

Dental public health training: time for new models?

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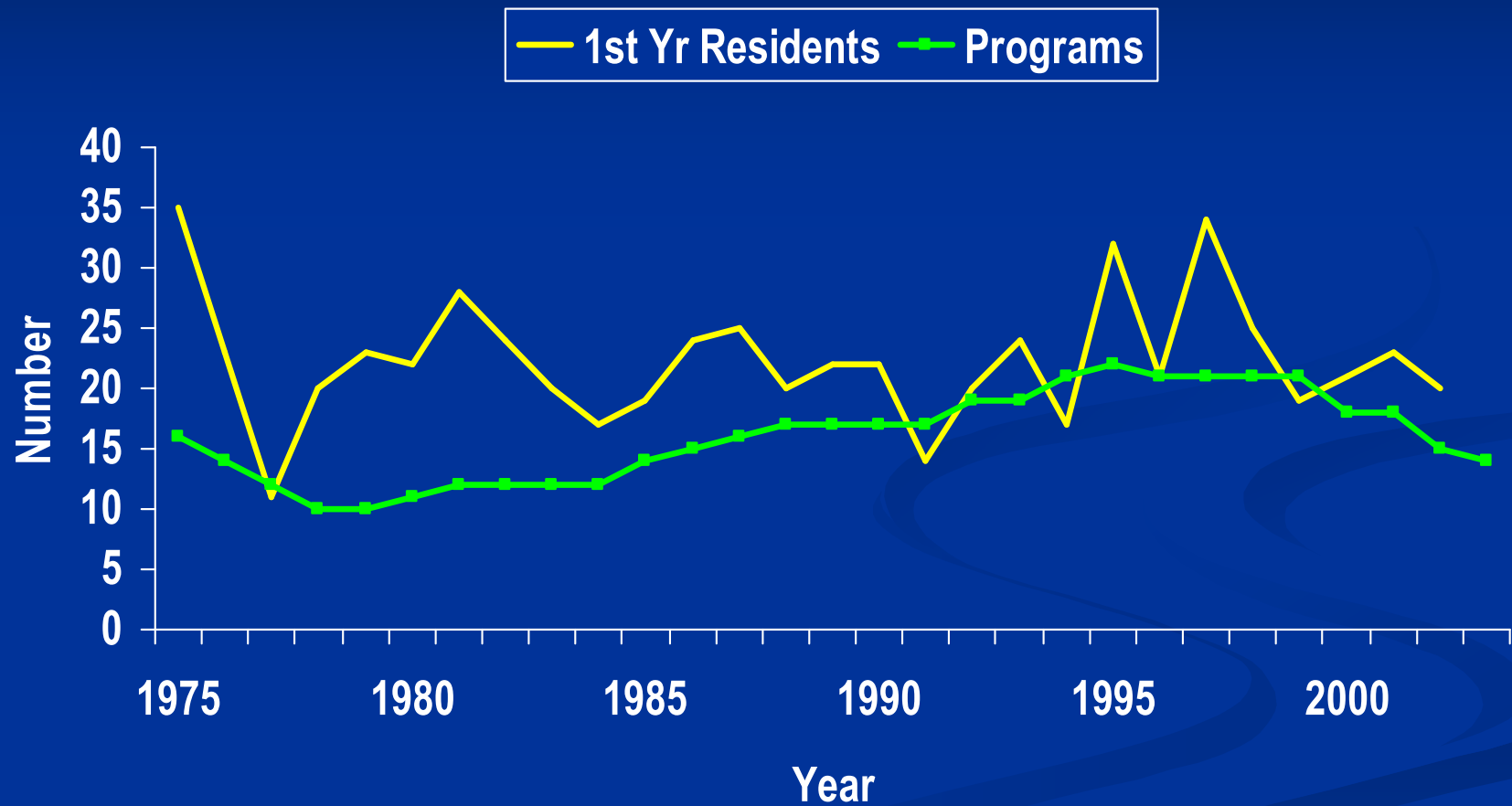
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History

- 1950: Public health dentistry recognized as a specialty by the ADA, American Board of Dental Public Health founded
- 1951: Dr. Viron “Dief” Diefenbach becomes first DPH resident under direction of Dr. George Nevitt
- 1963: DHEW-PHS Div. of Dental Health established 1st formal residency
- mid-1960s to 1981: DHHS grants to support DPH residencies
- 1996: HRSA begins grants for DPH residencies

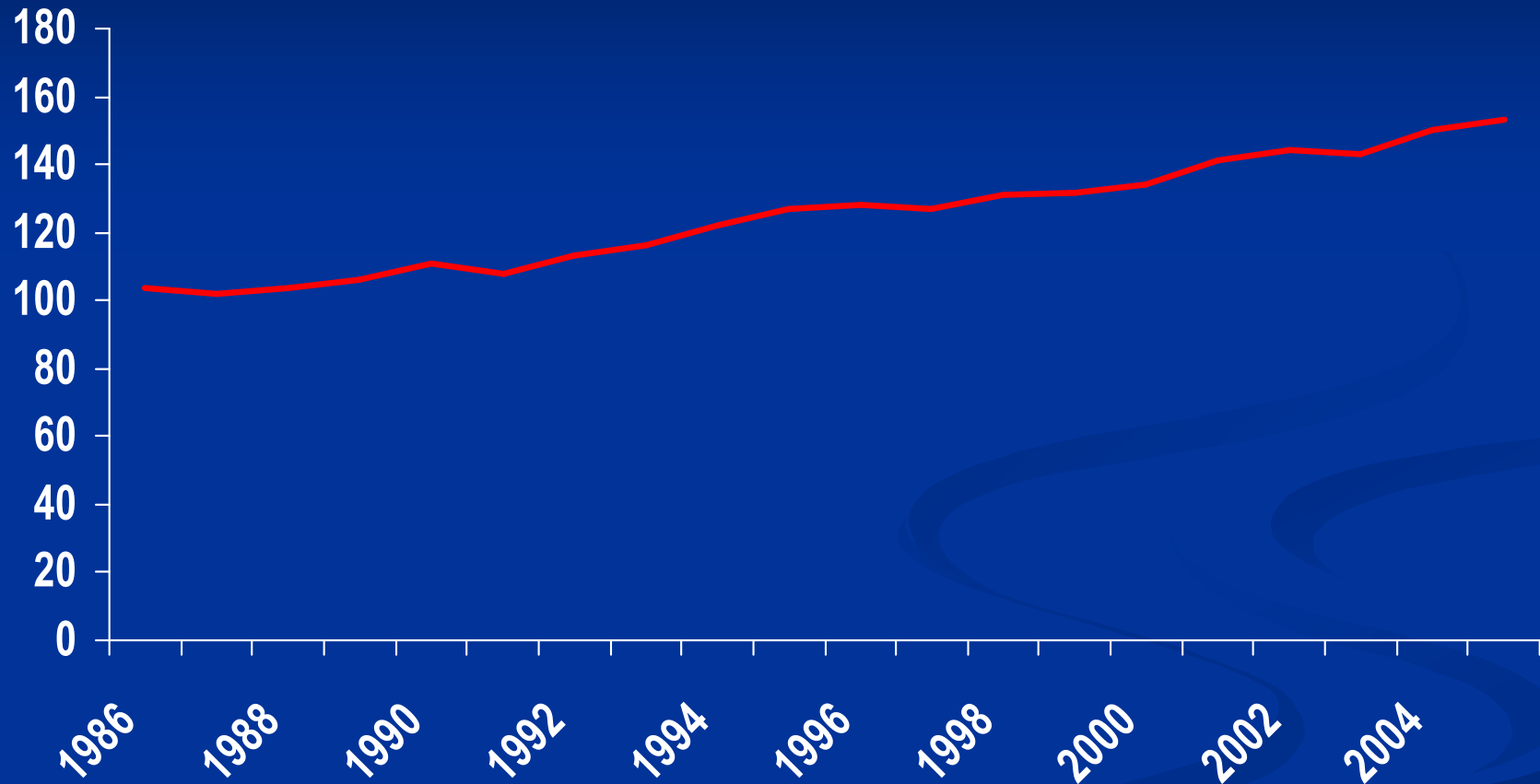
Accredited DPH Residency Programs, 1975-2003



Source: ADA Surveys of Advanced Dental Education

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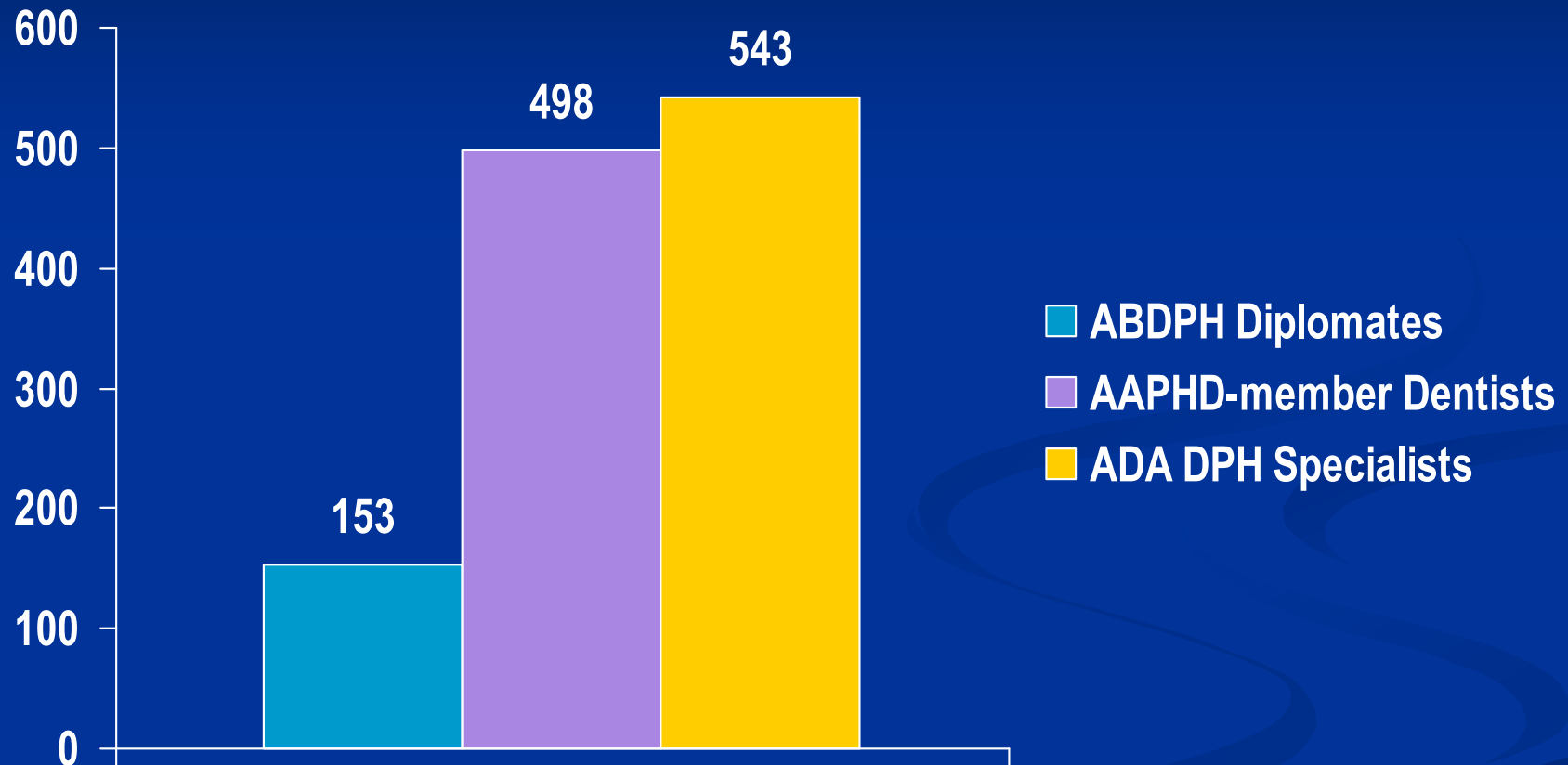
Number of Active Diplomates of ABDPH, 1986-2005



Source: Minutes of ABDPH meetings published in *J Public Health Dent*;
online roster of diplomates 3/30/05

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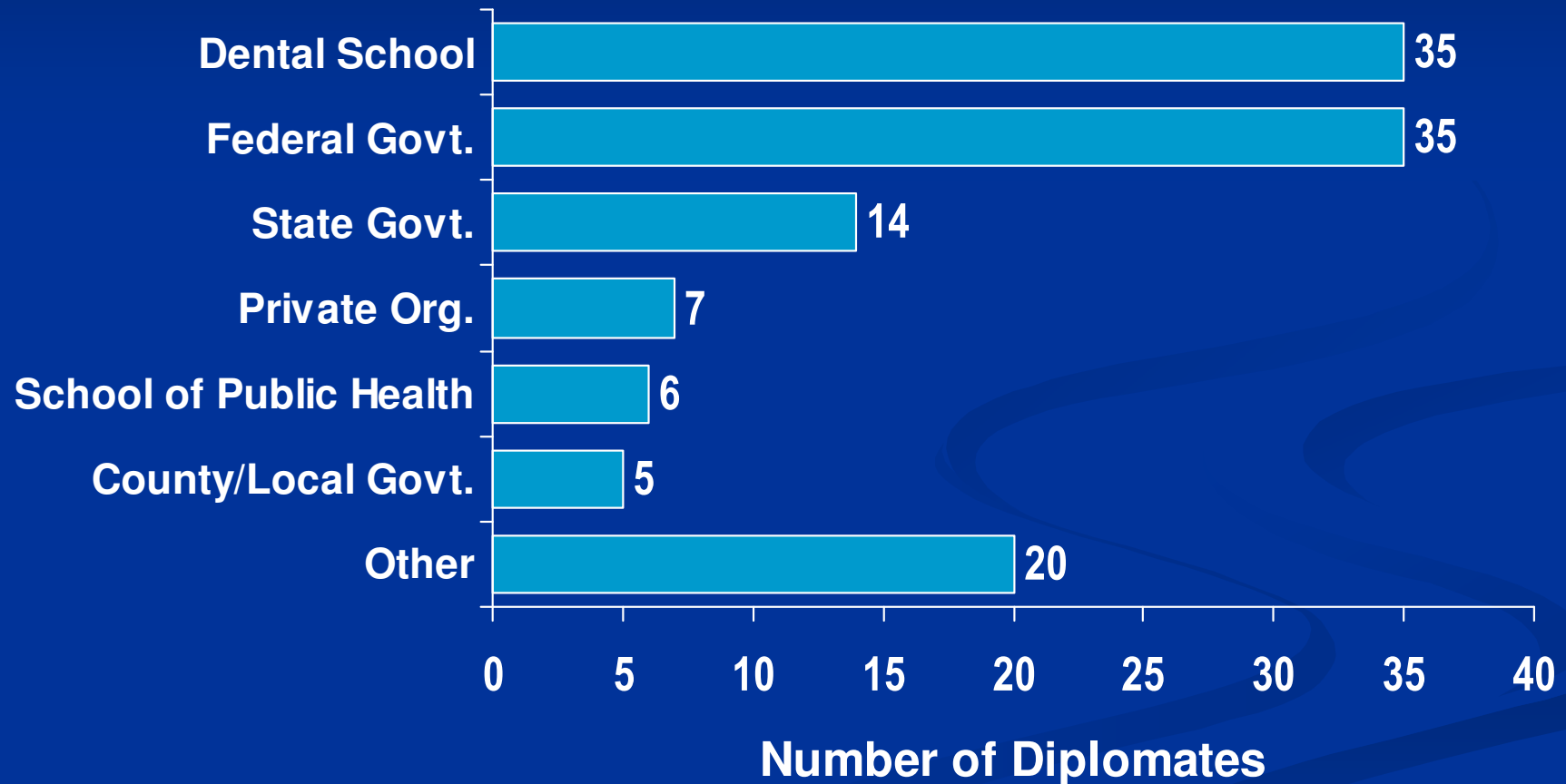
How Many “Public Health Dentists” Are There?



Sources: ABDPH diplomate roster 3/30/05; AAPHD Online Directory 3/29/05;
ADA Online Directory 3/30/05

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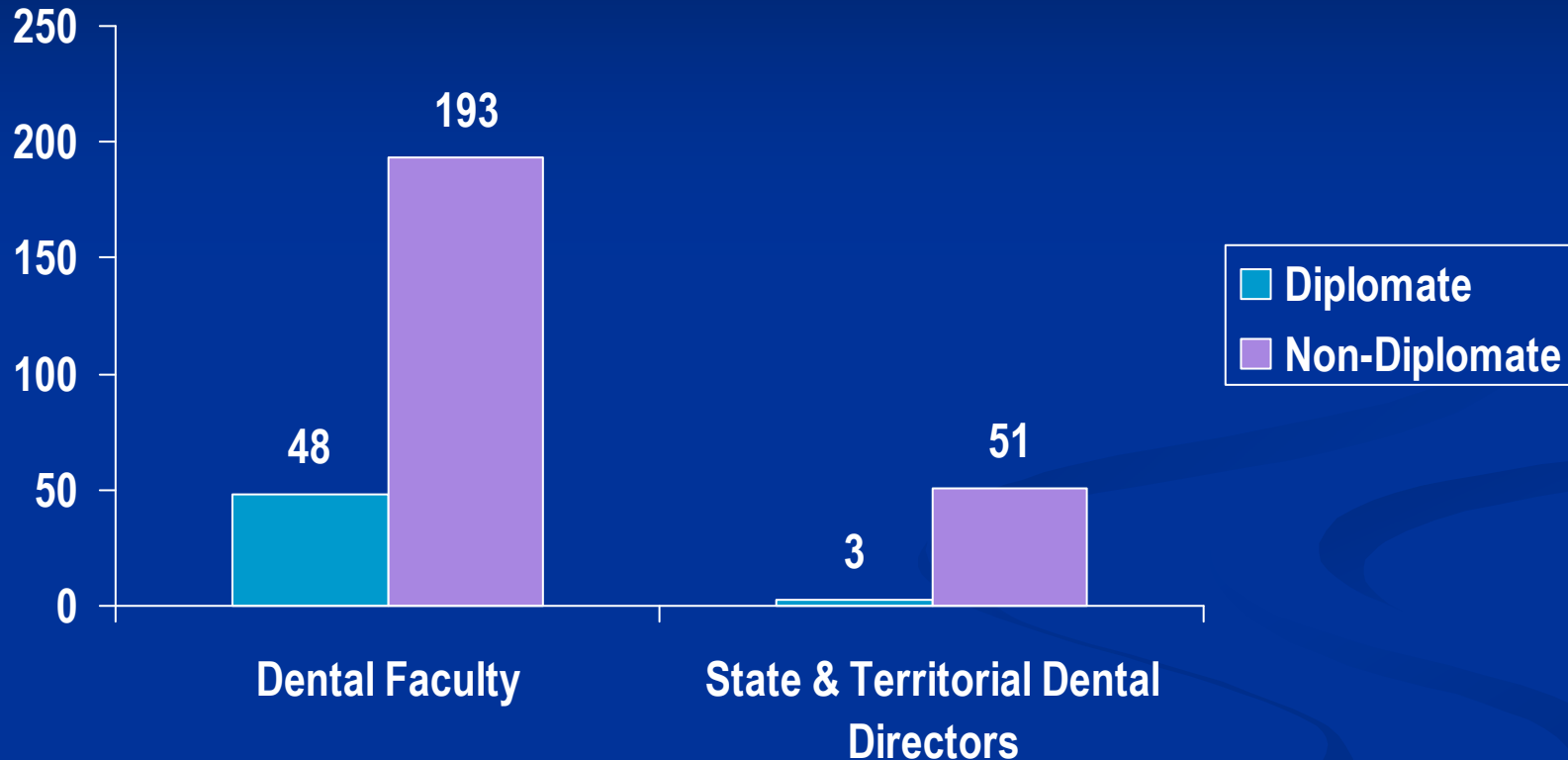
Employment Setting of Board Certified PH Dentists



2001 Survey of Diplomates of the American Board of Dental Public Health
n=125

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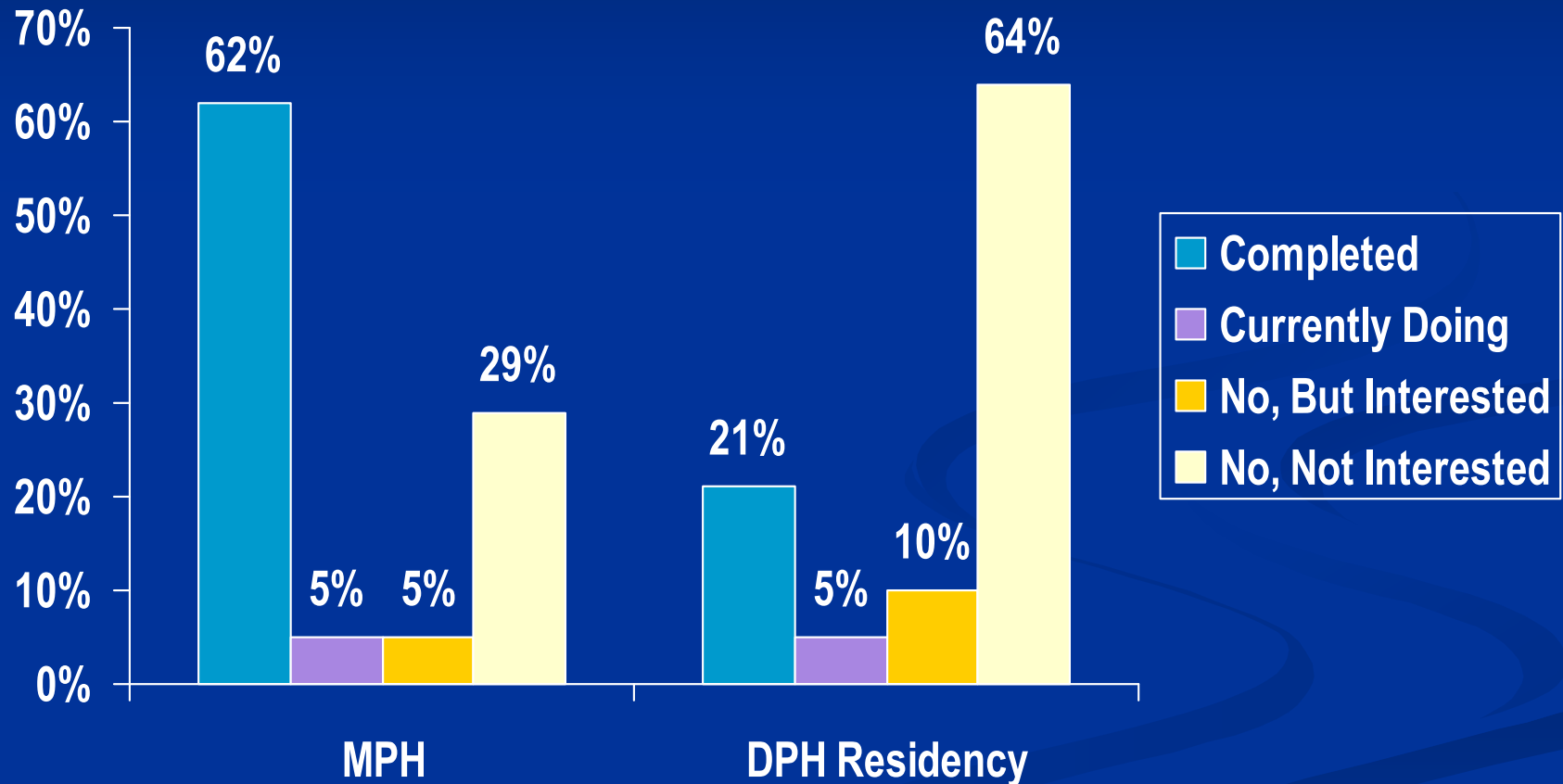
Diplomate Status of DPH Dental Faculty and State Dental Directors



Sources: Kaste et al. J Public Health Dent 1998;58:94-100;
Kaste et al. J Public Health Dent 2001;61:114-9;
ASTDD website; ABDPH website

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DPH Training among non-Diplomate Dental School Faculty Teaching DPH



Sources: Kaste et al. J Public Health Dent 2001;61:114-9;

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The Model of DPH Certification

- “Eligibility requirements for board examination are based on standards that were developed in 1951-1953.”

Source: Diefenbach VL. J Public Health Dent 1997;57(2):89-92.

Eligibility Requirements for ABDPH Board Eligibility

- 1. Moral and ethical standing in dental profession satisfactory to the board.
- 2. Graduation from accredited dental school.
- 3. Professional experience and advanced education in public health include:
 - a. completion of ≥ 2 years of advanced education
 - b. ≥ 2 years of full-time experience in DPH practice

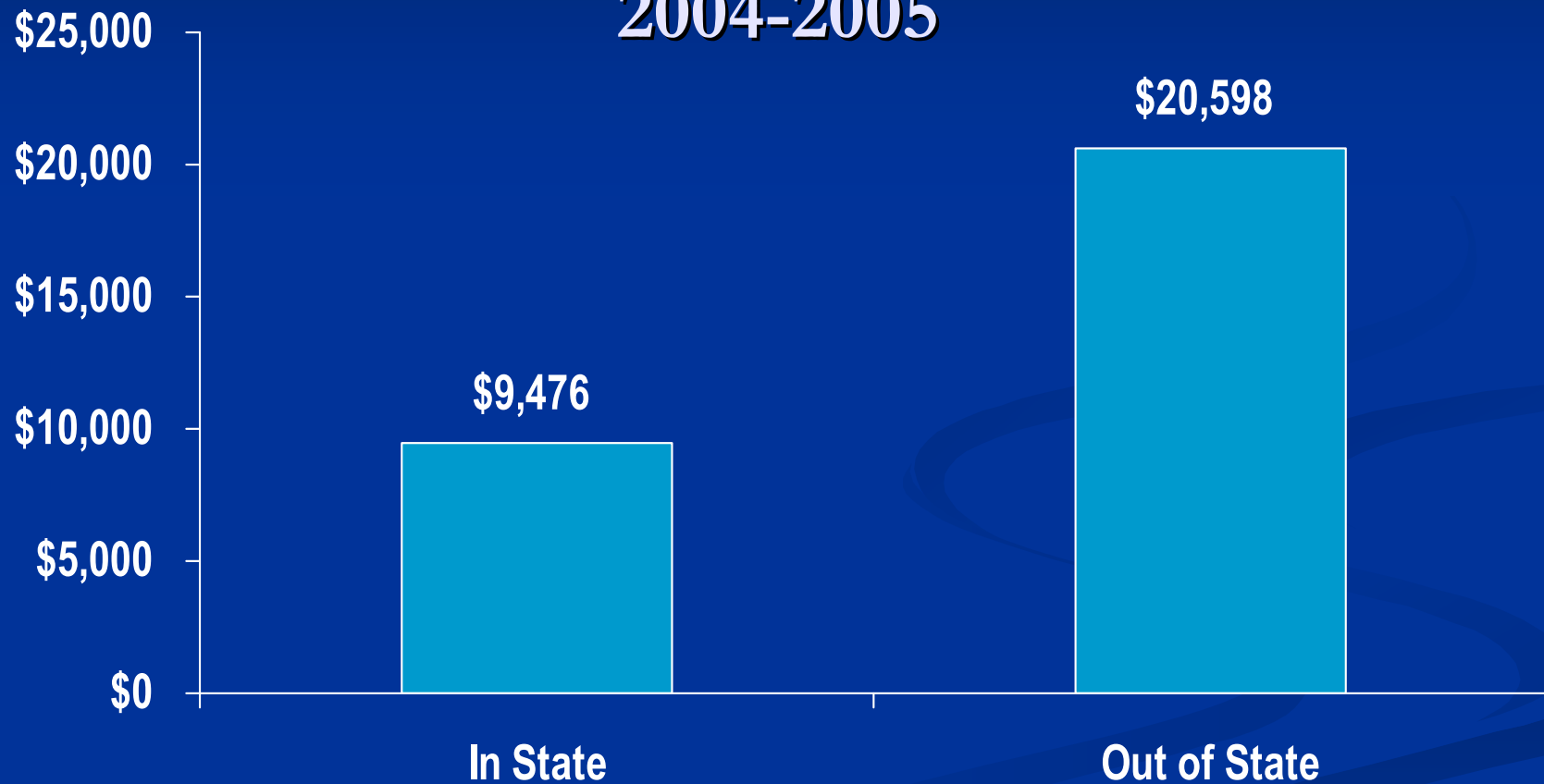
Adapted from ABDPH eligibility available from www.aaphd.org

Educational Preparation for ABDPH Boards

The requirement of two years of advanced preparation can be satisfied by:

- 1. Completion of 1 academic year in CEPH-accredited program leading to a graduate degree in public health, plus DPH residency accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
- 2. Two academic years of study in CODA-accredited program that leads to graduate degree in public health;
- 3. Completion of ≥ 2 years of advanced education in DPH from an institution outside U.S. followed by completion of CODA-accredited residency program

Median Annual Tuition, US Schools of Public Health* 2004-2005



*Accredited by CEPH, N=36; Source: ASPH 2005 and individual schools

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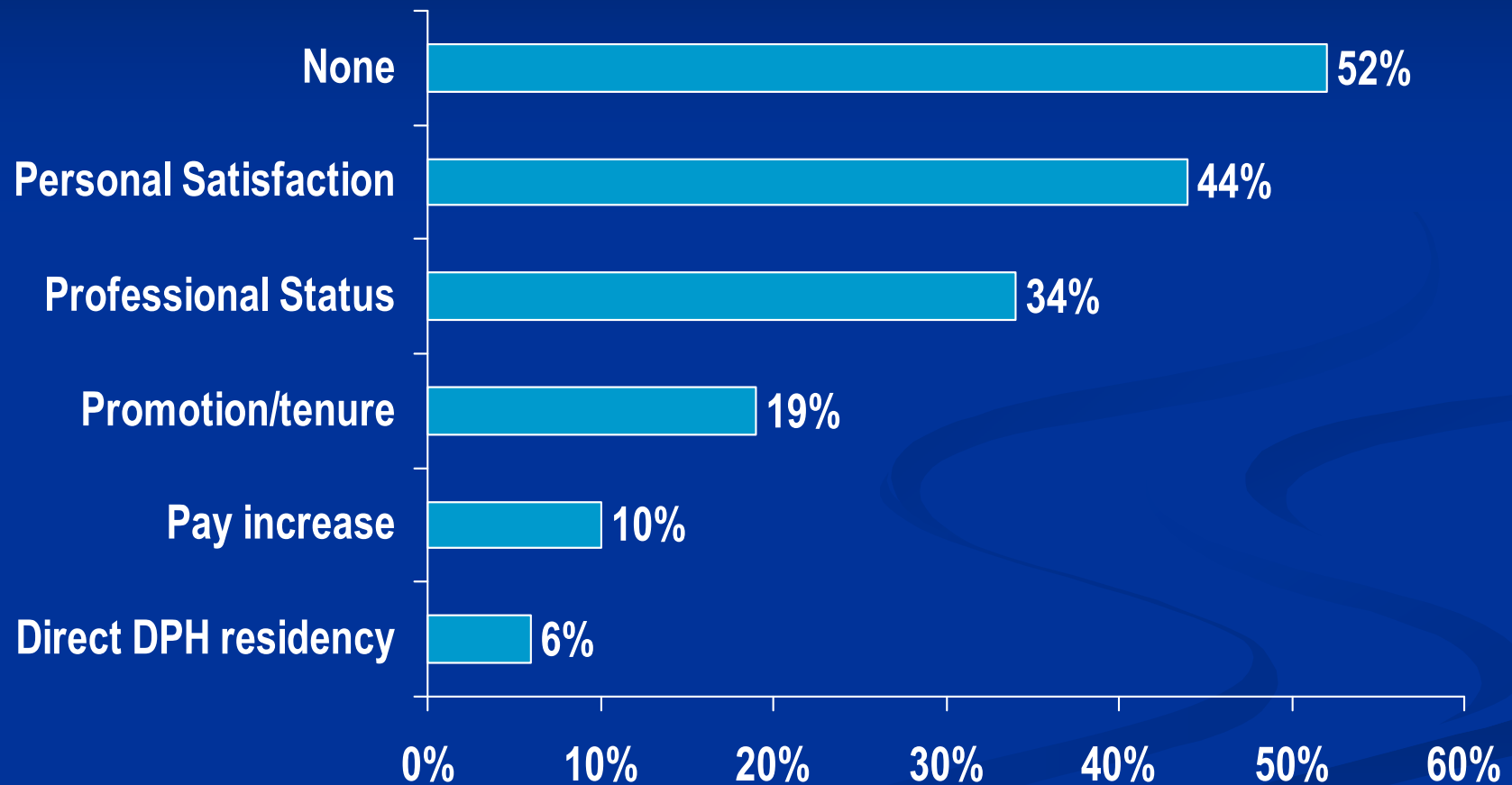
Average Debt of Dental School Graduate



Source: American Dental Education Assoc 2001;
Weaver et al. J Dent Educ 2004; 68(9):1004-27.

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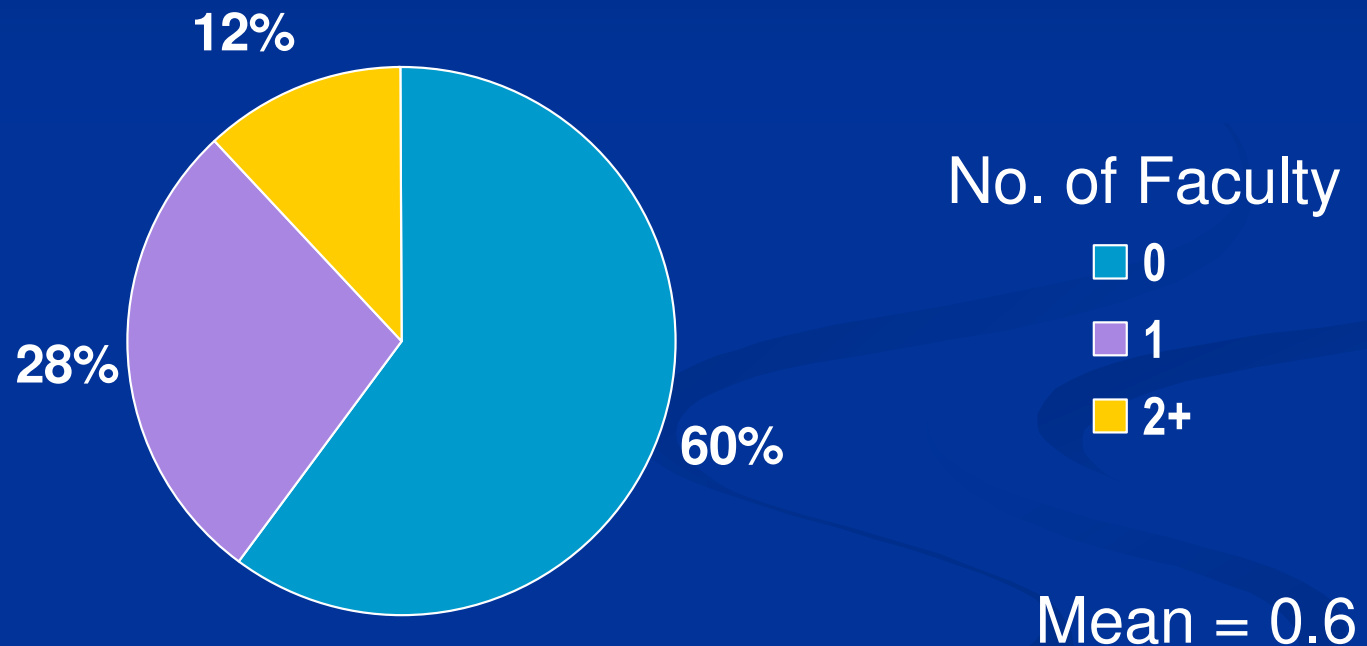
Incentives for Board Certification among Non-Diplomate DPH Faculty



Sources: Kaste et al. J Public Health Dent 2001;61:114-9;

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Distribution of Schools of PH by Number of Faculty Members with Dental or Dental Hygiene Degree

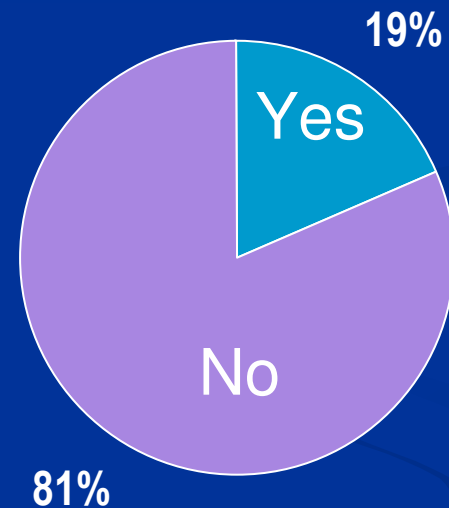
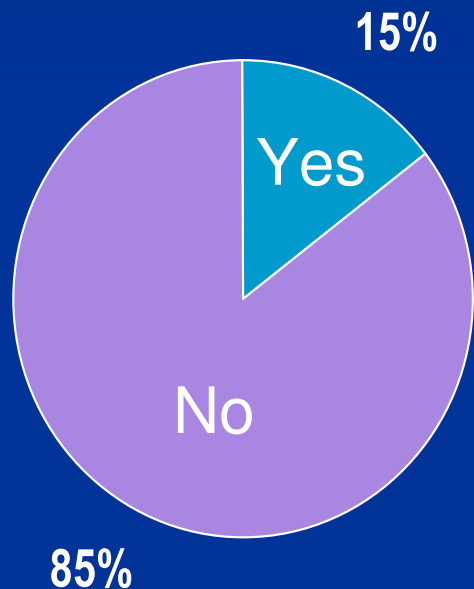


National Survey of Dental Public Health Activities in Schools of Public Health, 2001
(n=27; RR=77%)

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Dental Public Health Training at Schools of Public Health

MPH in DPH concentration? Advanced training in DPH?



National Survey of Dental Public Health Activities in Schools of Public Health, 2001
N=27 (RR=77%)

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Preventive Medicine vs. Dental Public Health Training

Preventive Medicine

- 3 Years
 - Clinical
 - Most do not offer
 - Prefer 1 yr in clinical residency
 - Academic
 - Leads to MPH
 - Practicum
 - Supervised experience
- Support includes MPH

Dental Public Health

- 2 Years
 - 1 Yr. Accredited MPH or equiv. program
 - 1 Yr. CODA-accredited Residency

OR

 - 2-yr CODA-accredited Program leading to graduate PH degree
- MPH generally not supported financially

Deficiencies with Current Structure

- Many MPH programs not CEPH-accredited
- Few PH schools have DPH faculty or courses
- MPH generally at trainee's expense
- 2-3 year F/T commitment often not feasible
- Educational indebtedness of dental graduates
- Limited clinical practice during residency
- DPH separated from clinical dentistry during training

Current Problems

- Many barriers, few incentives for DPH specialty training
- Almost no “front-line” DPH practitioners are board-certified specialists
- Unknown what proportion of county/local dental directors have public health training
- Unknown what proportion of county/local dental programs provide core PH functions
- Currently no model for establishing minimal DPH competency among DDSs functioning as dental directors

One Potential Solution

- Link DPH training with clinical dental residencies, e.g. Pediatric Dentistry or AEGD
 - Approximates Preventive Medicine model
 - Creates clinicians with understanding of DPH principles and practice
 - More marketable grads, better income potential
 - Could provide graduate degree (MPH, MS) for programs that currently provide just certificate

Another Potential Solution

- Distance-learning “mini-residency” for current DPH clinical personnel
 - Overview of PH principles
 - Need for and methods of surveillance
 - Community-based prevention
 - Planning process

Plans in the Sunshine State

- Hired full-time U Florida College of Dentistry faculty member as county director for Duval Co. (Jacksonville)
- Pediatric and DPH residents to work at county health dept.
- Developing 3-year joint Pediatric Dentistry/MPH program
- Creating new Dept. of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences to enhance linkages among clinical service, research, and teaching



Conclusions

- Few incentives and many barriers to pursuing advanced DPH training with current models
- Few specialists, especially in front-line DPH positions
- Potential need for “non-specialty” DPH training of clinician/administrators
- Partnerships between DPH faculty, clinical programs, schools of public health, and health departments could be win-win-win-win situation