



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2014 Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Violence-Related Behaviors

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 2014, 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.apxs>.

This brief report presents results from the 2014 Cuyahoga County Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a particular focus on Violence-Related Behaviors. 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>.

Violence Related Behaviors

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.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ Bullying and being bullied at school are associated with key violence-related behaviors including carrying weapons, fighting and sustaining injuries from fighting.ⁱⁱⁱ

Healthy People 2020

Where possible, the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are compared to the Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.^{iv} 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
IVP-34: Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to no more than 28.4%.	33.2% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months.
IVP-35: Reduce bullying among adolescents to no more than 17.9%	30.3% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being harassed or picked on at school during the 30 days before the survey. 21.3% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported being electronically bullied during the past 12 months.
IVP-36: Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to no more than 4.6%	3.2% of Cuyahoga County middle school students reported carrying a weapon on school property one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes violence related behaviors 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)
Carried a weapon on school property (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.2% (2.9-3.6)
Did not go to school because of safety concerns (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.9% (6.4-7.4)
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	33.2% (32.3-34.0)
In a physical fight on school property (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	14.7% (14.0-15.4)
Harassed or picked on at school (During the 30 days before the survey.)	30.3% (29.4-31.2)
Electronically bullied (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	21.3% (20.6-22.0)

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 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)
Carried a weapon on school property (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	5.9% (4.7-7.5)	4.1% (3.2-5.3)	3.6% (2.9-4.4)	3.3% (2.3-4.7)	2.2% (1.5-3.4)	N/A
Did not go to school because of safety concerns (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	9.8% (8.3-11.6)	8.1% (6.8-9.6)	7.9% (6.8-9.2)	8.9% (6.9-11.4)	5.3% (4.3-6.5)	N/A
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	49.2% (46.9-51.6)	40.4% (37.5-43.4)	38.2% (36.1-40.3)	29.2% (26.8-31.8)	26.9% (24.6-29.3)	N/A
In a physical fight on school property (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	27.8% (25.8-29.9)	20.0% (17.7-22.5)	20.8% (18.9-22.8)	10.1% (8.3-12.1)	9.0% (7.7-10.4)	N/A
Harassed or picked on at school (During the 30 days before the survey.)	23.9% (21.9-26.0)	26.5% (24.3-29.0)	26.8% (24.7-29.1)	39.1% (36.4-41.9)	31.1% (28.3-34.0)	N/A
Electronically bullied (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	19.4% (17.5-21.5)	19.0% (17.4-20.8)	20.3% (18.7-22.0)	25.9% (23.3-28.6)	19.2% (17.2-21.3)	N/A

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	
Gender			
Female	2.2	1.9-	2.7
Male	3.9	3.5-	4.5
Race/Ethnicity			
White	1.8	1.5-	2.2
Black	4.3	3.7-	5.0
Hispanic	8.1	6.4-	10.3
Other/Multiple	7.2	5.2-	9.8
Grade			
7th	2.6	2.2-	3.1
8th	3.4	2.9-	4.0
Total	3.2	2.9-	3.6

Did not go to school because of safety concerns			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	8.0	7.3-	8.8
Male	5.6	5.1-	6.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White	5.5	4.8-	6.2
Black	8.3	7.4-	9.2
Hispanic	11.2	9.5-	13.3
Other/Multiple	10.2	7.7-	13.5
Grade			
7th	6.9	6.2-	7.6
8th	6.5	5.8-	7.4
Total	6.9	6.4-	7.4

In a physical fight			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	25.5	24.3-	26.7
Male	39.9	38.6-	41.2
Race/Ethnicity			
White	25.5	24.5-	26.6
Black	44.3	42.7-	45.8
Hispanic	38.1	34.8-	41.6
Other/Multiple	34.9	30.7-	39.3
Grade			
7th	34.1	32.6-	35.6
8th	31.9	30.5-	33.3
Total	33.2	32.3-	34.0

In a physical fight on school property			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	10.9	10.1-	11.8
Male	18.0	17.0-	18.9
Race/Ethnicity			
White	8.3	7.6-	9.0
Black	23.8	22.5-	25.2
Hispanic	19.2	16.4-	22.4
Other/Multiple	17.6	15.0-	20.4
Grade			
7th	15.6	14.4-	16.9
8th	13.4	12.3-	14.5
Total	14.7	14.0-	15.4

Harassed or picked on at school			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	33.7	32.4-	35.0
Male	27.2	26.1-	28.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White	33.7	32.5-	34.9
Black	25.0	23.6-	26.4
Hispanic	28.4	25.3-	31.7
Other/Multiple	33.0	29.4-	36.8
Grade			
7th	30.3	29.1-	31.6
8th	30.2	28.9-	31.4
Total	30.3	29.4-	31.2

Electronically bullied			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	28.2	27.0-	29.3
Male	15.0	14.1-	15.9
Race/Ethnicity			
White	22.5	21.5-	23.5
Black	19.8	18.6-	21.0
Hispanic	22.0	19.5-	24.7
Other/Multiple	21.3	18.7-	24.3
Grade			
7th	20.6	19.6-	21.6
8th	21.9	20.8-	23.0
Total	21.3	20.6-	22.0

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of violence related behaviors 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. ¹

Cuyahoga County, 2008	Cuyahoga County, 2010	Cuyahoga County, 2012	Cuyahoga County, 2014
Carried a weapon on school property (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)	3.2% (2.9-3.6)
Did not go to school because of safety concerns (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)	6.9% (6.4-7.4)
In a physical fight (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)	33.2% (32.3-34.0)
In a physical fight on school property (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)	14.7% (14.0-15.4)
Harassed or picked on at school (During the 30 days before the survey.)			
34.1% (33.0-35.2)	32.9% (31.2-34.6)	33.8% (32.6-34.9)	30.3% (29.4-31.2)
Electronically bullied (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)	21.3% (20.6-22.0)

¹ 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 for more detailed information.

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ⁱ Ohio Department of Health. 2003. Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Health.

ⁱⁱ 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

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

^{iv} 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>