


Dentistry UFES in 10 years: professional and sociodemographic profile of graduates


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Abstract Since its professional regulation, Dentistry has undergone many changes until its consolidation. The indiscriminate and unplanned increase in the offer of Dentistry courses led to a marked growth in the number of professionals in the job market, culminating in the current moment of saturation and accelerated reorganization of the course. Such changes were not limited to technological and scientific development; changes were also observed in the profile of students and dental professionals during this course. Thus, this study investigated the profile of the workforce of graduated professionals and verified the regional insertion of the Dentistry Course at the Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES). This quantitative, descriptive and exploratory study analyzed the professional and sociodemographic profile of 533 graduates of the Dentistry Course at UFES between 2008 and 2018, based on the database of the Regional Dental Council of Espírito Santo and DATASUS. As a result, there was majority of females (70%), aged between 25-40 years, active in Dentistry (85.1%), working in the state in the private sector. The majority is formed by general practitioners (65.2%), but there is a tendency to specialize which, when present, focuses on Orthodontics, Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Implantology. The results confirmed the important regional insertion of the UFES Dentistry Course in local development. However, despite the National Curriculum Guidelines directing towards a generalist profile, aimed at the community, there is a greater tendency towards the private market, possibly due to the more attractive incomes.

Descriptors: Students, Dental. Oral Health. Health Workforce.

Odontología UFES en 10 años: perfil profesional y sociodemográfico de los egresados

Resumen Desde su regulación profesional, la Odontología ha sufrido muchos cambios hasta su consolidación. El aumento indiscriminado y no planificado de la oferta de carreras de Odontología resultó en un crecimiento exagerado del número de profesionales en el mercado de trabajo, culminando en el momento actual de saturación y reorganización acelerada de la carrera. Tales cambios no se limitaron al desarrollo tecnológico y científico. También se observó un cambio en el perfil del estudiante y del profesional de odontología durante este curso, por lo que esta investigación tiene como objetivo conocer el perfil de la fuerza de trabajo de los profesionales graduados y verificar la inserción regional del Curso de Odontología en la Universidad Federal de Espírito Santo (UFES). Este estudio cuantitativo, descriptivo y exploratorio analizó el perfil profesional y sociodemográfico de 533 egresados de la Carrera de Odontología de la UFES entre 2008 y 2018, a partir de la base de datos del Consejo Regional de Odontología de Espírito Santo y DATASUS. Como resultado, hubo una mayoría femenina (70%), con edad entre 25-40 años, activa en Odontología (85,1%), trabajando en el estado en el sector privado. La mayoría está formada por médicos generales (65,2%), pero existe una tendencia a la especialización que, cuando está presente, se centra en Ortodoncia, Endodoncia, Prótesis e Implantología. Los resultados confirmaron la importante inserción regional de la Carrera de Odontología de la UFES en el desarrollo local. Sin embargo, a pesar de que los Lineamientos Curriculares Nacionales apuntan hacia un perfil generalista, dirigido a la comunidad, existe una mayor tendencia hacia el mercado privado, posiblemente por las tarifas más atractivas.

Descriptorios: Estudiantes de Odontología. Salud Bucal Fuerza Laboral en Salud.

Odontologia UFES em 10 anos: perfil profissional e sociodemográfico dos egressos

Resumo Desde a sua regulamentação profissional, a Odontologia passou por muitas mudanças até sua consolidação. O aumento indiscriminado e sem planejamento da oferta de cursos de Odontologia resultou em um crescimento exagerado do número de profissionais



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no mercado de trabalho, culminando no atual momento de saturação e de acelerada reorganização do curso. Tais mudanças não se limitaram ao desenvolvimento tecnológico e científico. Observou-se, também, alteração no perfil do estudante e do profissional de odontologia no decorrer deste percurso, portanto essa pesquisa tem o objetivo de conhecer o perfil da força de trabalho dos profissionais graduados e verificar a inserção regional do Curso de Odontologia da Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES). Este estudo quantitativo de natureza descritiva e exploratória analisou o perfil profissional e sociodemográfico de 533 egressos do Curso de Odontologia da UFES entre 2008 e 2018, a partir do banco de dados do Conselho Regional de Odontologia do Espírito Santo e do DATASUS. Como resultados observou-se uma maioria feminina (70%), com idade entre 25-40 anos, ativos na Odontologia (85,1%), atuando no estado no setor privado. A maioria é formada por clínicos gerais (65,2%), mas existe uma tendência à especialidade que, quando presente, concentra-se na Ortodontia, Endodontia, Prótese e Implantodontia. Os resultados confirmaram a importante inserção regional do Curso de Odontologia da UFES no desenvolvimento local. Entretanto, apesar das Diretrizes Curriculares Nacionais direcionarem para um perfil generalista, voltado para a coletividade, constata-se maior tendência ao mercado privado, possivelmente pelos honorários mais atrativos.

Descritores: Estudantes de Odontologia. Saúde Bucal. Recursos Humanos em Saúde.

INTRODUCTION

Dentistry has historically undergone major changes since its professional regulation in 1856. Until reaching its legitimization, Dentistry has been associated with Medicine for a long time, being considered a profession of lower level¹.

The process of consolidation of Dentistry as a profession began in the 1930s, and in the period between the 1960s and 1980s the dental professionals reached their stage of greatest prosperity, a period known as the "golden age" of Dentistry².

Before this moment of prosperity, the demand for the Dentistry course was reported as a problem, since there was a deficit of dental professionals and few enrolled in the entrance exams at the time³. After strengthening the profession this situation changed, and Dentistry courses appeared among the most sought in universities. Soon after, the scenario changed again and, at the end of the 1990s, there was a decrease in the density of candidates per place, certainly as a consequence of the increased number of undergraduate courses³.

The indiscriminate increase in the offer of undergraduate courses without previous planning has led to an increase in the availability of professionals in the labor market⁴, accompanied by a noticeable strangulation of the private market, leading professionals to unacceptable practices that contribute to dismantle the class³.

Data from the Federal Dental Council (CFO)⁵ showed that there were 320,160 professionals in Brazil in 2019, yielding a ratio of one dental professional per 650 inhabitants, evidencing an uncontrolled increase in the number of professionals. The contingent of dental professionals is large and is linked to the large number of courses, thus more professionals are not necessary, but rather a better distribution across the country⁶.

A survey on students in the last year of the Dentistry Course at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) revealed that students wish to enroll in postgraduate courses as a form of continuing education, and most consider the public service as an expectation of professional performance as a complementary income to the private sector⁷.

In a public institution in João Pessoa, state of Paraíba, the undergraduate students reported that the market is saturated, but they wish to work in private practice with health insurance companies and to work in the public sector⁸.

Aiming to analyze the profile of dentists who worked in a private sector company, it was found that, among the 194 participants (age 25-54 years), 68.04% were females and 31.96% were males⁹. A total of 78.35% of professionals work in a private practice or clinic and 30.93% in the public sector. The mean workload was 41.08 hours per week.

The Dentistry Course at UFES annually graduates around 60 students qualified to work in the job market. As a public institution, the university must know the profile of alumni to associate it with its pedagogical project, to verify its suitability and efficiency. Besides monitoring the graduates, it is important to analyze the local and regional insertion of the course, gathering information about its importance and the benefits provided to society.

Considering the current moment of saturation and accelerated reorganization of Dentistry, it is important for the university to know the profile of the workforce of graduated professionals, to verify the best academic training and thus achieve success in an increasingly crowded labor market. Therefore, this research aimed to determine the professional and sociodemographic profile of dentists graduated from UFES in the period from 2008 to 2018, registered at the Regional Dental Council of Espírito Santo (CRO-ES), Brazil.

METHODS

This retrospective descriptive cross-sectional study surveyed the professional and sociodemographic profile of dentists graduated from UFES between 2008 and 2018. Since the study is cross-sectional, data were collected only once.

The inclusion criteria comprised individuals graduated between 2008 and 2018 at UFES and registered at CRO-ES. Professionals who canceled their registration at CRO-ES or who requested transfer to other states were excluded.

From the list of graduates, the databases of CRO-ES and the Department of Informatics of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS) were consulted, identifying 534 dentists who completed the Dentistry Course at UFES in that period. Additional information was collected from the Lattes Curriculum database and Facebook.

The following professional and sociodemographic variables were collected: gender, age, city of residence, specialty(ies), type of employment – public, private or public/private, whether the professional is a military officer, registration status – active or cancelled, reason for cancellation and if there was a secondary registration.

From the CRO-ES database, data were achieved including gender, age, specialty, type of career, technical responsibility and status of registration in the council and if there was a secondary registration.

Data obtained from the DATASUS database included the work of professionals in public health services.

Information was obtained from Facebook about the city of residence, type of service, year of graduation of the Dentistry course and registration status in the Brazilian Dental Association (ABO).

Data on schooling and academic career were accessed using lists of institutions and on the Lattes Curriculum database.

Data collection was conducted using a form containing the variables for data recording. After that, data were tabulated for analysis. Data were obtained directly from public information and the researchers had no contact with any professional. All researchers are committed to keep the secrecy of all data achieved, so that no professional is identified.

All ethical guidelines of research on human beings were met, according to the guidelines of Resolution N. 466 of December 12, 2012 of the National Health Council, Ministry of Health. This study was approved by the UFES Institutional Review Board under report n. 3.504.655 (CAAE: 55740316.7.0000.5060).

Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, presented by frequency tables with absolute numbers and percentages for each item in the research instrument. The relationship between sociodemographic variables and academic data was assessed by the chi-square test. The significance level adopted was $p < 0.05$. The statistical package SPSS v. 20 (IBM, Armonk NY, USA) was used for analysis.

RESULTS

UFES graduated 610 professionals in the ten years evaluated, among whom 534 were found in this research, being 374 (70%) women and 160 (30%) men (Table 1). Among these professionals, the majority (264, 49.5%) were under thirty years of age; 447 (85.1%) were actively working in the profession, the vast majority active in the civil career (532, 96.6%) and registered in ABO (525, 98.3%) (Table 2). Among those who were not active in CRO-ES, most had their registration

transferred. Only 204 professionals could be identified regarding the type of sector (public or private), among whom 112 (21%) had a private activity, 75 (14%) were in the public sector and 17 (3.3%) worked in the public/private sector.

Most professionals (348, 65.2%) did not have a specialization course and, among specialists, Orthodontics, Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Implantology were the most frequent specialties (Table 3). Alike the graduation, there was a significant predominance of women in the aforementioned specialties and in all others (Table 4). Only 88 (16.5%) had a MSc degree and 19 (3.6%) had a PhD degree, without significant difference between genders. Seventeen (3.2%) were in academic career.

Also, regarding the specialties, except for Endodontics and Prosthodontics, most specialists are over thirty years old (Table 5). However, this difference is not significant in *stricto sensu* areas, nor in the academic career.

Table 1. Data on dental professionals graduated at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Variable	n	%
<i>Gender</i>		
Female	374	70.0
Male	160	30.0
<i>Age range</i>		
Up to 27 years	163	30.5
28 – 29 years	107	20.0
30 – 32 years	143	26.8
33 years or older	121	22.7
Total	534	100,0

Table 2. Functional data of dental professionals trained at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Variable	n	%
<i>Registered at ABO</i>		
Yes	525	98.3
No	9	1.7
<i>Actively working</i>		
Yes	447	85.1
No		
Closure	22	4.2
Transference	41	7.8
Cancellation	6	1.2
Expiry	9	1.7
<i>Type of career</i>		
Civil	532	99.6
Military	2	0.4
<i>Type of service</i>		
Private	112	21.0
Public	75	14.0
Private/Public	17	3.2
No response	330	61.8
Total	534	100,0

Table 3. Academic data of dental professionals graduated at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Variable	n	%
<i>Year of course completion</i>		
2009	53	9.9
2010	63	11.8
2011	47	8.8
2012	33	6.2
2013	55	10.3
2014	41	7.7
2015	74	13.9
2016	35	6.6
2017	91	17.0
2018	42	7.8
<i>Specialization</i>		
Orthodontics	40	7.5
Endodontics	31	5.8
Prosthodontics	31	5.8
Implantology	30	5.6
Periodontology	20	3.7
Pediatric Dentistry	13	2.4
Surgery and Traumatology	12	2.2
Restorative Dentistry	10	1.9
Others	11	2.1
None	348	65.2
<i>MSc</i>		
Yes	88	16.5
No	446	83.5
<i>PhD</i>		
Yes	19	3.6
No	515	96.4
<i>Academic career</i>		
Yes	17	3.2
No	517	96.8
<i>Technical responsibility</i>		
Yes	49	9.2
No	485	90.8
<i>Secondary</i>		
Yes	7	1.3
No	527	98.7
Total	534	100.0

Table 4. Relationship between gender and academic data of dental professionals graduated at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Variable	Female		Male		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
<i>Specialization</i>					
Orthodontics	29	7.8	11	6.9	
Endodontics	18	4.8	13	8.1	
Prosthodontics	21	5.6	10	6.3	
Implantology	13	3.5	17	10.6	
Periodontology	15	4.0	5	3.1	
Pediatric Dentistry	12	3.2	1	0.6	0.002
Surgery and Traumatology	4	1.1	8	5.0	
Restorative Dentistry	8	2.1	2	1.3	
Others	9	2.7	2	1.2	
None	254	67.9	94	58.8	
<i>MSc</i>					
Yes	64	17.1	24	15.0	0.547
No	310	82.9	136	85.0	
<i>PhD</i>					
Yes	13	3.5	6	3.8	0.876
No	361	96.5	154	96.2	
<i>Academic career</i>					
Yes	8	2.1	9	5.6	0.036
No	366	97.9	151	94.4	
<i>Technical responsibility</i>					
Yes	30	8.0	19	11.9	0.158
No	344	92.0	141	88.1	

Table 5. Relationship between age group and academic data of dental professionals graduated at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Characteristic	Up to 29 years		30 years or older		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
<i>Specialization</i>					
Orthodontics	8	3.0	32	12.1	
Endodontics	20	7.4	11	4.2	
Prosthodontics	20	7.4	11	4.2	
Implantology	10	3.7	20	7.6	
Periodontology	5	1.9	15	5.7	
Pediatric Dentistry	5	1.9	8	3.0	0.000
Surgery and Traumatology	4	1.5	8	3.0	
Restorative Dentistry	2	0.7	8	3.0	
Others	8	3.2	3	1.2	
None	190	70.4	158	59.8	
<i>MSc</i>					
Yes	37	13.7	51	19.3	0.080
No	233	86.3	213	80.7	
<i>PhD</i>					
Yes	8	3.0	11	4.2	0.453
No	262	97.0	253	95.8	
<i>Academic career</i>					
Yes	8	3.0	9	3.4	0.769
No	262	97.0	255	96.6	
<i>Technical responsibility</i>					
Yes	10	3.7	39	14.8	0.000
No	260	96.3	225	85.2	

DISCUSSION

A predominance of women (70%) was observed among UFES Dentistry graduates, following the current trend towards feminization of the profession¹⁰, a similar result as observed on a study conducted on graduates of Piracicaba School of Dentistry¹². In recent years, a growing number of women have entered the academic career¹¹.

The majority of professionals work in the private sector, corroborated by authors who observed a tendency towards centralization of the workforce in the Southeast, in their own office and with a specialization in Dentistry, although most professionals were general practitioners^{8,13}. Some authors concluded that the private sector would be of greater interest among graduates⁷.

Most graduates (65.2%) do not have a specialty, which is in line with the results obtained by researchers, who found that 62.8% of respondents had a specialization degree¹². This difference could be explained because the aforementioned study was conducted in the state of São Paulo, where the greater saturation of the labor market leads to a greater need for improvement, since the profession "still promotes opportunities for qualified professionals". Also, the greater offer of specialization courses facilitates the access of professionals.

In specialties in general, as well as in graduation, there was majority of females, yet with predominance of males in some specific areas, such as Implantology and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. According to some authors, the reasons that lead to the difference between genders in the prevalence of specialists in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery would be a greater demand for time during training in the area, lack of time for social and cultural life and the stereotype of the specialty¹⁴. Probably, in Implantology, the difference between genders may be due to similar factors.

In 2002, a survey¹⁵ showed that most undergraduates wished to specialize in Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics and Surgery, influenced by closer relatives also active in the area¹⁶. The expectations reported in relation to the course are related to professional achievement, training for the labor market, financial income and personal expectations¹⁷. For that purpose, the students intended to undertake a specialization course, especially in the fields of Prosthodontics/Implantology, Surgery and Orthodontics.

These results were also observed in the present study, with preference for specialties of Orthodontics, Endodontics and Prosthodontics and Implantology, probably driven by market aspects¹⁰. However, the search for specializations in these areas may reflect the gaps left by the generalist curricula, a demand of the Law of Guidelines and Bases¹⁸ and the current National Curricular Guidelines (DCN)¹⁹, which encourage the generalist training.

There was predominance of professionals over 30 years of age in the specialties of Orthodontics and Implantology, possibly because they demand time and greater investments in the specialty.

Achieving a PhD degree is not frequent, a result also found by authors¹⁶ in the studied sample, besides greater activity in the private sector. As verified by another study⁷, contrary to the DCN¹⁹, the interest in the private sector begins at graduation. This fact may explain the low prevalence of PhDs, since this is not a demand of the private market.

CONCLUSION

Most of the 534 professionals graduated from 2008 to 2018 and registered at CRO-ES are female, under 30 years of age, actively working in the profession, in the civil career, registered at ABO. Regarding the type of service in which they work, only 204 professionals could be identified, with predominance of work in the private sector. The most searched specialties were Orthodontics, Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Implantology, with a small proportion of MSc and PhD degrees and active in the academic career.

There was an important regional insertion of the UFES Dentistry Course in local development. However, despite the DCN directing towards a generalist profile, aimed at the community, there is a greater tendency towards the private sector, possibly due to the more attractive income.

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