

## 2015 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey: Information and Methods

The national ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey has been monitoring student smoking annually since 1999. This is one of the largest youth smoking surveys in the world and the strengths of the Snapshot survey are its frequent survey points allowing good measurement of trends, large sample allowing detailed sub-sample analysis, and the ability to provide results to individual schools. It has some known limitations in that it is a short questionnaire with a potential for bias with lower participation rates for wharekura (Māori language schools).

It is a census style questionnaire that usually surveys around 30,000 students every year (though in 2015 we only surveyed about 20,000 students – still a very large survey) on their smoking behaviour and attitudes.

This is the 17th annual ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. The results will be disseminated to national policy makers and health governing bodies across New Zealand.

All ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey results can be found on [www.ash.org.nz](http://www.ash.org.nz)

### Survey administration

Every year since 1999, all New Zealand schools with Year 10 students have been invited to participate in the survey.

ASH sends all consenting schools survey packs. Teachers administer the survey to all Year 10 students in the school. ASH retains records of the surveys sent to each school, to record and provide individual results for participating schools.

The one-page, two sided survey is completed in class time under the supervision of teaching staff. Surveys are confidential with no identifying information and teachers are requested not to check completed questionnaires.

Ethical approval for the survey was first granted by the Ministry of Health Multiregional Ethics Committee in 2007 and since then on an annual basis.

Completed surveys are returned by courier to ASH. Spoiled and/or incomplete surveys are removed and completed surveys are sent to a data entry provider for entry and coding.

### Data analysis

Returned questionnaires are checked for logical consistency. Only questionnaires with completed answers on age, gender, ethnicity and ever-smoking status are included in the dataset for analysis.

Ethnicity is coded using the prioritised ethnicity classification method and in accordance with the Ministry of Health's ethnicity data protocols (Ministry of Health, 2004). To enable comparison to previous years, analysis is restricted to students aged 14 and 15 years of age.

The methodology for the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey uses a census design, whereby all schools with Year 10 students are eligible and invited to participate. Every year the survey sample has closely resembled the national Year 10 population, therefore weighting has not been deemed necessary for data analysis.

## Response rates

**Table 1: Percentage of schools participating in ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey 2000-2015**

Year	Participating schools (n)	Response rate (%)
2000	321	
2001	308	
2002	309	67
2003	312	66
2004	319	65
2005	278	58
2006	291	57
2007	241	47
2008	288	54
2009	264	55
2010	295	58
2011	236	44
2012	298	48
2013	264	48
2014	283	54
2015	218	38

Table 1 shows the response rate for the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey from 2000 to present. In 2015, 218 out of 573 invited schools agreed to take part in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. All 218 schools returned completed questionnaires by the deadline for inclusion in the analysis.

The total number of completed questionnaires returned by schools was 22,728. The total number of completed questionnaires by 14 and 15 year olds who correctly answered the questions on age, gender, ethnicity, and smoking status reduced the number of surveys analysed to 21,427.

## Sample characteristics

In 2015 there were 59,528<sup>1</sup> Year 10 students enrolled in New Zealand schools (Ministry of Education, 2015). Refer to Table 2 for further information. The 2015 ASH Year 10 Snapshot

Survey sample (21,427) represented 36 percent of the total 2015 Year 10 population.

**Table 2: ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey sample characteristics compared to entire Year 10 population 2015**

	2015 ASH Year 10 snapshot survey sample	2015 national year 10 population <sup>1</sup>
<b>Year 10 (n)</b>	21,427	59,528
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	50%	51%
Female	50%	49%
<b>Ethnicity (prioritised)</b>		
NZ European	53%	48%
Māori	21%	24%
Pacific	9%	10%
Asian	11%	10%
Other	6%	9%
<b>School decile group</b>		
Low (1-3)	18%	19%
Med (4-7)	49%	44%
High (8-10)	33%	37%

\*Ministry of Education, 2015

## Acknowledgements

Teachers and students from many New Zealand schools give their valuable time and effort during data collection. ASH appreciates the time and commitment of the secondary schools that took part in the survey.

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey forms part of the New Zealand Youth Tobacco Monitor (NZYTM). In 2015, the NZYTM Research Coordinating Group were: Dr Rhiannon Newcombe, Professor Rob McGee, Anaru Waa, Professor Richard Edwards, Dr Darren Walton, Joanna White, and Ali Ajmal. This group provided expert advice and input into the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey.

<sup>1</sup> This is from the Ministry of Educations Directory of Schools

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Data capture was provided by ConvergA Group Limited.

Analysis was provided by Dudley Gentles, biostatistician for TAHA within the Section of Pacific Health, Population Health at the University of Auckland using the statistical package SAS v9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA); and Steve Taylor, biostatistician at the National Institute for Public Health and Mental Health Research at Auckland University of Technology using the statistical package R v3.3.0.

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<sup>i</sup> The gender split, ethnicity distribution and school decile split is also from the Ministry of Educations Directory of Schools

## **Suggested citation**

ASH New Zealand. 2015. ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey 2015: Information and Methodology. Action on Smoking and Health: Auckland, New Zealand.

## **References**

Ministry of Education, 2015. New Zealand schools directory. Retrieved from <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/>  
Ministry of Health, 2004. Ethnicity data protocols for the health and disability sector. Wellington: Author.