

# Official Launch of **THE FLORIDA GIRLS DATABOOK**



**April 29, 2025**

By the Florida Girls Initiative, a project of Girl Power Rocks, Inc.

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# Welcome



**RASHADA CAMPBELL**  
**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**  
**GIRL POWER ROCKS, INC.**

# Greetings from State Attorney



**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE**



# Remarks from Mayor's Office



**MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**





# Congressional Record Acknowledgement



**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FREDERICA WILSON  
DISTRICT 24**

# Welcome & Purpose



**THEMA CAMPBELL  
FOUNDER & CEO  
GIRL POWER ROCKS, INC.**



# Girl Power is growing its research repertoire; thank you for supporting our work



## 2025 Spotlight in Journal of Adolescent Research

"It Validates Her Identity": A Mixed Methods Approach to Examining Culture, Context, and Family Engagement in an Urban Afterschool Program for Black and Hispanic Girls

## 2024 Mixed-Methods Study

Qualitative interviews with young women transitioning out of foster care; quantitative survey collecting demographics & perceptions of support needs; and site visits to observe best practices in transitional care.

## 2024 Florida Girls Databook

A new research collaboration designed to put girls center stage and shed light on the quality of their lives - in school, at home, and within the context of local communities.

# Special Thanks



Allegany  
Franciscan  
Ministries





# Panel Moderator



**DR. SANDRA WILLIAMS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**QQ RESEARCH CONSULTANTS**

# Panelists



**Latawun M. Bess**

*Director  
Miami-Dade Juvenile  
Services Department*



**Marya Meyer**

*Executive Director  
The Women's Fund  
Miami-Dade*



**Helen Vilorio**

*Director of Programs  
Girl Power Rocks, inc.*



**Dr. Todra L. Anderson**

*Chief Medical Officer  
Memorial Hospital West*



**Marta Torres**

*Director of Licensed  
Care & Youth Services  
Citrus Family Care Network*



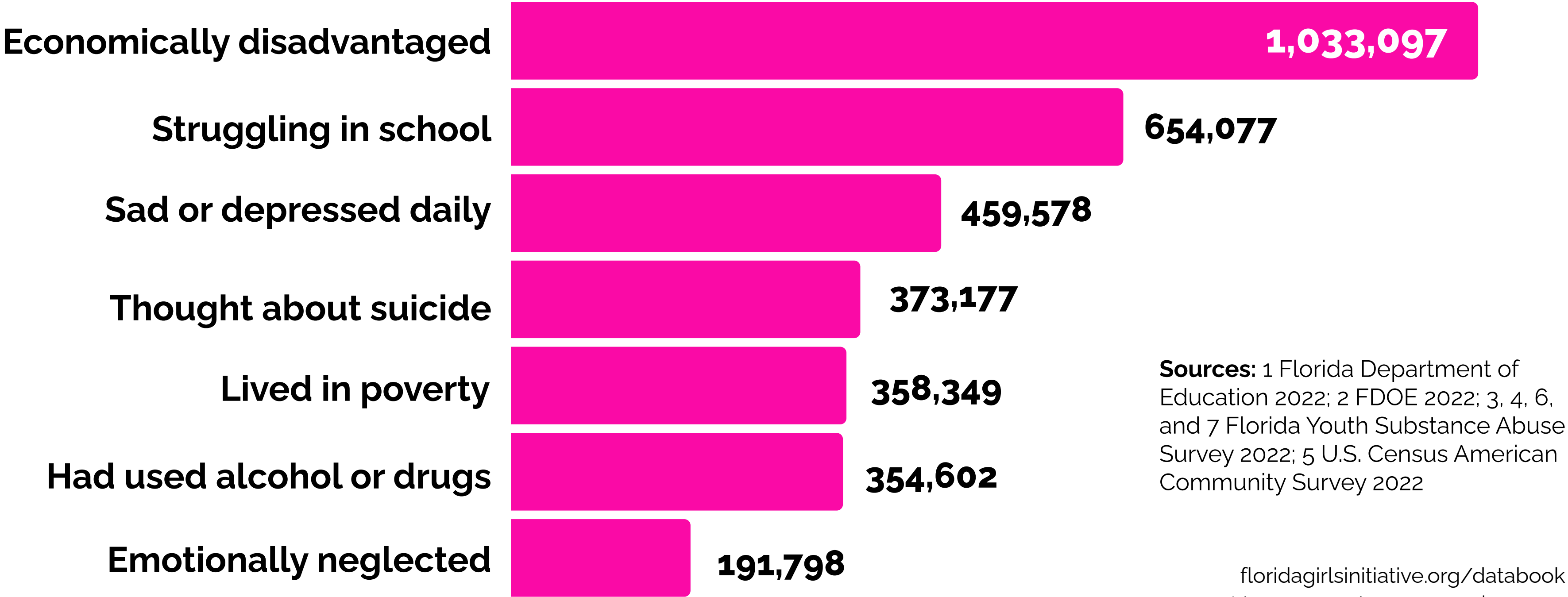
# MORE THAN WE REALIZE



**NEW INSIGHT:**  
Far more girls are  
facing distress, risk  
and crisis  
circumstances  
than any single  
report indicates.

# The Florida Girls Initiative reviewed dozens of data sources to paint a fuller picture of “at-promise” girls

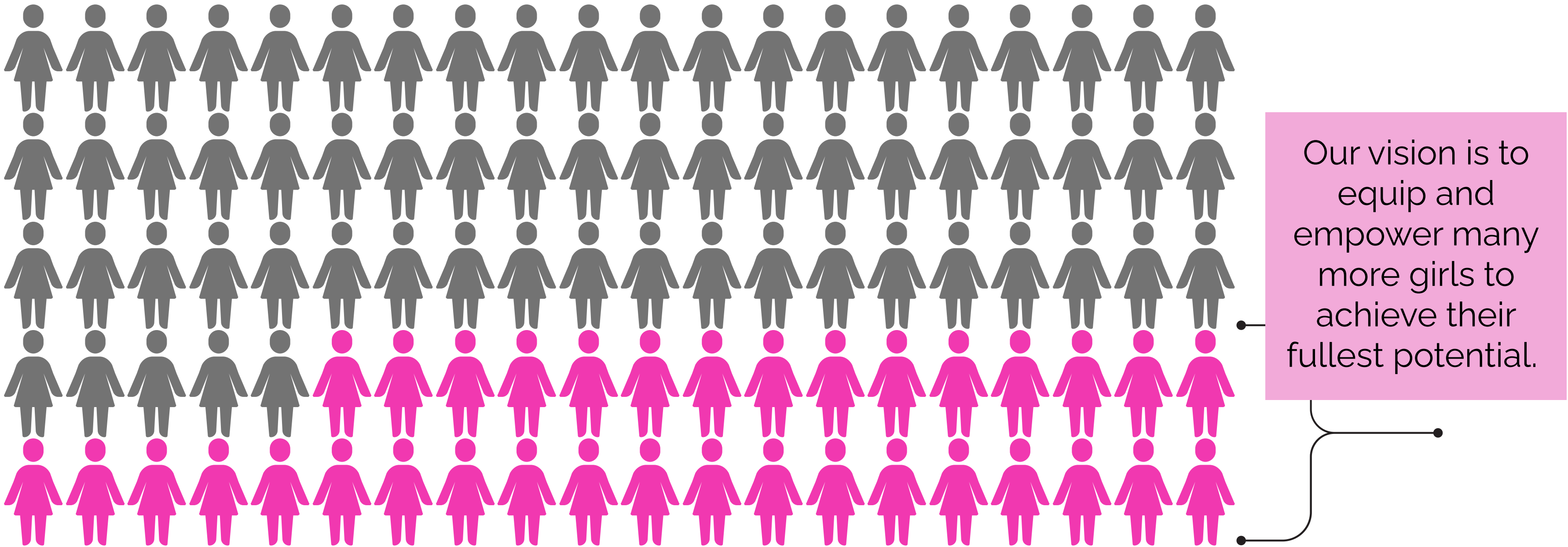
We found staggering numbers of girls living with risks, distress, and crisis circumstances. As examples...




**Sources:** 1 Florida Department of Education 2022; 2 FDOE 2022; 3, 4, 6, and 7 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2022; 5 U.S. Census American Community Survey 2022

# Two-thirds of Florida girls are living with circumstances that put limit or risk their futures

The study team estimated the number of girls living with distress, crisis or risk circumstances, and identified at least 1.3 million Florida girls - or 65% of all girls - who live with one or more challenges that can limit their fullest potential.



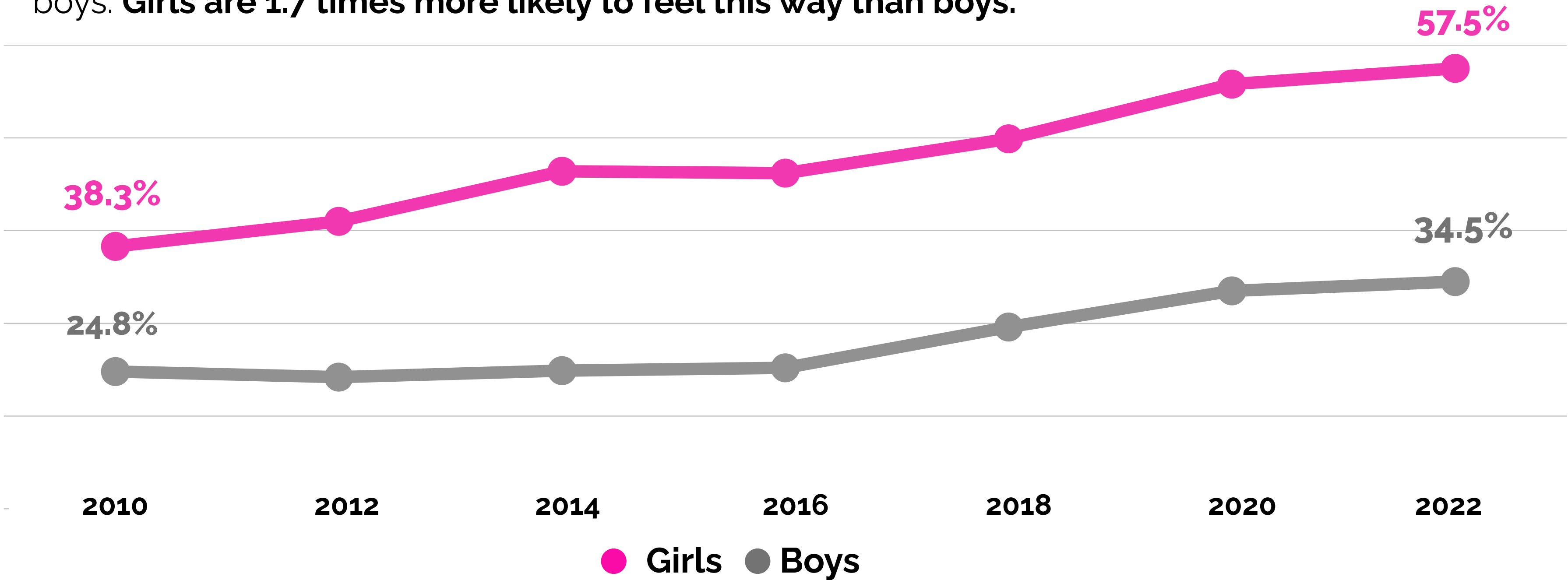
# MIND



**NEW INSIGHT:**  
Indicators of emotional distress have reached all-time highs for Florida girls.

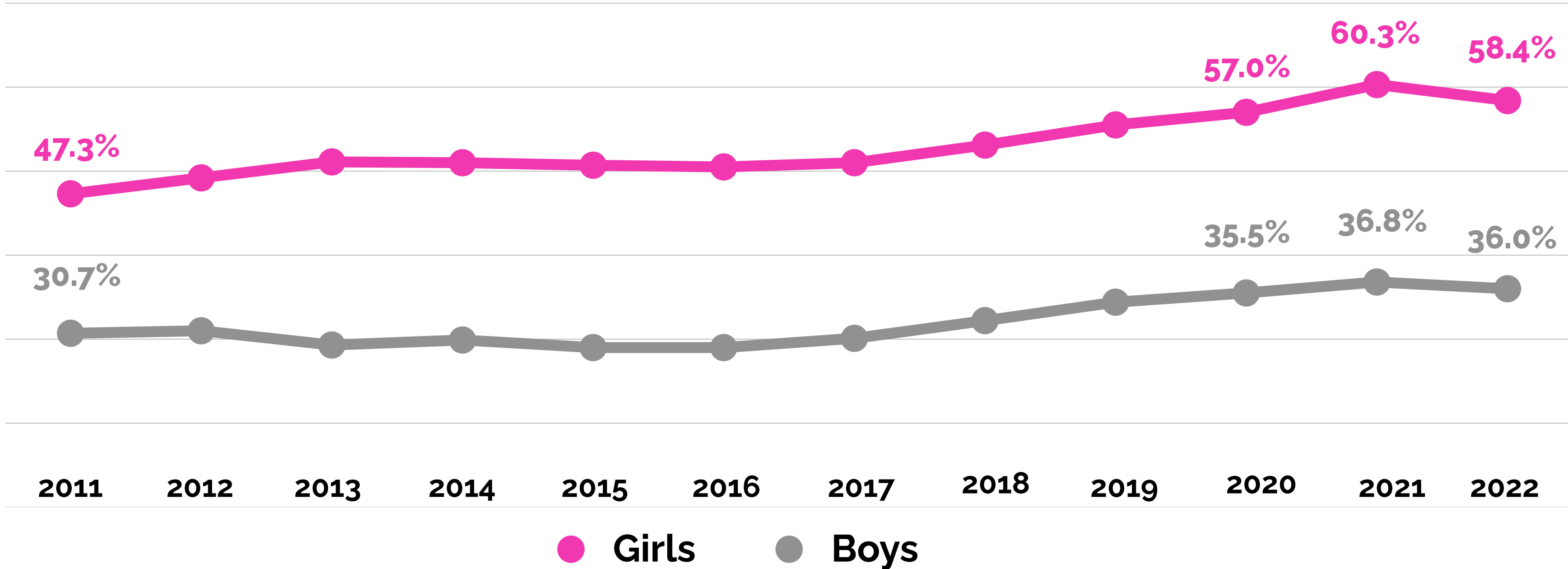
# More than a dozen indicators warn that Florida girls' self-esteem is being undermined

For example, nearly six in 10 Florida girls **sometimes feel that they are no good at all** (57.5%); a figure that has increased by nearly 20 points over the past decade and widened the gap with boys. **Girls are 1.7 times more likely to feel this way than boys.**



# The data also tell us that more and more girls are chronically sad or depressed

Nearly six in 10 Florida girls feel sad or depressed on a daily basis (58.4%); and girls are 1.6 times more likely than boys to experience this.



# More than 4 in 10 Florida teen girls have thought of taking their own lives in the past year

Girls who thought of committing suicide

**44%**

| **1.8x** higher than boys

Girls who seriously considered suicide

**25%**

| **2.1x** higher than boys

Girls who attempted suicide

**13%**

| **2.5x** higher than boys

**Source:** Florida High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2021 and Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2022

# BODY

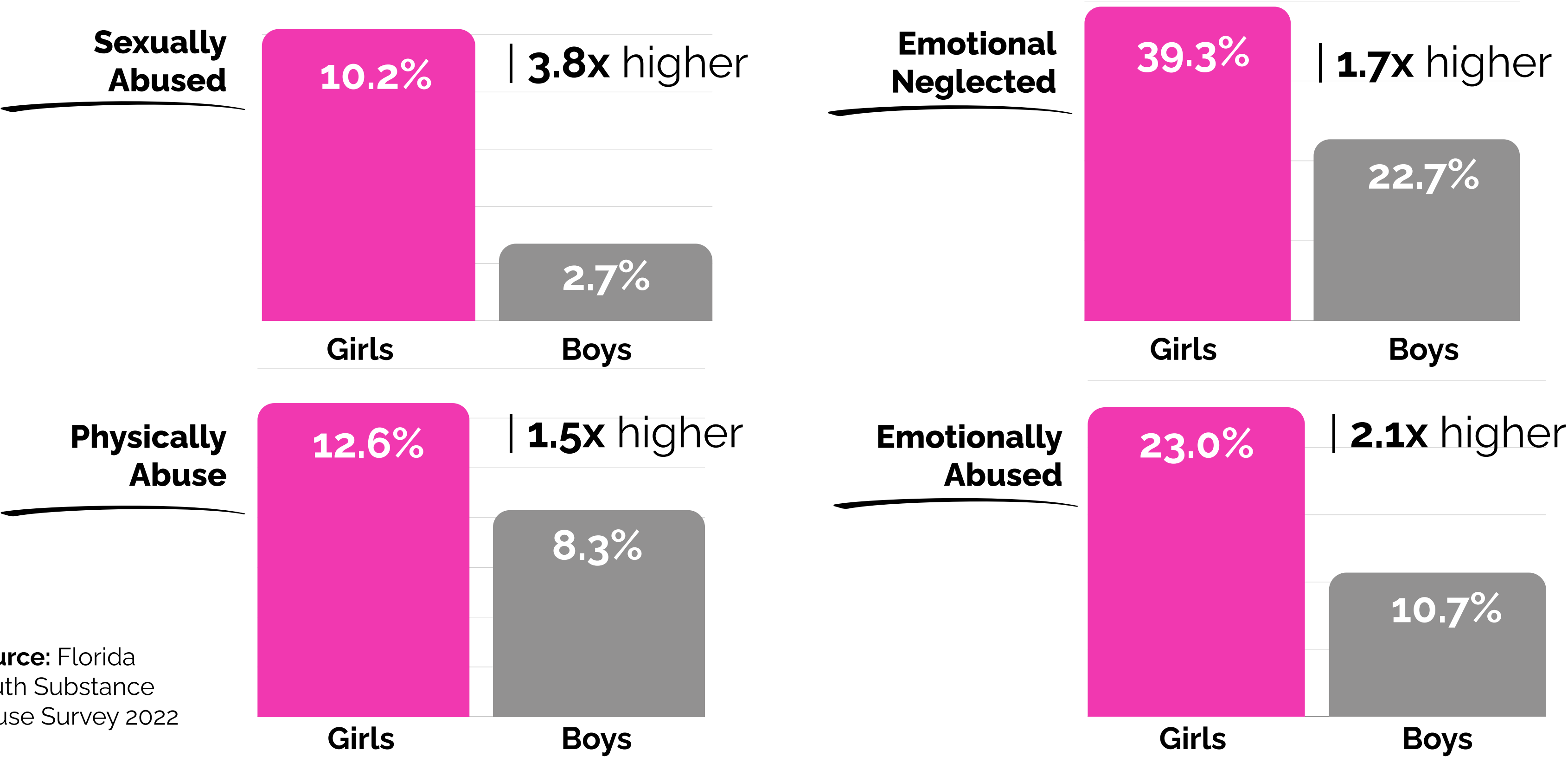


## **NEW INSIGHT:**

**Girls are exposed to more bodily harm and health and wellness risks than boys.**

# Florida girls suffer abuse at rates 1.5 to 5 times higher than boys

As examples, in a single year in Florida...



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2022

# Florida girls are 5 times more likely than boys to be victimized by human trafficking

Girls are  
**81%**  
of victims

Boys  
**18%**

**Source:** Florida Department  
of Children and Family  
Services Human Trafficking of  
Children Annual Report 2023

[floridagirlsinitiative.org/databook](https://floridagirlsinitiative.org/databook)  
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# SCHOOL

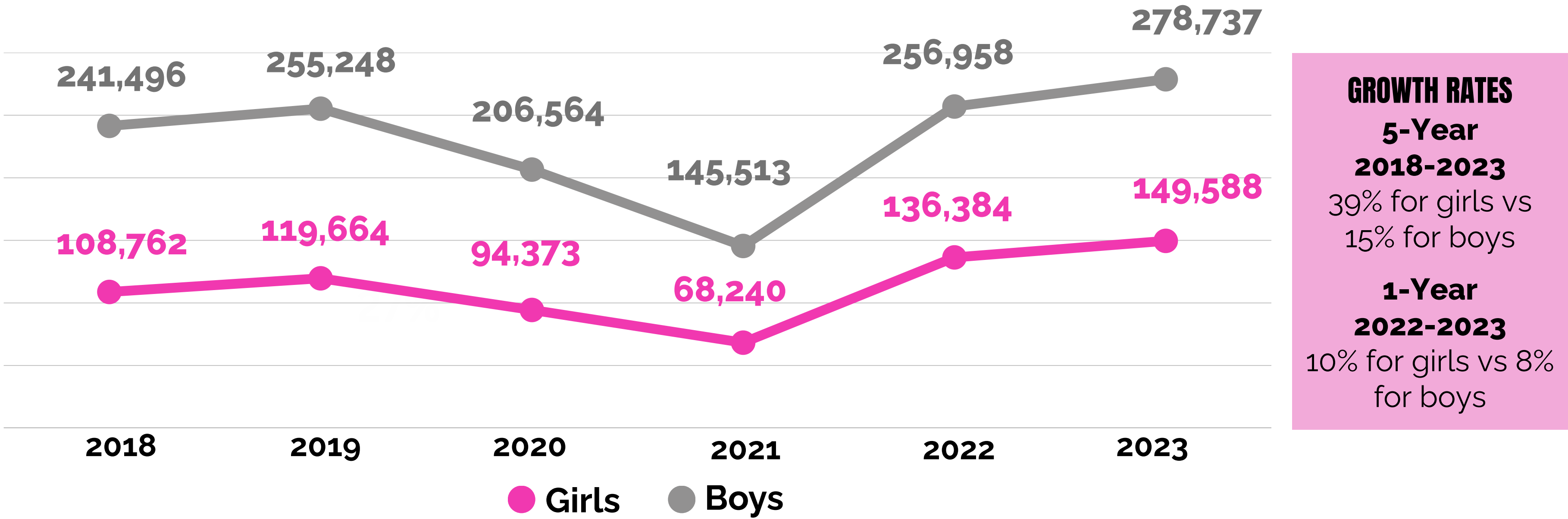


## **NEW INSIGHT:**

**In tandem with mounting stressors in the lives of Florida girls, more of them are becoming entangled in disciplinary actions and infractions in school.**

# New data shows school discipline infractions growing faster for Florida girls compared to boys

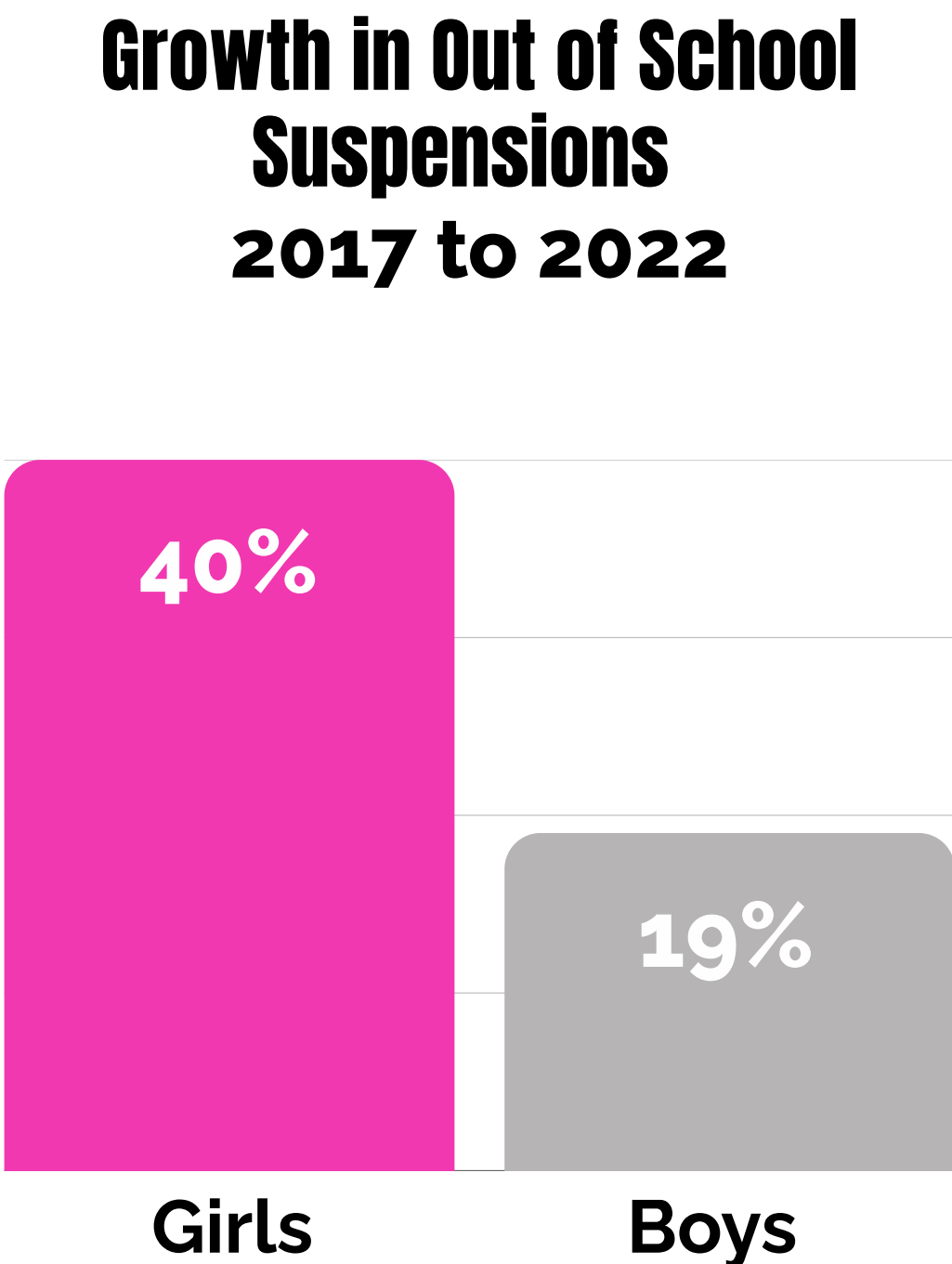
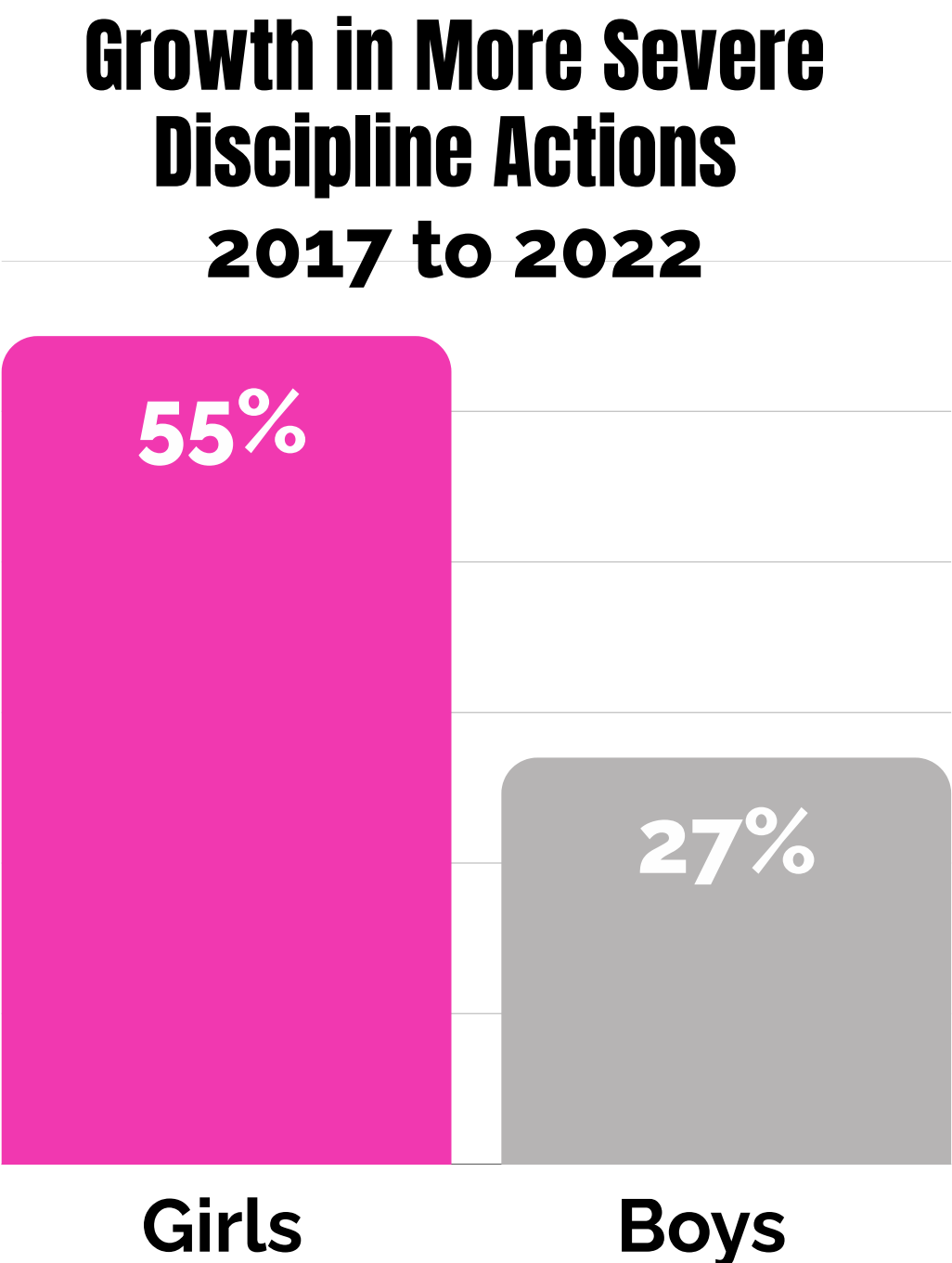
Pre-COVID, trends were positive with discipline infractions falling; post-COVID, however, the trend has reversed, with growth rates higher for girls than boys over multiple timeframes.



# Growth in the number of girls involved with severe and more serious disciplinary infractions was 2x higher than boys

In addition to the increases in the number of disciplinary actions experienced by girls, the data show a troubling rise in girls involved with the most severe disciplinary infractions.

**Sources:** Florida Department of Education Office of Safe Schools. Discipline Data, Student Discipline Data by Race/Ethnicity and Sex 2017 and 2022





# SUBSTANCE ABUSE

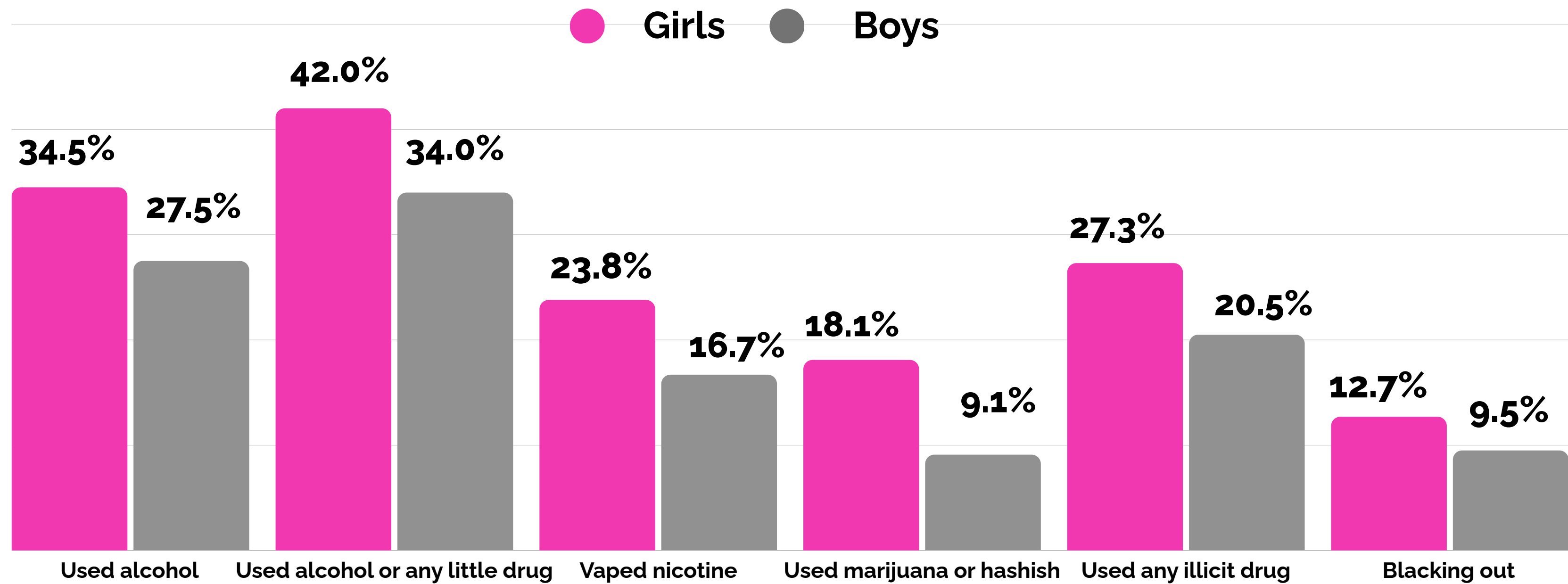


## NEW INSIGHT:

Florida girls are now  
using illicit drugs at  
higher rates than  
boys.

# Florida girls' substance abuse rates are now higher than boys, virtually across the board

Girls have long used alcohol at higher rates than boys in Florida, but the latest data show that girls now have higher abuse rates for most other substances as well. As examples...



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2022



# HOME

## NEW INSIGHT:

In our qualitative study,  
50% of young women  
transitioning from foster  
care reported being  
homeless.



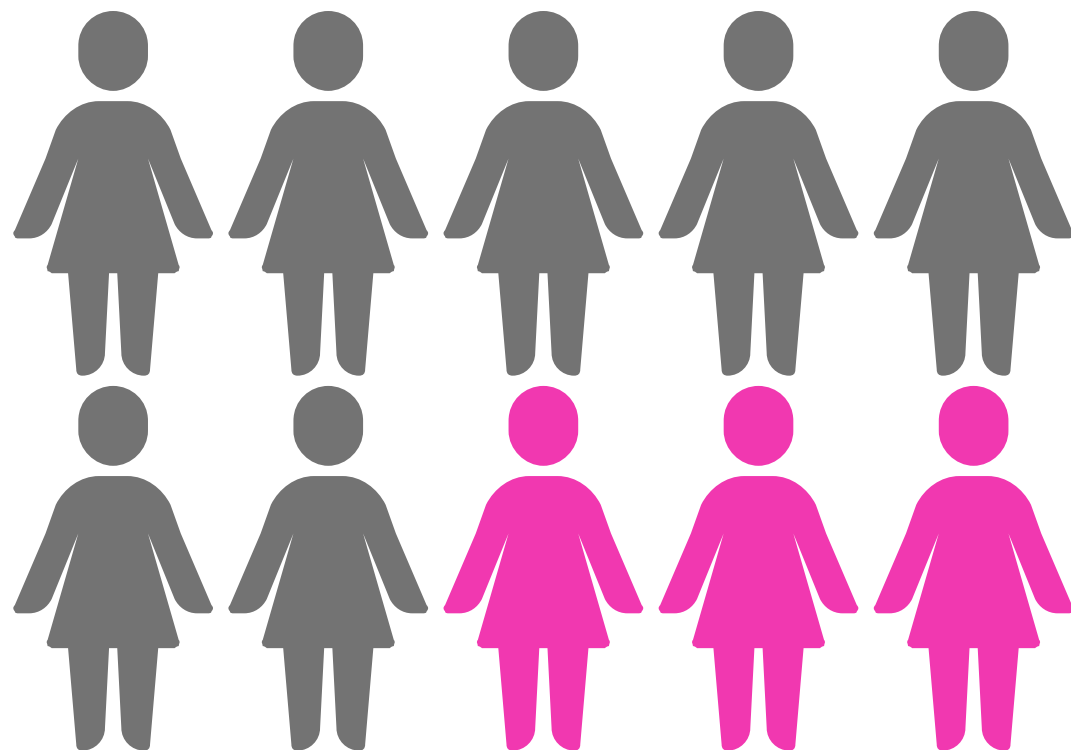
# Research Support



**GEQUASHA COLLINS**  
**CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER**  
**GIRL POWER ROCKS, INC.**

# Seven out of 10 girls in foster care will become pregnant before age 21

One study found that 71% of young women who had been in foster care had been pregnant by age 21, compared with 34% of their peers nationwide.



**Source:** National Center For Youth Law, 2013; Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago, 2005



# Questions & Comments





**THANK YOU  
FOR SUPPORTING!**

**[FLORIDAGIRLSINITIATIVE.ORG/DATABOOK](https://FLORIDAGIRLSINITIATIVE.ORG/DATABOOK)**