Despite an emphasis on keeping up with diagnostic technology, only 16.0% of shops with 1–3 bays prioritized that concern, compared to 29.7% of shops with 4–7 bays and 38.3% of shops with 8+ bays.

In addition, while shops mentioned keeping up with advances in vehicle technology as a challenge (31.1%), they also believe their technicians will be specifically challenged with having broad enough skills to be able to repair all types of vehicles (17.5%) including older, foreign, electric/hybrid vehicles.

When telling us what advice they’d give to young people considering a career as a technician, they’ve given advice that would presumably offset some of the challenges they see facing them in 2020 and beyond. Read more below.

Top challenges to independent repair shops

- Finding time for hands-on training: 42.6%
- Keeping up-to-date with diagnostic technology: 31.1%
- Affording new diagnostic tools/software: 30.9%
- Understanding electronic system repair: 27.5%
- Having broad skills to repair both old & new vehicles: 19.6%
- Lack of vacation time/long hours: 10.7%
- OE withholding diagnostic information: 9.3%
- Proficiency in foreign vehicle repairs: 8.3%
- Key challenges for automotive technicians

Advice for young people considering a career as a technician

- Get the best education/training possible: 35.5%
- Take hands-on training at an employer: 15.0%
- Take hands-on training: 10.7%
- Take post-secondary: 10.3%
- Be willing to learn: 9.3%
- Be willing to learn: 8.3%
- Be willing to learn: 7.3%
- Be willing to learn: 6.7%
- Be willing to learn: 6.0%
- Be willing to learn: 4.9%

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