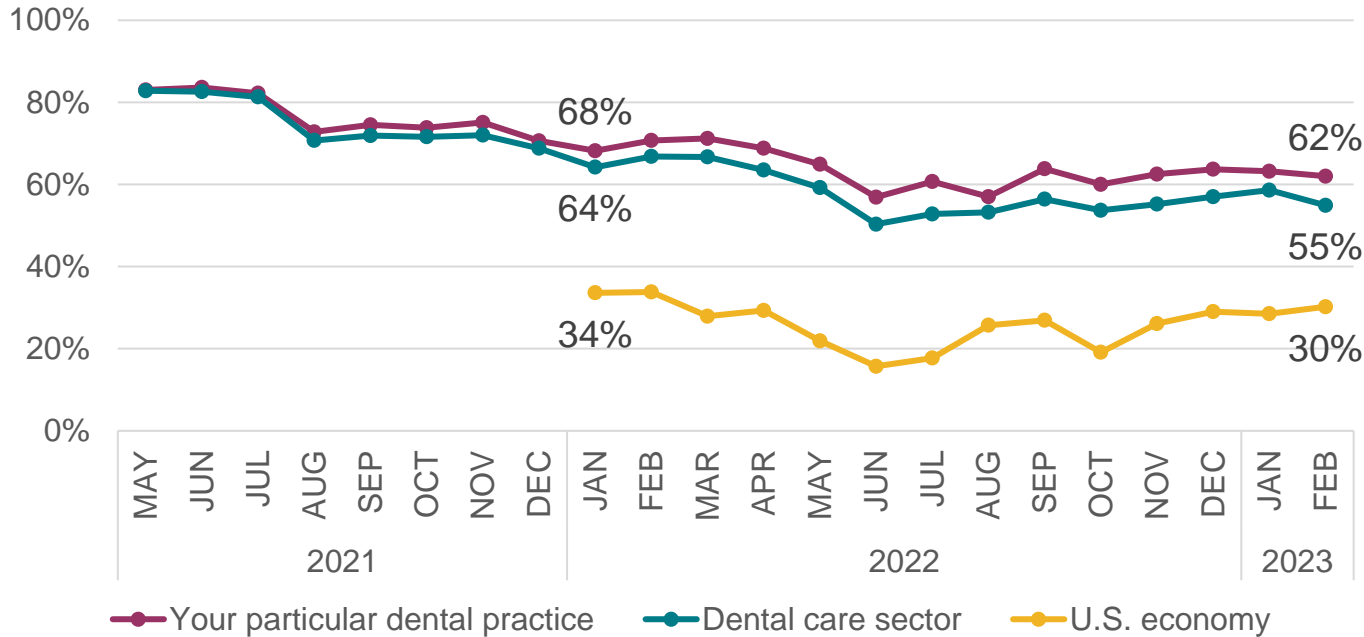


Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

Insights from Data from February 2023

Confidence in the Economy

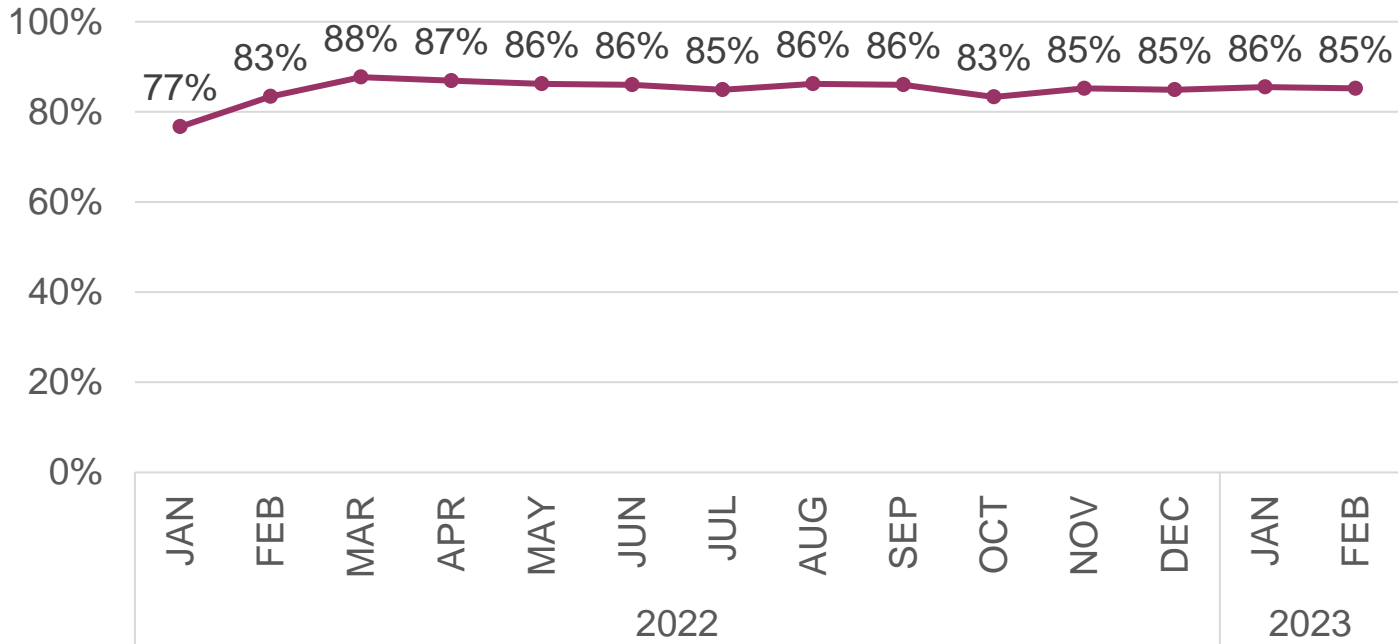
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following?
(Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



Dentists' confidence in the dental care sector dropped in February 2023 while rising slightly for the general U.S. economy. Confidence levels remain below a high point in 2021.

Busyness

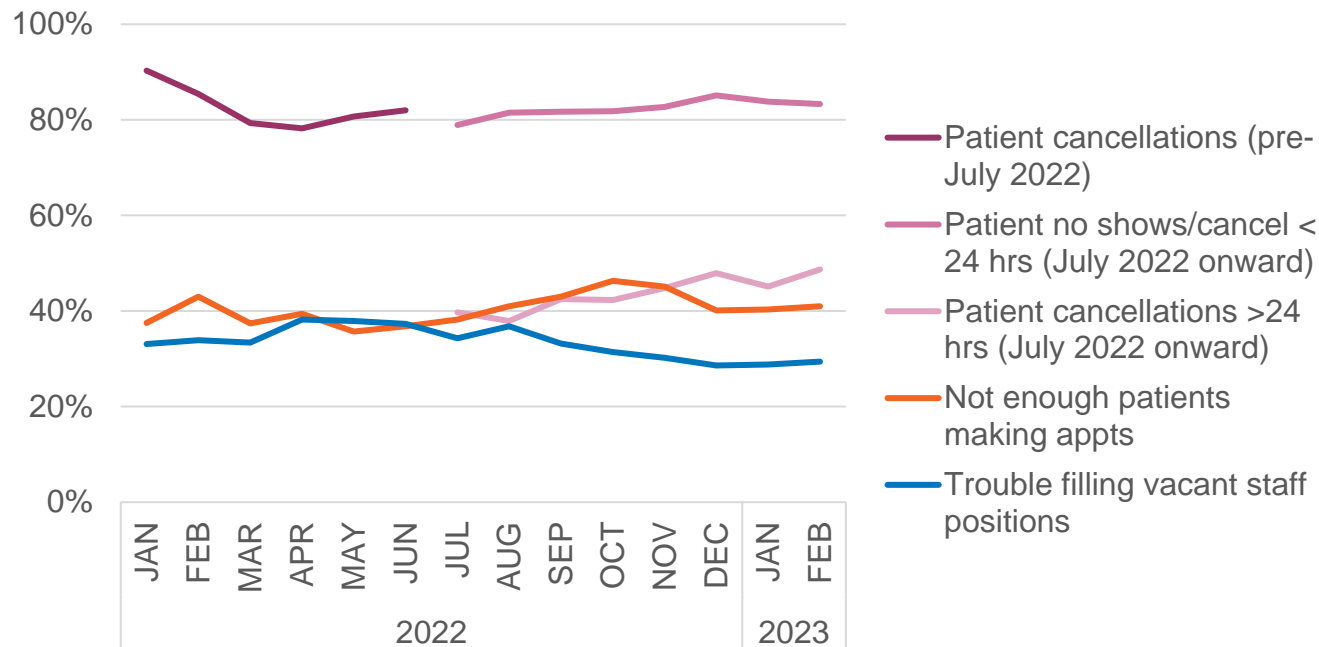
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



Dentists' busyness is slightly below a high point in March 2022.

Barriers to Reaching Full Capacity

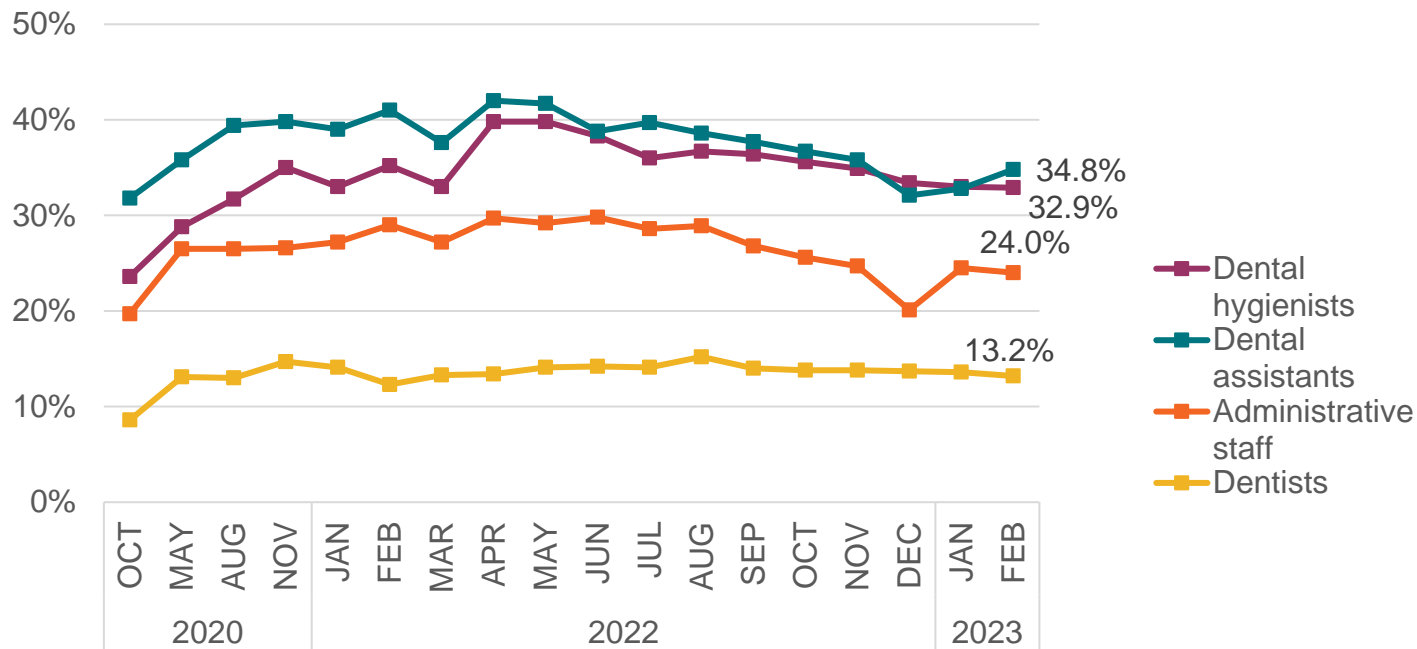
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



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

Dental Team Recruitment

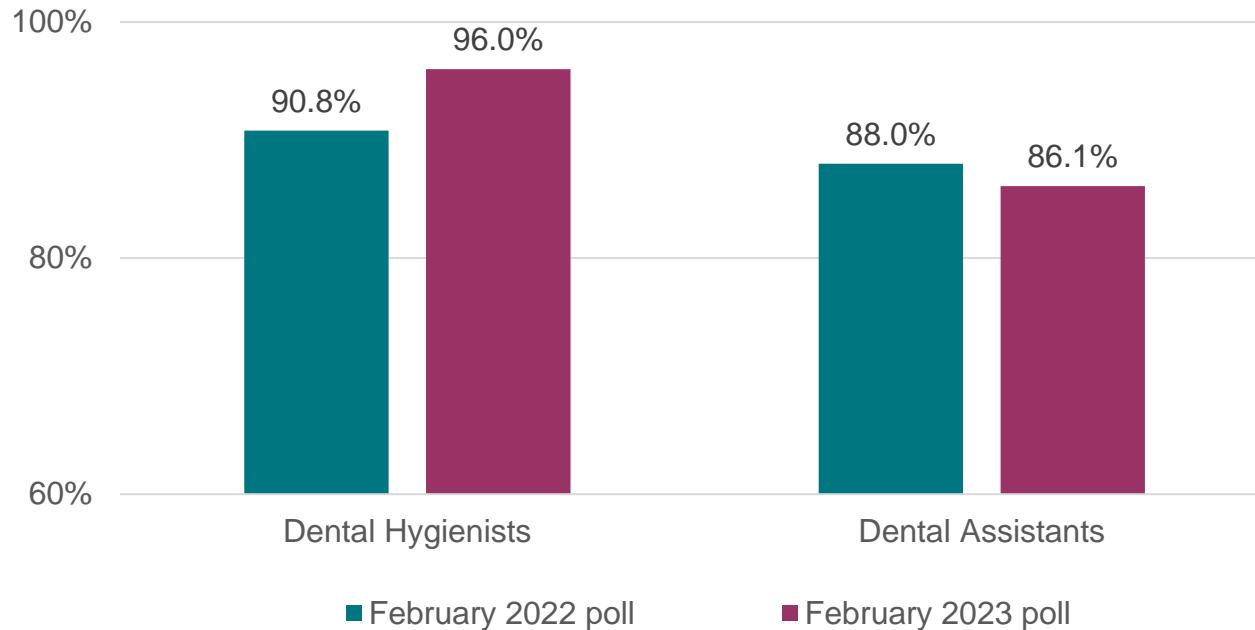
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “yes.”)



One-third of dentists continue to report they are actively recruiting dental hygienists and assistants.

Challenges Recruiting

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



Recruitment of dental hygienists continues to be particularly challenging for dentists.

Dental Insurance Dropouts

Since January 1, 2023, has your practice dropped out of any dental insurance networks?

1164 Responses



● Yes [190] ● No or not currently participating [958] ● Not sure [16]

[If yes] Approximately what percentage of the patient base was in the dropped insurance networks?

162 Responses



About 1 in 6 dentists reported that since the beginning of the year, they have dropped out of some dental insurance networks. These insurance networks covered 17.5% of their patient base on average.

Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Dental practice schedules remain steady at the start of 2023, with schedules 85% full on average in February. For several months, we have been in a holding pattern. For months, dental practices have cited patient no-shows and cancellations as the top reason why their practice schedules are not full.
- **Recruitment Needs:** Recruitment needs for dental hygienists and assistants are still down from a high point in early 2022. But by no means is the shortage over. Dentists who are actively recruiting dental practice personnel continue to say recruitment is extremely challenging.
- **Dental Insurance Networks:** Some dentists have reported that they have dropped out of some dental insurance networks since January 2023, affecting of 17.5% of their patient base on average.

Thank you!

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