

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

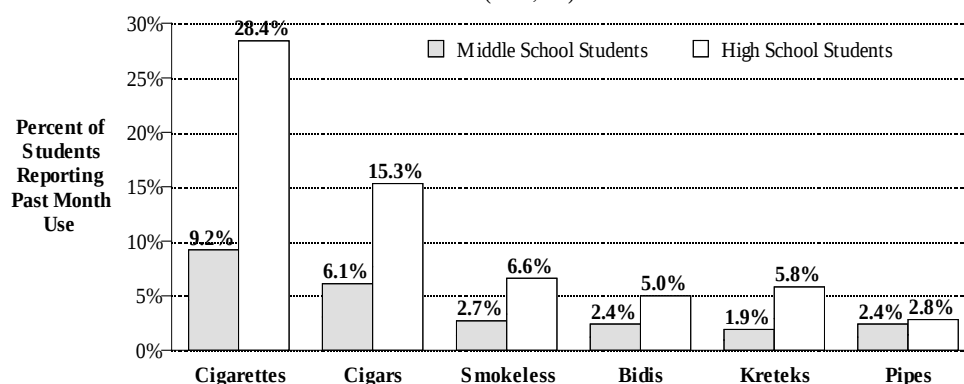
University of Maryland, College Park

Bidi and Kretek Cigarettes Are Emerging Public Health Problem Among Students

The National Youth Tobacco Survey, conducted in the fall of 1999, found that 12.8% of middle school and 34.8% of high school students used some type of tobacco in the month prior to the survey. Among both middle and high school students, cigarettes were the most prevalent type of tobacco used, followed by cigars and smokeless tobacco. The survey, which is the first to measure current tobacco use among a national sample of middle school students, found that use of novel tobacco products such as bidis and kreteks is an emerging public health problem. The use of bidis (small brown cigarettes wrapped in tendu or temburni leaf that come in a variety of flavors) and kreteks (clove cigarettes) is nearly equal to that of smokeless tobacco. Bidis and kreteks, which are inexpensive and trendy, are often assumed to be safer than regular cigarettes. Like all tobacco products, however, they are carcinogenic (see *CESAR FAX* Vol. 8, Issue 41 for more information on bidis).

**Percentage of U.S. Middle and High School Students
Reporting Past Month Tobacco Use, 1999**

(n=15,058)



NOTE: This survey was of a nationally representative sample of 15,058 middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students in 131 schools.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students--United States, 1999." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 49(03):49-53, January 28, 2000. Available online at www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4903a1.htm.

University of Maryland Student Drug Survey Report Now Available

Contact CESAR at 301-403-8329 (phone), 301-403-8342 (fax), or cesar@cesar.umd.edu for your complimentary copy of the *University of Maryland College Park 1998 Student Drug Survey*. The report is also available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/www2root/prod/images/98umcp.pdf>.

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