GENEVA, Switzerland: Maintaining a healthy mouth is crucial to keeping it functioning correctly and to maintaining general health and well-being. Ahead of World Oral Health Day, celebrated annually on 20 March to raise global awareness of the prevention and control of oral disease, the FDI World Dental Federation asked parents around the globe how they cared for their children’s oral health growing up. Their responses suggested room for improvement.

The survey, carried out online in ten countries and completed by 11,552 adults in total, found that only 13 per cent of parents with children aged 18 and under had taken their child to the dentist before their first birthday—the recommended age for the first dental visit. Most parents first had taken their child to the dentist when he or she was between 1 and 3 years old (24 per cent) or between 4 and 6 years old (22 per cent). Alarmingly, 20 per cent of parents reported never having taken their child for a dental check-up.

“It’s worrying to learn that most children are not getting a dental check-up at the recommended age,” said FDI President Dr Kathryn Kell. “Good oral health habits start early. Parents should visit the dentist after their child’s first tooth starts erupting as a preventive measure to avoid risk of developing early childhood caries. Oral disease can impact every aspect of life and is associated with many general health conditions. This World Oral Health Day, we want people to make the connection between their oral health and general health and understand the impact that one has on the other. Knowing how to protect your mouth and body at all ages contributes to a better quality of life.”

Half of the parents who had taken their child to the dentist identified the reason as being a regular dental check-up. The survey also found that 82 per cent of parents in the UK, 77 per cent in Sweden, 65 per cent in Argentina, 63 per cent in France, 63 per cent in the US, 56 per cent in Australia and 34 per cent in China reported this reason. The most reported response for having gone to the dentist in Egypt, the Children are not getting dental check-ups early enough, global survey shows
IMPRINT
GROUP EDITOR: Daniel ZIMMERMANN
newsroom@dental-tribune.com
Tel.: +44 161 223 1830
MANAGING EDITOR AP: Daniel ZIMMERMANN
EDITOR: Yvonne BACHMANN
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER: Monique MEHLER
MANAGING EDITOR & HEAD OF DTF COMMUNICATION SERVICES: Marc CHALUPSKY
TEAM ASSISTANT: Julia MACIEJEK
COPY EDITORS: Sabrina RAAFF, Ann-Katrin PAULICK
CLINICAL EDITORS: Magda WOJTKIEWICZ, Nathalie SCHÜLLER
PUBLISHER/PRESIDENT/CEO: Torsten R. OEMUS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Dan WUNDERLICH
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Claudia SALWICZEK-MAJONEK
PROJECT MANAGER ONLINE: Tom CARVALHO
JUNIOR PROJECT MANAGER ONLINE: Hannes KUSCHICK
E-LEARNING MANAGER: Lars HOFFMANN
MARKETING SERVICES: Nadine DEHMEL
SALES SERVICES: Nicole ANDRÄ
ACCOUNTING SERVICES: Anja MAYWALD, Karen HAMATSCHEK, Manuela HUNGER
MEDIA SALES MANAGER: Antje KAHNT (International), Barbora SOLAROVA (Eastern Europe), Hélène CARPENTIER (Western Europe), Maria KAISER (North America)
Matthias DIESSNER (Key Accounts), Melissa BROWN (International)
PUBLISHING SERVICE: Peter MITTCELIK (Asia Pacific)
MARKETING SERVICES: Weridiana MAGESWKI (Latin America)
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Gernot MEYER
ADVERTISING DISPOSITION: Marius MEZGER
DESIGNER: Matthias ABICHT
Published by DT Asia Pacific Ltd.
DENTAL TRIBUNE INTERNATIONAL
Holbeinstr. 29, 04229, Leipzig, Germany
Tel.: +49 341 48474-302
Fax: +49 341 48474-173
info@dental-tribune.com
www.dental-tribune.com
Regional Offices:
DT ASIA PACIFIC LTD.
c/o Yonto Risio Communications Ltd, Room 1406, Rightful Centre, 12 Tak Hing Street, Jordan, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel.: +852 3113 6177
Fax: +852 3113 6199
UNITED KINGDOM
535, Stillwater Drive 5
Manchester M11 4TF
Tel.: +44 161 223 1830
www.dental-tribune.co.uk
DENTAL TRIBUNE AMERICA, LLC
116 West 23rd Street, Suite 500, New York, NY 10011, USA
Tel.: +1 212 244 7181
Fax: +1 212 224 7185
© 2018, Dental Tribune International GmbH
All rights reserved. Dental Tribune makes every effort to report clinical information and manufacturer’s product news accurately, but cannot assume responsibility for the validity of product claims, or for typographical errors. The publisher also does not assume responsibility for product names or claims, or statements made by advertisers, which have been accepted for inclusion in this magazine. The names and images of our clients and partners are protected by our clients and partners, people or entities for whose accounts and interests the Dental Tribune International can be the exclusive carrier of its content. Dental Tribune makes no guarantee or warranty that this code or URL will function as advertised. Dental Tribune reserves the right to delete any link or website at any time.
Professor Hien Ngo has extensive experience in private practice, research and education. Over the last 30 years, he has been active as an international speaker on cariology, minimal intervention and restorative dentistry. At present, his focus in research revolves around the clinical management of caries, especially in elderly and medically compromised patients and the interactions between glass ionomers and the oral environment. Dental Tribune Asia Pacific had the opportunity to speak to him prior to his presentation at IDEM 2018 in Singapore about the concept of “lifelong oral health” and the major demographic change in ASEAN countries.

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific: The term “lifelong oral health” was used by the FDI World Dental Federation in one of its policy statements. What does it mean?

Prof. Hien Ngo: Previously, edentulous among older individuals was accepted as a norm. However, with recent advances in preventive and restorative dentistry, it is feasible if preventive measures and oral healthcare are accessible throughout life.

The key term here is “throughout life” because a good oral health foundation in childhood is the key determinant of oral health at a later stage in life.

Lifelong Oral Health was the title of a policy statement that was adopted by the FDI General Assembly in August 2017. It identified the four pillars supporting lifelong oral health as oral health promotion, risk assessment, disease prevention and early diagnosis and intervention at all stages of life. These four pillars will form the framework for discussing clinical cases during the Silver Wave symposium at IDEM.
“Ageing is universal and there is no exception among ASEAN countries.”

over 60 will more than double in the next 30 years. By 2050, 2 out of 10 people in the region will be aged over 60. However, the pace of change is much faster in Singapore than in neighbouring countries. It is predicted that by 2050, 4 out of 10 Singaporeans will be over 60 while this ratio will be 2 out of 10 in Indonesia and approximately 3 out of 10 in Thailand and Vietnam.

What are the consequences of this demographic change for oral health professionals?

If you are working in the private sector, it means that a higher portion of your clientele base will be older individuals and most of them will be dentate. As they belong to the baby boomer generation and were born between 1946 and 1964, they grew up during a period of rising living standards after economic prosperity, so their expectations are different from previous generations.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare proposed a broad classification for this group: active and capable, limited activity and capability and very limited activity and capability. For the last two groups, you may need to modify your practice to allow accessibility, or there is the option of referring them to specialised public institutions and specialists.

For clinicians, the care pathways for elderly patients are more complex, as damage to their dentition is cumulative, so its manifestation is much more severe later in life. The oral environment also becomes more hostile with age. Root caries, which are rare in younger individuals, are common in the older patients.

When these conditions are coupled with either severe health or mental illness, then referral to a specialist in geriatric dentistry could be required. Gerodontology is now a recognised dental specialty; however, specialists in this field are still not common in ASEAN countries. The engagement of international bodies such as the FDI and WHO on the concept of lifelong oral health will encourage healthy discussions and policy developments to ensure that preventive measures and oral healthcare are accessible.

What is happening in this field during the IDEM conference in Singapore?

Singapore recognised the importance of this major demographic change and has made large investments to ensure that lifelong oral health is delivered to its population.

With the Silver Wave Symposium at IDEM 2018, the symposium at IDEM 2018 on Saturday 14 April, there will be a full day dedicated to managing the ageing population and patients. Six international speakers and clinicians will be brought together to discuss the management of oral health issues, of the ageing population, and of older individuals. The day will start with discussions on the changes that were made in the public health and education institutions, then move on to clinical issues. The day will be clinically oriented and discussions will be patient focused. The symposium will be supported by The Silver Wave booklet, which will be distributed during IDEM.

13 - 15 APRIL 2018
SUNTEC SINGAPORE
THE LEADING DENTAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE IN ASIA PACIFIC

THE BUSINESS OF DENTISTRY

BUSINESS MATCHING
Schedule your meetings with buyers, traders and distributors before you step foot into IDEM! With only 3 days of exhibition, every minute counts. Plan your meetings ahead of time to maximise your visit and increase the number of interactions you have with relevant potential business partners with the IDEM business matching platform.

INTERNATIONAL GUEST PERKS
CHANGI AIRPORT
International Participants to IDEM 2018 will receive a $20 voucher at Changi Airport. Simply register for IDEM to qualify. (Terms and conditions apply.)

UBER
Promotional fares are available for travel to and from Suntec Singapore during show days.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES
Attractive airfare deals for selected flights are available when booked using IDEM 2018 preferred code: ME17004.

FREE ENTRY TO THE EXHIBITION IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE 30 MARCH
www.idem-singapore.com