

FACT SHEET

About the California Dental Hygienists' Association

HISTORY

The California Dental Hygienists' Association has rich history of representing the state's dental hygienists and advancing the profession in California:

- Celebrating its 20th Anniversary, the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA) was formed in 1985 after 35 years apart as separate southern and northern associations representing hygienists. This decision to unite established a single, unified voice for dental hygienists in California.
- As the official voice for the profession, CDHA's mission is to advance the art and science of dental hygiene by increasing awareness of the cost effective benefits of prevention and ensuring access to quality oral health care; promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research; and promoting the interests of dental hygienists.
- The organization has thousands of members in the following 25 "components" or chapters throughout the state: Central Coast, East Bay, Kern County, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Mt. Diablo, Napa-Solano, Orange County, Peninsula, Redwood, Sacramento Valley, San Diego County, San Fernando Valley, San Francisco, San Gabriel Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Six Rivers, Shasta, Tri-County, Valley Oaks, and Ventura County.
- In terms of governance, the CDHA Board of Trustees (composed of representatives from each of the 25 components and six elected officers) handles the administrative concerns of the association while the annual CDHA House of Delegates, with 150 certified delegates from across the state, is the policy making body of the organization.

BENEFITS

In addition to serving all dental hygienists, including non-members, CDHA provides its members and the dental hygiene profession at large with a wide range of services, including:

- Continuing Education Programs – CDHA is responsible for helping determine CE requirements and assisting hygienists to meet them.
- Regulatory Representation – CDHA actively monitors critical issues and represents the interests of the state's dental hygienists before the California Dental Board and the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA).
- Legislative Advocacy – During its rich history, CDHA has been successful in evoking important changes on behalf of the state's dental hygienists. We have worked to expand the scope of service, create more autonomy and allow dental hygienists to become licensed so they can reach underserved populations without requiring the direct supervision of a dentist.
- Community Public Health Outreach – CDHA and its members regularly participate in health fairs and other programs such as dental screenings and sealant clinics, intended to reach out to populations in need and increase awareness about dental hygiene.