

The most recent data available¹ shows that about a third of Brazilian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) registered in 2018 offered at least one course in the Health Area, and 14% of the total had Dentistry courses. Of the 385 Dental Schools, 319 were in private HEIs and 66 in public ones, with 125,585 students regularly enrolled.

The discrepancy in the search for Dentistry courses is noteworthy, with an average of 16 candidates per vacancy in public institutions and 2.5 in private HEIs. The situation is even more complicated when analyzing the effective occupation of these vacancies. More than half of those vacancies were idle in private institutions, which, in itself, leads to a reflection on the impact that these numbers may have on investments in faculty members and infrastructure. Besides, 8,617 dentistry students from private schools canceled their enrollment in 2018.

When the 2019 data becomes available, we will certainly be more concerned, as the number of accredited courses will rise to more than 500 accredited Dental Schools. We will also have the results from the responses of the Enade questionnaire, which brings sociodemographic variables of the students and their assessment of the course they had attended.

The Revista da Abeno hopes to receive articles that bring in-depth reflections on the impacts of this new scenario of dental education in Brazil.

Profa. Dra. Vania Regina Camargo Fontanella
President of ABENO

¹Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Educacionais Anísio Teixeira. Sinopse Estatística da Educação Superior 2018. [online]. Brasília: Inep. 2019. Available at: <http://portal.inep.gov.br/web/guest/sinopses-estatisticas-da-educacao-superior>.