



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

2016 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 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 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

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

Overall Prevalence

The following table summarizes violence related behaviors 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)
Carried a weapon (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	10.8 (10.5-11.2)
Carried a weapon on school property (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.2 (1.1-1.4)
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	33.6 (33.0-34.2)
Did not go to school because of safety concerns (One or more days during the 30 days before the survey.)	7.8 (7.5-8.1)
Harassed or picked on at school (During the 30 days before the survey.)	25.0 (24.6-25.4)
Electronically bullied (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	20.7 (20.4-21.1)

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 (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	11.1% (9.5-13.1)	11.4% (9.5-13.5)	8.7% (8.2-9.3)	13.1% (12.7-13.6)	7.9% (7.5-8.4)	N/A
Carried a weapon on school property (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	2.5% (1.7-3.5)	1.8% (1.2-2.7)	1.6% (1.5-1.8)	1.7% (1.5-1.9)	0.7% (0.6-0.8)	N/A
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	54.9% (51.7-58.1)	43.3% (40.4-46.2)	40.8% (39.8-41.8)	29.3% (28.8-29.7)	23.9% (22.2-25.5)	N/A
Did not go to school because of safety concerns (One or more days during the 30 days before the survey.)	9.5% (7.9-11.5)	9.4% (8.1-11.0)	11.7% (11.3-12.1)	9.3% (8.8-9.7)	3.4% (2.8-4.1)	N/A
Harassed or picked on at school (During the 30 days before the survey.)	21.6% (19.2-24.2)	21.2% (19.4-23.1)	25.4% (24.7-26.2)	30.8% (30.0-31.6)	21.8% (21.1-22.6)	N/A
Electronically bullied (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	18.8% (16.9-20.9)	17.3% (15.6-19.2)	20.2% (19.5-20.9)	26.3% (25.7-27.0)	20.9% (20.0-21.7)	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		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	5.7	5.3 - 6.1
Male	15.6	15.1 - 16.1
Race/Ethnicity		
White	11.6	11.4 - 11.9
Black	8.5	7.8 - 9.2
Hispanic	14.2	11.8 - 16.9
Other/Multiple	17.2	16.2 - 18.3
Grade		
7th	10.5	10.0 - 11.0
8th	10.6	10.1 - 11.0
Total	10.5	10.2 - 10.9

Carried a weapon on school property		
Category	%	CI
Gender		
Female	0.8	0.7 - 1.0
Male	1.6	1.4 - 1.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White	0.5	0.5 - 0.6
Black	1.7	1.4 - 2.0
Hispanic	4.3	3.4 - 5.3
Other/Multiple	4.1	3.9 - 4.4
Grade		
7th	1.0	0.8 - 1.2
8th	1.1	0.9 - 1.3
Total	1.0	0.9 - 1.2

In a physical fight			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	24.9	24.2	25.7
Male	41.7	40.9	42.4
Race/Ethnicity			
White	23.6	23.2	23.9
Black	47.1	45.8	48.3
Hispanic	40.8	37.4	44.3
Other/Multiple	37.8	36.5	39.2
Grade			
7th	35.5	34.4	36.5
8th	31.3	30.3	32.3
Total	33.4	32.8	33.9

Did not go to school because of safety concerns			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	9.5	9.1	9.9
Male	6.2	5.8	6.6
Race/Ethnicity			
White	5.8	5.6	6.0
Black	9.8	9.2	10.5
Hispanic	14.5	12.8	16.4
Other/Multiple	9.7	8.1	11.6
Grade			
7th	7.7	7.3	8.1
8th	7.4	7.0	7.8
Total	7.6	7.3	7.9

Bullied on school property			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	28.5	27.9	- 29.0
Male	21.7	21.1	- 22.3
Race/Ethnicity			
White	27.1	26.7	- 27.4
Black	21.8	20.8	- 22.7
Hispanic	25.3	22.8	- 28.1
Other/Multiple	28.9	27.6	- 30.2
Grade			
7th	25.8	25.1	- 26.5
8th	24.0	23.4	- 24.7
Total	24.9	24.5	- 25.3

Electronically bullied			
Category	%	CI	
Gender			
Female	27.5	26.9	- 28.0
Male	14.3	13.9	- 14.8
Race/Ethnicity			
White	21.6	21.3	- 21.9
Black	19.5	18.7	- 20.4
Hispanic	20.9	18.7	- 23.3
Other/Multiple	20.5	19.2	- 21.8
Grade			
7th	19.5	19.0	- 20.0
8th	21.7	21.2	- 22.2
Total	20.6	20.3	- 21.0

Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of violence related behaviors among Cuyahoga County middle school students in 2008, 2010, 2012, 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
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)	1.2% (1.1-1.4)
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)	33.6% (33.0-34.2)
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)	N/A
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)	7.8% (7.5-8.1)
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)	25.0% (24.6-25.4)
Electronically bullied (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during past 12 months)				
N/A	19.7% (18.6-20.9)	21.7% (20.7-22.7)	21.3% (20.6-22.0)	20.7% (20.4-21.1)

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.aspx 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.