



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2012 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Tobacco Use

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 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 2012 Cuyahoga County Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Tobacco Use. This includes questions pertaining to tobacco use behavior as well as perceptions of tobacco use. 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>.

Tobacco Use

Using tobacco can have serious effects on long-term health. The use of cigarettes is the single leading preventable cause of death in the United States.ⁱ Almost 90% of adult smokers initiate use before or at age 18.ⁱⁱ Hookah smoking can lead to cardiovascular disease and cancer. Per a report from the World Health Organization (WHO), one hookah smoking session may be equivalent to smoking 100 cigarettes.ⁱⁱⁱ Tobacco use in adolescence is associated with many other health risk behaviors, including higher-risk sexual behavior and use of alcohol or other drugs.^{iv}

Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.^v 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
TU-2.2: Reduce use of cigarettes by adolescents to no more than 16.0%.	3.7% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported using cigarettes in the past 30 days.
TU-2.4: Reduce use of cigars by adolescents to no more than 8.0%	6.7% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported using cigars in the past 30 days.*

* The Cuyahoga County YRBS cigar use item includes product examples (such as Black & Milds, Swisher Sweets, and Phillies) which are not included in the national YRBS item. It is anticipated that the prevalence of current cigar use reported by Cuyahoga County middle school students is a more accurate representation of use because of the this inclusion.

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes tobacco use 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)
Lifetime cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, on at least 1 day during their life.)	8.8% (8.1-9.5)
Smoked a whole cigarette before age 11 years	2.5% (2.2-2.9)
Current cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.7% (3.3-4.0)
Cigarette use on school property (Smoked cigarettes on school property at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.9% (1.6, 2.3)
Current cigar use (Smoked a cigar, cigarillo, little cigar, or flavored cigar on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.7% (6.1-7.3)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes	72.5% (71.4-73.6)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to smoke cigarettes	89.0% (88.3-89.8)
Students perceive great risk of harm from smoking cigarettes (Physically or in other ways, if smoke one or more packs a day.)	65.4% (64.2-66.6)

Regional Prevalence

The table below represents tobacco use in the six regions of Cuyahoga County.

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)
Lifetime cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, on at least 1 day during their life.)	11.1% (9.3-12.9)	16.5% (14.2-18.9)	N/A	N/A	5.4% (3.9-6.9)	5.8% (5.0-6.7)
Smoked a whole cigarette before age 11 years	4.7% (3.5-5.9)	6.2% (5.1-7.3)	N/A	N/A	1.8% (1.0-2.6)	1.4% (0.8-1.9)
Current cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.9% (2.7-5.0)	7.0% (5.4-8.5)	N/A	N/A	2.4% (1.5-3.2)	3.1% (2.5-3.8)
Cigarette use on school property (Smoked cigarettes on school property at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.9% (2.7-5.1)	5.0% (3.7-6.4)	N/A	N/A	1.1% (0.6-1.6)	1.5% (0.9-2.1)
Current cigar use (Smoked a cigar, cigarillo, little cigar, or flavored cigar on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	15.6% (13.2-17.9)	11.5% (9.4-13.5)	N/A	N/A	4.1% (2.8-5.3)	2.7% (2.1-3.4)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes	65.5% (62.2-68.7)	62.6% (60.0-65.3)	N/A	N/A	80.6% (78.0-83.3)	78.5% (76.8-80.2)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to smoke cigarettes	80.9% (78.2-83.6)	83.4% (79.3-83.4)	N/A	N/A	92.6% (90.6-94.6)	93.1% (92.0-94.2)
Students perceive great risk of harm from smoking cigarettes (Physically or in other ways, if smoke one or more packs a day.)	44.6% (41.5-47.7)	47.8% (44.6-51.1)	N/A	N/A	75.4% (72.8-78.0)	75.1% (73.2-77.1)

Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of tobacco use 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.

Lifetime cigarette use		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	8.2	7.3 - 9.1
Male	9.3	8.3 - 10.3
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	9.5	8.4 - 10.7
White	7.5	6.5 - 8.4
Hispanic	18.4	15.4 - 21.4
Other/Multiple	12.2	9.0 - 15.5
Grade		
7th	6.3	5.5 - 7.0
8th	10.6	9.5 - 11.7
Total	8.8	8.1 - 9.5

Smoked a whole cigarette before age 11 years		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	2.1	1.6 - 2.5
Male	2.9	2.4 - 3.5
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	3.1	2.5 - 3.8
White	1.6	1.2 - 2.0
Hispanic	8.9	6.1 - 11.6
Other/Multiple	6.4	3.2 - 9.5
Grade		
7th	2.2	1.8 - 2.6
8th	2.3	1.8 - 2.8
Total	2.5	2.2 - 2.9

Current cigarette use		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	3.1	2.6 - 3.7
Male	4.1	3.4 - 4.8
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	3.2	2.5 - 4.0
White	3.5	2.9 - 4.1
Hispanic	9.4	6.9 - 11.9
Other/Multiple	4.5	2.3 - 6.6
Grade		
7th	2.7	2.2 - 3.2
8th	4.1	3.4 - 4.7
Total	3.7	3.3 - 4.0

Cigarette use on school property		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	1.1	0.8 - 1.4
Male	2.7	2.2 - 3.2
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	2.3	1.8 - 2.8
White	1.1	0.8 - 1.5
Hispanic	6.7	4.7 - 8.7
Other/Multiple	5.4	2.9 - 8.0
Grade		
7th	1.5	1.2 - 1.9
8th	1.8	1.4 - 2.2
Total	1.9	1.6 - 2.3

Current cigar use		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	5.7	5.0 - 6.4
Male	7.5	6.7 - 8.4
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	10.7	9.5 - 11.9
White	3.2	2.6 - 3.8
Hispanic	13.9	11.4 - 16.4
Other/Multiple	9.9	6.7 - 13.2
Grade		
7th	5.4	4.7 - 6.1
8th	7.4	6.6 - 8.2
Total	6.7	6.1 - 7.3

Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	74.3	72.8 - 75.8
Male	70.9	69.4 - 72.4
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	67.1	65.0 - 69.2
White	76.8	75.5 - 78.2
Hispanic	60.7	57.3 - 64.2
Other/Multiple	69.4	65.3 - 73.5
Grade		
7th	76.0	74.4 - 77.5
8th	69.8	68.4 - 71.3
Total	72.5	71.4 - 73.6

Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to smoke cigarettes		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	91.3	90.4 - 92.1
Male	87.0	85.8 - 88.2
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	84.9	83.5 - 86.3
White	92.4	91.5 - 93.3
Hispanic	80.0	76.9 - 83.0
Other/Multiple	84.4	80.4 - 88.4
Grade		
7th	89.7	88.7 - 90.7
8th	89.0	87.9 - 90.0
Total	89.0	88.3 - 89.8

Students perceive great risk of harm from smoking cigarettes		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	67.4	65.7 - 69.1
Male	63.7	62.0 - 65.3
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	53.3	51.2 - 55.4
White	74.8	73.2 - 76.3
Hispanic	47.3	43.9 - 50.7
Other/Multiple	58.0	53.3 - 62.8
Grade		
7th	64.4	62.7 - 66.2
8th	66.7	65.1 - 68.4
Total	65.4	64.2 - 66.6

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of tobacco use behaviors and attitudes 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
Lifetime cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, on at least 1 day during their life.)		
21.2% (20.0-22.4)	11.9% (10.8-13.0)	8.8% (8.1-9.5)
Smoked a whole cigarette before age 11 years		
4.0% (3.2-4.9)	3.4% (2.8-3.9)	2.5% (2.2-2.9)
Current cigarette use (Smoked a cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)		
5.4% (4.8-6.0)	4.2% (3.7-4.7)	3.7% (3.3-4.0)
Cigarette use on school property (Smoked cigarettes on school property at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)		
N/A	N/A	1.9% (1.6, 2.3)
Current cigar use (Smoked a cigar, cigarillo, little cigar, or flavored cigar on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)		
8.0 % (7.3-8.7)	9.0% (8.2-9.9)	6.7% (6.1-7.3)
Students believe it is very wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes		
69.0% (67.3-70.8)	68.9% (67.2-70.6)	72.5% (71.4-73.6)
Students perceive that their parents believe it is very wrong for them to smoke cigarettes		
88.2% (86.5-89.9)	87.9% (86.9-89.0)	89.0% (88.3-89.8)
Students perceive great risk of harm from smoking cigarettes (Physically or in other ways, if smoke one or more packs a day.)		
N/A	63.7% (61.9-65.5)	65.4% (64.2-66.6)

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ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2004. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 1994. *Preventing Tobacco Use among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organization (Tobacco Free Initiative). *Waterpipe tobacco smoking: health effects, research needs and recommended actions by regulators* (Advisory Note). Accessed on September 17, 2013 from http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_interaction/tobreg/Waterpipe%20recommendation_Final.pdf

^{iv} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 1994. *Preventing Tobacco Use among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

^v U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Tobacco Use*. Retrieved from 2020 Topics & Objectives:
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=40>