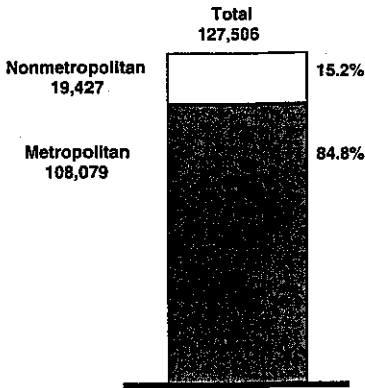


Rural Health Professions Facts

Dentists supply and distribution

Dentists

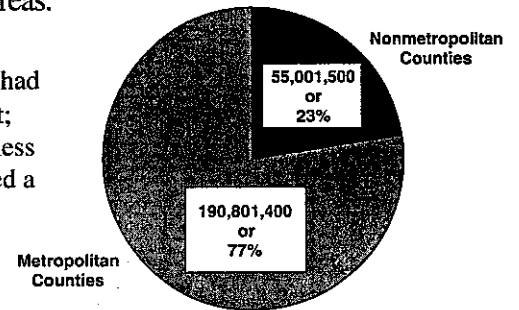
Supply and Distribution



Location of U.S. Dentists, 1987

- In 1990, more than 16 million Americans lived in dental shortage areas. Of the 794 designated dental shortage areas nationwide, 73% were nonmetropolitan.
- In 1987, of the approximately 127,506 dentists nationwide, 19,427 dentists, or 15.2%, were in rural areas.

- In 1987, 183 counties in the United States had no general practice or pediatric dentist; 181 of these counties were rural, had less than 25,000 population and represented a total of 731,500 people.



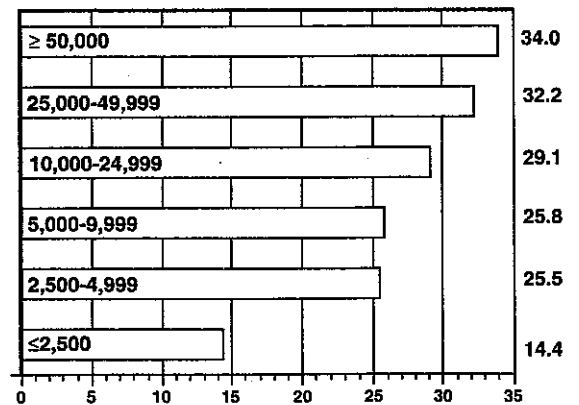
U.S. Population by County, 1988

- 1,757 dentists are needed to remove all the 1990 shortage area designations: 842 dentists in metropolitan areas and 915 in nonmetropolitan areas.
- The number of general practice and pediatric dentists per 100,000 population is 14.6% higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas, 46.2 versus 31.6.
- Between 1979 and 1990, the number of dental shortage areas decreased from 916 to 794.

Dental Shortage Areas:	1979	1985	1990
Total	916	777	794
Nonmetropolitan	735	581	577
Metropolitan	181	196	217

- The ratio of dental specialists (orthodontics, surgery, periodontics, pedodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics, public health, and oral pathology) per 100,000 population is more than 3 times greater in metropolitan areas (9.3) than in nonmetropolitan areas (3.0).

- Within nonmetropolitan counties in 1987, the number of general practice and pediatric dentists per 100,000 population is related to county size, with the smallest rural counties having the fewest providers.
- A 1986-87 national survey of the prevalence of decayed, missing, and filled teeth (DMFT) in children aged 5-17 indicated that mean values for children in nonmetropolitan counties were approximately 5% higher than for children in metropolitan counties, 2.04 versus 1.9 DMFT.
- 81% of decayed, missing, and filled teeth of school-aged children in nonmetropolitan areas were treated, compared to 84% of children in metropolitan areas.



Number of Dentists per 100,000 Population by County, 1987

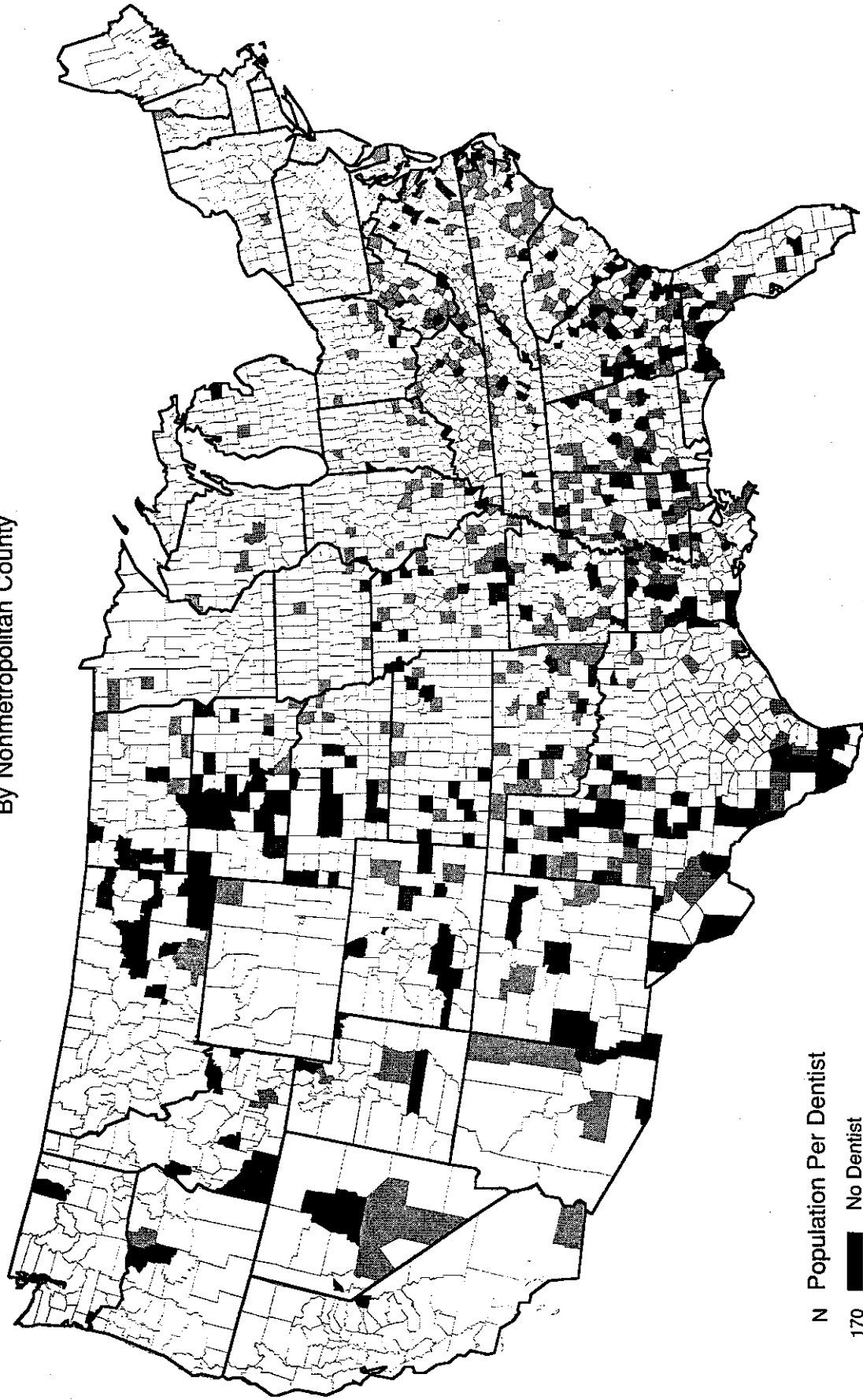


Helping to Build a Healthier Nation

Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

POPULATION PER DENTIST, 1987

By Nonmetropolitan County



Produced by: Rural Health Research Program
 Health Services Research Center
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Data Source: Area Resource File, ODAI, BHP, HRSA, PHS, DHHS, March 1990

Metropolitan Counties

The primary sources of data in this fact sheet were those collected for a report to Congress as required by Section 799A(e) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by the Health Professions Reauthorization Act of 1988, Title VI of Public Law 100-607, November 4, 1988 (42.U.S.C. 295j); and the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment.

For information about additional Fact Sheets in this series, contact the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, CB #7590, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7590.