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Cigarette Use among Florida Public Middle and High School Students, 2004

Introduction:

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) is a statewide school-based confidential survey of Florida public middle and high school students. The FYTS tracks indicators of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke among these students, and provides data for monitoring and evaluating tobacco use among youth in the Florida-Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

The FYTS is based on a two-stage cluster probability sample design. First, a random sample of public middle schools and high schools is selected for participation in the survey. Then, within each selected school, a random sample of classrooms is selected, and all students in that class are invited to participate in the survey. The responses of the survey participants are calculated to reflect the prevalence of tobacco usage in Florida public middle and high school students.

The first FYTS was administered in 1998. Since then, the FYTS has been conducted annually by the Department of Health. The FYTS became a part of the Florida Youth Survey (FYS) in 2000, which now includes the Communities That Care and Youth Risk Behavior surveys. The FYTS has been supported by many agencies, including the Florida Department of Education, school districts throughout the state, and the Office on Smoking and

Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The 2004 FYTS was conducted in March and April. Participants in the 2004 FYTS included a sample of 7,364 students attending 80 middle schools (grades six to eight) and 7,023 students attending 78 high schools (grades 9-12) across the state. Overall response rates were 80.5 percent for the middle school survey and 77.8 percent for the high school survey based on a 98.8 percent middle school response rate, 100.0 percent high school response rate, 81.5 percent middle school student response rates, and 77.8 percent high school student response rate.

Data presented in this report are statewide estimates of prevalence. These estimates are computed based on the survey results, probability of survey respondents being selected for the survey, and demographics of Florida middle school and high school students. Tests of statistical significance were conducted on differences between prevalence estimates. Tests that result in a p-value (probability value) of less than 0.05 are considered statistically significant. Because the FYTS is a random survey and all estimates of prevalence are subject to random sample errors, 95 percent confidence intervals are presented with each prevalence in the detailed tables at the end of this report.

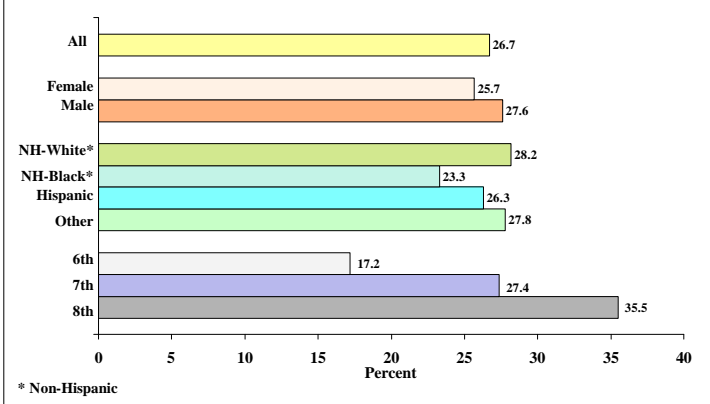
This report focuses on cigarette use.

Executive Summary:

The prevalence of cigarette use (lifetime, current, or frequent cigarette use) among Florida public middle and high school students decreased faster between 1998-2001 than during 2001-2004. Compared to 2003, most indicators of cigarette use among students in 2004 remained at the same level, but the prevalence of lifetime smokers decreased significantly among high school students. In 2004, there were no significant gender differences in the prevalences of lifetime, current, or frequent cigarette use. Non-Hispanic White students had higher prevalences of lifetime, current, or frequent cigarette use than non-Hispanic Black students. Non-Hispanic White students also had higher prevalences of current or frequent cigarette use than Hispanic students. The prevalence of cigarette use increased with increasing grade level.

Lifetime Cigarette Smoker

Figure 1: Percentage of Florida public middle school students who ever tried smoking a cigarette, even one or two puffs in their lives (lifetime smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004



Lifetime cigarette smokers: Students who have ever tried smoking a cigarette, even one or two puffs in their lives.

Middle School:

More than one quarter (26.7 percent) of middle school students reported ever trying a cigarette. There was no gender difference in this behavior. The prevalence of ever trying a cigarette was higher among non-Hispanic White middle school students (28.2 percent) than non-Hispanic Black middle school students (23.3 percent). The prevalence of ever trying a cigarette increased with increasing grade level. (See Figure 1 and Table 1)

High School:

Almost half (46.7 percent) of high school students reported ever trying a cigarette. There was no gender difference in this behavior. The prevalence of ever trying a cigarette was higher among non-Hispanic White (52.3 percent) and Hispanic (49.0 percent) high school students than non-Hispanic Black high school students (31.5 percent). The prevalence of ever trying a cigarette increased with increasing grade level. (See Figure 2 and Table 1)

Figure 2: Percentage of Florida public high school students who ever tried smoking a cigarette, even one or two puffs in their lives (lifetime smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004

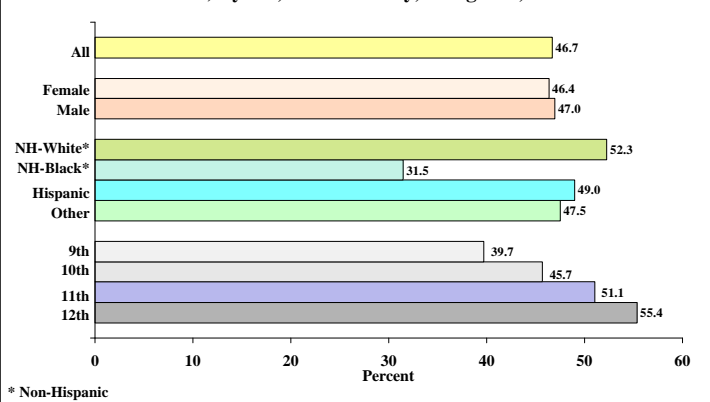
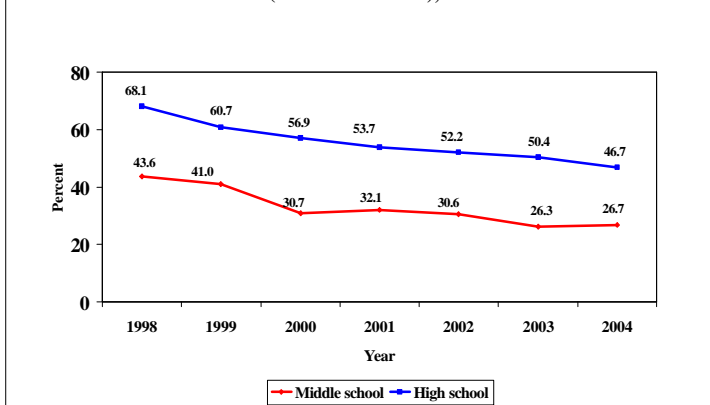


Figure 3: Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who ever tried smoking a cigarette, even one or two puffs in their lives (lifetime smokers), 1998-2004



Trends 1998-2004:

The percentage of high school students “ever having tried cigarettes” decreased further in 2004 (46.7 percent) compared to 2003 (50.4 percent) ($P < 0.05$). The percentage of middle school students who ever tried cigarettes in 2004 stayed at the same level as in 2003 (26.7 percent and 26.3 percent respectively). Since 1998, the prevalence of “ever having tried cigarettes” decreased by 31.4 percent among high school students and by 38.8 percent among middle school students. High school students had a higher prevalence than middle school students in this behavior each year. (See Figure 3)

Current Cigarette Smoker

Current cigarette smokers: Students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days prior to the survey.

Middle School:

One out of 13 (7.8 percent) middle school students were current cigarette smokers, and there was no gender difference in this prevalence. The prevalence of current cigarette use was higher among non-Hispanic White middle school students (9.9 percent) than non-Hispanic Black (4.3 percent) and Hispanic (7.3 percent) middle school students. The prevalence of current cigarette use increased with increasing grade level. (See Figure 4 and Table 2)

High School:

One out of six (17.3 percent) high school students were current cigarette smokers, and there was no gender difference in this prevalence. The prevalence of current cigarette use was higher among non-Hispanic White high school students (22.2 percent) than non-Hispanic Black (5.5 percent) and Hispanic (17.1 percent) high school students. In general, the prevalence of current cigarette use increased with increasing grade level. (See Figure 5 and Table 2)

Trends 1998-2004:

The prevalence of current cigarette use in 2004 stayed at the same level as in 2003 for both middle and high school students. Since 1998, the prevalence of current cigarette use decreased by 36.9 percent among high school students and by 57.8 percent among middle school students. High school students had a higher prevalence than middle school students in this behavior each year. (See Figure 6)

Figure 4: Percentage of Florida public middle school students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the previous 30 days (current cigarette smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004

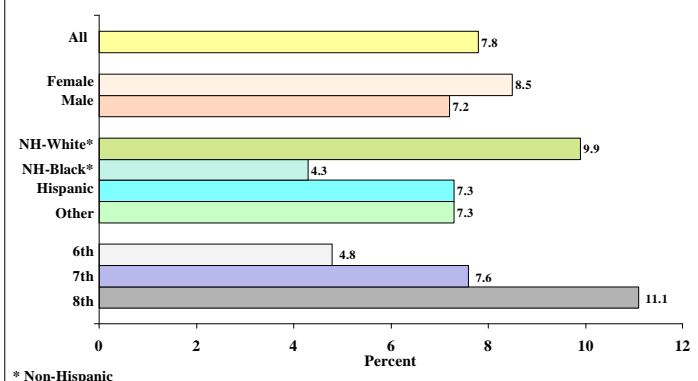


Figure 5: Percentage of Florida public high school students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the previous 30 days (current cigarette smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004

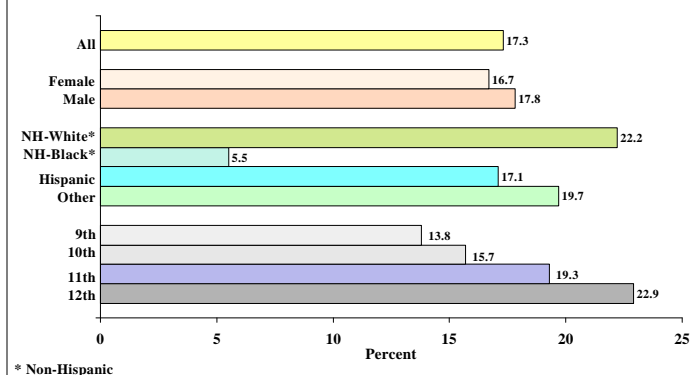
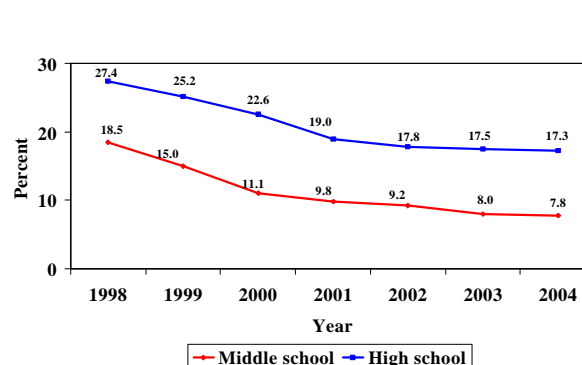


Figure 6: Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the previous 30 days (current cigarette smokers), 1998-2004



Frequent Cigarette Smoker

Figure 7: Percentage of Florida public middle school students who smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the previous 30 days (frequent cigarette smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004

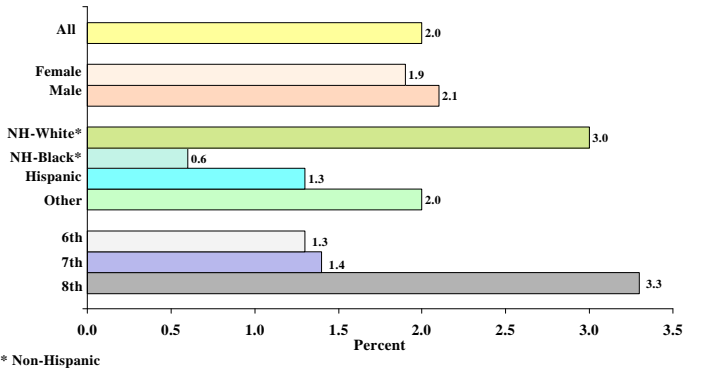


Figure 8: Percentage of Florida public high school students who smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the previous 30 days (frequent cigarette smokers) by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, 2004

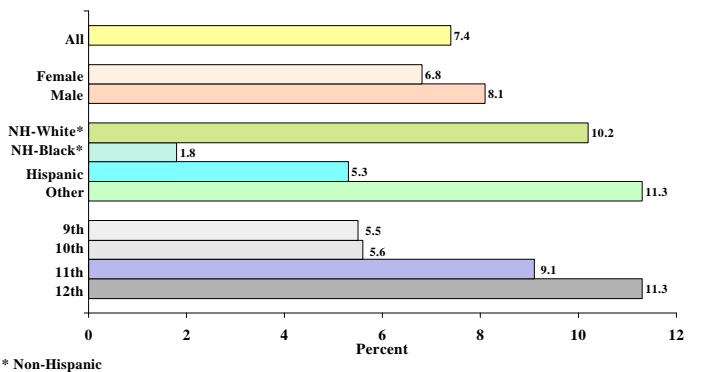
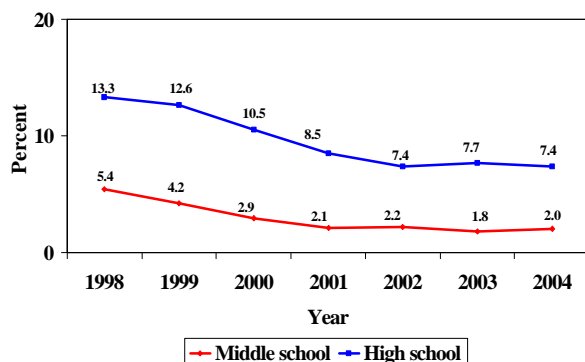


Figure 9: Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the previous 30 days (frequent cigarette smokers), 1998-2004



Frequent cigarette smokers: Students who smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the past 30 days prior to the survey.

Middle School:

Only one in 50 (2.0 percent) middle school students were frequent cigarette smokers. There was no gender difference in this percentage. The prevalence of frequent cigarette use was higher among non-Hispanic White middle school students (3.0 percent) than non-Hispanic Black (0.6 percent) and Hispanic (1.3 percent) middle school students. Eighth grade students had higher prevalence of frequent cigarette use than sixth and seventh grade students. (See Figure 7 and Table 3)

High School:

One in 14 (7.4 percent) high school students were frequent cigarette smokers. There was no gender difference in this percentage. The prevalence of frequent cigarette use was higher among non-Hispanic White high school students (10.2 percent) than non-Hispanic Black (1.8 percent) and Hispanic (5.3 percent) high school students. In general, the prevalence of frequent cigarette use increased with increasing grade level. (See Figure 8 and Table 3)

Trends 1998-2004:

The prevalence of frequent cigarette use in 2004 stayed at the same level as in 2003 for both middle and high school students. Since 1998, the prevalence of frequent cigarette use decreased by 44.4 percent among high school students and by 63.0 percent among middle school students. High school students had a higher prevalence than middle school students in this behavior each year. (See Figure 9)

Detailed Tables

Table 1. Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who ever tried smoking a cigarette, even one or two puffs (lifetime cigarette smoker), by gender, race/ethnicity, and grade, FYTS 2004

		Middle School			High School		
		Lifetime cigarette smoker			Lifetime cigarette smoker		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	25.7	23.7	27.6	46.4	43.7	49.1
	Male	27.6	25.6	29.6	47.0	44.7	49.4
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	28.2	26.0	30.4	52.3	50.3	54.4
	non-Hispanic Black	23.3	21.0	25.6	31.5	27.7	35.3
	Hispanic	26.3	23.3	29.3	49.0	44.5	53.6
	Other	27.8	24.8	30.8	47.5	43.4	51.7
Grade (Middle/High)	6th/9th	17.2	14.9	19.5	39.7	37.2	42.1
	7th/10th	27.4	25.1	29.6	45.7	42.2	49.3
	8th/11th	35.5	32.7	38.2	51.1	47.8	54.3
	--/12th	.	.	.	55.4	51.1	59.7
Total		26.7	25.1	28.2	46.7	44.5	48.9

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

Table 2. Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the previous 30 days (current cigarette smoker), by gender, race/ethnicity, and grade, FYTS 2004

		Middle School			High School		
		Current cigarette smoker			Current cigarette smoker		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	8.5	7.4	9.5	16.7	14.9	18.5
	Male	7.2	6.2	8.2	17.8	16.1	19.5
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	9.9	8.7	11.0	22.2	20.4	23.9
	non-Hispanic Black	4.3	3.1	5.5	5.5	4.1	6.9
	Hispanic	7.3	5.9	8.6	17.1	14.6	19.6
	Other	7.3	5.3	9.3	19.7	16.0	23.4
Grade (Middle/High)	6th/9th	4.8	3.7	5.9	13.8	12.2	15.5
	7th/10th	7.6	6.3	8.8	15.7	13.8	17.6
	8th/11th	11.1	9.8	12.5	19.3	16.6	21.9
	--/12th	.	.	.	22.9	19.8	26.0
Total		7.8	7.1	8.5	17.3	15.8	18.7

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

Table 3. Percentage of Florida public middle and high school students who smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the past 30 days (frequent cigarette smoker), by gender, race/ethnicity, and grade, FYTS 2004

		Middle School			High School		
		Frequent cigarette smoker			Frequent cigarette smoker		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	1.9	1.4	2.3	6.8	5.5	8.0
	Male	2.1	1.7	2.6	8.1	6.9	9.2
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	3.0	2.4	3.6	10.2	8.7	11.8
	non-Hispanic Black	0.6	0.2	1.0	1.8	1.0	2.5
	Hispanic	1.3	0.8	1.8	5.3	4.1	6.5
	Other	2.0	1.0	3.1	11.3	8.4	14.2
Grade (Middle/High)	6th/9th	1.3	0.7	1.9	5.5	4.4	6.6
	7th/10th	1.4	0.9	1.8	5.6	4.4	6.7
	8th/11th	3.3	2.6	4.1	9.1	6.9	11.2
	--/12th	.	.	.	11.3	9.2	13.5
Total		2.0	1.7	2.3	7.4	6.4	8.4

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

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