

Prevention of Violence-Related Behavior on School Property Among Florida Public High School Students

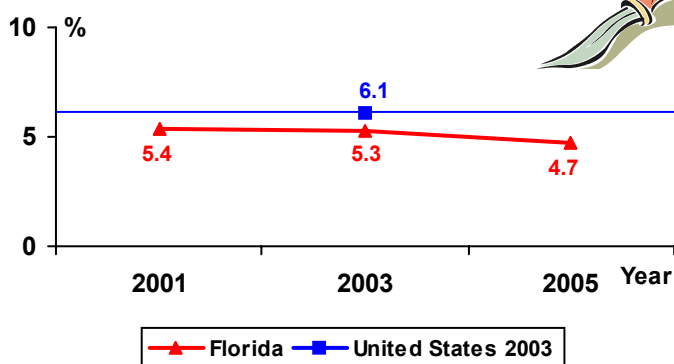


Results from the 2005 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Fact Sheet 2

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.

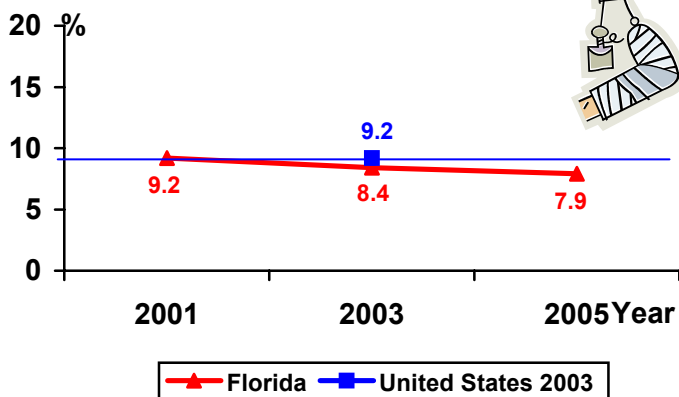
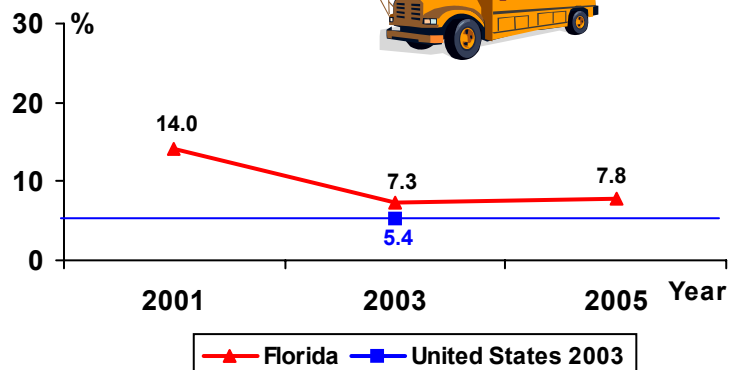


Carried a weapon on school property

Approximately 37,000 students (4.7 percent) carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property 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 significantly lower than the national prevalence of 6.1 percent in 2003.

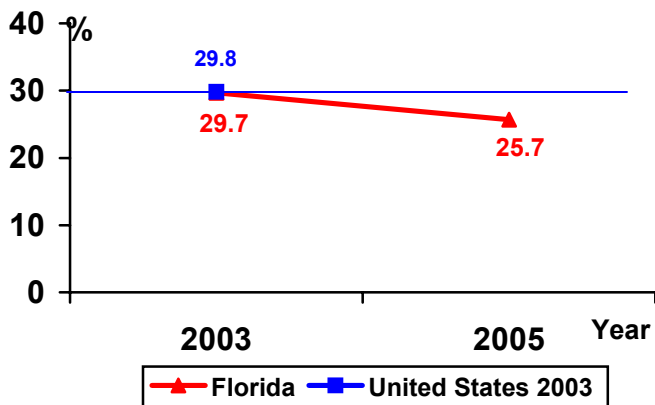
Did not go to school because of unsafe feelings

Approximately 62,000 students (7.8 percent) did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on one or more of the past 30 days in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 44.3 percent from 2001 to 2005. Florida had a significantly higher prevalence during 2001-2005 than the national average of 5.4 percent in 2003.



Had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property

Approximately 62,000 students (7.9 percent) had been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 14.1 percent from 2001 to 2005. There was no significant difference in this prevalence between Florida during 2001-2005 and the national prevalence of 9.2 percent in 2003.



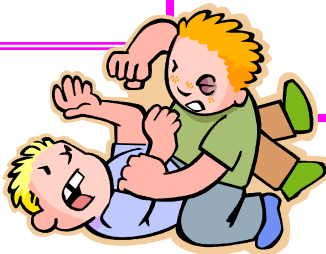
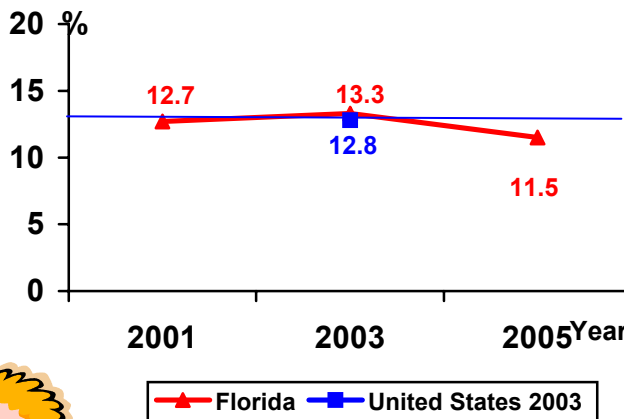
Property had been stolen or deliberately damaged on school property

Approximately 201,000 students (25.7 percent) had their property, such as car, clothing, or books stolen or deliberately damaged on school property, one or more times during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence decreased significantly by 13.5 percent from 2003 to 2005. Florida had a significantly lower percentage of 25.7 percent in 2005 than national average of 29.8 percent in 2003.



Engaged in a physical fight on school property

Approximately 89,000 students (11.5 percent) engaged in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months in 2005, and this prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2005. The prevalence in Florida during 2001-2005 did not differ significantly from the national average of 12.8 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, visit the CDC's YRBS web site at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs.

