

Missouri Dental Hygienists 2024 Facts



Missouri
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION



- Licensed and regulated by the Missouri Dental Board
- Licensure includes graduation from an accredited program, with didactic, clinical and jurisprudence exams



- Education is generally 3 years in length (includes prerequisites)
- 84 hours for an associate degree
- 118 hours for a bachelor's degree
- 3016 clock hours with 681 supervised preclinical/clinical hours of instruction



- There are currently six dental hygiene programs in Missouri
- Missouri has lost four dental hygiene program sites in the last few years due to lack of funding. Questions? Email us: info@missouridha.org

Dental Hygienists Perform Preventive and Therapeutic Oral Health Services

- Preliminary clinical exams of teeth and oral tissues
- Radiographs (x-rays)
- Oral health education
- Fillings with additional education
- Scaling and polishing of teeth
- Sealant placement
- Local anesthesia
- Identification and treatment of gum disease
- Fluoride application
- Nitrous oxide administration

- 99 out of 114 Missouri counties are designated as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs)
- As of November 2023, the Missouri Dental Board data indicates there are 3574 dental hygienists, 2642 general dentists and 584 specialists with an active license and a Missouri address
- With a dentist exam, hygienists can work without the dentist present up to one year
- Dental hygienists could be a part of the solution to the oral health crisis in Missouri if allowed to work to the full scope of practice and if burdensome supervision restrictions are removed.

MDHA supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Bills (SB778-Eslinger and HB2075-Coleman) to increase licensure portability and the Fluoridation Education Bill (HB1621-Justus)