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2025 Pennsylvania Dentist and Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey Report

**Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction
Bureau of Epidemiology**



**Pennsylvania
Department of Health**

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Table of Abbreviations

BPOA Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

DAT Dental Admission Test

D.D.S. Doctor of Dental Surgery

D.M.D. Doctor of Dental Medicine

FQHC Federally Qualified Health Center

HPSA Health Professional Shortage Area

N/A Not Applicable

PHDHP Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners

U.S. United States



Executive Summary

This report presents findings from the 2025 Dentist Survey and 2025 Dental Hygienist Survey. These surveys were designed to collect information on the characteristics and distribution of the Commonwealth's dentist and dental hygienist workforces in 2025 in Pennsylvania. The surveys were conducted in conjunction with the biennial license renewal for dentists and dental hygienists. It is important to note that dentists and dental hygienists receiving their first license were not included in the survey.

Dentists

In 2025, 8,937 dentists renewed their Pennsylvania licenses and responded to the dentist survey. Of these respondents, 8,931 reported their employment status information and 8,454 were employed in dentistry. A total of 7,805 dentists (87.4%) reported providing direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

The average age of dentist respondents was 51.3 years. The majority of dentists were males (63.7%), while 36.3% were females. Dentist self-identified race was 67.6% white, 16.1% Asian, and 2.6% Black. Most dentists identified as non-Hispanic (97.4%).

Among the 7,805 dentist respondents who provided direct care in Pennsylvania, 73.3% practiced in general dentistry, 6.1% in orthodontics, 5.8% in oral surgery, 5.6% in pediatric dentistry, 3.3% in endodontics, 2.5% in periodontics, and 1.6% in prosthodontics.

More dentists practiced in urban than in rural counties. Only 18.4% of dentists provided direct patient care in rural PA counties. The dentist to population ratio for dentists providing direct patient care per 100,000 population was 36.1 in rural counties and 55.6 in urban counties. These data indicate the disparity in the distribution of dental workforce in Pennsylvania and the need to increase dental workforce in rural counties.

Dental Hygienists

In 2025, 8,891 dental hygienists renewed their Pennsylvania license and responded to the dental hygienist survey. Of these 8,891 dental hygienists, 7,827 (88.0%) reported employment in dental hygiene and 6,889 reported that they provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

The average age of dental hygienist respondents was 46.6 years. Most dental hygienists (98.3%) were females and 1.7% were males. Dental hygienist self-reported race and ethnicity was 91.0% white, 3.1% Hispanic or Latino, 2.5% Asian, and 1.9% Black.

Among dental hygienist respondents providing direct patient care, 76.3% completed an associate degree in dental hygiene as their highest level of education, 54.7% held anesthesia permits, 11.6% held public health dental hygiene practitioner (PHDHP) certificates, 3.5% held expanded function dental assistant certificates, and 5.4% held school hygienist certificates. The majority of dental hygienists providing direct patient care (91.4%) were



employed by private dental practices owned by partnerships or solo dentists and 92.9% were satisfied or very satisfied with dental hygiene as a career.

Only 23.0% of dental hygienists provided direct patient care in rural counties. The ratio of dental hygienists providing direct patient care in rural compared to urban counties was 47.0 and 54.6 per 100,000 population respectively.

Background

Dentists diagnose and treat conditions and diseases that are generally related to the oral cavity (mouth) and provide preventive health advice to patients. Dentists perform a variety of activities, such as applying dental varnishes to prevent cavities in children, removing tooth decay, filling cavities, repairing fractured teeth and bones of the jaw, reading x-rays, performing corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum disease, extracting teeth, and providing replacements for missing teeth. In addition, dentists may administer anesthetics and write medication prescriptions in conjunction with these activities.

Individuals studying to become dentists complete at least eight years of education following high school. In addition to completing a bachelor's degree, individuals must take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) before applying for admission to dental school. Upon graduation from an accredited dental school, a dentist receives a degree of either a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or a Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.). Dentists may practice general dentistry or may choose to undergo further training by completing a residency program in one of the specialty areas of dentistry that include orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, or public health dentistry. Dental residencies require one to four years to complete, depending on the area of specialty.

In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and territories, dentists must be licensed to practice dentistry. To obtain a license, dentists must graduate from an accredited dental school and pass a licensing clinical examination accepted by the state where they wish to practice. In Pennsylvania, the State Board of Dentistry (Board) within the Department of State is responsible for regulating dental practice through licensure, registration, and certification of the dental professionals.

The Board also licenses dental hygienists upon completing an approved dental hygiene education program and passing written and clinical examinations. Dental hygienists provide preventive dental care, such as cleaning teeth, applying fluoride and dental sealants, taking radiographs, and educating patients on good oral health practices.

A licensed dental hygienist may become certified by the Board as a PHDHP upon completion of 3,600 hours of practice under the supervision of a dentist and after securing appropriate professional liability insurance. PHDHPs may provide dental hygiene services in certain public health settings without the supervision of a dentist.



Individuals who have completed a board-approved training program and passed a certification examination may become certified by the Board as an expanded function dental assistant. Expanded function dental assistants may perform higher level procedures such as application of dental sealants and placement of dental fillings under the direct supervision of a dentist. Though expanded function dental assistants are certified through the Pennsylvania Department of State, regular surveys are not included in the renewal process.

This survey provides data for the Pennsylvania Oral Health Program, Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health, and the oral health partners to understand the characteristics and trending of dental workforce in Pennsylvania. The survey findings can inform workforce planning, access-to-care strategies, and policy initiatives aimed at addressing dental workforce shortages across Pennsylvania.

Dentists Licensed in Pennsylvania

Age and Sex

In 2025, 8,937 dentists renewed their licenses in Pennsylvania and responded to the dentist survey. The average age of dentists was 51.3 years. Table 1 displays the age group and sex of the dentist respondents. More dentists identified as male than female. Among males, there were more dentists in the older age groups than in the younger age groups. Two thirds of male dentists who responded were aged 50 years or older, and close to one third of male dentists were aged 65 years or older. Among females, there were more dentists in the younger age groups than in the older age groups. Only one third of female dentists were aged 50 years or older. Of note, the expected age upon graduation from dental school is around 25 years and the survey was not conducted until the renewal of the dental license, which might be the reason that there were fewer dentists in the age group of 25-29 years.

Race and Ethnicity

The distribution of respondents by race and ethnicity is listed in Table 2. The majority of dentists were non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic Asian. The other racial and ethnic groups each comprised a small proportion of total dentists in Pennsylvania.



Table 1. Dentist Respondents Licensed in Pennsylvania by Age Group and Sex, 2025

Age Group in Years	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25-29	158	2.8%	180	5.6%	338	3.8%
30-34	549	9.8%	546	17.1%	1,095	12.4%
35-39	534	9.5%	588	18.4%	1,122	12.7%
40-44	460	8.2%	452	14.1%	912	10.4%
45-49	422	7.5%	363	11.4%	785	8.9%
50-54	446	8.0%	284	8.9%	730	8.3%
55-59	569	10.2%	257	8.0%	826	9.4%
60-64	651	11.6%	247	7.7%	898	10.2%
65+	1,817	32.4%	282	8.8%	2,099	23.8%
Total	5,606	100.0%	3,199	100.0%	8,805	100.0%

Table 2. Dentist Respondents Licensed in Pennsylvania by Race/Ethnicity, 2025

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic White	6,038	67.6%
Non-Hispanic Asian	1,435	16.1%
Unknown	794	8.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	233	2.6%
Hispanic or Latino	232	2.6%
Other	169	1.9%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	17	0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	13	0.1%
Total	8,931	100.0%

Dental Education

Table 3 displays the states from which dentist respondents graduated from dental school. Most dentist respondents graduated from Pennsylvania dental schools and from neighboring states such as New York and Maryland. Very few dentists graduated from dental schools outside the U.S.

Table 3. Dentist Respondents by State of Dental School Graduation, 2025

State of Graduation	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	5,713	64.0%
Other states/territories	1,366	15.3%
New York	780	8.7%
Maryland	346	3.9%
Massachusetts	330	3.7%
West Virginia	201	2.3%
New Jersey	195	2.2%
Non-U.S.	42	0.5%
Total	8,931	100.0%



Employment

Table 4 lists the current employment status of dentist respondents. As expected, the majority of dentist respondents were employed in dentistry for direct patient care. A small proportion of dentist respondents were otherwise employed as shown in the table.

Table 4. Dentists Licensed in Pennsylvania by Current Employment Status, 2025

Current Employment Status	Number	Percent
Employed, in dentistry, direct patient care	7,805	87.4%
Employed in dentistry, education	418	4.7%
Retired	249	2.8%
Employed in dentistry, other	111	1.2%
Employed in dentistry, administrative	104	1.2%
Unemployed, seeking work in dentistry	76	0.9%
Student, leave of absence, or sabbatical	53	0.6%
Unemployed, not seeking work in dentistry	48	0.5%
Employed, not in dentistry	29	0.3%
Unemployed, disabled	22	0.2%
Employed in dentistry, research	16	0.2%
Total	8,931	100.0%

Dentists Providing Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania

In 2025, out of 8,931 dentists who reported employment status information, 7,805 (87.4%) reported providing direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

Age and Sex

In 2025, the average age of dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania was 50.9 years. Table 5 lists the distribution of these respondents by age group and sex in Pennsylvania in 2025. The number of male dentists who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania was nearly twice the number of female dentists who provided direct patient care. For male dentists, the percentage generally increased with age, but for female dentists, the percentage first increased with age but then decreased. Over half (50.7%) of dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania were aged 50 years or older.

Race and Ethnicity

The distribution of race and ethnicity for dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania in 2025 is listed in Table 6. The majority of dentists who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania were non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic Asian. The other racial and ethnic groups each comprised a small proportion of total dentists who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania.



Table 5. Dentists Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Age Group and Sex, 2025

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25-29	118	2.8%	138	5.9%	256	3.9%
30-34	430	10.2%	406	17.3%	836	12.8%
35-39	401	9.6%	419	17.9%	820	12.5%
40-44	348	8.3%	340	14.5%	688	10.5%
45-49	338	8.1%	286	12.2%	624	9.5%
50-54	341	8.1%	212	9.1%	553	8.5%
55-59	432	10.3%	179	7.6%	611	9.3%
60-64	512	12.2%	189	8.1%	701	10.7%
65+	1,278	30.4%	173	7.4%	1,451	22.2%
Total	4,198	100.0%	2,342	100.0%	6,540	100.0%

Table 6. Dentists Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Race and Ethnicity in PA, 2025

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic White	4,601	69.5%
Non-Hispanic Asian	1,021	15.4%
Unknown	564	8.5%
Hispanic or Latino	154	2.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	141	2.1%
Other	115	1.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	14	0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	9	0.1%
Total	6,569	100.0%

Dental Education

Table 7 displays the states from which direct-patient-care respondents graduated from dental school. As shown in the table, Pennsylvania was the state where most dentists graduated from dental school. Some dentists also graduated from neighboring states such as New York and Maryland. Very few dentists graduated from dental schools outside the U.S.

Table 7. Dentists Who Provided Direct Patient Care by State of Graduation, 2025

State of Graduation	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	4,435	67.0%
Other states/areas	872	13.2%
New York	522	7.9%
Maryland	254	3.8%
Massachusetts	226	3.4%
West Virginia	158	2.4%
New Jersey	122	1.8%
Non-U.S.	30	0.5%
Total	6,619	100.0%



Specialty

Table 8 presents the dental practice specialties of respondents who provided direct patient care. Among dentists who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania and provided practice specialty information, most dentists practiced general dentistry. In addition to general dentistry, orthodontics, oral surgery, and pediatric dentistry were the main specialties.

Table 8. Specialties Among Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025

Specialty	Number	Percent
General Dentistry	4,853	73.3%
Orthodontics	405	6.1%
Oral Surgery	384	5.8%
Pediatric Dentistry	371	5.6%
Endodontics	216	3.3%
Periodontics	168	2.5%
Prosthodontics	105	1.6%
Geriatric Dentistry	57	0.9%
Other	52	0.8%
N/A	3	0.05%
Pathology	3	0.05%
Radiology	2	0.03%
Total	6,619	100.0%

Table 9 lists the number of hours of direct patient care each week for dentists in the primary practice location in the past year. Most dentists worked 31 to 40 hours a week. Rarely, some dentists worked less than 11 hours or over 40 hours. Fewer female dentists worked more than 40 hours per week compared to male dentists.

Table 9. Dentist Respondents by the Number of Hours Providing Direct Patient Care Each Week in Pennsylvania, 2025

Hours/Week	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
1 to 10	207	4.9%	94	4.0%	301	4.6%
11 to 20	558	13.3%	349	14.9%	907	13.9%
21 to 30	872	20.8%	614	26.3%	1,486	22.8%
31 to 40	2,319	55.4%	1,210	51.8%	3,529	54.1%
> 40	231	5.5%	71	3.0%	302	4.6%
Total	4,187	100.0%	2,338	100.0%	6,525	100.0%

Figure 1 displays the number of hours per week that dental specialists spent on direct patient care in the past year. Most specialists worked 31 to 40 hours a week while fewer orthodontists worked these many hours. Compared to the other specialties, oral surgery had more dentists who worked more than 40 hours a week.



Figure 1. Hours of Direct Patient Care by Specialty among Dentist Respondents in Pennsylvania, 2025

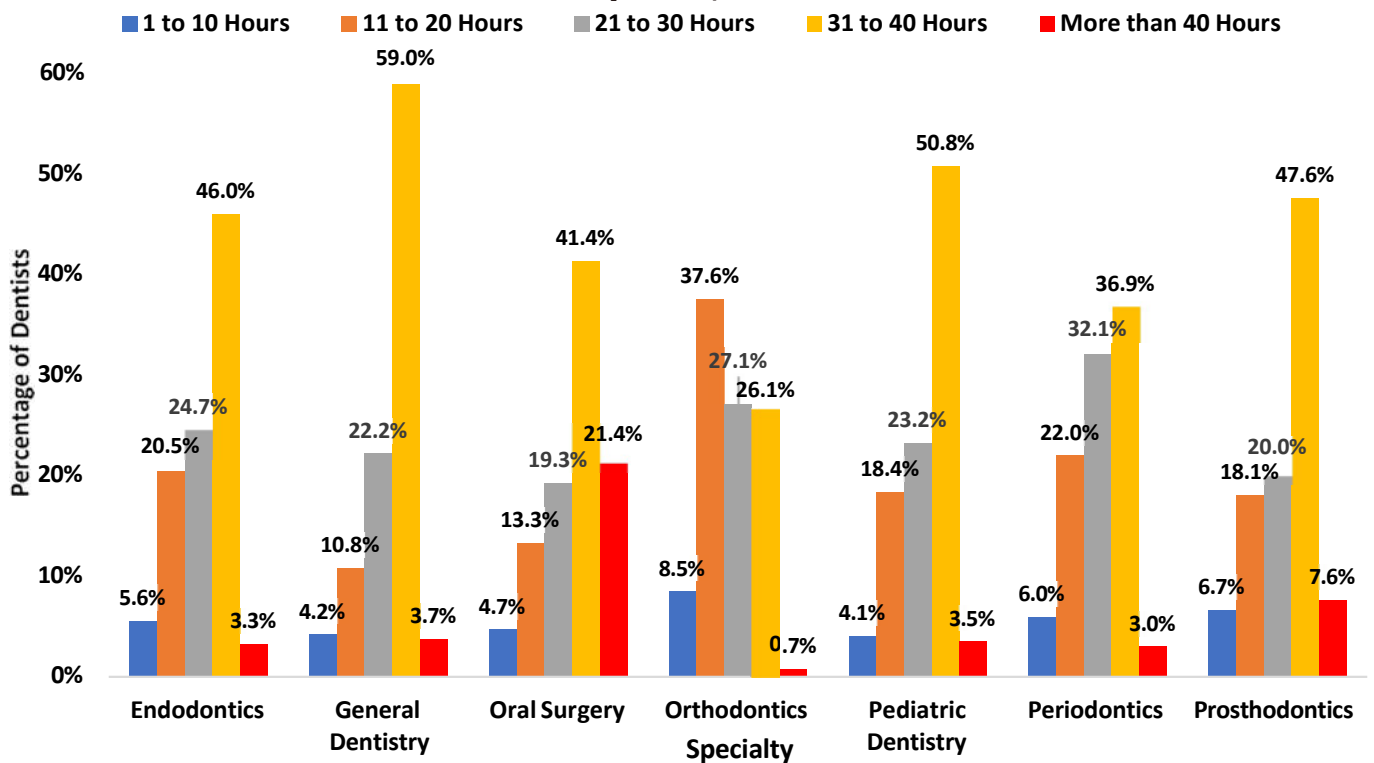
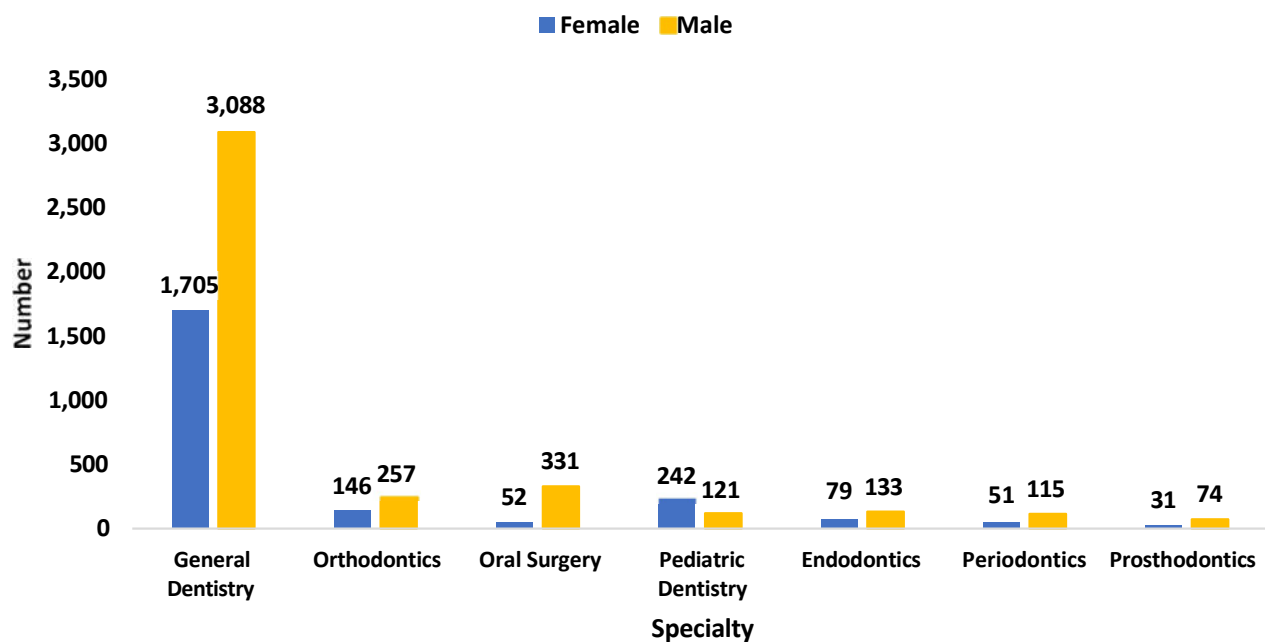


Figure 2 displays dental specialties by sex among of dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania. In general, there were more male than female dentists in all specialties except for pediatric dentistry.

Figure 2. Dental Specialties by Sex among Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025



Geography

In 2025, 6,615 dentist respondents who provided direct patient care reported a primary practice setting in 65 of 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Cameron County and Juniata County were the two counties where no dentist respondents reported a primary practice setting. Across the Commonwealth, the rate of respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania was 50.3 per 100,000 population in 2025. In 2025, 18.4% of dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania practiced in rural counties, substantially lower than the 81.6% of dentist respondents practicing in urban counties. The rate of dentists providing direct patient care was 36.1 per 100,000 population in rural counties, also lower than the 55.6 per 100,000 in urban counties.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designates an area as dental care shortage area if the population to dental provider ratio is 5,000 to 1 or worse. Based on this guideline, 42 out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania were classified as dental care shortage counties. The rate of dentists providing direct patient care was 47.6 per 100,000 in counties designated as dental care shortage areas, lower than 54.6 per 100,000 in counties not designated as dental care shortage areas (Map 1). Appendix 3 contains a list of Pennsylvania's Designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Employment

In 2025, the vast majority of dentists (92.1%) who provided direct patient care worked in a private dental office or clinic setting in Pennsylvania (Table 10).

Map 1. Dentists Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care per 100,000 Population by County of Primary Practice in Pennsylvania, 2025

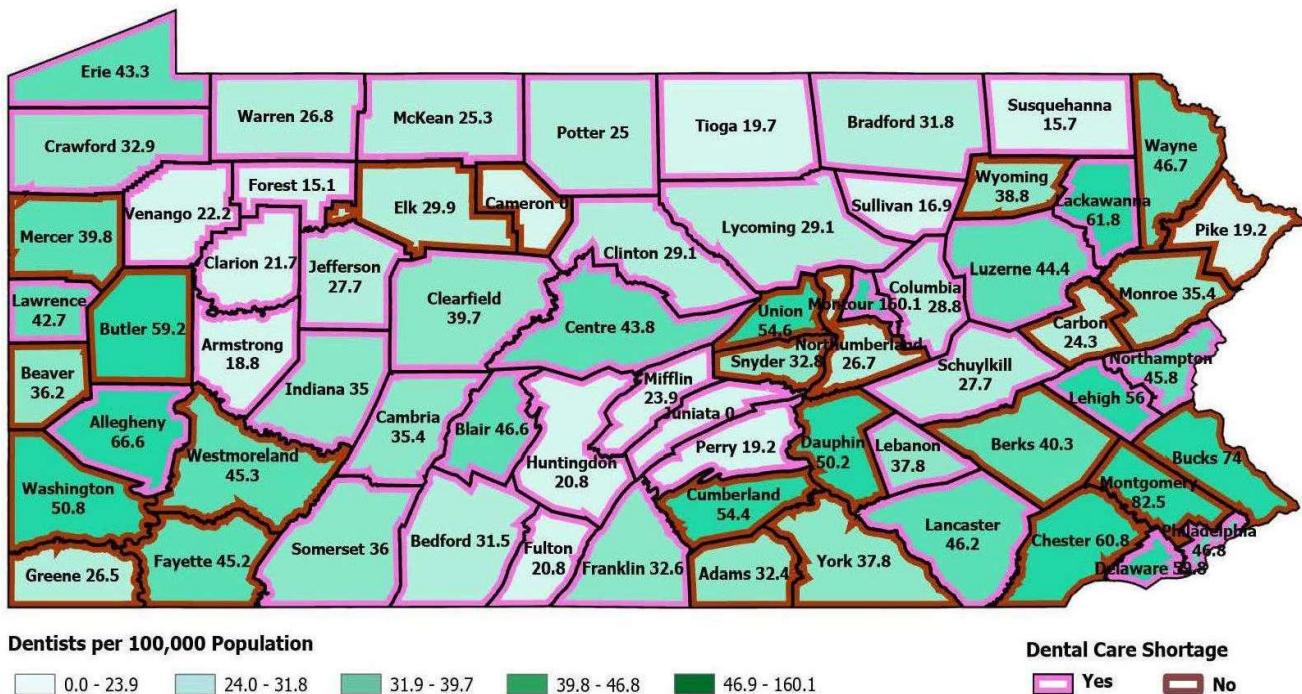


Table 10. Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania by Employment Setting, 2025

Practice Setting	Number	Percent
Office/clinic	5,844	92.1%
Public health	132	2.1%
Hospital	118	1.9%
Academic institution	113	1.8%
Correctional facility	51	0.8%
Ambulatory surgical facility	42	0.7%
Nursing home	35	0.6%
Other	10	0.2%
Urgent care	2	0.03%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Youngest Children

In 2025, 87.6% of dentist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania provided care to children. More dentists provided dental care services to children aged five years or older and children aged three years than children at other ages. Approximately one in eight dentists did not provide dental care services to children (Table 11). Table 12 displays the youngest children seen by dentists classified by their specialties.

Table 11. Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Youngest Children Seen, 2025

Children Age	Number	Percent
< 1 year	805	12.6%
1 year	697	10.9%
2 years	807	12.7%
3 years	1,312	20.6%
4 years	317	5.0%
5 years and over	1,647	25.8%
Do not see children	792	12.4%
Total	6,377	100.0%

With regards to the anticipated length of time in providing direct patient care, over one third of dentists reported 16 years or longer future practice. The other dentists anticipated various years of practice, as shown in Table 13.



Table 12. Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Youngest Children Seen and Dental Specialty in Pennsylvania, 2025

Children Age	Pediatric Dentists Number (%)	General Dentists Number (%)	Dentists in Other Specialties Number (%)	Total Number (%)
< 1 year	291 (78.9%)	448 (9.5%)	66 (5.2%)	805 (12.6%)
1 year	64 (17.3%)	608 (12.9%)	25 (2.0%)	697 (10.9%)
2 years	6 (1.6%)	763 (16.1%)	38 (3.0%)	807 (12.7%)
3 years	2 (0.5%)	1,252 (26.5%)	56 (4.4%)	1,310 (20.5%)
4 years	4 (1.1%)	281 (5.9%)	32 (2.5%)	317 (5.0%)
5 years and over	2 (0.5%)	881 (18.6%)	764 (59.6%)	1,647 (25.8%)
Do not see children	0 (0.0%)	492 (10.4%)	300 (23.4%)	792 (12.4%)
Total	369 (100.0%)	4,725 (100.0%)	1,281 (100.0%)	6,375 (100.0%)

Table 13. Dentist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Years Anticipated to Continue Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025

Anticipated Dental Practice	Number	Percent
Less than 3 years	799	12.4%
3 to less than 6 years	1,248	19.4%
6 to less than 11 years	1,131	17.6%
11 to less than 16 years	873	13.5%
16+ years	2,395	37.2%
Total	6,446	100.0%

Dental Hygienists Licensed in Pennsylvania

This section describes dental hygienists who responded to the 2025 Pennsylvania dental hygienist relicensing survey. A total of 8,891 dental hygienists renewed their licenses in 2025 and responded to the survey.

Age and Sex

In 2025, the average age of dental hygienist respondents was 46.6 years. Table 14 lists the distribution of respondents by age and sex in 2025. Most dental hygienist respondents were females; there were very few male dental hygienist respondents. For female dental hygienist respondents, the age distribution was generally equivalent across all age groups except for the age group of 65 years or older.

Race and Ethnicity

Table 15 displays race and ethnicity among dental hygienist respondents in 2025. Most respondents were non-Hispanic white and the other racial and ethnic groups only comprised a small proportion of the total dental hygienists.



Table 14. Dental Hygienist Licensed in Pennsylvania by Age Group and Sex, 2025

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
18-29	31	21.2%	967	11.2%	998	11.4%
30-34	33	22.6%	1,103	12.8%	1,136	12.9%
35-39	18	12.3%	1,110	12.8%	1,128	12.8%
40-44	16	11.0%	991	11.5%	1,007	11.5%
45-49	9	6.2%	897	10.4%	906	10.3%
50-54	13	8.9%	923	10.7%	936	10.7%
55-59	13	8.9%	992	11.5%	1,005	11.4%
60-64	6	4.1%	910	10.5%	916	10.4%
65+	7	4.8%	748	8.7%	755	8.6%
Total	146	100.0%	8,641	100.0%	8,787	100.0%

Table 15. Dental Hygienist Licensed in Pennsylvania by Race and Ethnicity, 2025

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic White	7,572	91.0%
Hispanic or Latino	256	3.1%
Non-Hispanic Asian	212	2.5%
Non-Hispanic Black	156	1.9%
Other	80	1.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	43	0.5%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6	0.1%
Total	8,325	100.0%

Dental Hygiene Education

Table 16 displays the highest dental hygiene degree reported by dental hygienist respondents. Most dental hygienist respondents reported that the highest degree obtained was an associate degree (73.2%) and 2.4% of dental hygienist respondents reported that they had a master's degree in dental hygiene.

Table 16. Dental Hygienist Respondents Licensed in Pennsylvania by Highest Degree, 2025

Highest Dental Hygiene Degree	Number	Percent
Associate degree	6,502	73.2%
Bachelor's degree	1,782	20.1%
Certificate	389	4.4%
Master's degree	211	2.4%
Total	8,884	100.0%



Dental Hygiene Certification

Through additional training, dental hygienists can become certified to perform advanced duties such as administering local anesthesia. Dental hygienists may also become certified as school dental hygienists and provide preventive dental hygiene services to students in grades PK-12. Dental hygienist respondents reported obtaining expanded function dental assistant certificates, school dental hygienist certificates, dental hygiene local anesthesia permits, or certificates of PHDHP. Respondents could select more than one type of certification. Table 17 displays the number of respondents who held additional dental hygiene certifications.

Table 17. Dental Hygienist Respondents by Dental Hygiene Certification in PA, 2025

Certification	Number	Percent
Expanded function dental assistant certificate	285 of 8,359	3.4%
School dental hygienist certificate	454 of 8,355	5.4%
Dental hygiene local anesthesia permit	4,696 of 8,771	53.5%
Public health dental hygiene practitioner	1,089 of 8,641	12.6%

Note: the certification questions were asked individually so the denominators were different as a respondent could skip a question.

Employment

Table 18 displays the employment status of dental hygienist respondents in 2025. As expected, most licensed dental hygienists (88.0%) were employed in dental hygiene.

Table 19 displays the position held by dental hygienist respondents in 2025. The majority of dental hygienists (85.5%) worked in direct patient care and a small number of dental hygienists worked in education, management, or research.

Table 18. Dental Hygienist Respondents by Current Employment Status in Pennsylvania, 2025

Employment Status	Number	Percent
Employed in dental hygiene	7,827	88.0%
Employed not in dental hygiene	383	4.3%
Unemployed, seeking work in dental hygiene	89	1.0%
Unemployed, not seeking work in dental hygiene	171	1.9%
Unemployed, disabled	40	0.4%
Student, leave of absence, or sabbatical	40	0.4%
Retired	141	1.6%
Other	200	2.2%
Total	8,891	100.0%



Table 19. Dental Hygienist Respondents Employed in Dental Hygiene by Position Held in the Primary Job in Pennsylvania, 2025

Position	Number	Percent
Direct patient care	7,598	85.5%
Educator	214	2.4%
Administration/management	222	2.5%
Researcher/consultant	17	0.2%
Other	421	4.7%
Not employed as a dental hygienist	411	4.6%
Total	7,703	100.0%

Dental Hygienists Providing Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania

Dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania are defined as those who provided at least one hour of direct patient care per week in Pennsylvania in the past year. In 2025, 6,889 dental hygienist respondents indicated that they provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

Age and Sex

In 2025, the average age of dental hygienist respondents providing direct patient care was 45.7 years. Table 20 lists the distribution of respondents providing direct patient care by age group. For female dental hygienists, except for 65 years of age or older, the distribution of dental hygienist respondents across each age group was generally equivalent. Of note, there were substantially more male dental hygienists in the younger age groups.

Race and Ethnicity

Table 21 shows dental hygienists who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania by race and ethnicity. The majority of dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care were non-Hispanic white. The other racial and ethnic groups only comprised of a small proportion of the total dental hygienist who provided direct patient care.

Dental Hygiene Education

Table 22 lists respondents by the highest dental hygiene degree reported by dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care. Three-quarters of respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania completed an associate degree as their highest dental hygiene degree.

Figure 3 displays the dental hygiene degree by age group. The distribution for obtaining an associate degree was almost equally high among those aged 18-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, and 55-64 years; the distribution was lower among those aged 65 years or older. The distribution for obtaining a bachelor's degree was highest among those aged 65 years or older. Very few dental hygienists obtained a master's degree in dental hygiene.



Table 20. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Age Group and Sex in Pennsylvania, 2025

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
18-29	27	23.9%	823	12.3%	850	12.5%
30-34	26	23.0%	852	12.7%	878	12.9%
35-39	14	12.4%	858	12.8%	872	12.8%
40-44	11	9.7%	751	11.2%	762	11.2%
45-49	5	4.4%	686	10.2%	691	10.1%
50-54	10	8.9%	699	10.4%	709	10.4%
55-59	10	8.9%	776	11.6%	786	11.5%
60-64	3	2.7%	721	10.8%	724	10.6%
65+	7	6.2%	541	8.1%	548	8.0%
Total	113	100.0%	6,707	100.0%	6,820	100.0%

Table 21. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Race and Ethnicity in Pennsylvania, 2025

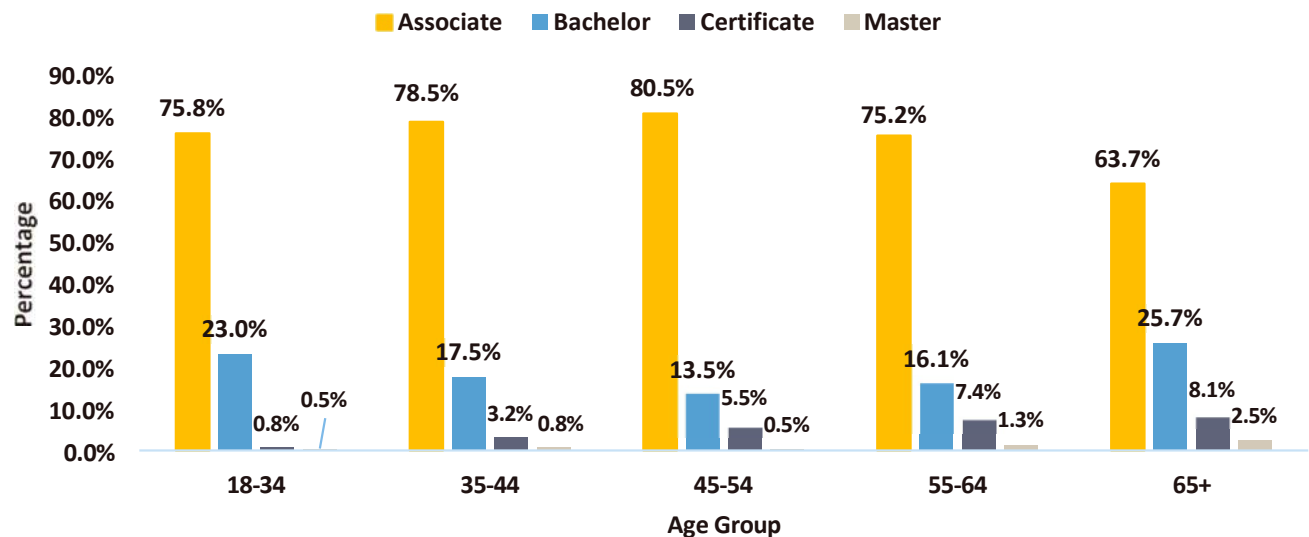
Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic White	5,925	91.3%
Hispanic or Latino	191	2.9%
Non-Hispanic Asian	161	2.5%
Non-Hispanic Black	117	1.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	33	0.5%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3	0.1%
Other	57	0.9%
Total	6,487	100.0%

Table 22. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Highest Degree in Pennsylvania, 2025

Dental Hygiene Degree	Number	Percent
Associate degree	5,253	76.3%
Bachelor's degree	1,267	18.4%
Certificate	301	4.4%
Master's degree	63	0.9%
Total	6,884	100.0%



Figure 3. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Highest Degree and Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025



Dental Hygiene Certification

Table 23 lists the number of respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania by the type of additional dental hygiene certification(s) they held.

Table 23. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Dental Hygiene Certification in Pennsylvania, 2025

Certification	Number	Percent
Expanded function dental assistant certificate	228 of 6,512	3.5%
School dental hygienist certificate	348 of 6,495	5.4%
Dental hygiene local anesthesia permit	3,729 of 6,819	54.7%
Public health dental hygiene practitioner	780 of 6,717	11.6%

Note: the certification questions were asked individually so the denominators were different as a respondent could skip a question.

Table 24 displays expanded function dental assistants in their primary duties by age group. The percentage was highest in the 35 to 44 years age group and lowest among those aged 65 years or older.

Table 24. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Expanded Function Dental Assistant in Primary Job by Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025

Age Group	Number	Percent
18-34	62	27.2%
35-44	69	30.3%
45-54	42	18.4%
55-64	41	18.0%
65+	14	6.1%
Total	228	100.0%



Table 25 displays respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania and administered local anesthesia in their primary job by age group. In general, more dental hygienist respondents in the younger age groups administered local anesthesia in their primary job than in the older age groups. This likely reflects that local anesthesia training was only added to the dental hygiene curriculum in 2011.

Table 25. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care and Administered Local Anesthesia in Primary Job by Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025

Age Group	Number	Percent
18-34	1,563	41.9%
35-44	1,110	29.8%
45-54	559	15.0%
55-64	418	11.2%
65+	79	2.1%
Total	3,729	100.0%

Table 26 displays dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania and worked as school dental hygienists in their primary jobs by age group in 2025. More respondents worked as school dental hygienists in the younger age groups. Far fewer respondents worked as school dental hygienists in the age group of 65 years or older. Of note, the survey question was not formatted properly to capture the dental hygienists that were working as Certified School Dental Hygienists and might include hygienists who work in schools but are not Certified School Dental Hygienists.

Table 26. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care and Worked as a School Dental Hygienist in Primary Job by Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025

Age Group	Number	Percent
18-34	134	38.5%
35-44	92	26.4%
45-54	62	17.8%
55-64	40	11.5%
65+	20	5.8%
Total	348	100.0%

Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHP)

Public health dental hygiene practitioners (PHDHPs) were first licensed in Pennsylvania in January 2010. PHDHPs were created as a specific job title to increase access to dental services for individuals living in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) by allowing these dental hygienists to perform educational, preventive, therapeutic, intra-oral and radiologic procedures without supervision of a dentist at identified public health practice sites, which include schools, correctional facilities, health care facilities such as hospitals, personal care homes, domiciliary care facilities, older adult daily living centers, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), childcare centers, medical offices in dental shortage areas, and public or private institutions under the jurisdiction of a federal, state, or local agency. PHDHPs are required to refer patients to a dentist annually.



In 2025, approximately one out of ten respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania were certified as PHDHPs. Of these 780 respondents, 761 responded to the question of working as a PHDHP. Around one third of respondents reported performing as a PHDHP in their primary job (Table 27).

Table 27. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by PHDHP Certification or Worked as PHDHPs in Pennsylvania, 2025

Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners	Number	Percent
Certified as a PHDHP	780 out of 6,717	11.6%
Worked as a PHDHP	234 out of 761	30.8%

Table 28 displays dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania and were PHDHPs in their primary job by age group. In general, dental hygienist respondents in the 35 to 44 years of age categories were more likely to be PHDHPs in their primary job than their younger or older counterparts.

Table 28. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care and Were Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners by Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025

Age Group	Number	Percent
18-34	26	11.1%
35-44	63	26.9%
45-54	53	22.7%
55-64	68	29.1%
65+	24	10.3%
Total	234	100.0%

Hours Providing Direct Patient Care

Table 29 lists respondents by the number of hours they provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania each week in the past year. Over half of the dental hygienists who provided direct patient care worked over 30 hours each week in the prior year. Only a small proportion of dental hygienists worked more than 40 hours a week.

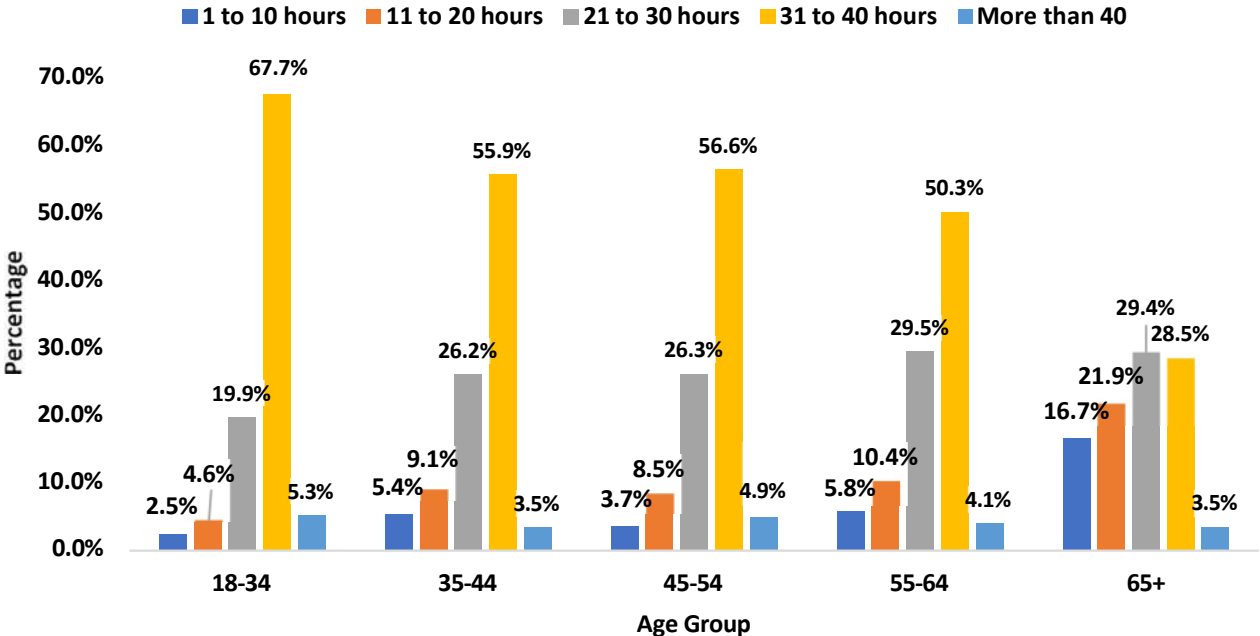
Table 29. Dental Hygienist Respondents by the Number of Hours per Week Providing Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025

Hours	Number	Percent
1 to 10 hours	360	5.3%
11 to 20 hours	623	9.1%
21 to 30 hours	1,746	25.6%
31 to 40 hours	3,793	55.6%
More than 40 hours	298	4.4%
Total	6,820	100.0%



Figure 4 displays the number of hours respondents provided direct patient care by age group. More younger respondents (aged 18 to 34 years) worked 31 to 40 hours per week on direct patient care than other age groups.

Figure 4. Dental Hygienist Respondents by the Number of Hours Providing Direct Patient Care and Age Group in Pennsylvania, 2025



Geography

In 2025, 6,879 dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania reported information on the county of their primary jobs. Among these 6,879 dental hygienist respondents, 23.0% (1,582) provided direct patient care in rural counties in Pennsylvania. The rate of respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania was 52.6 per 100,000 population. The rate was 47.0 per 100,000 population in the rural counties, compared to 54.6 per 100,000 population in urban counties. In addition, the rate was 48.6 per 100,000 population in the dental care shortage areas, compared to 58.2 per 100,000 population in areas without a dental care shortage. Map 2 shows the rates (per 100,000 population) of respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

Employment

Table 30 lists respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania by their primary employment setting. In 2025, private dental practices, both partnerships and solo dentists, employed most dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care.



Map 2. Dental Hygienists Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care per 100,000 Population by County of Primary Practice in Pennsylvania, 2025

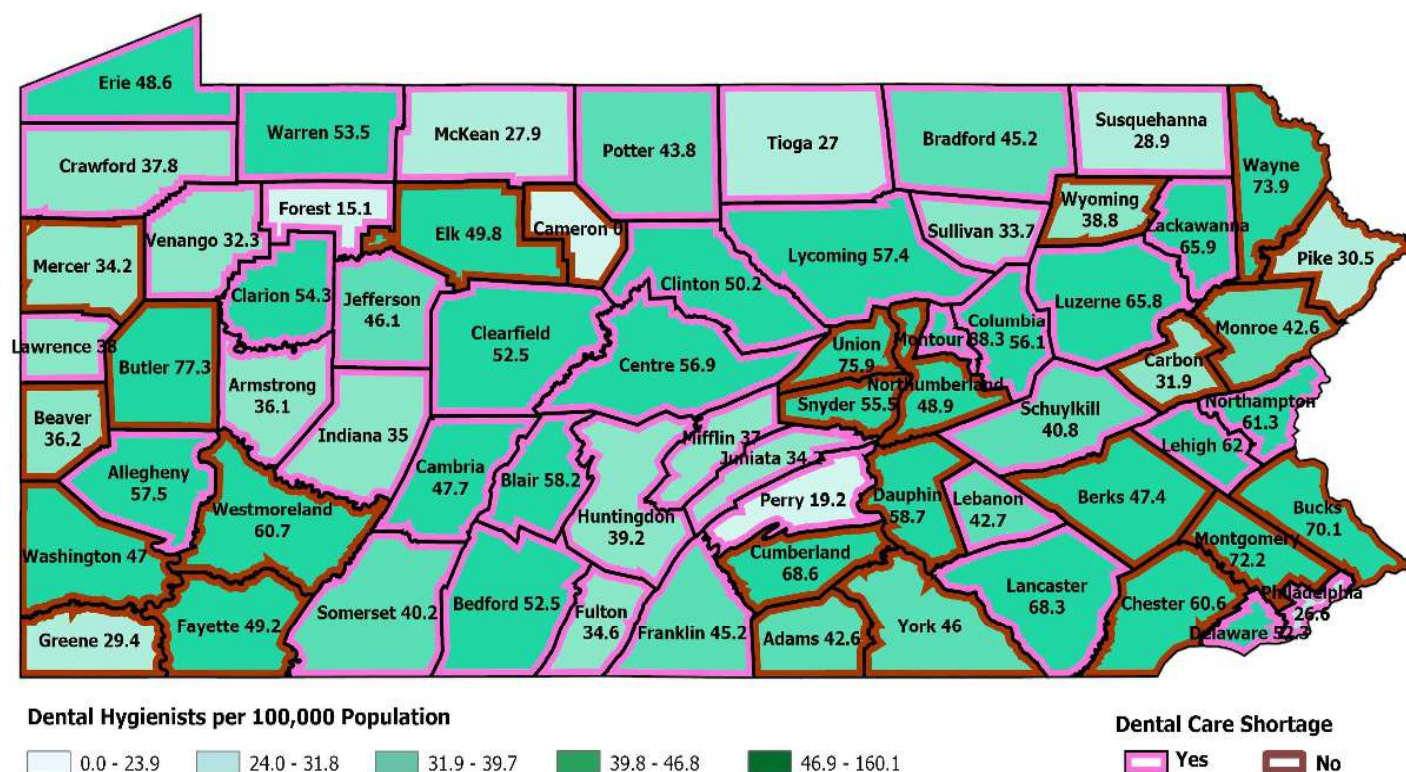
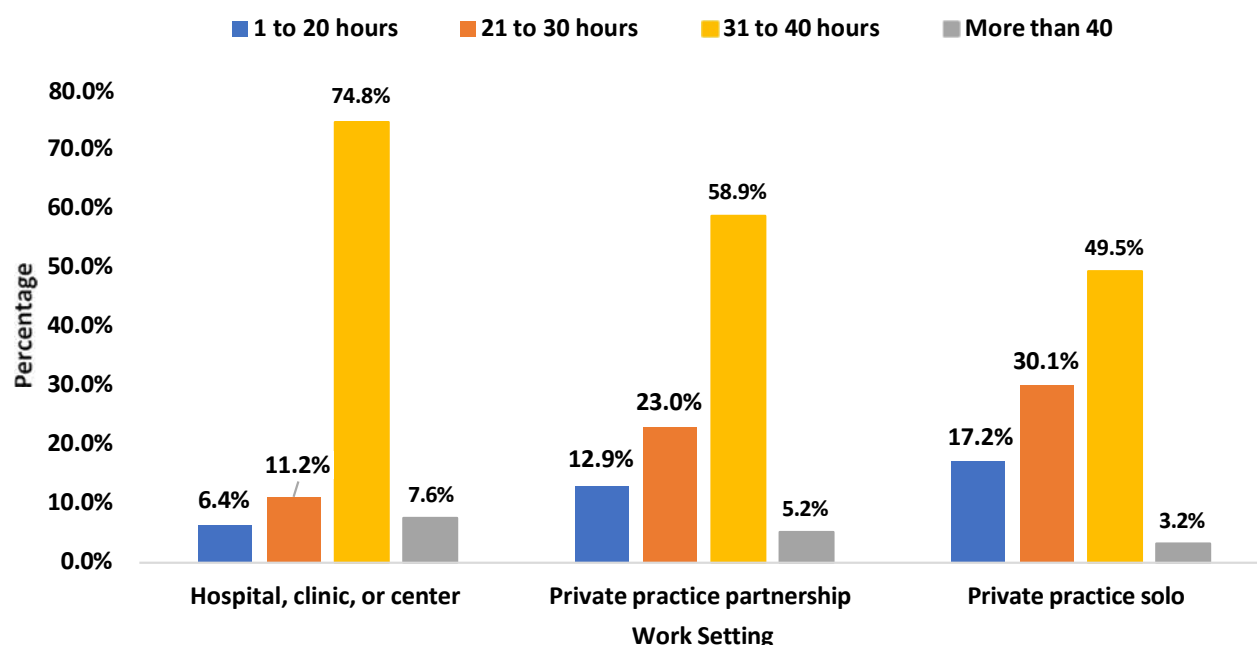


Table 30. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Primary Employment Setting in Pennsylvania, 2025

Employment Setting	Number	Percent
Private practice solo	3,320	48.9%
Private practice partnership	2,884	42.5%
Hospital, clinic, or center	420	6.2%
Other	86	1.3%
Retail/industry/business site	61	0.9%
School health	20	0.3%
Total	6,791	100.0%

Figure 5 displays the number of hours respondents worked per week at their primary job by several major employment settings. Hospitals, clinics, or centers had a higher proportion of respondents who worked 31 to 40 hours per week than other work settings.

Figure 5. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by the Number of Hours at the Work Setting in Pennsylvania, 2025



Level of Work

Respondents who provided direct patient care in Pennsylvania performed work at the level of a dental hygienist, expanded function dental assistant, school hygienist, PHDHP, or dental hygiene local anesthetist at their primary job.

Table 31 shows the number of dental hygienists who worked as dental hygiene local anesthetists, school hygienists, PHDHPs, and expanded function dental assistants in Pennsylvania in 2025.

Table 31. Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care by Level of Work Performed in Their Primary Job in Pennsylvania, 2025

Level of Work	Number
Dental hygiene local anesthetist	2,951
School hygienist	348
Public health dental hygiene practitioner	780
Expanded function dental assistant	70

Satisfaction and Future Plan of Practice

Table 32 shows the career satisfaction among dental hygienist respondents who provided direct patient care, with the majority of respondents reporting satisfied or very satisfied with dental hygiene as a career.

Table 33 presents the length of practice among dental hygienist respondents who planned to remain in direct patient care as a dental hygienist. Nearly three quarters of respondents



indicated that they planned to remain in direct patient care as a dental hygienist in Pennsylvania for six years or longer.

Table 32. Career Satisfaction in Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025

Length of Practice	Number	Percent
Very dissatisfied	76	1.1%
Dissatisfied	408	6.0%
Satisfied	3,557	51.9%
Very satisfied	2,808	41.0%
Total	6,849	100.0%

Table 33. Years Planned to Be a Dental Hygienist among Dental Hygienist Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania, 2025

Length of Practice	Number	Percent
Less than 3 years	631	9.2%
3 to less than 6 years	1,212	17.7%
6 to less than 11 years	1,519	14.0%
11 to less than 16 years	1,294	13.4%
16+ years	2,193	51.8%
Total	6,849	100.0%

Table 34 presents the primary reason for leaving direct patient care in Pennsylvania in less than six years. The primary reason was retirement and physical demands, stress, or burnout.

Table 34. Reason for Leaving Direct Patient Care in Less Than Six Years in Pennsylvania, 2025

Length of Practice	Number	Percent
Retirement	1,603	45.6%
Physical demands/stress or burnout	1,128	32.1%
Change careers/complete further training	355	10.1%
Family reasons	304	8.7%
Financial reasons	120	3.4%
Other	6	0.2%
Total	3,516	100.0%

Strengths and Limitations

The biennial surveys among dentists and dental hygienists in Pennsylvania collected demographic, dental education, and practice data. The surveys were conducted among all dentists and dental hygienists who renewed their licenses and thus included most dentists and dental hygienists except those who received their first licenses and did not need to renew the licenses in Pennsylvania. Because not all questions were mandatory, survey participants might choose to answer or skip questions, which could result in missing values



across questions. Non-response bias might occur if respondents differed from non-respondents in certain characteristics and affect the representativeness of the survey data. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the response data and descriptive findings presented in this report. In addition, survey questions have changed over the different survey years, which might result in some differences in the data collected pertaining to certain questions.

Appendix: Methods and Technical Notes

Dentists and dental hygienists renew their Pennsylvania licenses to practice every two years through the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA). In cooperation with the BPOA, the Department of Health's Primary Care Office surveys dentists and dental hygienists renewing their licenses. The surveys are designed to collect information on the characteristics of the dentist and dental hygienist workforces in the Commonwealth.

In 2025, dentists and dental hygienists licensed under the State Board of Dentistry were surveyed during the license renewal period. The surveys were conducted online. Because these surveys are tied to the licensure renewal process, the data captured do not include first-time licensees or most individuals in training. Surveys without a valid license number and surveys with inactive or expired license numbers were removed. Data analysis was conducted on valid responses from both dentists and dental hygienists. Of note, because the survey questions were independent of each other and not all questions are mandatory, the responses to the survey questions vary and the total samples (i.e., denominators) across different questions might be different.



Appendix: Dentists Providing Direct Patient Care by County of Primary Practice in Pennsylvania

County	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	6,615*	100.0%
Rural counties	1,215	18.4%
Urban counties	5,400	81.6%
Adams	35	0.5%
Allegheny	820	12.4%
Armstrong	12	0.2%
Beaver	60	0.9%
Bedford	15	0.2%
Berks	177	2.7%
Blair	56	0.8%
Bradford	19	0.3%
Bucks	481	7.3%
Butler	118	1.8%
Cambria	46	0.7%
Cameron	0	0.0%
Carbon	16	0.2%
Centre	70	1.1%
Chester	341	5.2%
Clarion	8	0.1%
Clearfield	31	0.5%
Clinton	11	0.2%
Columbia	19	0.3%
Crawford	27	0.4%
Cumberland	150	2.3%
Dauphin	147	2.2%
Delaware	350	5.3%
Elk	9	0.1%
Erie	116	1.8%
Fayette	56	0.8%
Forest	1	0.02%
Franklin	52	0.8%
Fulton	3	0.05%
Greene	9	0.1%
Huntingdon	9	0.1%
Indiana	29	0.4%

County	Number	Percent
Jefferson	12	0.2%
Juniata	3	0.05%
Lackawanna	134	2.0%
Lancaster	260	3.9%
Lawrence	36	0.5%
Lebanon	55	0.8%
Lehigh	216	3.3%
Luzerne	147	2.2%
Lycoming	33	0.5%
McKean	10	0.2%
Mercer	43	0.7%
Mifflin	11	0.2%
Monroe	59	0.9%
Montgomery	725	11.0%
Montour	29	0.4%
Northampton	148	2.2%
Northumberland	24	0.4%
Perry	9	0.1%
Philadelphia	736	11.1%
Pike	12	0.2%
Potter	4	0.1%
Schuylkill	40	0.6%
Snyder	13	0.2%
Somerset	26	0.4%
Sullivan	1	0.02%
Susquehanna	6	0.1%
Tioga	8	0.1%
Union	23	0.3%
Venango	11	0.2%
Warren	10	0.2%
Washington	107	1.6%
Wayne	24	0.4%
Westmoreland	159	2.4%
Wyoming	10	0.2%
York	178	2.7%



Appendix: Dental Hygienists Providing Direct Patient Care by County of Primary Practice in Pennsylvania

County	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	6,879	100.0%
Rural counties	1,582	23.0%
Urban counties	5,297	77.0%
Adams	46	0.7%
Allegheny	708	10.3%
Armstrong	23	0.3%
Beaver	60	0.9%
Bedford	25	0.4%
Berks	208	3.0%
Blair	70	1.0%
Bradford	27	0.4%
Bucks	456	6.6%
Butler	154	2.2%
Cambria	62	0.9%
Cameron	0	0.0%
Carbon	21	0.3%
Centre	91	1.3%
Chester	340	4.9%
Clarion	20	0.3%
Clearfield	41	0.6%
Clinton	19	0.3%
Columbia	37	0.5%
Crawford	31	0.5%
Cumberland	189	2.7%
Dauphin	172	2.5%
Delaware	306	4.4%
Elk	15	0.2%
Erie	130	1.9%
Fayette	61	0.9%
Forest	1	0.0%
Franklin	72	1.0%
Fulton	5	0.1%
Greene	10	0.1%
Huntingdon	17	0.2%
Indiana	29	0.4%

County	Number	Percent
Jefferson	20	0.3%
Juniata	8	0.1%
Lackawanna	143	2.1%
Lancaster	385	5.6%
Lawrence	32	0.5%
Lebanon	62	0.9%
Lehigh	239	3.5%
Luzerne	218	3.2%
Lycoming	65	0.9%
McKean	11	0.2%
Mercer	37	0.5%
Mifflin	17	0.2%
Monroe	71	1.0%
Montgomery	635	9.2%
Montour	16	0.2%
Northampton	198	2.9%
Northumberland	44	0.6%
Perry	9	0.1%
Philadelphia	418	6.1%
Pike	19	0.3%
Potter	7	0.1%
Schuylkill	59	0.9%
Snyder	22	0.3%
Somerset	29	0.4%
Sullivan	2	0.0%
Susquehanna	11	0.2%
Tioga	11	0.2%
Union	32	0.5%
Venango	16	0.2%
Warren	20	0.3%
Washington	99	1.4%
Wayne	38	0.6%
Westmoreland	213	3.1%
Wyoming	10	0.1%
York	217	3.2%



Appendix: Pennsylvania's Designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas*

County	Shortage
Adams	No
Allegheny	Yes
Armstrong	Yes
Beaver	No
Bedford	Yes
Berks	No
Blair	Yes
Bradford	Yes
Bucks	No
Butler	No
Cambria	Yes
Cameron	No
Carbon	No
Centre	Yes
Chester	No
Clarion	Yes
Clearfield	Yes
Clinton	Yes
Columbia	Yes
Crawford	Yes
Cumberland	No
Dauphin	No
Delaware	Yes
Elk	No
Erie	Yes
Fayette	No
Forest	Yes
Franklin	Yes
Fulton	Yes
Greene	No
Huntingdon	Yes
Indiana	Yes
Jefferson	Yes
Juniata	Yes
Lackawanna	Yes

County	Shortage
Lancaster	Yes
Lawrence	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Lehigh	Yes
Luzerne	Yes
Lycoming	Yes
McKean	Yes
Mercer	No
Mifflin	Yes
Monroe	No
Montgomery	No
Montour	Yes
Northampton	Yes
Northumberland	No
Perry	Yes
Philadelphia	Yes
Pike	No
Potter	Yes
Schuylkill	Yes
Snyder	No
Somerset	Yes
Sullivan	Yes
Susquehanna	Yes
Tioga	Yes
Union	No
Venango	Yes
Warren	Yes
Washington	No
Wayne	No
Westmoreland	No
Wyoming	No
York	No

*Source: HRSA Data Warehouse (www.data.hrsa.gov), February 2024



Appendix: Pennsylvania Dentist Survey Questionnaire, 2025

1. Date of Birth (please enter MM/DD/YYYY)

2. Please enter your 10-digit National Provider Identifier (NPI) for individuals. Please click on next to advance to the next question if you don't know or do not want to provide your NPI number.

3. Gender (If Other is selected, an entry is required to advance.)

Answer options
Male
Female
Non-Binary
Transgender
Prefer not to say
Other:

4. Ethnicity

Answer options
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino
Prefer not to say

5. Race (If Other is selected, an entry is required to advance.)

Answer options
American Indian/Alaska Native
Asian
Black/African American
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
White/Caucasian
Multiple Race
Prefer not to say
Other:

6. In what year was your first dental license issued? Please enter a 4-digit year (YYYY).



7. In which state did you graduate dental school?

Answer options		
Alabama	Michigan	Vermont
Alaska	Minnesota	Virgin Islands
American Samoa	Mississippi	Virginia
Arizona	Missouri	Washington
Arkansas	Montana	West Virginia
California	Nebraska	Wisconsin
Colorado	Nevada	Wyoming
Connecticut	New Hampshire	Military/Armed Forces
Delaware	New Jersey	Non-U.S.
District of Columbia	New Mexico	
Federated states of Micronesia	New York	
Florida	North Carolina	
Georgia	North Dakota	
Guam	Northern Mariana Islands	
Hawaii	Ohio	
Idaho	Oklahoma	
Illinois	Oregon	
Indiana	Palau	

8. Select the single employment status from the drop-down menu that most closely resembles your current main employment status.

Answer Options
Employed, in dentistry, direct patient care
Employed in dentistry, education
Employed in dentistry, research
Employed in dentistry, administrative
Employed in dentistry, other
Employed, not in dentistry
Retired
Unemployed, seeking work in dentistry
Unemployed, not seeking work in dentistry
Unemployed, disabled
Student, Leave of Absence, or Sabbatical
Other



9. How many hours per week do you practice clinical or direct patient care at your main practice location? (Please estimate and enter a number between 00 and 100)

10. How many hours per week do you practice clinical or direct patient care at your secondary practice location? (Please estimate and enter a number between 00 and 100) If you do not provide direct patient care at a secondary location, please enter zero (0).

11. Which specialty best describes your dental practice that you spend the most hours each week?

Answer options
General Dentistry
Endodontics
Geriatric Dentistry
Oral Surgery
Orthodontics
Pathology
Pediatric Dentistry
Periodontics
Prosthodontics
Radiology
Other
N/A



12. Please select the state of your main practice location from the drop-down menu.

Answer options		
Alabama	Michigan	Vermont
Alaska	Minnesota	Virgin Islands
American Samoa	Mississippi	Virginia
Arizona	Missouri	Washington
Arkansas	Montana	West Virginia
California	Nebraska	Wisconsin
Colorado	Nevada	Wyoming
Connecticut	New Hampshire	Military/Armed Forces
Delaware	New Jersey	Non-U.S.
District of Columbia	New Mexico	N/A
Federated states of Micronesia	New York	
Florida	North Carolina	
Georgia	North Dakota	
Guam	Northern Mariana Islands	
Hawaii	Ohio	
Idaho	Oklahoma	
Illinois	Oregon	
Indiana	Palau	
Iowa	Pennsylvania	
Kansas	Puerto Rico	
Kentucky	Rhode Island	
Louisiana	South Carolina	
Maine	South Dakota	
Marshall Islands	Tennessee	
Maryland	Texas	
Massachusetts	Utah	

Answer Option	If answered, skip to:
If Pennsylvania is selected	Next Question
If anything other than Pennsylvania is selected	Skip to question 28

13. Please enter the Pennsylvania street address where you mainly practice as a dentist. (Do not enter a facility or practice name. Please enter the number and street name.)



14. Please enter the Pennsylvania city or town in which you mainly practice as dentist.

15. Please enter the Pennsylvania zip code in which you mainly practice as a dentist. Please enter a 5-digit zip code:

16. In which Pennsylvania county do you mainly practice as dentist? (Please select one.)

Answer options		
Adams	Lackawanna	Union
Allegheny	Lancaster	Venango
Armstrong	Lawrence	Warren
Beaver	Lebanon	Washington
Bedford	Lehigh	Wayne
Berks	Luzerne	Westmoreland
Blair	Lycoming	Wyoming
Bradford	McKean	York
Bucks	Mercer	Non-Pa County
Butler	Mifflin	
Cambria	Monroe	
Cameron	Montgomery	
Carbon	Montour	
Centre	Northampton	
Chester	Northumberland	
Clarion	Perry	
Clearfield	Philadelphia	
Clinton	Pike	
Columbia	Potter	
Crawford	Schuylkill	
Cumberland	Snyder	
Dauphin	Somerset	
Delaware	Sullivan	
Elk	Susquehanna	
Erie	Tioga	

17. What percentage of your patients at your main practice location pay with Medicaid? (Please estimate and enter a number between 000 and 100, example 014 is 14%)



18. What percentage of your patients at your main practice location pay with sliding fee scale? (Please estimate and enter a number between 000 and 100, example 014 is 14%)

19. Please enter the total number of full-time dental hygienists and full-time dental assistants (combined) at your main practice location. If there are no full-time dental hygienists or full-time dental assistants at your main practice location, enter zero (0).

20. Please enter the total number of part-time dental hygienists and part-time dental assistants (combined) at your main location. If there are no part-time dental hygienists or dental assistants at your main practice location, enter zero (0).

21. If practicing at a secondary location, please enter the Pennsylvania street address where you practice as a dentist. If you do not practice at a secondary location in Pennsylvania enter (N/A). (Do not enter a facility or practice name. Please enter the number and street name.)

22. Please enter the secondary Pennsylvania city or town in which you practice as a dentist. If you do not practice at a secondary location in Pennsylvania enter (N/A).

23. Please enter the Pennsylvania zip code in which you practice as a dentist at your secondary location. If you do not practice at a secondary location in Pennsylvania enter (N/A). Please enter a 5-digit zip code:

24. What percentage of your patients at your second practice location pay with Medicaid? (Please estimate and enter a number between 000 and 100, example 014 is 14%). If you do not practice at a secondary location in Pennsylvania enter (N/A).

25. What percentage of your patients at your second practice location pay on a sliding fee scale? (Please estimate and enter a number between 000 and 100, example 014 is 14%). If you do not practice at a secondary location in Pennsylvania enter (N/A).



26. Please enter the total number of full-time dental hygienists and full-time dental assistants (combined) at your second practice location. If there are no full-time dental hygienists or dental assistants at your second practice location, or you do not have a second practice location, enter N/A.

27. Please enter the total number of part-time dental hygienists and part-time dental assistants (combined) at your second practice location. If there are no part-time dental hygienists or dental assistants at your second practice location, or you do not have a second practice location, enter N/A.

28. Do you provide general dentistry for patients with severe developmental or physical limitations or disabilities?

Answer options
Yes
No
N/A

29. What is the youngest age of children you regularly see in your office/clinic?

Answer options
< 1 year
1 year
2 years
3 years
4 years
5 years and over
Do not see children
N/A

30. Do you regularly see geriatric patients in your office/clinic?

Answer options
Yes
No
N/A

31. Which organization best describes the employer you work for the most hours each week?

Answer options
Consulting/contractual/locum tenens
Dental service organization (DSO) group practice
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike
Private group practice
Government – federal/state/local
Health system
Hospital
Hospital inpatient only
Private practice – employee
Private practice full/part owner
Public health organization – federal/state/local
Rural health clinic
State correctional facility
Urgent care center/clinic
University/academic center
Other – independent organization
N/A
Other

32. Which setting best describes where you work most hours each week?

Answer options
Academic institution
Ambulatory surgical facility
Correctional facility
Emergency department
Hospital – federal/state
Hospital
Long-term care center
Nursing home
Office/clinic
Public Health – federal/state/local
Urgent care/convenient care
Other
N/A

33. Do you accept the following coverage plans? (Please select all that apply.)

CHECK BOXES (✓) ALL THAT APPLY (Multiple selections acceptable)	
(✓)	Answer options
	Medicaid
	Medicare
	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
	Private/Commercial insurance
	In-House Patient Plan
	Uninsured
	Other
	N/A

34. How much longer do you anticipate practicing dentistry in Pennsylvania?

Answer options
Less than 3 years
3 to less than 6 years
6 to less than 11 years
11 to less than 16 years
16+ years
N/A

Appendix: Pennsylvania Dental Hygienist Survey Questionnaire, 2025

1. Date of Birth (Please enter MM/DD/YYYY)

MM/DD/YYYY

2. Please enter your 10-digit National Provider Identifier (NPI) for individuals. Please enter all zeros (0) if you don't know or do not want to provide your NPI number.

XXXXXXXXXX

3. Gender

Answer Options
Male
Female
Non-Binary
Transgender
Other
Prefer not to say



4. Race

Answer Options
American Indian/Alaska Native
Asian
Black/African American
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
White/Caucasian
Prefer not to say
Multiple Race
Other

5. Ethnicity

Answer Options
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino
Prefer not to say

6. In which one state do you mainly practice as a Dental Hygienist?

Answer Options		
Alabama	Louisiana	Oregon
Alaska	Maine	Palau
American Samoa	Marshall Islands	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Maryland	Puerto Rico
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Rhode Island
California	Michigan	South Carolina
Colorado	Minnesota	South Dakota
Connecticut	Mississippi	Tennessee
Delaware	Missouri	Texas
District of Columbia	Montana	Utah
Federated State of Micronesia	Nebraska	Vermont
Florida	Nevada	Virgin Islands
Georgia	New Hampshire	Virginia
Guam	New Jersey	Washington
Hawaii	New Mexico	West Virginia
Idaho	New York	Wisconsin
Illinois	North Carolina	Wyoming
Indiana	North Dakota	Military/Armed Forces – All locations
Iowa	Northern Mariana Islands	Non-U.S.
Kansas	Ohio	
Kentucky	Oklahoma	



7. Which Pennsylvania County best describes where you mainly practice as a Dental Hygienist?

Answer Options			
Adams	Columbia	Lawrence	Snyder
Allegheny	Crawford	Lebanon	Somerset
Armstrong	Cumberland	Lehigh	Sullivan
Beaver	Dauphin	Luzerne	Susquehanna
Bedford	Delaware	Lycoming	Tioga
Berks	Elk	McKean	Union
Blair	Erie	Mercer	Venango
Bradford	Fayette	Mifflin	Warren
Bucks	Forest	Monroe	Washington
Butler	Franklin	Montgomery	Wayne
Cambria	Fulton	Montour	Westmoreland
Cameron	Greene	Northampton	Wyoming
Carbon	Huntingdon	Northumberland	York
Centre	Indiana	Perry	Not in PA
Chester	Jefferson	Philadelphia	N/A
Clarion	Juniata	Pike	
Clearfield	Lackawanna	Potter	
Clinton	Lancaster	Schuylkill	

8. What is your highest level of dental hygiene education completed?

Answer Options
Certificate
Associate
Bachelor
Master

9. In what year did you obtain this degree (please enter a 4-digit year)?

10. Are you certified in Pennsylvania as an expanded function dental assistant?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

11. Do you perform as an expanded function dental assistant in your main job?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A



12. Do you hold a school hygienist certificate issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education which would allow you to work directly as an employee of a school district and requires Act 48 continuing education?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

13. Do you hold a Pennsylvania dental hygiene local anesthesia permit?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

14. Do you administer local anesthesia in your main job?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

15. Are you certified as a public health dental hygiene practitioner (PHDHP)?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

16. Do you perform as a PHDHP in your main job?

Answer Options
Yes
No
N/A

17. Which organization best describes the facility where you practice as a PHDHP?

Drop-Down Menu Answer Options	
Correctional Facility	Public/private federal/state institution
Domiciliary care facility	Personal care home
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	School
Health care facility	Other
Older adult daily living center	N/A



18. Do you intend to apply for a PHDHP certification?

Answer Options
Yes
No
Already certified as a PHDHP
N/A

19. Select the employment status that most closely resembles your current employment status?

Answer Options
Employed in dental hygiene
Employed, not practicing
Retired
Student, leave of absence, or sabbatical
Unemployed, disabled
Unemployed, not seeking work in dental hygiene
Unemployed, seeking work in dental hygiene
Other

20. What type of position do you hold in your main job?

Answer Options
Administration/management
Direct patient care
Educator
Not employed as a dental hygienist
Other non-patient care
Researcher/consultant
Other

21. Please estimate the number of hours you spent providing direct patient care each week in Pennsylvania during the last year (including all your positions). Note: For the purpose of this report, direct patient care includes the amount of time a dental hygienist spends directly with patients in a dental practice setting and patient-specific office work. If you have not delivered direct patient care, please select zero (0).

Answer Options
Zero
< 1 hour
1 – 10 hours
11 – 19 hours
20 – 30 hours
31 – 40 hours
More than 40 hours
Other



22. Which setting most accurately describes your main job.

Answer Options
Hospital, clinic, or center
Private practice partnership (excluding retail)
Private practice solo (excluding retail site)
Mobile dental unit or community setting using portable dental equipment
Retail/industry/business site
School health (K-12/college/university)
Other
N/A

23. How satisfied are you with dental hygiene as a career?

Answer Options
Very Satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied

24. How much longer do you plan to remain in direct patient care as a dental hygienist in Pennsylvania?

Answer Options
Less than 3 years
3 to less than 6 years
6 to less than 11 years
11 to less than 16 years
16+ years

25. If you plan to leave direct patient care in Pennsylvania in less than 6 years, indicate your primary reason below.

Answer Options
Change careers
Complete further training
Family reasons
Financial reasons – salary/income/benefits
Physical demands
Retirement
Stress/burnout
Not applicable
Other _____