



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2018 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Sexual Behavior

## 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 Reproductive Health. 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).

## Sexual Risk Behaviors

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Early initiation of sexual intercourse is associated with having a greater number of lifetime sexual partners.<sup>i,ii</sup> In addition, adolescents who initiate sexual intercourse early are less likely to use contraception<sup>ii,iii</sup> and are at higher risk for STDs<sup>iv</sup> and pregnancy.<sup>v,vi</sup> While persons 15 to 24 years old make up only 25% of the ever sexually active population, they acquire more than half of all new STDs.<sup>vii</sup> Data also shows that 1 in 8 youth have engaged in intercourse, oral sex, or both before the age of 14.<sup>viii</sup> In 2016, there were an estimated 2,041 persons ages 13-19 years newly diagnosed with HIV infection and 7,878 living with diagnosed HIV infection.<sup>ix</sup> In 2014, young people aged 13-24 accounted for 21% of all new HIV infections in the United States.<sup>x</sup>

Among middle school students nationwide in 2005, a range of 13.4%-16.1% 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 17.9%-18.2% 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported ever having sexual intercourse.<sup>xi</sup> Furthermore, 4.5%-5.9% 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 6.4%-7.6% 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported ever having sexual intercourse with 3 or more people, and 70.0% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 69.2%-77.3% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who had sexual intercourse used a condom the last time they had intercourse (or their partner did).<sup>xi</sup> Evidence shows that, compared to their peers, adolescents who engage in sexual activity before the age of 15 (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders age range is 12-14 years) are more likely to have multiple sex partners, engage in more frequent intercourse, and have higher STD and pregnancy rates, highlighting that young adolescents are less likely to practice protective behaviors or be screened for STDs.<sup>xii</sup>

## Overall Prevalence

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The following table summarizes reproductive health behaviors 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 had sexual intercourse</b> (Had sexual intercourse one or more times during their life.)	9.0 (8.4 - 9.7)
<b>Currently sexually active</b> (Had sexual intercourse at least once during the past 3 months.)	3.7 3.0 - 4.4
<b>Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people</b>	1.5 (1.1 - 2.0)
<b>Used a condom during last sexual intercourse</b> (Among students who are currently sexually active.)	59.9 (55.0 - 64.6)
<b>Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection</b>	41.8 (39.5 - 44.2)

## Regional Prevalence

The table below represents reproductive health behaviors in 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 had sexual intercourse</b> (Had sexual intercourse one or more times during their life.)	21.7 (19.1 - 24.4)	14.9 (12.6 - 17.4)	12.9 (11.6 - 14.3)	5.7 (4.7 - 6.9)	N/A	N/A
<b>Currently sexually active</b> (Had sexual intercourse at least once during the past 3 months.)	12.0 (9.8 - 14.5)	7.8 (6.3 - 9.6)	6.8 (5.8 - 7.9)	3.8 (3.0 - 4.8)	N/A	N/A
<b>Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people</b>	5.2 (3.7 - 7.4)	3.2 (2.4 - 4.4)	2.5 (2.0 - 3.2)	1.6 (1.1 - 2.4)	N/A	N/A
<b>Used a condom during last sexual intercourse</b> (Among students who are currently sexually active.)	66.9 (59.1 - 73.8)	68.4 (55.3 - 79.2)	62.0 (54.7 - 68.7)	52.9 (41.0 - 64.5)	N/A	N/A
<b>Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection</b>	48.1 (43.9 - 52.3)	28.3 (25.5 - 31.3)	65.1 (62.3 - 67.8)	41.4 (38.4 - 44.5)	N/A	N/A

## Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of reproductive health 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 had sexual intercourse		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	4.3	3.7 - 5.0
Male	13.4	12.2 - 14.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	4.2	3.5 - 5.1
Black	16.0	14.7 - 17.4
Hispanic	18.1	15.0 - 21.6
Other/Multiple	10.7	8.7 - 13.1
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	6.5	5.6 - 7.6
8th	10.9	9.7 - 12.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.4 - 9.7</b>

Current sexually active		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	2.5	2.1 - 3.1
Male	7.7	6.7 - 8.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	2.8	2.3 - 3.5
Black	8.2	7.2 - 9.3
Hispanic	11.3	8.5 - 14.8
Other/Multiple	7.4	5.6 - 9.7
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	3.7	3.0 - 4.4
8th	6.2	5.3 - 7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.7 - 5.8</b>

Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people during lifetime		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	0.8	0.5 - 1.2
Male	3.8	3.1 - 4.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	1.2	0.7 - 1.8
Black	3.6	2.9 - 4.4
Hispanic	6.8	4.4 - 10.4
Other/Multiple	3.7	2.4 - 5.9
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	1.5	1.1 - 2.0
8th	2.7	2.1 - 3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.0 - 2.8</b>

Used a condom during last sexual intercourse		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	51.4	41.2 - 61.6
Male	63.1	57.4 - 68.4
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	59.3	49.1 - 68.7
Black	66.0	60.3 - 71.3
Hispanic	42.7	30.2 - 56.3
Other/Multiple	41.8	29.4 - 55.3
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	61.4	53.5 - 68.7
8th	64.1	57.8 - 70.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>55.0 - 64.6</b>

Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	39.3	36.6	- 42.0
Male	44.2	41.6	- 46.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	36.1	32.6	- 39.8
Black	54.3	51.9	- 56.7
Hispanic	33.8	30.3	- 37.4
Other/Multiple	36.4	32.8	- 40.2
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	30.6	28.6	- 32.7
8th	52.8	49.5	- 56.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>- 44.2</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of reproductive health behaviors 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 had sexual intercourse</b> (Had sexual intercourse one or more times during their life.)				
19.2% (17.6 - 20.8)	15.8% (14.8 - 16.7)	11.9% (11.2 - 12.6)	9.3% (8.8 - 9.7)	9.0% (8.4 - 9.7)
<b>Currently sexually active</b> (Had sexual intercourse at least once during the past 3 months.)				
N/A	N/A	7.9% (7.3 - 8.4)	5.3% (4.9 - 5.6)	5.2% (4.7 - 5.8)
<b>Used a condom during last sexual intercourse</b> (Among students who had ever had sexual intercourse.)				
71.6% (68.3 - 74.9)	72.8% (70.3 - 75.3)	62.0% (59.5 - 64.4)	63.5% (61.3 - 65.7)	59.9% (55.0 - 64.6)
<b>Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection</b>				
78.1% (76.0 - 80.2)	76.6% (75.5 - 77.8)	68.0% (66.3 - 69.6)	58.2% (57.5 - 58.9)	41.8% (39.5 - 44.2)

<sup>1</sup> The YRBS questions with two or more data points over 2010-2018 are included. The new 2018 questions are not included for the purpose of demonstrating trends. For those questions not asked in 2018, refer to the PRCHN archives at [www.prchn.org/asp](http://www.prchn.org/asp) for more detailed information.

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