

Dental registrants' uptake of CPD: Preferences for online versus in-person

Authors: Dr Sophie Bartlett, Prof Alison Bullock, Elaine Russ, Dr Emma Barnes, Dr Rhiannon Jones



ADEE ANNUAL MEETING
LIVERPOOL 2023
Collaborative Education in a Digital Era

22-25
August
2023



Professor Alison Bullock

School of Social Science

bullockad@cardiff.ac.uk



Dr Sophie Bartlett

School of Social Science

BartlettS2@cardiff.ac.uk



Elaine Russ

School of Social Science

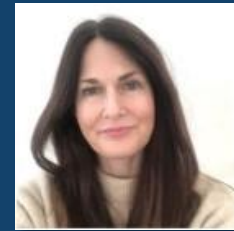
russem@cardiff.ac.uk



Dr Emma Barnes

School of Dentistry

BarnesEJ@cardiff.ac.uk



Rhiannon Jones

School of Dentistry

jonesrj5@cardiff.ac.uk



- **Continuing professional development** (CPD) is a requirement of dental professionals across the globe.
- In the UK, engagement with CPD is regulated by the **General Dental Council** who maintain that approaches to CPD should be **tailored** to individual dental professionals' **field of practice**.
- The COVID-19 **pandemic** meant that for a while, all in-person CPD activities were suspended.
- GDC staff noted that the pandemic had **changed the way of thinking** about CPD delivery and forced providers to be **creative**.

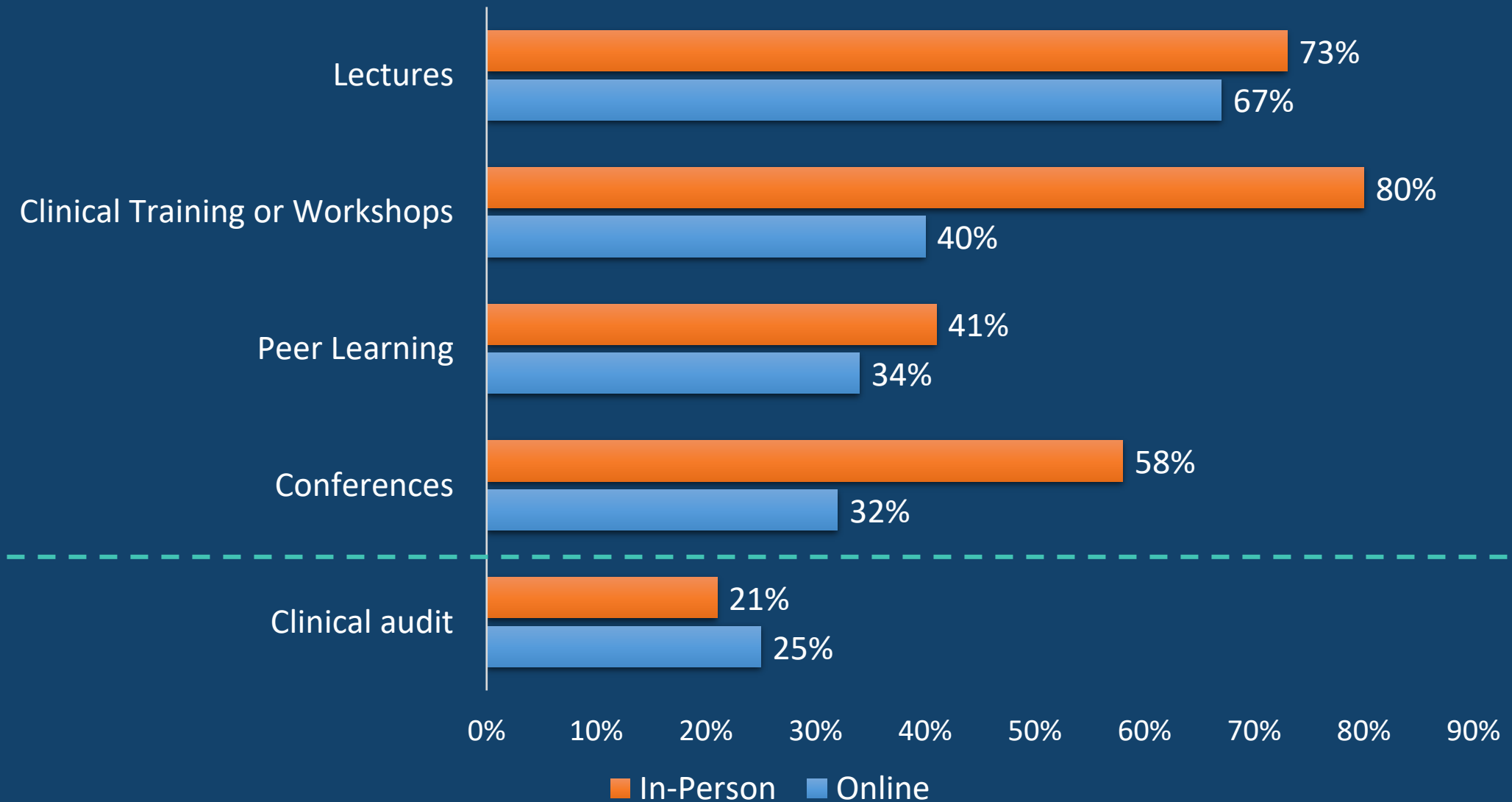
Aim

We report on findings from a larger study of CPD activity among UK dental professionals. We present uptake, preferences, and perceptions of the quality of in-person versus comparable CPD activities online.



- Data was collected from **UK dental registrants via an online survey related to CPD experiences.**
- Survey was piloted with 22 dental professionals in a range of roles across the UK nations.
- Survey was **distributed via the GDC** to all UK dental registrants: 28th Sept – 31st Oct 2022.
- **2,817 responses** were yielded. Data were **weighted according to role** (dentist/DCP) to reflect the GDC registrant population.
- Funding and survey facilitation was provided by the GDC, however analyses were independent and **views presented are those of the authors, not of the GDC.**

Results: CPD Undertaken in Past 12 Months

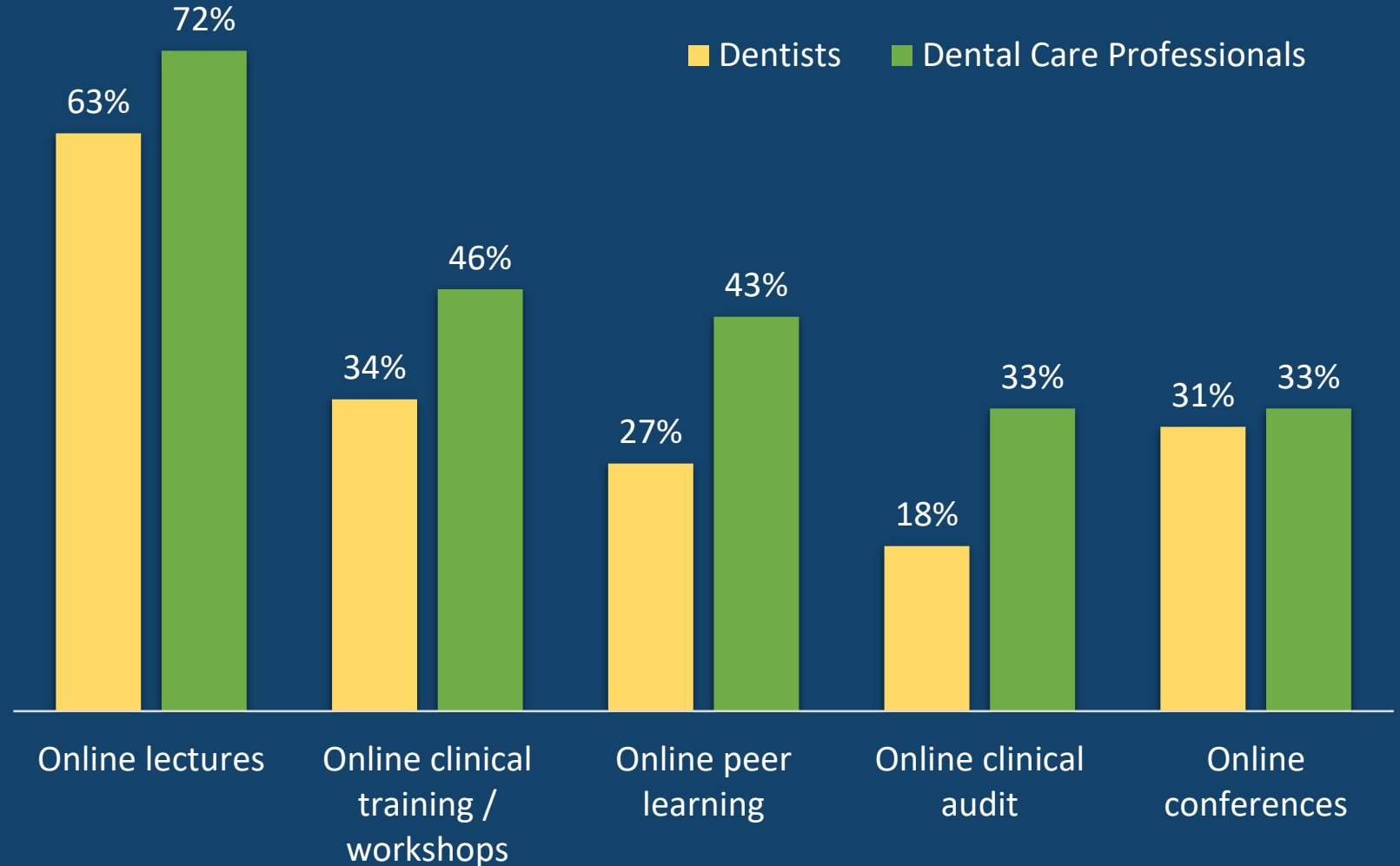




Greater proportions of DCPs participated in online formats.

Reasons for this are unclear, but:

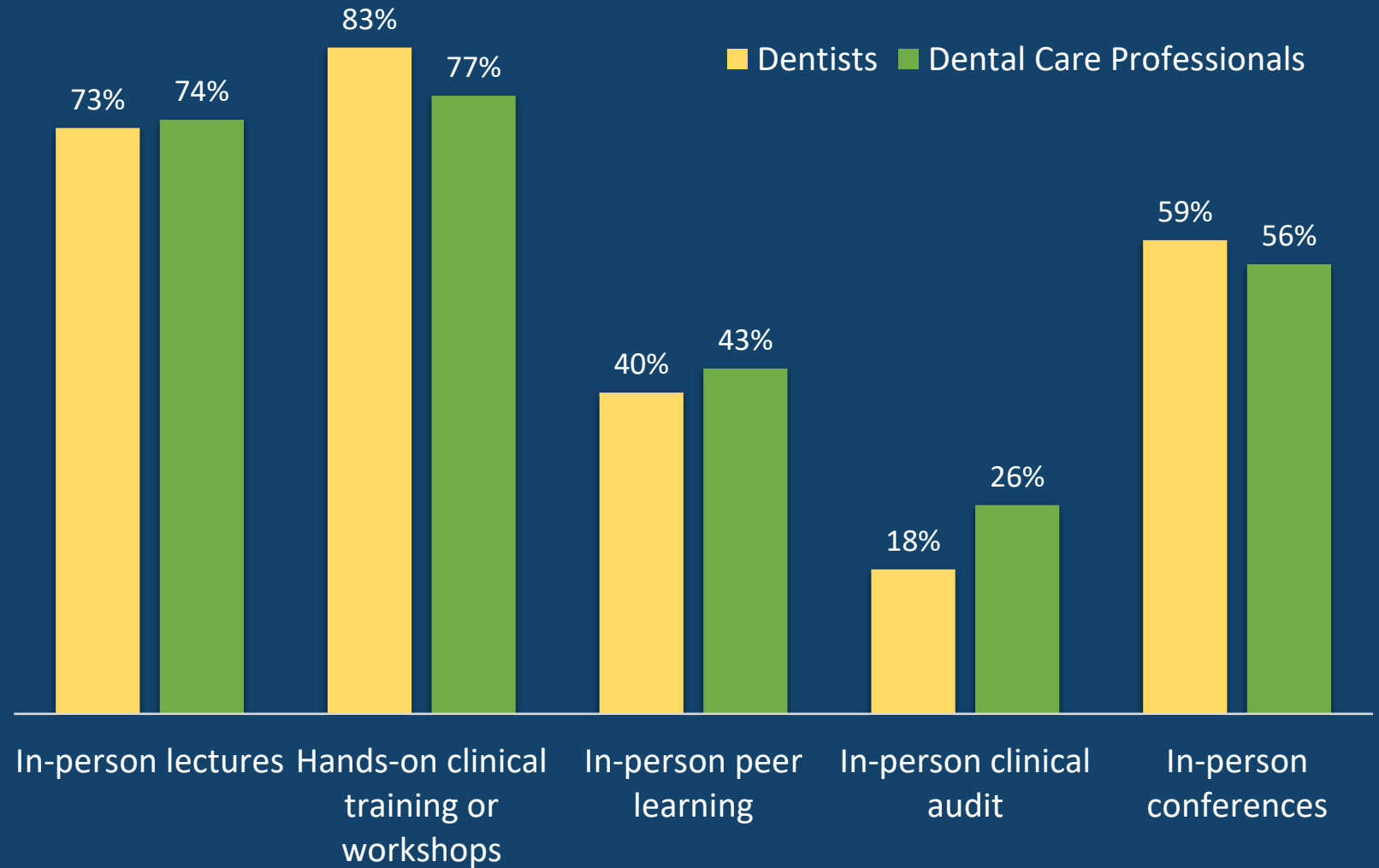
- Ease of access.
- Lack of travel cost.
- Compatibility with caring responsibilities.



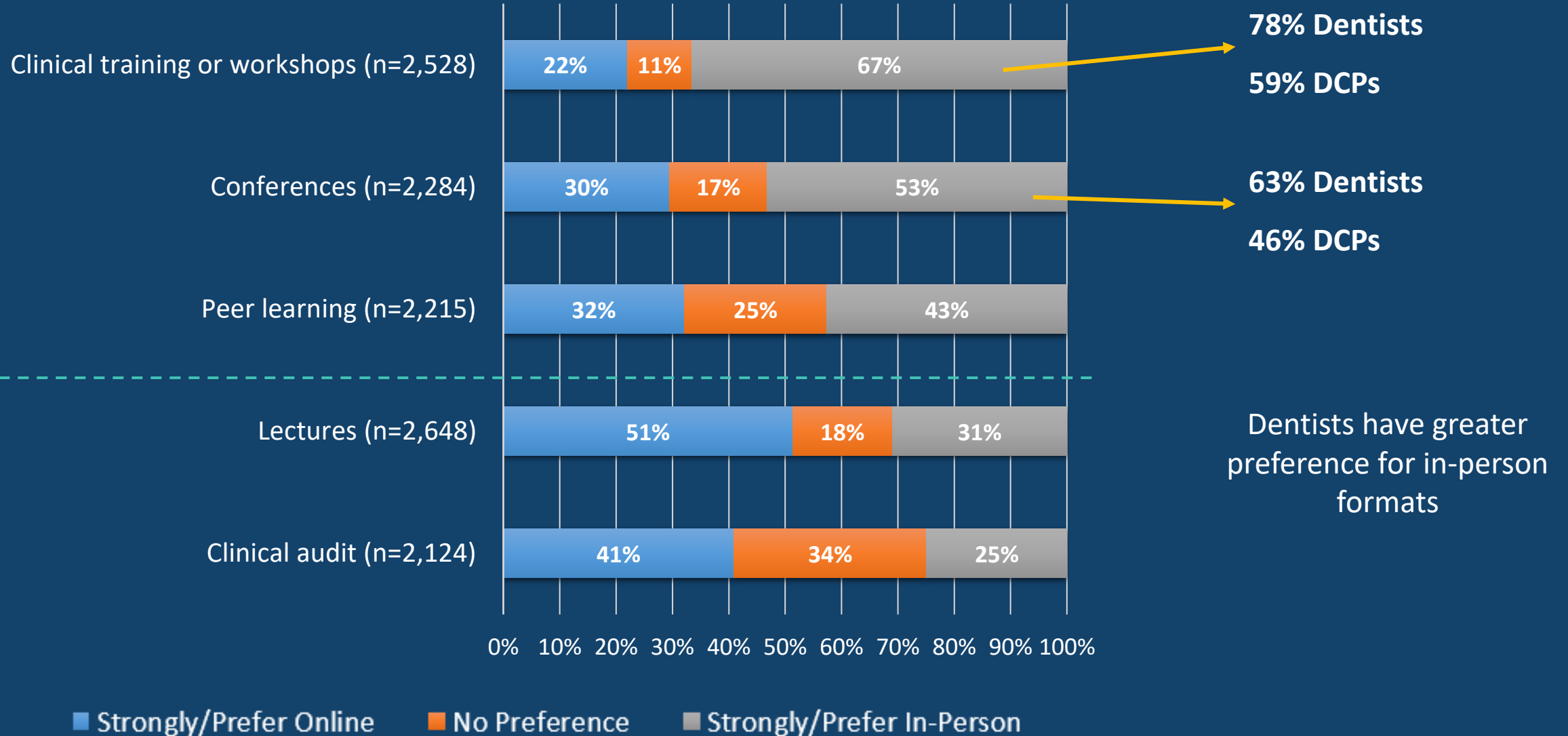
Dentists vs DCPs: In-Person CPD



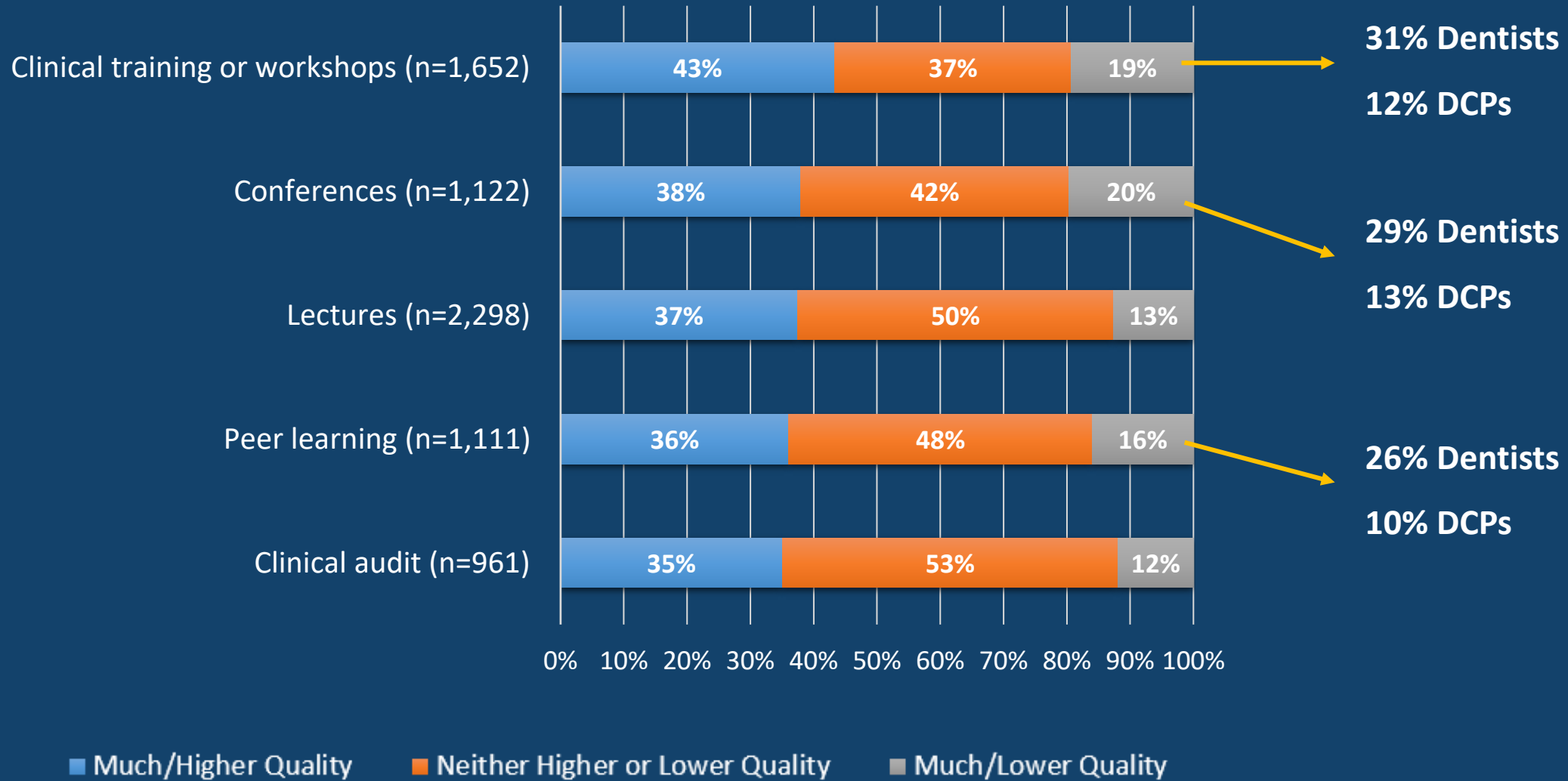
Similar trends in participation in in-person CPD events.



Preferences



Quality of CPD



Discussion & Conclusion



The most **common forms** of CPD participation were **lectures and clinical training or workshops**.



For **lectures**, there was approx. **50/50 split preference** for online/in-person however the **quality was comparable**. For **clinical training**, dentists prefer in-person.



It is promising that generally respondents **did not perceive a difference in the quality** of online alternatives versus in-person CPD.



When deciding on the format of a CPD event, we recommend that providers give thought to the **nature of the activity** and the preferences of **potential audiences**.



Results indicate that **more online CPD opportunities could increase accessibility** of CPD, particularly for those with caring responsibilities and financial limitations.



Evaluating Enhanced Continuing Professional Development Final Report

June 2023

Prof Alison Bullock, Cardiff Unit for Research and Evaluation in Medical and Dental Education, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.

Dr Emma Barnes, Welsh Oral Health Information Unit, School of Dentistry, Cardiff University

Rhiannon Jones, School of Dentistry, Cardiff University.

Dr Sophie Bartlett, Cardiff Unit for Research and Evaluation in Medical and Dental Education, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.

Mrs Elaine Russ, Cardiff Unit for Research and Evaluation in Medical and Dental Education, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.

Bullock, A., Barnes, E., Jones, R., Bartlett, S. and Russ, E. 2023. [Evaluating enhanced Continuing Professional Development: Final Report](#). Project Report. [Online]. General Dental Council.

Thanks



BartlettS2@cardiff.ac.uk (presenter)

BullockAD@cardiff.ac.uk (project PI)



@CUREMeDE



CARDIFF UNIT FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

School of
Social Sciences

Ysgol y Gwyddorau
Cymdeithasol

General
Dental
Council

protecting patients,
regulating the dental team