



IFDH Elderly Patient Practices Survey

BACKGROUND

Survey #6 in a series supported by Procter & Gamble conducted in April 2022.

Objectives: To better understand global dental hygienists' practices regarding elderly patients (≥65 years old). To identify opportunities for future educational programs.

Survey flow: IFDH → 34 national associations → individual members.

RESPONDENTS

558 respondents from 28 countries

Top countries

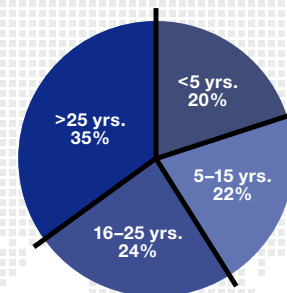
- UK 19%
- Switzerland 16%
- Italy 15%
- Finland 7%
- Canada 6%
- Korea 6%
- Ireland 5%
- Portugal 5%
- South Africa 4%
- Spain 3%
- Czech Republic 3%

Countries with ≤2%:

USA, Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Israel, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania, Japan, Austria, Denmark, Germany, India, Malta, New Zealand, Slovak Republic, United Arab Emirates

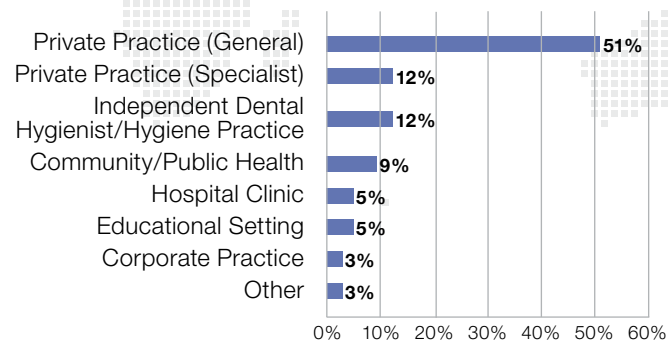
Years of dental hygiene experience

Skewed slightly towards 25 years of experience or more



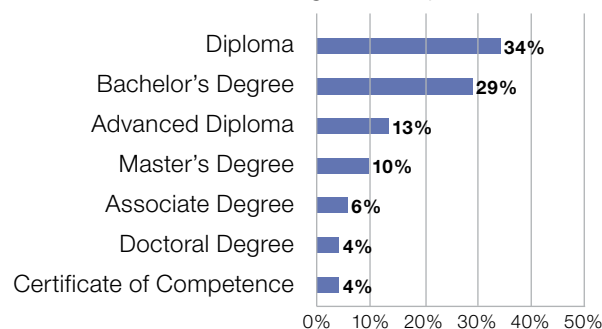
Work setting

62% are in a private practice setting.
12% are in independent dental hygiene practices.



Education

63% have Bachelor's Degree or Diploma

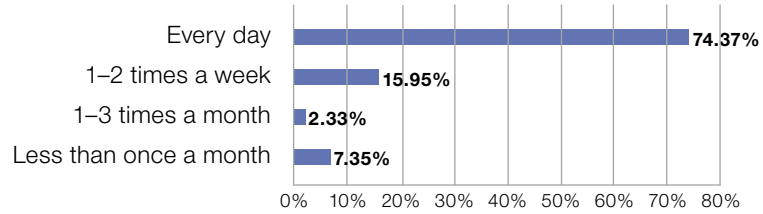


How often do you see elderly patients (65 years or older)?

74% see elderly patients daily.

Those respondents who see elderly patients at least once a month (517/558) continued with the survey questions.

N=558

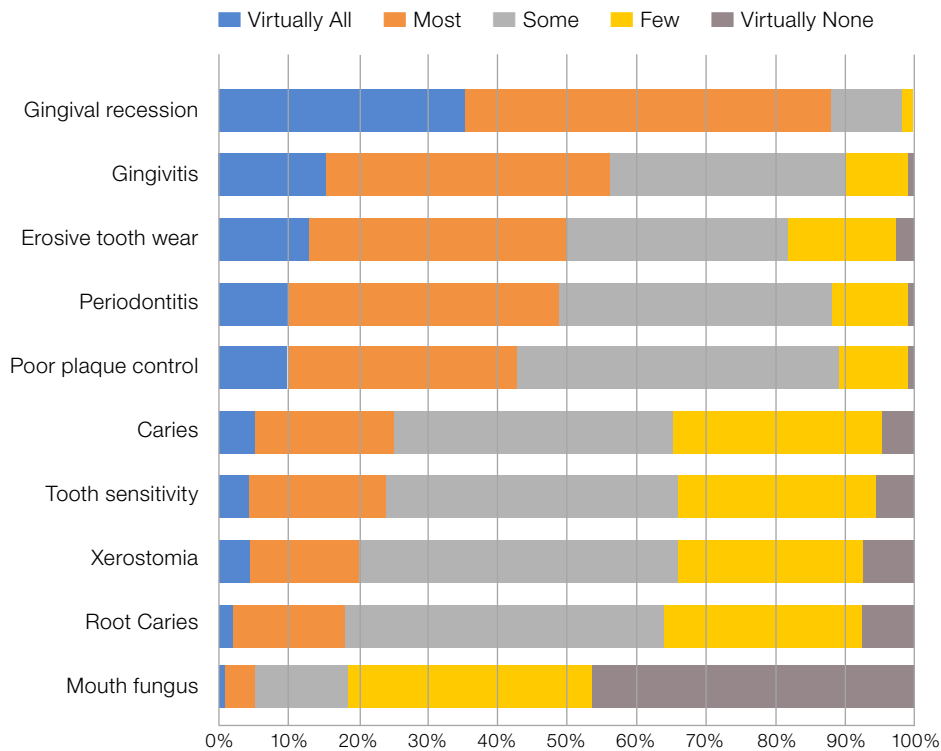


Among your elderly patients, how many present with the following diseases/conditions?

Top 5 affecting 'virtually all' and 'most' elderly patients:

- Gingival recession (88%)
- Gingivitis (56%)
- Erosive tooth wear (50%)
- Periodontitis (49%)
- Poor plaque control (43%)

N=517



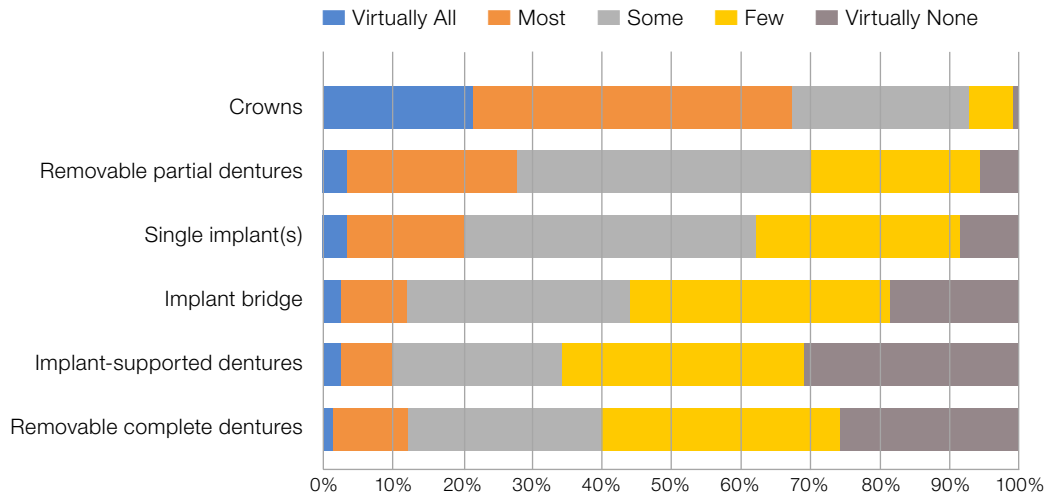
Among your elderly patients, how many have the following types of dentures or implant restorations?

VIRTUALLY ALL means 80–100%, MOST means 60–80%, SOME mean 40–60%, FEW means 20–40%, and VIRTUALLY NONE means 0–20%.

Top 3 seen in 'virtually all' and 'most' elderly patients:

- Crowns (68%)
- Removable partial denture (28%)
- Single implant (20%)

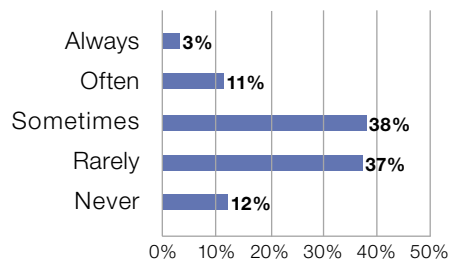
N=517



How often do you recommend denture adhesive to your patients with removable complete or partial dentures?

14% 'always' or 'often' recommend.
49% 'rarely' or 'never' recommend.

N=378; respondents who see patients with removable dentures were asked this question

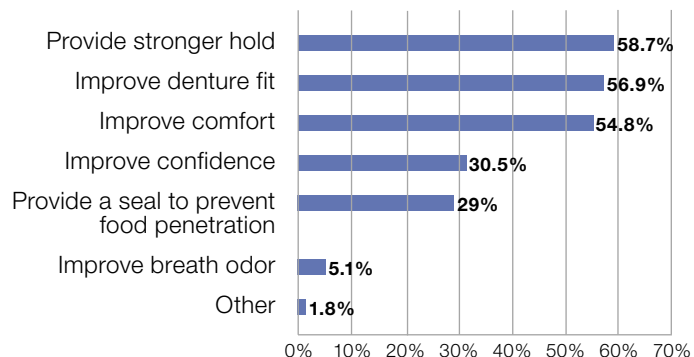


For which reasons do you recommend denture adhesive? (check all that apply)

Top reasons for recommending denture adhesive:

- Stronger hold
- Improve denture fit
- Improve comfort

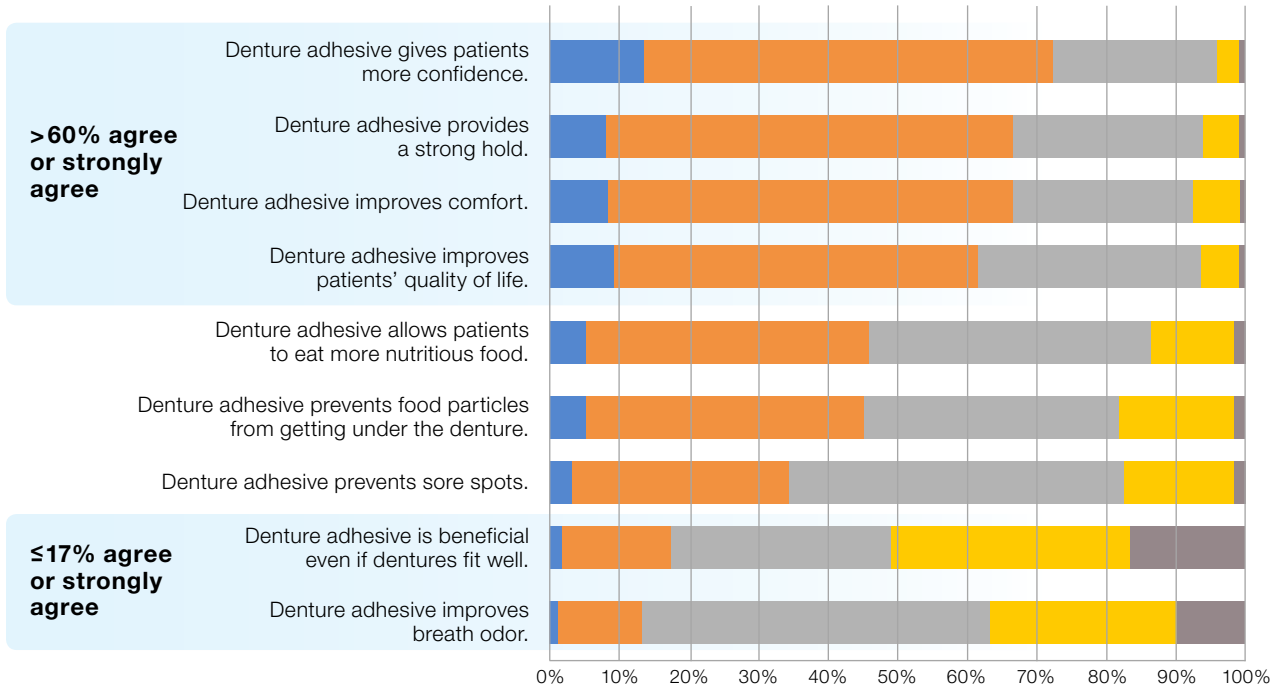
N=334; respondents who recommend denture adhesive were asked this question



Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

N=517

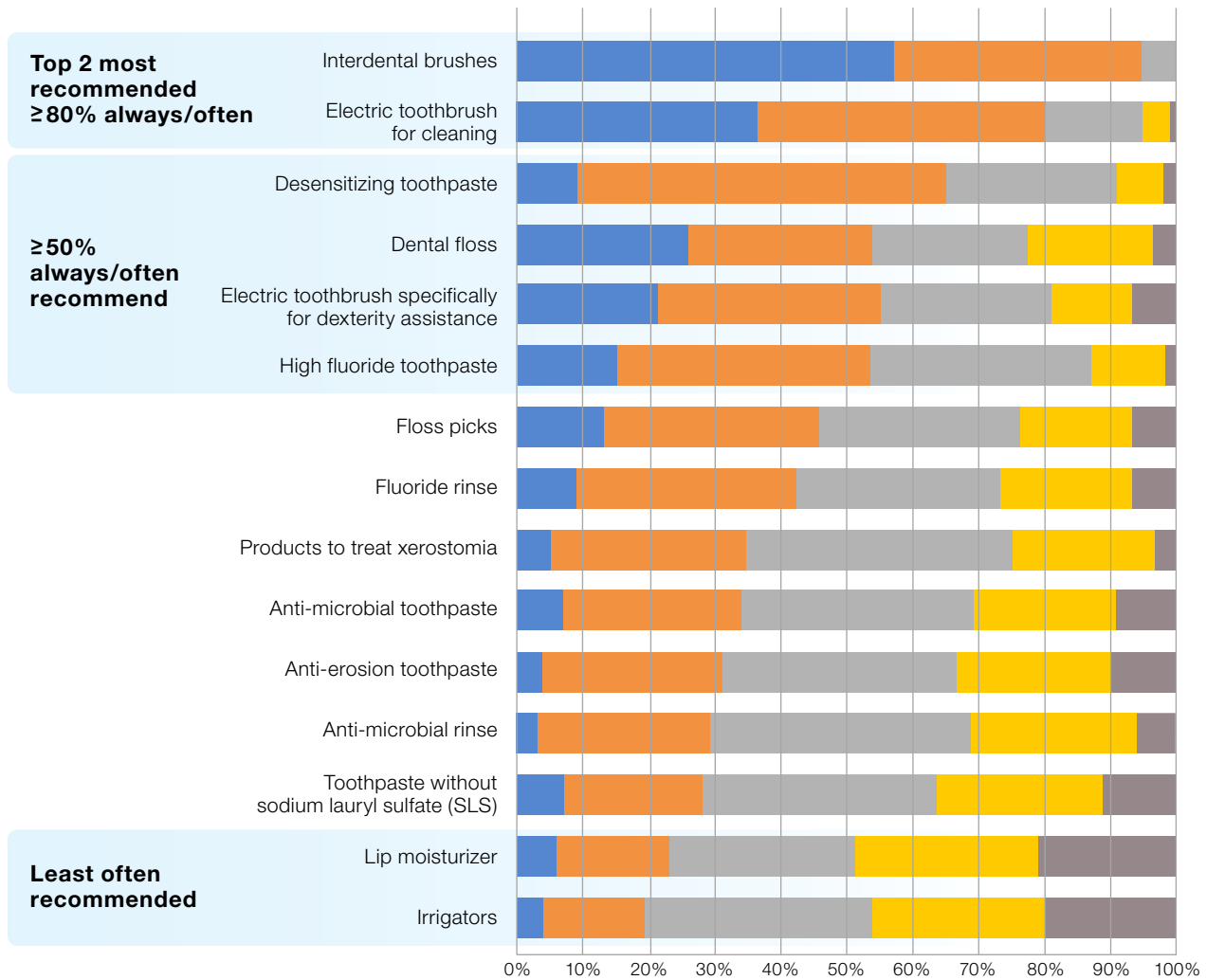
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



How often do you recommend the following products to your elderly patients?

N=517

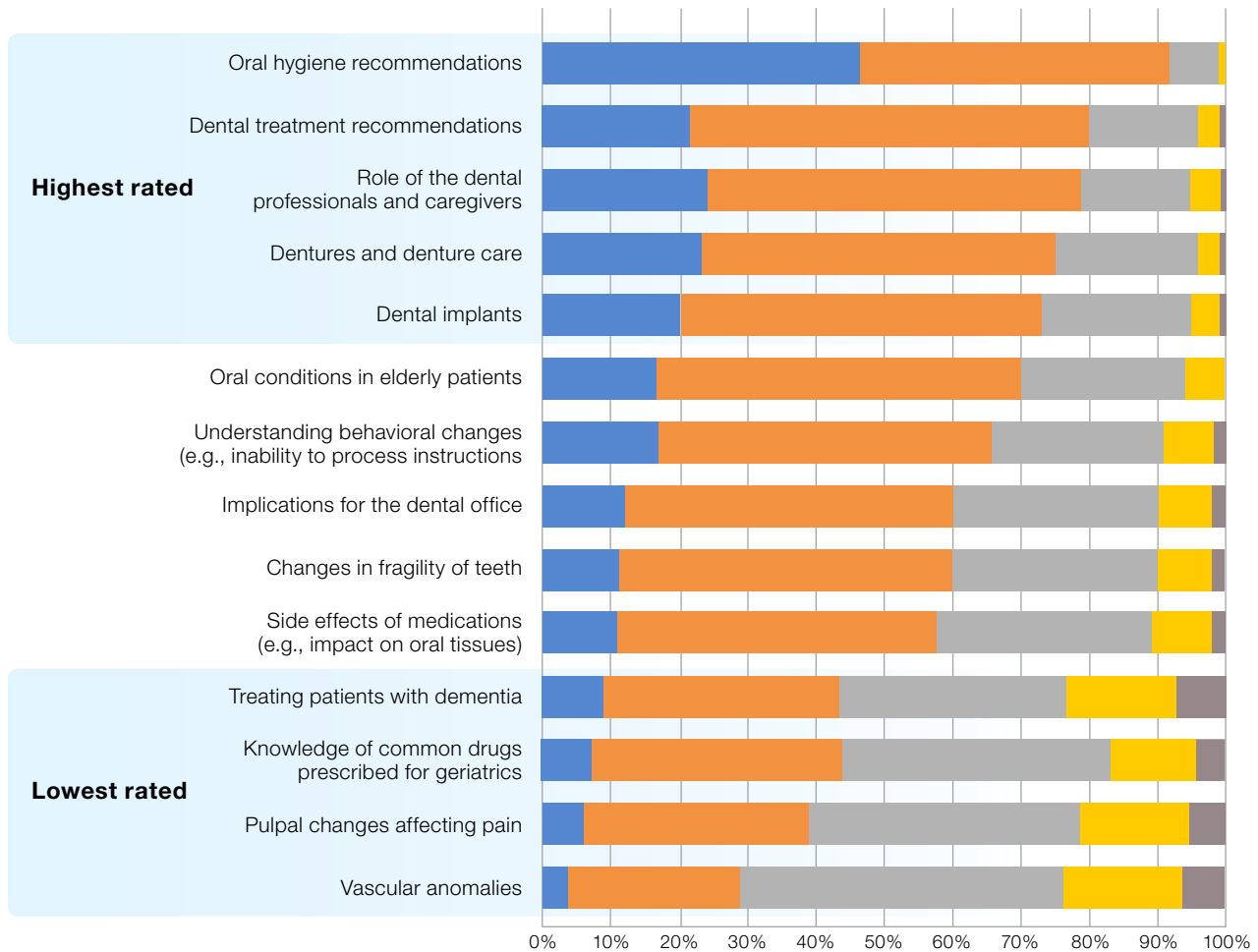
Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never



How would you rate your knowledge level on the following topics specifically related to elderly patients and the aging dentition?

N=517

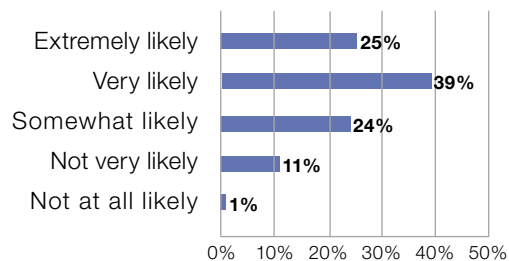
Excellent Good Average Fair Poor



How likely are you to recommend an oral hygiene product that has been specifically designed for the needs of elderly patients (e.g., a toothbrush with a handle adapted for improved manual dexterity)?

64% are 'extremely' or 'very likely' to recommend a product specifically designed for needs of elderly patients.

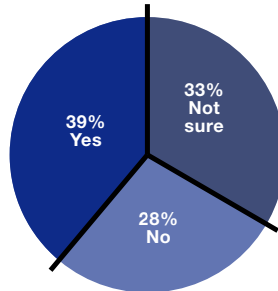
N=517



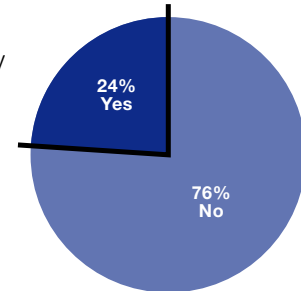
Long-Term Care Facility Activities for Elderly Patients

N=517, all questions

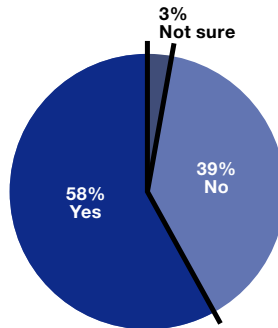
Does your country's regulatory body allow dental hygienists to work independently in long-term care or private homes?



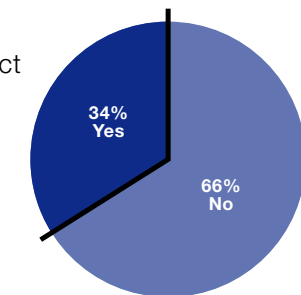
Do you provide oral health care to elderly patients in a long-term care facility?



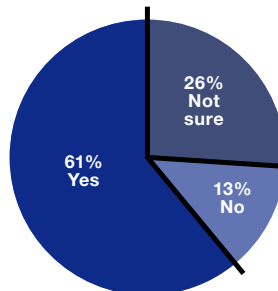
If you do not deliver care in a long-term care facility, would you be interested if the opportunity was provided?



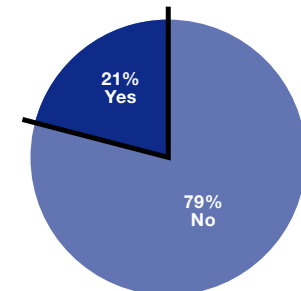
Do you have the opportunity to instruct staff/residents in alternative oral care delivery to compensate for reduction of motor skills due to arthritis, Parkinson's, etc.?



Would you be willing to be involved in a "teach the teacher" program where dental hygienists teach the care givers in long term care and they in turn teach each other?



Are you involved in teaching long-term care staff in oral care?



Other IFDH Survey Results

Click the links below to learn more about other IFDH surveys:

[2022 Pediatric Patient Survey](#)

[2022 Oral-systemic link survey](#)

[2021 Electric toothbrush survey](#)

[2020 Covid Survey](#)

[2019 Toothpaste Survey](#)

The IFDH thanks Procter & Gamble for supporting these surveys.

