Introduction

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered in the spring of 2012 to 38,989 middle school students and 36,439 high school students in 746 public schools throughout the state. The overall survey response rate for middle schools was 77% and the overall 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.

About Bidis, Kreteks, and Pipe Tobacco

Bidis are small brown cigarettes from India consisting of tobacco wrapped in a leaf tied together with a thread. Bidis have higher levels of nicotine, carbon monoxide, and tar than traditional cigarettes. Kreteks are cigarettes containing tobacco and clove extract. In 2009, the Food and Drug Administration banned kreteks, along with flavored cigarettes, from being sold in the United States. Pipe tobacco comes either plain or flavored and is smoked through a pipe. On previous FYTS fact sheets, bidis, kreteks, and pipe tobacco have been reported as “specialty tobacco” products.

Ever Tried Bidis, Kreteks, or Pipe Tobacco

In 2012, 2.5% of middle school and 7.1% of high school students had tried smoking a bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco at least once (Figure 1). Since 2008, the prevalence of this behavior has decreased by 13.8% among middle school students and by 15.5% among high school students.

Current Bidi, Kretek, or Pipe Tobacco Use

In 2012, 1.5% of middle school students and 3.3% of high school students smoked a bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 2). Since 2009, the prevalence of this behavior has decreased by 16.7% among middle school students and by 8.3% among high school students.

Overall, 1.5% of middle school students smoked a bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 3). In 2012, the prevalence of current bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco use was higher among male students than female students. The prevalence of this behavior was significantly higher among Hispanic students than among non-Hispanic white students and non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade, from sixth to eighth.

Overall, 3.3% of high school students smoked a bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 4). In 2012, the prevalence of current bidi, kretek, or pipe tobacco use was higher among male students than female students. The prevalence of this behavior was significantly higher among Hispanic students than among non-Hispanic white students and non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased from eleventh to twelfth grade.