# The Impact of COVID-19 on the Dental Care Sector

Insights from Data for Week of August 24<sup>th</sup>



ADA American Dental Association<sup>®</sup>





- 1. Update on the latest data from HPI economic impact of COVID-19 tracking poll.
- 2. 'Question of the Week' data focusing dentist wellness.
- 3. The latest consumer sentiment data related to dental visits.



## HPI Impact of COVID-19 Tracking Poll

- Bi-weekly poll beginning March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Core measures: Status of your practice, volume of patients and collections, status of practice staff, PPE supply.
- "Question(s) of the Week".
- Nationally representative sample of about 4000 dentists. State level data is available for many states.
- Links to reports and interactive data dashboard available at www.ada.org/hpi.



#### What is the current status of your dental practice?

Week of March 23		76.0%			18.9%
Week of April 6		79.5%			17.6%
Week of April 20		79.4%			17.2%
Week of May 4	27.9%		56.5%		12.7%
Week of May 18	10.8%	53.9%		28.5%	6.9%
Week of June 1	19.7%		70.4%		7.1%
Week of June 15	33.8%		62.	9%	
Week of June 29	41.7%			55.5%	
Week of July 13	41.6%			56.3%	
Week of July 27	44.5%			54.3%	
Week of August 10	47.6%			51.3%	
Week of August 24	48.8%			49.9%	

Insight: As of the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, nearly 99% of dental practices in the U.S. were open. *More practices* report "business as usual" in terms of patient volume.

- Open and business as usual Open but lower patient volume than usual
- Closed but seeing emergency patients only 
  Closed and not seeing any patients



How does this week compare to what is typical in your practice, in terms of ... \*

#### Total Patient Volume

Week of April 6				84.8%			7	.6%	<b>7%</b> c
Week of April 20	86.0%				1% 7.7%				- 7%
Week of May 4			59.0%			8.8% 7.3%	9.7%	9.6%	<b>-</b> 18%
Week of May 18		28.4%	6.9% 8	B.7%	18.3%	21.0%	b	16.6%	]- 38%
Week of June 1	8.6%	8.4%	<mark>6</mark> 19.8%		29.7%	/ 0	27.8	3%	]-53%
Week of June 15		14.69	<mark>%</mark> 2	29.0%		45	5.3%		┣ ┣ ┣ ┣ ┣
Week of June 29		10.5%	26.4%			53.6%	6		<b>}</b> -70%
Week of July 13		9.1%	25.9%			56.5%			<b></b>
Week of July 27		7.7%	24.8%			60.7%			- 73%
Week of August 10		7.1%	23.7%	3.7%		61.9%			- 73%
Week of August 24		1	21.8%			65.3%			<b>}</b> -74%

7% of pre-COVID-19 level, on average

•	Less than 5%	•	5-10%	٠	11-24%	•	25-50%	•	51-75%	•	76% or more

Insight: Nationally, patient volume is leveling off. Patient volume in private practices is estimated at 74% of pre-COVID-19 levels as of the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, largely unchanged over the past month.



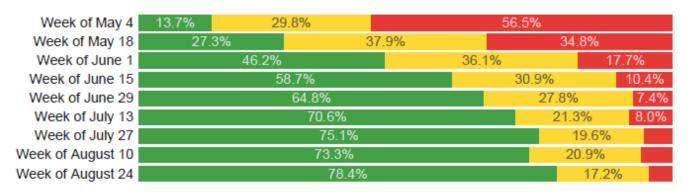
#### Is your dental practice paying staff this week?

Week of March 23	27.3%		44.6%		28.1%	
Week of April 6	10.7%	45.4%		43.8%		
Week of April 20	12.7%	41.9%		45.4%		
Week of May 4	32.5%		35.9%	3	1.6%	
Week of May 18		58.1%		26.5%	15.4%	
Week of June 1		77.0%	)		17.5%	
Week of June 15		84	.8%		12.4%	
Week of June 29		8	7.3%		10.3%	
Week of July 13		8	89.8%		8.2%	
Week of July 27			91.6%		7.1%	
Week of August 10			93.8%			
Week of August 24			94.0%			

Insight: Staffing in dental practices continues to slowly grow and is at 94% of pre-COVID-19 levels the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>.

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#### [If non-owner dentist] Are YOU being paid this week?



[If Not Being Paid at AII] Are you currently receiving unemployment benefits?

Week of May 4	57.4%		19.9%	7.9%	14.8%
Week of May 18	56.7%		20.1%	7.6%	15.6%
Week of June 1	60.7%		12.4%	2	21.3%
Week of June 15	50.0%		10.0%	35.0%	
Week of June 29	50.0%	11.5	<mark>%</mark>	34.6%	
Week of July 13	41.4%	6.9% 10.3%		41.4%	
Week of July 27	35.3%	11.8%	4	47.1%	
Week of August 10	35.3%		52.	9%	
Week of August 24	46.2%	7.7%		46.2%	

Yes I've applied, but have not received any benefits yet

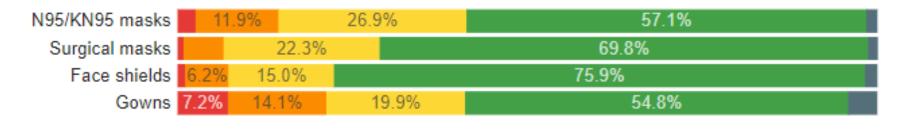
No, I have not applied



Insight: Employee dentists have seen the biggest lingering employment effect. Nearly 80% of employee dentists are now being paid fully.

For those not being paid at all, less than half are receiving unemployment benefits, an increase since the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>.

How many days' worth of the following PPE does your practice have at this time?



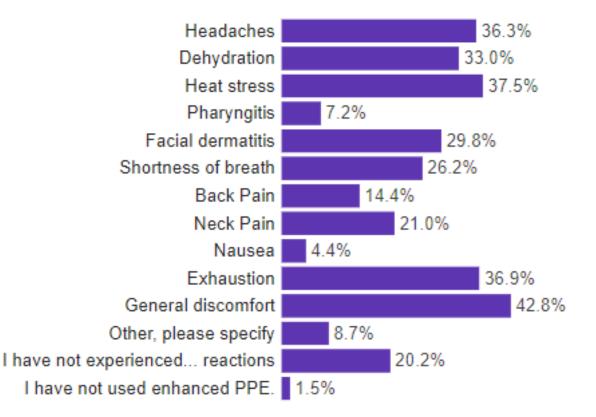
🛑 0 days 🛛 🏾 🗧 1 to 7 days 💛 8 to 14 days 🔍 🔍 More than 14 days 🔍 🔍 Not sure

Insight: PPE availability in dental practices has been stable for several weeks now. Gowns and N95/KN95 masks remain the biggest issue.



#### Questions of the Week

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, dental practices now use enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Please indicate if you have experienced any of the following types of physical reactions as a result of using enhanced PPE. (Select all that apply.)



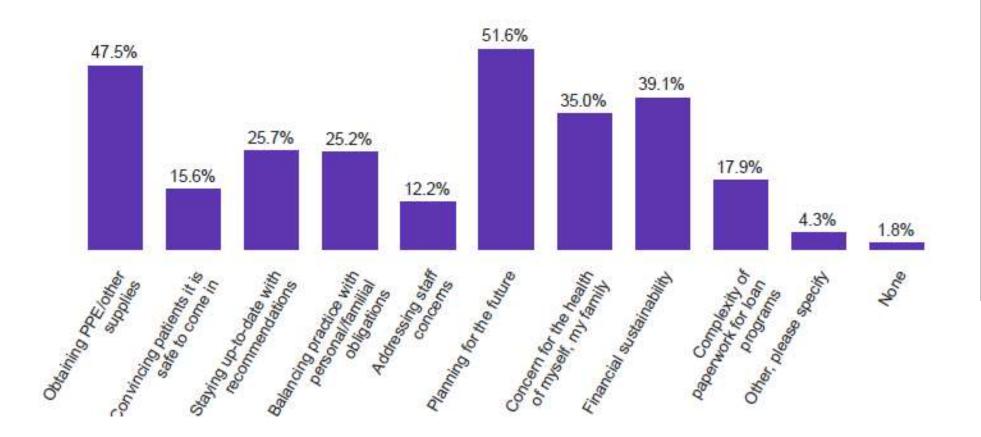
Insight: Four out of five dentists have experienced physical reactions due to using enhanced PPE.

General discomfort, heat stress, exhaustion, and headaches were most commonly reported.



#### Questions of the Week

What issues are currently the most challenging to you during the COVID-19 pandemic? (Select up to 3 responses.)

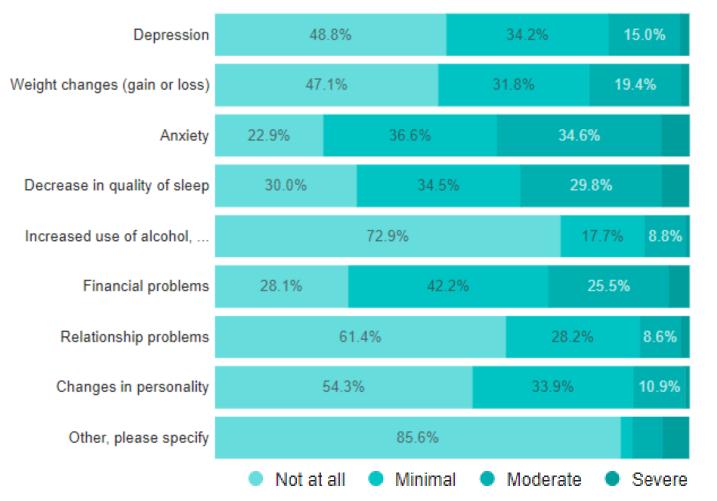


Insight: Planning for the future, obtaining PPE and other supplies, financial sustainability, and concern for health were the most commonly reported practice-related challenges due to the pandemic.



#### Questions of the Week

#### Have you experienced any of the symptoms listed below during the COVID-19 pandemic?



Insight: Anxiety, financial problems, and decreased quality of sleep were the most commonly reported symptoms associated with the pandemic.

Depression and weight changes were also indicated for the majority of the panel.

One-quarter have experienced increase use of alcohol, cigarettes, or drugs.

#### ADA American Dental Association®

**Health Policy Institute** 

## Insights from Consumer Polling



#### AMERICA STANDS AT AN INFLECTION POINT.

Consumers are now more concerned about the economy than the health crisis. What does that mean as our society attempts to go back to normal? We just completed the fourth wave of a twice-monthly tracking study that listens to the voice of the consumer.

Through surveys, in-depth interviews, social media analyses, and online dial tests, we address a variety of timely questions:

- What's it going to take to bring consumers back?
- Where is the greatest pent-up demand?
- What will the new normal look like?
- How do employers and employees navigate a workplace return?





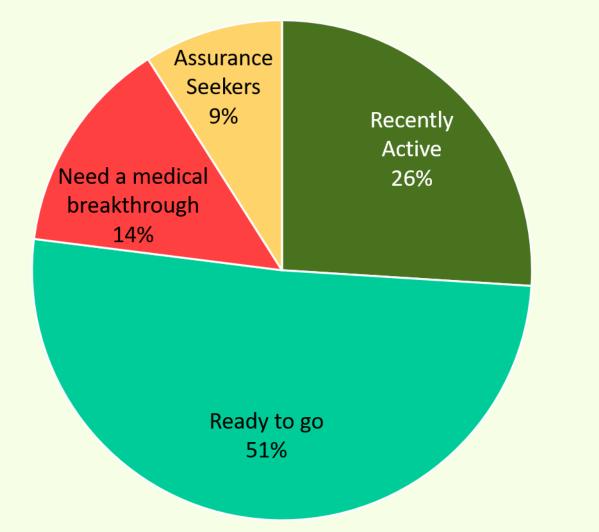


We partnered with Engagious, a leading consumer research firm, to explore consumer sentiment toward visiting the dentist during the pandemic.



# **READY OR NOT: VISIT A DENTIST'S OFFICE**

Which of the following conditions is closest to your current point of view... Visit a dentist's office



Recently Active

- 📕 Ready to go
- I would not be comfortable resuming this activity unless there was an approved COVID-19 vaccine and/or a proven medical protocol to mitigate and remedy the effects of the virus.
- I would be willing to resume this activity, as long as a combination of local or national medical authorities, local or national government officials, and/or the location I am visiting provided assurances it is safe to do so.

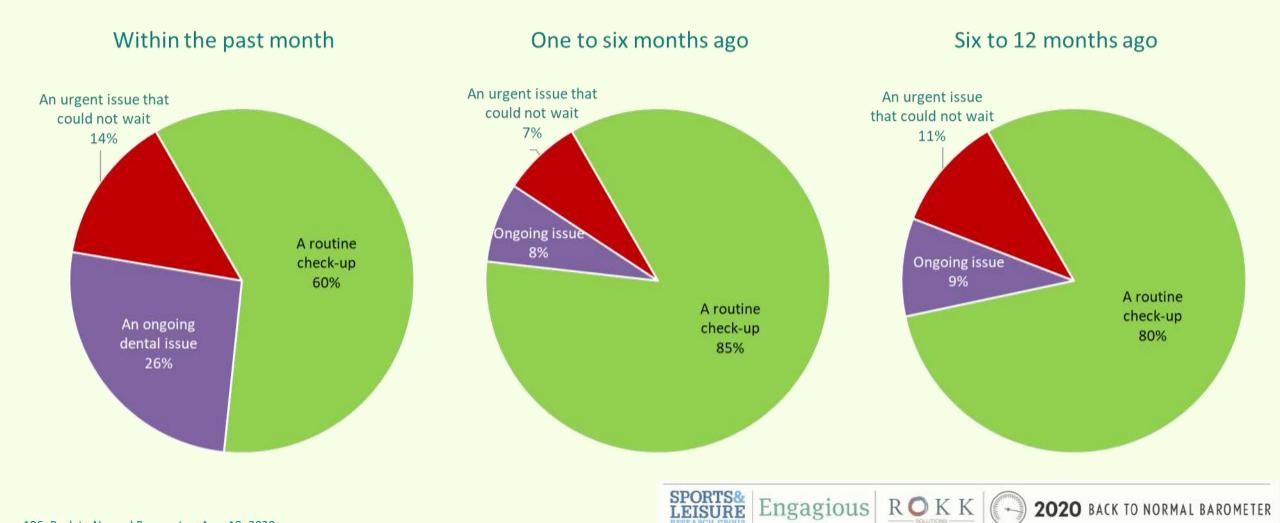
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2020 BACK TO NORMAL BAROMETER

Engagious

# **2/5 OF RECENT DENTIST VISITS WERE** *NOT* **ROUTINE**

When you last visited the dentist, was it for...



Engagious

**2020** BACK TO NORMAL BAROMETER

## Key Take-Aways from August 24<sup>th</sup> Data

- As of the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, 99% of dental offices in the U.S. were open and patient volume was estimated at 74% of pre-COVID-19 levels. Staffing was at 94% of pre-COVID-19 levels. These values were roughly unchanged since our last wave of data collection and suggest we are reaching a "steady state" of economic activity in dental offices.
- The pandemic has taken a toll on dentists' wellness. More than half of the panel reported personal challenges with anxiety, financial problems, sleep quality, weight change, and/or depression during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than a quarter reported increased use of alcohol or other substances. Younger dentists are more affected than older dentists.
- Dentists indicate that the most challenging practice-related issues during the pandemic have been planning for the future and financial sustainability, experienced similarly by owner and nonowner dentists.
- Four out of five dentists have experienced physical reactions due to using enhanced PPE. General discomfort, heat stress, exhaustion, and headaches were the most commonly reported.
- Consumer polling indicates that about three out of four people who visited the dentist last year are comfortable visiting the dentist right now. Another 9% would be willing to go if they had some assurances that it is safe and the remaining 14% are waiting for a vaccine or proven treatment for COVID-19. Accordingly, patient volume in dental offices likely has an upper bound of around 85% of pre-COVID-19 levels for now.







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ADA American Dental Association®

hpi@ada.org

