

2012 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey: Fact Sheet 9



Youth Hookah Use



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.

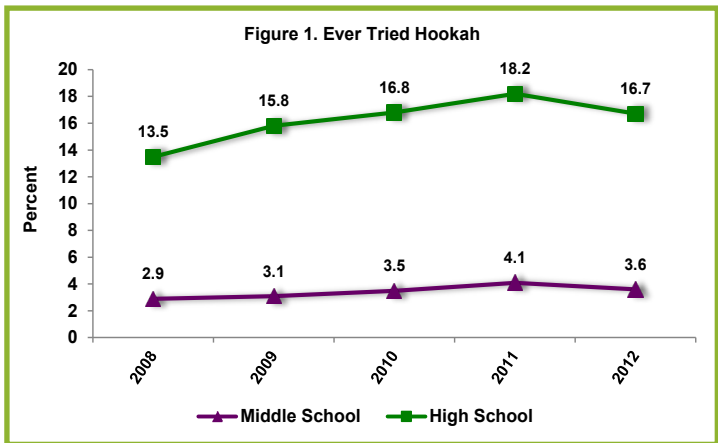
About Hookah

A hookah is a single-stemmed or multi-stemmed water pipe used for smoking tobacco. The tobacco smoked in a hookah comes in a variety of different flavors such as fruit, mint, chocolate, and others. Hookahs originated in ancient Persia and India many centuries ago. A common misconception among hookah smokers is that smoking from a hookah is less detrimental to one's health because harmful chemicals are "filtered" by the water the smoke passes through.



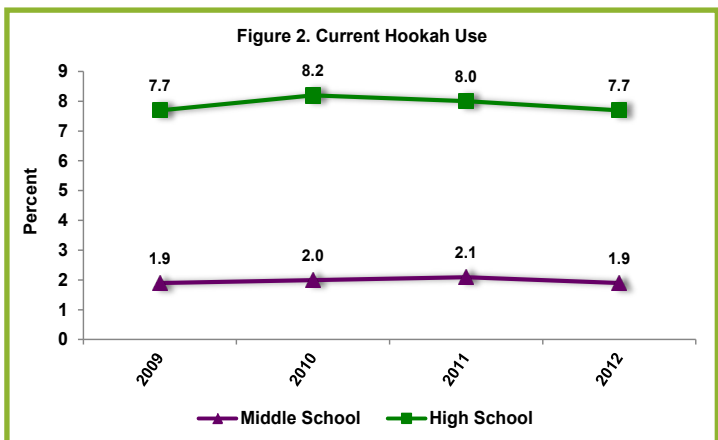
Ever Tried Hookah

In 2012, 3.6% of middle school and 16.7% of high school students had ever tried smoking hookah or had ever smoked tobacco from a hookah at least once (Figure 1). Since 2008, the prevalence of this behavior has **increased** by 24.1% among middle school students and by 23.7% among high school students.



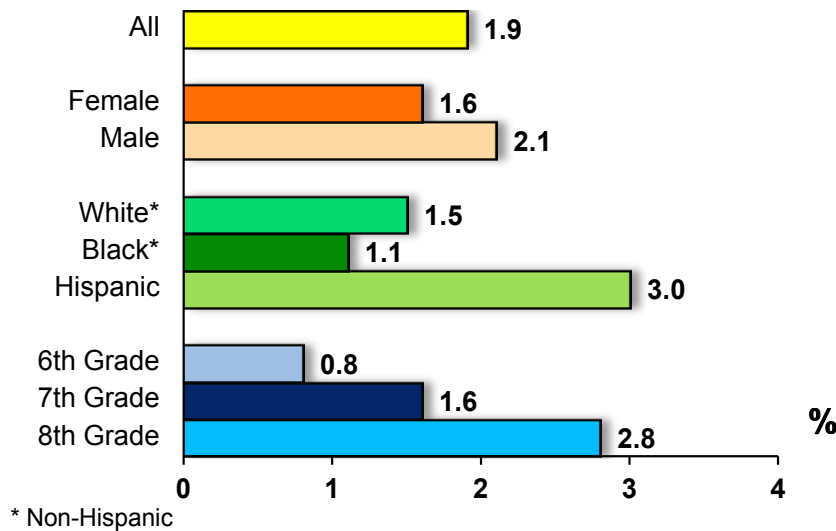
Current Hookah Use

In 2012, 1.9% of middle school students and 7.7% of high school students smoked from a hookah at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 2). Since 2009, the prevalence of this behavior has not changed among middle schools or high school students.



Current Hookah Use (Past 30 Days)

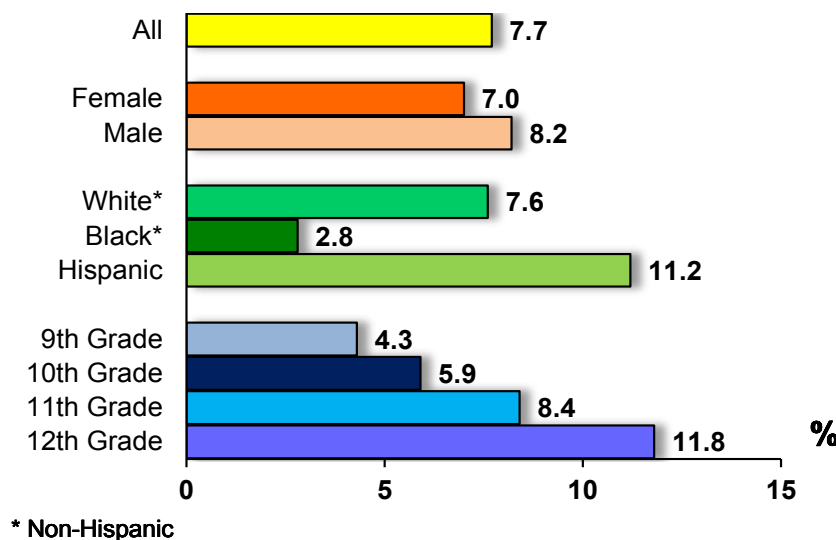
Figure 3. Middle School Current Hookah Use



Middle School

Overall, 1.9% of middle school students smoked from a hookah at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 3). In 2012, the prevalence of hookah use was higher among male students than female students. The prevalence of this behavior was highest among Hispanic students and higher among non-Hispanic white students compared to non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased with each increasing grade, from sixth to eighth.

Figure 4. High School Current Hookah Use



High School

Overall, 7.7% of high school students smoked from a hookah at least once during the past 30 days (Figure 4). In 2012, the prevalence of hookah use was higher among male students than female students. The prevalence of this behavior was highest among Hispanic students and higher among non-Hispanic white students compared to non-Hispanic black students. The prevalence of this behavior increased from ninth to twelfth grade.

For more information about the FYTS, please contact the Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Evaluation 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>.