

## BACKGROUND

- Middle school is a "sensitive period" that may heighten the risk of anxiety, depression, and related psychological difficulties.
- Early adolescence marks the rise in risk of suicide; as children age into late adolescence and early adulthood, the suicide rate increases dramatically.
- During middle school, students and parents may become sensitized to warning signs of suicide (Schilling, E. 2014).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to confirm that the Signs of Suicide program is effective in getting students into mental health services in a local Clermont County, Ohio school district.

## PARTICIPANTS

- 530 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade ranging from ages eleven to thirteen years old.
- Participants identify as male, female, and or transgender.
- Students all come from different SES backgrounds.

Garber, J. (2006). Depression in children and adolescents. linking risk research and prevention. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 31(6), 104-125. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2006.07.007

Miron, O., Yu, K., Wilf-Miron, R., & Kohane, I. S. (2019). Suicide rates among adolescents and young adults in the united states, 2000-2017. *Jama*, 321(23), 2362. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.5054

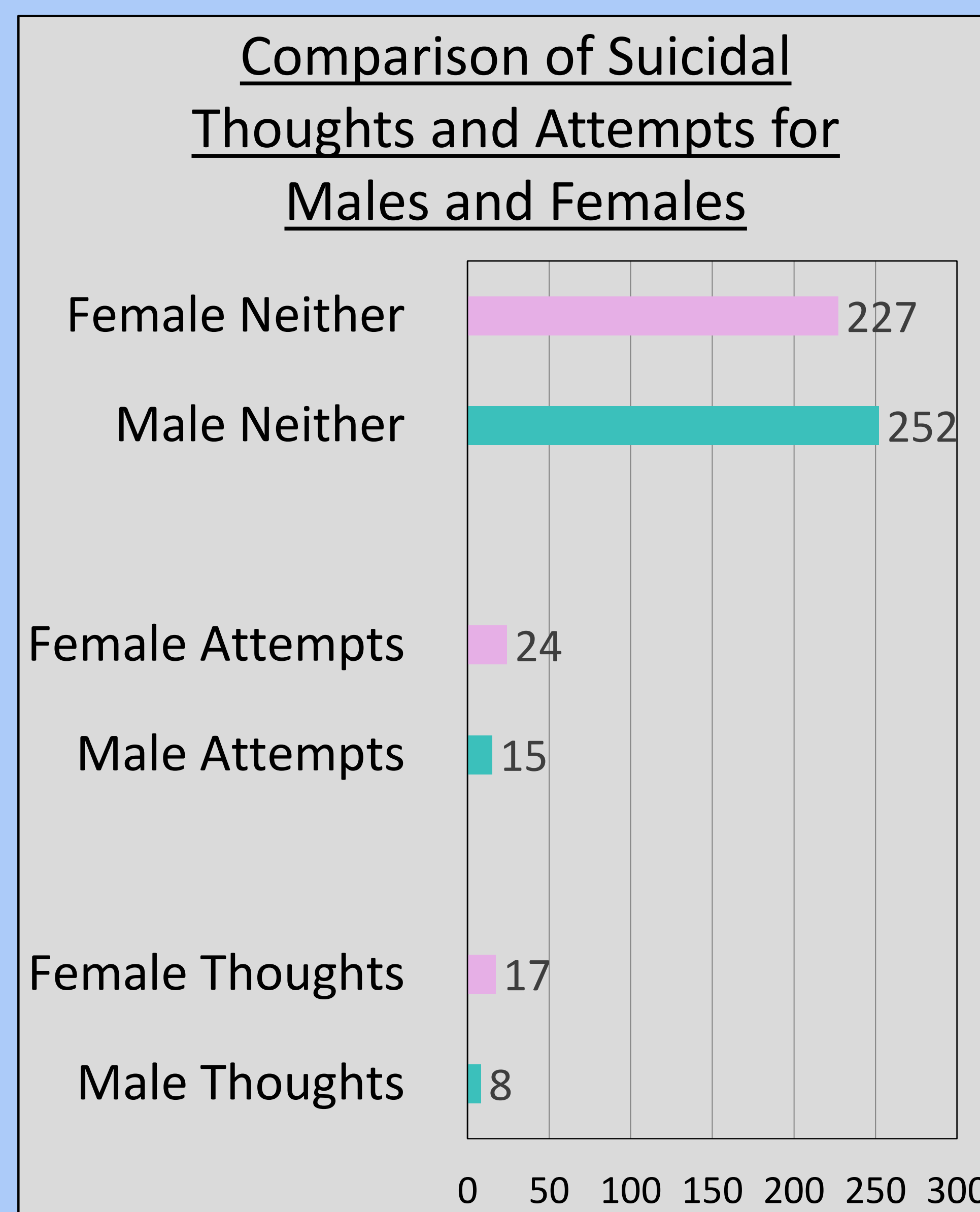
Schilling, E. A., Lawless, M., Buchanan, L., & Aseltine, R. H., Jr. (2014). "Signs of Suicide" shows promise as a middle school suicide prevention program. *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior*, 44(6), 653-667.

## METHODS

- Descriptive Quantitative Study
- Group Survey
- Sample = 530

## INSTRUMENTS

- Brief Screen for Adolescent Depression (BSAD).



## DATA ANALYSIS

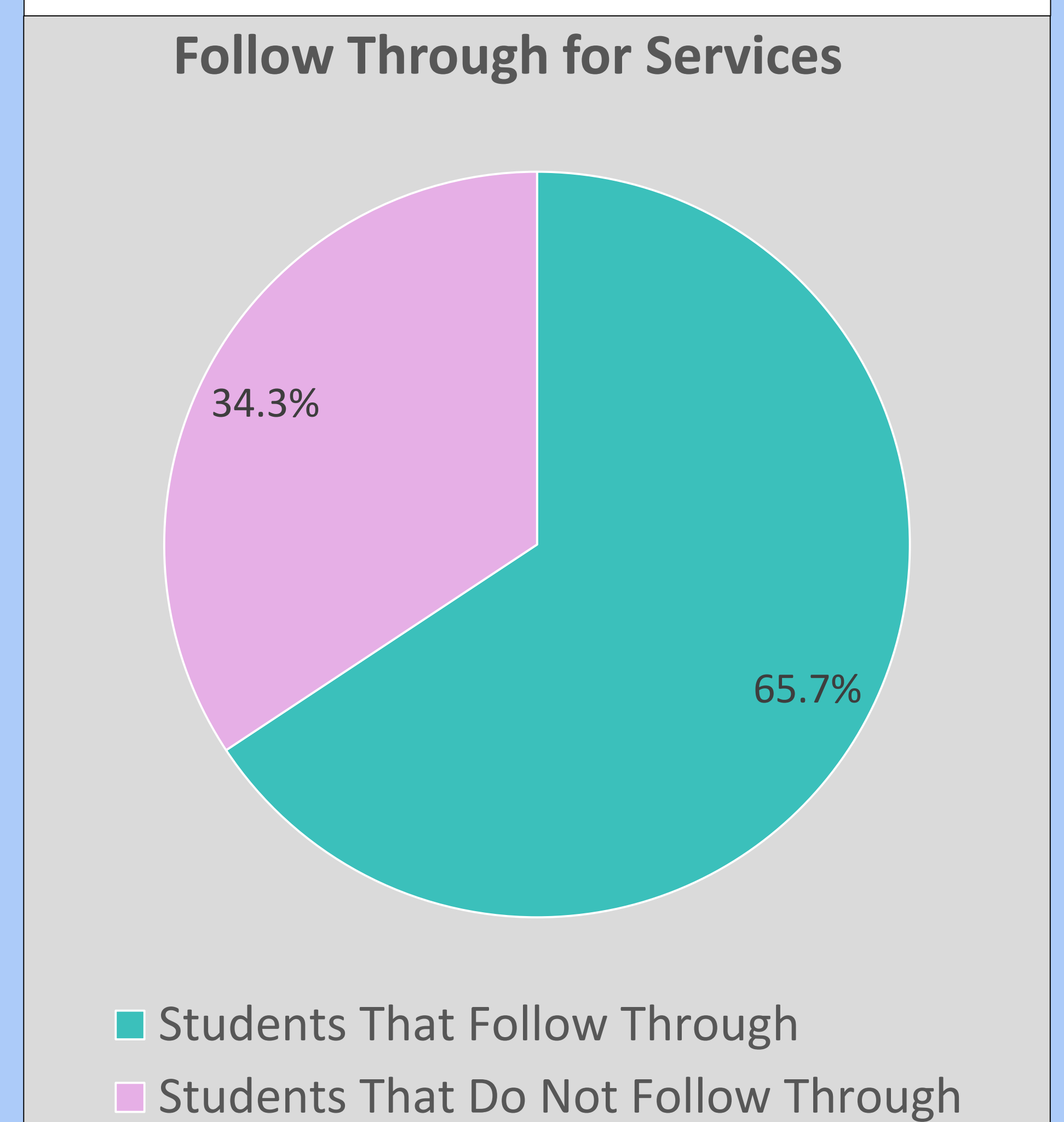
- After collecting the data from a middle school in Clermont County, graphs were created to show the results.
- Microsoft Excel was used to perform an analysis of the data and to create the graphs.

## DISCUSSION

- Results show that there is a positive impact from the Signs of Suicide program.
- This program brings awareness to mental health and allows students to get the services that they need.

## RESULTS

- Out of a sample size of 530 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; 70 students were considered moderate to high risk for depression and suicide ideations. These students were referred to services.
- Out of 70 referrals: 26 males & 44 females
- Out of 70 referrals: 46 parents agreed to services.
- There is a 65.7% follow through for services at a middle school in Clermont County.



## LIMITATIONS

- Participation and honesty with students
- Parent choosing to "opt" student out of SOS program

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results from the 2019-2020 data: The Signs of Suicide program is effective with getting students assessed and into services; with a follow through of 65.7%.