

SPECIAL RELEASE

Highlights of 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS): **DRUG USE**

Date of Release: April 18, 2018

Reference No. SR 2018-15

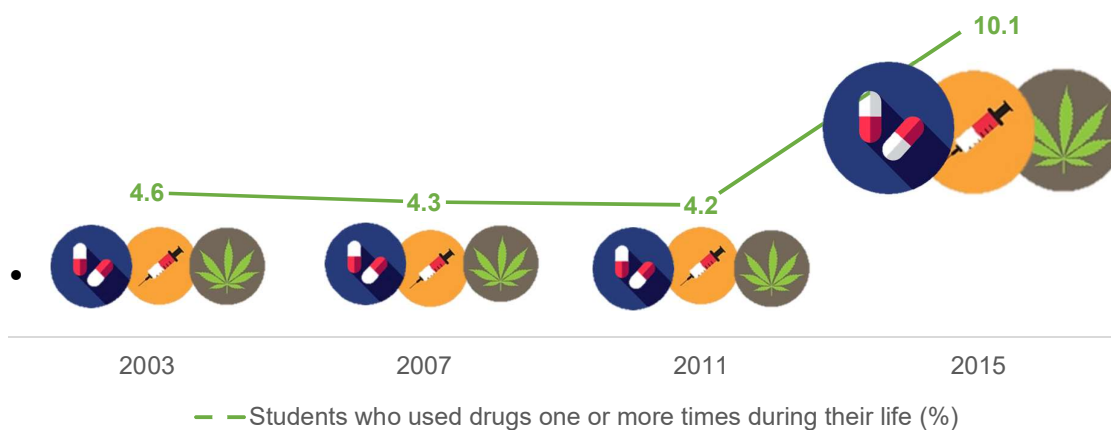
The Global-Based Student Health Survey (GSHS) is a survey designed to measure and assess the behavioral risk factors and protective factors among young people aged 13 to 17 years old. The survey aims to obtain data on young people's health behavior and protective factors related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among children and adults. The result of the survey provides policy makers with insights and tools necessary in creating more responsive health interventions.

The GSHS measured alcohol use, dietary behaviors, drug use, hygiene, mental health, physical activity, protective factors, tobacco use, HIV/AIDS related knowledge, and violence and unintentional injury. The survey was funded by the Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health with technical assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC).

Drug use among high school students in 2015 increases

Drug use had a decreasing trend for years 2003 to 2011. However, drug use among high school students aged 13-15 years old increased from 4.2% in 2011 to 10.1% in 2015.

Figure 1. Drug Use Among High School Students Aged 13-15 Years Old, Philippines: 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015



Source of basic data: 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey, DOH

One in ten of high school students aged 13-15 years old ever used drugs

- In 2015, 10.1% of high school students aged 13-15 years old ever used drugs in the Philippines.

Figure 2. Drug Use among High School Students Aged 13-15 Years Old, Philippines: 2015

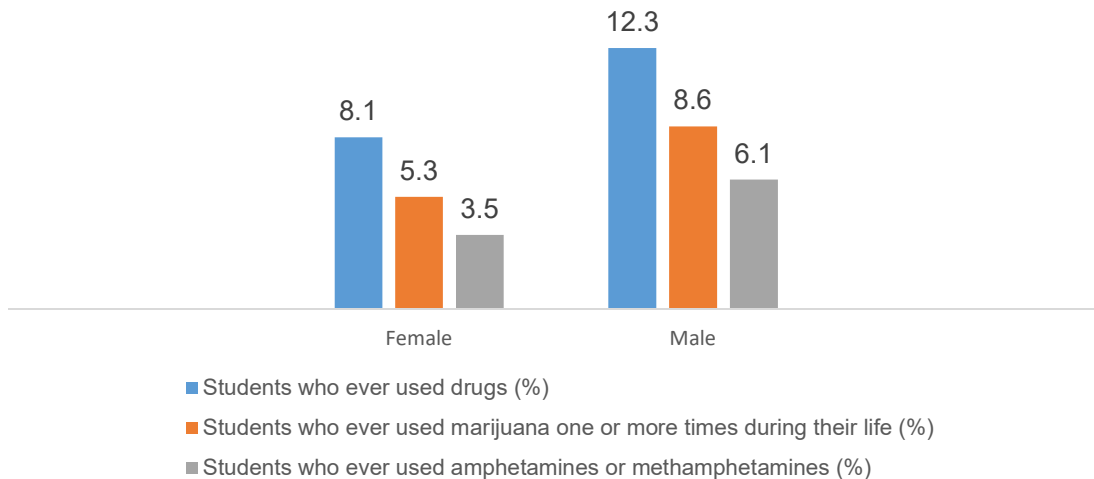


Source of basic data: 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey, DOH

Males were more prone to use drugs than females

- Males (12.3%) were more likely to use drugs than the females (8.1%).
- Of those who ever used marijuana or amphetamines/methamphetamines one or more times during their life, the males (8.6%, 6.1%) registered a higher proportion of users as compared to the females (5.3%, 3.5%), respectively.

Figure 3. Drug Use Among High School Students Aged 13-15 Years by Sex, Philippines: 2015

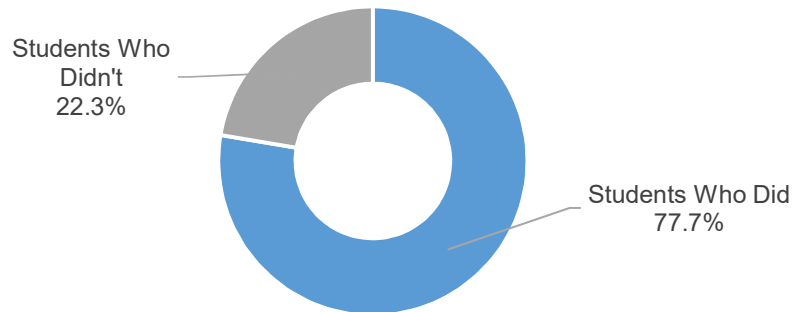


Source of basic data: 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey, DOH

Eight in ten high school students ever used drugs before age 14

- In 2015, 77.7% of high school students reported to have used drugs for the first time before they turned 14 years old.

Figure 4. Drug Initiation among High School Students Before the Age 14 Years, Philippines: 2015

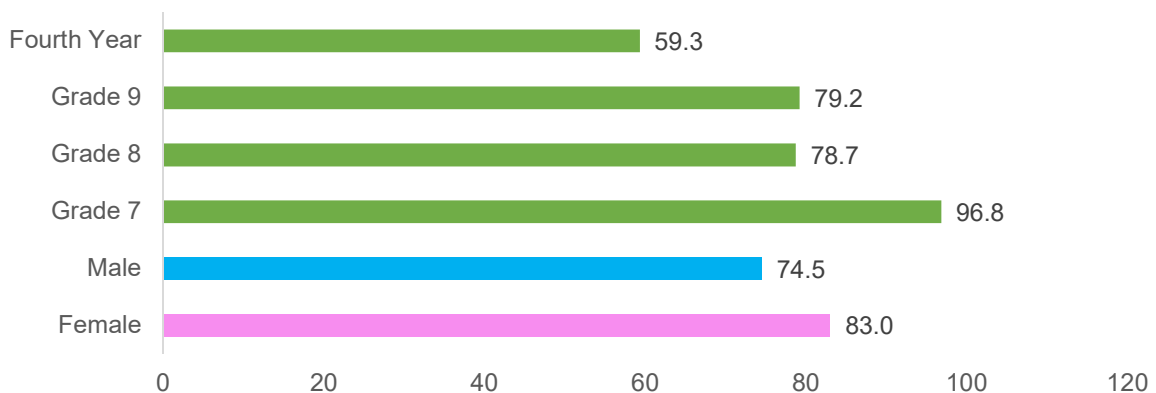


Source: 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey, DOH

Females more prone to use drugs for the first time than males

- Females (83.0%) were more likely than the males (74.5%) to have first used drugs before the age 14 years.
- Almost 6 out of 10 fourth year high school students initiated drug use before age 14 years.

Figure 4. Drug Initiation among High School Students Before the Age 14 Years by Sex, Philippines (In Percent): 2015



Source: 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey, DOH



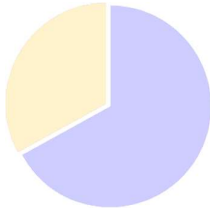
On a national scale, 7.9% of students used drugs one or more times during the 30 days before the survey. Males (9.8%) were more likely than females (6.1%) who used drugs during the period.

The grade 7 students topped the percentage of student to have initiated drug use before 14 years old (among students who ever used drugs) at 96.8% followed by grade 9 (79.2%), grade 8 (78.7%), and fourth year (59.3%).



About **16.7%** reported that someone offered, sold or gave them drugs 30 days before the survey.

About one-third of students (32.7%) were taught in any of their classes the problems associated with using drugs and where to get help to stop using drugs (35.2%) during the school year.



Overall, 7.1% and 4.8% of students reported that they ever used marijuana and amphetamines or meth one or more times during their life, respectively.

TECHNICAL NOTES

<i>Drug</i>	-	It is any substance that, when taken into the body, alters the body's function either physically and/or psychologically.
<i>Drug Use</i>	-	Refers to the activity of taking drugs into the body by way of inhaling, injecting, smoking, consuming, absorbing via patch on the skin or dissolving under the tongue.
<i>Drug Abuse</i>	-	Refers to the activity of using legal or illegal substances in prohibited ways for the purpose of creating pleasure effects on the brain.
<i>Trend</i>	-	Refers to a prevailing or general movement.