



## WEST VIRGINIA

• Total number of state licensed dentists:	817
• Total number of state licensed general dentists:	677
• Percent of state licensed dentists who are general dentists:	83%
• Total number of people in the state employed in dental-related jobs:	3,831
• Total wages (in thousands) of dental employees in the state:	\$154,199

### What is the Academy of General Dentistry?

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. The organization also works to promote the oral health of the public and to foster general dentists' continued proficiency through quality continuing education. AGD Headquarters is located in Chicago.

### What is a general dentist?

General dentists are the primary oral health care providers for patients of all ages. General dentists take responsibility for the diagnosis, treatment, and coordination of 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.

### How does dentistry affect the economy?

Dentists are some of America's most highly educated and trained health care professionals. The majority of our nation's dentists practice in small-business environments in their local communities. Collectively, the direct, indirect, and induced impact of dentists is estimated to exceed \$200 billion annually. More than 772,000 people are employed directly in the field of dentistry; when indirect and induced impacts are included, the total employment attributable to dentistry rises to more than 2 million jobs.

### What resources does the AGD offer the public?

**Kids' Healthy Mouths Campaign:** Designed to educate parents and caregivers on how to improve their children's oral health in simple ways, the campaign encourages children to brush their teeth for two minutes, twice a day, and offers families oral health resources through the website [2min2x.org](http://2min2x.org).

**KnowYourTeeth.com:** This website is the 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 to care for their teeth and with other aspects of oral care. KnowYourTeeth.com answers important 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.

### Where can I find more information?

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).