

Statistical Studies: Statistical Investigations

III.A Student Activity Sheet 1: Overview of Purpose, Design, and Studies

Tobacco and middle school and high school students

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) in 2004 to measure current use of tobacco products and selected indicators related to tobacco use, including youth exposure to tobacco-related media and access to cigarettes.

The survey was distributed to 267 U.S. public and private schools; 14,034 middle school students and 13,738 high school students completed the survey. Participation was voluntary and anonymous, and school parental permission procedures were followed. Some results included:

- A. 11.7% of middle school students and 28% of high school students reported current use of a tobacco product.
- B. 77.9% of middle school students and 86.5% of high school students reported seeing actors using tobacco on television or in movies.
- C. 70.6% of current cigarette smokers in middle school and 63.9% in high school said they were not asked to show proof of age when they purchased or attempted to purchase cigarettes from a store.

These results indicate very little change from the results of the 2002 survey. The lack of substantial decreases in the use of tobacco products among students indicates the need to

- increase the retail price of tobacco products,
- implement smoking-prevention media campaigns, and
- decrease minors' access.

The findings in this report are subject to limitations. First, these data apply only to youths who attended middle school or high school. Among 16- and 17-year-olds in the United States, approximately 5% were not enrolled in a high school program and had not completed high school in 2000. Second, the questionnaire was offered only in English. Thus, comprehension might have been limited for students with English as a second language.

(Adapted from Centers for Disease Control. Tobacco Use, Access, and Exposure to Tobacco in Media Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2004. from www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5412a1.htm)

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Scientists in Turkey undertook a study of people with epilepsy. The research included analyzing scalp hair samples from 22 participants with epilepsy and 23 participants without epilepsy, checking for differences in levels of copper, iron, zinc, magnesium, and calcium. (The researchers speculate that such differences could indicate metabolic differences that may contribute to epilepsy.) Results indicated that the epileptic group had significantly lower levels of copper and iron compared to the nonepileptic group.

(Avci, H., Kizilkan, N., & Yaman, M. [2008]. Comparison of Trace Element Concentrations in Scalp Hair of Epileptic and Normal Subjects. *Trace Elements and Electrolytes*. Vol. 25, No. 3, pp.147-155)

Scientists in Nigeria, in an effort to find an inexpensive method of raising rabbits for food, designed a study to test the effect of replacing some of the rabbits' soybean diet with *Gliricidia sepium* Leaf Meal (GLM). Twenty-five young rabbits were randomly assigned to receive either 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, or 20% GLM. The groups showed no significant difference in the amount of harvestable meat, while decreasing costs of raising the meat.

(Amata, I., & Bratte, L. [2008]. The Effect of Partial Replacement of Soybean Meal... *Asian Journal of Animal and Veterinary Advances*. Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 169-173. from www.scialert.net/qredirect.php?doi=ajava.2008.169.173&linkid=pdf)