

ASH YEAR 10 SNAPSHOT SURVEY 2024

Information for people working with schools

What is the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey?

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey is a national school-based self-complete pen and paper survey of Year 10 students run by Action for Smokefree 2025 (ASH). The survey has run every year since 1999 (aside from 2020, when it was cancelled due to Covid-19) and gathers information on smoking and vaping related attitudes and behaviours among Year 10 students. It is part of the NZ Youth Tobacco Monitor and part of Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health)'s public health monitoring programme and is funded by Te Whatu Ora.

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey:

- Provides a valuable and robust insight into youth smoking and vaping to help us better understand use and attitudes
- Has been conducted annually since 1999
- Has the largest youth sample of any youth tobacco survey. 20,000-30,000 Year 10 students take part annually.
- Takes approximately 10 minutes to complete
- Administered in class by the class teacher.

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey is one of the largest youth smoking and vaping surveys in the world. It uses robust and validated measures, is conducted to a high methodological standard, and has been subject to peer review and ethics approval. The data has integrity, is trusted and is therefore used extensively by government, policy-makers, and researchers.

What is the information used for?

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey helps to inform and evaluate policy and activities to reduce tobacco use. More recently this has included motoring and understanding behaviours and attitudes around vaping. Each year, ASH provides school-level smoking prevalence figures to schools participating in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey and provides regional breakdowns where possible. The results are widely reported by media and in published research in New Zealand and internationally.

Findings from previous surveys are available at https://www.ash.org.nz/ash_year_10

Which schools get invited to participate?

All schools with Year 10 students are invited to participate in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. Instructions for administering the survey are provided to school staff who then run it in a way that works for the school. Teachers administer the survey with all Year 10 classes in the school.

How can health promoters encourage schools in their area to participate?

Please speak with your main contact at each school to follow up with the principal about the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey invitation letter sent out in mid-March 2024. When schools consent to participate, they can choose to share their school-level survey data with public health workers in their regions. You may wish to encourage principals to participate in the survey so that their school's information can be released to you.

Can you find out about which schools are participating?

To protect confidentiality and meet ethical obligations, it is not possible to disclose the names of participating schools and which survey they have been invited to take part in. If you want to know whether a school in your region is participating in the survey you will need to speak with the school directly.

How do schools and students consent to take part?

ASH contacts schools to gain written consent from principals or deputy principals to participate in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. ASH sends reminders to schools that have not returned consent forms. If a school has not received, or has lost, the invitation letter, ask them to contact Sally Wong at ASH (contact details below).

Parental consent is not sought for the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey as the questionnaires are anonymous and confidential, and because the consent of the principals as 'responsible adults' is considered sufficient. On the day, students can choose whether or not to participate.

At an individual level, the questionnaires remain anonymous and confidential to protect the privacy of students' responses. The results may also be shared with local Public Health Unit (PHU) if consent is obtained (this is part of the consent form process). Results will not be shared with the school or PHU if a school that returns 10 or fewer completed the questionnaires, in order to protect students' anonymity. Schools participating in the research will not be named or identified in any form in any published reports.

Ethical approval for this study has been granted by the Manatū Hauora's Health and Disability Ethics Committee (Number MEC/07/10/141).

Key dates

- March 2024: Principals of all New Zealand schools with Year 10 students receive a letter informing them of the upcoming NZYTM

- Late March 2024: Schools are contacted to ask for consent to participate
- May 2024: Questionnaire packs are delivered to consenting schools
- 27 May to 05 July 2024: Schools undertake the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey
- 5 August 2024: Last date to return completed questionnaires.

Schools will receive their school-level smoking results from ASH in early 2025, provided that they have returned the surveys to ASH by the due date. If there are ten or fewer students returning completed surveys, the school-level prevalence figures will not be provided to protect the anonymity of those students.

More information

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For more information on the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey visit
https://www.ash.org.nz/ash_year_10