Dentist Earnings and Busyness in the U.S.

### Average Annual Net Income, Dentists in Private Practice

- **General Practitioners**
- **Specialists**

#### Dentists’ Average Net Income has not recovered to pre-recession levels.

The percentage of dentists “not busy enough” is down from its 2011 peak.

#### Average Wait Time in Days for a General Practitioner Dentist Appointment

Average wait times have decreased in 2018 after several years of increasing.

#### Percentage of Dentists in Private Practice Reporting They are “Not Busy Enough”

- NEW PATIENT
- PATIENT OF RECORD

#### Patient Volume Went Up in 2018

- **33.9%**

#### Patient Volume Went Down in 2018

- **19.0%**

#### Patient Volume Remained the Same in 2018

- **47.1%**

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute annual Survey of Dental Practice. Notes: Average Annual Net Income: Shaded areas denote recession years according to National Bureau of Economic Research. Dentist income is adjusted for inflation using the All-Item Consumer Price Index. All values are in constant 2018 dollars. The change in general practitioners’ average net income from 2017 to 2018 is statistically significant at the 5% level. Dentists “Not Busy Enough”: Indicates the percentage of dentists reporting they are “not busy enough, could have treated more patients.” Average Wait Time: Indicates the average wait time in days for an appointment with a general practitioner dentist. All graphs: Data for years 2000–2018 are weighted to adjust for oversampling and nonresponse bias.

For more information, visit ADA.org/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.