



## NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DENTISTS BY SEX 1870-2010

The gradual rise in the number of women dentists suffered an unexpected decline beginning in the 1920s. A likely contributor was the introduction of dental hygiene programs in 1914, which experienced dramatic growth during the same period. As many more women chose dental hygiene, the number of women dentists remained relatively low for 50 years.

The feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s encouraged women to rethink their futures. No longer willing to be discouraged from seeking careers on equal terms with men, women seized the opportunity to enter all professions. Today, about half of graduating dentists are women.