

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 this 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 survey for the week of December 11, 2023 was sent to 3,292 panel members; 971 responded, for an adjusted response rate (excluding undeliverable email addresses) of 29.6%. The number of dentists by specialty and practice setting can be found at the end of this report.

This report features results from the latest wave of this study broken out by the following practice areas/specialties:

- General practice (GP)
- Pediatric dentistry (PED)

Additionally, results are reported for dentists that practice in public health settings (DiPHS), regardless of specialty. (Please note that this group should not be confused with dental public health specialists.) **Please note that we only include graphics representing at least 30 responses.** Because of this, we were not able to include results for the following specialties in this report: oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, periodontics, prosthodontics. The number of respondents in each practice area/specialty can be found at the end of this report.

This report was published in December 2023 by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

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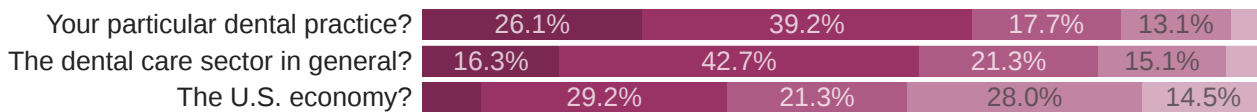
For more information on other publications, products, and services, please visit our website, ADA.org/HPI.

Economic Confidence

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

General Practice

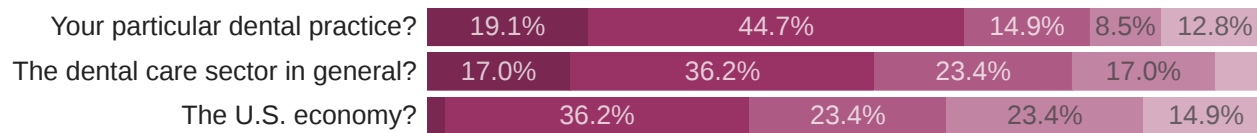
787 Responses



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

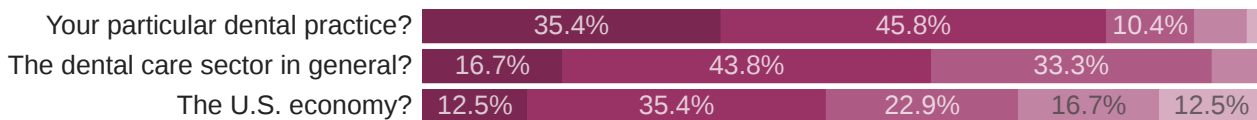
Pediatric Dentistry

47 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

48 Responses



Appointment Schedule

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

Mean % of schedule filled

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings

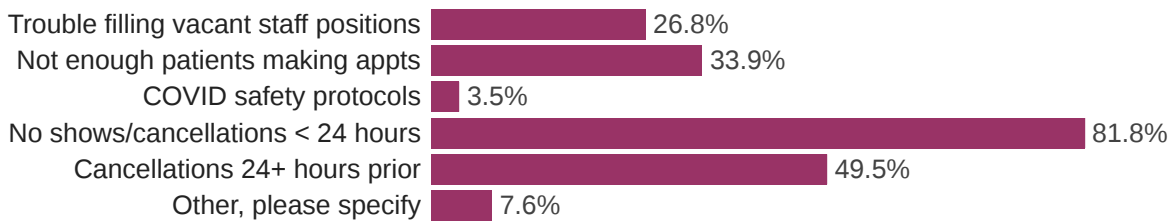


Factors Preventing a Full Schedule

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

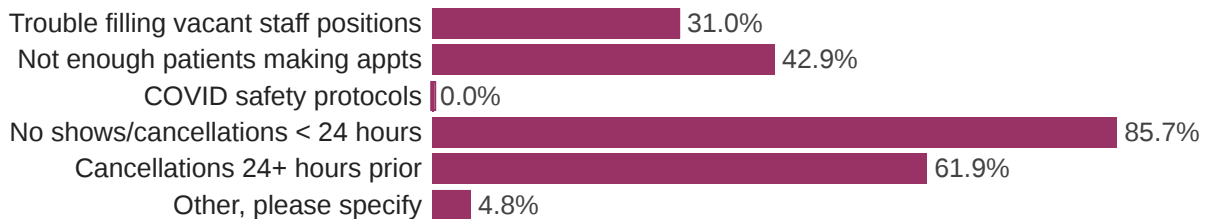
General Practice

660 Responses



Pediatric Dentistry

42 Responses



Patient Wait Times

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

Mean number of days

Dentists in Private Practice

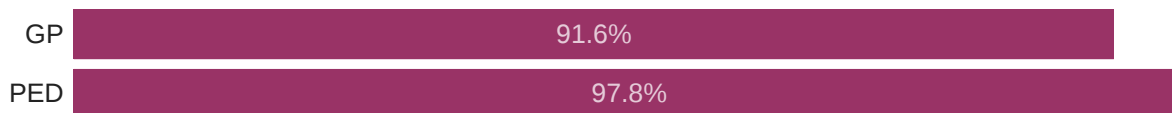


Dentists in Public Health Settings



[Owners only] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

Dentists in private practice



● Yes

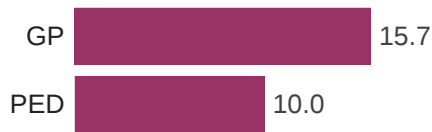
Dentists in Public Health Settings



[If accepting new patients] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

Mean number of days

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings



Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

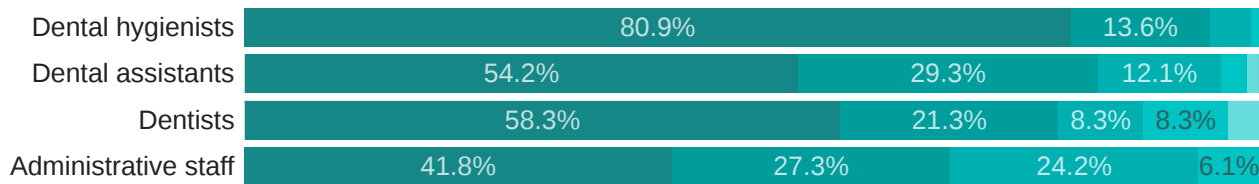
787 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

441 Responses

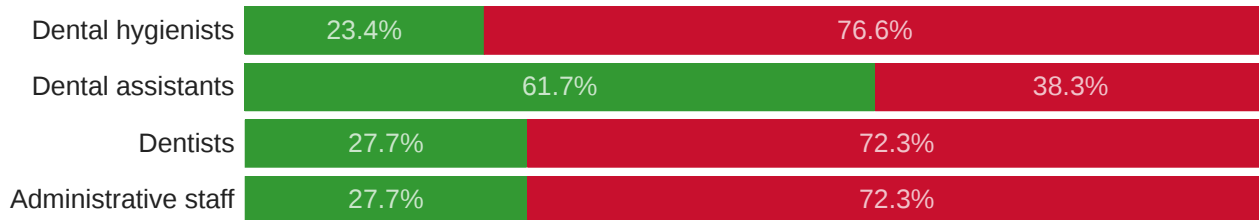


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Pediatric Dentistry

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

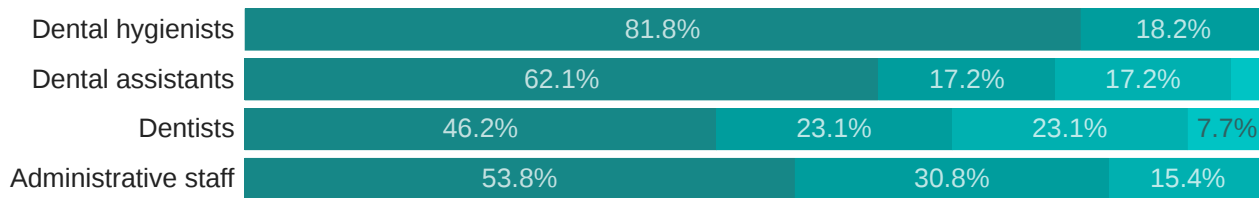
47 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

37 Responses

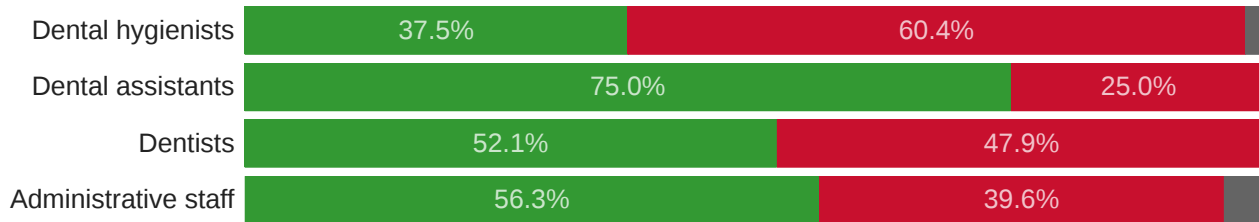


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

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

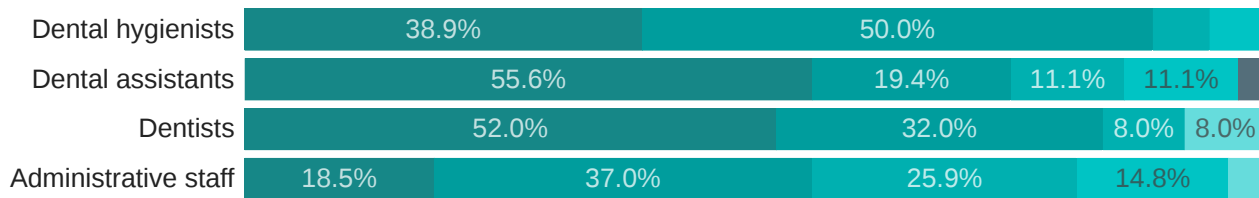
48 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

45 Responses



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

Questions of the Week

General Practitioners

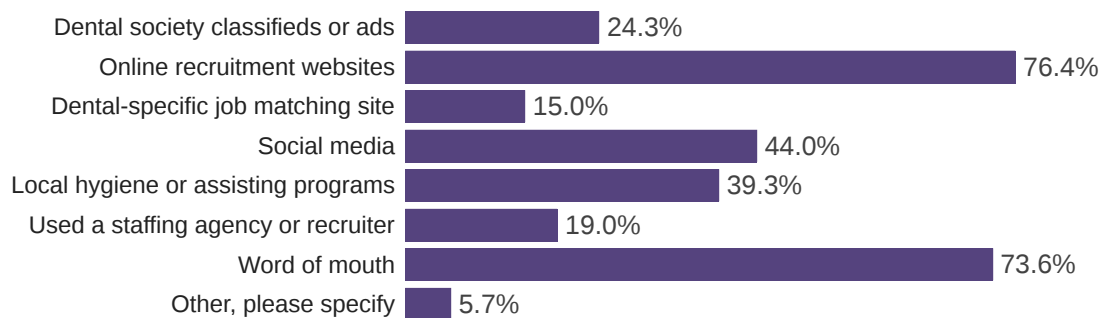
Did you hire new staff for any of the following positions in 2023?

724 Responses



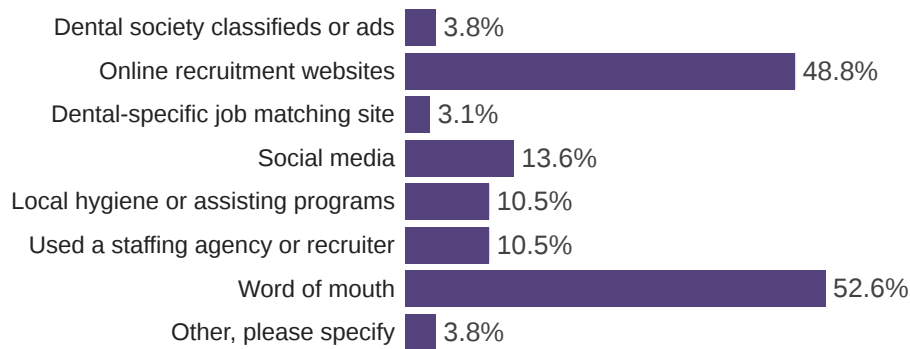
● Yes ● No

[If hired DH or DA] What tools have you used to find applicants for your dental hygienist and/or dental assistant positions? (Select all that apply.)



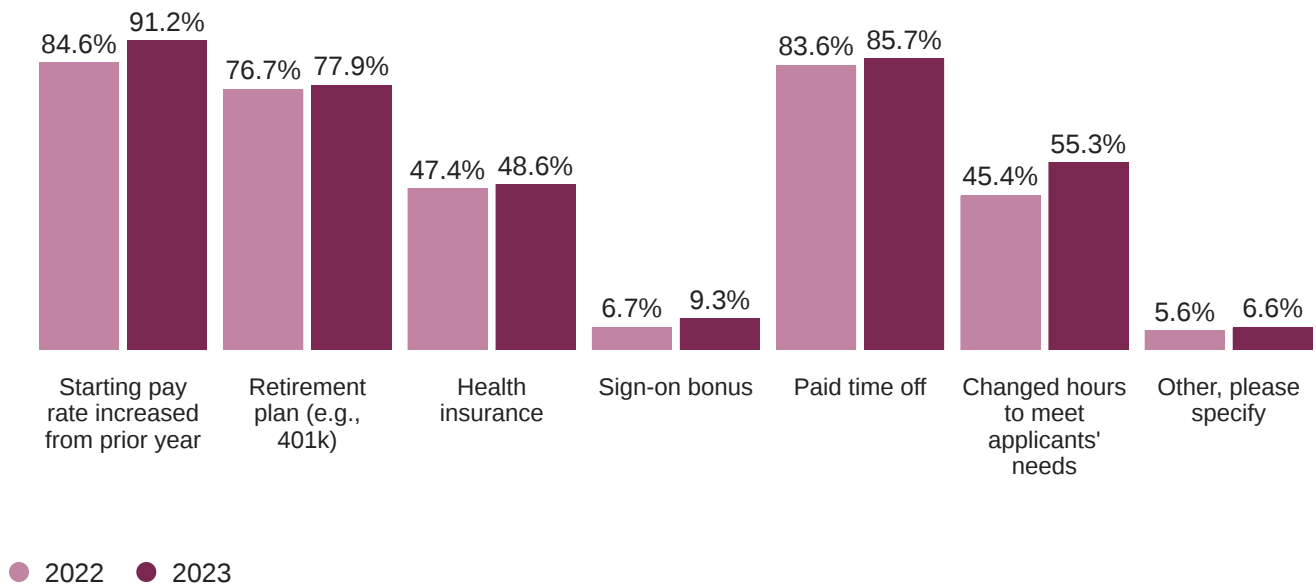
General Practitioners (continued)

[If hired DH or DA] Which of the tools selected above led to the new hire(s)? (Select all that apply.)



[If hired DH or DA] For each of the last two years, please indicate which of the following benefits offered to dental hygienist and dental assistant applicants.

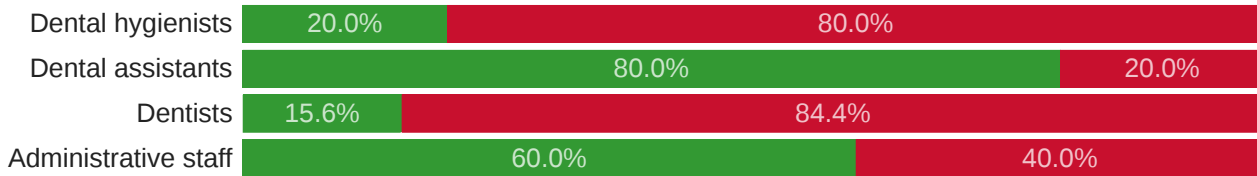
410 Responses



Pediatric Dentistry

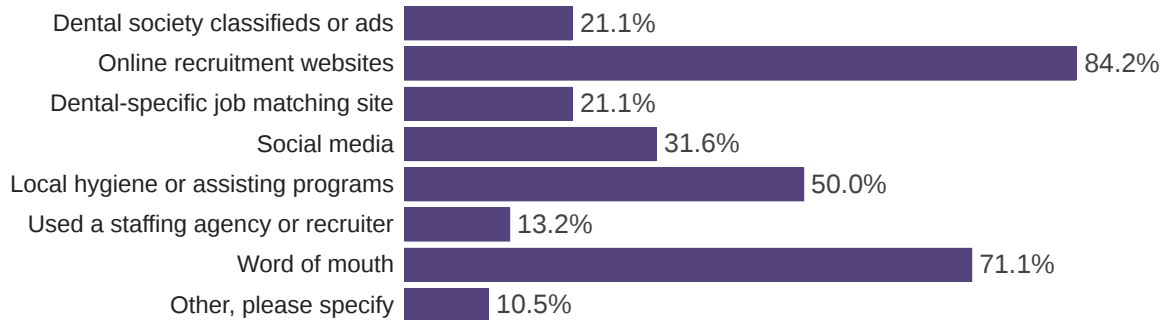
Did you hire new staff for any of the following positions in 2023?

45 Responses

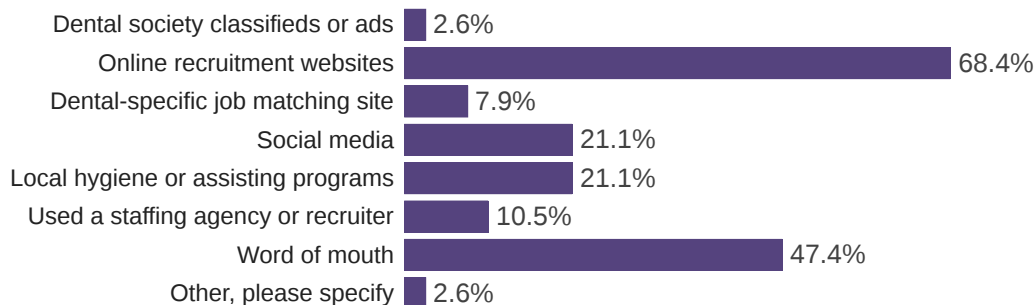


● Yes ● No

[If hired DH or DA] What tools have you used to find applicants for your dental hygienist and/or dental assistant positions? (Select all that apply.)



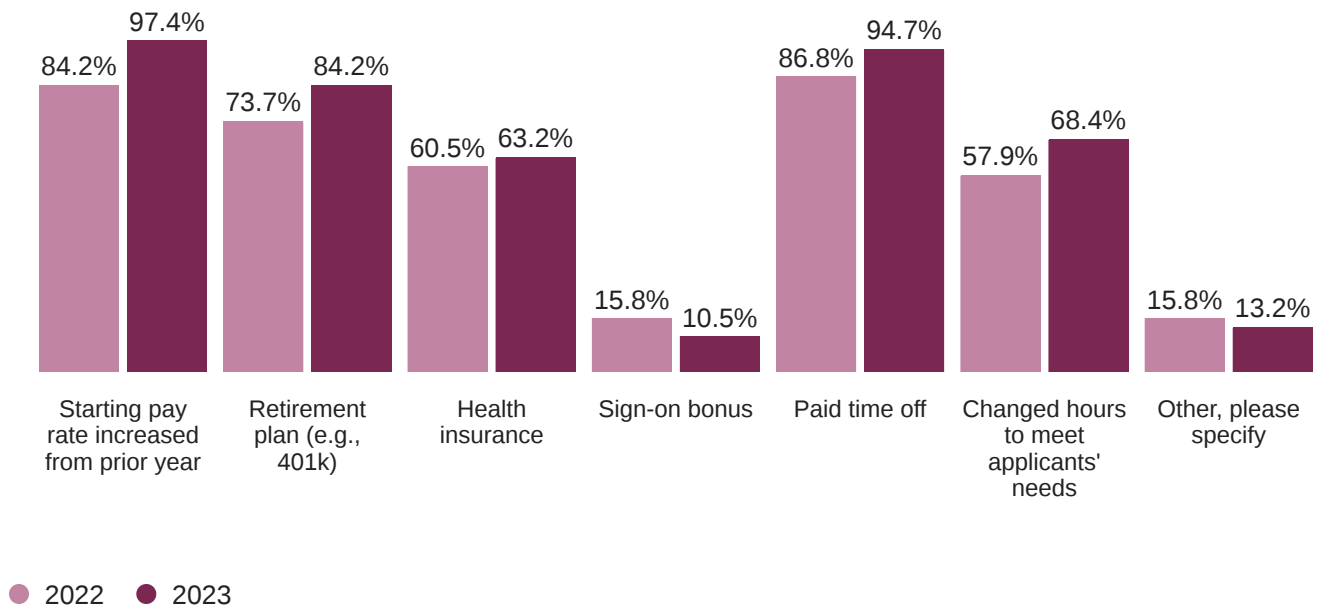
[If hired DH or DA] Which of the tools selected above led to the new hire(s)? (Select all that apply.)



Pediatric dentistry (continued)

[If hired DH or DA] For each of the last two years, please indicate which of the following benefits offered to dental hygienist and dental assistant applicants.

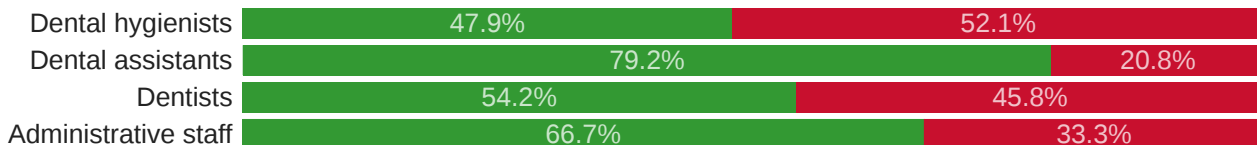
38 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

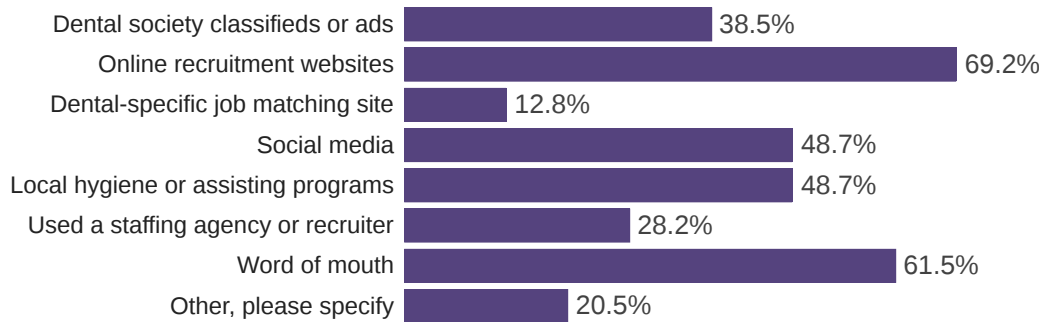
Did you hire new staff for any of the following positions in 2023?

48 Responses

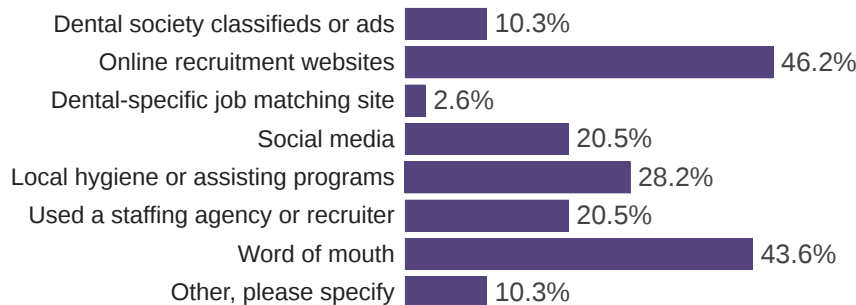


● Yes ● No

[If hired DH or DA] What tools have you used to find applicants for your dental hygienist and/or dental assistant positions? (Select all that apply.)



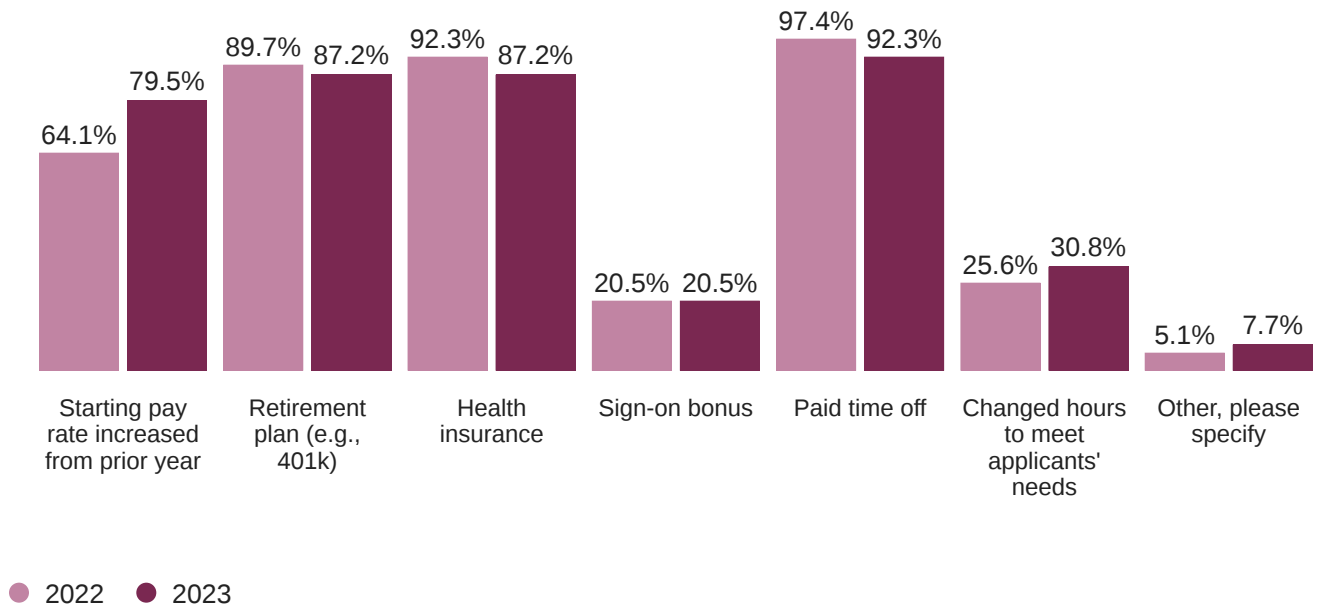
[If hired DH or DA] Which of the tools selected above led to the new hire(s)? (Select all that apply.)



Dentists in Public Health Settings (continued)

[If hired DH or DA] For each of the last two years, please indicate which of the following benefits offered to dental hygienist and dental assistant applicants.

39 Responses



Dentists in private practice

Specialty	Choice Count
General practice (GP)	745
Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS)	18
Endodontics (ENDO)	14
Orthodontics (ORTHO)	22
Pediatric dentistry (PED)	44
Periodontics (PERIO)	23
Prosthodontics (PROS)	7
Dental public health (DPH)	1
Dental anesthesiology (DENTANES)	1

Practice Setting	Choice Count
Dentist in private practice	923
Dentist in public health setting	48