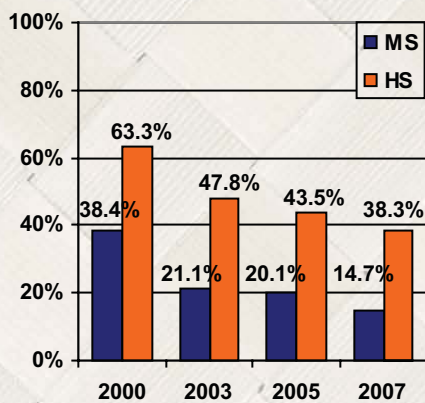


# YOUTH TOBACCO USE

## Youth Cigarette Smoking

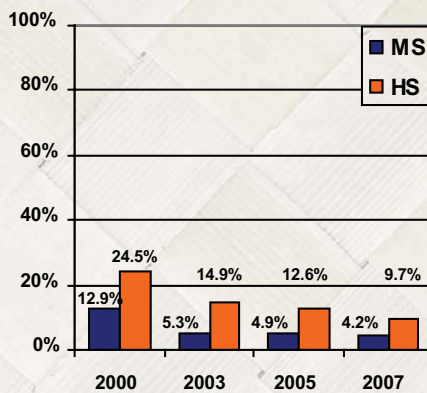
In 2000, almost two-thirds (63.3%) of high school students reported they had tried smoking, yet by 2007, fewer than half (38.3%) had ever tried a cigarette, even one or two puffs (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Percent of Middle and High School Students who have Ever Tried Smoking, YTS 2000, 2003, 2005 & 2007**



Similarly, while almost one-quarter of high school students were current smokers in 2000, by 2007 only about one-tenth had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days. These trends were mirrored among middle school students where the percentage who ever tried smoking decreased from 38.4% in 2000 to 14.7% in 2007 and the percentage who currently smoked decreased from 12.9% in 2000 to 4.2% in 2007 (Figure 4).

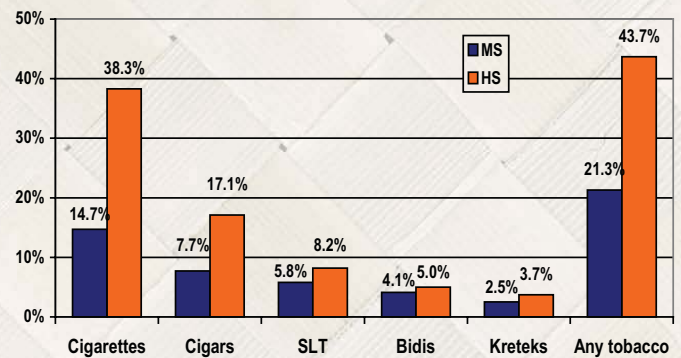
**Figure 4. Percent of Middle and High School Students who have Smoked in the Past Month, YTS 2000, 2003, 2005 & 2007**



## Other Youth Tobacco Use

While cigarettes remain the most widely used form of tobacco among Hawai'i youth, 8% of middle school and 17% high school students have reported trying smoking cigars, and about 6% or 8% respectively have tried smokeless tobacco (SLT) such as chewing tobacco, snuff or dip (Figure 5). Among high school students, 5.7% currently smoke cigars and less than 4% smoke pipes or bidis or use smokeless tobacco. Among middle school students less than 3% use any of the above forms of tobacco.

**Figure 5. Ever Used Tobacco Products by Middle and High School Students, YTS 2007**



## Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors

Each year, a series of compliance checks is conducted in accordance with a nationally standardized methodology to assess the rate of illegal sales to minors. Since 1996, the rate of illegal sales in Hawai'i has fallen from 44.5% to under 6% from 2005–2007, but jumped to 11.2% in 2008.

**Figure 6. Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors, Synar 1996–2008**

