



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2019 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Preventive Health Care

Introduction

The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) at Case Western Reserve University has administered the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in school districts throughout Cuyahoga County since 2000. The YRBS is a cross-sectional tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to track adolescent risk behavior over time. In fall of 2019, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 9th through 12th grade students in Cuyahoga County high schools. A more detailed description of the methodology is available at our website, www.prchn.org/YRBSDataCollectionAnalysis.aspx.

This brief report presents results from the 2019 Cuyahoga County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Preventive Health Care. In this brief report, we present:

- [Overall Prevalence](#)
- [Demographic Prevalence](#)
- [Trend Report](#)

Data for similar behaviors can be found at our website, www.prchn.org/yrbs_home.aspx.

Preventive Health Care

Nationwide, adolescents have the lowest utilization rate of health care services of any age group. Barriers to care include cost of care; low family income; stigma; distrust; confidentiality and parental consent; lack of medical insurance; embarrassment about and lack of transportation to reproductive health services; lack of knowledge about where or how to access care; and lack of adolescent-friendly services.ⁱ

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 15,350 high school students who completed the 2019 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all dichotomous variables. The 2019 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey prevalence for shared variables is also shown. A statistically significant difference exists between groups if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Risk Behavior	Cuyahoga County % (95% Confidence Interval)	Ohio % (95% Confidence Interval)
Described health in general as fair or poor	19.1 (18.2 - 20.0)	n/a
Saw a doctor or nurse for a check-up or physical exam (During the 12 months before the survey.)	75.7 (74.5 - 76.9)	75.9 (70.8 - 80.4)
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies; during the 12 months before the survey.)	73.4 (72.1 - 74.6)	77.7 (72.7 - 82.0)
Received appropriate help when student felt sad, empty, hopeless, angry or anxious	50.5 (49.0 - 52.1)	27.5 (22.2 - 33.5)

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of preventive health care between demographic groups. Data are presented by gender, race/ethnicity, grade level, and sexual identity. In following tables, LGB stands for lesbian, gay, or bisexual. A statistically significant difference exists between groups if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Described health in general as fair or poor			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	23.1	21.7	24.6
Male	14.9	13.7	16.1
Race/Ethnicity			
White	17.9	16.6	19.2
Black	19.8	18.3	21.4
Hispanic	24.7	22.4	27.2
Other/Multiple	22.0	19.2	25.2
Grade			
9th	17.8	16.0	19.7
10th	17.9	16.0	19.9
11th	20.2	18.2	22.4
12th	20.6	18.8	22.5
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	16.0	15.1	17.0
LGB	33.7	30.4	37.1
Not sure	30.9	25.9	36.5
Total	19.1	18.2	20.0

Saw a doctor or nurse for a check-up or physical exam			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	78.1	76.7	79.4
Male	73.5	71.6	75.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	82.4	80.8	83.9
Black	67.7	65.9	69.5
Hispanic	64.3	61.5	67.0
Other/Multiple	74.5	71.4	77.3
Grade			
9th	72.8	70.0	75.4
10th	76.1	73.7	78.3
11th	78.7	76.1	81.2
12th	76.0	72.7	79.0
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	77.0	75.7	78.3
LGB	71.8	69.1	74.3
Not sure	66.2	60.7	71.3
Total	75.7	74.5	76.9

Saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	74.3	72.6	- 75.9
Male	72.5	70.7	- 74.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	82.4	80.7	- 84.0
Black	60.0	57.9	- 62.1
Hispanic	60.3	56.9	- 63.5
Other/Multiple	72.7	69.5	- 75.7
Grade			
9th	73.0	70.0	- 75.8
10th	76.3	73.7	- 78.7
11th	73.1	70.0	- 76.1
12th	71.5	68.1	- 74.6
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	74.7	73.3	- 76.1
LGB	69.0	66.2	- 71.7
Not sure	63.6	57.4	- 69.4
Total	73.4	72.1	- 74.6

Received appropriate help when student felt sad, empty, hopeless, angry or anxious			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	52.3	50.5	- 54.2
Male	48.4	46.0	- 50.7
Race/Ethnicity			
White	53.4	51.1	- 55.8
Black	46.9	44.8	- 49.1
Hispanic	45.7	42.3	- 49.2
Other/Multiple	49.8	45.8	- 53.9
Grade			
9th	49.3	46.8	- 51.8
10th	52.8	49.9	- 55.6
11th	53.0	49.8	- 56.2
12th	47.2	43.7	- 50.8
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	51.3	49.5	- 53.2
LGB	48.0	44.5	- 51.5
Not sure	46.3	40.1	- 52.6
Total	50.5	49.0	- 52.1

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County high school students in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013	Cuyahoga County, 2015	Cuyahoga County, 2017	Cuyahoga County, 2019
Described health in general as fair or poor				
12.3 (11.4 - 13.2)	15.9 (15.1 - 16.8)	13.0 (11.8 - 14.1)	19.3 (18.3 - 20.3)	19.1 (17.9 - 20.3)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up or physical exam (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
72.0 (70.8 - 73.2)	72.2 (71.0 - 73.3)	71.3 (69.8 - 72.8)	70.3 (69.0 - 71.6)	75.7 (74.5 - 76.9)
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies; during the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	80.9 (79.9 - 81.9)	84.2 (83.0 - 85.4)	n/a	73.4 (72.1 - 74.6)
*Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health problem (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	n/a	31.2 (29.6 - 32.9)	n/a	n/a
*Saw a doctor, nurse, or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	n/a	n/a	22.7 (21.7 - 23.7)	n/a

* In 2017, “saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health problem” was revised to “saw a doctor, nurse or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions.” Both items are included in this table.

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Funding

This work is a product of the Prevention Research Center for Health Neighborhoods, a Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Center supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 1U48DP005030 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and funded either in whole or in part by Cooperative Agreement #PS18-1807 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent School Health (CDC-DASH), and by TP1AH000093-01-00 from The Office of Adolescent Health. This work is also supported by the Cleveland Foundation and the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CWRU IRB Protocol #2012-274.

¹ Harris, S.K., Aalsma, M.C., Weitzman, E.R., Garcia-Huidobro, D., Wong, C., Hadland, S.E., Santelli, J., Park, M.J., Ozer, E.M. (2017). Research on clinical preventive services for adolescents and young adults: Where are we and where do we need to go? *Journal of Adolescent Health* 60(3):249-260.