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| Results for the questions below are reported in two sections: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Respondents Combined includes overall results for all respondents. Select Breakout of Results includes results by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geography, sex, age, & race/ethnicity. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">All Respondents Combined</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Select Breakouts of Results</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. economy)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Patient cancellations, Not enough patients making appointments, Trouble filling vacant staff positions, COVID safety protocols, Other)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average patient of record have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Responses by Wave/by Group</td> <td style="text-align: right;">46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | All Respondents Combined | Select Breakouts of Results | Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. economy) | 3 | 7 | How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week? | 3 | 14 | Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Patient cancellations, Not enough patients making appointments, Trouble filling vacant staff positions, COVID safety protocols, Other) | 4 | 14 | [Owners only] Currently, how long does the average patient of record have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)? | 5 | 28 | [Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)? | 5 | 28 | Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff) | 6 | 34 | How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff) | 6 | 34 | Number of Responses by Wave/by Group | 46 |
| | All Respondents Combined | Select Breakouts of Results | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. economy) | 3 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week? | 3 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| [Owners only] Currently, how long does the average patient of record have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)? | 5 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Owners only] Currently, how long does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)? | 5 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Number of Responses by Wave/by Group | 46 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 September 12, 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), and Black dentists. The number of respondents by demographics can be found at the end of this report.

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

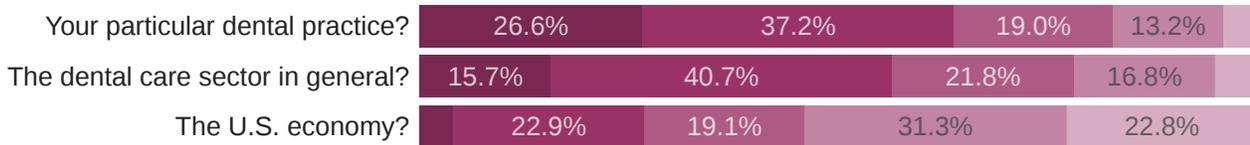
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312.440.2928
hpi@ada.org

For more information on other publications, products and services, please visit our website, ADA.org/HPI.

All Respondents

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

1102 Responses



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

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

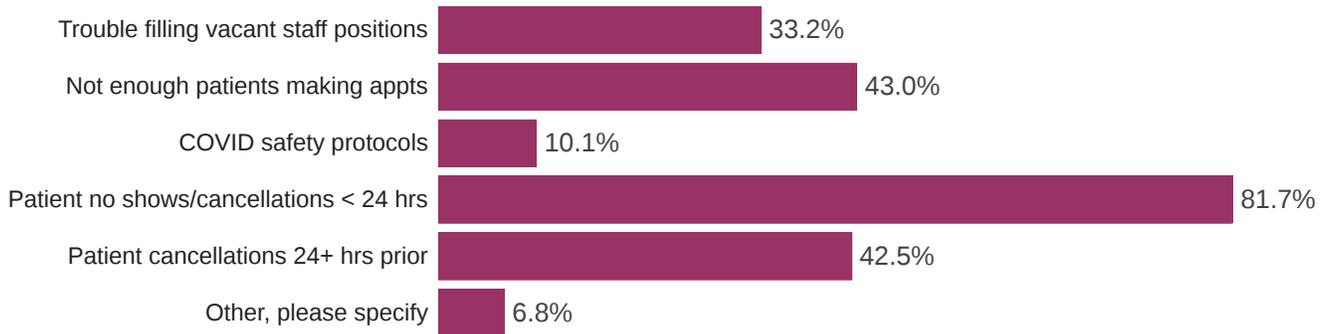
12553 Responses



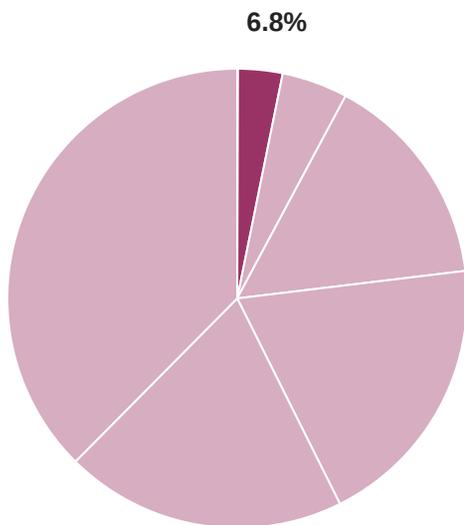
- Mean % of appointment schedule filled

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

883 Responses



60 respondents (6.8%) selected "other, please specify." Their responses are categorized below.



| Other, please specify: | Percentage of Responses |
|--|-------------------------|
| BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR | 35.0% |
| STAFF OUT ON VACATION / LEAVE | 18.3% |
| BAD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS | 10.0% |
| STAFF SHORTAGES | 8.3% |
| STAFF OUT WITH COVID/QUARANTINE/OTHER ILLNESS | 8.3% |
| DROPPED DENTAL PLAN / LOW REIMBURSEMENT / INSURANCE ISSUES | 5.0% |
| PATIENT FEAR/HESITANCY TO VISIT DENTIST | 3.3% |
| LOSING EXISTING PATIENTS | 1.7% |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 13.3% |

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

1020 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)?

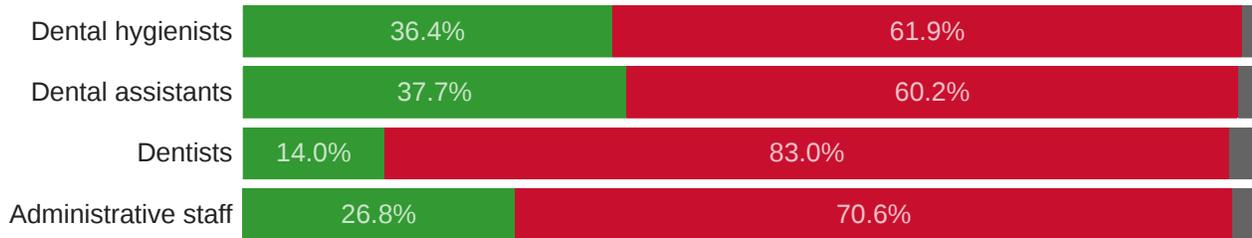
2148 Responses



● Mean number of days

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

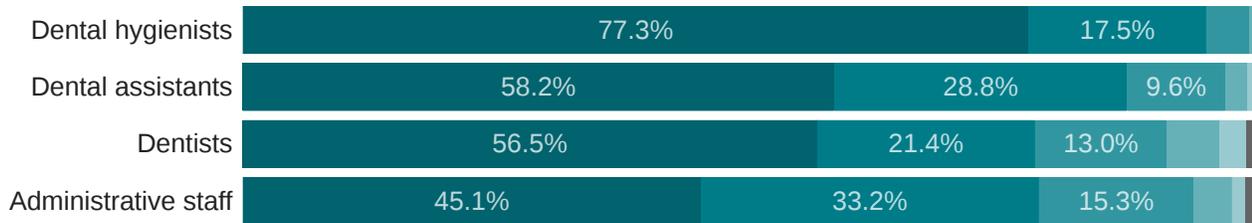
1102 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

686 Responses



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

Select Breakouts of Results

Economic Confidence

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

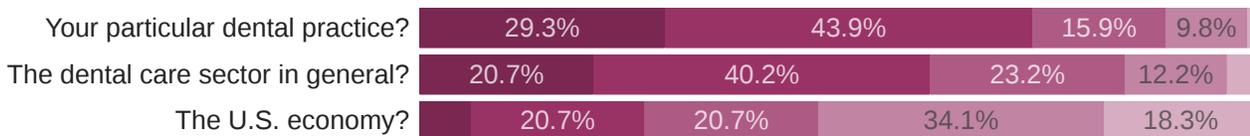
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Owner



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

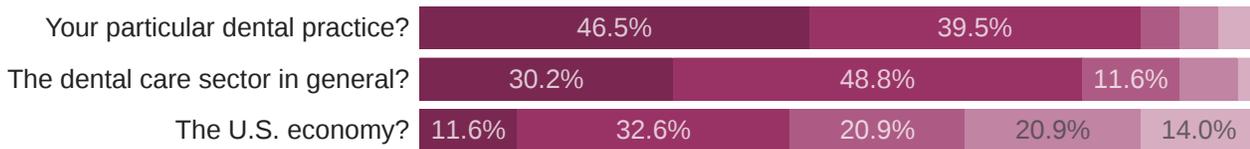
Non-owner



BY DSO AFFILIATION

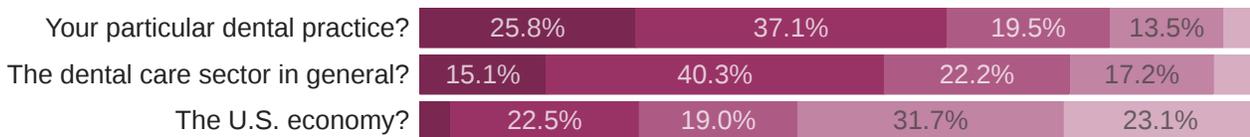
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

DSO



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

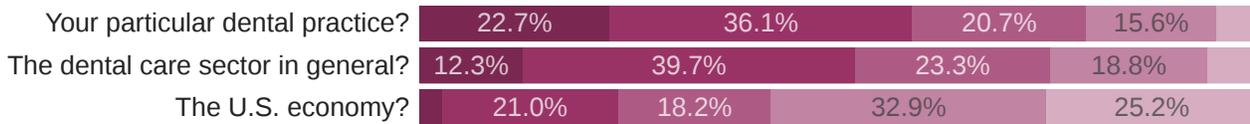
Non-DSO



BY PRACTICE SIZE

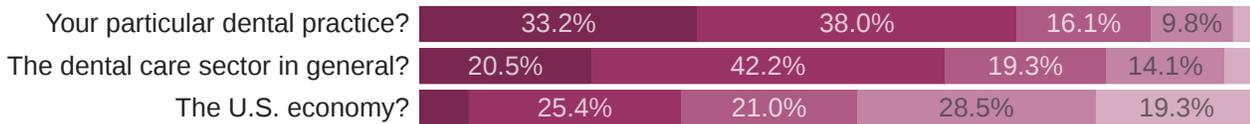
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Solo dentists



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

2 to 9 dentists



BY GEOGRAPHY

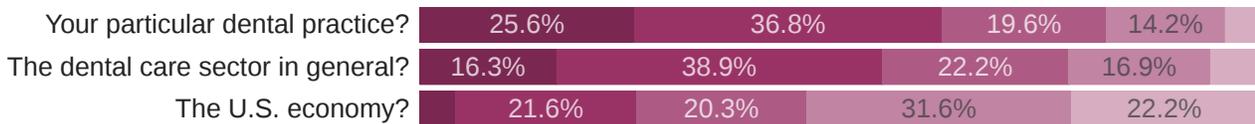
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Top 20 cities

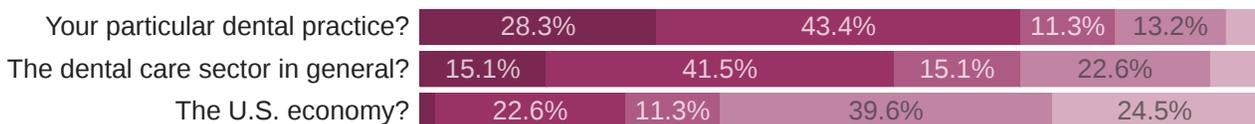


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

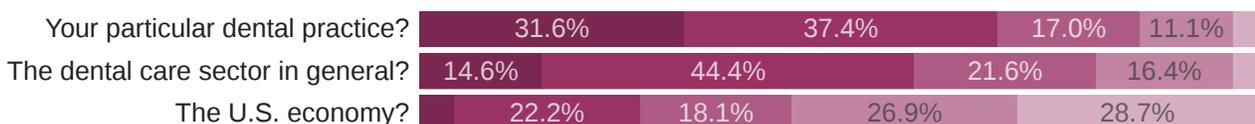
Other urban



Suburban



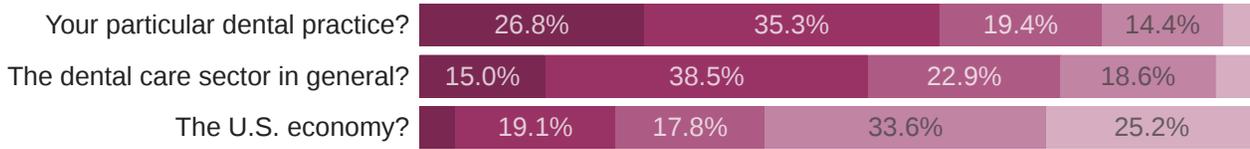
Rural



BY SEX

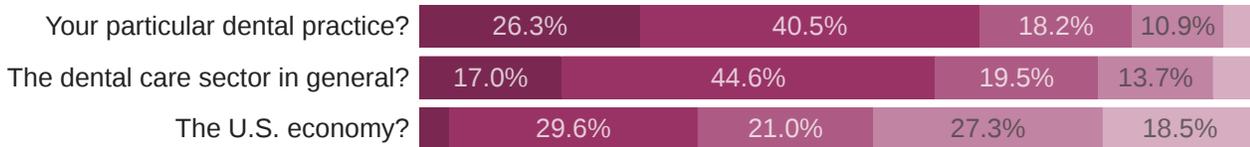
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

Male



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

Female



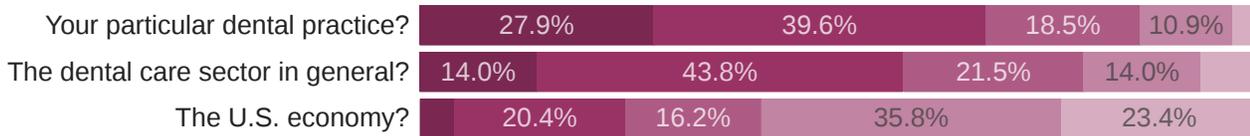
BY AGE GROUP

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

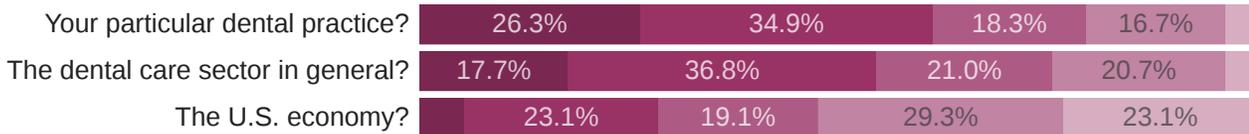
35 to 44



45 to 54

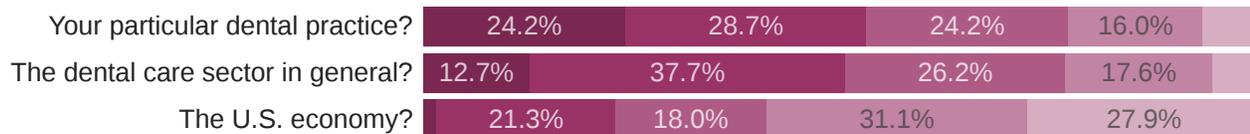


55 to 64



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

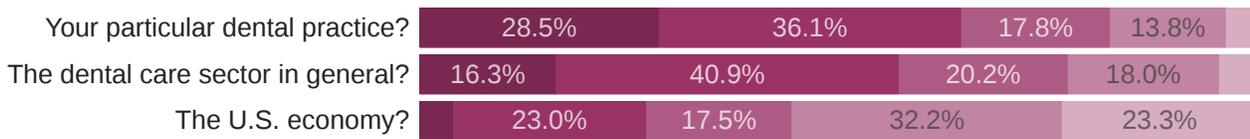
65 or older



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

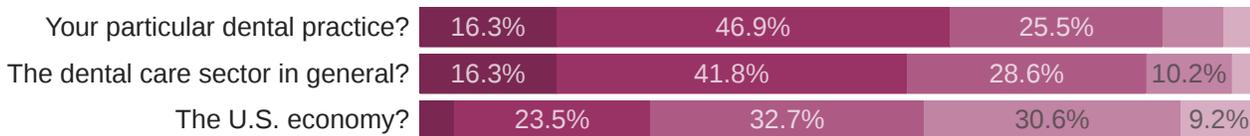
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of:

White

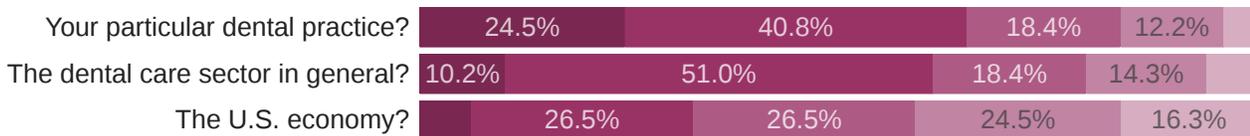


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor skeptical
- Somewhat skeptical
- Very skeptical

Asian



Hispanic



Appointment Schedule

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

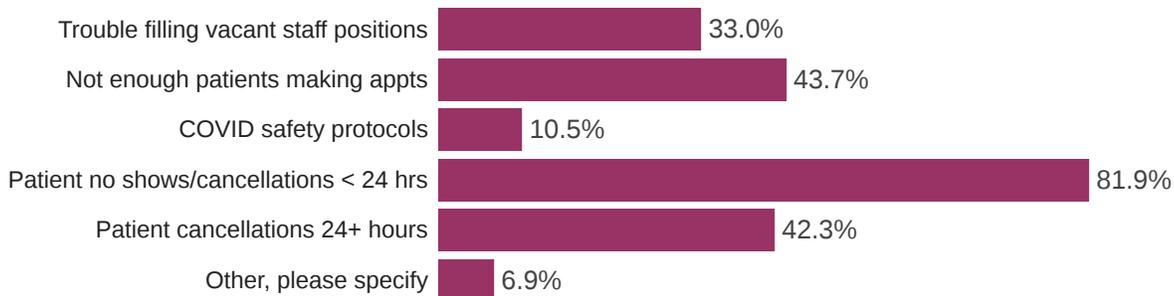
Owner

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)

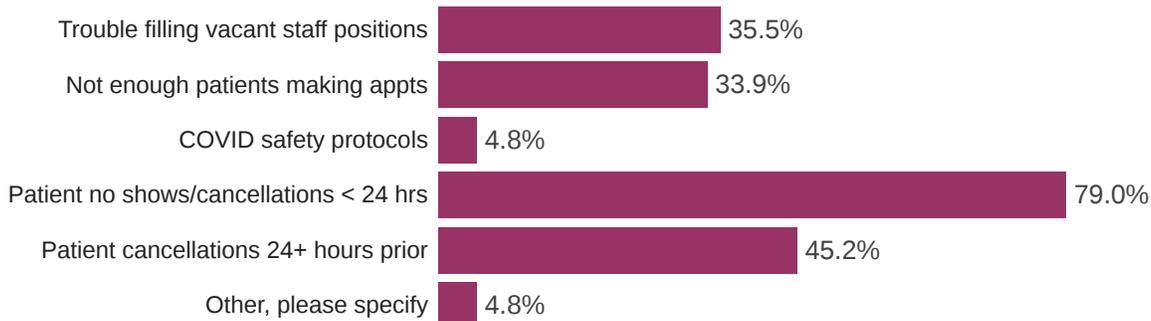
Non-owner

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

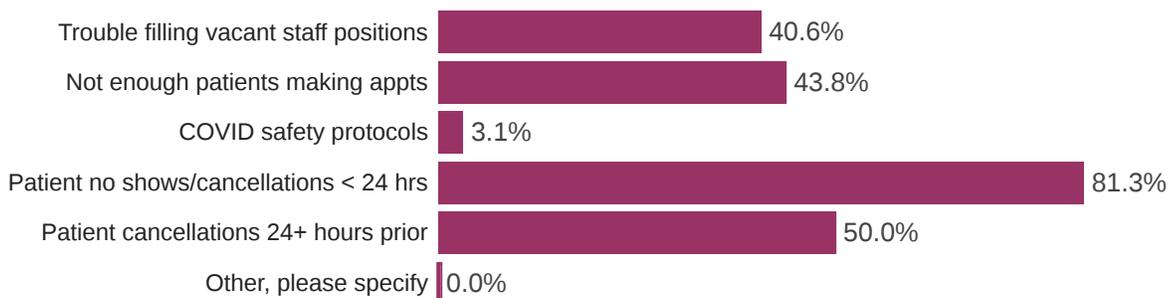
DSO

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)

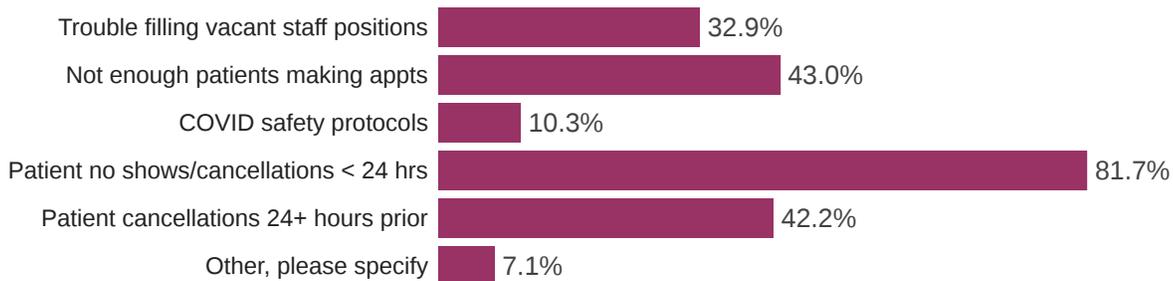
Non-DSO

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

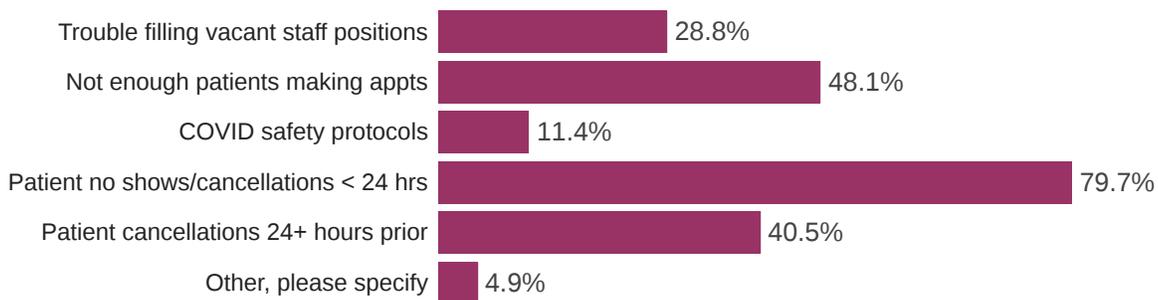
Solo dentists

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)

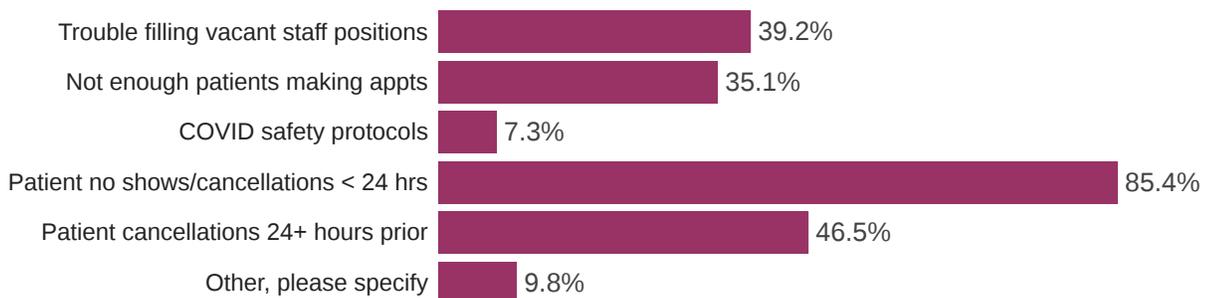
2 to 9 dentists

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

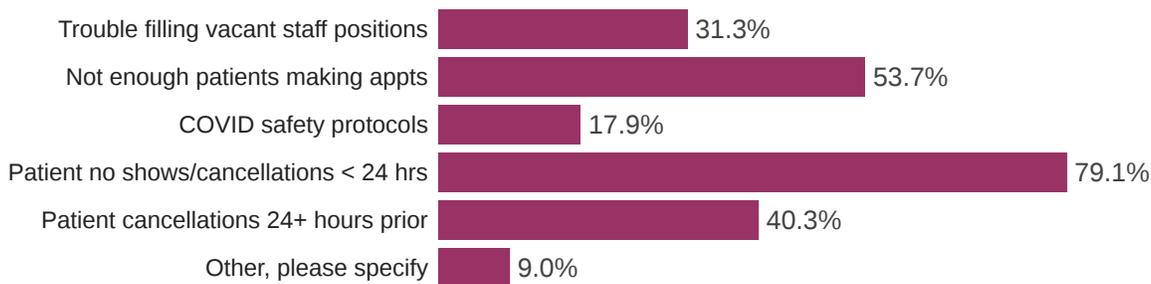
Top 20 cities

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)

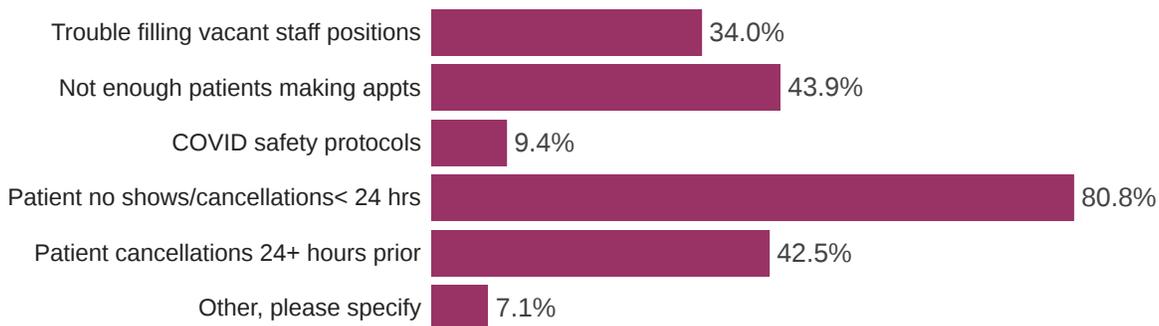
Other Urban

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)

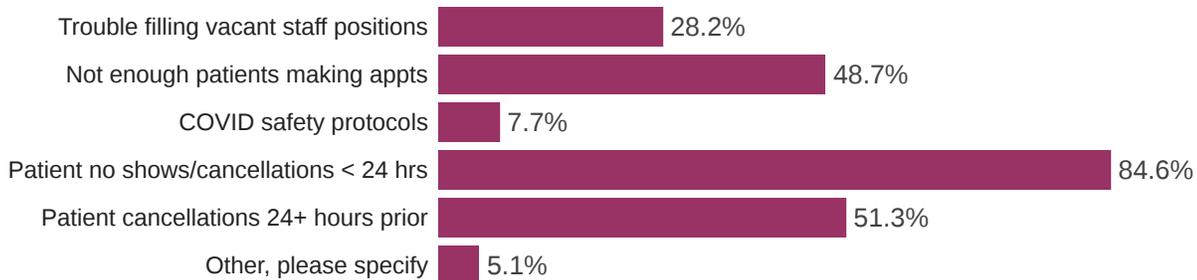
Suburban

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)

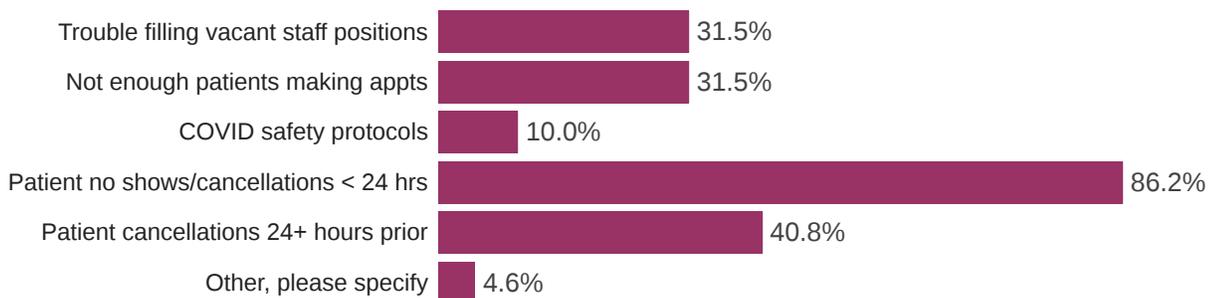
Rural

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

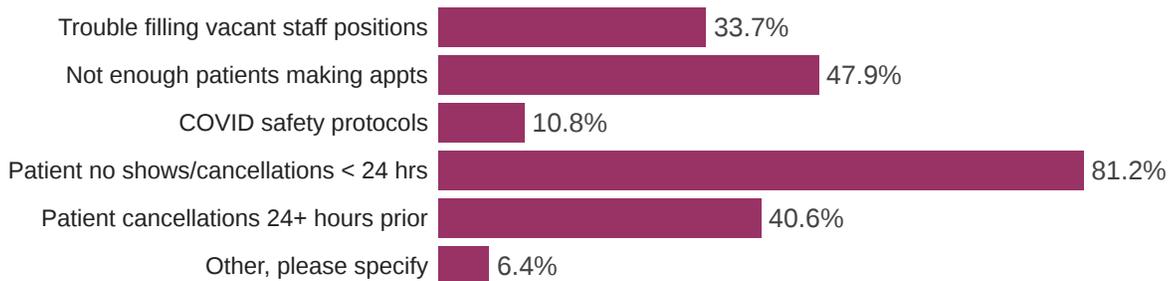
Male

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)

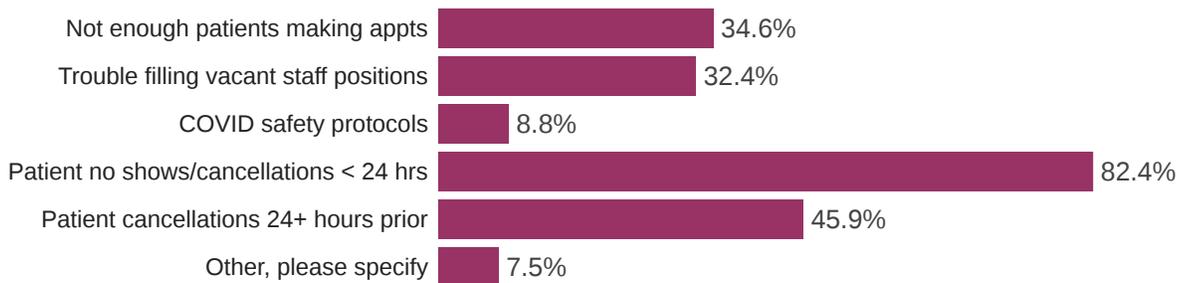
Female

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?

1093 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 | 35.2% | 39.6% | 5.7% | 84.9% | 49.1% | 6.3% |
| 45-54 | 30.4% | 36.3% | 5.4% | 83.3% | 45.1% | 7.8% |
| 55-64 | 33.7% | 42.0% | 11.0% | 82.7% | 41.0% | 6.0% |
| 65+ | 34.5% | 55.5% | 18.0% | 75.0% | 36.0% | 6.5% |

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

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

1092 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 | 31.7% | 42.9% | 8.4% | 82.4% | 40.8% | 7.2% |
| Asian | 34.2% | 43.0% | 20.3% | 73.4% | 53.2% | 5.1% |
| Hispanic | 41.5% | 36.6% | 14.6% | 82.9% | 56.1% | 0.0% |

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)?

1020 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)?

1020 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)?

1019 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)?

1019 Responses

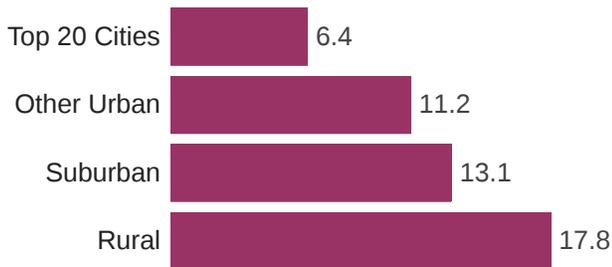


● Mean number of days

BY GEOGRAPHY

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

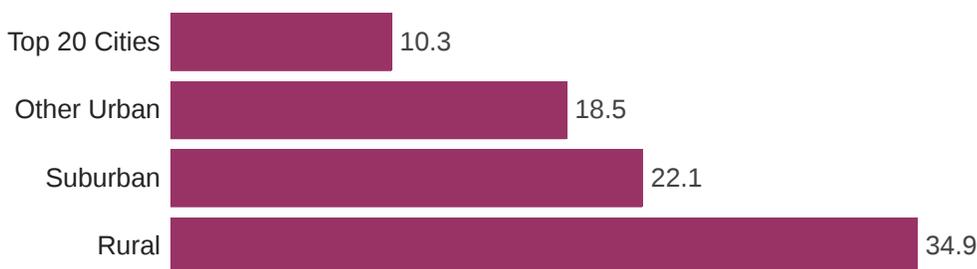
1020 Responses



● 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)?

1020 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)?

1020 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)?

1020 Responses

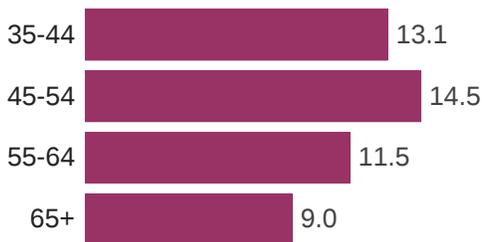


● Mean number of days

BY AGE GROUP

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

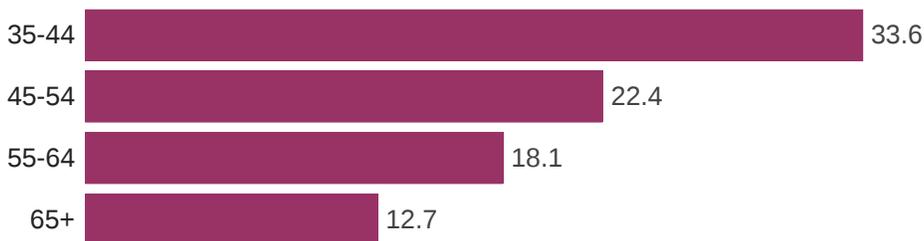
1020 Responses



● 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)?

1020 Responses

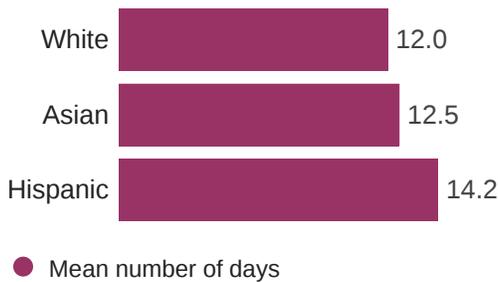


● Mean number of days

BY RACE / ETHNICITY

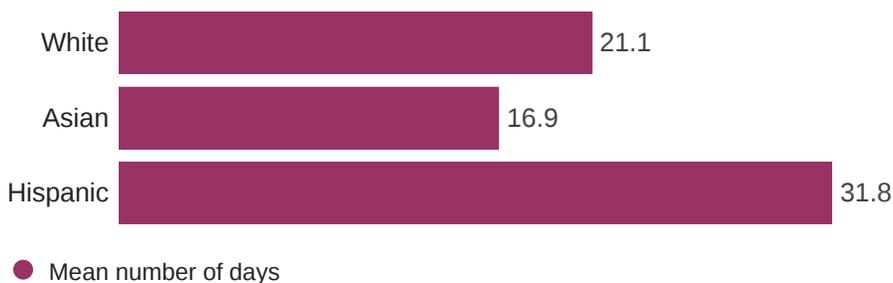
[Owners only] Currently, how many business days does the average *patient of record* have to wait for an appointment (excluding emergencies)?

1019 Responses



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

1019 Responses



Staff Recruitment

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

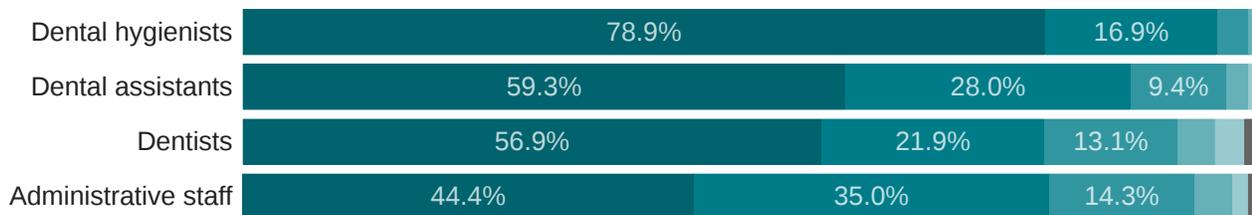
Owner dentists

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?

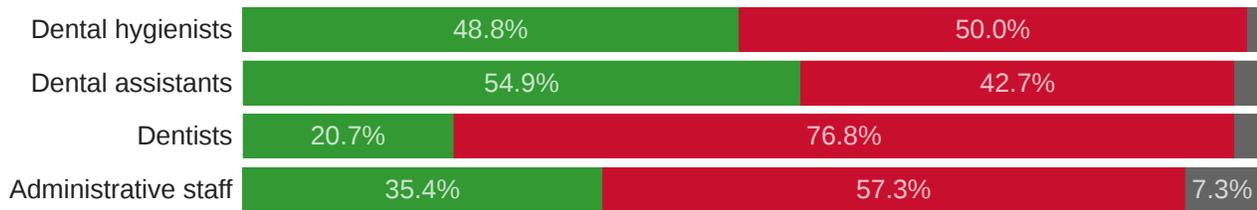


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

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?

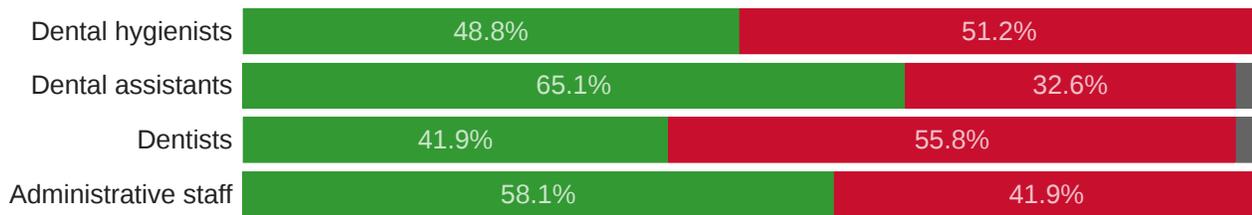


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

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?

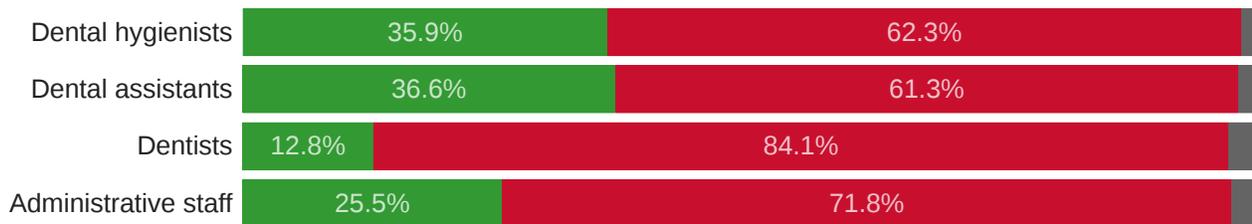


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

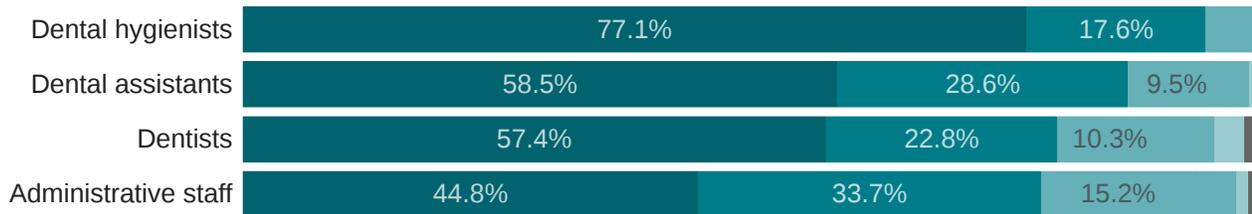
Non-DSO

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?

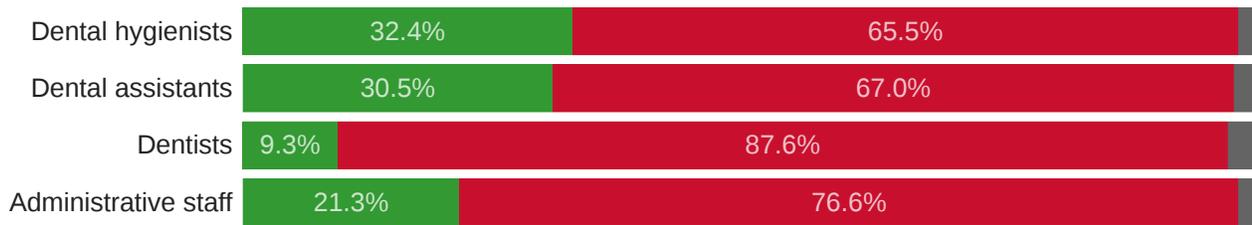


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

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)

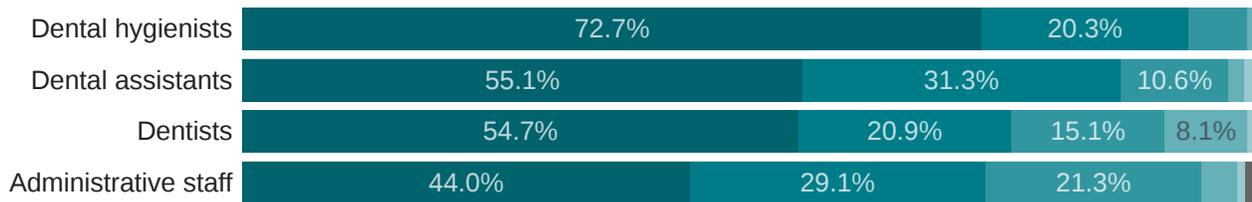
2 to 9 dentists

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?

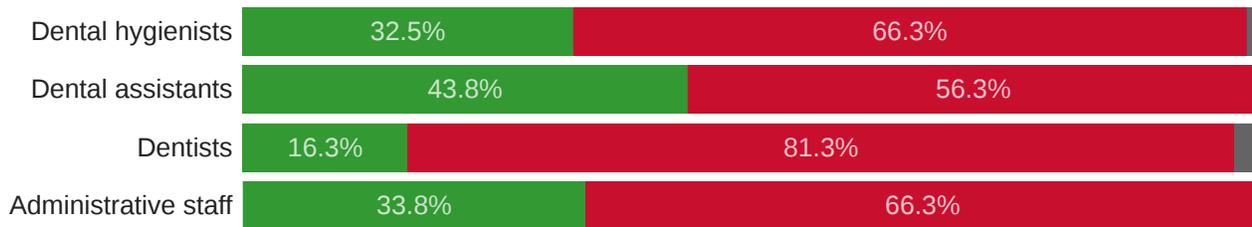


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY

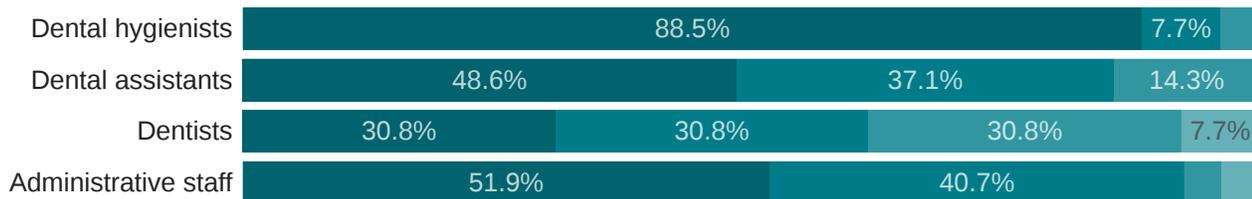
Top 20 Cities

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?

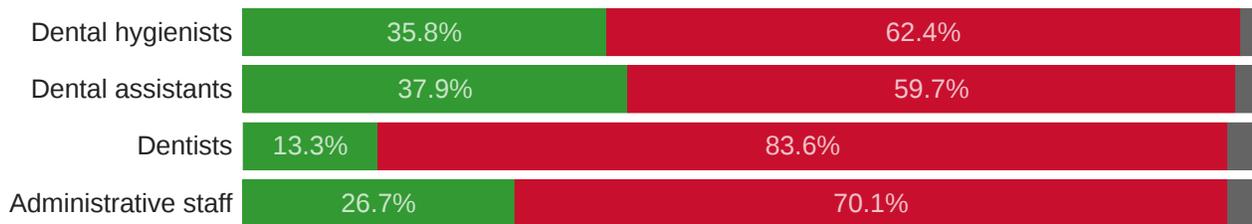


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

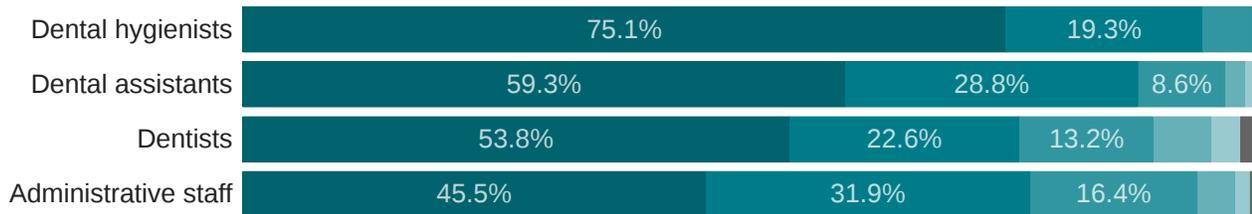
Other Urban

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)

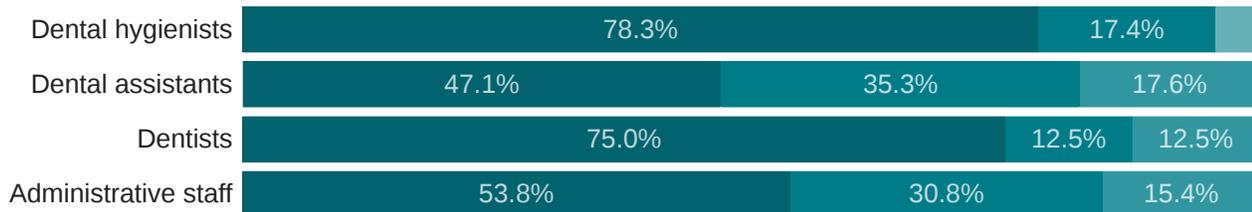
Suburban

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?

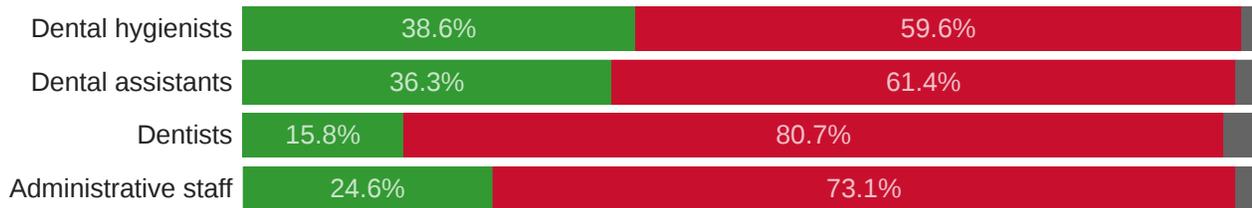


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

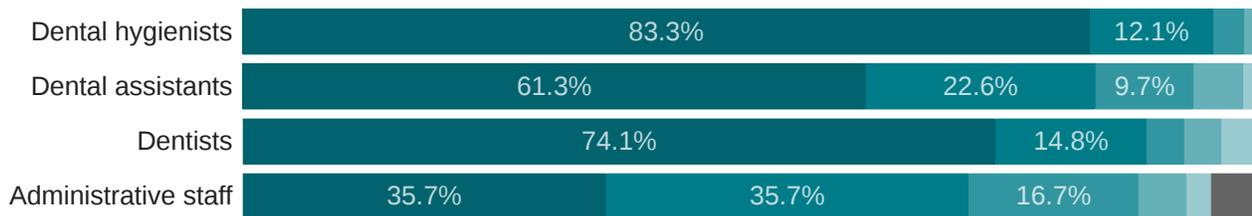
Rural

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?

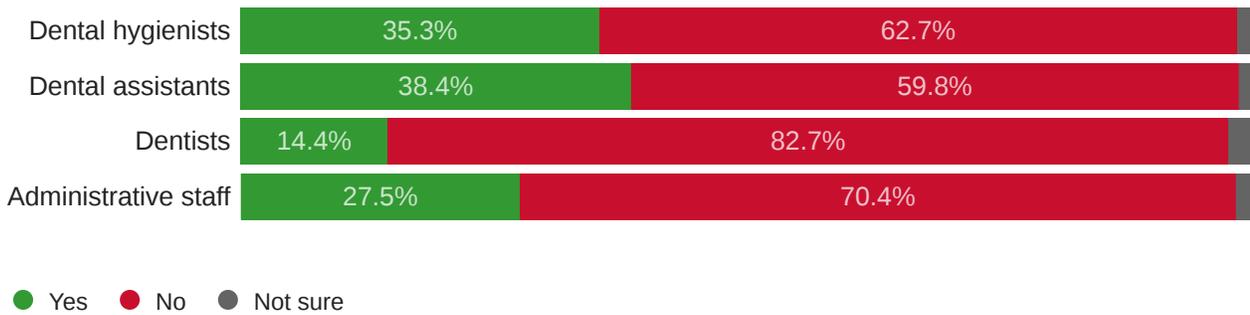


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

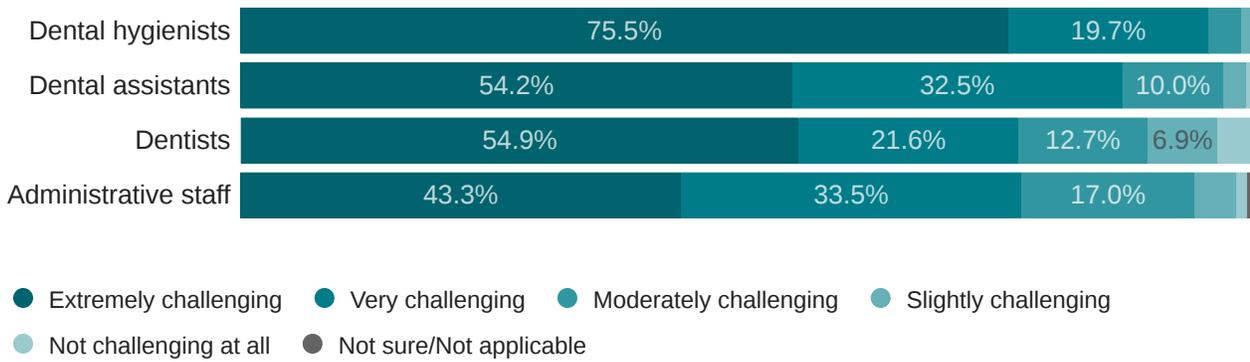
BY SEX

Male

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



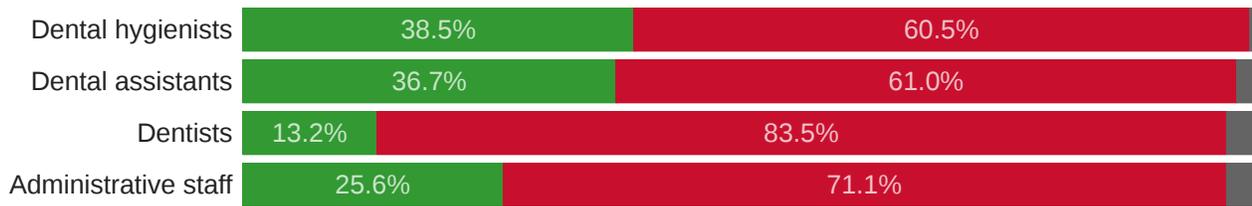
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below?



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

Number of Responses by Wave

| Field | 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 |

Number of Responses by Group - Week of September 12

| Ownership status | Choice Count |
|---|--------------|
| Owner dentist (i.e., sole owner, partner, or shareholder) | 1,020 |
| Employee dentist (nonowner) | 36 |
| Associate dentist (nonowner) | 31 |
| Independent contractor | 15 |

| DSO Affiliation | Choice Count |
|-----------------|--------------|
| DSO | 43 |
| Non-DSO | 1,059 |

| Practice Size | Choice Count |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Solo dentists | 675 |
| 2 to 9 dentists | 410 |
| Large group (10+ dentists) | 16 |

Number of Responses by Group - Week of August 15 (continued)

| 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 |

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