



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2016 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 2016, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 7th and 8th 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 2016 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.ⁱ

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes preventive health care among the 13,261 middle school students who completed the 2016 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	%(95% Confidence Interval)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	68.6 (68.1-69.1)
Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue (During the 12 months before the survey.)	30.5 (30.0-30.9)
Saw a dentist for check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other routine dental work (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	72.3 (71.7-72.8)

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 2016, 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)
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)	54.2% (52.1-56.2)	53.6% (50.8-56.4)	64.7% (63.8-65.6)	67.9% (67.3-68.6)	79.8% (78.1-81.5)	N/A
Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue (During the 12 months before the survey.)	36.3% (34.2-38.5)	35.9% (33.1-38.7)	34.0% (33.1-34.9)	30.7% (30.0-31.4)	25.8% (25.4-26.3)	N/A
Saw a dentist for routine check-up (Not including emergencies, during the 12 months before the survey.)	51.6% (49.3-54.0)	54.3% (51.5-57.1)	61.1% (59.9-62.3)	75.2% (74.5-75.9)	83.1% (81.2-84.8)	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.

Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	68.9	68.2	- 69.6
Male	68.4	67.7	- 69.0
Race/Ethnicity			
White	75.7	75.3	- 76.0
Black	60.2	59.3	- 61.2
Hispanic	51.7	47.9	- 55.6
Other/Multiple	68.6	67.2	- 69.9
Grade			
7th	66.9	65.9	- 67.9
8th	70.5	69.6	- 71.4
Total	68.6	68.1	- 69.1

Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	32.4	31.8	- 33.1
Male	28.5	27.8	- 29.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	26.9	26.6	- 27.3
Black	35.4	34.5	- 36.4
Hispanic	34.4	31.2	- 37.8
Other/Multiple	28.7	27.3	- 30.1
Grade			
7th	30.3	29.7	- 31.0
8th	30.7	30.0	- 31.4
Total	30.5	30.0	- 30.9

Saw a dentist for routine check-up			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	73.5	72.7	- 74.3
Male	71.1	70.5	- 71.8
Race/Ethnicity			
White	84.5	84.1	- 84.8
Black	56.5	55.3	- 57.6
Hispanic	53.5	50.0	- 57.0
Other/Multiple	69.0	67.7	- 70.3
Grade			
7th	71.2	70.0	- 72.3
8th	73.8	72.7	- 74.9
Total	72.3	71.7	- 72.8

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of preventive health care among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.¹

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012	Cuyahoga County, 2014	Cuyahoga County, 2016
Described health in general as fair or poor				
8.3% (7.6-9.0)	7.4% (6.6-8.2)	8.1% (7.4-8.8)	7.9% (7.4-8.4)	N/A
Saw a doctor or nurse for check-up (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
66.5% (65.3-67.7)	64.2% (62.8-65.7)	66.9% (65.8-68.0)	67.0% (66.1-67.9)	68.6% (68.1-69.1)
Saw a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health issue (During the 12 months before the survey.)				
N/A	N/A	N/A	29.7% (28.8-30.6)	30.5% (30.0-30.9)
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	N/A	72.7% (71.7-73.6)	72.3% (71.7-72.8)

¹ The YRBS questions with two or more data points over 2008-2016 are included. The new 2016 questions are not included for the purpose of demonstrating trends. For those questions not asked in 2016, refer to the PRCHN archives at www.prchn.org.aspx for more detailed information.

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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.