

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 this 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; nearly 2,000 have opted to participate.

This report features results from the latest wave of this study broken out by the following practice areas/specialties:

- General practice (GP)
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS)
- Endodontics (ENDO)
- Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (ORTHO)
- Pediatric dentistry (PED)
- Periodontics (PERIO)
- Prosthodontics (PROS)

Additionally, results are reported for dentists that practice in public health settings (DiPHS), regardless of specialty. (Please note that this group should not be confused with dental public health specialists.) The number of respondents in each practice area/specialty can be found at the end of this report.

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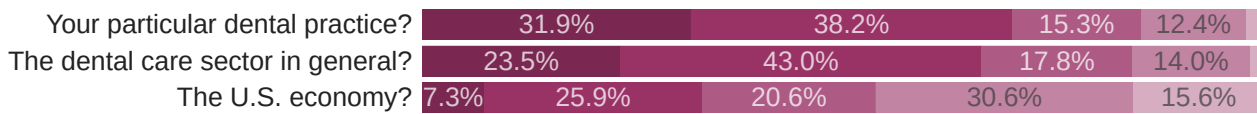
For more information on other publications, products, and services, please visit our website, ADA.org/HPI.

Economic Confidence

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

General Practice

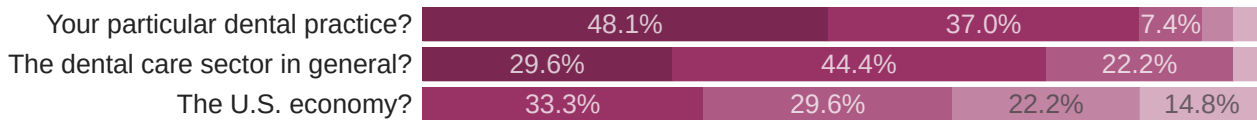
1242 Responses



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

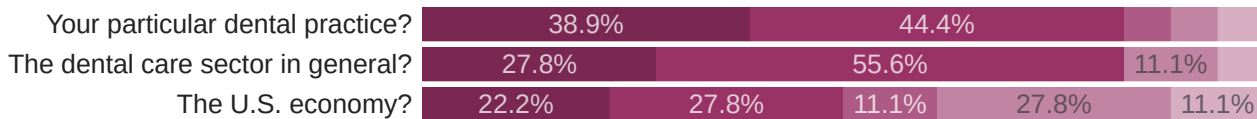
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

27 Responses



Endodontics

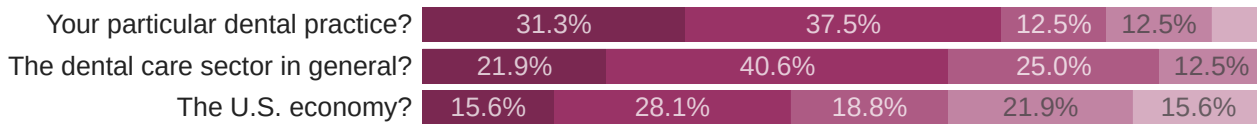
18 Responses



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

Orthodontics

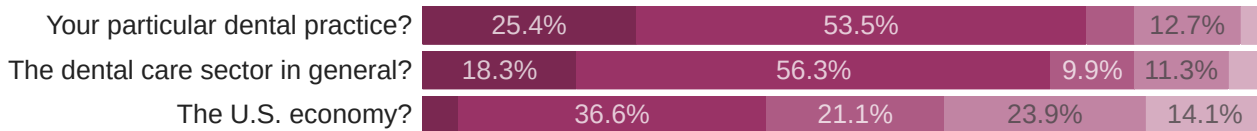
32 Responses



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

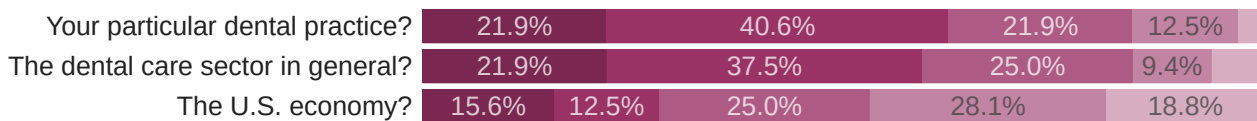
Pediatric Dentistry

75 Responses



Periodontics

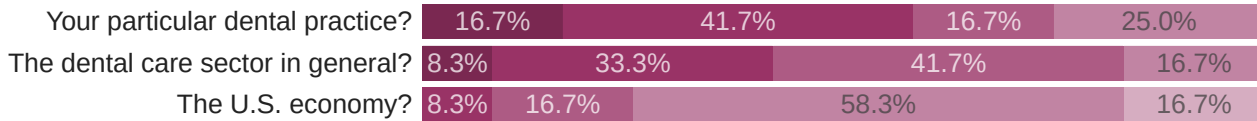
32 Responses



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

Prosthodontics

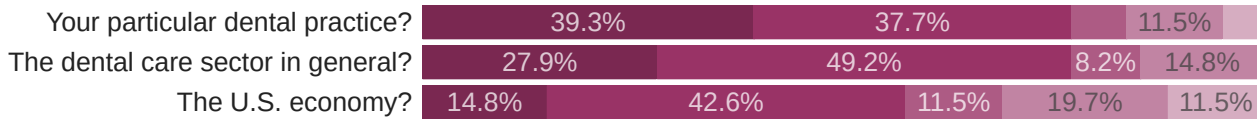
12 Responses



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

Dentists in Public Health Settings

61 Responses



Appointment Schedule

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

Mean % of schedule filled

Dentists in private practice

1377 Responses



Dentists in public health settings

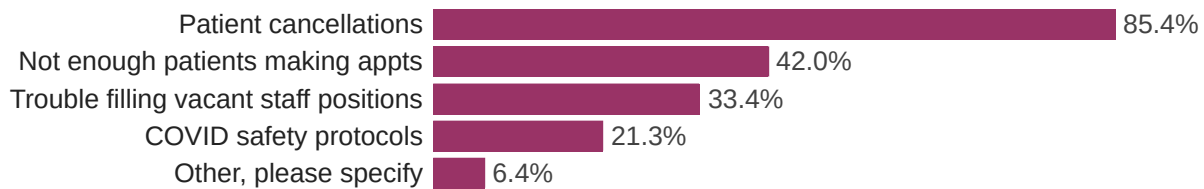


Factors Preventing a Full Schedule

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

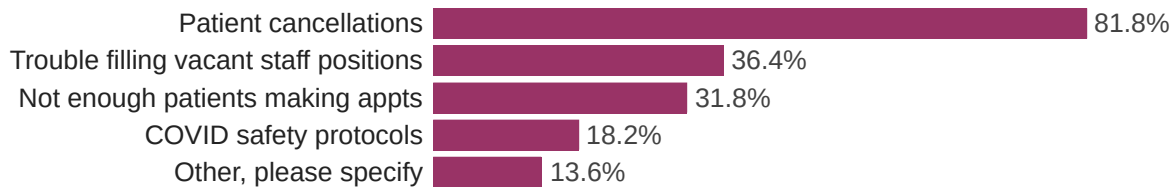
General Practice

1032 Responses



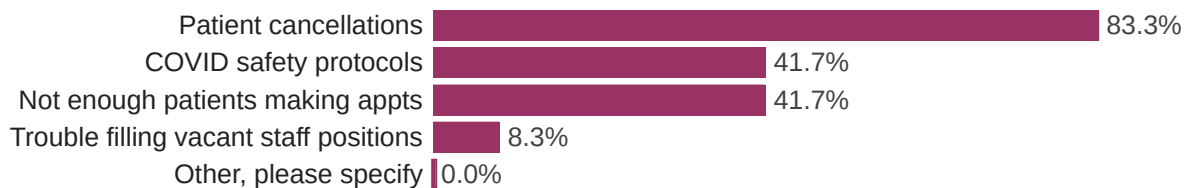
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

22 Responses



Endodontics

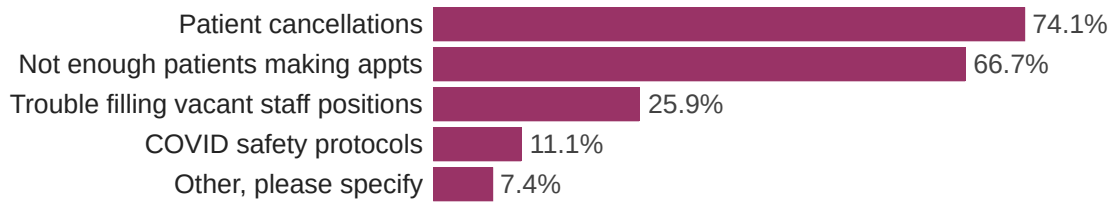
12 Responses



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

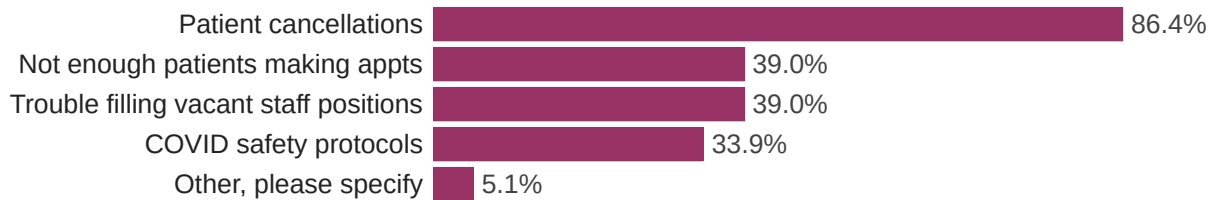
Orthodontics

27 Responses



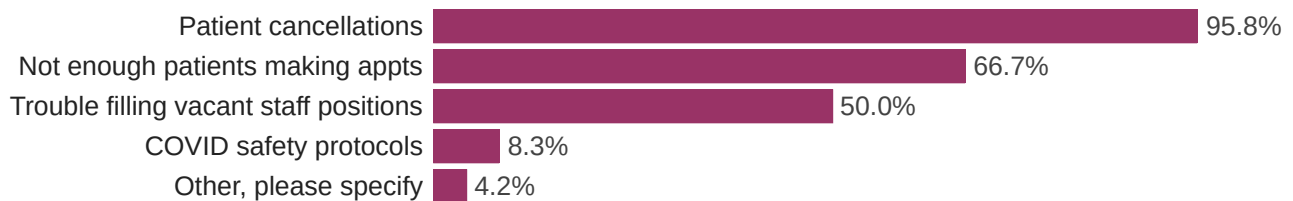
Pediatric Dentistry

61 Responses



Periodontics

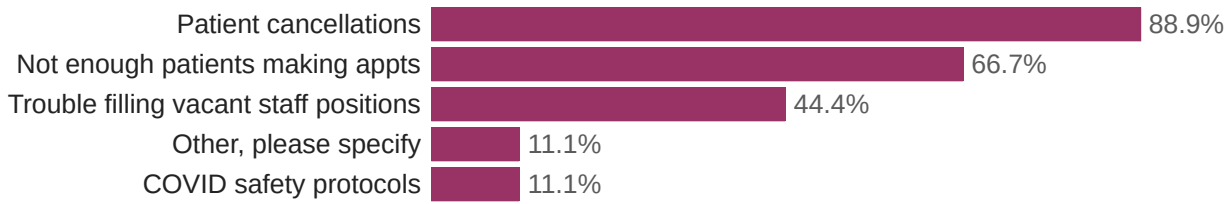
24 Responses



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

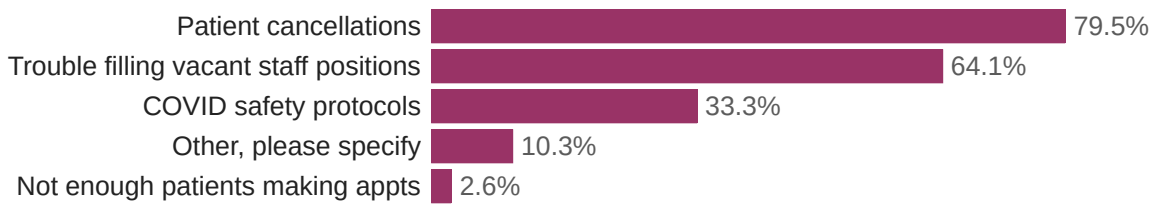
Prosthodontics

9 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

39 Responses



Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

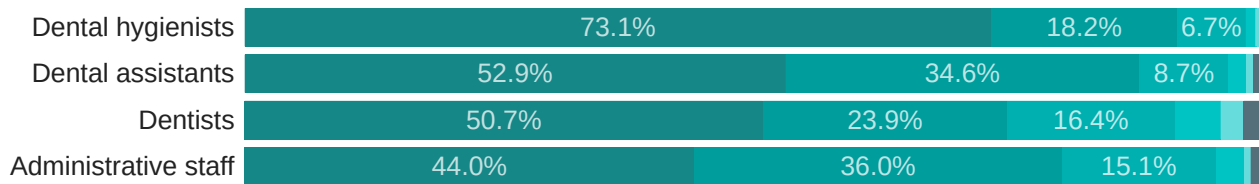
1242 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

797 Responses

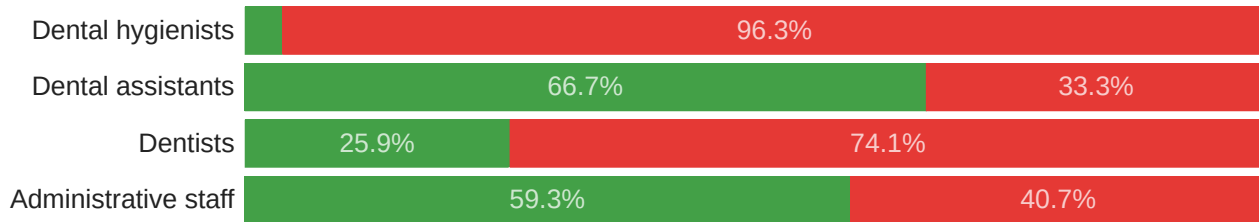


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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

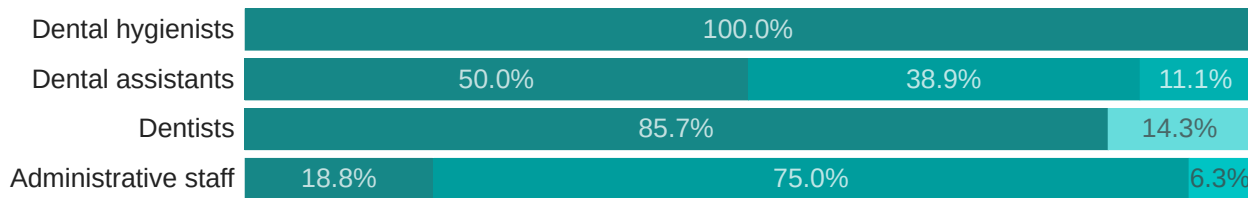
27 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

23 Responses

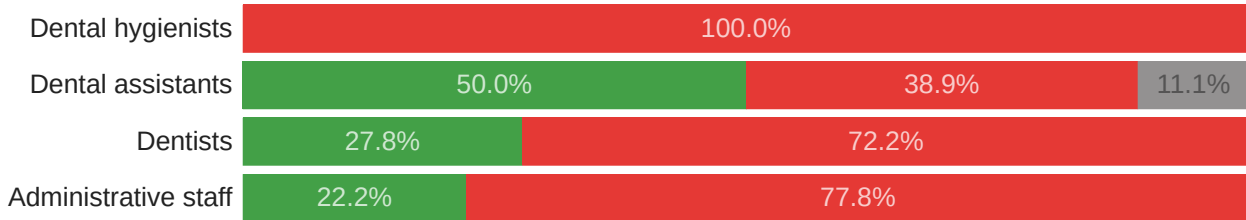


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Endodontics

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

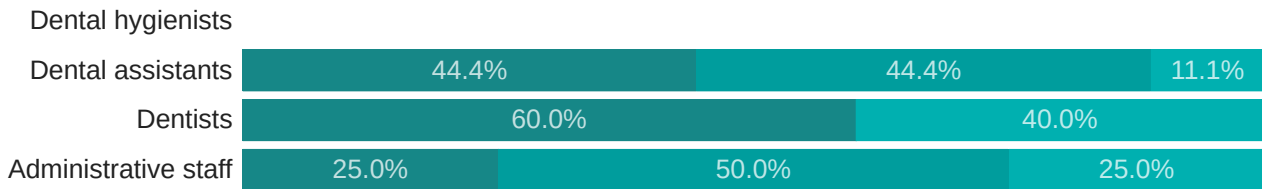
18 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

11 Responses

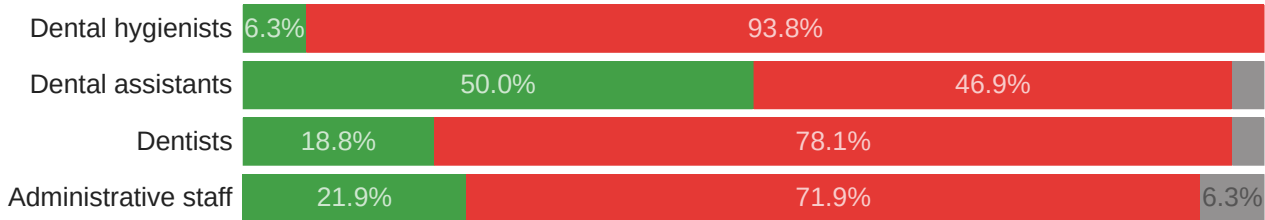


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Orthodontics

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

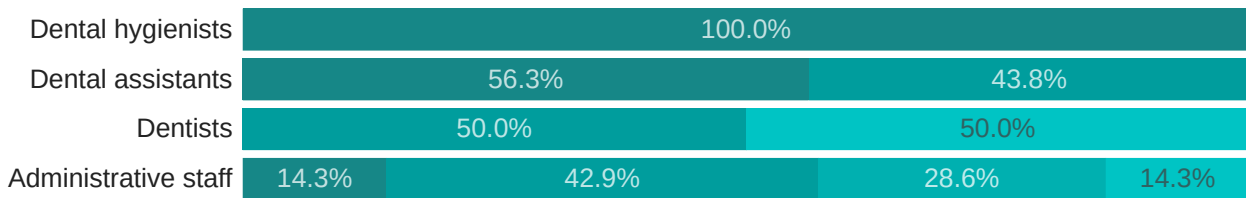
32 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

20 Responses

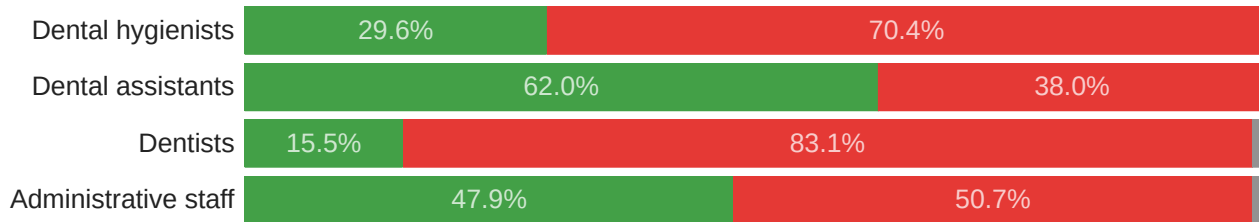


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Pediatric Dentistry

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

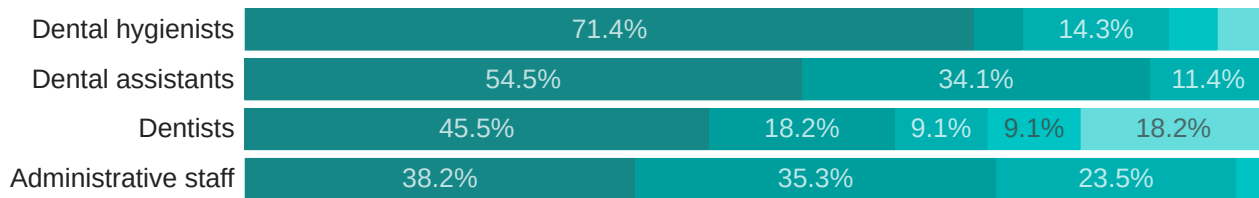
75 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

57 Responses

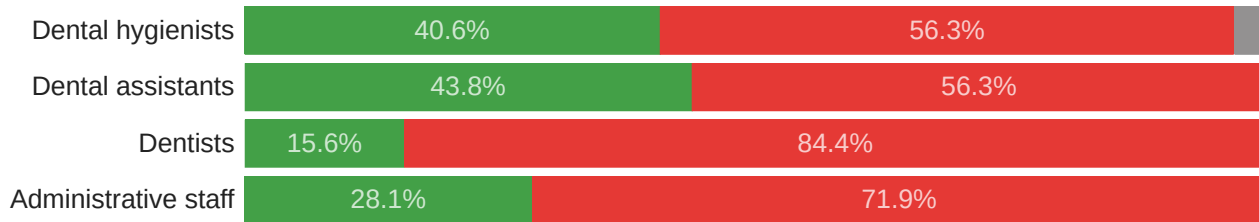


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Periodontics

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

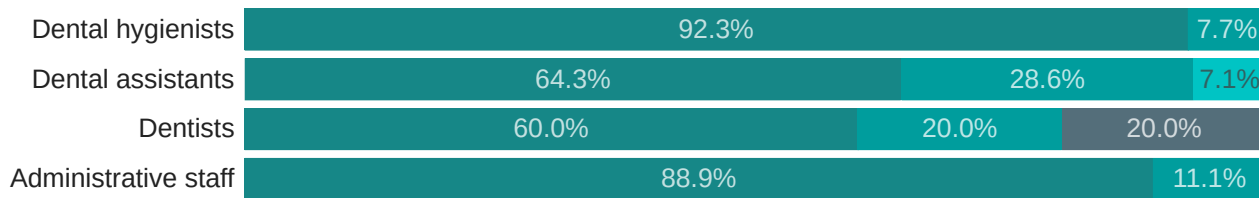
32 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

22 Responses



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

Prosthodontics

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

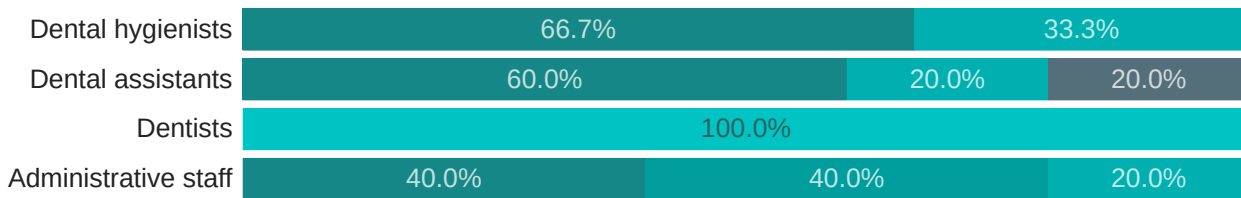
12 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

10 Responses

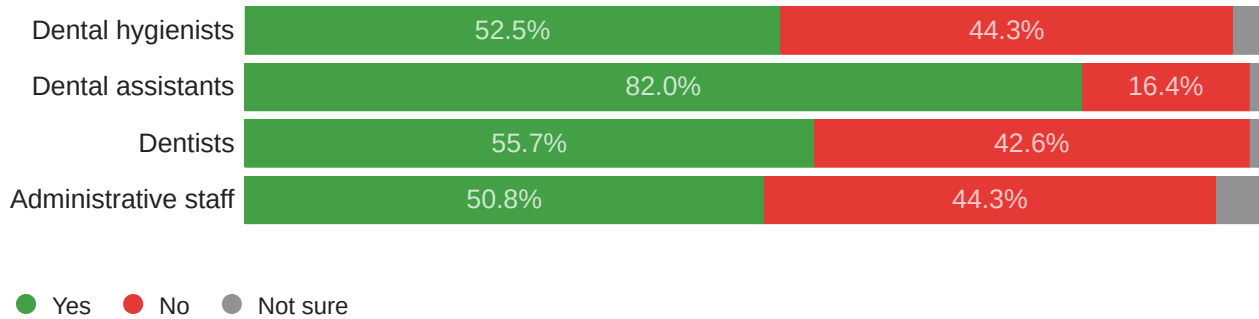


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

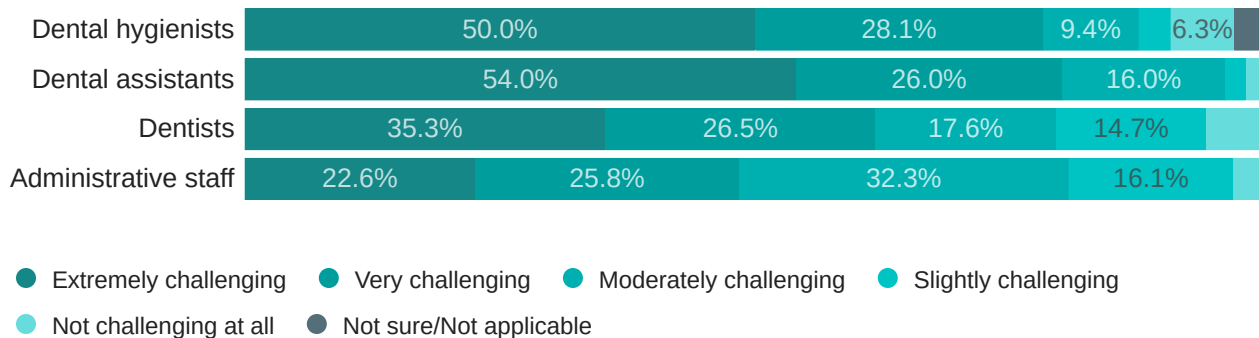
Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?

61 Responses



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

57 Responses



Practice Capacity and Patient Volume

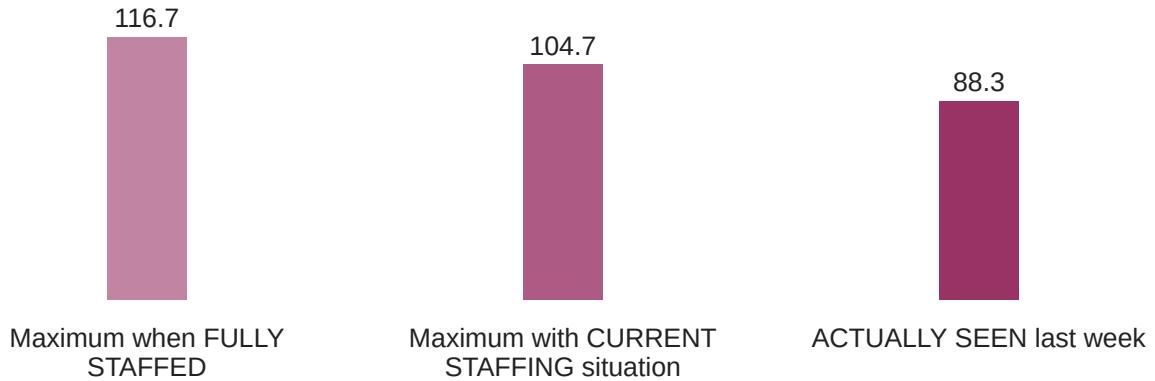
The following charts are based on responses to these 3 questions about the practice's capacity and patient volume:

- 1) When your practice is FULLY STAFFED, what is the maximum number of patients it could see in a typical week?
- 2) Considering your practice's CURRENT STAFFING situation, what is the maximum number of patients it could see in a typical week?
- 3) How many patients did your practice ACTUALLY SEE last week?

General Practice

Average number of patients:

920 Responses



Average percentages for:

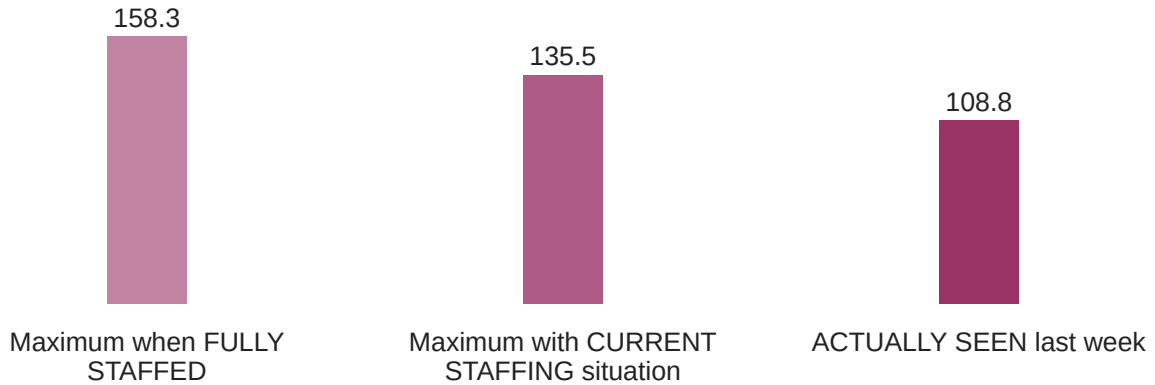
920 Responses



Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Average number of patients:

20 Responses



Average percentages for:

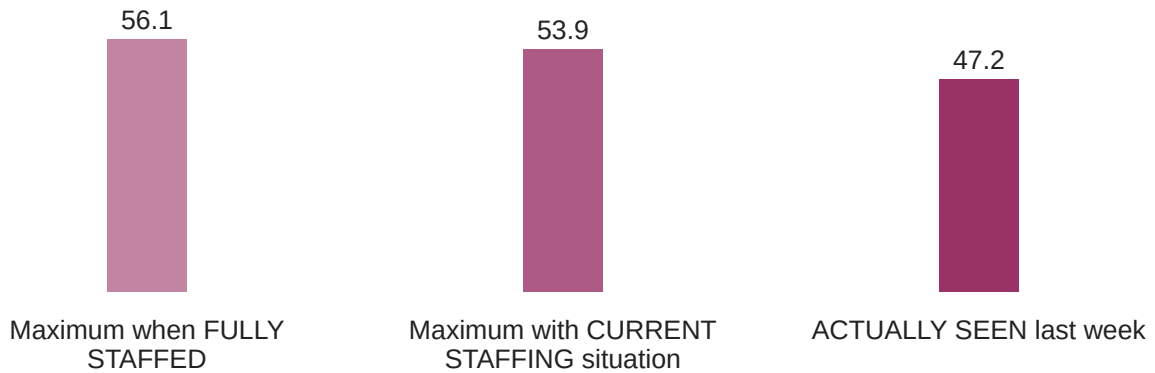
20 Responses



Endodontics

Average number of patients:

15 Responses



Average percentages for:

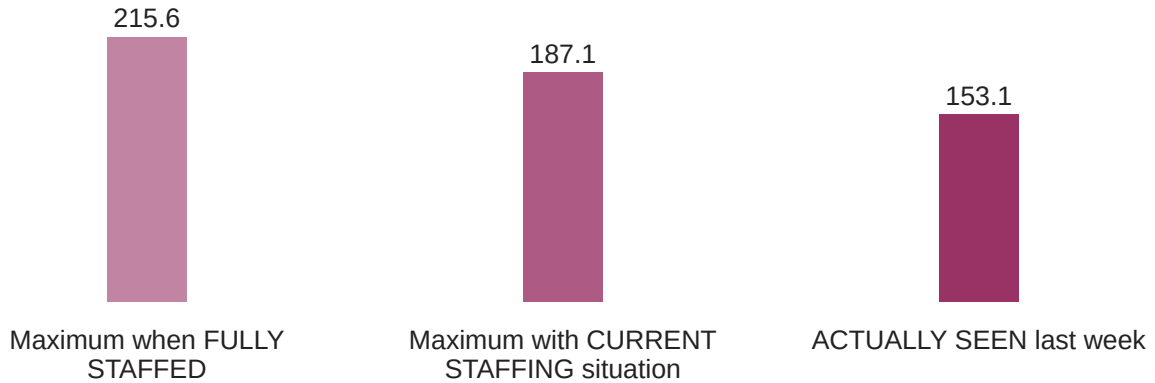
15 Responses



Orthodontics

Average number of patients:

30 Responses



Average percentages for:

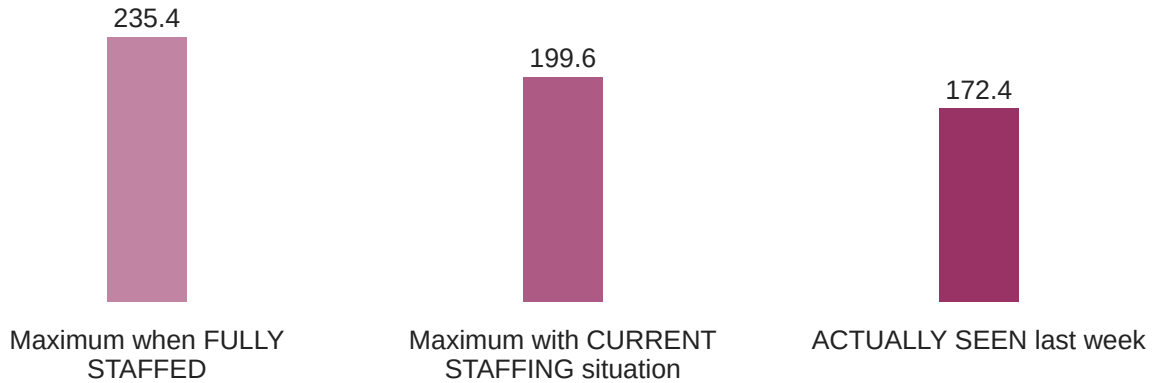
30 Responses



Pediatric Dentistry

Average number of patients:

55 Responses



Average percentages for:

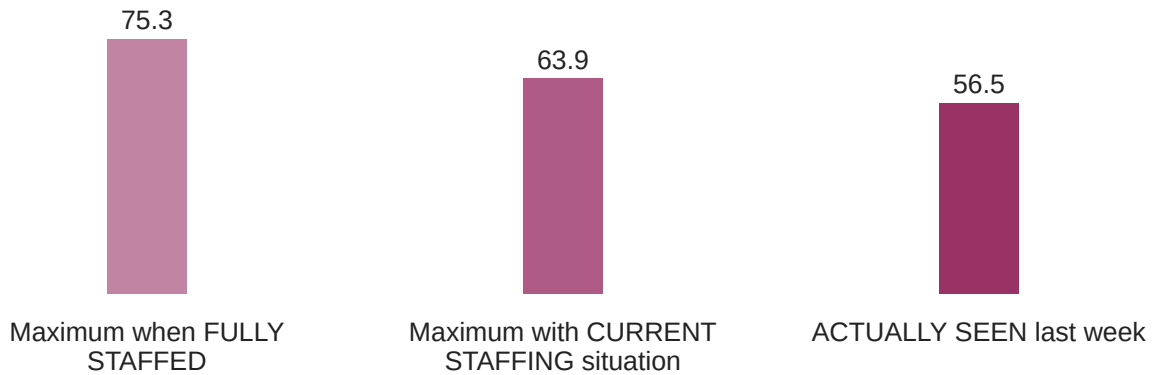
55 Responses



Periodontics

Average number of patients:

21 Responses



Average percentages for:

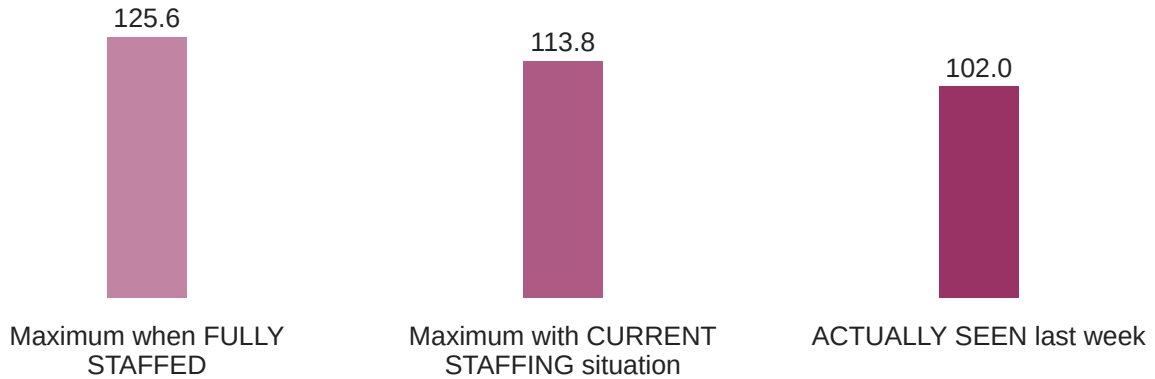
21 Responses



Prosthodontics

Average number of patients:

8 Responses



Average percentages for:

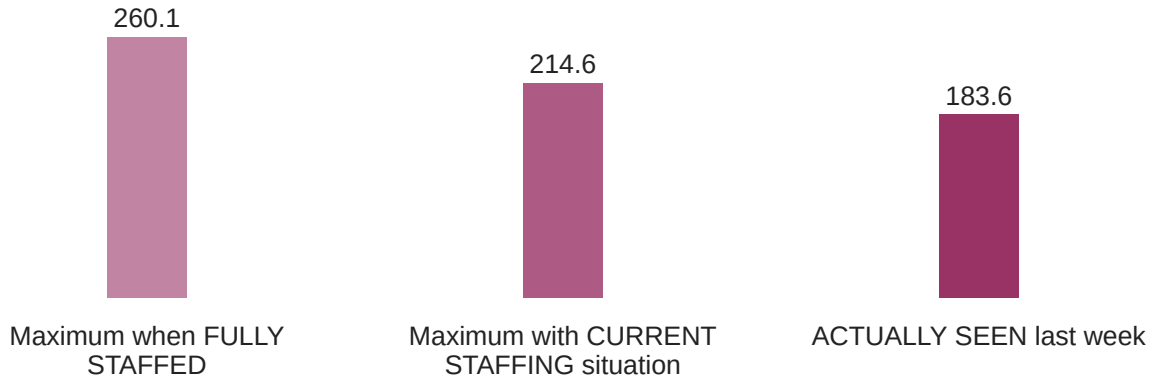
8 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

Average number of patients:

39 Responses



Average percentages for:

39 Responses

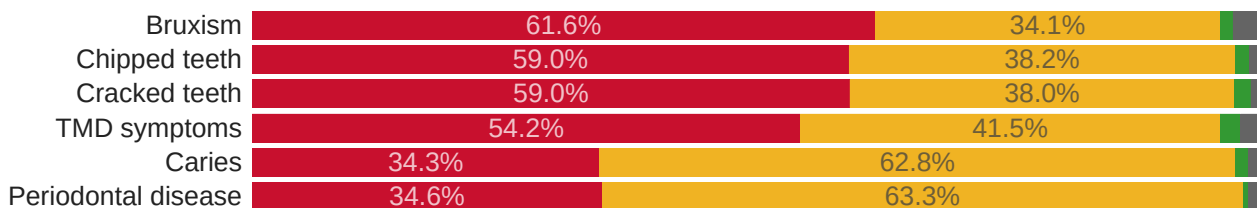


Prevalence of Dental Conditions

Compared to this time last year, how has the prevalence of the following conditions changed among patients in your dental practice?

General Practice

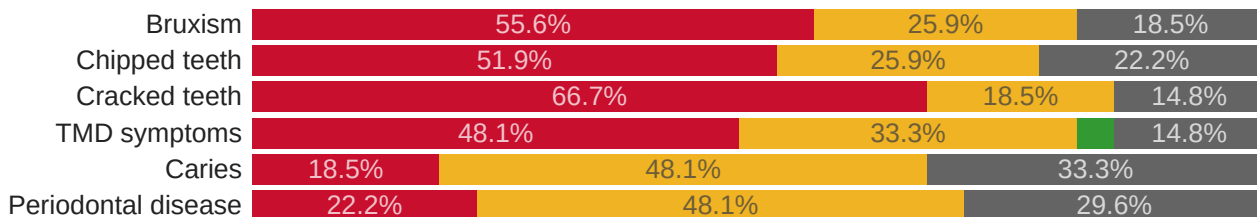
1242 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure

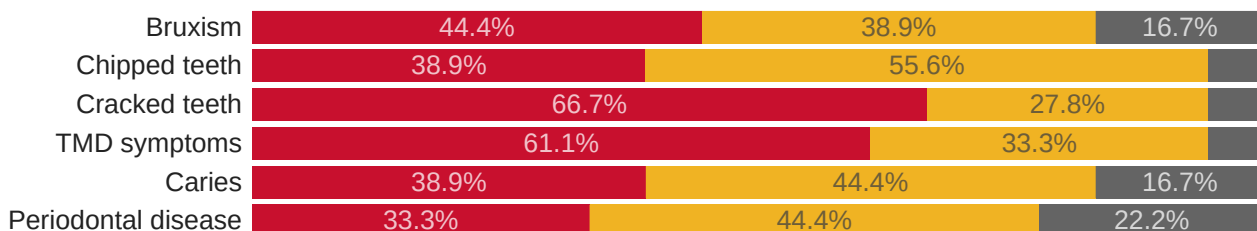
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

27 Responses



Endodontics

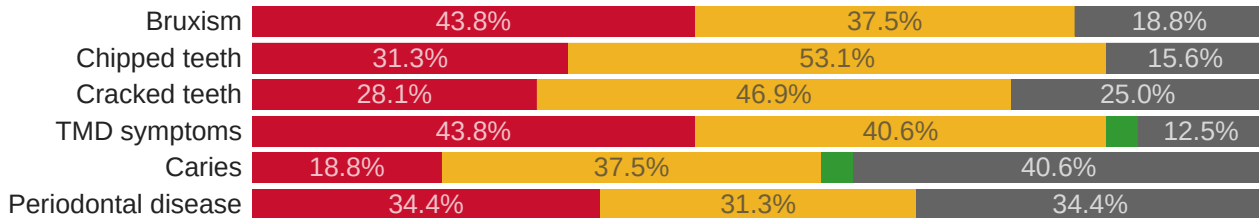
18 Responses



Compared to this time last year, how has the prevalence of the following conditions changed among patients in your dental practice? (continued)

Orthodontics

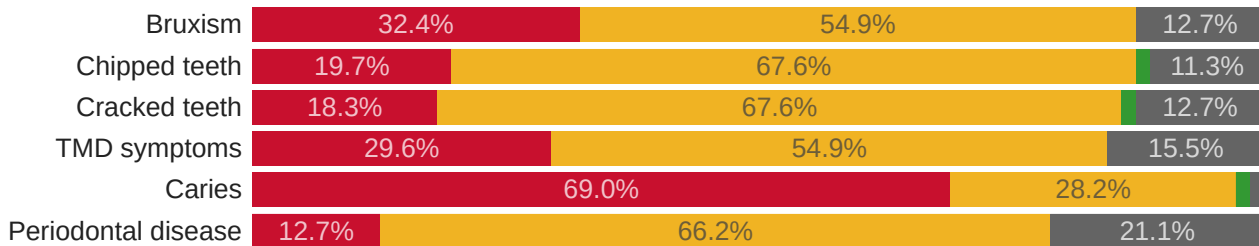
32 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure

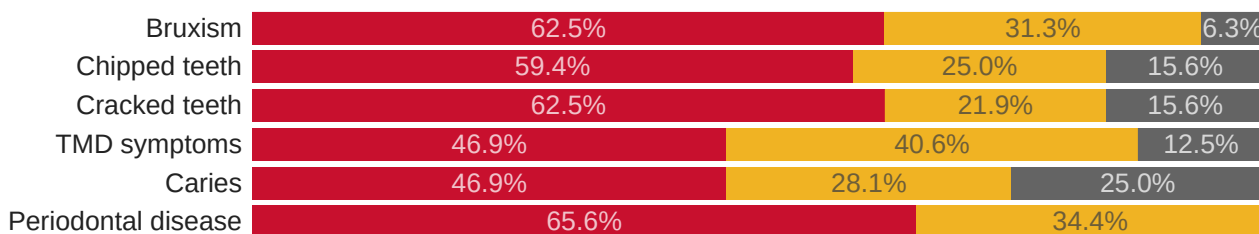
Pediatric Dentistry

75 Responses



Periodontics

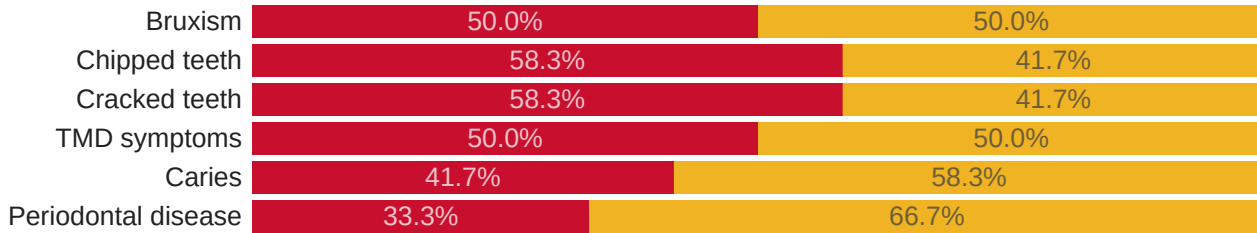
32 Responses



Compared to this time last year, how has the prevalence of the following conditions changed among patients in your dental practice? (continued)

Prosthodontics

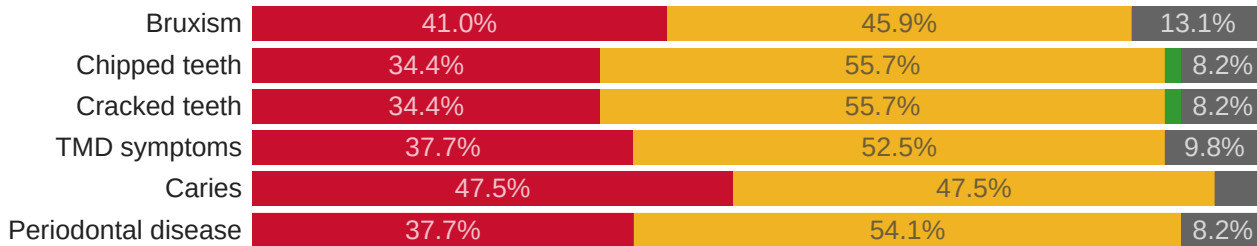
12 Responses



● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased ● Not sure

Dentists in Public Health Settings

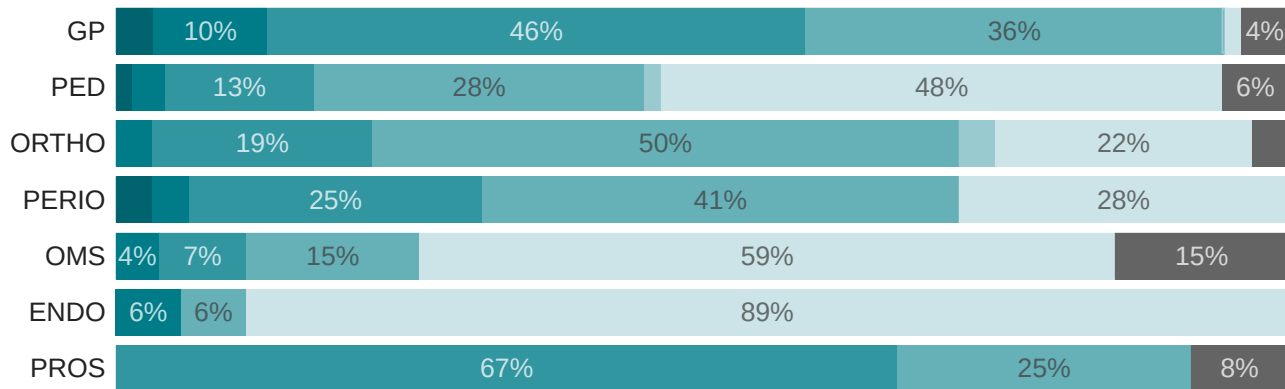
61 Responses



Delivery of Night Guards

How many night guards is your practice delivering to patients now, compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic?

1386 Responses



- More than twice as many
- Up to twice as many
- Up to 50% more
- Same as before or less
- My practice did not fabricate night guards before ... but does now
- My practice did not fabricate night guards before ... and does not now
- Not sure

Dentists in Public Health Settings

61 Responses



Number of Responses by Specialty

Dentists In Private Practice	Choice Count
General Practice (GP)	1,189
Pediatric Dentistry (PED)	71
Periodontics (PERIO)	32
Orthodontics (ORTHO)	32
Endodontics (ENDO)	18
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)	27
Prosthodontics (PROS)	12
Practice Setting	Choice Count
Dentists in public health settings	61