

The History of the Dental Hygiene Profession

1906



Dr. Alfred C. Fones trained Irene Newman as his apprentice, scaling and polishing teeth.

1913



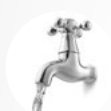
Alfred C. Fones opened the Fones School of Dental Hygiene in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

1923



The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) was founded.

1950-1951



The ADA endorses the U.S. Public Health Department's fluoridation policy.

1971



Pants are first offered as part of the dental hygienist's uniform.

1985



The week of September 15-21 was the first National Dental Hygiene Week.

1990



Dental hygienists are allowed to administer local anesthesia in 14 states.

2004



ADHA adopts a policy supporting the creation of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner credential.

2011



First class of Advanced Dental Therapists graduates from Metropolitan State University.

1909



Dr. E.L. Pettibone gave the first lecture in oral hygiene in a public school.

1917



Connecticut became the first state to pass dental hygiene licensure law. Irene Newman becomes the first licensed hygienist.

1940-1941



The ADHA recommends that dental hygiene applicants hold high school diplomas and study hygiene for 2 years.

1970



The first International Symposium on Dental Hygiene was held in Italy.

1980s



Hygienists no longer wear caps as part of their uniforms.

1986



ADHA advocates a baccalaureate degree as a minimum requirement for dental hygiene.

1993



National Center for Dental Hygiene Research is established.

2009



Minnesota passes the first law licensing Advanced Dental Therapists.

2017



45 out of 50 states in the United States allow hygienists to administer local anesthesia.