

# Profile of Dentistry students from the Universidade Estadual do Piauí

Beatriz da Silva Rocha\*; Samuel Fontes Batista\*\*; MariaÂngela Arêa Leão Ferraz\*\*\*

- \* Undergraduate Student, Universidade Estadual do Piauí
- \*\* Graduate of Dentistry Course, Universidade Estadual do Piauí
- \*\*\* Professor, Universidade Estadual do Piauí

Received June 21, 2018. Approved December 22, 2019.

## ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to know the academic and sociodemographic profile of dentistry students from the Universidade Estadual do Piauí. The research was a cross-sectional study with quantitative approach. A questionnaire containing questions about the students' socioeconomic and academic aspects was applied. Among the 92 students enrolled, 71% (66) participated in the study, of these 59% (39) are women, 92% (61) single, 59% (39) aged 21-24 years, 38% (25) from a favored economic class and 44% (29) who called themselves white. Regarding the reason for choosing the course, personal desire was the answer chosen by 48.50% (32) of the students. Scientific research was classified as very important during training and after graduation, 97% (64) intend to specialize, being 'Surgery' (16, 24%) and 'Orthodontics' (13, 20%) the areas of most interest. Prospects for the profession relate to personal/professional achievement and health promotion. Based on the results, we identified the profile of the Dentistry student at Piauí State University, their expectations and what they intend to accomplish after their graduation.

**Descriptors:** Dentistry. Job Market. Students.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The evaluation of public and private education by the Ministry of Education has instigated debates and revisions in the different areas of activity, encouraging universities to get to know their students better, as a way to improve the quality of education and deliver qualified professionals to the labor market<sup>1</sup>.

In February 2002, when the National Curriculum Guidelines (*Diretrizes Curriculares*

*Nacionais* - DCN) of undergraduate dentistry courses were established, it outlined a generalist profile of the professional to be trained in Brazil and spelled out skills and competencies that should be developed by the dentist, new paths were developed in sought to respond to the proposed challenge and this included the reformulation of pedagogical projects and curriculum matrices. Since then, research has been conducted seeking to understand the

profile of the Dentistry student graduated in higher education institutions in Brazil facing these changes<sup>2</sup>.

According to the National Institute for Educational Studies and Research (*Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais - INEP/MEC*), the number of vacancies of undergraduate dentistry courses, according to the regions of Brazil, increased considerably in the North and Northeast regions<sup>3</sup>. The Universidade Estadual do Piauí (UESPI) implemented the bachelor degree course in Dentistry in 2005 and since 2012 the selection is made through the Unified Selection System (*Sistema de Seleção Unificada - SISU*), with vacancies reserved for graduates of public and black schools, promoting greater diversity as to the student profile.

Knowing the student profile of the undergraduate student provides the institution with data to tailor the curriculum to its needs. In this sense, there was interest in knowing the academic and sociodemographic profile of the students of the Dentistry course from the UESPI, Professor Alexandre Alves de Oliveira campus, Parnaíba/PI, also seeking to know their expectations and expected difficulties regarding the future profession.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of UESPI with protocol number 1,775,484. It was obtained, along with the coordination of the Dentistry course, the list of duly registered students, totaling 92 students. The application of the questionnaires was preceded by the presentation of the Informed Consent. The questionnaire consisted of twenty questions, nineteen closed and one open.

Data collection took place at the UESPI School of Dentistry (*Clínica Escola de*

*Odontologia - CEO-UESPI*), during class and after previous contact with the teacher of the discipline being taught. The application time of the questionnaire was approximately 30 minutes.

Data were tabulated and analyzed by descriptive statistics.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the 92 students, 66 agreed to participate in the survey. Results regarding sociodemographic data and students' families are shown in table 1.

In this sample there is a predominance of women, young people with an average age of 21 to 24 years old and single, agreeing with research results carried out in 2011 at a university in southern Brazil, which observed and discussed the predominance of women, which they called “feminization process” in undergraduate dentistry courses<sup>2</sup>.

Black persons are still a minority in UESPI's Dentistry course, similar to what was identified in a study conducted at the Federal University of Pernambuco<sup>5</sup>.

There is a predominance of students from the state of Piauí, followed by Ceará and Maranhão, and most of them are financially dependent on their parents. Student family data indicate that just under half of parents or guardians have completed college. Regarding family income, the range of 4 to 6 minimum wages was the most reported.

The research results also show that the number of families with income from 1 to 3 minimum wages has been increasing gradually, thus observing that there is no upper-class domain in the university, as seen in another study<sup>6</sup>. Positive data for the increase of middle-class students are similar to those found in a study conducted at the University of Pernambuco.<sup>7</sup>

Most of these students attended

Table 1. Distribution of students according to sociodemographic data

| <b>Variables</b>         |                              | <b>n</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Gender                   | Female                       | 39       | 59%      |
|                          | Male                         | 27       | 41%      |
| Age                      | 16 to 20 years old           | 22       | 33%      |
|                          | 21 to 24 years old           | 39       | 59%      |
|                          | More than 25 years old       | 5        | 8%       |
| Race                     | White                        | 28       | 42%      |
|                          | Brown                        | 29       | 44%      |
|                          | Black                        | 7        | 11%      |
|                          | Yellow                       | 2        | 3%       |
|                          | Indigenous                   | 0        | 0        |
| Home state               | Piauí                        | 42       | 63,64%   |
|                          | Ceará                        | 6        | 9,09%    |
|                          | Maranhão                     | 5        | 7,58%    |
|                          | Distrito Federal             | 2        | 3,04%    |
|                          | São Paulo                    | 2        | 3,04%    |
|                          | Espírito Santo               | 1        | 1,51%    |
|                          | Pará                         | 1        | 1,51%    |
|                          | Paraíba                      | 1        | 1,51%    |
|                          | Pernambuco                   | 1        | 1,51%    |
|                          | Rio de Janeiro               | 1        | 1,51%    |
|                          | Tocantins                    | 1        | 1,51%    |
| Not informed             | 3                            | 4,55%    |          |
| Marital status           | Single                       | 61       | 92%      |
|                          | Married                      | 5        | 8%       |
| Dependent on parents     | Yes                          | 57       | 86%      |
|                          | No                           | 8        | 12%      |
|                          | Not informed                 | 1        | 2%       |
| Elementary School        | Public school                | 28       | 42       |
|                          | Private school               | 33       | 50       |
|                          | Private school with partial  | 4        | 6        |
|                          | Private School with Integral | 1        | 2        |
| High school              | Public school                | 26       | 39       |
|                          | Private school               | 35       | 53       |
|                          | Private school with partial  | 4        | 6        |
|                          | Private School with Integral | 1        | 2        |
| Parent's education       | Elementary school incomplete | 8        | 12       |
|                          | Complete primary education   | 5        | 7,5      |
|                          | Incomplete high school       | 2        | 3        |
|                          | Complete high school         | 17       | 26       |
|                          | Incomplete higher education  | 5        | 7,5      |
| Monthly household income | Higher Education             | 29       | 44       |
|                          | 1 to 3 minimum wages         | 20       | 30       |
|                          | 4 to 6 minimum wages         | 25       | 38       |
|                          | More than 6 minimum wages    | 20       | 30       |
| Not informed             | 1                            | 2        |          |

elementary and high school in a private school, similar to that found in other research with dental students<sup>2,7</sup>.

Regarding the reason for choosing to study Dentistry, personal desire was the answer chosen by 32 (48.50%) students, 18 (27.27%) answered that it was the 2nd course option, agreeing with a study done at the School of Dentistry - Bauru/USP, in which the reason that led most students to choose the course was affinity/vocation<sup>8</sup>.

Regarding participation in programs related to scientific research in college, a considerable number (24, 36.36%) of students answered that they do so frequently, and 6 (9.10%) reported that they never engaged in research projects during the formation. Regarding participation in scientific events, 42 (63.64%) students stated that they participated frequently and 62 (93.94%) of the students answered that scientific research during the training period is very important.

Regarding the monitoring that are offered in the course, it was found that 44 students (66.6%) are interested in this type of program. Few (17, 25.75%) students do internships and most of these (14, 82.75%) are unpaid.

After graduation, 60 (90.91%) intend to work at the private and public levels simultaneously, 3 (4.55%) only in the private sector and 2 (3.03%) only in the public service, disagreeing with a study conducted at the University of São Paulo, School of Dentistry, where the majority (58.07%) of the students preferred a private job<sup>9</sup>. In agreement with the reality of UESPI, a study at the Federal University of Santa Maria and the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul showed that only one minority (3% and 11%, respectively) intends to exercise exclusively the private clinic<sup>10</sup>.

In the present study, 27 (40.90%) students estimated as starting income more than R \$ 3,000.00 - in disagreement with a study conducted in the Southern region, which showed an initial estimate of up to R \$ 1,500.00<sup>10</sup>.

The vast majority (64, 97%) of students want to undertake specialization and the two areas of greatest interest are Surgery (16, 24%) and Orthodontics (13, 20%), and 14 (21%) do not yet know which area they want following, in part, agreeing with studies conducted in southern Brazil<sup>2,10</sup> in which the areas of greatest interest were Orthodontics and Prosthesis.

In the profession, 45 (68.19%) expect to perform personally and professionally, 17 (25.75%) intend to promote health and only 4 (6.06%) expressed desire for financial achievement, agreeing with studies in that health promotion did not dominate other alternatives, but it was not left behind<sup>9-10</sup>.

In an open question, students should concisely say what their expectation was about their future profession, being answered by 60 (90.9%) and left blank by 6 (9.1%). Among the most cited answers are personal and financial fulfillment, appreciation and professional recognition, as well as health promotion and contribution to the well-being of the population.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

The results of the present study demonstrated that the profile of the UESPI Dentistry student is characterized by young people between 21 and 24 years old, single and most of them self-described as women. Most students are graduates of private schools and children of parents with higher education. They are very engaged with research and scientific initiation inside and outside the university. Their prospects for the profession include personal fulfillment, health promotion, and class appreciation.

#### RESUMO

#### Perfil dos discentes de odontologia da Universidade Estadual do Piauí

O presente estudo teve como objetivo conhecer

o perfil acadêmico e sociodemográfico dos estudantes de Odontologia da Universidade Estadual do Piauí. A pesquisa foi do tipo transversal com abordagem quantitativa. Aplicou-se um questionário contendo perguntas a respeito dos aspectos socioeconômicos e acadêmicos dos discentes. Dos 92 estudantes matriculados, 71% (66) participaram do estudo, desses 59% (39) são mulheres, 92% (61) solteiros(as), 59% (39) com idade entre 21 e 24 anos, 38% (25) de classe econômica favorecida e 44% (29) que se autodeclararam brancos. Quanto ao motivo de escolha do curso, desejo pessoal foi a resposta escolhida por 48,50% (32) dos discentes. A pesquisa científica foi classificada como muito importante durante a formação e após a graduação, 97% (64) pretendem fazer especialização, sendo Cirurgia (16, 24%) e Ortodontia (13, 20%) as áreas de maior interesse. As perspectivas quanto à profissão se relacionam com a realização pessoal/profissional e promoção de saúde. Com base nos resultados, identificou-se o perfil do estudante de Odontologia da Universidade Estadual do Piauí, suas expectativas e o que pretendem realizar após a formação.

**Descritores:** Odontologia. Estudantes. Mercado de Trabalho.

## REFERENCES

1. Junqueira JC, Colombo CED, Tavares PG, Rocha RF, Carvalho YR, Rodrigues JR. Quem é e o que pensa o graduando de Odontologia. *RevOdontol UNESP*. 2002;31(2):269-84.
2. Toassi RFC, Souza JM, Rosing CK, Baumgarten A. Perfil sociodemográfico e perspectivas em relação à profissão do estudante de Odontologia da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil. *RevFac Odontol*. 2011;52(1/3):25-32.
3. Brasil. Indicadores das graduações em Saúde. Gráfico 2: cursos de graduação em odontologia segundo grandes regiões; 2012. [Cited Apr. 10, 2016]. Available at: [http://www.obsnetims.org.br/uploaded/4\\_7\\_2013\\_0\\_Odontologia.pdf](http://www.obsnetims.org.br/uploaded/4_7_2013_0_Odontologia.pdf).
4. Costa AMDD, Costa JR, Costa MD, Costa RD, Botrel TEA. Contribuição do perfil do aluno de graduação em Odontologia para a redefinição dos recursos usados pelo professor no processo ensino-aprendizagem. *RevFacOdontol Lins*. 2002;14(1):30-4.
5. Dália RCS, Cardoso SO. Perfil sociodemográfico dos alunos e identificação de situações de ensino-aprendizagem que interferem na motivação do aluno para aprender durante o curso de Odontologia da Universidade Federal de Pernambuco; 2008. [Cited Apr. 10, 2016]. Available at: [https://www.ufpe.br/conic/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=339&Itemid=243](https://www.ufpe.br/conic/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=339&Itemid=243)
6. Brustolin J, Brustolin J, ToassiRFC. Perfil do acadêmico de odontologia da Universidade do Planalto Catarinense – Lages – SC, Brasil. *RevABENO*. 2006; 6(1) :70-6.
7. Gurgel LGF, Guimarães RP, Beatrice LCS, Silva CHV. Perfil dos discentes ingressos do Centro de Ciências da Saúde de UFPE. *RevBrasEduc Méd*. 2012;36(2):180-7.
8. Bastos JRM, Aquilante AG, Almeida BS, Lauris JRP, Byella VT. Análise do perfil profissional de cirurgiões dentistas graduados na Faculdade de Odontologia de Bauru-USP entre os anos de 1996 e 2000. *J Appl Oral Sci*. 2003;11(4):283-9.
9. Ponte TM. Perfil psicológico e interesses profissionais de estudantes de Odontologia. [Tese]. São Paulo: Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade de São Paulo; 2012.
10. Unfer B, Rigodanzo L, Hahn D, Manfredini D, Rodrigues E, Carvalheiro CH. Expectativas dos acadêmicos de

- Odontologia quanto a formação e futura profissão. *Saúde*. 2004;30(1/2):33-40.
11. Campos FGG, Santos RF, Santos FCP. A importância da pesquisa científica na formação profissional dos alunos do curso de educação física do UNILESTEMG. *RevDigEduc Fís*. 2009;4(2).
  12. Oliveira DL, Souza ES, Batista FJN, Alvez JV, Yarid SD. Perfil do aluno de Odontologia da Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia. *Rev Saúde*. 2013;9(3):169-78.
  13. Leite DFBM, Trigueiro M, Martins IMCLB, Neto TJL, Santos MQ. Perfil socioeconômico de 253 graduandos de odontologia de uma instituição privada em João Pessoa-PB em 2011. *J Health Sci Inst*. 2012;30(2):117-9.
  14. Brasil. Ministério da Educação, artigo 16 do decreto nº5.773 de 09 de maio de 2006: Instruções para elaboração de plano de desenvolvimento institucional. 2006. [Cited Apr. 10, 2016]. Available at: <http://www4.mec.gov.br/sapiens/pdi.htm>.
  15. Secco LG, Pereira MLT. Formadores em Odontologia: profissionalização docente e desafios político-estruturais. *Ciênc Saúde Coletiva*. 2004;9(1):113-20.

**Correspondence to:**

Beatriz da Silva Rocha

e-mail:[bmroocha@gmail.com](mailto:bmroocha@gmail.com)

Rua Samuel Santos, 7095 Bairro Frei Higinio

64207-012 Parnaíba/PI Brazil