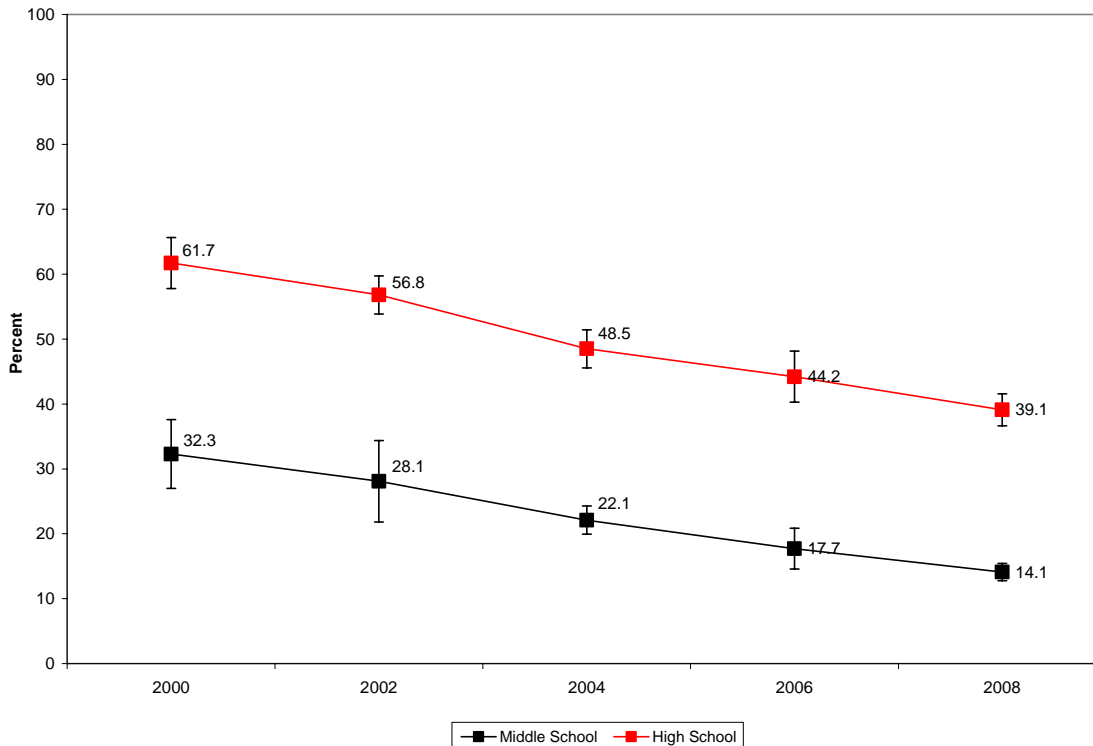


**Fewer Teens Are Experimenting With Cigarettes:
 A Promising Outcome**

Current smoking among teens puts them at risk for becoming adult smokers. In the same way, a leading indicator of current smoking among teens is the percentage of teens experimenting with cigarettes, defined as taking even one or two puffs. Reductions in experimenting with cigarettes are a promising sign that smoking will continue to decrease in young adults and adults.

- The percentage of middle school students reporting ever having tried a cigarette (even one or two puffs) decreased 53% from 32% in 2000 to 14% in 2008.
- The percentage of high school students who ever tried a cigarette decreased 37% from 62% in 2000 to 39% in 2008.

**Percentage of Middle and High School Students
 Who Report Ever Having Tried a Cigarette**



Source: New York State Youth Survey, 2000-2008

Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance, 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.