BARBADOS YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

UNICEF Caribbean Area Office
2000

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The Tobacco Youth Survey is part of a WHO/UNICEF Global Initiative "Building Alliances and Taking Action to Create a Generation of Tobacco-Free Children and Youth." The Role of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in providing the framework, training and resource material for the conduct of this study was critical to its execution and success and this is greatly appreciated.

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2.0: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a summary of information collected for the Barbados component of the UNICEF/WHO Global Tobacco Study conducted in 1999. The study looks at smoking among children in schools and further examines whether this practice was experimental or habitual. The report also provides data on the use of alcohol, inhalants, illegal drugs and violence.

The survey employed a two-stage cluster sample of 19 secondary schools in Barbados. In total 1,712 students were given self-administered questionnaires and the survey achieved a response rate of 91%. This is considered as a good representation of the school population.

The respondents were composed of 57% female and 43% male students, which reflected the demographic profile of the schools. The students engaged in the study ranged in age from 11 to 17, however most were 14 - 15 years, drawn from Forms 3, 4 and 5.

The study revealed that 36% of students in the age groups surveyed had at some time taken one or two puffs of a cigarette, however only 1% were considered daily smokers. The pattern of experimentation did not differ between boys and girls. Among these smokers some 60% indicated that they had a desire to quit smoking and this was evenly distributed among male and female students. Only 5% of smokers manifested a habitual desire to have a morning cigarette.

Possible influences behind initiation and practice of smoking were examined. It was found that parental smoking was quite rare as only 3% of students had both parents who smoked. It was noted that a higher number of students (17%) had fathers who smoked while only 2% of students had mothers who smoked. The media was identified as a possible source of influence, as overall, a higher number of students recalled seeing smoking messages moreso than *anti*-smoking messages. It seems that the school continues to be an under-utilised source of influence since only 32% of students interviewed recalled being exposed to anti-smoking education in schools.

Most students who had smoked indicated that they started either experimenting, or smoking at the age of 12, or 13. Boys started at 10 or 11 years, while girls usually commenced at 12 or 13 years.

There was no clear indication on how adolescents obtained cigarettes. However, from those who responded, the direct purchase of cigarettes by students themselves was the most frequent procurement method. Many indicated that their age did not prevent them from obtaining cigarettes from various vendors. Students generally smoked in the home,

either theirs, or a friend's. Smoking on the school premises was the preferred venue in only 1% of cases, while public smoking was mentioned in 6% of cases.

It was noted that while 72% of students said that they would not be influenced by close friends to smoke, there was a 12% - 15% level of uncertainty in relation to this question.

Responses also indicated that students did not see smoking as a significant popularity boost. Specifically, students had a lower opinion of girls who smoked than boys who smoked, suggesting a gender bias that makes it more acceptable for boys to smoke than for girls.

In total 90% of students felt smoking was dangerous to their health and a slightly lower number (88%) felt that second-hand smoke was hazardous to their health. Also, 79% of students supported the banning of smoking in public places. Similarly, among those who smoked, health reasons emerged as the number ONE motivation to stop smoking.

In response to questions on the use of and experimentation with alcohol, responses indicated that 89% of students had experimented with low alcohol content beverage and 62% with high alcohol content beverages, a higher percentage than the number experimenting with cigarettes. Yet, the majority of students believed that the consumption of alcoholic beverages would have a neutral, if not negative effect on their popularity. Usage among friends and parents was generally about 20% lower than that of the students themselves. As for anti-alcohol education in school, only 58% of students indicated that they were taught in class about the dangers associated with alcohol consumption. Yet, a total of 80% of all students believed that alcohol was harmful to them.

Students surveyed appeared more likely to have experimented with illegal drugs than inhalants. Some 22% of students reported experimenting with illegal drugs, while only 11% admitted to having used inhalants. For both inhalants and illegal drugs, the majority of students were unsure of their potential impact on popularity, if not, they believed these substances would make them less appealing. There seemed to be a relationship between the use of these substances by students, parents and friends since their levels were similar. There was however relatively little evidence of illegal drug use among parents. As for anti-drug education in school, 73% reported having been exposed to such instruction, and 91% believed that illegal drugs were harmful to them.

The data on violence indicated that 28% of students admitted to deliberately damaging property. "Stealing" was the next most frequent violent (or related) activity with 22% of respondents admitting to this type of behaviour. Also, "fighting with the use of a weapon" was indicated by 16% of the respondents.

3.0: BACKGROUND:

In conjunction with the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE), Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the Tobacco Study in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). This study examines the extent to which children throughout the world use tobacco, the ages when this use is likely to commence and any trends that may exist, regarding tobacco use. This information is being collected globally and involves a Barbados component that was conducted in April 1999. This report summarises the information gleaned from data collected in this study.

4.0: METHODOLOGICAL SUMMARY:

In an effort to obtain information on smoking behaviour, the survey employed a two-stage cluster sample of students in Forms 3, 4, and 5 from 19 schools out of a total of 33 (23 public and 10 registered government assisted private) secondary schools in Barbados. In total 1,712 students were given self-administered questionnaires and 1,644 or 96% of these students returned questionnaires, which were usable. One school did not participate in the study. Overall the response rate for schools and students was calculated at 91%, which can be currently considered representative of the population of students in secondary schools throughout Barbados. Currently there are 21,752 secondary school students in Barbados.

To minimise the possibility of bias in the survey from different patterns of non-participation/response by students and schools, the questionnaires were weighted according to a formula that accounted for the non-selection probability for schools and classrooms that were not chosen in the sample. This formula is reproduced in Annex II. In addition, this formula also accommodated school, class and student level non-response factors.

A major limitation of the study was the fact that it was a single exercise, hence there was no possibility of comparison, or analysis of trends over a specific time period.

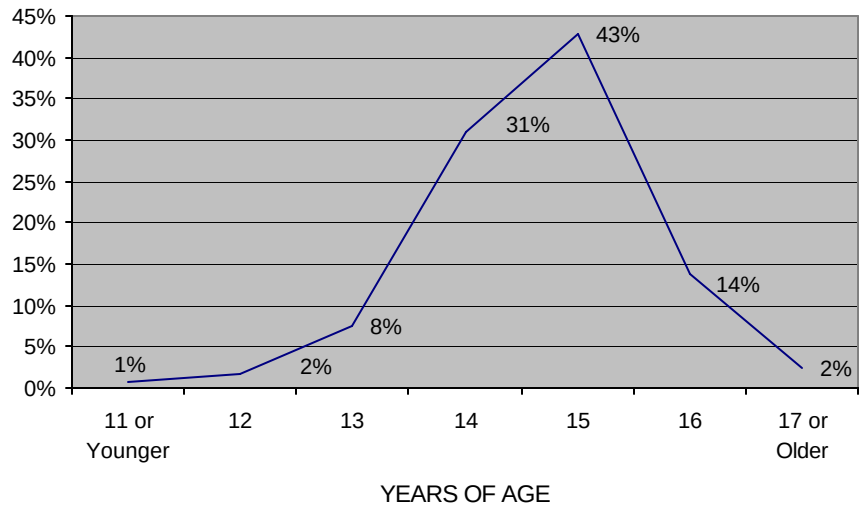
5.0: DEMOGRAPHICS:

The only demographic information sought by the survey related to age and sex. Among the students who participated in the survey, 57% were girls and 43% were boys, which reflects the demographic profile of the classroom and, by extension, the school. The proportion of boys and girls in each year did not deviate by more than 2 percentage points in any instance.

The age of respondents for this Barbados study was dictated largely by the requirements of the global study. The age-range of persons surveyed was from 11 to 17. As a result of the form-levels (which included Forms 3, 4, and 5) from which the sample was chosen, the largest segment of students was between 14 and 16. The age distribution of this sample is presented in FIGURE 01.

Information was also collected on the ages of students in each form-level surveyed and it is noticeable that the higher and lower ranges of the age group are almost evenly balanced between Forms 3, 4 and 5. However there is some evidence (which in all cases amounts to less than a percentage point) of very young students in Forms 5 and very old students in Forms 3, both of which are unlikely to occur. This raises suspicions about the extent to which students were 100% truthful, or properly understood what was asked in the questionnaire.

FIGURE 01: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE



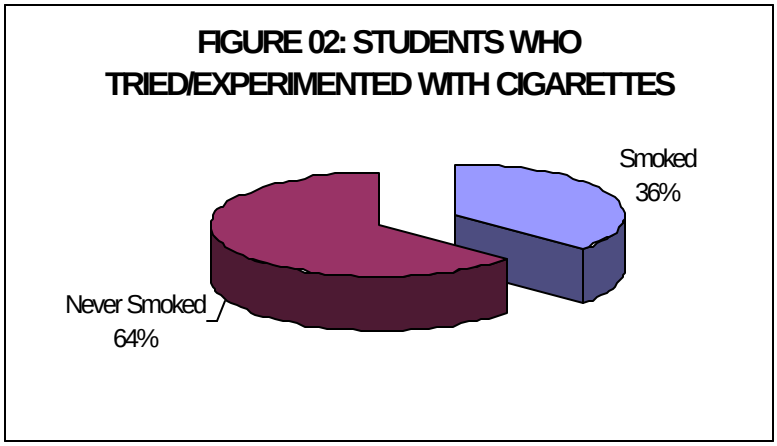
6.0: MAJOR OBSERVATIONS AND ISSUES:

The survey probed several major issues and, in each instance, raised many related questions that were grouped. While each of these issue groups is examined individually, select issues that are likely to be of major concern to UNICEF have been consolidated here.

6.1: SMOKING EXPERIMENTATION AND USE:

The students surveyed were asked a general question that sought to ascertain whether or not they ever smoked. Here smoking was defined as either one or two puffs of a cigarette and some 36% of students indicated that they had smoked before, while 64% had not. This pattern of experimentation, which is reflected in FIGURE 02, does not appear to bear any relationship to the gender of the students since approximately 36% of both boys and girls interviewed admitted to having experimented.

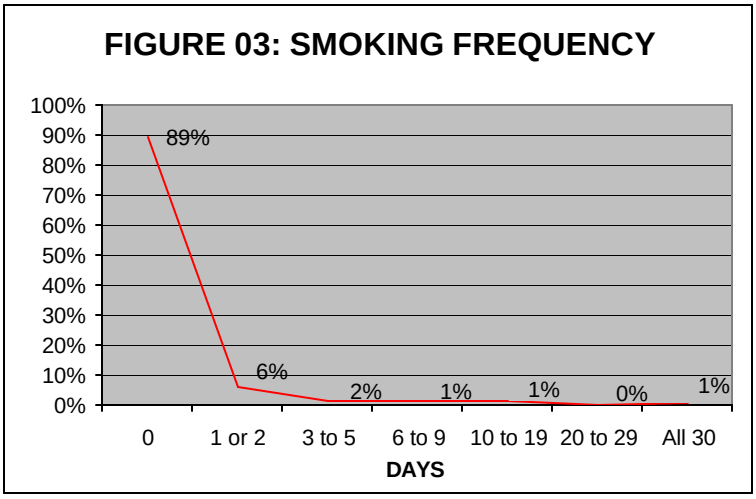
There is, however a slight relationship that emerges in relation to the form-levels where students seemed to have been experimenting most and least. Here the highest number of students admitting to having experimented were in Forms 4, which was 4% above the average, while the students in Forms 5 had the lowest experimental rate which was 6% below the average.



Compared to general experimentation, the percentages of students who admitted to having smoked in the 30 days prior to the survey period, is remarkably reduced. Here some 89% of students said that they had not smoked, the inverse of which suggests that 11% of students smoked during that period. This can be compared with the quantity that experimented to reveal that two thirds of those that experimented did not repeat this act in the 30 days prior to the survey, or that it was not habitual for most of those experimenting. Therefore, most of those that smoked were not habitual smokers, but did so on an experimental basis.

FIGURE 03 presents this information diagrammatically and reflects a rapid decline in smoking frequency in the 30-day period under review. This decline is continuous between 1 and 29 days, except for daily smokers (all 30 days) which account for only 1% of those surveyed. The majority of daily smokers were boys drawn from Forms 3 and 4.

6.2: PARENTAL INFLUENCE:



The extent to which smoking by parents could have been a contributing factor to smoking by students in the survey, was probed by way of a question that inquired into smoking by either, or both parents of the students. In only 3% of instances did both parents smoke. A higher number of students (17%) had fathers who smoked while only 2% of students had mothers who smoked. In addition, 5% of students indicated they did not know if either of their parents smoked, which could possibly inflate the quantity of parents that smoked possibly in instances where parents and students did not live together. The comparative examination of parental smoking is also interesting. It reveals that 81% of the students who have never smoked also have parents that are non-smokers. The inverse of this statistic suggests that 19% of students experimenting had parents who smoked. Therefore, smoking by parents could have been a relatively minor influence.

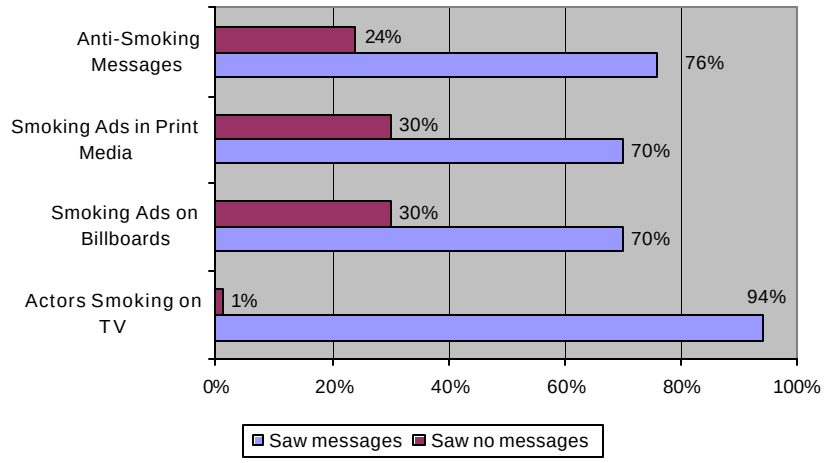
6.3: THE DESIRE TO QUIT SMOKING:

Important among the attitudinal issues which were examined, was the desire to stop smoking *presumably* among those who smoked. Here, 10% of students gave responses that would allow them to be classified as smokers, which is consistent with related questions. Among these, the majority, or 60% indicated a desire to stop smoking while 40% had no desire to stop. If these data are viewed comparatively, there is no significant difference in the level of desire to stop, depending on the sex, or age of students.

6.4: MEDIA INFLUENCES:

The extent to which the media could possibly have influenced smoking behaviour, was examined by a series of questions and the major ones are diagrammatically presented in FIGURE 04. The frequency of students being exposed to smoking messages seems to be higher than that of those exposed to *anti*-smoking messages. Although a slightly higher number of students (76%) recalled seeing *anti*-smoking messages compared with 70% of students who recalled seeing smoking messages on billboards and print media, a much higher rate of 94% recalled seeing actors smoking on television. Further details on the knowledge of media messages and smoking information are provided in FIGURE 12 where it shows that smoking messages were reaching the young people far more frequently than were *anti*-smoking messages.

FIGURE 04: SMOKING AND ANTI-SMOKING MESSAGES



6.5: ANTI-SMOKING MESSAGES FROM SCHOOLS:

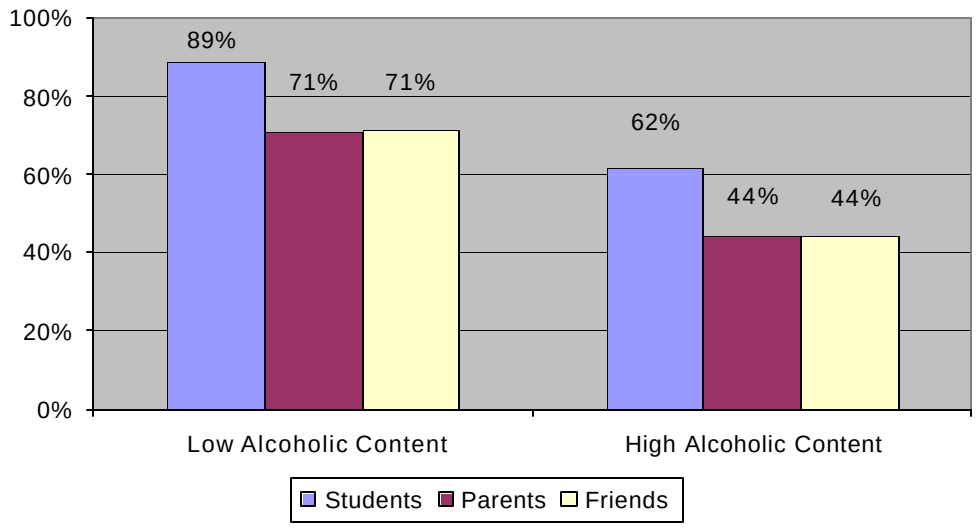
Here it would appear that more students either were not taught, or do not recall being taught in school of the dangers of smoking. A total of 49% of students indicated that they received no instructions on the dangers of smoking, while only 32% recalled receiving such lessons and 19% were unsure. An average of 33% of students interviewed in Forms 3 and 4 recalled teaching on the dangers of smoking, compared with 28% in Forms 5. This would appear to be suggesting that teaching or instruction of this type, if any, is more prevalent in Forms 3 and 4.

6.6: USE OF ALCOHOL AND PROBABLE INFLUENCES:

In relation to questions on experimentation with high and low alcohol content beverages, FIGURE 05 demonstrates that there has been considerable experimentation among students. The quantity of students who used low alcohol content drinks on an experimental basis was almost 30% lower than those who tried hard liquor; however, this still accounts for more than half of the student population.

This figure also helps us to establish the potential influence that could come from parents and close friends. As it can be seen, the quantity of students who experimented, who have friends and parents who use similar beverages, is quite high and in both instances within 20 percentage points of the students' use. This suggests a relationship of some sort exist between student experimentation and use by friends and relatives. However the absence of direct cross-tabulations of these two sets of data, retards the ability to make strong associations here.

FIGURE 05: EXPERIMENTATION WITH ALCOHOL



6.7: THE USE OF INHALANTS, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND PROBABLE INFLUENCES:

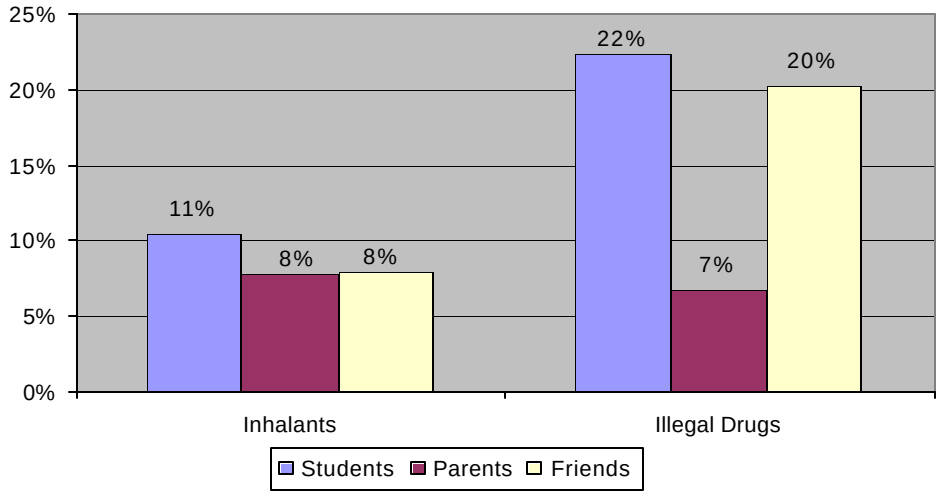
FIGURE 06 facilitates an analysis of data on experimentation with inhalants and illegal drugs, as compared to use of these by parents and close friends. Compared to the data on the use of alcohol, the quantity of students admitting to having experimented with inhalants and illegal drugs is relatively small. It is, however, interesting to note that students in these schools are more likely to have experimented with illegal drugs than inhalants which are more popular among young people in some European schools.

Reported use of inhalants by students, parents and friends appears to be somewhat related, although the absence of direct cross-tabulations retards this conclusion. Regarding the use of illegal drugs, however if such an association can be made, it would be between students and friends since the reported use of illegal drugs by parents does not compare favourably with that of their offspring.

6.8: ANTI-ALCOHOL AND ANTI-DRUG EDUCATION:

The survey sought to establish the extent to which students had been exposed to anti-drug education in schools and here 58% of students indicated that they were taught in class of the dangers of using alcohol and 73% reported having been given anti-drug education. These levels of education were relatively constant among boys and girls and between the form-levels surveyed.

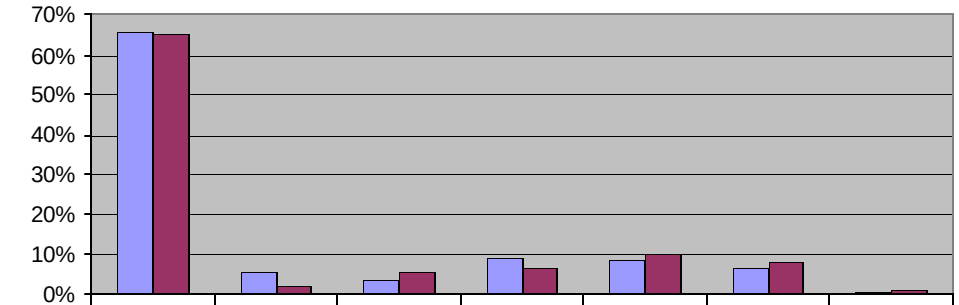
FIGURE 06: EXPERIMENTATION WITH INHALANTS AND ILLEGAL DRUGS



7.0: TOBACCO USE:

Apart from the broad issue of experimentation, the survey established the age at which most students smoked for the first time (FIGURE 07). This was the age of 12 or 13 years in most cases (10% of those who admitted smoking). Among boys surveyed, most experimentation began at the age of 10, or 11 while girls followed the survey trend of 12, or 13. Very young smokers (7 years or younger), were relatively few and accounted for 5% and 2% of boys and girls respectively.

FIGURE 07: AGE OF FIRST CIGARETTE

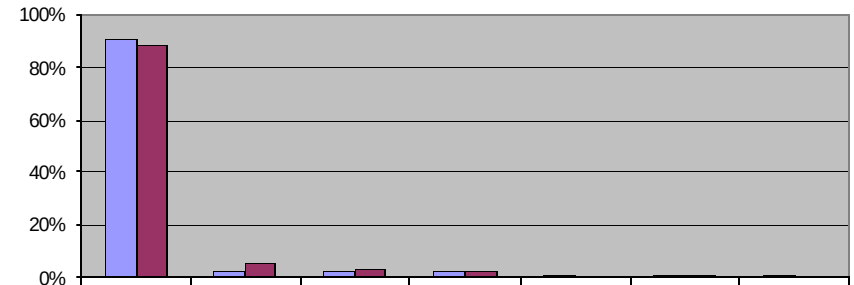


	Never Smoked	7	8 or 9	10 or 11	12 or 13	14 or 15	16
Boys	66%	5%	4%	9%	9%	7%	1%
Girls	66%	2%	6%	7%	10%	8%	1%

YEARS OF AGE

Among smokers, the trend suggests that smoking is relatively light, occasional and not part of a daily ritual. This trend is reflected in FIGURE 08, where it can be seen that most of the students who admitted to having smoked, used less than one cigarette per day (4%), while students who smoked more than 20 cigarettes per day only accounted for 0.2% of the sample. This pattern holds true for both boys and girls in all of the form-levels surveyed. There is, however, a slight inclination towards lighter smoking among the girls, since 2% more girls than boys were in the “less than one per day” category. At the heavier end of the scale there was also a slightly higher composition of boys, although this did not account for a full percentage point.

FIGURE 08: QUANTITY SMOKED IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



	0 Cigarettes	Less than 1	1	2 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 20	More than 20
Boys	91%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%
Girls	88%	5%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%

NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED PER DAY

No clear pattern emerges regarding the method by which students obtained cigarettes in most cases. In response to this question, 2% or 34 students who smoked, indicated that they either bought, borrowed, procured from another person, or obtained cigarettes "by some other means". It is interesting that the direct purchase of cigarettes from various vendors also accounted for 2% or 33 students, while theft and indirect purchase through someone else is among the least popular, accounting for 1% or 19 students in the sample. This statistic supports the question that inquired whether students were prevented from buying cigarettes. Here 2% or 37 students were prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age, but the majority (6%, or 95 students) indicated that their age did not prevent them from obtaining cigarettes.

Tobacco products other than cigarettes were not popular among students with only 10% of those sampled admitting that they used a product like snuff or chewing tobacco. In this group there were 1% more boys than girls, and Forms 3 emerged as the group in which other tobacco products were most popular. At any rate, this level of use was not significantly higher than usage levels in other years.

In the case of both boys and girls, most smoking appears to take place in a home setting, whether it was their own home, or that of a friend. Twelve percent of those sampled indicated that they smoked at home, while the next largest group (5%) indicated that they smoked at a friend's home. Interestingly, smoking in school was quite unpopular and was mentioned in only 1% of cases, while public places and social events cumulatively were smoking venues in 6% of cases.

Based on responses to the question that attempted to associate smoking with alcohol use and the use of other drugs, there is little evidence that any link exists. Among smokers, the largest number indicated that they never used alcohol or other drugs (4%) and a further 2% of students indicated that they actually smoked less when they used alcohol and other drugs. In a small number of cases, which amounted to 1%, there was association between smoking and the use of alcohol and other drugs.

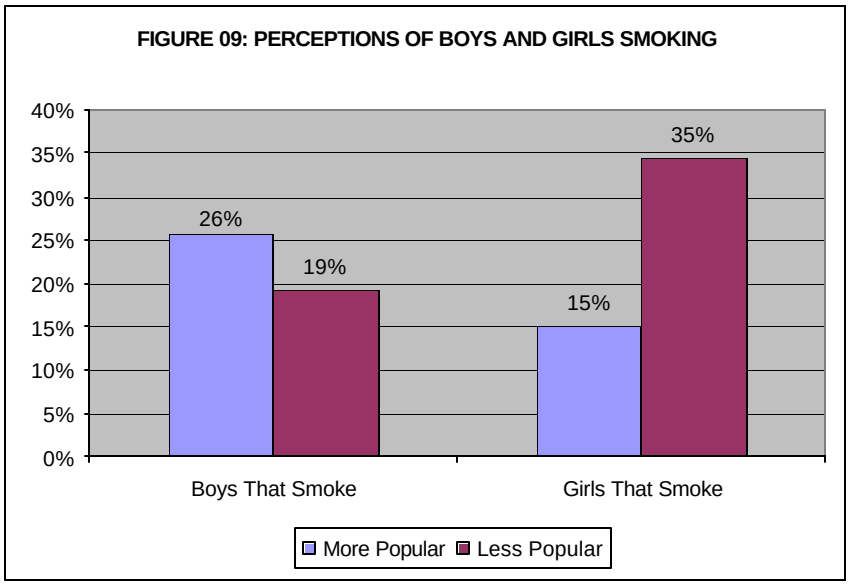
A key indicator of tobacco addiction which was the morning cigarette, was used to assess the extent of addiction among smokers. In only 5% of cases did smokers always feel like having a morning cigarette, while a further 17% of smokers sometimes felt like having a morning cigarette. However the vast majority, (78%) stated that they did not feel like having a morning cigarette.

8.0: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS TOBACCO:

Here students were asked a range of questions about various aspects of their attitudes towards smoking and some interesting perspectives emerged. Peer influences were included in this group of questions that normally required a response based on perception and not experience. Hence the entire sample would have been required to respond to these questions.

Most students did not feel that they would have been influenced to smoke by an offer by one of their best friends. Here 72% of students said that they would definitely not smoke, even if offered by a close friend, while 2% indicated that they would have been influenced. There was, however, a 12% - 15% group in the sample that indicated uncertainty about the influence by responding “probably”, “yes”, or “no”.

Based on FIGURE 09, it is clear that among students surveyed, smoking was not seen to be a significant popularity boost. However, if it could be said to boost popularity, it would be more so for boys than for girls. The analysis of responses to this question from a gender perspective is interesting and suggests that girls think that smoking will make boys more popular than it will make girls. Curiously, however, there is no significant difference in their perception of the negative effect of smoking between genders. Evidently therefore there is still some gender bias in the perception of smoking being more socially acceptable for boys than for girls.



Similar perceptions were conveyed in relation to questions that investigated the reactions of students to persons who smoked based on their gender. Here students were asked to categorise their perception of smokers using specific labels. A cumulative total of 90% of students expressed negative sentiments towards the sight of a woman smoking. These suggested that female smokers lacked confidence, were stupid or losers. Comparatively, men were viewed slightly less harshly, with 83% being viewed negatively. It was noticeable here that the presumably positive labels "hard", "safe", and "scruffy" were associated with 16% of men who smoked, while only 9% of female smokers were categorised in this way.

TABLE 01 SMOKING IN THE FUTURE:

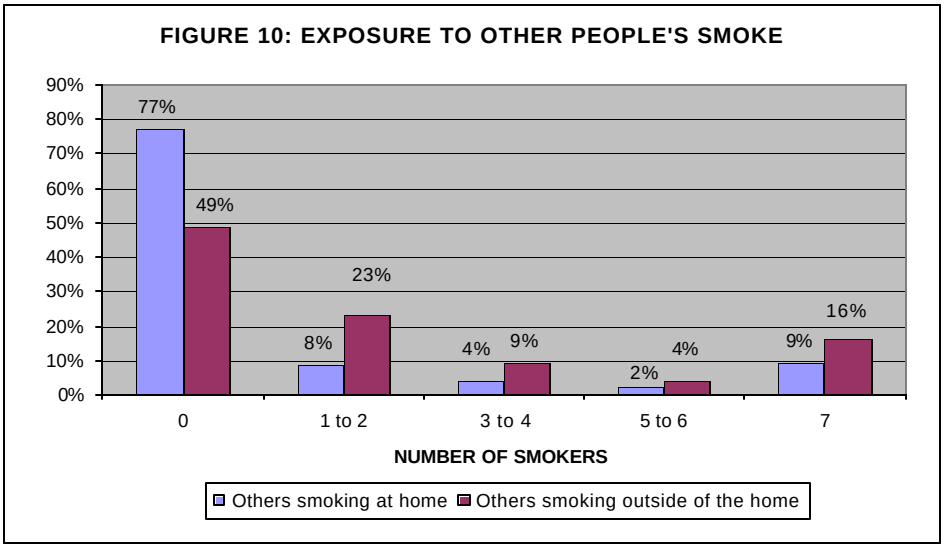
	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes
Smoking in 12 Months?	73%	15%	9%	3%
Smoking in 5 Years?	71%	20%	8%	1%
Ok to smoke short Term?	69%	17%	11%	3%
Difficult to Quit?	11%	15%	44%	30%

Information in TABLE 01 suggests that smoking is perceived by most students as a short-term activity. Although a majority of them indicated that it is not OK to smoke short term, it can be seen that a small number of students see themselves smoking in 12 months, and an even smaller number see themselves smoking in 5 years. It is also evident that more than 70% think that smoking is addictive, since a very small number think that they could easily quit this activity.

Students surveyed indicated in almost equal numbers that persons in their family discussed the harmful effects of smoking with them. 56% of students stated that they had family discussions on the harmful effects of cigarettes and this quantity did not vary between boys and girls.

9.0: SMOKING AND HEALTH CONCERNS:

In response to a general question on whether the students saw smoking as dangerous to their health, the overwhelming response was a definite "Yes". Here, 90% of students believed that smoking was dangerous to their health, while a further 6% believed that it was probably dangerous to their health. More specifically, 57% believed that smoking would make them lose weight, while 39% felt that it would have a neutral impact on their weight. There was also a similar level of consensus regarding the harmful effect of other people's smoke. Cumulatively 88% of students felt that other people's smoke was harmful to them, although 25% of this proportion was somewhat less certain of the effect of second-hand smoke.



10.0: EXPOSURE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S SMOKING:

Students were exposed to more smokers outside of the home (FIGURE 10). However, an apparent trend emerges as exposure to smokers seems to be more inclined to come from large groups since there was more exposure to groups consisting of 7 smokers than 5, or 6. In response to a related question, a majority of students (79%) supported the banning of smoking in public places.

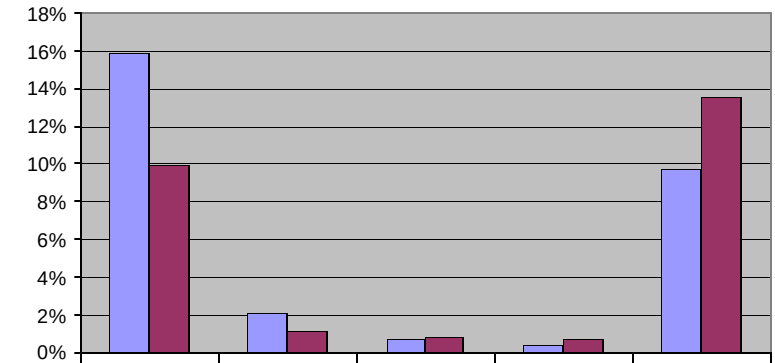
11.0: ATTITUDES TOWARD QUITTING:

The survey raised several issues regarding the attitude of smokers towards the discontinuation of their smoking. Only 12% of persons in the sample were qualified to respond to this question since these had smoked in the last year. In this group of smokers, 70% indicated that they attempted to stop smoking in the last year, while 30% made no such attempt. Among those who already stopped smoking, the largest group (38%) had done so over three years before the survey had been administered.

As can be seen from FIGURE 11, health concerns were the major reasons why boys stopped smoking, while girls stopped for other major (but unidentified) reasons as well. While there was no other major motivation to stop, it was noteworthy that family disapproval outranked the disapproval of friends as a motivation to stop. This suggests that peer pressure was not a significant influence in the discontinuation of the smoking habit.

Students who were still active smokers were asked if they felt that they could stop smoking if they wanted to and only 12% indicated that they did not think that they could stop smoking. The remainder was confident that they could stop, if and when they wanted to.

FIGURE 11: REASONS FOR STOPPING



	To Improve my Health	Because Family doesn't Like it	To Save Money	Because Friends don't Like it	Misc.
Boys	16%	2%	1%	0%	10%
Girls	10%	1%	1%	1%	14%

In this section, students were also asked about the extent to which they had received help in their quest to stop smoking, as distinct from an inquiry into the impact of such advise. Here 12% indicated that they received such advice and the largest segment of that group received help from friends. This was the case with boys and girls from all age groups.

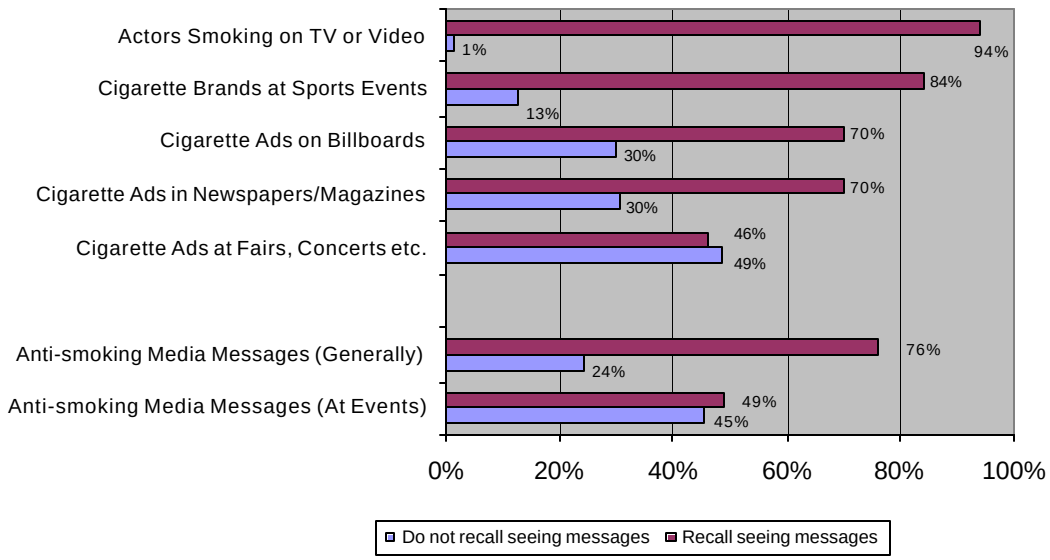
12.0: KNOWLEDGE OF MEDIA MESSAGES AND SMOKING INFORMATION:

FIGURE 12 presents the information collected on the knowledge of media messages about smoking. It conveniently groups the *pro*-smoking messages in the top section and the *anti*-smoking messages in the bottom section. Evidently, the most significant media influence would come from actors smoking on television, since 94% of students recalled such exposure. There was no *anti*-smoking media activity that was seen by as many people, as actors smoking on television.

The next most significant media influence would be the extent to which cigarette brands were displayed at sports events. Cumulatively some 84% of students recalled seeing such brands at sports events, which is still almost 10% higher than the cumulative number of students that recalled seeing *anti*-smoking messages generally. Smoking messages seemed least forthcoming at fairs, concerts, or similar community events. It was only in relation to this type of activity that *anti*-smoking messages were able to outstrip smoking advertising.

Regarding the possession of cigarette merchandise, 15% of the sample indicated that they had any item in their possession with a cigarette brand logo on it and this was the case for both boys and girls. A slightly smaller number of persons (8%) recalled actually being offered a free cigarette as a promotion and here 3% more boys than girls were offered this gift.

FIGURE 12: MEDIA MESSAGES ABOUT SMOKING



13.0: SMOKING INFORMATION FROM SCHOOLS:

In addition to establishing the level of anti-smoking education in schools, the survey sought to establish the extent to which schools engaged students in discussions, or conveyed information about smoking to students. The survey result shows that in only 23% of cases, students had in-class discussions on the reasons for young people smoking. This finding appears to be constant throughout the system, except for a slightly higher rate for Forms 4 (27%).

In relation to learning the harmful effects of smoking, a slightly higher rate of 29%, mostly from form-levels 3, 4 and female, indicated that they had received such lessons. Furthermore, students indicated that class discussions of this nature were conducted more than a year ago in most instances (23%), if not, either before or during the term in which the survey was conducted.

14.0: PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AND ILLEGAL BEHAVIOUR:

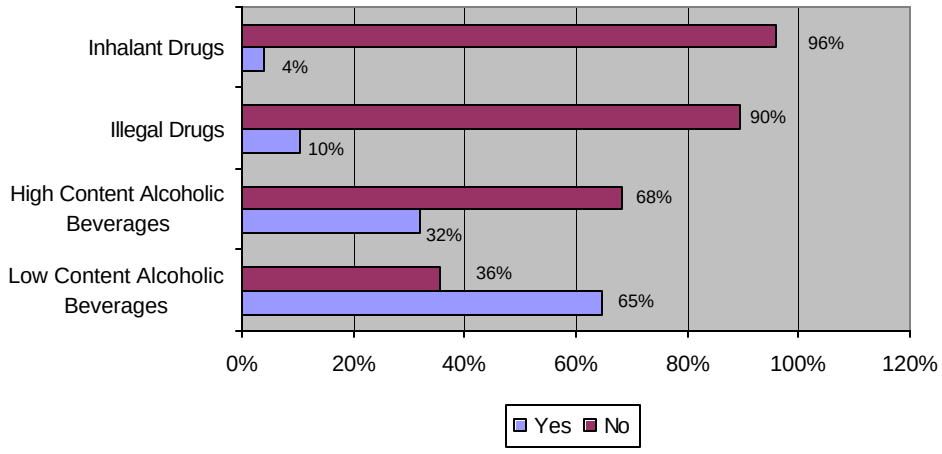
TABLE 02 presents information on the ages at which boys and girls experimented. It can be seen that boys generally started out earlier and seemed to try "harder" alcohol and drugs than their female counterparts.

TABLE 02: COMMENCEMENT AGES FOR RELATED BEHAVIOUR

	Low Content Alcohol		High Content Alcohol		Inhalant Drugs		Illegal Drugs	
	Boys	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**
Never Tried	13%	9%	39%	36%	89%	91%	75%	83%
7 Years or Younger	20%	21%	9%	10%	5%	3%	4%	2%
8 or 9 Years Old	13%	13%	7%	7%	7%	1%	1%	1%
10 or 11 Years Old	17%	21%	12%	11%	13%	1%	4%	3%
12 or 13 Years Old	23%	22%	22%	20%	20%	2%	8%	6%
14 or 15 Years Old	14%	13%	14%	14%	14%	1%	8%	5%

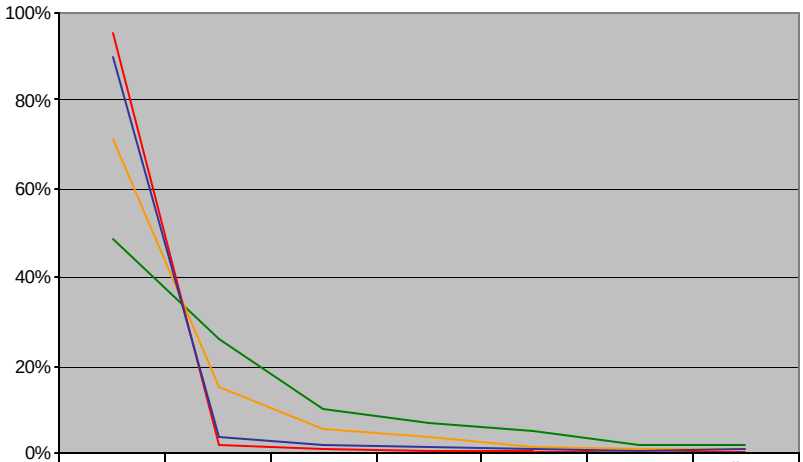
FIGURE 13 diagrammatically consolidates useful information on the extent to which both drugs and alcohol are used. Low content alcohol appears to be the substance used by more than half of the students surveyed. It is also interesting to note that frequency with which these substances are used decreases as the substances becomes "harder".

FIGURE 13: USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL



A similar pattern emerges regarding the frequency of use of these substances (FIGURE 14). The most frequently used substance during the 30-day period preceding the study was the low-content alcoholic beverage, followed by the high content alcoholic beverage.

FIGURE 14: DAILY USE OF SUBSTANCES

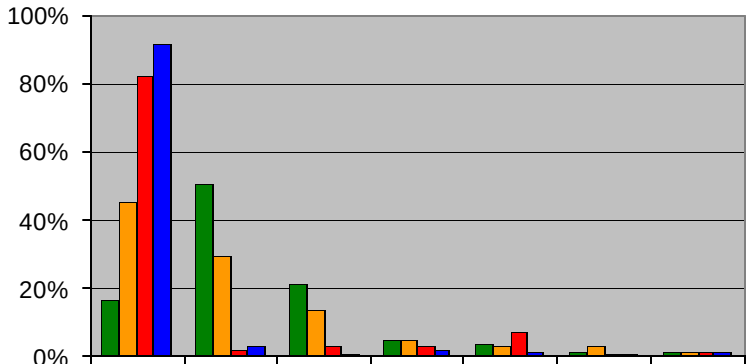


	0	1 or 2	3 to 5	6 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 29	All 30
Low Content Alcoholic Beverages	48%	26%	10%	7%	5%	2%	2%
High Content Alcoholic Beverages	72%	15%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Illegal Drugs	95%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Inhalant Drugs	90%	4%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%

DAYS

Figure 15 allows us to see clearly where the various types of substance consumption takes place. The home and social functions emerge as the places that most types of alcohol consumption would have taken place. However, the picture with drugs (illegal and inhalant) is rather different since usage is equally divided among the home, school and social events with no particular trend. Regarding illegal drug use, however, "the block" was identified in 7% of cases, as a popular place for drug use.

FIGURE 15: VENUES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE



	Never Used	At Home	At a Social Function	At a Friend's House	On the Block	At a Sporting Event	At School
Low Content Alcoholic Beverages	17%	51%	21%	5%	4%	2%	1%
High Content Alcoholic Beverages	45%	29%	13%	5%	4%	3%	1%
Illegal Drugs	82%	2%	3%	3%	7%	1%	2%
Inhalant Drugs	91%	3%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%

In relation to drug use, the survey enquired into the extent to which parents indulged, since this could be a possible influence for students' intake. Among those surveyed, 8% indicated that their parents used inhalant drugs and 7% stated their parents used illegal drugs. This compares with 4% of students who used inhalants and 10% who used illegal drugs.

15.0: SOCIAL AND HEALTH OPINIONS:

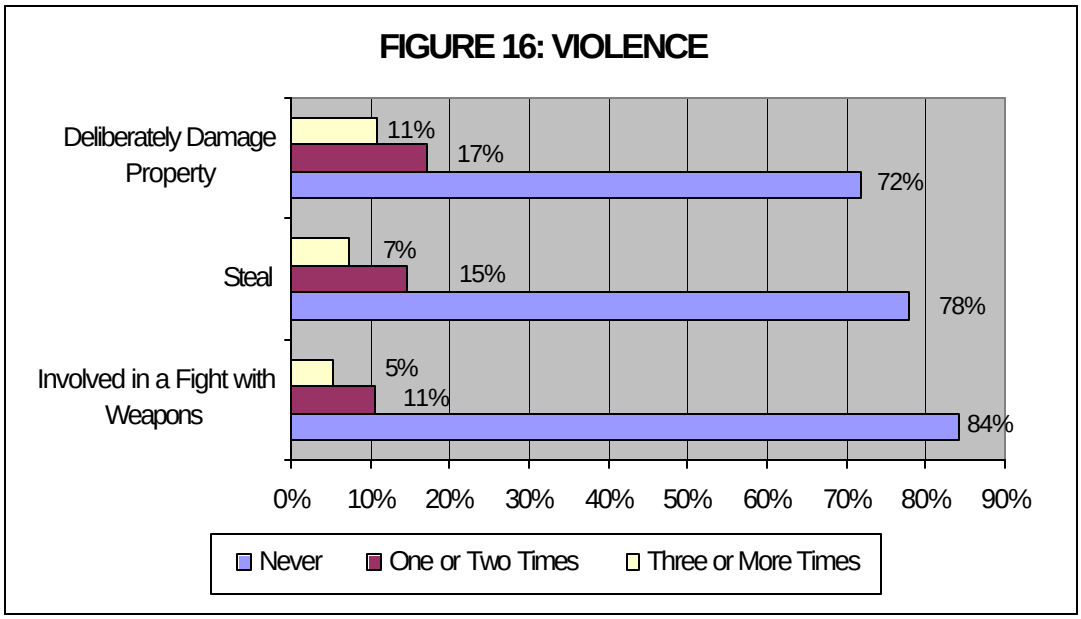
A series of questions was asked to establish whether students thought that substance abuse would make them more popular and damage their health. Most of the students surveyed (60%) believed that the use of high content alcoholic beverages would have a neutral effect on their popularity. Interestingly enough, the next largest group (32%) thought it would have a negative effect on their popularity. Similar views were expressed in relation to the question of whether such beverages made them more comfortable at parties and some 52% said that it would make no difference, while 30% said that they would become less comfortable.

Fifty-three percent of students expressed the view that they were unsure if inhalants would make them more or less appealing, while 34% felt that these substances would make them less appealing. There was also a high level of uncertainty regarding the impact of illegal drugs on their appeal, since 41% of students said they were unsure of the potential impact. In this instance, however, 39% of students were of the opinion that illegal drugs would make them less appealing.

Regarding the potential impact of the use of drugs on health, an overwhelming 91% of students stated that they believed that illegal drugs were harmful, while 80% believed that alcohol was harmful. It is interesting to note that the quantity of persons who thought drugs were harmful, is almost exactly inversely proportionate to the quantity of persons who identified themselves as drug users.

16.0: VIOLENCE:

The final area investigated by the study was violence that can often be related to the activity that is being investigated. As FIGURE 16 demonstrates, damage to property is the activity which recorded the highest occurrence by both girls and boys, while fighting was the least frequent activity. There is no gender bias regarding damage to property, while boys stole on 7% more occasions than girls, according to these data.



17.0: ANNEX

1999 BARBADOS - GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY SAMPLE DESCRIPTION AND WEIGHTING PROCEDURES

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION:

All regular schools containing Forms 3, 4 or 5. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce a representative sample of students in these schools.

School Level - The first-stage sampling frame consisted of all regular schools containing any of Forms 3, 4 or 5. Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrolment size. Nineteen schools were selected.

Class Level - The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All classes in the selected schools were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

RESPONSE RATES:

Schools = 94.7%
(18 of the 19 sampled schools participated).

Students = 96.2%
(1,647 of the 1,712 sampled students completed usable questionnaires).

Overall response rate = 91.1%
(94.7% * 96.2% = 91.1%)

WEIGHTING:

A weight has been associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of non-response. The weight used for estimation is given by:

$$W = W1 * W2 * fl * f2 * f3$$

W1 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the school.

W2 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the classroom within the school.

f1 = a school-level non-response adjustment factor calculated by school size category (small, medium, large).

f2 = a class-level non-response adjustment factor calculated for each school.

f3 = a student-level non-response adjustment factor calculated by class.

USE OF THE WEIGHTED RESULTS:

The weighted results can be used to make important inferences concerning tobacco use risk behaviours of all school students in forms 3 - 5.

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