This is a cross sectional study aimed to determine students’ behavior in purchasing cigarettes, and to investigate the related factors involved with the occurrence. The total of 743, male and female, students of Serm secondary school, aged 12-18 years old were asked to complete a self administered questionnaire.

Among the 642 respondents who were under 18 years of age, 87.5% had purchased cigarettes though more than half of them stated that they had never smoked at all. The respondents who had experience of purchasing had more tendency to become smoker themselves. The majority of those who had tried smoking stated that their first cigarette was given by friend while one sixth admitted that it was their own initiation to buy cigarettes to try for themselves.

The external factors that lead students to access to cigarette are adult’s policy, easy access and ability to purchase. Lack of community awareness of risks and dangers could stimulate children to take their first step of being involved with cigarettes. Only a quarter of respondents could tell the correct legal age but all said that they must purchase cigarettes if an adult asks them to. Television was recognized by most respondents as their main source of information which could provide useful information as well as bad examples.