

About This Study

To better understand the economic and operational conditions in dental practices and public health clinics over time, and to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry, the ADA Health Policy Institute launched a tracking poll in January 2022. For the initial wave over the week of January 17, 2022, we invited nearly 80,000 dentists from across the U.S. to join a panel in which they will complete a survey once a month; over 3,000 have opted to participate. The number of respondents in each wave, along with the number of responses in each reporting category in the current wave, can be found at the end of this report.

Below are the results from the latest wave of this study, the week of August 15, for dentists working in private dental practices. The report includes breakouts by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geographic location, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity. Unless noted otherwise, charts reflect the results from the latest wave of data collection. **Please note that we only include graphics representing at least 30 responses.** Because of this, we were not able to include results for dentists in large group practices with 10+ dentists and dentists in the following racial/ethnic categories: Black, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Other. The number of respondents by demographics can be found at the end of this report.

This report was published in August 2022 by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

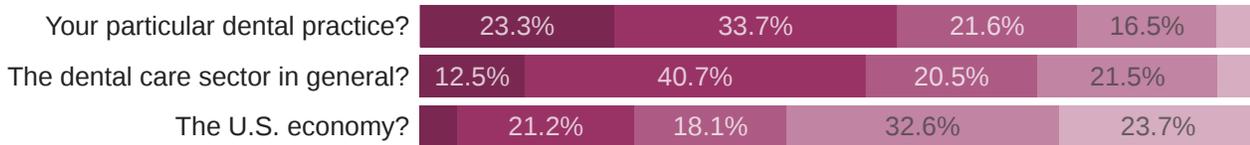
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Chicago, Illinois 60611
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For more information on other publications, products and services, please visit our website, [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

All Respondents

Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

1204 Responses



- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

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

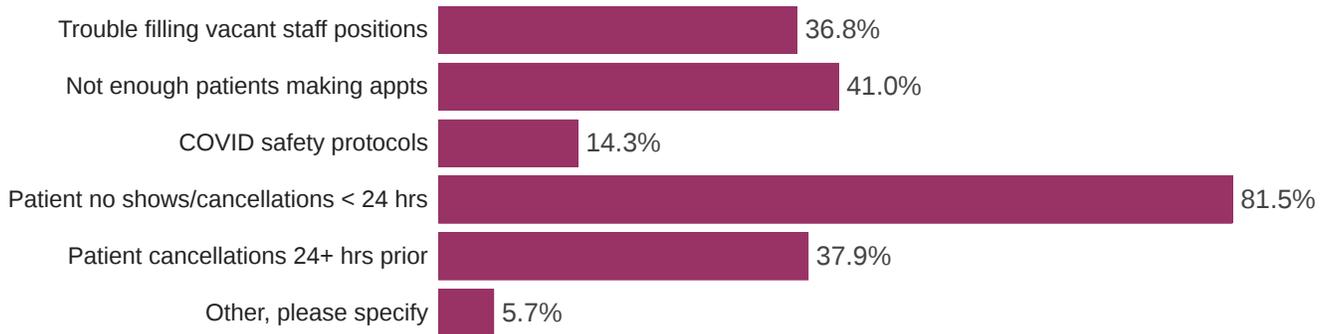
11460 Responses



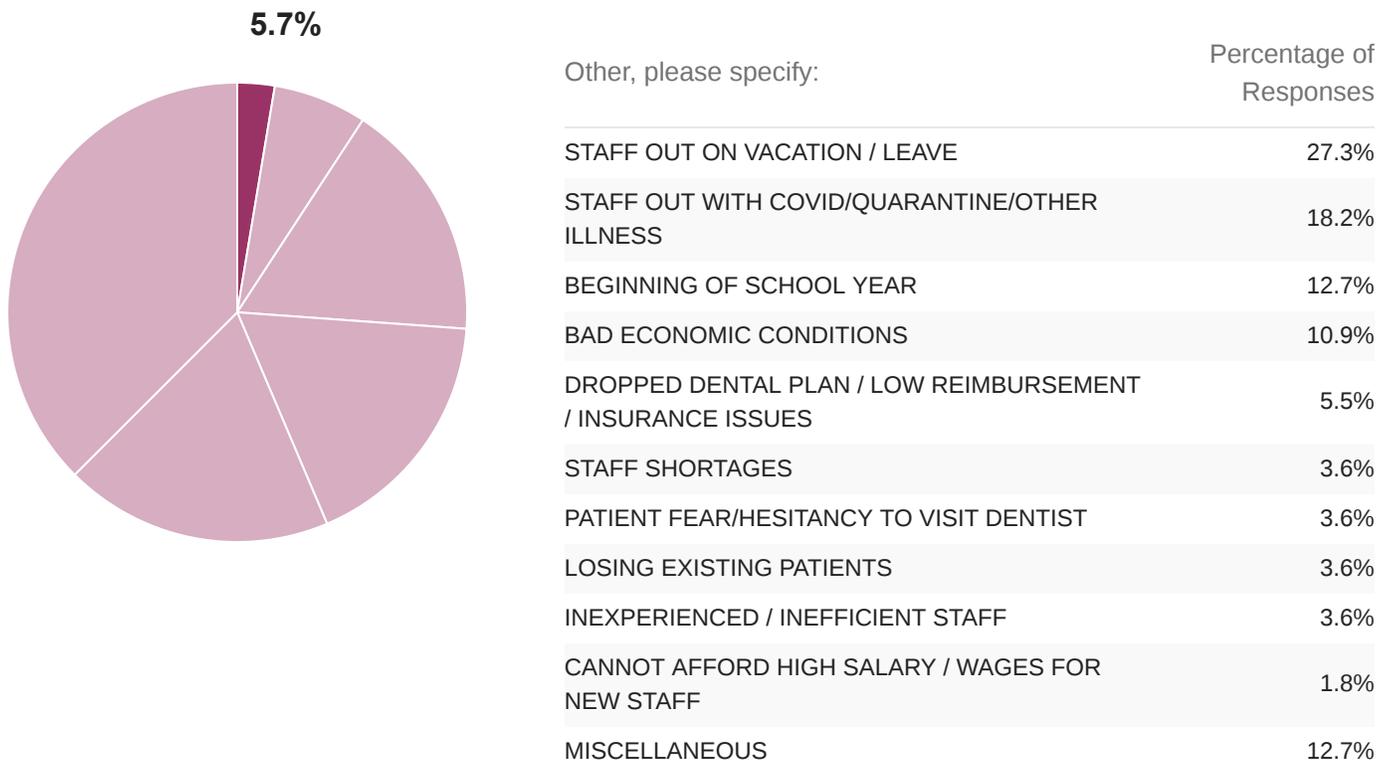
- Mean % of appointment schedule filled

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

965 Responses



55 respondents (5.7%) selected "other, please specify." Their responses are categorized below.



[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

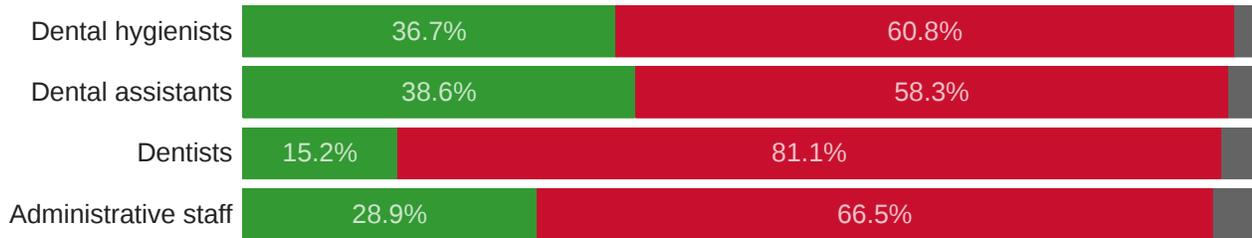
1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

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

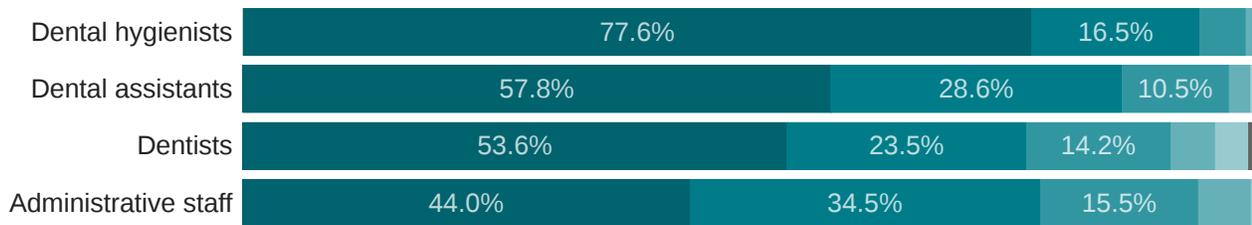
1204 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

753 Responses



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

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

1128 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

1128 Responses



- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

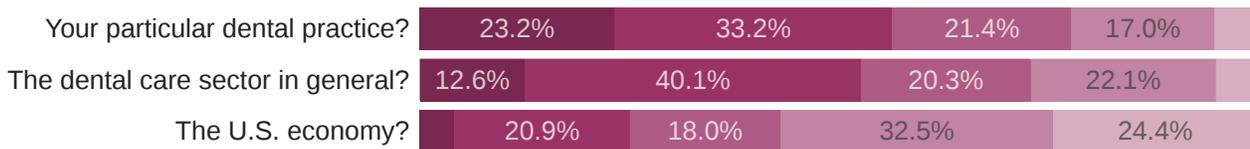
Select Breakouts of Results

Economic Confidence

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Owner



- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

Non-owner



BY DSO AFFILIATION

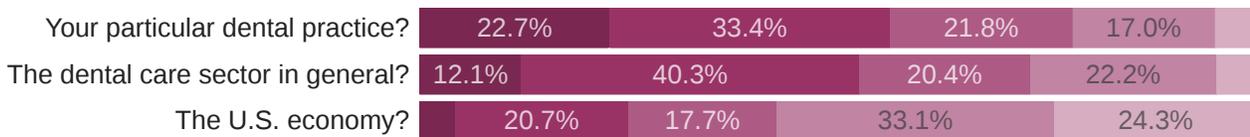
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

DSO



- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

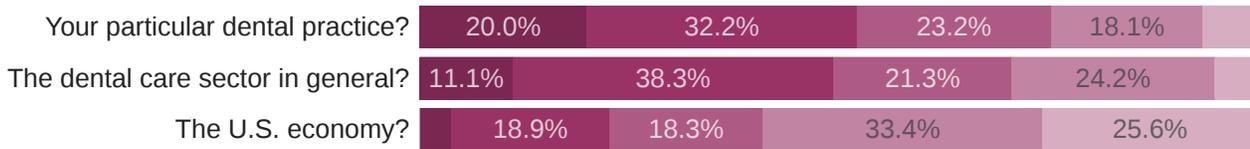
Non-DSO



BY PRACTICE SIZE

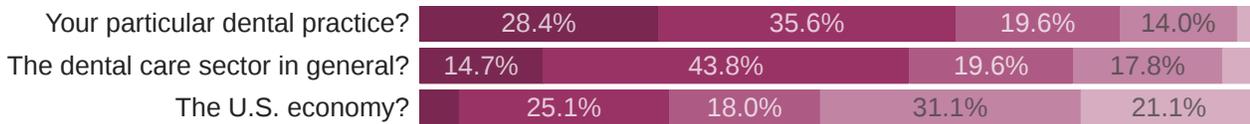
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Solo dentists



- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

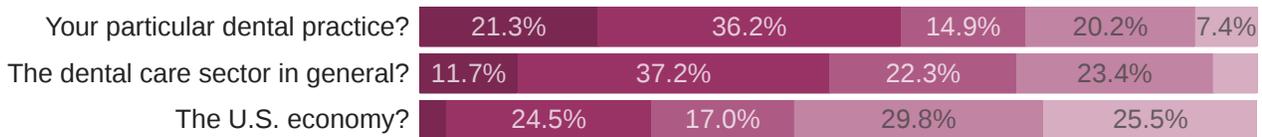
2 to 9 dentists



BY GEOGRAPHY

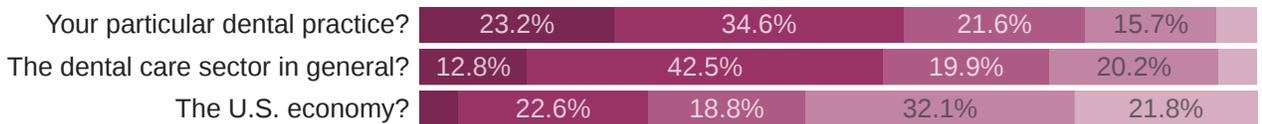
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Top 20 cities

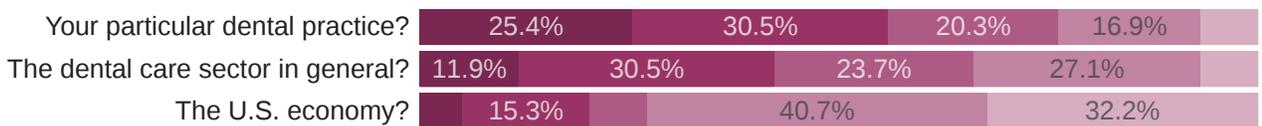


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

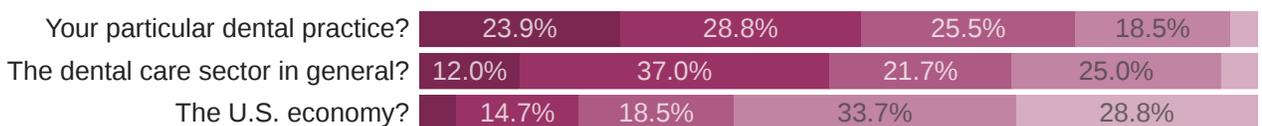
Other urban



Suburban



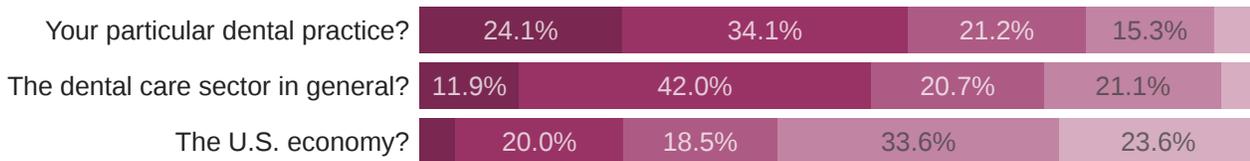
Rural



BY SEX

Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Male



- Very confident ● Somewhat confident ● Neither confident nor skeptical ● Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

Female



BY AGE GROUP

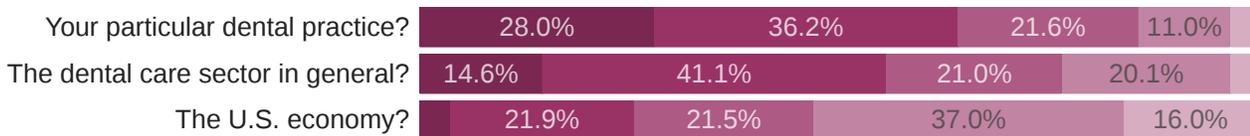
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Under 35

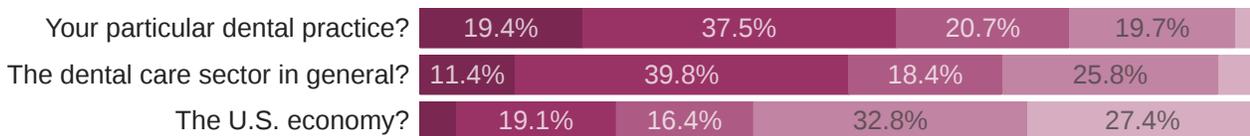


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

35 to 44



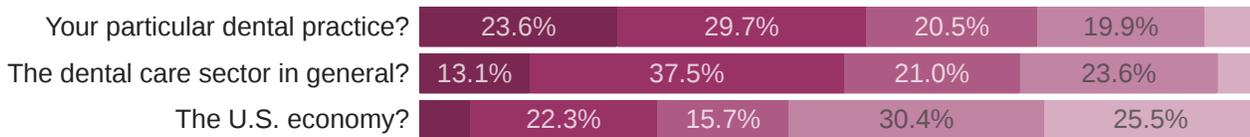
45 to 54



BY AGE GROUP (continued)

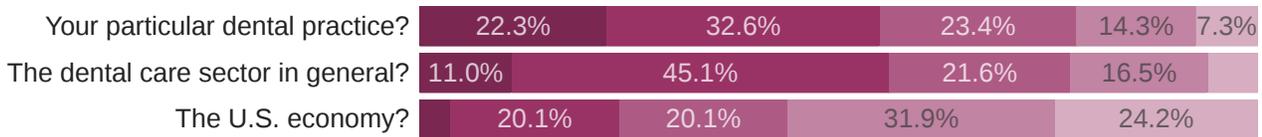
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

55 to 64



- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

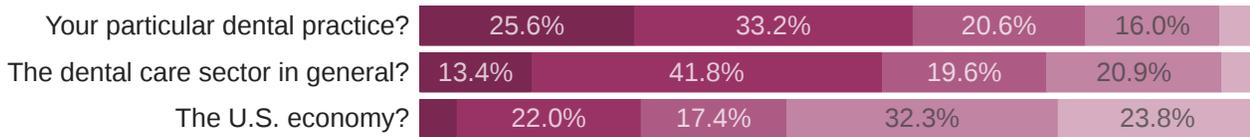
65 or older



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

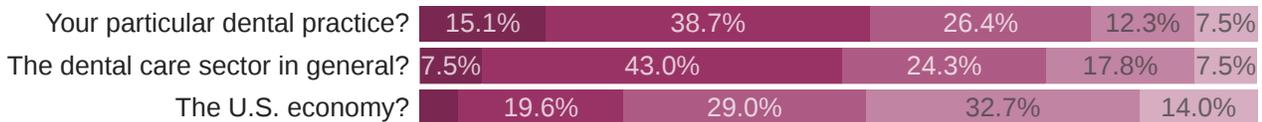
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

White

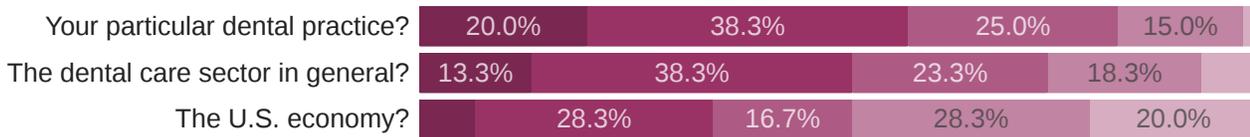


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

Asian



Hispanic



Appointment Schedule

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

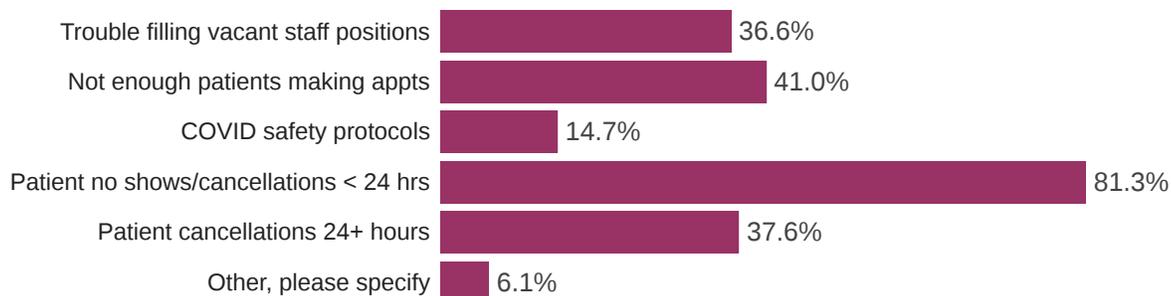
Owner

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

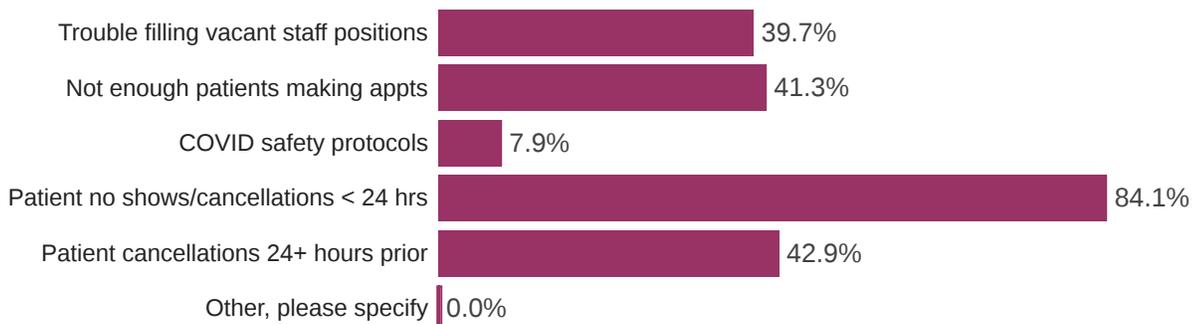
Non-owner

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY DSO AFFILIATION

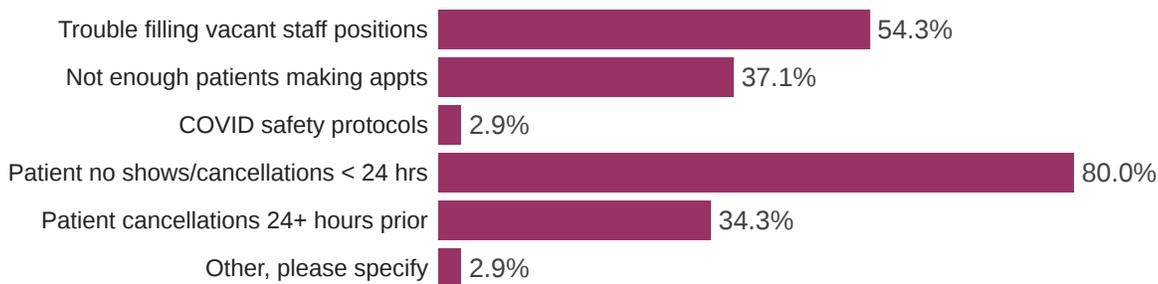
DSO

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

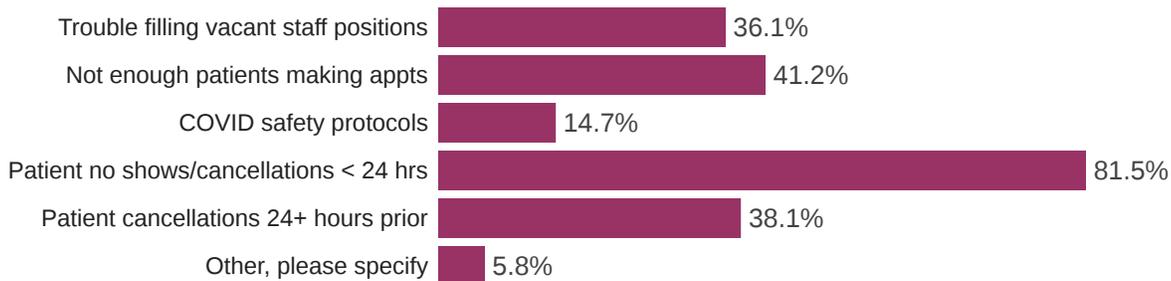
Non-DSO

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY PRACTICE SIZE

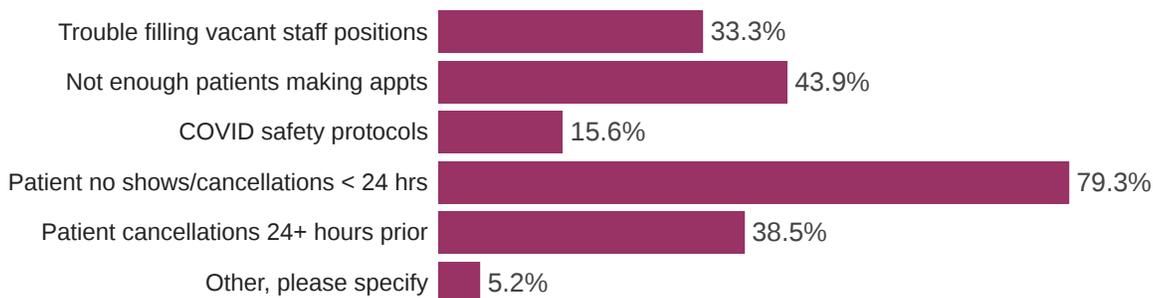
Solo dentists

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

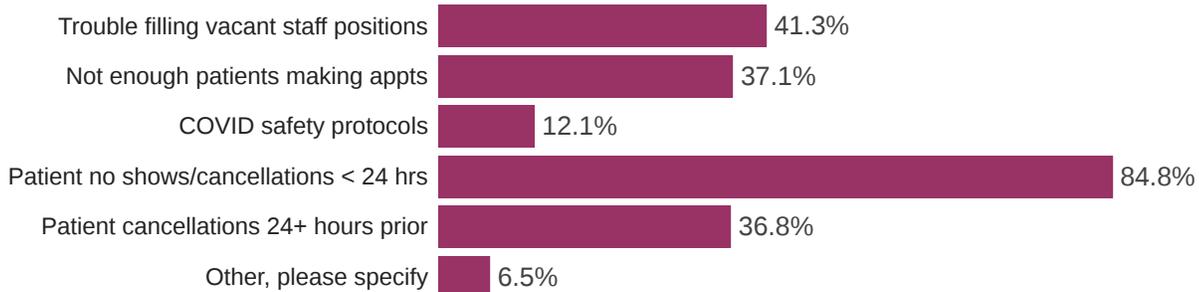
2 to 9 dentists

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY

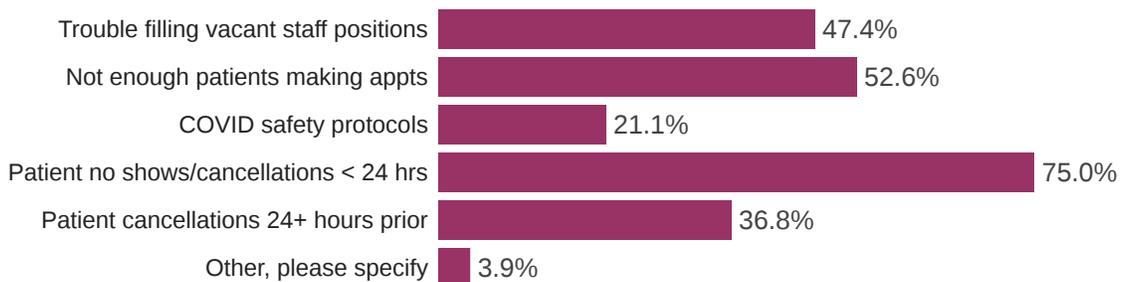
Top 20 cities

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

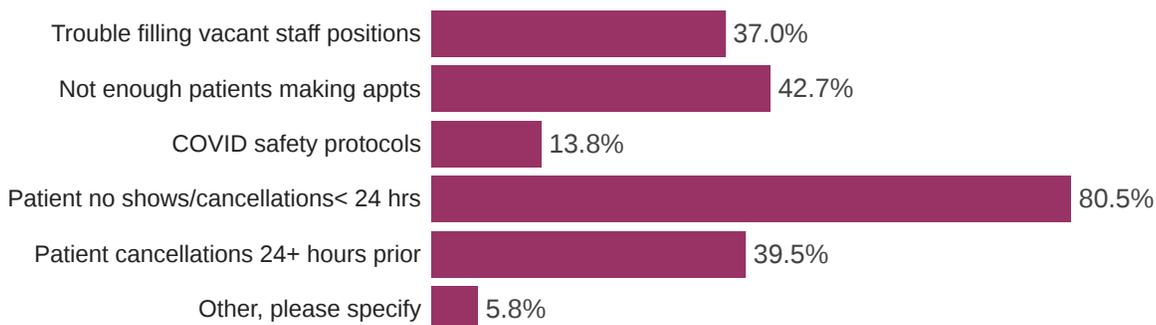
Other Urban

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

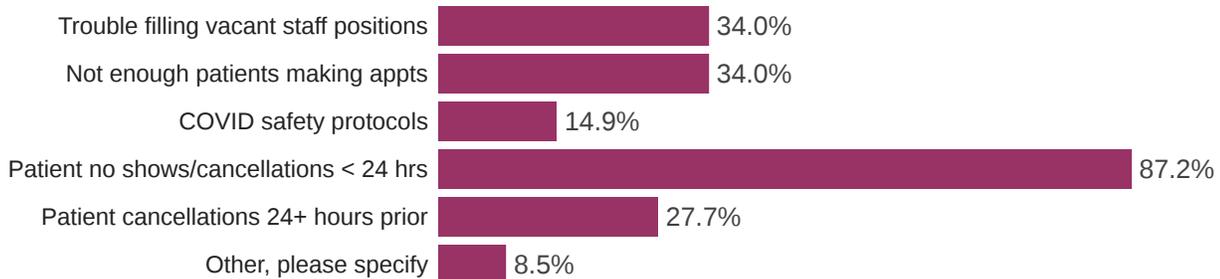
Suburban

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

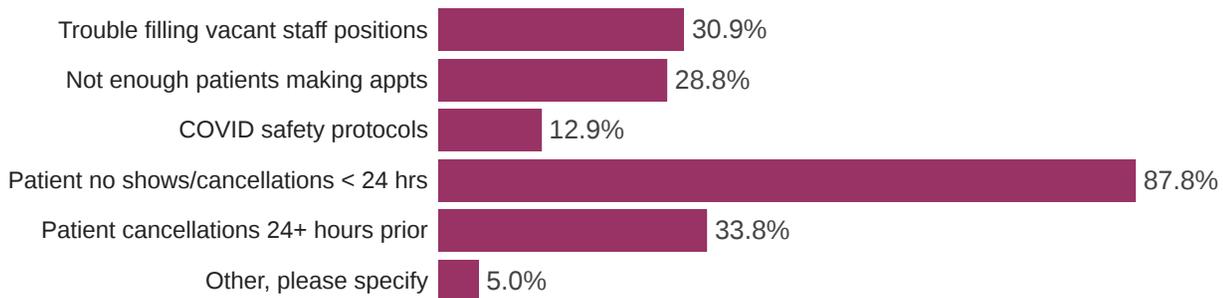
Rural

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY SEX

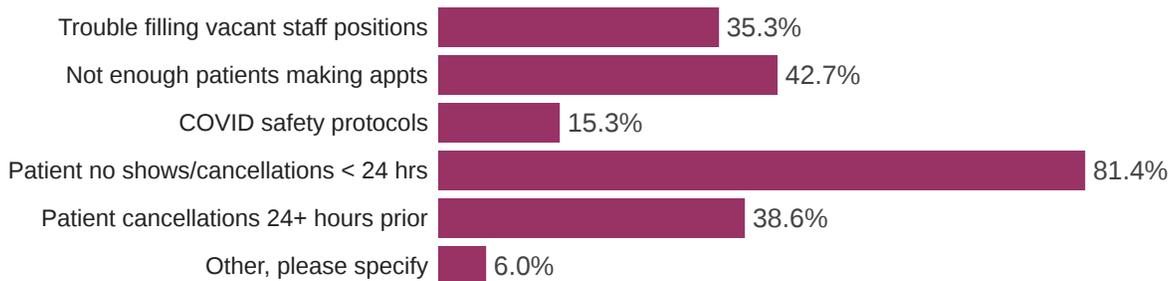
Male

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY SEX (continued)

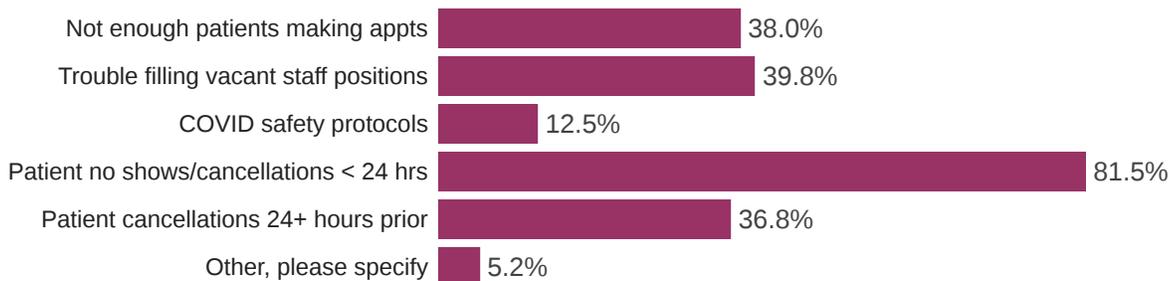
Female

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY AGE

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

1194 Responses



● Mean % of schedule filled

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

Field	Trouble filling vacant staff positions	Not enough patients trying to make appointments	COVID safety protocols are limiting the capacity	Patient no shows/cancellations < 24 hrs	Patient cancellations 24+ hours prior	Other, please specify
<35	34.6%	38.5%	0.0%	92.3%	57.7%	0.0%
35-44	40.4%	38.6%	4.7%	86.5%	31.0%	5.3%
45-54	38.6%	34.8%	9.9%	83.3%	38.2%	7.7%
55-64	37.2%	40.8%	17.8%	79.6%	41.1%	4.9%
65+	32.0%	49.8%	22.9%	77.1%	36.4%	5.6%

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

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

1194 Responses



● Mean % of schedule filled

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

Field	Trouble filling vacant staff positions	Not enough patients trying to make appointments	COVID safety protocols are limiting the capacity	Patient no shows/cancellations < 24 hrs	Patient cancellations 24+ hours prior	Other, please specify
White	35.9%	39.5%	11.8%	82.4%	38.4%	5.7%
Asian	42.2%	47.0%	25.3%	78.3%	41.0%	2.4%
Hispanic	28.8%	38.5%	30.8%	75.0%	30.8%	7.7%

New Patient Wait Times

BY DSO AFFILIATION

[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

BY PRACTICE SIZE

[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses

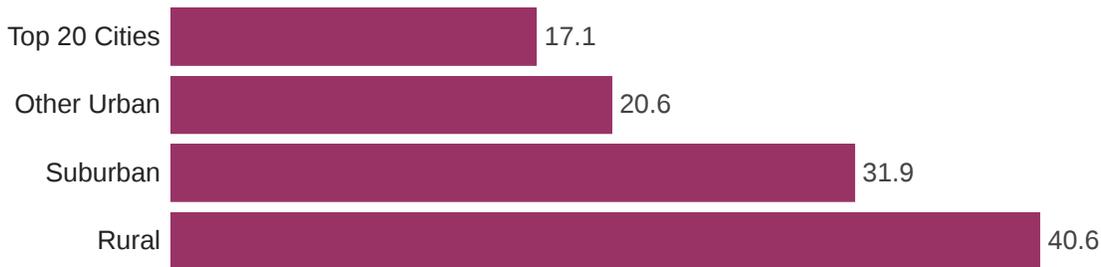


● Mean number of days

BY GEOGRAPHY

[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

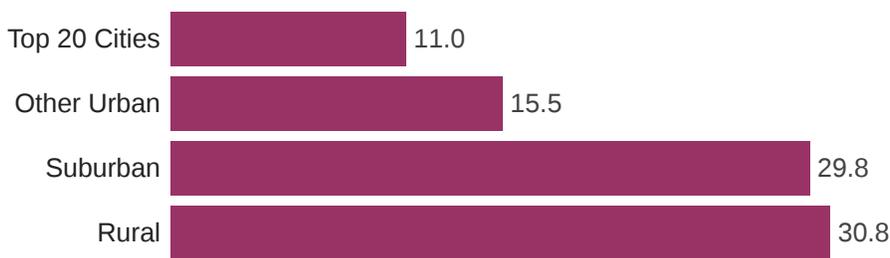
1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

BY SEX

[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses

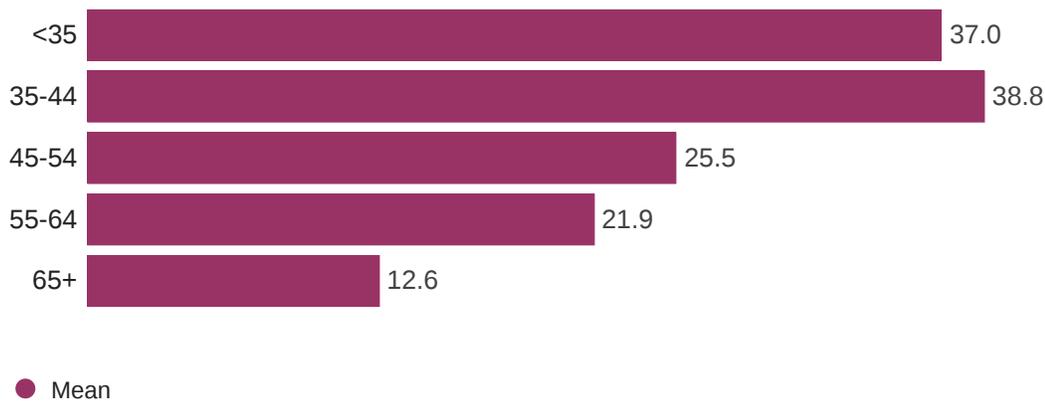


● Mean number of days

BY AGE GROUP

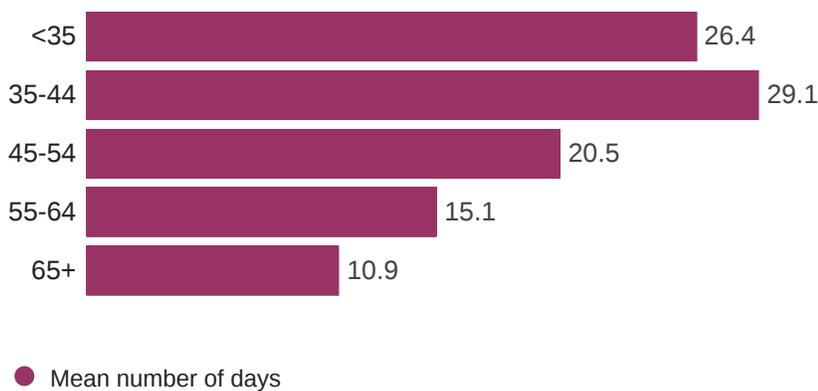
[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



BY RACE / ETHNICITY

[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

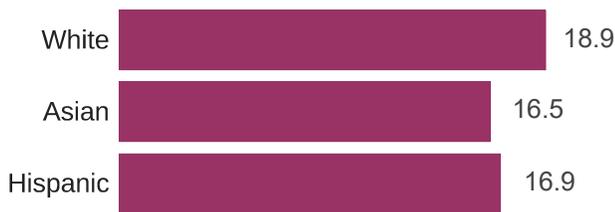
1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Looking back 12 months ago, how long did the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1128 Responses



● Mean number of days

Staff Recruitment

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

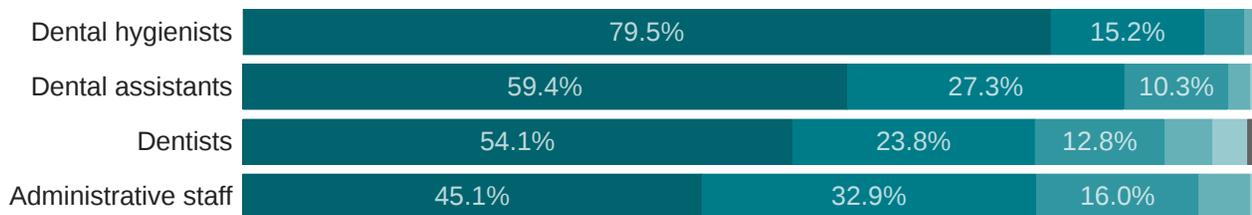
Owner dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

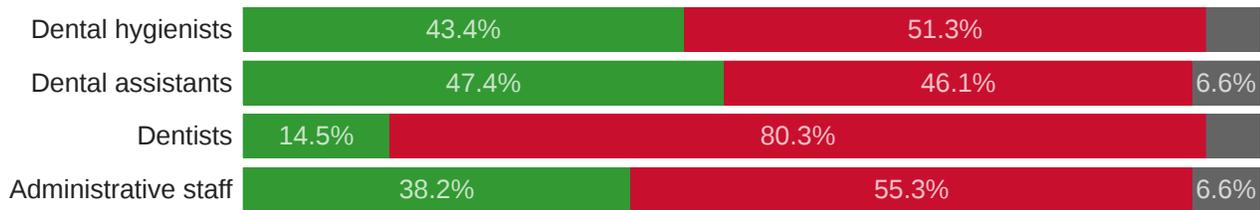


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

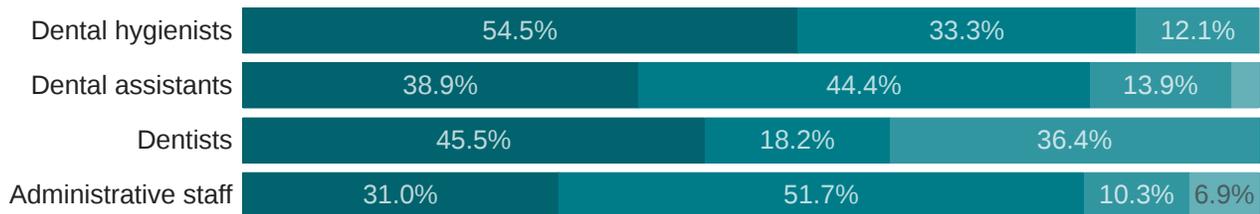
Non-owner dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

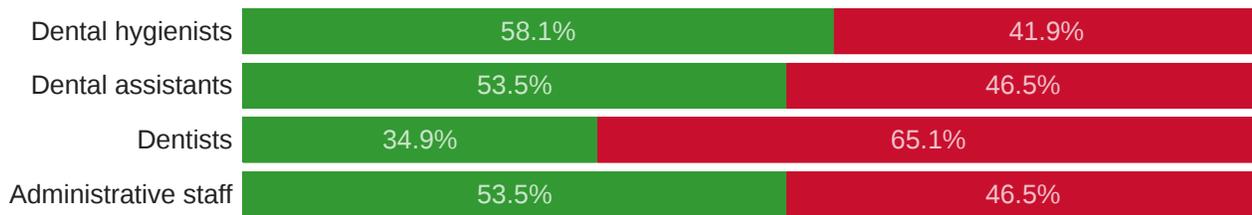


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY DSO AFFILIATION

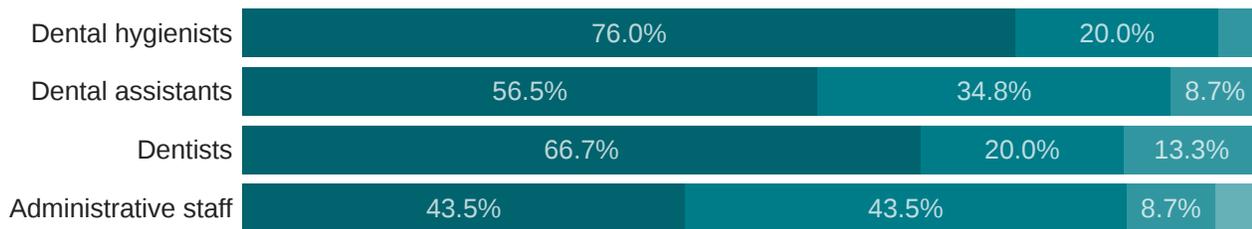
DSO

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

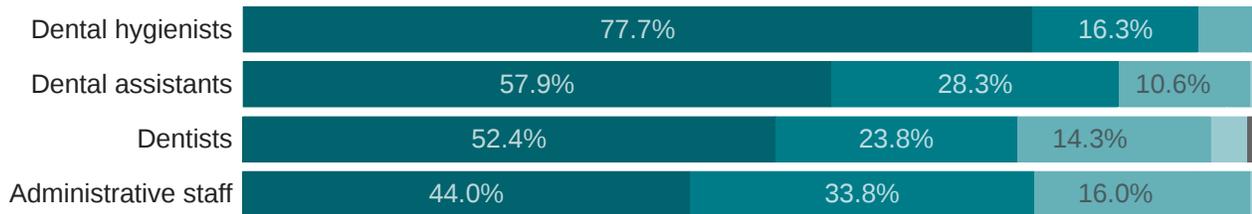
Non-DSO

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

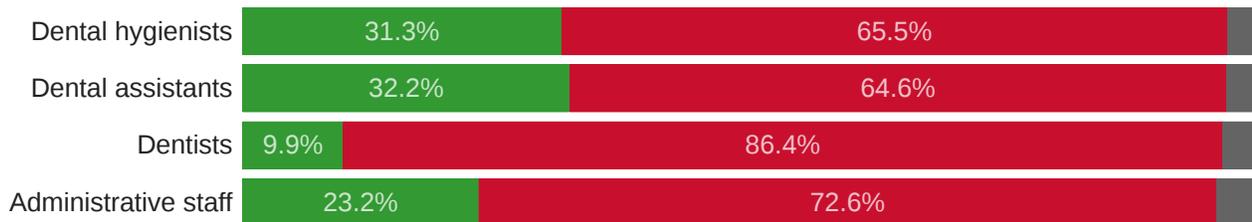


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY PRACTICE SIZE

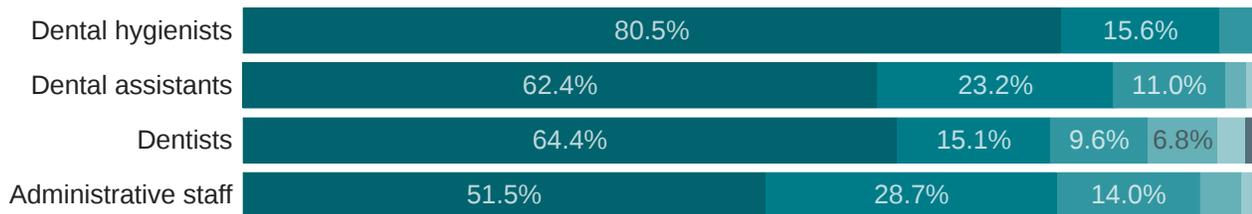
Solo dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

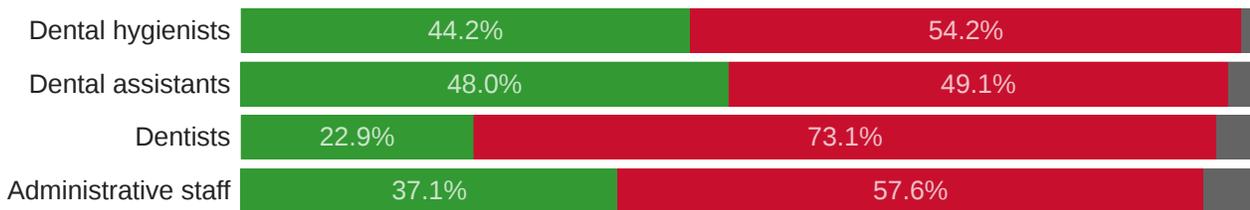


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

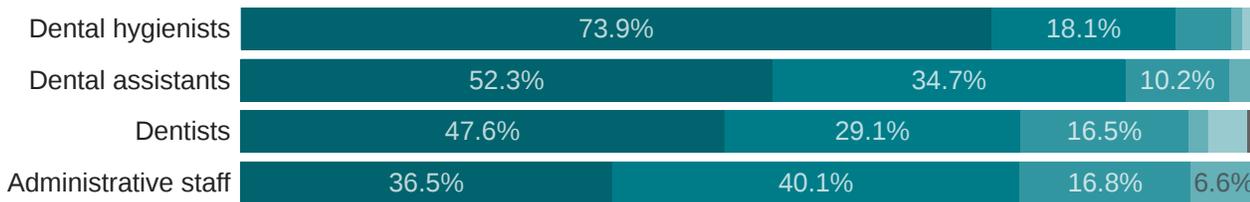
2 to 9 dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

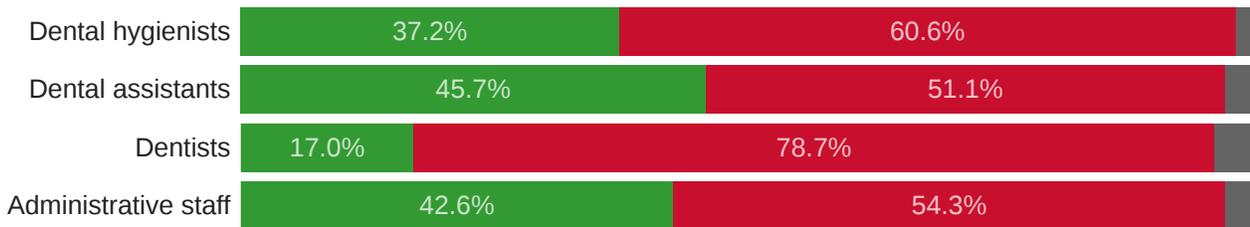


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY

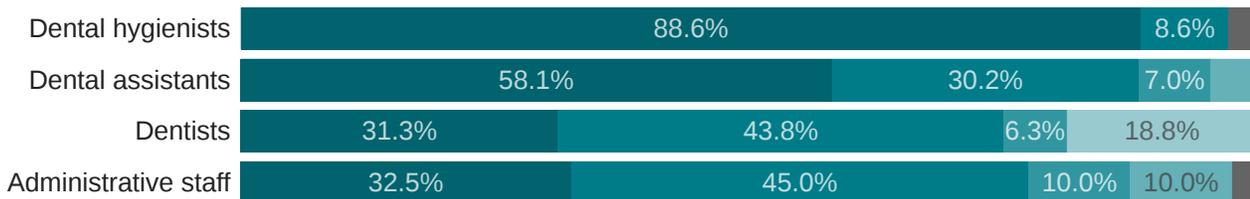
Top 20 Cities

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

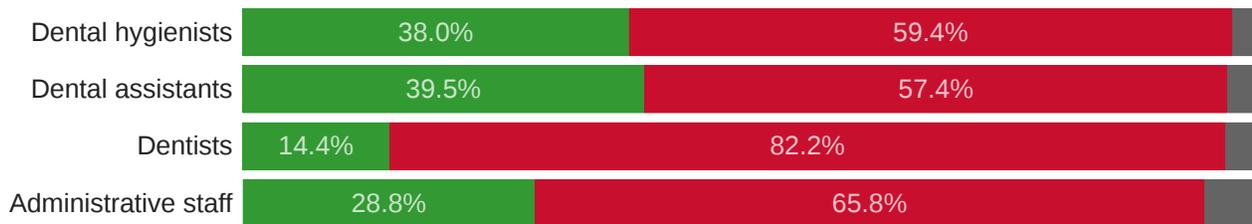


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Other Urban

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

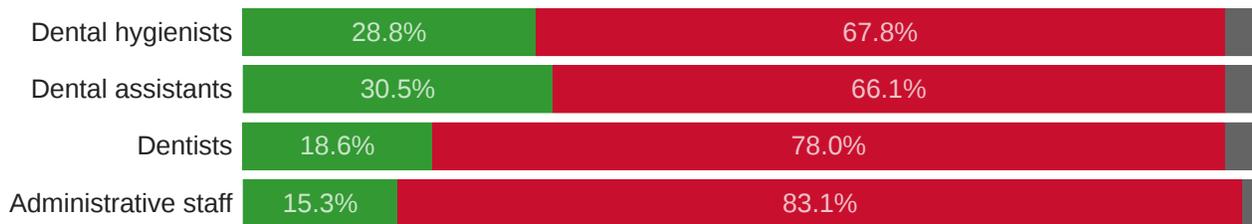


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

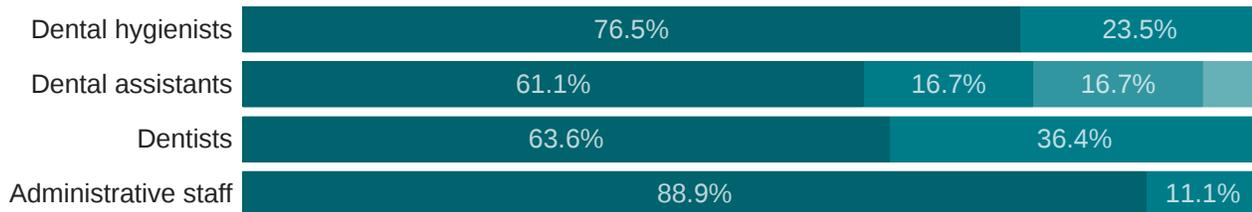
Suburban

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

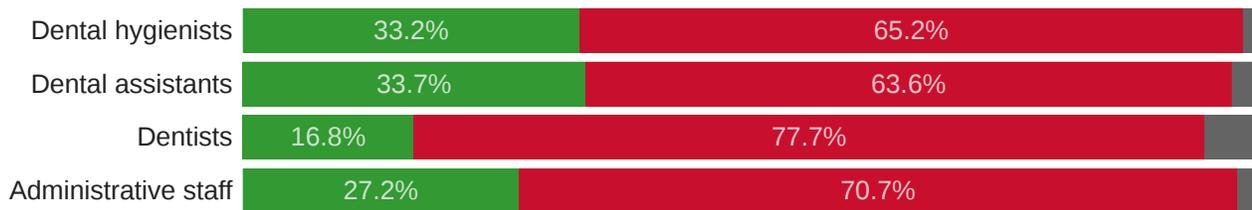


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Rural

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

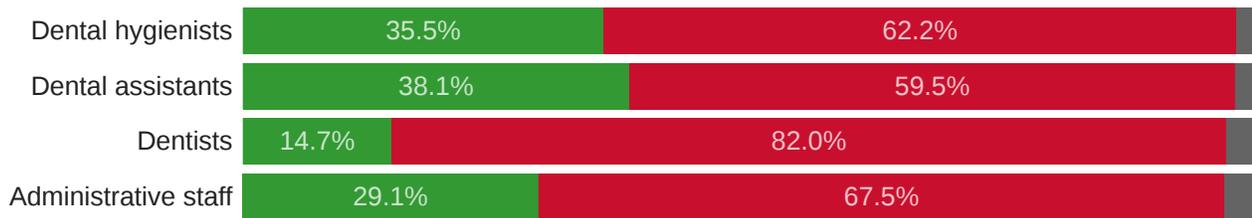


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY SEX

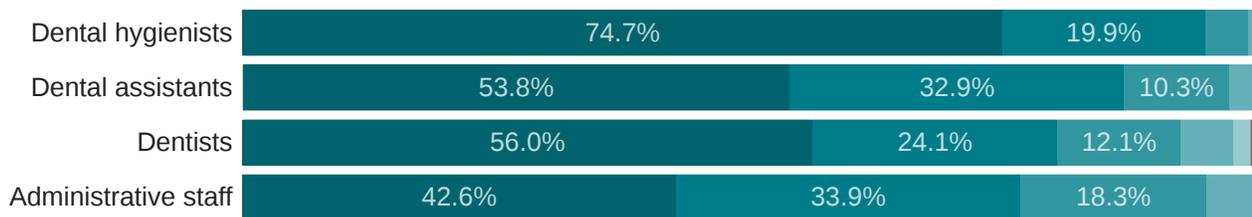
Male

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

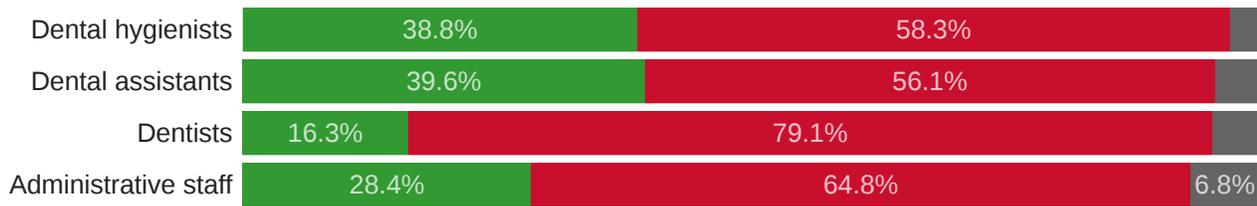


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY SEX (continued)

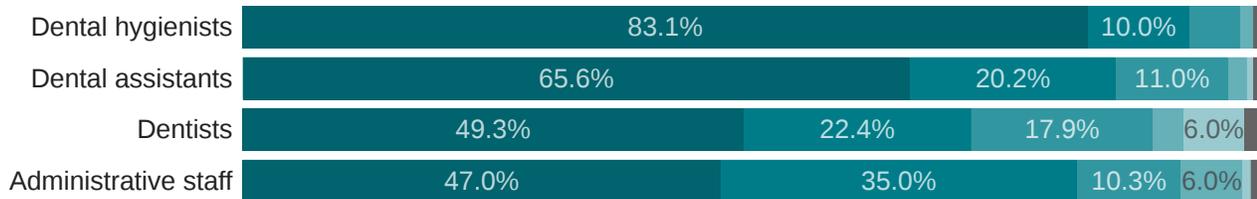
Female

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

Questions of the Week

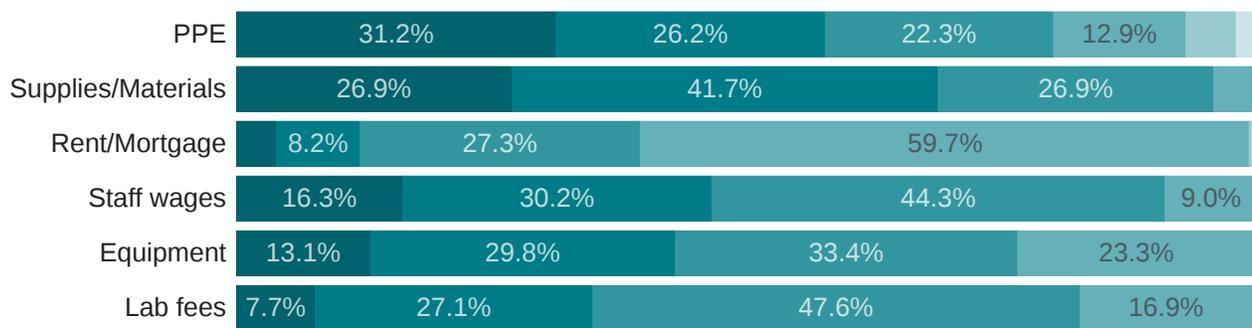
Change in Prices and Reimbursement

BY DSO AFFILIATION

Non-DSO

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

1101 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

1101 Responses



- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

BY PRACTICE

Solo dentists

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

731 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

731 Responses



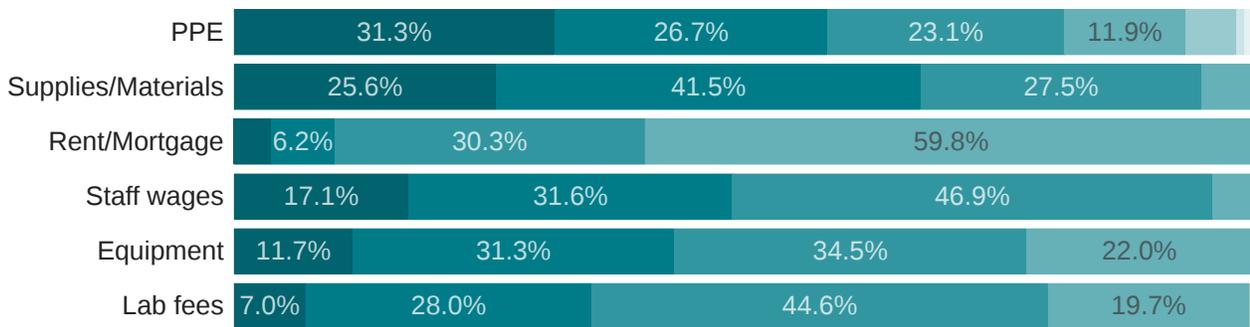
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any i...

BY PRACTICE (continued)

2 to 9 dentists

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

386 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

386 Responses



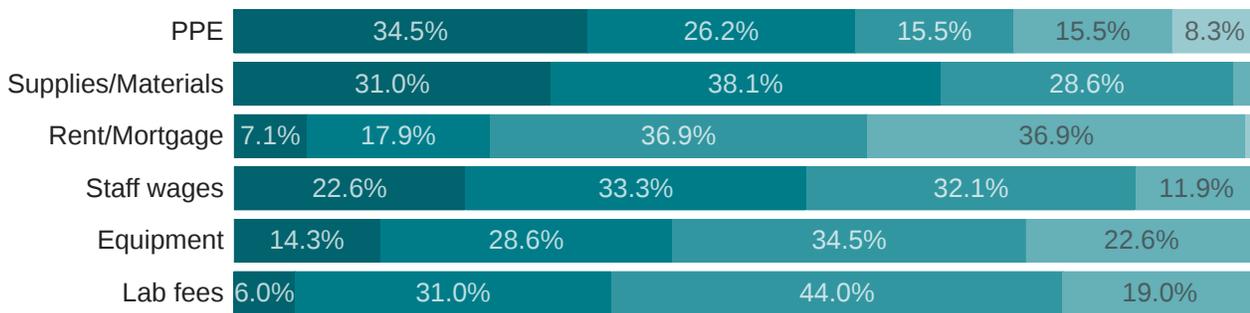
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 cities

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

84 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

84 Responses



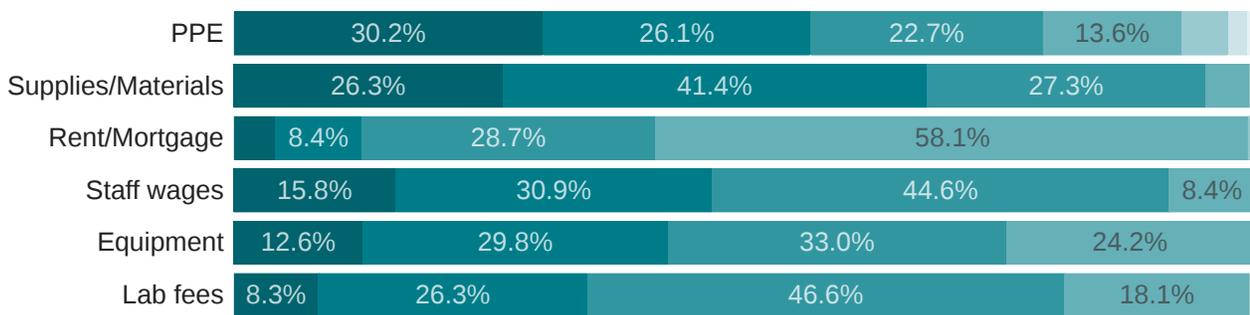
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any i...

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Other urban

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

811 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

811 Responses



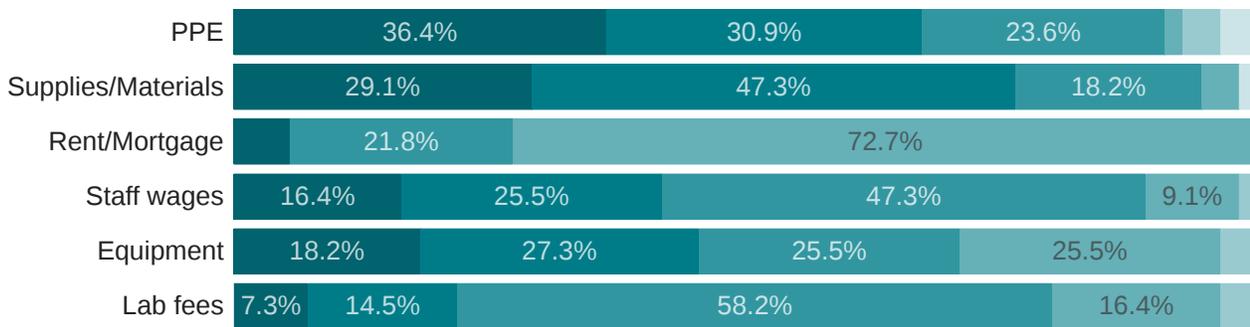
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any i...

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

55 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

55 Responses



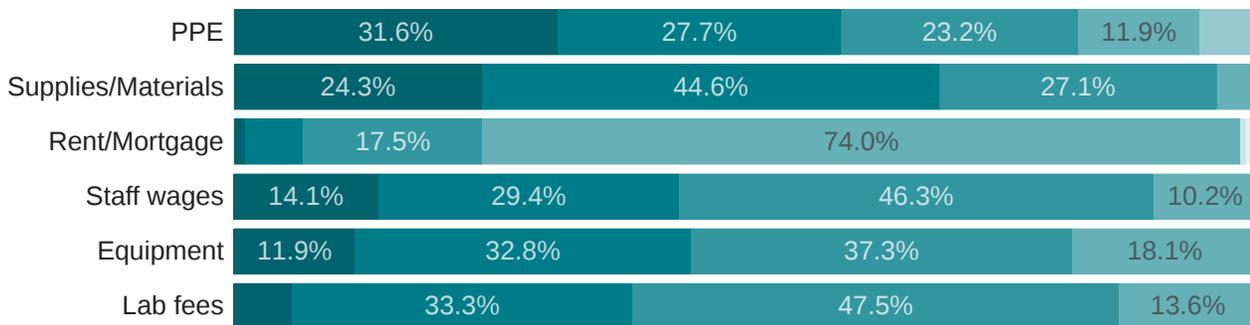
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Rural

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

177 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

177 Responses



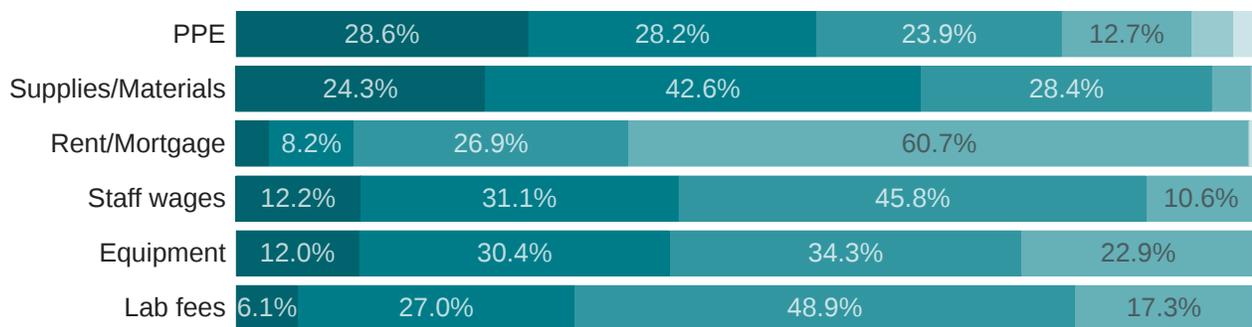
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

BY SEX

Male

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

756 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

756 Responses



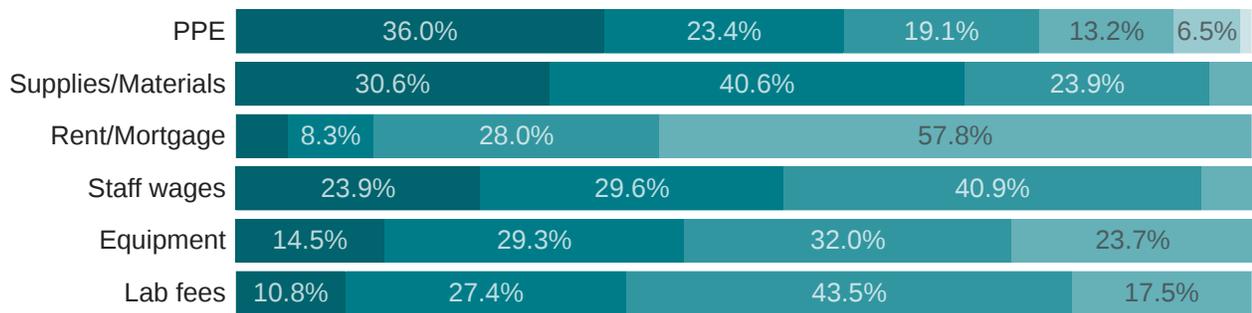
- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any insurance networks

BY SEX (continued)

Female

[Owners only] How have prices changed for your practice in each of the following categories of expenses over the past 12 months?

372 Responses



- Increased more than 20%
- Increased 11-20%
- Increased 1-10%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased 1-10%
- Decreased 11-20%
- Decreased more than 20%

[Owners only] How has the average reimbursement level from all insurance companies in your practice changed in the last 12 months?

372 Responses



- Increased by more than 10%
- Increased by 6-10%
- Increased by 1-5%
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased by 1-5%
- Decreased by 6-10%
- Decreased by more than 10%
- My practice does not participate in any i...

Number of Responses by Wave

Field	Responses
2022JAN	1,883
2022FEB	1,386
2022MAR	1,916
2022APR	1,423
2022MAY	1,389
2022JUN	1,203
2022JUL	1,162
2022AUG	1,204

Number of Responses by Group - Week of August 15

Ownership status	Choice Count
Owner dentist (i.e., sole owner, partner, or shareholder)	1,128
Employee dentist (nonowner)	32
Associate dentist (nonowner)	24
Independent contractor	20

DSO Affiliation	Choice Count
DSO	43
Non-DSO	1,161

Practice Size	Choice Count
Solo dentists	737
2 to 9 dentists	450
Large group (10+ dentists)	17

Number of Responses by Group - Week of August 15 (continued)

Geography	Choice Count
Top 20 Cities	94
Other Urban	866
Suburban	59
Rural	184

Sex	Choice Count
Male	791
Female	412

Age	Choice Count
<35	32
35-44	219
45-54	299
55-64	381
65+	273

Race/Ethnicity	Choice Count
White or Caucasian	906
Asian	107
Latino or Hispanic	60
Black or African-American	12
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3
American Indian / Alaska Native	3
Other	21
Unknown	92