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.

Education and Discussions about Tobacco Use*
*Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) questions were revised on the 2011 FYTS

In 2011, 53.8% of middle school students and 35.1% of high school students were taught in any class about tobacco use during the current school year. Middle school students were significantly more likely than high school students to have been taught about tobacco use in school.

In 2011, 10.7% of middle school students and 20.5% of high school students reported that their school has a special group or class for students who want to quit using tobacco (school has cessation class). However, approximately 50% of students were not sure if a cessation class was available at school.

In 2011, of the students who visited a doctor in the past 12 months, 30.4% of middle school students and 31.5% of high school students talked about the danger of tobacco use with the doctor or someone in the doctor’s office. There was not a significant difference in this behavior by school level.

In 2011, of the students who visited a dentist in the past 12 months, 20.3% of middle school students and 20.6% of high school students talked about the danger of tobacco use with the dentist or someone in the dentist’s office. There was not a significant difference in this behavior by school level.

In 2011, 63.6% of middle school students and 50.2% of high school students had talked with a parent or guardian about the danger of tobacco in the past 12 months. Middle school students were significantly more likely than high school students to have discussed tobacco use with a parent or guardian.
Effects of Education and Discussions about Tobacco Use

Committed Not to Smoke
Students who are committed not to smoke are students who have never tried a cigarette, say they will definitely not try a cigarette in the next year and would definitely not smoke a cigarette if their best friend offered them one. In 2011, 70.7% of middle school students and 56.4% of high school students were committed not to smoke. Middle school students were significantly more likely than high school students to be committed not to smoke.

High School Students
In 2011, there was not a significant difference between high school students committed not to smoke who had talked with a parent or guardian about the danger of tobacco in the past 12 months (56.8%) and those committed not to smoke, but who had not talked with a parent (56.1%).

However, in 2011, high school students who had been taught in any class about tobacco use during the current school year were significantly more likely to be committed to never smoke (59.4%) than students who had not received TUPE (54.5%).

Middle School Students
In 2011, there was not a significant difference between middle school students committed not to smoke who had received TUPE (70.6%) and those committed not to smoke, but who had not received TUPE (69.2%).

However, in 2011, middle school students who had talked with a parent or guardian about the danger of tobacco in the past 12 months were significantly more like to be committed to never smoke (73.4%) than students who had not spoken with a parent (66.0%).

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.