

Youth Cigarette Use



Results from the 2008 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey

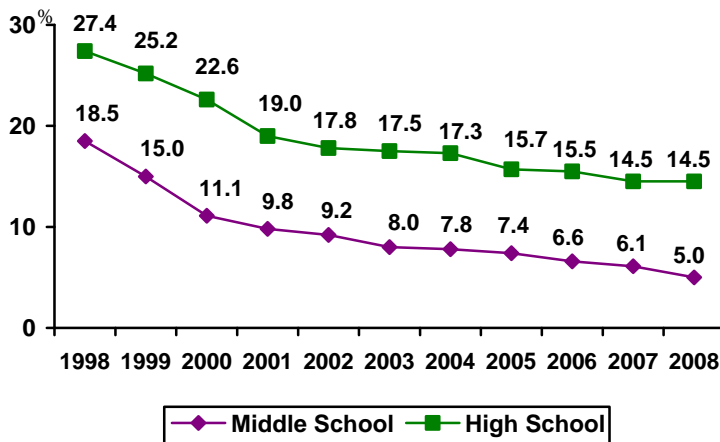
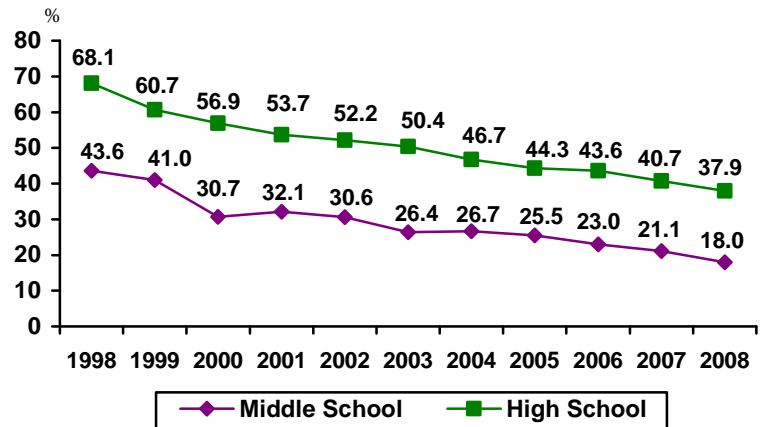
Fact Sheet 1

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 Cigarettes

In 2008, 18.0% of middle school and 37.9% of high school students had tried smoking at least once. Since 1998, the prevalence of ever trying cigarette smoking has decreased by 58.7% among middle school students and by 44.3% among high school students.

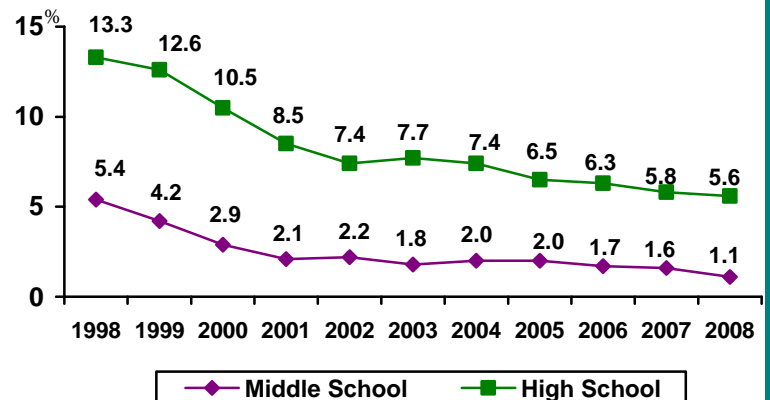


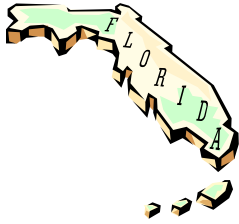
Current Cigarette Use

In 2008, 5.0% 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 current smoking has decreased by 73.0% among middle school students and by 47.1% among high school students.

Frequent Cigarette Smokers

In 2008, 1.1% of middle school students and 5.6% of high school students smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of frequent cigarette smoking has decreased by 79.6% among middle school students and by 57.9% among high school students.

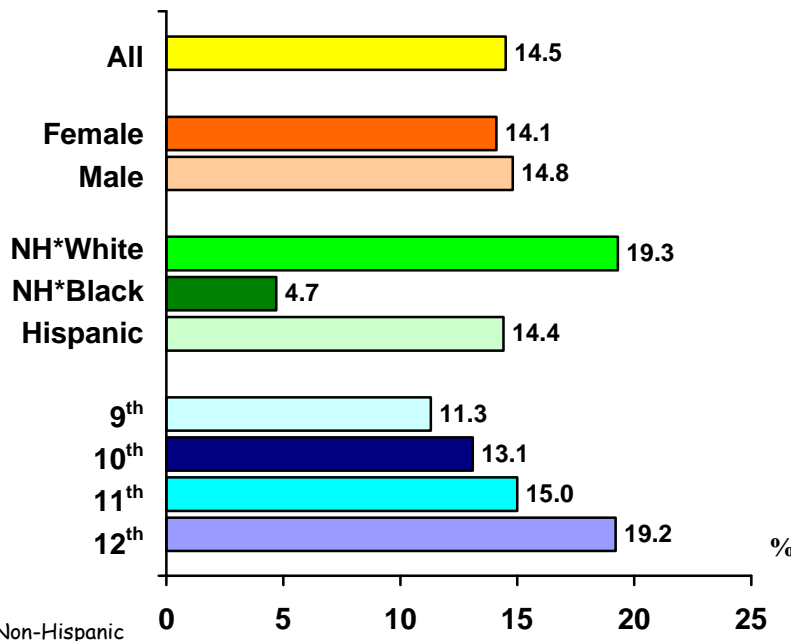
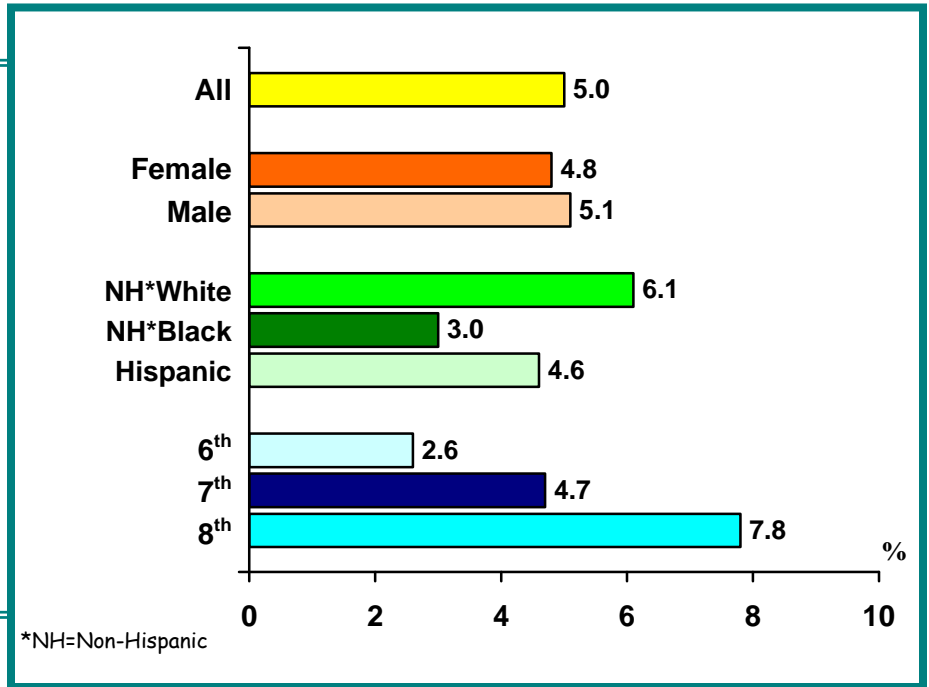




Current Cigarette Use (Past 30 Days) Florida 2008

Middle School

Overall, 5.0% of middle school students smoked at least once during the past 30 days. The prevalence of current cigarette smoking did not vary significantly by sex. Non-Hispanic white students had a higher prevalence of this behavior than both Hispanic and non-Hispanic black students, and Hispanic students had a higher prevalence than non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increases with increasing grade level.



High School

Overall, 14.5% of high school students smoked at least once during the past 30 days. The prevalence of current cigarette smoking did not vary significantly by sex. Non-Hispanic white students had a higher prevalence of this behavior than both Hispanic and non-Hispanic black students, and Hispanic students had a higher prevalence than non-Hispanic black students. Twelfth graders had the highest prevalence of current smoking.

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. You can also visit our website at <http://www.FloridaChronicDisease.org>.

