

A summary of descriptive statistics from

“The Future of Dentistry in Northern Ireland”
A Survey of All Dental Practitioners
(November 2004)

1. Please indicate which category best describes your employment situation:

	Count	Percent
Practice owner	261	54.8
Associate dentist	197	41.4
Vocational trainee	18	3.8
Total	476	100.0

2. Excluding time spent as a vocational trainee, please indicate when you began working as a GDP:

	Count	Percent
2000-2004	92	19.3
1990-99	145	30.5
1980-89	140	29.4
1970-79	49	10.3
1960-69	12	2.5
Before 1960	1	.2
Total	439	92.2
Missing	37	7.8
Total	476	100.0

3. Please state your sex:

	Count	Percent
Male	299	62.8
Female	177	37.2
Total	476	100.0

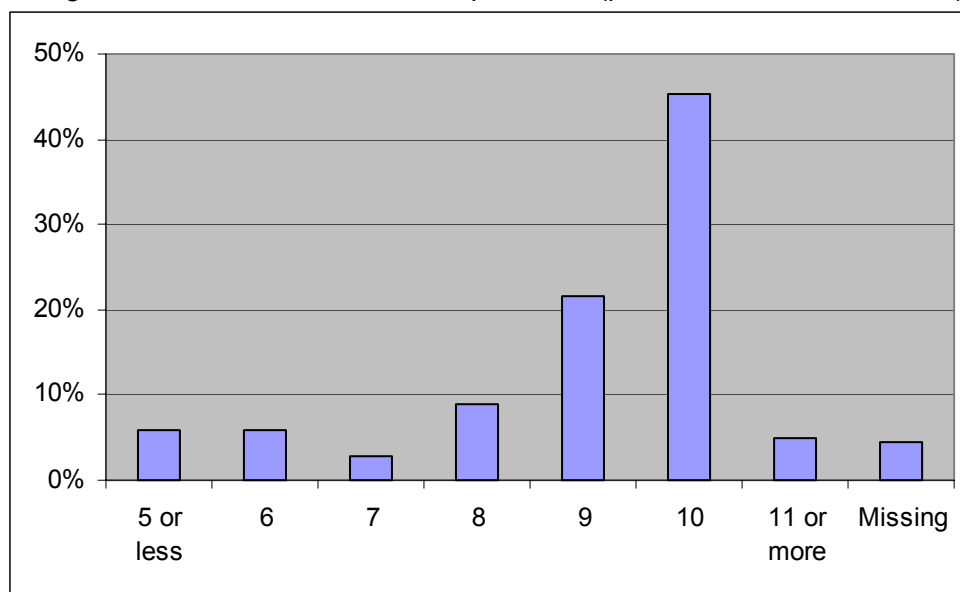
4. Please indicate which age group you fall into:

	Count	Percent
<30	112	23.5
30-34	81	17.0
35-39	90	18.9
40-44	80	16.8
45-49	55	11.6
50-54	24	5.0
55-59	23	4.8
60+	11	2.3
Total	476	100.0

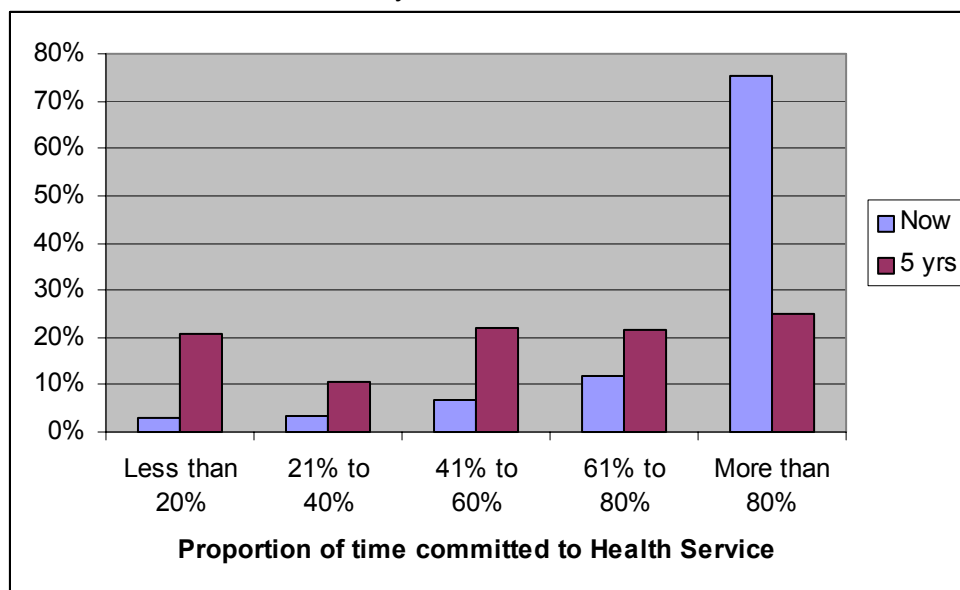
5. Which Health and Social Services Board area do you practice in?

	Count	Percent
Eastern	188	39.5
Southern	89	18.7
Northern	118	24.8
Western	79	16.6
Total	474	99.6
Missing	2	.4
Total	476	100.0

Question 6. The average number of sessions worked per week (private AND health service). Mean = 8.99



Questions 7 and 8. The bar chart below shows the percentage of each dentist's working week which is devoted to the health service. The mean number of Health Service sessions worked per dentist is projected, on the basis of the questionnaires, to drop from 7.7 per week to 5.0 per week over the next 5 years. Health service dentistry provision would therefore, in 5 years time, be less than two thirds of what it currently is.



9. What is the most important issue facing you as a GDP today?

	Count	Percent
The current remuneration system	161	33.8
Maintaining quality of treatment	90	18.9
Pay levels	62	13.0
Burden of legislation	58	12.2
Limited clinical freedom	36	7.6
Other	19	4.0
Extent of practice allowances	12	2.5
Career progression	5	1.1
Total	443	93.1
Missing	33	6.9
Total	476	100.0

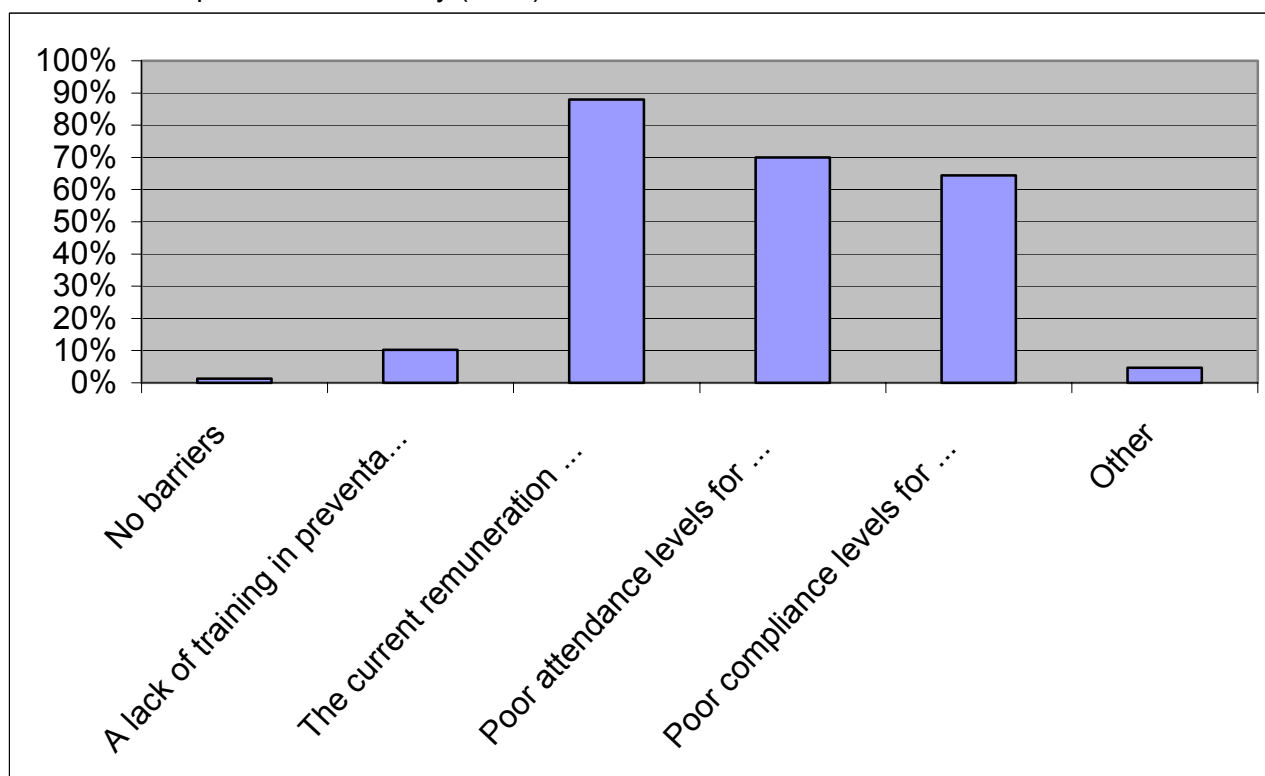
10. As it currently stands, how satisfied are you with General Practice Dentistry in NI?

	Count	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.3
Satisfied	90	18.9
Dissatisfied	217	45.6
Very dissatisfied	134	28.2
Don't know	9	1.9
Total	456	95.8
Missing	20	4.2
Total	476	100.0

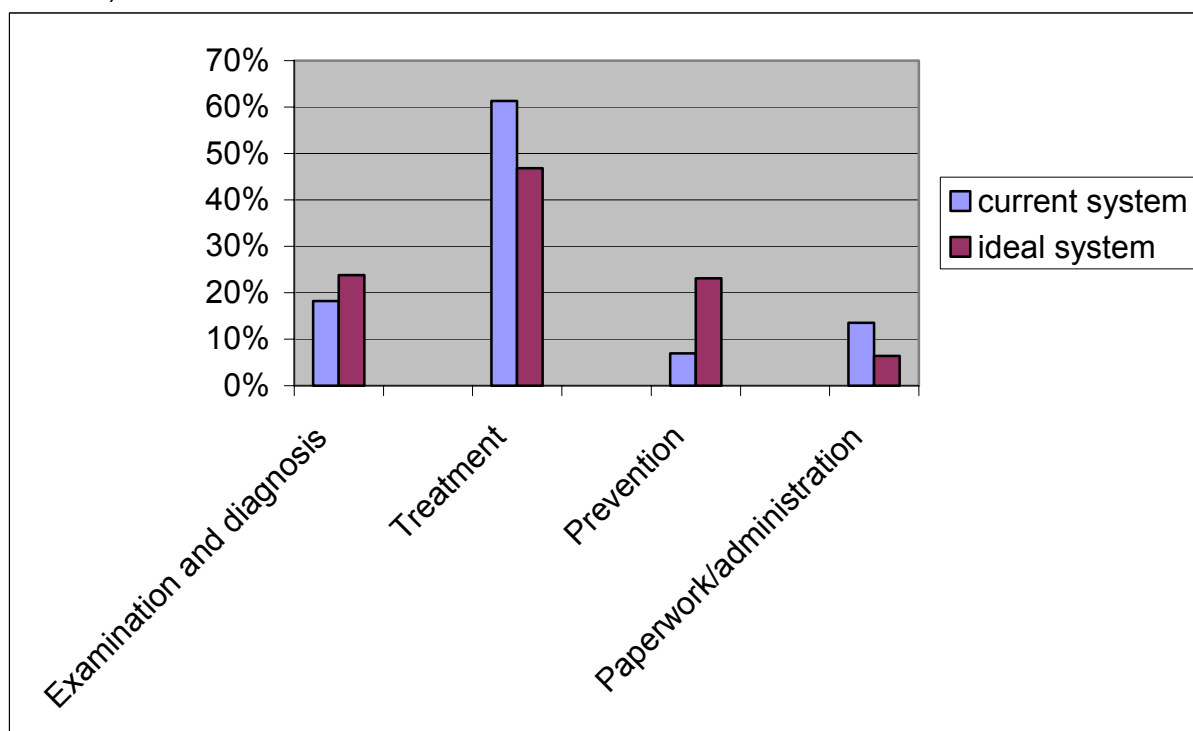
11. Within General Practice Dentistry do you believe dentists have a role in helping prevent oral disease?

	Count	Percent
Yes	449	94.3
No	7	1.5
Total	456	95.8
Missing	20	4.2
Total	476	100.0

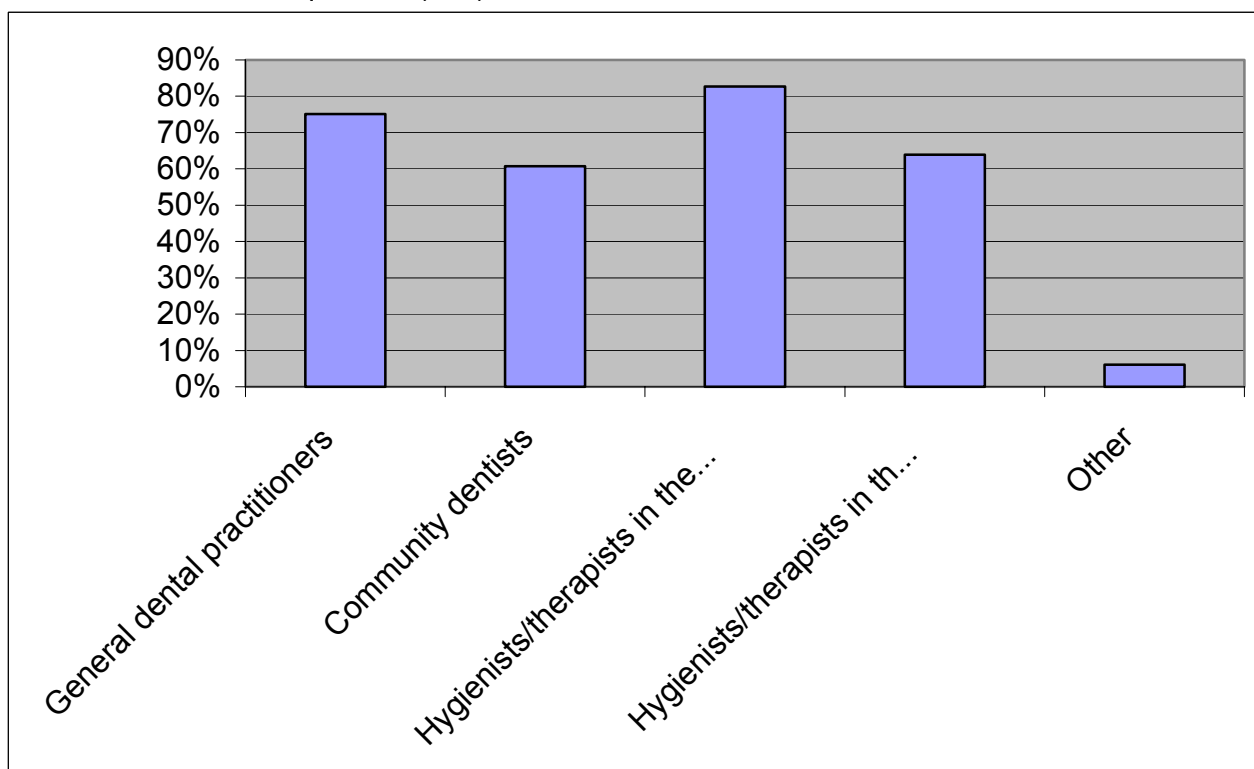
Question 12. What are the barriers to effective prevention of oral disease in General Practice Dentistry today? Respondents were able to select as many options as they wanted. Denominator is all those who felt that GDPs have a role in preventive dentistry (Q 11).



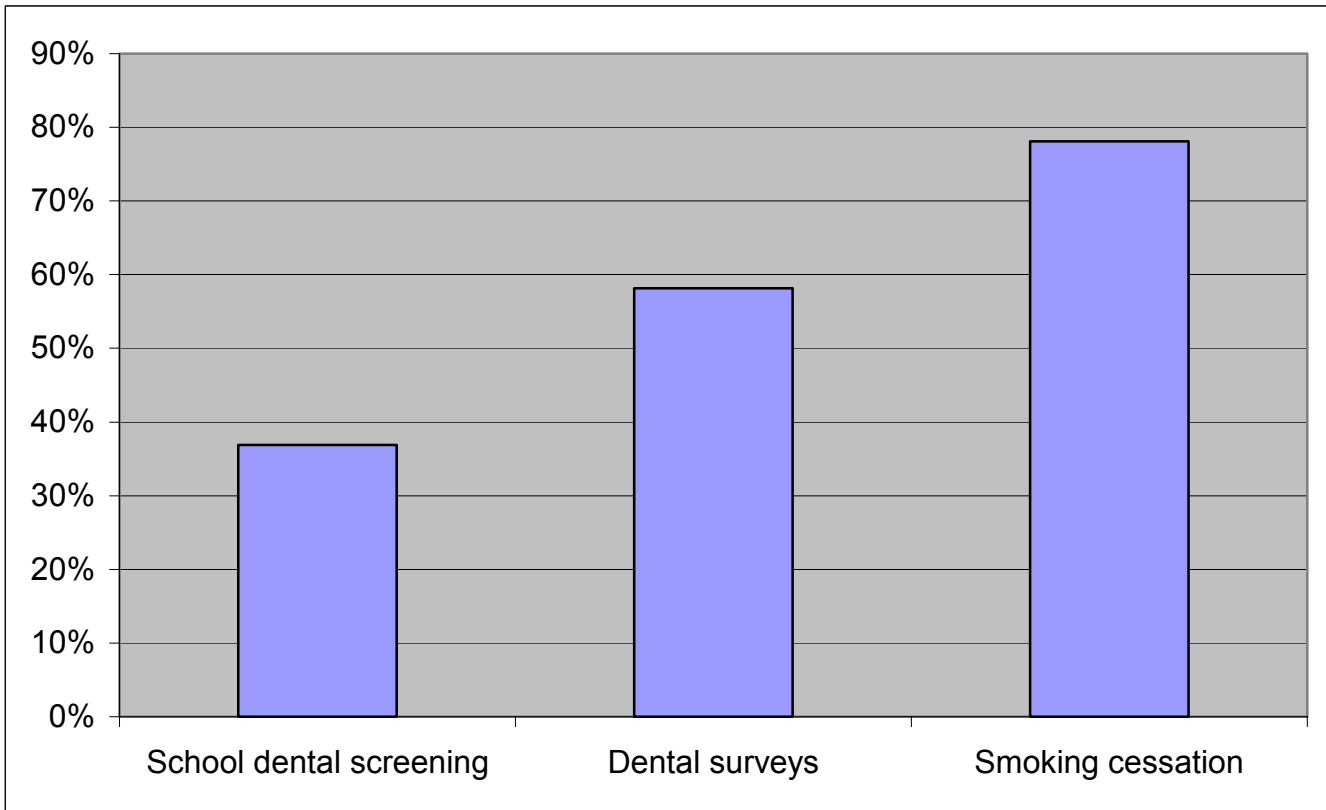
Question 13. Thinking about the current system and also the *ideal system*, what proportion of your time would be spent on the following tasks? Denominator is everyone who answered this question (426 for current system and 424 for ideal).



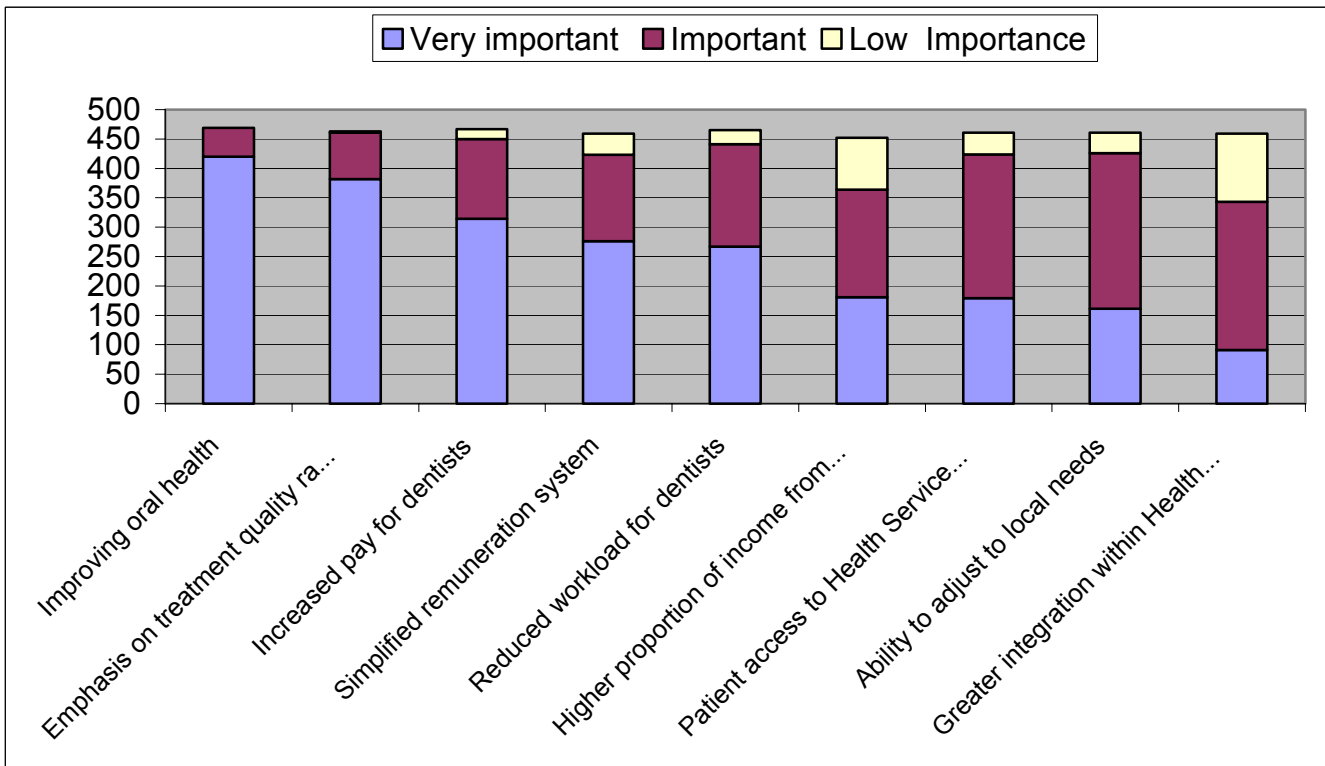
Question 14. Under any new system, who should undertake one-to-one prevention (e.g. fissure sealants, oral health education)? Respondents were able to selection as many options as they wanted. Denominator is everyone who answered this question (474).



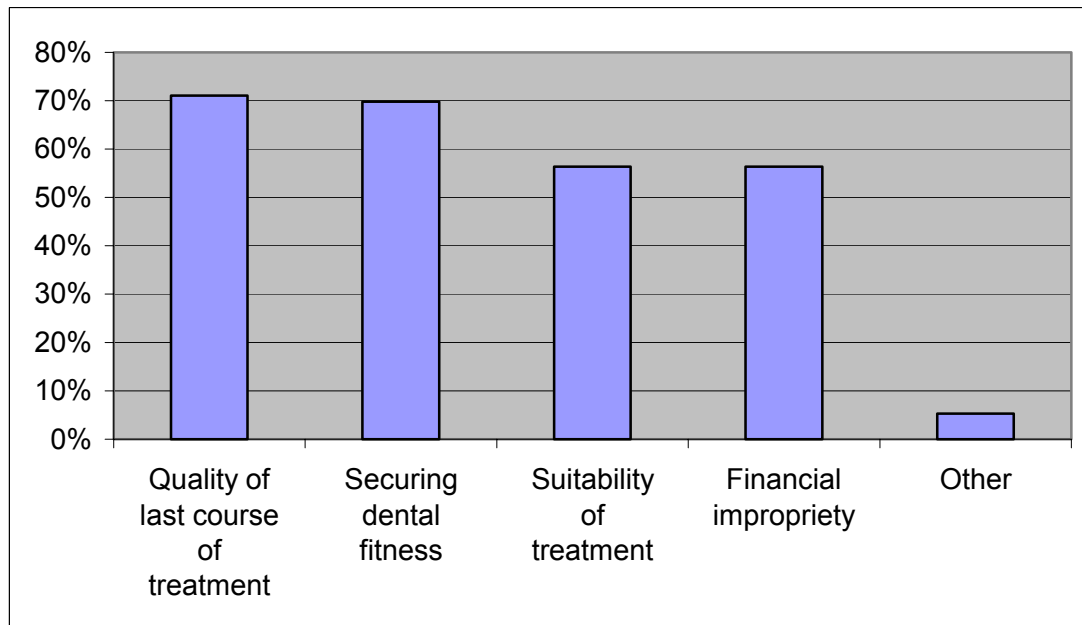
Question 15. In the future do you think that the General Dental Service (GDS) should have a role in the following? Respondents were able to selection as many options as they wanted. Denominator is everyone who answered any part of this question (461).



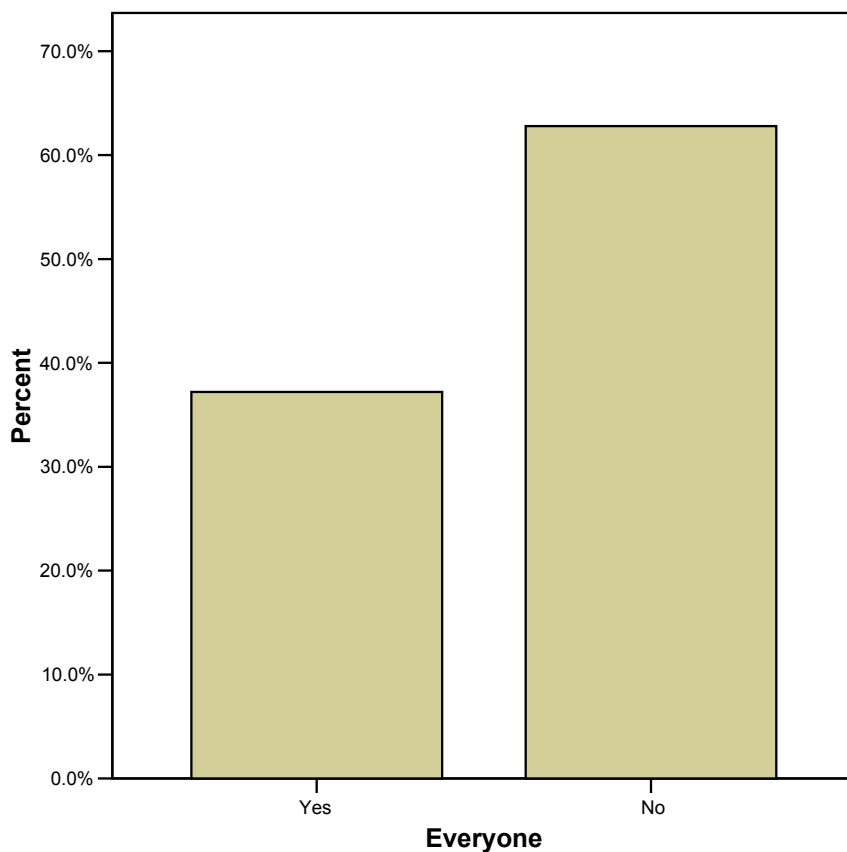
Question 16. In any new primary dental care system implemented in NI, what level of importance should be attached to each of the following items? Respondents were to attribute an importance level to each item but this did not happen in all cases. Individual counts shown for each item.



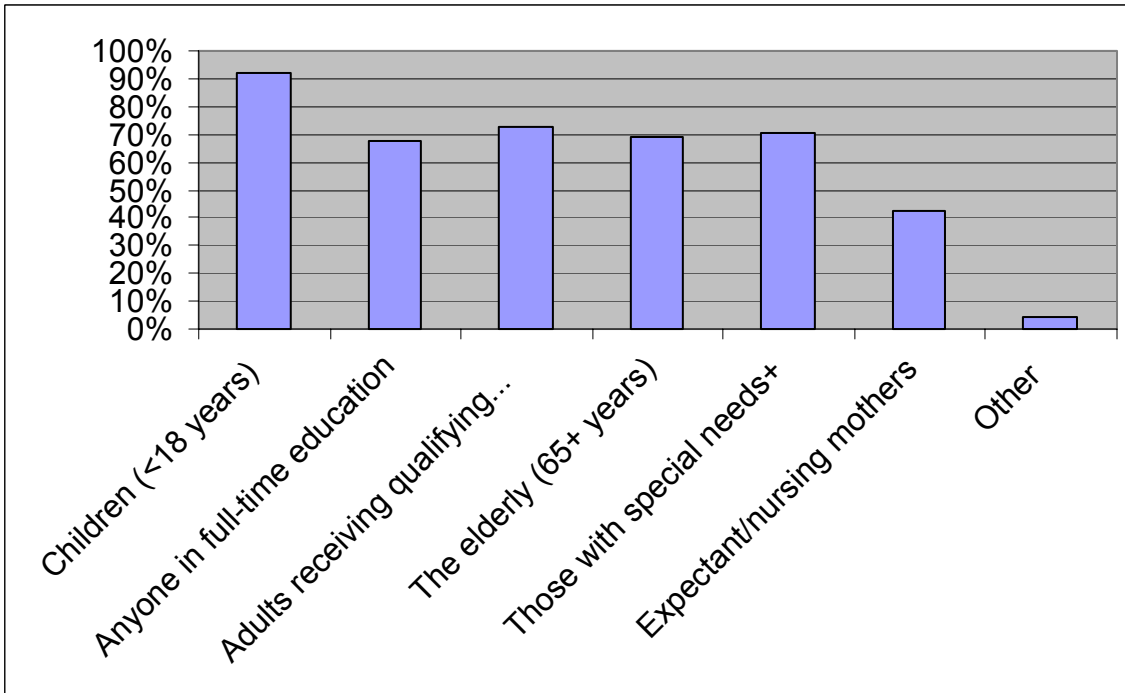
Question 17. In the future, monitoring arrangements should include?



Q18a. The percentage of respondents who felt that everyone should be able to receive HS dental care from the GDS.



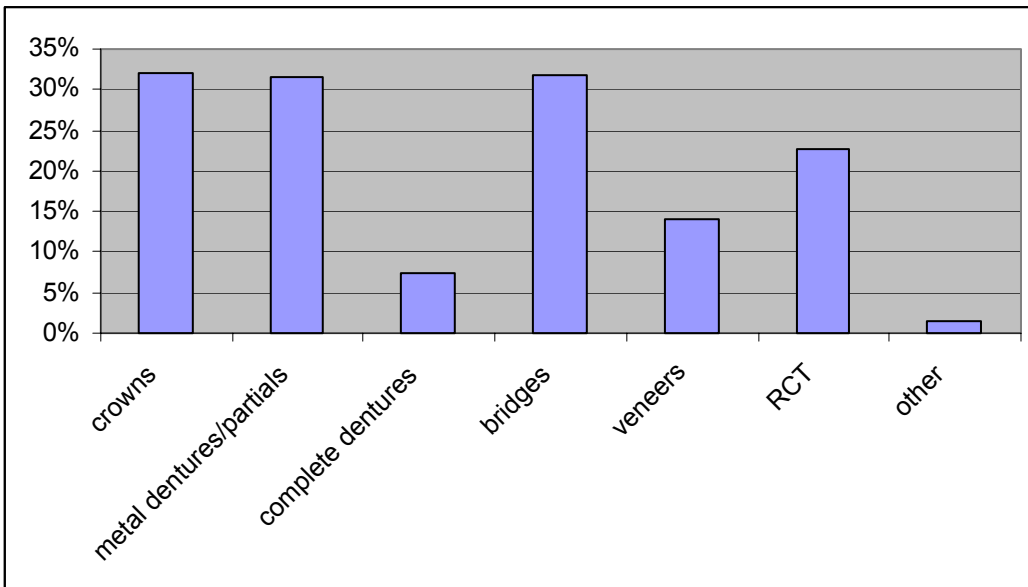
Q18b. Proportions of those who felt that NOT everyone should be able to receive HS dental care from the GDS who felt that the following groups should be entitled to HS care.



19. Should the range of treatments available under the GDS be revised?

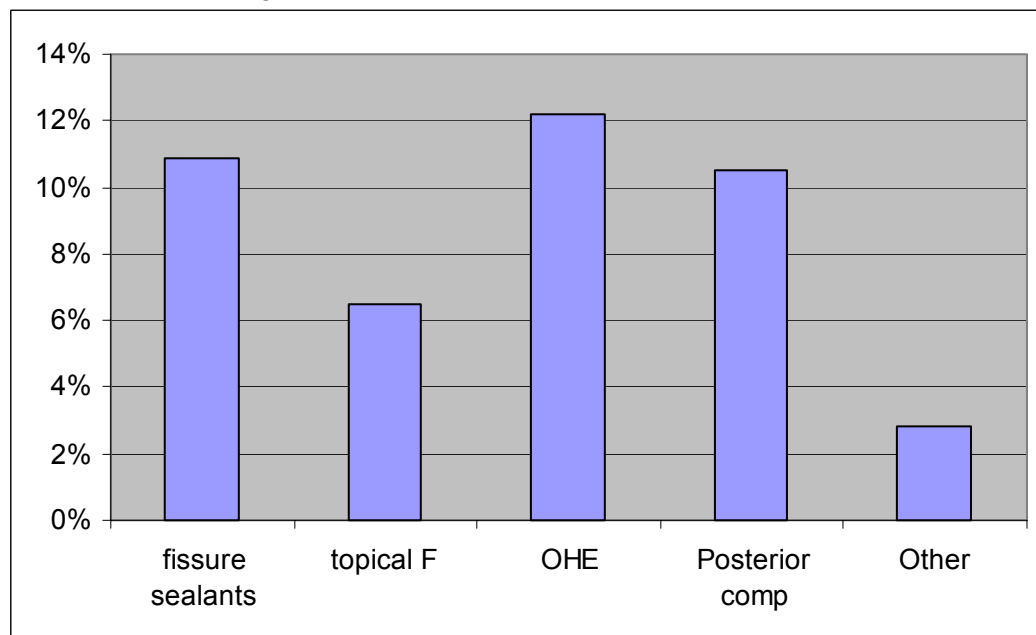
	Count	Percent
Yes	360	75.6
No	95	20.0
Total	455	95.6
Missing	21	4.4
Total	476	100.0

20. What, if anything, should be removed from the range of treatments currently available? Respondents were free to suggest whatever they wanted. Denominator is the total number of respondents who felt that the range of treatments should be revised (360).



21. What, if anything, should be added to the range of treatments currently available?

Respondents were free to suggest whatever they wanted. Denominator is the total number of respondents who felt that the range of treatments should be revised (360).



22. Thinking about the GDS, would you prefer to practice from privately owned premises or Health Service owned premises?

	Count	Percent
Private premises	317	66.6
Health Service premises	125	26.3
Total	442	92.9
Missing	34	7.1
Total	476	100.0

23. Please indicate the type of practice you work in:

	Count	Percent
Single-handed	56	11.8
Multiple surgery	402	84.5
Total	458	96.2
Missing	18	3.8
Total	476	100.0

24. Please indicate the type of practice you would prefer to work in:

	Count	Percent
Singled-handed	24	5.0
Multiple surgery	431	90.5
Total	455	95.6
Missing	21	4.4
Total	476	100.0

25. To ensure equitable access to the GDS, should HSS boards have some control over where privately owned dental practices are sited?

	Count	Percent
Yes	93	19.5
No	362	76.1
Total	455	95.6
Missing	21	4.4
Total	476	100.0

26. Do you currently employ a hygienist or therapist (if “yes go to Q27, if “no” then go to Q28)?

	Count	Percent
Yes	183	38.4
No	275	57.8
Total	458	96.2
Missing	18	3.8
Total	476	100.0

27. Would you consider either increasing their hours of work or employing an additional hygienist/therapist?

	Count	Percent
Yes	146	78.9
No	39	21.1
Total	185	100.0
Missing	291	61.1
Total	476	100.0

28. Would you consider employing a hygienist or therapist?

	Count	Percent
Yes	209	78.3
No	58	21.7
Total	267	100.00
Missing	209	43.9
Total	476	100.0

29a. Please rate the support you receive for Continuing Professional Development for YOURSELF:

	Count	Percent
Very good	83	17.4
Good	188	39.5
Fair	140	29.4
Poor	44	9.2
Don't know	4	0.8
Missing	17	3.6
Total	476	100.0

29b. Please rate the support you receive for Continuing Professional Development for YOUR STAFF:

	Count	Percent
Very good	12	2.5
Good	23	4.8
Fair	90	18.9
Poor	259	54.4
Don't know	32	6.7
Total	416	87.4
Missing	60	12.6
Total	476	100.0

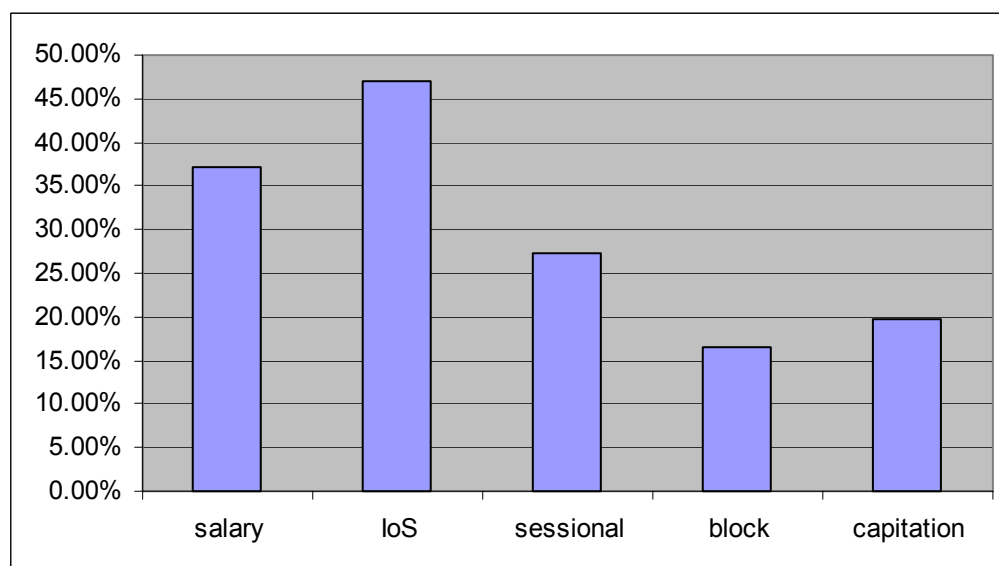
30. Please state whether postgraduate courses currently provided in NI are sufficient to meet your professional development needs:

	Count	Percent
Completely	33	6.9
Mostly	214	45.0
Partially	167	35.1
Not at all	46	9.7
Total	460	96.6
Missing	16	3.4
Total	476	100.0

31. In any new dental system implemented in NI, contracts should be arranged between the commissioner of services (currently the HSS Boards) and:

	Count	Percent
The dental practice	169	35.5
Each individual dentist	280	58.8
Total	449	94.3
Missing	27	5.7
Total	476	100.0

32. Please select your preferred method(s) of remuneration. Respondents may select up to 2 remuneration options:



33. Should patient contributions be limited to a small number of fixed charges dependent on the extent of treatment?

	Count	Percent
Yes	243	51.1
No	201	42.2
Total	444	93.3
Missing	32	6.7
Total	476	100.0

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