



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2019 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries

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 Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries. 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.

Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children and youth ages 5 to 24.ⁱ The use of seat belts and child safety restraints greatly reduces the chance of fatalities and serious injuries in motor vehicle crashes. Teenagers are more likely than their older counterparts to underestimate the risk in which certain behaviors may place them.ⁱⁱ Teens are also more likely to be distracted drivers. Nearly 40% of teens report that they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone to text or email and ultimately, text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times higher than driving undistracted.ⁱⁱⁱ

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries 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)
Rarely or never wore a seatbelt (When riding in a car driven by someone else.)	10.4 (9.6 - 11.2)	7.9 (6.1 - 10.1)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (During the 30 days before the survey.)	18.2 (17.3 - 19.1)	n/a
Drove a car or other vehicle when student had been drinking alcohol (During the 30 days before the survey.)	5.2 (4.4 - 6.2)	n/a
Texted or e-mailed while driving (Among students who had driven a vehicle during the 30 days before the survey.)	35.8 (33.5 - 38.2)	49.1 (39.0 - 59.3)

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries 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.

Rarely or never wore a seat belt		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	8.1	7.3 - 8.9
Male	12.5	11.5 - 13.7
Race/Ethnicity		
White	4.3	3.6 - 5.1
Black	17.1	15.8 - 18.4
Hispanic	19.4	17.3 - 21.7
Other/Multiple	11.9	9.9 - 14.3
Grade		
9th	12.0	10.4 - 13.9
10th	10.5	8.9 - 12.5
11th	8.6	7.1 - 10.4
12th	9.7	8.1 - 11.6
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	10.4	9.6 - 11.3
LGB	9.4	7.9 - 11.2
Not sure	12.3	9.2 - 16.3
Total	10.4	9.6 - 11.2

Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	19.4	18.1 - 20.7
Male	17.0	15.8 - 18.3
Race/Ethnicity		
White	15.1	13.8 - 16.4
Black	22.0	20.4 - 23.6
Hispanic	21.7	19.7 - 23.9
Other/Multiple	17.5	15.1 - 20.3
Grade		
9th	20.4	18.8 - 22.2
10th	17.4	15.9 - 19.1
11th	15.8	14.0 - 17.9
12th	18.4	16.4 - 20.7
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	17.6	16.6 - 18.7
LGB	20.3	18.1 - 22.7
Not sure	22.4	18.4 - 26.9
Total	18.2	17.3 - 19.1

Drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	4.5	3.6 - 5.8
Male	5.7	4.7 - 7.0
Race/Ethnicity		
White	5.1	3.9 - 6.5
Black	4.8	3.8 - 6.1
Hispanic	7.9	5.8 - 10.6
Other/Multiple	8.4	5.8 - 11.9
Grade		
9th	5.6	4.0 - 7.8
10th	3.5	2.4 - 5.1
11th	3.6	2.6 - 5.1
12th	7.4	5.7 - 9.6
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	4.8	4.0 - 5.9
LGB	6.1	4.1 - 8.9
Not sure	10.7	6.0 - 18.4
Total	5.2	4.4 - 6.2

Texted or e-mailed while driving		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	35.7	32.5 - 39.0
Male	36.0	33.5 - 38.7
Race/Ethnicity		
White	42.0	38.4 - 45.7
Black	27.3	24.7 - 30.0
Hispanic	27.8	23.9 - 32.0
Other/Multiple	34.9	30.2 - 39.8
Grade		
9th	17.6	14.6 - 21.1
10th	19.5	16.3 - 23.2
11th	41.1	36.5 - 45.9
12th	50.1	46.8 - 53.4
Sexual Identity		
Heterosexual	36.0	33.5 - 38.6
LGB	32.8	28.3 - 37.6
Not sure	40.3	31.6 - 49.7
Total	35.8	33.5 - 38.2

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries 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
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (Among students who had ridden a bicycle during the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	86.2 (85.1 - 87.3)	83.7 (81.1 - 86.1)	86.8 (85.8 - 87.8)	n/a
Rarely or never wore a seat belt (When riding in a car driven by someone else.)				
14.4 (13.6-15.2)	11.8 (11.0-12.5)	10.4 (9.2-11.8)	11.1 (10.3-12.0)	10.4 (9.6 - 11.2)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (During the 30 days before the survey.)				
21.2 (20.1 - 22.3)	22.5 (21.4 - 23.6)	21.3 (20.1 - 22.5)	21.7 (20.8 - 22.7)	18.2 (17.3 - 19.1)
Drove a car or other vehicle when student had been drinking alcohol (Among students who had driven a vehicle during the 30 days before the survey.)				
n/a	8.2 (7.2 - 9.2)	8.4 (7.4 - 9.5)	7.9 (7.1 - 8.8)	5.2 (4.4 - 6.2)
Texted or e-mailed while driving (Among students who had driven a vehicle during the 30 days before the survey.)				
n/a	43.5 (41.0 - 46.0)	37.0 (34.1 - 40.0)	37.5 (35.7 - 39.3)	35.8 (33.5 - 38.2)

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ⁱ Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [database online]. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2012.

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Teen Drivers: Fact Sheet*. Retrieved January 2013, from www.cdc.gov.

ⁱⁱⁱ Madden, M & Lenhart, A. (2009). *Teens and Distracted Driving*. Washington DC: Pew Research Center.