

National ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey 1999-2012

Methodology



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The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey has been monitoring student smoking since 1999. This factsheet series summarises key results for 2012 and over a decade of trends for tobacco use by young people with particular focus on Māori, Pacific and low socio-economic groups.

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey is a census style survey that is conducted annually.

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 schools that consent to participate survey packs and instructions for teachers to administer the survey to all Year 10 students in the school. ASH retains records of the surveys sent to each school, in order 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 granted by the Ministry of Health Multiregional Ethics Committee in 2007.

Students may choose to not complete the questionnaire. Consenting students complete a questionnaire that asks about demographic data (age, gender and ethnicity) and about their smoking behaviour. The survey also includes questions about the smoking status of family and friends, exposure to secondhand smoke and attitudinal beliefs about tobacco control issues.

Questions about smoking behaviour have remained consistent every year to enable monitoring of trends over time.

Completed surveys are returned by courier to ASH. Incompleted and spoiled surveys are removed and completed surveys are sent to a data entry provider for entry and coding.

Survey

To measure smoking, students were asked: *Have you **ever** smoked a cigarette, even just a few puffs?* They can answer either 'yes' or 'no'.

Never smokers are students who have answered 'no' when asked if they have ever smoked, even a puff.

To measure smoking frequency, students were asked: *How often do you smoke **now**?*

Options for response include: 'I have never smoked/I am not a smoker now', 'At least once a day', 'At least once a week', 'At least once a month', or 'Less often than once a month'.

Regular smokers are those students who report that they smoke daily, weekly or monthly. *Experimented* means students who have tried smoking, but do not currently smoke.

To classify ethnicity, students were asked: *Which ethnic group or groups do you belong to?*

Options for response include 'NZ European', 'Māori', 'Samoan', 'Cook Island Māori', 'Tongan', 'Niuean', 'Other Pacific Island', 'Chinese', 'Indian', 'Other Asian' and 'Other'. In this factsheet, the Pacific and Asian ethnicities are grouped together into *Pacific* or *Asian* ethnicities. Results by Pacific or Asian ethnicities can be found in the Pacific or Asian factsheet.

Prioritised ethnicity is used to allocate students who identify with more than one ethnic group into a single category for analysis. Students who tick more than one category are prioritised as Māori, Pacific, Asian, Other and finally NZ European.



The socio-economic status of students (SES) is determined using school decile as a proxy measure of students' SES, using a ten-point scale from decile 1 schools (the most students from low SES communities) up to decile 10 schools (with the lowest proportion of low SES students). Schools are grouped into three different decile ratings. Low SES are decile 1-3 schools, medium are decile 4-7 and high decile are 8-10. The higher decile represents the more affluent status of students. School decile is published by the Ministry of Education.

Data analysis

Returned questionnaires were checked for logical consistency. Only those surveys where students had completed the questions on age, gender, ethnicity and smoking status were included in the dataset for analysis. To enable comparison to previous years, analysis was restricted to students aged 14 and 15 years of age.

All analyses were conducted using R 2.14.0. The survey methodology for the Year 10 Snapshot 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, and weighting has not been deemed necessary for data analysis. All population estimates have been adjusted by key demographic factors (age, gender, ethnicity and school decile).

Reporting

The 2012 results are presented in a series of factsheets that cover all students, ethnicity, gender, SES, Māori and Pacific smoking. Factsheets present graphed data for the 2012 daily, regular and never smoking for the demographic reported and the year on year data for daily smoking. Supplementary tables give year on year data for key variables.

The results reported in the factsheets are estimates for the whole population based on the Year 10 sample. Where data is graphed, confidence intervals are shown to illustrate the range within which the true value for

the population is likely to be. Where the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be considered statistically significant.

Supplementary Excel tables that accompany the factsheets provide details of the sample size for the reported demographic, results for the sample, and the estimated population results with confidence intervals for that demographic.

Response rate

In 2012, 313 out of 532 invited schools agreed to participate in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. Of these, 298 returned questionnaires by the deadline for inclusion in the analysis.

The total number of completed questionnaires returned by schools was 34,828. Analysis was restricted to students aged 14 and 15 years and who had completed the questions on age, gender, ethnicity and smoking status, reducing the number of surveys analysed to 28,443. Since 1999 the total number of Year 10 students surveyed is 416,512.

Table 1: Percentage schools participating in 2012 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey 1999-2012

Year	Participating schools (n)	Response rate (%)
1999	329	
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



Sample characteristics

In 2012 there were 59,627 Year 10 students enrolled in New Zealand schools. The 2012 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey sample (28,443) represented 48% of the total 2012 Year 10 population. Participation in the survey was increased from the previous year by 7%.

Compared to the the national population of Year 10 students, the 2012 sample had a higher proportion of female students. The sample had a higher proportion of European students, although the distribution of Ethnicity was similar to that of the whole Year 10 population.

Table 2: ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey Sample Characteristics Compared to all Year 10 Population 2012.

	2012 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Sample	2012 National Year 10 Population
Year 10 (n)	28443	59,627
Gender		
Male	48%	51%
Female	52%	49%
Ethnicity		
NZ European	57%	54%
Māori	20%	23%
Pacific	9%	10%
Asian	12%	10%
Other	2%	12%
School decile group		
Low (1-3)	16%	18%
Med (4-7)	41%	43%
High (8-10)	42%	39%

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