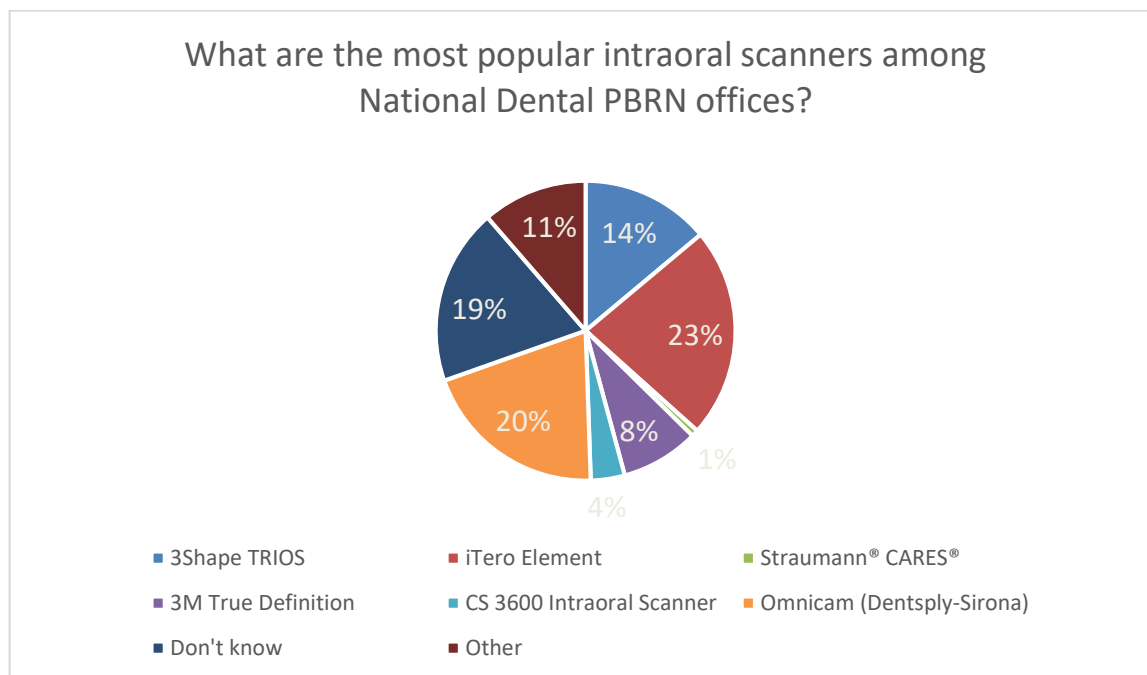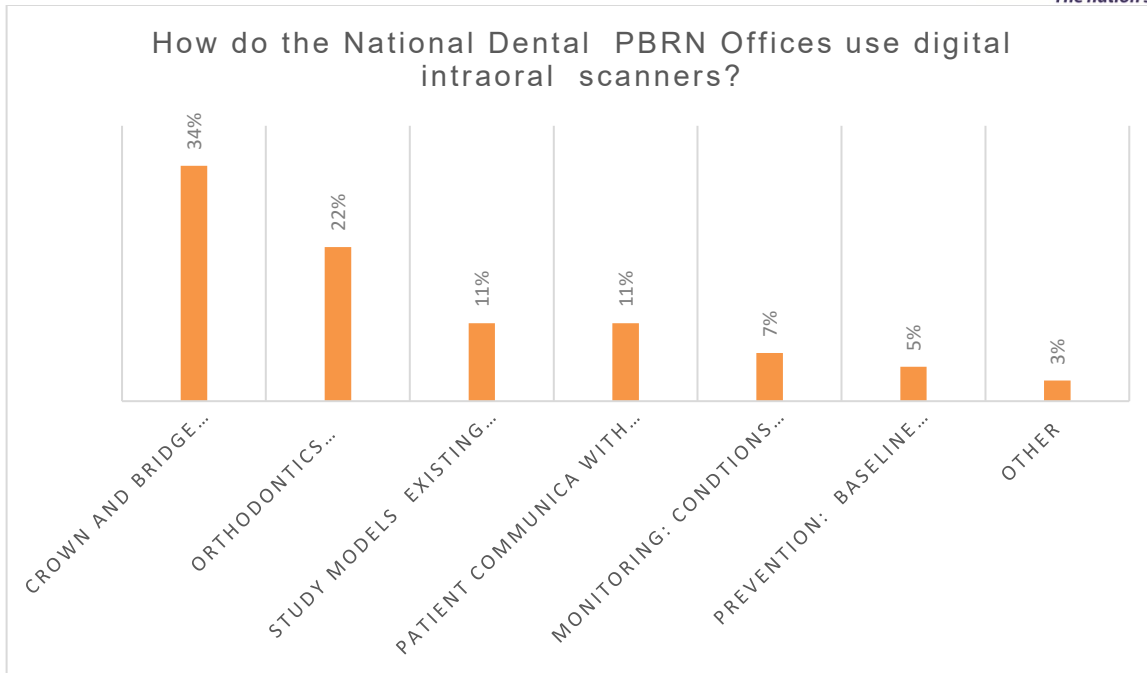Results of Quick Poll on Intraoral Scanners

As digital technology, such as intraoral scanners, changes the way we practice dentistry, it is increasingly important for the dental profession to evaluate the application of this technology. In preparation for a larger study, we used a quick poll to determine the number of practitioners in the National Dental PBRN who are using intraoral scanners and their range of applications.

In March 2019, 448 of the National Dental PBRN members responded to a quick poll on intraoral digital scanners. Close to 40% of those respondents indicated that they have an intraoral scanner in their practices. The distribution of the types of the intraoral scanners is shown in the pie chart below.

What are the most popular intraoral scanners among National Dental PBRN offices?

- 3Shape TRIOS
- iTero Element
- Straumann® CARES®
- 3M True Definition
- CS 3600 Intraoral Scanner
- Omnicam (Dentsply-Sirona)
- Don't know
- Other

National Dental PBRN practitioners typically use their intraoral scanners for impressions for restorative treatments and/or orthodontic appliances (53%). However, nearly half of the respondents are also using the scanners for diagnostic services such as patient communication, establishing baseline data of the patients' tooth and gingival conditions, and for monitoring changes in teeth and gingiva (see bar chart below).

How do the National Dental PBRN Offices use digital intraoral scanners?

Category	Percentage
CROWN AND BRIDGE…	34%
ORTHODONTICS…	22%
STUDY MODELS EXISTING…	11%
PATIENT COMMUNICA WITH…	11%
MONITORING: CONDTIONS…	7%
PREVENTION: BASELINE…	5%
OTHER	3%

Dentists and assistants are the primary users of intraoral scanners; however, hygienists are also using this technology (see funnel chart below).

Who uses digital technology in the dental office?

Role	Percentage
Dentists	33%
Assistants	31%
Hygienists	6%
Other	1%