



2019–2020 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists

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Acknowledgements

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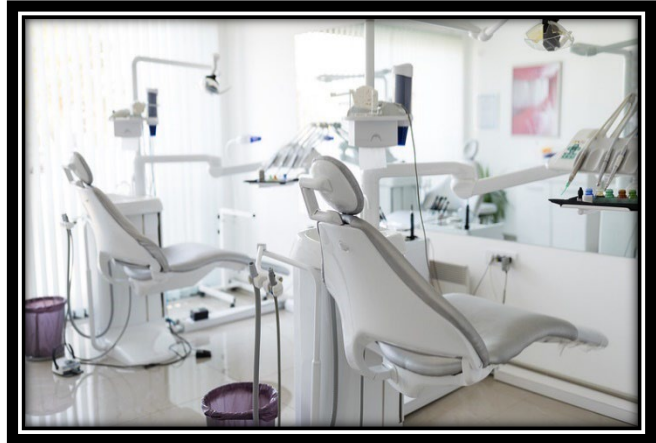
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Executive Summary

In day-to-day clinical practice, dentists typically work collaboratively with dental hygienists and dental assistants. Dental hygienists provide several services for patients including assessing oral health condition, taking and processing dental radiographs (x-rays), removing deposits from tooth surfaces, applying topical fluorides and dental sealants, teaching patients oral hygiene techniques, and counseling patients about nutrition and its impact on oral health.

Dental hygienists may work in private dental offices, clinics, or in publicly supported health access settings. Florida statutes authorize licensed dental hygienists to provide educational, preventive, and therapeutic dental services and related procedures. Some services may be provided without supervision of a dentist, while others require direct, indirect, or general supervision. A dental hygienist licensed in Florida may perform many remediable tasks in a health access setting without the physical presence, prior examination, or authorization of a dentist. Such tasks include dental charting, recording of a patient's health history, application of topically-applied fluorides and dental sealants, and removal of calculus deposits, accretions, and stains from tooth surfaces.¹ A health access setting is defined as: "A program or an institution of the Department of Children and Families, the Department, the Department of Juvenile Justice, a nonprofit community health center, a Head Start center, a federally qualified health center or look-alike as defined by federal law, a school-based prevention program, a clinic operated by an accredited college of dentistry, or an accredited dental hygiene program in this state."²

Florida statutes and administrative code rules require renewal of dental hygienist licenses every two years, including the biennial period which ended February 28, 2020. Since 2009, the Department has developed a workforce survey for dental hygienists. The sixth administration of this survey coincided with the licensure renewal deadline, February 28, 2020. All responses are self-reported. Approximately 87% of dental hygienists with an active Florida license, responded to the 2019–2020 survey.

This report will assist the Dental Workforce Committee (Committee) in its efforts to provide evidence-based recommendations to the State Surgeon General and the Department on matters concerning dental workforce needs. The Committee is composed of representatives from the Department's Public Health Dental Program, the Florida Dental Association, and the Florida Dental Hygiene Association. The report identifies the supply of workforce professionals practicing in Florida and examines factors related to dental practice location and career plans. The report assists the oral health industry and other decision makers prepare strategic efforts for enhancing the oral health care delivery system in Florida.

¹ Section 466.023, Florida Statutes, *Dental hygienists; scope and area of practice.*

² Section 466.003, Florida Statutes, *Definitions.*

Key Findings

Key findings from this report include the following:

Demographics

- Of 15,946 dental hygienists who applied for licensure renewal in 2020, 92.6% dental hygienists were designated as having “Active” license status.
- A total of 13,880 active dental hygienists responded to the survey.
- Of the actively practicing dental hygienists who responded:
 - 79.8% practiced in Florida.
 - The largest age groups were 50-59 years of age (25.7%) and 40-49 years (25.6%).
 - 94.1% were females and 4.8% were males.
 - The mean age was 45.9% years for females, and 42.1% years for males.
 - Most (65.5%) were White.
 - Hispanic/Latino (87.1%) and Asian (60.7%) spoke one or more languages other than English.
 - Spanish was the most common language after English at 78.8%.

Professional Education

- Of the dental hygienist respondents actively practicing in Florida:
 - 75.9% reported to have an associate degree as their highest dental hygiene degree.
 - 50% were credentialed in Florida to provide local anesthesia.
 - 70.5% graduated from an in-state Florida dental hygiene program.
- The dental hygiene program in Florida graduating the largest percentage of dental hygienists was Miami Dade College (10.5%).

Practice Characteristics

- Of the dental hygienist respondents actively practicing in Florida:
 - The greatest number practiced in Broward County (1,196).
 - The lowest number practiced in Lafayette County (2).
 - 90.4% worked in general dentistry.
 - 6.1% worked in a specialty practice.
 - Pediatric dentistry (45.7%) was the most common specialty.
 - 92.4% worked in a private office.
 - 73.5% reported working for one employer or in one practice setting only.
 - 72.5% practiced solely in the county in which they reside.
 - About 70% of respondents did not provide volunteer hygiene services in the last 24 months.
 - Approximately 64% reported no difficulty in finding employment as a dental hygienist, and 10.2% reported they were not able to obtain full-time employment.
- Among dental hygienists who reported to providing services in a health access setting:
 - Most were in School-Based Sealant Programs (38.8%) and School-Based Dental Programs which provided services other than sealants (28.4%).
 - 23.4% of respondents who provided services in safety net practices had a Medicaid number.

Productivity

- About a third of dental hygienists (34.0%) reported having more than 20 years of practice.
- Of the dental hygienist respondents actively practicing in Florida:
 - 82.3% practiced 11–12 months of the year.
 - 52.3% reported to work 31–40 hours per week.
 - 89% reported that they were not seeking any additional employment at this time.
 - Of those seeking further employment, 39.6% were seeking an additional 5–8 hours per week; about 9% were seeking 20 or more additional work hours per week.
 - 62.1% reported having 26–50 patient encounters per week.

Retention and Attrition

- Of dental hygienist respondents actively practicing in Florida:
 - 15.7% reported they plan to end their practice of dental hygiene in Florida within the next five years.
 - Most of these dental hygienists were less than 50 years old.
- Of dental hygienist respondents with an active license not practicing in Florida, 81.7% stated they plan to relocate to Florida sometime in the future.

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Introduction

Florida statutes and administrative code rules require renewal of dental hygienist licenses biennially by the end of February of even-numbered years. This report analyzes the renewal period which ended February 28, 2020. The Department prepared and administered a workforce survey of dental hygienists to coincide with the license renewal process. (See Appendix A for accompanying survey). As part of their online renewal, dental hygienists were asked to voluntarily complete the survey. All responses were self-reported.

This report presents data from the 2019–2020 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists. The survey was designed to obtain information concerning Florida’s dental workforce to inform health care policymakers and shape oral health care policy development. Analysis of responses is guided by those objectives. To address the dental workforce, it is recommended that the results of this report be considered alongside the 2019–2020 Workforce Survey of Dentists results.

The survey consisted of questions soliciting responses regarding demographics, professional education, practice characteristics, productivity, and retention and attrition. The survey is designed to obtain an understanding of the changing landscape of the dental hygienist workforce. The survey is not designed to address population growth, maintenance of the current level of service and does not address portions of the population not currently served.

The Department’s Division of Medical Quality Assurance provided licensure data for this report. A more detailed statement of survey methods and data analysis is included in Appendix B. This report does not reflect changes in dental practice status occurring between survey completion and the report reference date. Therefore, counts or estimates are approximate with respect to the report’s reference date.

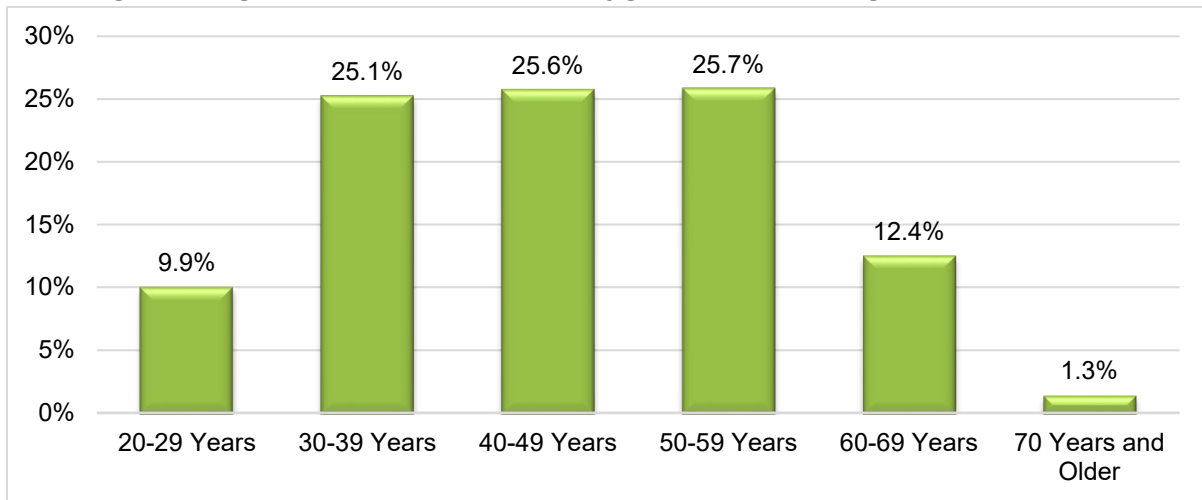
For the purposes of data analysis and reporting for this report, survey responses were restricted to those dental hygienists with an active license status; it does not include those with an inactive status which may include some retired dental hygienists. The response rate for the 2019–2020 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists among this population was 92.6%. Most of the report was restricted to those who indicated they were currently practicing within the state of Florida.

Findings

Licensed Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida – Demographics

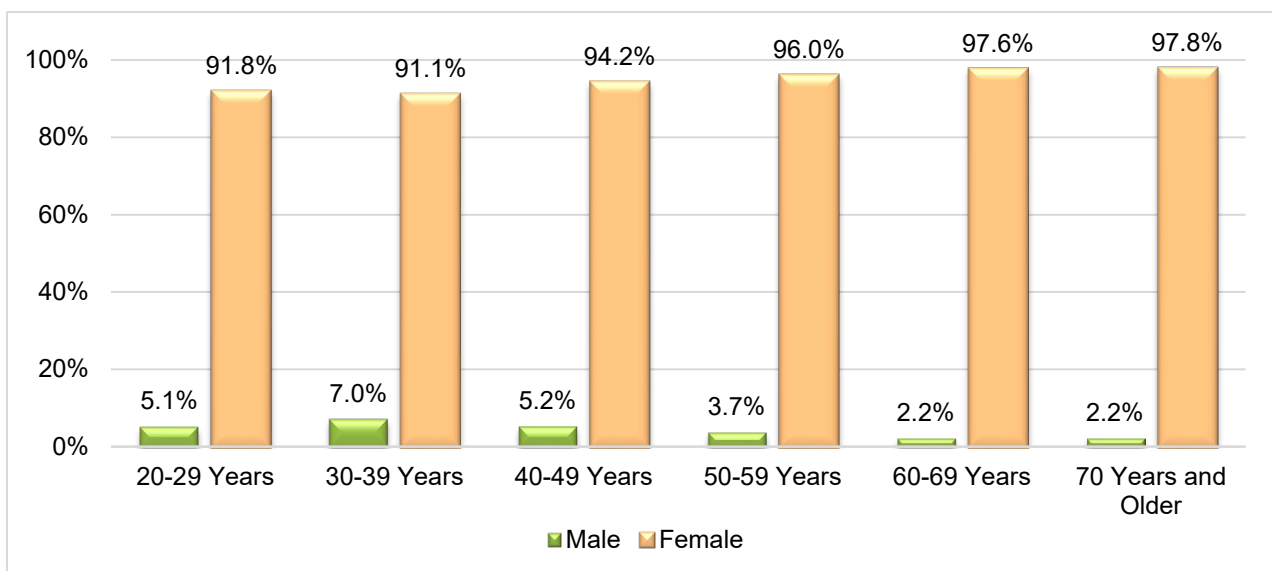
Of the 11,082 dental hygienists with active licenses practicing in Florida who responded to the survey, the majority were between 40–59 years of age. Only 1.3% of dental hygienists were 70 years and older (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



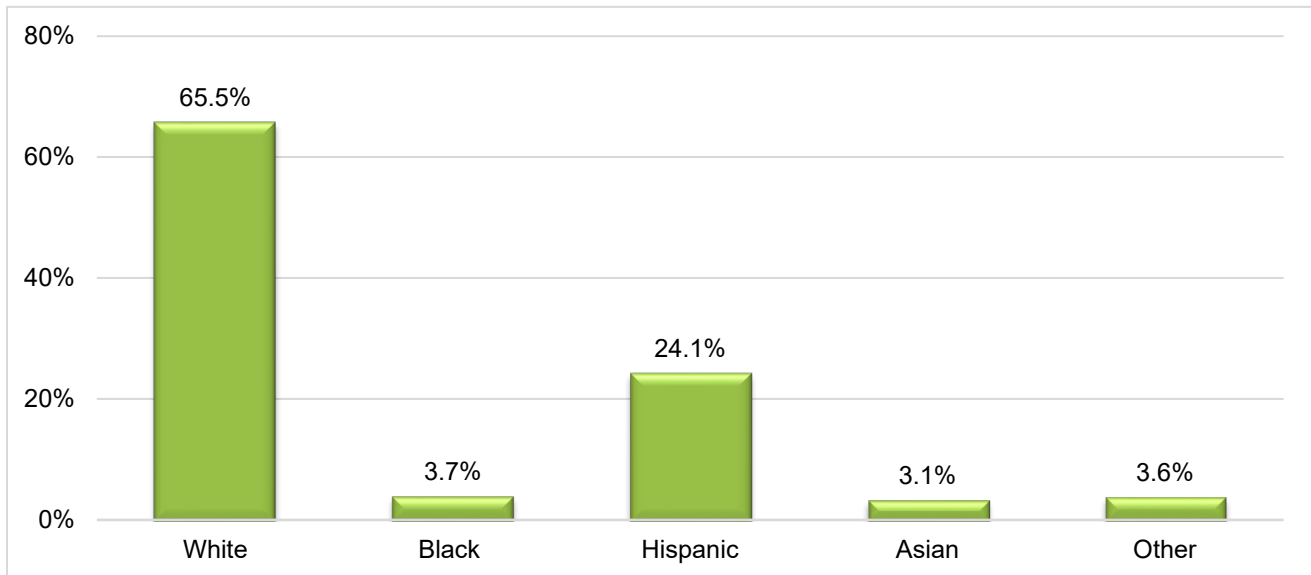
The mean age for respondents practicing in Florida is 45.9 years for females and 42.1 years for males. Female dental hygienists represented 94.1% of respondents, and the remaining 4.8% were males. The gender distribution did not vary substantially across age groups. Female dental hygienists constituted the majority of practicing dental hygienists for all age groups when compared to male dental hygienists (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Age and Gender Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



Respondents practicing in Florida were predominantly White (65.5%) or Hispanic/Latino (24.1%). Black and Asian dental hygienists comprised approximately 3.7% and 3.1%, respectively, of workforce respondents (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



As shown in Figure 4, the percentage of dental hygienists who spoke one or more languages other than English was highest among Hispanics/Latinos (87.1%). Additional language proficiency was high among Asian respondents (60.7%) but was relatively low among White respondents (8.8%). About 21% of Black respondents spoke one or more languages other than English.

Figure 4: Percentage of Florida Dental Hygienists with Additional Language Speaking Ability, 2019–2020

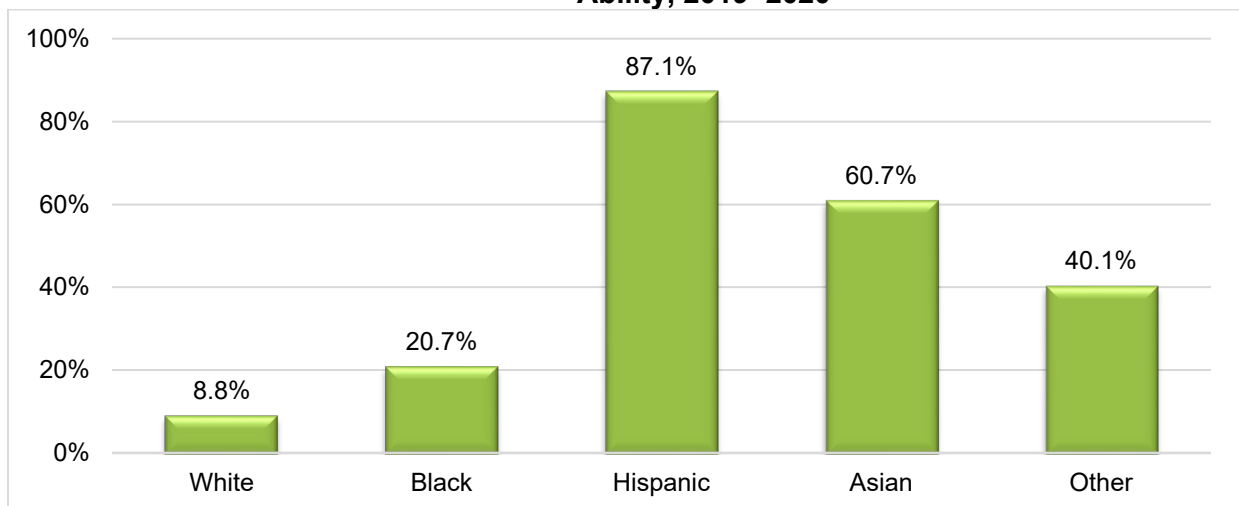


Table 1 identifies additional languages spoken by respondents who reported speaking a language in addition to English. Overall, 31.0% of dental hygienists spoke another language in addition to English. Spanish was the most frequently spoken non-English language (78.8%). The second most common non-English language spoken was Portuguese (4.1%).

Table 1. Additional Languages Spoken by Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019-2020

Languages	Count	Percent
Arabic	107	3.2%
Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)	19	0.6%
Creole	84	2.5%
French	116	3.4%
German	53	1.6%
Hebrew	14	0.4%
Italian	58	1.7%
Japanese	9	0.3%
Korean	14	0.4%
Other African Language	5	0.2%
Other Asian Language	74	2.2%
Other European Language	91	2.7%
Other Middle Eastern Language	21	0.6%
Other Language (unspecified)	61	1.8%
Polish	25	0.7%
Portuguese	140	4.1%
Russian	120	3.5%
Spanish	2,679	78.8%
Tagalog	82	2.4%
Vietnamese	40	1.2%

Licensed Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida – Professional Education

Most respondents (75.9%) reported to have an associate degree as their highest dental hygiene degree (Figure 5). The second and third most common degrees were bachelor's degrees (13.1%) and certificates/diplomas (7.4%). Half of Florida's dental hygienists (50%) were credentialed in Florida to provide local anesthesia, 38% were not credentialed, and 12% were planning on getting credentialed.

Figure 5. Distribution of Highest Dental Hygiene Degree among Florida's Dental Hygienists, 2019–2020

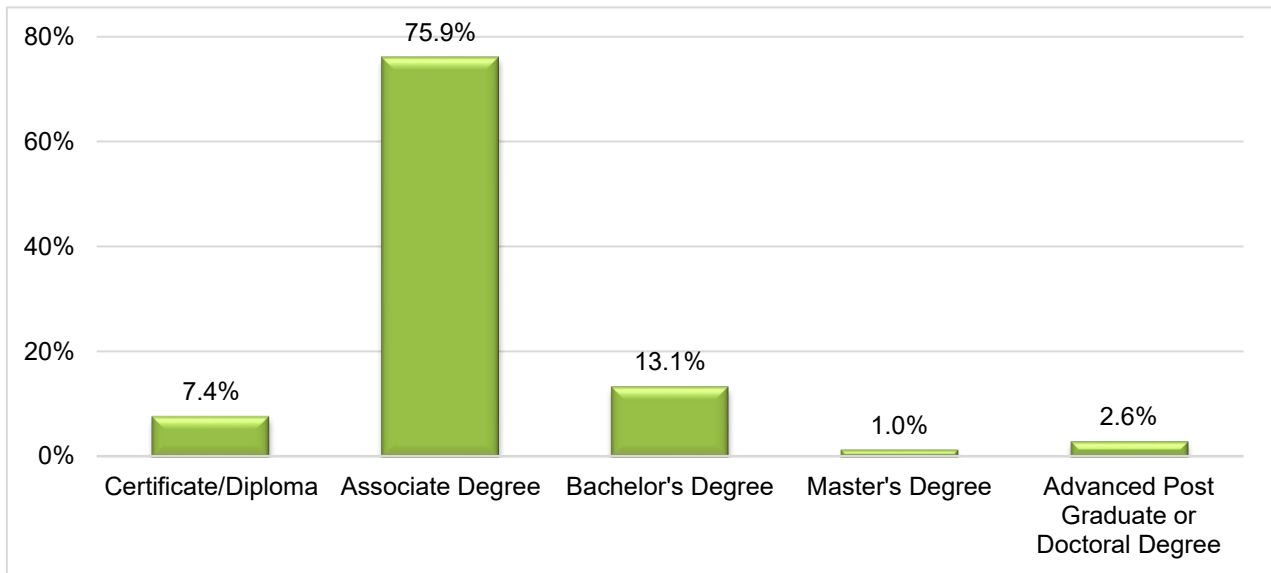
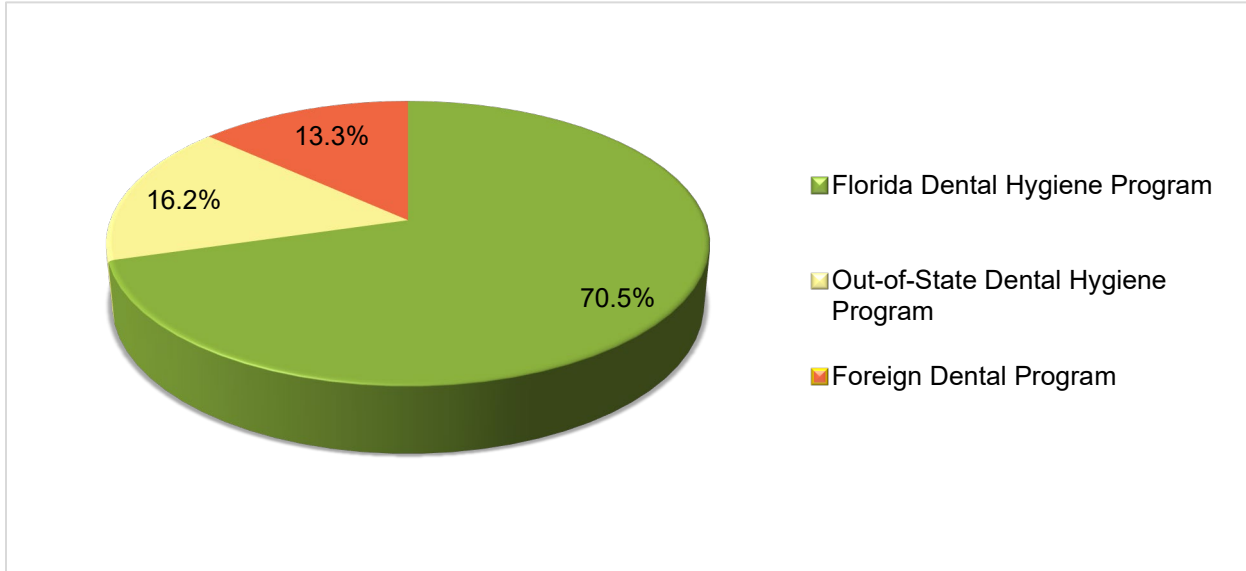


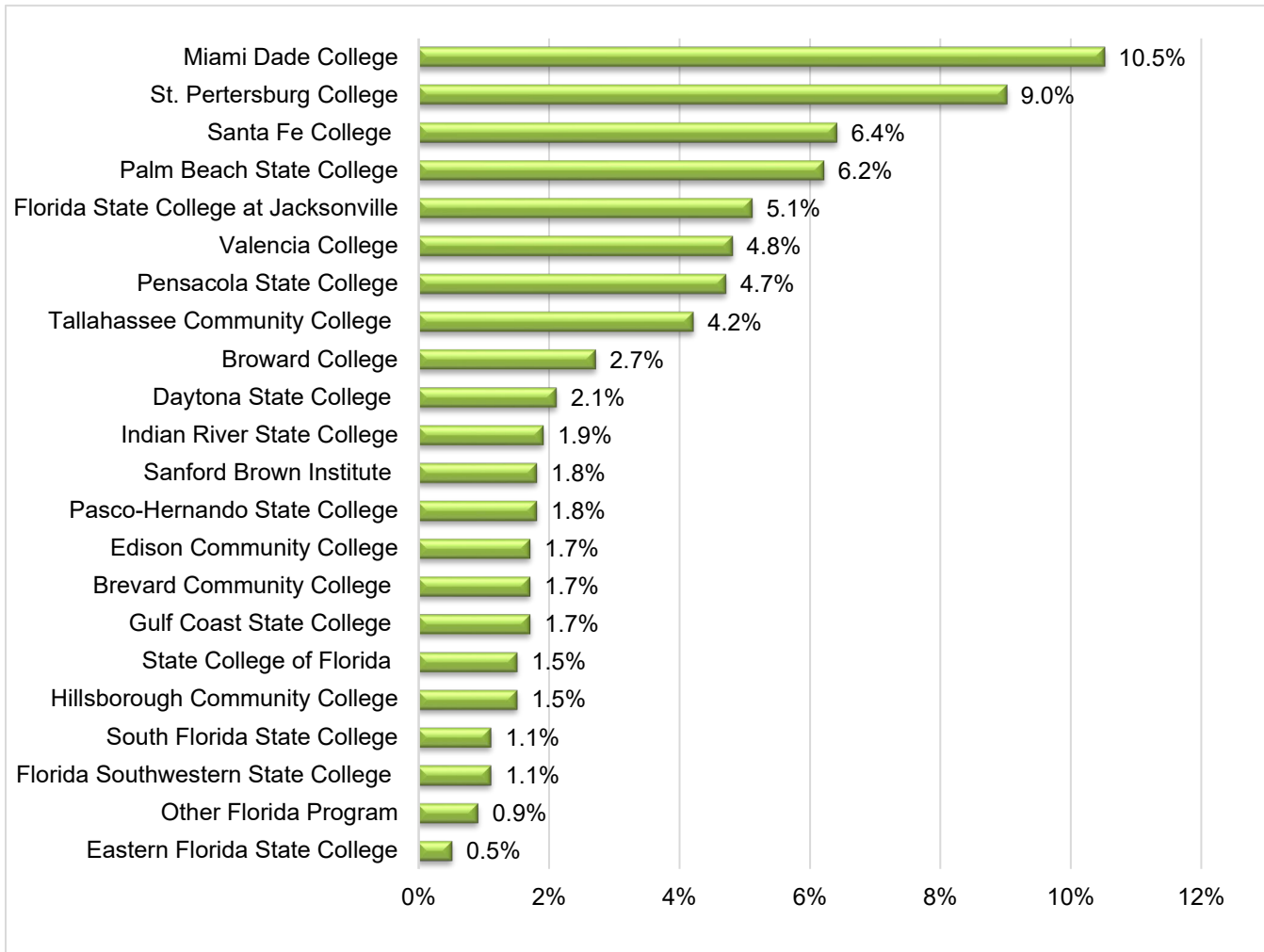
Figure 6 portrays the type of dental hygiene program where respondents received their dental hygiene training. Over 70% trained at a Florida dental hygiene school, 16.2% trained at an out-of-state dental hygiene program, and 13.3% trained at a foreign dental program.

Figure 6: Program of Graduation among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



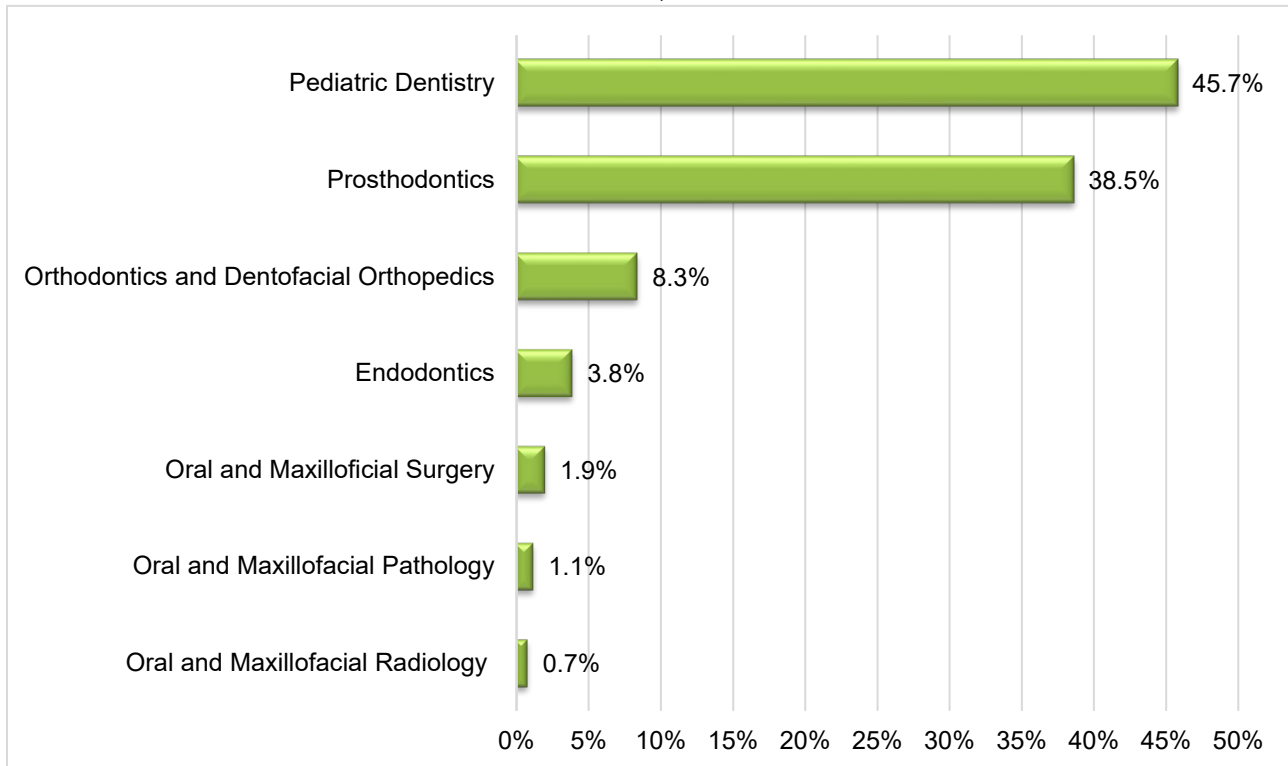
Respondents reported graduating from more than 21 Florida dental hygiene programs. Graduates of Miami Dade College, St. Petersburg College, and Santa Fe College constituted a quarter (25.9%) of respondents (Figure 7). These schools were followed by Palm Beach State College and Florida State College in Jacksonville which graduated nearly one out of eight dental hygienists (11.3%).

Figure 7. Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Dental Hygiene School of Graduation in Florida, 2019–2020



The majority (90.4%) of dental hygienists practiced in general private or public health practice, while 6.1% reported their practice type as specialty. The remaining 3.5% reported as neither general nor specialty practice. Among respondents who reported their practice type as specialty, Figure 9 portrays the distribution of dental hygiene practice specialties. Specialties with the three highest percentage of hygienists were pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics, and orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.

Figure 9. Dental Practice Specialties among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



Most Florida dental hygienists (92.4%) worked in a private office setting which consists of solo practice, group practice as a single specialty, or group practice as a multi-specialty. Five practice settings: academic institutions, community health centers, county health departments, federally qualified health centers, and other state government clinical settings constitute safety net practices for individuals who otherwise lack access to dental care. About 4% of dental hygienists worked in safety net practice settings. The remaining 3% represent dental hygienists working at facilities such as correctional facilities, military facilities, Veterans Affairs clinics, Indian Health Services, and other facilities.

Figure 10 illustrates the number of years respondents practiced in their current practice arrangement by practice setting. The percentage of survey respondents who reported having between zero and five years of experience was the largest group across all practice settings. The percentage of dental hygienists who worked six or more years was higher for those who work in private office settings (45.8%) than for those who work in safety net practices (35.6%) and other practices (35.5%).

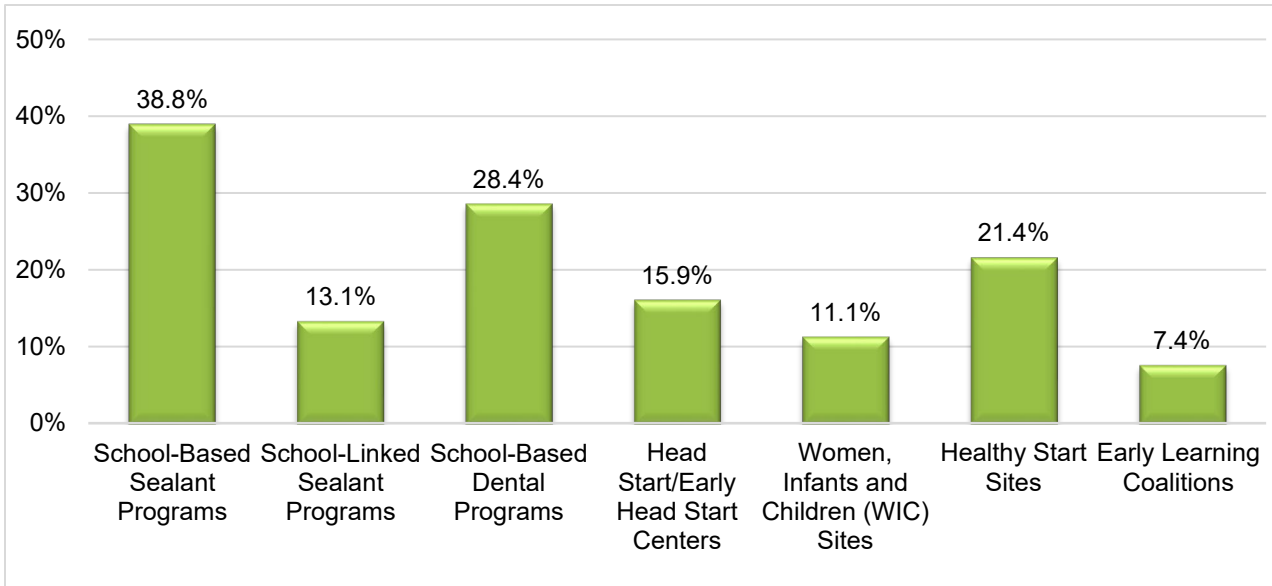
Figure 10. Dental Hygienists' Years in Current Practice by Practice Setting, 2019–2020



The majority (73.5%) of dental hygienists worked for one employer or in one practice setting; 26.5% worked for more than one employer or in more than one practice setting.

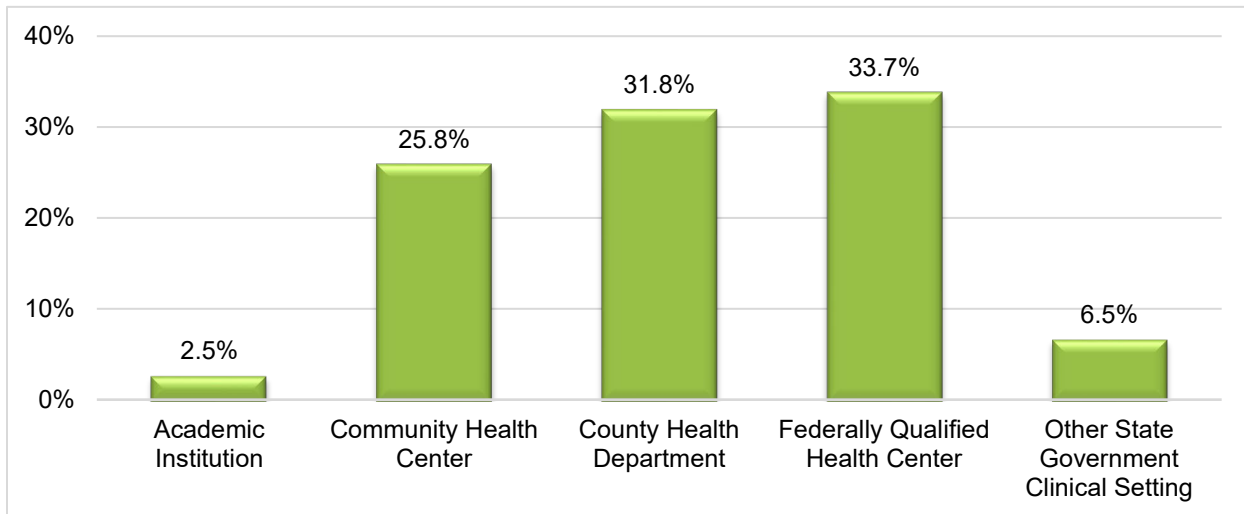
Among dental hygienists practicing in Florida who provided services in a health access setting, most were in school settings: 38.8% in school-based sealant programs and 28.4% in school-based dental programs (Figure 11). About 21% of respondents provided services in Healthy Start sites, 16% of respondents provided services in Head Start/Early Head Start centers, and 13% in school-linked sealant programs (services provided in conjunction with the school but at another site).

Figure 11. Distribution of Dental Services Provided in Health Access Settings among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



The majority (97%) of respondents reported they did not have a Medicaid provider number. Dental hygienists who worked in safety net practices (23.4%) were more likely to report having a Medicaid provider number than hygienists who worked in private practices (2%) and other practices (3.6%). Among dental hygienists who provide services at safety net practices (Figure 12), hygienists who worked in federally qualified health centers (33.7%) had the highest percentage of Medicaid provider number obtainment, followed by those working in county health departments (31.8%) and community health centers (25.8%).

Figure 12. Medicaid Provider Number Distribution among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by Safety Net Practices, 2019–2020



As shown in Figure 13, dental hygienists who worked in a safety net practice most typically performed volunteer work in school events (21.2%), health fairs (23.1%), and safety net clinics (13.7%). Dental hygienists who were employed in private practice settings reported providing volunteer services most frequently at an organized event in a private office setting (12.2%), individual services in private office (10.8%), and school events (8.8%). Overall, 70% responded that they did not provide any volunteer hygiene services. This percentage was higher for dental hygienists who practiced in private office settings (56.4%) than in safety net settings (40.4%).

Figure 13. Settings for the Provision of Volunteer Services by Practice Type, 2019–2020

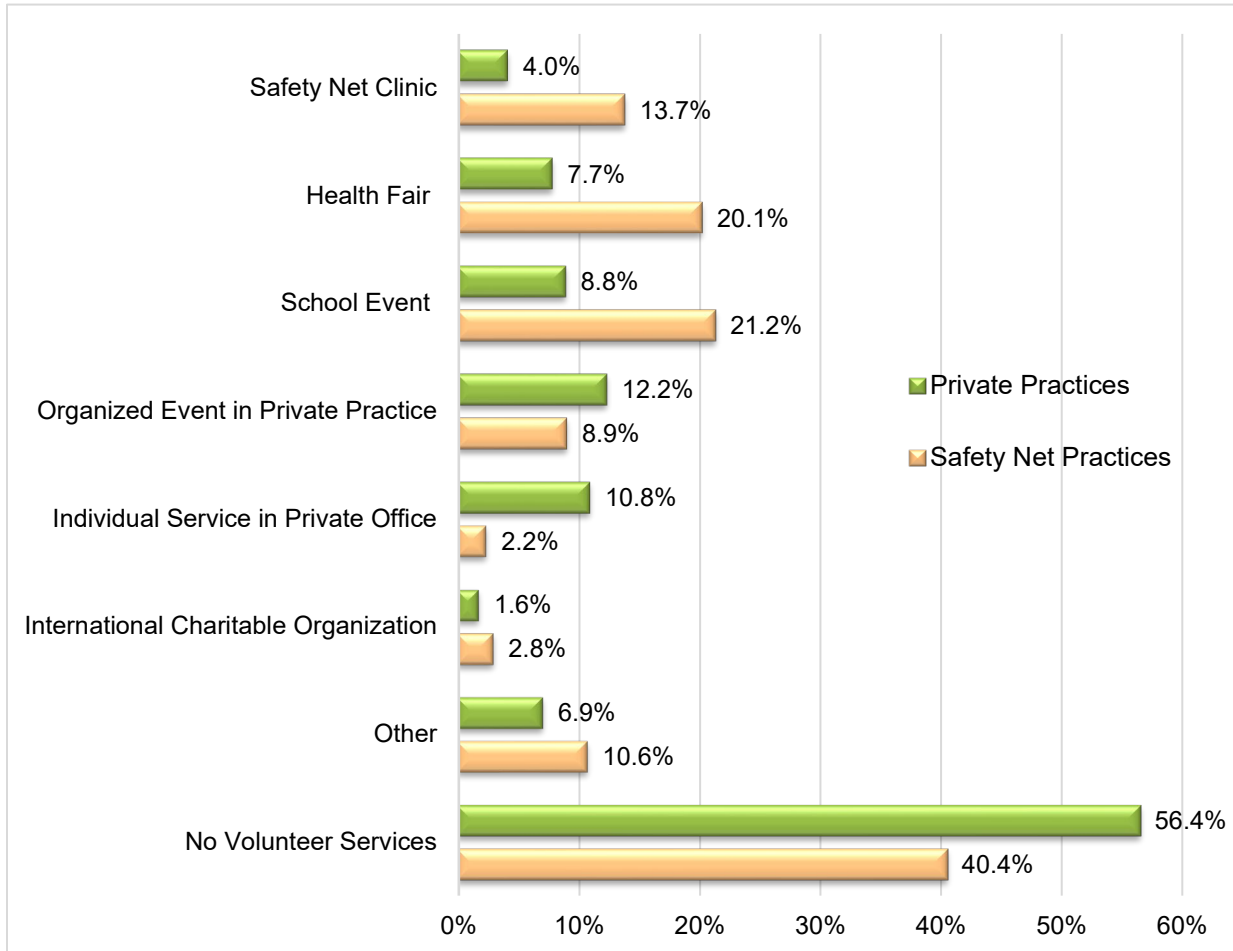
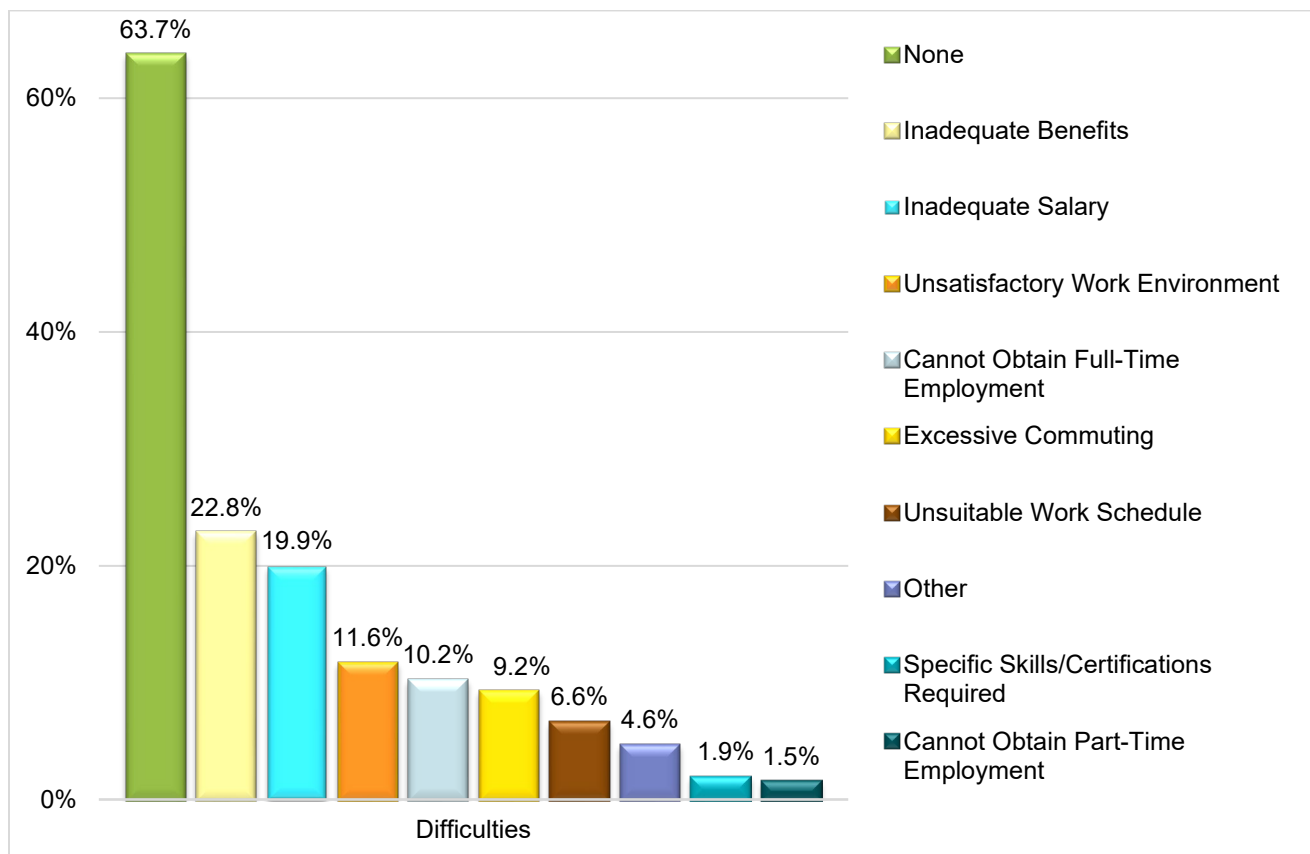


Figure 14 displays the difficulties respondents experienced when searching for a dental hygienist position. Although 63.7% of respondents reported experiencing no difficulty in finding a dental hygienist position, dental hygienists experienced difficulties that included inadequate benefits (22.8%) and salary (19.9%). About 10% percent indicated they could not obtain full-time work in the field. Others reported difficulties with employment included unsatisfactory work environment (11.6%), excessive commuting distance (9.2%), and an unsuitable work schedule (6.6%). Only 1.5% of dental hygienists reported they were unable to obtain part-time employment in their profession.

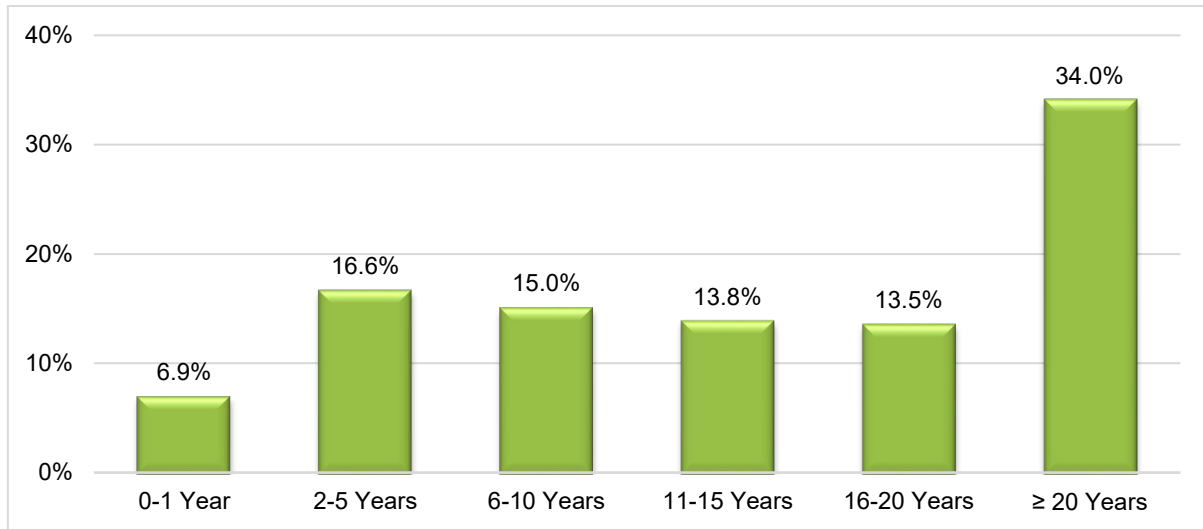
Figure 14. Difficulties Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida Experience in Finding a Position as a Dental Hygienist, 2019–2020



Licensed Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida – Productivity

About a third of Florida’s dental hygienists reported they have more than 20 years of practice and 23.5% of respondents had less than 6 years of practice (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Number of Years of Practice among Florida's Dental Hygienists, 2019–2020



Approximately 82% of the Florida’s dental hygienists worked between 11 and 12 months in the year prior to completing the survey (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Number of Practice Months in the Past Year among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020

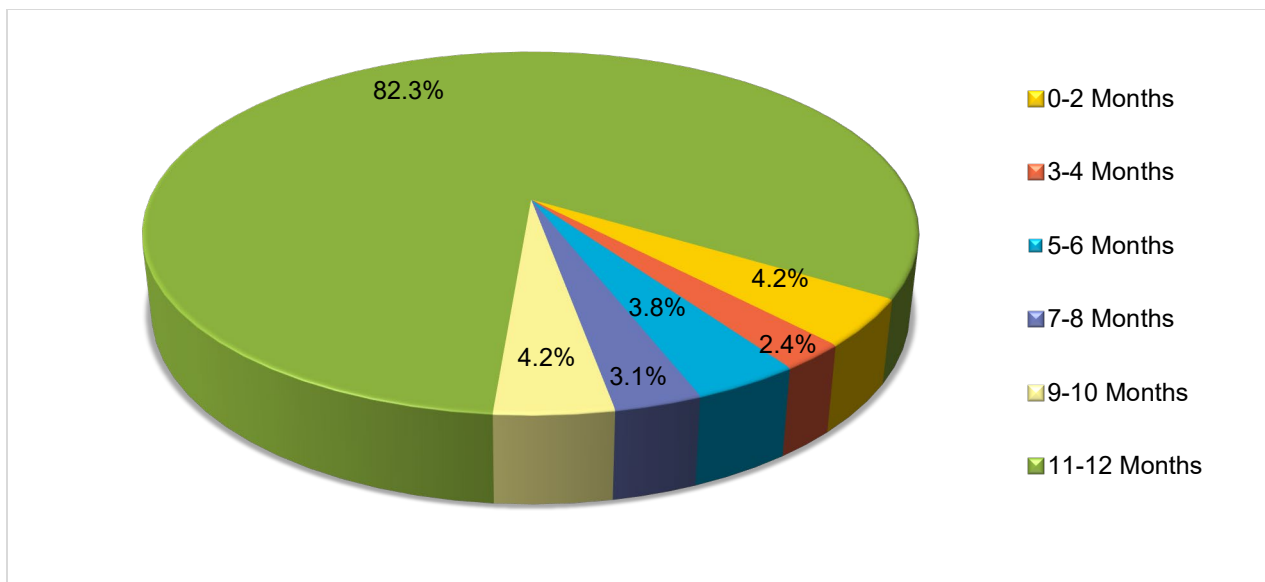
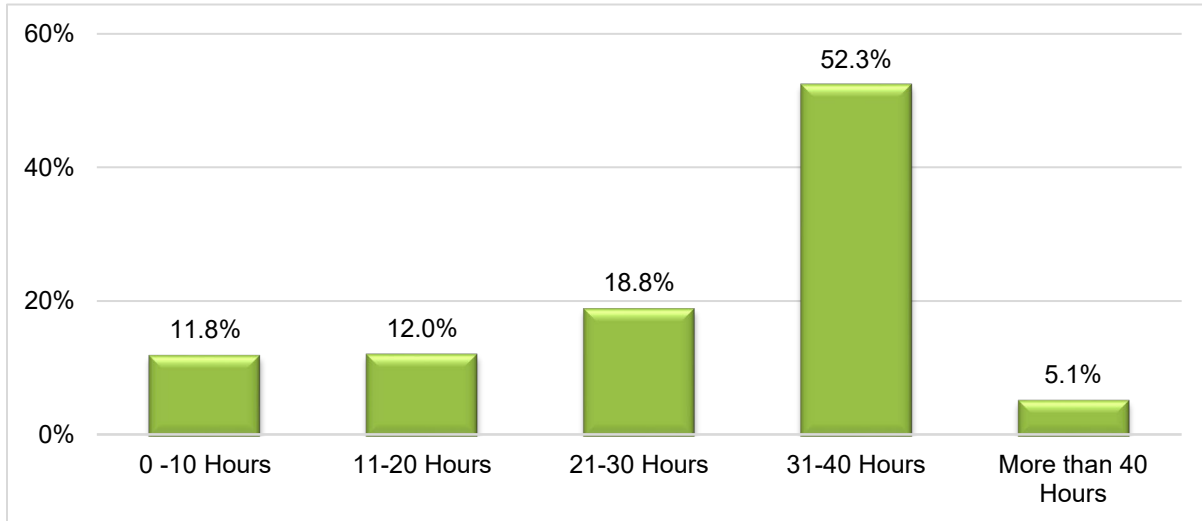


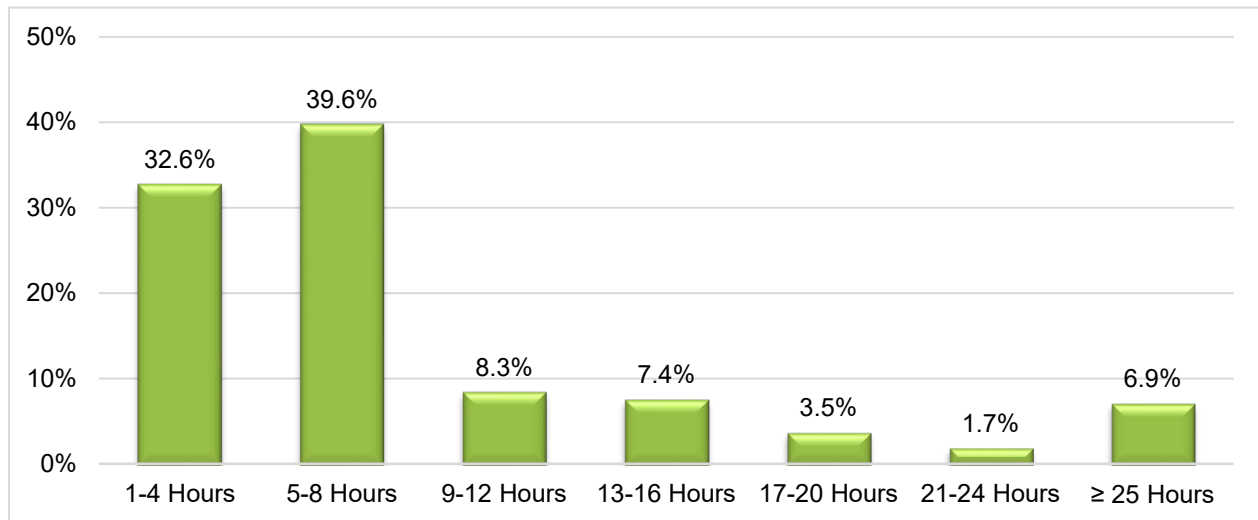
Figure 17 displays the distribution of respondents by the number of hours they worked in a given week. Approximately 52% worked 31–40 hours weekly, while only 5.1% worked more than 40 hours. Approximately 43% practiced dental hygiene part-time (less than 31 hours per week), including 23.8% who worked 20 hours per week or less.

Figure 17. Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by Hours of Practice per Week, 2019–2020



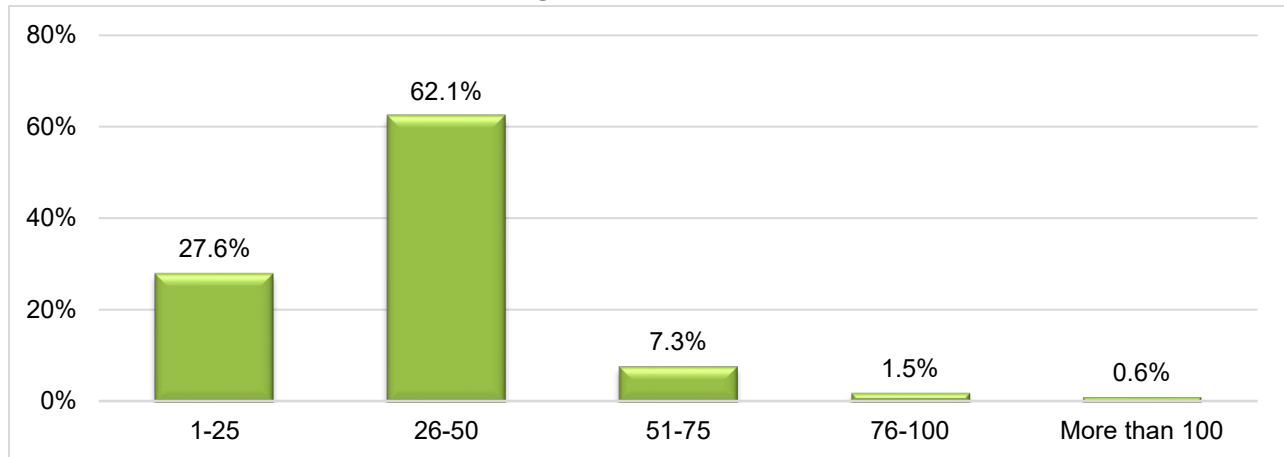
Of the percentage of dental hygienists in Florida, 89% reported they were not seeking additional employment. Of the survey respondents who indicated they were seeking additional work hours, 32.6% were seeking 1–4 hours per week, and 39.6% were seeking 5–8 additional hours per week. Approximately 9% were seeking 20 or more additional work hours per week (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Distribution of Additional Hours of Work per Week Sought by Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



About 28% of dental hygienist respondents had under 26 encounters per week (Figure 19). Most respondents indicated, on average, they had 26–50 patient encounters per week (62.1%). Only 0.6% of dental hygienists had more than 100 encounters per week.

Figure 19. Average Number of Patient Encounters per Week among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2019–2020



Licensed Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida – Retention and Attrition

Overall, 15.7% of respondents reported that they plan to end their practice of dental hygiene in Florida within the next five years, including 10.6% who plan to retire from clinical dental hygiene. Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics among dental hygienists planning to end their practice in Florida. Most of these hygienists were female (92.7%), less than 50 years old (35.6%), and White (69.8%). Approximately 27% of dental hygienists who plan to retire in the next five years speak another language in addition to English.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Florida Dental Hygienists Who Plan to End Their Practice in the Next 5 Years, 2019–2020

Demographic	Percent
Gender	
Female	92.7%
Male	6.3%
Age Group	
Less than 50 Years	35.6%
50-59 Years	24.7%
60-69 Years	34.8%
70 Years and Older	5.0%
Race/Ethnicity	
White	69.8%
Black	3.7%
Hispanic	20.6%
Other	4.6%
Speak Another Language	26.7%

Licensed Dental Hygienists Not Practicing in Florida

Most survey respondents with an active Florida license reported practicing in Florida (79.8%). Among those not currently practicing in Florida (n=2,715), the most common reasons for not using their Florida license to practice in Florida were currently practicing in another state (38.3%), other not specified (19.8%), and employed or self-employed in a job unrelated to dental hygiene (11.1%). Of dental hygienist respondents with an active license not practicing in Florida, 81.7% stated that they plan to relocate to Florida sometime in the future.

Conclusions

The Department is constantly committed to measure, review, and evaluate dental workforce attributes and needs in Florida. The Department makes every effort to collaborate with all state and national oral health partners to ensure the recruitment and retention of highly trained and diverse dental hygiene workforce professionals, especially in underserved communities.

The successful implementation of workforce survey assessments may provide policymakers with information regarding the clinical practice, geographic location, and scope of practice for Florida hygienists. Continued refinement, evaluation, and reporting of these data will assist in the state's efforts to meet current and future dental hygiene workforce needs. The Department continues to work with all professional health organizations to develop innovative, patient-centered, oral health care delivery systems.

References

Section 466.023, Florida Statutes. *Dental hygienists; scope and area of practice*. Available at: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0466/Sections/0466.023.html. Accessed February 3th, 2019.

Section 466.003, Florida Statutes. *Definitions*. Available at: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0466/Sections/0466.003.html. Accessed March 12th, 2019.

Appendix A: 2019-2020 Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey

Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey 2019/2020 24 Questions Total

Assessing Florida's current and future dental workforce is critical in shaping Florida's health care policies. Your responses, which constitute a public record, will be summarized in a Florida Dental Hygienist Workforce Report. Previous reports are available online at the Florida Department of Health's Public Health Dental Program website: www.flhealth.gov/dental/reports. We appreciate your time and effort in completing the survey questions.

Part 1: Demographics

1. Indicate the Florida dental hygiene college program attended. (Select all that apply).
 - Brevard Community College
 - Broward College
 - Daytona State College (Daytona Beach Community College)
 - Eastern Florida State College
 - Edison Community College
 - Florida State College at Jacksonville (Florida Community College at Jacksonville)
 - Florida Southwestern State College
 - Gulf Coast State College (Gulf Coast Community College)
 - Hillsborough Community College
 - Indian River State College (Indian River Community College)
 - State College of Florida (Manatee-Sarasota Community College)
 - Miami Dade College (Miami-Dade Community College)
 - Palm Beach State College (Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach Junior College)
 - Pasco-Hernando State College (Pasco-Hernando Community College)
 - Pensacola State College (Pensacola Junior College)
 - Sanford Brown Institute (Jacksonville or Ft. Lauderdale locations)
 - Santa Fe College (Santa Fe Community College)
 - South Florida State College
 - St. Petersburg College (St. Petersburg Junior College)
 - Tallahassee Community College
 - Valencia College (Valencia Community College)
 - A Florida program that is not listed
 - None – I attended a U.S. dental hygiene college program in another state
 - None – I attended a dental hygiene college program in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory
 - None – I attended an out-of-country (foreign) dental hygiene college program
 - None – I attended an out of the country (foreign) dental school
2. Indicate your highest dental hygiene degree. (Select one).
 1. Certificate/diploma
 2. Associate degree
 3. Bachelor's degree
 4. Master's degree
 5. Advanced post graduate or doctoral degree
3. Indicate your highest non-dental hygiene degree. (Select one).
 - a. Certificate/diploma
 - b. Associate degree
 - c. Bachelor's degree
 - d. Master's degree
 - e. Advanced post graduate or doctoral degree
 - f. None
4. Are you credentialed in Florida to provide local anesthesia? (Select one).
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. No – but I am planning to get credentialed.
5. Do you hold an active dental hygiene license in a location other than Florida? (Select all that apply).
- No
 - Yes– Another U.S. State (*include a drop down of all states with question: Select states where you hold an active dental hygiene license:*
 - Yes– Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory
 - Yes– out of country
6. At present, do you practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida or have you accepted employment to practice dental hygiene in Florida?
- a. Yes (continue to question 7). **Note: These respondents will complete the rest of survey).**
 - b. No (continue to questions 6a and 6b). **Note: These respondents will be directed out of survey after they answer 6a and 6b.**
- 6a. The primary reason you are not using your Florida license to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida is: (Select one).
- a. I currently practice clinical dental hygiene in another state.
 - b. I currently practice clinical dental hygiene outside the U.S.
 - c. I teach dental hygiene in Florida but do not engage in clinical practice.
 - d. I teach dental hygiene outside Florida but do not engage in clinical practice.
 - e. I work in Florida in an administrative capacity related to dentistry but do not practice clinical dental hygiene.
 - f. I work outside Florida in an administrative capacity related to dentistry but do not practice clinical dental hygiene.
 - g. I am employed or self-employed in Florida in a job unrelated to dental hygiene.
 - h. I am employed or self-employed outside Florida in a job unrelated to dental hygiene.
 - i. I am currently unemployed and seeking full-time employment related to dental hygiene.
 - j. I am currently unemployed and seeking part-time employment related to dental hygiene.
 - k. I am currently unemployed and seeking full-time employment related to a school-based dental program.
 - l. I am currently unemployed and seeking part-time employment related to a school-based dental program.
 - m. I am currently unemployed and seeking employment outside dental hygiene.
 - n. I am currently retired.
 - o. I am unable to work due to a disability.
 - p. Other (unspecified)
- 6b. If you do not currently practice dental hygiene in Florida, do you plan to practice dental hygiene in Florida in the near future? (Select one).
- a. I plan to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida within the next 12 months.
 - b. I plan to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida in 1-2 years.
 - c. I plan to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida in 3-4 years.
 - d. I plan to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida, but I am not sure when.
 - e. No, I do not plan to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida.

If you do NOT practice dental hygiene in Florida, or have NOT accepted employment for practicing in the state, you are now finished with the survey. Thank you for your participation.

7. Which languages do you speak? (Select all that apply.)
- English
 - Arabic
 - Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)
 - Creole
 - French
 - German
 - Hebrew
 - Italian
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Polish

- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese
- Other African language
- Other Asian language
- Other European language
- Other Middle Eastern language
- Other language (unspecified)

Part 2: Practice Characteristics

8. How many months did you practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida in the last 12 months? (Select one).
- a. 0 – 2 months
 - b. 3 – 4 months
 - c. 5 – 6 months
 - d. 7 – 8 months
 - e. 9 – 10 months
 - f. 11 – 12 months
9. How many years have you practiced clinical dental hygiene? (Select one).
- a. 0 – 1 years
 - b. 2 – 5 years
 - c. 6 – 10 years
 - d. 11 – 15 years
 - e. 16 – 20 years
 - f. More than 20 years
 - g. Not applicable
10. In a typical week, approximately how many hours and in which Florida county(ies) do you practice clinical dental hygiene? You may select up to three counties. If you are employed to practice but have not yet started, select "Not applicable."
- 10a. County 1: (select county from drop down menu with all 67 Florida counties)
10aa. Hours for County 1:
 - a. 1 – 10 hours
 - b. 11 – 20 hours
 - c. 21 – 30 hours
 - d. 31 – 40 hours
 - e. 41 – 50 hours
 - f. More than 50 hours
 - 10b. County 2: (select county from drop down menu with all 67 Florida counties)
10bb. Hours for County 2:
 - a. 1 – 10 hours
 - b. 11 – 20 hours
 - c. 21 – 30 hours
 - d. 31 – 40 hours
 - e. 41 – 50 hours
 - f. More than 50 hours
 - 10c. County 3: (select county from drop down menu with all 67 Florida counties)
10cc. Hours for County 3:
 - a. 1 – 10 hours
 - b. 11 – 20 hours
 - c. 21 – 30 hours
 - d. 31 – 40 hours
 - e. 41 – 50 hours
 - f. More than 50 hours

Or

- Not applicable– I have not started employment yet.

11. How many hours of clinical volunteer dental hygiene services did you provide in the last 24 months? (Select one).

- a. None
- b. 1 – 8 hours
- c. 9 – 16 hours
- d. 17 – 24 hours
- e. 25 – 30 hours
- f. 31 – 60 hours
- g. 61 – 120 hours
- h. More than 120 hours

12. Where did you provide clinical volunteer dental hygiene services in the last 24 months? (Select all that apply.)

- I did not provide any clinical volunteer dental hygiene services
- In a private office(s), on my own
- In a private office(s), as part of an organized event (e.g. Give Kids a Smile Day)
- At a safety net clinic (e.g. county health department, community health center, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Mission of Mercy)
- As part of a health fair
- As part of a school-based or school-linked event
- International charitable organization (mission trips outside of U.S.)
- Other (unspecified)

13. Indicate your primary type of practice. (Select one).

- a. General Private Practice (basic preventive, restorative, surgical)
- b. General Public Health Practice (basic preventive, restorative, surgical)
- c. Specialty Practice: Endodontics
- d. Specialty Practice: Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- e. Specialty Practice: Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- f. Specialty Practice: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- g. Specialty Practice: Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
- h. Specialty Practice: Pediatric Dentistry
- i. Specialty Practice: Periodontics
- j. Specialty Practice: Prosthodontics
- k. Private Practice Administrative Services
- l. Public Health Administrative Services
- m. Other (unspecified).

14. Indicate your primary practice setting. (Select one).

- a. Solo Office Practice
- b. Group Office Practice: Single Specialty
- c. Group Office Practice: Multi Specialty
- d. County Health Department
- e. Community Health Center
- f. Federally Qualified Health Center
- g. State or Federal Correctional Facility Clinic
- h. Other State Government Clinical Setting
- i. Military Facility Clinic
- j. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic
- k. Academic Institution
- l. Indian Health Service
- m. Long-Term Care Facility (Nursing Home)
- n. Volunteer Program (501(c)3 non-profit health organization)
- o. Temporary Employment or Staffing Agency
- p. Other (unspecified)

15. Do you provide dental hygiene services in any of the following health access settings (include paid and volunteer work)? (Select all that apply).

- School-based sealant program (services provided in the school)
 - School-linked sealant program (services provided in conjunction with the school but at a site other than the school)
 - School-based dental program (services provided in the school, not including sealants)
 - Head Start/Early Head Start centers
 - Early Learning Coalitions
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) sites
 - Healthy Start sites
16. Do you practice clinical dental hygiene in the county where you reside? (Select one).
- a. Yes– all the time (100%)
 - b. Yes– some of the time (1 – 99%)
 - c. No– none of the time (0%)
17. On average, how many patient encounters do you have in a typical work week? (Select one).
- a. 1 – 25 encounters
 - b. 26 – 50 encounters
 - c. 51 – 75 encounters
 - d. 76 – 100 encounters
 - e. 101 – 125 encounters
 - f. More than 125 encounters
 - g. Not applicable– I have accepted employment but have not yet started.
18. How many years have you been in your current primary practice position? (Select one).
- a. 0 – 1 years
 - b. 2 – 5 years
 - c. 6 – 10 years
 - d. 11 – 15 years
 - e. 16 – 20 years
 - f. More than 20 years
19. Do you work for more than one employer or in more than one practice setting? (Select one).
- a. Yes
 - b. No
20. If you routinely practice clinical dental hygiene fewer than 40 hours per week, please select the reason(s) from the list below. (Select all that apply).
- Limited work hours are my personal preference.
 - Limited work hours allow time for volunteer (uncompensated) work.
 - Limited hours allow time for other compensated work.
 - Health-related issues limit my work hours.
 - I am phasing into retirement.
 - I adjust my hours to fit the patient workload.
 - My position is part-time.
 - Other (unspecified)
21. Are you currently seeking additional dental hygiene employment? (Select one).
- a. Yes, 1 – 4 additional hours per week.
 - b. Yes, 5 – 8 additional hours per week.
 - c. Yes, 9 – 12 additional hours per week.
 - d. Yes, 13 – 16 additional hours per week.
 - e. Yes, 17 – 20 additional hours per week.
 - f. Yes, 21 – 24 additional hours per week.
 - g. Yes, 25 or more additional hours per week.
 - h. No.
22. What kind(s) of difficulty (if any) have you experienced in finding a position as a registered dental hygienist? (Select all that apply.)
- None
 - Cannot obtain full-time employment

- Cannot obtain part-time employment
- Unsuitable work schedule
- Inadequate salary
- Inadequate benefits
- Unsatisfactory work environment
- Specific certifications required for the position (e.g. local anesthesia certification)
- Specific skills required for the position (e.g. electronic health records or digital radiography)
- Excessive commuting distance
- Other (unspecified)

23. Regarding your practice of clinical dental hygiene in Florida within the next five years, which of the following apply? (Select one.)

- a. I plan to end my practice of clinical dental hygiene in Florida due to retirement.
- b. I plan to end my practice of clinical dental hygiene in Florida due to non-dental hygiene employment.
- c. I plan to end my practice of clinical dental hygiene in Florida due to employment as a dental hygienist in another state or country.
- d. I plan to end my practice of clinical dental hygiene in Florida due to another reason.
- e. I plan to reduce my clinical dental hygiene practice hours but continue practicing in Florida.
- f. I have no plans to end or reduce my Florida clinical dental hygiene practice within the next five years.

24. Do you currently have a Medicaid provider number for health-access settings? (Select one).

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No – but I am planning to apply for one.

Attestation Statement:

I confirm that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and the submission does not contain any knowingly false information or statements.

- a. Yes

Thank you for completing the Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey.

Appendix B: Survey Methodology and Analysis

Florida statutes and administrative code rules require renewal of dental hygienist licenses biennially by the end of February of even-numbered years. This survey addresses the biennium ending February 28, 2020. The Florida Department of Health (Department) prepared and administered a workforce survey of dental hygienists to coincide with the license renewal process. As part of their on-line renewal, dental hygienists were asked to voluntarily complete the survey.

The survey was designed to serve as an assessment of Florida's current dental hygiene workforce to better inform and shape public health care policy and plan for future workforce needs. Licensure status is relative to the date the survey was closed. In contrast to licensure information, practice status as summarized in this report is not linked to a single, specific reference date. Information concerning practice status was obtained from the workforce survey. Changes in practice status occurring between survey completion and the report reference date are not reflected in the data. Thus, counts or estimates of dental hygienists actively practicing or not practicing in Florida are approximate with respect to the report's completion date.

Given that practicing dental hygienists are a subset of dental hygienists with active licenses, licensure information maintained by the Department helps to screen respondents by identifying dental hygienists who are ineligible to practice. At the time of this survey, there were 14,763 dental hygienists with active license status. For purposes of analysis, respondents with non-active licenses are of limited interest and are excluded from the analysis. The survey respondents with active licenses who practice in Florida (n=11,082) represent 79.8% of dental hygienists with active licenses who responded to the survey.

While the survey was offered to all dental hygienists with a Florida license, the analysis centered on Florida active licensees practicing in the state. Non-response items are excluded from the analysis because all items were not completed by or applicable to all survey takers. The survey consisted of 24 items regarding the demographics, education and practice characteristics, productivity, retention and attrition of respondents. Additional demographic information was obtained from the Department's Division of Medical Quality Assurance. Descriptive statistical techniques were used to provide the characteristic profiles of respondents using SAS 9.4. Marginal tabulations are reported for the summary descriptions and relationships presented throughout the report.