



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2012 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 2012, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 7th and 8th grade students in Cuyahoga County middle schools. A more detailed description of the methodology is available at our website, <http://prchn.org/yrbs.aspx>.

This brief report presents results from the 2012 Cuyahoga County Middle 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, <http://prchn.org/yrbs.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}

Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.^v This allows us to consider Cuyahoga County's progress towards the 10-year national objectives aimed at improving the health of all Americans.

Healthy People 2020 Objectives	Cuyahoga County 2012
SA-13.1: Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting use of alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to no more than 16.5%.	9.5% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes alcohol use among the 12,341 middle school students who completed the 2012 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
Lifetime alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	27.7% (26.6-28.8)
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	8.4% (7.8-9.0)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	9.5% (8.8-10.1)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly	60.6% (59.4-61.9)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to drink alcohol regularly	83.1% (82.2-84.0)
Students perceive great risk of harm from drinking alcohol (Physically or in other ways, if drink one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day.)	50.1% (48.8-51.3)

Regional Prevalence

The table below represents alcohol use by the six regions of Cuyahoga County. This division was conducted to provide a geographic representation of the prevalence of different risk behaviors in Cuyahoga County. In 2012, we were able to weight to 4 of 6 regions in Cuyahoga County. The columns under Inner Ring—East and Inner Ring—West do not include data because school participation within those regions was insufficient to permit weighting.

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)
Lifetime alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	39.1% (36.4-41.9)	37.8% (34.7-40.8)	N/A	N/A	23.8% (21.5-26.1)	18.1% (17.0-20.6)
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	14.4% (12.6-16.2)	13.7% (11.6-15.7)	N/A	N/A	8.1% (6.7-9.5)	5.6% (4.6-6.5)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	12.3% (10.6-14.0)	14.2% (11.9-16.5)	N/A	N/A	7.1% (5.6-8.5)	6.4% (5.3-7.4)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly	54.6% (51.4-57.7)	55.5% (52.4-58.6)	N/A	N/A	66.6% (63.9-69.4)	65.2% (63.1-67.4)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to drink alcohol regularly	75.9% (73.4-78.5)	76.9% (73.4-80.4)	N/A	N/A	84.0% (82.0-86.0)	86.9% (85.5-88.3)
Students perceive great risk of harm from drinking alcohol (Physically or in other ways, if drink one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day.)	39.2% (36.0-42.4)	39.0% (36.1-42.0)	N/A	N/A	56.0% (53.4-58.7)	56.4% (54.2-58.7)

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.

Lifetime alcohol use			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	27.7	26.1 -	29.3
Male	27.8	26.3 -	29.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	21.3	19.9 -	22.8
Black	35.8	34.1 -	37.6
Hispanic	42.5	39.2 -	45.8
Other	27.1	23.0 -	31.2
Grade			
7th	23.3	22.0 -	24.7
8th	31.4	29.9 -	32.9
Total	27.7	26.6-	28.8

Drank alcohol before age 11 years			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	6.9	6.1 -	7.7
Male	9.7	8.8 -	10.7
Race/Ethnicity			
White	5.4	4.7 -	6.1
Black	11.8	10.6 -	13.0
Hispanic	17.3	14.3 -	20.4
Other	12.1	8.8 -	15.3
Grade			
7th	9.0	8.1 -	9.9
8th	7.2	6.5 -	8.0
Total	8.4	7.8-	9.0

Current alcohol use		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	9.7	8.7 - 10.6
Male	9.2	8.3 - 10.2
Race/Ethnicity		
White	7.9	7.1 - 8.8
Black	10.7	9.5 - 11.8
Hispanic	19.2	16.6 - 21.7
Other	11.3	8.1 - 14.5
Grade		
7th	7.2	6.4 - 7.9
8th	11.2	10.2 - 12.2
Total	9.5	8.8- 10.1

Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	63.2	61.6 - 64.9
Male	58.2	56.4 - 59.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White	63.3	61.6 - 65.1
Black	57.0	55.0 - 59.0
Hispanic	52.6	49.5 - 55.7
Other	61.2	56.7 - 65.8
Grade		
7th	66.9	65.3 - 68.5
8th	55.0	53.4 - 56.6
Total	60.6	59.4- 61.9

Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to drink alcohol regularly		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	85.4	84.3 - 86.6
Male	81.1	79.8 - 82.4
Race/Ethnicity		
White	86.2	85.2 - 87.3
Black	79.1	77.4 - 80.8
Hispanic	72.4	69.5 - 75.2
Other	81.6	77.7 - 85.6
Grade		
7th	84.4	83.1 - 85.6
8th	82.3	81.1 - 83.4
Total	83.1	82.2- 84.0

Students perceive great risk of harm from drinking alcohol regularly		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	52.7	50.9 - 54.4
Male	47.6	46.0 - 49.2
Race/Ethnicity		
White	54.0	52.4 - 55.6
Black	45.0	42.7 - 47.2
Hispanic	39.6	36.5 - 42.7
Other	46.9	42.2 - 51.7
Grade		
7th	51.3	49.4 - 53.2
8th	49.2	47.6 - 50.9
Total	50.1	48.8- 51.3

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of alcohol use among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, and 2012. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012
Lifetime alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)		
38.3% (36.8-39.8)	33.3% (31.4-35.1)	27.7% (26.6-28.8)
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)		
14.3% (12.7-16.0)	10.5% (9.5-11.5)	8.4% (7.8-9.0)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)		
14.4% (13.4-15.4)	12.3% (11.2-13.3)	9.5% (8.8-10.1)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly		
53.4% (50.9-55.8)	53.4% (50.9-55.8)	53.4% (50.9-55.8)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to drink alcohol regularly		
80.6% (79.0-82.7)	81.4% (80.1-82.6)	83.1% (82.2-84.0)
Students perceive great risk of harm from drinking alcohol (Physically or in other ways, if drink one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day.)		
N/A	46.4% (44.8-48.0)	50.1% (48.8-51.3)

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ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings*, NSDUH Series H-41, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 11-4658. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2011.

ⁱⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 1999. *The relationship between mental health and substance abuse among adolescents*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

ⁱⁱⁱ Hingson, R., Kenkel, D. 2004. *Social, Health, and Economic Consequences of Underage Drinking*. Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility. Washington, DC: The National Academy of Sciences.

^{iv} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2007. *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General.

^v U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Substance Abuse*. Retrieved from 2020 Topics & Objectives: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicid=40>