



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2014 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 2014, 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.apxs>.

This brief report presents results from the 2014 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:

- [Healthy People 2020](#)
- [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 2014
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%.	16.9% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported using alcohol, marijuana or unauthorized prescription drugs in the past 30 days.

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes alcohol use among the 12,607 middle school students who completed the 2014 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
Ever used alcohol (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	26.7% (25.7-27.7)
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	8.3% (7.8-8.9)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	9.1% (8.5-9.7)

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 2014, we were able to weight to 5 of 6 regions in Cuyahoga County. The column under Outer Ring—West does not include data because school participation within this region 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)
Ever used alcohol (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	35.6% (32.6-38.8)	34.2% (31.1-37.5)	34.1% (31.8-36.4)	28.8% (25.9-31.8)	18.6% (16.1-21.5)	N/A
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	9.7% (8.3-11.4)	11.0% (9.8-12.4)	11.9% (10.6-13.4)	8.7% (6.6-11.5)	5.4% (4.3-6.8)	N/A
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	10.5% (9.0-12.3)	10.7% (8.8-12.9)	9.6% (8.5-10.9)	10.4% (8.1-13.3)	5.9% (4.6-7.6)	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	26.9	25.6-	28.3
Male	26.3	25.0-	27.6
Race/Ethnicity			
White	21.3	20.1-	22.6
Black	34.3	32.6-	36.0
Hispanic	35.4	31.8-	39.2
Other/Multiple	27.5	24.4-	30.8
Grade			
7th	22.0	20.6-	23.4
8th	30.9	29.2-	32.6
Total	26.7	25.7-	27.7

Drank alcohol before age 11 years			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	7.1	6.5-	7.8
Male	9.4	8.7-	10.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	6.1	5.5-	6.8
Black	11.0	10.0-	12.1
Hispanic	13.3	11.1-	15.8
Other/Multiple	12.8	10.8-	15.0
Grade			
7th	8.2	7.5-	9.0
8th	8.1	7.2-	9.1
Total	8.3	7.8-	8.9

Current alcohol use			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	9.8	9.0-	10.6
Male	8.3	7.5-	9.1
Race/Ethnicity			
White	8.5	7.7-	9.4
Black	9.5	8.7-	10.5
Hispanic	13.2	11.0-	15.8
Other/Multiple	9.9	8.1-	11.9
Grade			
7th	6.7	6.0-	7.3
8th	11.0	10.0-	12.1
Total	9.1	8.5-	9.7

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of alcohol use among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below. ¹

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012	Cuyahoga County, 2014
Ever used alcohol (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)	26.7% (25.7-27.7)
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)	8.3% (7.8-8.9)
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)	9.1% (8.5-9.7)
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)	N/A
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)	N/A
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)	N/A

¹The YRBS questions with two or more data points over 2008-2014 are included. The new 2014 questions are not included for the purpose of demonstrating trends. For those questions not asked in 2014, refer to the PRCHN archives at www.prchn.org/aspx for more detailed information.

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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>