

**Occupational Profile
Dental Hygienists
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32908**

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
50	70	70	100
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
20	40	30	42.9
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
Yes	0:0	Yes	5:0
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$26.70	\$27.19	\$27.19	\$26.89

Job Description:

Dental Hygienists clean teeth and provide other preventive dental care, as well as teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene. Hygienists remove calculus, stains, and plaque from teeth; take and develop dental x-rays; and apply cavity preventive agents such as fluorides and pit and fissure sealants. Dental Hygienists use hand and rotary instruments, lasers, and ultrasonics to clean teeth; x-ray machines to take dental pictures; syringes with needles to administer local anesthetics; and models of teeth to explain oral hygiene.

Average Education Required

Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree.

Related Occupations

Workers in other occupations supporting health practitioners in an office setting include dental assistants, ophthalmic medical assistants, podiatric medical assistants, office nurses, medical assistants, physician assistants, physical therapist assistants, and occupational therapy assistants.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8020	Offices & Clinics Of Dentists	94.9%
8010	Offices & Clinics Of Medical Doctors	1.1%

Skills Required

- Problem Identification -- Identifying the nature of problems
- Reading Comprehension -- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Judgment and Decision Making -- Weighing the relative costs and benefits of a potential action
- Speaking -- Talking to others to effectively convey information
- Equipment Selection -- Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job
- Science -- Using scientific methods to solve problems
- Critical Thinking -- Using logic and analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches
- Information Organization -- Finding ways to structure or classify multiple pieces of information
- Operation and Control -- Controlling operations of equipment or systems