



PP06: GENDER DISTRIBUTION TRENDS OF ORTHODONTISTS IN GREECE FROM 1988 TO DATE

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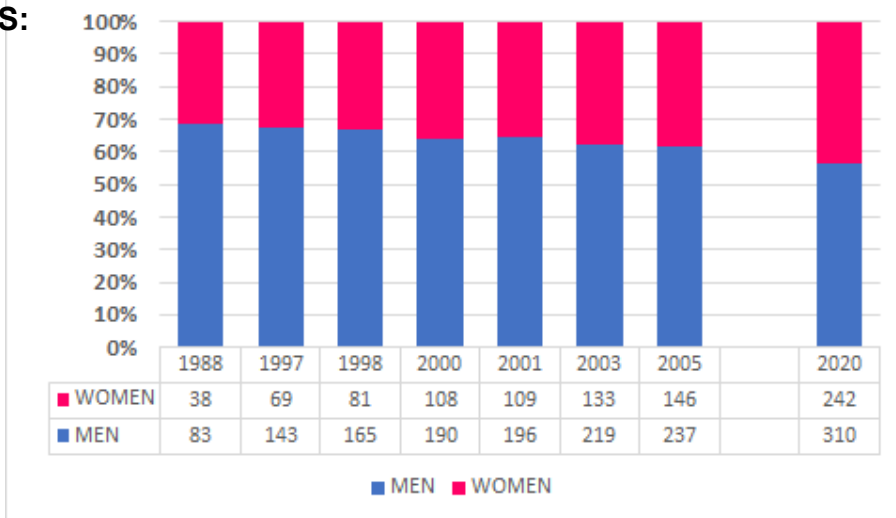
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Introduction: Traditionally, most orthodontists have been men. In recent years, however the number of women in dentistry and dental specialties including orthodontics, has increased dramatically. Women make-up between 48% (Russia) to 75% (Finland) of the dental workforce, yet, hold just 18% of dental school dean positions (United States of America)^[1], only 14.8% of the 69 major dental journal's editorial board members are women^[2], female clinicians are less likely to own a clinic or take post-graduate qualifications and the average annual income of full-time self-employed women was 37% lower than the income of full-time self-employed men^[3] clearly demonstrating the persistence of a gender wage gap. The trends of actual gender distribution of Orthodontists practicing in Greece has yet to be published.

AIM: To identify trends of gender distribution of Orthodontists in Greece from 1988 -when orthodontic specialty was officially recognized - until 2020. Additionally, gender distribution in postgraduate students and faculty members was recorded.

MATERIALS AND METHOD: The records kept in the secretariat of the Greek Association for Orthodontic Study and Research crosschecked from 1988 until 2020 with the records of the Hellenic Dental Association and the Dental Societies throughout Greece (verified thrice) were used. Five datasets of gender distribution, from 1988 until 2020, were analyzed. Students and faculty gender distribution in both Orthodontic Departments of Athens and Thessaloniki were recorded.

RESULTS:



Out of a total registered 552 practicing orthodontists in Greece 43,84% are women (December 2020). The percentage of female orthodontists gradually increased to become more balanced (1988: 31,4%, 1997:32,54%, 2001:35,74%, 2005:38,12%).

DISCUSSION: Indeed, from 2001 until today, female orthodontists outnumbered their male colleagues with 53,84% females entering orthodontic practice. Today, 53,33% of the Orthodontic postgraduate students in University of Athens and Thessaloniki are women. In regard to faculty from both Orthodontic Departments the current distribution is 50% women (more balanced compared to all faculty Departments from both Greek Dental Schools which is 34,81%)^[4].

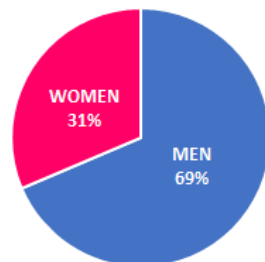
How will the increased number of women entering orthodontic practice influence work patterns (practice ownership, involvement in group practice, days of leave of absence) in view of the multiplicity of roles often women take (maternity, household etc.)^[5], remains to be explored. Will this trend reflect in gender mix in academics, professional boards, editorial boards, invited speakers in Congresses^[6]?. Finally, will income be more equalized?^[4]

CONCLUSIONS: In Greece, especially in Orthodontics, it seems that the trend of the last decades is more and more women to become orthodontists. During the last 20 years females entering orthodontic practice outnumber their male colleagues.

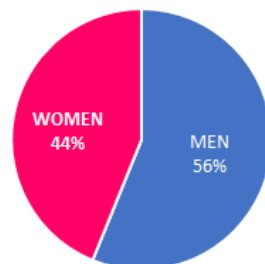
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1988



2020



New orthodontists registered in Greece 2001-2020

