

The STEP survey – Sri Lanka - 2003

This survey was conducted to probe the WHO STEP methodology in year 2003.

Study population

The STEP survey was conducted in one Health Area in Western Province (Population 189,400). In Sri Lanka, one health area comprises several clusters/ PHM areas (Public Health Midwife areas). The average number of PHM areas per Health Area is around 20. Randomly selected 10 clusters were included to the study in order to have a representative sample from the health area. The sample was drawn to have a minimum of 250 numbers in each recommended age group and sex according to the guidelines for STEP surveys.

The Sample Selection

Age Group	Male	Female
15 – 24	250	250
25 – 34	250	250
35 – 44	250	250
45 – 54	250	250
55 – 64	250	250
65 - 74	250	250
Total	1500	1500

Although the minimum sample should be 2000 and age groups from 25 to 64 (4 age groups) have to be included, it was decided to include age group 15 – 24 due to the fact that average age at which people take up smoking might be in this age group for Sri Lanka and also the age group from 65 – 74 was selected because the country's life expectancy is relatively long and it was important to include this particular age group.

Results related to Tobacco use analyzed through EPINFO

Tobacco Use	Male	Female	Total	
Daily Smokers	32.60	0.67	16.63	%
Non Daily smokers	7.67	0.27	3.96	%
Average age started smoking (years)	21.24	26.40	21.34	Years
Average years of smoking	24.60	27.00	24.65	
Number Smoking Manufactured Cigarettes	456	8	464	
Percentage Smoking Manufactured Cigarettes	93.25	80	92.99	%
Total Number of Cigarettes smoked daily	3448	68	3516	
Average Number of Cigarettes smoked/ day	7.05	6.8	7.05	

Source: NCD Unit, Ministry of Health

Cigarettes Tax – Locally Manufactured

1. Excise duty depends on the length of the cigarette.
2. Value Added Tax (VAT) 15%
3. Social Responsibility levy (SRL) 1%
4. Tobacco Tax (TT)
Rs. 10 per 1kg Tobacco leaves
5. Provincial Council Turn Over Tax – 5%

* On average 75% of the price of the cigarette comprises tax.

Cigarettes Tax – Imported Cigarettes

In addition to above,

1. Custom Duty – 100%
2. PAL (Port and Airport Levy) 2.5%

Tobacco Leaf Imports

1. Rs. 250 per kg.
2. VAT – 15%
3. PAL – 2.5%

Source: *Department of Fiscal Policy*

Department of Customs