

Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS)

Fact Sheet 1: Personal Safety and Violence



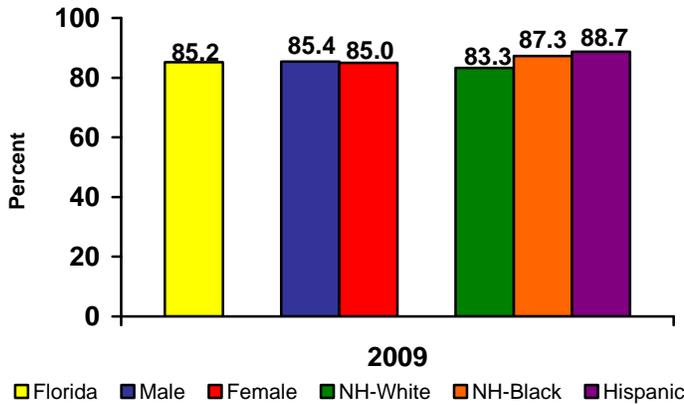
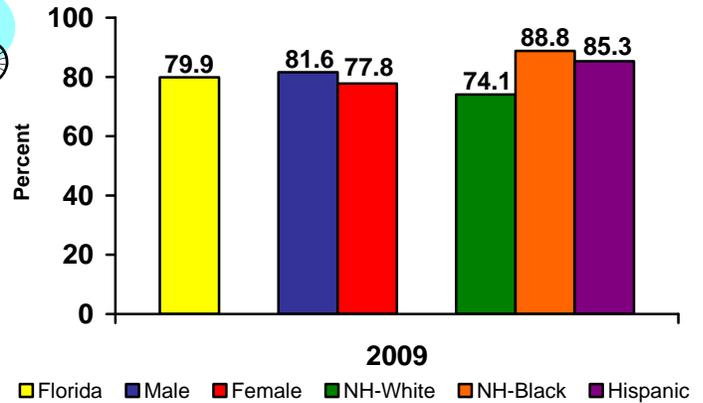
Introduction

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.



Never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet

In 2009, among students who rode a bicycle during the past 12 months, approximately four out of five students (79.9%) never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet. Males and females did not differ significantly in this behavior. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly lower prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students.



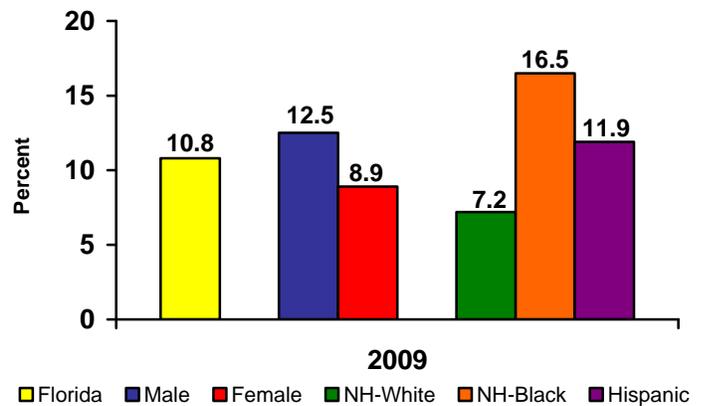
Never or rarely wore helmet when skating

In 2009, among students who rollerbladed or rode a skateboard during the past 12 months, approximately 85.2% never or rarely wore a helmet. Males and females did not differ significantly in this behavior. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly lower prevalence of this behavior than Hispanic students.



Never or rarely wore a seat belt

In 2009, one out of ten students (10.8%) never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car. Males and females did not differ significantly in this behavior. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly lower prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students, and Hispanic students had a significantly lower prevalence than non-Hispanic black students.

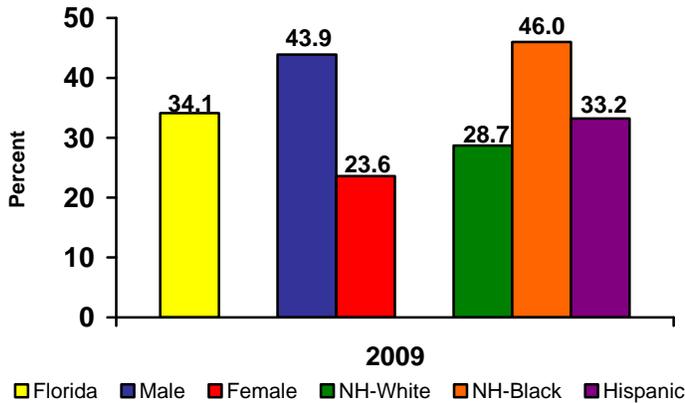
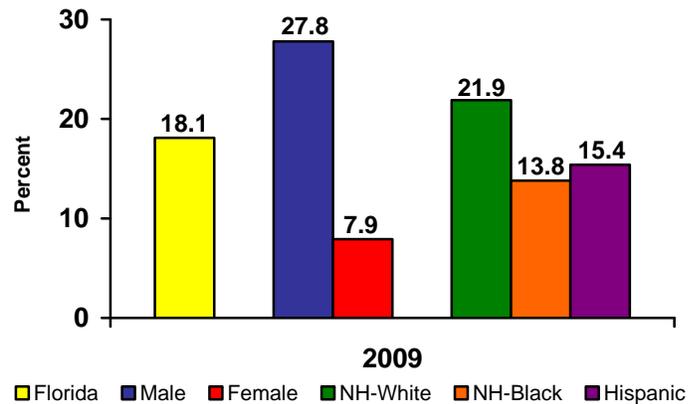


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Carried a weapon

In 2009, 18.1% of students carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on one or more of the past 30 days. Males had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than females. Non-Hispanic white students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students.

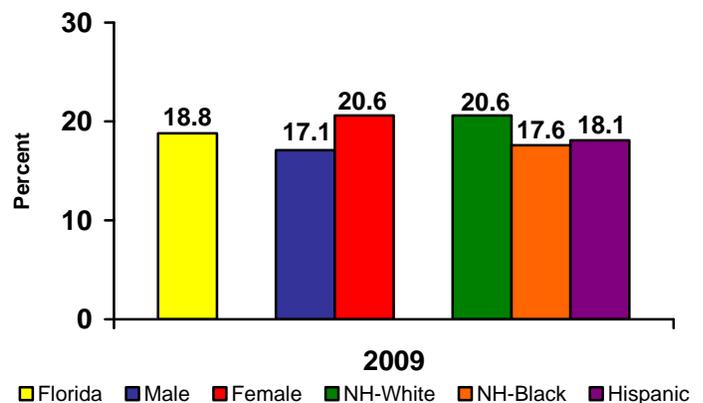


Involved in a physical fight

In 2009, approximately one out of three students (34.1%) were involved in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months. Males had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than females. Non-Hispanic black students had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students.

Rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol

In 2009, 18.8% of students rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, on one or more occasions during the past 30 days. Females had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than males. There were no significant differences between the race/ethnicity groups.



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>.