

Alcohol Use Among Florida Public High School Students



Results from the 2009 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

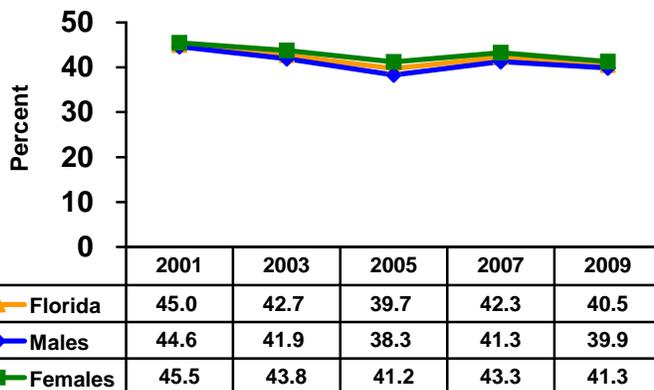
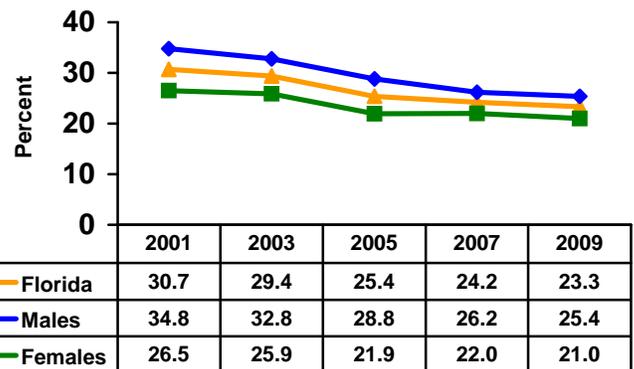
Fact Sheet 8

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 2009, 5,684 students in 80 public high schools in Florida completed the YRBS. The overall response rate was 71%. Since 2001, the response rate has been high enough for the data to be weighted to represent all Florida public high school students.

Drank alcohol before age 13

In 2009, approximately 180,100 students (23.3%) had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13. This prevalence decreased significantly by 24.1% from 2001 to 2009. Males had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than females during this time period.

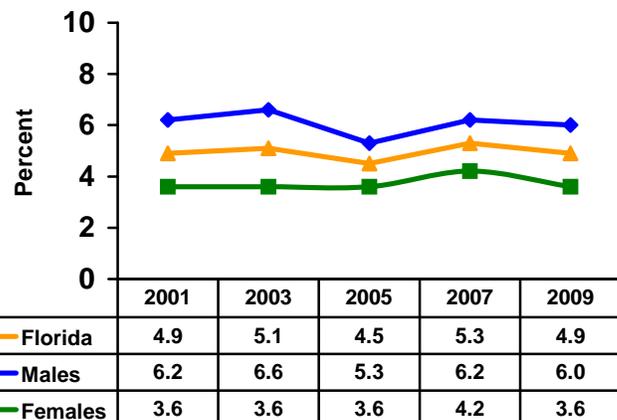


Current alcohol drinkers

In 2009, approximately 298,300 students (40.5%) had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days. This prevalence did not change significantly from 2001 to 2009. Females had a slightly higher prevalence of this behavior than males during this time period.

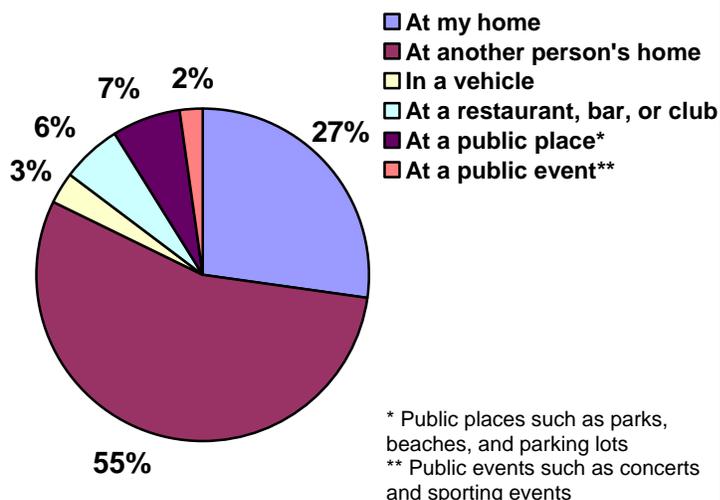
Used alcohol on school property

In 2009, approximately 37,000 students (4.9%) 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 2009. Males had a significantly higher prevalence of this behavior than females during this time period.

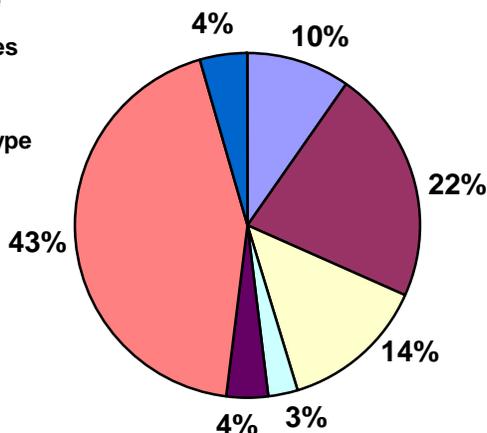


Location of consumption

In 2009, among students who drank alcohol during the past 30 days, when asked *where* they usually drank alcohol, more than half of students (55%) said “at another person’s home.” A quarter of students (27%) responded that they usually drank in their own home. Location of consumption did not differ greatly by gender.



- No usual type
- Beer
- Malt beverages
- Wine coolers
- Wine
- Liquor
- Some other type

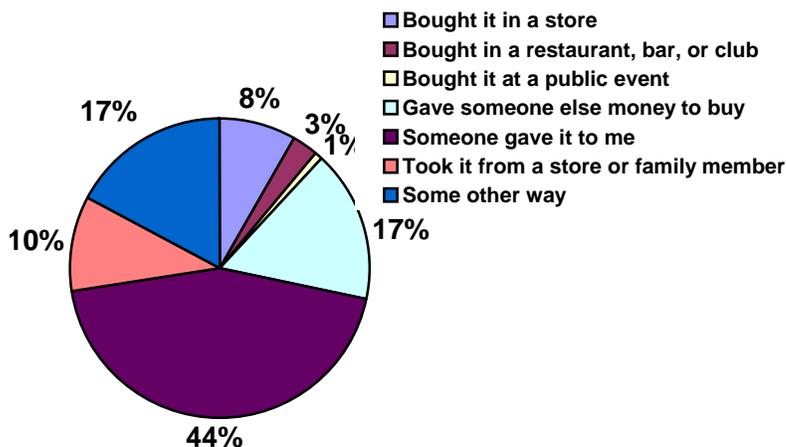


Type of alcohol

In 2009, among students who drank alcohol during the past 30 days, when asked what *type* of alcohol they usually drank, the majority of students responded “liquor” (43%). This was followed by beer (22%) and malt beverages (14%). Males (30.6%) had a higher prevalence of beer being their usual type of alcohol than females (15.4%). Females (18.7%) had a higher prevalence of malt beverages being their usual type of alcohol than males (7.5%).

Source of alcohol

In 2009, among students who drank alcohol during the past 30 days, when asked how they usually got their alcohol, approximately 127,450 students (44.1%) said someone else gave it to them. The prevalence of buying alcohol in a store for males (12.2%) was more than double that of females (4.6%). Approximately half of females (51.3%) were given their alcohol as opposed to males (37.0%).



For more information about the YRBS, 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/YRBS/Intro.htm>. For an interactive database of YRBS data, visit the CDC’s YRBS web site at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. This document was developed by the Bureau of Epidemiology for the Florida Department of Education’s Office of Healthy Schools in Cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health Project Number U87/CCU001239-02.

