



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2015 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Methodology

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. The national YRBS has tracked many of the major causes of morbidity and mortality for adolescents since 1991. Nationwide, the YRBS is conducted every two years among students in grades 9 through 12.

During the spring of 2015, the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) conducted the YRBS among 9th through 12th grade students in Cuyahoga County high schools. The survey was tailored to fit local needs and addressed a wide range of topics. The 2015 Cuyahoga County High School YRBS included questions from the following areas:

- Alcohol Use
- Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries
- Depression and Suicide
- Illegal and Prescription Drug Use
- Nutrition
- Obesity and Weight Control
- Physical Activity
- Positive Youth Development
- Preventive Health Care
- Reproductive Health
- Tobacco Use
- Violence

This brief report presents the detailed [methodology](#) undertaken by the PRCHN as well as [sample description](#).

Methodology

The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) regularly uses a two-stage cluster sample design that mimics the sampling method of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). For the 2015 Cuyahoga County High School (CCHS) YRBS sample, all public schools in Cuyahoga County that contained grades 9 through 12 were included in the sampling frame.

In the first stage of sampling, all 58 high schools (schools with grades 9 through 12) in Cuyahoga County were selected to participate. In the second stage of sampling, 9th through 12th grade classrooms were selected in each participating school. Classroom selection was random, though schools were given the option to have the survey administered to the entire student body (i.e., every classroom) or a random sample of their students. All students in the selected classrooms were eligible to participate.

Student participation was both anonymous and voluntary. Permission slips were mailed to the homes of selected students; parents or guardians that approved for their student to participate took no action while parents or guardians with questions or who did not wish for their student to participate called their school's main office. Student nonparticipation was due to absence on the day of survey administration, parental refusal, or student refusal. Additionally, a small number of questionnaires failed quality control and were removed from the final data set.

Of the 58 schools selected for participation, 45 agreed to take part. A total of 16,912 students were eligible to complete the survey, and 11,856 usable questionnaires remained after the data set was cleaned and edited for inconsistencies. Missing data were not statistically imputed. The school response rate was 77.6% and the student response rate was 70.1%. The overall response rate was 54.4% (77.6% x 70.1%).

The overall response rate **did not** reach the standard of 60%, which allows for the data to be considered representative of all students, even those that did not complete the survey. However, the data were weighted to the population of 9th through 12th grade students in Cuyahoga County. A weight was applied to each record to adjust for student non response and the distribution of students by grade, gender, race/ethnicity, and geographic region within Cuyahoga County. The stability of the data should be considered, given the lower than required overall response rate, and results should be interpreted with caution.

Statistical analyses were conducted on weighted data using SPSS statistical software to account for the complex sampling design. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables that could be analyzed in a dichotomous fashion. Therefore, data tables presented may not include every survey item on a given topic. Differences between prevalence estimates were considered statistically significant if the 95% confidence intervals did not overlap.

Sample Description

The table below presents a demographic profile of students who completed the 2015 Cuyahoga County High School YRBS. A total of 11,856 usable surveys were completed.

2015 Cuyahoga County High School YRBS		
	N	Weighted %
Total	11856	100%
Gender		
Female	5953	48.3%
Male	5836	51.7%
Grade Level		
9 th	3728	25.1%
10 th	3473	29.7%
11 th	2604	23.5%
12 th	1906	21.7%
Race		
Black*	4806	35.9%
White*	3775	57.2%
Hispanic	1795	4.6%
Other/Multiple	1293	2.4%

*Non-Hispanic

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