

Training a Rural Oral Health Workforce

Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE)

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BACKGROUND

The objective of RIDE is to train dentists for leadership and dental practice in rural and underserved areas of the Pacific Northwest region. The program is based on UW School of Medicine WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) program adapted for dentistry, and focuses on a super-generalist curriculum to best prepare dentists in rural settings. The RIDE program was funded in 2007 by the Washington State Legislature.

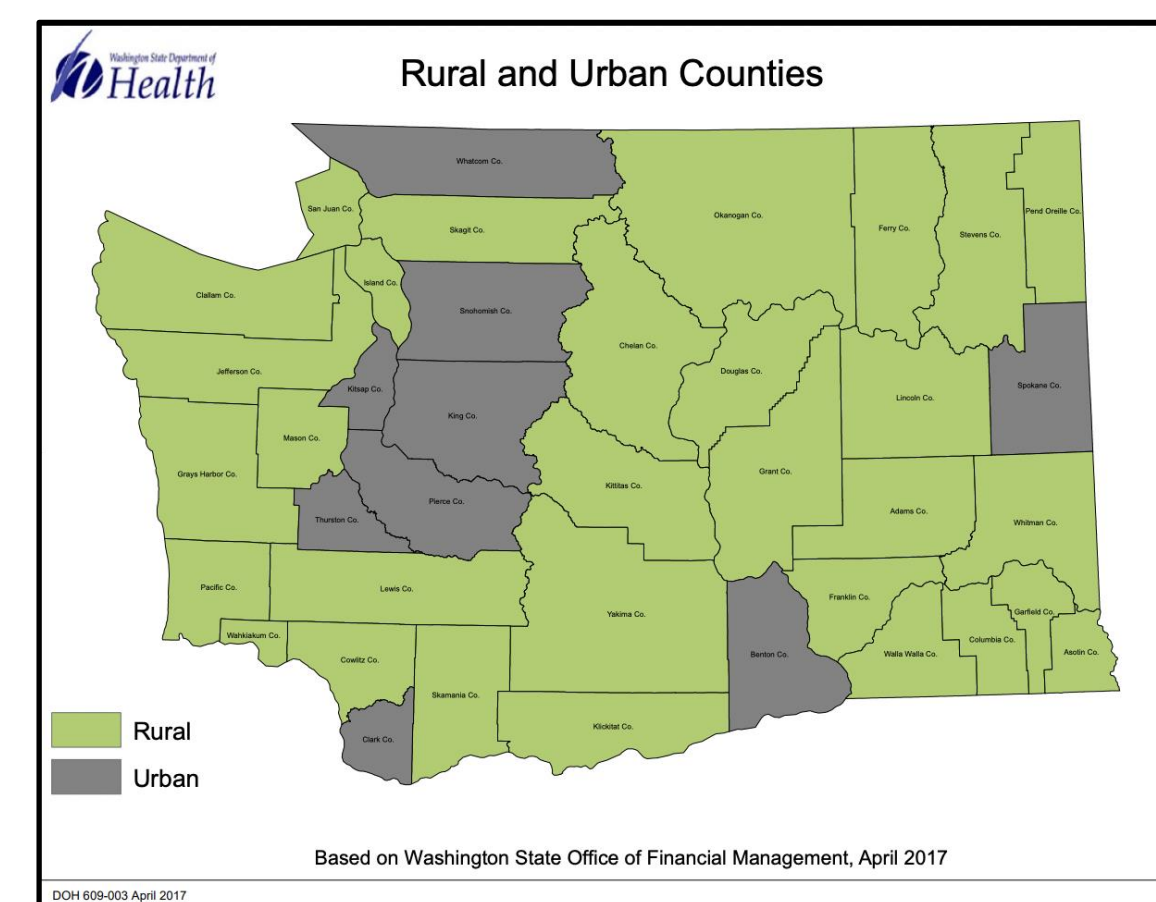
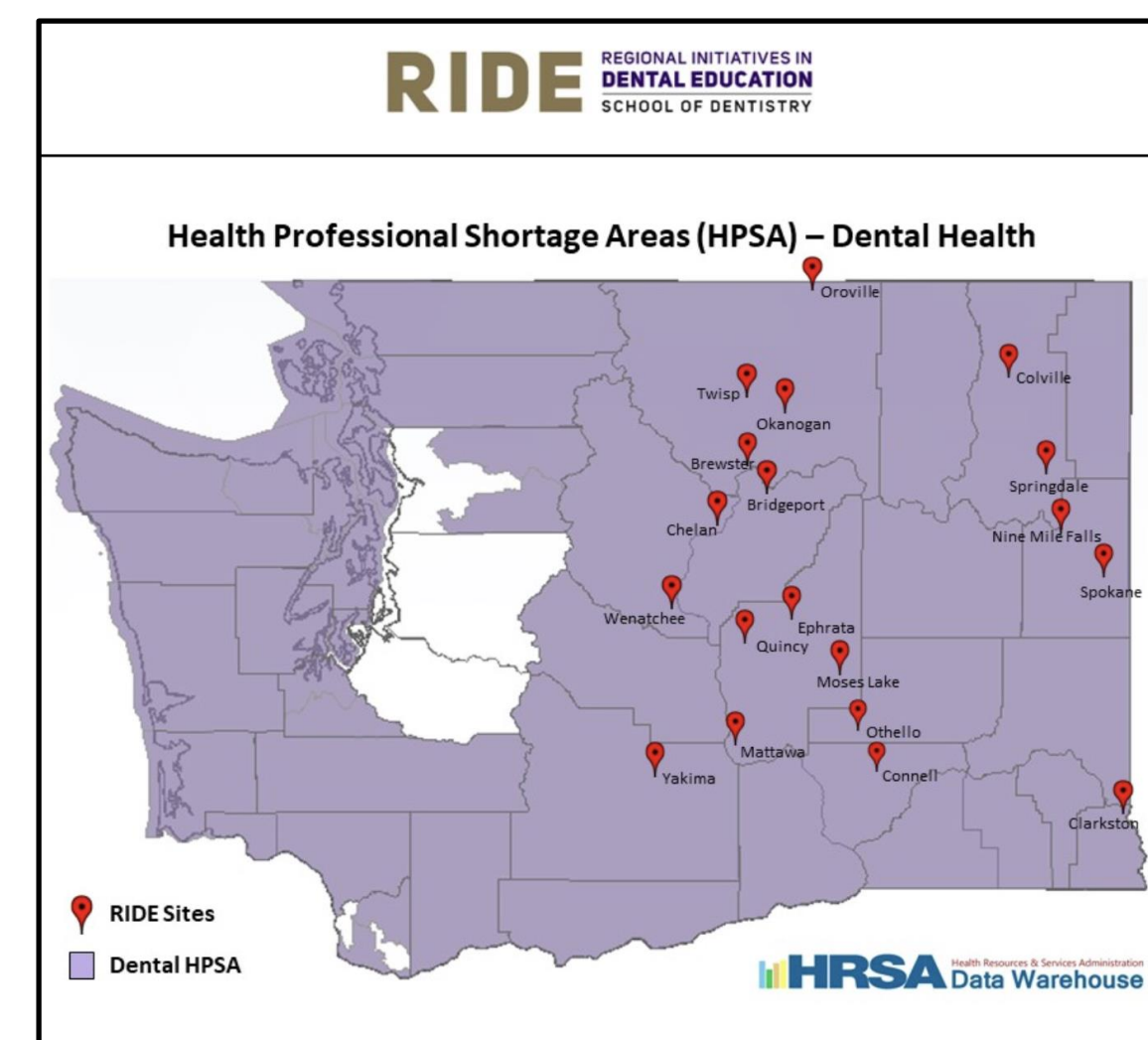
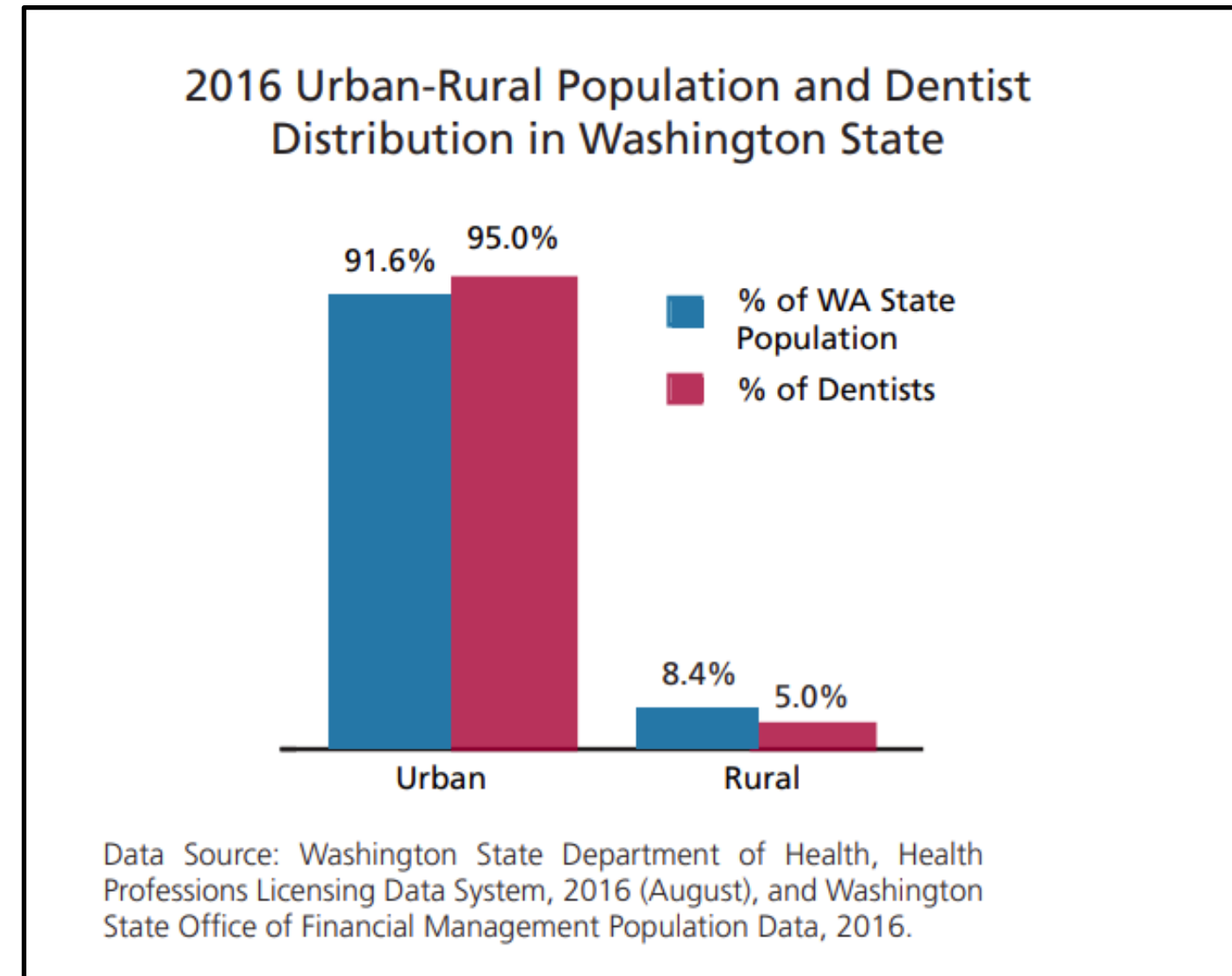
In 2012 RIDE graduated the first class of 8 dentists. As of 2021, RIDE has graduated 80 dentists, and the program continues to produce talented, service-oriented dental professionals and improve access to quality dental care, serving as a cost-effective model for rural dental education of the highest quality.

RIDE Curriculum Overview	
Phase	Description
ECI (Seattle)	RIDE students come to Seattle for a week-long orientation, followed by a 4-week Early Clinical Immersion (ECI) course with the entire dental class.
1 st year (Spokane)	RIDE students spend their first year of dental school at the EWU Spokane campus, where UWSOD delivers high-fidelity dental education through in-person and advanced remote learning modalities.
RUOP	The summer after their first year, RIDE students spend 4 weeks rotating in the Rural and Underserved Opportunity Program (RUOP) at an affiliated community health center in Central or Eastern Washington.
2 nd and 3 rd year (Seattle)	Students spend their 2 nd and 3 rd years of dental school at the UWSOD in Seattle and benefit from our robust clerkship and comprehensive care clinical training models.
4 th Year (Seattle) + Extended Rotation	RIDE students spend their winter and spring quarters at an affiliated community health center in Central or Eastern Washington, refining their clinical and professional skills under the supervision of UW affiliate faculty and rural practice mentors.

General Classification	Core Area Codes	High Commuting Primary Flow (at least 30% to Urbanized Area) Codes	Low Commuting Primary Flow (between 10-30% to Urbanized Area) Codes
Metropolitan (Urban) (50,000 or more)	1	2	3
Micropolitan (Large Town) (10,000 - 49,999)	4	5	6
Small Town (2,500 - 9,999)	7	8	9
Rural (Isolated Rural) (under 2,500)	10		

GAP ANALYSIS

According to the 2016 WSDH Oral Health Workforce Report, 5% of dentists in Washington practice in a rural area, while 8.4% of the population lives in a rural area. Washington Counties with the fewest numbers of dentists per 100,000 population are located along the coast and in Eastern and Central Washington State.

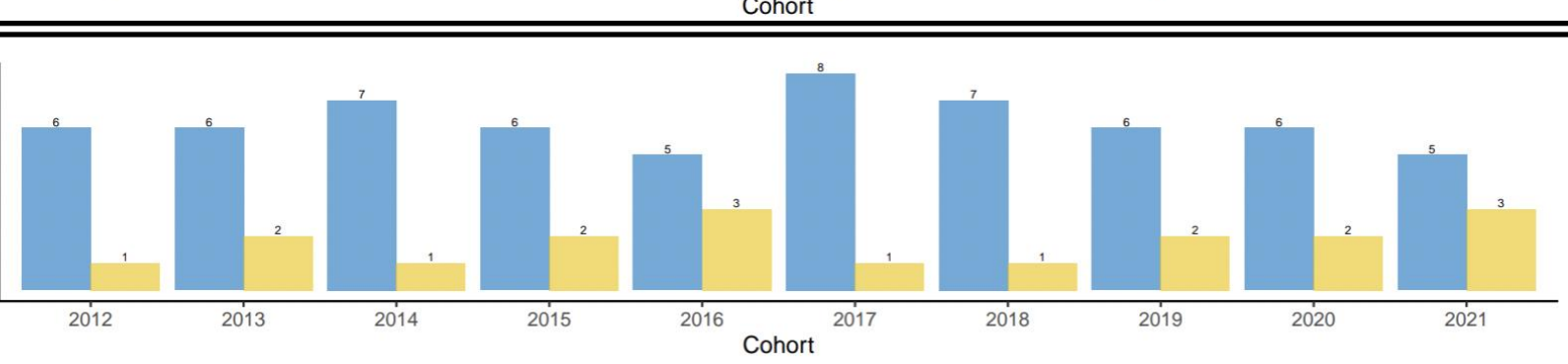
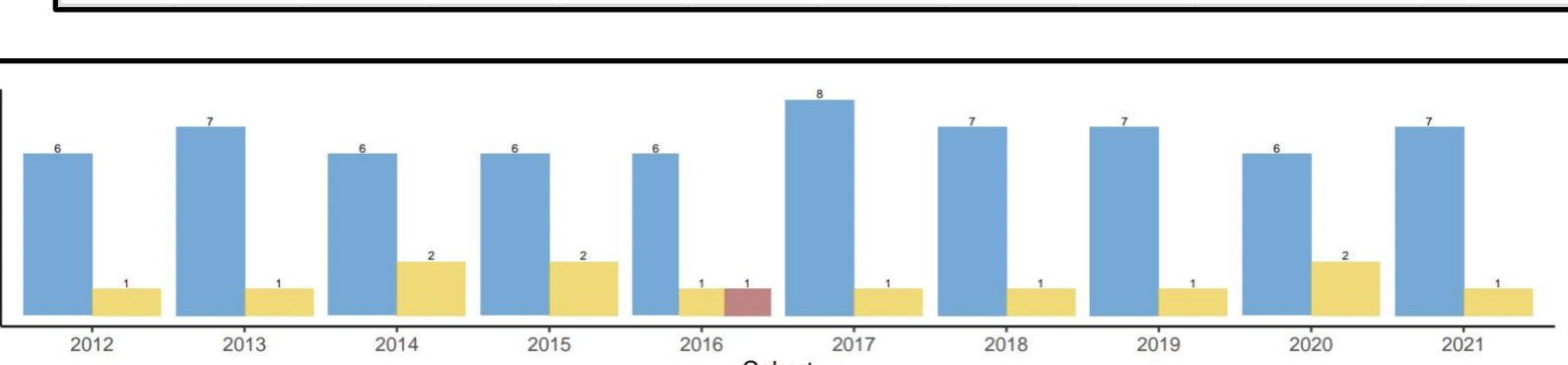
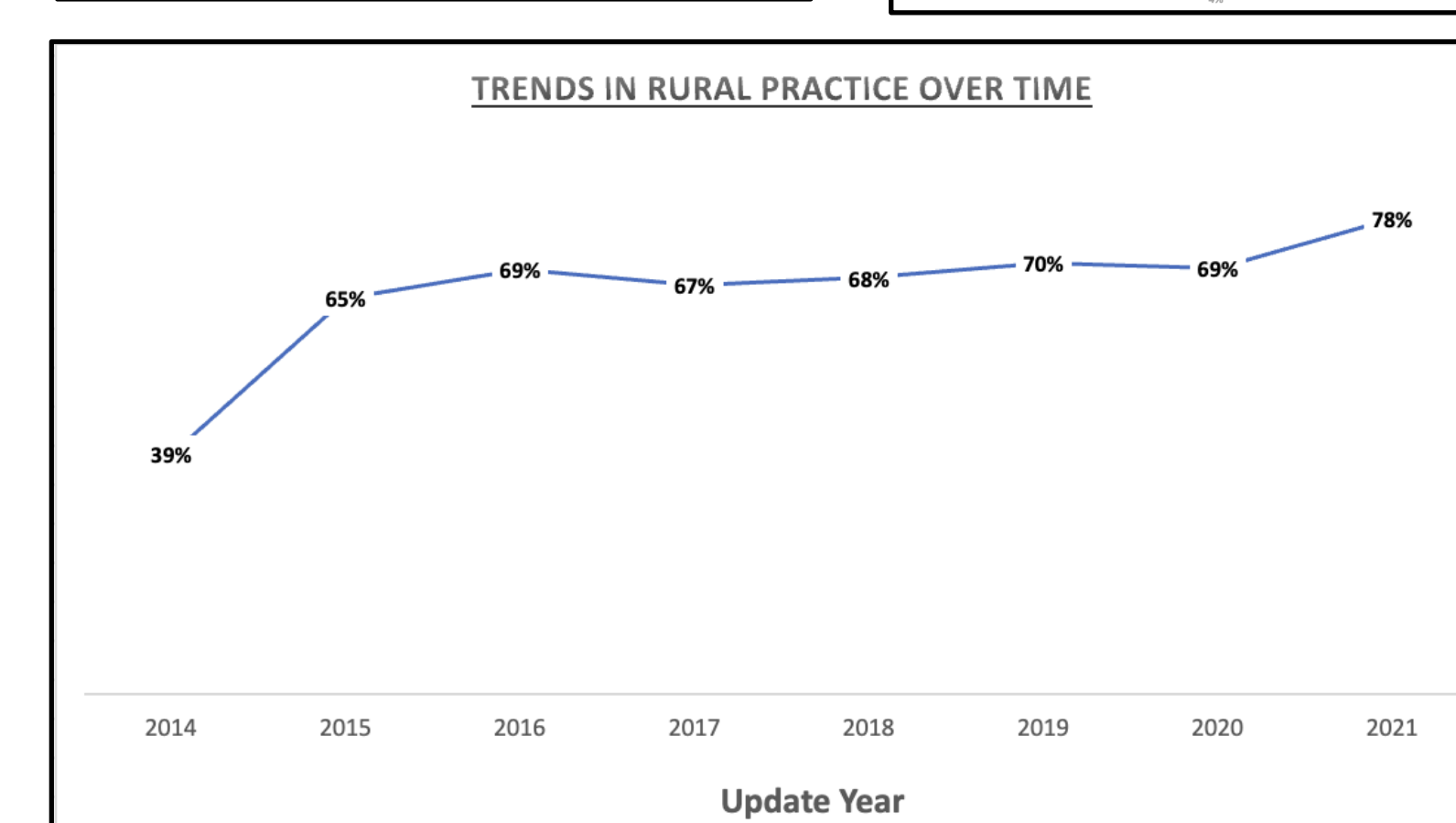
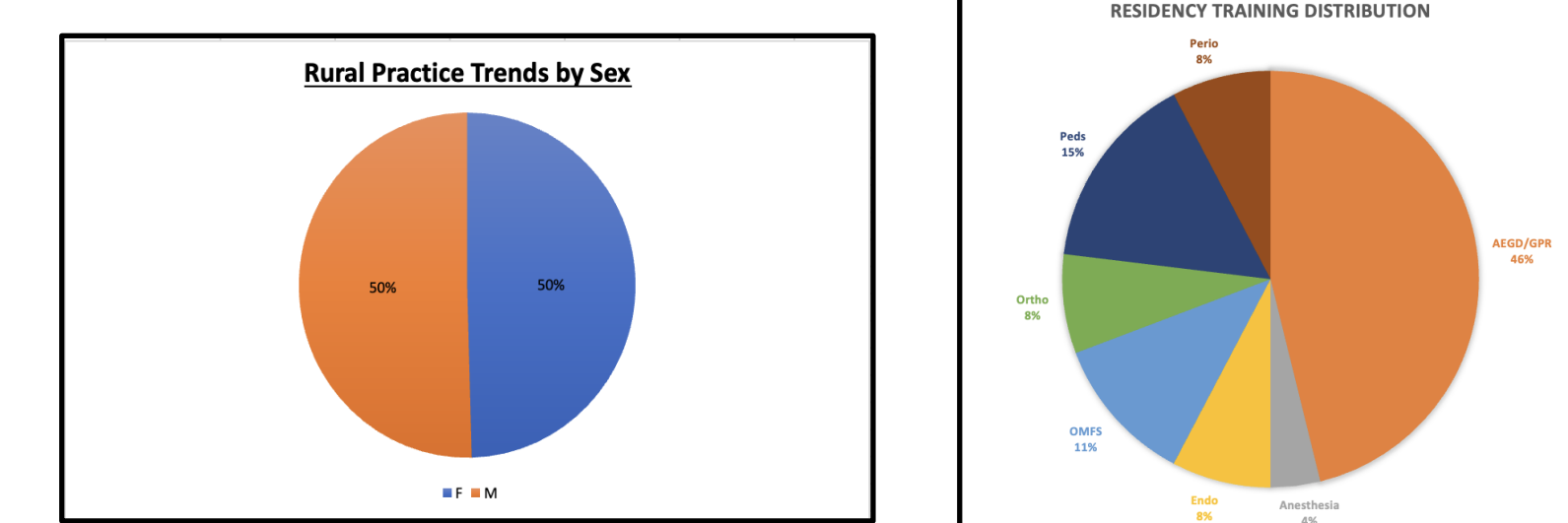


METHODS

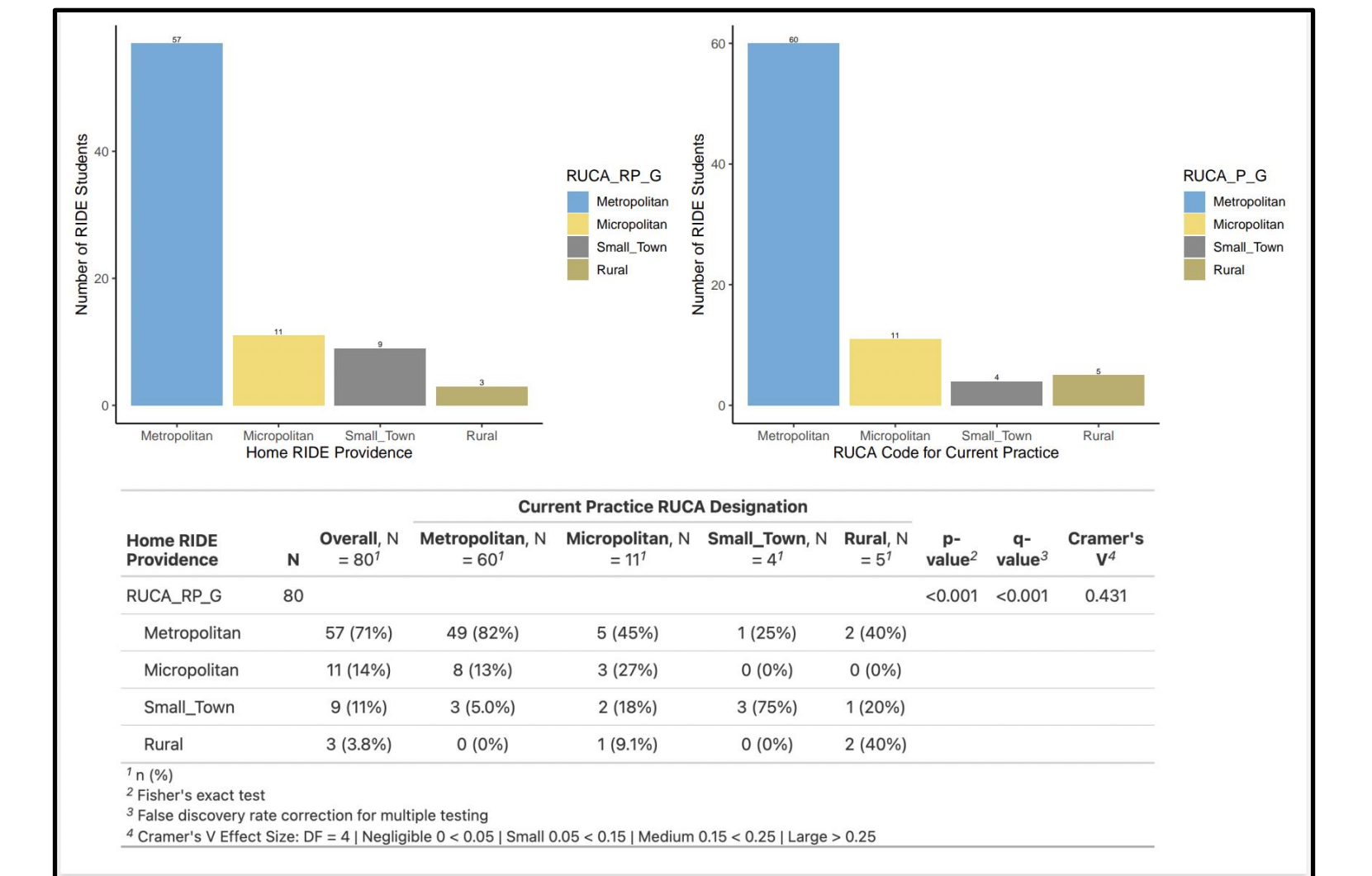
- Retrospective Descriptive Study
- Subjects (n=80) – Graduates of UWSOD RIDE Program (2012-2021)
- De-identified existing database utilized for data collection & analysis
- Inclusion criteria: All graduates of the RIDE program (2012-2021)
- Exclusion criteria: Anyone not a graduate of the RIDE program

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

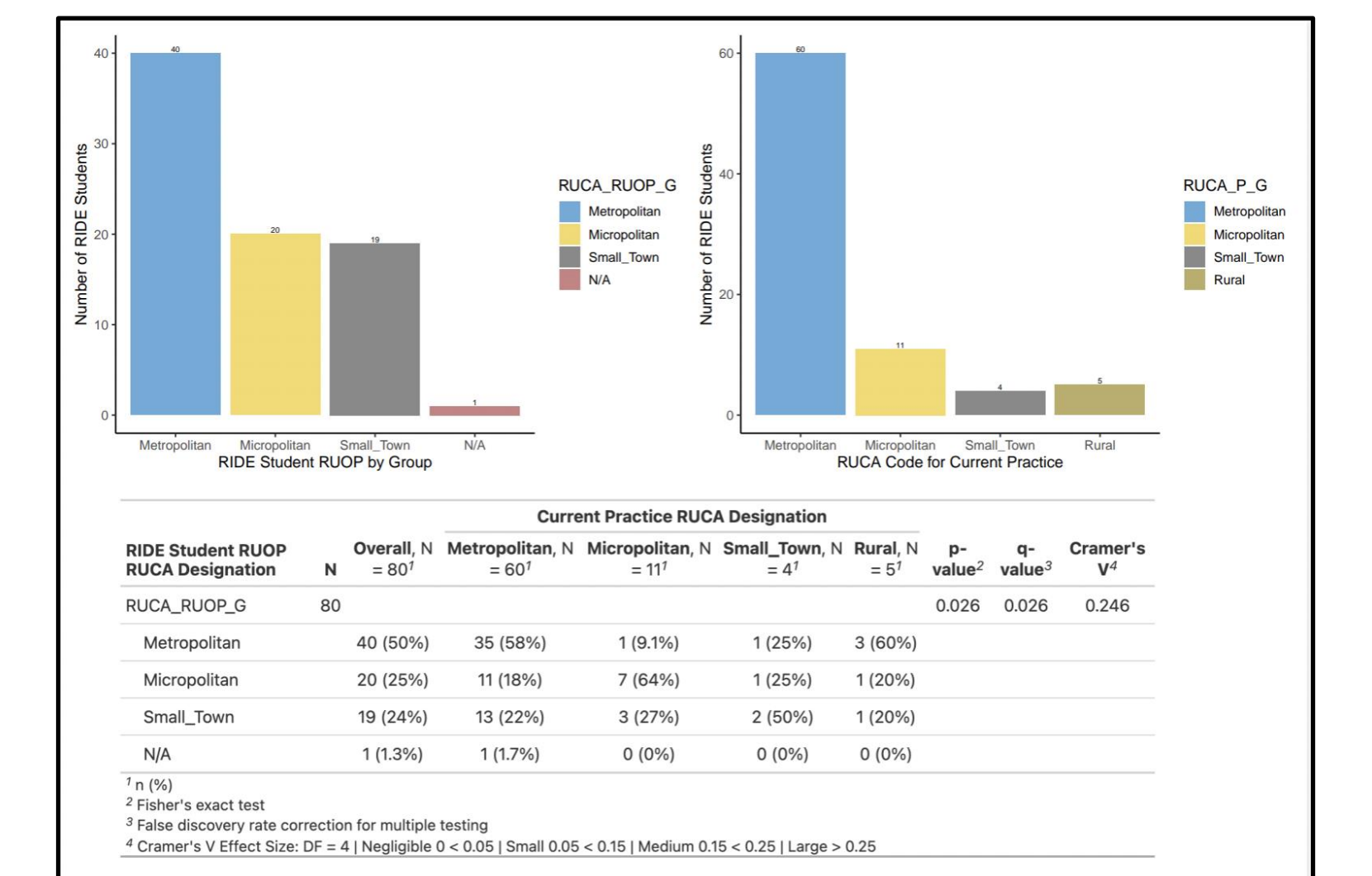
	2012 Cohort 1	2013 Cohort 2	2014 Cohort 3	2015 Cohort 4	2016 Cohort 5	2017 Cohort 6	2018 Cohort 7	2019 Cohort 8	2020 Cohort 9	2021 Cohort 10	Total
Interviews & Graduates											
Total graduates	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	80
Sex											
Male	5	3	7	4	7	5	5	4	5	5	50
Female	2	5	1	4	1	3	3	4	3	3	30
Age Group											
25-29	2	4	4	4	6	7	8	6	6	5	54
30-35	5	4	2	3	2	2	0	2	1	2	23
36-39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
>40	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
State Practicing/Residency											
WA Only	6	5	6	6	6	7	6	6	5	5	58
WAW*	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	6
OOS	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	15
N/A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
County Practicing											
East	1	0	1	3	0	0	3	1	2	0	11
South Central	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	1	9
North Central	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	12
North West	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
South West	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
North	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Puget Sound	1	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	0	2	17
OOS	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	16
N/A	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	7
Rural Upbringing											
Yes	4	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	4	27
No	3	2	2	2	4	4	2	4	4	1	28
OOS	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	10
N/A	0	2	4	3	0	3	1	0	2	1	15
Specialty training											
Yes	2	4	4	1	2	2	3	2	0	6	26
No	5	4	4	7	6	7	5	6	8	7	54



Home RIDE Provenance & Current Practice RUCA Designation



RUOP Training Site & Current Practice RUCA Designation



CONCLUSION

- Graduates of the RIDE program practice in rural areas in greater proportion compared to the general population of practicing dentists.
- Statistical analysis demonstrated strong association:
 - Rural upbringing and choosing to practice in rural/underserved area
 - RIDE training sites (RUOP & SLR) and choosing to practice in rural/underserved area
- RIDE graduates from study period tended to be male, Caucasian, and practice in HPSA site and/or rural region.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.