



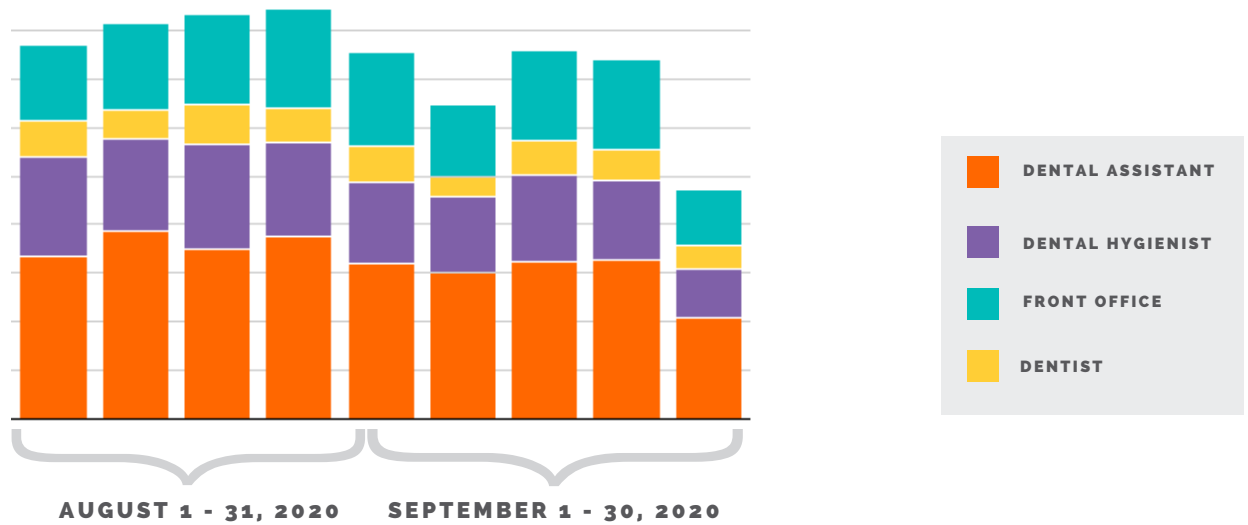
COMEBACK REPORT: PART 5 **BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION**

With a dental hygiene workforce comprised of 98% females, many of whom have school-aged children, the labor market has continued to tighten as many K-12 schools remain virtual. Practices are looking to less experienced hygiene candidates and new graduates to fill the gaps or gain production efficiencies within their teams in an effort to service patient demand surge and remain profitable. Thus, offices are adapting and shifting roles and operational procedures to accommodate.

DentalPost polled recent dental graduates and new clinicians to better understand their current status, career preferences, sentiment, and general outlook on the dental industry.

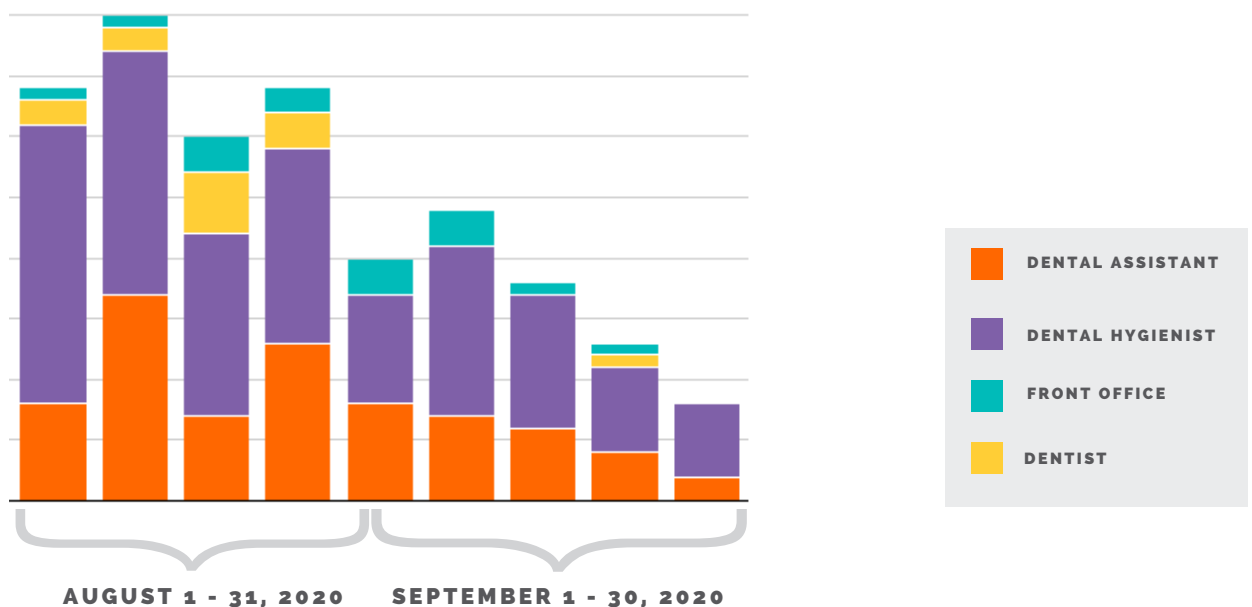
WEEKLY JOB POSTINGS

Overall, demand for clinical and non-clinical dental professionals has remained stable, with only a moderate dip around the Labor Day holiday weekend, which is typical.



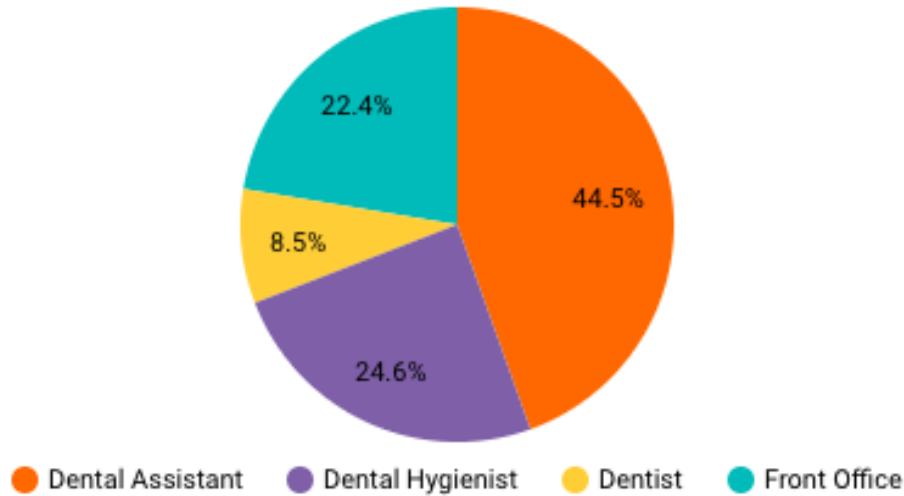
WEEKLY TEMP JOB POSTINGS BY POSITION

Demand for Dentists increased in August, but tapered off in September.



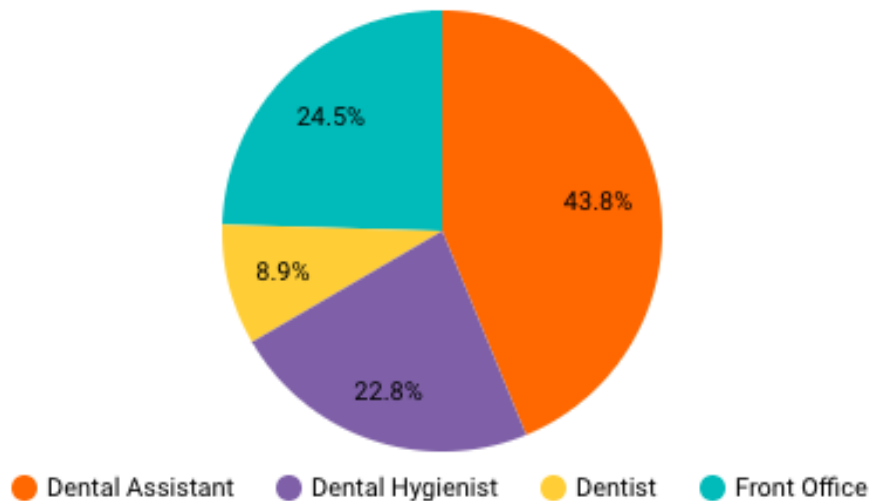
AUGUST DEMAND BY POSITION

Dental Assistants continue to be the most highly-sought candidates by employers; however, demand for Front Office, which has been the least in demand Post-Covid-19, surged in August, nearly equalling the demand for Dental Hygienists.



SEPTEMBER DEMAND BY POSITION

Demand for Front Office jobs continued into September, this time, eclipsing Dental Hygienist demand. Demand for other positions remained steady. The reopening of some schools to in-person learning did not curtail the continued high demand for Dental Hygienists.



AUDIENCE PROFILE



97%
DENTAL HYGIENE
STUDENTS &
RECENT GRADS

3%
DENTAL
STUDENTS &
RECENT GRADS



CAREER STATUS



41% BOARD-CERTIFIED

7% AWAITING BOARD CERTIFICATION



45% CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

7% WERE PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED AND
CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION DURING
COVID-19

SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE: 100 DENTAL STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES FROM A NUMBER OF DENTAL SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE



POST-GRADUATION PLANS



55% PLAN TO SEEK PERMANENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN A PRIVATE PRACTICE AFTER GRADUATION

77% WANT TO WORK FULL TIME, WHILE 22% PREFER PART TIME

79% PREFER TO SEEK SALARIED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

23% ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH PERM AND TEMP OPPORTUNITIES

18% PLAN TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE

WORK STYLE PREFERENCES



68%
WANT FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR SCHEDULE



39%
ENJOY THE VARIETY OF PEOPLE AND EXPERIENCES



45%
WANT TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT WORK ENVIRONMENTS TO DETERMINE THEIR BEST FIT



39%
ENJOY THE FLEXIBILITY OF JOB LOCATIONS



29%
WANT TO HAVE TIME FOR OTHER CAREER PURSUITS

STUDENT SENTIMENT: PRE- AND POST-COVID

Students shared their **level of interest in a dental career** pre- and post-Covid, on a scale of 1 - 10, with 10 being "Most Interested" and 1 being "Least Interested."

The weighted average of interest in a dental career **decreased slightly post-Covid**, from 9.57 to 8.8.



PRE-COVID

97%

of respondents ranked their interest level at 7+, indicating HIGH interest in a dental career.



POST-COVID

17%

of respondents ranked their interest level at 7 or below, a slight drop from pre-covid interest levels.

SURVEY SAYS...



Covid-19 concerns were the #1 greatest challenge of being a future dental professional. The concerns included spreading disease and exposure, job instability, burnout, and changing protocol.



Longevity of their dental career was another major challenge. They were concerned about the physical strain of the job: neck, back, and shoulder injuries as well as stress injuries in general.