



Knowledge about Tobacco Laws among Florida's Youth Under 18 Years Old and Retailers' Practice, 2004

Introduction

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) is a statewide, school-based confidential survey of Florida's 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 those classes 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 Florida 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 rate, 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. 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.

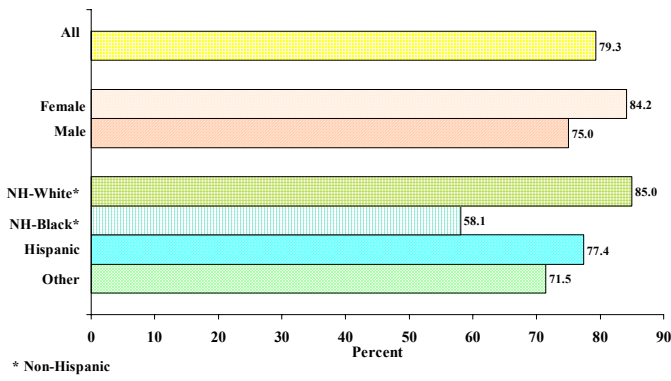
This report focuses on perceptions of tobacco laws among youth and the retailers' practice in business.

Executive Summary

According to the 2004 FYTS, among students who were younger than 18 years old and current tobacco users: the majority (79.3 percent) knew the youngest age a person can legally buy cigarettes in Florida, one third (30.4 percent) knew that a person under 18 who is caught with tobacco could have his or her driver's license suspended, and nearly half (48.2 percent) knew that anyone under 18 with tobacco products in his or her possession can be punished by law. About one third of underage current tobacco users were asked to show proof of age when they tried to purchase tobacco products in a store during the past 30 days. Among underage students who were current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, or cigar users, approximately 30 to 40 percent were refused by retailers when they tried to buy tobacco products in a store during the past 30 days. One in five (22.7 percent) underage current cigarette smokers used, or tried to use fake identification (ID) to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days. About 43.0 percent of underage students who were current tobacco users reported they, or somebody they knew, had received penalties (gotten a ticket, paid a fine or gone to court) for using or possessing tobacco.

Knowledge about Tobacco Laws

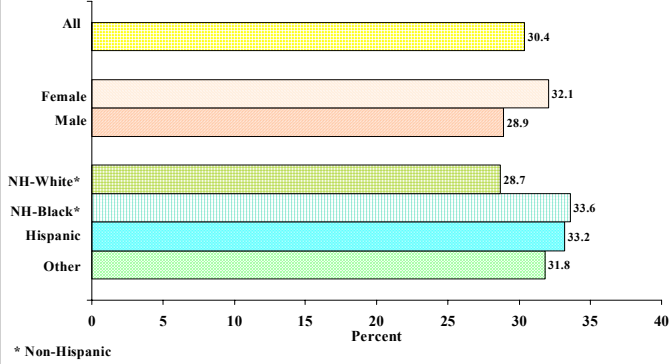
Figure 1: Percentage of students who knew the youngest age at which a person can legally buy cigarettes, among underage current tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: What is the youngest age a person can legally buy cigarettes in Florida? Selections: 1.) *Less than 16 years old*, 2.) *16 years old*, 3.) *18 years old*, 4.) *21 years old*, 5.) *Not sure*.

The youngest age a person can legally buy cigarettes in Florida is 18 years old. About 80 percent of underage students who were current tobacco users correctly responded to this question. The proportion was higher in female students (84.2 percent) than in male students (75.0 percent). Among three racial/ethnic groups, the proportion of students who correctly answered this question was the highest among non-Hispanic Whites and the lowest among non-Hispanic Blacks (see Figure 1 and Table 1).

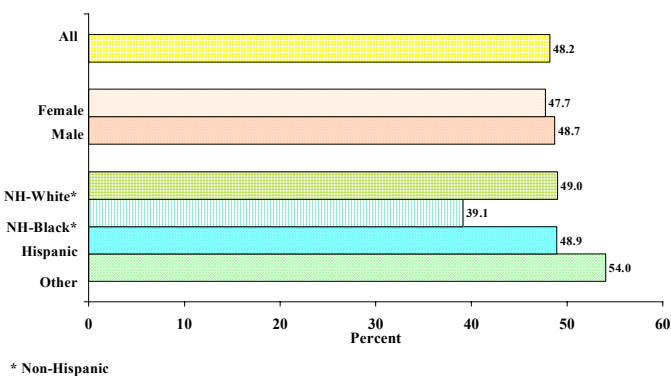
Figure 2: Percentage of students who knew that their driver's licenses could be suspended if they were under 18 and caught with tobacco, among underage current tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: According to Florida law, can your driver's license be suspended if you are under 18 and caught with tobacco? Selections: 1.) *Yes*, 2.) *No*, 3.) *Not sure*.

In Florida, a person's driver's license will be suspended if he or she is under 18 and caught with tobacco. Less than one third (30.4 percent) of underage current tobacco users answered "Yes" to this question. There were no significant differences in the percentage of students who answered this question correctly between males and females or among three racial/ethnic groups (see Figure 2 and Table 1).

Figure 3: Percentage of students who knew that anyone under 18 with tobacco products in his or her possession can be punished among underage current tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: Does Florida have a law that punishes anyone under age 18 who has cigarettes or any other tobacco product in their possession? Selections: 1.) *Yes*, 2.) *No*, 3.) *Not sure*.

The correct answer to this question is "Yes." Almost half (48.2 percent) of underage current tobacco users answered "Yes" to this question. There were no gender differences in the percentage of students who answered correctly. Compared to non-Hispanic Black students (39.1 percent), both non-Hispanic White (49.0 percent) and Hispanic (48.9 percent) students had a higher proportion of students giving the right answer to this question (see Figure 3 and Table 1).

Accessibility of Tobacco Products

FYTS question: When you bought or tried to buy cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, I was asked...*, 3.) *No, I was not asked...*

Among underage students who were current cigarette smokers and who had tried to buy cigarettes, more than one third (36.7 percent) were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy cigarettes from a store in the past month. Male students (40.8 percent) were questioned more often than their female counterparts (30.8 percent). There were no racial/ethnic differences in being asked to show proof of age by the retailers (see Figure 4 and Table 2).

FYTS question: When you bought or tried to buy chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, I was asked...*, 3.) *No, I was not asked...*

Among underage students who were current smokeless tobacco users and who had tried to buy smokeless tobacco products, less than one third (30.0 percent) were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy smokeless tobacco products in a store during the past 30 days. There were no gender differences in being asked to show proof of age by the retailers. Non-Hispanic Black students (49.8 percent) were asked more often to show proof of age than non-Hispanic White students (23.8 percent) (see Figure 5 and Table 2).

FYTS question: When you bought or tried to buy cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, I was asked...*, 3.) *No, I was not asked...*

Among underage students who were current cigar smokers and who had tried to buy cigars, more than one third (36.6 percent) were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy cigars in a store in the past 30 days. There were no significant differences in being asked for proof of age by gender or by race/ethnicity (see Figure 6 and Table 2).

Figure 4: Percentage of students who were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy cigarettes in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current cigarette smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004

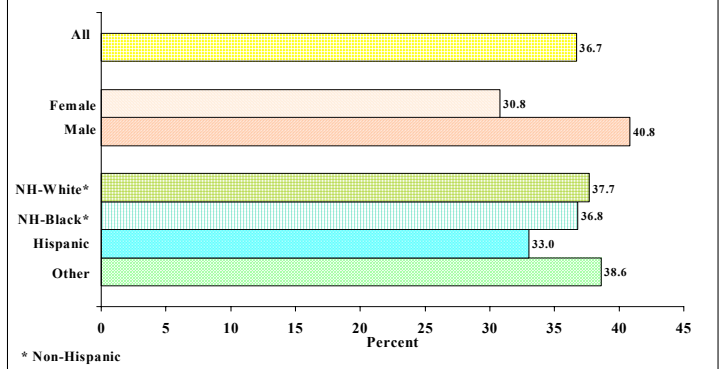


Figure 5: Percentage of students who were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy smokeless tobacco in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current smokeless tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004

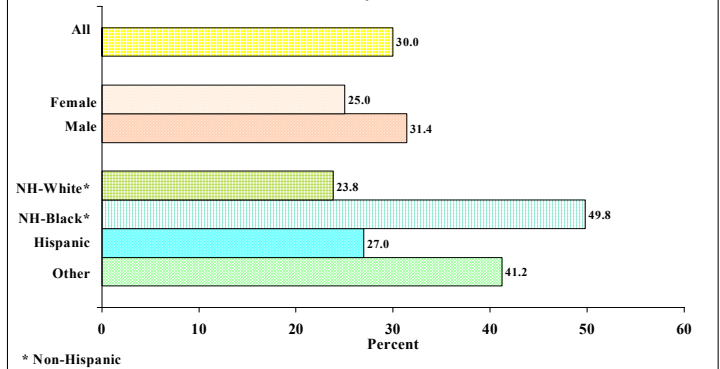
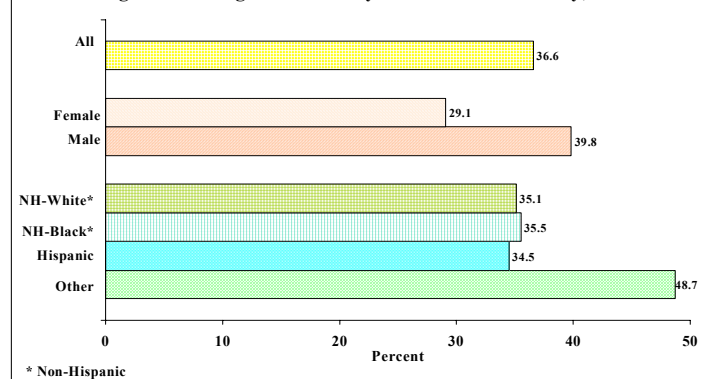
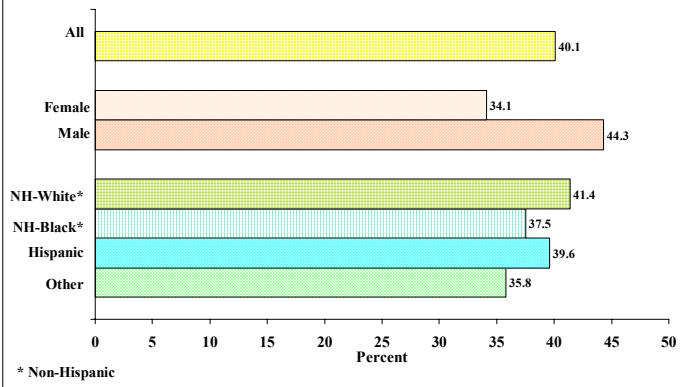


Figure 6: Percentage of students who were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy cigars in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current cigar smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



Vender Refusals

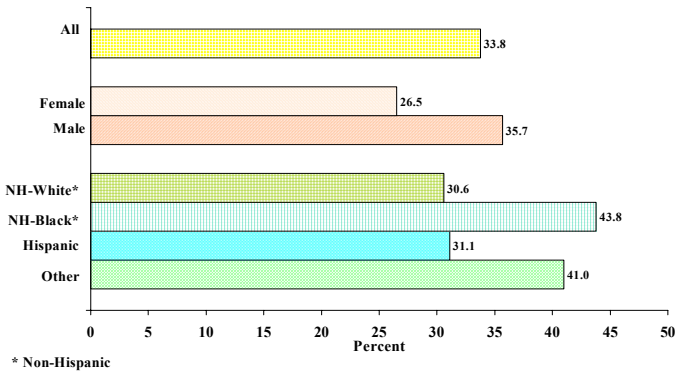
Figure 7: Percentage of students who were refused because of age when they tried to buy cigarettes in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: During the past 30 days, did anyone ever refuse to sell you cigarettes because of your age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, someone refused to sell me...*, 3.) *No, my age did not keep me from buying cigarettes.*

Among underage students who were current cigarette smokers and who had tried to buy cigarettes, two out of five (40.1 percent) were refused buying cigarettes from a store in the past 30 days. There were no gender or racial/ethnic differences in the percentage of students being rejected when they tried to buy cigarettes (see Figure 7 and Table 3).

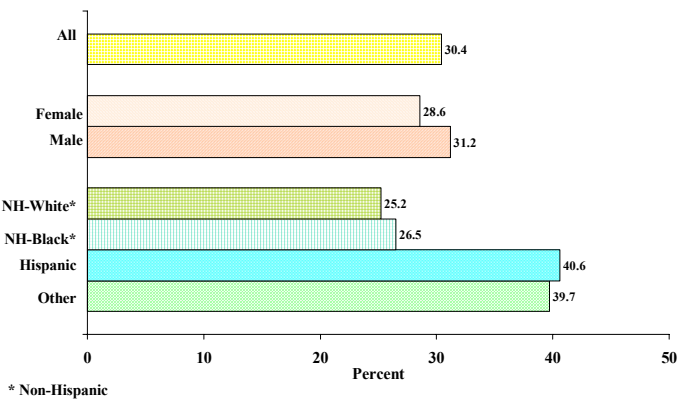
Figure 8: Percentage of students who were refused because of age when they tried to buy smokeless tobacco products in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: During the past 30 days, did anyone refuse to sell you chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip because of your age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, someone refused to sell me...*, 3.) *No, my age did not keep me from buying chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip.*

Among underage students who were current smokeless tobacco users and who had tried to buy smokeless tobacco products, one third (33.8 percent) were refused by the retailers because of their age in the past month. There were no gender or racial/ethnic differences in the percentage of students being rejected by the retailers (see Figure 8 and Table 3).

Figure 9: Percentage of students who were refused because of age when they tried to buy cigars in a store in the past 30 days, among underage current cigar smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



FYTS question: During the past 30 days, did anyone refuse to sell you cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars because of your age? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy...*, 2.) *Yes, someone refused to sell me...*, 3.) *No, my age did not keep me from buying cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars.*

Among underage students who were current cigar smokers and who had tried to buy cigars, less than one third (30.4 percent) were refused by the retailers because of their age when they tried to buy cigars in a store in the past month. There were no gender differences in the percentage of students being rejected by the retailers. More Hispanic students (40.6 percent) than their non-Hispanic White counterparts (25.2 percent) reported being rejected by retailers (see Figure 9 and Table 3).

Using a Fake ID and Having Received Penalties

FYTS question: When you bought or tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days, did you use or try to use a fake ID? Selections: 1.) *I did not try to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days*, 2.) *Yes*, 3.) *No*.

Among underage students who were current cigarette smokers and who had tried to buy cigarettes, more than one in five (22.7 percent) used, or tried to use, a fake ID to get cigarettes in the past month. There were no significant differences in the percentage of students using a fake ID to buy cigarettes by gender or by race/ethnicity (see Figure 10 and Table 4).

FYTS question: Have you or anyone you know gotten a ticket, paid a fine, or had to go to court for using or possessing tobacco? Selections: 1.) *Yes, I have* 2.) *Yes, someone I know has*, 3.) *No*.

About 43.0 percent of underage students who were current tobacco users reported that they, or somebody they knew, had gotten a ticket, paid a fine, or had to go to court for using or possessing tobacco. There were no gender differences in reporting above penalties. More non-Hispanic White students (43.7 percent) than non-Hispanic Black students (34.9 percent) reported they, or somebody they knew received penalties for using or possessing tobacco (see Figure 11 and Table 4).

Figure 10: Percentage of students who used or tried to use fake ID to buy cigarettes in the past 30 days, among underage current cigarette smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004

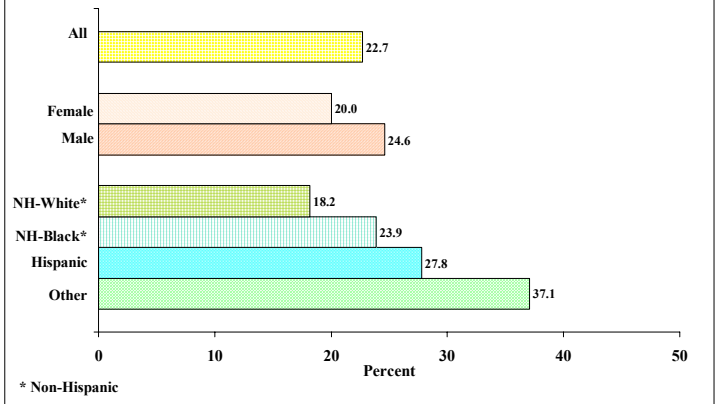
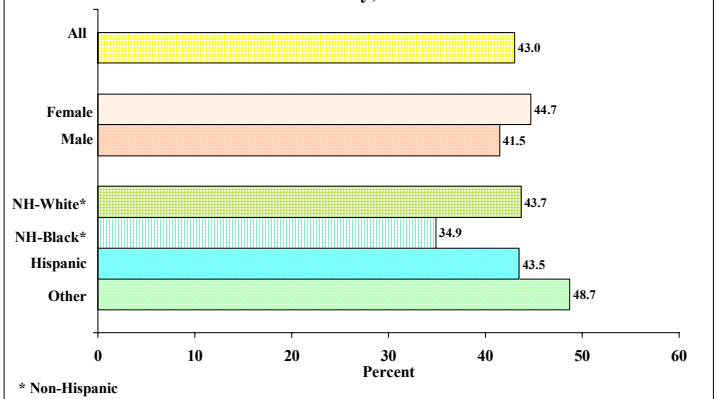


Figure 11: Percentage of students themselves or somebody they knew got a ticket, paid a fine, or had to go to court for using or possessing tobacco, among underage current tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, FL 2004



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Table 1. Perceptions of tobacco laws among current tobacco users younger than 18 years old, by gender and race/ethnicity, FYTS 2004

		Knew the youngest age a person can legally buy cigarettes			Knew that driver's license could be suspended if person is younger than 18 and caught with tobacco			Knew that anyone under 18 with tobacco products in his or her possession can be punished		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	84.2	81.7	86.7	32.1	29.2	34.9	47.7	44.8	50.6
	Male	75.0	71.8	78.3	28.9	25.9	32.0	48.7	45.7	51.7
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	85.0	82.7	87.3	28.7	26.3	31.1	49.0	46.1	51.8
	non-Hispanic Black	58.1	50.7	65.5	33.6	27.1	40.1	39.1	31.4	46.9
	Hispanic	77.4	72.3	82.5	33.2	27.7	38.6	48.9	44.0	53.8
	Other	71.5	64.0	79.0	31.8	23.8	39.8	54.0	45.4	62.6
Total		79.3	77.0	81.7	30.4	28.2	32.6	48.2	46.0	50.5

Table 2. Percentage of students who were asked to show proof of age when they tried to buy tobacco products in a store in the previous 30 days among current tobacco users younger than 18 years old by gender and race/ethnicity, FYTS 2004

		Among Current Cigarette Users			Among Current Smokeless Tobacco Users			Among Current Cigar Users		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	30.8	24.4	37.1	25.0	12.7	37.3	29.1	19.6	38.5
	Male	40.8	34.6	47.0	31.4	22.6	40.2	39.8	33.3	46.3
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	37.7	32.1	43.3	23.8	14.9	32.7	35.1	28.1	42.1
	non-Hispanic Black	36.8	22.1	51.5	49.8	27.5	72.0	35.5	22.7	48.3
	Hispanic	33.0	23.9	42.1	27.0	13.3	40.8	34.5	23.6	45.5
	Other	38.6	22.9	54.4	41.2	21.1	61.3	48.7	31.1	66.3
Total		36.7	32.5	40.9	30.0	22.5	37.6	36.6	31.4	41.8

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

Table 3. Percentage of students who were refused because of age when they tried to buy tobacco products in a store in the previous 30 days, among current tobacco users younger than 18 years old by gender and race/ethnicity, FYTS 2004

		Current Cigarette Users			Current Smokeless Tobacco Users			Current Cigar Users		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	34.1	27.5	40.8	26.5	12.1	40.8	28.6	19.1	38.1
	Male	44.3	37.7	50.8	35.7	28.3	43.2	31.2	25.5	37.0
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	41.4	36.1	46.8	30.6	22.9	38.3	25.2	18.9	31.4
	non-Hispanic Black	37.5	19.5	55.5	43.8	23.1	64.5	26.5	12.4	40.5
	Hispanic	39.6	28.4	50.8	31.1	15.4	46.7	40.6	27.8	53.4
	Other	35.8	21.9	49.7	41.0	21.1	60.8	39.7	22.7	56.6
Total		40.1	35.8	44.5	33.8	27.0	40.5	30.4	25.6	35.3

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

Table 4. Percentage of students who were involved in illegal behaviors among current tobacco users younger than 18 years old, FYTS 2004

		Used fake ID to buy cigarettes among current smokers			Respondents/somebody they knew got a ticket, paid a fine or went to court for using/possessing tobacco					
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*				
Gender	Female	20.0	13.9	26.1	44.7	41.0	48.4			
	Male	24.6	18.8	30.3	41.5	38.2	44.8			
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	18.2	14.0	22.5	43.7	40.2	47.2			
	non-Hispanic Black	23.9	7.6	40.1	34.9	27.6	42.2			
	Hispanic	27.8	18.8	36.9	43.5	37.8	49.2			
	Other	37.1	22.1	52.0	48.7	40.0	57.5			
Total		22.7	18.3	27.0	43.0	40.3	45.7			

* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

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