Youth Tobacco Use and Sales Outlets in Cleveland, Ohio

Recent data collected by the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Case Western Reserve University highlights the proximity of stores that sell cigarettes, cigarillos and little cigars, and e-cigarettes to Cleveland Metropolitan School District school buildings. Over 98% of CMSD schools have at least one store selling cigarettes, cigarillos, or little cigars within a half-mile radius; 57% of CMSD schools have at least one store selling tobacco within 1000 feet. On average, there are 7.72 stores selling tobacco within a half-mile radius and 1.13 stores selling tobacco within a 1000-foot radius around each CMSD school.

Stores that Sell Tobacco within 0.75 Mile Radius of 77 Cleveland Schools

Legend
- CMSD School (77)
- Tobacco
  - Store Sells Either Cigarettes or Cigars (12)
  - Store Sells Both Cigarettes and Cigars (416)

102 stores sell cigarettes
100 stores sell cigars
56 stores sell e-cigarettes

99% of schools have a store with cigarettes
98% of schools have a store with cigars
78% of schools have a store with e-cigarettes

Within 1,000 feet of a CMSD school
Within a half-mile radius
Youth Tobacco Use

The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) tracks youth smoking and related behaviors through the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Administered in alternating years (high school in odd-numbered years and middle school in even-numbered years), the YRBS is a cross-sectional survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track adolescent risk behavior over time. This data brief reports on past 30-day (i.e., current) use of cigarettes, cigars, and hookah among high school and middle school youth in the city of Cleveland and these students’ exposure to tobacco through retail outlets in close proximity to their school.

Cigarette smoking among Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) high school students has slowly declined over the last ten years. However, use of any tobacco product in this population—cigarettes, little cigars, and hookahs—is on the increase. YRBS data also indicate a similar lower rate of cigarette use and a higher rate of cigar use among CMSD middle school students (3.2% using cigarettes vs. 9.1% using cigars according to 2014 survey data).

About the Data

The PRCHN complements its behavioral surveillance with environmental surveillance and assessment. Since 2012, a team of PRCHN interns has conducted an audit of food retail locations within the City of Cleveland and select suburbs. As part of this process, interns drive the streets of Cleveland to conduct an accurate inventory of all food retail locations. The interns then visit each store to conduct an in-store audit, capturing valuable information about each store. The PRCHN has recorded sales of cigarettes and cigars at each of these stores since 2012; sales of e-cigarettes was added in 2014.

For more information, visit our website, www.prchn.org, or contact Dr. Erika Trapl at erika.trapl@case.edu.

Suggested Citation