

Self-Injury and Suicide Ideation and Attempts Among Florida Public High School Students



Results from the 2009 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

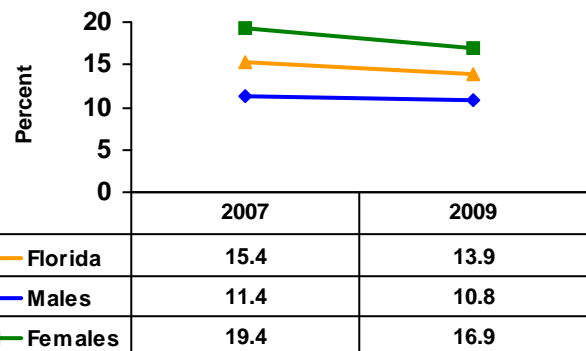
Fact Sheet 3

Introduction

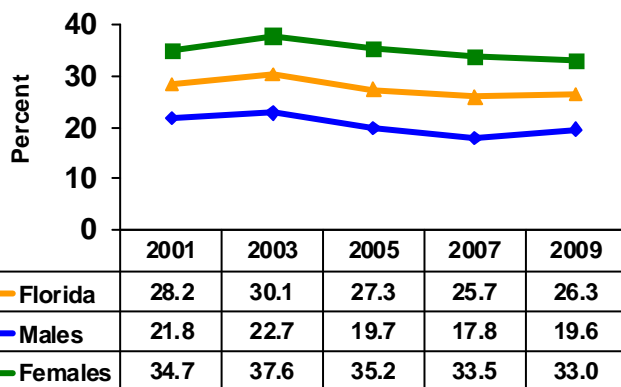
The Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a self-administered, school-based anonymous survey that has been conducted in Florida public high schools every two years since 1991. It is part of a national survey effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth in the United States. In 2009, 5,684 students in 80 public high schools in Florida completed the YRBS. The overall response rate was 71%. Since 2001, the response rate has been high enough for the data to be weighted to represent all Florida public high school students.

Self-injured, without wanting to die*

In 2009, approximately 106,730 students (13.9%) did something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose, one or more times during the past 12 months. Females (16.9%) were more likely than males (10.8%) to purposely hurt themselves.



*Question first asked in 2007

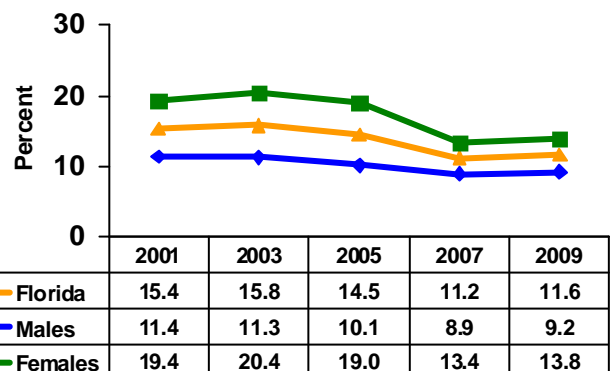


Felt sad or hopeless and stopped doing some usual activities

In 2009, approximately 202,200 students (26.3%) felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2009. Males consistently had a lower prevalence of this behavior than females.

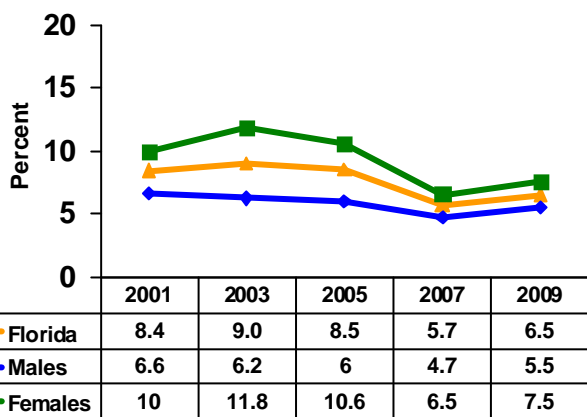
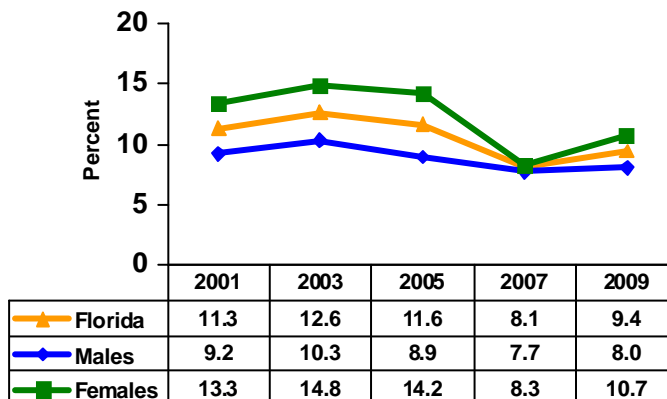
Considered attempting suicide

In 2009, approximately 89,400 students (11.6%) seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months. This prevalence decreased by 24.7% from 2001 to 2008. Males consistently had a lower prevalence of this behavior than females.



Made a plan of how to commit suicide

In 2009, approximately 71,500 students (9.4%) made a plan about how they would commit suicide during the past 12 months. This prevalence decreased by 28.3% from 2001 to 2007, but increased from 2007 to 2009. Males had a significantly lower prevalence of this behavior than females in all years except 2007.

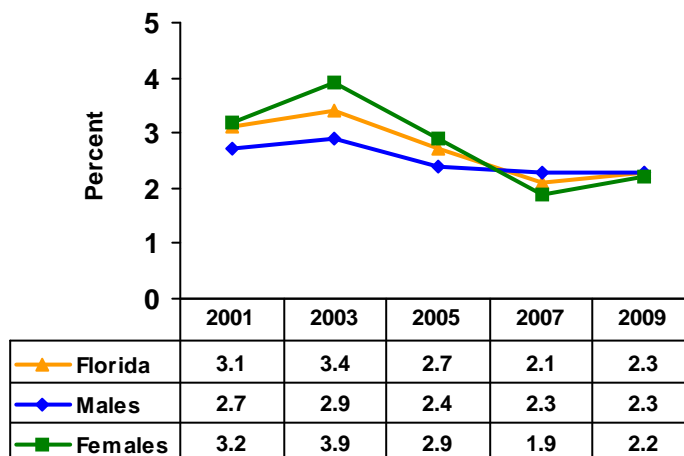


Attempted suicide

In 2009, approximately 45,300 students (6.5%) attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months. This prevalence decreased by 32.1% from 2001 to 2007, but increased from 2007 to 2009. Males consistently had a lower prevalence of this behavior than females.

Medical attention was required

In 2009, approximately 15,500 students (2.3%) attempted a suicide that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months. This prevalence decreased by 32.3% from 2001 to 2009. The prevalence of this indicator did not differ significantly by gender in 2009.



For more information about the YRBS, please contact Ms. Jamie Weitz, M.S., Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, Ext. 2424, or by e-mail at Jamie.Weitz@doh.state.fl.us or visit our website at: <http://www.FloridaChronicDisease.org/YRBS/Intro.htm>. For an interactive database of YRBS data, visit the CDC's YRBS web site at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. This document was developed by the Bureau of Epidemiology for the Florida Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools in Cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health Project Number U87/CCU001239-02.

