Experiences and challenges in conducting the first GPS in the Republic of Macedonia

Silvana Oncheva

National Institute of Public Health

Introduction

First GPS in the country

Supported by EMCDDA

Period of implementation: less than 7 months

Implementing agency: Institute of Public Health

In collaboration with the 10 regional Centers for Public Health and the Institute of Epidemiology (Medical Faculty)

Other surveys conducted in the country:

- ESPAD: 1999, 2008, 2012, 2015
- HBSC
- Global youth tobacco survey

Report: Assessment of Drug Dependence Treatment Quality Standards for Drug Dependence Treatment Programs in the Republic of Macedonia

Pilot phase

- Sample 147 (3% of the sampling size)
- Conducted in the capital, Skopje (urban and rural)
- Questionnaire in Macedonian and Albanian language
- Response rate: 75,5%

Timing:
- Training of the staff 21.12.2016
- Field work 22.12.2016-05.01.2017
- Reported 09.01.2017

Second phase

- Modification of the questionnaire (based on the pilot phase findings and EMCDDA recommendations)
- Reporting forms, contact lists

- Additional training of the staff 08.02.2017
- Field work and data entry/control 09.02-26.03.2017
- Reporting 31.03.2017

Sample

5005 households selected:

- 3500 aged 15-64
- Additional 1505 aged 15-34 (over-represented)

- Data: Latest census in 2002 (framework error 15%)
- Stratification: 8 statistical regions (urban and rural)

- Monitoring coverage: 10%

Field work challenges

1. Staff

- Motivation of the staff (weather, time limit)
- Refusal to participate, new interviewers engaged locally (no training, insufficient knowledge in methodology)
- Inadequate reporting (contact lists: not fulfilled, or lacking information for the second/third visit, reason for not participation)
- Monitoring: poor reporting

Field work challenges (2)

2. Environment

- Old data for the households (census)

- Weather conditions

- Access to households

- Environment specifics (rural, urban)

- Absence/migration

- Motivation of participants to take part in the study

Field work challenges (3)

3. Household, Interview

- Face to face
- Sensitive questions
- Privacy
- Anonymity

Reporting challenges

- Missing household's codes
- Insufficient data for no-participation
- Weekly reports delays, insufficient information
- Delays in submission of fulfilled questionnaires
- Double reporting

Data entry challenges

- Font (Macedonian, Albanian, English)

Eg. Kr. Palanka, K Palanka, Кр. Паланка, Крива Паланка;
Vatasha, Vatasa, Ваташа

- Location codes not used

- Formatted cells

(date 12.3.17, 12.3.2017, 12/03/2017, 12.3, 1203,
time 12:20; 12,20, 12.20h, 1220)

- No answer codes (99 no answer, 0 not applicable)

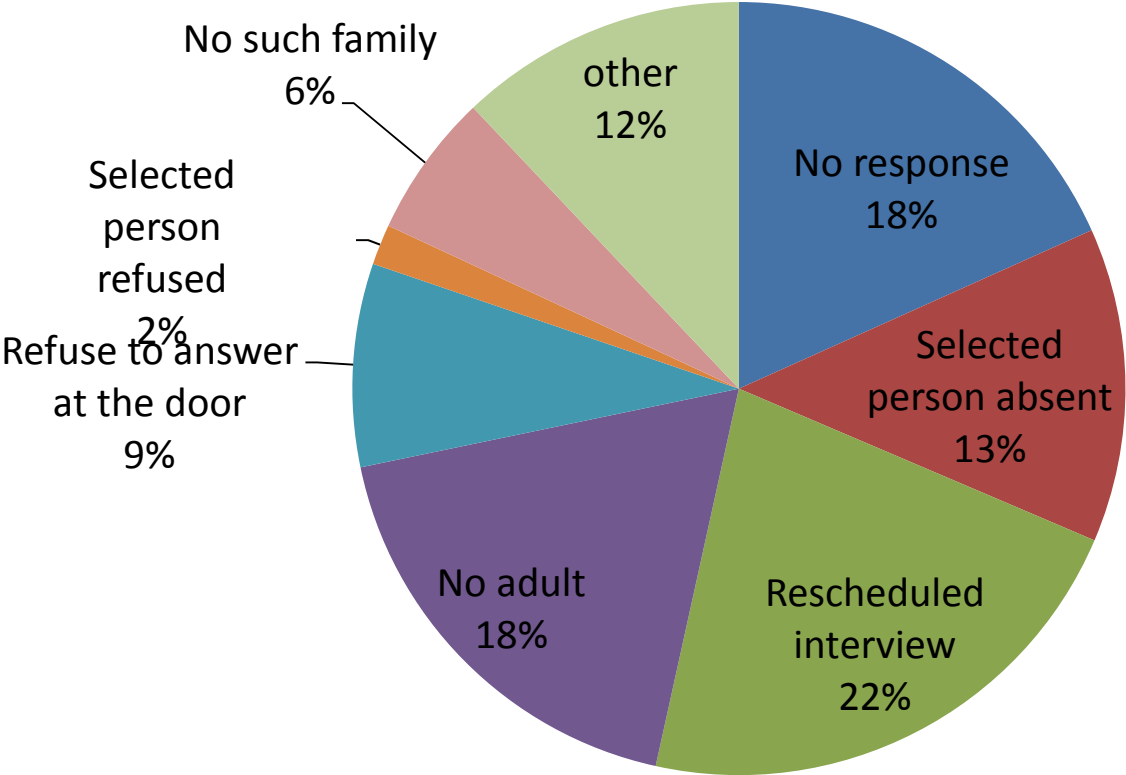- Contact lists not fulfilled

- Double reporting

Results

Household

1. The address does not exist		4,4%
2. It is not residential object		1,4%
3. The given surname does not exist on this address		3,3%
4. The given surname exists on this address		91,0%

1. Family house		79,7%
2. Small building (up to 3 floors)		3,7%
Large building above 4 floors		16,6%

Interview

	conduct	not conducted
1 visit	69%	31%
2 visit	71%	29%
3 visit	29%	71%

Reasons for not conducting the survey, 1 visit

- No such family 6%
- Selected person refused 2%
- Refuse to answer at the door 9%
- other 12%
- No response 18%
- Selected person absent 13%
- Rescheduled interview 22%
- No adult 18%

Reasons for not participating, 1 visit

Reason	Percentage
other	6%
physical threat	1%
bad health	2%
no peronal benefit	10%
not interested in the topic	17%
personal safety	2%
no anonimity	11%
results will be abused	9%
bizar	6%
exhausted survey	6%
took part in many surveys before	1%
survey is too long	1%
Never participate in survey	6%
Never has a time	4%
No time at the moment	7%
Don't want to give explanation why	11%
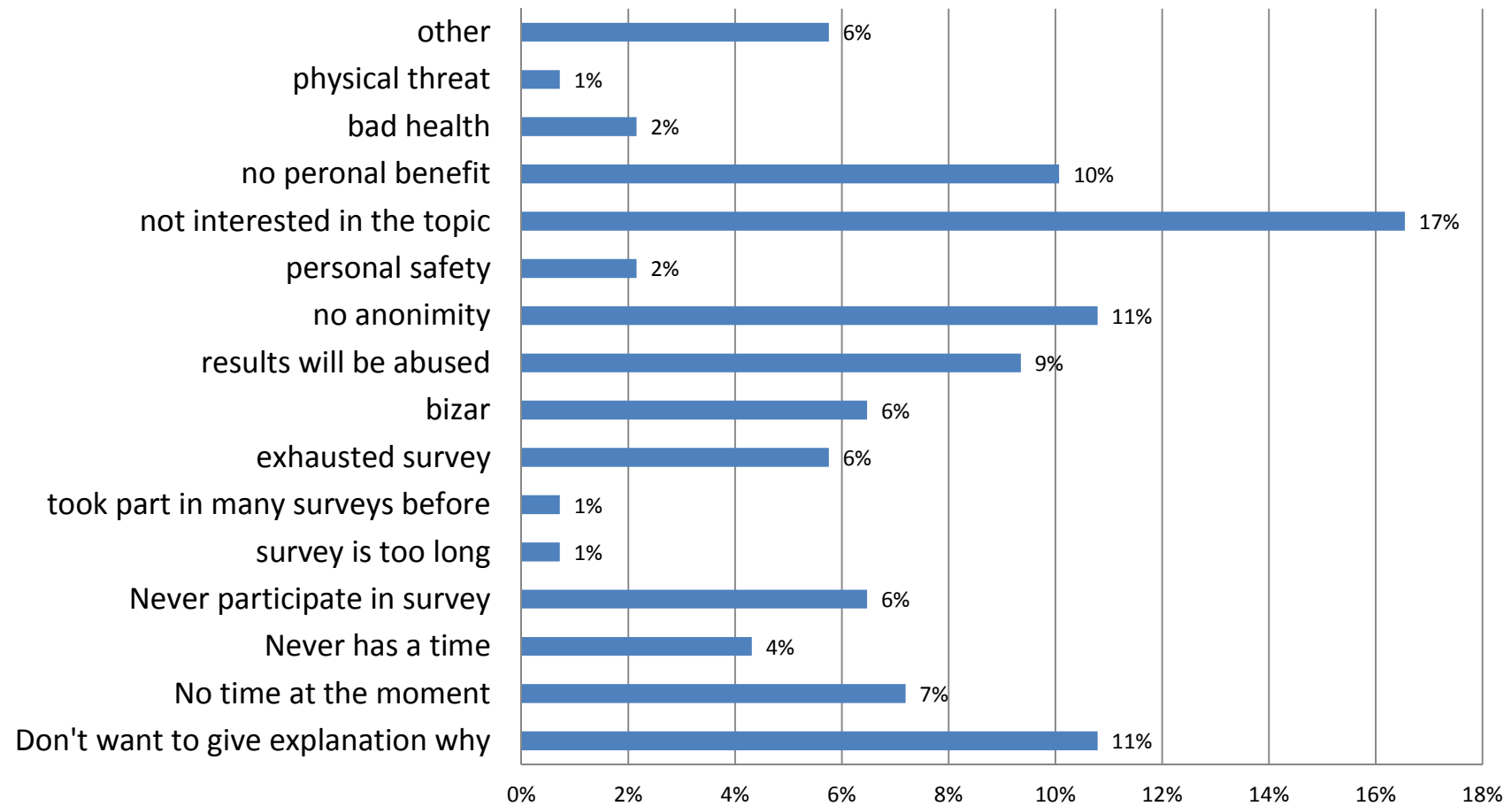
Reasons for not conducting the survey, 2 visit

Selected person
refused
2%

Refuse to answer
at the door
5%

No adult
4%

Rescheduled
interview
9%

Selected person
absent
2%

No such family
1%

other
4%

No response
73%
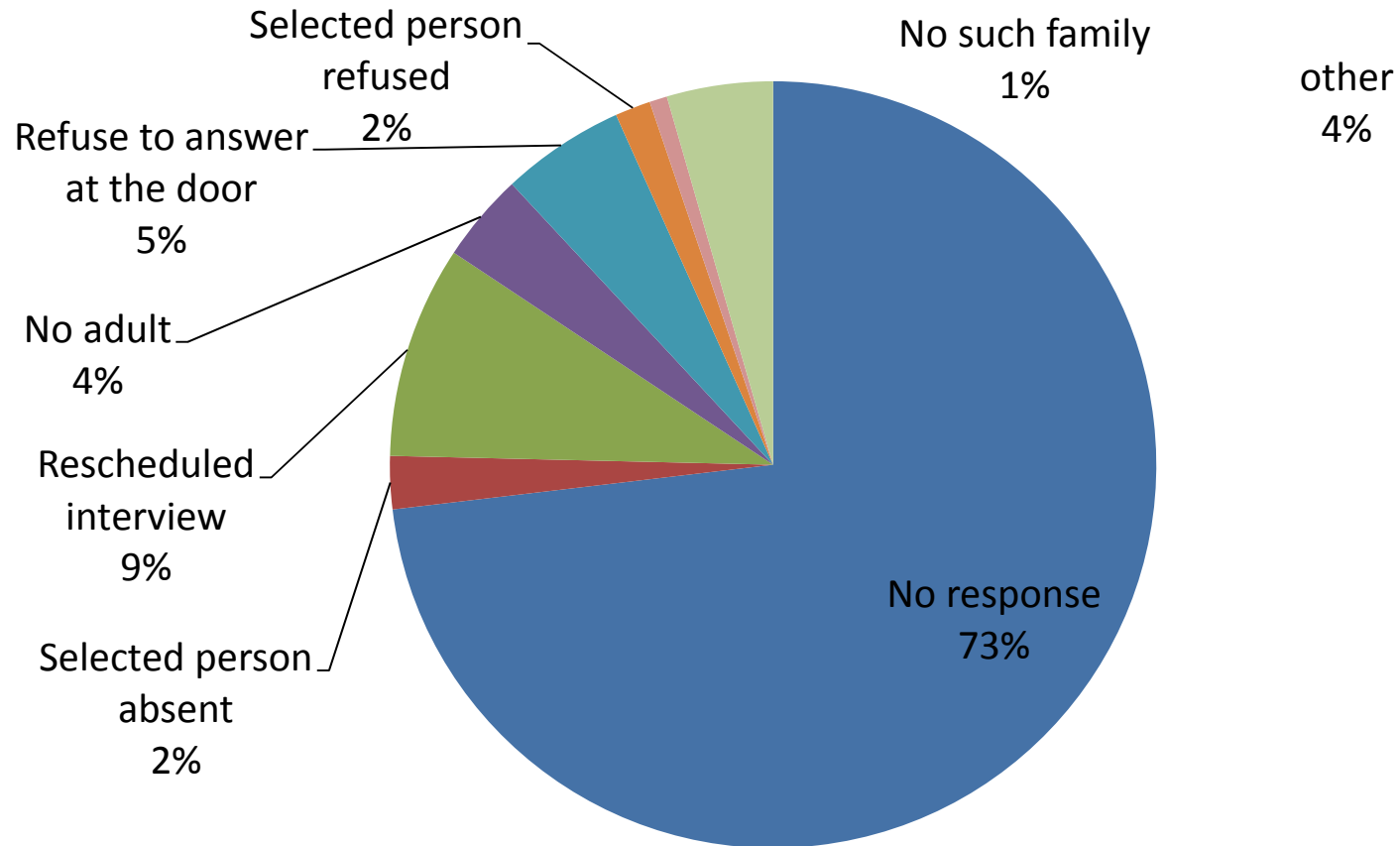
From the total sample of 5005 households, elaborated during the survey were 4747 (94,84%). From them, 3768 (79,38%) people aged 15 – 64 fulfilled the questionnaire which data was incorporated in the data base. People aged 15-34 represents 1798 (47,72%) of the cases in the data base.

elaborated households	4747	94,84%
Interviewed persons aged 15-64	3768	79,38%
Interviewed persons aged 15-34	1798	47,72%

Conclusions/recommendations

- Time frame
- Staffing- no improvisations
- Monitoring system
- Reporting
- Unified coding system