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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Respondents Combined includes overall results for all respondents. Select Breakout of Results includes results by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geography, sex, years experience, age, & race/ethnicity. 	
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> All Respondents Combined Select Breakouts of Results </div>
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About This Study

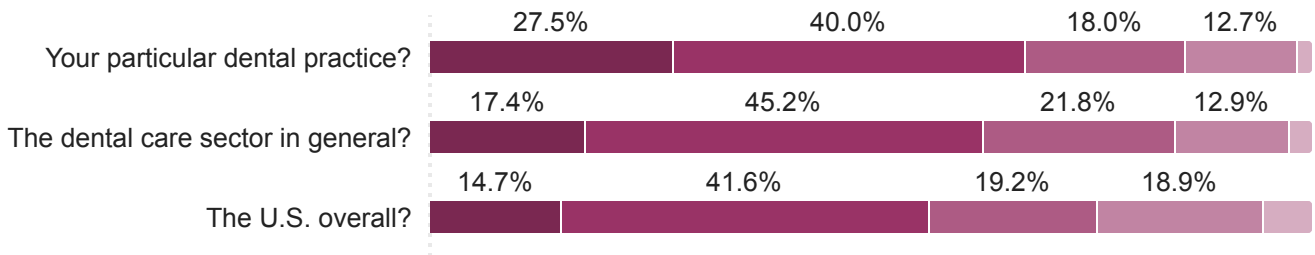
To better understand the economic and operational conditions in dental practices and public health clinics over time, and to measure the impact of emerging issues in dentistry, the ADA Health Policy Institute launched a tracking poll in January 2022. The survey for the fourth quarter of 2024 was sent December 9, 2024 to 2,425 panel members; 954 responded, for an adjusted response rate (excluding undeliverable email addresses) of 39.3%. The number of dentists in private practice who responded in each wave, along with the number of respondents in each reporting category in the current wave, can be found at the end of this report.

This report includes the results from the latest wave for dentists working in private dental practices. Results are reported for all respondents and 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 respondents in the following categories: under age 35, large group (10+ dentists) and Black. The number of respondents by demographics can be found at the end of this report.

All Respondents

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

896 Responses



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

Is your practice currently accepting new patients? (Percentage selecting "yes")



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



■ Average number of days

Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?

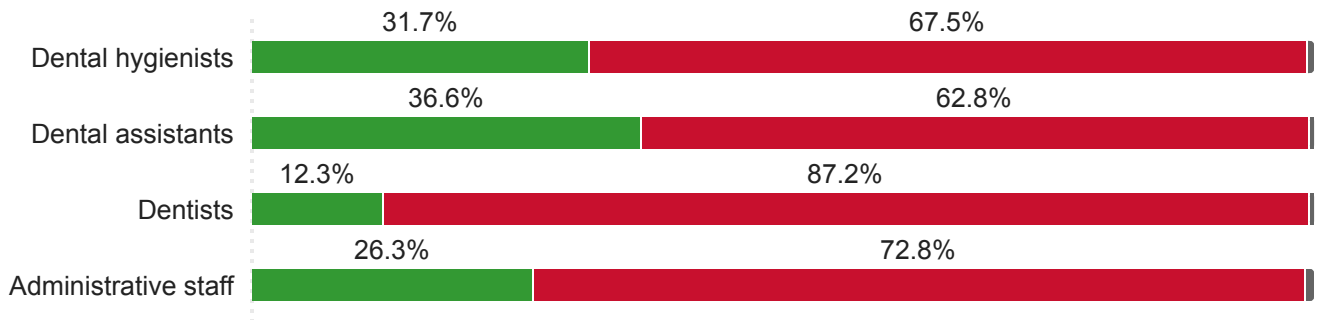
896 Responses



- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?

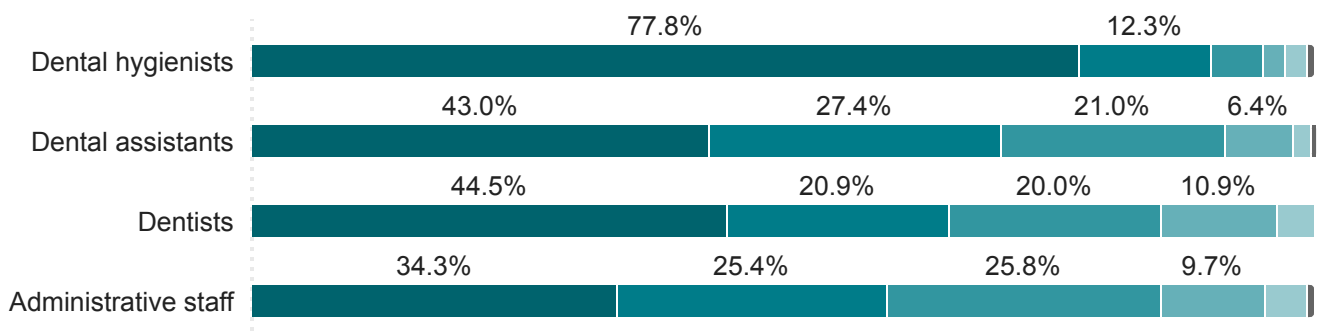
896 Responses



- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?

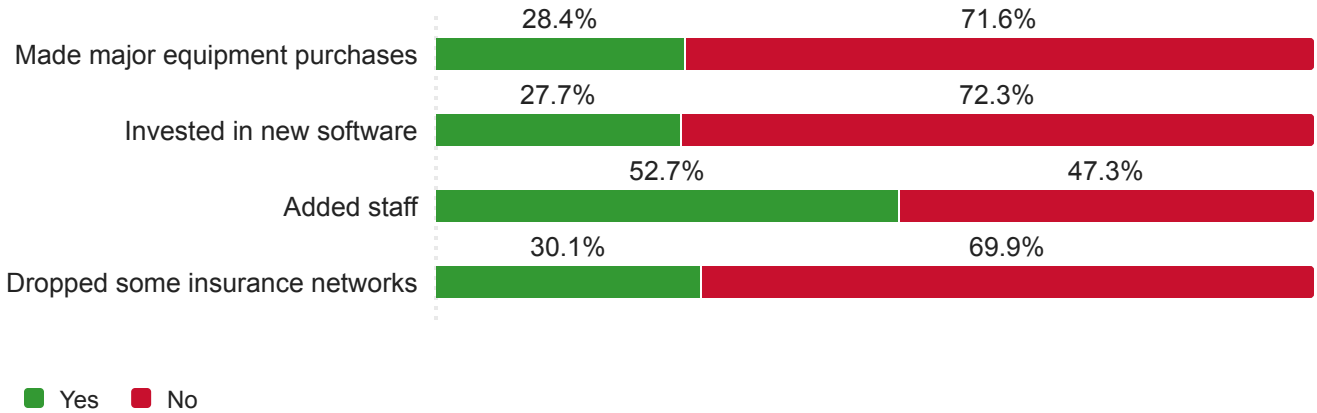
532 Responses



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

[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

790 Responses



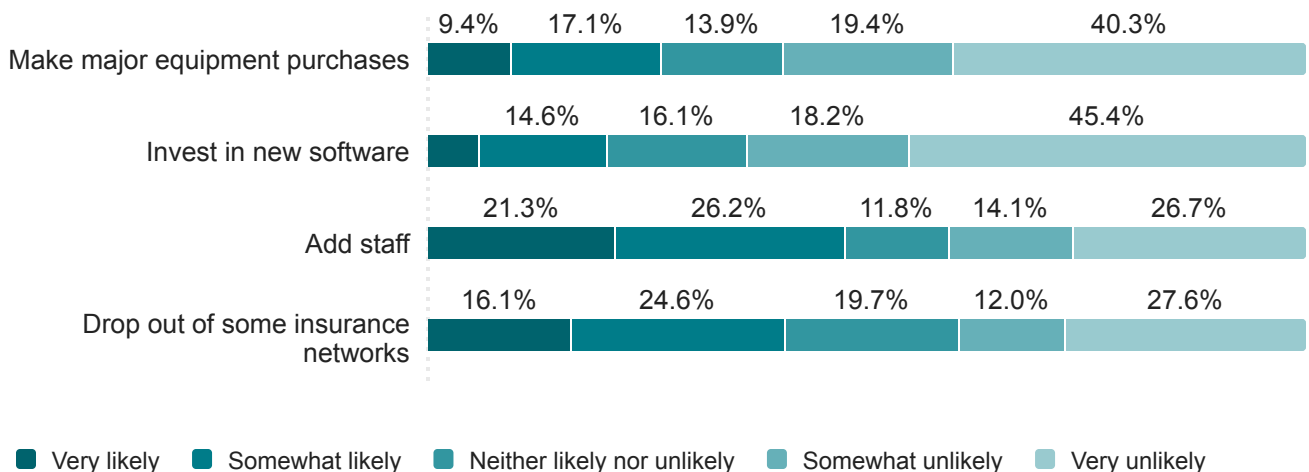
Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2024?

227 Responses



Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice?

790 Responses



Also looking ahead to 2025, what are the top 3 challenges facing your dental practice?

728 Responses

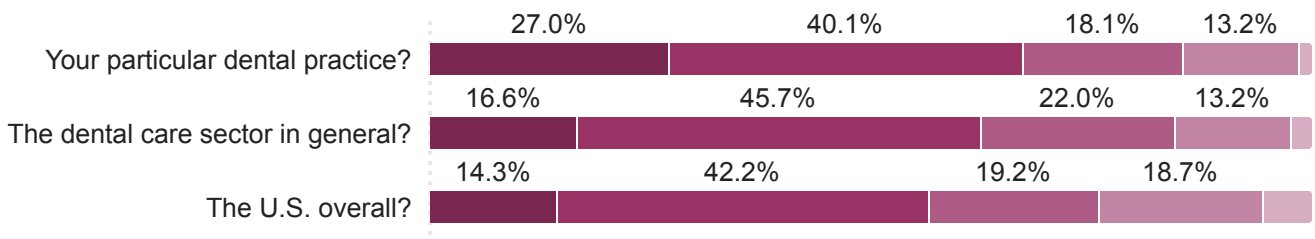
Field	Percentage of Responses
STAFFING / RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION / WORKFORCE SHORTAGE	62.2%
LOW INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT / DENIALS / MEDICAID AND MEDICARE / OTHER INSURANCE ISSUES	57.7%
INCREASING EXPENSES / OVERHEAD COSTS (STAFF WAGES/BENEFITS, SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT COSTS, RENT/MORTGAGE, UTILITIES)	45.7%
MAINTAINING/INCREASING PATIENT VOLUME / KEEPING SCHEDULED FULL / REVENUE OR FUNDING TO OPERATE	26.9%
KEEPING APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE FULL / PRODUCTION	8.8%
WORK-LIFE BALANCE FOR STAFF / HEALTH / MINIMIZE BURNOUT/STRESS	7.3%
PATIENTS REFUSING/DELAYING TREATMENT / NOT SEEKING PREVENTIVE CARE / NOT ABLE TO PAY FOR CARE	7.8%
CONSIDERING OR PLANNING RETIREMENT / PRACTICE TRANSITION / SELLING PRACTICE	5.8%
KEEPING UP WITH PATIENT NEEDS/DEMANDS / TOO BUSY	5.8%
THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL	4.9%
COMPETITION WITH OTHER DENTAL PRACTICES / DSO	3.7%
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT / REGULATIONS AND MANDATES	3.7%
NEW TECHNOLOGY / EQUIPMENT UPDATES	3.4%
DROPPING SOME INSURANCE NETWORKS / GOING OR REMAINING OUT-OF-NETWORK / FEE-FOR-SERVICE	3.2%
POLITICAL CLIMATE / UNCERTAINTIES WITH INCOMING ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING FLUORIDE, MISINFORMATION)	2.5%
CONCERNED PATIENTS WILL AVOID FLUORIDE	0.7%
MISCELLANEOUS	5.6%

Economic Confidence

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

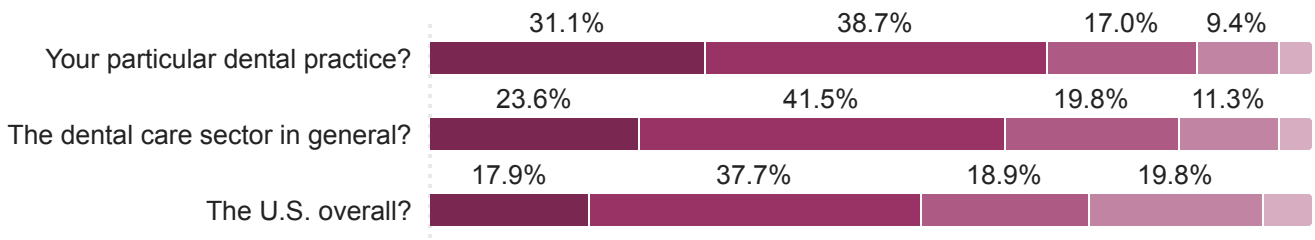
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Owner



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

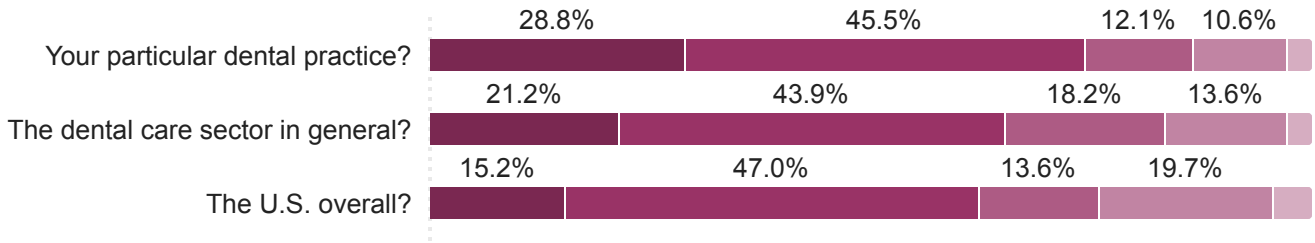
Non-owner



BY DSO AFFILIATION

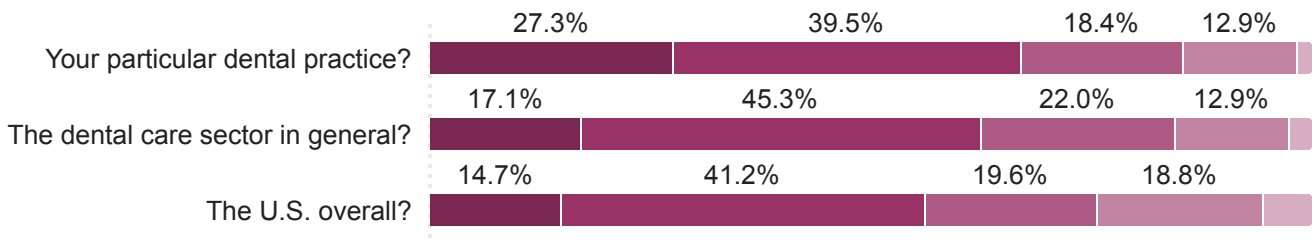
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

DSO



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

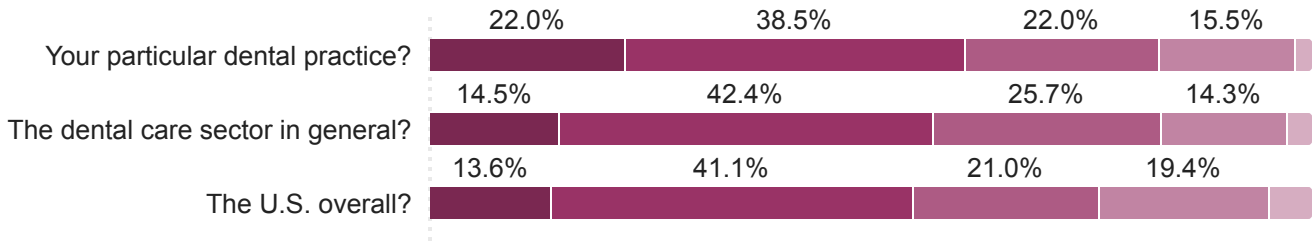
Non-DSO



BY PRACTICE SIZE

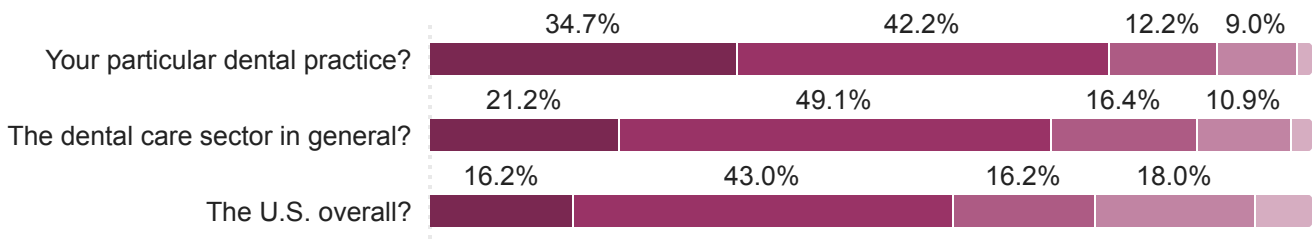
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Solo dentists



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

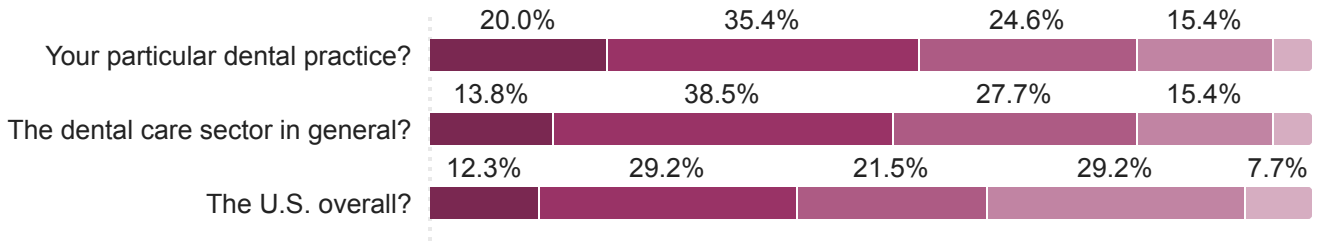
2 to 9 dentists



BY GEOGRAPHY

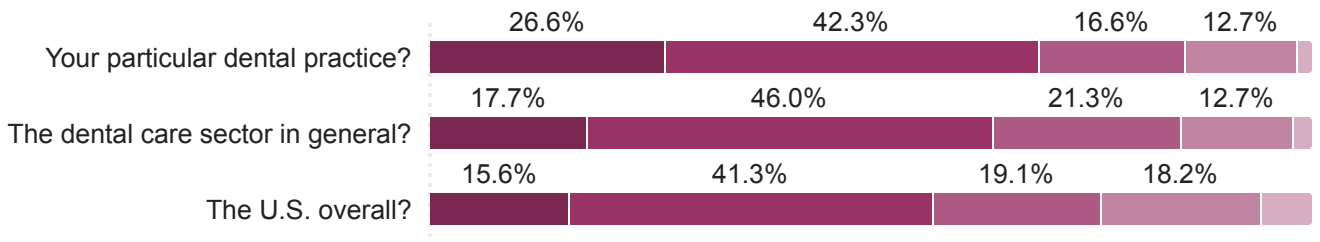
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Top 20 cities

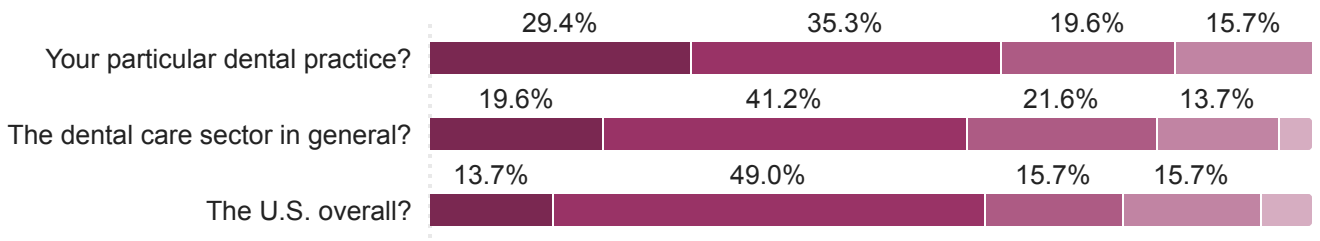


■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

Other urban

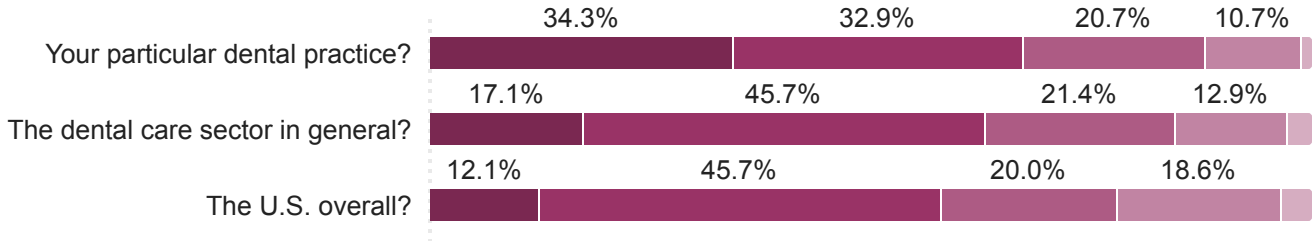


Suburban



Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:
(continued)

Rural

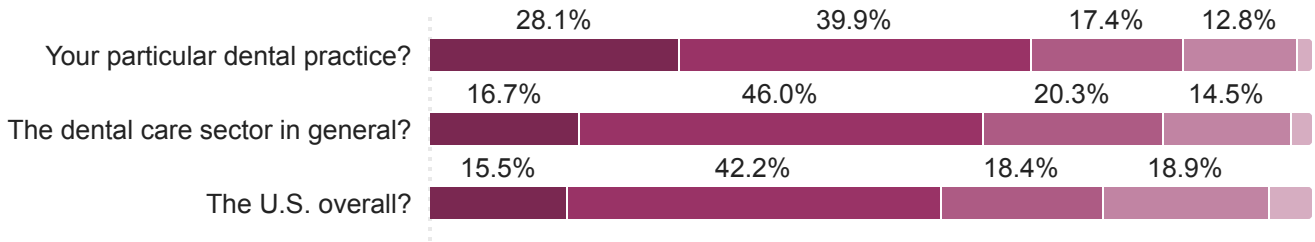


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

BY SEX

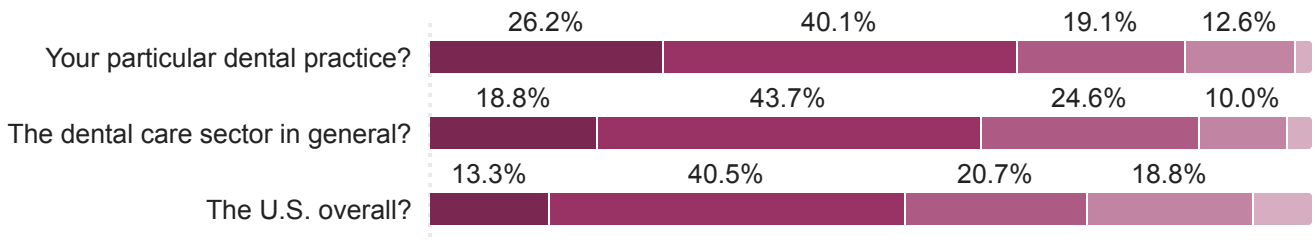
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Male



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

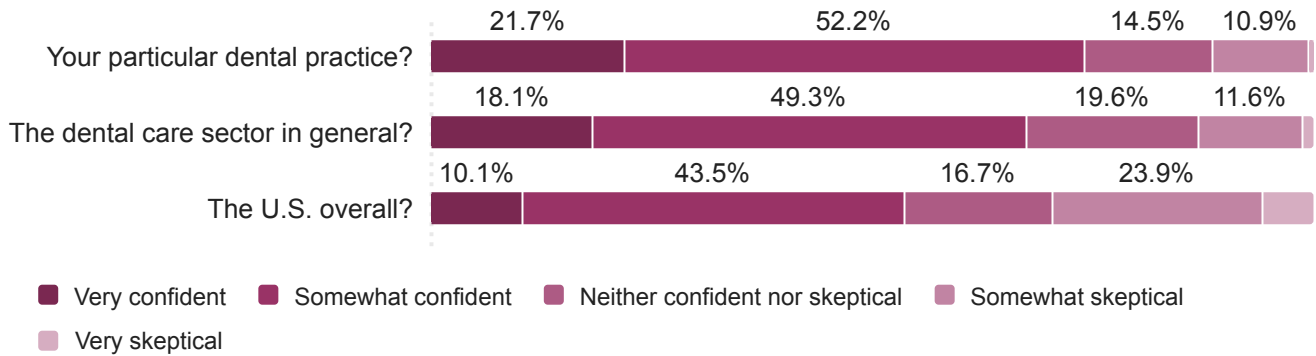
Female



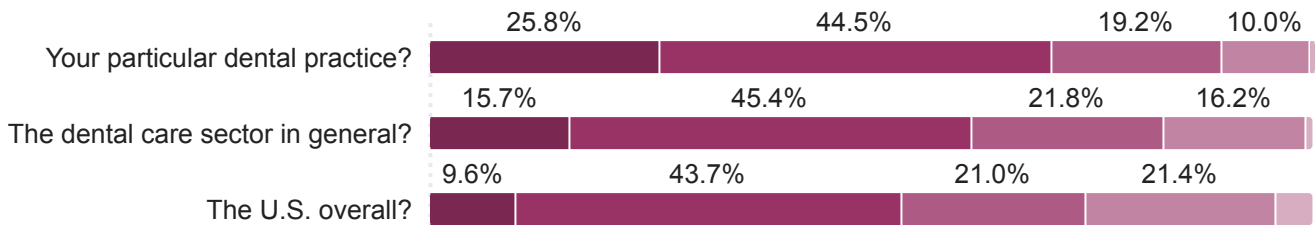
BY AGE GROUP

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

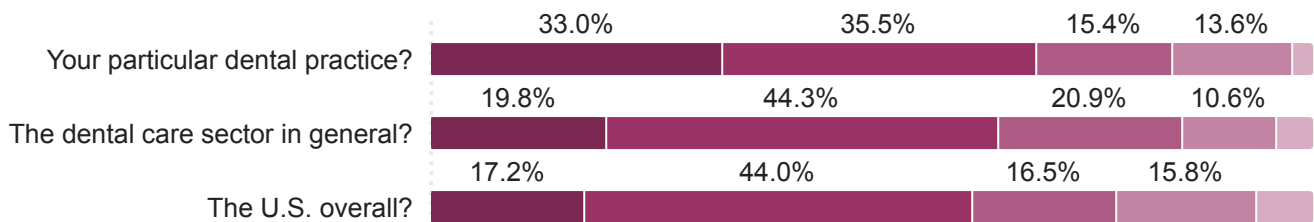
35 to 44



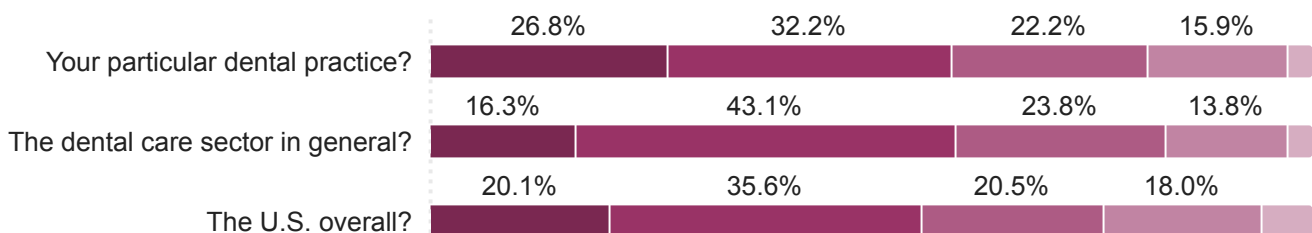
45 to 54



55 to 64



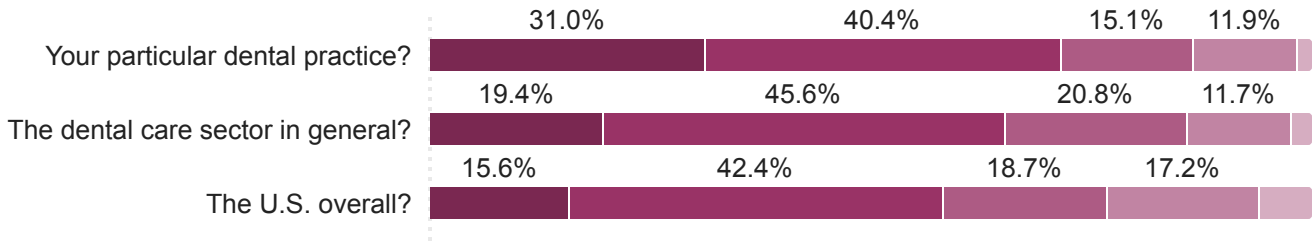
65 or older



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

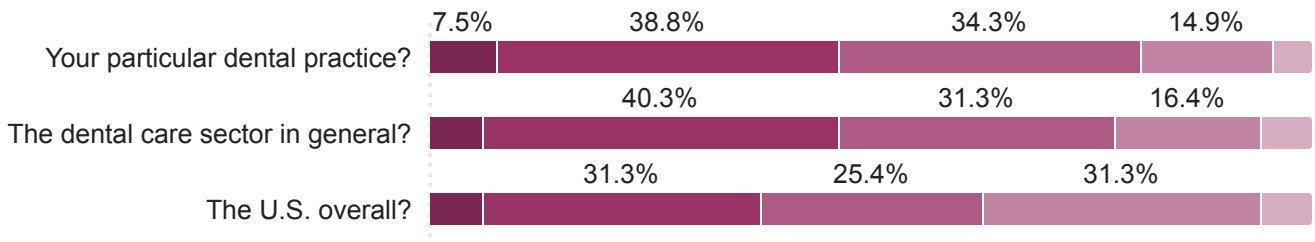
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

White

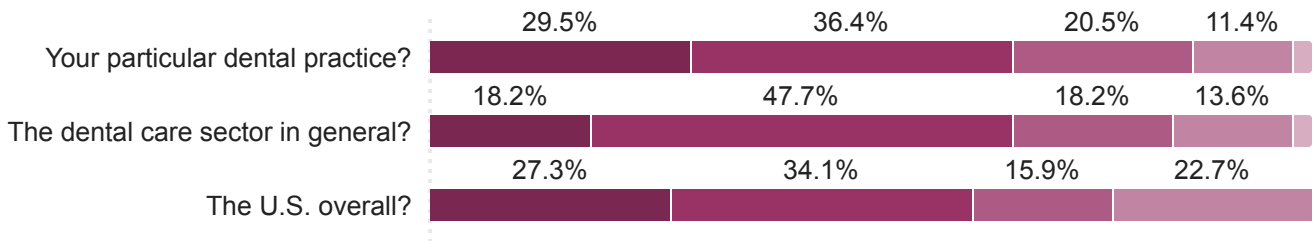


■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

Asian



Hispanic



Patient Wait Times

BY DSO AFFILIATION

**[Owners only] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?
(Percentage selecting "yes")**



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



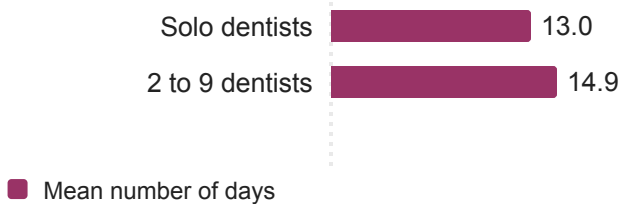
■ Mean number of days

BY PRACTICE SIZE

**[Owners only] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?
(Percentage selecting "yes")**



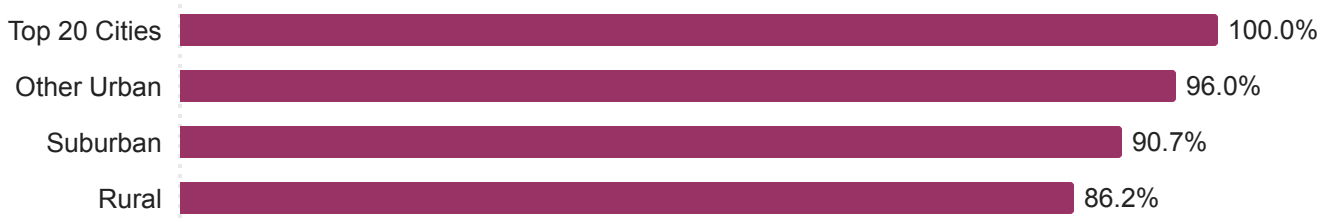
Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?



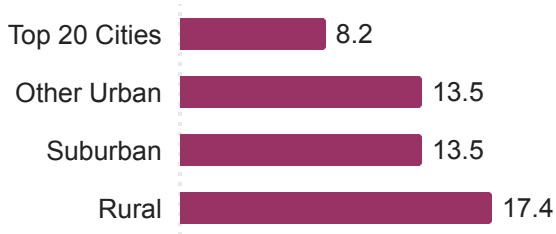
BY GEOGRAPHY

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

(Percentage selecting "yes")



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



■ Average number of days

BY SEX

**[Owners only] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?
(Percentage selecting "yes")**



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



■ Mean number of days

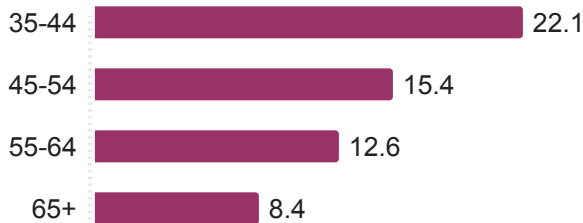
BY AGE GROUP

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

(Percentage selecting "yes")



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



■ Average number of days

BY RACE / ETHNICITY

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

(Percentage selecting "yes")



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



■ Average number of days

Business

Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS



- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

BY DSO AFFILIATION

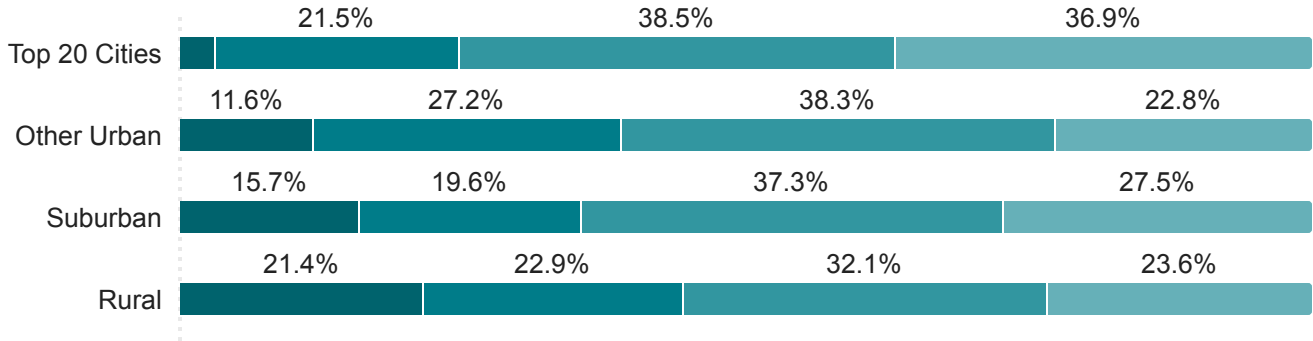


BY PRACTICE SIZE



Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months? (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

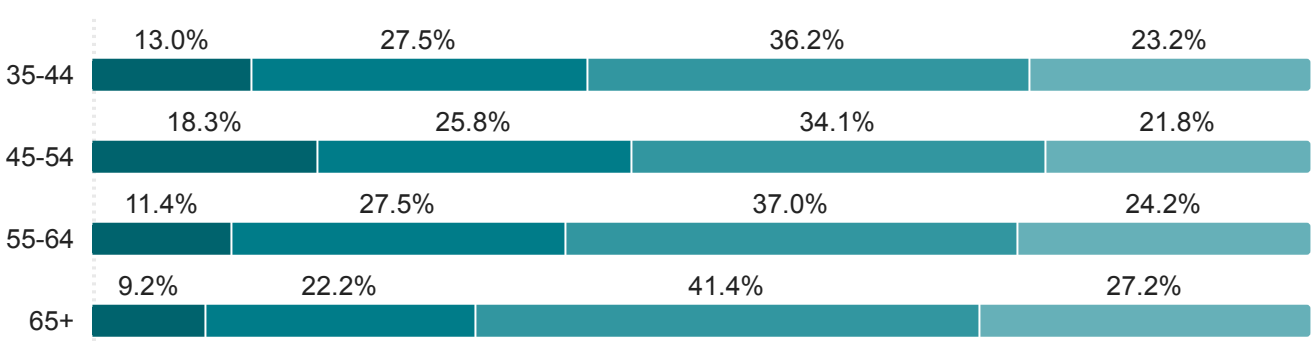


- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

BY GENDER

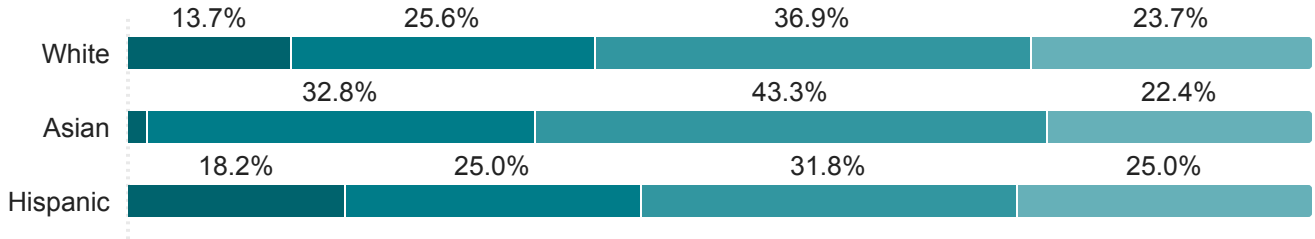


BY AGE GROUP



Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months? (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



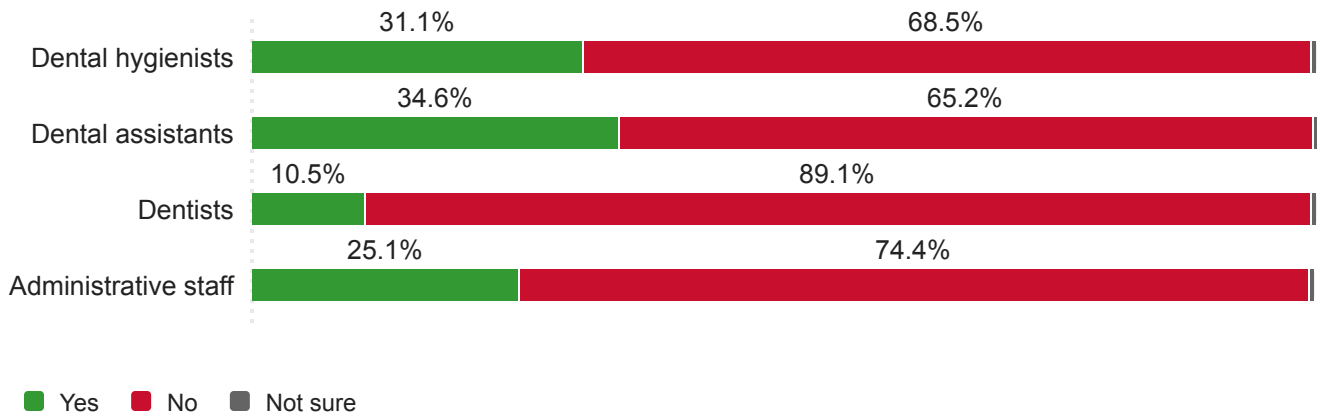
- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

Staff Recruitment

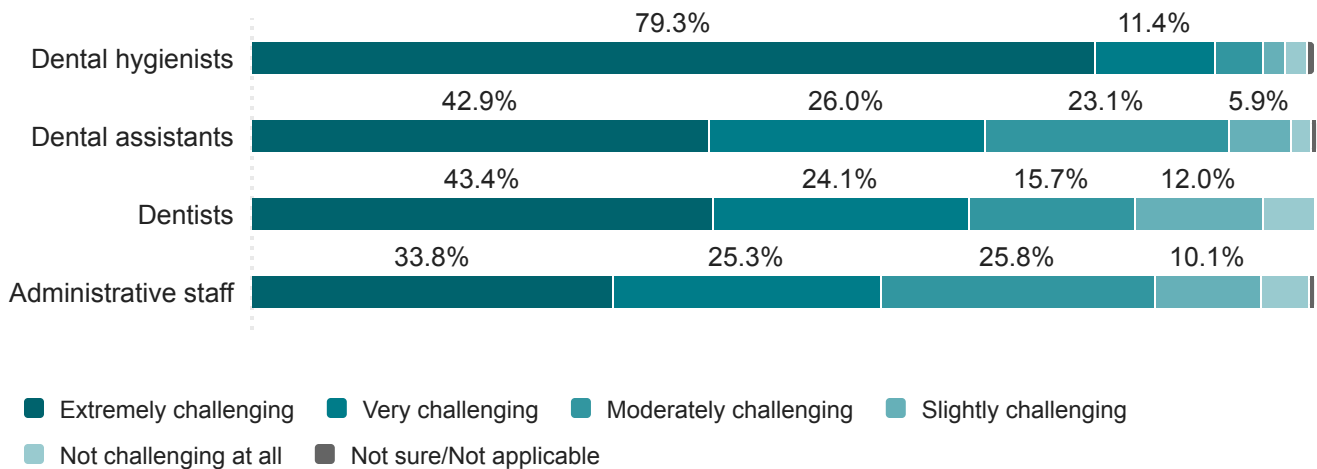
BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Owner dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



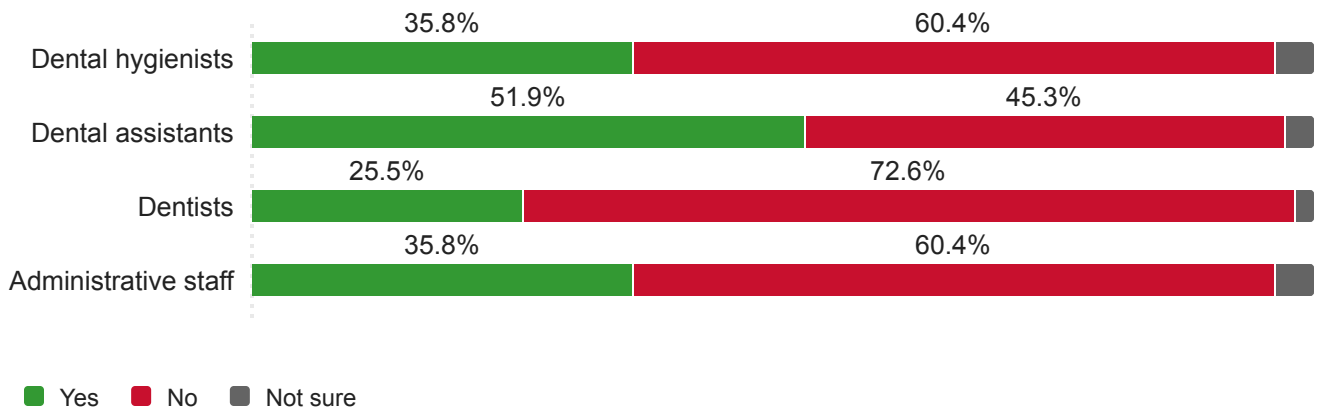
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



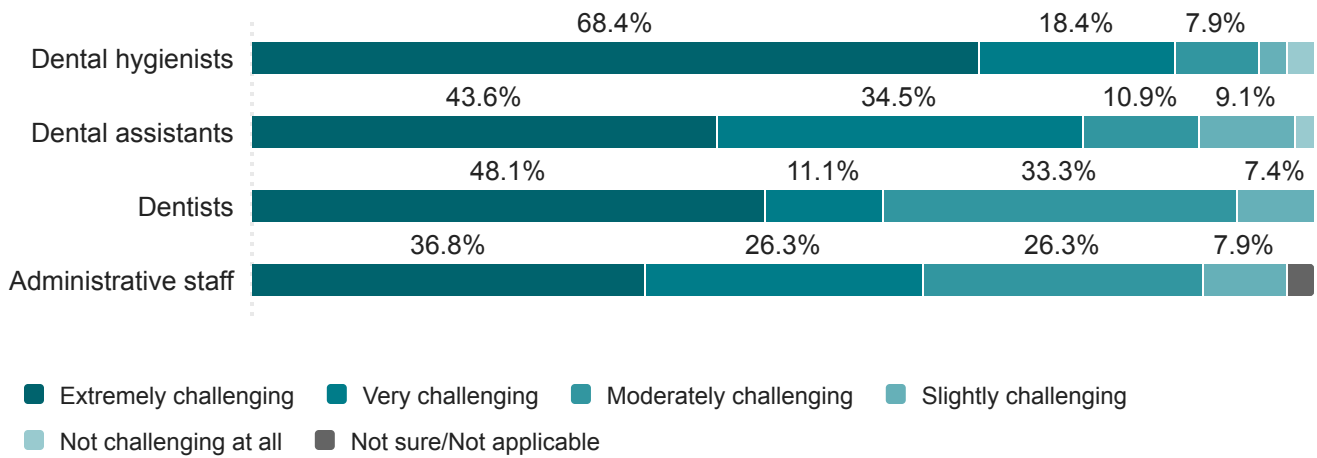
BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

Non-owner dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



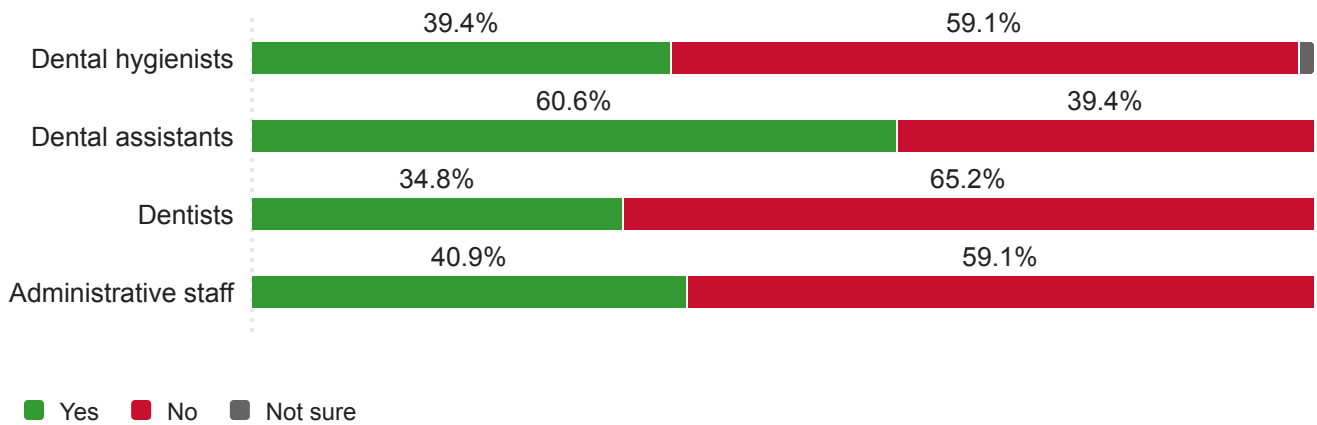
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



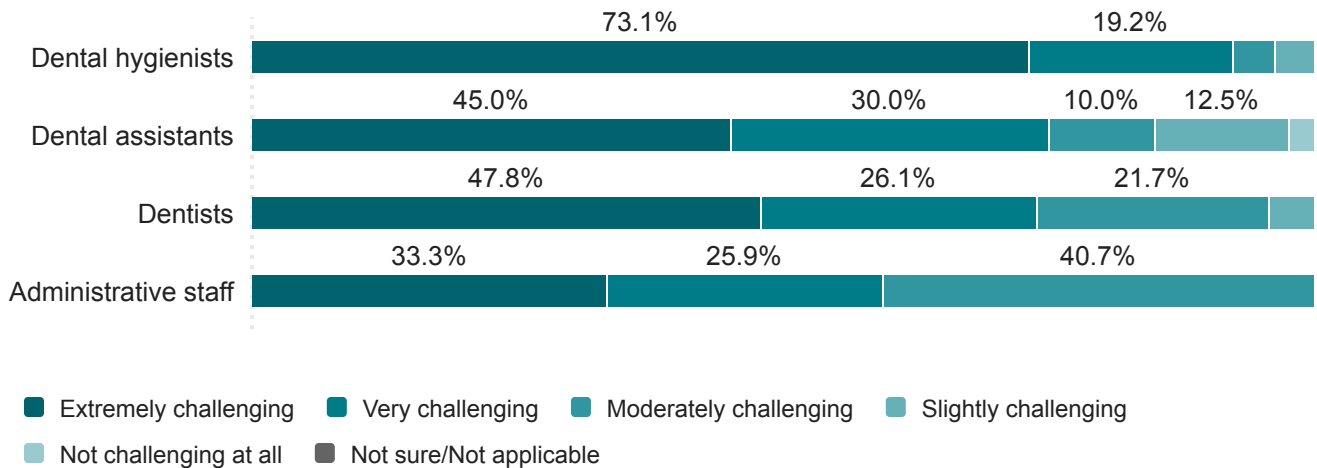
BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



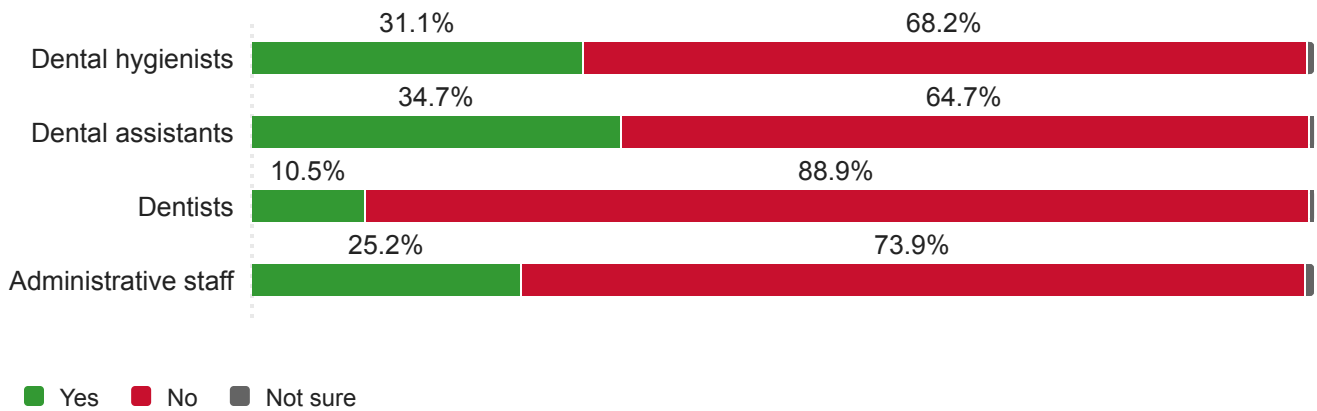
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



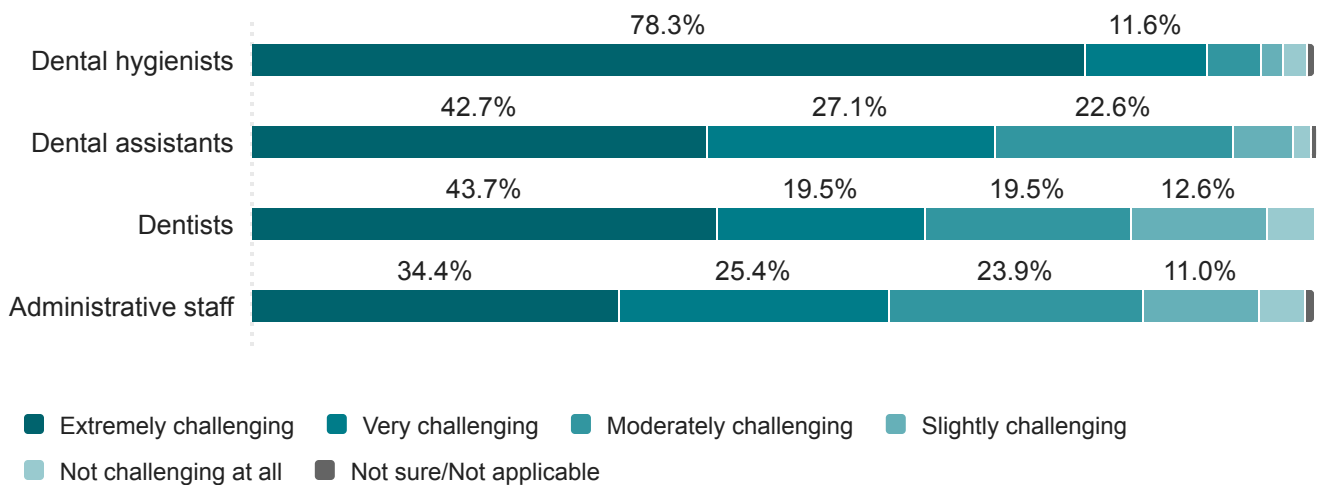
BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

Non-DSO

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



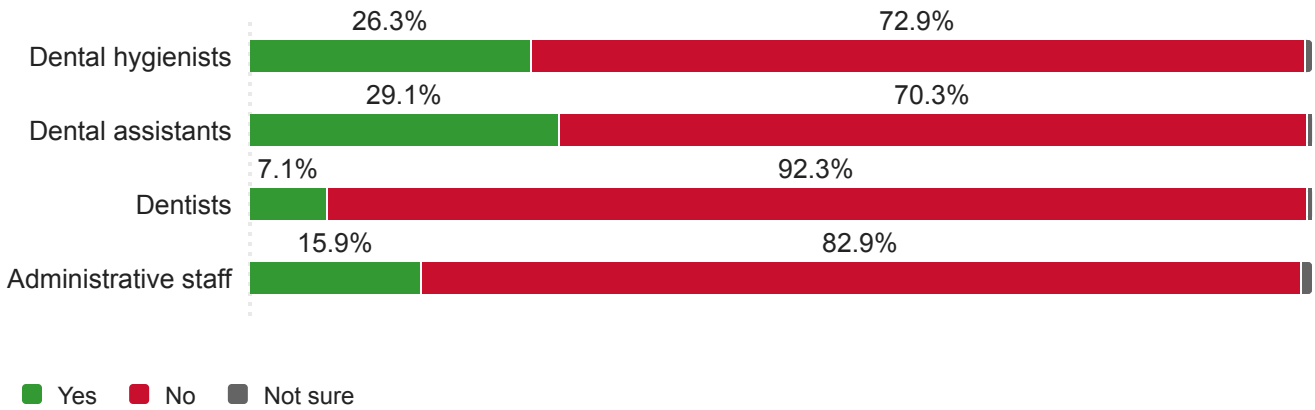
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



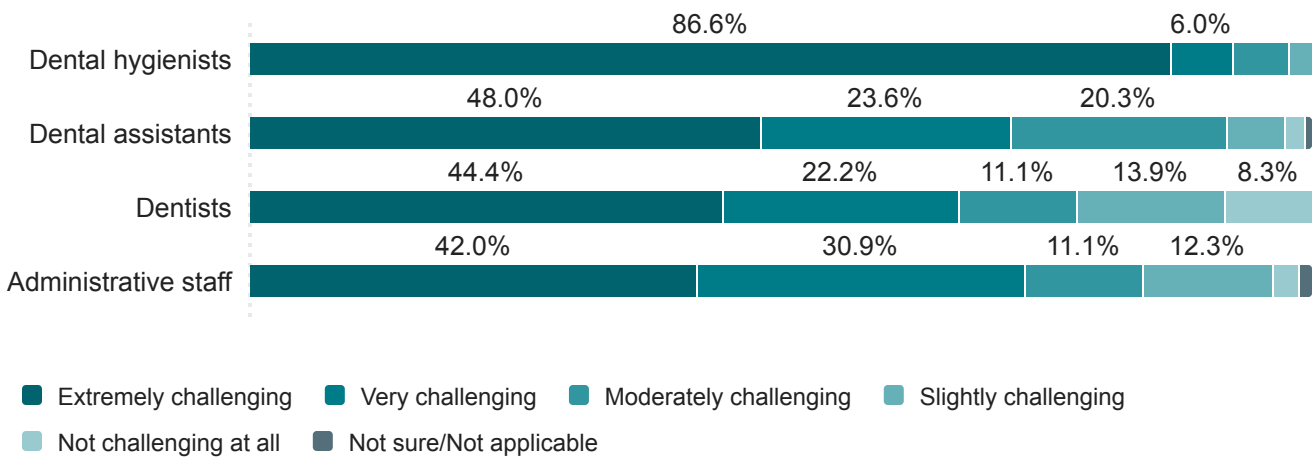
BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



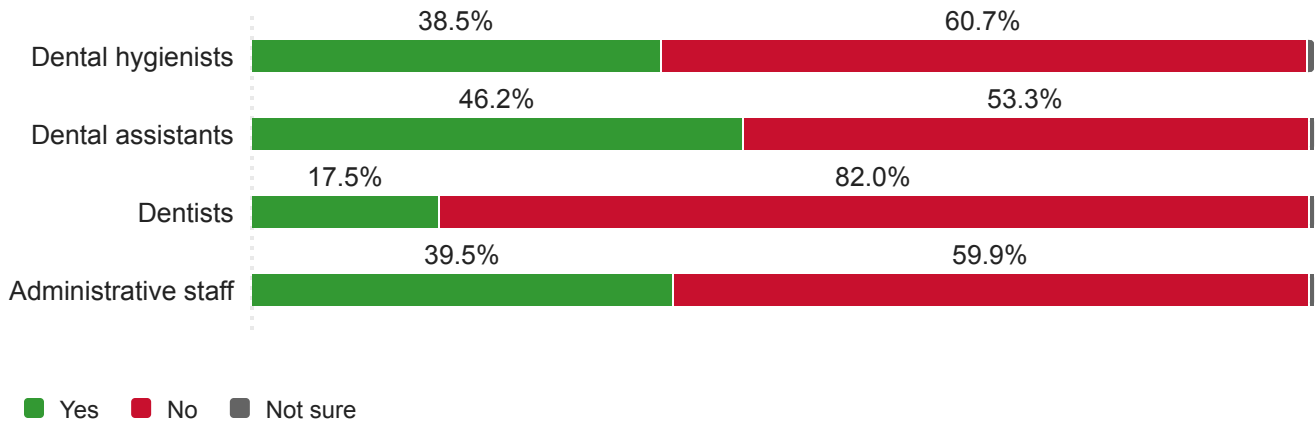
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



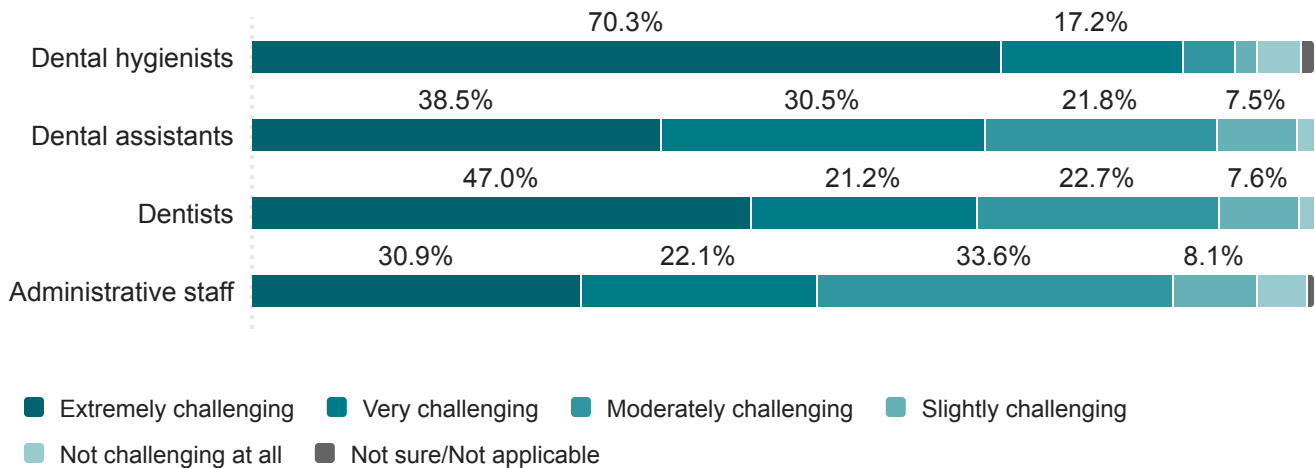
BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

2 to 9 dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



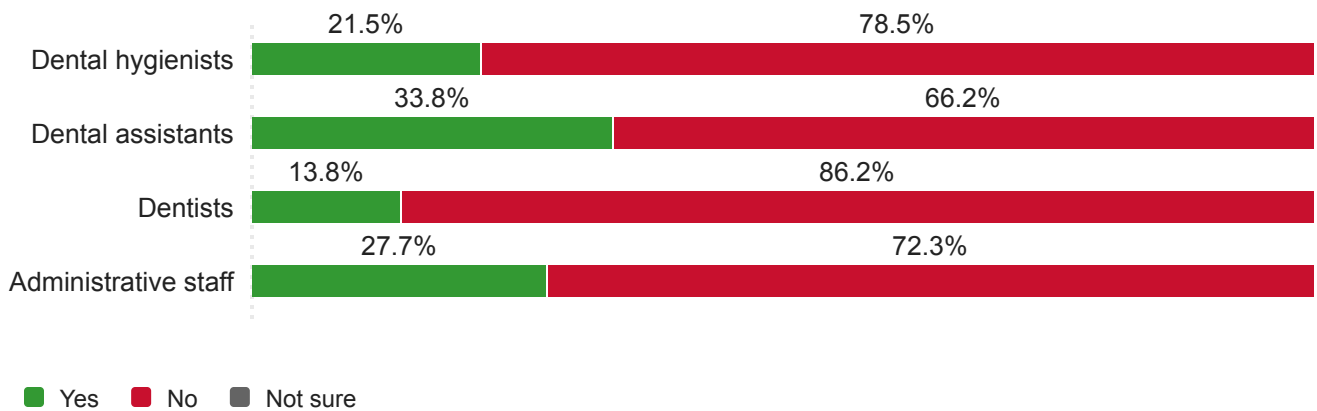
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



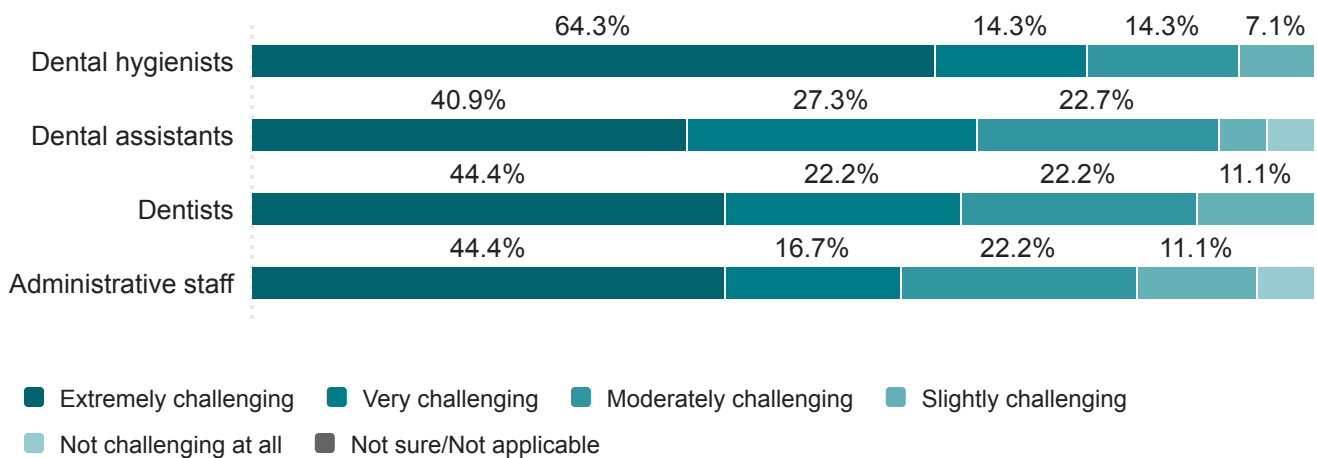
BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 Cities

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



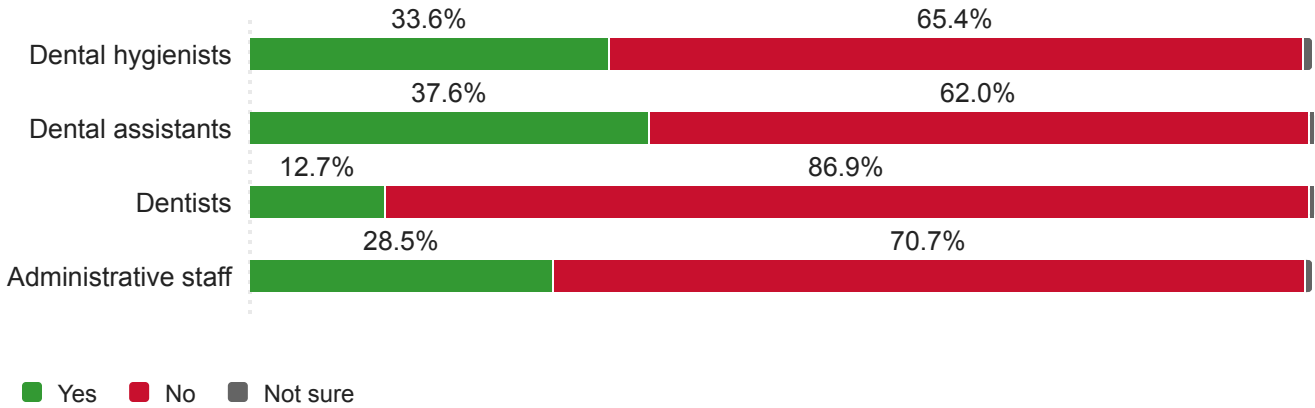
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



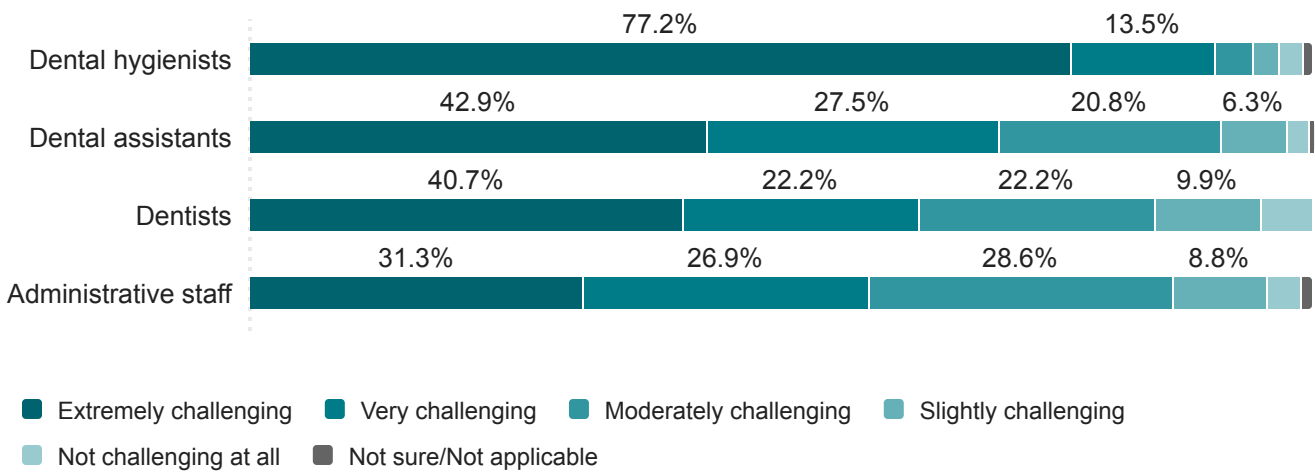
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Other Urban

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



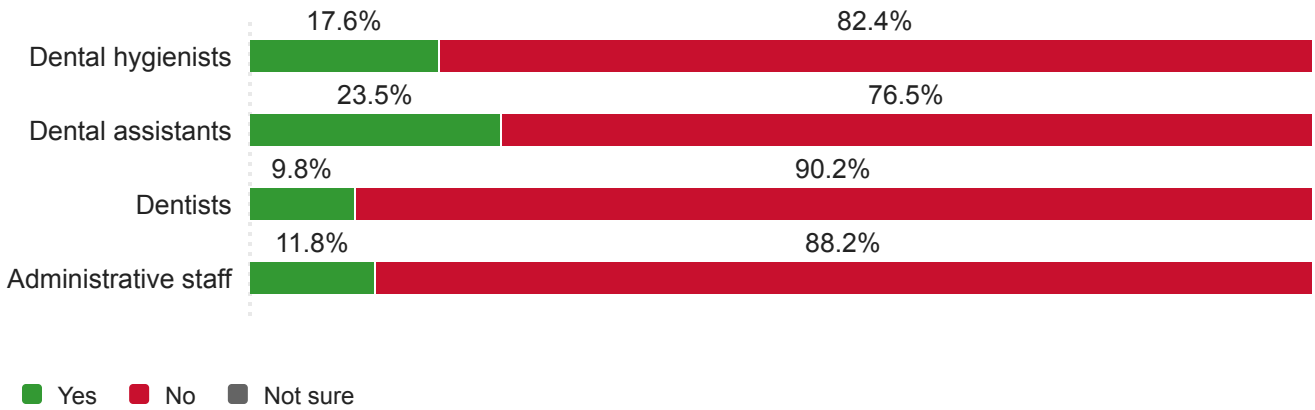
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



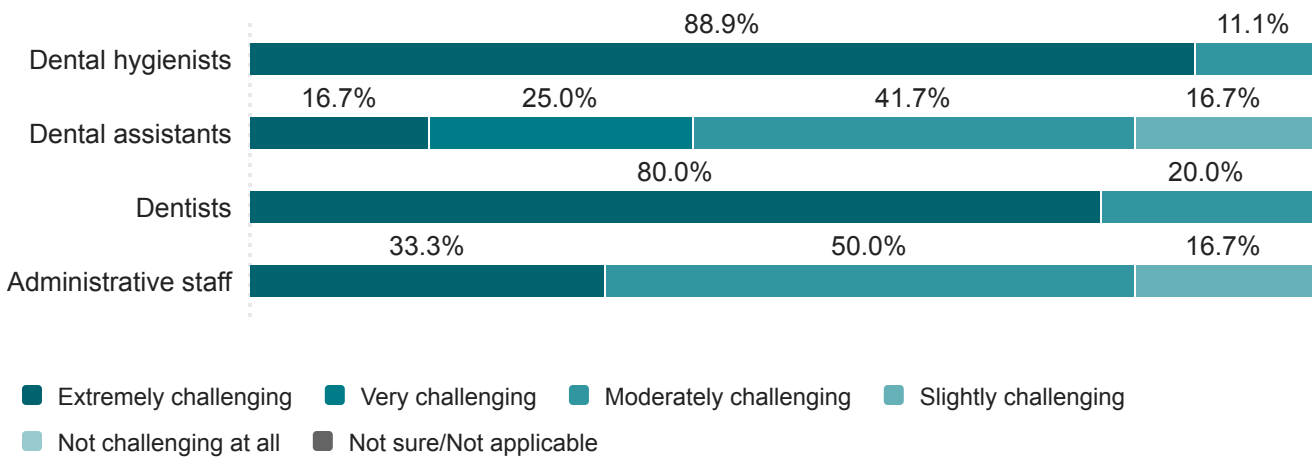
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



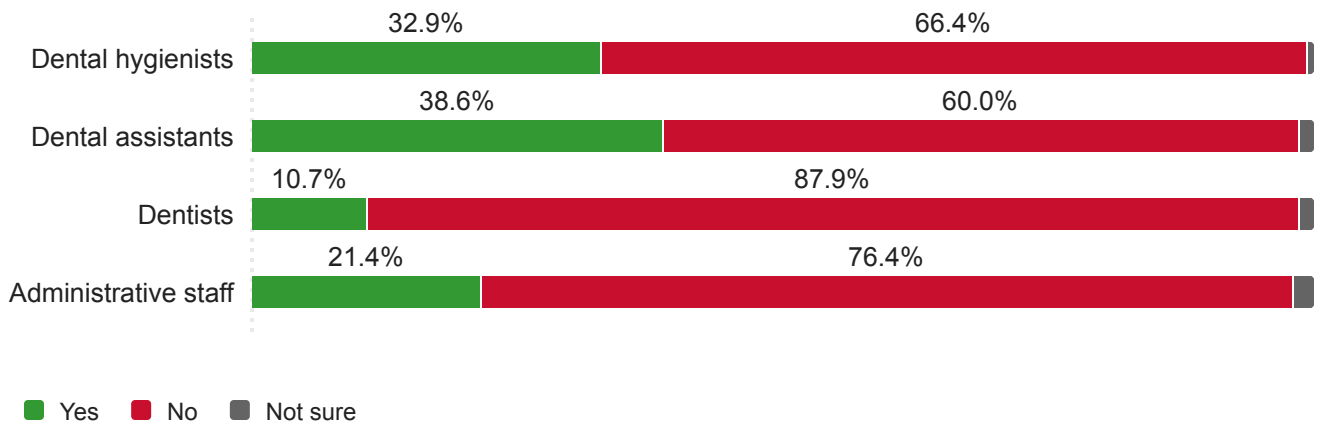
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



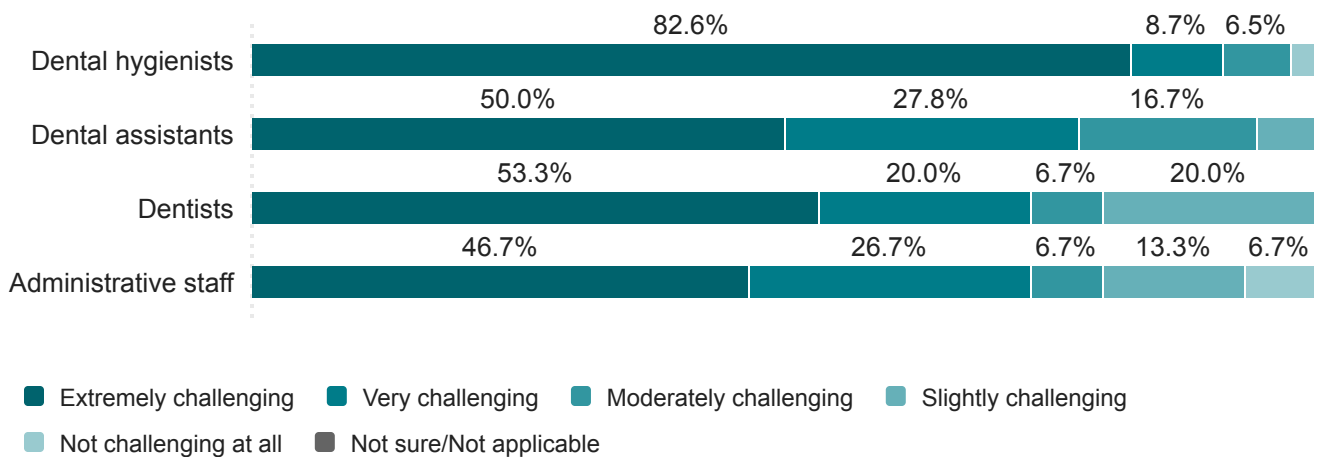
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Rural

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



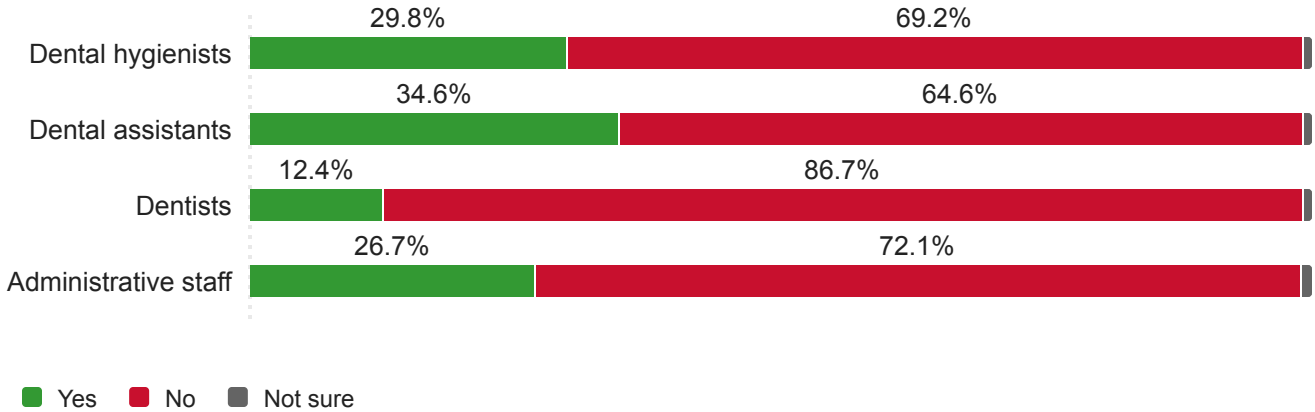
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



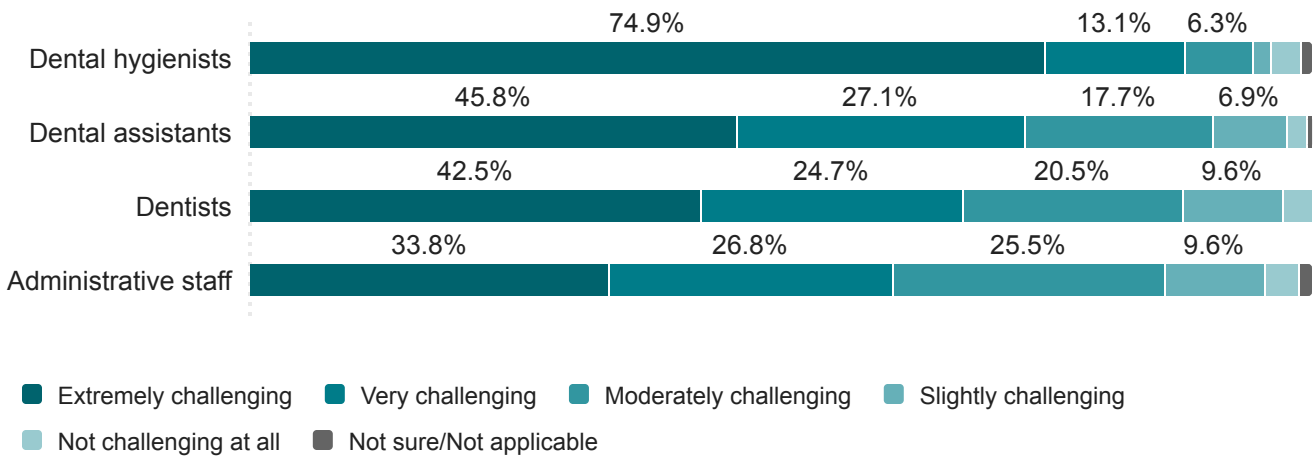
BY SEX

Male

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



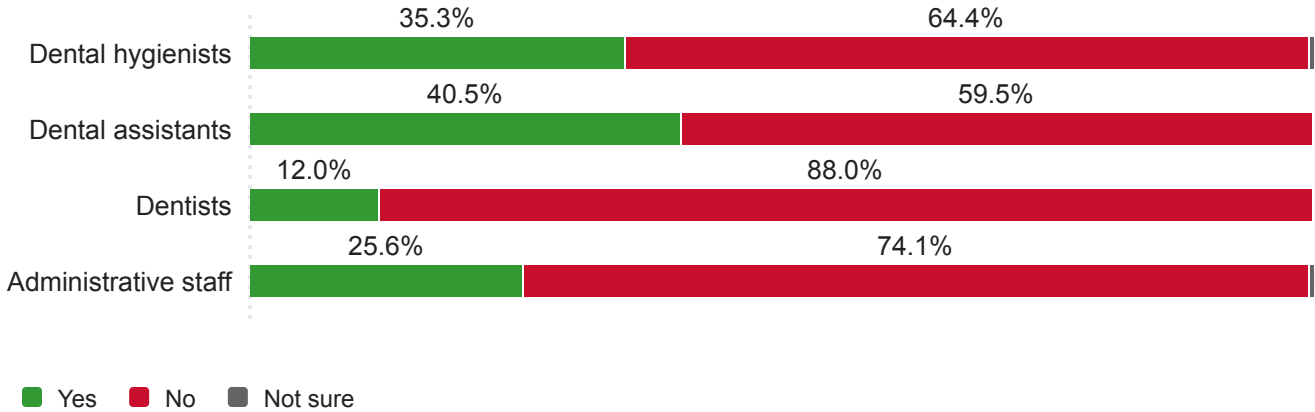
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



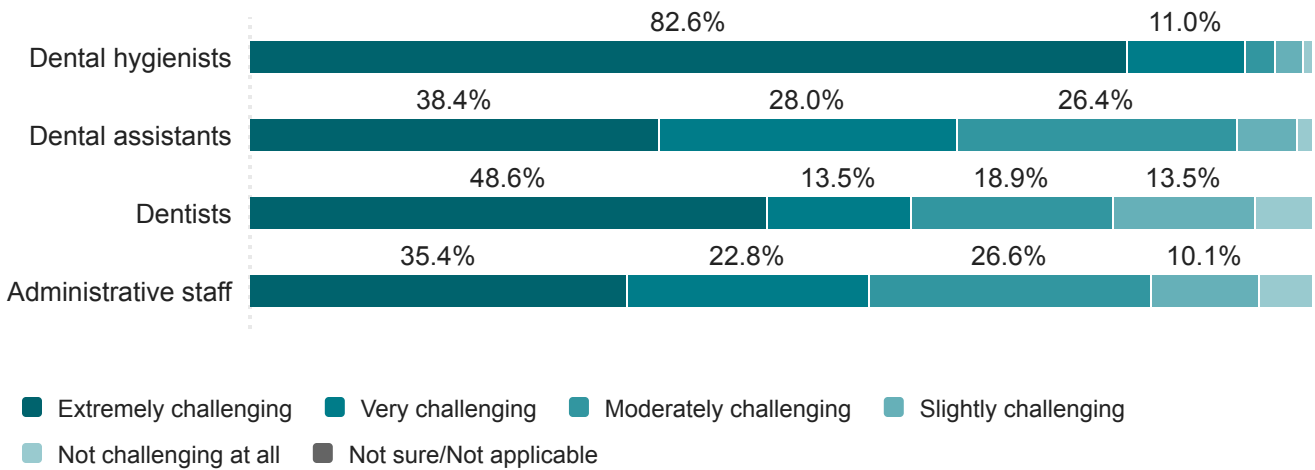
BY SEX (continued)

Female

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



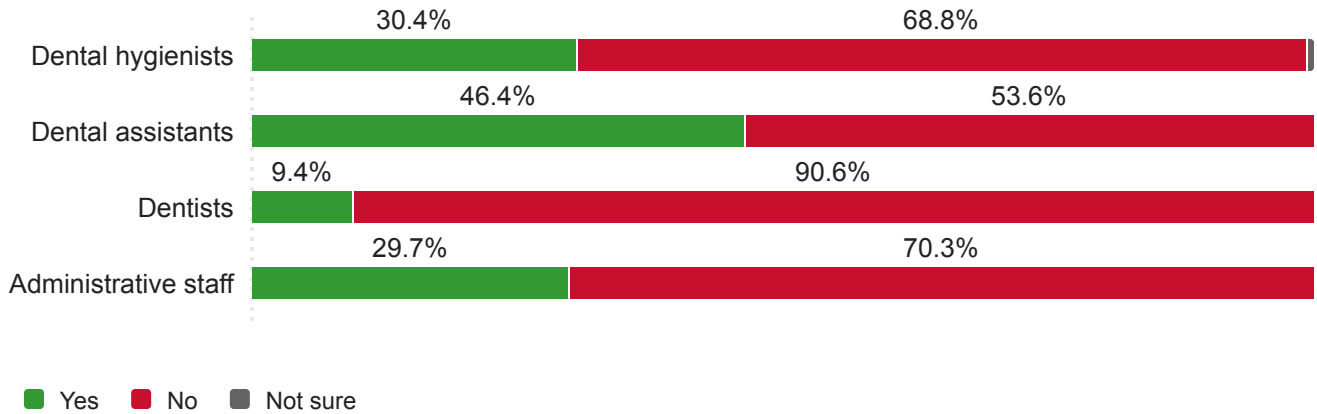
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



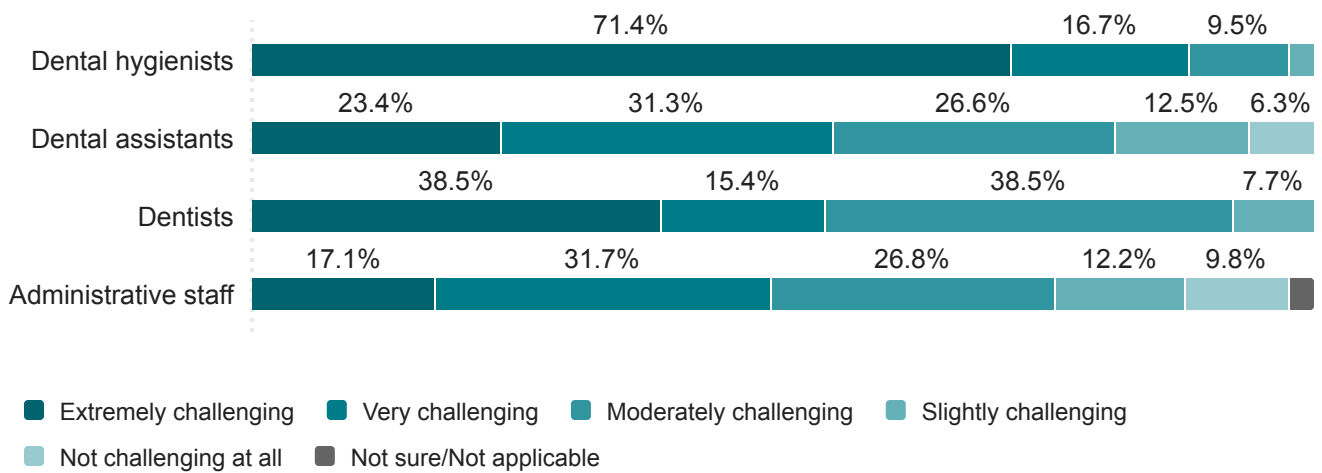
BY AGE GROUP

35 to 44

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



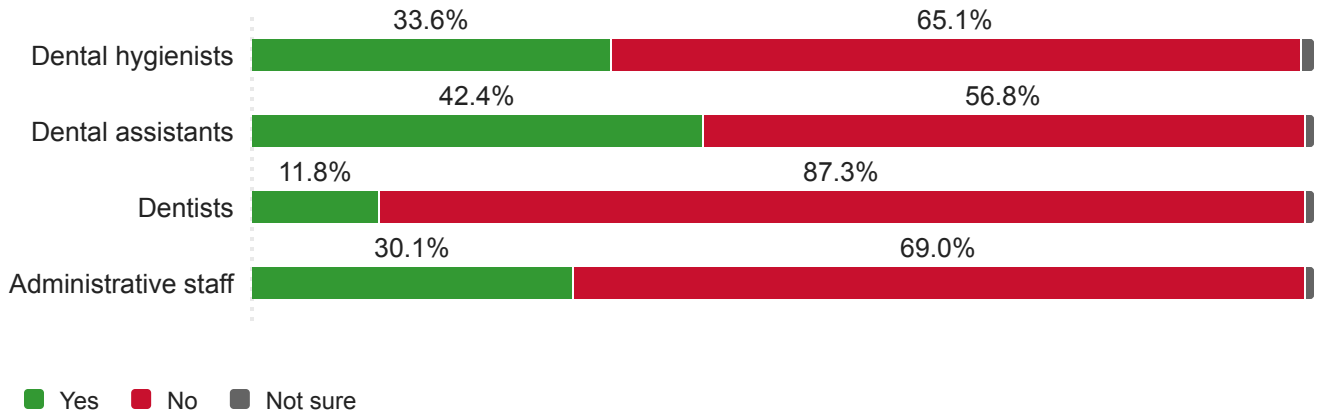
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



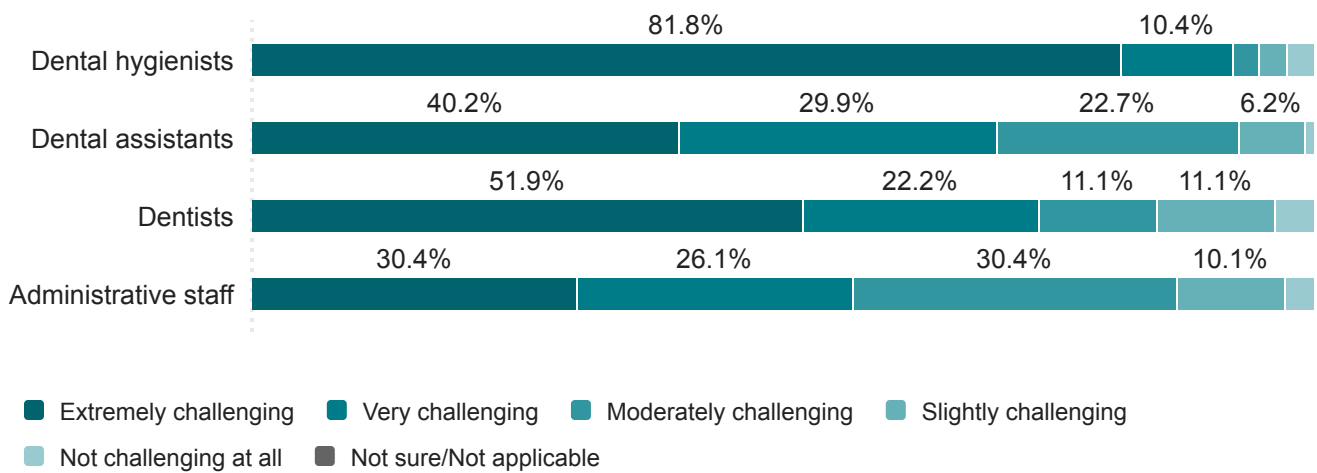
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

45 to 54

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



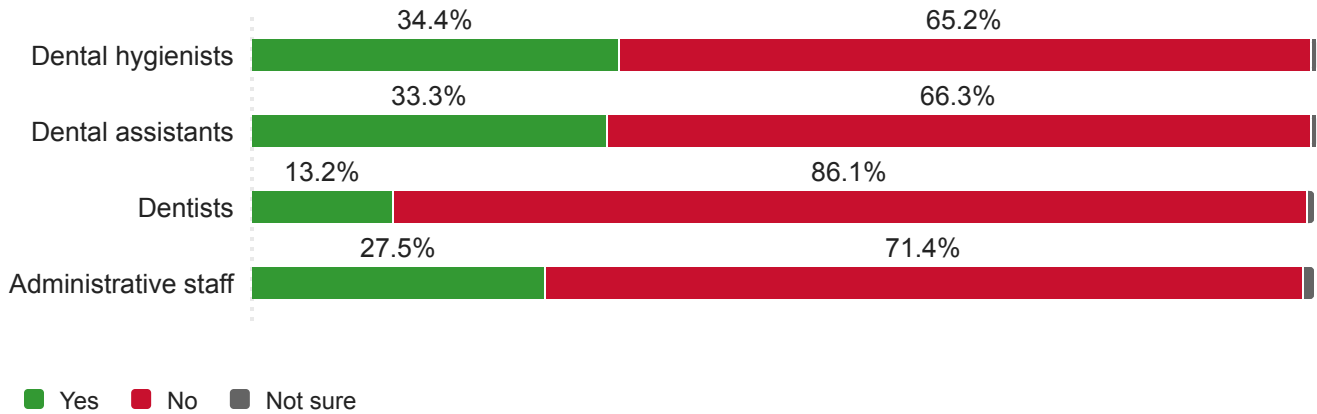
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



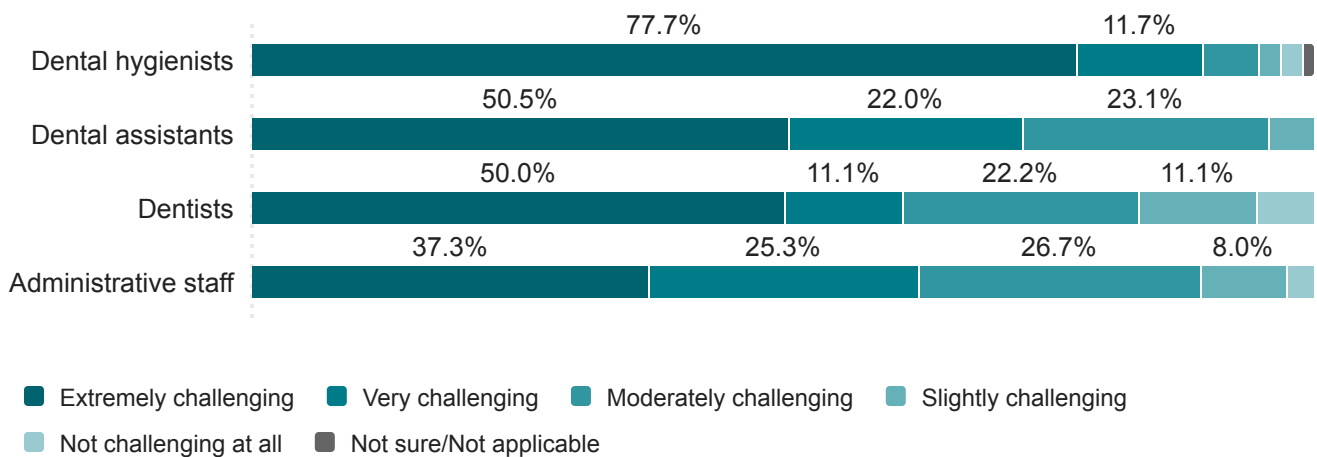
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

55 to 64

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



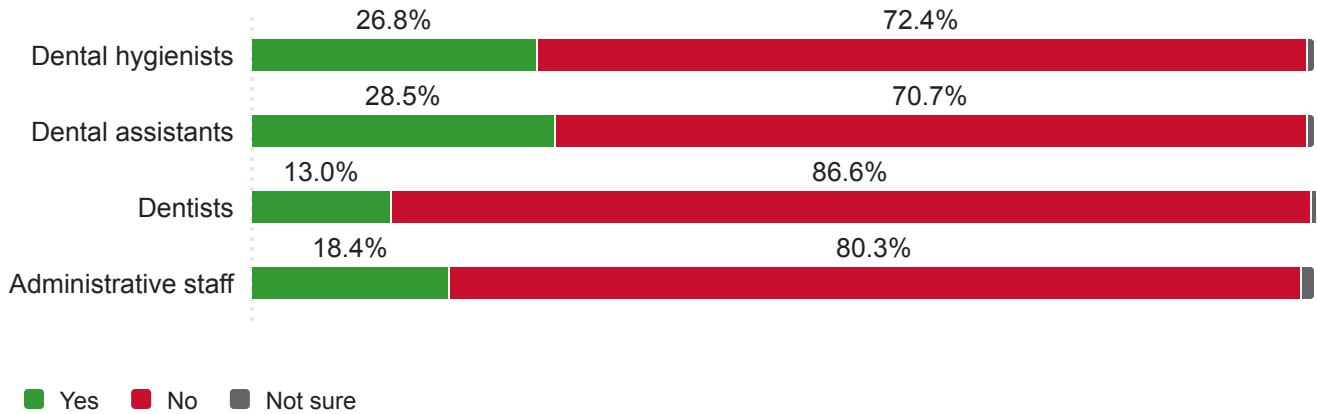
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



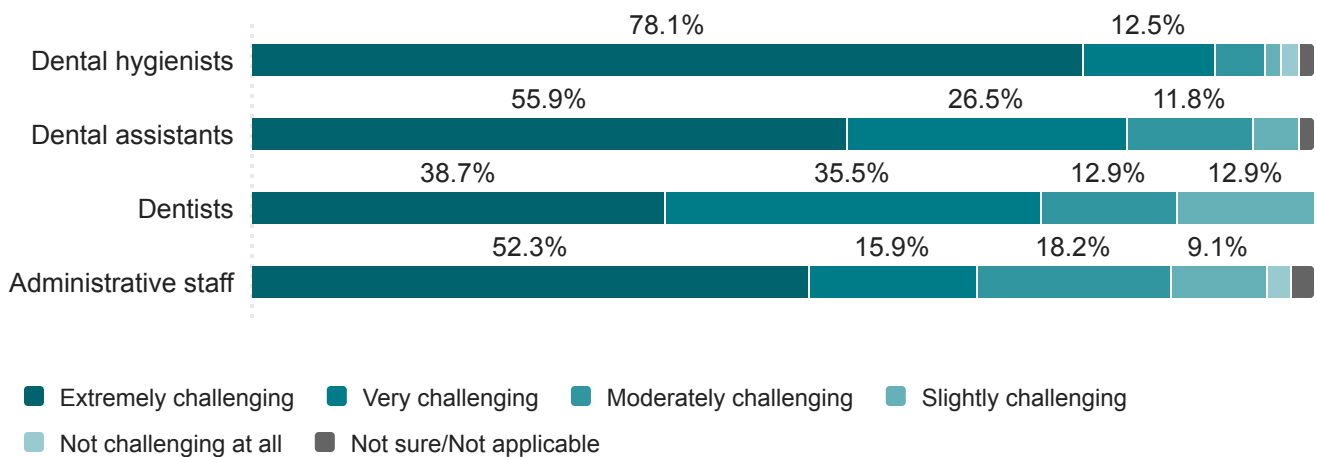
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

65 or older

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



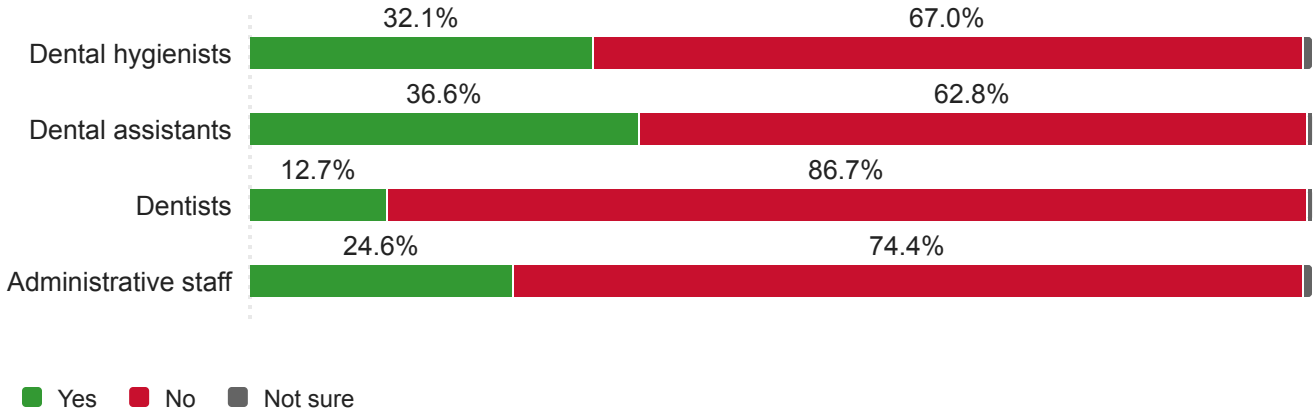
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



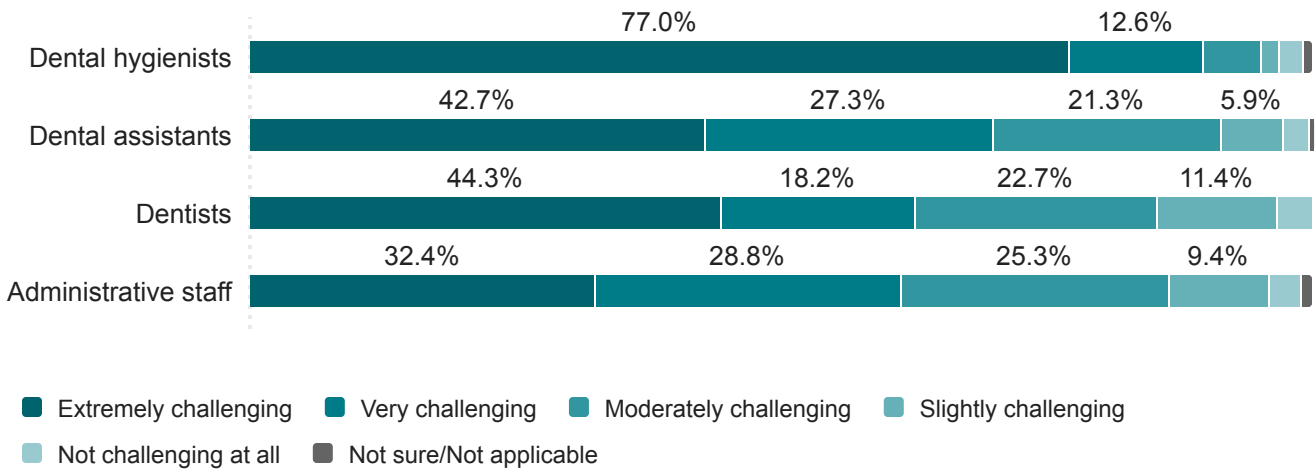
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



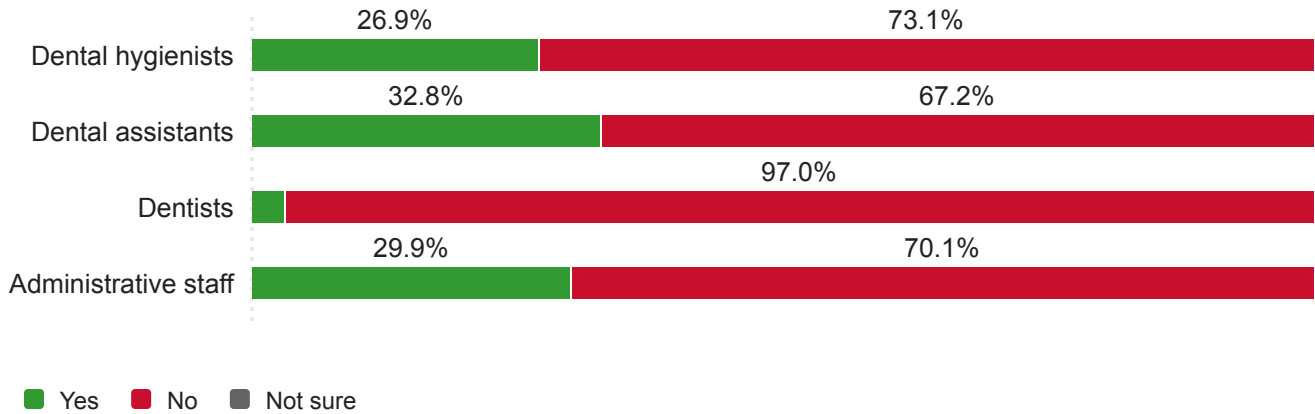
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



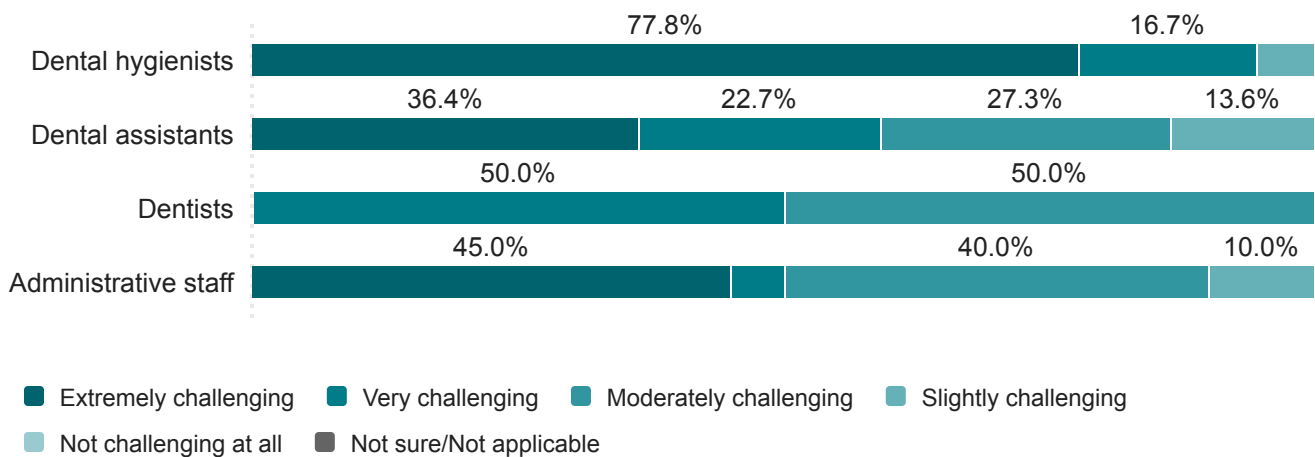
BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Asian

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



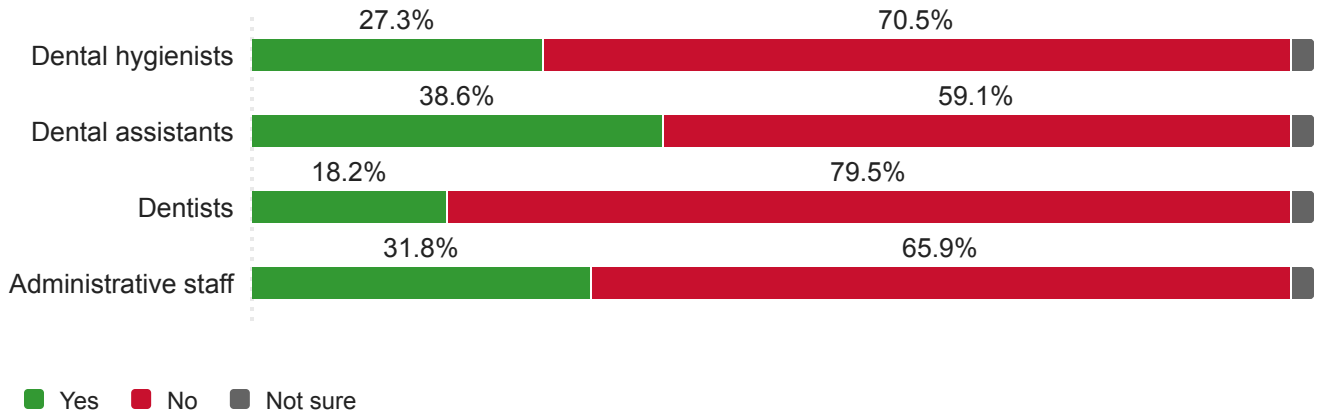
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



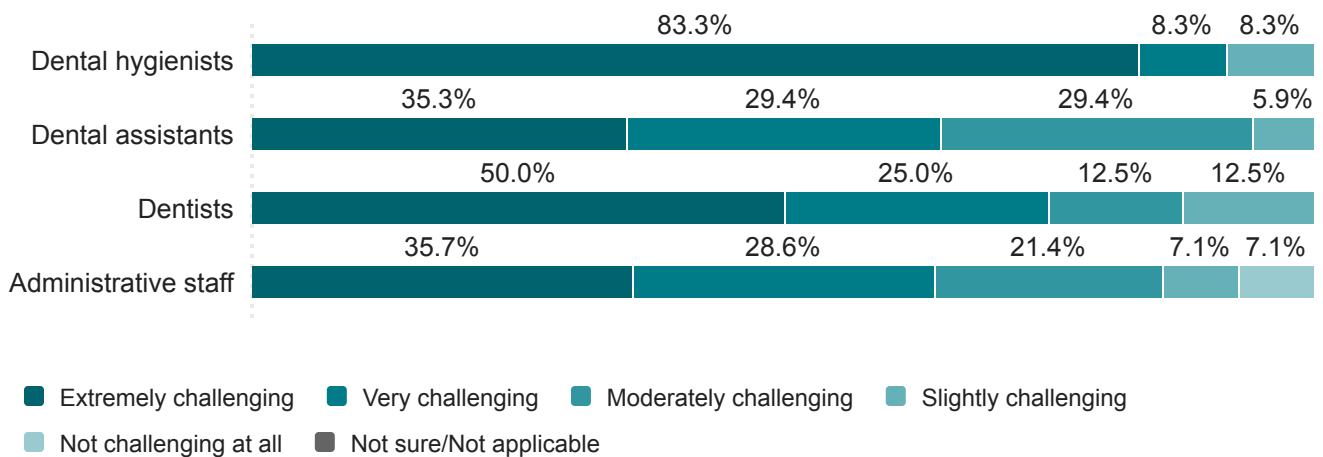
BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Hispanic

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?



How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?

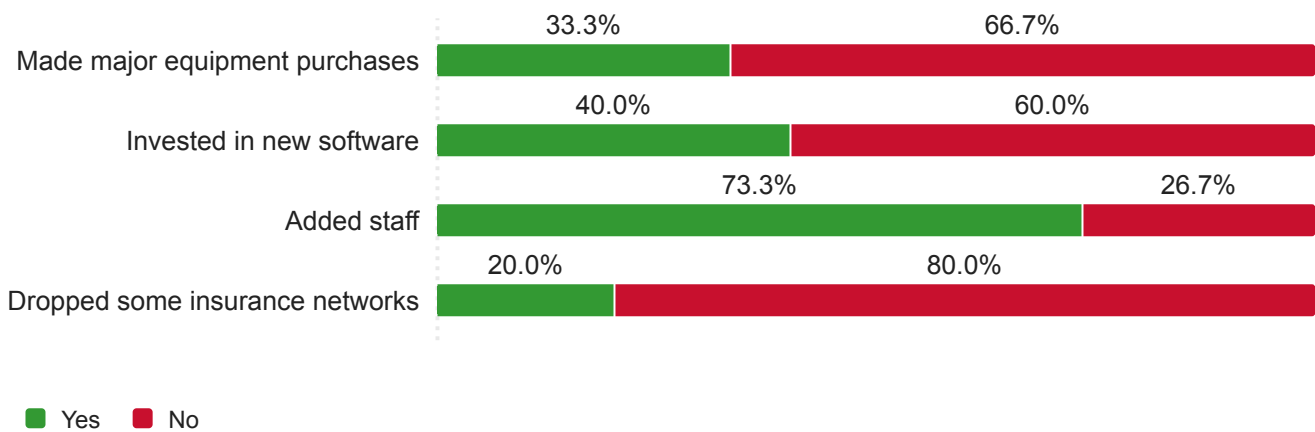


Recent Practice Decisions

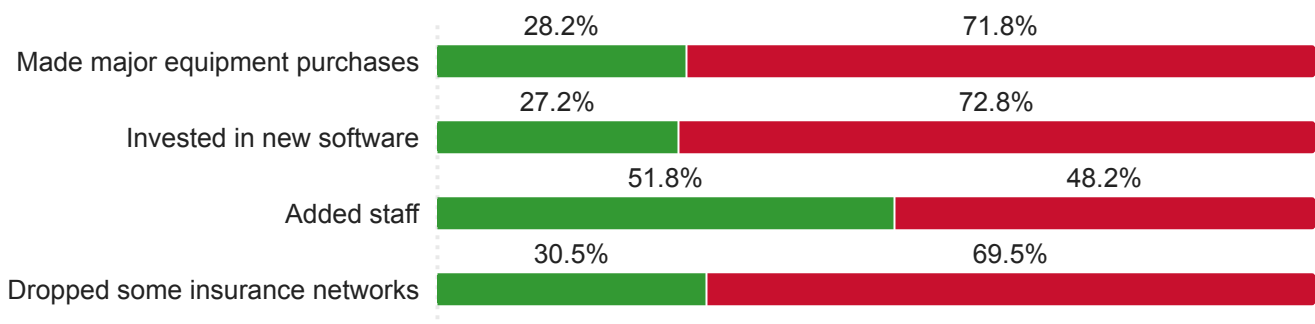
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By DSO Affiliation

DSO



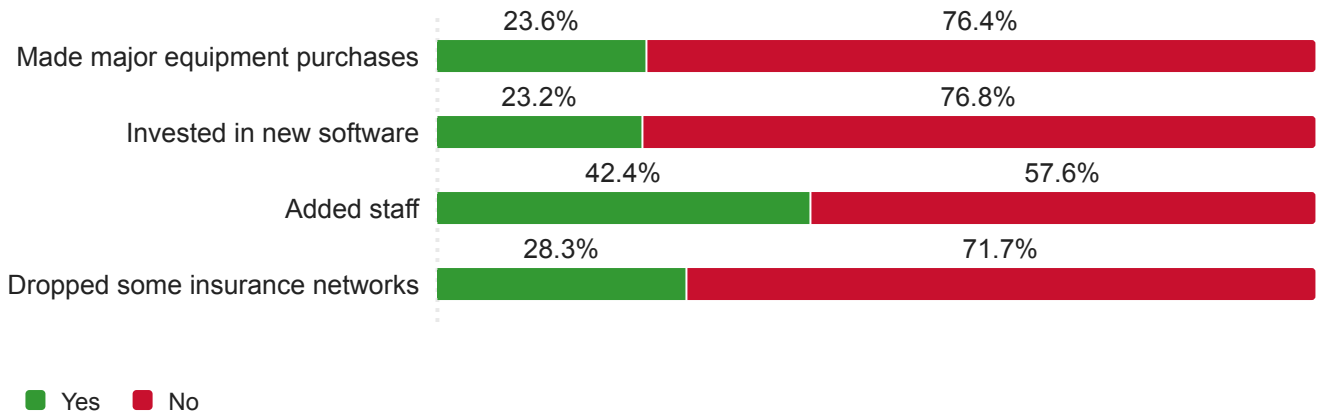
Non-DSO



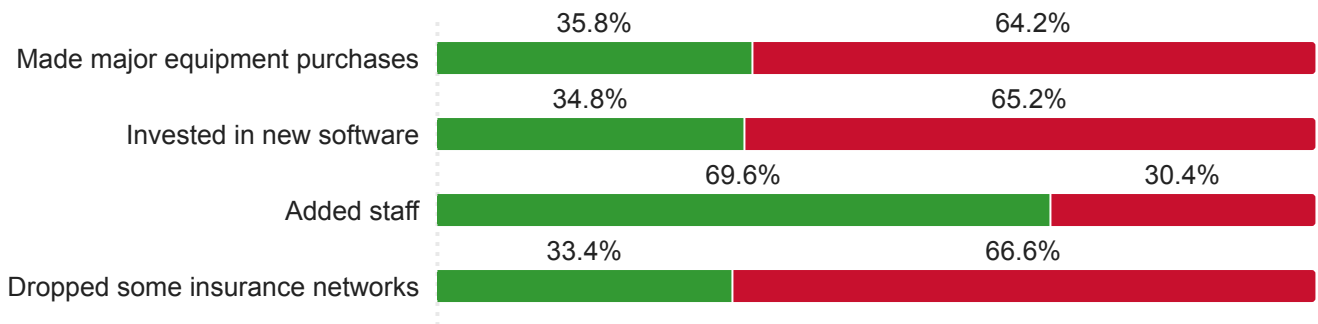
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Practice Size

Solo dentists



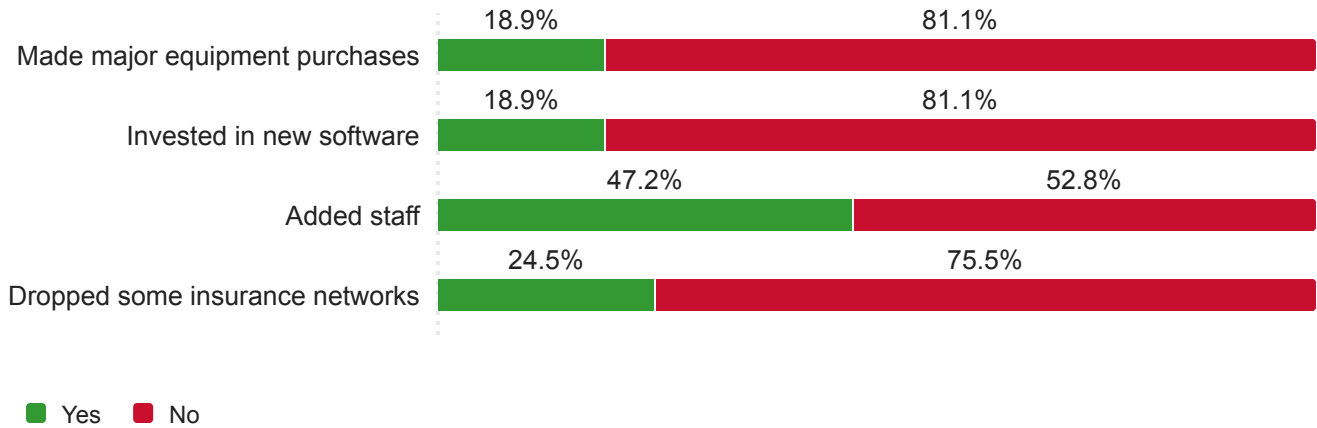
2 to 9 dentists



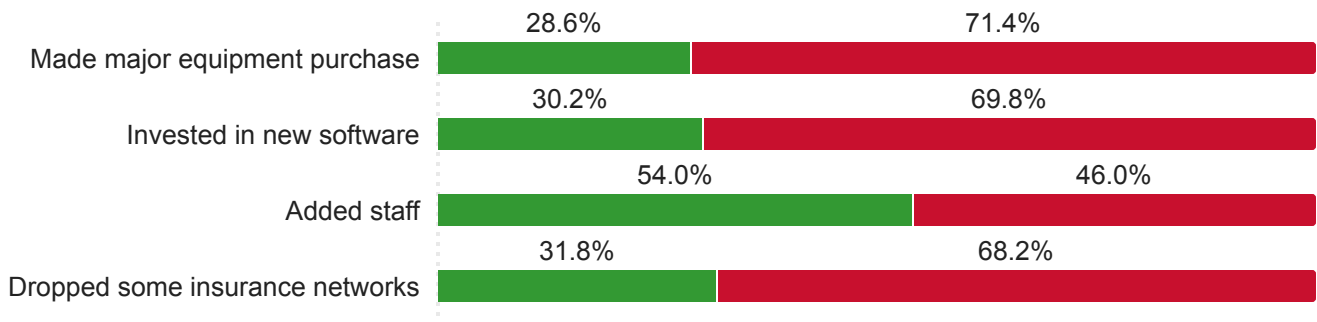
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Geography

Top 20 cities



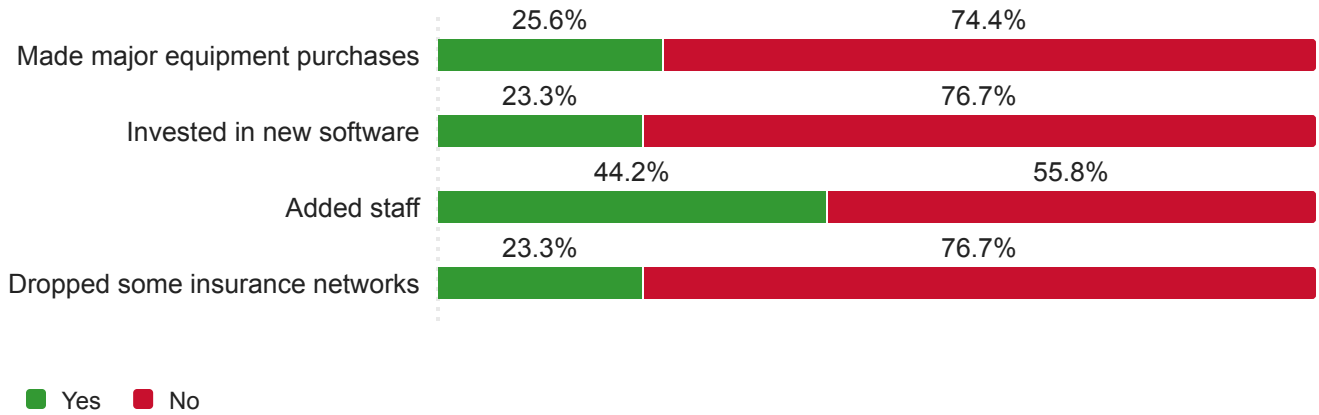
Other urban



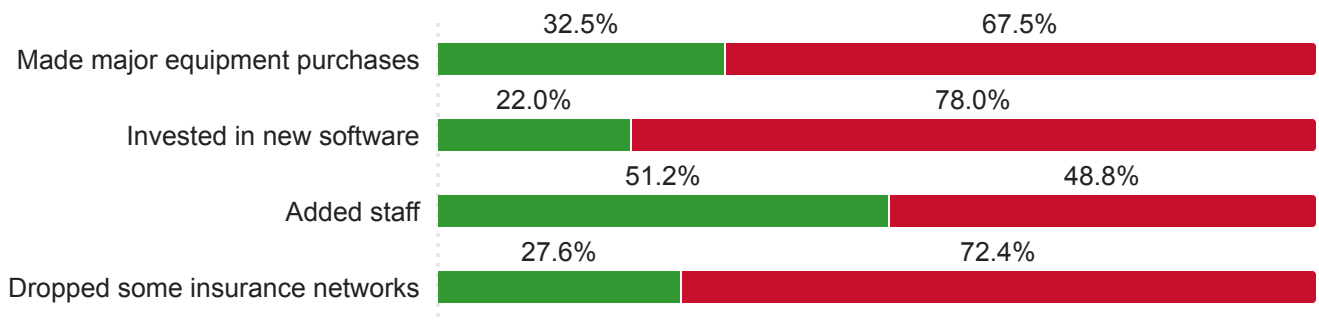
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Geography (continued)

Suburban



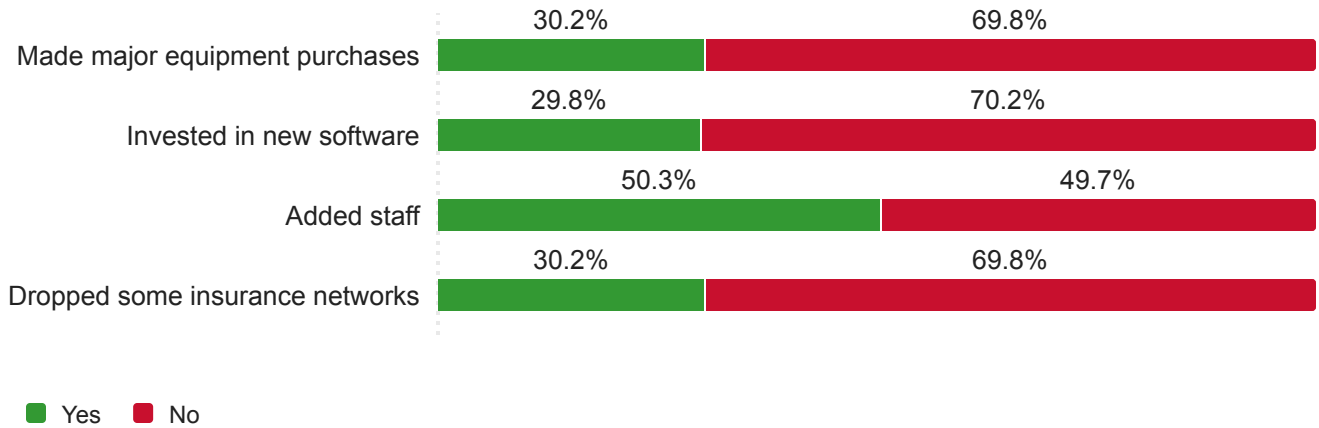
Rural



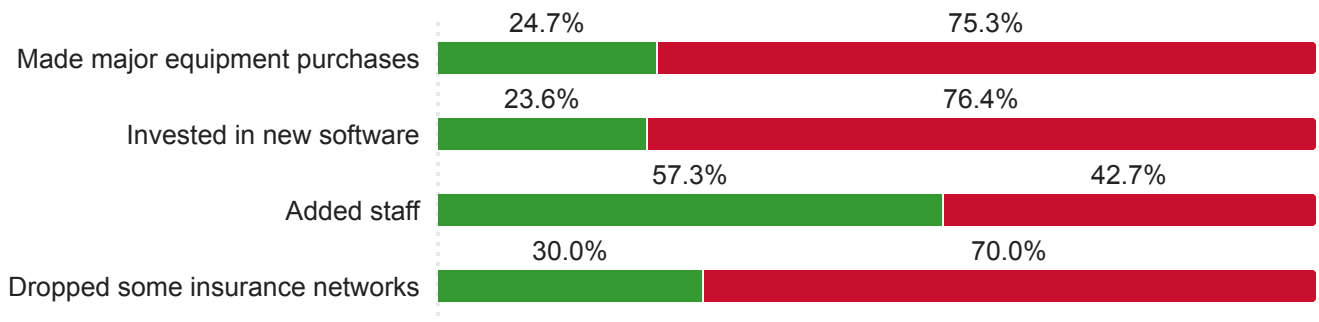
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Sex

Male



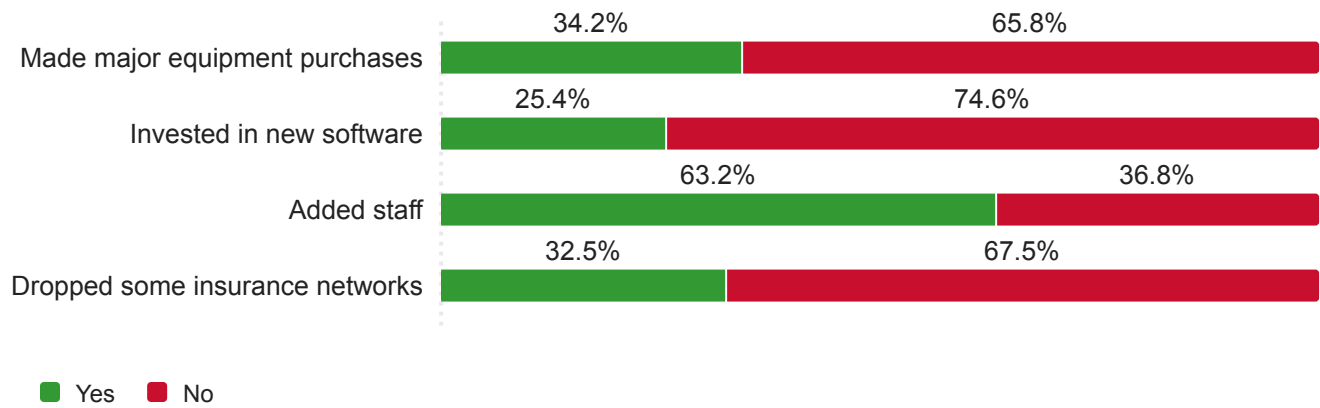
Female



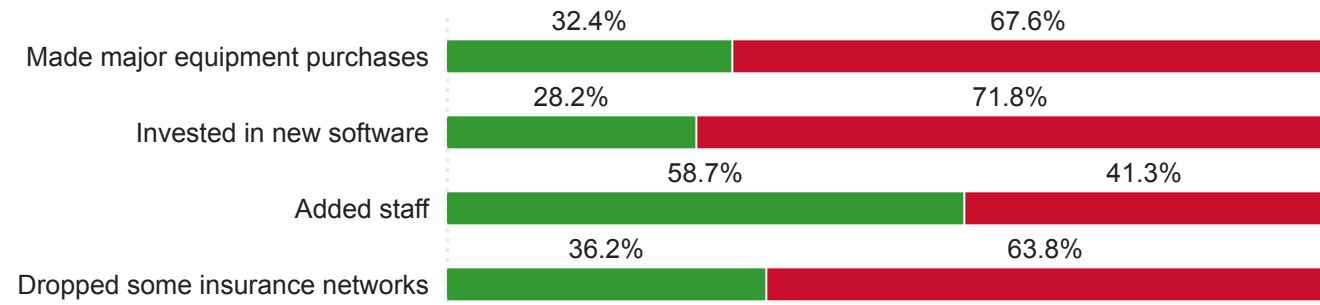
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Age

35 to 44



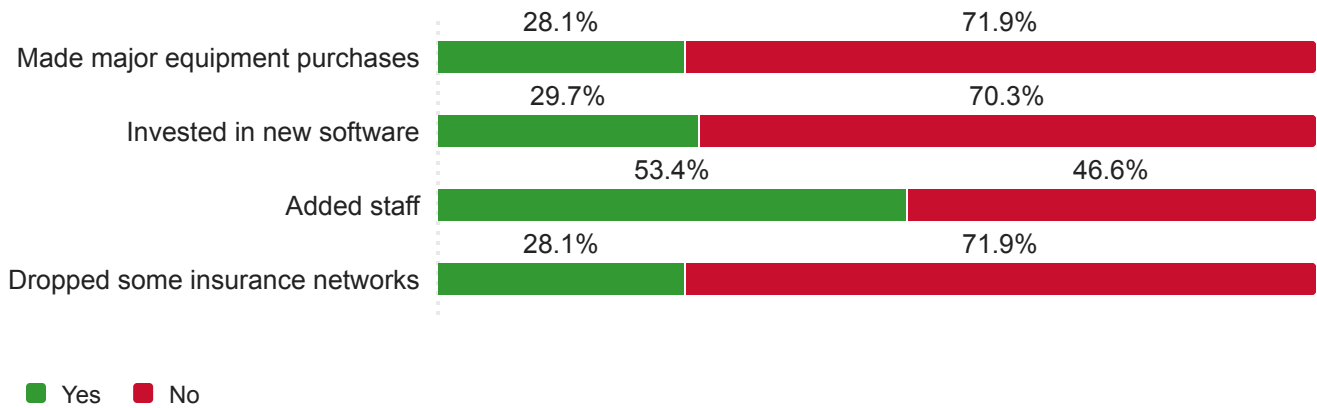
45 to 54



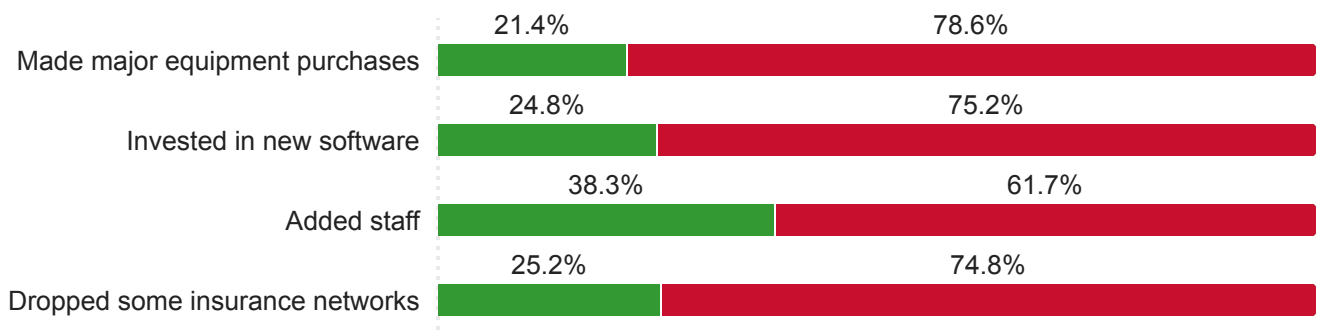
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Age (continued)

55 to 64



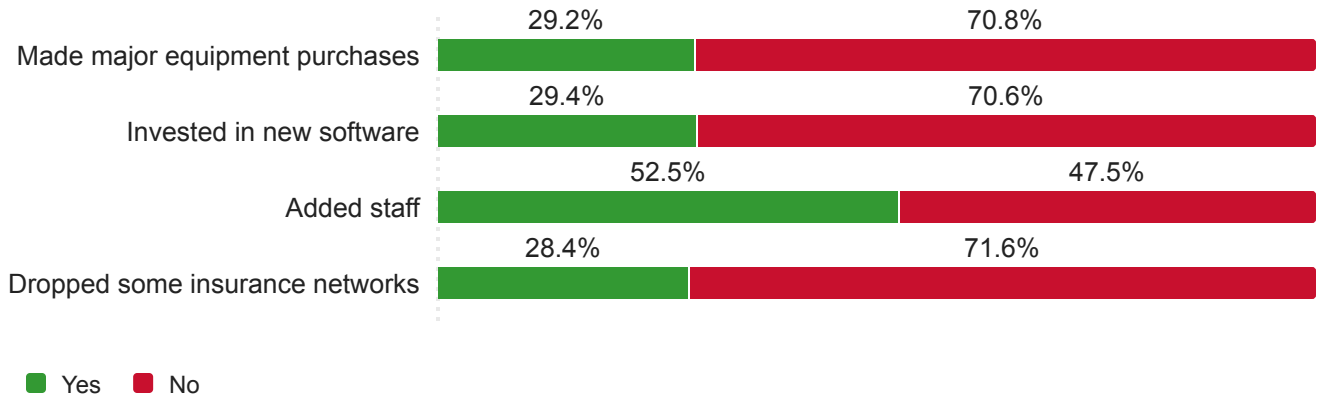
65 or older



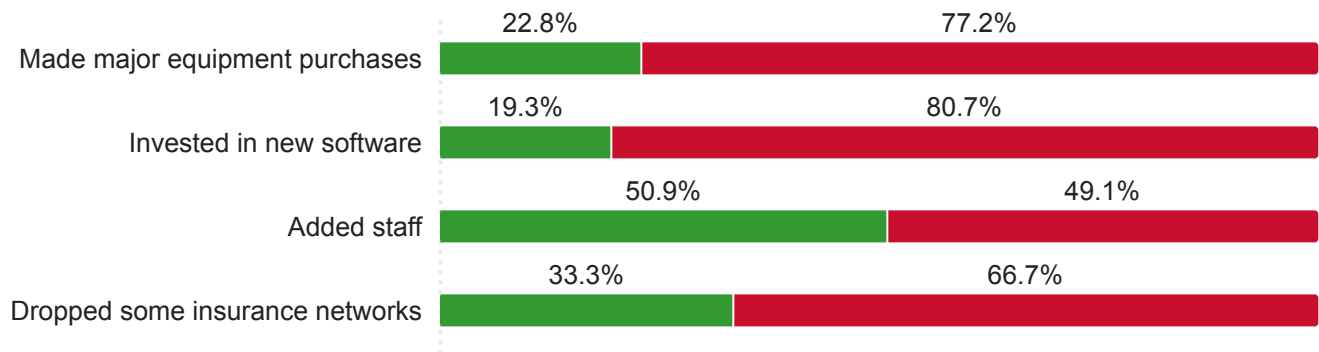
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2024, have you done any of the following in your practice?

By Race/Ethnicity

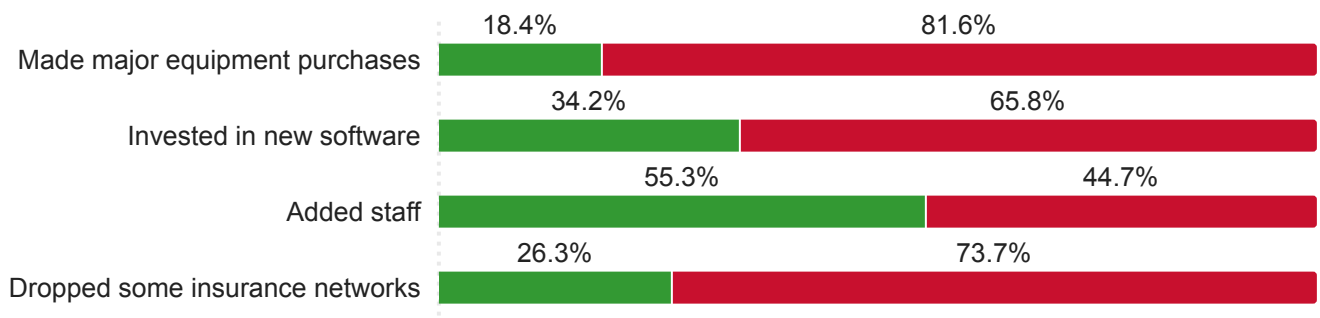
White



Asian



Hispanic



Insurance Network Drops

[If dropped out of dental networks] Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the dental insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2024?

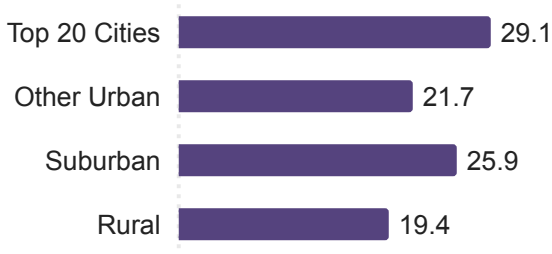
By DSO Affiliation



By Practice Size



By Geography



By Sex

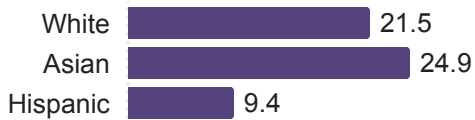


[If dropped out of dental networks] Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the dental insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2024?

By Age Group



By Race/Ethnicity

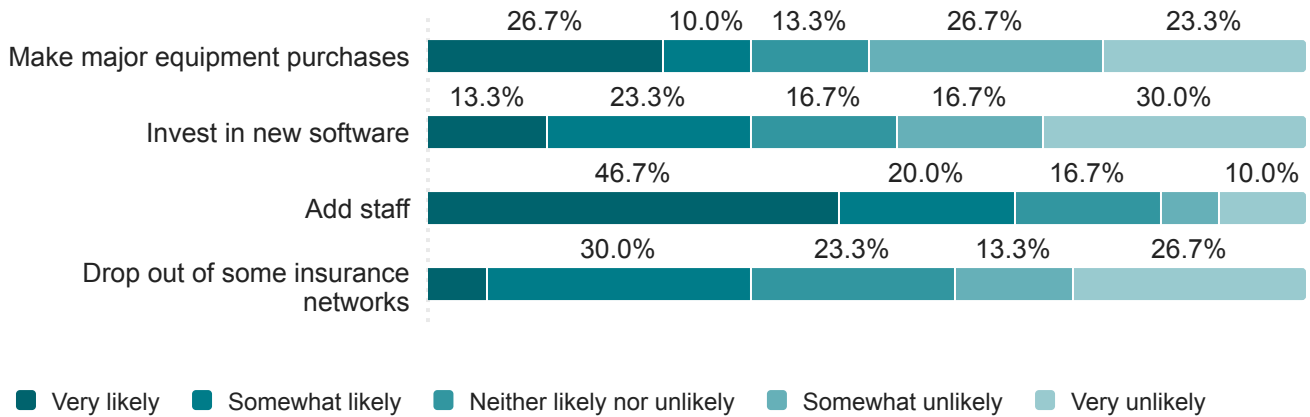


Future Practice Decisions

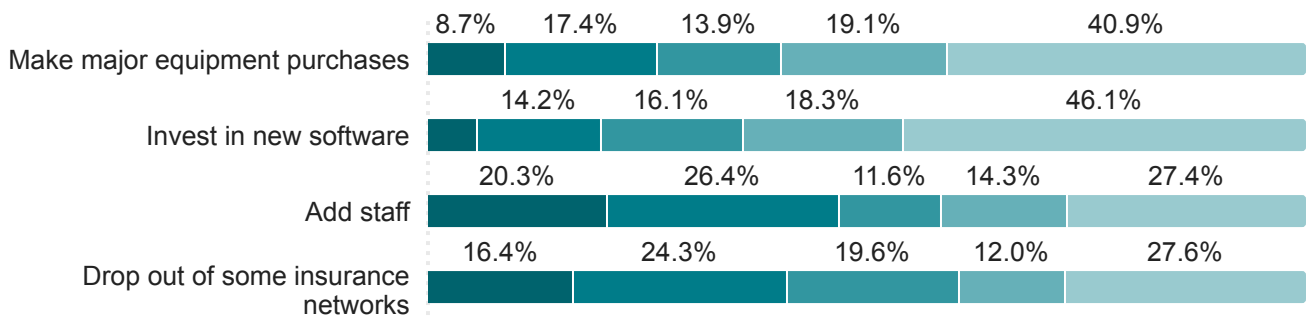
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice?

By DSO Affiliation

DSO



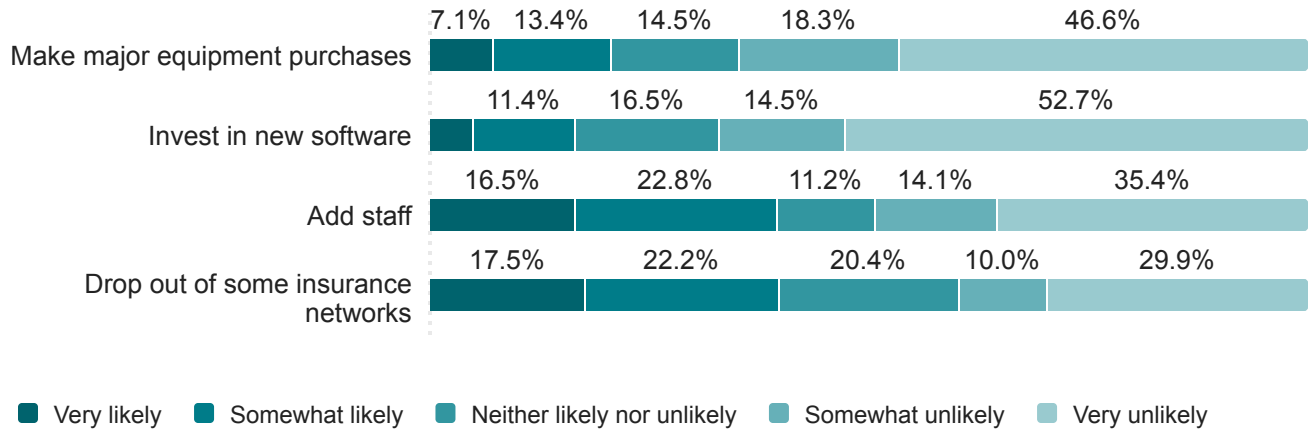
Non-DSO



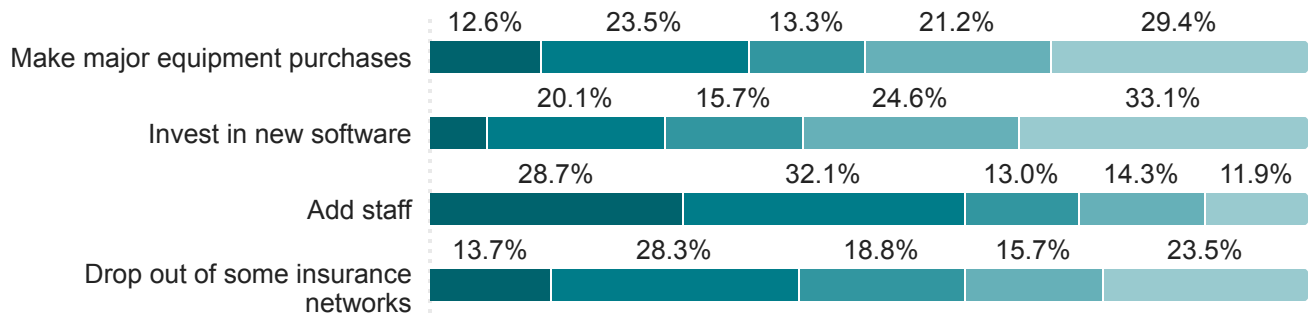
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Practice Size

Solo dentists



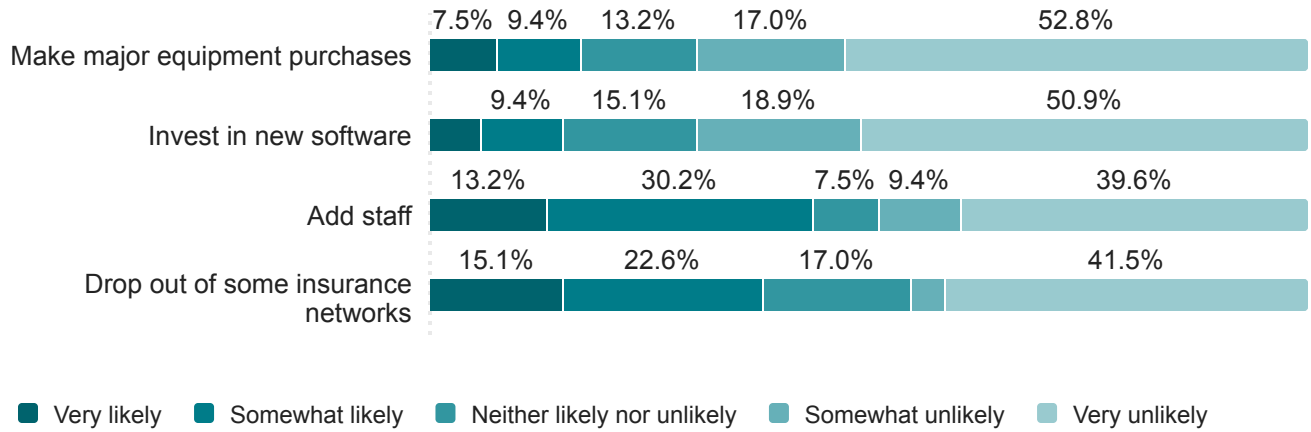
2 to 9 dentists



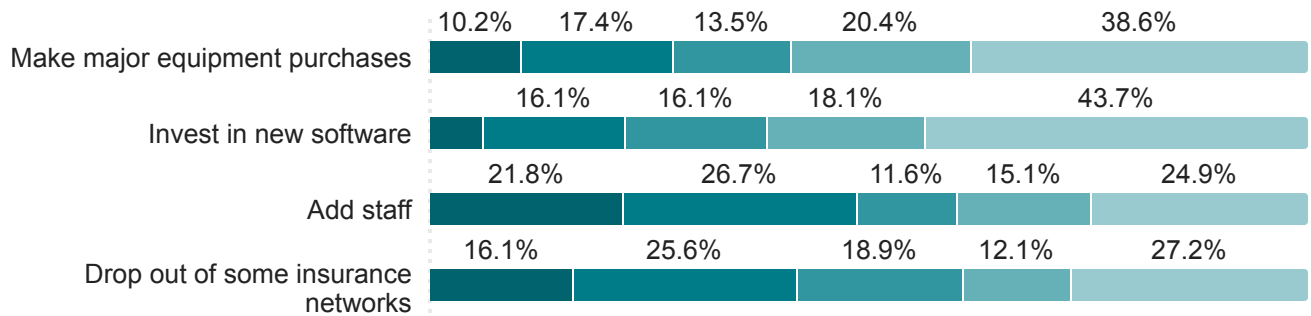
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Geography

Top 20 cities



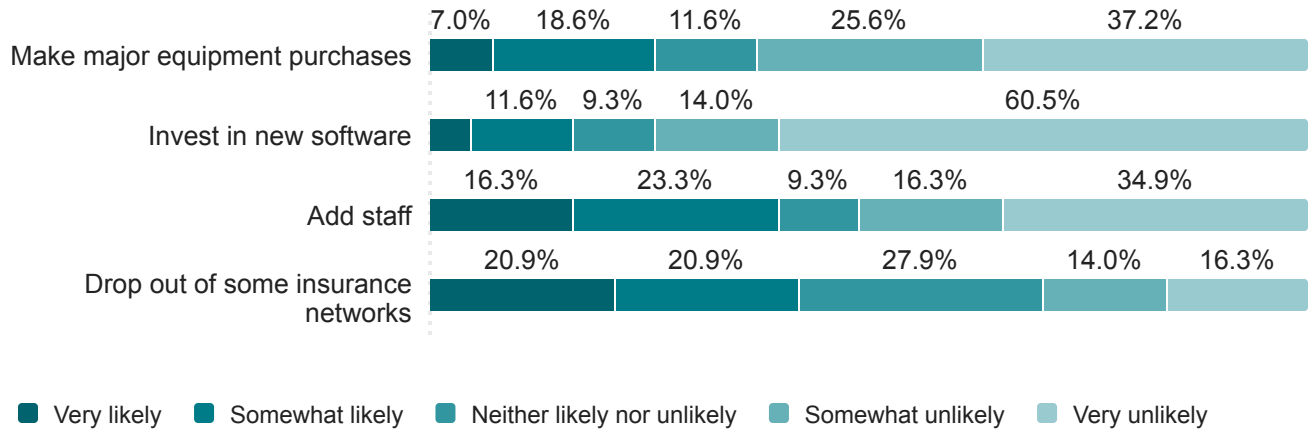
Other urban



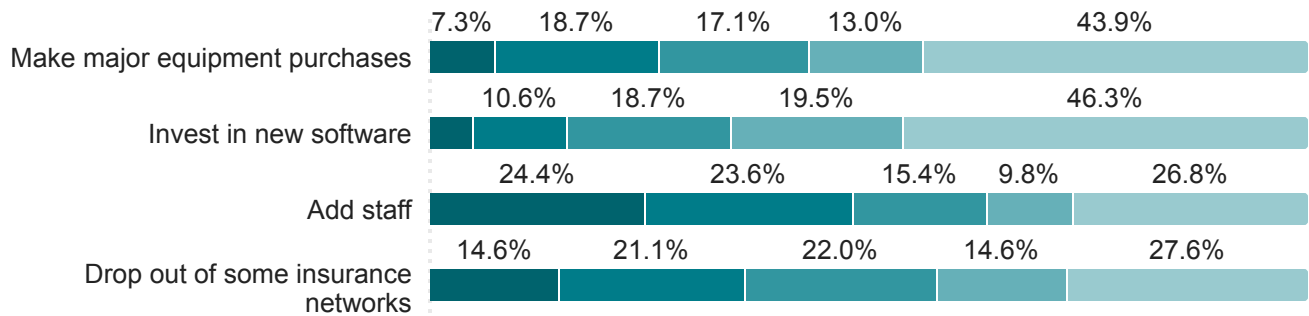
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Geography (continued)

Suburban



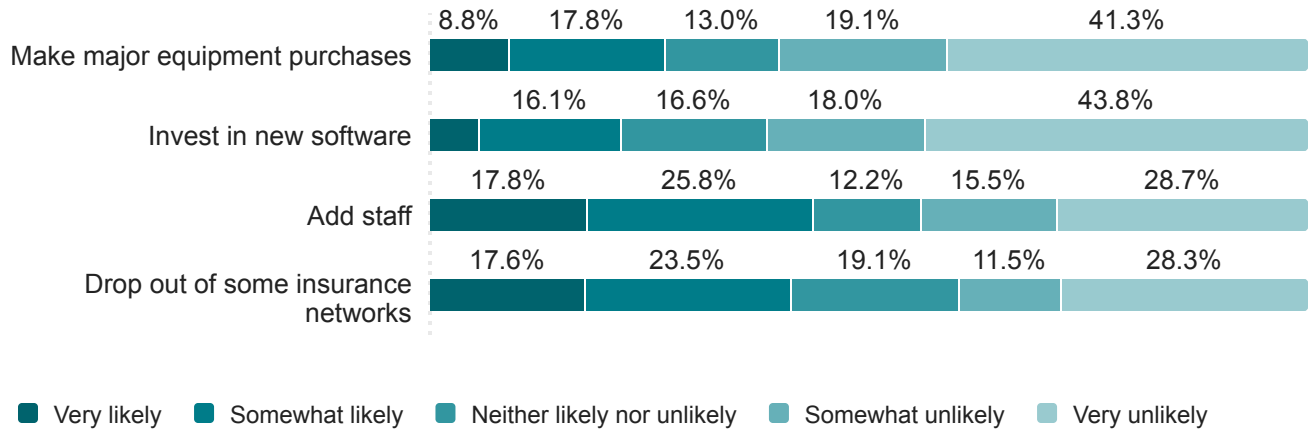
Rural



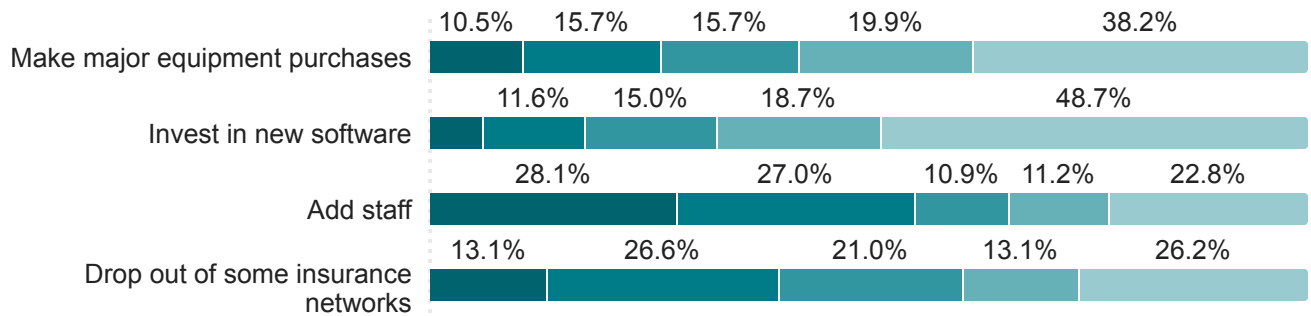
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Sex

Male



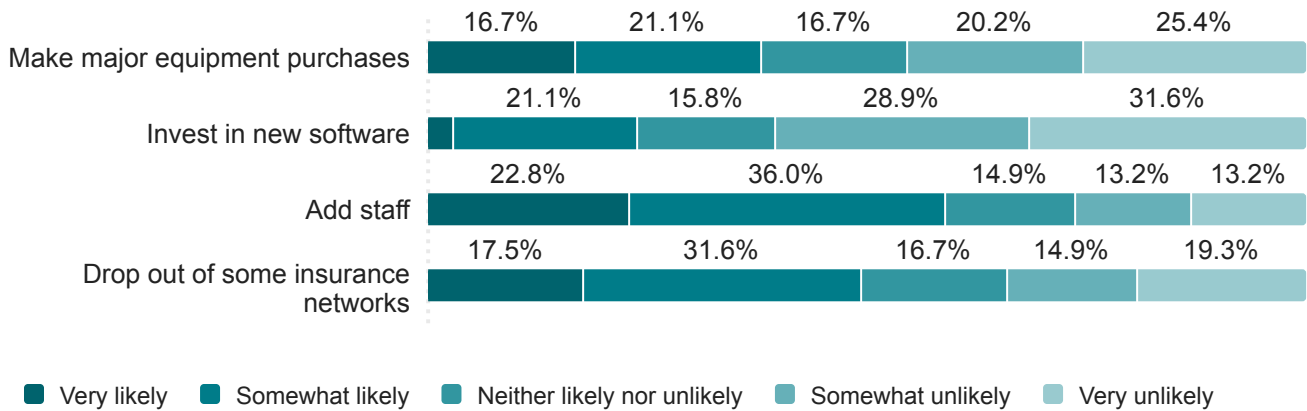
Female



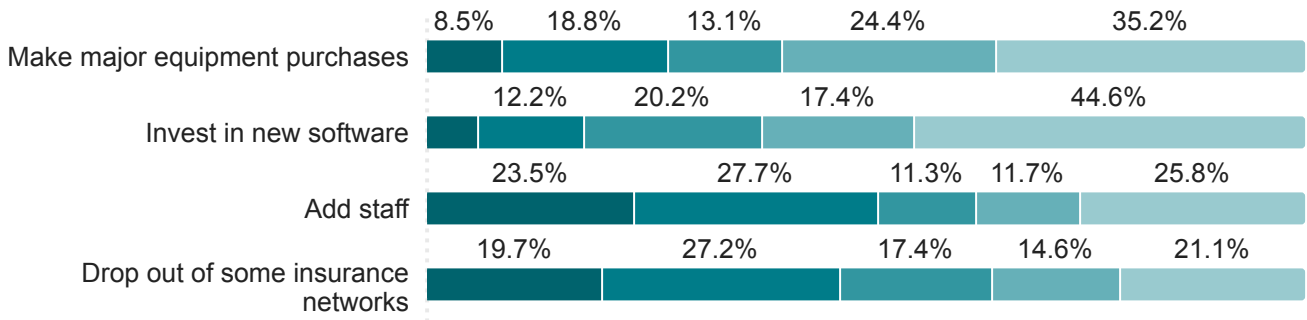
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Age Group

35 to 44



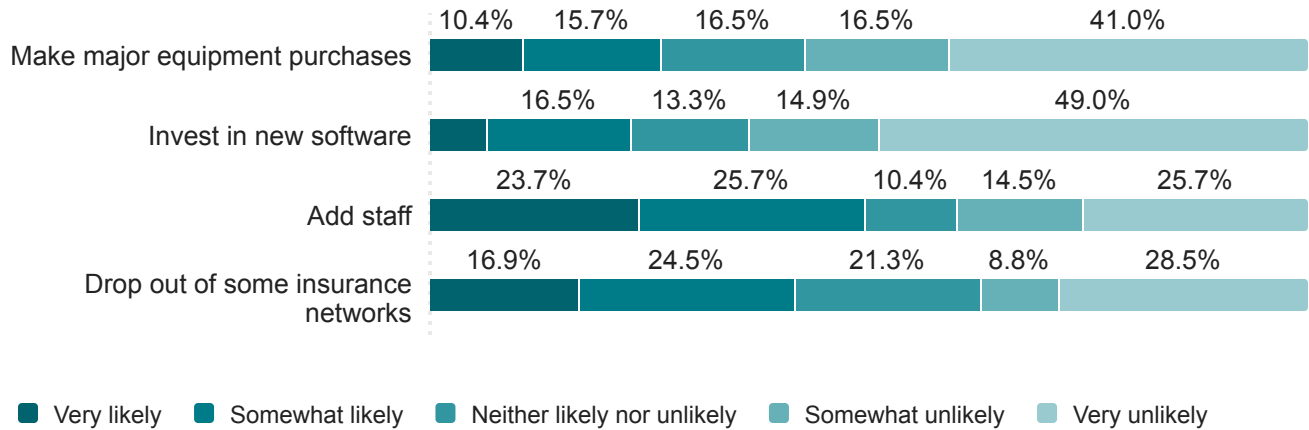
45 to 54



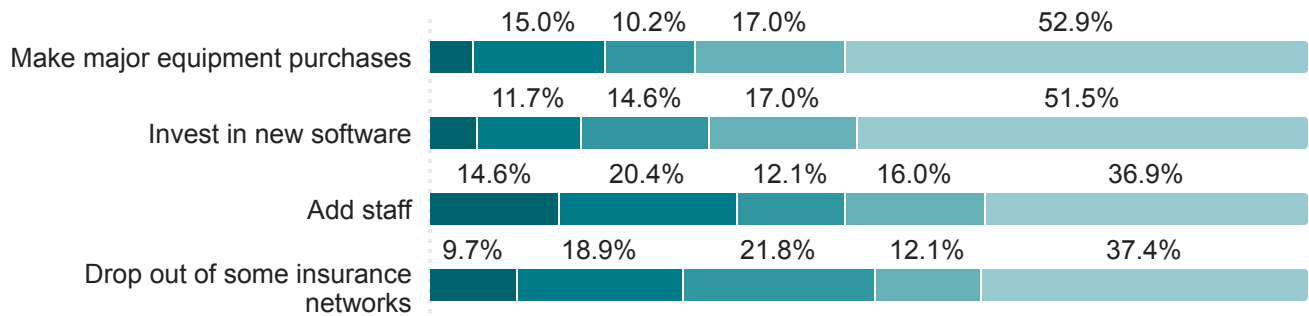
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Age Group (continued)

55 to 64



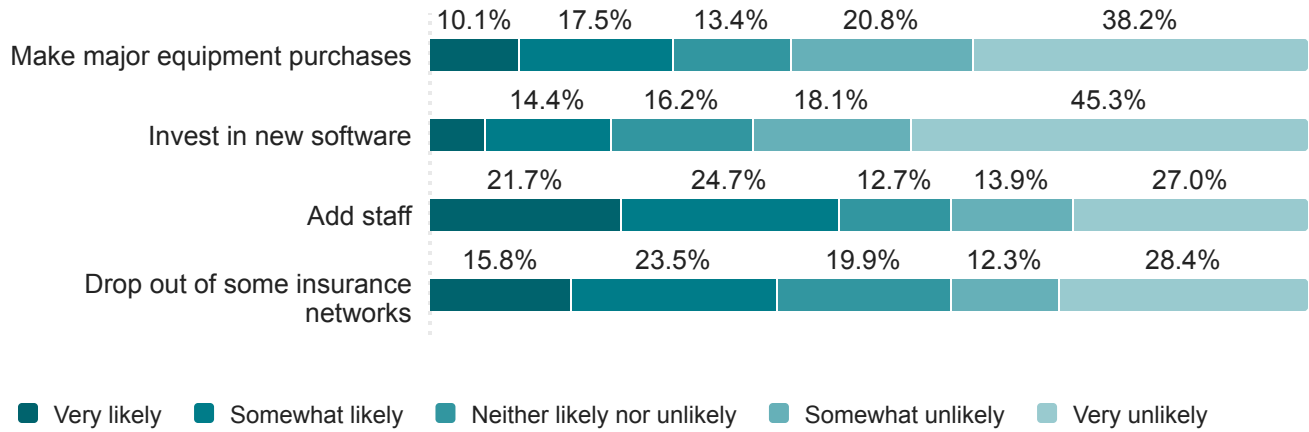
65 or older



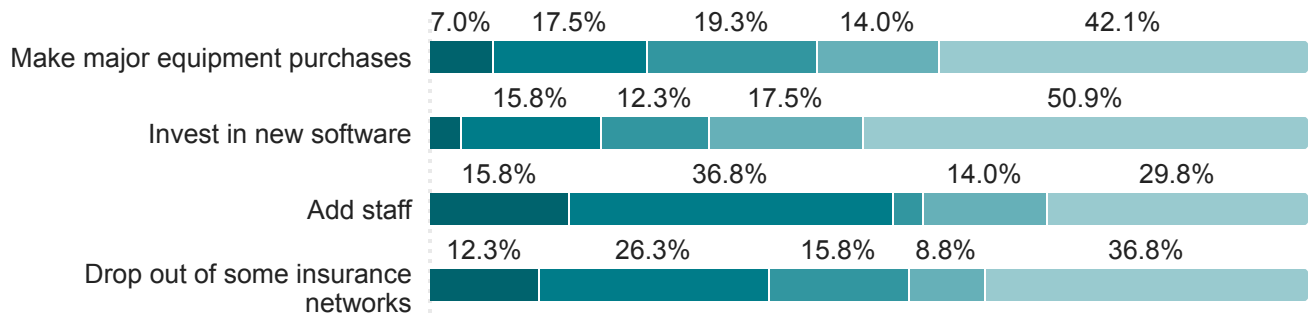
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2025, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

By Race/Ethnicity

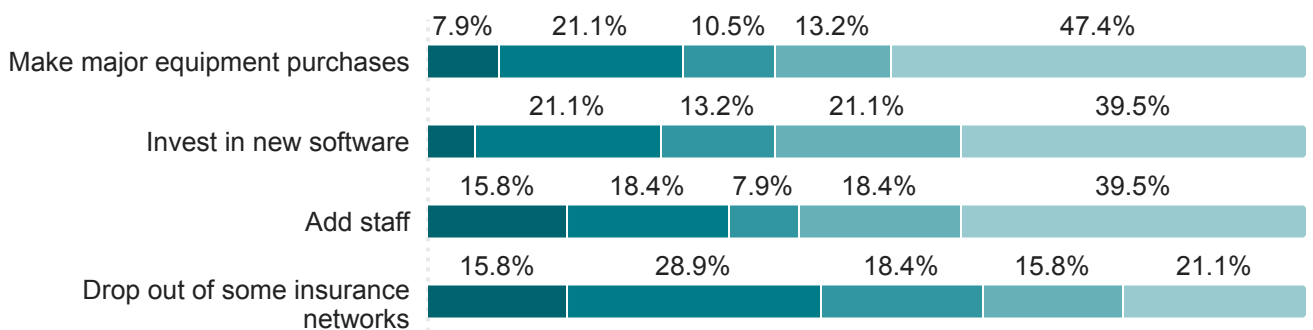
White



Asian



Hispanic



Number of Responses from Dentists in Private Practice by Wave

Wave	Responses
2023JAN	1,209
2023FEB	1,168
2023MAR	1,053
2023APR	1,008
2023MAY	1,001
2023JUN	1,103
2023JUL	955
2023AUG	1,141
2023SEP	976
2023OCT	1,020
2023NOV	977
2023DEC	923
2024MAR	915
2024JUN	853
2024SEP	953
2024DEC	901

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 9, 2024

Ownership Status	Choice Count
Owner dentist (i.e., sole owner, partner, or shareholder)	794
Employee dentist (nonowner)	55
Associate dentist (nonowner)	30
Independent contractor	21
Other, please specify	1

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 9, 2024 (continued)

DSO Affiliation	Choice Count
DSO	67
Non-DSO	834

Practice Size	Choice Count
Solo dentists	511
2 to 9 dentists	380
Large group (10+ dentists)	10

Geography	Choice Count
Top 20 Cities	65
Other Urban	643
Suburban	51
Rural	141

Sex	Choice Count
Male	590
Female	311

Age Group	Choice Count
<35	17
35-44	138
45-54	229
55-64	276
65+	241

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 9, 2024 (continued)

Race/Ethnicity	Choice Count
White	696
Asian	67
Hispanic	44
Black	10
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2
American Indian / Alaska Native	3
Other	12
Unknown	65

This report was published in January 2025 by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

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