

Knowledge of and Compliance with Tobacco Laws among Minors



Results from the 2006 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey

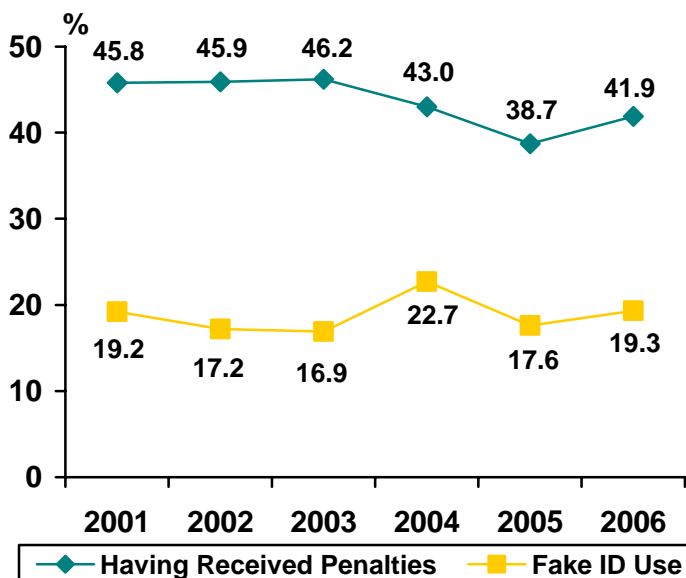
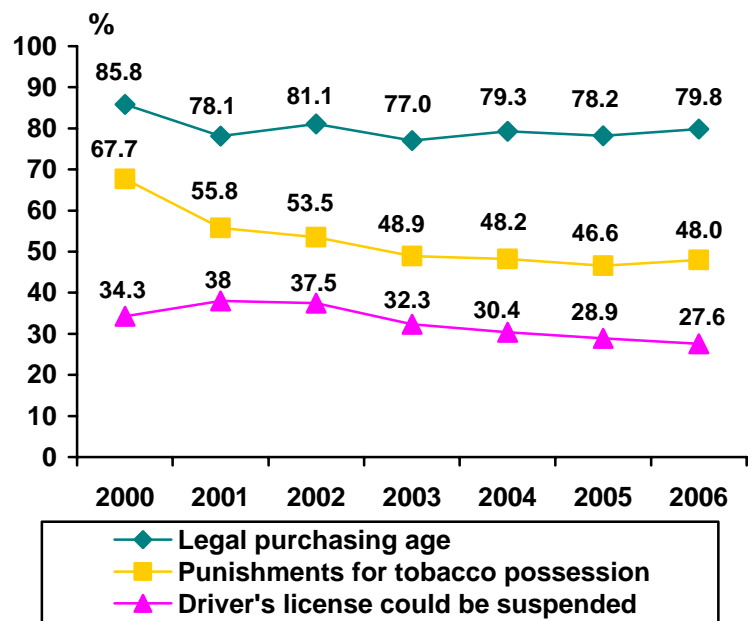
Fact Sheet 6

Introduction:

In the spring of 2006 the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) was administered to 33,112 middle school students and 29,325 high school students in 783 public schools throughout the state. The survey response rate for middle schools was 73% and the survey response rate for high schools was 68%. The FYTS has been conducted annually since 1998. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to represent the entire population of Florida public middle and high school students who are minors (younger than 18 years old).

Knowledge of Tobacco Laws

1. The prevalence of knowing the minimal legal age of purchasing tobacco products decreased from 2000 to 2001 and has stayed relatively stable from 2001 to 2006.
2. The prevalence of knowing that underage people with tobacco products could be punished decreased by 29.1% from 2000 to 2006.
3. The prevalence of knowing that a driver's license could be suspended for underage tobacco possession fluctuated from 2000 to 2005, and there was a significant decrease of 27.4% during 2001-2005.



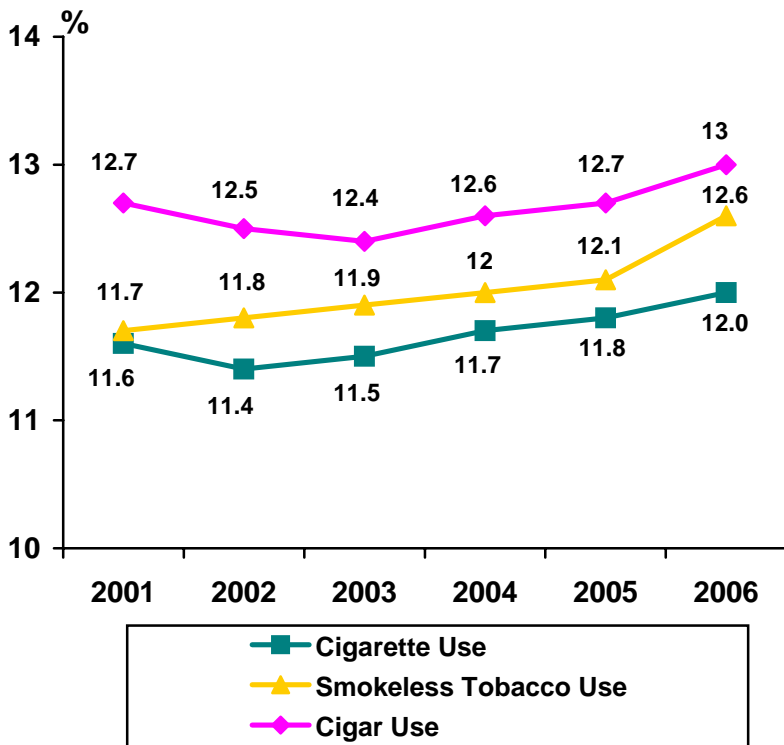
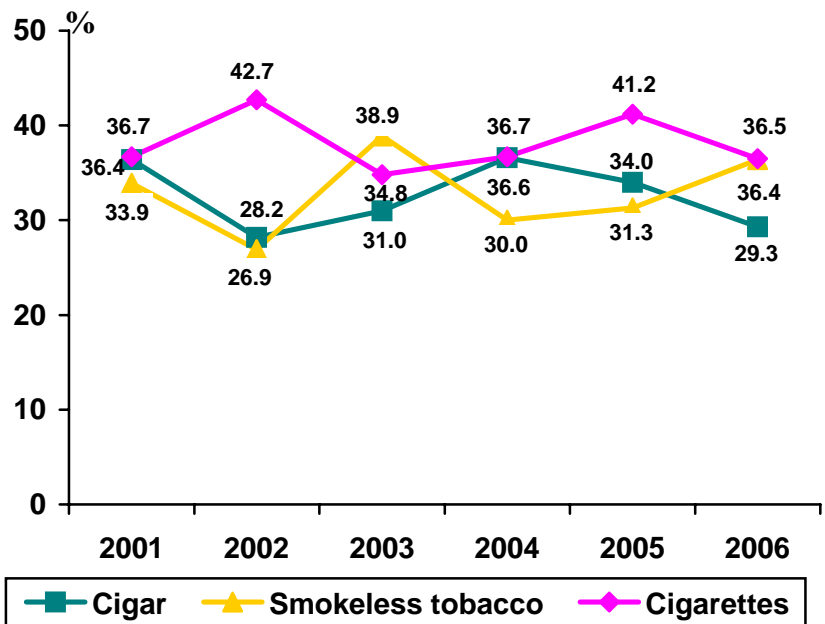
Using Fake ID & Having Received Penalties

Among underage current cigarette smokers:

1. The prevalence of using or trying to use fake ID to buy cigarettes fluctuated around 20% from 2001 to 2006, but there was no significant change in this behavior during this time period.
2. The prevalence of receiving legal penalties or knowing someone who received legal penalties for using or possessing tobacco products has fluctuated from 38.7% to 46.2%, but overall there were no significant changes from 2001 to 2006.

Asked to Show ID by Vendor

Among underage current tobacco users, the prevalence of being asked to show proof of age by tobacco retailers when trying to buy tobacco products (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco products, or cigars) in the past month fluctuated between 30 to 40%. There was no significant change in this behavior from 2001 to 2006.



Initial Age of Tobacco Use

1. In 2006, students reported initiating cigarettes at a younger age than they initiated using cigars and smokeless tobacco.
2. The average age of initiation of smokeless tobacco increased by 7.7% from 2001 to 2006.
3. The average age of initiation of cigarettes has increased by 5.3% from 2002 to 2006.
4. The average age of initiation of cigars has increased by 4.8% from 2003 to 2006.

For more information about the FYTS, please contact: Ms. Jamie Weitz, M.S., Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, extension 2424, or by e-mail at Jamie.Weitz@doh.state.fl.us. You can also visit our website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/Chronic_Disease/FYTS/Intro.htm.

