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.

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)
- Periodontics (PERIO)

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 prosthodontics. The number of respondents in each practice area/specialty can be found at the end of this report.

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

211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312.440.2928
hipi@ada.org

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

976 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Somewhat confident</th>
<th>Neither confident nor skeptical</th>
<th>Somewhat skeptical</th>
<th>Very skeptical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your particular dental practice?</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dental care sector in general?</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy?</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pediatric Dentistry

67 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Somewhat confident</th>
<th>Neither confident nor skeptical</th>
<th>Somewhat skeptical</th>
<th>Very skeptical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your particular dental practice?</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dental care sector in general?</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy?</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Periodontics

37 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Somewhat confident</th>
<th>Neither confident nor skeptical</th>
<th>Somewhat skeptical</th>
<th>Very skeptical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your particular dental practice?</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dental care sector in general?</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy?</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dentists in Public Health Settings

52 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Somewhat confident</th>
<th>Neither confident nor skeptical</th>
<th>Somewhat skeptical</th>
<th>Very skeptical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your particular dental practice?</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dental care sector in general?</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy?</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appointment Schedule

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

Mean % of schedule filled

Dentists in private practice

1146 Responses

- GP: 84.7%
- PED: 84.1%
- PERIO: 81.7%

Dentists in public health settings

50 Responses

- DiPHS: 88.7%
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**
787 Responses

- Trouble filling vacant staff positions: 33.2%
- Not enough patients making appts: 37.4%
- COVID safety protocols: 12.5%
- No shows/cancellations < 24 hours: 79.4%
- Cancellations 24+ hours prior: 40.3%
- Other, please specify: 7.0%

**Pediatric Dentistry**
58 Responses

- Trouble filling vacant staff positions: 46.6%
- Not enough patients making appts: 24.1%
- COVID safety protocols: 19.0%
- No shows/cancellations < 24 hours: 84.5%
- Cancellations 24+ hours prior: 36.2%
- Other, please specify: 8.6%

**Dentists in Public Health Settings**
33 Responses

- Trouble filling vacant staff positions: 51.5%
- Not enough patients making appts: 12.1%
- COVID safety protocols: 21.2%
- No shows/cancellations < 24 hours: 87.9%
- Cancellations 24+ hours prior: 36.4%
- Other, please specify: 12.1%
Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental assistants</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Extremely challenging</th>
<th>Very challenging</th>
<th>Moderately challenging</th>
<th>Slightly challenging</th>
<th>Not challenging at all</th>
<th>Not sure/Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental assistants</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pediatric Dentistry

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental assistants</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Extremely challenging</th>
<th>Very challenging</th>
<th>Moderately challenging</th>
<th>Slightly challenging</th>
<th>Not challenging at all</th>
<th>Not sure/Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental assistants</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Periodontics

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

- **Dental hygienists**: 29.7% Yes, 67.6% No, 6.3% Not sure
- **Dental assistants**: 35.1% Yes, 62.2% No, 2.7% Not sure
- **Dentists**: 16.2% Yes, 78.4% No, 5.4% Not sure
- **Administrative staff**: 40.5% Yes, 56.8% No, 2.7% Not sure
Dentists in Public Health Settings

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

- **Dental hygienists**: 40.4% Yes, 55.8% No, 7.7% Not sure
- **Dental assistants**: 73.1% Yes, 23.1% No, 7.7% Not sure
- **Dentists**: 65.4% Yes, 30.8% No, 3.8% Not sure
- **Administrative staff**: 46.2% Yes, 46.2% No, 7.7% Not sure

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

- **Dental hygienists**: 47.6% Extremely challenging, 33.3% Very challenging, 14.3% Moderately challenging, 10.5% Slightly challenging, 14.3% Not challenging at all
- **Dental assistants**: 55.3% Extremely challenging, 28.9% Very challenging, 14.3% Moderately challenging, 10.5% Slightly challenging, 17.6% Not challenging at all
- **Dentists**: 41.2% Extremely challenging, 29.4% Very challenging, 17.6% Moderately challenging, 10.5% Slightly challenging, 14.3% Not challenging at all
- **Administrative staff**: 33.3% Extremely challenging, 25.0% Very challenging, 33.3% Moderately challenging, 8.3% Slightly challenging, 8.3% Not challenging at all
Employee Health Insurance Benefit

General Practice

[Owner dentists] Do you offer health insurance to your employees?

914 Responses

- Yes [45%, 412]
- No [55%, 502]

Why do you not offer health insurance? (Select all that apply.)

500 Responses

- Too costly: 84.6%
- Don't know how/unfamiliar vendors: 10.6%
- Not the industry norm: 13.6%
- Don't feel it's my obligation: 6.4%
- Don't feel it's important: 0.6%
- Other, please specify: 24.8%

Pediatric Dentistry

[Owner dentists] Do you offer health insurance to your employees?

64 Responses

- Yes [70%, 45]
- No [30%, 19]

Periodontics

[Owner dentists] Do you offer health insurance to your employees?

32 Responses

- Yes [47%, 15]
- No [53%, 17]
### General Practice

**Do you offer paid leave to your employees?**

914 Responses

- Yes [81%, 738]
- No [19%, 176]

**Why do you not offer paid leave? (Select all that apply.)**

171 Responses

- Too costly: 69.6%
- Don't know how/unfamiliar vendors: 7.6%
- Not the industry norm: 32.2%
- Don't feel it's my obligation: 30.4%
- Don't feel it's important: 1.8%
- Other, please specify: 12.3%

### Pediatric Dentistry

**Do you offer paid leave to your employees?**

64 Responses

- Yes [89%]
- No [11%]

### Periodontics

**Do you offer paid leave to your employees?**

32 Responses

- Yes [78%, 25]
- No [22%, 7]
## Number of Responses by Specialty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dentists In Private Practice</th>
<th>Choice Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Practice (GP)</td>
<td>976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endodontics (ENDO)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontics (ORTHO)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Dentistry (PED)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontics (PERIO)</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosthodontics (PROS)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Setting</th>
<th>Choice Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dentist in private practice</td>
<td>1,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists in public health settings</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>