

# FSU 2005 FRESHMEN



## CIRP SURVEY RESULTS

Prepared by the Office of Research in the Division of Student Affairs

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**PROFILE OF THE 2005 FSU (FIRST-TIME /FULL-TIME)  
ENTERING FRESHMAN CLASS**

**CIRP RESULTS 2005**

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Note: The appendices are available in a separate publication. This report is available in alternative format.

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# Profile of the 2005 FSU (First-Time /Full-Time) Entering Freshman Class

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## Report Abstract

The majority (66 percent) of the 2005 FSU freshmen are 18 years of age, while 32 percent are 19 years of age. The FSU 2005 freshman class is 77 percent White/Caucasian; in 2004, it was 80 percent White/Caucasian. The FSU freshman class has 10 percent of African American/Black freshmen while the national norm was 9 percent. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 28 percent of 2005 FSU freshmen reported they are Catholic compared to 25 percent nationally. Academically, the majority (97 percent) of FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of “B” or better compared to 92 percent nationally. Exercise and fitness are important activities to 2005 FSU freshmen since 48 percent of FSU freshmen reported exercising or playing sports 6 hours or more per week compared to 49 percent nationally.

## Background

Florida State University participates in an annual longitudinal study of incoming freshmen conducted jointly by the American Council on Education and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) collects self-reported information (biographic, demographic, educational, financial, opinions, etc.) from freshman students. In 2005, the number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time full-time) that participated in the survey was approximately 3,552. Information is collected from freshmen in universities and colleges across the United States.<sup>1</sup> More information about CIRP may be obtained from the Office of Research in the Division of Student Affairs. Please contact Dr. Tamara C. Bertrand at 850.644.5590.

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<sup>1</sup> Institution with high selectivity for SAT and ACT scores of the entering class.  
Term definition: Univ Hi = A public university comparable to FSU.

## Survey Results

### Demographic Characteristics

#### Age

The majority (66 percent) of the 2005 FSU incoming class are 18 years of age, while 32 percent are 19 years of age; the age pattern of the national norm - 69 percent of all incoming freshmen are 18 years of age while 29 percent are 19 years of age. At FSU, the percentages were almost the same for the prior 2004 freshman class [see Figure 1].

**Figure 1** **Age of Entering Freshmen**

Age	FSU 2005 (%)	FSU 2004 (%)	Univ Hi 2005 (%)	Univ Hi 2004 (%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2005 (%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2004 (%)
Less than 18	2	2	2	2	2	2
18	66	67	72	73	69	66
19	32	30	25	25	29	31
20 or over	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	1	2

Percentages may sum to 100.0+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounding decimals.

#### Race/Ethnicity

The 2005 FSU freshman class has a higher percent of White/Caucasian students than the national norm- the 2005 FSU freshman class are 77 percent White/Caucasian compared to 73 percent nationwide. The 10 percent of African American/Black 2005 FSU freshmen almost mirrors the National norm of 9 percent. In 2004, it was 3 percent higher than the national norm - 8 percent compared to 5 percent. In 2003, 7 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were African American/Black. The tendency of a 1 percent increase each year can be discerned from 2003 – 2005. Four (4) percent of FSU 2005 freshmen reported they are Asian American/Asian compared to 13 percent of freshmen at all public universities. Nine (9) percent of FSU freshmen identified themselves as Other Latino compared to 2 percent at all public universities [see Figure 2].

**Figure 2 Ethnic Composition**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>FSU 2005 (%)</b>	<b>FSU 2004 (%)</b>	<b>All Public Univ – National Norm 2005 (%)</b>	<b>All Public Univ – National Norm 2004 (%)</b>
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>African American/Black</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>American Indian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Asian American/Asian</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt; 1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mexican American/Chicano</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Puerto Rican</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Latino</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Percentages may sum to 100.0+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

### *Religion*

Twenty-eight (28) percent of the 2005 FSU freshmen stated they are Roman Catholic; in 2004, 29 percent stated they were Roman Catholic. The distribution for other religions in 2005 is: Baptist (13 percent), Other Christian (11 percent), and Methodist (8 percent). Sixteen (16) percent of the participants indicated no religious preference. This pattern approximates the national norm: Roman Catholic – 25 percent, Baptist – 12 percent, Other Christian – 11 percent, Methodist – 7 percent and 19 percent indicating no religious preference.

### **Biographical Information**

#### *Parent Information*

When asked if both parents are alive and living with each other, 67 percent of the FSU respondents indicated yes, while 31 percent responded both parents are alive but divorced or living apart. FSU

freshmen have parents that are more likely to be divorced or living apart than the national average of 23 percent [see Figure 3].

**Figure 3** Parent Living Arrangements

Are Your Parents:	FSU %	All Public Univ – National Norm %
Living w/each other	67	73
Divorced or living apart	31	23
One or both deceased	3	4

Percentages may sum to 100 + due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

*Entering freshman parents' education levels*

Thirty-one (31) percent of FSU respondents' fathers have college degrees compared to the national norm of 30 percent. Twenty-five (25) percent of FSU freshman fathers have graduate degrees compared to 26 percent of the national norm. Thirty-five (35) percent of FSU respondents' mothers have college degrees which mirrors the national norm. Seventeen (17) percent of FSU respondents' mothers have graduate degrees compared to 19 percent of the national norm [see Figures 4 and 5, respectively].

**Figure 4**

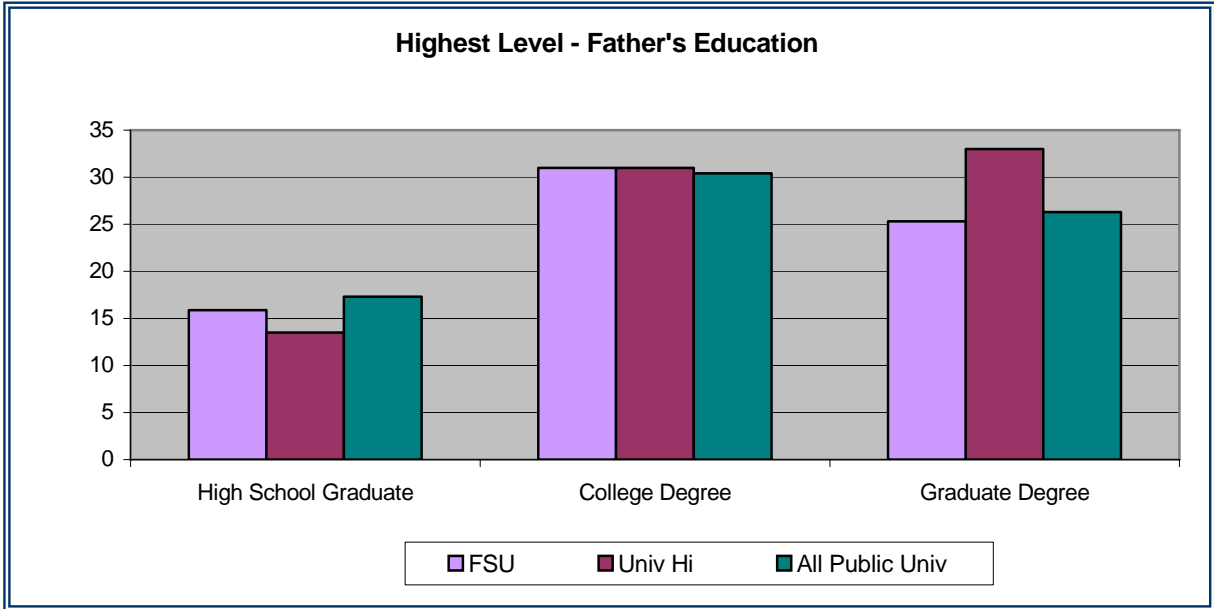
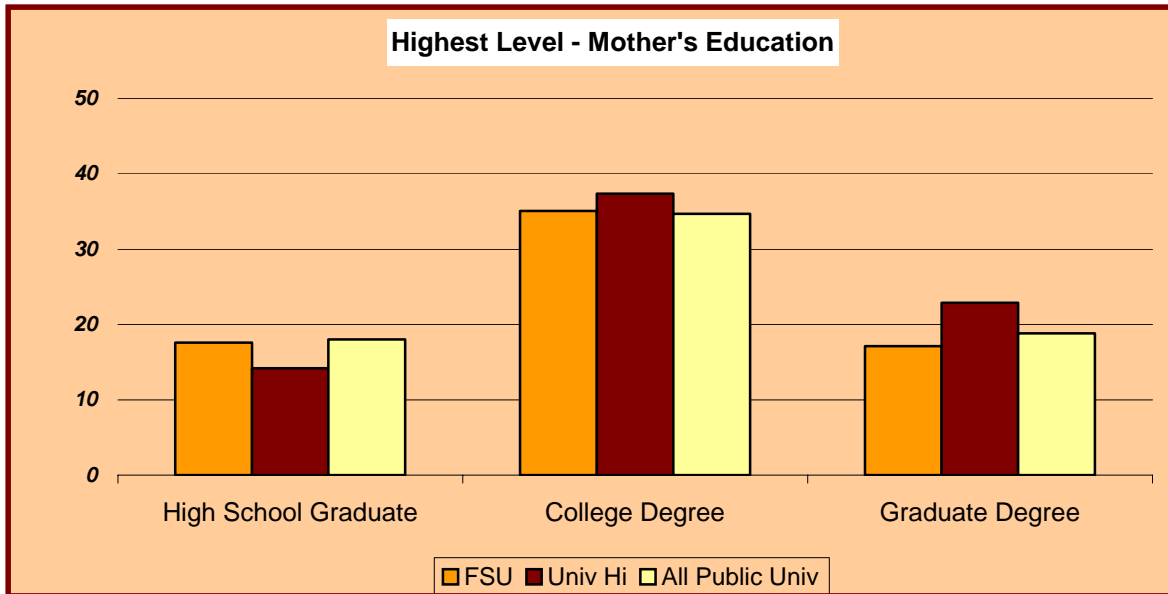


Figure 5



*Distance from Home*

A higher percentage of FSU freshmen are farther away from their permanent homes than the national norm. The majority (70 percent) of freshmen have permanent homes between 101-500 miles from FSU; nationally, about 36 percent of students claimed their permanent homes to be 101-500 miles from the universities they attend. Twenty-one (21) percent of FSU freshmen stated their homes are more than 500 miles from the university compared to 8 percent of the national norm [see Figure 6].

Figure 6

**Distance From Home**

FSU (%)	Number of Miles	All Public Univ- National Norm (%)
9	0-100	56
70	101-500	36
21	> 500	8

## Education and Financial Information

### High School Grades

A slightly higher percent of FSU freshmen (97 percent) reported their grade point average in high school as “B” or better when compared to freshmen in the national norm. Nationally, approximately 92 percent of the freshmen at public universities reported their average grade in high school was “B” or better [See Figure 7]. Seventy-six (76) percent of students also reported there is a good chance they would maintain a “B” or better average throughout college. Additionally, 87 percent of FSU entering freshmen rated themselves as “above average” in academic ability.

Figure 7

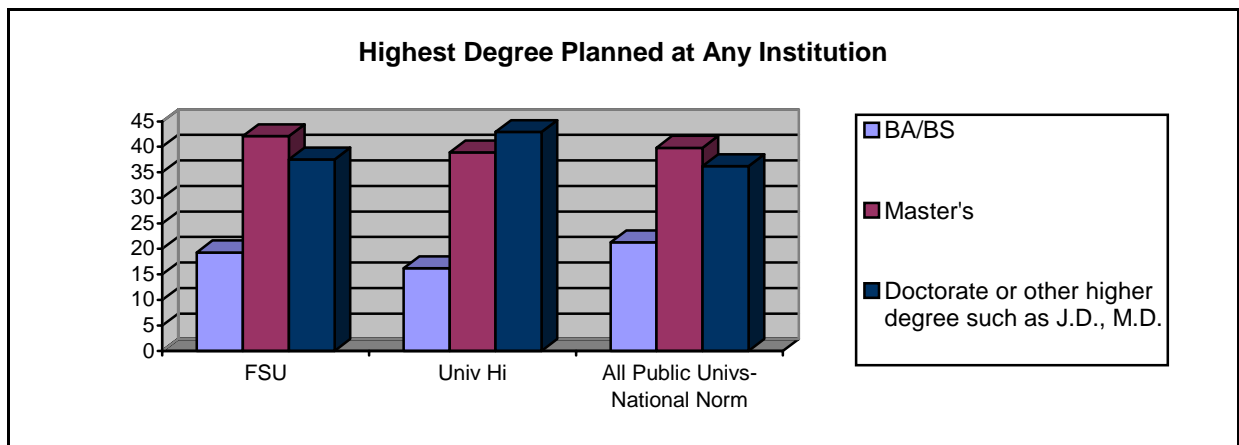
High School Grade Point Average

Average Grade	FSU (%)	Univ Hi (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
“B” or better	97	98	92

### Degree Aspirations

Forty-two (42) percent of FSU freshmen indicated the highest degree they aspired to obtain at *any* institution is a Master’s degree, 38 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other higher degree, and 19 percent indicated a Bachelor’s degree. The national norm shows 40 percent aspired to a Master’s degree, 36 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other higher degree, and 21 percent indicated a Bachelor’s degree [Figure 8].

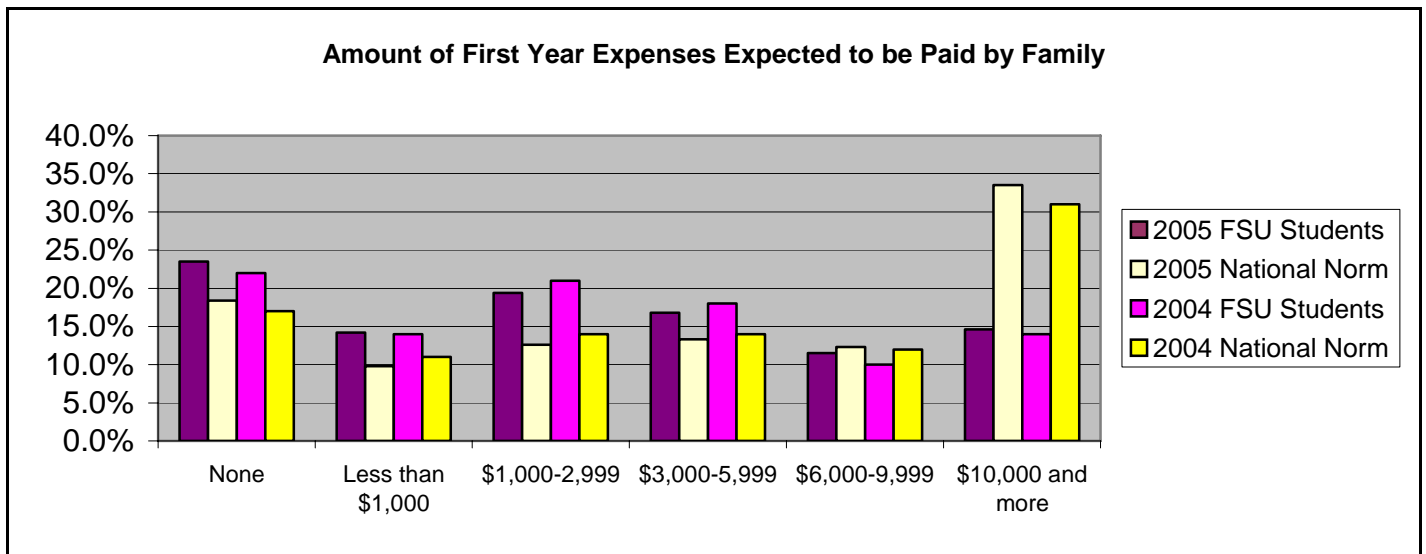
Figure 8



### Financial Assistance

Most FSU freshmen plan to use some family assistance to finance their first year's education. Florida State University students are slightly less likely to rely on family resources to help finance their first year expenses – 24 percent of FSU freshmen reported they would not use any family resources compared to 18 percent of the national norm. FSU freshmen were slightly more likely to rely on family resources in the category of less than \$1,000-\$5,999 than the national norm; 21 percent of FSU freshmen expected financial assistance from family of between \$1,000 to \$2,999 while only 14 percent of the national norm fell in this range. FSU freshmen are less likely to rely on large amounts - \$10,000 or more—from family resources; 15 percent of FSU freshmen stated they expected financial assistance of \$10,000 or more from family while 34 percent of the national average reported they expected \$10,000 or more from family resources to assist in financing their first year's education [see Figure 9].

Figure 9



Percentages may sum to 100+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

**Figure 10A**

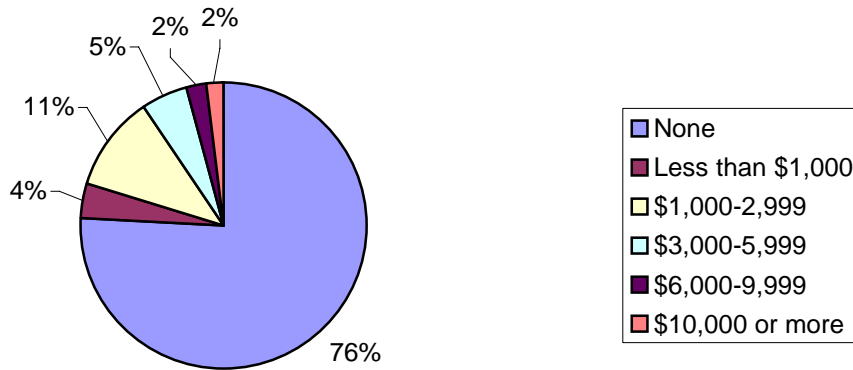
**Amount of First Year Expenses  
Expected to Be Paid by Student's Own  
Resources**

At the same time, a higher percentage of FSU students (50 percent) responded that they did not intend to use any of their own resources to help finance their first year's educational expenses, compared to 42 percent in all public universities [see Figure 10A]. The majority of FSU freshmen – 76 percent – also stated that they did not plan to use financial aid that must be repaid to cover their first year expenses [see Figure 10B].

Amount	FSU (%)	All Public Universities-National Norm (%)
None	50	42
< \$1,000	28	26
\$1,000-2,999	16	21
\$3,000-5,999	4	7
\$6,000-9,999	1	2
>\$10,000	<1	2

**Figure 10B**

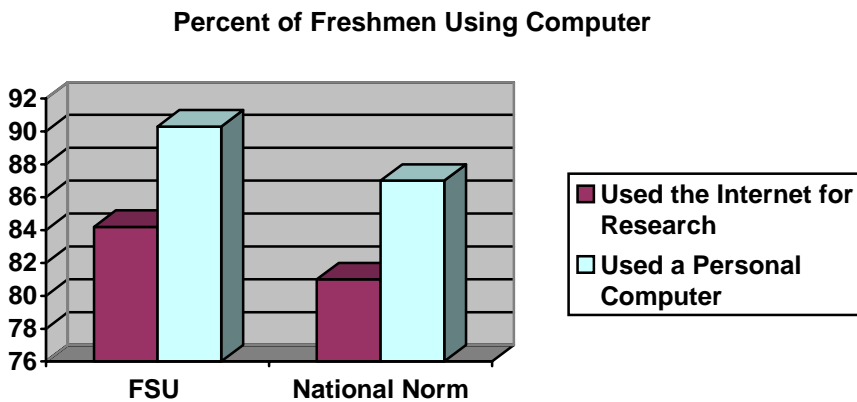
**Percent of FSU Students that Plan to Borrow Financial Aid to  
Cover First Year Expenses**



## Interests and Beliefs

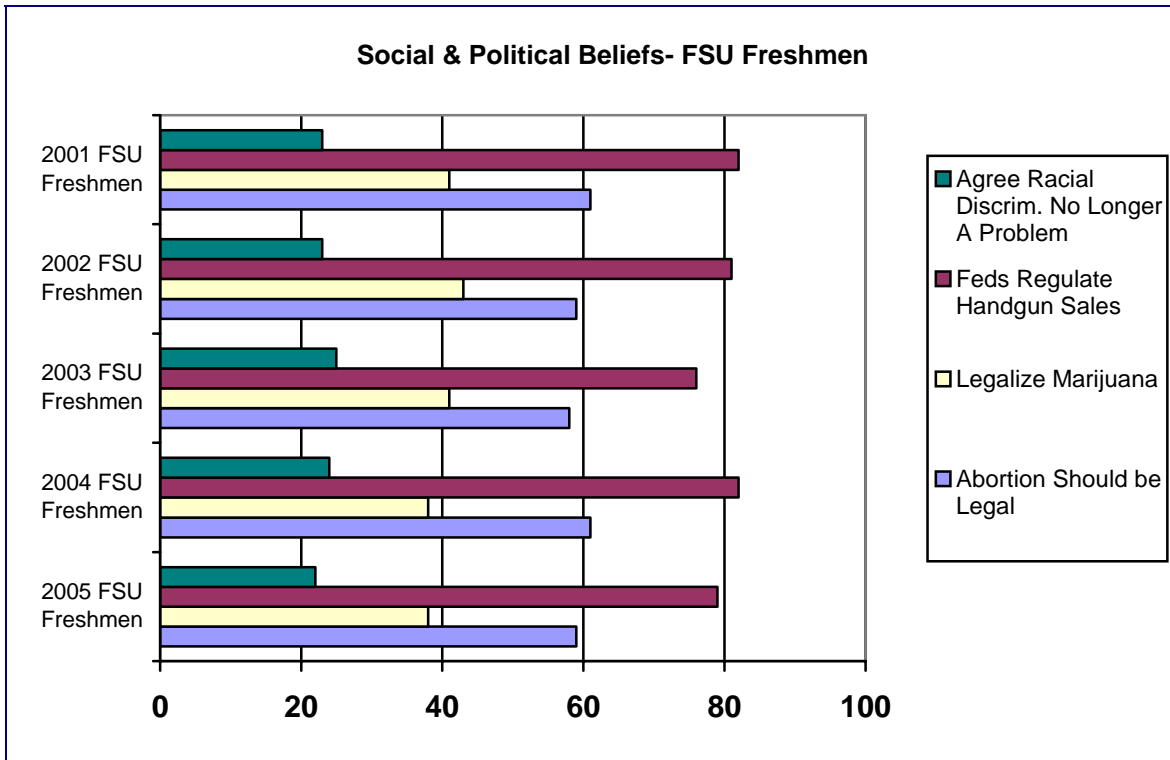
FSU freshmen reported their study patterns and involvement in social activities during their last year of high school. The majority of FSU freshmen (72 percent) reported spending 5 hours or less per week studying or doing homework while 78 percent reported spending 6 hours or more per week socializing with friends. More than half of the students (55 percent) reported spending one or more hours a week volunteering. As shown in Figure 11, FSU freshmen are more technically-oriented, indicated by the numbers that use a personal computer. This exceeded the national norm slightly--90 percent compared to 87 percent. In addition, 84 percent of FSU freshmen indicated that they used the Internet for research or homework, while the national norm is 81 percent.

**Figure 11**



Freshmen also responded to questions about social and political concerns. For example, 59 percent of FSU students felt abortion should be legal; this percent decreased slightly from 61 percent last year (2004). Thirty-eight (38) percent of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought marijuana should be legalized, exactly same as last year. This year, 79 percent thought the federal government should have more control of handguns compared to 82 percent last year. Only 22 percent of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought racial discrimination was no longer a major problem this year; this figure was 24 percent last year and 25 percent in 2003 [see Figure 12].

Figure 12

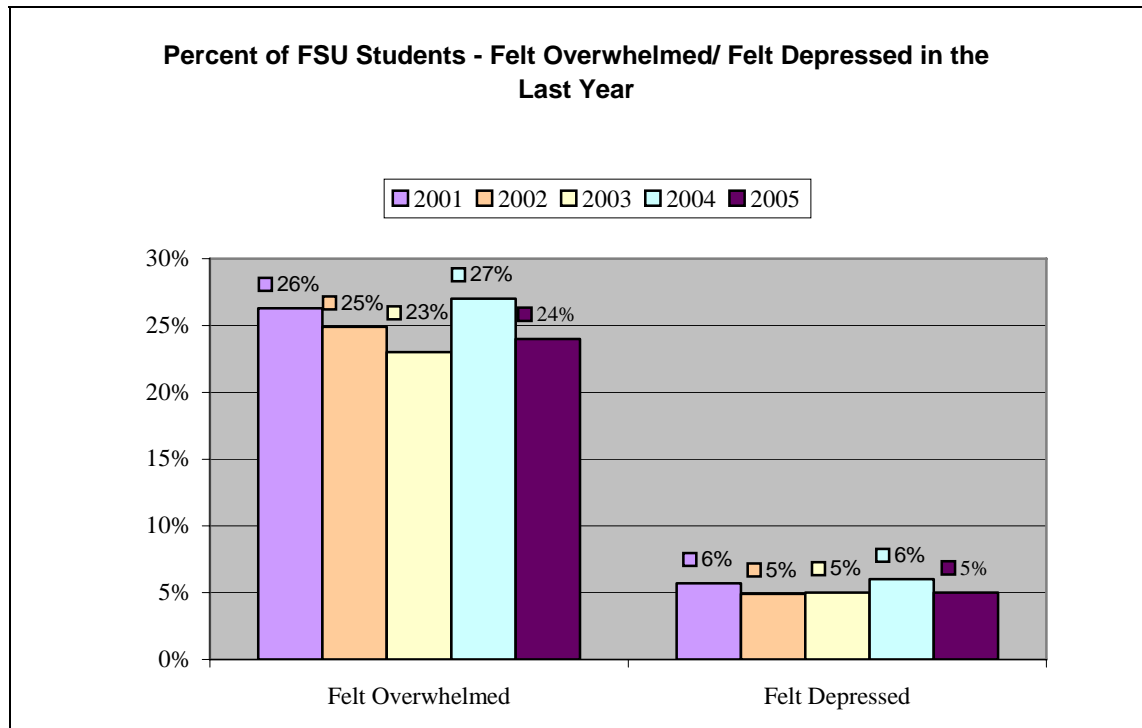


## Wellness

### *Emotional Health*

When asked if they had felt “overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year,” 24 percent of FSU freshmen responded “yes” as compared to 26 percent of the freshmen at all public universities. Compared to prior freshman classes, 26 percent of the FSU freshmen in 2001 stated they had felt overwhelmed in the last year compared to 25 percent in 2002, 23 percent in 2003 and 27 percent in 2004. Similarly, the percent reporting depression is still a little lower - 5 percent of the FSU freshman class in 2005 stated they had felt depressed in the last year compared to 6 percent in 2004 [see Figure 13].

Figure 13



## Fitness

The number of hours that 2005 FSU freshmen exercised reflected freshmen nationally. FSU freshmen responses for the number of hours spent during a typical week exercising or playing sports were almost within 2 percentage points of the answers of freshmen in all public universities. About 21 percent of FSU freshmen indicated they had spent between 3 to 5 hours in a typical week exercising or playing sports in their last year of high school and 20 percent indicated they had spent 6 to 10 hours a week. About 12 percent of FSU freshmen affirmed they had spent between 11 to 15 hours a week exercising or playing sports [see Figure 14]. There was little change among 2005 freshmen compared to 2004 freshmen [see Figure 15].

**Figure 14**

**Number of Hours Spent Exercising or Engaging in Sports  
FSU Freshmen Compared to National Norm**

HOURS	FSU 2005 (%)	All Public Universities-National Norm 2005(%)
None	5	4
<1	10	10
1 to 2	16	16
3 to 5	21	21
6 to 10	20	19
11 to 15	12	14
16 to 20	7	8
>20	8	9

**Figure 15**

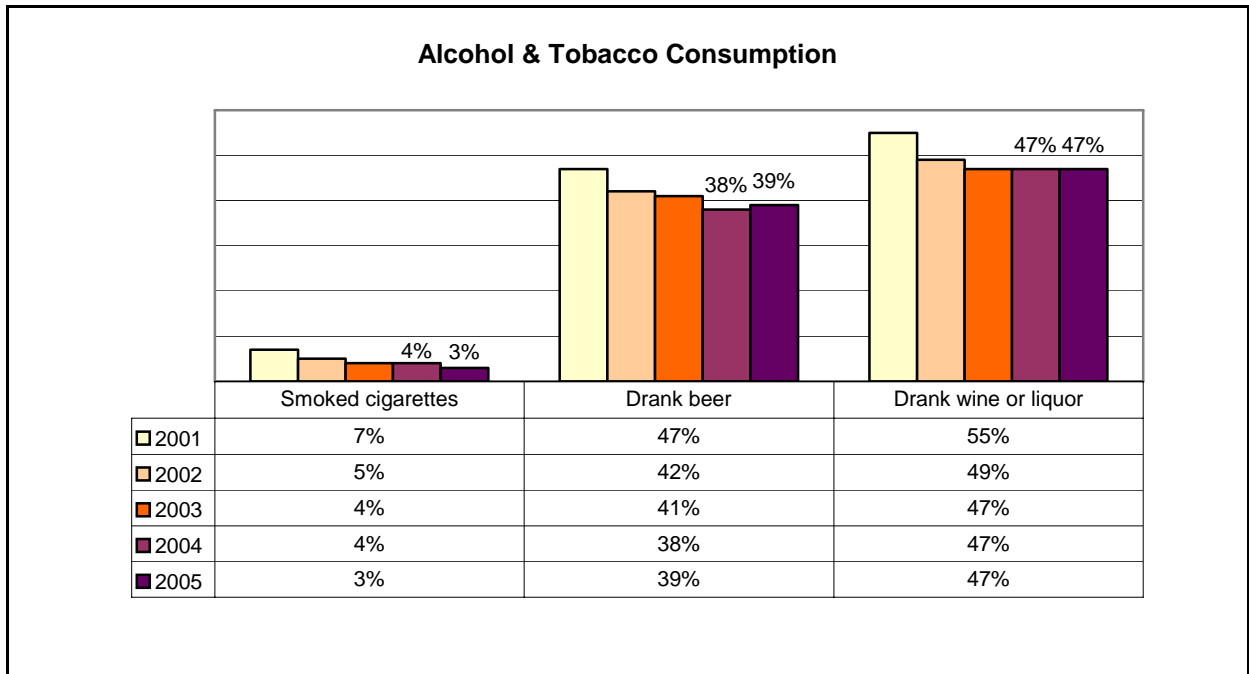
**Number of Hours Spent Exercising or Engaging in Sports  
2004 FSU Freshmen Compared to 2005 FSU Freshmen**

HOURS	FSU 2004 (%)	FSU 2005 (%)
None	4	5
<1	11	10
1 to 2	18	16
3 to 5	21	21
6 to 10	18	20
11 to 15	12	12
16 to 20	8	7
>20	8	8

## Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Figure 16 shows a declining trend in FSU freshmen engaging in certain behaviors such as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor in the past few years. In 2001, 7 percent of students stated that they had used tobacco products while 3 percent responded that they had done so in 2005. Similarly, 47 percent of the students in 2001 responded that they had consumed beer in the last year as compared to 39 percent in 2005. A smaller percentage of students also responded that they had consumed wine or liquor - 55 percent in 2001 compared to 47 percent in 2005.

**Figure 16**



## Conclusion

The majority (66 percent) of the 2005 FSU freshmen are 18 years of age; this age pattern is slightly lower than the national norm - 69 percent. The FSU freshman class is 77 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 73 percent White/Caucasian. The FSU freshman class has a close percentage of African American/Black freshmen enrolled when compared to the national norm – 10 percent compared to 9 percent. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 28 percent of FSU freshmen reported they are Catholic. Academically, the majority (97 percent) of FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of “B” or better. Exercise and fitness are important activities to FSU freshmen since almost 48 percent of FSU freshmen reported exercising or playing sports 6 hours or more per week in the last year of high school. A declining trend in FSU freshmen engaging in certain behaviors such as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor was identified when compared to the prior years starting with 2001.