



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2017 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Alcohol Use

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 spring of 2017, 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 2017 Cuyahoga County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Alcohol Use. This includes questions pertaining to alcohol use behavior as well as perceptions of alcohol use. In this brief report, we present:

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

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

Alcohol Use

More young people use alcohol than tobacco or any illicit drugs in the United States.ⁱ Alcohol use among youth has been linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, academic problems, job problems and illegal behavior.ⁱⁱ Alcohol use has also been identified as a major contributing factor in approximately one-third of all unintentional injury deaths, homicides and suicides, which are the leading causes of death and disability among young people.ⁱⁱⁱ Research also shows that teens who begin drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.^{iv}

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes alcohol use among the 13,907 high school students who completed the 2017 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all dichotomous variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
Ever used alcohol (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	58.3 (56.9-59.7)
Drank alcohol before age 13 years (Other than a few sips.)	15.3 (14.4-16.4)
Current alcohol use (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	30.7 (29.5-32.0)
Had 4 or more drinks in a row (if female) or 5 or more drinks (if male) within a couple of hours (During 30 days before the survey.)	16.4 (15.4-17.5)

Regional Prevalence

The overall response rate for inner and outer ring east (57% and 52%, respectively) **did not** reach the standard of 60%, which allows for the data to be considered representative of all students, even those that did not complete the survey. Since the overall response rate was close to the standard of 60%, we have included weighted estimates for these regions. A weight was applied to each record to adjust for student non response and the distribution of students by grade, gender, race/ethnicity, and geographic region within Cuyahoga County. The stability of the data should be considered, given the lower than required overall response rate, and results should be interpreted with caution. In addition, the overall response rate for outer ring west was insufficient for analysis.

Risk Behavior	CMSD-East % (95% CI)	CMSD- West % (95% CI)	Inner Ring-East % (95% CI)	Inner Ring-West % (95% CI)	Outer Ring-East % (95% CI)	Outer Ring-West % (95% CI)
Ever used alcohol (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	54.2 (51.5-56.9)	59.5 (56.9-62.0)	56.9 (53.2-60.6)	63.2 (60.0-66.2)	56.4 (52.6-60.2)	n/a
Drank alcohol before age 13 years (Other than a few sips.)	19.4 (17.4-21.5)	21.5 (19.1-24.0)	17.6 (14.7-20.9)	15.8 (13.9-17.9)	10.5 (8.0-13.6)	n/a
Current alcohol use (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	23.7 (21.5-26.0)	33.3 (30.6-36.2)	26.1 (23.1-29.3)	34.0 (29.8-38.5)	30.7 (27.6-33.9)	n/a
Had 4 or more drinks in a row (if female) or 5 or more drinks (if male) within a couple of hours (During 30 days before the survey.)	12.8 (11.1-14.7)	19.1 (17.1-21.3)	11.6 (9.3-14.4)	18.4 (15.2-22.2)	16.0 (13.7-18.7)	n/a

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of alcohol use between demographic groups. Data are presented by gender, race/ethnicity, and grade level. A statistically significant difference exists between groups if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Ever used alcohol			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	64.4	62.6	- 66.2
Male	52.4	50.4	- 54.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White	61.1	59.4	- 62.8
Black	54.0	51.7	- 56.2
Hispanic	64.8	61.2	- 68.2
Other/Multiple	53.4	48.6	- 58.2
Grade			
9th	45.4	43.1	- 47.6
10th	57.0	54.5	- 59.4
11th	64.4	62.6	- 66.2
12th	68.6	66.2	- 70.9
Total	58.3	56.9	- 59.7

Drank alcohol before age 13 years			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	14.5	13.4	- 15.8
Male	16.0	14.6	- 17.6
Race/Ethnicity			
White	12.6	11.7	- 13.5
Black	18.2	16.3	- 20.3
Hispanic	23.0	20.4	- 25.9
Other/Multiple	14.4	11.6	- 17.7
Grade			
9th	17.7	15.7	- 19.8
10th	16.1	14.2	- 18.1
11th	13.7	12.0	- 15.6
12th	12.3	10.8	- 14.0
Total	15.3	14.4	- 16.4

Current alcohol use			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	36.1	34.4	- 37.7
Male	25.6	24.2	- 27.1
Race/Ethnicity			
White	35.6	33.8	- 37.4
Black	24.0	22.2	- 25.8
Hispanic	36.4	33.3	- 39.7
Other/Multiple	26.7	22.7	- 31.0
Grade			
9th	20.0	18.3	- 21.8
10th	29.1	27.0	- 31.4
11th	33.5	31.5	- 35.6
12th	42.9	40.3	- 45.6
Total	30.7	29.5	- 32.0

Had 4 or more drinks in a row (if female) or 5 or more drinks (if male) within a couple of hours			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	18.0	16.4	- 19.6
Male	14.9	13.6	- 16.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	19.7	18.3	- 21.3
Black	11.5	10.0	- 13.3
Hispanic	20.2	18.1	- 22.6
Other/Multiple	16.2	13.2	- 19.8
Grade			
9th	8.6	7.2	- 10.3
10th	13.0	11.4	- 14.8
11th	20.3	18.7	- 22.0
12th	25.9	23.6	- 28.3
Total	16.4	15.4	- 17.5

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of alcohol use among Cuyahoga County high school students in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2009	Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013	Cuyahoga County, 2015	Cuyahoga County, 2017
Ever used alcohol (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)				
65.4 (63.4-67.4)	61.9 (60.3-63.6)	59.7 (58.0-61.4)	58.2 (56.2-60.1)	58.3 (56.9-59.7)
Drank alcohol before age 13 years (Other than a few sips.)				
18.0 (15.7-20.3)	15.6 (14.5-16.7)	15.2 (14.1-16.2)	14.4 (13.4-15.5)	15.3 (14.4-16.4)
Current alcohol use (Had at least 1 drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)				
33.4 (31.3-35.4)	31.8 (30.3-33.3)	33.4 (31.7-35.1)	29.9 (27.8-32.1)	30.7 (29.5-32.0)
*Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours (On 1 or more days during the 30 days before the survey.)				
15.9 (14.3-17.5)	15.3 (14.2-16.4)	17.0 (15.7-18.3)	15.8 (14.0-17.8)	n/a
*Had 4 or more drinks in a row (if female) or 5 or more drinks (if male) within a couple of hours (During the 30 days before the survey.)				
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.4 (15.4-17.5)
Attended a party or gathering in a home where parents permitted students to use alcohol (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)				
26.9 (25.2-28.7)	23.8 (22.1-25.5)	n/a	22.4 (21.1-23.9)	n/a

*In 2017, "Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours" was revised to "Had 4 or more drinks in a row (if female) or 5 or more drinks (if male) within a couple of hours." Both items are included in this table.

Contact Information

Prepared by:

Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7069
www.prchn.org

For more information please contact:

Erika S. Trapl, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Associate Director, Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Erika.trapl@case.edu
216-368-0098

Jean L. Frank, MPH
Manager of School-based Surveillance and Evaluation
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Jean.frank@case.edu
216-368-5913

Audrey S. Kinsella, MPH
Data Coordinator
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Audrey.kinsella@case.edu
216-368-5746

Briana McIntosh, MPH, CPH
YRBS School-based Surveillance Field Coordinator
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Briana.Mcintosh@case.edu
216-368-6571

Marisa Hollinshead, BS
Graduate Assistant
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Marisa.Hollinshead@case.edu

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