



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2012 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 2012, 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.aspx>.

This brief report presents results from the 2012 Cuyahoga County Middle 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, <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.<sup>i</sup>

## Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.<sup>ii</sup> 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 2012
<b>AH-1:</b> Increase the proportion of adolescents who have had a wellness checkup in the past 12 months to at least 75.6%	66.9% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported seeing a doctor or nurse for a wellness checkup in the past 12 months.

## Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 12,341 middle school students who completed the 2012 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	8.1% (7.4-8.8)
<b>Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	<b>66.9%</b> <b>(65.8-68.0)</b>

## 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 2012, we were able to weight to 4 of 6 regions in Cuyahoga County. The columns under Inner Ring–East and Inner Ring–West do not include data because school participation within those 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)
Described health in general as fair or poor	8.9% (7.0-10.8)	11.1% (9.3-12.8)	N/A	N/A	6.1% (4.6-7.6)	5.5% (4.6-6.5)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	54.2% (51.7-56.7)	54.0% (51.1-56.8)	N/A	N/A	74.9% (72.4-77.3)	74.0% (72.4-75.6)

## Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of preventive health care 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.

Described health in general as fair or poor		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	10.0	9.0 - 11.1
Male	6.3	5.5 - 7.1
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	8.9	7.6 - 10.3
White	7.1	6.2 - 7.9
Hispanic	13.6	11.1 - 16.1
Other/Multiple	9.5	6.7 - 12.3
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	7.8	6.8 - 8.8
8th	8.1	7.2 - 9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.4 - 8.8</b>

Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	67.8	66.2 - 69.5
Male	66.2	64.8 - 67.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	58.9	57.0 - 60.9
White	74.0	72.6 - 75.3
Hispanic	53.6	50.1 - 57.1
Other/Multiple	62.2	57.7 - 66.8
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	66.5	64.8 - 68.1
8th	67.8	66.3 - 69.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>65.8 - 68.0</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, and 2012. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012
<b>Described health in general as fair or poor</b>		
8.3% (7.6-9.0)	7.4% (6.6-8.2)	8.1% (7.4-8.8)
<b>Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)</b>		
66.5% (65.3-67.7)	64.2% (62.8-65.7)	66.9% (65.8-68.0)

## Contact Information

---

Prepared by:  
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7069  
www.prchn.org

For more information please contact:  
Erika S. Trapl, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
Associate Director, Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
Erika.trapl@case.edu  
216-368-0098

Jean L. Frank, MPH  
Manager of Community Initiatives  
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
Jean.frank@case.edu  
216-368-5913

## 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.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH

---

<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 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>