

Academic Trends Among Applicants to a Pediatric Dentistry Program from 2014-2018.



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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of applicants to Pediatric Dentistry residency programs across the United States. According to the application statistics for the 2017-2018 cycle provided by the National Matching Services Inc., pediatric dentistry was the most applied to specialty, with a total number of 613 applicants¹. The next highest specialty, orthodontics, received 467 applicants. By 2020, pediatric dentistry continued to hold the highest number of applicants, with 626 applicants, well above the next highest specialty in orthodontics with 455 applicants². NYU Langone Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry currently has 13 sites across the United States and offers a total 63 positions³. NYU Langone represents nearly 10% of all pediatric residents in the United States. As such, NYU Langone application data and associated trends may serve as a representation of the overall trends across United States pediatric residency programs. The information regarding recent trends in the academic history and background of applicants from 2014 to 2018 can provide program directors and future applicants valuable information in regards to the academic profiles of competitive applicants to pediatric dental residency programs.

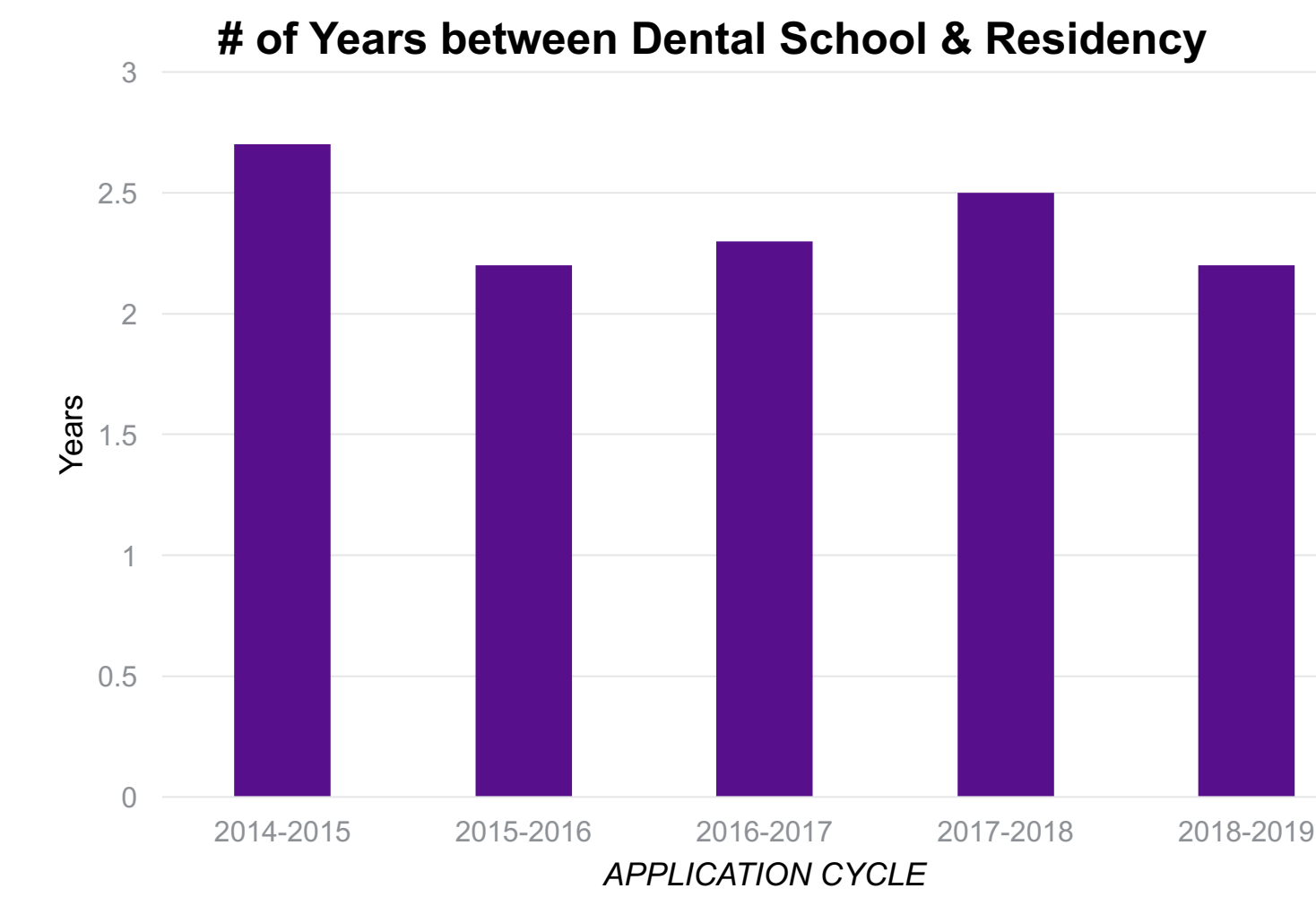
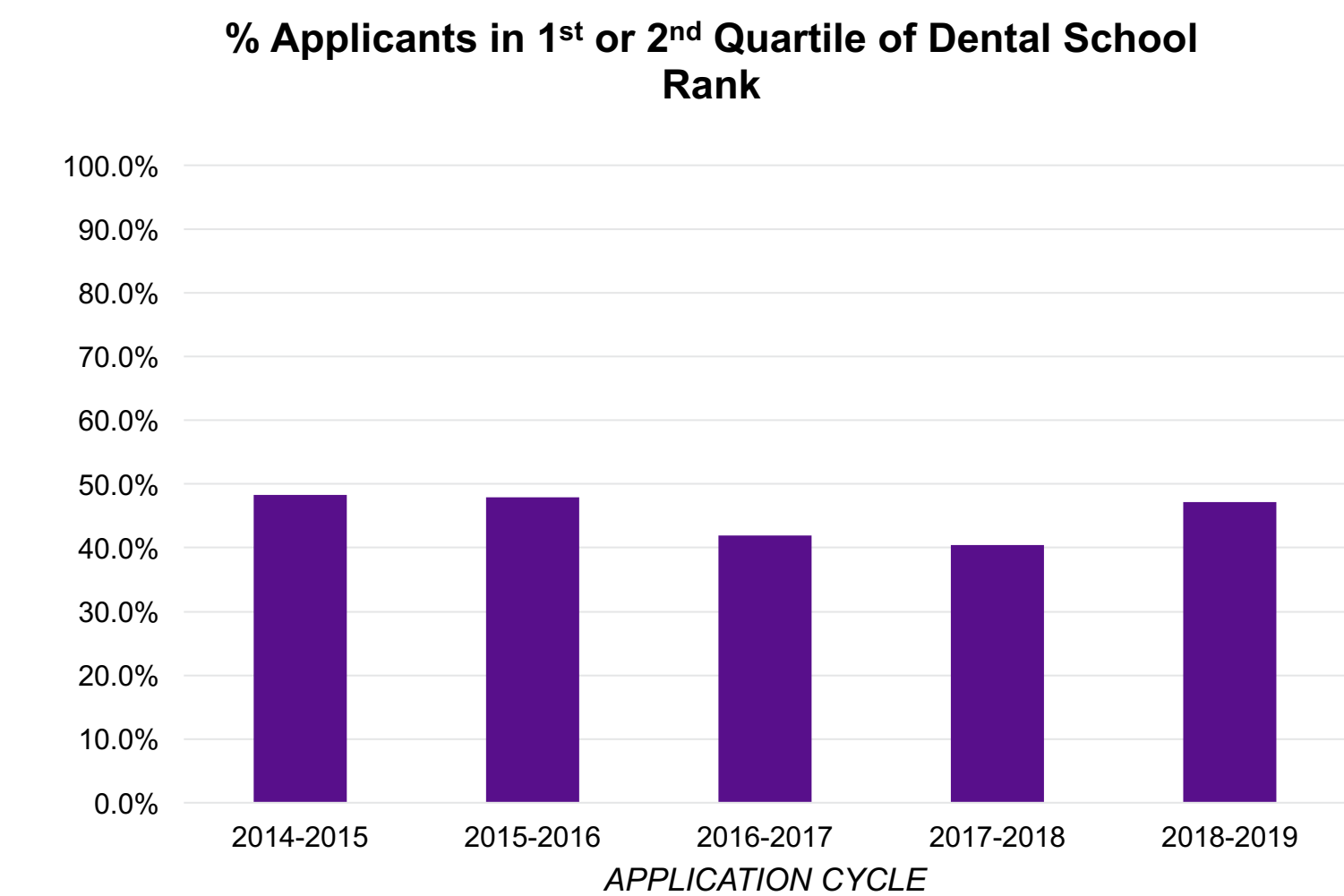
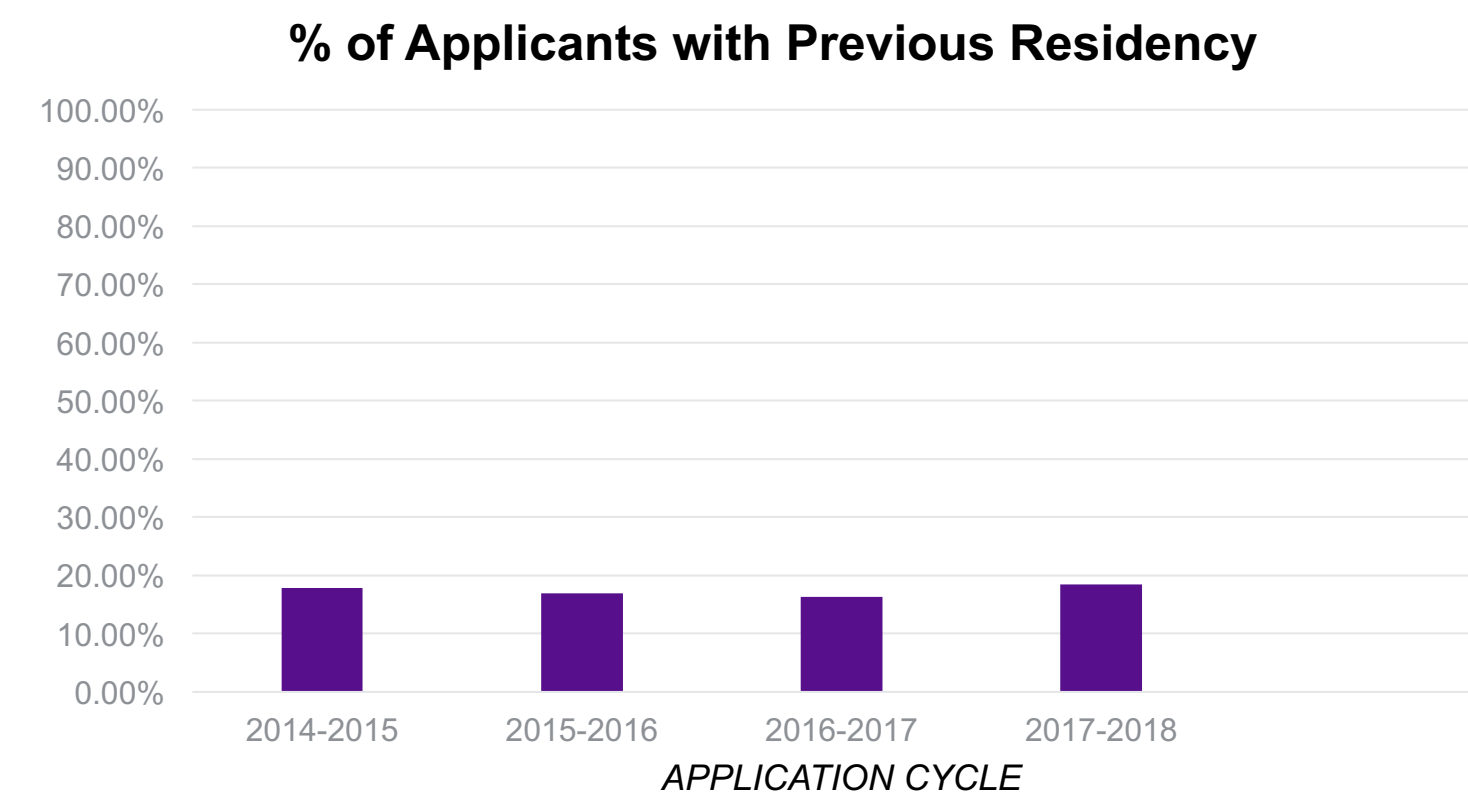
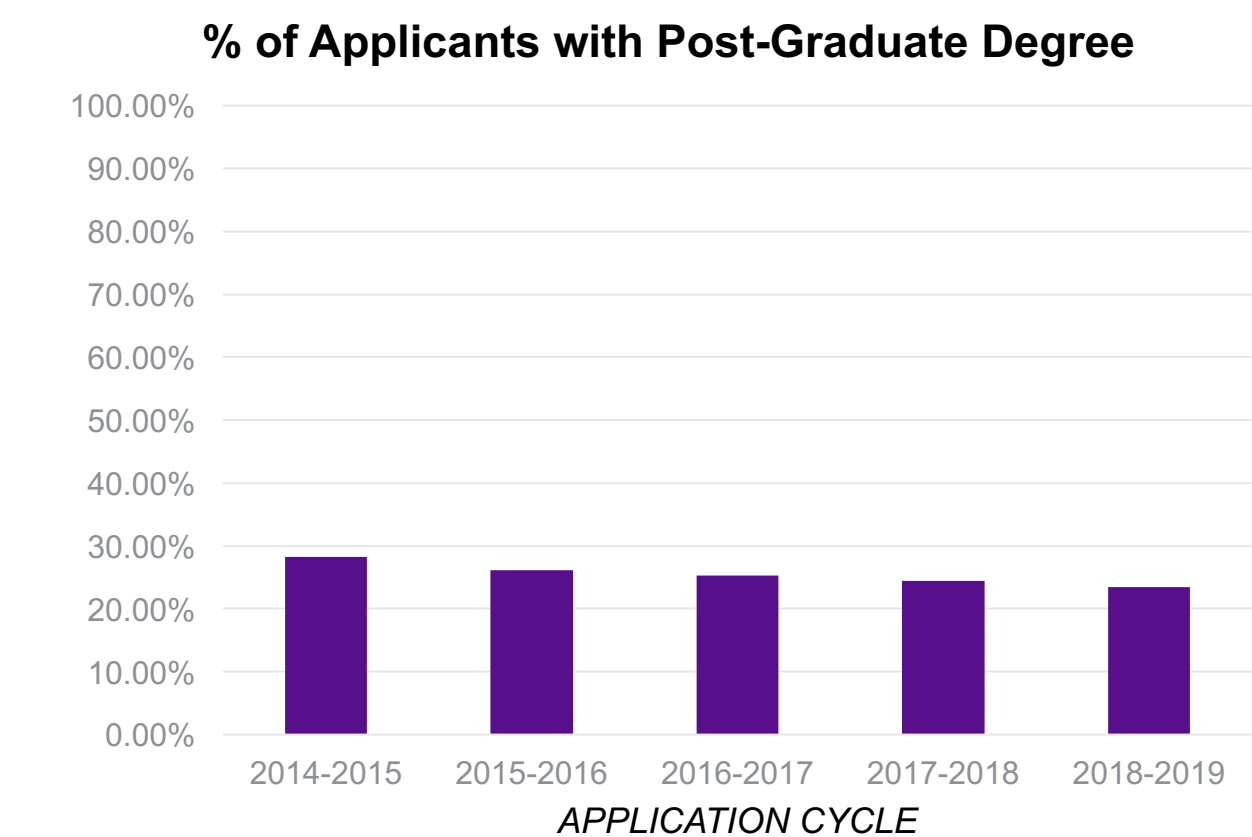
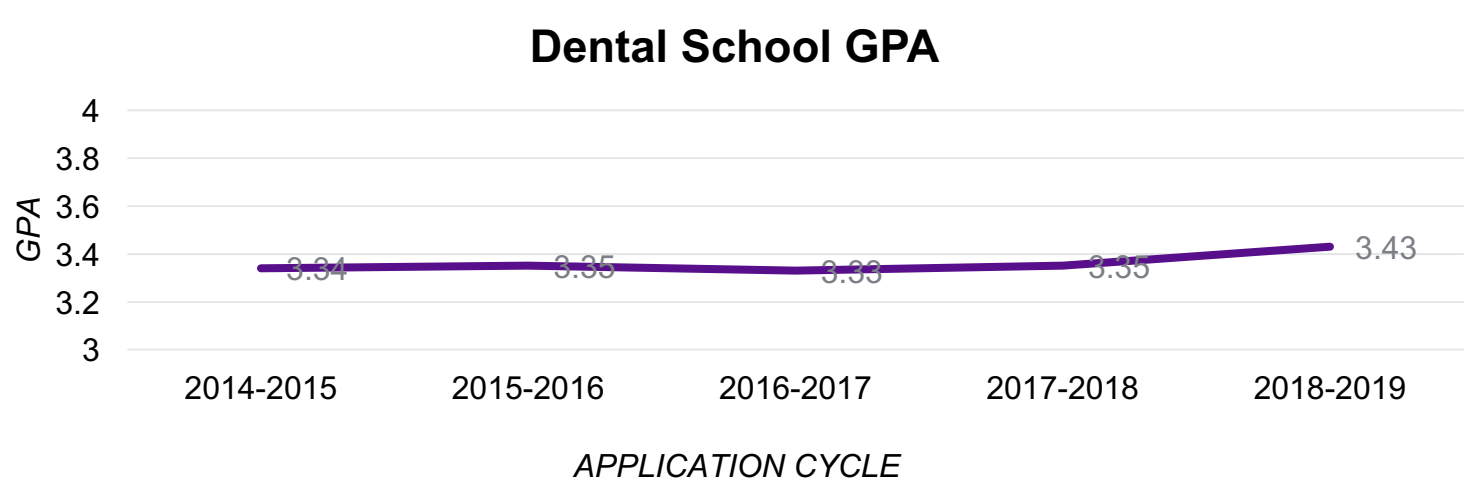
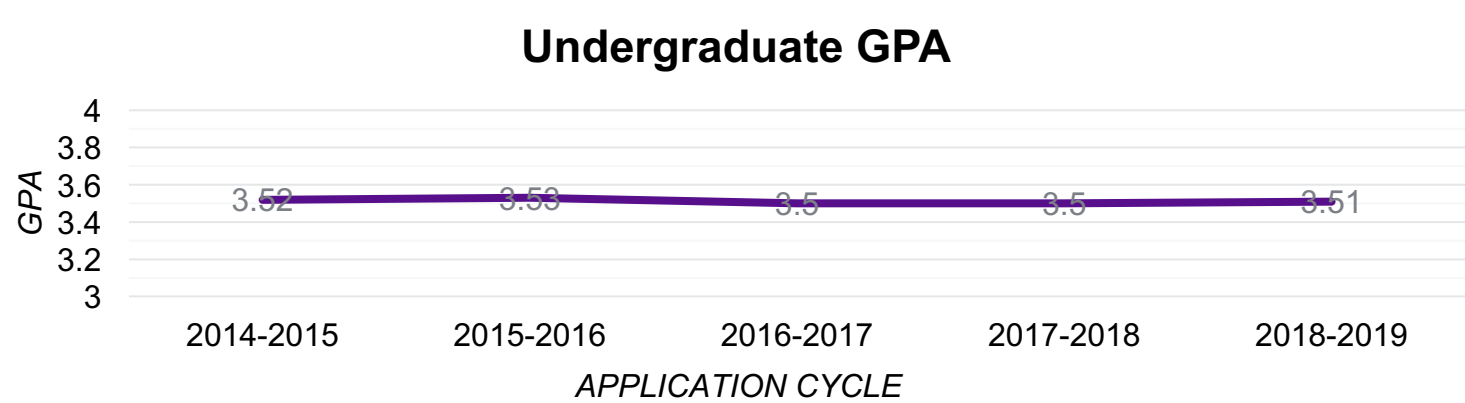
PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to analyze academic backgrounds and determine trends of applicants to NYU Langone Pediatric Dentistry Residency programs across five application cycles from 2014 to 2018.

METHODS

The ADEA PASS Application data for 2091 applicants across the five year span of 2014-2018 was analyzed to construct comparable academic profiles. Metrics of undergraduate GPA, postgraduate degrees award, previous residency history, dental school GPA, dental school rank, and the number of years between dental school are residency were evaluated.

RESULTS



RESULTS

Applicant Characteristics	N(%) / Std. Deviation				
	2014-2015 (N=375)	2015-2016 (N=432)	2016-2017 (N=435)	2017-2018 (N=428)	2018-2019 (N=421)
Undergraduate GPA, mean (SD)	3.52 (0.4)	3.53 (0.4)	3.50 (0.4)	3.50 (0.4)	3.51 (0.4)
Postgraduate degree awarded					
Yes	106 (28.2)	113 (26.1)	110 (25.3)	105 (24.5)	99 (23.5)
Previous residency completed					
Yes	67 (17.9)	73 (16.9)	71 (16.3)	79 (18.4)	N/A
Dental school overall GPA, mean(SD)	3.34 (0.3)	3.35 (0.3)	3.33 (0.3)	3.35 (0.3)	3.43 (0.3)
Dental school rank					
1st quartile	50 (20.8)	59 (20.5)	47 (16.7)	30 (11.3)	41 (16.7)
2nd quartile	66 (27.5)	79 (27.4)	71 (25.2)	77 (29.1)	75 (30.5)
3rd quartile	68 (28.3)	77 (26.7)	85 (30.1)	68 (25.7)	67 (27.2)
4th quartile	56 (23.3)	73 (25.3)	79 (28.0)	90 (34.0)	63 (25.6)
Years between dental school and residency, mean(SD)	2.7 (3.9)	2.2 (3.3)	2.3 (3.6)	2.5 (3.9)	2.2 (3.5)

CONCLUSIONS

The number of applicants rose from 375 applicants in 2014 to 421 applicants in 2018. In terms of academic statistics, there were small differences noted in undergraduate GPA. The average GPA for all years was 3.51, with the range from 3.50 to the highest of 3.53 in the 2015-2016 cycle. Similarly, dental school GPA remained steady, at an average GPA of 3.37 and a range of 3.33 to its highest of 3.43 in 2018. Additionally, applicants remained in similar in dental school ranking. In 2014, 116 applicants (48.3%) fell within the 1st and 2nd quartiles, compared to 116 (47.2%) of applicants in 2018 falling in the same two quartiles.

It was notable that the number of years between completion of dental school and the start of residency fell from 2.7 years in 2014 to 2.2 years in 2018. This downward trend towards fewer years before the starting residency is unexpected given the increased interest in pediatric residency and rise in the overall number of applicants. However, further research may reveal a continuation of this trend through the 2022 cycle as Covid-19 has seemingly increased the number of applicants seeking to start residency immediately after completing dental school.

Despite the number of years between the completion of dental school and start of residency saw a decrease across years, the percentage of applicants who complete a previous residency remained nearly the same. In 2014, 67 (17%) of applicants completed a previous residency, compared to 79 (18.4%) of applicants in 2017. As the gap years decreased among cycles, the percentage of applicants with postgraduate degrees also fell from 106 (28%) of applicants in 2014 to 99(23.5%) of applicants in 2018. Further areas of study could include an expanded timeline to include data from 2018 to the present to include application cycles during Covid-19.

REFERENCES

¹National Matching Services, Inc. *Results of the matching program for 2017-2018 positions*. <https://natmatch.com/dentres/stats/2017applstats.pdf>
²Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry. *NYU Langone Dental Medicine*. www.nyulangonedental.org/program/pediatric.

