



Supply of Practicing Dental Hygienists in Illinois

Overview and Background Facts:

Approximately 280 dental hygienists are graduating on a yearly basis from the thirteen (13) dental hygiene programs currently open in Illinois.

The Illinois Division of Professional Regulation website reports that, as of May 2006, there were 6,766 licensed hygienists compared to 6,013 in September 2002. That is an increase of 12.5% in less than 4 years.

In 2001, ISDS conducted a survey to determine and analyze the availability of the dental hygiene workforce. It found that 54.5% of hygienists work full-time (30 hours or more). The average hours worked per week was 27.9. Only 34 out of the 438 would like additional hours (less than 8%). Of those that are practicing part-time, only 7% want additional hours.

The Illinois Division of Professional Regulation confirmed these same workforce statistics in a census that they conducted in 2004.

Comments:

In localized areas, near dental hygiene programs, there may appear to be an oversupply of dental hygienists as a portion of recent graduating classes may not be fully employed, but that appears to be because some do not wish to relocate or even seek employment out of their home town.

ISDS Position Statement:

The current 13 dental hygiene programs in Illinois will create a sufficient and ongoing supply of dental hygienists to meet the needs of its residents statewide. Although a sufficient supply currently exists in the state, in some areas served by a dental hygiene program, a local oversupply may occur.