Smokeless Tobacco Used Among Lara State, Venezuelan School Students. Global Youth Tobacco Survey (Gyts).

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Objectives
To face the issue of tobacco addiction, there is a need for valid data for inter and intra-country comparisons, aimed at the design of preventive strategies, targeting "the global youth" while taking into consideration local peculiarities. Chimó, a type of smokeless tobacco (ST), is a tobacco-based paste traditionally used among people in rural areas of Venezuela.

Material and Methods
This is a cross sectional school-based two-stage cluster sample survey, a representative sample of students in grades 6 to 9. That look for information on: attitudes, knowledge, and behaviours related to tobacco use; exposure to: environmental tobacco smoke, prevention programs, mass media, marketing; and seeks information on measures to control tobacco sales.

Results
Response rate: 85.7% (schools), 93.3% (students), 80.0% (overall). A total of 1834 students participated, 2 out of every 10 male and 1 out of every 10 female reported the use of any type of tobacco product in the previous 30 days, the difference between male and female was very small. The prevalence of students who never smoked cigarettes decreases with grade. 85% in 6th to 62% in 9th, while 11.5% in grade 9th reporting having at least a cigarette in the last month. Chimó use is common in males (13.5%) and from grade 6 to 8th out pass cigarette use, in grade 6th, 10 out every 100 students use Chimó, while 7 in every 100 smoke cigarettes.

Discussion
The Global Youth Tobacco Survey, GYTS, the first surveillance system for any chronic disease risk factor to be global, had unveil the problem of ST not only in Lara State but in many other countries.

Conclusions
Contrary the general believe amongst educators and health care personnel, this data indicates that smokeless tobacco use by youth is wide spread and therefore, a very important public health issue.

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