

PA data issues

Tina made a note in her Excel chart stating that the PA BOD file she uploaded includes both dentists and hygienists. On a closer look, this file does not seem to have acquired all the columns that exist in the PA license board database. A column like "License Type", which is expected usually, is missing. Since this is pay-to-access data, I am not able to re-download it like I did for some other states.

Subsequently, I checked various parts of the PA dental license board website and found that I could see a list of dentists who were recorded as having disciplinary actions, and they all have license numbers starting with DS, while the dental hygienists have license numbers starting with DH. See attached files copied from the PA dental board, which include a descriptive column call "License Type".

I went back to check the matched results of Medicaid and CHIP and found that a small number of matched names has the DH licenses. I dropped them off from the FTE results.

For the BOD stand-alone part, after dropping off 8,000+ DH hygienists, there is still a third license category call DF (e.g. DF005246) and no DF dentists were matched with IKN.

License Abbreviation

DS 3691

DF 2429

Since there is a category call Dental Faculty in the PA dental board drop-down box (but no examples), I am guessing the DF licenses are in fact Dental Faculty. I am guessing some, but not all of them are also practicing dentists. PA has three dental schools. A total of 2,400+ dental faculty still appear to be a very large number for these schools.

In the absence of other data to help screen the DF licenses, I have included all DF rows in the final dentists' FTE results.