Using data from the 2014-15 Survey of Dental Hygiene Education Programs, we examined student characteristics by type of sponsoring institution. Five different types of programs are compared, three of which are public (those at a University, Technical College, or Community/Junior College), and two of which are private (non-profit and for-profit).

### Average First-Year Capacity of Dental Hygiene Programs

The average capacity of first-year dental hygiene classes at public community colleges and technical colleges is roughly one half the capacity of private non-profit and for-profit institutions.

### Percentage of Dental Hygiene Programs That Require Prerequisite College Courses

Most dental hygiene programs at public and private non-profit institutions require prerequisite courses prior to entry in the program, while most private for-profit institutions do not mandate prerequisite courses.

### Average Length of Dental Hygiene Programs (in Weeks)

The average length of dental hygiene programs was slightly longer at private schools than at public institutions.

### Percentage of Applicants Accepted to Dental Hygiene Programs

Public community and junior colleges had the lowest acceptance rate of applicants to dental hygiene programs, while private, non-profit institutions had the highest acceptance rate.

### Number of Students per Faculty Member

Student to faculty ratios were identical for three types of programs, higher at private for-profit programs, and lowest at community and junior colleges.

For more information, contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.