

TABLE 7
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 12th Graders

Percentage saying great risk ^a

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .</i>																					
Try marijuana once or twice	15.1	11.4	9.5	8.1	9.4	10.0	13.0	11.5	12.7	14.7	14.8	15.1	18.4	19.0	23.6	23.1	27.1	24.5	21.9	19.5	16.3
Smoke marijuana occasionally	18.1	15.0	13.4	12.4	13.5	14.7	19.1	18.3	20.6	22.6	24.5	25.0	30.4	31.7	36.5	36.9	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6
Smoke marijuana regularly	43.3	38.6	36.4	34.9	42.0	50.4	57.6	60.4	62.8	66.9	70.4	71.3	73.5	77.0	77.5	77.8	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8
Try synthetic marijuana once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take synthetic marijuana occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try LSD once or twice	49.4	45.7	43.2	42.7	41.6	43.9	45.5	44.9	44.7	45.4	43.5	42.0	44.9	45.7	46.0	44.7	46.6	42.3	39.5	38.8	36.4
Take LSD regularly	81.4	80.8	79.1	81.1	82.4	83.0	83.5	83.5	83.2	83.8	82.9	82.6	83.8	84.2	84.3	84.5	84.3	81.8	79.4	79.1	78.1
Try PCP once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.6	58.8	56.6	55.2	51.7	54.8	50.8	49.1
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^b	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try salvia once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take salvia occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try cocaine once or twice	42.6	39.1	35.6	33.2	31.5	31.3	32.1	32.8	33.0	35.7	34.0	33.5	47.9	51.2	54.9	59.4	59.4	56.8	57.6	57.2	53.7
Take cocaine occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.2	66.8	69.2	71.8	73.9	75.5	75.1	73.3	70.8
Take cocaine regularly	73.1	72.3	68.2	68.2	69.5	69.2	71.2	73.0	74.3	78.8	79.0	82.2	88.5	89.2	90.2	91.1	90.4	90.2	90.1	89.3	87.9
Try crack once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57.0	62.1	62.9	64.3	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6
Take crack occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70.4	73.2	75.3	80.4	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8
Take crack regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84.6	84.8	85.6	91.6	90.1	89.3	87.5	89.6	88.6
Try cocaine powder once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45.3	51.7	53.8	53.9	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0
Take cocaine powder occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56.8	61.9	65.8	71.1	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1
Take cocaine powder regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81.4	82.9	83.9	90.2	88.9	88.4	87.0	88.6	87.8
Try heroin once or twice	60.1	58.9	55.8	52.9	50.4	52.1	52.9	51.1	50.8	49.8	47.3	45.8	53.6	54.0	53.8	55.4	55.2	50.9	50.7	52.8	50.9
Take heroin occasionally	75.6	75.6	71.9	71.4	70.9	70.9	72.2	69.8	71.8	70.7	69.8	68.2	74.6	73.8	75.5	76.6	74.9	74.2	72.0	72.1	71.0
Take heroin regularly	87.2	88.6	86.1	86.6	87.5	86.2	87.5	86.0	86.1	87.2	86.0	87.1	88.7	88.8	89.5	90.2	89.6	89.2	88.3	88.0	87.2
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.6
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	71.2
Try any narcotic other than heroin (codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet, etc.) once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take any narcotic other than heroin occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take any narcotic other than heroin regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try amphetamines once or twice ^d	35.4	33.4	30.8	29.9	29.7	29.7	26.4	25.3	24.7	25.4	25.2	25.1	29.1	29.6	32.8	32.2	36.3	32.6	31.3	31.4	28.8
Take amphetamines regularly ^d	69.0	67.3	66.6	67.1	69.9	69.1	66.1	64.7	64.8	67.1	67.2	67.3	69.4	69.8	71.2	71.2	74.1	72.4	69.9	67.0	65.9
Try Adderall once or twice ^e	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try Adderall occasionally ^e	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61.6	61.9	57.5	58.3	54.4
Try bath salts (synthetic stimulants) once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take bath salts (synthetic stimulants) occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try sedatives (barbiturates) once or twice ^f	34.8	32.5	31.2	31.3	30.7	30.9	28.4	27.5	27.0	27.4	26.1	25.4	30.9	29.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	32.2	29.2	29.9	26.3
Take sedatives (barbiturates) regularly ^f	69.1	67.7	68.6	68.4	71.6	72.2	69.9	67.6	67.7	68.5	68.3	67.2	69.4	69.6	70.5	70.2	70.5	70.2	66.1	63.3	61.6
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	5.3	4.8	4.1	3.4	4.1	3.8	4.6	3.5	4.2	4.6	5.0	4.6	6.2	6.0	6.0	8.3	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.6	5.9
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	21.5	21.2	18.5	19.6	22.6	20.3	21.6	21.6	21.6	23.0	24.4	25.1	26.2	27.3	28.5	31.3	32.7	30.6	28.2	27.0	24.8
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	63.5	61.0	62.9	63.1	66.2	65.7	64.5	65.5	66.8	68.4	69.8	66.5	69.7	68.5	69.8	70.9	69.5	70.5	67.8	66.2	62.8
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	37.8	37.0	34.7	34.5	34.9	35.9	36.3	36.0	38.6	41.7	43.0	39.1	41.9	42.6	44.0	47.1	48.6	49.0	48.3	46.5	45.2
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	51.3	56.4	58.4	59.0	63.0	63.7	63.3	60.5	61.2	63.8	66.5	66.0	68.6	68.0	67.2	68.2	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	65.6
Use electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) regularly ^g	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke little cigars or cigarillos regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25.8	30.0	33.2	32.9	34.2	37.4	35.5	38.9	36.6	33.2
Take steroids	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63.8	69.9	65.6	70.7	69.1	66.1	66.4
<i>Approximate weighted N =</i>	2,804	2,918	3,052	3,770	3,250	3,234	3,604	3,557	3,305	3,262	3,250	3,020	3,315	3,276	2,796	2,553	2,549	2,684	2,759	2,591	2,603

→
(Years cont.)

(Table continued on next page.)

TABLE 7 (cont.)
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 12th Graders

	Percentage saying great risk ^a																				2014- 2015	
<i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	change	
Try marijuana once or twice	15.6	14.9	16.7	15.7	13.7	15.3	16.1	16.1	15.9	16.1	17.8	18.6	17.4	18.5	17.1	15.6	14.8	14.5	12.5	12.3	-0.2	
Smoke marijuana occasionally	25.9	24.7	24.4	23.9	23.4	23.5	23.2	26.6	25.4	25.8	25.9	27.1	25.8	27.4	24.5	22.7	20.6	19.5	16.4	15.8	-0.6	
Smoke marijuana regularly	59.9	58.1	58.5	57.4	58.3	57.4	53.0	54.9	54.6	58.0	57.9	54.8	51.7	52.4	46.8	45.7	44.1	39.5	36.1	31.9	-4.2 s	
Try synthetic marijuana once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.5	25.9	32.5	+0.5	
Take synthetic marijuana occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.7	36.2	39.4	40.9	+1.5	
Try LSD once or twice	36.2	34.7	37.4	34.9	34.3	33.2	36.7	36.2	36.2	36.5	36.1	37.0	33.9	37.1	35.6	34.7	33.1	34.9	35.5	33.2	-2.3	
Take LSD regularly	77.8	76.6	76.5	76.1	75.9	74.1	73.9	72.3	70.2	69.9	69.3	67.3	63.6	67.8	65.3	65.5	66.8	66.8	62.7	60.7	-1.9	
Try PCP once or twice	51.0	48.8	46.8	44.8	45.0	46.2	48.3	45.2	47.1	46.6	47.0	48.0	47.4	49.7	52.4	53.9	51.6	53.9	53.8	54.4	+0.5	
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^b	—	33.8	34.5	35.0	37.9	45.7	52.2	56.3	57.7	60.1	59.3	58.1	57.0	53.3	50.6	49.0	49.4	47.5‡	47.8	49.5	+1.7	
Try salvia once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.8	36.7‡	13.8	12.9	14.1	13.1	-1.0	
Take salvia occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.1	21.3	20.0	17.6	-2.4
Try cocaine once or twice	54.2	53.6	54.6	52.1	51.1	50.7	51.2	51.0	50.7	50.5	52.5	51.3	50.3	53.1	52.8	54.0	51.6	54.4	53.7	51.1	-2.5	
Take cocaine occasionally	72.1	72.4	70.1	70.1	69.5	69.9	68.3	69.1	67.2	66.7	69.8	68.8	67.1	71.4	67.8	69.7	69.0	70.2	68.1	66.3	-1.9	
Take cocaine regularly	88.3	87.1	86.3	85.8	86.2	84.1	84.5	83.0	82.2	82.8	84.6	83.3	80.7	84.4	81.7	83.8	82.6	83.3	80.6	79.1	-1.6	
Try crack once or twice	56.0	54.0	52.2	48.2	48.4	49.4	50.8	47.3	47.8	48.4	47.8	47.3	47.5	48.4	50.2	51.7	52.0	55.6	54.5	53.6	-1.0	
Take crack occasionally	71.4	70.3	68.7	67.3	65.8	65.4	65.6	64.0	64.5	63.8	64.8	63.6	65.2	64.7	64.3	66.2	66.5	69.5	68.5	67.8	-0.7	
Take crack regularly	88.0	86.2	85.3	85.4	85.3	85.8	84.1	83.2	83.5	83.3	82.8	82.6	83.4	84.0	83.8	83.9	84.0	85.4	82.0	81.2	-0.8	
Try cocaine powder once or twice	53.2	51.4	48.5	46.1	47.0	49.0	49.5	46.2	45.4	46.2	45.8	45.1	45.1	46.5	48.2	48.0	48.1	49.9	49.9	49.0	-0.9	
Take cocaine powder occasionally	68.8	67.7	65.4	64.2	64.7	63.2	64.4	61.4	61.6	60.8	61.9	59.9	61.6	62.6	62.6	64.2	62.6	65.4	64.8	62.8	-2.0	
Take cocaine powder regularly	86.8	86.0	84.1	84.6	85.5	84.4	84.2	82.3	81.7	82.7	82.1	81.5	82.5	83.4	81.8	83.3	83.3	83.9	81.5	80.1	-1.4	
Try heroin once or twice	52.5	56.7	57.8	56.0	54.2	55.6	56.0	58.0	56.6	55.2	59.1	58.4	55.5	59.3	58.3	59.1	59.4	61.7	62.8	64.0	+1.2	
Take heroin occasionally	74.8	76.3	76.9	77.3	74.6	75.9	76.6	78.5	75.7	76.0	79.1	76.2	75.3	79.7	74.8	77.2	78.0	78.2	77.9	78.0	+0.1	
Take heroin regularly	89.5	88.9	89.1	89.9	89.2	88.3	88.5	89.3	86.8	87.5	89.7	87.8	86.4	89.9	85.5	87.9	88.6	87.6	85.7	84.8	-0.9	
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle	58.6	60.5	59.6	58.5	61.6	60.7	60.6	58.9	61.2	60.5	62.6	60.2	60.8	61.5	63.8	61.1	63.3	64.5	65.3	62.5	-2.7	
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle	71.0	74.3	73.4	73.6	74.7	74.4	74.7	73.0	76.1	73.3	76.2	73.9	73.2	74.8	76.2	74.7	76.1	76.4	73.6	71.1	-2.5	
Try any narcotic other than heroin (codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet, etc.) once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40.4	39.9	38.4	43.1	42.7	44.1	+1.4	
Take any narcotic other than heroin occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.3	54.8	53.8	57.3	59.0	58.5	-0.5	
Take any narcotic other than heroin regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	74.9	75.5	73.9	75.8	72.7	73.9	+1.2	
Try amphetamines once or twice ^d	30.8	31.0	35.3	32.2	32.6	34.7	34.4	36.8	35.7	37.7	39.5	41.3	39.2	41.9	40.6‡	34.8	34.3	36.3	34.1	34.0	-0.1	
Take amphetamines regularly ^d	66.8	66.0	67.7	66.4	66.3	67.1	64.8	65.6	63.9	67.1	68.1	68.1	65.4	69.0	63.6‡	58.7	60.0	59.5	55.1	54.3	-0.8	
Try Adderall once or twice ^e	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33.3	31.2	27.2	31.8	33.6	34.3	+0.7	
Try Adderall occasionally ^e	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41.6	40.8	35.3	38.8	41.5	41.6	+0.2	
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice	55.3	54.4	52.7	51.2	51.3	52.7	53.8	51.2	52.4	54.6	59.1	60.2	62.2	63.4	64.9	66.5	67.8	72.2	70.2	70.0	-0.2	
Try bath salts (synthetic stimulants) once or twice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33.2	59.5	59.2	57.5	-1.6
Take bath salts (synthetic stimulants) occasionally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45.0	69.9	68.8	67.4	-1.4
Try sedatives (barbiturates) once or twice ^f	29.1	26.9	29.0	26.1	25.0	25.7	26.2	27.9‡	24.9	24.7	28.0	27.9	25.9	29.6	28.0	27.8	27.8	29.4	29.6	28.9	-0.7	
Take sedatives (barbiturates) regularly ^f	60.4	56.8	56.3	54.1	52.3	50.3	49.3	49.6‡	54.0	54.1	56.8	55.1	50.2	54.7	52.1	52.4	53.9	53.3	50.5	50.6	+0.1	
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	7.3	6.7	8.0	8.3	6.4	8.7	7.6	8.4	8.6	8.5	9.3	10.5	10.0	9.4	10.8	9.4	8.7	9.9	8.6	10.3	+1.7	
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	25.1	24.8	24.3	21.8	21.7	23.4	21.0	20.1	23.0	23.7	25.3	25.1	24.2	23.7	25.4	24.6	23.7	23.1	21.1	21.5	+0.4	
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	65.6	63.0	62.1	61.1	59.9	60.7	58.8	57.8	59.2	61.8	63.4	61.8	60.8	62.4	61.1	62.3	63.6	62.4	61.2	59.1	-2.0	
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	49.5	43.0	42.8	43.1	42.7	43.6	42.2	43.5	43.6	45.0	47.6	45.8	46.3	48.0	46.3	47.6	48.8	45.8	45.4	46.9	+1.5	
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	68.2	68.7	70.8	70.8	73.1	73.3	74.2	72.1	74.0	76.5	77.6	77.3	74.0	74.9	75.0	77.7	78.2	78.2	78.0	75.9	-2.1	
Use electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) regularly ^g	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.2	16.2	+1.9
Smoke little cigars or cigarillos regularly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38.3	39.7	+1.4
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	37.4	38.6	40.9	41.1	42.2	45.4	42.6	43.3	45.0	43.6	45.9	44.0	42.9	40.8	41.2	42.6	44.3	41.6	40.7	38.5	-2.1	
Take steroids	67.6	67.2	68.1	62.1	57.9	58.9	57.1	55.0	55.7	56.8	60.2	57.4	60.8	60.2	59.2	61.1	58.6	54.2	54.6	54.4	-0.2	

Approximate weighted N = 2,449 2,579 2,564 2,306 2,130 2,173 2,198 2,466 2,491 2,512 2,407 2,450 2,389 2,290 2,440 2,408 2,331 2,098 2,067 2,174

(Table continued on next page.)

TABLE 7 (cont.)
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 12th Graders

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

Notes. Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. '—' indicates data not available. '‡' indicates some change in the question. See relevant footnote for that drug. 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 2014 data are based on the revised question which included "Molly." 2014 and 2015 data are not comparable to earlier years due to the revision of the question text.

^cIn 2011 the question on perceived risk of using salvia once or twice appeared at the end of a form. In 2012 the question was moved to an earlier section of the same form. A question on perceived risk of using salvia occasionally was also added following the question on perceived risk of trying salvia once or twice. These changes likely explain the discontinuity in the 2012 results.

^dIn 2011 the list of examples was changed from uppers, pep pills, bennies, speed to uppers, speed, Adderall, Ritalin, etc. These changes likely explain the discontinuity in the 2011 results.

^eIn 2014 "(without a doctor's orders)" added to the questions on perceived risk of using Adderall.

^fIn 2004 the question text was changed from barbiturates to sedatives/barbiturates and the list of examples was changed from downers, goofballs, reds, yellows, etc. to just downers. These changes likely explain the discontinuity in the 2004 results.

^gBased on two of six forms; N is two times the N indicated.