



2020-2021 DENTAL ASSISTANTS SALARY AND SATISFACTION SURVEY

DENTAL ASSISTING NATIONAL BOARD

THE DANB CERTIFICATION ADVANTAGE

The latest results from DANB's Dental Assistants Salary and Satisfaction Survey show that earning and maintaining DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification brings a wealth of personal and professional advantages, including higher hourly wages.

**“HOLDING DANB CERTIFICATION
MAKES ME FEEL VERY PROUD.
IT SHOWS THAT I HAVE THE
KNOWLEDGE. I ALWAYS ENCOURAGE
OTHERS TO EARN CREDENTIALS
WHENEVER POSSIBLE.”**

DANB CDA CERTIFICANTS EARN MORE

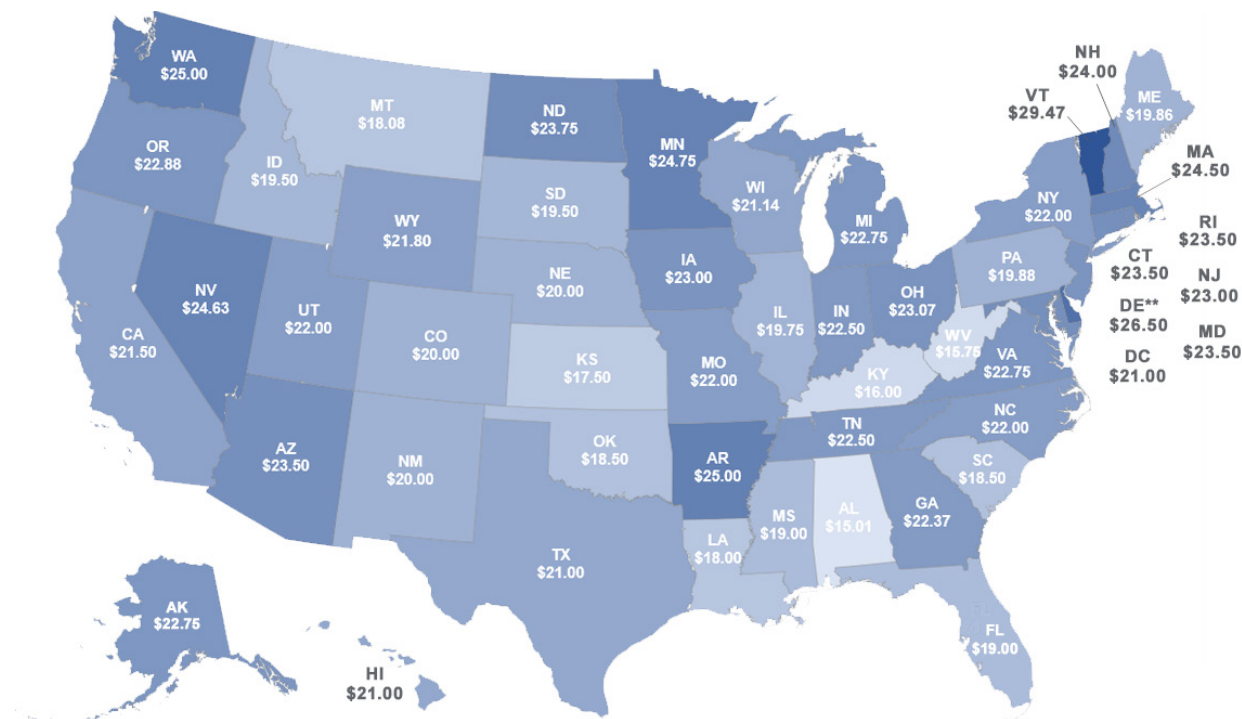
Surveyed DANB CDA certificants reported earning over \$2 more per hour compared to all dental assistants, most of whom are not DANB certified.

\$22.09

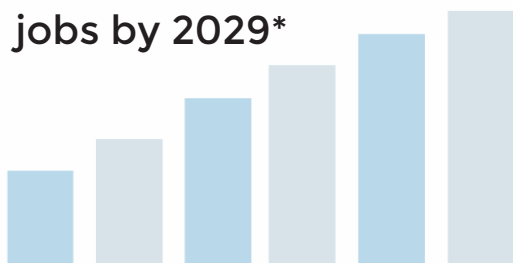
Median hourly pay for CDA certificants

\$19.80*

Median hourly pay for all dental assistants



7% expected increase in dental assisting jobs by 2029*



CAREER OUTLOOK

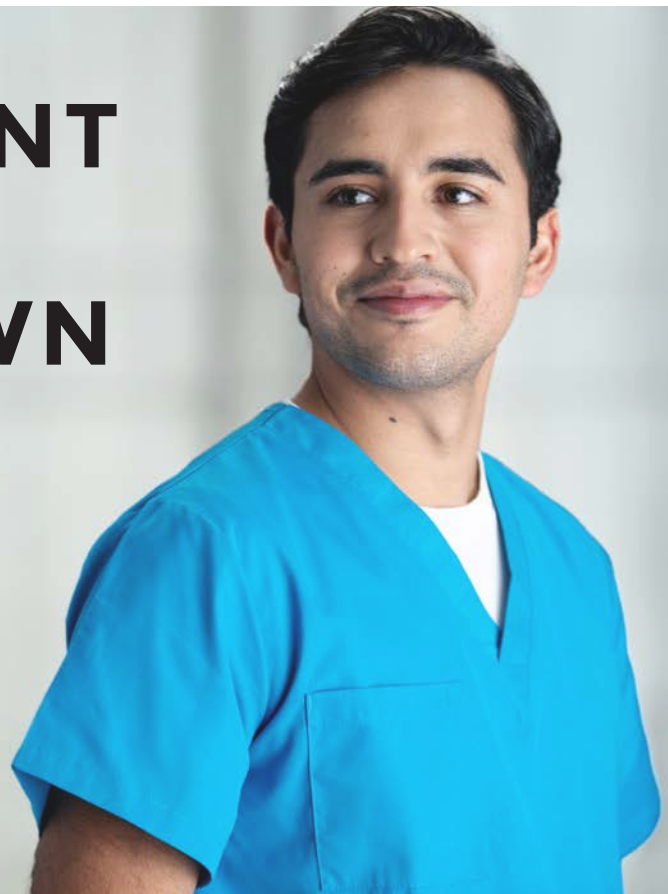
Dental assisting is a fast-growing profession, and DANB CDA certificants are positioned for success.

* Data is from the 2020 Occupational Outlook Handbook, published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Data from DE is from 2018 due to insufficient data collected from the 2020 survey.

CERTIFICANT SALARY BREAKDOWN

If you're a Certified Dental Assistant certificant, your salary may be the result of many factors, including years of experience, practice setting or location, and education. The charts below break down the median hourly wages DANB CDA certificants earn based on these various employment details.



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| <1 year | \$17.50 |
| 1-2 years | \$19.50 |
| 3-5 years | \$19.54 |
| 6-10 years | \$22.00 |
| 11-15 years | \$23.00 |
| 16-19 years | \$22.75 |
| 20+ years | \$24.00 |

EDUCATION

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| High school | \$23.00 |
| Some college | \$23.00 |
| Associate degree | \$22.50 |
| Bachelor's degree | \$21.25 |
| Master's degree | \$20.00 |
| Doctorate degree | \$29.21 |

LOCATION

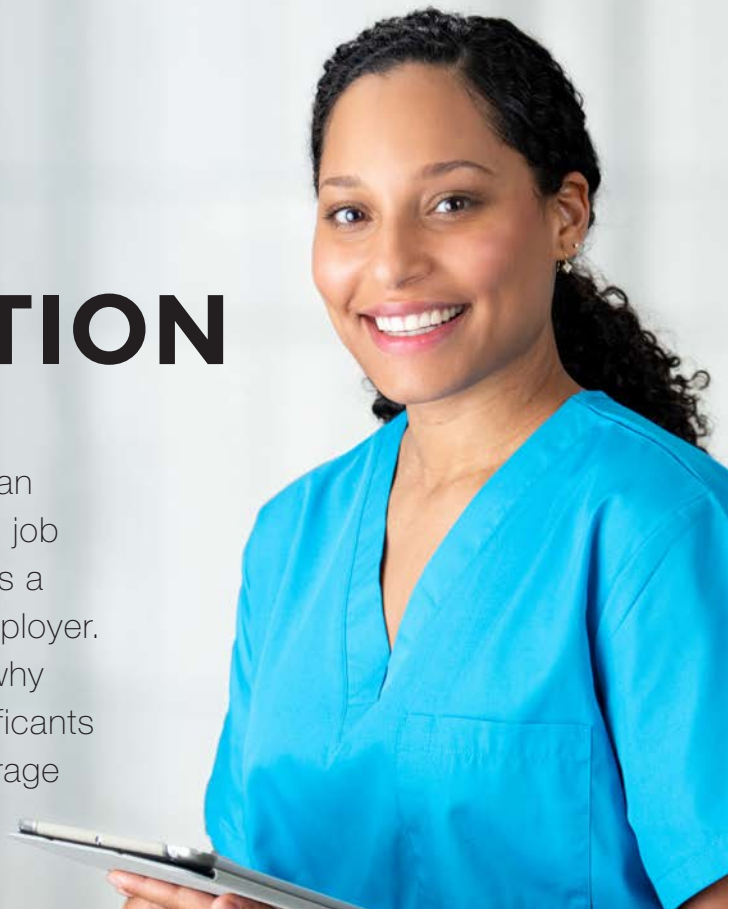
| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Rural area | \$22.00 |
| Town/city | \$22.00 |
| City/suburb | \$23.00 |
| Large city | \$23.00 |
| Metropolitan area | \$23.50 |

PRACTICE TYPE

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| General dentistry | \$22.50 |
| Pediatric | \$22.50 |
| Orthodontic | \$23.50 |
| Multi-specialty | \$22.00 |

BENEFITS OF DANB CERTIFICATION

DANB certificants were more likely than non-certified assistants to report high job satisfaction, to see dental assisting as a career, and to feel valued by their employer. These are just some of the reasons why DANB Certified Dental Assistant certificants maintain their certification and encourage others to earn it, as well.



★★★★★ TOP JOB FACTORS

- Salary
- Work/life balance
- Feeling part of a team

CERTIFICATION BENEFITS

- Pride
- Increased knowledge
- Standing out when applying for a job
- Higher pay
- Greater confidence

MOST REWARDING ASPECTS

- Making a difference in patients' lives
- Helping patients improve oral health
- Relationships with patients
- Gratitude from patients

“EVERY TIME A PATIENT SAYS THANK YOU, IT PUTS A SMILE ON MY FACE.”

JOB SATISFACTION

78% of CDA certificants report high or very high job satisfaction

84% of CDA certificants agree or strongly agree that dental assisting is a career

72% of CDA certificants say they feel valued by their employer

7.7 Average number of years CDA certificants have been with the same employer



DANB CDA CERTIFICANTS VALUE CERTIFICATION

91% of CDA certificants would encourage others to earn certification

99% of CDA certificants plan to renew their certification

60% of DANB CDA certificants said earning certification was a personal goal

OTHER BENEFITS

Certificants are more likely than non-certified assistants to receive benefits, such as:

- Paid vacation
- Paid holidays
- 401(k)/pension plan
- Health insurance
- Paid sick leave
- Bonuses

“EARNING CDA CERTIFICATION HELPED ME BECOME AN EFDA IN MY STATE. IT LED TO A HIGHER SALARY FOR ME, AS WELL.”

THE CDA CERTIFICATION DIFFERENCE



Dental assistants who hold DANB's CDA certification are educated and experienced professionals who are committed to the profession and passionate about lifelong learning.

EDUCATION

Hold an associate's degree or higher

44% of CDA certificants

27% of non-certified dental assistants

**“EARNING DANB
CERTIFICATION IS A
GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT
AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT.
GET IT!”**

EXPANDED FUNCTIONS

Hold a state-specific expanded functions credential

42% of CDA certificants

22% of non-certified dental assistants

PERFORM EXPANDED FUNCTIONS

63% of CDA certificants

37% of non-certified dental assistants



ABOUT THE SURVEY

DANB's 2020-2021 Dental Assistants Salary and Satisfaction Survey was conducted in November and December 2020. The findings in this report are based on a 15% total response rate from a stratified random sample of 6,000 CDA certificants. Survey researchers consider this response rate sufficient to generalize the results to the population surveyed.

Salary figures are reported as the median response (the median is the point in a data set at which about 50% of the responses fall above and 50% fall below). Salary figures are reported as hourly wages, without including the dollar value of any employee benefits.

DANB has conducted a salary survey every two years since 2004. The consistency of data over these years supports the conclusion that these results are representative of the population.

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