



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2012 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Violence-Related Behaviors

## 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 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 Violence-Related Behaviors. 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>.

## Violence Related Behaviors

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In the United States, youth violence is the second leading cause of death for people 15 to 24 years of age. Adolescents can experience violence along a continuum that may begin with verbal harassment and advance into physical acts of violence.<sup>i</sup> Violence affects the quality of life of those who experience it and those who witness the acts. Some identified risk factors thought to be associated with increased risk for youth involvement in violent behaviors include poverty in the community, substance use, poor family functioning, and poor academic performance.<sup>ii</sup> Bullying and being bullied at school are associated with key violence-related behaviors including carrying weapons, fighting and sustaining injuries from fighting.<sup>iii</sup>

## Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.<sup>iv</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>IVP-34:</b> Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to no more than 28.4%.	34.8% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being involved in at least one physical fight during the past 12 months.
<b>IVP-35:</b> Reduce bullying among adolescents to no more than 17.9%	33.8% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being bullied on school property during the past 12 months.  21.7% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being electronically bullied during the past 12 months.
<b>IVP-36:</b> Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to no more than 4.6%	3.6% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported carrying a weapon on school property at least once during the past 30 days.

## Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes violence related behaviors 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)
<b>Carried a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.6% (3.2-4.1)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	8.1% (7.4-8.7)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	34.8% (33.5-36.0)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	16.9% (16.0-17.8)
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	33.8% (32.6-34.9)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	21.7% (20.7-22.7)

## Regional Prevalence

The table below represents violence related behaviors 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)
<b>Carried a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	8.2% (6.3-10.0)	7.0% (5.1-9.0)	N/A	N/A	2.1% (1.3-2.9)	2.3% (1.6-3.0)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	11.9% (10.3-13.4)	11.0% (8.8-13.2)	N/A	N/A	5.5% (4.2-6.9)	5.4% (4.6-6.2)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	49.6% (47.2-52.1)	43.9% (40.7-47.0)	N/A	N/A	27.9% (25.4-30.4)	26.5% (24.7-28.3)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	30.0% (27.8-32.1)	23.8% (21.6-25.9)	N/A	N/A	11.4% (9.7-13.1)	9.1% (8.0-10.2)
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	25.2% (22.8-27.7)	31.1% (28.8-33.4)	N/A	N/A	31.8% (28.3-35.2)	38.9% (37.0-40.9)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	20.3% (18.1-22.6)	22.7% (20.2-25.2)	N/A	N/A	21.6% (19.4-23.8)	22.9% (21.1-24.6)

## Demographic Prevalence

The tables below allow for further comparisons of violence related behaviors 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.

Carried a weapon on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	2.3	1.9 - 2.8
Male	4.8	4.1 - 5.5
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	5.2	4.3 - 6.0
White	1.9	1.5 - 2.4
Hispanic	8.7	6.5 - 11.0
Other/Multiple	7.5	4.4 - 10.7
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	3.6	3.0 - 4.1
8th	3.2	2.6 - 3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.2 - 4.1</b>

Did not go to school because of safety concerns		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	8.8	7.8 - 9.7
Male	7.4	6.5 - 8.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	10.9	9.6 - 12.2
White	5.7	4.9 - 6.4
Hispanic	13.4	10.8 - 15.9
Other/Multiple	8.6	5.7 - 11.5
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	8.7	7.7 - 9.7
8th	7.2	6.4 - 8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.4 - 8.7</b>

In a physical fight		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	26.8	25.2 - 28.4
Male	42.1	40.5 - 43.8
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	45.3	42.8 - 47.7
White	26.4	25.0 - 27.7
Hispanic	46.2	42.9 - 49.5
Other/Multiple	46.3	41.5 - 51.2
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	37.0	35.1 - 38.9
8th	32.3	30.7 - 33.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>33.5 - 36.0</b>

In a physical fight on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	11.8	10.7 - 12.9
Male	21.6	20.3 - 22.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	25.2	23.4 - 27.0
White	10.2	9.3 - 11.2
Hispanic	24.7	21.8 - 27.6
Other/Multiple	26.3	21.6 - 31.0
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	19.0	17.6 - 20.3
8th	14.5	13.4 - 15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.0 - 17.8</b>

Bullied on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	36.5	34.8 - 38.1
Male	31.3	29.7 - 32.8
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	28.6	26.6 - 30.6
White	37.9	36.4 - 39.4
Hispanic	33.1	29.8 - 36.3
Other/Multiple	30.4	26.1 - 34.6
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	34.0	32.6 - 35.5
8th	33.4	31.5 - 35.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>32.6 - 34.9</b>

Electronically bullied		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	28.8	27.2 - 30.4
Male	15.1	13.9 - 16.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	20.1	18.6 - 21.6
White	22.6	21.3 - 24.0
Hispanic	24.7	21.7 - 27.7
Other/Multiple	19.0	15.1 - 23.0
<b>Grade</b>		
7th	20.9	19.6 - 22.1
8th	22.3	20.8 - 23.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>20.7 - 22.7</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of violence related behaviors 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>Carried a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
5.0% (4.5-5.5)	4.8% (4.2-5.4)	3.6% (3.2-4.1)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
N/A	6.4% (5.8-7.1)	8.1% (7.4-8.7)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
47.8% (46.3-49.3)	40.9% (39.1-42.6)	34.8% (33.5-36.0)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
23.4% (22.4-24.5)	19.2% (17.8-20.6)	16.9% (16.0-17.8)
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
34.1% (33.0-35.2)	32.9% (31.2-34.6)	33.8% (32.6-34.9)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)		
N/A	19.7% (18.6-20.9)	21.7% (20.7-22.7)



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<sup>i</sup> Ohio Department of Health. 2003. Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Health.

<sup>ii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2010. Retrieved from [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars)

<sup>iii</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. 2007. *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2007*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

<sup>iv</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Injury and Violence Prevention*. Retrieved from 2020 Topics & Objectives: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=40>