

# Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

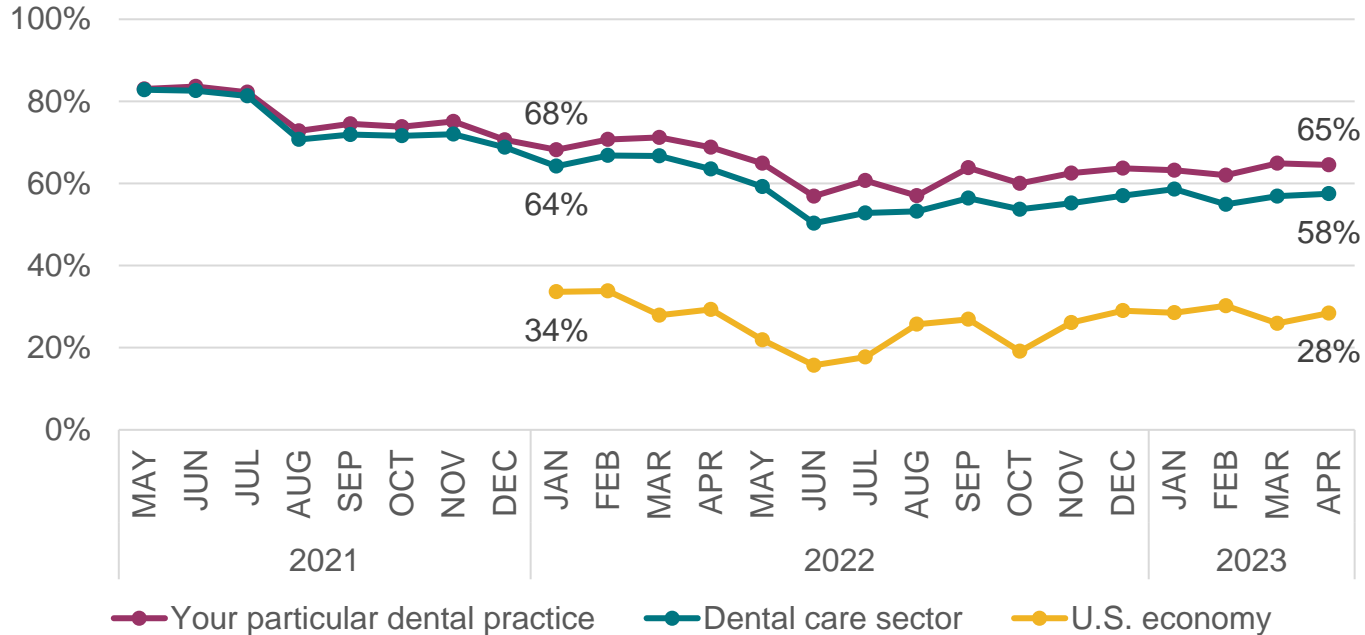
*Insights from Data from April 2023*

# Emerging Issues Polling

- Measuring the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry
- Over 3,000 have opted to participate to date. About 1,000 participated in April 2023.
- Data was collected April 18-24, 2023
- Core measures: economic outlook, fullness of practice schedule, schedule barriers, recruitment needs and challenges
- Complete reports with breakdowns available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI)

# Confidence in the Economy

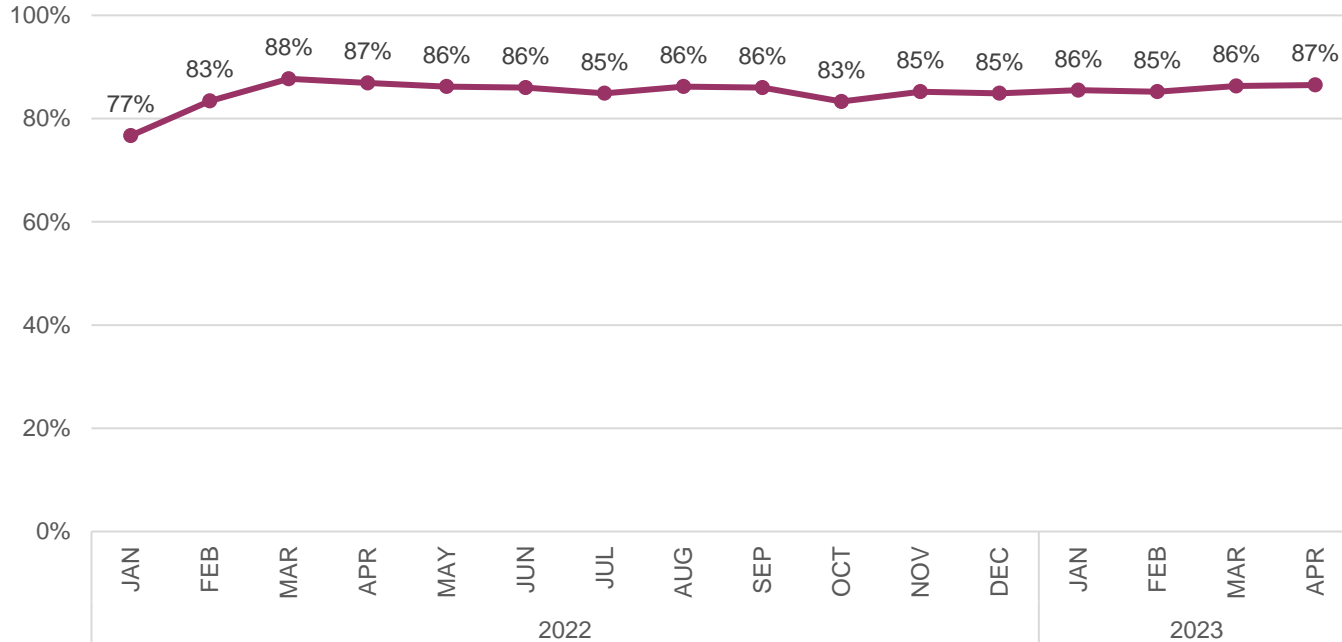
**Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following?**  
 (Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



*Dentists' confidence in the dental care sector and the general U.S. economy rose in April 2023. Confidence levels remain below a high point in 2021.*

# Busyness

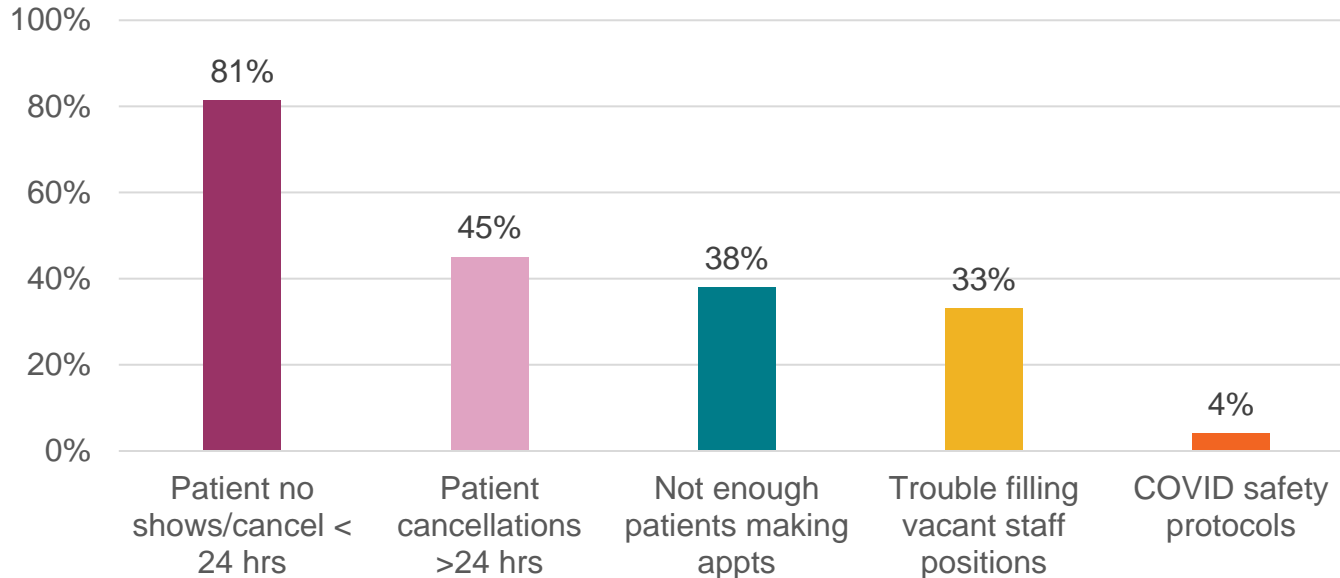
## How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



*Dentists' appointment schedules were 87% full April 2023, the highest point since April 2022.*

# Barriers to Reaching Full Capacity

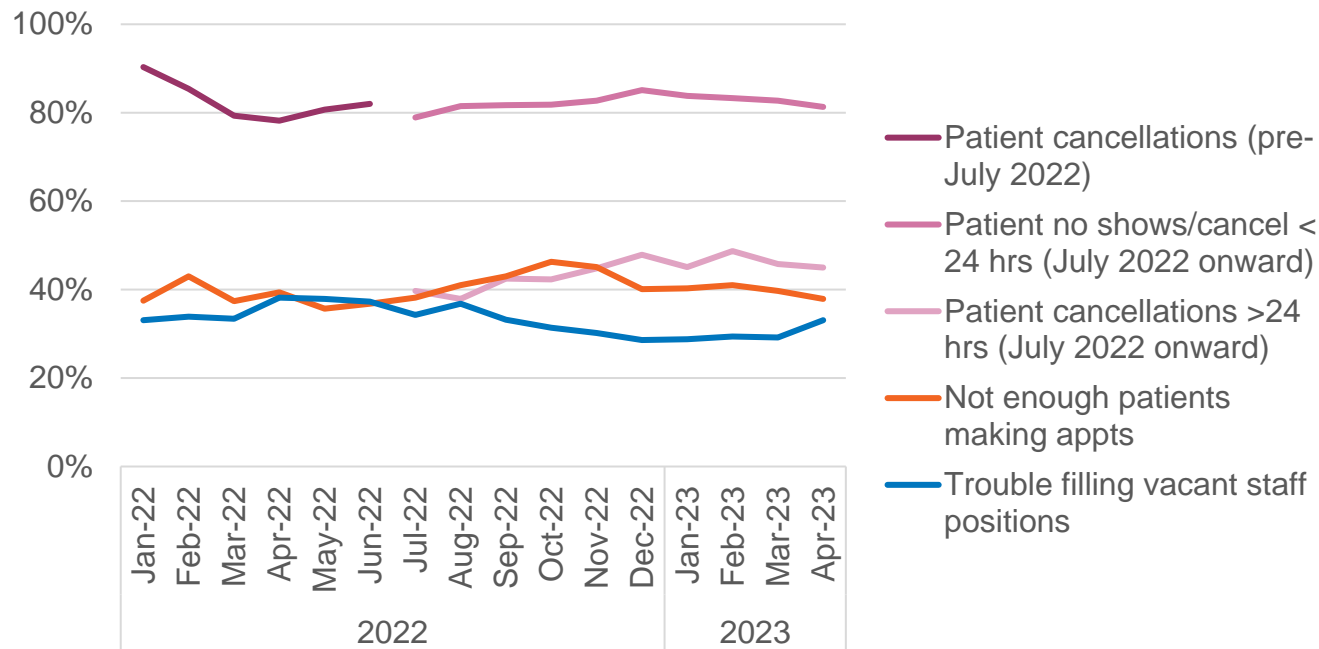
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



*Patient no-shows and late cancellations remained the most common factor for unfilled practice schedules in April 2023.*

# Barriers to Reaching Full Capacity

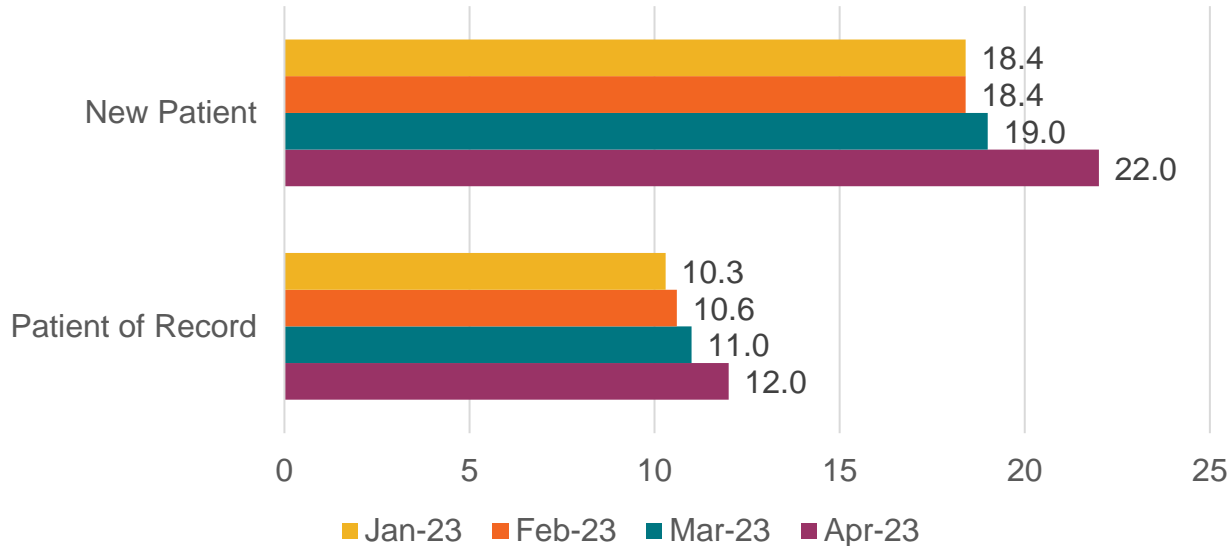
**Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week?** (Select all that apply.)



*Short-notice cancellation was selected by about 8 in 10 dentists as a reason why their practice schedules are not full.*

# Average Wait Times

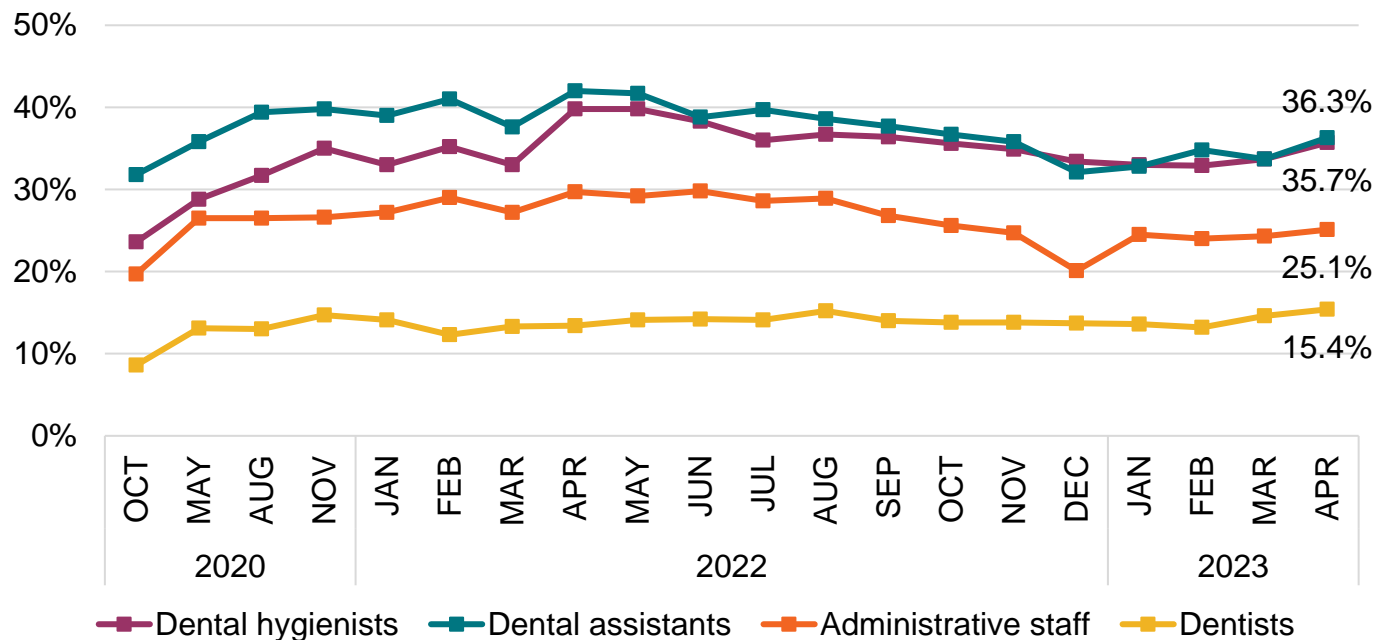
Currently, how many business days does the average patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)



*Since the beginning of the year, average wait times for both new patients and patients of record have been increasing steadily.*

# Dental Team Recruitment

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

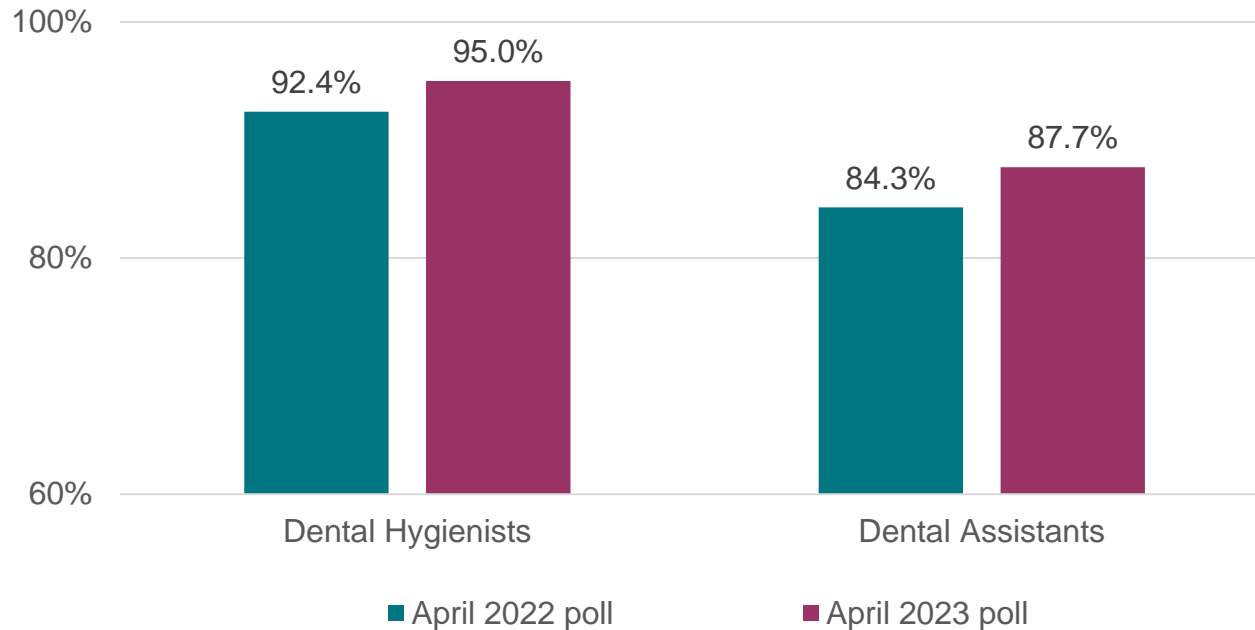


*More than one-third of dentists continue to report they are actively recruiting dental hygienists and assistants.*



# Challenges Recruiting

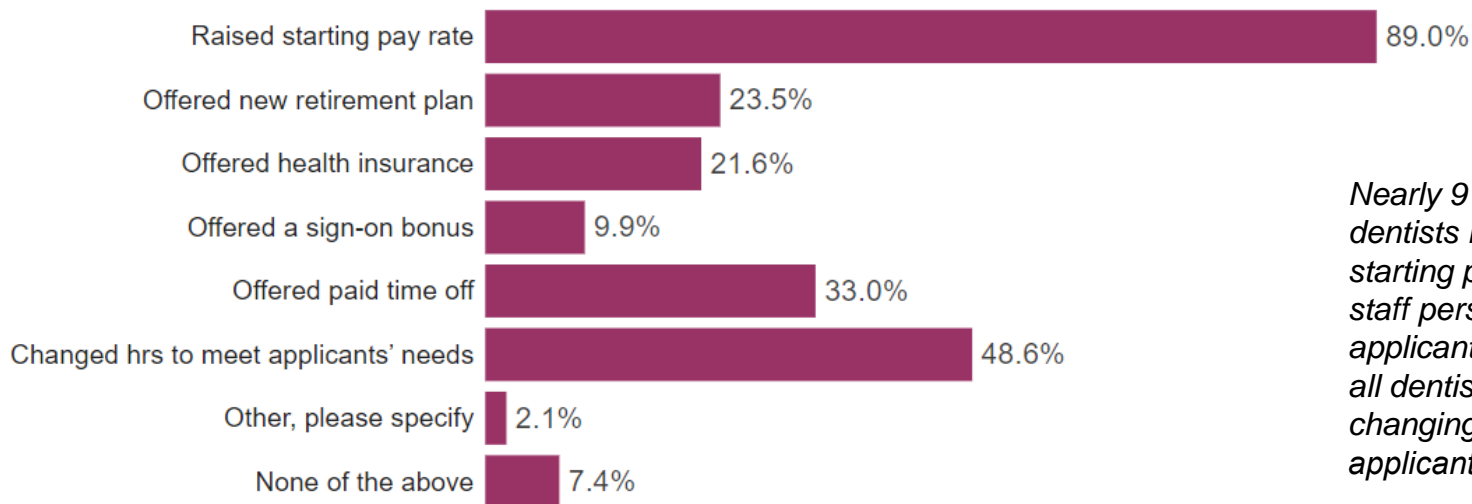
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below? (Percentage indicating “Extremely Challenging” and “Very Challenging”) April 2022 vs. April 2023



*More dentists report that recruitment of dental hygienists is very or extremely challenging in April 2023 compared to one year ago.*

# Employee Benefit Offerings

Have you offered any of these new benefits to dental hygienist or dental assistant applicants that you did not provide prior to the COVID-19 pandemic? (Select all that apply.)



*Nearly 9 out of 10 dentists report raising starting pay for dental staff personnel applicants. Nearly half of all dentists report changing hours to suit applicants' needs.*

# Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Practice schedules were 87% full on average in April 2023, the highest point since April 2022. Appointment wait times for both new patients and patients of record also went up in April 2023.
- **Recruitment Needs:** More than one-third of dentists are actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants. Dentists continue to say recruitment is extremely challenging. Nearly 9 out of 10 dentists report raising starting pay for hygienist and assistant applicants and nearly half report adjusting working hours to suit applicants' needs.
- **Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in various economic sectors has declined since mid-2021 but have been relatively steady over the past several months.

# Thank you!

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