

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

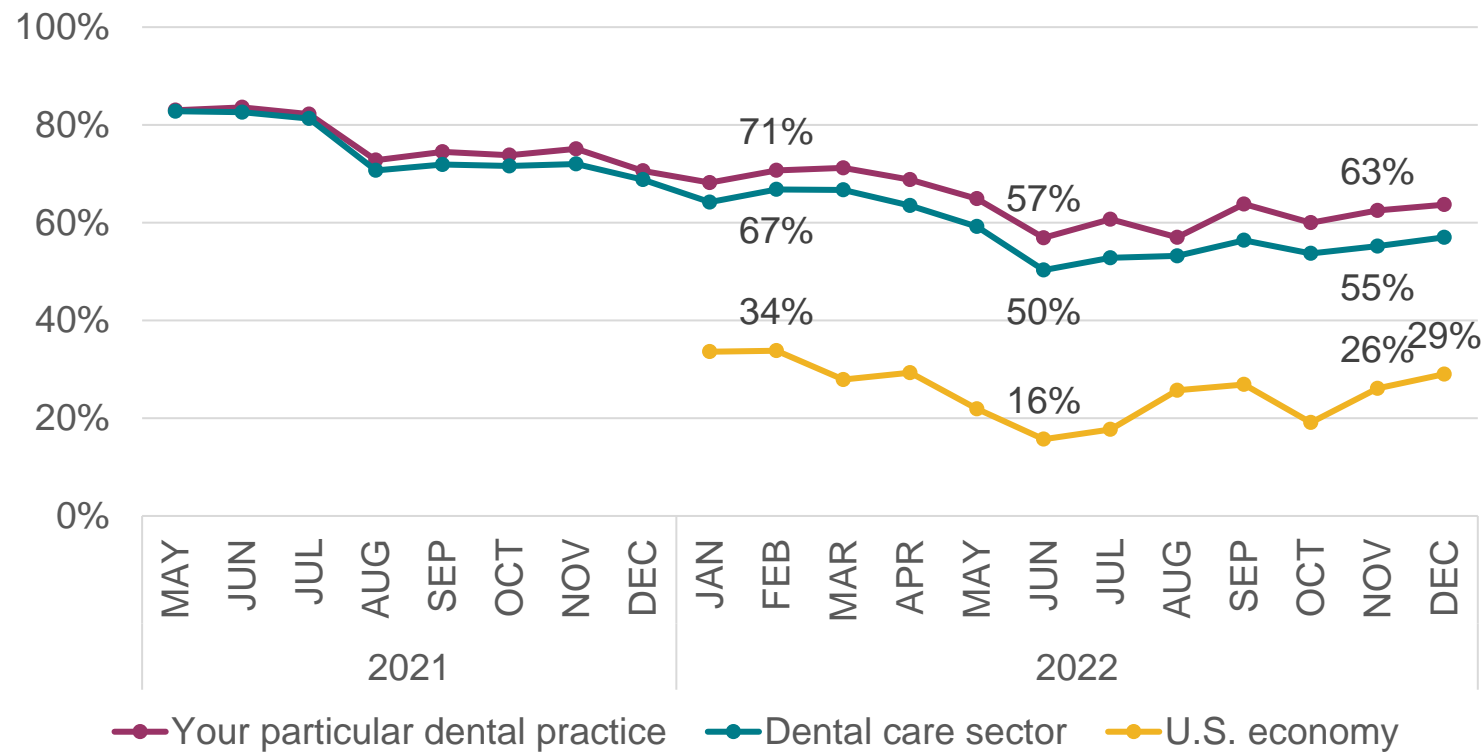
Insights from Data from November 2022

Emerging Issues Polling

- Goal of panel is to measure the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry.
- Over 3,000 dentists to-date have opted to participate; roughly 1,100 responded in the most recent wave.
- Data was collected November 8-13, 2022.
- Core measures include economic outlook, fullness of practice schedule, schedule barriers, recruitment needs and associated difficulty.
- Complete reports with breakdowns are available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

Economic Outlook

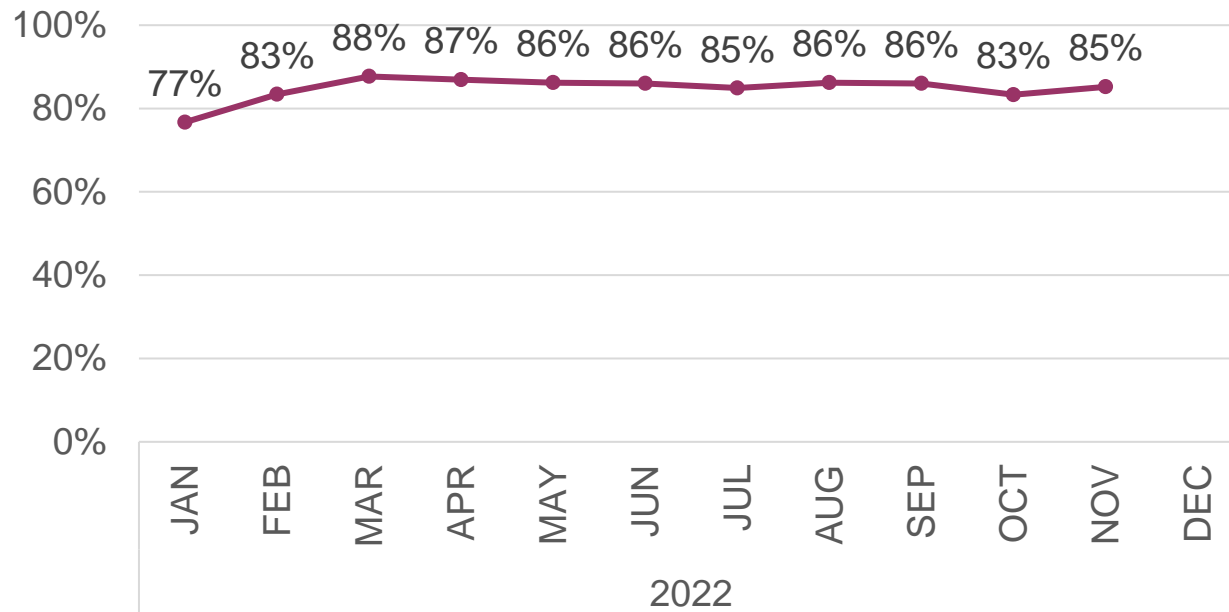
Looking ahead to the next six months, how confident are you in the recovery of the following? (Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)



Dentists' confidence in economic recovery remains slightly below a high point in February 2022.

Practice Schedules

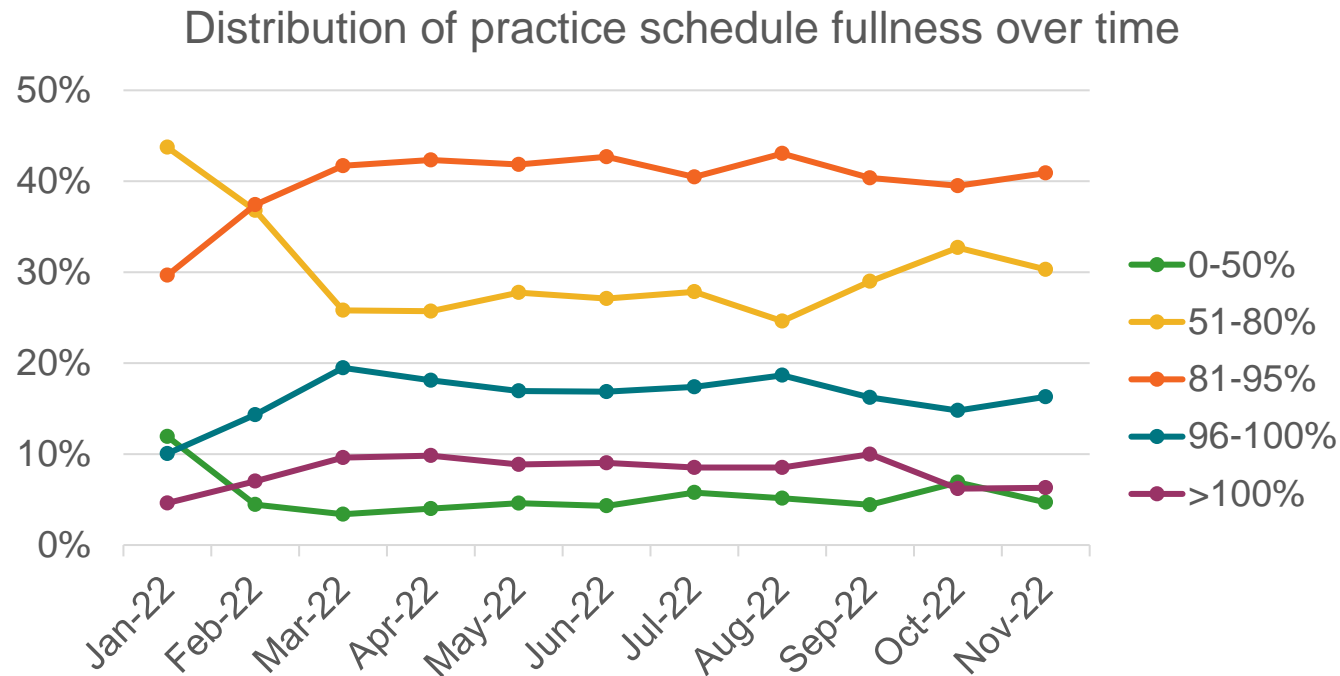
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In November, dental practice schedules rose from 83% full to 85%, below a high point of 88% in March 2022..

Practice Schedules

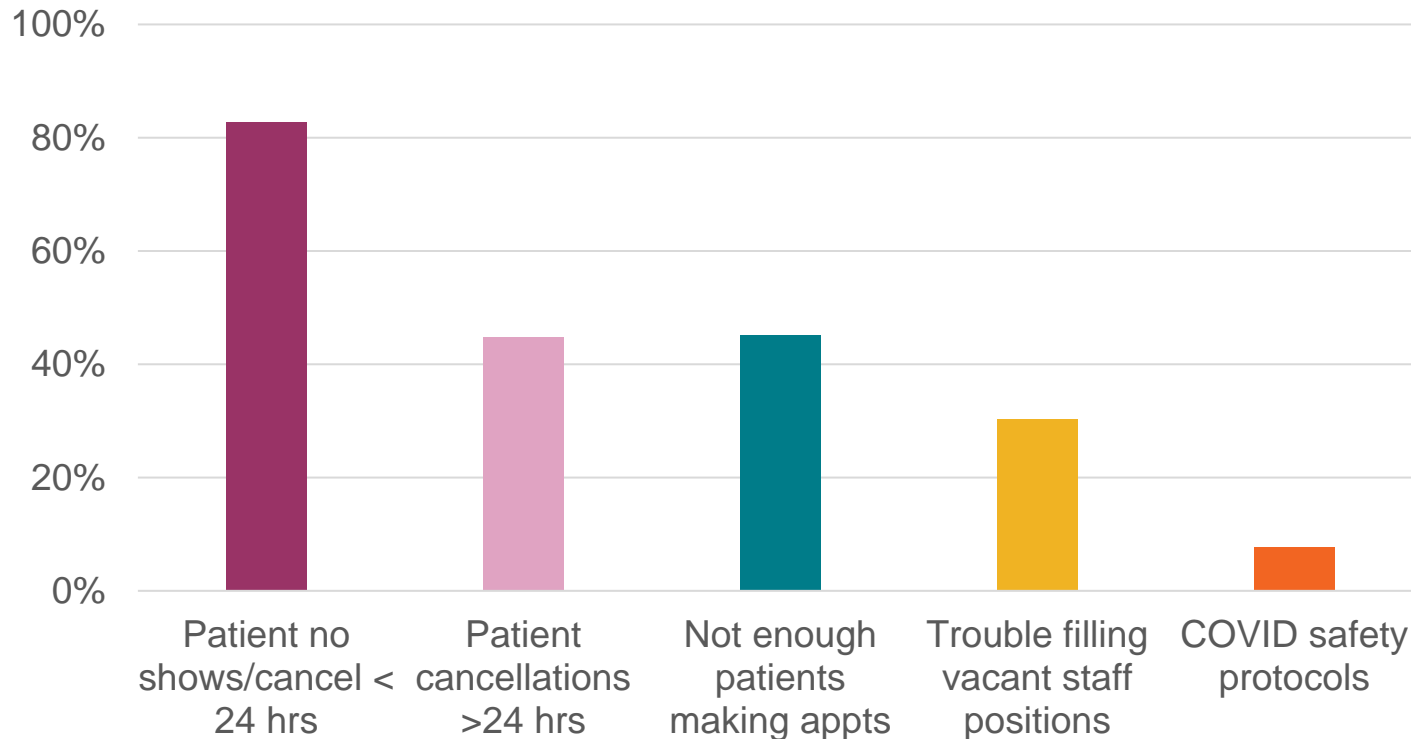
How full was your dental practice's appointment schedule last week?



In October 2022, the share of dentists with practice schedules that are nearly at capacity (81-95% and 96-100% full) decreased slightly. A larger share of dentists report their practices are seeing 81-95% of pre-pandemic capacity.

Scheduling Barriers

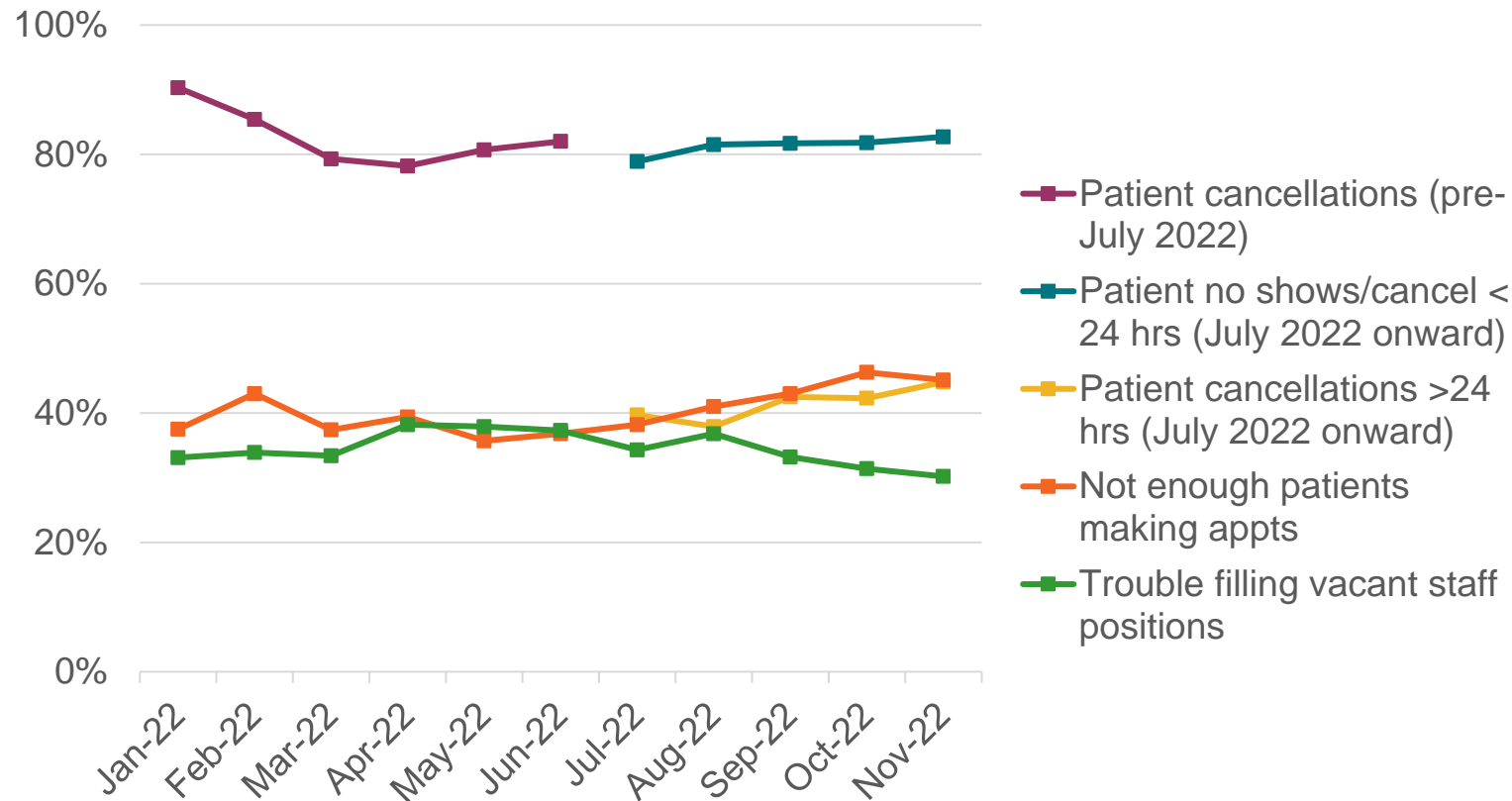
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



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

Scheduling Barriers

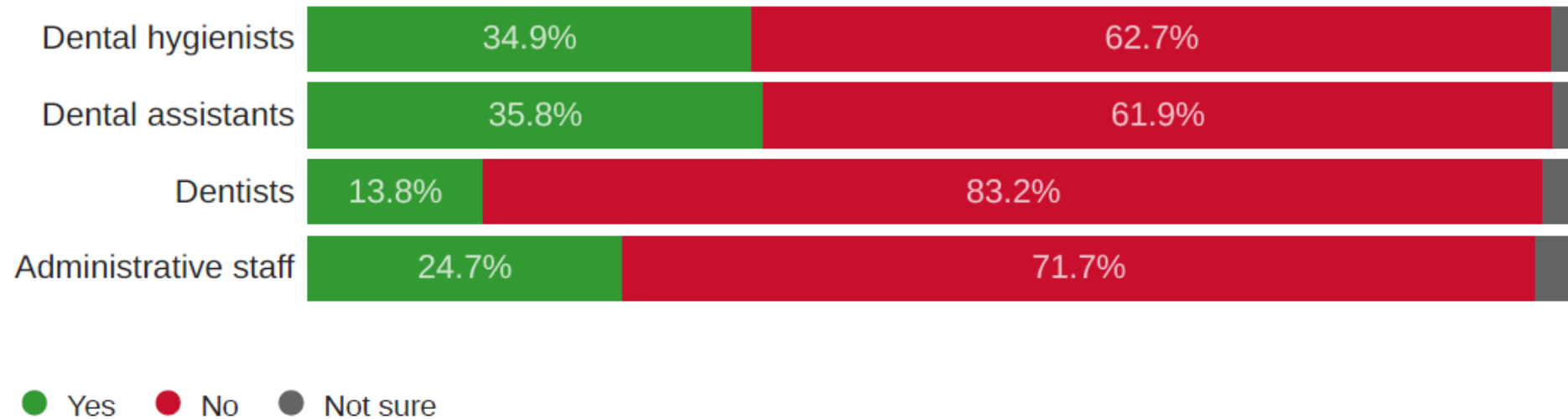
Which of the following factors prevented your dental practice's appointment schedule from reaching 100% last week? (Select all that apply.)



The percentage of dentists citing low patient demand has increased steadily since May 2022. Meanwhile, less dentists are citing staffing shortages as the reason why their appointment schedules were not full.

Dental Team Recruitment

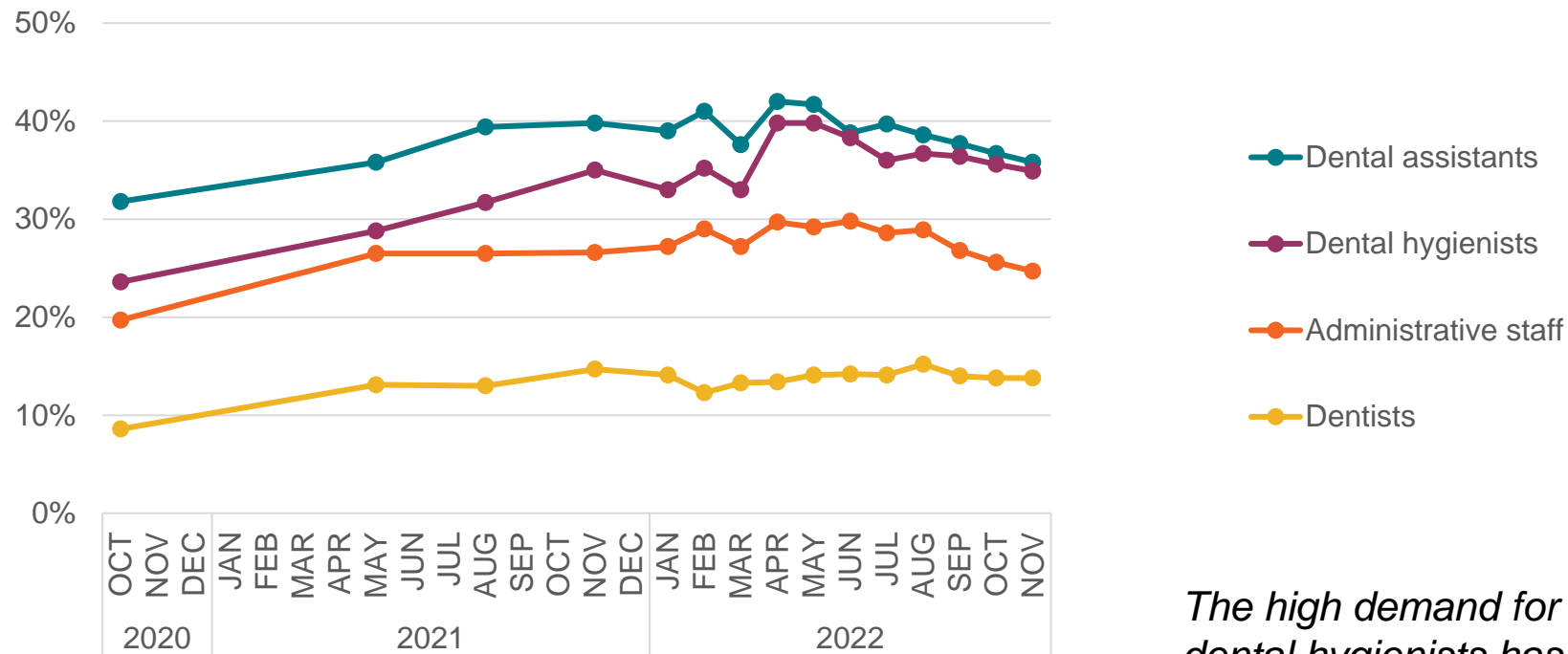
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?



Dental assistants and dental hygienists remain the most in-demand members of the dental team, with more than one-third of dentists currently or recently recruiting for these positions.

Dental Team Recruitment

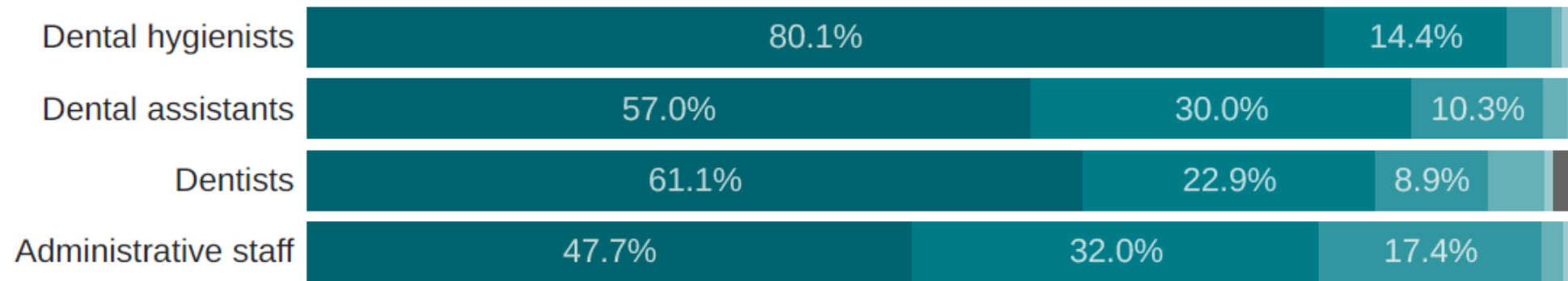
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice? (Percentages indicating “yes.”)



The high demand for dental assistants and dental hygienists has been declining slightly over the past several months.

Challenges Recruiting

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

Recruitment of dental hygienists continues to be particularly challenging for dentists.

Dental Plans

Do you believe requiring dental plans to spend a set percentage of the premiums they collect on dental care for their subscribers is a necessary reform in your state?

1111 Responses



● Yes [927] ● No [48] ● Not sure/No opinion [136]

A vast majority of dentists agree reforms to dental insurance plans are needed in their state.

Dental Plans

How likely or unlikely are you to participate in a grassroots effort with other dentists to establish a law setting a medical loss ratio percentage for dental plans in your state?

1107 Responses



● Very likely or already participating ● Somewhat likely ● Somewhat unlikely ● Very unlikely

Most dentists reported they are at least somewhat likely to participate in grassroots efforts to enact state-wide reforms to dental insurance.

Key Takeaways

- **Practice Schedules:** Dental practice schedules have been very steady for the past six months. Schedules were 85% full on average in November. Patient no-shows and late cancellations are largely to blame.
- **Low Patient Demand:** There has been an increase in the share of dentists indicating low patient demand for appointments in recent months.
- **Recruitment Needs:** Dental team recruitment needs declined slightly in November, though dentists continue having difficulty filling positions.
- **Economic Confidence:** Dentists' confidence in economic recovery has improved modestly since its low in June 2022.

Thank You!

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