



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
at Case Western Reserve University

# 2013 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 2013, the PRCHN conducted the YRBS among 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Cuyahoga County high 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 2013 Cuyahoga County High 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](#)
- [Comparison to State and Nation](#)

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 2013
<b>IVP-34:</b> Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to no more than 28.4%.	26.5% of Cuyahoga County high 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%	19.4% of Cuyahoga County high school students reported being bullied on school property during the past 12 months.  14.5% of Cuyahoga County high 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%	3.9% of Cuyahoga County high 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 16,855 high school students who completed the 2013 Cuyahoga County YRBS. Prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals were computed for all variables.

Risk Behavior	% (95% Confidence Interval)
<b>Carried a weapon</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	11.9 (11.1-12.7)
<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.)	3.9 (3.4-4.3)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	7.4 (6.8-8.0)
<b>Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	6.6 (6.0-7.2)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	26.5 (25.4-27.6)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	11.2 (10.4-11.9)
<b>Forced to have sexual intercourse</b>	7.9 (7.3-8.5)
<b>Physically injured by significant other</b> (Such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)	10.2 (9.4-11.0)
<b>Forced to do sexual things by significant other</b> (Such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)	10.3 (9.5-11.0)
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	19.4 (18.3-20.4)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	14.5 (13.7-15.3)

## 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 2013, 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 that 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)
<b>Carried a weapon</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	15.0 (13.5-16.5)	15.7 (13.2-18.1)	11.3 (9.6-13.1)	12.2 (10.1-14.3)	8.3 (6.6-10.0)	n/a
<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.)	6.3 (5.2-7.5)	6.3 (4.7-7.8)	4.0 (2.9-5.0)	4.0 (2.6-5.3)	2.7 (1.8-3.6)	n/a
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	10.2 (9.1-11.4)	14.0 (12.0-15.9)	8.6 (7.0-10.2)	8.7 (7.0-10.3)	4.2 (3.1-5.2)	n/a
<b>Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	10.7 (9.4-12.1)	9.4 (7.9-10.9)	7.8 (6.5-9.2)	6.9 (5.2-8.6)	4.3 (3.0-5.5)	n/a
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	40.2 (38.0-42.4)	36.4 (33.3-39.6)	33.1 (30.3-35.8)	21.3 (19.0-23.6)	20.3 (17.8-22.9)	n/a
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	20.4 (18.6-22.2)	18.3 (15.8-20.8)	15.0 (12.9-17.3)	6.8 (5.3-8.2)	7.6 (6.1-9.1)	n/a
<b>Forced to have sexual intercourse</b>	10.7 (9.3-12.1)	11.1 (9.0-13.3)	9.3 (7.9-10.7)	6.9 (5.4-8.4)	7.1 (5.5-8.6)	n/a
<b>Physically injured by significant other</b> (Such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)	12.5 (11.0-14.0)	10.5 (8.3-12.6)	13.0 (11.2-14.8)	12.5 (9.9-15.1)	7.7 (5.9-9.4)	n/a

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>Forced to do sexual things by significant other</b> (Such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)	8.8 (7.6-10.1)	10.9 (9.0-12.9)	10.7 (9.0-12.4)	10.7 (8.6-12.7)	9.8 (7.7-11.9)	n/a
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	13.3 (11.9-14.8)	18.8 (16.8-20.7)	15.4 (13.3-17.5)	23.3 (20.4-26.3)	19.6 (17.2-22.0)	n/a
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)	9.3 (8.1-10.5)	14.4 (12.6-16.2)	10.9 (9.5-12.3)	18.4 (16.3-20.5)	14.3 (12.4-16.3)	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, 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.

Carried a weapon		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	5.3	4.7 - 5.9
Male	18.0	16.7 - 19.4
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	10.6	9.4 - 11.7
Black	12.9	11.7 - 14.0
Hispanic	19.5	16.5 - 22.5
Other	16.0	12.9 - 19.2
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	10.2	8.9 - 11.5
10th	11.7	10.1 - 13.3
11th	12.6	10.7 - 14.5
12th	12.4	10.8 - 14.1
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	14.0	12.5 - 15.6
Medium	11.6	10.3 - 12.9
High	10.9	9.7 - 12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.1 - 12.7</b>

Carried a weapon on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	2.5	2.0 - 2.9
Male	5.0	4.4 - 5.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	2.4	1.9 - 2.9
Black	5.2	4.4 - 6.0
Hispanic	10.5	7.9 - 13.2
Other	7.0	5.0 - 9.0
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	3.3	2.6 - 4.0
10th	3.0	2.4 - 3.7
11th	3.8	2.9 - 4.8
12th	4.4	3.4 - 5.4
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	5.9	4.9 - 6.8
Medium	4.0	3.2 - 4.8
High	2.5	2.0 - 3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.4 - 4.3</b>

Did not go to school because of safety concerns		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	8.0	7.1 - 8.9
Male	6.9	6.1 - 7.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	5.1	4.4 - 5.8
Black	9.7	8.6 - 10.7
Hispanic	18.3	14.8 - 21.7
Other	9.3	7.3 - 11.4
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	8.1	7.0 - 9.2
10th	7.0	6.1 - 8.0
11th	6.8	5.7 - 7.9
12th	6.7	5.4 - 8.0
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	10.4	9.1 - 11.7
Medium	7.5	6.5 - 8.6
High	5.6	4.7 - 6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.8 - 8.0</b>

Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	5.1	4.4 - 5.8
Male	8.0	7.2 - 8.8
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	4.1	3.4 - 4.8
Black	9.3	8.4 - 10.1
Hispanic	13.8	10.9 - 16.6
Other	10.3	7.9 - 12.7
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	6.4	5.3 - 7.4
10th	6.5	5.6 - 7.5
11th	5.6	4.6 - 6.6
12th	6.9	5.7 - 8.0
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	8.9	7.8 - 10.1
Medium	6.4	5.5 - 7.3
High	5.4	4.5 - 6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0 - 7.2</b>

In a physical fight		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	20.3	18.9 - 21.7
Male	32.3	30.7 - 33.8
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	18.7	17.4 - 19.9
Black	36.9	35.3 - 38.6
Hispanic	34.9	31.5 - 38.2
Other	26.4	23.0 - 29.9
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	30.4	28.2 - 32.5
10th	27.3	25.1 - 29.4
11th	24.7	22.6 - 26.8
12th	22.2	20.0 - 24.5
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	33.9	31.9 - 35.9
Medium	25.6	23.8 - 27.4
High	22.9	21.3 - 24.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>25.4 - 27.6</b>

In a physical fight on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	8.4	7.4 - 9.3
Male	13.7	12.6 - 14.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	5.7	4.9 - 6.4
Black	18.1	16.6 - 19.5
Hispanic	20.6	17.6 - 23.5
Other	12.4	10.0 - 14.8
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	14.0	12.4 - 15.6
10th	11.0	9.7 - 12.4
11th	10.0	8.6 - 11.3
12th	8.3	6.8 - 9.7
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	16.5	14.8 - 18.1
Medium	10.6	9.4 - 11.8
High	8.5	7.5 - 9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.4 - 11.9</b>



Forced to have sexual intercourse		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	9.3	8.4 - 10.2
Male	6.5	5.8 - 7.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	5.8	5.0 - 6.6
Black	10.3	9.3 - 11.3
Hispanic	14.1	10.6 - 17.5
Other	9.8	7.5 - 12.1
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	6.7	5.7 - 7.6
10th	7.3	6.3 - 8.3
11th	7.5	6.2 - 8.9
12th	9.7	8.3 - 11.1
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	10.5	9.2 - 11.8
Medium	7.6	6.6 - 8.6
High	6.7	5.8 - 7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.3 - 8.5</b>

Physically injured by significant other		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	11.5	10.3 - 12.7
Male	9.0	7.9 - 10.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	7.5	6.4 - 8.6
Black	12.8	11.6 - 14.1
Hispanic	15.8	12.7 - 18.9
Other	15.0	11.6 - 18.3
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	9.2	7.8 - 10.6
10th	8.6	7.3 - 10.0
11th	10.8	9.2 - 12.4
12th	11.2	9.3 - 13.1
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	13.6	12.0 - 15.3
Medium	10.1	8.7 - 11.5
High	8.2	7.1 - 9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.4 - 11.0</b>

Forced to do sexual things by significant other		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	12.8	11.6 - 14.0
Male	7.8	6.8 - 8.8
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	9.4	8.3 - 10.6
Black	10.3	9.2 - 11.4
Hispanic	16.7	13.0 - 20.4
Other	19.0	14.2 - 23.8
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	10.5	8.9 - 12.0
10th	10.1	8.7 - 11.4
11th	9.9	8.0 - 11.7
12th	9.7	8.1 - 11.3
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	11.9	10.3 - 13.5
Medium	9.6	8.3 - 10.8
High	9.8	8.6 - 11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.5 - 11.0</b>

Bullied on school property		
Category	%	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	21.3	19.8 - 22.8
Male	17.6	16.2 - 18.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	22.6	21.1 - 24.2
Black	14.4	13.0 - 15.7
Hispanic	21.9	18.1 - 25.6
Other	21.1	17.7 - 24.5
<b>Grade</b>		
9th	24.7	22.7 - 26.7
10th	20.6	18.8 - 22.4
11th	17.2	15.5 - 19.0
12th	13.4	11.6 - 15.2
<b>Family Affluence</b>		
Low	18.0	16.4 - 19.7
Medium	18.8	17.3 - 20.4
High	20.6	18.9 - 22.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.3 - 20.4</b>

Electronically bullied			
Category	%	CI	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	19.1	17.7 -	20.4
Male	10.1	9.1 -	11.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	17.1	15.8 -	18.4
Black	10.4	9.4 -	11.4
Hispanic	16.0	13.0 -	19.0
Other	16.1	13.0 -	19.1
<b>Grade</b>			
9th	17.5	16.1 -	18.9
10th	14.3	12.8 -	15.8
11th	12.7	11.2 -	14.3
12th	12.1	10.8 -	13.5
<b>Family Affluence</b>			
Low	12.6	11.1 -	14.0
Medium	14.9	13.6 -	16.2
High	15.2	13.8 -	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>13.7 -</b>	<b>15.3</b>

## Cuyahoga County Trend Data

The following table presents the prevalence of violence related behaviors among Cuyahoga County high school students in 2009, 2011, and 2013. The prevalence for each year is given (when available), with 95% confidence intervals below.

Cuyahoga County, 2009	Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013
<b>Carried a weapon</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
11.7 (9.8-13.6)	10.0 (9.2-10.8)	11.9 (11.1-12.7)
<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.)		
2.9 (2.2-3.7)	n/a	3.9 (3.4-4.3)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
5.9 (4.8-7.0)	5.4 (4.8-6.0)	7.4 (6.8-8.0)
<b>Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
n/a	n/a	6.6 (6.0-7.2)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
32.7 (29.7-35.7)	29.1 (27.8-30.4)	26.5 (25.4-27.6)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
11.2 (9.3-13.1)	n/a	11.2 (10.4-11.9)
<b>Forced to have sexual intercourse</b>		
7.7 (6.7-8.7)	6.8 (6.1-7.5)	7.9 (7.3-8.5)
<b>Physically injured by significant other</b> (Such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)		
n/a	n/a	10.2 (9.4-11.0)
<b>Forced to do sexual things by significant other</b> (Such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)		
n/a	n/a	10.3 (9.5-11.0)

Cuyahoga County, 2009	Cuyahoga County, 2011	Cuyahoga County, 2013
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
16.0 (14.4-17.6)	18.1 (17.1-19.1)	19.4 (18.3-20.4)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)		
17.4 (16.2-18.6)	18.9 (17.9-19.9)	14.5 (13.7-15.3)

## Comparison to State and Nation

The following table presents the prevalence of violence related behaviors among Cuyahoga County high school students, the state of Ohio high school students, and United States high school students. The columns provide the prevalence for Cuyahoga County as reported in 2013 and the state of Ohio and the United States as reported in 2011 (when available).

Cuyahoga County, 2013	Ohio, 2011	United States, 2011
<b>Carried a weapon</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
11.9 (11.1-12.7)	16.4 (13.8-19.5)	16.6 (15.4-18.0)
<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.)		
3.9 (3.4-4.3)	n/a	5.4 (4.7-6.1)
<b>Did not go to school because of safety concerns</b> (One or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)		
7.4 (6.8-8.0)	6.2 (4.4-8.7)	5.9 (5.1-6.9)
<b>Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property</b> (Such as a gun, knife, or club; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
6.6 (6.0-7.2)	n/a	7.4 (6.8-8.1)
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
26.5 (25.4-27.6)	31.2 (28.0-34.6)	32.8 (31.5-34.1)
<b>In a physical fight on school property</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)		
11.2 (10.4-11.9)	8.8 (7.4-10.3)	12.0 (11.3-12.8)
<b>Forced to have sexual intercourse</b>		
7.9 (7.3-8.5)	9.0 (6.8-11.6)	8.0 (7.3-8.8)
<b>Physically injured by significant other</b> (Such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)		
10.2 (9.4-11.0)	n/a	n/a
<b>Forced to do sexual things by significant other</b> (Such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse; one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among the students dating.)		
10.3 (9.5-11.0)	n/a	n/a

Cuyahoga County, 2013	Ohio, 2011	United States, 2011
<b>Bullied on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)		
19.4 (18.3-20.4)	22.7 (19.1-26.7)	20.1 (18.7-21.5)
<b>Electronically bullied</b> (Such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging; during the 12 months before the survey.)		
14.5 (13.7-15.3)	14.7 (12.6-17.1)	16.2 (15.3-17.2)

## Contact Information

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**Prepared by:**

Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7069  
www.prchn.org

**For more information please contact:**

Erika S. Trapl, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
Associate Director, Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
Erika.trapl@case.edu  
216-368-0098

Jean L. Frank, MPH  
Manager of Community Initiatives  
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods  
Case Western Reserve University  
Jean.frank@case.edu  
216-368-5913

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH

<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)

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