

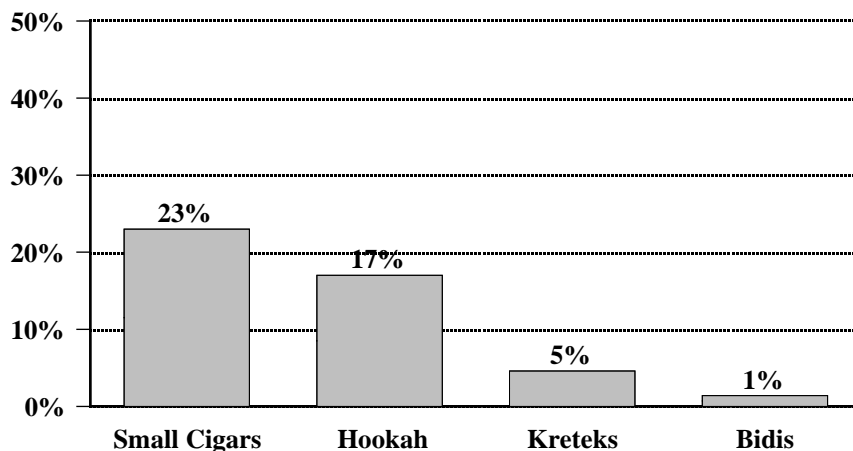
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Around One-Fifth of U.S. High School Seniors Report Using Small Cigars or Hookah in the Past Year

While cigarettes continue to be the most prevalent form of tobacco used among 12th graders, a significant number report using other types of tobacco products. Questions about smoking small cigars and smoking tobacco using a hookah water pipe were included in the national *Monitoring the Future* survey for the first time in 2010. More than one-fifth (23%) of 12th graders reported smoking small cigars* in the past year, and 17% reported smoking tobacco in a hookah water pipe. Less frequently used tobacco products were kreteks (clove cigarettes) and bidis (small brown flavored cigarettes wrapped in tendu leaf). These alternative tobacco products, which are inexpensive and trendy, may be assumed to be safer than regular cigarettes. Like all tobacco products, however, multiple health risks are associated with their use.** *Monitoring the Future* researchers “will continue to monitor these . . . forms of tobacco consumption to see if they represent a growing problem among youth” (p. 4).

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting
Past Year Use of Tobacco Products, 2010**



*Small cigars are cigars that resemble cigarettes in size, shape, and packaging. They may or may not have filters, and are sold in packs of five, 10 or 20.

**See *CESAR FAX*, Volume 17, Issues 22 and 23 for more information about smoking tobacco with a hookah. See *CESAR FAX*, Volume 8, Issue 41 for more information on bidis).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Smoking Stops Declining and Shows Signs of Increasing Among Younger Teens,” *Press Release*, 12/14/2010. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/10data.html#2010data-cigs>.