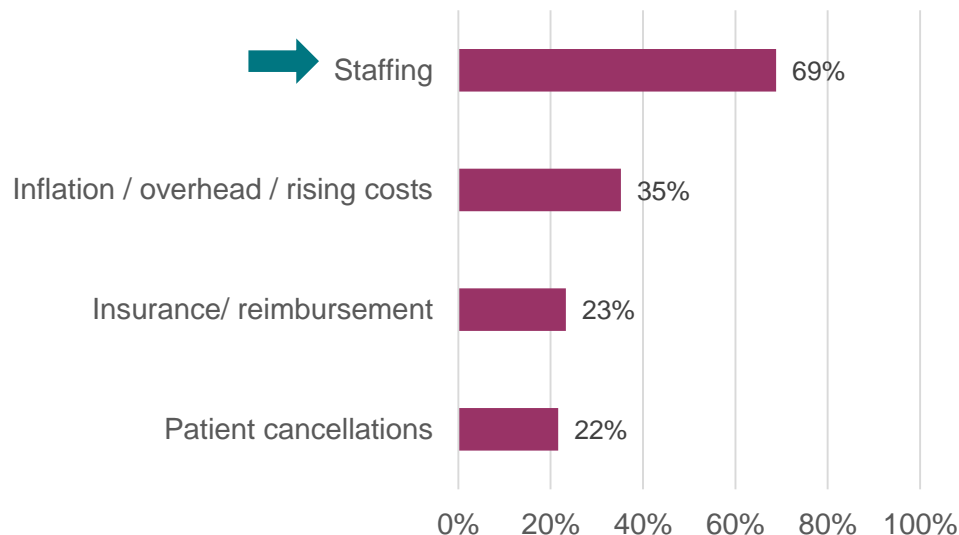


Staffing Shortages in Dentistry and Their Implications for Economic Recovery

West Virginia Oral Health Summit 2022

Staffing and inflation are the top challenges

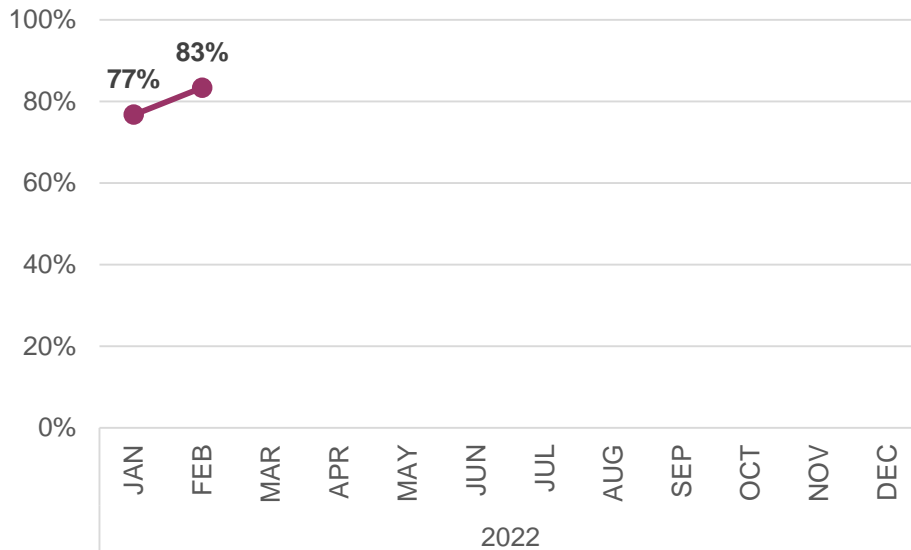
Looking forward to the next six months, what are the top 3 challenges facing your dental practice?



Nearly 70% of all dentists – including those not currently hiring – indicated that staffing issues are one of the biggest challenges they face right now. More than one-third are concerned about inflation, overhead, and rising costs.

Dental practice schedules

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



Schedules in dental practices were about 83% full on average in February, representing an increase from 77% full in January.

Suburban practices are busier than urban and rural

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

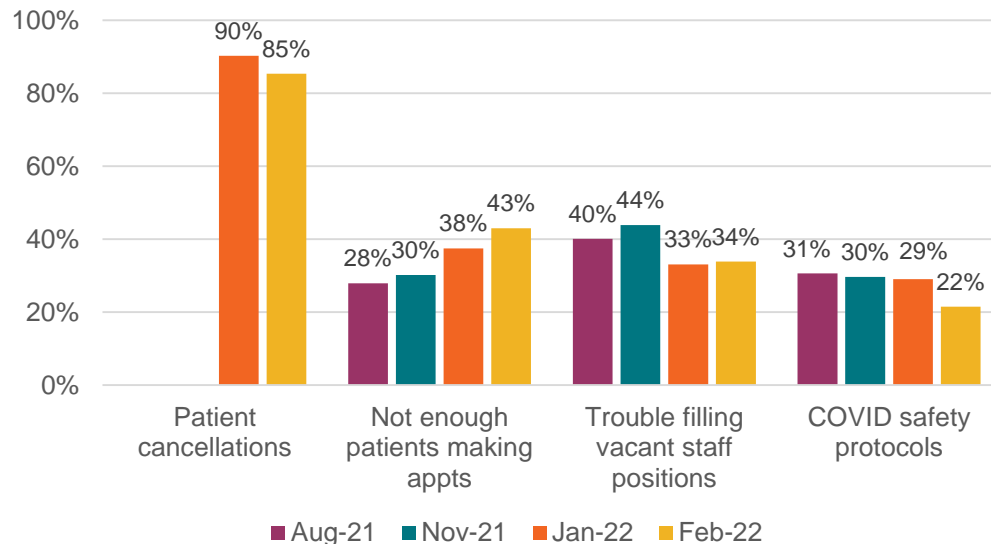


Dentists affiliated with DSOs indicated more full schedules compared to their colleagues.

Dentists in urban and rural areas did not have as full schedules as their suburban dentist colleagues.

Slight drop in cancellations in February

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

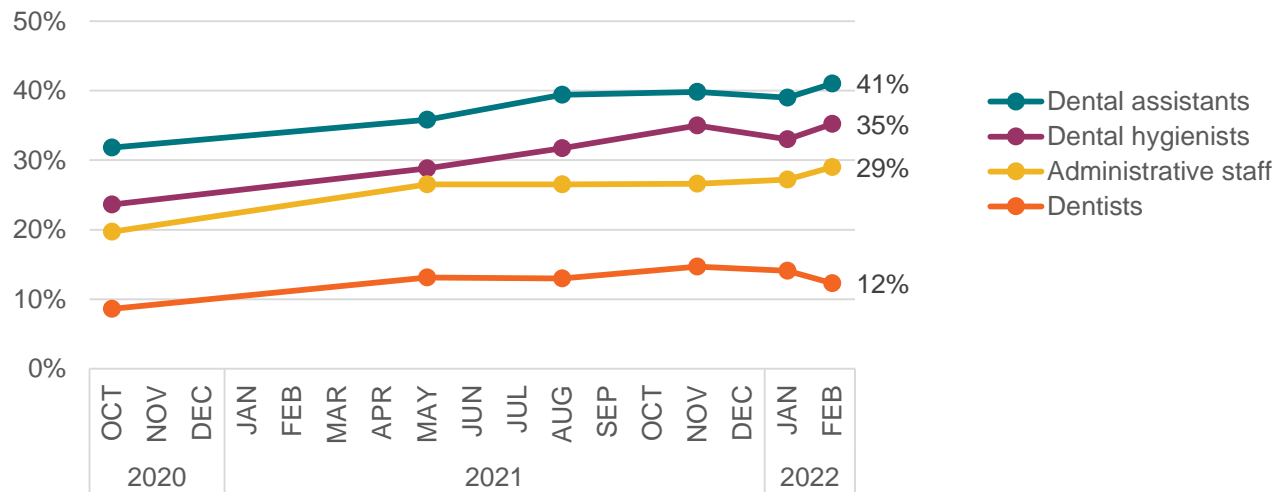


Patient cancellations remained the most common reason schedules were not full in February.

More than 4 out of 10 dentists indicated that low patient demand is also leading to empty appointment slots.

Dental team recruitment needs on the rise again

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



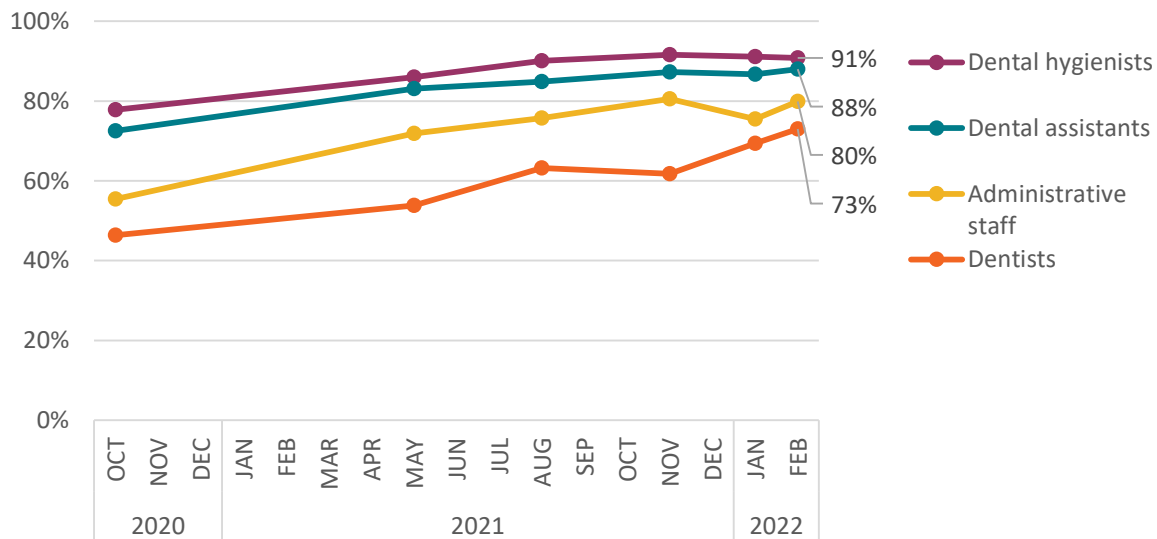
Dental team recruitment needs reached a new high in February.

More than 4 out of 10 dentists have recently or are currently recruiting dental assistants, and 35% have recently recruited or are trying to recruit dental hygienists.

Challenges with recruitment persist

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

(Percentages indicating “extremely” or “very” challenging.)

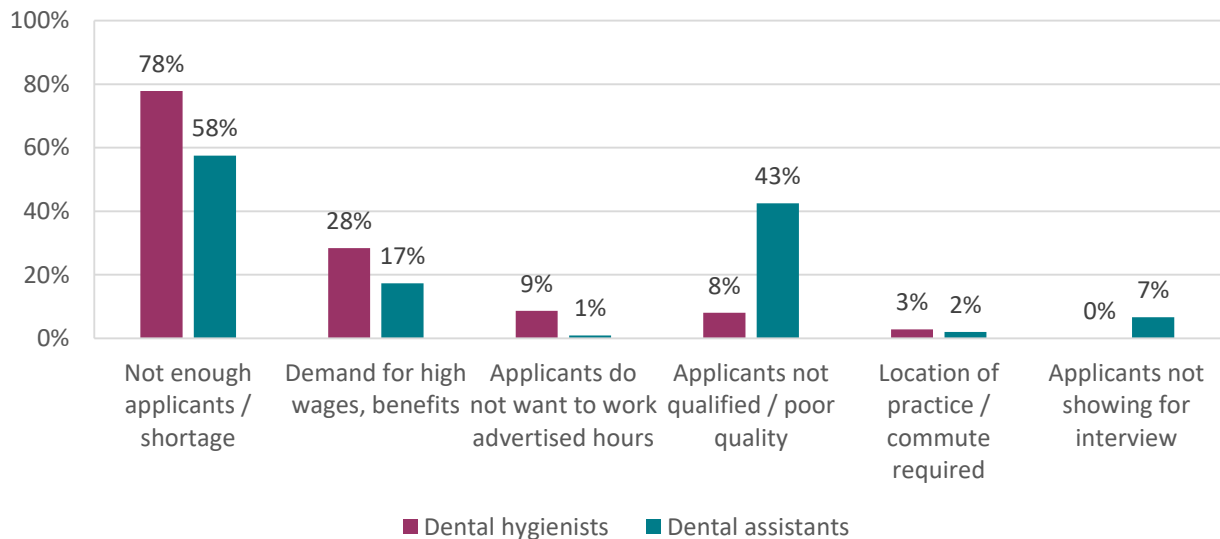


Hiring for any dental team position is a major challenge.

Over 90% of dentists recruiting dental hygienists indicate it has been “extremely” or “very” challenging, and nearly 90% indicate the same for recruiting dental assistants.

Applicant shortages in hygiene and assisting

What specifically has been challenging about recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants?

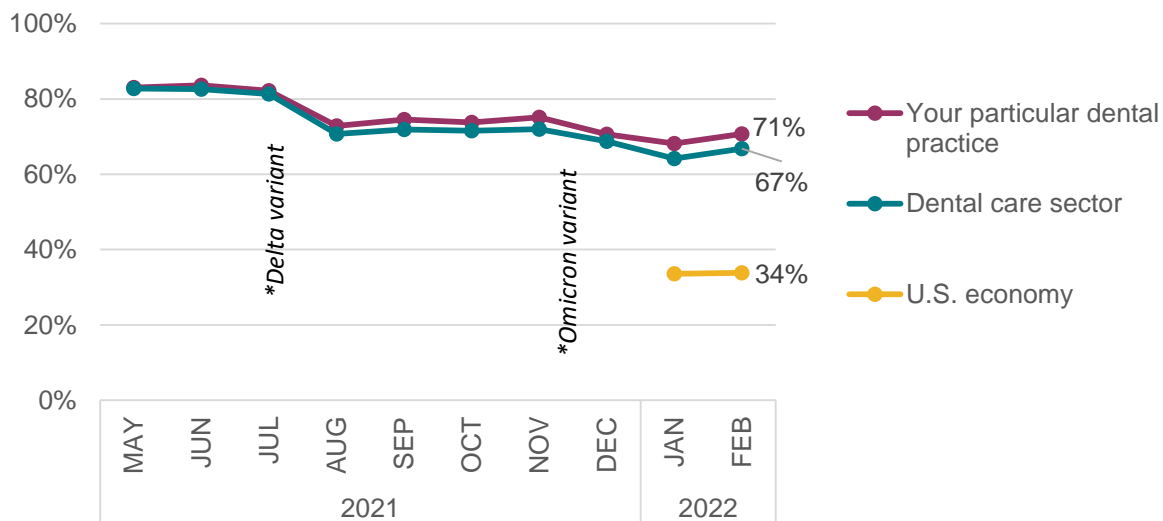


A lack of applicants is the most common reason dentists are struggling to recruit both hygienists and assistants.

For open hygienist positions, the wage and benefit requirements of the applicants is a challenge for dentists. Dentists also indicate a lack of qualified assistant applicants.

Dentists wary of US economic recovery

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 their practices’ and the sector’s recovery has rebounded slightly, but they remain wary of U.S. economic recovery on the whole.

Key Takeaways

- Staffing is the most significant concern within dentistry, followed by inflation/overhead/rising costs.
- Dental team recruitment remains a major challenge. Roughly 40% of dentists are recruiting dental assistants and 35% are recruiting dental hygienists. Among hiring dentists, roughly 90% indicate it has been “extremely” or “very” challenging to recruit dental hygienists and dental assistants.
- Schedules in dental practices were approximately 83% full in February, on average across the U.S., representing an increase from 77% in January. Patient cancellations were the most common reason for empty or incomplete appointment slots, followed by low patient demand and trouble filling vacant staff positions.
- Dentists’ confidence in their own practices and in the dental care sector remains relatively high and has improved slightly, but most dentists remain wary of the U.S. economic recovery.

Thank You!

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