

Youth Cigarette Use



Results from the 2007 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey

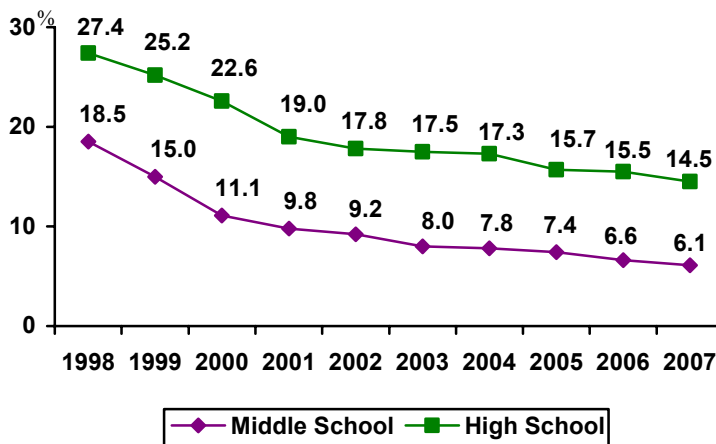
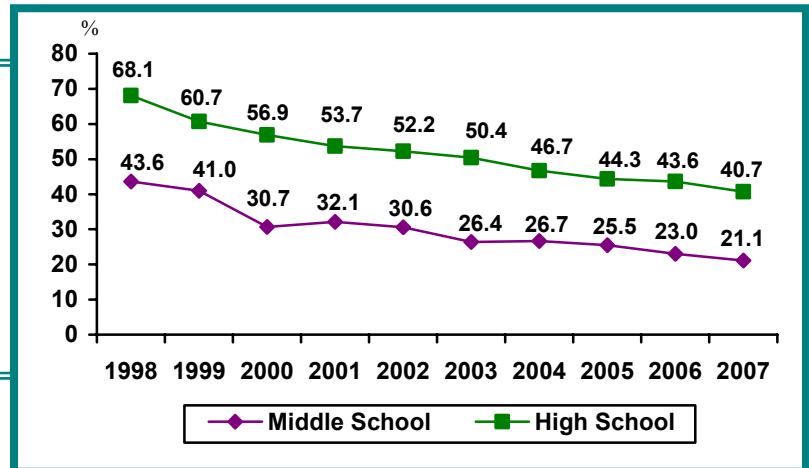
Fact Sheet 1

Introduction

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered in the spring of 2007 to 5,037 middle school students and 4,028 high school students in 188 public schools throughout the state. The survey response rate for middle schools was 74%, and the survey response rate for high schools was 57%. 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 Cigarettes

In 2007, 21.1% of middle school and 40.7% of high school students had tried smoking at least once. Since 1998, the prevalence of youth who have ever tried smoking has decreased by 51.6% among middle school students and by 40.2% among high school students.

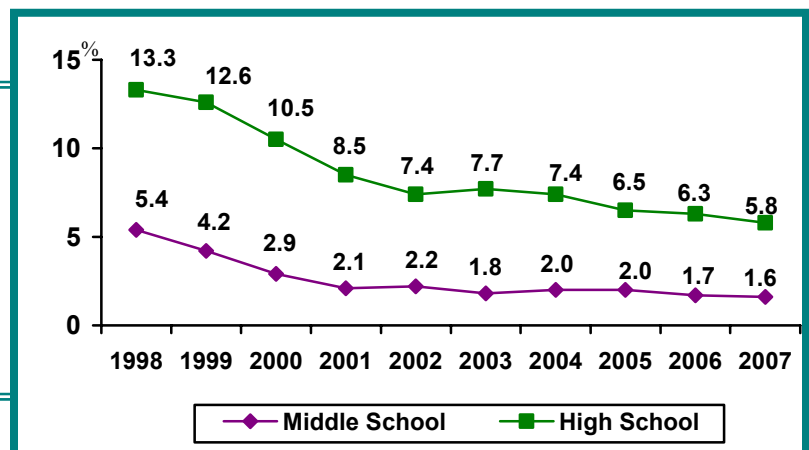


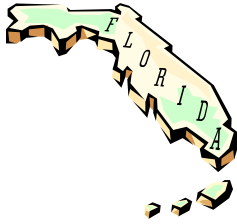
Current Cigarette Use

In 2007, 6.1% of middle school students and 14.5% of high school students smoked at least once during the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of students who currently smoke has decreased by 67.0% among middle school students and by 47.1% among high school students.

Frequent Cigarette Smokers

In 2007, 1.6% of middle school students and 5.8% of high school students smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of frequent cigarette smokers has decreased by 70.4% among middle school students and by 56.4% among high school students.

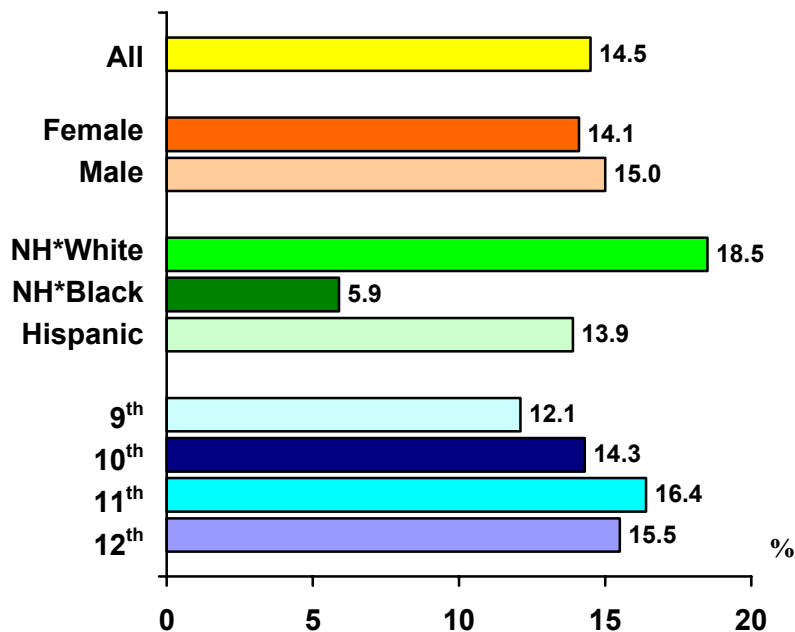
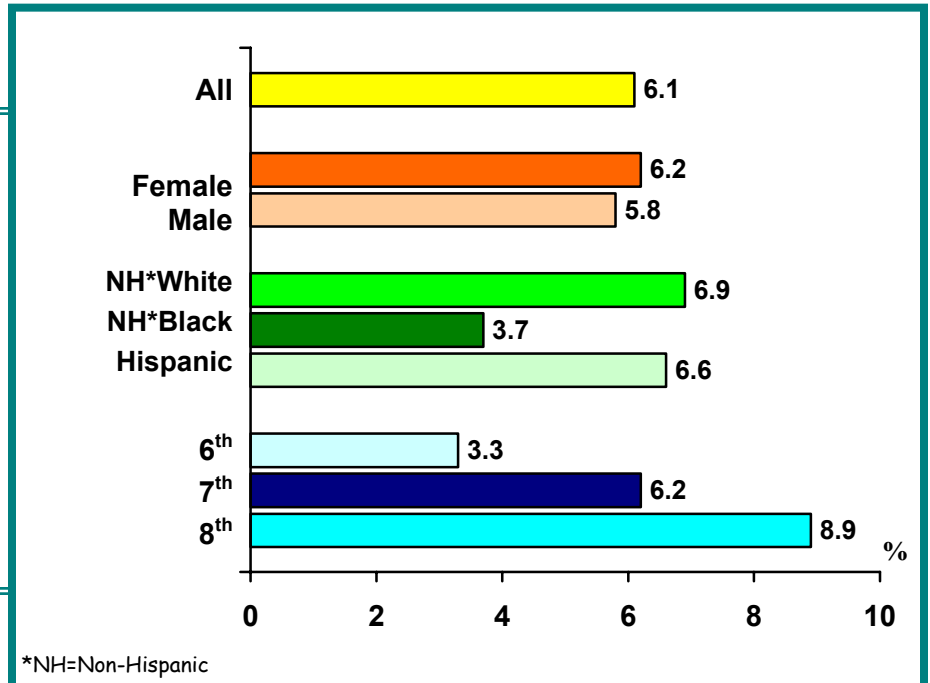




Current Cigarette Use (Past 30 Days) Florida 2007

Middle School

Overall, 6.1% of middle school students smoked at least once during the past 30 days. Both non-Hispanic White and Hispanic students were more likely to be current smokers than non-Hispanic Black students. The prevalence of this behavior increases with increasing grade level. Females had a slightly higher prevalence over males, but this difference is not statistically significant.



High School

Overall, 14.5% of high school students smoked at least once during the past 30 days. Non-Hispanic White students were more likely than both Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black students, and Hispanic students were more likely than non-Hispanic Black students, to be current smokers. There were no statistically significant differences among the different grade levels, but eleventh graders had the highest prevalence.

For more information about the FYTS, please contact: Ms. Jamie Weitz, M.S., Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, Ext. 2424, or by e-mail at Jamie.Weitz@doh.state.fl.us. You can also check out our website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/Chronic_Disease/FYTS/Intro.htm.

