PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN THE WHO REGION OF THE AMERICAS

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 20 countries in the WHO Region of the Americas. 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 who ever have had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) in the WHO Region of the Americas

*Census was performed for respective surveys

GSHS was conducted between 2004 and 2009 with a national representative sample of school students (13-15 years old). Subnational data was used for the following countries due to a lack of national data at the time of publication: Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

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.