

Global Youth Tobacco Survey

HAITI

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Introduction

Tobacco use is considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be the chief preventable cause of death in the world. WHO estimates that there are currently 4 million deaths each year from tobacco use. And if nothing is done, this figure is expected to rise to about 10 million by 2030. By that date, one third of those deaths will occur in developing countries. In the Americas almost 1 million people die from tobacco use every year. Recent trends indicate that the smoking prevalence rate among adolescents is rising and the age of initiation is becoming younger. If these patterns continue, tobacco use will result in the deaths of 250 millions children and young people living today, many of them in developing countries.

The situation in Haiti is not well known. There is only one study conducted in the Université Notre Dame D'Haiti in 1999. The prevalence of smoking was among students, teachers and administrative personnel. Since May 2000, this university has been declared non smoking and without smoker institution.

This paper contains the main findings from the WHO / CDC / Global Youth Tobacco Survey project (GYTS) carried out on young students from 7th, 8th and 9th grades of schools in September –October 2000. The survey was administered by the Association de Santé Publique d'Haiti (ASPHA).

GYTS is an international surveillance project that generates comparisons of tobacco use between countries with the aim to enhance the capacity of the countries to monitor tobacco use and to evaluate preventive programs.

Objectives of the survey:

- To document and monitor the prevalence of tobacco-use including : cigarette smoking, and current use of smokeless tobacco, cigars or pipes.
- To obtain an improved understanding of and to assess learners' attitudes, knowledge and behaviors related to tobacco-use and its health impact including: cessation, environmental tobacco smoke, media and advertising, young people's access, and school curriculum.
- To provide information to guide programming and advocacy work addressing youth tobacco use.

Methods

Sampling

The Haiti GYTS is a school-based survey which employed a two-stage cluster sample design to produce a representative sample of students in grades 9, 10 and 11 in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The first stage sampling frame consisted of all regular schools containing any grades 9, 10 and 11. Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. Twenty five schools were selected.

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 school were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

A weighting g factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non response and for the varying probability of selection. For this survey, questionnaires were completed in 20 schools. The schools response rate was 80% and the student response rate was ... %. The overall response rate was >>> %. SUDAAN and Epi Info were used to compute 95% confidence interval for estimates.

Questionnaire development

The Haiti version of the questionnaire consisted of 57 questions: 51 core questions and 6 additional questions in order to take into account local tobacco-using behavior and the psycho-social, cultural and contextual determinants thereof.

The questionnaire was in French, one of the two official languages of the country.

Data collection

From the list of existing schools in Haiti, Port-au-Prince schools were selected, the number of students by schools were added. This list was forwarded to CDC where the sample was drawn.

Data collection in the 25 selected schools took place in March 2001.

Results

Response

The school response was 80%, only five schools refused to participate.

Prevalence:

Students who had ever smoked cigarettes represent a 23.7% of the sample, 18.5% of the students were currently smoking any tobacco product, 12% were currently smoking cigarettes and 10% were smoking other tobacco products. More than 1 in 5 students (22.3%) never smoke.

School curriculum

More than half of the students reported having been taught in school about danger of cigarettes smoking. And 29.7% of the students declared they had discussed why people of their age smoked.

Access:

Students who currently smoke were asked where they usually smoked, 58% said in their home.

Of the surveyed students, 28% purchased cigarettes in a store and 61% said they were not refused because of their age..

Cessation

Over 75% of the current smokers (83%) indicated that they wanted to stop smoking now, and 81% indicated that in the pass year they try to quit smoking.

Media and advertising anti-tobacco smoking

60 % of the students saw anti-smoking media messages. The same percentage of never smokers and current smokers saw the pro-tobacco messages in newspapers and magazines. 37% of the current smokers and 18% never smokers had objects with a cigarette brand logo on it. And male current smokers had more objects than male never smokers. One in 10 never smokers and 1 in 5 current smokers had been offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company.

Environmental tobacco smoking

More than half of the current smokers and one in 5 never smokers are exposed to smoke from others in their home. Current smokers are more exposed to smoke from others in public places than never smokers.

There is no difference in the percentage of current smokers and never smokers who think smoking should be banned from public places.

56% of never smokers and 40% of the current smokers think smoke from others is harmful to them.

Knowledge and attitudes

Smoking is associated to some attitudes and perceptions: 16.5% of never smokers and 16.2% of current smokers think boys who smoked have more friends; 15.1% of never smokers and 15.8 % of current smokers thinks girls who smoked have more friends and 26.9% of never smokers and 23.6% of current smokers think boys who smoked look more attractive; 27.0% of never smokers and 21.2 % of current smokers thinks girls who smoked look more attractive.

Discussions, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The percentage of young people using any tobacco products ranges from a high of 22% to a low of about 14%. It is high since it has been observed that the use of tobacco products in the adolescence can continue in the adult life and it is more difficult to quit.

Teaching about danger of cigarettes do not seem generalized since only 55% mentioned it.

Access to tobacco product is easy and there is no legislation which prohibits selling cigarettes to minor.

In Haiti it is possible to smoke everywhere so adolescents are exposed. The survey shows that almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of students think that smoking should be banned from public places.

Tobacco advertisement is not prohibited. Pro tobacco messages is almost everywhere : in newspapers, magazines and billboard. Popular bands are used to play enjoyable music promoting cigarettes smoking.

Recommendations

We suggest the following strategies to facilitate the decrease in smoking :

- Tobacco control legislation that will ban advertisements of tobacco products, deliver strong health warnings to consumers, and outlaw smoking in public places.
- Prohibit tobacco companies from sponsoring sport and cultural events, and ban the sale of tobacco products to people under the age of 18.
- Restrict the advertisement of cigarettes smoking on billboards, newspapers, radio and television and at the same time increase public awareness campaign on the harmful effects of smoking cigarettes, as well as other tobacco uses, on the mass media.
- Enact and enforce legislation that prevent minors from purchasing cigarettes and other tobacco products by prosecuting those who sell tobacco products to minors.
- Involve the Ministry of Health, Education, Youth, Social Affairs and Women and Sports in the campaign to promote the cessation of cigarettes smoking and use of other tobacco products especially among youths.

Continue to study the prevalence of tobacco products among students by having studies in other cities and other groups.

Table 1
Prevalence of tobacco use among students aged 13-15 years
Port-au-Prince, Haiti 2000

| Category | Ever Smoked Cigarettes, even one or two puffs | Current users | | | Never smokers – susceptible to initiating smoking |
|----------|---|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| | | Any tobacco products | Cigarettes | Other tobacco products | |
| Total | 23.7 (± 5.1) | 18.5 (± 4.1) | 11.8 (± 2.7) | 9.8 (± 3.7) | 22.3 (± 5.1) |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 22.6 (± 4.3) | 18.1 (± 5.2) | 11.0 (± 3.0) | 9.7 (± 5.2) | 23.5 (± 9.8) |
| Female | 24.6 (± 9.1) | 18.4 (± 5.9) | 12.1 (± 4.7) | 9.7 (± 5.1) | 21.4 (± 4.7) |
| Grade | | | | | |
| 7 | 17.3 (± 5.0) | 19.6 (± 5.4) | 12.4 (± 4.4) | 9.4 (± 5.2) | 18.0 (± 4.5) |
| 8 | 20.1 (± 4.4) | 16.9 (± 6.9) | 10.6 (± 2.0) | 9.8 (± 6.1) | 29.6 (± 12.8) |
| 9 | 33.8 (± 12.6) | 18.7 (± 6.2) | 12.3 (± 5.0) | 10.0 (± 5.6) | 21.4 (± 10.3) |

Table 2
Percentage of students aged 13-15 who were taught
the facts about tobacco smoking during the past school year.
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Percent taught danger of smoking | Percent discussed reasons why people their age smoke |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| Total | 54.9 (± 6.8) | 29.7 (± 7.6) |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 55.9 (± 6.9) | 23.8 (± 7.3) |
| Female | 54.4 (± 9.0) | 34.5 (± 11.4) |
| Grade | | |
| 7 | 50.9 (± 8.5) | 29.7 (± 5.1) |
| 8 | 57.0 (± 13.9) | 36.7 (± 17.5) |
| 9 | 58.2 (± 9.5) | 23.2 (± 5.7) |

Table 3
Percentage of students aged 13-15 who wanted to stop
and unsuccessfully tried to stop cigarette smoking.
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Percent desire to stop | Percent tried to stop this year |
|----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total | 83.1 (± 12.8) | 81.4 (± 11.1) |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 89.9 (± 10.5) | 87.2 (± 12.7) |

| | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------|
| Female | 76.5 (± 20.8) | 74.6 (± 15.5) |
| Grade | | |
| 7 | 83.6 (± 16.3) | 93.2 (± 6.1) |
| 8 | - | 83.9 (± 18.5) |
| 9 | - | - |

Table 4
Percentage of students aged 13-15 who were exposed
to tobacco smoke in the home and other place
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Exposed to smoke from others in their home | | Exposed to smoke from others in public places | | Percent think smoking should be banned from public places | | Definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them | |
|----------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers |
| Total | 23.8 (± 5.9) | 55.2 (± 9.7) | 41.3 (± 6.5) | 79.9 (± 10.2) | 73.6 (± 5.0) | 73.2 (± 5.0) | 55.8 (± 8.0) | 39.6 (± 11.6) |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 26.6 (± 7.3) | 53.1 (± 17.4) | 40.9 (± 10.5) | 80.3 (± 13.5) | 74.3 (± 7.5) | 77.0 (± 10.7) | 59.3 (± 9.3) | 46.7 (± 17.0) |
| Female | 20.3 (± 4.8) | 57.3 (± 11.7) | 40.9 (± 5.8) | 78.6 (± 12.6) | 73.1 (± 4.9) | 73.0 (± 8.2) | 54.9 (± 8.5) | 36.7 (± 11.6) |
| Grade | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 21.7 (± 7.3) | 50.1 (± 15.2) | 36.4 (± 6.3) | 78.0 (± 15.0) | 68.6 (± 6.9) | 74.0 (± 16.2) | 54.9 (± 8.5) | 41.8 (± 20.8) |
| 8 | 28.2 (± 4.2) | 45.5 (± 19.6) | 41.7 (± 15.5) | 77.9 (± 21.0) | 67.9 (± 9.2) | 71.2 (± 17.8) | 59.0 (± 12.1) | 39.8 (± 20.5) |
| 9 | 20.6 (± 9.3) | 68.0 (± 12.1) | 45.9 (± 12.4) | 83.6 (± 15.3) | 85.5 (± 9.0) | 74.8 (± 22.2) | 55.4 (± 13.9) | 37.2 (± 17.0) |

Table 5
Attitudes towards smokers of students aged 13-15
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Think boys who smoke have more friends | | Think girls who smoke have more friends | | Think smoking make boys look more attractive | | Think smoking make girls look more attractive | |
|----------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers |
| Total | 16.5 (± 5.0) | 16.2 (± 7.4) | 15.1 (± 4.0) | 15.8 (± 8.0) | 26.9 (± 5.2) | 23.6 (± 7.3) | 27.0 (± 5.1) | 21.2 (± 7.2) |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 16.9 (± 6.1) | 7.7 (± 6.0) | 12.9 (± 4.9) | 6.8 (± 3.2) | 25.4 (± 7.1) | 20.4 (± 9.8) | 31.8 (± 7.8) | 18.0 (± 10.9) |
| Female | 17.3 (± 5.8) | 21.9 (± 9.1) | 17.3 (± 5.4) | 22.8 (± 10.5) | 27.5 (± 4.4) | 26.9 (± 9.2) | 22.1 (± 4.8) | 22.1 (± 8.1) |
| Grade | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 18.4 (± 6.1) | 11.2 (± 4.5) | 15.2 (± 4.4) | 13.9 (± 6.9) | 29.4 (± 6.1) | 18.4 (± 8.1) | 27.4 (± 4.2) | 14.5 (± 5.1) |
| 8 | 16.3 (± 6.6) | 11.5 (± 8.7) | 14.0 (± 6.1) | 17.4 (± 14.9) | 25.7 (± 7.4) | 27.1 (± 15.5) | 26.8 (± 8.4) | 26.9 (± 17.1) |
| 9 | 16.0 (± 7.5) | 25.1 (± 13.4) | 16.4 (± 5.5) | 16.3 (± 14.9) | 25.3 (± 11.7) | 26.3 (± 16.3) | 27.4 (± 9.9) | 24.6 (± 13.8) |

Table 6
Percentage of students aged 13-15 who were exposed
to anti- and pro-smoked advertising.
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Percent saw anti-smoking media messages | Percent saw Pro-tobacco messages in Newspapers and magazine | | Percent Who had Object with a Cigarettes brand logo on it | | Percent offered « Free » Cigarettes by a tobacco company | |
|----------|---|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers | Never smokers | Current smokers |
| Total | 59.9 (± 6.3) | 57.7 (± 5.8) | 63.4 (± 9.6) | 18.2 (± 4.1) | 37.0 (± 14.0) | 10.8 (± 4.0) | 18.0 (± 8.3) |
| Sex | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Male | 62.3 (± 4.3) | 58.9 (± 11.0) | 54.7 (± 17.8) | 20.3 (± 6.8) | 44.6 (± 17.3) | 10.9 (± 6.3) | 19.2 (± 16.7) |
| Female | 58.0 (± 11.0) | 56.8 (± 6.1) | 71.6 (± 8.8) | 16.5 (± 3.9) | 32.5 (± 18.5) | 11.0 (± 4.7) | 14.8 (± 8.1) |
| Grade | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 64.1 (± 3.2) | 55.0 (± 7.9) | 54.7 (± 17.3) | 19.1 (± 5.4) | 40.0 (± 19.8) | 12.4 (± 5.7) | 22.7 (± 18.7) |
| 8 | 49.6 (± 16.4) | 60.6 (± 10.0) | 71.0 (± 15.9) | 22.1 (± 6.8) | 39.8 (± 25.2) | 11.5 (± 6.3) | 7.6 (± 4.9) |
| 9 | 65.8 (± 4.1) | 59.4 (± 10.9) | 66.5 (± 10.9) | 13.8 (± 7.1) | 32.0 (± 12.1) | 7.8 (± 6.6) | 20.3 (± 9.7) |

Table 7
Percentage of students aged 13-15 who usually smoked cigarettes at home
and bought them in a store
Port-au-Prince, 2000

| Category | Percent current smokers who usually smoke at home | Percent current smokers who purchased cigarettes in a store | Percent current smokers who bought cigarettes in a store who were not refused because their age |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Total | 58.5 (± 16.7) | 28.1 (± 11.0) | 61.0 (± 9.0) |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 46.6 (± 17.0) | 28.5 (± 14.9) | 72.8 (± 14.7) |
| Female | 76.3 (± 16.5) | 29.5 (± 15.1) | 53.5 (± 13.9) |
| Grade | | | |
| 7 | 63.8 (± 18.3) | 27.9 (± 14.5) | 62.3 (± 18.2) |
| 8 | 41.9 (± 11.4) | 37.3 (± 17.7) | 60.1 (± 29.9) |
| 9 | 64.5 (± 22.0) | 22.3 (± 9.3) | - |