

# HOW TO BECOME A



# DENTAL HYGIENIST



## THE JOB

Dental hygienists work with dentists to inspect and clean patients' teeth. As advocates for oral health, hygienists educate patients about the importance of preventive care.

## DAILY DUTIES



### PATIENT SCREENINGS



- assess oral health
- review health history
- oral cancer screening

### PATIENT CLEANINGS



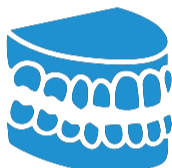
- remove calculus
- remove plaque
- floss

### APPLY TREATMENTS



- sealants
- fluorides

### MAKE IMPRESSIONS



- impressions are models dentists use to evaluate patient treatment needs.

### EDUCATE PATIENTS



- brushing & flossing
- nutrition

### PERFORM X-RAYS



- dental x-rays help dentists detect deeper issues

## PLAN YOUR CAREER PATH

### START



### obtain a DEGREE

Dental hygienists must hold an associates degree. Many community colleges and dental schools offer 2-year dental hygiene programs.



### get LICENSED

Eligibility requirements vary by state, but hygienists must hold postsecondary credentials from accredited programs. Other requirements include CPR certification, transcripts and letters of recommendation.



### research & APPLY

Apply for RDH positions that interest you! Look for leads through your entry-level program, local jobs fairs or online research.

## STATS

200,000+ jobs in 2014<sup>3</sup>

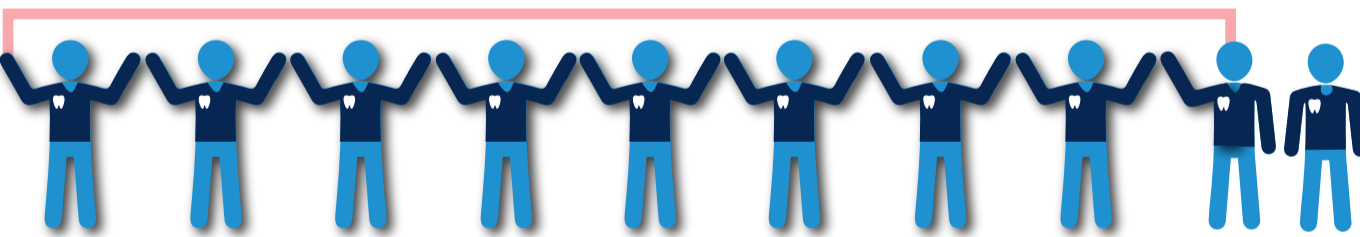


95% are female<sup>2</sup>

requires a 2YR degree



85% report overall job satisfaction<sup>4</sup>



average SALARY



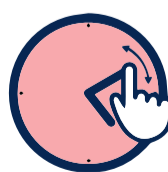
71K<sup>5</sup>

JOB PERKS



in 2015<sup>6</sup>

FLEXIBLE HOURS



# HYGIENIST!

## SOURCES

- 1 <http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/careers-in-dentistry/dental-team-careers/dental-hygienist>
- 2 [http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Future\\_Dental\\_Hygienists/Dental\\_hygiene\\_by\\_the\\_numbers.aspx](http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Future_Dental_Hygienists/Dental_hygiene_by_the_numbers.aspx)
- 3 <http://www.bls.gov/oo/h/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>
- 4 <http://www.dentistryjobs.com/articles/2014/05/rdh-career-decision-satisfaction.html>
- 5 <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/dental-hygienist/salary>
- 6 <http://money.usnews.com/money/careers/articles/2015/01/13/the-best-jobs-of-2015>
- 7 [http://study.com/how\\_to\\_become\\_a\\_dental\\_hygienist.html](http://study.com/how_to_become_a_dental_hygienist.html)