

# FDI Global Periodontal Health Project

## Results of a Global Survey with FDI National Dental Associations

The Global Periodontal Health Project (GPHP), an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation (FDI), has issued its first survey on periodontal health that provides insights from FDI's National Dental Associations (NDAs).

Formed in 2015, the GPHP rolled out Phase I of the project in 2017 to raise awareness about the impact of periodontal health and to identify solutions to reduce the burden of periodontal diseases.

The GPHP initiative is led by a task team of four experts: Prof. Lijian Jin, Prof. Jörg Meyle, Prof. Stefan Renvert and Prof. David Herrera.

### Survey overview

The survey's aims are threefold:

1. To inform NDAs about the GPHP initiative.
2. To raise awareness about the burden of periodontal diseases among NDAs.
3. To collect and establish baseline information from NDAs on how periodontal health is addressed and prioritized at the national level.

The findings from the survey will help shape and inform the GPHP's upcoming White Paper and Advocacy Toolkit on periodontal health.

Conducted by FDI between June and October 2017, the survey was made available online to all FDI NDAs. The NDAs were requested to answer 19 questions on periodontal health relating to:

- National health policies
- Health information systems
- Education and workforces
- Prevention and promotion efforts by NDAs

This report sets out an analysis of the results from the survey which captures the responses of 61 NDAs in Asia Pacific\*, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

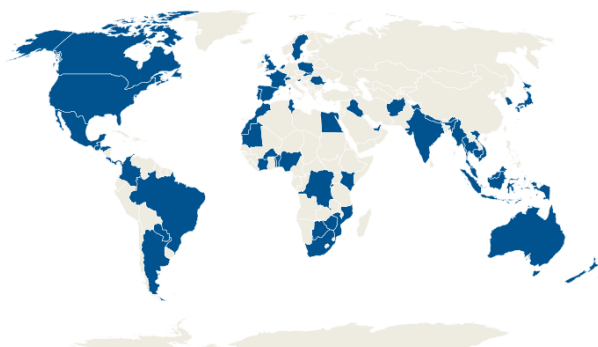
*\* Please note that for the purposes of this report, Asia-Pacific includes the Middle East.*

### Response rate

Out of 150 NDAs invited to take part, 61 NDAs representing 59 countries completed the survey – giving a response rate of 41%. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the response rate of NDAs per region.



**FIGURE 1** Geographic distribution of survey respondents



**Table 1** NDA response rate per region

Region	Number of NDAs answered	Total NDAs in region	Response rate
Latin America	9	16	56%
Europe	11	63	17%
Africa	18	29	62%
North America	4	5	80%
Asia-Pacific	19	37	51%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>41%</b>

## Survey results

The responses to each question are described below and presented using a combination of graphics and tables.

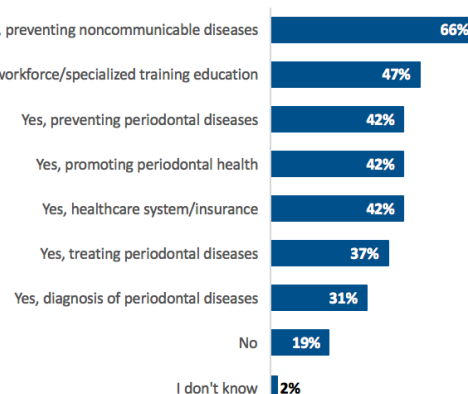
Please note that the data presented in this report are gathered solely from FDI members. As such, the results are derived directly from their own knowledge and experiences.

## National health policies

### Question 1

Are there national policies or guidelines addressing any of the following issues in your country? (Please select all that apply)

59 NDAs responded to this question



Several countries in each region (see Table 2) have national policies or guidelines addressing all the issues listed in Question 1. Those countries represent 15% of the respondents. Conversely, almost one third of the respondents (27%) have policies or guidelines addressing prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

**Table 2** Countries with national policies or guidelines addressing NCDs and/or periodontal health issues

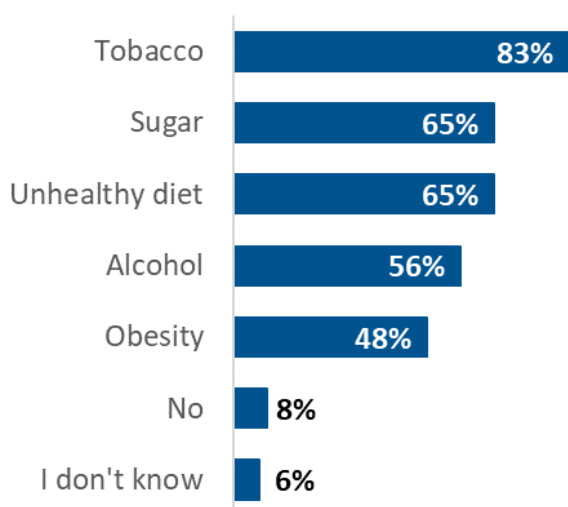
Region	Country
Africa	Botswana
	United Republic of Tanzania
Asia-Pacific	Indonesia
	Singapore
Europe	Poland
	United Kingdom
Latin America	Brazil
	Panama
North America	United States of America



## Question 2

If prevention is included, does it specifically address the reduction of exposure to the following factors that can affect oral health conditions? (Please select all that apply)

48 out of 59 NDAs (81%) that have national policies or guidelines addressing NCDs and/or periodontal health responded to Question 2.



The results clearly show that prevention strategies mainly focus on tobacco (83%), and sugar and unhealthy diets (respectively 65%).

Four respondents (8%) reported having prevention strategies that do not specifically target any NCD risk factors. These respondents suggested that the absence of detailed prevention strategies is due to a lack of awareness and understanding by national policymakers about periodontal health.

14 countries (29%) according to 48 NDAs have prevention policies and guidelines that address the reduction of exposure to NCD risk factors such as tobacco, sugar, unhealthy diets, harmful use of alcohol and obesity.

Table 3 Countries with NCD prevention policies and guidelines

Region	Country
Africa	Burkina Faso
	Botswana
	Seychelles
Asia-Pacific	New Zealand
	Timor-Leste
Europe	Sweden
	Spain
	Slovenia
	United Kingdom
	Poland
Latin America	Brazil
	Colombia
North America	United States of America

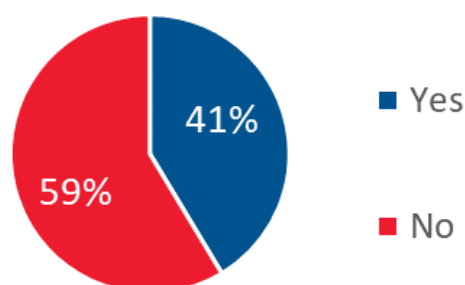


## Health information systems

### Question 3

Is there a national monitoring and evaluation plan for periodontal diseases? (Please select all that apply)

58 NDAs responded to this question



The majority (59%) of respondents do not have any national monitoring and evaluation plan for periodontal diseases.

41% of respondents who have a national monitoring and evaluation plan for periodontal diseases use at least one of the proposed periodontal indicators. The Community Periodontal Index (CPI) appears to be the most frequently used (see Table 4).

Table 4 Periodontal indicators

	Percentage
Community Periodontal Index (CPI)	71%
Basic Periodontal Examination (BPE)	38%
Primary Essential Periodontal Examination (PEPE)	25%
Periodontal Screening and Recording (PSR, PSI)	21%

## Periodontal health education and workforces

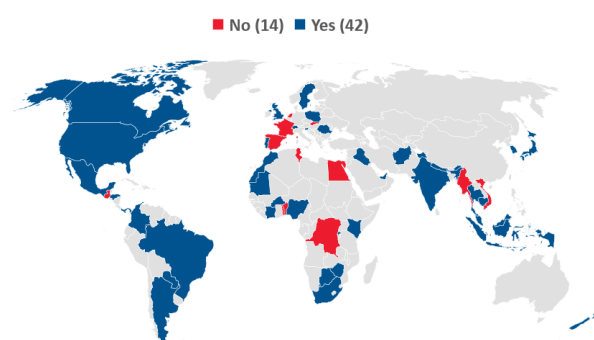
### Question 4

Is there a dedicated periodontology association/organization in your country?

57 NDAs responded to this question

Among the respondents, 68% are aware of the existence of a dedicated periodontology association/organization in their country. 32% of respondents (largely from African countries) stated that there are no such associations in their country.

FIGURE 2 Number of countries where periodontology is a registered specialty



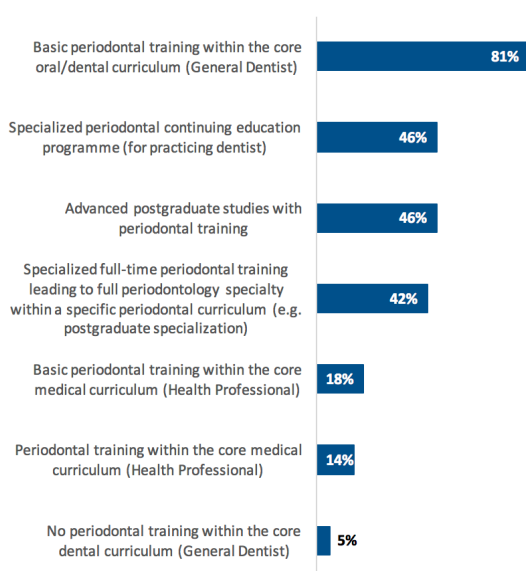


## Question 5

**What periodontal education/training is available in dental/medical schools? (Please select all that apply)**

57 NDAs responded to this question

The majority of the surveyed countries (81%) revealed that there is basic periodontal training



within the core curriculum of undergraduate dentistry studies. However, less than half of the countries (42%) have postgraduate programmes specialized in periodontics and three NDAs reported that there are no dental schools in their country.

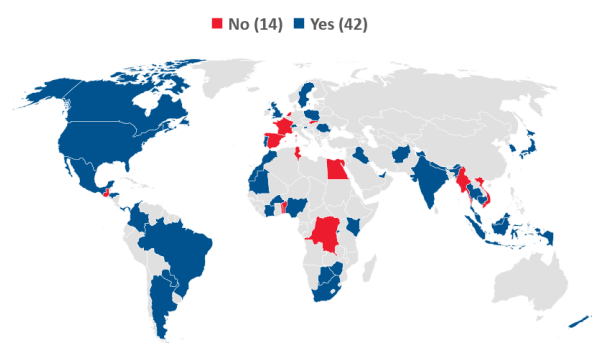
## Question 6

**Is periodontology a registered specialty (i.e. official statutory registration of periodontist as a profession) in your country?**

57 NDAs responded to this question

Among the respondents, 74% stated that periodontology is a registered specialty in their country, while 25% replied that no such registered specialty exists in their country.

**FIGURE 3** Number of countries where periodontology is a registered specialty



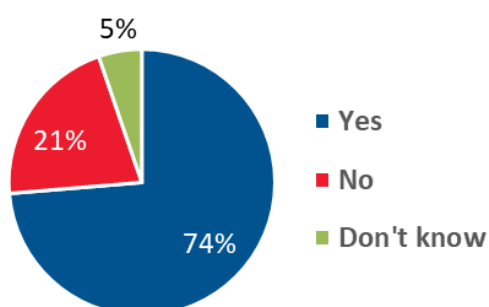
From the responses, it appears that 26% of countries do not have a dedicated periodontal association/organization even though they register periodontal specialists. Accordingly, this conflicting finding requires further investigation and clarification with FDI's NDAs.



## Question 7

Are there any other oral health professionals (i.e. non-registered as periodontal specialists) providing periodontal care (prevention, treatment and diagnosis) in your country?

57 NDAs responded to this question



74% of respondents answered “Yes” to Question 7 and provided the below information about other oral health professionals providing periodontal care:

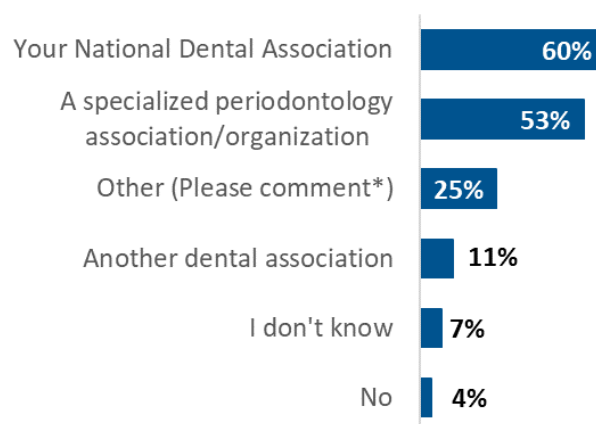
	Percentage
<b>Dentists</b>	55%
<b>Hygienists</b>	16%
<b>Therapists</b>	14%
<b>Other*</b>	10%
<b>Specialists</b>	4%

\*Other refers to either dental nurses, medical/general doctors, assistant dental officers, and dental community oral health officers

## Question 8

If there is a periodontal continuing education programme, which association/organization is in charge? (Please select all that apply)

57 NDAs responded to this question



\*University/dental school/government/dental supplier/regulatory body

The responses to Questions 5 and 8 reveal that periodontal continuing education is mainly provided by NDAs and/or specialized periodontal associations.



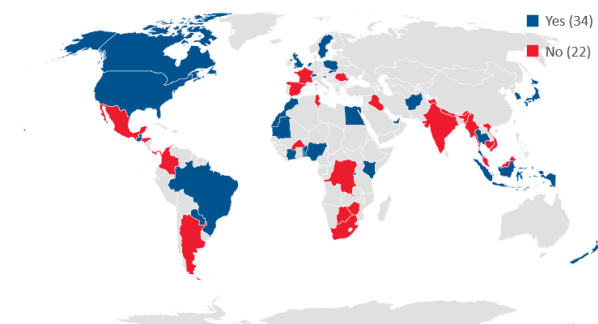
## Question 9

Is periodontal screening systematically included in routine dental check-ups?

57 NDAs responded to this question

Yes	No	Don't know
60%	38%	2%

FIGURE 4 Number of countries with periodontal screening systematically included in routine dental check-ups



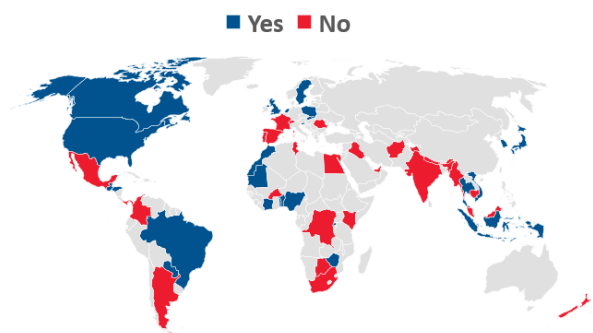
## Question 10

Is periodontal screening mandatory in routine dental check-ups?

57 NDAs responded to this question

Yes	No
51%	49%

FIGURE 5 Number of countries with mandatory periodontal screening within routine dental check-ups



Questions 9 and 10 show that dentists tend to systematically conduct periodontal screening in routine dental check-ups, even when it is not mandatory in their country. This suggests that there is a need to implement a global policy framework to support such basic and key prevention measures.

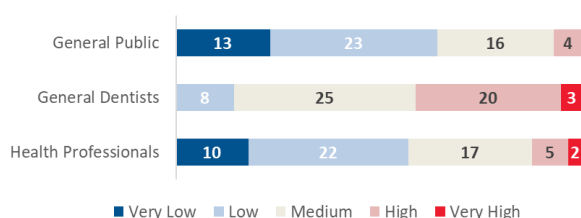


## Prevention/promotion efforts by NDAs

### Question 11, 12 & 13

Your view on periodontal health awareness among the general public, general dentists, and health professionals in your country?

56 NDAs responded to this question

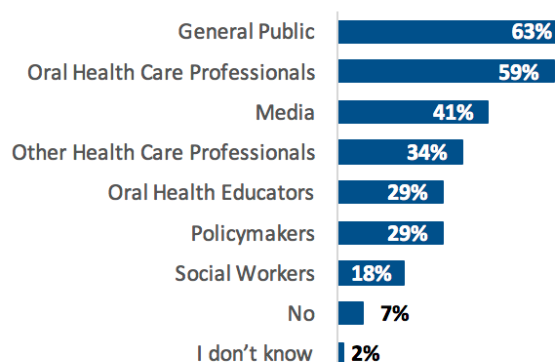


The perception of the respondents is that health professionals and the general public have a low awareness about the importance of periodontal health.

### Question 14

Does your NDA conduct campaigns for prevention of periodontal diseases or promotion of periodontal health through targeting the following audiences? (Please select all that apply)

56 NDAs responded to this question



Despite the responses to Questions 11-13 that there is low awareness surrounding periodontal health among the general public, the survey answers to Question 14 indicate that the majority of NDA periodontal campaigns target the general public.

### Question 15

Does your NDA conduct promotional campaigns for periodontal health?

56 NDAs responded to this question

More than half (52%) of the surveyed NDAs revealed that they conduct promotional campaigns for periodontal health every year.

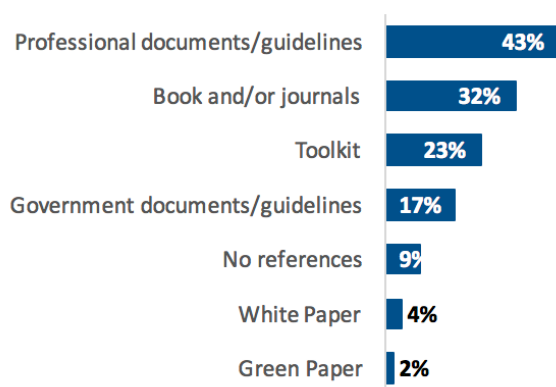




## Question 16

**What is the main reference/resource you use for periodontal health information? (Please provide references)**

47 NDAs responded to this question



- World Oral Health Day toolkits
- Periodontology text books
- Internet
- Shared experiences and professional knowledge/certified periodontist

12 out of 47 NDAs provided the following references/resources that they use to acquire periodontal health information:

- Carranza's Clinical Periodontology 11th Edition
- National order, Association des médecins dentistes mauritaniens, Pnab
- Conferences/ lectures/university
- ENSAB IV
- Spanish Society of Periodontology SEPA
- Revista ADM 2007; LXIV(1):25-33  
Prevención en salud periodontal: Recomendaciones actualizadas y estatus del conocimiento directamente aplicable al entorno mexicano
- The oral health unit in the Ministry of Health and Wellness is under the Health Promotion Department and has education materials that are used in health campaigns
- Colgate provides education materials and occasional literature
- National Oral Health Survey of Adults NOHSA 2010



## Conclusion

The survey results provide essential information for the GPHP in order to prioritize periodontal health at national and global levels through health promotion and disease prevention, and to integrate oral and periodontal health into policies addressing NCDs.

Almost 60% of the NDAs surveyed, irrespective of their regions, do not have a national monitoring and/or evaluation plan for periodontal diseases. Additionally, prevention of periodontal diseases is mainly addressed through policies related to tobacco, diabetes and unhealthy diets.

Survey respondents worldwide suggested that there is a lack of awareness and promotion of periodontal health. Encouragingly, the majority of surveyed NDAs reported the existence of a dedicated periodontology association or organization in their country. These associations/organizations could play a central role in raising the profile of periodontal health among the general public and policymakers.

Periodontal training regularly appears as a basic component within the curriculum of undergraduate studies for dentistry. However, according to NDAs surveyed, advanced trainings, such as postgraduate qualifications specialized in periodontics are seldom available. As a result, the number of registered periodontal specialists is low.

Dental educators and institutions have the opportunity to harmonize periodontal education globally to a common set of knowledge, skills and competencies, and to recognize periodontics as a specialization. In doing so, the education framework would enable oral health professionals to become registered periodontal specialists and facilitate mandatory periodontal screening.

Finally, the survey reveals that there are no common or globally accepted resources for periodontal health information. As such, FDI and the GPHP plan to develop and provide such resources to all relevant stakeholders.



## ANNEX – Respondent NDAs

Country	Association
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Dental Association
Argentina	Asociación Odontológica Argentina Confederación Odontológica de la República Argentina (CORA)
Australia	Australian Dental Association
Barbados	Barbados Dental Association
Botswana	Botswana Dental Association
Brasil	ABCD/APCD
Burkina Faso	Association des Chirurgiens-Dentistes du Burkina (ACDB)
Cambodia	Cambodian Dental Association
Canada	Canadian Dental Association
Colombia	Federación Odontológica Colombiana
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Ordre Nationale des Chirurgiens-Dentistes de la République Démocratique du Congo
Costa Rica	Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Costa Rica
Côte D'Ivoire	Association des Odonto-Stomatologistes de Côte d'Ivoire (A.O.S.C.I.)
Egypt	Egyptian Dental Syndicate
France	UFSBD/Association Dentaire Française
Guatemala	Colegio Estomatológico de Guatemala
Honduras	Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Honduras
India	Indian Dental Association
Indonesia	Indonesian Dental Association
Iraq	Iraqi Dental Association
Japan	Japan Dental Association
Kenya	Kenya Dental Association
Malaysia	Malaysian Dental Association
Maroc	Association Marocaine de Prévention bucco-dentaire
Mauritanie	Association des Médecins Dentistes Mauritaniens
Mexico	Asociación Dental Mexicana Federación Nacional de Colegios de Cirujanos Dentistas, A.C.
Mozambique	Associação Moçambicana dos Médicos Dentistas

Myanmar	Myanmar Dental Association
Nepal	Nepal Dental Association
Netherlands	Royal Dutch Dental Association
New Zealand	New Zealand Dental Association
Nigeria	Nigerian Dental Association
Palestine	Palestinian Dental Association
Panama	Asociación Odontológica Panameña
Paraguay	Círculo de Odontólogos del Paraguay
Poland	Polish Dental Society
Portugal	Portuguese Dental Association
République du Bénin	Association des Chirurgien-Dentistes du Bénin
Romania	Romanian Dental Association of Private Practitioners
Rwanda	Rwanda Dental Surgeons Association
Seychelles	Dental Association of Seychelles
Singapore	Singapore Dental Association
Slovakia	Slovak Chamber of Dentists
Slovenia	Slovenian Dental Association
South Africa	South African Dental Association
South Korea	Korean Dental Association
Spain	Consejo General de Colegios de Odontólogos y Estomatólogos de España
Sweden	Swedish Dental Association
Switzerland	Swiss Dental Association (SSO)
Tanzania	Tanzania Dental Association
Thailand	Dental Association of Thailand
Timor Leste	Timor Leste Dental Association (ADETIL) Associação Dentaria Timor Leste
Togo	Association des chirurgiens-dentistes du Togo (ACDT)
Tunisia	Syndicat tunisien des médecins dentistes en libre pratique
United Kingdom	British Dental Association
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Dental Society – Emirates Medical Association
United States of America	American Dental Association
Vietnam	Vietnam Odonto-Stomatology Association (VOSA)
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Dental Association

## Global Periodontal Health Project



# Key learnings from the GPHP survey on periodontal health

Conducted by FDI between June and October 2017, the survey asked FDI National Dental Associations 19 questions on periodontal health relating to 1) national health policies, 2) health information systems, 3) education and workforces and 4) national prevention and promotion efforts by NDAs.

## Lack of awareness



Only **50%** of surveyed NDAs promoted periodontal health through annual national campaigns

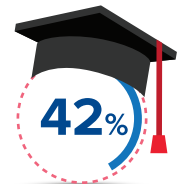
## Call for recognition of periodontists worldwide



UNDERGRADUATE



CONTINUING EDUCATION

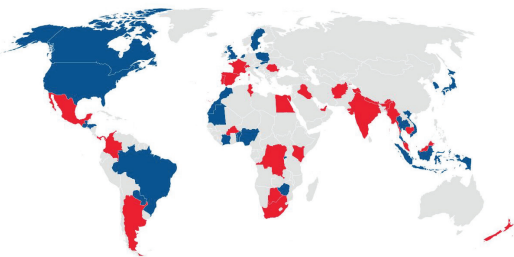


POSTGRADUATE

Only **42%** of respondents reported the availability of full-time postgraduate programmes specialized in periodontics in their countries

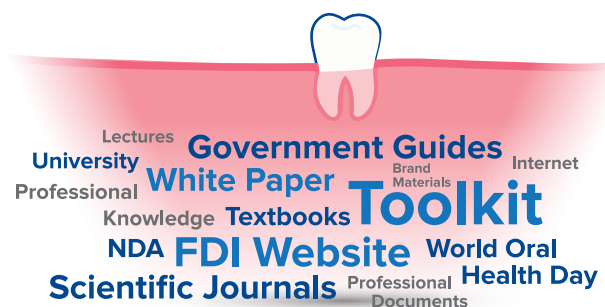
## Insufficient policy enforcement

● YES ● NO



Periodontal screening is mandatory in **only 50%** of the countries surveyed

## Need for a global set of resources



There are no common or globally accepted resources for periodontal health information