

Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS)

Fact Sheet 3: Emotional Bullying and Mental Health

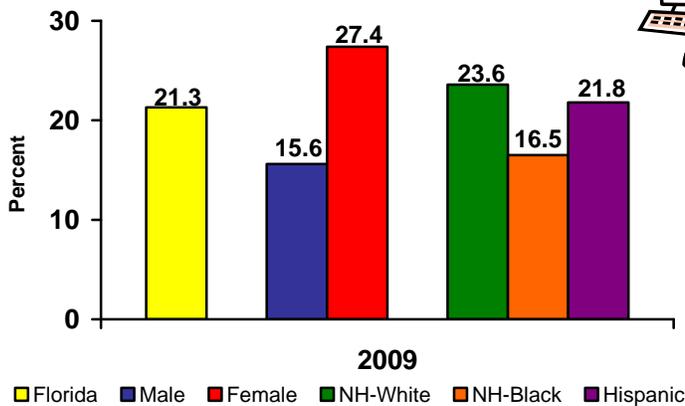
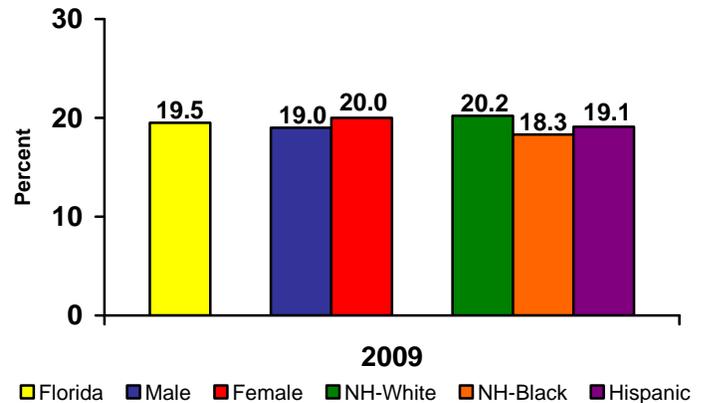


Introduction

The Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS) is a self-administered, school-based, anonymous survey. The MSHBS was first administered in the spring of 2009 to 6,356 Florida public middle school students in 99 schools throughout the state. The survey response rate was 81%. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to represent the entire population of public middle school students in Florida. Data are presented by gender and by three racial/ethnic groupings: non-Hispanic (NH) white, non-Hispanic (NH) black, and Hispanic.

Victim of teasing because of weight

In 2009, approximately one out of five students (19.5%) was the victim of teasing or name calling due to their weight in the past year. While females had a higher prevalence of this behavior than males, and non-Hispanic white students had a higher prevalence than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students, none of these differences were statistically significant.

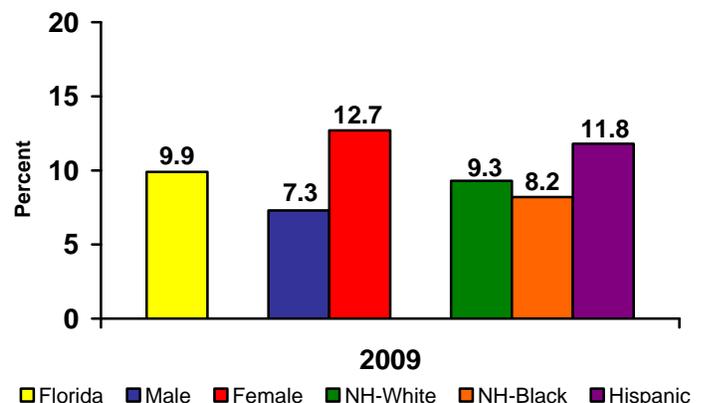


Electronically bullied

In 2009, approximately one out of five students (21.3%) of students had been teased, threatened, or had rumors spread about them through e-mail, instant messaging, web sites, or text messaging. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of being bullied electronically than males. Non-Hispanic black students had a significantly lower prevalence of being bullied electronically than non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students.

Self-injured, without wanting to die

In 2009, approximately one out of ten students (9.9%) did something to purposefully hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than males. Hispanic students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic black students.

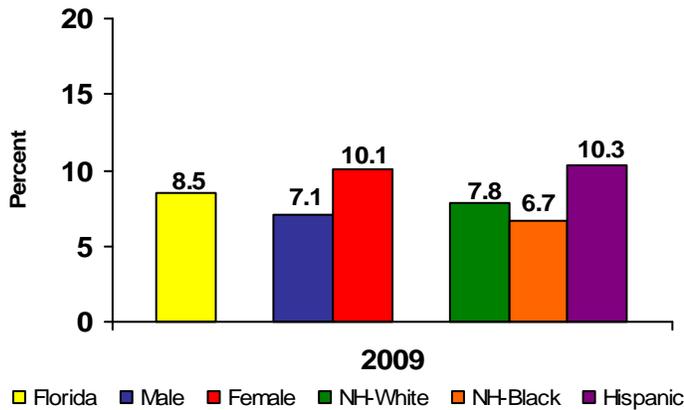
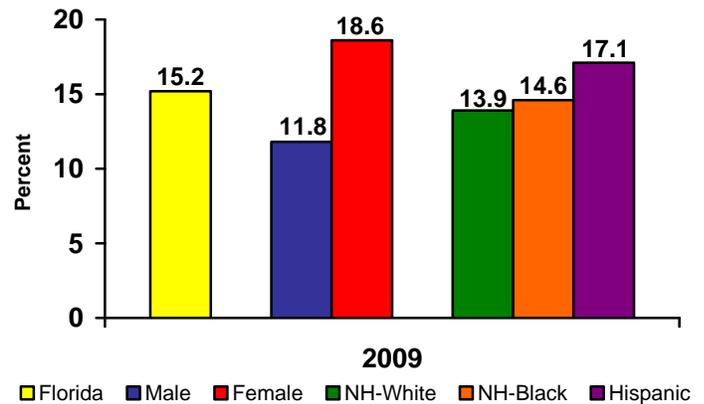


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Seriously thought about suicide

In 2009, 15.2% of students seriously thought about killing themselves during the past year. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than males. While Hispanic students had the highest prevalence of this behavior, there were no significant differences among the race/ethnicity groups.

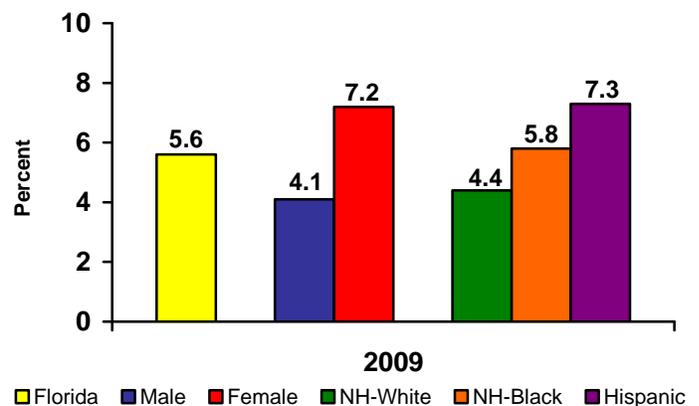


Made a suicide plan

In 2009, approximately one out of twelve students (8.5%) made a plan about how they would kill themselves during the past year. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than males. Hispanic students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic black students.

Attempted suicide

In 2009, 5.6% of students tried to kill themselves during the past year. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than males. Hispanic students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic white students.



For more information about the MSHBS, please contact Ms. Jamie Weitz, M.S., Florida Youth Survey Coordinator, at (850) 245-4444, Ext. 2424, or by e-mail at Jamie.Weitz@doh.state.fl.us or visit our website at <http://www.FloridaChronicDisease.org>.