

In May/June 2017, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association conducted a national online survey of dental hygienists across Canada. There were 1,397 dental hygienists from BC who completed the survey. This report highlights data for BC only.

1. Demographics

Age: 49% percent of the respondents were under 40 years of age. Fourteen percent reported being over the age of 55.

Gender: 3% of the respondents were male, and 97% were female.

Education: 12% of respondents reported having a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene; an additional 15% reported having a Bachelor's degree in another field.

Years to Work in Dental Hygiene: 21% of respondents indicated they intend to leave the profession in the next 5 years. 57% indicated they will work another 6-20 years in the profession, and 21% plans to work more than 20 years.

2. Practice Characteristics

Employment Setting: The study reflects that the vast majority of dental hygienists (93%) practice their profession in a dental office or dental hygiene practice in their primary place of work. 4% of respondents practice as an independent dental hygienist.

97% of survey respondents reported they are involved in providing care as a clinician.

Employment Status: Approximately 96% of respondents reported having an employee status.

Number of Employers: 67% of respondents work for only one employer.

Hours Worked: 54% reported they typically work more than 30 hours per week. 47% indicated they work 30 hours or less per week.

75% (up from 69% in 2015) indicated they were happy with the number of hours worked per week, while 10% (down from 17% in 2015) would like to work more hours, and 15% would like to work fewer hours.

82% of respondents reported that over the last two years, their weekly number of hours worked had increased or stayed the same.

Medical Issues: 75% of respondents reported having a work-related medical issue in the last year.

3. Compensation

Benefits: The following benefits were most commonly reported:

- Dental Care (60%)
- Professional Development (51%)
- Paid Vacation/Holidays (50%)
- Uniform Allowance (49%)

Wages: The average hourly wage reported across the province was \$43.71 (\$43.05 in 2015; \$41.90 in 2013). Geographic location and experience in the profession may account for a variance of up to 10% in this average rate.

46% of respondents reported that their hourly or annual wage had increased over the last 2 years and 47% reported their wage had stayed the same.

Employment Contract: 40% of respondents reported that they had a written employment contract in place with their employer. 32% reported receiving an annual performance evaluation.