




# Summary Report

## Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice Laws

Dental hygienists are essential to the effective delivery of oral health care in the United States. State laws differ on whether hygienists may practice independently from dentists, what services hygienists may provide to patients and in what settings, and the extent of supervision by dentists that is required for hygienists to practice. Additional maps and tables are available by visiting [www.lawatlas.org](http://www.lawatlas.org).

	<p><b>Independent Practice Prohibited</b></p> <p>Fifteen jurisdictions expressly prohibit the independent practice of dental hygienists.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 15 (HI, IA, KY, LA, MD, NC, NH, NJ, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, VA, WV)</p>
	<p><b>Volunteer Hygienists</b></p> <p>Hygienists may provide services to patients as volunteers in 31 jurisdictions.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 31 (AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MN, MO, MT, NH, NM, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, UT, VA, VT, WI, WV, WY)</p>
	<p><b>Applying Fluoride</b></p> <p>Hygienists may perform fluoride treatments on patients in 43 jurisdictions.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 43 (AL, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV)</p>