DENTAL HYGIENE

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through 2021, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater utilization of hygienists to perform services previously performed by dentists. Job prospects are expected to be excellent. Population growth, greater retention of natural teeth and a growing focus on preventative dental care will stimulate demand that demand. Older dentists, who have been less likely to employ dental hygienists, are leaving the occupation and will be replaced by recent graduates, who are more likely to employ multiple hygienists to perform preventive dental care, such as cleaning, so dentist’s can perform more complex procedures.

Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2016, dental hygienists held an estimated 1,340 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 1,500 projected by 2021 (+11.9%).

**State:** Dental hygienists held an estimated 2,026 jobs in Kansas in 2016, with 2,286 jobs projected by 2021 (+12.8%). Altogether, 260 openings are anticipated due to growth and the need for replacements.

**National:** Dental hygienists held 211,561 jobs in 2016, with 229,385 jobs projected by 2021 (+8.4%). Approximately 17,824 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Dental hygienists employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $34.68 in 2016.

**State:** Dental hygienists in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $33.32 in 2016.

**National:** Dental hygienists working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $36.11 in 2016.

**JCCC Placement and Salary Information**

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. One-hundred percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a related field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $32.64.

September 2017
Note: Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.