



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2019 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Sexual Behaviors

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 Sexual Behaviors. 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.

Sexual Behaviors

Early sexual activity is associated with a high number of sexual partners,^{i,ii} STI contraction, teenage pregnancy,ⁱ and greater risk for unwanted sex.ⁱⁱⁱ Since 1990, teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States have declined significantly. Researchers cite two main factors: fewer teens are having sex, and among those who are, more are using contraceptives.^{iv} While this is a positive trend, there are still risks for teens that are entering into sexual relationships during their adolescent years.^{iv}

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes sexual risk behaviors 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)
Ever had sexual intercourse (Had sexual intercourse 1 or more times during their life.)	35.3 (33.4 - 37.2)	37.7 (31.9 - 43.9)
Had sexual intercourse before age 13 years	4.0 (3.5 - 4.6)	2.8 (1.8 - 4.5)
Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people (Among students who had ever had sexual intercourse.)	8.0 (7.2 - 8.9)	8.3 (6.4 - 10.9)
Currently sexually active (Had sexual intercourse with at least 1 person during the 3 months before the survey.)	25.2 (23.6 - 26.9)	26.5 (21.6 - 32.2)
Drank alcohol or used drugs before having sexual intercourse (Among students who were currently sexually active.)	17.8 (16.0 - 19.8)	16.7 (10.0 - 26.5)
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse (Among students who were currently sexually active.)	53.8 (51.1 - 56.6)	44.7 (38.7 - 50.7)
Been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant (One or more times during their life.)	2.2 (1.8 - 2.5)	n/a
Ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school	76.0 (74.7 - 77.2)	n/a
Ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (Not including tests done if donated blood.)	11.4 (10.5 - 12.3)	n/a
Ever been tested for an STD other than HIV	9.9 (9.1 - 10.7)	n/a
Adults in family have talked about expectations with students about sex (What to do or not to do about sex.)	56.4 (55.1 - 57.6)	n/a

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of sexual behaviors 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.

Ever had sexual intercourse			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	32.4	30.2	34.7
Male	38.2	36.0	40.5
Race/Ethnicity			
White	28.8	26.2	31.6
Black	45.7	43.2	48.2
Hispanic	39.3	36.2	42.4
Other/Multiple	26.1	23.0	29.5
Grade			
9th	21.2	19.0	23.5
10th	27.4	24.5	30.6
11th	41.1	38.2	44.0
12th	53.1	50.0	56.2
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	34.9	32.9	36.9
LGB	42.9	39.3	46.5
Not sure	21.4	16.1	27.8
Total	35.3	33.4	37.2

Had sexual intercourse before age 13 years			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	1.4	1.1	1.8
Male	6.7	5.7	7.9
Race/Ethnicity			
White	1.6	1.2	2.2
Black	7.5	6.3	9.0
Hispanic	5.4	4.1	7.0
Other/Multiple	4.5	3.3	6.1
Grade			
9th	6.0	4.7	7.6
10th	3.1	2.3	4.0
11th	2.7	2.0	3.8
12th	3.9	2.7	5.8
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	3.9	3.3	4.6
LGB	4.5	3.5	5.9
Not sure	4.8	2.5	9.0
Total	4.0	3.5	4.6

Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	4.9	4.1 - 5.8
Male	11.2	10.0 - 12.6
Race/Ethnicity		
White	4.8	4.0 - 5.8
Black	13.0	11.4 - 14.8
Hispanic	8.4	7.0 - 10.0
Other/Multiple	7.2	5.4 - 9.6
Grade		
9th	4.5	3.4 - 5.8
10th	4.3	3.3 - 5.4
11th	9.2	7.8 - 11.0
12th	14.5	12.2 - 17.1
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	7.7	6.8 - 8.6
LGB	10.3	8.4 - 12.7
Not sure	7.4	4.1 - 12.7
Total	8.0	7.2 - 8.9

Currently sexually active		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	23.9	22.0 - 25.9
Male	26.6	24.5 - 28.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White	21.1	18.7 - 23.7
Black	32.2	29.9 - 34.6
Hispanic	27.0	24.5 - 29.7
Other/Multiple	18.6	16.0 - 21.6
Grade		
9th	13.8	12.0 - 15.9
10th	18.0	15.7 - 20.7
11th	30.7	28.0 - 33.5
12th	40.0	37.0 - 43.1
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	25.3	23.5 - 27.2
LGB	28.8	25.7 - 32.1
Not sure	14.8	10.7 - 20.1
Total	25.2	23.6 - 26.9

Drank alcohol or used drugs before having sexual intercourse			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	17.4	15.0	20.1
Male	18.2	15.4	21.4
Race/Ethnicity			
White	19.6	16.9	22.5
Black	15.7	13.1	18.8
Hispanic	19.9	15.9	24.6
Other/Multiple	17.5	11.9	25.1
Grade			
9th	18.7	14.2	24.3
10th	15.9	12.3	20.3
11th	17.1	14.0	20.7
12th	18.5	15.6	21.7
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	16.9	14.9	19.2
LGB	21.3	16.4	27.1
Not sure	23.2	10.8	43.0
Gender	17.8	16.0	19.8

Used a condom during last sexual intercourse			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	49.5	45.9	53.1
Male	57.8	54.1	61.4
Race/Ethnicity			
White	59.8	55.1	64.4
Black	48.9	45.2	52.7
Hispanic	44.2	39.2	49.3
Other/Multiple	51.6	42.8	60.4
Grade			
9th	58.1	51.7	64.2
10th	60.4	55.1	65.4
11th	51.4	46.3	56.5
12th	51.1	46.3	55.8
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	56.9	53.9	59.9
LGB	38.5	32.8	44.6
Not sure	46.8	30.7	63.6
Total	53.8	51.1	56.6

Been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	2.0	1.6 - 2.6
Male	2.2	1.8 - 2.8
Race/Ethnicity		
White	0.9	0.6 - 1.3
Black	3.8	3.2 - 4.6
Hispanic	2.8	2.0 - 3.9
Other/Multiple	2.8	1.7 - 4.6
Grade		
9th	1.6	1.0 - 2.5
10th	1.2	0.8 - 1.8
11th	2.2	1.5 - 3.1
12th	3.5	2.5 - 4.9
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	1.7	1.4 - 2.1
LGB	3.9	2.5 - 5.9
Not sure	5.3	3.1 - 8.9
Total	2.2	1.8 - 2.5

Ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	76.0	74.5 - 77.6
Male	76.0	74.4 - 77.6
Race/Ethnicity		
White	80.8	79.0 - 82.5
Black	71.1	69.2 - 72.9
Hispanic	62.8	59.5 - 65.9
Other/Multiple	74.1	70.6 - 77.3
Grade		
9th	67.0	63.1 - 70.6
10th	75.8	73.2 - 78.3
11th	81.9	79.3 - 84.2
12th	80.7	77.4 - 83.7
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	77.4	76.0 - 78.8
LGB	73.7	70.9 - 76.4
Not sure	57.9	52.2 - 63.3
Total	76.0	74.7 - 77.2

Ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	11.1	10.0 - 12.2
Male	11.6	10.5 - 12.8
Race/Ethnicity		
White	7.8	6.7 - 9.0
Black	16.1	14.7 - 17.7
Hispanic	15.5	13.7 - 17.6
Other/Multiple	10.1	8.3 - 12.4
Grade		
9th	8.6	7.3 - 10.0
10th	8.6	7.2 - 10.3
11th	12.2	10.4 - 14.2
12th	16.0	14.1 - 18.2
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	10.9	9.9 - 11.9
LGB	14.7	12.6 - 17.2
Not sure	9.1	6.5 - 12.5
Total	11.4	10.5 - 12.3

Ever been tested for an STD other than HIV		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	10.8	9.7 - 12.0
Male	8.9	8.0 - 9.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White	6.0	5.3 - 6.9
Black	15.3	13.9 - 16.9
Hispanic	12.8	11.1 - 14.7
Other/Multiple	8.1	6.4 - 10.3
Grade		
9th	6.4	5.2 - 7.8
10th	7.1	5.9 - 8.6
11th	10.7	9.2 - 12.4
12th	15.5	13.4 - 17.8
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	9.4	8.6 - 10.3
LGB	13.6	11.5 - 15.9
Not sure	6.4	4.3 - 9.3
Total	9.9	9.1 - 10.7

Adults in family have talked about expectations with students about sex			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	58.8	57.0	- 60.5
Male	54.0	52.1	- 55.9
Race/Ethnicity			
White	51.2	49.5	- 52.9
Black	65.8	64.0	- 67.6
Hispanic	55.8	52.7	- 58.8
Other/Multiple	42.3	38.3	- 46.4
Grade			
9th	52.7	50.2	- 55.3
10th	55.2	52.8	- 57.7
11th	57.6	54.9	- 60.3
12th	60.6	57.7	- 63.5
Sexual Identity			
Heterosexual	57.3	55.9	- 58.6
LGB	55.3	52.4	- 58.2
Not sure	44.6	39.0	- 50.3
Total	56.4	55.1	- 57.6

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of sexual behaviors 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
Ever had sexual intercourse (Had sexual intercourse 1 or more times during their life.)				
45.2 (43.3 - 47.1)	44.4 (42.3 - 46.4)	39.6 (37.6 - 41.6)	40.0 (38.6 - 41.5)	35.3 (33.4 - 37.2)
Had sexual intercourse before age 13 years				
7.4 (6.5 - 8.3)	7.0 (6.4 - 7.7)	5.3 (4.7 - 6.0)	4.9 (4.4 - 5.6)	4.0 (3.5 - 4.6)
Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people (Among students who had ever had sexual intercourse.)				
15.8 (14.6 - 17.0)	14.8 (13.7 - 16.0)	11.1 (9.6 - 12.8)	9.8 (9.0 - 10.6)	8.0 (7.2 - 8.9)
Currently sexually active (Had sexual intercourse with at least 1 person during the 3 months before the survey.)				
33.0 (31.4 - 34.6)	32.0 (30.3 - 33.7)	28.1 (26.4 - 30.0)	28.2 (26.9 - 29.6)	25.2 (23.6 - 26.9)
Drank alcohol or used drugs before having sexual intercourse (Among students who were currently sexually active.)				
n/a	n/a	17.7 (14.9 - 19.5)	18.3 (16.6 - 20.2)	17.8 (16.0 - 19.8)
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse (Among students who had ever had sexual intercourse.)				
64.7 (62.8 - 66.6)	64.9 (63.1 - 66.7)	61.2 (58.4 - 63.9)	57.3 (55.1 - 59.4)	57.1 (54.7 - 59.5)
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse (Among students who were currently sexually active.)				
61.4 (59.2 - 63.6)	62.1 (59.9 - 64.3)	56.6 (52.9 - 60.3)	55.7 (53.2 - 58.2)	53.8 (51.1 - 56.6)
Been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant (One or more times during their life.)				
5.1 (4.5 - 5.7)	3.9 (3.5 - 4.4)	3.4 (3.0 - 3.9)	2.9 (2.5 - 3.3)	2.2 (1.8 - 2.5)
Ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school				
92.1 (91.4 - 92.8)	n/a	84.0 (82.9 - 85.1)	81.1 (80.0 - 82.2)	76.0 (74.7 - 77.2)
Ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (Not including tests done if donated blood.)				
15.8 (14.7 - 16.8)	n/a	14.3 (13.4 - 15.3)	13.9 (13.0 - 14.8)	11.4 (10.5 - 12.3)
Adults in family have talked about expectations with student about sex (What to do or not to do when it comes to sex.)				
n/a	n/a	n/a	60.0 (58.7 - 61.2)	56.4 (55.1 - 57.6)

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