



2019 CDHA Job Market & Employment Survey Executive Summary of BC Results

In May/June 2019, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association conducted a national online survey of dental hygienists across Canada. This report highlights data collected from BC respondents only.

1. Demographics

Age: 44% percent of the respondents were under 40 years of age. Eighteen percent reported being over the age of 55.

Education: 13% of respondents reported having a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene; an additional 14% reported having a Bachelor's degree in another field.

2. Practice Characteristics

Employment Setting: The study reflects that the vast majority of dental hygienists (91%) practice their profession in a dental office or dental hygiene practice in their primary place of work. 2% of respondents own a dental hygiene practice, 7.5% work as independent and/or commission based contractors, and 89% receive an hourly wage.

Number of Employers: 69% of respondents work for only one employer.

Hours: 65% reported they work full time in dental hygiene, while 31% reported working part time. 73% indicated they were happy with the number of hours worked per week, while 5% (down from 10% in 2017) would like to work more hours, and 20% (up from 15% in 2017) would prefer to work fewer hours.

81% of respondents reported that over the last two years, their weekly number of hours worked had increased or stayed the same.

Medical Issues: 78% of respondents reported having experienced work-related discomfort or pain in the past year, while 23% reported work-related medical issues in the past year.

3. Compensation

Benefits: The following benefits were most commonly reported:

- Dental Care (61%)
- Professional Development (50%)
- Paid Vacation/Holidays (48%)
- Uniform Allowance (53%)

Wages: The average hourly wage reported across the province was \$46.10 (\$43.71 in 2017; \$43.05 in 2015; \$41.90 in 2013).

Note: Geographic location and experience in the profession may account for a variance of up to 10% in this average rate.

67% of respondents reported that their hourly or annual wage had increased over the last 2 years – this reflects a significant increase from the 46% that reported a wage increase in 2017.

Employment Contract: 45% of respondents reported that they had a written employment contract in place with their employer (up from 40% in 2017). 36% reported receiving an annual performance evaluation.

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