



Virginia Department of

# Healthcare Workforce Data Center Digest

Occupational Surveys / Trend Reports / Regional & State Careforce Snapshots  
for and about Virginia's Healthcare Workforce

June 2021 – Dental Hygienist

This edition of the digital digest spotlights the workforce habits and preferences of dental hygienists. Licensees of the Board of Dentistry, employers, job seekers and students will find this issue of interest.



### Median Income

In 2021, the median income for Virginia's dental hygienists was \$60k - \$70k.

### Benefits

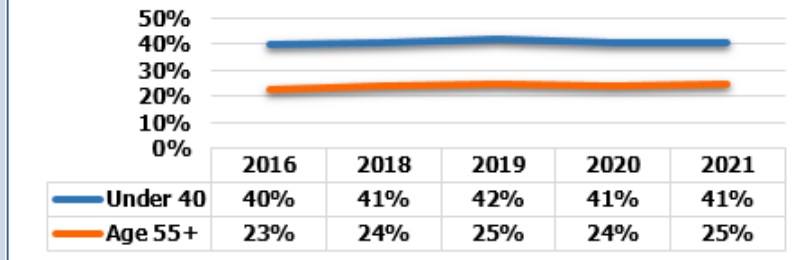
Fifty-one percent of those licensed received retirement benefits and 68% received paid vacation leave.

### Dental Hygienist

In 2021, there were 6,092 [Dental Hygienists](#) in Virginia. Of that number, 5,070 were in the workforce and produced 3,047 FTEs. This workforce was 98% female and the median age of all dental hygienists was 44.

Eighty-eight percent of the workforce was employed, with 56% holding one full-time job. 94% of dental hygienists reported being satisfied with their employment situation.

### Percent of Dental Hygienists in the Workforce



Ninety-four percent of all dental hygienists work in the for-profit sector, including 71% that work at a solo-practice.

Thirty-three percent of all dental hygienists work in Northern Virginia, 24% in Hampton Roads and 18% in Central Virginia.

Eighty-one percent of all dental hygienists receive an hourly wage at their primary work location.

Fifty-six percent hold one full-time job, and 51% work between 30 and 39 hours per week.

### Trends 2016-2021

- The number of licensed dental hygienists in Virginia has increased by 6% from 5,727 in 2016 to 6,092 in 2021.
- The median annual income has increased from \$50k-\$60k to \$60k-\$70k.
- The dental hygienist workforce has become more diverse. The diversity index has risen from 33% in 2016 to 38% in 2021.

Additional HWDC [Dental Hygienist](#) workforce reports may be found on our website.

## HWDC PRODUCTS

01. [WORKFORCE SPECIFIC PROFESSION REPORTS](#)

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The Roadmap contains useful information for guidance counselors, educators, job seekers and more.

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Email: [hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov) Telephone: (804) 597-4213