

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)
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS)
- Endodontics (ENDO)
- Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (ORTHO)
- Pediatric dentistry (PED)
- Periodontics (PERIO)
- Prosthodontics (PROS)

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

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

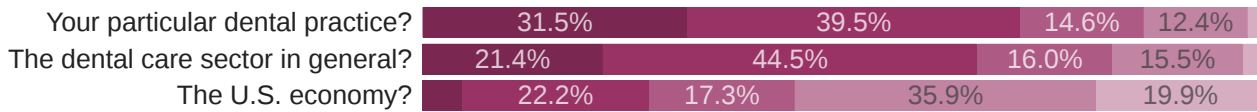
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Economic Confidence

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

General Practice

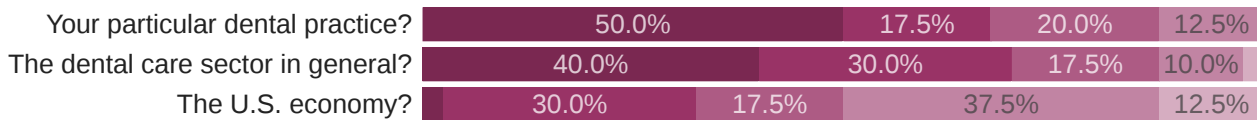
1615 Responses



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

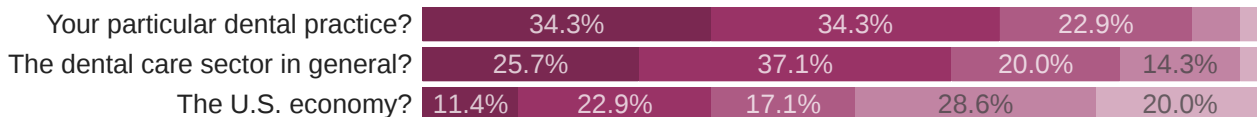
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

40 Responses



Endodontics

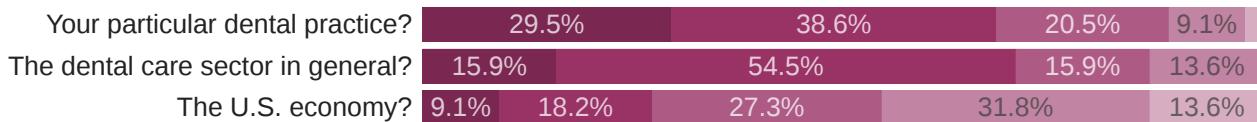
35 Responses



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

Orthodontics

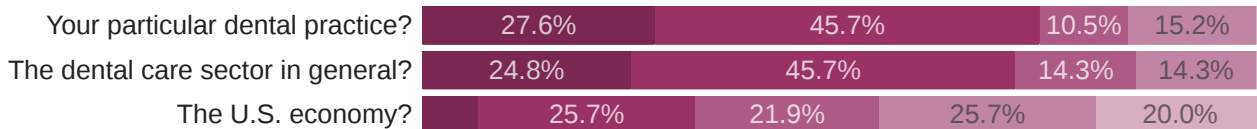
44 Responses



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

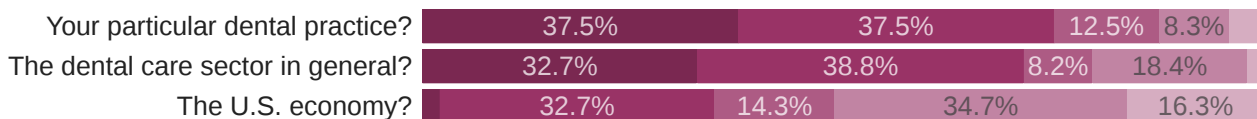
Pediatric Dentistry

105 Responses



Periodontics

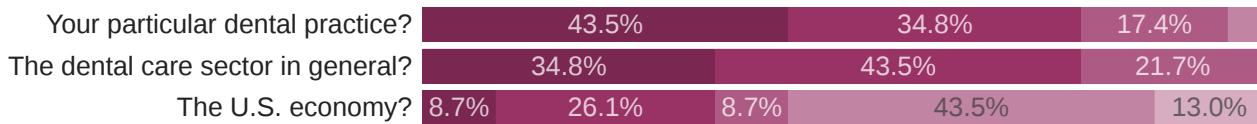
49 Responses



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

Prosthodontics

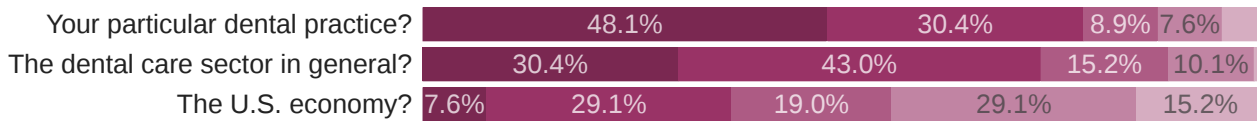
23 Responses



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

Dentists in Public Health Settings

79 Responses



Appointment Schedule

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

Mean % of schedule filled

Dentists in private practice

1896 Responses



Dentists in public health settings

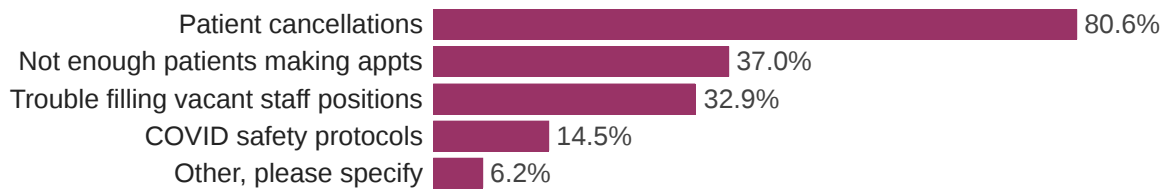


Factors Preventing a Full Schedule

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

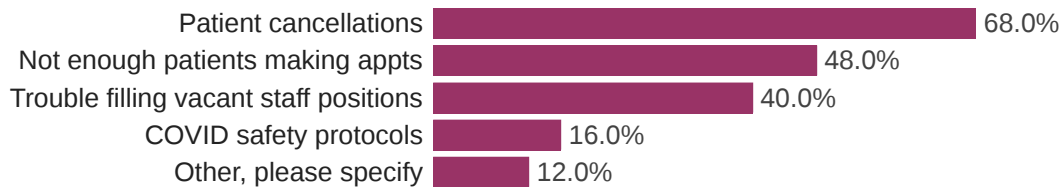
General Practice

1252 Responses



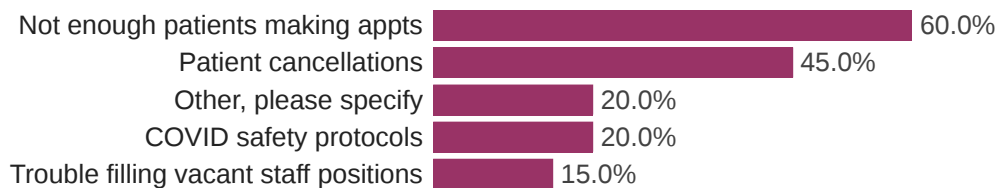
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

25 Responses



Endodontics

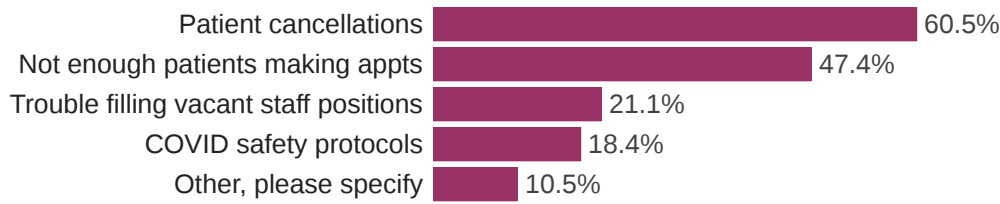
20 Responses



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

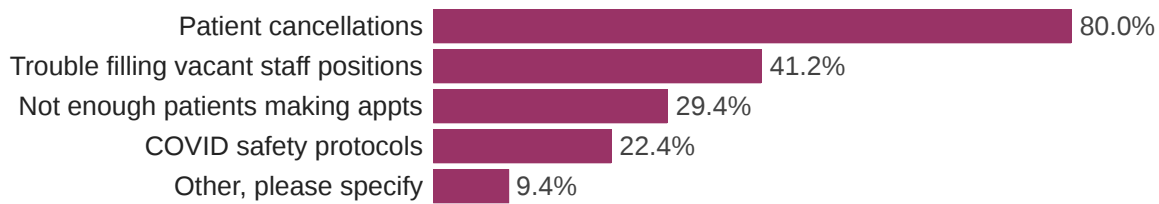
Orthodontics

38 Responses



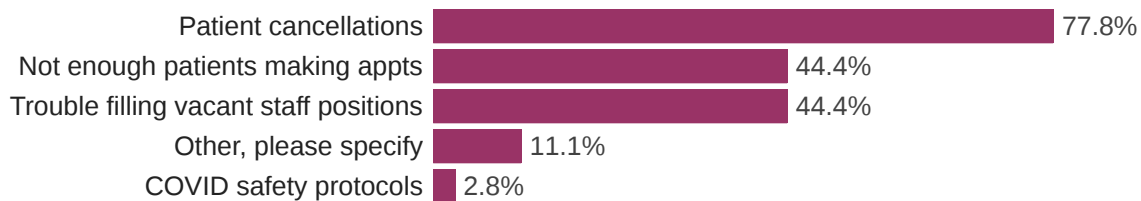
Pediatric Dentistry

85 Responses



Periodontics

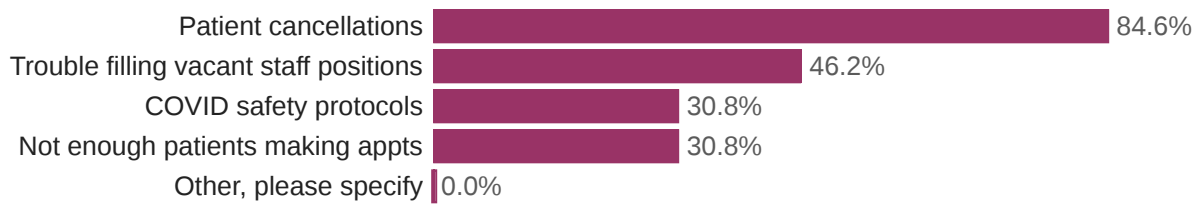
36 Responses



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

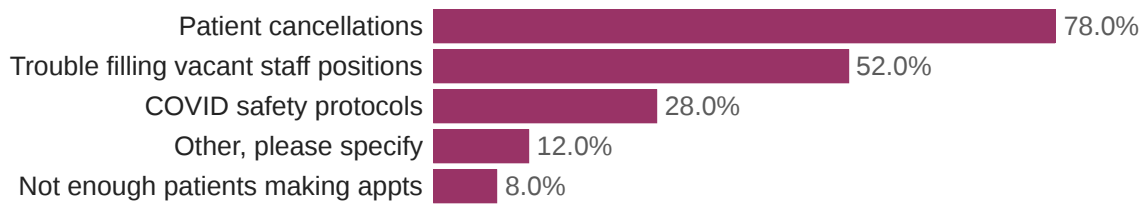
Prosthodontics

13 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

50 Responses



Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

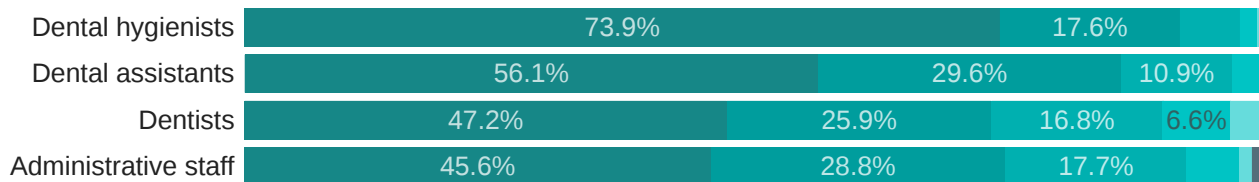
1615 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

990 Responses

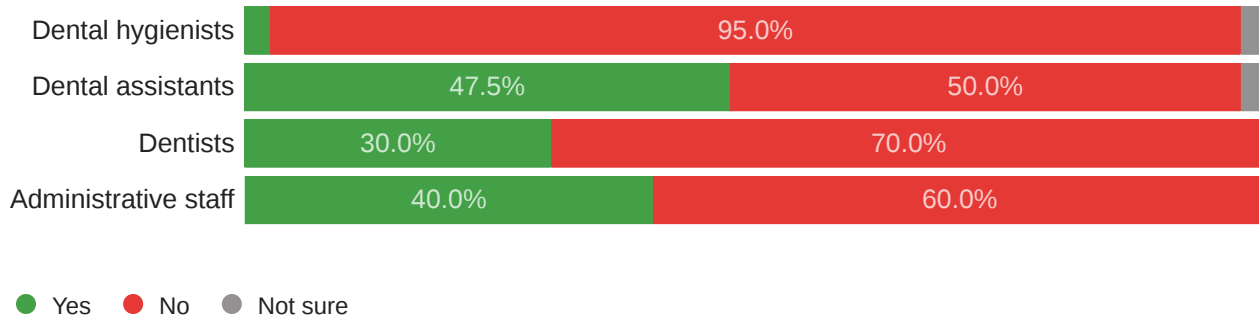


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

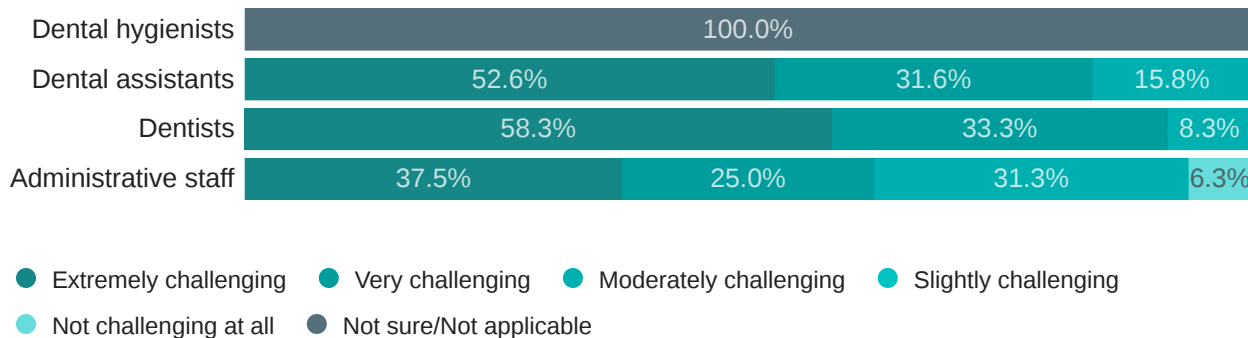
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?

40 Responses



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

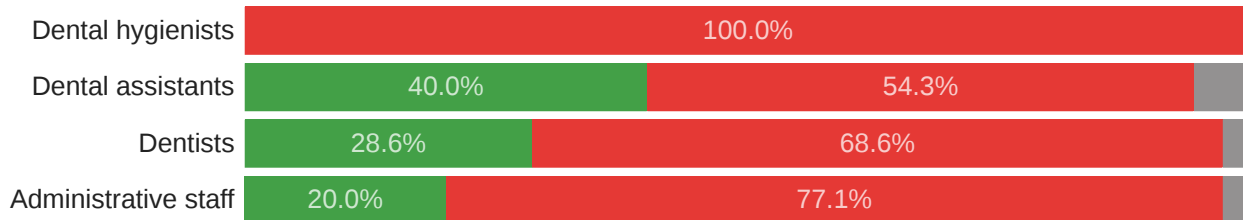
25 Responses



Endodontics

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

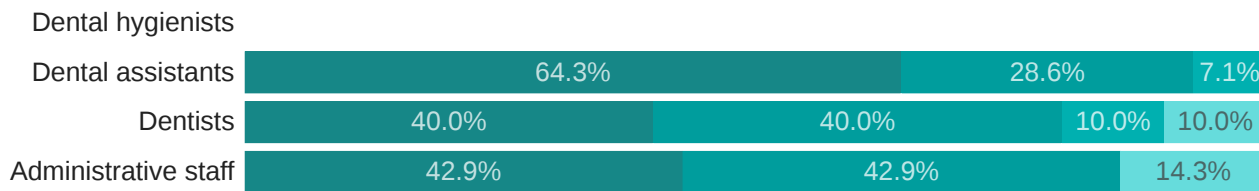
35 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

17 Responses

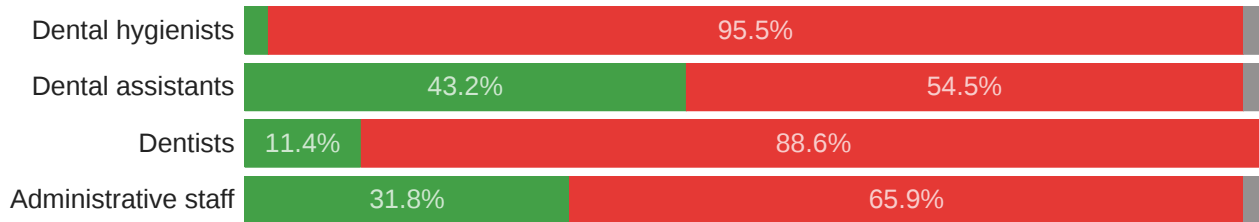


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Orthodontics

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

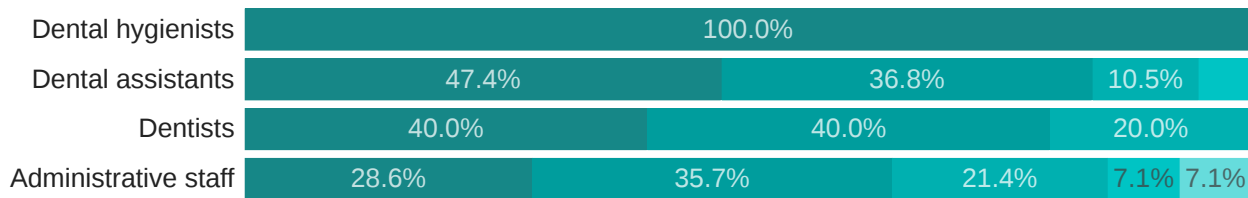
44 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

23 Responses

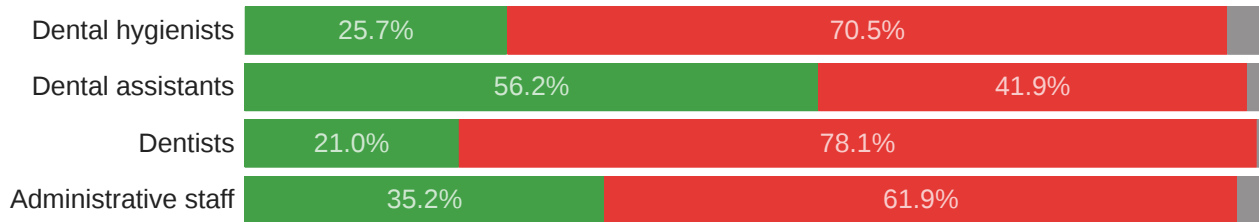


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Pediatric Dentistry

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

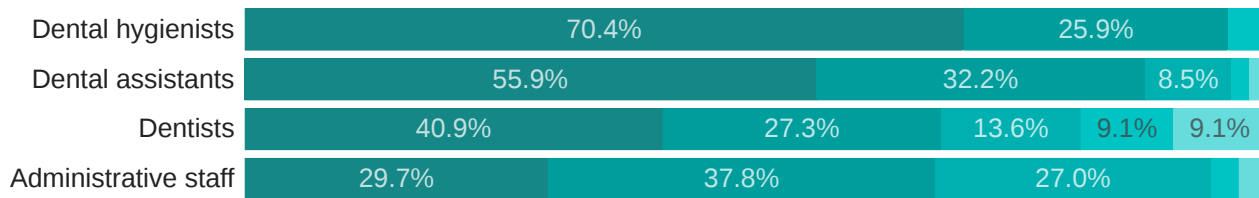
105 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

75 Responses

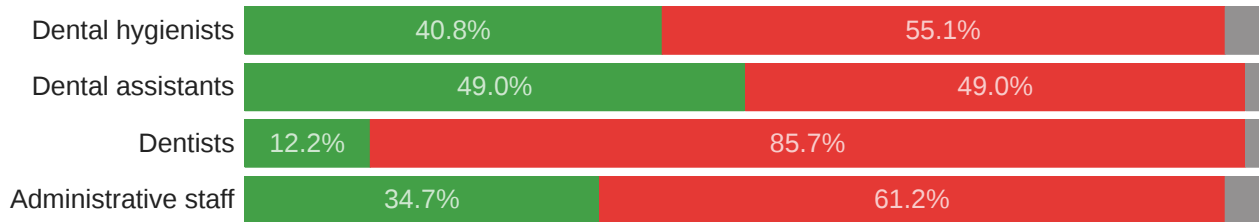


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Periodontics

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

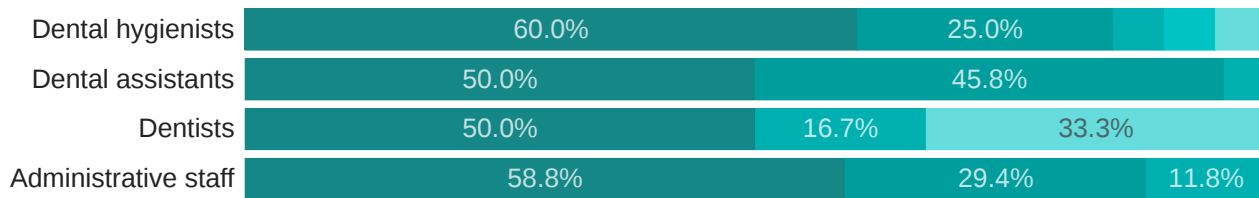
49 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

35 Responses

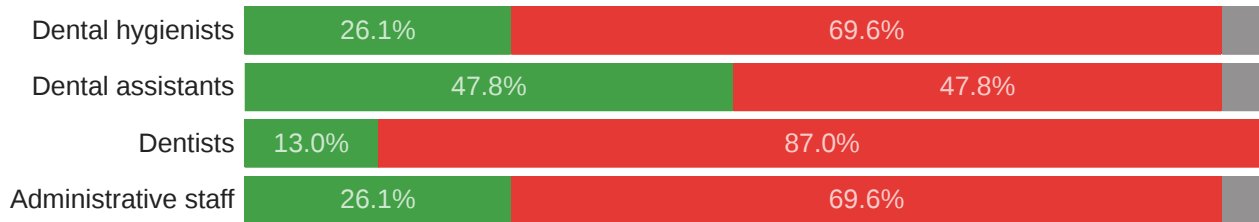


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Prosthodontics

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

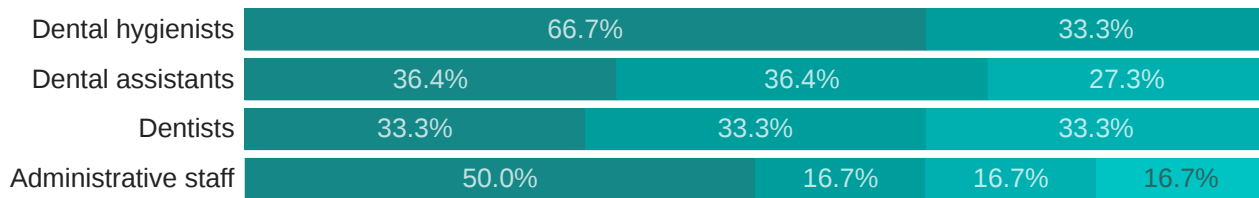
23 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

16 Responses

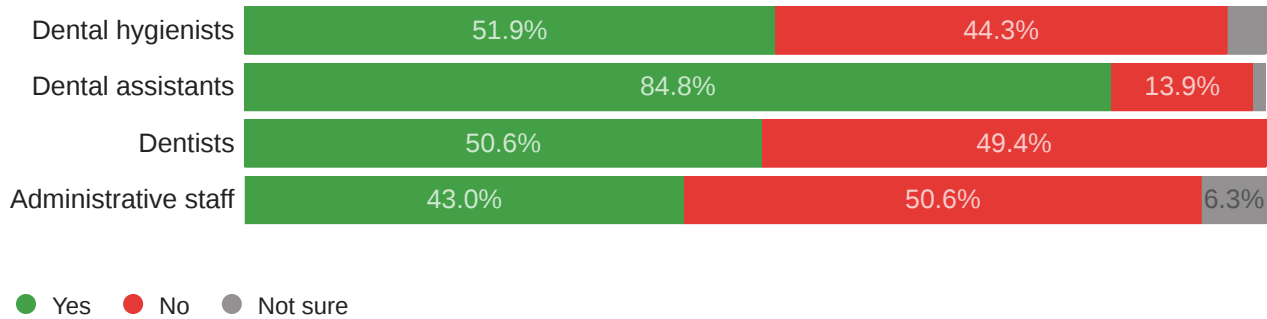


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

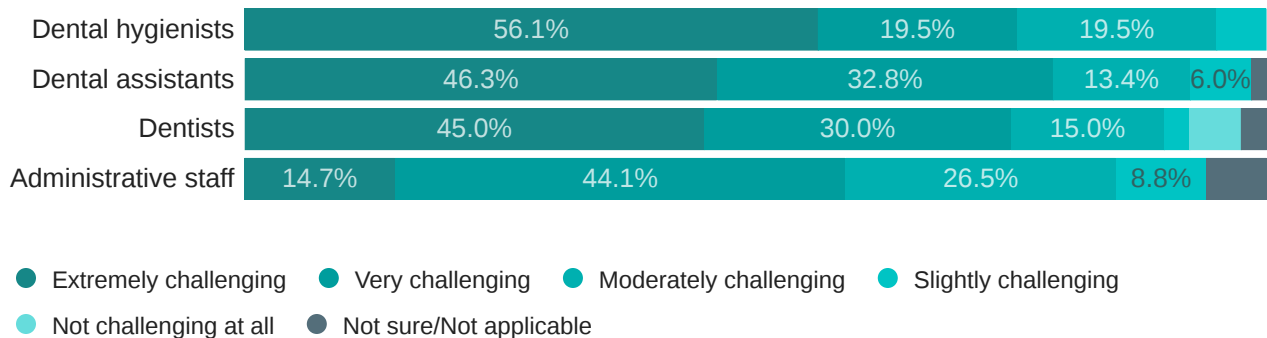
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?

79 Responses



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

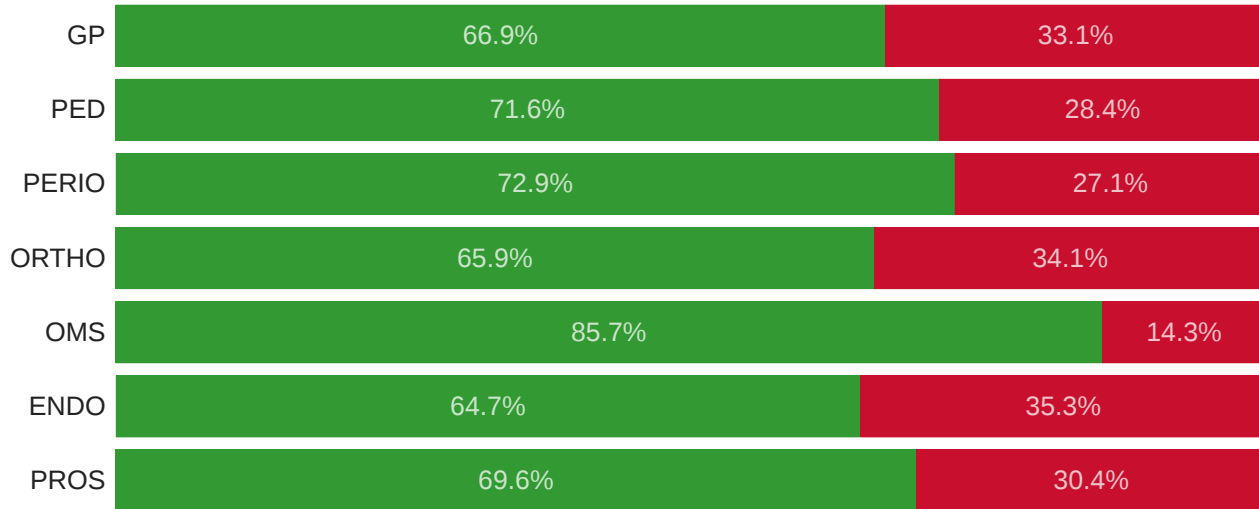
73 Responses



Masking in the Dental Office

Are masks required for patients in your dental practice waiting area?

1975 Responses



79 Responses

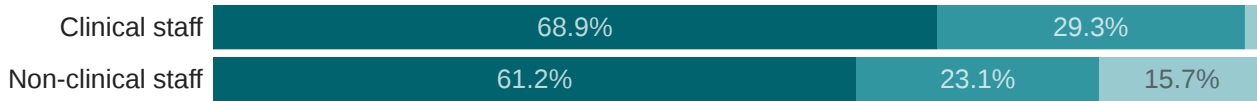


● Yes ● No

When are masks required for staff in your dental practice?

General Practice

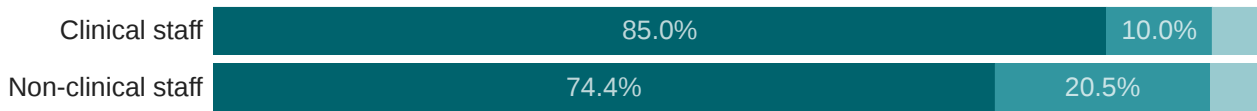
1615 Responses



- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

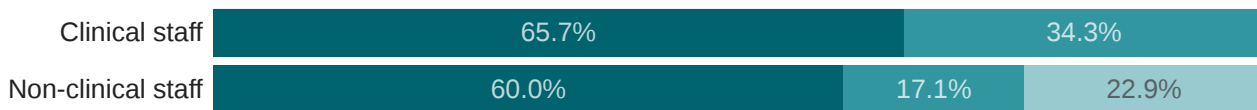
40 Responses



- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Endodontics

35 Responses

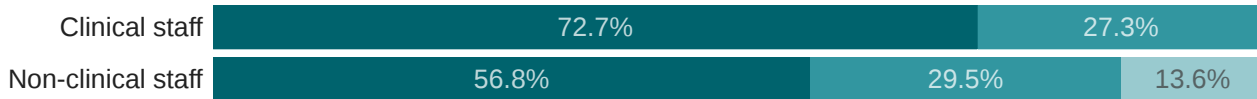


- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

When are masks required for staff in your dental practice? (continued)

Orthodontics

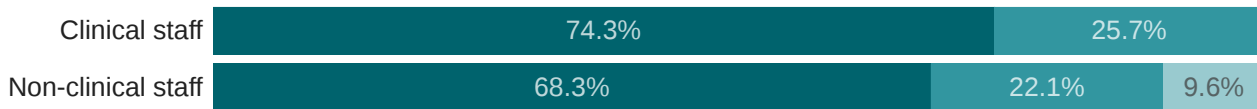
44 Responses



- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Pediatric Dentistry

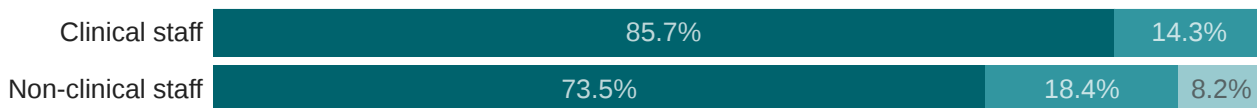
105 Responses



- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Periodontics

49 Responses

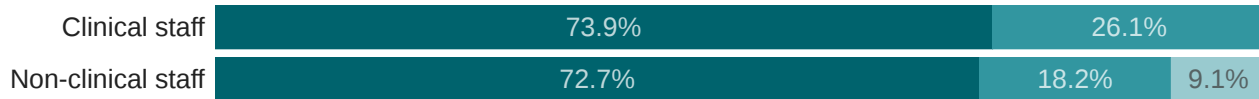


- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

When are masks required for staff in your dental practice? (continued)

Prosthodontics

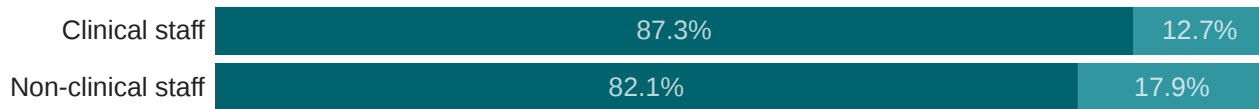
23 Responses



- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Dentists in Public Health Settings

79 Responses



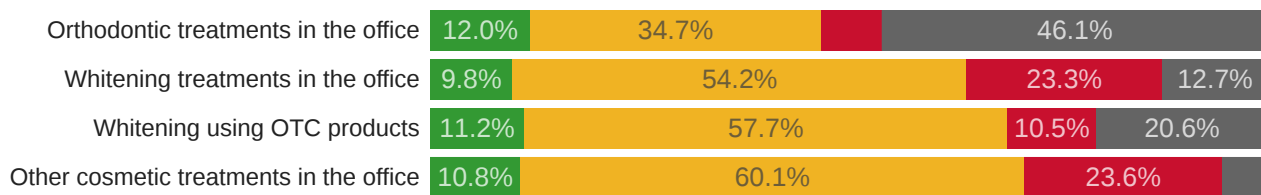
- Continually throughout the workday
- Only when interacting with patients
- No requirement

Frequency of Select Treatments

Compared to this time last year, how has the frequency of the following changed among patients in your dental practice?

General Practice

1615 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure/Not applicable

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

40 Responses



Endodontics

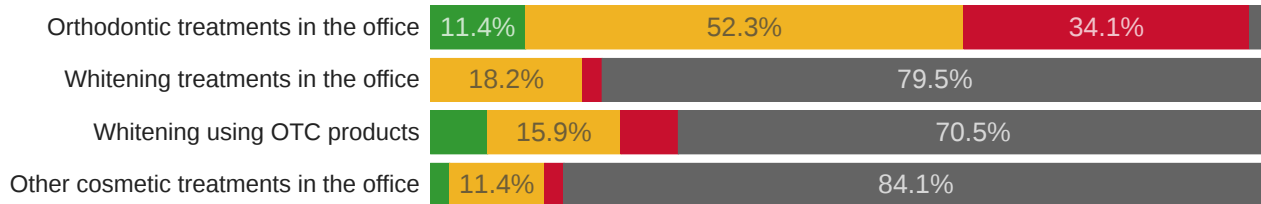
35 Responses



Compared to this time last year, how has the frequency of the following changed among patients in your dental practice? (continued)

Orthodontics

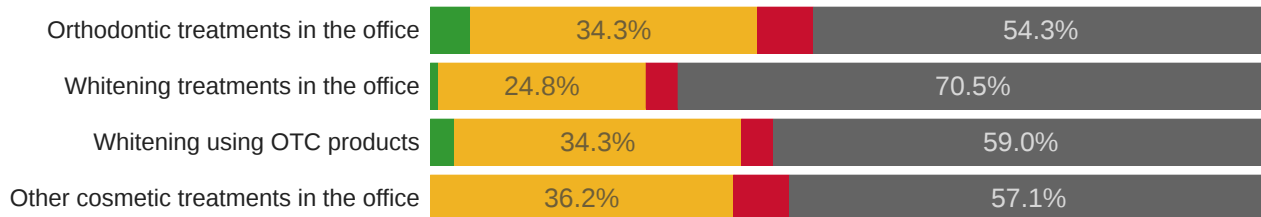
44 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure/Not applicable

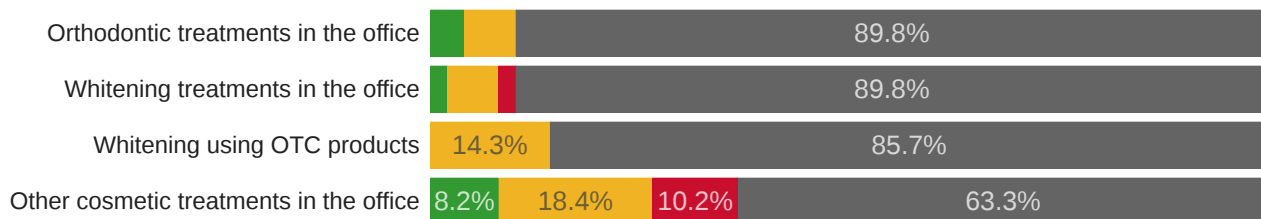
Pediatric Dentistry

105 Responses



Periodontics

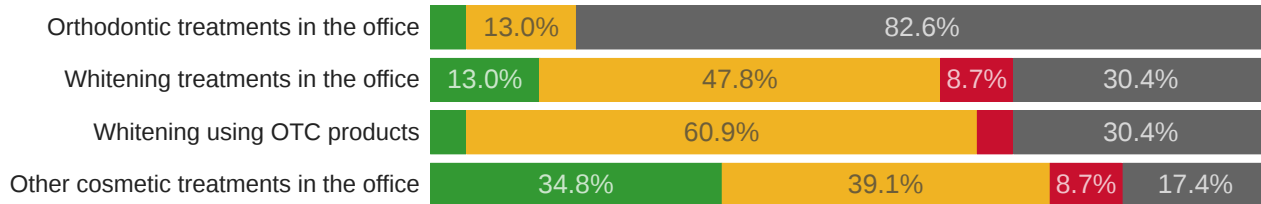
49 Responses



Compared to this time last year, how has the frequency of the following changed among patients in your dental practice? (continued)

Prosthodontics

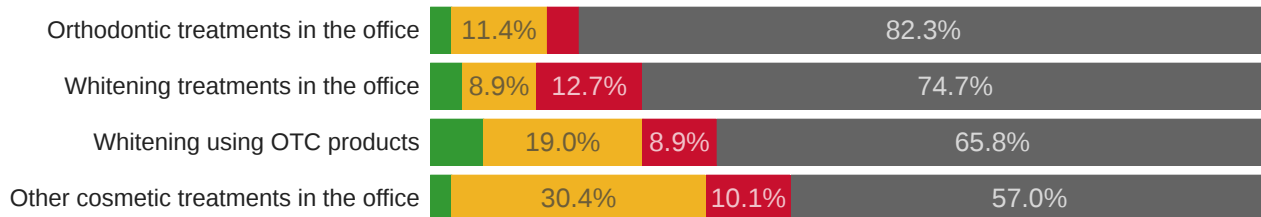
23 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

79 Responses



Number of Responses by Specialty

Dentists In Private Practice	Choice Count
General Practice (GP)	1,615
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)	40
Endodontics (ENDO)	35
Orthodontics (ORTHO)	44
Pediatric Dentistry (PED)	105
Periodontics (PERIO)	49
Prosthodontics (PROS)	23

Practice Setting	Choice Count
Dentist in private practice	1,916
Dentists in public health settings	79