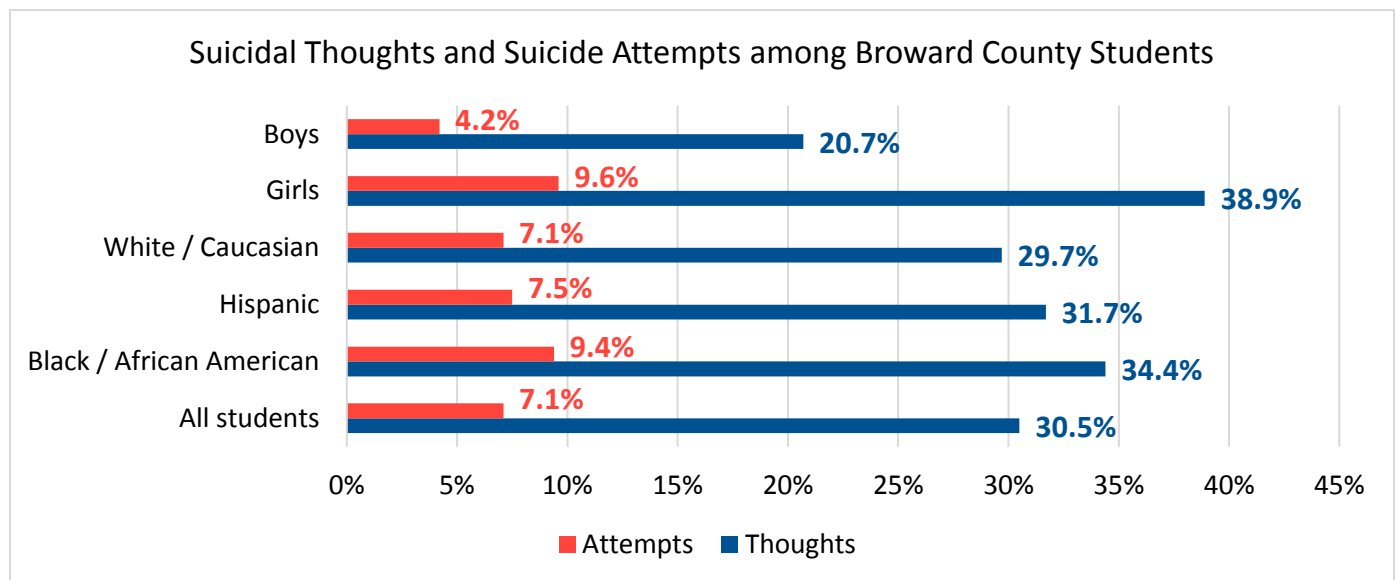


April 2023

Mental Health & Suicide among Broward Students

Recent data from the CDC show that in 2021, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the U.S., with more than 14 deaths per 100,000 population. This represents a near historic high. Data from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) provide insight into the prevalence of mental distress and suicide among 729 Broward County students who participated in the 2022 survey.

Students reported mental health challenges, such as feeling sad or hopeless on most days in the past year: boys (31.7%), girls (57.8%), Black/African American (52.4%), Hispanic (47.0%), and white (40.7%). Such mental health challenges may also influence suicide risk. As seen in the blue bars in the chart, students reported having thoughts about suicide. There was a large difference by gender (38.9% of girls vs. 20.7% of boys) and by race/ethnicity (34.4% of Black/African American students vs. 31.7% of Hispanic and 29.7% of white students). Suicidal attempts were also reported, with similar disparities by gender (9.6% of girls vs. 4.2% of boys) and by race/ethnicity (9.4% of Black/African American students vs. 7.5% of Hispanic and 7.1% of white students). Such findings demonstrate that girls and Black/African American children may need additional health or social services. In addition, a suicide hotline is available for those who need help by calling 988 or visiting www.988lifeline.org.



Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/substance-abuse-and-mental-health/substance-abuse-mental-health-prevention-services-1-1-0>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db464.htm#:~:text=The%20total%20age%2Dadjusted%20suicide,the%20period%20\(Figure%201\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db464.htm#:~:text=The%20total%20age%2Dadjusted%20suicide,the%20period%20(Figure%201).).

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