

---

# Prevalence of Smoking Among Youth Incarcerated in VA 1999-2003

---

<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth McGarvey EdD, <sup>2</sup>Dennis Waite PhD,  
<sup>1</sup>Ruth Gaare Bernheim JD & <sup>1</sup>Claudia Linares MS

<sup>1</sup>University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences,  
Division of Health Policy & Practice, Charlottesville, VA

<sup>2</sup>Waite Consulting LCC, Richmond, VA

---

# Overview

- Tobacco smoking rates among U.S. youth in national surveys are likely to under-report actual use among the youth population.
- Reasons include the significant numbers of youth who are homeless, out-of-school due to 'drop out', are in detention or incarcerated across the U.S., with no opportunity to participate in school-based surveys (and perhaps little interest) .
- Prevention programs to reduce tobacco use do not typically target these groups.

---

# Purpose of the Study

- Determine the prevalence rate of cigarette smoking among the youth population incarcerated in the State of Virginia.
- Examine the differences in smoking prevalence by sex, age and race.
- Compare prevalence rates among incarcerated youth in Virginia and youth responding to the National School Survey (Monitoring the Future)

---

# Trends in National Smoking Rates

- -There have been important declines in smoking rates since 1996 among school students. Despite this improvement, 25% of young Americans are current smokers. (Monitoring the Future, 2004).
- -Statewide Tobacco control programs focused on reducing per capita decline of tobacco consumption. (Surgeon's General Report, 2000)
- The prevalence of life time cigarette use was stable during 1991-1999 and then declined significantly from 70.4% in 1999 to 54.3% in 2005.(CDC)

# Characteristics of Youth Incarcerated in Virginia over Multiple Years (N = 6,755)

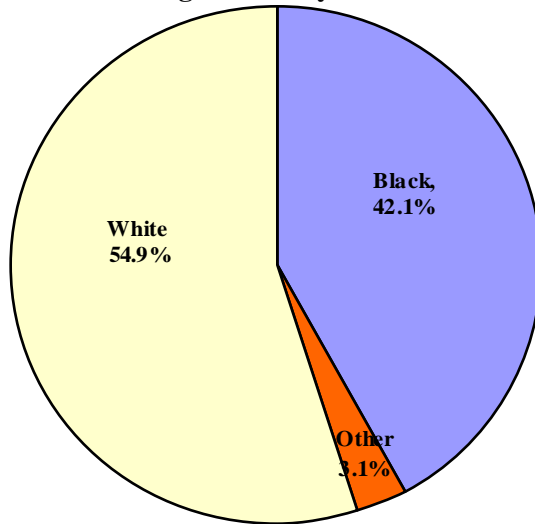
Sex	Male	88.1
	Female	10.9
Race	White	34.7
	Black	60
	Other	5.2
Age Mean = 16.37 STD = 1.22	under 12 (n = 51)	0.8
	13-14 (n = 211)	3.37
	14-15 (n = 631)	10.08
	15-16 (n = 1216)	19.43
	16-17 (n = 18720)	29.9
	17-18 (n = 2065)	32.99
	More than 18 (n = 213)	3.4

# Smoking Profile of Youth Incarcerated in Virginia over Multiple Years (N = 6,210)

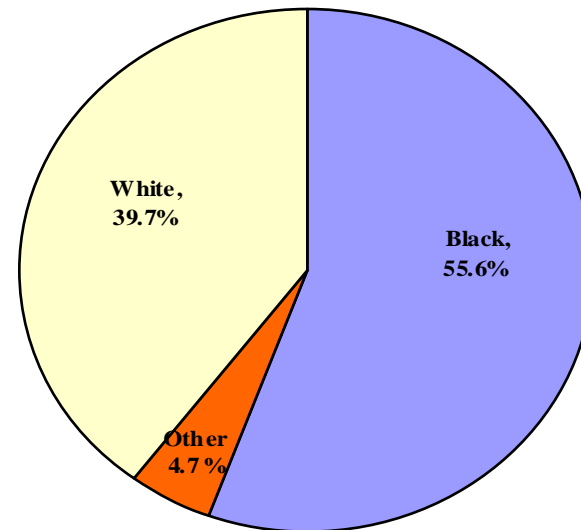
Ever smoke cigarettes (total)	Yes	70.0
	No	30.0
Ever smoke by Race	Black (n = 3740)	62.3
	White (n =2159)	83.0
	Other (n =264)	73.9
Ever smoke by Sex	Female (n = 673)	77.7
	Male (n = 5490)	69.1
Starting Age smoking regularly (3+ times/week; n =4,127) Mean = 9.06 STD = 6.27	Less than 7 (n = 31)	0.8
	7-9 (n = 213)	5.2
	10-12 (n = 1209)	29.3
	13-15(n = 2277)	55.2
	16-18 (n = 385)	9.3
	More than 18 (n = 2)	0.0
Number of Packs/day	None (n = 2449)	39.8
	Less than half (n =1520)	24.7
	Half to One(n = 1441)	23.4
	More than One (n = 740)	12.0

# Distribution by Race Among Smokers - Youth Incarcerated VA

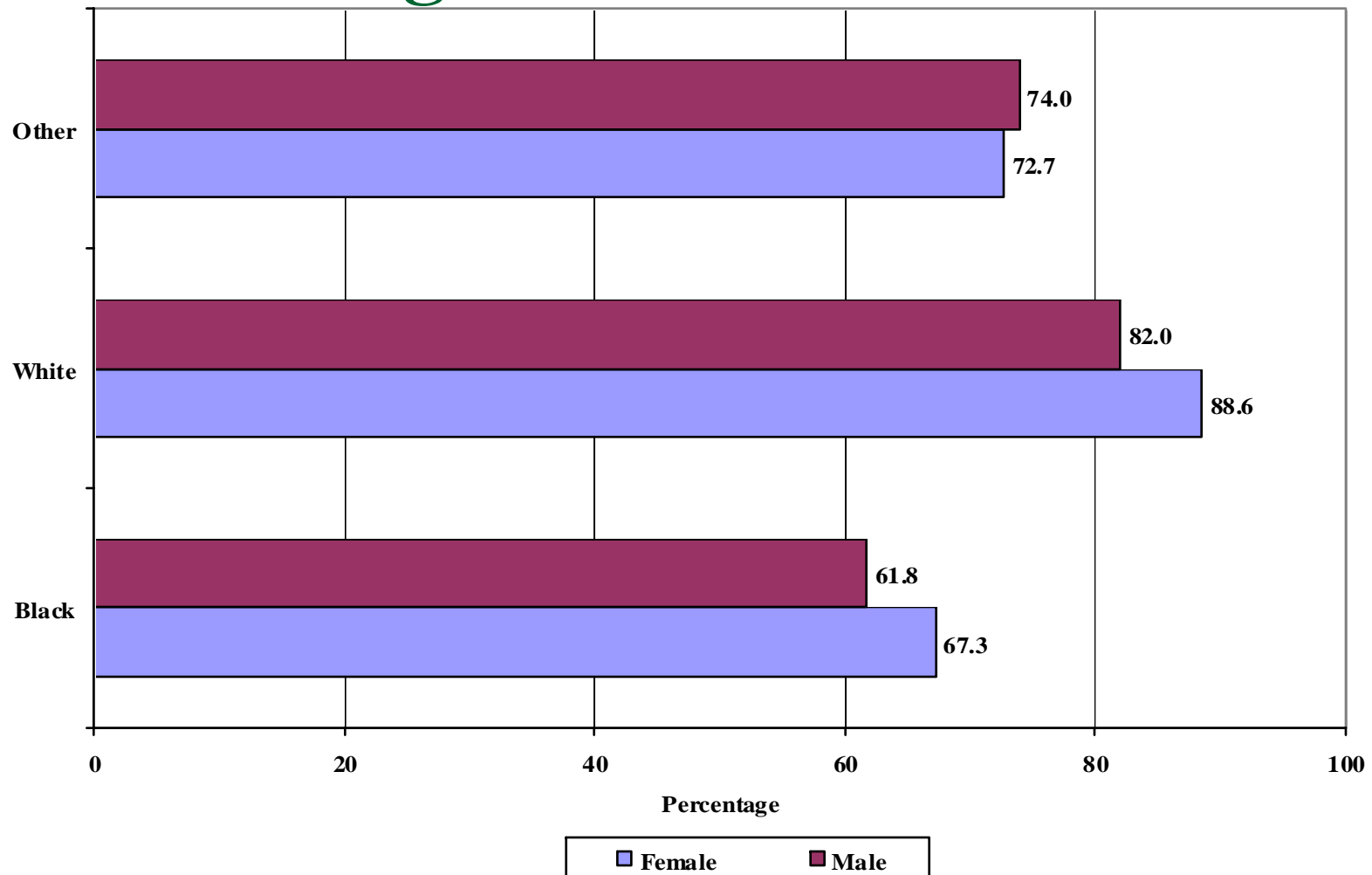
Smoking Female by Race



Smoking Male by Race

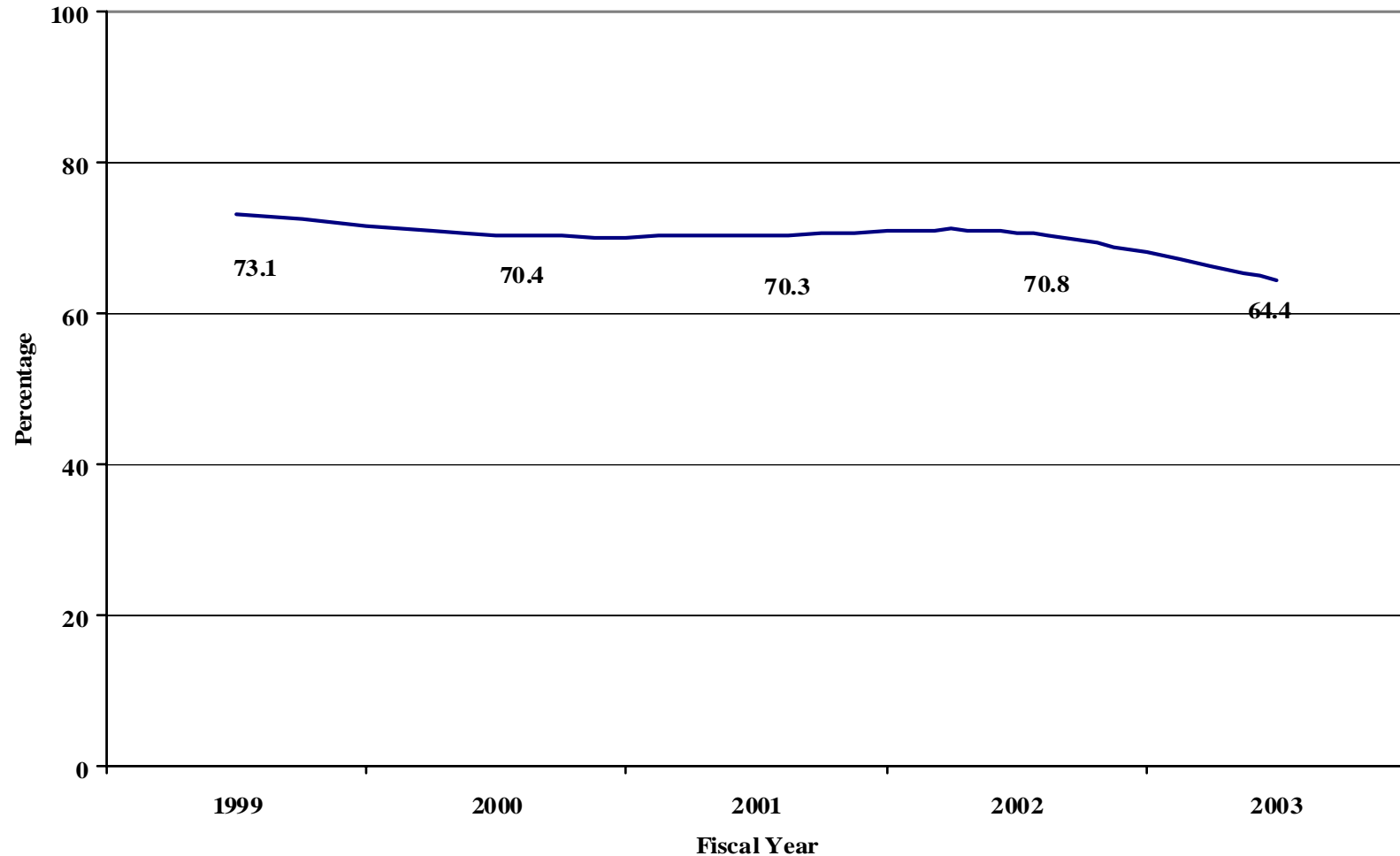


# Distribution by Sex Among Races Smoking Youth Incarcerated VA

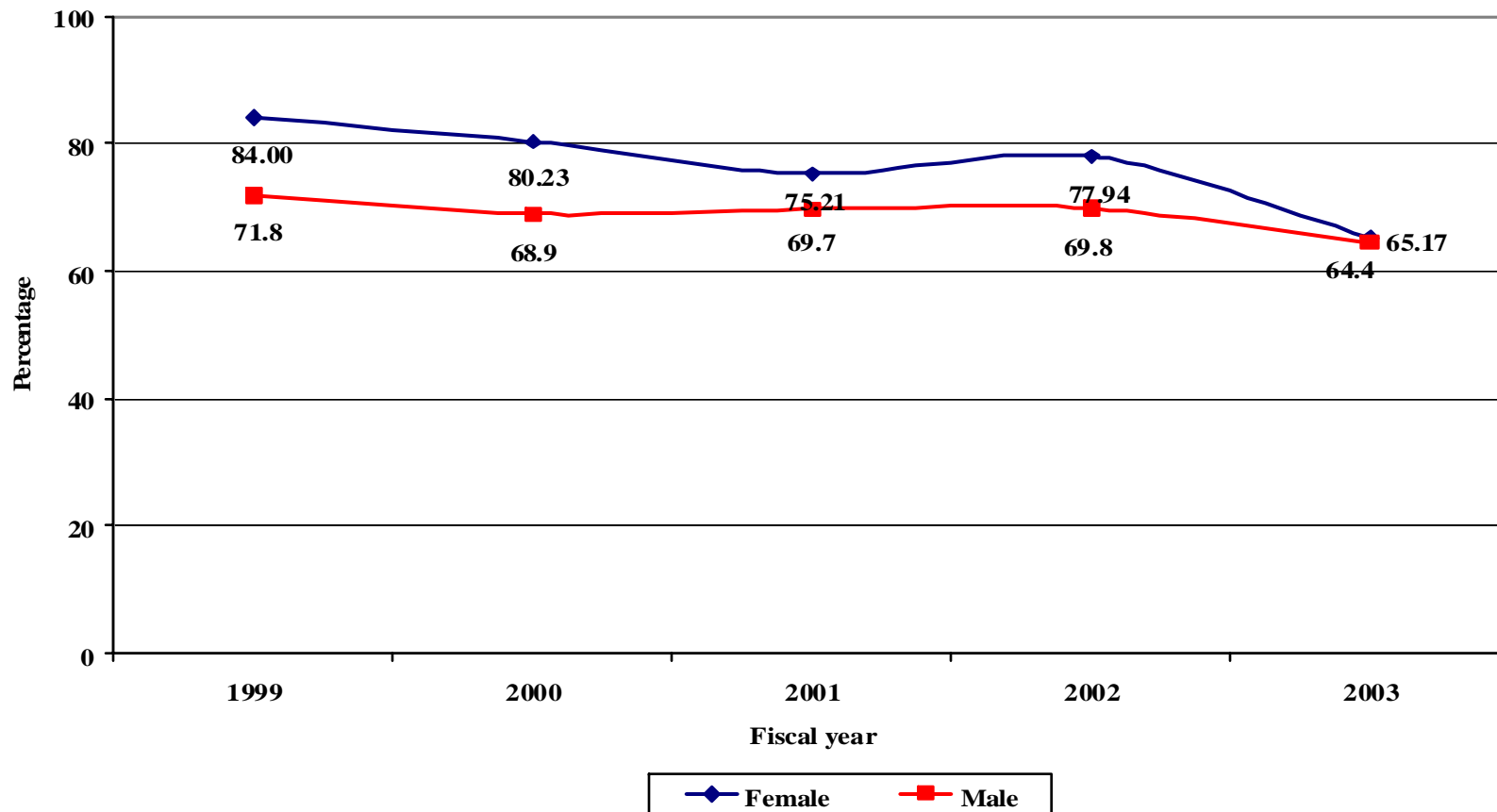




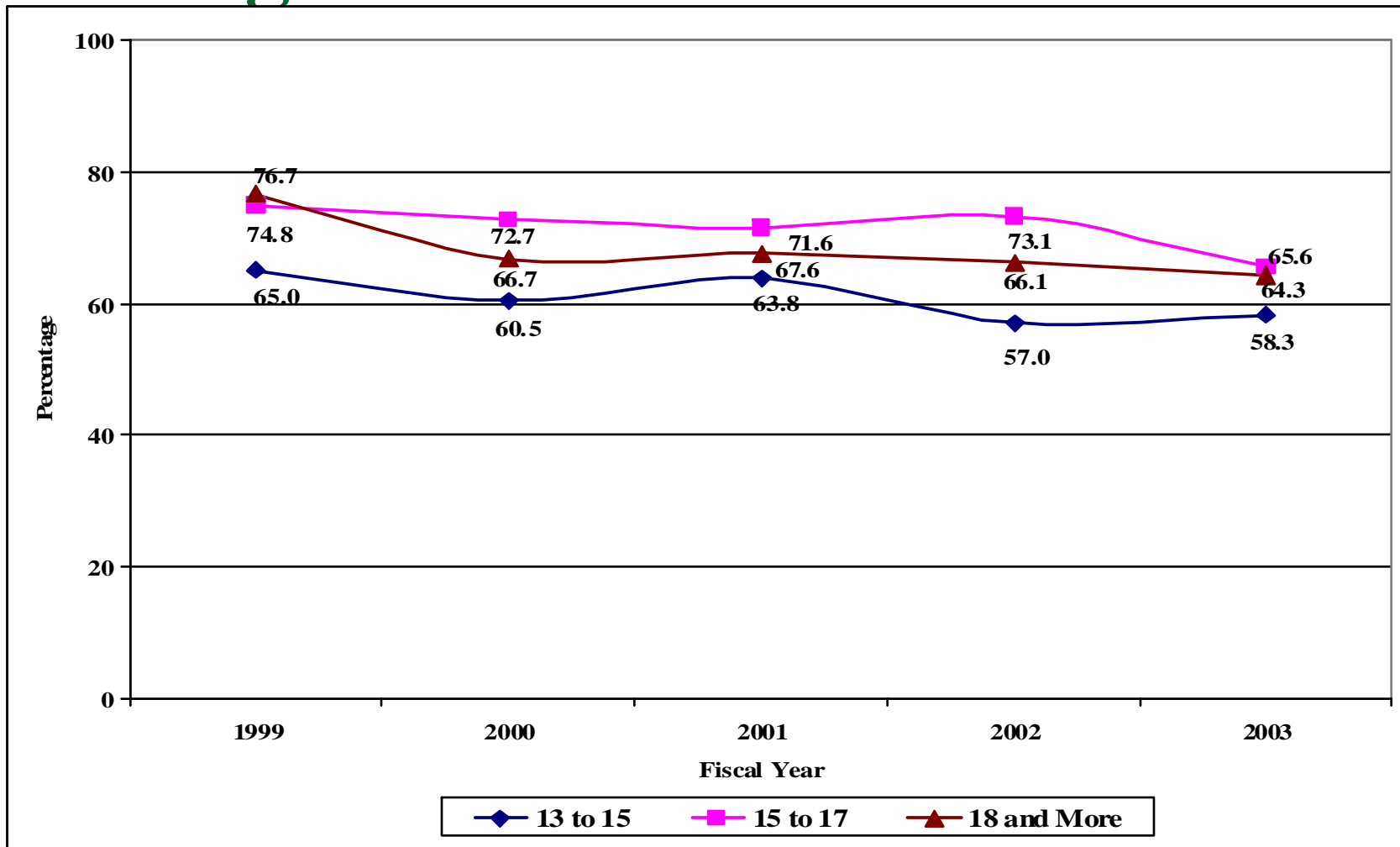
# Smoking Prevalence Among Youth Incarcerated in VA 1999-2003



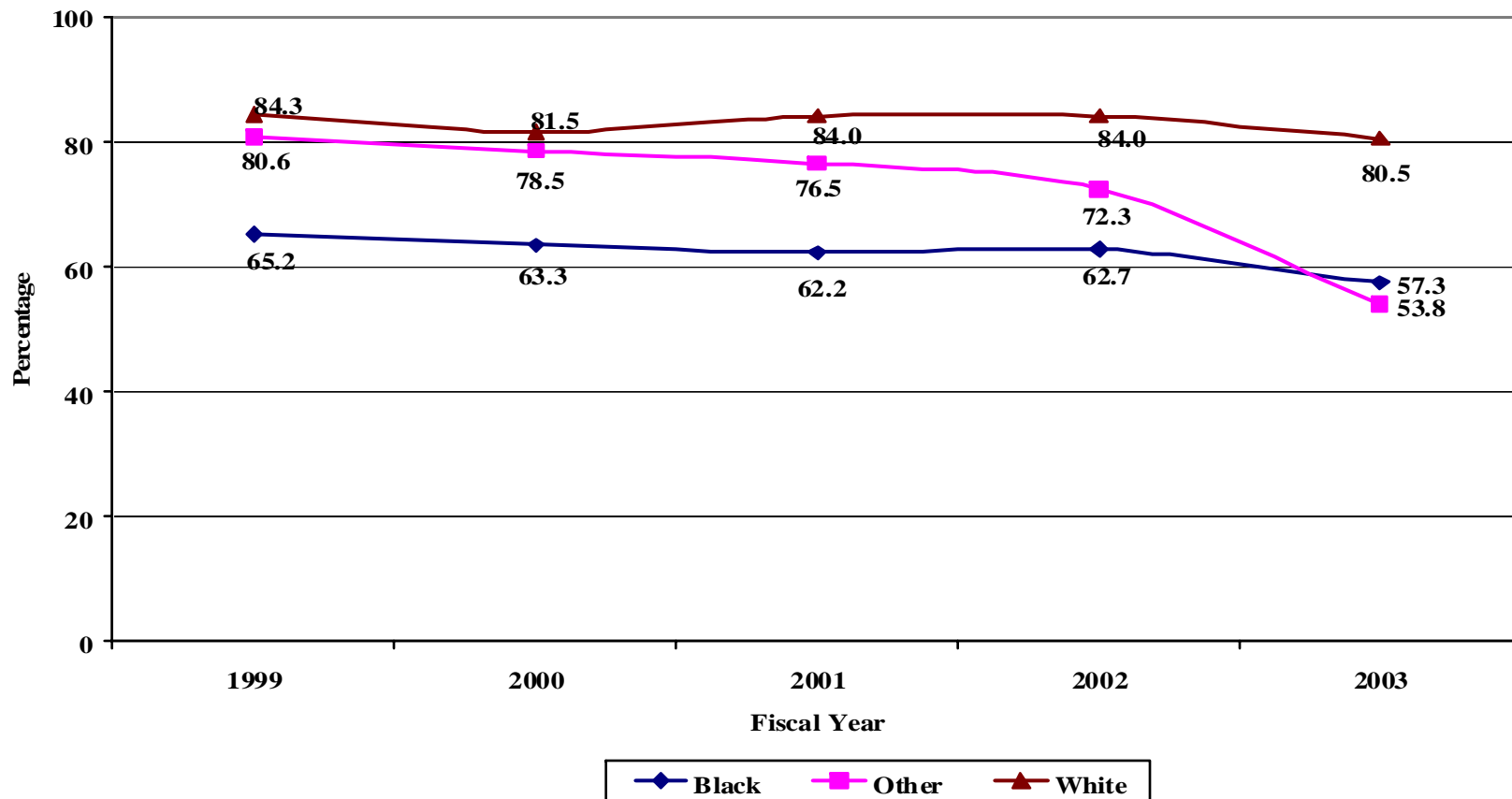
# Smoking Prevalence by Sex Among Youth Incarcerated in VA 1999-2003



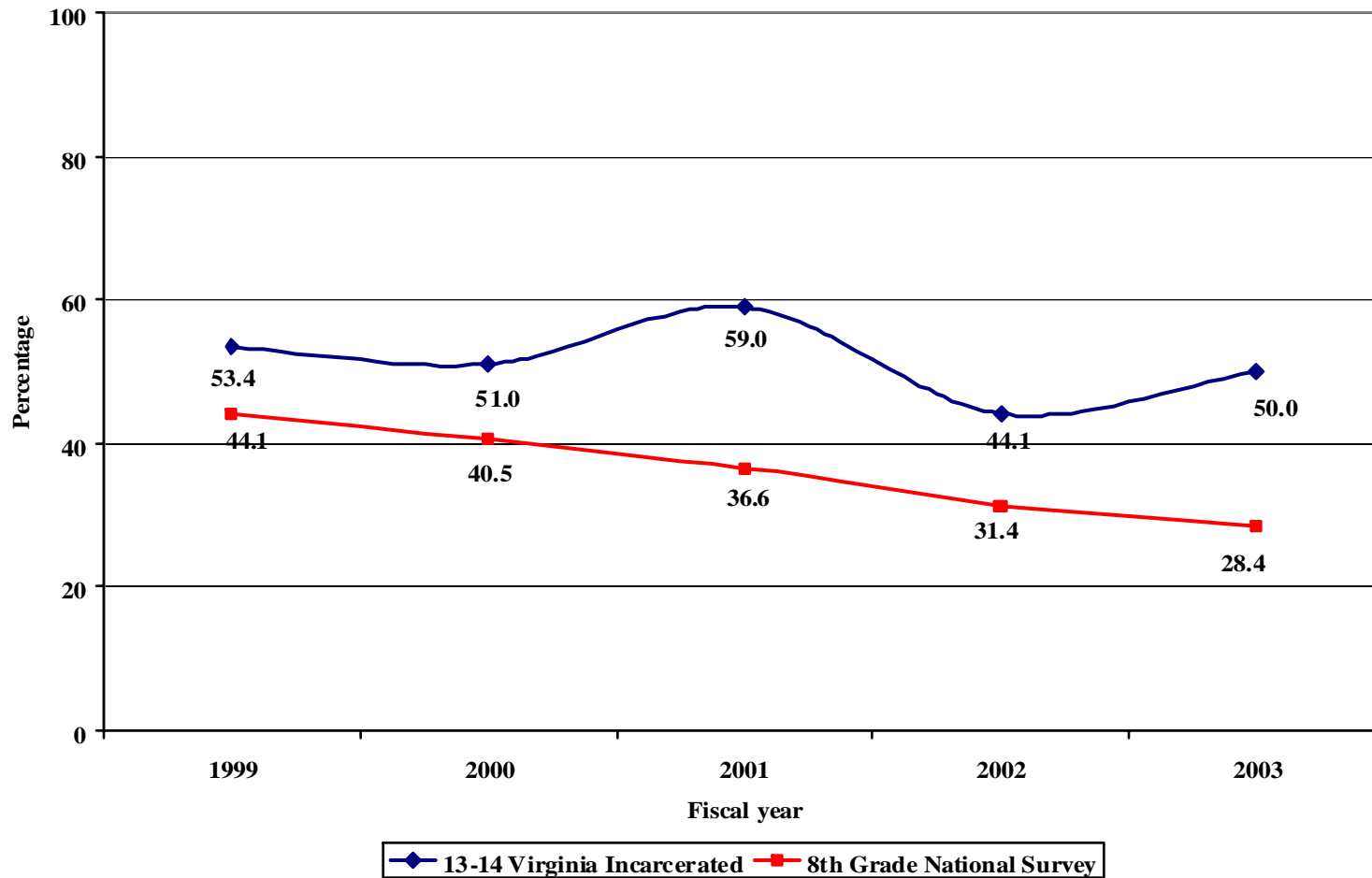
# Smoking Prevalence by Age Groups Among Youth Incarcerated 1999-2003



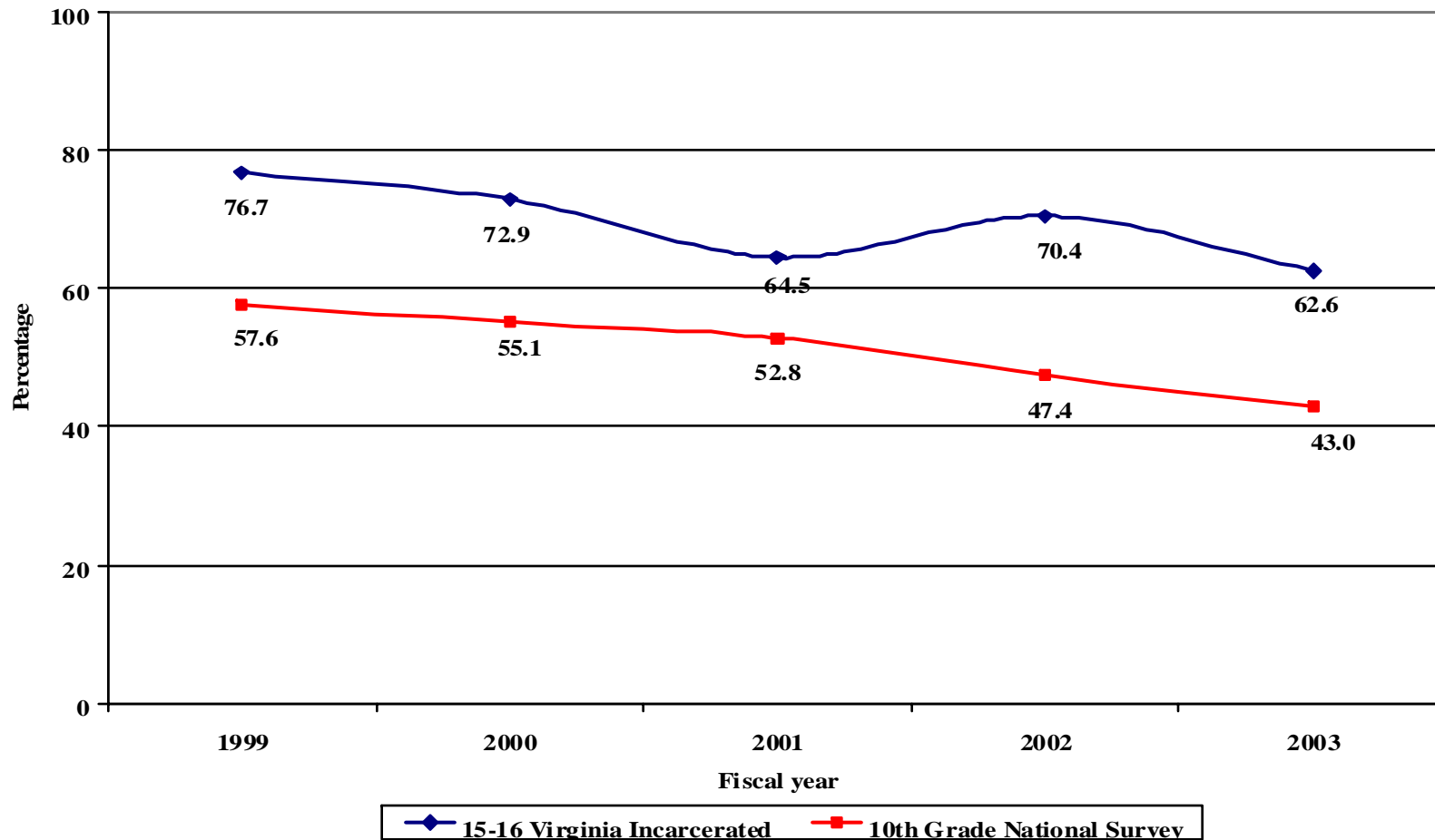
# Smoking Prevalence by Race Among Youth Incarcerated in VA 1999-2003



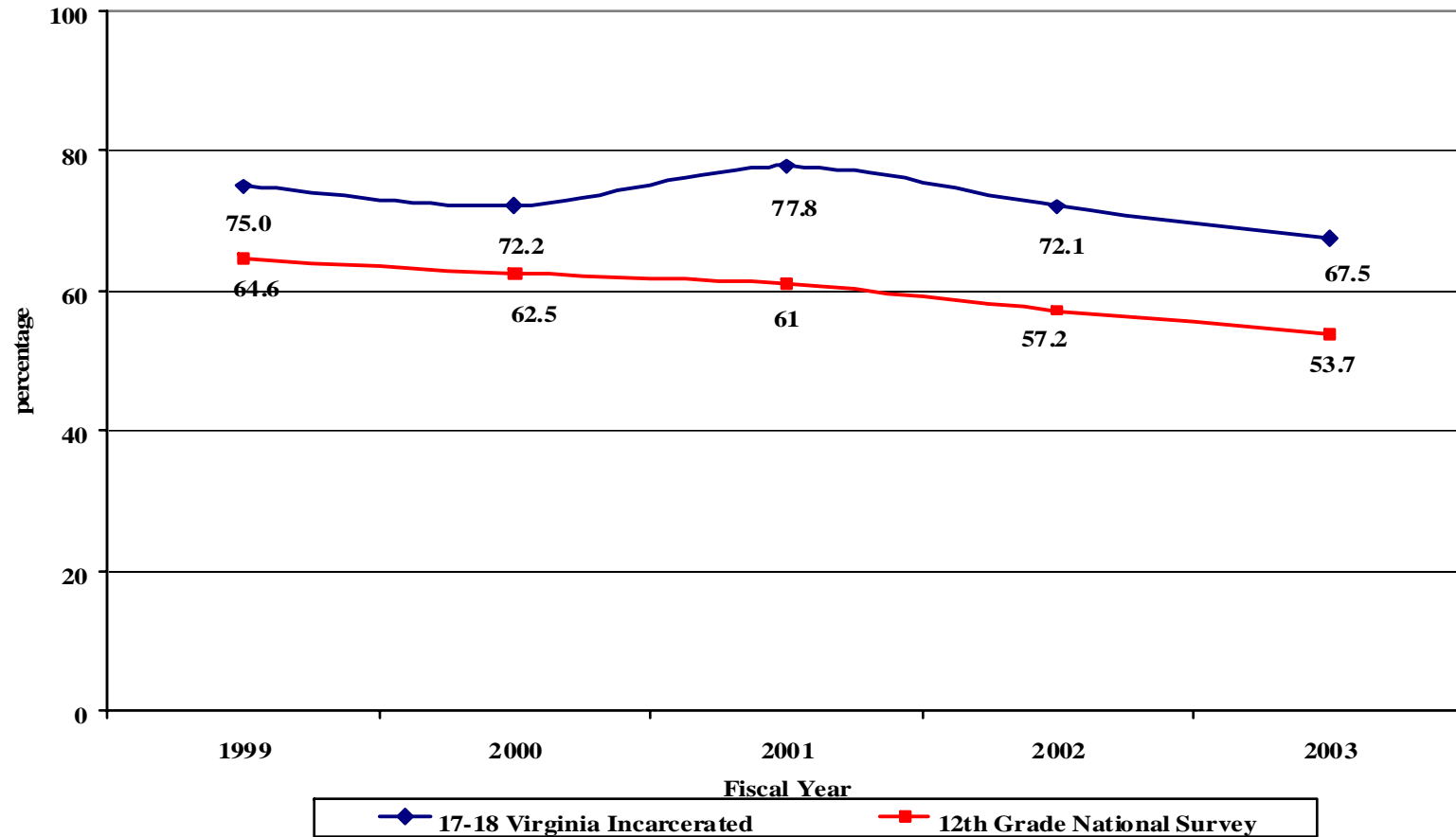
# Prevalence of Tobacco Use National Survey vs. VA Incarcerated Youth 13-14 Years old Only



# Prevalence of Tobacco Use National Survey vs. VA Incarcerated Youth 15-16 Years old Only



# Prevalence of Tobacco Use National Survey vs. VA Incarcerated Youth 17-18 Years old Only



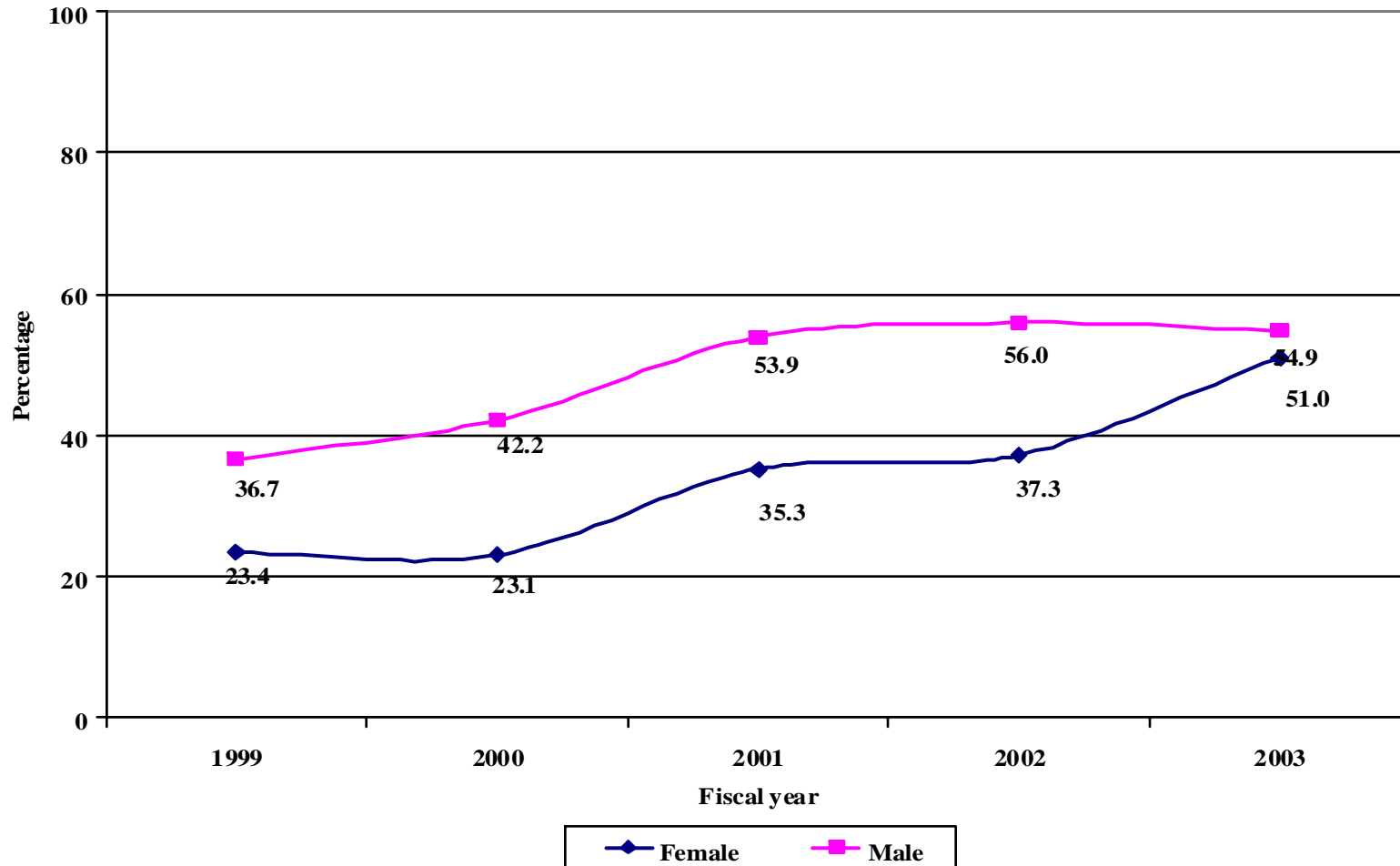
---

# Main Targets of Youth Smoke Free Policies

- 1. Tobacco use by peers and family members
  - Smoking Prevention Programs for Youth are mostly school based.
  - Almost half of incarcerated youth were in school at the time of their commitment and only 14.5% attended regularly or had their GED.
- 2. Tobacco Advertising and Promotion
- 3. Access to tobacco products



# Percentage of VA Youth Incarcerated Not in School at Commitment by Sex



---

# Main Conclusions (1)

- The reduction in prevalence of smoking is higher among females than males.
- All age groups decreased their prevalence smoking rate. Youth incarcerated between 15-17 years old have higher prevalence.
- Among incarcerated youth, decreasing prevalence is more notable among black and other racial groups than white youth.

---

## Main Conclusions (2)

- Prevalence of tobacco smoking among youth in VA who are out of public school during time of incarceration, and not represented in national school substance abuse surveys, are higher and more cyclical than those of adolescents in schools.
  - Surveys on youth smoking, like the Monitoring the Future survey, give a snapshot of the most highly functioning youth in the country.
  - Smoke free policies based on the national smoking rates are more oriented to youth attending school.
-