



MODERN DENTISTRY *in the* NEWS

ADA Report: DSOs Helping to Meet Growing Dental Sector Needs

DSO Popularity Attributable to Challenges New Dentists Face in Changing Marketplace

- In just two years, the number of large dental group practices has risen a significant 25 percent, according to a study by the Health Policy Resources Center (HPRC) sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA).
- At the same time, the number of solo dental practitioners is declining. In 2010, 69% of dentists were solo practitioners compared with 76% in 2006.
- The growth of dental group practices and DSO-supported dentistry was found to be attributable in part to the challenges new dentists face in a changing marketplace. According to the American Dental Education Association, in 2011 the average amount of dental school debt per student was \$180,557, record high levels. (Source: <http://www.ada.org/news/6947.aspx>)

The ADA's New Dentist Committee identified a number of reasons why large group dental practices may appeal to new graduates:

- Student indebtedness is a barrier to early practice ownership.
- There are fewer jobs in small dental practices for new dental school graduates due to the recession.
- There are more dual-profession families, and married professionals often seek the enhanced mobility that practice ownership does not allow.
- Younger dentists' quest for work/life balance favors practice choices that enable them to focus on delivering clinical care without having to devote hours to the business and administrative tasks of running a dental practice.

Source: <http://www.ada.org/news/6950.aspx>

THE ADVANTAGES OF DSO-SUPPORTED DENTAL PRACTICES

- **Enhanced Capacity**
Dentists affiliated with DSO-supported group practices focus almost exclusively on patient care.
- **Access**
Lower overhead costs enable DSO-supported dentists to accept all payor types and have helped open Texas to managed care plans.
- **Consistent Care**
Group practices support best practice sharing, peer-to-peer interactions, evidence-based treatment protocols, access to new technology, training, mentorship and formal compliance programs.
- **Support for Dentists**
Valuable continuing education (CE) available, and provides options for dentists to work part-time. Enables dentists to practice who couldn't otherwise afford the \$600,000 average investment on top of the \$240,000 in average school debt.