



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2014 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Preventive Health Care

## 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 spring of 2014, 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 2014 Cuyahoga County Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Preventive Health Care. In this brief report, we present:

- [Healthy People 2020](#)
- [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

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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 2014
<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%	67.0% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported seeing a doctor or nurse for a check-up in the past 12 months

## Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 12,607 middle school students who completed the 2014 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	7.9% (7.4-8.4)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	67.0% (66.1-67.9)
Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue (During the 12 months before the survey.)	29.7% (28.8-30.6)
Saw a dentist for routine check-up (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	72.7% (71.7-73.6)
Brush teeth twice a day (On a typical day.)	64.6% (63.7-65.5)
Had at least one toothache (During the 30 days before the survey.)	26.8% (26.0-27.7)
Missed school due to a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)	4.6% (4.2-5.1)

## 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 2014, 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 this 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	9.4% (8.1-10.9)	11.4% (9.8-13.1)	9.5% (8.5-10.6)	9.9% (8.6-11.4)	5.5% (4.4-6.8)	N/A
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	56.3% (53.8-58.8)	55.1% (52.6-57.6)	62.1% (60.0-64.1)	67.9% (64.6-71.1)	76.1% (73.5-78.5)	N/A
Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue (During the 12 months before the survey.)	33.5% (31.3-35.8)	32.3% (29.5-35.2)	33.4% (31.4-35.4)	33.2% (30.5-36.0)	26.7% (23.7-29.8)	N/A
Saw a dentist for routine check-up (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	56.0% (53.6-58.3)	57.9% (55.1-60.6)	65.1% (62.8-67.3)	72.6% (69.1-76.0)	82.5% (79.6-85.0)	N/A
Brush teeth twice a day (On a typical day.)	66.8% (63.9-69.5)	67.4% (64.9-69.9)	62.3% (60.2-64.2)	57.4% (54.0-60.7)	69.0% (67.1-70.8)	N/A
Had at least one toothache (During the 30 days before the survey.)	30.4% (28.1-32.7)	26.5% (24.1-29.1)	27.1% (25.5-28.9)	27.6% (25.3-30.1)	26.4% (23.6-29.3)	N/A
Missed school due to a toothache (During the 12 months before the survey.)	8.3% (6.9-9.9)	6.4% (5.4-7.6)	6.0% (4.9-7.3)	4.2% (2.9-5.9)	2.8% (2.0-3.8)	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, 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	9.3- 10.8
Male	5.9	5.3- 6.5
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	6.3	5.8- 6.9
Black	9.8	8.9- 10.6
Hispanic	11.9	9.8- 14.3
Other/Multiple	7.0	5.1- 9.4
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	7.3	6.7- 7.9
8th	8.4	7.7- 9.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.4- 8.4</b>

Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	67.7	66.4- 69.0
Male	66.6	65.5- 67.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	73.6	72.3- 74.8
Black	59.2	57.8- 60.7
Hispanic	53.0	49.5- 56.5
Other/Multiple	62.8	59.2- 66.2
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	66.5	65.1- 68.0
8th	67.9	66.4- 69.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>66.1- 67.9</b>

Saw a doctor, counselor or therapist for a mental health issue			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	32.8	31.5-	34.1
Male	26.9	25.8-	28.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	27.4	26.1-	28.6
Black	33.0	31.5-	34.5
Hispanic	34.6	31.4-	37.9
Other/Multiple	24.7	21.8-	27.8
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	29.1	27.8-	30.5
8th	30.3	29.0-	31.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>28.8-</b>	<b>30.6</b>

Saw a dentist for a routine check-up			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	73.4	72.1-	74.6
Male	72.3	71.0-	73.5
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	82.5	81.2-	83.7
Black	59.7	58.0-	61.3
Hispanic	57.9	54.2-	61.5
Other/Multiple	70.1	66.4-	73.5
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	72.2	70.5-	73.8
8th	73.5	71.8-	75.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>71.7-</b>	<b>73.6</b>

Brush teeth twice a day			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	69.9	68.6-	71.1
Male	59.8	58.5-	61.1
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	65.0	63.8-	66.3
Black	63.6	62.0-	65.1
Hispanic	68.7	65.5-	71.7
Other/Multiple	63.3	59.7-	66.8
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	64.3	63.0-	65.6
8th	65.2	63.7-	66.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>63.7-</b>	<b>65.5</b>

Had at least one toothache			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	31.0	29.8-	32.2
Male	22.9	21.8-	24.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	25.5	24.4-	26.6
Black	28.8	27.4-	30.3
Hispanic	25.6	22.5-	29.0
Other/Multiple	31.1	27.4-	35.1
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	27.1	26.0-	28.2
8th	26.5	25.2-	27.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>26.0-</b>	<b>27.7</b>

Missed school due to a toothache			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	4.9	4.3-	5.6
Male	4.3	3.8-	4.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	3.1	2.6-	3.6
Black	6.8	5.9-	7.7
Hispanic	6.8	5.6-	8.3
Other/Multiple	4.7	3.7-	6.0
<b>Grade</b>			
7th	4.7	4.1-	5.4
8th	4.4	3.9-	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2-</b>	<b>5.1</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.<sup>1</sup>

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012	Cuyahoga County, 2014
<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)	7.9% (7.4-8.4)
<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)	67.0% (66.1-67.9)

<sup>1</sup> The YRBS questions with two or more data points over 2008-2014 are included. The new 2014 questions are not included for the purpose of demonstrating trends. For those questions not asked in 2014, refer to the PRCHN archives at [www.prchn.org/asp](http://www.prchn.org/asp) for more detailed information.



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<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>