Introduction
The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered in the spring of 2011 to 6,045 middle school students and 6,163 high school students in 172 public schools throughout the state. The survey response rate for middle schools was 83%, 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 Cigars
In 2011, 9.6% of middle school and 28.0% of high school students had ever smoked cigars at least once. Since 1998, the prevalence of this behavior has decreased by 65.2% among middle school students and by 42.5% among high school students.

Current Cigar Use
In 2011, 4.5% of middle school students and 13.4% of high school students smoked cigars at least once during the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of this behavior has decreased by 68.1% among middle school students. From 1998 to 2002, this prevalence decreased significantly among high school students by 35.3%, but from 2002 to 2011, this prevalence increased significantly by 15.5%.

Frequent Cigar Use
In 2011, 1.0% of middle school students and 2.1% of high school students smoked cigars on 20 or more of the past 30 days. Since 1998, the prevalence of this behavior has decreased by 28.6% among middle school students. The prevalence of frequent cigar use among high school students has fluctuated over the last fourteen years. From 1998 to 2011, there is not a statistically significant change in this behavior.
Middle School
Overall, 4.5% of middle school students smoked cigars at least once during the past 30 days. The prevalence of current cigar use did not vary significantly by gender. Non-Hispanic white students had significantly lower prevalence of this behavior than both Non-Hispanic black or Hispanic students. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade level, and there are statistically significant increases in this behavior from grade six to eight and from grade seven to eight.

High School
Overall, 13.4% of high school students smoked cigars at least once during the past 30 days. Male students had a significantly higher prevalence of current cigar smoking than females. The prevalence of current cigar smoking did not vary significantly by race/ethnicity. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade level, and the prevalence of this behavior in ninth grade is significantly lower than in higher grades.

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.