



Missouri Dental
ASSOCIATION

Workforce Executive Session

2021 MDA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Overview

- ▶ **The Dental Team by the Numbers**
 - Current Numbers of RDH Graduating in Missouri
 - Current Recruiting of RDH & DA in Missouri
- ▶ **Addressing the Issue: Proposals for Consideration**
 - 2021 Greater St. Louis Hygiene Resolution
 - RDH Delegation/Scope & EFDA Considerations

The Dental Team

By the Numbers

CURRENT RDH
MISSOURI PROGRAMS
& GRADUATES

CURRENT RECRUITING
LANDSCAPE OF RDH &
DA IN MISSOURI

Missouri RDH Programs

- ▶ In Missouri, there are currently six RDH programs that can graduate approximately 140 RDH per year.
 - Annual variation due to some programs having different graduation dates and alternating enrollments
 - Some students have 18-month programs, so it is difficult to assess the numbers per year.

Missouri RDH Programs - Current

- ▶ Missouri Southern State University, Joplin: 30 students
- ▶ Ozark Technical College, Springfield: 20 students
- ▶ University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City: 30 students
- ▶ St. Louis Community College, Forest Park: 32 students
 - 2021: Took 16 students due to late graduation date for second year class due to COVID-19
- ▶ State Fair Community College, Sedalia: 10 students
 - Every other year it is 12 students
- ▶ Concorde Career College, Kansas City: 24 students (graduate every 18 months)
 - This includes at least 25 potential students who graduate in the interim six-month period in an 18-month program

Missouri RDH Programs - Closed

- ▶ **Due to recent closures, approximately 60 fewer RDH graduates per year.**
 - Missouri College, St. Louis: Closed September 2016 (30 students every 18 months)
 - Rolla & Sikeston Distance Ed Sites (MSSU, Joplin): Closed 2018 (20 students through both sites)
 - Hillyard Technical College, St. Joseph (NCCMC, Trenton): Closed Spring 2020 (10 students)

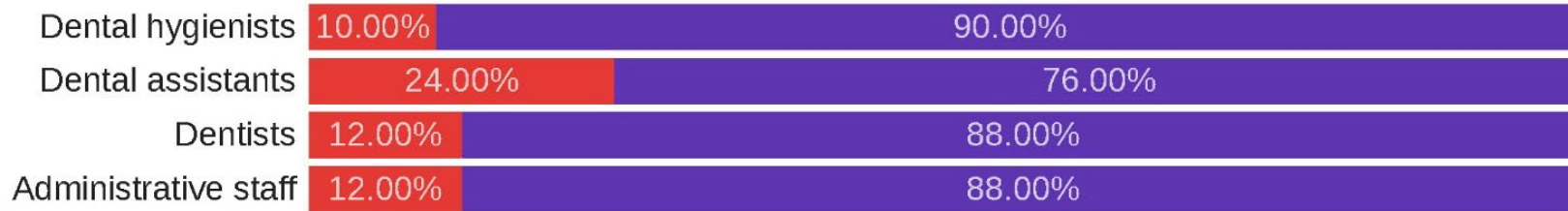
Current Recruiting of RDH & DA

- ▶ The following data has been extracted for Missouri respondents only from ongoing, national surveys conducted by the ADA Health Policy Institute (HPI).

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

October 5, 2020

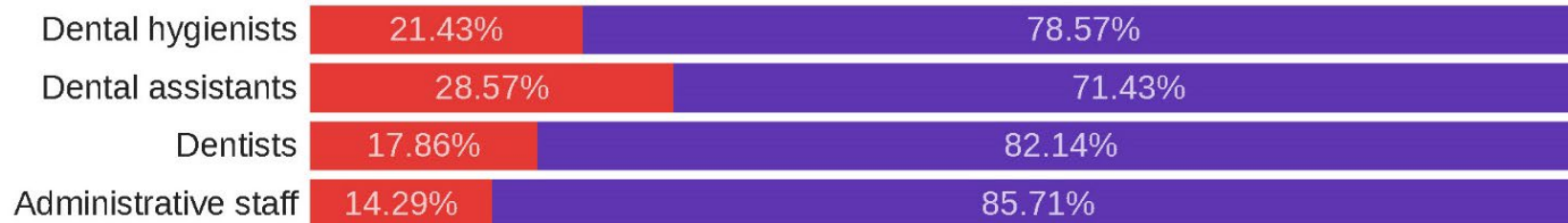
50 Responses



● Yes ● No

August 16, 2021

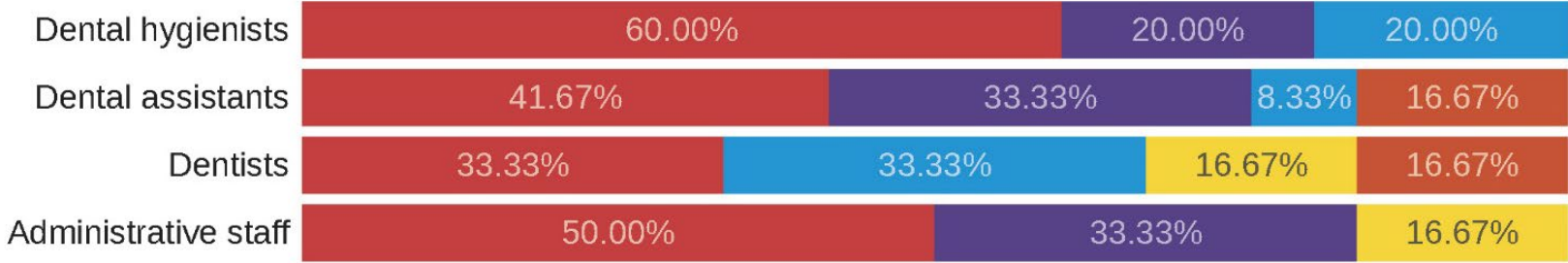
28 Responses



Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, how challenging has it been to recruit the following position(s):

October 5, 2020

18 Responses



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

August 16, 2021

16 Responses



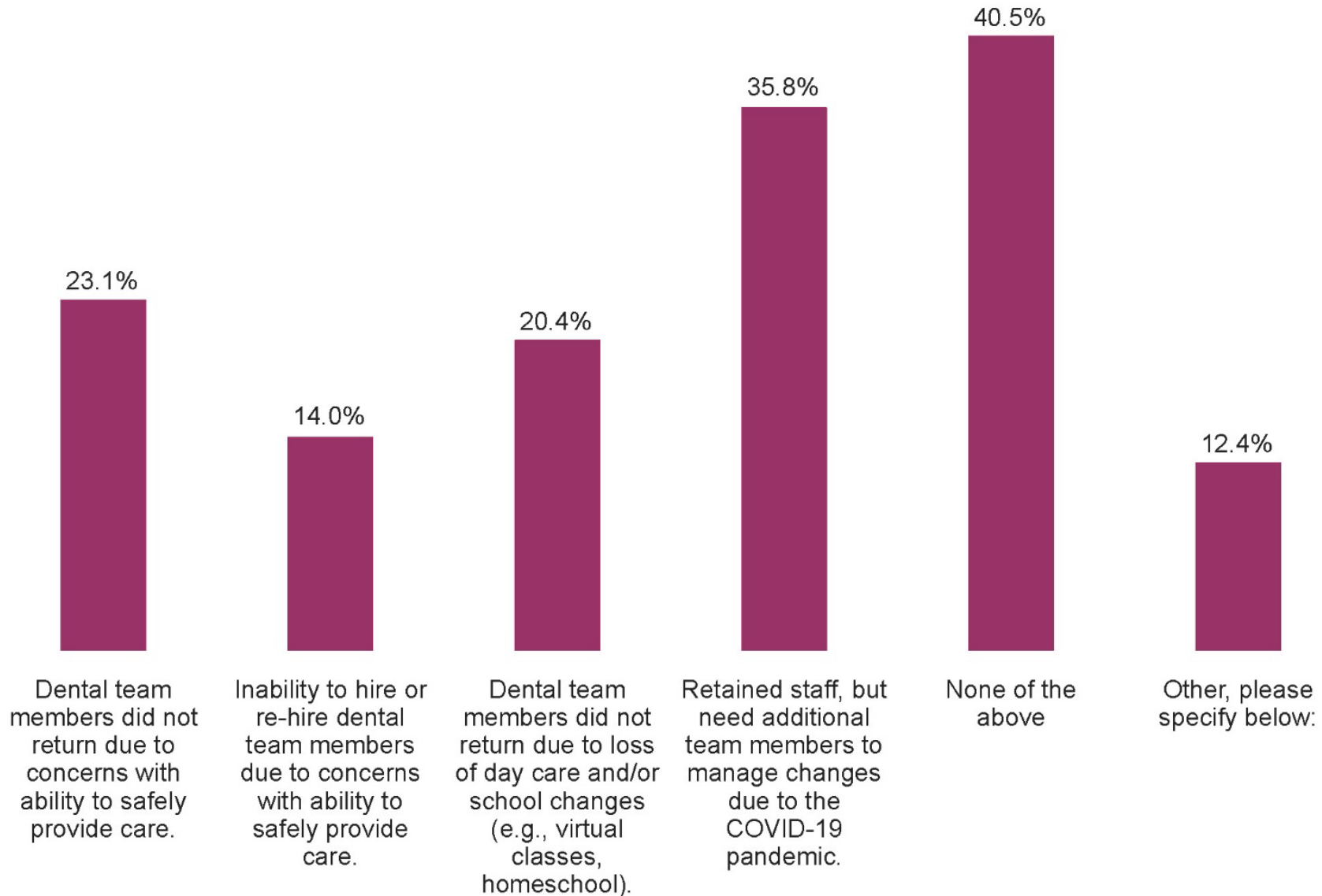
Current Recruiting of RDH & DA

- ▶ The following data is from an *MDA Dental Team Scope of Practice* survey conducted in November 2020 by the ADA HPI on behalf of the MDA:

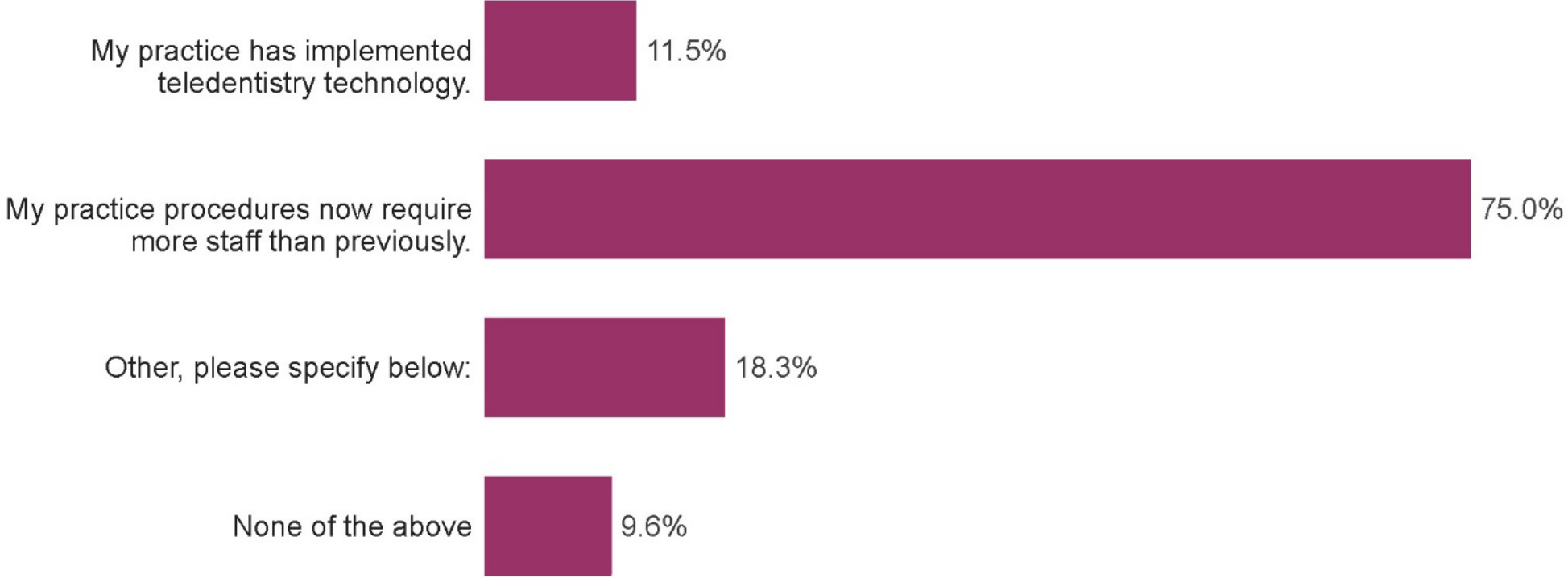
Summary of Survey Findings

- ▶ **About one third of dentists (35.8%) reported having retained staff but need additional team members to manage changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
 - Among those dentists, 75% indicated that they need additional team members because their practice procedures now require more staff than previously and 11.5% indicated their practice has implemented teledentistry technology.

Please indicate which of the following dental team issues you have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



You indicated that while you retained staff, you still need additional team members to manage changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please indicate the challenges that apply to your situation.



**Addressing
the Issue:**
*Proposals for
Consideration*

GSLDS RDH
RESOLUTION

SCOPE & DELEGATION

Greater St. Louis Resolution

- ▶ In an effort to address the current dental hygiene shortage, the MDA LRC be directed to work on legislation to:
 1. Increase funding for current dental hygiene programs;
 2. Increase the number of overall dental hygiene programs in the state of Missouri;
 3. Increase the number of graduates from the current programs, possibly by encouraging programs to hold night and weekend classes to meet the needs of the community; and,
 4. Encourage dentists in the community to become part of the faculty of these institutions to address shortages of educators.

Summary of Survey Findings

▶ Delegation/Scope: RDH & EFDA

- The following data is from an *MDA Dental Team Scope of Practice* survey conducted in November 2020 by the ADA HPI on behalf of the MDA.

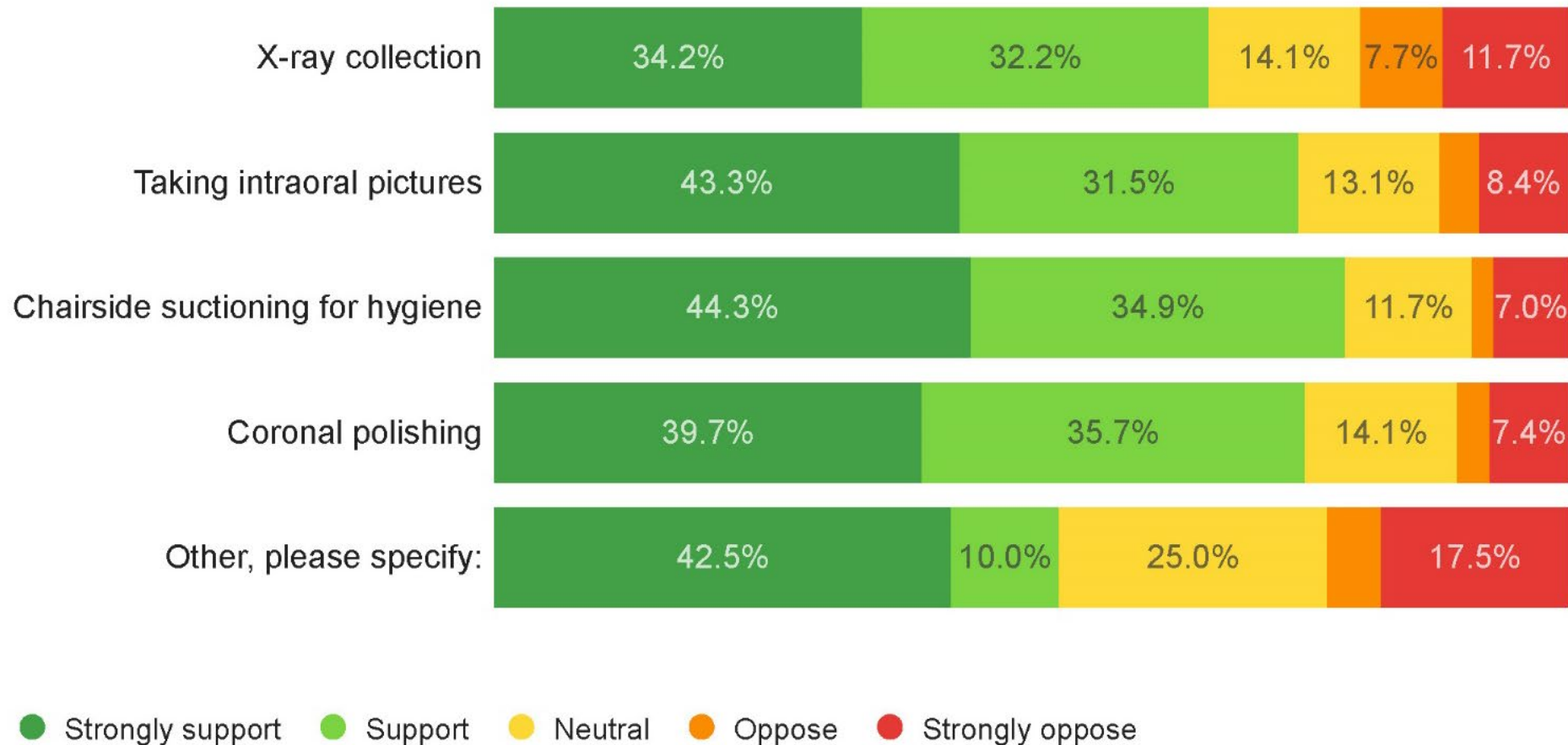
RDH Delegation to a DA

- ▶ **Supervision Level for a Trained Assistant to Work under a Hygienist**
 - **54% Support** – Rules to define a level of supervision for hygienists that would allow a trained dental assistant to work under a dental hygienist.
 - **66-79% Support** – For specific procedures under this level of supervision.

MDA Workforce Position States

- ▶ **The following procedures could be delegated to someone other than a dentist or hygienist (with proper training and supervision).**
 - Placement and finishing all classes of restorations under direct supervision.
 - Removal of hard deposits.
 - Provision of palliative treatment via hand instrumentation only and placement of temporary restoration.
 - Administration of nitrous oxide by a hygienist under general supervision.

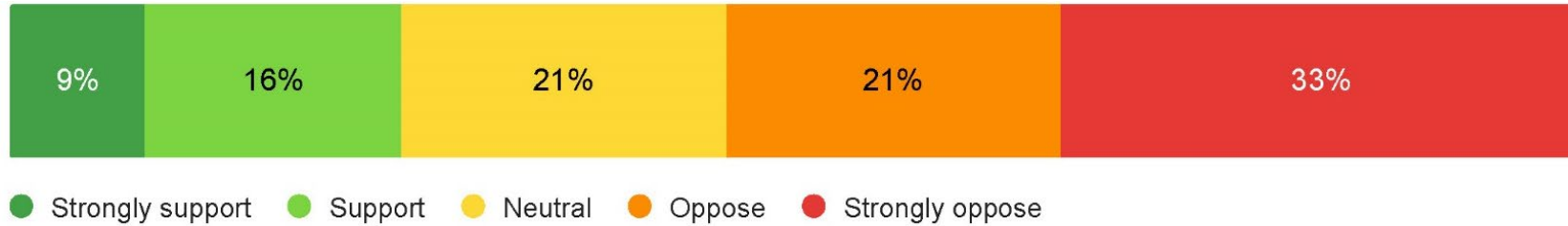
*How supportive would you be of rules to define a level of supervision for RDH that would **allow a trained dental assistant to work under a RDH** to perform the following procedures?*



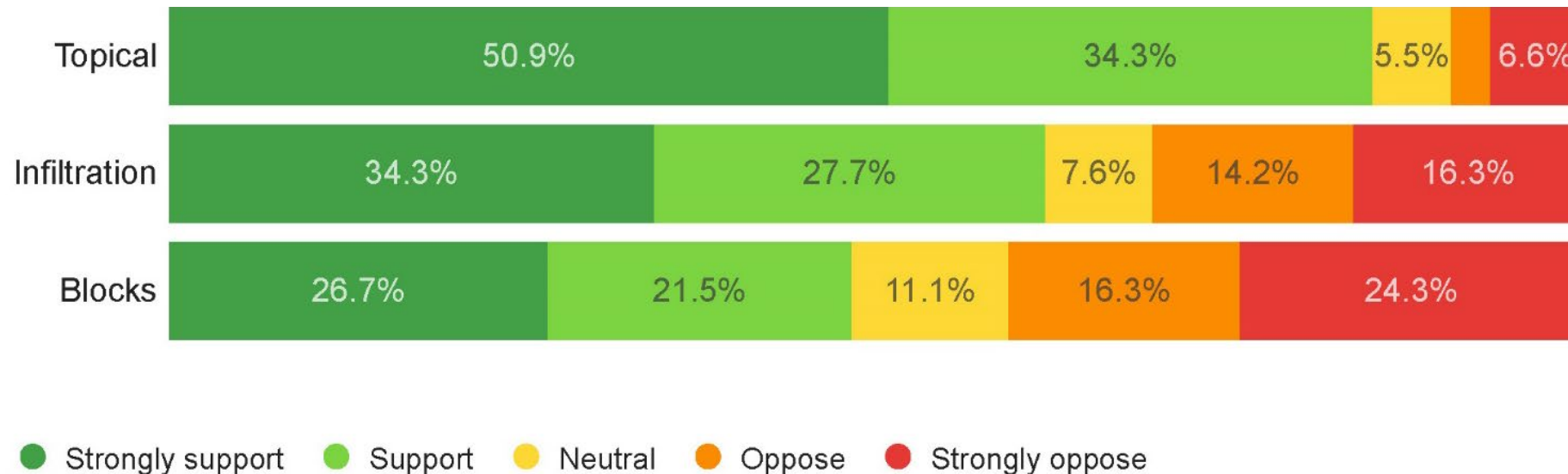
RDH Scope

- ▶ **Dentists were asked about support for allowing RDH:**
 - To place an **Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)** on a patient's teeth under *general supervision* of a dentist, after treatment planning by a dentist.
 - To administer certain types of **anesthesiological procedures** under *general supervision* of a dentist (with proper certification as defined by the Dental Board).

Indicate level of support for a RDH to place an *Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)* on a patient's teeth under general supervision of a dentist, after treatment planning by a dentist.



Indicate your level of support for allowing a RDH to administer each of the following *anesthesiological procedures*, under general supervision of a dentist (with proper certification as defined by the Dental Board).



Current National Trends

- ▶ **The following states allow RDH to administer local anesthesia under general supervision:**
 - Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington *SOURCE, [ADHA](#)*

Note: Each of these states has its own nuances within its practice act. Of these, Colorado is the only state that does not already have a dental therapy law.

Current Related MDA Policy

▶ House Resolution 2013H-14 (Adopted)

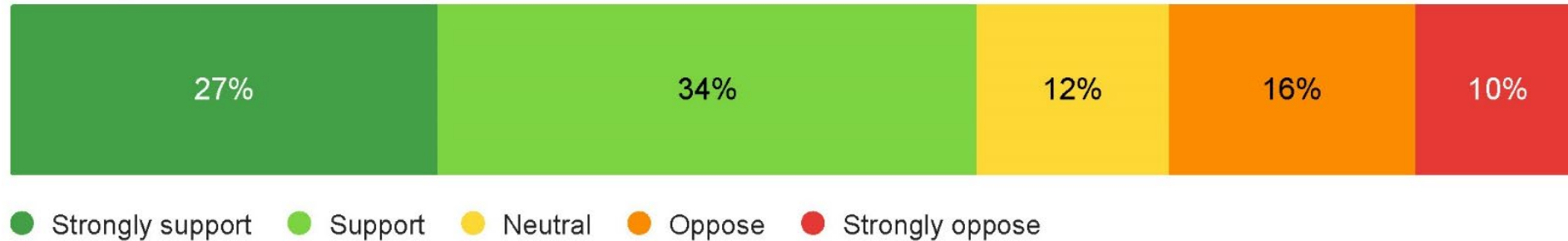
- The MDA shall take the position that only a dentist can diagnose conditions and manage complications that occur in and as a result of the practice of dentistry
- The MDA policy is “the administration of local anesthesia by a hygienist shall be allowed only under indirect or direct supervision of a dentist.”

EFDA Scope

▶ EFDA Periodontal Curriculum

- 61% Support – For an expansion of the EFDA program to include a periodontal curriculum and permit under direct supervision of a dentist.
 - Of these, most dentists would support an educational format for an EFDA periodontal curriculum similar to current EFDA programs.

*In general, how supportive would you be of an **expansion of the EFDA program to include a periodontal curriculum and permit** (Dental Board approved) provided under the direct supervision of a dentist?*

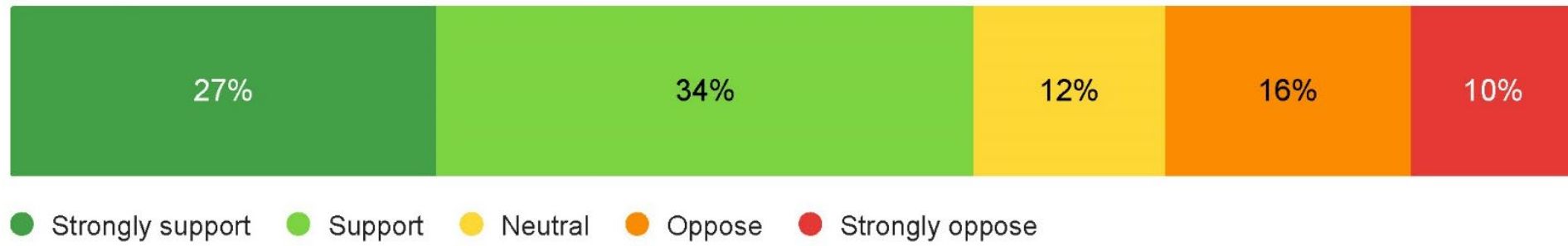


*If an EFDA periodontal curriculum and permit (Dental Board approved) included the following items, indicate your level of support for allowing an **EFDA to perform the procedures**, under the direct supervision of a dentist.*

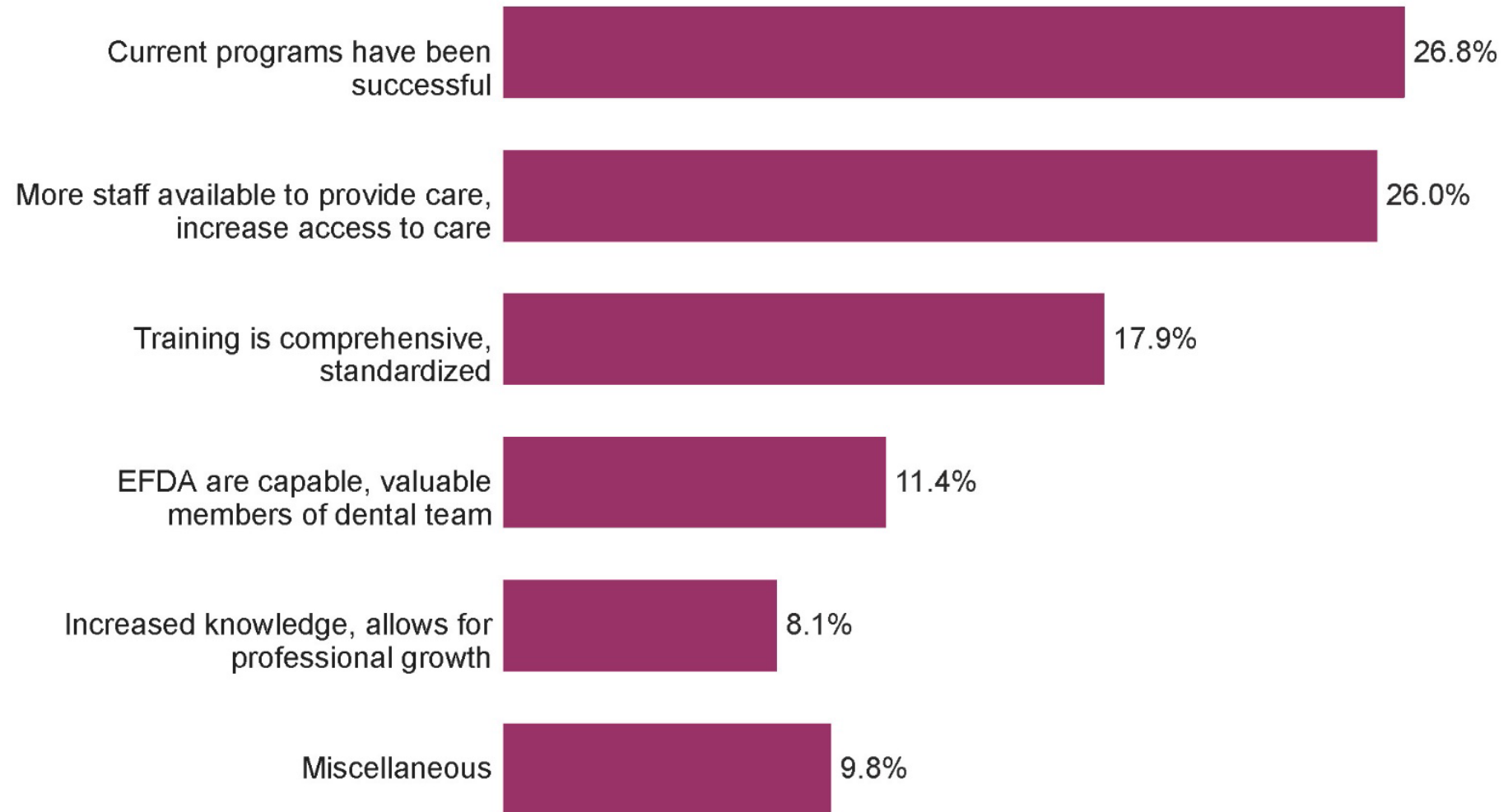


● Strongly support ● Support ● Neutral ● Oppose ● Strongly oppose

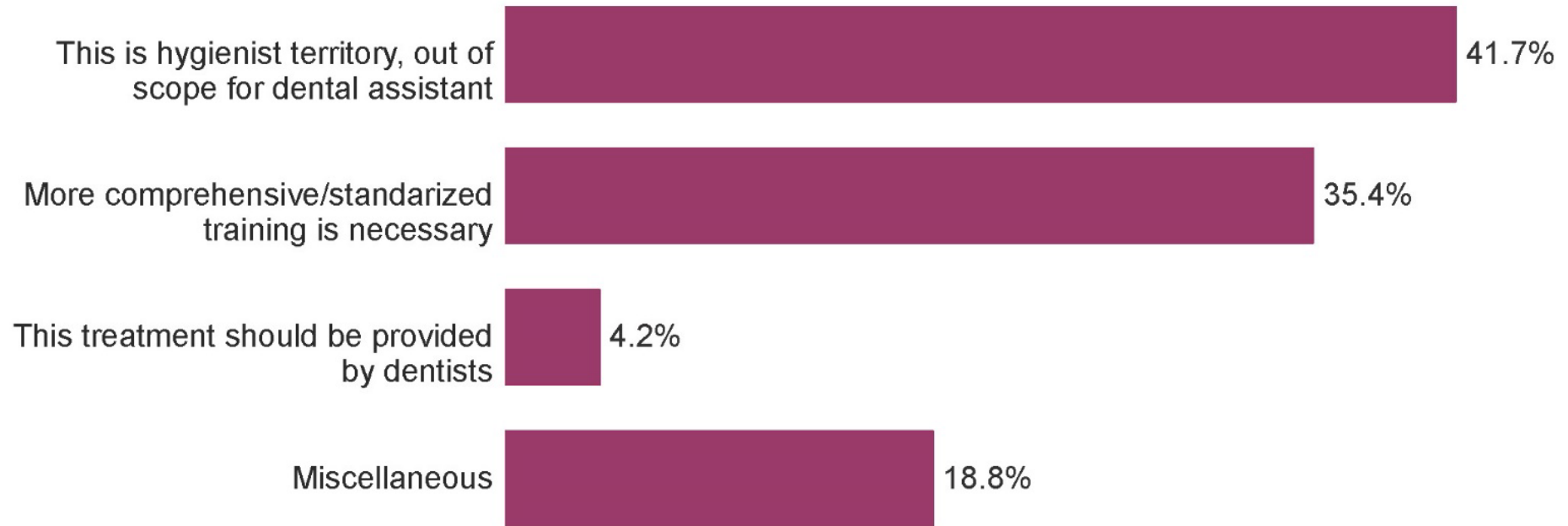
Would you support an educational format for an EFDA periodontal curriculum similar to the current EFDA programs?



Explain why you would support an educational format similar to the current EFDA programs:



Explain why you would not support an educational format similar to the current EFDA programs:





Missouri Dental
ASSOCIATION

Questions & Discussion

HELPING MEMBERS SUCCEED