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## Dentists Split Over Mercury Amalgam

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In this poll, we asked dentists: *Does your practice place amalgam fillings?*

It's getting hot in here! In a heated debate, *dentists were passionately split over the issue of amalgam*. Fifty-two percent of dentists in our poll responded, "No, we are no longer using mercury amalgam." The other 48% replied, "Yes, we are still placing amalgam fillings."

Dentists are so interested in this issue that a record number of dentists responded to this survey. With the ADA supporting amalgam's safety, health and consumer groups touting its toxicity, and the FDA still refusing to make an official ruling, it's hard to know who to believe.

[Read the dentists' comments](#)

### Do You Place Mercury Fillings?



### General Dentists vs. Specialists

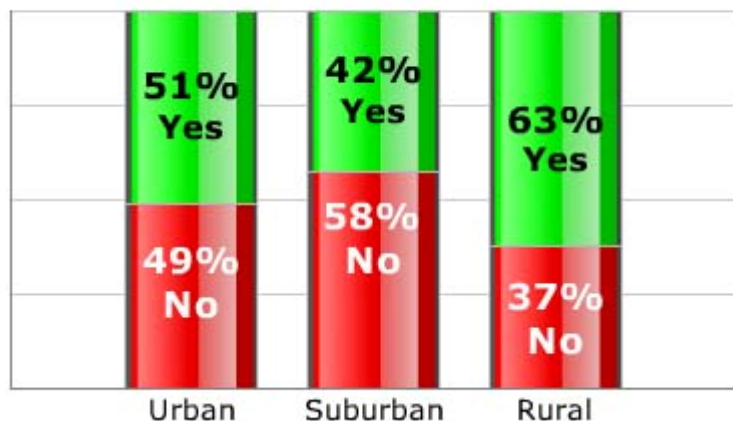


There is a huge difference between general dentists and specialists on the issue of mercury amalgam. About one out of two general dentists still uses mercury amalgam, whereas **fully four out of five specialists are using amalgam**. In support of amalgam, specialists cited the lack of scientific evidence proving its toxicity and the superiority of amalgam in certain situations.

"Amalgam is a durable and cost effective restorative material," said one Colorado prosthodontist. "I believe dentists who refuse to use mercury amalgam are misinformed." A prosthodontic colleague from Kentucky agreed: "Dentists who advocate elimination of dental

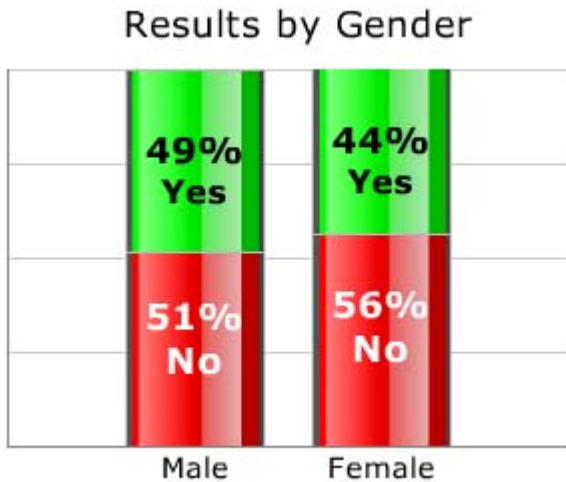
amalgam are building their practice at the expense of the rest of the profession. Dental amalgams are perfectly safe."

### Results by Geographic Location



Location was not highly correlated with amalgam usage, but it is worth noting that suburban dentists were least likely to use amalgam.

"I practice in an affluent town," commented a general dentist from suburban New Jersey. "Amalgam fillings would not be acceptable to my patients."



Gender differences were minimal, which is not particularly surprising. In fact, it would be alarming if a dentist's gender affected his or her interpretation of the scientific evidence surrounding mercury amalgam.

[http://thewealthydentist.com/survey/surveyresults/16\\_MercuryAmalgam\\_Results.htm](http://thewealthydentist.com/survey/surveyresults/16_MercuryAmalgam_Results.htm)