



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2016 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 2016, 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 2016 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}

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes alcohol use among the 13,261 middle school students who completed the 2016 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.)	21.4 (20.8-22.0)
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	6.1 (5.8-6.4)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey.)	7.8 (7.4-8.1)

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 2016, 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.)	36.9% (33.8-40.1)	34.5% (31.3-37.9)	28.1% (27.4-28.9)	21.7% (21.0-22.4)	13.8% (12.5-15.2)	N/A
Drank alcohol before age 11 years (Other than a few sips.)	11.5% (9.8-13.6)	10.5% (9.0-12.2)	8.3% (7.9-8.8)	5.5% (5.2-5.7)	4.4% (4.1-4.7)	N/A
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	13.0% (10.9-15.4)	13.2% (11.4-15.3)	9.3% (8.8-9.7)	8.4% (7.9-9.0)	4.5% (4.0-5.1)	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	22.1	21.3	- 22.9
Male	20.7	20.0	- 21.4
Race/Ethnicity			
White	14.0	13.7	- 14.4
Black	31.0	29.8	- 32.3
Hispanic	38.4	34.5	- 42.4
Other/Multiple	21.5	19.4	- 23.6
Grade			
7th	17.7	16.8	- 18.6
8th	24.6	23.6	- 25.6
Total	21.2	20.6	- 21.8

Drank alcohol before age 11 years			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	5.8	5.4	- 6.2
Male	6.4	6.0	- 6.9
Race/Ethnicity			
White	3.4	3.3	- 3.6
Black	9.6	8.9	- 10.3
Hispanic	11.9	9.8	- 14.4
Other/Multiple	7.4	5.7	- 9.4
Grade			
7th	6.3	5.8	- 6.8
8th	5.7	5.2	- 6.2
Total	6.0	5.7	- 6.3

Current alcohol use		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	8.9	8.4 - 9.4
Male	6.6	6.2 - 7.1
Race/Ethnicity		
White	5.3	5.1 - 5.5
Black	10.2	9.4 - 11.0
Hispanic	16.2	13.4 - 19.4
Other/Multiple	9.6	8.4 - 10.9
Grade		
7th	6.1	5.6 - 6.7
8th	8.9	8.3 - 9.5
Total	7.5	7.2 - 7.9

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of alcohol use among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. 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	Cuyahoga County, 2016
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)	21.4% (20.8-22.0)
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)	6.1% (5.8-6.4)
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)	7.8% (7.4-8.1)
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)	N/A	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	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	N/A

¹The YRBS questions with two or more data points over 2008-2016 are included. The new 2016 questions are not included for the purpose of demonstrating trends. For those questions not asked in 2016, refer to the PRCHN archives at www.prchn.org/asp for more detailed information.

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 E. Kinsella, MPH
Community & Evaluation Project Coordinator
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Case Western Reserve University
Audrey.kinsella@case.edu
216-368-5746

Partners & Funding

This work is funded either in whole or in part by a grant awarded by the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, Child and Family Health Services Program as a sub-award of a grant issued by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, grant award number B04MC26688, and CFDA number 93.994 and Am. Sub. H.B. 59, and by Cooperative Agreement #U87PS004165-02 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent School Health (CDC-DASH).

This work was also funded by Cooperative Agreement Number 1-U48-DP-005030 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the PRCHN and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

This work was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Case Western Reserve University, Protocol #2012-274.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

-
- 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.