

Dental Assistants

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Summary

- Dental assistant jobs are expected to increase by 13% through 2022 in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. **More than 3,400 total job openings or nearly 700 annual job openings** will be available over the five-year timeframe.
- The median hourly wage for dental assistants is **above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour** for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region.
- There appears to be an opportunity for program growth based on the average annual number of program completers for the selected community college program (**520 total average annual awards from community colleges and other educational institutions**), and the annual openings for dental assistants in the region (**687 annual job openings**).

Introduction

The occupation detailed in this report is listed below along with its corresponding definition/description, sample job titles, education and training requirements, as well as the community college educational attainment of current workers within this occupation:

Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Assist dentist, set up equipment, prepare patient for treatment, and keep records.

Sample job titles: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), Certified Registered Dental Assistant, Dental Assistant (DA), Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA), Expanded Function Dental Assistant, Oral Surgery Assistant, Orthodontic Assistant (Ortho Assistant), Orthodontic Technician, Registered Dental Assistant (RDA), Surgical Dental Assistant

Entry-Level Educational Requirement: Postsecondary nondegree award

Training Requirement: None

Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 61%

Job Opportunities

In 2017, there were nearly 4,900 dental assistant jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert region. Across the region, employment related to this occupation is expected to increase 13% through 2022. Employers will need to hire more than 3,400 workers over the next five years to fill new jobs and to backfill jobs that workers are leaving – including retirements. Exhibit 1 displays the projected growth for dental assistants in the region.

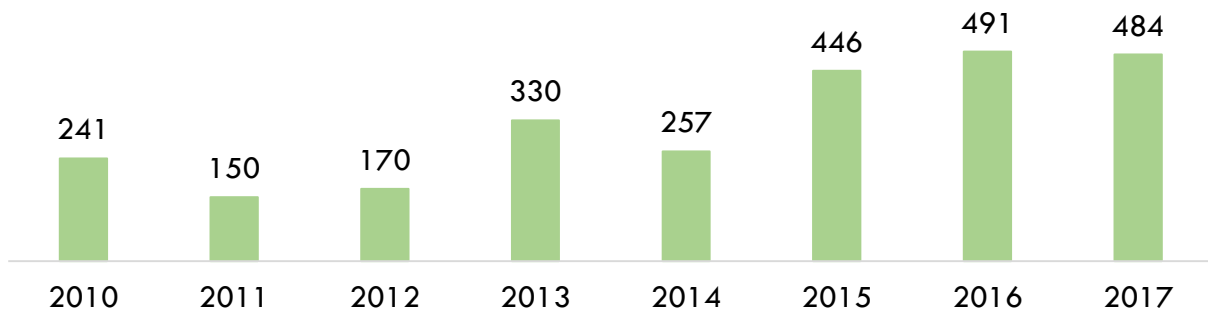
Exhibit 1: Five-year projections for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Region	2017 Jobs	5-Yr % Change (New Jobs)	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	% of workers age 55+
Inland Empire/Desert	4,866	13%	3,434	687	8%

Source: EMSI 2018.2

Over the last 12 months (May 2017 to April 2018), there were 398 advertisements (ads) for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. From 2010 to 2017, there was an annual average of 321 job ads per year (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Number of online job postings for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, 2010 to 2017



Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

The average time to fill for marketing occupations in the Inland Empire/Desert Region is about one week less than the nation as a whole. This indicates that it is relatively easier for an employer to find qualified candidates to fill their open positions. Exhibit 3 shows the number of job ads posted during the last 12 months along with the regional and national average time to fill.

Exhibit 3: Employer job ads and time to fill for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region during the last 12 months, May 2017 – April 2018

Occupation	Job Ads	Regional Average Time to Fill (Days)	National Average Time to Fill (Days)
Dental Assistants	398	39	46

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Earnings

The median wage for dental assistants is above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour, or \$25,584 annually for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. This wage is also sufficient for an adult living in a household with one other working adult and one child (\$14.50 per hour, per adult or \$30,160 annually for each adult). See Exhibit 4 for wage information.

Exhibit 4: Earnings for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupation	Entry to Experienced Hourly Earnings Range*	Median Wage*	Avg. Annual Earnings
Dental Assistants	\$11.84 to \$18.83	\$15.23	\$33,900

Source: EMSI 2018.2

*Entry Hourly is 25th percentile wage, the median is 50th percentile wage, experienced is 75th percentile wage.

Work Locations, Employers, Skills, Education, and Certifications

Exhibit 5 displays the top employers posting job ads as well as the top work locations from job ads during the last 12 months.

Exhibit 5: The top employers and work locations from employer job ads for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region during the last 12 months, May 2017 – April 2018

Occupation	Top Employers	Top Work Locations
Dental Assistants (n=315)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Dental Services Inc. Western Dental Services Inc. Smile Brands Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside Rancho Cucamonga Corona

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 6 lists the in-demand skills that employers are seeking when looking for workers to fill positions with dental assistants.

Exhibit 6: In-demand skills from employer job ads for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, May 2017 – Apr 2018

Occupation	Specialized skills	Soft skills	Software and Programming skills
Dental Assistants (n=370)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X-Rays Patient Preparation Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Starter Research English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ActiveX Dentrix Microsoft Office

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 7 displays the entry-level education level education typically required to enter this occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This chart also displays educational attainment for incumbent workers with “some college, no degree” and an “associate degree” according to the U.S. Census (2015-16) and the minimum advertised education requirement requested by employers in online job ads.

Exhibit 7: Educational attainment and online job ads with minimum advertised education requirements for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, May 2017 – Apr 2018

Occupations	Typical Entry-Level Education Requirement	Educational Attainment (Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework)	Minimum Advertised Education Requirement from Job Ads			
			Number of Job Postings (n=)	High school diploma or vocational training	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
Dental Assistants	Postsecondary nondegree award	61%	129	95%	5%	-

Source: EMSI 2018.2, Current Population Survey, Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 8 displays the top certifications required by employers posting job ads for dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Dental assistants require a certified dental assistant certification, which is issued by the Dental Assisting National Board.

Exhibit 8: Top certifications required for dental assistants by employers' job ads in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, May 2017 – Apr 2018

Occupation	Certifications
Dental Assistants (n=106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid CPR • Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Industry

Exhibit 9 displays the industries that employ dental assistants in the two-county region. Staffing patterns show the industries that hire the most workers of a specific occupation.

Exhibit 9: Top industries employing dental assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, May 2017 – Apr 2018

Occupation	Top Industries from Staffing Pattern (NAICS)	Industry Classification from Job Ads	
		Number of Job Postings (n=)	Top Industries from Job Ads (NAICS)
Dental Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offices of Dentists (6212) 90% 	384	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offices of Dentists (6212)

Source: EMSI 2018.2, Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Student Completions

Exhibit 10 shows the annual average regional community college awards (associate degrees and certificates) conferred during the three academic years between 2014 and 2017, with the relevant TOP code. Awards granted from other educational institutions from 2013 to 2016 are displayed in Exhibit 11, along with the relevant CIP code. Please note, an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening since a student may earn more than one award, such as an associate degree in addition to a certificate. Community College student outcome information is from the CTE LaunchBoard based on the selected TOP code and region.

Exhibit 10: Annual average community college student completions for dental assistant programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

1240.10 Dental Assistant	Annual Community College Headcount (2016-17)	Community College Annual Average Awards (2014-17)
Chaffey – Dental Assistant/Dental Assisting	36	
Associate Degree		4
Certificate 18 to < 30 semester units		17
Moreno Valley – Dental Assistant	22	
Associate Degree		3
Certificate 30 to < 60 semester units		13
Total CC Headcount (2016-17)	58	
Total annual average community college awards		37

Source: LaunchBoard, IPEDS, COCI

1240.10 - Dental Assistant program Strong Workforce outcomes in the Inland Empire/Desert Region in the academic year 2015-16:

- Number of course enrollments: 259 (academic year 2016-17)
- Employed in the second fiscal quarter after exit: 92%
- Median earnings in the second fiscal quarter after exit: \$4,150
- Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit: 84%
- The percentage in a job closely related to the field of study: 80% (academic year 2014-15)
- Median change in earnings: 100%
- The proportion of students who attained a living wage: 17%

Exhibit 11: Annual average other educational institutions student completions for dental assisting/assistant programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

51.0601 – Dental Assisting/Assistant (CIP)	Other Educational Institutions Annual Average Certificates or Other Credit Awards (2013-16)
American Career College-Ontario	
Award < 1 academic yr	83
Brightwood College-Palm Springs	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	45
Brightwood College-Riverside	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	27
Concorde Career College-San Bernardino	
Award < 1 academic yr	135
InterCoast Colleges-Riverside	
Award < 1 academic yr	2
Milan Institute-Palm Desert	
Award < 1 academic yr	26
Riverside County Office of Education-School of Career Education	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	52
Award < 1 academic yr	9
Summit College	
Award < 1 academic yr	33
UEI College-Riverside	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	45
United Education Institute-Ontario	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	27
Total annual average other awards	483

Source: IPEDS

Sources

O*Net Online
 Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
 Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)
 CTE LaunchBoard
 MIT Living Wage Calculator
 Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI, version 2.0)
 The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

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