

# Behaviors that Contribute to Violence Among Florida Public Middle School Students



Results from the 2013 Florida Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS)

\*Fact Sheet 2\*

## Introduction

The Florida Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS) is a self-administered, school-based, anonymous survey that has been conducted in Florida public middle schools every two years since 2009. 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 2013, a total of 6,738 out of 8,080 sampled students in 96 public middle schools in Florida completed the MSHBS. The overall response rate was 83%. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to represent the entire population of public middle school students in Florida. The prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI, represented by the error bars) were calculated using SAS<sup>®</sup> 9.3. The difference in prevalence between two different populations is statistically significant if the 95% confidence intervals of the two prevalence estimates do not overlap. Data are presented by sex and by three racial/ethnic groupings: non-Hispanic (NH) white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic.

### Ever carried a weapon (such as a gun, knife, or club)

In 2013, 17.2% of students (approximately 98,200) carried a weapon on one or more of the past 30 days. Males were significantly more likely to carry a weapon than females. Non-Hispanic white students were significantly more likely to have carried a weapon than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students.



Figure 1: Middle School Students Who Carried a Weapon in the Past 30 Days, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013

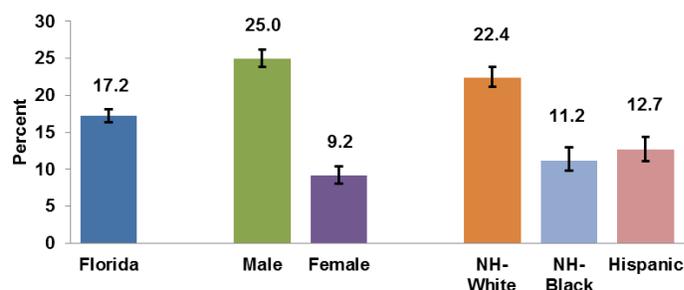
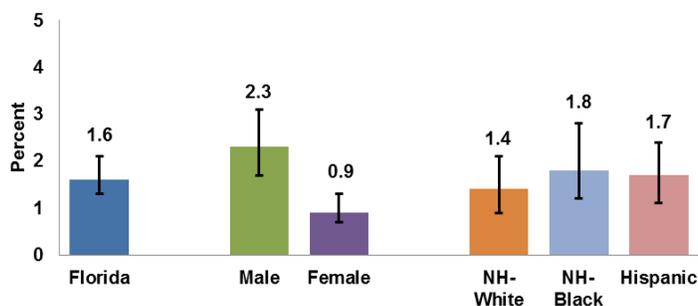


Figure 2: Middle School Students Who Carried a Weapon on School Property in the Past 30 Days, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013



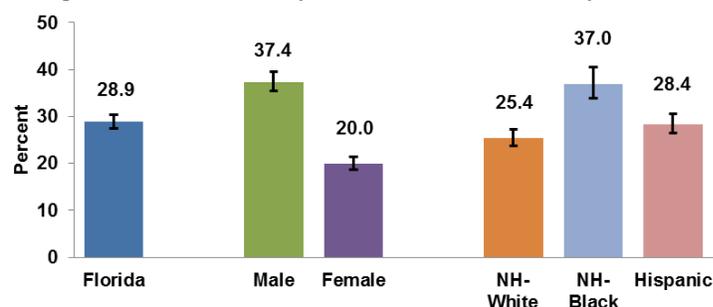
### Carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club)

In 2013, 1.6% of students (approximately 9,300) carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club on school property on one or more of the past 30 days. Males were significantly more likely to carry a weapon on school property than females. This behavior did not vary by race/ethnicity.

### Were ever in a physical fight

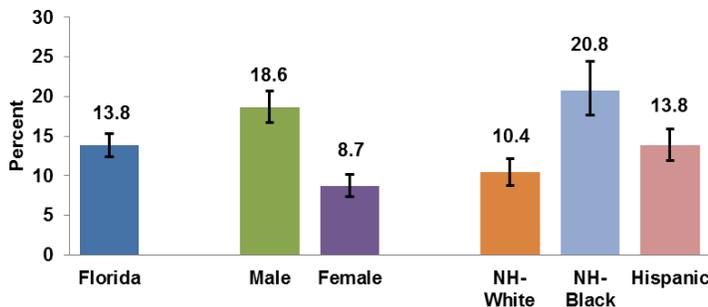
In 2013, 28.9% of students (approximately 163,300) were involved in a physical fight in the past year. Males were significantly more likely to be involved in a physical fight than females. Non-Hispanic black students were significantly more likely to be involved in a physical fight than non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students.

Figure 3: Middle School Students Who Were Involved in a Physical Fight in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013





**Figure 4: Middle School Students Who Were Involved in a Physical Fight One or More Times on School Property in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013**



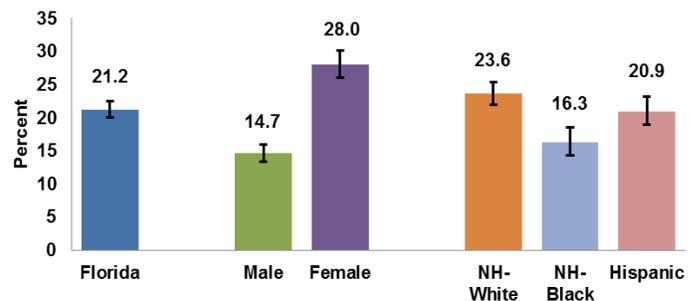
**In a physical fight on school property**

In 2013, 13.8% of students (approximately 77,800) were involved in a physical fight one or more times during the past year on school property. Males were significantly more likely to be involved in a physical fight on school property than females. Non-Hispanic black students were significantly more likely to be involved in a physical fight on school property than non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students.

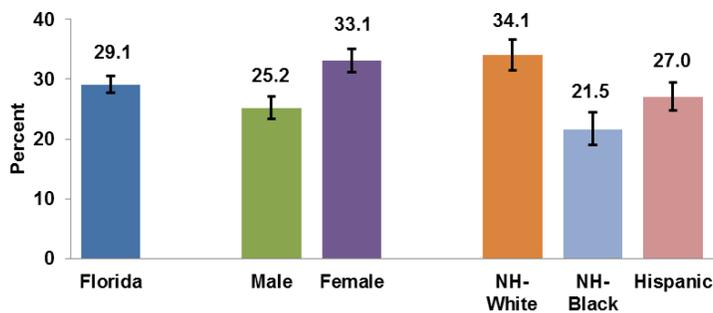
**Were ever electronically bullied (including through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, web sites, or texting during the 12 months before the survey)**

In 2013, 21.2% of students (approximately 121,200) had been electronically bullied. Females were significantly more likely to be electronically bullied than males. Non-Hispanic white students were significantly more likely to be electronically bullied than non-Hispanic black students.

**Figure 5: Middle School Students Who Were Electronically Bullied in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013**



**Figure 6: Middle School Students Who Were Bullied on School Property in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013**



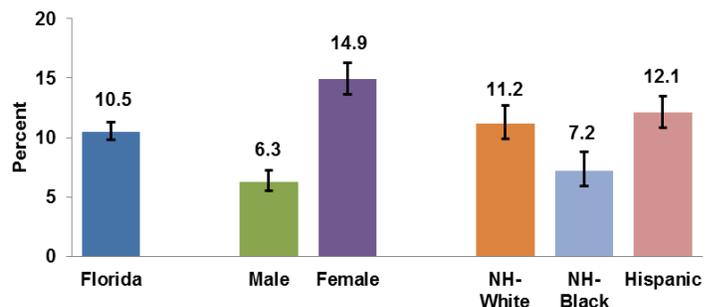
**Were bullied on school property**

In 2013, 29.1% of students (approximately 166,100) were bullied on school property in the past year. Females were significantly more likely to be bullied on school property than males. Non-Hispanic white students were significantly more likely to be bullied on school property than non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students.

**Self-injured, without wanting to die**

In 2013, 10.5% of students (approximately 59,200) did something to purposefully hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose. Females were significantly more likely to purposefully hurt themselves than males. Non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students were significantly more likely to purposefully hurt themselves than non-Hispanic black students.

**Figure 7: Middle School Students Who Self-Injured Without Wanting to Die, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013**





### Ever been choked on purpose

In 2013, 7.3% of students (approximately 41,000) had ever been choked by someone or tried to choke themselves on purpose, such as with a belt, towel or rope, for the feeling or experience it caused. This behavior did not vary significantly by sex. Non-Hispanic black students were significantly more likely to have been choked on purpose than non-Hispanic white students.

Figure 8: Middle School Students Who Have Ever Been Choked on Purpose, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013

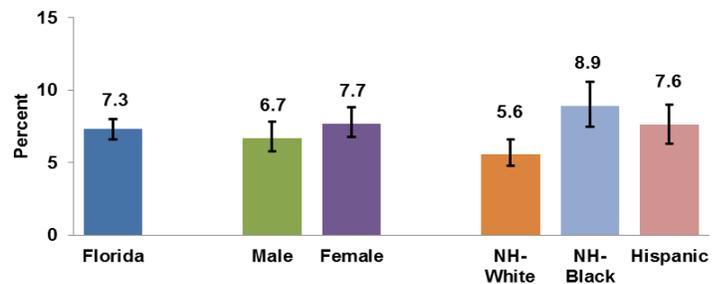
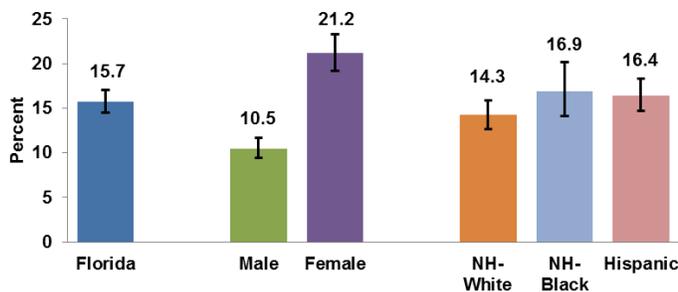


Figure 9: Middle School Students Who Ever Seriously Thought About Killing Themselves, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013



### Ever seriously thought about killing themselves

In 2013, 15.7% of students (approximately 94,800) ever seriously thought about killing themselves. Females were significantly more likely to seriously think about killing themselves than males. This behavior did not vary significantly by race/ethnicity.

### Ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves

In 2013, 10.2% of students (approximately 61,800) ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves. Females were significantly more likely to make a suicide plan than males. This behavior did not vary significantly by race/ethnicity.

Figure 10: Middle School Students Who Ever Made a Plan About How They Would Kill Themselves, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013

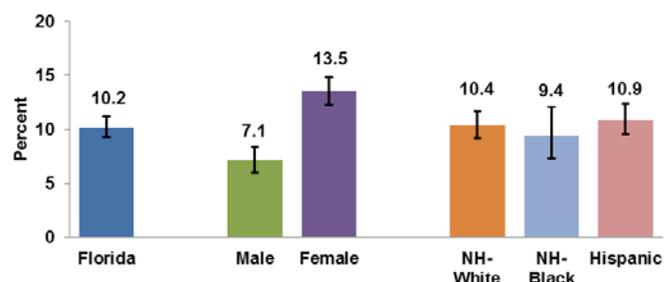
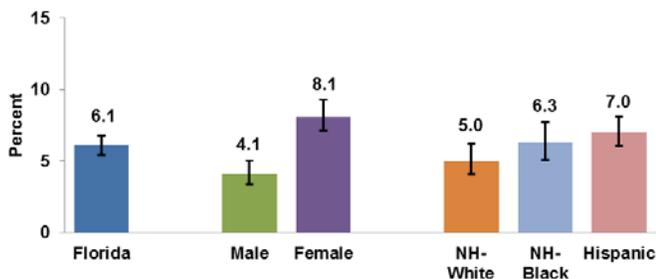


Figure 11: Middle School Students Who Ever Tried to Kill Themselves, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013



### Ever tried to kill themselves

In 2013, 6.1% of students (approximately 36,700) ever tried to kill themselves. Females were significantly more likely to attempt suicide than males. This behavior did not vary significantly by race/ethnicity.

For more information about the MSHBS, please contact the Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section located in the Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health, at (850) 245-4401 or visit our website at:

[www.floridahealth.gov/MSHBS](http://www.floridahealth.gov/MSHBS). This document was developed by the Bureau of Epidemiology for the Florida Department of Education in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health Project Number 1U87PS004277-01.