

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.

Secondhand Smoke Exposure Facts:

According to the Surgeon General's 2006 report on the Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke

- Millions of Americans, including 60% of children ages 3-11, are exposed to secondhand smoke (SHS). This is in spite of great progress in controlling tobacco use in public areas
- Smoke-free policies at work do not apply to 30% of US workers
- SHS exposure is responsible for illness and death in non-smokers including such diseases as lung cancer and coronary heart disease
- The Environmental Protection Agency has designated SHS as a 'known human carcinogen'
- SHS exposure in children is linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), respiratory and ear problems, slowed lung growth and worsening of symptoms in those with asthma
- No level of SHS exposure is safe, even short-term exposure causes immediate changes in the cardiovascular and respiratory systems
- Separating smokers from non-smokers indoors or cleaning the air does not eliminate the risk of SHS exposure. The only way to eliminate the risk is to ban smoking indoors

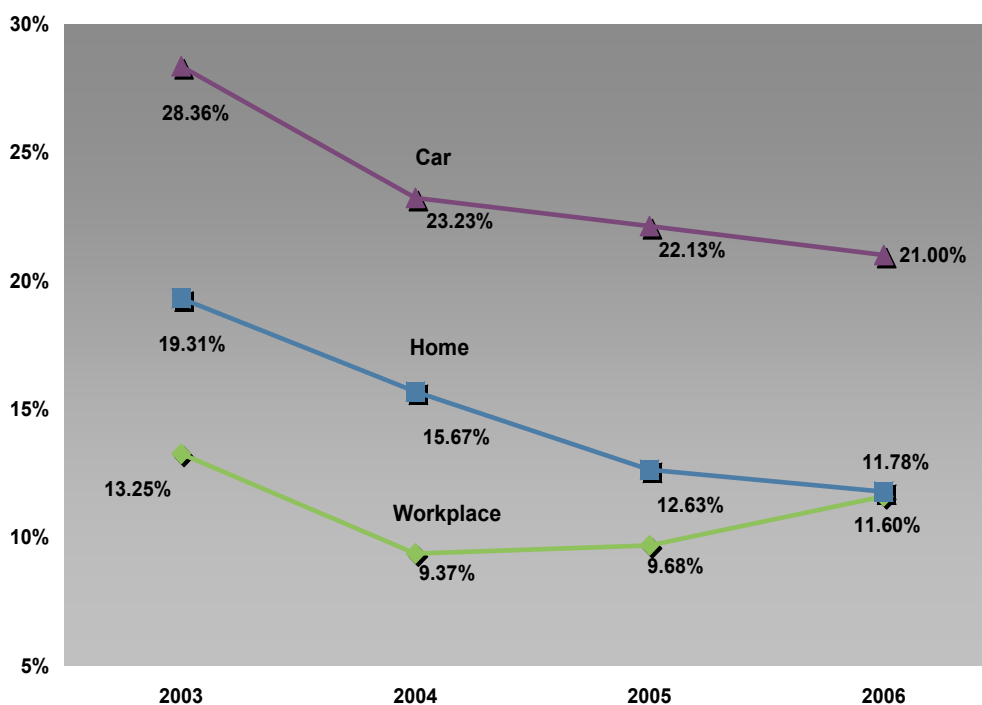


Figure One: Florida SHS exposure in the home, car and workplace: 2003 to 2006
 Nearly one out of every five adults is exposed to secondhand smoke in the car while about one out of every ten adults is exposed to secondhand smoke in the home. Exposure to secondhand smoke in the home and in the car has declined significantly from 2003 to 2006. Exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace has not markedly changed.

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 or 850-245-4444 ext 2472.

Figure Two: In the past 12 months, have you asked someone not to smoke?
Two out of every five adult Floridians have asked someone not to smoke in the past year

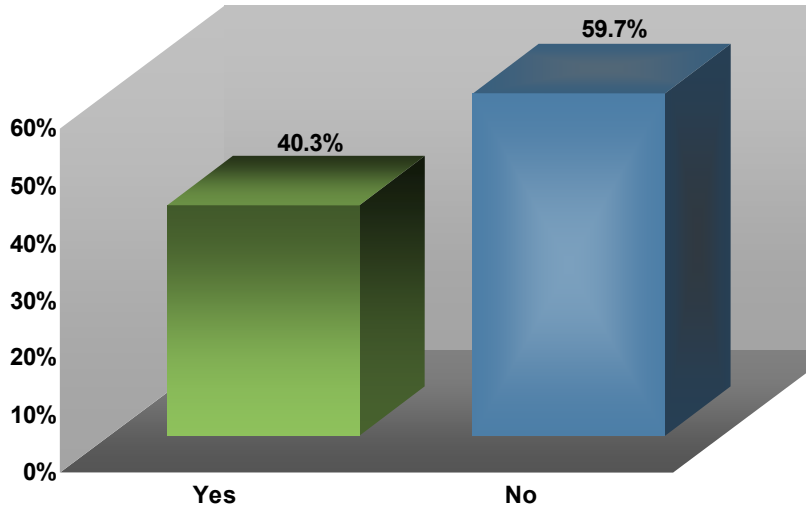


Figure Three: Who did you ask not to smoke?
Of those asked not to smoke, relatives comprised the largest group (37.49 percent), followed by friends (30.0 percent).

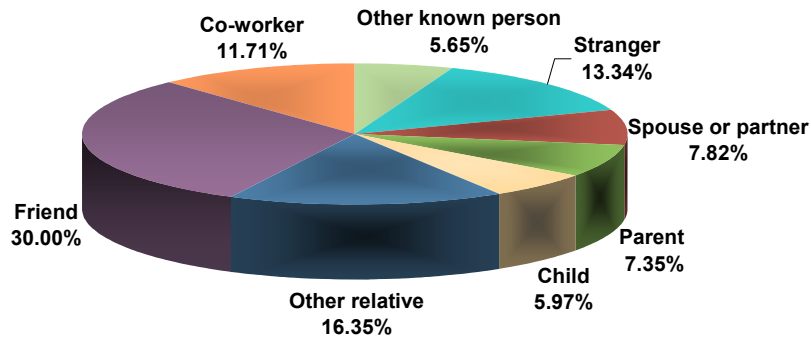


Figure Four: Why did you ask someone not to smoke?
Leading the list of reasons for asking someone not to smoke was concern for the smoker's own health. Slightly more than a quarter asked someone not to smoke because the smoke was annoying. Only one out of every ten people was concerned about their own health.

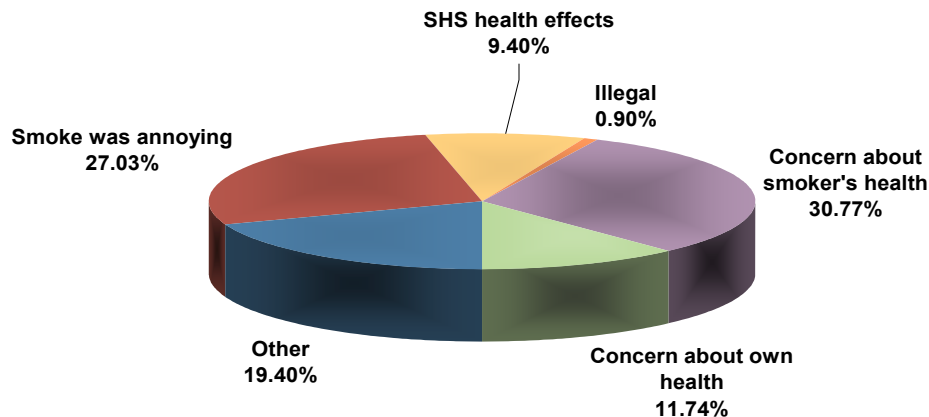


Figure Five: Rules about smoking in the home

Smoking is not allowed in the majority of Florida households and the percentage of households that allow smoking has declined from 2003 to 2006 (from 24.0% to 15.4%).

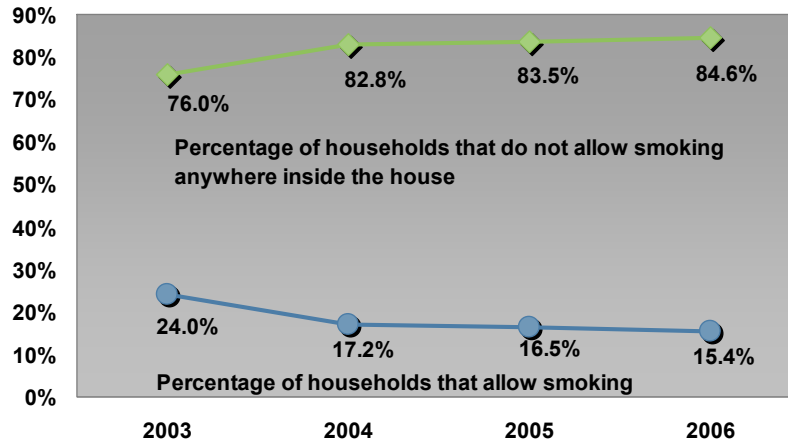


Figure Six: Smokers in the home

One out of every three adult Floridians reports that someone in their home smokes.

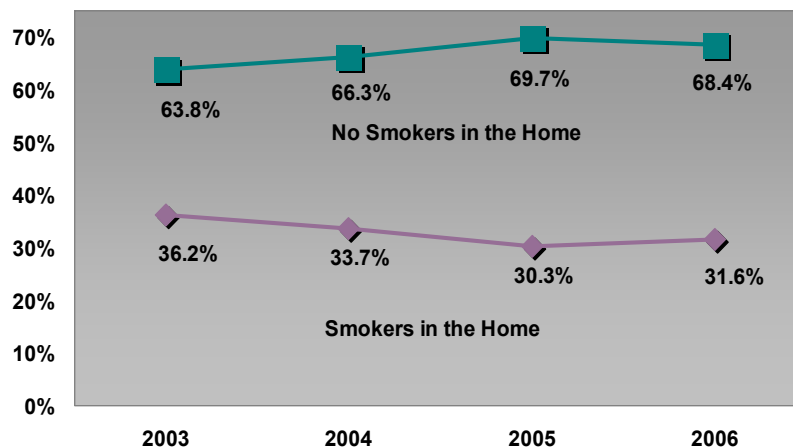


Figure Seven: Smoking outside

Two out of three adult smokers always or usually go outside to smoke (64.5%).

