



Association of Dental Support Organizations Launches Workforce Task Force to Address Significant Shortages of Dental Team Members

Task Force Aims to Identify and Address Barriers to Entry to Help Ensure All Dental Offices are Adequately Staffed to Meet the Needs of Their Patients

WASHINGTON, DC (January 24, 2023) – Today, the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) announced the formation of a new task force designed to address staffing shortages in dental offices. The task force, which will be comprised of ADSO member companies and other dental industry partners, will explore all the issues potentially impacting recruitment and retainment, and provide recommendations to help dental practices reach their desired staffing levels.

Across the country, dental practices are facing the growing difficulty of finding and retaining skilled talent to keep their practices operating at full capacity to serve their patients' needs. In a [recent study](#), more than one-third of surveyed practices indicated that they were actively recruiting for dental hygienists or assistants.

"This inability to achieve efficient operational standards, compounded by the costly nature of recruiting itself, represents a major challenge that dental practitioners are eager to overcome both from the perspective of financial stability and patient care," stated Andrew Smith, ADSO's Executive Director. "Our new task force will explore why recruiting and retention have become increasingly difficult and provide recommended solutions to overcome those challenges. Our focus will include not only dental hygienists and assistants, but also helping new dentists find their preferred practice home."

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic – which spurred the "Great Resignation" – and an increasingly tight labor market, many workers across all industries left their positions for new opportunities. At the same time, several factors made hiring employees to fill open positions increasingly difficult. For dental hygienists and assistants, factors include the availability and cost of training programs, state regulations around education and licensing requirements, and perceptions of dental hygiene/assisting as viable career paths.

The ADSO task force will explore these areas to determine how to find solutions to recruitment and retention and elevate the entire dental profession. The group will examine the viability of potential solutions across the dental team including license portability, streamlined credentialing, and uniform standards for scope and education.

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The [Association of Dental Support Organizations](#) (ADSO) is a non-profit organization committed to providing support to its members, allowing affiliated dentists to focus on patients, expand access to quality dental care and improve the oral health of their communities.

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