

REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Data are from the
MAINE COOPERATIVE HEALTH MANPOWER RESOURCE SYSTEM: 2004

- ➔ In 2004, there were 739 registered dental hygienists practicing in Maine. This resulted in a statewide ratio of 1 hygienist for every 1,752 residents¹.
- ➔ Cumberland County had a hygienist to population ratio that was significantly lower than the state's ratio; while Somerset and York Counties, had rates that were significantly higher than the statewide ratio.

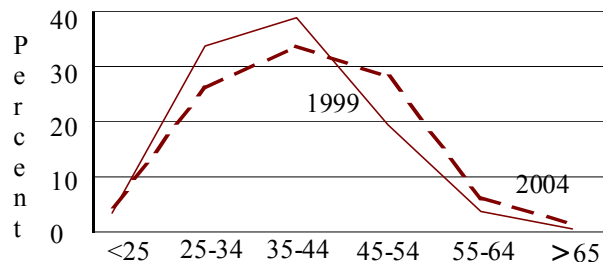
DENTAL HYGIENIST TO POPULATION BY RANK ORDER OF COUNTY: 2004

Cumberland	1:1112	Piscataquis	1:2150
Hancock	1:1454	Franklin	1:2474
Penobscot	1:1521	Waldo	1:2509
Kennebec	1:1598	York	1:2715
Knox	1:1687	Aroostook	1:2812
Sagadahoc	1:1799	Oxford	1:3089
Lincoln	1:1811	Washington	1:3340
Androscoggin	1:2015	Somerset	1:3398

- ➔ On average, hygienists worked 28 hours a week with nearly all hours (27) spent in direct patient care. Piscataquis County hygienists averaged the most hours with 32 hours a week; Waldo County hygienists averaged the fewest with 24 hours per week.

- ➔ Although 93% of hygienists report they were satisfied overall with their current employment situation, only about 80% said they were happy with the number of hours they worked per week. Twelve percent reported they worked too many hours and nearly 6% reported they worked too few.

ACTIVE REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS
AGE COMPARISON, 1999 AND 2004



- ➔ In 1999, more than 75% of hygienists were under 45 years old compared to 64% in 2004. The group between the ages of 45-54 increased from 19% to 28% during the same 5 year period.

- ➔ Eighty hygienists were not currently working in the profession. Nearly 38% (30) of the inactive hygienists were working in another field and not seeking work as a hygienist. Another 23% (18) were not working due to household responsibilities.

- ➔ Other reasons cited for not working were: retired (7), working in another profession and seeking work as a hygienist (7), unemployed (5), and unknown(13).

Notes: A significant difference in ratios mean that the difference between them could not be accounted for by chance alone.

¹ Ratio is based on 2002 population estimates, Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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Visit our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

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Number 1

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Series 13

DENTAL HYGIENISTS
MAINE 2004

FACT SHEET-