

National ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey: Methodology

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey has been monitoring student smoking since 1999. 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 and exposure to secondhand smoke.

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'. 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 3.0.2. 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).

Response rate

Table 1: Percentage of schools participating in ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey 1999-2013

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
2012	298	48
2013	264	48

In 2013, 276 out of 550 invited schools agreed to take part in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. Of these, 264 schools returned completed questionnaires by the deadline for inclusion in the analysis.

The total number of completed questionnaires returned by schools was 30,448. 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 27,921.

Sample characteristics

In 2013 there were 57,929 Year 10 students enrolled in New Zealand schools. The 2013 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey sample (27,921) represented 48 per cent of the total 2013 Year 10 population.

Table 2: ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey Sample Characteristics compared to all Year 10 population 2013.

	2013 ASH Year 10 Snapshot Sample	2013 National Year 10 Population
Year 10 (n)	27 921	57 929
Gender		
Male	51%	52%
Female	49%	48%
Ethnicity		
NZ European	59%	54%
Māori	19%	23%
Pacific	10%	10%
Asian	11%	10%
Other	1%	3%
School decile group		
Low (1-3)	15%	18%
Med (4-7)	40%	42%
High (8-10)	45%	39%

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The 2013 New Zealand Youth Tobacco Monitor (NZYTM) Research Coordinating Group are Dr Rhiannon Newcombe, Professor Rob McGee, Anaru Waa, Professor Richard Edwards, Dr Simon Denny



and Dr Darren Walton. This group provides expert advice on the NZYTM and input into the ASH Year 10 Snapshot.

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