

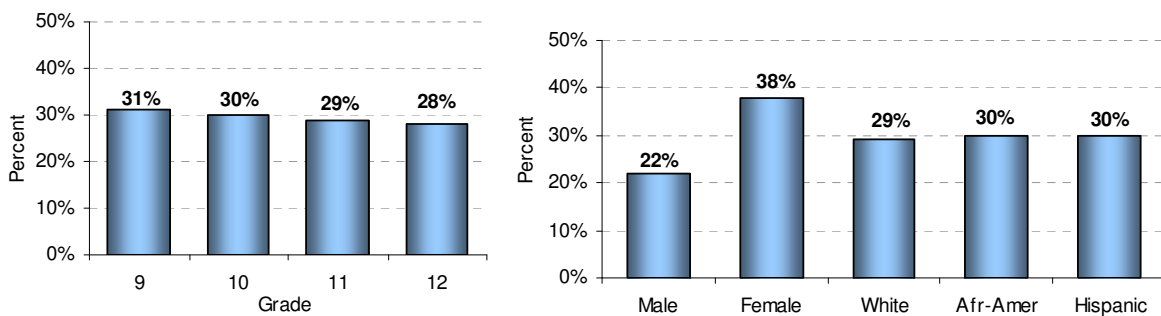


Apr 2007

# Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Self-Inflicted Injury Behaviors Miami-Dade County High School Students, 2005

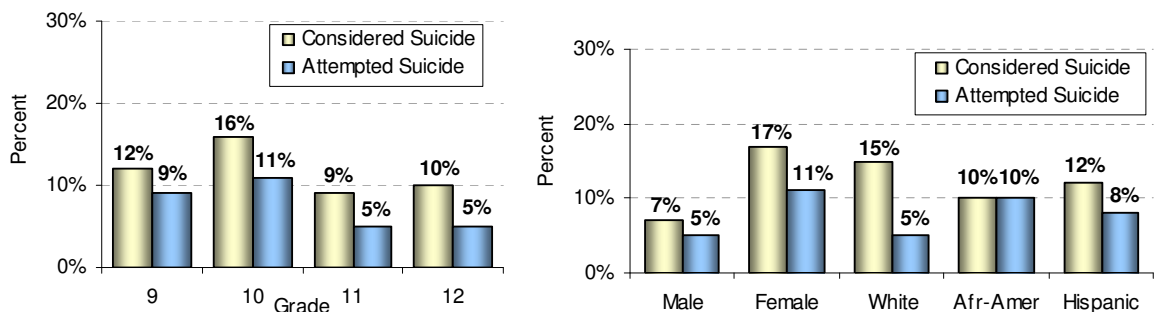
The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor health-risk behaviors known to be related to injury and social problems of America's youth. The survey is conducted every other year at the national, state and local levels and provides information about the prevalence of selected health-risk behaviors among youth. Locally, the YRBS is administered by the Office of Program Evaluation at the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Results from the YRBS can identify problem areas, monitor trends and be used to evaluate the impact of programs that address those needs. This report summarizes the 2005 results regarding behaviors associated with self-inflicted injury among students in senior high schools (grades 9-12).

## Percentage of Students Who Felt Depressed, Two Weeks or More at a Time, in the Past 12 Months



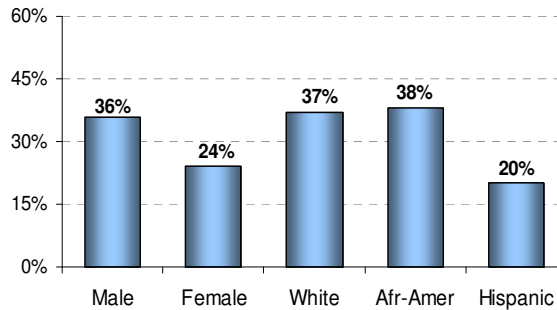
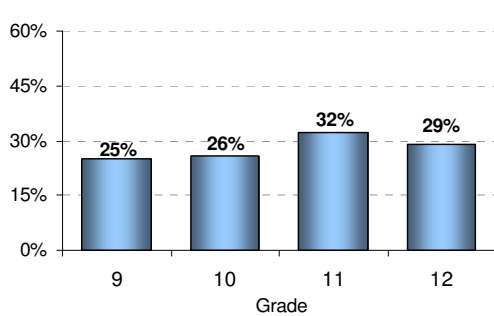
- Nearly one in three high school students reported being depressed for a minimum of a two-week period during the previous year. The percentage was similar for all four high schools grades.
- Female self-reported depression was 73% higher than male students. There was no difference in the self-reported depression between White, African-American or Hispanic students.

## Percentage of Students Who Seriously Considered and Actually Attempted Suicide in the Past 12 Months



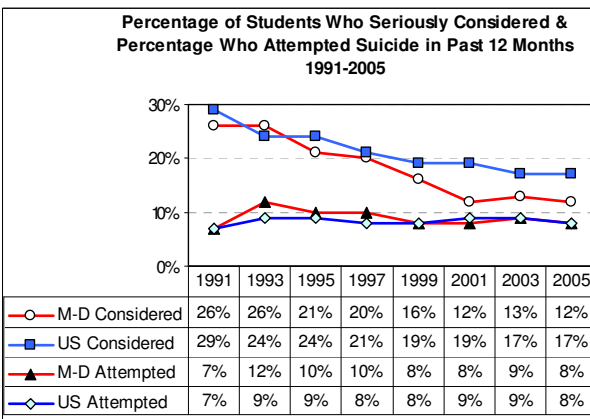
- The percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous year was highest among 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (16%). Females were more than twice as likely as males to consider attempting suicide. White students (15%) reported higher rates than African-American (10%) or Hispanic (12%) students but these findings were not statistically significant.
- Students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades were twice as likely to report an attempted suicide within the past year than the older two grade levels. The female attempted suicide percentage (11%) was more than twice as high as males (5%). African-Americans (10%) reported higher suicide attempts than Hispanic (8%) or White (5%) students but this was not statistically significant.

## Percentage of Students Whose Suicide Attempt Resulted in an Injury or Poisoning that Required Treatment by a Doctor/Nurse in the Past 12 Months



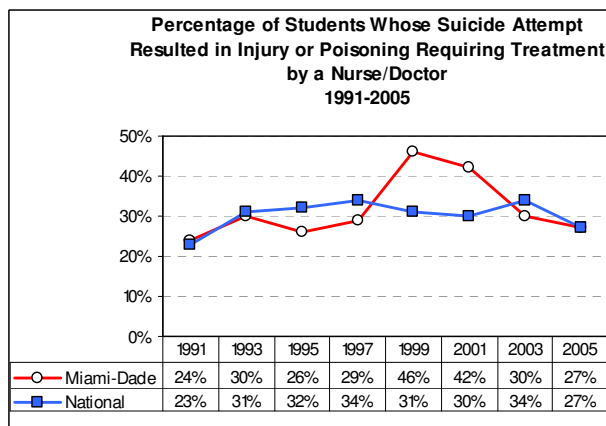
- Among students who only reported having attempted suicide, 29% reported that their attempt resulted in a medically-treated self-inflicted injury. There was little difference across grade levels. Male (36%), White (37%) and African-American (38%) students were more likely than Female (24%) or Hispanic students (20%) to report being injured due to their suicide attempt. Overall, 2.2% of high school students reported being injured from an attempted suicide in 2005, (males=1.7%, females=2.7%).

## Comparison of Miami-Dade County with National Percentages



- The prevalence of Miami-Dade high school students that seriously considered suicide has declined more than 50% since 1991 (26% vs. 12%), while reported suicide attempts have remained essentially unchanged since 1995 ranging between 8-10%. Compared to US results, county high school students have had significantly lower percentages for considered suicide since 1999 but a similar overall trend for attempted suicides.
- The prevalence of students who reported being injured from their suicide attempt has fluctuated over the 14-year period, peaking in 1999-2001 (46-42%) then declining sharply to 27% in 2005. The national trend has been consistent since 1993 with approximately 1 in 3 students reporting being injured from a suicide attempt.

- Self-reported depression (data not shown) ranged between 30-31% during the four years it's been asked (1999-2005).



### How the YRBS was Administered

The Office of Program Evaluation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) administers a high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 6-8) version of the YRBS every other year. In 2005, classes of students were randomly selected from all 43 county senior high schools. A total of 42 of 43 senior high schools completed the surveys. Overall, 2,399 MDCPS high school students (80%) completed surveys voluntarily and anonymously. The behaviors monitored by the YRBS fall into seven categories: unintentional and intentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors and physical activity. More information on the complete YRBS report can be found at the website <http://oer.dadeschools.net>

### Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Source: Data Source: Office of Program Evaluation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
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<http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

