

# 2003 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## ◀ Fact Sheet 3 ▶



### Suicide Ideation and Attempts

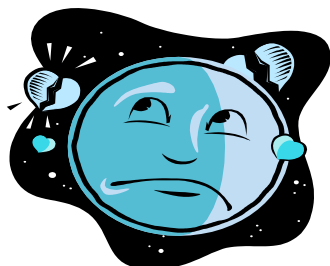
December 2004

#### Introduction

The Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a self-administered, school-based anonymous survey which 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 contains five questions designed to measure sadness, suicide ideation, attempted suicides and the seriousness of those attempts. According to the National Vital Statistics Report 2003, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24. Suicide is also the third leading cause of death among Florida's youth ages 15-24, following unintentional injuries and homicide (Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2002). The objective of Healthy People 2010 is to reduce the rate of suicide attempts by adolescents to one percent. In 2003, nine percent of Florida public high school students and 8.5 percent of high school students nationally had attempted suicide one or more times in the previous 12 months. This report presents the data on depression, suicide ideation and attempts, and the outcomes of suicide attempts among Florida high school youth.

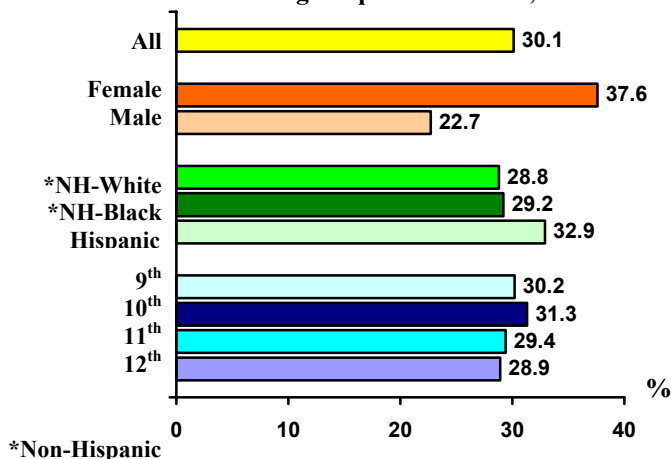


#### Results

##### During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

Overall, 30.1 percent of Florida high school students reported feeling depressed during the previous 12 months, compared with 28.6 percent of students nationally (this difference is not statistically significant). Female students were more likely than male students (37.6 percent versus 22.7 percent) and Hispanic students were more likely than non-Hispanic White students (32.9 percent versus 28.8 percent) to report this behavior.

Figure 1: Percentage of students who ever felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months, 2003



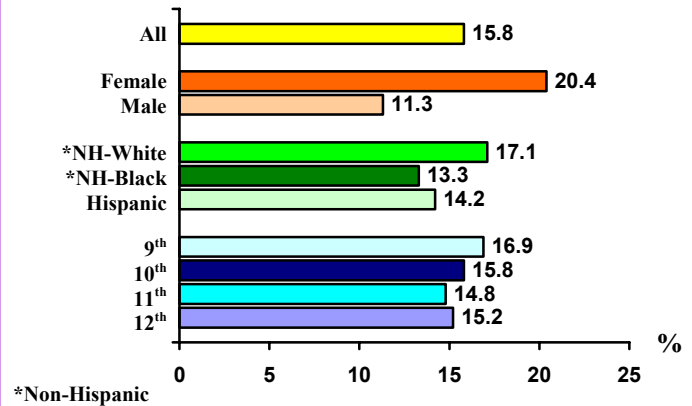
Suicide Ideation and Attempts

**During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?**

Overall, 15.8 percent of Florida public high school students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months, compared with 16.9 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). Female students were more likely than male students to seriously consider suicide (20.4 percent versus 11.3 percent). Non-Hispanic White students were more likely than non-Hispanic Black students to report this behavior (17.1 percent versus 13.3 percent). There was no statistical difference among students at different grade levels.

Please see Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months, 2003**

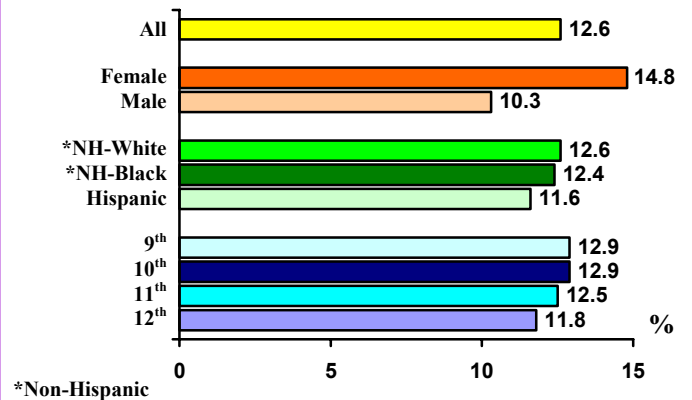


**During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?**

Overall, 12.6 percent of Florida public high school students made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months, compared with 16.5 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). Female students were more likely than male students to report this behavior (14.8 percent versus 10.3 percent). There was no statistical difference among students at different grade levels or among races/ethnicities.

Please see Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Percentage of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months, 2003**

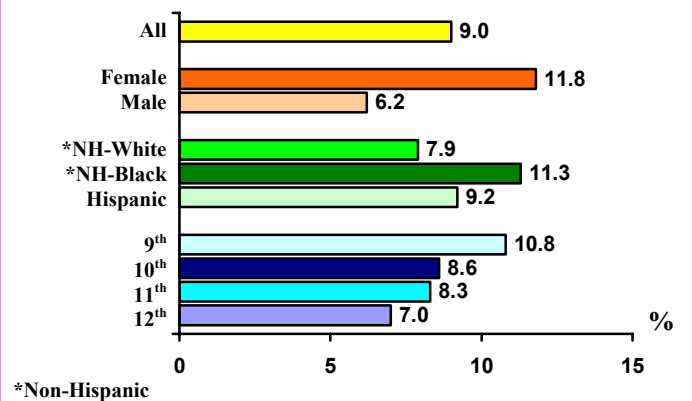


**During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?**

Overall, 9.0 percent of Florida public high school students attempted suicide during the past 12 months, compared with 8.5 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). The prevalence of having attempted suicide was higher among females than males (11.8 percent versus 6.2 percent). 9<sup>th</sup> grade students were more likely to report attempting suicide than 12<sup>th</sup> graders (10.8 percent versus 7.0 percent). There was no statistical difference among races/ethnicities.

Please see Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Percentage of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months, 2003**

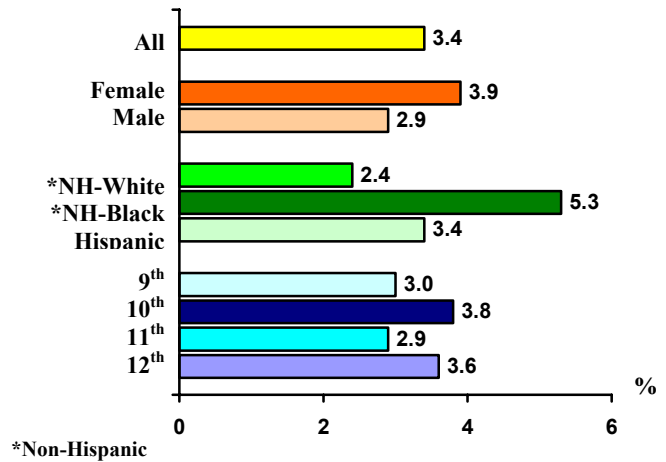


**Suicide Ideation and Attempts**

**If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?**

Overall, 3.4 percent of Florida public high school students sustained an injury from a suicide attempt that has to be treated by a medical professional during the past 12 months, compared with 2.9 percent of students nationally (this difference was not statistically significant). Non-Hispanic Black students were more likely than non-Hispanic White students to report having to be treated for a suicide attempt by a doctor or nurse in the past 12 months (5.3 percent versus 2.4 percent). There was no statistical difference among students at different grade levels. Please see Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Percentage of students whose attempted suicide resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months, 2003**



**Summary**

The rates of depression, suicide ideation and attempts, and suicide outcomes 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, female students were significantly more likely than male students to:

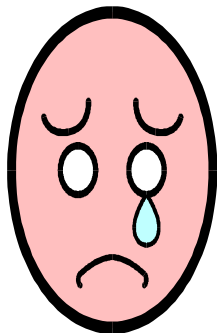
- Feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities
- Seriously consider attempting suicide
- Make a plan about how they would attempt suicide
- Actually attempt suicide

There was not a significant difference in the prevalence of male and female students who were treated by a doctor or nurse for a suicide attempt.

The prevalence of feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks was higher among Hispanic than non-Hispanic White students.

The prevalence of having considered attempting suicide was higher among non-Hispanic White than non-Hispanic Black students.

The prevalence of having made a suicide attempt that required medical attention was higher among non-Hispanic Black than non-Hispanic White students.



## Suicide Ideation and Attempts

### Detailed Table

#### Statewide Prevalence and 95% Confidence Intervals

Survey Questions		Percent of students who ever 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	Percent of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	Percent of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	Percent of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	Percent of students whose attempted suicide resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months
<b>Total</b>		30.1 (28.8~31.4)	15.8 (14.7~16.9)	12.6 (11.3~13.9)	9.0 (8.1~10.0)	3.4 (2.8~4.0)
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	22.7 (21.1~24.3)	11.3 (9.9~12.8)	10.3 (8.7~11.9)	6.2 (5.1~7.2)	2.9 (2.1~3.8)
	<b>Female</b>	37.6 (35.8~39.5)	20.4 (19.0~21.8)	14.8 (12.9~16.6)	11.8 (10.4~13.3)	3.9 (3.0~4.7)
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	28.8 (27.3~30.3)	17.1 (15.7~18.5)	12.6 (11.0~14.2)	7.9 (6.9~8.9)	2.4 (1.8~3.1)
	<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>	29.2 (26.2~32.2)	13.3 (11.2~15.4)	12.4 (10.2~14.7)	11.3 (8.7~13.9)	5.3 (3.5~7.0)
	<b>Hispanic</b>	32.9 (30.5~35.3)	14.2 (11.9~16.4)	11.6 (9.3~13.9)	9.2 (7.3~11.0)	3.4 (2.2~4.7)
<b>Grade</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	30.2 (27.7~32.8)	16.9 (14.9~18.9)	12.9 (10.9~14.9)	10.8 (9.1~12.5)	3.0 (1.9~4.1)
	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	31.3 (28.3~34.3)	15.8 (13.6~18.0)	12.9 (11.0~14.8)	8.6 (6.8~10.4)	3.8 (2.7~4.8)
	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	29.4 (27.2~31.7)	14.8 (13.0~16.7)	12.5 (10.5~14.4)	8.3 (6.9~9.7)	2.9 (1.9~3.8)
	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	28.9 (25.3~32.4)	15.2 (12.5~17.9)	11.8 (8.7~14.9)	7.0 (4.8~9.2)	3.6 (2.1~5.0)

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Zhaohui_Fan@doh.state.fl.us).

