

Prevention of Alcohol Use Among Florida Public High School Students



Results from the 2005 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

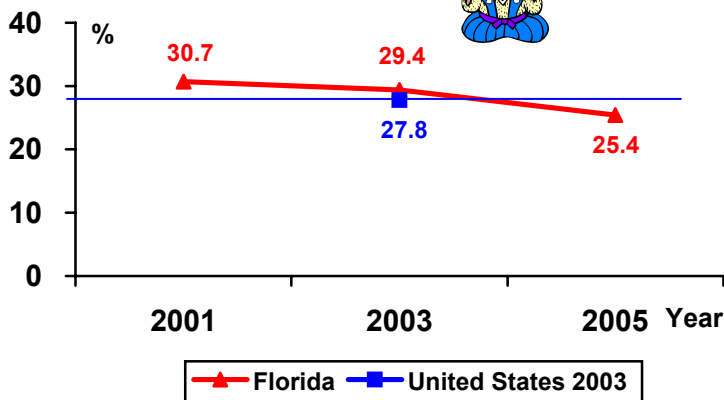
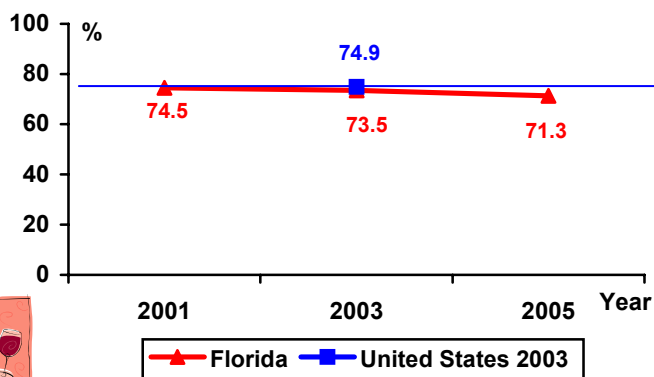
Fact Sheet 8

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.

Ever used alcohol

In 2005, approximately 503,000 students (71.3 percent) reported they had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life. This prevalence decreased significantly by 4.3 percent from 2001 to 2005. There was no significant difference in the prevalence of lifetime alcohol use between the national level of 74.9 percent in 2003 and the Florida prevalence during 2001-2005.

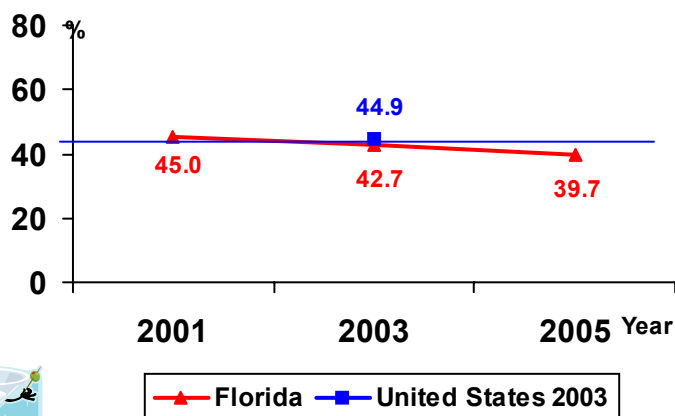


Drank alcohol before age 13 years

In 2005, approximately 180,000 students (25.4 percent) reported they had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13. This prevalence decreased significantly by 17.3 percent from 2001 to 2005. Compared to the national level of 27.8 percent in 2003, Florida had a significantly higher prevalence in 2001 (30.7 percent) and a significantly lower prevalence in 2005 (25.4 percent).

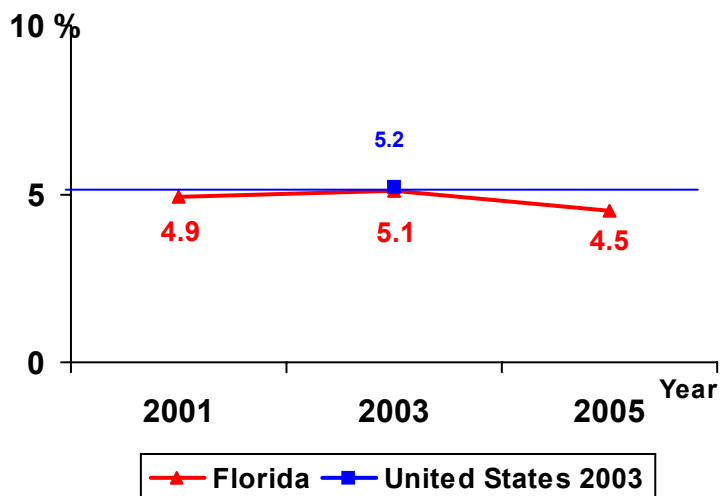
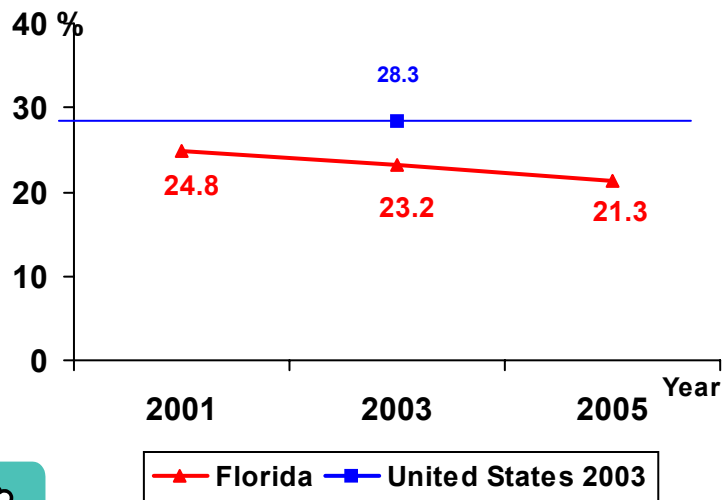
Currently use alcohol

In 2005, approximately 295,000 students (39.7 percent) reported they had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days. This prevalence decreased significantly by 11.8 percent from 2001 to 2005. Compared to the national average of 44.9 percent in 2003, Florida had a significantly lower prevalence in 2005 (39.7 percent).



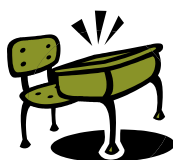
Episodic heavy drinking

In 2005, approximately 163,000 students (21.3 percent) reported they had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (within a couple of hours) on one or more of the past 30 days. This prevalence decreased significantly by 14.1 percent from 2001 to 2005. Compared to the national average of 28.3 percent in 2003, Florida had a significantly lower prevalence during 2001-2005.



Used alcohol on school property

In 2005, approximately 34,000 students (4.5 percent) reported that they had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days. This prevalence remained at the same level from 2001 to 2005. Compared to the national average of 5.2 percent in 2003, Florida did not have a significantly different prevalence during 2001-2005.



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.

