

TABLE 6
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 8th Graders

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying "great risk" ^a																				2010–2011 change	
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		2011
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	27.7	28.2	30.2	31.9	31.4	32.2	32.8	31.1	29.5	29.5	28.2	-1.3
Smoke marijuana occasionally	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	47.4	46.3	46.0	48.6	50.5	48.9	48.9	50.2	48.1	44.8	44.1	43.4	-0.7
Smoke marijuana regularly	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.3	74.8	72.2	71.7	74.2	76.2	73.9	73.2	74.3	72.0	69.8	68.0	68.3	+0.4
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	45.6	42.8	40.3	38.7	37.5	35.8	35.9	33.9	34.1	35.5	34.7	-0.8
Take inhalants regularly ^b	65.6	64.4	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	68.8	69.9	71.6	69.9	67.4	66.4	64.1	62.1	61.9	59.2	58.1	60.6	59.0	-1.6
Take LSD once or twice ^c	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	34.0	31.6	29.6	27.9	26.8	25.8	23.8	22.8	21.9	21.4	23.6	21.7	-1.8
Take LSD regularly ^c	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	52.9	49.3	48.2	45.2	44.0	40.0	38.5	36.9	37.0	38.6	37.8	-0.8
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.8	38.9	41.9	42.5	40.0	32.8	30.4	28.6	26.0	27.0	25.4	-1.6
Take ecstasy (MDMA) occasionally ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.5	61.8	65.8	65.1	60.8	52.0	48.6	46.8	43.9	45.0	43.7	-1.3
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	48.6	47.4	48.7	49.0	49.6	47.6	47.3	47.1	46.6	49.6	48.1	-1.4
Take crack occasionally ^b	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	70.1	70.0	69.7	70.3	70.4	69.4	68.7	68.3	67.9	66.6	68.4	67.7	-0.6
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	43.9	43.2	43.7	44.4	44.2	43.5	43.5	42.7	42.3	45.7	43.3	-2.4
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	65.8	64.9	65.8	66.0	65.3	64.0	64.2	62.7	62.3	64.2	63.5	-0.7
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	62.0	61.1	62.6	62.7	61.6	61.4	60.4	60.3	60.8	60.0	62.3	61.7	-0.6
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	78.5	78.5	77.8	77.5	76.8	75.3	76.4	75.5	74.0	76.7	75.9	-0.8
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	12.2	12.5	12.6	13.7	13.9	14.2	14.9	13.5	14.4	14.9	14.5	-0.4
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	30.0	29.6	29.9	31.0	31.4	31.3	32.6	31.5	31.5	32.3	31.8	-0.5
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	56.1	56.4	56.5	56.9	57.2	56.4	57.9	57.0	55.8	57.2	58.4	+1.2
Smoke one to five cigarettes per day ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.9	28.9	30.5	32.8	33.4	37.0	37.5	37.0	38.6	38.6	38.6	38.2	37.4	-0.8
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^e	51.6	50.8	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	54.8	58.8	57.1	57.5	57.7	62.4	61.5	59.4	61.1	59.8	59.1	60.9	62.5	+1.6
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	35.1	35.1	36.9	35.5	33.5	34.0	35.2	36.5	37.1	39.0	38.2	39.4	39.7	41.3	40.8	39.5	41.8	41.0	40.8	41.8	40.8	-1.0
Take steroids ^f	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Approximate weighted N =</i>																						
	17,400	18,700	18,400	17,400	17,500	17,900	18,800	18,100	16,700	16,700	16,200	15,100	16,500	17,000	16,800	16,500	16,100	15,700	15,000	15,300	16,000	

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. 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.