

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

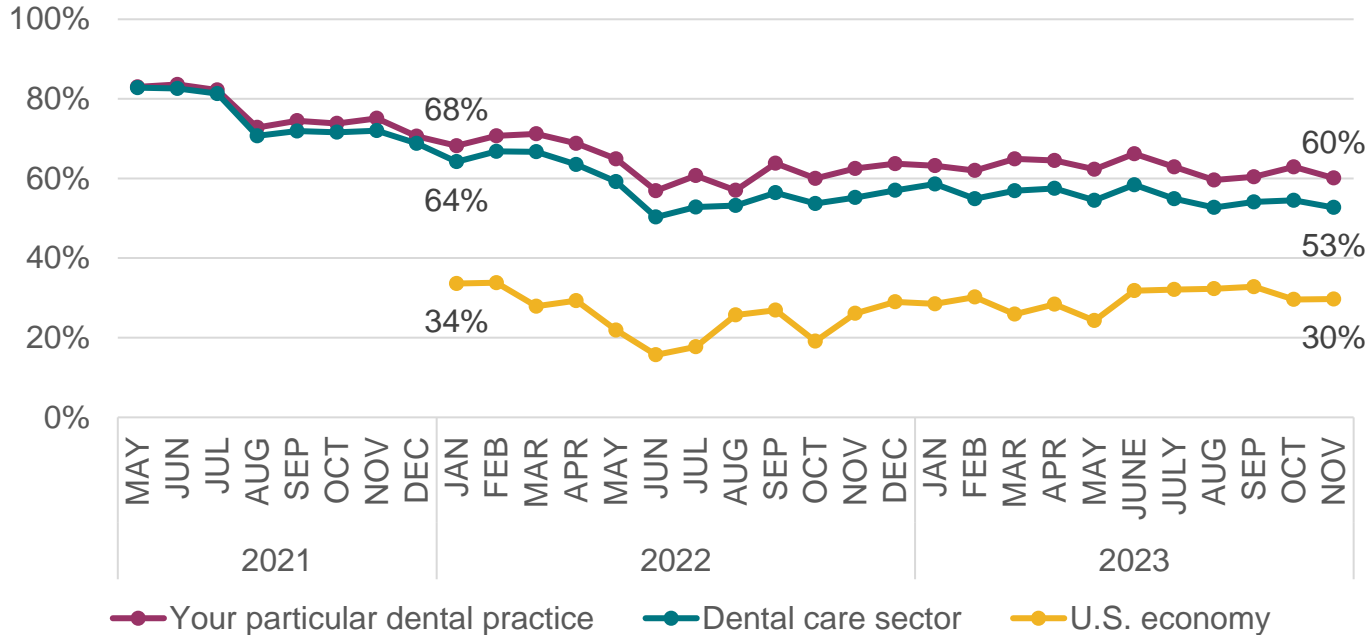
Insights from Data from November 2023

Emerging Issues Polling

- Measuring the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry
- Over 3,000 dentists have opted to participate to date; 977 participated in November 2023
- Data was collected November 13-19, 2023
- Core measures: economic outlook, fullness of practice schedule, schedule barriers, recruitment needs and challenges
- Complete reports with breakdowns available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI)

Confidence in the Economy

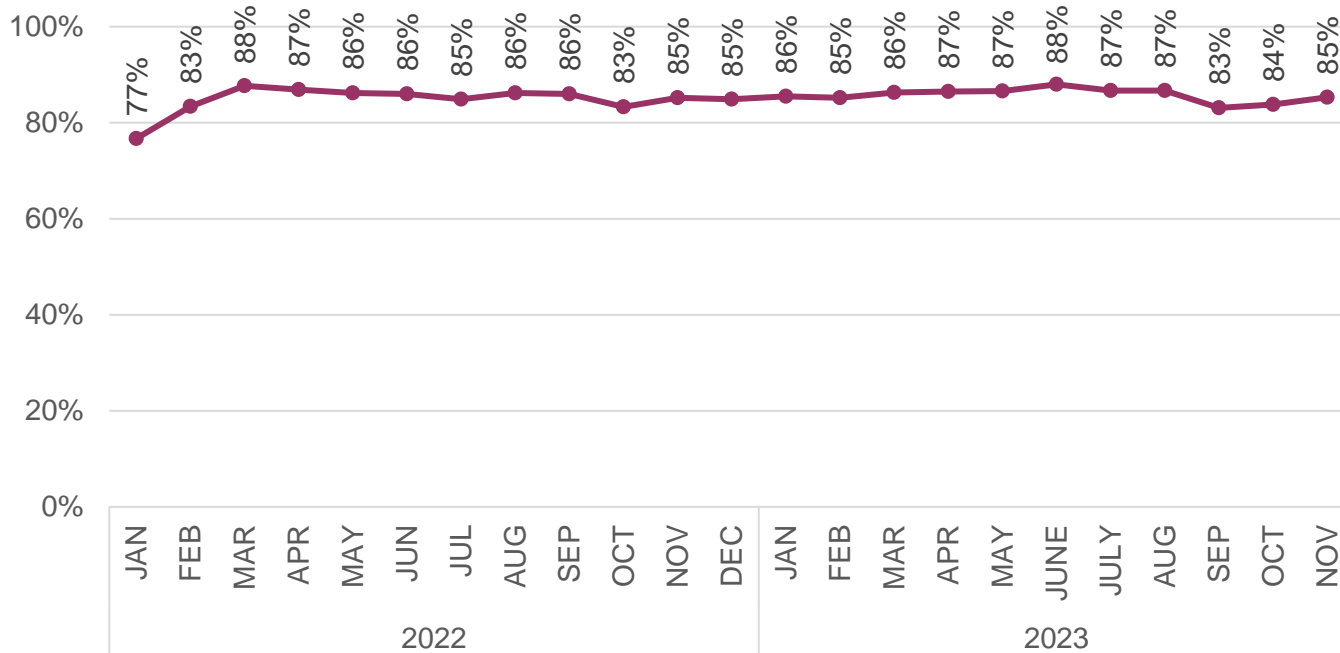
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following?
 (Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



Dentists’ confidence in their dental practice and the dental care sector went down slightly in November 2023 compared to the previous month while confidence in the U.S. economy remained the same.

Busyness

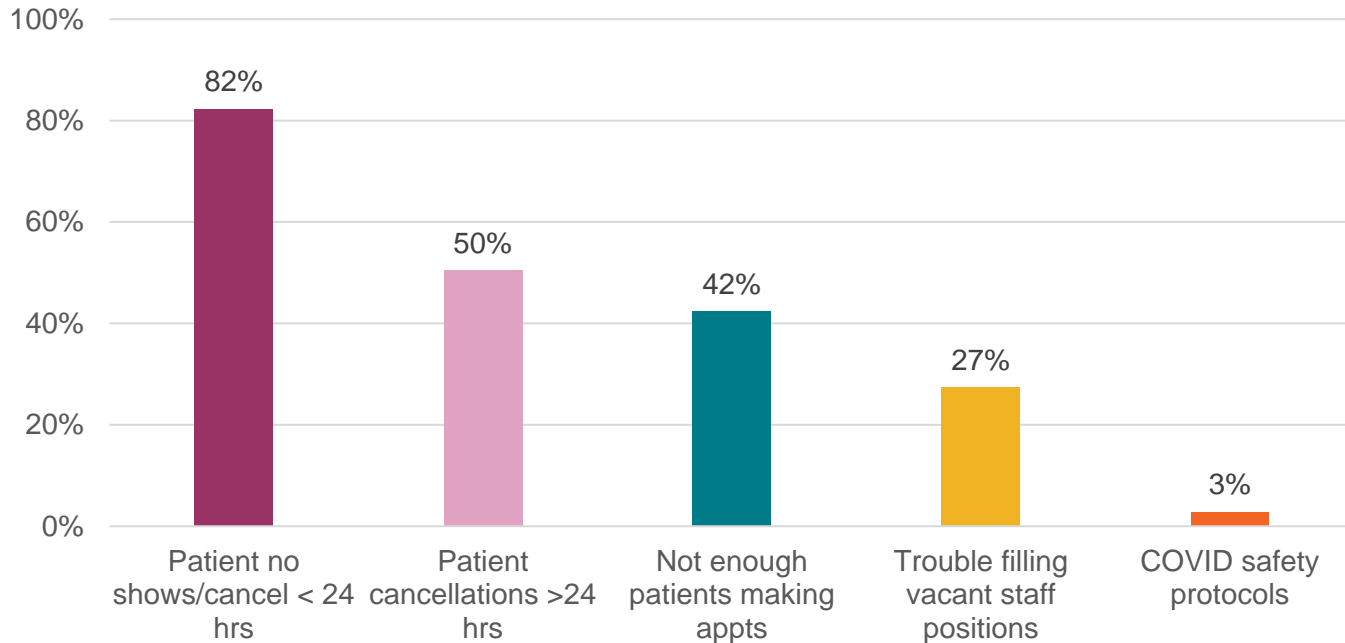
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In November 2023, dentists reported their practice schedules were 85% full, up from a low point of 83% in August.

Barriers to Reaching Full Capacity

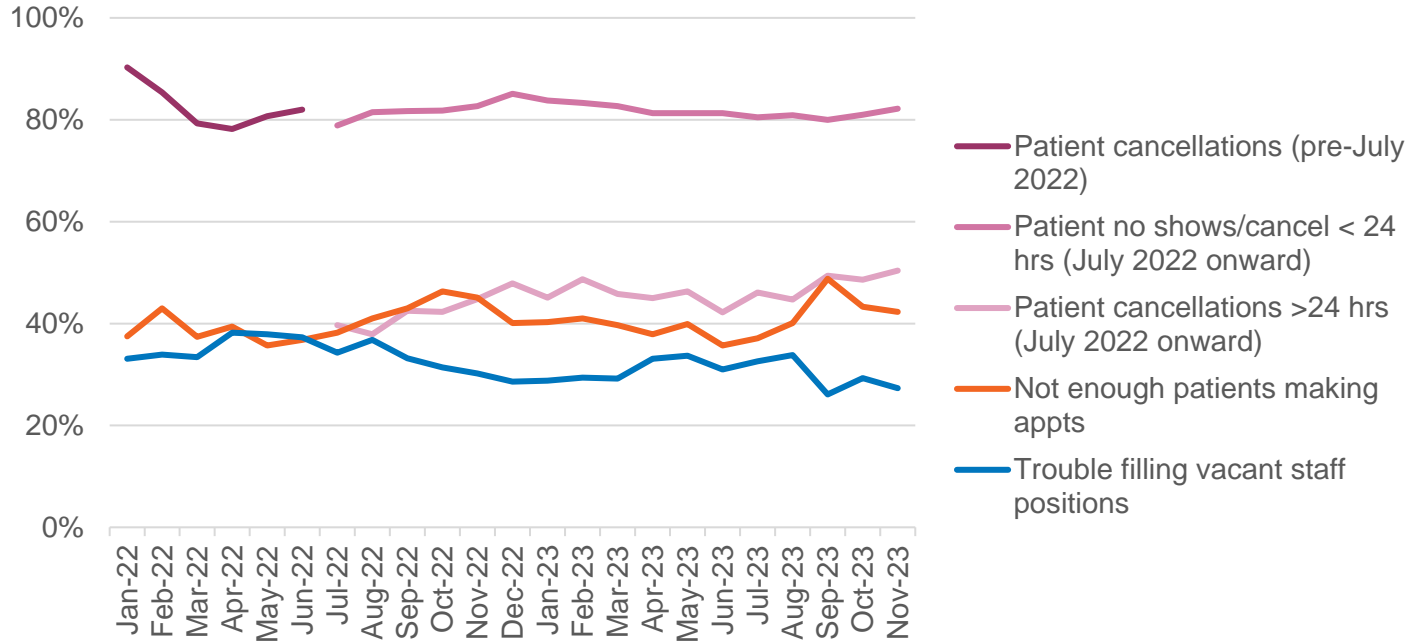
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



Patient no-shows and late cancellations remained the most common factor for unfilled practice schedules in November 2023.

Barriers to Reaching Full Capacity

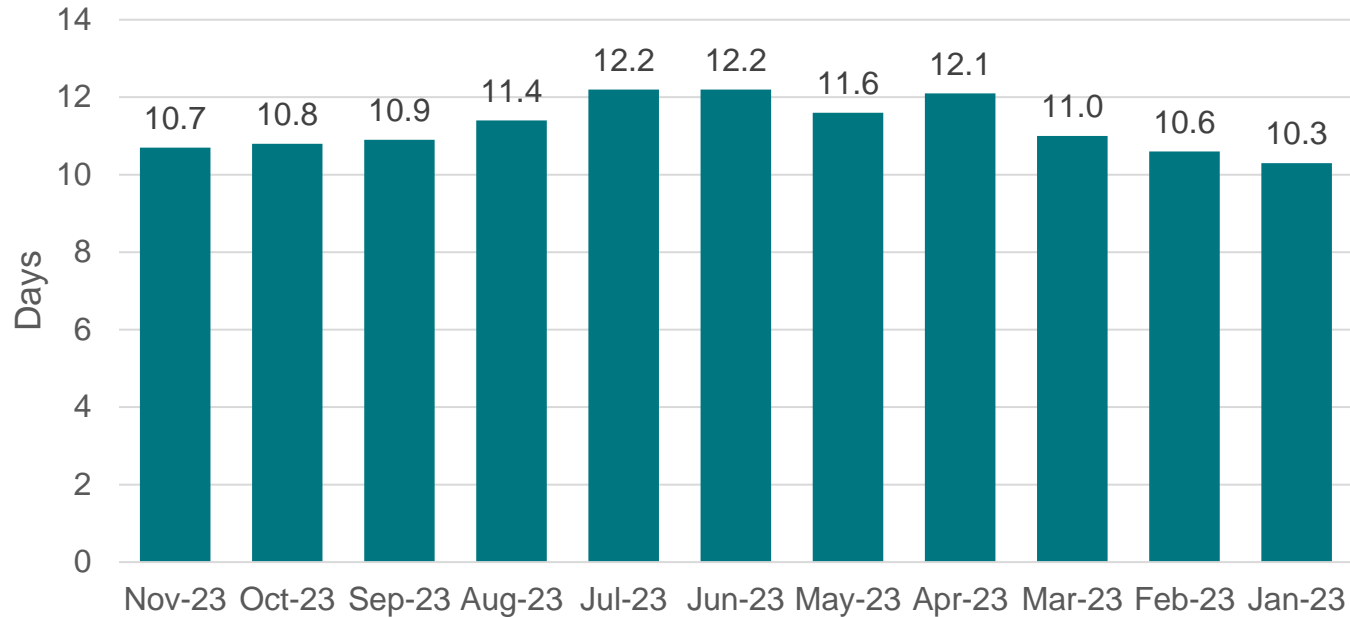
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



Around 8 out of 10 dentists have cited last-minute patient cancellations as the top reason for underfilled practice schedules since January 2022.

Average Wait Times

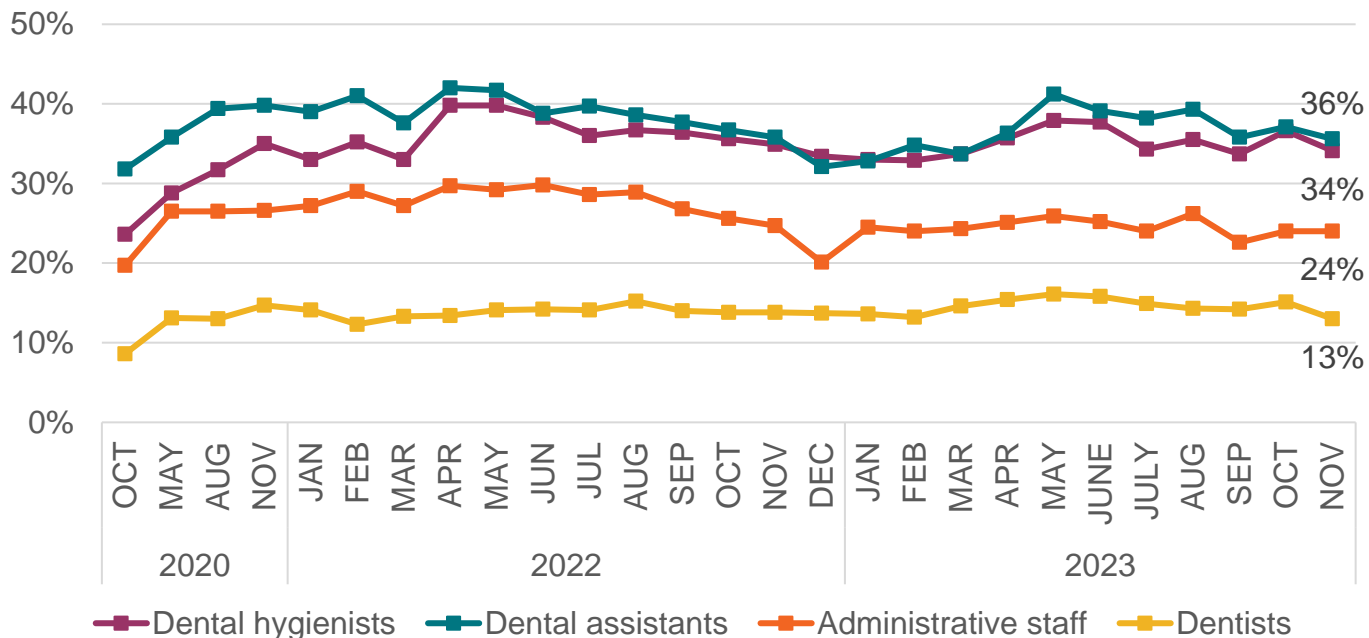
Patient of Record



In November 2023, the average appointment wait time for patients of record was around the same compared to the previous month.

Dental Team Recruitment

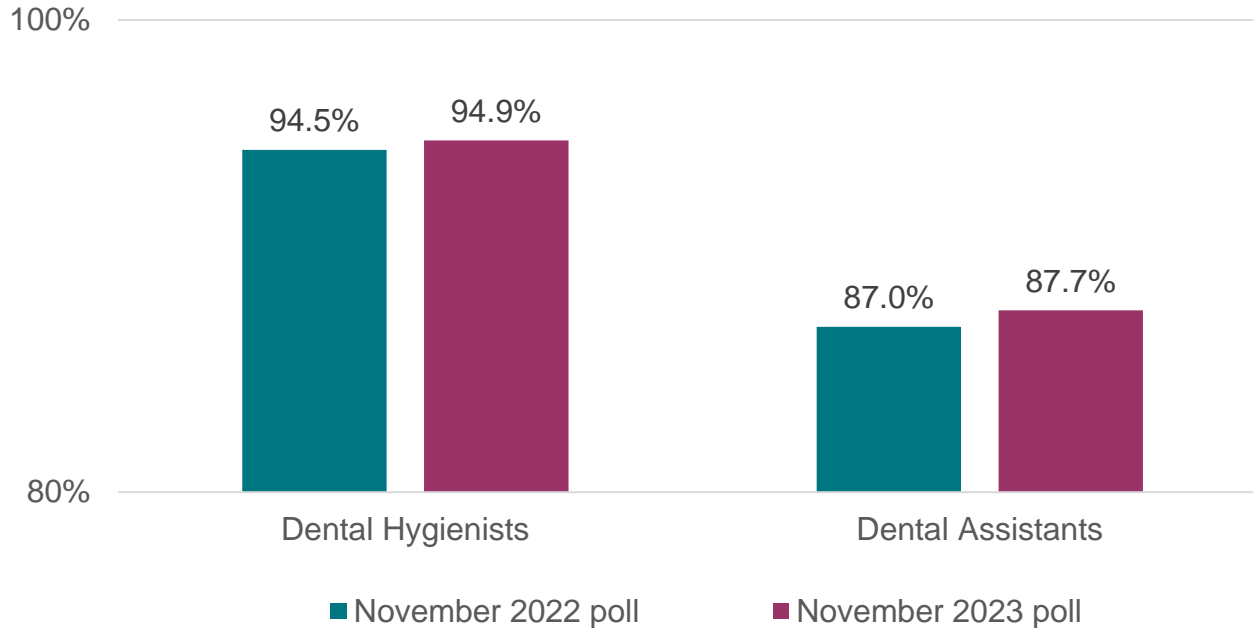
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “yes.”)



More than 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”) November 2022 vs. November 2023



Dentists' perceived difficulty in recruiting dental hygienists and assistants is around the same as it was one year ago.

Key Takeaways

- **Busyness:** Practice schedules were 85% full in November 2023, up from a slight low point of 83-84% in the previous months. The most cited reasons for underfilled practice schedules are patient cancellations and no-shows.
- **Recruitment Needs:** The number of dentists actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants went down slightly in November 2023. Dentists continue to say recruitment is extremely challenging.
- **Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in their practice and in the dental care sector has been steady the past few months.

Thank you!

[@ADAHPI](#)

[ADA.org/HPI](#)

[ADA.org/HPIConsulting](#)

hpi@ada.org



ADA American Dental Association®