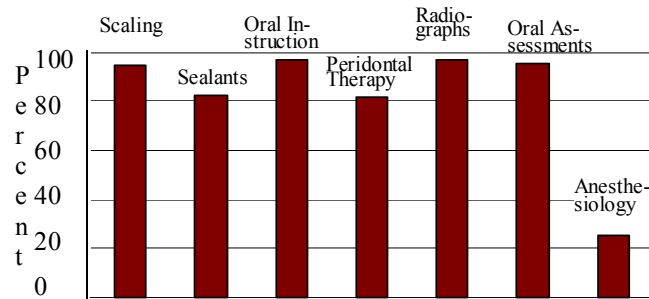


# REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Practice, Education and Benefits: 2004

- ➔ Of the 739 hygienists working in Maine, 90% of the actively practicing hygienists are employed in a private dental office.
- ➔ Twenty percent (145) have utilized Public Health Supervision Status, which allows registered hygienists to practice in a non-traditional setting.
- ➔ Scaling, radiographs, oral assessments, and oral instruction are provided by nearly all hygienists. More than 75% also provide sealants and periodontic therapy. Only 25% report administering anesthesia as a patient care service.
- ➔ If the scope of practice for dental hygienists were changed to include expanded functions such as placement of fillings, 568 (77%) report that they would be interested in adding expanded functions to their practice.
- ➔ Sixty-six percent (424) of hygienists report earning an hourly rate of \$24.00 or more per hour. Of these, 71 report that their hourly rate of pay exceeds \$30.00 per hour.
- ➔ Over 80% of the hygienists report that they get paid vacation, free or reduced dental care for themselves and continuing education benefits.

PERCENT OF PATIENT CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY HYGIENISTS MAINE, 2004



NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS BY EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED MAINE, 2004

Continuing Education Assistance	614	83%	Retirement Benefits	474	64%
Free/Reduced Dental for Self	607	82%	Paid Sick Leave	440	60%
Paid Vacation	603	82%	Medical Health Insurance	321	43%
Free/ Reduced Dental for Family	531	72%	Dental Health Insurance	100	14%

- ➔ Eighty one percent of active hygienists (600) received their education in Maine schools. Another 86 received their degrees from the remaining New England states.
- ➔ Most of the active hygienists (684) report having an associate's degree in dental hygiene. While 150 report multiple degrees, 543 indicate they have a solo dental hygiene associate's degree, 21 a solo dental hygiene bachelor's degree and 8 a dental hygiene certificate.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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