

Summary of Hookah Use and Hookah Bar Prevalence in Florida

1. OVERVIEW/PURPOSE

In the past few years, there has been an increase in an old form of tobacco use, known as water pipe or hookah tobacco smoking (Dybing et al. 2005). Hookah is a tobacco smoking device that indirectly heats loose tobacco and allows for tobacco smoke to pass through water before it is inhaled (American Lung Association, 2007).

Smoking tobacco out of hookah is perceived as being less harmful than cigarette smoking (Smith-Stone et al. 2008, and Meziak et al. 2007), while results from limited research on the health effects of hookah smoking indicate that smoking tobacco out of hookah may cause tobacco dependence and similar health problems to the ones associated with cigarette smoking (Smith-Simon et al. 2008, Jabbour et al. 2003).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The national prevalence of hookah use in the U.S. is unknown, and most U.S. studies on hookah use have been conducted using convenience samples for specific groups of youth or young adults.

A study conducted by Barnett et al. (2009) using the 2007 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) found that the prevalence of hookah use in Florida is 11% among high school students and 4% among middle school students.

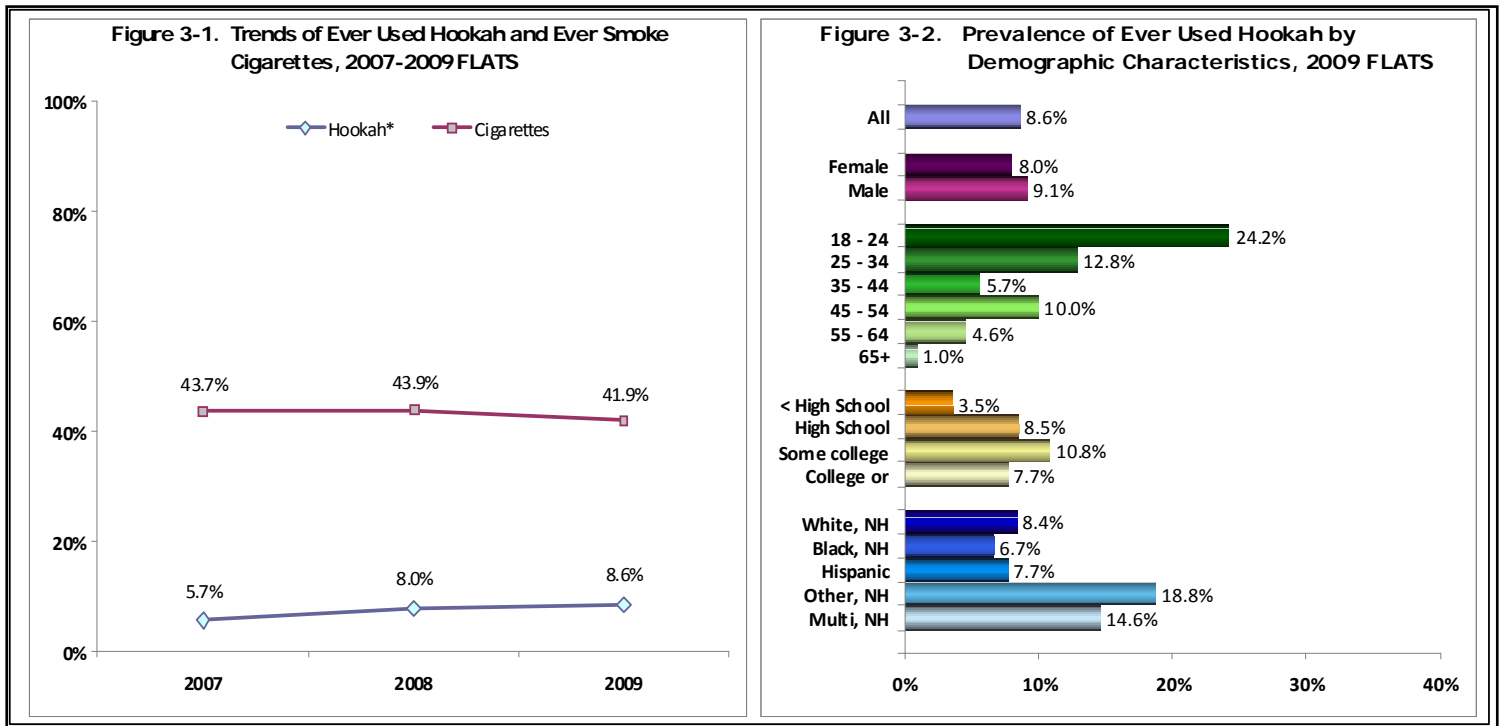
Articles have estimated the number of hookah bars in the U.S. based on press reports and trade publications. In 2004 it was reported that between 200 and 300 new hookah bars had opened in the U.S., often in big cities and near college or university campuses (Cobb et al., 2010). Another press story reported that at least 100 hookah bars likely exist in Florida, and most of them have opened within the past few years (physorg.com).

3. HOOKAH SMOKING PREVALENCE IN FLORIDA

3.1 FLORIDA ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY (2007-2009 FLATS)

From 2007 to 2009, the prevalence of Floridian adults that ever used hookah showed a statistically significant upward trend ($p < 0.01$) (figure 3-1).

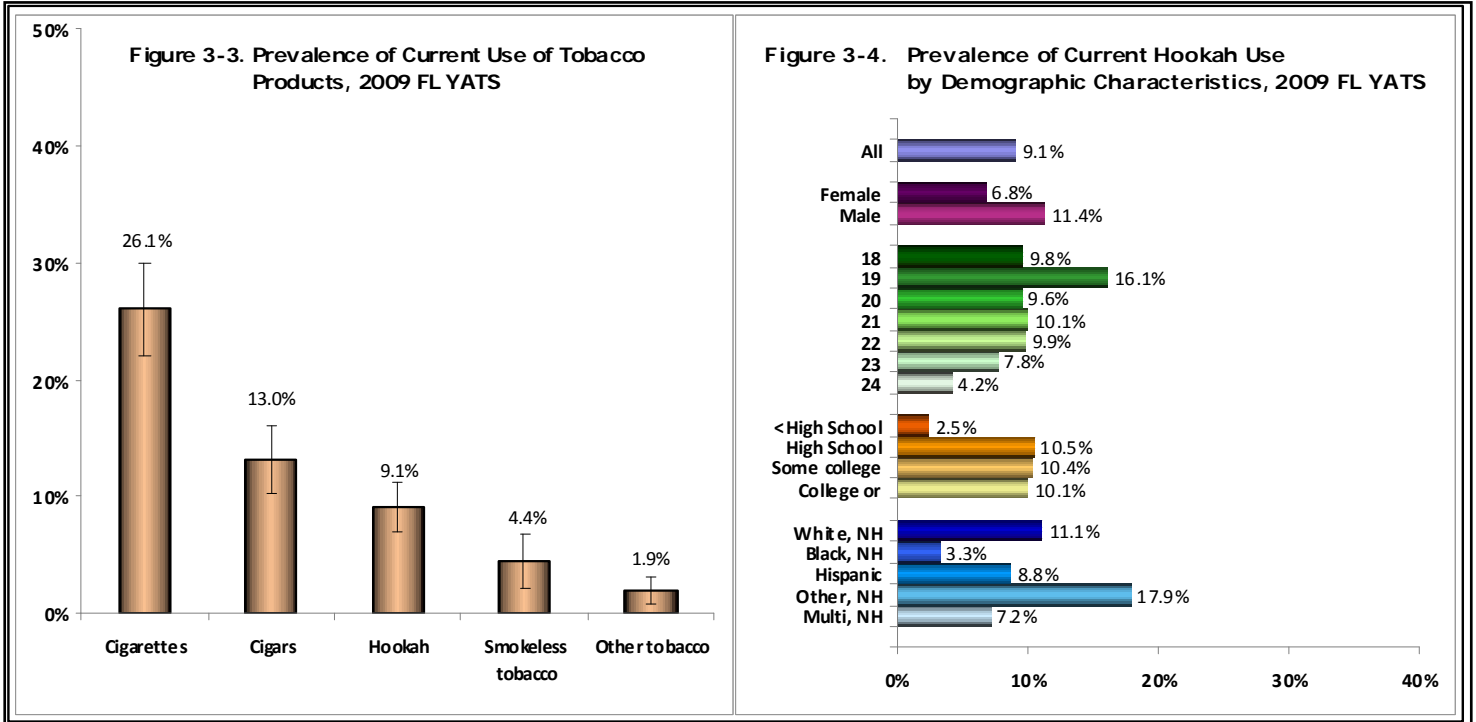
In 2009 FLATS, age was significantly associated with the estimate of ever used hookah ($P < 0.01$), such that it is high among young adults ages 18-24 (24.2%) (figure 3-2).



3.2 FLORIDA YOUNG ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY (2009 FL YATS)

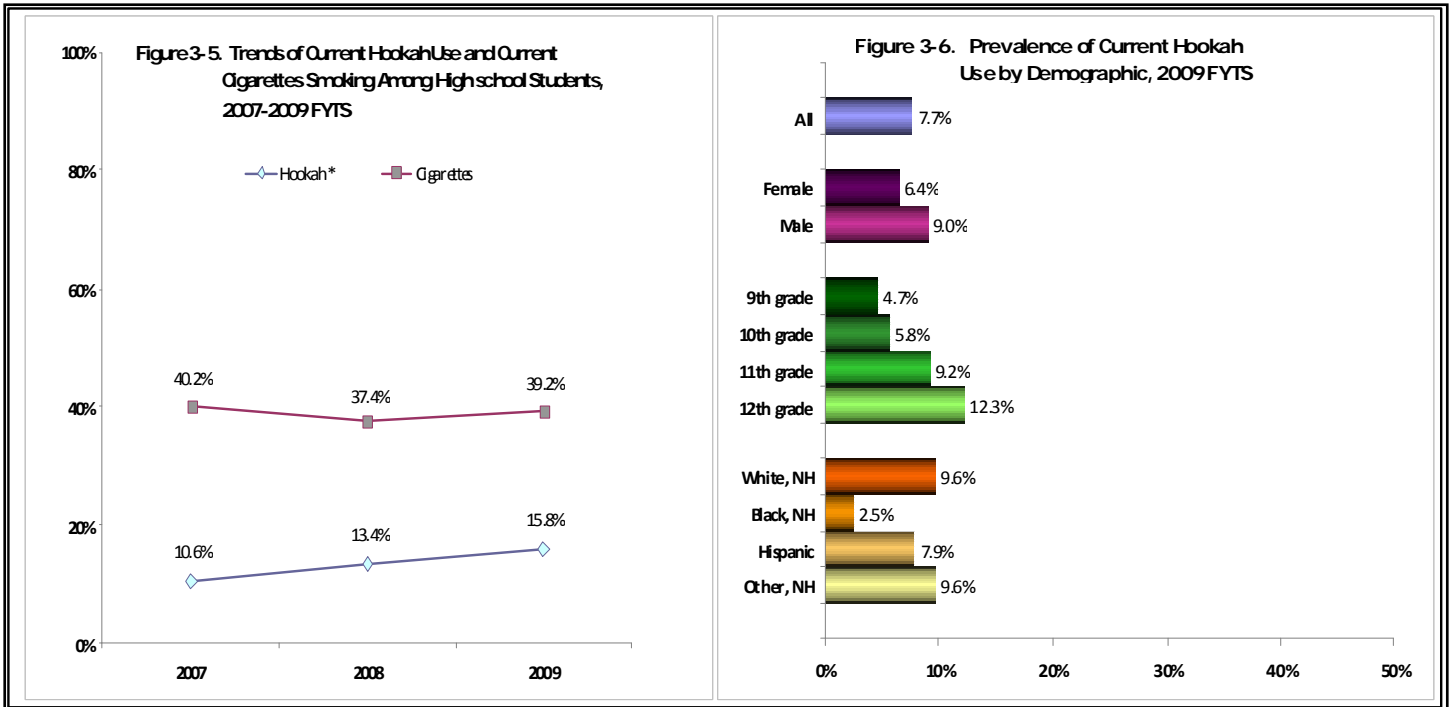
Among the 2009 FL YATS estimates for current use of different tobacco products, the estimate for current hookah use was third in prevalence after cigarette and cigar current use (figure 3-3).

Gender and race were significantly associated with the prevalence of current hookah use among Floridian young adults ($p < 0.05$) (figure 3-4).



3.3 FLORIDA YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (2007-2009 FYTS)

Between 2007 and 2009 in Florida, the prevalence of high school students who ever used hookah has increased significantly ($p < 0.01$) (figure 3-5). In the 2009 FLYTS, gender, race, and grade level were significantly associated with the estimate of current hookah use among high school students ($P < 0.01$) (figure 3-6).

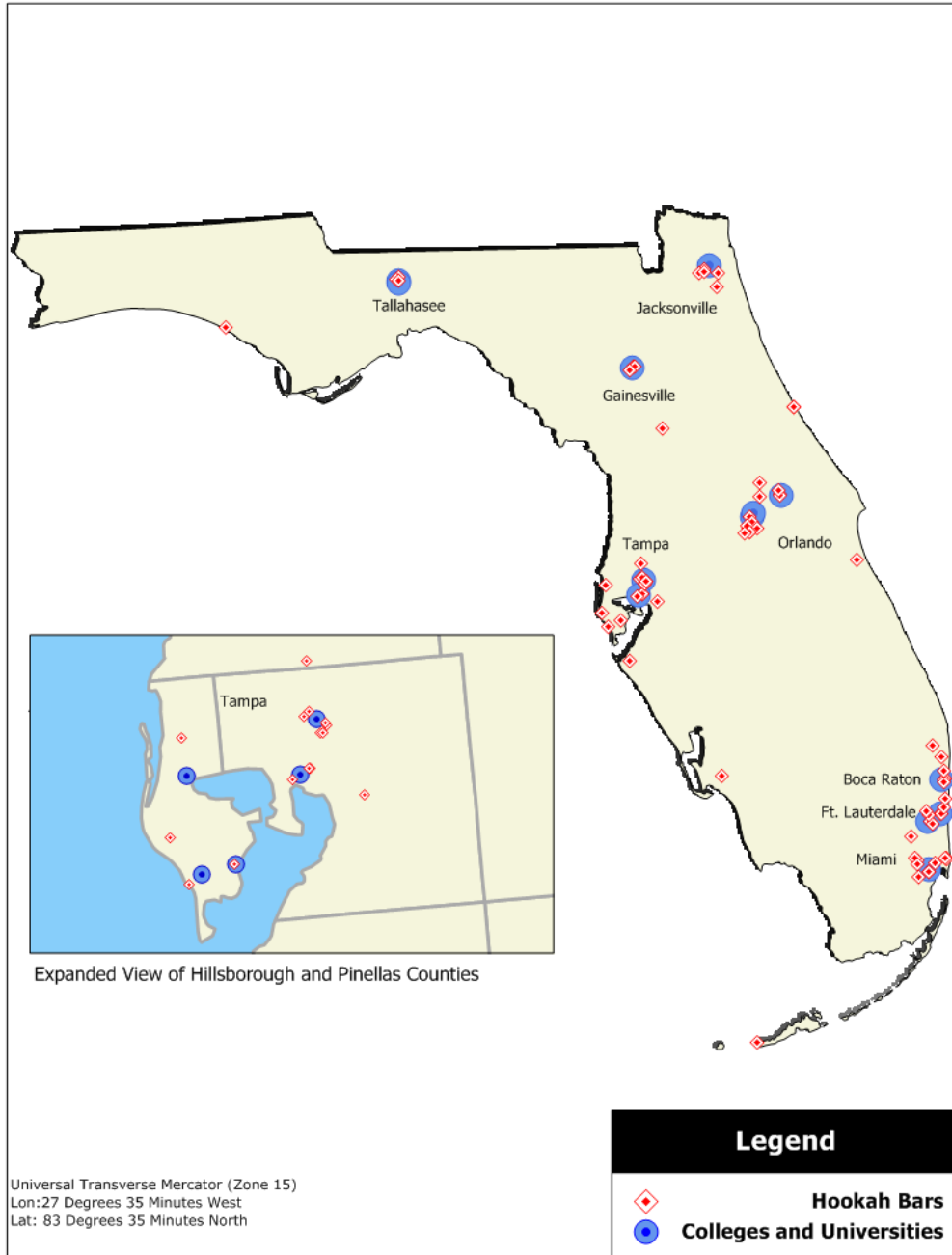


4. HOOKAH SMOKING PREVALENCE IN FLORIDA

74 hookah bars with active tobacco retailer licenses were identified in Florida.

47 of those businesses are located within 10 miles of University campuses.

Figure 4-1. Layout of Hookah bars and University campuses In Florida



5. CONCLUSION

There is an upward trend in the life time use of hookah among Floridian adults, and the prevalence is highest among young adults ages 18 - 24 (24.2%). Moreover, the prevalence of hookah use appears to be increasing among high school students in Florida.

Although data on hookah bar establishments in Florida are incomplete, it appears that the majority of hookah bars are situated in urban areas, with a large percentage residing within close proximity to university and college campuses.

6. REFERENCE

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