

NATIONWIDE SURVEY ON Dental Hand Skills

How the Interstate Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact supports states in their mission to protect the public and meets citizen expectations.

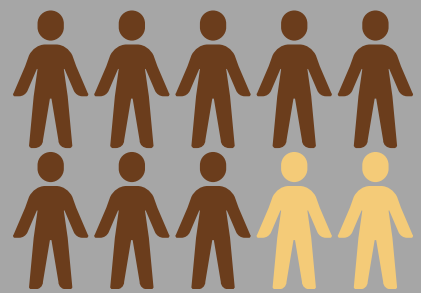
Patients expect the state has protections in place before they see an oral healthcare provider. Here's what they say about licensure standards that could affect their care.

PATIENTS WANT TO KNOW ORAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ARE COMPETENT

It is possible to know all about caring for the mouth, but hand skills exams prove that dentists and dental hygienists are skilled enough to provide care without doing harm.

Do you believe hand skills examinations are necessary to assess a dentist's ability to perform procedures safely?

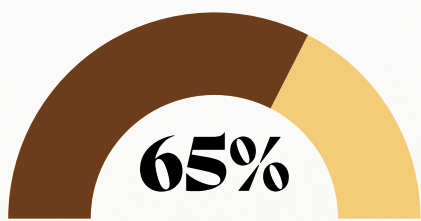
82% of respondents said "yes."



PATIENTS FEAR REDUCING CURRENT LICENSURE STANDARDS

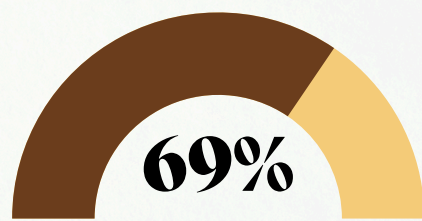
Each state handles its own processes and requirements for dental licensure. There are some common requirements across states, but state boards set requirements specific to the needs of their communities.

Is it okay to make it easier to get a license to practice?
Survey respondents were asked two questions:



Should dentists and dental hygienists licensed under weaker standards in other states be allowed to practice in your state?

65% of respondents said "no."



The current licensing standards of dental professionals in my state should be maintained and not reduced.

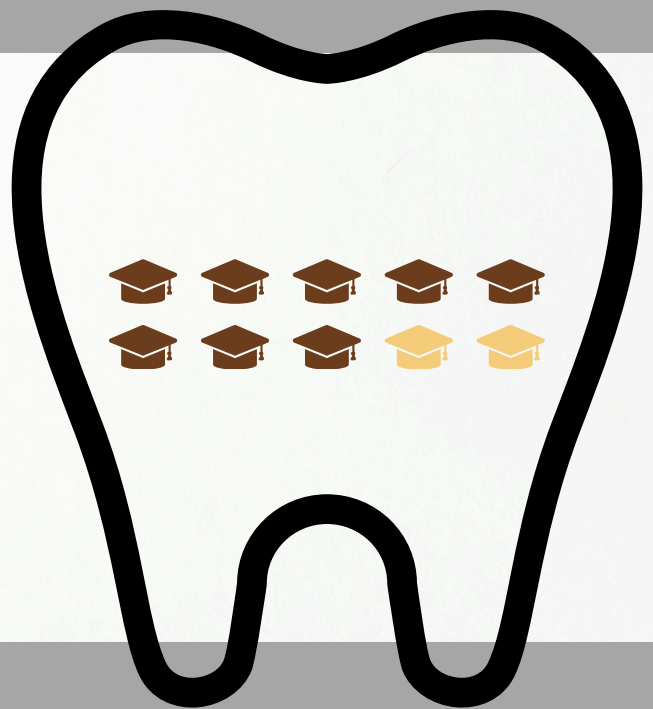
69% agree standards should not be lowered

PATIENTS BELIEVE EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT

Continuing education aims to ensure your dentist and dental hygienist stay up-to-date on practices and methodology.

Should providers be allowed to bypass state-specific continuing education requirements?

83% of respondents said "no."



ABOUT THE IDDLHC

The Interstate Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact was created by the **American Association of Dental Boards** to provide a means of improving professional mobility while retaining licensure standards nationwide.



About the survey

Data represented reflects a survey of 1,863 Americans polled between 12/30/2024 and 1/9/2025.

This survey was conducted by Marketing for Change, a Virginia-based organization whose research has shown foundations, state and federal agencies, insurers, and large nonprofits what forces to leverage to create change in the areas of public health, healthcare, sustainability, and culture change.