

TABLE 8

Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, 1991–2000

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying "great risk" ^{na}																					
	8th Grade											10th Grade										
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	'99-'00 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	'99-'00 change
Try marijuana once or twice	40.4	39.1	36.2	31.6	28.9	27.9	25.3	28.1	28.0	29.0	+0.9	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	18.5	-0.7
Smoke marijuana occasionally	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	47.4	+1.8	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	32.4	-1.1
Smoke marijuana regularly	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.3	74.8	+1.4	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	64.7	-1.2
Try inhalants once or twice ^b	35.9	37.0	36.5	37.9	36.4	40.8	40.1	38.9	40.8	41.2	+0.3	37.8	38.7	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	48.2	46.6	-1.6
Try inhalants regularly ^b	65.6	64.4	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	68.8	69.9	+1.1	69.8	67.9	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	76.3	75.0	-1.3
Take LSD once or twice ^c	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	34.0	-0.2	—	—	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	45.0	43.0	-2.1
Take LSD regularly ^c	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	-1.3	—	—	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	73.9	72.0	-1.9
Try crack once or twice ^b	62.8	61.2	57.2	54.4	50.8	51.0	49.9	49.3	48.7	48.5	-0.2	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	56.1	-1.7
Take crack occasionally ^b	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	70.1	-0.5	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	76.9	-2.2s
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^b	55.5	54.1	50.7	48.4	44.9	45.2	45.0	44.0	43.3	43.3	0.0	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	48.8	-2.8ss
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^b	77.0	74.3	71.8	69.1	66.4	65.7	65.8	65.2	65.4	65.5	+0.1	82.2	80.1	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	73.6	70.9	-2.7ss
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	62.0	-1.0	—	—	—	—	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	73.7	71.7	-1.9
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	-0.3	—	—	—	—	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	86.5	85.2	-1.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	11.0	12.1	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.8	10.4	12.1	11.6	11.9	+0.3	9.0	10.1	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	10.5	9.6	-1.0
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	31.8	32.4	32.6	29.9	30.5	28.6	29.1	30.3	29.7	30.4	+0.7	36.1	36.8	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	32.9	32.3	-0.6
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	59.1	58.0	57.7	54.7	54.1	51.8	55.6	56.0	55.3	55.9	+0.6	54.7	55.9	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	51.9	51.0	-0.9
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^d	51.6	50.8	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	54.8	58.8	+4.0ss	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	62.7	65.9	+3.3s
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	35.1	35.1	36.9	35.5	33.5	34.0	35.2	36.5	37.1	39.0	+1.9	40.3	39.6	44.2	42.2	38.2	41.0	42.2	42.8	44.2	46.7	+2.5s
Take steroids ^e	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67.1	72.7	73.4	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Approx. N (in thousands) =</i>	17.4	18.7	18.4	17.4	17.5	17.9	18.8	18.1	16.7	16.7		14.7	14.8	15.3	15.9	17.0	15.7	15.6	15.0	13.6	14.3	

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. '—' indicates data not available. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence of use estimates for the two most recent classes is due to rounding error.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) No risk, (2) Slight risk, (3) Moderate risk, (4) Great risk, and (5) Can't say, drug unfamiliar.

^bBeginning in 1997, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^cData based on one of two forms in 1993–96; N is one-half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^dBeginning in 1999, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^eData based on two forms in 1991 and 1992. Data based on one of two forms in 1993 and 1994; N is one-half of N indicated.