Introduction

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered in the spring of 2014 to 36,979 middle school students and 32,921 high school students in 765 public schools throughout the state. The overall survey response rate for middle schools was 81%, and the overall survey response rate for high schools was 78%. 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.

Rule Against Smoking on School Property

In 2014, 73.4% of middle school students and 83.2% of high school students reported that there is a rule that no one is allowed to smoke cigarettes on school property (Figure 1). In 2014, high school students were significantly more likely than middle school students to report a rule against smoking on school property. Since 2006, this indicator has increased by 4.9% among middle school students and by 5.6% among high school students. Since 2012, 17.9% fewer middle school students and 9.8% fewer high school students reported that there was a rule against smoking on school property.

Smoked Cigarettes on School Property

In 2014, 1.2% of middle school students and 3.3% of high school students reported smoking cigarette(s) on school property on one or more of the last 30 days (Figure 2). Since 2006, this behavior has decreased by 50.0% among middle school students and by 37.7% among high school students. Since 2012, this behavior has decreased by 27.2% among middle school students and by 15.3% among high school students.

Chewed Tobacco on School Property

In 2014, 1.2% of middle school students and 3.6% of high school students reported using chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on school property on one or more of the last 30 days (Figure 3). Since 2006, this behavior decreased by 42.9% among middle school students and by 18.2% among high school students. Since 2012, this behavior has decreased by 14.4% among middle school students and by 8.6% among high school students.
Saw Students Smoke on School Property

In 2014, high school students (34.8%) were significantly more likely than middle school students (13.4%) to see students smoking on school property in the past 12 months (Figure 4). High school students were significantly more likely to observe smoking on school property than middle school students. The proportion of students observing this behavior did not vary significantly by sex among middle school and high school students.

Saw Adults Smoke on School Property

In 2014, high school students (16.2%) were significantly more likely than middle school students (14.0%) to see teachers, staff, or other adults smoking on school property in the past 12 months (Figure 5). High school males were significantly more likely than high school females to see adults smoke on school property. The proportion of students observing this behavior did not vary significantly by sex among middle school students.

Saw Students Chew Tobacco on School Property

In 2014, high school students (39.4%) were significantly more likely than middle school students (11.2%) to see students use chewing tobacco on school property in the past 12 months (Figure 6). High school males were significantly more likely than high school females to see students chew tobacco on school property. The proportion of students observing this behavior did not vary significantly by sex among middle school students.

Saw Adults Chew Tobacco on School Property

In 2014, high school students (9.5%) were significantly more likely than middle school students (4.0%) to see teachers, staff, or other adults use chewing tobacco on school property in the past 12 months (Figure 7). Males at both school levels were significantly more likely than females at both school levels to see adults chew tobacco on school property.

The prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) were calculated using SAS 9.3. The difference in prevalence between two different populations or between two different years is statistically significant if the 95% confidence intervals of the two prevalence estimates do not overlap. For more information about the FYTS, please contact the Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Evaluation Section at (850) 245-4401. You can also visit our website at www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/fl-youth-tobacco-survey/index.html.