

METHODS

Sampling

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey is a school-based survey. It utilized a two-stage cluster sample design to select a nationally representative sample of students aged 13 to 15 years. A review of the ages of students in the different grades and forms was conducted to find out which classes corresponded to the population targeted, the number of classes and the size of each class. It was discovered that 13 to 15 year olds were in grades 6, 7 and 8 in the primary schools and in forms 1 to 4 in the secondary schools. There were therefore two sampling frames one for the primary schools and one for the secondary schools.

All primary schools containing grades 6, 7 and 8 were included and a two-stage sample design was used to produce a representative sample of grades 6, 7 and 8. The first stage sampling consisted of selecting schools with probability proportional to their enrolment size. The second sampling stage comprised the random selection of classes from the schools selected in the first stage. All students in a selected class were eligible to participate in the survey. A similar procedure was conducted among those secondary schools with forms 1 to 4 and a representative sample of forms 1 to 4 selected. All students in selected classes in both primary and secondary schools were eligible to participate in the survey. A weighting system was utilized to reduce bias resulting from different patterns of non-response.

Questionnaire development

The questionnaire consisted of 70 questions: 52 questions from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey and 18 additional questions formulated locally to take into account local cultural norms. The questionnaire was pre-tested and adjusted as necessary.

Data Collection

To facilitate the process of data collection a meeting was held with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education (MOE) to inform him of the GYTS, to gain entrance into the schools, seek their endorsement and support and to have a liaison in the MOE. The Drug Avoidance Officer was assigned to perform that

role. This meeting facilitated the participation of MOE staff. The first task was to obtain school data from the statistics department. Letters were then sent to the principals of the all schools informing them of the GYTS and inviting them to participate and inquiring about enrolment data. All schools agreed to participate. The school data was sent to CDC who provided technical support in the selection of the sample. The schools were then contacted informing them of the classes selected and the date for which the exercise was planned. Copies of parents' notification were sent to each principal for distribution to the parents of students in the classes selected.

A one-day training workshop was conducted with the survey administrators. The questionnaire was discussed and questions clarified.

The survey procedure used aimed at protecting the privacy of students by allowing voluntary and anonymous participation. The questionnaires were self-administered in a classroom setting between June and July 2000. Persons conducting the questionnaire were mainly health personnel and included Nurses, Environmental Health Officers, Health Promotion Officers and persons from the Epidemiology Unit. Personnel from the Drug Avoidance Unit also participated.

Data Analysis

Technical support in sampling and data analysis was provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data analysis was done with Epi Info and SUDAAN.