

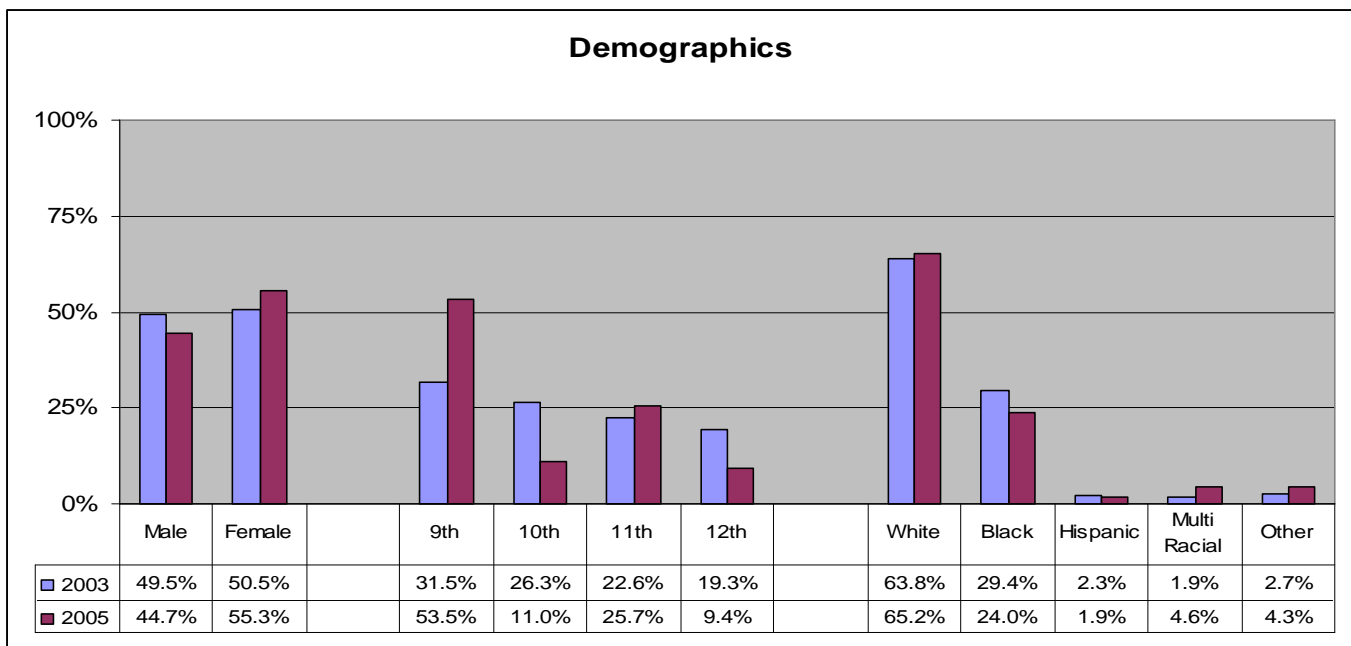
2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Report

In April of 2005, the Safe Schools, Healthy Students Grant Initiative and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), administered the Youth Risk Behavior Survey over a two week period. The CDC collected data from two area New Hanover County high schools. The Project Director of Safe Schools Healthy Students randomly selected 5 classrooms within each of the high schools not surveyed by the CDC. This 87 question survey assessed health risk behaviors that contribute to some of the leading causes of death and injury among adolescents. Some of the specific areas of interest included violence-related behaviors, tobacco use, alcohol use, psychological health, sexual behavior, and other drug use. The responses to these topics were then compared to the 2003 YRBS which was administered across North Carolina. As can be seen in the table below, a greater number of schools and students participated in the 2003 North Carolina study as compared to the 2005 New Hanover County study. Due to the unequal number of students participating, direct comparisons between years could not be conducted.

	Number of Schools Participating	Number of Students Participating
2003*	51	2,553
2005	5	375

*Data collected across the entire state of North Carolina.

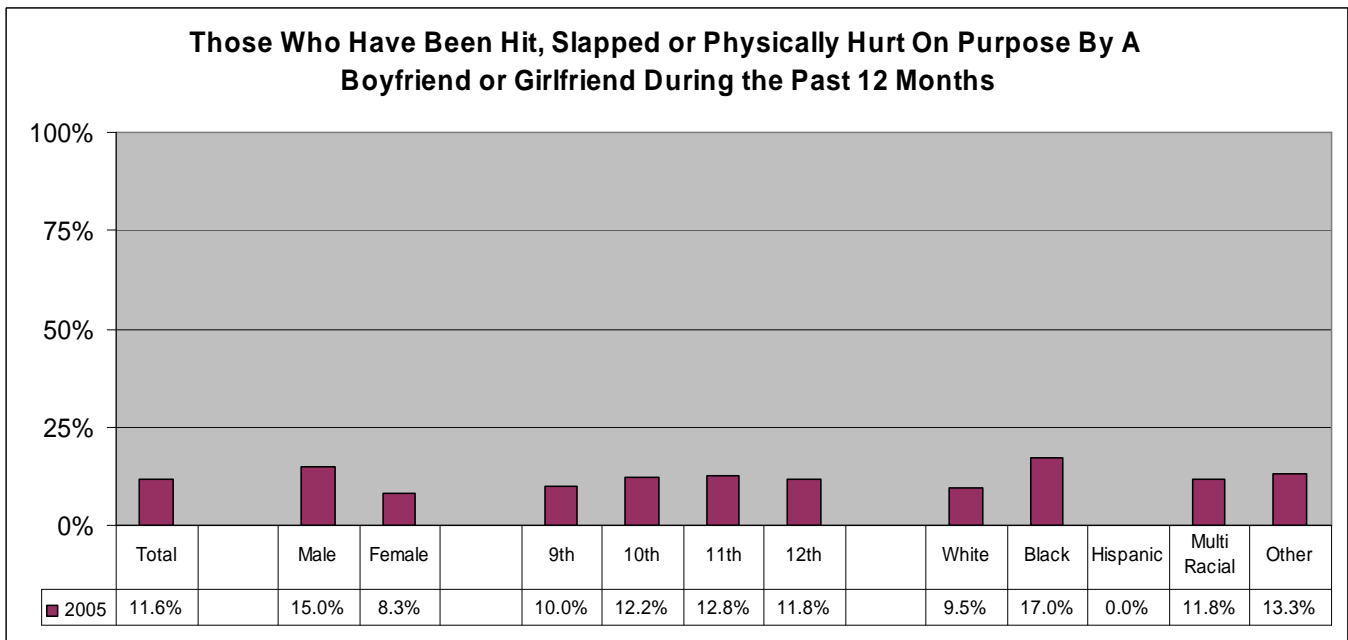
Each question was analyzed on several dimensions including, gender, grade, ethnicity, and the overall percentage of students who endorsed the question. Summative statements were then made highlighting differences between 2003 and 2005 responses as well as differences among the dimensions. The graph below reflects the demographic breakdown of those participating in 2003 and those participating in 2005.



- The majority of students that answered the survey in 2003 and 2005 were white.
- In 2005, 9th graders were over represented and 10th and 12th graders were under represented.

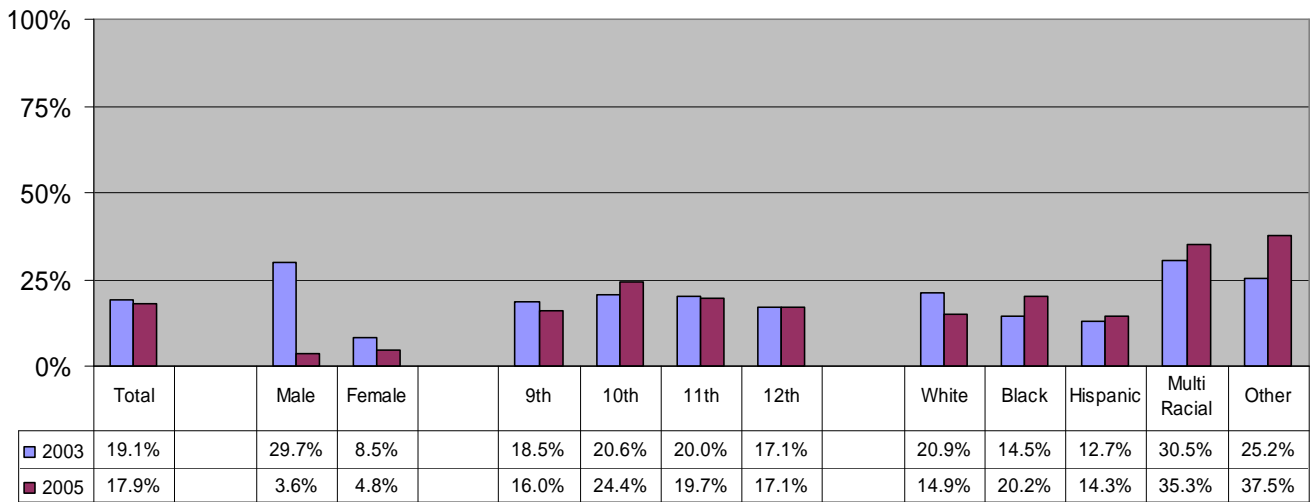
Violence Related Behaviors

Recent statistics show injury and violence is the leading cause of death among youths aged 5-19 (CDC, 2005). Youth under the age of 18 are twice as likely as adults to be victims of serious violent crimes and three times as likely to be victims of assault (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2000). Children between the ages of 14 and 15 report more serious fighting at school and engaging in physical fights with the intent of seriously hurting another than any other age group (SAMHSA, 2005). Despite these statistics, recent years have shown a decrease in the percentage of youths who carry a weapon and those who feel unsafe at school (School Crime & Safety, 2004). The graphs below reflect several questions regarding fighting, carrying a weapon, physical assault, and safety in schools.



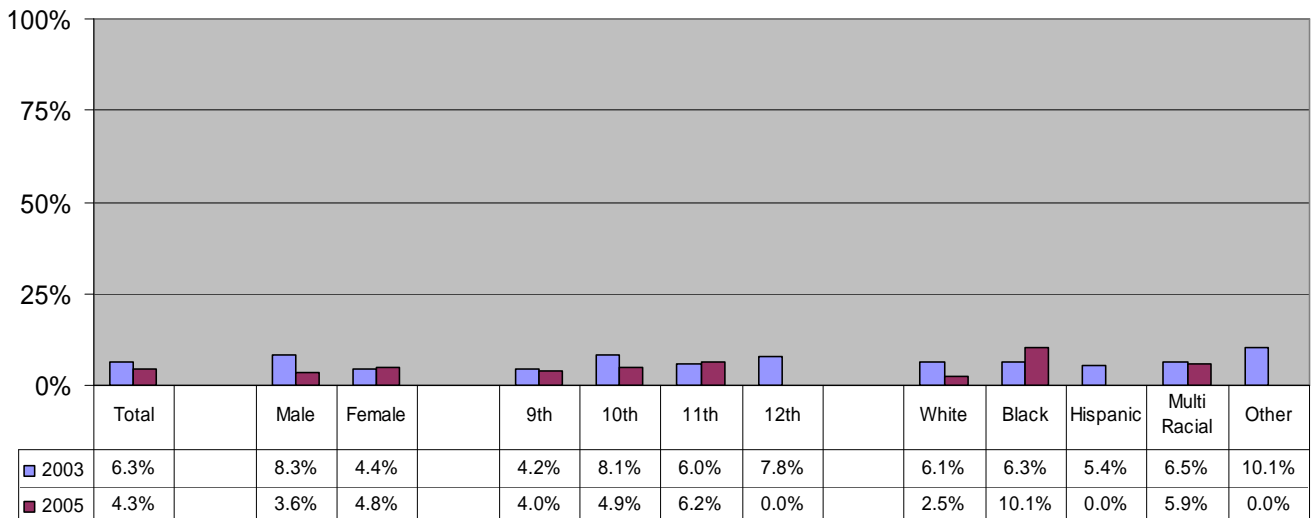
- This question was not asked in 2003.
- More males than females in New Hanover County reported being physically abused on purpose by their partner during the past year.
- Black students reported the highest incidence of being physically abused on purpose by their partner during the past year.

Those Who Carried A Weapon in the Last 30 Days



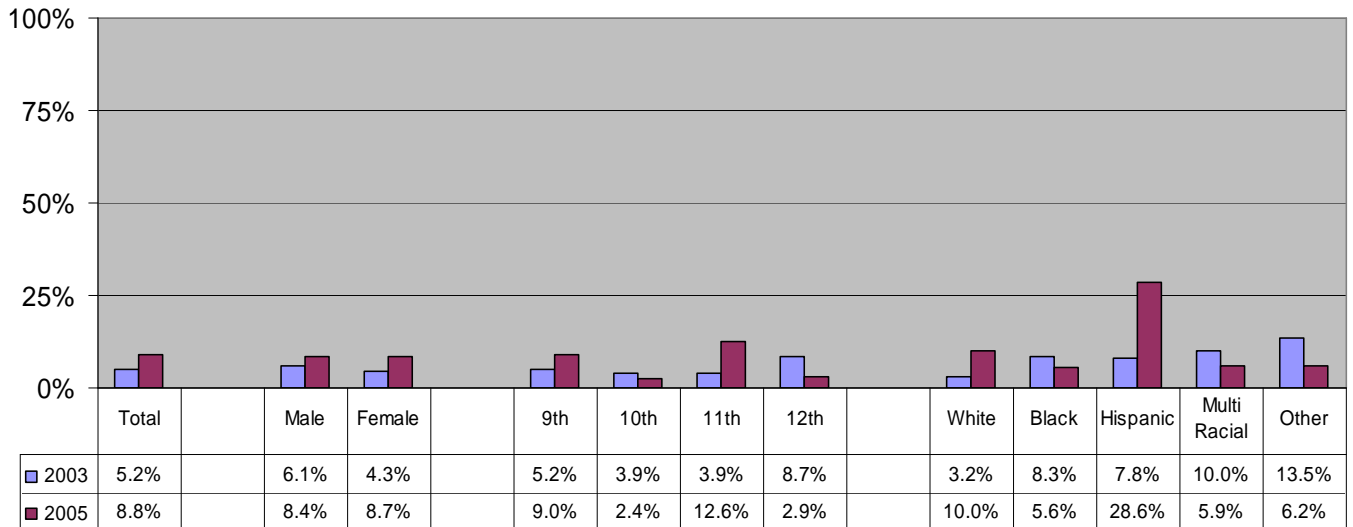
- Relative to North Carolina high school students in 2003, the overall percentage of New Hanover County high school students who reported carrying a weapon in the last 30 days was slightly lower in 2005.
- A greater percentage of males in 2003 reported they carried a weapon compared to the percentage of males in 2005.

Those Who Carried A Weapon on School Property in the Last 30 Days



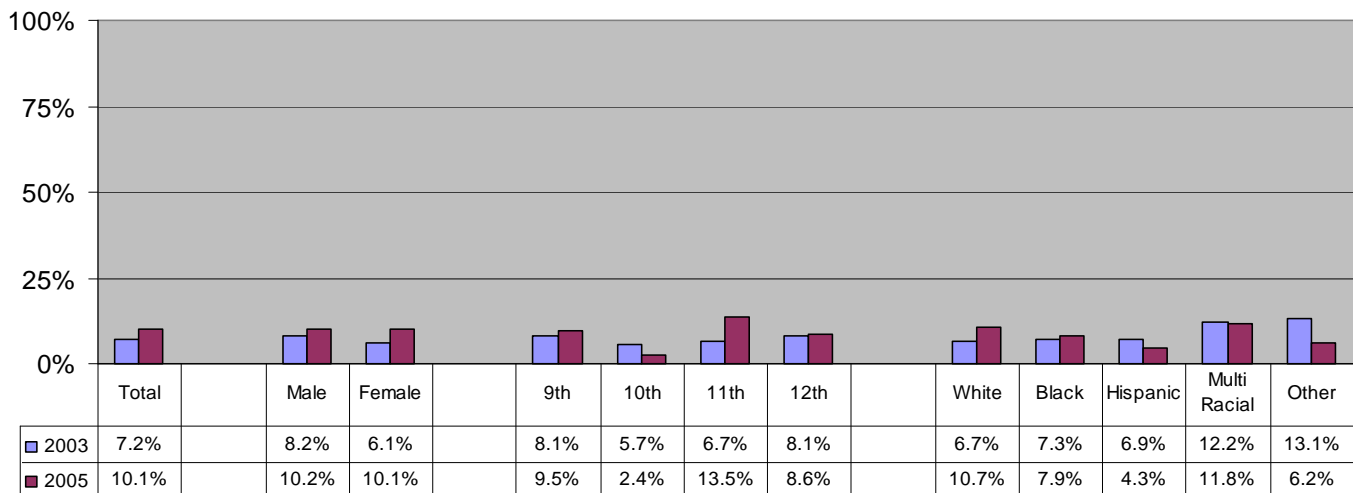
- More Black students in New Hanover County reported they carried a weapon on school property compared to North Carolina students in 2003. Also no Hispanic students and students of other origins in New Hanover County reported they carried weapons on school property.
- New Hanover County 12th graders did not report carrying a weapon on school property in the last 30 days during 2005.

Those Who Did Not Go to School On One or More Days During the Last 30 Days Because They Felt Unsafe at School or On Their Way To or From School



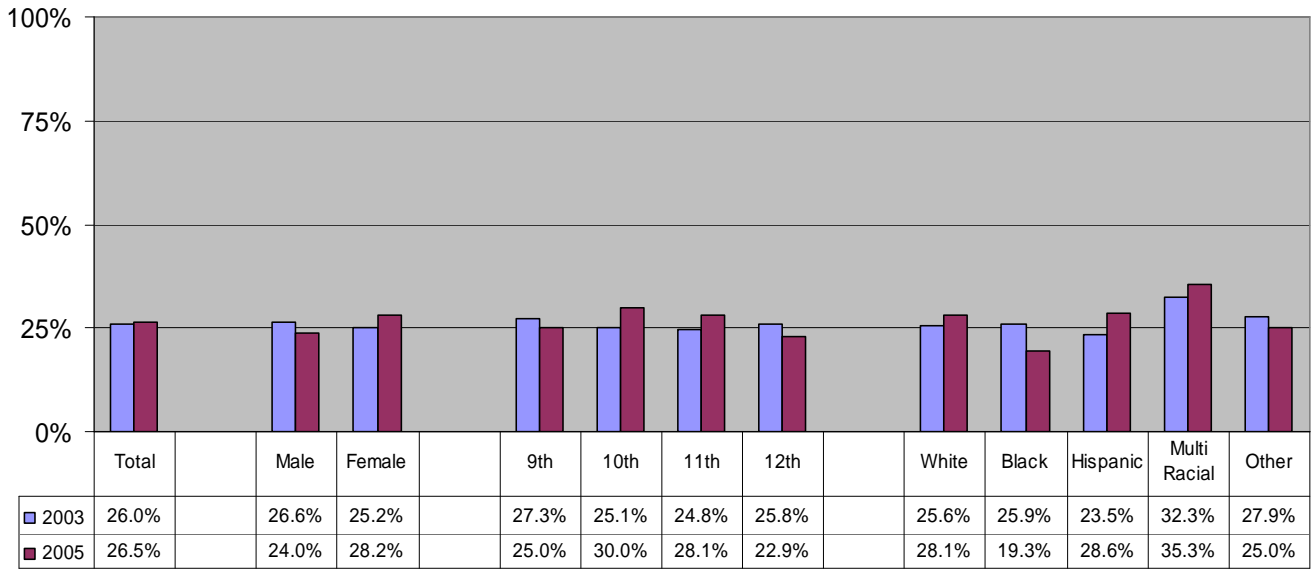
- More New Hanover County high school students reported not going to school because they felt unsafe.
- Three times as many Hispanic students reported not going to school because they felt unsafe.
- Approximately the same number of males and females in New Hanover County reported not going to school because they felt unsafe.

Those Who Have Been Threatened or Injured With a Weapon During the Past 12 Months



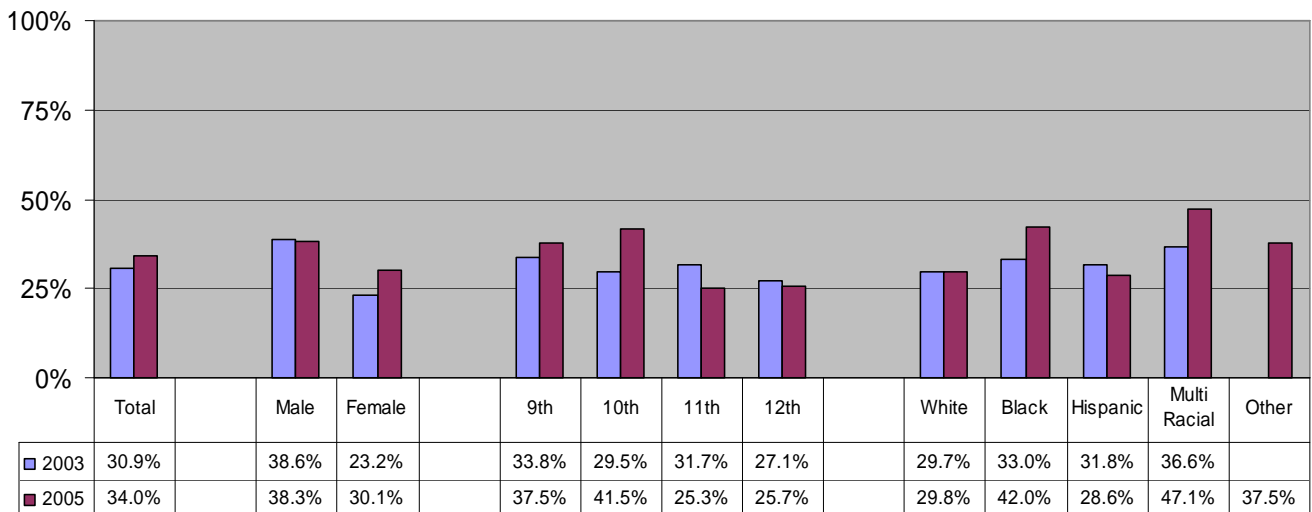
- Twice as many 11th grade students in New Hanover County reported being threatened or injured with a weapon in the last 12 months compared to North Carolina 11th grade students in 2003.
- Overall, 10th graders were the least likely to be threatened or injured by a weapon.

Those Who Had Property Stolen or Deliberately Damaged on School Property During the Past 12 Months



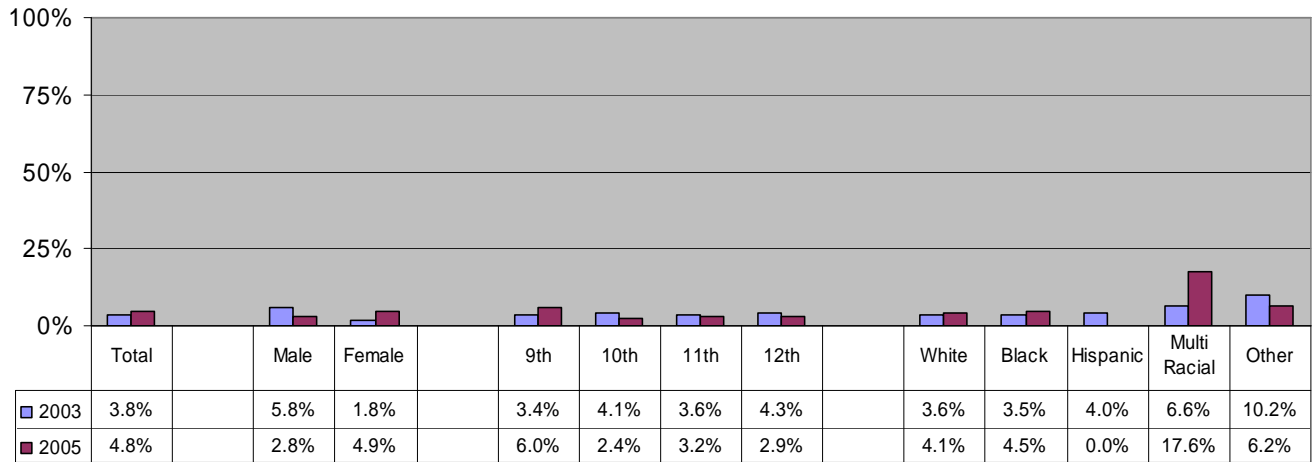
- More Multi Racial students reported having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the past 12 months than any other ethnic group in both 2003 and 2005.
- On average, one in four students reported having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property.

Those Who Had Been in a Physical Fight During the Past 12 Months



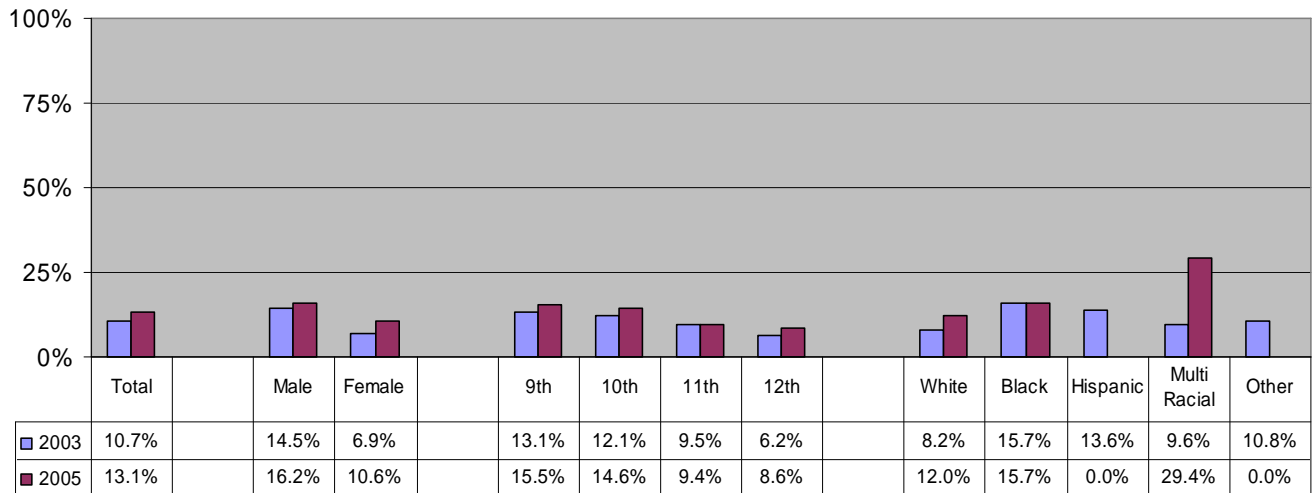
- More Multi Racial students reported being in a physical fight during the past 12 months than any other ethnic group in both 2003 and 2005.
- Compared to North Carolina high school students in 2003, a higher percentage of New Hanover County high school students in 2005 reported being in a physical fight during the past 12 months.
- One in three students reported being in a physical fight during the past 12 months.

Those Who Had Been Injured in a Physical Fight and Had to Be Treated by a Doctor or Nurse During the Past 12 Months



- Very few students reported having injuries severe enough to seek medical treatment.
- More students of multi racial origins reported being injured in a physical fight that required treatment by a doctor or nurse in the past 12 months than any other ethnic group in New Hanover County in 2005.
- More students in New Hanover County in 2005 reported being injured in a physical fight that required treatment than did students in North Carolina in 2003.

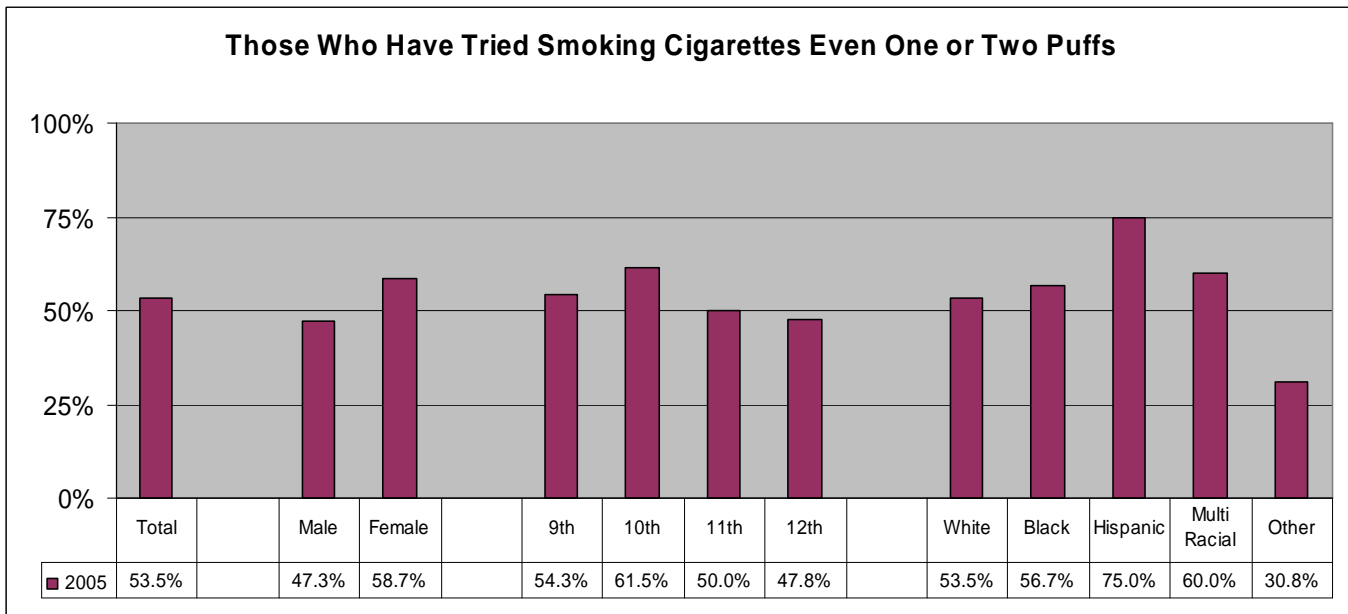
Those Who Were in a Physical Fight on School Property



- More females in New Hanover County in 2005 reported being in a physical fight on school property than did females in North Carolina in 2003.
- More 9th graders reported being in a physical fight on school property than any other grade in both 2003 and 2005.

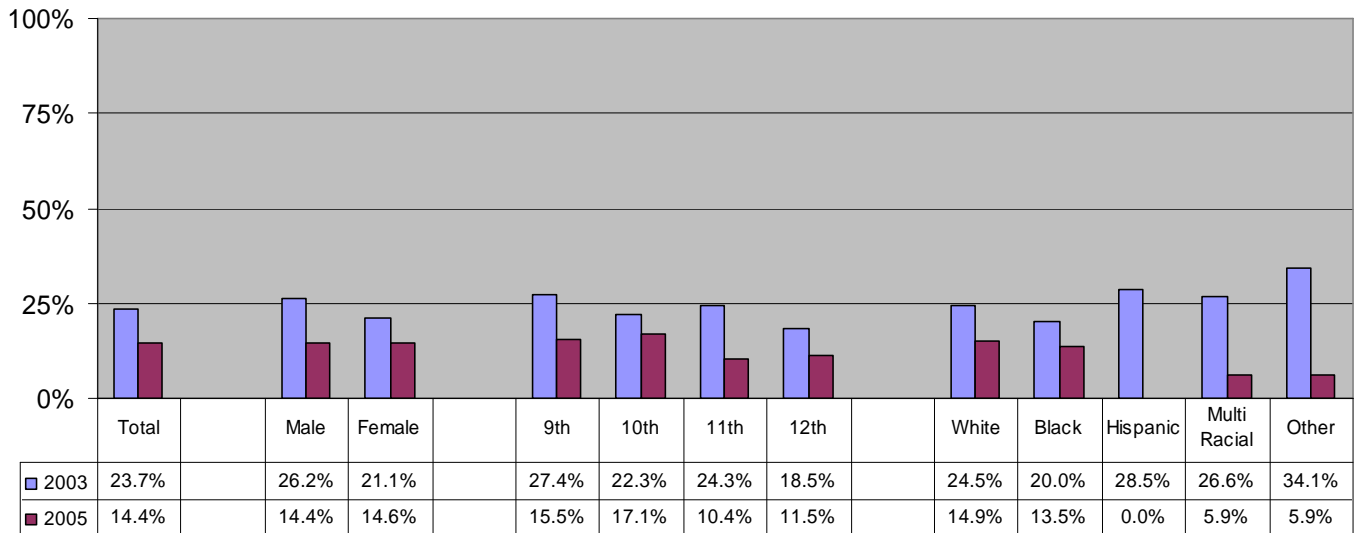
Tobacco Use

Consistently identified as the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States, cigarette smoking continues to attract nearly five thousand American youths daily (CDC, 2005). Of this number approximately 2,000 become daily smokers. Despite programs created to deter America's youth from experimenting with this deadly habit, cigarette smoking continues to be a popular activity with high school students. Tobacco use in adolescence has been associated with several other health risks, including higher risk of sexual activity and alcohol use (CDC, 2005). The following graphs reflect questions regarding frequency of cigarette smoking, age at which smoking started, and use of other tobacco products.



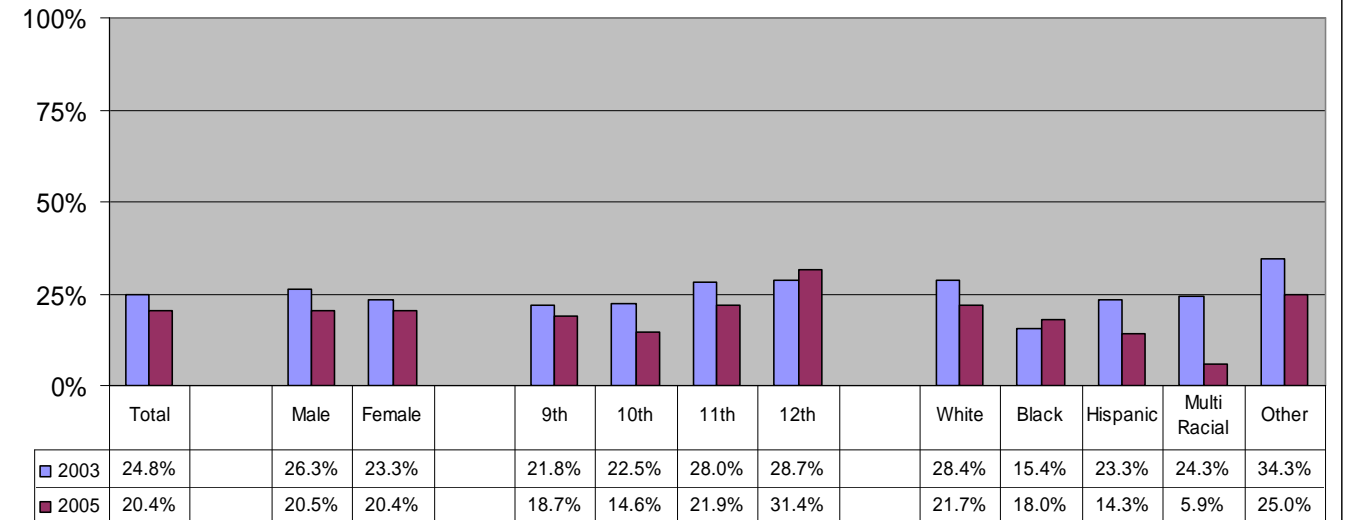
- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Over half of students responding to this question reported they tried smoking cigarettes even one or two puffs.
- More females than males in New Hanover County reported trying smoking cigarettes even one or two puffs.
- Three in four of all Hispanic students reported they tried smoking cigarettes.

Those Who First Smoked a Cigarette Prior to Age 13



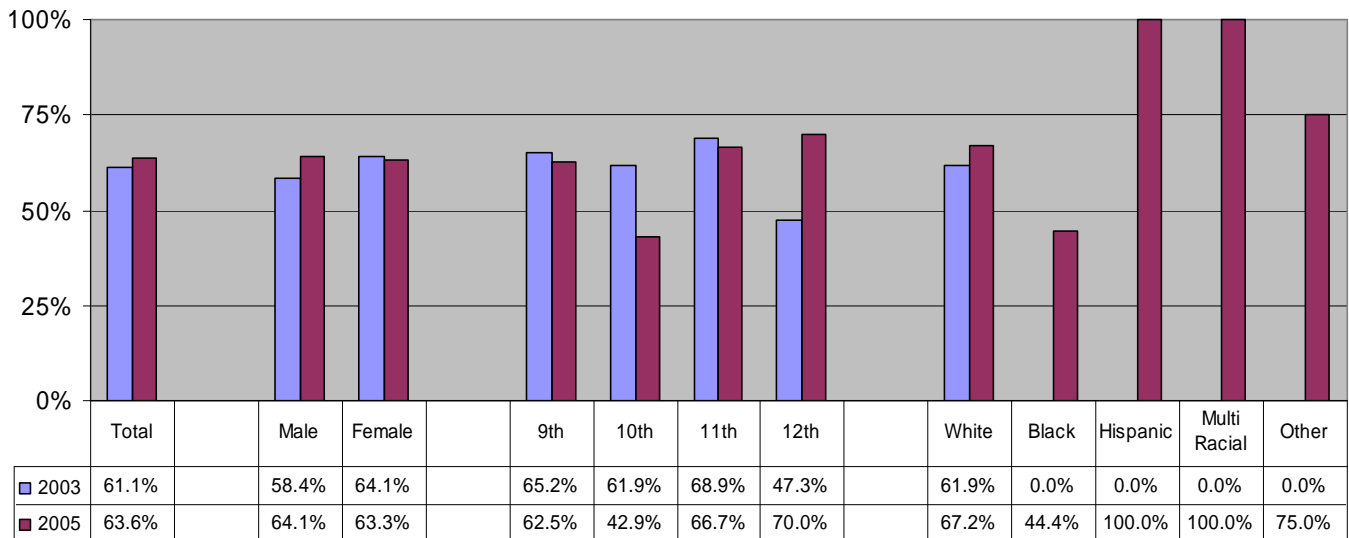
- Relative to high school students in North Carolina in 2003, fewer high school students in New Hanover County in 2005 reported smoking a cigarette prior to age 13.
- More New Hanover County 10th graders reported first smoking prior to age 13 than any other high school grade.

Those Who Smoked Cigarettes in the Last 30 Days



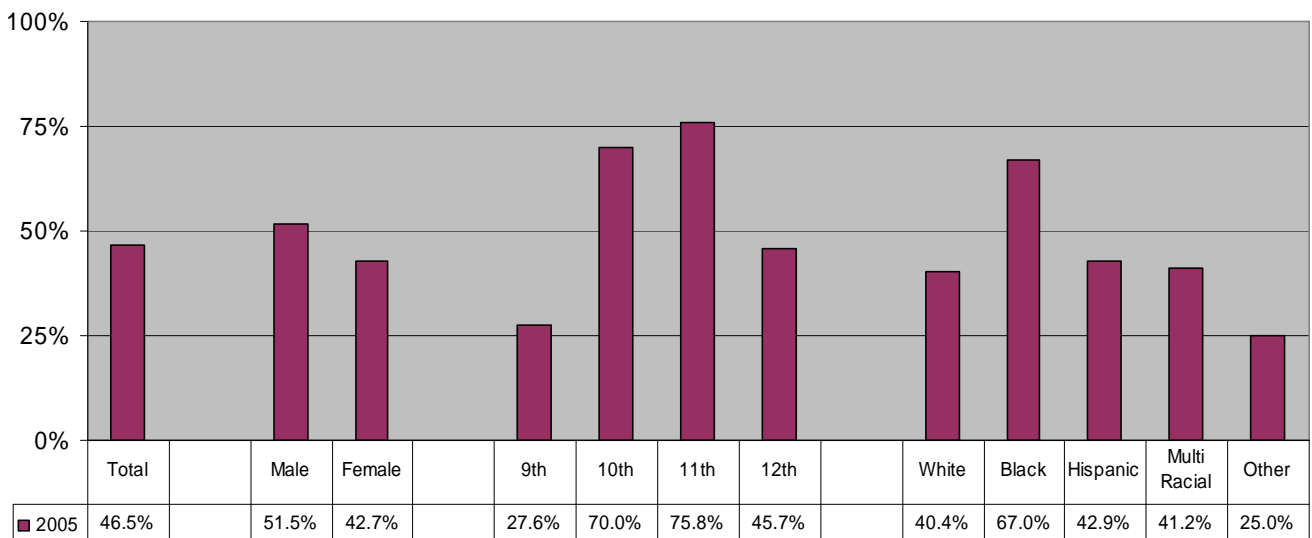
- Relative to North Carolina students in 2003, fewer students in New Hanover County in 2005 reported smoking cigarettes in the last 30 days. However, one in five New Hanover County students reported smoking cigarettes with an equal number of males and females.
- As age increases so does the number of those who reported smoking cigarettes in the last 30 days in both 2003 and 2005.

Those Who Tried to Quit Smoking During the Past 12 Months



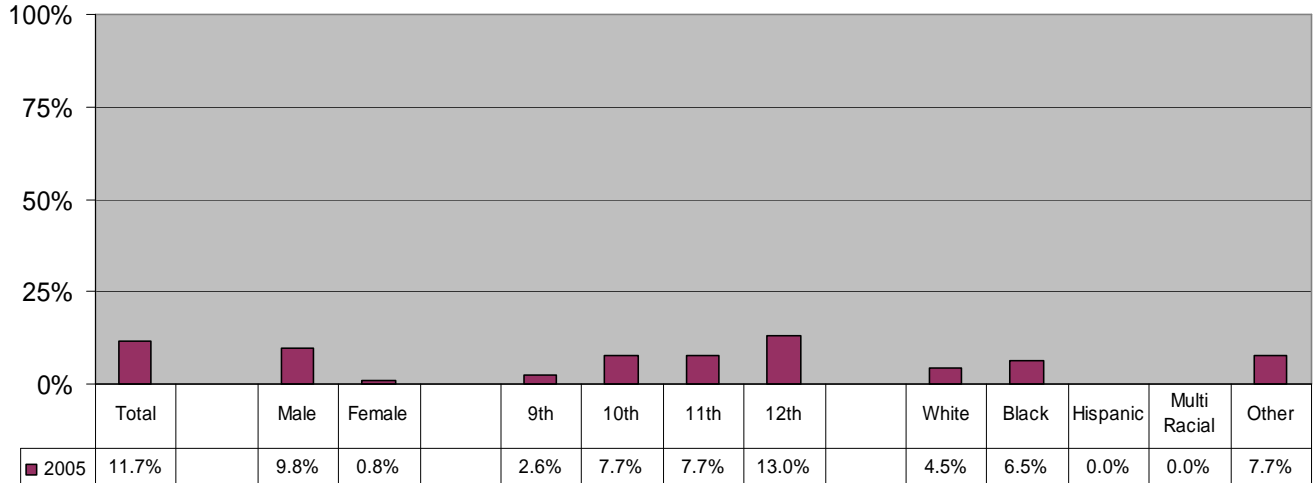
- Of those New Hanover County students who reported they smoked cigarettes, all Hispanic and Multi Racial students reported trying to quit smoking during the last 12 months.
- Almost two in three students who smoked reported they tried to quit smoking both in 2003 and 2005 students.

Those Who Used Chewing Tobacco, Snuff, or Dip During the Past 30 Days



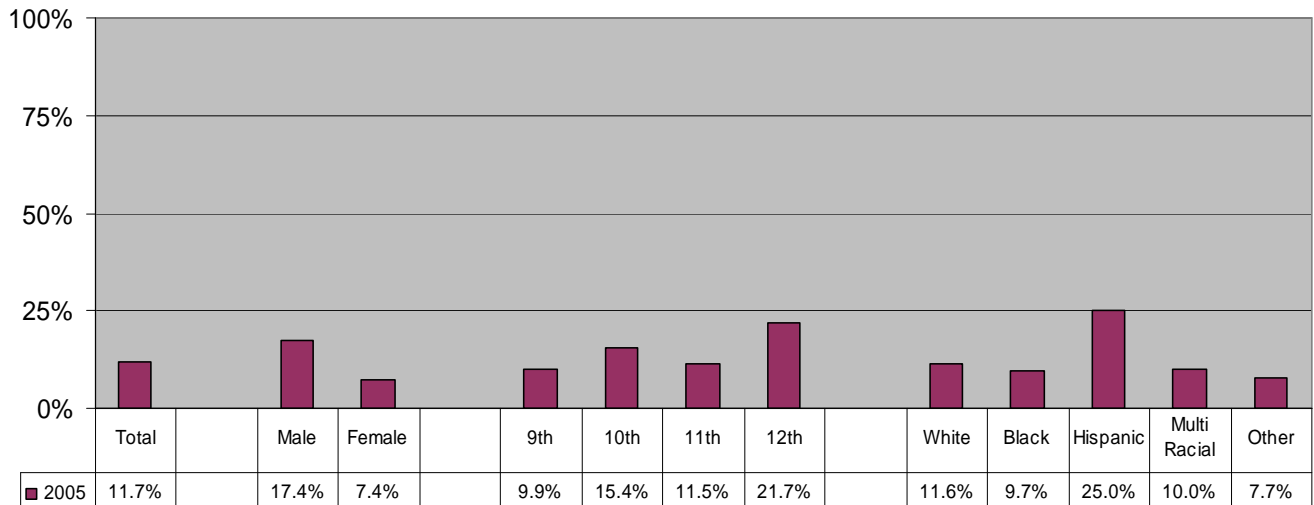
- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Of those students who reported they used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip, more 11th grade students reported using past 30 days than any other high school grade.
- A higher percentage of black students reported using chewing tobacco, snuff or dip during the past 30 days than any other ethnic group.

Those Who Used Chewing Tobacco, Snuff or Dip on School Property During the Past 30 Days



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Of those who reported they used tobacco products, few students reported doing so on school property.
- Use of these tobacco products on school property increased in percent reported from 9th grade to 12th grade.

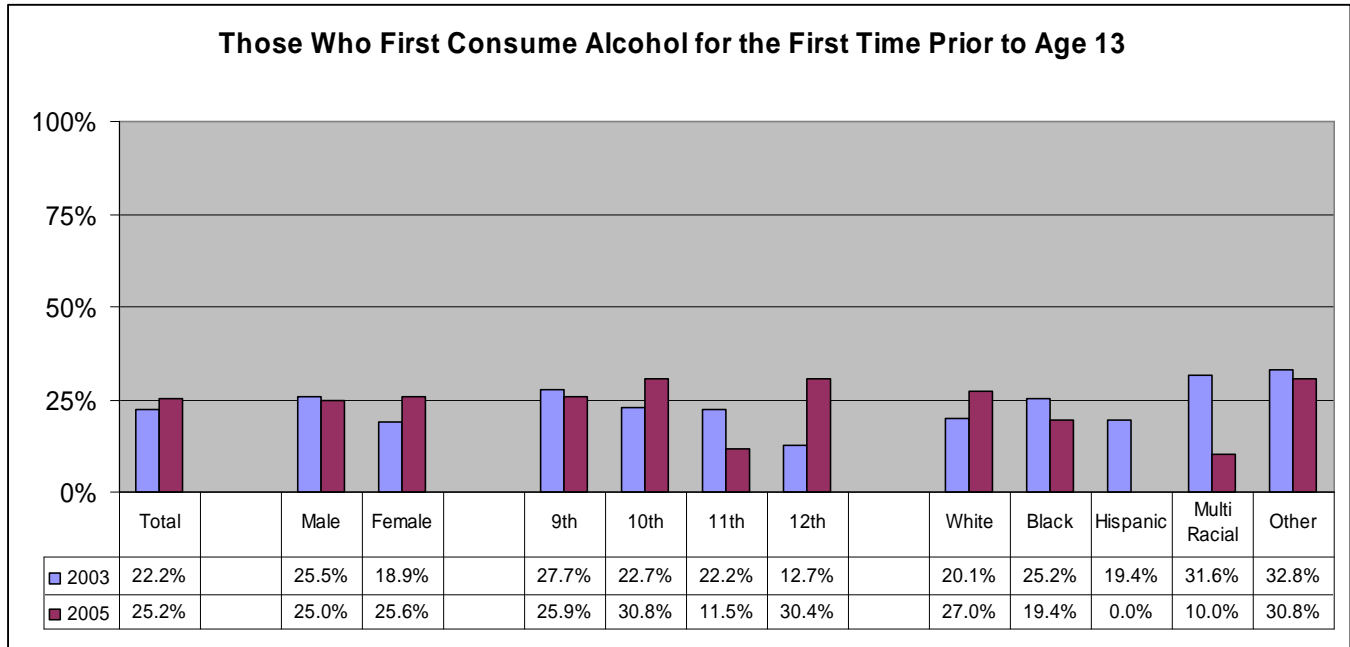
Those Who Smoked Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars During the Past 30 Days



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- A higher percentage of males in New Hanover County in 2005 reported smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in the past 30 days when compared to females.
- More Hispanic students reported smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in the past 30 days than any other ethnic group.

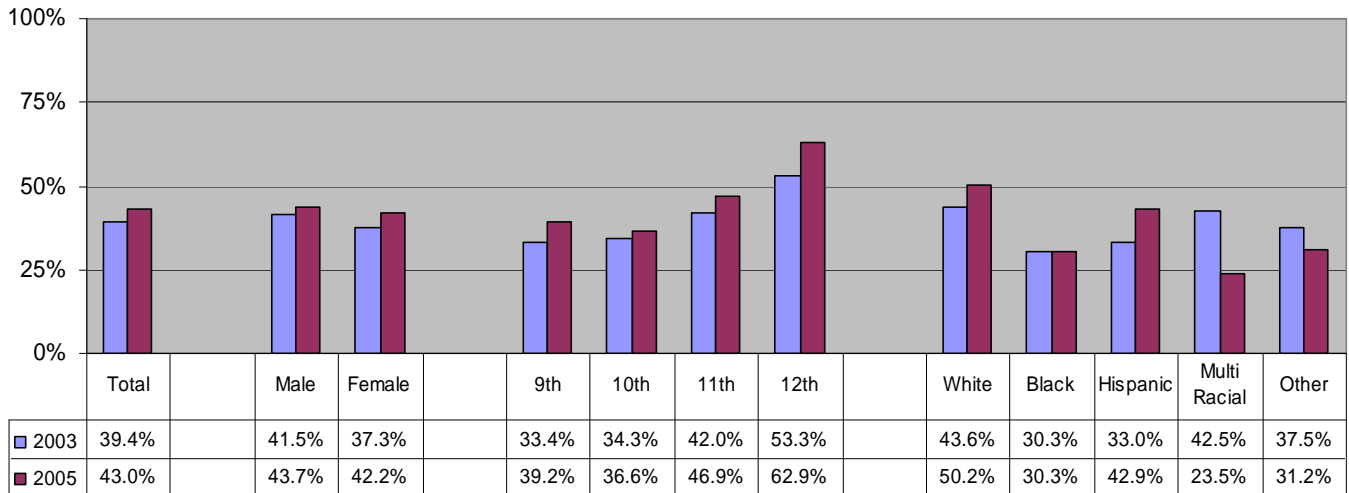
Alcohol Use

Underage drinking continues to be a serious problem with today's youth. Approximately eleven million youths in the United States report drinking alcohol, many consuming five or more drinks in a row (AMA, 2005). Research indicates the early alcohol use may precipitate numerous problems including drug use, sexual promiscuity, and criminal activity (AMA, 2005). The graphs below represent questions regarding recent alcohol consumption, frequency of consumption, and drinking and driving.



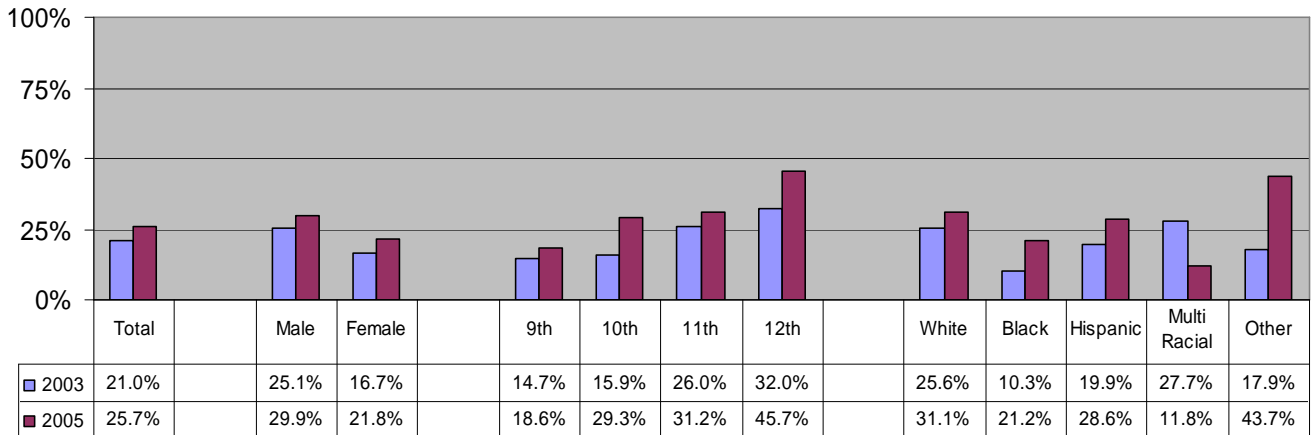
- One in four students in New Hanover County reported they consumed alcohol prior to age 13. An equal number of males and females reported using at this early age.
- Fewer 11th grade students in New Hanover County in 2005 reported consuming alcohol for the first time prior to age 13 than any other grade.

Those Who Consumed at Least One Drink of Alcohol During the Past 30 Days



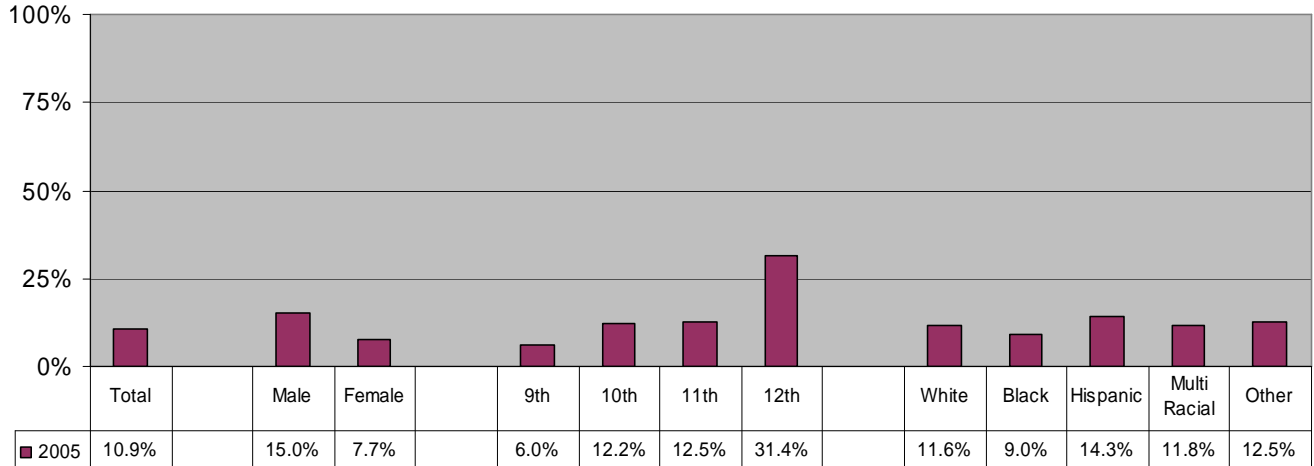
- Over two in five students in New Hanover County reported they consumed alcohol in the past 30 days.
- The percentage of students who reported consuming alcohol in the past 30 days generally increased from 9th to 12th grade.

Those Who Had 5 or More Drinks of Alcohol in a Row Within a Couple Hours During the Past 30 Days



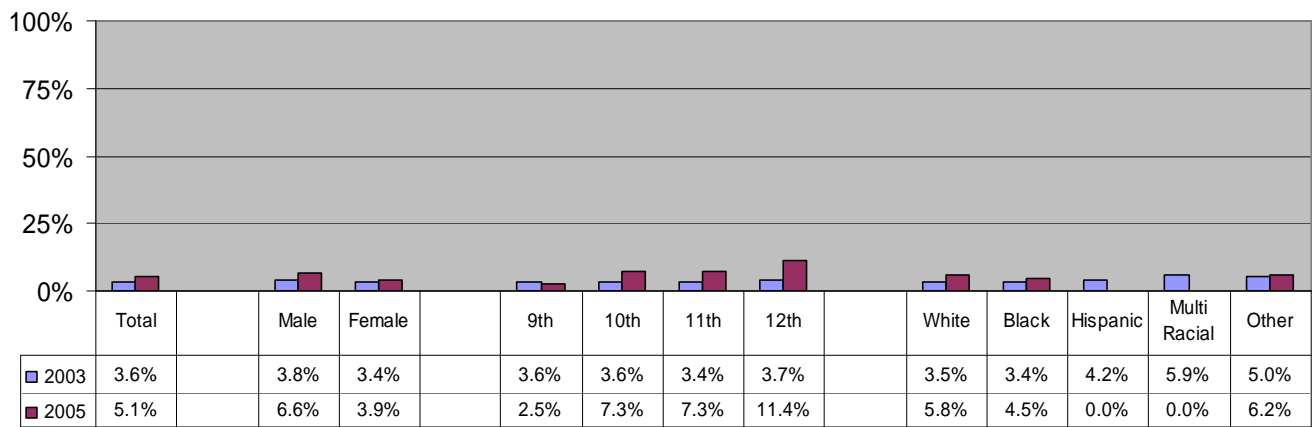
- One in four New Hanover County students reported they had consumed 5 plus drinks within a few hours.
- Again, as grade increased, the percentage of students who reported this behavior also increased.
- A higher percentage of males reported binge drinking when compared to females.

Those Who Drove A Car or Other Vehicle When They Had Been Drinking Alcohol During the Past 30 Days



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Twice as many male as female students in New Hanover County reported driving a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.
- As grade increased, the percentage of students who reported driving while under the influence also increased.

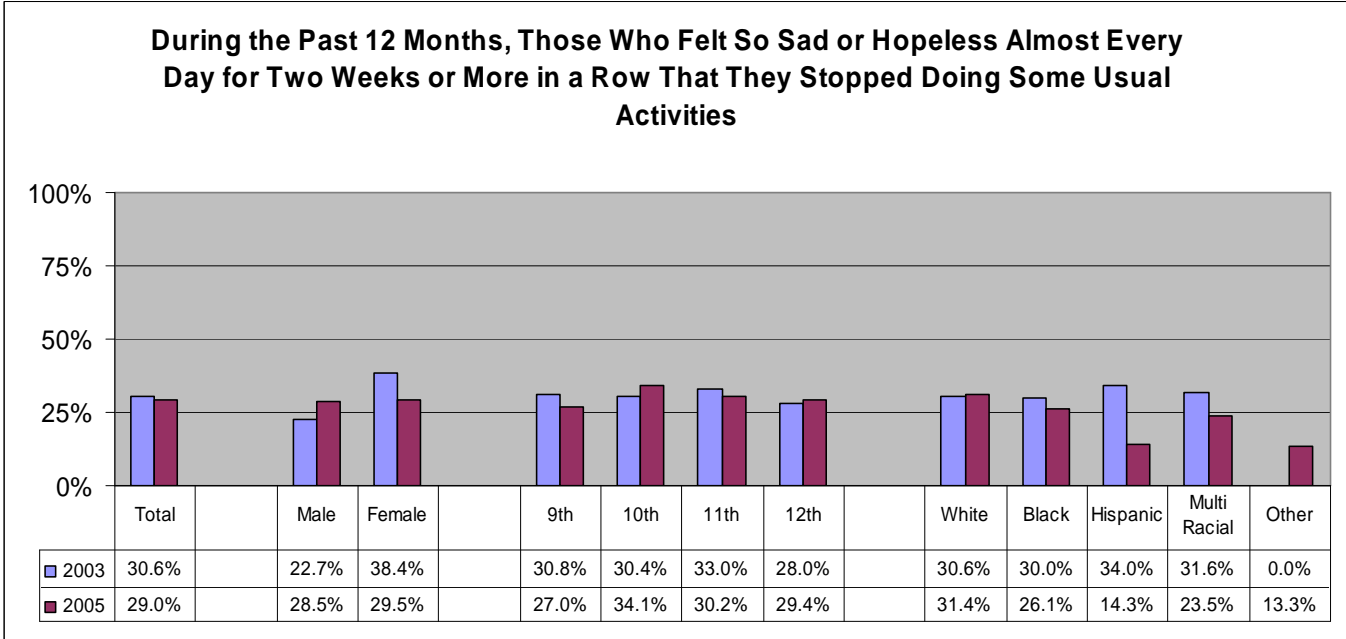
Those Who Had At Least One Drink of Alcohol on School Property During the Past 30 Days



- Overall, a very small percentage of students reported drinking on school property during the past 30 days in both 2003 and 2005.

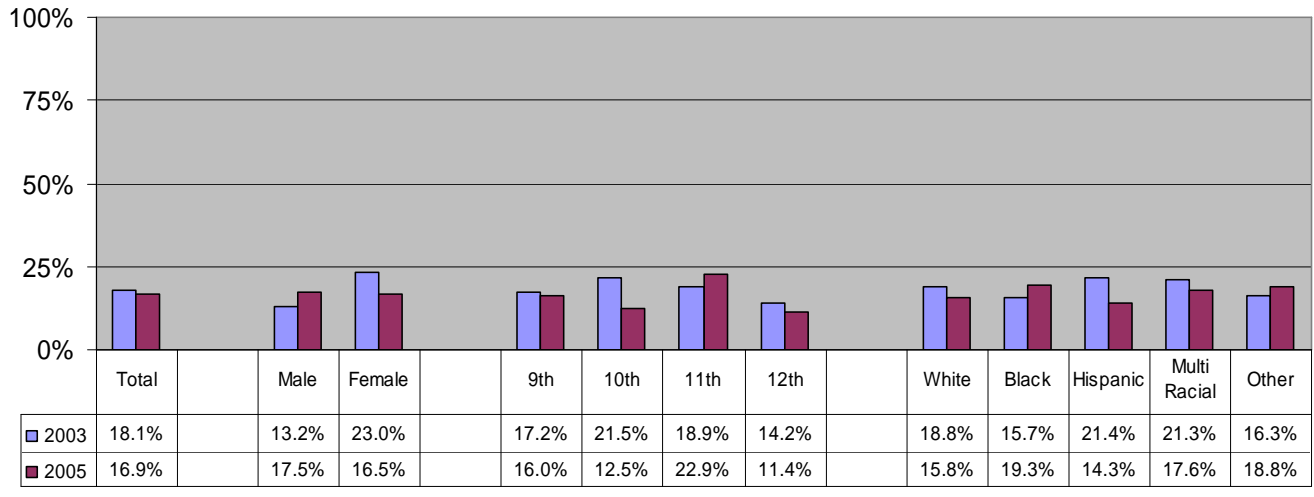
Psychological Health

It is estimated that half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 (NIMH, 2005), with approximately one out of every ten children in the United States experiencing psychological problems severe enough to interfere with daily functioning (NIMH, 2001). According to the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health (1999), of the children who are in need of mental health services, seven in ten are not served. Suicide rates in youths have continued to rise over the last 10 years (CDC, 2001). The graphs below indicate reported mood and self harmful behaviors among youth.



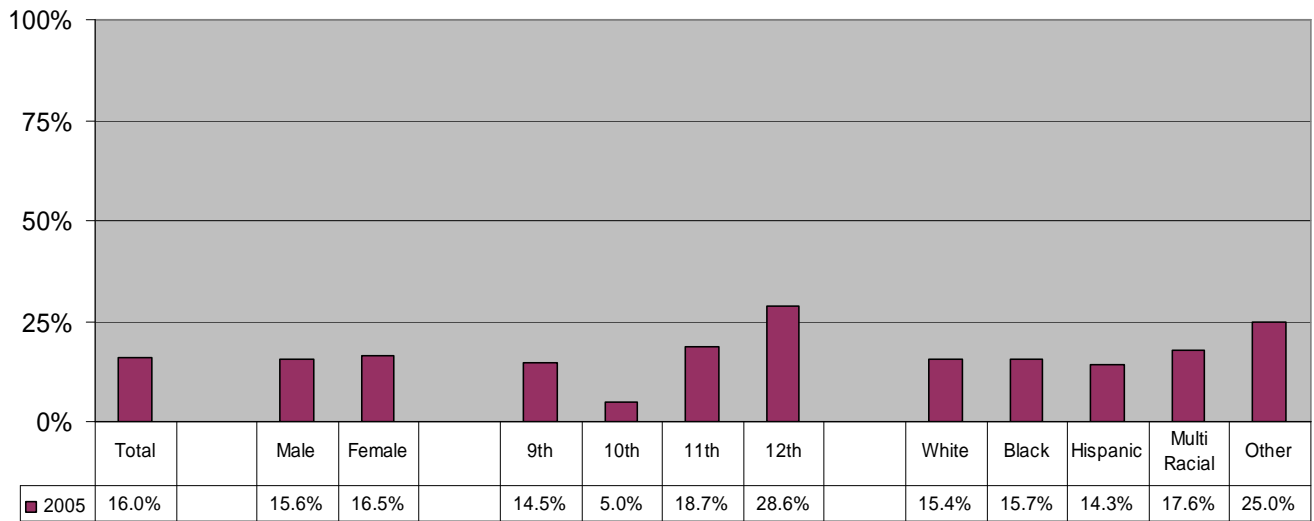
- More females than males reported their mood interrupted their usual activities in both 2003 and 2005.
- Approximately 30% of students reported they stopped their usual activities because of feeling sad or hopeless for two weeks.

Those Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide During the Past 12 Months



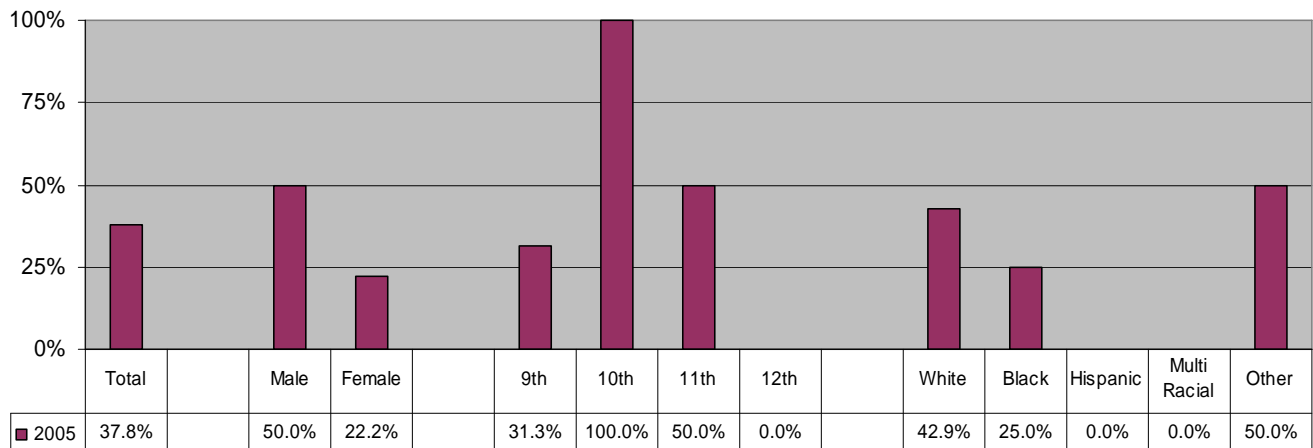
- More 11th graders in New Hanover County in 2005 reported seriously considering attempting suicide during the past 12 months than any other grade.
- Slightly more males than females in New Hanover County reported considering suicide.

Those Who Attempted Suicide More Than Once During the Past 12 Months



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Of those who reported they attempted suicide, one in four 12th grade students reported attempting suicide more than once.
- Slightly more females than males reported attempting suicide more than once during the past 12 months.

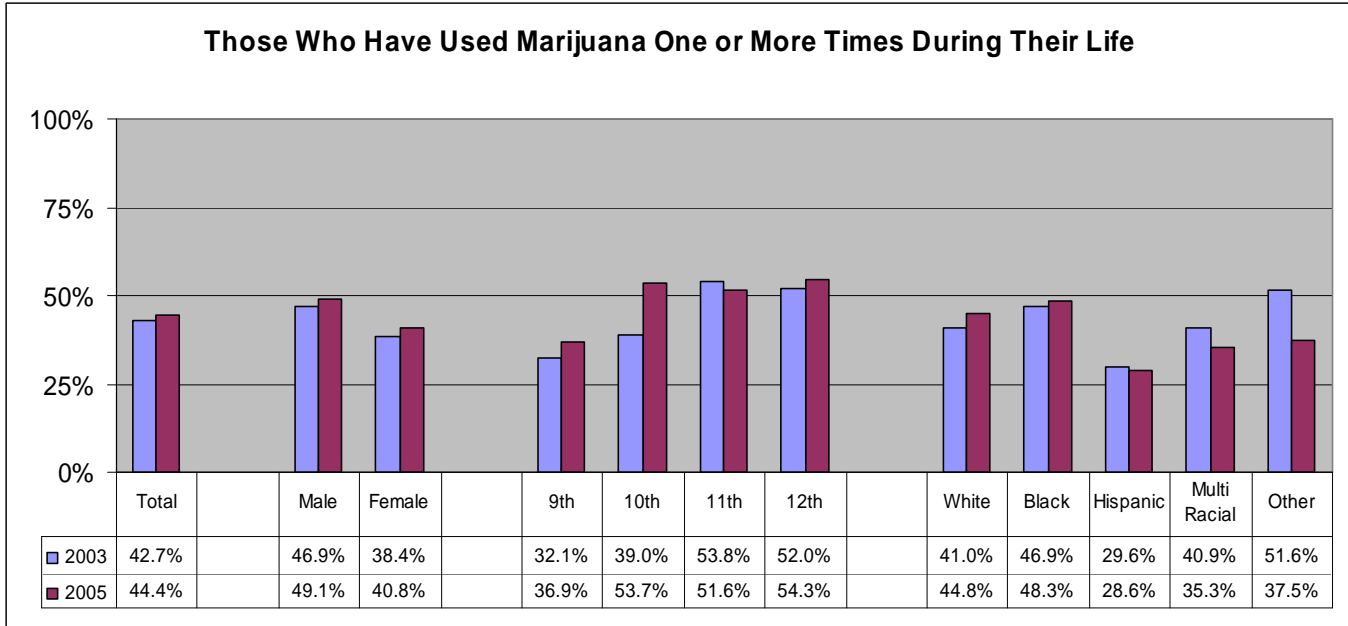
Of Those Who Attempted Suicide That Resulted in Injury, Poisoning, or Overdose, The Percentage That Had to be Treated By a Doctor or Nurse During the Past 12 Months



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- Of those students who reported they attempted suicide, twice as many males as females required treatment.
- The 10th grade percent represented in this graph seems alarming. However, it should be noted that only one student in 10th grade reported that he/she attempted suicide. That attempt required medical treatment thus the percent is 100%.

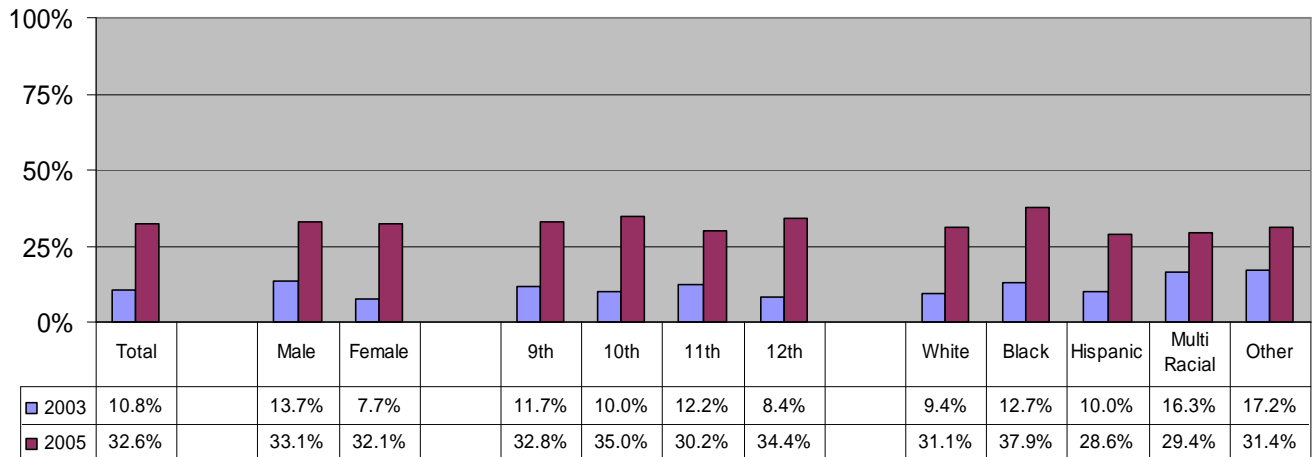
Other Drug Use

Along with alcohol use, marijuana, inhalants and so called "club drugs" are the most frequently used drugs among youths in the United States (SAMHSA, 2000). Despite a steady decline in the number of youth experimenting with such drugs, recent statistics provide evidence that the problem is not completely solved. National statistics show the average age a child starts experimenting with marijuana is 12 years old (CDC, 2002). Forty-four percent of 14 to 15 year olds have been offered illegal drugs and 55% reported knowing a drug dealer (SHEU, 2000). The graphs below reflect student responses to questions regarding frequency of drug use, age at which drug use started, and specific types of drugs used.



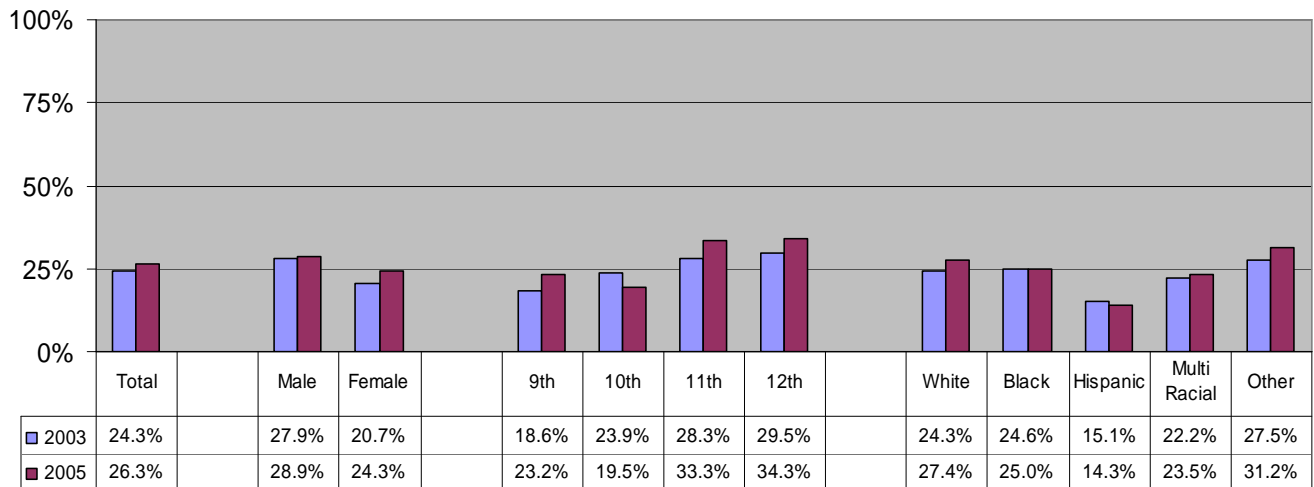
- Over half of all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in New Hanover County reported using marijuana at least once during their life.
- Over two in five students reported they used marijuana one or more times in their life.

Those Who Tried Marijuana Before The Age of 13



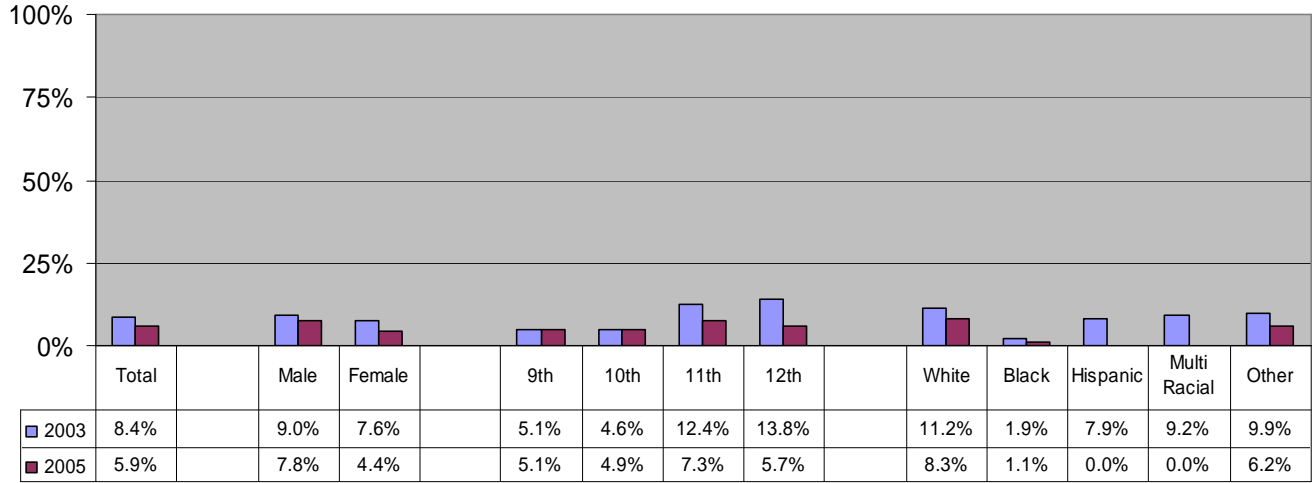
- One in three New Hanover County students reported they tried marijuana before age 13. This percent is much higher than the 2003 North Carolina report.
- There appears to be a similar percentage of male and female students in New Hanover County that reported they tried marijuana before age 13.

Those Who Used Marijuana One or More Times During the Past 30 Days



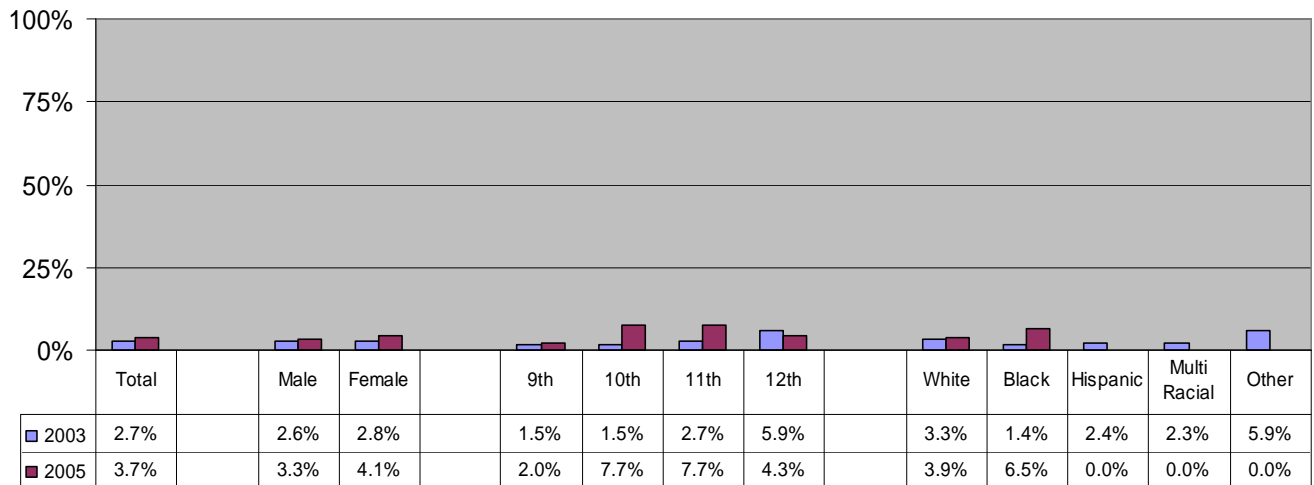
- Overall, one in four students reported they used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days.
- A general increase in the percent of students who reported they used marijuana in the past 30 days from 9th grade to 12th grade occurred in both the 2003 and 2005 studies.

Those Who Have Used Any Form of Cocaine Including Powder, Crack or Freebase During Their Life



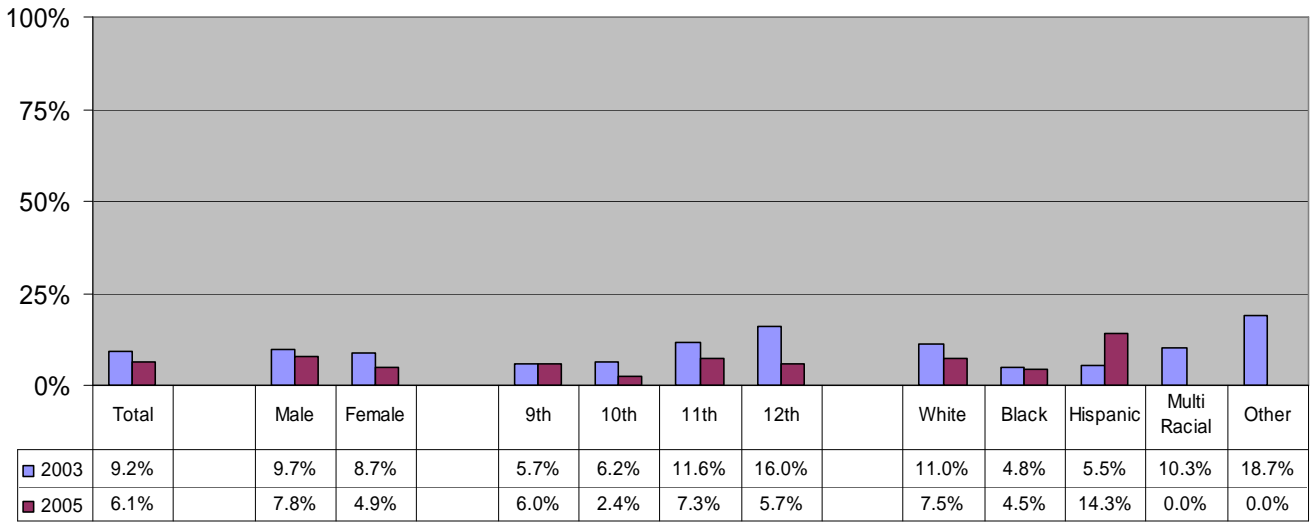
- A very small percentage of students (less than 10%) reported they used cocaine in both the 2003 and 2005 studies.
- More male students than female students in both New Hanover County and North Carolina reported using some form of cocaine at some point in their life.

Those Who Have Used Any Form of Cocaine Including Powder, Crack, or Freebase One or More Times During the Past 30 Days



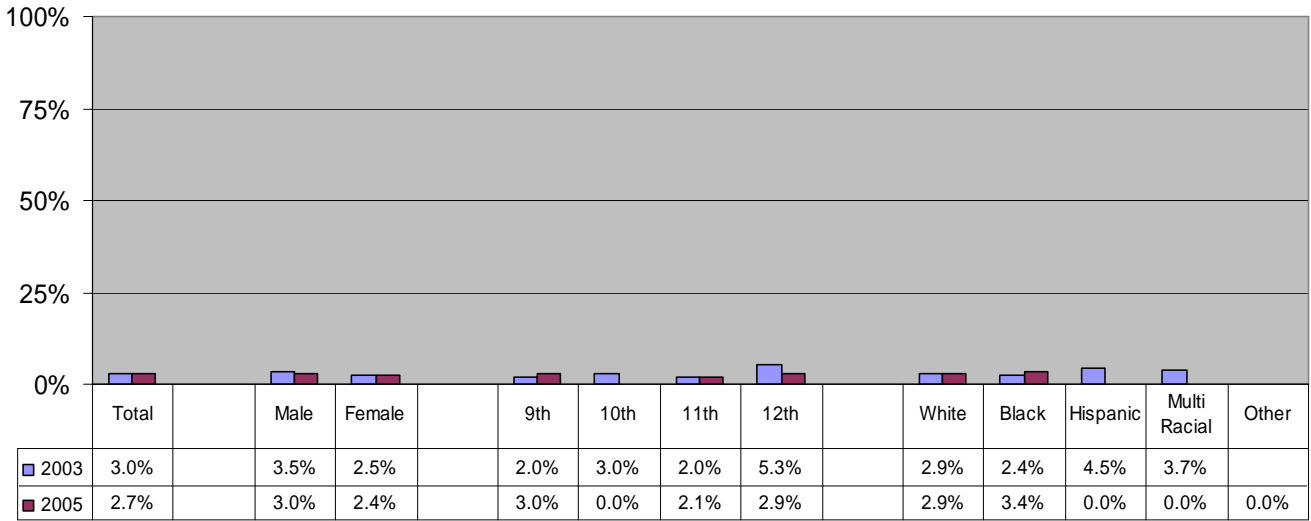
- More 10th and 11th grade students in New Hanover County reported using some form of cocaine during the past 30 days than any other grade.
- The percentage of reported use of cocaine in the past 30 days was even lower than the reported use at anytime in the students' lives.

Those Who Have Used Ecstasy One Or More Times During Their Life



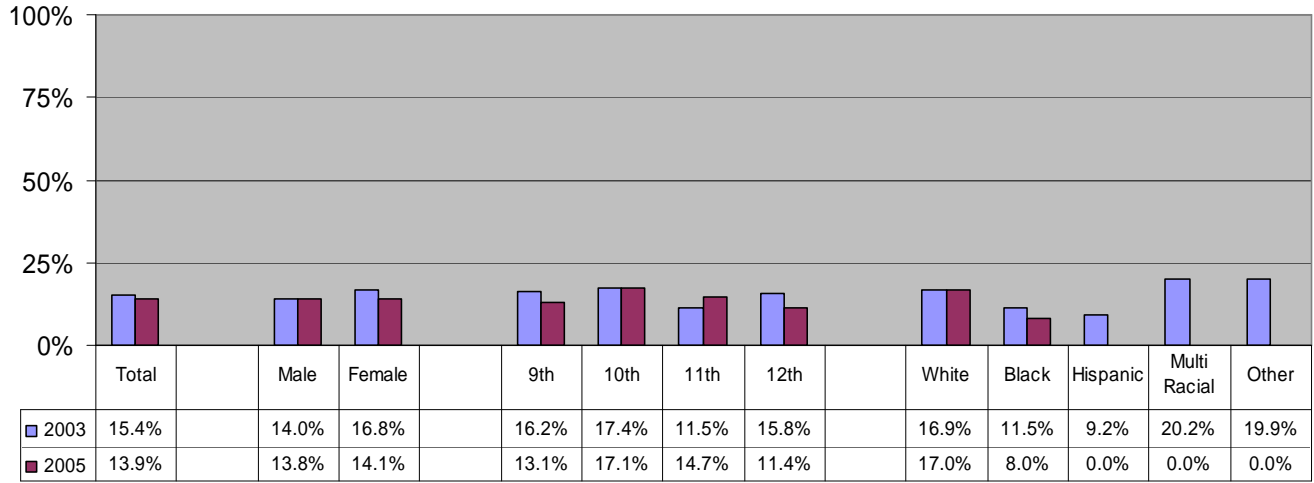
- Less than 10% of students reported they had used ecstasy in both studies with a lower overall percentage reported use in North Carolina.
- More Hispanic students reported using ecstasy at least once than any other ethnic group in New Hanover County.

Those Who Have Used Heroin (Smack, Junk, China White) During Their Life



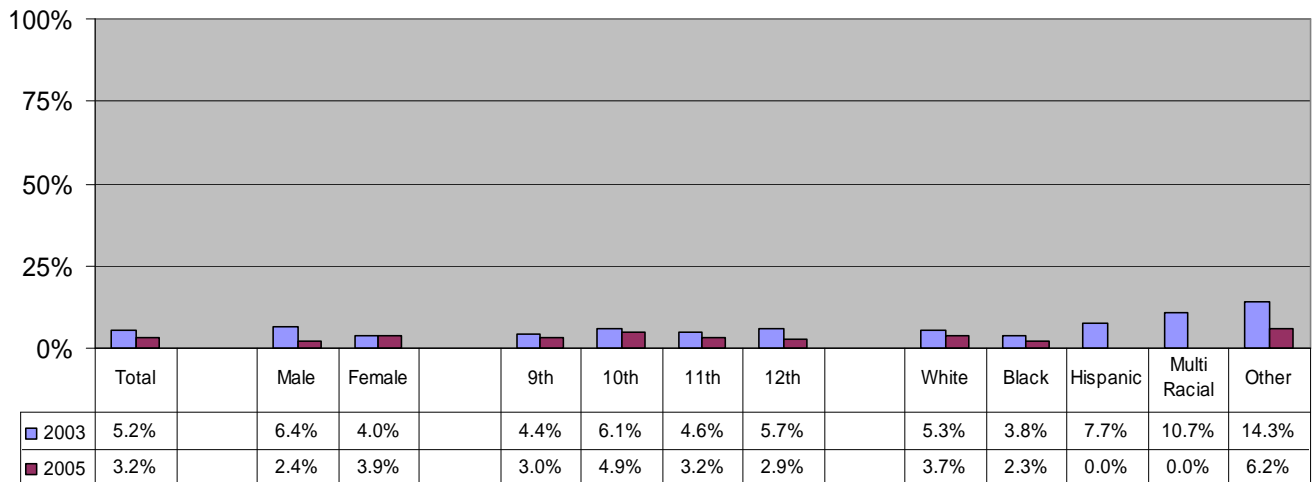
- Few students (3% or less) reported the use of heroin across both studies.

Those Who Sniffed Glue, Breathed The Contents of Aerosol Spray Cans, or Inhaled Any Paints or Sprays to Get High During Their Life



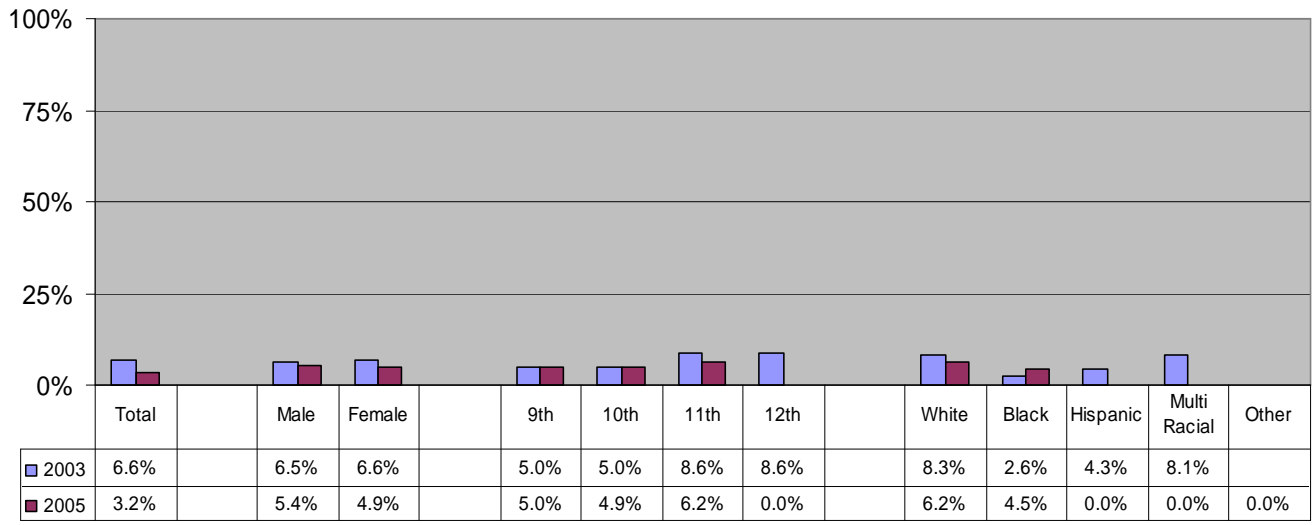
- Overall, a smaller percentage of students (15%) reported using glue, spray cans or paints to get high than student in both studies.
- Equal use among males and females in New Hanover County were reported by students.

Those Who Have Taken Steroid Pills or Shots Without A Doctor's Prescription During Their Life



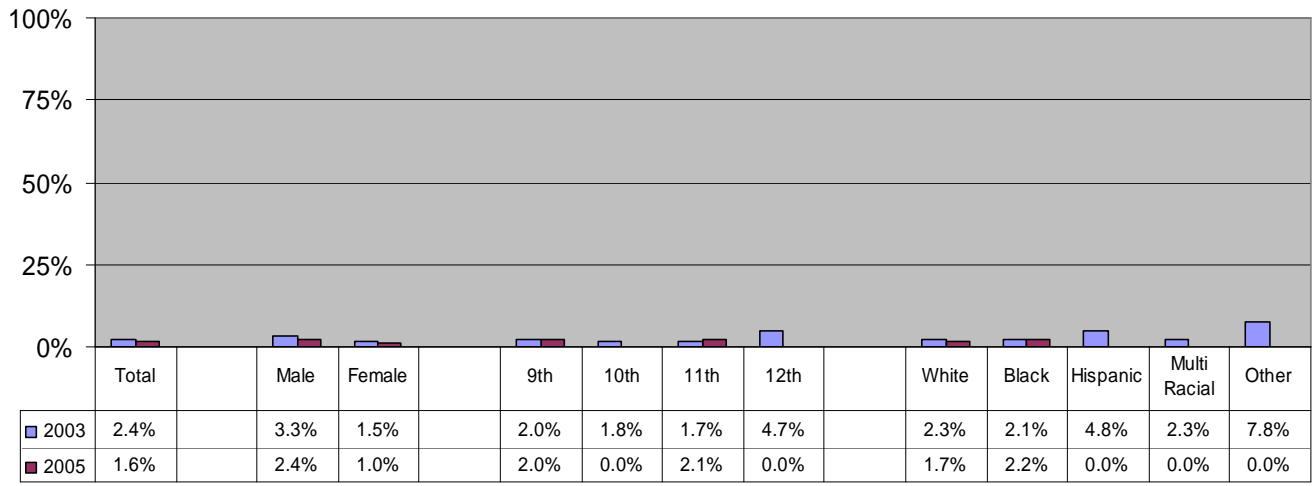
- A very small percentage (5% or less) of students reported using steroids without a prescription.
- Surprisingly, more females than males in New Hanover County reported taking steroids without a prescription.

Those Who Have Used Methamphetamines During Their Life



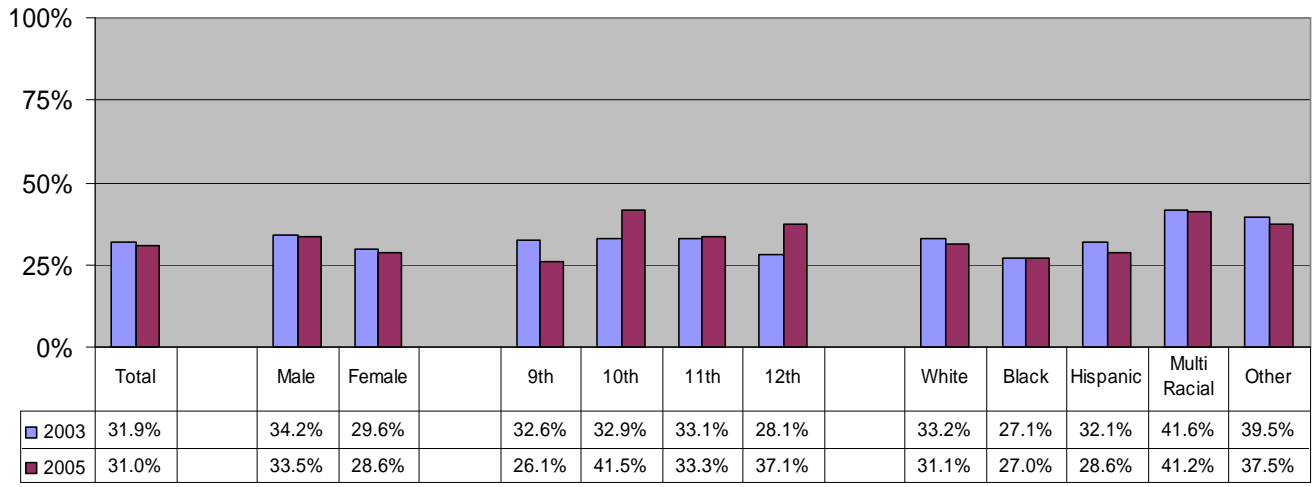
- Overall, a small percentage of students in both studies reported using methamphetamines during their lifetime.
- Approximately the same percentage of males and females reported using methamphetamines.

Those Who Used A Needle to Inject Any Illegal Drug Into Their Body During Their Life



- Two percent or less of students in both studies reported using needles to inject drugs.

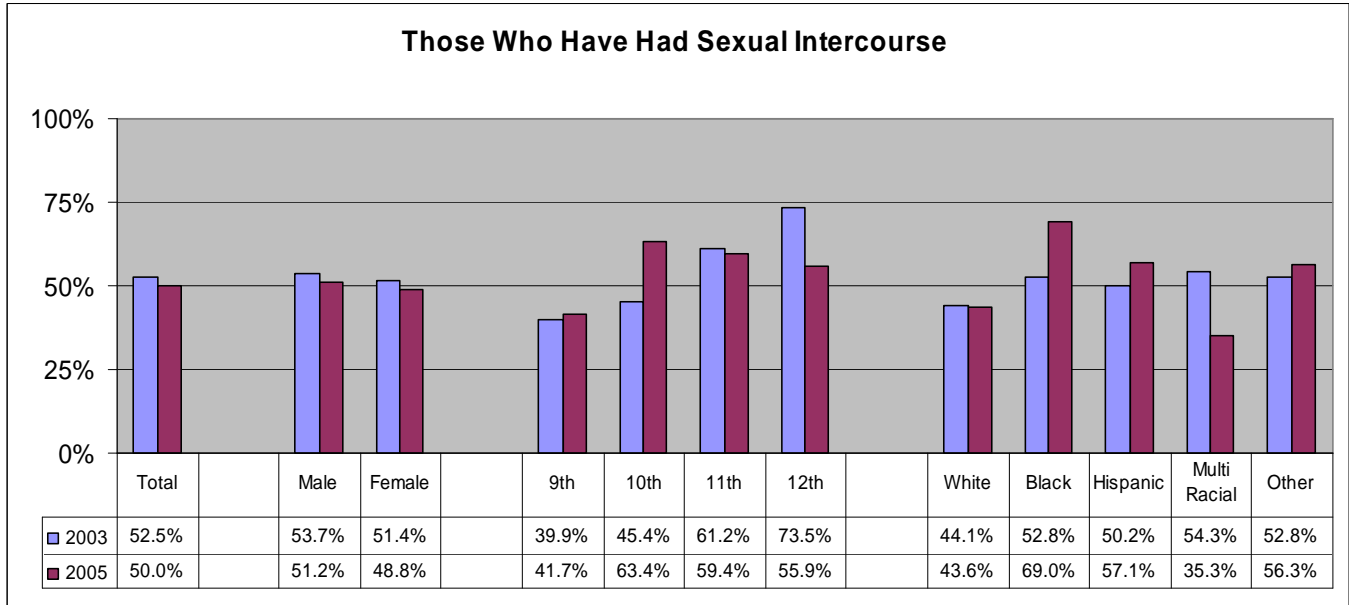
Those Who Have Been Offered, Sold or Given An Illegal Drug on School Property During the Past 12 Months



- Almost one in three students in both studies reported they had been offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property in the past year.
- More 10th grade students reported being offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property in the last year than any other grade in New Hanover County or North Carolina.

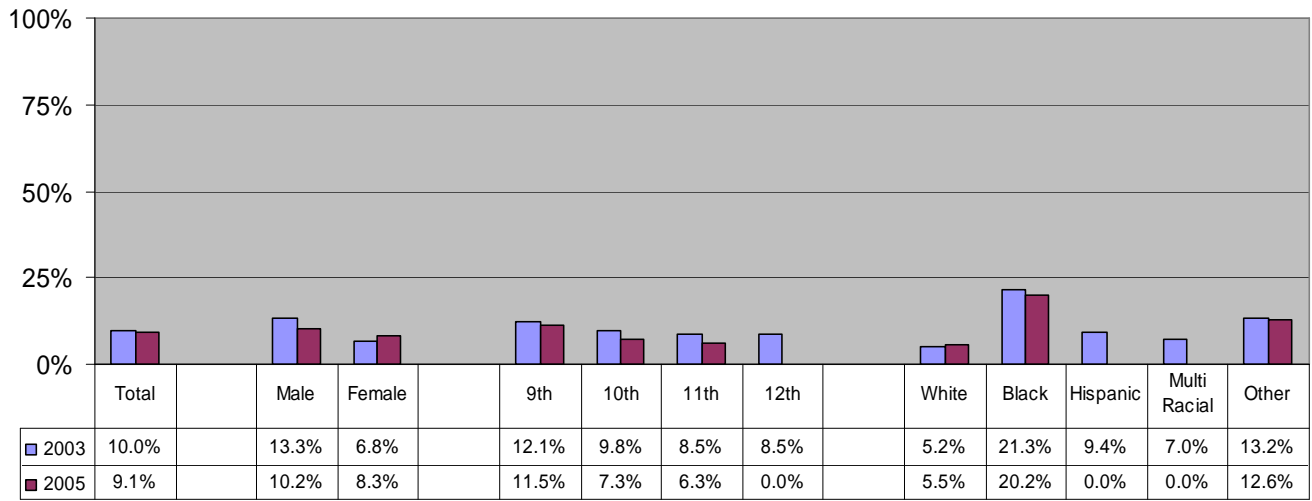
Sexual Behavior

According to the CDC (2003), approximately 47% of high school students are sexually active; this puts them at risk for multiple problems including HIV, unplanned pregnancy and a variety of other sexually transmitted diseases. Despite these high numbers, rates of teen pregnancy have steadily declined since 1991. Each year there are approximately 15 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases, with a quarter of these occurring in youths. The graphs below reflect student responses to sexual activity and methods of birth control in youths.



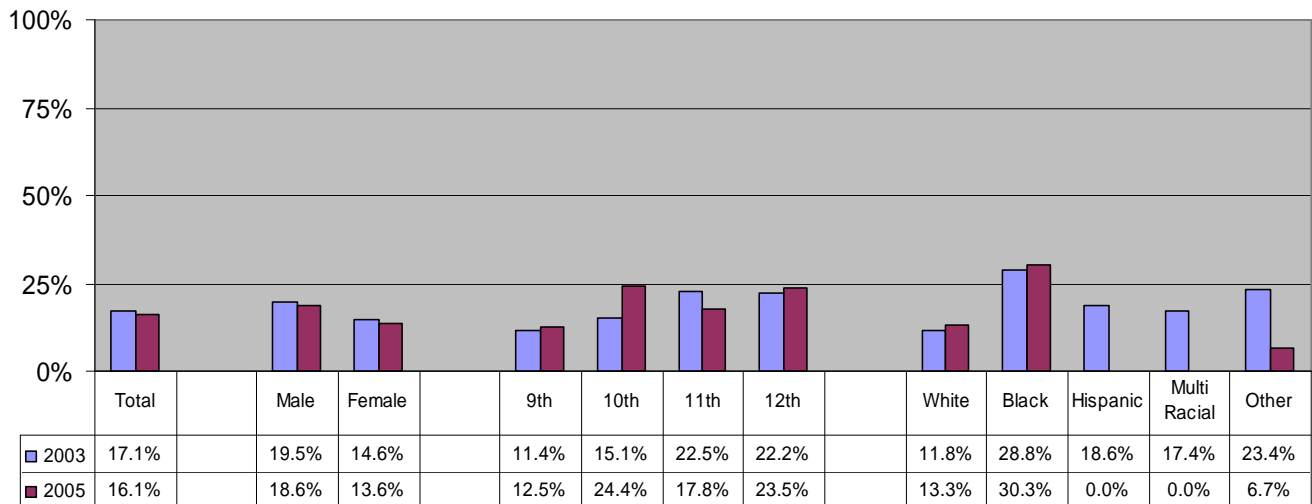
- Over half of all students in both New Hanover County and North Carolina reported they have had sexual intercourse.
- More 10th grade students in New Hanover County reported having had sexual intercourse than any other grade.
- Relatively the same percentage of male and female students reported they have had sexual intercourse.

Those Who Had Sexual Intercourse Before Age 13



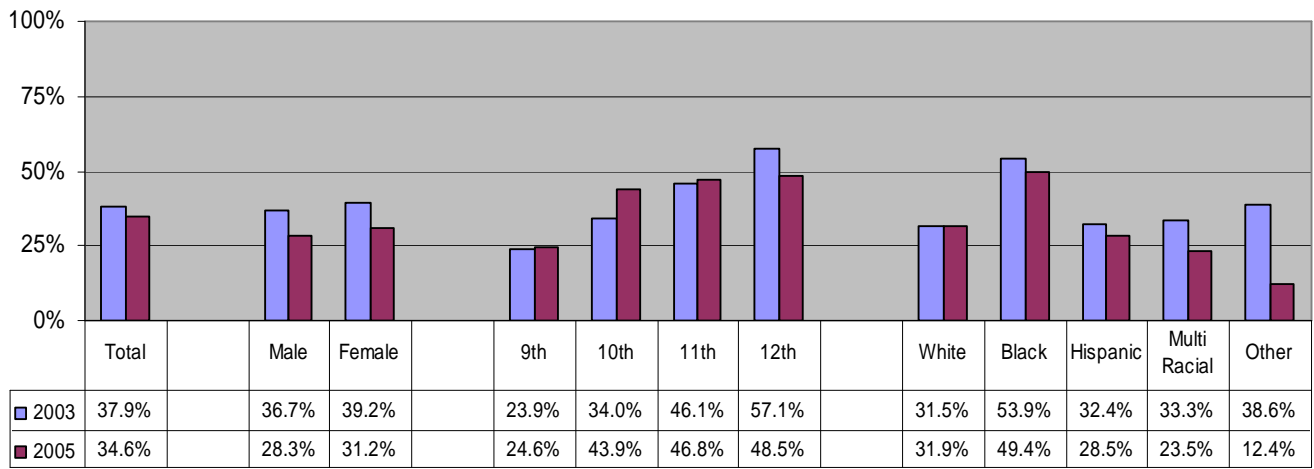
- One in ten students reported they had sexual intercourse before age 13.
- Slightly more males than females in New Hanover County reported having sexual intercourse before age 13.
- More black students in both New Hanover County and North Carolina reported having sexual intercourse prior to age 13 than any other ethnic group.

Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse With Four or More People During Their Life



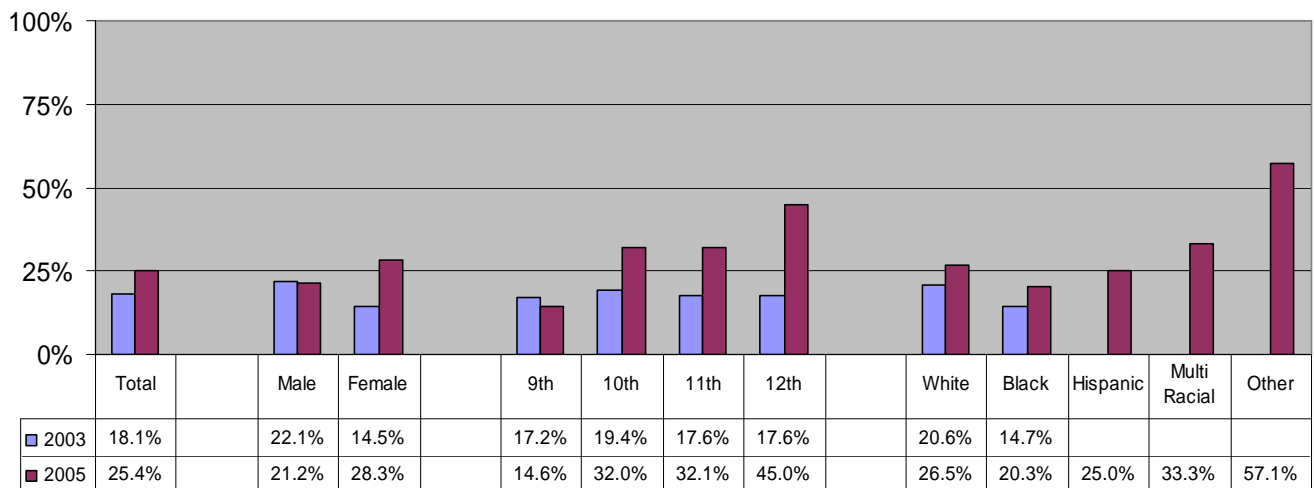
- One in six students reported they had sexual intercourse with four or more people.
- More 10th grade students reported having sexual intercourse with at least 4 people than any other grade in New Hanover County.
- More males than females reported they had intercourse with four or more people.

Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse With One or more People During the Past 3 Months



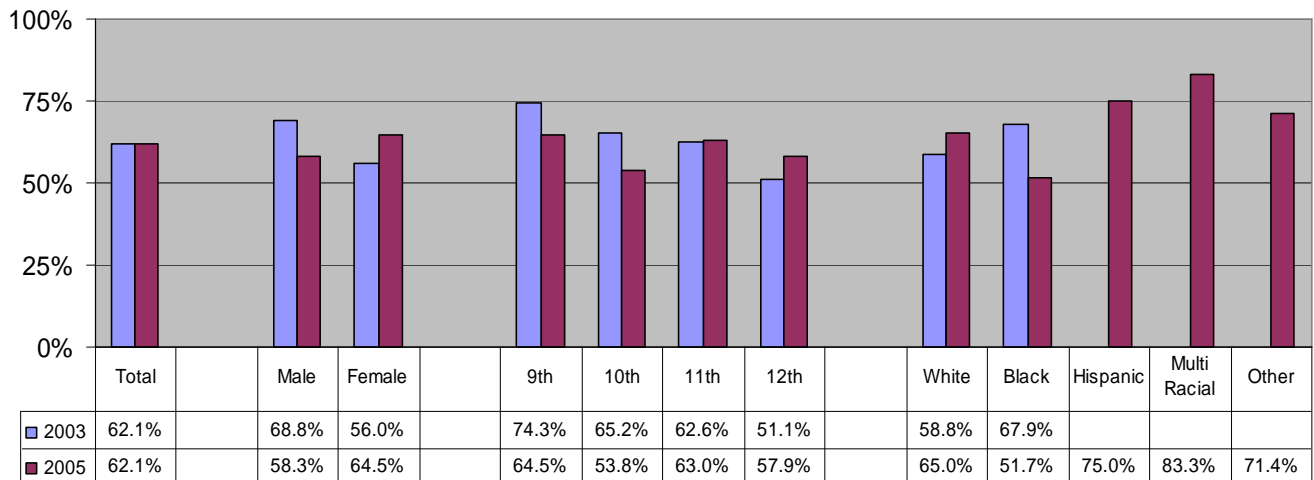
- One in three students reported they had intercourse during the past 3 months.
- There was an increase in the percentage of students who reported having intercourse in the past 3 months from 9th grade to 12th grade.

Those Who Drank Alcohol or Used Drugs Before Having Sexual Intercourse During the Past 3 Months



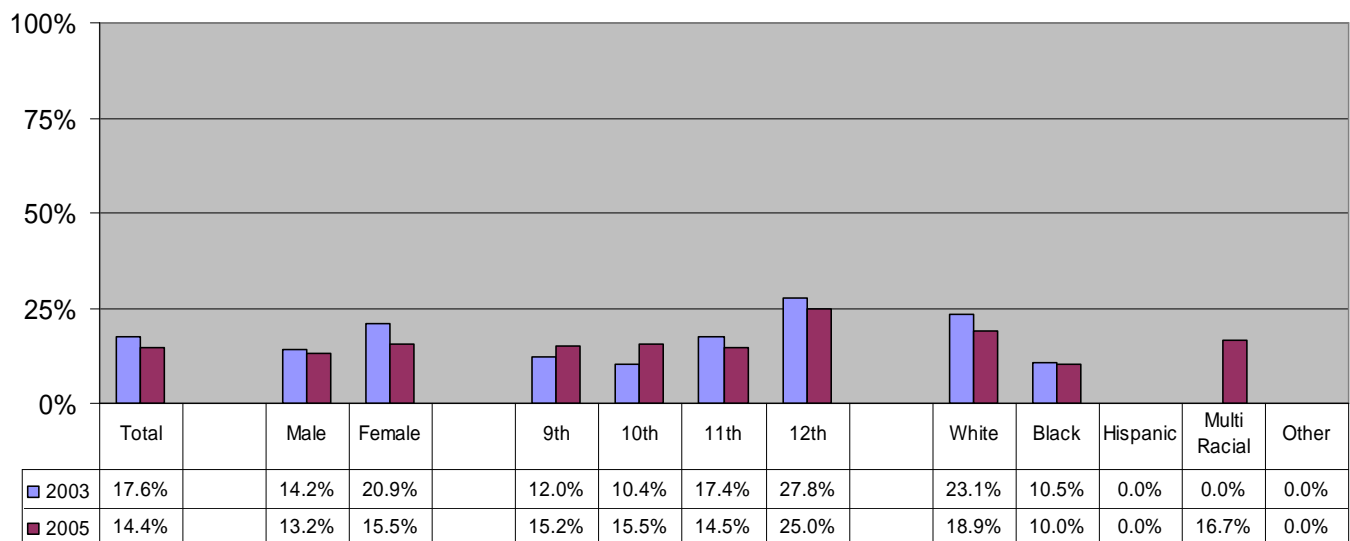
- More females than males in New Hanover County reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before having sexual intercourse during the past 3 months.
- Almost half of all 12th graders in New Hanover County reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before having sexual intercourse during the past 3 months.
- One in four students in New Hanover County reported they drank or used drugs prior to having intercourse in the past 3 months.

Those Who Used a Condom During Last Sexual Intercourse



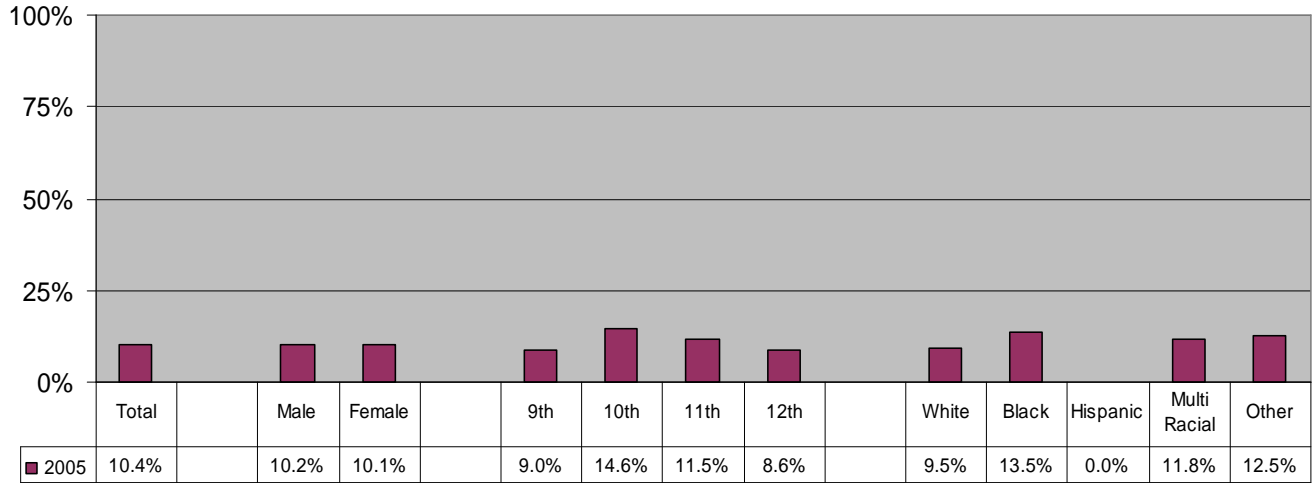
- More females than males in New Hanover County reported using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse.
- Three in five students reported they used a condom during the last time they had intercourse.

Those Who Used Birth Control Pills During Their Last Sexual Intercourse



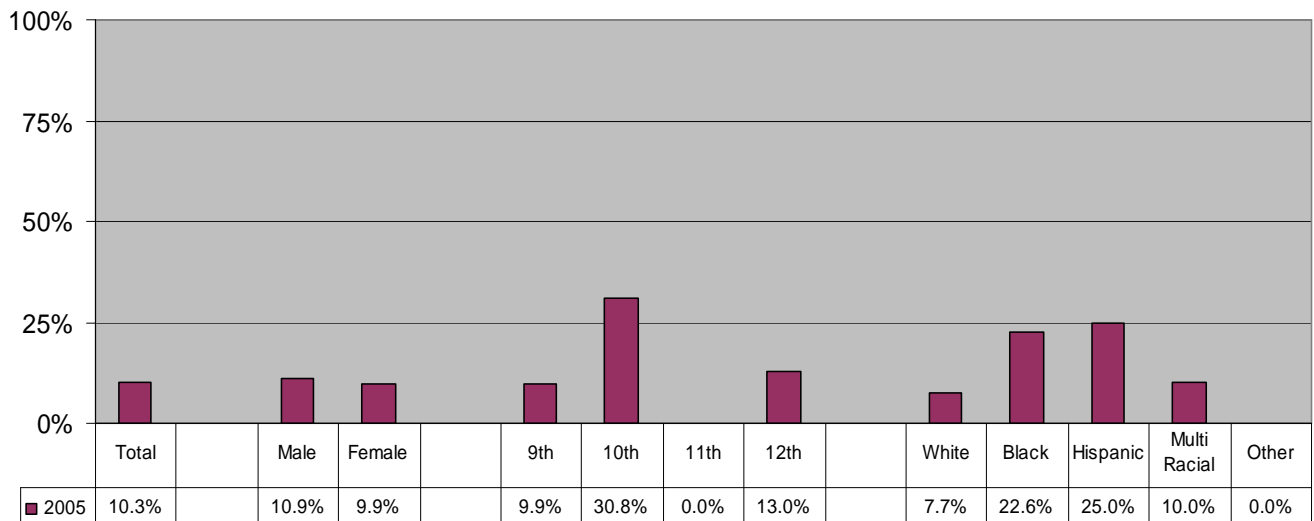
- A small percentage of students reported they used birth control pills when they last had intercourse.
- More 12th graders reported the use of birth control pills.

Those Who Have Been Physically Forced To Have Sexual Intercourse When They Did Not Want To



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- An equal percentage of males and females reported they were forced to have intercourse.

Those Who Have Not Been Taught About AIDS or HIV Infection at School



- This question was not asked in 2003.
- One in ten students indicated they had not received education about AIDS or HIV in school.
- More Hispanic students in New Hanover County than any other ethnic group reported not being taught about AIDS or HIV infection at school.
- 10th Graders were more likely to report not receiving education about AIDS and HIV.