

2003 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

◀ Fact Sheet 4 ▶



Alcohol Use

December 2004

Introduction

The Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a self-administered, school-based anonymous survey 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 2003, 4080 students in 75 public high schools in Florida completed the YRBS. The overall response rate was 66 percent. The response rate was high enough for the data to be weighted to represent all Florida public high school students.

Background

The YRBS core questionnaire contained five questions designed to monitor the prevalence of lifetime and current alcohol use, the prevalence of alcohol use on school property, and the prevalence of binge drinking (consuming five or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours) among Florida public high school students. The YRBS also monitors the age at which students begin using alcohol. Alcohol use among adolescents plays a major factor in automobile accidents, and heavy alcohol use among youth is associated with other risk behaviors such as cigarette use, marijuana use and sexual activity. This report presents the data on lifetime and current alcohol use, age of initiation, episodic heavy drinking and drinking on school property among Florida public high school students.

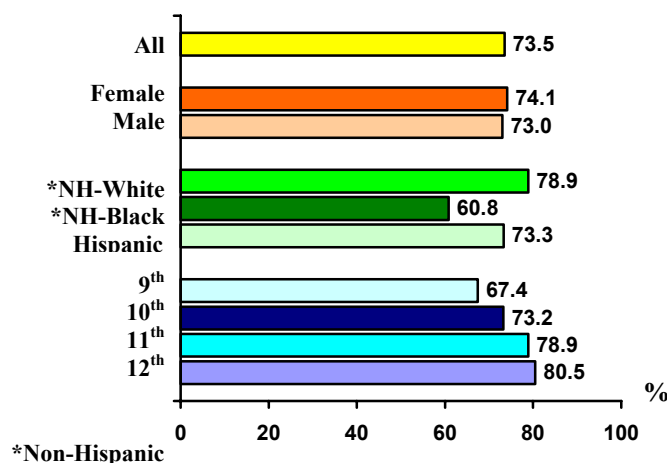


Results

During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?

Overall, 73.5 percent of Florida high school students had had at least one drink of alcohol in their lifetime, compared with 74.9 percent of students nationally (this difference is not statistically significant). The prevalence of lifetime alcohol use was lower among Non-Hispanic Black students than non-Hispanic White and Hispanic students (60.8 percent versus 78.9 percent and 73.3 percent). The prevalence of lifetime alcohol use was higher among 11th and 12th grade students than among 9th and 10th graders.

Figure 1: Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life, 2003

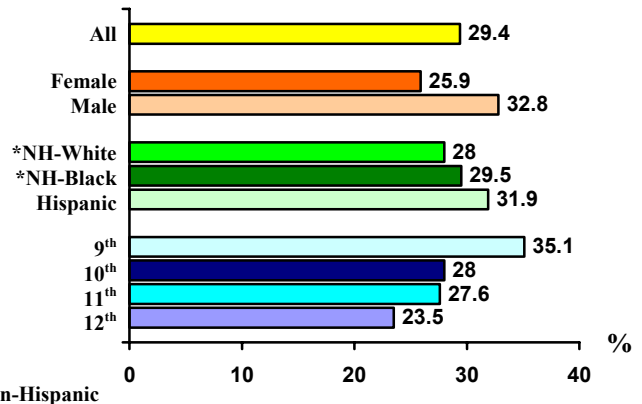


Alcohol Use

How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?

Overall, 29.4 percent of Florida public high school students had their first drink of alcohol under age 13 compared with 27.8 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). The prevalence of this behavior was higher among male than female students (32.8 percent versus 25.9 percent). This prevalence was higher among 9th graders (35.1 percent) than 10th (28.0 percent), 11th (27.6 percent), and 12th (23.5 percent) graders. There was no statistical difference among different races/ethnicities. Please see Figure 2.

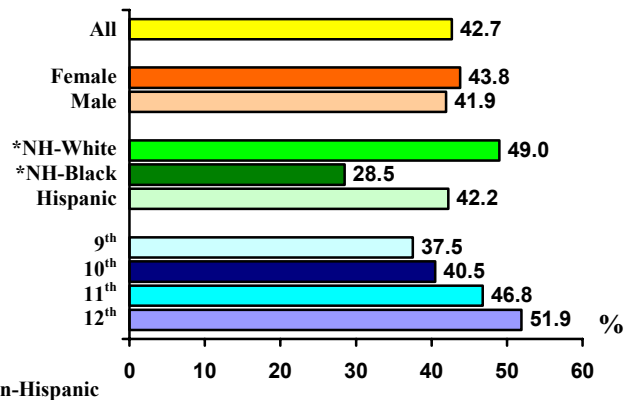
Figure 2: Percentage of students who had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13, 2003



During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?

Overall, 42.7 percent of Florida public high school students had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days compared with 44.9 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). The prevalence of current alcohol use tended to increase with increasing grade, with 12th graders having the highest prevalence. The prevalence of current alcohol use was highest among non-Hispanic White than Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black students (49.0 percent versus 42.2 percent and 28.5 percent). There was no statistical difference by gender. Please see Figure 3.

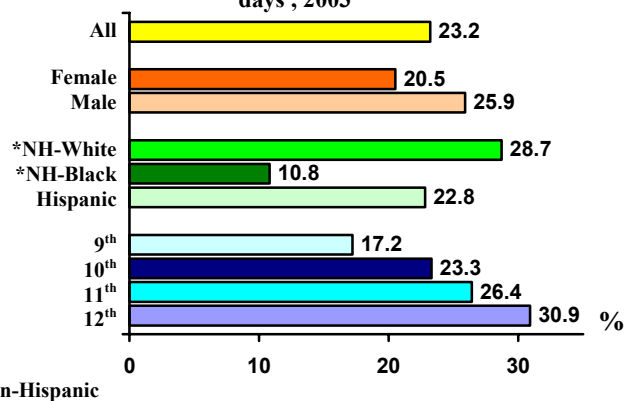
Figure 3: Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days, 2003



During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?

Overall, 23.2 percent of Florida high school students reported binge drinking in the past 30 days compared with 28.3 percent nationally. The prevalence of binge drinking was higher among males than females (25.9 percent versus 20.5 percent), non-Hispanic White students than Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black students (28.7 percent versus 22.8 percent and 10.8 percent), and 12th graders than among 9th and 10th graders (30.9 percent versus 17.2 percent and 23.3 percent). Please see Figure 4.

Figure 4: Percentage of students who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours, on one or more of the past 30 days, 2003

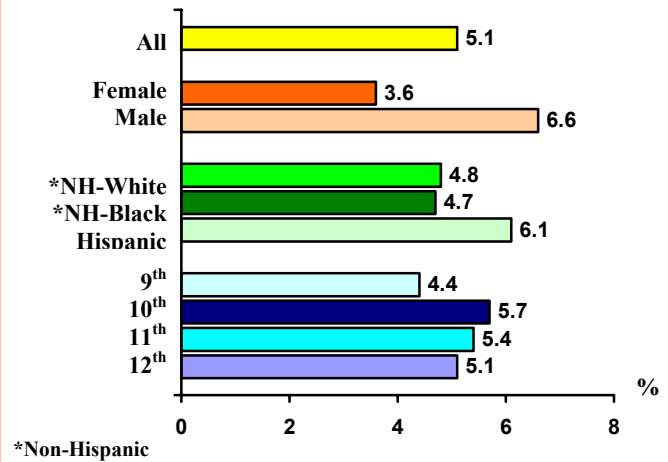


Alcohol Use

During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?

Overall, 5.1 percent of Florida public high school students had at least one drink of alcohol on school property in the past 30 days compared with 5.2 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). The prevalence of drinking alcohol on school property was higher among male students than female students (6.6 percent versus 3.6 percent). There was no statistical difference among students at different grade levels or among races/ethnicities. Please see Figure 5.

Figure 5: Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days, 2003



Summary

The prevalence of lifetime and current alcohol use, age of initiation, binge drinking and alcohol use on school property have not changed significantly among Florida public high school students since 2001 (Data from 2001 are not shown in this report).

According to the 2003 data:

The prevalence of lifetime and current alcohol use was higher among:

- Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic students than among non-Hispanic Black students
- Hispanic students than non-Hispanic Black students
- 11th and 12th grade students than among 9th and 10th graders

The prevalence of early alcohol consumption (under age 13) was higher among:

- Male students than female students
- 9th grade students than among 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

The prevalence of binge drinking was higher among:

- Male students than among female students
- Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic students than among non-Hispanic Black students
- Hispanic students than non-Hispanic Black students
- 12th grade students than among 9th and 10th graders

The prevalence of alcohol use on school property was higher among male students than female students.

Alcohol Use

Detailed Table
Statewide Prevalence and 95% Confidence Intervals

Survey Questions		Percent of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life	Percent of students who had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13	Percent of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days	Percent of students who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours, on one or more of the past 30 days	Percent of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days
Total		73.5 (71.6~75.4)	29.4 (27.5~31.3)	42.7 (40.5~44.8)	23.2 (21.3~25.0)	5.1 (4.4~5.8)
Gender	Male	73.0 (70.3~75.8)	32.8 (29.6~36.1)	41.9 (~11.9)	25.9 (22.9~28.9)	6.6 (5.5~7.8)
	Female	74.1 (71.6~76.6)	25.9 (23.9~27.9)	14.8 (12.9~16.6)	20.5 (18.5~22.5)	3.6 (2.9~4.3)
Race/ Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic White	78.9 (76.5~81.3)	28.0 (25.0~31.0)	49.0 (46.4~51.7)	28.7 (26.4~30.9)	4.8 (3.8~5.8)
	Non-Hispanic Black	60.8 (56.3~65.2)	29.5 (25.8~33.2)	28.5 (24.5~32.4)	10.8 (8.4~13.2)	4.7 (3.4~6.0)
	Hispanic	73.3 (69.6~77.1)	31.9 (29.5~34.3)	42.2 (38.4~46.0)	22.8 (19.2~26.4)	6.1 (4.2~7.9)
Grade	9th	67.4 (63.9~70.9)	35.1 (32.0~38.2)	37.5 (33.5~41.4)	17.2 (14.7~19.7)	4.4 (3.3~5.5)
	10th	73.2 (70.1~76.4)	28.0 (24.9~31.1)	40.5 (37.8~43.2)	23.3 (20.3~26.2)	5.7 (4.0~7.4)
	11th	78.9 (75.9~81.9)	27.6 (24.7~30.5)	46.8 (43.0~50.5)	26.4 (23.5~29.2)	5.4 (3.8~7.0)
	12th	80.5 (76.8~84.2)	23.5 (19.9~27.1)	51.9 (47.0~56.8)	30.9 (26.5~35.3)	5.1 (3.6~6.6)

Contact information

For more information about Florida YRBS, please contact: Melissa Murray, Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, extension 2445 or by e-mail at Melissa_Murray@doh.state.fl.us, or contact Zhaohui Fan, Epidemiologist, at extension 2418 or by e-mail at: Zhaohui_Fan@doh.state.fl.us.

