



2021–2022 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists

Publication Date September 25, 2025



Acknowledgements

Author:

Robert Traul, DDS

Data Analyst:

Sushil Pawar, MDS, MPH

Contributors:

Catherine Bridges, DMD



The Florida Department of Health Public Health Dental Program would like to thank the Department's Division of Community Health Promotion and Division of Medical Quality Assurance, as well our partners at the Florida Dental Association and the Florida Dental Hygiene Association.

A special thank you to the dental hygienists who took the time to participate in the survey, as well as their efforts to help build a better understanding of the dental workforce in Florida.

Florida Department of Health. (2024). 2021–2022 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists.

Public Health Dental Program: dental@flhealth.gov or 850-245-4333

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Executive Summary	5
Key Findings	5
Figures	7
Tables	7
Findings	8
Demographics	8
Professional Education	10
Practice Characteristics	12
Productivity	17
Retention and Attrition	19
Licensed Dental Hygienists Not Practicing in Florida	20
Conclusions	20
References	20
Appendix A: 2021-2022 Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey	21

Introduction

Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code require renewal of dental hygienist licenses biennially by the end of February of even-numbered years. Since 2009, the Florida Department of Health (Department) has prepared and administered a workforce survey of dental hygienists to coincide with the license renewal process (see Appendix A for accompanying survey). The 2021-2022 Workforce Survey of Dental Hygienists is the seventh administration of the survey and analyzes the renewal period which ended February 28, 2022. As part of their online renewal, dental hygienists were asked to voluntarily complete the survey. All responses are self-reported. At the time of this survey, there were 14,221 (94.6%) dental hygienists with active licenses who responded to the survey, of which 11,028 (77.6%) of the respondents indicated they practiced in Florida. For the purposes of data analysis and reporting, most survey responses were restricted to those dental hygienists currently practicing in Florida. Non-response items were excluded from the analysis because some survey takers did not complete all items, or certain items were not relevant to them.

The Department's Division of Medical Quality Assurance provided data for this report, including demographic information of respondents. The Department determines each applicant's eligibility to practice in Florida. 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. Descriptive statistical techniques were used to provide the characteristic profiles of respondents using Statistical software suite Version 29.0 and are reported for the summary descriptions and relationships presented throughout the report.

Chapter 466, Florida Statutes, covers dentistry, dental hygiene and dental laboratories. Section 466.003, Florida Statutes, Definitions, defines a health access setting as: "A program or an institution of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, 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. Section 466.023, Dental Hygienists; scope and area of practice, authorizes licensed dental hygienists to provide educational, preventive, and therapeutic dental services and related procedures. Section 466.024, Delegation of duties; expanded functions, covers levels of supervision that may be required; covers which remediable tasks can be performed in a health access setting without the physical presence, prior examination, or authorization of a dentist and that a licensed dentist or physician must give medical clearance before a dental hygienist removes calculus deposits accretions and stains from exposed surfaces of teeth or from tooth surfaces within the gingival sulcus.

The survey was designed to obtain an understanding of the changing landscape of the dental hygienist workforce to inform health care policymakers and shape oral health care policy development. Analysis of responses is guided by those objectives. The survey consisted of 24 questions regarding demographics, professional education, practice characteristics, productivity, and retention and attrition. The survey was not designed to address population growth, maintenance of the current level of service, and did not address portions of the population not currently served. To better comprehend the dental workforce, it is recommended that the results of this report be considered alongside the 2021–2022 Workforce Survey of Dentists' results.

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 conditions, taking, and processing dental radiographs (X-rays), removing deposits from tooth surfaces, applying topical fluorides and dental sealants, teaching 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.

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.

Key Findings

Demographics

- There were 15,033 dental hygienists who applied for licensure renewal, 94.6% (14,221) responded to the survey.
- Of the 14,221 dental hygienists who responded:
 - 77.6% (11,028) dental hygienists were currently practicing or had accepted employment to practice clinical dental hygiene in Florida.
 - The largest age group was 30-39 years of age (26.3%).
 - 91.9% were female and 5.7% were male and 2.4% were others and missing.
 - Nearly a third of dental hygienists, (29.2%), spoke another language in addition to English.
 - After English, Spanish was the most common language at 20.6%.

Professional Education

- Of the dental hygienists who responded to the survey:
 - 72.4% reported to have an associate degree as their highest dental hygiene degree.
 - 50.7% were credentialed in Florida to provide local anesthesia.
 - 65.3% graduated from an in-state dental hygiene program.
 - Miami Dade College graduated the most dental hygienists (8.9%).

Practice Characteristics

- Of the dental hygienist respondents actively practicing in Florida:
 - The greatest number practiced in Miami-Dade County (1,256).
 - The lowest number practiced in Lafayette County (1).
 - 90.3% worked in general dentistry.
 - 5.8% worked in a specialty practice.
 - 0.24% worked in Public Health Administrative Services and 0.42% worked in Public Health Administrative Services and 3.04% were others.
 - Periodontic dentistry (3.2%) was the most common specialty.
 - 92.8% worked in a private office.
 - 76.1% reported working for one employer or in one practice setting only.
 - 72.3% practiced solely in the county in which they reside.

- 68.7% of respondents did not provide volunteer hygiene services in the last 24 months.
- 52% reported no difficulty in finding employment as a dental hygienist, and 3.4% reported they were not able to obtain full-time employment.
- 3% of respondents who provided services in safety net practices had a Medicaid provider number.
- Among dental hygienists who reported providing services in a health access setting:
 - Most were in School-Based Sealant Programs (29.9%) and School-Based Dental Programs that provide services other than sealants (18%).

Productivity

- 33.9% of dental hygienists reported having more than 20 years of practice.
- 76.7% practiced 11–12 months of the year.
- 59.5% reported working more than 31 hours per week.
- 92.4% reported they were not seeking any additional employment at this time.
- 62.8% reported having 26–50 patient encounters per week.

Retention and Attrition

- 17.1% reported they plan to end their practice of dental hygiene in Florida within the next five years.
 - Most of these dental hygienists (64%) were less than 50 years of age.
- Of dental hygienist respondents with an active license not practicing in Florida, 80.6% stated they plan to practice dental hygiene and relocate to Florida sometime in the future.

List of Figures and Tables

Figures

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022.....	8
Figure 2. Age and Gender Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022	8
Figure 3. Distribution of Highest Dental Hygiene Degree Among Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022	10
Figure 4. Program of Graduation Among Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022	10
Figure 5. Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Dental Hygiene School of Graduation in Florida, 2021–2022.....	11
Figure 6. Number of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by County, 2021–2022	12
Figure 7. Dental Practice Specialties Among Dental Hygienists Practicing	13
Figure 8. Distribution of Dental Services Provided in Health Access Settings Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022	13
Figure 9. Dental Hygienists in Current Primary Practice Settings, 2021–2022	14
Figure 10. Settings for the Provision of Clinical Volunteer Dental Hygiene Services by Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022	15
Figure 11. Difficulties Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida Experience in Finding a Position as a Dental Hygienist, 2021–2022.....	16
Figure 12. Number of Years of Practice Among Florida's Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022 ..	17
Figure 13. Number of Practice Months in the Past Year Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022.....	17
Figure 14. Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by Hours of Practice per Week, 2021–2022	18
Figure 15. Distribution of Additional Hours of Work per Week Sought by Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022	18
Figure 16. Average Number of Patient Encounters per Week Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022.....	19

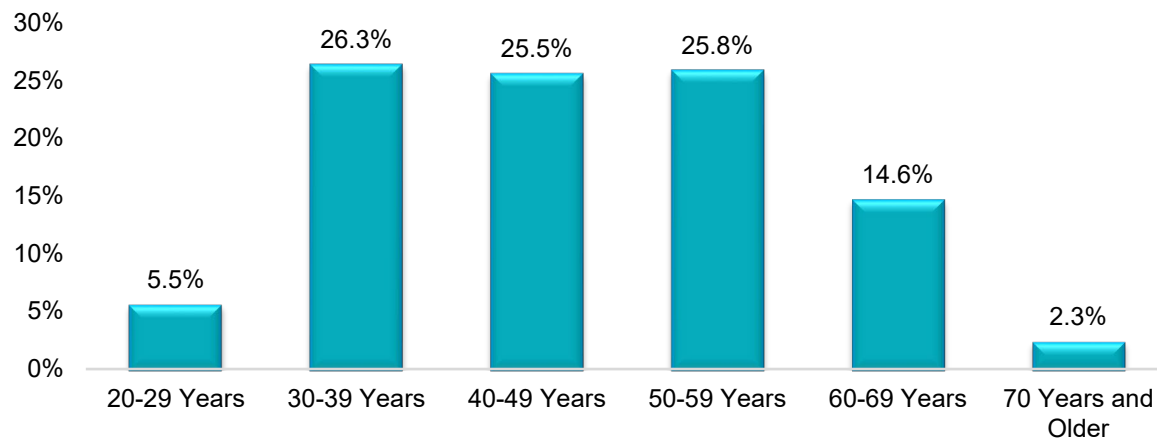
Tables

Table 1. Additional Languages Spoken by Dental Hygienists Practicing, in Florida,	9
Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Florida Dental Hygienists Who Plan to End Their Practice in the Next 5 Years, 2021–2022	19

Findings

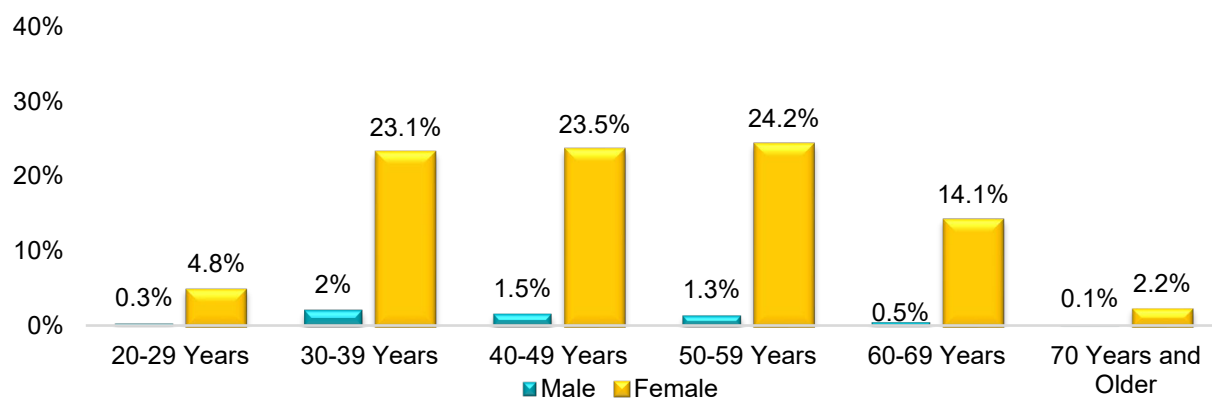
Demographics

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



Of the 11,028 dental hygienists practicing in Florida who responded to the survey, most (77.6%) were between 30–59 years of age. Only 2.3% of dental hygienists were 70 years and older (Figure 1).

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



Female dental hygienists represented 91.9% of respondents practicing in Florida, and 5.7% 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).

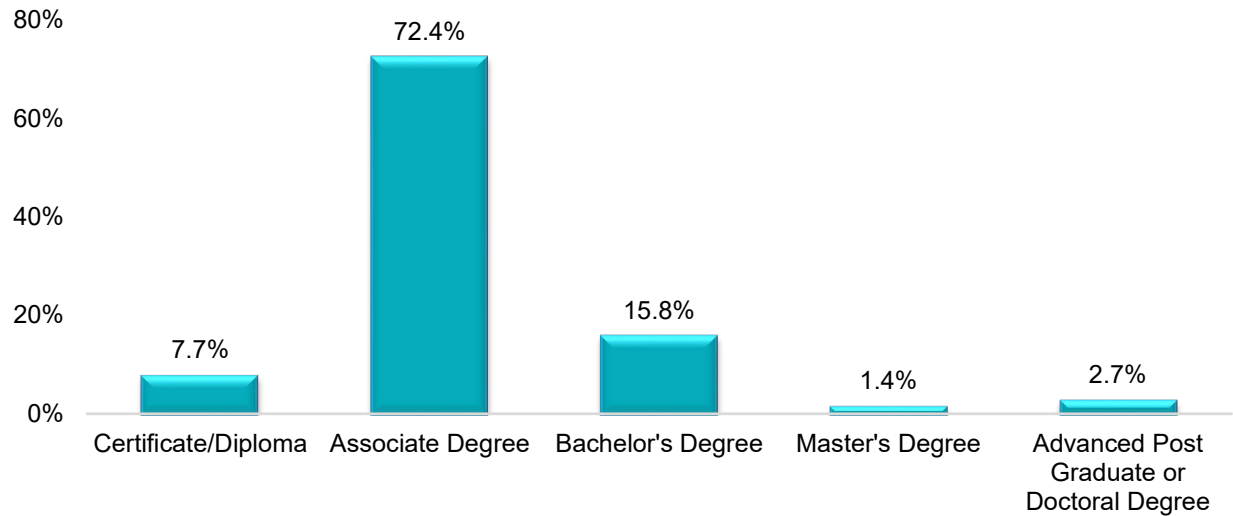
**Table 1. Additional Languages Spoken by Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida,
2021-2022**

Languages	Count	Percent
Arabic	129	0.8%
Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)	27	0.2%
Creole	107	0.7%
French	156	1%
German	57	0.3%
Hebrew	10	0.1%
Italian	67	0.4%
Japanese	10	0.1%
Korean	17	0.1%
Other African Language	8	0%
Other Asian Language	105	0.6%
Other European Language	107	0.7%
Other Middle Eastern Language	22	0.1%
Other Language (unspecified)	72	0.4%
Polish	31	0.2%
Portuguese	178	1.1%
Russian	129	0.8%
Spanish	3,376	20.6%
Tagalog	110	0.7%
Vietnamese	56	0.3%

Nearly a third of dental hygienists, (29.2%), spoke another language in addition to English. Table 1 identifies these languages, with Spanish being the most common second language, followed by Portuguese.

Professional Education

Figure 3. Distribution of Highest Dental Hygiene Degree Among Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022



Of the 14,221 overall respondents, 72.4% reported having an associate degree as their highest dental hygiene degree (Figure 5). The second and third most common degrees were bachelor's degrees (15.8%) and certificates/diplomas (7.7%). Half of the dental hygienists (50.7%) were credentialed in Florida to provide local anesthesia, 39.5% were not credentialed, and 9.8% planned to become credentialed. The remainder of respondents indicated they did not hold a dental hygiene degree.

Figure 4. Program of Graduation Among Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022

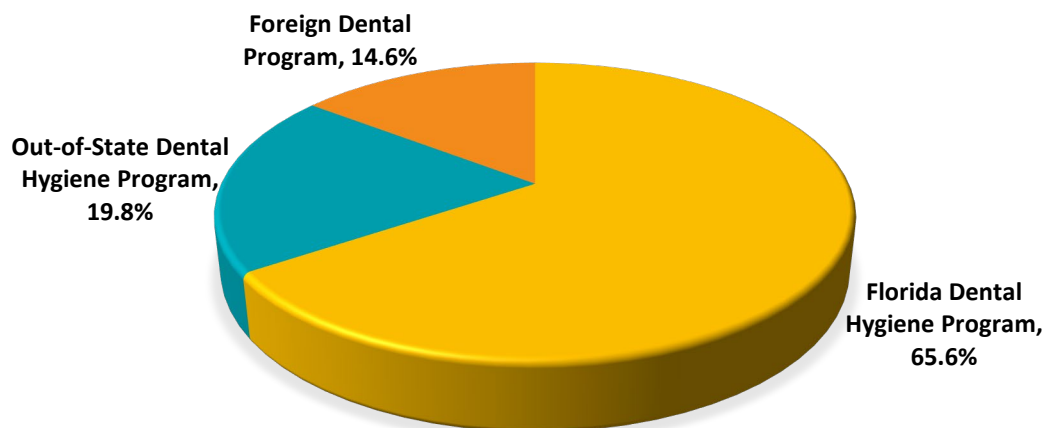
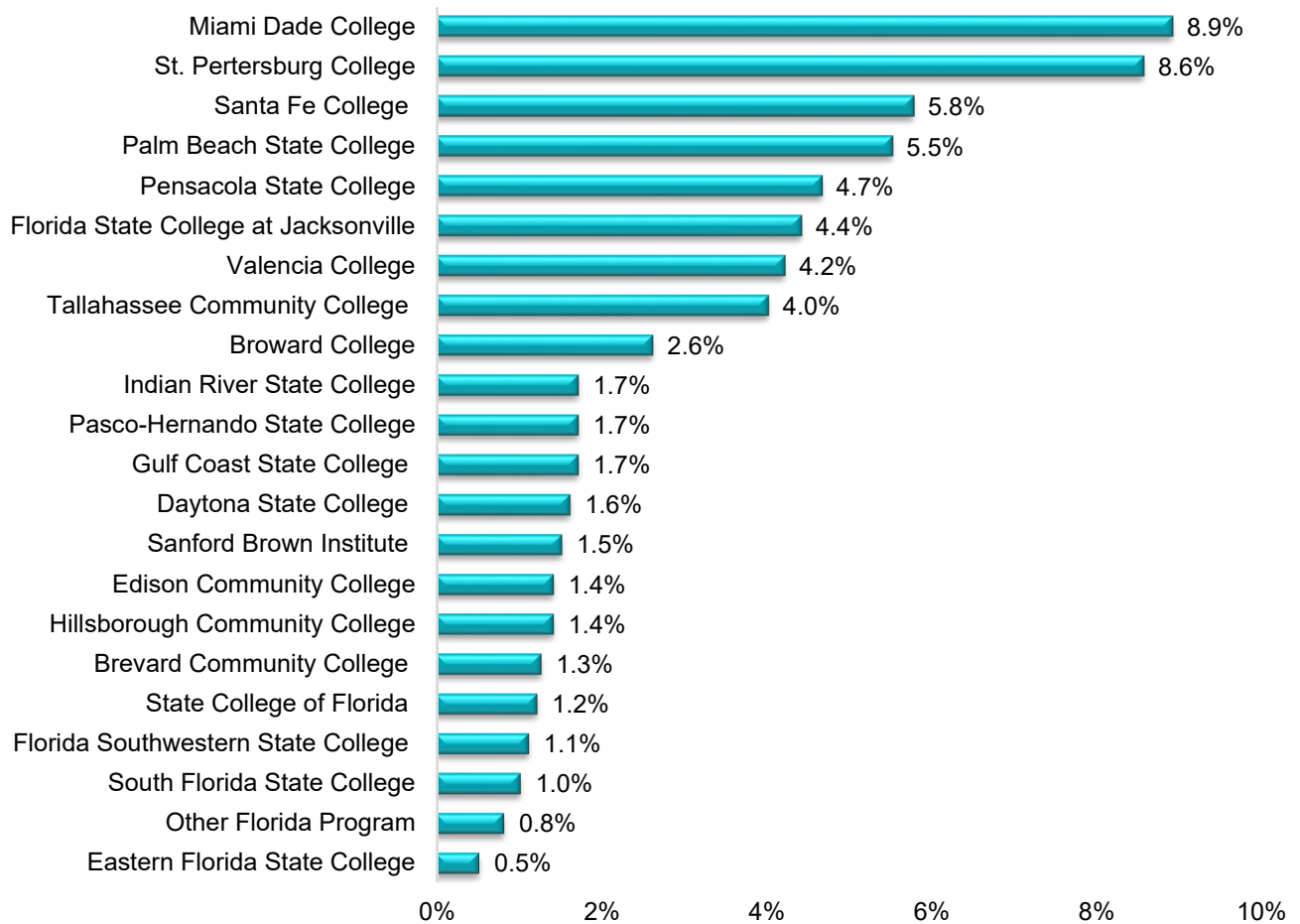


Figure 6 portrays the type of dental hygiene program where respondents received their dental hygiene training. Over 65.6% trained at a Florida dental hygiene school; 19.8% trained at an out-of-state dental hygiene program; and 14.6% trained at a foreign dental program.

Figure 5. Distribution of Dental Hygienists by Dental Hygiene School of Graduation in Florida, 2021–2022



Respondents reported graduating from more than 21 Florida dental hygiene programs. Graduates of Miami Dade College, St. Petersburg College, and Santa Fe College made up a quarter (23.3%) of respondents (Figure 7). These schools were followed by Palm Beach State College (5.5%), Pensacola State College (4.7%), and Florida State College in Jacksonville (4.4%). Among the respondents, only a small percentage (0.2%) attended a dental hygiene college program in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory. In contrast, a notable (14.2%) attended an out-of-country (foreign) dental school, while a smaller percentage (0.8%) attended an out-of-country (foreign) dental hygiene college program. Meanwhile, (20.3%) of respondents attended a U.S. dental hygiene college program in a state different from their current residence.

Practice Characteristics

Figure 6. Number of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by County, 2021–2022

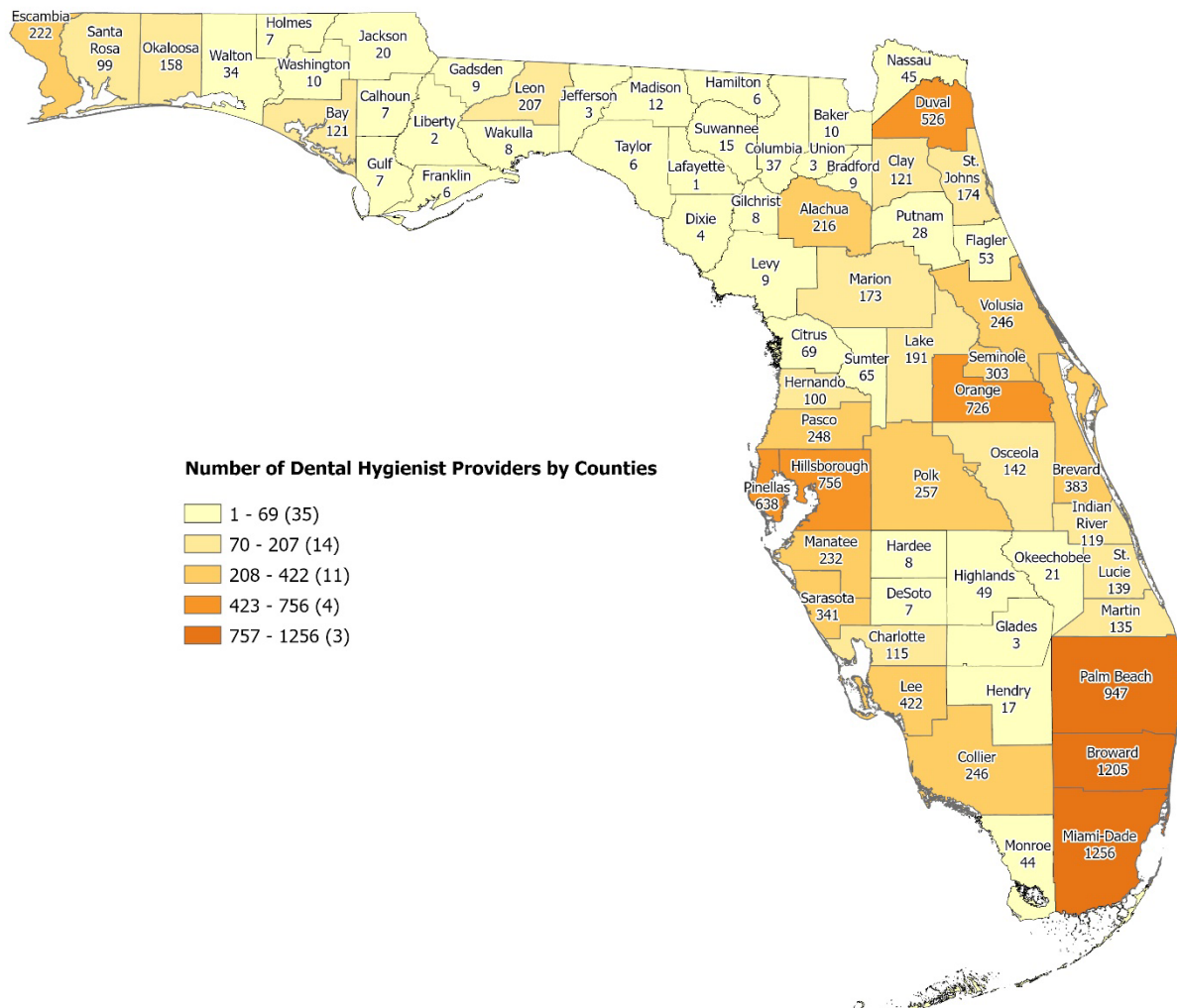
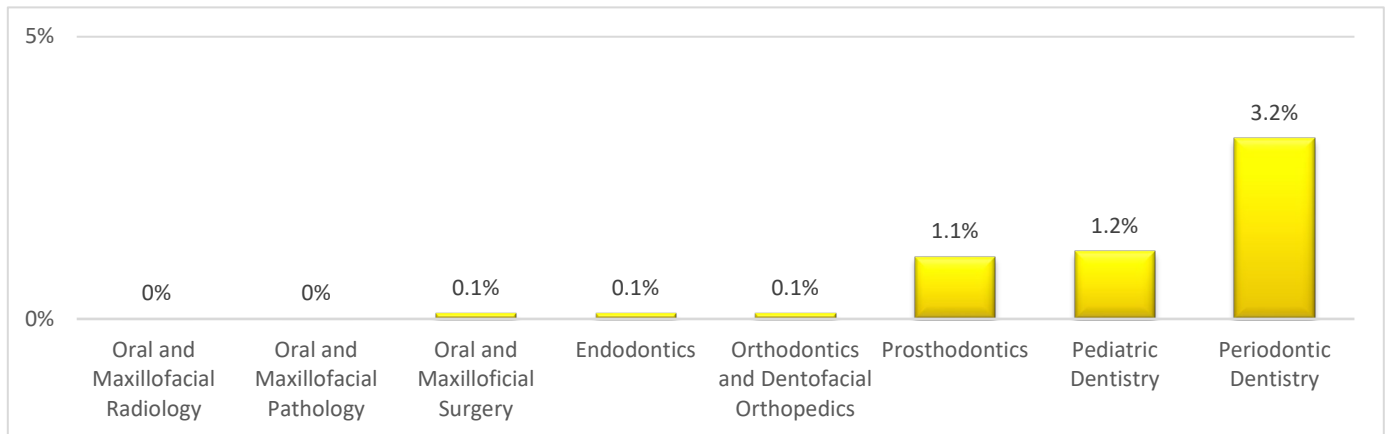


Figure 8 shows the distribution of dental hygienists practicing in Florida by county. The counties with the most practicing dental hygienists were Miami-Dade (1,256), Broward (1,205), Palm Beach (947), Hillsborough (756), and Orange (726). The counties with the least practicing dental hygienists were Lafayette (1), Liberty (2), Jefferson (3), Union (3), Glades (3), and Dixie (4).

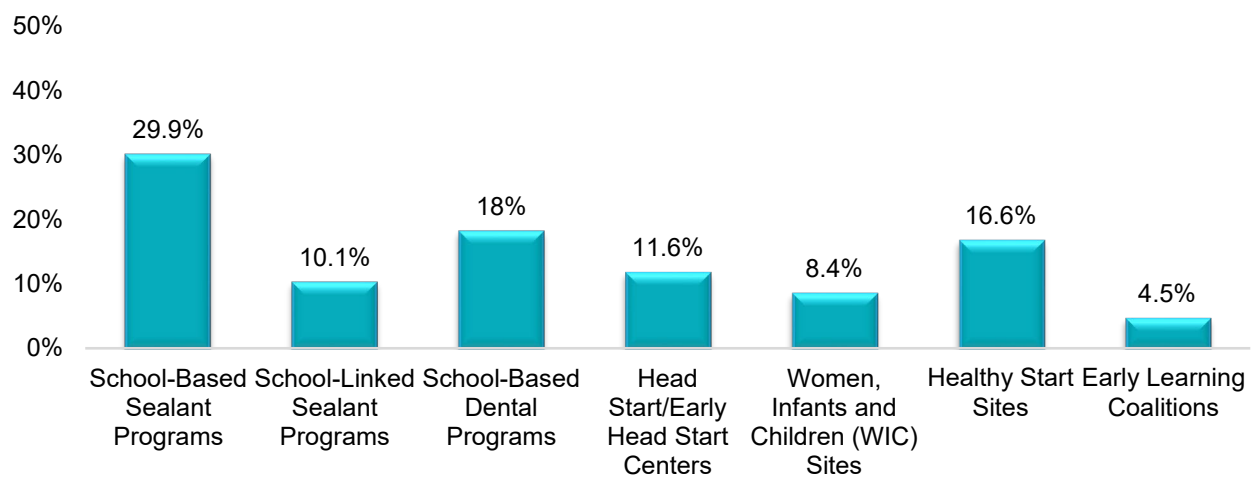
Note: Dental hygienists may select multiple counties of practice.

Figure 7. Dental Practice Specialties Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



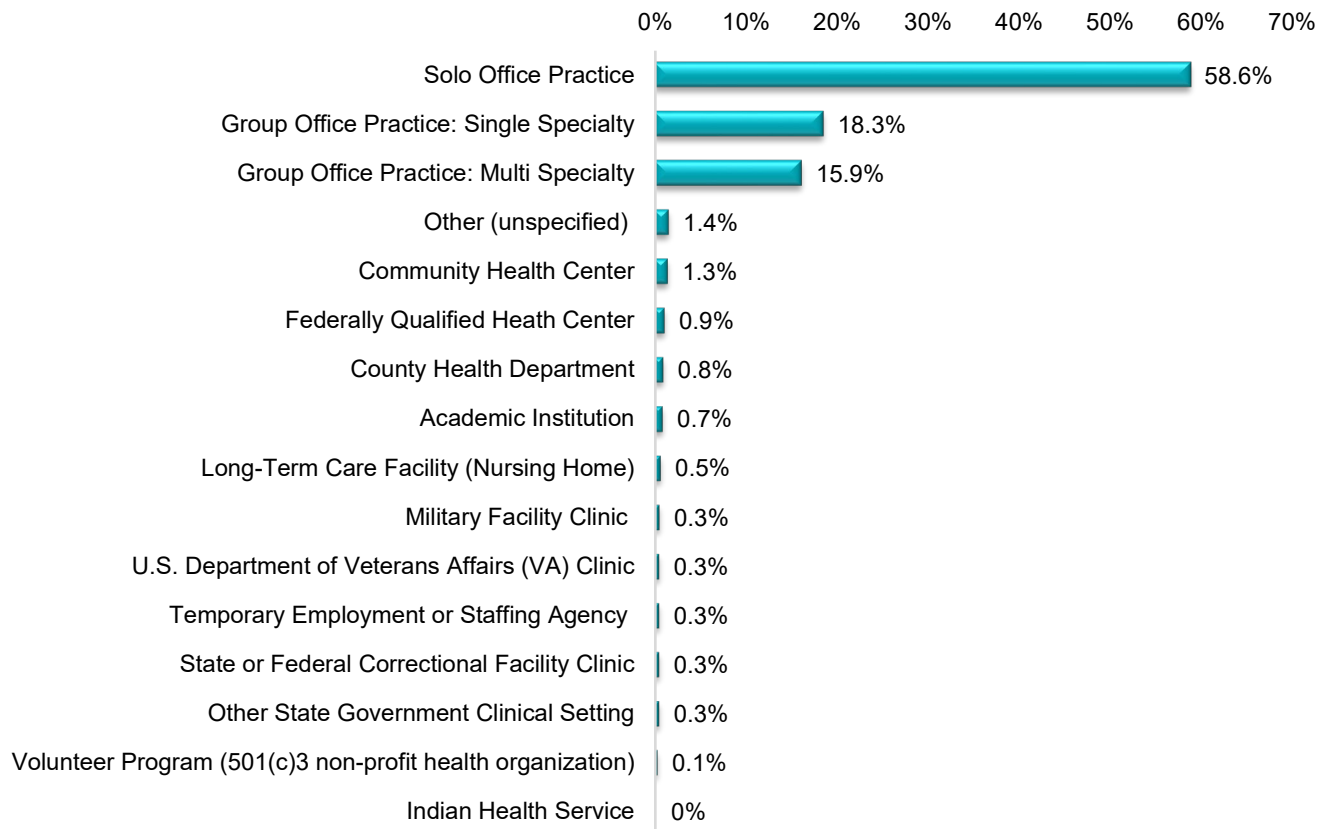
The majority (90.3%) of dental hygienists practiced in general private or public health practice, while 5.8% reported their practice type as specialty. The remaining 3% reported as neither general nor specialty practice. Among respondents who reported their practice type as specialty, Figure 9 portrays the distribution of the dental hygiene practice specialties. Specialties with the three greatest number of hygienists were periodontic dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and prosthodontics.

Figure 8. Distribution of Dental Services Provided in Health Access Settings Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



Among dental hygienists practicing in Florida who provided services in a health access setting, most were in school settings: 29.9% in school-based sealant programs and 18% in school-based dental programs (Figure 10). 16.6% of respondents provided services in Healthy Start sites; 11.6% of respondents provided services in Head Start/Early Head Start centers; and 10.1% in school-linked sealant programs (services provided in conjunction with the school but at another site).

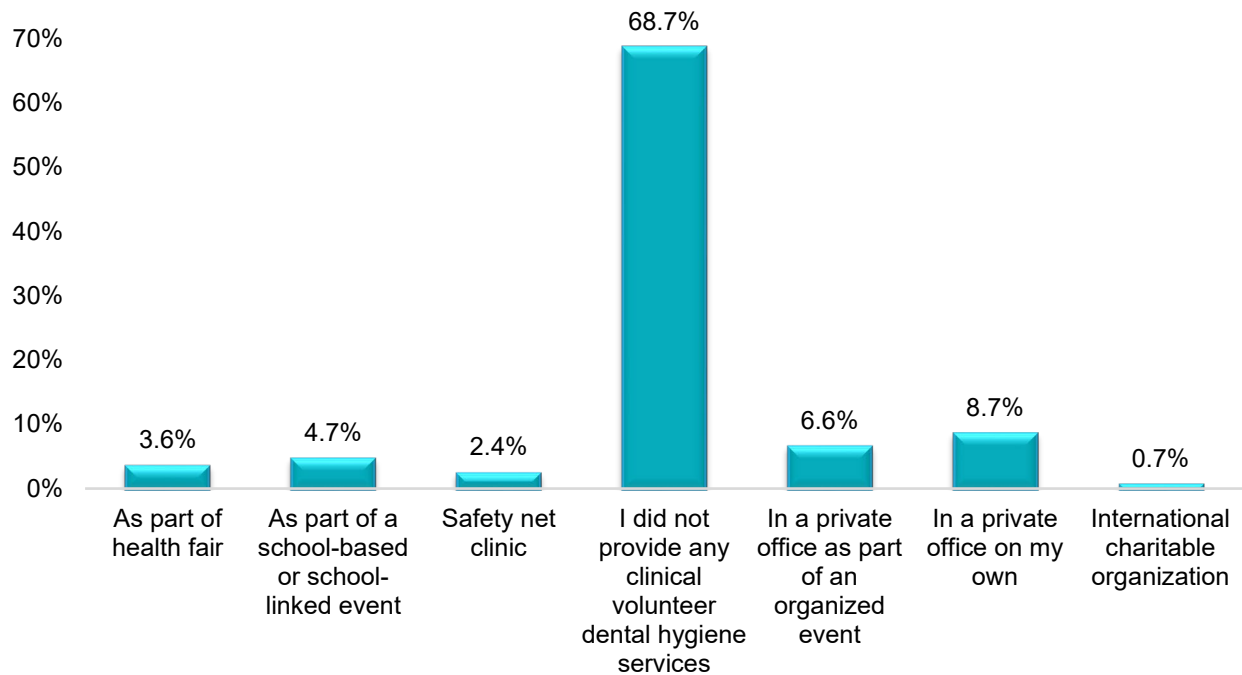
Figure 9. Dental Hygienists in Current Primary Practice Settings, 2021-2022



Most Florida dental hygienists (92.8%) 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 3.2% represent dental hygienists working at facilities such as correctional facilities, military facilities, Veterans Affairs clinics, Indian Health Services, and other facilities (Figure 11).

The majority (76.2%) of dental hygienists worked for one employer or in one practice setting; 23.8% worked for more than one employer or in more than one practice setting. 95% of respondents reported they did not have a Medicaid provider number; 2% responded they are planning to apply for a Medicaid provider number; and only 3% replied yes for having a Medicaid provider number.

Figure 10. Settings for the Provision of Clinical Volunteer Dental Hygiene Services by Dental Hygienists, 2021-2022



As shown in Figure 12, dental hygienists most typically performed volunteer work at school events (4.7%), health fairs (3.6%), and safety net clinics (2.4%). Dental hygienists who were employed in private practice settings reported providing volunteer services most frequently in the private office on their own (8.7%), or at an organized event in a private office setting (6.6%). Overall, 68.7% responded they did not provide any volunteer hygiene services. The remaining mentioned other (unspecified) in the survey.

Figure 11. Difficulties Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida Experience in Finding a Position as a Dental Hygienist, 2021–2022

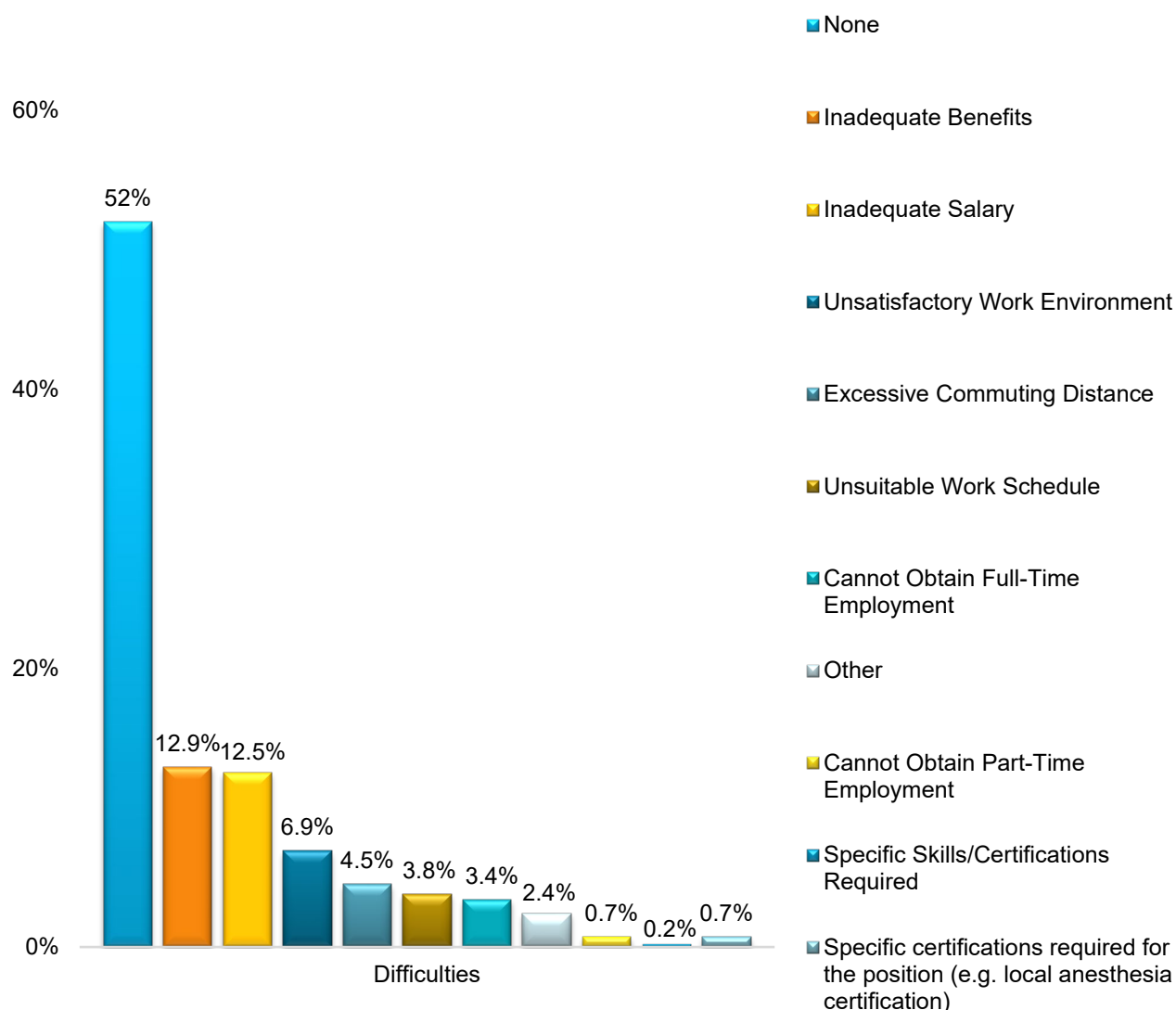
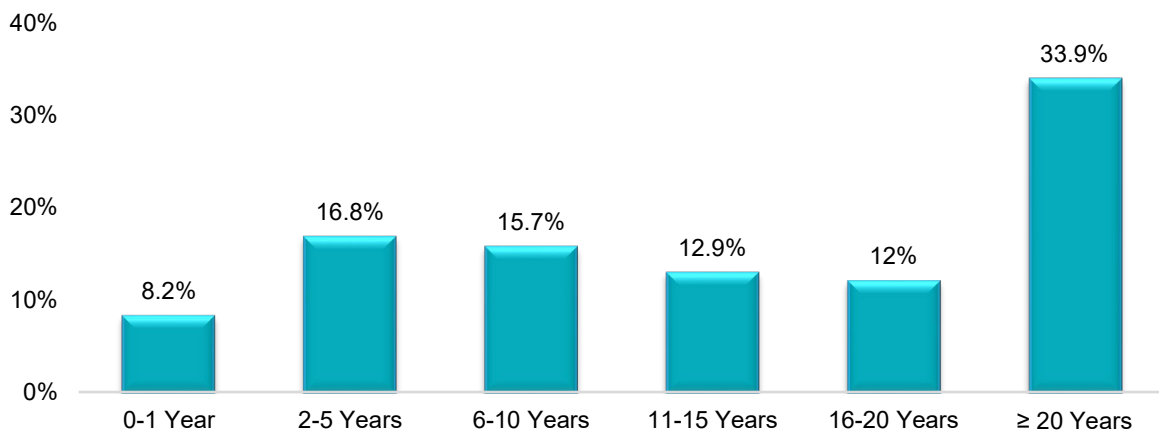


Figure 13 displays the difficulties respondents experienced when searching for a dental hygienist position. Although 52% of respondents reported experiencing no difficulty in finding a dental hygienist position, dental hygienists who experienced difficulties included inadequate benefits (12.9%) and inadequate salary (12.5%). Those who indicated they could not obtain full-time employment in the field were (3.4%). Others reported employment difficulties that included unsatisfactory work environment (6.9%), excessive commuting distance (4.5%), and an unsuitable work schedule (3.8%). Only (0.7%) of dental hygienists reported they were unable to obtain part-time employment in their profession.

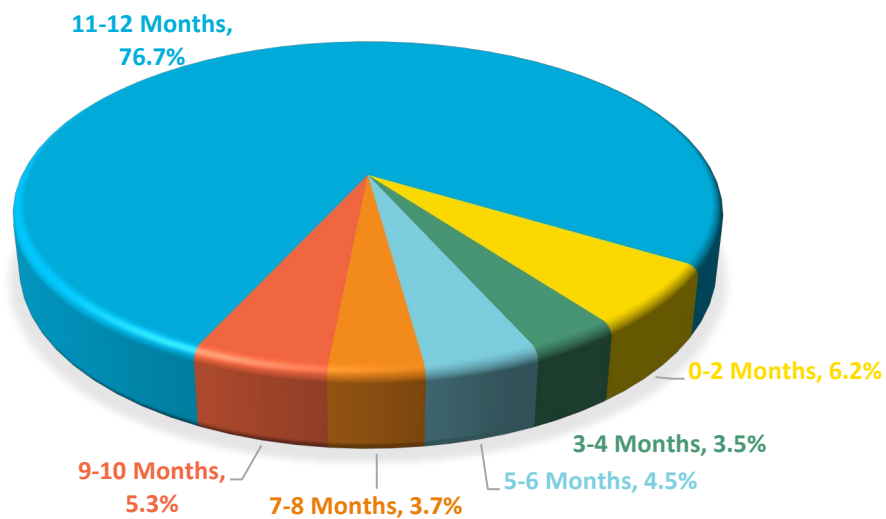
Productivity

Figure 12. Number of Years of Practice Among Florida's Dental Hygienists, 2021–2022



About 33.9% of Florida's dental hygienists reported they have more than 20 years of practice and 25% of respondents had less than six years of practice (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Number of Practice Months in the Past Year Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



Approximately 76.7% of the Florida's dental hygienists worked between 11 to 12 months in the year prior to completing the survey (Figure 15).

Figure 14. Distribution of Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida by Hours of Practice per Week, 2021-2022

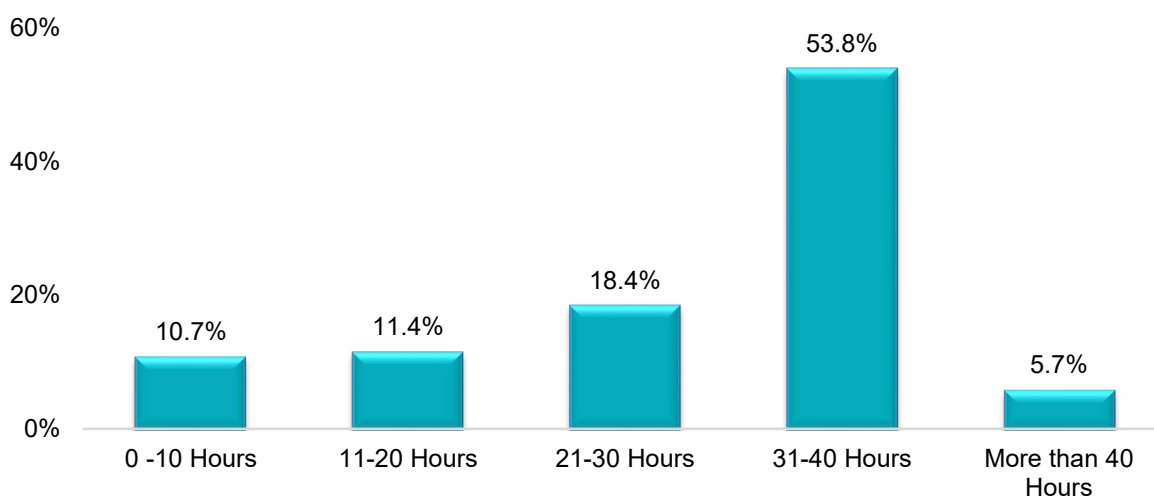
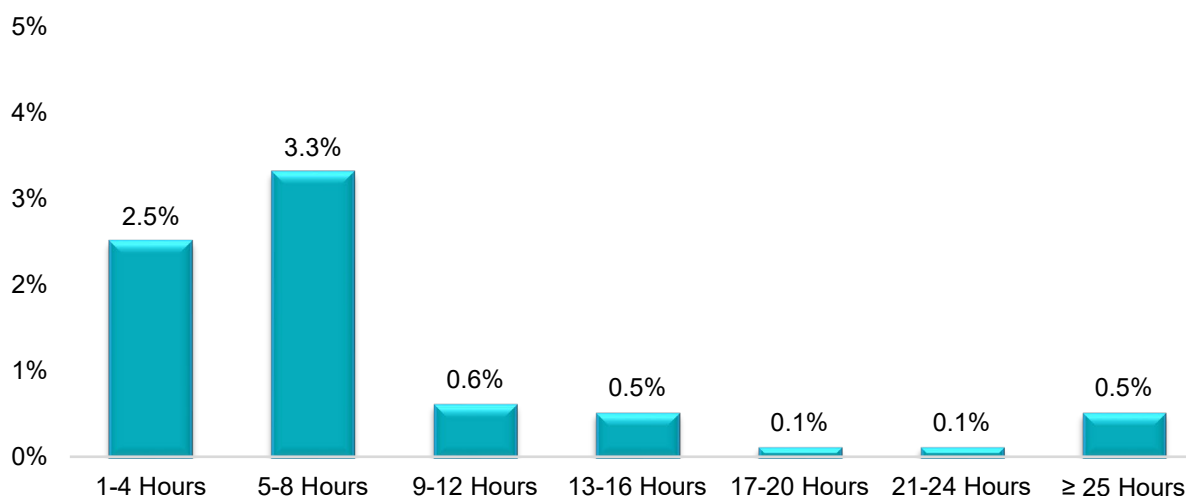


Figure 16 displays the distribution of respondents by the number of hours they worked in each week. Approximately 53.8% worked 31–40 hours weekly, while only 5.7% worked more than 40 hours. Approximately 40.5% practiced dental hygiene part-time (less than 31 hours per week), including 22.1% who worked 20 hours per week or less.

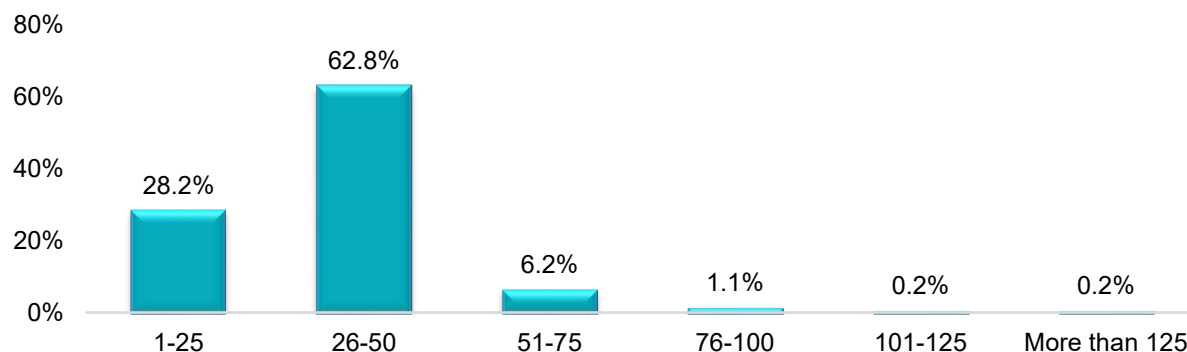
Figure 15. Distribution of Additional Hours of Work per Week Sought by Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



Of the dental hygienists in Florida, 92.4% reported they were not seeking additional employment. Of the survey respondents who indicated they were seeking additional work hours, 2.5% were seeking 1–4 hours per week, and 3.3% were seeking 5–8 additional hours per week.

Approximately 0.6% were seeking 21 or more additional work hours per week (Figure 17). The remainder of the respondents answered no to the question.

Figure 16. Average Number of Patient Encounters per Week Among Dental Hygienists Practicing in Florida, 2021–2022



About 28.2% of dental hygienist respondents had under 26 encounters per week (Figure 18). Most respondents (62.8%) indicated, on average, they had 26–50 patient encounters per week. Only 0.2% of dental hygienists had more than 125 encounters per week. The remainder are under the not applicable category.

Retention and Attrition

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Florida Dental Hygienists Who Plan to End Their Practice in the Next Five Years, 2021–2022

Demographic	Percent
Gender	
Female	86.8%
Male	8.6%
Age Group	
Less than 50 Years	64%
50-59 Years	24.5%
60-69 Years	10.7%
70 Years and Older	0.8%

Overall, 17.1% of respondents reported that they planned to stop practicing dental hygiene in Florida within the next five years, including 11.6% who plan to retire from clinical dental hygiene. Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics among dental hygienists planning to stop practicing in Florida within the next five years. Most of these dental hygienists were female (86.8%) and less than 50 years old (64%).

Licensed Dental Hygienists Not Practicing in Florida

Most survey respondents with an active Florida license reported practicing in Florida (78%). Among those not currently practicing in Florida (3,119), the most common reasons for not using their Florida license to practice in Florida were currently practicing in another state (34.8%), other not specified (22.6%), and employed or self-employed in a job unrelated to dental hygiene (14.1%). Of dental hygienist respondents with an active license not practicing in Florida, 80.6% stated that they plan to relocate to Florida sometime in the future.

Conclusions

The Department is committed to measuring, reviewing, and evaluating 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 and community partners with information regarding the clinical practice, geographic location, and scope of practice for Florida hygienists. Continued refinement, evaluation, and reporting of this 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&URL=0400-0499/0466/Sections/0466.023.html

Section 466.024, Florida Statutes. *Delegation of duties; expanded functions*. Available at: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0466/Sections/0466.024.html

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

Appendix A: 2021-2022 Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey

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
- a. More than 50 hours

☐ 10b. County 2: (select county from drop down menu with all 67 Florida counties)

10bb. Hours for County 2:

- f. 1–10 hours
- g. 11–20 hours
- h. 21–30 hours
- i. 31–40 hours
- j. 41–50 hours
- k. 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: Prosthodontics
- j. Private Practice Administrative Services
- k. Public Health Administrative Services
- l. 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
- b. No

Thank you for completing the Dental Hygienists Workforce Survey.