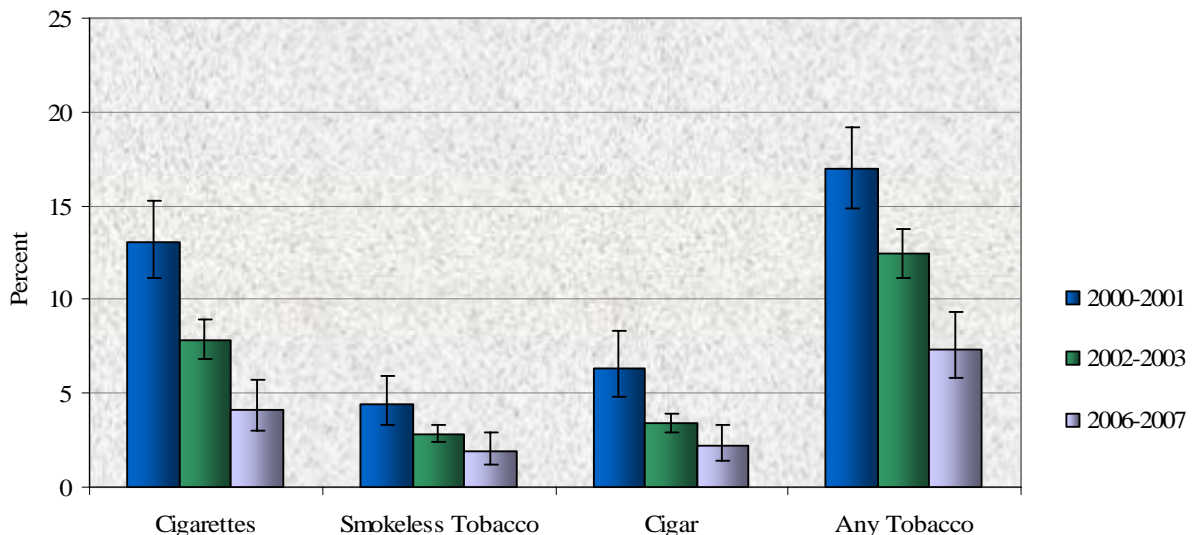


5. Youth Tobacco Use

Cigarette use among Pennsylvania students dropped significantly between the Youth Tobacco Survey of school year 2002-2003 and the subsequent survey conducted in school year 2006-2007, in both high schools and middle schools. This continues the progress seen between 2001 and 2003 of reduced student cigarette use then. The number of middle school students who used smokeless tobacco or cigars during the past month has also trended downward during this six-year period (Chart 5-1). High school students (Chart 5-2), though, are not showing as dramatic a reduction in use of other tobacco products.

When asked about quitting, nearly 50 percent of students who smoke in both high school and middle school said that they wanted to quit. Additionally, about seven out of ten middle school students and six of ten high school students had stopped smoking one or more days in the past year because they were trying to quit. These numbers have not changed significantly during this time period.

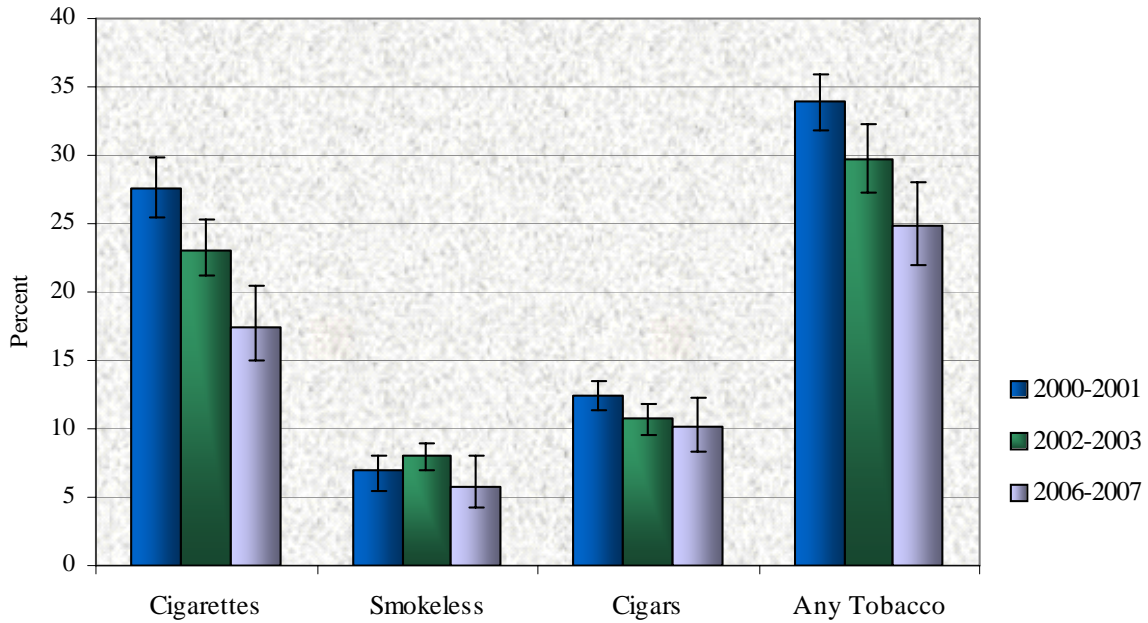
Chart 5-1. Percentage of Current Tobacco Use* Among Middle School Students (Grades 6-8) Pennsylvania, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, and 2006-2007



Source: Pennsylvania Youth Tobacco Survey, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, and 2006-2007, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control.

* Current tobacco use is using a tobacco product on one or more days of the past 30 days prior to the survey. Any tobacco includes cigarettes, smokeless, cigars, pipes, bidis, and kreteks. I denotes 95% confidence interval.

Chart 5-2. Percentage of Current Tobacco Use* Among High School Students (Grades 9-12) Pennsylvania, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, and 2006-2007



Source: Pennsylvania Youth Tobacco Survey, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, and 2006-2007, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control.

* Current tobacco use is using a tobacco product on one or more days of the past 30 days prior to the survey. Any tobacco includes cigarettes, smokeless, cigars, pipes, bidis, and kreteks. I denotes 95% confidence interval.