



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2017 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 2017, 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, www.prchn.org/YRBSDataCollectionAnalysis.aspx.

This brief report presents results from the 2017 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](#)

Data for similar behaviors can be found at our website, www.prchn.org/yrbs_home.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

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 13,907 high school students who completed the 2017 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all dichotomous variables.

Risk Behavior	%(95% Confidence Interval)
Described health in general as fair or poor	19.3 (18.3-20.3)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up or physical exam (During the 12 months before the survey.)	70.3 (69.0-71.6)
Saw a doctor, nurse, or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions (During the 12 months before the survey.)	22.7 (21.7-23.7)

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 2017, 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	21.0 (19.1-23.1)	23.7 (21.7-25.9)	18.9 (16.6-21.3)	21.2 (18.6-24.1)	17.1 (14.0-20.6)	n/a
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up or physical exam (During the 12 months before the survey.)	62.3 (59.5-64.9)	58.9 (56.5-61.2)	68.9 (64.5-73.0)	68.8 (66.0-71.5)	77.4 (74.6-80.0)	n/a
Saw a doctor, nurse, or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions (During the 12 months before the survey.)	23.4 (21.6-25.3)	26.2 (24.0-28.6)	21.5 (19.2-23.9)	24.0 (21.7-26.4)	21.6 (18.6-24.9)	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 grade level. 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	23.3	21.8	- 24.9
Male	15.4	14.1	- 16.7
Race/Ethnicity			
White	17.4	16.1	- 18.7
Black	21.0	19.2	- 23.0
Hispanic	25.6	23.3	- 28.0
Other/Multiple	21.9	18.6	- 25.7
Grade			
9th	16.3	14.4	- 18.5
10th	19.1	17.3	- 21.0
11th	20.1	18.4	- 21.9
12th	21.8	19.5	- 24.3
Total	19.3	18.3	- 20.3

Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up or physical exam			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	71.7	69.9	- 73.4
Male	69.0	67.2	- 70.7
Race/Ethnicity			
White	75.1	73.5	- 76.7
Black	64.6	62.0	- 67.1
Hispanic	63.5	60.6	- 66.4
Other/Multiple	67.4	63.4	- 71.2
Grade			
9th	73.1	69.1	- 76.7
10th	69.5	67.0	- 71.8
11th	69.3	66.5	- 72.0
12th	69.6	66.9	- 72.1
Total	70.3	69.0	- 71.6

Saw a doctor, nurse, or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	27.9	26.7	- 29.2
Male	17.3	16.0	- 18.8
Race/Ethnicity			
White	23.4	22.1	- 24.8
Black	21.5	19.9	- 23.1
Hispanic	25.7	23.0	- 28.5
Other/Multiple	21.0	18.2	- 24.1
Grade			
9th	22.1	20.4	- 24.0
10th	21.9	20.3	- 23.7
11th	24.0	22.0	- 26.2
12th	22.7	20.8	- 24.7
Total	22.7	21.7	- 23.7

Lives with 2 parents (Biological or step-parent)			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	59.3	57.6	- 60.9
Male	59.7	58.1	- 61.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White	73.5	72.2	- 74.8
Black	40.0	38.0	- 42.1
Hispanic	52.8	49.6	- 56.0
Other/Multiple	63.1	58.6	- 67.4
Grade			
9th	59.6	57.1	- 62.0
10th	59.7	57.1	- 62.3
11th	59.2	56.2	- 62.3
12th	59.6	56.3	- 62.8
Total	59.4	58.2	- 60.6

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County high school students in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2009	Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013	Cuyahoga County, 2015	Cuyahoga County, 2017
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)	13.0 (11.8-14.1)	19.3 (18.3-20.3)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up or physical exam (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)	71.3 (69.8-72.8)	70.3 (69.0-71.6)
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)	84.2 (83.0-85.4)	n/a
*Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health problem (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	n/a	n/a	31.2 (29.6-32.9)	n/a
*Saw a doctor, nurse, or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.7 (21.7-23.7)

*In 2017, "Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health problem" was revised to "Saw a doctor, nurse or counselor about stress, depression, or problems with emotions." Both items are included in this table.

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CWRU IRB Protocol #2012-274.

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.

