

TABLE 6
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 10th Graders

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying "great risk" ^a																			2008–2009 change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Try marijuana once or twice	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	18.5	17.9	19.9	21.1	22.0	22.3	22.2	22.2	23.1	20.5	[+0.2]
Smoke marijuana occasionally	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	32.4	31.2	32.0	34.9	36.2	36.6	35.6	36.0	37.0	32.9	[-0.7]
Smoke marijuana regularly	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	64.7	62.8	60.8	63.9	65.6	65.5	64.9	64.5	64.8	59.5	[-3.8] ss
Try inhalants once or twice ^b	37.8	38.7	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	48.2	46.6	49.9	48.7	47.7	46.7	45.7	43.9	43.0	41.2	42.0	[+0.6]
Take inhalants regularly ^b	69.8	67.9	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	76.3	75.0	76.4	73.4	72.2	73.0	71.2	70.2	68.6	66.8	66.8	[-0.9]
Take LSD once or twice ^c	—	—	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	45.0	43.0	41.3	40.1	40.8	40.6	40.3	38.8	35.4	34.6	34.9	[-0.1]
Take LSD regularly ^c	—	—	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	73.9	72.0	68.8	64.9	63.0	63.1	60.8	60.7	56.8	55.7	56.7	[-2.2]
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.4	43.5	49.7	52.0	51.4	48.4	45.3	43.2	38.9	[-4.0] s
Take ecstasy (MDMA) occasionally ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64.8	67.3	71.7	74.6	72.8	71.3	68.2	66.4	62.1	[-5.3] sss
Try crack once or twice ^b	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	56.1	57.1	57.4	57.6	56.7	57.0	56.6	56.4	56.5	57.7	[+2.4]
Take crack occasionally ^b	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	76.9	77.3	75.7	76.4	76.7	76.9	76.2	76.0	76.5	75.9	[-1.2]
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^b	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	48.8	50.6	51.3	51.8	50.7	51.3	50.2	49.5	49.8	50.8	[+1.5]
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^b	82.2	80.1	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	73.6	70.9	72.3	71.0	71.4	72.2	72.4	71.3	70.9	71.1	71.0	[-1.1]
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	73.7	71.7	72.0	72.2	70.6	72.0	72.4	70.0	70.5	70.8	72.2	[+2.2]
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	86.5	85.2	85.4	83.4	83.5	85.4	85.2	83.6	84.2	83.1	83.3	[+1.3]
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	9.0	10.1	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	10.5	9.6	9.8	11.5	11.5	10.8	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.6	11.9	[+0.5]
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	36.1	36.8	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	32.9	32.3	31.5	31.0	30.9	31.3	32.6	31.7	33.3	35.0	33.8	[+0.6]
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	54.7	55.9	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	51.9	51.0	50.7	51.7	51.6	51.7	53.3	52.4	54.1	56.6	54.2	[-1.2]
Smoke one to five cigarettes per day ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28.4	30.2	32.4	35.1	38.1	39.7	41.0	41.3	41.7	43.5	42.8	[+0.2]
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^e	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	62.7	65.9	64.7	64.3	65.7	68.4	68.1	67.7	68.2	69.1	67.3	[-1.3]
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	40.3	39.6	44.2	42.2	38.2	41.0	42.2	42.8	44.2	46.7	46.2	46.9	48.0	47.8	46.1	45.9	46.7	48.0	44.7	[-0.9]
Take steroids ^f	67.1	72.7	73.4	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Approximate weighted N = 14,700 14,800 15,300 15,900 17,000 15,700 15,600 15,000 13,600 14,300 14,000 14,300 15,800 16,400 16,200 16,200 16,100 15,100 15,900

Source. The Monitoring the Future study, the University of Michigan.

Notes. "[]" indicates that because we believe the 2008–2009 observed changes based on the total samples to be inaccurate for this variable for 10th grade, the change derived from the matched half-sample of schools participating in both years has been substituted here. See text.

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 estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

^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 1993–1996; N is one half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data based on one third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^dData based on one third of N indicated.

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

^fData 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.