

## Introduction:

The Florida Adult Tobacco Survey (FLATS) is an anonymous telephone survey of randomly selected adults in Florida. Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health, the survey has monitored and evaluated tobacco use and exposure among Floridians since 2003. In 2006, a total of 4,000 adults completed the FLATS and data were weighted to represent the entire Florida adult population. All of the differences described in this fact sheet are statistically significant at the .05 level.

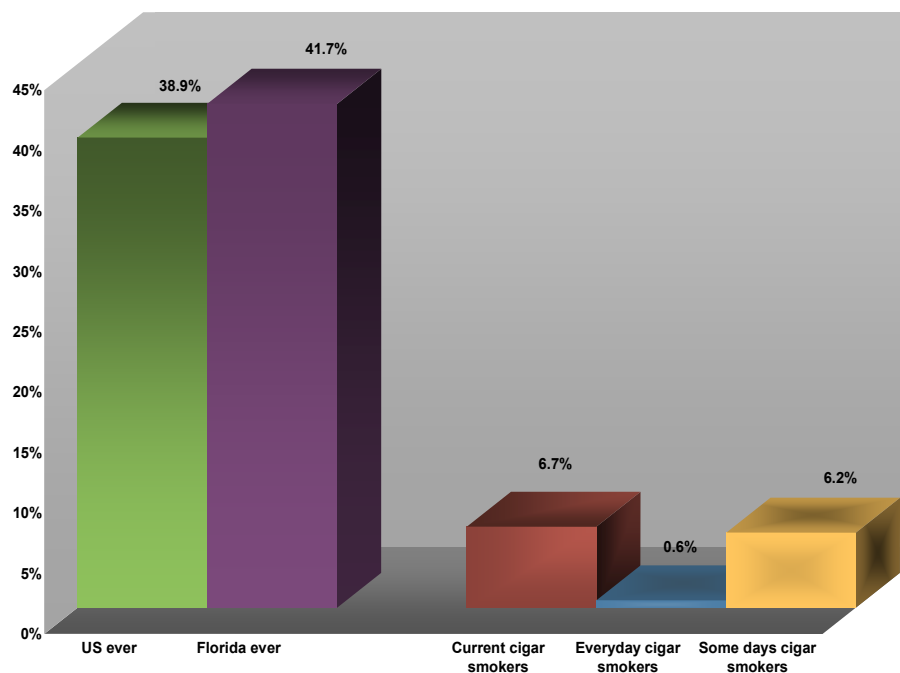
In 2006, two questions were added to the FLATS regarding cigar use -- "Have you ever smoked a cigar, even one or two puffs?" and "Do you now smoke cigars every day, some days, or not at all?"

## Cigar Facts:

- Cigars and cigarettes contain the same toxic compounds
- Cigar smokers are at risk for oral, throat and esophageal cancers
- Cigar smokers are at a higher risk for lung cancer, heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease than non-smokers
- About 75% of cigar smokers smoke occasionally
- Some cigars contain the tobacco equivalent of an entire pack of cigarettes
- Cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes

## Figure One: Cigar smoking: A comparison between the US and Florida

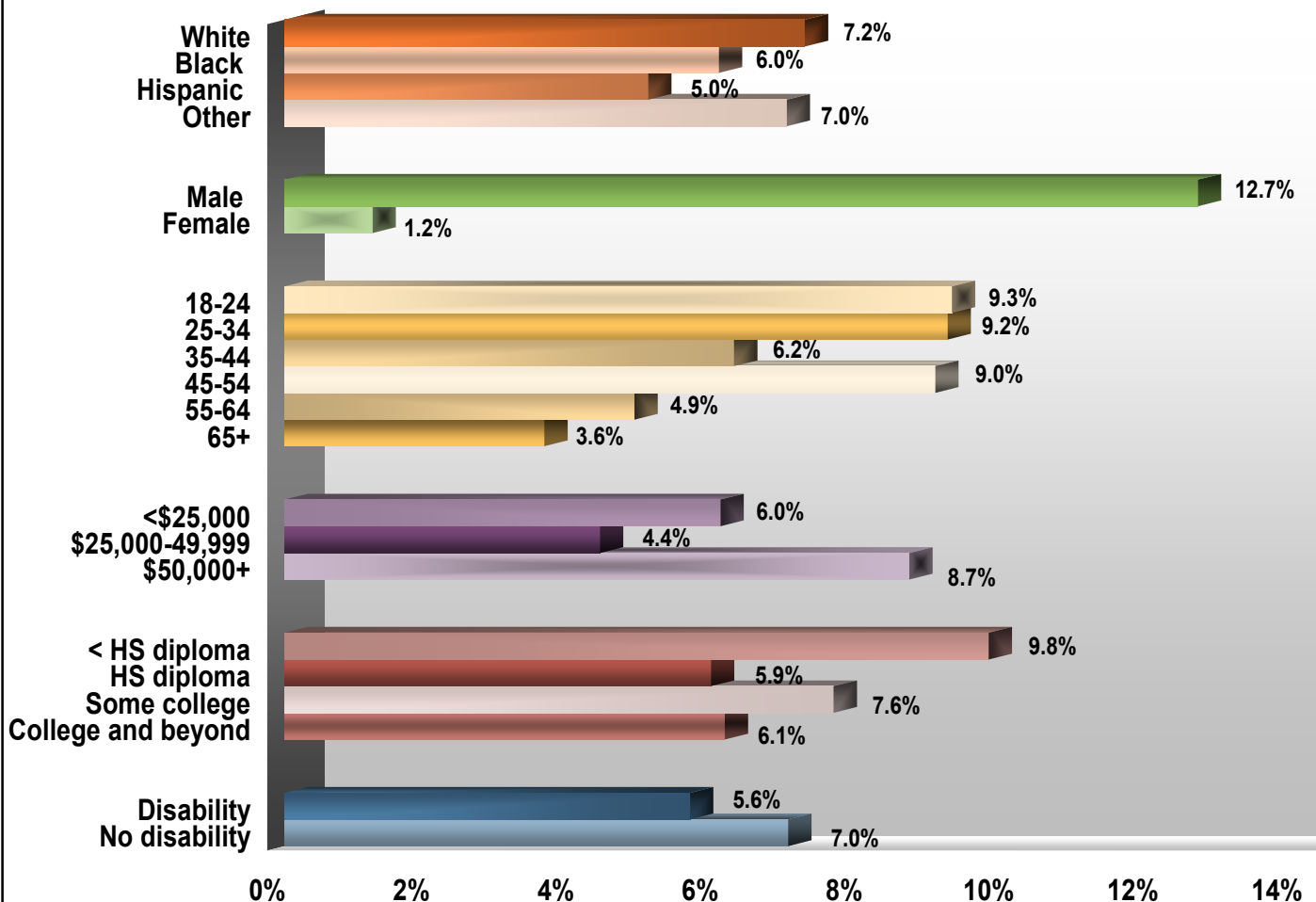
Approximately 38.9% of the US population has ever tried a cigar as compared to 41.7% of Floridians. Overall, 6.7% of the Florida population currently smokes cigars. Of current cigar smokers, 0.6% smoke everyday and 6.2% smoke some days.



For more information about the Florida Adult Tobacco Survey (FLATS), please contact Lori L. Westphal, PhD, MPH, Epidemiologist at [lori\\_westphal@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:lori_westphal@doh.state.fl.us) or 850-245-4444 ext 2472.

## Figure Two: Current Cigar Use in Florida

Current cigar smoking as reported by race/ethnicity, gender, age, income, education, and disability. Disability is defined as being limited in any way because of physical, mental or emotional problems. Respondents are asked to report their annual household income from all sources. Educational level is the highest level of school completed or the highest degree received.



### Summary of the statistically significant conclusions from the 2006 FLATS:

- Two-fifths of all Florida have ever tried cigars, even one or two puffs.
- About one out of every sixteen Florida adults currently smokes cigars.
- Men (12.7 percent) were more likely to smoke cigars than women (1.2 percent)
- Cigar use appears to decrease with increasing age. Significantly more persons ages 25 to 34 smoked (9.2 percent) than those ages 55 to 64 (4.9 percent) or those 65 and older (3.6 percent).
- Adults with household incomes \$50,000 and above were more likely to smoke cigars than adults with household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999
- There were no significant differences in cigar use prevalence by education, disability, or race/ethnicity.

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