

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

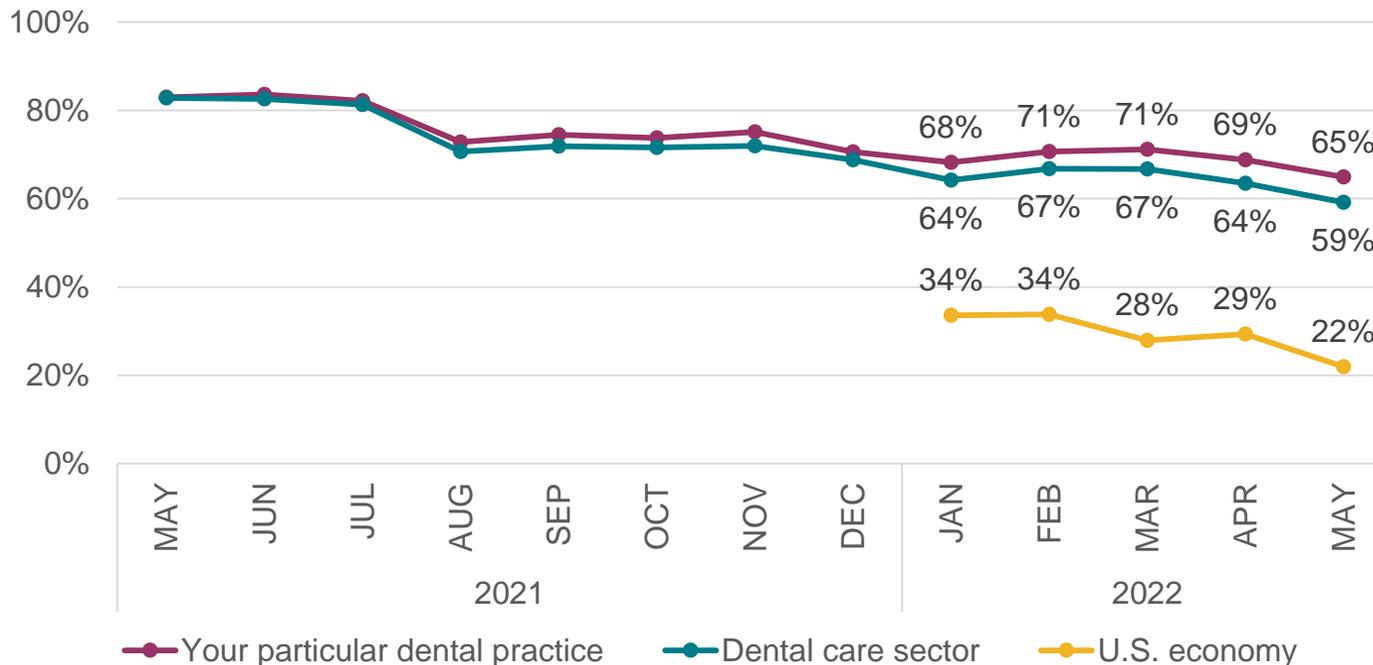
Insights from Data from May 2022

Emerging Issues Polling

- Measuring the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry
- Over 3000 have opted to participate to date, roughly 1500 have responded in recent waves
- Data was collected May 17-22, 2022
- Core measures: economic outlook, fullness of practice schedule, schedule barriers, recruitment needs and challenges
- Questions of the month: currently filled and open positions for dental hygienists and dental assistants
- Complete reports with breakdowns available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI)
- State dashboard coming soon!

Economic Outlook

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

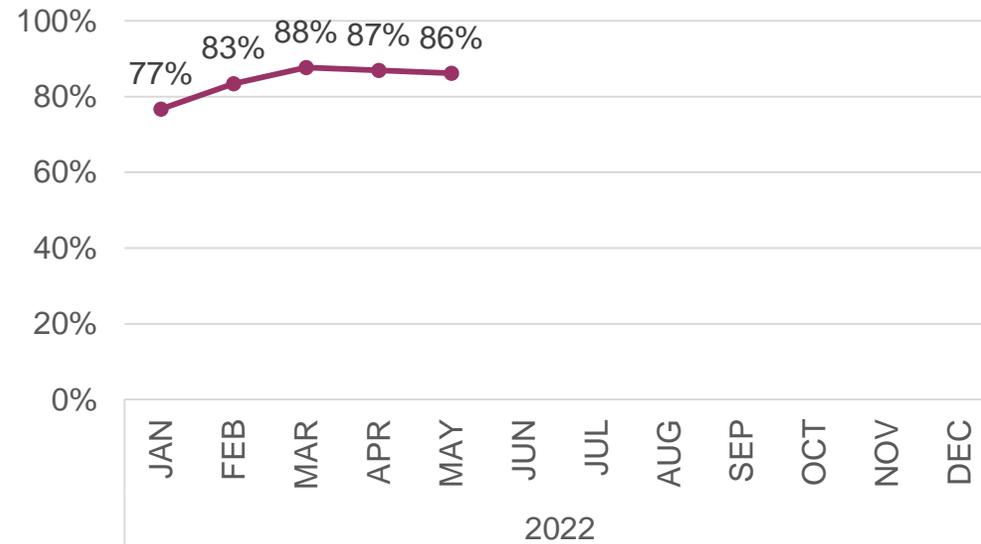


Dentists' confidence in economic recovery continues to drop slightly.

In May, only one in five had high hopes for U.S. economic recovery in the coming months.

Practice Schedules

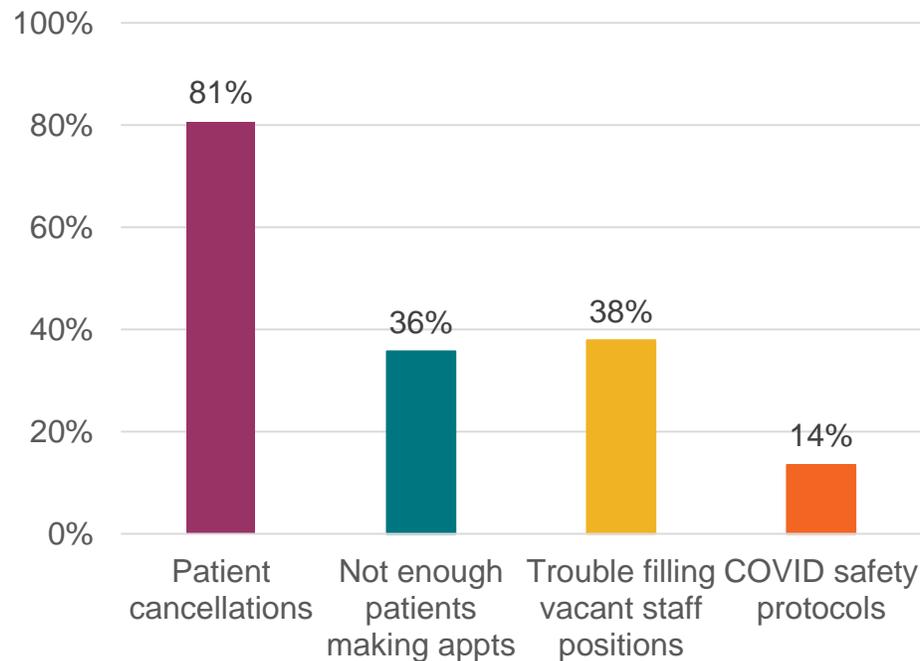
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In May, dentists indicated that their schedules were about 86% full. Practice schedules have been steady the past few months.

Scheduling Barriers

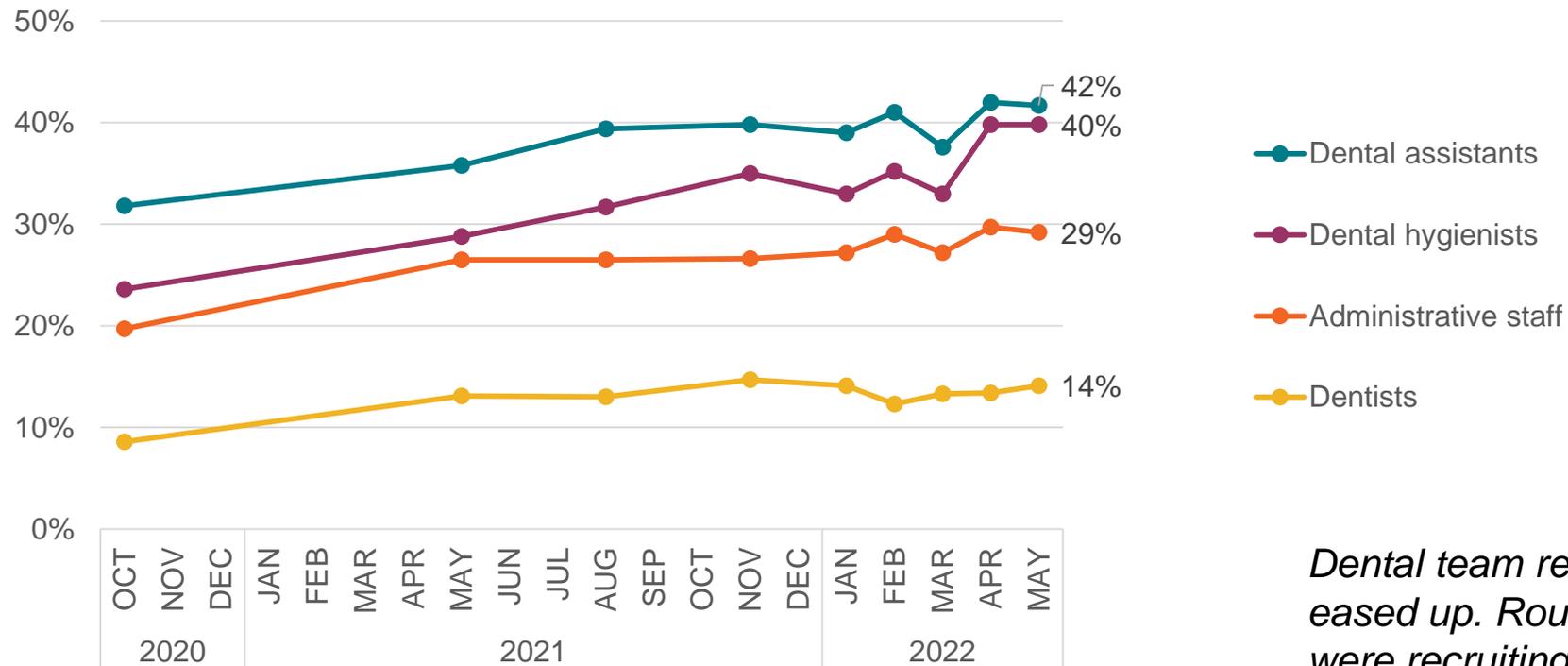
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



Patient cancellations remained the most common reason schedules were not full in May.

Dental Team Recruitment

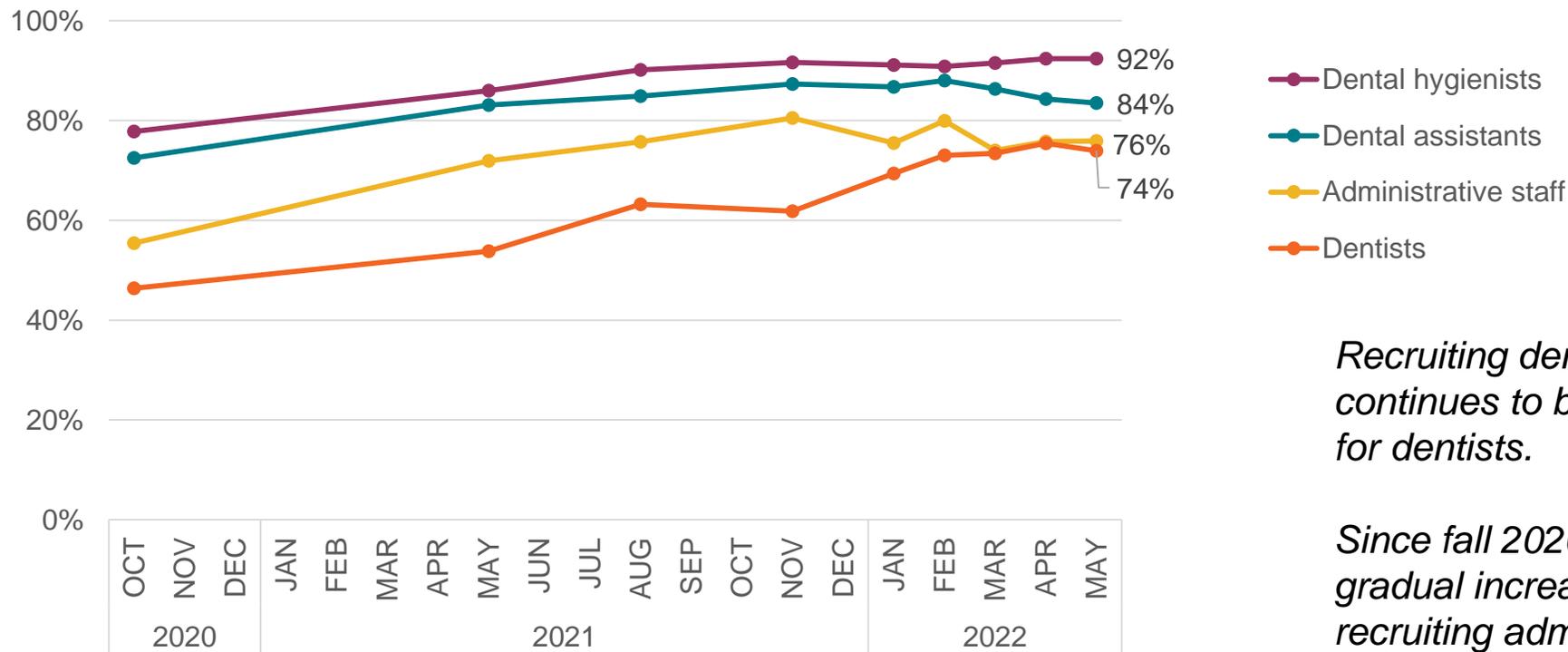
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “Yes.”)



Dental team recruitment needs have not eased up. Roughly four in ten dentists were recruiting dental assistants and dental hygienists in May.

Challenges Recruiting

How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below?
 (Percentages indicating “extremely” or “very” challenging.)



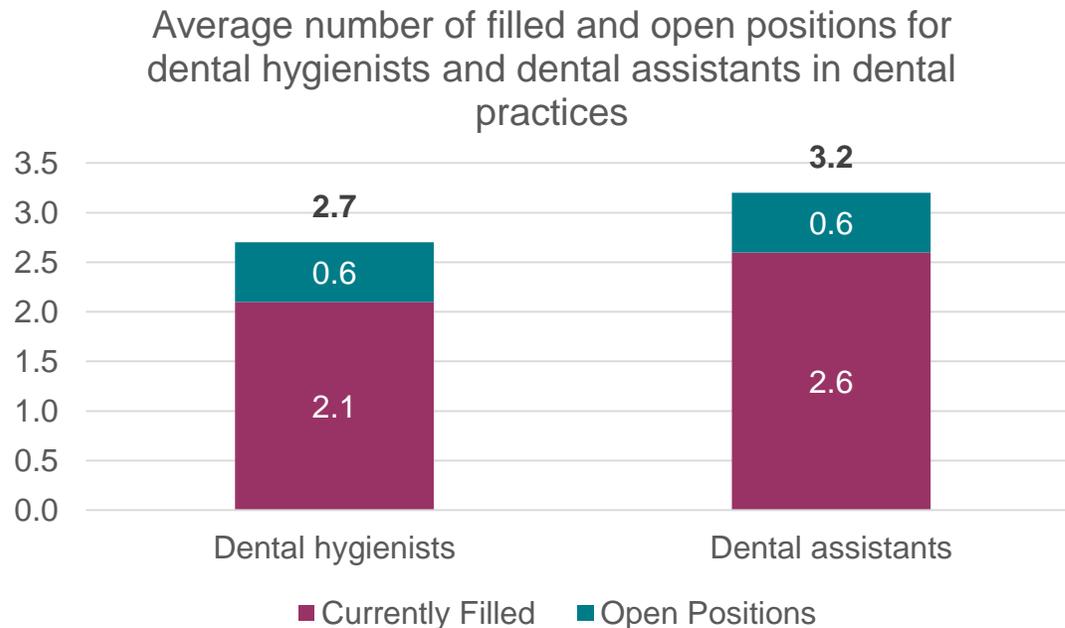
Recruiting dental hygienists continues to be the most challenging for dentists.

Since fall 2020, there has been a gradual increase in the difficulty of recruiting administrative staff and other dentists.

Positions for Dental Hygienists and Assistants

How many of dental hygienist and dental assistant positions in your practice are *currently filled*?

How many *open positions* for dental hygienists and dental assistants does your practice have?



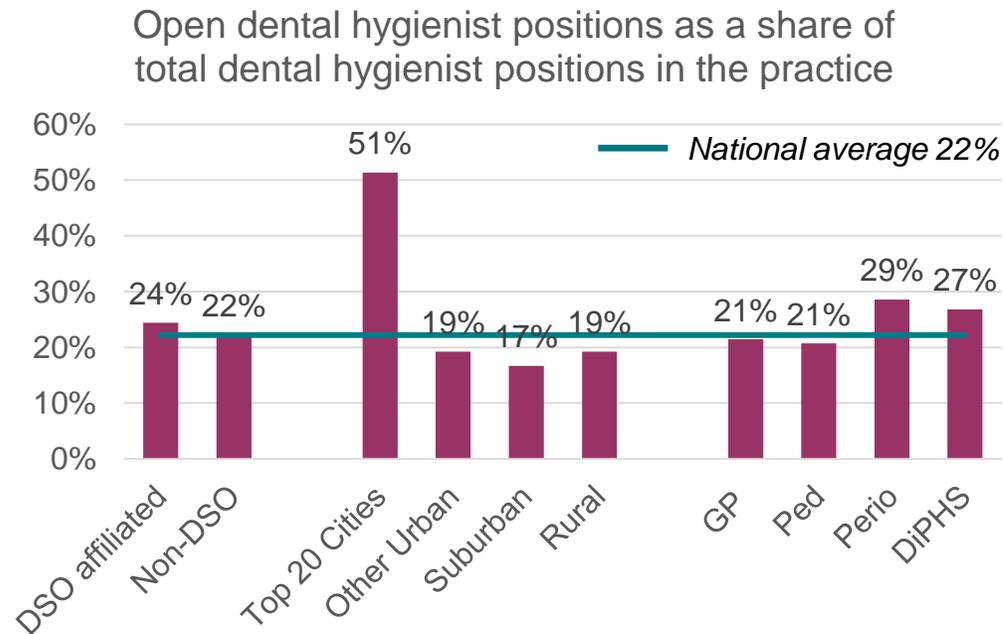
On average, dental practices in May had roughly one half-time position open for both dental hygienists and dental assistants on their teams.

One in five dental hygienist and dental assistant positions were vacant in May.

Positions for Dental Hygienists and Assistants

How many of dental hygienist and dental assistant positions in your practice are *currently filled*?

How many *open positions* for dental hygienists and dental assistants does your practice have?



On average nationally, 22% of dental hygiene positions were unfilled in dental practices in May.

Dentists in the top 20 largest cities are feeling this shortage much more acutely: half of their dental hygiene positions are unfilled.

Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Dental practice schedules were 86% full in May. Schedules have been relatively steady the past few months.
- **Recruitment Needs:** Dental team recruitment needs have not eased up. Roughly four in ten dentists were recruiting dental assistants and dental hygienists in May. Recruiting dental hygienists continues to be the most challenging for dentists.
- **Position Vacancies:** On average, 22% of dental hygiene positions were unfilled in dental practices in May. Dentists in urban areas are feeling this shortage more acutely.
- **Economic Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in economic recovery continues to drop. In May, only one in five dentists had high hopes for U.S. economic recovery in the coming months.

Thank You!

@ADAHPI

ADA.org/HPI

ADA.org/HPIConsulting

hpi@ada.org



ADA American Dental Association®