

The Numbers Behind the Network



Delta Dental Leads the Industry

According to a recent independent study,¹ the Delta Dental PPOSM plan delivers the industry's best effective discount – **averaging 25.3 percent nationally** – resulting in more than **\$5.9 billion in annual savings** compared to dentists' average charges.¹

The size of our network plays a pivotal role in helping us deliver this industry-leading discount. In fact, Delta Dental continues to offer access to the largest network nationwide with more than 148,000 unique individual dentists.²

Carrier	Unique Participating Providers
Delta Dental Premier® / Delta Dental PPO SM	148,463 / 101,060
CIGNA Total DPPO	124,408
Assurant Dental Network	117,621
Anthem (WellPoint) Dental Complete	115,000
Guardian PPO	112,002
MetLife PDP Plus	110,474
DNoA Preferred	108,946
Aetna PPO II	102,348

¹Ruark Consulting LLC's 2016 Dental PPO Network Study

²March 2017 Independent NetMinder Data; based on the Delta Dental Premier® network

Methods of Counting Dentists Differ

Understanding how your dental carrier measures the size of its network ensures you receive an accurate picture of the access provided to enrollees.

If a single dentist splits his or her hours at two different practice locations, some carriers would count that dentist twice. Among larger dental chains, it's a common practice to count every dentist in every clinic of the chain, regardless of whether or not each dentist practices at every location.

These methods may help some dental carriers boost their network numbers, but they do nothing to deliver better access to their enrollees. When it comes to demonstrating network size, Delta Dental will always report unique individual dentists along with other relevant comparable information that helps you make the most informed decision.

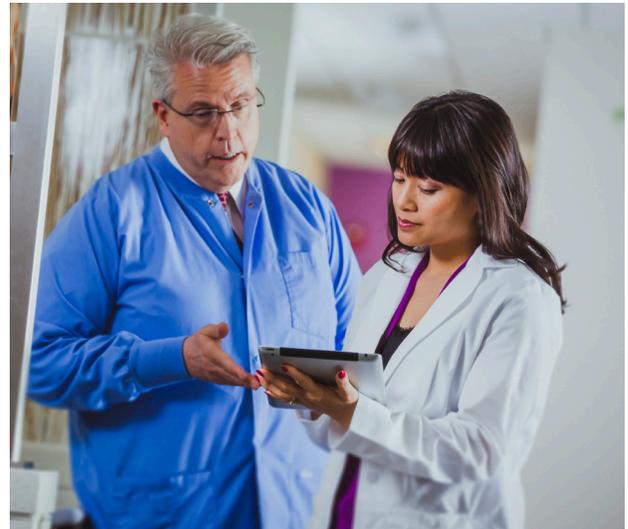


The number of unique individual dentists in a network is a strong measure of access – and the best indicator of each enrollee's ability to find in-network care where and when he or she needs it.

Count On Our Network Numbers

At Delta Dental, we take great steps to ensure the validity, integrity and credibility of our network numbers – allowing us to give groups and enrollees a fair and accurate assessment of the access to dental care our network provides.

- At Delta Dental, we don't lease our networks. Our local staff members foster relationships directly with dentists.
- When dentists retire, reduce their workloads to fewer office locations or otherwise change their network status, we adjust our network numbers accordingly.
- A trusted third-party resource compiles participating provider data and analyzes it objectively – scrubbing any duplicate entries within our network and other dental benefits carriers' networks.



Ask Your Carrier About How They Count Network Dentists

“How do you calculate the size of your network?”

“How frequently are your network numbers updated?”

“Do you lease your network or manage it directly?”

“How often will enrollees be able to seek services from their preferred dentists?”

If you're covered by Delta Dental, you already know the answers. If you're with another dental carrier, it might be time to ask a few questions.

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