

## Monitoring the Future Annual Data Volumes

Monitoring the Future is one of the most important and long-standing studies of the behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs of American young people. This unique series presents descriptive statistical results from annual representative surveys of high school seniors throughout the United States since 1975. Each year a nationally representative sample of approximately 16,000 seniors in 130 public and private high schools participate in the survey.

### *A Comprehensive Study*

The issues addressed in these data volumes are broad in scope and of fundamental importance to the nation:

- drug use and views about drugs
- delinquency and victimization
- changing roles for women
- confidence in social institutions
- concerns about energy and ecology
- social and ethical attitudes

The great majority of questions in the study are repeated unchanged from year to year.

Nearly 2,000 variables in the study's six different questionnaire forms are covered in these volumes, and an index shows in what year and at what questionnaire location each question has appeared.

Each volume also contains a wide variety of background and demographic information, as well as a fairly detailed description of the study design and an appendix with estimates of sampling errors.

### *A Look at Social Change*

These annual volumes of descriptive results provide an accurate and systematic description of the high school seniors in each year. Comparison between volumes empowers readers to understand the changes in viewpoints, attitudes, and experiences of young people over the past 35 years.

[www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org)

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How Have America's  
Young People Changed  
Over the Last 35 Years?



Monitoring the Future  
Questionnaire Responses  
from the Nation's High School Seniors  
1975-2009

## Subject Areas Covered

### **Drugs..... 761 questions**

Drug use and related attitudes and beliefs, drug availability and exposure, surrounding conditions and social meaning of drug use. Views of parents, friends, and others regarding drugs.

### **Work and leisure ..... 165 questions**

Vocational values, meaning of work and leisure, work and leisure activities, preferences regarding occupational characteristics and type of work setting, work experience, income sources, and financial security.

### **Background and school ..... 107 questions**

Demographic and family background characteristics, curriculum and grades in high school, victimization in school.

### **Education ..... 87 questions**

Educational lifestyle, values, experiences, and environments. Media usage.

### **Other personality and lifestyle variables ..... 81 questions**

Attitudes about self (including self-esteem), locus of control, loneliness, optimism, trust in others, importance placed on various life goals, countercultural attitudes.

### **Gender roles and family ..... 65 questions**

Values, attitudes, and expectations about marriage, family structure, gender roles, and gender discrimination.

### **Conservation, materialism, equity ..... 65 questions**

Values, attitudes, and expectations related to conservation, pollution, materialism, equity, and the sharing of resources. Preferences regarding type of dwelling and urbanicity. Driving and mass transit use.

### **Interpersonal relationships ..... 54 questions**

Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of cross-age and peer relationships. Interpersonal conflict.

### **Major social institutions..... 42 questions**

Confidence in and commitment to various major social institutions including business, unions, branches of government, the press, and organized religion.

### **Deviant behavior and victimization ..... 40 questions**

Delinquent behaviors, driving violations and accidents, violations and accidents under the influence of drugs, victimization experiences.

### **Health ..... 38 questions**

Symptoms, habits, and medical treatment. Height, weight.

### **Race relations..... 35 questions**

Attitudes toward and experiences with other racial groups.

### **Military..... 33 questions**

Views about the armed services and the use of military force. Personal plans for military service.

### **Social change ..... 29 questions**

Values, attitudes, and expectations regarding social change.

### **Concern for others ..... 25 questions**

Scope of concern for others. Voluntary and charitable activities.

### **Happiness ..... 24 questions**

Happiness and life satisfaction, overall and in specific life domains.

### **Social problems..... 24 questions**

Concern with various social problems facing the nation and the world.

### **Population concerns ..... 12 questions**

Concerns about population and birth control.

### **Religion ..... 10 questions**

Religious affiliation, practices, and views.

### **Politics ..... 10 questions**

Political affiliation, activities, and views.



## Researchers' Recommendations

"In a period of revolutionary changes in the lives of American families, children, and youth, it is especially important to have carefully monitored systematic data on these changes and their consequences . . . . The volumes have been most helpful to me in my work . . ."

—Urie Bronfenbrenner

"The annual volumes of *Monitoring the Future* provide an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to go beyond popular stereotypes and anecdotes, and find out what the great majority of American young people actually think and believe about important issues—and how they act—at a critically important stage of development . . . . A must for investigators, writers, and policymakers in the area of youth and adolescence."

—John Conger

"Each year's output of this amazing project confirms my growing conviction that it is the single most impressive realization and vindication of the social indicators movement . . ."

—O. Dudley Duncan

"Anyone interested in young adults should consult this work. It presents primary source background material useful for hundreds of purposes, from writing novels to setting policy in senior high school."

—Wayne Wiegard, *American Reference Books Annual*

## Order Form

Volumes from 1996 on are available free of charge on the MTF Website (<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs.html#refvols>). They may also be ordered on CD. Hardcover copies are available for volumes from 1975 to 2008.

	Price	Year	Quantity	Amount
2009	\$38.50 ea. (on CD)	2009		
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	\$60 ea. (hardcover)			
1989-1995	\$50 ea. (hardcover)			
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## About the Authors

*Lloyd D. Johnston* is a Research Professor and Distinguished Research Scientist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and has been the principal investigator of the Monitoring the Future study since its inception in 1975. A social psychologist by training, he has served as an advisor to the White House, Congress, and many other national and international bodies and has conducted research on a wide range of issues, including drug use, institutional trust, sex-role attitudes, policy evaluation, childhood obesity, and the functioning of American high schools. His research also includes international comparative studies and the application of survey research to social problems generally. He is author of more than 70 books and monographs and over 170 articles and chapters.

*Jerald G. Bachman* is a Research Professor and Distinguished Research Scientist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and has been a principal investigator on the Monitoring the Future study since its inception in 1975. Prior to that, in 1965, he initiated the Youth in Transition project. His research has focused broadly on youth and social issues. Current interests include drug use and attitudes about drugs; other values, attitudes, and behaviors of youth; military plans and experiences; and public opinion as related to a number of other social issues. He is author of 9 books, over 90 monographs and technical reports, and over 150 journal articles and chapters.

*Patrick M. O'Malley* is a Research Professor at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and co-principal investigator on the Monitoring the Future study. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1975 and has been associated with the Monitoring the Future project since then. His publications deal with alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use and related attitudes and beliefs; and contextual factors related to childhood obesity. His research interests also include causes and consequences of drug use, drinking and driving, social epidemiology of drug use, and longitudinal survey data analysis techniques.

# A Sampling of Questions from Various Questionnaire Forms

	1976	1986	2009 Volume																
	Volume	Volume	Total	Sex		Race		Region				4-Yr College Plans		Illicit Drug Use: Lifetime					
	Total	Total		M	F	White	Black	NE	MW	S	W	Yes	No	None	MJ Only	Few Pills	More Pills	Any Heroin	
<i>N</i> (Weighted No. of Cases)	15138	15713	14268	6521	6825	8217	1371	2765	3566	4943	2994	10946	2184	7326	3149	1213	1874	173	
% of Weighted Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	45.7	47.8	57.6	9.6	19.4	25.0	34.6	21.0	76.7	15.3	51.3	22.1	8.5	13.1	1.2	
<b>C10: Did your mother have a paid job (half-time or more) during the time you were growing up?</b>																			
1. No	37.2	24.5	13.1	13.0	13.3	12.8	8.1	12.1	12.2	11.4	18.0	12.8	14.0	14.8	11.1	11.2	10.0	13.4	
2. Yes, some of the time when I was growing up	31.3	29.4	19.4	20.0	18.9	20.1	12.6	19.3	20.1	17.8	21.3	19.3	20.0	20.2	16.8	22.3	18.3	25.0	
3. Yes, most of the time	14.4	18.8	18.2	18.8	17.6	17.2	18.4	16.7	17.4	19.3	18.8	17.3	21.5	17.7	18.0	20.6	19.1	16.8	
4. Yes, all or nearly all of the time	17.2	27.4	49.3	48.3	50.3	50.0	60.9	52.0	50.3	51.6	41.9	50.6	44.4	47.3	54.1	45.8	52.5	44.8	
<i>Item 330 Subject R02</i>	12088	15213	13550	6392	6736	8131	1312	2590	3461	4695	2804	10862	2159	7131	3041	1187	1804	168	
<b>B02: How frequently have you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days?</b>																			
1. Not at all	61.2	70.4	79.9	77.9	82.4	76.3	90.7	81.1	74.3	80.0	85.3	82.7	68.8	94.6	74.0	64.6	46.8	37.1	
2. Less than one cigarette per day	10.0	10.9	8.9	10.3	7.7	9.9	3.6	8.1	10.3	8.5	8.8	8.6	10.3	3.2	12.6	17.7	19.4	15.6	
3. One to five cigarettes per day	9.5	7.4	6.2	6.4	5.7	6.9	4.7	5.8	8.2	6.1	4.1	5.1	9.8	1.3	8.8	11.3	15.1	17.9	
4. About one-half pack per day	9.3	5.4	3.1	3.2	2.8	4.2	0.7	3.3	4.1	3.2	1.2	2.2	6.6	0.5	3.1	4.9	11.1	13.6	
5. About one pack per day	7.9	4.8	1.4	1.7	1.0	2.0	0.0*	1.1	2.1	1.5	0.3	1.0	3.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	5.8	7.0	
6. About one and one-half packs per day	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	—	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.0*	0.2	0.2	1.3	5.6	
7. Two packs or more per day	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	3.2	
<i>Item 780 Subject A01c</i>	14608	15339	13787	6397	6699	8111	1314	2673	3475	4805	2834	10763	2136	7221	3111	1190	1834	168	
<b>C11: How would you describe your political preference?</b>																			
1. Strongly Republican	4.2	10.4	10.4	11.9	8.9	14.1	3.4	6.4	12.6	12.2	8.3	10.1	12.0	12.2	8.4	7.0	8.3	11.6	
2. Mildly Republican	12.3	17.3	13.1	14.2	12.0	17.1	2.8	10.9	15.1	12.6	13.4	14.1	8.8	14.7	10.5	13.9	11.1	11.1	
3. Mildly Democrat	15.8	11.1	15.9	16.3	15.9	13.6	20.5	20.1	14.6	13.0	18.5	17.0	10.4	15.0	18.3	16.5	15.4	11.4	
4. Strongly Democrat	9.9	8.9	13.6	11.8	15.0	9.7	37.6	16.5	11.1	14.3	12.9	14.2	9.8	12.4	15.8	13.7	14.6	11.3	
5. Independent**	1.7	1.3	10.6	11.6	9.6	11.8	6.7	10.6	11.2	9.7	11.1	10.5	11.3	9.6	10.1	12.3	13.6	17.6	
6. No preference**	30.2	22.6	15.0	15.8	14.2	14.6	9.6	13.6	15.9	16.4	12.6	14.3	18.4	14.7	14.3	15.2	17.5	14.5	
7. Other	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.0	1.6	0.9	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.2	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.9	3.3	
8. Don't know, haven't decided	24.2	27.0	19.8	16.0	23.6	17.6	18.5	19.8	17.5	20.5	21.7	18.3	26.9	20.4	20.7	19.3	16.7	19.1	
<i>Item 340 Subject H01</i>	14429	15146	13057	6181	6476	8007	1170	2528	3379	4478	2671	10552	2032	6896	2921	1147	1738	159	
<b>C21: How likely is it that you will do each of the following things after high school?</b>																			
<b>C21D: Graduate from college (four-year program)</b>																			
1. Definitely won't	29.6	19.4	8.1	9.4	6.4	8.7	6.6	6.4	9.0	8.9	7.1	—	48.6	6.4	8.1	10.1	11.9	19.2	
2. Probably won't	19.9	16.8	8.5	9.8	7.3	8.3	7.2	4.6	9.5	9.4	9.6	—	51.4	7.2	9.4	8.6	11.9	8.8	
3. Probably will	23.1	23.0	22.3	24.5	20.0	19.9	23.2	18.0	20.7	23.2	26.8	26.8	—	20.2	23.9	24.9	24.4	32.7	
4. Definitely will	27.4	40.7	61.1	56.3	66.2	63.2	63.0	71.0	60.8	58.5	56.5	73.2	—	66.3	58.6	56.5	51.7	39.3	
<i>Item 510 Subject B09</i>	13871	14568	13130	6148	6549	7894	1230	2500	3383	4531	2716	10946	2184	6941	2922	1164	1737	156	

Entries are the percentage of the group defined in the column heading who gave each answer. Each sums vertically to 100%.

\*=less than 0.05%.

\*\*Wording was slightly different prior to 1995.