

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.

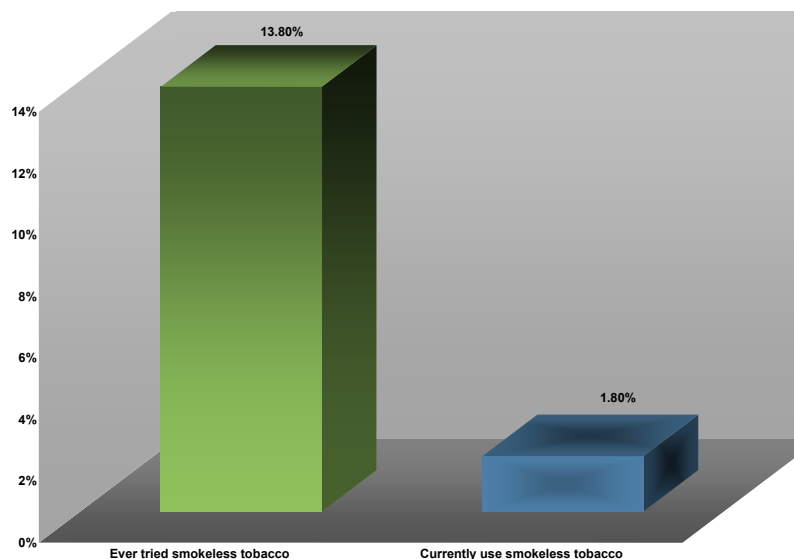
In 2006, two questions were added to the FLATS regarding smokeless tobacco use -- “Have you ever used or tried any smokeless tobacco products such as chewing tobacco or snuff?” and “Do you currently use chewing tobacco or snuff every day, some days, or not at all?”

Smokeless Tobacco Facts:

- The main types of smokeless tobacco used in the US are chewing tobacco and snuff
- Approximately 3% of US adults, 8% of high school students and 3% of middle school students use smokeless tobacco
- Smokeless tobacco contains 28 known cancer-causing chemicals
- People who use smokeless tobacco are at an increased risk for cancers of the mouth including the lips, gums, tongue, and cheeks
- Smokeless tobacco can lead to gum disease and gum recession
- Smokeless tobacco use can lead to nicotine addiction
- Using smokeless tobacco as a method to quit smoking cigarettes is not recommended
- Smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to cigarettes or other forms of tobacco

Figure One: Smokeless Tobacco Use in Florida

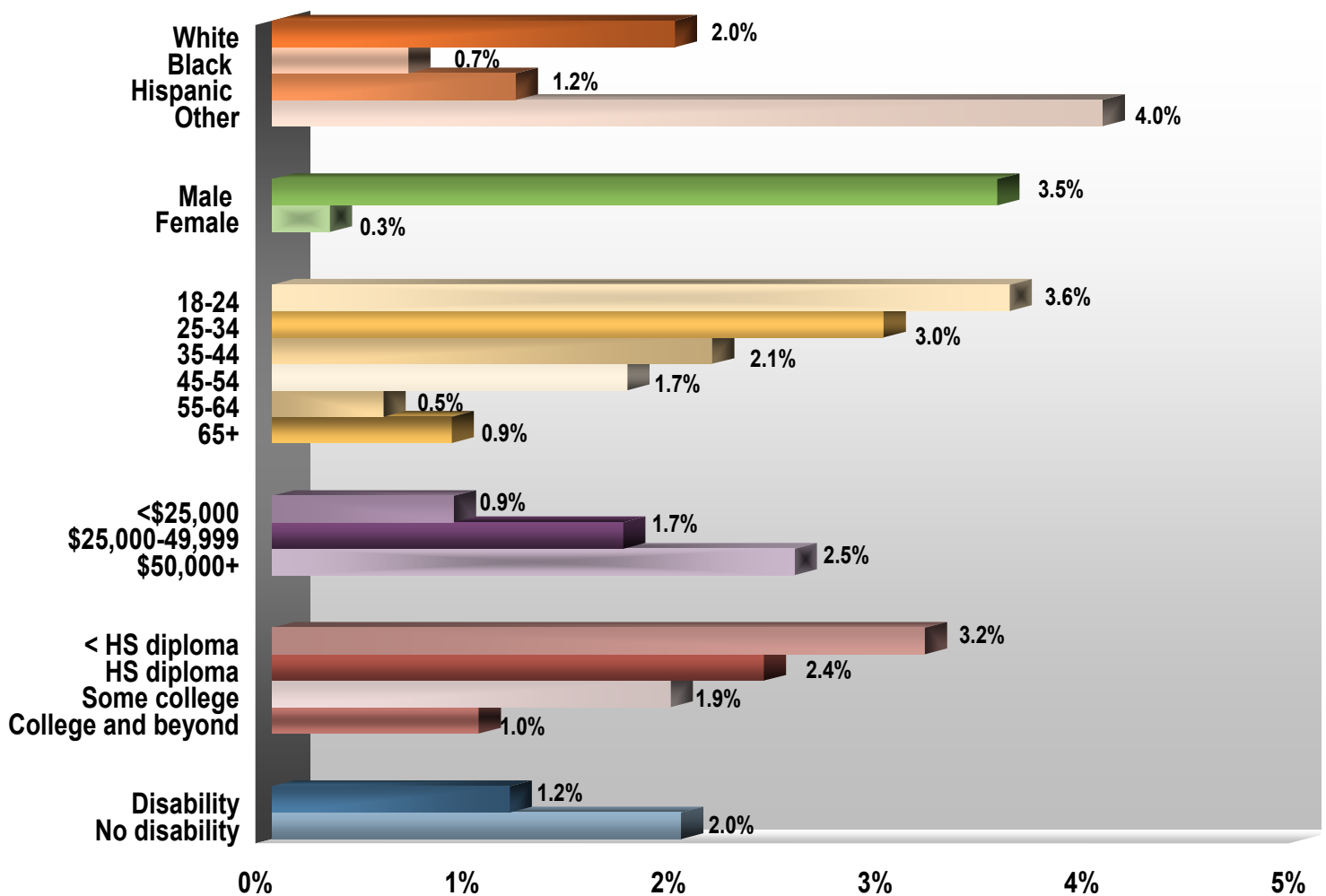
Among Florida adults, 13.6 percent have ever tried smokeless tobacco; however, only 1.8 percent currently uses smokeless tobacco



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: Current Smokeless Tobacco Use in Florida

Current smokeless tobacco use 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:

- Among Florida adults, 13.6 percent have ever tried smokeless tobacco; however, only 1.8 percent currently uses smokeless tobacco.
- Men are considerably more likely than women to be current users of smokeless tobacco (3.5 percent vs. 0.28 percent).
- Adults who have children younger than age 18 living in the home were twice as likely to use smokeless tobacco as adults without children living in the home (2.9 percent vs. 1.2 percent).