

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; over 3,000 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)
- Pediatric dentistry (PED)

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.) **Please note that we only include graphics representing at least 30 responses.** Because of this, we were not able to include results for the following specialties in this report: oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, periodontics, prosthodontics. The number of respondents in each practice area/specialty can be found at the end of this report.

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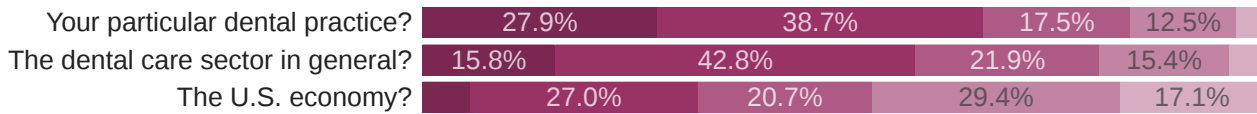
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Economic Confidence

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

General Practice

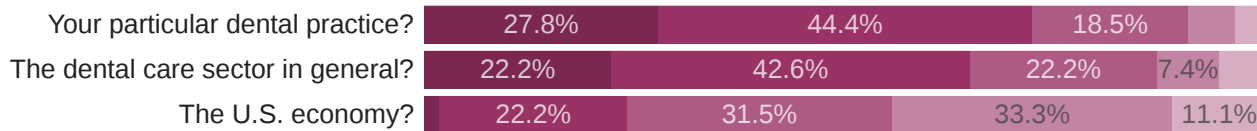
951 Responses



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

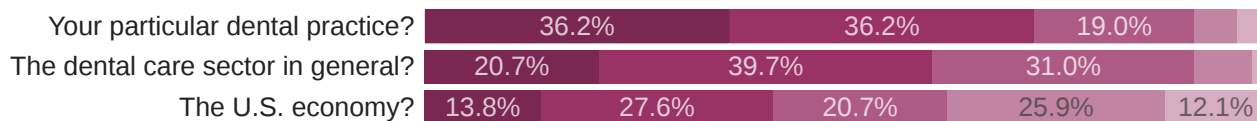
Pediatric Dentistry

54 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

58 Responses



Appointment Schedule

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

Mean % of schedule filled

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings

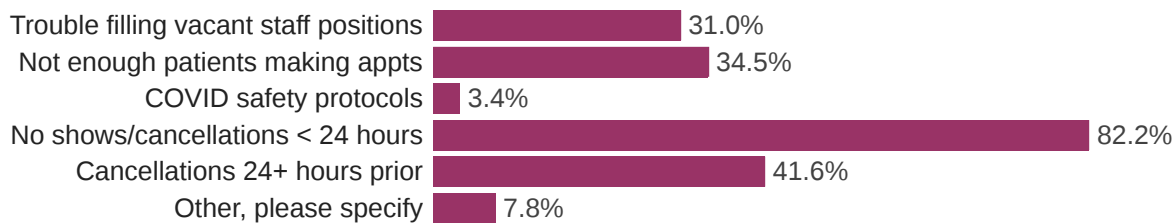


Factors Preventing a Full Schedule

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

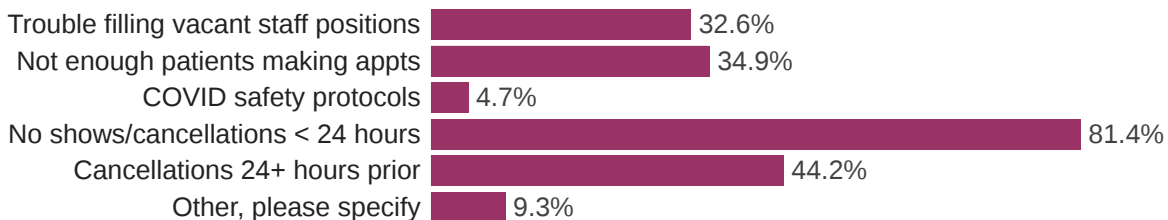
General Practice

746 Responses



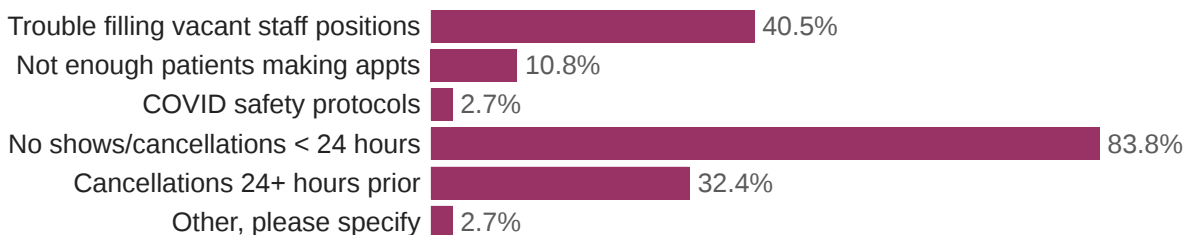
Pediatric Dentistry

43 Responses



Dentists in Public Health Settings

37 Responses



Patient Wait Times

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

Mean number of days

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings



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

Mean number of days

Dentists in Private Practice



Dentists in Public Health Settings



Staff Recruitment

General Practice

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

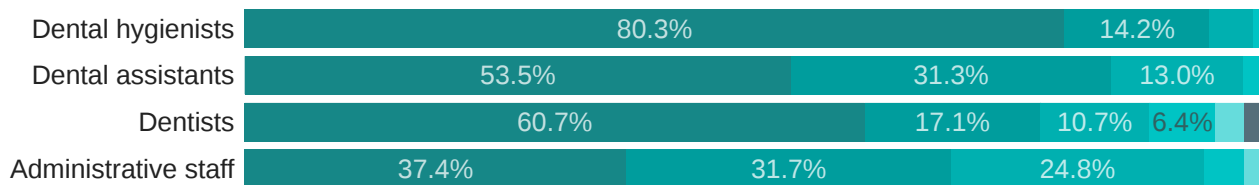
951 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

577 Responses

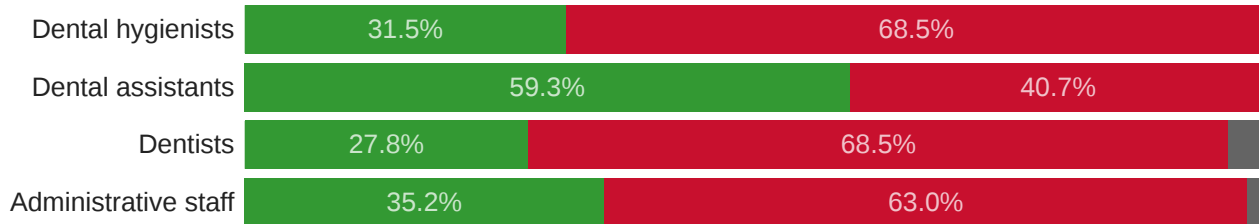


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Pediatric Dentistry

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

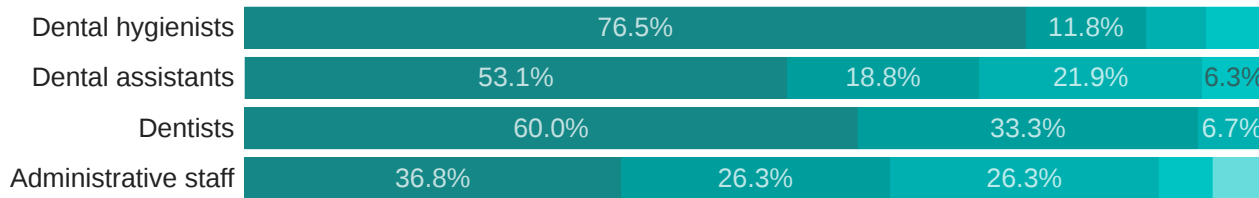
54 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

43 Responses

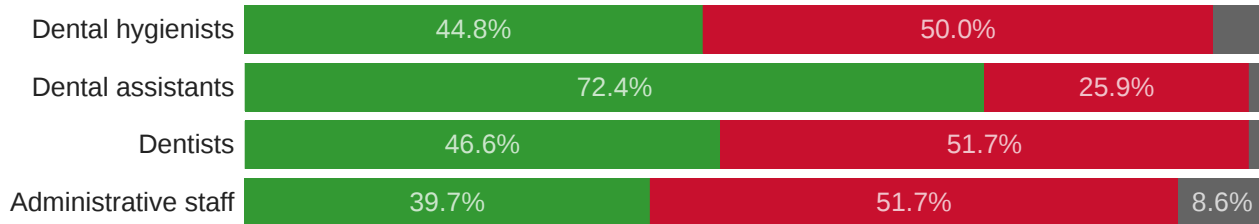


● Extremely challenging ● Very challenging ● Moderately challenging ● Slightly challenging
● Not challenging at all ● Not sure/Not applicable

Dentists in Public Health Settings

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

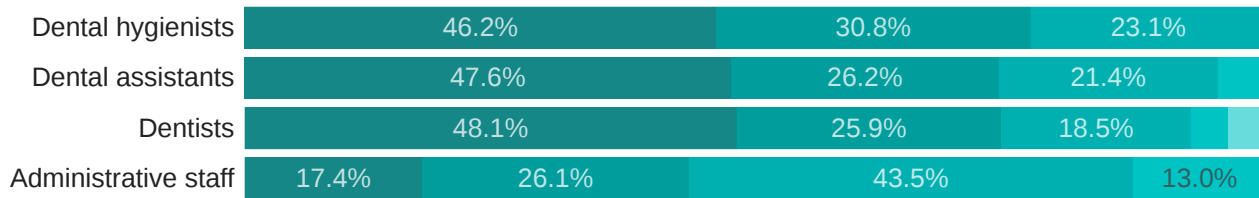
58 Responses



● Yes ● No ● Not sure

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

51 Responses



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

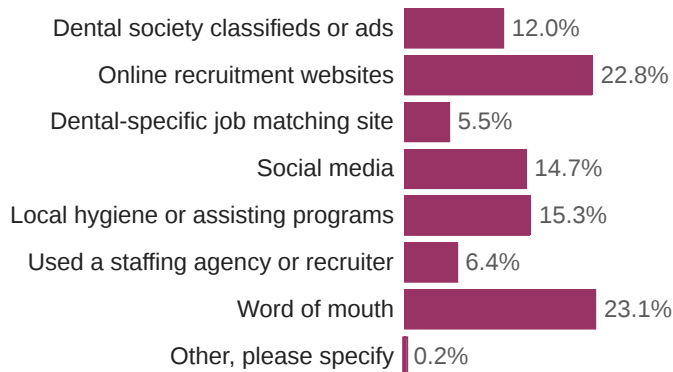
Questions of the Week

Recruitment tools

[Owners only] What tools have you used to find applicants for your dental hygienist and/or dental assistant positions? (Select all that apply.)

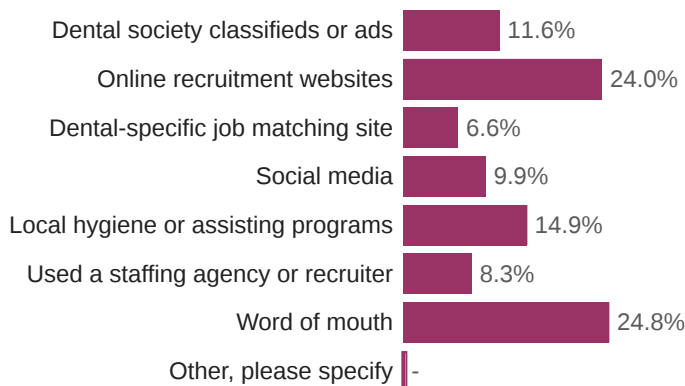
General practice

474 Responses



Pediatric Dentistry

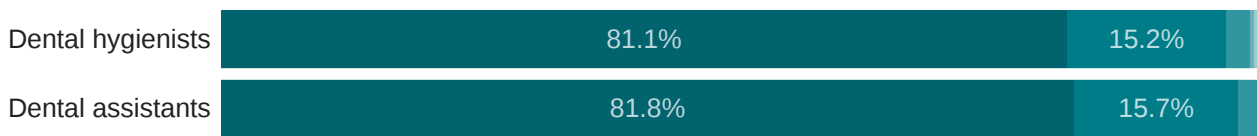
34 Responses



Dental Hygienist and Dental Assistant Wages

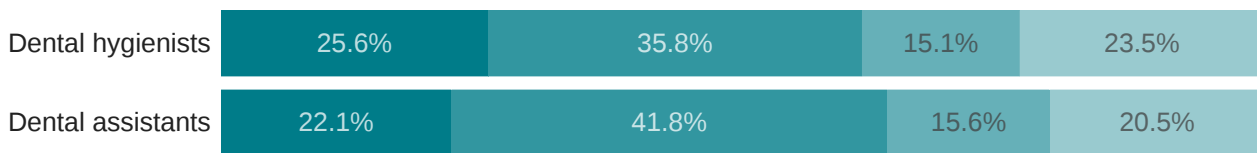
General Practice

[Owners only] When did you last give dental hygienists and dental assistants on your staff a wage increase?



● Within the past year
 ● 1-2 years ago
 ● 3-4 years ago
 ● 5 or more years ago
 ● Never

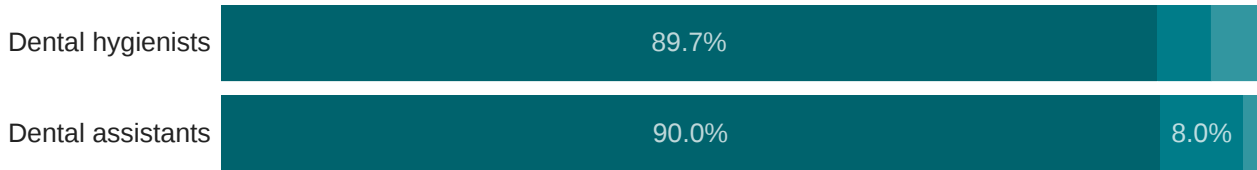
How much was the wage increase, on average?



● 1-3%
 ● 4-6%
 ● 7-9%
 ● 10% or more

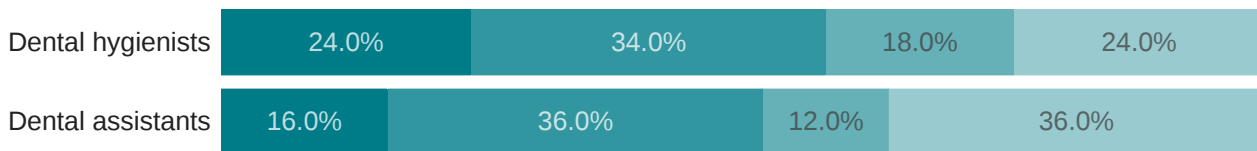
Pediatric Dentistry

[Owners only] When did you last give dental hygienists and dental assistants on your staff a wage increase?



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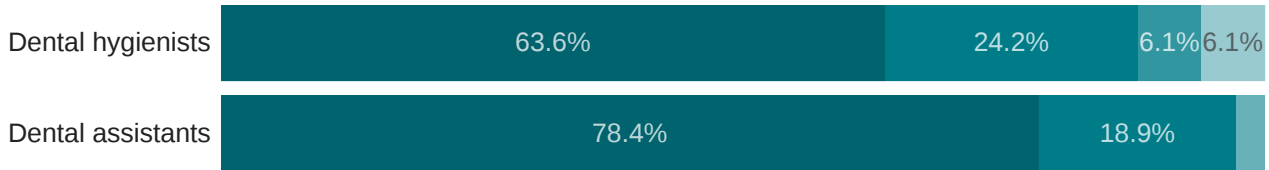
How much was the wage increase, on average?



● 1-3% ● 4-6% ● 7-9% ● 10% or more

Dentists in Public Health Setting

When did you last give dental hygienists and dental assistants on your staff a wage increase?



● Within the past year
 ● 1-2 years ago
 ● 3-4 years ago
 ● 5 or more years ago
 ● Never

How much was the wage increase, on average?



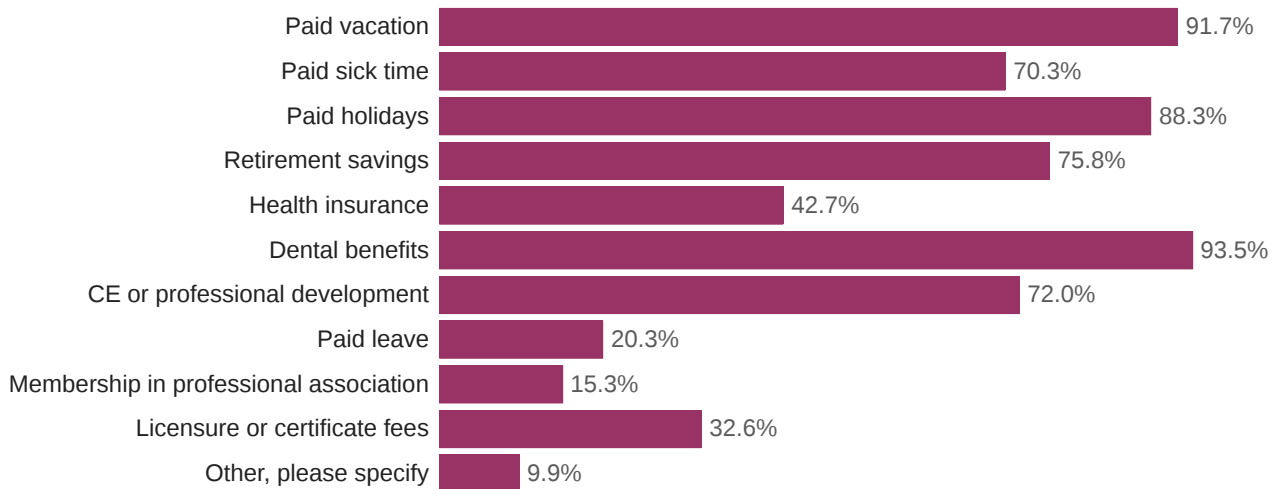
● 1-3%
 ● 4-6%
 ● 7-9%
 ● 10% or more

Current Employee Benefits

[Owners only] Which of the following benefits do you offer to your employees? (Select all that apply.)

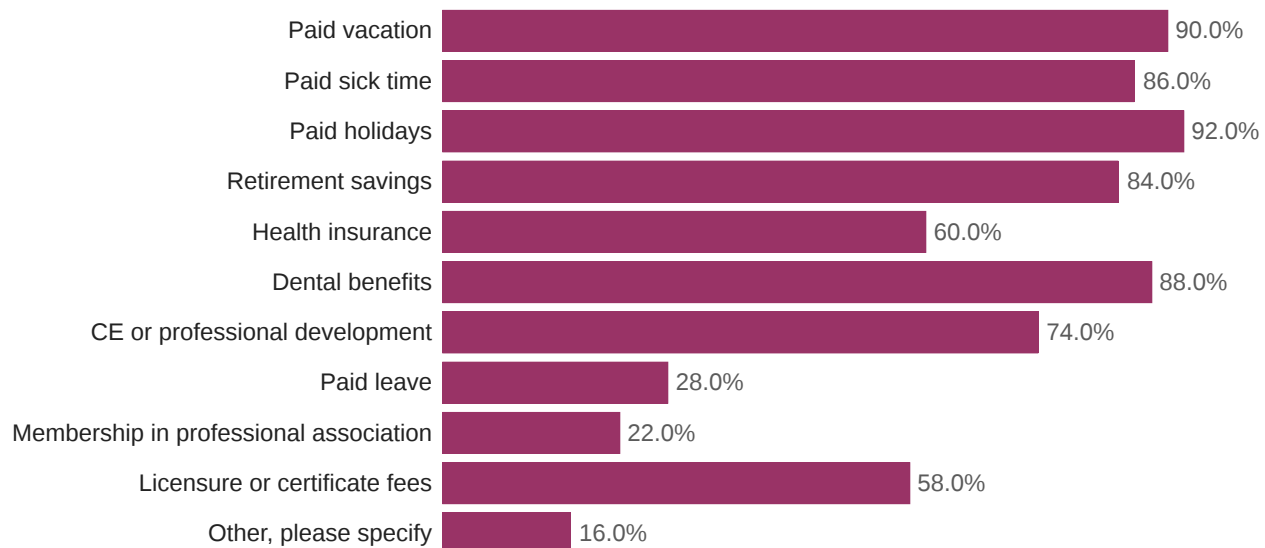
General Practice

875 Responses



Pediatric Dentistry

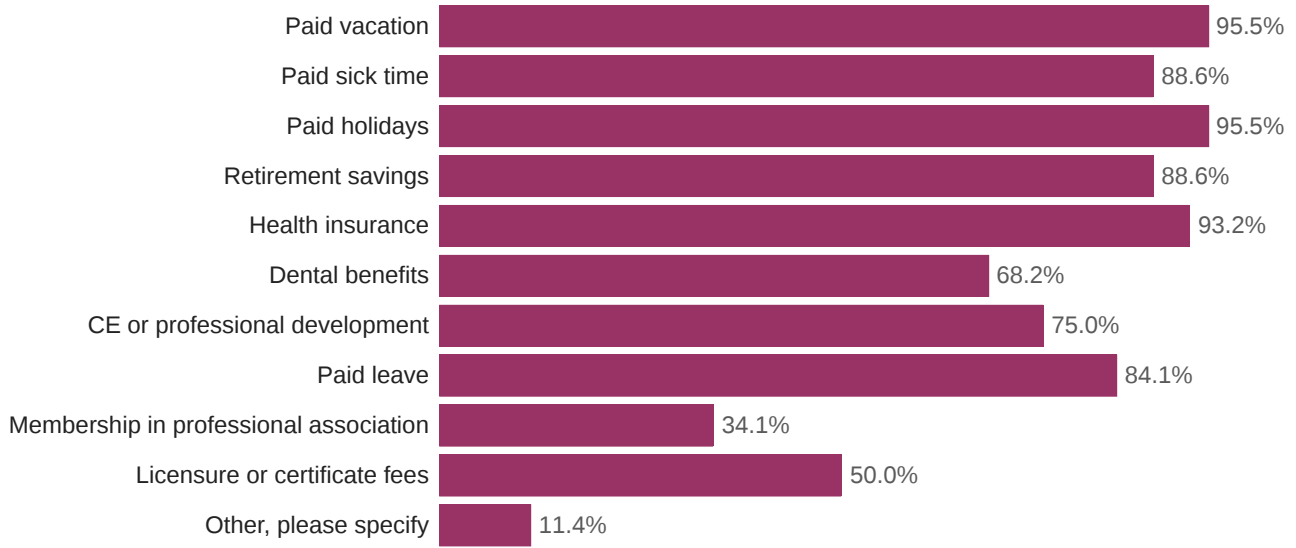
50 Responses



[Owners only] Which of the following benefits do you offer to your employees? (Select all that apply.) (continued)

Dentists in Public Health Settings

44 Responses



Dentists in private practice

Specialty	Choice Count
General Practice (GP)	944
Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS)	15
Endodontics (ENDO)	18
Orthodontics (ORTHO)	19
Pediatric dentistry (PED)	52
Periodontics (PERIO)	28
Prosthodontics (PROS)	9
Dental public health (DPH)	1
Dental anesthesiology (DENTANES)	2

Practice Setting	Choice Count
Dentist in private practice	1,103
Dentist in public health setting	58