



Dental Assistants and Supragingival Scaling

Perspectives from patients and the profession

Many states are exploring allowing dental assistants to perform supragingival scaling, sometimes called an Oral Preventive Assistant. This is an important conversation and perspectives from all involved are needed.

To gather more perspectives, the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) conducted research to capture essential insights from dental assistants and patients.

Patient Perspectives

Patients recognized the importance of routine cleanings and expected their provider to have education and credentials.

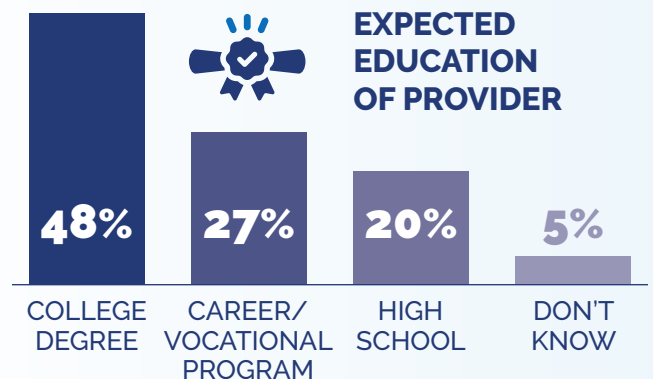
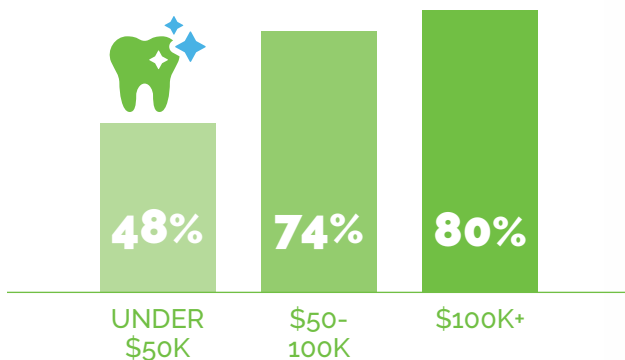
74% SAID ROUTINE CLEANINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

65%

HAD A ROUTINE TEETH CLEANING WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



PATIENTS WITH HIGHER HOUSEHOLD INCOME WERE MORE LIKE TO RECEIVE A ROUTINE TEETH CLEANING



4 OUT OF 5 PATIENTS SAID IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR PROVIDERS TO HAVE HANDS-ON CLINICAL TRAINING AND HOLD A LICENSE, REGISTRATION OR CERTIFICATION

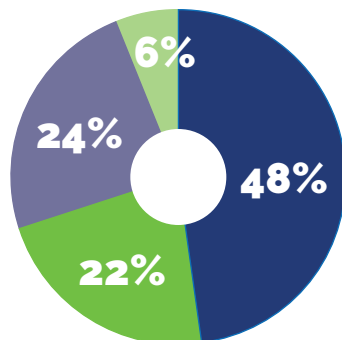


Dental Assistant Perspectives

Dental assistants were mixed in their support and interest of performing supragingival scaling, but expressed the need for qualifications and receiving increased compensation.

65%

**AWARE THAT SOME STATES
ARE LOOKING TO ALLOW
ASSISTANTS TO PERFORM
SUPRAGINGIVAL SCALING**



SUPPORT OF NEW ROLE

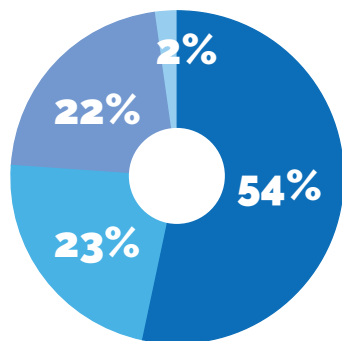
- Fully support
- Somewhat support
- Do not support
- No opinion

**PAY AS TOP
CONSIDERATION**

\$35

**PER HOUR =
FAIR PAY**

(NATIONAL MEDIAN)



INTEREST IN NEW ROLE, IF ALLOWED

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Already qualified

IMPORTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Dental assistants expressed very strong support for training, education, and credentials.



ABOUT THE SURVEY

The patient survey was conducted in July 2026 by Big Village Surveys, an online consumer omnibus survey. More than 1,000 adults responded, representing a variety of demographics. This survey sample size is sufficient to generalize the results to the U.S. adult population.

The dental assistant survey was conducted in conjunction with DANB's 2026 Dental Assistants Salary and Satisfaction Survey in April 2026. More than 1,500 dental assistants responded. This survey sample size is sufficient to generalize the results to the U.S. dental assistant population.