

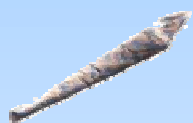
Comparison of the prevalence of smoking, alcohol drinking and marijuana use in participants and non-participants in a school-based survey

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Objective

- To compare the prevalence of selected risk behaviors between participants and non-participants in a survey of school children.



Study design

- Population-based survey using an anonymous self-administered questionnaire (Global Youth Tobacco Survey).

Setting and subjects

- Representative sample of all school children from 4 grades of secondary school in Seychelles.



Results

- 121 (9%) of 1527 eligible students, age 11-16, were not present at school on the survey day but 105 of them ("non-participants") could be traced and completed the questionnaire over the next weeks.

Results

	11-12y	13y	14y	15-16y	Total
Boys					
Participants	133	124	160	203	620
Non participants	14	11	18	25	68
	9.5%	8.1%	10.1%	11.0%	9.9%
Total	147	135	178	228	688
Girls					
Participants	127	147	193	187	654
Non participants	7	4	11	15	37
	5.2%	2.6%	5.4%	7.4%	5.4%
Total	134	151	204	202	691

Table 1. Number of participants and number and proportion (%) of non participants by sex and age

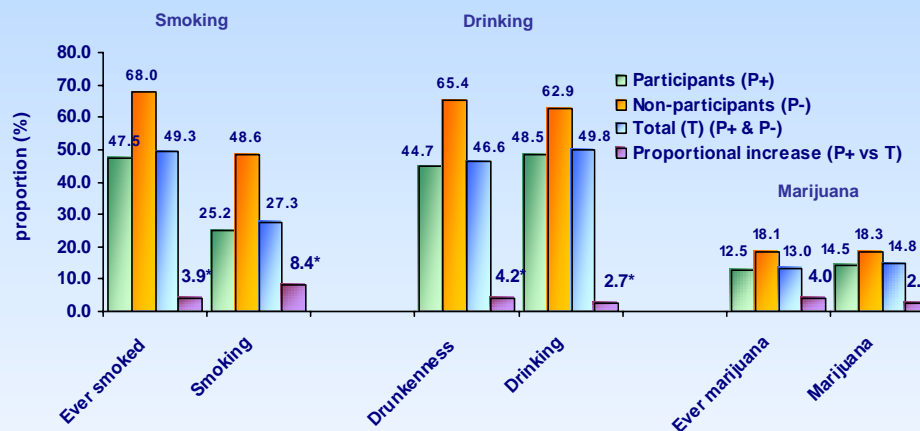


Table 2. Distribution of risk behaviors by participation status and impact on estimates. Ever smoked: has ever smoked a cigarette; smoking: smoked one cigarette or more during the past 30 days; drunkenness: has been drunk at least once ever; drinking: has drunk alcohol once or more during past 30 days; ever marijuana: has ever tried marijuana; marijuana: has used marijuana once or more during the past year. *p<0.001

- Within non-participants the proportion of those, who
 - smoked a cigarette on more than one day in the past 30 days (smoking),
 - drank on more than one day in the past 30 days and (drinking)
 - consumed marijuana at least once in the past year (marijuana)
 was significantly higher than among participants.

- Inclusion of data from the non-participants resulted in a relative increase of the prevalence of the considered behaviors by 3% to 8% in the total population (participants and non-participants).

Conclusion

- Despite of a high participation rate, prevalence estimates for smoking, drinking and marijuana use can differ substantially in adolescents when data from non-participants in a survey are considered.

