

provide prevention education on tobacco use through the media, community groups, and the Health and Family Life Education Programme for schools.

Additionally, Dominica joins the rest of the world to observe World No Tobacco Day annually. On that day, the Ministry of Health launches public awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of tobacco, environmental tobacco smoking, and ways to combat smoking habits.

Dominica's participation in GYTS will provide the island with the opportunity to address the following issues:

- Level of tobacco use among students who are at schools in the first to fourth forms at secondary and primary schools with Junior Secondary Programs; Age of initiation of tobacco use among these students; Levels of susceptibility to become cigarette smokers.
- Exposure to tobacco advertising; ability to identify key intervention variables, such as attitudes, beliefs and behavioural norms with regards to tobacco use that could be used for non-smoking policy and creating supportive environment for planning and implementing school-based and community intervention programmes.

Twenty-three (23) selected schools participated in the survey, ten (10) secondary and thirteen (13) primary schools with junior secondary programmes (JSP).

Methods

GYTS Dominica was conducted from May 24 - June 20, 2000 among 1626 students of the first to fourth forms from 23 schools. The survey employed a two-stage cluster sample design.

Sample Description

All schools containing forms one, two, three and or four in Dominica were included in the sampling frame. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce a representative sample of forms one, two, three and four.

The first stage-sampling frame consisted of all schools containing students in forms one, two, three and or four. Schools were selected with probability proportional to schools enrollment size. Twenty-three (23) schools were selected -10 secondary and 13 primary schools with JSP. At class level the second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling of classes from each school that participated in the survey. Number of eligible classes ranged from one to fifteen in schools sampled and the number of students in a class ranged from six to thirty five. All of the 23 selected schools participated; however, the students' response rate was 86.6 percent, 1626 of the 1877 eligible sampled students having completed usable questionnaires.

Questionnaire

A group of experts on tobacco addiction from the first group of countries selected to undertake GYTS and staff members of WHO/TFI and UNICEF developed the 57 core questions. Additionally, one question was included and 27 of the core questions were adjusted and pre-tested before the corrected instrument was finalized and administered. The Health Promotion Resource Centre of the Ministry of Health and Social Security conducted the survey.

Data Collection

Permission was obtained before its launching from the Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs to conduct the survey among students of the eligible schools. Thereafter the following activities were implemented:

- Principals of the eligible schools were individually informed by telephone of the survey and its content. Logistical arrangements for the administration of the survey were made. Principals were provided with detailed information on the objectives of the survey and the administration procedures that were to be employed to ensure anonymity and confidentiality for students and schools.
- Eligible students at the selected schools were given information letters to take to their parents/guardians informing them of the GYTS and dates during which the survey would be conducted at their schools.
- In-country training for three persons was conducted prior to commencement of the survey. Procedures were designed to ensure protection of the students' privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. The self-administered questionnaire was completed in the classroom. Students recorded their responses directly on answer sheets that could be scanned by a computer. The questionnaire contained 58 multiple-choice questions and approximately 45 minutes were allowed for completion. The Survey was conducted from May 24 - June 20, 2000.

Following their completion, all questionnaires were checked before leaving the school compounds. Completed questionnaires were then packaged and sent to CDC, Atlanta for analysis.

Analysis

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non-response and the varying probabilities of selection. The programmes SUDAAN and Epi-Info were used to compute rates and 95% confidence Intervals for the estimates. A weight was associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of non-response. The weight used for estimation was completed as follows: