Over three-quarters of Brits believe poor oral health can hinder job applicants and their career prospects.

By DTI

LONDON, UK: A new YouGov survey on behalf of the British Dental Association (BDA) has found that over three-quarters of Brits believe poor oral health can hinder job applicants and their career prospects. In comparison, only half of the number ranked being overweight or dress code violations as a barrier to being hired.

The online poll involved 2,028 Brits aged over 18. When asked to being hired.

Brits ranked being overweight or dress code violations as a barrier to getting on in life,” commented Henrik Overgaard-Nielsen, chairperson of the BDA’s General Practice Committee, on the survey results.

“Tooth decay remains the chief reason for hospital admissions among young children in the UK.Alarmingly, from 2013 to 2014, the number of tooth extractions in children under 18 increased by 26 per cent, the latest Public Health England figures have shown.

In addition, the 2013 Children’s Dental Health Survey found that insecurities about a poor dental appearance start early. The survey, which provides information on the dental health of children in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, showed that 35 per cent of 12-year-olds and 28 per cent of 15-year-olds were embarrassed to smile or laugh owing to the condition of their teeth. Independent studies have found that oral health issues can have a lasting effect on children’s school readiness, as well as impair their nutrition, development and ability to socialise.

Targeting regions with high decay rates, the government recently announced ten pilot preventive programmes in England. However, no details of the scheme or dedicated funding have been released so far.

“Ministers have viewed oral health as an ‘optional extra’ for far too long. For the children lining up for tooth extractions in our hospitals decay has long-term consequences. Whether they grow up to be solicitors or receptionists, the state of their mouths can affect their life chances,” Overgaard-Nielsen said.

“Keep calm, it won’t hurt much.”