

# Job Satisfaction Among Pediatric Dental Graduates in the U.S.



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## Introduction

More and more pediatric dentists graduate every year, and with that, more join the workforce. There have also been many growing and evolving practice models in the world of pediatric dentistry. This study is meant to analyze job satisfaction amongst dentists in different practice models and look for correlations between job satisfaction and the type of residency the dentist attended.

## Methodology

A 20-question survey was emailed to all active members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. A total of 6575 emails were sent, with 428 (6.51%) completed surveys returned.

## Results

- Most of the respondents are working in a group practice (46.3%).
- Our results showed that practitioners who worked in a solo practice were the most satisfied at 76.8%.
- We did not find any statistical differences amongst those who received sufficient training regarding different practice models.
- Neither test resulted in any significant differences in job satisfaction.
- The survey also showed that the most common complaint that people had for their job is the lack of staff (35.5% of respondents).



## Results

- Most respondents work 4 days a week (52%) doing clinical dentistry and take primarily private insurance (43%).
- Most respondents believe that their residency programs somewhat influenced their practice type decision (32%), and somewhat gave them sufficient information regarding different practice models (34%).
- Most respondents are still at the same job since graduating from residency (42%), but those that did leave left due to “mismatched expectations of workplace” (26%).



Figure 1:  
Data showing that most pediatric dentists work in a group practice

If you changed jobs, please indicate the reason(s) that you left the initial or subsequent position(s). Please select all that apply.

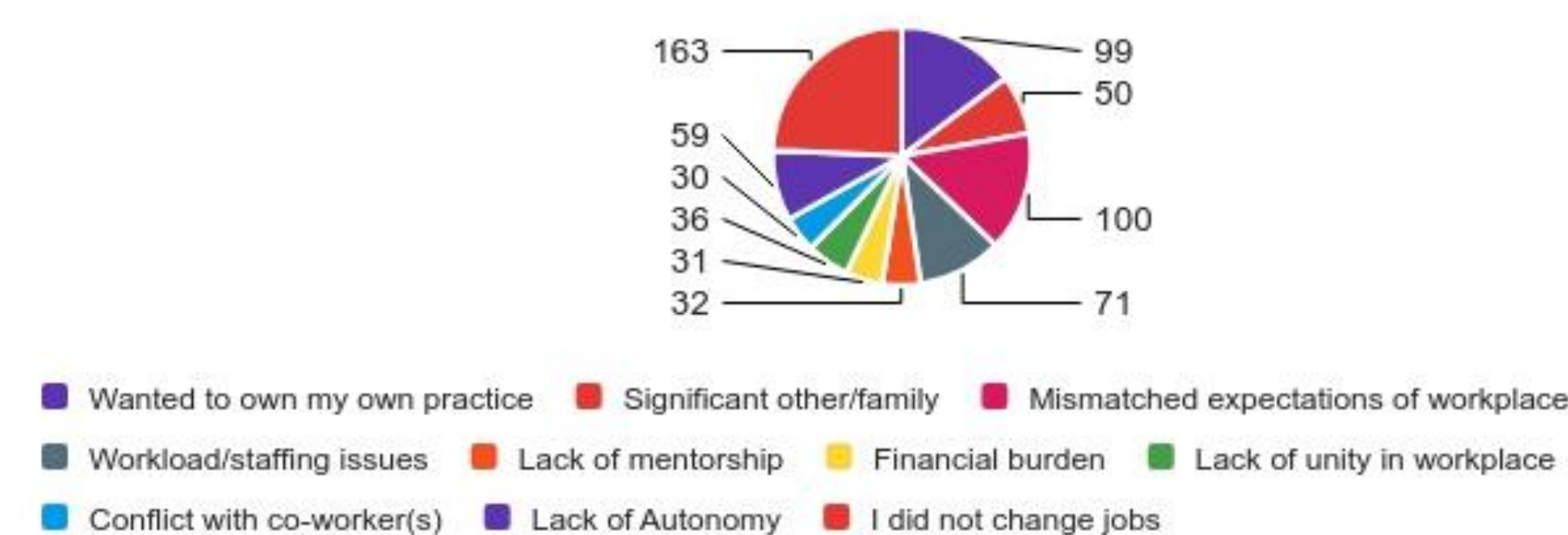


Figure 2:  
Data showing that most pediatric dentists left their initial job due to “mismatched expectations of workplace”

## Discussion

This data shows that most pediatric dentists are still at their initial jobs that they started with after finishing their residency. It shows that most practitioners work in group practices. Practitioners who work in a solo practice appear to be the most satisfied with the job, but the data is not significantly different enough to draw a definitive conclusion.

## Conclusions

Further research with larger sample sizes need to be completed to see if there is any correlation between job satisfaction and multiple variables associated with practice models. There is also a need for more staff in dental offices.

## Potential Impacts

- To help current residents choose what type of job opportunities they may best be a fit for.
- To help current employers understand how to help build healthy work environments that foster good employee retention.

## References

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