

Prevention of Unintentional Injuries and Violence Among Florida Public High School Students



Results from the 2005 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

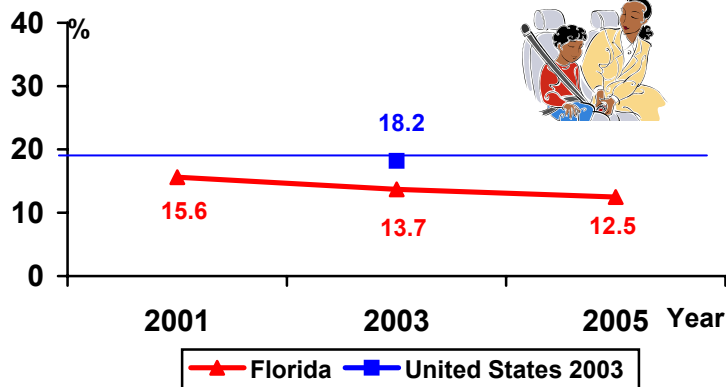
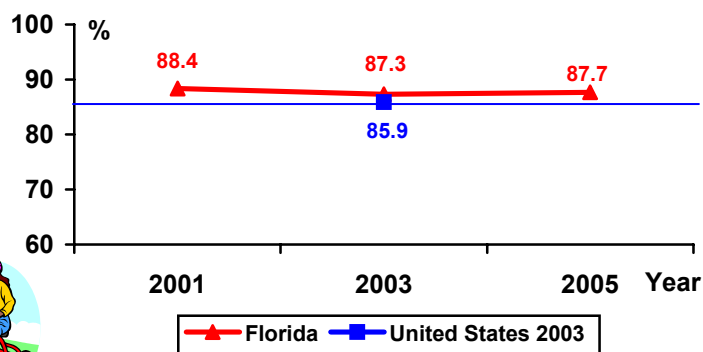
Fact Sheet 1

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 2005, 4,564 students in 75 public high schools in Florida completed the YRBS. The overall response rate was 66 percent. Since 2001, the response rate has been high enough for the data to be weighted to represent all Florida public high school students.

Never or rarely wore bicycle helmets

Among students who rode a bicycle during the past 12 months, 87.7 percent (approximately 447,000 students) never or rarely wore bicycle helmets in 2005. This prevalence was not significantly different from the 2003 national average of 85.9 percent, and did not change significantly in Florida from 2001 to 2005.

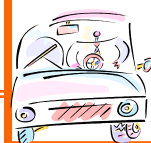
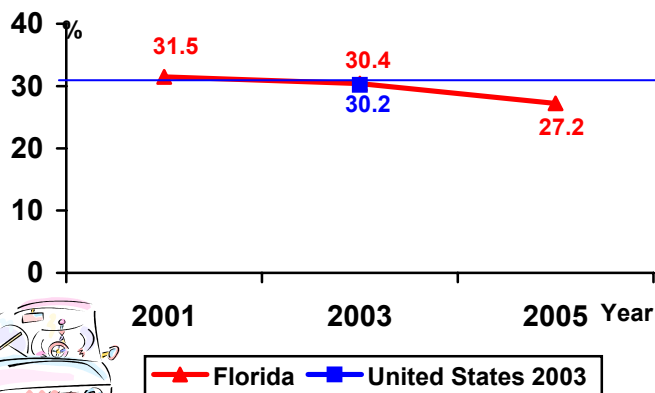


Never or rarely wore seatbelts in a vehicle driven by someone else

Among students who rode in a car driven by someone else, 12.5 percent (approximately 98,000 students) never or rarely wore a seat belt in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 19.9 percent from 2001 to 2005. Florida had a significantly lower prevalence of 12.5 percent in 2005 than the national prevalence of 18.2 percent in 2003.

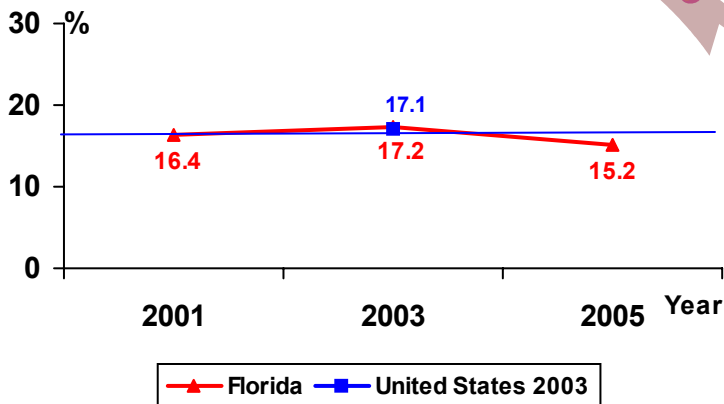
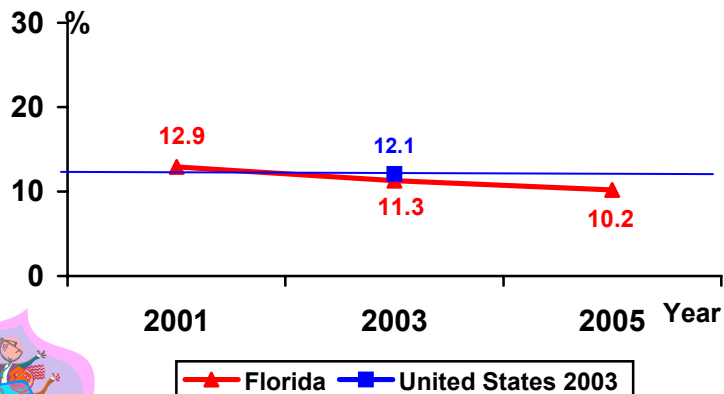
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol

In 2005, approximately 213,000 students (27.2 percent) rode in a car or other vehicle at least once during the past 30 days when someone who had been drinking alcohol was driving. This prevalence decreased significantly by 13.7 percent from 2001 to 2005. Florida had a significantly lower prevalence of 27.2 percent in 2005 than the national prevalence of 30.2 percent in 2003.



Drove after drinking alcohol

Approximately 79,000 students (10.2 percent) drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 20.9 percent from 2001 to 2005. Florida had a significantly lower prevalence of 10.2 percent in 2005 than the national prevalence of 12.1 percent in 2003.



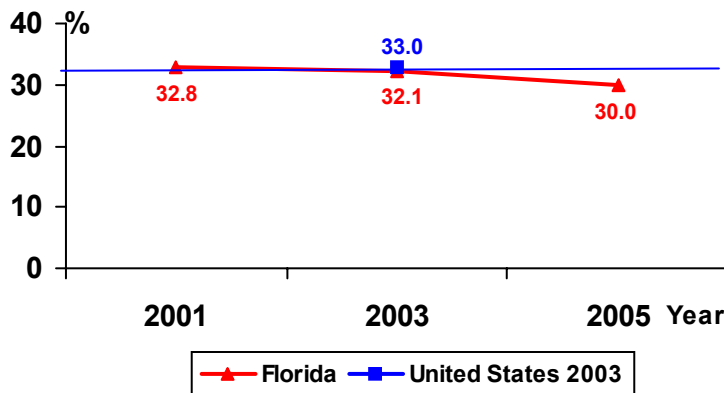
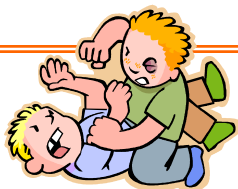
Carried a weapon

Approximately 117,000 students (15.2 percent) carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the past 30 days in 2005. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2005. The prevalence in Florida during 2001-2005 was not significantly different from the national prevalence of 17.1 percent in 2003.



Involved in a physical fight

Approximately 231,000 students (30.0 percent) were involved in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 8.5 percent from 2001 to 2005. Florida had a significantly lower percentage of 30.0 percent in 2005 than the national average of 33.0 percent in 2003.



For more information about the YRBS, please contact: Ms. Jamie Weitz, M.S., Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, extension 2424, or by e-mail at Jamie_Weitz@doh.state.fl.us; or contact Mr. Zhaohui Fan, M.P.H., Epidemiologist, at extension 2418, or by e-mail at Zhaohui_Fan@doh.state.fl.us. You can also check out our web site at: www.doh.state.fl.us. For an interactive database of YRBS data, try the CDC's YRBS web site at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs.

