

Activity related to the myth 3 “everybody is using drugs”

An anonymous survey

Conduct an anonymous survey, or poll, within a big group of your peers, for example in your school class!

The aim is to get to know how many of your peers have actually experimented with drugs, or other harmful substances. Then, this information can be spread among your peers, compared with estimations on drug use within your peer group, and used to discuss why your peers tend to think about drug use the way they do.

There are many ways on how you could organize your survey – you can choose the most creative and fun way!

However, we encourage you to bear in mind that it is very important to *keep the poll anonymous* in order to respect every ones privacy! To ensure this the group of participants should be big enough.

Besides pen and paper, you could also use for example colourful candies or stones to find out how many of your peers has actually experimented with harmful substances.

Here is one example of how:

Put a glass jar in a big box , marked with different answer options to the question “Have you ever experimented with drugs?”. You can have jars for “Yes” and “No”, or then you can be more specific, and have jars for “Yes, once”, “Yes, several times” and “No”, or ask about different substances and use the colours of candies to indicate alcohol, tobacco and illicit substances.

Votes can be given by putting stones into the right jars. It is good if the jars are covered, so that no one can see the answers of previous voters. Also, this box should be in a quiet place, for example behind a corner, etc. to guarantee privacy for the voters.

In the end, you can see how many answers are given for each option. You could compare the result with your own estimation made before as well as with possible national or regional survey data.

Of course, this is just one suggestion on how to conduct a survey, and how to start breaking this myth among your peers!

Please share pictures or any other visual presentation of your survey results with us via Facebook or email at youthinitiative@unodc.org by **October 12, 2014**. The best contributions will be published on our Youth Initiative Facebook page as well as the UNODC website.

We are looking forward to your contribution!