

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

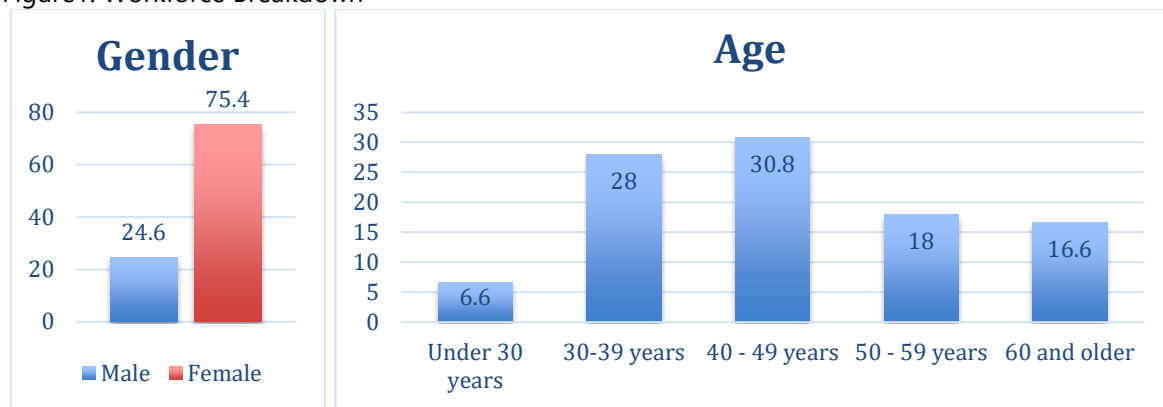
Schedule F – Agency Workforce Plan and the Texas Workforce System Strategic Plan

Current Workforce Profile

The Board had the following workforce profile in FY2024:

- 75.4% female and 24.6% male
- 53.1% white, 10.4% black, 31.8% Hispanic, and 4.7% other
- 6.6% under 30 years, 28% 30 – 39 years, 30.8% 40 – 49 years, 18% 50 – 59 years, and 16.6% over 60 years; and
- 26.5% less than 2 years' service, 23.2% 2 – 4 years, 35.6% 5 – 9 years, 12.8% 10 – 14 years and 1.9% 15 years or more.

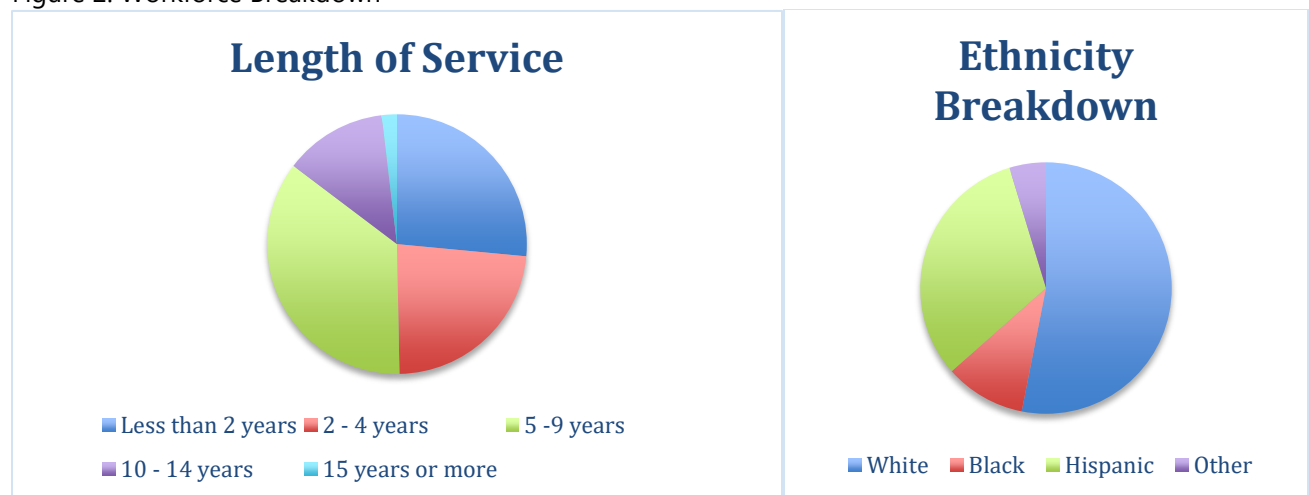
Figure1. Workforce Breakdown



Current Staffing Levels

The Board's full-time-equivalent (FTE) cap is currently 59 FTEs.

Figure 2. Workforce Breakdown



Employee Turnover

The employee turnover rate for FYs 2024 and 2025 was 28.2 percent. Figure 9 of the State Auditor's Office report 26-703 listed the State Board of Dental Examiners as one of 9 agencies with high turnover. Results from the Survey of Employee Engagement indicated that employees are most dissatisfied with their salary levels and staff do not feel their salaries are competitive with similar jobs in the community.

Workforce Skills Critical to the Board's Mission and Goal

The regulation of dentistry is specialized and requires a variety of critical workforce skills and credentials in order to perform the core business functions. Based on the agency's mission and goals, the following identify the critical workforce skills and credentials needed for the agency to successfully administer and provide services to our stakeholders, public, legislators, and other interested parties:

- Decision Making
- Independent Judgment
- Detail Oriented
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Proficiency with Basic Technology
- Knowledge of Legislative Process
- Knowledge of Rulemaking Process
- Skill in Policy Development and Implementation
- Risk Assessment
- Data Analysis/Management
- Investigation
- Interviewing and Information Gathering
- Compliance Regulation
- Dental Degree and License
- Dental Practice Standard of Care
- Law Degree and License
- Litigation
- Negotiation
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution
- Research/Writing/Editing
- Administrative Law
- Paralegal Credentials
- Emerging and Advanced Computer Technology
- Telecommunication Technology
- Computer/Automated Services Skills.

Salary Levels

Due to overall budgetary constraints, the Board has hired new employees at the minimum of the salary range for their positions. The average salary of \$58,558 in fiscal year 2024 an increase of only 14.5 percent compared to the average agency salary in fiscal year 2020 which is disproportionate to inflation. In fiscal year 2024, 77 percent of employees were paid below the midpoint salary range to which they were

assigned. As such, the potential high turnover rate is harmful to the agency productivity when skilled workers leave and the agency population contains a high percentage of novice workers. The current budget constraints limit the Board's ability to provide significant salary increases for performance.

Future Workforce Profile

Expected Workforce Changes

To continue to meet the Board's workload, legislative and public needs, the agency must make better use of available budget/FTEs, cross-train within and outside of departments, establish automated procedures to provide efficiency and streamline processes, improve communication across departments, prepare and plan for changes in staff and management, and increase the use of technology throughout the agency.

Future Workforce Skills Needed

The critical skills described above will continue to be needed in the future. With a new focus on communication, the future workforce will need to increase communication and customer service skills. This will be accomplished through staff training and an enhanced customer focus by management. With new technology initiatives, the future workforce will also be required to gain proficiency with new software programs, which will be accomplished with training and documented procedures.

Workforce and Gap Analysis

Similar to many other small agencies, recruitment and retention of staff is frequently a challenge, primarily due to the agency's uncompetitive salary levels. Key managerial staff and employees assigned to perform critical functions for the agency are unable to commit to the Board for extended periods because of the need for a salary increase. Many Board staff positions are seen as entry level and not long-term career positions. Succession Planning and knowledge transfer is necessary in this climate and must be a focus for the Board in the future.

The Board's workforce should be used efficiently and effectively. As such, effective education and training in cases where such education and training should be provided resulting in better organizational and individual performance.

Due to budget constraints, it is difficult for departments to attract and retain staff with the skills needed to address change management, process re-engineering, and problem solving at a supervisory level. Ongoing internal training to match the agency culture and expectations could assist with this deficit as well as additional funding for salaries.

The Board continues to experience difficulty in recruiting professional employees, particularly in the positions that require dental, legal, or investigative expertise. As the Board continues to operate within its current budget constraints that do not allow for salary increases, it is likely that the agency will find itself with the same shortage of professional staff in the future.

Workforce Strategies

In order to address workforce gaps, the Board's goal is to focus efforts on the strategies listed below. Throughout the Workforce and Strategic Plans, the Board has described the need to focus on these areas. Without a strong workforce, the Board will not be able to perform its critical services and meet the needs of the public and licensees.

- Recruitment and Retention – promote from within the agency, find and hire qualified candidates and encourage current employees to stay due to increased job satisfaction
- Staff and Management Development – prepare employees and management to perform required job skills
- Flexible Schedules and Telework- allow employees to work flexible schedules, including telework, with appropriate oversight by their direct supervisor, to encourage employee satisfaction and retention.
- Succession Planning and Knowledge Transfer – ensure there are qualified employees to fill critical positions that become open and then transfer the required knowledge to perform the job from the departing employee to the new employee
- Reorganization – redeploy staff and make necessary organizational adjustments to respond to changes due to legislative mandates and technology improvements
- Position Classifications – add new job classifications and rewrite job descriptions to better reflect future functional requirements
- Salary Actions – institute equity adjustments, promotions, and merit increases as needed to meet future needs and encourage retention.

Subsequent to implementation of the strategies, ongoing evaluation and adjustments to the Workforce Plan will be necessary for continuous improvement.