



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2013 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Preventive Health Care

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 2013, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 9th through 12th grade students in Cuyahoga County high 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 2013 Cuyahoga County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Preventive Health Care. In this brief report, we present:

- [Overall Prevalence](#)
- [Regional Prevalence](#)
- [Demographic Prevalence](#)
- [Trend Report](#)
- [Comparison to State and Nation](#)

Data for similar behaviors can be found at our website, <http://prchn.org/yrbs.aspx>.

Preventive Health Care

Nationwide, adolescents have the lowest utilization rate of health care services of any age group. Barriers to care include cost of care; low family income; stigma; distrust; confidentiality and parental consent; lack of medical insurance; embarrassment about and lack of transportation to reproductive health services; lack of knowledge about where or how to access care; and lack of adolescent-friendly services.ⁱ

Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.ⁱⁱ 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 2013
AH-1: Increase the proportion of adolescents who have had a wellness checkup in the past 12 months to at least 75.6%	72.2% of Cuyahoga County high school students reported seeing a doctor or nurse for a wellness checkup in the past 12 months.
OH-7: Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past 12 months to at least 49.0%	80.9% of Cuyahoga County high school students reported seeing a dentist for a checkup, exam, or teeth cleaning (non-emergency care) in the past 12 months.

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 16,855 high school students who completed the 2013 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
Described health in general as fair or poor	15.9 (15.1-16.8)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	72.2 (71.0-73.3)
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	80.9 (79.9-81.9)
Brush teeth at least once a day	92.1 (91.4-92.7)
Floss teeth at least once a day	26.0 (25.0-27.1)
Stayed home from school because of a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)	6.8 (6.2-7.5)

Regional Prevalence

The table below represents preventive health care 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 2013, 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 that 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)
Described health in general as fair or poor	22.9 (20.9-24.8)	20.2 (16.4-24.0)	20.6 (18.3-22.8)	18.0 (15.8-20.2)	11.6 (9.6-13.6)	n/a
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	59.9 (57.5-62.4)	60.2 (57.5-62.9)	67.4 (64.5-70.3)	71.3 (68.8-73.9)	83.1 (80.9-85.4)	n/a
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	69.4 (66.8-71.9)	70.2 (67.3-73.2)	73.3 (70.4-76.2)	81.3 (78.6-83.9)	87.7 (85.6-89.9)	n/a
Brush teeth at least once a day	88.6 (87.1-90.2)	88.4 (86.2-90.7)	92.4 (90.8-93.9)	91.1 (89.4-92.9)	93.8 (92.4-95.2)	n/a
Floss teeth at least once a day	38.1 (35.6-40.7)	43.5 (40.7-46.3)	30.1 (27.6-32.6)	22.6 (20.2-25.0)	22.4 (19.9-24.9)	n/a
Stayed home from school because of a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)	11.4 (9.8-12.9)	11.8 (9.6-14.1)	9.8 (7.9-11.7)	5.3 (3.9-6.8)	5.0 (3.8-6.2)	n/a

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of preventive health care between demographic groups. Data are presented by gender, race/ethnicity, grade level, and family affluence (a proxy for socioeconomic status). A statistically significant difference exists between groups if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Described health in general as fair or poor		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	20.8	19.3 - 22.4
Male	11.2	10.1 - 12.2
Race/Ethnicity		
White	12.4	11.2 - 13.5
Black	21.3	19.7 - 22.8
Hispanic	20.9	17.0 - 24.9
Other	18.5	15.7 - 21.3
Grade		
9th	14.3	12.7 - 16.0
10th	16.4	14.8 - 18.0
11th	16.3	14.5 - 18.1
12th	16.8	14.6 - 19.0
Family Affluence		
Low	23.1	21.1 - 25.1
Medium	16.8	15.4 - 18.2
High	11.4	10.3 - 12.6
Total	15.9	15.1 - 16.8

Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	72.8	71.3 - 74.3
Male	71.7	70.0 - 73.3
Race/Ethnicity		
White	77.7	76.2 - 79.2
Black	64.3	62.3 - 66.3
Hispanic	56.6	53.3 - 60.0
Other	69.4	66.2 - 72.7
Grade		
9th	72.6	70.7 - 74.5
10th	71.5	69.1 - 73.9
11th	74.7	72.6 - 76.9
12th	70.6	68.2 - 73.0
Family Affluence		
Low	61.8	59.5 - 64.0
Medium	70.6	68.7 - 72.6
High	79.0	77.3 - 80.6
Total	72.2	71.0 - 73.3

Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	80.5	79.0 - 81.9
Male	81.5	80.0 - 82.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White	87.0	85.8 - 88.1
Black	71.1	69.1 - 73.2
Hispanic	71.4	67.8 - 75.0
Other	77.3	73.5 - 81.1
Grade		
9th	82.2	80.4 - 84.0
10th	81.5	79.4 - 83.6
11th	82.0	80.1 - 83.9
12th	78.8	76.5 - 81.0
Family Affluence		
Low	69.0	66.5 - 71.5
Medium	78.2	76.4 - 80.0
High	88.9	87.7 - 90.1
Total	80.9	79.9 - 81.9

Brush teeth at least once a day		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	95.2	94.4 - 96.0
Male	89.1	88.1 - 90.1
Race/Ethnicity		
White	93.0	92.2 - 93.9
Black	91.1	89.9 - 92.3
Hispanic	85.7	82.7 - 88.6
Other	89.1	86.5 - 91.7
Grade		
9th	91.8	90.5 - 93.0
10th	92.6	91.5 - 93.7
11th	92.1	90.9 - 93.4
12th	92.5	91.0 - 94.1
Family Affluence		
Low	88.8	87.1 - 90.4
Medium	93.0	91.9 - 94.0
High	93.1	92.0 - 94.1
Total	92.1	91.4 - 92.7

Floss teeth at least once a day		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	26.2	24.7 - 27.7
Male	25.8	24.1 - 27.5
Race/Ethnicity		
White	20.4	19.0 - 21.9
Black	33.9	32.2 - 35.6
Hispanic	43.7	40.2 - 47.1
Other	28.2	24.6 - 31.7
Grade		
9th	30.1	28.3 - 31.9
10th	24.5	22.6 - 26.5
11th	23.7	21.8 - 25.7
12th	25.1	22.5 - 27.7
Family Affluence		
Low	29.9	27.7 - 32.1
Medium	27.1	25.4 - 28.7
High	23.1	21.4 - 24.8
Total	26.0	25.0 - 27.1

Stayed home from school because of a toothache		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	5.5	4.8 - 6.2
Male	8.0	7.1 - 9.0
Race/Ethnicity		
White	4.0	3.3 - 4.7
Black	11.0	9.7 - 12.3
Hispanic	14.1	11.1 - 17.1
Other	6.8	4.8 - 8.8
Grade		
9th	7.0	5.9 - 8.0
10th	6.0	4.8 - 7.1
11th	7.2	5.8 - 8.6
12th	6.7	5.3 - 8.1
Family Affluence		
Low	9.8	8.5 - 11.1
Medium	6.9	5.8 - 7.9
High	5.2	4.4 - 6.0
Total	6.8	6.2 - 7.5

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County high school students in 2009, 2011, and 2013. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2009	Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013
Described health in general as fair or poor		
12.6 (11.1-14.1)	12.3 (11.4-13.2)	15.9 (15.1-16.8)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
71.0 (68.8-73.2)	72.0 (70.8-73.2)	72.2 (71.0-73.3)
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)		
n/a	n/a	80.9 (79.9-81.9)
Brush teeth at least once a day		
n/a	n/a	92.1 (91.4-92.7)
Floss teeth at least once a day		
n/a	n/a	26.0 (25.0-27.1)
Stayed home from school because of a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
n/a	n/a	6.8 (6.2-7.5)

Comparison to State and Nation

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County high school students, the state of Ohio high school students, and United States high school students. The columns provide the prevalence for Cuyahoga County as reported in 2013 and the state of Ohio and the United States as reported in 2011 (when available).

Cuyahoga County, 2013	Ohio, 2011	United States, 2011
Described health in general as fair or poor		
15.9 (15.1-16.8)	n/a	n/a
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
72.2 (71.0-73.3)	60.5 (55.5-65.2)	n/a
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)		
80.9 (79.9-81.9)	66.9 (60.8-72.6)	n/a
Brush teeth at least once a day		
92.1 (91.4-92.7)	n/a	n/a
Floss teeth at least once a day		
26.0 (25.0-27.1)	n/a	n/a
Stayed home from school because of a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
6.8 (6.2-7.5)	n/a	n/a

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Partners & Funding

This project was made possible by funding by the Ohio Department of Health/Federal Government, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, Child and Family Health Services Program through the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's Child and Family Health Service Program, as well as Cooperative Agreement #1-U48-DP-001930 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 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
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ⁱ Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Adolescent and School Health Fact Sheet. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Web site. Available at <http://www.astho.org/index.php?template=access.html>. Accessed July 24, 2008.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Adolescent Health; Oral Health*. Retrieved from 2020 Topics & Objectives: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=40>