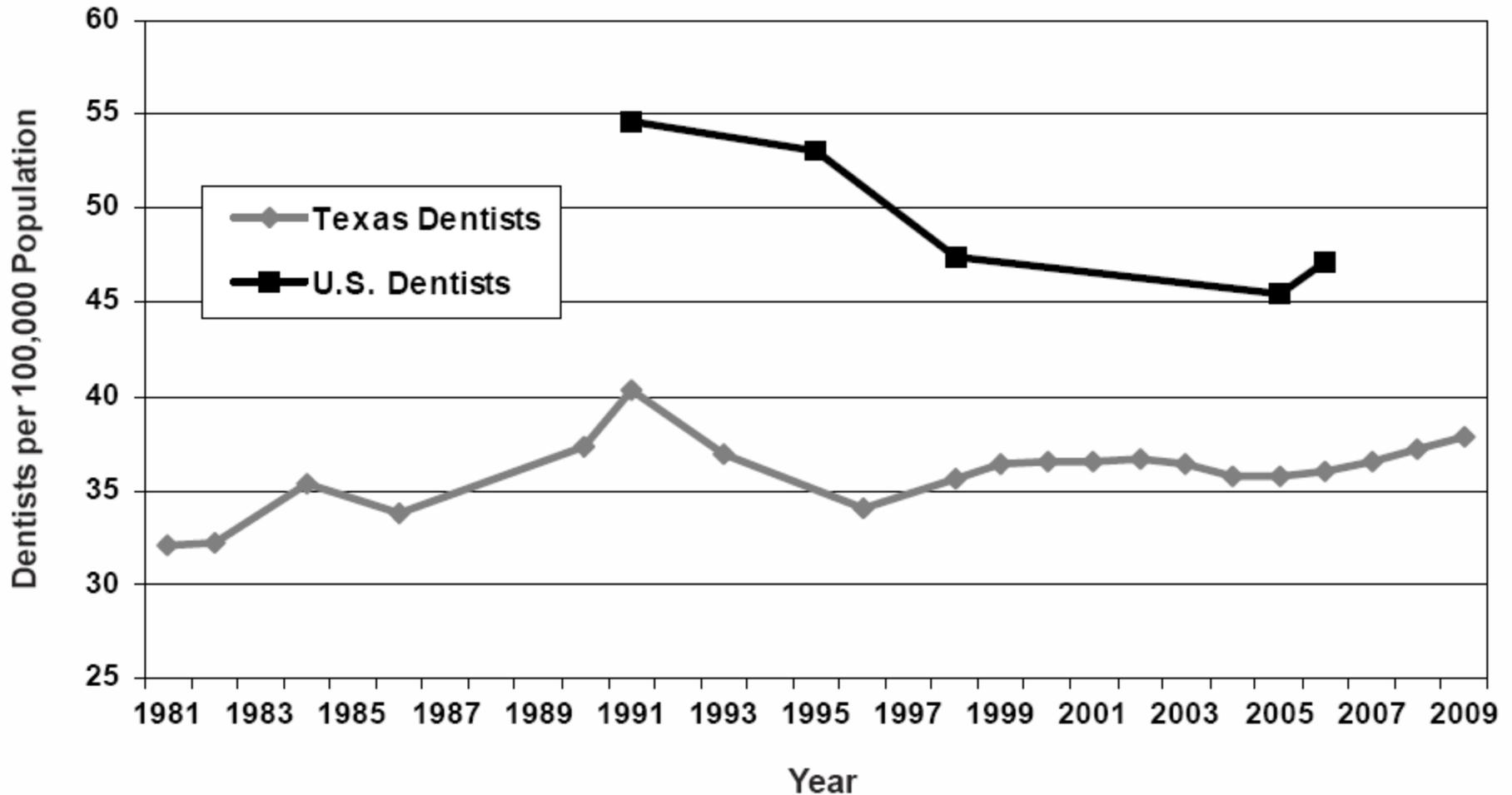
February 28, 2011

## In Texas (2009):

- Dentists:
  - 86% (9401/10,977) are general dentists
  - 3 dental schools in Texas (UT-Houston, UT-San Antonio, Texas A&M-Baylor)
- Dental Hygienists:
  - 9,820 practicing dental hygienists
  - 23 dental hygiene programs in Texas

**Oral Health Workforce Needs**

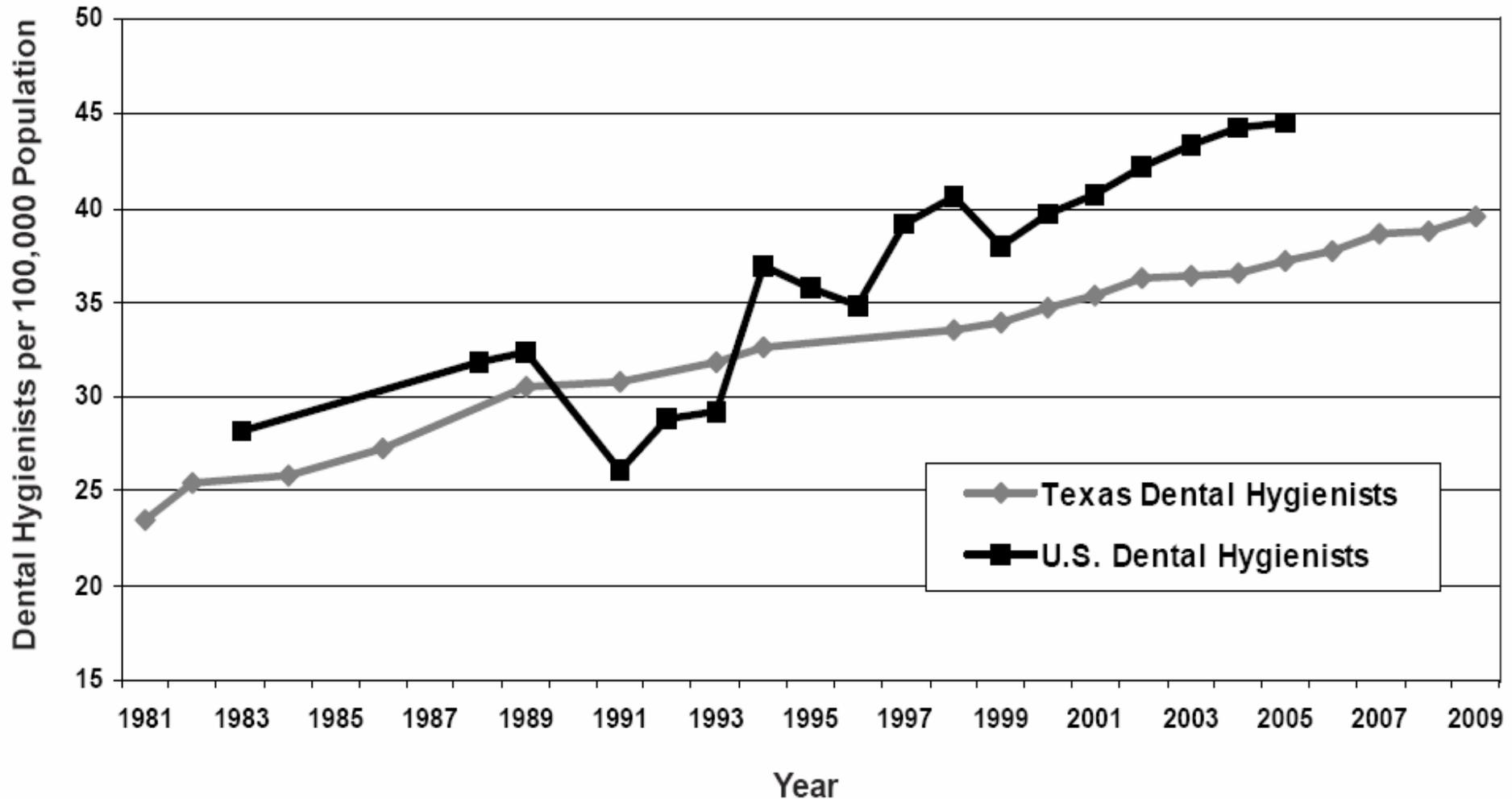
Figure 46. Dentists per 100,000 Population,  
U.S. and Texas, 1981-2009



Source: Texas State Board of Dental Examiners; HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions and others, see page 8.  
Texas data include all licensed, active, in-state, non-federal dentists; US data may vary.

# Oral Health Workforce Needs

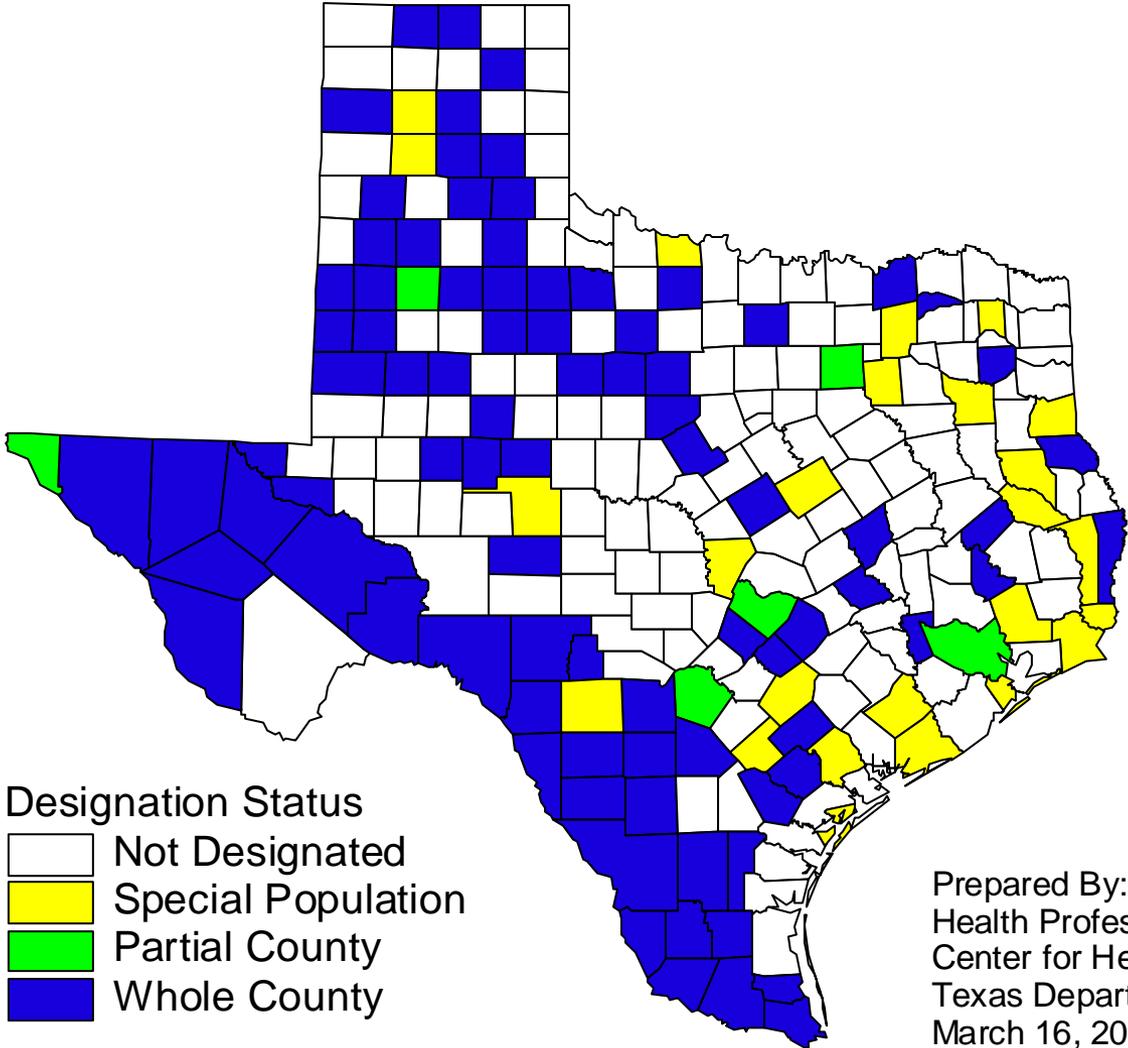
**Figure 50. Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population, U.S. and Texas, 1981-2009**



Source: Texas State Board of Dental Examiners; HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions and others; see page 8.  
Texas data include all licensed, active, in-state dental hygienists; US data may vary.

# Oral Health Workforce Needs

# Federally Designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas as of March 2010



Designation Status

- Not Designated
- Special Population
- Partial County
- Whole County

Prepared By:  
Health Professions Resource Center  
Center for Health Statistics  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
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## Dental Hygiene:

- 2-year program following 0-2 years of college prerequisites

## Dentistry:

|                    | Pre-dental       | Dental School | Residency       |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Current U.S. Model | 3-4 years        | 4 years       | Optional        |
| Possible 6+1 Model | Combined 6 years |               | Required 1 year |

## “Mid-level” Providers:

- Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) - Alaska, 2003
- Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) - ADA, 2006
- Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) – ADHA
- Dental Therapist (DT)/Advanced Dental Therapist (ADT) - 2009

# Oral Health Workforce Education

- Need a plan in collaboration with organized dentistry that addresses access to care
- Consider workforce models that can be supported educationally, and that are effective and sustainable in practice
- Develop funding models for changes to/new educational programs
- Increase enrollment and develop incentives for practitioners to work in underserved areas

## Next Steps



Thank you!