



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2018 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Alcohol Use

## Introduction

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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 2018, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Cuyahoga County middle schools. A more detailed description of the methodology is available at our website, [http://prchn.org/yrbs\\_home.aspx](http://prchn.org/yrbs_home.aspx).

This brief report presents results from the 2018 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\\_home.aspx](http://prchn.org/yrbs_home.aspx).

## Alcohol Use

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More young people use alcohol than tobacco or any illicit drugs in the United States.<sup>i</sup> Alcohol use among youth has been linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, academic problems, job problems and illegal behavior.<sup>ii</sup> 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.<sup>iii</sup> 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.<sup>iv</sup>

## Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes alcohol use among the 12,936 middle school students who completed the 2018 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
<b>Ever used alcohol</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	20.9 (19.8 - 22.0)
<b>Drank alcohol before age 11 years</b> (Other than a few sips.)	8.0 (7.4 - 8.7)
<b>Current alcohol use</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey.)	7.8 (7.1 - 8.5)

## 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 2018, we were able to weight to 4 of 6 regions in Cuyahoga County. The columns under Outer Ring-West and Outer Ring-East do not include data because school participation within these 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)
<b>Ever used alcohol</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	27.4 (24.6 - 30.5)	31.1 (28.9 - 33.5)	27.7 (25.8 - 29.7)	20.5 (18.1 - 23.2)	N/A	N/A
<b>Drank alcohol before age 11 years</b> (Other than a few sips.)	9.8 (8.0 - 11.9)	10.8 (9.3 - 12.5)	11.5 (10.3 - 12.8)	8.7 (7.2 - 10.5)	N/A	N/A
<b>Current alcohol use</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	9.0 (7.7 - 10.6)	10.5 (9.1 - 12.2)	9.4 (8.3 - 10.5)	8.1 (6.7 - 9.7)	N/A	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				Drank alcohol before age 11 years			
Category	%	CI		Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>				<b>Gender</b>			
Female	21.7	20.3	23.3	Female	7.2	6.4	8.2
Male	20.0	18.5	21.6	Male	8.7	7.8	9.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	16.2	14.6	17.9	White	5.5	4.7	6.4
Black	26.6	25.1	28.2	Black	11.0	9.9	12.2
Hispanic	35.5	32.0	39.2	Hispanic	15.9	13.0	19.3
Other/Multiple	24.2	21.0	27.7	Other/Multiple	10.2	8.0	12.8
<b>Grade</b>				<b>Grade</b>			
7th	16.6	15.1	18.2	7th	7.9	7.0	8.8
8th	24.7	23.2	26.4	8th	7.7	6.8	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Current alcohol use		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	8.9	7.9 - 9.9
Male	6.7	5.9 - 7.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	6.6	5.6 - 7.7
Black	8.3	7.5 - 9.2
Hispanic	15.8	13.0 - 19.1
Other/Multiple	10.5	8.2 - 13.2
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	5.7	5.0 - 6.5
8th	9.4	8.4 - 10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.1 - 8.5</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of alcohol use among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below. <sup>1</sup>

Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012	Cuyahoga County, 2014	Cuyahoga County, 2016	Cuyahoga County, 2018
<b>Ever used alcohol</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)				
33.3% (31.4 - 35.1)	27.7% (26.6 - 28.8)	26.7% (25.7 - 27.7)	21.4% (20.8 - 22.0)	20.9% (19.8 - 22.0)
<b>Drank alcohol before age 11 years</b> (Other than a few sips.)				
10.5% (9.5 - 11.5)	8.4% (7.8 - 9.0)	8.3% (7.8 - 8.9)	6.1% (5.8 - 6.4)	8.0% (7.4 - 8.7)
<b>Current alcohol use</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)				
12.3% (11.2 - 13.3)	9.5% (8.8 - 10.1)	9.1% (8.5 - 9.7)	7.8% (7.4 - 8.1)	7.8% (7.1 - 8.5)

<sup>1</sup>The 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/aspx](http://www.prchn.org/aspx) for more detailed information.

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### Funding

This work is a product of a Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Center supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 1U48DP005030 and by Cooperative Agreement Number: NU87PS2018-004348 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and by TP1AH000093-01-00 from The Office of Adolescent Health. This work is also supported by the Cleveland Foundation, the Educational Service Center of NE Ohio, the George Gund Foundation, and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CWRU IRB Protocol #2012-274.

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- <sup>i</sup> 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.
- <sup>ii</sup> 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.
- <sup>iii</sup> 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.
- <sup>iv</sup> 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.