

Objectives of the GYTS

The GYTS is a school-based tobacco specific survey that focuses on students aged 13-15 years. The objective of this survey is two fold:

- 1) To document and monitor prevalence of tobacco use including: cigarette smoking and current use of smokeless tobacco, cigars or pipes.
- 2) To better understand and assess students' attitudes, knowledge and behaviors related to tobacco use and its health impact, including cessation, environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), media and advertising, minors' access, and school curriculum.

The GYTS will attempt to address the following issues:

- determine the level of tobacco use
- estimate age of initiation of cigarette use
- estimate levels of susceptibility to become cigarette smokers
- identify key intervening Maleiables such as attitudes and beliefs on behavioral norms with regard to tobacco use among young people which can be used in prevention programmes
- assess the extent to which major prevention programmes are reaching school-based populations and establish the subjective opinions of those populations regarding such interventions.

Content of GYTS:

- * Smoking status of youth
- * Age of initiation of cigarette use
- * Number of cigarettes smoked in lifetime
- * Frequency of smoking
- * Likelihood of smoking
- * Knowledge and attitudes toward smoking
- * Knowledge and attitudes toward cessation
- * Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) - amount/duration
- * Access to cigarettes
- * Exposure to media and advertising
- * School curriculum

Technical Assistance for the GYTS is provided by TFI/WHO and the OSH/CDC. The following technical assistance is provided:

- * Sample design and selection
- * Design of country-specific questionnaire
- * Training of survey administrators
- * Answer sheets and other forms
- * Development of survey administrator handbook
- * Answer Sheet scanning
- * General data management
- * Editing and weighting of data

- * Preliminary data report and data file
- * Preparation of reports

The application of the questionnaire in Bolivia

1.- In Bolivia, the application of the questionnaire was not difficult. The pupils found it easy to follow and to fill. There were no questions about how to fulfill it, nor about the meaning of some questions, as usually happens with other instruments.

2.- We had difficulties with some catholic schools and with the most of the, so called, “christian schools” in the three Bolivian cities selected for the study, but specially in Santa Cruz city. Some of them rejected the study and denied the access of our researchers to their schools.

Other difficulty was that during the process of data collect, the Bolivian teachers declared a national strike.

This strike was not only of teachers but also of other social sectors. This was a serious difficulty for our researchers because they could not find transport, or whatever and due to this, the study was paralyzed. During the last 15 years, did not happen such social convulsion in Bolivia.

3.- All participant schools cooperated with our research willingly (except some catholic and Christian schools, as was pointed out before). Perhaps one difficulty was that sometimes some schools scheduled a calendar of work for CELIN which had taken too long (one or two and even three weeks), especially when the sample included more than three classes of the same school.

About the questionnaire itself, some questions do not have the option “ninguna” (none) in 29 and 30 questions, or “No sé” (I do not know) in questions N° 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 31 and 32.

In Bolivia, specifically, missed the option 8th. Grado (8th degree) in question N° 57 which was added by us with letter “E”.

In question 15th is missing the option Your parents used to smoke but they do not smoke any more.

As this options missed, some pupils left these questions without answer, specially in Santa Cruz city.

Coordination of the study

The coordination of the study had been made through E-mail with OPS (Washington), and CDC (Atlanta) after a trip of the Coordinator of the study in Bolivia, to Barbados.

Note

The GYTS was carried out (field work) in Bolivia between August and October, 2000 (The processes was interrupted for more than one month, due to a national teachers strike) in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz cities.

The product of the study had been sent to CDC on wednesday, November the first.

La Paz, November 3rd, 2000.