Global School-based Student Health Survey

GSHS

A Tool for Integrated Youth Behavioral Surveillance
Monitoring NCD Risk Factors and Systems Response at Population Level

Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS)

Conceptualized and developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) with inputs from multiple technical partners, Global school-based student health survey is an integrated surveillance tool to track the health and well-being of adolescents through the collection of data on multiple risk factors.

By providing a standardized methodology, periodic GSHS assists countries to establish their own youth behavior surveillance systems to enable more responsive health policies and programs.

Learn more with:
Household-based STEPS Surveys
More than 100 Countries

More than 100 countries across the world have conducted GSHS to measure key behaviors among school-going adolescents, making it one of the most widely used population surveys in the world. Many countries have conducted multiple rounds of GSHS enabling them to assess trends over time. The system has also generated comparable data across countries.

Since 2003

GSHS has been providing comparable data to countries across the world on ten most important behavioral risk factors and protective factors affecting the youth.

The boundaries and name shown on this map do not imply any expression of any opinion on this map concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Globally, GSHS has emerged as the surveillance system of choice due to its holistic approach to monitor the key behavioral risk factors and some protective behaviors.

Parental engagement, friendships and school environment.

**Protective Factors**

**Key Risk Factors**

- Physical Inactivity
- Dietary Behaviors
- Oral & Hand Hygiene
- Tobacco Use
- Alcohol Use
- Drug Use
- Mental Health
- Violence, Bullying and Unintentional Injury
- Sexual Behavior & HIV/AIDS Knowledge
Focus on adolescents and on sensitive behavioral risk factors, with societal stigma, calls for unique approaches as used in GSHS:

**School-based rather than household**
As an interview venue: affords more privacy from potentially intruding family members or neighbors to allow them respond more truthfully on sensitive questions.

**Anonymous and confidential**
No collection of any identifying information (name, parents’ name, class section, etc.), so that adolescents can respond honestly without fear of incrimination.

**Simple questionnaires**
No use of complicated skip patterns in the questionnaires. Students answer all questions.

**Scannable answersheets**
Allows for quick data collection, timely data availability and no data entry errors.

---

**Age Group**
(in years)

13 17
Forecasting Trends
Establishing and forecasting trends in key risk behaviors and protective factors among youth to identify emerging priorities and to develop more responsive policies and programs.

Comparative Analysis
Helping countries and international agencies in making comparisons between countries and regions on prevalence of risk & protective factors and efficacy of health interventions.

Standardized System
Implementing the survey through a standardized and scientific sample selection process and a common school-based methodology.

Integrated Approach
Monitoring and measuring multiple behavioral risks and protective factors in one survey, thereby meeting all data needs as well as enabling analysis of relationships between risk- and protective- factors among youth.

Inclusive & Flexible Approach
Capturing the unique and divergent realities of different regions, cultures and countries through addition of country specific questions.
Advocating for Resources

Mobilizing and advocating for additional resources to enhance health and well-being of adolescents through good quality evidence.

Features of GSHS

Technical Assistance & Support
Including help with sample design, questionnaire development, training of survey personnel, and mobilization of resources.

Cost Effective & Easy to Administer
Relatively low cost school-based survey that uses a self-administered questionnaire to be filled by the student, and administered during one class period.

Capacity Building
On-going capacity building support provided by WHO and its partners to the countries implementing GSHS, through workshops on survey implementation and data analysis and reporting.

Advocating for Resources
Mobilizing and advocating for additional resources to enhance health and well-being of adolescents through good quality evidence.
By monitoring, measuring and assessing multiple behavioral risk factors, exposures and protective factors, GSHS provides a systematic evaluation of youth health.

Visit:

http://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/gshs
to download survey manuals, country reports and other resources.

http://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/microdata
https://nada.searo.who.int
to download raw data from GSHS Surveys.

© World Health Organization 2018. Some rights reserved. This work is available under the CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence.