

About this Study

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.

What's New in 2024 – Revised Core Questions

To ensure HPI continues to track the most relevant indicators to measure the state of the economy in dental practices, and in response to feedback from panelists and report users, HPI has made some modifications to the questions starting Q1 2024.

A new question was added to gauge capacity of dental practices, *“Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?”* Answer options are *“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,”* and *“Not busy enough, could have treated more patients.”* This new question replaces the previous questions that asked panelists to indicate how full their practice schedule was and the follow-up question asking reasons for not reaching full capacity.

To simplify data collection while keeping focus on the most useful indicators, the survey continues to ask about the average wait time for a new patient but now excludes the question about wait times for patients of record.

Lastly, the following edits were made to reflect the updated cadence of this poll and in response to panelists’ feedback:

- *“Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you **in the recovery of...**”* is now *“Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you **in the economic conditions in....**”*
- *“Have you **recently or are you currently** recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?”* is now *“**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?”* is now *“How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below **over the last 3 months?**”*

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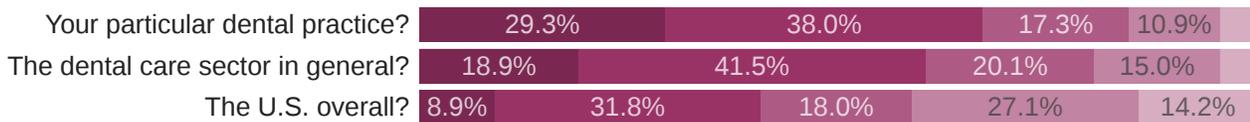
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Economic Confidence

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

General Practice

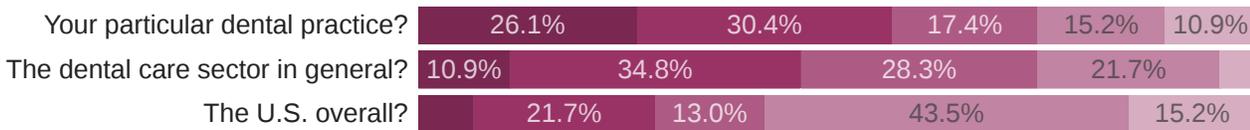
761 Responses



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

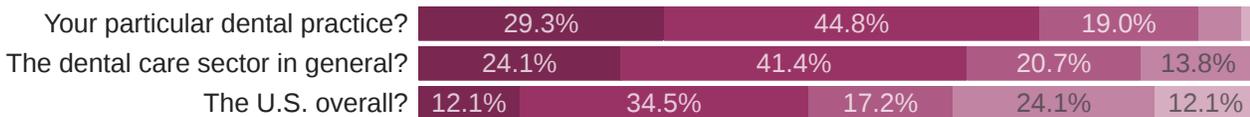
Pediatric Dentistry

46 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

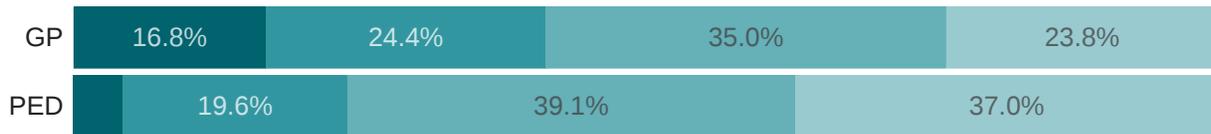
58 Responses



Busyness

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

Dentists in private practice



- 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

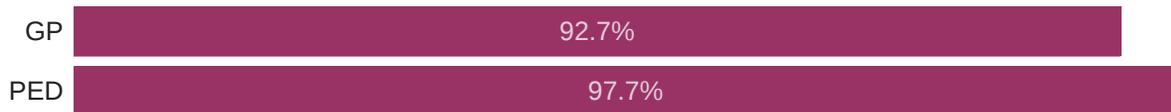
Dentists in Public Health Settings



New Patient Wait Times

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

Dentists in private practice



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)?

(Average number of days)

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings



Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

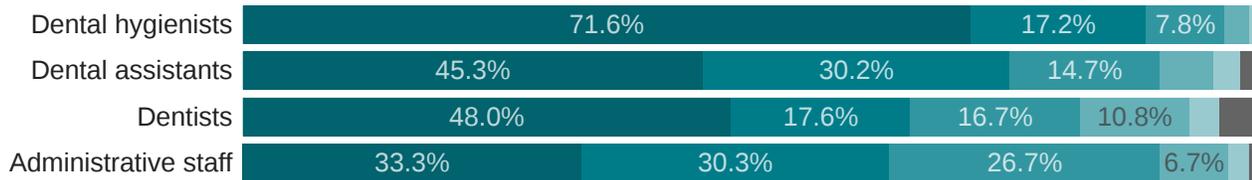
761 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

457 Responses



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

Pediatric Dentistry

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

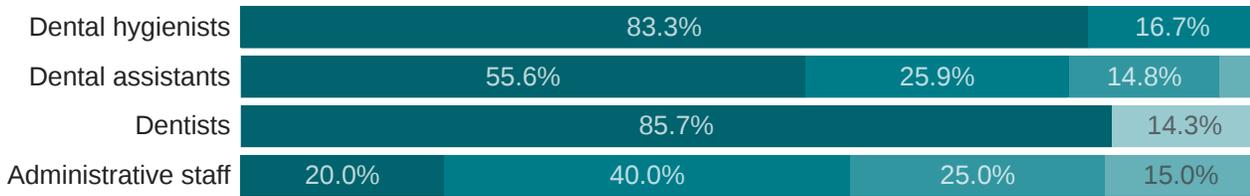
46 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

36 Responses

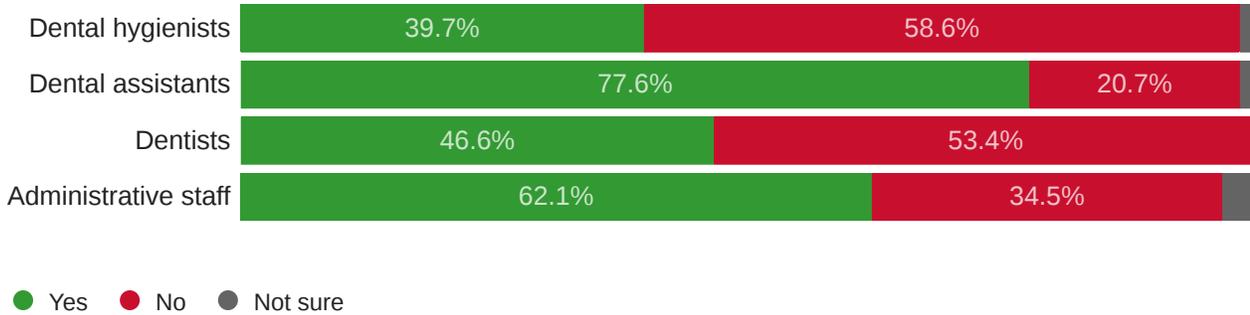


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

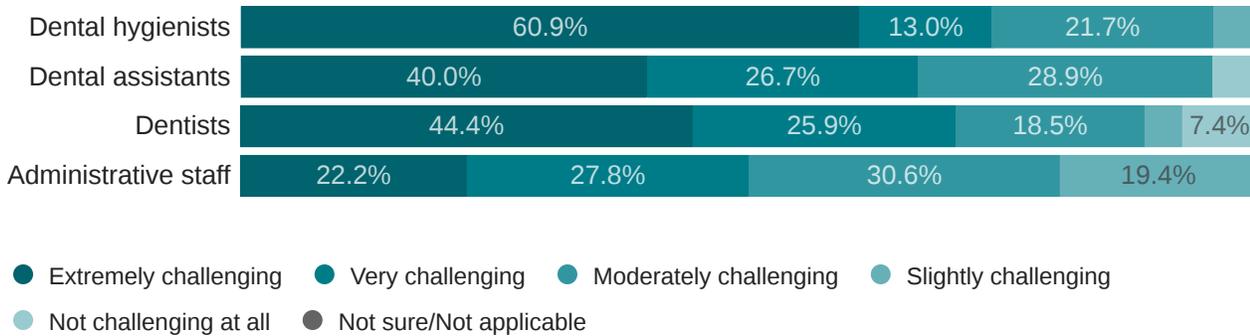
Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?

58 Responses



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

51 Responses



Dentists in private practice

Specialty	Choice Count
General practice (GP)	773
Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS)	23
Endodontics (ENDO)	15
Orthodontics (ORTHO)	24
Pediatric dentistry (PED)	46
Periodontics (PERIO)	20
Prosthodontics (PROS)	9
Dental public health (DPH)	4
Dental anesthesiology (DENTANES)	1

Practice Setting	Choice Count
Dentist in private practice	915
Dentist in public health setting	58