

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 the 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. The number of respondents in each wave, along with the number of responses in each reporting category in the current wave, can be found at the end of this report.

Below are the results from the latest wave of this study, the week of October 17, for dentists working in private dental practices. The report includes breakouts by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geographic location, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity. Unless noted otherwise, charts reflect the results from the latest wave of data collection. **Please note that we only include graphics representing at least 30 responses.** Because of this, we were not able to include results for respondents in the following categories: under age 35, large group (10+ dentists), Black. The number of respondents by demographics can be found at the end of this report.

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

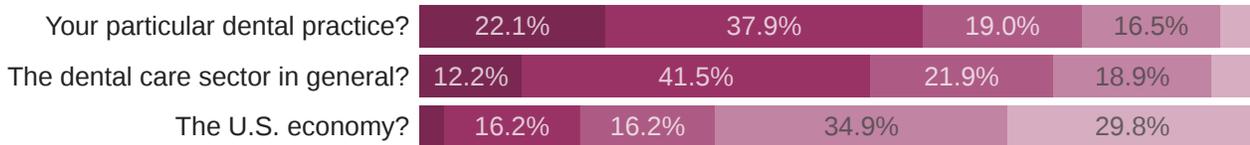
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Chicago, Illinois 60611
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For more information on other publications, products and services, please visit our website, [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

All Respondents

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

1170 Responses



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

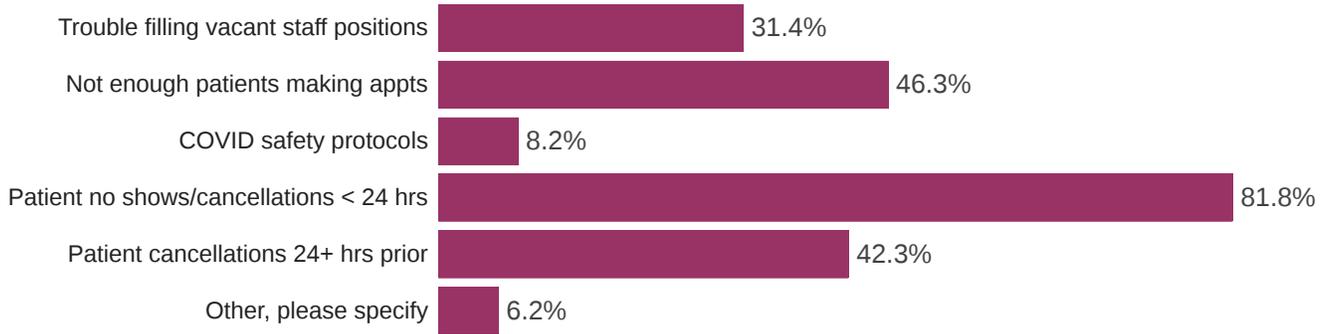
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



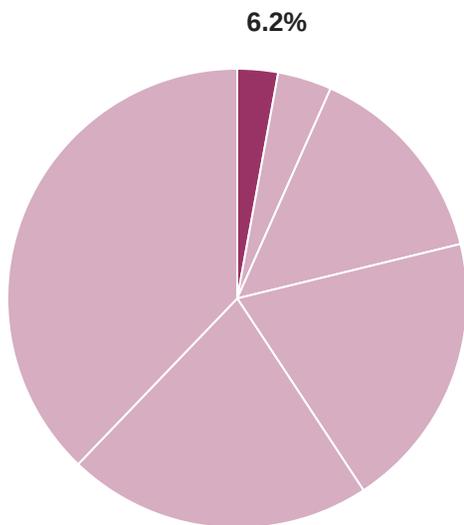
- Mean % of appointment schedule filled

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

986 Responses



61 respondents (6.2%) selected "other, please specify." Their responses are categorized below.



Other, please specify:	Percentage of Responses
STAFF OUT WITH COVID/QUARANTINE/OTHER ILLNESS	23.0%
STAFF OUT ON VACATION / LEAVE	21.3%
BAD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	14.8%
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / ATTENDING DENTAL MEETINGS	9.8%
DROPPED DENTAL PLAN / LOW REIMBURSEMENT / INSURANCE ISSUES	9.8%
STAFF SHORTAGES	3.3%
INCLEMENT WEATHER	3.3%
SEASONAL LOW	3.3%
PATIENTS AWAY / OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	1.6%
LOSING EXISTING PATIENTS	1.6%
MISCELLANEOUS	11.5%

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

2098 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

3226 Responses



● Mean number of days

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

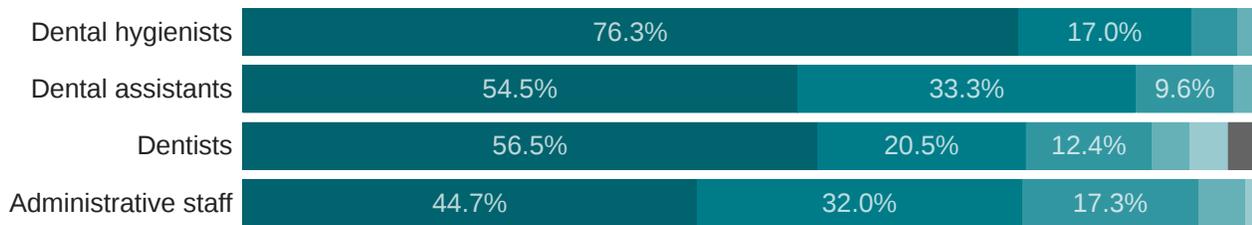
1170 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

703 Responses



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

Looking ahead the next six months, which of these concerns you more?

1167 Responses



● Dental team staffing shortages ● Not enough patient demand for care ● Neither of these concern me

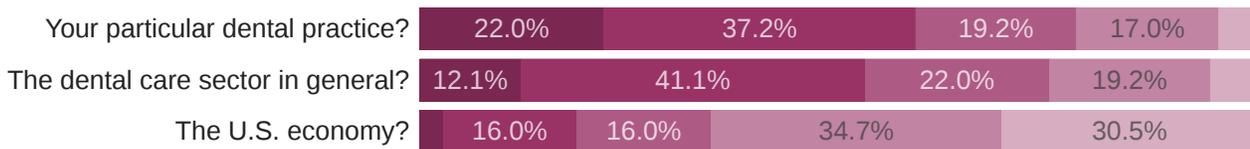
Select Breakouts of Results

Economic Confidence

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

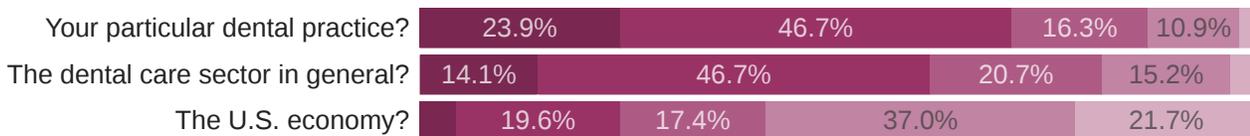
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Owner



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

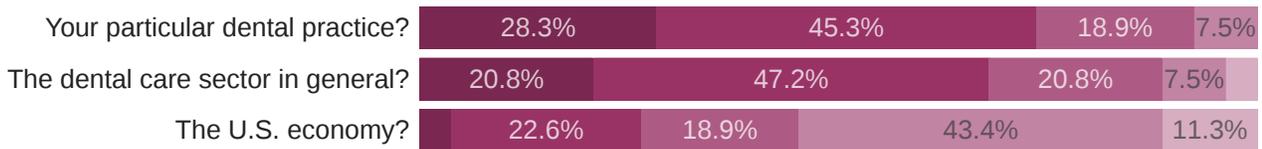
Non-owner



BY DSO AFFILIATION

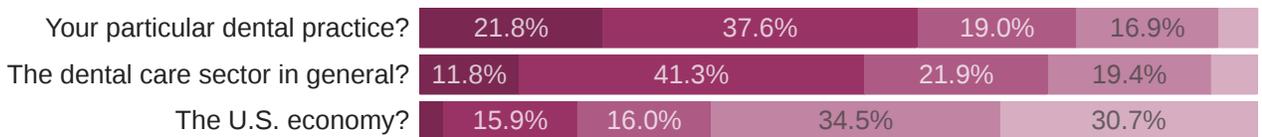
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

DSO



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

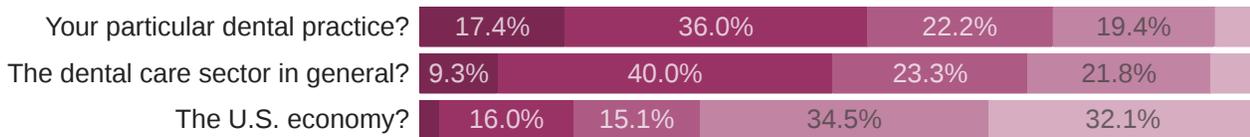
Non-DSO



BY PRACTICE SIZE

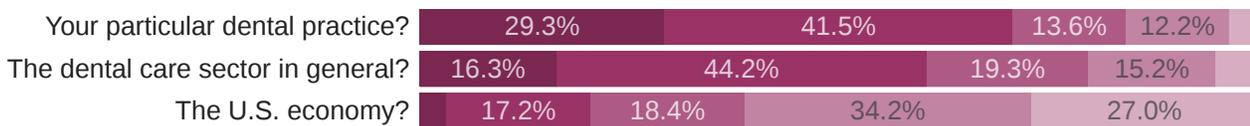
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Solo dentists



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

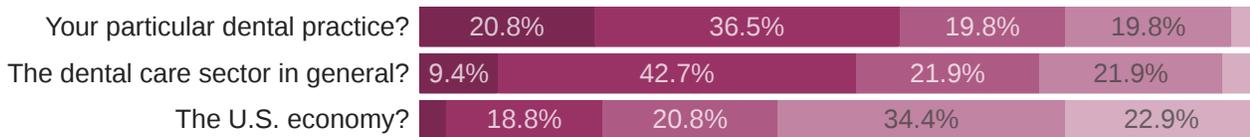
2 to 9 dentists



BY GEOGRAPHY

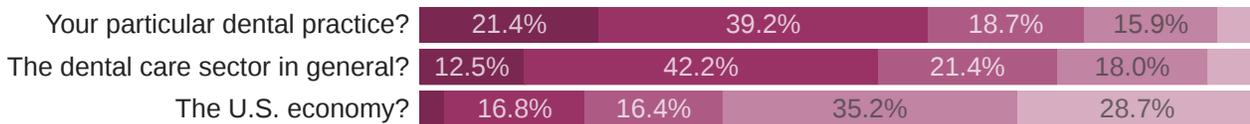
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Top 20 cities

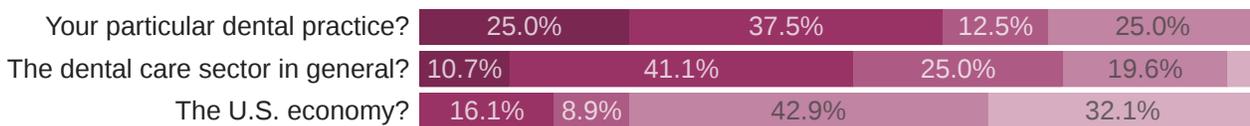


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

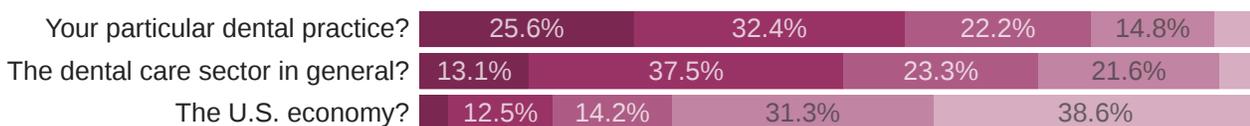
Other urban



Suburban



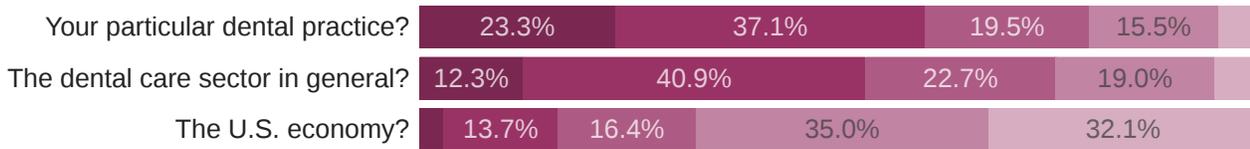
Rural



BY SEX

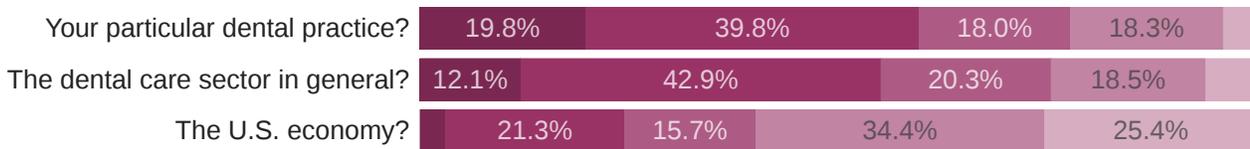
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Male



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

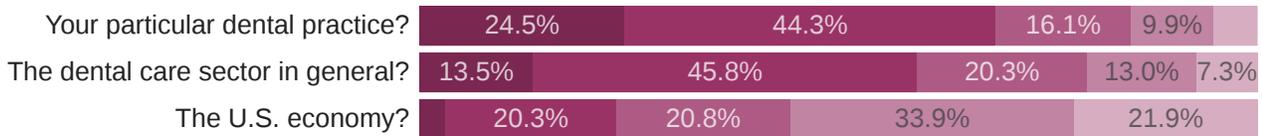
Female



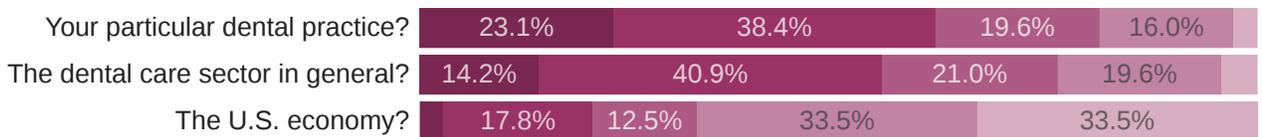
BY AGE GROUP

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

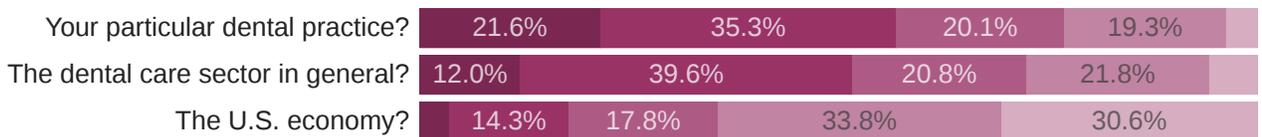
35 to 44



45 to 54

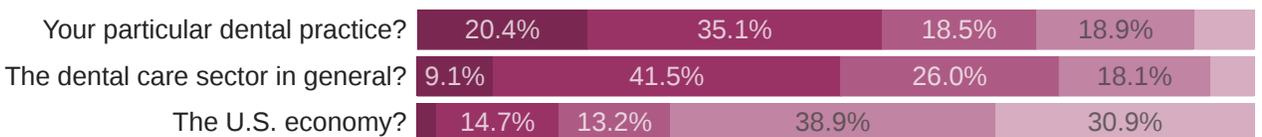


55 to 64



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

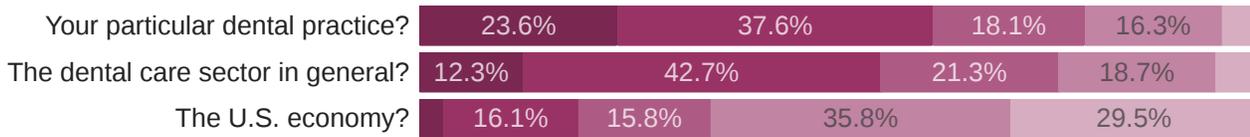
65 or older



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

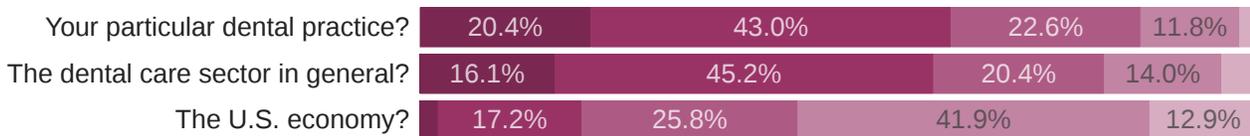
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

White

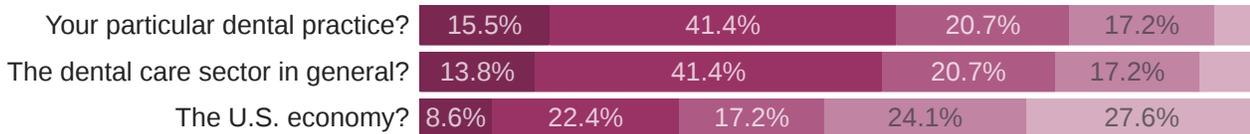


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

Asian



Hispanic



Appointment Schedule

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

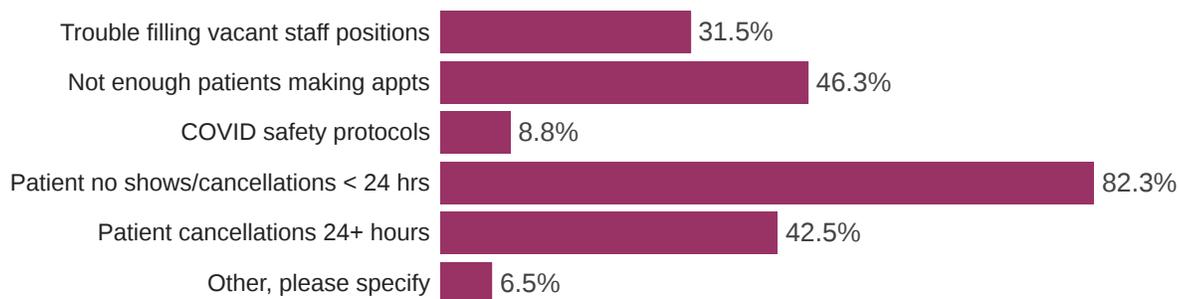
Owner

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

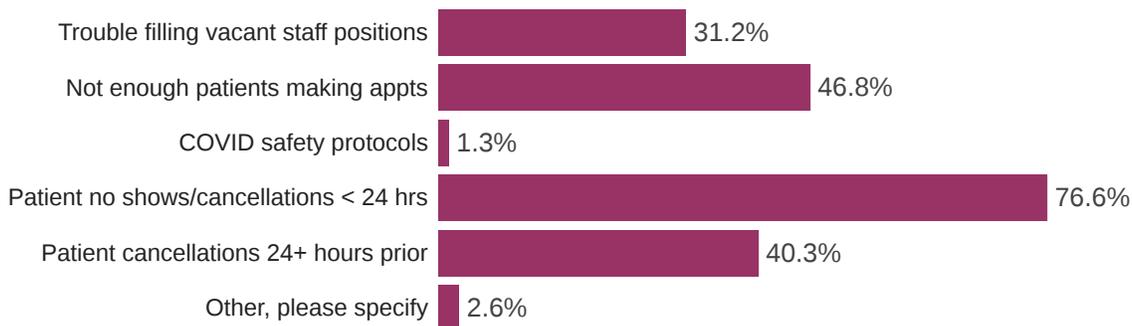
Non-owner

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY DSO AFFILIATION

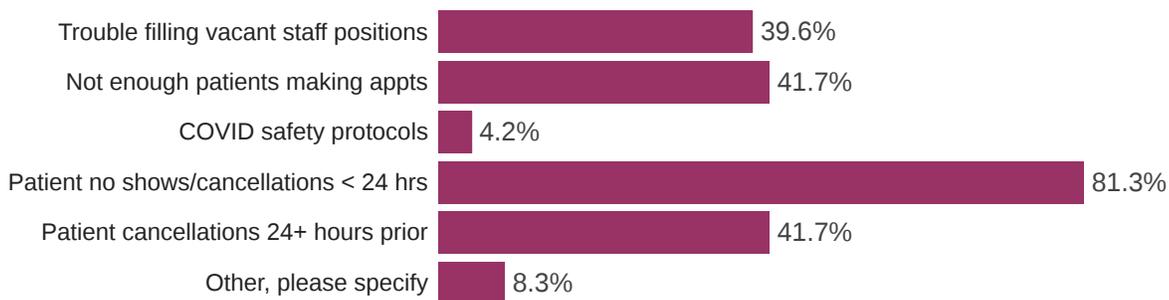
DSO

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

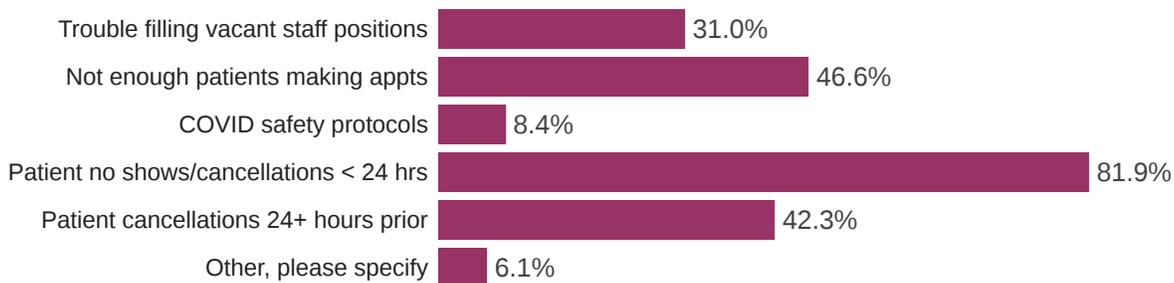
Non-DSO

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY PRACTICE SIZE

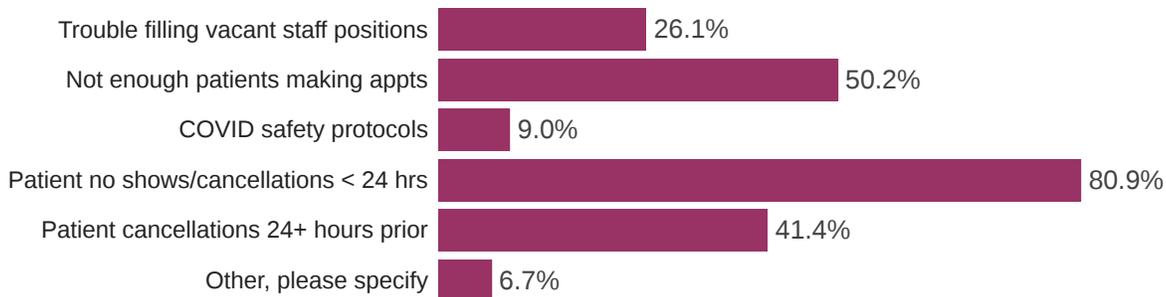
Solo dentists

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

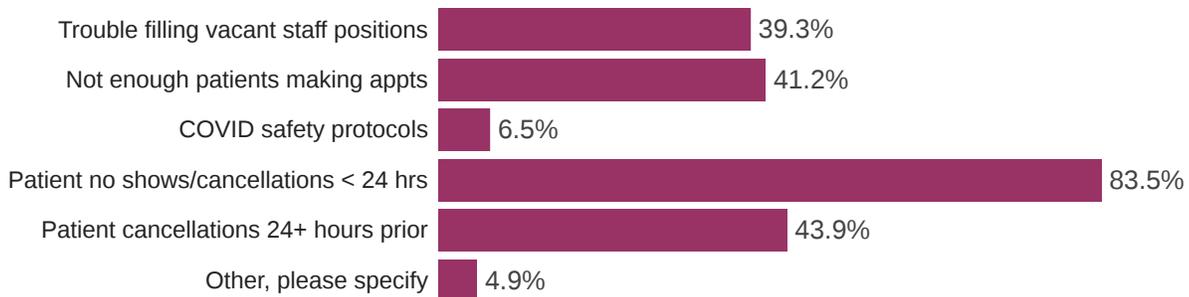
2 to 9 dentists

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY

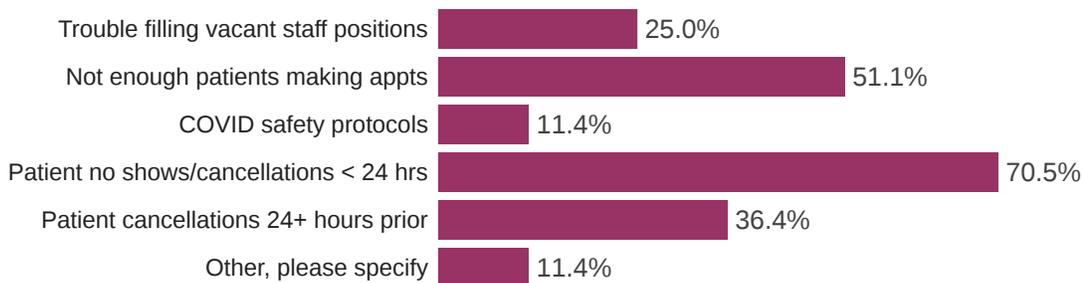
Top 20 cities

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

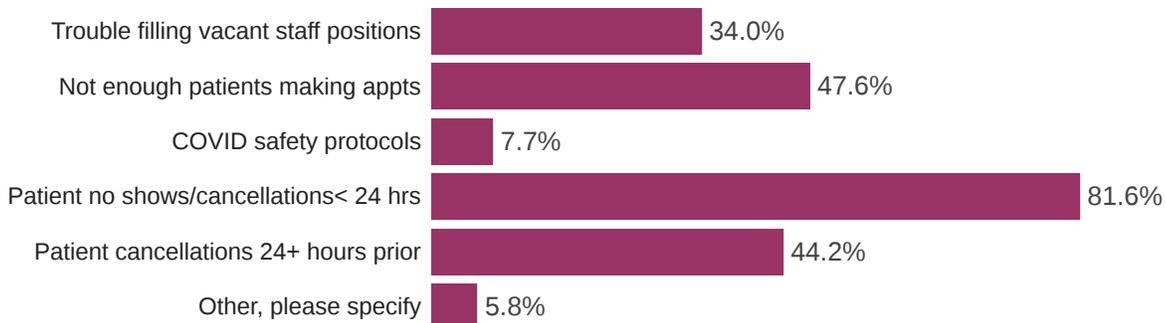
Other Urban

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

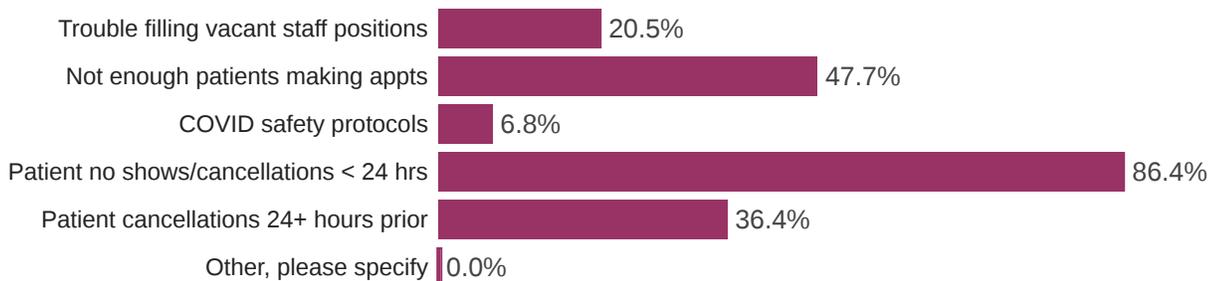
Suburban

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

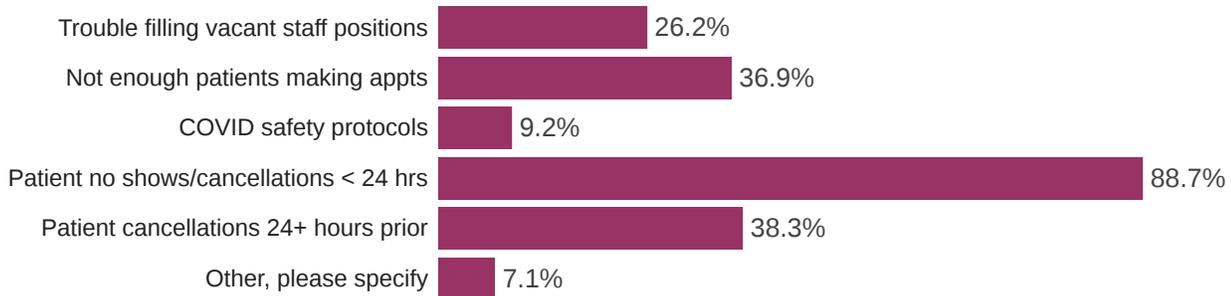
Rural

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY SEX

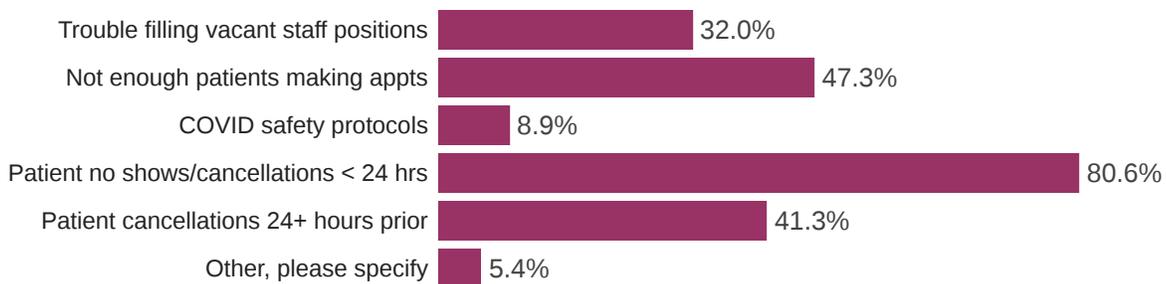
Male

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY SEX (continued)

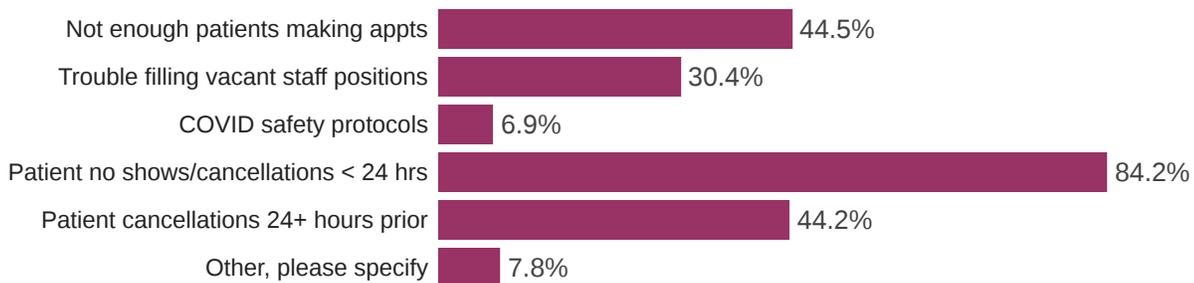
Female

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



● Mean % of schedule filled

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



BY AGE

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

1161 Responses



● Mean % of schedule filled

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

Field	Trouble filling vacant staff positions	Not enough patients trying to make appointments	COVID safety protocols are limiting the capacity	Patient no shows/cancellations < 24 hrs	Patient cancellations 24+ hours prior	Other, please specify
35-44	29.3%	42.7%	2.4%	85.4%	46.3%	3.7%
45-54	32.7%	40.8%	7.2%	83.4%	44.8%	7.6%
55-64	32.0%	44.6%	10.3%	83.0%	41.9%	6.5%
65+	30.5%	56.2%	11.5%	75.2%	36.3%	7.1%

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

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

1160 Responses



● Mean % of schedule filled

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

Field	Trouble filling vacant staff positions	Not enough patients trying to make appointments	COVID safety protocols are limiting the capacity	Patient no shows/cancellations < 24 hrs	Patient cancellations 24+ hours prior	Other, please specify
White	31.1%	44.8%	6.9%	83.3%	42.5%	5.8%
Asian	29.7%	48.6%	20.3%	74.3%	50.0%	1.4%
Hispanic	24.0%	48.0%	14.0%	78.0%	30.0%	10.0%

Patient Wait Times

BY DSO AFFILIATION

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses

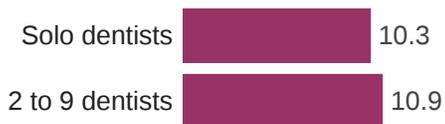


● Mean number of days

BY PRACTICE SIZE

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1077 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1077 Responses

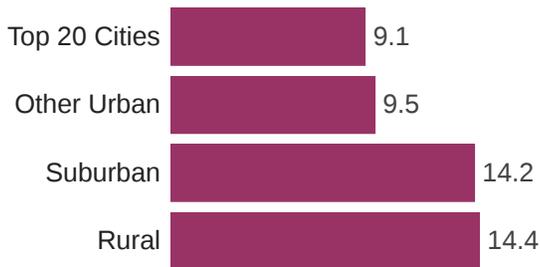


● Mean number of days

BY GEOGRAPHY

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

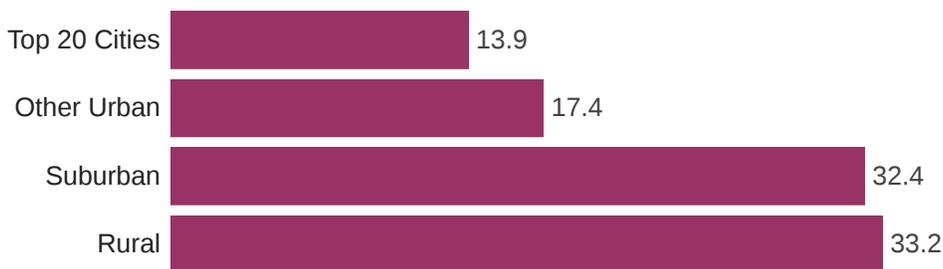
1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

BY SEX

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses

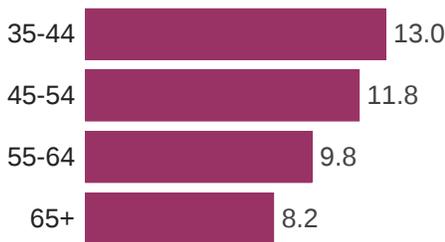


● Mean number of days

BY AGE GROUP

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

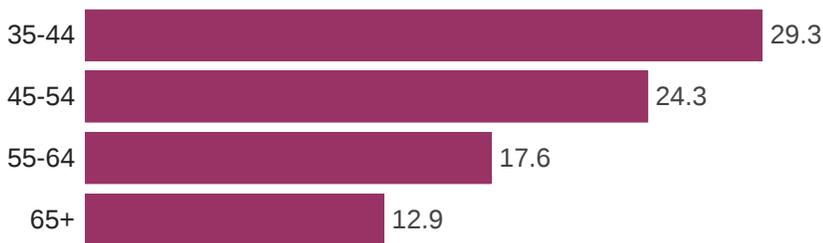
1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1078 Responses



● Mean number of days

BY RACE / ETHNICITY

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1077 Responses



● Mean number of days

[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *new patient* have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1077 Responses



● Mean number of days

Staff Recruitment

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

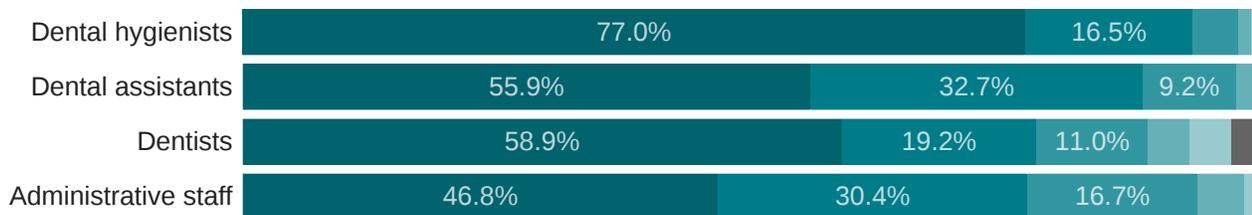
Owner dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

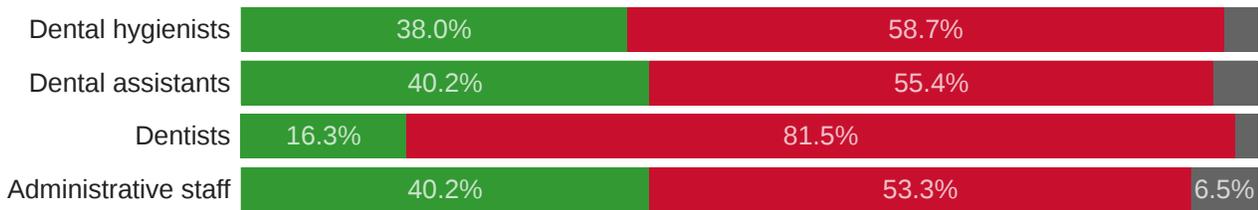


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

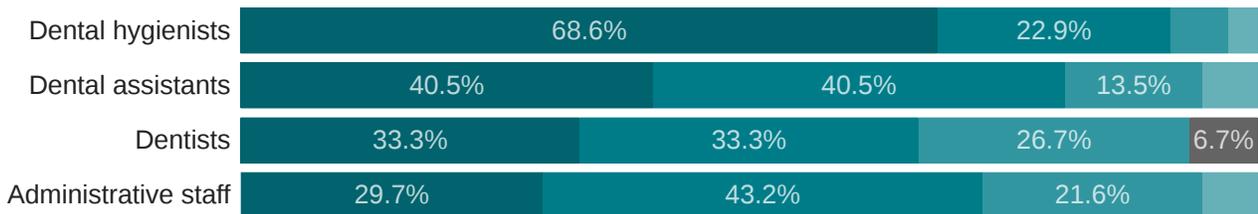
Non-owner dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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



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

BY DSO AFFILIATION

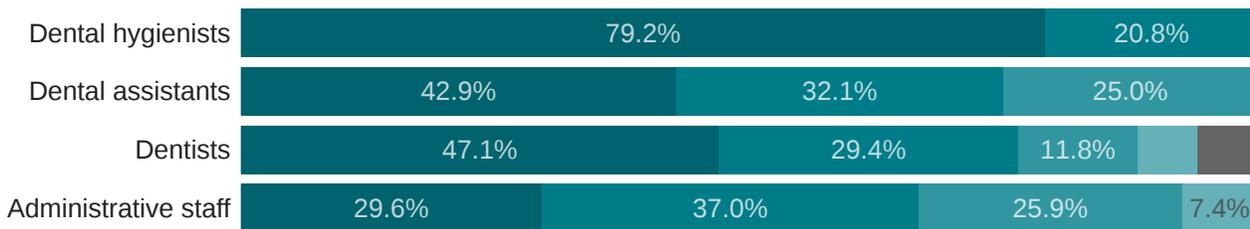
DSO

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

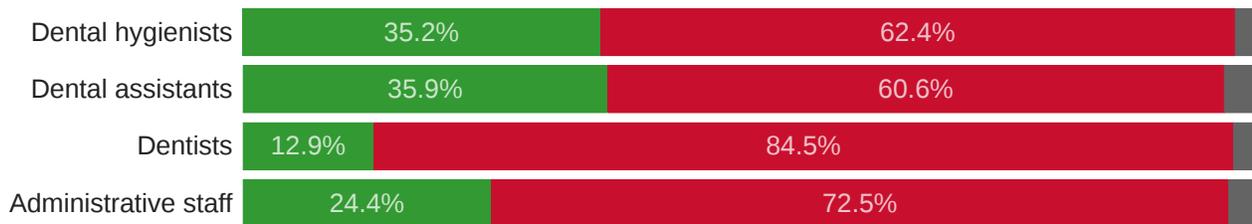


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

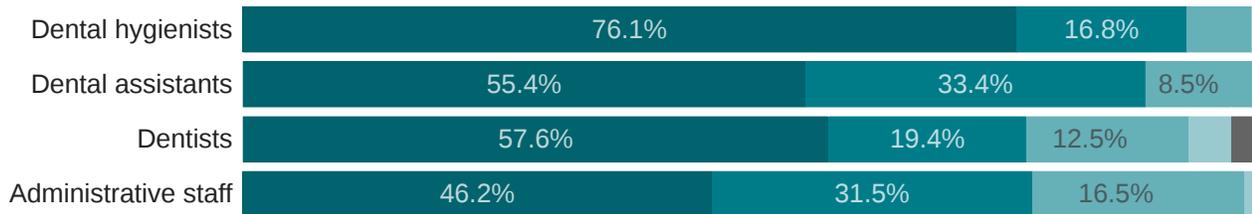
Non-DSO

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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



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

BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

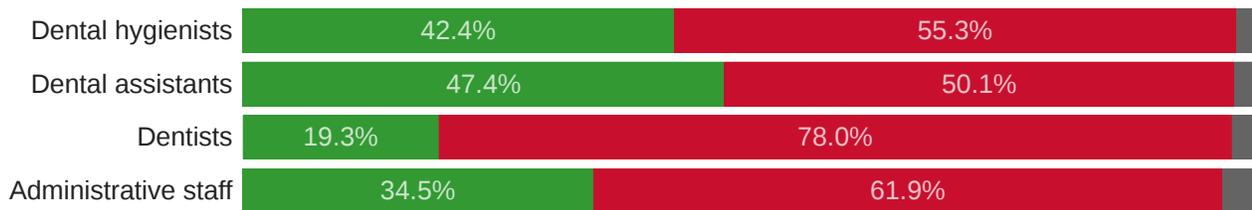


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

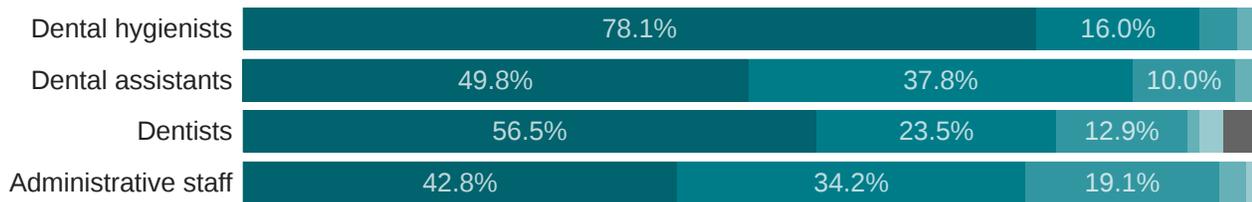
2 to 9 dentists

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

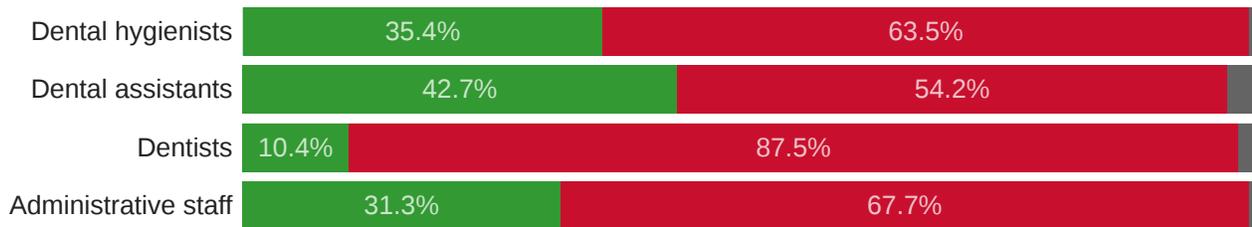


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY

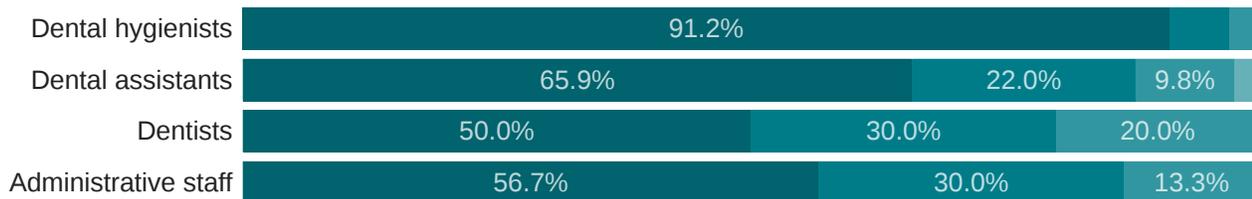
Top 20 Cities

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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



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

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

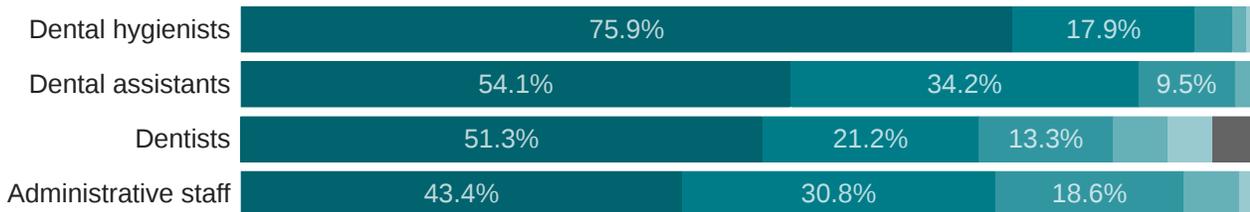
Other Urban

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

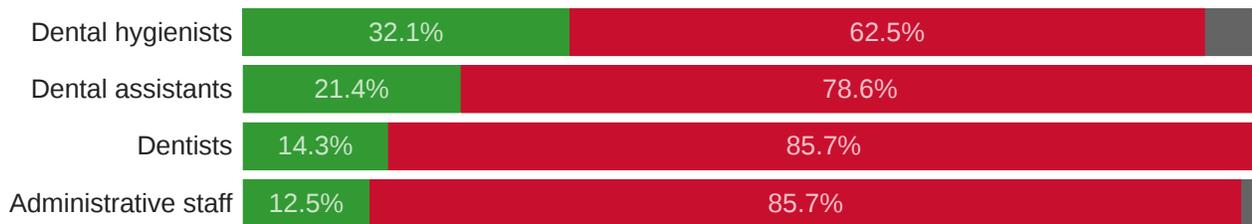


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

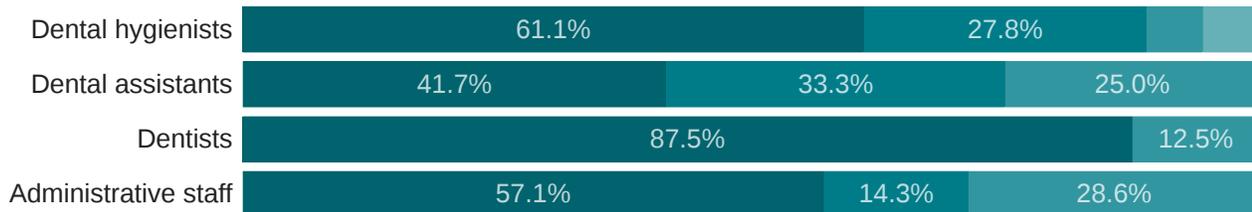
Suburban

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

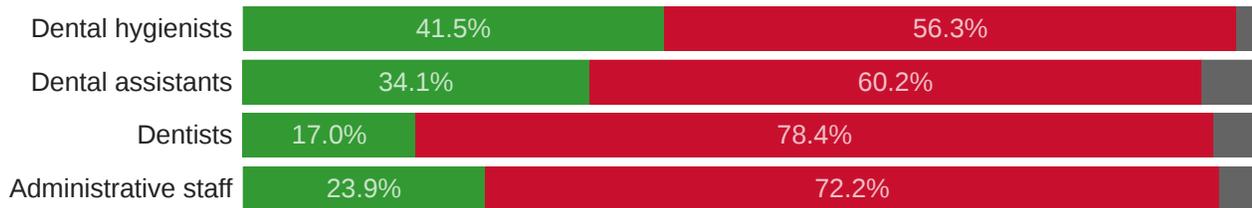


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Rural

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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



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

BY SEX

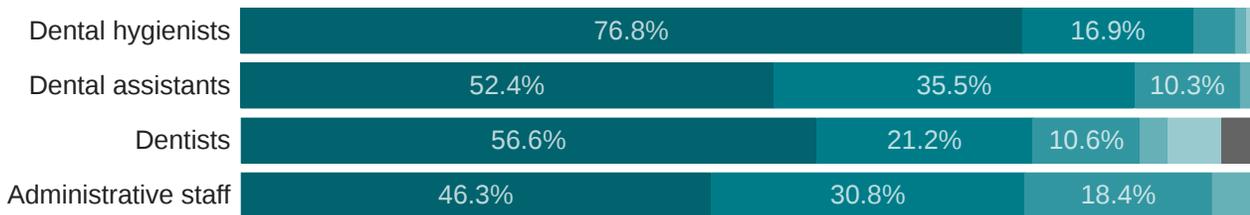
Male

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

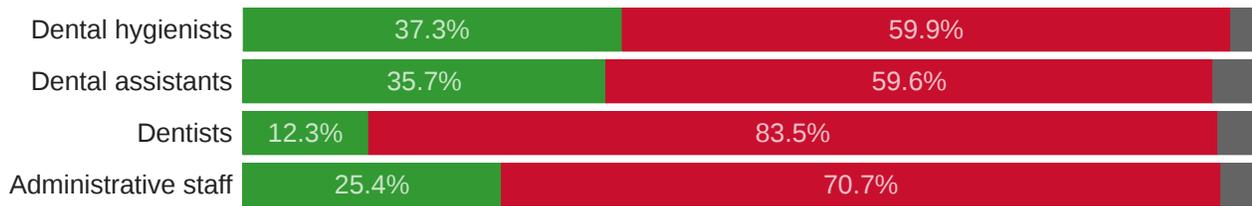


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY SEX (continued)

Female

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



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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



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

Question of the Week

Future Concerns

Looking ahead the next six months, which of these concerns you more?

By Ownership Status



● Dental team staffing shortages ● Not enough patient demand for care ● Neither of these concern me

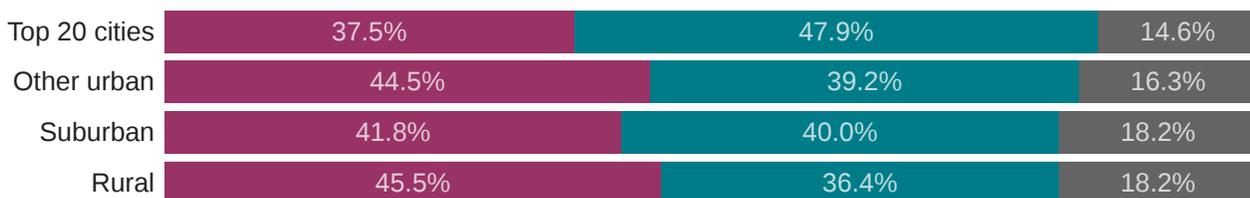
By DSO Affiliation



By Practice Size



By Geography



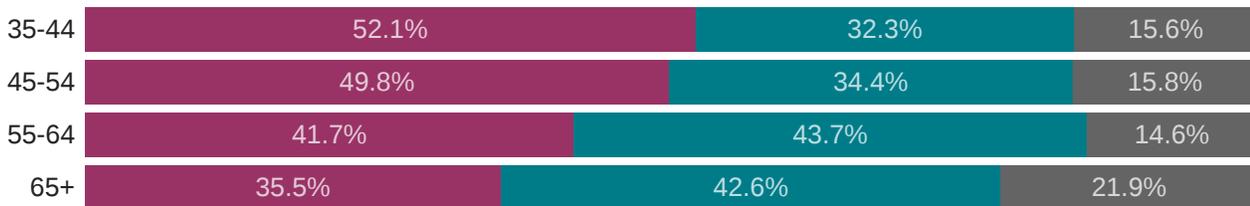
Looking ahead the next six months, which of these concerns you more? (continued)

By Sex

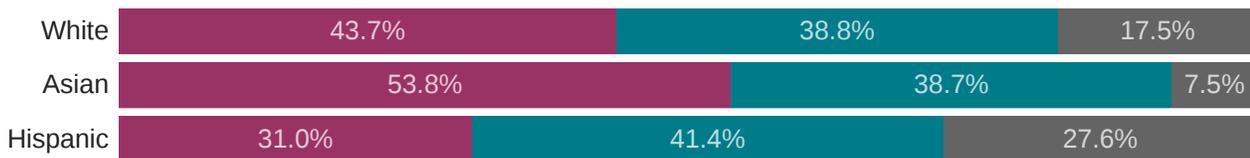


● Dental team staffing shortages ● Not enough patient demand for care ● Neither of these concern me

By Age Group



By Race / Ethnicity



Number of Responses by Wave

Wave	Responses
2022JAN	1,883
2022FEB	1,386
2022MAR	1,916
2022APR	1,423
2022MAY	1,389
2022JUN	1,203
2022JUL	1,162
2022AUG	1,204
2022SEP	1,102
2022OCT	1,170

Number of Responses by Group - Week of September 12

Ownership status	Choice Count
Owner dentist (i.e., sole owner, partner, or shareholder)	1,078
Employee dentist (nonowner)	39
Associate dentist (nonowner)	33
Independent contractor	20

DSO Affiliation	Choice Count
DSO	53
Non-DSO	1,117

Number of Responses by Group - Week of October 17 (continued)

Practice Size	Choice Count
Solo dentists	708
2 to 9 dentists	441
Large group (10+ dentists)	20

Geography	Choice Count
Top 20 Cities	80
Other Urban	797
Suburban	53
Rural	171

Sex	Choice Count
Male	706
Female	395

Age	Choice Count
<35	27
35-44	194
45-54	265
55-64	372
65+	244

Number of Responses by Group - Week of October 17 (continued)

Race/Ethnicity	Choice Count
White	848
Asian	98
Hispanic	49
Black	14
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1
American Indian / Alaska Native	3
Other	18
Unknown	70