

# Prevention of Suicide Among Florida Public High School Students



Results from the 2005 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

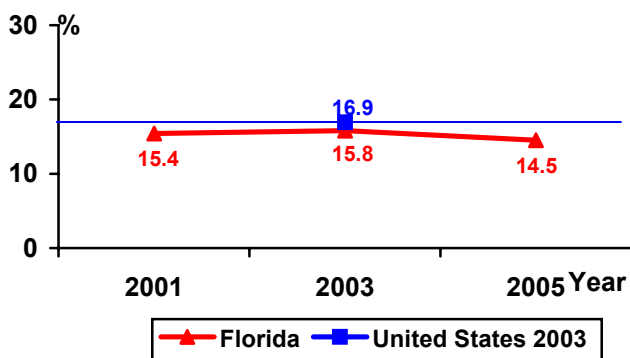
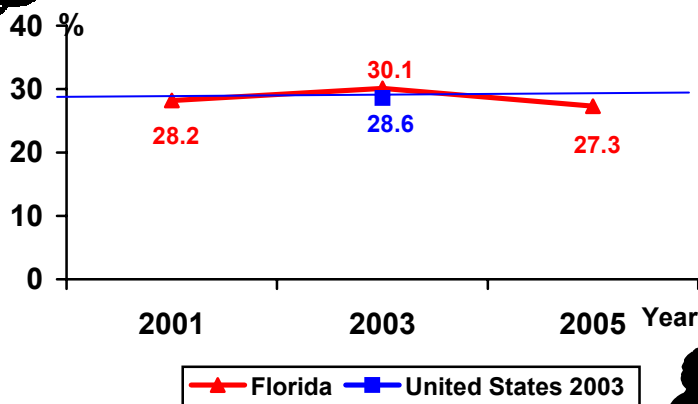
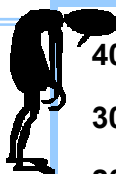
\*Fact Sheet 3\*

## 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 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.

### Felt sad or hopeless and stopped doing some usual activities

Approximately 214,000 students (27.3 percent) 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 in 2005. 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 28.6 percent in 2003.

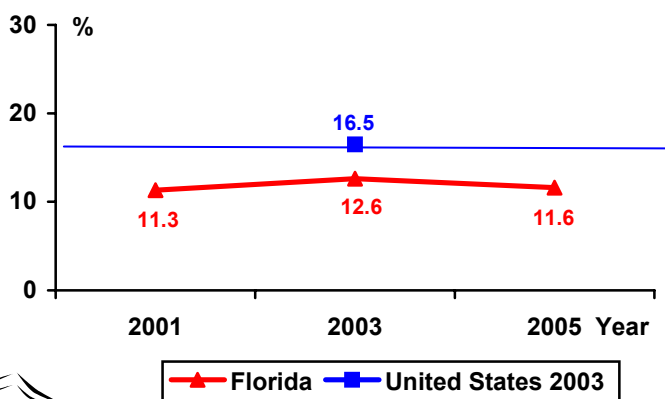


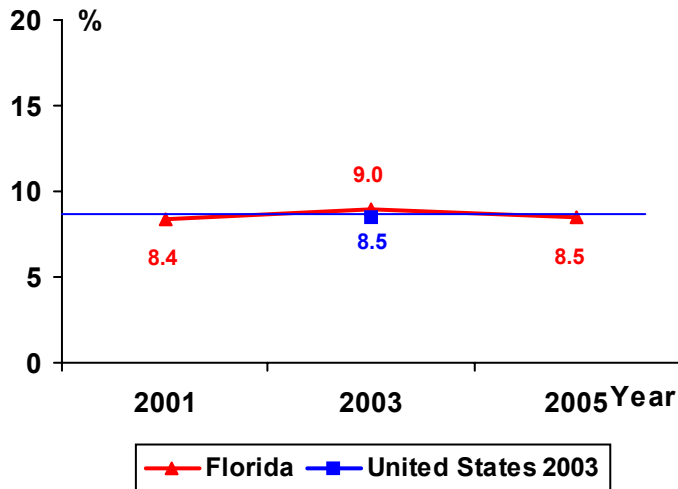
### Considered attempting suicide

Approximately 114,000 students (14.5 percent) seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2005. Florida had significantly lower prevalences in 2001 (15.4 percent) and 2005 (14.5 percent) compared to the national average of 16.9 percent in 2003.

### Made a plan of how to commit suicide

Approximately 90,000 students (11.6 percent) made a plan about how they would commit suicide during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2005. Compared to the national average of 16.5 percent in 2003, Florida had a significantly lower percentage of students who made a plan about how they would commit suicide during 2001-2005.





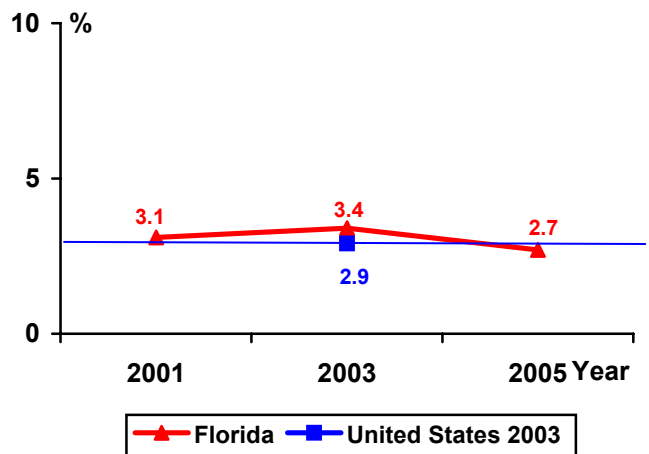
**Attempted suicide**

Approximately 55,000 students (8.5 percent) attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months in 2005. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2005. The prevalence of attempting suicide in Florida during 2001-2005 did not differ significantly from the national average of 8.5 percent in 2003.



**Medical attention was required**

There were approximately 17,000 students (2.7 percent) whose suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months in 2005. The prevalence remained at the same level during 2001- 2005, and it was not significantly different from the national average of 2.9 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](mailto: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](mailto:Zhaohui_Fan@doh.state.fl.us). You can also check out our web site at: [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us). For an interactive database of YRBS data, try the CDC's YRBS web site at: [www.cdc.gov/yrbs](http://www.cdc.gov/yrbs).

