



Prevention Research Center  
at Case Western Reserve University

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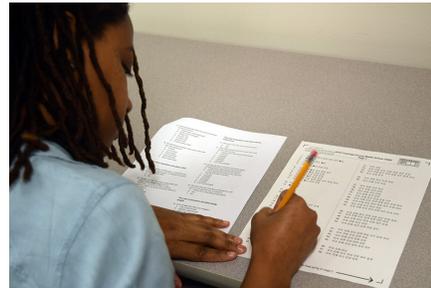
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## Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a cross-sectional survey tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to track adolescent risk behavior over time. This national survey has tracked the major causes of disease and death for adolescents since 1991. The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) administers the YRBS in Cuyahoga County. Locally, the YRBS is administered in public middle and high schools on an every-other-year schedule, with high schools during odd-numbered years and middle schools during even-numbered years.

### How it Works

The YRBS is conducted during the second semester of each school year. Surveys are administered in one of two ways: paper and pencil or electronically. Students need 30–45 minutes to complete the survey. Each school and the PRCHN staff decide on dates, periods of the school day, and administration mode. PRCHN staff coordinate all aspects of the process, including parental consent. Schools receive a monetary incentive in appreciation for their participation. Schools with sufficient student participation may request a report of school-level findings. Schools are notified when the most recent data are available for use and posted to the PRCHN website.

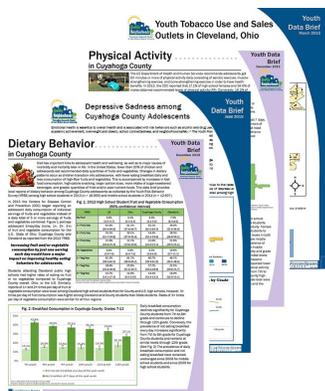


### How YRBS Helps Cuyahoga County

Cuyahoga County's version of the survey has been tailored to address local needs and questions specific to area communities. The survey includes questions about behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries, dietary choices, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, behaviors contributing to violence, sexual behaviors, parental rules or monitoring, and other selected health topics.

The information gathered is used for projects such as grant applications, program planning, and community surveillance. Data have also been used in local schools for curriculum and intervention planning and within the PRCHN as baseline data to inform research for tobacco and obesity projects.

There are many ways the data can be used and shared in the community, local school districts, and academia. High school students have used YRBS project materials and data to prepare for a mock trial competition, while other students used the YRBS survey as an opportunity to open a dialogue with their peers about risk behaviors and options in their lives.



### YRBS Data Collection

Staff from CWRU have been coordinating and administering the YRBS in school districts across Cuyahoga County since 2000. Staff members, student volunteers, local organizations and coalitions, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and the Ohio Department of Health have collaborated to make the YRBS a success.

To see YRBS Results from previous years, visit:  
<http://www.prchn.org/YRBSResults.aspx>



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