

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

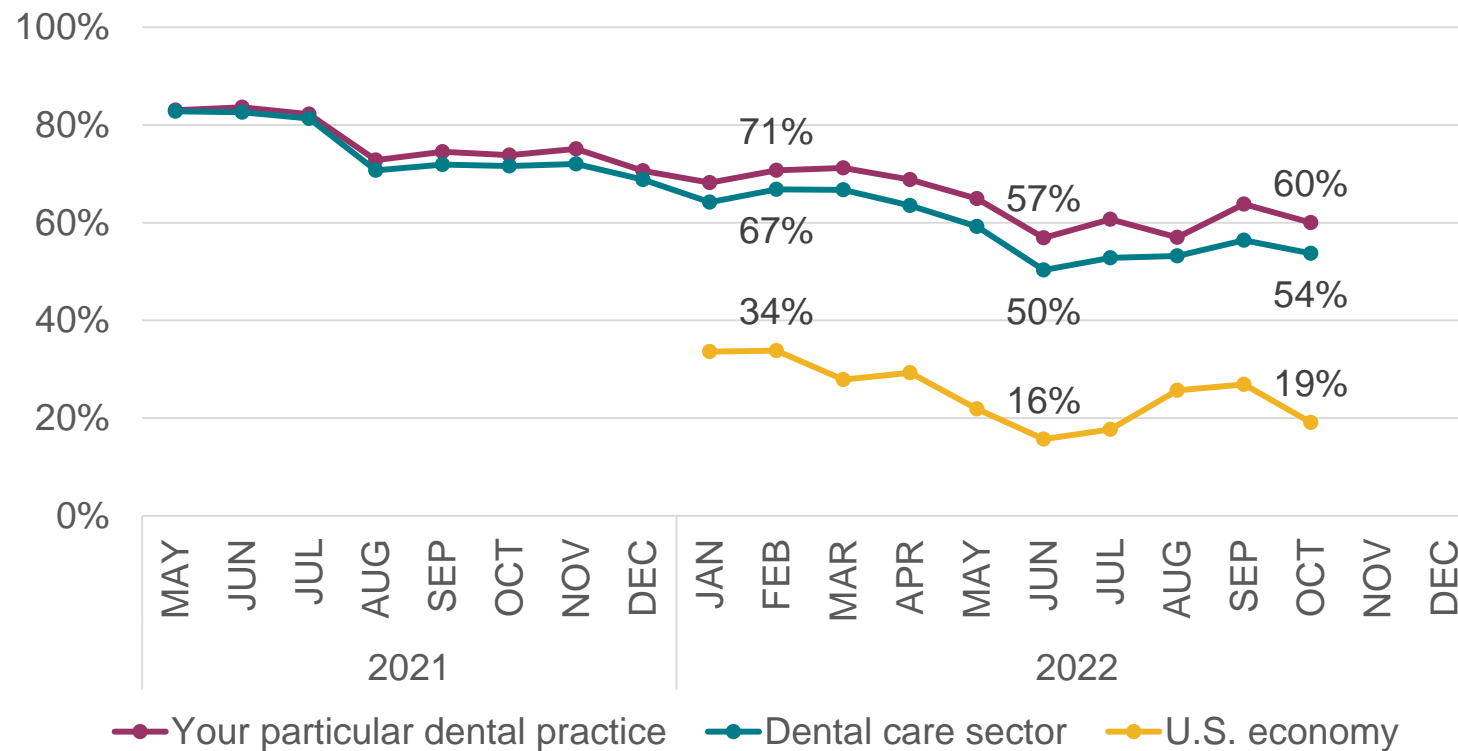
Insights from Data from October 2022

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 1,200 responded in the most recent wave.
- Data was collected October 18-23, 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

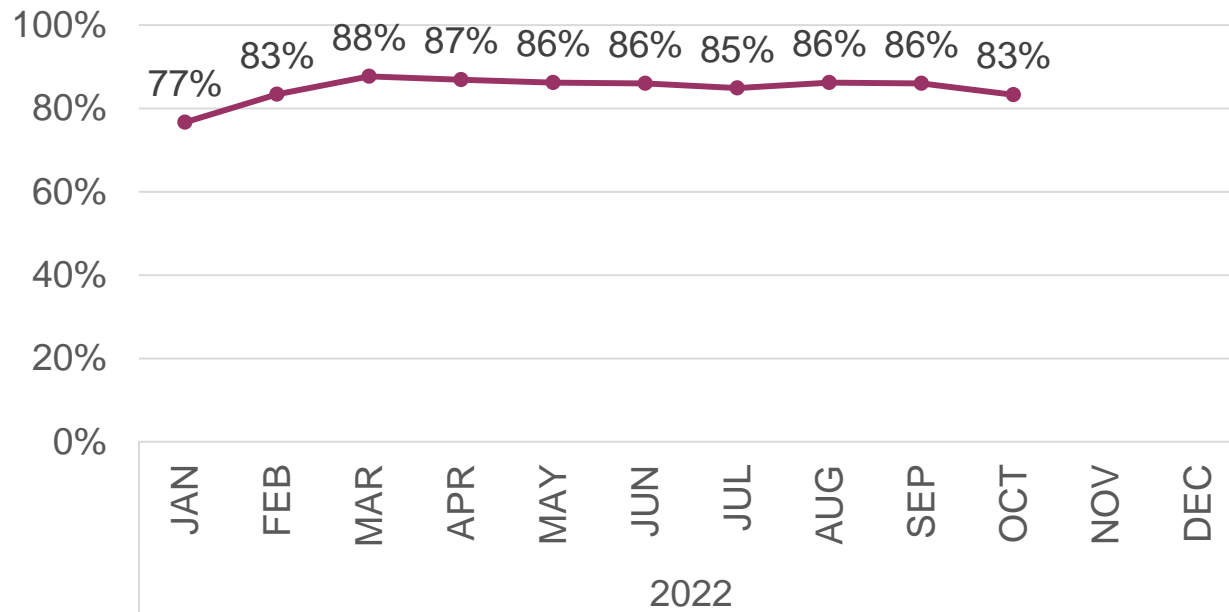
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following? (Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



Dentists' confidence in economic recovery dropped slightly in October after several months of modest recovery.

Practice Schedules

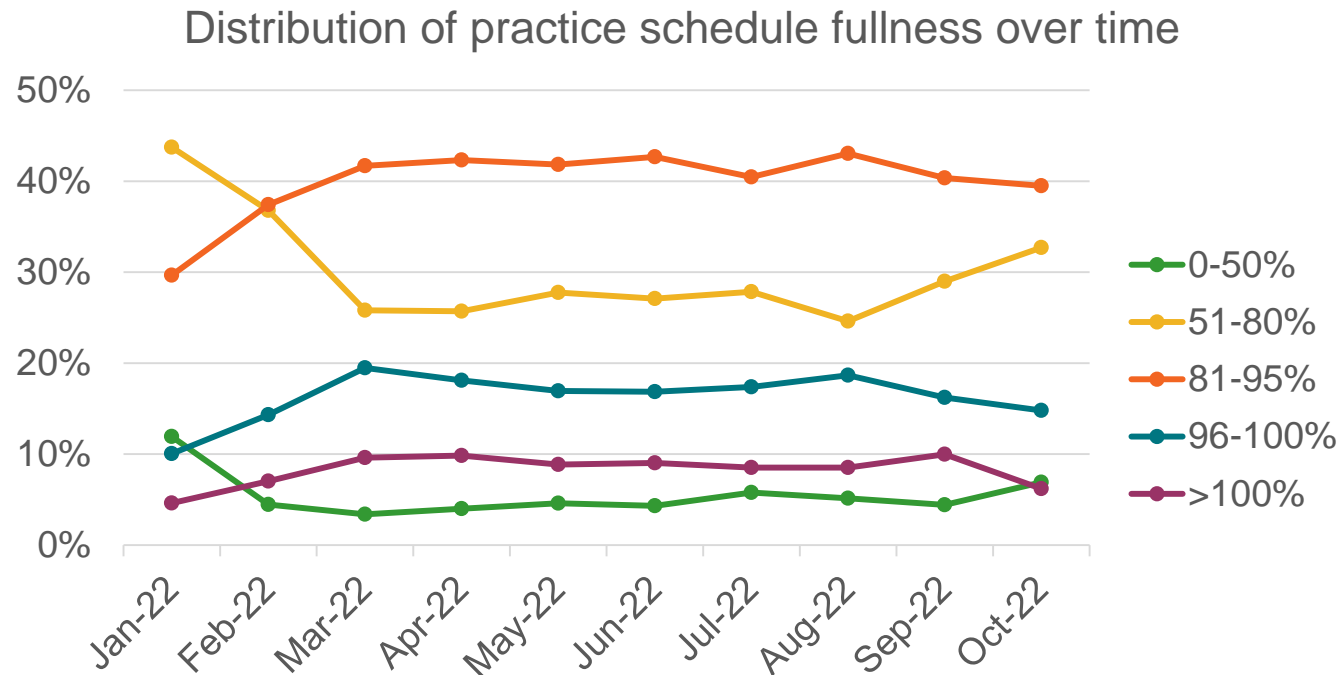
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In October, dental practice schedules dropped from 86% full to 83%, a level comparable to February 2022.

Practice Schedules

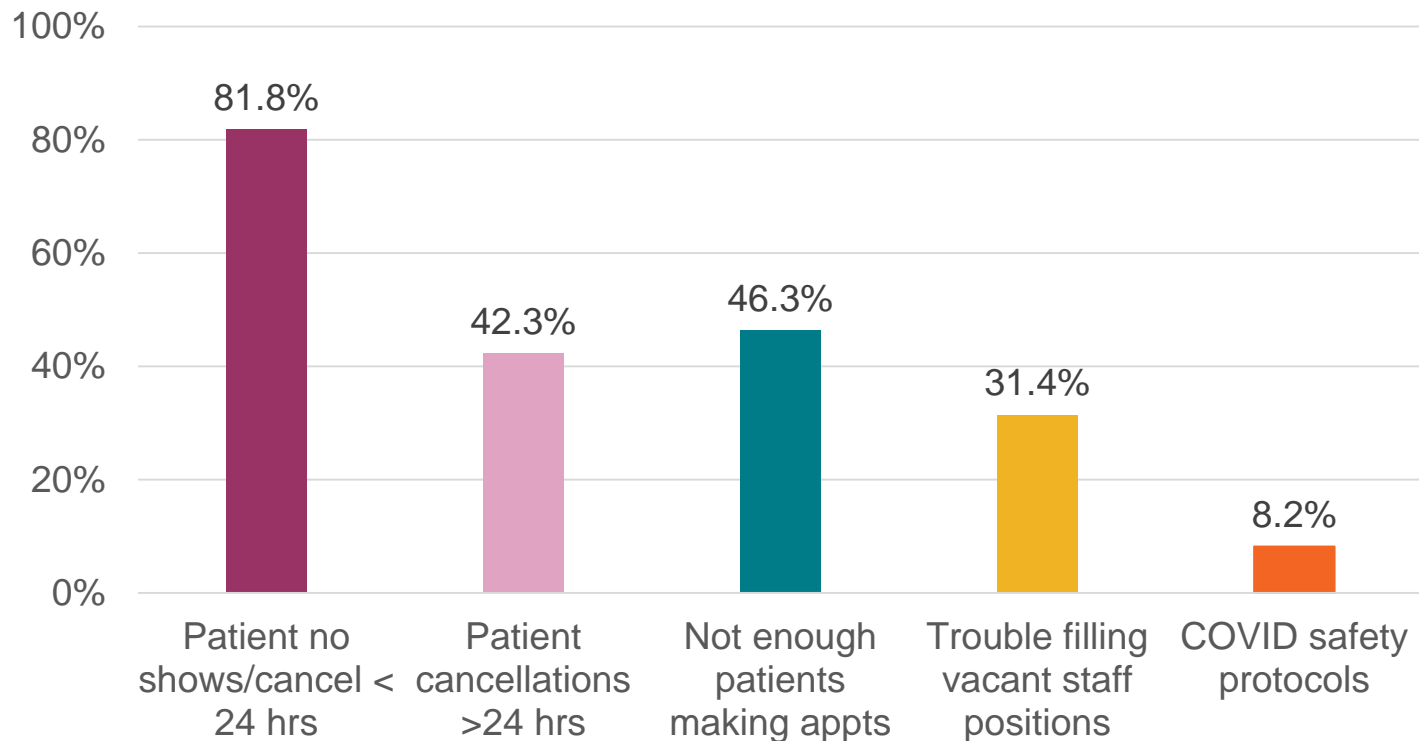
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In October 2022, the share of dentists with practice schedules that are nearly at capacity (81-95% and 96-100% full) decreased slightly. A growing share of dentists report their practices are seeing less than 80% of scheduling capacity.

Scheduling Barriers

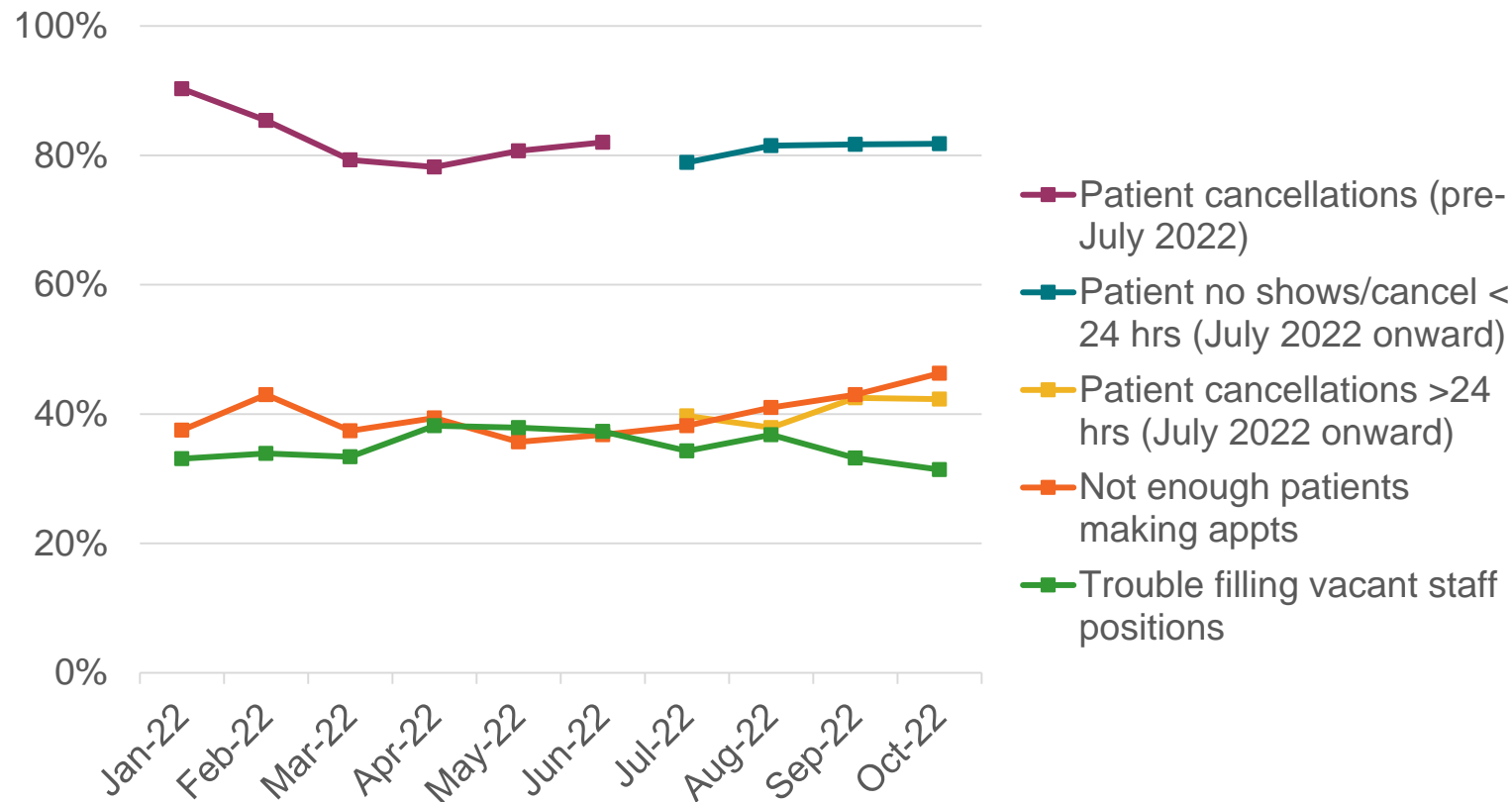
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



Patient no-shows and late cancellations remained the most common reason for unfilled practice schedules in October, but patient volume is a concern.

Scheduling Barriers

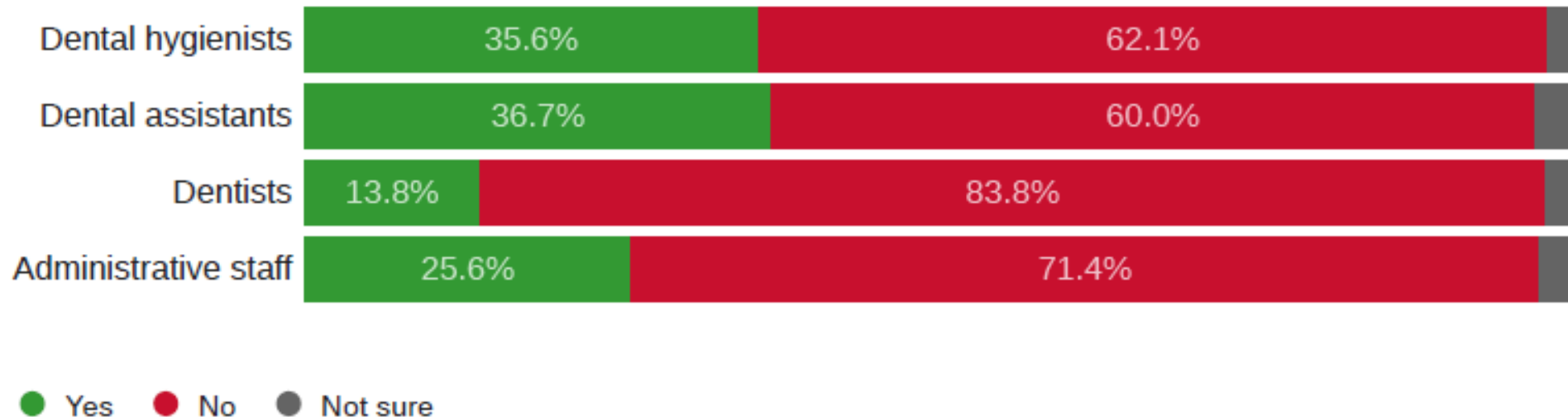
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



While staffing shortages appear to be easing somewhat, patient volume is a growing concern.

Dental Team Recruitment

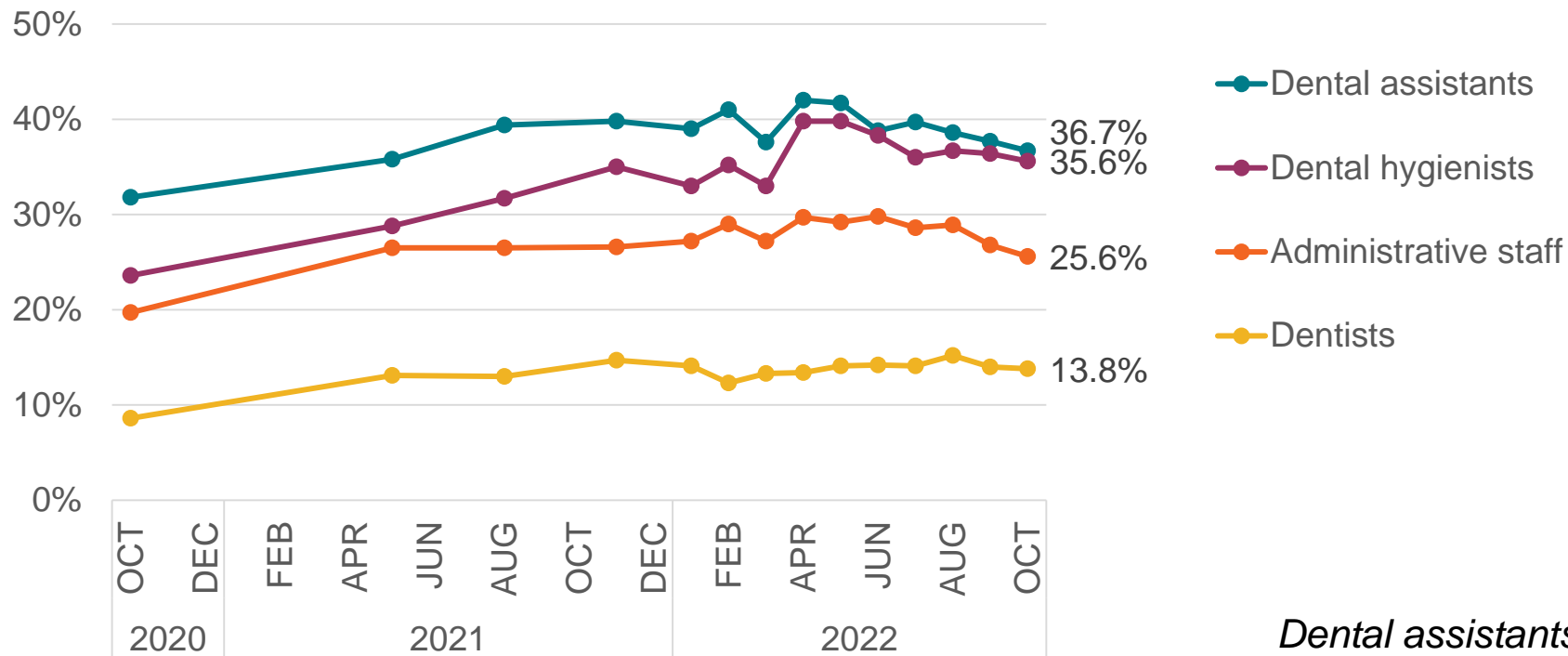
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?



Dental assistants and dental hygienists are the most in-demand members of the dental team, with nearly 4 out of 10 dentists currently or recently recruiting for these positions.

Dental Team Recruitment

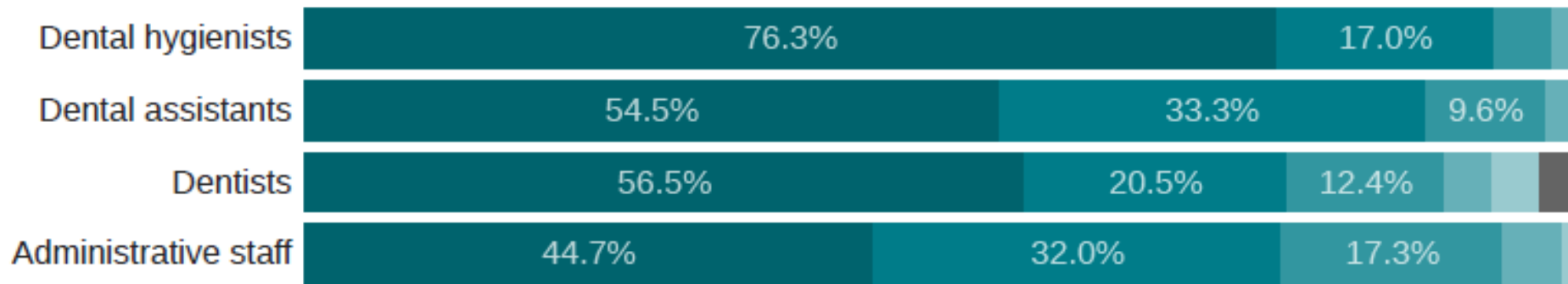
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “yes.”)



Dental assistants and dental hygienists remain in demand in dental practices.

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

Recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants continues to be very challenging for dentists.

Future Concerns

Looking ahead the next six months, which of these concerns you more?



Dentists overall are almost evenly divided as to whether staffing shortages or low patient demand for dental care is the biggest issue facing the dental care sector.

Future Concerns

Looking ahead the next six months, which of these concerns you more?

	Dental team staffing shortages	Not enough patient demand for care
By DSO Affiliation		
DSO	56.6%	34.0%
Non-DSO	43.3%	39.8%
By Practice Size		
Solo	39.5%	44.2%
2 to 9 Dentists	50.0%	32.7%
Age Group		
35-44	52.1%	32.3%
45-54	49.8%	34.4%
55-64	41.7%	43.7%
65+	35.5%	42.6%
By Geography		
Top 20 cities	37.5%	47.9%
Other urban	44.5%	39.2%
Suburban	41.8%	40.0%
Rural	45.5%	36.4%

Dentists affiliated with DSOs and those in the 35-44 age group are the most concerned with dental team staffing issues.

Solo dentists and those in larger cities have the greater concerns about low patient volume.

Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Dental practice schedules have been very steady for the past six months, but fell to 83% full on average in October. Patient no-shows and late cancellations are largely to blame.
- **Low Patient Demand:** There has been an increase in the share of dentists indicating low patient demand for appointments in recent months. This has been especially concerning for solo practices and those in large urban areas.
- **Recruitment Needs:** Dental team recruitment needs remained steady in October, but the pressures of staffing shortages may be easing slightly.
- **Economic Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in economic recovery has improved modestly since its low in June 2022, but may be on the decline.

Thank You!

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