

Network size: make sure you're comparing apples to apples.

Figuring out what a carrier is *really* saying when it references the size of its network can take a little investigation on your part.



Network size is measured in many ways. Some carriers count unique licenses, some count unique office locations, while still others count “access points.” These differences can artificially inflate a network’s size, making it appear much larger than it truly is.

What’s the difference?

“**Unique licenses**” refers to the total number of individual dental licenses. This is the most accurate indicator of the network size. It is what Delta Dental uses the most to measure our networks.

“**Unique office locations**” is a helpful, but secondary indicator of network size. Dentists who practice in multiple locations bring their expertise to a broader geographic area, but with limited availability at each location.

“**Access points**,” perhaps the most confusing indicator of network size, are arrived at by multiplying the number of unique dentists

by the locations where they practice. These “access points” do not necessarily tell the whole truth, as a subscriber could still only see one dentist at one office location at one point in time.

What does this mean for you?

An artificially inflated network is a hassle for you—just imagine the phone calls you will receive when employees have problems accessing participating dentists. To ensure that you’re receiving an accurate picture of a network’s true size, it’s important to understand how a carrier quantifies their network.

With the nation’s largest dental networks, Delta Dental offers access to more than 130,000 dentists (unique licenses) in our Delta Dental Premier® network.

In Colorado, subscribers can choose from 1,561 PPO providers and almost 2,800 Premier providers.

Delta Dental provides access to two of the nation’s largest networks of participating dentists. No other carrier can offer two layers of cost savings and balance-billing protection the way Delta Dental does.

Network Size by Unique Dental Licenses in Colorado¹

