

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: Tobacco use continues to kill more than 5 million people worldwide each year, and this number is expected to grow. The burden of tobacco use is greatest in low- and middle-income countries. The objective of this study is to evaluate student perception and awareness of the tobacco control act and health risks due to smoking.

METHOD: A survey was conducted on a convenient sample of one hundred participants from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus. Students partook in the study during November 2009. A questionnaire was administered to participants which included - demographics, attitudes, perception and awareness of smoking health effects.

RESULTS: Most participants of the study were aware of the tobacco control act as well as the majority was in support of the ban of smoking in public places. 89% of the total population was aware of the health risks associated with smoking.

CONCLUSION: The study shows there was a high awareness of the tobacco control act among this sample population which may be related to demographic factors of age group and educational level.