

# Youth Smokeless Tobacco Use



## Results from the 2008 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey

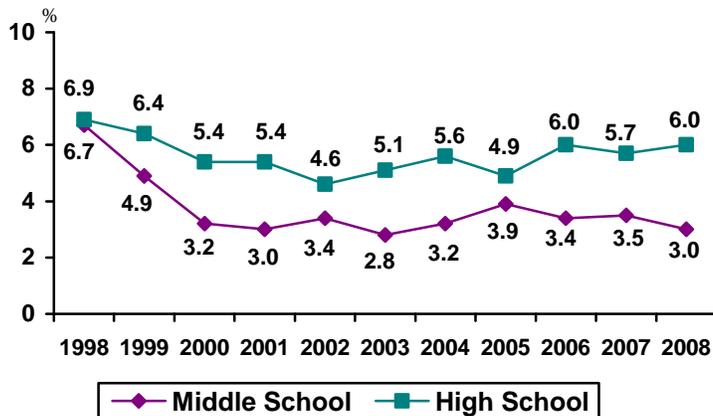
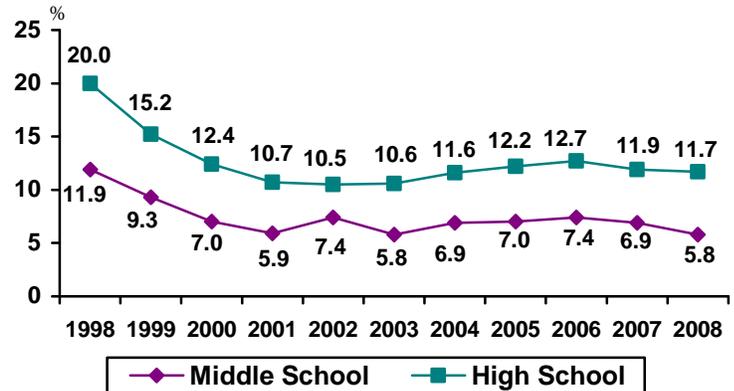
\*Fact Sheet 3\*

### Introduction

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered in the spring of 2008 to 38,510 middle school students and 40,283 high school students in 744 public schools throughout the state. The survey response rate for middle schools was 79%, and the survey response rate for high schools was 73%. The FYTS has been conducted annually since 1998. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to represent the entire population of public middle and high school students in Florida.

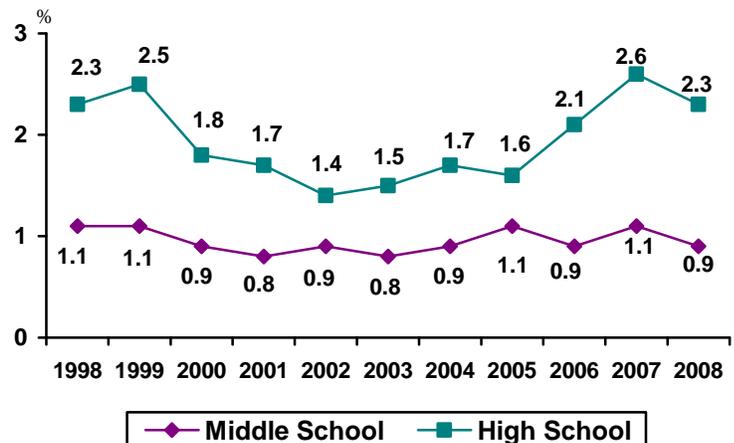
### Ever Tried Smokeless Tobacco

In 2008, 5.8% of middle school and 11.7% of high school students had tried smokeless tobacco at least once. Since 1998, this prevalence has decreased by 51.3% among middle school students and by 41.5% among high school students. The trend of this prevalence for both school levels, however, has been relatively flat since 2001.



### Current Smokeless Tobacco Use

In 2008, 3.0% of middle school students and 6.0% of high school students used smokeless tobacco at least once during the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use has decreased by 55.2% among middle school students. From 1998 to 2002, the prevalence of this behavior decreased significantly among high school students, but from 2002 to 2008, this prevalence increased significantly by 30.4%.



### Frequent Smokeless Tobacco Use

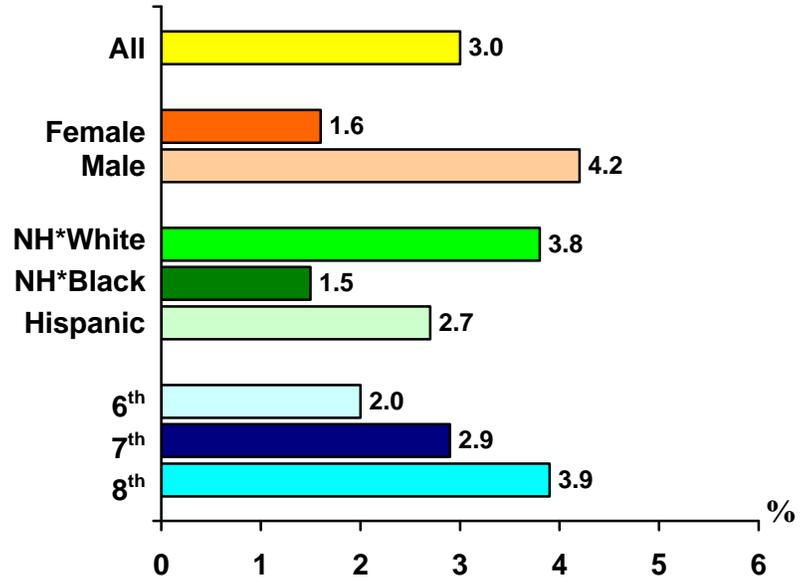
In 2008, 0.9% of middle school students and 2.3% of high school students used smokeless tobacco on 20 or more of the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of frequent smokeless tobacco use among middle school and high school students has fluctuated, but has not changed significantly.



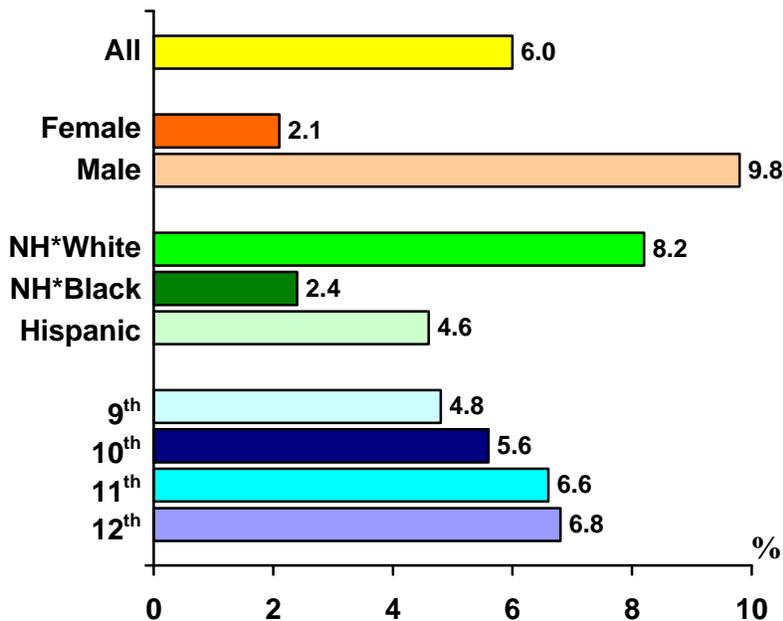
## Current Smokeless Tobacco Use (Past 30 Days) Florida 2008

### Middle School

Overall, 3.0% of middle school students used smokeless tobacco at least once during the past 30 days. Male students had a significantly higher prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use than females. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than both non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students and Hispanic students had a significantly higher prevalence than non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade level.



\*NH=Non-Hispanic



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### High School

Overall, 6.0% of high school students used smokeless tobacco at least once during the past 30 days. Male students had a significantly higher prevalence than female students of current smokeless tobacco use. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than both non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students and Hispanic students had a significantly higher prevalence than non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade level, although eleventh and twelfth graders did not differ significantly.

For more information about the FYTS, please contact the Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance Section, at (850) 245-4401, or by e-mail at [ChronicDisease@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:ChronicDisease@doh.state.fl.us). You can also visit our website at <http://www.FloridaChronicDisease.org>.

