



Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization



Report Card

School Health: Report Cards

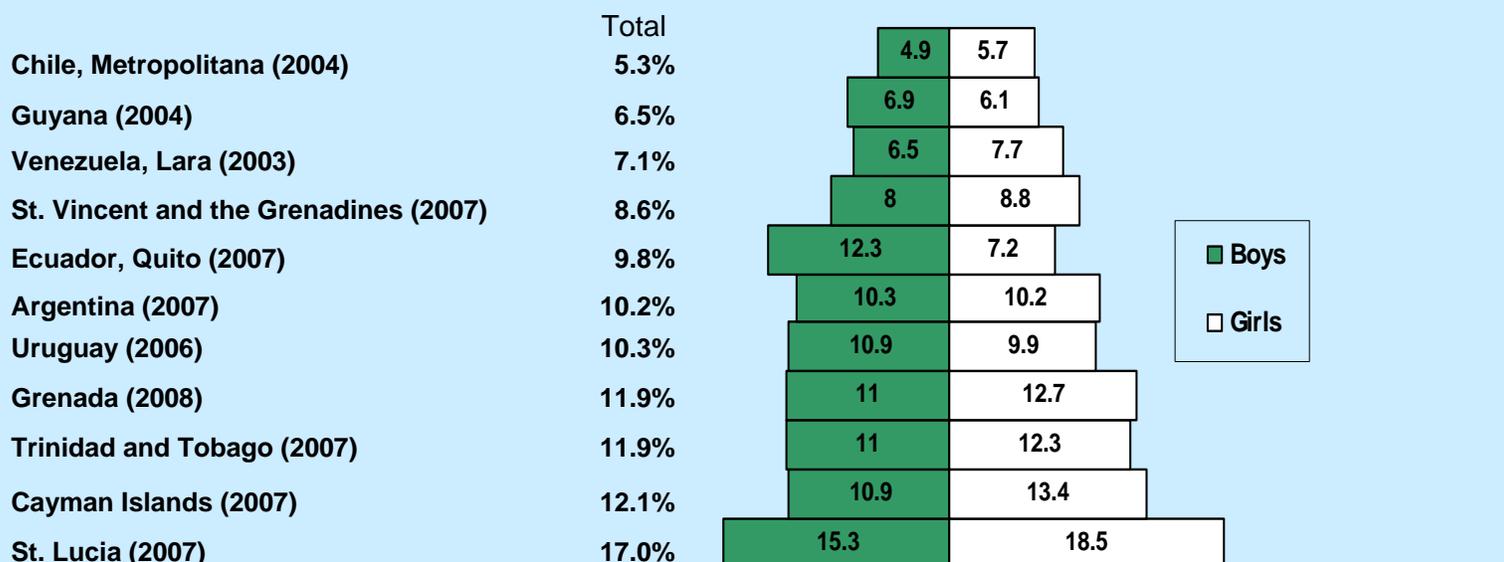
Subject: Handwashing

Handwashing:

Still One of the Cheapest and Most Effective Ways to Prevent Diseases

Hands can carry germs that cause diarrheal diseases as well as respiratory illnesses. In the case of influenza, a healthy person can become infected by touching his/her nose, eyes, or mouth after touching an object or surface recently contaminated with the flu virus. Results from the Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) shows significant variations in the percentage of students reporting that they did not wash their hands before eating. These statistics are particularly relevant in light of the ongoing influenza pandemic, as handwashing can decrease the risk of getting sick and spreading the H1N1 influenza virus.

Percentage of Students Aged 13-15 Who Never or Rarely Washed Their Hands Before Eating Over a 30 Day Time Span



YouTube Videos on Handwashing



[Healthy Habits for Flu Prevention](#)



[Clean Hands Help Prevent the Flu](#)



["Wash Your Hands" Hygiene PSA](#)

The GSHS is a relatively low-cost survey which uses a self-administered questionnaire to obtain data from a sample of 13 to 15 year old students on health risk behaviors and protective factors that affect the morbidity and mortality among young people worldwide. Participating countries receive technical assistance from PAHO/WHO and the CDC. For more information or to subscribe to GSHS Report Cards please send an e-mail to gshs@paho.org or visit the website at GSHS.

