

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

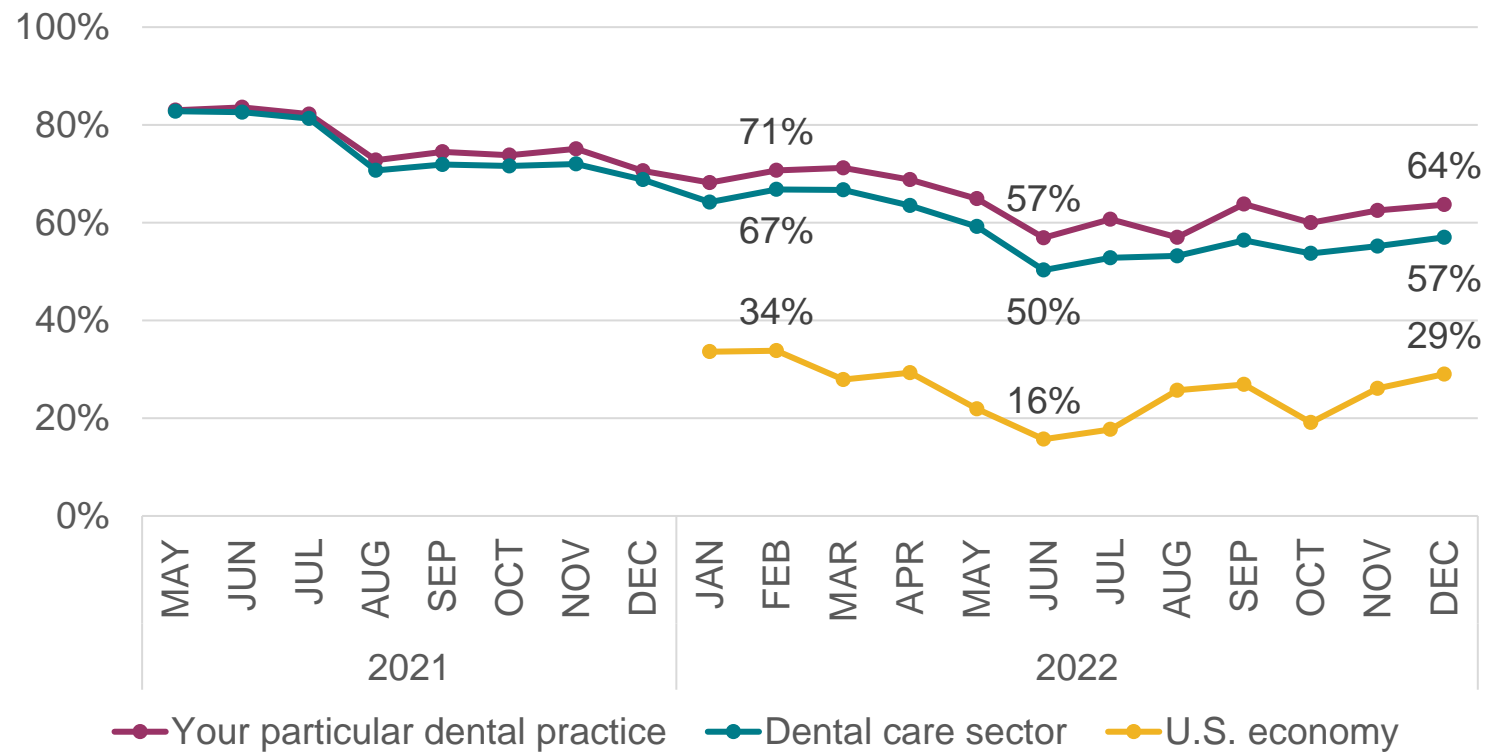
Insights from Data from December 2022

Emerging Issues Polling

- Goal of panel is to measure the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry.
- Over 3,000 dentists to-date have opted to participate; roughly 1,100 responded in the most recent wave.
- Data was collected December 6-11, 2022.
- Core measures include economic outlook, fullness of practice schedule, schedule barriers, recruitment needs and associated difficulty.
- Complete reports with breakdowns are available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

Economic Outlook

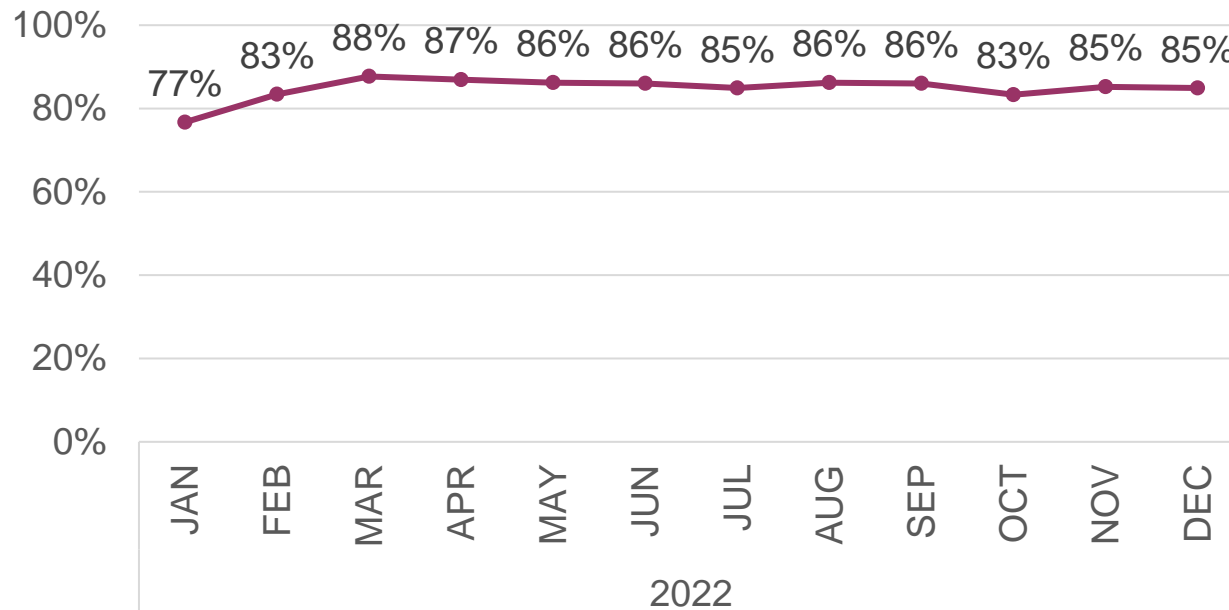
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following? (Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



Dentists' confidence in economic recovery continues to recover from a low point in June 2022.

Practice Schedules

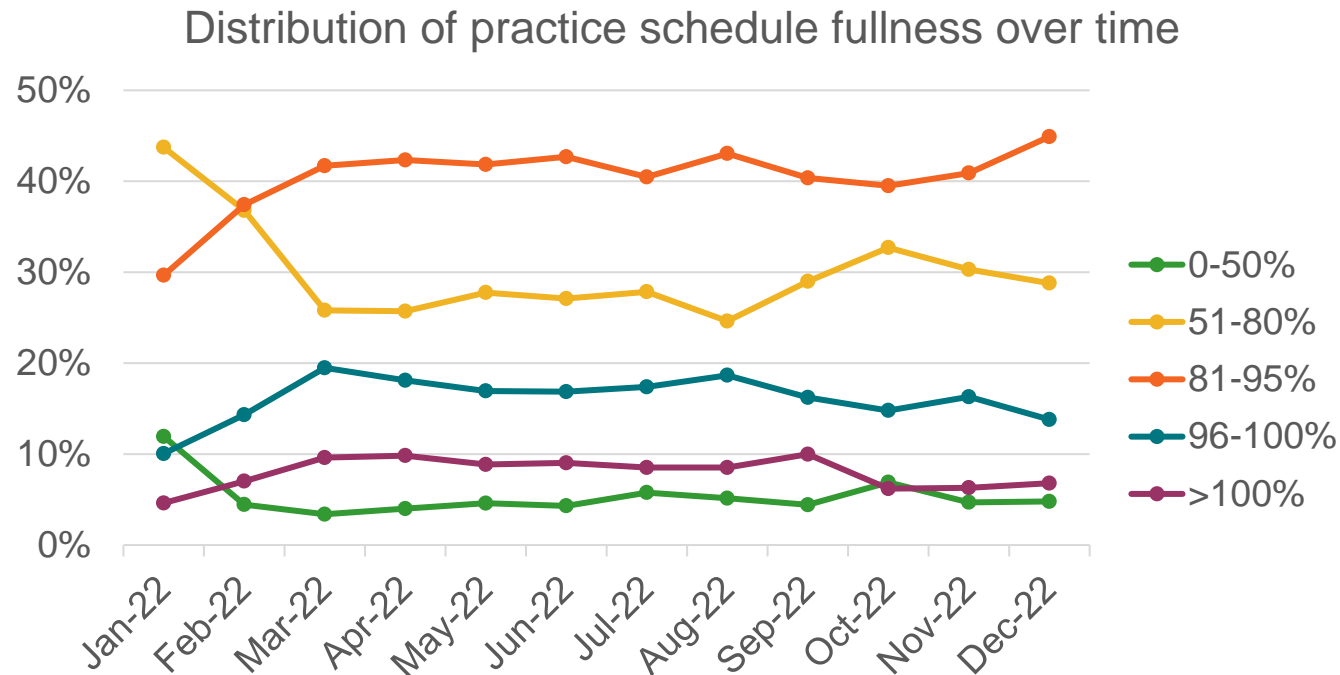
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



From November to December, dental practice schedules remained steady but still below a high point of 88% in March 2022..

Practice Schedules

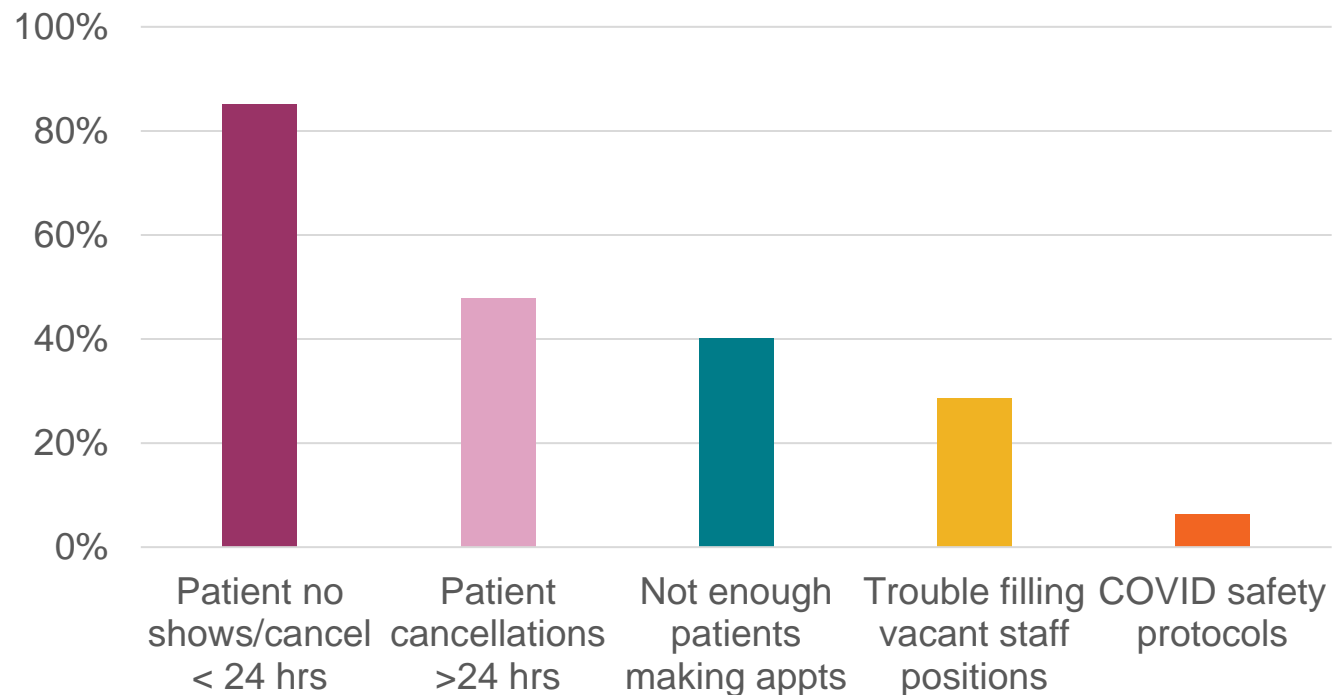
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In December 2022, the share of dentists with practice schedules that are nearly at capacity (96-100% full) decreased slightly. A larger share of dentists report their practices are seeing 81-95% of pre-pandemic capacity.

Scheduling Barriers

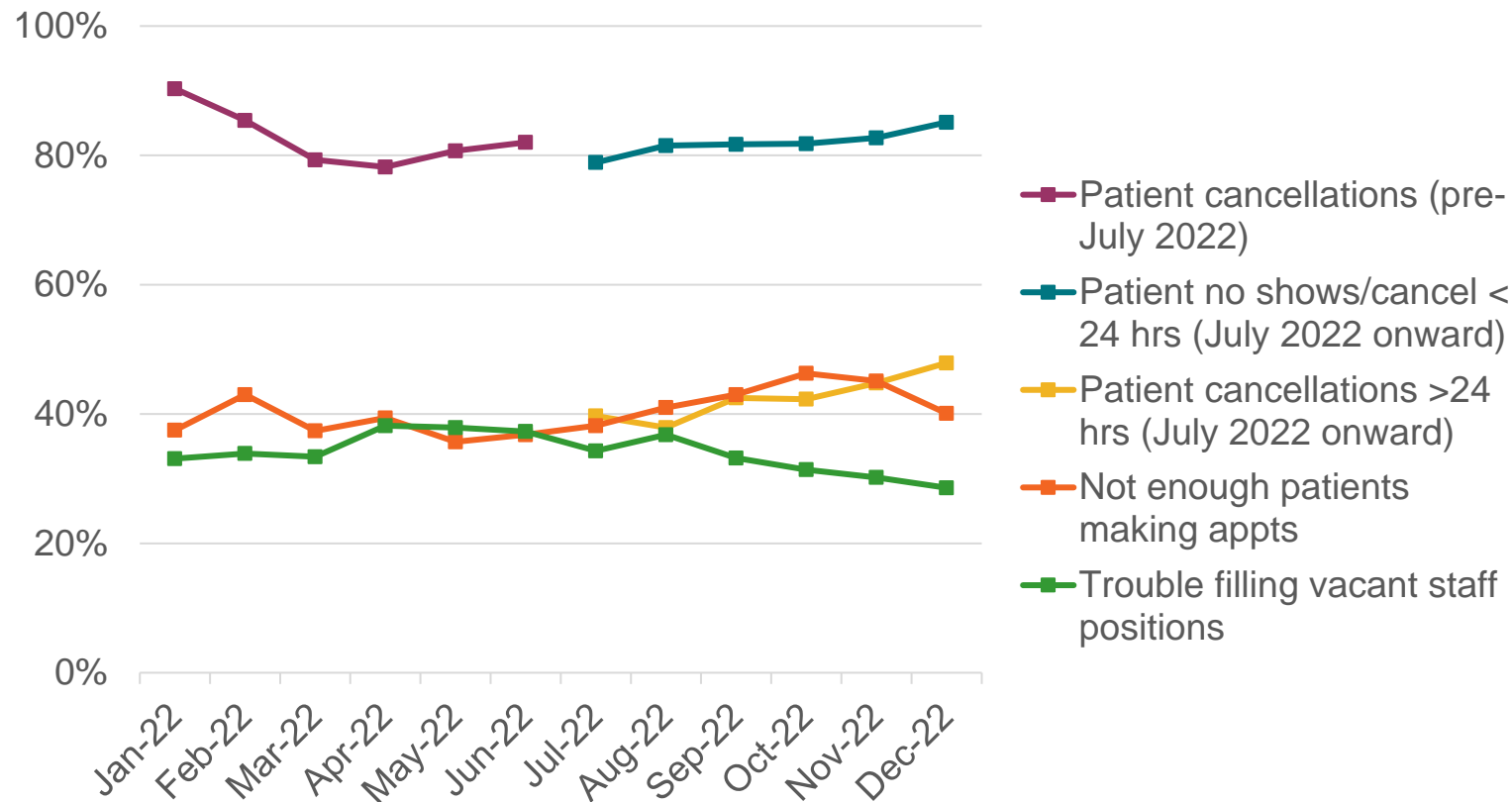
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



Patient no-shows and late cancellations remained the most common reason for unfilled practice schedules in December.

Scheduling Barriers

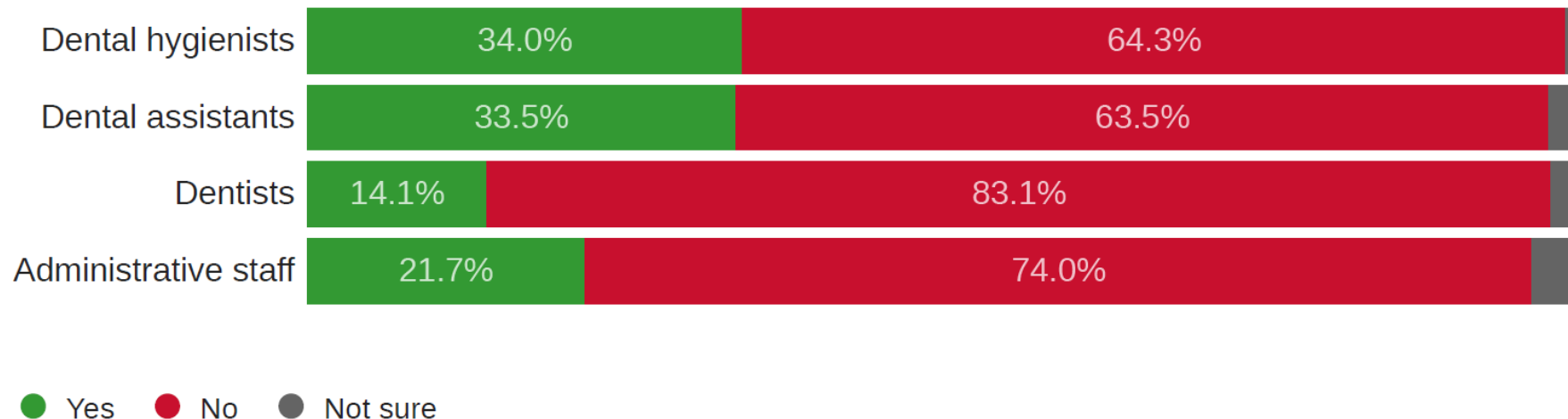
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



The percentage of dentists citing low patient demand and staffing shortages has decreased in recent months. Meanwhile, the percentage of dentists citing cancellations continues to increase.

Dental Team Recruitment

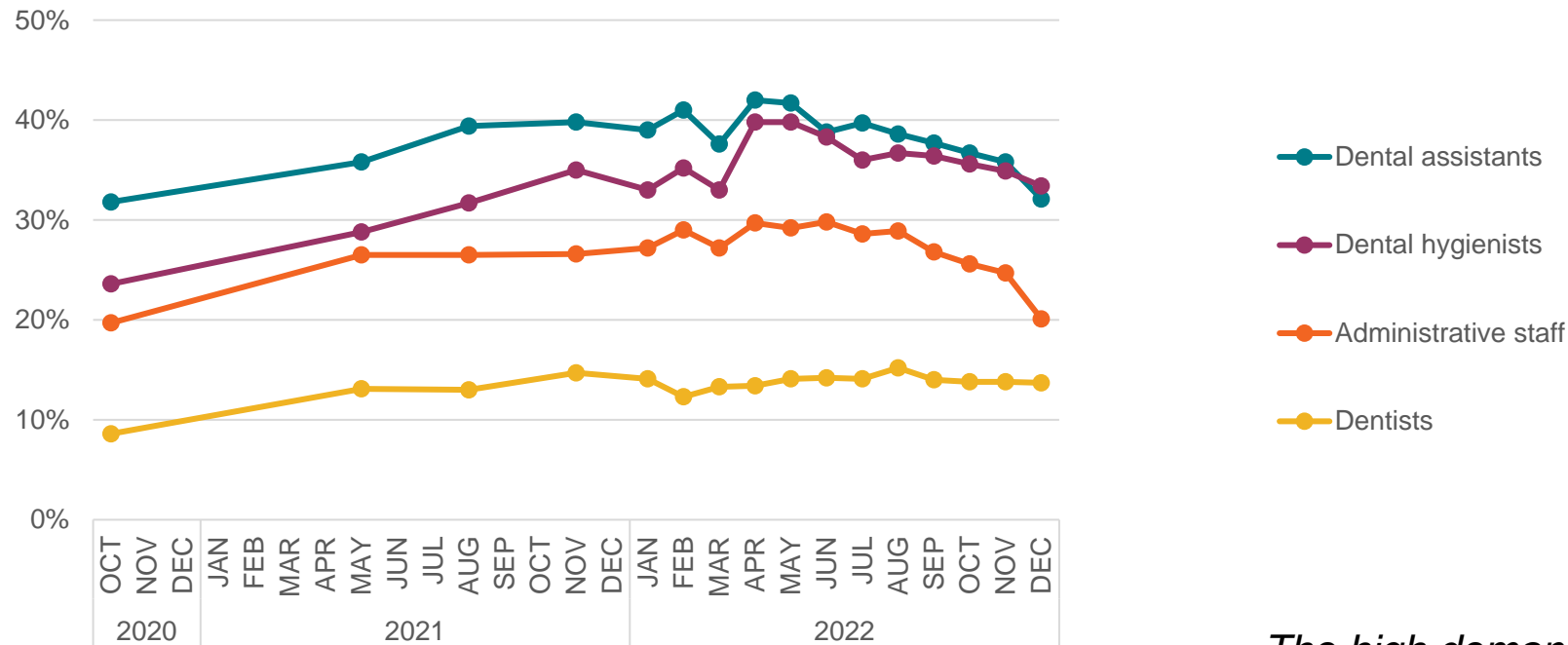
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?



Dental assistants and dental hygienists remain the most in-demand members of the dental team, with more than one-third of dentists currently or recently recruiting for these positions.

Dental Team Recruitment

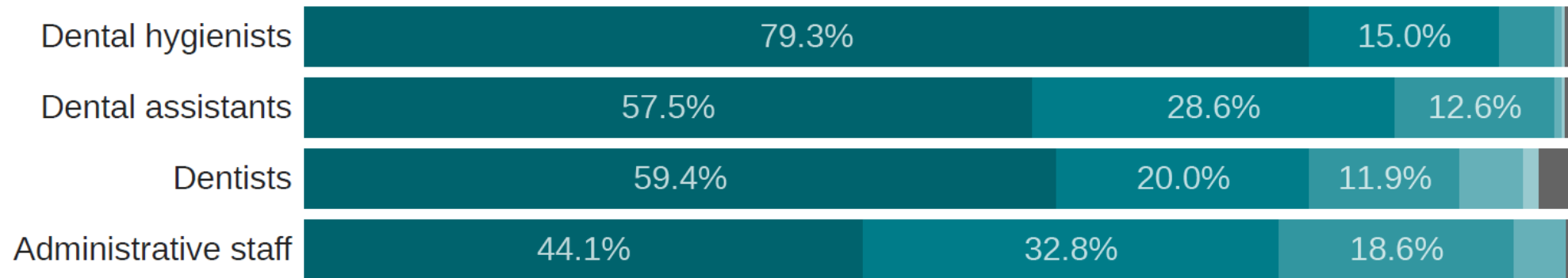
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “yes.”)



The high demand for dental assistants and dental hygienists has been declining over the past several months.

Challenges Recruiting

How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below?



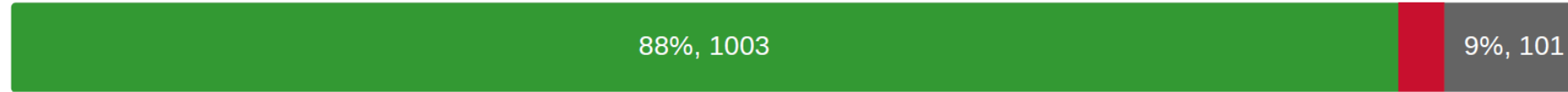
- Extremely challenging
- Very challenging
- Moderately challenging
- Slightly challenging
- Not challenging at all
- Not sure/Not applicable

Recruitment of dental hygienists continues to be particularly challenging for dentists.

Online Patient Reviews

Have you ever received an online patient review?

1138 Responses



● Yes [1003] ● No [34] ● Not sure [101]

[If yes] Have you every responded to an online patient review (i.e., included a reply in the review)?

1003 Responses

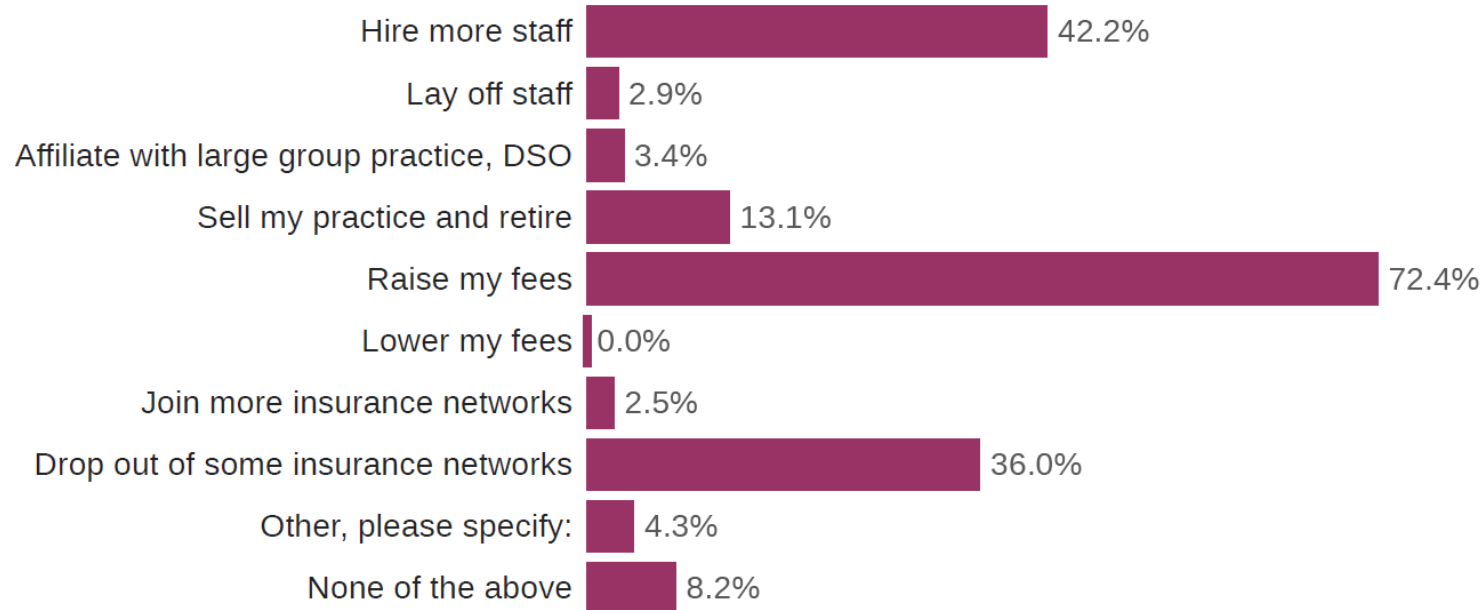


Most dentists report they have received an online patient review and more than half of those reported they responded to the review.

Practice Plans for 2023

Do you have plans to do any of the following in 2023? (Check all that apply.)

1041 Responses



Nearly three out of four dentists plan to raise their fees in 2023. Other commonly report plans include hiring more staff and dropping out of some insurance networks.

Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Dental practice schedules have been steady for the past six months. Schedules were 85% full on average in December. Patient no-shows and late cancellations are largely to blame.
- **Recruitment Needs:** Dental team recruitment needs continued to decline in December, though dentists still report difficulty filling positions.
- **Economic Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in economic recovery has improved modestly since its low in June 2022.
- **Plans for 2023:** The most common strategies for economic stability among dentists include raising fees, hiring more staff, and dropping out of some insurance networks.

Thank You!

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