

# THE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY AT A GLANCE



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## What is the Academy of General Dentistry?

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The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is a professional association of 40,000 members from across the United States. Founded in 1952, the AGD has grown to become the country's second-largest dental association, and it is the only association that exclusively serves the needs and represents the interests of general dentists. AGD's mission is to "advance general dentistry and oral health through quality continuing education and advocacy." Through this mission, AGD member dentists can build their careers, grow their businesses, and protect their profession. AGD headquarters is located in Chicago.



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## What is a general dentist?

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General dentists are the primary oral healthcare providers for patients of all ages. General dentists take responsibility for diagnosing, treating, and coordinating services to meet patients' oral health needs. If a specialized dental procedure is needed, general dentists may work with specialists to ensure that patients receive the necessary care.



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## How does dentistry affect the economy?

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Dentists are some of America's most highly educated and trained healthcare professionals. The majority of our nation's dentists practice in small-business environments in their local communities. As of 2023, there are 1,009,363 people employed in the dental industry in the US<sup>1</sup>. Overall employment of dentists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 5,100 openings for dentists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as retiring.<sup>2</sup>



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## What resources does the AGD offer the public?

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**KnowYourTeeth.com:** This website is AGD's source of consumer information on dental care and oral health. Its goal is to provide reliable information in a format that is easy to use and navigate and to provide the tools that will help consumers of all ages care for their teeth and other aspects of oral care. KnowYourTeeth.com answers crucial dental health questions, offers the latest information on current dental treatments and tips for first-rate oral hygiene, and can help visitors find qualified dentists near where they live or work. (Visit KnowYourTeeth.com for more information)



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## Where can I find more information?

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To contact the AGD Advocacy Department, call 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368), ext. 4321, or email [advocacy@agd.org](mailto:advocacy@agd.org). For more information, visit [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org).



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<https://www.bls.gov><sup>1</sup>  
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm><sup>2</sup>