

## Underage Tobacco Use and Tobacco Sources 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'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 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 the 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.

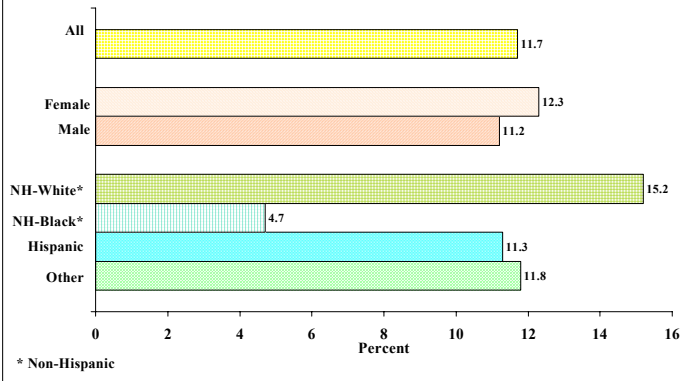
This report focuses on underage tobacco use. In 2004 FYTS, a total of 13375 students younger than 18-years-old responded to the survey. Please see Table 1 for sample sizes for each indicator.

### Executive Summary

Underage tobacco use is still a challenge for youth tobacco control programs. According to 2004 FYTS, among students younger than 18-years-old: one in nine (11.7 percent) was a current cigarette smoker and more than one third (35.8 percent) were lifetime cigarette smokers; one in 25 (4.0 percent) was a current smokeless tobacco user and one in 12 (8.6 percent) was a lifetime smokeless tobacco user; one in 12 (8.3 percent) was a current cigar smoker and one in five (20.6 percent) was a lifetime cigar smoker. The initial age of tobacco use among current tobacco users younger than 18-years-old was 11.7-years-old for cigarette use among current cigarette smokers; 12.0-years-old for smokeless tobacco use among current smokeless tobacco users; and 12.6-years-old for cigar use among current cigar smokers. The major sources of tobacco products reported for current tobacco users younger than 18-years-old were cigarettes or other products borrowed from someone else, bought by somebody else, bought in a store or at a machine, given by an adult, and stolen.

# Underage Cigarette Use

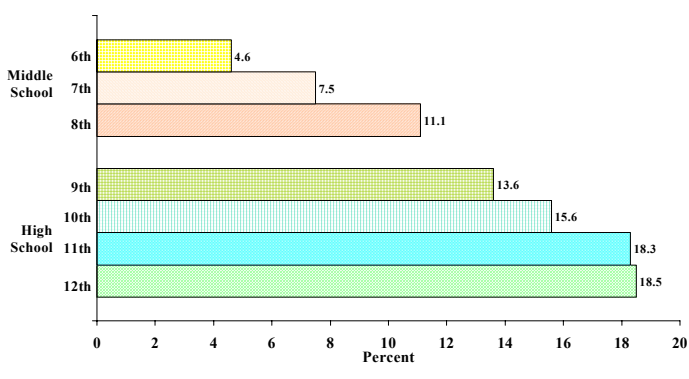
**Figure 1: Prevalence of current cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



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

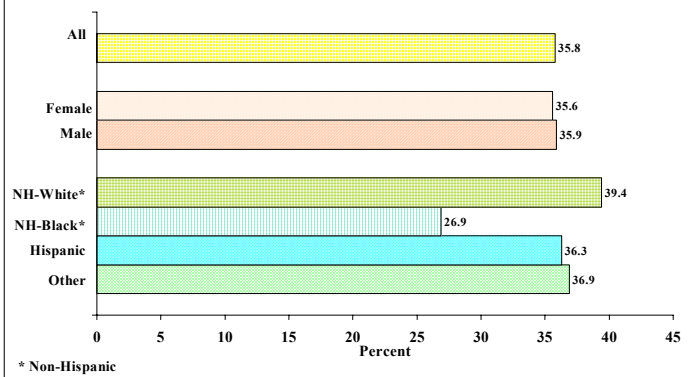
Overall, about one in nine (11.7 percent) students younger than 18-years-old was a current cigarette smoker. There was no gender difference in the prevalence of current cigarette use among students younger than 18-years-old. Non-Hispanic White students younger than 18-years-old had the highest prevalence (15.2 percent) of current cigarette use, while non-Hispanic Black students younger than 18-years-old had the lowest prevalence of current cigarette use (4.7 percent). (see Figure 1 and Table 2.)

**Figure 2: Prevalence of current cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004**



The prevalence of current cigarette smokers among students younger than 18-years-old increased with the increasing grade level, except from grade 11 to grade 12. The prevalence was almost 5 percent among sixth grade students (typically 11 and 12 years old) and rose to more than 18 percent in high school juniors and seniors younger than 18-years-old. (see Figure 2 and Table 2.)

**Figure 3: Prevalence of lifetime cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



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

More than one-third (35.8 percent) students younger than 18-years-old were lifetime cigarette smokers. There was no significant gender difference in this prevalence. Both non-Hispanic White (39.4 percent) and Hispanic (36.3 percent) students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence of lifetime cigarette use than their non-Hispanic Black counterparts (26.9 percent). (see Figure 3 and Table 2.)

## Underage Cigarette Use

The prevalence of lifetime cigarette smokers among students younger than 18-years-old increased with increasing grade level. The prevalence was 17.0 percent among sixth grade students (typically 11 and 12 years old) and rose to more than 53.2 percent in high school seniors younger than 18 years of age. (see Figure 4 and Table 2.)

### Average age of initiation of cigarette use:

The overall average age of initiation of cigarette use among current smokers younger than 18-years-old was 11.7 years. There was no significant gender or racial/ethnic difference in the average age of initiation of cigarette use. (see Figure 5.)

In general, the initial age of cigarette use among current smokers younger than 18-years-old was younger in middle school students than in high school students. Please see Figure 6 for detailed data of initial age of cigarette use among students in each grade level.

Figure 4: Prevalence of lifetime cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004

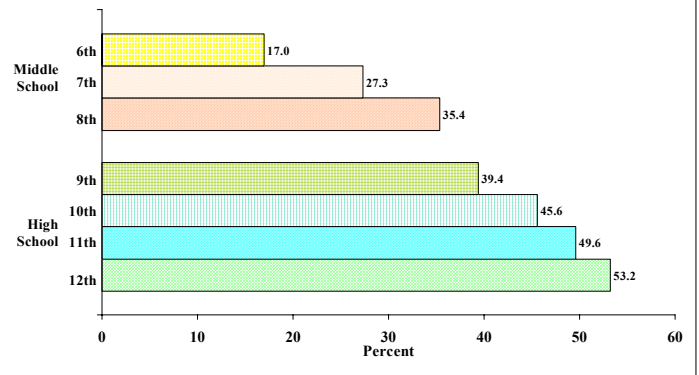


Figure 5: Average age (years) of initiation of cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004

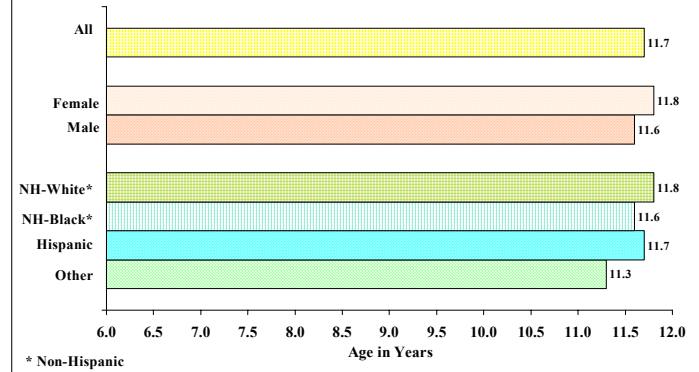
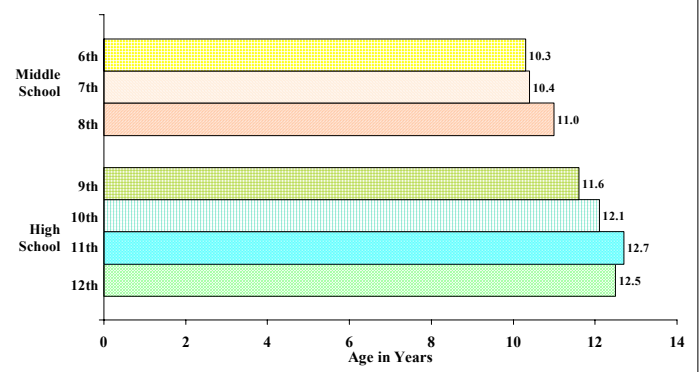
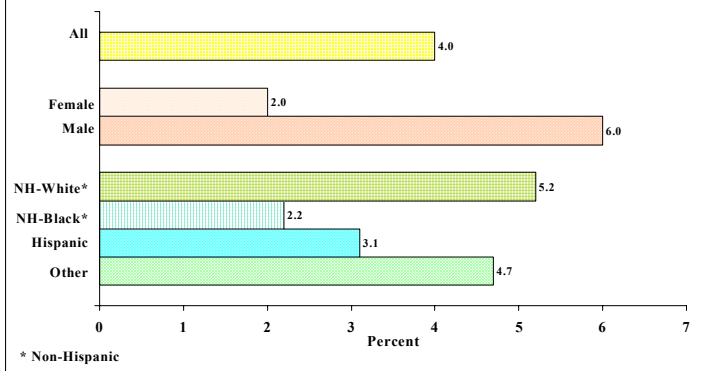


Figure 6: Average age (years) of initiation of cigarette use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current smokers by grade level, in 2004

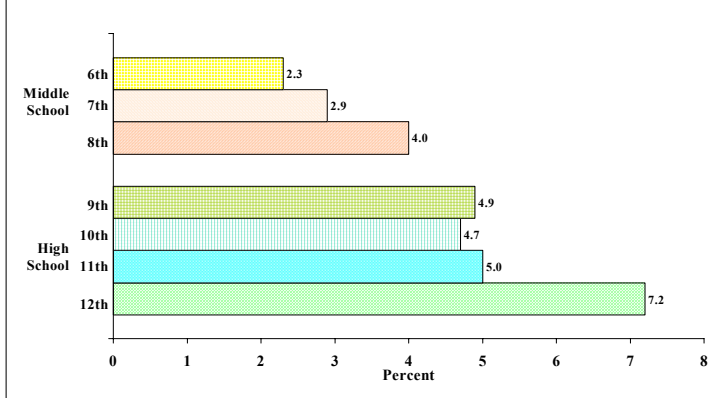


## Underage Smokeless Tobacco Use

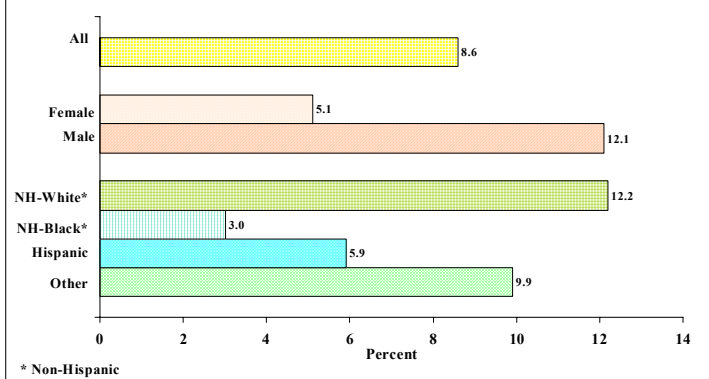
**Figure 7: Prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



**Figure 8: Prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004**



**Figure 9: Prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



**Current smokeless tobacco use:** Students who used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip—such as Redman, Levi Garreet, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen—on one or more of the past 30 days prior to the survey.

Overall, one in twenty five (4.0 percent) students younger than 18-years-old was a current smokeless tobacco user. Male students younger than 18-years-old had higher prevalence (6.0 percent) of current smokeless tobacco use than their female counterparts (2.0 percent). Non-Hispanic White students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence (5.2 percent) of current smokeless tobacco use than their non-Hispanic Black (2.2 percent) and Hispanic (3.1 percent) counterparts. (see Figure 7 and Table 2.)

In general, high school students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use than their middle school counterparts. Among middle school students younger than 18-years-old, students in 8th grade level had higher prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use (4.0 percent) than their 6th grade counterparts (2.3 percent). There was no significant difference in the prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use among high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level. (see Figure 8 and Table 2.)

**Lifetime smokeless tobacco use:** Students who have used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip—such as Redman, Levi Garreet, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen—in their lives.

One in twelve (8.6 percent) students younger than 18-years-old was a lifetime smokeless tobacco user. Male students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence (12.1 percent) of lifetime smokeless tobacco use than their female counterparts (5.1 percent). Non-Hispanic White students younger than 18-years-old had the highest prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use (12.2 percent), while non-Hispanic Black students younger than 18-years-old had the lowest prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use (3.0 percent). (see Figure 9 and Table 2.)

## Underage Smokeless Tobacco Use

In general, high school students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use than their middle school counterparts. Among middle school students younger than 18-years-old, students in 7th and 8th grade level had higher prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use (7.3 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively) than their 6th grade counterparts (4.0 percent). There was no significant difference in the prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use among high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level. (see Figure 10 and Table 2.)

### Average age of initiation of smokeless tobacco use:

The overall average age of initiation of smokeless tobacco use among current users younger than 18-years-old was 12.0 years old. Female current smokeless tobacco users younger than 18-years-old initiated the use of smokeless tobacco products (11.5 years old) earlier than their male counterparts (12.1 years old). Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic students younger than 18-years-old who were current smokeless tobacco users initiated the use of smokeless tobacco products (11.1 and 11.4 years old, respectively) earlier than their non-Hispanic White counterparts (12.4 years old). (see Figure 11)

In general, the initial age of smokeless tobacco use among current users younger than 18-years-old was younger in middle school students than in high school students. Please see Figure 12 for detailed data of initial age of smokeless tobacco use among students in each grade level.

Figure 10: Prevalence of lifetime smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004

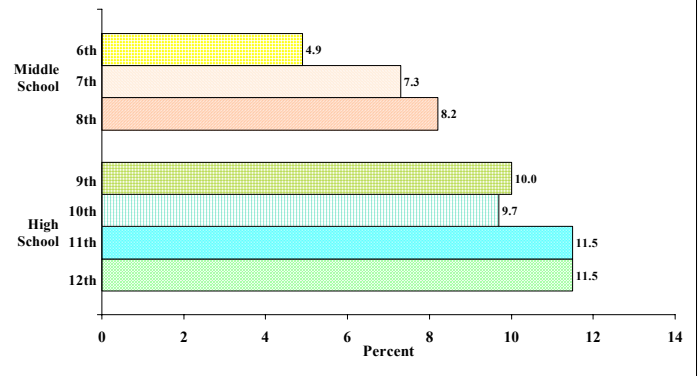


Figure 11: Average age (years) of initiation of smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current smokeless tobacco users by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004

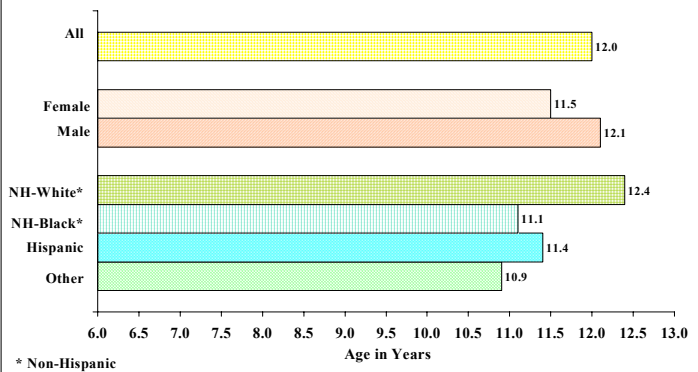
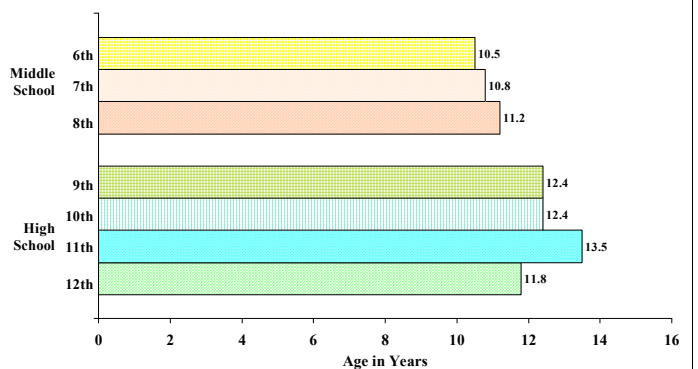
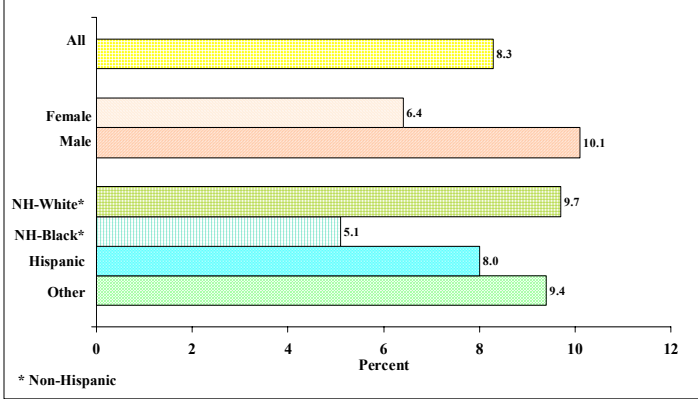


Figure 12: Average age (years) of initiation of smokeless tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current smokeless tobacco users by grade level, in 2004

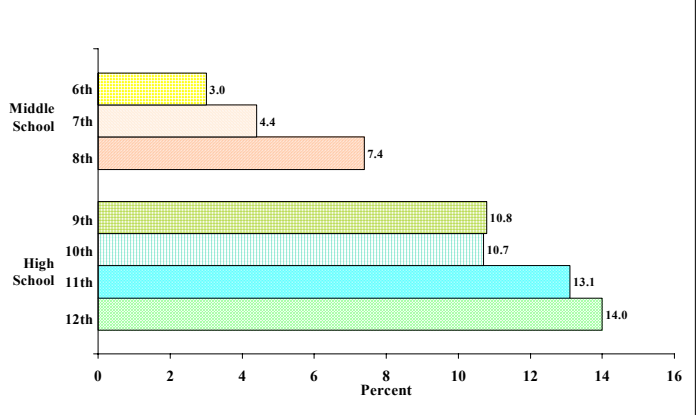


## Underage Cigar Use

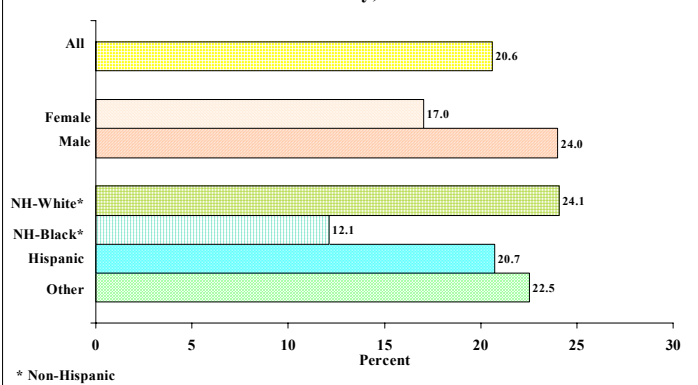
**Figure 13: Prevalence of current cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



**Figure 14: Prevalence of current cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004**



**Figure 15: Prevalence of lifetime cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004**



**Current cigar use:** Students who tried smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on one or more of the past 30 days prior to the survey.

Overall, one in twelve (8.3 percent) students younger than 18-years-old was a current cigar smoker. Male students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence (10.1 percent) of current cigar use than their female counterparts (6.4 percent). Non-Hispanic White students younger than 18-years-old had the highest prevalence (9.7 percent) of current cigar use, while non-Hispanic Black students younger than 18-years-old had the lowest prevalence of current cigar use (5.1 percent). (see Figure 13 and Table 2.)

In general, students younger than 18-years-old in high schools had a higher prevalence of current cigar use than their middle school counterparts. Among middle school students younger than 18-years-old, the prevalence of current cigar use increased with increasing grade level. Among high school students younger than 18-years-old, there was no significant difference in the prevalence of current cigar use by grade level. (see Figure 14 and Table 2.)

**Lifetime cigar use:** Students who have tried cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in their lives.

One in five (20.6 percent) students younger than 18-years-old was a lifetime cigar smoker. Male students younger than 18-years-old had a higher prevalence (24.0 percent) of lifetime cigar use than their female counterparts (17.0 percent). Non-Hispanic White students younger than 18-years-old had the highest prevalence of lifetime cigar use (24.1 percent), while non-Hispanic Black students younger than 18-years-old had the lowest prevalence of lifetime cigar use (12.1 percent). (see Figure 15 and Table 2.)

## Underage Cigar Use

In general, students younger than 18-years-old in high schools had a higher prevalence of lifetime cigar use than their middle school counterparts. Among middle school students younger than 18-years-old, the prevalence of lifetime cigar use increased with increasing grade level. Among high school students younger than 18-years-old, 11th grade students (30.3 percent) had a higher prevalence of lifetime cigar use than their 9th grade counterparts (24.4 percent). (see Figure 16 and Table 2.)

### Average age of initiation of cigar use:

The overall average age of initiation of cigar use among current users younger than 18-years-old was 12.6 years old. Male current cigar smokers younger than 18-years-old initiated the use of cigars (12.4 years old) earlier than their female counterparts (12.9 years old). Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic students younger than 18-years-old who were current cigar smokers initiated the use of cigars (12.3 and 12.1 years old, respectively) earlier than their non-Hispanic White counterparts (13.0 years old). (see Figure 17.)

In general, the initial age of cigar use among current cigar users younger than 18-years-old was younger in middle school students than in high school students. Please see Figure 18 for detailed data of initial age of cigar use among students in each grade level.

Figure 16: Prevalence of lifetime cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by grade level, in 2004

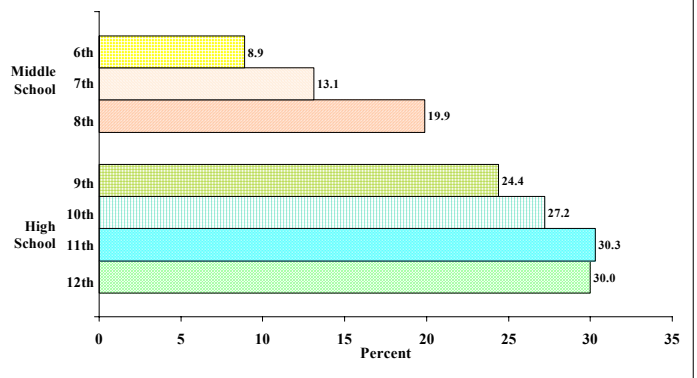


Figure 17: Average age (years) of initiation of cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current cigar smokers by sex and race/ethnicity, in 2004

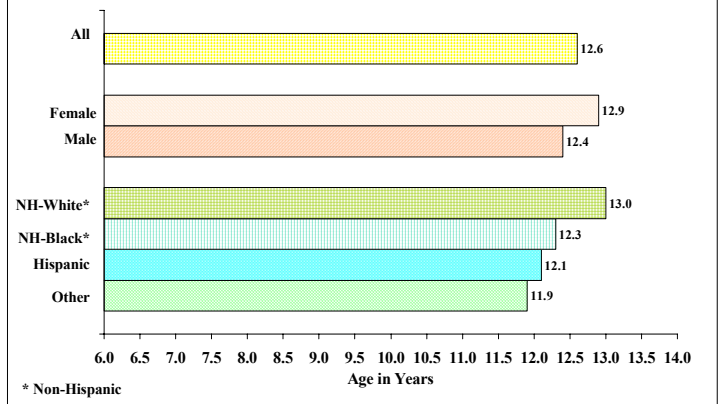
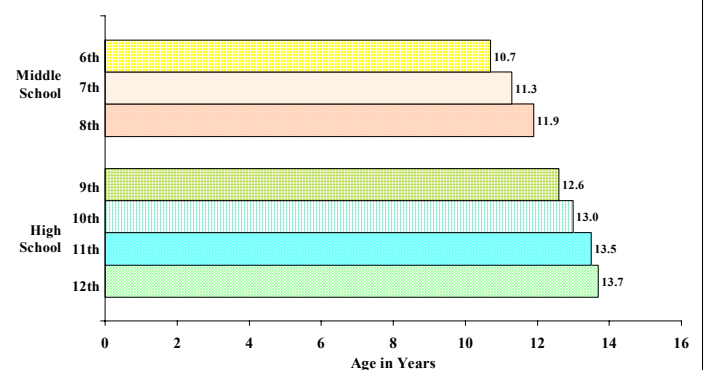
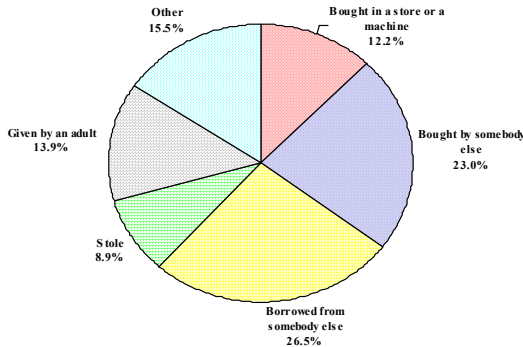


Figure 18: Average age (years) of initiation of cigar use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old who were current cigar smokers by grade level, in 2004



## Sources of Tobacco

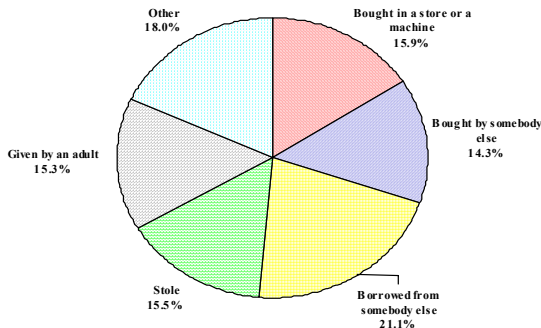
**Figure 19: Sources of cigarettes during the past 30 days for Florida public middle and high school students who were current smoker and under 18 years old in 2004**



**Cigarette sources:** For current cigarette smokers younger than 18-years-old, the major sources of cigarettes were:

- borrowed from somebody else (26.5 percent)
  - bought for them by somebody else (23.0 percent)
  - given to them by adults (13.9 percent)
  - bought in a store or at a vending machine (12.2 percent)
  - stolen (8.9 percent)
- (see Figure 19.)

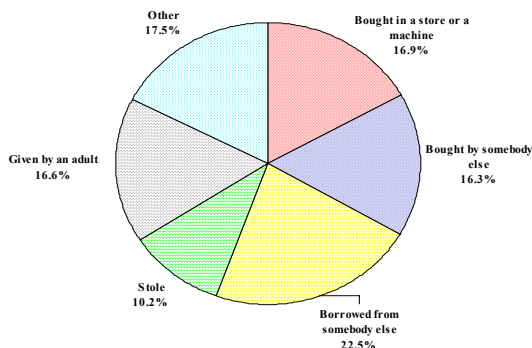
**Figure 20: Sources of smokeless tobacco products during the past 30 days for Florida public middle and high school students who were current smokeless tobacco users and under 18 years old in 2004**



**Smokeless tobacco sources:** For current smokeless tobacco users younger than 18-years-old, the major sources of smokeless tobacco products were:

- borrowed from somebody else (21.1 percent)
  - bought in a store or at a vending machine (15.9 percent)
  - stolen (15.5 percent)
  - given to them by adults (15.3 percent)
  - bought for them by somebody else (14.3 percent)
- (see Figure 20.)

**Figure 21: Sources of cigars during the past 30 days for Florida public middle and high school students who were current cigar smokers and under 18 years old in 2004**



**Cigar sources:** For current cigar smokers younger than 18-years-old, the major sources of cigars were:

- borrowed from somebody else (22.5 percent)
  - bought in a store or at a vending machine (16.9 percent)
  - given to them by adults (16.6 percent)
  - bought for them by somebody else (16.3 percent)
  - stolen (10.2 percent)
- (see Figure 21.)

**Table 1. Number of respondents younger than 18-years-old for each indicator by demographics, FYTS 2004**

		Total	Current Cigarette Use	Lifetime Cigarette Use	Current Smokeless Tobacco Use	Lifetime Smokeless Tobacco Use	Current Cigar Use	Lifetime Cigar Use
Gender	Female	6976	6787	6874	6919	6904	6913	6884
	Male	6399	6152	6230	6290	6259	6265	6249
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	6520	6346	6430	6457	6455	6439	6438
	non-Hispanic Black	2650	2550	2571	2602	2584	2602	2574
	Hispanic	3062	2954	2990	3023	3011	3014	2996
	Other	1143	1089	1113	1127	1113	1123	1125
Grade Level	6th	2321	2249	2264	2292	2284	2279	2270
	7th	2277	2201	2223	2250	2244	2244	2223
	8th	2703	2627	2643	2675	2658	2664	2665
	9th	2453	2373	2417	2425	2418	2428	2419
	10th	1836	1768	1804	1810	1805	1810	1801
	11th	1378	1328	1357	1356	1356	1353	1354
	12th	407	393	396	401	398	400	401
<b>Total</b>		<b>13375</b>	<b>12939</b>	<b>13104</b>	<b>13209</b>	<b>13163</b>	<b>13178</b>	<b>13133</b>

**Table 2. Tobacco use among Florida public middle and high school students younger than 18-years-old by gender, race/ethnicity and grade level, FYTS 2004**

		Current Cigarette Use			Current Smokeless Tobacco Use			Current Cigar Use		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	12.3	11.1	13.5	2.0	1.6	2.4	6.4	5.7	7.2
	Male	11.2	10.1	12.3	6.0	5.2	6.8	10.1	9.0	11.3
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	15.2	13.7	16.6	5.2	4.4	6.0	9.7	8.5	10.9
	non-Hispanic Black	4.7	3.7	5.6	2.2	1.6	2.8	5.1	4.2	6.1
	Hispanic	11.3	9.6	13.0	3.1	2.4	3.7	8.0	6.8	9.2
	Other	11.8	9.7	13.9	4.7	3.3	6.0	9.4	7.4	11.4
Grade Level	6th	4.6	3.5	5.7	2.3	1.6	2.9	3.0	2.4	3.7
	7th	7.5	6.2	8.8	2.9	2.0	3.7	4.4	3.6	5.2
	8th	11.1	9.7	12.6	4.0	3.1	4.9	7.4	6.3	8.6
	9th	13.6	11.9	15.2	4.9	3.9	6.0	10.8	9.5	12.1
	10th	15.6	13.7	17.5	4.7	3.6	5.8	10.7	8.9	12.5
	11th	18.3	15.7	20.9	5.0	3.7	6.2	13.1	10.9	15.4
	12th	18.5	14.6	22.5	7.2	4.6	9.8	14.0	10.5	17.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>11.7</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9.1</b>
		Lifetime Cigarette Use			Lifetime Smokeless Tobacco Use			Lifetime Cigar Use		
		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
Gender	Female	35.6	33.3	37.9	5.1	4.5	5.8	17.0	15.6	18.5
	Male	35.9	33.9	37.9	12.1	10.8	13.3	24.0	22.2	25.9
Race/Ethnicity	non-Hispanic White	39.4	36.8	42.0	12.2	11.0	13.5	24.1	22.1	26.1
	non-Hispanic Black	26.9	24.8	29.0	3.0	2.4	3.7	12.1	10.5	13.8
	Hispanic	36.3	32.8	39.8	5.9	4.9	6.9	20.7	18.4	23.0
	Other	36.9	33.9	39.9	9.9	8.1	11.6	22.5	19.7	25.4
Grade Level	6th	17.0	14.6	19.4	4.9	3.9	6.0	8.9	7.5	10.3
	7th	27.3	25.0	29.6	7.3	5.8	8.9	13.1	11.4	14.7
	8th	35.4	32.5	38.3	8.2	6.6	9.8	19.9	17.8	22.0
	9th	39.4	37.0	41.8	10.0	8.2	11.9	24.4	22.4	26.5
	10th	45.6	42.2	49.1	9.7	7.9	11.6	27.2	24.2	30.2
	11th	49.6	46.5	52.8	11.5	9.4	13.6	30.3	26.9	33.7
	12th	53.2	47.4	58.9	11.5	8.5	14.5	30.0	24.8	35.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>35.8</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>22.1</b>

\* 95 percent (%) confidence interval

Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Epidemiology  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-12  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1720

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Reported by:

Zhaohui Fan, M.P.H.  
Youjie Huang, M.D., Dr.P.H., M.P.H.  
Melissa Murray, M.S.

Florida Department of Health  
Division of Disease Control  
Bureau of Epidemiology  
Chronic Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology Section  
(850) 245-4401

Florida Department of Health  
Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco  
(850) 245-4144

Jeb Bush  
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.  
Secretary, Department of Health

Dian Sharma, Ph.D.  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Epidemiology