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## Dental Hygienists (SOC Code : 29-2021) in California

Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop X-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.

Employers are usually looking for candidates with a Associate degree .

View a [Career Video](#) for this occupation from America's Career InfoNet (requires [Windows Media Player](#))

### Occupational Wages [\[Top\]](#)

Area	Year	Period	Hourly Mean	Hourly by Percentile		
				25th	Median	75th
California	2013	1st Qtr	\$45.45	\$39.55	\$48.02	\$54.12

[View Wages for All Areas](#) [About Wages](#)

### Occupational Projections of Employment (also called "Outlook" or "Demand") [\[Top\]](#)

Area	Estimated Year-Projected Year	Employment		Employment Change		Annual Avg Openings
		Estimated	Projected	Number	Percent	
California	2010 - 2020	19,900	23,300	3,400	17.1	750

[View Projections for All Areas](#) [About Projections](#)

### Job Openings from JobCentral National Labor Exchange [\[Top\]](#)

Enter a Zip Code

[Find a Zip code in California](#)

Within  miles of Zip Code.

### Possible Licenses Required and Issuing Authority [\[Top\]](#)

License Title

License Authority

Department of Consumer Affairs

[Dental Hygienist - Extended Functions](#)

Dental Hygiene Committee of California

[www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov)

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[Dental Hygienist, Registered](#)[Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice \(RDHAP\)](#)[About Licenses](#)**Industries Employing This Occupation (click on Industry Title to View Employers List)** [\[Top\]](#)

Industry Title	Number of Employers in State of California	Percent of Total Employment for Occupation in State of California
<a href="#">Offices of Dentists</a>	27,065	97.7%

[About Staffing Patterns](#)**Training Programs (click on title for more information)** [\[Top\]](#)

Program Title

[Dental Hygiene/Hygienist](#)

[About Training & Apprenticeships](#)**About This Occupation (from O\*NET - The Occupation Information Network)** [\[Top\]](#)

Top Tasks (Specific duties and responsibilities of this job.)

Clean calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments.

Record and review patient medical histories.

Examine gums, using probes, to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease.

Feel and visually examine gums for sores and signs of disease.

Expose and develop x-ray film.

Chart conditions of decay and disease for diagnosis and treatment by dentist.

Maintain dental equipment and sharpen and sterilize dental instruments.

Feel lymph nodes under patient's chin to detect swelling or tenderness that could indicate presence of oral cancer.

Provide clinical services or health education to improve and maintain the oral health of patients or the general public.

Apply fluorides or other cavity preventing agents to arrest dental decay.

[More Tasks for Dental Hygienists](#)



#### Top Skills used in this Job

**Speaking** - Talking to others to convey information effectively.

**Active Listening** - Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Critical Thinking** - Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**Judgment and Decision Making** - Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

**Monitoring** - Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

**Service Orientation** - Actively looking for ways to help people.

**Social Perceptiveness** - Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

**Writing** - Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

**Instructing** - Teaching others how to do something.

**Active Learning** - Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

#### [More Skills for Dental Hygienists](#)

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#### Top Abilities (Attributes of the person that influence performance in this job.)

**Problem Sensitivity** - The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.

**Near Vision** - The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

**Oral Comprehension** - The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

**Oral Expression** - The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.

#### [More Abilities for Dental Hygienists](#)

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#### Top Work Values (Aspects of this job that create satisfaction.)

**Relationships** - Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

**Support** - Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

#### [More Work Values for Dental Hygienists](#)

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#### Top Interests (The types of activities someone in this job would like.)

**Social** - Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

**Realistic** - Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.

## [More Interests for Dental Hygienists](#)

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### Alternate Titles

Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) and Hygienists.

### Related Links

[Career Information](#)

[Local Area Profile](#)

[Compare Occupations](#)

[View Similar Occupations](#)

[O\\*Net - The Occupation Information Network](#)

View a [Career Video](#) for this occupation from America's Career InfoNet (requires [Windows Media Player](#))