

Smoking and Tobacco Use

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., impacting people at all stages of life. Approximately 28,700 adult Floridians die each year from smoking. Annual health care costs directly caused by smoking in Florida is \$6.32 billion.

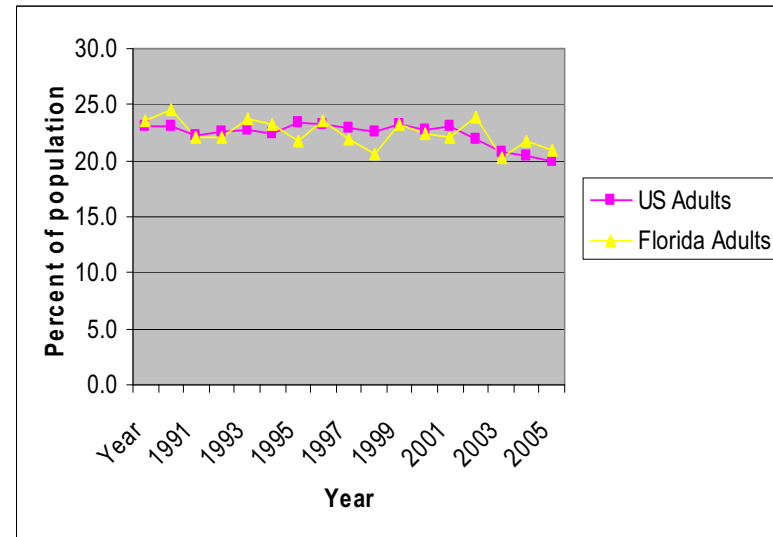
Of adults who smoke, 89 percent began smoking when they were 18 or younger. Of the current Florida population under 18, about 369,000 will die prematurely from smoking.

Tobacco companies spend more on advertising in Florida than they do in any other state.

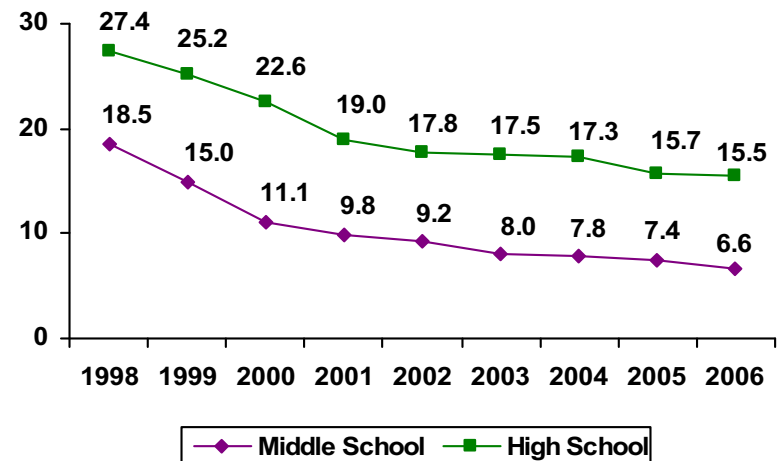
Why is this Important?

- Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined.
- There is no risk free level of secondhand smoke exposure.
- Quitting smoking has immediate and long term benefits, reducing the risks for diseases caused by smoking and improving health in general.

Proportion of adults who smoke



Proportion of adolescents who smoke
(from The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey -FYTS)





Smoking and Tobacco, cont'd

How is Florida Doing?

- About one fifth (21.1 percent) of Florida's adult population smokes, a proportion that has changed little since 1990.
- In 2006, Florida's adult smoking prevalence ranked 31st among 51 states and the District of Columbia. Florida remains significantly higher than the Healthy People 2010 objective of 12.0 percent for all adults.
- Florida's adult smoking prevalence was lower than in Kentucky (28.6 percent) and Alabama (23.3 percent), but higher than California (14.9 percent) and New York (18.3 percent). Only Utah has achieved the Healthy People 2010 target (9.8 percent).
- The most precipitous decline in youth smoking occurred between 1998 and 2001 during the height of the funding for youth tobacco prevention. Although the proportion of youth who smoke continued to decline slightly from 2002 to 2006, these reductions have been far less dramatic among both middle and high school students.
- In 2003 the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act was expanded to include enclosed, indoor workplaces with some specific exemptions.
- Florida has a long-standing history in tobacco prevention efforts, conducting tobacco-related activities since 1989. In 2006 Floridians passed a constitutional amendment requiring that 15 percent of the annual tobacco settlement payments fund a statewide, comprehensive tobacco education and prevention program.





Smoking and Tobacco, cont'd

What Influences Smoking?

- Florida has one of the lowest tobacco taxes in the nation at 33.9 cents per pack.
- Funding mass media educational campaigns reduces smoking initiation and promotes smoking cessation when combined with other interventions.
- Laws and policies aimed at restricting smoking reduce the amount of exposure to secondhand smoke.

What is the State's Role?

States can:

- Adopt and enforce smoking bans to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Promote quitting by establishing toll-free tobacco cessation quitlines and offering nicotine replacement therapies.
- Place restrictions on tobacco advertising aimed at youth.
- Enforce laws concerning tobacco sales to minors.
- Build and sustain capacity and infrastructure for comprehensive tobacco control programs.

Florida Initiatives

The Florida QuitLine is a toll-free telephone-based tobacco use cessation service. Any person living in Florida who wants to try to quit smoking can use the QuitLine. The services that are available through the QuitLine include Counseling sessions, Self help materials, Counseling and materials in English and Spanish, Translation service for other languages, Pharmacotherapy assistance; and TDD service for the hearing impaired.
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/tobacco/quitline.html>

Florida's Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) gathers youth throughout the State of Florida in a relentless fight against the tobacco industry and its manipulation and targeting of youth to use their product.
www.gen-swat.com

Florida Clean Indoor Air Act (FCIAA) was enacted by the Florida Legislature in 1985. It is the purpose of the FCIAA to protect people from the hazards of second-hand tobacco smoke and to implement the Florida health initiative in the state constitution.