FACT SHEET

PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION

First drink of alcohol before the age of 14 years (among students who ever had a drink of alcohol)

The figure below is based on data from the WHO Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) and presents data of 13-15 year old students living in ten countries in the WHO African Region. It shows the percentage of male and female students who had their first drink of alcohol before the age of 14 among those whom ever have had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips).

First drink of alcohol before the age of 14 years (%) among those whom ever have had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) in the WHO African Region

*Female sample size less than 100 students: results omitted due to insufficient power.

GSHS data was conducted between 2004-2009 with a national representative sample of school students (13-15 year old). Subnational data was used for Tanzania due to lack of national data at time of publication.

This fact sheet was developed jointly by the WHO Surveillance and Population-based Prevention team, Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion and the WHO Management of Substance Abuse Team, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.