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

Prevalence of lifetime drug use

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 15 countries in the WHO Region of the Americas. It shows the percentage of male and female students who consumed any drug one or more times during their lifetime.

Prevalence (%) of lifetime drug use among adolescents 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.