

Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) remove plaque, clean, and polish teeth using scaling instruments and an oral rotating polisher. They apply decay preventatives, chart medical and dental histories, take and develop dental x-ray films. RDHs screen patients, take medical history, and add information to the patient's chart.

## Projected Annual Job Openings per Year

Estimated Average Annual Job Openings Dental Hygienists			
Geographic Area (Estimated Year- Projected Year)	Jobs From Growth	Jobs Due to Net Replacements	Total Annual Job Openings
California (2012-2022)	510	560	1,060

Source: EDD/LMID [Projections of Employment by Occupation](#)

## Projections of Employment

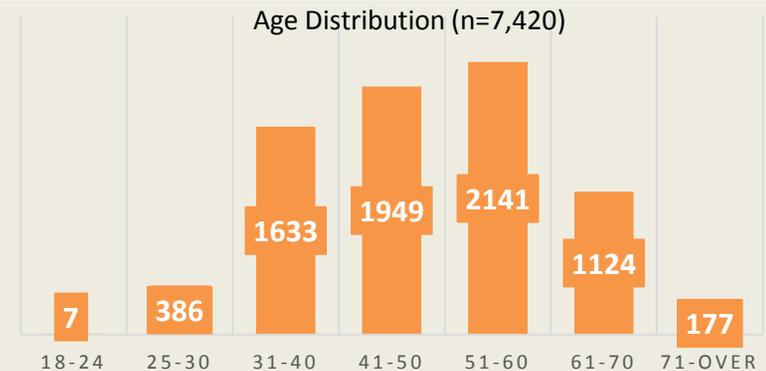
Estimated Employment and Projected Growth Dental Hygienists					
Geographic Area (Estimated Year- Projected Year)	Estimated Employment	Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Additional Openings Due to Net Replacements
California (2012-2022)	21,800	26,900	5,100	23.4	5,600

Source: EDD/LMID [Projections of Employment by Occupation](#)

## Age Distribution

As of June 2014, the age distribution for RDHs (statewide) is shown in the table below and in the graph to the right.

Age Distribution	18-24	25-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-over	Not Available
Provider Count	7	386	1633	1949	2141	1124	177	3



## Wages

Annual Wages for 2014	Low 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Median (50 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	High (75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)
California	\$83,750	\$100,312	\$112,827

Source: EDD/LMID [Occupational Employment Statistics Survey 2014](#). Wages do not reflect self-employment.

## Important tasks and related skills

- Clean calcareous deposits, accretions, stains from teeth, and beneath margins of gums using dental instruments
- Chart conditions of decay and disease for diagnosis and treatment by dentists
- Make impressions for study cast
- Remove excess cement from coronal surfaces of teeth
- Examine gums using probes to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease
- Provide clinical services and health education to improve and maintain oral health
- Expose and develop x-ray film
- Apply fluorides and other cavity preventing agents



<sup>1</sup>Source of Data: Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division Public Master File, June 2014. For the purposes of this Fact Sheet, currently licensed RDHs are defined as 'renewed and current'.