



2009 Dental Hygiene Job Market & Employment Survey

Executive Summary

Methodology

- The ADHA Dental Hygiene Job Market and Employment Survey was designed and administered using the online survey tool Survey Monkey. The link was administered through the month of May 2009 via ADHA Update and various list serves including the House of Delegates, Unleashing Your Potential and Amy's list serves. There were a total of 3130 respondents to the survey. The following summary provides a descriptive analysis of the aggregated responses from the completed surveys. A full report of the survey data is available upon request.

Demographics

- Of the respondents to the survey, 55% are of the age 40 to 59 and 35% are of the age 39 or less.
- The majority of the respondents 98% are female and 87% are White (non-Hispanic).
- 65% of the respondents are members of the ADHA.
- The majority of the respondents reside in District 11, 36%, followed by Districts 4, and 8 at 12% and 10% respectively.

Education

- Of the respondents, 52% indicated that they have Associates degree and 38% have a Bachelor degree.
- 10% are currently enrolled in academic education program in pursuit of a further degree, with 49% of those respondents interested in pursuing a Bachelor's degree and 40% pursuing a Master's degree.
- 51% of the respondents expect to pursue further education in the future and of those, 54% are more likely to do so via an on-line education program

Current Employment

- 86% of all respondents indicated that they are currently employed as a dental hygienist
- For those that are currently employed, 42% work 31 or more hours per week, while 27% work 21 to 30 hours per week and 30% work 20 or fewer hours per week.
- Of those that are employed approximately half receive some employment benefits.
- Of the 14% that are not currently working as a hygienist, 62% have been unable to find a hygiene position in the area where they live. 8% are working in another field and 5% took another job that provided benefits.

Job Market

- 56% of all respondents have searched for full and/or part-time employment.
- 67% of the respondents indicated that there were fewer employment opportunities for hygienists in their state.
- While 68% of respondents find that securing employment as a dental hygienist is somewhat or very difficult in their geographic area. Of these, 80% feel that there are too many hygienists living in the area and 56% feel that there are too many educational programs for dental hygienists in the geographical area.
- The following chart shows the percent of respondents by district that feel that there are fewer employment opportunities for hygienists in their geographical area.

District	Respondent %	District	Respondent %	District	Respondent %
I	47%	V	83%	IX	46%
II	11%	VI	50%	X	60%
III	56%	VII	88%	XI	60%
IV	78%	VIII	72%	XII	52%

- 53% of respondents are not currently looking for a position.
- Of the 47% that are, 57% indicate that the main reason they are having difficulty finding a position is a result of an overall lack of jobs for dental hygienists.
- The limited opportunities for hygienists have resulted in 26% of respondents changing their future plans.