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Florida Girls Databook

A Study on the Status of Florida's At-Promise Girls

Developed by Florida Girls Initiative, Urban Market Analytics & The NGC Team

JULY 2024



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Florida Girls

About

The Florida Girls Databook is a creation of the Florida Girls Initiative, a project of Girl Power Rocks, Inc. It was made possible by the funding support of Miami-Dade County. The Databook was created to raise awareness of the still unmet needs of the over 1.36 million Florida girls whose bright futures are at risk.



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- Attorney Keongela Randle, Criminal Juvenile Crossover Attorney, Public Defenders Office, Sixth Judicial Circuit
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Host: The Factory

TALLAHASSEE

Moderator: Alicia Hill, Director, Marketing & Communications, Tallahassee Police Department

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- Detective Nick Kelly, Special Investigations, Human Trafficking, Leon County Sheriff
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- Christic Henry, Realtor, Kingdom First Realty & Grassroot Activist

Host: Capital City Country Club

ORLANDO

Moderator: Stephanie McNeal, Founder, The Freed 2 Love Podcast

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Host: The Jessie Ball duPont Center

MIAMI

Moderator: Kalyn James, CEO & Founder of LitFitness LLC

Panelists:

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- Victor B. Williams, President/Founder of V.B. Williams Consulting, LLC
- Helen Vilorio, Director of Programs, Girl Power Rocks
- Catherine Herring, Advocate

Host: Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus

Reason for this Research



Florida is home to more girls than almost any state in the nation - over 2 million strong! Yet we know so little about their lives, which limits our understanding of how to best support their success.

Though governmental and academic sources publish a wealth of data, too much of it is deposited in silos, lacking the accessibility and attention needed to not only spur public discourse and influence public policy, but to engage “community” as well.

The Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) believes we need a louder, more sustained conversation about Florida girls, particularly those “at-promise,” who are the primary subject of this report.

To achieve that, community-based service providers and activists must feature more prominently in discussions.

This Florida Girls Databook is step one in the development of 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.

The Databook features several modest research innovations. The FGI takes the first-time step of defining what an at-promise girl is and quantifying how many girls in Florida are part of this group.

The Databook is intentionally crafted to be accessible to diverse audiences, offering easy-to-digest insights that inspire more Floridians to be active in support of girls' health and success. It also connects readers to the status of girls in their home counties, using tabular rankings of counties with the largest concentrations of at-promise girls.

Florida Ranks 3rd in the Nation for Largest Girl Population

Florida has one of the largest girl populations in the nation. The Sunshine State ranks #3 in the U.S., behind California and Texas for the presence of girls.¹

Nearly 2.1 million girls live in the Florida (6% of the national total).

Because of this, state and local leaders across Florida have the awe-inspiring opportunity to influence the future of the nation, and hence the world, by positively influencing the future of Florida girls.

Table 1: U.S. Population of Girls by State

	State	Girls	% of Total
	United States	35,725,558	100%
1	California	4,279,469	12.0%
2	Texas	3,617,977	10.1%
3	Florida	2,068,480	5.8%
4	New York	2,013,746	5.6%
5	Illinois	1,377,743	3.9%
6	Pennsylvania	1,298,633	3.6%
7	Ohio	1,265,710	3.5%
8	Georgia	1,227,804	3.4%
9	North Carolina	1,116,906	3.1%
10	Michigan	1,046,260	2.9%
11	New Jersey	984,054	2.8%
12	Virginia	914,126	2.6%
13	Washington	810,372	2.3%
14	Arizona	778,779	2.2%
15	Indiana	768,956	2.2%
16	Tennessee	746,019	2.1%
17	Missouri	668,996	1.9%
18	Massachusetts	666,117	1.9%
19	Maryland	665,270	1.9%
20	Minnesota	638,426	1.8%
21	Wisconsin	618,093	1.7%
22	Colorado	604,998	1.7%
23	Alabama	543,039	1.5%
24	South Carolina	539,414	1.5%
25	Louisiana	529,012	1.5%
26	Kentucky	491,594	1.4%

	State	Girls	% of Total
27	Oklahoma	464,024	1.3%
28	Utah	454,485	1.3%
29	Oregon	415,896	1.2%
30	Connecticut	363,619	1.0%
31	Iowa	355,927	1.0%
32	Kansas	341,190	1.0%
33	Arkansas	339,766	1.0%
34	Mississippi	338,969	0.9%
35	Nevada	336,958	0.9%
36	Puerto Rico	277,252	0.8%
37	Nebraska	233,749	0.7%
38	New Mexico	231,522	0.6%
39	Idaho	221,302	0.6%
40	West Virginia	174,843	0.5%
41	Hawaii	147,672	0.4%
42	New Hampshire	124,948	0.3%
43	Maine	121,790	0.3%
44	Montana	112,413	0.3%
45	South Dakota	106,092	0.3%
46	Delaware	101,738	0.3%
47	Rhode Island	101,354	0.3%
48	North Dakota	88,492	0.2%
49	Alaska	87,151	0.2%
50	Wyoming	64,446	0.2%
51	D.C.	61,145	0.2%
52	Vermont	56,074	0.2%

Florida Has One of the Most Diverse Girl Populations



Florida is one of the nation's most racially and ethnically diverse places. Girls of color comprise six in 10 Florida girls (59.6% of the total) and number over 1.2 million.

Florida also has one of the largest foreign born girl populations. Florida ranks #2 (behind New Jersey) for the highest percentage of children who are foreign born (6.3% in New Jersey and 6.2% in Florida).

Note, for simplicity, this table² uses the U.S. Census' One Race figures for groups marked with an asterisk. Because the Census treats Hispanics as an ethnicity, Hispanic girls are duplicated in other race group rows.

White females are a plurality of the state's girl population (40.4%). Hispanic girls are the next largest group (31.4%), followed by Black

or African American girls (19.6%) and Asian girls (2.6%).

This summary obscures a large multi-racial population – a full 17% of Florida girls are bi-racial or multi-racial.

Table 2: Florida Girls by Race & Ethnicity

	No. of Girls	% of Girls
White	835,666	40.4%
Hispanic	649,503	31.4%
Black*	405,422	19.6%
Asian*	53,780	2.6%
Native American	6,205	0.3%
Pacific Islander	2,068	0.1%
Other	115,835	5.6%
Totals	2,068,480	100%
Girls of Color	1,232,814	59.6%

Summary of Major Findings

The 2023 Florida Girls Databook, by the Florida Girls Initiative (FGI), achieved several firsts in community-centered research. It attempts to quantify the total number of girls in Florida who are living with circumstances that jeopardize their well-being and limit their future prospects.

It paints a picture of how life has changed for Florida girls over the past decade, with drill down analysis on the impact of COVID-19.

Most importantly, the Databook brings the conversation closer to the community level, with county rankings that show where the most girls are struggling (by number) and where girls are struggling the most (by risk rates).

Far More Girls Are Struggling Than Any Single Report Shows

Reports by governmental agencies show large numbers of Florida girls experiencing negative circumstances. In 2022, Florida Department of Education (FDOE) data tell us that over 600,000 girls were struggling in school; reports by FDOE and the U.S. Census indicate that over 1 million Florida girls were economically disadvantaged; and statewide surveys revealed that roughly 459,000 teen girls are chronically sad or depressed, including the 58% of high school girls who said they felt sad or depressed most days of the year.

Yet no single report can answer the simple questions, “How many Florida girls live with risks that limit their future potential?” and “How many live with risks that jeopardize their health, security or lives?”

The Florida Girls Databook partly fills the void. The FGI partnered with Urban Market Analytics (UMA) to analyze data across the most quantifiable at-risk girl groups in

Florida, with the goal of producing order-of-magnitude estimates. From that analysis:

In 2022, at least 1.36 million Florida girls (or two-thirds of the girl population) were living with circumstances that put their futures at risk; and an estimated 461,000 have suffered abuse and trauma.

Girls Are Experiencing Alarming Increases in Abuse & Emotional Distress

Many of the metrics reviewed by FGI showed life outcomes improving for girls over the decade preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. From the early 2010s onward, results across Florida’s major child-serving systems (i.e., educational, child welfare and juvenile justice systems) were trending in the right direction.

As examples, pre-COVID, we saw improvements in the number of girls with “on track” performance in school, alongside reductions in the number of girls involved in school discipline infractions, and with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. For a portion of the pre-COVID decade, the state also saw a hopeful reduction in girls victimized by human trafficking, and in girls’ substance abuse rates.

Yet over the same decade, Florida saw an alarming and steady increase in the number of girls experiencing emotional distress, and from 2017 onward, stark increases in the number of girls suffering abuse. Some of the most urgent indicators of girls’ emotional distress are from the new data on suicidal thoughts and attempts, created by the 2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.

An incredible 44% of Florida girls thought about committing suicide within the past year alone, which is 1.8 times higher than the ratio for boys (25%).

Florida Girls Were Hard Hit by COVID-19

Florida girls were hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only in the prevalence of coronavirus infections among children in the Sunshine State, but in the reverberating effects on girls of COVID's impact in the lives of their parents and caregivers.

Florida's COVID case rate per 100,000 was 25% higher than the national average (25,961 in Florida vs 20,718 across the U.S.).

Beyond physical health, the data show what appears to be compounded negative effects for Florida's children, especially girls.

In the two years after the start of COVID-related shutdowns in March 2020, outcomes worsened for girls across nearly every measure of well-being FGI analyzed. The data show increases in the percentage of girls reporting sexual, physical and emotional abuse, along with sharp upticks in girls experiencing depression, girls self-harming, and girls involved in delinquency.

The Justice for Girls Blueprint 2022 reported a pandemic era increase in child removals from home for reasons such as parental drug abuse and physical abuse.

Indeed, data show that from 2019 to 2021 (when foster care reached its highest level since 2007), the number of Florida children in foster care increased by 21%, producing an average annual growth rate nearly 10 times higher than the preceding seven years.

In addition, girls suffered far worse than boys. One of the most profound indicators of the disparity is that the increase in girls who seriously considered suicide (+4% to 24%) was 10 times the increase among boys (+0.4% to 11%).

The Unmet Need for More Family-Centered & Community-Led Solutions

FGI wholeheartedly endorses the work of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center and others in calling for the Florida legislature to

fulfill the intent of Juvenile Justice Statute 985.02, to provide effective interventions to address the physical, social, and emotional needs of Florida's at-risk children.

The findings of FGI's research compel us to reignite advocacy for increases in community-based solutions to the increasingly grave challenges faced by Florida girls.

Despite the improvements seen in the state's educational, child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the number of at-risk Florida girls is as large today as it was five years ago; and the number and percentage of girls experiencing emotional distress is higher today than it was five years ago.

Girls' outcomes have worsened most in the facets of their lives over which systems have less influence, i.e., in their personal lives, families and communities.

The changes appear to indicate deep seeded and socially structural problems that took shape over decades, and consequently, will require bold and sustained strategies - at scale - to disrupt.

All the more because these challenges involve dynamics not adequately addressed by systemic responses. These include the far-reaching and unmitigated effects of social media, and **dangerously high levels of detachment** from institutions that once factored prominently in girls' lives as a source of protective strength (e.g., school and religious institutions).

FGI urges state leaders to recognize that more work within families and communities is needed to achieve transformative change in the lives of girls. The under-utilized capacity of community-based and community-driven solutions, particularly gender-tailored programming (for all children) can accelerate progress.

What is an At-Promise Girl?



The term at-promise girl was coined by an organization called Girl Power, a pioneer in gender-tailored programming for girls ages 7 to 17, founded in Miami, Florida, in 2000.

Girl Power began using the phrase at-promise as an alternative to the deficit-oriented language commonly used to refer to these girls, including terms such as “at-risk,” “troubled,” “poor,” and “delinquent.”

The statewide Florida Girls Initiative has since elevated the term at-promise. It is defined as follows:

An at-promise girl is an amazing and promising girl whose bright future is in danger of harm or falling short of her full potential, and who needs our help, protection, and guidance to overcome obstacles to her future success.

This group of girls is often called **at-risk** in recognition of the many barriers that stand between them and the attainment of their innate potential.

The health, social sciences and law enforcement fields identify a range of **risk factors** that limit or endanger the future of children and teens; these fields also identify **protective factors** that give children and teens the greatest odds of success or that mitigate or heal negative impacts in their lives.

The reason Girl Power and FGI chose to recast the term at-risk to at-promise is to elevate an asset-based lens when naming girls and groups of girls; and to inspire readers and hearers to look to the future potential of young women, rather than situating girls within the confines of their present circumstances.

The intent is to avoid objectifying girls by labeling them in deficit terms that distance us from their humanity and our communal duty to respond to their needs.

Metrics

FGI and UMA tabularized and analyzed data on over 50 measures of well-being for Florida girls to compile what we hope is the first biannual edition of The Florida Girls Databook.

This table tallies the analyses performed and data captured for each metric.

What the Columns Represent

The **Most Recent Year** used for this report was 2022 for most metrics, or 2023, where available, and 2021 when no subsequent year was published by the data source used.

The **COVID Change** analysis captures changes from 2019 or 2020 to either 2021 or 2022 (depending upon available data).

The **5-Year Change** analysis was from 2017

to 2022 for most metrics.

The **10-Year+ Change** analyses were from 2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012 to 2022 or 2023.

The **Girl-Boy Difference** column reflects three types of analysis: a) the girl to boy difference in risk rate (e.g., percentage with a disability); b) change in girls' risk rate versus boys' risk rate; and c) change in number girls versus boys.

The **Racial or Income Differences** include differences in a) risk rates by race group or income level; and b) representation ratios by race group (e.g., Hispanic girls' share of the population versus their share of children in foster care).

See Appendix 3 for all metric data sources.

Table 3: Master Table of Risk Indicators Examined for the Florida Girls Databook

	Most Recent Year	COVID Change	5-Year Change	10-Year+ Change	Girl-Boy Diff.	Racial or Income Diff.
Economic Status						
1	Economically disadvantaged	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	In poverty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emotional Well-Being & Safety						
3	Experienced high levels of trauma	Yes	Yes		Yes	
4	Emotionally abused	Yes	Yes		Yes	
5	Sexually abused	Yes	Yes		Yes	
6	Physically abused	Yes	Yes		Yes	
7	Emotionally neglected	Yes	Yes		Yes	
8	Experienced sexual violence	Yes		Yes	Yes	
9	Have been physically forced to have sex	Yes		Yes	Yes	
10	Suffered maltreatment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
11	Had a disability	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	At times, think they are no good at all	Yes		Yes	Yes	
13	At times, feel they are a failure	Yes		Yes	Yes	
14	Sometimes think life is not worth it	Yes		Yes	Yes	
15	Sad or depressed on a daily basis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
16	Thought of committing suicide in past 12 mos.	Yes			Yes	
17	Seriously considered suicide	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
18	Purposefully self-harmed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
19	Attempted suicide in past 12 mos.	Yes			Yes	

		Most Recent Year	COVID Change	5-Year Change	10-Year+ Change	Girl-Boy Diff.	Racial or Income Diff.
In School							
20	Below grade level	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
21	Involved in discipline infraction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
22	Involved in severe discipline infraction	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
23	Graduated high school	Yes					Yes
24	Graduated with all requirements met	Yes					Yes
In Community							
25	Living in single parent family	Yes		Yes			Yes
26	Homeless	Yes					
27	Involved in the juvenile justice system	Yes		Yes			Yes
28	Arrested	Yes	Yes			Yes	
29	In foster care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
30	Victimized by human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
31	Victimized by child on child sexual abuse	Yes		Yes		Yes	
32	Gave birth as a child or teen	Yes			Yes		
33	Taunted or teased	Yes				Yes	
34	Victimized by cyberbullying	Yes				Yes	
Impulsiveness							
35	Do what brings me pleasure now	Yes				Yes	
36	More concerned with the short run	Yes				Yes	
37	Getting into trouble is exciting	Yes				Yes	
38	Excitement more important than security	Yes				Yes	
39	People better stay away when I'm angry	Yes				Yes	
40	I get upset when I have a disagreement	Yes				Yes	
Substance Abuse							
41	Used alcohol	Yes				Yes	
42	Used cigarettes	Yes				Yes	
43	Vaped nicotine	Yes				Yes	
44	Vaped marijuana	Yes				Yes	
45	Used marijuana or hashish	Yes			Yes	Yes	
46	Used synthetic marijuana	Yes				Yes	
47	Used inhalants	Yes				Yes	
48	Used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms	Yes				Yes	
49	Used depressants	Yes				Yes	
50	Used prescription pain relievers						
51	Used over the counter drugs						
52	Used prescription amphetamines						
53	Used any illicit drug	Yes				Yes	
54	Used any illicit drug other than marijuana	Yes				Yes	
55	Used alcohol or any illicit drug	Yes			Yes	Yes	
56	Binge drinking	Yes			Yes	Yes	
57	Blacking out	Yes				Yes	

Who Are Florida's At-Promise Girls? And How Many Are Identified



At-Promise Girls Identified by Systems

At-promise girls are often identified as being at-risk by governmental agencies and systems that are designed to serve and support children grappling with diverse challenges, including trauma and crisis.

No single organization in Florida identifies a girl as at-risk. Rather, girls are **situationally identified** as being at-risk, often by a public agency tasked with managing or working to improve some facet of their lives.

The precise number of Florida girls who should be counted as at-risk is unknown. Yet we do know that in 2022, at least 1.36 million Florida girls (or two-thirds of Florida girls) were living with circumstances that put their futures at risk, and at least 461,000 have suffered abuse and trauma.

Below are summaries of at-risk groups and agencies that report on their risk exposures.

- **Girls Struggling in School:** Florida school districts administer standard assessments to public school students in subjects such as math and language arts. Girls who score below level 3 on assessments are considered “below grade level.” The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) reports on these girls annually.

Below Grade Level In Public School (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
45%	621,247	K-12

- **Economically Disadvantaged Girls:** Girls who live in households with lower incomes have far less access to life-enriching opportunities than higher income girls. Their families lack the resources needed to address the risks and inevitable life challenges children encounter. The FDOE and U.S. Census produce data on this population each year. The figure below uses a) the FDOE

reported number of economically disadvantaged female K-12 students (53.8%), plus b) the same percentage of the Census-reported population under age 5.

Economically Disadvantaged (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
54%	1,033,097	All

■ **Girls Involved with the Juvenile Justice System:** The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) tracks and oversees girls who are involved with the juvenile justice system, including girls who are arrested or issued civil citations, and/or who are involved with the system via detention services, residential services, probation, community intervention programs, and other services.

Arrested + Detention, Residential, Probation & Community Intervention Services (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
2.4%	23,299	Ages 10-17

■ **Girls Who Are Abused:** The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is responsible for the state’s child welfare system, which investigates and manages suspected cases of child abuse, including girls who are physically, psychologically, mentally, and/or sexually abused. Most are abused by adults in their lives, including parents and other family members or family associates. Some are the victims of child-on-child sexual abuse. In addition to abuse tracked by the DCF, the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) tracks girls’ self-reporting of various abuses. The latter suggests that incidents and rates of abuse are much higher than the substantiated cases of abuse found by DCF through its investigative processes. In 2022, four agencies – DCF, FDOE, DJJ and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) - collaborated to administer the FYSAS and Florida Youth Tobacco Survey. The FGI applied the ratio below to the U.S. Census estimate for all girls enrolled in high school.

Feel Emotionally Neglected (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
39%	191,798	High School

■ **Girls With Mental Health Challenges & Support Needs:** The FYSAS and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (administered to public school students) show alarming percentages of Florida teens experiencing emotional distress (e.g., who are chronically sad or depressed, who are self-harming, and who have considered or attempted suicide). The figures below combine the 58% of high school girls who felt sad or depressed most days (2022) and the 48% of middle school girls who felt sad or hopeless (2021).

Have Depressive Symptoms (2021 / 2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
54%	459,578	Teens

■ **Girls Abusing Substances:** The FYSAS produces data on the number of girls who self-report using substances. It also yields insights into the number of girls who used substances within the past 30 days.

Have Used Alcohol or Illicit Drugs in Their Lifetime (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
42%	354,602	Teens

■ **Girls In & Transitioning Out of Foster Care:** The number of girls in foster care is tracked and reported by DCF. Less is known about girls or young women transitioning out or aging out of foster care, in part because their care is not mandated by law. Hence, data on the size and life statuses of girls or young women exiting foster care may be limited to what is gleaned in reporting from various individual programs.

In & Out of Foster Care in 1 Year Alone (2021)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
.54%	17,719	All

■ **Girls With Disabilities & Physical Health**

Challenges: The FDOE and the U.S. Census report on the number of students or children with disabilities (including hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, emotional or behavioral, and other disabilities). The FDOH produces a wealth of data on children’s health, though it does not report a single deduplicated count of girls with chronic, life-altering, or debilitating health issues. The ratio below is published by the FDOE and multiplied by U.S. Census data for all children enrolled in school.

With a Disability (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
10%	158,380	K-12

■ **Girl Victims of Human Trafficking:** Girls who are forced, coerced, or manipulated to become victims of involuntary labor or sex trafficking including prostitution and pornography are identified through a range of governmental and non-governmental pathways, including the Florida Abuse Hotline, law enforcement agencies, human trafficking task forces, and agencies such as transitional housing facilities. Based on recent research that actual cases of human trafficking are three to 15 times more prevalent than reported, the figure below is three times the state-reported number.

Estimated Victimized by Trafficking in 1 Year Alone (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
.45%	3,697	Teens

■ **Girls in Unstable Housing or Unhoused:** No single state agency is responsible for alleviating the challenge of unstable housing and homelessness for Florida’s children. Homelessness among girls and children is reported by the FDOH and FDOE. Many leaders in related fields contend that the challenge is undercounted. The figure below is published by the FDOE.

Homeless in 1 Year Alone (2023)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
1.2%	24,077	K-12

■ **Girls Affected by Immigration Status:** Because Florida is a global hub of immigration, the Sunshine State has one of the nation’s largest populations of girls who are first generation immigrants to the U.S. – documented and undocumented. Florida also has one of the largest populations of U.S. citizen children who have at least one undocumented parent and are therefore at greater risk of life disruptions and limited opportunities. According to U.S. Census data, nearly 128,000 Florida girls are foreign born, and only 26% of them are U.S. citizens.

Foreign Born & Not a Citizen (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
4.5%	94,062	All

■ **Girls With Unplanned Pregnancies:** The FDOH and U.S. Census provide data on children and teens who give birth. These data sources do not report on potential or actual life impacts, such as the number of teens with unwanted pregnancies or births, or for whom pregnancies create health or financial hardship or that will result in unsafe, unhealthful environments for children.

Girls Ages 0-17 Who Gave Birth (2022)

% of Girls	No. of Girls	Girl Group
.21%	2,066	Ages 10-17

Beyond Systems, Girls with Undetected or Unaddressed Pain or Risks

Many girls are in harm’s way or living with pain or risk that goes undercounted or **entirely undetected by systems** for a variety of reasons. This “suffering in silence” status is prevalent among several of the at-risk girl groups described above.

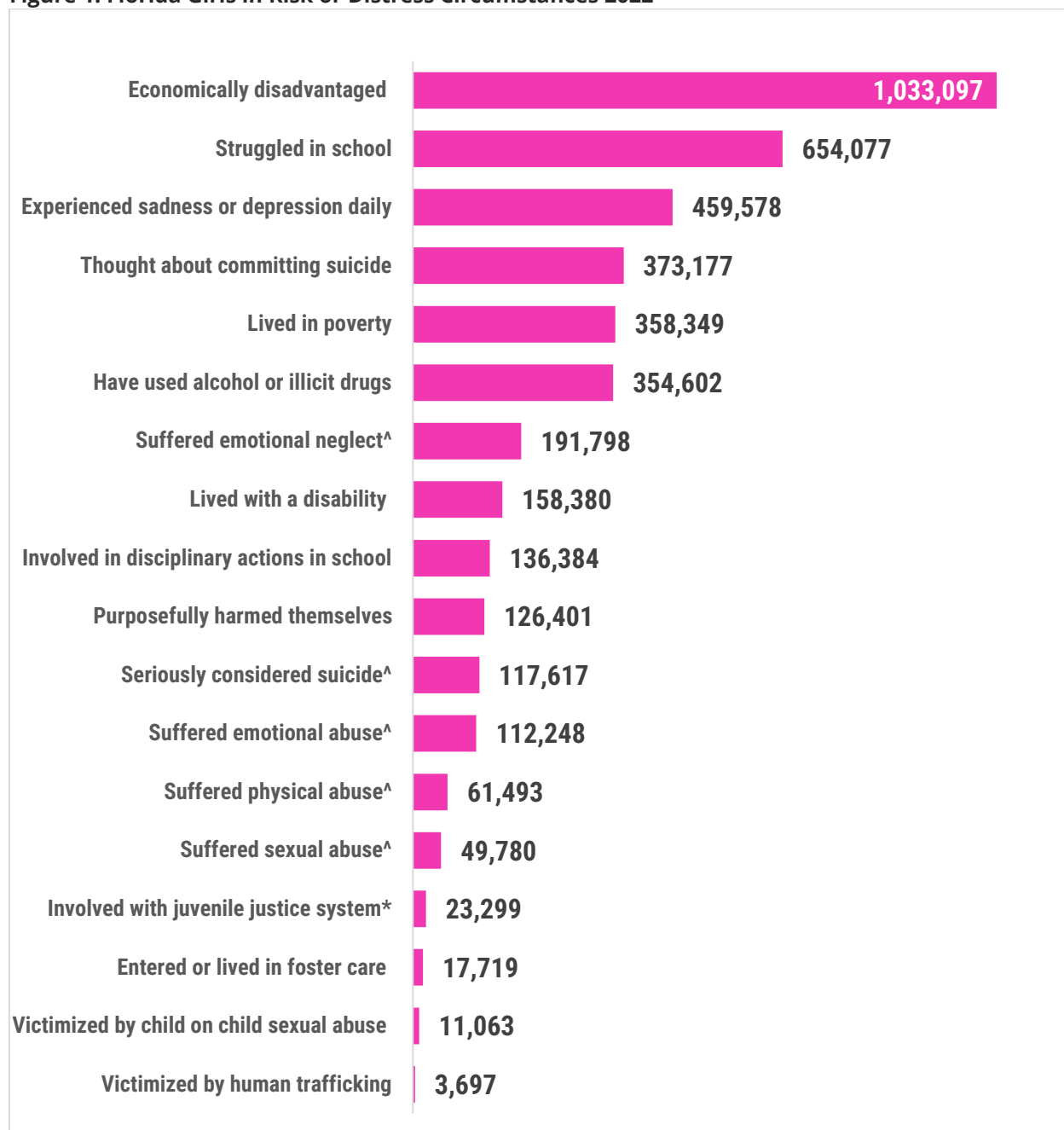
For example, research has found that sexual abuse and human trafficking are significantly undercounted by official data sources in

Florida. An analysis commissioned by the National Institute of Justice to assess the degree of under-reporting of minor victims of sex trafficking concluded that the problem is pronounced.

Published in 2021, the analysis found that, “Even in Florida, where child welfare efforts

have far exceeded those in other states, human trafficking of children is likely under-identified.” Statistical modeling by the analysts suggests “that actual victimization may be between 3 and 15 times what is identified” in official reports.³

Figure 1: Florida Girls in Risk or Distress Circumstances 2022



[^]High school girls only

^{*}Girls arrested or participating in detention services, residential services, probation, or community intervention programs.

Girls Still Far More Likely Than Boys to Experience Trauma, and Disparities Have Worsened



For years, girls have been more likely to be academically on track than boys, and fewer girls are involved with the juvenile justice system, compared with boys.

Yet girls have been and remain far more likely to experience abuse and trauma.

In addition, the gap between girls and boys has widened, indicating mounting and increasingly intense levels of distress among Florida girls.

The FGI reviewed outcomes for girls versus boys across 48 risk or distress circumstances and found that girls are worse off than boys in 87% of those risk statuses.

One of the more surprising results of the comparison is that in 2023, a higher percentage of girls than boys struggled in school. The Florida PK-20 Education Data Warehouse showed 43% of girls below grade level versus 42% of boys.

Some of the most alarming gender disparities were among children who are victimized by human trafficking (girls are nearly five times more likely to be victimized); sexually abused (girls are nearly 4 times more likely to be victimized); and young people who purposefully hurt themselves without wanting to die (girls are 2.2 times more likely to self-harm).

More Girls Than Boys Suffer Abuse

Girls are victimized by abuse at 1.5 to 5 times the rate of boys in Florida, depending on the type of abuse in question. The most recent FYSAS report shows that among high school students:

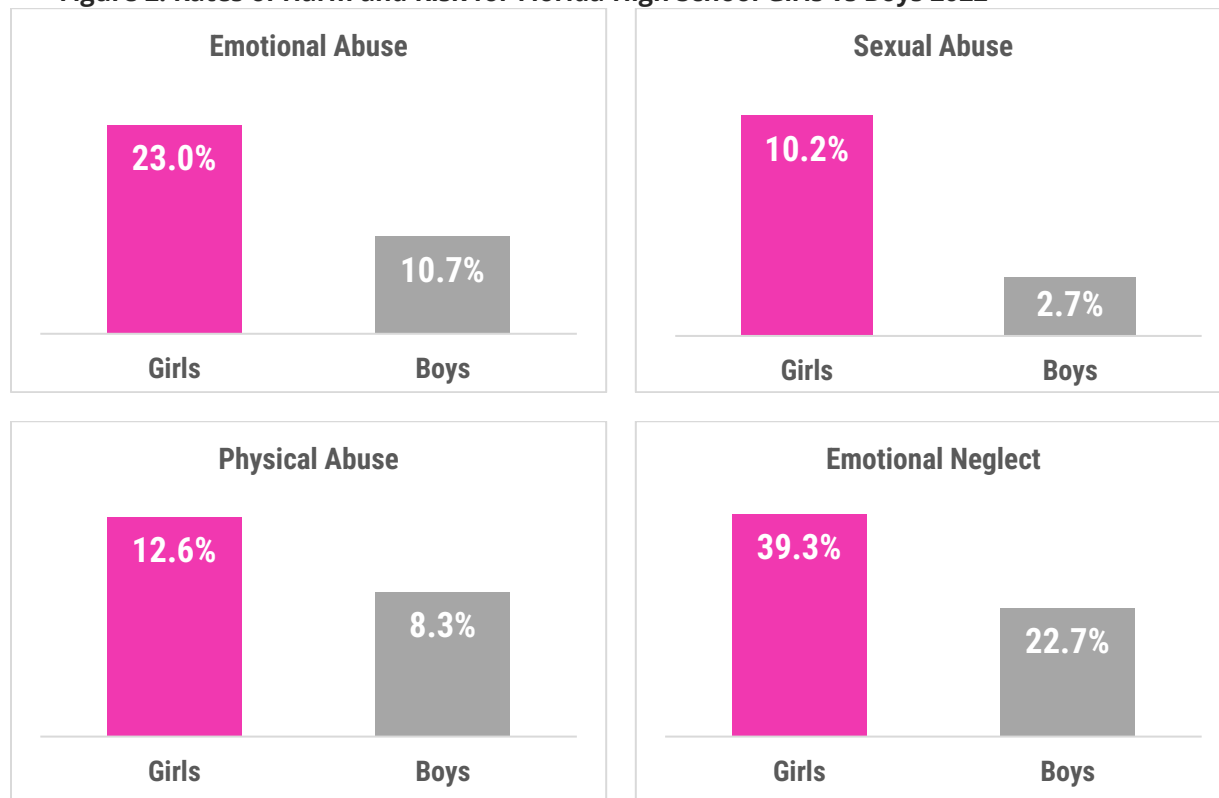
- One in 10 girls reports being sexually abused (10.2%); and girls are 3.8 times more likely than boys to experience sexual abuse.⁴
- One in eight girls reports being physically abused (12.6%); and girls are 1.5 times more likely to suffer physical abuse.⁵
- Nearly one in four girls reports being emotionally abused (23%); and girls are 2.1 times more likely to experience emotional abuse.⁶
- Four in 10 girls reports being emotionally

neglected (39.3%); and girls are 1.7 times more likely to experience this.⁷

In addition, five times more girls than boys are victimized by human trafficking in Florida; and nearly three times as many girls has experienced sexual violence (16.6% of girls and 5.7% of boys).⁸

Girls also suffer bullying at higher rates than boys and are nearly three times more likely to stay home from school because of it. Close to two-thirds of Florida girls report being taunted or teased (63.4%) which is 1.2 times higher than the rate for boys (53.1%)⁹; and over one-third of girls say they have been victims of cyber bullying (37.5%) which is 1.7 times higher than the rate for boys (22.5%).¹⁰

Figure 2: Rates of Harm and Risk for Florida High School Girls vs Boys 2022



More Girls Than Boys Are Emotionally Vulnerable or in Crisis

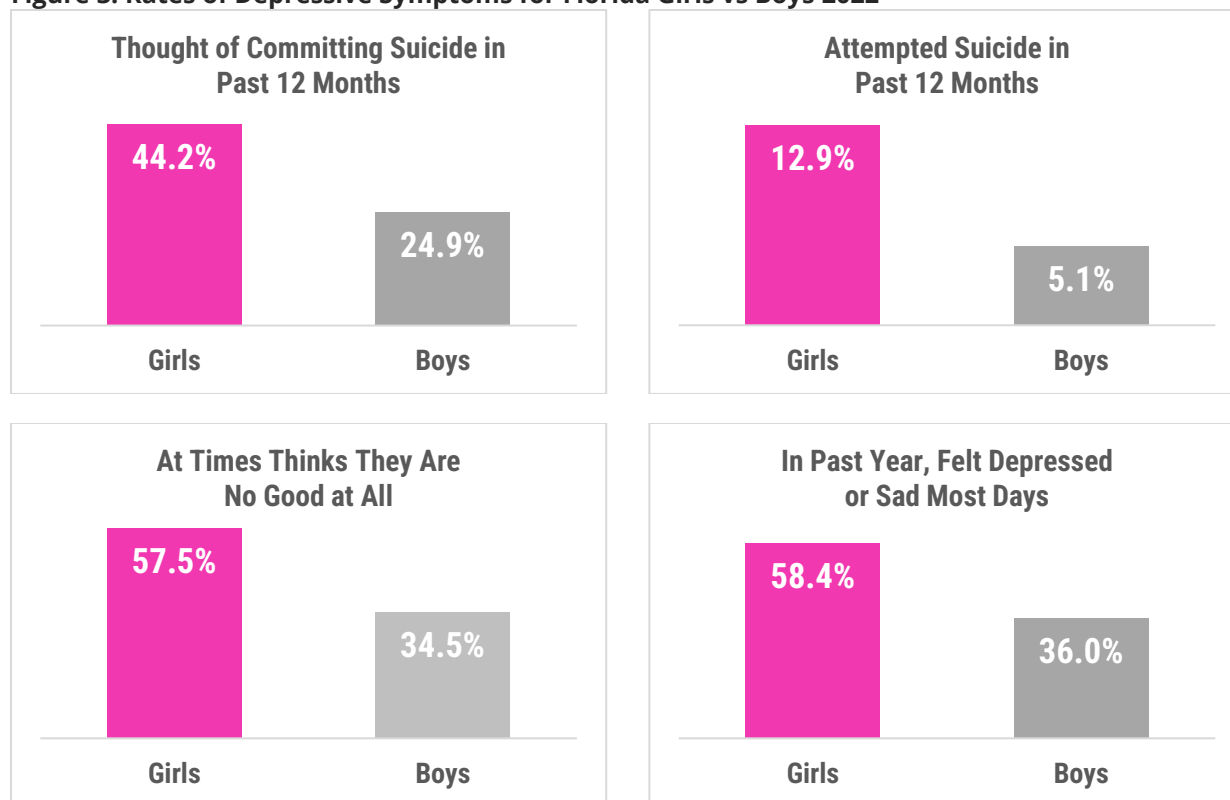
Correlated with higher rates of abuse and bullying, Florida girls experience more emotional distress and crisis than boys.

One of the most telling measures of the gender disparities is in the percentage of girls versus boys who have thought about committing suicide in the past 12 months. Over four in 10 teen girls considered suicide (44%), which is nearly 20 points higher than the rate for boys (25%).¹¹

In addition, the most recent FYSAS report shows that:

- One in eight Florida girls attempted suicide within the past year alone (12.9%); and that girls are 2.5 times more likely than boys to have done so than boys.¹²
- Nearly six in 10 Florida girls sometimes feel that they are no good at all (57.5%); and girls are 1.7 times more likely to feel this way than boys.¹³
- 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.¹⁴

Figure 3: Rates of Depressive Symptoms for Florida Girls vs Boys 2022



More Girls Than Boys Are Signaling Lack of Self-Control

The 2022 FYSAS data show that more girls than boys feel a lack of self-control. The table below notes the percentage of teens who agree or strongly agree with statements indicating impulsiveness or a lack of self-control.¹⁵

Girls showed a stronger inclination for pleasure seeking: 30% of girls versus 27% of boys agreed that getting into trouble is

exciting; and a slightly higher percentage of girls (26.3%) than boys (26.1%) said excitement is more important than security.

Girls were more likely than boys to act for pleasure in the present: 36% of girls versus 30% of boys said they do what brings them pleasure now; and 30% of girls versus 25% of boys said they are more concerned with the short-run than the long-term picture.

Table 4: Indicators of Impulsiveness & Lack of Self-Control for Florida Girls vs Boys 2022

	Girls	Boys	Girl to Boy Ratio	Who is worse off?
Do what brings me pleasure now	35.7%	30.2%	1.18	Girls
More concerned with the short run	30.2%	24.5%	1.23	Girls
Getting into trouble is exciting	30.4%	27.3%	1.11	Girls
Excitement more important than security	26.3%	26.1%	1.01	Girls
People better stay away from me when I'm angry	35.2%	26.1%	1.35	Girls
I get upset when I have a disagreement	51.6%	33.9%	1.52	Girls

More Girls Are Abusing Substances



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.

Lifetime Use Rates

The FGI tabled the gender difference in 17 lifetime substance abuse rates for substances where girls had 2% or higher

lifetime use rates. Girls had higher abuse rates for all 17 metrics.

30 Day Use Rates

The FGI tabled the gender difference in 15 “past 30-day” substance abuse rates. Girls also had higher use rates within the past 30 days for all but 2 of the 15 substance types.

Table 5: Lifetime Substance Abuse Rates for Florida Girls vs Boys 2022¹⁶

	Girls	Boys	Girl to Boy Ratio	Who is worse off?
Used alcohol	34.5%	27.5%	1.25	Girls
Used cigarettes	7.2%	7.0%	1.03	Girls
Vaped nicotine	23.8%	16.7%	1.43	Girls
Vaped marijuana	15.1%	11.4%	1.32	Girls
Used marijuana or hashish	18.1%	9.1%	1.99	Girls
Used synthetic marijuana	2.8%	2.2%	1.27	Girls
Used inhalants	6.6%	4.6%	1.43	Girls
Used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms	2.6%	2.5%	1.04	Girls
Used depressants	2.8%	1.9%	1.47	Girls
Used prescription pain relievers	3.3%	2.2%	1.50	Girls
Used over the counter drugs	3.2%	2.4%	1.33	Girls
Used prescription amphetamines	3.2%	2.3%	1.39	Girls
Used any illicit drug	27.3%	20.5%	1.33	Girls
Used any illicit drug other than marijuana	14.0%	10.4%	1.35	Girls
Used alcohol or any illicit drug	42.0%	34.0%	1.24	Girls
Binge drinking	6.1%	5.1%	1.20	Girls
Blacking out	12.7%	9.5%	1.34	Girls

Table 6: Past 30 Day Substance Abuse Rates for Florida Girls vs Boys 2022

	Girls	Boys	Girl to Boy Ratio	Who is worse off?
Used alcohol	13.3%	10.3%	1.29	Girls
Used cigarettes	1.0%	1.3%	0.77	Boys
Vaped nicotine	11.9%	7.5%	1.59	Girls
Vaped marijuana	7.7%	5.9%	1.31	Girls
Used marijuana or hashish	14.0%	7.4%	1.89	Girls
Used synthetic marijuana	1.0%	0.7%	1.43	Girls
Used inhalants	1.9%	1.2%	1.58	Girls
Used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms	0.6%	0.7%	0.86	Boys
Used depressants	0.8%	0.6%	1.33	Girls
Used prescription pain relievers	1.3%	0.7%	1.86	Girls
Used over the counter drugs	1.1%	1.0%	1.10	Girls
Used prescription amphetamines	1.1%	0.8%	1.38	Girls
Used any illicit drug	14.0%	10.7%	1.31	Girls
Used any illicit drug other than marijuana	5.2%	4.0%	1.30	Girls
Used alcohol or any illicit drug	21.0%	16.0%	1.31	Girls

Summary of Risk Rates for Girls vs Boys

The FGI reviewed outcomes for girls versus boys across 50 risk or distress circumstances and found that girls are worse off than boys for 41 or 87% of the indicators.

The following table presents data on 28 indicators. Compared with the master list of metrics used for this report (in Table 3), it consolidates the measures of impulsiveness

shown in tables 4 to a single line item (row 18).

The table omits all but one of the indicators featured in tables 5 and 6. Having found no meaningful gender difference in economic status, we also omit economic indicators from this summary view.

Table 7: Risk Rates & Risk Ratios for Florida Girls vs Boys

	Girls	Boys	Girls-Boys	Girl-to-Boy Rate	Who is worse off?	Data Year
Emotional Well-Being & Safety						
1 Experienced high levels of trauma	27.9%	14.5%	13.4%	1.92	Girls	2022
2 Suffering emotional abuse	23.0%	10.7%	12.3%	2.15	Girls	2022
3 Suffering sexual abuse	10.2%	2.7%	7.5%	3.78	Girls	2022
4 Suffering physical abuse	12.6%	8.3%	4.3%	1.52	Girls	2022
5 Suffering emotional neglect	39.3%	22.7%	16.6%	1.73	Girls	2022
6 Experienced sexual violence	16.6%	5.7%	10.9%	2.91	Girls	2021
7 Have been physically forced to have sex	11.7%	4.3%	7.4%	2.72	Girls	2021
8 Suffering maltreatment	0.7%	0.6%	0.1%	1.17	Girls	2021
9 Had a disability	10.6%	19.0%	-8.4%	0.56	Boys	2023
10 At times, think they are no good at all	57.5%	34.5%	23.0%	1.67	Girls	2022
11 At times, feel they are a failure	38.6%	22.4%	16.2%	1.72	Girls	2022
12 Sometimes think life is not worth it	43.0%	23.2%	19.8%	1.85	Girls	2022
13 Experiencing depressive symptoms	58.4%	36.0%	22.4%	1.62	Girls	2022
14 Thought about committing suicide*	44.2%	24.9%	19.3%	1.78	Girls	2022
15 Seriously considered suicide*	24.1%	11.3%	12.8%	2.13	Girls	2021
16 Purposefully hurt themselves+	25.9%	11.8%	14.1%	2.19	Girls	2021
17 Attempted suicide*	12.9%	5.1%	7.8%	2.53	Girls	2022
18 Signaled lack of self-control	34.9%	28.0%	6.9%	1.25	Girls	2022
19 Used alcohol or an illicit drug in lifetime	42.0%	34.0%	8.0%	1.24	Girls	2022
20 Used alcohol or an illicit drug in past 30 days	21.0%	16.1%	4.9%	1.30	Girls	2022
In School						
21 Struggling in school	43.0%	42.0%	1.0%	1.02	Girls	2023
22 Disciplined in school	11.0%	20.0%	-9.0%	0.55	Boys	2023
23 Graduated high school	89.9%	84.7%	5.2%	1.06	Boys	2022
24 Graduated with all requirements met	49.2%	44.7%	4.5%	1.10	Boys	2023
In Community & Family Life						
25 Involved with the juvenile justice system**	2.4%	5.8%	-3.4%	0.41	Boys	2022
26 Victimized by human trafficking	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	4.75	Girls	2022
27 Taunted or teased	63.4%	53.1%	10.3%	1.19	Girls	2022
28 Victimized by cyber bullying	37.5%	22.5%	15.0%	1.67	Girls	2022

*In past year **Includes youth arrested, plus those involved with DJJ's detention, residential, probation and community intervention services

Where Gender Disparities & Life Outcomes Have Worsened for Florida Girls



Many of the metrics examined by Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) showed life outcomes improving for girls over the decade preceding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pre-COVID, Florida witnessed improvements in girls performing on grade level in school and graduating from high school, alongside reductions in the number of girls involved in disciplinary infractions in school and the number involved with the justice system.

For a portion of the pre-COVID decade, the state also saw hopeful reductions in girls victimized by human trafficking, and in girls' substance abuse rates.

Yet over the same decade, Florida saw an alarming and steady increase in the number of girls experiencing emotional distress, and from 2017 onward, stark increases in the number of girls suffering abuse.

Some of the most urgent indicators of girls' emotional distress are from the new body of data on suicidal thoughts and attempts, created by the 2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.

This section offers snapshots of changes in the lives of Florida girls over 10-year and 5-year periods.

Photo Above: Panelists for the September 26, 2023, Florida Girls Initiative Listening Session in Miami, Florida, hosted by the Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus. The session was moderated by Kalyn James, CEO & Founder of LitFitness.

Increase in Florida Girls Who Are Emotionally Vulnerable

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a new report in February 2023 that sounded the alarm over recent skyrocketing rates of teens in distress, particularly girls.

A press release on the report noted that “Teen girls are experiencing record high levels of violence, sadness, and suicide risk,” and that nearly three in five (57%) U.S. teen girls felt persistently sad or hopeless in 2021, which was nearly double the percentage of boys who experienced the same (29%).¹⁷

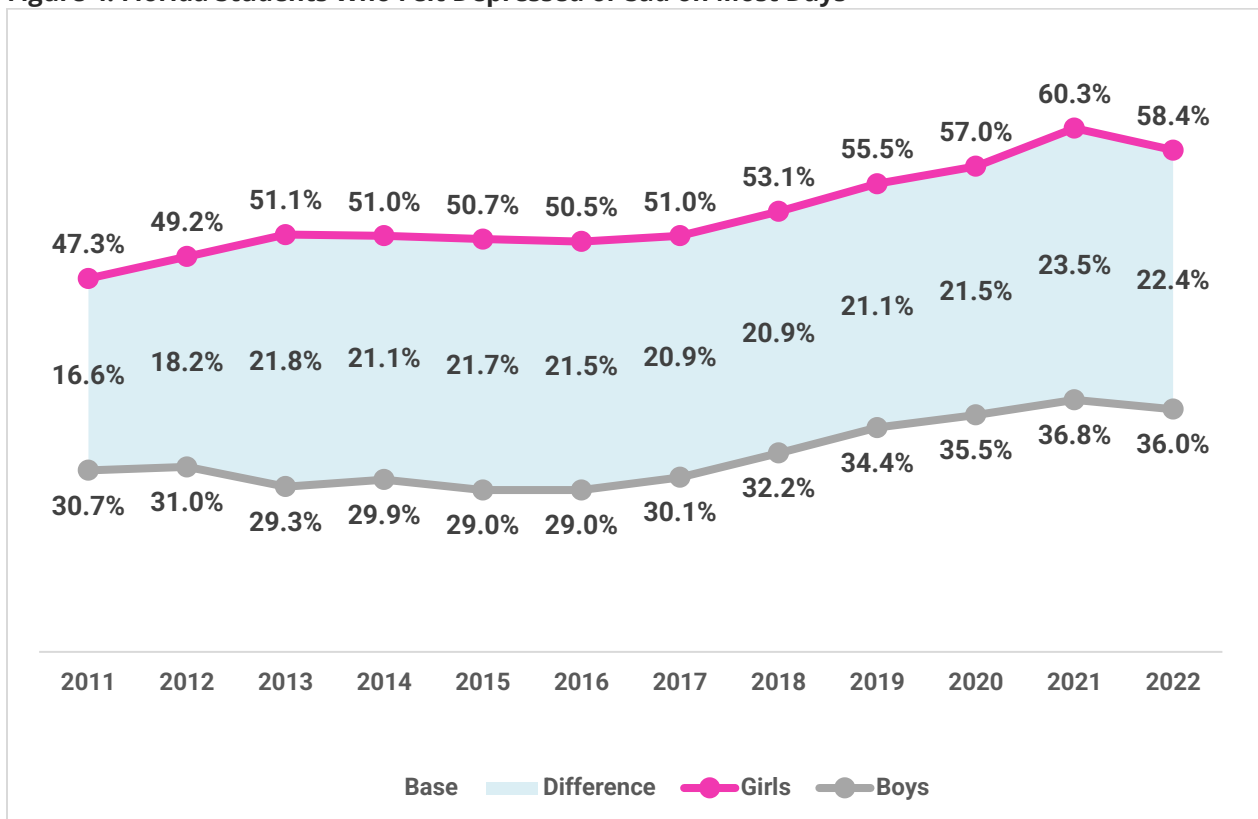
The challenge is marginally worse in Florida where six out of 10 teen girls felt sad or depressed on most days in 2021. In addition, Florida girls continue to have far higher rates of daily sadness than boys.

In Florida, rates of daily sadness and depression have risen for both boys and girls, but from 2012 to 2022, the increase was nearly twice as big for girls (9.2% increase) than for boys (5.0% increase).

As the graph below illustrates, the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have driven increases in persistent sadness for both groups, but the increase in girls’ daily sadness rate was more pronounced.

From 2019 to 2021, the rise in girls’ daily sadness rate (4.8%) was nearly twice as big as the increase for boys (2.4%).

Figure 4: Florida Students Who Felt Depressed or Sad on Most Days¹⁸



Increase in Gender Gap in Negative Emotions

The FYSAS tracks a host of measures of mental well-being for Florida's children; and the 2022 data show the same patterns across most of those metrics, including a) increasing rates of mental unwellness for both girls and boys; coupled with b) a sharper increase for girls versus boys.

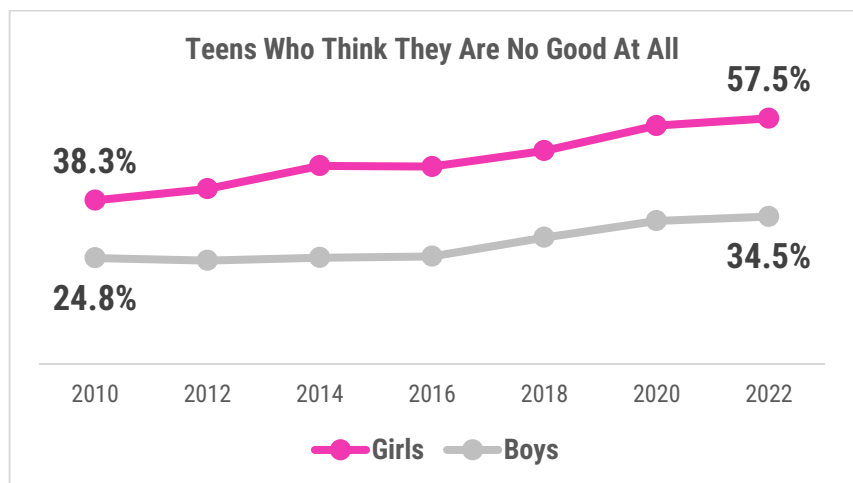
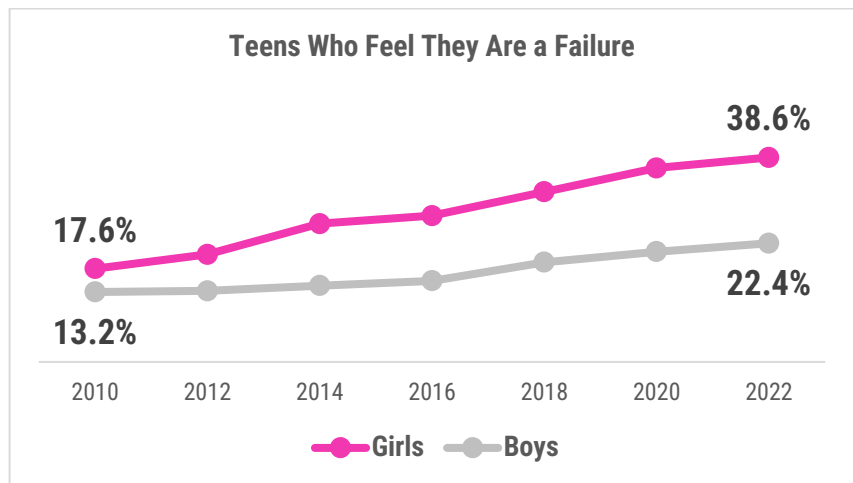
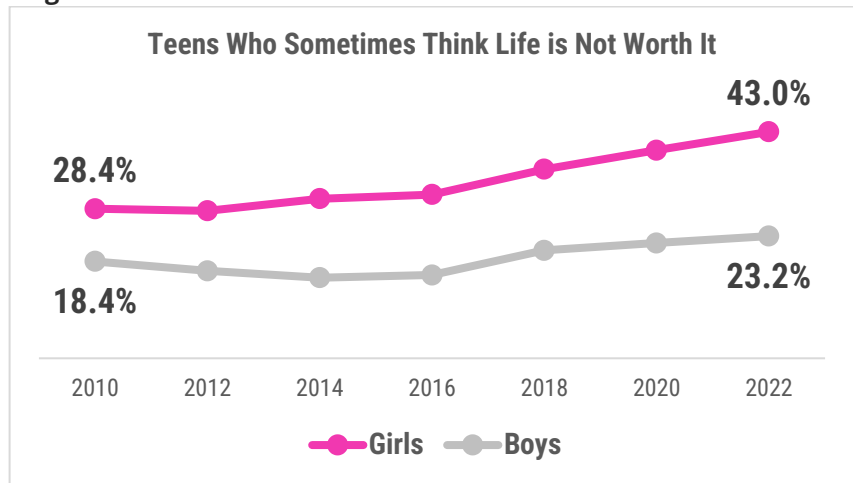
As these three graphs illustrate, girls have long held negative emotions at a higher rate, but the gender gap widened over the 12 year increments shown (2010 to 2022).

For teens who sometimes think life is not worth it, the increase for girls (14.6%) was three times the increase for boys (4.8%), and the girl-boy gap nearly doubled in size.¹⁹

For teens who feel they are a failure, the increase for girls (21.0%) was more than two times the increase for boys (9.2%), and the girl-boy gap grew fourfold (from 4.4% in 2010 to 16.2% in 2022).²⁰

For teens who at times think they are no good at all, the increase for girls (19.2%) was more than twice as big as the increase for boys (9.7%), and the gap grew from 13.5% in 2010 to 23.0% in 2022.²¹

Figure 5: Percentage of Florida Girls vs Boys Who Experience Negative Emotions



Increase in Girls Seriously Considering Suicide



The percentage of girls who seriously considered suicide rose by more than 10% over the time span shown below, which was five times the increase in the percentage of boys who seriously contemplated suicide. The rate for boys rose by only 2% over the 12 years.

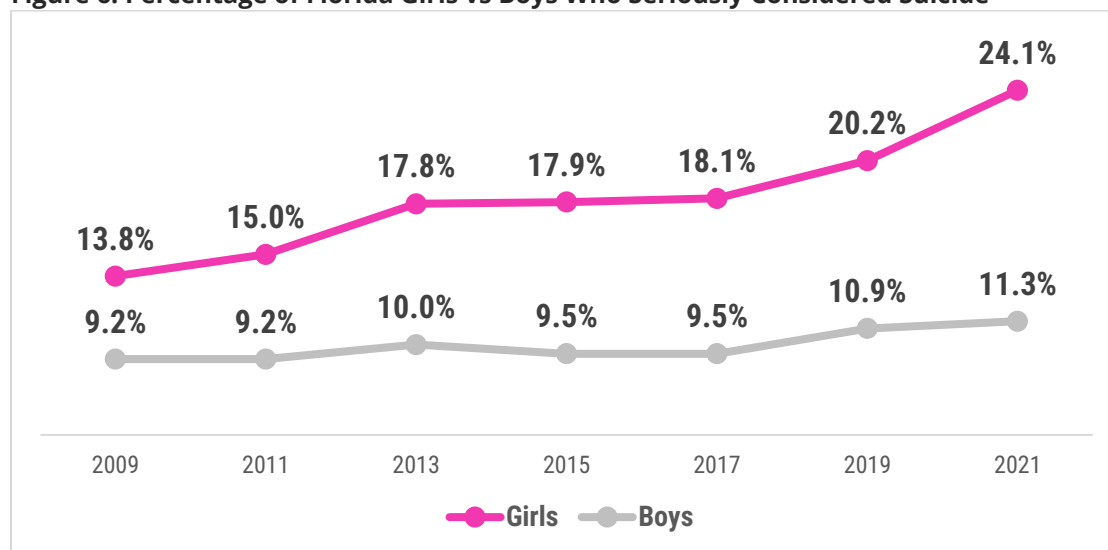
From 2009 to 2021, the gender gap nearly tripled, from 4.6% to 13.2%.

This data, coupled with the new FYSAS data on suicide ideation and suicide attempts by

Florida teens, paint a picture that should be deeply unsettling for Florida parents, educators, officials, service providers, and activists.

In 2022, 44.2% of Florida teen girls thought about committing suicide in the past year, which was 1.8 times higher than the ratio for boys (24.9%). In addition, 12.9% of teen girls attempted suicide in the past year, which was 2.5 times higher than the ratio for boys (5.1%).

Figure 6: Percentage of Florida Girls vs Boys Who Seriously Considered Suicide²²



Increase in Girls Involved in School Disciplinary Actions²³

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

As the 10-year graph below illustrates, the number of students subjected to disciplinary actions trended downward from 2013 through 2017.

Since then, however, the number of students disciplined has risen, and risen sharply in the wake of pandemic-related declines.

Consistent with the sharper rise in girls experiencing depressive symptoms, girls experienced a sharper spike in discipline actions than boys, during three of the following four periods.

- **1-Year Change (2021 to 2022):** From the decennial low in 2021 to 2022, the number of girls disciplined in school doubled,

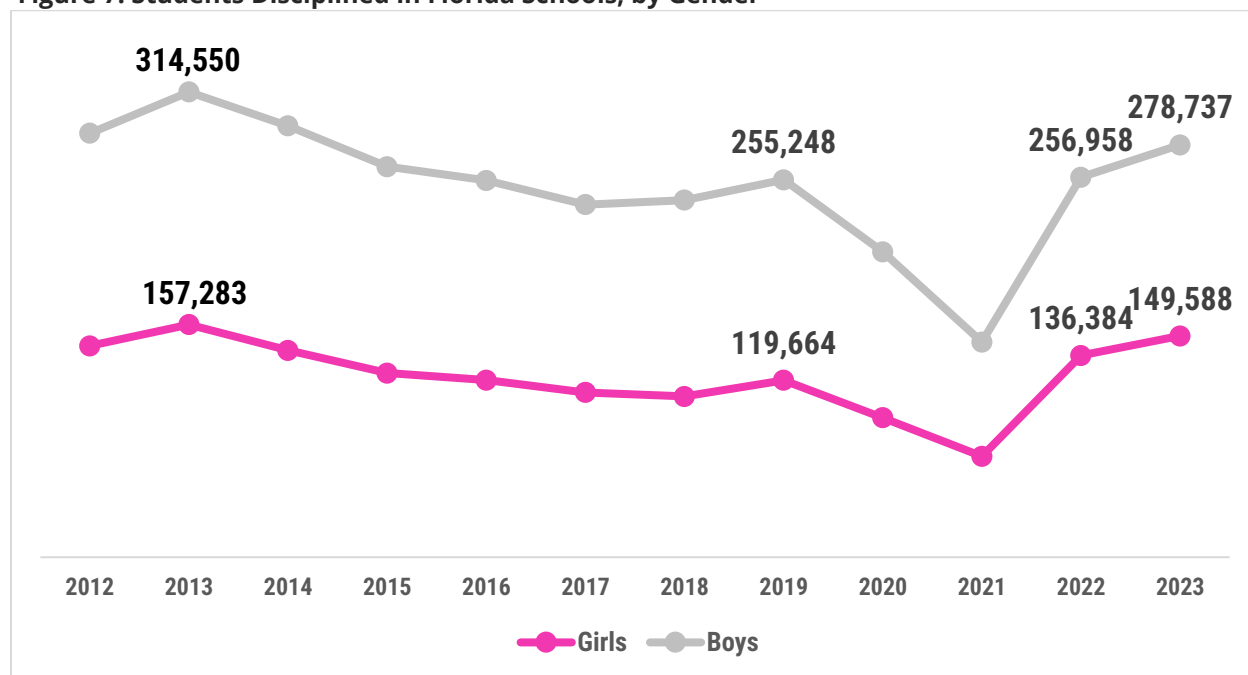
growing by 100%, compared to 77% growth among boys.

- **3-Year Change (Pre-COVID or 2019 to 2022):** The number of girls disciplined in school grew by 14%, compared to a 1% increase for boys.
- **5-Year Change (2017 to 2022):** The number of girls disciplined grew by 22%, compared to 8% for boys.
- **10-Year Change (2012 to 2022):** The number of girls disciplined shrank by 5%, compared with a 10% decline for boys.

In addition, girls become a modestly larger share of students being disciplined in schools, in each of the four periods above.

Note that unlike achievement levels in school, which have begun to rebound to pre-pandemic levels, the number of discipline infractions has continued to trend in the wrong direction, for both boys and girls.

Figure 7: Students Disciplined in Florida Schools, by Gender*



*Students are counted only once per discipline type but may be duplicated across the 12 discipline categories reported by FDOE.

Increase in More Severe Disciplinary Actions for Florida Girls



In addition to the increases in the number of disciplinary actions experienced by girls, the data show major shifts in the types of disciplinary actions involving Florida girls.

Troubling Rise in Girls With Out of School Suspensions

Over the past five years of available data, from 2017 to 2022, the number of girls suspended grew by 14% versus only 3% growth for boys.

All of the increase was driven by a surge in out of school suspensions. Over the five years, the growth rate in the number of girls receiving out of school suspensions (40%) was more than double the growth for boys (19%).

This, coupled with a slight decline in the number of in school suspensions resulted in an increase of nearly 10 points in the share of girls' suspensions that are out of school. In 2017, 40% of girl suspensions were out-of-school. In 2022, the ratio rose to 49%.

Figure 8: Growth in Out of School Suspensions for Girls vs Boys 2017 to 2022

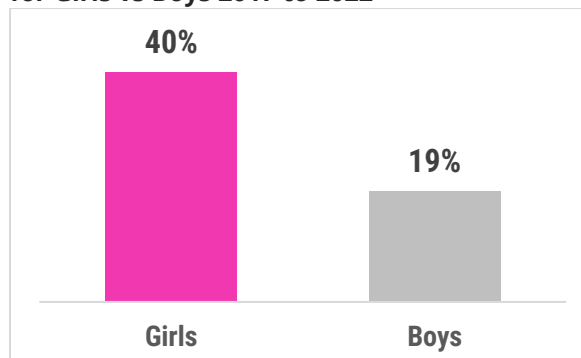
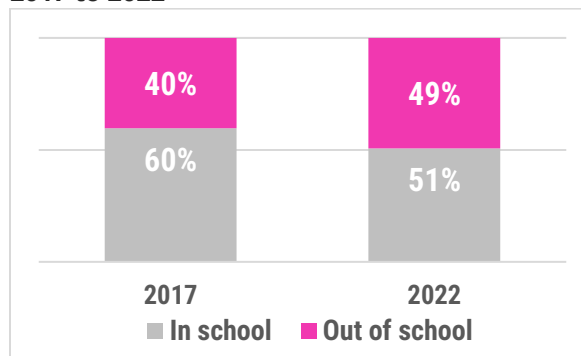


Figure 9: Change in Type of Suspensions of Girls 2017 to 2022

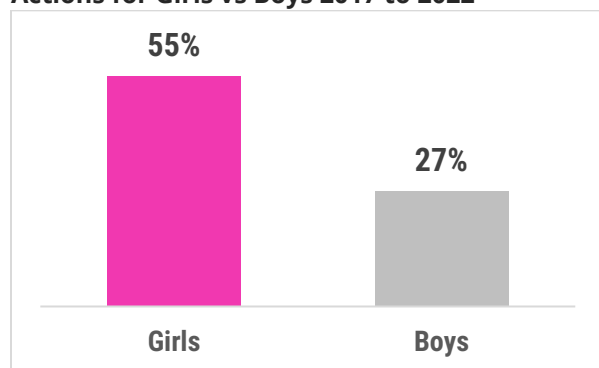


Increase in Girls With More Severe Disciplinary Infractions

Even more alarming than the increases noted above, more girls are experiencing the most severe types of disciplinary actions, including physical restraint, expulsions, placement in alternative education, and other SESIR, which stands for School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting and captures 26 types of criminal, violent and disruptive incidents (see details below).

Here too, girls experienced two times more growth than boys. From 2017 to 2022, the number of girls involved with the most severe disciplinary infractions grew by 55% versus 27% growth among boys (see next page for a tabular summary of changes in the number of disciplinary actions, by type and gender).

Figure 10: Growth in More Severe Discipline Actions for Girls vs Boys 2017 to 2022



Top 5 Discipline Types by Numeric Growth

Discipline types that saw the highest growth rates were the same for girls and boys. The top growth categories for both groups were (in this order) suspension out of school, Other SESIR, placement in alternative education, physical restraint, and expelled with continuing educational services.

Top 5 Discipline Types by Percentage Growth

Discipline types with the highest growth rates included the same top five for girls and boys, but in different rank orders.

For girls, the discipline types with the highest growth rates were physical restraint (260%

growth); expulsion without continuing education (235%); expulsion with continuing education (168%); Other SESIR (166%); and placement in alternative education (153%).

For boys, discipline types with the highest growth rates were physical restraint (251%); expulsion with continuing education (91%); Other SESIR (90%); placement in alternative education (76%); and expulsion without continuing education (41%).

Notice that girls had higher growth rates for all five discipline types. As examples:

- Girls' growth rate was over five times higher than boys' for expulsion without continuing education (235% vs 41%);
- Girls' growth rate was twice as high as boys' for placement in alternative educational settings (153% vs 76%); and
- Girls' growth rate was 1.8 times higher than boys' for other SESIR (166% vs 90%).

Compared to boys, girls had higher growth rates in the number of students disciplined in seven of the 12 categories below; in addition, for the five categories where both girls and boys saw a decline in number of discipline actions, the decrease was larger for boys.

About SESIR²⁴

The School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System collects data on 26 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events. The incident types are:

- Aggravated battery
- Alcohol
- Arson
- Bullying
- Burglary
- Disruption on Campus-Major
- Drug Sale/Distribution
- Drug Use/Possession
- Fighting
- Harassment

- Hazing
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Larceny/Theft (\$750)
- Other Major Incidents
- Physical Attack
- Robbery Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Offenses-Other
- Threat/Intimidation
- Tobacco
- Trespassing
- Vandalism (\$1,000)
- Weapons Possession

Table 8: Girls Disciplined by Type of Disciplinary Action

	2017	2022	No. Δ	% Δ
Corporal Punishment*	212	125	-87	-41%
Expelled without Continuing Educational Svcs*	31	104	73	235%
Expelled with Continuing Educational Svcs*	81	217	136	168%
Suspension Pending Hearing*	177	130	-47	-27%
Suspension In School	62,453	60,580	-1,873	-3%
Seclusion*	35	5	-30	-86%
Mechanical Restraint*	93	39	-54	-58%
Suspension Out of School*	42,284	59,119	16,835	40%
Placement in Alternative Educational Setting*	1,959	4,955	2,996	153%
Physical Restraint*	99	356	257	260%
Other SESIR Defined*	4,038	10,749	6,711	166%
Change In Placement	3	5	2	67%
Total	111,465	136,384	24,919	22%
More Severe	49,009	75,799	26,790	55%

*More Severe

Table 9: Boys Disciplined by Type of Disciplinary Action

	2017	2022	No. Δ	% Δ
Corporal Punishment*	1,230	592	-638	-52%
Expelled without Continuing Educational Svcs*	164	231	67	41%
Expelled with Continuing Educational Svcs*	247	473	226	91%
Suspension Pending Hearing	394	274	-120	-30%
Suspension In School	124,486	111,869	-12,617	-10%
Seclusion*	144	25	-119	-83%
Mechanical Restraint*	222	90	-132	-59%
Suspension Out of School*	96,528	114,966	18,438	19%
Placement in Alternative Educational Setting*	4,823	8,510	3,687	76%
Physical Restraint*	472	1,658	1,186	251%
Other SESIR Defined*	9,637	18,264	8,627	90%
Change In Placement	33	6	-27	-82%
Total	238,380	256,958	18,578	8%
More Severe	113,861	145,083	31,222	27%

*More Severe

Increase in Girls' Share of Discipline Actions

Overall, girls have become a marginally larger share of students disciplined in Florida schools.

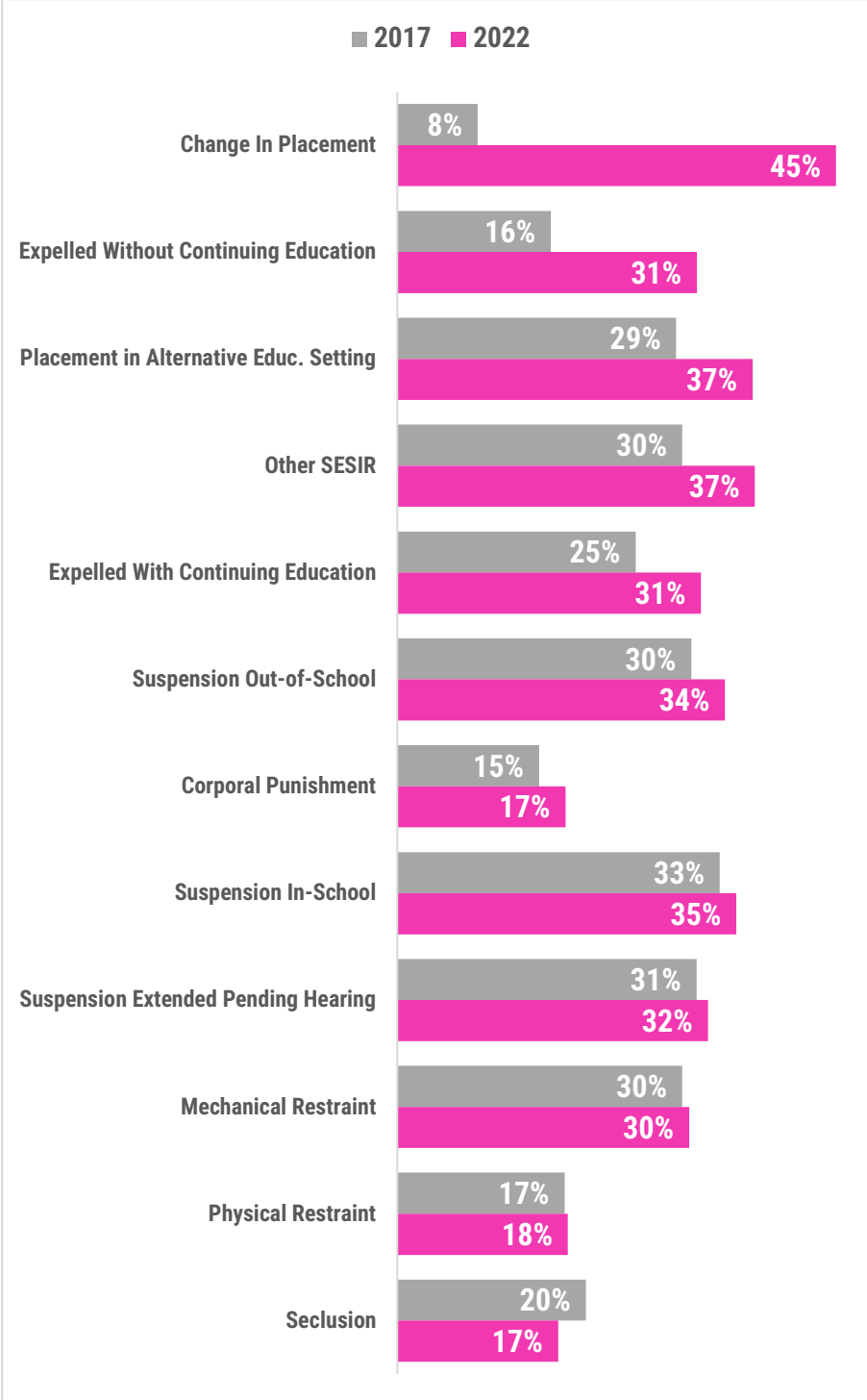
In 2017, girls were 32% of students disciplined; and in 2022, they were 35% (a 3 point increase).

Yet girls became a significantly larger share of students subjected to certain discipline actions.

Girls became a larger share of students disciplined in 11 of the 12 discipline types reflected in this graph (which ranks, from top to bottom, the discipline types with the larger increases).

The biggest increases in girls' share of discipline actions were for the following types: change in placement (+37% to 45% of the total); expulsions without continuing education (+15% to 31% of the total); placement in alternative educational setting (+8% to 37% of the total); Other SESIR (7+% to 37% of the total); and expulsion with continuing education (+6% to 31% of the total).

Figure 11: Girls Share of School Discipline Actions 2017 vs 2022



Changing Gender Disparities in Substance Abuse

Substance abuse rates have declined for both girls and boys in Florida over the past decade.

But two trends stood out during the FGI's review of the FYSAS 2022 data. One, boys saw more progress than girls, which widened gender disparities in use rates to record levels for some substance/use types; and two, for some substance/use types, girls' abuse rates have overtaken boys'.

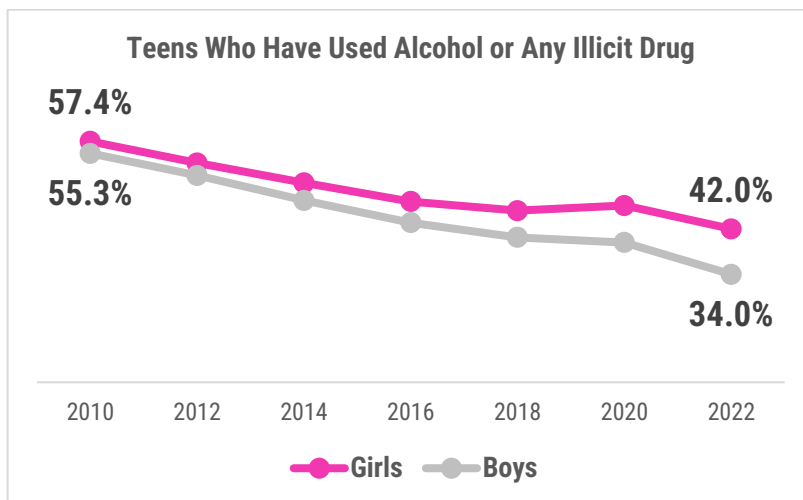
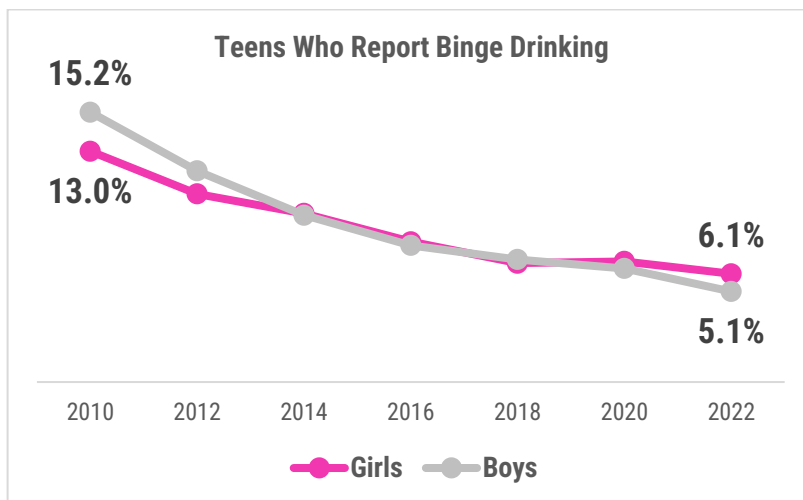
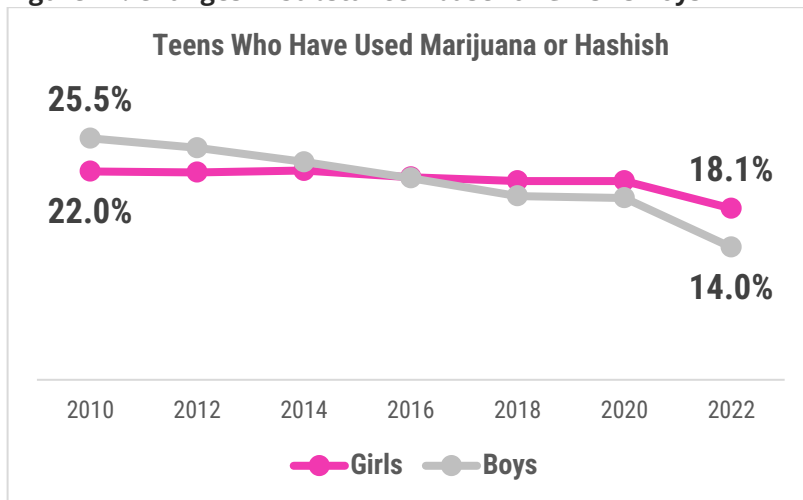
Girls have long had higher alcohol abuse rates than boys, but until recently, girls had lower use rates for marijuana (the substance with the second highest use rate among teens), as well as for synthetic marijuana²⁵, cigarettes²⁶, and LSD, PCP and hallucinogenic mushrooms.²⁷

As of 2022, more girls than boys report having used the substances above.

Another troubling shift is that girls - historically - had lower binge drinking rates than boys. That too changed. In 2022, 6.1% of girls versus 5.1% of boys said they had binged on alcohol.²⁸

Overall, across all substance types reported on the FYSAS, the gender gap has grown. In 2022, 42% of girls and 34% of boys had used alcohol or an illicit drug in their lifetimes.²⁹

Figure 12: Changes in Substance Abuse for Girls vs Boys



Increase in Florida Children in Foster Care

The FGI used two data dashboards to assess the change in children and girls in foster care. The Florida Department of Health provided a snapshot of children in foster care, while the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center provided gender counts of foster care children.

Mirroring the apparently COVID-related trend seen throughout this report, the pandemic appears to have contributed to a recent increase in the number of Florida children in foster care.

As the graph below illustrates, the number of children in foster care in Florida has trended upward over much of the past decade. The number in foster care increased in seven of the 10 yearly increments charted, and the rate per 100,000 increased in six of those periods.

The state saw a modest decline in foster care children in the two years prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (2017 to 2019), followed by a sharp rise in the two subsequent years (2020 and 2021).

The number and rate rose during three of

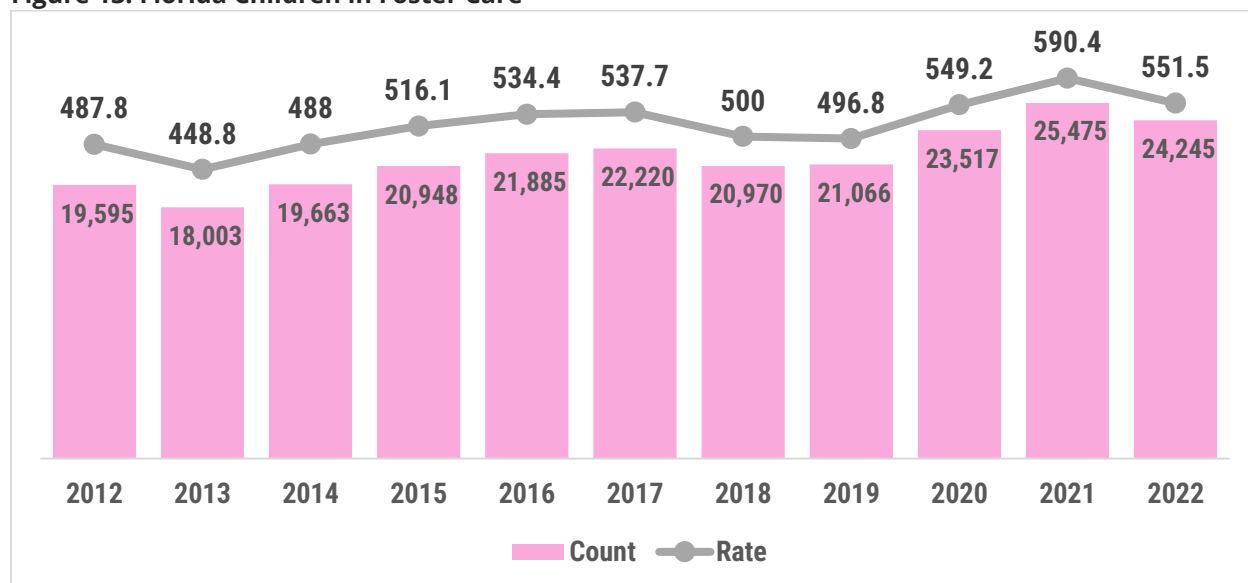
the following four periods:

- **1-Year Change (2021 to 2022):** From the decennial high in 2021 to 2022, the number of children in foster care declined by 5% and the rate per 100,000 declined by 7%.
- **3-Year Change (Pre-COVID or 2019 to 2022):** The number of children in foster care grew by 21%, and the rate per 100,000 increased by 19%.
- **5-Year Change (2017 to 2022):** The number of children in foster care grew by 9%, and the rate per 100,000 increased by 3%.
- **10-Year Change (2012 to 2022):** The number of children in foster care grew by 24%, and the rate per 100,000 increased by 13%.

Table 10: Percentage Change in Number & Rate of Florida Children in Foster Care

	Years	Δ in no.	Δ in rate
1-Year	2021-2022	-5%	-7%
5-Year	2017-2022	9%	3%
10-Year	2012-2022	24%	13%
COVID Δ	2019-2022	21%	19%

Figure 13: Florida Children in Foster Care³⁰



How COVID-19 Impacted Florida Girls



Florida girls were hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, not only in the prevalence of infections among children, but through the reverberating effects in the lives of their parents and caregivers.

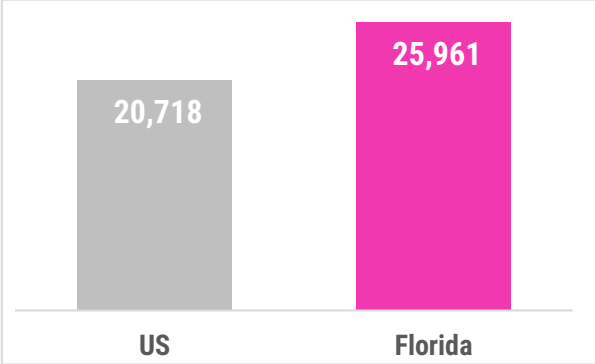
As part of the exploration of life changes for Florida girls, the FGI compared their pre-COVID outcomes, to where they stood two and three years after the first wave of pandemic-related shutdowns in March 2020, across 18 measures of well-being.

The results were striking. The data indicate that the pandemic - and the life disruptions and stressors caused by it - contributed to a significant worsening of outcomes for Florida girls, and that the negative impacts on children were worse for girls than for boys.

In direct health impact, Florida had the second highest number of COVID-19 cases

among children and Florida’s case rate per 100,000 children was 25% higher than the national average.³¹

Figure 14: COVID-19 Cases/100,000 Children



Beyond physical health, the data show compounded negative effects on girls’ mental health and an increase in girls abused, in tandem with declines in their academic performance, and a surge in girls involved in school disciplinary actions and arrests.

Percentage of Girls At-Risk & in Distress During the Pandemic

The FGI measured the pre- to post-COVID* change in the percentage of girls experiencing 18 risk circumstances (also called “risk rates” in this report). Girls’ risk rates increased across 15 of the 18 metrics.

While the percentage of girls who are economically disadvantaged declined, the data show troubling increases in the percentage of girls who were sexually, emotionally, and physically abused, along with sharp upticks in girls experiencing sadness or depression, girls who have seriously considered suicide, and girls purposefully harming themselves.

Apart from small reductions in girls in poverty and economically disadvantaged, the

only other indicator that improved (very modestly) was in the percentage of girls who were the subject of substantiated cases of suffering maltreatment.

The most dramatic increases in risk rates were for:

- Girls purposefully harming themselves (which rose 4.9% to 26%, or one in four Florida girls);
- Girls experiencing sadness or depression daily (which rose 4.8% to an incredible 60.3%, or six in 10 Florida girls); and
- Girls who have seriously considered suicide (which rose 3.9% to 24.1%, or one in four Florida girls).

Table 11: Change in Girls’ Risk Rates During COVID-19 Study Period³²

		Pre-COVID	Post-COVID*	Δ	Girls Risk Rate...	Period Measured
Economic Status						
1	Economically disadvantaged	55%	54%	-0.8%	Improved	2019-2021
2	In poverty	20%	18%	-2.0%	Improved	2019-2021
Emotional Well-Being & Safety						
3	Experienced high levels of trauma	27.7%	27.9%	0.2%	Worsened	2020-2022
4	Emotionally abused	20.8%	23.0%	2.2%	Worsened	2020-2022
5	Sexually abused	8.7%	10.2%	1.5%	Worsened	2020-2022
6	Physically abused	11.9%	12.6%	0.7%	Worsened	2020-2022
7	Emotionally neglected	36.6%	39.3%	2.7%	Worsened	2020-2022
8	Suffering maltreatment	0.9%	0.7%	-0.1%	Improved	2019-2021
9	Have a disability	9.7%	10.2%	0.5%	Worsened	2019-2021
10	Sad or depressed on a daily basis	55.5%	60.3%	4.8%	Worsened	2019-2021
11	Seriously considered suicide	20.2%	24.1%	3.9%	Worsened	2019-2021
12	Purposefully self-harmed	21.0%	25.9%	4.9%	Worsened	2019-2021
In School						
13	Struggling in school	40.0%	48.0%	8.0%	Worsened	2019-2021
14	Disciplined in school	9.1%	10.5%	1.4%	Worsened	2019-2022
15	Involved in severe discipline infraction	4.3%	5.8%	1.5%	Worsened	2019-2022
In Community						
16	Arrested	0.53%	0.67%	0.1%	Worsened	2021-2022
17	In foster care (point in time estimate)	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	Worsened	2019-2021
18	Victimized by human trafficking	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	Worsened	2021-2022

*The COVID study period for each metric is indicated in the right-most column

Number of Girls At-Risk & in Distress Post-Pandemic

The FGI measured the change in the number of girls experiencing 18 risk or distress circumstances and found that the number of girls at risk grew for 15 of the metrics.

Mirroring results in the previous section, the number of girls in poverty shrank while the number experiencing abuse and emotional distress grew.

The number of girls who tested below grade level in school grew by 20% while the

number involved in disciplinary infractions grew 14%, and the number involved with the most severe disciplinary actions rose by 33%.

Other dramatic increases in the number of girls at risk were for:

- Girls arrested, which grew by 27%
- Girls self-harming, which grew by 26%
- Girls who have seriously considered suicide, which grew by 22%

Table 12: Measures of Possible Impact of COVID-19 on Florida Girls' Well-being³³

		Pre-COVID	Post-COVID*	No. Change	% Change	No. of Girls at Risk
Economic Status						
1	Economically disadvantaged	723,074	713,885	(9,189)	-1.3%	Shrank
2	In poverty	402,737	369,234	(33,503)	-8.3%	Shrank
Well-Being & Safety						
3	Experienced high levels of trauma	140,382	136,162	(4,220)	-3.0%	Shrank
4	Emotionally abused	105,413	112,248	6,835	6.5%	Grew
5	Sexually abused	44,091	49,780	5,689	13%	Grew
6	Physically abused	60,308	61,493	1,184	2.0%	Grew
7	Emotionally neglected	185,486	191,798	6,312	3.4%	Grew
8	Suffering maltreatment	17,679	14,912	(2,767)	-16%	Shrank
9	A disability	146,553	156,633	10,080	6.9%	Grew
10	Sad or depressed on a daily basis	280,929	311,503	30,574	11%	Grew
11	Seriously considered suicide	102,248	124,498	22,250	22%	Grew
12	Purposefully self-harmed	106,298	133,797	27,499	26%	Grew
In School						
13	Struggling in school	525,984	632,183	106,199	20%	Grew
14	Disciplined in school	119,664	136,384	16,720	14%	Grew
15	Involved in severe discipline infraction	57,123	75,799	18,676	33%	Grew
In Community						
16	Arrested	5,136	6,499	1,363	27%	Grew
17	In foster care	10,533	12,483	2,160	21%	Grew
18	Victimized by human trafficking	3,106	3,697	591	19%	Grew

Gender Disparity in COVID’s Apparent Impact for Florida’s Children

The FGI measured the change in the percentage of girls and boys who experienced 17 risks or risk circumstances.

While both groups saw their risk rates increase across most of the metrics, girls’ outcomes worsened to a greater degree.

For girls, 14 of the risk rates rose, while for boys, 11 risk rates rose; and among the 11 metrics where both groups’ risk rates increased, the increase was bigger for girls in 10 cases.

Some of the worst gender disparities were in the following metrics:

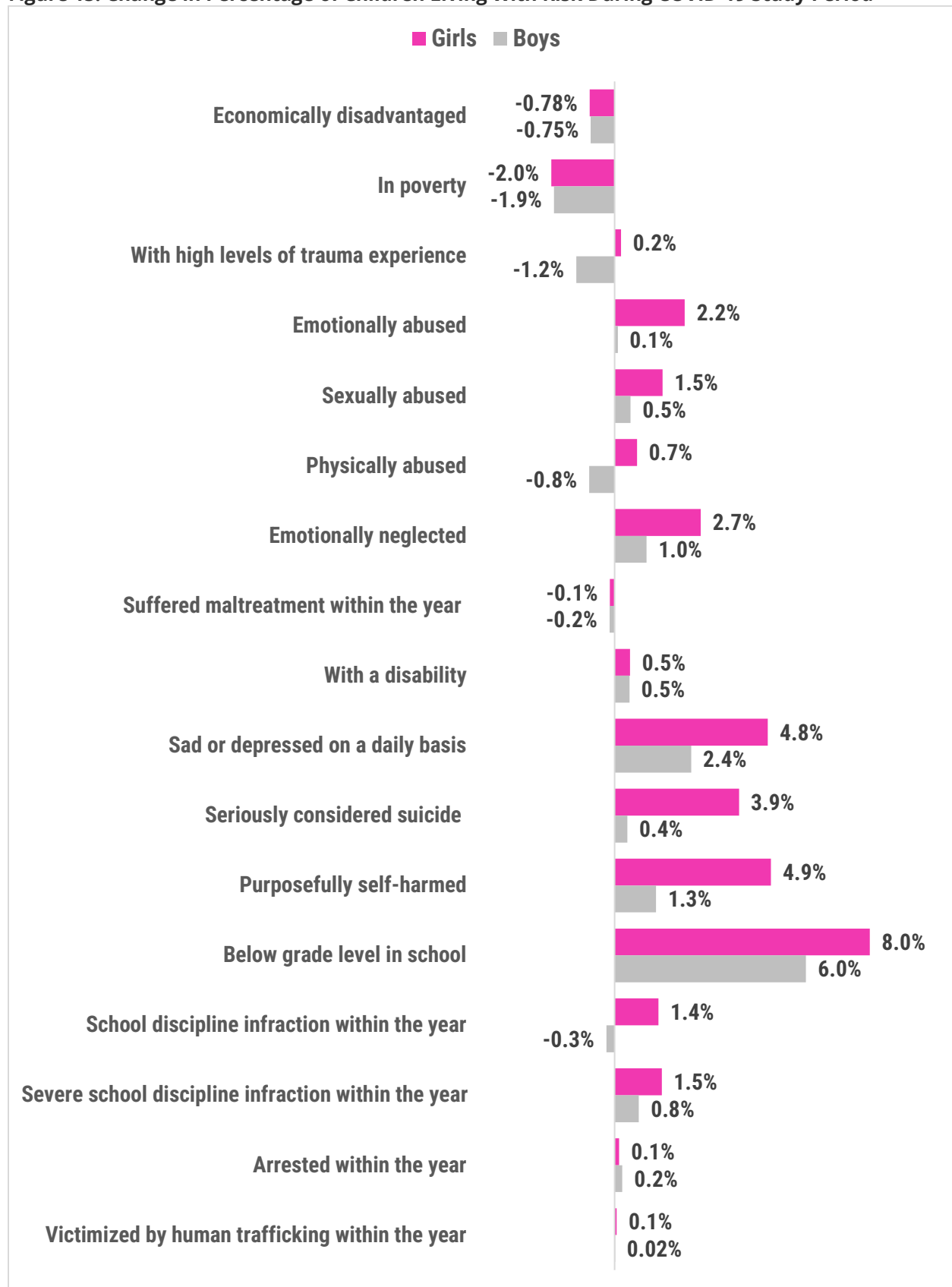
- The increase in girls emotionally abused (2.2%) was 22 times larger than the increase for boys (0.1%).
- The increase in girls who purposefully harmed themselves (4.9%) was 3.8 times larger than the increase for boys (1.3%).
- The increase in girls experiencing sadness or depression daily (4.8%) was 2 times larger than the increase for boys (2.4%).

Perhaps the most startling indicator of the gender disparity: the increase in girls who seriously considered suicide (+3.9% to 24.1%) was nearly 10 times bigger than the increase for boys (+0.4% to 11.3%).

Table 13: Change in Percentage of Children Living With Risk During COVID-19 Study Period³⁴

		Girls	Boys	Girl/Boy Ratio	For Girls	For Boys
Economic Status						
1	Economically disadvantaged	-0.78%	-0.75%	1.0	Improved	Improved
2	In poverty	-2.0%	-1.9%	1.0	Improved	Improved
Emotional Well-Being & Safety						
3	Experienced high levels of trauma	0.2%	-1.2%	-0.2	Worsened	Improved
4	Emotionally abused	2.2%	0.1%	22.0	Worsened	Worsened
5	Sexually abused	1.5%	0.5%	3.0	Worsened	Worsened
6	Physically abused	0.7%	-0.8%	-0.9	Worsened	Improved
7	Emotionally neglected	2.7%	1.0%	2.7	Worsened	Worsened
8	Suffering maltreatment	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.9	Improved	Improved
9	A disability	0.5%	0.5%	1.0	Worsened	Worsened
10	Sad or depressed on a daily basis	4.8%	2.4%	2.0	Worsened	Worsened
11	Seriously considered suicide	3.9%	0.4%	9.7	Worsened	Worsened
12	Purposefully self-harmed	4.9%	1.3%	3.8	Worsened	Worsened
In School						
13	Struggling in school	8.0%	6.0%	1.3	Worsened	Worsened
14	Involved in discipline infraction	1.4%	-0.3%	-5.3	Worsened	Improved
15	Involved in severe discipline infraction	1.5%	0.8%	1.9	Worsened	Worsened
In Community						
16	Arrested	0.1%	0.2%	0.6	Worsened	Worsened
17	Victimized by human trafficking	0.1%	0.02%	3.69	Worsened	Worsened

Figure 15: Change in Percentage of Children Living With Risk During COVID-19 Study Period



Increase in Florida Girls Suffering Abuse

Thanks to recent changes to the FYSAS, we now have a wider window of visibility to the abuses being suffered by Florida teens.

In 2020, 14 items were added to the FYSAS high school questionnaire to measure 10 areas of childhood trauma, including sexual, mental, and physical abuse.

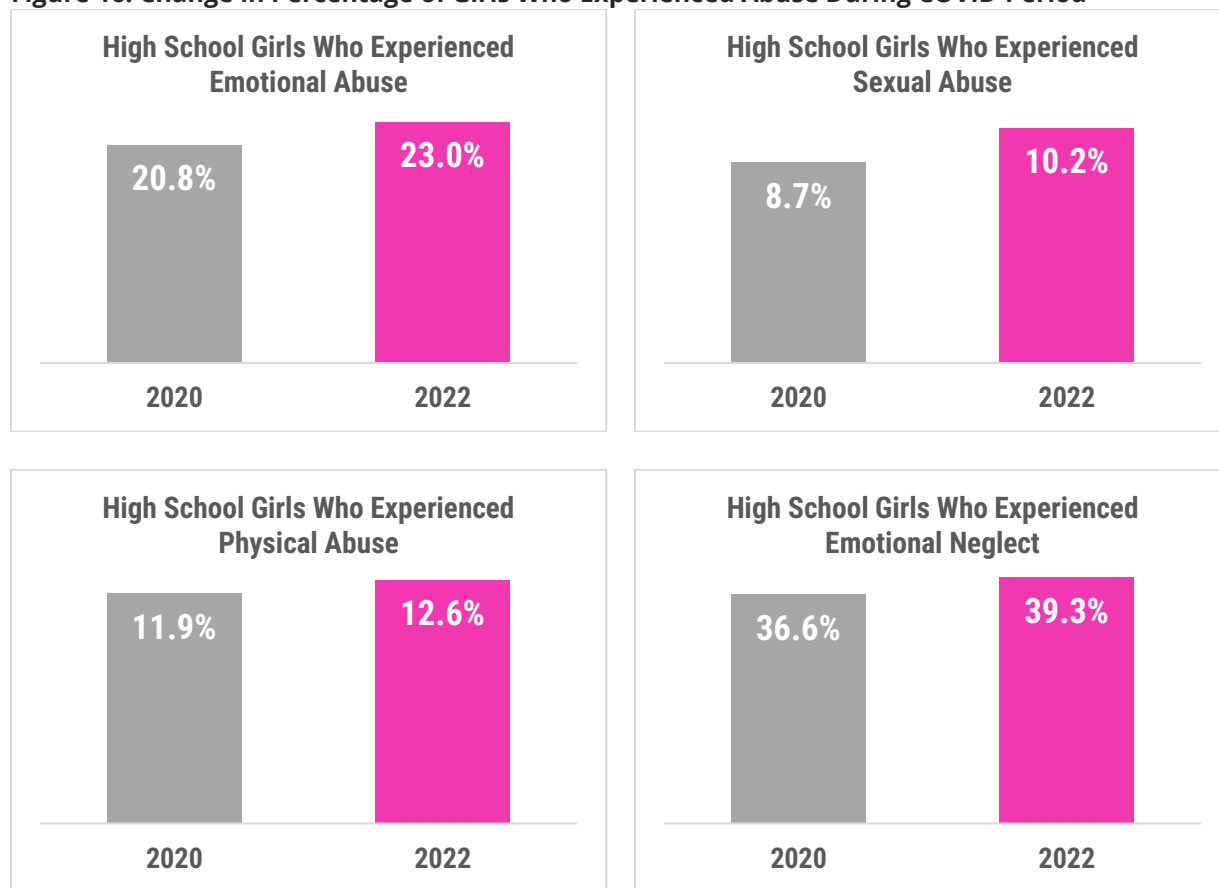
The FYSAS 2022 data show increases, compared to 2020, in the percentage of high school girls who are experiencing emotional abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence, physical abuse, and emotional neglect.

From 2020 to 2022, among high school girls:

- The percentage of girls experiencing emotional abuse rose from 21% to 23% (an increase of 2.2 points).
- The percentage of girls experiencing sexual abuse rose from 8.7% to 10.2% (an increase of 1.5 points).
- The percentage of girls experiencing physical abuse rose modestly from 11.9% to 12.6% (an increase of 0.7 points).
- The percentage of girls experiencing emotional neglect rose from 36.6% to 39.3% (an increase of 2.7 points).

In addition, from 2019 to 2021, the percentage of girls who experienced sexual violence rose from 15.2% to 16.6%.

Figure 16: Change in Percentage of Girls Who Experienced Abuse During COVID Period³⁵



Girls of Color and in Lower-Income Families Face More Barriers & Traumas



Research affirms that girls who live in lower-income families, particularly those in poverty, experience more traumas, crisis, and physical and mental health issues compared with girls in higher income households.

As the Annie E. Casey Foundation points out, “Poverty elevates a child’s risk of experiencing behavioral, social and emotional and health challenges. Child poverty also reduces skill-building opportunities and academic outcomes, undercutting a student’s capacity to learn, graduate high school and more.”³⁶

Girls of color – many more of whom are in lower-income families - continue to experience more barriers and traumas than other girls. This is especially true for African American and Hispanic girls in Florida.

FGI’s research found the correlation between

race, income, and life outcomes alive and well, but scantily documented by recent data reports.

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) recognizes poverty as a risk factor for various health conditions.³⁷ The FDOH Human Trafficking profile also captures poverty-related conditions, such as homelessness, as contributing factors for victimization.³⁸

The FGI assembled some of the most recent available data on the race-income-outcomes connection for Florida children. The following pages feature snapshots.

Photo Above: At-promise girls enrolled in Girl Power enrichment programs in Miami, Florida, starring in their Summer STEAM Showcase, in August 2023.

The Correlation Between Race & Poverty

Girls of color are 60% of the Florida girl population overall, and 75% of Florida girls who live below the poverty line.³⁹

Girls With Highest & Lowest Poverty Rates

Asian and Pacific Islander girls have lower poverty rates than white girls, while other girls of color have higher poverty rates.

African American girls have the highest poverty rate, followed by Native American and Hispanic girls.

Girls Who Are Overrepresented in the Poverty Population

Three groups are overrepresented in the poverty population - African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic girls. African Americans have the highest rate of overrepresentation. They are roughly 20% of Florida girls, but makeup one-third (32.7%) of Florida girls in poverty,

Native Americans have the second highest rate of overrepresentation. They are 0.3% of the population and 0.4% of girls in poverty.

For all girls of color combined, the poverty rate (22.1%) is two times the rate for white girls (11%).

Groups With the Most Girls in Poverty

By population share, Hispanic girls are a plurality (the largest share) of Florida girls in poverty. They are 36.2% of the total. The next two largest groups are Black girls (32.7%) and white girls (25.0%).

Figure 17: Girls of Color Share of All Girls & In-Poverty Girls

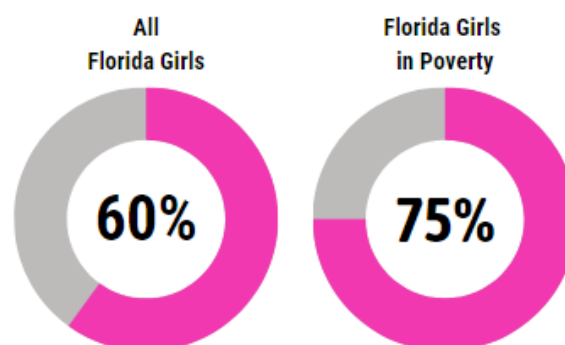


Table 14: Florida Girls in Poverty by Race & Group Shares of Poverty Population⁴⁰

	In Poverty	All	Poverty Rate*	% of In Poverty	% All+	Representation Ratio
Asian	4,940	53,363	9.3%	1.4%	2.6%	0.5
White	89,481	816,540	11.0%	25.0%	40.1%	0.6
Pacific Islander	105	1,197	8.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.5
Two or More Races	55,953	347,072	16.1%	15.6%	17.0%	0.9
Hispanic	129,620	640,521	20.2%	36.2%	31.5%	1.1
Native American	1,538	6,137	25.1%	0.4%	0.3%	1.4
Black	117,261	400,635	29.3%	32.7%	19.7%	1.7
All	358,349	2,035,819	17.6%			
Girls of Color	268,868	1,219,279	22.1%	75.0%	59.9%	1.3

*All for whom poverty status is determined

+The population shares in this column are different from those in table 2 because a) they were calculated for the population for whom poverty status was determined (versus the total population); and b) this table features the Two or More Races Group, which was not included in table 2.

More Lower Income Girls Are Struggling in School⁴¹

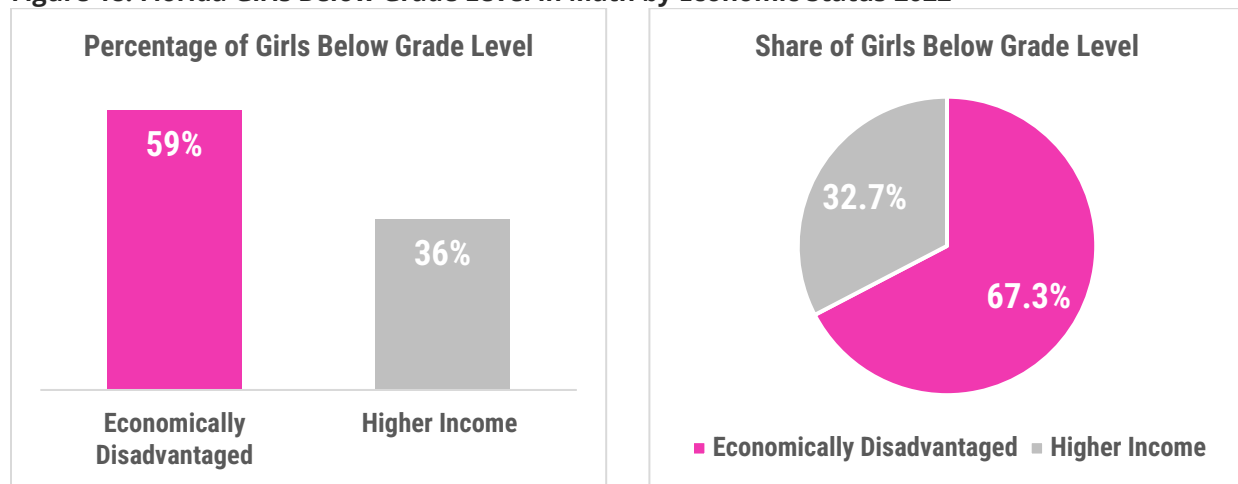
Girls from lower income households are far more likely to be failing or struggling in school. FGI used math assessment results to spotlight the disparity,

In the 2022 school year, nearly six in 10 economically disadvantaged girls were below grade level in math, which was over 1.6 times

higher than the share of higher income girls who were below grade level in math (36%).

Because economically disadvantaged girls are both a) a majority of girls enrolled in Florida schools, and b) more likely to be below grade level, they are two-thirds of all girls struggling in school.

Figure 18: Florida Girls Below Grade Level in Math by Economic Status 2022



More Lower Income Girls Have a Disability⁴²

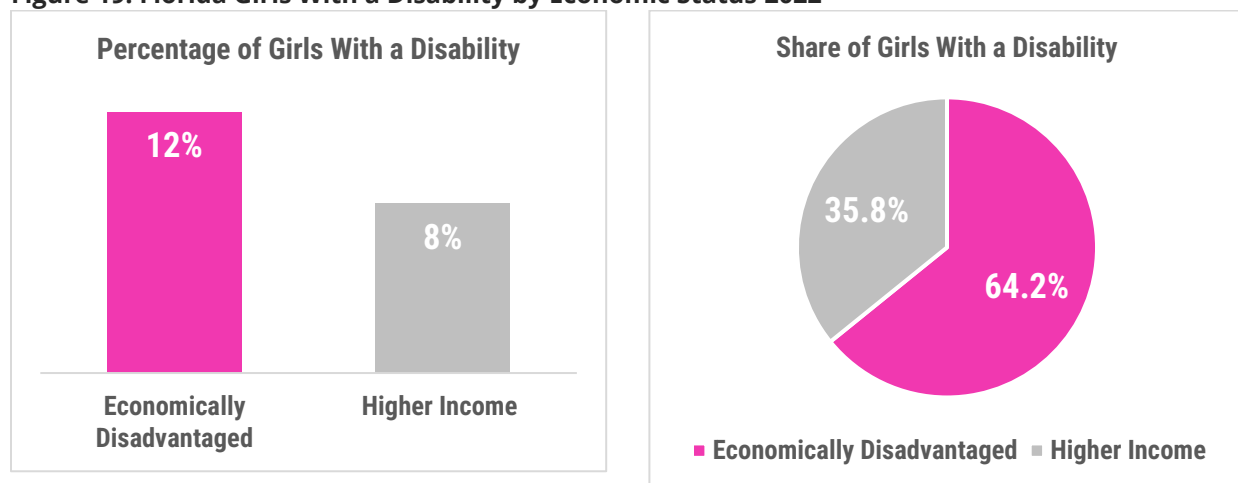
Girls from lower income households are more likely to have a disability.

In the 2022 school year, 12% of economically disadvantaged girls had a disability, which was over 1.5 times higher than the

percentage of higher income girls with a disability (8%).

Lower income girls are nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of all girls enrolled in school who have a disability.

Figure 19: Florida Girls With a Disability by Economic Status 2022

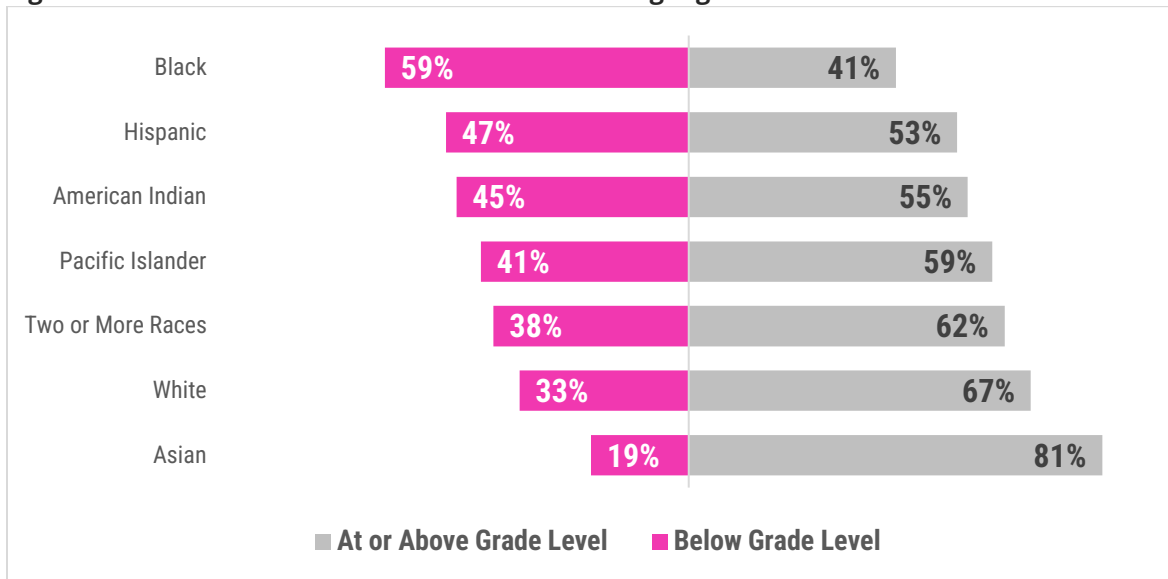


More Black & Hispanic Girls are Struggling in School⁴³

Below Grade Level in Language Arts

Nearly six out of 10 Black girls (59%) and nearly half of Hispanic girls (47%) are below grade level in language arts. Asian and white girls are the least likely to be below grade level in this subject, though one-third of white girls (33%) and nearly one in five Asian girls (19%) are.

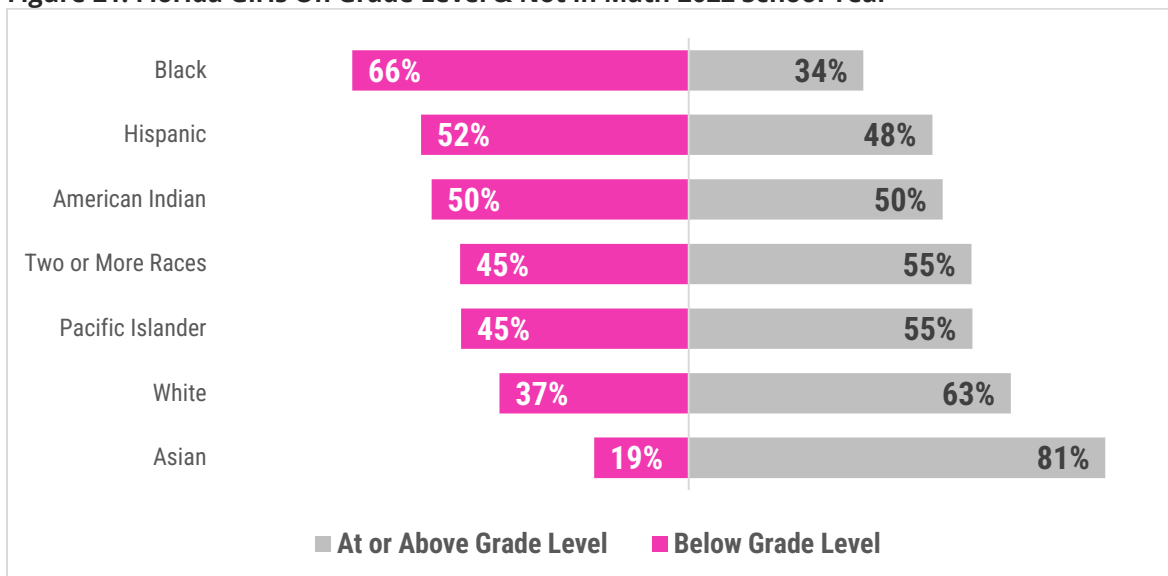
Figure 20: Florida Girls On Grade Level & Not in Language Arts 2022



Below Grade Level in Math

Two-thirds of Black girls (66%) and more than half of Hispanic girls (52%) are below grade level in math. Asian and white girls are the least likely to be below grade level in this subject, though over one-third of white girls (37%) and nearly one in five Asian girls (19%) are.

Figure 21: Florida Girls On Grade Level & Not in Math 2022 School Year

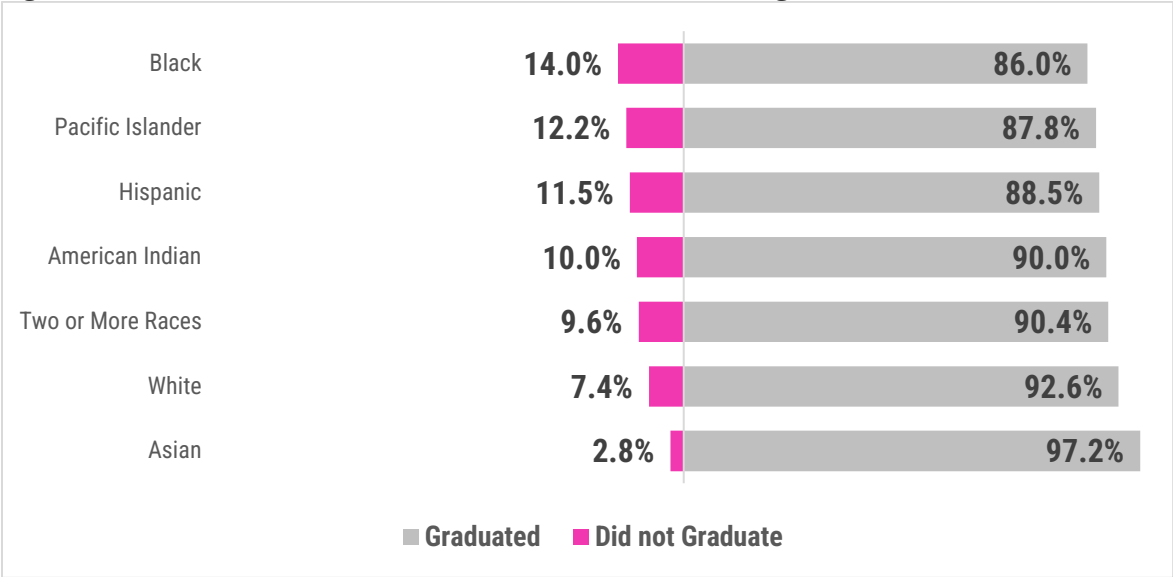


Black & Hispanic Girls are Least Likely to Graduate High School

Did Not Graduate⁴⁴

Graduation rates have improved for Florida girls, but racial disparities remain. Black and Pacific Islander girls are the least likely to graduate from high school, followed by Hispanics. Asian and white girls are the most likely graduate.

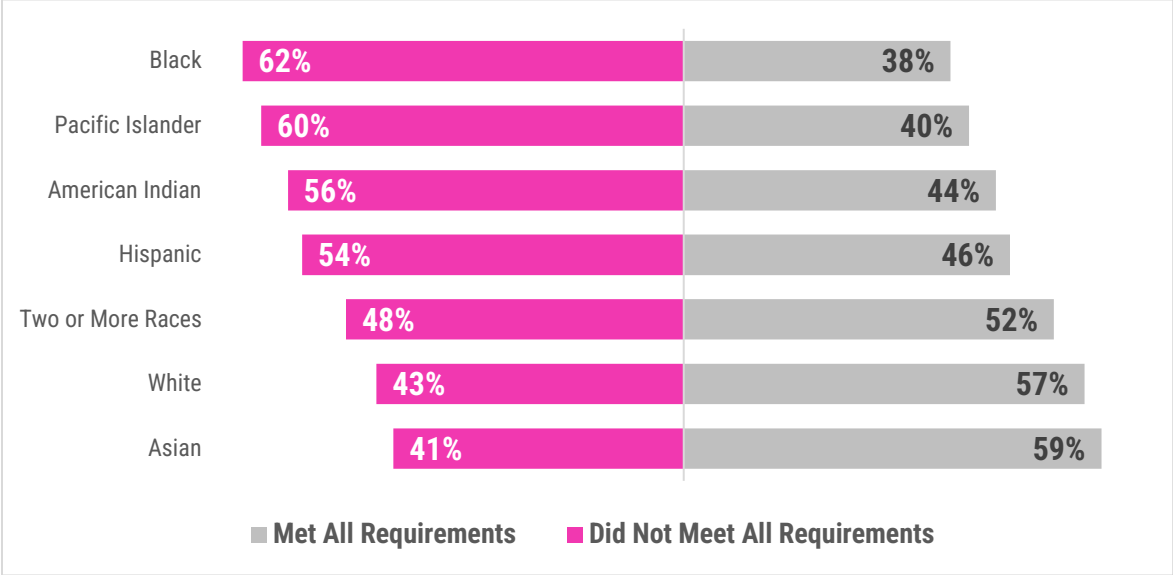
Figure 22: Florida Girls Who Graduated & Did Not Graduate High School 2022 School Year



Did Not Graduate With All Requirements Met⁴⁵

Over 60% of Black girls who graduated did so without meeting all state requirements; and 60% of Pacific Islander girls were in the same boat. Asian and white girls were most likely to graduate with all requirements met.

Figure 23: Florida Girls Who Graduated With All Requirements Met or Not 2022 School Year

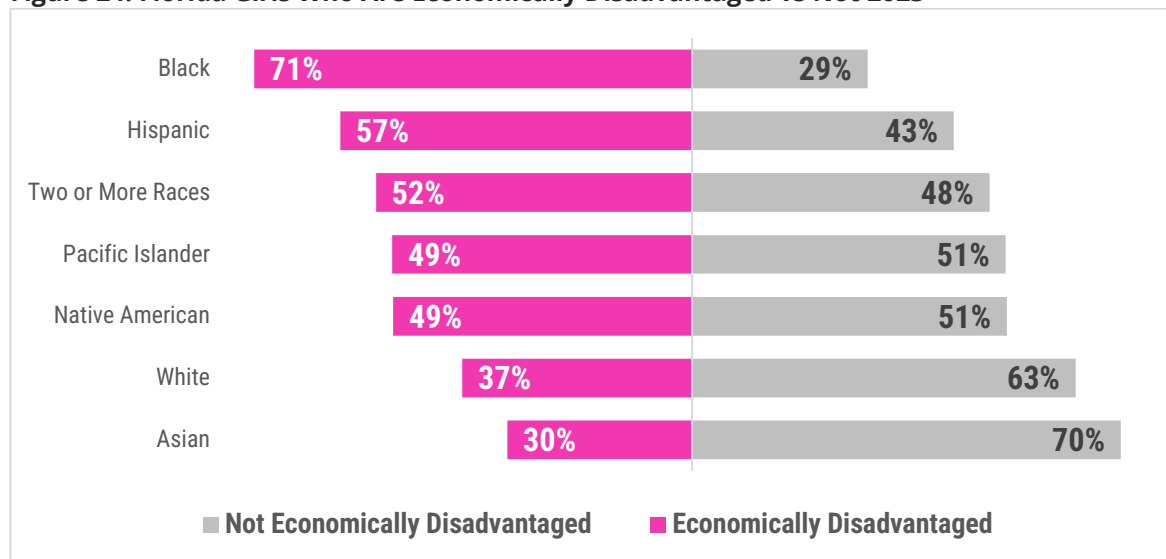


More Black & Hispanic Girls are Low-Income⁴⁶

Economically Disadvantaged

Over seven in 10 Black girls (71%) and over half of Hispanic girls (57%) are economically disadvantaged. Asian and white girls are the least likely to be economically disadvantaged, though 37% of white girls and 30% of Asian girls are.

Figure 24: Florida Girls Who Are Economically Disadvantaged vs Not 2023

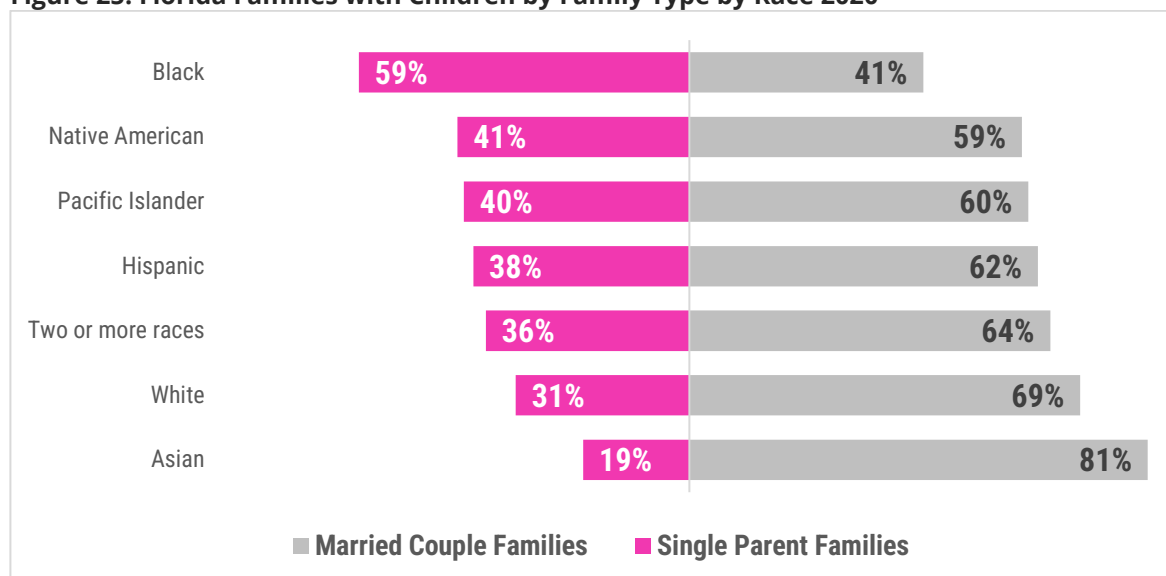


More Black & Hispanic Girls Live in Single Parent Families⁴⁷

Single Parent Families

Nearly six out of 10 Black families with children in Florida are headed by single parents (59%). At the opposite end of the spectrum, one in five Asian families with children is headed by a single parent.

Figure 25: Florida Families with Children by Family Type by Race 2020



Black Girls Are the Only Girls Overrepresented in Justice System⁴⁸

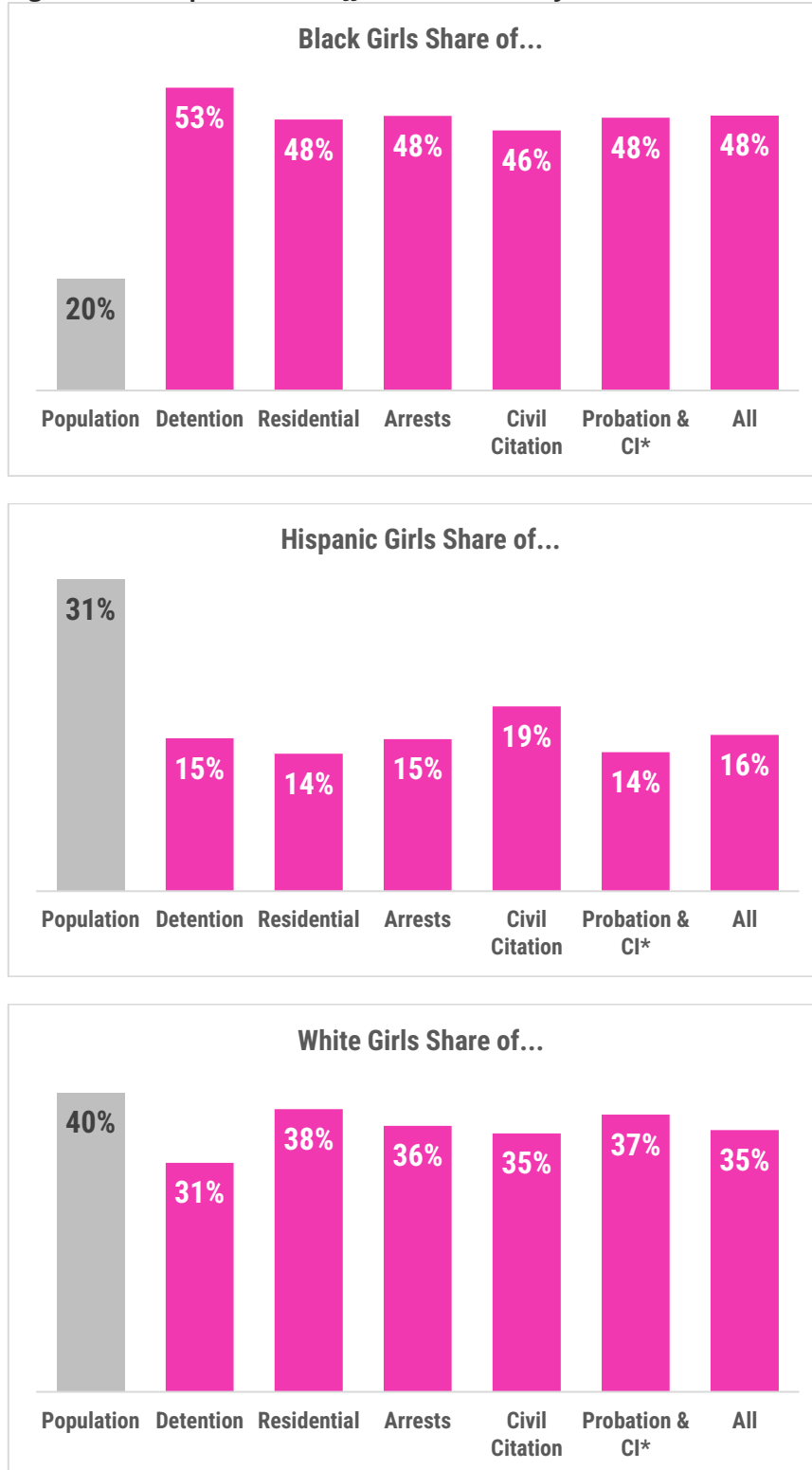
African American girls are the only group that is overrepresented in involvement with Florida’s juvenile justice system (relative to their population share). The disproportion is extreme and has grown worse over the past five years.

Using the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Accountability Report, the FGI tabulated the number of girls arrested or issued a civil citation, or who were served by detention, residential, probation or community intervention services.

In 2022, Black girls were 20% of Florida girls ages 10 to 17, yet they were 48% of girls in the five DJJ-involved categories above. By contrast, Hispanic girls were under-represented. They were 31% of Florida girls aged 10 to 17 but were only 16% of girls in the five service categories above.

The FGI also measured the changes in girls involved with DJJ from 2017 to 2022 and found that African American girls have become a larger share of the DJJ-involved girl population. Black girls were 43% of the total in 2017 and 48% of the total in 2022.

Figure 26: Group Shares of DJJ-Involved Girls by Race in 2022



*CI = Community Intervention

Overrepresentation in Foster Care by Race Group

Black girls are the only girl group that is both overrepresented among foster care children and underrepresented among children who are adopted.

In Foster Care⁴⁹

Black girls are represented in the foster care population at 1.5 times their share of the state's girl population. They are 20% of Florida girls but 29% of children in foster care in 2021.

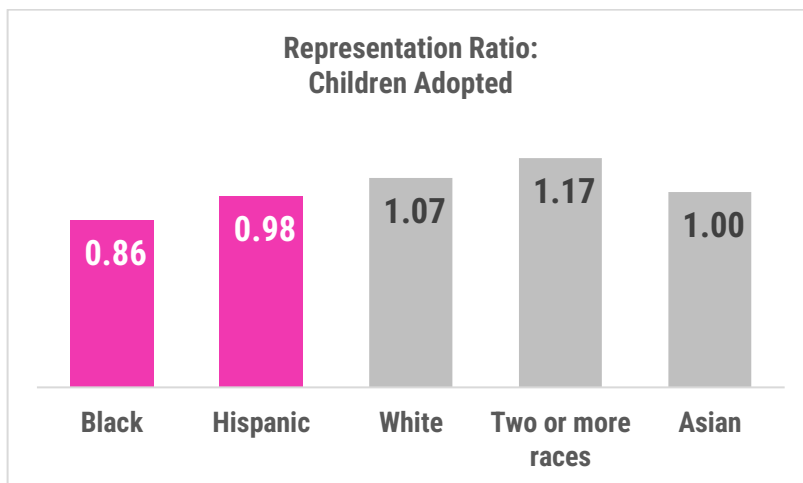
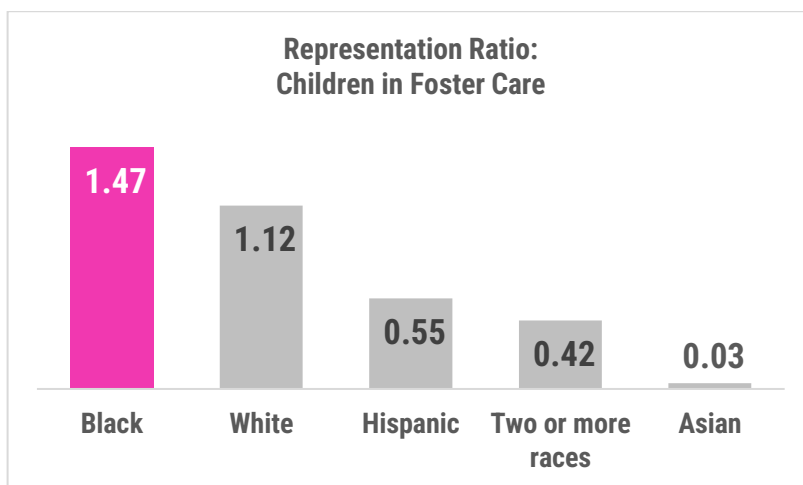
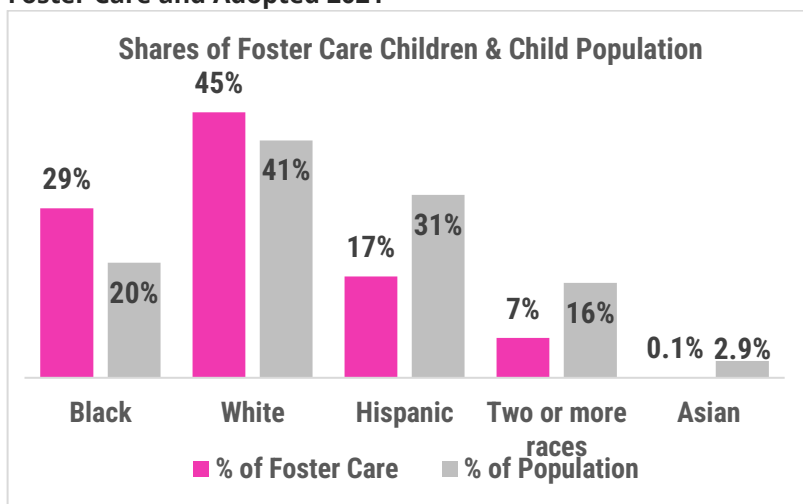
White girls also appear to be overrepresented, though we offer this with the caveat that DCF's race groupings are different from the Census'. White girls are 41% of Florida girls but they are 45% of children in foster care.

Other groups are underrepresented in foster care. For example, Hispanic girls are 31% of Florida girls and only 17% of children in foster care.

Children Adopted⁵⁰

Black girls are the least likely to be adopted. The FGI calculated the ratio of girls adopted versus girls waiting to be adopted. For Black girls, this ratio is 86%. For Asian and Hispanic girls, the ratio is at or near 100%. The ratio exceeds 100% for white and biracial girls, indicating that they are the most likely to be adopted.

Figure 27: Shares and Representation Ratios for Children in Foster Care and Adopted 2021



Practitioner Perspectives on Biggest Challenges & Needs



From October 2022 through September 2023, the Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) team engaged over 300 practitioners, funders, legislators, and advocates from throughout Florida, whose work is dedicated in whole or in part to bettering the lives of girls who are identified as at-promise or at-risk.

Using surveys, one-on-one meetings, and structured question & answer (Q&A) sessions, FGI elicited a wealth of frontline perspective on the biggest challenges facing Florida girls, and the solutions needed to make headway against those challenges.

The FGI's outreach included a Listening Tour that hosted two-hour dialogues in five regions – St. Petersburg (for Tampa Bay), Tallahassee (for northwest Florida), Jacksonville (for northeast Florida), Orlando (for central Florida), and Miami (for South Florida). Attendees included participants and panelists from diverse fields such as juvenile

justice, human trafficking, personal and academic enrichment, college and career readiness, health, foster care, research, advocacy, and other.

Outreach activities also included two statewide virtual convenings; a summit of 30 advisors to this report, held in Miami, Florida, in April 2023; and one-on-one meetings with advocates and officials, including state and local legislators.

The following pages profile the people who lent their perspective; their collective wisdom on the greatest challenges facing girls at risk; and our greatest opportunities to improve their life outcomes.

Photo Above: Panelists and participants at the July 11, 2023, Florida Girls Initiative Tampa Bay Listening Session, held in St. Petersburg, Florida. The session was moderated by Anysia McDowall, Principal of Polestar Philanthropy.

Brief Profile of Participants

Participants by Sector

The FGI met its outreach goal to engage individuals who work on the frontlines to design, fund or implement strategies and investments to improve life outcomes for girls.

Nearly 80% of the 300+ participants in FGI listening and dialogue sessions provide services to at-risk girls and their families. By service type, the largest groups were providers in personal and academic enrichment services (22%); physical and mental health services (17%); local government (9%); business and entrepreneurship (6%); and K-12 education (6%).

State and local government representatives were 14% of participants. This group included elected officials, along with state and local agency staff and legislative staff.

Other participants were in fields that include

delinquency prevention and intervention; research and/or advocacy; philanthropy; higher education, residential services, faith-based organizations, and media.

Lived Experience as an At-Promise Girl

A sub-set of participants were surveyed on the question of whether they had lived experience as an at-risk or at-promise girl (“For those who identify as female, were you an at-promise girl during your growing up years?”).

Just over one-third of the 99 self-identified females answered yes to the question, indicating a wealth of real life experience with risk factors that affect today’s at-risk girls.

This group of respondents were more likely than others to point to lack of adult guidance as a deficit in the lives of at-promise girls, and peer pressure as a contributor to risk behavior.

Table 15: Listening Tour Participants by Sector or Service Type

	No.	%
Enrichment services*	71	22.3%
Health services	34	10.7%
Local government (incl. police)	30	9.4%
Mental health services	19	6.0%
Business & entrepreneurship**	18	5.7%
K-12 education	17	5.3%
Research and/or advocacy	15	4.7%
Delinquency prevention & intervention	15	4.7%
State government	14	4.4%
Social emotional learning services	14	4.4%
Human trafficking prevention or prosecution	14	4.4%
Funding	11	3.5%
Higher education	10	3.1%
Residential services	8	2.5%
Faith-based organization	8	2.5%
Media	7	2.2%
Other human services***	7	2.2%
At-promise girls	6	1.9%
Total	318	

Practitioner Perspectives: Biggest Points of Progress at System-Level

Below is a partial transcription of the major points and themes surfaced during an FGI stakeholder listening session in 2021.

The FGI team asked stakeholders to identify the biggest points of progress they have seen in their own work or other programs and initiatives that engage at-promise girls; and the biggest unmet need in Florida's systems-of-care, viz. at-promise girls.

1. Investments in New Solutions



Lyle Muhammad, Executive Director, Circle of Brotherhood (Above): The success of the Healing Circle model that he has worked with locally and nationally, serving 16- to 24-year-old traumatized young women from across the United States. "We've been blessed to host retreats and seminars where 95% of our young girls have been traumatized and abused and 95% of them reveal it and begin recovery from it within those sessions."

Muhammad also sees the focus on "cradle to career" service among girls as major progress. "We are most successful when we are consistent with at-promise girls, all the way through their education and development process."

Vicky Basra, CEO, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center: Successful models such as The Girls Matter program, which works in schools with the highest rates of suspensions of girls. The program has

reduced suspensions in those schools by 80 to 90%, by having classrooms on campus where teachers and administrators send girls as an alternative to suspension. Specialized staff and interns assess each girl and then work with them and their families to reduce the kind of external traumas they've experienced that carry into the classroom and impact behavior or focus on school.

Christina Wright: Teen pregnancy rates are down. "One of the programs we just brought to Miami with the help of Elaine Black with Liberty Trust has a basis in teaching parents how to communicate with their children about sexuality."

Sarah Lindo: The creation of a RISE Court which works with the Rape Crisis Center in Broward County to create a diversion program for survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault or abuse. If girls complete that program, we are able to keep their case out of the courts.

Ashley Samuel, Social Worker, KIPP Miami: "I think the Community Schools model has really helped the girls that I have worked with for several reasons. Number one, at KIPP we have a social worker at every school, which makes us better able to identify girls who need support and then connect them to community agencies that remain in touch with the family. This is an important collaboration. It's never been surer that 'It takes a village to raise a child.'"

Miguel Pena, Family & Community Partner Manager, KIPP Miami: Working with KIPP to eradicate the school-to-prison pipeline for girls. "We have seen a consistent growth in the number of girls involved in the justice system. We aim to help create an "educational home" for all of our students, providing consistent support to girls and families. We are there. Just this past 12 months, we supported COVID-19 relief

efforts to meet our families' basic needs – food, shelter, and clothing. It's really provided us a stronger relationship with families who might be hesitant to engage because of their past experiences with schools. This is helping us to restart fresh."

2. Trauma-Informed Awareness & Approaches Now More Common

Thema Campbell, CEO, Girl Power: "One of the biggest points of progress is that we can now talk about this issue openly. We've been doing this work for 21 years and when I first started talking about this, it wasn't being addressed. We started asking the courts to look into the story behind girls' behavior when they acted out in school. Where that behavior was coming from. People were not comfortable talking about it. Now, for me, one of the biggest points of progress is that there are so many safe places to have these conversations openly. The absence of that has been affecting our girls for a very, very long time."



Judge Angelica D. Zayas, Circuit Judge, Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit (Above): "I've been part of the quote unquote system for 30 plus years and I've seen a great change. One major change is simply the way we talked about children involved in these issues. I remember when I was an undergraduate sociology major and with the public defender's office and one of my jobs was to interview children in the detention center to find out why they were there. We were studying the crossover between delinquency and dependency. I remember

talking to a 15-year-old African American girl who was in detention for prostitution charges. I'm happy to say that we don't see that happen anymore. There is no such thing as a child prostitute in this day and age. Through a lot of education and training, we understand far more than we did decades ago.

"I also see progress in the provision of programs to provide therapy, support, and other resources for girls transitioning out of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and other traumas. Citrus Health CHANCE is a prime example. Project Gold is another; it gives these children life coaches and mentors, some of whom are survivors themselves.

"As Sarah mentioned, a trauma-informed orientation is important. We are a trauma-informed court. That means everybody, not just the judge, but everybody in the court, down to the clerk, attorneys, and probation officers. We approach the world differently. We use different language. We say this is "a GRACE Court case," rather than saying "she is a victim of human trafficking.

"Twenty years ago, we were not talking about trauma-informed care. Now, it's all we talk about, and we have great programs that train and certify professionals in the trauma-informed approach to adverse childhood experiences. This is an important shift.

"We also look through an intergenerational lens. We have parents come in whose actions are also influenced by traumas. So, when we deal with a child's trauma, we also focus on parents.

Biggest Gaps or Unmet Needs in the System of Care

The FGI team asked stakeholders to identify the biggest unmet needs in Florida's systems-of-care, at relates to working with at-promise girls. During a Zoom convening by FGI, the facilitator also asked stakeholders to estimate the percentage of girls in need of support that system leaders are reaching, supporting, and helping.

The group shared their educated guesses, which ranged from 5% to 20%, indicating a consensus that systems of care do not have the bandwidth (i.e., service capacity) to meet the needs of Florida's at-promise girls.

Community Dynamics & Other



Daniel Gibson, Former VP, Allegany Franciscan Ministries, now VP with Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties: "Listening opportunities like today are important. I am not surprised but I am still shocked and horrified by the stories that I'm hearing, and the magnitude of the needs still unmet.

"Another issue that impacts young ladies is the violence going on in our communities. We think of it as just an issue that impacts the boys but gun violence and the things that are so prevalent in our communities are impacting young women as well. And then we're always looking at career opportunities, career pathways and turning the table and really looking at the opportunities that allow

women to thrive. The transgender community is another group that needs this kind of support."

Focus on Healing First

Lyle Muhammad: "It is just important because we try to give our girls programming before we give them an opportunity to heal from the root trauma."

Expansion/Replication of Successful Strategies & Program Models

Vicky Basra: "Suspension rates among girls have risen and are still unaddressed in many schools. In addition, too many girls are being "pushed out" of the school system, or pushed deeper into the juvenile justice system, especially girls of color. The need to elevate and replicate successful strategies and program models, e.g., Since inception we've helped reduce girls' incarceration rates by 78% in Duval County. I think a lot stems from building relationships in the justice system, providing alternatives, and working with the State Attorney's Office.

"In order to expand program capacity, we need to extend the service continuum, following girls from elementary into middle school and high school, so that they are not getting pushed out at any point. Programs such as Girl Matters Elementary can help stop that cycle.

"We continue to see the unfair treatment of girls of color in schools and in the juvenile justice system. We are still seeing girls of color going further and deeper into the justice system than their white counterparts. We also still see the **adultification of black girls**, which feeds the cycle of unfair treatment by system stakeholders."

Judge Angelica D. Zayas: In response to a question from the facilitator ("Judge, if you were presenting to the state legislator during

a session to identify what they can do to help make a difference in this space what would you recommend?”), Judge Zayas answered, “Funding for evidence-based programs for prevention, education, mental health, and awareness, ensuring that all children - boys and girls - are safe. We need more safe homes and therapeutic group homes, as well as family reunification support.”

More Focus on Healthy Sexual Development/Sexuality

Christina Wright: “The biggest unmet need is an increase of sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates amongst this demographic of young girls.”

Helen Vilorio: “The high rate of young girls being impregnated by older men is a challenge not typically incorporated into service strategies. When we looked at this among our girls, 25% of those who were or became pregnant would have been considered sexual violence or rape because of the age gap. We need a conversation around this. If we understood that a lot of the girls becoming pregnant are being sexually violated by older men, that would shift how we talk about and work inside these issues.”

Christina Wright: “We see this issue as well, and because details are self-reported and girls hesitate to report on this, we do not have a clear picture. One of our staff is an example. She is a teen mom and a rock star employee. Her child’s father is significantly older. We can impact this with parent communication and education, as well as stronger connections among service providers. This will take every capacity we have to truly make a change in so many girls’ lives. I’ve experienced this. My mentor has called me ‘The Walking Wounded.’ A lot of us are drawn to this work because of things that happen in our lives.”

Sarah Lindo: “A separate need is for more education and training of young girls about dating violence, as well as internet and social

media etiquette, and identifying healthy relationships versus mistreatment. Many of these girls don’t have those kinds of relationships to turn to.”

More Training on Trauma-Informed Care

Sarah Lindo: “Sadly, I see a long list of unmet needs. We have a lot of training but still need more, especially regarding trauma-informed care. I still hear attorneys and others who are not sensitized and don’t interact well with young ladies experienced court involvement. A perfect example is using the term “victim of human trafficking” in girls’ presence, which can be traumatic for them to hear. The way you speak to girls will affect what you get back from them.”

Ashley Samuel: “It’s problematic when service providers or people working with girls are not using their trauma lens to understand how to work best with the girls. I think a lot of times, especially with black girls, their behavior is attributed to a negative stereotype of black women. You will hear people say, “they act like that because there from Liberty City” or “they act like that because they’re from Miami” versus using their trauma lens to understand and examine those behaviors.”

More School Day Time/Focus for SEL

Miguel Pena: “The biggest unmet need is carving out a time within the school day to make sure that social emotional learning (SEL) is empowered. Our biggest challenge is making sure that’s prioritized as much as academic learning so that you know we do see that growth together.”

Transparent & Responsive Approach to Assault in Schools

Thema Campbell: “The biggest unmet need I want to talk about is the school system and the principals who cover-up sexual and physical assault of girls in schools, including rape and gang rape. Schools often use their own police force to address the issue but fail

to cooperate fully with the State Attorney's Office, sometimes withholding key details and downplaying incidents to avoid bringing negative attention to schools.

"A separate and related challenge is school officials failing to recognize the trauma that causes boys to inflict harm. A lot of the young men perpetrating these crimes are the star athletes who are often put on a pedestal, so the school sweeps this under the rug and it's very hard to get them to do a proper report to the State Attorney's Office so that the offenders can be charged or put into training or therapy or whatever they need because these young men would not begin raping girls if they didn't have their own traumas that also need to be addressed.

"One of our girls was gangraped and the principal would not provide the names of the boys, leaving the State Attorney nothing to go on. A lot of the pain girls are experiencing starts in the school system. This is systemic and deserves a deep dive assessment.

"A third unmet need is educating parents. Often when girls are sexually assaulted, parents will say "She's just fast." Educating them, their communities and school leaders is a critical need."

Responsiveness to Intergenerational Trauma

Vicky Basra: "It's really important to bring intergenerational trauma into the conversation because many times when we have conversations with mothers, they too have experienced trauma and have not had the opportunity to work through it. So, when their daughters come home with these experiences, the parents are triggered and don't respond from the trauma-informed lens we would want them to, but with defensiveness, guilt and sometimes shame.

"So, until we build programs that support these mothers and help them work through their traumas, we will not be able to work as

effectively with girls. So many times, we end up having therapists working with both the mom and girl, because we can't do the work with the girls if mom hasn't done her own work from her lived experiences. I remember sitting with a mom and her saying, "I wanted so much more for my daughter I just didn't know how to give it to her." That mother's story was the exact same as her daughter's.

"Parents' trauma is also tied to their experience with schools. I have no problem walking into a principal's office and exerting my power and privilege. But this advocacy is not easy for parents who've been pushed out of school or have had negative experiences."

Training for Culturally Responsive Mental Health Care

Sarah Lindo: "In addition to intergenerational trauma, there is a need for training on culturally diverse views on mental health. For parents in different cultures, there is a stigma tied to talking about sex, STIs, healthy relationships and dating. There are some cultures where young girls are sexually exploited, and the norm is for that to be ignored or hushed."

Mary Donworth: "I would say the same also I think there has been more attention to trauma-informed care. We held training on this approach last year with agencies implementing a range of programs. In addition, career opportunities and mentoring are very important."

Lyle Muhammed: "The system as it is falls far short of reaching the needs of our girls. There's so much emphasis placed on working with our young girls and families. Yet we, even as professionals in this field, don't understand the embedded racism and sexism that is implicit in every system in America. It is impossible to be a girl or woman in America and not be oppressed. Lastly, there is a great opportunity for us to develop what a system of care is supposed to look like and to lead the nation in doing it."

Practitioner Perspectives: Biggest Contributing Risk Factors for At-Promise Girls

The FGI asked listening tour participants: “In your experience working with at-promise girls, what are the top three biggest contributing risk factors in their lives?”

Respondents were free to choose more than one factor from a list of six risk factors:

1. Poverty or low-income status
2. Stressors or instability in their home and family lives
3. Lack of sufficient guidance from role models
4. Substance abuse
5. Poor performance in school
6. Peer pressure
7. All of the above

Survey takers were also provided an “Other” comment box, which drew rich insights on how various risk factors impact girls lives.

Urban Market Analytics (UMA) reviewed the comments to create categories and coded each comment into the categories. Some comments corresponded nearly precisely with the six standard choices offered to respondents (but with additional elucidation). Some comments pointed to wholly unique factors.

Table 16 provides a roll-up summary of results, and table 17 lists responses by UMA’s created categories.

The top five life risks most frequently identified by respondents were Stressors, instability, or other family issues (21.9% of factors named); followed by Poverty (20.4%); All of the above (14.2%); Lack of sufficient guidance from role models (12.4%); and Peer pressure (10.6%).

The following are summaries of specific dynamics cited by respondents.

Lack of Structure, Stability & Other Issues at Home

The risk factor most frequently cited was “Stressors or instability in home and family lives” (22%). Comments by survey participants pointed to lack of stability, lack of structure, and inability of parents to guide girls in living a well-rounded life and developing a life vision.

One respondent noted, “I feel like the home environment plays a huge role in our at-promise girls lives. Some girls don’t have anyone to look up to that’s doing something different outside of what they know already.”

Poverty in the Context of Lack of Resources & Access to Opportunity

Poverty or low-income status was the second most frequently cited risk factor. In the comment field, survey respondents shed light on how limited resources negatively impact girls lives, including a) lack of access to life-enriching opportunities and resources for girls, b) the heightened risk exposure for girls living in low-resource, high-poverty communities, and c) the effects of intergenerational poverty.

All of the Above

The survey choice that garnered the third largest number of citations was “All of the above” (14%). This – coupled with the 20% of comments that cited four or more risk factors - suggest that over one-third of survey respondents (mostly practitioners) see girls as facing multi-faceted and interconnected challenges.

Lack of Role Models to Guide

The fourth most commonly named contributor to girls challenges was “Lack of sufficient guidance from role models” (12%). Comments pointed to two negative effects of

this deficit – one, the lack of positive influences in girls lives to help them shape a life vision and two, the lack of guidance for girls on how to respond to various life

circumstances.

“Girls need change agents within their scope of exposure,” said one survey taker.

Table 16: Summary of Biggest Risk Factors Identified by Survey Respondents

Risk Factors	Totals	% of Total
1 Poverty or low-income status	56	20.4%
2 Stressors or instability in their home and family lives	60	21.9%
3 Lack of sufficient guidance from role models	34	12.4%
4 Substance abuse	4	1.5%
5 Poor performance in school	9	3.3%
6 Peer pressure	29	10.6%
7 Community factors (lack of resources/support, violence, other)	15	5.5%
8 Trauma/traumatic experiences	8	2.9%
9 Lack of coping/life skills, self-determination, vision	6	2.2%
10 Low self-esteem	5	1.8%
11 Unhealthy social media/media messages	5	1.8%
12 Broken systems	4	1.5%
13 All of the above*	39	14.2%
Totals:	274	100.0%

**In original survey format, "All of the above" included items 1 through 5 above.*

Table 17: Created Categories of Biggest Risk Factors Cited in Respondents' Comments

Risk Factors	Totals	% of Total
1 Trauma/traumatic experiences	8	7.8%
2 Limited financial resources & opportunity access	21	20.4%
3 Community violence	2	1.9%
4 Community risks (temptation, grooming)	2	1.9%
5 Lack of parental structure/support, other family issues	20	19.4%
6 Lack of role models	6	5.8%
7 Lack of coping and/or life skills	1	1.0%
8 Lack of community resources or support	9	8.7%
9 Peer pressure	8	7.8%
10 Lack of control/agency over own life	3	2.9%
11 Substance abuse in home	1	1.0%
12 Poor educational outcomes	1	1.0%
13 Lack of safe spaces	2	1.9%
14 Need for systems change	4	3.9%
15 Low self esteem	5	4.9%
16 Lack of awareness of/access to career pathways	2	1.9%
17 Social media or media messages	5	4.9%
18 Mental health challenges	2	1.9%
19 Lack of school resources	1	1.0%
Totals:	103	100.0%

Practitioner Perspectives: Girls' Greatest Mental Health Challenges

The FGI asked listening tour participants: "Which of the following common mental health issues are you seeing among the at-promise girls you work with?"

Respondents were free to choose more than one of six choices:

1. Depression - Persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, and/or emptiness
2. Generalized anxiety - Excessive worry about everyday matters
3. Social phobias - Severe feelings of self-consciousness and insecurity in social settings
4. PTSD - Avoidance of situations or places that may remind the individual of the event
5. Body dysmorphic disorder - Can't stop thinking about one or more perceived defects or flaws in appearance
6. All of the above

Consistent with the findings of the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, practitioners identified depression as the most common mental health condition among the girls they support (29% of responses).

In rank order, the other most frequently identified mental health issues were General anxiety (23%); Social phobias (21%); Body dysmorphic disorder (14%); and All of the above (7%).

Table 18: Mental Health Challenges Seen Among At-Promise Girls

	No.	% of Total
Depression	55	29%
Anxiety	45	23%
Social phobias	40	21%
PTSD	11	6%
Body dysmorphic disorder	27	14%
All of the above	14	7%
Totals	192	100%

County Rankings of Girls At Risk



While the tri-county South Florida region has the largest number of girl residents (compared to any other area of the state), counties in north Florida, from east to west, exhibit far higher risk rates for girls. In some cases, risk rates are alarming.

The graphs and tables throughout this section provide a snapshot of the county-level differences in the needs of girls and where the challenges are most extreme.

As examples, the graphs and tables reveal:

- **Astronomical growth in the foster care rate in Wakulla County** (one of the smallest of Florida's 67 counties), while counties with the largest girl populations have some of the lowest foster care rates in Florida and the two most populous counties – Miami-Dade and Broward – have seen their foster child populations shrink.
- **Staggering rates of abuse for girls in Alachua County**, though the county has

fewer girls struggling in school and economically disadvantaged than most other Florida counties.

- **Layered and extreme challenges** for girls in **Jefferson County**, which though home to only 0.1% of Florida girls, ranks at or near the top of virtually every ranking in this section.

The FGI's consultant – Urban Market Analytics – recommends the development of a comprehensive set of county by county profiles to inform strategy-setting at the community level.

Photo Above: Panelists and participants for the September 15, 2023, Florida Girls Initiative Listening Session in Jacksonville, Florida, at the Jessie Ball duPont Center. The session was moderated by Dr. Inderjit "Vicky" Basra, CEO, of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.

Counties with the Largest Number of Girls⁵¹

Florida is home to nearly 2.1 million girls, ages 0 to 17.

Top 5 Girls Populations

Florida counties with the largest populations of girls are (in order) Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and

Palm Beach. The five counties account for 44% of all girls in the Sunshine State.

Counties with 20,000+ Girls

Across Florida, 26 counties have girls populations of 20,000 or more.

Table 19: Florida Girl Population by County 2022

County	Girls	% of Total
Florida	2,068,480	100%
1 Miami-Dade	264,683	12.8%
2 Broward	199,092	9.6%
3 Hillsborough	155,787	7.5%
4 Orange	150,697	7.3%
5 Palm Beach	137,657	6.7%
6 Duval	109,073	5.3%
7 Polk	78,540	3.8%
8 Pinellas	73,892	3.6%
9 Lee	64,552	3.1%
10 Pasco	56,199	2.7%
11 Brevard	53,890	2.6%
12 Seminole	47,977	2.3%
13 Volusia	47,790	2.3%
14 Osceola	45,955	2.2%
15 Lake	35,662	1.7%
16 Manatee	35,173	1.7%
17 Marion	34,270	1.7%
18 Escambia	32,536	1.6%
19 St. Lucie	31,840	1.5%
20 Collier	31,006	1.5%
21 Sarasota	29,697	1.4%
22 St. Johns	29,384	1.4%
23 Leon	26,526	1.3%
24 Clay	24,556	1.2%
25 Alachua	24,492	1.2%
26 Okaloosa	23,223	1.1%
27 Santa Rosa	19,916	1.0%
28 Bay	18,553	0.9%
29 Hernando	17,644	0.9%
30 Martin	12,788	0.6%
31 Indian River	11,485	0.6%
32 Citrus	10,815	0.5%
33 Charlotte	10,781	0.5%
34 Flagler	9,553	0.5%
35 Nassau	8,788	0.4%
36 Highlands	8,396	0.4%
37 Walton	7,714	0.4%
38 Putnam	7,688	0.4%
39 Columbia	7,498	0.4%
40 Monroe	6,268	0.3%
41 Gadsden	4,905	0.2%
42 Sumter	4,846	0.2%
43 Hendry	4,824	0.2%
44 Levy	4,264	0.2%
45 Suwannee	4,263	0.2%
46 Jackson	4,188	0.2%
47 Okeechobee	3,933	0.2%
48 Wakulla	3,233	0.2%
49 DeSoto	3,176	0.2%
50 Baker	3,086	0.1%
51 Hardee	3,048	0.1%
52 Bradford	2,601	0.1%
53 Washington	2,289	0.1%
54 Holmes	1,944	0.1%
55 Taylor	1,857	0.1%
56 Gilchrist	1,688	0.1%
57 Union	1,617	0.1%
58 Madison	1,426	0.1%
59 Dixie	1,332	0.1%
60 Calhoun	1,216	0.1%
61 Hamilton	1,172	0.1%
62 Jefferson	1,168	0.1%
63 Gulf	1,029	0.05%
64 Glades	992	0.05%
65 Franklin	863	0.04%
66 Liberty	779	0.04%
67 Lafayette	705	0.03%

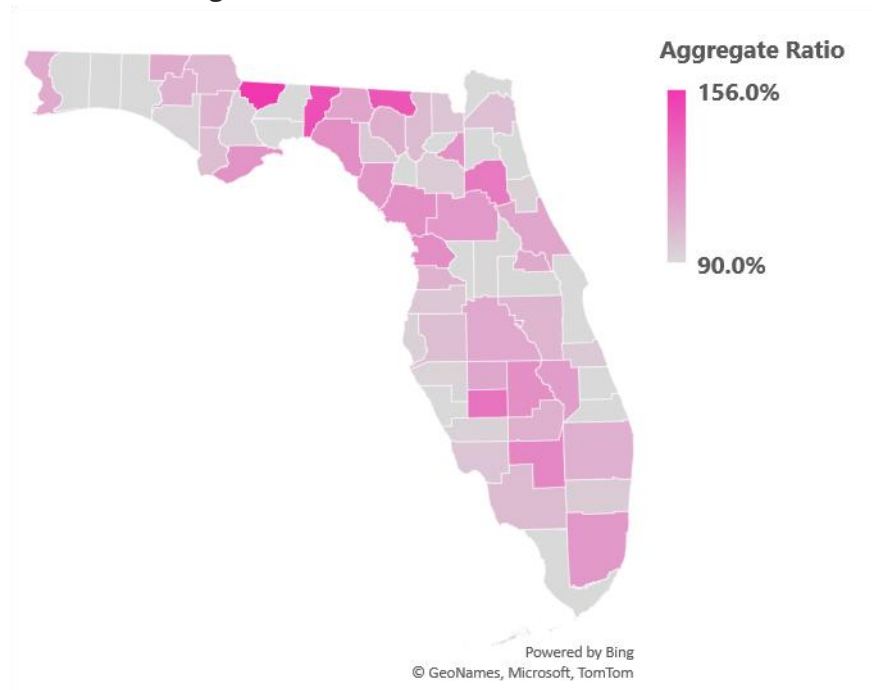
Where Florida Girls Are vs Where They Are Most At-Risk

While most top 10 counties for largest girl populations are in south and central Florida, counties in north Florida invariably show the highest risk rates for girls.

The top graph illustrates where the combined ratio of girls struggling in school and girls economically disadvantaged is highest. Four of the top 5 counties for highest ratio are in north Florida.

The bottom graph shows where the combined ratio of girls who report sexual, physical, and emotional abuse is highest. Four of the top 5 are in north Florida.

Figure 28: Heat Map Aggregate Ratios: Girls Below Grade Level + Eco. Disadvantaged⁵²



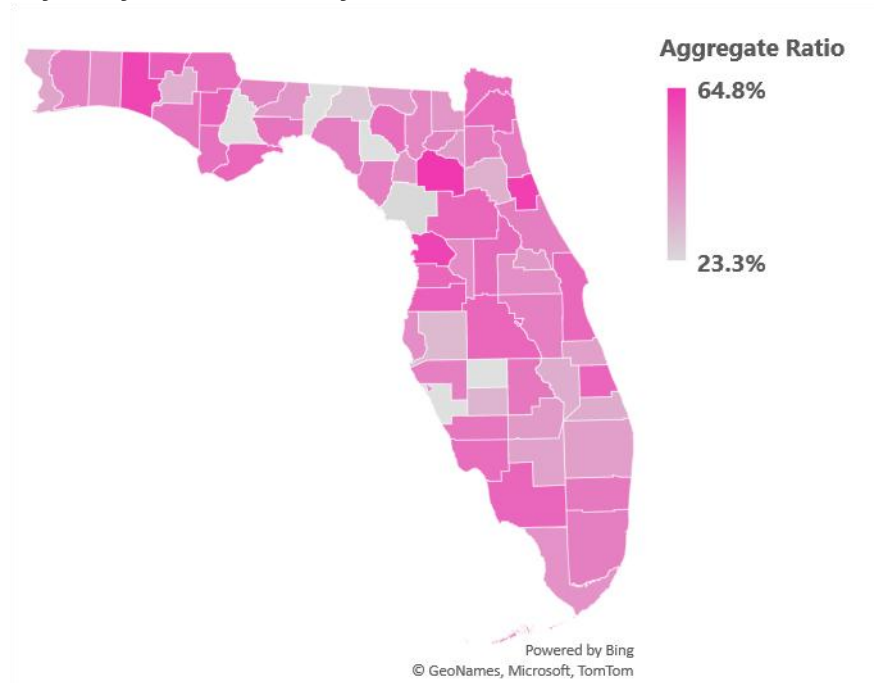
Top 5: Ratio of Girls Struggling In School & Economically Disadvantaged

	Combined Ratios
Gadsden	156.0%
Jefferson	145.7%
Hamilton	144.0%
DeSoto	131.2%
Putnam	129.1%

Top 5: Ratio of Girls Sexually, Physically and Emotionally Abused

	Combined Ratios
Alachua	64.8%
Flagler	62.8%
Citrus	61.8%
Walton	61.3%
Holmes	55.0%

Figure 29: Heat Map Aggregate Ratios of Girls Sexually, Physically, and Emotionally Abused⁵³



County Ranking: Aggregate of Girls Below Grade Level and Economically Disadvantaged

2022

	County	Aggregate Ratio
1	Gadsden	156.0%
2	Jefferson	145.7%
3	Hamilton	144.0%
4	DeSoto	131.2%
5	Putnam	129.1%
6	Hendry	123.6%
7	Citrus	120.9%
8	Taylor	120.8%
9	Levy	120.3%
10	Highlands	120.0%
11	Bradford	119.3%
12	Franklin	118.3%
13	Dixie	117.5%
14	Marion	116.2%
15	Miami-Dade	116.1%
16	Okeechobee	114.7%
17	Madison	111.5%
18	Volusia	110.8%
19	Hardee	110.5%
20	Polk	109.5%
21	Holmes	109.4%
22	Seminole	109.3%
23	Escambia	109.0%
24	Suwannee	107.1%
25	Palm Beach	106.9%
26	Glades	106.2%
27	Washington	105.9%
28	Hernando	105.9%
29	Calhoun	105.2%
30	Osceola	104.5%
31	Jackson	103.6%
32	Collier	102.1%
33	Columbia	102.0%
34	Hillsborough	101.1%

	County	Aggregate Ratio
35	Gulf	101.0%
36	Duval	100.1%
	Florida	98.8%
37	Baker	98.2%
38	Lee	98.0%
39	Pasco	97.3%
40	Indian River	96.6%
41	Lafayette	96.4%
42	Broward	95.9%
43	Alachua	95.1%
44	Liberty	93.7%
45	Pinellas	93.4%
46	Charlotte	92.8%
47	Flagler	92.7%
48	Manatee	92.3%
49	Bay	91.6%
50	Lake	91.2%
51	Orange	90.3%
52	Leon	89.8%
53	Union	89.7%
54	Martin	89.2%
55	Clay	89.1%
56	Brevard	89.1%
57	Santa Rosa	86.7%
58	Gilchrist	86.0%
59	Wakulla	83.6%
60	St. Lucie	81.1%
61	Okaloosa	78.1%
62	St. Johns	76.6%
63	Walton	75.6%
64	Monroe	71.7%
65	Nassau	65.4%
66	Sumter	47.1%
67	Sarasota	37.0%

County Ranking: Aggregate of Girls Sexually, Physically & Emotionally Abused

2022

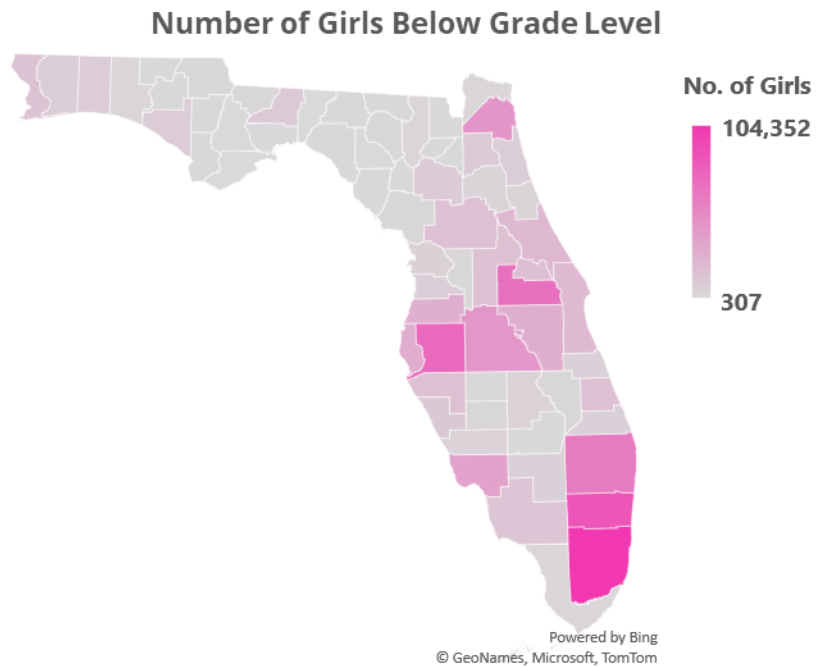
	County	Aggregate Ratio		County	Aggregate Ratio
1	Alachua	64.8%	33	Osceola	46.3%
2	Flagler	62.8%	34	Dixie	46.2%
3	Citrus	61.8%	35	Manatee	46.2%
4	Walton	61.3%		Florida	46.1%
5	Holmes	55.0%	36	Santa Rosa	45.6%
6	Pasco	54.4%	37	Union	45.2%
7	Calhoun	54.0%	38	Gadsden	44.9%
8	St. Lucie	53.2%	39	Columbia	44.3%
9	Collier	53.0%	40	Pinellas	43.0%
10	Polk	52.8%	41	Okaloosa	42.9%
11	Franklin	52.6%	42	Sumter	42.8%
12	Hernando	52.6%	43	Orange	42.0%
13	Marion	52.6%	44	Monroe	41.5%
14	Duval	52.5%	45	Baker	40.6%
15	Brevard	52.2%	46	Leon	40.6%
16	Sarasota,	52.2%	47	Gilchrist	39.4%
17	Lake	51.6%	48	Glades	39.3%
18	Jackson	51.4%	49	Seminole	39.3%
19	Suwannee	51.0%	50	Bradford	39.1%
20	Lee	50.8%	51	Hamilton	38.5%
21	Nassau	50.5%	52	Palm Beach	38.2%
22	Gulf	49.9%	53	Indian River	37.8%
23	Wakulla	49.7%	54	Hendry	37.3%
24	Bay	49.0%	55	Escambia	36.7%
25	Highlands	48.3%	56	Martin	34.9%
26	Charlotte	48.2%	57	Okeechobee	34.3%
27	Broward	48.0%	58	Washington	33.9%
28	St. Johns	46.9%	59	Putnam	33.6%
29	Clay	46.7%	60	DeSoto	32.6%
30	Miami-Dade	46.6%	61	Hillsborough	31.3%
31	Volusia	46.6%	62	Madison	27.2%
32	Taylor	46.5%	63	Levy	23.3%

Counties with the Most Girls Below Grade Level in School

The top five Florida counties with the largest girl populations are also the top five for the largest number of girls who are below grade level in school – Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach counties.

As for the top five counties for highest percentage of girls below grade level, four of the five are in north Florida – Jefferson, Hamilton, Gadsden, and Franklin – while one is in southwest Florida – Desoto.

Figure 30: Heat Maps of Florida Girls Below Grade Level 2022

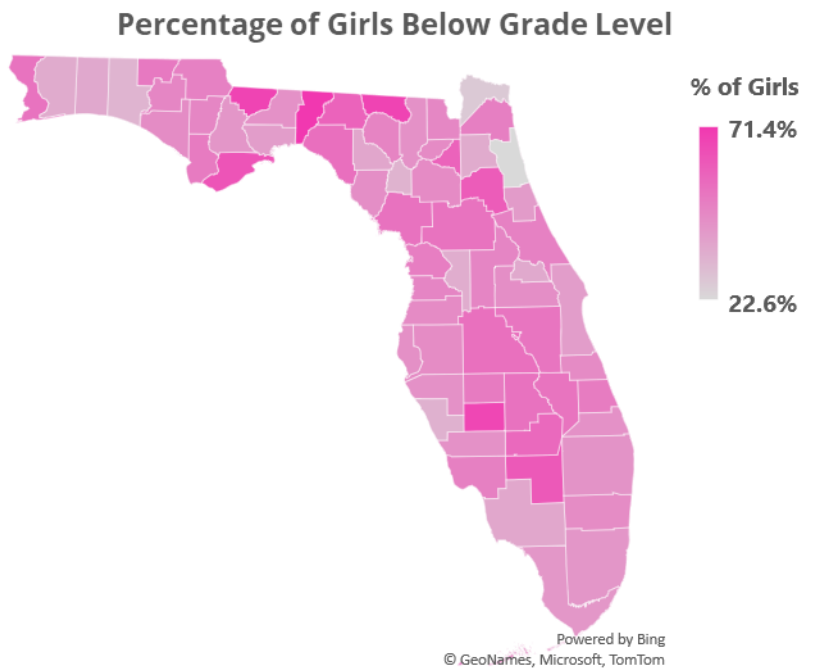


Top 5: Number of Girls Below Grade Level

County	No. of Girls
Miami-Dade	104,352
Broward	85,694
Hillsborough	72,594
Orange	67,198
Palm Beach	60,839

Top 5: Percentage of Girls Below Grade Level

County	No. of Girls
Jefferson	71%
Hamilton	68%
Gadsden	68%
DeSoto	67%
Franklin	63%



County Ranking: Number of Girls Below Grade Level

2022 School Year

	County	No. of Girls
1	Miami-Dade	104,352
2	Broward	85,694
3	Hillsborough	72,594
4	Orange	67,198
5	Palm Beach	60,839
6	Duval	43,935
7	Polk	42,929
8	Lee	35,681
9	Pinellas	29,049
10	Osceola	27,880
11	Pasco	27,357
12	Volusia	22,147
13	Brevard	20,819
14	Seminole	17,878
15	Marion	16,624
16	St. Lucie	16,448
17	Lake	16,095
18	Manatee	16,037
19	Escambia	14,198
20	Collier	13,354
21	Sarasota	11,015
22	Clay	9,962
23	Leon	9,905
24	Alachua	9,453
25	Bay	8,636
26	Okaloosa	8,576
27	Santa Rosa	8,222
28	Hernando	8,190
29	St. Johns	8,105
30	Martin	6,218
31	Hendry	6,122
32	Indian River	5,894
33	Citrus	5,540
34	Charlotte	5,115

	County	No. of Girls
35	Highlands	4,743
36	Putnam	4,149
37	Flagler	3,999
38	Columbia	3,014
39	Monroe	2,596
40	Walton	2,595
41	Nassau	2,515
42	Desoto	2,397
43	Okeechobee	2,373
44	Sumter	2,303
45	Gadsden	2,037
46	Suwannee	2,021
47	Jackson	1,973
48	Levy	1,964
49	Hardee	1,755
50	Baker	1,586
51	Wakulla	1,367
52	Bradford	1,192
53	Holmes	1,165
54	Washington	1,066
55	Madison	937
56	Taylor	921
57	Hamilton	843
58	Calhoun	784
59	Union	763
60	Glades	732
61	Gulf	723
62	Gilchrist	704
63	Dixie	697
64	Franklin	518
65	Liberty	374
66	Jefferson	359
67	Lafayette	307

County Ranking: Percentage of Girls Below Grade Level in School

2022 School Year

	County	% of Girls		County	% of Girls
1	Jefferson	71.4%	35	Union	46.3%
2	Hamilton	67.8%	36	Indian River	46.2%
3	Gadsden	67.8%	37	Pasco	46.1%
4	Desoto	66.7%	38	Hillsborough	46.0%
5	Franklin	63.0%	39	Broward	46.0%
6	Hendry	61.4%	40	Bay	45.8%
7	Putnam	60.6%	41	Dixie	45.3%
8	Bradford	58.5%	42	Orange	45.2%
9	Madison	58.3%		Florida	45.2%
10	Glades	56.4%	43	Pinellas	44.8%
11	Taylor	54.8%	44	Charlotte	44.5%
12	Polk	54.4%	45	Leon	44.5%
13	Highlands	53.8%	46	Columbia	44.4%
14	Levy	53.7%	47	Martin	44.4%
15	Escambia	53.6%	48	Manatee	44.3%
16	Marion	53.5%	49	Palm Beach	43.7%
17	Okeechobee	53.2%	50	Miami-Dade	43.0%
18	Osceola	52.9%	51	Liberty	43.0%
19	Holmes	51.6%	52	Monroe	42.5%
20	Hardee	51.2%	53	Flagler	41.3%
21	Gulf	51.1%	54	Brevard	40.9%
22	St. Lucie	50.8%	55	Wakulla	40.8%
23	Citrus	50.3%	56	Lafayette	38.0%
24	Duval	49.7%	57	Collier	37.9%
25	Lee	49.4%	58	Okaloosa	37.4%
26	Volusia	49.2%	59	Seminole	37.1%
27	Jackson	49.2%	60	Clay	36.5%
28	Suwannee	48.3%	61	Santa Rosa	36.4%
29	Lake	47.9%	62	Sumter	35.9%
30	Hernando	47.9%	63	Sarasota	34.7%
31	Washington	47.7%	64	Gilchrist	34.2%
32	Calhoun	47.7%	65	Walton	33.8%
33	Baker	47.4%	66	Nassau	27.5%
34	Alachua	46.3%	67	St. Johns	22.6%

Counties with the Most Girls Disciplined in School

Three of the top five counties for largest number of girls being disciplined are in central Florida (Hillsborough, Orange, and Polk), while one is in north Florida (Duval) and one in South Florida (Broward).

Meanwhile, four of the top five counties for girls' share of students disciplined are in north Florida (Jefferson, Hamilton, Gadsden, and Bradford), and the fifth is in east central Florida (Indian River).

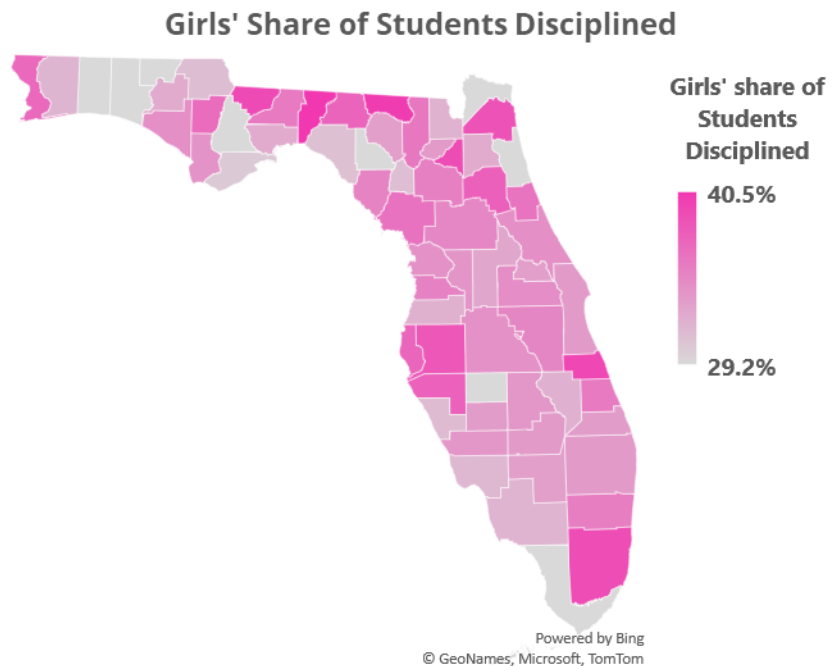
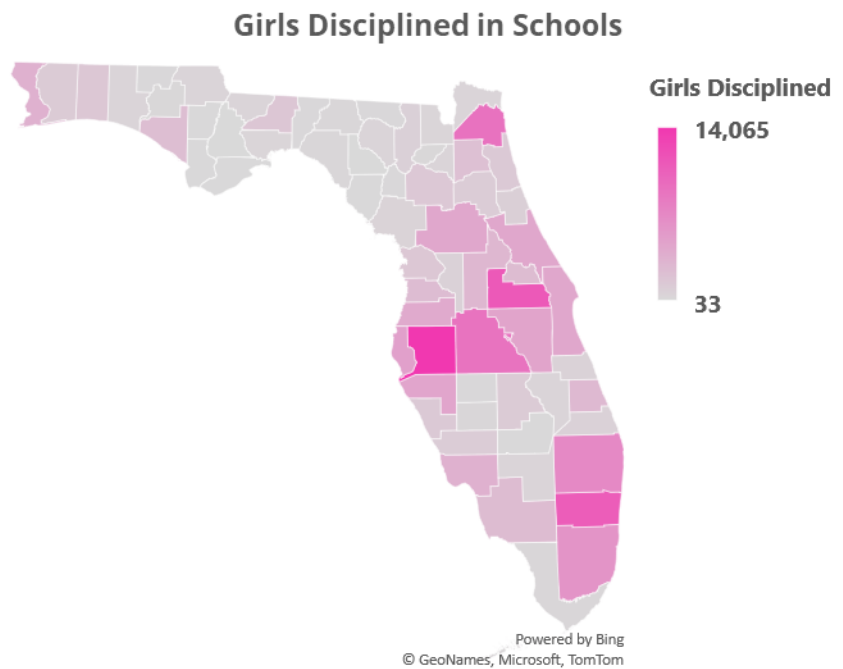
Top 5: Largest Number of Girls Disciplined

County	No. Girls
Hillsborough	14,065
Orange	11,228
Broward	10,861
Duval	8,984
Polk	8,917

Top 5: Girls Share of Students Disciplined

County	Girls' Share
Jefferson	40.5%
Hamilton	40.2%
Indian River	39.4%
Gadsden	39.2%
Bradford	39.1%

Figure 31: Heat Maps of Florida Girls Disciplined in School 2023



County Ranking: Number of Girls Disciplined in School

2023 School Year

	County	No. of Girls
1	Hillsborough	14,065
2	Orange	11,228
3	Broward	10,861
4	Duval	8,984
5	Polk	8,917
6	Palm Beach	7,002
7	Miami-Dade	6,087
8	Pinellas	4,971
9	Osceola	4,656
10	Manatee	4,555
11	Marion	4,415
12	Volusia	4,388
13	Brevard	4,359
14	Pasco	4,124
15	Escambia	3,520
16	Lee	3,493
17	Lake	3,027
18	St. Lucie	2,802
19	Collier	2,601
20	Seminole	2,600
21	Hernando	2,535
22	Bay	2,356
23	Clay	2,253
24	Leon	1,665
25	Okaloosa	1,610
26	Citrus	1,599
27	Alachua	1,549
28	St. Johns	1,424
29	Sarasota	1,404
30	Highlands	1,241
31	Santa Rosa	1,235
32	Putnam	1,171
33	Charlotte	1,167
34	Flagler	893

	County	No. of Girls
35	Columbia	856
36	Martin	742
37	Sumter	713
38	Indian River	606
39	Levy	556
40	Okeechobee	499
41	Suwannee	496
42	Walton	472
43	Jackson	461
44	Nassau	455
45	Hendry	453
46	Gadsden	439
47	Bradford	427
48	Baker	377
49	Wakulla	375
50	DeSoto	318
51	Taylor	306
52	Madison	302
53	Monroe	254
54	Washington	228
55	Union	220
56	Holmes	175
57	Jefferson	172
58	Gilchrist	167
59	Hardee	166
60	Hamilton	164
61	Dixie	144
62	Calhoun	137
63	Gulf	134
64	Franklin	94
65	Glades	88
66	Liberty	51
67	Lafayette	33

County Ranking: Girls' Share of Students Disciplined

2023 School Year

	County	Girls' Share
1	Jefferson	40.5%
2	Hamilton	40.2%
3	Indian River	39.4%
4	Gadsden	39.2%
5	Bradford	39.1%
6	Miami-Dade	39.0%
7	Duval	38.6%
8	Hillsborough	38.3%
9	Putnam	37.7%
10	Manatee	37.6%
11	Madison	37.4%
12	Pinellas	37.2%
13	Escambia	37.0%
14	Calhoun	36.8%
15	Levy	36.4%
16	Flagler	36.3%
17	Columbia	36.0%
18	Leon	35.9%
19	St. Lucie	35.9%
20	Broward	35.6%
21	Alachua	35.5%
22	Hernando	35.4%
23	Dixie	35.2%
24	Osceola	35.0%
25	Marion	35.0%
	Florida	34.9%
26	Orange	34.5%
27	Volusia	34.3%
28	Bay	34.3%
29	Polk	34.2%
30	Citrus	34.2%
31	Gulf	34.1%
32	Sumter	34.0%
33	Charlotte	33.9%

	County	Girls' Share
34	Highlands	33.9%
35	Union	33.6%
36	Glades	33.6%
37	Brevard	33.5%
38	Palm Beach	33.5%
39	Martin	33.5%
40	DeSoto	33.4%
41	Seminole	33.3%
42	Suwannee	33.3%
43	Hendry	33.2%
44	Lake	32.8%
45	Wakulla	32.4%
46	Clay	32.4%
47	Washington	32.4%
48	Okeechobee	32.1%
49	Pasco	32.0%
50	Baker	31.9%
51	Collier	31.8%
52	Santa Rosa	31.7%
53	Lee	31.5%
54	Sarasota	31.3%
55	Jackson	31.1%
56	Gilchrist	31.1%
57	Taylor	30.8%
58	Franklin	30.3%
59	Monroe	29.0%
60	St. Johns	28.6%
61	Nassau	28.4%
62	Okaloosa	28.2%
63	Holmes	27.6%
64	Hardee	26.9%
65	Walton	26.3%
66	Liberty	25.9%
67	Lafayette	24.8%

Counties with the Most Children in Foster Care⁵⁴

FGI examined foster care rates and growth in both the foster care population and foster care rate. Again, north Florida counties stand out for having the highest rates and the sharpest increases.

All of the top five counties for highest foster care rate (per 100,000 children) **and** for 10-year growth of children in foster care (2012 to 2022) are in north Florida.

Wakulla County tops both lists, with an astounding rate of 11,834 foster care children per 100,000 children and a staggering 5,600%+ increase in the foster care rate from 2012 to 2022.

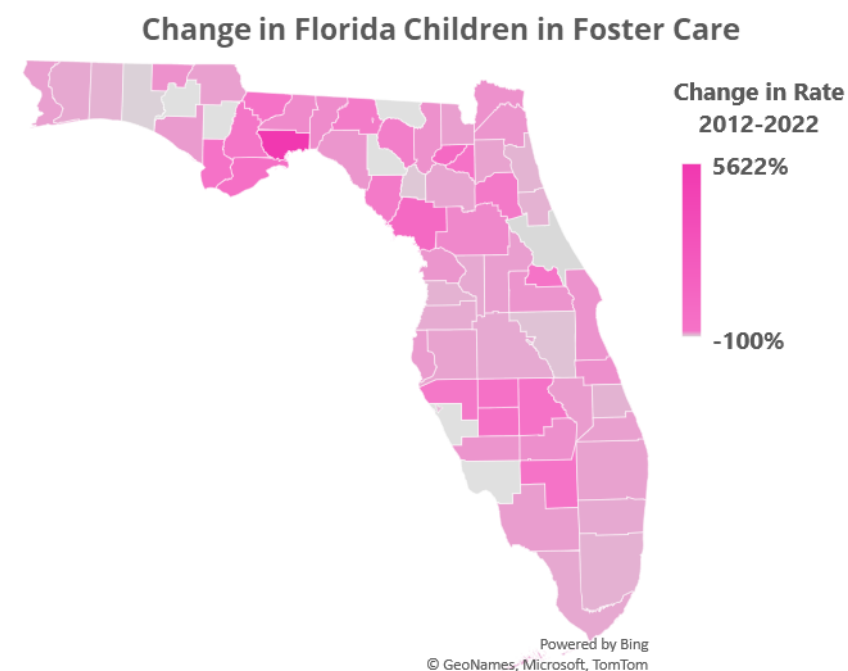
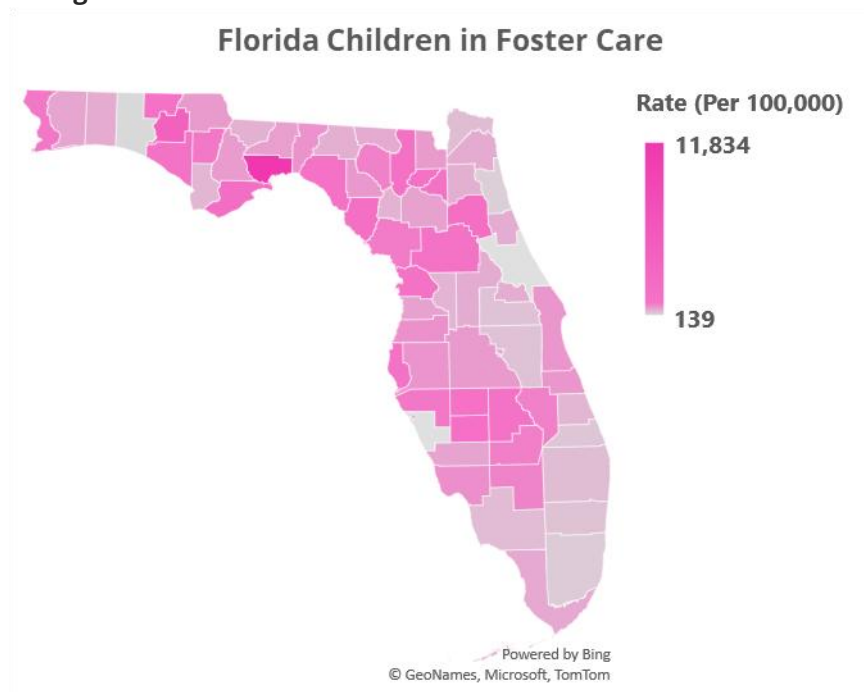
Top 5: Rate Per 100,000 Children in 2022

	Rate
Wakulla	11,834
Washington	4,213
Franklin	1,877
Dixie	1,776
Putnam	1,759

Top 5: Growth in Rate 2012 to 2022

	Rate Δ
Wakulla	5,622%
Levy	1,001%
Union	999%
Washington	700%
Franklin	503%

Figure 32: Heat Maps of Florida Children in Foster Care 2022 & Change 2012-2022



County Ranking: Children in Foster Care

2022

	County	No. of Children
1	Hillsborough	2,456
2	Pinellas	1,547
3	Miami-Dade	1,384
4	Broward	1,332
5	Duval	1,239
6	Polk	1,131
7	Orange	1,085
8	Palm Beach	1,071
9	Lee	1,066
10	Pasco	900
11	Wakulla	850
12	Brevard	790
13	Marion	727
14	Manatee	708
15	Escambia	676
16	Seminole	515
17	Lake	402
18	Leon	393
19	Bay	388
20	Sarasota	352
21	Osceola	339
22	Alachua	315
23	St. Lucie	297
24	Putnam	275
25	Okaloosa	254
26	Clay	249
27	Collier	245
28	Santa Rosa	245
29	Citrus	243
30	Hernando	219
31	Washington	209
32	Columbia	205
33	Indian River	177
34	Highlands	176

	County	No. of Children
35	St. Johns	146
36	Charlotte	136
37	DeSoto	102
38	Flagler	99
39	Hendry	93
40	Hardee	83
41	Suwannee	81
42	Martin	76
43	Levy	74
44	Okeechobee	73
45	Monroe	71
46	Nassau	70
47	Jackson	60
48	Bradford	56
49	Dixie	55
50	Taylor	46
51	Baker	45
53	Holmes	44
52	Gadsden	44
54	Sumter	44
55	Union	35
56	Franklin	35
57	Calhoun	26
58	Walton	23
59	Jefferson	18
60	Gilchrist	18
61	Madison	17
62	Glades	15
63	Hamilton	13
64	Gulf	12
65	Lafayette	10
66	Liberty	8
67	Volusia	1

County Ranking: Foster Care Rates Per 100,000 Children

2022

County	Rate	County	Rate
1 Wakulla	11,834	35 Baker	658.7
2 Washington	4,213	36 Liberty	654.7
3 Franklin	1,877	37 Leon	621.5
4 Dixie	1,776	38 Alachua	601.7
5 Putnam	1,759	39 Hernando	600.6
6 DeSoto	1,616	40 Charlotte	588.3
7 Columbia	1,346	41 Santa Rosa	568.5
8 Hardee	1,265	42 Sarasota	559.2
9 Taylor	1,145	Florida	551.5
10 Holmes	1,101	43 Monroe	544.4
11 Union	1,094	44 Okaloosa	527.9
12 Bay	1,045	45 Duval	524.4
13 Bradford	1,039	46 Hamilton	524.0
14 Citrus	1,027	47 Lake	520.3
15 Pinellas	1,020	48 Seminole	514.2
16 Marion	1,010	49 Flagler	510.2
17 Highlands	1,010	50 Madison	496.1
18 Calhoun	958.0	51 Clay	482.0
19 Manatee	950.7	52 Gadsden	479.6
20 Escambia	950.3	53 Gilchrist	467.2
21 Levy	923.8	54 Sumter	447.8
22 Glades	886.5	55 Gulf	432.4
23 Okeechobee	875.4	56 St. Lucie	431.9
24 Suwannee	873.5	57 Collier	380.4
25 Hendry	855.6	58 Nassau	371.7
26 Lee	761.8	59 Palm Beach	371.6
27 Pasco	750.0	60 Orange	336.4
28 Jefferson	734.7	61 Osceola	330.3
29 Hillsborough	725.0	62 Broward	323.4
30 Indian River	703.9	63 Martin	296.6
31 Brevard	693.6	64 Miami-Dade	248.1
32 Lafayette	684.5	65 St. Johns	226.8
33 Polk	664.9	66 Walton	139.4
34 Jackson	663.7	67 Volusia	1.0

Top 40 Counties With Highest Foster Care Growth Rates*

*Percentage growth in number of children in foster care

2012-to 2022		2017 to 2022		2019 to 2022				
County		County		County				
1	Wakulla	5971%	1	Wakulla	3764%	1	Union	300%
2	Union	1067%	2	Washington	736%	2	Gulf	200%
3	Levy	957%	3	Jefferson	500%	3	Franklin	164%
4	Washington	646%	4	Franklin	338%	4	Madison	150%
5	Franklin	483%	5	Gulf	300%	5	Holmes	136%
6	Bradford	211%	6	Hardee	246%	6	Highlands	98%
7	Gulf	200%	7	Madison	183%	7	Hendry	95%
8	Hardee	196%	8	Gadsden	175%	8	Hardee	93%
9	DeSoto	191%	9	Union	133%	9	Gadsden	85%
10	Highlands	175%	10	Highlands	115%	10	Baker	72%
11	Gadsden	159%	11	Glades	114%	11	Taylor	68%
12	Hendry	133%	12	Levy	95%	12	Seminole	63%
13	Seminole	124%	13	Putnam	94%	13	Brevard	62%
14	Manatee	111%	14	Leon	84%	14	DeSoto	61%
15	Lee	102%	15	Lake	81%	15	Hamilton	56%
16	Dixie	83%	16	Bradford	81%	16	Jefferson	54%
17	Putnam	81%	17	Holmes	76%	17	Bradford	50%
18	Marion	80%	18	Lafayette	67%	18	Putnam	47%
19	Leon	80%	19	Hendry	60%	19	Polk	44%
20	Suwannee	72%	20	Flagler	55%	20	St. Johns	44%
21	Nassau	67%	21	Baker	50%	21	Lake	39%
22	Orange	57%	22	DeSoto	48%	22	Leon	37%
23	Duval	55%	23	Hamilton	44%	23	Alachua	37%
24	Madison	55%	24	Seminole	43%	24	Suwannee	37%
25	Brevard	47%	25	Columbia	42%	25	Nassau	37%
26	Lake	44%	26	Escambia	39%	26	Columbia	37%
27	Columbia	42%	27	Pinellas	35%	27	Pasco	36%
28	Indian River	42%	28	Brevard	33%	28	Lee	36%
29	Citrus	40%	29	Polk	29%	29	Wakulla	35%
30	Jefferson	38%	30	Dixie	28%	30	Osceola	32%
31	Charlotte	35%	31	Clay	26%	31	Marion	31%
32	Holmes	33%	32	Bay	26%	32	Lafayette	29%
33	Liberty	33%	33	Collier	26%	33	Bay	28%
34	Escambia	25%	34	Suwannee	25%	34	Sarasota	28%
35	Bay	24%	35	Osceola	22%	35	Pinellas	28%
36	Hillsborough	22%	36	Manatee	20%	36	Washington	27%
37	Alachua	20%	37	Marion	20%	37	Orange	26%
38	Collier	19%	38	Lee	18%	38	Escambia	26%
39	Taylor	18%	39	Alachua	17%	39	Clay	22%
40	Palm Beach	16%	40	Duval	16%	40	Duval	21%

County with the Most Girls with Adverse Childhood Experiences⁵⁵

An alarming 28% of high school girls in Florida have experienced high levels of trauma, i.e., have had four or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). ACEs include neglect, abuse (sexual, physical, or emotional), and household dysfunction that puts children at greater risk of emotional, mental, and other health challenges.

In Florida, girls are nearly twice as likely as boys to have had four or more ACEs.

Three of the top five counties for share of girls with four+ ACEs are in north Florida and two are in central Florida. Three of the top counties for biggest disproportion in girls versus boys with four+ ACEs are in north Florida, while one is central and one south.

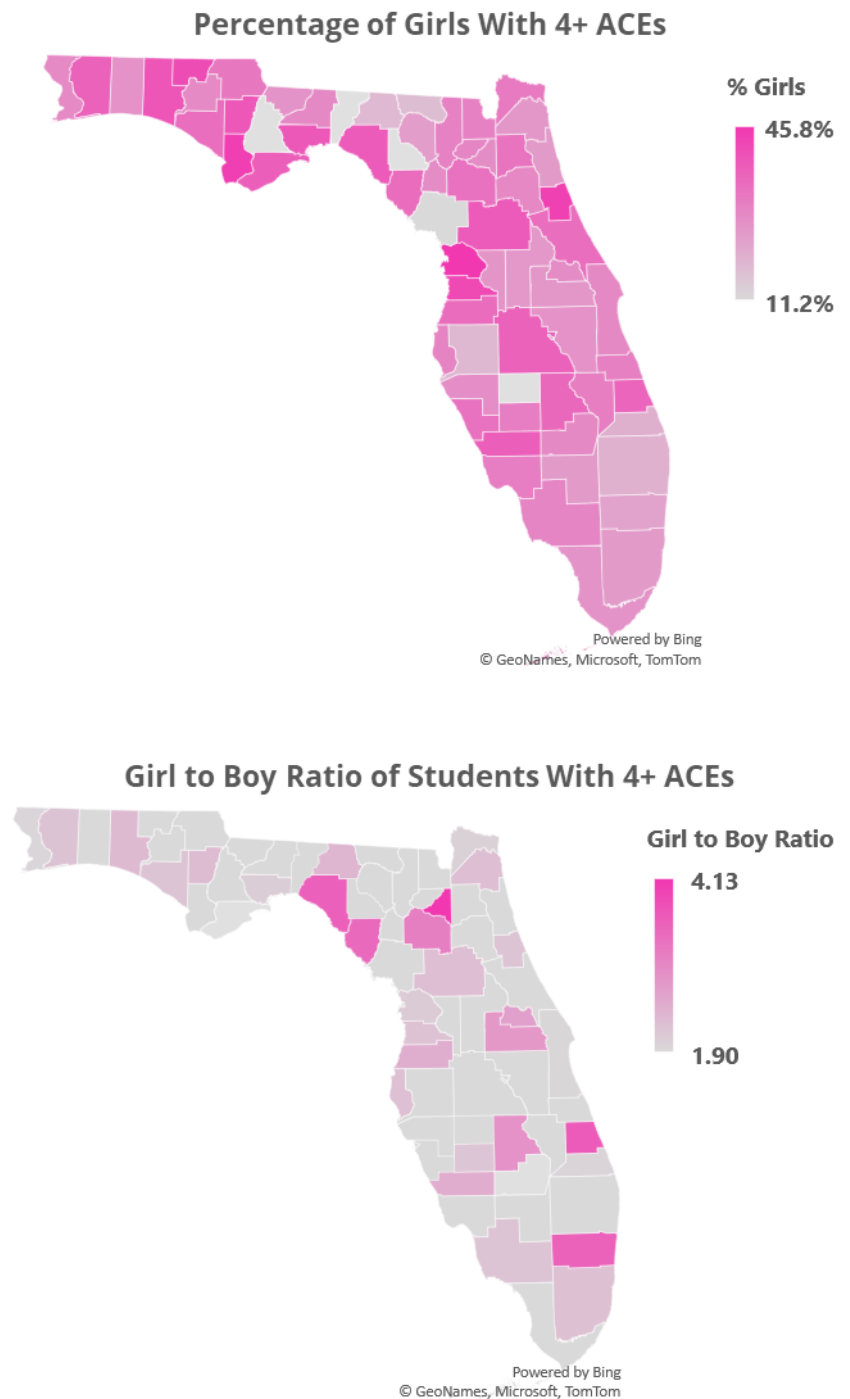
Top 5: Share of Girls with 4+ ACEs

	% of Girls
Citrus	45.8%
Gulf	44.2%
Flagler	43.8%
Hernando	42.2%
Holmes	41.4%

Top 5: Girl to Boy Ratio of Youth with 4+ ACEs

	Girl-to-Boy Ratio
Bradford	4.1
St. Lucie	3.6
Taylor	3.6
Broward	3.6
Dixie	3.4

Figure 33: Heat Maps of Florida Girls With 4+ ACEs 2022



County Ranking: Percentage of Girls With 4 or More Adverse Childhood Experiences

2022

	County	% Girls		County	% Girls
1	Citrus	45.8%	33	Collier	29.2%
2	Gulf	44.2%	34	Union	29.2%
3	Flagler	43.8%	35	Putnam	28.5%
4	Hernando	42.2%	36	Brevard	28.4%
5	Holmes	41.4%	37	Leon	28.4%
6	Walton	39.6%	38	Glades	28.3%
7	Calhoun	39.1%	39	Escambia	28.1%
8	Wakulla	39.0%	40	Washington	28.1%
9	Taylor	38.3%		Florida	27.9%
10	Marion	38.3%	41	Bradford	27.7%
11	Charlotte	37.7%	42	Seminole	27.7%
12	Franklin	37.6%	43	Gilchrist	27.7%
13	Polk	36.8%	44	Manatee	27.5%
14	Santa Rosa	36.7%	45	Osceola	26.5%
15	St. Lucie	36.1%	46	Okaloosa	26.4%
16	Highlands	35.5%	47	Monroe	26.3%
17	Dixie	34.7%	48	Gadsden	26.3%
18	Pasco	34.7%	49	Sumter	25.9%
19	Bay	34.1%	50	Orange	25.5%
20	Volusia	34.1%	51	Duval	25.5%
21	Alachua	33.4%	52	Lake	25.1%
22	Sarasota	33.4%	53	Hendry	24.8%
23	Clay	33.1%	54	St. Johns	24.7%
24	Jackson	32.0%	55	Miami-Dade	24.5%
25	Nassau	31.7%	56	Suwannee	24.1%
26	DeSoto	31.0%	57	Broward	23.1%
27	Lee	30.9%	58	Martin	20.2%
28	Okeechobee	30.7%	59	Palm Beach	19.7%
29	Indian River	30.4%	60	Hillsborough	18.3%
30	Columbia	30.1%	61	Madison	18.1%
31	Baker	30.0%	62	Hamilton	17.3%
32	Pinellas	29.6%	63	Levy	11.2%

County Ranking: Largest Female to Male Ratio of Children With 4+ ACEs

2022

	County	Girl-to-Boy Ratio
1	Bradford	4.13
2	St. Lucie	3.65
3	Taylor	3.58
4	Broward	3.55
5	Dixie	3.44
6	Alachua	3.15
7	Highlands	2.89
8	Orange	2.80
9	Seminole	2.69
10	Charlotte	2.51
11	Pasco	2.50
12	Madison	2.38
13	Walton	2.33
14	Calhoun	2.30
15	Marion	2.28
16	Duval	2.28
17	Pinellas	2.24
18	Miami-Dade	2.23
19	Hernando	2.22
20	Santa Rosa	2.21
21	Collier	2.20
22	Flagler	2.19
23	Bay	2.19
24	DeSoto	2.18
25	Citrus	2.10
26	Wakulla	2.06
27	Nassau	2.01
28	Martin	1.98
29	Escambia	1.95
30	Brevard	1.95
	Florida	1.92

	County	Girl-to-Boy Ratio
31	Sarasota	1.91
32	Manatee	1.90
33	Suwannee	1.88
34	Okeechobee	1.82
35	Osceola	1.82
36	Hendry	1.81
37	Palm Beach	1.81
38	Clay	1.77
39	Putnam	1.75
40	Polk	1.74
41	Columbia	1.74
42	Volusia	1.73
43	Monroe	1.62
44	Gadsden	1.60
45	Sumter	1.58
46	Okaloosa	1.57
47	Holmes	1.56
48	St. Johns	1.55
49	Gulf	1.55
50	Baker	1.54
51	Lake	1.52
52	Hillsborough	1.49
53	Lee	1.44
54	Leon	1.44
55	Jackson	1.42
56	Indian River	1.38
57	Gilchrist	1.34
58	Washington	1.12
59	Hamilton	1.02
60	Union	0.97
61	Levy	0.54

County Ranking: Percentage of Students Who Are Economically Disadvantaged

2022

	County	% of Students
1	Gadsden	88.2%
2	Hamilton	76.2%
3	Jefferson	74.3%
4	Miami-Dade	73.1%
5	Dixie	72.2%
6	Citrus	70.6%
7	Putnam	68.5%
8	Levy	66.6%
9	Highlands	66.2%
10	Taylor	66.0%
11	Desoto	64.5%
12	Collier	64.2%
13	Palm Beach	63.2%
14	Marion	62.7%
15	Hendry	62.2%
16	Volusia	61.6%
17	Okeechobee	61.5%
18	Bradford	60.8%
19	Hardee	59.3%
20	Suwannee	58.8%
21	St. Lucie	58.5%
22	Lafayette	58.4%
23	Washington	58.2%
24	Hernando	58.0%
25	Holmes	57.8%
26	Columbia	57.6%
27	Calhoun	57.5%
28	Escambia	55.4%
29	Franklin	55.3%
30	Hillsborough	55.1%
31	Polk	55.1%
32	Jackson	54.4%
	Florida	53.8%
33	Madison	53.2%

	County	% of Students
34	Clay	52.6%
35	Gilchrist	51.8%
36	Osceola	51.6%
37	Flagler	51.4%
38	Pasco	51.2%
39	Baker	50.8%
40	Liberty	50.7%
41	Duval	50.4%
42	Indian River	50.4%
43	Broward	49.9%
44	Gulf	49.9%
45	Glades	49.8%
46	Seminole	49.6%
47	Alachua	48.8%
48	Lee	48.6%
49	Pinellas	48.6%
50	Charlotte	48.3%
51	Brevard	48.2%
52	Manatee	48.0%
53	Sarasota	46.4%
54	Bay	45.8%
55	Leon	45.3%
56	Orange	45.1%
57	Martin	44.8%
58	Union	43.4%
59	Lake	43.3%
60	Wakulla	42.8%
61	Walton	41.8%
62	Okaloosa	40.7%
63	Santa Rosa	40.2%
64	Nassau	37.9%
65	Monroe	29.2%
66	St. Johns	14.4%
67	Sumter	11.2%

County Ranking: Percentage of High School Girls Who Felt Depressed Most Days

2022

	County	% Girls
1	Jefferson	74.4%
2	Gadsden	72.0%
3	Calhoun	69.1%
4	Flagler	69.1%
5	Washington	68.6%
6	Hardee	68.2%
7	Osceola	67.8%
8	Franklin	67.6%
9	Glades	66.2%
10	Walton	66.2%
11	Citrus	65.5%
12	Taylor	64.6%
13	Volusia	64.4%
14	Jackson	63.4%
15	Gilchrist	63.2%
16	Clay	62.9%
17	Hernando	62.7%
18	Marion	62.5%
19	Duval	62.4%
20	Miami-Dade	61.3%
21	Leon	61.1%
22	Santa Rosa	61.1%
23	Alachua	60.9%
24	Union	60.8%
25	Wakulla	60.8%
26	Bay	60.2%
27	Pasco	60.2%
28	Brevard	59.9%
29	Dixie	59.8%
30	Polk	59.5%
31	Sarasota	59.4%
32	Liberty	59.3%
33	Hillsborough	59.2%
34	Holmes	58.8%

	County	% Girls
35	Lake	58.7%
	Florida	58.4%
36	Charlotte	58.3%
37	Nassau	58.1%
38	Suwannee	58.1%
39	Gulf	57.9%
40	Lee	57.6%
41	St. Lucie	56.8%
42	Collier	56.5%
43	Baker	56.4%
44	Highlands	56.4%
45	Okeechobee	56.3%
46	Putnam	56.3%
47	Madison	55.9%
48	Okaloosa	55.9%
49	Bradford	55.4%
50	Broward	55.0%
51	Hendry	54.8%
52	Escambia	54.2%
53	Columbia	53.7%
54	St. Johns	53.3%
55	Sumter	53.1%
56	Seminole	52.6%
57	Pinellas	52.5%
58	DeSoto	51.5%
59	Indian River	51.5%
60	Manatee	51.0%
61	Orange	50.9%
62	Monroe	50.5%
63	Palm Beach	49.9%
64	Martin	45.6%
65	Hamilton	45.3%
66	Levy	45.1%

County Ranking: Families With Children Headed by Single Parents

2020 Decennial Census⁵⁶

	County	% of Families		County	% of Families
1	Gadsden	51.7%	35	Glades	38.2%
2	Hamilton	48.8%	36	Calhoun	38.0%
3	Madison	47.5%	37	Hillsborough	37.9%
4	Taylor	47.3%	38	Hardee	37.9%
5	Putnam	45.2%	39	Broward	37.8%
6	Jackson	44.2%		Florida	37.7%
7	Duval	43.6%	40	Manatee	37.3%
8	Highlands	43.2%	41	Indian River	36.8%
9	Escambia	43.2%	42	Holmes	36.5%
10	Columbia	42.6%	43	Osceola	36.4%
11	Leon	42.6%	44	Orange	36.3%
12	Franklin	42.4%	45	Baker	36.1%
13	Bradford	42.1%	46	Monroe	36.1%
14	Marion	42.0%	47	Brevard	36.0%
15	Hendry	42.0%	48	Palm Beach	36.0%
16	Suwannee	41.4%	49	Liberty	35.8%
17	Citrus	41.0%	50	Lake	35.2%
18	DeSoto	40.9%	51	Gulf	35.0%
19	Okeechobee	40.7%	52	Washington	34.9%
20	Pinellas	40.7%	53	Flagler	34.8%
21	Levy	40.6%	54	Sarasota	34.4%
22	Alachua	40.6%	55	Collier	33.9%
23	Volusia	40.6%	56	Pasco	33.7%
24	Dixie	40.4%	57	Gilchrist	33.5%
25	Sumter	40.0%	58	Lafayette	33.1%
26	Miami-Dade	39.9%	59	Seminole	32.4%
27	Charlotte	39.6%	60	Clay	31.8%
28	Jefferson	39.5%	61	Wakulla	31.7%
29	Union	39.5%	62	Martin	31.6%
30	Polk	39.1%	63	Okaloosa	31.5%
31	St. Lucie	38.8%	64	Walton	30.6%
32	Hernando	38.8%	65	Nassau	28.4%
33	Bay	38.4%	66	Santa Rosa	27.2%
34	Lee	38.4%	67	St. Johns	21.7%

Appendices

Appendix 1: Methodology



Marya Meyer, Executive Director of The Women's Fund Miami, speaking on system-level needs to combat sex trafficking at FGI's Summit of Advisors in Miami, Florida, in April 2023.

The 2023 Florida Girls Databook is the product of dialogue, research and analysis carried out by the Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) team and Urban Market Analytics (UMA). Major elements of data gathering and analysis include the following.

Perspectives from Frontline Leaders

The FGI conducted a Listening Tour that hosted two-hour dialogue sessions in five regions of the state – St. Petersburg (for Tampa Bay), Tallahassee (for northwest Florida), Jacksonville (for northeast Florida), Orlando (for central Florida), and Miami (for South Florida). Separately, the FGI team held 15 one on one meetings with local and state officials, state agency leaders and community service providers.

The tour engaged 318 participants and panelists from diverse backgrounds. Attendees included practitioners in juvenile justice, human trafficking, personal and

academic enrichment, college and career readiness, health, foster care, research, advocacy, and other fields. A large majority of participants (87%) work in gender-tailored or targeted programming.

The FGI used participant surveys and structured question & answer (Q&A) sessions during the five dialogues to elicit a wealth of perspective on the biggest challenges facing Florida girls, and the solutions needed to make headway against those challenges.

Virtual Statewide Sessions

The FGI hosted two virtual gatherings that welcomed stakeholders from across Florida to feedback on the design of the FGI's outreach and data gathering programs. The first was hosted on May 8, 2023, welcoming 20 participants for a soft launch Q&A session that aired a video message by Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, who spearheaded a successful funding request to

support the Florida Girls Databook, and introduced leaders to the FGI team, the study framework and major goals.

The second virtual session, on June 28, 2023, was designed for service providers in gender-tailored and targeted programs.

It invited participants to “Tell Us About Your Work” and hosted 47 attendees from across the state for dialogue centered on their work with Florida’s at-risk girls. The session opened with a legislative briefing by State Representative Ashley Gantt and perspectives by State Representative Benjamin Chambliss. A series of eight focus group questions were piloted and elicited data from 42 participants.

Summit of Advisors

The FGI team partnered with Girl Power to welcome 174 teen girls and 60 women to the campus of Miami Dade College on April 28, 2023, for the 12-hour It Takes a Village/FGI Summit. The event provided nearly a dozen value-added workshops, panels, and guest speakers with empowering and enriching messages. One segment served as a Summit of Advisors to identify top research areas for the Florida Girls Databook.

Analysis of 50+ Measures of Well-Being

How are Florida girls doing? And how has life changed for them over the past decade? These are the questions the FGI set out to answer by exploring over two dozen sources of data on the life-statuses of Florida girls.

The FGI and UMA tabularized and analyzed data on over 50 measures of well-being for Florida girls to compile what we hope is the first biannual edition of The Florida Girls Databook.

Metrics were chosen to represent six facets of life for Florida girls, including economic status, emotional well-being & safety, family & community life, school, impulsiveness, and substance abuse.

UMA performed six categories of analysis and

created a current year profile using 2022 data for most metrics. The six categories are:

- A **COVID Change analysis** of life changes for Florida girls during and immediately following the first major wave of COVID-19 related shutdowns of public life. The analysis captures changes from 2019 or 2020 to either 2021 or 2022 (depending upon available data).
- A **5-Year Change** analysis was 2017 to 2022 for most metrics.
- A **10-Year+ Change** analyses were from 2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012 to 2022 or 2023.
- **Girl vs Boy Differences** including a) the girl to boy difference in risk rate (e.g., percentage with a disability); b) the change in girls’ risk rate versus the change in boys’ risk rate; and c) change in number girls versus boys experiencing risk.
- **Racial or Income Differences** for girls, including differences in a) risk rate by race or income level; and b) representation ratio by race group (e.g., Hispanic girls’ share of the population versus their share of children in foster care).
- **Aggregated Risk Ratios** for girls, by county, including a) an aggregation of the percentage of girls who are below grade level in school plus the percentage of girls who are economically disadvantaged; and b) an aggregation of the percentage of girls who self-report being sexually abused, plus physically abused, plus emotionally abused.

Please see Appendix 3 for metrics and sources.

County Rankings for Local Context

The Florida Girls Databook begins to fill the void of actionable data and insights to equip leaders and activists at the local level. This report helps to localize discussions on girls outcomes with county rankings and heat maps that show a) where the most girls are struggling (by number) and b) where girls are struggling the most (by risk rates).

Appendix 2: People-Related Terms Used in this Report

The Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) believes that words matter, and that the terms used throughout this report should reflect the initiative's commitment to asset-based and empowering language.

Below is a summary of the FGI's approach to the lexicon of identity and self-identity, in light of the limits of official data sources.

Gender

The Florida Girls Initiative (FGI) recognizes and respects the gender identity preferences of all people, including non-binary individuals and groups. Yet due to the lack of data on non-binary populations from official sources, including the U.S. Census, this report uses the generationally traditional binary gender categories.

The terms "girl" and "girls" generally refer to persons who self-identify or are identified by official data sources as female, who are under the age of 18. A select number of data tables in this report capture females who are age 18.

Similarly, the terms "boy" and "boys" refer to persons who identify or are identified by official data sources as male, who are under the age of 18.

Racial & Ethnic Groups

The use of the term "racial and ethnic groups" in this report refers to the demographic groups reported on by the U.S. Census. These include groups known as

white, Black, Asian, Hispanic, American Indian, and others.

The term white generally refers to persons identified as white, not Hispanic or Latino.

When Census data are used, racial and ethnic group names generally refer to all people who self-identify as belonging to the racial or ethnic group, including those who are single-race or multi-racial.

Many of the data sources relied on by this report do not specify or provide segmented data for single-race versus multi-racial groups. In addition, some sources do not report on Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, biracial and other groups that are seen in Census data.

Americans

Where the term "American" is used, it does not refer to nationality or citizenship status. It is used solely to refer to the racial and ethnic groups reported on, e.g., white Americans, Hispanic Americans, and African Americans, etc.

We recognize that this usage may not be considered appropriate by some, such as foreign born non-naturalized persons residing in Florida. Even the term African American, which is commonly perceived as interchangeable with the term Black, may be unwelcomed by some of the 311,000 Black Florida residents who are foreign born and unnaturalized.

Appendix 3: Sources for Master List of Metrics

The following are the data sources used for the 57 metrics featured in Table 3.

Economically disadvantaged

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School years 2017 and 2022). Student Enrollments (Indicators: Economic Status, Sex).

In poverty

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. *2022 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates Detailed Tables (B17001)*.

Experienced high levels of trauma (i.e., experienced 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences)

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Have Experienced Four or More Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Emotionally abused

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Emotional Abuse*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Sexually abused

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Sexual Abuse*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Physically abused

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Physical Abuse*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Emotionally neglected

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Emotional Neglect*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Experienced sexual violence

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Sexual Violence by Anyone (HS-YRBS)*. [CHARTS: HS - YRBS | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Have been physically forced to have sex

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Were Ever*

Physically Forced to Have Sexual Intercourse (HS-YRBS). [CHARTS: HS - YRBS | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Suffered maltreatment

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. (2017 & 2021). *Child Maltreatment*. [Child Maltreatment | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)

Had a disability

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School years 2019, 2021, 2022 & 2023). Student Enrollments (Indicators: Disability Status, Sex).

At times, think they are no good at all

Rothenbach Research and Consulting, LLC, and the Florida Department of Children & Families Office of Substance Abuse & Mental Health. (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey State Report*. Table 60. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022. Florida Department of Children & Families and Executive Office of the Governor. [Microsoft Word - 2022 FYSAS State Report \(Draft v2\).docx \(myflfamilies.com\)](#)

At times, feel they are a failure

Ibid (Table 61. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022).

Sometimes think life is not worth it

Ibid (Table 60. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022).

Sad or depressed on a daily basis

Ibid (Table 61. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022).

Thought of committing suicide in past 12 mos.

Ibid (Table 62. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who thought about committing suicide or attempted suicide in the past 12 months, 2022).

Seriously considered suicide

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide (HS-YRBS)*. [CHARTS: HS - YRBS | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Purposefully self-harmed

Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS). (2023). Florida Health Charts. *Students Who, in the Past Year, Did Something to Purposely Hurt Themselves Without Wanting to Die (FYTS)*. Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Attempted suicide in past 12 mos.

Ibid (Table 62. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who thought about committing suicide or attempted suicide in the past 12 months, 2022).

Below grade level

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School years 2017,

2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023). Assessments (Indicators: Economic Status, Sex).

Involved in discipline infraction

Florida Department of Education. (School Years 2012-2023). Student Discipline Data by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, State and District Levels, Final Survey 5. Office of Safe Schools. [Discipline Data \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org)

Involved in severe discipline infraction

Ibid. Note: This report uses the term “most severe” and “more severe” discipline types to include physical restraint, mechanical restraint, seclusion, expulsions, placement in alternative education, and other SESIR, which stands for School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting and captures 26 types of criminal, violent and disruptive incidents (see details below).

Graduated high school

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2022). High School Graduation Rates (Indicator: Sex, Race).

Graduated with all requirements met

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2022). High School Graduation Rates (Indicator: Sex, Race).

Living in single parent family

U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Family Type by Presence and Age of Own Children. *2020 Decennial Census DEC Demographic and Housing Estimates (PCT10B, PCT10C, PCT10D, PCT10E, PCT10G, PCT10H, PCT10I)*.

Homeless

Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2023). Student Enrollments (Indicator: Homeless Status).

Involved in the juvenile justice system

Florida Department Juvenile Justice. (2017 and 2022). *Comprehensive Accountability Report, Detention Services, Intake Services, Probation and Community Intervention, Residential Services*. These sections are available for both years at [Comprehensive Accountability Report | Florida Department of Juvenile Justice \(state.fl.us\)](https://www.djj.state.fl.us)

Arrested (Youth Arrests)

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (2022). Delinquency Profile Report 2022. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-anddata/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile/delinquency-profile-dashboard>

In foster care

Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Safe Families Network. (2022). Florida Health Charts. *Children in Foster Care (Aged 0-17 Years), Rate Per 100,000 Population Under 18*. [Children in Foster Care \(Aged 0-17 Years\) - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS](https://www.flhealthcharts.com). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2021). Children's Bureau Child Welfare Outcomes State Data Review Portal (Florida). [Florida \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov). Note: This report used the gender ratios provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT® Data Center for foster care children in Florida.

Victimized by human trafficking

Florida Department of Children and Family Services (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023). Human

Trafficking of Children Annual Report. For most recent report, https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-10/Human_Trafficking_Report_2022-23.pdf

Victimized by child on child sexual abuse

Florida Department of Health. (2018-2022). *Human Trafficking Profile (Child Intakes Accepted for Child on Child Sex Abuse, Florida Department of Children and Families Child Intakes Report)* [Human Trafficking Profile - Florida Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS \(flhealthcharts.gov\)](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Gave birth as a child or teen

Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. (2017 and 2022). Florida Health Charts. *Births by Mothers' Age, Age 0-17, Rate Per 1,000 Female Population*. [Births by Mothers' Age - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

Taunted or teased

Rothenbach Research and Consulting, LLC, and the Florida Department of Children & Families Office of Substance Abuse & Mental Health. (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey State Report*. Table 50. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth reporting involvement in bullying behavior, 2022. Florida Department of Children & Families and Executive Office of the Governor. [Microsoft Word - 2022 FYSAS State Report \(Draft v2\).docx \(myflfamilies.com\)](https://www.myflfamilies.com).

Victimized by cyberbullying

Ibid (Table 50).

Do what brings me pleasure now

Ibid (Table 58. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements indicating impulsiveness or a lack of self-control, 2022).

More concerned with the short run

Ibid (Table 58).

Getting into trouble is exciting

Ibid (Table 58).

Excitement more important than security

Ibid (Table 58).

People better stay away from me when I'm angry

Ibid (Table 58).

I get upset when I have a disagreement

Ibid (Table 58).

Used alcohol

Ibid (Table 5. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used alcohol in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used cigarettes

Ibid (Table 8. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used cigarettes in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Vaped nicotine

Ibid (Table 9. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who vaped nicotine (e-cigarettes, vape pens,

JUUL), in lifetime and past 30 days—2019 to 2022).

Vaped marijuana

Ibid (Table 10. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who vaped marijuana (e-cigarettes, vape pens, JUUL), in lifetime and past 30 days—2019 to 2022).

Used marijuana or hashish

Ibid (Table 12. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used marijuana or hashish in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used synthetic marijuana

Ibid (Table 14. Percentage of surveyed Florida high school youth who used synthetic marijuana in lifetime and past 30 days—2012 to 2022).

Used inhalants

Ibid (Table 15. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used inhalants in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms

Ibid (Table 17. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used depressants

Ibid (Table 20. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used depressants in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used prescription pain relievers

Ibid (Table 22. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used prescription pain relievers in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used over the counter drugs

Ibid (Table 23. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used over-the-counter drugs in order to get high in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used prescription amphetamines

Ibid (Table 24. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used prescription amphetamines in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used any illicit drug

Ibid (Table 26. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used any illicit drug in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used any illicit drug other than marijuana

Ibid (Table 27. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used any illicit drug other than marijuana in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Used alcohol or any illicit drug

Ibid (Table 29. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used alcohol or any illicit drug in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).

Binge drinking

Ibid (Table 7. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported binge drinking and blacking out after drinking alcohol—2010 to 2022).

Blacking out

Ibid (Table 7).

Endnotes

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² U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Child Characteristics. *2022 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates Subject Tables (S0901)*.

³ Gibbs, Deborah, Kluckman, Marianne, Tueller, Stephen, Lutzman, Natasha. RTI International. (2018). *Assessing the Under-Reporting of Minor Victim Sex Trafficking Summary Report*. National Criminal Justice Reference Service. [Assessing the Under-Reporting of Minor Victim Sex Trafficking | National Institute of Justice \(ojp.gov\)](#)

⁴ Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *High School Students Who Experienced Sexual Abuse*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(Florida Health Charts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

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¹⁰ Ibid (Table 50 Percentage of surveyed Florida youth reporting involvement in bullying behavior, 2022).

¹¹ Ibid (Table 62. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who thought about committing suicide or attempted suicide in the past 12 months, 2022).

¹² Ibid (Table 62).

¹³ Ibid (Table 60. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022).

¹⁴ Ibid (Table 61. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported symptoms of depression—2010 to 2022).

¹⁵ Ibid (Table 58. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements indicating impulsiveness or a lack of self-control, 2022).

¹⁶ See sources for each metric in the table in Appendix 3 Sources for Master List of Metrics.

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¹⁸ Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS). (2022). Florida Health Charts. *Students Who Have Felt Depressed or Sad on Most Days*. [CHARTS Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey | CHARTS \(flhealthcharts.gov\)](#). Copyright Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management.

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- ²⁶ Ibid (Table 8. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used cigarettes in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).
- ²⁷ Ibid (Table 17. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who used LSD, PCP or hallucinogenic mushrooms in lifetime and past 30 days—2010 to 2022).
- ²⁸ Ibid (Table 7. Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who reported binge drinking and blacking out after drinking alcohol—2010 to 2022).
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- ³⁷ Holicky, A., Phillips-Bell, G. (2016 December). Florida Life Course Indicator Report; Tallahassee, Florida: Florida Department of Health. [Community-well-being-jan 2017.pdf \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
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- ⁴² Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2022). Student Enrollments (Indicators: Economic Status, Sex, Disability Status).
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- ⁴⁵ Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2022). High School Graduate Pathways (Indicators: Race, Sex).
- ⁴⁶ Florida Department of Education Florida PK-20 Education Information Portal. (School year 2022). Student Enrollments (Indicators: Economic Status, Race).
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- ⁴⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2021). Children's Bureau Child Welfare Outcomes State Data Review Portal (Florida). C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care, Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%). [Florida \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/child-welfare/outcomes/state-data-review-portal/florida)
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