Use of any Tobacco Products among High School Students on a Downward Trend

Although much attention is focused on cigarettes, young people have access to other tobacco products including cigars, smokeless tobacco, bidis*, kretexks*, and hookah*. The use of other tobacco products among students is tracked using the New York Youth Tobacco Survey.

- From 2000 to 2010, use of any tobacco product among high school students decreased from 33.6% to 21.2%, a 37% decline.
- The largest declines occurred in use of bidis (-64%), kretexks (-60%), cigarettes (-53%), and cigars (-34%). The use of smokeless tobacco products remained static during this time. Use of hookah showed no significant change from 2008 to 2010, the only time period for which data are available.
- The use of any tobacco products by middle school students showed a similar decline of 54%, from a high of 13.1% in 2000 to 6.0% in 2010 (data not shown).

*Bidis are small brown cigarettes from India made of tobacco wrapped in a leaf tied with a thread. Kretexks are cigarettes containing tobacco and clove extract. Hookah refers to tobacco smoked in a water pipe.

Source: New York Youth Tobacco Survey 2000-2010. Questions on hookah use were not added until 2008. Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or type ‘StatShot’ in the subject line of an e-mail and send it to tcp@health.state.ny.us.